

## The Most Holy Trinity – May 30, 2010 – Good Shepherd Parish

### Scripture Reading: Proverbs 8:22-31

Thus says the wisdom of God: "The LORD possessed me, the beginning of his ways, the forerunner of his prodigies of long ago; from of old I was poured forth, at the first, before the earth. When there were no depths I was brought forth, when there were no fountains or springs of water; before the mountains were settled into place, before the hills, I was brought forth; while as yet the earth and fields were not made, nor the first clods of the world.

"When the Lord established the heavens I was there, when he marked out the vault over the face of the deep; when he made firm the skies above, when he fixed fast the foundations of the earth; when he set for the sea its limit, so that the waters should not transgress his command; then was I beside him as his craftsman, and I was his delight day by day, playing before him all the while, playing on the surface of his earth; and I found delight in the human race."

### Psalm: 8:4-5, 6-7, 8-9

R. (2a) O Lord, our God, how wonderful your name in all the earth!

When I behold your heavens, the work of your fingers,  
the moon and the stars which you set in place-  
what is man that you should be mindful of him,  
or the son of man that you should care for him?

R. O Lord, our God, how wonderful your name in all the earth!

You have made him little less than the angels,  
and crowned him with glory and honor.  
You have given him rule over the works of your hands,  
putting all things under his feet:

R. O Lord, our God, how wonderful your name in all the earth!

All sheep and oxen,  
yes, and the beasts of the field,  
the birds of the air, the fishes of the sea,  
and whatever swims the paths of the seas.

R. O Lord, our God, how wonderful your name in all the earth!

### Scripture Reading: Romans 5:1-5

Brothers and sisters: Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have gained access by faith to this grace in which we stand, and we boast in hope of the glory of God. Not only that, but we even boast of our afflictions, knowing that affliction produces endurance, and endurance, proven character, and proven character, hope, and hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.

### Gospel: John 16:12-15

Jesus said to his disciples: "I have much more to tell you, but you cannot bear it now. But when he comes, the Spirit of truth, he will guide you to all truth. He will not speak on his own, but he will speak what he hears, and will declare to you the things that are coming. He will glorify me, because he will take from what is mine and declare it to you. Everything that the Father has is mine; for this reason I told you that he will take from what is mine and declare it to you."



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### **INVITATION TO PRAY**

*Pause for a few moments of silence and enter more deeply into the presence of God.*

### **Proclaim the Scriptures out loud.**

As you listen to the scriptures be attentive to a word, a phrase, a question, an image, or a feeling that emerges. Reflect on this quietly or share it aloud.

### **INVITATION TO REFLECT**

“Why do we have to hear all this stuff about the Trinity?” I was giving a talk and this question darted forth from a gentleman in the audience. He continued, “Why can’t we just go to church and be good to each other.” Because, I said. Because the Triune God is not some kind of brainy speculation by scholars. It is simply the way we experience God in this world. Christian living is the Trinity in action. Let me explain. First, long ago human beings learned that there is only one God, and that he “takes delight in the human race.” Think of the many, many stories in the First Testament about God’s pursuit of us, his laboring to make a loving and holy covenant with us: “I will be your God and you will be my people.” Like a marriage agreement. God became, by turns, angry, hurt, delighted, spurned, glorified, ignored, praised and rejected. Yet he kept coming back and back to renew the covenant. God’s love is steadfast.

Then we found out that God’s nature has another component. God had not been alone or lonely, like a rock in the desert. His very nature has always been to relate to others, to “pour himself forth,” as the [First Reading](#) puts it, and to receive back. The “Second Person” is at one with “the First Person” for all eternity. The Word was made flesh. Jesus laughed and cried and preached and turned over tables and cured people, and was loyal to his friends even to the end. “Everything that the Father has is mine,” he said ([Gospel](#)). That’s how we knew he was The Word and the Word was God.

Then came a final revelation about the Trinity. Jesus hints about it in the Gospel: “I have much more to tell you, but you cannot bear it now.” In other words, our small souls would burst with the greatness of God—unless part of God gentled himself down and began to dwell within us, to guide our understanding. So Jesus promised to pour out the Holy Spirit into us. Jesus tells us that the Spirit is God (and himself too). “Everything that the Father has is mine; for this reason I told you that he will take from what is mine and declare it to you.” Do you get the logic? Everything the Father has belongs to the Word. Everything that Jesus the Word has belongs to the Spirit. Thus, the Spirit is the third part of God, and it bestows the whole earth back upon the Father, closing the circle.

What aliveness, what movement there is in God: speaking, reaching out, flowing forth, receiving back. God is like liquid motion, like a dynamism in which everything is changing always, yet remains always secure because it is rooted in love—it is love. We are invited into that circle of love. Too theoretical? Allow me to put it more simply. Do you suffer? God invites you meld that pain into the Trinity’s unending love. Do you lack hope? The Christ who rose from death is within you. Are you abandoned? Remember that the one God in three persons embraces you with tender affection and asks you to melt into his arms.

### **INVITATION TO GROUP SHARING**

1. The speaker says “I found delight in the human race.” Do you think anyone takes delight in you? Does God? Does Christ?
2. “The love of God has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit.” If God is the source, what kind of love is it that is in your heart? Can you feel or sense the presence of the Holy Spirit in yourself?
3. Does the Spirit add anything to God’s revelation? Does the Spirit change your understanding of revelation? Can understanding of divine love be exhausted? Have you ever reached a place where “you could not bear” more knowledge of love?

### **INVITATION TO ACT**

Determine a specific action (individual or group) that flows from your sharing. When choosing an individual action, determine what you will do and share it with the group. When choosing a group action, determine who will take responsibility for different aspects of the action. These should be your primary considerations.

### **CLOSING INVITATION TO PRAY**

Give thanks to God (aloud or silently) for new insights, for desires awakened, for directions clarified, for the gift of one another’s openness and sensitivity. Conclude with the following:

Father, you sent your Word to bring us truth and your Spirit to make us holy. Through them we come to know the mystery of your life. Help us to worship you, one God in three Persons, by proclaiming and living our faith in you. Grant this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen