Trinity A 2020 When God speaks

Genesis 1:1 – 2:4a

The Creation of the World

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 in the midst of the waters, and let it separate the waters from the waters.” 7 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. 8 And God called the expanse Heaven. 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, 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 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, 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 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 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.

The Seventh Day, God Rests

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

Matthew 28: 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 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.”

When this present isolation and loneliness and chaos takes hold, we may drift off into despair and wonder where God is in all of this. In the middle of grief, when it feels the heaviest, we may ask God why He does not say something. His silence may be seen as indifference. If God cares about me then surely He would say something. But is it true that God is silent?

In the beginning, when God created the heavens and the earth and no one was around, not even the angels, God spoke. And God said, “Let there be light”. Why did He have to say it? Could He not have simply thought it? Why did God say anything out loud when the snap of a finger would do?

This leads us to ponder the nature of God on this wonderful Trinity Sunday. If God is one only, then there is no need for Him to say anything. All could be accomplished by power alone and there would be no need for a word. Such a powerful god demands submission or threatens annihilation. This is exactly how the false god of Islam is portrayed. Submit or die. It does not warm the heart or entice anyone.

God is One. But God is also Three. Not in the way of three gods, but Three Persons. Father, Son and Holy Spirit. So the Father speaks out loud because He is not alone. We may speculate what God did before He made everything. All that time by Himself would strike us as a very lonely existence.

But God was not sad nor lonely. The Father always was with His Son and always loved His Son. The Son was always there with His Father and loved Him. It is hard to love someone without saying it. Sign language manages it with the sign for I Love You by holding up thumb, index and pinkie fingers only.

The Word spoken by the Father is His beloved Son. The Son of God has no beginning and no end. He was always with the Father and always loved the Father as He himself is loved by the Father.

The Word was in the beginning with His Father. All things were made through him, the word. Without the word, nothing was made. The Word came into the world as human flesh from the Father. The Son of God, full of grace and truth, embodies the Father’s love and became man to reclaim us as children of the heavenly Father. Whoever sees the Son has already seen the Father.

The Holy Spirit proceeds from the Father through the Son. The Spirit has no beginning and no end. The Spirit hovered over the face of the waters after the Father spoke them into being. The Holy Spirit cares for creation and is present at its beginning.

So the Holy Trinity is taught in the first three verses of the bible where the Father speaks the word, His Son, and brings everything into form and order. The Holy Spirit not only hovered over the face of the waters but breathed life into Adam and so the man became a living being. Without the Spirit, Adam would remain a lifeless lump of clay.

And so God speaks. All things are made. Everything in creation comes into being and it is good, very good. When God speaks, good things happen.

So now let us return to God speaking to us especially in times of loneliness. God spoke to you in the beginning of your new life, reclaimed life, eternal life with Him. The Holy Spirit breathed new life into you that belongs to the Son and sent by the Father, when God baptized you. This was not the work of man but of God, the Triune God.

Jesus commanded his apostles to go, make disciples of all nations and to baptize in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Not Three gods, but one God. Yet all three persons were present when you were baptized and became a child of God.

At your baptism, God spoke lovingly and tenderly to you. He made you His child and promised to be with you always even to the end of the age. What God promises He never takes back. Such loving words as God saying to us, both deaf and hearing, I love you, in the way of my beloved Son who covers your sin and always prays for you. You will always be my baptized child.

Even though God used a pastor to carry it out, the words and the holy work are only God’s. Yet through this simple application of water together with the name of the Holy Trinity, God speaks to us His love loud and clear.

Now you know that God is never silent. The Father spoke all things into being. If Jesus would never have become man, then our ears would have been deaf to God’s love and who God is. But in the man Jesus of Nazareth, we see the face of His eternal Father. And the Holy Spirit, who hovered over the face of the waters, also brought life and light to us in the waters of our baptism.

May all these wonderful promises of God’s spoken word to you, cheer you and make you glad even in the darkest and loneliest of times. God give you ears to hear Him say I love you in Jesus Christ our Lord, through the power of the Holy Spirit.