

Trinity Sunday

Do we ever find yourself in conversation with somebody who seems to ask the kind of questions that invite us to tell our story and speak about who we are? Some people seem to have that gift, don't they? We sometimes surprise ourselves by talking about things that we may not have even thought about very much before. We reveal who we are to those who know how to listen to us.

In some ways we could say that those who wrote the Sacred Scriptures were very good listeners to God. We are grateful to them for allowing God to reveal himself to us through their work.

We gather here today on this feast of the Holy Trinity to celebrate how God has told his story to us and through that has made himself known to us. We can rejoice that we know God as the Father who created us and watches over us everyday. We can give thanks that we know God as the Son who came into our world to save us in the person of Jesus. We can be caught up in wonder that we know God as the Spirit of love who lives in our hearts and makes us sons and daughters of God. What God has said to us about himself is often captured in beautiful ways in art created by those who have reflected upon who God is for them. We are seeing that even today on the power point hymn slides.

The other day I read a little reflection from Henry Nouwen about how God reveals himself to us through the communion of saints. "Whatever we know about God and God's love, whatever we know about Jesus – his life, death and resurrection – whatever we know about the Church and its ministry, is not the invention of our minds asking for an award. It is knowledge that has come to us through the ages from the people of Israel and the prophets, from Jesus and the saints, and from all who have played a role in the formation of our hearts. True spiritual knowledge belongs to the communion of saints."

I suppose that is why we read something from the Hebrew Scriptures on most weekends. God's power to save the people of Israel was made clear as he brought them out of their slavery in Egypt. God spoke to his people in a special way through his prophets. Today we heard Moses put a question to his fellow Israelites, "Did ever a people hear the voice of the living God speaking from the heart of the fire, as you heard it and remain alive? Has any God ventured to take to himself one nation from the midst of another by ordeals, signs, wonders? All this the Lord your God did for you before your eyes in Egypt."

Moses could never have imagined how much more God would reveal himself to his people. God chose not just to

Jesus came to speak with his people and act on their behalf but to dwell among them. God chose to be Immanuel, God ever with us, when the Word of God became flesh in the womb of Mary. Moses could never have imagined that God would take on our human condition and become one with us in Jesus. St. Paul speaks to us about the intimate union that God has made with us by sharing the Spirit of Jesus with us. “The spirit you received is the spirit of sons and daughters, and it makes us cry out, Abba Father. The Spirit himself and our spirit bear united witness that we are children of God.”

That union with Jesus that Paul talks about began for us when we were baptised. At the end of Matthew’s gospel, we hear what happened when Jesus gathered the eleven apostles together at Galilee. Mark tells us that when they saw him they worshiped him though some hesitated. Mark wanted us to understand that coming to faith in Jesus is not easy. All throughout our lives we will have our doubts and our faith will be tested. But the eleven recognised Jesus as their risen Lord. Now they were ready to be given the authority and power to go out and act in his name. “All authority in heaven and earth has been given to me. Go therefore, make disciples of all the nations” Here is the heart of who we are as Church. We are disciples of the Lord.

Jesus went on to command his disciples to “Baptise them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.” We can be very grateful that the work that was begun that day has continued right down to us. We have been immersed into the very life of God through our baptism. And as St. Paul says we have been given the promise of sharing this life forever. “If we are children we are heirs as well; heirs of God and coheirs with Christ, sharing his sufferings so as to share his glory.”

This weekend the families of those children who are preparing for their Confirmation and First Holy Communion are gathering at Strathalbyn to take the last steps in their preparation for these sacraments. The first steps of preparation were taken when they brought their children to the waters of Baptism. They know that Baptism was a moment of grace that invited Jesus to begin to reveal the face of God to their children. Jesus has been using the parents of these children to make God known to them. It is within their families that these children have best experienced the God of love that Jesus came into our world to reveal. Today this Jesus says to these children and to all of us, “I am Emmanuel. I am the God who has come to be always with you. I am the one who draws you into the communion of love that is the Holy Trinity. Allow me to love you with the same Spirit of Love that My Father has for me and I have for my Father.”