



Season of Creation 1

September 6, 2026

WELCOME & LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I invite you to take a moment to acknowledge the land and the waterways where we find ourselves.

Living in this southwestern corner of the Canadian prairies, I give thanks for the ongoing stewardship of this place, located on the traditional territory of the Blackfoot people, Treaty 7, and the home of the Metis people Region III. I continue to learn the impact of the settler community, of whom my family is a part, on the First Nations and to appreciate their resiliency. As I seek right relationships with all who call this community home, may my actions and choices show kindness, compassion and respect.

May each of us continue to learn about one another, the earth, and all her creatures.

COMMUNITY LIFE

Lunch & Hymn Sing – Wednesday, Sept 9th at 12:30 pm

Everybody's Birthday – Sunday, Sept 13 at 11 am, Please sign up in the Place of Welcome if you would like to bring a cake.

INTRODUCTION

The Season of Creation is the annual Christian celebration to pray and respond together to the cry of Creation: the ecumenical family around the world unites to contemplate and care for our common home. The Season's "Celebration" begins on September 1 and ends on October 4, the Feast of Saint Francis of Assisi, who is beloved by many Christian denominations. This year, we will unite around the theme "Living Water", with the symbol "Immersion in Living Water", inspired by Ezekiel 47: 9 and 12.

"Ezekiel's vision of 'Living Water' invites us to see God's life-giving grace and sacramental presence flowing into places of desolation, renewing both creation and human community. In a world facing a severe ecological crisis, this river becomes a call to repent from systems that exploit land, water, and vulnerable peoples. Creation is not a commodity but a communion of interdependent life entrusted to our care.

The Season of Creation invites us to let God's living water reshape our communities into spaces of healing, equity, and hope, both tangible and eternal."

*Rev. Dr. Anne Burghardt,
General Secretary of The Lutheran World Federation*

We take a moment to center our hearts and minds for worship.

CALL TO WORSHIP

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

Come Holy Spirit and cleanse the waters.

The prophet saw a river flowing from the Temple,
and wherever the river flowed, everything lived.

Come Holy Spirit and renew the face of the Earth.

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

Come, Holy Spirit and heal your people.

"O Living Breath of God"



- 1 O liv-ing Breath of God, wind at the be-gin - ning up-on the wa - ters;
- 2 O liv-ing Breath of God, by whose pow'r the Son came to birth a - mong us;
- 3 O liv-ing Breath of God, bear-ing us to life through bap-tis-mal wa - ters;



- O liv-ing Breath of God, bear-ing the cre - a - tion to won-drous birth:
O liv-ing Breath of God, who to the cre - a - tion gives life a - new:
O liv-ing Breath of God, sigh-ing with cre - a - tion for free-dom's birth:

Refrain



Come now, and fill our spir - its; pour out your gifts a - bun - dant.



O liv-ing Breath of God, Ho-ly Spir - it, breathe in us as we pray.

THANKSGIVING FOR THE WATERS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
who pours love into our hearts
and healing upon the earth. **Amen.**

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)

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

Water is poured into the font.

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)

LAMENT AND FORGIVENESS

But we lament that we have neglected this gift, and taken the waters for granted.

Lamenting is a passionate expression of sorrow or grief; a song, hymn or poem of mourning to express sorrow, mourning, or regret aloud; to regret strongly. Often sins are confessed in the plural, as a sign that, even if we personally have not committed each sin, our souls are bound up one with the other.

We look upon your waters, O God, and we grieve:

Rivers run polluted.

Oceans choke with plastic.

Marine life disappears from warming seas.

Coral reefs fade and fisheries collapse.

We have all been guilty.

The seas rise and swallow coasts.

Storms grow stronger.

Floods destroy homes.

Drought cracks the Earth and children thirst.

We have all been guilty.

We confess that we have not guarded your waters.

We have consumed water without restraint.

We have polluted what you called good.

We have forgotten that the river of life flows from your throne.

Forgive us, O God.

"Before the Waters Nourished Earth" ACS 1049 v 1-3



1 Be - fore the wa - ters nour - ished earth or night im -
 2 This Love re - mained as time re - vealed the loss of
 3 De - spair, so deep it bears no name, or sor - rows



ag - ined morn - ing, a Love con - ceived the
 E - den's glo - ry and, griev - ing, holds in
 par - a - lyz - ing can - not re - voke Love's



u - ni - verse and rev - eled in its form - ing.
 mem - o - ry each trag - ic hu - man sto - ry.
 faith - ful claim to dwell with - in our dy - ing.

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 to all the dry places in 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. **Amen.**

"Before the Waters Nourished Earth" ACS 1049 v 4

**The Love that called creation good
 all goodness still is bringing.
 This Love turns death again to life
 and silence into singing.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

It is our delight to pray. O Blessed Trinity, we worship you, the Source and Savior and Strength of all the worlds. We praise you for your wondrous creation. Breathe your blessing on us and on all that you have made, and form us by your wisdom to be caregivers of your gift of this good earth. Glory to you, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and unto ages of ages. **Amen.**

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

FIRST READING: Ezekiel 47:9-12

Our first reading, the Season of Creation Theme text from Ezekiel, is a powerful biblical vision of hope and ecological healing. Amidst exile and loss, the image of living water flowing from God's sanctuary reveals divine healing that renews the earth, water, biodiversity and human responsibility towards all creation.

A reading from Ezekiel.

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.

May the Word, as living water,
renew our lives and our world.

RESPONSIVE PSALM 65: 5-13

God our Savior, you answer us
with awesome and righteous deeds,
**the hope of all the ends of the Earth
and of the farthest seas,**

who formed the mountains by your power,
having armed yourself with strength,

who stilled the roaring of the seas,
**the roaring of their waves,
and the turmoil of the nations.**

The whole Earth is filled
with awe at your wonders;
**where morning dawns, where evening fades,
you call forth songs of joy.**

You care for the land and water it;
you enrich it abundantly.

The streams of God are filled with water
**to provide the people with grain,
for so you have ordained it.**

You drench its furrows and level its ridges;
you soften it with showers and bless its crops.

You crown the year with your bounty,
and your carts overflow with abundance.

The grasslands of the wilderness overflow;
the hills are clothed with gladness.

The meadows are covered with flocks
and the valleys are mantled with grain;
they shout for joy and sing.

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.**

SECOND READING: Revelation 22:1-7

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 forever and ever. 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." "See, I am coming soon! Blessed is the one who keeps the words of the prophecy of this book."

May the Word, as living water,
renew our lives and our world.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION "Alleluia, Alleluia" ELW 175

Al-le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Today's gospel and sermon have been prepared and shared by Rev. Aneeta Devi Saroop
Assistant to the Bishop, DEI, British Columbia Synod.

GOSPEL: Matthew 18:15-20

The holy gospel according to Matthew.
Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said to the disciples:] "If your brother or sister sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If you are listened to, you have regained that one. But if you are not listened to, take one or two others along with you, so that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses. If that person refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church, and if the offender refuses to listen even to the church, let such a one be to you as a gentile and a tax collector. Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them."

The gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON [VIDEO](#)

HYMN OF THE DAY "Light Dawns on a Weary World" ELW 726 v 1&2



1 Light dawns on a wea - ry world when eyes be - gin to
2 Love grows in a wea - ry world when hun - gry hearts find



see all peo - ple's dig - ni - ty. Light dawns on a
bread and chil - dren's dreams are fed. Love grows in a



wea - ry world: the prom - ised day of jus - tice comes.
wea - ry world: the prom - ised feast of plen - ty comes.



The trees shall clap their hands; the dry lands, gush with springs;



the hills and moun - tains shall break forth with sing - ing!



We shall go out in joy, and be led forth in peace,



as all the world in won - der ech - oes sha - lom.

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

(Season of Creation 2026, adapted from Lutheran Theological College, South India)

**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.
And we believe in Jesus Christ, the seed of life,
who came to reconcile and renew this world
and everything in 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.**

SHARING THE PEACE

**The peace of the Lord be with you always.
And also with you,**

OFFERTORY PRAYER

**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 Savior Jesus Christ.
(All Creation Sings, Augsburg Fortress, 2026)**

Update on CLWR Friends of Creation from Bp Larry (on video)

Last year in this season we gathered with people across Canada and throughout the world in support of CLWR Friends of Creation, and we've continued that support throughout the year. Let's watch an update on this from our National Bishop Larry Kochendorfer.

INTERCESSORY PRAYERS

God of living waters, today we pray for a wounded world where waters are exploited, polluted, and withheld, and for your people everywhere.

We pray for places where toxins, coal tailings, and oil spills blacken creeks and wetlands, and where resource extraction damages watersheds. We pray for communities whose waters are contaminated from polluted streams. Heal what has been poisoned. Bring justice where profit has silenced truth.

Where water flows, Lord, let everything live, trees for food and leaves for healing.

We pray for all rivers dammed without the consent of the vulnerable; for farmers whose soil dries without seasonal floods; for indigenous peoples whose sacred waters are engineered for distant cities and data centers; for the suffering of communities whose livelihoods are stolen and whose health is sacrificed; for children walking miles to collect water and people burdened by scarcity. We pray too for those whose lives are closely intertwined with water who can teach us wise ways to live with water.

Free what has been unjustly controlled. Let rivers flow again with dignity and life.

Where water flows, Lord, let everything live, trees for food and leaves for healing.

Convert our hearts, O God. 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. 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. Where we have been silent and tolerant of injustice make us courageous protectors of rivers and seas, and companions to those who suffer water injustice until justice and mercy flows like the river of life.

Where water flows, Lord, let everything live, trees for food and leaves for healing.

We give thanks Lord that you offer to us living water through your Son Jesus Christ. As we seek to be your people, remind us to be good stewards of all you have entrusted to us. We pray for all those who are sick and in need of the assurance that you are with them. Especially we lift up Don and Carol, Arne, Kate, Janet D, Dave, Austin, Tiffany, Patrick, Linda H, Carol, Murray, Jill, Shirley J., Mo, Jim N., Clayton P, Marlene and Darcy, Doreen, Clayton and Margaret, Sheila, Ray, Nancy, Alan T, Cherylee, Elda, and those we name silently now . . . [silence].

Where water flows, Lord, let everything live, trees for food and leaves for healing.

We give thanks for this community of faith. We ask for your blessing on those who care for our property. Hold in your care Kate Black and Thelma Brown, as well as Pastor Joel, Vanessa and Hans. Show us your way Lord and help us to keep our eyes and hearts on you.

Where water flows, Lord, let everything live, trees for food and leaves for healing.

Many are grieving today, O God. Be with Ruby and family as they grieve the passing of Ruby's sister. Watch over Thelma and her family as they mourn the passing of Thelma's brother. With them we claim your promise that nothing can separate us for your love, O God, not even death, and the living water you give is for now and eternity.

Where water flows, Lord, let everything live, trees for food and leaves for healing.

Into your hands, O God, our maker and keeper, we commend ourselves and your whole creation, trusting in your mercy, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those
who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen.**

BLESSING AND SENDING

As we close our worship, we return to our theme of Living Water with these words from John 7:37-39.

On the last day of the festival, the great day, while Jesus was standing there, he cried out, 'Let anyone who is thirsty come to me, and let the one who believes in me drink. As the scripture has said, 'Out of the believer's heart shall flow rivers of living water.' " Now he said this about the Spirit, which believers in him were to receive."

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.**

"Let Streams of Living Justice" ELW 710 v 1&2

1 Let streams of liv - ing jus - tice flow down up - on the earth;
2 For heal - ing of the na - tions, for peace that will not end,

give free-dom's light to cap - tives, let all the poor have worth.
for love that makes us lov - ers, God grant us grace to mend.

The hun - gry's hands are plead - ing, the work - ers claim their rights,
Weave our var - ied gifts to - geth - er; knit our lives as they are spun;

the mourn-ers long for laugh - ter, the blind - ed seek for sight.
on your loom of time en - roll us till our thread of life is run.

Make lib - er - ty a bea - con, strike down the i - ron pow'r;
O great weav - er of our fab - ric, bind church and world in one;

a - bol - ish an - cient ven - geance: pro - claim your peo - ple's hour.
dye our tex - ture with your ra - diance, light our col - ors with your sun.

SENDING

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!
Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!

COPYRIGHT PERMISSION

1. **“O Living Breath of God”** Text: Osvaldo catena, 1920-1986; tr. Gerhard M. Cartford, b. 1923; Music: Swedish folk tune. Spanish text©1979 Editorial Bonum; tr.©1998 Augsburg Fortress. Reproduced under OneLicense.net #A-712444.
2. **“Before the Waters Nourished Earth”** Text: Jeannette M. Lindholm, b. 1961. Text © 1996 Jeannette M. Lindholm, admin. Augsburg Fortress. Reproduced under OneLicense.net #A-712444.
3. **“Gospel Acclamation”** © 1984, Les Presses de Taizé, GIA Publications, Inc., agent. Contributors: Jacques Berthier, Taizé Community. Reproduced under OneLicense.net #A-712444.
4. **“Light Dawns on a Weary World”** Text: Mary Louise Bringle, b. 1953; Music: Temple of Peace, William P. Rowan, b. 1951. Text©2002 GIA Publications, Inc. Music©2000 William P. Rowan, admin. GIA Publications, Inc. Reproduced under OneLicense.net #A-712444.
5. **“Let Streams of living Justice”** Worship Book #710 Text: William Whitla, b. 1934; Music: Gustav Holst, 1874-1934. Text © 1989 William Whitla. Reproduced under OneLicense.net #A-712444.
6. **Liturgy** adapted from The Season of Creation resources for 2026

**Permission to podcast / stream the music in this service obtained from
ONE LICENSE, License #A-712444, and CCLI Licence #547407. All rights reserved.**