

Gospel Lesson for the Week

May 18, 2008

Trinity Sunday/First Sunday after Pentecost

Please read

[Matthew 28:16-20](#)

[2 Corinthians 13:11-13](#)

Read also

[Genesis 1:1-2:4a](#)

[Psalm 8 \(UMH 743\)](#)

Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them.

When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted.

And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.

Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you.

"And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

--- Matthew 28:16-20

Finally, brothers and sisters, farewell.

Put things in order, listen to my appeal, agree with one another, live in peace; and the God of love and peace will be with you.

Greet one another with a holy kiss.

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

--- 2 Corinthians 13:11-13

Famous Last Words

Pondering life's meaning,

its purpose, its brevity,

and related themes,

I considered the last words of famous men,

and turned by chance to these two:

Last words from the risen Christ,

and a farewell note

to friends in a Greek city
from the Apostle.

What's curious and compelling here
is how both chose quite similar phrases,
to address dissimilar audiences
in totally different contexts.
one with a word of comfort,
the other a word of challenge,
a commissioning.

“Father, Son, Spirit”
seemingly separate entities
eternally formed and fused
into an idea,
Trinity,
to help us understand
the nature of Deity.

Why is it then,
that we let ourselves
be twisted and turned
and frustrated by the thought?
The Trinity is no exotic game,
no Rubik's Cube
to be turned this way and that
to solve a puzzle.
It is itself the solution:
God's gift of a glimpse
into the nature of the universe,
and with it, the nature of God.

No unitary theory
does justice to the Mystery.
But when we speak of Father, Son and Spirit
-- or better yet, sing it --
we begin to get a glimpse of God,
as we view the eternal
with a kaleidoscopic sweep:
Three Persons,
each separate yet altogether One.

And what if it doesn't make sense
to finite minds?
It doesn't need to.
All that we really need to know
is that the Love of God,
and the Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ
and the ever-hovering Presence of the Spirit
is with us,
enabling us, empowering us
to show God's love
and make disciples in God's name.

--- rvc

