



WATER

HOW SHOULD WE ADDRESS AN INCREASINGLY SCARCE RESOURCE?

Water is life. It is a resource vital to sustaining life on this planet--from filling up a water glass at the dinner table, to washing clothes, to growing food across millions of acres, water is life. While the Earth may seem like it has abundant water, less than 1 percent is available for human use. The rest is either salt water found in oceans, fresh water frozen in the polar ice caps, or too inaccessible for practical usage. As population and demand on freshwater resources increase, especially here in the Southwestern region of the US, concerns over the supply and shortages loom.

Solving the water crisis in the Southwest is complicated and involves a lot varying and sometimes competing interests—farmers, city dwellers, conservationists, Indigenous tribes, recreationists, etc. What we hope to accomplish in this pub theology is explore our response as Christian people to the water crisis through a Scriptural and theological lens while learning more about the perspectives of Colorado River stakeholders.

RESOURCES TO REVIEW

- Listen to all or a few of the six-part podcast series: [Thirst Gap: Learning to Live Less on the Colorado River](#)
- 1922 Water Compact: The [1922 Colorado River Compact](#) is just four pages, but this critical document sets the river's total supply at 15 million acre feet per year, defines the states that make up the upper and lower basins, allocates 7.5 million acre feet per basin annually, and introduces the legal framework for Mexico's future allotment. Read the [1922 Colorado Water Compact](#)
- Review the "[Arizona Water Fact Sheet](#)" produced by the Water Resources Research Center from the University of Arizona
- Read "[Arizona's Next Water Crisis](#)" from the Arizona Republic; 2019
- Read "[Climate Change is hitting the Colorado River 'incredibly fast and incredibly hard'](#)" from the Arizona Republic; 2021
- Read John 4:1-15
- Jesus claims to be "living water." What is living water?
- Read "[Holy Baptism](#)" liturgy from the Evangelical Lutheran Worship hymnal
- How is baptism connected to a life of following Jesus?
- Read Martin Luther's [Introduction to Baptism from the Small Catechism](#)
- What does baptism mean to you?