

## Sonrise

### A sermon outline (Gal. 4:4-5) for Advent 1

- I. The liturgical color for Advent is blue. It used to be purple to signify royalty and penance, but now we use blue for the dawn. Sometimes the third Sunday in Advent is pink to signify that the dawn is breaking; it is almost here.
  1. Gal 4:4: "But when the fullness of time had come" (ESV). "But when the time had fully come" (RSV) What is time?
    - a. Shakespeare wrote:

"But thought's the slave of life, and life Time's fool,  
And Time, that takes survey of all the world,  
Must have a stop" (Henry IV, Part 1: Act 5, Scene 4).
    - b. Einstein said that time is the fourth dimension.
    - c. In the New Testament there are two kinds of time: 1) "Kronos," from which we get chronology, and 2) "Kairos," meaning exactly the right time, the critical or opportune moment, the crucial time, the decisive moment. Kairos: the right time or the ripe time, as in, the time is ripe. We have the word "kairotic," which in modern rhetoric means to say exactly the right thing at the right time.
  2. God is beyond time. As Karl Barth said, God is before time, in time, after time, all around time, all at the same time.
  3. God acts. Ex 3:14: "I am" includes "I act." God has a plan, a goal.
  4. God acts in history.
    - a. Not a charade or a myth. Not like a clock which he wound up and left.
    - b. Not cyclical. Most religions are fertility cults built on nature and project a scheme of eternal repetition.
    - c. In the Bible time is linear and has a beginning and an end.
  5. God became truly human and truly divine.
    - a. Truly human. John 4:6: "Jesus, wearied as he was with his journey, sat down beside the well." Matt 27:46: "'My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?'" Mark 4:38: "But he was in the stern, asleep on the cushion; and they woke him and said to hem, 'Teacher, do you not care if we perish?'" Luke 8:45: "And Jesus said, 'Who was it that touched me?'"
    - b. Truly divine. Jn 11:43: "When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, 'Lazarus, come out.'" Mark 4:41: "And they were filled with awe, and said to one another, 'Who then is this, that even wind and sea obey him?'"
    - c. As Athanasius wrote: He is truly God to **save** us and truly man to save **us**.
  6. We then will ask: If God died on the cross, who ran the universe between Good Friday and Easter morning? It is a legitimate question. Yet it is also beyond our understanding. Jesus is truly God, there is only one God, and Jesus truly died. At the Council of Chalcedon in 451 the Council declared that there are in Christ two natures, which are **unmixed and undivided**. The Council did not sort out how the divine and human natures of Christ work together; rather, it set limits and thereby excluded certain options. In so doing, the Council's decision serves as a stop sign against any speculation. God is truly human and truly divine, unmixed and undivided. Stop!

- II. God has plan. He acted "once for all" (Heb 9:26).
1. God was this particular human being. He was about 5'7", had black eyes and black hair, was male, with a hooked nose. He was a Semite.
  2. "He's got the whole world in his hands....He's got the little bitty baby in his hands...He's got you and me sister in his hands....He's got the whole world in his hands."
  3. Gal 4:4: "Born of woman, born under the law." That's God's plan: "to redeem those who were under the law" (Gal 4:4), to make all things right: That is, Easter. Gal 4:5: "so that we might receive adoption as sons." God's plan is to adopt us as sons and daughters.
  4. His plan: To make all things new in heaven and earth now and forever.
  5. As Luther writes in the Small Catechism in the explanation to the second article of the Creed:

"I believe that **Jesus Christ, true God**, begotten of the Father in eternity, and also **true man**, born of the Virgin Mary, is my Lord, who **has redeemed me**, a lost and condemned creature, **delivered me** and **freed me** from all sins, from death, and from the power of the devil, not with silver and gold but with his holy and precious blood and with his innocent sufferings and death, in order that I may be his, **live under him in his kingdom, and serve him in everlasting righteousness, innocent, and blessedness**, even as he is risen from the dead and lives and reigns to all eternity. This is most certainly true."