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Feast of the Holy Trinity
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Grace Lutheran Church, Wichita
Genesis 1:1-2:4a

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

“In the beginning, God [the Father] created the heavens and the earth” (Gen 1:1).
He created something wonderful out of nothing—*ex nihilo*, as they say in Latin.
The heavenly Father is, by definition, *creative*—
He’s imaginative, hilarious, joyful, and intricate.

God the Father created an amazingly detailed and intricate world in the beginning.

But God the Father, the creator of the heavens and the earth, wasn’t alone.

Our Heavenly Father isn’t a bored only child, making things “just for fun” or to knock over—
no, the world He created was a world intentionally communal;
He intended everything He created for the sake of a community,
a *holy* community—
His Church...you!

And God the Father wasn’t alone.
You can’t ever have God,
the Triune, 3-in-1 sort of God, split apart.
He doesn’t work that way!

No, as Genesis says,
“The Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters” (1:2),
and the Second person,
the Eternal Word,
the everlasting Son of the Father,
was the Word that spoke creation into existence, “Let there be...”

As soon as **“God says”** anything, you know you’ve got the Son at work!
We call Him Jesus;
but that wasn’t His name yet...
for now, simply call Him the Son, or the Word,
and if you know enough Greek, “ὁ λόγος”.

God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—
that’s who created the heavens and the earth out of nothing in 7 days.

Now, to be clear, these are 7 actual days: 24 hour, sun up, sun down sort of days—
if it were meant to be understood otherwise, the Lord wouldn’t have given us repeatedly,
“And there was evening and there was morning, the first day...” (1:5).

So in 7 miraculously and mysteriously efficient work days,
 this Triune Lord created everything:
 Light,
 Heaven,
 Land and seas, plants and trees,
 Sun, moon, planets, and stars,
 Birds and fish,
 livestock,
 and finally man—that is, mankind, that is,
“male and female He created them” (1:27).

After each day’s work, God looked at what He made and marveled, saying,
“now that’s good” (1:4, 12, 18, 21, 25).

Try to picture the scene:
 The three of them, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
 kick back after each day’s hard work,
 with a Lutheran beverage in hand and admire what each has done!

The Spirit says to the Father,
 “I really like the way You came up with those weeping willows over there!”
 And the Son compliments the Spirit, saying,
 “And the coloring on those butterflies—amazing!”
 Meanwhile, the Father says to each,
 “Just wait ‘til day 6—I’ve really got something up my sleeve I’m saving just for you!”

Now, I can’t say that’s actually how it went—
 but I do know it was a joyful and incredibly compassionate event.

Just consider this,
 all creation finds its fulfillment, perfection, and goal in the creation of mankind on Day 6!

**“God said, ‘Let US [again, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit!]
 make man in *Our* image, after *Our* likeness...
 So God created man in His own image,
 in the image of God He created him;
 male and female He created them”** (1:26, 27).

You, O man, mankind, male and female, you! are created in the image and likeness of God!
 And this “image and likeness” doesn’t simply mean a physical resemblance—
 I mean, how do you resemble the Spirit anyhow?
 No, man was created in the image and likeness of God in such a way,
 that God would look at this great and final creation and say,
 not just ‘good,’ but **“very good”** (1:31)—in Hebrew: *tov, tov meod!*

The human race, as we call it, or more simply, “man” was created in God’s own 3-in-1 sort of image:

Holy,
righteous,
creative,
imaginative,
and compassionate.

That’s how God’s creation *was*—
“**very good**” (1:31).

But it’s not anymore.

No, that “**very good**” was short-lived.

It didn’t take those first, day 6 human beings long to mess it all up for the rest of us!

While God created a place of joyful community—
where man delighted in the presence of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
without any shame or guilt or sense of unworthiness—
that’s not how it is today.

Today there’s great fear of God—
and rightly so!

This amazing and awesome creator has a very strong word of judgment against those who sin.

In fact, sin is precisely the opposite of what God created.

God’s creation is “**very good**”—
sin is “not good”.

Sin is separation from God;

it’s a break in this wonderful community;
a distance that God worked so hard to eliminate by creating!

God didn’t create a separate place for man and for God—
the two shared the same place!

God wants no distance between Him and you and me.

And so this wonderful creation now suffers the separation that sin introduced:

those marvelous butterflies often come to a gruesome end under a little boys shoe;
the weeping willows, evidence of such creativity, are uprooted by new developments;
and man, that pinnacle of creation, not only suffers the hatred of fellow man,
but also all sorts of plagues, cancers, diseases, earthquakes, tornados, and floods.

This separation from God—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—
isn’t good.

But what can man do about it?
 What can *you* do about it?
 How can you make things right with God?
 How can you bridge that distance,
 take away that barrier,
 and once again walk with God?

Well, if you've paid attention at all to the way creation works—
 it's never man or beast or bird or tree that decides to be created!
 It's never the water's idea to be separated from the land.
 The sun, moon, and stars don't just decide to be formed!

God must do it!

God alone, in His infinite wisdom, creativity, and mercy,
 must *re*-create you!

And thank God He does!
 Thank God for Holy Baptism, where He puts His 3-in-1 name on you again!

While it's certainly important to know that each person of the Trinity is
 uncreated, infinite, eternal, almighty, God, and Lord—
 it's *most* important to know that this uncreated, infinite, eternal, almighty, God and Lord
 is also "**merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness**"
 (Exod 34:6).

It's the mercy of God, the love that He has for His creation, that takes away the separation.
 It's the Father saying to the Son,
 "It's time to have compassion!
 Now go, My Son! And bring to all salvation.
 From sin and sorrow set them free;
 go the way of the cross for them, that they may live with You forever" (LSB 556:5, adpt).

And the Son says to His Father,
 "Your will be done!"

And the Spirit then says,
 "O Christ, wherever Your word is preached,
 wherever sins are forgiven for Your sake,
 there I will be to comfort them, to nourish them, and give them faith."

It's the work of this 3-in-1 sort of God that both creates and re-creates the joyful life together.

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