Genesis

## **Creation: Days 1-4 (1:1-19)**

*From a study of Luther’s Works: Lectures on Genesis, Paul Kretzmann’s Popular Commentary of the Bible, and the Lutheran Study Bible.*

## **Fifth Day (1:20-23)**

* The first two expanses are filled
	+ The waters
		- Swarm with swarmers of living creatures
			* Great sea creatures
				+ Psalm 104:26
				+ Serpent, dragon, sea monsters
				+ Luther notes that such large bodies should not frighten us, because they are made by God
			* Creeping things that swarm in the waters
				+ Possibly crocodiles and the like
			* Still taking place
				+ Carp in ponds where no fish were before.
	+ The expanse of the heavens
		- Winged birds
			* Luther understands that the birds too, were brought forth from the waters.
				+ A marvel at the power of God’s Word to do such a thing!
				+ “If the Word is spoken, all things are possible.”
				+ A connection to the power of Holy Baptism
* It was good
* God does something different.
	+ “God blessed them”
		- The first blessing in Scripture.
		- God’s gift of increase
	+ “Be fruitful and multiply…”
		- God grants power for procreation to provide ongoing re-creation to fill His creation.
			* “The Word is present in the very body of all living creatures…because without the Word, the body would be useless and without effect.”
		- Genesis 9:1
		- Psalm 107:38
* Evening and Morning: the fifth day

## **Sixth Day (1:24-31)**

* The landmass is now filled
	+ The earth is commanded to “bring forth living things”
		- vp,n< “Nephesh”
			* a soul, living being, life, self, person
		- Livestock
			* Animals in general
			* Domesticated animals
		- Creeping things
			* Same word used in v. 21
		- Beasts
			* Everything else
			* Job 40:15
		- Just as the waters “brought forth,” so now does the earth at God’s command.
	+ Each according to its kind
* It was good.
* God does something different (again)
	+ “Let Us make…”
		- The Father, Son, and Holy Spirit at work
			* The Jewish understanding of “Us” is varied
				+ God and the angels
				+ God and the earth
		- Not the waters or the earth
		- The council of “Us” is summoned to do this task deliberately
			* Similarities to the animals?
			* But there is a major difference.
	+ “make man in Our image, after Our likeness.”
		- The image
			* “the image of God is the powers of the soul – memory, the mind or intellect, and will. “ – Augustine
				+ Such understanding gets us into trouble…
			* “Adam had in his being and that he not only knew God and believed that He was good, but that he also lived in a life that was wholly godly; that is without the fear of death or of any other danger, and was content with God’s favor.” – Luther
				+ Living just as God lives.
				+ Lost this image because of sin.
				+ The Gospel begins to restore this image
			* God’s representative on this creation
			* Ephesians 4:24
			* Colossians 3:10
			* James 3:9
			* 2 Corinthians 4:4
			* 1 Corinthians 11:7
		- The likeness
			* A greater reflection of the Second Person of the Trinity
			* Colossians 1:15
	+ Give them dominion over all other creation
		- Naked, Adam and Eve were given this dominion
			* This aspect was also lost in the fall
		- James 3:7
	+ So God creates…
		- Although we see God doing all this creating…
			* It is personal with His male and female of mankind.
* Male and female
	+ Placed together here, to indicate that Eve, too, was made by God as a partaker of the future life.
		- 1 Peter 3:7
* God blessed them
	+ “Them” includes Adam and Eve with the rest of His works on the sixth day.
* God said to them,
	+ Compare to v. 22
	+ “Be fruitful…”
		- We mourn with Luther over what was lost in this blessing, and what we gained in the fall.
			* Lust.
			* Death.
			* Fear.
	+ “have dominion…”
		- Again, we mourn with Luther
			* After the fall, we now look at animals and the rest of creation differently.
			* What would the animal’s purpose have been in the Garden?
	+ The purpose of the plants and trees yielding seed and fruit
		- Man first
			* Psalm 104:14-15
			* Psalm 145:15-16
		- Then beast
			* Psalm 147:9
		- The King James uses the term “meat” for “food”
		- This will be lost in the fall as well.
	+ It was very good.
	+ Evening and morning: the sixth day.

## **Seventh Day (2:1-3)**

* The heavens and the earth were finished
	+ John 19:30???
* God was done with His work of creating
	+ He is not tired or worn out.
	+ He did not create another world
	+ Yet God’s hand of creation is still at work in His creation
		- Psalm 139:13
		- Isaiah 49:5
		- John 5:17
* “Holy” = to be set apart, consecrated, different.
* What “work” would Adam and Eve have to do pre fall, that they would need rest from?
	+ As Scripture interprets Scripture, we learn more about this Sabbath Rest from Exodus 20:8-11.
		- As Luther asks, “What does this mean?”
			* *We should fear and love God so that we do not despise preaching and His Word, but hold it sacred and gladly hear and learn it*.
		- In the fallen world, we come to know what real “rest” is all about…
			* In our relationship with God.
			* Where we find forgiveness of sins
			* Hope in a broken world where nothing goes right.
	+ Luther will go on to say that he believes the fall takes place on the seventh day.
		- As this will all play out over the next two chapters.