



God our Creator

A SUMMER SERMON SERIES ON THE NICENE CREED

Genesis 1:1-2:3 Luke 11:9-13

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Pastor Dave Bolte

When it comes to the *Doctrine Of Creation*, we are on a pretty small island. There are only a handful of Christian denominations that hold to the teaching of Holy Scripture and the Creation of the World. The Bible teaches us that God created the heavens and the earth and everything seen and unseen in six 24 hour days, and He rested on the 7th day. *Out of nothing*, God created the universe by His powerful Word¹.

Most Christian denominations have abandoned Scripture and sacrificed the *Doctrine of Creation* in favor of some form of evolution, frequently cloaked under the name “Theistic evolution².”

But that is NOT the Biblical, historic Christian faith. For 1,700 years, Christians throughout the world have confessed the Nicene Creed. The Nicene Creed is the confession of faith of the One, Holy, Christian and Apostolic Church that arose out of the 4th century and the Council of Nicaea. A false teacher named Arius was teaching that Jesus was not fully God, but that He was subordinate to the Father and not thus really God nor the Creator.

¹ Here is how our Church body, the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod, confesses the doctrine of Creation: “**Of Creation:** We teach that God has created heaven and earth, and that in the manner and in the space of time recorded in the Holy Scriptures, especially Gen 1 and 2, namely, by His almighty creative word, and in six days. We reject every doctrine which denies or limits the work of creation as taught in Scripture. In our days it is denied or limited by those who assert, ostensibly in deference to science, that the world came into existence through a process of evolution; that is, that it has, in immense periods of time, developed more or less out of itself. Since no man was present when it pleased God to create the world, we must look for a reliable account of creation to God's own record, found in God's own book, the Bible. We accept God's own record with full confidence and confess with Luther's Catechism: “I believe that God has made me and all creatures.”

Brief Statement of the Doctrinal Position of the Missouri Synod (Adopted 1932)

² Theistic evolution is a view that God acts and creates through laws of nature. It posits that the concept of God in Holy Scripture is compatible with the findings of modern science, including evolution. ☺

The Church responded by defending the truth of Scripture and confessing it to the world in what we know today as the **Nicene Creed**.

One of the things that the Nicene Creed does is that it proves the Deity of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit by identifying each person of the Godhead as the Creator of the world. The line of thought goes like this:

- ⇒ If the Father is Creator, then He is God.
- ⇒ If the Son is Creator, then He is God.
- ⇒ If the Spirit is Creator, then He is God.
- ⇒ But yet, there are not 3 Creators nor 3 Gods, but only 1 Creator and 1 God.

By faith we understand that the universe was formed at God's command, so that what is seen was not made out of what was visible. Hebrews 11:3

Here is how the Nicene Creed confesses each Person of the Holy Trinity as **God and Creator**:

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty,
Maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible

[Jesus is] God of God, Light of Light, Very God of Very God,
begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father,
by Whom all things were made

And I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord and Giver of Life

When you hold to the doctrine of Creation, and realize that God is your Creator and Maker, then you understand that you are accountable to your God and Creator. *What you say and what you do will be judged by God.* He has made His will known to you through His 10 Commandments. Those Commandments have been written on your heart; your Creator has made you with a conscience so you know what is right and what is wrong; so that you know what His Will is for you.

Sin is when you disobey your Creator, ignore His will, and disregard His Word. We all know the terrible feeling of **GUILT**; and even worse, we all know that **DEATH** is coming, and even worse → after that, the **FINAL JUDGMENT**. The saying is true: *you will stand before your Creator and you will meet your Maker.*

But thankfully, our Creator is loving and kind, and He knows how we are made, and how sin has totally and thoroughly corrupted our good nature that He created for us. *So He has provided a way of salvation for all people.*

The Creator, who is our Father in Heaven, has sent His Son Jesus to be the Savior of the whole world. Jesus fully obeyed the will and Word of God, including suffering and dying on the cross for us and our salvation. Through the Lord Jesus Christ, you are reconciled with God. Through faith in Christ, your sins are forgiven and He washed you clean in your Baptism. Through faith in Christ you **are prepared** to stand before your Creator and you **are ready** meet your Maker: you will stand before Him with the righteousness of His Son Jesus Christ as your very own!

On the heels of the doctrine of Creation is the doctrine of God's Providence. *Providence means that the Creator is still at work guiding, leading, and governing His creation.* The Lord uses His mighty power to make everything in the world work for the good of His Church; and God's mighty power is moving everything towards the Last Day, which will soon be here³.

Not only does God rule the world with His mighty power, but He's at work in your own life with His mighty power as well. God's Providence means that **God has a plan for your life**. It means that **God is at work for good** in all the many and various circumstances that happen in your life. God uses His power in your life graciously, compassionately, and mercifully. He never deals with you in anger nor with His wrath. God's providence assures you that **you belong to God** and that **He cares for you**. *Your life matters, and what you do is important.* **Your life has purpose and meaning!** God is at work in your life though all the things that happen, good/bad, small/large, wonderful things/miserable things; He is at work through it all so that you will be blessed and other people will be served⁴.

The Bible teaches God's loving care to us in a lot of different ways.

Are not two sparrows sold for a penny ? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground apart from the will of your Father. And even the very hairs of your head are all numbered. So don't be afraid; you are worth more than many sparrows. Matthew 10:29-31

³ An easy way to remember this is that "History is HIS-story." In the Small Catechism, we learned it as God at work in the Kingdom of Power (the world), as well as in the Kingdom of Grace (the Church) and the Kingdom of Glory (Heaven). A favorite Divine Providence Psalm is 145:15-16: "The eyes of all look to you, and you give them their food at the proper time. You open your hand and satisfy the desires of every living thing."

⁴ This at first troubling, and hard to grasp; but then, it becomes amazingly comforting. God is working everything for your good. Here are two verses to keep in mind: Isaiah 55:8-9 "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways," declares the Lord. "As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts." And the second is Job 1:21: "The Lord gave and the Lord has taken away; may the Name of the Lord be praised."

God cares about the **smallest detail** of your life --- He certainly cares about the direction and purpose of your life as well. Verses like this assure you that *God knows you, He cares about you, and He is at work in the details of your life!*

The LORD will keep you from all harm-- He will watch over your life; the LORD will watch over your coming and going both now and forevermore. Psalm 121:7-8

The Lord promises to **watch over you** --- His watchfulness assures you that **nothing happens by accident in your life**; your life is not controlled by **fate or luck or a flip of a coin**; but rather your life is guided and directed by God's almighty, loving hand.

For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. Jeremiah 29:11

This is a favorite confirmation verse for many of our youth. It's a promise that God is at work in your life to **bless you** and **do good things for you**. *God has a plan for your life; and that plan is good: His plan will bless you and other people will benefit because of it.*

And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose. Romans 8:28

This is probably the most familiar verse about God's Providence --- God promises that **all things** are working for good in your life!

All of these verses --- and MANY OTHERS, teach us that God is at work in your life, and though all the things that happen, good/bad, small/large, wonderful things/miserable things; so that you will be blessed and other people will be served. This is a **matter of faith**; it is a **conviction** that you have based on all the promises of God; it is an **assurance** that you have because you know and believe your Heavenly Father, the Creator of the Heaven and the earth and everything in them.

For 1,700 years, the Holy Christian Church has confessed the doctrine of Creation in the Nicene Creed. As conservative Lutheran Christians, we too hold to the Nicene Creed and the Biblical, historic doctrines of the Christian Church . . . including the doctrine of Creation.

We believe, teach, and confess that God created the heavens and the earth in six days, *out of nothing*, with His powerful Word; and He rested on the 7th. *And ever since then He's continually at work governing the world for His purposes; and especially watching over the lives of His People.*

Amen!

God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and everything seen and unseen,
we thank you for all the good things that you so freely give to us, from the sky above to the ground below and everything in between. Especially we praise and thank you for sending your son Jesus to be our savior so that we may live with you forever in your heavenly Kingdom.
Until then teach us to trust in your daily care for us,
and to live our lives glorifying you and loving our neighbor.
We pray this in Jesus' Name,
and by the power of the Holy Spirit, Amen!

Genesis 1:1 -2:3

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. 2 Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters. 3 And God said, "Let there be light," and there was light. 4 God saw that the light was good, and he separated the light from the darkness. 5 God called the light "day," and the darkness he called "night." And there was evening, and there was morning--the first day. 6 And God said, "Let there be an expanse between the waters to separate water from water." 7 So God made the expanse and separated the water under the expanse from the water above it. And it was so. 8 God called the expanse "sky." And there was evening, and there was morning--the second day. 9 And God said, "Let the water under the sky be gathered to one place, and let dry ground appear." And it was so. 10 God called the dry ground "land," and the gathered waters he called "seas." And God saw that it was good. 11 Then God said, "Let the land produce vegetation: seed-bearing plants and trees on the land that bear fruit with seed in it, according to their various kinds." And it was so. 12 The land produced vegetation: plants bearing seed according to their kinds and trees bearing fruit with seed in it according to their kinds. And God saw that it was good. 13 And there was evening, and there was morning--the third day. 14 And God said, "Let there be lights in the expanse of the sky to separate the day from the night, and let them serve as signs to mark seasons and days and years, 15 and let them be lights in the expanse of the sky to give light on the earth." And it was so. 16 God made two great lights--the greater light to govern the day and the lesser light to govern the night. He also made the stars. 17 God set them in the expanse of the sky to give light on the earth, 18 to govern the day and the night, and to separate light from darkness. And God saw that it was good. 19 And there was evening, and there was morning--the fourth day. 20 And God said, "Let the water teem with living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the expanse of the sky." 21 So God

created the great creatures of the sea and every living and moving thing with which the water teems, according to their kinds, and every winged bird according to its kind. And God saw that it was good. 22 God blessed them and said, "Be fruitful and increase in number and fill the water in the seas, and let the birds increase on the earth." 23 And there was evening, and there was morning--the fifth day. 24 And God said, "Let the land produce living creatures according to their kinds: livestock, creatures that move along the ground, and wild animals, each according to its kind." And it was so. 25 God made the wild animals according to their kinds, the livestock according to their kinds, and all the creatures that move along the ground according to their kinds. And God saw that it was good. 26 Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, in our likeness, and let them rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air, over the livestock, over all the earth, and over all the creatures that move along the ground." 27 So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. 28 God blessed them and said to them, "Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air and over every living creature that moves on the ground." 29 Then God said, "I give you every seed-bearing plant on the face of the whole earth and every tree that has fruit with seed in it. They will be yours for food. 30 And to all the beasts of the earth and all the birds of the air and all the creatures that move on the ground--everything that has the breath of life in it--I give every green plant for food." And it was so. 31 God saw all that he had made, and it was very good. And there was evening, and there was morning--the sixth day. 2:1 Thus the heavens and the earth were completed in all their vast array. 2 By the seventh day God had finished the work he had been doing; so on the seventh day he rested from all his work. 3 And God blessed the seventh day and made it holy, because on it he rested from all the work of creating that he had done.

Luke 11:9-13

9 “So I say to you: Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you.

10 For everyone who asks receives; the one who seeks finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened.

11 “Which of you fathers, if your son asks for a fish, will give him a snake instead? 12 Or if he asks for an egg, will give him a scorpion? 13 If you then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!”