

CELEBRATE SABBATH

Trinity Sunday

This Sunday, we celebrate one of the most important doctrines of the Church: The Most Holy Trinity - God as Father, Son and Spirit in one single, indivisible communion of persons. Many have attempted to explain this dogma in a variety of ways. None of them can adequately explain the meaning and the power this doctrine has over our lives. We need to understand and accept this as "The Mystery" which we can only contemplate, before which we stand in awe and wonder and amazement and adoration and admiration.

No one has ever seen God. Yet, if we love one another, God dwells in us and His love is brought to perfection in us. The way we know, that we remain in him and he in us, is that he has given us of his spirit. We have seen for ourselves and can testify that the Father has sent the Son as Savior of the world. When anyone acknowledges that Jesus is the Son of God, God dwells in him and he in God. (I John 4:12-15)

Exodus 34:4-6, 8-9

Moses had gone up the mountain and was in deep conversation with God on Mount Sinai. His people became impatient and made a golden calf and began to worship the image. Moses came down the mountain with God's directives written on two tablets and found his people impatient and unfaithful. In anger, Moses broke the tablets of the law and destroyed the golden calf.

Moses pleaded with God to come down and be with his people and the Lord came down again in a cloud. The Lord asked Moses to cut two stone tablets and go up Mount Sinai alone and Moses followed God's directive early next morning.

In this excerpt, we have the intimate conversation between God and Moses. God declared himself to be "merciful, gracious, slow to anger, rich in kindness and fidelity and so on. Moses bowed down to the ground and worship the Lord, his God and asked the Lord to be with his people in spite of their wickedness.

Daniel 3:52-56

**Blessed are you, O Lord, the God of our fathers,
Praiseworthy and exalted above all forever;
And blessed is your holy and glorious name,
Praiseworthy and exalted above all for all ages.**

2 Corinthians 13:11-13

This excerpt carries the last few verses of the last chapter of the second letter to the Corinthians. In this chapter, Paul made it clear to the Corinthians that he was coming to settle the problems once and for all, exerting his authority if needed; expressed his desire to settle matters amicably without having to exert his authority and shared his hope that they would live in peace and harmony.

In this excerpt, we have Paul's sincere prayer and wish for the Corinthian Church: the Grace of Jesus, the Love of the Father and fellowship of the spirit. It is with this blessing that he closed his second letter to the Corinthians. How noble it is to close the letter to a troubled community with blessing and prayer for Grace, Love and fellowship.

John 3:16-18

Verse 16 of this Scripture passage is one of the most frequently quoted scripture verses, displayed on banners, signs and bumper stickers.....“God so loved the world that he gave his only son, so that everyone who believes in him may have eternal life”. This verse is worth memorizing, remembering and contemplating. This is the central message of the Gospel. This is the good news. It tells us that God loved first and salvation comes from him as his gift. It tells us that God loved the world – not a few favorite people or nation, not even a few good people – but the world. God's love is an all-embracing love.

We are invited to ponder this all-embracing love of God for the world! As Saint Augustine says, “God loves each one of us as if there was only one of us to love.”

God's love, his abiding presence, his intimacy has the power to change people and things and the universe. It is this intimacy that brings peace, God's gift of peace. We long for a sense of oneness, a union and communion with others like us and communion with God. We long for the liberation which Jesus proclaimed, which only he can offer. It is this communion that brings peace. Jesus is our door to intimacy with God, others, the universe and self. In Jesus, we discover our freedom and our salvation – Jesus is our freedom and our salvation.

We are called to become witnesses to the mystery of God's presence: God's Light, Truth, Life, Love...in the world - in us the world must see the “sign” of the “presence” of the “heart” of God - mercy, peace, joy, justice, compassion, love.

Baptized in the name of the Triune God, we are called to be models, witnesses, living examples of intimacy with God, Father, Son and Spirit.

Saint of the Day, June 7

St. Willibald and 11 other saints are remembered this day

Willibald was born in Wessex on October 21, 700. His mother, Saint Wuna of Wessex, was reportedly a sister of Saint Boniface. His father, Saint Richard the Pilgrim, was a chieftain of Wessex. At the age of three, Willibald suffered from a violent illness. His parents prayed to God, vowing to commit Willibald to a monastic life if he was to be spared. Willibald survived and at the age of five entered the Benedictine monastery at Waldheim and was educated by Abbot Egwald. At the monastery he became accustomed to the Irish and Anglo-Saxon monastic ideal of peregrinatio religiosa, or pious rootlessness.

Willibald went on a pilgrimage to Rome with his father, who died on the way at Lucca, Italy. He continued on to Rome and then to Jerusalem. Captured by Saracens who thought him to be a spy, he was eventually released and continued on to all of the holy places and then to Constantinople, where he visited numerous monasteries and hermitages. Upon his return to Italy, he went to Monte Cassino where he stayed for ten years, serving as sacristan, dean, and porter. While on a visit to Rome, he met Pope St. Gregory III, who sent him to Germany to assist his cousin St. Boniface in his important missionary endeavors. Boniface ordained him a priest in 741 and soon appointed him bishop of Eichstatt, in Franconia. With his brother Winebald, he founded a double monastery at Heidenheim, naming Winebald abbot and his sister Walburga abbess. Willibald served as bishop for some four decades. He died of natural causes on July 7, 781 and was canonized by Pope Leo VII in 938

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