

(Gospel Reflection – continued)

A Christian is never alone, even in the midst of social isolation! Jesus' command to make disciples in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit invites us into the community of the holy Trinity, as we pray, speak to me, Lord.

- In my everyday life how do I share in the love and life of the Holy Trinity?

Prayer over the Offerings

Sanctify by the invocation of your name, we pray, O Lord our God, this oblation of our service, and by it make of us an eternal offering to you.

Prayer after Communion

May receiving this Sacrament, O Lord our God, bring us health of body and soul, as we confess your eternal holy Trinity and undivided Unity.



“All sorts of people are fond of repeating the Christian statement that "God is love." But they seem not to notice that the words 'God is love' have no real meaning unless God contains at least two persons. Love is something that one person has for another person. If God was a single person, then before the world was made, He was not love.”

C.S. Lewis

THE MOST HOLY TRINITY

Year B

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We are social beings who enter the world within a family, our first human community. Then life unfolds in ever expanding circles of communities with family, friends, neighbours, co-workers, church and society. Community is essential to human existence. Our experience of community sustains us in ways we often take for granted. The pandemic has been a stark reminder that we are social beings. Lockdowns, quarantines and isolation have transformed our shared sense of community. Our diminished personal interactions during the pandemic give new appreciation for the formative power of community, and as new ways of building community have expanded through virtual and digital means the search for community grows even stronger. Today's solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity tells us that God is a community of divine persons, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. The divine community of the Holy Trinity is the central mystery of Christian faith. Yet this foundational truth of faith is not a remote, abstract idea with little or no relevance to my daily life. The Holy Trinity of Father, Son and Holy Spirit invites me to live each day within the divine community of love. This is the gift of Christian faith!

Opening Prayer

God our Father, who by sending into the world the Word of truth and the Spirit of sanctification made known to the human race your wondrous mystery, grant us, we pray, that in professing the true faith, we may acknowledge the Trinity of eternal glory and adore your Unity, powerful in majesty.

Deuteronomy 4:32-34,39-40

Moses said to the people: 'Put this question to the ages that are past, that went before you, from the time God created man on earth: Was there ever a word so majestic, from one end of heaven to the other? Was anything ever heard? Did ever a people hear the voice of the living God speaking from the heart of the fire, as you heard it, and remain alive? Has any god ventured to take to himself one nation from the midst of another by ordeals, signs, wonders, war with mighty hand and outstretched arm, by fearsome terrors all this that the Lord your God did for you before your eyes in Egypt? 'Understand this today, therefore, and take it to heart: the Lord is God indeed, in heaven above as on earth beneath, he and no other. Keep his laws and commandments as I give them to you today, so that you and your children may prosper and live long in the land that the Lord your God gives you for ever.'

In the first reading from Deuteronomy, Moses calls the people of Israel to reflect on the astonishing fact of God's revelation and covenant: Did anything so great ever happen before? Was it ever heard of? Did a people ever hear the voice of God speaking from the midst of fire, as you did, and live? In their covenant relationship with God, the Israelites experienced God's closeness. Yet they doubted God's love and power from time to time. They forgot they belonged to the divine community. Moses reminds them to live the commandments as an expression of love for God.

- In my life do I allow myself to feel the closeness of an ever loving God? When? How?

Psalms 32(33):4-6,9,18-20,22

For the word of the Lord is faithful and all his works to be trusted.

The Lord loves justice and right and fills the earth with his love.

By his word the heavens were made, by the breath of his mouth all the stars. He spoke; and it came to be. He commanded; it sprang into being.

The Lord looks on those who revere him, on those who hope in his love, to rescue their souls from death, to keep them alive in famine.

Our soul is waiting for the Lord. The Lord is our help and our shield.

May your love be upon us, O Lord, as we place all our hope in you.

Romans 8:14-17

Everyone moved by the Spirit is a son of God. The spirit you received is not the spirit of slaves bringing fear into your lives again; it is the spirit of sons, and it makes us cry out, 'Abba, Father!' The Spirit himself and our spirit bear united witness that we are children of God. And if we are children we are heirs as well: heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, sharing his sufferings so as to share his glory.

In today's second reading we are reminded that we are not God's slaves living in fear; we are children of God, heirs as well. We have been granted the privilege of inheriting the glory of God, we have been given the right to belong. We are members of the family of God, named as children of God. St. Paul reminds the Romans that you received a Spirit of adoption, through whom we cry, 'Abba, Father!'

Alleluia, alleluia! *Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; the God who is, who was, and who is to come. Alleluia!*

Matthew 28:16-20

The eleven disciples set out for Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had arranged to meet them. When they saw him they fell down before him, though some hesitated. Jesus came up and spoke to them. He said, 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go, therefore, make disciples of all the nations; baptize them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teach them to observe all the commands I gave you. And know that I am with you always; yes, to the end of time.'

In the Gospel, Jesus gives a final command as he promises to remain with us always. We share in the divine community when we live the command of Jesus who says, Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. To be a Christian is to share in the divine community of God's life, love and peace. Our baptism in the name of the Trinity began a new life of grace as members of God's community of love. Every Christian prayer begins and ends by calling on the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.