



ALL SAINTS' CHURCH

THIS SUNDAY June 16 & BEYOND”

“Who are You ...? Really?”



This 13th-century fresco in a church in Perugia, Italy, depicts the Trinity as a being with three faces representing Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Let's get right to it, shall we?

Understanding the doctrine of the Trinity is not easy at all. Its not that God went about developing a doctrine for the purpose of causing so much head scratching. And certainly, the God of All Heaven, the Great Creator of all things, the Almighty and All-Holy One, who is faithful in revealing Himself so that we might know Him, is not in the business of concealing. Sometimes He has, yes, as in not e, the incarnation of the Word of God until it was the tity is not meant to not be found. “I have come so So, that's not it.

It's more like this: the Trinity, or the Holy Trinity, refers to who God is. We say “is” because Trinity refers to the very “being” of God. And once we are talking about the being of God, we suddenly realize it is not a simple task. For one thing, the Bible has so many, many ways to talk about God – His identity, His being, His purpose, His Life, His power, His LOVE, His quiet, His Loudness, and His Holiness – His Otherness. Just reading the scriptures alone it is a monumental task to describe who God IS and help others understand. Biblical scholars and theologians come in real handy at this point.

For one thing, from this biblical perspective, we hear the Name of God being spoken in terms of “who He is”, and that is YHWH, pronounced usually, as Yahweh (the 17th century King James Version printed it out as Jehovah). The bible relays God's meaning of this as “I am who I am”, or “I will be who I will be.” And then in the New Covenant with the Son of God, The Word, having been revealed, and known as Emmanuel (God-with-us), and even Jesus' Name (Y'shua; Joshua: one who saves). And we've only scratched the surface, so to speak.

Names we can kind of begin to get. After all, you have a name. And a last name can get us looking at where we have come from genetically.

But when we add in this concept of each of the three persons of the Trinity, who each are called by Name, then it gets a little more difficult. And then trying to conceive of how these three persons, each with names, is only One God.....well, maybe we just call it a “mystery” and call it a day.

I’ve come to think that one of the reasons it may be so difficult to really understand what it means for God to be Trinity, is because we have such a hard time simply trying to figure out who WE are. On this Sunday, try your hardest to listen and comprehend the language being used to describe God as Trinity. It is not easy, and never has been since the early Church began to realize this identity of God. But let’s go at it in a different direction. Your hard work in this, along with your worship of the Tri-une God may actually assist you in understanding more of your own “being.” And why would that be? Because we are made in the image of God.

You and I may have been named for a whole host of reasons. If we were to talk about YOUR “being” – who you “is”, if you will -- we won’t be able to simply describe you as “a baseball player”, or “a mother”, or “a father”, or “a priest”, or “straight”, or anything else as if that were the core of who you are, your “being.” Yes, sometimes those things are so very strong in you that you might FEEL it is your very being. But they are simply things “about” you. As much influence as a name can have on an individual and their future, it is still not a person’s Being (God’s describing himself by his name is different).

But we are created in the image of God, and we can see in ourselves something of this being of God called Trinity. You and I have a body, we have a spirit, and we have a soul. If we were to lose one of those, we would no longer be alive. We can talk about each, but they cannot be separated from who we are. One of the disciples’ first inklings of what this meant in terms of God is when Jesus said, “I and the Father are One. If you have seen me, you have seen the Father.” As well, the Holy Spirit is often described as the Spirit of Jesus, and the Spirit of God. You can see them, even “touch” them, but you cannot separate God out of His very being. And the same way with us, whereby you cannot simply say that my human trinity is simply facets, “faces”, of something deeper. No, more than facets. Distinct parts. And now you know why it is so difficult to describe the identity of God in terms of Trinity.

It is very important to try, though. It will help us understand more of who God “is”, and thus it will help us understand more about who we “is.” And as the bible points out, our understanding will always begin and end as we come and worship Him.

Would you like to know more about God and who He is, in His Being? To start, then, Come and Worship. Bring your thanksgivings. Hear God’s holy Word. Pay attention to the lyrics of the hymns. By getting to know who God is more and more, you will find a new path being made open to you for you to discover your own self.

Father Robert Eaton, Interim Rector

Readings for this Sunday – Trinity Sunday

Isaiah 6:1-8 Canticle 2 Revelation 4:1-11, John 16:12-15

CALENDAR

SUNDAY: Trinity Sunday

8:30a Low Mass (Church)
10:30a Solemn High Mass (Church)

—*The entrance to the church is on 6th Avenue*—

Note: Coffee Hour & Fellowship follow the Mass in the Parish Hall.

TUESDAY: Noon Mass (St. Mary’s Chapel)

FRIDAY AA Meetings
8:00p Ladies’ Group (Fireside Room)
8:15p Men’s Group (Parish Hall)

SUNDAY The Feast of Corpus Christi
8:00am Low Mass
10:30am Solemn High Mass

An Anglo-Catholic Parish in the Episcopal Diocese of San Diego
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