

Trinity Sunday 2023
First Communion Sunday
Genesis 1:1-2:4; Psalm 8; Matt 28:16-20
Rev. Adam T. Trambley
June 4, 2023, St. John's Sharon

This Sunday is a special day throughout all of God's church,
But theologians on this day have left us in a lurch.
Ponderous discussion makes us sound like Pharisees,
While over-zealous doctrine will result in heresies
Instead of searching details that we can't quite understand,
Better being would by far experiencing first hand
The persons of the Trinity we celebrate this day.
And our noblest occupation is to give them thanks and praise.

So now a couplet's coming round that offers us a start
Of Trinitarian doxology, and all can play a part:
The Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit three
Everybody give it up – the blessed Trinity.

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Now it's coming one more time, know I am not proud,
I can manage this all day if your hands don't say it loud.
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Everybody give it up – the blessed Trinity.

Most of what we really know, we read in Holy Scripture
From alpha to omega, there the Trinity's a fixture.
In Genesis today, we heard from the beginning
How the Trinity created us in ways that get us grinning.
The Father beheld chaos sipping on his morning tea
the Holy Spirit brooded over all the nascent sea.
Until the moment Christ the Word decided to incite
The cosmos's creation ringing out, "Let there be light."
And light there was, and day and night, and stars and planets, too,
Heights and depths, and plants and beasts and, someday, me and you.

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All of us created through the very love of God
Who placed us in a garden, so we tilled that fertile sod.
And stayed there for a while and should have made the choice
To always walk about with God and clearly hear his voice.

But we decide badly, losing our first opportunity
To center our lives deep inside that Trinitarian community.
But God abandoned not the fragile children he had made
Instead unfolding plans to woo the prodigals who strayed.
Through God's dynamic action throughout salvation history,
we gain our richest insight into such a holy mystery
as to how the Trinity's persons that are three are also one
in unity of Godhead, the Spirit, Father, Son.

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The Father, the creator, is beyond all space and time,
In light inaccessible dwelling, a nature most sublime.
Beyond what we can reach or even understand,
The Father wanted nonetheless to extend to us his hand.
He sent his Son, therefore, to leave his lofty station
To become as one of us through the incarnation.

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This Son, of course, and it should not be forgotten,
Of the Father was not made, but eternally begotten.
Dwelling here among us, preaching, teaching, healing,
Sending demons into pigs who died while they were squealing,
Undo death obedient, even death upon a cross,
Giving us eternal life while traveling across
The barrier into deepest hell, where the devil he threw down.
He rose again on Easter, a deed of great renown.
Ascending into heaven, he told his disciples straight,
His command to baptize and to teach – it's all in Matthew Twenty-Eight.

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Having gone off into heaven, Jesus knew we might be lost,
So he sent his Holy Spirit down to us on Pentecost.
The Trinity's third person, oft depicted as a dove,
Is a person in the Trinity who embodies Divine Love.
The Father and the Son share the Spirit as a gift
Of love that's also shared with us, so we aren't left adrift.
God's Spirit sent upon us first in holy tongues of fire
Continues to bestow on us the gifts that we require
To realize the calling of our own divine vocation
and always lift each other up in every situation.

As we invite the Spirit in our hearts to come reside,
The Trinity, too, invites us, with them to come abide.

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Another gift the Trinity has given to us humans,
We celebrate this day in our children's first communions.
Jesus we know said let the children come to me,
And today we invite these youth to share his guarantee
That when we of this bread do eat and of this cup do drink,
He will grant us all around his table an everlasting link,
A place within his Body where he will be our head,
All because we come to share this Eucharistic bread.
So come approach the altar here with sincerity of heart,
And Jesus' very presence he will to you impart.
Father, Son and Spirit will be with you when you rise,
Returning to your pew, the life of God will be your prize.

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You may wonder how you traded your preacher for some rando
Who seems to be a wanna-be Lin Manuel Miranda
But I will sleep quite soundly when I lie upon my bed
If I have lodged this earworm stubbornly inside your head.
For facts about the Trinity are a benefit to know
But much more valuable by far, and what will help us grow,
Is giving up to Mighty God all our thanks and praise
And walking in that presence in ways that will amaze.
Repeating regularly this couplet will be to you a benefit
For the blessings of the Trinity you will not then forget.
And God will draw you nearer in the life for you he won,
Abiding in the loving arms of Father, Spirit, Son.
So let's three times repeat together these refrains,
To keep this praise for days and weeks lodged deep inside our brains.

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