

## The Most Holy Trinity

Graduation is also called commencement. Even though school is ending, the next stage of life is commencing. It's an exciting time, but also a scary time. Being in school gives students a defined series of achievable goals. But when these are met, graduates are on their own to set new goals for life. Parents can justifiably boast of the accomplishments of their children, but many parents would feel better if they could see in their kids a definite plan for the future. Some kids think that having a plan is overrated; it's not. It's good to set goals and mark progress.

The inability to see someone else's plan can cause a person stress. In the world of sports, if your team is losing, you want to ask your manager, "What is the plan?" In foreign policy, if progress for peace is slow, citizens pose the same question. In the spiritual life, if we cannot discern God's will, that question becomes a heartfelt prayer: "Oh, God, who made me what I am, what is your plan for me?" Sometimes people have done their best in the spiritual life to set goals, enact preparations, make good decisions, and position themselves well, but then life doesn't go as expected. It is scary to face the realization that the plan of one's life is not clear.

This fear lies behind the comforting words we sing in today's responsorial psalm. "Blessed the people the Lord has chosen to be his own." Our cantor sang, "The word of the Lord is faithful, and all his works to be trusted. The Lord loves justice and right, and his merciful love fills the earth." The psalm aims to reassure people that God has a good track record. God knows our hopes, looks upon us, and will deliver us from whatever troubles us.

Psalm 33 is too long to sing in its entirety after the first reading, so we sing these excerpts from it a couple of times a year. However, only today does the lectionary include verse 6: "By the word of the Lord the heavens were made; by the breath of his mouth all their host." That verse supports the argument that God has had a plan from the beginning, and that God put it into place with his word. The Book of Genesis says that God spoke creation into being: "Let there be light, and there was light." God created with a plan. Early Christians noticed something else about Psalm 33 verse 6. After the resurrection the mystery of the Holy Trinity had come to light. This particular verse seems to express the roles within the Trinity, even before people realized what those were. Listen again: "By the word of the Lord the heavens were made; by the breath of his mouth all their host." The Lord, the word and the breath foreshadow what we now call the Father, the Son and the Spirit. For Christians, Psalm 33 becomes an even greater source of comfort. Not only does it show that God's word is trustworthy, but that God was revealing great mysteries to us even before humanity could become aware of them.

This may be true in our own lives. Just because we think that there is no plan doesn't mean that there is none. Just because we feel that we are aimless doesn't mean that we are. It could well be that God has very carefully prepared a path for us, one of which we are unaware. What we think may be the end of an era could actually be its commencement. The merciful love of the Lord, so evident to us now as we regard ages past, is still at work, even here, even now.

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