



THE HOLY TRINITY

FIRST SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

FIRST READING: Genesis 1:1—2:4a

A reading from Genesis.

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

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

⁹And God said,
“Let the waters under the sky be gathered together into one place,
and let the dry land appear.”
And it was so.
¹⁰God called the dry land Earth,
and the waters that were gathered together he called Seas.
And God saw that it was good.
¹¹Then 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. ▶

FIRST READING

Length and familiarity both pose dangers for the reader of this pericope. Take steps to address these dangers. (1) Steep yourself in the text. Rediscover it by rereading it with some frequency in preparation for Sunday. (2) Notice that the repetition in the reading develops a cadence or rhythm that helps to carry the story along. (3) Finally, remember the day. This Sunday, the Holy Trinity, is, as it were, God’s “Name Day.” Today we celebrate the majesty and the mystery of God. Help us imagine the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit engaged in the wild and wonderful task of creation. An expansive act of creation demands an expansive reading!

¹²The 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.

¹³And there was evening and there was morning, the third day.

¹⁴And 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,
¹⁵and let them be lights in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth.”
And it was so.

¹⁶God made the two great lights—the greater light to rule the day
and the lesser light to rule the night—and the stars.

¹⁷God set them in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth,

¹⁸to rule over the day and over the night,
and to separate the light from the darkness.

And God saw that it was good.

¹⁹And there was evening and there was morning, the fourth day.

²⁰And God said,
“Let the waters bring forth swarms of living creatures,
and let birds fly above the earth across the dome of the sky.”

²¹So 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.

²²God blessed them, saying,
“Be fruitful and multiply and fill the waters in the seas,
and let birds multiply on the earth.”

²³And there was evening and there was morning, the fifth day.

²⁴And 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.

²⁵God 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.

²⁶Then 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.”

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

²⁸God 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.”

²⁹God 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.

³⁰And 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.

³¹God 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.

²On 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.

³So 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.

Word of God, word of life. *or* The word of the Lord.

PSALMODY: Psalm 8

SECOND READING: 2 Corinthians 13:11-13

A reading from Second Corinthians.

「Paul writes:」

¹¹Finally, 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.

¹²Greet one another with a holy kiss.

All the saints greet you.

¹³The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with all of you.

Word of God, word of life. *or* The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL: Matthew 28:16-20

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

¹⁶Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee,
to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them.

¹⁷When they saw him, they worshiped him, but they doubted.

¹⁸And Jesus came and said to them,

“All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.

¹⁹Go therefore and make disciples of all nations,
baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son
and of the Holy Spirit

²⁰and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you.

And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

The gospel of the Lord.

SECOND READING

This text is included because it is one of the early references to the Holy Trinity. Verse 13 is widely known as the apostolic greeting. These are the final lines of a letter to the church at Corinth. Carefully note every comma, semicolon, and period, providing the pauses for which they call. Allow each sentence—each phrase—to stand alone as the final thoughts in a letter often do. Take your time.

GOSPEL

This is one of the Jesus sayings that many in the assembly will know by heart. Combine authority and affection in reading words that come from Jesus' heart.