

Season of Creation 2026 “Living Water”

September 13th, 2026 - Service of the Word

Come Together Sunday – CLWR “Water” Sunday

1st Reading: 2 Kings 5:1-15

Naaman, commander of the army of the king of Aram, was a great man and in high favour with his master, because by him the Lord had given victory to Aram. The man, though a mighty warrior, suffered from leprosy.* ²Now the Arameans on one of their raids had taken a young girl captive from the land of Israel, and she served Naaman's wife. ³She said to her mistress, 'If only my lord were with the prophet who is in Samaria! He would cure him of his leprosy.*' ⁴So Naaman* went in and told his lord just what the girl from the land of Israel had said. ⁵And the king of Aram said, 'Go then, and I will send along a letter to the king of Israel.'

He went, taking with him ten talents of silver, six thousand shekels of gold, and ten sets of garments. ⁶He brought the letter to the king of Israel, which read, 'When this letter reaches you, know that I have sent to you my servant Naaman, that you may cure him of his leprosy.*' ⁷When the king of Israel read the letter, he tore his clothes and said, 'Am I God, to give death or life, that this man sends word to me to cure a man of his leprosy?' Just look and see how he is trying to pick a quarrel with me.'

⁸ But when Elisha the man of God heard that the king of Israel had torn his clothes, he sent a message to the king, 'Why have you torn your clothes? Let him come to me, that he may learn that there is a prophet in Israel.' ⁹So Naaman came with his horses and chariots, and halted at the entrance of Elisha's house. ¹⁰Elisha sent a messenger to him, saying, 'Go, wash in the Jordan seven times, and your flesh shall be restored and you shall be clean.' ¹¹But Naaman became angry and went away, saying, 'I thought that for me he would surely come out, and stand and call on the name of the Lord his God, and would wave his hand over the spot, and cure the leprosy!*' ¹²Are not Abana* and Pharpar, the rivers of Damascus, better than all the waters of Israel? Could I not wash in them, and be clean?' He turned and went away in a rage. ¹³But his servants approached and said to him, 'Father, if the prophet had commanded you to do something difficult, would you not have done it? How much more, when all he said to you was, "Wash, and be clean"?' ¹⁴So he went down and immersed himself seven times in the Jordan, according to the word of the man of God; his flesh was restored like the flesh of a young boy, and he was clean.

¹⁵ Then he returned to the man of God, he and all his company; he came and stood before him and said, 'Now I know that there is no God in all the earth except in Israel; please accept a present from your servant.'

Psalm 104:5-16

We will now read Psalm 104 responsively with the congregation reading the bolded text.

5 He set the earth on its foundations;
it can never be moved.

**6 You covered it with the watery depths as with a garment;
the waters stood above the mountains.**

7 But at your rebuke the waters fled,
at the sound of your thunder they took to flight;

**8 they flowed over the mountains,
they went down into the valleys,
to the place you assigned for them.**

9 You set a boundary they cannot cross;
never again will they cover the earth.

**10 He makes springs pour water into the ravines;
it flows between the mountains.**

11 They give water to all the beasts of the field;
the wild donkeys quench their thirst.

**12 The birds of the sky nest by the waters;
they sing among the branches.**

13 He waters the mountains from his upper chambers;
the land is satisfied by the fruit of his work.

**14 He makes grass grow for the cattle,
and plants for people to cultivate—
bringing forth food from the earth:**

15 wine that gladdens human hearts,
oil to make their faces shine,
and bread that sustains their hearts.

**16 The trees of the Lord are well watered,
the cedars of Lebanon that he planted.**

Second Reading: 2 Peter 3:1-7

3 Dear friends, this is now my second letter to you. I have written both of them as reminders to stimulate you to wholesome thinking. ²I want you to recall the words spoken in the past by the holy prophets and the command given by our Lord and Savior through your apostles.

³Above all, you must understand that in the last days scoffers will come, scoffing and following their own evil desires. ⁴They will say, “Where is this ‘coming’ he promised? Ever since our ancestors died, everything goes on as it has since the beginning of creation.” ⁵But they deliberately forget that long ago by God’s word the heavens came into being and the earth was formed out of water and by water. ⁶By these waters also the world

of that time was deluged and destroyed. ⁷By the same word the present heavens and earth are reserved for fire, being kept for the day of judgment and destruction of the ungodly.

Gospel Reading: JOHN 4: 7-15

⁷When a Samaritan woman came to draw water, Jesus said to her, “Will you give me a drink?”⁸(His disciples had gone into the town to buy food.)

⁹The Samaritan woman said to him, “You are a Jew and I am a Samaritan woman. How can you ask me for a drink?” (For Jews do not associate with Samaritans.^[a])

¹⁰Jesus answered her, “If you knew the gift of God and who it is that asks you for a drink, you would have asked him and he would have given you living water.”

¹¹“Sir,” the woman said, “you have nothing to draw with and the well is deep. Where can you get this living water? ¹²Are you greater than our father Jacob, who gave us the well and drank from it himself, as did also his sons and his livestock?”

¹³Jesus answered, “Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again, ¹⁴but whoever drinks the water I give them will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give them will become in them a spring of water welling up to eternal life.”

¹⁵The woman said to him, “Sir, give me this water so that I won’t get thirsty and have to keep coming here to draw water.”

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Prayers of the People

L: We join with Christians far and near to worship God the Creator, praying for the earth and for all in need, saying “Hear us, O God, source of life” and responding “Your mercy is great.”

A brief silence.

O God of mystery, mercy, and might, for the church we pray: that churches around the globe collaborate in care for the earth, and that all the baptized nurture a zeal for the wellbeing of creation. Hear us, O God, source of life **Your mercy is great.**

Move your church throughout the world away from judging and despising others. Lead us to embody the forgiveness you have given us in Jesus. Hear us, O God, source of life **Your mercy is great.**

Calm the fears of all in need with your promises. Compassionately free the lives of any who feel bound by their failures. Remember your children in need especially Jose, Ann, Joan, Terri, Martha, Tim, Roxie, Alfred, Terry, Eleanor, Abdulaziz, Meryem, Aysa, Hasan, Alma, Sylvia, George, Harold, Byron, the family and friends of Brenda Slippert, and all for whom we pray at this time silently or aloud. [pause]. Hear us, O God, source of life **Your mercy is great.**

Guiding God, you have made us all with our own special gifts. Like a body that has many parts, we are a community with many parts. We thank you for all the ways in which you interact with our lives. Today, we ask for your presence with our teachers — those who serve by helping us to go deeper with you. We thank you for each one of them — for the ways in which they illumine your Word, expand our horizons and endure our curiosities. May each of them be granted wisdom, patience and confidence. May their reliance be placed in you but also may they feel encouraged by us. Hear us, O God, source of life **Your mercy is great.**

We pray also for our church council, committee members, music ministry, and education programs as the programming year takes flight. Bless their efforts for the sake of our community in guiding our outreach, sustain them in their efforts, and sprinkle their gathering times with laughter and meaningful fellowship. Hear us, O God, source of life **Your mercy is great.**

God, creator of all, you use the cleansing, nourishing, sustaining image of water to show us how good you wish for this life to be – for each of us and for all people. Show us how to help our siblings in need, and through our participation, restore life where there is dry, barren land. Hear us, O God, source of life **Your mercy is great.**

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.**