

First Reading

Genesis 1:1-2:2

The Story of Creation

- 1 In the beginning, when God created the universe,
- 2 the earth was formless and desolate. The raging ocean that covered everything was engulfed in total darkness, the Spirit of God was moving over the water.
- 3 Then god commanded, "Let there be light" – and light appeared.
- 4 God was pleased with what he saw. Then he separated the light from the darkness
- 5 and he named the light "Day" and the darkness "Night." Evening passed and morning came – that was the first day.
- 6 Then God commanded, "Let there be a dome to divide the water and keep it in two separate place" – and it was done.
- 7 So God made a dome, and it separated the water under it from the water above it.
- 8 He named the dome "Sky." Evening passed and morning came – that was the second day.
- 9 Then God commanded, "Let the water below the sky come together in one place so that the land will appear" and it was done.
- 10 He named the land, "Earth," and the water which had come together he named "Sea." And God was pleased with what he saw.
- 11 Then he commanded, "Let the earth produce all kinds of plants, those that bear grain and those that bear fruit" – and it was done.
- 12 So the earth produced all kinds of plants, and God was pleased with what he saw.
- 13 Evening passed and morning came – that was the third day.
- 14 Then God commanded, "Let lights appear in the sky to separate day from night and to show the time when days, years, and religious festivals begin;
- 15 they will shine in the sky to give light to the earth" – and it was done.
- 16 So God made the two larger lights, the sun to rule over the day and the moon to rule over the night; he also made the stars.
- 17 He placed the lights in the sky to shine on the earth,
- 18 To rule over the day and night, and to separate light from darkness. And God was pleased with what he saw.
- 19 Evening passed and morning came – that was the fourth day.
- 20 Then God commanded, "Let the water be filled with many kinds of living beings, and let the air be filled with birds."
- 21 So God created the great sea monsters, all kinds of creatures that live in the water, and all kinds of birds. And God was pleased with what he saw.

- 22 He blessed them all and told the creatures that live in the water to reproduce and to fill the sea, and he told the birds to increase in number.
- 23 Evening passed and morning came – that was the fifth day.
- 24 Then God commanded, “Let the earth produce all kinds of animal life: domestic and wild, large and small” – and it was done.
- 25 God made them all and he was pleased what he saw.
- 26 Then God said, “And now we will make human beings; they will be like us and resemble us. They will have power over the fish, the birds, and all animals, domestic and wild, large and small.”
- 27 So God created human beings, making them to be like himself. He created them male and female,
- 28 blessed them, and said “Have many children, so that your descendants will live all over the earth and bring it under their control. I am putting you in charge of the fish, the birds, and all the wild animals.
- 29 I have provided all kinds of grain and all kinds of fruit for you to eat;
- 30 but for all the wild animals and for all the birds I have provided grass and leafy plants for food” – and it was done.
- 31 God looked at everything he had made, and he was pleased. Evening passed and morning came – that was the sixth day.

Chapter 2

- 1 And so the whole universe was completed.
- 2 By the seventh day God finished what he had been doing and stopped working.
- 3 He blessed the seventh day and set it apart as a special day, because by that day he had completed his creation and stopped working.

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