

Season of Re-Creation 1: Sacred Waters

September 12, 2021

WELCOME TO WORSHIP! Welcome to all who are joining us in-person and online. It is our prayer that this will be a time of worship and renewal for you, when you will encounter the living God revealed in Jesus Christ.

In the spirit of respect, reciprocity and truth, we honour and acknowledge that as we gather in-person and online, we are a people who live and work and pray on traditional and ancestral land of the Blackfoot people of the Canadian Plains. We give recognition to the Blackfoot people past, present, and future, and to the Metis Nation of Alberta, Region III.

COMMUNITY LIFE

INTRODUCTION

In Genesis we read that God sets a dome over the Earth. The word “dome” is where we get words such as ‘domicile’ and ‘domestic’ — in other words, God puts us all— all people, all life—under the same domed roof. We are all in the house, the oikos of God. And because we are, all life, all creation is sacred, created and set apart for God’s purpose of life for all.

In this Season of Re-Creation, as the world slowly emerges from the isolation of the pandemic; and as we emerge too—we are reminded that we, too, are God’s creation, living within and among the integral web of relationships that sustain the wellbeing of the Earth. And we look to God to create anew and again; to establish within us new connections with the earth; with each other in this place; and with our neighbours; as together we dwell with and within the sacred spaces of God.

So today, we give thanks for the Sacredness of Water—the Sacred Waters of Creation; the Sacred Waters of Baptism—for God’s gift of life rising again and again from the Sacred Waters of grace.

INVOCATION (Hildegard of Bingen, 13th Century) *(Printed on screen)*

We gather in the name of God, Creator, +Redeemer, and Sustainer of the Earth and all its creatures!

Praise be to the Holy Trinity!

God is sound and life, Creator of the Universe, Source of all life, whom the angels sing; wondrous Light of all mysteries known or unknown to humankind, and life that lives in all.

Thanks be to God! Amen!

RE-GATHERING RITE AND REMEMBRANCE OF BAPTISM (taken from enfleshed.com; Care of Creation resources, Alberta Synod; Re-Gathering Rite, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America) (adapted)

PKC short intro. Today we join in a rite of re-gathering and remembrance of our Baptism. You are invited to join in the re-gathering rite and to speak the paragraphs in bold as they appear on the screen. For the Remembrance of Baptism that follows, our attention turns to the font, the Sacred Water in which God creates and creates anew.

Let us pray...

Holy One, Blessed Creator; you have gathered us together in your name. And we have come. We come after a long season of drought and isolation. And even in our joy, there is much this day that we lament.

We grieve before you O God the losses of this community:

Led by worship leader, spoken by the whole community

We have missed our weekly assembled worship, our sharing of bread and cup, our communal song, the greetings of peace;

We have missed the nurturing of community in coffee hours and quilting, in breakfast clubs and card playing.

We have missed the hugs, the support and the tears, when loved ones have died. We have missed the gathering together for funerals and lunches when stories are shared, and hearts openly grieve.

We mourn members, friends, and family who have died during COVID-19. We lament the tragedies our world has experienced in millions of sick, in countless dead, in thousands unemployed, in racial injustice and political discord, in the drought of the fields and of all creation.

O God, we lament our losses, for they are many. In the Sacred waters of your healing grace restore us O God.

PKC moves to the font with music stand. Water is poured.

Worship leader continues to lead from the podium and will read the bold. No words on screen

Holy One, Blessed Creator, there is much in this day that reminds us of water.
We are born, emerging through the waters of the womb... We are baptized, with water and the Spirit claiming us as Your own family....

The waters refresh us. The rains sustain our fields. The rivers drain the mountains above and fill the oceans beneath. In their journeys through the foothills and plains the rivers and streams irrigate our crops and provide homes for birds and fish, amphibians and reeds, cattails and algae.

The marshlands are the filters that cleanse our waters and make them fresh. The trees are the lungs of mother Earth; the wetlands, her kidneys. The lakes have sustained our ancestors with fish and seafood. The oceans have stirred the winds and replenished the rains.

Water is splashed

Baptized into the dreams of God,
we wade into the Sacred water that nourishes the face of the earth;
Sacred water that gives life and brings life to creature and creaturely,
Sacred water that rises in springs of joy in the desert;
Sacred water that creates life flowing in grace for all creation.

Water is splashed

In these waters God yet creates in the midst of chaos
Togetherness. Mourners consoled. Health restored.
Love.
Sorrow and joy.
Mess and complexity intertwining.

Water is splashed

In these waters there is abundance:
Sharing at Table. Welcome and Inclusion.
Pursuing justice. Resisting forces of evil - within and around.
A practicing hopeful imagination and dream of community.
Struggle and hope. Drought and plenty.

Water is splashed

The waters are all-consuming,
no part of our lives goes untouched by God,
No one; no where unwashed by waves of crashing grace.

All creation lives in intimacy, interdependence and intended harmony.
In all things, our lives bound together with all of creation
by the One who claims us each beloved, each belonging.
And it is good. Sacred. Holy. Emerging.

Water is splashed

Holy One, Blessed Creator, we give you thanks this day for Water. For this, our re-gathering for baptismal life together. For this, your re-creating life for the whole of the world.

In the name of the Creator,
and the name of the +Spoken and Speaking One,
and of the One who is Breath. **Amen.**

PKC to move music stand back against the wall after completion of Remembrance of Baptism

GATHERING HYMN "O Living Breath of God" ELW #407



- 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.

PRAYER OF THE DAY (p. 81 ELW adapted)

Sovereign of the universe,

Your first covenant of mercy was with every living creature; when your beloved Son came among us, the waters of the river welcomed him, the heavens opened to greet his arrival, the animals of the wilderness drew near as his companions.

With all the world's people, may we who are washed into new life through baptism seek the way of your new creation, through Jesus Christ, our Saviour and Lord. Amen.

FIRST READING Isaiah 35:4-7a

Say to those who are of a fearful heart,

“Be strong, do not fear!

Here is your God.

He will come with vengeance,
with terrible recompense.

He will come and save you.”

Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,

and the ears of the deaf unstopped;

then the lame shall leap like a deer,

and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy.

For waters shall break forth in the wilderness,

and streams in the desert;

the burning sand shall become a pool,

and the thirsty ground springs of water.

This is what God is saying to us today.

Thanks be to God.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE (Psalm 98 as follows)

Psalm 98: 4-9 (Children are given shakers. Leader has a tambourine. Whoever is leading the children's message could give a bit of an intro to the Psalm, teach the kids the phrase of the refrain, and no worries if they don't get it, because they will be so engrossed in shaking the shakers anyway... Leader reads the refrain and the verses. Children and Leader shake tambourine and shakers vigorously throughout the refrain)

Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth; (shaking tambourine)
break forth into joyous song and sing praises. (shaking tambourine)

Sing praises to the LORD with the lyre,
with the lyre and the sound of melody.
With trumpets and the sound of the horn
make a joyful noise before the King, the LORD.
Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth; (shaking tambourine)
break forth into joyous song and sing praises. (shaking tambourine)

Let the sea roar, and all that fills it;
the world and those who live in it.
Let the floods clap their hands;
Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth; (shaking tambourine)
break forth into joyous song and sing praises. (shaking tambourine)

Let the hills sing together for joy
at the presence of the LORD, for he is coming
to judge the earth.
The LORD will judge the world with righteousness,
and the peoples with equity.
Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth; (shaking tambourine)
break forth into joyous song and sing praises. (shaking tambourine)

GOSPEL HYMN "When the Poor Ones" (vs. 1) ELW #725 (duet)

1 *Cuan-do el po - bre na - da tie - ne y aún re - par - te,*
1 When the poor ones, who have noth - ing, still are giv - ing;

cuan - do al - guien pa - sa sed ya - gua nos da,
when the thirst - y pass the cup, wa - ter to share;

cuan-do el dé - bil a su her - ma - no for - ta - le - ce:
when the wound - ed of - fer oth - ers strength and heal - ing;

Refrain / Estribillo

Va Dios mis - mo en nues - tro mis - mo ca - mi - nar;
We see God, here by our side, walk - ing our way;

va Dios mis - mo en nues - tro mis - mo ca - mi - nar.
we see God, here by our side, walk - ing our way.

GOSPEL Matthew 10:40-42

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew the 10th Chapter
Glory to you O Lord.

Whoever welcomes you welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me. Whoever welcomes a prophet in the name of a prophet will receive a prophet's reward; and whoever welcomes a righteous person in the name of a righteous person will receive the reward of the righteous; and whoever gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones in the name of a disciple — truly I tell you, none of these will lose their reward."

The Gospel of the Lord
Praise to you O Christ.

SERMON

**HYMN OF THE DAY "Crashing Waters at Creation" (vs 1,3,4) ELW #455
(Alternate Tune "For the Bread Which You Have Broken" ELW #494)**

Crashing waters at creation,
ordered by the Spirit's breath,
first to witness day's beginning
from the brightness of night's death:

Cleansing water once at Jordan
closed around the one foretold,
opened to reveal the glory
ever new and ever old.

Living water, never ending,
quench the thirst and flood the soul.
Wellspring, source of life eternal,
drench our dryness, make us whole.

APOSTLES' CREED *(Printed on screen)*

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
Suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION (SOC,adapted) (Inspired by the Haudenosaunee Thanksgiving Prayer and passed through, among others, Archbishop Mark MacDonald, National Indigenous Anglican Archbishop)

(Printed on screen): Loving God, **We give you thanks**

Whenever we join together, it is right to give our thanks and praise. Let us join our hearts and minds together and think of all creation and the Creator's gifts. As I pray, Loving God, your response printed on the screen is "**We give you thanks**"

O God who is Creator and creating; We give our thanks for the Earth, upon whom we walk and who supports us and nurtures life in all its forms. We think of the minerals, the fungi, and bacteria that give life to soil, bodies and systems. We pray we can learn to walk on Earth with more respect. Loving God, **We give you thanks.**

We give our thanks for the sacred waters of the world, the great oceans, aquifers, lakes, rivers and streams, the life that lives in the waters and those that give itself to be our food. We praise you for the waters of baptism, for your gift of life awash with grace to restore and redeem all people and all creation. Loving God, **We give you thanks.**

We give you thanks for the plant life of this your created world. That which is below ground; the roots and vegetables, potatoes and beets. That which puts just its head above the ground: the grasses, medicines, plants and bushes and cacti. All of the many kinds of good fruit You, O Creator have given us. And finally, the great trees of the forest that we know of as the "Standing Ones." Loving God, **We give you thanks.**

We give you thanks for all our kindred animals—the mule deer, the rattlesnake, and the magpie—those that crawl, walk, swim and fly. The feathered and scaled and furred and leathered of your good Creation. We give thanks for those that provide food for us, those that sustain cycles in their work and living, those that provide companionship and beauty. Loving God, **We give you thanks.**

We give you thanks for the whole human family whose livelihood and well-being depends on the well-being of the Earth. We lift up the Blackfoot and the Metis and all peoples who walk these lands. Loving God, **We give you thanks.**

We give you thanks for this community of faith and that we are finally able to worship in person. We ask your blessing on our congregation and this week we pray especially for our Good Shepherd Lutheran Women. We pray also for Bill & Jean Peifer and James, Mackenzie, Anderson & Oliver Penner. Loving God, **We give you thanks.**

We lift up the men, women and children who are displaced from their homes due to unrest, fire, storms and hurricanes. Give them courage and strength as they try to put their lives back together. We pray also for war-torn countries like Afghanistan, Israel and Palestine. May their problems and differences be resolved without further bloodshed. We pray for all who are impacted by loss and suffering as a result of the Covid pandemic and pray that we may soon be free of its crippling effects.

Healer of our many ills, we pray for the sick, the grieving, and the weary. Especially today we pray for Myrtle, Sharla, Debi, Marion, Arne, Janine, Eva, Olai, Dave and Trudy, Olivia, Sarah, Lyle & Marlene, Syd, Corrie, Pastor Dick & Jan, Patrick, Klaus, Shirley, Eowen, Doug & Lorraine, Grace, Lilian, Margaret, Clayton, Mary, Brad, Clayton, Rosemary, Shellene, Janice, Sheila, Judy & Ron, and Miriam.

For your healing of these members and friends among us and for your healing of nations and all of creation, Loving God, **We give you thanks.**

Loving God, you are our life and our salvation. You are a Lover of all you have created. And we are safe in that love. In Christ our Lord, **Amen.**

SHARING THE PEACE (adapted from Celebrating Creation: Honoring Indigenous People, Kelly Sherman-Conroy, ELCA)

If we are in Christ, we are becoming a new creation. One Home, One Body.

(PKC to introduce sharing of the peace sign—hands over heart extended outward to others as we speak the words...)

The peace of our Creator be with you in all things. **And also with you.**

WE SHARE THE MEAL

For those joining online, at this time our service continues with Holy Communion, as we prepare our hearts and minds and tables for the communion meal. If you have not already done so, take a moment gather the elements you will share during the meal, remembering that Christ promises to come to us in the everyday things: bread or a cracker, wine or grape juice or water, and whatever dishes you have in your cupboard. For those joining in-person, the ushers will direct you from your seats to either of the two communion stations on either side of the sanctuary. We ask that you please remain masked until you receive the elements. We take a moment to set the table.

(Pianist to play instrumental during setting of the table.)

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING (Printed on screen)

The Lord, Creator be with you and all creation.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to our Creator.

Let us give thanks to the Maker of heaven and earth.

It is right to join creation in giving thanks and praise.

It is right to give you thanks, loving Creator. Your word is the impulse for all things to be, for space, stars and stardust to appear, for Earth to emerge from the deep, for life to be born of Earth, and for humans to be born of Earth and the Spirit.

Your presence is the living impulse in all things, the Christ deep among us, filling Earth—land, sea, and air; filling every element and place; filling the grain and the grape we share with you this day.

Therefore with angels and archangels, saints and sinners, ancient voices in the forest, high voices from the sky, deep voices from the sea, and the whole company of creation, we proclaim your presence among us.

(Printed on screen)

**Holy, holy, holy, God of all life,
earth and sea and sky are full of your presence
and glorify your name. Amen.**

(Bold portions spoken by worship leader)

Blessed are you, O God of the universe.
Your mercy is everlasting
and your faithfulness endures from age to age.

**Praise to you for creating the heavens and the earth: for the rain that gives life to the wheat
and to the vine; for the sun that helps the wheat and the vine to grow**

Praise to you for saving the earth from the waters of the flood.

Praise to you for bringing the Israelites safely through the sea; for leading your people through the wilderness to the land of milk and honey.

**Praise to you for your care of all creation, for Jesus your Son, born a human being, to become
a part of Earth; who suffered and died and rose again to restore the wounded and broken and
who renews creation.**

Praise to you for your Spirit poured out on all nations, stirring new life born of water and grace.

In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

O God of resurrection and new life:
Pour out your Holy Spirit on us and on these gifts of bread and wine.
Raise us up as the body of Christ for the whole of the cosmos.

Breathe new life into all creation; and with earth and all its creatures, with sun, moon, stars and sea; make us agents of your healing life for all the world;
Through Jesus Christ, your Son our Lord; who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit; now and forever. **Amen**

LORD'S PRAYER

We pray our common prayer that Christ 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.**

I invite the ushers and communion assistants to come forward. Those participating at home are invited to partake of the meal at this time.

For those joining in the meal online, you are invited now to

“Take and eat, the body of Christ given for you.”

“Take and drink, the blood of Christ shed for you.”

I invite the ushers and communion assistants to come forward.

(Communion Assistants are masked and come forward to receive the elements and move to their stations. Ushers are masked and take their places to direct congregation forward.)

Videos play online and in sanctuary during the distribution.

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

We thank you, Christ, for the meal we have celebrated with you, and we pray that through your body and blood we may be healed and become agents of healing for Earth. Amen.

SENDING HYMN "Go My Children With My Blessing," (vs. 1& 3) ELW #543



"Go, my chil - dren, with my bless - ing, nev - er a - lone.

"Go, my chil - dren, fed and nour - ished, clos - er to me.



Wak - ing, sleep - ing, I am with you, you are my own.

Grow in love and love by serv - ing, joy - ful and free.



In my love's bap - tis - mal riv - er I have made you mine for - ev - er.

Here my Spir - it's pow - er filled you, here my ten - der com - fort stilled you.



Go, my chil - dren, with my bless - ing, you are my own."

Go, my chil - dren, fed and nour - ished, joy - ful and free."

BLESSING *Earth as the Original Icon (from The Work of the People)*

SENDING (adapted) (SOC)

Go now. Learn from the beasts
and the flowers and trees.

Learn from the stars and from the sun and the moon.

Learn from the raindrops and the twisting currents of the river.

Go into all the earth.

You will see Christ there.

Go in peace, serving Christ; loving all creation!

Thanks be to God! We will!

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MUSIC & LITURGY

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4. **“Go, My Children, with My Blessing”** Text: Jaroslav J. Vajda, b. 1919, alt. Music: Welsh traditional; arr. Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1872-1958. Text © Concordia Publishing House Arr. © Oxford University Press. Reprinted under Onelicense.net #A-712444.

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