

Trinity Sunday
5/30/2021

A MILE WIDE AND A MILE DEEP

When they all saw him, they worshiped. For good observant Jews like the apostles were, to worship someone would violate the First Commandment. It was idolatry. They were to worship God alone. *They worshiped.* What they did would be gravely sinful *unless* the one they worshiped was truly God and Jesus is truly God and truly human. Every week we profess, *God from God, light from light, true God from true God* and then we go on to say, *he was incarnate of the Virgin Mary and became man.* Truly God. Truly human.

So if they worshiped Jesus, does that mean there are two gods? No, it means as Jesus tells us in St. John's Gospel that he and the Father are one. They are both united and at the same time distinct. Jesus spoke of the Holy Spirit who is truly God. Does that mean that there are three gods? No, it means that the Father, Son and Holy Spirit are one and at the same time distinct. Through the coming of Jesus into the world, truly God and truly human, and through the coming of the Holy Spirit, God has revealed himself in a new, tremendous and even unimaginable way.

We celebrate today the Most Blessed Trinity. Christians speak of God being three in one and one in three. Today we celebrate who God is, but also who we are and who we are called to be.

St. John tells us God is love...love within God...a communion of life and love, some have even gone so far as to describe it as a dance of love. Who we are made in the image and likeness of God, ability to know and more importantly, the ability to love. Our origin and our goal. Today we celebrate our faith not in something but in someone. We profess our belief in love, in God who is love.

The Trinity is etched onto our souls in so many ways. We begin and end our prayers in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. In Reconciliation we are absolved of our sins in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. In marriage the bride and groom place the rings on each other's fingers in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. We invoke the Trinity as we begin and end Mass and throughout the Mass.

Most importantly of all, in baptism when we are baptized in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, we are brought into relationship with the Trinity. Pope Francis has noted rather clearly, someone who is baptized is different from someone who isn't.

We just heard the conclusion of St. Matthew's Gospel as the risen Christ sends the apostles on mission. The word apostle literally means one who is sent. And now they are missioned forth, sent, in what is called the Great Commission. They are to

a–Make disciples

b–Baptize them in the name of the Trinity, Father, Son and Holy Spirit

c–And teach them to observe all that Jesus has taught us.

Their mission leads to Communion. It is to lead people by baptism into the Communion of the Blessed Trinity, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Baptism brings us into relationship with the Trinity. But baptism isn't the end, rather it is the beginning, the beginning of new life in Christ that is meant to reach to eternity. It calls us to follow all that Jesus has taught us.

Baptism is the basis of the whole Christian life, the gateway to life in the Spirit and the door that opens to the other sacraments. In the gospel Jesus gives what is called the great commission which is to teach all nations and to baptize in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. We're part of that great commission on both the receiving end and the giving end.

Through baptism we: Are freed from sin, reborn as children of God, become members of Christ and are incorporated into the Church. Are made sharers in the Church's mission—we're called not just to be disciples of Jesus but to be missionary disciples, each of us, in our own way being called to share the gospel with others. In baptism we share in the Paschal Mystery of Jesus, in his dying and rising.

Although our lives are saturated by the Trinity, at least in words, it has been said that our faith in the Trinity can run a mile wide but only an inch deep. How deeply does our faith in the Trinity permeate our lives? The Trinity isn't just our origin and goal. The Trinity is the model of how we are to live our lives, of who we are called to be. God is a communion, a communion of life and love; and we are called to be a people of communion with God and in God with each other. And appropriately enough this can happen on three levels: our common humanity, as

members of the Church; and in marriage. How do you live the mystery of the Trinity? How do I live it? What difference does the Blessed Trinity make in our lives?

They worshiped. That's what the apostles did and that is what we do here at the Eucharist where we gather in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, where we listen to his word, where we come together as members of Christ's body with Jesus as our head. Here, where with the help of the Holy Spirit, we offer all to the Father. Here Jesus continues to give himself to us under the form of bread and wine. With the Blessed Trinity as our origin, our model and our goal, through lives of intentional faith, may we love God and neighbor in a communion of life and love. May our lives be marked by the eternal love of the Blessed Trinity and in our lives may that faith be both a mile wide and a mile deep.