

## Prayers of the Day

Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, and for all people according to their needs.

Heavenly Father, creator of heaven and earth, you existed before the world did. You willingly chose to create the world and all of us. You made us to know you and to love you. We thank you for your generosity in sharing your own life with us. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Lord Jesus Christ, you are the eternal Word. Through you, the Father created everything. Even though we sinned and turned against you, you helped to create us, knowing that someday you would also die on the cross for us. Your love is so great we can hardly begin to understand it. Let us begin to understand a glimmer of this great love. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Holy Spirit, at creation you were hovering over the waters. You are the Spirit that gave Adam and Eve their first breath. Breathe in us today, so that we not only live, but also love and believe in you. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Gracious God, you created the world, so we ask you to sustain and preserve it, too. Protect the earth from those who would abuse it, and give us the wisdom to change our lives so that the environment is not destroyed. Protect also all those in sickness, danger, or any kind of need (*especially...*). Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Holy Trinity, you did not only create the world, but you also redeemed it, and you will bring it one day into a new state, as a new creation. Thank you for all those who have died and already enjoy this new creation with you. Give us this same new life. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Into your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

# TODAY'S LESSONS

## The Creed: First Article

**Prayer of the Day:** Dear God, you are the creator of the universe and all that is in it. For this we praise you! **Amen.**

### A reading from Genesis:

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. The earth was barren, with no form of life; it was under a roaring ocean covered with darkness. But the Spirit of God was moving over the water. God said, "I command light to shine!" And light started shining. God looked at the light and saw that it was good. He separated light from darkness and named the light "Day" and the darkness "Night." Evening came and then morning – that was the first day.

God said, "I command a dome to separate the water above it from the water below it." And that's what happened. God made the dome and named it "Sky." Evening came and then morning – that was the second day.

God said, "I command the water under the sky to come together in one place, so there will be dry ground." And that's what happened. God named the dry ground "Land," and he named the water "Ocean." God looked at what he had done and saw that it was good. God said, "I command the earth to produce all kinds of plants, including fruit trees and grain." And that's what happened. The earth produced all kinds of vegetation. God looked at what he had done, and it was good. Evening came and then morning – that was the third day.

God said, "I command lights to appear in the sky and to separate day from night and to show the time for seasons, special days, and years. I command them to shine on the earth." And that's what happened. God made two powerful lights, the brighter one to rule the day and the other to rule the night. He also made the stars. Then God put these lights in the sky to shine on the earth, to rule day and night, and to separate light from

darkness. God looked at what he had done, and it was good. Evening came and then morning – that was the fourth day.

God said, “I command the ocean to be full of living creatures, and I command birds to fly above the earth.” So God made the giant sea monsters and all the living creatures that swim in the ocean. He also made every kind of bird. God looked at what he had done, and it was good. Then he gave the living creatures his blessing – he told the ocean creatures to live everywhere in the ocean and the birds to live everywhere on earth. Evening came and then morning – that was the fifth day.

God said, “I command the earth to give life to all kinds of tame animals, wild animals, and reptiles.” And that’s what happened. God made every one of them. Then he looked at what he had done, and it was good. God said, “Now we will make humans, and they will be like us. We will let them rule the fish, the birds, and all other living creatures.” So God created humans to be like himself; he made men and women. God gave them his blessing and said: Have a lot of children! Fill the earth with people and bring it under your control. Rule over the fish in the ocean, the birds in the sky, and every animal on the earth. I have provided all kinds of fruit and grain for you to eat. And I have given the green plants as food for everything else that breathes. These will be food for animals, both wild and tame, and for birds. God looked at what he had done. All of it was very good! Evening came and then morning – that was the sixth day.

So the heavens and the earth and everything else were created. By the seventh day God had finished his work, and so he rested. God blessed the seventh day and made it special because on that day he rested from his work.

### **Psalm 104:**

I praise you, LORD God, with all my heart.  
You are glorious and majestic, dressed in royal robes  
**and surrounded by light.**

**You spread out the sky like a tent,**  
and you built your home over the mighty ocean.  
The clouds are your chariot with the wind as its wings.

**The winds are your messengers,  
and flames of fire are your servants.**

You built foundations for the earth,  
and it will never be shaken.

**You covered the earth  
with the ocean that rose above the mountains.**

### **A reading from First Timothy:**

God’s Spirit clearly says that in the last days many people will turn from their faith. They will be fooled by evil spirits and by teachings that come from demons. They will also be fooled by the false claims of liars whose consciences have lost all feeling. These liars will forbid people to marry or to eat certain foods. But God created these foods to be eaten with thankful hearts by his followers who know the truth. Everything God created is good. And if you give thanks, you may eat anything. What God has said and your prayer will make it fit to eat.

### **The Holy Gospel according to St. John:**

In the beginning was the one who is called the Word. The Word was with God and was truly God. From the very beginning the Word was with God. And with this Word, God created all things. Nothing was made without the Word. Everything that was created received its life from him, and his life gave light to everyone. The light keeps shining in the dark, and darkness has never put it out. The Word was in the world, but no one knew him, though God had made the world with his Word. He came into his own world, but his own nation did not welcome him. Yet some people accepted him and put their faith in him. So he gave them the right to be the children of God. They were not God’s children by nature or because of any human desires. God himself was the one who made them his children. The Word became a human being and lived here with us. We saw his true glory, the glory of the only Son of the Father. From him all the kindness and all the truth of God have come to us.