

Series on the Mass, Part 85: The Last Gospel, Part 3

Nov. 21, 2021

The first words of the Prologue of St. John are as follows: "In principio erat Verbum" – "In the beginning was the Word" (John 1:1). It is important to note that beginning here is not about the beginning of God or the Word but the beginning of created things. The Holy Trinity has no beginning. It simply "is" as God said when He told Moses what to call Him: "I am who am" (Exodus 3:14). When God created everything, He was. In creating everything, He did not change. Change was only possible once created things existed, and so time, which is the measurement of change, only began with creation. Therefore, when the evangelist says that "in the beginning was the Word," he means that when God created everything, the Word already was.

The Second Person of the Holy Trinity is called the Word, or, in the Greek, the Logos, which can signify not only the exterior word, but also, and more appropriately in this context, the interior word or thought. It symbolizes or even personifies Wisdom, which is at the foundation of all things made by God. Thus, the Gospel continues, "and the Word was with God and the Word was God" (John 1:1). We also understand here that the Word is with the Father, indicating that He is indeed another distinct person, though of the same nature and substance as the Father and the Holy Ghost.

Sincerely in Christ,

Rev. Charles Van Vliet, FSSP
Pastor, Regina Caeli Parish