**Genesis 1:1-5**

**1** In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. **2** The earth was without form and void, and darkness was over the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters. **3** And God said, “Let there be light,” and there was light. **4** And God saw that the light was good. And God 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.

**Romans 6:1-11**

**1** What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin that grace may abound? **2** By no means! How can we who died to sin still live in it? **3** Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? **4** We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life. **5** For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. **6** We know that our old self was crucified with him in order that the body of sin might be brought to nothing, so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin. **7** For one who has died has been set free from sin. **8** Now if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. **9** We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. **10** For the death he died he died to sin, once for all, but the life he lives he lives to God. **11** So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

**Mark 1:4-11**

**4**  John appeared, baptizing in the wilderness and proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. **5** And all the country of Judea and all Jerusalem were going out to him and were being baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. **6** Now John was clothed with camel’s hair and wore a leather belt around his waist and ate locusts and wild honey. **7** And he preached, saying, “After me comes he who is mightier than I, the strap of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. **8**  I have baptized you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.” **9**  In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. **10** And when he came up out of the water, immediately he saw the heavens being torn open and the Spirit descending on him like a dove. **11** And a voice came from heaven, “You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased.”

**“Out Of The Chaos, Behold Christ!”**

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Amen. Yesterday was the start of the Epiphany season, falling right after the twelve days of Christmas. It takes us to those wisemen who by God’s grace and with Old Testament Scripture followed a star to the child Jesus in Bethlehem. However, after this wondrous event, the life of Christ becomes very silent for a while. You could say God’s Son blended in with the best of them, because He truly was 100% man. What takes place then on this first Sunday in Epiphany concerns not a wonder in the sky, but something far more glorious. The baptism of our Lord Jesus Christ would be the next wonder of good news bursting forth in a sinful world.

Now to better grasp WHO it was in those waters of baptism by John. We need to go back to WHO it was that made the heavens and earth. Of course, when we go to the creation account plenty are skeptical today. Christian scientists make their best efforts to defend God as the Creator and His account of creation. Yet, Martin Luther what is the greater need, “Whoever desires to be saved and to be safe when he deals with such great matters, let him simply hold to the form, the signs, and the coverings of the Godhead, such as His Word and His works…But those who want to reach God apart from these coverings…” Luther warns has great cost saying, “Overwhelmed by His majesty, which they seek to comprehend without a covering, they fall to their destruction.” As God’s Word covers us to appreciate Him being the Creator, so His love to save comes to cover us. By His baptism, Jesus has made us in our baptism well pleasing to His Father.

1. **Creation is a spectacle that we are all a part of in life.**
2. God called His creation good, so what happened?

* Chaos of a formless earth, watery emptiness and deep darkness needed molding.
* God’s Word was the love that brought forth the order needed for creation.
* Light was that glory to burst forth with brilliance on the first day.

1. Yet, another chaos has entered into creation far worse than the first.

* This mess the Devil unleashed in the garden to the first parents of humanity.
* Evil words twisted the good of God’s Word and the fall into sin overturned creation.
* What burst forth was the first day that shrouded the world in emptiness of sin and darkness of death.

1. Undoing the chaos of evil is far too big for us.

* Creation now fights against itself and every one of us are left to face disease, calamity, and hardship of all kinds.
* Humanity is also corrupt to the core so our hearts darkened by sin shun God’s good order and bring chaos into His creation. (abortion, sexuality)
* St. Paul says in Romans, “For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth” (1:18) Who dares to confess, “Chaos is what we must deal with each our day!”

1. **The New Creation now reclaims any with life from Christ.**
2. Jesus secured what the old creation could never have done**.**

* There was no going back after the garden and this is why the Son of God went forward with His baptism by John.
* What we find in this watery chaos of sin and death is God fully invested as the creator come to save His fallen creation.
* As the first creation came from God’s love so we find it was love that let Jesus freely step into His claim of being the perfect sacrifice.
* The chaos would yield to Him and the Father in heaven recognized the Word became flesh saying, “You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased.”

1. New life comes by baptism joining us to the crucified Christ.

* His suffering and death was the perfect answer to the chaos of evil, so now by water and the Word God works a great wonder for us.
* If you think it is hard to fathom the origin of this old creation, who can consider the new creation God brings now out of baptism! (nothing into something)
* St. Paul says, “We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life.”
* The accursed cross, the darkness of Good Friday, the emptiness of Jesus rejected now recreates with forgiveness making you well-pleasing to His Father!

1. United to Christ means the chaos of evil has lost its embrace.

* For all the tragedy and heartache this creation can render against life, nothing can separate God’s love for you in Christ Jesus our Lord!
* As the first day of creation brought light, so now the cross has shined into our darkened hearts the eternal light of Christ and His glory.
* The emptiness of sin, the void caused by death, the devil’s power God has dealt with and His Word is life that is very good.(teaching them all things)
* As we try to handle this old creation, the baptized are alive to God because Christ orders our lives in His love every day.

Have you ever noticed the word, “science” is probably for many people today more sacred and honored than the Bible? Christians are not against science only bad agendas and philosophies that seek to box out God from His creation, set up idols that deny His design for life, and finally attack the authority of the Word. This means the history of creation and the baptism of Jesus go together. One was a perfect creation, but now the darkness of sin and death bears down on it. The other is Jesus who perfectly binds Himself to the cross by water so a new creation He gives to sinners. God sees you for who you are as part of this old creation. Yet, we can put the promise of baptism to good use every day with repentant faith for God longs to see us in Jesus. By His baptism, Jesus has made us in our baptism well pleasing to His Father. Amen. Now the peace of God, which passes all understanding, be with your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus to life everlasting. Amen.