

The Most Holy Trinity – May 27, 2018 – Good Shepherd Parish

Scripture Reading: Deut 4:32-34, 39-40

Moses said to the people: "Ask now of the days of old, before your time, ever since God created man upon the earth; ask from one end of the sky to the other: 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? Or did any god venture to go and take a nation for himself from the midst of another nation, by testings, by signs and wonders, by war, with strong hand and outstretched arm, and by great terrors, all of which the LORD, your God, did for you in Egypt before your very eyes? This is why you must now know, and fix in your heart, that the LORD is God in the heavens above and on earth below, and that there is no other. You must keep his statutes and commandments that I enjoin on you today, that you and your children after you may prosper, and that you may have long life on the land which the LORD, your God, is giving you forever."

Psalm: Ps 33:4-5, 6, 9, 18-19, 20, 22

R. (12b) Blessed the people the Lord has chosen to be his own.

Upright is the word of the LORD,
and all his works are trustworthy.
He loves justice and right;
of the kindness of the LORD the earth is full.

By the word of the LORD the heavens were made;
by the breath of his mouth all their host.
For he spoke, and it was made;
he commanded, and it stood forth.

See, the eyes of the LORD are upon those who fear him,
upon those who hope for his kindness,
to deliver them from death
and preserve them in spite of famine.

Our soul waits for the LORD,
who is our help and our shield.
May your kindness, O LORD, be upon us
who have put our hope in you.

Scripture Reading: Romans 8:14-17

Brothers and sisters: Those who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you received a Spirit of adoption, through whom we cry, "Abba, Father!" The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if only we suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him.

Gospel: Matthew 28:16-20

The eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had ordered them. When they all saw him, they worshiped, but they doubted. Then Jesus approached and said to them, "All power in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 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, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, until the end of the age."



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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

All the way from Holy Week to this Sunday's "Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity", our Masses have been rich in moving images of our faith: moving, deep, piercing, rewarding. But more, they have revealed how the Holy Trinity deals with us! Our liturgies represent the ways people on earth could see that there is a Trinity within the one God!

The First Person, God the Father

Passion (Palm) Sunday: The Hebrew people were the first and most ancient testimony that "the Lord is God in the heavens above and on earth below, and that there is no other" (First Reading). Moses cried out, "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? ...Did any god venture to go and take a nation for himself from the midst of another nation?" We can ask whether we hear in our faith the voice of the Father from the midst of what can be much worse than fire.

The Second Person, God the Christ

Good Friday: Jesus in the garden asked the Father to release him from the cross. His whole life had been a testimony to the one he addressed with the endearing term, "Abba" (Daddy). And now he pleaded "with loud cries and tears to the one who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverence" (Hebrews 5:7). He was heard? But he died. Jesus' request on the cross was indeed heard. He was "saved" from the sting of death *by plunging directly into it*. Even though his life was sacrificed, he lived from a love that could not be killed. *Easter:* An earthly burial could not entrap God's love. Jesus arose. He appeared to the disciples in Sunday's Gospel. Their companion was now love's witness. But they doubted, even as they fell down to worship him. As you and I do, maybe?

The Third Person, God the Spirit

Ascension: Then he left this world. He was going back to the Father, the source of Jesus-love. To allay the disciples' fears, he recounted with great kindness the course of his life, including especially the following important feature: his presence was to continue here on earth. The disciples were to go out and themselves be Jesus' dwelling place of God on earth (Gospel). *Pentecost.* Just as Jesus had foretold, the Spirit came alive within them, pitching its tent in their hearts and souls, coming closer to them and to us than we can be to our own selves! Our life's breath is now to be Christ's life and breath for all ages. The Holy Spirit, which is now marked by the Father and Christ, comes to make us children of God, to be his presence in this world. Now, if only we will relax and let it be. Holy Week and Easter show us the face of God, revealed in the loving, earthly interactions that are the Trinity's. In short, we are to "suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him" (Second Reading). The fledgling Church had discovered the Trinity not by studying theology books but by experiencing it. Let us follow.

INVITATION TO GROUP SHARING

1. Moses heard the voice of God from a burning bush. Where do you hear the voice of God? In friends ... the poor ... newspapers ... Pope Francis ... nature ... novels ... music? In your heart?
2. The Spirit—besides revealing God's being to us as endless and continually new—"bears witness with our spirit." How do you think your prayers of thanksgiving, petition, and worship are changed when the Spirit bears witness with them?
3. The Holy Spirit was put in our hearts that "we might understand the things freely given by God" (1 Cor. 2:12). Is the Trinity one of those things? But how can this be since the Trinity is a mystery?

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