

The Most Holy Trinity, Year A, 4th June 2023



A God of tenderness and compassion, slow to anger, rich in kindness and faithfulness

Today we celebrate the mystery of the Trinity: one God in three persons. God is the Lover (Father, Creator), the Beloved (Son, Saviour), and the Love which flows between them (Holy Spirit, Counsellor). Our readings help us see who God is, and what God does for us.

Moses's obedience and humility are revealed as he calls on God from the top of Mount Sinai (**First Reading**), pleading for the headstrong people of Israel. In responding, the Lord describes himself as '*a God of tenderness and compassion, slow to anger, rich in kindness and faithfulness*'.

In the **Gospel**, Jesus tells Nicodemus of the overwhelming love God has for the world in sending his Son to be its Saviour. Through Jesus's death and resurrection, we are given the gift of the Holy Spirit.

Paul's wish for the discordant Corinthians (**Second Reading**) is peace, unity, fellowship and love. Paul encourages them (and us) to reveal the qualities of God seen in Jesus, gifted to us through the Holy Spirit, and gifted to others through our behaviour.

The **Psalms**, taken from the book of Daniel, gives praise and glory to God, exalting him above all forever.

Rublev's famous icon above, suggests the love the Holy Trinity has for us in the humility, harmony and mutual love of the three persons. I notice the space at the front of the table inviting me to share in this love and life. In thanksgiving, let's pray St Paul's blessing this week, that 'the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all'.



(Text. Above from St. Bueno's Outreach Programme)

REFLECTION

We continue our transition back into Ordinary Time by meditating on the Trinity, the mystery awaiting us on the other side of Lent and Easter. This great mystery—the divine reality of three-in-one—lies beyond the shore of reason. According to Augustine, if we think we understand it, then what we understand is not God.

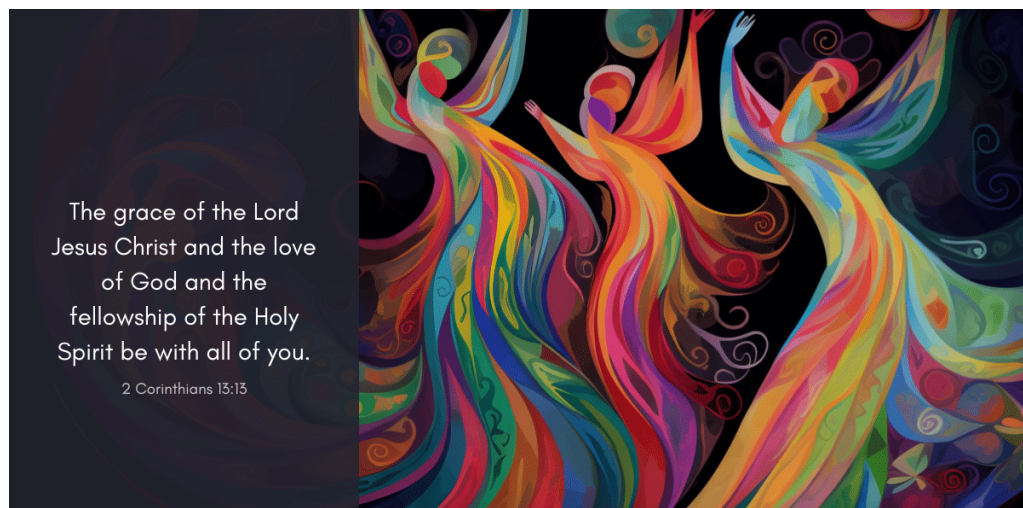
What we can know about the Trinity, we know through relationships. The Trinity is the powerful God coming in a cloud to form a covenant with Israel. It is the gift of divinity embodied in Jesus Christ, who comes to embrace the world. And it is the Spirit permeating all things.

After the Israelites' grave misstep while camped near Mount Sinai—their violation of the covenant through the creation of an idol—Moses pleads with God to forgive them and inherit them again as God's treasured people. This story is our own, reminding us that God is compassionate and ever-forgiving, "slow to anger and rich in kindness and fidelity." God is always present among us and between us, drawing us into relationship.

As Christians, we experience this relationship through the Trinity, which theologians have likened to a "dance" or "choreography" (Greek *perichōrēsis*). The Trinity dances in and around us, pulling us into the divine embrace through the greatness of God, the humanity of the Son, and the Spirit that breathes us into union.

The Trinity calls us tirelessly to join this dance through our own relationships and commitments—to be present among and between others, and to seek always to be compassionate, faithful, and forgiving.

(Mahri Leonard-Fleckman, adapted from *Ponder: Contemplative Bible Study*)



The grace of the Lord
Jesus Christ and the love
of God and the
fellowship of the Holy
Spirit be with all of you.

2 Corinthians 13:13

***“God so
loved the
world that
he gave
his only
Son.”***

*We can
only stand
in awe-
struck
silence
before such*

*love
that is beyond boldest expectation, beyond all telling.
(Karl Rahner).*

THE GOSPEL [John 3:16-18](#)

God so loved the world that he gave his only Son.

*We can only stand
in awe-struck silence before such love
that is beyond boldest expectation, beyond all telling.
(Karl Rahner).*

In the name of the Father ...

with us from our beginnings;
you so loved the world
that you gave us
your Son.

Protect us, Father.

And of the Son ...

who came to live among us,
your everlasting
gift of your
self.

Be with us now,
Jesus.

And of the Holy Spirit ...

Always with us now,
within our hearts,
our soul
mate.

Enlighten us to find cures for
all sickness in the world.
Help us respond to
“the cries of the
earth and of
the poor.”*

*Pope Francis

THE FIRST READING Exodus 34:4b-6, 8-9

*This is indeed a stiff-necked people;
yet pardon our wickedness and sins.*

Lord,

we are stiff-necked,
no doubt!

But, as you did with Moses
and the Israelites,
please favor
us.

Clumsy
we are, so often.
Please help us walk
with you and keep your
company

within your Trinity
of love.

THE SECOND READING 2 Corinthians 13:11-13

The fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with all of you.

Two,
in the Trinity,

love one another.
Their love becomes the third.
The sharing of these three makes
one.

Let us love one another, in pale imitation.
Make us one in your Holy Spirit.
Make love our instinct.
Let us be Godly
with each
other

In
you.