

**FEAST OF THE HOLY TRINITY  
Year A June 11, 2014**

**Theme: Awesome**

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Those of you who remember Cecil B. de Miles' movie version of the Ten Commandments know that God went to a quite a bit of 1960's special effects trouble to write those divine laws in stone with much lightning flashing and thunder booming.

Imaging the embarrassment of Moses when he had to trudge back up to the top of Mount Sinai and tell the Lord God Almighty he had broken those stone tablets.

"What do you mean, you broke them, Moses?"

"Well, you see, I got mad at the people and I threw the tablets at the golden calf and I broke them," said Moses.

God chuckled a little and said, "Moses, you may be the only person who will ever be able to confess to breaking all ten commandments at the same time. Don't worry: bring me two new tablets and I'll write them out for you again."

Today's reading from the Book of Kings picked up with Moses taking the two new tablets up to God.

When God comes to rewrite the commandments, Moses is blown away by his experience of the divine, of the all-holy one.

**"The Lord, the Lord, a merciful and gracious God,  
Slow to anger and rich in kindness and fidelity."**

At this, said the scripture, **"Moses at once bowed down to the ground in worship."**

Moses was brought to his knees by this experience of the holy, the awesome, an experience of mystery.

He became aware that he was in the presence of something or better, Someone so vastly, infinitely grander and more powerful than his puny small self.

But it was not just a matter of power and might that he was encountering; he knew it was a goodness, a beautiful energy source, a positive and life-giving personal presence.

This sense drove him to his knees because he knew he was in the presence of the Awesome, the Holy, the Ultimate Mystery of Life.

Have you had such a glimpse of the Awesome, the Holy, the Ultimate Mystery in your life?

Can you identify moments when you were driven to your knees because you knew you had seen even a fleeting, momentary sighting of the Lord in the spectacular awesomeness of divine glory?

In adult discussion of this topic, the experience of the actual delivery of children and grandchildren is often raised as a moment folks say has been the holiest of their lives.

The majesty of God seems so present and real in that moment when new life cries its way into being.

A tender moment of love or of forgiveness might be such a moment for someone.

Perhaps in a time of silent aloneness.

Many of us find infinity in the solemn quiet but outrageous spectacle of a sunrise or sunset.

Perhaps strangely for me, I become aware of the divine mystery walking down a hallway of Midway Airport in Chicago.

The hallway is lined with giant-sized photographs of deep space, many shot from the Hubble Telescope.

Seeing these nebulae and galaxies with billions of stars, hundreds of thousands of light years away from us, I just want to fall on my knees and honor the God who even knows that I exist and who loves me.

Brothers and sisters,

We are gathered this day to honor and worship the merciful and gracious God who loves us so much he did not even spare his own Son: how genuinely awesome.

We praise and thank and honor and bless that God for coming along in our company in the power of the Holy Spirit.

**“The Lord, the Lord, a merciful and gracious God,  
Slow to anger and rich in kindness and fidelity.”**