

The Holy Gospel according to John chapter 3 beginning at verse 1. Praise and Glory to God.

Jesus Teaches Nicodemus

1 There was a Pharisee named Nicodemus. He was one of the Jewish rulers. 2 He came to Jesus at night and said, "Rabbi, we know you are a teacher who has come from God. We know that God is with you. If he weren't, you couldn't do the miraculous signs you are doing."

3 Jesus replied, "What I'm about to tell you is true. No one can see God's kingdom without being born again."

4 "How can I be born when I am old?" Nicodemus asked. "I can't go back inside my mother! I can't be born a second time!"

5 Jesus answered, "What I'm about to tell you is true. No one can enter God's kingdom without being born through water and the Holy Spirit. 6 People give birth to people. But the Spirit gives birth to spirit. 7 You should not be surprised when I say, 'You must all be born again.'

8 "The wind blows where it wants to. You hear the sound it makes. But you can't tell where it comes from or where it is going. It is the same with everyone who is born through the Spirit."

9 "How can this be?" Nicodemus asked.

10 "You are Israel's teacher," said Jesus. "Don't you understand these things?"

11 "What I'm about to tell you is true. We speak about what we know. We give witness to what we have seen. But still you people do not accept our witness. 12 I have spoken to you about earthly things, and you do not believe. So how will you believe if I speak about heavenly things?"

13 "No one has ever gone into heaven except the One who came from heaven. He is the Son of Man. 14 Moses lifted up the snake in the desert. The Son of Man must be lifted up also. 15 Then everyone who believes in him can live with God forever.

16 "God loved the world so much that he gave his one and only Son. Anyone who believes in him will not die but will have eternal life.

17 "God did not send his Son into the world to judge the world. He sent his Son to save the world through him."

This is the Gospel of Christ. Praise to Christ, the Word.



TRINITY
The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ,
the love of God,
and the communion of the
Holy Spirit be with you all.
2 Corinthians 13:13

CHURCH OF TE HEPARA PAI

Sunday 31 May 2015



Te Rātapu o Te Tokotoru / Trinity Sunday

THE HOLY TRINITY



FATHER
SON
HOLY SPIRIT

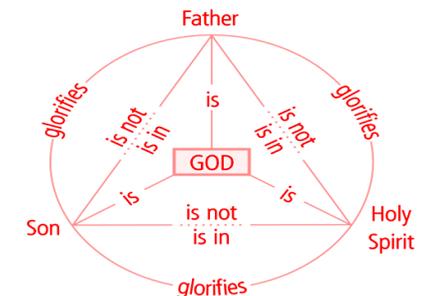
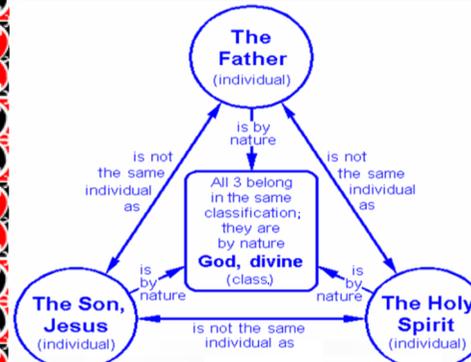
THE HOLY TRINITY

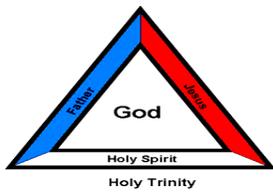
SENTENCE OF THE DAY:

"Holy, holy, holy is the LORD who rules over all. The whole earth is full of his glory." (Isaiah 6:3)

COLLECT OF THE DAY - Let us pray:

Holy God, the earth is full of the glory of your love. May we your children, born of the Spirit, so bear witness to your Son Jesus Christ, crucified and risen, that all the world may believe and have eternal life through the One who saves, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, now and for ever. Amen.





THE HOLY TRINITY

Across the country today Anglican churches are celebrating **Trinity Sunday** as a festival in the Church calendar. Christians celebrate Trinity Sunday to remember the biblical doctrine of the Trinity, which holds God to be *triune*, that is, having the

quality of three-in-oneness. Our God is a Trinity. 'Trinity' means 'three in one.' This means there are three persons in one God, not three gods. The persons are known as the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit and they have all always existed as three separate persons. The person of the Father is not the same person as the Son. The person of the Son is not the same person as the Holy Spirit. The person of the Holy Spirit is not the same person as the Father. Each of the three persons is equal in timeless existence, power and glory, with each having all the godlike characteristics and yet having characteristics which show a difference between them within the oneness of the three-in-oneness of God. (Refer to the two diagrams at bottom of front page). And each of the three persons has a clear and different role.

The scripture passages for today give biblical support to the doctrine of the Holy Trinity. In the Old Testament passage for today from Isaiah 6, Isaiah has a vision where he sees something of the Lord's magnificent appearance and hears it being said of the Lord that he is " *Holy, holy, holy* " and " *rules over all*" (Isa. 6:3). '*Holy*' three times emphasises God's absolutely pure nature—he is absolutely upright, correct, and true—and he is in control of everything. So God is holy, deserving of reverence and respect.

Then when God asked for a volunteer to serve him, notice the combination of singular and plural in the same sentence, "*Who will I send? Who will go for us?*" (Isa. 6:8). The pronoun "*us*" in this verse is a plural form which in the original Hebrew language refers to more than two. So this verse is telling us that on the one hand God is one and on the other hand he is more than two.

So who are the more than two persons that, together, are the one real God? If we look at how God saves us in the gospel passage for today from John 3, we see that our salvation is based on the Father's love so that he gave his Son to suffer the punishment on our behalf that our sins deserve and then to rise from the dead so that anyone who puts trust in the Son by accepting him as Lord of his life (Jn. 3:16) will be entered by or born of the Holy Spirit (Jn. 3:5). And having entered us, by the Holy Spirit's power we call God "*Father*" (Rom. 12:15). In other words, we become a child of God. The different tasks that we see the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit carry out are the result of the eternal relationship that exists among the persons of the Trinity.

So we see that there are three persons that, together, are the one real God. They are God the Father, God the Son (Jesus) and God the Holy Spirit. And they are a Holy Trinity. This may also explain why the word '*holy*' appears three times in Isaiah 6:3.

In the name of God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit - amen.

The Old Testament Reading: Isaiah 6:1-8



A reading from Isaiah chapter 6 beginning at verse 1.

The Lord Appoints Isaiah to Speak for Him

¹ In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord. He was seated on his throne. His long robe filled the temple. He was highly honoured.

² Above him were seraphs. Each of them had six wings. With two wings they covered their faces. With two wings they covered their feet. And with two wings they were flying. ³ They were calling out to one another. They were saying, "*Holy, holy, holy is the Lord who rules over all. The whole earth is full of his glory.*"

⁴ The sound of their voices caused the stone doorframe to shake. The temple was filled with smoke.

⁵ "How terrible it is for me!" I cried out. "I'm about to be destroyed! My mouth speaks sinful words. And I live among people who speak sinful words. Now I have seen the King with my own eyes. He is the Lord who rules over all."

⁶ A seraph flew over to me. He was holding a hot coal. He had used tongs to take it from the altar. He touched my mouth with the coal. He said, "This has touched your lips. Your guilt has been taken away. Your sin has been paid for."

⁸ Then I heard the voice of the Lord. He said, "Who will I send? Who will go for us?"

I said, "Here I am. Send me!"

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church. Thanks be to God.

The Epistle Reading: Romans 8:12-17



A reading from Romans chapter 8 beginning at verse 12.

¹² Brothers and sisters, we have a duty. Our duty is not to live under the control of our sinful nature. ¹³ If you live under the control of your sinful nature, you will die. But by the power of the Holy Spirit you can put to death the sins your body commits. Then you will live.

¹⁴ Those who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. ¹⁵ You didn't receive a spirit that makes you a slave to fear once again. *Instead you received the Holy Spirit, who makes you God's child. By the Spirit's power we call God "Abba." Abba means Father.* ¹⁶ The Spirit himself joins with our spirits. Together they give witness that we are God's children.

¹⁷ As his children, we will receive all that he has for us. We will share what Christ receives. But we must share in his sufferings if we want to share in his glory.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church. Thanks be to God.

URGENT PRAYER NEEDED

PLEASE SPEND SOME TIME EACH DAY PRAYING FOR THE BISHOP: THAT HE WILL RECOVER HIS HEALTH; AND GROW IN HUMILITY AND WISDOM THROUGH HIS CIRCUMSTANCES.