

Sunday Message

7 JUNE 2020

THE MOST HOLY TRINITY

THE WORD

Year A • Psalter Week 2

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Blest be God the Father,
and the Only Begotten Son of God,
and also the Holy Spirit,
for he has shown us his merciful love.

GLORIA

Glory to God in the highest,
and on earth peace to people of good will.

We praise you,
we bless you,
we adore you,
we glorify you,
we give you thanks for your great glory,
Lord God, heavenly King,
O God, almighty Father.

Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son,
Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,
you take away the sins of the world,
have mercy on us;
you take away the sins of the world,
receive our prayer;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father,
have mercy on us.

For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father.
Amen.

COLLECT

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.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.
Amen.

FIRST READING Exodus 34:4-6.8-9

A reading from the book of Exodus.

With the two tablets of stone in his hands,
Moses went up the mountain of Sinai in the early morning as the Lord had commanded him. And the Lord descended in the form of a cloud, and Moses stood with him there.
He called on the name of the Lord. The Lord passed before him and proclaimed, "Lord, Lord, a God of tenderness and compassion, slow to anger, rich in kindness and faithfulness." And Moses bowed down to the ground at once and worshipped. "If I have indeed won your favour, Lord," he said "let my Lord come with us, I beg. True, they are a headstrong people, but forgive us our faults and our sins, and adopt us as your heritage."

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

PSALM

Daniel 3:52-56

Response:

To you glory and praise for evermore.

1. You are blest, Lord God of our fathers. (R.)
Blest your glorious holy name. (R.)
2. You are blest in the temple of your glory. (R.)
You are blest on the throne of your kingdom. (R.)
3. You are blest who gaze into the depths. (R.)
You are blest in the firmament of heaven. (R.)

SECOND READING 2 Corinthians 13:11-13

A reading from the second letter of St Paul to the Corinthians.

Brothers, we wish you happiness; try to grow perfect; help one another. Be united; live in peace, and the God of love and peace will be with you.

Greet one another with the holy kiss. All the saints send you greetings.

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

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!

GOSPEL

John 3:16-18

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

Jesus said to Nicodemus,

"God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not be lost but may have eternal life. For God sent his Son into the world not to condemn the world, but so that through him the world might be saved.

No one who believes in him will be condemned; but whoever refuses to believe is condemned already, because he has refused to believe in the name of God's only Son."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

PROFESSION OF FAITH

I believe in one God,
the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all things visible and invisible.

I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the Only Begotten Son of God,
born of the Father before all ages.
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,

begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father;

through him all things were made.

For us men and for our salvation he came down from heaven,

(all bow during the next three lines)

and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary,
and became man.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate,

he suffered death and was buried,
and rose again on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures.
He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead and his kingdom will have no end.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.

I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church.

I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins
and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

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. Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Since you are children of God,
God has sent into your hearts the Spirit of his Son,
the Spirit who cries out: Abba, Father.

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.
Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

"To regard the Mass as an obligation, a chore, and a boring one at that, to be done on a Sunday, is a hideous travesty of the truth. Mass may indeed be boring, and the dear priest's sermon an affliction to be patiently endured (or, of course, an intellectual treat to be discussed throughout the week), but we do not go to Mass for entertainment... To be taken to the self-offering of Jesus to the Father is what being a Catholic is about, it is what the Mass is about."

Sister Wendy Beckett

REFLECT

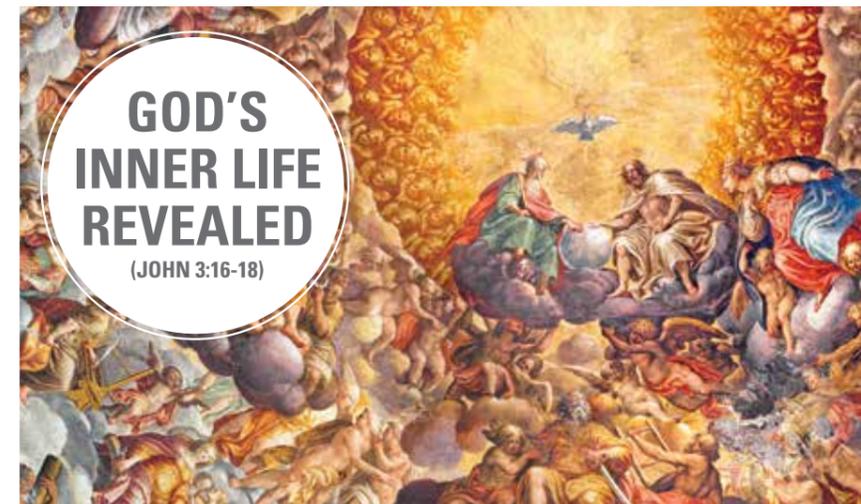
In his farewell speech to the disciples in John's Gospel Jesus makes a promise. He tells his disciples that even though he is going to leave them soon, they won't be left abandoned. God will send the Holy Spirit to be with them, to guide them, "to lead you to the complete truth".

The satnav is a wonderful invention. We have become so dependent on it to guide our journeys to unfamiliar destinations that we often wonder how we coped in the era before it was invented. The Holy Spirit is like our personal satnav. In trying to negotiate our way through life's journeys, God has given us a spiritual navigator. That guide is the Holy Spirit. When we don't know what to do or which way to turn, the Holy Spirit is there to point us in the right direction.

But, as with a sat nav, we must first tune into the Holy Spirit. That means being aware of the Spirit's presence with us all the time. We are never alone or lost. We have an inbuilt Holy Spirit navigation system – a most precious tool. We just have to turn it on.

Second, we must ask the Holy Spirit to help us find our way. Whenever we don't know which way to turn, or the right direction to take, we pray to the Holy Spirit, asking the Holy Spirit to be our guide. The Holy Spirit always points us to Jesus who is "the Way, the Truth, and the Life".

That's the Spirit's job – to be our guide through life, to lead us eventually to that place where we will enjoy eternal life with the Holy Trinity for ever. ■



Fresco of the Holy Trinity and saints in glory, in the cupola of Chiesa di Santa Maria del Quartiere, by P.A. Bernabei, his brother Alessandro and G.M. Conti della Camera

Today we celebrate the feast of the Most Holy Trinity. The great truth about God in the Old Testament was that God communicated with human beings.

God was active in their history through the Spirit that spoke the divine word through the Law and the Prophets. The great truth about God in the New Testament is that God took on human form in Jesus. You could say that the Old Testament period is the era of God the Father, when the Father made himself known; the period when Jesus walked on earth was the great revelation of God the Son; and the period after the ascension of the risen Lord, the time we live in now, is the era of God the Holy Spirit.

The Church's doctrine of the Trinity tells us that God is, first of all, a community of three persons who love one another, who communicate so intimately with one another that three become one.

A genuine community is one that is open to others. It is not locked in on itself. The place we most experience the truth of the Trinity is at the table of the Eucharist when bread and wine, the gift of the Father in creation, are transformed into the life-giving body and blood of the Son through the action of the Holy Spirit.

Just as it took the Church many years to find a way of speaking about the Triune God, it takes us a lifetime to find a way to speak about God from our own experience of love, joy, fragility and brokenness. ■

LEARN

"The Most Holy Trinity is not the product of human reasoning; it is the face with which God himself revealed himself, not from the height of a cathedral, but walking with humanity. It is precisely Jesus who revealed the Father and promised us the Holy Spirit. God walked with his people in the history of the people of Israel and Jesus has always walked with us and has promised us the Holy Spirit, who is fire, who teaches us all the things that we do not know, who guides us from within, he gives us good ideas and good inspirations."

Pope Francis

DO

Each time you make the Sign of the Cross, think about what you are doing and the words that you say.

SAY

"Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit. Amen."

PRAY

The Trinity is about relationship. Pray for a deepening of your relationship with those you love.

