

Trinity Sunday

Near the corner of West Oklahoma Avenue and 76th Street in Milwaukee there is a lovely ranch home with a large white garage door that faces south 76th Street. Against this backdrop is a professionally portrayed message that reads, “John 3:16.” As one drives south toward the corner, it can be seen from several blocks away.

In pop culture, *For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life*, has become known as the “John 3:16 message.” Today, it can often be spotted on license plates, t-shirts, coffee cups, and an array of religious goods. Few gospel quotes are as easily remembered or portrayed as John 3:16. This phenomenon does not diminish the importance of this gospel message; rather, its meaning is directed to a world in need of love and salvation.

The reading from Exodus (34:4-6,8-9) describes God as “...the Lord, a merciful and gracious, God, slow to anger and rich in kindness and fidelity.”(34:6) Moses knows, that even for stiff-necked people, God is a God of pardon and salvation, not judgement. St. Paul in his letter to the Corinthians (2 Cor.13:11-13) admonishes believers to “...rejoice, mend your ways, encourage one another, agree with one another, live in peace, and the God of love and peace will be with you.” (13:11).

As we reflect on these beautiful readings, we have only small and limited insights into the immensity of God’s greatest gift to us: the fellowship of the persons of the Trinity. Who is the merciful God, kind, gracious, slow to anger, rich in kindness and fidelity? Who is the God of love and peace? Who is the God who desires to save rather than judge? It is Trinity. One God, one Lord, in the fellowship of a Creator Father, a Savior Son, and an Empowered Spirit who, if we choose to believe and to be holy, comes to live among us and to save us.

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