

Holy Trinity 6/7/20
Genesis 1:1-2:4a A

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON FROM GENESIS, THE 1ST CHAPTER

Our Old Testament lesson for this Trinity Sunday is the account of creation from the book of Genesis. Creation teaches us the most important thing we could ever know about God – God is love. He loves us and gives everything for us. He creates because He does not want to be alone. He wants to be with Him, in His presence; that we may enjoy His company forever and ever.

Luther taught us to think of creation this way: that God builds the perfect home for us to live in and enjoy. He dug the basement and poured the foundation. He, of course, put drain tile around the house. He put up the walls and the roof and shingled the roof. He finished the walls and installed the flooring. But, He didn't stop there. He put the refrigerator in the kitchen and stocked it with food and cold beverages. He made your bed. He hung your clothes in the closet and put them in the drawers. Then, He hung the big screen TV and made sure the high definition cable – complete with NFL and Golf channel [remember, God wants good for us] -- was working. All you had to do was move in and enjoy it. Everything that you ever needed was there. That's Luther's point: God has given us everything we need for our bodies and life, so that we may enjoy life.

As you read through the words of Moses in our lesson, the one word that stands out, that Moses uses again and again, is "good". God looks at His creation and it is "good". "Good" means that there no sin and because there was no sin, there was no bad; especially, there was no death. But, when you look at the world today, would you say it is "Good?" Would you use the word "good" to describe the heavens and the earth today?

A police officer was buried this past week. He left behind a young widow and an infant son, who will never know his father. He died, fulfilling his vocation, preserving order in God's creation. Order is not what we've seen in the rioting, looting, anarchy that has erupted through the streets of our nation. Allow me to quote to you the words of the President of our Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, Matthew Harrison:

We weep for George Floyd, for his family and loved ones because he was robbed of life. We weep for our nation. We weep for those across our nation who believe their only recourse is destruction. ... We deplore injustice. We deplore destruction, robbery and doing physical harm to others. That, too, is injustice.

(<https://blogs.lcms.org/2020/statement-on-the-death-of-george-floyd-and-the-ensuing-riots/>)

Today, we are back in God's House for worship after the Coronavirus prevented us from gathering for weeks and weeks. And, we find ourselves waiting for the killer hornets.

You will "hear of wars and tumults," Jesus said, "There will be great earthquakes, and in various places famines and pestilences. And there will be terrors and great signs from heaven" (Lk 21:9, 11). There will be injustice. Thieves will break in and steal. Our bodies will wear out and be subject to illness, disease, and infirmity. Marriage will be destroyed by selfishness and self-centeredness. Worry and fear fill our hearts and souls; patience and love, it seems, have vanished from humanity.

I know what you are thinking: enough gloom, Pastor. We may not like it, but the fact remains that we live in a world cursed by sin and its evidence is all around us and inside of us. Yes, we could use some good news, not just feel good news for today to make us smile, but good news that delivers us from the curse of sin.

Trinity Sunday teaches us God is love. Here is the GOOD NEWS OF THE GOSPEL: Our Father in heaven does not want our lives cursed with sin. Look at the words of Peter in our Epistle,

this Jesus, delivered up according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of lawless men. God raised Him up, loosing the pangs of death, because it was not possible for Him to be held by it (Ac 2:23-24).

Jesus, the Word made flesh, redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us. God wants only good for us, so God-in-the-flesh endured all the punishment and curse of sin. By His death, He destroyed death. By His resurrection, He burst the bonds of the grave. By His ascension, He opened heaven to us, that we may be with Him to be forever where Jesus is.

And He made that home of heaven your very own when you were joined to Christ in the new birth of your baptism. There, the forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation flowed over you, so that your citizenship is heaven, and you are a stranger here.

The book of Revelation gives us that beautiful picture of our home of heaven. In the Church Triumphant, we will hunger no more, thirst no more, the sun will not beat upon us, we will not have to shovel any snow, we will not fear, nor worry, nor be troubled, for God will wipe all the tears from our eyes (cf Re 7:16-17).

But for today, you live as a stranger here. Things around you may be bad, bad people may do bad things, bad things may happen, but by the grace of God, you live in the sure and certain hope that God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, works all things together for good. You can say with Paul,

For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us. ...What then

shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare His own Son but gave Him up for us all, how will He not also with Him graciously give us all things? ... For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord (Rom 8:18, 31-32, 38-39).

That is the goodness in which you live. And in that goodness, you have the sure and certain hope that God will make all things GOOD.

Especially, it will be good when God ushers in a new heaven and a new earth in which all the bad is gone and there is only good. God Himself speaks of it this way,

Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be His people, and God Himself will be with them as their God. He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away (Rev 21:3-4).

And that is VERY GOOD.

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.