

TRINITY SUNDAY

YEAR B

PRAYER OF THE DAY:

God of all creation,
you embrace us
with the love
of a mother and father.
You send your own son,
Jesus, to save us.
Through the power
of your Holy Spirit,
you raise us
to life everlasting.
Your life is a mystery
that we will celebrate
and proclaim,
forever and ever.

Note: Consistent with other specific feasts, we have chosen to keep the same readings for all three cycles. Of the readings available for this feast, these two seem to be the most easily understood by children.

FOCUS OF THE READINGS:

The focus of our readings is the experience of God acting in our lives in various ways. We have no adequate language for God because God is beyond any single image we may have. We experience God in Jesus Christ who shares with us his experience of God, as creator, as redeemer, and as a person of intimate relationship. Our experience of this relationship is the Spirit of God living in us.

In the first reading, Paul tells us that because we live in the Holy Spirit, and because we are brothers and sisters of Christ, we are children of God. We too can enjoy the intimate relationship that Jesus called "Abba."

In the Gospel, Jesus tells his disciples to preach, baptize and teach in the name of God—the God who is intimate like a parent (Father), who comes as Savior (Son), and who lives within us (Holy Spirit).

FIRST READING: *Romans 8:14-17*

*This is a reading
from Paul's letter to the Romans.*

Brothers and sisters,

Everyone who is guided by the Holy Spirit
is a child of God.

We have been adopted by God,
and when we pray, "Abba, Father,"
it is the Holy Spirit and our own spirit
telling us that we truly are God's children.
And if we are God's children,
we will have eternal life like Jesus
who is God's Son.

The Word of the Lord.

RESPONSE: *Psalm 104*

RESPONSE:

My God, how great, — how great you are. My

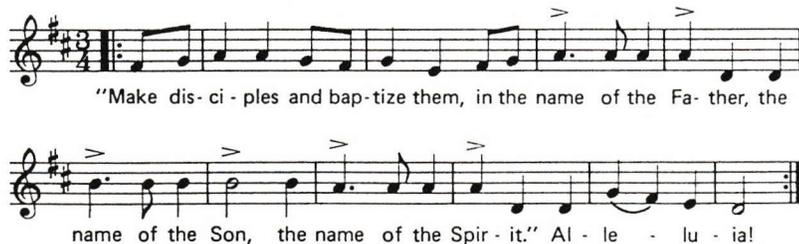
God, how great, — how great you are.

VERSES:

to Response

1. You made the earth — and set it in place. —
2. You made the wa - ters cov - er the earth. —
3. You made the o - ceans, riv - ers and seas. —
4. You made the riv - ers run from the hills. —
5. Rain from the sky — falls down on the earth. —
6. All who are thirst - y drink from the streams. —
7. All of the earth — is filled with your love. —

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:



"Make dis-ci-ples and bap-tize them, in the name of the Fa-ther, the name of the Son, the name of the Spir-it." Al-le-lu-ia!

GOSPEL: *Matthew 28:16-20*

This is a reading from the Gospel of Matthew.

The eleven disciples
went to the mountain in Galilee
where Jesus told them to meet him.
When Jesus met them there, he said,

“God has given me
all the power and authority
of heaven and earth.
Now I am sending you out
to preach to all the nations.
I want you to make disciples
and baptize them
in the name of the Father,
and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.
Teach them to keep my commandments
and do all that I have taught you.
And I promise you
that I am with you always —
yes, to the very end of the world.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

REFLECTING ON THE READINGS WITH CHILDREN:

As noted previously, Trinitarian language poses difficulties for children (as well as adults!) and even well-intentioned analogies serve only to confuse them more. We suggest that it is not necessary to concern ourselves with doctrinal language for Trinity, but rather with the experience of God in our lives.

After the Gospel, ask the children what Jesus asked the disciples to do (preach, baptize and teach). Are the disciples of Jesus still doing those things today?

Jesus said, “Preach to all nations.” This might be a good time to tell the children a little about missionary work. Besides preaching in our own parishes, some people are called to go to other parts of the world.

Jesus said, “Teach them to keep my commandments.” Help the children discuss the many ways the church teaches (religious education classes for children and adults, special classes on the Bible, informal teaching by parents, teachers, friends, and so forth). Draw attention especially to teaching activities in your own parish.

Jesus said, “Baptize them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.” Ask the children if they remember being at a baptism. What does the priest or deacon say? Remind them that we proclaim that we are baptized Christians every time we make the sign of the cross and say those words.

If time permits, you may wish to reflect on the first reading as well. Remind the children that Jesus often spoke of and to God using the name “Father” or even “Abba” which is like our word “Daddy.” What is important here is not the masculine image of God, but rather the intimate relationship that Jesus experienced with God. St. Paul tells us that because Jesus chose us to be his brothers and sisters and gave us his Holy Spirit, we too are children of God and can call God “Abba!” The children should leave today’s Liturgy of the Word knowing that God loves them and wants us to be close to them.

Feast of the Trinity

God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit

INTRODUCTION

(For this feast, we will use the Gospel from Year B.)

God shares himself with us through the three persons of the Trinity. We share the love of God the Father, the goodness of Jesus the Son, and the friendship of the Holy Spirit.

SIGN OF THE CROSS

LIGHT THE CANDLES

As we light our candles today, we thank God the Father for sending Jesus, his son, to rescue us from sin, and the Holy Spirit who will always be our friend. Sing the Candle Song.

SORRY

Say this prayer together:

Help us, Lord, to do what is right.

Make our words and thoughts

true and sincere,

so that we harm no one

by what we say or do.

(Psalm 15:2-3)

GLORIA

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

To welcome today's Gospel sing Acclamation 1.

GOSPEL (MATTHEW 28:16-20)

Jesus appeared to his disciples on a hillside where they had arranged to meet. When they saw him they fell to their knees and he said to them, "All power in heaven and on earth has been given to me, and I am sending you out into the world to make disciples of all peoples. Baptize them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teach them to obey all the commandments I have given to you. Remember that I will always be with you, to the very end of time."

DISCUSSION

"Trinity" means something made up of three, and today we give thanks for the three persons of God. Who are the three persons who make up the Holy

Trinity and what do we know about them?

1. God the Father created the world and everything in it. He loves us all dearly and sent his only son, Jesus, to rescue us from sin.

2. God the Son is Jesus, made human. We know many stories which remind us of his kindness and goodness and his love for all people. He taught us how we should live and the path to follow to find our way to heaven. His love was so great, he died on the cross and rose from the dead to save us from sin.

3. God the Holy Spirit takes many forms: wind, fire, or a dove. He is invisible but very powerful. The Spirit fills us with God's life and warms our hearts with the fire of God's love and courage.

So, there are three persons but only one God. The Trinity is a mystery which we cannot really understand, but because we know that God can do anything, we believe in this mystery. It is part of our faith.

(To illustrate the mystery of the Trinity in a simple way, have ready three hats which will be instantly recognized by the children, for example, hats belonging to a fireman, a policeman, and a soldier. Ask for a volunteer to come and stand in front of the other children. Have the children tell you the child's name and then as you place each hat on the child in turn, ask them to say what job the child would do while wearing that hat. "This is John, the soldier; this is John, the fireman; this is John, the policeman.")

God is like the child with the three hats, only one God but according to what "job" he is doing, and what "hat" he is wearing, God is known as the Father, Son, or Holy Spirit.)

ACTIVITY

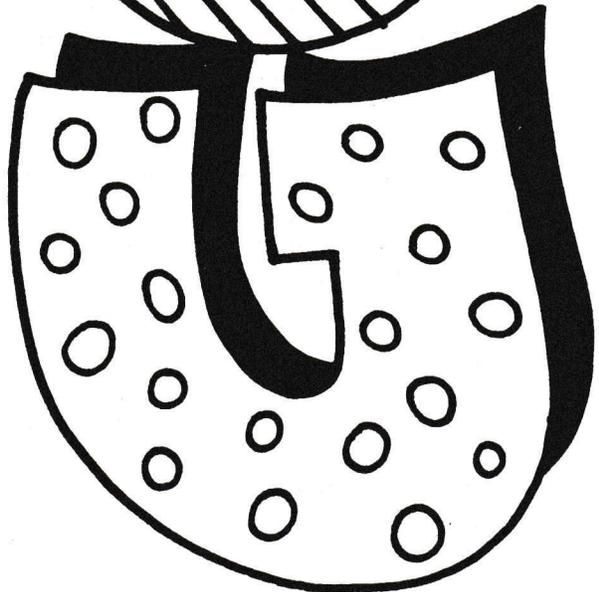
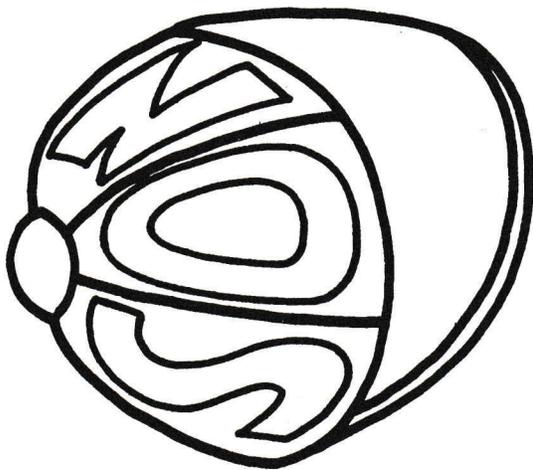
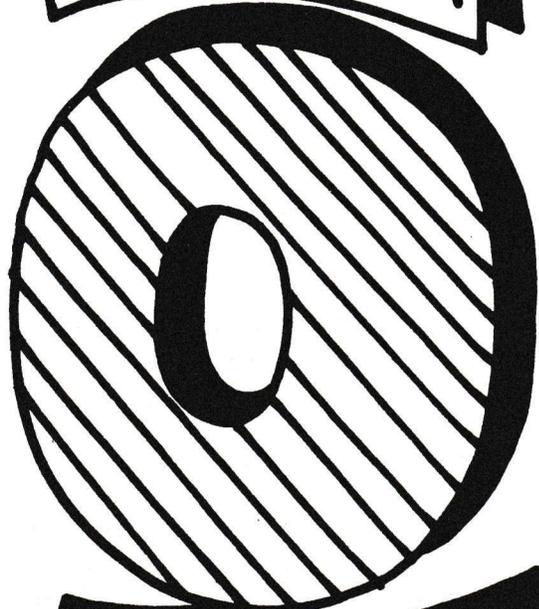
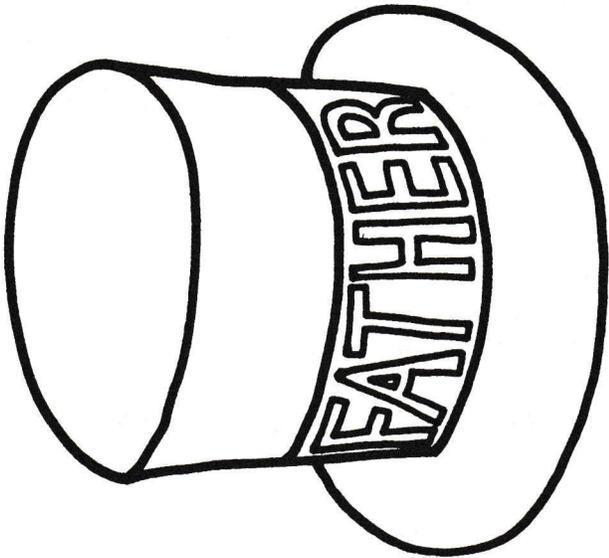
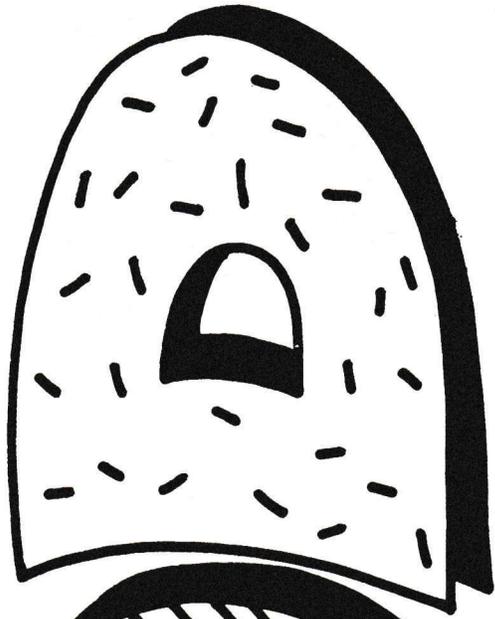
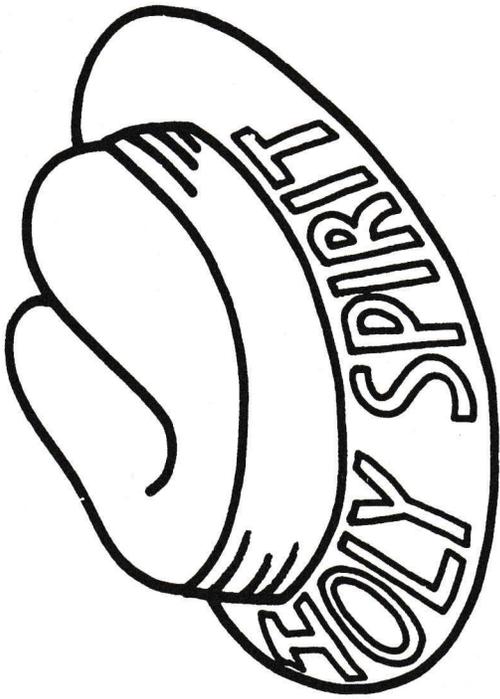
Copy the illustration, and ask each child to color the three "hats" worn by the one person of God.

CREED

Before saying the Creed together, help the children to think carefully about the words of the prayer and their belief in God the Father, Jesus the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

CLOSING PRAYER

Say the Glory Be together.



Trinity Sunday (Years A, B and C)

Focus

Cut three equal lengths of different coloured paper and loop them together so that the three paper rings cannot be separated. Place next to a candle.

Introduction

The faith of all Christians is rooted in the mystery of the Trinity. Much of this mystery is beyond our comprehension, our imagination and our understanding. We must rely on the gift of faith to open our hearts and minds to help us to accept and believe in a God who is Father, a God who is Son, a God who is Spirit; but a God made one by love.

Gloria

Gospel Acclamation

Light the Gospel candle and sing Acclamation 2.

Gospel

A reading from the Gospel of St Matthew (28:16-20)
(See page 371.)

Reflection

We describe God as three persons in one. Can you name those three persons?

God the Father – who created the world and everything in it. Jesus taught us to call him our ‘Father’ when we pray. He loves us so much that he sent his Son Jesus to be our Saviour.

God the Son – Jesus was God made man, who was born as a human baby in Bethlehem. He came to teach and show us how to live as God’s children. He died on the cross and rose from the dead so that all who follow him could share his eternal life.

God the Holy Spirit – The Holy Spirit is our invisible friend, the unseen person of God who lives with us and in us, helping us to live and love as God’s children.

Sometimes we can find it confusing to think of three persons in one God! Here is a comparison that might help.

Close your eyes and imagine the sun in the sky on a hot summer’s day.

Compare God to that sun in the sky. The sun, which is a ball of light and heat and which is too powerful for us to look at directly, is like God the Father.

From the sun comes light, which shines in our world and gives light to us; we could compare this light with God the Son. Jesus even called himself the Light of the World.

From the sun also comes heat to warm the earth and make things grow. We could compare this heat with the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life. Just as an egg or planted seed needs warmth to grow and live, so the Holy Spirit warms our hearts helping the faith planted there by God to grow strong.

So we can imagine the sun in the sky, the light that shines from it and the heat of its rays; three separate things, yet

one does not exist without the other. They are three and they are one – just like the Trinity. (Now open your eyes.)

Wherever Jesus is, there we shall find God the Father.
Wherever the Father is, there we shall see God the Son.
Where Father and Son are, the Spirit is there with them.
They are three and yet they are one.

Activity

There are many different Christian symbols for the Trinity to remind us of the three persons of God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Photocopy the illustrated designs. Cut these out and stick them on some card with safety pins sellotaped to the back. These can then be decorated! Alternatively, bend pipe cleaners into shape and stick these on to pieces of card to make bookmarks or badges to keep.

OR

Using modelling clay, cut out circular or triangular shapes to use as a base (to save time this could be done beforehand). Roll out a long ribbon of modelling material and join the ends to make a circle. (The circle without beginning or end is a symbol of one God whose love is everlasting.) Lay this on a base shape and loop it into one of the illustrated designs, with three shapes all the same size (representing God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit). Press the design down on to the base to make it stick. (The modelling clay can be painted at home after allowing it to harden.)

Intercessions

As brothers and sisters in one loving family, together let us pray to our heavenly Father:

For God’s people throughout the world;
that we may be living examples of his love.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

For the homeless, the hungry and all in need;
that we may generously share whatever we have.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

For the sick and those who care for them;
that they may know God’s strength and comfort.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

For all who have died;
that they may find eternal peace and happiness.

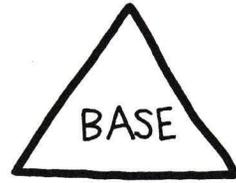
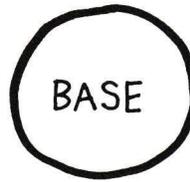
Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Knowing that our heavenly Father is listening,
in the silence of our hearts
let us share our own unspoken prayers with him.

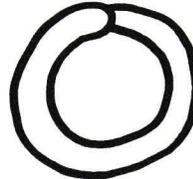
Silence

Loving Father,
hear the prayers of your children,
and strengthen our faith and love for you
and one another,
with the help of the Holy Spirit.
We ask this through Christ your Son. **Amen.**

BADGES.



MODELLING MATERIAL.



MAKE A
CIRCLE.

PRESS ONTO
BASE.
ALLOW TO
HARDEN AND
PAINT.

