

From the May 4, 2010 Issue

Moving Towards The Trinity

The whole Christian year of worship has been leading up to Sunday, May 30 — Trinity Sunday. Beginning with Advent, then through Christmas, Epiphany, Lent, Holy Week, and Easter, our worship has been telling a story that moves steadily toward Trinity Sunday.

What is this story? It is the story of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. It is a love story. It is the account of how the love that the Father and the Son have for each other in the communion of the Spirit became so full and so great that they devised a plan to share that life of love with billions of others. Their plan was to send the Son, made flesh by the power of the Holy Spirit, into human nature so that he might bring humanity into their life. To this end the Father created humanity in the image of the Son, to live — like the Son — as the Father's eternal children.

So, even in the midst of our blindness and sin, the Father called Israel into being and promised the coming salvation of the world through Jesus, the Son of Israel (Advent.) Then the Son was born of Mary as the man Jesus (Christmas) and was baptized into our nature so that our nature might be baptized into his (Epiphany). Jesus said "Yes" to the Father, for us and on our behalf (Lent) and endured our murderous rage in order to destroy the enmity between us and the Father (Holy Week). Then he rose triumphant from the grave, putting death itself to death (Easter) and ascended to the Father's right hand, taking human nature itself into the Divine nature of the Triune God (Ascension). And at last the Holy Spirit was poured out on all flesh (Pentecost) so that every knee should bow and every tongue confess that Jesus is Lord.

The whole movement of this plan — the whole goal of this story — is a movement towards the Trinity. It is the story of how the plan that began in the life of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit comes, in Jesus Christ, full circle back to them by bringing humanity and creation into full communion with the Triune Life.

In this movement towards the Trinity the purpose for our existence is revealed and realized. In this movement towards the Trinity the flow of history finds its destiny. In this movement towards the Trinity the heavens and earth are made new and a new humanity is created in Christ.

All things began in the Trinity, and all things are moving toward the Trinity in Jesus Christ — including the worship year of the Church. May your Trinity Sunday celebration be filled as never before with the glory, love, and joy of the Triune Life.

~ Jonathan Stepp