

**“Remember”** Sermon for December 23, 2018  
Lection: Micah 5:2-5a, Luke 1:47-55, Luke 1:39-45  
Exodus 20:8-11

8 “Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy. 9 Six days you shall labor and do all your work, 10 but the seventh day is a sabbath to the Lord your God....11 For in six days the Lord made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but he rested on the seventh day. Therefore the Lord blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy.

What are we to remember? Why are we to

remember it? The answer is simple. We are to live in the creative rest of God. God, the active source of all being is “creativity.” There is a difference between acting and creating. To act is to “do something.”

Acting can also be “reacting to something.” But God as creativity does not act in reaction to something, nor does God act for the purpose of being active or busy. God does not act arbitrarily. We say that God created everything out of nothing, (1) creatio ex nihilo, literally "creation out of nothing." This is in contrast to creatio ex materia, creation out of some pre-existent. God also acts as (2) creatio ex deo,

creating something new out of a created being of God. Finally God acts (3) Creatio continua in the ongoing and continuing initiatives of creation.

Mary became the Blessed Virgin Mother of God because God chose her for creation ex deo-through her God created a new being out of her being. She was not more holy, righteous, or less human and all the other nonbiblical theories developed about her. God chose her to unite a dimension of God's self, the divine wisdom which spoke all life into being with her being, to incarnate Jesus the Christ.

The Logos, the divine wisdom, intellect and creative impulse of God was made flesh in Mary, who was God's choice. She was not Joseph's choice. Their union as husband and wife had been prearranged by the families of which they were members from childhood, so neither was Joseph, Mary's choice.

So all reality was created ex nihilo—out of nothing. But in the second aspect of divine creativity—*creatio ex deo*, God expressed love, desire and compassion for humanity. God's *creatio ex deo* in the Virgin Mary was created to return humanity back to its original pure spiritual state.

And finally “creation continua”—God through the new divine beings in Christ continues to recreate the world, to renew it, to repair it, to redeem it through the new human being, Jesus Christ.

When we enter into faith with Jesus Christ, we receive regeneration by the Spirit, the reparation of sanctification and the commission to participate as co-creators with divine Creativity. We are then living in remembrance of God's Sabbath—the rest of God. The writer of the Epistle to the Hebrews clarifies to the early Christian community, the meaning of the commandment, “Remember.”

4 Therefore, since the promise of entering his rest still stands, let us be careful that none of you be found to have fallen short of it. 2 For we also have had the good news proclaimed to us, just as they did; but the message they heard was of no value to them, because they did not share the faith of those who obeyed. 3 Now we who have believed enter that sabbath, just as God has said, The message is clear. We remember to enter into the rest of God, the purpose of creativity—to give all creation sabbath: peace, joy, love, contentment, rest, kindness, goodness, purity, faith—and we enter into God’s sabbath by our faith in Jesus Christ. We have gone to Bethlehem and seen this great sight, this mystery which can only be understood and received in faith—of a poor outcast oriental child—a child of color, in a Western European dominated reality, the Roman Empire. To believe is to accept the particularity of Jesus, because God chose this poor unmarried woman of color to bless her with the pregnant expectancy of new life. God chose what the world considers scandal from the very beginning. Paul writes in 1 Corinthians 1:

<sup>25</sup> For the foolishness of God is wiser than human wisdom, and the weakness of God is stronger than human strength.<sup>26</sup> Brothers and sisters, think of what you were when you were called. Not many of you were wise by human standards; not many were influential; not many were of noble birth.<sup>27</sup> But God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise; God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong.<sup>28</sup> God chose the lowly things of this world and the despised things—and the things that are not—to nullify the things that are,<sup>29</sup> so that no one may boast before him.

Are you remembering the “rest” God has chosen for you? Will you humble yourself to accept the Christ, the continuation of creativity that God has chosen, who is among the oppressed, the outcasts, the nobodies and nothings of his time and of ours? Or is it too much of a leap in faith for you to accept God’s design, to remember and obey in faith?

6 Therefore since it still remains for some to enter that rest, and since those who formerly had the good news proclaimed to them did not go in because of the disobedience of unbelief, 7 God again set a certain day, calling it “Today.” This he did when a long time later he spoke through David, as in the passage already quoted:

“Today, if you hear his voice,  
do not harden your hearts.”

11 Let us, therefore, make every effort to enter that rest, so that no one will perish by following their example of disobedience of rejecting God's creative work.

Remember the Sabbath of God, and keep it holy. In the name of the creative, redemptive source of all life. Amen.