

TRINITY SUNDAY 2022 – C
Proverbs 8.22-31///Romans 5.1-5///John 16.12-15

→a website describes the hotel room as “a romantic getaway in a luxurious setting with rooms overlooking glorious views of the ocean.”

→so you by the airplanes tickets, arrange for a long weekend and off you go...passport in hand and a heaping helping of high expectations.

→when you get there the “quaint little inn” is really a marketing word for “tiny”...the ocean is only visible from a few rooms that over look the neighboring factory’s garbage dumpster and the loud whine of jets as they make their final approach for landing directly over the hotel on their way to the nearby airport is their idea of “quiet....”

→would you be disappointed?

→or perhaps the time you ordered the chef’s specialty, described by the waiter in glowing terms with the promise of “abundant size portions” only to find out when your dinner arrives that the shrimp are much smaller than your version of jumbo...and the entire entrée, though colorfully arranged on the plate...looks and tastes so much smaller than you expected... and the only thing “jumbo” about the meal is the bill....

→would you be disappointed?

→and finally, you scan the newspaper looking for a movie to see at the theater...

→the one you decide upon has received universal acclaim by both critics and fans... “best movie of the century...two thumbs up...five stars” the newspaper ad says..

→you buy the tickets...take out a second mortgage for popcorn and drinks...and settle in your seat for the movie of the century...only to be bored out of your mind...and leave halfway through the film....

→would you be disappointed?

→of course we are....haven't all of us been there before....feeling foolish for believing in false advertising...can't miss opportunities...and have having exceedingly high hopes....

PAUSE

→to the point....that we might wonder if there will ever come a time when we will not have to risk such disappointments...

→how can we remain confident with such high hopes if disappointment seems always around the corner.....

→Well today on this...the feast of the Holy Trinity...Saint Paul in his letter to the Romans enthusiastically boasts of the confidence we have in the gift of salvation we have received from Jesus Christ.

→he writes: *“we have peace with God, we have access to grace...and we can boast in our hope of the glory of God.”*

PAUSE

→Paul is absolutely confident in God's power and desire to save us...so confident, in fact, that he speaks of “boasting” in the hope of glory....

→but for those of us who have been burned enough times by misleading advertising....how can we be sure that this is not just another piece of cleverly orchestrated hype...a prelude to another disappointment?

→and Paul answers by saying...that our salvation...our redemption...is not held secure by our grasp on God, but rather by God's grasp on us...

→i.o.w....no matter what may happen to us...no matter what may come our way...we are held by God, surely and safely...and...nothing can separate us from God's grace...because of God's Spirit that dwells within us.

→God the Father who revealed His presence through His Son, Jesus Christ, and who with the Holy Spirit give us life....gives understanding and purpose to our lives

→AND as a result, we are united and joined intimately with God and with one another as members of his body.

PAUSE

→the feast of the Trinity...is a feast celebrating God's presence --Father, Son, and Spirit...in you and me and in our world

--[and] today, Jesus is telling his disciples and he is telling us.... "to trust, have faith and believe in yourself

→allow the presence and life of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit to be a part of who we are

→in a certain sense...we ARE an unfinished people living in an unfinished world

→parents eventually have to let their "unfinished" children face the world on their own
....to learn....live...fail and falter

--and yet, we all know that in reality.... we are never really alone....our parents, or someone seems to always be around looking over our shoulder...making sure that everything is just right

→today, Jesus is doing the same for you and me....urging us to live our life of faith on our own...even in the midst of disappointments that may come our way....

→to be witnesses to the gospel message throughout our world and in our community

→to spread the good news to all people both near and far

→knowing full well that our God, His Son, and Spirit.....will always be there....looking over our shoulder and making sure that all is well...

PAUSE

→there once was a small child...who was afraid to cross a busy street...

→standing beside his parent he cried for the parent to hold his tiny hand.

→the parent's arms already full...told the child to reach up and take hold of the parent's outstretched finger...but the child refused to cross the street...even with the offer of the parent's finger to hold.

→the child protested.... "I don't want to hold **your** hand...I **want you** to hold **my** hand"

→the parent quickly understood...rearranged their load and offered the child a full hand into which the child's hand slipped in confidently and together they crossed the street.

→on this Feast of the Holy Trinity...God the Father, Son and Spirit is offering their hand to each one of us...in the full confidence that they will always be a part of us...walking with us through life...guiding us through challenges...and picking us up in times of need.

→...and **that** [my friends] is something that will never bring disappointment to any of us.