

Sentence

For if the many died through the one man's trespass, much more surely have the grace of God and the free gift in the grace of the one man, Jesus Christ.



Land Sunday

We worship with creation on the land

Year A

13th September 2020

Green

Prayer of the Day

God, our Creator, whose glory fills our planet,
help us to discern your vibrant presence among us
and our kin in creation, especially in the soil of the paddocks and
rangelands.

Lift our spirits to rejoice with all life of the land.

Help us empathise with all your creatures who suffer because of
bushfires, droughts and floods.

In the name of Christ, who reconciles and renews all things in creation.

Amen.

A reading from the Book of Genesis,

Chapter 3 beginning at Verse 14

'Earth bears the curse for us' because of the sin of our primal parents, God pronounced some curses. The ground of Earth bears the curse for humans, and from the ground Abel's blood cries to God. At their death, Earth welcomes humans home again.

¹⁴The Lord God said to the serpent, "Because you have done this, cursed are you among all animals and among all wild creatures; upon your belly you shall go, and dust you shall eat all the days of your life.

¹⁵I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will strike your head, and you will strike his heel."

¹⁶To the woman he said, "I will greatly increase your pangs in childbearing; in pain you shall bring forth children, yet your desire shall be for your husband, and he shall rule over you."

¹⁷And to the man he said, "Because you have listened to the voice of your wife, and have eaten of the tree about which I commanded you, 'You shall not eat of it,' cursed is the ground because of you; in toil you shall eat of it all the days of your life; ¹⁸thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you; and you

shall eat the plants of the field. ¹⁹By the sweat of your face you shall eat bread until you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; you are dust, and to dust you shall return.”

⁸ Cain said to his brother Abel, “Let us go out to the field.” And when they were in the field, Cain rose up against his brother Abel, and killed him. ⁹Then the Lord said to Cain, “Where is your brother Abel?” He said, “I do not know; am I my brother’s keeper?” ¹⁰And the Lord said, “What have you done? Listen; your brother’s blood is crying out to me from the ground! ¹¹And now you are cursed from the ground, which has opened its mouth to receive your brother’s blood from your hand. ¹²When you till the ground, it will no longer yield to you its strength; you will be a fugitive and a wanderer on the earth.” ¹³Cain said to the Lord, “My punishment is greater than I can bear! ¹⁴Today you have driven me away from the soil, and I shall be hidden from your face; I shall be a fugitive and a wanderer on the earth, and anyone who meets me may kill me.” ¹⁵Then the Lord said to him, “Not so! Whoever kills Cain will suffer a sevenfold vengeance.” And the Lord put a mark on Cain, so that no one who came upon him would kill him. ¹⁶Then Cain went away from the presence of the Lord, and settled in the land of Nod, east of Eden.

[NRSV Genesis 3:14-19; 4:8-16]

Hear the word of the Lord, **thanks be to God**

Psalm 139:6-9

The Spirit of God is present throughout creation, from the heights of space to the depths of the ocean.

- ⁶ Where shall I go from your spirit?
Or where shall I flee from your presence?
- ⁷ If I ascend to heaven, you are there:
if I make my bed in the grave, you are there also.
- ⁸ If I spread out my wings towards the morning:
or dwell in the uppermost parts of the sea.
- ⁹ Even there your hand shall lead me:
and your right hand shall hold me.

A reading from the letter to the Romans, Chapter 5 beginning at Verse 12

‘The second Adam comes to Earth’ Christ is the second Adam, who came to overcome the sin and death caused by Adam, including the curse imposed on Earth.

¹²Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man, and death came through sin, and so death spread to all because all have sinned - ¹³sin was indeed in the world before the law, but sin is not reckoned when there is no law. ¹⁴Yet death exercised dominion from Adam to Moses, even over those whose sins were not like the transgression of Adam, who is a type of the one who was to come.

¹⁵But the free gift is not like the trespass. For if the many died through the one man’s trespass, much more surely have the grace of God and the free gift in the grace of the one man, Jesus Christ, abounded for the many. ¹⁶And the free gift is not like the effect of the one man’s sin. For the judgment following one trespass brought condemnation, but the free gift following many trespasses brings justification. ¹⁷If, because of the one man’s trespass, death exercised dominion through that one, much more surely will those who receive the abundance of grace and the free gift of righteousness exercise dominion in life through the one man, Jesus Christ.

[NRSV Romans 5:12-17]

Hear the word of the Lord, **thanks be to God.**

The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew, Chapter 12 beginning at verse 38

Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ.

‘Jesus in the heart of Earth’. In death, Jesus too is connected with the ground. He is three days and three nights ‘in the heart of the earth’.

³⁸Then some of the scribes and Pharisees said to him [Jesus], ‘Teacher, we wish to see a sign from you.’ ³⁹But he answered them, ‘An evil and adulterous generation asks for a sign, but no sign will be given to it except the sign of the prophet Jonah. ⁴⁰For just as Jonah was for three days and three nights in the belly of the sea monster, so for three days and three nights the Son of Man will be in the heart of the earth. [NRSV Matthew 12:38-40]

This is the Gospel of the Lord, **praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.**