



Sunday 15th June 2025

Trinity Sunday

Gospel Reading

John 16.12-15

¹² 'I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. ¹³ When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth; for he will not speak on his own, but will speak whatever he hears, and he will declare to you the things that are to come. ¹⁴ He will glorify me, because he will take what is mine and declare it to you. ¹⁵ All that the Father has is mine. For this reason I said that he will take what is mine and declare it to you.

Other Readings: Proverbs 8.1-4,22-31 Psalm 8 Romans 5.1-5

Homily

Today is Trinity Sunday—a day not tied to a particular event in Jesus' life, nor on an event in the early Church but rather a feast that celebrates the very being of God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—Three Persons, one God. It can sometimes seem like the most abstract of all Christian festivals, and yet it is the foundation of our prayers, our worship, our creeds, and our sacraments.

It's tempting to try to *explain* the Trinity, as if it were a puzzle to solve. You may have heard attempts at explaining it using comparisons such as a three-leaf clover, one plant but three leaves; or that it's like water which can be ice, or steam, or liquid; or it's like an egg – shell, white and yolk, all separate things but all needed to be a whole egg. All of these attempts to explain the Trinity distort our understanding of God and therefore need to be taken with a large pinch of salt. But the more important point is that the Trinity isn't a puzzle or a riddle to be explained or fully understood at all. It is the deepest truth about God's nature—and more than that, it's the way God relates to us and invites us into relationship.

And in today's Gospel, we are given a glimpse of the living dynamic of the Triune God. Jesus says to his disciples, "I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now." Instead of overwhelming them with information, he promises the Holy Spirit—"the Spirit of truth," who will guide them gradually and gently into all truth. Here we see something profound: the Son speaks what he hears from the Father, and the Spirit speaks what he hears from the Son. Each person of the Trinity is giving, receiving, revealing, and glorifying the other.

Jesus says in John 16:14, "He (the Spirit) will glorify me, because he will take what is mine and declare it to you." He also says, "All that the Father has is mine." What makes this

trinitarian love unique is that it's totally self-giving. There's no competition or jealousy in God. Instead, the Trinity is a mutual outpouring, a divine dance of giving, receiving, and glorifying. This is what theologians call perichoresis —a Greek word meaning “mutual indwelling.” It's a beautiful image: not static or rigid, but flowing and dynamic, an image of joyful unity.

And we are invited into that divine love and joy. Through Christ, and in the power of the Spirit, we are drawn into the very life of God. St. Augustine once said that the Trinity is like the Lover, the Beloved, and the Love that binds them —and in Christ, that divine love now includes us. To love like the Trinity means practicing mutual respect, not pride. Embracing unity with difference, not uniformity or division. Living with humble joy, not self-promotion.

Because we are made in the image of the Triune God, we are made for relationship, for giving and receiving and for community. The world is hungry for such a community—one marked not by power or division, but by love in unity and unity in love. Every time we forgive, serve, or worship together in unity, we are echoing the life of the Trinity.

Today, on Trinity Sunday, we stand in awe at the mystery of the Triune God. We come to know the Trinity as we enter into relationship with God through Christ, in the power of the Spirit. The Trinity, as it turns out, is not an abstract doctrine at all – it is the very heart of the Christian faith. It is the truth Jesus promised the Spirit would lead us into. And it is the life into which we are called: a life of love, a life of communion and a life where we reflect the God who is Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen.

Conversation Questions

1. How does belief in the Trinity shape your understanding of love and relationship?
2. How can we reflect the unity and diversity of the Trinity in our communities?
3. Is there anything else from the passage not already discussed that speaks to you?
What is it?
4. What will you do this week in your Monday-to-Saturday ministry in response to what you have heard today? #everydayfaith

Prayer

Spend some time in prayer, responding to what you have heard today and listening to what God might be saying to you.

Collect of the day

Almighty and everlasting God,

you have given us your servants grace,

by the confession of a true faith,

to acknowledge the glory of the eternal Trinity

and in the power of the divine majesty to worship the Unity:

keep us steadfast in this faith,

*that we may evermore be defended from all adversities;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.*

(or)

*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.*

Common Worship: Services and Prayers for the Church of England, material from which is incorporated in this service paper, is copyright © The Archbishops' Council, 2000. Scripture passage from the New Revised Standard Version (Anglicised) copyright © 1989, 1995 the Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved.