

## Image and Likeness

*A prayer service to be used with Chapter 3: Stories for the Journey: Creation and the Founding of a People.*

**Leader:** In our prayer today, we come before God, asking from him the grace to be and act as the beloved sons and daughters we are—made in God’s image and likeness. This requires both humility and nobility.

**Reader 1:** A Reading from the Book of Genesis (Gen 1: 27),

God created mankind in his image;  
in the image of God he created them;  
male and female he created them.  
The Word of the Lord.

**All:** Thanks be to God.

**Leader:** St. Catherine of Siena had a deep sense of living in the joy and freedom of being who God called her to be. Let us pray her words asking for the same freedom and joy to live as God’s beloved sons and daughters.

**All:** Eternal Father, you made us in your image. Thus, you were willing to share with us your own greatness. You gave us the intellect to share your truth. You gave us the wisdom to share your goodness. And you gave us the free will to love that which is true and just.

Why did you dignify us? It was because you looked upon us and fell in love with us. It was love which first prompted you to create us; and it was love which caused you to share with us your truth and goodness. Yet your heart must break when you see us turn against you. You must weep when you see us abusing our intellect in pursuit of that which is false. You must cry with pain when we distort our wisdom in order to justify evil.

But you never desert us. Out of the same love that caused you to create us, you have now sent your only Son to save us. He is your perfect image and likeness, and so through him we can be restored to your image and likeness. Amen.