

A READING FROM THE BOOK OF PROVERBS

Thus says the Wisdom of God:

The LORD possessed me at the beginning of his work,
the first of his acts of old.

Ages ago I was set up, at the first, before the beginning of the earth.

When there were no depths I was brought forth, when there were no springs abounding with water.

Before the mountains had been shaped, before the hills, I was brought forth, before he had made the earth with its fields,
or the first of the dust of the world.

When he established the heavens, I was there; when he drew a circle on the face of the deep,

when he made firm the skies above, when he established the fountains of the deep,

when he assigned to the sea its limit, so that the waters might not transgress his command,

when he marked out the foundations of the earth, then I was beside him, like a master workman, and I was daily his delight, rejoicing before him always, rejoicing in his inhabited world and delighting in the children of man.

The word of the Lord

THE RESPONSE TO THE PSALM IS:

O LORD, our Lord,

how majestic is your name through all the earth!

When I see the heavens, the work of your fingers,
the moon and the stars which you arranged,
what is man that you should keep him in mind,
the son of man that you care for him?

O LORD, our Lord,

how majestic is your name through all the earth!

Yet you have made him little lower than the angels;
with glory and honour you crowned him,
gave him power over the works of your hands:
you put all things under his feet.

O LORD, our Lord,

how majestic is your name through all the earth!

All of them, sheep and oxen,
yes, even the cattle of the fields,
birds of the air, and fish of the sea
that make their way through the waters.

O LORD, our Lord,

how majestic is your name through all the earth!

THE SECOND READING IS FROM THE LETTER TO THE ROMANS

Brothers and Sisters:

Since we have been justified by faith,

we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Through him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God.

Not only that, but we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.

THE WORD OF THE LORD.

THE GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit,
the God who is and who was and who is to come

A READING FROM THE HOLY GOSPEL ACCORDING
TO JOHN

At that time: Jesus said to his disciples,
‘I still have many things to say to you,
but you cannot bear them now.

When the Spirit of truth comes,
he will guide you into all the truth,
for he will not speak on his own authority,
but whatever he hears he will speak,
and he will declare to you the things that are to come.

He will glorify me,
for he will take what is mine and declare it to you.
All that the Father has is mine;
therefore I said that he will take what is mine and declare
it to you.’

The Gospel of The Lord

THE REFLECTION ON THE READINGS

The simplest model of the Trinity is the Father giving to the Son and the Son and Spirit returning everything to the Father. Outside of space and time this is a loving relationship of giving, receiving and returning.

The idea of love as giving to another comes from the Trinity, Pope John Paul wrote of marriage as an opportunity for the closest intimacy, mirroring the Trinity in self-giving love.

The human love we know is a gift from God, enriching our consciousness of our selves. Different from all other life this is about our relationships. We can only really fulfil ourselves by giving ourselves, opening up to new opportunities to a full and rich life.

At the End of the Easter time, we can begin to understand God's final plan for us becomes clearer: the reaching out to us by becoming incarnate, a real body, communicating with us and showing the greatest love by giving his life for us, he calls his friends. This led to the resurrection, the reality of a transformed and fully healed life.

Our prayers are based on a sense of gratitude to God, thanking God for the gifts of life and love. In the quiet between Good Friday and Easter Sunday an early writer interpreted Jesus' action descending into the underworld to say

"I order you, O sleeper, to awake. I did not create you to be held a prisoner in hell. Rise from the dead, for I am the life of the dead. Rise up, work of my hands, you who were created in my image.... I will not restore you to that paradise, but I will enthrone you in heaven. I forbade you the tree that was only a symbol of life, but see, I who am life itself am now one with you. .. The kingdom of heaven has been prepared for you from all eternity.