

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

*God sent his Son to save the world through him.*

Jesus said to Nicodemus,

‘God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not be lost

but may have eternal life.

For God sent his Son into the world not to condemn the world,

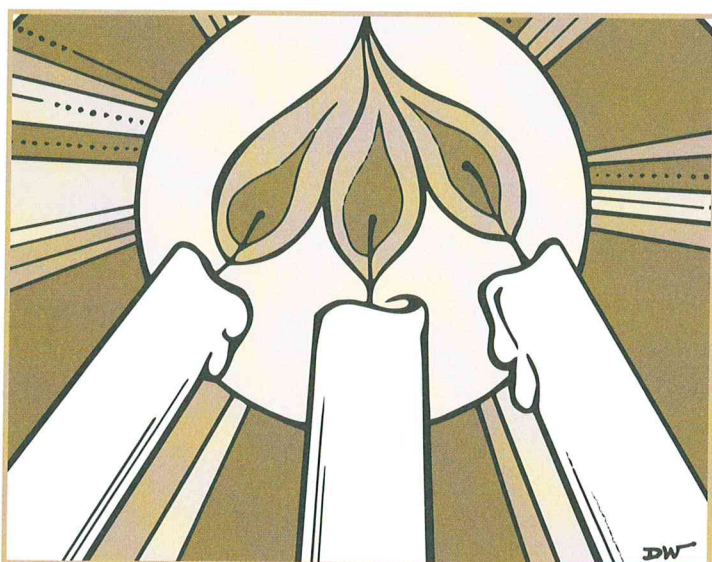
but so that through him the world might be saved.

No one who believes in him will be condemned;

but whoever refuses to believe is condemned already,

because he has refused to believe in the name of God’s only Son.’

#### ■ The Gospel of the Lord.



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# Reflections on the Gospel



# THE SAVING WORD

THE MOST HOLY TRINITY / A

07 JUNE 2020

## GOD OF LOVE

The feast of the Holy Trinity brings the whole long sweep of Lent and Eastertide to an end. It invites us to sit back, as it were, and reflect upon the God who has been revealed in the full scope of the paschal mystery.

As sometimes presented, the doctrine of the Trinity can appear to be nothing but an arid theological puzzle. For the early Christians it was nothing of the kind. They held firmly to the Jewish belief that there was only one God. Yet as they reflected upon what they had experienced in all the events surrounding the person of Jesus Christ and the subsequent gift of the Spirit, they could only conclude that they had been addressed and drawn into a divine communion of love.

Today’s feast, then, celebrates the nearness, rather than the remoteness, of God.

Each of the readings explores this in some way. But the Gospel, drawn from the concluding section of Jesus’ conversation with Nicodemus, most clearly brings out the continuity between the act of Christ in the paschal mystery and redemptive love of the Father.

The Father sent the Son, not to ‘judge’ (= condemn) the world, but to rescue it from its captivity to sin and death, and draw human beings into the communion of life and love that is the Godhead.

Judgement is not so much a future prospect as something that human beings determine for themselves by the way they respond to the revelation of God that comes to us through the life of Jesus and the grace of the Holy Spirit.

**Brendan Byrne, SJ**

## FIRST READING

Ex 34:4-6, 8-9

A reading from the book of Exodus

*The Lord God, ruler of all, merciful and loving.*

With the two tablets of stone in his hands, Moses went up the mountain of Sinai in the early morning as the Lord had commanded him. And the Lord descended in the form of a cloud, and Moses stood with him there.

He called on the name of the Lord. The Lord passed before him and proclaimed, ‘Lord, Lord, a God of tenderness and compassion, slow to anger, rich in kindness and faithfulness.’ And Moses bowed down to the ground at once and worshipped. ‘If I have indeed won your favour, Lord,’ he said ‘let my Lord come with us, I beg. True, they are a headstrong people, but forgive us our faults and our sins, and adopt us as your heritage.

#### ■ The word of the Lord.

## RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Dan 3:52-56. R. v. 52

1. You are blest, Lord God of our fathers.

**R. Glory and praise for ever!**

Blest your glorious holy name.

**R. Glory and praise for ever!**

2. You are blest in the temple of your glory.

**R. Glory and praise for ever!**

You are blest on the throne of your kingdom.

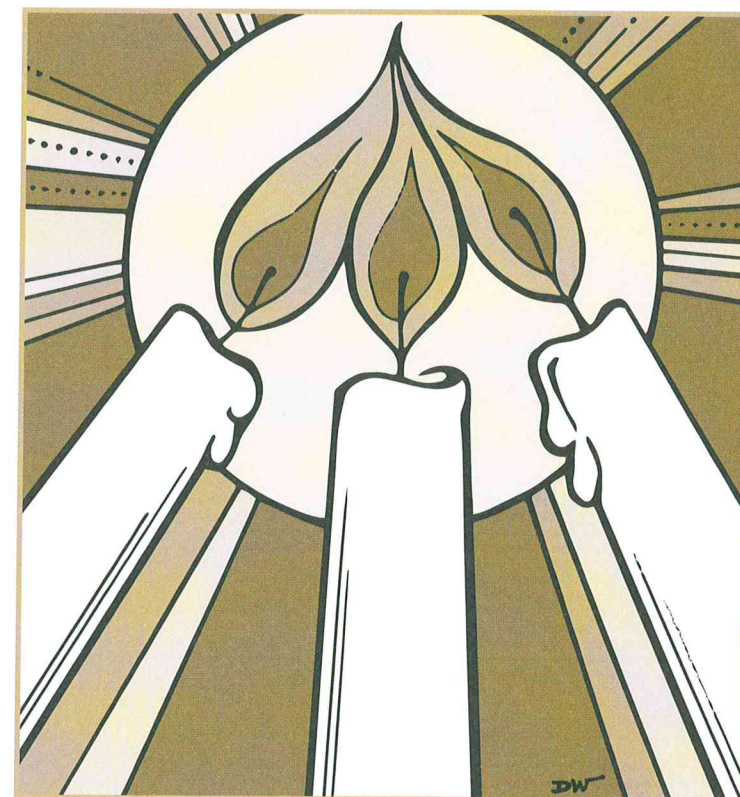
**R. Glory and praise for ever!**

3. You are blest who gaze into the depths.

**R. Glory and praise for ever!**

You are blest in the firmament of heaven.

**R. Glory and praise for ever!**



## SECOND READING

2 Cor 13:11-13

A reading from the second letter of St Paul to the Corinthians

*The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.*

Brothers, we wish you happiness; try to grow perfect; help one another. Be united; live in peace, and the God of love and peace will be with you.

Greet one another with the holy kiss. All the saints send you greetings.

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

#### ■ The word of the Lord.

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

cf. Apoc 1:8

**Alleluia, alleluia! / Glory to the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit: / to God who is, who was, and who is to come. / Alleluia!**