

No.294. 8 February 2026, The Second Sunday Before Lent
9.30 Austwick, 11.00 Keasden:

Holy Communion - a Creation Liturgy

Genesis 1.1-5
The First Day

(All stand)

Leader:

In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, the earth was a formless void, and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters.



M. C. Escher: The First Day of Creation

People: Then God said, "Let there be light", and there was light.

Leader: And God saw that the light was good, and God separated the light from the darkness.

**People: God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night.
And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.**

Leader: Let us worship God, the creator of heaven and earth!

Opening Hymn 237 Morning has broken

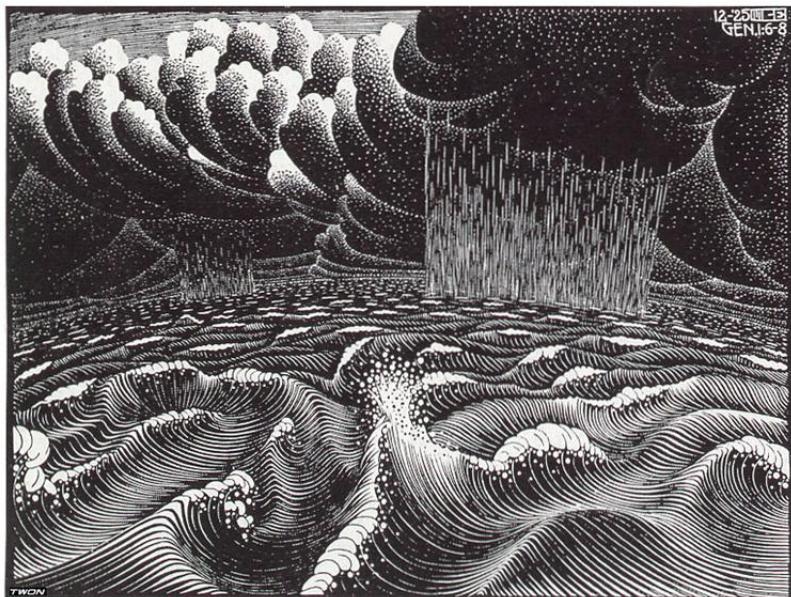
Genesis 1.6-8 *The Second Day*

Leader: And God said, 'Let there be a dome in the midst of the waters, and let it separate the waters from the waters.'

**People: So God made the dome and separated the waters that were under the dome from the waters that were above the dome.
And it was so.**

Leader: God called the dome Sky. And there was evening and there was morning, the second day.

Let us pray to God, the creator of heaven and earth!



M. C. Escher: The Second Day of Creation

Prayer of Preparation

Almighty God, unto whom all hearts be open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of thy Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love thee, and worthily magnify thy holy name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Genesis 1:9-13 *The Third Day (All sit)*

Leader: And God said, 'Let the waters under the sky be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear.' And it was so.

People: **God called the dry land Earth, and the waters that were gathered together he called Seas. And God saw that it was good.**

Leader: Then God said, 'Let the earth put forth vegetation: plants yielding seed, and fruit trees of every kind on earth that bear fruit with the seed in it.' And it was so.

People: **The earth brought forth vegetation: plants yielding seed of every kind, and trees of every kind bearing fruit with the seed in it. And God saw that it was good.**

Leader: And there was evening and there was morning, the third day.

Prayers of Penitence

Lord, you delight in creation, its colour and diversity; yet we have misused the earth and plundered its resources for our own selfish ends.

Lord, have mercy:

Lord, have mercy.

You have brought order out of chaos, light in darkness, good out of evil, but we have preferred darkness in words and deeds which dishonour God's holy name.

Christ, have mercy:

Christ, have mercy.

You have showered us with blessings, but we have been grudging towards others and lacking in generosity in word and deed.

Lord, have mercy: **Lord, have mercy.**

Almighty God, who forgives all who truly repent, have mercy upon you, pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and keep you in life eternal; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

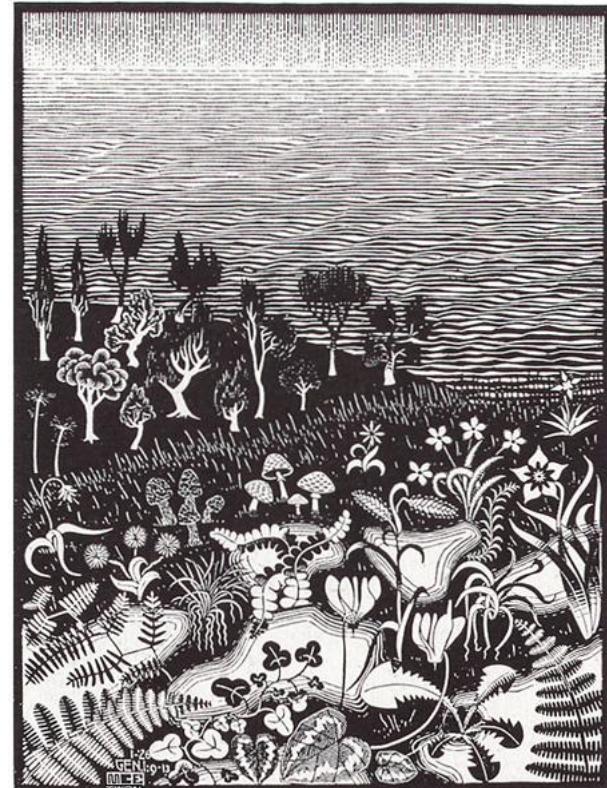
Amen.

Genesis 1.14-19 *The Fourth Day*

Leader: And God said, 'Let there be lights in the dome of the sky to separate the day from the night; and let them be for signs and for seasons and for days and years, and let them be lights in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth.' And it was so.

People: **God made the two great lights—the greater light to rule the day and the lesser light to rule the night—and the stars. God set them in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth, to rule over the day and over the night, and to separate the light from the darkness. And God saw that it was good.**

Leader: And there was evening and there was morning, the fourth day.



M. C. Escher: *The Third Day of Creation*

Leader: Let us praise God, the creator of heaven and earth!

Gloria in Excelsis (All stand)

All Glory be to God on high, and in earth peace, goodwill towards men. We praise thee, we bless thee, we worship thee, we glorify thee, we give thanks to thee for thy great glory, O Lord God, heavenly King, God the Father almighty. O Lord, the only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ: O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, that takest away the sins of the world, have

mercy upon us. Thou that takest away the sins of the world, receive our prayer. Thou that sittest at the right hand of God the Father, have mercy upon us. For thou only art holy; thou only art the Lord; thou only, O Christ, with the Holy Ghost, art the Most High, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.



M. C. Escher: The Fourth Day of Creation

Genesis 1:20-23 *The Fifth Day*

Leader: And God said, 'Let the waters bring forth swarms of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the dome of the sky.'

People: **So God created the great sea monsters and every living creature that moves, of every kind, with which the waters swarm, and every winged bird of every kind. And God saw that it was good.**

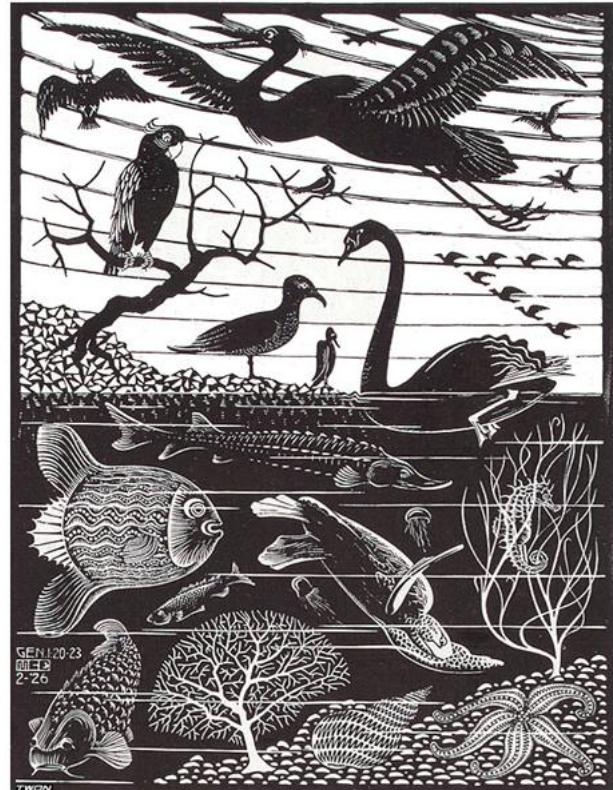
Leader: God blessed them, saying, 'Be fruitful and multiply and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth.'

People: And there was evening and there was morning, the fifth day.

Leader: Let us pray to God, the creator of heaven and earth!

The Collect (All sit)

Almighty God, you have created the heavens and the earth and made us in your own image: teach us to discern your hand in all your works and your likeness in all your children; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who with you and the Holy Spirit reigns supreme over all things, now and for ever. **Amen**



M. C. Escher: *The Fifth Day of Creation*

Genesis 1.24-31 *The Sixth Day*

Leader: And God said, 'Let the earth bring forth living creatures of every kind: cattle and creeping things and wild animals of the earth of every kind.' And it was so.

People: **God made the wild animals of the earth of every kind, and the cattle of every kind, and everything that creeps upon the ground of every kind. And God saw that it was good.**

Leader: Then God said, 'Let us make humankind 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 cattle, and over all the wild animals of the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth.'

People: **So God created humankind in his image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.**

Leader: God blessed them, and God said to them, 'Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth and subdue it; and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over every living thing that moves upon the earth.'

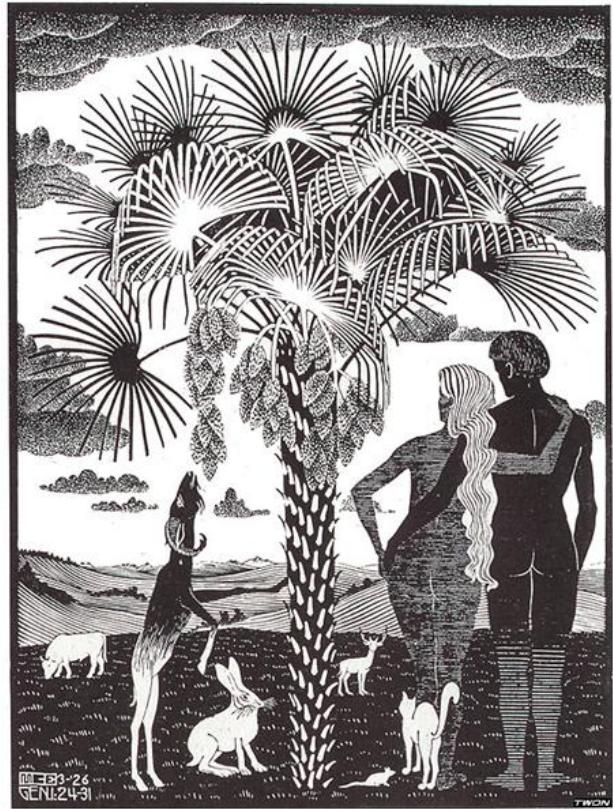
People: God said, 'See, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is upon the face of all the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit; you shall have them for food.'

Leader: And to every beast of the earth, and to every bird of the air, and to everything that creeps on the earth, everything that has the breath of life, I have given every green plant for food.' And it was so.

People: God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good.

And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.

Leader: Let us praise our God, the creator of heaven and earth!



M. C. Escher: The Sixth Day of Creation

A Psalm of Praise to the Creator: Psalm 136

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is gracious, **for his mercy endures for ever.**

Give thanks to the God of gods, **for his mercy endures for ever.**

Give thanks to the Lord of lords, **for his mercy endures for ever.**

Who alone does great wonders, **for his mercy endures for ever.**

Who by wisdom made the heavens, **for his mercy endures for ever.**

Who laid out the earth upon the waters, **for his mercy endures for ever.**

Who made the great lights, **for his mercy endures for ever.**

The sun to rule the day, **for his mercy endures for ever.**

The moon and the stars to govern the night, **for his mercy endures for ever.**

Who gives food to all creatures, **for his mercy endures for ever.**

Give thanks to the God of heaven, **for his mercy endures for ever. Amen**

Genesis 2.1-3 *The Seventh Day*

Leader: Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all their multitude. And on the seventh day God finished the work that he had done, and he rested on the seventh day from all the work that he had done.

People: **So God blessed the seventh day and hallowed it, because on it God rested from all the work that he had done in creation.**

Leader: Let us sing to God, the creator of heaven and earth!

Gradual Hymn 437 Praise the Lord! Ye heaven adore him (*All stand*)

We remain standing for the Gospel reading

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to *Matthew*.

All Glory to you, O Lord.

Matthew 6.25-34

‘Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? 26 Look at the birds of the air; they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? 27 And can any of you by worrying add a single hour to your span of life? 28 And why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin, 29 yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these. 30 But if

God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you —you of little faith? 31 Therefore do not worry, saying, “What will we eat?” or “What will we drink?” or “What will we wear?” 32 For it is the Gentiles who strive for all these things; and indeed your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. 33 But strive first for the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. 34 ‘So do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will bring worries of its own. Today’s trouble is enough for today.

This is the Gospel of the Lord: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Sermon

The Creed

All **I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**
**I believe 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 to the dead.**
**On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge
the living and the dead.**
**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

Prayers of Intercession

Hymn before Communion: 285 For the beauty of the earth

We remain standing for the first part of the Communion

Invitation to Holy Communion

This is the table, not of the Church, but of the Lord.
It is made ready for those who love him
and who want to love him more.
So, come, because our Lord invites us:
It is his will that those who want him
should meet him here.

Eucharistic Prayer

The Lord be with you

All and with your spirit.

Lift up your hearts.

All We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks unto our Lord God.

All It is meet and right so to do.

It is very meet, right and our bounden duty,
that we should at all times, and in all places,
give thanks unto you, O Lord, holy Father,
almighty, everlasting God.

And now we give you thanks
because in him, our risen Lord,
the new creation is being brought to perfection,
a broken world is being renewed,
and creation itself will share
in the glorious liberty of the children of God.
Therefore with angels and archangels,
and with all the company of heaven,
we laud and magnify your glorious name,
evermore praising you, and saying:

**All Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of hosts,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Glory be to you, O Lord most high.
Blessed is he that comes
in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

So now, following Jesus' example and command,
we take this bread and this wine, the ordinary things
of the world which Christ will make special.
And as he said a prayer before sharing,
let us *sit or kneel* as we do so too:

Prayer of Preparation

**All We do not presume
to come to this your table, merciful Lord,
trusting in our own righteousness,
but in your manifold and great mercies.
We are not worthy so much
as to gather up the crumbs under your table.
But you are the same Lord
whose nature is always to have mercy.
Grant us therefore, gracious Lord,
so to eat the flesh of your dear Son Jesus Christ
and to drink his blood, that our sinful bodies
may be made clean by his body
and our souls washed
through his most precious blood,
and that we may evermore dwell in him,
and he in us. Amen.**

Prayer of consecration

Hear us, O merciful Father, we humbly beseech you;
and grant that we receiving these your creatures of bread and
wine, according to your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ's holy
institution, in remembrance of his death and passion, may be
partakers of his most blessed body and blood:

Who, in the same night that he was betrayed, took bread;
and, when he had given thanks, he broke it, and gave it to his
disciples, saying, Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you:
do this in remembrance of me.

Likewise after supper he took the cup; and, when he had given
thanks, he gave it to them, saying, Drink you all of this; for this is
my blood of the new testament, which is shed for you and for
many for the remission of sins: do this, as often as you drink it, in
remembrance of me. **Amen.**

All The bread of God comes down from heaven:
and gives life to the world.

The priest takes the bread and wine and then all are invited to come to the altar rail to receive the bread and wine, or for a blessing.

Prayer after Communion

God our creator, by your gift
the tree of life was set at the heart of the earthly paradise,
and the bread of life at the heart of your Church:
may we who have been nourished at your table on earth
be transformed by the glory of the Saviour's cross
and enjoy the delights of eternity;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

The Lord's Prayer

As our Saviour Christ commanded and taught us,
we are bold to say

All **Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread
And forgive us our trespasses
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
Lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
the power and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen**

Closing hymn: 466 Thou whose almighty word

The Blessing

May God who clothes the lilies of the field
and feeds the birds of the air,
who leads the lambs to pasture and the deer to water,
who multiplied loaves and fishes, and changed water into wine,
lead us and feed us,
and change us to reflect the glory of our Creator
now and through all eternity;
and the blessing of God almighty,
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always. **Amen**

The Dismissal

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord

All In the name of Christ. Amen

Our Next Church Services

for the full list of services to Easter
please see church noticeboards or go
to: <https://bit.ly/benefice-services>

15 February 1 before Lent
9.30 Austwick Holy Communion
11.00 Clapham Easy Church
3.00 Eldroth Evening Prayer

18 February Ash Wednesday
10.30 Austwick Holy Communion
with the imposition of ashes

22 February Lent 1
9.30 Austwick Holy Communion
11.00 Clapham Holy Communion
4.00 Keasden Pancake Praise

You are invited to a LENT
LUNCH in Austwick Parish Hall
on Saturday 21st February at
12.00 noon

A simple lunch of soup, bread and
cheese. Proceeds to Austwick Church
**Tickets £5.00 from Cross Leigh
Stores or Pip Rigby, 07974
647506**

Bowland and Ewecross Deanery
Lent Series 2026

Music of our Hearts

Settle Parish Church, 7.00-9.00pm

**Wednesdays February 25th,
March 4th, 11th, 18th, 25th**

A series of meetings to hear about,
experience, and enjoy, a variety of music and
hymnody from our Christian traditions old
and new. The closing session on 25th March
will be a DIY Songs of Praise when you are
invited to request a hymn and share what it
means to you. **All welcome.**