

## The First Reading

### Genesis 9:8-17

The First Reading is from Genesis chapter 9.

<sup>8</sup>Then God said to Noah and to his sons with him, <sup>9</sup>“As for me, I am establishing my covenant with you and your descendants after you, <sup>10</sup>and with every living creature that is with you, the birds, the domestic animals, and every animal of the earth with you, as many as came out of the ark. <sup>11</sup>I establish my covenant with you, that never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of a flood, and never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth.” <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.”

The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

### Psalm 138

<sup>1</sup>I give you thanks, O Lord, with my whole heart;  
before the gods I sing your praise;  
<sup>2</sup>I bow down toward your holy temple  
and give thanks to your name for your steadfast love and your faithfulness;  
for you have exalted your name and your word above everything.  
<sup>3</sup>On the day I called, you answered me,  
you increased my strength of soul.  
  
<sup>4</sup>All the kings of the earth shall praise you, O Lord,  
for they have heard the words of your mouth.  
<sup>5</sup>They shall sing of the ways of the Lord,  
for great is the glory of the Lord.  
<sup>6</sup>For though the Lord is high, he regards the lowly;  
but the haughty he perceives from far away.  
  
<sup>7</sup>Though I walk in the midst of trouble,  
you preserve me against the wrath of my enemies;  
you stretch out your hand,  
and your right hand delivers me.  
<sup>8</sup>The Lord will fulfill his purpose for me;  
your steadfast love, O Lord, endures forever.  
Do not forsake the work of your hands.

The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

## **1 Corinthians 15:1-11**

The Second Reading is from First Corinthians chapter 15.

**15** Now I would remind you, brothers and sisters, of the good news that I proclaimed to you, which you in turn received, in which also you stand, <sup>2</sup>through which also you are being saved, if you hold firmly to the message that I proclaimed to you—unless you have come to believe in vain.

<sup>3</sup>For I handed on to you as of first importance what I in turn had received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the scriptures, <sup>4</sup>and that he was buried, and that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the scriptures, <sup>5</sup>and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. <sup>6</sup>Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers and sisters<sup>[a]</sup> at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have died. <sup>7</sup>Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. <sup>8</sup>Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me. <sup>9</sup>For I am the least of the apostles, unfit to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. <sup>10</sup>But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace toward me has not been in vain. On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them—though it was not I, but the grace of God that is with me. <sup>11</sup>Whether then it was I or they, so we proclaim and so you have come to believe.

The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

## **Gospel of Matthew 28:1-15**

The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 28<sup>th</sup> chapter. Glory to you O Lord.

**28** 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. <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.”

<sup>11</sup>While they were going, some of the guard went into the city and told the chief priests everything that had happened. <sup>12</sup>After the priests had assembled with the elders, they devised a plan to give a large sum of money to the soldiers, <sup>13</sup>telling them, “You must say, ‘His disciples came by night and stole him away while we were asleep.’ <sup>14</sup>If this comes to the governor’s ears, we will satisfy him and keep you out of trouble.” <sup>15</sup>So they took the money and did as they were directed. And this story is still told among the Jews to this day.

The Gospel of our Lord. Praise to you O Christ.

## Prayers of Intercession

O heavenly Father, as we gather once more in your sanctuary, hear our prayers that we lift up to you as we unite our hearts and cry out for the needs of our community and world.

### *Brief silence for reflection*

Heavenly Father, with the burst of the sunrise, your Son stepped out of the tomb and opened the way for all your faithful to inherit eternal life. Open the way now for us to live your new life today, that all our lives reflect the same dawning sunshine as Jesus' Easter morning. Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Righteous God, your Son's resurrection demonstrates a new way of understanding your grace. Open the way now for us to demonstrate this grace in the world, so that all may experience your compassion and mercy. Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Healing God, the empty tomb reveals a perfect healing that awaits us all. Open the way now for us to experience the fullness of healing, physical, emotional, and spiritual. Grant wisdom to our researchers seeking a cure to the Covid-19 pandemic. Strengthen doctors and nurses on the frontlines of the health crisis. And may all our aches and pains, illnesses and diseases, be touched by your hands to restore our wholeness. We especially pray for: Bradley, Josie, Bev, Nancy, Elizabeth, John, Linda, Dave, Jim, Cassie & Family, Delores, Graham, Jim, Bob, Ila, Tucker, Marjorie, Norman, Carmen, Evelyn, and the family and friends of James Walker. Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

King of peace, your sacrifice broke the power of sin and gives us hope that we can bridge all that divides us. Give national leaders the wisdom to build that bridge to everlasting peace. We ask you to be with those who serve in the military, especially Sgt. Lacey Elliott; allow them to serve with honor and return home safely. Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Eternal One, the empty tomb stands for all time as a reminder of the hope we have in you. Open the way for our hope to be renewed as we remember the faith of all the saints who have already received the prize of eternal life with you. Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

It is with grateful hearts that we lift all concerns, those named and those only the Spirit is able to lift for us, to you. We turn all these over to your care and yearn for your merciful answer, through Jesus Christ, your Son and our Savior. Amen