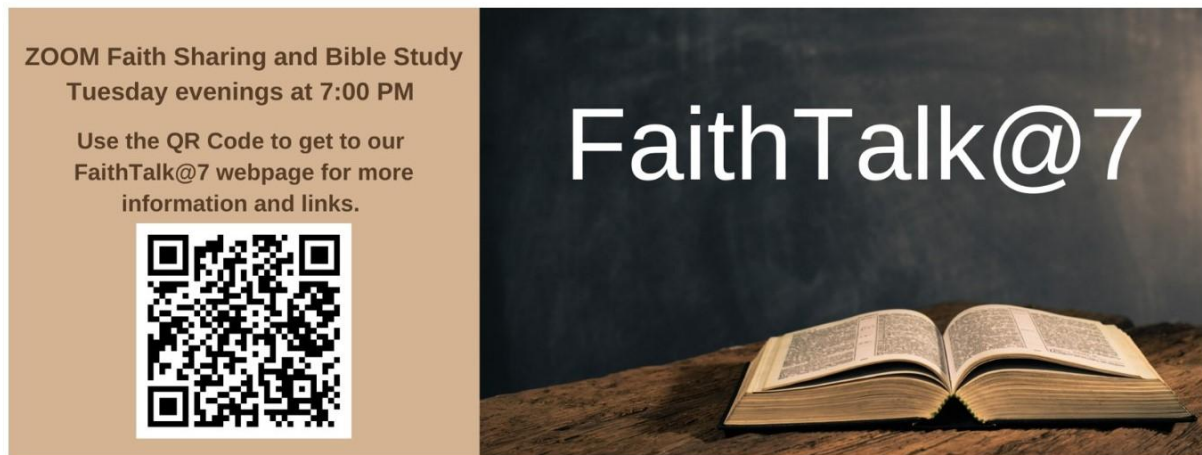


FaithTalk@7
Tuesday, September 8, 2026
Creation in Christ



A Note About These Readings

The readings for Sunday the 13th normally would be those for the 16th Sunday after Pentecost. This year, however, St. Paul's, along with people from numerous faith traditions, including the Lutheran church, are observing the Season of Creation from September 1st through October 4th. As part of that observance, we will read from special selections highlighting the creation story this week.

Genesis 2:4b-25

^{4b}In the day that the Lord God made the earth and the heavens, ⁵when no plant of the field was yet in the earth and no vegetation of the field had yet sprung up—for the Lord God had not caused it to rain upon the earth, and there was no one to till the ground, ⁶but a stream would rise from the earth and water the whole face of the ground—⁷then the Lord God formed man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living being. ⁸And the Lord God planted a garden in Eden, in the east, and there he put the man whom he had formed. ⁹Out of the ground the Lord God made to grow every tree that is pleasant to the sight and good for food, the tree of life also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

Readings from sundaysandseasons.com

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Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License Number **SAS103656**

¹⁰ A river flows out of Eden to water the garden, and from there it divides and becomes four branches. ¹¹ The name of the first is Pishon; it is the one that flows around the whole land of Havilah, where there is gold, ¹² and the gold of that land is good; bdellium and onyx stone are there. ¹³ The name of the second river is Gihon; it is the one that flows around the whole land of Cush. ¹⁴ The name of the third river is Tigris, which flows east of Assyria. And the fourth river is the Euphrates.

¹⁵ The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it. ¹⁶ And the Lord God commanded the man, "You may freely eat of every tree of the garden, ¹⁷ but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall die."

¹⁸ Then the Lord God said, "It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper as his partner." ¹⁹ So out of the ground the Lord God formed every animal of the field and every bird of the air and brought them to the man to see what he would call them, and whatever the man called every living creature, that was its name. ²⁰ The man gave names to all cattle and to the birds of the air and to every animal of the field, but for the man there was not found a helper as his partner. ²¹ So the Lord God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and he slept; then he took one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh. ²² And the rib that the Lord God had taken from the man he made into a woman and brought her to the man. ²³ Then the man said,

"This at last is bone of my bones
and flesh of my flesh;
this one shall be called Woman,
for out of Man this one was taken."

²⁴ Therefore a man leaves his father and his mother and clings to his wife, and they become one flesh. ²⁵ And the man and his wife were both naked and were not ashamed.

Psalm 148

- ¹ Hallelujah! Praise the Lord^l from the heavens;
praise God ^l in the heights.
- ² Praise the Lord, ^l all you angels;
sing praise, all you ^l hosts of heaven.
- ³ Praise the Lord, ^l sun and moon;
sing praise, all you ^l shining stars.
- ⁴ Praise the Lord, heav- ^l en of heavens,
and you waters a- ^l bove the heavens.
- ⁵ Let them praise the name ^l of the Lord,
who commanded, and they ^l were created,
- ⁶ who made them stand fast forev- ^l er and ever,
giving them a law that shall not ^l pass away.
- ⁷ Praise the Lord^l from the earth,
you sea monsters ^l and all deeps;
- ⁸ fire and hail, ^l snow and fog,
tempestuous wind, do- ^l ing God's will;
- ⁹ mountains ^l and all hills,
fruit trees ^l and all cedars;
- ¹⁰ wild beasts ^l and all cattle,
creeping things and ^l flying birds;
- ¹¹ sovereigns of the earth ^l and all peoples,
princes and all rulers ^l of the world;
- ¹² young ^l men and maidens,
old and ^l young together.
- ¹³ Let them praise the name ^l of the Lord,
whose name only is exalted, whose splendor is over ^l earth and
heaven.
- ¹⁴ The Lord has raised up strength for the people and praise for
all ^l faithful servants,
the children of Israel, a people who are near
the Lord. ^l Hallelujah!

Acts 17:22a, 24-28

^{22a} Then Paul stood in front of the Areopagus and said, ²⁴ “The God who made the world and everything in it, he who is Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in shrines made by human hands, ²⁵ nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mortals life and breath and all things. ²⁶ From one ancestor he made all peoples to inhabit the whole earth, and he allotted the times of their existence and the boundaries of the places where they would live, ²⁷ so that they would search for God and perhaps fumble about for him and find him—though indeed he is not far from each one of us. ²⁸ For ‘In him we live and move and have our being’; as even some of your own poets have said, ‘For we, too, are his offspring.’

John 1:1-5

¹ In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was in the beginning with God. ³ All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being ⁴ in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. ⁵ The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overtake it.

