

TRINITY SUNDAY

YEAR A

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: In keeping with the Directory for Masses With Children (Paragraph 43), the authors have elected to use both readings from Year B instead of Year A because they seem best suited "to the capacity of 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 Paul's letter to the Romans.*

Brothers and sisters,

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

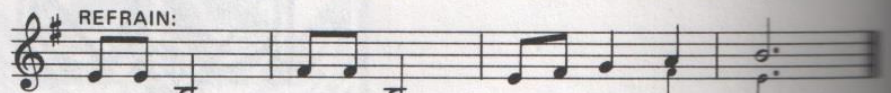
We have been adopted by God,
and when we pray, "Abba, Father,"
it is the Holy Spirit and our own spirit
telling us that we truly are God's children.
And if we are God's children,
we will have eternal life like Jesus
who is God's Son.

The Word of the Lord.

RESPONSE: *Psalm 104*



1. Chil - dren ev - 'ry - where sing your song of love:
2. Moon and stars you made, in the heav'ns to shine:
3. Mak - ing birds of air, fish - es in the sea:
4. Lit - tle though we are, yet you care for us:
5. You, our lov - ing God, bring us close to you:

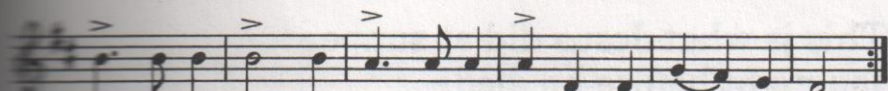


Won - der - ful, won - der - ful, won - der - ful your name!

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."

The Gospel 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 may serve only to confuse them more. We suggest that with the children we not concern ourselves with doctrinal language for Trinity, but rather with the experience of God in our lives.

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 used 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 to be close to them.