

The Holy Trinity / June 7, 2020

Psalm 8:1

“O Lord, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth! You have set your glory above the heavens.”

On the Sunday of the Holy Trinity, we contemplate the majesty of God’s being in the creation of the heavens and the earth; the creation of human beings, whom He made a little lower than the heavenly beings and crowned with glory and honour; and the recreation of human beings through His eternal Son, who joined His divinity to our humanity and became our Redeemer. Psalm 8 celebrates God’s majesty. Majesty is word often used in reference to royalty. The queen is referred to as ‘her majesty.’ The term speaks to her position as monarch, and sets her apart from the people over whom she reigns. The term can also be used to reference a certain dignity of motion, or appearance. A galloping horse is majestic in its stride. A sunset over the ocean is majestic to behold. Majesty is the feeling of awe that overcomes you when you sense the beauty of nature, the sacredness of human life. And of course, majesty describes the awesome nature of God that takes your breath away!

The Sunday of the Holy Trinity is a day to contemplate God’s majesty in the creation and especially in the recreation that is in Christ Jesus. The earth is so vast, the sea is so deep. Yet, what is vast to us, is small to God. In Psalm 104 the earth is pictured as a garden and the Lord as the gardener, tending lovingly to all that He had made. The Psalmist sings, “You make springs gush forth in the valleys; they flow between the hills; they give drink to every beast of the field; the wild donkeys quench their thirst. Beside them the birds of the heavens dwell; they sing among the branches. From your lofty abode you water the mountains; the earth is satisfied with the fruit of your work.” It’s awesome when you think about it that way!

But, the most breath taking thing about God is His love; which is forgiving, kind, steadfast and ever enduring. God loves His creation, especially His human creation, whom He formed with His hands and into whom He breathed the Spirit of life. He loves us so much that when we sinned, He forgave us, promised to restore us to Himself and to recreate His image within us. On the Sunday of the Holy Trinity, we contemplate God in the majesty of His being as Father, Son and Holy Spirit; One God, three persons. We behold His majesty in the creation of the heavens and the earth and in our own creation as male and female. But above all else, we are especially mindful of the majesty of God’s love expressed in Christ Jesus. In Jesus, God joined Himself to our humanity, so that by His sinless life and sacrificial death, He would draw us to Himself in forgiveness in time; and bring us fully into His presence in the resurrection to life everlasting! When you think about that, it’ll take your breath away!

Have you ever stood outside on a moonless night, looked up at the stars and let your jaw drop in amazement? The light of the stars has grown fainter over the years, with all the smog and extraneous light from human sources, but it’s still a breathtaking sight! But be careful, if you stand too long with your mouth open, you might swallow a bug. The psalmist had a jaw dropping experience and was filled with awe, as He contemplated God’s majesty, in the creation of the heavens and the earth and in the creation of human beings. The Holy Spirit probably inspired him to write this psalm on a starry night. Thanks to modern space telescopes, we see more breathtaking images of the heavens than the ancients. A picture paints a thousand words, but nothing compares with beholding the majesty of the heavens with your own eyes! You didn’t need a telescope to see the heavens, three thousand years ago. The air was clear, the darkness was so deep you could feel it. All you had to do to behold God’s majesty in the heavens, was to look up! It must have been awesome!

And you know what? That starry sky is just God’s overcoat. In Psalm 104 the psalmist sang, “You are clothed with splendour and majesty, covering yourself with light as with a garment.” That’s a pretty fancy coat, but it is just a faint glimmer of the full glory of God’s majesty that shines brighter and burns hotter than all the stars. In 1 Timothy, St. Paul said God dwells “in unapproachable light, whom no one has seen or can see.” Have you ever looked at the sun? Don’t do it! It hurts your eyes. It’s so bright you can’t see.

It’s one thing to look at the stars, another to look at the sun and something completely different to behold the full majesty of God. It’s impossible to see, or approach God in His unclothed divinity. Moses requested to see God’s face. God said, “No one can see my face and live.” God comes to us in ways that we can perceive, behold, contemplate and understand. God clothes Himself with light, so we can see His glory in the night sky. God clothed Himself with our flesh in the conception and birth of Jesus, so we would see the glory of His love. He speaks to us of the glory of His love in Christ Jesus in the scriptures. In their words, He shows Himself to be our loving Father and calls us to Himself through faith in Jesus our Saviour and Redeemer. How majestic is His Name in all the earth!

We behold God in the things He has made. We see His handiwork in the sun, the moon and the stars. We see His genius in the intricacy of nature. All species are interrelated, affect and depend upon each other for life. Do

you like bugs? Probably not! They are actually called insects. We call them bugs, because we don't like them. They bug us, but they are essential to human life and the life of the earth. Have you ever crushed an insect when it landed next to you? Have you ever swatted at one in mid-air, because you were unsure of its intentions and felt threatened by its presence? Next time, before you whack it, consider the intricacy of that creature. It has the ability to compensate for wind speed, gusts, raindrops and the sweep of your hand. It has DNA! The most intelligent humans couldn't create computer code as intricate as the genetic code in a flying ant. But I still don't want it to bite me!

God's majesty is all around us, among us and within us. Contemplate the vastness of the universe. Look at the heavens and realize that the black ocean of space visible to your eyes, is only a fraction of the immensity of the universe. Think about the ocean deeps, which house forms of life that we are only beginning to uncover. Consider the intricate workings of the human body. Realize that each of our bodies and the bodies of all living things, is a universe unto itself. There are galaxies of microbiological life inside each of us and every flying ant! Then realize that these are but the finger prints of God. His divine essence is above and beyond all these.

Thinking about God in the majesty of His divine being, can make us feel small. In comparison to the expanse of the universe, we are small on a microbiological level. We might ask, "What are human beings that you are mindful of us?" People sometimes ask that and similar questions, in despair. The Psalmist asked that question too! But the point of his question and his song is that God is mindful of us, far more mindful of us than we are of Him. He is so mindful of us that despite the sin that separates us from Him, He provides for our needs and the needs of all things living. Again in Psalm 104 the psalmist sang, "The eyes of all look to you and you give them their food in due season. You open your hand and you satisfy the desire of every living thing."

Most importantly, God provides for our spiritual needs, by giving His eternal Son to bear our sins and be our Saviour, so we would have a relationship with Him through faith. The most amazing thing about God is His love for human beings, expressed most fully in Christ Jesus. Despite the sin that separates us from His presence and prevents us from beholding the full majesty of His being, He loves us. He gave Jesus to join Himself to us in conception and birth that He might draw us close to Himself in the atonement of sin through His cross. How mindful is God of us? Mindful enough to give Jesus to be our Saviour and to call us to Himself through faith in His name! Come! Believe! He calls to you!

The Psalmist asked, "What is man that you are mindful of him?" He posed it as a rhetorical question, because He knew that God loves us and that God's majesty in creation is most fully displayed in His human creation! At the end of each day of creation God saw, "It was good." After God created human beings, male and female, creation was "very good!" He created us in His image, a little lower than the heavenly beings. He gave all the intricate work of His creation into our hands; the beasts of the fields, the birds of the heavens, the fish of the sea. He made us different from every other creature; in our relationship with Him and each other; and in our emotional and intellectual capabilities. He gave us hearts to love. He gave us hands to help. He gave us minds to consider the work of His hands, ponder how it all works and wonder what it means.

Do you ever wonder what it all means? I know you do. We all do! Whether it is Shakespeare complaining that life is "a tale told by an idiot, full of sound and fury, signifying nothing," or Trooper singing, "We're here for a good time, not a long time." We don't all come to the same conclusions, but we all wonder about the meaning of life. Realize that humans are the only creature than has the capacity to search for meaning, contemplate it and try to understand what life is all about. God displays His majesty in human beings in a most special way! Most importantly, He displays His majesty in our lives, in love. St. Paul said, God dwells in unapproachable light, but as St. John said, "God is love!" He reveals the majesty of His love in Christ our Saviour!

Light is His garment, but love is His essence! God covers Himself with light, but He reveals Himself in love! When we turned away in sin, He didn't kick us out of His creation, or drop us to the bottom of the genetic ladder. He loved us. He forgave us. He joined His divinity to our humanity and gave Jesus to be our Saviour. He comes to us in Christ, so that He would draw us close to Himself in forgiveness and so we would draw close to Him in faith! How mindful of us is God? How meaningful is our life to Him? Whenever you ask these questions and if you are ever tempted to despair, remember Jesus. He is the fullest expression of God's love for you. Remember Jesus and the cross upon which He died for you and for our salvation. It takes your breath away. The only word that can describe it is: Majestic! "O Lord, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!"

On this Sunday of the Holy Trinity, may God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit, bless you with the majesty of His love in faith, forgiveness, peace, hope, and the promise of eternal life through Christ our Saviour. In His Name. Amen