

Holy Trinity Sunday, 26 May 2024

Scriptures: Deut. 4:32-34,39-40; Rom. 8:14-17; Matt. 28:16-20

Homily: Fr. Ken

The scripture readings for Trinity Sunday reflect a most profound revelation about God: the one true God in the persons of the Father, God as Creator; the Son, God as Word and Savior; and the Holy Spirit, God as Spirit. The mystery of the Trinity reveals that the one God does not live alone in some solitary splendor. Rather, God is an intimate circle of love and understanding. And that limitless love has overflowed into the created world, all of the entire universe. As the Gospel proclaims: God loved the world so much that the very son of God was given to us.

The scriptures reveal to us that the union of love among the three persons should enlighten and motivate us to live together as sisters and brothers in unity, in peace, and in love.

The Church of the *Trinita dei Monti* stands in the heart of Rome, overlooking the famous Spanish Steps and the Piazza di Spagna. At one side of the Steps are the Babington Tea Rooms and at the other side is the house of Keats and Shelley, the English Romantic poets. Directly from the foot of the steps runs the Via Condotti, famous for its expensive boutiques. This is a thriving, busy place at all hours of the day and well into the night. The whole world seems to flock here, as if it were a "virtual crossroads of the world". The church and the Steps and the famous buildings often take second place to the parade of humanity that flows through that area.

Standing at the foot of the Spanish Steps and looking up, you can see past the throng of visitors to the skyline, and to the Church of the Trinity that overlooks the City. It is as if the Lord is looking down on this sea of humanity and keeping a watchful eye on all. Standing at the top of the Steps, beside the church, you can see

across the City all the way to the Vatican, and beyond to the far horizon. It is as if our God is looking out to the boundaries of the world and watching over all of humanity.

It does seem most appropriate that a church, dedicated to the mystery of the Trinity, should stand on this hill watching kindly over all humanity and all creation. For the God who we have come to know is a God of kindness and compassion, not a God to be afraid of or frightened of.

It was the great discovery of the people of Israel that God is a God of mercy and compassion. In an age that lived by fear, and which thought of God in terms of majesty and mercilessness, it was an enormous revelation to be told that God looks on you with love; that God cares about you, regardless of how insignificant a person you think you are.

In an age of heartless cruelty, it was amazing to be told that goodness, kindness, and truth are the great powers in this world, and that we can live by these values. As Moses led his people out of slavery, he met with God on a holy mountain, and there received the words of life. "Keep these commandments and you shall live and prosper," Moses tells the people.

This knowledge of God, this insight into the heart of God, was cherished and developed through all the years that followed. Then, with the coming of Jesus Christ, the love of God was poured into our hearts. Through his years of teaching, Jesus revealed in full the true face of God. In the "sermon on the mount", on the mountain of the transfiguration, on the mount of Calvary, Jesus revealed to us the mystery of God. Finally, on another mountain—today's Gospel—in Galilee, Jesus promised his Spirit to his followers and commissioned them to preach to the world the Good News of God's love for us all.

Leaving the mountain and going out to the world, those first disciples preached the Gospel of love. In the writings of Peter and Paul, in the Acts of the Apostles, and in the Gospel accounts, we

have received the revelation of love, and of God's power to save. The blueprint of eternal life is given to us. "Was there ever a word so majestic, from one end of heaven to the other?" According to St. Paul, this word makes us free, and takes away all fear. We are no longer slaves, but the genuine daughters and sons of God.

Thus, on this our celebration of Trinity Sunday, we pray that the union of love among the three divine persons will enlighten and motivate us to live together as sisters and brothers in unity and love.

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