

Trinity - Yr. A

[Reading I: Exodus 34:4b-6, 8-9](#)

[Responsorial Psalm: Daniel 3:52, 53, 54, 55, 56](#)

[Reading II: 2 Corinthians 13:11-13](#)

[Gospel: John 3:16-18](#)

Readings may be found on the US Bishop's website:

<https://bible.usccb.org/bible/readings/060423.cfm>



Holy Trinity

The feast of the Most Holy Trinity is an “idea” feast. Most feasts that the church celebrates recall events or people, like Christmas, Easter, or Sts. Peter and Paul. This one is different. We celebrate an aspect of God and how humans have come to describe God. In Cycle A, the first year of the lectionary cycle, attention is given to the Father. Having journeyed through the Paschal Mystery and been missioned to continue the work of Jesus, the church pauses to reflect on who God is.

The Gospel passage is one of the best-known in American culture. It is on bumper stickers, billboards, and placards at sporting events. It presents an image of God that expresses God's involvement in humanity in a positive way. God is for us and willing to give all, even his Son, to be in a relationship with us. There is a hint of the story of Abraham being willing to offer his son, Isaac, to be in a relationship with God. There is a totality to this commitment. God will stop at nothing to be in a relationship with the human family. God is love and by God's very nature wants a relationship with each person. Unfortunately, some are not interested or attentive to God's offer. It is a decision that each person must make. For those who do come to believe, all that God has to offer is theirs.

The Trinity images the ideal of the Christian life. There is total openness and complete sharing for the common good. The one essence of God is love. (1 Jn 4:16). This love is not a feeling nor a mere liking. It is a sharing of life for the good of the other. In this dynamic, as one seeks to share oneself, the other's life is enriched and enlivened. The Father loves the Son and their mutual love is the Spirit who now dwells in each Christian. This Spirit has been poured out on us not because we have earned or deserved it but because God is love.

This is also presented as the ideal of married love. Wife and Husband fully share themselves and through their mutual giving bring forth life in their partner. They become their fullest selves as they experience being loved by their partner. In God's plan, new life is created in this sharing of love. This new life is within each partner and in the children who come forth. True giving of self to the other, true relationship, is the source of life for they express the life that flows from God's essence.

The first reading presents Moses on Mount Sinai after leaving Egypt. God reveals God's name to Moses. Knowing someone's name allows one access to that person. God's gift of his name allows for him to be called upon and expresses God's commitment to be involved in our lives.

The Exodus passage reveals some qualities about God. "The LORD, the LORD, a merciful and gracious God, slow to anger and rich in kindness and fidelity." Mercy and faithfulness reflect the attributes of a covenant relationship. A covenant relationship has no if, then aspects as a contract does. It is a total commitment without exception as marriage is. Even when people are unfaithful, God remains faithful and desires to reestablish the relationship. This is further expressed in the phrase, “slow to anger and rich in kindness and fidelity.”

The second reading comes from the conclusion of the Second Letter to the Corinthians. The final words have been included in the mass as one of the options for the priest to greet the assembly. It expresses a dynamic rather than a doctrinal statement. It is the “grace” (life) of Christ, the “love” of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit. These emphasize the action of God in the community of believers and in each individual.

The reference to the “holy kiss” may have served as the origin of the sign of peace in the liturgy. It is an expression of unity and good relations that exist amongst the followers of Jesus. This harmony is a manifestation of the unity and wholeness of the life of the Trinity.

### **Reflection Questions:**

How have you experienced God with you and at work in you?

How have you experienced life being renewed or strengthened through being loved by another person?

How does the life-giving and life-generating love of the Trinity, offer you a vision of what the Christian life should be?

How does the order that Proverbs highlights offer you insights into your life and relationship with God?

### **Themes**

Holy Trinity

God is Love

Relationship as the core of existence

Married Love

### **Prayer Suggestions:**

For the Church: that the unconditional love of the Trinity may strengthen and inspire each of us, deepen our love for one another, and help us to witness God’s love and mercy to others

For the grace of discernment: that we may recognize God’s invitations in our hearts and follow Jesus on the path to everlasting life

For a spirit of wonder and awe: that we may behold the marvelous deeds of God in nature, in relationships, and within ourselves and be motivated to cooperate with God in greater commitment and sincerity

For our parish communities: that the life-giving love of the Trinity may flow through us so that we may be untiring in supporting the lonely, consoling the grieving, encouraging the struggling, and forgiving those who have injured us

For all married and engaged couples: that their witness of love and self-sacrifice may be a reminder of Christ’s self-giving love for us and all the human family