

Bible Study for May 31st, 2026

Holy Trinity Sunday. Gospel: Matthew 28:16-20

“16 Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. 17 When they saw him, they worshiped him, but they doubted. 18 And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 19 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 20 and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

Imagine a parking lot sunset, specifically, the one outside your local Trader Joe's. Something about those skies locks your shopping cart right in its tracks. Extravagant in the most unexpected place. A brilliant sky that is real-time proof that our Creator exists in multitudes, and that is who we are talking about today.

I want us to consider this: What if the Trinity isn't a doctrine to defend but an invitation into the *expansiveness* of God? A free-flowing, uncontainable communion that spills into parking lots and into the lives of people who weren't sure they were welcome.

Picture the following: Some of the disciples, with grief and failure already marking this community, gather on a mountain. They see Jesus. They worship. *And some doubted.* Matthew doesn't clean it up. Doubtful disciples are the ones who are commissioned.

In Matthew's gospel for this Holy Trinity Sunday, we find some moments worth noting.

1. Worship and doubt exist in the same room. Matthew doesn't ask us to resolve it.
2. For many in the queer community, the word *obey* can feel like an ick. We know obedience, wielded as a weapon, demanded that we betray ourselves. That memory is real and worth naming. But *this* authority is not empire. What follows is not a crushing demand. It is a *sending*. A rebuilding of relationship.
3. *All nations*. Not some. This Triune God of multitudes is poured out over everyone. The queer community understands expansiveness. We know what it is to be told we're outside the bounds, and to discover God exists there.
4. *I am with you always, to the end of the age*. No asterisk. No footnote. This parking lot sunset God, in all their majesty, impossible to contain, is with you. *Always*.

Preacher: Sit with your own story as you prepare to step into this one.

Where has God's expansiveness reached you somewhere unexpected? Was there a moment you believed you'd finally been counted out and then something cracked open that you can only call grace? That is your sermon. That is the parking lot your listener wants to hear about.

You may feel resistance to going there. That's normal. Go anyway. Your people are not looking for a polished presentation; they are looking for a person. The one who is worshipping and doubting at the same time is sitting in every pew, and they need to know their preacher has been there, too. Think about who most needs to hear the words "*I am with you always,*" and that they have no asterisk. Then preach like they're in the room, because they are.

Bible Study and Reflection: Matthew 28:16-20

1. **The disciples gathered, and in that gathering, doubt was welcome.** Sit with that for a moment. You're invited to think about where you are right now in your own life. Are there moments when you feel closer to doubt? When you offer yourself the grace to be honest about your own doubts, how do you feel?
2. **Jesus doesn't wait for the doubt to clear before he speaks.** He meets them in it. Is there something you have been waiting to resolve before you feel worthy of being sent? What might it mean to be commissioned *as you are, right now*? What stands in your way from feeling like you could be commissioned as you are in this very moment?
3. **"All nations" can feel big, especially in this moment we are living in.** It leaves no one out. Let yourself receive it personally — not just as a call to go, but as a reminder that you, too, are included in that *all*. When did you last let yourself feel the fullness of that welcome?
4. **"I am with you always, to the end of the age."** Read it a few times out loud and then to yourself. Let it settle in. Take a moment. Now ask yourself this question: Where in your life do you most need to hear those words today? What would change if you truly believed them?