

TRINITY NEWS

WEEK 09.
February 26, 2023

MYSTERY OF PRAYER

A ceaseless interchange of mutual love unites the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Our prayer is not merely communication with God, it is coming to know God by participation in this divine life. In prayer we experience what it is to be made “participants of the divine nature”; we are caught up in the communion of the divine persons as they flow to one another in self-giving love and reciprocal joy. If we hold before us in wonder the mystery of the triune life of God our prayer will realize its full potential. The conception of prayer as homage paid to a distant God will fall away. We shall find ourselves full of awe and gratitude that the life of divine love is open and accessible to us, for God dwells in us. “Those who love me will keep my word, and my Father will love them, and will come to them and make our home with them.” If we begin to accept God’s generosity in drawing us into the divine life, and grasp the dignity bestowed on us by the divine indwelling, prayer will spring up in adoration and thanksgiving.

We shall find ourselves adoring the Holy Spirit who is poured out into our hearts and gives us the love with which we can love in return. Our hearts will be filled

with thankfulness that the spirit stirs in the depths of our being and unites all that we are, even what is broken and not yet formed, with the risen Lord. We shall worship Christ himself with adoring love, full of gratitude that he abides in us, and that in him we enjoy the fullness of the Father’s acceptance and love. Our contemplation of Christ’s undiminished humanity will continually encourage us to offer ourselves, our souls and bodies in all their humanity to God through him. Through Christ we shall adore the Father in whom we live and move and have our being, the life-giving mystery of love, who is beyond all words and above all thoughts.

There are many conflicts on the way into the experience of divine love. Sinfulness originates in a deep wound to our humanity which hinders us all from accepting love. As a spirit exposes it to Christ’s healing touch in prayer we shall often have to struggle with our reluctance to be loved so deeply by God. Christ himself will strive with us, as the angel strove with Jacob, to disable our self-reliant pride and make us depend on grace. Our love must be purified and tested by many times of darkness, loss and waiting. The nearer we draw to God,

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the more we will sense our vulnerability to the “cosmic powers of this present darkness” that seek to isolate us from God and one another. So there are sufferings to be expected in our prayer but through them we come to the peace Christ promise. “After you have

suffered for a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, support, strengthen, and establish you. To him be the power forever and ever. Amen.” [The Rule of the Society of St. John the Evangelist]

**HOLY WEEK @
HOLY TRINITY**

April 2. Palm Sunday

•7:30 a.m. & 9:30 a.m. Blessing of the Palms & Holy Eucharist

April 6. Maundy Thursday

•7:00 p.m. Holy Eucharist & Washing of the Feet

April 7. Good Friday

•11:00 a.m. Stations of the Cross
•12:00 noon Liturgy of Good Friday

April 8. Holy Saturday

•7:00 p.m. The Great Vigil of Easter
•Baptism & Confirmation

April 9. Easter Sunday

•8:30 a.m. JOINT Eucharist Rite 1.

SAINTS:

George Herbert, Priest, 27 February. Born in 1593 into the aristocratic Pembroke family, George Herbert went up to Cambridge in 1614, eventually becoming a fellow of Trinity College. At the age of twenty-five, he became Public Orator in the University and then a Member of Parliament, apparently destined for a life at court. To everyone's surprise, he decided to be ordained and, after spending a time with his friend Nicholas Ferrar at Little Gidding, he was made deacon in 1626. He married in 1629, was priested in 1630 and given the care of souls of the parish of Bemerton, near Salisbury, where he spent the rest of his short life. He wrote prolifically, his hymns still being popular throughout the English-speaking world. His treatise, *The Country Parson*, on the priestly life, and his poetry, especially *The Temple*, earned Herbert a leading place in English literature. He never neglected the care of the souls of Bemerton, however, and encouraged attendance at the weekday recitation of the daily office, calling to mind the words of his hymn, 'Seven whole days, not one in seven, I will praise thee'. He died on this day in 1633.

David, Patron Saint of Wales, 1 March, Bishop. David, or Dewi, was a monk and a bishop in the sixth century. He was reputed to be an exemplar of the ascetic, spiritual life but was also highly regarded for his kindness and compassion to others, particularly the poor and the sick. He is believed to have founded the monastery at Menevia, now St David's, and also at least a dozen other monasteries. He is said to have based his Rule for his monasteries on that of the Egyptian desert monks, with a strong emphasis on hard work, abstinence from alcohol and a refraining from unnecessary speech. He died in about the year 601 and has been regarded as the patron saint of Wales since at least the twelfth century.