

The Creator Word

John 1:1-18

The Nativity of Our Lord, Christmas Day, December 25, 2016

Immanuel Lutheran Church, Broadlands

I am glad that only the very devout come to Divine Service on Christmas Day. The Gospel of John puts very profound thoughts before us for our consideration. We must consider them for the sake of our maturity.

I have thought and I suspect that you think that God could have created the world in any way that He wanted to, but that is not entirely true.

If we confess that God is Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, and if we confess that the Son is equal to the Father in His divinity, and if we confess that the Son of God is the Word of God about whom John is writing in John, chapter one, then God has to have made the world by speaking. There is no other way.

When I say this I am not putting a limitation on God. I am not saying that it is impossible for Him to create in some other way as if God lacked the power and ability to do so. What I am saying is that since He is Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, His nature is such that the creation must come forth by His Word. This is why John's Gospel instructs us by saying that nothing that exists exists apart from the Word of God.

It is like an honest man. If we know an honest man, we say, "He could never tell a lie." We don't say that because we think that he is incapable of lying as if it beyond his skill set. What we mean by that is that his nature is so honest that lying is impossible for Him. He cannot do it because it does not occur to Him to do it.

Jesus is the eternal Word of the Father. He is the Word made flesh. He is equal to the Father in regard to His divinity. Therefore nothing can exist apart from Jesus. That is because He is God and nothing can exist apart from God. Jesus is the Word of God and if nothing can exist apart from Jesus then nothing can exist apart from the Word of God. And if nothing can exist apart from the Word of God then God has to create by speaking. It is His nature. It is just the way that things are.

And so we read in Genesis, chapter one, "And God said, 'Let there be light,' and there was light."

When God says, "Let there be light," the very utterance itself is Jesus. When God says, "Let there be light," the very words themselves are Jesus. Jesus is the Word that comes out from the Father. There is no light at all apart from Him.

In fact there is nothing at all apart from Him. There are no oceans apart from the fact that He is the Word of the Father who brought them into existence. There are no continents apart from Him. There are no animals or vegetation apart from Him. He is the divine utterance of the Father that creates all things. Nothing would exist if it were not for Him.

God is so much God that even what He speaks is God.

Apart from Him, we would not exist.

He made everything in the creation. Then John tells us that He came to that which was His own. That which was His own is the creation. He came into the creation. This is the significance of the fact that the Word became flesh. All of the utterances of the Father are One Word and He became flesh. When He becomes flesh He takes on the position of something that is created. By doing this He enters into the creation. Since He made the creation for nothing exists apart from Him, by coming into the creation, He comes to that which is His own.

And His own did not receive Him. He made them! And they did not receive Him. The creation rejects Him. At least some of His creation rejects Him. The creation that rejects Him does not like the fact that its very existence is dependent upon Him. Not all of the creation rejected Him, but the part that did resented the fact that its existence was dependent on Him. They wanted an independent existence apart from Him. They wanted to create themselves and invent God in their own image. They resented the fact that they were in the image of Him and needed to conform to Him. They resented the fact that He showed them how the true creation should exist and that they did not measure up. By doing so He revealed that they had no existence apart from Him and they hated Him for it.

Or to put it another way, Luther explains the creation this way: I believe that God has made me and all creatures, that He has given me my body and soul, eyes and ears, and all my members, my reason and all my senses and still takes care of them. He also gives me clothing and shoes, food and drink, house and home, wife and children, and all I have. He richly and daily provides me with all that I need to support this body and life. He defends me against all danger and guards and protects me from all evil. All this He does only out of fatherly, divine, goodness and mercy without any merit or worthiness in me. For all this it is my duty to thank and praise, serve and obey Him. This is most certainly true.

The people who were His own who did not receive Him were the people who did not want to thank and praise, serve and obey Him because He was their creator. They resented the fact that they owed Him their existence and so they did not receive Him. They wanted to go and pretend that they could get by without Him. They wanted to go and pretend that they had created their own existence so that they would not have to owe it to Him. They wanted to go and pretend that they had their own righteousness so that they did not have to owe their righteousness to Him. They did not receive Him. Even the Creator Almighty suffers Himself to be refused.

But for those who did receive Him, He gave them authority to become the children of God. Those who received Him were those who believed in Him. Those who believe in Him are those who are born of God. If you are born of God, you are not born of the will of bloods.

In other words the people who are born of God and because they are born of God believe in Jesus are not born of the will of the family. They are not born of bloods. People who are born of bloods are born because the family decided that you should be born. The name needed to be carried on and so people are born to carry on the name. People who are born of God are not born by the will of a family for its own perpetuity. People who are born of God are born of God.

People who are born of God are not born of the will of the flesh. Our existence as creatures is because of the will of the flesh. Unless you were born by IVF or artificial insemination, you were born of the will of someone's flesh. Usually it was the flesh of your father and mother that willed you into existence. Those with the authority to become children of God, do not find their existence in this way.

People who are born of God are not born of the will of any man. Our natural existence is because of the will of man. Even if we were cloned we would be born of the will of man. Those who have authority to be children of God are not born of the will of man. No man decided that we should be born of God.

Therefore God decides that we are born of Him. He wills that we are born of Him. If we believe in Jesus it is only because God has willed that we believed in Jesus. To believe in Jesus is to be born of God. Birth cannot be brought about by our own wills. Not even our natural birth was brought about by our choice. So much more our supernatural birth as children of God did not come about by our choice. Furthermore it did not come about by anyone else's choice. No man, or family, or lustful individual is responsible for our existence as children of God. Only God willed that and has willed that for you. The Word of God has created faith in your heart. Just as you would not have existed apart from Him so your

faith does not exist apart from Him. He is the creator of all. Without Him nothing was made that has been made and that includes your faith.

It also includes grace and truth.

We often say that Jesus gives us grace and that is true. What John's Gospel is pointing out is that there would not even be any grace without Jesus Christ. He is the Word that creates grace. We often say that Jesus gives us truth or that He reveals truth and that is true. He does do those things. But there is more. Jesus is also the creator of truth. There would be no truth if it were not for Him.

And so the creator has come. He has come to us. He has come into the creation. And in everything that He said and in everything that He did, He created grace and truth for you.

In the Name of Jesus. Amen.