

## Lectionary Bible Study Our Savior Lutheran Church

### The Holy Trinity Readings

Genesis 1:1 - 2:4a, Psalm 8,  
2 Corinthians 13:11-13, Matthew 28:16-20



[Click Here](#) to join Pastor Mark for a Live Zoom conversation each Wednesday at 10am.

Meeting ID: 868 8793 0554

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Or dial in for audio only: 1-301-715-8592

#### Matthew 28:16-20 (NRSV)

<sup>16</sup> Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. <sup>17</sup> When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted. <sup>18</sup> And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. <sup>19</sup> Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, <sup>20</sup> and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.

#### Matthew 28:16-20 (The Message)

<sup>16</sup> Meanwhile, the eleven disciples were on their way to Galilee, headed for the mountain Jesus had set for their reunion. <sup>17</sup> The moment they saw him they worshiped him. Some, though, held back, not sure about worship, about risking themselves totally.

<sup>18</sup> Jesus, undeterred, went right ahead and gave his charge: “God authorized and commanded me to commission you: <sup>19</sup> Go out and train everyone you meet, far and near, in this way of life, marking them by baptism in the threefold name: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. <sup>20</sup> Then instruct them in the practice of all I have commanded you. I’ll be with you as you do this, day after day after day, right up to the end of the age.”

This passage which ends the Book of Matthew is commonly referred to as “*The Great Commission*.”

1. In verses 19 and 20 (NRSV), list/circle/highlight the six verbs.
2. What is the relationship of faith and following with action?

In Matthew, Luke and John, the resurrection announcement is followed by appearances of Jesus first to Mary Magdalene then to other followers. Luke and John describe multiple appearances to the disciples, but Matthew describes only this single appearance in Galilee. In Matthew 28:10, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary are told “*Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me.*” Matthew 28:16-20 is the fulfillment of that promise.

3. *Does it strike you strange that the various Gospel accounts do not match up?*

Verse 17 tells us that some of the disciples worshiped Jesus, but some doubted.

4. *In which other resurrection story do hear about doubt?*
5. *Is faith the absence of doubt?*
6. *Is faith exclusive of worship, or should worship acknowledge doubt?*
7. *Do you like Eugene Peterson's paraphrase in the Message of verse 17?*

In verse 18, Jesus speaks to all his disciples – those who believe and those who doubt. He begins with a statement of his authority, *“All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.”*

8. *Do you think the disciples heard Jesus' authority differently after his resurrection than before his resurrection?*
9. *How much does experience count when it comes to authority?*

The resurrected Jesus chooses to exercise his authority by now sharing it with his disciples. In verse 19, Jesus commissions and commands his disciples: *“Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.”*

10. *What does it mean to “make disciples”?*

When it comes to baptism, Jesus does not clarify if baptism is to be done by sprinkling, dipping, or dunking. Nor does he clarify the age of the one being baptized. He simply instructs to baptize in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

11. *What do you think the significance of the trinitarian language is for Jesus in baptism?*

The human desire to name God has been an ongoing desire. For example, Moses asks for God's name before Moses departs to request the release of the slaves from the Pharaoh in Egypt. Names can assist people to grasp aspects of the identity and functions of God.

12. *What is your favorite name for God?*
13. *What does “Father, Son, and Holy Spirit” reveal about the nature of God?*

In summary, the five short verses that end Matthew's gospel touch on these crucial themes:

- The authority of Jesus
- The purposes of the church: go, make disciples, baptize, teach, obey, remember.
- The presence of Jesus-now-resurrected.

14. *How is “opening scripture and joining in conversation” vital in seeking to remain faithful to Jesus' great commission?*