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# Grace Lutheran Church

736 Cayuga Drive  
Niagara Falls, New York 14304  
www.gracenf.org  
Divine Service: Sunday 10:30 AM

Office (716) 283-1843  
office@gracenf.org

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*Our Vision: Welcoming people to grow in hope, love, and certainty through God's Word of grace.*

## *For Our Guests*

Dear friend, welcome to Grace! Make yourself at home. Grace Lutheran Church is a family made up of regular, imperfect people growing in hope, love, and certainty through God's Word of grace, rejoicing together in God's restoration and forgiveness, and celebrating our new life in Christ Jesus. If you have any questions for us, please don't hesitate to speak with an usher or the pastor.

If you're in Niagara Falls on vacation right now, thanks for coming! We pray this worship service refreshes your spirit by showing you a wonder even more beautiful than the mighty Falls He made: the depth of His amazing love for you.

If you live in the area, we pray you find comfort, peace and joy through the worship service today. We would be delighted to worship with you again, and if you don't have a church home and you'd like to become part of the Grace family, please speak with an usher or the pastor.

RESTROOMS are located in the parent's room (back of the church) and next to the parking lot door.

*\* I have children, and they're not always quiet. Do you mind?*

We warmly welcome children to worship just like Jesus did, and we love the liveliness they bring to the service. If your little one's crying is making you uncomfortable, there's a cry room in back for your convenience. Don't worry about coming and going if that's what you need to do. We're parents and grandparents too. We've been there and we understand!

*\* The plate's coming. Do I have to give an offering?*

Members of Grace have the privilege and responsibility of stewarding the mission of our congregation through generous giving. God teaches that giving comes from a joyful heart, not under compulsion. If you are visiting today, you are not expected to participate in the offering; please direct your gift to your home congregation.

*\* What about Holy Communion?*

Communion is celebrated on the 1<sup>st</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, and 5<sup>th</sup> Sundays and in other special services. We believe what Jesus says about Holy Communion: that it is His body and blood, not symbolically but actually present, given to us for the forgiveness of sins. The Bible cautions that anyone who receives Communion without this understanding will be receiving it to their great harm.

For this reason, out of sincere love, we ask that those who commune at this altar are baptized Christians who, having been instructed in the faith, regret their sins and desire to receive Christ's real Body and Blood for forgiveness, trusting in God's Word as He revealed it in Scripture. If you are not a member of a Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod congregation, please speak with the pastor before you commune.

If you are not communing today, you are welcome to come forward for a pastoral blessing. Simply cross your arms over your chest at the rail. There is non-alcoholic white wine on each tray for those who require it. Finally, those who have difficulty walking may indicate such to an usher and Communion will be brought to you.


In the timeless tradition of the Christian church, the Common Cup is offered to all. If you desire to commune using the common cup, raise your hand as the individual cups approach, then assist the Elder by holding the chalice at its base and guiding it as you receive.

**Members and Guests: Please help us serve you by indicating your presence today, and any special needs, on the fellowship sheet in your bulletin & place in offering plate.**




## ORDER OF WORSHIP FOR MAY 31, 2026 HOLY TRINITY SUNDAY

– based on Divine Service 4: LSB 203 –

This symbol (  ) means that part of the service is found in the Lutheran Service Book hymnal.

### Welcome, Announcements

 **Hymn of Invocation: “Glory Be to God the Father”**

LSB 506

- P** In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C** Amen.
- P** Our help is in the name of the Lord,
- C** who made heaven and earth.
- P** If You, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?
- C** But with You there is forgiveness; therefore You are feared.
- P** Since we are gathered to hear God’s Word, call upon Him in prayer and praise, and receive the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ in the fellowship of this altar, let us first consider our unworthiness and confess our sin. Together as His people let us take refuge in the infinite mercy of God, our heavenly Father, seeking His grace for the sake of Christ.
- C** Before God and one another, we confess that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed, and that we cannot free ourselves from our sinful condition, and so we pray: God, be merciful to me, a sinner. Almighty God, merciful Father, have mercy on us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life. In Holy Baptism You declared us to be Your children; therefore You daily and richly forgive us our sins and grant us new life through Your Spirit. Be in our midst, enliven our faith, and graciously receive our prayer and praise; through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.
- P** Almighty God, in His mercy, has given his Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. Therefore, in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C** Amen.

# Kyrie and Gloria

LSB 204



**C** Lord, have mer - cy; Christ, have mer - cy; Lord, have mer - cy.



**C** 1 To God on high be glo - ry And peace to all the earth;  
2 To You, O sole - be - got - ten, The Fa - ther's Son, we pray;  
3 For You a - lone are ho - ly; You on - ly are the Lord.



Good-will from God in heav - en Pro - claimed at Je - sus' birth!  
O Lamb of God, our Sav - ior, You take our sins a - way.  
For - ev - er and for - ev - er, Be wor - shiped and a - dored;



We praise and bless You, Fa - ther; Your ho - ly name, we sing—  
Have mer - cy on us, Je - sus; Re - ceive our heart - felt cry,  
You with the Ho - ly Spir - it A - lone are Lord Most High,



Our thanks for Your great glo - ry, Lord God, our heav'n - ly King.  
Where You in pow'r are seat - ed At God's right hand on high—  
In God the Fa - ther's glo - ry. "A - men!" our glad re - ply.

## Collect of the Day

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** And also with you.

**P** Let us pray.

Almighty and everlasting God, You have given us grace to acknowledge the glory of the eternal Trinity by the confession of a true faith and to worship the Unity in the power of the Divine Majesty. Keep us steadfast in this faith and defend us from all adversities; for You, O Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, live and reign, one God, now and forever.

**C** Amen.

## Old Testament Reading

**L** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

## Gradual

*Psalm 145:3, 5b, 6b*



**C** Great is the LORD, and greatly | to be praised,\*  
and his greatness is un- | searchable.  
On your wondrous works, I will | meditate,\*  
and I will declare your | greatness.

## Second Reading

**L** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

## Holy Gospel



**C** Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.



**C** These things are writ-ten that you may be - lieve that



Je - sus is the Christ, the Son of God.



**C** Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

**P** The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the twenty-eighth chapter.

**C** Glory to You, O Lord.

**P** ... This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**C** Praise to You, O Christ.

 **Hymn of the Day:** “Holy, Holy, Holy”

*LSB 507*

**Sermon**

## The Athanasian Creed

- P** Whoever desires to be saved must, above all, hold the catholic faith.
- C** **Whoever does not keep it whole and undefiled will without doubt perish eternally.**
- P** And the catholic faith is this,
- C** **that we worship one God in Trinity and Trinity in Unity, neither confusing the persons nor dividing the substance.**
- P** For the Father is one person, the Son is another, and the Holy Spirit is another.
- C** **But the Godhead of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit is one: the glory equal, the majesty coeternal.**
- P** Such as the Father is, such is the Son, and such is the Holy Spirit:
- C** **the Father uncreated, the Son uncreated, the Holy Spirit uncreated;**
- P** the Father infinite, the Son infinite, the Holy Spirit infinite;
- C** **the Father eternal, the Son eternal, the Holy Spirit eternal.**
- P** And yet there are not three Eternals, but one Eternal,
- C** **just as there are not three Uncreated or three Infinites, but one Uncreated and one Infinite.**
- P** In the same way, the Father is almighty, the Son almighty, the Holy Spirit almighty;
- C** **and yet there are not three Almighty, but one Almighty.**
- P** So the Father is God, the Son is God, the Holy Spirit is God;
- C** **and yet there are not three Gods, but one God.**
- P** So the Father is Lord, the Son is Lord, the Holy Spirit is Lord;
- C** **and yet there are not three Lords, but one Lord.**
- P** Just as we are compelled by the Christian truth to acknowledge each distinct person as God and Lord, so also are we prohibited by the catholic religion to say that there are three Gods or Lords.
- C** **The Father is not made nor created nor begotten by anyone.**
- P** The Son is neither made nor created, but begotten of the Father alone.
- C** **The Holy Spirit is of the Father and of the Son, neither made nor created nor begotten, but proceeding.**
- P** Thus, there is one Father, not three Fathers; one Son, not three Sons; one Holy Spirit, not three Holy Spirits.
- C** **And in this Trinity none is before or after another; none is greater or less than another;**
- P** but the whole three persons are coeternal with each other and coequal, so that in all things, as has been stated above, the Trinity in Unity and Unity in Trinity is to be worshiped.
- C** **Therefore, whoever desires to be saved must think thus about the Trinity.**
- P** But it is also necessary for everlasting salvation that one faithfully believe the incarnation of our Lord Jesus Christ.
- C** **Therefore, it is the right faith that we believe and confess that our Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God, is at the same time both God and man.**
- P** He is God, begotten from the substance of the Father before all ages; and He is man, born from the substance of His mother in this age:
- C** **perfect God and perfect man, composed of a rational soul and human flesh;**
- P** equal to the Father with respect to His divinity, less than the Father with respect to His humanity.
- C** **Although He is God and man, He is not two, but one Christ:**

- P** one, however, not by the conversion of the divinity into flesh, but by the assumption of the humanity into God;
- C** **one altogether, not by confusion of substance, but by unity of person.**
- P** For as the rational soul and flesh is one man, so God and man is one Christ,
- C** **who suffered for our salvation, descended into hell, rose again the third day from the dead,**
- P** ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father, God Almighty, from whence He will come to judge the living and the dead.
- C** **At His coming all people will rise again with their bodies and give an account concerning their own deeds.**
- P** And those who have done good will enter into eternal life, and those who have done evil into eternal fire.
- C** **This is the catholic faith; whoever does not believe it faithfully and firmly cannot be saved.**

## Prayer of the Church

The Pastor will close each section: **P** Lord, in Your mercy,  
 Then please respond: **C** Hear our prayer.

## Offering

### *The Sacrament of Holy Communion*

*If you have not communed with us before, please read "What about Holy Communion?" on page 2.*

- P** The Lord be with you. **C** And also with you.
- P** Lift up your hearts. **C** We lift them to the Lord.
- P** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **C** It is right to give Him thanks and praise.
- P** It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, who with Your only-begotten Son and the Holy Spirit are one God, one Lord. In the confession of the only true God, we worship the Trinity in person and the Unity in substance, of majesty coequal. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

**C** Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of Sab - a - oth a - dored;  
 Heav'n and earth with full ac-claim shout the glo-ry of Your name.

Sing ho - san - na in the high - est, sing ho - san - na to the Lord;  
 Tru - ly blest is He who comes in the name of the Lord!

## Prayer of Thanksgiving

**P** Blessed are You, O Lord our God, king of all creation, for You have had mercy on us and given Your only-begotten Son that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.

You once revealed Your name to Moses in the burning bush; and through Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, You unveiled the mystery of Your holy name in the Trinity of persons and the Unity of being.

Grant that we, who have been baptized and instructed in the triune name, may faithfully eat and drink of Your Son's body and blood and worship You in spirit and truth, O Father, through Your Son in the Holy Spirit.

Hear us as we pray in His name and as He has taught us:

**C** **Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven; give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.**

**P** Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My ✠ body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me." In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My ✠ blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

**P** As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.

**C** **Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

**P** The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**C** **Amen.**

# Agnus Dei

LSB 210

1 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,  
 2 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,  
 You take the sin of the world a - way;  
 You take the sin of the world a - way;  
 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,  
 Have mer - cy on us, Je - sus Christ,  
 Have mer - cy on us, Lord, we pray.  
 And grant us peace, O Lord, we pray.

## Distribution Hymn:

“The Church’s One Foundation”

LSB 644

“All Glory Be to God on High”

LSB 947

# Nunc Dimittis

LSB 211

1 O Lord, now let Your ser - vant De -  
 2 All glo - ry to the Fa - ther, All  
 part in heav'n - ly peace, For I have seen the  
 glo - ry to the Son, All glo - ry to the  
 glo - ry Of Your re - deem - ing grace:  
 Spir - it, For - ev - er Three - in - One;



A light to lead the Gen - tiles Un -  
 For as in the be - gin - ning, Is  
 to Your ho - ly hill, The glo - ry of Your  
 now, shall ev - er be, God's tri - une name re -  
 peo - ple, Your cho - sen Is - ra - el.  
 sound - ing Through all e - ter - ni - ty.

**P** Let us pray.

We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** Amen.

## Benediction

**P** Let us bless the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

**P** The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace. **C** Amen.

## Sending Hymn: "Thy Strong Word"

LSB 578

**P** Go in peace; serve the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God!

# Questions and Answers about The Athanasian Creed

## Q: What is the Athanasian Creed?

A: The Athanasian Creed is one of the three creeds (statements of belief) we use to describe the faith taught in the Bible. The other two, the Apostles' and the Nicene, are frequently spoken in worship. Though the name of the creed credits it to Athanasius, a strong defender of the Christian faith, it's unlikely that Athanasius himself wrote it. The creed appears to have originated in southern France around the 5<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> centuries.

## Q: Near the end of this creed, it says those who do good will go to heaven and those who do evil will go to hell. Doesn't this contradict the teaching that we are saved by grace through faith, *not* by works?

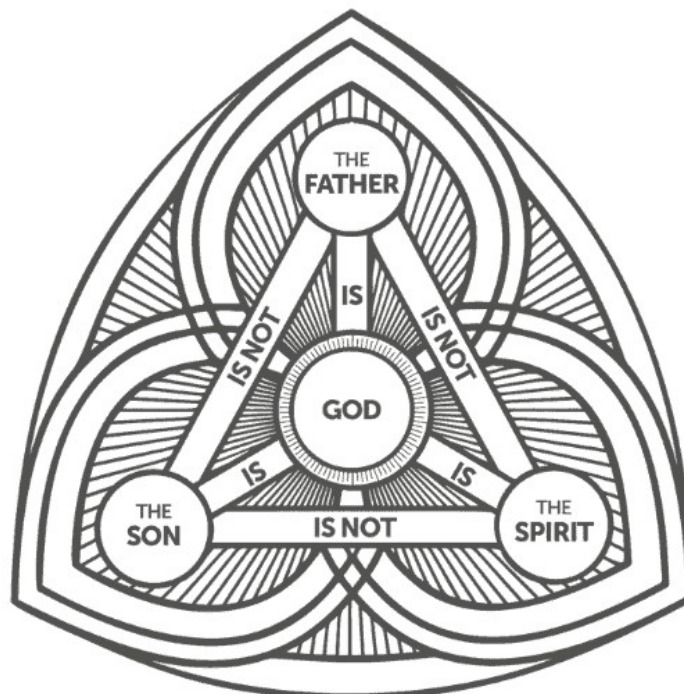
A: No, and here's why: Apart from faith in Christ, sin corrupts everything so we're not capable of any truly good work. But through faith, our evil sins are completely forgiven and only good works remain. This part of the creed simply expresses the reality of the fruits of faith. See Romans 2:6-10.

## Q: Why are we saying this long creed today?

A: The Athanasian Creed is not typically spoken, mainly due to its length. However, it is traditionally used on Holy Trinity Sunday since it's a marvelous confession of the doctrine of the Holy Trinity.

## Q: "Whoever will be saved shall...hold the catholic faith." The catholic faith?! Uh oh. Aren't we Lutheran?

A: Catholic (with a small "c") is simply a Greek word meaning "universal". It does *not* refer to the Roman Catholic Church. The catholic faith is the one, true faith given by God and confessed by all Christians. The original wording of the Apostles' and Nicene Creeds also said "catholic church" instead of "Christian church", but the latter was substituted in the 16<sup>th</sup> century to prevent exactly this kind of confusion.



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THOSE ASSISTING OUR WORSHIP TODAY

Pastor: Rev. Ben Bahr

Organist: John Bahr

Acolytes: Virginia Markel & Elizabeth Washburn

Head Ushers: Neil Stenzel & Jim Wolf

Communion Assistants: Mark Andrews & Gary Krull

Readers: Gary Krull & Dillon Deskovic

Tech Crew: Mark Binkley & John Bahr

Altar Care: Erika Tuscher & Donna Hoffman

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**THIS WEEK AT GRACE**

**TODAY – 05/31/26**

9:00 am Christian Education

10:30 am Worship (HC)

**MONDAY – 06/01/26**

6:30 pm Survivors' Group

**NEXT SUNDAY – 06/07/26**

9:00 am Christian Education

10:30 am Worship (HC)

**Statistics for the week of**

**May 24, 2026**

Worship Service: 88 Attended, 25 Views

Adult Education: 17

Youth Education: 12

Education Staff: 5

Offering: \$1,722.84

Sunday School: \$8.00

Mission of the Month: \$85.00

\* Weekly budget needs \$4,206

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

*Please submit new announcements  
by **Wednesday 12pm**: [office@gracenf.org](mailto:office@gracenf.org).  
May Office Hours 2<sup>nd</sup> Sun 8:30-12:30, M/W/Th 10-2  
**GIVING**: Options at [www.gracenf.org](http://www.gracenf.org)*

**ALTAR FLOWERS** are given today by Pastor & Jane Brese to the Glory of God and in honor of the birth of their great-grandson John Elowsky.

**NEXT SUNDAY'S READINGS** are Hosea 5:15-6:6, Romans 4:13-25, and Matthew 9:9-13.

**PICNIC SIGN UP:** Our annual congregational picnic will be held two weeks from today (June 14) after worship. Please sign the sheet in the chapel or narthex BY NEXT SUNDAY if you plan to attend so that we can purchase the needed supplies. Hotdogs, hamburgs, and drinks will be provided. Please bring a side dish or dessert to share if you are able. All members and friends are invited to join in this celebration of another successful year of Bible studies and Sunday School.

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED:** Our summer Coffee Hour will begin on June 21 in the chapel after worship, and will continue through the summer. Please sign up on the glass case if you are willing to help by providing baked goods (homemade or purchased) or another treat. On July 26, a birthday cake will be provided to celebrate all members turning 80 or older in 2026.

**TODAY** is the last day to donate to support **PIONEER ON THE LAKE** (formerly Camp Pioneer). Pioneer is offering a full slate of events this summer, including special week-long camps, retreats, weekly car cruises, Sunday worship services, VBS, and much more. Their annual PIONEER FEST will be held on July 19. Pioneer offers various accommodations available to rent, including five premier cottages with central air and furnaces. If you would like to support Pioneer, place your mission envelopes in the offering plate today, or donate online by choosing "monthly mission".

**SPRING MISSION PROJECT:** Tables are available in the narthex and chapel for donations of baby items to support SUMMIT LIFE CENTER in Niagara Falls. Summit supports young women and men facing unplanned pregnancies with free services, including counseling, parenting classes, support groups, and community assistance referrals. Attendance at activities earns clients credits that can be redeemed for baby clothes, blankets, diapers, wipes, and infant toiletries. If you would like to donate these items, we will continue to accept your gifts through Father's Day, June 21. If you prefer, there are also BABY BOTTLE BANKS available on the tables that can be used to donate your change to Summit. They should be returned to Alice Moll or the church office.

**GRACE LADIES FIELD TRIP:** Off to Grand Island on Tuesday, June 9<sup>th</sup>. Meet at church at 9:30am to carpool. We're going to Orange Poppy Art Studio to make a mosaic picture frame. Lunch will then be at Brick Oven and after stopping by Kelly's Country Store on our way back to church. Sign-up sheet is on the glass case in chapel.

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**CAN TABS:** As many of you know, I have been collecting aluminum can tabs since last September to benefit Ronald McDonald House Charities. RMHC is a global non-profit network that provides free or low-cost housing, meals and support services to families with critically ill or injured children receiving medical treatment. By operating just steps away from pediatric hospitals, RMHC allows families to stay close to their child's care and removes the financial burden of extended travel and lodging. This is truly a blessing for those families.

I was elated to see how many tabs were collected over the winter (while I was staying warm in Florida), weighing in at 2.5 lbs. and I cannot tell you all how much this is appreciated.

Going forward, I will continue to accept them, either via a Sunday School student or in the coat room (where the collection boxes are for eyeglasses, etc).

Again, thank you for your support for this worthwhile cause.

Kathy Majka

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**Positive Approach to Care Workshops** for those supporting persons living with dementia. Three Thursday evening workshops helping you recognize the signs of dementia and learn how to build your support system. June 4, 11, 18; 5-7 PM; \$30 for the series. Contact Laurie Bauch at 716-946-4227 or on her website [www.AlongsideThee.com](http://www.AlongsideThee.com).

**Respite for Caregivers** Are you a care partner for a person living with dementia? Your well-being is important, too. Available every 2nd Tuesday of the month from 10:30 AM to 2:30 PM at Trinity Lutheran Church in Lockport, this social program allows individuals with dementia active engagement, spiritual support, snacks, and lunch while caregivers take some much-needed time for themselves. Pre-registration needed. Please contact Laurie at [tlclockport@gmail.com](mailto:tlclockport@gmail.com) or 716-434-3106.



YOU'RE INVITED!

# TROPICAL TREK

Jesus Comes to Seek and Save

JULY | 6-10 | 6 PM - 8 PM

Ages 3-Grade 5

REGISTER TODAY

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## Trinity



### About the Cover

The name of our triune God is majestic throughout the earth. It is above and beyond all things. For it is from our God that all things came into being and continue to hold together. Amazingly, He places His name upon us in Holy Baptism. The God of all the universe promises to be with us at all times. It is fitting that everything should be in His name, from the Invocation to the Benediction, from Baptism to the day of resurrection, and forevermore!

## THE HOLY TRINITY

### Old Testament Reading: Genesis 1:1–2:4a

<sup>1</sup>In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. <sup>2</sup>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.

<sup>3</sup>And God said, "Let there be light," and there was light. <sup>4</sup>And God saw that the light was good. And God separated the light from the darkness. <sup>5</sup>God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

<sup>6</sup>And God said, "Let there be an expanse in the midst of the waters, and let it separate the waters from the waters." <sup>7</sup>And God made the expanse and separated the waters that were under the expanse from the waters that were above the expanse. And it was so. <sup>8</sup>And God called the expanse Heaven. And there was evening and there was morning, the second day.

<sup>9</sup>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. <sup>10</sup>God called the dry land Earth, and the waters that were gathered together he called Seas. And God saw that it was good.

<sup>11</sup>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. <sup>12</sup>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. <sup>13</sup>And there was evening and there was morning, the third day.

<sup>14</sup>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, and let them be lights in the expanse of the heavens to give light upon the earth." And it was so. <sup>15</sup>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. <sup>16</sup>And God set them in the expanse of the heavens to give light on the earth, to rule over the day and over the night, and to separate the light from the darkness. And God saw that it was good. <sup>17</sup>And there was evening and there was morning, the fourth day.

<sup>18</sup>And God said, "Let the waters swarm with swarms of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the expanse of the heavens." <sup>19</sup>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. <sup>20</sup>And God blessed them, saying, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth." <sup>21</sup>And there was evening and there was morning, the fifth day.

<sup>22</sup>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. <sup>23</sup>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.

<sup>24</sup>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."

<sup>25</sup> So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.

<sup>26</sup>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." <sup>27</sup>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. <sup>28</sup>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. <sup>29</sup>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.

<sup>30</sup>Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all the host of them. <sup>31</sup>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. <sup>32</sup>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.

<sup>33</sup> These are the generations of the heavens and the earth when they were created.

### Second Reading: Acts 2:14a, 22–36

<sup>14a</sup> Peter, standing with the eleven, lifted up his voice and addressed them, . . .

<sup>22</sup> 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—<sup>23</sup>this Jesus, delivered up according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of lawless men. <sup>24</sup>God raised him up, loosing the pangs of death, because it was not possible for him to be held by it. <sup>25</sup>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;

- <sup>26</sup> therefore my heart was glad, and my tongue rejoiced;  
my flesh also will dwell in hope.  
<sup>27</sup> For you will not abandon my soul to Hades,  
or let your Holy One see corruption.  
<sup>28</sup> You have made known to me the paths of life;  
you will make me full of gladness with your presence."

<sup>29</sup> 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. <sup>30</sup>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, <sup>31</sup>he foresaw and spoke about the resurrection of the Christ, that he was not abandoned to Hades, nor did his flesh see corruption. <sup>32</sup>This Jesus God raised up, and of that we all are witnesses. <sup>33</sup>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. <sup>34</sup>For David did not ascend into the heavens, but he himself says,

"The Lord said to my Lord,  
Sit at my right hand,  
until I make your enemies your footstool."

<sup>35</sup> Let all the house of Israel therefore know for certain that God has made him both Lord and Christ, this Jesus whom you crucified."

### Holy Gospel: Matthew 28:16–20

<sup>16</sup> Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. <sup>17</sup> And when they saw him they worshiped him, but some doubted. <sup>18</sup> And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. <sup>19</sup> 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, <sup>20</sup> teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."