

The Lectionary with Vicar

The appointed readings for Trinity Sunday are taken from Genesis 1:1-2:4a; Acts 2:14a, 22-36; Matthew 28:16-20. I encourage you to open your Bibles and read through these passages with me.

Genesis 1:1-2:4a

Today we read about the creation of the world. There are a lot of different things that I could point out in this reading, but I want to focus on two distinct concepts in this story. The first idea is the idea of order. The days each follow a similar pattern: God speaks, something happens, God might name the new thing, He says that it is good, then there is evening and morning. This process repeats. But the story itself also reinforces the idea of order. Creation moves from formless void to an ordered creation, light and dark are separated, water is grouped into appropriate places, and the sun, moon, and stars – not to mention man – are put in place to give order. Man's primary task is to subdue the world and order it on behalf of God.

The second idea that is important to the story is the idea of God's providence. Through everything, God is providing the push to make the next step happen. He is guiding everything so that it is perfectly prepared for His creatures. Before He creates the sun, moon, and stars, He creates day and night for them to govern. Before He creates birds and fish, He separates the waters to make sea and sky. Before He creates animals and humans, He brings dry ground with vegetation. The passage ends with A description of God giving His creation to His creatures so that they can have food and life. God is not a distant God but an active God caring for His creation and providing for them.

Acts 2:14a, 22-36

The second reading continues where the Pentecost reading left off. Here Peter summarizes the Gospel story of Jesus, with special focus on His resurrection. He concludes his sermon with the result in our lives – the sending of the Holy Spirit. Before he really gets into the resurrection and exultation of Christ, Peter briefly describes the innocent suffering and death of Christ, making it clear that all the people in Jerusalem were responsible for His death, not just the leaders. This even extends to us today. It was for our sin that Jesus died. We are responsible for His suffering and death too.

But the good news that Peter shared is that Jesus was the man sent by God, and God vindicated Jesus by raising Him from the dead. Even more than that, Jesus was exalted to the right hand of God where He will rule over all of creation. He rules over creation in two distinct ways. As true God, He is the creator and sustainer of creation, and as such is the rightful king and ruler. As true man, He is the one tasked with ruling and subduing creation. He fulfills perfectly that command to rule all things – and the resurrection and ascension are proof of His right to rule.

And Because Jesus rules over all things, He is able to support and protect His people. Just as God provides for all His creation, Jesus provides for His people, the church. God sends the Holy Spirit to us through Jesus. Through this all, we receive care for all our needs. This is the providence Jesus provides to His church, the promise of His presence and sending the Holy Spirit, because Jesus is active in His church, caring for us and providing for our needs.

Matthew 28:16-20

Finally, in our Gospel reading, we read Jesus' words which have become known as the great commission. Again, there are a number of points that could be raised about this short passage, but I want to focus on two main ideas. First, Jesus states, "*All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.*" We could easily get bogged down in what exactly He meant by his (i.e. did He not have authority before this?), but that misses the point. The point here is that Jesus is assuming the role of ruler of the world. He has all the power now. God has exalted Him, as we saw in Acts, and He is the Lord and ruler of creation, both as true God and as true man.

Second, Jesus promises His disciples that He will be with them always. Once again, we see that Jesus cares for and provides for His people, the Church. He promises to be with us as we go and make disciples. He promises His presence and the Holy Spirit wherever people are baptized in His name. He promises to be with His people in His Word as they teach others. He promises to walk beside His people as they attempt to do all that He has commanded them. He does this through sending the Holy Spirit, and He does this as our caretaker and our ruler. Any doubts or fears we may have, like the disciples had, are silenced in the face of Jesus wonderful assurance and promise.

A Prayer

Lord Jesus Christ, You have received all the power and glory to order this creation and to rule over Your church. Continue to be with us we pray, and provide for all of our needs, that we may be built up in love towards You and towards our fellow men, as we go in Your name, making disciples of all nations and baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to obey all You have commanded us. For you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.