

May 27, 2018 The Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity

Let us bless the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit!

Deuteronomy 4:32-34, 39-40

Psalms 33:4-6, 9, 18-20, 22

Romans 8:14-17

Matthew 28:16-20

Moses emphasizes to the Israelites that never was there a God who spoke to the people directly. The Lord is God in the heavens and above and below the earth and there is no other. All must keep his statutes and commandments if they are to prosper and have long lives.

The Psalmist acknowledges the Lord's word is upright as it made the heavens; he spoke and it was made; he commanded and it stood forth. The Lord loves justice and right and the earth is full of his kindness. The Lord's eyes are upon those who fear him and hope for his kindness. The Lord is our help and our shield.

Paul notes that those who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. Like Jesus, we may say Abba, Father, through the Spirit of adoption. As children of God we are joint heirs with Christ and even though we too may suffer, we will eventually be glorified with him.

The eleven came to the mountain where they saw Jesus. They worshipped him but still had some doubts that were removed by the words of Jesus. All the power in heaven and on the earth was given to Jesus and now he commands them to go and make disciples of the nations. They are to baptize in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. They are to teach others all that Jesus taught them to observe and Jesus will be with them always.

**We too may say Abba, Father,
Since we are joint heirs with the Son
Through the Spirit of adoption.**

Matthew's Gospel is pointed toward the Jewish community which is very concerned with the question of authority. It is already known that God gave Moses the authority to promulgate the Law. Jesus is now presented as the new Moses who has his authority directly from God and teaches a new and fulfilling law. This takes place on a mountain just as it took place for Moses. The commissioning of the disciples is given in terms of a Trinitarian formula only given in Matthew's Gospel. The earliest baptisms given in Scripture do not use this formula.

Words and their meanings play an important part in our lives and the word "Trinity" has the sense of awe and mystery about it. The language of Trinitarian thought and writings goes back to the early 4th Century and St. Gregory Nazianzen (329-374), wrote:

"When I speak of God, you should feel yourselves bathed in a single light and in three lights ... There is undivided division, differentiated unity. One only in the Three: such is the godhead. The Three as One only: they are the Three in whom is the godhead, or, to speak more precisely, the Three who are the godhead."

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Holy Trinity Prayer

Glory to the Father
Who by His almighty power and love
created me in the image and likeness of His Son Jesus,
my Lord and my Savior.

Glory to the Son, Christ Jesus,
who sealed the New Covenant (Jeremiah 31:31-34.)
with his precious blood upon the cross (Luke 22:20)
and opened up to me the path to salvation.

Glory to the Holy Spirit
Who sanctified me in Baptism
and continues to sanctify me
in Baptism in the Holy Spirit.(Mark 1:8)

Praise and honor to the Father,
To the Son,
To the Holy Spirit.
Ever Three and ever One,
One in Mercy, Greatness, and Holiness.

Amen, Alleluia!

