

Thanking the Trinity

Have you noticed that when we speak or chant a Psalm in church, we always conclude by giving glory to the Triune God, saying, Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever, Amen? The reason we do this is to show that when the Old Testament speaks about God or the LORD, it is speaking about the same God that we worship today. The Holy Trinity is not an innovation of the New Testament Church. It is what Scripture teaches from start to finish. It's not possible to worship the true God without also confessing Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

God doesn't do anything for which we ought to thank Him apart from doing it as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. In the beginning, for instance, God created the heavens and the earth. We tend to think of this task as belonging to God the Father alone, but the Son and the Holy Spirit were of course also present. The Father created everything that exists by speaking the very Word that would later take on human flesh and blood and redeem mankind. And even as the Spirit of God hovered over the face of the deep on that first day of creation, so also the Holy Spirit continues to work through everything that the Father accomplishes by His Son Jesus Christ.

Even in the first few verses of Genesis, we can see that the work of God is always Trinitarian. As Psalm 33 confirms, "By the Word of the LORD the heavens were made, and all the stars by the Breath/Spirit of His mouth." When God speaks, the Son obeys His Father's will, and the Holy Spirit is always there working through the eternal Word.

So it was also in God's plan to save our fallen race. Just as the work of creation was the work of the whole Trinity, so also was the work of our redemption. Out of love for us, the Father sent His Son to be born of a woman, conceived by the Holy Spirit of the Virgin Mary. Jesus was born under the law to redeem us whom the law condemned. By shedding His innocent blood in our place He reconciled us to the Father. Today, the work of our sanctification is also the work of the whole Trinity. Because when the Holy Spirit works faith in our hearts through the word and sacraments, He delivers to us nothing less than the peace that the Son has established between His Father and all sinners. – *Pastor John Christian Preus*