

<sup>9</sup> Suddenly Jesus met them and said, "Greetings!" And they came to him, took hold of his feet, and worshiped him. <sup>10</sup> Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me."

[NRSV Matthew 28:1-10]

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

### Sentence

'It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give water as a gift from the spring of the water of life.



Year A

## River Sunday

We worship with creation by the river

27<sup>th</sup> 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 rivers, the streams and waterways of all the earth.

Lift our spirits to rejoice with the vibrant world of the rivers. Help us empathise with your creatures who suffer because of pollution, overuse of water and lack of rainfall.

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

**Amen.**

### A reading from the Book of Genesis,

*Chapter 8 beginning at Verse 20*

*'God's promise to Earth'; 'After the flood God promises that Earth and all of life on Earth will be preserved by God, in spite of the sins of human beings.*

<sup>20</sup> Then Noah built an altar to the Lord and took of every clean animal and of every clean bird and offered burnt offerings on the altar. <sup>21</sup> And when the Lord smelled the pleasing odor, the Lord said in his heart, "I will never again curse the ground because of humankind, for the inclination of the human heart is evil from youth; nor will I ever again destroy every living creature as I have done. <sup>22</sup> As long as the earth endures, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night, shall not cease."

<sup>12</sup> God said, "This is the sign of the covenant that I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations: <sup>13</sup> I have set my bow in the clouds, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth. <sup>14</sup> When I bring clouds over the earth and the bow is seen in the clouds, <sup>15</sup> I will remember my covenant that is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh; and the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh. <sup>16</sup> When the bow is in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth."

<sup>17</sup> God said to Noah, “This is the sign of the covenant that I have established between me and all flesh that is on the earth.”

[NRSV Genesis 8:20-22; 9:12-17]

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

### **Psalm 104:27-33**

*‘God’s sustenance of Earth’; The psalm writer celebrates how God sustains all life on Earth through the Spirit and calls on God to rejoice in God’s own creation.*

<sup>27</sup> There is the wide, immeasurable sea:

**there move living things without number, great and small;**

<sup>28</sup> There go the ships, to and fro:

**and there is that Leviathan whom you formed to sport in the deep.**

<sup>29</sup> These all look to you:

**to give them their food in due season.**

<sup>30</sup> When you give it to them, they gather it:

**when you open your hand they are satisfied with good things.**

<sup>31</sup> When you hide your face, they are troubled:

**when you take away their breath, they die and return to their dust.**

<sup>32</sup> When you send forth your spirit they are created:

**and you renew the face of the earth.**

<sup>33</sup> May the glory of the Lord endure for ever:

**may the Lord rejoice in his works.**

### **A reading from the book of Revelations,**

*Chapter 22 beginning at Verse 1*

*‘God’s healing for Earth’; When creation is restored, a river will flow directly from God with trees of life growing on either side to bring healing to all nations on Earth*

<sup>1</sup>Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb <sup>2</sup> through the middle of the street of the city. On either side of the river is the tree of life with its twelve kinds of fruit, producing its fruit each month; and the leaves

of the tree are for the healing of the nations. <sup>3</sup> Nothing accursed will be found there any more. But the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and his servants will worship him; <sup>4</sup> they will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. <sup>5</sup> And there will be no more night; they need no light of lamp or sun, for the Lord God will be their light, and they will reign forever and ever.

<sup>6</sup> And he said to me, “These words are trustworthy and true, for the Lord, the God of the spirits of the prophets, has sent his angel to show his servants what must soon take place.”

<sup>7</sup> “See, I am coming soon! Blessed is the one who keeps the words of the prophecy of this book.”

<sup>8</sup> I, John, am the one who heard and saw these things. And when I heard and saw them, I fell down to worship at the feet of the angel who showed them to me.

[NRSV Revelations 22:1-8]

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

### **The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew, Chapter 28 beginning at verse 1**

**Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ.**

*‘God’s celebration with Earth’; The resurrection of Christ is also celebrated by creation. An earthquake accompanies the advent of the angel and the rolling away of the stone.*

<sup>1</sup>After the sabbath, as the first day of the week was dawning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. <sup>2</sup> And suddenly there was a great earthquake; for an angel of the Lord, descending from heaven, came and rolled back the stone and sat on it. <sup>3</sup> His appearance was like lightning, and his clothing white as snow. <sup>4</sup> For fear of him the guards shook and became like dead men. <sup>5</sup> But the angel said to the women, “Do not be afraid; I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. <sup>6</sup> He is not here; for he has been raised, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. <sup>7</sup> Then go quickly and tell his disciples, ‘He has been raised from the dead, and indeed he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him.’ This is my message for you.” <sup>8</sup> So they left the tomb quickly with fear and great joy, and ran to tell his disciples.