

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

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

Rm 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.

27 MAY 2018

Sunday Message

TRINITY SUNDAY

THE WORD

Year B • Season Colour: White • Psalter Week 4



Holy Trinity: detail from 19th century fresco in Altlerchenfelder church, Vienna.

At the beginning of Matthew's account of the Gospel story, the angel instructs Joseph to name Mary's child *Emmanuel*, which means *God is with us*. At the very end of the Gospel, this theme returns when Jesus tells the eleven disciples in Galilee after his resurrection "I am with you, yes, to the end of time."

He has minimised the human side of Jesus and omitted many of the little touches which make Mark's version so readable and attractive. He puts Jesus forward in the light of the resurrection as *Kyrios*, the glorified one: the terrified disciples address him as such when the storm breaks out over their boat on the Sea of Galilee. In this final appearance, the eleven recognise him as such by falling down before him: this is an act of adoration, just as others, such as the Magi, the leper, and the centurion prostrate themselves when Jesus reveals his power in an act of divine power. This is something people should only do in the presence of God, so it tells us that these individuals recognise Jesus as divine, as God. The evangelist declares that Jesus in himself shows the right attitude to God by accepting baptism from John and thus *do all that righteousness commands*. Thus Jesus is the model for his disciples.

The community of Jesus' disciples is to be missionary: it is not to keep the Good News to itself, but to convey what they have received to others. Those who accept their message will signify this publicly by being baptised "in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit". God has given Jesus all authority in heaven and on earth: in this final scene he gives his disciples a command and a promise. He is giving that command and promise to us today. ■

REFLECT

It is notoriously difficult to try to explain the Trinity, One God in Three Persons. In England in the 19th century there was a determined attack on the doctrine of the Trinity by certain individuals. William Wilberforce, the Bishop of Oxford, wrote a book defending it. There was a feeling in certain quarters that Wilberforce's attempted defence had done more damage than had the attacks of his opponents.

The 13th-century mystic Meister Eckhart had a different approach. He asked: "Do you want to know what goes on in the core of the Trinity? I will tell you. In the

core of the Trinity, the Father laughs and gives birth to the Son. The Son laughs back at the Father and gives birth to the Spirit. The whole Trinity laughs and gives birth to us."

We have not often been encouraged by preachers or spiritual writers to picture God laughing, or to imagine the Trinity as a community of persons characterised by joy, a joy which overflows in creative, loving being and activity. Perhaps if we did, our own faith would be more joyful and deeply serene, our communities less fractious and more accepting, and our Church more attractive as a place of peace and that joy of which Jesus speaks. ■

LEARN

The command to baptise in the name of the Father, Son and Spirit, reflects the practice of the early Christian community.

Being baptised is a public affirmation to accept Jesus and the Gospel.

The history of the early Church revolves around the debates as to how the persons of the Trinity relate to one another.

The Bible stresses the unity of God: there is only one God.



DO

Make the Sign of the Cross with holy water. Renew your baptismal promises informally in the name of the Trinity. Ask for the wisdom and courage to be a missionary disciple of Jesus in your own life and place.

SAY

I am with you always.