

ACK

Arbeitsgemeinschaft
Christlicher Kirchen
in Deutschland

Order of Service
for Ecumenical Day
of Prayer for the
Care of Creation 2021

*Let
rivers
of living
water
flow*

Ecumenical Morning Praise

Instrumental music

Liturgical welcome and opening

Minister The theme of water is at the centre of the Ecumenical Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation in 2021. Water is of great importance for life. Whether there is too much or too little, the effects for flora and fauna and for human life can be catastrophic. Water connects people, countries and continents, but in many places it also separates them from each other.

M "Let rivers of living water flow" stands as title over today's Ecumenical Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation. On the one hand, it reminds us of humans' natural need for this elixir of life, for fresh and living water, which is still available to us in sufficient quantities here in Europe: a gift from the Creator that is to be protected and preserved.

M "Let rivers of living water flow". This motto also reminds us of humans' spiritual thirst, of which the holy scriptures of the Bible also speak. It reminds us of the woman at Jacob's well who drew water from the depths – but whose deeper thirst for living water was also recognised and awakened by Jesus: the thirst for a deeper source of life and thus ultimately for the life-giving Spirit of God.

Hymn "*Lobet den Herren alle, die ihn ehren*" (*Praise and thanksgiving be to our Creator*)

(GL 81 / EG 447 / Eingestimmt 687 / EM 607 / F&L 460 / RG 570 / KG 674 / CG 305)

Praise of the Trinity

The singer (S) or the congregation (C) responds with the chorus "Dir sei Preis und Dank und Ehre" (GL 670.8 / Eingestimmt 731). The chorus may be sung or spoken.

M We are gathered in the name of the Father
who created the sun, moon and stars
and brought light into this world.
For that we thank him, our Lord.

S/C Response "Dir sei Preis und Dank und Ehre" (GL 670,8 / Eingestimmt 731)

M We are gathered together in the name of the Son,
who died for our sins
and brought light into our lives.
For that we thank him, our Lord.

S/C Response "Dir sei Preis und Dank und Ehre" (GL 670,8 / Eingestimmt 731)

M We are gathered together in the name of the Spirit,
who encompasses the whole world
and strengthens us to become a light to others.
For that we thank him, our Lord.

S/C Response " Dir sei Preis und Dank und Ehre" (GL 670,8 / Eingestimmt 731)

Opening prayer

M Praise be to you, O Lord our God. Yours is the day and yours is the night.
We give you thanks for the light, the first gift of your creation, and
beseech you:
do not let Christ, the sun of righteousness, go down in our hearts,
but let us emerge from this time,
which is overshadowed by fear, doubt and uncertainty,
into the light in which you dwell.
We ask this through him, Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord and God, who
lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit for ever and ever.

C Amen.

Hymn "Morgenlicht leuchtet" (Morning has broken)

(EG 455 / Eingestimmt 688 / RG 533 / CG 308); in modified versions:
"Tageserwachen" (EM 618), "Heut wurde Tag" (F&L 464)

Scripture Reading (Psalm 36:5-9; New Revised Standard Version)

M Your steadfast love, O Lord, extends to the heavens,
your faithfulness to the clouds.
Your righteousness is like the mighty mountains,
your judgements are like the great deep;
you save humans and animals alike, O Lord.

How precious is your steadfast love, O God!
All people may take refuge in the shadow of your wings.
They feast on the abundance of your house,
and you give them drink from the river of your delights.
For with you is the fountain of life;
in your light we see light.

Short silence

Closing prayer

M God,
you have water of life.
Give me this water to drink,
that the deserts within me may be made green.
Give me this water to drink,
so that all that is hardness within me be made soft,
so that love may grow,
hope never run out,
and faith never dry up.

God,
give me the water of life
and let it become an abundant source within me,
a spring that never runs dry.
And give me courage, God,
to pass on this water of life to others,
not to hold it back inside,
building dams and walls to contain it,
but to pour it out and share it with others.
God, give me the water of life.

Lord's Prayer

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.
Lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
now and for ever.
Amen.

Blessing

- M The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make his face to shine upon you,
and be gracious to you.
The Lord lift up his countenance upon you
and give you peace.
- C Amen.

Instrumental music

Orthodox blessing of water

The Orthodox Church placed the Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation at the beginning of the church year (1 September). The beginning of time also stands for the beginning of creation, and with the blessing of water the whole of creation is blessed.

M Blessed is our God always, both now and ever, and to the ages of ages.

C Amen.

Hymn of the Day of Creation

C O Lord, who holds the circle of the earth and establishes its foundations, as the Prophet says, accept our suppliant entreaties, as our guardian and protector and Saviour; for we are your people and the sheep of your pasture and by your infinite mercy we shall be delivered from expected dangers. Do not then utterly destroy us, Master, but may your goodness conquer the multitude of our offences, that we may glorify the ocean of your acts of pity.

The Litany of Peace

M In peace let us pray to the Lord.

C Lord have mercy. *(following each petition)*

M For the peace from above; for the salvation of our souls; let us pray to the Lord.

M For the peace of the whole world; for the stability of the holy Churches of God; and for the union of all; let us pray to the Lord.

M For our Most Reverend Archbishop and Metropolitan, for the honorable presbyterate, for the diaconate in Christ, and for all the clergy and the people, let us pray to the Lord.

M For this country, for all his leaders and for all in public service, for all faithful in our communities, let us pray to the Lord.

M For this city, for every city and land, for the faithful that dwell in them, let us pray to the Lord.

- M For seasonable weather; for abundance of the fruits of the earth, and for peaceful seasons; let us pray to the Lord.
- M For all them that travel by land or sea, or in the air; for the sick, and the afflicted; for captives, and for their salvation; let us pray to the Lord.
- M That there may be sent down upon this water the Grace of Redemption, the blessing of the Jordan; let us pray to the Lord.
- M That the Lord God hear the prayer of us sinners and have mercy on us; let us pray to the Lord.
- M That the Lord our God will show us forth as sons and daughters and heirs of His Kingdom; let us pray to the Lord.
- M Help us; save us; have mercy on us; and keep us, O God, by Your Grace.
- M Calling to remembrance our all-Holy, pure, exceedingly blessed glorious Lady Theotokos and Ever-Virgin Mary, with all the Saints, let us commend ourselves and one another and all our life to Christ our God.
- C To You, O Lord.
- M For to You do we send up all glory, honor, and worship: to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, both now and ever, and to the ages of ages. Amen.
- C Amen.

Blessing of the Water

- M Peace be to all. (+)
- C And to your spirit.
- M Let us bow our heads before the Lord.
- C To You, O Lord.
- M Bow down Your ear and listen to us, O Lord, Who deigned to be baptized in the river Jordan, and there sanctified the water. Bless us all who by the bowing of our heads do show forth our apprehension that we are Your servants. Grant that we may be filled with Your sanctification through the partaking of this water, and let it be for us, O Lord, for the health of soul and body.
- For You are the sanctification, and to You do we send up all glory: with Your Father, Who is without beginning, and Your all-holy and good and life-creating Spirit, now and forever and to the ages of ages. Amen.

Then the Priest, taking up the venerable Cross, blesses the Water thrice, singing the Hymn:

Hymn

Save, O Lord / Mântuește, Doamne / Rette, Herr, dein Volk / Soson Kyrie ton laon sou

Save, O Lord, Your people, and bless Your inheritance, giving victory to your faithful and protecting the Church by Your Cross.

Hymn with music: p. 9 in:

music.stanthonysmonastery.org/Menaion/Finale%202003%20-%20%5b5014%5d.pdf.

This hymn is repeated by the faithful.



Mân-tu-ieș-te, Doam-ne, po-po-rul Tău și bi-ne-cu-vin-tea-ză moș-



te - ni - rea Ta. Bi - ru - in - ță bi - ne - cre - din - cio - și - lor cre -



știni a-su-pra ce - lui po-triv-nic dă - ru - ieș - te. Și cu



Cru - cea Ta pă - ze - ște pre po - po - rul - Tău.

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Ret - te, Herr, dein Volk und seg - ne - dein Er - be, schen-ke Sie -

6
ge den from-men Chri - sten, und be-wah-re durch dein Kreuz dei - ne - Ge - mein - de.

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So - son Ky - ri - e ton la - on - sou, ke ev - lo - gi - son tin kli -

6
ro - no - mi - an sou, ni - kas tis va - si - lev - si ka - ta var - va -

11
ron do - rou - me - nos, ke to son fi - la - ton di - a tou Stav - rou sou -

16
po - li - - - - tev - - - - ma.

Copyright: Griechisch-Orthodoxe Kirchengemeinde Brühl

Blessing and dismissal

- M May the blessing of the Lord and His mercy come upon you by His divine grace and love for mankind, always, now and forever and to the ages of ages.
- C And with your spirit.

Source of the English text: www.goarch.org/chapel

Ecumenical midday prayer

Instrumental or choral music

Liturgical welcome and opening

Song "Lobe den Herren, den mächtigen König der Ehren" (Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation)

(GL 392 / EG 316 and 317 / Eingestimmt 551 / EM 82 and 83 / F&L 55 /
RG 242 / KG 524 / CG 836)

Awareness for the environment and thanks to the Creator

This element is intended for the midday prayer at the international celebration of the Ecumenical Day of Creation on the grounds of the Garden Show in Lindau. In other places it would be appropriate to gather outside the church for this part of the midday prayer or to hold the entire midday prayer in natural surroundings. One should adapt the texts to the local situation in every case.

Let us take a few moments to become aware of the beauty to be found at this place where we are standing to hold our midday prayer service. Here we are on the western part of the island of Lindau. Let us look around at all the splendour that opens up before us: the park with the green meadows and the tall trees, some of them very old. Let your gaze wander up to the treetops that stretch towards the blue summer sky. The midday sunlight flashes through the leafy canopy, while the shade under the trees invites us to linger. Let us look out at the lake, taking note of the various colours and the way the sunlight glitters on the waves.

How precious is water for us humans and for all living creatures on Earth. Two thirds of the Earth's surface is covered by water – 96% of this water is salt water. Only a very small part of the fresh water is really available to us humans. There are four billion people in the poorer regions of the world who have no access to clean drinking water, while water is regularly wasted in the industrialised countries and affluent societies. Water is the basis of all life. Whoever conserves water and uses this precious resource in a sustainable way helps to protect all life.

Let us marvel at the water of this lake, which forms the heart of this region. Let us also marvel at the magnificent landscape on the opposite shore, where we are attracted to the rolling hills and high mountains of Switzerland. This wonderful spot is astonishing. It is good that we can be here to praise and thank God!

Old Testament Reading

Genesis 2:7-10, 15-17 (New Revised Standard Version)

Then the Lord God formed man from the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and the man became a living being. And the Lord God planted a garden in Eden, in the east; and there he put the man whom he had formed. Out of the ground the Lord God made to grow every tree that is pleasant to the sight and good for food, the tree of life also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it. And the Lord God commanded the man, 'You may freely eat of every tree of the garden; but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall die.'

Hymn "*Laudate omnes gentes*

(GL 386 / EG 181.6 / Eingestimmt 595 / EM 468 / F&L 7 / RG 73 / KG 519 / CG 802)

We stand upright with our arms hanging down loosely:

I stand on the earth and feel how it is supporting me.
I let it bear me, my feet are firmly rooted upon it.
Water wells up from its depths, refreshing my body.
I take up a stance,
standing here between heaven and earth.
I can sense the dignity bestowed on me by God.
To you, God, be glory, praise and honour!

We stretch our arms towards the sky (the upper arms remain horizontal and loose, so that I can hold the position for a while):

I stand before God, who holds me and supports me.
I stand erect and directed towards the heaven that is promised to me.
I can put all my trust in God.
I am open for his gifts and ready to receive them.

To you, God, be glory, praise and honour!

We stretch our arms out to both sides:

I can feel that I am not alone.

I relate to my fellow human beings, and they relate to me.

Thus I can make contact, and others get in touch with me.

I can play a part in my environment, and I can be challenged by my environment.

I connect with the people around me and I thank them for their company on the way.

To you, God, be glory, praise and honour!

Place one hand on your chest, the other on the lower abdomen:

I feel myself. I am.

I breathe deeply, in and out.

I let go, and I take back again.

It is my time, my life.

I am a beloved child of God.

enriched abundantly by his creation,

which allows me to live, to enjoy, to care for it and share it.

To you, God, be glory, praise and honour!

Interview on the theme "Water, a gift of Creation"

Depending on the local situation, there is an opportunity at this point to conduct an interview with an expert on the subject of "Water, a gift of Creation". The focus should be laid upon the commandment to cultivate and preserve the earth (Gen 2:15) and on the way the gift of water should be used.

Hymn "Atme in uns, Heiliger Geist"

(GL 346 / EG.E 7 / Eingestimmt 449)

Thoughts on the theme

"Our place between the paradise of Eden and the New Jerusalem" (Rev 22:1- 5)

Depending on the local situation, there is an opportunity at this point to present thoughts on the Bible text Revelation 22:1-5, which is closely linked to the motto of the Ecumenical Day of Creation.

Closing prayer

God, creator of the world,

you have created the whole world. For this we praise you and glorify you.

You have made the heavens and the earth,
you have given life to people, animals and plants.

We thank you for giving us water,
that quenches the thirst of all living beings,
refreshing them and cleansing them.

We thank you for providing us with nature,
with forests, fields and gardens.
They offer us space and shade,
room for plants to grow.

We beseech you,
preserve for us the water and all that grows.
Teach us to preserve and honour the gifts of your creation.

Amen.

Lord's Prayer

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.
Lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
now and for ever.
Amen.

Blessing

Instrumental or choral music

Ecumenical worship service

Instrumental music

Opening and welcome

Psalm prayer

Psalm 95:1-7a (taken from the Church of England Common Worship)

The psalm is introduced by the minister and spoken or sung alternately by two groups of the congregation (I and II).

- M O come, let us sing to the Lord;
let us heartily rejoice in the rock of our salvation.
- I Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving
and be glad in him with psalms.
- II For the Lord is a great God
and a great king above all gods.
- I In his hand are the depths of the earth
and the heights of the mountains are his also.
- II The sea is his, for he made it,
and his hands have moulded the dry land.
- I Come, let us worship and bow down
and kneel before the Lord our Maker.
- II For he is our God; we are the people of his pasture.
- All Let us sing to the Lord;
let us heartily rejoice in the rock of our salvation!

Hymn "Singt Gott, unserm Herrn" (O sing to the Lord) / "Cantai ao Senhor um cântico novo"

(CG 792), in modified versions: "Auf, singet dem Herrn" (EM 21), "Singt Gott, unserm Herrn" (Eingestimmt 564), "Singt Gott, unserm Herrn" (CG 792), "Ich sing dir mein Lied" (EG.E 19 / EM 22)

Gospel reading

Jn 7:37-39a (New Revised Standard Version)

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.

Sermon

Instrumental music

Closing prayer

Nicene-Constantinopolitan Creed (ecumenical version)

We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven;
by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate
from the Virgin Mary
and was made man.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried;
on the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven.
He is seated at the right hand of the Father,
he will come again in glory
to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father;
who with the Father and the Son
is worshiped and glorified;
who has spoken through the Prophets.
We believe in the one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen

Intercessions *with symbolic action*

Each of the ministers or lectors reading the intercessions lights a floating candle and places it in a bowl of water. After each intercession the congregation responds with "Kyrie, Kyrie eleison!" (Jacques Berthier, Taizé 1978: GL 156 / EG 178.12 / Eingestimmt 66 / EM 452 / F&L 74 / RG 194 / KG 71 / CG 424)

- M Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, "Out of the believer's heart shall flow rivers of living water" (Jn 7:38). We seek to draw strength from this river of living water and pray:
If we believe in Jesus, living water shall flow out of us.
Grant us joy in the faith and open hearts, that we may pass on this living water and use it to the benefit of our fellow human beings. Let us be a well of living water for people in need of strength and encouragement.
- C Kyrie, Kyrie eleison!
- M Without water there can be no life. We pray for your creation, for the areas of drought and the regions where the desert is expanding. Let new life grow.
Give people the wisdom to use life-giving water for the good of creation. And give all people access to clean water.
- C Kyrie, Kyrie eleison!
- M Water quenches thirst. We pray for those people and nations who long for peace, quench their thirst for freedom and justice, nourish their hope, teach those in power that there is no future without peace
- C Kyrie, Kyrie eleison!
- M God, rivers of living water issue from you. We pray for all who are seeking to encounter you anew in their lives; that they may experience you as the living water and the source of life.
- C Kyrie, Kyrie eleison!
- M O God, you quench the thirst for life in this world; you are the source of life. Amen.

Lord's Prayer

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.
Lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
now and for ever.
Amen.

Hymn "Weit wie das Meer ist Gottes große Liebe" (Your love, O God, is broad like beach and meadow) (KG 596, RG 700, CG 881), in modified version: "Herr, deine Liebe ist wie Gras und Ufer" (EG Bayern / Thüringen 638).

Social Creed (EM 771)

Social Creed of the United Methodist Church

We believe in God, Creator of the world;
and in Jesus Christ, the Redeemer of creation.
We believe in the Holy Spirit, through whom we acknowledge God's gifts,
and we repent of our sin in misusing these gifts to idolatrous ends.

We affirm the natural world as God's handiwork
and dedicate ourselves to its preservation, enhancement, and faithful use by humankind.

We joyfully receive for ourselves and others the blessings of community, sexuality,
marriage, and the family.

We commit ourselves to the rights of men, women, children, youth, young adults, the
aging, and people with disabilities; to improvement of the quality of life; and to the rights
and dignity of all persons.

We believe in the right and duty of persons

to work for the glory of God and the good of themselves and others
and in the protection of their welfare in so doing;
in the rights to property as a trust from God,
collective bargaining, and responsible consumption;
and in the elimination of economic and social distress.

We dedicate ourselves to peace throughout the world,
to the rule of justice and law among nations,
and to individual freedom for all people of the world.

We believe in the present and final triumph of God's Word in human affairs
and gladly accept our commission to manifest the life of the gospel in the world.
Amen.

Blessing

after Georg Kugler

(CG 979.6; EG Württemberg p. 1147)

May the Lord bless you,
full of love like a mother and of goodness like a father.
May he bless you, let your hope blossom,
and keep you safe in your fear and distress.
May the Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you;
may the tenderness of his gaze overcome all your hardness.
The Lord lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace,
that the boundless heaven may open up to you and your children.
Amen.

Instrumental music