

Sunday Message

THE MOST HOLY TRINITY

THE WORD

Year B • 26 May 2024 • Psalter Week 4

THE GREAT COMMISSION

MATTHEW 28: 16-20



The early part of John's Gospel, chapter 16, can be read in conjunction with today's Gospel reading. The commissioning of the disciples takes place today, where they are strengthened by the presence of the Holy Spirit and they are to go out into the world and baptise people in the name of the Father, Son and the Holy Spirit.

In John's Gospel, we hear Jesus speaking with his disciples for the final time. There was fear or even sadness perhaps, given the great ministerial journey that had taken place with Jesus was now coming to an end. The disciples are now venturing out on their own. Although, they will never be on their own. The promise of Jesus is to send the Spirit of truth who will offer wisdom and guidance during the difficult times to come. The sending of the Spirit into the lives of the disciples and into our own lives is God's grace alive and active. ■

LEARN

'The Trinity is a mystery of faith in the strict sense, one of the mysteries that are hidden in God, which can never be known unless they are revealed by God.'
(Catechism of the Catholic Church, 237)

DO

Think of concrete ways you can go out to your community and bring the love and tenderness of the Trinity to the lives of others. No action is too small.



REFLECT

The life of the Trinity permeates everything we do as Church whether it's a prayer group gathering on a Monday night, a St. Vincent De Paul meeting on a Friday morning or a baptismal celebration after Mass on a Sunday. The Trinity becomes reflected in the missionary activity of our parish communities from morning to night.

Bishop Robert Barron states that as a lecturer in University, he is only too aware of the 'highly developed technical language' surrounding the Trinity. All the great theologians over the centuries have wrestled with its meaning and often in trying to communicate that meaning, they leave the student or the listener even more confused than before.

The danger however is that we simplify the doctrine of the Trinity too much in our preaching and teaching. Suffice to remember that every time we bless ourselves, we are invoking the name of the Trinity. When we participate in a sacrament for example, the first step is to put ourselves into the mystery of the Trinity. We place ourselves into the love that connects the Father and the Son.

We can probably get the sense through our work for the Church and our participation in the Sacraments that the Trinity is not something that is static. Today's Gospel portrays a Spirit as a guide and the bearer of wisdom and knowledge. Trinity Sunday therefore is less about trying to understand the complicated theological theories that surround a doctrine and more to do with every member of the Church being summoned to mission and action. Today could be the perfect opportunity for a parish to re-evaluate its missionary activity and work. It could also be a time where we take a personal look at our own faith lives. Do I see myself being part of the dynamic life of the Trinity or have I become static? ■

SAY

"It is not easy to find a name that will suitably express so great an excellence, unless it is better to speak in this way: the Trinity, one God, of whom are all things, through whom are all things, in whom are all things."
(St. Augustine)

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 Deuteronomy 4:32-34, 39-40

A reading from the book of Deuteronomy.
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."

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

PSALM

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

Response:

Happy the people the Lord has chosen as his
own.

1. 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. (R.)
2. By his word the heavens were made,
by the breath of his mouth all the stars.
He spoke; and they came to be.
He commanded; they sprang into being. (R.)
3. 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. (R.)
4. 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. (R.)

SECOND READING

Romans 8:14-17

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the
Romans.

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 coheirs with Christ, sharing his sufferings
so as to share his glory.

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

Matthew 28:16-20

A reading from the holy Gospel according to
Matthew.

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;
baptise 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."

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.