

## *Liturgy and Prayers for a Time of Drought*

**Adapted from the work of The Rev. Thomas L. Weitzel**  
*Evangelical Lutheran Church in America*

<http://www.members.aol.com/LiturgybyTLW1/Churches/Drought.html>

*The following is a full liturgy that may be used on any Sunday during a time of drought. It follows the Old Testament notion that times of natural calamity are times for a "return to the Lord." A minimal or maximal approach may be used. You may use the regular seasonal liturgy for the day and select those portions that seem advisable for your situation. Or you may dedicate the entire service as prescribed below, even as an afternoon or evening service. At the minimum, make use of the Prayers of the Church in its appropriate place after the Creed. Consider also the Final Blessings outdoors.*

### **Brief Order for Confession and Forgiveness**

#### **Entrance Hymn**

#### **Opening Sentences:** *(replaces the Kyrie)*

P: The Lord is great:

**C: *our Lord is above all gods.***

P: Whatever the Lord pleases he does:

**C: *in heaven and on earth, in the seas and all deeps.***

P: He it is who makes the clouds rise at the end of the earth:

**C: *He makes lightnings for the rain and brings out the wind from its storehouses.***

(Psalm 135:5-7)

P: Come, let us return to the Lord, for it is he who has torn, and he will heal us;

**C: *He has struck down, and he will bind us up.***

P: Let us know, let us press on to know the Lord;

**C: *His appearing is as sure as the dawn,***

P: He will come to us like the showers,

**C: *like the spring rains that water the earth.*** (Hosea 6:1,3)

#### **Hymn of Praise**

#### **Prayer of the Day:**

P: The Lord be with you.

**C: *And also with you.***

P: Let us pray. O Lord our God, look down upon our dry lands and parched earth, and come quickly to save us. Send your clouds of water to rain down upon us as your righteousness and love rain down upon our hearts. Fill us with faith and trust in you that we may trust you and always give your praise and thanks, through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

*C: Amen*

**First Lesson: Jeremiah 14:1-9**

This is the word of the Lord.

*Thanks be to God*

**Psalm 65**

**Second Lesson: Revelation 22:1-17**

This is the word of the Lord

*Thanks be to God*

**Alleluia Verse**

**Gospel Lesson: St. John 4:5-14**

This is the Gospel of the Lord

*Praise be to you, O Christ.*

**Sermon**

**Hymn of the Day**

**Apostle's Creed**

**Exhortation and Prayers of the Church in Time of Drought**

P: Brothers and sisters in Christ, in the beginning the Lord our God created the earth and the heavens and all that exists. God separated the waters and formed the clouds. God marked the limits of the rivers and seas and placed the rain and snow in their storehouses. God waters the earth and lets the sun shine to bring forth harvests of abundance for all living creatures. In this way, God blesses all people.

The Bible tells us that in times of need, we should turn to the Lord who sustains us with the fruits of creation, bringing our prayers to him, asking forgiveness for our sins, and placing our needs trustfully and faithfully into God's

hands. As the prophet Jeremiah led the people of Israel in prayer to God during a time of drought, so let us now draw near to God with our prayers for our parched land and for all people and for the creation which also suffers.

P: The Lord is gracious.

**C: *The Lord's understanding is beyond measure.***

P: The Lord heals the broken-hearted.

**C: *The Lord binds up all our wounds.*** (Psalm 147:1,5)

P: Gracious Lord, loving God, look down with mercy upon your people as we draw near to you. Fill our hearts with faith. Forgive our sins. Lead us to righteousness and peace. And hear our prayers of concern for our land, for all people in distress, for our industries that suffer, for all who are affected by this drought. We look to you for help. Be our aide and our guide; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**C: Amen**

P: The people of Israel cried out in thirst.

**C: *They cried aloud to the Lord most high.***

P: The Lord came and commanded Moses.

**C: *The Lord commanded, and water came forth from the rock.*** (Exodus 17:1-7)

P: Lord of the sun and of the rains, your faithful people thirst again in your sight. Our land is dry, our crops have failed, and animals search for food and water. As you answered the prayers of your people Israel, quench the thirst of your people, our lands, our crops, and all creatures. Send rain to bring healing and growth to our land, through your creative hand. In you alone we trust; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**C: Amen**

P: God covers the heavens with clouds.

**C: *God prepares rain for the earth.***

P: God makes the grass to grow on the hills

**C: *God gives to the animals their food.***

P: The Lord's delight is not in the strength of the horse or the speed of the runner.

**C: *The Lord takes pleasure in those who fear God, in those who hope in God's steadfast love.*** (Psalm 147:8-11)

P: God of hope, shower down upon us your infinite love and righteousness. Send your Holy Spirit to fill us with faith. Lead us to green pastures and make us to lie down by still waters, refreshing our souls and giving us peace; for you live and reign with your Son Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen**

*Other prayers may be offered*

## **Offering**

### **Offertory Prayer:**

P: Let us pray. O God of creation,

**C: *we bring before you the gifts of our lives, gifts first given to us by you: fruit of the vineyard, harvest of the field, products of our labour, thankfulness of our hearts.***

***Accept these gifts and bless us by your creation for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord.***

***Amen***

## **Communion Liturgy**

### **Dismissal**

### **Post-Communion Prayer:**

P: Lord God of heaven and earth, we thank you all your gifts, but especially for the gift of your Son, Jesus Christ, Whom we have received this day in the bread and the wine, fruits of your bountiful creation. Bless us always and the creation you have made, giving growth of all with food and drink from your heavenly hand. We ask this through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

**C: Amen**

*The ministers and congregation may optionally process outdoors for the Final Blessings during the following hymn. If preferred, the blessings may occur indoors at this time, in which case the hymn would follow the blessings as a recessional instead of the Doxology below.*

## **Processional Hymn**

### **Final Blessings**

P: The eyes of all wait upon you, O Lord,

**C: *and you give them their food in due season.***

P: You open wide your hand

**C: *and satisfy the needs of every living creature.*** (Psalm 145:16-17)

### **The Blessing of the Parched Earth**

P: Blessed are you, O God, king of the universe. You made the whole earth for your glory and nurture it with sun and rain and the passing seasons. We lift our voices in praise and sing with all creation to give you glory.

Bless + now our parched earth. Open your heavens wide and send the rains that nurture the earth, the fields and their crops, your people and all your creatures. Make the earth to break forth in abundance, so that the harvest from your hand may enrich our lives, and all people see the greatness of God.

Bless also those who are in any distress in this time of drought: the elderly, the poor, the homeless, the industries and people who depend upon the land. Save us all by your gracious hand. Heal us and bind us up in faith.

To you be honour and glory and praise, with the Son and Holy Spirit, now and in all ages to come.

**C: *Amen***

### **The Blessing of the People**

P: Be steadfast in faith. Trust in the Lord. God's love will sustain you through this season and always. And may almighty God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit be with you now and forever.

**C: *Amen***

P: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

**C: *Thanks be to God.***

### **Doxology**