

Creation Sunday

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Happy Creation Day:

Bishop James Ussher(1581-1656) wrote a chronology of the Earth since Creation. He published this 1,600-page volume in 1650. An English translation entitled *The Annals of the World* was first published in 1658, two years after his death.

In his *Chronology* he dated Day 1 of Creation on October 23rd 4004BC. Now, the exact date of Day 1 is unknown and Ussher has a 1 in 365 chance of being right. I do not think it is worth trying to determine the exact year of Creation let alone the month and day. But I think it is important for the Church to have a day to remember God's act of Creation and the Creation in which we live.

Hence Creation Day is October 23rd and Creation week runs from October 23rd–29th

The Sunday that occurs during this week is Creation Sunday and I suggest that the Church adopts this Sunday in the regular liturgy as a day to remember both the act of Creation and the Creation in which we live. On this Sunday the service should focus on Creation.

Below I have provided suggested readings for the day, also a selection of psalms that may suit the day.

The first reading comes from the Creation Accounts in Genesis, the second reading comes from either the Old Testament or New Testament and matches the theme of the day (e.g. Day 2: Theme is water), and the third reading is a Gospel reading to match the theme of the day. On a few occasions I have provided alternatives for the day.

For the Psalm of the day, I have provided a list of choices for each day. I have also provided in brackets those particular verses that relate to that Day of the Creation Week, therefore you may wish to read only those relevant verses instead of the entire Psalm.

I have also provided below additional verses that act as Refrains of Praise. These are single verses that relate to the general theme of Creation. One or more of these Refrains can be inserted into the liturgy for the day (e.g. a Refrain may be spoken as an opening line before the Invocation as an introduction to the Creation Sunday service).

Sundays	Genesis Reading	Second Reading	Gospel Reading	Psalm
Day 1 Sunday the 23 rd	Genesis 1:1-5	Job 38:4-7 (Beginning Theme) or Revelation 21:22-25 (Light Theme)	John 1:1-18 (Beginning Theme) or John 8:12-30 (Light Theme)	33 (v6-9), 102 (v25), 104 (v2,5-6), 121 (v2), 134 (v3), 136 (v5-6), 146 (v5-6)
Day 2 Sunday the 24 th	Genesis 1:6-8	2 Peter 3:3-5	John 4:10-14	24 (v2), 29 (v3-4), 33 (v6-9), 95 (5), 136 (v6), 146 (v6)
Day 3 Sunday the 25 th	Genesis 1:9-13	Isaiah 55:8-13	Matthew 7:16-20/ Luke 6:43-45	95 (5), 104 (v14)
Day 4 Sunday the 26 th	Genesis 1:14-19	Isaiah 40:26,28-31	Matthew 24:29-31/ Mark 13:24-27	8 (v3), 19 (v1-6), 96 (5), 104 (v2,19), 136 (v7-9)
Day 5 Sunday the 27 th	Genesis 1:20-23	Job 12:7-10	Matthew 6:25-27	8 (v8), 104 (v24-26), 146 (v6)
Day 6 Sunday the 28 th	Genesis 1:24-31 and/or Genesis 2:4-25 or The Zabel Harmonization: Genesis 1:24-25, 2:5-6, 1:26, 2:7-25,1:27-31	1 Corinthians 11:7-9	Matthew 19:4-6 or Mark 10:6-9	8 (v4-9), 100 (v3)
Day 7 Sunday the 29 th	Genesis 2:1-3	Exodus 20:8-11, 31:14-17	Mark 2:23-28	66 (v1-5), 104 (v24)

Or Psalm 148 if you wish to focus on the surrounding Creation (Nature) instead of the act of Creation

Additional Refrains of Praise

Nehemiah 9:6

Job 12:7-9

Isaiah 45:18

John 1:3

Colossians 1:16

Collects

General

Heavenly Father, Creator of Heaven and Earth,
In Six Days did You create all that is,
The heavens and all their works, the Seas and all that is in them,
And all living things that move upon the Earth.
As we marvel at the wonders of Your Hands,
Keep us ever mindful of the goodness that You have given to us.
In the name of Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord,
Through whom and by whom all things were created.
Amen.

Day 1

Father of Lights,
On the First Day of Creation You spoke and it was,
By Your Word there was light.
As You separated light and darkness into Day and Night,
We ask that You would call us out of the darkness and into Your light.
In the name of Your Son, Jesus Christ the Light of the World.
Amen.

Day 2

Heavenly Father, Lord of the Sky and Sea,
On the Second Day of Creation You separated the waters into the Sky and the Seas.
Remind us of the Waters of Baptism, through which we have been recreated.
In the Beginning Your Spirit hovered over the Waters of Creation,
Bless us by this same Spirit, which we have received in the Waters of Baptism.
In the name of Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord,
Who walked on the waters and commanded the wind and the waves.
Amen.

Day 3

Heavenly Father, Lord of the Earth,
On the Third Day of Creation You brought forth the land,
And upon it You brought forth all manner of plants.
We ask for Your blessings upon this land,
And that You may continue to bless us through the plants and produce
That You have created for our wellbeing.
In the name of Your Son, Jesus Christ the True Vine.
Amen.

Day 4

Heavenly Father, Lord of the Heavens,
On the Fourth Day of Creation who made the Sun and the Moon and the stars also.
You gave us the Sun, Moon and Stars, for signs and for seasons,
To give light upon the Earth.
And You gave us Your Son the Morning Star, to give light to the Earth,
And to cast out all darkness.
Just as You gave the Sun and the Moon to rule the Day and the Night,
May Jesus Christ, the Sun of Righteousness, rule in our hearts.
Amen.

Day 5

Heavenly Father, Lord of the Sky and Seas,
On the Fifth Day of Creation You spoke over the waters below and above.
By Your Word You brought forth all the creatures who move through the air and the waters.
We thank You for the beauty of Your Creation,
And we ask that You keep us ever mindful of Your works.
In the name of Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord,
Amen.

Day 6

Heavenly Father, Lord of Creation,
On the Sixth Day of Creation You created all the creatures of the land.
We thank You for all these creatures that You have given to us.
On that day, You created Man and Woman, in Your Image,
Giving them dominion over all Creation.
We thank You for our creation and for all the gifts You have bestowed on us.
Keep us ever mindful of our duty to care for Your Creation.
In the name of Your Son, Jesus Christ, the Son of Man.
Amen.

Day 7

Heavenly Father, Creator of All,
On the Seventh Day of Creation You rested from Your work.
In doing so You established for us the example of rest.
We thank You for this gift and ask that You will grant us true joyful rest.
In the name of Your Son, Jesus Christ, the Lord of the Sabbath.
Amen.

Communion Preface

It is truly fitting and right, and for our lasting good, that we should at all times, and in all places, give thanks to you, O Lord, Holy Father, Almighty and Eternal God, through Jesus Christ our Lord:

Through whom all things were made, and without whom was not any thing made that was made. For in the Beginning was the Word, and He was with God and was God, and through the Word You spoke, saying, "Let there be" and there was.

Therefore with angels and archangels, and with all the company of Heaven, we adore and magnify Your glorious Name, evermore praising you and singing:

The Zabel Harmonization of Day 6 of the Creation Week:

(Genesis 1:24-25, 2:5-6, 1:26, 2:7-25, 1:27-31) (My own translation)

And God said, “let the Earth bring forth living souls each after its own kinds, livestock and creeping things and beasts of the land,” and so it was. God made the beasts of the land each after its kind and the livestock each after its kind and all creeping things on the dirt after their kind and God saw that it was good. And before every shrub of the field was in the Earth and before every grass of the field grew, For the LORD God had not caused it to rain on the Earth, and there was not man to serve the ground. And a mist went up from the Earth and watered the whole face of the ground.

And God said, “let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness, and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the birds of the air, and over the livestock and over all the Earth and over every creeping thing that creeps along the Earth.”

And the LORD God formed man from the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and man became a living soul. And the LORD God planted a garden in the east in Eden, and He put the man there whom He had formed. And out of the ground the LORD God made every tree grow that is pleasant to the eye and for fruit, and the Tree of Life was in the middle of the garden, and the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil. And a river went out of Eden to water the garden and from there it parted and became four heads. The name of the first was Pishon, it surrounds the whole land of Havilah, where there is the gold. And the gold of that land is good, there is the bdellium and the stone of onyx. And the name of the second river is Gihon, it surrounds the whole land of Cush. And the name of the third river is Tigris, it goes to the east of Assyria, and the fourth river is Euphrates.

And the LORD God took the man and placed him in the garden of Eden to serve it and watch over it. And the LORD God commanded the man saying, “from all the all the trees of the garden you may surely eat. But from the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil you may not eat of it, for on the day that you eat from it you will surely die.”

And the LORD God said, “it is not good for the man to be alone, I will make for Him a helper, an opposite similar to him. And the LORD God formed from the dirt every beast of the field, and every bird of the air, and made them come to the man to see what he would call them to be. And all that the man called the living soul to be was its name. And the man proclaimed names to all the livestock, and to the birds of the air, and to all the beasts of the field, but for Adam there was not found a helper, an opposite similar to him. And the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and he slept, and He took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh in its place. And the LORD God built the rib, which He had taken from the man, into a woman, and He made her come unto the man.

And the man said, “This now is bone from my bones, and flesh from my flesh, she shall be called women, because she was taken from man.”

Therefore, a man shall leave his father and his mother and he shall cling to his wife and they shall become one flesh. And they were both naked, the man and his wife, and they were not ashamed.

So God created the man in His image, in the image of God He created him, male and female, he created them. And God blessed them and God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply, replenish the Earth, subdue it and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the birds of the air, and over all living things that move on the Earth.”

And God said to them, “I give to you every grass that bears seed, which is on the face of all the Earth, and every tree which has fruit that bears seeds, it shall be food to you. And every beast of the Earth, and every bird of the air, and everything that creeps on the ground, which has a living soul in it, I give every grass for food.” And it was so.

And God saw all which He had made, and behold it was very good. And it was evening and it was morning the sixth day.

For feedback or further suggestions email me:

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