

FWM Report to General Synod

Appendix 6c Thanksgivings over the Waters

The *Thanksgivings over the Water* were approved by the Council of General Synod in June of 2017 for Trial Use and Evaluation, following an internal trial use phase amongst members of the Liturgy Working Group. These two sets of seasonal prayers are offered to encourage a more robust baptismal ecclesiology, recognizing the desirability of offering occasions for the Renewal of Baptismal Vows for whole congregations at various points within the liturgical year, as well as to encourage a liturgical-seasonal-harmony in prayers offered at baptisms in these seasons.

The language draws on biblical themes to provide a rich tapestry of blessing celebration. The two particular occasions chosen – Baptism of the Lord and All Saints’ – encourage these occasions to be used for the celebrations of baptism as well as renewal of baptismal vows, in addition to the Easter Vigil. An additional text relating to Pentecost is being prepared for consideration.

Thanksgiving Over the Water (Baptism of the Lord)

A suitable alternate acclamation may be sung or said instead of “Glory to you for ever and ever.”

The Lord be with you.

(or May God be with you.)

And also with you.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

(or Let us give thanks to God our Creator.)

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

(or It is right to offer thanks and praise.)

Blessed are you, O God, Alpha and Omega,
the beginning and the end.

You are the One who makes all things new.

To the thirsty you give water from the spring of the water of life.

You make the wasteland glad,

the desert rejoice and blossom,

turning parched ground into a refreshing pool

and arid terrain into an overflowing fountain.

By the gift of water you nourish and renew all living things.

Glory to you for ever and ever.

In the beginning, when darkness covered the face of the deep,

you breathed your Spirit over the waters,

calling forth life in abundance.

In the time of Noah, when the flood of judgment engulfed the earth,

you rescued and made a covenant with your creation.

Glory to you for ever and ever.

At the Red Sea,

you drove back the waters by the strong wind of your Spirit,
opening up a path to liberation.
You released the children of Israel from the shackles of slavery
to dance and sing on the shore of freedom and promise.
Glory to you for ever and ever.

In the fullness of time, Jesus was baptized in the River Jordan,
repenting for the sin of the world
and restoring to water its healing work in all creation.
Glory to you for ever and ever.

In the Jordan,
you revealed Jesus as the one in whom your soul delights.
You anointed him to open the eyes that are blind,
to rescue the prisoners from the dungeon,
to set free those who sit in darkness,
and to bring forth justice to the nations.
Glory to you for ever and ever.

Suffering the baptism of death and resurrection,
Jesus set us free from the bondage of sin and death,
and gave birth to the New Creation.
The crucified and risen Christ stands among us,
baptizing with the Holy Spirit and with fire,
enlivening us to proclaim the gospel to all nations,
serve you as a royal priesthood,
and act as faithful stewards of all that you have made.
Glory to you for ever and ever.

Breathe your Spirit, O God, upon this water
that your servants who are washed and anointed
may share with your Christ in his death and resurrection.
Let there be no distinction among those
whom one font, one Spirit, one faith make one people.
Together, may we stand as a sign and foretaste of your Kingdom,
a covenant to the people, a light to the nations.
We give you praise and honour and worship
through your Child, Jesus the Christ,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and for ever.
Glory to you for ever and ever. Amen.

Thanksgiving Over the Water (All Saints' Day/Sunday)

A suitable alternate acclamation may be sung or said instead of "Glory to you for ever and ever."

The Lord be with you.
(or May God be with you.)

And also with you.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
(or Let us give thanks to God our Creator.)

It is right to give our thanks and praise.
(or It is right to offer thanks and praise.)

We give you thanks, source and sustainer of life, for the gift of water.
This is the water your Spirit stirred at the dawn of creation,
separating the soil from the sea,
and calling forth a humanity fashioned to bear your image.
Glory to you, for ever and ever.

This is the water through which you delivered twelve tribes
enslaved to the powers of empire and oppression.
You made a covenant with them in the wilderness beyond the Red Sea,
and led them through the Jordan into a land of promise,
uniting them as one people,
chosen to display your liberating power for all held in captivity.
Glory to you, for ever and ever.

This is the water sprinkled upon a people in exile,
gifting them with a new heart and a new spirit,
gathering them together from north and south, east and west,
a fulfillment of your promise
to restore those who weep in despair to the joy and dignity of hope.
Glory to you, for ever and ever.

This is the water in which Jesus, Redeemer of the world,
was baptized and named as your beloved child.
This is the water that takes its course
from the wounded side of Christ crucified,
the living water that bursts tomb-sealing rock, giving rise to the new creation,
and birthing from every tongue and nation
a people consecrated to you.
Glory to you, for ever and ever.

This is the water of life that springs forth in that city
where you dwell with a multitude beyond number,
united in the One whom they worship to the end of time and for ever.
Glory to you, for ever and ever.

Gathered around this font,
and surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses,
we ask you to stir the waters once again
by the movement of your Holy Spirit.

From these waters,
raise up a people hungry for justice and peace,
one with Christ, one with each other,
and one in ministry to all the world,
a sign of your promise for all creation,
until Christ comes in final victory
and we feast at the promised and eternal banquet.

We pray in communion with all the saints on earth and heaven,
with the martyrs and the faithful of all ages,
and in the name of the Lamb who was slain,
but now reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
above all rule and authority, power and dominion, for ever and ever.
Glory to you, for ever and ever. Amen.