



The Holy Trinity

This icon is often referred to as "The Old Testament Trinity", based as it is on the account in Genesis Chapter 18 of Abraham entertaining three strangers. This icon is based on the 15th century icon by the Russian Iconographer, Andrey Rublev. The three angels entertained by Abraham are seen by Christians as a *type* of the Holy Trinity.

The three figures are depicted as one Lord. Each holds a rod in his left hand, symbolizing their equality. Each wears a blue garment, the colour of divinity. And the face of each is exactly the same, depicting their oneness.

The Father is often seen as the figure on the left. His divinely blue tunic is cloaked in a color that is light and almost transparent because he is the hidden Creator. With his right he blesses the Son – he is pleased with the sacrifice the Son will make. His

head is the only one that is lifted high and yet his gaze is turned to the other two figures.

The Son is traditionally seen in the middle figure. He wears both the blue of divinity and reddish purple of royal priesthood. He is the King who descends to serve as priest to the people he created and to become part of them. With his hand he blesses the cup he is to drink, accepting his readiness to sacrifice himself for humanity. His head is bowed in submission to the Father on the left.

The Spirit is indicated in the figure on the right. Over his divinely blue tunic he wears a cloak of green, symbolizing life and regeneration. His hand is resting on the table next to the cup, suggesting that he will be with the Son as he carries out his mission. His head is inclined toward the Father and the Son. His gaze is toward the open space at the table.

Love is initiated by the Father, embodied by the Son, and accomplished through the Spirit.

At the end of Matthew's Gospel we hear Jesus exhorting his disciples to go and make disciples of all the nations and to baptize them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Trinity Sunday is always marked one week after Pentecost which is seen as the Birthday of the Church: the day on which we celebrate the Gift of the Holy Spirit. Trinity Sunday celebrates the mystery and the truth that God reveals himself to us as Father, as Son and as Holy Spirit – One God in three persons and One Substance.

Prayer to The Holy Trinity

Holy God, faithful and unchanging:

Enlarge our minds with the knowledge of your truth

And draw us more deeply into the mystery of your love,

That we may truly worship you,

Father, Son and Holy Spirit,

One God, now and for ever. Amen.