

Very Good
Genesis 1:26-2:3
June 11, 2017

First United Methodist Church, Lindstrom

(This is a manuscript prepared for sermon delivery and may not represent actual words spoken.)

God saw all that he had made, and it was very good. And there was evening, and there was morning—the sixth day.

According to the Church year, this is Trinity Sunday. I don't know how much I can say about that. We believe there is perfect unity in the Godhead. There is Father, Son, and Holy Spirit...Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer. Triune God. I was confirmed in the Lutheran Church of the Triune God. We earlier sang, "...God in three persons, blessed Trinity." Trinity is one of those truths that is somewhat difficult to explain in tangible terms. But it is one of those mysteries I believe. God existed equally and in perfect unity in three persons.

The Old Testament lectionary text for this particular Sunday is from the book of Genesis. Actually, the full lectionary text is the entire first chapter and the first few verses of the second chapter. We are pretty much familiar with the creation story, so I shortened the reading just a bit. I am allowed to do such things.

I'm thinking we pretty much know the story of creation. I believe God created the heavens and the earth. One of the reasons I believe that is the very first verse in all of Scripture declares, "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth." I think the thirty-one verses of the first chapter of Genesis are a kind of summary report of how creation came to be. People have all kinds of theories as to how God did the creating. I don't have time for that. Call me simple. That's okay. I choose to believe that, however it happened, God did it.

So there are the first four words in the Bible. "In the beginning God..." You know one

of the questions I have been frequently asked—especially by young people—is, "Who created God?" If some of you are wondering that, stop wondering. Suppose I could tell you who created God; what would your next question be? Your next question would be, "Well, who created the one who created God?" Listen...in the beginning there was God. And by "beginning" we are talking about the beginning of what God made. God is eternal. God has no beginning or end...no past or future...God just is. Good enough for me.

In the beginning God created. God began speaking. God spoke things into existence. Just how powerful is the word of God? God speaks, and when God speaks, things happen. Something comes out of nothing. "In the beginning was the Word," we read in John's Gospel. And Jesus became the powerful, physical manifestation of the Word of God.

So...about some of the specifics of this text....

The first chapter of Genesis begins with—as I have already mentioned—a very general statement. "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth." There is not much specific in that statement...other than the fact that it was God who did the creating. Another rather general statement follows that. "...the earth was formless and empty...." So God created the heavens and the earth, and at first the earth was empty and there was not much shape to it.

What follows these general statements are the particulars. God began to shape the earth. God began to add things to the earth. The earth took on form. The earth became less empty. Light and dark were added. God started