

SOLEMNITY OF THE MOST HOLY TRINITY

Cycle B

Deuteronomy 4: 32-34, 39-40

Romans 8: 14-17

Matthew 28: 16-20

(Three unlit candles and a bible open to this week's gospel rest on a table in the gathering place.)

OPENING PRAYER

(The candles are lit and the community joins in singing, "All Praise and Glad Thanksgiving," The song may be found on the Internet)

Leader: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God the Father and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.

All: And also with you.

Leader: God, we praise you, Father all-powerful, Christ, our Lord and Savior, Spirit of love. You reveal yourself in the depths of our being, drawing us to share in your life and your love. One God, three Persons, be near to the people formed in your image, close to the world your love brings to life. We ask you this, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, one God true and loving, forever and ever.

All: Take my heart, good God.

From Alternative Prayer for Morning Prayer, Trinity Sunday,
The Liturgy of the Hours. (New York, Catholic Book Publishing Co., 1976)

COMMENTARY

One God in three persons, each is fully God whole and entire. Our faith leads us to recognition of the Holy Trinity, though not to a full understanding of this mystery. But what do we know; what has been revealed and what does it mean for us?

Paul tells us today we are children of God and therefore heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ. Jesus prayed to God using the word *Abba*, Father. He wants the same relationship between us and his Father that exists between a child and its father. We can address God as Father because, through the Son of God, we have been made adopted children. To call God, Father, indicates the ideal parental relationship. God loves and cares for his children. This tenderness can also be expressed by the image of motherhood. But God is beyond human distinction between the sexes. God is neither man nor woman – God is God (Catechism of the Catholic Church).

By the grace of baptism, in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, we are called to share in the life of the Blessed Trinity. God is Father, Son and Holy Spirit and we are made in the image and likeness of God. We are led here to consider that we do not live in isolation, we are all connected. To deny this in the way we live denies our nature.

In his Meditation XVII, John Donne affirms life as a circle of love: “No man is an island entire of itself; every man is a piece of the continent, a part of the main; if a clod be washed away by the sea, Europe is the less. . . any man’s death diminishes me because I am involved in mankind.” For a person of faith, this bit of human wisdom has all the more meaning.

The Holy Trinity inspires in us a coherence – a communion with others. One God in three persons, a circle of love – a father’s love and care for his children, the tenderness of motherhood; the redemptive love of the Son who gives himself for us; the Spirit poured out for us always and everywhere. This circle of love envelopes us. We are all indeed connected. We are charged with caring and loving. While still a mystery, the Holy Trinity gives us an insight into ourselves and how we can respond in our world as creatures made in the image and likeness of Love.

FAITH SHARING AND INTEGRATION

- ◆ What does being made in the image and likeness of God mean to you?
- ◆ When have you felt especially connected to people you are not related to by blood?
- ◆ When have you felt isolated?
- ◆ How inclusive is your circle of love?

RESPONSE IN ACTION

- ◆ Set aside twenty minutes some day this week for reflection and prayer. Begin and end, “In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.” Whatever concerns you bring to your prayer, acknowledge them within the circle of the God of Communion.
- ◆ Bread for the World is a nationwide Christian movement that seeks justice for the world’s hungry people by lobbying our nation’s decision-makers. Learn about and participate in the annual Offering of Letters Campaign. Call 800-82-BREAD or go online for information: www.bread.org.
- ◆ Reach out to someone this week who has become isolated from others – an island unto himself/herself. Invite the person to go out for coffee. Demonstrate the love and caring God provides by simply being with this person.

SENDING FORTH AND CLOSING PRAYER

(The leader invites members to form a circle and join hands.)

Leader: Saint Paul appeals to us to bear with one another charitably, and to spare no effort in securing, by the bonds of peace, the unity that comes from the Spirit. There is but one body and one Spirit, just as there is but one hope held out to us by God’s call. There is one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is above all, and works through all, and is in all. If the one Spirit dwells in us, the one God and Father of all will be in us, and he, through his Son will gather together into unity with one another and with himself all who share in the Spirit.

Cyril of Alexander, *Commentary on the Gospel of John*

(The community stands together for a time of silent prayer. The leader then invites members to turn in place to face the world beyond the community. The session then concludes as follows.)

Leader: Sisters, brothers, let us go in peace to love and serve the Lord and one another.

All: We go in peace, in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.