

GLORIOUS (TRINITY)

THE LESSON: REVELATION 1 + 4

O holy, blessed, and glorious Trinity, three Persons and one God: have mercy upon us.

Many of the prayers in our Book of Common Prayer, including the Litany, acknowledge in clear terms the Christian doctrine of the Trinity. Christians believe in one God who exists in three persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Sound confusing? That's because it is! The Trinity is a divine mystery, something that it's difficult for us to fully wrap our human minds around.

Scripture contains a number of accounts through which we are given a glimpse of God's glory. It is often in these moments, that we find evidence of the three-in-oneness of God. For example, when Jesus was baptized, St. Matthew's Gospel tells us that "immediately he went up from the water, and behold, the heavens were opened to him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming to rest on him; and behold, a voice from heaven said, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased" (3:16-17). So we have a picture of Jesus the Son, the Spirit of God, and the voice of the Father at one amazing moment where something monumental is happening.

Even before the birth of Jesus in Bethlehem revealed the Son to us, there were indications in scripture pointing to the three-in-oneness of God. Consider the creation account in Genesis. We have this image of God the Creator, whose Word goes forth to call everything into being, and the "Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters" (1:2). St. Paul, writing to the Colossians, is more precise about the role of the Word, that is Jesus Christ the Son, when he explains that "by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible" (1:16).

In the same way that the doctrine of the Trinity is hard for us to fully grasp, the glory of God's nature poses a challenge for the human imagination. Scripture records for us a number of divine visions, often given to prophets who struggled to describe the experience of God's glory within the limitations of human language. In the book of Revelation, St. John's heavenly vision is recorded, giving us another glimpse of our "holy, blessed, and glorious" God.

AT-HOME CHALLENGE

Each morning and evening, follow your own rule of prayer.

(IF YOU DON'T HAVE ONE, TRY SAYING THE MORNING AND EVENING PRAYERS FROM THE "FORMS OF PRAYER TO BE USED IN FAMILIES", WHICH BEGINS ON PAGE 728 OF THE BCP. IF YOU DON'T HAVE A COPY, YOU CAN LOOK IT UP HERE: [HTTP://PRAYERBOOK.CA/RESOURCES/BCPONLINE/FAMILY-PRAYER](http://PRAYERBOOK.CA/RESOURCES/BCPONLINE/FAMILY-PRAYER).)

Spend some time reflecting on the glory of God and joining with the praises of heaven: "*Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord God Almighty, who was and is and is to come! ... Worthy are you, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honour and power, for you created all things, and by your will they existed and were created*".

- AND/OR -

Take some time to pray through this collect.

Almighty and everlasting God, who hast given unto us thy 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: We beseech thee, that this holy faith may evermore be our defence against all adversities; who livest and reignest, one God, world without end. Amen. (THE COLLECT FOR TRINITY SUNDAY, BCP PAGE 214)

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REVELATION 1 + 4: **HOLY, BLESSED, GLORIOUS**

1 ¹²Then I turned to see the voice that was speaking to me, and on turning I saw seven golden lampstands, ¹³and in the midst of the lampstands one like a son of man, clothed with a long robe and with a golden sash round his chest. ¹⁴The hairs of his head were white, like white wool, like snow. His eyes were like a flame of fire, ¹⁵his feet were like burnished bronze, refined in a furnace, and his voice was like the roar of many waters. ¹⁶In his right hand he held seven stars, from his mouth came a sharp two-edged sword, and his face was like the sun shining in full strength.

¹⁷When I saw him, I fell at his feet as though dead. But he laid his right hand on me, saying, “Fear not, I am the first and the last, ¹⁸and the living one. I died, and behold I am alive for evermore, and I have the keys of Death and Hades...”

4 ¹After this I looked, and behold, a door standing open in heaven! And the first voice, which I had heard speaking to me like a trumpet, said, “Come up here, and I will show you what must take place after this.” ²At once I was in the Spirit, and behold, a throne stood in heaven, with one seated on the throne. ³And he who sat there had the appearance of jasper and carnelian, and round the throne was a rainbow that had the appearance of an emerald...

And round the throne, on each side of the throne, are four living creatures, full of eyes in front and behind: ⁷the first living creature like a lion, the second living creature like an ox, the third living creature with the face of a man, and the fourth living creature like an eagle in flight. ⁸And the four living creatures, each of them with six wings, are full of eyes all round and within, and day and night they never cease to say, “Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord God Almighty, who was and is and is to come!”

⁹And whenever the living creatures give glory and honour and thanks to him who is seated on the throne, who lives for ever and ever, ¹⁰the twenty-four elders fall down before him who is seated on the throne and worship him who lives for ever and ever. They cast their crowns before the throne, saying, ¹¹“Worthy are you, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honour and power, for you created all things, and by your will they existed and were created.”