

## WATER LITURGY

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### SUGGESTIONS FOR EUCHARISTIC CELEBRATION //

These notes are designed to help you to incorporate the water theme into a Mass. Some THINKfasts plan their fast to end with the parish Mass and a meal on Saturday evening or Sunday morning. This is a great opportunity to involve the larger community in a commitment to justice.

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**SONGS //** See suggested hymns below.

### OPENING PRAYER //

Creator God, whose Spirit moved over the face of the waters,  
who gathers the seas into their places, and directs the courses of the rivers,  
who sends rain upon the Earth that it should bring forth life;  
we praise you for the gift of water.

Create in us such a sense of wonder and delight in this and all your gifts,  
that we might receive them with gratitude, care for them with love,  
and generously share them with all your creatures,  
to the honour and glory of your holy name.

*World Council of Churches Prayer Services*

### INTRODUCTORY RITES //

In a Mass, the introductory rites may have either a Penitential or Baptismal character. The Baptismal aspect highlights the sacredness of water and involves the Rite of Blessing and Sprinkling of Water.

### LITURGY OF THE WORD //

Use Readings of the Day if it is a major feast day. If not, you can use the suggestions below that speak to water and its symbolism.

- John 7: 37-39, the promise of living water.
- John 4: 7-14, the water of life in the conversation with the Samaritan woman.
- John 19: 28 – 30, Jesus is thirsty on the Cross
- Ezekiel 47: 1-12, beautiful vision of water that flows from the temple irrigating everything.
- Genesis 2: 10-13, the river of terrestrial Paradise that generates the four great rivers of the world.
- Psalm 107: 23t-30, God calms the tempests of the waters of the sea (cf. Mk 4: 35-41)

**PRAYERS OF INTENTIONS //** Ensure the priest or someone prays for the Church, for the ill, and for the departed, then it can be opened up for participants to share their own intentions.

**PROCESSION OF THE GIFTS //** In addition to bread and wine, the procession can include symbols related to the sacredness and uses of water.

**NB:** Suggestions for action are listed in the Awareness Activity called "Water Walkers." If your group has already chosen an action from that list, refer to it here instead of the actions below.

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Consider incorporating a commitment to ban bottled water in a school or workplace. Or you might commit to having your community become a Blue Community, as recommended by the Council of Canadians (<https://canadians.org/bluecommunities>), by:

1. Recognizing water and sanitation as human rights.
2. Banning or phasing out the sale of bottled water in municipal facilities and at municipal events.
3. Promoting publicly financed, owned and operated water and waste water services.

### CLOSING PRAYER/BLESSING //

Use either of the following prayers.

As we prepare to go forth and be active witnesses to the Gospel message of justice and compassion for all people, let us ask for God's blessing:

May God bless us with the courage to speak and act when we see people suffering. AMEN

May God bless us with perseverance to work to change unjust policies. AMEN

May God bless us with love to embrace all people — those we know and those we have yet to meet — as our sisters and brothers in the wondrous family of God. AMEN

May God bless us with an everlasting desire to work for peace throughout the world. AMEN

*Development and Peace - Solidarity Day Liturgical Celebrations*

May the blessing of God

Fountain of Living Water

Flow within us as a river of life.

May we drink deep of God's wisdom

May we go through life refreshing many

As a sign of healing for all.

Through the One who is Life Eternal. AMEN

*Miriam Therese Winter, Womanprayer, WomanSong*

### SONGS

*Come to the Water, John Foley, 1978, Gather #502, CBW III #359*

*Healing River, Michael Joncas, 1964, Gather #554*

*Voices that Challenge, David Haas, 1990, Gather #721*

*Wade in the Water, African American Spiritual, 1994, Gather #812*

*We are Called, David Haas, 1988, Gather #718*

*You are the voice, David Haas, 1983, CBW III #576*

*CBW III – Catholic Book of Worship III*