

The Most Holy Trinity – June 11, 2017 – Good Shepherd Parish

Scripture Reading: Exodus 34:4b-6, 8-9

Early in the morning Moses went up Mount Sinai as the LORD had commanded him, taking along the two stone tablets.

Having come down in a cloud, the LORD stood with Moses there and proclaimed his name, "LORD." Thus the LORD passed before him and cried out, "The LORD, the LORD, a merciful and gracious God, slow to anger and rich in kindness and fidelity." Moses at once bowed down to the ground in worship. Then he said, "If I find favor with you, O LORD, do come along in our company. This is indeed a stiff-necked people; yet pardon our wickedness and sins, and receive us as your own."

Psalm: Daniel 3:52, 53, 54, 55

R. (52b) Glory and praise for ever!

Blessed are you, O Lord, the God of our fathers,
praiseworthy and exalted above all forever;
And blessed is your holy and glorious name,
praiseworthy and exalted above all for all ages.

R. Glory and praise for ever!

Blessed are you in the temple of your holy glory,
praiseworthy and glorious above all forever.

R. Glory and praise for ever!

Blessed are you on the throne of your kingdom,
praiseworthy and exalted above all forever.

R. Glory and praise for ever!

Blessed are you who look into the depths
from your throne upon the cherubim,
praiseworthy and exalted above all forever.

R. Glory and praise for ever!

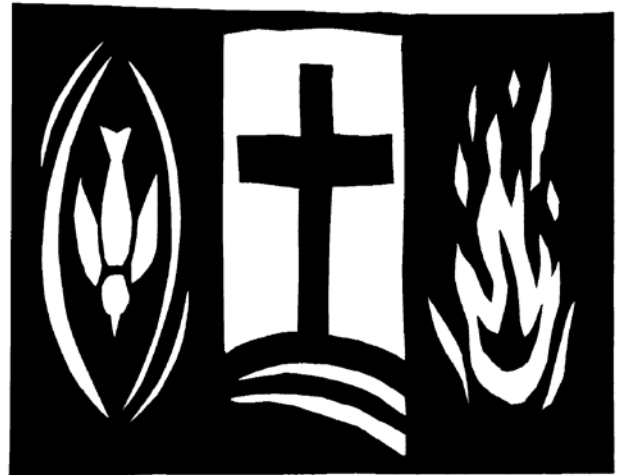
Scripture Reading: 2 Corinthians 13:11-13

Brothers and sisters, rejoice. Mend your ways, encourage one another, agree with one another, live in peace, and the God of love and peace will be with you. Greet one another with a holy kiss. All the holy ones greet you.

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

Gospel: John 3:16-18

God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him might not perish but might have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through him. Whoever believes in him will not be condemned, but whoever does not believe has already been condemned, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God.



PARISH MISSION PRAYER 2017

Heavenly Father, we give You thanks and praise for the blessings You have bestowed on us and on our Good Shepherd Parish. We ask that You send Your Holy Spirit upon us to prepare our hearts and minds for the upcoming Parish Mission. May we be a warm, welcoming community and loving witness to those returning home and to those visiting.

We ask Your blessings upon Fr. Leo Almazan as he prepares to lead us in Your Word. May all who attend be filled with Your Holy Spirit that they may go into the community sharing Your love, Your message and Your joy with their neighbors. We ask this through Your Son, Our Lord, Jesus Christ. Amen.

Readings and excerpts from the *Lectionary for Mass* ©1970, 1997, 1998 Confraternity of Christian Doctrine, Inc., ©1997, 1981, 1968 International Committee on English in the Liturgy, Inc., and ©1964 National Catholic Welfare Conference, Inc. Excerpts from the *Sacramentary* ©1969–1985 ICEL. Excerpts from *Living Liturgy* ©2001 The Order of St. Benedict, Inc. Clip art ©1994, 1996 The Order of St. Benedict, Inc. All rights reserved.

The Most Holy Trinity – June 11, 2017 – Good Shepherd Parish

INVITATION TO PRAY

Pause for a few moments of silence and enter more deeply into the presence of God.

Proclaim the Scriptures out loud.

As you listen to the scriptures be attentive to a word, a phrase, a question, an image, or a feeling that emerges. Reflect on this quietly or share it aloud.

INVITATION TO REFLECT

No matter what you have heard, it is not so hard to understand the Trinity. Simply think back to the great story we have been celebrating for many weeks. Let's tell it one more time. God the Father invited people on earth to a lasting and loving relationship with him and with each other. "I want to be your God and I want you to be my people. My love for you is tender and precious. Won't you love me in return?" Some understood and entered into the agreement. Abraham, Isaac, Moses, Elisha, Elijah, just to begin the list. But they and the rest of us humans kept choosing things easier to grab, like money and honors—barns full of them. Our refusal of God's love became widespread. How did God react to such rejection? My people, what have I done to you? How have I offended you? Answer me. For your sake I scourged your captors and their first-born sons, but you brought your scourges down on me! My people, answer me (from "The Reproaches" on Good Friday)! God tried a new and quite brilliant way. "Since I am all love and nothing but love, I will go out to them totally, as love does. I will become one of them. I will live humanity to its depths, and they will see love spelled out."

How can God interact with us in these three very different ways?

So God was born as a human called Jesus. He was the heart of God, now made flesh. One with the Father but different as well. And so the world knew about two persons in one God. He told people to love God above all things and their neighbors as themselves. But many human beings had been hurt and betrayed, living with their own selfishness and greed, as well as their mixed-up motives, co-existing with those of others too. Love can get lost in such a world. It was into this ocean of cruelty and loss that God the Son plunged. He dove all the way to down to death. It was a display of the most profound insides of God. To that point the disciples knew only two parts of God, Jesus and his Father (and they were not very sure about these). So before he left, Christ said this to them: Philip, and the rest of you, if you know me you know the Father. He is in me fully, and after I go back I will make a home in you by sending the Holy Spirit. This Comforter will be the very love that I and the Father have for each other and for you. That way I will be with you until the end of time! (*paraphrase*). He was talking about the third person of the Trinity, which nestles close to our souls if we let it. Only if we let it. The Holy Spirit is graceful and deep and comforting, like a blanket in cold winter. It is the love between the Father and Son. So how can God interact with us in these three very different ways? By being "plural," that is, by being three "persons." How can three be one? By not letting the number three be a divider but a plus sign. All three, in a great dynamic of love, are so close to one and other that they are One God. Now we understand.

INVITATION TO GROUP SHARING

1. God has shown himself to us through the ages, especially through Jesus. Besides his name, what did God reveal about himself to Moses on Mount Sinai? What was Moses' response to this revelation? How do you respond when God's love is with you?
2. What do you know about the Trinity from the last lines of this reading: "The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with all of you." God's nature is love, and he has invited us to come along in his company. What are the implications for our communities?
3. What did the Father do that tells us that he "so loved the world"? What did the Son do? What is your response to God's immense love for the world and for you personally?

INVITATION TO ACT

Determine a specific action (individual or group) that flows from your sharing. When choosing an individual action, determine what you will do and share it with the group. When choosing a group action, determine who will take responsibility for different aspects of the action. These should be your primary considerations.

CLOSING INVITATION TO PRAY

Give thanks to God (aloud or silently) for new insights, for desires awakened, for directions clarified, for the gift of one another's openness and sensitivity. Conclude with the following:

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