

Today which is a Sunday after Pentecost, we celebrate the central mystery of our Faith, the distinctively Christian truth that God is a Trinity of Persons. The Jewish people believe in God. The Muslims believe in God. Many ancient faiths believe in God. It is distinctive to the Christian to believe that God is One in three Persons.

Each one of us might wonder what the Trinity has to do with his life. That God is One in Three Persons is not our problem to understand or to explain; we may say that it is a task of theologians. All we need is to keep our Faith. The doctrine is both profound and very personal.

It is, first of all, profound. There is only one God. Yet, this God is three Persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. The three are distinct. The Father is not the Son, the Son is not the Father and the Holy Spirit is neither the Father nor the Son. Each of these Persons is really and truly God, but still, there is only one God.

Scripture speaks to us more personally about the Trinity and provides a link between the inner life of God and us. Scripture tells of a Father who created children in His own image and likeness. He breathed into them the very breath of life. He wanted the best for them. But they rebelled and went their own way. That is the drama of the human condition. Despite their infidelities, the Father never abandoned His children as we see in today's first reading. God is a Father Whose discipline was always meant to heal and make strong. He is a Father Who gave His children law, prophets and a promise of lasting care for them called the covenant.

Scripture tells of a Father Who so loved the world that He gave His only Son to that world that whoever believes in the Son might have eternal life. It tells of a Son, equal to the Father, Who took on human nature. He was obedient to the Father and had a love for us that climaxed in death, a Son Who left us on the eve of his death His own Self as food to strengthen us and unite us with him. The Son promised that if we follow Him, the Father will love us all the more and both will make a home with us. The Son promised to send us a Helper to enable all that to happen.

Scripture tells us of that Holy Spirit dwelling within us Who immerses us into a spiritual fellowship called the Church and endows us with strengths and gifts to follow Christ, a Spirit Who draws us into communion and communication with the Lord Jesus, a Spirit Who abides in our deepest self. This drama of creation, redemption and sanctification is not only the story of the human race described in Scripture, it is also the story of each one of us here.

We know God the Creator Who sustains our world and Who gave to each one of us the precious gift of life with a purpose. But we have disobeyed Him. We all know God the Redeemer Who gave His life that we might be freed of sin and might have the gift of eternal life. We all know God the Holy One Who guides us through conscience and helps us live as the people of God Christ called us to be. Today we celebrate the mystery of the Trinity not as an abstract dogma but as an active presence in our life. We are not celebrating this mystery by showing our theological knowledge. But, we have come to worship a God who is very close to us. We meet God in the created world outside us that we will experience in many times and many ways in our daily lives. We meet the same God in the Church and its sacramental life to bring us Christ's cleansing, saving power. We meet the same God in the depths of our soul in the Holy Spirit. The same God is present in creation, on the Cross and in our hearts.

It is a deeply liberating truth to realize that God is not far away. He is close to us in many ways as Father, Son and Holy Spirit. To be a Christian is to have the privilege and the power to know God as all three, Father, Son and Holy Spirit: God Who sustains, Who redeems, and Who makes holy. That is the wonderful truth of the Trinity for us today.