

FIRST READING

The Lord is God in heaven above and on earth below:
there is no other.

A reading from the book of Deuteronomy

4:39-40

Moses said to the people:

“Today there is something you must learn and never forget.
The Lord God rules in heaven above and on earth below.
There is no other god.
Obey his laws and commands that I am teaching you today.
Then all will go well for you and your descendants.
You will always live in the land
that the Lord your God is giving you forever.”

The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

33:4-5, 6 and 9, 20 and 22

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

The Lord is truthful;
he can be trusted.
He loves justice and fairness,
and he is kind to everyone
everywhere on earth.

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

The Lord made the heavens
and everything in them
by his word.
As soon as he spoke
the world was created;
at his command,
the earth was formed.

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

We depend on you, Lord,
to help and protect us.
Be kind and bless us!
We depend on you.

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

SECOND READING

You have received the Spirit that makes you God's children
and in that Spirit we call God: Abba, Father!

A reading from the second letter of Paul to the Romans 8:14-17

Brothers and sisters:

Only those people who are led by God's Spirit are his children.
God's Spirit doesn't make us slaves who are afraid of him.
Instead, we become his children and call him our Father.
God's Spirit makes us sure that we are his children.

His Spirit lets us know that together with Christ
we will be given what God has promised.
We will also share in the glory of Christ,
because we have suffered with him.

The word of the Lord.

ALLELUIA

See Revelation 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

Baptize them in the name of the Father,
and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

† A reading from the holy gospel according to Matthew 3:16-17:16-20

Jesus' eleven disciples went to a mountain in Galilee,
where Jesus had told them to meet him.
They saw him and worshiped him,
but some of them doubted.

Jesus came to them and said:
"I have been given all authority in heaven and on earth!
Go to the people of all nations and make them my disciples.
Baptize them in the name of the Father,
the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
and teach them to do everything I have told you.

"I will be with you always,
even until the end of the world."

The gospel of the Lord.

Trinity Sunday-Cycle B

Prayer: Dear Jesus, we are your disciples today. We thank you trusting us to be good and true followers. With the help of your Spirit, we know we can be loving and forgiving with everyone. We hope to listen and obey you in all things. AMEN.

Readings: Deut. 4:32-34, 39-40; Ps. 33:4-6, 9, 18-19, 20, 22; Rom 8:14-17; Matt 28:16-20

Reflections: God is with us to the end of time! Great!
Moses asks the questions: Has anything like this ever happened before? Hearing the 'voice of God' speaking from the midst of fire! No. Somehow, Jesus really attempts to make it ABSOLUTELY CLEAR: God is BEYOND anything human beings can categorize or put in a box. God is Father. God is Son. God is Spirit. God is MYSTERY. God is LOVE. GOD IS WITHIN OUR HEARTS.

All this is fine but we really don't have a clue about how to understand this 3-in-1 God!
Bottom-line: God is Mystery! The Church has many images—but images are images—not the real thing! Of course, we have used the 3 leaf clover as an image. Perhaps today another concrete visual is an APPLE. There are three distinct parts to an apple: The outer skin, the flesh part and the seeds—three in one! Or another way: An adult can be a mother/father, but also a sister/brother and is a daughter/son—same person but different roles/functions.

There are certain aspects that tie the last few Sundays together:
Gathering together; the Presence of Jesus and the Spirit; being "sent" with a responsibility to renew the face of the earth! The Sunday Scriptures reflect the early disciples of Jesus trying to tell other disciples that Jesus' earthly Presence is coming to a Physical end but the Spirit, Jesus' Spirit, will remain with them. Jesus will be experienced differently but Jesus will be the same! Mystery. Truth.

This is what Jesus is trying to share with the early disciples. Even though Jesus' physical Presence will not be with them, the Spirit—which is God's Spirit in us, too—will always be with us. Just as the early disciples struggled to understand this truth...so do we. People gathered together; they experienced the of Presence—the Spirit and Jesus—and began trying to share their understanding of this Presence. In the Gospel, it is being sent "to make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, the Son and Holy Spirit." The Easter season is "OVER THE EDGE"—"See I am doing something new." The Scriptures of the Easter Season are demanding. They ask us to grapple with RISEN LIFE, ETERNAL LIFE, BEING A DISCIPLE, FORGIVING, LOVING, SPIRIT, MYSTERY, BEING SENT and RENEWING THE FACE OF THE EARTH!

What we know about our religion, our faith, our world, our family and our friends, deepens and changes as the years pass by. And you can talk about how we know certain things about a person or subject—but we always are learning MORE.. The same with God, Jesus and the Spirit: There is always more to experience and learn!

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We can readily see that images help us to understand but at the same time, images aren't the whole truth. This feast of the Trinity reminds us that no matter what words or images we use they are limited. Trinity, God, three Persons: Mystery. Always remind the children, our ways of explaining Mystery, what we believe, is OUR ATTEMPT to express what we think about God in our lives. But God is always BEYOND us. God is 'infinitely more than we can hope for or imagine.'

Activities: Last Sunday, Pentecost, ended the Easter season of 50 days.

Have the children talk and share about why is the Easter season—Easter Sunday to Pentecost (50 days)—10 days longer than Lent? (Suggestion: As humans, we can understand our earthly sojourn in brokenness, darkness, sinfulness and the need to change.)

This Sunday, the Gospel tells us all power is given to us to make disciples...in the name of the Father, the Son and Holy Spirit! Baptism is the sign Jesus gives us, with the power of the Holy Spirit, to become children of God. Point out that our sign of the cross, comes from this Gospel. We make the sign of the cross to remind ourselves each time we pray that we are disciples!

Practice making the sign of the cross: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. This is the image and sign of this Trinity Sunday. It is a sign we, as Catholic Christians, use to celebrate this Mystery of Trinity. Ask the children why do we use the sign of the cross? (To remind ourselves of our God—3 Persons in One! When we pray, we make the sign of the cross to remind ourselves that we are disciples of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit)

Pentecost is called the "Birthday of the Church" since the Gospel sends the disciples "to make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit."

To conclude the session: Have a bowl of water in the middle of the children. Have each child dip their fingers into the water, make the sign of the cross, and say: I am (child's name), a friend of God's. Then the entire group responds: "God loves (child's name) and we love (child's name)."

After everyone has participated, pray: Dear Jesus, we know we are to love one another. Because you call us by name and call us to be your friend, we will be a friend to each other.

Say or Sing: "God is Love; and we who remain in God, remain in Love and God in us." (Feel free to choose another song.)