

## NEXT STEP: STUDY &amp; SHARE

## READINGS

Genesis 1:1--2:4a

Psalm 8

*How majestic is your name in all the earth!*  
(v1)

2 Corinthians 13:11-13

Matthew 28:16-20

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Almighty Creator & ever-living God: we worship your glory, eternal Three-in-One, & we praise your power, majestic One-in-Three. Keep us steadfast in this faith, defend us in all adversity, & bring us at last into your presence, where you live in endless joy & love, Father, Son, & Holy Spirit, one God, now & forever. Amen.

## SERMON TEXT- Genesis 1:1--2:4a

<sup>1</sup>In the beginning when God created the heavens & the earth, <sup>2</sup>the earth was a formless void & darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. <sup>3</sup>Then God said, "Let there be light"; & there was light. <sup>4</sup>And God saw that the light was good; & God separated the light from the darkness. <sup>5</sup>God called the light Day, & the darkness he called Night. & there was evening & there was morning, the first day... <sup>26</sup>Then God said, "Let us make humankind in our image, according to our likeness; & let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, & over the birds of the air, & over the cattle, & over all the wild animals of the earth, & over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth." <sup>27</sup>So God created humankind in his image, in the image of God he created them; male & female he created them. <sup>28</sup>God blessed them, & God said to them, "Be fruitful & multiply, & fill the earth & subdue it." ...<sup>31</sup>God saw everything that he had made, & indeed, it was very good. & there was evening & there was morning, the sixth day. <sup>21</sup>Thus the heavens & the earth were finished, & all their multitude. <sup>2</sup>And on the seventh day God finished the work that he had done, & he rested on the seventh day from all the work that he had done. <sup>3</sup>So God blessed the seventh day & hallowed it, because on it God rested from all the work that he had done in creation. <sup>4a</sup>These are the generations of the heavens & the earth when they were created.

## LISTENING TO . . .

**GOD-** *Christian life is rooted in the Father, Son, & Holy Spirit*

1. Identify the Trinitarian references in this passage & the other readings for the day. You may need to look across multiple verses in a passage. Also, what connections do you find between this week's readings?
2. What does *John 1:1-14 (16-18)* add to the *Genesis* reading? How does *John* make *Genesis* "more" trinitarian?

**EACH OTHER-** *Sharing & growing with our brothers & sisters in Christ*

3. Read the three creeds (Apostles', Nicene, Athanasian) & the Large & Small Catechisms' explanation. What do they have in common? What important differences- other than length- do you find? If you have The Lutheran Study Bible (Concordia Publishing House 2009), read "Jesus, the New Testament, & the Creeds" p1975. How do the creeds keep us interpreting the Bible correctly (cf. *Exodus 20:1-7; Deuteronomy 6:4*)? What questions do you have about the creeds? Ask your pastor. SC, LC, & creeds available [bookofconcord.org](http://bookofconcord.org)
4. What are 5 things you wish you understood better about *Genesis chapters 1-4*? Try this exercise-without reading *Genesis 1:1--2:4a* or *2:4b-3:24*, write down your best recollection of the creation story (stories?). Then go verse by verse & draw it out. How did you do? What did you learn?

**NEIGHBORS-** *Bearing fruit for those not yet our brothers & sisters*

5. Building on #2, the creeds don't "explain" or "prove" the Holy Trinity but rather describe & praise the Trinity. How does this insight help you talk correctly & clearly to others about the connections between Father, Son, & Holy Spirit, always three persons, yet always one God?
6. Someone tells you that they can't believe the "creation myth" of *Genesis*. How does admitting that *Genesis* is not written as a "news article" help the conversation along? How does pointing to its central concerns of the origins of humankind, of Israel, & of God's unique relationship to the people of Israel reframe the dialog? Remember, Christians are adopted into biblical Israel. See *Romans 8:9-17, 11:13-32*

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Festival of the Holy Trinity

06.11.23

Series:

Rev. Jared Stillions, STS

Creation to Commission

*God created me & all that exists for his purposes;  
God recreates me in Baptism for discipleship*

-Notes-

KEY VERSE: God saw everything that he had made,  
& indeed, it was very good. (v31a)

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-NEXT STEPS MEMORY VERSE-

Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts;  
God's glory fills the whole earth.. (Isaiah 6:3)

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