

Scriptures

Genesis 1:1-2:4a

At the beginning of time, God the Creator, God the powerful Word, and God the life-giving Spirit form the earth and all its inhabitants. God sees that all this created work is good and then rests on the seventh day.

¹ When God began to create the heavens and the earth, ² the earth was complete chaos, and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. ³ Then God said, “Let there be light,” and there was light. ⁴ And God saw that the light was good, and God separated the light from the darkness. ⁵ God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

⁶ And God said, “Let there be a dome in the midst of the waters, and let it separate the waters from the waters.” ⁷ So God made the dome and separated the waters that were under the dome from the waters that were above the dome. And it was so. ⁸ God called the dome Sky. And there was evening and there was morning, the second day.

⁹ And God said, “Let the waters under the sky be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear.” And it was so. ¹⁰ God called the dry land Earth, and the waters that were gathered together he called Seas. And God saw that it was good. ¹¹ Then God said, “Let the earth put forth vegetation: plants yielding seed and fruit trees of every kind on earth that bear fruit with the seed in it.” And it was so. ¹² The earth brought forth vegetation: plants yielding seed of every kind and trees of every kind bearing fruit with the seed in it. And God saw that it was good. ¹³ And there was evening and there was morning, the third day.

¹⁴ And God said, “Let there be lights in the dome of the sky to separate the day from the night, and let them be for signs and for seasons and for days and years, ¹⁵ and let them be lights in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth.” And it was so. ¹⁶ God made the two great lights—the greater light to rule the day and the lesser light to rule the night—and the stars. ¹⁷ God set them in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth, ¹⁸ to rule over the day and over the night, and to separate the light from the darkness. And God saw that it was good. ¹⁹ And there was evening and there was morning, the fourth day.

²⁰ And God said, "Let the waters bring forth swarms of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the dome of the sky." ²¹ So God created the great sea monsters and every living creature that moves, of every kind, with which the waters swarm and every winged bird of every kind. And God saw that it was good. ²² God blessed them, saying, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth." ²³ And there was evening and there was morning, the fifth day.

²⁴ And God said, "Let the earth bring forth living creatures of every kind: cattle and creeping things and wild animals of the earth of every kind." And it was so. ²⁵ God made the wild animals of the earth of every kind and the cattle of every kind and everything that creeps upon the ground of every kind. And God saw that it was good.

²⁶ Then God said, "Let us make humans in our image, according to our likeness, and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over the cattle and over all the wild animals of the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth."

²⁷ So God created humans in his image,
in the image of God he created them;
male and female he created them.

²⁸ God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over every living thing that moves upon the earth." ²⁹ God said, "See, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is upon the face of all the earth and every tree with seed in its fruit; you shall have them for food. ³⁰ And to every beast of the earth and to every bird of the air and to everything that creeps on the earth, everything that has the breath of life, I have given every green plant for food." And it was so. ³¹ God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.

^{2:1} Thus the heavens and the earth were finished and all their multitude. ² On the sixth day God finished the work that he had done, and he rested on the seventh day from all the work that he had done. ³ So God blessed the seventh day and hallowed it, because on it God rested from all the work that he had done in creation.

^{4a} These are the generations of the heavens and the earth when they were created.

L: May the church hear what the Spirit is saying.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

L: This morning's psalm is from Psalm 8. It will be read responsively with the congregation speaking the bolded text.

PSALM 8

¹ O | Lord our Lord,
how majestic is your name in | all the earth!—

² you whose glory is chanted above the heavens out of the mouths of in- | fants and children;

you have set up a fortress against your enemies, to silence the foe | and avenger.

³ When I consider your heavens, the work | of your fingers,
the moon and the stars you have set | in their courses,

⁴ what are mere mortals that you should be mind- | ful of them, human beings that you should | care for them?

⁵ Yet you have made them little less | than divine;
with glory and hon- | or you crown them.

⁶ You have made them rule over the works | of your hands; you have put all things un- | der their feet:

⁷ all | flocks and cattle,
even the wild beasts | of the field,

⁸ the birds of the air, the fish | of the sea,
and whatever passes along the paths | of the sea.

⁹ O | Lord our Lord,
how majestic is your name in | all the earth!

SECOND READING: 2 CORINTHIANS 13:11-13

Paul closes a challenging letter to the Corinthians with an appeal to Christian fellowship grounded in the triune harmony of Christ's grace, God's love, and the Spirit's partnership.

[Paul writes:] ¹¹ Finally, brothers and sisters, farewell. Be restored; listen to my appeal; agree with one another; live in peace; and the God of love and peace will be with you. ¹² Greet one another with a holy kiss. All the saints greet you. ¹³ The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with all of you.

L: May the church hear what the Spirit is saying.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL: MATTHEW 28:16-20

C: **Glory to you, O God.**

After his resurrection, Jesus summons his remaining disciples and commissions them to baptize and teach all nations in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

¹⁶ Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. ¹⁷ When they saw him, they worshiped him, but they doubted. ¹⁸ And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹ Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit ²⁰ and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

P: **The Gospel of Christ. C: Praise to you, O Christ.**

Prayers of the People

L: Please rise as you are able for the Prayers of the People. Trusting in the power of Christ's resurrection to heal and redeem our broken world, let us pray for the needs of all creation, saying "Merciful God" and responding "receive our prayer".

A brief silence.

Holy God, we are in awe of your creative work. Continue that work in your church, making us a new creation that proclaims your presence and love. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Creator God, nature reveals your power and glory. Protect water sources, vegetation, and wildlife as reminders of who you are. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Redeemer God, you call us to pray for those in authority. Guide our leaders to pursue the work of fostering peace and community. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Sustaining God, you are mindful of your people in every circumstance. Heal those who are sick. Provide for all who hunger. Protect those in harm's way. Comfort any experiencing hardship especially Alfred, Byron, Jose, Terri, Martha, Tim, Terry, Eleanor, Bea, Abdulaziz, Meryem, Aysa, & Hasan, Alma, Sylvia, George, Harold, Joan and Orville. We also bring to you those we carry in our hearts and minds this day, silently or named aloud at this time... (brief pause). Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

May 31, 2026

Gracious God, we pray for the children of our church and community. Provide for their needs. Support their caregivers. Nurture their faith. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Loving God, we give thanks for those who have died and claimed their baptismal promises (*especially*). Strengthen us to live as they did in communion with you. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Trusting you receive all our prayers, we commend our spoken and unspoken prayers to you, O God, through Jesus our Savior. **Amen.**