

The Most Holy Trinity
May 31, 2015
St. Leo the Great Church, Oakland, CA
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Reading 1DT 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."

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

R. 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.

R. Blessed the people the Lord has chosen to be his own.

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.

R. Blessed the people the Lord has chosen to be his own.

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.

R. Blessed the people the Lord has chosen to be his own.

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.

R. Blessed the people the Lord has chosen to be his own.

Reading **2ROM 8:14-17**

Brothers and sisters:

For 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.

Alleluia **REV 1:8**

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

Glory to the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit;
to God who is, who was, and who is to come.

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

Gospel **MT 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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HOMILY

A few years ago, a young Harvard student by the name of Mark Zuckerberg created Facebook. In a short period of time, millions of people have made their pictures and much of their personal information available on the internet using Facebook. Why this phenomenon? There is an obvious need for relationship in the human soul that is met to some degree by this internet tool.

Most people shun isolation. There are exceptions—the exceptions are usually people who have been deeply hurt by others in their lives. Most people yearn to be connected. As a psychologist, I have come to understand that the most serious and dangerous psychological disorders often occur in people who have no meaningful and loving connection to other people in their lives. Most people yearn to be connected.

Today's solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity focuses on the mysterious three-personed God and the connection of this relational God with all human creatures. Rather than warning us to keep our distance from God, Jesus Christ, Himself a part of this awesome God, encouraged His disciples to become intimately joined to the life and love of His divinity. "That they may be one, as You Father and I are one" was the urgent plea of Jesus as He said farewell to His disciples at the Last Supper. He made that possible through His death and resurrection, through the Eucharist, and in His revealing to His followers the Most Holy Trinity.

Far from being an exclusive club, in today's Gospel, Jesus commands the apostles to travel with this news to all nations. They are to baptize all people "in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit." Thus, hopefully, the whole world will be connected, and connected much more closely than using Facebook!

In the second reading from Romans, St. Paul tells us that not only are we adopted sons of God with a right to address the Father by the intimate term, "Abba" (which means "Daddy"), but that we share the inheritance with Jesus, our brother. All this happens when we choose to be led by the Spirit of God. Then we are sons and daughters. We are part of the family! We share in the intimate joyful life of the Trinity. One condition is laid down - to suffer with Jesus in order to be glorified with Him. The point is that we are called to live lovingly and generously.

The Gospel concludes with Jesus assuring us that He will never desert us. "And behold, I am with you always, until the end of the age." May we live with joy and confidence in the life of the Holy Trinity!

Today's readings help us to understand that God's life in us is not something abstract but a relationship of children to our "Abba, Father." This is the work and gift of the Spirit of God through Christ. The Trinity is not just a dogma but an indwelling presence of three Persons who continually create, save, and sustain us and all of creation.

Knowing about the depth of God's love, compassion, and forgiveness, we are encouraged to seriously consider our invitation to be connected with God. We are encouraged to open our minds and hearts to a loving God who invites us to be intimately connect with Him. We are encouraged to praise and thank God for the gift of life and the fullness of God's unconditional love. Does that make sense to you? What is your response to the Trinity?

Let us pay attention to this very familiar prayer: "In the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen." Simple, isn't it? Most of us learned that prayer when we first began to come to Church. Perhaps our parents helped us put our fingers in the holy water font and bless ourselves as we said it. It's the prayer with which we often begin and end all our prayers. It's the prayer with which we begin the Eucharist as well. It's a great reminder. What is it a great reminder of? We are encouraged to open our minds and hearts to a loving God who invites us to be intimately connected with Him.