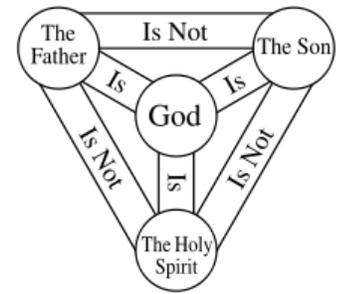


Scripture Study

Most Holy Trinity Sunday – Cycle B



Opening prayer

Deuteronomy 4:32-34, 36-40 (Psalm 33:4-6, 9, 18-20, 22) Romans 8:14-17 **Matthew 28:16-20**

Overview of the Gospel:

- This Sunday the Church celebrates the one of the great truths of our Faith: the mystery of one God in three Persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. The revealed truth of the Holy Trinity is at the very root of the Church's living faith as expressed in the Creed. The mystery of the Trinity in itself is inaccessible to the human mind and is the object of faith only because it was revealed by Jesus Christ, the divine Son of the eternal Father (CCC 232, 237, 249, 253-256).
- Looking at the Old Testament with our knowledge of the New, we can see that the Trinity was foreshadowed, though it was not taught in terms of one God in three Persons. One of the most commonly cited intimations of the doctrine of the Trinity is that God speaks to himself in Genesis by using a plural: "Let us make man in our image," and then we read "in the image of God he created him" (Genesis 1:26–27). The triple cry of the seraphim in Isaiah—"Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts" (Isaiah 6:3)—is also thought to reflect the Trinity.
- This Sunday's reading takes place after Jesus' resurrection appearances of the first week, the last of which was to Thomas and the other Apostles a week after Easter (John 20:26-29).
- Whereas during his earthly ministry Jesus limited his message to Israel (Matthew 10:5-6), he now charges his disciples to make disciples of "all nations" thus fulfilling God's promise to Abraham that "all nations" would be blessed (Genesis 22:18; Galatians 3:8).
- Note that in directing them to make disciples of all nations, administer the Sacraments, and to teach (verses 19-20), Jesus instructs them to do so in the "name" (singular) of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. That one name is what we call the Most Holy Trinity.

Questions:

- Upon seeing the resurrected Jesus, how do the disciples respond (verse 17)? Why is doubt mingled with their worship? What do they doubt?
- Of the three actions commanded of the disciples by Jesus (verses 19-20), is there one that is central? How are they to make disciples? Of whom? With what resources? To what end?
- How much authority does Jesus have to give to his disciples when they are commissioned? In what ways can you fill this commission in the context of your family? Work? Community?
- What is your experience with evangelizing? What is your attitude toward doing it? What do you think Jesus wants you to do with any fears you may have?
- In what manner is Jesus with the Church always (verse 20; CCC 1374)?
- How do you recognize the on-going presence of Jesus in your life? What do you do to encourage his presence there?

Catechism of the Catholic Church: §§ 189, 232—267, 1122, 1257

Closing prayer

This Trinity is one God from Whom, through Whom, and in Whom all things exist. --St. Augustine

Remember to read and meditate on the daily Mass readings!

"In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit"

Scripture: *Matthew 28:16-20*

Meditation: How can we know God? Jesus revealed to his disciples the great mystery of our faith – the triune nature of God and the inseparable union of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Jesus' mission is to reveal the glory of God to us – a Trinity of persons – God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit – and to unite us with God in a community of love. The ultimate end, the purpose for which God created us, is the entry of God's creatures into the perfect unity of the blessed Trinity. The Jews understood God as Creator and Father of all that he made (Deuteronomy 32:6) and they understood the nation of Israel as God's firstborn son (Exodus 4:22). Jesus reveals the Father in an unheard of sense. He is eternally Father by his relationship to his only Son, who, reciprocally, is Son only in relation to his Father (see Matthew 11:27). The Spirit, likewise, is inseparably one with the Father and the Son. The mission of Jesus and of the Holy Spirit are the same. That is why Jesus tells his disciples that the Spirit will reveal the glory of the Father and the Son and will speak what is true. Before his Passover, Jesus revealed the Holy Spirit as the "Paraclete" and Helper who will be with Jesus' disciples to teach and guide them "into all the truth" (John 14:17,26; 16:13). In baptism we are called to share in the life of the Holy Trinity here on earth in faith and after death in eternal light.

Clement of Alexandria, a third century church father, wrote:
"What an astonishing mystery! There is one Father of the



universe, one Logos (Word) of the universe, and also one Holy Spirit, everywhere one and the same; there is also one virgin become mother, and I should like to call her 'Church'." How can we personally know the Father and his Son, our Lord Jesus Christ? It is the Holy Spirit who reveals the Father and the Son to us and who gives us the gift of faith to know and understand the truth of God's word. Through the Holy Spirit, we proclaim our ancient faith in the saving death and resurrection of Jesus Christ until he comes again. The Lord gives us his Holy Spirit as our divine Teacher and Helper that we may grow in the knowledge and wisdom of God. Do you seek the wisdom that comes from above and do you willingly obey God's word?

Jesus' departure and ascension into heaven was both an end and a beginning for his disciples. While it was the end of Jesus' physical presence with his beloved disciples, it marked the beginning of Jesus' presence with them in a new way. Jesus promised that he would be with them always to the end of time. He assured them of his power – a power which overcame sin and death. Now as the glorified and risen Lord and Savior, ascended to the right hand of the Father in heaven, Jesus

promised to give them the power of his Holy Spirit, which we see fulfilled ten days later on the Feast of Pentecost (Luke 24:49 and Acts 2:1-4). When the Lord Jesus departed physically from the apostles, they were not left alone or powerless. Jesus assured them of his presence and the power of the Holy Spirit.

Jesus' last words to his apostles point to his saving mission and to their mission to be witnesses of his saving death and his glorious resurrection and to proclaim the good news of salvation to all the world. Their task is to proclaim the good news of salvation, not only to the people of Israel, but to all the nations. God's love and gift of salvation is not just for a few, or for a nation, but it is for the whole world – for all who will accept it. The gospel is the power of God, the power to forgive sins, to heal, to deliver from evil and oppression, and to restore life. Do you believe in the power of the gospel?

"May the Lord Jesus put his hands on our eyes also, for then we too shall begin to look not at what is seen but at what is not seen. May he open the eyes that are concerned not with the present but with what is yet to come, may he unseal the heart's vision, that we may gaze on God in the Spirit, through the same Lord, Jesus Christ, whose glory and power will endure throughout the unending succession of ages." (Prayer of Origen, 185-254 AD)

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