

Text: Colossians 1:13-20

Grace, mercy, and peace be to you from God our Father and our risen Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

My dear beloved flock, the text for our meditation today is the epistle lesson of Colossians chapter one verses thirteen through twenty.

Boys and girls, I pray that you are doing well this morning. Do you know what I have here? I have a picture of a solar eclipse and the Milky Way galaxy. Scientists are constantly finding out more and more about the wonderful creation of our world. They are able to view the vastness of the galaxies through telescopes and satellites. They have found how perfectly placed the earth is for life. It is tilted exactly twenty-three degrees which is why we have four seasons. The moon is perfectly far away to affect the rising and falling of the tides without flooding

whole continents. We are far enough from the sun to bask in its warmth without getting burnt up by those same rays. They are even able to turn from the galaxies to look at the miniscule building blocks of life, atoms. Scientists know that atoms are made up of protons and electrons. Why is all of the wonderful detail made about our universe and world? Why do they all exist? Ponder those questions as you hear the rest of the sermon. You may go back to your seats and those who love you.

Scientists may know all of these wonderful things, but they do not know why the universe is the way that it is. They do not know what holds them together. The physicist George Gamow, one of the founders of the Big Bang theory of the origin of the universe, wrote, "The fact that we live in a world in which practically every object is a potential nuclear explosive, without being blown to bits, is due to the extreme difficulties that attend

the starting of a nuclear reaction." Another scientist puts it this way, "You grasp what this implies. It implies that all the massive nuclei have no right to be alive at all. Indeed, they should never have been created, and, if created, they should have blown up instantly. Yet here they all are.... Some inflexible inhibition is holding them relentlessly together. The nature of the inhibition is also a secret... one thus far reserved by Nature for herself." For scientists, it's a secret, but it is not a secret for Christians. We know who holds them together, Jesus Christ.

That is what St. Paul proclaims in our text for today. Paul calls Jesus the firstborn of creation. This does not mean that He was the first created thing, as the heretic Arius held, but that He is first in terms of preeminence. If we were to rank everything in terms of power and importance, Jesus would be first always in

every single one of the lists. He is first over kings and queens, first over angels and archangels. He is first by the very fact that He is the Creator of everything. He is the One by whom, through Whom and for Whom, all things were created. The reason that everything exists is because God created it. Not only, is God the Creator but He also is the Sustainer. Jesus is this invisible force that binds everything together. He is the one who sustains everything in all of creation. He gives us the very air to breath, the food we eat, the water we drink, everything we need for this body and life unto life everlasting. The only reason that we are alive is because of our Lord's amazing and sustaining power.

Often times, because of our sinful nature, we do not always give thanks to God for His sustaining power. We think that we can sustain ourselves if we work hard enough. That science has all of the answers about everything. That if we just study the

universe hard enough we can find out who really created it or that it just all came about by random chance. That God is really just an invisible force who made the universe and lets it just run on it's own, instead of believing the clear words of Holy Scripture.

This is the beauty of Paul's statement, where is all of this creative and sustaining power is found? It is found, not in an invisible force or an invisible and impersonable God that we cannot approach. Rather is it found in God made flesh, physically in Jesus Christ, in whom, the fullness of the deity deigns to dwell. This powerful Creator came into His creation. That this one, the Maker of heaven and earth, Creator of the cosmos, God of the galaxies, who entered humanity through the virgin-womb of Mary as a weak and helpless babe. Jesus laid aside His power and came into the world, not as a ruler but as a

Savior, in order not to condemn the world but to save the whole world, including you and me, from our sins, from death, and from the power of the devil. Out of His love for us, our Lord shows His power in a marvelous way, by bleeding, suffering and dying upon a cross, hung between two criminals. Jesus is the first born of creation and the dead. He is the cause of creation and also the cause of the resurrection. Jesus rises from the dead as proof that His blood has covered all of our sins, paid the full price for them, and we have peace between us and God, by the blood of His cross.

In Jesus not only does this vast universe holds together and have it's being, but He saves and redeems. All creatures that are now groaning under the effects of sin will finally, through the power of the exalted Christ, be delivered from their bondage, thus bringing about the union of heaven and earth, while hell

with its occupants will be shut out forever from this glorious reconciliation. Let us rejoice in the exaltation of Christ, until that Day when His exaltation and preeminence is visible for all to see in the new heavens and the new earth..

The peace of God, which surpasses all understanding,
guard and keep your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus. Amen