

Today... is Trinity Sunday... the only feast day of the church year...  
Assigned to honor, embrace, reveal, a primary doctrine of the church  
The Holy Trinity... The Father, The Son and the Holy Spirit...

If you don't understand the Trinity... you're in good company

1600 years ago, Saint Augustine was struggling with the Trinity...  
So he did... what a lot of us do... when perplexed  
He went for a walk on the beach.  
A little girl would scoop up a bucket of seawater  
Then run from the breakers and pour the water onto the sand  
Over... and over... and over...

*What are you doing?*

*Emptying the sea out onto the sand*

*But that is impossible*

*Ah! But I'll drain the sea before you understand the Trinity*

If you're looking for a scholarly understanding of the Trinity  
Try reading the Creed of Saint Athanasius  
It's in your Book of Common Prayer on page 864.

*We worship one God in Trinity, and Trinity in Unity,  
neither confounding the Persons, nor dividing the Substance.  
For there is one Person of the Father, another of the Son,  
and another of the Holy Ghost.  
But the Godhead of the Father, of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost,  
is all one, the Glory equal, the Majesty co-eternal.*

When I read this to at a Bible Study  
One woman closed her prayer book and said

*I think we just need to have faith in God.*

You see...

*The Holy Trinity... is a mystery, not a puzzle.*

*Love... is a mystery!*

*A crossword... is a puzzle.*

*You try to solve the puzzle...*

*But you stand in awe before a mystery.*

We just heard

**the awesomeness of God the Father in the Genesis reading**

Creation expressed in the perfect and ordered will of God.

*Everything was good...*

We still experience moments of this original perfection

Awestruck... and we can finally speak...

It's praise and exaltation.

We heard in the Psalm we sung...

*When I consider your heavens, and the work of your fingers,  
the moon and the stars you have set in their courses,  
what is man that you should be mindful of him?*

*The son of man that you should seek him out?*

*You have made him but little lower than the angels;  
you adorn him with glory and honor.*

*You give him mastery over the works of your hands;  
you put all things under his feet:*

*all sheep and oxen, even the wild beasts of the field,  
the birds of the air, the fish of the sea,  
and whatsoever walks upon the sea”*

The whole creation explodes with life and praise.

Before his walk on the beach...

St. Augustine was baptized by St Ambrose, bishop of Milan.  
the intensity of the event was so powerful  
they spontaneously composed the canticle... *You Are God...*

Baptized into the church, Augustine heard, for the first time,  
the church singing.

Later he wrote about the experience...

*“How greatly did I weep in your hymns and canticles,  
deeply moved by the voices of your sweet-speaking church!  
The voices flowed into my ears,  
and the truth was poured forth into my heart,  
whence the agitation of my piety overflowed,  
and my tears ran over,  
and blessed was I therein”*

Imagine Augustine, together with Ambrose, breaking form in song:  
*We praise thee, O God; we acknowledge thee to be the Lord.*  
their voices... with the voices of heaven and earth and the holy church:  
*the earth, angels, heavens and all powers therein,  
cherubim and seraphim, the glorious company of apostles,  
the noble army of martyrs, the holy church.*

*“O Lord our Governor, how exalted is your Name in all the world!”  
“Glory to you for the radiance of your holy name.”*

*Behold the awesomeness of God the Father in the creation story  
Behold the love of God in Christ Jesus and the gift of eternal life  
Behold the love of God in Christ Jesus and the gift of eternal life  
Behold the Trinity. God the Father, God the Son God the Holy Spirit*

How can you respond to such greatness? Such love? Such power?

You've already answered that question...

At your baptism... at your confirmation...

You were given five tasks...

And you pledged... before the Father, and the Son and the Holy Spirit...

*I will... with God's help.*

Do you remember the promises you made?

Will you continue in the apostles' teaching and fellowship,  
in the breaking of the bread, and in the prayers?

Will you persevere in resisting evil, and, whenever you fall into sin,  
repent and return to the Lord?

Will you proclaim by word and example  
the Good News of God in Christ?

Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons,  
loving your neighbor as yourself?

Will you strive for justice and peace among all people,  
and respect the dignity of every human being?

That's what *you* can do...

In a few moments... We'll all renew those vows...

And with God's help

We can change the world...