The Baptism of Our Lord B 2021 Creation and Our Re-creation

**Genesis 1: 1-5**

*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.*

God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit created all things.

Before the heavens and the earth took shape, there was a deep abyss, as the deepest depth of the ocean. No one was there except the Holy Trinity. It is hard for us to understand how it all looked. The Lord did not give us the words about creation for us to understand in a scientific way.

But He is teaching us that all things came into being through His word. For by His word, God upholds all things. Firstly, it means that God was before all things that He created. The Father, Son and Holy Spirit, one God, has no beginning and no end. In love, God brought all things into being through speaking His Word.

And God said, “Let there be light and there was light”. The word is the eternal Son of God, through whom all things were made. By that Word, all things are held together. In Jesus, the Word of God, all things are united, everything in heaven and everything on earth.

When the earth was formless and empty, the Holy Spirit was hovering over the surface of the waters, as a mother hen sits on her eggs to hatch them. She is called a broody hen. She will sit until she hears the peeps of her newborn chicks. In the same way, the Holy Spirit brooded over the misty waters of creation to give it life. That’s why the Holy Spirit is called the Lord and Giver of Life in the Nicene Creed.

God tells us who He is in Creation. He is Father, Son and Holy Spirit, yet one God.

God brought all things into being by speaking His word and then he used the created waters to give form and shape to the earth.

**Mark 1: 9-11**

*In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. 10 And when he came up out of the water, immediately he saw the heavens being torn open and the Spirit descending on him like a dove. 11 And a voice came from heaven, “You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased.”*

Recreation begins in Baptism

In the baptism of Jesus, we see and hear the Holy Trinity most clearly. The Father’s voice declares that this man kneeling in the Jordan river, is His eternal Son, who was with Him always as the Only-Begotten from eternity. Jesus is the same Son through whom all things were made.

The Holy Spirit, although not brooding but hovering in the form of a dove, was anointing the eternal Son as the Saviour and Messiah of the world, which He created.

It is easier for us to believe the incarnation than the creation. We have witnesses of the birth of Jesus: Joseph, Mary and the shepherds. We have witnesses of the baptism of Jesus: John. But there are none to behold the beginning of creation except the blessed Holy Trinity.

Therefore, we must rely on the words of the blessed Holy One who spoke through the prophets and retells the creation of all things. Still, all trust in these words depends on God’s gift of revelation. Only God can uncover the mystery of who He is and what He has done.

Back to the words of the father at the baptism of Jesus. God is pleased with His Son. He always was and always is. The Son gladly obeyed his father to accept a body fashioned in the womb of the virgin Mary to offer as sacrifice.

Why did God the Son have to be baptized? Why did God make the heavens and the earth? Why did God tell us in holy Scripture who He is and what He has done?

The answer is one and the same. Love. God is love. The Father’s love for His Son is returned by the Son. The Spirit proceeds from the Father through the Son and gives the gift of love and life.

The God who made all things was not about to let all things unravel into chaos and disorder. Chaos and disorder is all around us. Social unrest and global pandemic hide the fact that God made everything good, even very good. It could not have been made any better or more perfect.

The Holy Spirit is the One who breathed life into Adam. The breath of the man and the woman then returned to God in grateful praise. Our songs of thanks reflect this in that our exhaling breath gives the push while mouths and tongues give the shape. All gifts of God. May God have mercy on us until we can sing His praises again together!

But the dead cannot sing. The dead have lost breath. Without breath, there is no praising of God. Dead and darkness was the home that our sin left us. Shrouded in shame and guilt, Adam and Eve lost their home and were enslaved by the impulse to run from God in horror.

We are their heirs. We come into the world without God’s praises on our lips. We come into the world with cries of cold and shock and carry the sin of our parents. We are born spiritually blind, dead and enemies of God. So we cannot praise God.

The God who created all things also created you. His love was working in your creation. His love was working when He re-created you in your baptism. He was not about to let you drift away in darkness and death.

Again, He uses water and the word and gives you eternal life. He declares you to be His child when He baptized you. In Jesus, God is well pleased with you. Even when your conscience troubles you and the daily sins mount up on the ledger of the law, the word of God spoken at your baptism is greater than your heart and cancels the debt you owe God.

In your baptism, you are eternally united with the God of love, the God of creation, the God of the crucifixion and the God who will return in glory.

Romans 6: 1 – 11

*What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin that grace may abound? 2 By no means! How can we who died to sin still live in it? 3 Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? 4 We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life.*

*5 For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. 6 We know that our old self was crucified with him in order that the body of sin might be brought to nothing, so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin. 7 For one who has died has been set free from sin. 8 Now if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. 9 We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. 10 For the death he died he died to sin, once for all, but the life he lives he lives to God. 11 So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.*