

The Rev. Joel Petruschke  
Our Saviour Lutheran Church  
June 7, 2020  
The Holy Trinity

Let us pray...May the words of my mouth and the meditations of our hearts be acceptable in thy sight, O Lord, for you are our strength and you are most certainly our redeemer. Amen.

Sisters and brothers in Christ, we have just heard the story of creation.

And the story of creation is a story that has a certain rhythm to it.

Now maybe like me you struggle to keep rhythm.

Yes, truth be told, personally, I am terrible at keeping rhythm.

When a song is playing and suddenly the crowd is clapping along with the beat, I am the one in the group clapping all out of time.

And when I dance, especially dancing something like the waltz, where one has to keep time, I get all tripped up trying to count, one two three, one two three, one two three.

No, I am not very good at keeping rhythm.

And, maybe you share this shortcoming with me.

But again, notice that in our reading about the story of creation, God is establishing a rhythm.

God creates a pattern, a certain cadence for us to observe.

God creates, and then God sees that it is good, and then there is evening and there is morning.

And then God creates some more, and then God sees that it is good, and there is evening and there is morning.

And then God creates still more, and then God sees that it is good, and there is evening and there is morning.

One, two, three. One, two, three. One, two, three.

PAUSE

Now, I don't why there is a rhythm like this laid down in the story of creation.

Perhaps it has something to do with the fact that God is Trinity, that God is One God, and yet Three Persons.

Yes, maybe it has something to do with the fact that God's Self is not just a Solo Act, but is also a Divine Gathering.

And this Divine Gathering—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, can't help but come together and when this Divine Gathering is together, there is dancing.

Yes, that is how some have described the Divine Gathering...

That is how some have described the Trinity, that it is a dance.

Perhaps there is even constant music going on in the mind of God.

And so God as the Divine Gathering is dancing with God self.

God is depicted as getting down, getting funky, getting God's groove on.

The Divine Gathering is dancing because there is constant music, and so then that is why there is a rhythm we see to the creation story.

And God created, and God saw that it was good, and there was evening and morning... over and over again that is the rhythm we witness.

And God created, and God saw that it was good, and there was evening and there was morning.

That is divine beat we hear.

And God created, and God saw that it was good, and there was evening and there was morning.

That is the divine rhythm we observe.

And God created, and God saw that it was good, and there was evening and there was morning.

One, two, three. One, two, three. One, two three.

And I bring this divine rhythm to our attention this day for a reason.

Yes, I ask you to take notice of this divine beat for a particular purpose.

What is the rhythm again...God created, and God saw that it was "good..."

God created, and God saw that it was "good..."

Day after day after day.

PAUSE

Now, I don't know if you are catching what I am trying to tell you...so let me say it again...

God created, and God saw that it was "good..."

Do you see it? God created, and God saw that it was "good."

You may still be missing it, so once more let me break it down...

God created, and when God created, God looked at what God created...and God saw what God had created and God said, "Mmmm mmm, it is good."

God created, and God saw that it was "good..."

Day after day after day. That is the rhythm. That is the beat.

And so, sisters and brothers in Christ, we have to wonder why...

Yes, brothers and sisters in Christ, we have to wonder why when we look at what is going on in God's creation as of late day after day after day...

When we look at what's going on in God's creation, we have to wonder why things look anything but good...

I mean if God created the world, the plants and animals, and human creatures...

If God created all that we see around us, and God declared all that God had made to be good, then we have to wonder...

We have to wonder why things look anything but good...

We have to wonder why we see one man pressing his knee on another's man neck, resulting in the death of that man...

Yes, we have to wonder why a handcuffed man who is lying flat, face down on the ground...

We have to wonder why a man in such a position merits having the weight of another man on his neck, such that he can't breathe...

We have to wonder why we observe such a thing if the rhythm of God's creation is meant to be punctuated by "good."

And we have to wonder why people have been filling the streets in cities across this land, inciting people to violence night after night...

We have to wonder why we observe such a thing if the rhythm of God's creation is meant to be punctuated by "good."

And we have to wonder why there are businesses being looted...

...and why buildings are being set on fire...

...and why there is such anger and animosity directed from these human beings towards those human beings, and from those human beings toward these human beings.

We have to wonder why we observe such a thing if the rhythm of God's creation is meant to be punctuated by "good."

PAUSE

This is not good.

This is God's people out of step with the rhythm of God's dance.

This is God's people clapping out of time with the beat of the divine music.

And God created, and God saw that it was "good..."

Day after day after day.

But we have forgotten how to clap to the beat of the music...

And we have forgotten how to dance to the rhythm of God's creation...

And we have failed to observe the "good" God has declared.

And when that happens, humanity goes terribly awry.

And I wonder, I wonder why it is the case.

Is it because we have been told to stay home for too long now?

Is it because we have been unable to be about our normal routine?

Is it because the strain of the pandemic has been working on all of us?

Is it because we haven't been able to get out and dance with each other?

Is it because we haven't been allowed to sing songs with each other?

Is it because we haven't been able to be at church?

No, no, and still no.

No, we lose the rhythm, we can't keep the beat, because of the power of sin.

Sin is the power that distorts the good.

Sin causes us to see with imperfect sight.

Sin makes us interpret God's creation from our warped perspective and not from God's ideal perspective, which sees creation as good, and sees the other as good.

Sin makes us believe that some people are to be defined as less than good.

Sin makes us believe that only we are good and that the other is less than good.

But sin can even makes us believe sometimes that the other is good and that we ourselves are less than good.

Sin can works on us in such unusual ways, such that the goodness of creation and of humanity is terribly, terribly distorted.

Sin can works on us so that we are inhumane toward others and even inhumane toward ourselves.

PAUSE

And so on this Trinity Sunday, I want us to think not about how the God is like a triangle, one shape, with three vertices.

Nor do I want us to think about how God is like three interlocking circles.

Nor do I want us to think about how God is like H<sub>2</sub>O that can take the form of water, ice, and steam.

Nor do I want us to think of any of those other images we usually think of when we think of the Triune God.

No, instead, I want us to think of the Triune God as a dance.

And I want us to think of the music that drives that Divine Gathering to spin, and leap, and dip, and sway, and kick, and bend, in that wonderful dance.

I want us to think of that dance, and of that music, and particularly of that rhythm.

God created, and God saw that it was good...

God created, and God saw that it was good...

God created, and God saw that it was good...

One, two, three. One, two, three. One, two, three.

God created persons of every color and race, and God saw that it was good.

God created persons of every ethnicity and nationality, and God saw that it was good.

God created persons of every gender identity, LGBTQIA, and God saw that it was good.

God created persons of different ideologies, and different political persuasions, and God saw that it was good.

God created persons...and there doesn't need to be any other qualifier after that, and God saw that it was good.

You and I, and every other person, are good, just by the fact that God has created every individual.

And, it is only when we start to see the other as less than good, as somehow not what God intended, that we actually start distort not just the goodness in the other, but the goodness in ourselves.

PAUSE

And, so, Friends, we are invited into the dance of the Divine Gathering.

And when we dance, something wonderful happens.

Our inhibitions about ourselves and others begin to melt away.

We become less self-critical, and less self-righteous.

And we begin to act in a more relaxed way, and come to behave in a more natural way.

When we dance with God and others, we behave in a more natural way, dare I say, a more human way.

We let go of our inhibitions. We let go of our condemnation of others.

When we dance, we become the good creations God intended us to be.

One of the most amazing experiences I ever had, was when I went dancing in D.C. many years ago when I was in college.

I was in D.C. with a number of students from Penn State; we were there as a service group helping serve in a soup kitchen.



And after we served during the day, our group went out dancing together at a club that night.

At some point, I looked around the club, and I realized that our group of about 15 to 20 persons, were the only white people in the whole dance club.

But you know what, no one cared.

And it was one of the best experiences of my life—dancing to that amazing rhythm that God proclaimed at the dawn of creation, and God still proclaims to this day.

God created, and God saw that it was good...

Amen.