

Friends of the Chapel Weekly Scripture Study

The Holy Trinity

May 31, 2026

Old Testament Reading

Genesis 1:1–2:4a

English Standard Version Scripture Text

In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. ² The earth was without form and void, and darkness was over the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters.

³ And 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 an expanse in the midst of the waters, and let it separate the waters from the waters.” ⁷ And God made² the expanse and separated the waters that were under the expanse from the waters that were above the expanse. And it was so. ⁸ And God called the expanse Heaven. And there was evening and there was morning, the second day.

⁹ And God said, “Let the waters under the heavens 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 And God said, “Let the earth sprout vegetation, plants yielding seed, and fruit trees bearing fruit in which is their seed, each according to its kind, on the earth.” And it was so. ¹² The earth brought forth vegetation, plants yielding seed according to their own kinds, and trees bearing fruit in which is their seed, each according to its kind. 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 expanse of the heavens 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 expanse of the heavens to give light upon the earth.” And it was so. ¹⁶ And 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 And God set them in the

expanse of the heavens to give light on 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 swarm with swarms of living creatures, and let birds⁷ fly above the earth across the expanse of the heavens." ²¹ So God created the great sea creatures and every living creature that moves, with which the waters swarm, according to their kinds, and every winged bird according to its kind. And God saw that it was good. ²² And 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 according to their kinds—livestock and creeping things and beasts of the earth according to their kinds." And it was so. ²⁵ And God made the beasts of the earth according to their kinds and the livestock according to their kinds, and everything that creeps on the ground according to its kind. And God saw that it was good.

²⁶ Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth."

²⁷ So God created man in his own image,

in the image of God he created him;

male and female he created them.

²⁸ And 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 heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth." ²⁹ And God said, "Behold, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is on 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 heavens 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 And God saw everything that he had made, and behold, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.

2 Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all the host of them. ² And on the seventh day God finished his work that he had done, and he rested on the seventh day from all his work that he had done. ³ So God blessed the seventh day and made it holy, because on it God rested from all his work that he had done in creation.

⁴ These are the generations of the heavens and the earth when they were created,

Historical Context

Genesis 1 opens the biblical narrative with the account of creation. The passage proclaims that the one true God alone created and ordered the heavens and the earth. Creation is presented as intentional, good, and governed by divine wisdom.

Verse-by-Verse Exegetical Commentary

Genesis 1:1–2 – God creates the heavens and the earth while the Spirit hovers over the waters.

Genesis 1:3–5 – God speaks light into existence, separating light from darkness.

Genesis 1:6–25 – God orders creation through successive acts, filling the world with life.

Genesis 1:26–27 – Humanity is created in the image of God with dignity and purpose.

Genesis 1:28–31 – Humanity is commissioned to steward creation, and God declares creation very good.

Genesis 2:1–4a – Creation is completed, and God sanctifies the seventh day.

Theological Themes

- God as Creator
- The goodness and order of creation
- Humanity created in God's image
- Divine rest and worship

New Testament Reading

Acts 2:14a, 22–36

English Standard Version Scripture Text

¹⁴ But Peter, standing with the eleven, lifted up his voice and addressed them:

²² “Men of Israel, hear these words: Jesus of Nazareth, a man attested to you by God with mighty works and wonders and signs that God did through him in your midst, as you yourselves know— ²³ this Jesus, delivered up according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of lawless men.

²⁴ God raised him up, loosing the pangs of death, because it was not possible for him to be held by it. ²⁵ For David says concerning him, “I saw the Lord always before me,

for he is at my right hand that I may not be shaken; ²⁶ therefore my heart was glad, and my tongue rejoiced; my flesh also will dwell in hope. ²⁷ For you will not abandon my soul to Hades, or let your Holy One see corruption. ²⁸ You have made known to me the paths of life; you will make me full of gladness with your presence.'

²⁹ "Brothers, I may say to you with confidence about the patriarch David that he both died and was buried, and his tomb is with us to this day. ³⁰ Being therefore a prophet, and knowing that God had sworn with an oath to him that he would set one of his descendants on his throne, ³¹ he foresaw and spoke about the resurrection of the Christ, that he was not abandoned to Hades, nor did his flesh see corruption. ³² This Jesus God raised up, and of that we all are witnesses. ³³ Being therefore exalted at the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, he has poured out this that you yourselves are seeing and hearing. ³⁴ For David did not ascend into the heavens, but he himself says,

"The Lord said to my Lord, "Sit at my right hand, ³⁵ until I make your enemies your footstool." ³⁶ Let all the house of Israel therefore know for certain that God has made him both Lord and Christ, this Jesus whom you crucified."

Historical Context

Acts 2 records Peter's sermon on the Day of Pentecost following the outpouring of the Holy Spirit. Peter proclaims Jesus as the risen and exalted Messiah, interpreting recent events through Scripture.

Verse-by-Verse Exegetical Commentary

Verse 14a – Peter stands with the apostles and addresses the crowd.

Verses 22–24 – Jesus' ministry, death, and resurrection are proclaimed as part of God's plan.

Verses 25–28 – Peter cites Psalm 16 to affirm the resurrection.

Verses 29–32 – David's words point ultimately to the risen Christ.

Verses 33–35 – The exalted Christ pours out the promised Holy Spirit.

Verse 36 – Jesus is declared both Lord and Christ.

Theological Themes

- The resurrection and exaltation of Christ
- Fulfillment of prophecy
- The work of the Holy Spirit
- Jesus as Lord and Messiah

Concluding Reflection

Trinity Sunday invites the Church to reflect upon the mystery and majesty of the Triune God. Genesis reveals the Father creating through His Word while the Spirit hovers over creation. Acts proclaims the risen and exalted Son pouring out the Holy Spirit upon the Church. Together these readings reveal the work of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit in creation and redemption.

Thoughts to Consider

1. What does Genesis teach us about God as Creator?
2. Why is it significant that humanity is created in God's image?
3. How does Peter connect Jesus' resurrection to Old Testament prophecy?
4. What role does the Holy Spirit play in Acts 2 and in the Church today?
5. How do these passages deepen our understanding of the Trinity?