

Workers on the Water – Psalm 104:23-27

Nourishing God,

you sustain us in our work and in our sport, on land and on the sea.

We pray for those who are laboring to contain the oil spill.

We pray for those who lost lives and those who are losing livelihood.

Our only hope is to look to you in all of this need. Amen

Jesus' Presence – Mark 4:35-41

Lord Jesus, the water of life,

we ask for your presence in our world, your Spirit among us.

Give us faith and give us peace.

Hear our laments and keep all this world in tender care.

Conform our lives to you, who took a bowl to wash feet in love,

so that we, too, may serve the needs of your world. Amen

THE 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.

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

HYMN

Touch the Earth Lightly

ELW Hymn #739



Fish – Wilson Abad

Prayer Service for the Gulf Oil Spill

Welcome!

Thank you for joining in prayers during this time of environmental catastrophe. Our prayers for this service will be sung, spoken, and silent. They will be prayers of confession, of lament, and of hope. They will be for residents of the gulf coast, for workers, for those responsible, for ourselves, and for all of God's creation. Reflect with the sound of the font and the images on the screen. There are a also variety of resources available on oil and water, on our use, updates in the Gulf, and postcards to send to elected officials.

CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

We are gathered in the name

of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen

Let us confess the sin of this oil spill.

Silence for reflection and self-examination.

O Lord, hear our prayers.

We confess to you that we are complicit.

This disaster is also our disaster.

Our lives are captive to oil
and we cannot free ourselves.

We have not served and kept your world
as you have entrusted it to us.

Forgive us in what we do
and what we fail to do.

Create in us clean hearts, O God. Amen

The Lord hears our prayers, calling us
to turn again to walk in newness of life.

Through these waters you have been cleansed and forgiven
to live again with God's love for this world. Amen

HYMN

Our Faith Began with Wings O'er Waves

Our faith be - gan with wings o'er waves, o'er all of cha - os'
So wa - ters served as our life's source; through lands, in veins they
We've worked a - gainst God's great - er whole in - sist - ing we were
O cleans - ing Lord we must con - fess the dam - age of our

grand dis - plays. This storm - y pow'r and dread - ful might is
run their course. We've looked to them for fuel and food, sup -
in con - trol, be - trayed, a - bused God's ho - ly call to
care - less - ness. For - give, re - solve our spill of oil. Give

still a place of God's de - light; life in the seas and
ply - ing hu - man live - li - hood. Yet grasp - ing hands have
tend cre - a - tion, large and small. We're washed, made well, and
us clean hearts to be more loyal. En - gulf us in your

o - cean depths is kept, pre - served by God's own breath.
o - ver-reached, de - stroy - ing ref - uge, reef, and beach.
pu - ri - fied to spread our care now far and wide.
arms of grace, that we may bet - ter serve this place.

READINGS & PRAYERS

God's Goodness – Genesis 1:20-22

God, creator of all,
you call forth life in the waters, in which you take delight.
You gave them your first blessing, and called it good.
Restore this living abundance to hurting and dying waters. Amen

Our Role – Psalm 8:3-9

Sovereign and majestic Lord,
you give us a special role in this world,
as those with power to care for all other creatures,
but also with power to harm them.
In your care for us, give us strength to care for all the earth
so that we may glorify your name. Amen

Greed and Gloating – Revelation 18:17b-20

God of justice and mercy,
it is easy to see greed, to point out mistakes, to cast blame.
Give us grace not to wash our hands of the matter
or to cast stones only against the government or BP.
Instead, hear us as we mourn and cry out for something better.
Let us join in weeping “Alas” that at last together we may rejoice. Amen

Abundance for All – Ezekiel 34:15-22a

Great Shepherd of the sheep,
we have fouled the waters, trampling and taking too much.
Save us from what we ravage and call us back
so that, no longer pushing aside the weak,
we may see the abundant gifts you share with us
are for the benefit of all creation. Amen

Knowledge and Authority – Job 38:1-2, 8-11, 16-18

O Wisdom most high,
we have gotten into a mess and are captivated by it.
We lack sufficient knowledge of the deeps
and we don't know how to stop and fix our problem.
We pray for a solution to stop the oil leak and to end the spread of oil. Amen