

From the Pastor's Printer

WHEN $1 + 1 + 1 = 3$

Trinity Sunday is always celebrated on the Sunday after Easter because, when reflecting upon the saving works of our One, True, and Eternal God through the Lenten and Easter seasons, we see the love and work of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit manifested: the Father sending His Son to redeem us, the Son willingly humbling Himself to take on our human nature, and the Spirit who empowered Christ in His humanity to go preach, heal, die, and rise for our salvation, and to dwell in us as the life – the grace – of God in us.

It would be quite easy to understand the nature of God if He were simply one reality who reveals himself as the Father at one time, the Son at another, and the Holy Spirit at another, as if He simply put on costumes, but was simply one Person. And it would be easy to understand if God were three distinct gods who love each other into a single community of gods. But that is not how it is. God has revealed himself to be One God of three Persons, each fully unique and divine, each united to the others as One divine Being. (You might want to get your Tylenol if you

want to ponder this further.) We cannot comprehend this, but simply because we can't comprehend it doesn't mean it isn't reality. In this case $1+1+1=1$! (No wonder so many mathematicians don't believe in God!)

Actually, figuring out the triune nature of God isn't what is important (or possible). What is important is knowing that God is love. God is love in each Person of the Trinity loving the other. All the qualities of God – all knowing, omnipresent, all powerful – serve divine love. This love, by the will of God, breaks forth to create the realities outside of God – outside of God's self – simply so that God may love us. We often hear how the universe is expanding; even more than that is God's love going forth from Godself (although not limited in time). God does not create as a hobby or because the Persons of Trinity need companionship; He creates to share divine life. Not only does He create; He redeems what He created that has turned from Him so that we may always be headed towards the human destiny: to live in love with Him in heaven. Do we have a great God or what!?!

**You are God, we praise you.
You are the Lord; we acclaim you.
Father of majesty unbounded,
Your true and only begotten Son
Worthy of all worship,
And the Holy Spirit
the Paraclete.**