HC LD 9; Psalm 33; Matthew 7:7-11; God the Father and Our Creation I. Creation Began II. Creation Upheld III. Creation Ruled

Congregation of our Lord Jesus Christ, is your God big enough? We live in a world that is constantly shrinking the concept, place and power of God. God is delegated to the power of the unknown- and the more we know about how the world works, the less we need God. Modern man has liberated himself from God- he is now independent and self-fulfilled. We know why and how the sun rises and sets- we have spit the atom and cloned life. We know how everything works- we control our future- we have the power over creation to bend it to our will and design. Who needs “god” anymore we are told. So our world has a rather low view of God. Added to this, the feminist tells us that men are bad. Patriarchy is a curse word. Who wants a God who is a Father? So you can see, the fatherhood of God is a hated and despised doctrine today. But as we consider God the Father and our creation today, we will see that this doctrine is a source of great comfort to the church. We are beginning our study of the Apostles Creed in LD 9. Last time we saw the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Three persons with their own distinct name and work. This evening, we consider this theme: Jesus Christ reveals His Father as the creator of all for our comfort.

**I. Creation Began**

In our first point we consider the beginning of everything- that we acknowledge God the Father who created the heavens and the earth. Everything that is in creation has a beginning. Matter, space and time are not eternal. Rather, our God is the fountain and source of all. As the Scriptures open, in the beginning God. Before the beginning there was only God- and God is the beginning of everything that is. As we read in Psalm 33:6, by the word of the LORD the heavens were made and by the breath of His mouth all their host. Or again in Heb. 11, by faith we know that the universe was created by the word of God, so that what is seen was not made out of things that are visible. This is the very teaching we confess in QA 26- that the eternal Father created heaven and earth out of nothing. The word, created, means to fashion, make, design or build. Like a potter who molds the clay into form- the LORD God created all things and made their shape and being. But God had to first make the clay- which He did out of nothing. He spoke into the void- into the empty stillness- and called all substance and creatures into exitance; putting each in its specific place. Since we just finished a series on our “Identity”, we can be brief here. But it is clear that the doctrine of supernatural creation at the hand of the Father is not compatible with macro evolution or the big bang. Substance is not eternal- and we did not evolve from monkeys, nor did we climb out of the primordial ooze. Rather, as the Law of God reaffirms in Ex. 20- in six days God created the heavens and the earth and He rested on the seventh day. One of the reason that our society is so adamant and committed to the teaching of evolution is that this false doctrine liberates man from His creator. If we are the products of time and chance, we do not have anyone or anything that owns us. We are free in the sense that we just happen to be here. There is no purpose- and there is no person to whom we will be accountable. But the fact is, we do belong! We do have a purpose and we do belong to a person! We are His creatures- His creation! Or a Eph. 2:10 puts it, we are His workmanship. Your life- your very existence- is the work of our heavenly Father’s hand! So the first application is this- you are responsible to God as He is your maker. The second application is found in our reading in Psalm 33. Look again at v. 8- let the earth fear the Lord- let all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe of Him. For He spoke and it came to be. In other words, the fact that God the Father created everything out of nothing by the power of His word should move us- motivate us to praise and fear Him! Worship is the proper response to the doctrine of supernatural creation!

**II. Creation Upheld**

But the Father did not just create everything and let it go. He did not just wind up the world and put it on the shelf or fling it out into space! This is a heresy call “deism”- that God is only a maker but not sustainer. God does not intervene. Or as it was said in a song- God is watching us from a distance. No, God is not watching from afar. Rather, He continues to uphold and sustains all that He has made. As Paul says in Acts 17, in Him we live and move and have our being. Creation is said to stand firm in Psalm 33:9. It is by the LORD’S continued work where He upholds that which has been made- stopping it from sinking back into the mud or devolving back into the formless void. This means that the laws of creation are actually rules that God has not only put in place, but also orders that He continues to uphold. God not only created life by the Spirit in the beginning- but He continues to sustain life by way of this same Spirit. The passing of seasons- planting to harvest. Seed to fruit. All these come to us by His hand. From Spring to Summer and again to Fall and Winter again- each tick of the clock happens as He desires and according to His pleasure. If He were to take away His Spirit- if He were to remove His hands for moment- we would quickly cease to be and all would return to the void. The fact is, we are all dependent on our heavenly Father. Children, when your parents file their taxes, they have to write in how many dependents they have. Each child is another dependent- someone who relies on their parents for food, shelter and clothing. In a certain sense, we could say that everything and everyone is a dependent of God. Psalm 136 says that He gives good to all creatures. He opens His hand, and they are nourished- if He closes His hand they perish. So the beasts of the field find their food from Him! It is our heavenly Father who cloths the grass of the field and gives a home to the birds of the air! Now why would the fact that there is an almighty God providing for all things be good news? Well, this almighty God is also my faithful Father. The all knowing, all powerful and everywhere present God is my loving, heavenly Father. Through Jesus, we have become children of this our heavenly Father. This is a liberating and comforting truth! Children, do you worry about where you will get your next meal from? Are you concerned about the markets or the weather or the state of your house? Well, most kids don’t worry about where they will get their next meal from or where they will find a place to rest at night because they have loving fathers. These fathers provide good gifts. Father are responsible for their children- they are supposed to care for their dependents! Well, as we read from Mt. 7, if your earthly, fallen and finite father can provide good gifts to those who ask, how much more your heavenly Father will do this! Earthly fathers who care for their kids- who provide for and protect their little ones- give us a small picture of what our heavenly Father is doing! We can find rest and peace in His almighty hand!

**III. Creation Ruled**

And finally, we see that our heavenly Father created, uphold and also rules over all. The great God and Father is the sovereign one whose plan and design is upheld. Nothing happens outside of His control. No act is outside of His vision. No work at odds with His ultimate end. We saw this with Job and the LORD’S control of Satan and his movements. Our reading from Psalm 33:10 says that the LORD brings the counsel of the nations to nothing and frustrates the plans of the people. Positively- as 33:11 continues- the counsel of the LORD stands forever and the plans of His heart to all generations. No one can resist His plan- none can stop His works. This teaching is contrary to what some have taught concerning the sovereign work of God. Open Theism teaches that God is open to the future. That He is responding to events as they happen. Open Theism teaches that bad things are outside of His plan and control- and when evil events happen God pivots to deal with them. But this is not very comforting- if evil can happen outside of His control can we really say that God is sovereign? If the Devil is a free agent able to act and devour according to his own desire without limit- do Christians really have lasting comfort? No, the fact is that nothing happens outside of God’s plan and purpose- as LD 10 will go on to explain- nothing happens by chance. All things come to us from His Fatherly hand. God dose not have competition- He is not passive on the side lines, and He is not waiting to see what happens. He is the alpha and the omega- the beginning and the end! He knows the future because He holds the future! When it comes to the rule and reign of God over all, there is a warning evident to the rulers of men. We live in a day and age when human rulers claim greater authority and power all the time. They make their plans and shake their fist in the face of God. Just consider what took place downtown Chicago this past week. At the democratic convention, you saw the pomp and power of man on display. Rulers and political players who make their plans- as they celebrate abortion and reject God’s Law. To these, Psalm 2 gives a clear warning. Be wise you rulers- be warned you leaders of men. You may enjoy a season of power and authority today- but the flower of your reign will quickly wilt! How fast the tides can change! Remember that there is a sovereign king who is over you- one to whom you must give an account! All your plotting is in vain- for the LORD God is in heaven and He does as He pleases!

Now before we come to our conclusion, there are a few points of application for us. First of all, the Fatherhood of God is a gift secured for us by Jesus Christ. Therefore, we have the comfort of belonging to our God as His dearly loved children! We can rest assured that God’s sovereign and good plan will come to be! Do not worry about the plans and schemes of man- you have the sovereign LORD who is your heavenly Father! He loves you and will take care of you- rest assured! He cares for all of creation- He cloths the grass of the field and gives a home to the birds which are relatively worthless. Will He not also provide for you? I know in this season of inflation- with the cost of Christian education, car insurance, medical bills- and whatever else is draining your accounts- can seem daunting. Yes, the cost to get new shoes, back backs, buying gas all add up. But you have a heavenly Father who will not let His child waste away! You are in the hands of loving Father- who is the all powerful God of love! The God who makes and keeps His promises- so rest easy! Trust that your heavenly Father will give you the good that you need- that He will provide for your body and soul.

As we close, the introduction to the Apostles Creed is our opening statement of faith! I believe in God the Father, almighty. Creator of heaven and earth! Our everlasting Father created, upholds and rules over all! Everything- from the smallest ant to the largest star is in His hands! Jesus Christ reveals His Father as the creator of all for our comfort. So look to the hand of your Heavenly Father for what you need- and when He satisfies you with good things give Him the thanks and praise for being the fountain and source of every good and perfect gift.