Worship Resources: Water Memorial

Call to Worship

All who thirst, come to the water. Come, all who are weary; come, all who yearn for forgiveness. The Holy Spirit through Jesus Christ has washed over us, and our Gracious and Holy God beckons and blesses us. Drink deeply of these living waters.

Glory to you, O Lord, glory to you.

Hymn of Praise

Springs of Water, Bless the Lord

ELW #214

You are the fountain of life: **refresh us.** You are the cleansing spring: **heal us.**

You are the well from which we drink and never thirst again: fill us.

(World Council of Churches: Worshipping Ecumenically)

Prayers

Almighty God, Lord of heaven and earth, we humbly pray that your gracious providence may give and preserve to our use the fruitfulness of the land and the seas and may prosper all who labor therein; that we, who are constantly receiving good things from your hand, may always give you thanks, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen. (ELW)

Merciful Creator, your hand is open wide to satisfy the needs of every living creature. Make us always thankful for your loving providence; and grant that we, remembering the account that we must one day give, may be faithful stewards of your good gifts, through Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen. (*ELW*)

Sovereign of the universe, your first covenant of mercy was with every living creature. When your beloved Son came among us, the waters of the river welcomed him, the heavens opened to greet his arrival, the animals of the wilderness drew near as his companions. With all the world's people, may we who are washed into new life through baptism seek the way of your new creation, the way of justice and care, mercy and peace; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen. (*ELW*)

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Thanksgiving at the Font

II Blessed are you, O God,

maker and ruler of all things.

Your voice thundered over the waters at creation.

You water the mountains and send springs into the valleys

to refresh and satisfy all living things.

Through the waters of the flood you carried those in the ark to safety. Through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery to freedom.

In the wilderness you nourished them with water from the rock,

and you brought them across the river Jordan to the promised land.

By the baptism of his death and resurrection,

your Son Jesus has carried us to safety and freedom.

The floods shall not overwhelm us,

and the deep shall not swallow us up,

for Christ has brought us over to the land of promise.

He sends us to make disciples,

baptizing in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Pour out your Holy Spirit;

wash away sin in this cleansing water;

clothe the baptized with Christ;

and claim your daughters and sons,

no longer slave and free,

no longer male and female,

but one with all the baptized in Christ Jesus,

who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,

one God, now and forever.

Amen.

III Blessed are you, holy God.

You are the creator of the waters of the earth.

You are the fire of rebirth.

You poured out your Spirit on your people Israel.

You breathe life into our dry bones.

Your Son Jesus promised to send the Spirit to us

that the world may know your peace and truth.

Pour out your Holy Spirit,

and breathe new life into those who are here baptized.

By your Spirit adopt us all as your children,

through our Savior Jesus Christ,

who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,

one God, now and forever.

Amen.

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IV Holy God, mighty Lord, gracious Father:

We give you thanks, for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters and you created heaven and earth. By the gift of water you nourish and sustain us and all living things.

[Blessed be God now and forever.]

By the waters of the flood you condemned the wicked and saved those whom you had chosen, Noah and his family. You led Israel by the pillar of cloud and fire through the sea, out of slavery into the freedom of the promised land.

[Blessed be God now and forever.]

In the waters of the Jordan your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Spirit. By the baptism of his own death and resurrection your beloved Son has set us free from the bondage to sin and death, and has opened the way to the joy and freedom of everlasting life. He made water a sign of the kingdom and of cleansing and rebirth. In obedience to his command, we make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. [Blessed be God now and forever.]

Pour out your Holy Spirit,

so that those who are here baptized may be given new life. Wash away the sin of all those who are cleansed by this water and bring them forth as inheritors of your glorious kingdom.

To you be given praise and honor and worship through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever. **Amen.**

V Holy God, holy and merciful, holy and mighty, you are the river of life, you are the everlasting wellspring, you are the fire of rebirth.

Glory to you for oceans and lakes, for rivers and streams. Honor to you for cloud and rain, for dew and snow. Your waters are below us, around us, above us: our life is born in you. You are the fountain of resurrection.

Praise to you for your saving waters:
Noah and the animals survive the flood,
Hagar discovers your well.
The Israelites escape through the sea, and they drink from your gushing rock.
Naaman washes his leprosy away,

and the Samaritan woman will never be thirsty again.

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At this font, holy God, we pray:
Praise to you for the water of baptism
and for your Word that saves us in this water.
Breathe your Spirit into all who are gathered here and into all creation.
Illumine our days. Enliven our bones. Dry our tears.
Wash away the sin within us, and drown the evil around us.

Satisfy all our thirst with your living water, Jesus Christ, our Savior, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Thanksgiving for Baptismal Water

The text of this Thanksgiving for Baptismal Water has been crafted so that a printed text is not necessary for worship. A cantor may lead the acclamations using a simple tone. The alternate fourth paragraph is to be used at an affirmation of baptism without a baptism. © Gail Ramshaw 2012. Used by permission of the author.

Water! Water! We praise you, O God, for water -the *local bodies of water*,
the rain that nourishes animals and plants,
the water for drinking and bathing.
We praise you, O God, for water:
We praise you, O God, for water!

We praise you, O God, for our water stories -- a flood that cleansed the earth, the sea that drowned the enemy, a river that can heal leprosy.

We praise you, O God, for water:

We praise you, O God, for water!

We remember the waters of Jesus – baptized in the Jordan River, calming the Sea of Galilee, drinking from Jacob's Well, washing the disciples' feet, on the cross thirsting for us.

We praise you, O God, for this font.
Breathe into this water,
wash away our sin,
and birth *Name/s* anew into your peace and joy.
We praise you, O God, for water:
We praise you, O God, for water!

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We praise you, O God, for this font, for you breathe into this water to wash away sin and birth us anew into your peace and joy. We praise you, O God, for water:

We praise you, O God, for water!

O God, you are the Ocean, the source of all life.
O God, you are the River, saving us from death.
O God, you are the Stream, restoring our community's strength.
We praise you, O God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
today, tomorrow, forever.
Amen, and Amen: Amen, and Amen!

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