

OLD TESTAMENT

Genesis 1:1–5

1 In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.

2 Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over

the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering

over the waters. 3 And God said, "Let there be light," and there

was light. 4 God saw that the light was good, and he separated

the light from the darkness. 5 God called the light "day," and the

darkness he called "night." And there was evening, and there

was morning—the first day.

EPISTLE

Romans 6:1–11

1 What shall we say, then? Shall we go on sinning so that grace may increase? **2** By no means! We are those who have died to sin; how can we live in it any longer? **3** Or don't you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? **4** We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life. **5** For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly also be united with him in a resurrection like his. **6** For we know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body ruled by sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves to sin— **7** because anyone who has died has been set free from sin. **8** Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. **9** For we know that since Christ was raised from the dead, he cannot die again; death no longer has mastery over him. **10** The death he died, he died to sin once

**for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God. ¹¹ In the same way,
count yourselves dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus.**

THIS IS THE WORD OF THE LORD.

HOLY GOSPEL

Mark 1:4–11

4 And so John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. 5 The whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem went out to him. Confessing their sins, they were baptized by him in the Jordan River. 6 John wore clothing made of camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. 7 And this was his message: "After me comes the one more powerful than I, the straps of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. 8 I baptize you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit." 9 At that time Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. 10 Just as Jesus was coming up out of the water, he saw heaven being torn open and the Spirit descending on him like a dove. 11 And a voice came from heaven: "You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased."