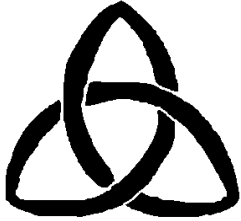


LIVING WITH CHRIST THIS WEEK

Sunday, May 2:	Fifth Sunday of Easter (C) - white
Monday 3:	St. Philip and St. James, apostles - red
Tuesday 4:	Ferial - white
Wednesday 5:	Ferial - white
Thursday 6:	Ferial - white
Friday 7:	Ferial - white
Saturday 8 :	Ferial - white
Sunday 9:	Sixth Sunday of Easter (C) - white



The Experience and Mystery of the Blessed Trinity

1. Quotations from the Old Testament

For many Christians, the word Trinity evokes abstract and distant concepts, theological debates *disconnected* from the real world. And yet, the early Christians were ready to die while proclaiming their faith *in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit*. Despite all challenges, the Church has upheld the affirmation of a single God in three persons and this is a fundamental tenet of our faith. Without the Trinity, our Christian faith crumbles; it loses its centre and base. If Christians were to ignore the Trinity, it would mean ignoring their faith and living with a kind of vague deism.

THE INSTITUTIONS OF THE OLD TESTAMENT

The Old Testament affirms and repeats: there is only one God: *Hear, O Israel: The Lord is our God, the Lord alone* (Deut 6:4). God, who is indivisible, chose nevertheless to intervene in the world through what we may call *emanations* of his being. God created the world through *Wisdom: then I was beside him like a master worker* (Pr 8:30). He lived close to his people, in the Temple in *Glory*. He guided his people throughout their lives with the *Torah*. But God's two *agents*, those closest to his being are his *Word* and *Breath* – or using the Greek translation, his *Spirit*. These are the two most important elements of a human life. Nothing is closer or more vital to us than our word and our breath. Thus the Breath (*Spirit*) of God presided over the creation of the world and human beings (Gen 1:2,2:7). The *Spirit* lives and animates the perfect servant whom God created to save the nations (Is 42:1-7). The *Spirit* has the power to renew the earth (Ps 104:30).

The all-powerful *Word of God* resonated, created human beings from nothingness, and placed them on earth (Gen 1:3-28). The Word is a blessing for Abraham and his descendants, his assurance of God's friendship. In the writings of the prophets, the *Spirit* vigorously denounced all attacks on the dignity of man and God's holiness. The *Spirit* promises a world that will be cured of violence and evil. The Spirit affirms God's faithfulness despite our human infidelities and unceasingly continues the dialogue that has often been broken by our indifference.

Grounded in the faith of the Old Testament, St. John began his Gospel with this proclamation: *In the beginning was the Word. And the Word was God... What has come into being with him was life and the life was the light of all people. And the Word became flesh and lived among us* (Jn 1:1-14). St. Paul did not hesitate to give Christ the titles of *Wisdom of God* (1 Co 1:24) and *Lord of Glory* (1 Cor 2:8).

In the Old Testament we discover a profile of the indivisible God of relationships.

Georges Madore, s.m.m.

Translated by Honore Kerwin Borrelli