

First Reading: Proverbs 8:1-4, 22-31

In the Bible, wisdom is portrayed in terms sometimes human and sometimes divine. Often, wisdom is personified as feminine. In this passage, Woman Wisdom is depicted not only as the first creation of God, but also as God's helper, rejoicing in God's creation, especially in human beings.

¹Does not wisdom call, and does not understanding raise her voice?
²On the heights, beside the way, at the crossroads she takes her stand;
³beside the gates in front of the town, at the entrance of the portals she cries out: ⁴"To you, O people, I call, and my cry is to all that live.

²²The LORD created me at the beginning of his work, the first of his acts of long ago. ²³Ages ago I was set up, at the first, before the beginning of the earth. ²⁴When there were no depths I was brought forth, when there were no springs abounding with water. ²⁵Before the mountains had been shaped, before the hills, I was brought forth—²⁶when he had not yet made earth and fields, or the world's first bits of soil. ²⁷When he established the heavens, I was there, when he drew a circle on the face of the deep, ²⁸when he made firm the skies above, when he established the fountains of the deep, ²⁹when he assigned to the sea its limit, so that the waters might not transgress his command, when he marked out the foundations of the earth, ³⁰then I was beside him, like a master worker; and I was daily his delight, rejoicing before him always, ³¹rejoicing in his inhabited world and delighting in the human race."

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Psalm: Psalm 8

¹O LORD our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!—
²**you whose glory is chanted above the heavens out of the mouths of infants and children; you have set up a fortress against your enemies, to silence the foe and avenger.**
³When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars you have set in their courses,

⁴**what are mere mortals that you should be mindful of them, human beings that you should care for them?**

⁵Yet you have made them little less than divine; with glory and honor you crown them.

⁶**You have made them rule over the works of your hands; you have put all things under their feet:**

⁷all flocks and cattle, even the wild beasts of the field,

⁸**the birds of the air, the fish of the sea, and whatever passes along the paths of the sea.**

⁹O LORD our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!

Second Reading: Romans 5:1-5

Paul describes the life of faith with reference to God, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit. Even now, we have peace with God through Jesus, and our hope for the future is grounded in the love of God that we experience through Christ's Holy Spirit.

¹Therefore, since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, ²through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand; and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God. ³And not only that, but we also boast in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, ⁴and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, ⁵and hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.