

Grace and peace to you from our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ
Amen.

Our sermon text today is written in Genesis 1:1-2:4

Let us pray ...

May the words of my mouth and the meditation of our hearts be acceptable in Your sight; we pray through Your son, Jesus Christ.

Creation or Evolution?

It has been said that nobody can be considered truly wise who has not learned the answers to the basic questions of life. The question of “Who am I?” Am I a chemical accident? Am I a creature who has come out of the jungle wearing a suit or a dress — from caveman to modern-man in half a billion years or so? Am I an insignificant combination of bone and blood, muscle and nerve, surrounded by the infinite immensity of outer space? By whose order do I live on this planet? Was it by accident or by design? What is the purpose of my life? – is it to survive as comfortably as I can?

We could never answer these questions correctly if God had not answered them for us. In the Old Testament reading, which happens to be the very first chapter of the Bible, God comes to us, since we are unable to come to him. He tells us things we never in a million years would have been able to find out by ourselves—important truths about himself and about us and about how we happen to be where we are, why we’re here, and where we’re headed.

Notice though, that God has not told us everything we might like to know. He did not give us His Word to satisfy our curiosity rather He has given it to enable us to live this life with real meaning and to find our place at the side of the Father. Therefore as we begin reading the Genesis narrative of creation, we’ll need to remember that this is the only absolutely reliable information we have about the beginning of the universe and the human race.

Our God, the one true God, is a God of order, not chaos. Although, there are times that this would seem like it wasn’t true - I’m thinking of the storms that happened about a year ago that left our whole state without power, or the cyclone that hit the QLD coast not long after, with their deluges of rain which then caused massive flooding. Or the terrorists and their bombings and murder sprees seemingly all over the place. And I’m sure it has driven lots of people to ask, if there is a God, why does he allow this to happen?

But yet, God is a god of order, not chaos. When he created the universe and our world, he moved things from chaos into order. In the beginning the earth was without form and void. God separated the waters into earth and heavens. There was darkness, and God created light. Each of the six days God brought order, to the plants, to the birds and fish, to the kinds of animals on the land. God made people, and gave them authority over the animals.

When he was finished, he looked at everything, and it was very good. He made everything, but he ordered it as he wanted. There weren't any cyclones, or earthquakes or terrorists. We don't see Adam and Eve living in fear of being eaten by lions or dinosaurs. There's no death, no disease, suffering, or fear, for these are the things of chaos, not of order.

God created us to live in relationship with him. He made us able to have relationships with each other. He made us to rule over the animal world and use natural resources. All of this is order.

For thousands of years we have accepted the idea that God is a God of Order. No one believed that the world was created broken and chaotic. But in the past 150 years or so a new idea, a new theory has appeared. Instead of looking too God's created order, we have introduced the theory of evolution. Even though this is only a theory, many people today treat it as fact, because that is what "the science" teaches us.

According to science the theory of evolution explains where we came from. It suggests that all living things are subject to mutations on a cellular level, and that these mutations to all forms of life over millions of years, explains the origin of all the complexities of life. But in fact, what the theory of evolution does, is turn God's created order on its head - and suggests that we and all life are a product of random events and coincidences.

The problem with this theory is that "the science" doesn't explain things like beauty or love.

The bigger issue here thought is what if we experience a mutation? When we as people experience mutation, it almost always causes suffering, disease, and death. Just look at the affects on the human body. From conditions like Albinism, to Down Syndrome, there is a whole host of genetic disorders caused by mutations. Yet evolutionists say that given enough time, mutations are the reason for the order we see in the world around us.

Another issue that has come about by the teaching of the theory of evolution is its syncretism into our Christian beliefs. Today there are people within the

church that try to combine the theory of evolution with the creation, and say that God used evolution to create the world we now know over millions of years.

But if this was so, then why did God look at the world and say it is good, when for millions of years it had suffered disease and death? If God used evolution to create, then surely death must have existed before the fall of Adam and Eve: and if death existed before the fall, how can death then be a result of the sin committed by Adam and Eve? This, folks, is an issue of faith-it directly effects our need of a saviour, because if death existed before the fall, then it must have been part of God's created order rather than the result of sin because God himself called it good.

But we know that this isn't true. When things like cyclones, or earthquakes or even disease like COVID-19 occur it shows us that the world is no longer the way God created it. Sin, disobedience to God's order, causes disorder in the created world. Chaos has broken through, and chaos brings suffering and death.

Perhaps you've experienced the effects of chaos in your life. Sin brings disorder between us and God, between us as individuals, and disorder into our personal lives. We grow angry, discontented, and selfish. We live in conflict with God, and with each other. We lose sight of God's created order and we settle for some sort of semi-organised chaos instead.

God revealed himself in the Holy Trinity by acting to restore our lives and creation, so that once again they are very good. You can see the Holy Trinity working in the Creation account. "Let us make man in our image." The Spirit moving across the face of the waters. The Gospel of John says of Jesus that "All things were made through him."

The nature of the Holy Trinity was fully revealed when the Father sent the Son into the world to be conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary.

Jesus, through suffering and death, restored the image of God to us. By his resurrection he began the new creation where God's good order is restored and the chaos of sin is removed.

Therefore we are all new creations. We have a new birth and renewal by baptism. As we heard in the gospel reading; Jesus came and said to them, "*All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 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, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.*"

Although there will continue to be chaos in the world. There will be storms, fires, and all sorts of calamities. There will be wars and there will be bloodshed. There will be disease and there will be famine. But when Jesus comes again, we will experience an ordered creation once again, when Christ raises us from death and restores God's good creation.

I hope you can see that the Lord made the world a very good place. It was ordered according to God's will. The fall and sin brought chaos into our lives and to all creation. But God acted in Jesus to restore order. When Jesus became one of us, he revealed the Holy Trinity—the Father, Son and Holy Spirit—when he saved us. Through that triune name and water God has made us his children right now in Baptism; and even though we live in a world of disorder, we can look forward to the Last Day and to the resurrection, when we will live and serve him forever. Amen.

The peace of God, which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.

Amen