

# SOLEMNITY OF THE MOST HOLY TRINITY

June 7, 2020 Cycle A

**Facilitator:** *Let us take a minute to consciously acknowledge that we are in the presence of God and ask him to help us to hear the Word he wants us to hear this week.*

**Pause for a moment and then play a religious song.**

**Opening prayer:** *Father, you sent your Word to bring us truth and your Spirit to make us holy. Through them we come to enter into the mystery of your life. Help us to worship you, one God in three Persons, by proclaiming and living our faith in you. Grant this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.*

**Response to last week's Word:** [Facilitator briefly recalls last week's Gospel.] *Let us spend a few minutes sharing how the Word we heard God speak to us last week has unfolded in our lives during the week.*

**Facilitator reads focus statement:** The Easter Season ended with the Feast of Pentecost. We now return to Ordinary Time. Each year at this time, Ordinary Time resumes with two Solemnities: The Most Holy Trinity and the Body and Blood of Christ. On the Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity, our readings give us some clues into the mysterious nature of God. In the first reading, God reveals himself to Moses as One who is faithful to his promises and rich in tenderness and compassion. In the second reading, Paul encourages the Corinthians to live in peace and love. The reading also contains a Trinitarian blessing. In the Gospel, John tells us that God has shown his love for us by sending his Son to save us all. All who believe in him will be saved.

*Let us listen to God's Word to hear what it is he wants to say to us in these readings today. As you hear a word, you may want to underline it or write it down to remember.*

Read the first reading, the psalm and the second reading, pausing briefly after each one.

## **FIRST READING: Exodus 34:4-6, 8-9**

Chapter 34 of Exodus is the story of the second giving of the Law (Ten Commandments) after the people of Israel break their covenant with God by worshipping the golden calf. Moses is asked by God to bring a second set of blank stone tablets up the mountain. Another backdrop to this reading is Moses' desire to see God face to face—a request denied. But God does allow Moses to experience a “little glimpse” of his nature. God reveals himself to Moses as One who is *merciful and gracious, slow to anger, rich in kindness and fidelity.*

It is very important for the Israelites (and us) to remember that God in his essence is filled with *compassion.* Moses responds by bowing down before such a kind and merciful God. Then surely Moses thinks: *Boy, do we ever need a God like you! This stiff-necked people will need a lot of mercy. Please join us on our journey through the desert.*

## **RESPONSORIAL PSALM: Daniel 3:52-56**

These verses are a song of praise to God by the three virtuous young Jewish leaders in Babylon whom the King had thrown in a fiery furnace because of their refusal to worship a golden idol at his command. There is a contrast between their faithfulness to God and the infidelity of the Israelites who worshiped the golden calf. More importantly, the psalm is a good example of a song of praise to a God who saves his people. The three young men are protected by God in the burning furnace as they sing his praises.

## **SECOND READING: 2Corinthians 13:11-13**

This brief reading was chosen for today's solemnity because of its concluding verse which contains a Trinitarian greeting. It begins with an exhortation to the contentious Corinthians to “mend their ways” and to live in peace and harmony with each other. If they follow Paul's admonition, they will experience the presence of God.

## PROCLAMATION OF THE GOSPEL: John 3:16-18

*As we listen to this first reading of the Gospel, let us listen with our minds for the content.*

**A participant reads the Gospel,  
then all pause to reflect.**

*As we listen to this second reading of the Gospel, let us listen with our hearts to what Jesus is saying to us. Be aware of what draws us in and what part of the Gospel might be a challenge to embrace. You may want to underline or write down the word you hear.*

## GOSPEL: John 3:16-18

These verses are taken from the end of a long discussion between Jesus and Nicodemus about rebirth through water and the Spirit.

Commenting on this text, Patricia Sanchez writes: *This text encapsulates the very essence of the Good News. First, these words underscore the truth that the initiative for our salvation lies with God. "He gave his only Son." Second, these verses bear witness to God's motivation for all his salvific actions, namely, love: "God so loved...." Third, John made it clear that the scope of God's loving and saving initiative was universal: "God so loved the world...." Fourth, the proclamation of the good news outlines the purpose of the Son's mission: "God did not send the Son...to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through him and may enjoy eternal life." Our response to this offer of salvation will, however, determine our end — heaven (which begins here when we begin a relationship with God) or eternal condemnation.*

*In the Trinitarian experience, which is Christian existence, a loving God sends forth his Son to save sinners. By the power of the abiding Spirit, believing sinners continue to know both the saving power of the Son and the loving grace of the Father and to share with them, the present joy and future promise of eternal life.*

(Used with permission *The Word We Celebrate: Commentary on the Sunday Lectionary Years A, B, C*, by Patricia Sanchez, -Sheed & Ward publisher (9-1-89.)

## FAITH-SHARING QUESTIONS

1. Turn to the person next to you and share what verse or image in the readings caught your attention or drew you in. Was there a verse or aspect of the readings that challenged you?

*The facilitator can decide which is more helpful: to share the next questions with the whole group, or to share in smaller groups of three or four.*

2. In the first reading, Moses asks God to join him in his journey. In what ways do you experience God as your companion on the journey?

3. In the second reading, Paul encourages us to live in peace with one another. What helps or hinders you from living this message?

4. God so loved the world that he died for us. What can help us internalize this awesome truth of God's unconditional love for us?

5. To what extent is your spirituality Trinitarian? Do you have a relationship with all three persons of the Blessed Trinity?

6. Name one thing today's Gospel says to us that we disciples of Jesus need to heed and act on.

## RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

Share with the person next to you one way you can act on this week's readings. Suggestion: This week, contemplate the beautiful belief that we are human tabernacles of the Holy Trinity. At Baptism, we were baptized into the Father, Son and Holy Spirit – the Most Holy Trinity.

**JOURNALING.** *Having listened to God's Word and listened to others' reflections on it, take a quiet moment to reflect on what you are hearing God say to you. Your response will be what you bring to Eucharist on Sunday, asking Jesus to help you respond as he asks of you. When ready, jot down your reflections.*

## PRAYING WITH THE WORD

**Facilitator:** Let us now pause to see how something(s) said in the reading might lead us into shared prayer. Suggestion: *Father, Son and Holy Spirit, draw me into your inner life and help me to be more aware of your presence and activity in my daily life.*

**CONCLUDE WITH PRAYERS OF THANKSGIVING,  
PETITION AND INTERCESSION**

**Facilitator:** What are we grateful for? For what and for whom do we need to pray? Especially pray for persecuted Christians and for a new awakening to Jesus' presence in the Eucharist.

**CLOSING PRAYER (together)**

**A Mystic's Prayer**

*You, Eternal Trinity, are a sea so deep  
that the more I enter in, the more I find;  
and the more I find, the more I seek of you  
for when the soul is satisfied in your abyss,  
it is not satisfied,  
but it ever continues to thirst for you,  
Eternal Trinity, desiring to behold you  
with the light of your light.  
As the heart desires the springs of living water,  
so does my soul desire to leave  
the prison of this dark body  
and to behold you in truth.  
O how long shall your face be hidden  
from my eyes?  
O abyss, O eternal Godhead, O deep sea!  
Clothe me with yourself, Eternal Trinity,  
so that I may run this mortal life  
with true obedience,  
and with the light of your most holy faith.  
Amen.*

- St. Catherine of Siena