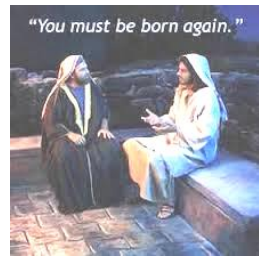


Sunday 27th May 2018

Trinity Sunday

White or Gold



Collect

Almighty and everlasting God, you have given us your servants grace, by the confession of a true faith, to acknowledge the glory of the eternal Trinity and in the power of the divine majesty to worship the Unity: keep us steadfast in this faith, that we may evermore be defended from all adversities; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

Isaiah 6:1-8 English Standard Version (ESV)

Isaiah's Vision of the Lord

6¹ In the year that King Uzziah died I saw the Lord sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up; and the train^[a] of his robe filled the temple. ² Above him stood the seraphim. Each had six wings: with two he covered his face, and with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew. ³ And one called to another and said: "Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory!"^[b] ⁴ And the foundations of the thresholds shook at the voice of him who called, and the house was filled with smoke. ⁵ And I said: "Woe is me! For I am lost; for I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips; for my eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts!" ⁶ Then one of the seraphim flew to me, having in his hand a burning coal that he had taken with tongs from the altar. ⁷ And he touched my mouth and said: "Behold, this has touched your lips; your guilt is taken away, and your sin atoned for."

Isaiah's Commission from the Lord

⁸ And I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?" Then I said, "Here I am! Send me."

Footnotes: a. or *hem*. b. or *may his glory fill the whole earth*.

COMMENT: These few verses describe the call of Isaiah to his ministry of speaking for God to Israel during a critical period of its history in the late 8th Century BC. Amid the smoke from the sacrifice on the altar in the temple, Isaiah had a vision of God attended by heavenly creatures. One of the heavenly beings touched his lips with a live coal symbolising his freedom from sin and worthiness to proclaim God's message to Israel. Then Isaiah heard the voice of God calling for someone to speak for God to God's sinful people; and he responds.

John 3:1-17 English Standard Version (ESV)

You Must Be Born Again

3 ¹ Now there was a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews. ² This man came to Jesus^[a] by night and said to him, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher come from God, for no one can do these signs that you do unless God is with him." ³ Jesus answered him, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again^[b] he cannot see the kingdom of God." ⁴ Nicodemus said to him, "How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother's womb and be born?" ⁵ Jesus answered, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. ⁶ That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.^[c] ⁷ Do not marvel that I said to you, 'You^[d] must be born again.' ⁸ The wind^[e] blows where it wishes, and you hear its sound, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit." ⁹ Nicodemus said to him, "How can these things be?" ¹⁰ Jesus answered him, "Are you the teacher of Israel and yet you do not understand these things? ¹¹ Truly, truly, I say to you, we speak of what we know, and bear witness to what we have seen, but you^[f] do not receive our testimony. ¹² If I have told you earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you heavenly things? ¹³ No one has ascended into heaven except he who descended from heaven, the Son of Man.^[g] ¹⁴ And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, ¹⁵ that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.^[h]

For God So Loved the World

¹⁶ "For God so loved the world,^[i] that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.

¹⁷ For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.

Footnotes: a. Greek *him*. b. or *from above*; the Greek is purposely ambiguous and can mean both *again* and *from above*; also verse 7. c. The same Greek word means both *wind* and *spirit* d. The Greek for *you* is plural here. e. the same Greek word means both *wind* and *spirit*. f. the Greek for *you* is plural here; also four times in verse 12. g. Some manuscripts add *who is in heaven*. h. Some interpreters hold that the quotation ends at verse 15. i. or *For this is how God loved the world*.

COMMENT: Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews, learns from Jesus how the Spirit makes us spiritual beings through faith in the crucified and risen Christ. This comes about because God loves the world so much that through his Son, He entered the world he made to bring salvation to us all with the pledge of glory. This majestic passage is one of many in the New Testament witnessing to what subsequently became the doctrine of the Holy Trinity. It describes the ministry Jesus and the work of the Holy Spirit as God at work in the world. Some people look at verses 15 and 16 as the secret for obtaining eternal life beyond death. In this passage, however, John makes the point that God is as much concerned about how we live in this life now as with what happens to us afterward. As the subsequent verses 18 to 21 explain, God's judgment occurs and eternal life begins when we believe who Jesus is and what his coming into the world really means.

Psalm 29 *Afferte Domino* Grail Psalter

℟ Adore the Lord in his holy court.

¹ *A Psalm of David*

O give the Lord, you sons of God,
give the Lord glory and power;

² give the Lord the glory of his name.

Adore the Lord in his holy court. ℟

³ The Lord's voice resounding on the waters,
the Lord on the immensity of waters;

⁴ the voice of the Lord, full of power,
the voice of the Lord, full of splendour. ℟

⁵ The Lord's voice shattering the cedars,
the Lord shatters the cedars of Lebanon;

⁶ he makes Lebanon leap like a calf
and Sirion like a young wild ox.

⁷ (The Lord's voice flashes flames of fire.) ℟

⁸ The Lord's voice shaking the wilderness,
the Lord shakes the wilderness of Kadesh;
⁹ the Lord's voice rending the oak tree
and stripping the forest bare.

✠ Adore the Lord in his holy court.

^{3b} The God of glory thunders.

¹⁰ In his temple they all cry: "Glory!"
The Lord sat enthroned over the flood;
the Lord sits as king for ever. ✠

¹¹ The Lord will give strength to his people,
the Lord will bless his people with peace. ✠

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit,
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen.**

COMMENT: Although beginning with praise to God, the emphasis in this psalm is on the voice of God as if heard in the violence of a thunderstorm.

Short Preface

And now we give you thanks because you have revealed the glory of your eternal fellowship of love with your Son and with the Holy Spirit, three persons equal in majesty, undivided in splendour, yet one God, ever to be worshipped and adored.

Post Communion

Almighty and eternal God, you have revealed yourself as Father, Son and Holy Spirit, and live and reign in the perfect unity of love: hold us firm in this faith, that we may know you in all your ways and evermore rejoice in your eternal glory, who are three Persons yet one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

Blessing

God the Holy Trinity make you strong in faith and love, defend you on every side, and guide you in truth and peace; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among *you*, and remain with *you* always. **Amen.**