



Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity

[Tenth Sunday in Ordinary Time superseded]

† **Sunday 11th June 2017**

Cycle of Prayer: Those who suffer persecution and denial of human rights

Keynote: We praise the One God – Father, Son and Holy Spirit

Book of Exodus 34: 4-6, 8-9

'With the two tablets of stone in his hands, Moses went up the mountain of Sinai in the early morning, as the Lord had commanded him. And the Lord descended in the form of a cloud, and Moses stood with God there.' So often in the Old Testament God's presence is revealed in a cloud, or a high place, and Moses bows to the ground in worship, *'If I have indeed won your favour Lord,'* he says, *'then let my Lord God come with us... true we are a headstrong people, but forgive us our faults and our sins, and adopt us as your heritage.'* So the eternal covenant is to be made for God's People with the one and only God – faithful and true forever.

Responsorial Canticle of Daniel – a song of praise for evermore

Second Letter of Paul to the Corinthians 13: 11-13

Concluding his letter to the Christians of Corinth in Greece, Paul greets them with a kiss – possibly a reference to a liturgical greeting that even now takes place during the celebration of the Eucharist – the Sign of Peace. *'Greet one another with the holy kiss,'* says Paul. *'All the saints send you greetings.'* Then Paul offers a final blessing – again it may have been a blessing that early Christians would have recognised as in their liturgical worship. The blessing is Trinitarian in nature, *'The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.'* As we hear those words today a rich blessing for us too.

Gospel according to John 3: 16-18

Jesus speaking with Nicodemus says, *'God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not be lost.'* We may not even begin to understand the great mystery of God, but here is a simple message for Nicodemus that we can grasp. Jesus says, *'For God sent his Son into the world, not to condemn the world but that through him the world might be saved... whoever refuses to believe is condemned already, because he has refused to believe in the name of God's only Son'.* The emphasis for me is that God's love for us is very real and personal, even to the extent of offering up the only Son. Maybe this is the only kind of love sign that we earthy folk will understand: *'God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son...'* For a moment try to appreciate the depth of God's personal love for the world and all its peoples.

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Note: In England and Wales, The Body and Blood of Christ (Solemnity) is transferred to the following Sunday (18th June 2017).