

As Catholics we are supposed to know how to make the sign of the cross. And when we do make the sign of the cross, we say, “In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.” Why we say that is because we believe that the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit are the three Persons in one God, which we call the Holy Trinity.

Recapping the Church year, what we call the liturgical year, so far, there are Advent, Christmas, and the Christmas season, then after a brief period of Ordinary Time, there are Lent, Easter, and the Easter season. In Advent and Lent we concentrate on the love of God the Father, who gave us God the Son, Jesus. We prepare for Jesus’ birth at Christmas and His resurrection on Easter. During the Christmas and Easter seasons we rejoice in the love of God, as Jesus was born, lived among us, died, and rose from the dead, showing us the way to God and saving us from our sins. Then last Sunday, the Easter season came to an end with Pentecost, the feast of the presence and power of God the Holy Spirit. So during these last six and a half months, our concentration has been on God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit, the three Persons in one God, the Holy Trinity. And today is the day the Church sets aside to focus on that Holy Trinity.

Our first reading today comes from the book of Proverbs. The Book of Proverbs is a collection of poems from the Old Testament, the section of the Bible which takes place, of course, before Jesus was born. The main purpose of the Book of Proverbs is to teach wisdom. There’s a word. *Wisdom*. What is wisdom? Wisdom means being wise, which means being smart but knowing how to use your smarts. You can be very smart and be evil, but that wouldn’t be wise. Using your intelligence for

good reasons is wise. The beginning part of the book of Proverbs actually describes wisdom. Today's reading comes from that part of the Book of Proverbs.

A reading from the book of Proverbs (**Proverbs 8:22-31**)

From the very beginning, I was with the Lord. I was there before he began to create the earth. At the very first, the Lord gave life to me. When I was born, there were no oceans or springs of water. My birth was before mountains were formed or hills were put in place. It happened long before God had made the earth or any of its fields or even the dust. I was there when the Lord put the heavens in place and stretched the sky over the surface of the sea. I was with Him when He placed the clouds in the sky and created the springs that fill the ocean. I was there when He set boundaries for the sea and made it obey Him, and when He laid foundations to support the earth. I was right beside the Lord, helping Him plan and build. I made Him happy each day, and I was happy at His side. I was pleased with His world and pleased with His people. The word of the Lord.

One might ask in this reading, who is "I"? Who is the speaker? The answer is that wisdom itself is doing the talking and talking about being there when God created the universe and the world and everything that's in it. And since, of course, God is wise, wisdom was there with God, because God has wisdom. And He has always had wisdom, from the beginning of time. So if God was always there/here, and we know He was, then wisdom was right there/here with Him.

Now today's psalm is a hymn of praise which states that God is the creator of the universe, and that we humans, made in the image of God, are the rulers and caretakers of that creation. In

fact, the psalm response today says that God's name is totally awesome. Well, the word "totally" is not used in the psalm with "awesome." I guess they don't talk that way in the Bible.

Responsorial Psalm (**Psalm 8:4-5, 6-7, 8-9**)

Lord, our God, how awesome Your name is in all the earth!

Lord, our God, how awesome Your name is in all the earth!

I often think of the heavens your hands have made, and of the moon and stars you put in place. Then I ask, "Why do You care about us humans? Why are You concerned for us weaklings?"

Lord, our God, how awesome Your name is in all the earth!

You made us lower than You Yourself, and You have crowned us with glory and honor. You let us rule everything Your hands have made. And You put all of it under our power.

Lord, our God, how awesome Your name is in all the earth!

The sheep and the cattle, and every wild animal, the birds in the sky, the fish in the sea, and all ocean creatures.

Lord, our God, how awesome Your name is in all the earth!

Now we have Paul's reading to the Romans. Here Paul includes God, Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit in a discussion about faith, hope, and love.

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans (**Romans 5:1-5**)

Sisters and Brothers: Because of our faith, we have peace with God through our Lord, Jesus Christ, whom we know also because of our faith, which in turn gives us hope that we will share in the glory of God. Not only that, but we even accept our sufferings, which help us to continue our struggles, which give us character, which in turn gives us hope. Our hope is confirmed by the love of God poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, which has been given to us. The Word of the Lord.

Paul says because of our faith we have peace with God through our Lord, Jesus Christ. And because of God's love, poured into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, we can have hope that we will share in the glory of God in heaven. So St. Paul links together the three persons in one God and the three spiritual virtues of faith, hope, and love. He talks a lot about these virtues in his writings, because you cannot know God or understand His truth without faith, hope, and love.

Finally, we turn to today's gospel, which comes from St. John. He quotes Jesus speaking to the disciples during the last supper. Jesus tells His followers that there is much more for them to learn, and only with the help of the Holy Spirit can they hope to understand it all. Today that acclamation consists of the Glory Be prayer, which basically praises the three persons in one God.

Alleluia, alleluia. Alleluia, alleluia.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end.

Alleluia, alleluia.

+ A reading from the holy gospel according to John (**John 16:12-15**).

Jesus said to His disciples: “I have much more to say to you, but right now it would be more than you could understand. The Spirit shows what is true and will come and guide you into the full truth. ¶ “The Spirit does not speak on His own. He will tell you only what He has heard from Me, and He will let you know what is going to happen. ¶ “The Spirit will bring glory to Me by taking My message and telling it to you. Everything the Father has is Mine. That is why I have said that the Spirit takes My message and tells it to you.” ¶ The gospel of the Lord.

At the last supper when this gospel reading takes place, Jesus still hadn't suffered and died yet. And He certainly had not yet risen from the dead. All of these things were very hard for the disciples to accept or understand. So Jesus couldn't just say, “Here's what's going to happen,” and walk away expecting the disciples to figure it all out just like that. He knew that all His suffering had to take place, He had to raise from the dead and ascend into heaven, and then the Holy Spirit had to come down and give them the wisdom to see and understand it all. The Holy Spirit was needed to help the disciples figure it all out. When someone finally understands something which had been complicated, it is often called an “aha” moment, when you start to say, aha, *now* I get it. The Holy Spirit was needed to give the disciples their “aha” moment about Jesus.

So God the Father is our creator, the reason we are all here. He loves us so much that he sent God the Son, Jesus Christ, to teach us about the Father and to die for our sins, giving us the hope to share in the Father's glory. And God the Holy Spirit helps us to understand the whole message and to have the faith that the message is God's truth. And *that* truly is totally

awesome! These three persons in one God, the Holy Trinity, along with the gifts of faith, hope, and love, make it possible for the apostles, the saints, and all of us to be with God in His everlasting glory in heaven.

And that, girls and boys, is the lesson in today's readings. Talk it over with your parents.

Holy Trinity Sunday, 2022
Joseph Calderone