

# The Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity, Year A

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**1<sup>st</sup> Reading** Exodus 34:4b-6,8-9

**Responsorial Psalm** Daniel 3:52,53,54,55,56

**2<sup>nd</sup> Reading** 1 Corinthians 13:11-13

**Gospel** John 3:16-18

“In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.”  
The Sign of the Cross. It is such a ubiquitous part of our prayer that we can overlook it, take it for granted. We might use it at the beginning of our prayers, treating it as if it was God’s cell phone number, dialing our way to heaven to start our prayers; a way of saying “Hey! I’ve got something to talk to you about. Pay attention to me.” We might use it at the end of our prayers, a way of signing off like Edward Murrow’s “Good night and good luck,” or Walter Cronkite’s “And that’s the way it is.” The Sign of the Cross, however, is so much more than that. It is a profession of faith in miniature. A reaffirmation of the fundamental mystery of our faith: the Holy Trinity.

“In the name...” “Name,” singular. There is only one God, who revealed himself in the burning bush to Moses. Who when asked to identify himself gave his name as “Yahweh.” A name which can only be translated as “I AM,” but which means more than that. I AM continuous, ongoing, eternal, without beginning or end. I AM being, not just another being, but the foundation of being itself. All things which exist, exist because of me. I created them; I sustain them. They participate in that which I AM to the extent that I created them to be capable of. It is this name which we invoke, this one true God to whom we call.

“...of the Father...” The Unbegotten One. The God Most High. The Creator. The God of our fathers, of Abraham, Issac, and Jacob. The revealer of the Law on Sinai. The merciful and gracious God who is slow to anger and rich in kindness. The one who is always faithful, whose love has no end, no conditions, which cannot be earned but is bestowed freely on those who accept it. The All-powerful, transcendent beyond our comprehension, and yet the Father, Abba, who cares for each and every one of us, who has numbered the hairs on our head, so much does He concern Himself with each and every one of us. Who so loved the world, that He sent His Son.

“...and of the Son...” Jesus; God who saves. Christ; the anointed one. Come, sent to redeem us from our sins, from the ways in which we have turned against God, turned away from God. The one who is fully divine, a co-equal person with

the Father in the unity of the Godhead, and who humbled himself to share in our humanity. Who for love of us surrendered the power of his Godhead to take on our frail flesh, to be born of a Virgin, to be a poor man amongst the poor. To teach, to manifest himself as God's Word to us, to reveal himself as God's Wisdom. To suffer and die for our salvation so that he might raise us up with himself as he rose from the dead and ascended into heaven.

"...and of the Holy Spirit." The Breath of God that hovered over the waters. The breath that entered our nostrils that we might live and move and have our being. The fire rained down from heaven to purify and rouse us. Who transmits to us the Father and the Son. The One who inspires the teacher and the prophet. The One who moves the doer of good works to action. The One who sanctifies the holy ones.

"Amen." I believe. I affirm this to be true. I stake my life on the reality of what has been expressed. No truer thing has ever been spoken; never will be spoken. I will live my life according to this truth. God, the guarantor and source of truth Himself, is present in this statement.

"In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen." Just 16 words in our English language, yet so packed full of meaning. It is no wonder that we use them so often. It is fully right and just that they should permeate our prayer life. They are the root of our faith, the fountain from which all else that we believe flows. They are the conclusion of our faith, the truth towards which all the revelations of God have pointed. Let us never take them for granted; let us never utter them in vain. In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.