

Ordinary Time: Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity

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Preparation

Background for Scripture Readings

First Reading

- In the first reading from Proverbs, Wisdom plays before God upon the earth that she helped bring into being.
- Lady Wisdom was begotten and brought forth by God and she was present as God's designer in the work of creation.
- The words delight and playing in today's passage, express the Creator's joy.

Second Reading

- The reading from the Letter to the Romans developed the idea of Christ as our mediator with God.
- Christ has reconciled us to God, not because of any effort on our part, but because of the immense love of God.
- We are strong because the Spirit of God lives in us.

Gospel

- The reading from the Gospel of John is part of Jesus' discourse to the disciples the night before his death.
- Jesus promised to send the Spirit to the disciples to comfort and strengthen them after he had gone to the Father.
- Just as Jesus was the revealer of God, so the Spirit revealed God to the disciples.

Breaking Open the Word

Leader Instruction

Catechist Reflection Guide for the Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity

First Reading: Proverbs 8:22-31—Wisdom was made before the Earth.

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 8:4-5, 6-7, 8-9—How wonderful is God's name.

Second Reading: Romans 5:1-5—To God through Christ and the love of the Holy Spirit.

Gospel: John 16:12-15—The Holy Spirit speaks what he hears from Jesus and the Father.

Invitation to prayer (30 seconds)

Ask the children to quiet themselves and sit comfortably. Begin the session with the Sign of the Cross. Have them take three deep breaths while you prompt them to relax as they breathe in God, our Father who loves us, Jesus Christ, his Son, our brother, and God's Holy Spirit who lovingly guides us.

Listening for a word or phrase to speak to your heart (3-4 minutes)

Ages 5-6 and Ages 7-8: Read aloud the word "**The Trinity**" Read John 16:12-15 from a children's Bible or tell it in your own words.

Ages 9-11 and Ages 12-14: Read aloud John 16:12-15. Ask young people to listen for a word or phrase that seems to be God's word for them today. Spend about 30 seconds as they pick out their word or phrase. Ask them to silently repeat that word or phrase and to write it on their heart.

Loving God through his Word (3-5 minutes)

Ages 5-6: Have children trace around the Trinity symbol and explain that God the Father, Jesus, God's Son and the Holy Spirit are joined together as one by love. They are like a family of love. Ask children to name the people who are part of their family of love. Read aloud the directions for the activity and have them complete their drawings. Close with the prayer.

Ages 7-8: Have children trace around the Trinity symbol and explain that God the Father, Jesus, God's Son and the Holy Spirit are joined together as one by love. Read aloud the text. Explain that the Trinity is a model for how we are to love each other. Have them complete the activity. Close with the prayer.

Ages 9-11: Ask young people to share their word or phrase. In the large group discuss the different roles of the Trinity as they are presented in today's Gospel. Direct young people to complete the activity and then share their responses with the group. Close with the prayer.

Ages 12-14: Ask young people to share their word or phrase. Have young people take a few minutes to read and reflect on the questions. Ask volunteers to share their responses in the large group. Close with the prayer.

Living the Gospel words through the week (3-5 minutes)

The handouts describe one or two ways children and young people can live this reflection on the Gospel through the week at home, school, or play. If appropriate, have them add one or two more personal choices to act on this week.