

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John .

Whatever the Father has is mine. The Spirit will receive what I give and tell you about it.

Jesus said to his disciples:

‘I still have many things to say to you but they would be too much for you now. But when the Spirit of truth comes he will lead you to the complete truth, since he will not be speaking as from himself but will say only what he has learnt; and he will tell you of the things to come. He will glorify me since all he tells you will be taken from what is mine. Everything the Father has is mine; that is why I said: All he tells you will be taken from what is mine.’

■ The Gospel of the Lord.

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Reflections on the Gospel

A DIVINE COMMUNION OF LOVE

The Christian mystery of the Trinity arises out of a sense of God as an active communion of love. I say ‘active’ when perhaps it would have been more appropriate to say an ‘outgoing’ community of love.

The first disciples of Jesus came to understand that in their interaction with him they were being drawn into the unique personal relationship that he enjoyed with the God he addressed as ‘Abba, Father’ (Mark 14:36; see Luke 10:21-22).

Jesus’ death did not put an end to this experience. A key aspect of the disciples’ experience of his resurrection was a sense of still being grasped within this relationship between Jesus and the Father. So *powerful* was the experience that they attributed it to the creative power of God known in the Old Testament as the ‘Spirit’ (Gen 1:1-2; Ezek 36:26—37:14). So *personal* was the experience that, eventually, they came to recognise it as involving a third divine person.

So, without injury to the basic monotheism which Christianity derived from its origins in the Jewish faith, the sense of Three Persons in the One God came into being—not as an arid theological puzzle but as a way of expressing a sense of being drawn into a divine communion of love.

In today’s Gospel Jesus assures his disciples that their sharing in the intimate relationship between himself and the Father will not cease with his physical absence. It will continue through the gift of the Spirit, empowering them to extend that experience of divine love to the world.

Brendan Byrne, SJ

THE SAVING WORD

THE MOST HOLY TRINITY / C

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FIRST READING

Prov 8:22-31

A reading from the book of Proverbs

Wisdom was born before the earth was made.

The Wisdom of God cries aloud:

The Lord created me when his purpose first unfolded,
before the oldest of his works.
From everlasting I was firmly set,
from the beginning, before earth came into being.

The deep was not, when I was born,
there were no springs to gush with water.
Before the mountains were settled,
before the hills, I came to birth;
before he made the earth, the countryside,
or the first grains of the world’s dust.
When he fixed the heavens firm, I was there,
when he drew a ring on the surface of the deep,
when he thickened the clouds above,
when he fixed fast the springs of the deep,
when he assigned the sea its boundaries
– and the waters will not invade the shore –
when he laid down the foundations of the earth,

I was by his side, a master craftsman,
delighting him day after day,
ever at play in his presence,
at play everywhere in his world,
delighting to be with the sons of men.

■ The word of the Lord.

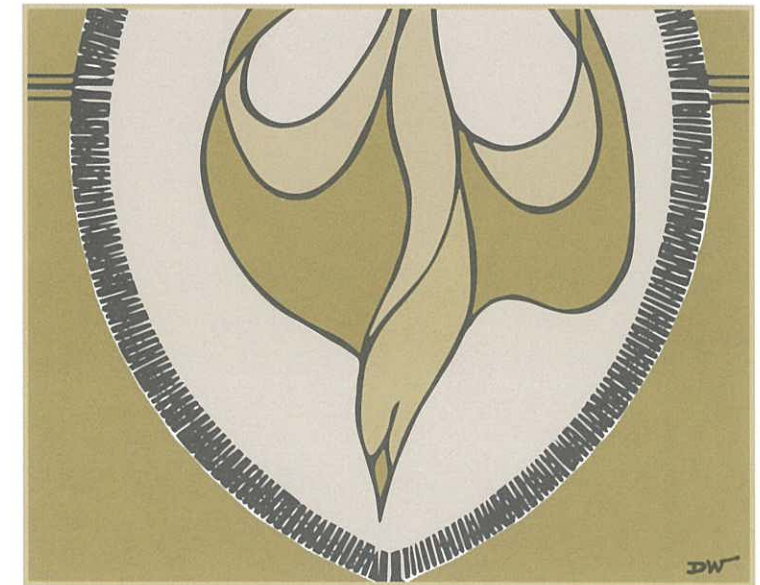
RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 8:4-9.R v 2

R. O Lord our God, how wonderful your name in all the earth!

1. When I see the heavens, the work of your hands, / the moon and the stars which you arranged, / what is man that you should keep him in mind, / mortal man that you care for him? **R.**

2. Yet you have made him little less than a god; / with glory and honour you crowned him, / gave him power over the works of your hand, / put all things under his feet. **R.**



3. All of them, sheep and cattle, / yes, even the savage beasts, / birds of the air, and fish / that make their way through the waters. **R.**

SECOND READING

Rom 5:1-5

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

To God through Christ in the love which is poured out through the Spirit.

Through our Lord Jesus Christ, by faith we are judged righteous and at peace with God, since it is by faith and through Jesus that we have entered this state of grace in which we can boast about looking forward to God’s glory. But that is not all we can boast about; we can boast about our sufferings. These sufferings bring patience, as we know, and patience brings perseverance, and perseverance brings hope, and this hope is not deceptive, because the love of God has been poured into our hearts by the Holy Spirit which has been given us.

■ The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

cf. Apoc 1:8

Alleluia, alleluia!

Glory to the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit: to God who is, who was, and who is to come Alleluia!