

**CLAPHAM :: KEASDEN :: AUSTWICK :: ELDROTH**  
**CHURCHES WEEKLY NEWSLETTER**  
*"God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good"*

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

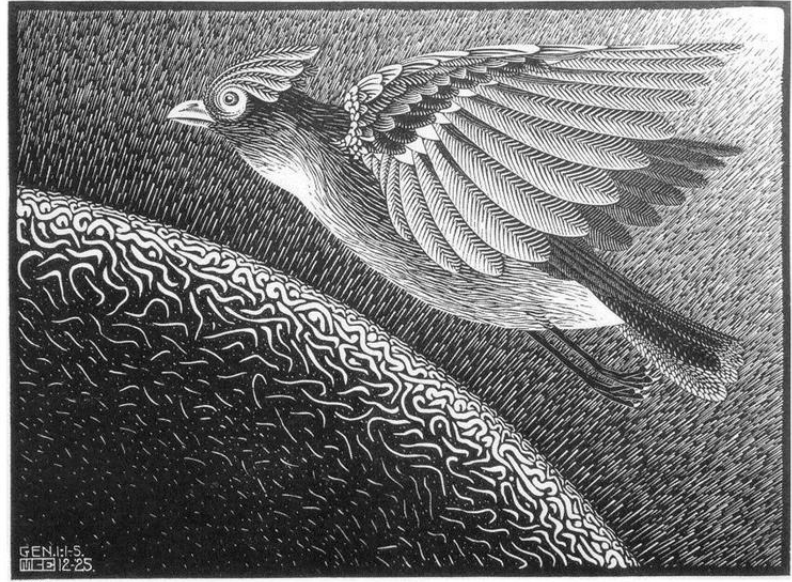
## **Holy Communion - a Creation Liturgy**

### **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.**

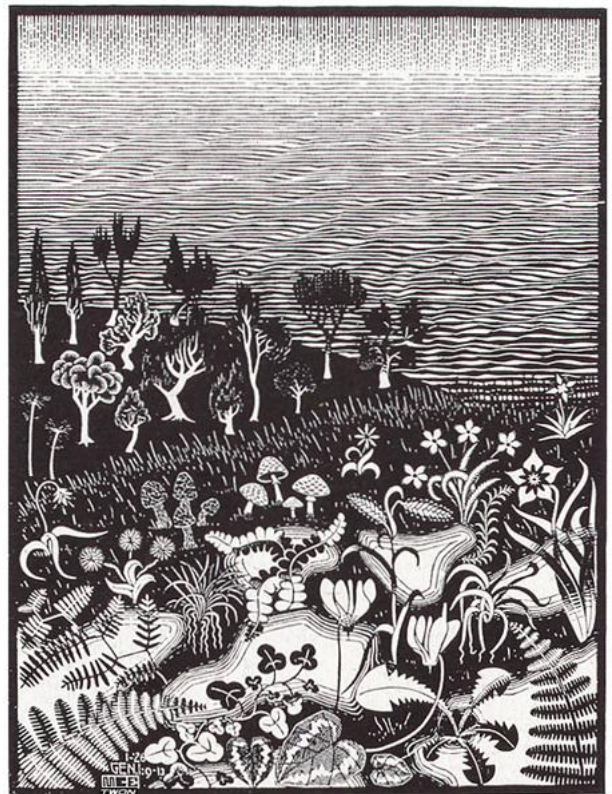
Almighty God, who forgives all who truly repent, have mercy upon you, pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and keep you in life eternal; through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
**Amen.**

## **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.

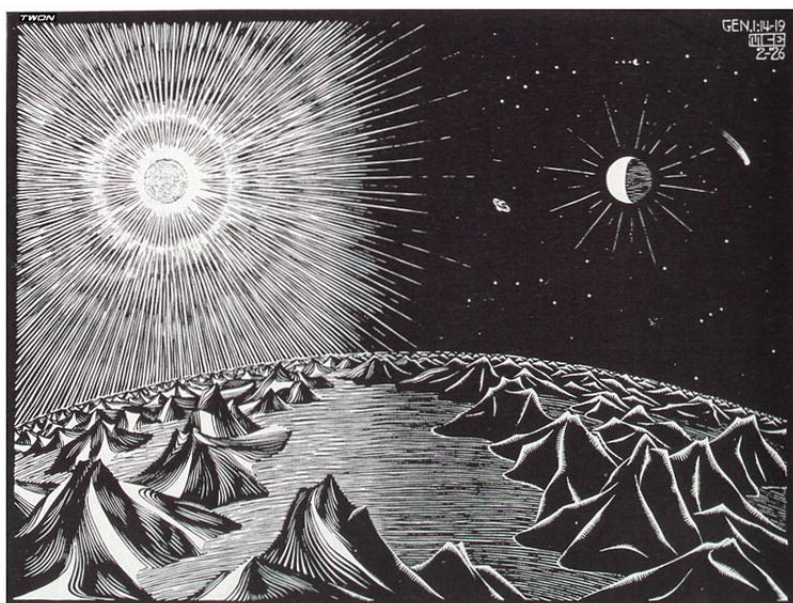


*M. C. Escher: The Third Day of Creation*

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



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

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.

### **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.'

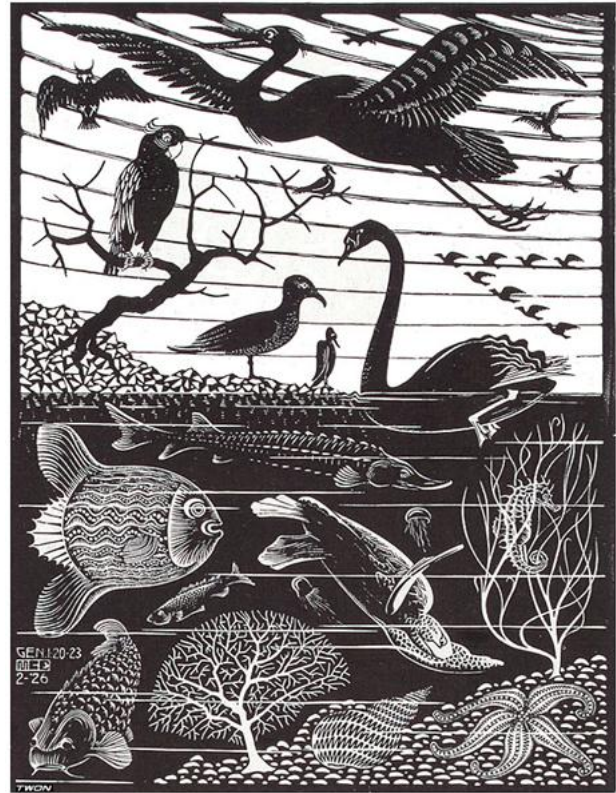


**People:** And there was evening  
and there was morning,  
the fifth day.

**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.’

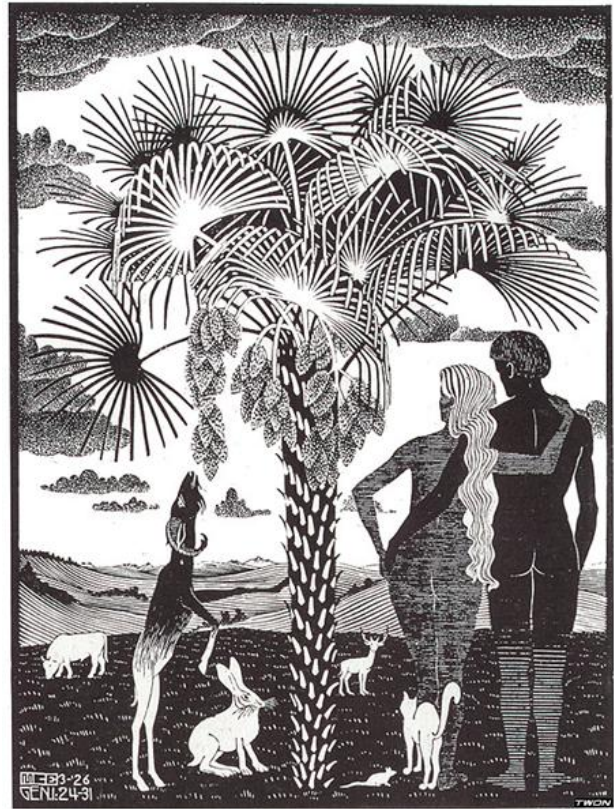
**People:** God said, ‘See, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is upon the face of all the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit; you shall have them for food.

**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.**

The bread of God comes down from heaven:  
**All 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.**