

St Marc Grenoble
Sunday 12th June 2022, Trinity Sunday
Romans 5: 1 - 5
John 16: 12 - 15
'Justified by Faith'

Good Morning to you all, both here in church and joining on Zoom ...
Let's Pray

As usual, before we start, I'd like to hear what caught your attention in today's readings - and I'd especially like to hear from anyone who hasn't commented recently. What did you notice in today's readings??

Today, Trinity Sunday, is the day we celebrate the 'community' nature of our God – or, if you want to consider another way, one God with three distinct personalities.

Of course, that's a hard concept for us to grasp.

For me, and probably for a lot of other people, the idea of God 'The Holy Trinity' is one of the most difficult things to understand.

I have far less problem understanding God as 'God the Father', or of understanding Jesus as 'God the Son', but the concept of 'God the Holy Spirit' is much harder to grasp.

And I think that's because, subconsciously, we allow ourselves to restrict God to the limits of our human understanding, rather than accepting that God is far more awesome, complex and omnipotent, or all powerful, than any human can possibly be, or understand!

In Paul's letter to the Church in Rome (Romans 5, 1 – 5), he gives a sort of 'thumbnail portrait' of our amazing God, whose nature is so special. The trinitarian, or threefold nature of our God, who reaches right into the heart of our needs and even models a truly life-giving community for us.

Our sins, which we have, because we're human, make us unworthy, or unacceptable to be allowed into God's presence – because God is Holy. That means different, set apart.

But, God made us because He wants to delight in us, to love us, and so our exclusion because of our sin made Him deeply sad.

In OT times, God's people had to make frequent sacrifices to pay the price for their sins; but it never stopped. So God decided to put an end to it by providing a once for all sacrifice to redeem - or pay the price for our sins.

Only His own Son was a suitably Holy sacrifice to pay for all our sin once and for all. So, Jesus allowed himself to be sacrificed on a cross to pay that price. Roms 4: 25 says "Because of our sins He was handed over to die, and He was raised to life in order to put us right with God."

And, because of that, our Father God allows us to come face to face with Him and offers us His deep loving peace because of the reconciling grace that Jesus' sacrificial death has earned, on our behalf - once and for all.

Paul explains it's also because of that we're promised hope in the sufferings we meet in our daily lives; because of God the Father's redeeming and peace giving love, which was earned for us through Jesus' sacrifice, and the grace poured into our hearts by the gift of the Holy Spirit.

So how do we claim these benefits Jesus died for? Paul says –"through faith". In other words we need to believe in Jesus and trust what He has done for us, to be able to claim the benefits he earned for us.

We're given God's grace because Jesus earned it for us – but we have to claim it, by showing that we believe in Jesus and by doing the things He commissions us to do for Him.

We are invited to enjoy God's glory, because by His grace Jesus died to pay the price for wiping out, or washing away, our sins. But, we need to accept, or claim, His call to receive those benefits.

'The Message' says: "We throw open our doors to God and discover at the same moment that He has already thrown open His door to us. We find ourselves standing where we always hoped we might stand – out in the wide open spaces of God's grace and glory, standing tall and shouting our praise!"

What a delightful picture that is.

But, Paul is careful to point out that, just because we enjoy God's grace, does NOT mean that our lives immediately become a bed of roses!

Why?? Well, Paul says that our troubles help us to produce better qualities – like endurance, and patience, which bring God's approval, and we're told, His approval creates hope.

And, we're assured that hope in God will not disappoint us. 'The Message' says: "We're never left feeling shortchanged.

Rather – we can't round up enough containers to hold everything God generously pours into our lives through the Holy Spirit!"

What a beautiful picture of our triune God's grace: We're welcomed into God the Father's glorious presence, because of the sacrifice of God the Son, and once we're there God the Holy Spirit showers us with His richest blessings.

So, our response should be threefold too:

We should **PRAISE** God for His Glory not only with our mouths but with our lives.

We should **THANK** God for His graciousness to us.

We should **SHARE** this wonderful news with those around us who don't already know about it. We should imitate God's grace by not keeping the good news of hope to ourselves, but by sharing the news of His blessing of hope to those around us who are hope/less.

The real challenge for us is learning how best to do that!

So, as I close, let's PRAY:

Lord thank you for all the grace and blessings you pour out on us; help us to share the Good News of your Love and Your redeeming grace with those we meet this week.

We pray in Jesus' name **Amen.**