

LECTIONARY REFLECTIONS FOR TRINITY SUNDAY, YEAR A

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Genesis 1:1-2:4a

Psalm 8 or Canticle 13

2 Corinthians 13:11-13

Matthew 28:16-20

Genesis 1:1-2:4a

This is the long, beautiful story of God's loving creation of the world...a world which started in darkness. During **day 1** God created light and called it good. Notice that darkness is not called good. In **day 2** God creates a dome which he calls SKY to separate waters that are under the dome and waters that are above it. Notice the ancient Jewish belief system that there were waters in two separate places – above the heavens and below on earth. In **day 3**, God gathers the waters in such a way that dry land appears. He calls this separation EARTH and SEAS and says they are good. **Day 4** brings about God's creation of lights and the ordering of seasons, all governed by the SUN, the MOON and the STARS...all of which are good. Living creatures come into the picture on **Day 5** in order to populate the Earth, the Sky and the Seas. Finally in **Day 6**, there is the creation of humankind to whom God gives the gift of having dominion over every other living thing. Humans are also deemed good. On **Day 7**, God rests for the purposes of delighting in the Creation He has created. **Why do we read this lesson on Trinity Sunday?** In our theology, we understand that the Trinity **was** from the very beginning. The Holy Spirit brooded over the waters and swept like a wind over the Earth. Christ was present in relationship with God and the Spirit when Creation was birthed. The Earth and all its living creatures over which we have been given dominion are gifts of the Trinity. The Trinity **was** when we were created.

How do you feel when you understand that Jesus and the Holy Spirit were present with God from the very beginning – when they witnessed the creation of the whole world and heard everything counted as good? Does that deepen your relationship with the Trinity?

Psalm 8 or Canticle 13:

Both of these responses are songs of praise. While they address the Father, they sing about the majesty and grandeur that is fitting for the Trinity. The Psalm also takes the humble approach of noting how small humankind can seem in the face of such wonder and majesty.

2 Corinthians 13:11-13:

These two short verses contain one of the few actual mentions of the Trinity in Paul's formulaic blessing, "The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the Communion of the Holy Spirit be with all of you." Then there is the exhortation to be at peace with one another. I am reminded of Sarah Smith of Golders Green in C.S. Lewis' *The Great Divorce* who used to talk of making her "home in the Happy Trinity." When we are at peace with one another, we are indeed at home. Hopeful words for our chaotic world of today.

What would it take for you to feel that you are at home in “The Happy Trinity?” What do you think it would take for our nation, our world, to be at rest in that kind of peace? One of the mysteries of the Trinity is the relationship between the Father, the Son and the Spirit. Maybe our focus should be relationship.

Matthew 28:16-20

We know these verses as “The Great Commission,” and we know them so well that we are tempted to read through them quickly and miss some useful nuggets of information. I am particularly struck by the mention that as the eleven disciples gathered to worship Jesus on the mountain, “***some doubted.***” I know that I like to think of the disciples as polished acts...those who were confident of their faith in Jesus. ***But some doubted!*** As I read commentary on this Scripture, I learn that the only other time this Greek word for doubt is paired with worship is in the story from Matthew of Peter walking on the water. As long as he kept his focus (worship) on Christ, he was able to walk. When his focus strayed from Christ (doubt), he began to sink. So there is room for doubt even in worship! We aren’t failures as Christians if we experience doubt from time to time. For those who have been given to commission to GO into the world, to MAKE DISCIPLES, to BAPTIZE them, and to TEACH them to obey God, it is helpful to know that we are empowered only so long as we keep our focus on the Lord. There is one final commandment that Jesus gives us in this commission, and that commandment is to REMEMBER. We are to remember that Christ is with us always, even to the end of the age. So a world that is in the midst of a pandemic, and a country that is rocked by civil unrest, we can take comfort knowing that Christ has not forsaken us, that He stands with us, and that He is here...always.

Reflect on some times when your faith has gone through periods of doubt? Re-imagine those times with Christ present in them. How can you help yourself remember that Christ never forsakes you?