

SEASON OF CREATION 2026

LIVING WATER

Holy Eucharist Liturgy



Immersion in Living Water

Ezekiel 47: 9, 12



SEASON OF CREATION

Overview

Each year from September 1 to October 4, the Christian family unites for this worldwide celebration of prayer and action to protect our common home. It is a special season where we celebrate God as Creator and acknowledge Creation as the divine continuing act that summons us as collaborators to love and care for the gift of all that is created. As followers of Christ from around the globe, we share a common call to care for Creation. Our well-being is interwoven with the well-being of the Earth.

This Year

"Swarms of living creatures will live wherever the river flows. There will be large numbers of fish, because this water flows there and makes the salt water fresh; so where the river flows everything will live. [...] Fruit trees of all kinds will grow on both banks of the river. Their leaves will not wither, nor will their fruit fail. Every month they will bear fruit, because the water from the sanctuary flows to them. Their fruit will serve for food and their leaves for healing." (Ezek. 47:9, 12).

These verses provide a powerful biblical vision of hope and ecological healing. Set amid exile and loss, the image of living water flowing from God's sanctuary reveals divine healing that renews land, water, biodiversity, and human responsibility towards the whole creation. Water flows from the Temple of God – at first a tiny stream that grows deeper and deeper; and as it does so, it brings life to dead areas and restores fertility to damaged or barren ecosystems. Through living water comes healing; but in order to receive new life, we too must step into the water and also become part of God's river of life, taking part in the healing of creation.

Liturgy for the Season of Creation 2026

Holy Eucharist

Welcome

This year during the Season of Creation, we are going to consider immersion in living water, with this year's symbol and theme being one of renewal and birth: water flowing from the temple as a sign of God's caring and healing for us. We are called to step into the water, until we are so deep that we must depend on God's grace to sustain us. Those who receive this water are invited to become sources of life for others, allowing God's love to flow through them into the world. And thus the water of God will become in us a spring of water welling up to eternal life, as Jesus promised (*John 4:14*).

Let us overcome our fear and step into the water of God's love – to be part of the river of transformation for the world, to see the literal healing and renewal of creation and the blessing of the earth.

Opening Hymn

Call to Worship

Celebrant: In the beginning, the Spirit of God hovered over the waters. And God called them good.

All: Come Holy Spirit and cleanse the waters.

Celebrant: The prophet saw a river flowing from the Temple, and wherever the river flowed, everything lives.

All: Come Holy Spirit and renew the face of the Earth.

Celebrant: Jesus cried out, "Let anyone who is thirsty come to me... Out of the believer's heart shall flow rivers of living water."

All: Come Holy Spirit and heal your people.

Thanksgiving for the Waters

Celebrant: Almighty and ever living God, we thank you for your love in all creation, and especially for your gift of water to sustain and cleanse all life. Christ is the living water, cleansing, refreshing, and making all things new. So now we offer our thanks for the waters that bring beauty to all that we enjoy, the wild places, the bush, the mountains, coast and the sea. We give thanks and praise for all good lands, for the trees and pastures, for our plentiful crops, and for the living water that quenches them.

(Adapted from Anglican Aotearoa NZ Prayer Book)

All: We praise you for giving us life through water, and for all waters everywhere. We especially praise you for the waters who sustain us in this part of our common home. We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning you created us in your image and placed us in a well-watered garden. In the desert, you promised pools of water for the parched, and you gave your people water from the rock. When we did not know the way, you sent the Good Shepherd to lead us to still waters. At the cross, you washed us from Jesus' wounded side, and on this day, you shower us again with the water of life. You bathe us in your forgiveness, grace, and love. You satisfy all who thirst, and give us the life only you can give.

(Adapted from All Creation Sings, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America)

Collect of the Day

First Reading

Responsive Psalm

Second Reading

Gradual Hymn

Gospel

Sermon

An Affirmation of Faith

We believe in God, who creates all things, who embraces all things, who celebrates all things, who is present in every part of the fabric of creation. We believe in God as the source of all life, who baptizes this planet with living water. We believe in Jesus Christ, seen in the suffering one, the poor one, the malnourished one, the climate refugee – who loves and cares for this world and suffers with it. We believe in the Holy Spirit, the breath of God, who moves with God and who moves among and with us today. We believe in everlasting life in God. And we believe in the hope that one day God will put an end to death and all destructive forces.

(Lutheran Theological College, South India, adapted)

Prayers of the People

Leader: We pray today for those whose lives are closely intertwined with water: coastal peoples, fisher folks, and for those who can teach us wise ways to live with water. We pray for people to be moved to action and use their inherent or entrusted power to create change. Stir governments, corporations, and communities to protect and share water justly.

All: Where water flows, Lord, let everything live.

Leader: Where we have treated water as a commodity, teach us to receive it as a sacred gift. Where we have consumed without thought, teach us simplicity.

All: Where water flows, Lord, let everything live.

Leader: Where we have used water without reverence, teach us to protect it as a gift entrusted to every generation and honour water as a source of life for all.

All: Where water flows, Lord, let everything live.

Leader: Where we have been silent and tolerant of injustice, make us courageous protectors of rivers, defenders of seas, and companions to those who suffer water injustice, until justice and mercy flow like the river of life.

All: Where water flows, Lord, let everything live.

Leader: In all other areas of your Creation, inspire us to care and honour all life.

All: Where water flows, Lord, let everything live.

Leader: We pray as well for those among us experiencing sickness, illness, or strife of any kind, thinking this morning of ... and those grieving the death of a loved one, thinking this morning of ...

All: Where water flows, Lord, let everything live.

Leader: May we be carried by the flow of the great river of life. May we discover a hidden spring within, gushing forth. May we be carried to the shores of the sacred and renewed.

All: Amen.

(Methodist Church of South Africa, Trinity wall street Lenten reflections based on St. Hildegard of Bingen, adapted)

Confession and Absolution

Celebrant: Let us confess our sins, confident in God's forgiveness.

All: Creator, out of your abundant love, all things live and move and have their being. We confess that we have turned away from you and from your image in our neighbours. We have neglected the creatures that surround us, the water that renews us, and the earth that nourishes us. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us that we might hear the song of your Creation once again and see your love in all living things.

Celebrant: God's mercy flows like living water. The love of God, incarnate in Jesus who spoke to troubled waters, forgives us and calms our hearts so that justice may flow in all the dry places of our lives. In the name of Christ, may this grace free us to follow and proclaim the good news of the healing of all Creation.

People: Amen

Invitation to the Peace

Celebrant: Hear God's promise of a redeemed creation: the wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, and a little child shall lead them. They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain. The Peace of the Lord be always with you.

People: And also with you.

The Celebration of the Eucharist

Offertory Hymn

Offertory Prayer (*Prayer Over the Gifts*)

All: God, whose Spirit moved over the deep: we thank you for the gift of water – the waters on the Earth, and under the Earth, the waters above us, and within us. Make us mindful of the care of all the planet's waters, that it may richly sustain life for us and for those who come after us. Accept the first fruits we offer here. Bless and multiply these gifts to our nurture and the care of your creation; for the sake of your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen

(All Creation Sings, Augsburg Fortress 2026)

Eucharistic Prayer

Celebrant: May God be with you,

People: and also with you.

Celebrant: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them up to the Creator.

Celebrant: Let us thank the Giver of Life.

People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Celebrant: It is right in all times and in all places to thank and praise you, Creator of all. We praise you here in this place, where the river meets the sea, in the midst of hills and lakes, where ravines and streams wind under our streets, where village and farm meet, wilderness and town are side by side, where the rising sea meets the rocky shore.

We praise you in this time of sorrow, when the body of the earth is broken and bruised. We give you thanks for our place on this land, and in the story of salvation. Our ancestors journeyed with you in desert and in wilderness, displaced and displacing, frightened and welcoming, all the while searching for home. They knew you on mountains and by wells, in tents and in cities, in families and in dreams, and through wilderness prophets who saw you in a burning bush, followed you in cloud and fire, and were fed by ravens on the mountains. Together with angels and ancestors, we join our voices with all of creation as we say:

**People: 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, Hosanna in the highest.**

Celebrant: We give thanks to you for Jesus, born among the animals. He was baptized in the waters of the Jordan, nourished and tested in the wilderness, travelled on the lakes, and knew the mysteries of seeds and growth. On the night before he died, Jesus took bread, food of the poor, the work of field and hearth. He gave thanks, broke it, and gave it to his friends, saying, *Take and eat, this is my body, given for you, do this to remember me.* After supper he took the cup of wine, fruit of the land and work of human hands, gave thanks and gave it to his friends, saying, *This is my blood, which is shed for you. Whenever you drink it, do it in memory of me.* Remembering Jesus' life, death, and resurrection and awaiting his coming to renew all things, we offer you this bread and this cup. Creator, send your Spirit on these gifts, that we who eat and drink at this table may be one with all who hunger and thirst for justice, and be joined with all of creation, our kin. Pour out your spirit on the whole earth, that it may become your new creation, and that we, along with your people, of every language, race and nation, may share the banquet you have promised with all the saints who rest in the wisdom of sparrow and lily, raven and mustard seed, now and on the new earth. All honour and glory are yours, Creator, Saviour, and Spirit, now and in the world to come. **Amen**

The Lord's Prayer

**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,
the power and the glory, forever and ever. Amen**

The Communion

Prayer After Communion

All: Creator of all, in the death and resurrection of Jesus, you have reconciled all things in heaven and on earth. May this bread and wine open our eyes to your love and justice, woven through all of Creation. We ask this through Jesus, your creating word. Amen

Blessing

Celebrant: May the God who sprung water from a rock, quenching the thirst of those who wandered in fear, spare us from the drought of a senseless life. May the God who flows from the wells of salvation, and who is Living Water to the foreigner, the stranger, and the unknown, keep us in peace. May the God who rolls on like a river, changing the course of the world with streams of righteousness that guide the Church's vessel in this world, empower us to work for transformation. And may the blessing of our merciful God, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, keep us and preserve us in eternal life.

People: Amen

(Anglican Episcopal Church of Brazil)

Closing Hymn

Dismissal

Celebrant: Go in peace, as people of God made Christ's own through the waters of baptism. In the power of the Holy Spirit. Alleluia! Alleluia!

People: Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!

Unless otherwise indicated, liturgy adapted from:

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~Season of Creation 2026 Ecumenical Prayer Service - adapted