***Living in the Light of the Triune God***

**Creation Day 1 – MidWeek Lent 1**

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ our contemplation of the Creation account given by God through His servant Moses is not intended to be merely a curious, scientific endeavor about the origins of our world and universe. Indeed, as we go along over the next few weeks, we will learn that God reveals much about Himself, and about His nature, in this narrative.

There is much *theology* to be drawn from the Creation account, that is why there are references to it throughout Holy Scripture. Tonight, we will learn from the first five verses of Genesis something about the Triune nature of God. In these verses, our Lord will give us insight into the internal relationship between Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Furthermore, we will learn what it means for us today! We are ***Living in the Light of the Triune God***—for God Himself has caused many analogies of our spiritual lives to be tied to the separation of Darkness and Light and the work of the Holy Spirit brooding over the waters.

***In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.*** (Gn 1:1) There was **nothing** before that—except the Triune God. Holy Scripture says: ***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.*** (Gn 1:2) It is truly amazing just how much theology God packs into these first few verses.

Through Moses we come to learn that there was a time when the earth, and everything we know and see, **were not! T**here was a beginning. By Divine inspiration we also learn that the one God we are coming to know as Creator exists in a multiplicity of Persons, for the Hebrew language tells us this in the very first verse. The Name for God in the Hebrew is a plural. In Hebrew, the plural in this case indicates **three** or more. This is different than our English in which we think of plural as two or more.

Now, one might at first be inclined to understand this as *gods* rather than *God*. But even before the proper name ***God*** appears in Holy Writ, the action—the verb—teaches us that ***God is One***, singular in divine essence. The first two words of Holy Scripture say: ***In the beginning, He created.*** I know, this is five words in the English, but the Hebrew only needs two – two words, and the denote the singular, that the One who created is One.

It is the third word, Elohim, that tells us exactly Who the ***He*** is—namely, ***God*** and that word is in the plural.

By the end of the second verse we know that one Person of this Godhead is the Holy Spirit—Who is ***hovering over the face of the waters***. This word for ***hovering*** can also be rendered ***moving gently*** or ***brooding***. From the time of the early Church it has been understood in the same way we confess the Third Article of the Creed—namely, that the Holy Spirit is *the Lord and Giver of Life*. The life-giving Spirit was ***brooding*** over the beginnings which the Triune God had created to bring forth from it all matter and life.

It is in verse three we learn of the Son, the Second Person of the Holy Trinity. Holy Scripture says: ***And God said, “Let there be light,” and there was light.”*** We know this, for it has been revealed to us by the Apostle John in the first four verses of His Gospel.

***In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through Him, and without Him was not any thing made that was made. In Him was life, and the life was the light of men…. And the Word became Flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen His glory, glory as of the only[-begotten] Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.*** (Jn 1:1–4, 14)

Right there in the first three verses of God’s revealed and recorded word, we have God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—the one true God … Holy and Triune—Who *created*. God the Father spoke into being that which was not through the Person of God the Son, the eternally begotten Word, and God the life-giving Spirit was blown into the nostrils of creation, as it were, and gave all things existence and life. Thus, the Triune God sets forth a teaching about Himself as Three Persons in One divine Essence. And God does so, right there in the first three verses of the first book of the Bible.

It is this eternal Being—Who alone existed before there was anything—has created all that there is. ***All things were made through Him*** and He ***calls into existence the things that do not exist*** (Rom 4:17). Christ our dear Lord—the One Whose footsteps we follow especially during this ***Lententide***, all the way to the Cross and the grave and the empty tomb—is true God. Our dear Christ is coequal with the Father and the Holy Spirit.

Even after these first moments of God’s creative activity, the world was completely absent any light. This darkness of the world was not at all like the nights that you know, for even at night we are surrounded by light. We now have the God-given light of the stars and moon and the man-made lights of streetlamps, houses, and cars.

This was darker than the darkness than the stormy night up north at the cabin when the electricity goes out. It was darker than the deepest cave with no light to reflect the contours and colors all around you. There was no seeing! If God had created a man at this point, his perfect eyes would have been completely useless. In such a world, blindness and sightedness are equal. And the physical reality was like the spiritual reality God describes through His prophet Isaiah: ***Seeing they do not see*** (Is 6:9–10).

In such darkness God speaks His eternal Word while the Spirit was hovering over the face of the waters. Father, Son and Holy Spirit—all present all active in the spoken Word—enlightened the darkness that was otherwise oppressive. “***Let there be light!” And there was light.*** The light was created from nothing! (*ex nihilo*) There was light that chases away delusions and shadows … light that reveals every good and gracious thing of God’s creating … light that brings life to every living thing … and without which no life may survive.

***And God saw the light, that it was good; and God divided the light from the darkness. God called the light Day, and the darkness He called Night. So the evening and the morning were the first day.***

But since that ***good*** creation—after those first seven days—Satan has attempted to undo God’s creation of light and life, and he has covered you with a second darkness that leads to eternal death. The light of the physical world still works basically as God commanded it.

But ***the True Light that enlightens every man*** was rejected and darkness was preferred to that Light. I speak of the spiritual darkness of unbelief, rebellion, rejection, and sin against God’s True Light who is the Lord Jesus Christ. This spiritual darkness has exactly the same effect on your spiritual and eternal life as physical darkness has on your temporal life.

Without Christ, you are blind not only to the realities around you, but you are filled with delusions about what is not real. We see it all around us: there is ignorance of eternity and delusions about eternity. For a long time much of culture has denied the existence of anything other than the material—the things we can measure and quantify by science and physics. This is like people living in a pitch-dark cave, being told that the only reality is those things that we can feel with our hands and hear with our ears. Concepts of color, brightness, and shadow would simply be denied.

Such are the blind leaders of the blind who teach that human existence is only in the now. *Eat, drink and be merry for tomorrow we die!* (Lk 12:19; Is 22:13). Materialism has ruled the day, and also much in our lives. But as our culture comes out of this phase, as more and more people talk about a “spiritual” dimension to life, it is as though those people living in the cave were beginning to recognize the validity of the eyes as sensory organs … the concept of color talked about as a real phenomenon.

Yet there is little good this does us cave-dwellers as long as the lights are still off. Natural man may finally be acknowledging the **validity** of spiritual eyes—so to speak—but without the proper light, he still cannot use them.

However, this does not stop our sinful flesh from imagining that it sees all kinds of things. That is why the world is full of hundreds of religions that claim a vision of truth and of God.

Everyone claims to see something spiritual, everyone from the Muslim and Jew, the Hindu and Buddhist, the animistic tribes in Africa. Even the religion of Darwin’s evolution. Yes, it takes faith to believe evolution despite the scientific evidence for creation and the early existence of every animal family **without** any “missing links.” Also, the religion of the average man who believes that he is spiritually OK if he is a “good person.”

Without true light, you can look at a gleaming white marble … and swear that it is red … or even black.

Likewise, in matters of God, natural man can look at good and swear that it is evil – or look at evil and declare it to be good. The problem is not that they have no eyes, but that their eyes are not illuminated at all. Such eyes can only imagine that they see and understand such spiritual things. This is the condition of the world apart from Christ. This is **our own** sinful condition—from conception and birth—until and unless our gracious Triune God cleaves the darkness of our sin, unbelief, and misbelief by His strong Word.

The world needs such a re‑creation—light must again shine into the darkness. **We** need such a re-creation. God knows you need re-creation. He knew it while you were hallucinating in unbelief, thinking that you knew the true light. He knows you also need to be continually renewed in the true Light.

Thus, the true Light entered the world—***the Word became flesh and dwelt among us***. This is why our Creator-God came to His own as the true Light that first day of Holy Week. Christ entered ***the House of the Lord***, His beloved Church, to illumine her with the Light of His Truth.

Just as God first spoke in the world when the Spirit was upon the Water, so also He first comes to you in the Spirit-filled waters of Your Holy Baptism into Christ. By the words that come from His mouth, the creative, redemptive Word, you are made to see the colors and contours of that life which you receive from the Lord and Giver of life. You are able to see clearly the blessed work of Your Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, as He does His Father’s bidding and hangs from the Cross in the darkness of midday … to bring you to the light and life of His resurrection.

You are able to see how the Word has joined you to Himself and His re-creative work through the waters of Holy Baptism, and how He sustains you even now by His spoken, ever-creative Word. The Light which is Christ shines upon you this night! God has called you into being as His blessed child, and restores to you even now that true life which only the True Light can give! For behold, you are ***Sons of Light*** … ***Living in the Light of the Triune God***.

In the Name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit. [Amen]