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**Weekend of Sunday, June 16, 2019**  
**1<sup>st</sup> Sunday after Pentecost/Lectionary X/Proper X/Year C**  
**Primary Text: John 16:12-15**  
**Sermon Title: “*Guided in All Truth*”**

## **Theme**

*Jesus’ ongoing presence with the disciples will be borne by the coming Spirit, who will guide them and communicate to them Jesus’ will and glory.*

## **Text**

[Jesus said,] <sup>12</sup>“I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. <sup>13</sup>When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth; for he will not speak on his own, but will speak whatever he hears, and he will declare to you the things that are to come. <sup>14</sup>He will glorify me, because he will take what is mine and declare it to you. <sup>15</sup>All that the Father has is mine. For this reason I said that he will take what is mine and declare it to you.”

## Sermon

This idea of the work of the Holy Spirit, or the "Spirit of truth" as Jesus called it in our Gospel Reading for today, seems to have been on my mind this spring. I referred to its work as "Continuing Ed" in the sermon on May 26 and talked about some more last weekend, the weekend of Pentecost. And now the work of the Holy Spirit is again featured in this weekend's Gospel Reading. I don't want to sound like I am repeating myself, but then again, that is the work of the Holy Spirit – to remind us of what Jesus taught us and to inspire us to know what Jesus would have to say about contemporary issues.

By the way of context, once again, this week's Gospel Reading comes from Jesus' Farewell Discourse; that is, the conversation he had with his disciples around the Seder table on the night he was betrayed. Judas Iscariot had already left the room to do his dirty deed of betrayal, and Jesus turned his attention to the remaining eleven disciples whom he counted on to carry on his ministry, and among the many other instructions and warnings and bits of encouragement he had to give them, he said the words that are our Gospel Reading.

I imagine the eleven as confused, wide-eyed, and speechless. Jesus had been predicting his own death for perhaps months by then, and all week, the week we call Holy Week, he had been increasingly irritable and his behavior seemed to indicate he was itchin' for a fight. Then, at the table, he told them that he would be leaving them for a place they could not yet come, but the Holy Spirit would be there new guide, for the lack of a better name.

Jesus said that he had a lot more to teach them, but that moment was not the time. And though they didn't know it, he knew that his time with them was running out. So he went into a little more detail about what the Spirit will do for them.

In verse 13, Jesus said that the Spirit will guide them into all the truth. You know how we are, we can convince ourselves that we know the truth, but *our version of the truth* may not actually be *the truth*. We justify *our version of the truth* and say that we deserve this or that, and then over time we convince ourselves that *our version of the truth* is actually *the truth*. And then, through the work of the Holy Spirit, *our version of the truth* is confronted and all of a sudden we realize we have deceived ourselves. This revelation can come from any number of sources but is

the work of the Spirit of truth. And when we are confronted with *real truth* we have a decision to make. Will we repent and change our ways? Or will we stubbornly maintain our path which is to continue in sin, and deceive ourselves? I have had this experience, and there is only one right answer.

Jesus went on to say that this *real truth* that the Spirit of truth will guide us into, should we acquiesce to it, is not Spirit's own word, but is actually the word of the Trinity, the divine community of Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Did you know that this day actually has another name? It is the lesser festival of The Holy Trinity, but most of us preachers try to dodge the subject of the Trinity because it is so difficult to understand and even more difficult to try to explain. In fact, I found this meme on the internet that sort of explains it my predicament.

The point is that we can count on the sound wisdom that the Holy Spirit imparts because it is straight from God's mouth; God the Trinity, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit that is.

And then in verse 14, in words that do not help much with our understanding of the Trinity, Jesus said that when the Holy Spirit imparts the Trinity's *real truth*, it glorifies Jesus Christ the Son by continuing his earthly ministry through us when we are faithful and obedient.

So last week when I pointed out those several ministry opportunities that are now happening this week (i.e., Food Distribution Saturday; Red Door Sunday; drive-through meal on Wednesday; Red Cross Blood Drawing on Thursday; Sr. Pat's "Stepping Stones to a Better Tomorrow" Thursday through the weekend) those are opportunities to be faithful and obedient to the ongoing call of the Trinity to continue Jesus' earthly ministry right here where we are. And when we take advantage of those ministry opportunities, we bring glory to Jesus Christ our Lord. How cool is that?

And finally in the last verse, Jesus kind of described the work the Trinity when he said,

**<sup>5</sup>All that the Father has is mine. For this reason I said that he will take what is mine and declare it to you."**

Do you feel better acquainted with the Trinity now?

No then, here a couple of pictures of kittens.

### **Raisin' the Bar Challenge**

My Raisin' the Bar Challenge for you this week is to:

- 1) Give thanks to God for the gift of the Holy Spirit whether you feel it guiding you into all truth or not, because it is whether you feel it or not.
- 2) Pay attention to your own behavior. In a few minutes we will confess how we really are, and confess that we have allowed ourselves to deceive ourselves into believing our version of the truth of our own making, but when we begin to question ourselves, through whatever means the Spirit uses, that is in fact the work of the Spirit guiding us into all truth.
- 3) Being guiding into all truth, the faithful and obedient thing to do is to follow it. And in doing so, know that you are bringing glory to Jesus Christ your Lord. Pretty cool benefit.

### **Prayer**

Amen