

The Triune God exists in a relationship of divine love. Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are three distinct persons within one substance, one reality, one God. The Triune God acts together, never apart, and always in love. In an act of divine love, God began to reveal the mystery of the Trinity to us as God created the heavens and the earth out of nothing, and as the Holy Spirit hovered over the deep chaos and the Father created through the Word. God preeminently revealed the mystery to us through the incarnation, life, death, resurrection, and ascension of Jesus Christ and continues to reveal to us through Scripture through the work of the Holy Spirit.

In an act of divine love, God created humans, male and female, in the image of God to be in a relationship with God and with each other. God made humans co-regents and caretakers of all creation, but in an act of disobedience, humans rebelled against God's sovereignty as they strove to become like God. Humans became enslaved to their sin, and the relationship between God and humanity was broken. But in God's divine love, grace and mercy, God began to work a plan of reconciliation and redemption throughout the broken and rebellious history of Israel as God shaped their customs, language, and worship. Throughout Israel's history, God provided escape from slavery, a Law to help conform their minds to the love of God, and continued grace and mercy as God kept covenantal promises even as Israel continued to rebel against God.

In an act of divine suffering love, the Father sent the Son, conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of a human. Jesus Christ, as uniquely God-human, became the perfect priest and sacrifice to save all humans, regardless of race, social standing, and gender, from our sins, as a human was required to be the acceptable atonement or reparation for sin but only God could pay the great price of sin. Only through God's grace, and not by our efforts, do we become justified through faith and reconciled to God. In an act of love, God chooses to restore our broken humanity to a relationship with the Father through the Spirit in Christ's life, death, resurrection, and ascension and through Christ's continuing intercession for us at the right hand of the Father. We freely respond in faith to God's grace as we participate in Christ's salvation, ministry, and mission.

In another act of divine love, the Father and the Son sent the Spirit to descend upon the believers at Pentecost. With Spirit-filled boldness, the newly justified became the body of Christ as his Church and witnesses of his grace and love to the nations. God continues to provide grace to us through Word and Sacrament as the Holy Spirit emboldens our faith. Through baptism, God's grace is imparted through the Holy Spirit to us, including infants, as the sign and seal of entering God's covenantal promise and family. At the Lord's Supper, God's grace is imparted as the Holy Spirit brings us into the presence of Christ to strengthen our faith as we partake of the bread and cup. Through the Word, read and proclaimed, God's grace is imparted through the Holy Spirit to us, as the Bible points us to Jesus Christ.

The Church continues to bear witness of God's love. Within the tension of the now, but not yet, while awaiting the return of the King, we, as the members of the Church, continue to grow in faith and knowledge of Christ as we encourage, support, pray, and teach one another as we participate in Christ's mission to proclaim God's Good News to all of creation and to the nations of the earth through both Word and deed for the glory of God.