

**The Mystery of the Trinity
(Solemnity, Year B)**

Deuteronomy 4:32-34, 39-40—The LORD is God of Heaven and Earth

1. God who Speaks: “a god speaking out of the midst of the fire” (cf. Exod 3:1-15)
2. God who Acts: a “god” who performs “signs” and “wonders” (cf. Exod 1-12)
3. One God (Monotheism): “there is no other” God (4:39)

Psalm 33—Blessed is the People the Lord has Chosen

1. The LORD: “He Who Is” (Hebrew *YHWH*) (v. 5)
2. The Word: “by the word (Hebrew *dabar*) of the LORD the heavens were made” (v. 6)
3. The Breath: “all their host by the breath/spirit (Hebrew *ruach*) of his mouth” (v. 6)

Romans 8:14-17—The Spirit, Abba, and the Son

1. God = for Paul, “God” (*theos*) is always “God [the Father]” (8:14)
2. Spirit = “the Spirit (*pneuma*) of God” (8:14)
3. Son = “fellow heirs with Christ” [the Son] (8:17)

Matthew 28:16-20—The Great Commission and the Holy Trinity

1. Galilee: “worshiped” (*proskyneō*) him, but “some doubted” (28:17)
2. Risen Christ: “all authority (*exousia*) on heaven and on earth... given to me” (28:18)
3. Trinitarian Baptism: “the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit”
4. God With Us: Jesus fulfills prophecy of Emmanuel (cf. Matt 1:23)

The Catechism on the Mystery of the Trinity

The mystery of the Most Holy Trinity is the central mystery of Christian faith and life. It is the mystery of God in himself. It is therefore the source of all the other mysteries of faith, the light that enlightens them. It is the most fundamental and essential teaching in the “hierarchy of the truths of faith.” The whole history of salvation is identical with the history of the way and the means by which the one true God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, reveals himself to men “and reconciles and unites with himself those who turn away from sin.” (CCC 234)

Living Tradition: in the “Name”—not “Names”—of the Father, Son, and Spirit

Christians are baptized in the *name* of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit: not in their *names*, for there is only one God, the almighty Father, his only Son, and the Holy Spirit: the Most Holy Trinity. (CCC 233)

Living Tradition: Trinitarian Baptism

Now concerning baptism, baptize as follows... *baptize in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit in running water.* But if you have no running water, then baptize in some other water; and if you are not able to baptize in cold water, then do so in

warm. But if you have neither, then pour water on the head three times in the name of the Father and Son and Holy Spirit. (*Didache* 7:1-3; trans. M. Holmes, p. 355)

Questions for Discussion and Reflection (Most Holy Trinity, Year B)

1. What “shadows” of the Trinity are present in Psalm 33? Why is this Psalm chosen for the Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity?

2. How is the mystery of the Trinity implicit in Jesus’ Great Commission (Matt 28:16-20)?

3. Why does the *Catechism* call the “mystery of the Trinity” the “central mystery of the Christian faith” (CCC 234)?

For Further Study

1. John Paul II, *The Trinity’s Embrace: God’s Saving Plan* (Boston: Pauline Books, 2002). A beautiful collection of profound general audiences on the mystery of the Trinity.
2. Joseph Ratzinger [Benedict XVI], *The God of Jesus Christ: Meditations on the Triune God* (San Francisco: Ignatius, 2008). A beautiful collection of writings about the Trinity from Father Joseph Ratzinger in the 1970s, who later became Pope Benedict XVI.