

# BRINGING HOME THE GOSPEL

June 4, 2023 • Trinity Sunday • John 3:16-18

## Grace, Love and Communion

*Jesus speaks to the Pharisee, Nicodemus, telling him about the light and darkness in the world and the need to be reborn in the light. John's Gospel was written many, many years after the other Gospels. It is the most theological of all the Gospels and is a record of Jesus' life as seen through the eyes of a believing community.*

**T**his Sunday we celebrate the Trinity—three “persons” in one God. Even the best analogies (three-leaf clover, three notes in a piano chord) fall short of explaining this great mystery.

However, while it is impossible to explain the one God, we find it easier to describe the three persons. We refer to those “persons” as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, or put another way, creator, redeemer, and sanctifier. Paul's final blessing to the Corinthians gives us another way of describing the distinct gifts of the three persons.

“The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with all of you” (2 Corinthians 13:13). In this simple closing, Paul tells us much about the Trinity and our relationship to the Trinity using those three words: grace, love, and communion (sometimes also translated “fellowship”).

Jesus Christ is associated with grace. Grace is our life in God. We live in God through Jesus who is in us and with us. God, the Father, is love. The creator, the source of all life is dynamic love, overflowing through all creation. And the Holy Spirit is “in the communion with.” The Holy Spirit is the strength, power, and gift of our unity in Christ.

The catechism tells us that Christians are radically trinitarian. Our whole doctrinal system is based

on this belief. The fact that we will never fully understand this great mystery should not deter us from pondering and praying about it. Consider the doxology we say in every Eucharistic Prayer, “Through Him [Christ], and with Him, and in Him, all honor and glory is given to You, God the Father, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, forever and ever. Amen.”

### FAMILY RESPONSE

Celebrate the Trinity by making copies of the doxology. As a family, talk about what the words mean. Consider saying this great prayer together before meals throughout the week.

### PERSONAL RESPONSE

Is there a particular person (Father, Son, or Spirit) you are more comfortable with? What do you want to remember from last week? What are you looking forward to next week? What are your concerns?