

Opening Prayer

Lord, open our hearts and minds by the power of your Holy Spirit that, as the Scriptures are read and discussed, we may hear with joy what you say to us today. Amen.

Genesis 1:1-2:4a

^{1:1} In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. ² The earth was without form and void, and darkness was upon the face of the deep; and the Spirit of God was moving 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; 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 a dome in the midst of the waters, and let it separate the waters from the waters." ⁷ So God made the dome and separated the waters that were under the dome from the waters that were above the dome. And it was so. ⁸ God called the dome Sky. And there was evening and there was morning, the second day. ⁹ And God said, "Let the waters under the sky be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear." And it was so. ¹⁰ God called the dry land Earth, and the waters that were gathered together he called Seas. And God saw that it was good. ¹¹ Then God said, "Let the earth put forth vegetation: plants yielding seed, and fruit trees of every kind on earth that bear fruit with the seed in it." And it was so. ¹² The earth brought forth vegetation: plants yielding seed of every kind, and trees of every kind bearing fruit with the seed in it. 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 dome of the sky to separate the day from the night; and let them be for signs and for seasons and for days and years, ¹⁵ and let them be lights in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth." And it was so. ¹⁶ 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 God set them in the dome of the sky to give light upon 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 bring forth swarms of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the dome of the sky." ²¹ So God created the great sea monsters and every living creature that moves, of every kind, with which the waters swarm, and every winged bird of every kind. And God saw that it was good. ²² 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 of every kind: cattle and creeping things and wild animals of the earth of every kind." And it was so. ²⁵ God made the wild animals

of the earth of every kind, and the cattle of every kind, and everything that creeps upon the ground of every kind. And God saw that it was good. ²⁶ Then God said, "Let us make humankind in our image, according to our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the wild animals of the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth." ²⁷ So God created humankind in his image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them. ²⁸ 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 air and over every living thing that moves upon the earth." ²⁹ God said, "See, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is upon 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 air, 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 God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.

^{2:1} Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all their multitude. ² And on the seventh day God finished the work that he had done, and he rested on the seventh day from all the work that he had done. ³ So God blessed the seventh day and hallowed it, because on it God rested from all the work that he had done in creation. ^{4a} These are the generations of the heavens and the earth when they were created.

Commentary

There are some things that this passage and this Trinity Sunday have to say about God and us.

- First, the God of Scripture is just too big and mysterious to allow a single subject to drive a series of verbs (create, said, see), or to describe him simply as a single actor over creation. The spirit or wind of this God also takes action; the spirit "sweeps, hovers, and broods" over the stuff of this world in a way that hints at relationship—both inside and outside the Godhead this passage portrays.
- Second, the real question here is not one of what preceded what, but of who brings order to all. Genesis 1 explicitly makes the claim that the ordering activity of God was present at the beginning of the story, as it is now and has been every step along the way. As the faithful Jew learned to trust God's power to create order in the light that breaks the darkness every morning, so the faithful Christian has learned to trust that power through the light and life that breaks the darkness through the spirit of the risen Christ.

Reflection

What does this passage say to you about your relationship with God?

2 Corinthians 13:11-13

^{13:11} Finally, brothers and sisters, farewell. Put things in order, listen to my appeal, agree with

one another, live in peace; and the God of love and peace will be with you. ¹² Greet one another with a holy kiss. All the saints greet you. ¹³ The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with all of you.

Commentary

These three sweet verses come at the end of 2 Corinthians' many ups and downs. After the storm of tears, rebukes, recriminations, and self-justifications this letter represents, the last verse alone seems to have the power to set all things right. After three chapters of ugly wrangling, it is difficult to see how Paul can move so swiftly to this desiderata-type benediction. Trinity Sunday gives an opportunity for examination of the great mysteries of union between the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit; it also can point to the mysterious union that we as humans experience between each other, even in the hardest of circumstances.

Reflection

When have you felt this union in your own life?

Matthew 28:16-20

^{28:16} Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. ¹⁷ 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 the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

Commentary

Jesus did not just send the church out to perform the ritual of baptism. The world will not be fixed by merely getting everyone wet. Saying the words "Father, Son, Holy Spirit" is not magic. The more difficult task is that of making disciples. Making disciples and immersion into the fullness of God go hand in hand. We cannot help ourselves or anyone else become apart of Christ without the work of the Holy Spirit. The work of the Spirit is dependent upon what and who Jesus was and is. Christ keeps pointing to the Father. So therein lies the power. It is the Trinity, the fullness of God, to which we are attached as followers of the Way.

Reflection

Have you ever helped make disciples? What is scary about that? What is exciting about that challenge?

Responsive Psalter

Psalm 8

- ^{8:1} O LORD, our Sovereign,
how majestic is your name in all the earth!
- ² You have set your glory above the heavens.
Out of the mouths of babes and infants
**you have founded a bulwark because of your foes,
to silence the enemy and the avenger.**
- ³ When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers,
the moon and the stars that you have established;
- ⁴ what are human beings that you are mindful of them,
mortals that you care for them?
- ⁵ Yet you have made them a little lower than God,
and crowned them with glory and honor.
- ⁶ You have given them dominion over the works of your hands;
you have put all things under their feet,
- ⁷ all sheep and oxen,
and also the beasts of the field,
- ⁸ the birds of the air, and the fish of the sea,
whatever passes along the paths of the seas.
- ⁹ O LORD, our Sovereign,
how majestic is your name in all the earth!

Closing Prayer

Grant, O Lord, that what we have said with our lips we may believe in our hearts, and that what we believe in our hearts we may practice in our lives, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.