

Trinity- June 7, 2020

Pre-service Music "Holy, Holy, Holy"

Opening Address

Hymn "Eternal Father Strong to Save" LSB 717

1 Eternal Father, strong to save,
Whose arm hath bound the restless wave,
Who bidd'st the mighty ocean deep
Its own appointed limits keep:
O hear us when we cry to Thee
For those in peril on the sea.

2 O Christ, the Lord of hill and plain,
O'er which our traffic runs amain
By mountain pass or valley low;
Wherever, Lord, Thy people go,
Protect them by Thy guarding hand
From ev'ry peril on the land.

3 O Spirit, whom the Father sent
To spread abroad the firmament;
O Wind of heaven, by Thy might
Save all who dare the eagle's flight,
And keep them by Thy watchful care
From ev'ry peril in the air.

4 O Trinity of love and pow'r,
Our people shield in danger's hour;
From rock and tempest, fire and foe,
Protect them wheresoe'er they go;
Thus evermore shall rise to Thee
Glad praise from air and land and sea.
Text (sts. 1-4): Public domain

The Invocation: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

The Confession: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. Let us then confess our sins to God our Father. Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew

us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.

The Absolution: In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for His sake, God forgives us all our sins. To those who believe in Jesus Christ, He gives the power to become the children of God and bestows on them the Holy Spirit. May the Lord, who has begun this good work in us, bring it to completion in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Prayer of the Day: Let us pray...through Jesus Christ, Your Son, Our Lord, Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

The Old Testament Reading is written in the book of Genesis, chapter 1, and ending at chapter 2, verse 4.

1 In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. **2** The earth was without form and void, and darkness was over the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters. **3** And God said, “Let there be light,” and there was light. **4** And God saw that the light was good. And God separated the light from the darkness. **5** God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day. **6** And God said, “Let there be an expanse^[a] in the midst of the waters, and let it separate the waters from the waters.” **7** And God made^[b] the expanse and separated the waters that were under the expanse from the waters that were above the expanse. And it was so. **8** And God called the expanse Heaven.^[c] And there was evening and there was morning, the second day. **9** And God said, “Let the waters under the heavens be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear.” And it was so. **10** God called the dry land Earth,^[d] and the waters that were gathered together he called Seas. And God saw that it was good. **11** And God said, “Let the earth sprout vegetation, plants^[e] yielding seed, and fruit trees bearing fruit in which is their seed, each according to its kind, on the earth.” And it was so. **12** The earth brought forth vegetation, plants yielding seed according to their own kinds, and trees bearing fruit in which is their seed, each according to its kind. And God saw that it was good. **13** And there was evening and there was morning, the third day. **14** And God said, “Let there be lights in the expanse of the heavens to separate the day from the night. And let them be for signs and for seasons,^[f] and for days and years, **15** and let them be lights in the expanse of the heavens to give light upon the earth.” And it was so. **16** And God made the two great lights—the greater light to rule the day and the lesser light to rule the night—and the stars. **17** And God set them in the expanse of the heavens to give light on the earth, **18** to rule over the day and over the night, and to separate the light from the darkness. And God saw that it was good. **19** And there was evening and there was morning, the fourth day. **20** And God said, “Let the waters swarm with swarms of living creatures, and let birds^[g] fly above the earth across the expanse of the heavens.” **21** So God created the great sea creatures and every living creature that moves, with which the waters swarm, according to their kinds, and every winged bird according to its kind. And God saw that it was good. **22** And God blessed them, saying, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth.” **23** And there was evening and there was morning, the fifth day. **24** And God said, “Let the earth bring forth living creatures according to their kinds—livestock and creeping things and beasts of the earth according to their kinds.” And it was so. **25** And God made the beasts of the earth according to their kinds and the livestock according to their kinds, and everything that creeps on the ground according to its kind. And God saw that it was good.

²⁶ Then God said, "Let us make man^[h] in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth." ²⁷ So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. ²⁸ And God blessed them. And God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth." ²⁹ And God said, "Behold, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is on the face of all the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit. You shall have them for food. ³⁰ And to every beast of the earth and to every bird of the heavens and to everything that creeps on the earth, everything that has the breath of life, I have given every green plant for food." And it was so. ³¹ And God saw everything that he had made, and behold, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day. **2** Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all the host of them. ² And on the seventh day God finished his work that he had done, and he rested on the seventh day from all his work that he had done. ³ So God blessed the seventh day and made it holy, because on it God rested from all his work that he had done in creation. ⁴ These are the generations of the heavens and the earth when they were created, in the day that the Lord God made the earth and the heavens.

The Holy Gospel is according to St. Matthew, chapter 28, verses 16-20.

¹⁶ Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them.

¹⁷ And when they saw him they worshiped him, but some doubted. ¹⁸ And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹ Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in^[a] the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

Apostles' Creed: I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth. And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen

Hymn "Holy God We Praise Your Name" LSB 940

1 Holy God, we praise Thy name;
 Lord of all, we bow before Thee.
All on earth Thy scepter claim,
 All in heav'n above adore Thee.
Infinite Thy vast domain,
Everlasting is Thy reign.

2 Hark! The glad celestial hymn
 Angel choirs above are raising;
Cherubim and seraphim,
 In unceasing chorus praising,

Fill the heav'ns with sweet accord:
Holy, holy, holy Lord!

3 Lo, the _apostles' holy train
 Join Thy sacred name to hallow;
Prophets swell the glad refrain,
 And the white-robed martyrs follow,
And from morn to set of sun
Through the Church the song goes on.

4 Thou art King of Glory, Christ;
 Son of God, yet born of Mary.
For us sinners sacrificed,
 As to death a Tributary,
First to break the bars of death,
Thou hast opened heav'n to faith.

5 Holy Father, holy Son,
 Holy Spirit, three we name Thee;
Though in essence only one,
 Undivided God we claim Thee
And, adoring, bend the knee
While we own the mystery.
Text: Public domain

The Sermon: The (Re)Creator

As human beings, we love to create. This love of creating starts at an early age. I see it with my daughter. She loves to create things with her blocks and Legos (and then promptly knock them over). She loves to color with paint, crayons, pens, pencils, markers, and anything else that will leave a residue. When I get home, she loves to show me the art she has made for that day. I have to admit that I cannot always tell what it is, but her pieces are my favorite. She loves to create pretend scenarios and pretend meals. The other day my “coffee” was a pink measuring cup that was served with a slice of cheese. I love seeing the creative things she comes up with! This love of creating doesn't diminish as we become adults. People love to make gardens with vegetables, flowers, and small trees. Others like to make quilts and customizable cups. Adults can enjoy making model airplanes, or building things from Lego's Adult brand. We even enjoy the creations of others, whether that is art, books, movies, or photographs. As human beings, we love to create. And, so does our God. God loves to create. As we celebrate Trinity Sunday, we see a God Who loves to create.

Our text says, “In the beginning.” As humans, we have start dates, and will one day have an end date. God has neither. He is eternal. No one and nothing else is eternal. There was no explosion, no bubble of gas, no cosmic dust that could have kindled the germ of life. The earliest forms of life did not originate in a blob of slime on some prehistoric pond that developed hundreds of billions of years through mutations. The elements that make up our universe are not eternal. Only God is. Our universe has a start date.

That start date was when God *created* it. The word *create* in Hebrew is a special one. In the Bible, the word *create* is only used of God's activity, and *always* expresses the origin of something extraordinary. What does that say about God's work? It is by *Him*. It is always *extraordinary*. And what did He create? "The heavens and the earth."

"The heavens and the earth" refer to the universe in its initial state. For God's own reasons, He did not see fit to make creation in its completed form. By His will, He created all of the components that would later constitute the universe as we know it, including matter, energy, time and space. On day one, God created all of His raw materials, similar to how a home builder assembles all his nails, wood, pipes, appliances, concrete, dry wall, and whatever else he needs at a site, before making them into a home. This is why verse two says, **"The earth was without form and void, and darkness was over the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters."** And what does God make first? He makes order. He starts with light.

He says, **"Let there be light,"** and there was light. God separated the light from the darkness, and called the light Day and the darkness Night. And this was good. We will see this phrase repeated seven times in our text, reminding and teaching us that what comes from God's hand is good. This is the end of day one.

On day two, God introduces three fundamental distinctions in our world: sky, sea, and dry land. **"And God said, 'Let there be an expanse in the midst of the waters, and let it separate the waters from the waters.' And God made the expanse and separated the waters that were under the expanse from the waters that were above the expanse. And it was so."** What do we call this? "Sky." And like the light, it too, is good. Day two is finished.

Day three of creation is a bit different. It is like constructing a pool. As a kid, my parents bought a pool in a box that claimed "Ready in 15 minutes!" Not sure how they figured that out. Once my Dad flattened the ground, put up the frame, and inserted the liner, which took longer than 15 minutes, we could finally add the water. Only once the frame and shape was up, then could the pool be filled. On day three, God continues His separating and ordering of creation, but also begins to fill it. He will have the "frame" finished. He now needs to fill it.

So God separates the water from the dry ground, and creates land and sea. With those now in place, God says, **"Let the earth sprout vegetation."** With that Word, ferns, roses, hibiscuses, and cactus appear. Pine, willow, oak, maple, apple, pear, and cherry trees sprout. The earth is dosed with every shade of green, and complimented with the beautiful colors the world's flowers have to offer. Day three ends, and like the others, everything here, too, is good.

On day four, our eyes are pointed above as God makes sun, moon, and stars. Psalm 8 says, "your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars, which you have set in place". It creates a wonderful picture, doesn't it? And God places them there for light, and as a way to tell time and seasons. As modern city dwellers, I don't think we fully grasp the importance of this since we have street and house lights. We don't see how dark nature can get. I remember driving back to Fort Wayne, Indiana, late at night, and I never realized how dark rural Indiana can be. The darkness on route 30 seemed to be all encompassing, and seemed to wrap itself around my little Honda. If it wasn't for some of the other truckers in the distance, and the faint stars in the sky, it would have been pitch black! God set them up there for our benefit. These things, too, are good, and day four comes to a close.

On day five, the world begins to teem and overflow with life. God says, **"Let the waters swarm with swarms of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the expanse of the heavens."** With that, the ocean is filled with star fish, sharks, whales, eels, and other

living creatures. Ponds and lakes are filled with bass, walleyes, and whatever else Minnesotans try to fish. The sky is now populated with robins, loons, ducks, eagles, and anything else with wings. And God blesses all of these things, telling them to be fruitful and to multiply. Like the rest, these things, too, are good, and day five comes to a close.

On day six, God creates land animals, and then the piece de resistance. He saves the best for last. He creates man and woman. **“Then God said, ‘Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.’ So God created man in his own image, in the image of God He created Him; male and female He created them.”** Did you notice the *plural*? The use of *we*. **“Let us make man in our image.”** This shows the three in one nature of God. Did you catch the word *create*? It was used three times in relation to the creation of humanity! Remember *create* in the Bible is only in reference to God and refers to something *extraordinary*! What does that say about humanity? What does that say about you? Humanity is special.

It is given dominion over the earth and everything in it! Psalm 8 notes that God cares for man. He has made us a little lower than the angels and crowns us with glory and honor. We are created in His image! What does that mean? It doesn't mean that we look like God. The image of God means that humanity was created in righteousness. Man had true knowledge of God. Man had true fear, trust, and confidence in Him. How amazing! And God calls all of his creation good, and then rests on the seventh day. Our God loves to create!

What a wonderful picture of man and creation we have here in Genesis 1! But, does this picture remain? Is this same picture of the world? No. Not all. We see chaos, not order. We see natural disasters. We have droughts, weeds, and storms. Animals can be unruly and dangerous. Is this the same picture of man? The world would say “yes,” but the Bible screams “no!” Through Adam and Eve's fall into sin, we have lost the image of God. We have no natural righteousness. We have no knowledge of God. We have no true fear, trust, or confidence in Him. One of my favorite commentators, Jeske, says that we have minds ignorant of God's good plan for us, emotions that find joy in things that displease Him, and wills that rebel against His good and gracious will. Our Lutheran confessions are not any kinder when it talks about original sin and our losing the image of God. It says, “That not only is original sin (in human nature) such a complete lack of all good in spiritual, divine matters, but also that at the same time it replaces the lost image of God in the human being with a deep-seated, evil, horrible, bottomless, unfathomable, and indescribable corruption of the entire human nature and of all its powers, particularly of the highest, most important powers of the soul, in mind, heart, and will.” Lutherans can be a little pessimistic when it comes to humans, can't we? So much for a good creation! What a tragedy for a God who loves to create!

But, fortunately, He also loves *to recreate*. He doesn't leave us fallen and broken. The God Who creates also re-creates. He is restoring His image in a fallen and broken world. When sin entered the world through Adam, the image of God in us was lost, but God acted. He promised and sent a Savior. God sent Jesus into the world. Jesus, Who is the true and exact image of God the Father. Jesus, the One Who shows us true man, without sin. In Jesus, the image that we lost lives! Jesus is the One Who knows His Father. Jesus is the One Who has complete trust, fear, and confidence in Him. Jesus is the righteous One!

But Jesus didn't come into the world to restore the image of God for only *a time*, but for *all time*. Jesus took upon himself our sin, our punishment, our death, our broken image, and in return gives us His Spirit. Through the Holy Spirit, the image of God is again given to us.

Through the Holy Spirit, we are *re-created*, made new, forgiven, loved, restored, and called “good” in God’s sight. We are being conformed into the image of Jesus, who is the image of God, daily through our baptism. What was once lost in Genesis is now being restored in Jesus, and will come to completion at the Last Day, where we will experience an ordered creation and life that is once again very good. Our God loves to create, but He also loves to *recreate*, too.

Prayer of the Church

O blessed and holy Trinity, the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, hear the prayers of Your people and grant to us all things according to Your Word and promise.

Brief silence

In the beginning, Father, Your Word spoke all things into being and from nothing You made all that is. Help us to see the imprint of Your love in the goodness of creation and to exercise responsible care of all that You have entrusted to us. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Throughout the ages, Father, Your Spirit filled the sin-stained world with hope and called us to repentance and faith. Help us to hear the voice of Your Word and to respond with faith, confessing You without fear before all manner of people and in every corner of the earth. As You planned long before the world began, deliver us in Christ, that we may be Your own and live according to Your commands all our days. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

In this day and in this time, Father, raise up for Your Church godly men to serve her as pastors and faithful teachers and church workers to make known Your saving Gospel. Raise up faithful servants who will heed Your call and serve to the best of their ability wherever You place them. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

In Baptism, You joined us to our Savior’s death and resurrection, Father. Guide us, that we may live out faithfully the new lives born of water and the Spirit, serving You with all our bodies, minds, souls and strength. In the face of disease and death, make us bold to expect that we will be united with Him in a resurrection like His. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

In government and law, Father, You work to establish and preserve order, protecting the weak and fostering godly virtue. Bless our president; our governor; and all who make, administer and judge our laws. Deliver the world from the threats of pandemic and tyranny, and preserve the nations in peace. Bless all who defend us in the armed forces, aid us in emergency and medical fields, and inform us with news. Hinder those who oppress any peoples with mistruth, violence or fear. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

In the hour of trial and in the moment of trouble, You are there, Father. Hear us as we cry to You for the sake of the sick, the troubled in mind, the wounded in heart and those who grieve [*especially _____*]. Deliver them from affliction as You will, and sustain them in hope with a patient heart and strength for the day. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Father, in the blessed Supper of our Lord, Your Son has offered us His body as the bread of heaven and His blood as the cup of salvation. Help us to receive this blessed Sacrament with faith and to show forth the fruits of the Spirit in lives of faith, repentance and goodness. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

In the company of the saints, Father, You have shown us that You will not abandon Your people but will keep them to everlasting life. Receive our thanks for those who have gone before us with the sign of faith and now rest from their labors, and bring us at last to dwell with them in Your presence forevermore. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

In this hour of worship, Father, You serve us with gifts of Your grace so that forgiven we might know the gift of a clear conscience and redeemed we might honor You with all we think, say and

do. Accept the sacrifice of our praise and the tithes and offerings we bring. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

All these things and whatever else You know we need, we pray You to grant us, Father, for the sake of our Savior Jesus Christ, through whom, with whom and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honor and glory are Yours, almighty Father, both now and forevermore. **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer: Let us pray the prayer Jesus has taught us to pray: Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

The Benediction: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious unto you. The Lord look on You with His favor and give you peace. Amen.

Final Hymn "Thy Strong Word" LSB 578

1 Thy strong word did cleave the darkness;

At Thy speaking it was done.

For created light we thank Thee,

While Thine ordered seasons run.

Alleluia, alleluia!

Praise to Thee who light dost send!

Alleluia, alleluia!

Alleluia without end!

2 Lo, on those who dwelt in darkness,

Dark as night and deep as death,

Broke the light of Thy salvation,

Breathed Thine own life-breathing breath.

Alleluia, alleluia!

Praise to Thee who light dost send!

Alleluia, alleluia!

Alleluia without end!

3 Thy strong Word bespeaks us righteous;

Bright with Thine own holiness,

Glorious now, we press toward glory,

And our lives our hopes confess.

Alleluia, alleluia!

Praise to Thee who light dost send!

Alleluia, alleluia!

Alleluia without end!

4 From the cross Thy wisdom shining

Breaketh forth in conqu'ring might;

From the cross forever beameth

All Thy bright redeeming light.
Alleluia, alleluia!
Praise to Thee who light dost send!
Alleluia, alleluia!
Alleluia without end!

5 Give us lips to sing Thy glory,
 Tongues Thy mercy to proclaim,
Throats that shout the hope that fills us,
 Mouths to speak Thy holy name.
Alleluia, alleluia!
May the light which Thou dost send
Fill our songs with alleluias,
Alleluias without end!

6 God the Father, light-creator,
 To Thee laud and honor be.
To Thee, Light of Light begotten,
 Praise be sung eternally.
Holy Spirit, light-revealer,
 Glory, glory be to Thee.
Mortals, angels, now and ever
 Praise the holy Trinity!

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Closing Address and Announcements

Postlude "Facing a Task Undaunted"