

Trinity Sunday 2020 - Year A
Ex.34.4-6,8-9///2Cor.13.11-13///John 3.16-18

→everyone loves an ending....

→when a homily or speech seems to go on for too long...what is the speaker's phrase that we captive listeners long to here?something like...*finally in conclusion!*

→that's the signal...to perhaps straighten up, slip back on the shoes, and to listen up for the big finish.

→endings are important...

→they linger in our memory after earlier bits of discourse fade away....that is why writers and speakers [and homilists] work so hard at endings

→we know that those final words may be the only ones to remain in the minds of our listeners and readers...

→so it is common for communicators to insert their most important message within the closing words...knowing that this might be their last and best hope to get their point across.

→and some of our best communicators refine their conclusions...down to an art form...

→remember how long time anchorman Walter Cronkite closed his night newscast..."*and that's the way it is*" or Carol Burnett closing each show with a tug of her ear...even outrageous Jerry Springer ended each episode of his often-tawdry television show with an attempt at a serious and thoughtful insight.

→whatever we might think of these communicators or their medium, they **knew** the power of a conclusion.

→and today as we celebrate the Feast of the Holy Trinity we hear of one such ending....from St. Paul in his letter to the Corinthians...

→“*The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ...and the love of God...and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with all of you....*”

→ironically...this ending...what we begin each Mass with...

→however.....what Paul offers.... in this often-used ending is a brief glimpse of what we celebrate today...one of the basic foundations and mysteries of our faith...

→one God manifested in three ways.

PAUSE

→and Paul, simply gives a final thought to his listeners...a thought...to stick in their minds and hearts....

→and in doing so...he arranges his final words of benediction into a set of three phrases...each of which is connected to ONE of the three personal expressions of God.

→**the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ....**speaks of God’s love for us that has been freely given...

→this **grace** forms the foundation of our lives as believers and members of the Church....

→and his point is that....we who have received **grace** must in turn be gracious to others...

→much like the Church in Corinth at the time this was written...we find ourselves also in the midst of strife and dissension...

--the events of this past week throughout our country

--the violence and misplaced intentions of some in the name of justice and righteousness...

→has led to a heightened intensity of mistrust and fear..

→squabbles and misplaced loyalty...and how and when to hold each other accountable....calls us even more intensely to be aware of the **grace of our Lord Jesus Christ.**

→and so by example and word...we are reminded of the need to extend that grace to each other for the sake of Christ.

→**the love of God**....there are many words to describe the character and action of God the Father....

→he is creator // almighty // Lord of lords // the great I AM...

→but one of the most profound words to use in connection with God is the word **“love.”**

PAUSE

→how incredible is this...//....that the creator and sustainer of the whole universe, would be so inclined toward his creation and us, in particular, that it could be said...*he loves us!*

→[and] Paul reminds us...not only...that God is love...but also that the mark of those who have been loved by God is that they love each other...

→i.o.w. God's love for us is not a mere private matter or a personal trophy...but rather it is a part of who we are making it inherent that we share this with others.

PAUSE

→and finally, **the fellowship of the Holy Spirit**...

→God's spirit is what breathes life into us...the spirit is the wind that fills our sails...

→...the comfort and guidance within us...like a compass and security blanket all rolled into one...

→and Paul does not just remind the Corinthians and you and me of our fellowship with the Holy Spirit...but rather urges us to maintain our fellowship of the Holy Spirit.

→in a nutshell...Paul reminds us that God...in all three of his persons...must shape and guide who we are and the way we are with one another....

PAUSE...

→everyone loves an ending....we long for the end of this pandemic...for the end of violence...for the end to the disruptions we face...

→final words from pen to paper...from lips to ears...make us draw close...listen, and remember....

→on this feast of the Holy Trinity...what better way to **end** then to hear again the words we begin with...

“The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ....and the love of God...and the fellow ship of the Holy Spirit be with all of you...”