

The SOLEMNITY OF THE MOST HOLY TRINITY

Gospel Reading

27th MAY 2018

Jesus sends his disciples to make disciples of all nations.

Matthew 28:16-20

Background on the Gospel Reading

This week we return to the liturgical season of Ordinary Time. This Sunday and next Sunday, however, are designated as solemnities, special days that call our attention to the central mysteries of our faith. Today, on the first Sunday after Pentecost, we celebrate the Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity.

This feast invites us to consider what we believe about God, who has revealed himself to us in the Trinity, one God in three Persons. The Gospel for this Solemnity is taken from the Gospel of Matthew.

In its conclusion, Matthew's Gospel quickly moves from the disciples' discovery of Jesus' empty tomb and Jesus' appearance to Mary Magdalene and the other Mary to the commission that Jesus gives to his disciples in today's Gospel. The final commission, as this part of Matthew's Gospel is sometimes called, is given on the mountaintop. Throughout Scripture, many of the most important events happen on a mountaintop, and Matthew used this motif often.

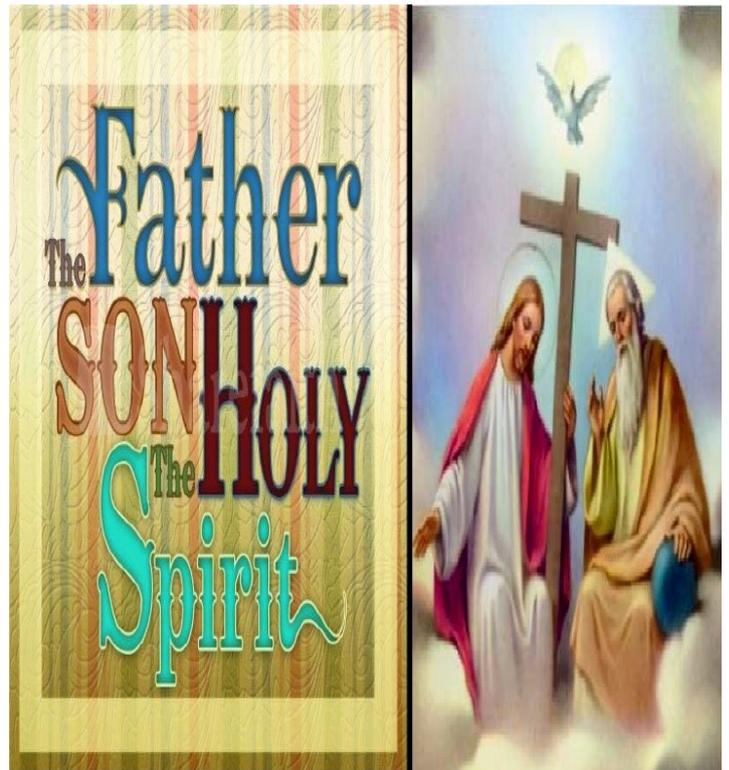
Peter, James, and John saw Jesus transfigured on the mountaintop, and Jesus taught the crowds from the mountain top in the Sermon on the Mount. In today's Gospel, the eleven disciples go the mountaintop in Galilee, as Jesus had instructed them through Mary Magdalene and the other Mary. They see Jesus, and they worship and doubt at the same time. Jesus approaches them and commissions them to baptize and teach.

It is a task for which Jesus had previously

prepared his disciples; recall that Jesus had already sent the twelve apostles to preach the Kingdom of God and to heal. Yet earlier, the Twelve were sent only to the House of Israel; in this final commission, the eleven are told to go to all nations.

The mission of Jesus is now to be taken to all people, and the task is to baptize and to teach. Jesus commissions his disciples to baptize in the name of the Trinity; this is one of the clearest attestations for Baptism in the name of the Holy Trinity found in Scripture. Other New Testament references to Baptism describe it as being celebrated in the name of Jesus. As we read this Gospel on the Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity, we are reminded that this central mystery of faith is meant to be lived. As baptized Christians, we share in the life of the blessed Trinity and seek to invite others to share in God's love. .

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