

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

God sent his Son to save the world through him.

Jesus said to Nicodemus,

'God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not be lost but may have eternal life. For God sent his Son into the world not to condemn the world, but so that through him the world might be saved. No one who believes in him will be condemned; but whoever refuses to believe is condemned already, because he has refused to believe in the name of God's only Son.'

■ The Gospel of the Lord.

PILGRIMAGE IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF ST PAUL THROUGH GREECE AND TURKEY

11-23 SEPTEMBER 2023

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Breaking Open the Word



THE SAVING WORD

THE MOST HOLY TRINITY / A

4 JUNE 2023

GRACIOUS AND FORGIVING LOVE

The blessing 'The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you' is one familiar to us all. It may come as a surprise to know that it was originally the conclusion of Paul's second letter to the Corinthians. The community was bitterly divided, and Paul wrote the letter to reconcile himself with a community that had become estranged from him and one another. He saw that they were all called to model their lives on the living God's gracious, loving, and unifying nature.

The graciousness and life-giving character of God's love have been seen throughout all of salvation history but seldom clearer than in the episode of the golden calf. Face to face with the living God on the holy mountain Moses feels it necessary to plead for the people of Israel and their idolatry. He knows their desperate plight but before he even pleads for the people God reveals that Israel's God is one of compassion, tenderness, faithfulness, and mercy.

For people of faith there is always the danger that people hide from the living God because of fear in the face of failure and sin. Nicodemus is invited to understand that the power of God is most clearly seen in a love that will risk everything to bring us back, even the most precious gift of all, Jesus Christ. On this feast of the Trinity, these readings lead us to reflect on the nature of God that we celebrate - creative, saving and forgiving love.

Christopher Monaghan CP

FIRST READING

Ex 34:4-6, 8-9

A reading from the book of Exodus

The Lord God, ruler of all, merciful and loving.

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 him there.

He called on the name of the Lord. The Lord passed before him and proclaimed, 'Lord, Lord, a God of tenderness and compassion, slow to anger, rich in kindness and faithfulness.' And Moses bowed down to the ground at once and worshipped. 'If I have indeed won your favour, Lord,' he said 'let my Lord come with us, I beg. True, they are a headstrong people, but forgive us our faults and our sins, and adopt us as your heritage.'

■ The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Dan 3:52-56. R. v. 52

- You are blest, Lord God of our fathers.
R. Glory and praise for ever!
Blest your glorious holy name.
R. Glory and praise for ever!
- You are blest in the temple of your glory.
R. Glory and praise for ever!
You are blest on the throne of your kingdom.
R. Glory and praise for ever!
- You are blest who gaze into the depths.
R. Glory and praise for ever!
You are blest in the firmament of heaven.
R. Glory and praise for ever!



SECOND READING

2 Cor 13:11-13

A reading from the second letter of St Paul to the Corinthians

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

Brothers, we wish you happiness; try to grow perfect; help one another. Be united; live in peace, and the God of love and peace will be with you.

Greet one another with the holy kiss. All the saints send you greetings.

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

■ The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

cf. Apoc 1:8

Alleluia, alleluia! / **Glory to the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit: / to God who is, who was, and who is to come. / Alleluia!**