

Didache Divine Service
Session 4
Wednesday, October 11, 2023
6:30 p.m.

The Apostles' Creed: The First Article—Creation

- I. Invocation and Prayer
- II. Hymn: 953 "We All Believe in One True God"
- III. Bible Reading: Creation—Genesis 1:1—2:7

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

³ Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light. ⁴ And God saw the light, that *it was* good; and God divided the light from the darkness. ⁵ God called the light Day, and the darkness He called Night. So the evening and the morning were the first day.

⁶ Then God said, "Let there be a firmament in the midst of the waters, and let it divide the waters from the waters." ⁷ Thus God made the firmament, and divided the waters which *were* under the firmament from the waters which *were* above the firmament; and it was so. ⁸ And God called the firmament Heaven. So the evening and the morning were the second day.

⁹ Then 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 And God called the dry *land* Earth, and the gathering together of the waters He called Seas. And God saw that it was good.

¹¹ Then God said, "Let the earth bring forth grass, the herb *that* yields seed, *and* the fruit tree *that* yields fruit according to its kind, whose seed *is* in itself, on the earth"; and it was so. ¹² And the earth brought forth grass, the herb *that* yields seed according to its kind, and the tree *that* yields fruit, whose seed *is* in itself according to its kind. And God saw that it was good. ¹³ So the evening and the morning were the third day.

¹⁴ Then God said, "Let there be lights in the firmament of the heavens to divide the day from the night; and let them be for signs and seasons, and for days and years; ¹⁵ and let them be for lights in the firmament of the heavens to give light on the earth"; and it was so. ¹⁶ Then God made two great ^[a]lights: the greater light to rule the day, and the lesser light to rule the night. He made the stars also. ¹⁷ God set them in the firmament of the heavens to give light on the earth, ¹⁸ and to rule over the day and over the night, and to divide the light from the darkness. And God saw that it was good. ¹⁹ So the evening and the morning were the fourth day.

²⁰ Then God said, "Let the waters abound with an abundance of living ^[a]creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the face of the ^[b]firmament of the heavens." ²¹ So God created great sea creatures and every living thing that moves, with which the waters abounded, according to their kind, 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 So the evening and the morning were the fifth day.

²⁴ Then God said, "Let the earth bring forth the living creature according to its kind: cattle and creeping thing and beast of the earth, *each* according to its kind"; and it was so. ²⁵ And God made the beast of the earth according to its kind, cattle according to its kind, and everything that creeps on the earth according to its kind. And God saw that it was good.

²⁶ Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over ^[a]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 Then God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that ^[b]moves on the earth."

²⁹ And **God said**, “See, I have given you every herb *that* yields seed which *is* on the face of all the earth, and every tree whose fruit yields seed; to you it shall be for food. ³⁰ Also, to every beast of the earth, to every bird of the air, and to everything that creeps on the earth, in which *there is* ^[a]life, *I have given* every green herb for food”; **and it was so**. ³¹ Then **God saw everything that He had made, and indeed it was very good**. So the evening and the morning were the sixth day.

2 Thus the heavens and the earth, and all the host of them, were finished. ² And on the seventh day God ended His work which He had done, and He rested on the seventh day from all His work which He had done. ³ Then **God blessed** the seventh day and sanctified it, because in it He rested from all His work which God had created and made.

⁴ This is the ^[a]history of the heavens and the earth when they were created, in the day that **the LORD God** made the earth and the heavens, ⁵ before any plant of the field was in the earth and before any herb of the field had grown. For **the LORD God** had not caused it to rain on the earth, and *there was* no man to till the ground; ⁶ but a mist went up from the earth and watered the whole face of the ground.

⁷ And **the LORD God** formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living being.

- God the Father created all things by His Word—the eternal Son of the Father, giving life to all living things by His Holy Spirit.
- By God’s Word all things are created, ordered, and given value.
- By God’s Word God gives life and exercises benevolent dominion over His creation.
- The nature of the Holy Trinity (One God in three persons) is self-giving, sacrificial love.
- Man is created in the image of the Triune God of love to be like God is and to do the things that the Holy Trinity does:
 - We were created to be a community of loving persons, ordered together in marriage and family, and
 - to share in the things that the Holy Trinity does by being fruitful and exercising dominion.

IV. The Creed preaches the faith that saves us from our sin: The creed shows us that God loves us and has done everything to save us from sin through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried.
He descended into hell.

The third day He rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.
From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

V. Hymn: 790 “Praise to the Lord, the Almighty”

VI. Liturgy for Holy Communion (Peach handout)

VII. Hymn to Depart: 895 “Now Thank We All Our God”

Note: Please take the study sheet home with you. Please return the spoken liturgy for use next week.