



Sermon
Rev. Dr. Lang Yang

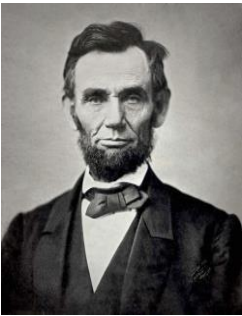
"In the Beginning"

The Holy Trinity
Our Savior Lutheran Church
6-4-23

Grace, mercy, and peace to you from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. Amen

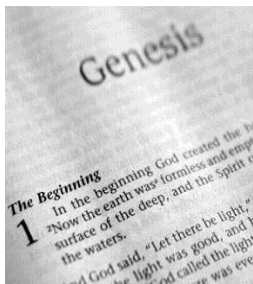
Genesis 1:1, "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth" (NIV). This is the word of God. (Cross – reference – John 1:1-2, Acts 17:24, Hebrews 1:10; 11:3, Revelation 4:11, Nehemiah 9:6, Job 9:8; 38:4, Psalm 89:11; 102:25, 115:15; 124:8; 136:5; 148:5, Isaiah 40:21; 42:5; 45:18, Jeremiah 10:12; 51:15)

Illustration "Atheist" (Show quote from Abraham Lincoln)



The 16th President of the United States, Abraham Lincoln, once said: "I never behold (the heavens filled with stars that I do not feel I am looking in the face of God. I can see how it might be possible for a man to look down upon the earth and be an atheist, but I cannot conceive how he could look up into the heavens and say there is no God." The first book of the Bible is called Genesis. Moses is the author of the book. The word "Genesis" means *beginning*. In the beginning, it tells us how the world was created. In the beginning, how the first man was created. In the beginning, it shows how man has fallen into sin. In the beginning, it shows how people used animal sacrifice for the sin of the sinner.

I. In the beginning, it shows how God's relationship with humans. (Show Genesis)



If you want to know how heaven and earth created animals and humans, then you will have to go and read the book of Genesis. The very first word of the Bible, it begin with, "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth" (Genesis 1:1); then other things come after that sentence. So, in the beginning, it started with God. If you carefully look at how it was written, it didn't start by saying, "In the beginning, the earth was without form, ... In the beginning, before the sun and solar system existed, In the beginning, in a land far, far away, It simply says, "In the beginning GOD...." (Show Hebrews 1:10-12)



Many evolution or human wisdom always think the world appears out of nowhere. No God or other spiritual form has the power to create the world. But the author of Hebrews writes, "In the beginning, Lord, you laid the foundations of the earth, and the heavens are the work of your hands. They will perish, but you remain; they will all wear out like a garment. You will roll them up like a robe; they will be changed like a garment. But you remain the same, and your years will never end." (Hebrews 1:10-12).

(Show God who is Lord of All)



Everything God says is not about this world but points to God. If this is the case, then why is His word so vital that we humans must pay attention and listen to what he has to say? We need to listen to Him because He is the God of everything. Everything belongs to him. Your house, car, food, money, and everything you see belong to God. God allows you to manage for a little while, meaning you are to care for Him only. **(Show scientist & dirt)**



There was a story about some scientists gathering together, and they came up with a solution that they are no longer wanted anything to do with God's help. One of the scientists said, "God, we've decided that we no longer need you. We can do all kinds of things through science. We can even clone people and make body parts, so we don't need

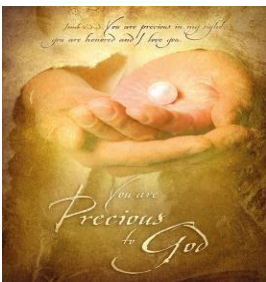
you anymore." God listens and answers them, saying, "Let's have a man-making contest just like in the days of Adam." The scientist agreed and bent down to grab himself a handful of dirt. God smiled and said, "No, no, you get your own dirt." How do you think the scientist feels now?

II. I have a \$20.00 bill, and for a few seconds, I like you to think, how important is this \$20.00 bill? If I were to give you this \$20.00 bill, would you want it? **(Show \$20.00 Bill)**



How many of you would raise your hand stating that you like to have it if it is free? *(Let's see how many people raise their hands)*. Now let me do this ***(Tear the paper \$20.00 bill into several pieces)*** and ask, How many of you would raise your hand

stating that you like to have it if it is free. *(Let's see how many people raise their hands)*. Was the paper on the bill important, or was the ink on the bill important? The \$20.00 bill is important. You can use it as an official money to make a purchase because it has the United States Department of Treasury stamp and emblem and all the critical information to make it a valid \$20.00 value. **(Show precious to God)**

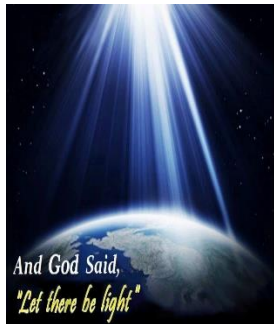


Are you important to God? In the beginning, God created the heavens, the earth, animals, and everything in it before creating "man in the image of God." (Genesis 1:27). Man is precious to God. Remember that when Scripture uses the word "man," it means "all human – men and women." God doesn't want anyone to fall into sin. God created man so that man can take care of this world for Him. God would not have created the human race if God didn't prepare this world for man. This is important, and why the first word in Genesis said, "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth" (Genesis 1:1). **(Show dead fish in a bowl)**



A young man wants to raise some goldfish. He purchased a bowl, rock, a few items, and goldfish. He brought it home and put some water in the bowl. He then put the goldfish in the bowl. A few days later, he found that the goldfish had died. This young man could not understand why the fish died quickly and what the fish needed for the fish to survive. You can't just do what this young man did and expect the fish to live. It would help if you had certain things for the goldfish to

survive. To keep a goldfish healthy, remember to provide plenty of clean, cool water. Your goldfish's temperature should never rise above 74° Fahrenheit (about 23.5° Celsius) and ideally should remain between 65° and 68° F (18° and 20° C), so you will need a thermometer. (Goldfish Care Basic-
www.firsttankguide.net/goldfish.php (Show let there be light))



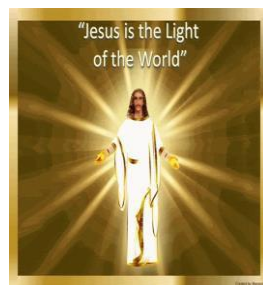
It is similar to God's how He prepare everything for the human race to live on this earth so that we can survive. He designed the air so that we can breathe. He prepared the crop so that we could have food to eat. He prepared day and night so that we could work and rest during the night to be refreshed and regain our strength to go back to work the next day. In Genesis, "And God said, "Let there be light," and there was light. God saw that the light was good, and he separated the light from the darkness. God called the light "day," and the darkness he called "night." And there was evening, and there was morning—the first day." (Genesis 1:3-5).

- III. How good and gracious is our God to us? He loves us and doesn't want anyone to sin or live in darkness. But people don't appreciate His goodness and instead turn to sin. To save the sin of the world, God sent His only Son, our Lord, and Savior Jesus Christ, to the world so that He can save the world. Before Jesus begin His ministry, Jesus came to John the Baptist to be baptized. After Jesus was baptized, Scripture said, "Just as Jesus was coming up out of the water, he saw heaven being torn open and the Spirit descending on him like a dove. And a voice came from heaven: "You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased." (Mark 1:10-11). (Show blindness)



A woman named Rose Crawford was blind for 50 years. She finally went to see the doctor to see if the doctor could help her see. After her surgery and when the doctor started to take the bandage off her eyes, she finally saw. A joyous burst of tears flowed down her face, and she was so happy that she could now see. But the doctor asked Rose why she didn't have her eye surgery earlier. She didn't have to live a life of blindness for more than 20 years. When she turned 30, there was already medical technology that had the method to cure the type of blindness that Rose had. According to Rose, when she was young, she did approach the doctor.

During that time, no medical procedure could cure her. So she assumes that she has to live her life as blindness. So another 20 years goes by before she seek out the surgery procedure again for her to see. But now she can see. (Show Jesus is the Light of the world)

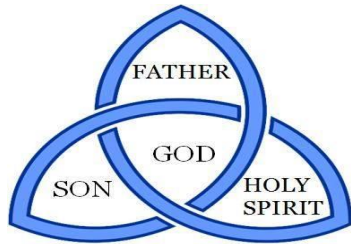


Brothers and sisters in Christ Jesus, Christ doesn't want you and I to live in darkness but in the light. It is why Jesus said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life." (John 8:12). But man doesn't want to live in the light; instead, man wants to live in darkness. When you live in darkness, it will lead you to sin. But God so loves the world that God sends His Son to be the Light of the world so that man will not have to walk in darkness. It is why the Apostle John wrote at the beginning of his Gospel said, "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and

the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it." (John 1:1-4). (Show Alpha and Omega)



Because in the beginning, God created man, but due to sin man has fallen. But because of God's grace and mercy, God has to come back to save humanity. The Apostle John wrote, Jesus said, "I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End" (Revelation 22:13). (Show the Trinity)



As we reflect on this Holy Trinity Sunday, you remember that since the beginning of time, God created everything in the beginning. God the Father Created the heaven and the earth, God the Son came to save the world, and God, the Holy Spirit, is still with you, helping you so that everything you do, the honor and glory is for God. In the beginning, God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are our strength and salvation. Amen.

Now may the peace of God, which passes all understanding, keep your heart and mind in Christ Jesus. Amen.

Print this copy of the \$20.00 bill and use it as an illustration on page 2, section II.

