

## 2009 Environmental Lenten Worship Resource

# "Creation Waits with Eager Longing!" 2009 Lenten and Holy Week Worship Resource

*A Lenten journey of Reflection, Remembrance, Rediscovery, Repentance, Reconciliation, and Recommitment on our way to becoming more faithful stewards of God's creation.*

## General Outline of Series & Weekly Themes (for Lenten Wednesdays)

Ash Wednesday

February 25 "REFLECTION" – What deeper reflection are we called to in this time? Why?

March 4 "REMEMBRANCE" – Who are we, and what are we called to be?

March 11 "REDISCOVERY" – Rediscovering our place (and God) in creation

March 18 "REPENTANCE" – What have we done to the Earth and to ourselves?

March 25 "RECONCILIATION" – What is meant by a 'matrix of grace?'  
Where and how do we fit into it?

April 1 "RECOMMITMENT" – Creation waits with eager longing: how will you respond?

## Introduction to Lenten and Holy Week Worship Resource

*Creation Waits with Eager Longing!* (Ref. Romans 8:19) is a theme, a concept, a plea - that urgently needs to be heard and responded to in our time. This Lenten worship resource has been developed to offer a means for deeper reflection on our place in creation and our place and role in God's plan, in and through Christ, for the reconciliation of all things ...for *shalom*.

It has been developed in a collaborative process with the ELCA 2009 Lenten reflection series, *Living Earth: A 40-day Reflection on our Relationship with God's Creation*. Subscribe to receive the daily reflections at [www.elca.org/advocacy](http://www.elca.org/advocacy).

The series will offer daily emails within the overall theme of "Joining the Hymn of All Creation" and connect with the weekly themes of *Reflection, Remembrance, Rediscovery, Repentance, Reconciliation, and Recommitment*.

These two resources (reflective and worship) carry a message of both urgency and hope, as we journey to our celebration of Easter, when we will rejoice in the good news of God's power for redemption, renewal, and the reconciliation of all things.

The worship resource will provide an outline for an order of service for Lenten Wednesdays and will include suggestions for biblical texts, with notes for sermon themes; hymns; action ideas; helpful resources; an optional worship service called "A Tenebrae for the Earth"; plus Holy Week suggestions.

### Acknowledgements

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Dr. Cal DeWitt, for his inspirational work and leadership and his gracious permission to use and adapt his “Seven Degradations of Creation” material for the “Tenebrae for the Earth” worship service.

*Suggested hymns may be found in ELW, WOV, or LBW.*

*Scriptural citations are from the New Revised Standard Version*

### **Weekly Theme Outline for the Series**

Date and Theme

Suggested texts

Order of Worship

Hymn suggestions

Text notes for Sermon themes [Note: Week 2 provides a sample sermon]

Action ideas or additional resources

### **Sample Worship Outline for Lenten Wednesdays**

Introduction to theme (may be read aloud or printed in bulletin)

Greeting (sample provided)

Litany (sample provided)

Gathering Song

Readings

Sermon or Reflection

Hymn

Prayers of Intercession (include petitions for creation, too!)

Peace

(Offering)

Prayer (sample provided)

Blessing (sample provided)

Sending Song (suggestion: use the same one each week, example: *Touch the Earth Lightly* ELW 739)

Dismissal

**Note to Worship Leaders:** For additional prayer options see *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* (p. 81) or resources such as *Earth Prayers from Around the World* (Ed. By Eizabeth and Elias Amidon; Harper-Collins, 1991), or in online sources such as: [www.seasonofcreation.com](http://www.seasonofcreation.com) and [www.webofcreation.org/Worship/resources.htm](http://www.webofcreation.org/Worship/resources.htm)