

NEXT STEP: STUDY & SHARE

READINGS

Isaiah 6:1-8

Psalm 29

Worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness.
(v2)

Romans 8:12-17, 22-27

John 3:1-17

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Almighty Creator & ever-living God: we worship your glory, eternal Three-in-One, & we praise your power, majestic One-in-Three. Keep us steadfast in this faith, defend us in all adversity, & bring us at last into your presence, where you live in endless joy & love, Father, Son, & Holy Spirit, one God, now & forever. Amen.

SERMON TEXT- Romans 8:12-17, 22-27

¹²So then, brothers & sisters, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh — ¹³for if you live according to the flesh, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. ¹⁴For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. ¹⁵For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received a spirit of adoption. When we cry, "Abba! Father!" ¹⁶it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God, ¹⁷and if children, then heirs, heirs of God & joint heirs with Christ — if, in fact, we suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him. ²²We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labor pains until now; ²³and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. ²⁴For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what is seen? ²⁵But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience. ²⁶Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. ²⁷And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

LISTENING TO . . .

GOD- Christian life is rooted in the Father, Son, & Holy Spirit

1. How is this reading from *Romans* trinitarian, that is, how does it identify the interrelated persons & their interrelated work?
2. Review the three universal creeds & the explanation of the Apostles' Creed in the [Small & Large Catechisms](#). If you have [The Lutheran Study Bible](#) (Concordia Publishing House 2009), read "Jesus, the New Testament, & the Creeds" p1975. How do the creeds keep us interpreting the Bible correctly (cf: *Exodus 20:1-7; Deuteronomy 6:4*)? What questions do you have about the creeds? Ask your pastor. [SC, LC, & creeds available <bookofconcord.org>](#)

EACH OTHER- Sharing & growing with our brothers & sisters in Christ

3. How does this passage inform your prayer life, esp. vv15-17, 25-27? How are our prayers trinitarian, that is, involving all three persons of the Holy Trinity?
4. How are we brought into the intimacy shared among the Father, Son, & Holy Spirit?
See Matthew 6:9-13; Mark 14:36; John 14:6; Galatians 4:6; Ephesians 3:11-12; SC: Lord's Prayer, Holy Baptism

NEIGHBORS- Bearing fruit for those not yet our brothers & sisters

5. Building on #2, the creeds don't "explain" or "prove" the Holy Trinity but rather describe & praise the Trinity. How does this insight help you talk correctly & clearly about the connections between Father, Son, & Holy Spirit, always three persons, yet always one God?
6. Summarizing what you've learned in #1-5, how does Christian hope (vv24-25) have a trinitarian shape? How does it rely on all three persons? How does *John 3:1-17* fit in? *Hint use your Bible's study notes to notice the word plays between new/again & wind/spirit*

Father, Son, & Holy Spirit

*We bother with the Holy Trinity because
it's the only way the entire thing hangs together*

-Notes-

KEY VERSE: It is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit
that we are children of God, & if children, then heirs, heirs of God
& joint heirs with Christ (*vv16-17a*)

-NEXT STEPS MEMORY VERSE-

Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts;
God's glory fills the whole earth. (*Isaiah 6:3*)

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