

Cycle A - Trinity Sunday - June 07, 2020

There are some things in life which are a mystery.

Centuries ago people wondered where the water went
when they left a pan of water in the sun.
A hundred years ago people wondered why you got sick
if you did not keep yourself clean.

Today these are no longer mysteries,
we know all about evaporation,
and the micro-organisms which live in filth.

But there are some things which will probably remain a mystery until the end of time.
People will always be wondering how God can be three persons--
Father, Son and Holy Spirit, yet still one God.

One of the mysteries which I am still trying to find out is how to be a good cook.

As you can see in the last five years
I have become somewhat of a connoisseur of fine recipes.
But I have never mastered the ability to cook well.
I love a good home cooked meal.
But I have come to know that these delicious recipes
stay with me a lot longer than I would like them to stay.
I'm sure that each of you have your own secret recipes.
Sometimes when a special friend asks you for your secret recipe
you offer it to them.

Throughout the centuries The Father, Son and Holy Spirit
have revealed to us some of their secret recipes . . .
not recipes for food, but more important--recipes for our salvation.

First early in the Old Testament, Moses had a recipe for the goodness of God.

We are told that God is merciful and gracious,
slow to anger,
abounding in steadfast love,
and perhaps most important faithful.

These ingredients do not sum up the totality of God.

If we were going to list all the ingredients of God we would be here a long time.
However, the ingredients we do know, give us an insight into who God is.

Someone who we need to get to know a lot more.

Which is exactly what Moses is trying to do.

Moses knows that God is all loving, all merciful.

Which is why Moses appeals to this love and mercy.

Because as much as Moses knows the love and mercy of God,
Moses knows the recipe which comprises humanity;

Only it is not such a rosy picture.

Moses sees humanity as: stiff necked, sinful and in terrible need of forgiveness.

Compared to the recipe of God,
the recipe for humanity is considerably less appealing.
But as unappealing as humanity is,
God's love is so vast that there is room in his mercy and compassion for his people
who do not appreciate him,
room for his people who are constantly turning their backs to him,
room for his people who are continually turning a deaf ear to his word.
Moses knows this, and in spite of all our shortcoming, Moses has the courage to pray,
"O Lord, be with your people--look beyond our shortcomings
and see the beauty with which you first created us."
Moses knows that we are not able to do it on our own,
we are in desperate need of God's help if we are to come to any sort of salvation.

And God in his infinite love and mercy does not turn a blind eye to his people.
He knows his people have fallen into sin,
but he also knows the recipe which is needed to help them achieve salvation.
God's recipe for overcoming sin is to make the preparations for the coming of his Son,
our Lord Jesus Christ,
so that whoever believes in him may not perish but have eternal life.

Now that is good news, it means that I have a chance.
Because if I am honest with myself, I will have to say that I am not perfect,
I fall into sin once in a while,
okay from time to time,
okay I fall into sin a lot.
But in spite of all my sinfulness, God has not abandoned me,
he is working to get me into heaven, I only have to work with him.

St. Paul knows all this,
he knows the recipe that comprises the wonder of God,
he knows the recipe that comprises sinful humanity,
and he knows that God sent his only Son into the world.

And Paul also knows the recipe we need to follow to respond to the love of God.
Greet one another, which basically means love one another,
live in peace, seek out what unites us,
and most of all greet one another with a holy kiss.
Which is another way of saying, look beyond all the wrongs that you have experienced,
and see the love of God,
and allow that love to act as the leaven which brings people together.
Paul knows that if we follow this recipe,
the love of God will begin to make its way into our hearts and souls,
and we will be one with the Father.
We will one with him in all his glory.

I can hardly wait to be with God for all eternity.

I have to admit that eternity is somewhat of a mystery to me--
what kind of a body I will have,
will I need to eat or sleep.

Some of these I will never really know until I am with God for all eternity.
But just because I do not understand eternity completely,
does not mean that I don't know anything about eternity.

One thing I am certain about is the mercy of our Triune God..

We may not understand how God can be Father, Son and Spirit--three persons one God,
but we do know that God is love, and that love has been extended to us.

Perhaps the true test of a disciple is not to try and determine what we do not know about God,
perhaps the test of a true disciple is to reflect what we do know about God.

That he is Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

That he created us,
that he loves us,
that he is all merciful.

And perhaps it is the things we do know about God that we should be sharing with others.

His love,
his mercy,
his forgiveness.

In a few moments we will be exchanging the sign of peace (virtually) with one another.

If there is someone whom we have not shown the love of God to,
someone whom we have not been merciful to,
someone whom we have not forgiven,
then perhaps we can allow the love of God to transform our hearts
and give us the courage to live as his disciple.

Let us live our lives in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit.