

Years A, B and C

## Feast of the Trinity

### God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit

#### INTRODUCTION

*(For this feast, we will use the Gospel from Year B.)*

God shares himself with us through the three persons of the Trinity. We share the love of God the Father, the goodness of Jesus the Son, and the friendship of the Holy Spirit.

#### SIGN OF THE CROSS

#### LIGHT THE CANDLES

As we light our candles today, we thank God the Father for sending Jesus, his son, to rescue us from sin, and the Holy Spirit who will always be our friend. Sing the Candle Song.

#### SORRY

Say this prayer together:

Help us, Lord, to do what is right.

Make our words and thoughts  
true and sincere,

so that we harm no one

by what we say or do.

(Psalm 15:2-3)

#### GLORIA

#### GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

To welcome today's Gospel sing Acclamation 1.

#### GOSPEL (MATTHEW 28:16-20)

Jesus appeared to his disciples on a hillside where they had arranged to meet. When they saw him they fell to their knees and he said to them, "All power in heaven and on earth has been given to me, and I am sending you out into the world to make disciples of all peoples. Baptize them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teach them to obey all the commandments I have given to you. Remember that I will always be with you, to the very end of time."

#### DISCUSSION

"Trinity" means something made up of three, and today we give thanks for the three persons of God. Who are the three persons who make up the Holy

Trinity and what do we know about them?

1. God the Father created the world and everything in it. He loves us all dearly and sent his only son, Jesus, to rescue us from sin.

2. God the Son is Jesus, made human. We know many stories which remind us of his kindness and goodness and his love for all people. He taught us how we should live and the path to follow to find our way to heaven. His love was so great, he died on the cross and rose from the dead to save us from sin.

3. God the Holy Spirit takes many forms: wind, fire, or a dove. He is invisible but very powerful. The Spirit fills us with God's life and warms our hearts with the fire of God's love and courage.

So, there are three persons but only one God. The Trinity is a mystery which we cannot really understand, but because we know that God can do anything, we believe in this mystery. It is part of our faith.

(To illustrate the mystery of the Trinity in a simple way, have ready three hats which will be instantly recognized by the children, for example, hats belonging to a fireman, a policeman, and a soldier. Ask for a volunteer to come and stand in front of the other children. Have the children tell you the child's name and then as you place each hat on the child in turn, ask them to say what job the child would do while wearing that hat. "This is John, the soldier; this is John, the fireman; this is John, the policeman.")

God is like the child with the three hats, only one God but according to what "job" he is doing, and what "hat" he is wearing, God is known as the Father, Son, or Holy Spirit.)

#### ACTIVITY

Copy the illustration, and ask each child to color the three "hats" worn by the one person of God.

#### CREED

Before saying the Creed together, help the children to think carefully about the words of the prayer and their belief in God the Father, Jesus the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

#### CLOSING PRAYER

Say the Glory Be together.

