

Sharing the Good News

from the pen of the Mission Interpreter



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Who's in Charge Here?

In the church year, as we recently experienced the seasons of Lent and Easter, we have focused primarily on what God has accomplished for us through the Son. As we anticipate Pentecost, the gift of the Holy Spirit will take center stage. At various times during the Trinity season, we recognize the power of the Father in creation. To help us understand our Deity, the creeds separate the work of the Trinity—creation, redemption, sanctification—yet, however we look at it, **God is One**.

The following devotion, based on Psalm 146, may prove helpful in our comprehending how all-encompassing God is.

God is the provider of all things. We look to Him for sustenance—physical, mental, spiritual. Paraphrasing Martin Luther: *It is good to remember that no one, neither man nor beast, earns his daily bread any more than he earns his salvation.* God made the earth and all that is in it, including ourselves. We use what has been provided, but we do not *earn* what we have. "For where God hath put naught, none findeth, even though the world were to work itself to death in search thereof." (Luther)

Love and joy, pain and sorrow, health and sickness, feast and famine come to us in many forms and from many sources. But the psalmist exhorts us to "put not your trust in princes, in a son of man, in whom there is no help. When his breath departs, he returns to earth." We do, indeed, experience all of life in the context of God's creation, interdependent one upon the other, some whom/which we love, trust, and revere, or others whom/which we fear and revile, many of whom/which may be a source of tremendous help and joy in most things. We need to remember, however, that both we and they are in God's hands. "Happy is he whose help is the God of Jacob, whose hope is in the Lord his God, who made heaven and earth, the seas, and all that is in them; who keeps faith for ever." It is a great source of relief to remember this when we are ill, or anxious or downcast, but it is equally appropriate, perhaps more so, to remember this when we are exuberant and filled with joy, lest we forget the source of our well-being. *Always, always, God is in charge.*

We all have our function in the world and we seek God's guidance to accept and use the gifts we have been given in ways that will honor Him. And with the psalmist, we praise God for his goodness, for we recognize that "The Lord will reign for ever, thy God, O Zion, to all generations."

Adapted from *Living Lutheran*