

SEASON OF CREATION 2026

LIVING WATER

Morning Prayer 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

Morning Prayer

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

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

All: Come Holy Spirit and cleanse the waters.

Leader: 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.

Leader: 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

Leader: 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)

Offertory Hymn

Offertory Prayer

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)

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)

Collect for Creation

All: Creator, you have wonderfully fashioned the heavens and the earth and us in your own image. Teach us to discern your hand in all your works and your breath in all creatures, that we may be of service in the healing of the earth, through Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit, through whom you breathe all creation into being. Amen

Thanksgiving for the Waters

All: 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. We praise you for giving us life through water, and for all waters everywhere. We especially praise you for the waters that sustain us in this part of our common home.

Season of Creation Prayer for Living Water

Holy God, whose Spirit hovered over the waters at the beginning, we gather as part of your community of all creation, thirsty for your grace. We give thanks for the gift of water, the veins of our common home, that sustains the cedar and the whale, the pasture and the city. We are grateful for the local waters that nourish our homelands and our fellow creatures. We give thanks that in your well-watered garden, every drop is a sacred testament to your love. Yet, we confess that we have treated this gift as a mere commodity. We have choked the seas with our waste and watched the warming tides rise in judgement. We lament the cracked earth of the drought-stricken and the salty tears of the climate refugee. Melt our frozen hearts, O God, and let the waters of repentance flow. Lord of all Life, you promised that wherever the river flows, everything shall live. Stir in us a calling to care for the waters – to protect the watershed, defend the rights of water, and honour the dignity of the thirsty. May your Word be a spring within us, gushing forth for the healing of the nations. May God our Father who brought water from the rock sustain us in the desert. May Christ our Lord who is Living Water refresh us for the work of restoration. And may the Holy Spirit carry us on currents of grace until justice rolls down like waters and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream. **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 Grace

**All: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God,
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all evermore. Amen**

Closing Hymn

Dismissal

Leader: 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:

*~Creation Sunday Liturgical Resources authorized for Trial Use,
Evaluation and Feedback where permitted by the Ordinary
by the Council of General Synod, June 2026*

~Season of Creation 2026 Ecumenical Prayer Service - adapted