

Where Two Or Three are Gathered  
Worship for Small Assemblies  
Season of Creation Resources for September 6<sup>th</sup>, October 4<sup>th</sup>, 2026  
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The **Season of Creation** is an annual, month-long global ecumenical celebration where Christians around the world pray and act to protect the environment and "our common home". The Church dedicates this time to reflect on our relationship with the natural world, give thanks for the Earth, and advocate for ecological justice.

The observance originated in 1989 when the Ecumenical Patriarchate of the Eastern Orthodox Church proclaimed September 1 as a day of prayer for creation. Over the decades, it expanded into a month-long season and was officially adopted by the Roman Catholic Church in 2015, supported by Pope Francis. Today, it is embraced by a wide variety of Christian traditions, including Anglican, Reformed, Lutheran, and Evangelical communities.

The 2026 theme is *Living Water*, which is drawn from Ezekiel 47: 1- 12, which portrays God's life-giving water flowing from the temple of God (<https://seasonofcreation.org/>). The following resources cover the Sundays between September 6<sup>th</sup> and October 4<sup>th</sup>.

\*Service of Holy Communion is used when there is an ordained pastor or authorized lay minister present to preside. Service of the Word is used at all other times.

\*If you do not have a preacher, you could receive a sermon which has been prepared by a rotating roster of pastors from across the church. Sign up for this free service at [sermonsbyemail@gmail.com](mailto:sermonsbyemail@gmail.com)

**Colour of the Season:** Green (an alternate (non-liturgical) colour, to acknowledge the theme Living Waters, would be to have flowing blue fabrics, depicting flowing waters)

**September 6** – Since this is a Season recognized ecumenically, consider joint worship services with your ecumenical partners

Readings: Ezekiel 47:9-12, Psalm 65: 5-13, Revelation 22:1-7, John 7:37-39

If ecumenical worship is not an option, the first Sunday in the Season of Creation is *Forest Sunday*: Genesis 2:4b-22, Psalm 139:13-16, Acts 17:22-28, John 3:1-16

Prayer of the Day: Creator God, As Nicodemus came to Jesus seeking understanding, we come with open hearts, longing to know you more deeply. Help us to cherish the forests and all creation as signs of your love. Root us deeply in your grace, that we may care for the earth and one another with compassion and hope. Remind us that you so loved the world that you came not to condemn, but to bring life in abundance. Through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Hymn Suggestions:

ELW 807 – Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing  
ELW 645 = Christ is Made the Sure Foundation  
ELW 834 – Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise  
ELW 323 – God Loved the World  
ELW 732 – Morning Cry  
ELW 322 – O Love, How Deep  
ACS 1036 – Commonwealth is God’s Commandment  
ACS 1042 – May this Church be like a Tree

**September 13 – Land Sunday**

Genesis 3:14-19; 4:8-16, Psalm 139:7-12, Romans 5:12-17, Matthew 12:38-40

Prayer of the Day: Faithful God, You formed us from the dust of the earth and entrusted this land to our care. As Jesus reminded those seeking signs that your presence is revealed not through spectacle but through faithfulness, teach us to recognize your holy work in the soil beneath our feet, in the rhythms of creation, and in the quiet ways your kingdom takes root among us. As Christ entered the depths of the earth and rose to new life, renew us in hope and lead us to become signs of your restoring love in the world. Through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Hymn Suggestions:

ELW 342 – There in God’s Garden  
ELW 806 – O God, My Faithful God  
ELW 434 – Jesus Shall Reign  
ACS 1100 – O Beauty Ever Ancient  
ACS 1063 – God of the Fertile Fields  
ACS 1064 – Earth is Full of Wit and Wisdom

**September 20 – Wilderness Sunday**

Joel 1:8-10, 17-20, Psalm 18:6-19, Romans 8:18-27, Matthew 3:13 – 4:2 or Mark 1:9-13

Prayer of the Day: Holy God, In the waters of baptism, you claim us as your beloved, and by your Spirit, you lead us into the wilderness where faith is tested, trust is deepened, and new life begins. As Jesus found your presence in the wild places, help us to encounter you in the beauty and mystery of creation. Grant us the wisdom to protect these places, the humility to learn from them, and the courage to care for the earth as faithful stewards of your gifts. Renew us by your Spirit, that we may leave this place strengthened to follow Christ with hope, compassion, and love. Through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Hymn Suggestions:

ELW 305 – When Jesus Came to Jordan  
ELW 800 – Spirit of God, Descend upon my Heart  
ELW 773 – Precious Lord, Take my Hand  
ELW 613 – Thy Holy Wings  
ACS 1054 – God Weeps with Us who Weep and Mourn  
ACS 1078 – There is a Longing in Our Hearts

**September 27 – River Sunday**

*Genesis 8:20-22; 9:12-17, Psalm 104:27-33, Revelation 22:1-5, Matthew 28:1-10*

Prayer of Day: Life-giving God, Open our eyes to recognize your presence in the beauty of creation and in the promise of every new beginning. Teach us to cherish the rivers, streams, and waters that sustain all living things, and inspire us to protect them with gratitude and care. Send us, like the women who ran from the empty tomb with joy and courage, to proclaim the good news that your love is stronger than death and your new life is already flowing through the world. Through Jesus Christ, our risen Savior and Lord. Amen.

Hymn Suggestions:

ELW 423 – Shall We Gather at the River  
ELW 785 - When Peace Like a River  
ELW 445 – Wash, O God, Our Sons and Daughters  
ELW 447 – O Blessed Spring  
ELW 455 – Crashing Waters at Creation  
ACS 1046 – As Rivers flow from a Distant Spring  
ACS 1065 – Can You Feel the Seasons Turning

**October 4 – Feast of St. Francis of Assisi**

*Genesis 1:24-31, Psalm 16:1b-2a+5, 7-8, 11, Galatians 6:14-18, Matthew 11:25-30*

Prayer of the Day:

Hymn Suggestions:

ELW 835 – All Creatures, worship God most high  
ELW 740 – God of the Sparrow  
ELW 332 – I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say  
ELW 765 – Lord of All Hopefulness  
ACS 1017 – Come to Me, O weary Traveler  
ACS 1091 – Hallelujah! Sing Praise to Your Creator  
ACS 979 – Making Their Way

**Eucharistic Prayer for the Season** (from previous Season of Creation Resources)

It is right and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Divine Creator of heaven and earth.

You spoke the Word, and the universe leapt into being. You fashioned the vast expanse of the cosmos, the intricate rhythms of the seasons, and every living creature in the skies, earth, and seas. You entrusted this world to us as a garden for flourishing, yet we have too often strayed from your path, exploiting your gifts and ignoring the cries of the Earth and the poor.

Yet, your love remains steadfast. You sent your beloved, Jesus Christ, to reconcile all things to yourself. Through His life, death, and resurrection, our relationship was restored with you and with the whole of creation.

And so, we join with the company of heaven, the seas, the forests, and all inhabitants of the universe, to sing the hymn of your unending praise:

**All:** 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.

**Presider:** Holy and gracious God, pour out your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these gifts of bread and wine, that they may become for us the Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ.

On the night before he died, he took bread, gave thanks, broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: *“Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.”*

After supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying: *“Drink this, all of you; this is my Blood of the new covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.”* (Alternate phrasing - *Drink this, all of you; this cup is the new covenant, poured out for you and for all people. In this meal, God gathers us in love, offers us forgiveness and new life, and nourishes us to be Christ's body in the world. Whenever you drink it, do this in remembrance of me.*)

**Presider:** Remembering, therefore, his saving work for all creation, we offer to you this bread and this cup. Send your Spirit upon this assembly, that as we partake in these sacred mysteries, we may be transformed into a people who walk gently on the earth.

Give us the grace to recognize our proper place as part of—not apart from—your creation, and strengthen us to safeguard the integrity of your Earth.

Through Christ, with Christ, and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honor and glory are yours, Almighty One, now and forever.

**All:** Amen.

**Affirmation of Faith for the Season(Alternatively, the Nicene Creed can be used)**

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.

(Lutheran Theological College, South India, adapted)

**Confession and Forgiveness** *(Anglican Church of South Africa Environmental Network)*

Confession

L: Creator of the earth and all living things, maker of the sky and the air and the breath of life, God of all that is: we are your servant people, created out of the clay of the earth itself. We forget that we are your creatures and we play at being gods. We neglect the work of guardianship that you have provided for our occupation and our joy. We have used, abused, and abandoned those things that you have created for your delight. You have created a fragile world in a perfect and delicate balance. Thinking too much of our own importance we have upset the balance. We ask your forgiveness, Holy and Righteous God. We yearn to join with the mountains and valleys, the great creatures and the birds of the wild ocean waters in singing your praises. Amen

Declaration of Hope

L: "Stand at the crossroads, and look, and ask for the ancient paths, where the good way lies; and walk in it, and find rest for your souls." (Jeremiah 6:16)

**A: We are standing at a crossroads. Together let us seek the good way, treasure the traditional pathways and find rest for all of God's creation.**

**Thanksgiving for Baptism** (from Hope Lutheran Church, River Falls, Wisconsin)

L: Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism, we are raised with him to new life. Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism!

We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning you created us in your image and planted us in a well-watered garden. In the desert you promised pools of water for the parched, and you gave us 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 watered us from Jesus' wounded side, and on this day, you shower us again with the water of life. We praise you for your salvation through water, for the water in this font, and for all water everywhere (especially *name your local water source*). Bathe us in your forgiveness, grace, and love. Satisfy the thirsty, and give us the life only you can give. To you be given honor and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever. Amen.