

We give thanks for the gift of water.
It blesses us with quenching our thirst,
cleaning our bodies, calming our minds, enveloping us with love.
Water-blue, azure, brown, gray, crystal ~ moving, frothy, bubbling,
running, peaceful and still. We are Grateful!

Reneé Weber, HM Associate/Covenant Companion

Caring For Earth, Caring for You Honoring Water

Introduction: In connection with Catholic Sisters Week, we join our voices in prayer with others who are gathered around bodies of water – to give thanks for the gifts God has given us.

Opening Song: *Water Blessing* Earth Momma from Blessings of the Universe CD

Opening Prayer:

ALL: Praise to you, loving God, for the gift of water.

Praise to you, loving God, for the gift of living water.

Water: essential for drinking, growing, cleaning and more.

May we use this water wisely, may we protect it from harm. Amen.

***Reading:** The Water of Life

“Water is marvelously expressive stuff, full of deep meaning to all humankind, perhaps the most beautifully symbolic stuff of all. The water of life, the water of baptism, the water that cleanses and heals, the water that breaks down and destroys, the water that lifts us and floats us when we come aground, the water that churns and pounds us out of our complacency and into awareness; the water of swamps and sloughs and soggy despond; the rolling sea-ice powerfully sculpting a coast; soft groundwater, tenderly upwelling to green a barren landscape; the singing chuckle of a creek, the roar of a fall, the calm assurance of a great river, the crash of a sea swell, the quiet privacy of fog, rain washing or slashing or downpouring or falling gentle as a leaf; the soft healing, or bitter springing, or joyful welling of salt tears.....God be praised for the gift of water.”
—Molly Wolf, *Hiding in Plain Sight: Sabbath Blessings*

Scripture: Psalm 65:1a, 9-10, 13c

Praise is due to you, O God, for you visit the earth and water it, you greatly enrich it; the river of God is full of water; you provide the people with grain, for so you have prepared it. You water its furrows abundantly, settling its ridges, softening it with showers, and blessing its growth. All of creation shout and sing together for joy.

Prayer to the Four Directions

East

We look to the East and ask God to bless the ponds, rivers, lakes and oceans.
May the blessing of the rising sun shine upon the waters and teach us hope.

Response: For the gift of water, we give thanks.

South

We look to the South and ask God to bless the tributaries, ground water, wells and aquifers.
May the blessing of growth teach us wisdom and gratitude.

Response: For the gift of water, we give thanks.

West

We look to the West and ask God to bless the wetlands, streams, and snow-covered mountains.
May the blessing of the setting sun teach us to live in right relationships.

Response: For the gift of water, we give thanks.

North

We look to the North and ask God to bless the springs, aquifers, seas, and glaciers.
May the blessing of the Living Water teach us compassion for all of creation and to share this precious gift.

Response: For the gift of water, we give thanks.

***Reflection Question:**

How might we develop a respect for Water?
How might we be living water for others?

Sprinkling

***Closing Prayer:**

Loving God, we commit ourselves to value and care for your gifts to us. May rivers of living water and compassion for all who suffer flow out from our hearts. Refreshed by your Spirit and following in the way of Jesus Christ, we will continue to serve you in the people and creation entrusted to our care. Amen.

Closing Song: *Water Blessing* Earth Momma

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