

ST. THOMAS INDIAN MISSION

Most Holy Trinity
Year B
May 30, 2021

Fort Yuma, California | P. O. Box 1176, Winterhaven, CA 92283

Website: www.stthomasindianmission.org

Email: saintthomasindianmission@gmail.com

Tel: 760-572-0283

Fr. George "of the desert" Decasa
Pastor

Our Sunday Masses are now held inside the Church, on Saturdays at 4:30 PM and on Sundays at 8:30 AM.
Please come in a face mask and observe social distancing.

1st Reading:

Deuteronomy 4:32-34,
39-40

Moses said to the people: "Ask now of the days of old, before your time, ever since God created man upon the earth; ask from one end of the sky to the other: Did anything so great ever happen before? Was it ever heard of? Did a people ever hear the voice of God speaking from the midst of fire, as you did, and live? Or did any god venture to go and take a nation for himself from the midst of another nation, by testings, by signs and wonders, by war, with strong hand and outstretched arm, and by great terrors, all of which the LORD, your God, did for you in Egypt before your very eyes? This is why you must now know, and fix in your heart, that the LORD is God in the heavens above and on earth below, and that there is no other. You must keep his statutes and commandments that I enjoin on you today, that you and your children after you may prosper, and that you may have long life on the land which the LORD, your God, is giving you forever."

The Word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm:

"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.**

**2nd Reading:
Romans 8:14-17**

Brothers and sisters: For those who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to

fall back into fear, but you received a Spirit of adoption, through whom we cry, "Abba, Father!" The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if only we suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him.

The Word of the Lord.

Lector: Alleluia, Alleluia.

All: Alleluia, Alleluia.

Lector: Glory to the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit; to God who is, who was, and who is to come.

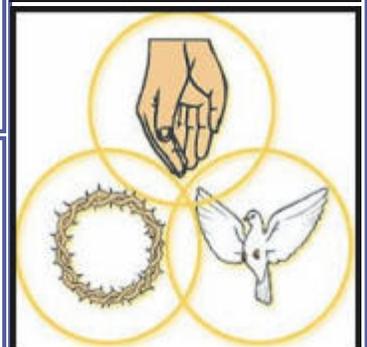
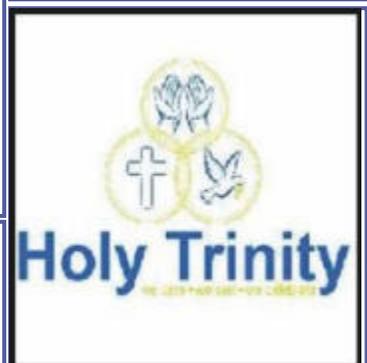
All: Alleluia, Alleluia.

**Gospel Reading:
Matthew 28:16-20**

The eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had ordered them. When they all saw him, they worshiped, but they doubted. Then Jesus approached and said to them, "All power in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 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 behold, I am with you always, until the end of the age."

The Gospel of the Lord.



The Mystery of Faith:

**When we eat this Bread,
and drink this Cup,
we proclaim your Death,
O Lord, until you come
again.**

REFLECTING ON THE WORD GUIDEPOSTS

INTRODUCTION TO THE LITURGY OF THE DAY

“In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.” We say this when we enter a church, when we begin Mass, when we pray. It is our identity. It reminds us that we are in the presence of God. It joins us to millions of other Christians across time and space. It expresses our belief in the Triune God.

Being three persons in one God enabled God to become incarnate, enabled God to come down upon us in baptism, and enables God to be with us here today and every day.

Let us contemplate the great wonders God has done and continues to do in our daily lives.

WHY DO WE BELIEVE GOD AS TRINITY?

We believe God as Trinity for the simple reason that Christ revealed it to us. In St. John’s gospel, many times the Lord mentions Himself, the Father and the Holy Spirit. For instance, he says: “The Paraclete, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything and make you remember all that I have told you” (John 14:26). Then there is Christ’s final mandate: “Go, therefore, into the whole world, teach all nations, baptize them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit” (Mt 28:19).

YAHWEH IS FATHER, SON AND HOLY SPIRIT

Yahweh is NOT to be equated only with the Father who is the first person of the Trinity, but with all three persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. The Bible speaks of God who enters human history and thus, Yahweh is experienced in a threefold way: He is the **Father** who is love, compassion, creator, even now; He is the **Son** -- the human face of Yahweh, seeking communion with people and gives them to one another; He is the **Spirit** who is always in us and with us, sanctifying us to bring love to perfection, even now.

SCRIPTURAL BASIS OF THE DOCTRINE OF THE TRINITY

The doctrine of the Trinity is the result of a great deal of prayer, worship, discussion, and debate. It did not get solidified until the 3rd and 4th centuries with much back and forth by prominent theologians such Tertullian, Augustine, and many others. The beginnings of this doctrine, however, can be traced back to the Scriptures.

What one finds in the scriptures are the bits and pieces flowing from the prayer and religious experience of those early believers, which eventually were shaped into the church’s official formulation of the Trinity.

Today’s readings for the solemnity of the Trinity provide us with a good example of those bits and pieces of trinitarian thought and prayer. Let us “unpack” each of today’s readings.

RE: TODAY’S FIRST READING

The first reading depicts Moses reflecting for the people on the reality of God that they have experienced throughout their long sojourn in the desert. Unlike other gods who would leave after creating (Deism), this God was and continues to be in charge of everything. There is no other God like this God anywhere. Clearly, what is presented here is the understanding of God as a dynamic, unique being who is all-powerful and creative.

These are the ingredients that will appear later on when the early Christians begin reflecting on the person of the Father in relationship to the Son and the Holy Spirit.

RE: TODAY’S SECOND READING

The brief second reading from Romans, chapter 8, shows Paul reflecting on the new relationship believers have with God due to the Holy Spirit that is within them. Believers are now understood to be adopted children of God and thereby also heirs of God and therefore joint heirs with Christ. All this has happened because believers were led by the Spirit of God.

While Paul has not put together all the ingredients needed for a full doctrine of the Trinity, it is clear that the pieces are present and that they are intimately related one with the other. At this point Paul is focusing on the dynamic role of the Spirit and how important that role is for every believer.

RE: TODAY’S GOSPEL READING

The gospel message for this solemnity is the famous commissioning scene from the closing of Matthew’s gospel. Jesus calls his disciples one last time and commissions them to go and make disciples of all nations. This is important because it indicates that the scope of the Christian mission is universal; it includes all nations and peoples. The passage is one of the clearest expressions of the belief in the Trinity that we have.

The implication is that belief in the Trinity was active in the early Christian community long before it received its final articulation in Church teaching.

In the first chapter of Matthew’s Gospel, the angel declared that Mary’s Son would be called Emmanuel, “God is with us” (Matthew 1:23).

Today, we hear Matthew end his Gospel with Jesus’ promise: “I am with you always.” God is still with us and always will be. The Holy Spirit, given to each of us at baptism, assures us of God’s constant presence with and in us.

**EXPERIENCING THE TRINITY
IN OUR DAY-TO-DAY LIFE**

We may say that we know about God as Trinity, as a dogma or doctrine but how do we see, touch, or taste, smell, and hear this invisible God?

We do not celebrate the Trinity as an abstract concept. What we celebrate is the truth that we have been invited to share in the very life of the Trinity which is love — the bond that unites God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Trinitarian love binds people together as one, as church.

Remember the story about the great Russian writer Tolstoy? He was once passing by a beggar in the street corner and the beggar reached out to him. Tolstoy stopped and searched for a coin but found none. With sincere sorrow, he said: “Don’t be angry with me, my brother, I have nothing with me.” The beggar’s face lighted up as he replied, “But you call me brother – that is enough for me.”

We experience God through each other. Helen Keller, the American author and lecturer who was deaf and blind from infancy, once remarked, “I find life an exciting business — and most exciting when it is lived for others.”

As believers in Christ we need to be friends to each other and encourage one another. According to an English author, “A friend is the one who comes in when the whole world has gone out.” Or, as Simon and Garfunkel put it in a song: “a bridge over troubled waters.”

We are made in the image and likeness of God. Thus we ought to mirror our various communities in the image and likeness of the Trinity – whether that community is our family, our parish, our workplaces, etc.

Learn from the Wisdom of a Child

An energetic 10-year-old girl, told her dad, “It’s not hard to believe that God can be three persons. Look at you, Dad. You are a husband to mom, a daddy to me, and a son to Pop-Pop.” Smiling, she concluded, “So God can easily be Father, Son and Holy Spirit and still be one God. I think I get it now.”

Let us pray for one another, especially for Chris Herrera, Gordon Osborne, Amelia Lopez Ortiz, and Susan Muñoz, that God may restore them to health.



Please pray for +**BARBARA SIGALA** who passed on to eternal life only a few days ago. Her funeral will be at 9 am on Saturday, June 5th, here in our Church.

PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

CELEBRANT:

Brothers and sisters, on this Feast of the Holy Trinity, we are mindful that God created us to live in unity with one another. Let us pray for harmony and peace.

LECTOR:

- 1) For all who are baptized, in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, that we may live out our call to holiness, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For peaceful relations among the nations --- for an appreciation of our *one* world, our *one* identity as humankind, our *one* God who created us all, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For peaceful relations among the religions --- for respect for that which we don’t understand and for delight in our diversity, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) On this Memorial Day weekend celebrated in the United States, we pray for all who have died defending our country, that they and their families may find comfort in God’s loving arms, and that the sacrifice they made will never be forgotten, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all the prayers that we hold in the silence of our hearts; for all our intentions spoken and unspoken, let us pray to the Lord.

CELEBRANT:

God our Father, you who formed us and made us and know the thoughts and motives of our hearts, mercifully fill your people with the spirit of your unity, that we may cast aside our differences and serve you in all that we do. We make this prayer through Jesus Christ our Risen Lord. Amen.

Please Heed this Message from Bishop McElroy:

It is vitally important that all of us receive the Covid vaccine. The Pfizer, Moderna, and Johnson & Johnson are safe and effective. They are fully approved for use at this moment by the teachings of our Church. And as Pope Francis has so clearly taught, receiving the vaccine is not only for ourselves as individuals. It is for everyone that we treasure, to keep them safe and healthy and bring back the joy of life to us all.

... The sooner we are all vaccinated, the sooner we will be able to return to the many joys of our lives that we have missed during this past year of suffering. The vaccines, with our continued masking and social distancing during the coming months, will bring this hateful pandemic to an end.”



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