



LIVING THE GOSPEL

**Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity
May 26, 2024**

Theme: "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations.."

Gathering Prayer

All: God our Father, who by sending into the world the Word of truth and the Spirit of sanctification made known to the human race your wondrous mystery, grant us, we pray, that in professing the true faith, we may acknowledge the Trinity of eternal glory and adore your Unity, powerful in majesty. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Exploring the Word

Gospel Reading: Matthew 28:16-20

¹⁶ Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. ¹⁷ And when they saw him they worshiped him; but some doubted. ¹⁸ And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹ Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, to the close of the age."

Gospel Focus

We start many of our prayers in the threefold name of the Trinity; along with it, we make the sign of the cross so often that this gesture and these words become a nearly meaningless throwaway gesture. But we are making a great claim when we begin in the name of the Father, Son, and Spirit. To act or speak in someone's name is to be their agent, to take part in their work, to act on their behalf. This is exactly what God invites us to-participation in the ongoing work of God, in all work that moves this world a little closer to the goodness and justice that God intends for us. And the Trinity reveals this, too; to participate in God's life is to participate in the life of loving relationship that the three persons of the Trinity share.

Gospel Reflection

Go only "to the lost sheep of the house of Israel"-this was Jesus' firm instruction to the disciples when he first sent them out on a mission (Mt10:6). Later when a Canaanite woman pleaded with Jesus to heal her daughter, he again declared that he "was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel" (Mt15:24). His concern was to feed his

own people (15:26) and he did not see her as one of them. It seems that her respectful and insistent response is word and gesture, however, helped trigger a profound change in Jesus understanding of the scope of his mission. At the end of the gospel, he commissions his disciples of all nations (28:19).

A similar profound shift occurred in the life of the apostle Paul, who went from persecuting Christians who were reinterpreting the parameters of the family of God to being the most ardent proponent of inclusion of all. By the time Paul writes to the community in Rome in the late 60s, he is able to say that all people who are led by the Spirit are "children of God." This same expression had been used of the Israelites (Deut 14:1). Paul presses the metaphor further, insisting that all these varied children of God are not just appendages to the family but are full and true heirs. Being a full member of the family and a heir means inheriting a pattern of life set by Jesus: a life of loving service that is costly but that ends in glorious transformation.

The relationship between parents and children who are full heirs is only one metaphor by which to speak of the mysterious love of the Trinity. Saint Augustine likes to speak of the three persons as "Lover, Beloved, and Love." Saint Hildegard of Bingen favored "Fire, Burning, and Flashing forth." One might name them "Eternal giver, Receiver, and Outburst of Joy." There is no limit to the ways we can speak of the profound mysteries of the Three-in-One. The three persons are a communion of love that interweave each other in endless pattern of saving activity.

The first reading today assures us the mystery of divine love is not something that remains nebulous and intangible. Rather, the saving activity of God is concrete and visible both in great moments and in the routines of everyday life. Jesus' promise, "I am with you always" (Mt 28:20), assures all God's Spirit-led children in every race and nation that the divine presence continues to create, save, and vivify whenever we allow it free rein to draw us into the Trinity's ever-expanding circles of love.

On this feast of the Holy Trinity, talk with Jesus about the ways you see "outsiders." What could turn your heart to see them more truly as God's beloved children? Also consider what names capture best for you the ever-expanding communion of love that is the Trinity. Try out a new name for the Three-in-One in your prayer.

Old/New Testament and CCC links

First Reading — Deuteronomy 4:32-34, 39-40

³² "For ask now of the days that are past, which were before you, since the day that God created man upon the earth, and ask from one end of heaven to the other, whether such a great thing as this has ever happened or was ever heard of. ³³ Did any people ever hear the voice of a god speaking out of the midst of the fire, as you have heard, and still live? ³⁴ Or has any god ever attempted to go and take a nation for himself from the midst of another nation, by trials, by signs, by wonders, and by war, by a mighty hand and an outstretched arm, and by great terrors, according to all that the LORD your God did for you in Egypt before your eyes? ... ³⁹ know therefore this day, and lay it to your heart, that the LORD is God in heaven above and on the earth beneath; there is no other. ⁴⁰ Therefore you shall keep his statutes and his commandments, which I command you this day, that it may go well with you, and with your children after you, and that you may prolong your days in the land which the LORD your God gives you for ever."

Responsorial Psalm — Ps 33:4-5, 6, 9, 18-19, 20, 22

(R): Blessed the people the Lord has chosen to be his own.

Upright is the word of the Lord, and all his works are trustworthy.
He loves justice and right; of the kindness of the Lord the earth is full. **(R)**

By the word of the Lord the heavens were made; by the breath of his mouth all their
host. For he spoke, and it was made; he commanded, and it stood forth. **(R)**

See, the eyes of the Lord are upon those who fear him, upon those who hope for his
kindness, to deliver them from death and preserve them in spite of famine. **(R)**

Our soul waits for the Lord, who is our help and our shield. May your kindness, O Lord,
be upon us who have put our hope in you. **(R)**

Second Reading — Romans 8:14-17

¹⁴ For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. ¹⁵ For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the spirit of sonship. When we cry, "Abba! Father!" ¹⁶ it is the Spirit himself bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God, ¹⁷ and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him.

Catechism of The Catholic Church

75. "Christ the Lord, in whom the entire Revelation of the most high God is summed up, commanded the apostles to preach the Gospel, which had been promised beforehand by the prophets, and which he fulfilled in his own person and promulgated with his own lips. In preaching the Gospel, they were to communicate the gifts of God to all men. This Gospel was to be the source of all saving truth and moral discipline."(*DV* 7; cf. *Mt* 28:19-20; *Mk* 16:15)

80. "Sacred Tradition and Sacred Scripture, then, are bound closely together, and communicate one with the other. For both of them, flowing out from the same divine well-spring, come together in some fashion to form one thing, and move towards the same goal."(*DV* 9) Each of them makes present and fruitful in the Church the mystery of Christ, who promised to remain with his own "always, to the close of the age".(*Mt* 28:20)

730. At last Jesus' hour arrives(Cf. *Jn* 13:1; 17:1) he commends his spirit into the Father's hands(Cf. *Lk* 23:46; *Jn* 19:30) at the very moment when by his death he conquers death, so that, "raised from the dead by the glory of the Father,"(*Rom* 6:4) he might immediately give the Holy Spirit by "breathing" on his disciples.(Cf. *Jn* 20:22) From this hour onward, the mission of Christ and the Spirit becomes the mission of the Church: "As the Father has sent me, even so I send you."(*Jn* 20:21; cf. *Mt* 28:19; *Lk* 24:47-48; *Acts* 1:8)

849. *The missionary mandate.* "Having been divinely sent to the nations that she might be 'the universal sacrament of salvation,' the Church, in obedience to the command of her founder and because it is demanded by her own essential universality, strives to preach the Gospel to all men"(AG 1; cf. *Mt* 16:15) "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you; and Lo, I am with you always, until the close of the age."(*Mt* 28:19-20)

1257. The Lord himself affirms that Baptism is necessary for salvation.(Cf. Jn 3:5) He also commands his disciples to proclaim the Gospel to all nations and to baptize them.(Cf. Mt 28:19-20; cf. Council of Trent (1547) DS 1618; LG 14; AG 5) Baptism is necessary for salvation for those to whom the Gospel has been proclaimed and who have had the possibility of asking for this sacrament.(Cf. Mk 16:16) The Church does not know of any means other than Baptism that assures entry into eternal beatitude; this is why she takes care not to neglect the mission she has received from the Lord to see that all who can be baptized are "reborn of water and the Spirit." *God has bound salvation to the sacrament of Baptism, but he himself is not bound by his sacraments.*

Sharing and Discussion

1. Jesus' original eleven disciples doubted, have you ever doubted? How do you overcome these doubts?
2. Jesus says, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations."
 - a. What does Jesus mean?
 - b. Are you ready to carry it out? Why?
 - c. How do you intend to carry it out?

Closing Prayer

All: Eternal God, your son Jesus promises that he will be with us always until the end of age. Hear our prayers and transform our hearts that we might make disciples of all nations through our witness to the gospel. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Leader: May the Lord bless us, protect us from all evil and bring us to everlasting life.

All: Amen