

PRAYING THE TRINITY - WEEK OF JANUARY FOURTH

How to Use this Sheet: The Trinity is a foundational belief for the Christian. However, it is also an idea that is difficult, if not impossible, to understand when using a typical approach to learning. Instead, we must approach the Trinity and our formation by it with open minds guided by contemplative practices. To that end, the following readings are designed to be read repeatedly and prayed over on the assigned days as we work towards deeper understanding of our faith.

A Trinitarian Reading for Thursday - With the rebirth of Christ from eternal life we also expect the rebirth of the whole cosmos. Nothing that God has created is lost. Everything returns in transfigured form. So we expect that the Spirit of the new creation of all things will vanquish human violence and cosmic chaos. More than that: we expect that the power of time and the power of death will be vanquished, too. Finally, we expect eternal consolation when 'the tears are wiped away' from our eyes. We expect eternal joy in the dance of fellowship with all created being and with the triune God. - Jürgen Moltmann

A Trinitarian Reading for Friday - Do you wish to know God? Learn first to know yourself. - Abba Evagrius

A Trinitarian Hymn for Saturday -
 Earth with joy confesses,
 clothing for her spring,
 All good gifts restored
 with her returning King.
 Bloom in every meadow,
 leaves on every bough,
 speak his sorrows ended,
 hail his triumph now.
 - Venantius Fortunatus

A Trinitarian Reading for Sunday - Acts 7:48
 The Most High does not dwell in houses made with hands; as the prophet says: heaven is my throne, and earth is my footstool. What house will you build for me, says the Lord, or what is the place of my rest?

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A Trinitarian Reading for Monday

The chief end of our life is to live in communion with God. To this end the Son of God became incarnate, in order to return us to this divine communion, which was lost by the fall into sin. Through Jesus Christ, the Son of God, we enter into communion with the Father and thus attain our purpose. - St. Theophan the Recluse

A Trinitarian Reading for Tuesday - John 3:1-10

Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. He came to Jesus by night and said to him, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God." Jesus answered him, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above." Nicodemus said to him, "How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother's womb and be born?" Jesus answered, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not be astonished that I said to you, 'You must be born from above.' The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit." Nicodemus said to him, "How can these things be?" Jesus answered him, "Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?"

"Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen; yet you do not receive our testimony. If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that

A Trinitarian Reading for Wednesday

Ego is the systematic affirmation of emotional reaction. This system is fueled by the energy of attention. Therefore as long as as a man has no control over his attention his possibilities remain imprisoned in the ego no matter what ideals he espouses and no matter what efforts he expends. - Father Sylvan (as quoted by Jacob Needleman)

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