

BLESSED SAVIOR LUTHERAN CHURCH
Sunday, June 7th

An outline of today's sermon:

IN THE BEGINNING GOD CREATED

Text: Genesis 1:1-3 In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters. And God said, "Let there be light," and there was light.

Introduction – The title of our sermon today is an affirmation of our faith. We believe that God created the heavens and the earth. This is an article of faith. While God reveals himself to us, he hides most of his majestic power. Humbly we accept his power, and his love through which we are saved and made children of God.

1 – The Word that cleaved the darkness: "Let there be light."

2 – The PERSONAL Word that cleaved my darkness: "I baptize you..."

3 – The continuing Word that sustains light: "I forgive you..."

4 – The empowering Word: "As I have love you..."

5 – We are sent – we do not walk alone!

6 – Our mission: tell everyone what the Lord has done.

7 – Faith gets stronger through exercise!

Conclusion – Since we are backed by our God who is unlimited in power let us fearlessly and boldly proclaim the Gospel through every means available to us. Our aim is to tell everyone what God offers through Christ, namely forgiveness, life and salvation. It should not be difficult to identify someone who does not believe, because we live in a target-rich environment.

THE HOLY TRINITY

The Holy Triune God Recreates Us in the Image and Likeness of Christ Jesus

The holy Triune God “created the heavens and the earth,” and “behold, it was very good” (Gen. 1:1, 31). However, after Adam and Eve fell into sin and plunged God’s good creation into decay and death, the Son of God would be “delivered up according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God” to be “crucified and killed by the hands of lawless men” (Acts 2:23). As Jesus “received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit” (Acts 2:33), He also raises up all the baptized and pours out the Spirit upon them through the preaching of His Gospel. He sends out His apostles to “make disciples of all nations” by “baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,” and “teaching them to observe all that [He has] commanded” (Matt. 28:19–20). Through such baptizing and teaching — Gospel and Sacraments — the holy Triune God recreates us in the image and likeness of His incarnate Son, Jesus, the Christ, and behold, it is “very good” (Gen. 1:31).

Readings

Introit

Psalm 16:8–11; antiphon: Liturgical Text

Blessèd be the Holy Trinity and the undivided | Unity.*

Let us give glory to him because he has shown his mer- | cy to us.

I have set the LORD always be- | fore me;*

because he is at my right hand, I shall not be | shaken.

Therefore my heart is glad, and my whole being re- | joices;*

my flesh also | dwells secure.

For you will not abandon my soul | to Sheol,*

or let your holy one see cor- | ruption.

You make known to me the | path of life;*

in your presence there is fullness of joy; at your right hand are pleasures for- | evermore.

Glorify be to the Father and | to the Son*

and to the Holy | Spirit;

as it was in the be- | ginning,*

is now, and will be forever. | Amen.

Blessèd be the Holy Trinity and the undivided | Unity.*

Let us give glory to him because he has shown his mer- | cy to us.

Old Testament Reading

Genesis 1:1—2:4a

¹In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. ²The 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.

³And God said, “Let there be light,” and there was light. ⁴And God saw that the light was good. And God separated the light from the darkness. ⁵God called the light Day,

and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

⁶And God said, "Let there be an expanse in the midst of the waters, and let it separate the waters from the waters." ⁷And 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.

⁸And God called the expanse Heaven. And there was evening and there was morning, the second day.

⁹And God said, "Let the waters under the heavens be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear." And it was so. ¹⁰God called the dry land Earth, and the waters that were gathered together he called Seas. And God saw that it was good.

¹¹And God said, "Let the earth sprout vegetation, plants yielding seed, and fruit trees bearing fruit in which is their seed, each according to its kind, on the earth." And it was so. ¹²The 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. ¹³And there was evening and there was morning, the third day.

¹⁴And 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, and for days and years, ¹⁵and let them be lights in the expanse of the heavens to give light upon the earth." And it was so. ¹⁶And God made the two great lights—the greater light to rule the day and the lesser light to rule the night—and the stars. ¹⁷And God set them in the expanse of the heavens to give light on the earth, ¹⁸to rule over the day and over the night, and to separate the light from the darkness. And God saw that it was good. ¹⁹And there was evening and there was morning, the fourth day.

²⁰And God said, "Let the waters swarm with swarms of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the expanse of the heavens." ²¹So 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. ²²And God blessed them, saying, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth." ²³And there was evening and there was morning, the fifth day.

²⁴And 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. ²⁵And 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.

²⁶Then 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."

²⁷So God created man in his own image,
in the image of God he created him;
male and female he created them.

²⁸And 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." ²⁹And 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. ³⁰And 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. ³¹And God saw everything that he had made, and behold, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.

¹Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all the host of them. ²And 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. ³So God blessed the seventh day and made it holy, because on it God rested from all his work that he had done in creation.

⁴These are the generations
of the heavens and the earth when they were created.

Psalm

Psalm 8; antiphon: v. 9

¹O LORD, our Lord,
how majestic is your name in | all the earth!*

You have set your glory above the | heavens.

²Out of the mouth of babes and infants,
you have established strength because | of your foes,*
to still the enemy and the a- | venger.

³When I look at your heavens, the work of your | fingers,*
the moon and the stars, which you have | set in place,
⁴what is man that you are mind- | ful of him,*
and the son of man that you | care for him?

⁵Yet you have made him a little lower than the heavenly | beings*
and crowned him with glory and | honor.

⁶You have given him dominion over the works | of your hands;*
you have put all things under | his feet,
⁷all sheep and | oxen,*
and also the beasts | of the field,
⁸the birds of the heavens, and the fish | of the sea,*
whatever passes along the paths | of the seas.

⁹O | LORD, our Lord,*
how majestic is your name in | all the earth!

Epistle

Acts 2:14a, 22–36

¹⁴Peter, standing with the eleven, lifted up his voice and addressed them, . . .

²²“Men of Israel, hear these words: Jesus of Nazareth, a man attested to you by God with mighty works and wonders and signs that God did through him in your midst, as you yourselves know— ²³this Jesus, delivered up according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of lawless men. ²⁴God raised him up, loosing the pangs of death, because it was not possible for him to be held by it. ²⁵For David says concerning him,

"I saw the Lord always before me,
for he is at my right hand that I may not be shaken;
²⁶therefore my heart was glad, and my tongue rejoiced;
my flesh also will dwell in hope.
²⁷For you will not abandon my soul to Hades,
or let your Holy One see corruption.
²⁸You have made known to me the paths of life;
you will make me full of gladness with your presence.'

²⁹"Brothers, I may say to you with confidence about the patriarch David that he both died and was buried, and his tomb is with us to this day. ³⁰Being therefore a prophet, and knowing that God had sworn with an oath to him that he would set one of his descendants on his throne, ³¹he foresaw and spoke about the resurrection of the Christ, that he was not abandoned to Hades, nor did his flesh see corruption. ³²This Jesus God raised up, and of that we all are witnesses. ³³Being therefore exalted at the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, he has poured out this that you yourselves are seeing and hearing. ³⁴For David did not ascend into the heavens, but he himself says,

"The Lord said to my Lord,
Sit at my right hand,
³⁵until I make your enemies your footstool.'

³⁶Let all the house of Israel therefore know for certain that God has made him both Lord and Christ, this Jesus whom you crucified."

Holy Gospel

Matthew 28:16–20

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the twenty-eighth chapter.

C **Glorify to You, O Lord.**

¹⁶Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. ¹⁷And when they saw him they worshiped him, but some doubted. ¹⁸And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise to You, O Christ.**

CHARITABLE INFORMATION

SPECIAL MISSIONS: This quarter's special missions contributions will bring aide to several organizations that help the underprivileged of our state. Homeless, veterans who have fallen on hard times and other marginalized of our society will all benefit physically and spiritually from our gifts.

Last Week's Offerings: \$5,535.00 **Needed Weekly:** \$10,365.00

PRAYERS OF THANKSGIVING AND INTERCESSIONS

(In order to protect the privacy of our members, no names will be mentioned in our public prayers)

Special intercessions: please pray for all health care workers in America and the world, for all first responders, truck drivers and essential workers.

We continue to pray for those who are in need of medical attention.

We pray the Lord to watch over those who are serving in the military.