

Year B Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity
June 7, 2009
Dt 4:32-34, 39-40; Ps 33; Rom 8:14-17; Mt 28:16-20

It is a truism that the Triune being of God is a mystery beyond human comprehension. It is, however, a given of faith, something revealed to us. The reading from Matthew's Gospel today is a good and early example of that. The risen Jesus commands his disciples to baptize in the name of the Divine Trinity. As the Fathers saw, this means that salvation and eternal life come from all three Persons, and all are thus equal.

From the beginning of the Bible there is mention of God's Spirit (Hebrew *ruah*) hovering over the primeval waters in order to create order from chaos, Gn 1:2. Then God speaks and creates everything; the Book of Wisdom 9:1 will say that God created everything by his Word. This is what the prologue of the Gospel of John will repeat, but adding that this Word became flesh and dwelt among us, Jn 1:1-5, 14 (note the reminiscences to Gn 1, "in the beginning," light, darkness). This divine Word is the Son of God, the one who, coming from the invisible Father's "bosom," reveals Him to us, Jn 1:18.

Israel awaited the Messiah, who was said to be God's son: 2 Sm 7:14; Ps 89:27-28. Jesus was revealed to be God's only-begotten Son in a way no one imagined: in his baptism, when the heavens were split and God's Spirit came down into Jesus, and the Father's voice was heard proclaiming Jesus as his beloved Son, Mk 1:10-11 (some versions of his baptism quote Ps 2:7, "You are my son, today I have begotten you"). This voice will again be heard in the Transfiguration, Mk 9:7. It is Christian belief based on the Apostolic witness that God revealed himself progressively to his people through the prophets, but sent his own only-begotten Son, his perfect image, in the End: Mk 12:1-11; Heb 1:1-4; cf. Col 1:15-20. Whoever sees Jesus sees the Father, for Jesus Christ and the Father are one, Jn 10:30; 14:9.

The mystery of the Trinity is also that of God sending his Son to die for us, Rom 8:3; Jn 10:17-18. When Jesus dies, God's Spirit can be released and given to us, Jn 16:7; 19:30, 20:21-23. It is this Spirit which allows us to know and be children of God, 1 Cor 2:11, and which will raise us up like Jesus, Rom 8:11.