



Diocese of
OWENSBORO

LITURGY OF THE WORD- SOLEMNITY OF THE MOST HOLY TRINITY

HYMN

Holy, Holy, Holy

Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!
Early in the morning our song shall rise to thee.
Holy, holy, holy, merciful and mighty!
God in three Persons, blessed Trinity!

Reginald Herber, 1783—1826

INTRODUCTION

All sign themselves with the sign of the cross saying, “In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.”

Leader: Let us praise God, who fills our hearts and home with peace.
Blessed be God for ever.

All respond: Blessed be God for ever.

Sing or recite the *Gloria* together:

**Glory to God in the highest,
and on earth peace to people of good will.
We praise you, we bless you, we adore you, we glorify you,
we give you thanks for your great glory,
Lord God, heavenly King,
O God, almighty Father.**

**Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son,
Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,
you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us;
you take away the sins of the world, receive our prayer;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father, have mercy on us.**

For you alone are the Holy One,

**you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father.
Amen.**

Leader: Let us pray,

God our Father, who by sending into the world
the Word of truth and the Spirit of sanctification
made known to the human race your wondrous mystery,
grant us, we pray, that in professing the true faith,
we may acknowledge the Trinity of eternal glory
and adore your Unity, powerful in majesty.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.

READINGS

It is encouraged that someone other than the leader should proclaim the readings of the day from a Bible.
Otherwise, daily readings may be found at usccb.org/bible/readings, and audio recordings of the daily readings
may be found at usccb.org/bible/readings-audio.cfm.

First reading: Exodus 34:4B-6, 8-9

Responsorial Psalm: Daniel 3:52, 53, 54, 55, 56

Refrain (all together): **Glory and praise for ever!**

or **Alleluia.**

Blessed are you, O Lord, the God of our fathers,
praiseworthy and exalted above all forever;
And blessed is your holy and glorious name,
praiseworthy and exalted above all for all ages.

Refrain (all together): **Glory and praise for ever!**

or **Alleluia.**

Blessed are you in the temple of your holy glory,
praiseworthy and glorious above all forever.

Refrain (all together): **Glory and praise for ever!**

or **Alleluia.**

Blessed are you on the throne of your kingdom,
praiseworthy and exalted above all forever.

Refrain (all together): **Glory and praise for ever!**

or **Alleluia.**

Blessed are you who look into the depths
from your throne upon the cherubim,
praiseworthy and exalted above all forever.

Refrain (all together): **Glory and praise for ever!**

or **Alleluia.**

Second Reading: 2 Corinthians 13:11-13

Gospel (All stand for the reading of the Gospel. A layperson omits the greeting, “The Lord be with you” and proceeds to “A reading from the holy Gospel According to”): John 3:16-18

REFLECTION ON THE READINGS

This week we have a reflection from the newly ordained Fr. Stephen Than, Parochial Vicar at Holy Spirit Catholic Church in Bowling Green:

The Most Holy Trinity

We Catholic Christians do not worship an isolated God but the Trinitarian God – one God, three Persons. We are not mere monotheists nor are we polytheists; our monotheism is Trinitarian (c.f., Karl Rahner).

Although our finite, created intellect by itself may not fully comprehend the Infinite Trinity (at least not until we have beatific vision), today’s Gospel reveals to us something true about the Mysterious Trinity—the Mystery of all Christian mysteries. John 3:16 (probably the most well-known and most beloved biblical verse of all time) tells us, “God so loved the world that he gave us his only Son...” I John 4:8 also says, “God is love.”

The language/notion of “love” implies that there is more than one person, because charity/love cannot exist without the plurality of persons. If there is someone who loves, there also has to be someone who is loved, and then there has to be love itself or the fruit of this love. Hence, we have this “analogy” of God the Father as the Lover, God the Son as the Beloved, and God the Holy Spirit as the Love with which the Father loves the Son [or the Holy Spirit as the fruit of this mutual love between the Father and the Son]. This leads us to the fact that even without creation, God would still be the Trinity, that is to say, God is eternally in Himself the Trinity. This is what theologians call “Immanent Trinity” or what the Church Fathers call “theology”— God’s inmost life within the Most Blessed Trinity outside of creation (c.f., CCC 236).

It is also out of “love” that the Father sent into the world the Son (c.f., John 3:16) who accomplished the work of salvation in union with the Holy Spirit. In the economy of salvation in which Christ reveals the invisible Father, we can see the collaborated work of the “Economic Trinity.” As Catechism 236 says, “Through the *oikonomia* (economy), the *theologia* (theology or the Immanent Trinity) is revealed to us....”

In short, our God prior to, within and outside of creation is the Trinity – the communion of three Persons in Love: Our God is Love.

What does the Trinity mean to us today in this time of global pandemic?

We are all created in the image and likeness of God (Genesis 1:27) who is Love, and we are also called to be perfect just like our heavenly Father (Matthew 5:48). The call of our Imago Dei is “love.” The call to perfection is also “love.” One way to be the living expression of our loving Trinitarian God is also to “love” others as He loves us.

Every journey begins with a step, and so we need to take a small beginning that will lead to a big ending. This simple step can be as simple as checking on our neighbors out of “love.” Especially at this time when we are social-distancing from others, our call is to love the people around us first, before we finally and truly can love others. We must love our families—our domestic churches—the very cell of society. Above all, all we do must be done out of Christian charity. We must be permeated with LOVE.

Additionally, you can also find video reflections from the USCCB on the readings here:
<http://www.usccb.org/bible/reflections/>.

Observe a period of silence for reflection on the Word of God. You may want to ask the following questions:

What word or phrase is stirring in your heart?
How can you apply this message to your daily life?

PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

Leader: Let us give glory to the great God, presenting our needs with trust and confidence.

You or members of your family can be invited to speak out their intercessions, to which all reply, “Lord, hear our prayer.” It would be good to include a prayer for the end of the coronavirus pandemic and a return to public Sunday Eucharist.

Leader: God of infinite mercy, hear the prayers of your people — who give praise for all the good things that come from you, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Response: Amen.

SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

My Jesus,
I believe that You
are present in the Most Holy Sacrament.
I love You above all things,
and I desire to receive You into my soul.
Since I cannot at this moment
receive You sacramentally,
come at least spiritually into my heart.
I embrace You as if You were already there and unite myself wholly to You.

Never permit me to be separated from You. Amen.

ACT OF THANKSGIVING

Make a prayer of thanksgiving. This can be your own personal prayer of thanksgiving, a canticle of praise from scripture, or you may choose one of the following Psalms: Psalm 100; Psalm 113; Psalm 118:1-4, 19-29; Psalm 136; Psalm 150

CONCLUDING RITE

In solidarity with our diocese, here you could include Pope Francis' prayer to Mary for protection against the coronavirus found at the beginning of the *Diocese of Owensboro Prayer Companion*.

Leader: May the Lord bless us, protect us from all evil, and bring us to everlasting life.

All sign themselves with the cross.

Response: Amen

As an option here, you could add "Let us offer each other the sign of peace," extending a sign of Christ's peace to your loved ones by way of a hug, kiss, or whatever would be most appropriate for your situation.

HYMN

Holy, Holy, Holy

Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!
All thy works shall praise thy name in earth and sky and sea.
Holy, holy, holy, merciful and mighty!
God in three persons, blessed Trinity!

Reginald Herber, 1783—1826