

TRINITY SUNDAY 2020



Words of welcome

On this Trinity Sunday, we worship the God who is Father, Son and Holy Spirit. We pray today that our lives would reflect the love and forgiveness of God, the grace and compassion of Jesus and the encouragement and fellowship of the Holy Spirit.

Opening Acclamation

Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts

the whole earth is full of his glory.

Ascribe to the Lord glory and strength;

ascribe to the Lord the honour due to his name.

The whole earth is full of his glory.

The Lord shall give strength to his people;

The Lord shall give his people the blessing of peace.

Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts:

the whole earth is full of his glory.

St. Patrick's Breastplate

O bind unto myself today

the strong name of the Trinity,

By invocation of the same,

the Three in One, and One in Three.

Christ be with me, Christ within me,

Christ behind me, Christ before me,

Christ beside me, Christ to win me,

Christ to comfort and restore me;

Christ beneath me, Christ above me,

Christ in quiet, Christ in danger,

Christ in hearts of all that love me,

Christ in mouth of friend and stranger.

I bind unto myself the name,
the strong name of the Trinity,
by invocation of the same,
the Three in One, and One in Three,
of whom all nature had creation,
eternal Father, Spirit, Word.
Praise to the Lord of my salvation;
Salvation is of Christ the Lord.

Today's Collect

Holy God, faithful and unchanging:
enlarge our minds with the knowledge of your truth,
and draw us more deeply into the mystery of your love,
that we may truly worship you,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

A reading from John's gospel

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

For the word of God in scripture
For the word of God among us
For the word of God within us
Thanks be to God

Reflection

In response to today's Gospel, I fondly recall my first baptism. Sebastian was very accommodating as I poured water onto his head, baptising him in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Through baptism we all make a significant step, in our journey of faith and belief in the Triune God.

On this Trinity Sunday it is valuable to ponder the way we can all participate in a life giving, relationship with the Father, Son and the Holy Spirit.

A great book (The Divine Dance) by the Franciscan priest Richard Rohr, explores early theology that depicted the Trinity as a round dance. John of Damascus, writing in the 7th, described the relationship between the three Persons of the Trinity as '*peri-chor-esis*,' which

is a kind of circle dance. Father, Son and Spirit move around the circle in a way that implies intimacy, equality, unity yet distinction, and love.

I am not the very good at dancing, but there is something about the vibrant rhythm and social aspects of a Céilí that draws me in. The wonder of the dance of the Trinity is that we are drawn in, to participate. The divine Godhead embraces the earth in a sacred romance, and delights in welcoming us to 'put on our dancing shoes' and join them.

Verna Holyhead is a Melbourne-based Sister of the Good Samaritan. She describes how the Holy Spirit is leading us to our future, not by marching us forward, but in the way a dance partner takes hold of you and leads the dance. This is enticing hope for us in these uncertain times... The Spirit will lead us, in the dance of life that lies ahead of us.

The C5th icon of the Trinity by the Russian iconographer Andri Rublev, captures this sense of participating in the Trinity most powerfully.

The figure on the left is the Father, rich in the colour gold, symbolising perfection, fullness, wholeness, the ultimate Source.

Christ is in the centre, draped in blue, considered by Rublev as the colour of 'the Human' this celebrates the incarnation. Christ's two fingers are posed to signify how spirit and matter, divinity and humanity are within Himself.

Finally, the Holy Spirit is cascading with luscious green. Empowering, vibrant and life giving.

Gathered around the table they are all distinct yet encircled in a composition, symbolising their unity. However, this is no private gathering.

The Spirit is pointing toward the open and fourth place at the table! Art historians say that a mirror was positioned in the empty space. Can you picture yourself in this image? The icon engages us in the invitation to participate in the divine Trinity.

The Spirit is offering us a hand, regardless of our dancing ability and will lead us into the dance and into the future. The Trinity is encircling and embracing us; a graceful movement of loving attentiveness into which we are invited. So, let us enjoy and share the wonder of the Trinity this week.

I leave you with a poem by Sally Coleman, from *With Unveiled Faces*, 2008

Perichoresis

*Can you hear
the unforced
rhythms of grace?*

*Do you see
the heavenly
holy dancers?*

*Are you captivated
by the wonder,
freedom,
movement,
and life
that flows from their
uncreated song?*

*Can you hear the beating
of their hearts*

*as they whisper
sonnets
proclaiming their love
for one another
and
for you?*

*Do you yearn
to join the joyful
throng
encircled in their midst?*

*For you are invited
to this heavenly
party!*

*Will you dare to take
the outstretched hand,
kick off your shoes
and dance?*

Sally Coleman, from *With Unveiled Faces*, 2008

Prayers of Intercession

Blessed are you, Lord God, Father of all creation.
To you be praise and glory for ever.
Your Son Jesus Christ brings light
to dispel our darkness and hope to banish our fears.
He sends upon us your promised Spirit
to strengthen and guide us.
Through your great grace and goodness
help us to reveal your love in all the world.
Blessed are you, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Father, we give thanks for the wonders and mystery of creation.
We thank you for life and for your love.
Bless and guide Elizabeth our Queen and
give wisdom to our Government and the Leaders of the nations
as they strive for unity and peace.

We pray for our Bishops, David, Mark and Mark,
Archdeacon Karen and for Anne and Tom.

Holy, holy, holy God, **hear us and help us**

Jesus, you are our Redeemer
You gave yourself in love for us.
We come to give our love to you.
We remember in your presence
all who lack any knowledge of love.
We pray for all who are scorned and rejected

especially those who suffer
from the cruelty and wickedness of others.
We remember all who are sick or struggling
especially those being treated in hospital for COVID-19
and those in our own community who are ill at this time.

Holy, holy, holy God, **hear us and help us**

Holy Spirit, inspirer and giver of talents,
we thank you for artists and craftspeople,
for all who beautify and enrich our earth.
We remember all who are unable to use their talents
because of the situation in which they live.
We remember those restricted by poverty or tyranny.

Holy, holy, holy God, **hear us and help us**

Holy and Blessed Trinity, three persons in One God,
we thank you for your love which is eternal.
We thank you for the gift of personality.
We remember in your presence friends and love ones who are departed from us
We pray for Trudy and Barclay and we remember the anniversaries of
Stella Marshall, Walter Phillips and Herbert Cowlshaw.
May they rejoice in the fullness of life eternal
in your presence and in your kingdom.

Merciful Father,
**accept these prayers
for the sake of your Son,
our Saviour, Jesus Christ.**

We join all our prayers together in the prayer that Jesus gave us.
Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.
Source: David Adam: The Complete Themed Intercessions, 2007, Kevin Mayhew Ltd (adapted)

Closing prayers and Blessing

Almighty and eternal God,
you have revealed yourself as Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
and live and reign in the perfect unity of love:
hold us firm in this faith, that we may know you in all your ways
and evermore rejoice in your eternal glory,
who are three Persons yet one God, now and forever.
Amen.

The Lord bless you and keep you:

Amen

The Lord make his face to shine upon you, and be gracious to you:

Amen

The Lord lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace:

Amen

The Lord god almighty, Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
the holy and undivided Trinity,
guard you, save you,
and bring you to that heavenly city,
where he lives and reigns for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Hymn

Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!
Early in the morning our song shall rise to thee.
Holy, holy, holy! Merciful and mighty!
God in three Persons, blessed Trinity!

Holy, holy, holy! All the saints adore thee,
casting down their golden crowns around the glassy sea;
cherubim and seraphim falling down before thee,
who wert, and art, and evermore shalt be.

Holy, holy, holy! Though the darkness hide thee,
though the eye of sinful man thy glory may not see,
only thou art holy; there is none beside thee
perfect in pow'r, in love, and purity.

Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!
All thy works shall praise thy name in earth and sky and sea.
Holy, holy, holy! Merciful and mighty!
God in three Persons, blessed Trinity!