

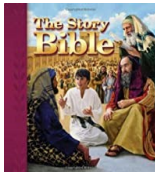
# “Trinity Sunday”

**Bible verse: Be faithful unto death and I will give you the crown of life. Revelation 2:10**

**Context:** As the Early Church grew, there was a need for leaders beyond the twelve disciples. Stephen is one of seven chosen through calling and the laying on of hands to serve the growing Church. (Acts 6)

**Application to our lives:** We are crushed and enraged at the accusations of God’s Law, but the Gospel brings peace and quietness. In church, the pastor speaks the same Word of God as Stephen speaks in Acts 7:60, “Lord, do not hold this sin against them,” and gives us peace through the Words of the Absolution, “for His sake (God) forgives you all your sins. In the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.”

One of the hardest things for us to do is to forgive people who are hurting us-especially if they do it because we believe in Jesus, But the Holy Spirit made Stephen strong, and He can make you strong to pray for those who hurt you and to boldly tell everyone the Good News of what Jesus did to save us all.



**Read the Lesson ~ “God’s Servant Stephen”**

*The Story Bible ~ Pg. 428*

*The Bible ~ Acts 6-7*

**ASK:**

- ◆ In today’s story, where do you see: God the Father? God the Son? And the Holy Spirit? at work in Stephen’s life.
- ◆ Where did Stephen get his strength?
- ◆ What did God show Stephen before he died?

**DO:**

- Say the Apostles Creed together as a family and discuss what it means to you. (Use Luther’s Small Catechism to guide you.)
- Look around the church for symbols of the Trinity, three in one.
- Find a three leaf clover or a field of them.

**PRAY:**

Heavenly Father, we praise you and thank You for giving us our family, friends, and all that we have, for saving us from our sins and for forgiving us and opening heaven to us, and for giving us the Holy Spirit so that we may have the power and desire to live for You. Thank You, God! We praise You in Jesus’ name. Amen

**Key Point of the Lesson**

We believe in the Trinity: God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. They are three persons, but only one God.

God the Father made the world and takes care of us. Jesus, the Son of God, came to earth, died for our sins, and came back to life. The Holy Spirit gives us faith and dwells in our hearts.

**Law / Gospel**

Sin brings disorder and chaos. Christ brings order and control to the chaos of my sin with His grace and mercy.

# THE APOSTLES' CREED

## The First Article—CREATION

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth.

*What does this mean?* I believe that God has made me and all creatures; that He has given me my body and soul, eyes, ears, and all my members, my reason and all my senses, and still takes care of them. He also gives me clothing and shoes, food and drink, house and home, wife and children, land, animals, and all I have. He richly and daily provides me with all that I need to support this body and life. He defends me against all danger and guards and protects me from all evil. All this He does only out of fatherly, divine goodness and mercy, without any merit or worthiness in me. For all this it is my duty to thank and praise, serve and obey Him.

This is most certainly true.

## The Second Article—REDEMPTION

And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God, the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

*What does this mean?* I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true man, born of the Virgin Mary, is my Lord, who has redeemed me, a lost and condemned person, purchased and won me from all sins, from death, and from the power of the devil; not with gold or silver, but with His holy, precious blood and with His innocent suffering and death, that I may be His own and live under Him in His kingdom and serve Him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness, just as He is risen from the dead, lives and reigns to all eternity.

This is most certainly true.

## The Third Article—SANCTIFICATION

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

*What does this mean?* I believe that I cannot by my own reason or strength believe in Jesus Christ, my Lord, or come to Him; but the Holy Spirit has called me by the Gospel, enlightened me with His gifts, sanctified and kept me in the true faith.

In the same way He calls, gathers, enlightens, and sanctifies the whole Christian church on earth, and keeps it with Jesus Christ in the one true faith.

In this Christian church He daily and richly forgives all my sins and the sins of all believers.

On the Last Day He will raise me and all the dead, and give eternal life to me and all believers in Christ.

This is most certainly true.

# Pentecost

On Pentecost, with fire and rushing wind—  
Whoosh! The Holy Spirit came right in

*Wiggle fingers over head for fire; sweep arm for “whoosh.”*

To give God’s people power and might  
To tell of Jesus, day and night.

*Make a muscle; cup hands around mouth.*

In us, the Holy Spirit also lives.  
It’s faith in Jesus that He gives.

*Point to self; make cross with fingers.*

He works in us so we may know:  
God the Father loves us so.

*Point to self; hug self.*

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## SCIENCE

Talk about how we can see the effects of the wind, even though we can’t see the wind itself. We can’t see the Holy Spirit, but we can see what He does in the lives of God’s children.

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# Holy Trinity

Three in One, Three in One,

*Hold up 3 fingers, then 1.*

God the Father and the Son

*Hold up 1 finger, then 2 fingers.*

And the Spirit, Three in One.

*Hold up 3 fingers, then 1.*

Our true God is Three in One.

*Hold up 3 fingers, then 1.*

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## MATH

Show things with three parts: sides of a triangle, leaves on a clover, petals on a trillium, parts of an apple (seeds, flesh, skin).

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## FAMILY SUNDAY SCHOOL WORSHIP TIME

L: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,

**P: Amen.**

L: O Lord, in the morning You hear my voice;

**P: In the morning I prepare a sacrifice for you and watch. (Psalm 5:3)**

L: My mouth is filled with Your praise,

**P: And with Your glory all the day. (Psalm 71:8)**

L: O Lord, open my lips,

**P: And my mouth will declare Your praise. (Psalm 71:8)**

L: Glory be to the Father, and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

**P: As it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

**Hymn of the Day: "Go Ye, Go Ye, into the world", [www.youtube.com/watch?v=HjDgG5tEs0A](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HjDgG5tEs0A)**

**Devotional Talk:** *An adult or older child can read this to the family.*

### **The Holy Spirit ~ Galatians 5:22-26**

Two friends were talking about Christianity. "I haven't decided yet whether I believe in Jesus or not," one said. "If I decide that I do, I'll have to work on building myself a strong faith like the other Christians I know. I'm not sure just how to go about it."

The Bible teaches that we can't come to believe in Jesus by ourselves.

Faith in Jesus is the gift of the Holy Spirit.

Apple seeds remind us of faith. We know that nothing will grow from the apple seeds until they are planted in the ground. But the ground can't come get the apple seeds, dig a hole, and plant them itself. Someone must bring the seeds to the ground and plant them.

The Holy Spirit plants faith in God in our hearts. The Spirit works through the Gospel, the Good News that Jesus died to take away our sins. When we hear the Good News in God's Word, the Holy Spirit makes us able to believe that Jesus died for us.

Apple seeds planted in the ground begin to grow. First a tiny plant sprouts from the soil. Then, as rain falls and sun warms the little leaves, the plant grows into a mighty tree.

The Holy Spirit nourishes the faith He has planted in our hearts. Faith grows as we learn more about God and what He has done for us. The Spirit helps us grow through Bible study, through hearing God's Word in church, Sunday school, and other church classes.

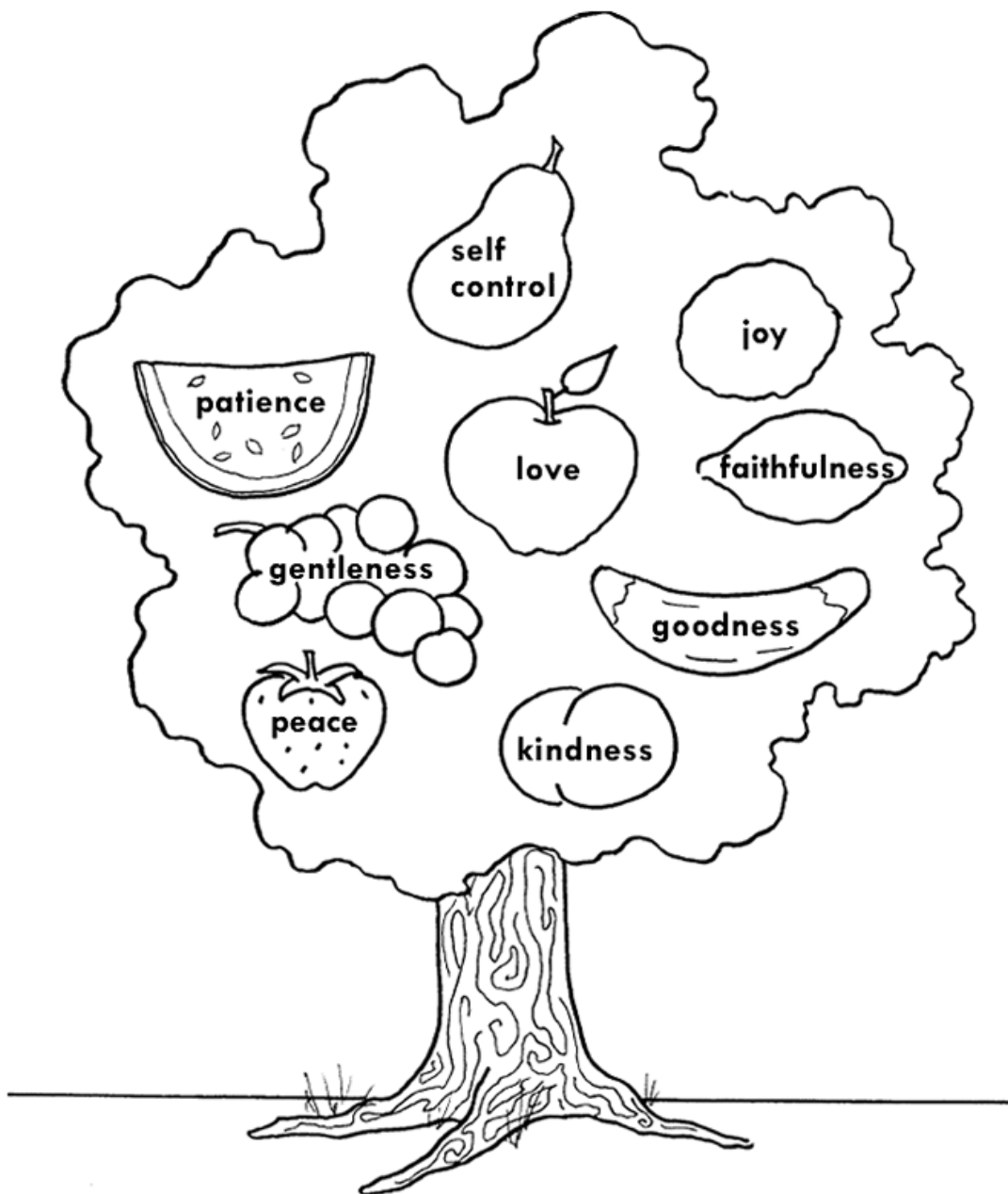
As an apple tree grows, we have one sure way of knowing that it's really an apple tree-it bears apples! Christians, too are known by their fruit. St. Paul wrote to the Christians in Galatia, "The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control."

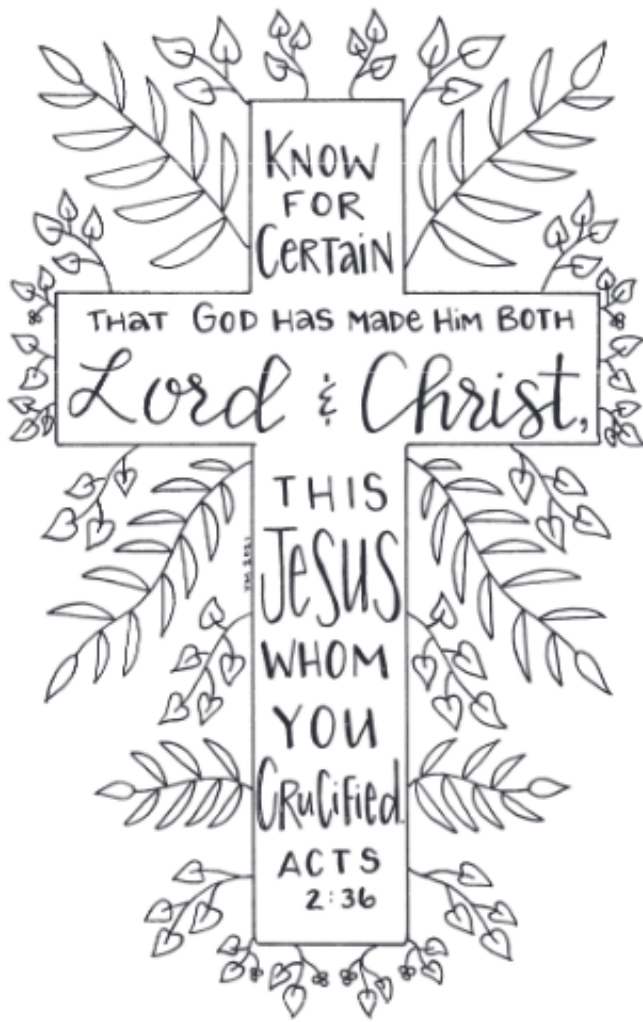
We can't bear fruit like that on our own. Our sinfulness will always bring the opposite fruit: hatred, unhappiness, anger, impatience, meanness, jealousy, greed, selfish ambition, fits of rage. But God has forgiven our sins for Jesus' sake. And He gives us the Holy Spirit to help us bear good fruit for Him. Through the work of the Holy Spirit we can serve each other in love, the way God planned.

The Holy Spirit doesn't work only in your heart and mine; He works in the hearts of all who believe in Jesus. Together He makes us into the Christian church, in which we worship God and support one another in our faith. The Holy Spirit keeps that church with Jesus until it becomes His triumphant church in heaven.

The Holy Spirit gives us the power to tell others about our Savior, Jesus. In this way He works through us to plant the seed of faith in the hearts of new believers.

**Prayer:** Thank you God for sending Your Holy Spirit, so I can help others know about their Savior, Jesus Christ. I pray this in Your holy name. Amen





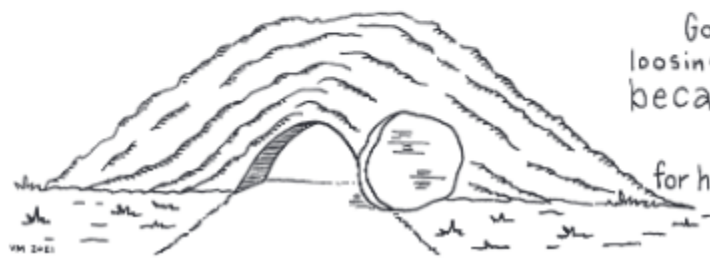
Who can you pray for this week?



Find Words from the Scripture Readings

D W I T N E S S Z D  
 G D D O S D F B T T  
 U G G P R A I S E D  
 W S U S E J Z L M Z  
 D A Z D S L S O P K  
 G Q T G U P P V L I  
 I X D E R D I P E N  
 C Z B D R B R D L G  
 F R B F E V I S O D  
 L J U L C X T P V O  
 E M R C T C L R E M  
 S O I T I N O O D D  
 U L E Z O F V P F G  
 J T D Z N M I H P B  
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|--------------|---------|--------|
| RESURRECTION | PROPHET | SPIRIT |
| WILDERNESS   | WITNESS | WATER  |
| CRUCIFIED    | TEMPLE  | FLESH  |
| KINGDOM      | BURIED  | JESUS  |
| TEACHER      | RAISED  | TOMB   |



God raised him up,  
 loosing the pangs of death,  
 because it was not  
 possible  
 for him to be held by it.  
 ACTS 2:24

