

**St. Luke Ev.  
Lutheran Church  
Sermon by  
Pastor Anthony E.  
Schultz.**



**Matthew 28:16-20  
From the Evangelical Heritage Version  
Eisenach Series, Holy Trinity.  
**May 22, 2016****

<sup>16</sup> The eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had directed them. <sup>17</sup> When they saw him, they worshiped him, but some hesitated because they were uncertain. <sup>18</sup> Jesus approached and spoke to them, saying, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. <sup>19</sup> Therefore go and gather disciples from all nations by baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, <sup>20</sup> and by teaching them to keep all the instructions I have given you. And surely, I am with you always until the end of the age."

People of God-rescued from the flaming lake of fire in Hell by the innocent blood of the very Lamb of God:

The story is told that St. Augustine was walking along the Mediterranean Sea when he saw a little person digging a hole in the sand of the beach. St. Augustine asked him what he was doing. The little person said he was digging a hole to put the sea in! You don't have to be too big to realize it doesn't fit! The same with the teaching of the Trinity. When it comes to the human brain – it just doesn't fit! God is simply too great – too powerful –

too wise – too complicated and flawless and amazing – he doesn't fit inside our sin flawed minds. Today – as we celebrate the Holy Trinity – we will do so – in light of the Great Commission. Just before He returned to Heaven Jesus said:

**Make Disciples Of Everyone!**

**1. What does this mean?**

**2. How do we do it?**

The essential truth is – about 6,000 years ago there were two people – real flesh and blood people – a flawless man named Adam. Flawless – except maybe for the fact that he was missing one rib – flesh – muscle in its place. There was one woman – named Eve – put together beginning with the one rib from the man. Put together starting with a man's rib – not one of the bones of the human skull said to consist of **twenty two** bones: Eight bones of the neurocranium (the occipital bone, 2 temporal bones, 2 parietal bones, sphenoid bone, ethmoid bone, frontal bone), and fourteen bones of the viscerocranium (vomer, 2 conchae, 2 nasal bones, 2 maxilla, mandible, 2 palatine bones, 2 zygomatic bones, 2 lacrimal bones) to be over him. Not one of the **twenty six** bones from the human foot to be under him – but from a rib to be beside him – and close to his ♥! These first two people were flawless – symmetrical – with eagle eyes – that could see clearly forever. They had ears that could hear the proverbial pin drop. They had a nose that would smell the sweetest rose from far *far* away. Their hands were nimble and careful – their teeth so flawless – that you can imagine the little sparkle/twinkle they do on the movies – and it wouldn't be a special effect! They were so close to their Heavenly Father – they could feel His presence – and talk to God out loud and hear His answer with their ears and their ♥! There was only one rule in the universe – don't eat the forbidden fruit

from the tree of experiential knowledge of being good and being evil. Whatever you do – don't take a bite of that! Along comes the Serpent literally from eternal destruction saying, "It won't kill you to take a bite. In fact it will make you smarter! How smart? As smart as God – knowing what it feels like to do something evil! Evil? Maybe that's too strong a word – says the serpent – something I don't know – a little bit *naughty*? Naughty – sounds like forbidden fun – and so? Eve looked at the fruit and it looked crisp and sweet and delicious – and also helpful for making you smart and so she took a bite and gave some to Adam and he took a bite, too! It doesn't matter if it was a very tiny bite – like just enough to break the skin of the fruit – or a really huge sink your teeth in bite! How did it feel? At first – I bet – it tasted incredible! Like when somebody really really *really* irritates you and you haul off and really paste them! Or when you aren't supposed to look at something and you peek-just the quickest little look or touch and you think, "Ahhhhh! That's nice!" And then all of a sudden it hits you! What have I done? And then it gets really scary. What if someone – anyone saw what I just did?! What if I'm caught – exposed – found out? And then you realize Jesus knows! Even if no one else ever finds out – you know and Jesus knows! Now what? Jesus knows! And Jesus died for what we did! Jesus died for every sin and every failure and every mistake. Jesus died for them all! We are forgiven by grace through faith for Jesus' sake!

This Trinity Sunday God's Word says, <sup>16</sup> **The eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had directed them.** <sup>17</sup> **When they saw him, they worshiped him, but some hesitated because they were uncertain.** After Jesus rose from the dead – he showed himself alive many times – to show his disciples he was risen from the dead – just as he promised. The

disciple Jesus loved says the disciples stayed in Jerusalem for the seven days of the Feast of Unleavened Bread. Jesus met them in the Upper Room that first Easter night – **“Peace be with you!”** The Sunday night after Easter Jesus appeared to them in the upper room with the doors locked for fear of the Jews. This time Doubting Thomas was with them when Jesus said, **“Peace be with you!”** Then remember Simon Peter said, **“I’m going fishing!”** And fishermen like Andrew and James and John went fishing with Simon Peter all through the night and caught nothing! Which is again why it’s called fishing, not catching! Jesus called from the shore at first light, **“Haven’t you any fish!”** **“No!”**, **they called back.** You know how your voice carries on the lake. **“Throw you net on the other side of the boat!”** That didn’t make any sense – but they did and caught so many fish they couldn’t haul the net into the boat. The disciple says, **“It’s the Lord!”** And Simon Peter jumps overboard and swims ashore! Jesus made them a fish-fry with fresh baked bread, too! Again they saw Jesus alive. Sermon Studies On The Gospels Series A. says, *“Our text marks the fourth time Jesus speaks with his disciples following his resurrection. This quiet time on the Galilean mountain may have extended nearly three weeks. It was a time for Jesus to open his disciples’ minds so they could understand the Scriptures (Lk 24:45). During his public ministry Jesus had used strategic retreats to avoid hostile Pharisees and Herodians and to seek rest from the crowds of people. Withdrawing to lonely places to pray was common for Jesus and his disciples. The Galilean mountain would provide the isolated setting Jesus desired for these last days with his own.”*

**<sup>17</sup> When they saw him, they worshiped him, but some hesitated because they were uncertain.** Jesus’ followers worship Him! That’s what we do in Jesus’ Father’s House of Prayer! We worship the one true God – Father, Son and Holy Spirit! When we

come to Lord's Supper we literally fall down on our knees if our knees are ok – to receive Jesus' body and blood – “in, with and under” – we might say – “through and through” the bread and wine. Back in the day – people used to kneel down – when they got back to their pew – after receiving Lord's Supper. Back in the day at places like St. Paul's in Franklin – when they spoke the words of the confession of sins – people would kneel down with their elbows on their pew. In Nigeria they have kneelers – bare 2x4s that cut into your knees whenever they pray. When they offer their private petitions – their private concerns – they all pray out loud – they call out loud – so you have to really pay attention to what you are praying – and it goes on for much longer than we usually pray in Church! Here – “We stand out of respect for the word and works of our Lord Jesus Christ” -when we read the Gospel! Worship! Just one of the blessings we have through our Trinity Saint Luke's Lutheran Grade School is Chapel – worship – songs of praise and thanksgiving – listening to God's Word read and explained and applied – thank offerings – prayers and blessings. They have Chapel at our Lakeside Lutheran High School and at our Luther Preparatory School – worship and devotions day after day! Every subject taught in the light of God's Word! What does this mean? Before he went to Heaven Prof. Eickmann wrote an adult instruction book called *The Wonderful Works of God!* *The Wonderful Works of God* are all around us. You can see them in Algebra – and Geometry and Trigonometry and Calculus. “When am I ever going to use this?” When you make a batch of chocolate chip cookies and you need to bake say 33 cookies – how much cookie dough do you make and how big are the cookies supposed to be so you come out with precisely 33? Or many boards do you need to build a sandbox and how much sand do you need? Or if you are playing a video game how far

ahead of the bad guy do you need to shoot so your rocket and his Humvee meet? Or how much stuff can you pack in your carry on bag to get on an airplane – or how do you kick a field goal – depending on the distance and the temperature and the cross wind to win the game. How do you meet – not crash into the International Space Station! See the wonderful works of God – if you study medicine or all kinds of plants and food and nutrition or communications or energy. See the wonderful works of God in literature – in short stories and the great American novel – in plays and movie scripts and TV shows. See the wonderful works of God – in serving your Savior and your Country in the police department – in the FBI and Homeland Security – in the Sheriff’s department and State Police – to serve and protect! The wonderful works of God – in the Army, the Navy, the Air Force, the Marines, the Coast Guard and the National Guard and the Reserves! See the wonderful works of God – in your marriage – in your family – in your children and your children’s children!

**<sup>18</sup> Jesus approached and spoke to them, saying, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. <sup>19</sup> Therefore go and gather disciples from all nations by baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, <sup>20</sup> and by teaching them to keep all the instructions I have given you.** Disciples are students, followers and imitators of God’s Son Jesus! The Holy Spirit makes students, followers and imitators through the means of grace – the Gospel in Scripture and baptism and Lord’s Supper. Have you seen the public service announcements lately – where they show TV stars thanking one of their teachers for being such a positive influence on their life? We had Pastoral Circuit Meeting in the basement of St. Luke’s on Monday and we talked about Christian Education. We talked about what a powerful influence you can have – by the grace of

God with very little people – reading to them – those really thick pages of books about the Bible. Books about Creation and Adam and Eve. Books about Noah’s Ark – books about the Christ-child – about Jesus’ miracles – Jesus on the cross – and Jesus rising from the dead. Books Moms and Dads and Grandmas and Grandpas can read to their little people – that when you get to the end – they immediately want you to read it all over to them until they are old enough to read it to you! That’s making disciples!

**And surely, I am with you always until the end of the age.**

There is a Judge in the State of Ohio who is famous for what they call creative sentencing. That is – instead of jail – weeks, months, years spent in a small caged room or a fine of lots of \$ or both the penalty might be something very pointed and personal that fits the crime. The other requirement for this creative sentencing is – you have to be a first time offender – not a repeat offender – in trouble with the law multiple times before you appear for sentencing before this Judge. The other day the person convicted of criminal behavior was a woman who had done something exceedingly painful and hurtful and inexcusable. Her sentence was to spend the night alone – without anything to drink – in a very deep dark forest. I don’t think it is too difficult to imagine how scary that would be – in the dark – what with thorns and thistles – vines and animal holes to trip you up – owls and bats – spiders and snakes – coyotes and wolves and bears and more. And nothing to drink. It’s not like you need something to drink – unless you can’t have anything to drink – and suddenly your mouth is dry and your lips are painfully dry and you can’t swallow. Nothing to drink. And it’s cold – and you shiver! And the worst is – you are all alone – *all alone! The wind blows – and maybe it starts to rain – and thunder – and the lightning flashes – and*

*nobody – nobody cares!* If that sounds terrible for one night – imagine forever! The sweet and precious Gospel means we are never alone. Jesus is with us always – loving us – forgiving us – protecting us until he bring us home to heaven where we will say forever, “Thank you, Jesus!” Amen!

To God alone all glory!

*Rev. Anthony P. Schmitt*

