

# TRINITY SUNDAY

YEAR B

## PRAYER OF THE DAY:

God of all creation,  
you embrace us  
with the love  
of a mother and father.  
You send your own son,  
Jesus, to save us.  
Through the power  
of your Holy Spirit,  
you raise us  
to life everlasting.  
Your life is a mystery  
that we will celebrate  
and proclaim  
forever and ever.

*Note: Consistent with other specific feasts, we have chosen to keep the same readings for all three cycles. Of the readings available for this feast, these two seem to be the most easily understood by children.*

## FOCUS OF THE READINGS:

The focus of our readings is the experience of God acting in our lives in various ways. We have no adequate language for God, because God is beyond any single image we may have. We experience God in Jesus Christ who shares with us his experience of God, as creator, as redeemer, and as a person of intimate relationship. Our experience of this relationship is the Spirit of God living in us.

In the first reading, Paul tells us that because we live in the Holy Spirit, and because we are brothers and sisters of Christ, we are children of God. We too can enjoy the intimate relationship that Jesus called "Abba."

In the Gospel, Jesus tells his disciples to preach, baptize and teach in the name of God—the God who is intimate like a parent (Father), who comes as Savior (Son), and who lives within us (Holy Spirit).

## FIRST READING: *Romans 8:14-17*

*This is a reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans.*

Brothers and sisters,

Everyone who is guided by the Holy Spirit is a child of God.

We have been adopted by God, and when we pray, "Abba, Father," it is the Holy Spirit and our own spirit telling us that we truly are God's children. And if we are God's children, we will have eternal life like Jesus who is God's Son.

*This is the Word of God.*

## RESPONSE: *Psalm 104*

RESPONSE:

My God, how great, — how great you are. My

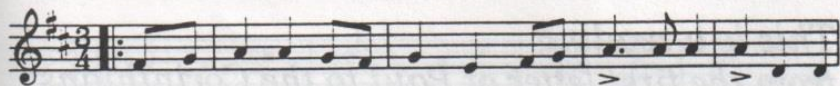
God, how great, — how great you are.

VERSES:

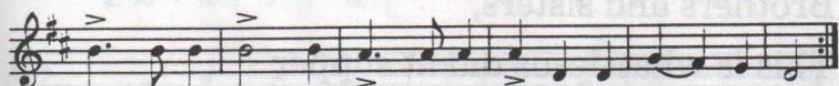
|                       |   |        |                         |   |
|-----------------------|---|--------|-------------------------|---|
| 1. You made the earth | — | and    | set it in place.        | — |
| 2. You made the wa    | - | ters   | cov - er the earth.     | — |
| 3. You made the o     | - | ceans, | riv - ers and seas.     | — |
| 4. You made the riv   | - | ers    | run from the hills.     | — |
| 5. Rain from the sky  | — | falls  | down on the earth.      | — |
| 6. All who are thirst | - | y      | drink from the streams. | — |
| 7. All of the earth   | — | is     | filled with your love.  | — |

to Response

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:



"Make dis - ci - ples and bap - tize them, in the name of the Fa - ther, the



name of the Son, the name of the Spir - it." Al - le - lu - ia!

## GOSPEL: *Matthew 28:16-20*

*This is a reading from the Gospel of Matthew.*

The eleven disciples  
went to the mountain in Galilee,  
just as Jesus had said.

When Jesus met them there, he said,

"God has given me all the power  
and authority of heaven and earth.

Now I am sending you out  
to preach to all the nations.

I want you to make disciples  
and baptize them

in the name of the Father,  
and of the Son,  
and of the Holy Spirit.

Teach them to keep my commandments  
and do all that I have taught you.

And I promise you that I am with you always,  
yes, to the very end of the world."

*This is the Good News of the Lord.*

## REFLECTING ON THE READINGS WITH CHILDREN:

As noted previously, Trinitarian language poses difficulties for children (as well as adults!) and even well-intentioned analogies serve only to confuse them more. We suggest that it is not necessary to concern ourselves with doctrinal language for Trinity, but rather with the experience of God in our lives.

*After the Gospel*, ask the children what Jesus asked the disciples to do (preach, baptize and teach). Are the disciples of Jesus still doing those things today?

Jesus said, "preach to all nations." This might be a good time to tell the children a little about missionary work. Besides preaching in our own parishes, some people are called to go to other parts of the world.

Jesus said, "teach them to keep my commandments." Help the children discuss the many ways the church teaches (religious education classes for children and adults, special classes on the Bible, informal teaching by parents, teachers, friends, and so forth). Draw attention especially to teaching activities in your own parish.

Jesus said, "baptize them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit." Ask the children if they remember being at a baptism. What words does the priest or deacon say? Remind them that we proclaim that we are baptized Christians every time we make the sign of the cross and say those words.

If time permits, you may wish to reflect on the first reading as well. Remind the children that Jesus often spoke of and to God using the name "Father" or even "Abba" which is like our word "Daddy." What is important here is not the masculine image of God, but rather the intimate relationship that Jesus experienced with God. St. Paul tells us that because Jesus chose us to be his brothers and sisters and gave us his Holy Spirit, we too are children of God and can call God "Abba!" The children should leave today's liturgy of the Word knowing that God loves them and wants us to be close to them. *him*