

GENESIS 1: 27-31 (RSV)

So God created man in his own 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 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.”

And God said,

“Behold, I have given you every plant yielding seed which is upon the face of all the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit; you shall have them for food. 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.

And God saw everything that he had made, and behold it was very good.

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

Reflection

What an amazing thing God has done for us, giving us dominion over all the earth and the creatures and plants and fruits. Yet it is sad that we have spoiled this by our greed and carelessness. A perfect world created for us with so much beauty and with everything provided for our needs. We can still gaze upon a lot of the beauty of the world when we explore the countryside, the mountains, rivers, seas and beautiful valleys and we are filled with wonder and awe. We can appreciate the many and varied birds, animals and fish. We can marvel at human life when we see a new baby, a new life.

Prayer

Send forth your Spirit, O Lord and renew the face of the earth.

Grant us the grace to continue to campaign for efforts to halt climate change in its tracks.

Inspire us to live our lives more simply and to do what we can to use the resources of the world wisely.

May we always have a sense of wonder and awe at your creation and appreciate all your good gifts to us.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer, which we ask in Jesus' name. AMEN.