

## ***The One True God***

“In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.” Before the beginning – there is only God, nothing else. Everything that is not God – is His Creation – created out of nothing. What does this mean? It means that the one, true God is not dependent upon ANYTHING – and that EVERYTHING in Creation is dependent upon Him.

And how does the one, true God create? By His all-powerful WORD. “And God said, ‘Let there be light,’ and there was light.” “Let there be ... and there was.” God’s Word does what He says. It’s faithful, and true. And it gives life to all Creation.

And then also, in our text, we see that the one, true God is a God of ORDER. What He brings into being – He puts in its proper order – and He says, that it is GOOD. Each part perfectly created. Each part of Creation GOOD for the rest of Creation. And the one, true God – the God of GOOD ORDER – when it is finished, declares His Creation to be “very good.”

When we confess that the one, true God is the “maker of heaven and earth” – we are not like the Deists. A Deist believes that God is like a clock maker who makes the clock, winds it up, and then leaves the room (never to return). In other words – after Creation – He’s is “hands-off” kind of God.

The one, true God revealed in Holy Scriptures – who creates all things – doesn’t walk away. He remains with His Creation. We confess that “God has made me and all creatures ... and still takes care of them.” And, if I might highlight the Major Verbs from the Small Catechism – we confess that the one, true God “also GIVES me ... He richly and daily PROVIDES me with all that I need to support this body and life ... He DEFENDS me ... GUARDS and PROTECTS me.”

And YOU are evidence of all this! God has given you life – and still takes care of you. In His good order He brings a woman to the man, and makes them to be husband and wife. In His good order – they give and receive the love of one another – and the one, true God produces fruit – He procreates children – He gives YOU life.

“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” – thanking and praising the one, true God – for the life He gives and still takes care of.

Luther writes in the Large Catechism: “I hold and believe that I am a creature of God; that is, that He has given and constantly sustains my body, soul, and life, my members great and small, all the faculties of my mind, my reason and understanding, and so forth; my food and drink, clothing, means of support, wife and child, servants, house and home, etc. Besides, He makes all creation help provide the comforts and necessities of life – sun, moon, and stars in the heavens, day and night, air, fire, water, the earth and all that it brings forth, birds and fish, beasts, grain and all kinds of produce. Moreover, He gives all physical and temporal blessings – good government, peace, security. Thus we learn from this article that none of us has his life of himself, or anything else that has been mentioned here or can be mentioned, nor can he by himself preserve any of them, however small and unimportant ... Moreover, we confess that God the Father not only has given us all that we have and see before our eyes, but also daily guards and defends us against every evil and misfortune, warding off all sorts of danger and disaster.” (LC 412.13-17)

As you well know –God’s good creation has been thrown into chaos by sin. You live in the Fallen Creation, and you yourself are a Fallen Creature. So Luther goes on to write in the Large Catechism:

“Much could be said if we were to describe in detail how few people believe this article. We pass over it, hear it, and recite it, but we neither see nor consider what the words enjoin on us. For if we believed it with our whole heart, we would also act accordingly, and not swagger about and brag and boast as if we had life, riches, power, honor, and such things of ourselves, as if we ourselves were to be feared and served. This is the way the wretched, perverse world acts, drowned in its blindness, misusing all the blessings and gifts of God solely for its own pride and greed, pleasure and enjoyment, and never once turning to God to thank Him or acknowledge Him as Lord and Creator.”

What is truly a miracle is that the one, true God doesn't just dispose of the Creation corrupted by man. As evidence of His love, His grace, His mercy – He takes it upon Himself to come into His Creation to REDEEM His Creation. He comes to REDEEM you – even as He still takes care of you. And all of this is “out of nothing” – “ONLY out of fatherly, divine goodness and mercy, WITHOUT any merit or worthiness in me.”

As it was in the beginning – so it is NOW. God speaks, and it is so. He gives you life, and still takes care of it. He breathes His Word into your ears – so that you do not live by bread alone, but by faith in every Word that proceeds from the mouth of God. “It is finished,” He declares – “your sin is forgiven” – and by that forgiveness you are a new creation.

He still takes care of you! In daily contrition and repentance, He comes to drown your Old Adam and resurrect the new man who lives by faith – redeemed in the blood of Jesus Christ. He guards and protects you from your three great enemies – He feeds you the Holy Food of Christ's Body and Blood – to strengthen and preserve you. All because the one, true God – Father, Son and Holy Spirit – loves you, and desires to live with you – now, and forevermore. Amen.

In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.