



Creation Season 1: River Sunday

Holy Eucharist

The 17th Sunday after Pentecost

September 27, 2020 • 10:00 AM

The Episcopal Diocese of Fort Worth

*Welcome! This Sunday calls us to join in the hymn of all creation – with the wrens and robins, otters and owls, baboons and butterflies, elm trees and pine trees, rice and snow peas, grass and grasshoppers, lava and lake, mountains and seas – all created things everywhere. We are invited to join the communion of all creation to let heaven and nature sing and to let all creation join as one, to praise God’s holy name. All together the choir of creation acknowledges God as the inexhaustible source of life and goodness.**



“The river of God is full of water”. Psalm 65:9

The people’s responses are in bold.

The Entrance Rite

The people stand as able.

PROCESSIONAL HYMN • 405

All things bright and beautiful

P9 Leaflet

THE OPENING ACCLAMATION

Blessed be the one, holy and living God.

Glory to God forever and ever. Amen.

Christ, we come into your presence today to worship in this sanctuary called Earth,

**A planet filled with your presence, sheltered in the forests, flourishing in the land,
expectant in the wilderness, flowing in the rivers.**

God, reveal yourself to us and show us your face in all creation.

Holy! Holy! Holy! Earth is filled with the Creator's presence.

HYMN OF PRAISE • 412 vss. 1-2

Earth and all stars

The Word of God

THE COLLECT FOR THE DAY

God be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

God, our Creator, whose glory fills our planet, help us to discern your presence among us and our kin in creation, especially in the rivers, the streams and waterways of Earth. Lift our spirits to rejoice with the song of the rivers. In the name of Christ, who reconciles and restores all things in creation. **Amen.**

The people are seated.

THE FIRST LESSON: GENESIS (8:20-22; 9:12-17)

A reading from the book of Genesis.

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. And when the Lord smelt 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.

As long as the earth endures,

seedtime and harvest, cold and heat,

summer and winter, day and night,

shall not cease.' 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: I have set my bow in the clouds, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth. When I bring clouds over the earth and the bow is seen in the clouds, 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. 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.' 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.'

The Word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 104:27-33 (*Prayed in unison*)

**27 There move the ships, and there is that Leviathan, *
which you have made for the sport of it.**

- 28 **All of them look to you ***
to give them their food in due season.
- 29 **You give it to them; they gather it; ***
you open your hand, and they are filled with good things.
- 30 **You hide your face and they are terrified; ***
you take away their breath, and they die and return to their dust.
- 31 **You send forth your Spirit, and they are created; ***
and so you renew the face of the earth.
- 32 **May the glory of the Lord endure for ever; ***
may the Lord rejoice in all his works.
- 33 **He looks at the earth and it trembles; ***
he touches the mountains and they smoke.

THE SECOND READING: Revelation (22:1-5)

A Reading from the book of Revelation.

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 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. 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; they will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. 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 for ever and ever.

The Word of God for the people of God.
Thanks be to God.

The people stand as able at the introduction of the hymn.

HYMN AT THE SEQUENCE • 428

Oh all ye works of God

P10 Leaflet

THE HOLY GOSPEL

The Holy Gospel of our Savior Jesus Christ according to Matthew (28:1-10).

Glory to you, O Christ.

After the sabbath, as the first day of the week was dawning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. 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. His appearance was like lightning, and his clothing white as snow. For fear of him the guards shook and became like dead men. But the angel said to the women, 'Do not be afraid; I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. He is not here; for he has been raised, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. 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.' So they left the tomb quickly with fear and great joy, and ran to tell his disciples. Suddenly Jesus met them and said, 'Greetings!' And they came to him,

took hold of his feet, and worshipped him. Then Jesus said to them, ‘Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me.’

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

The people are seated at the invitation of the homilist.

THE HOMILY

A moment for silent reflection follows the homily.

The Rev. Canon Janet Waggoner

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

We believe that God creates all things, renews all things and celebrates all things.

We believe Earth is a sanctuary, a sacred planet filled with God’s presence,
a home for us to share with our kin.

We believe that God became flesh and blood, became a piece of Earth,
a human being called Jesus Christ,
who lived and breathed and spoke among us,
suffered and died on a cross for all human beings
and for all creation.

We believe that the risen Jesus is the Christ at the core of creation,
reconciling all things to God,
renewing all creation and filling the cosmos.

We believe the Holy Spirit renews life in creation,
groans in empathy with a suffering creation and waits with us for the rebirth of creation.

We believe that with Christ we will rise and with Christ we will celebrate a new creation. +

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Presider Let us pray for the revealing of the reign of God in the world, now and always:

In the beginning, God was.

Here and now, God is.

In the future, God will be.

Creator of earth, sea, and sky, kindle the fire of your Spirit within us that we may be bold to heal and defend the earth around us, and pour your blessing and guidance on our elected officials, and upon the people and organizations working everywhere for the good of the planet.

God, Giver of life,

Hear our prayer.

Breath of life, receive our thanks for the beauty of our local habitat and all its inhabitants, and lend us the wisdom and will to conserve them.

God, Giver of life,

Hear our prayer.

Light and source of life, heal and redeem the wounds of your creation, and visit the places and people who suffer from our indifference, neglect, and greed.

God, Giver of life,

Hear our prayer.

Lover of all you have made, we thank you for the wondrous diversity of your creatures, and we pray for their well-being. *Silence*

God, Giver of life,

Hear our prayer.

Author of the book of nature, receive our gratitude for the places of restoration and healing, and challenge us to sustain the places that feed our lives and spirits.

God, Giver of life,

Hear our prayer.

Wise Creator whose works are full of mystery, give us wonder and appreciation for your creatures with whom we find ourselves in conflict.

God, Giver of life,

Hear our prayer.

Giver of all good gifts, awaken us daily to our dependence upon your generosity, and make us always thankful for the abundance of your blessings.

God, Giver of life,

Hear our prayer.

Joy of human hearts, heal our human communities, especially those where your word is not heard, or where neglect, violence, greed, and warfare increase the suffering and need of people and other creatures.

God, Giver of life,

Hear our prayer.

Comforter of all the earth, sustain the people worshiping together today and all who desire and need your presence and help, especially _____. (*The people may add their petitions.*)

God, Giver of life,

Hear our prayer.

Rock and refuge of all your creatures, receive into everlasting mercy all those who have died.

God, Giver of life,

Hear our prayer.

Presider Great Spirit God, we give you thanks for another day on this earth. We give you thanks for this day to enjoy the compassionate goodness of you, our Creator. We acknowledge with one mind our respect and gratefulness to all the sacred cycle of life. Bind us together in the circle of compassion to embrace all living creatures and one another. **Amen.**

(source: Native American/Alaska Native and Native Hawaiian Liturgies, prepared for the 76th General Convention of the Episcopal Church, July 2009, Anaheim, California)

THE CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION

Let us pray also for the forgiveness of our sins.

**Have mercy upon us, most merciful God;
in your compassion forgive us our sins,
known and unknown,
things done and left undone;
and so uphold us by your Spirit
that we may live and serve you in newness of life,
to the honor and glory of your Name;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through the grace of Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. **Amen.**

THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be always with you.
And also with you.

THE OFFERTORY

The Holy Communion

Eucharistic Prayer 3 from Enriching Our Worship (adopted by the General Convention of the Episcopal Church, 1997)

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

All thanks and praise are yours at all times and in all places, our true and loving God; through Jesus Christ, your eternal Word, the Wisdom from on high by whom you created all things. You laid the foundations of the world and enclosed the sea when it burst out from the womb; You brought forth all creatures of the earth and gave breath to humankind. Wondrous are you, Holy One of Blessing, all you create is a sign of hope for our journey; And so as the morning stars sing your praises we join the heavenly beings and all creation as we shout with joy:

SANCTUS• S-125

**Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

The People stand or kneel as able, then the Celebrant continues

Glory and honor are yours, Creator of all, your Word has never been silent; you called a people to yourself, as a light to the nations, you delivered them from bondage and led them to a land of promise. Of your grace, you gave Jesus to be human, to share our life, to proclaim the coming of your holy reign and give himself for us, a fragrant offering. Through Jesus Christ our Redeemer, you have freed us from sin, brought us into your life, reconciled us to you, and restored us to the glory you intend for us.

We thank you that on the night before he died for us Jesus took bread, and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, gave it to his friends and said: "Take, eat, this is my Body, broken for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper Jesus took the cup of wine, said the blessing, gave it to his friends and said: "Drink this, all of you: this cup is the new Covenant in my Blood, poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me."

And so, remembering all that was done for us: the cross, the tomb, the resurrection and ascension, longing for Christ's coming in glory, and presenting to you these gifts your earth has formed and human hands have made, we acclaim you, O Christ:

Dying, you destroyed our death.

Rising, you restored our life.

Christ Jesus, come in glory!

Send your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these gifts of bread and wine that they may be to us the Body and Blood of your Christ. Grant that we, burning with your Spirit's power, may be a people of hope, justice and love. Giver of Life, draw us together in the Body of Christ, and in the fullness of time gather us with blessed Luke all your people into the joy of our true eternal home.

Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, we worship you our God and Creator in voices of unending praise. Blessed are you Lord God, now and forever. **AMEN.**

Celebrant And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, together we pray,

All **Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy Name,
thy kingdom come, thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.**

Give us this day our daily bread.

**And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.**

**And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.**

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

Celebrant Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

All **Therefore let us keep the feast.**

THE INVITATION TO HOLY COMMUNION

The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith with thanksgiving.

If you have a consecrated host at home, please join us in sharing communion at this time.

If you do not have a consecrated host at home, join us by sharing spiritual communion with the following prayer.

In union, O Lord, with the faithful of your Church where the Holy Eucharist is now being celebrated, we desire to offer you praise and thanksgiving. We present to you our souls and bodies with the earnest wish that we may always be united to you. And since we cannot now receive you sacramentally, we beseech you to come spiritually into our hearts. We unite ourselves with you and embrace you with all the love of our souls. Let nothing ever separate you from us. May we live in you, and may you live in us, both in this life and in the life to come. Amen.

THE POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Let us pray.

God of abundance,

you have fed us with the bread of life

and the cup of salvation;

you have united us with Christ and one another;

and you have made us one with all your people

in heaven and on earth.

Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit,

that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world

and continue for ever in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen.

THE BLESSING

Live without fear: your Creator has made you holy, has always protected you, and loves you as a mother.

Go in peace to follow the good road and may God's blessing be with you always. **Amen.** *(Saint Clare)*

THE DISMISSAL

In the name of Christ go in peace, rejoicing in the good gifts of the Creator. Alleluia! Alleluia!

Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!

POSTLUDE • 409

The spacious firmament

Descant

All things bright and beau - ti - ful, crea-tures great and small,

Refrain

All things bright and beau - ti - ful, all crea-tures great and small,

all things wise and won - der - ful, God made them all.

all things wise and won - der - ful, the Lord God made them all.

1 Each lit - tle flower that o - pens, each lit - tle bird that sings,
 2 The pur - ple - head - ed moun-tain, the riv - er run - ning by,
 3 The cold wind in the win - ter, the pleas - ant sum - mer sun,
 4 He gave us eyes to see them, and lips that we might tell

he made their glow-ing col - ors, he made their ti - ny wings.
 the sun - set, and the morn - ing that bright - ens up the sky,
 the ripe fruits in the gar - den, he made them ev - ery one.
 how great is God Al - might - y, who has made all things well.

Repeat Refrain

Words: Cecil Frances Alexander (1818-1895) Music: *Royal Oak*, melody from *The Dancing Master*, 1686; adapt. and harm. Martin Fallas Shaw (1875-1958)
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1 O all ye works of God, now come to thank him
 2 O sun and moon and stars of heaven, your end - less
 3 O heat and cold, O night and day, O storms and
 4 O earth and sea, O all that live in wa - ter
 5 O let his peo - ple bless the Lord like right - eous

1 and a - dore; O an - gels, sing and
 2 praise out - pour; O chang - ing sea - sons,
 3 thun - der's roar, O fields and for - ests,
 4 or on shore, O men and wo - men,
 5 souls of yore; let those of ho - ly,

1 bless the Lord and praise him ev - er - more.
 2 bless the Lord and praise him ev - er - more.
 3 bless the Lord and praise him ev - er - more.
 4 bless the Lord and praise him ev - er - more.
 5 hum - ble heart come praise him ev - er - more.

6 So let us glorify and bless
 the God we bow before,
 the Father, Holy Spirit, Son,
 and praise him evermore.

Words: F. Bland Tucker (1895-1984), rev.; para. of *A Song of Creation* Copyright © The Church Pension Fund. All rights reserved. Used with permission.
 Music: *Irish*, melody from *Hymns and Sacred Poems*, 1749; harm. *The English Hymnal*, 1906

Ideas and Resources that Flow from River Sunday

River Sunday may fall close to the end of trout season in your area. Connect with a local **Trout Unlimited** chapter and get involved in stream bank restoration and their mission “to conserve, protect, and restore North America’s cold water fisheries and their watersheds.” Visit www.tu.org. If you’re a fisher, consider and celebrate catch and release.

The **Hudson River Sloop Clearwater** has been at the forefront of the environmental movement for 45 years as champion of the Hudson River, working to pass legislation like the Clean Water Act, and providing innovative educational programs, environmental advocacy, and musical celebrations. Learn about the history of their project, sing along with Pete Seeger, and begin similar work in your own backyard! Visit www.clearwater.org.

One of the strongest programs of the New Deal early in the Great Depression, the **Tennessee Valley Authority** sought to provide power, flood control, and more over 80,000 square miles. See history and current work for clean energy at www.tva.gov/environment/.

Visit YouTube and search “river documentary” to take a **video visit** to the world’s grandest, most famous and most important rivers—the Ganges, the Amazon, the Mekong, the Nile, the Mississippi, the Tigris and Euphrates, the Potomac, the Danube, among others.

With children, **trace your watershed** on a map. Find a creek or brook closest to home. Look for its headwaters. Then add more color (thicker markers or threads and yarns) as it adds water into larger streams and then rivers, following out all the way to its mouth in the open water. Notice continental divides and talk about the water cycle. Visit www.water.usgs.gov/edu/watercycle-kids-adv.html for an interactive diagram.

Watch your runoff. As rain falls on impervious surfaces, it speeds downslope, carrying debris and chemicals. Phosphorous, nitrates, and more from lawn fertilizers and farm sewage contributes to dangerous algae blooms and depletes oxygen in waters. Advocate to regulate the chemicals and reduce their use. Plant a rain garden for slow, pure infiltration.

Most basically, **get out and explore!** Paddle down a stream. Watch from a bridge. Turn over some rocks and discover what is underneath. Float sticks. Skip stones and meditate on the erosion that smoothed them so flat.