



Prayer Service on Water

Music suggestions:

Water of Life by David Haas or other appropriate song.

Ambiance suggestions:

Place a cloth on the table with a candle, cross, bowl of water and other meaningful objects.



Introduction/opening prayer:

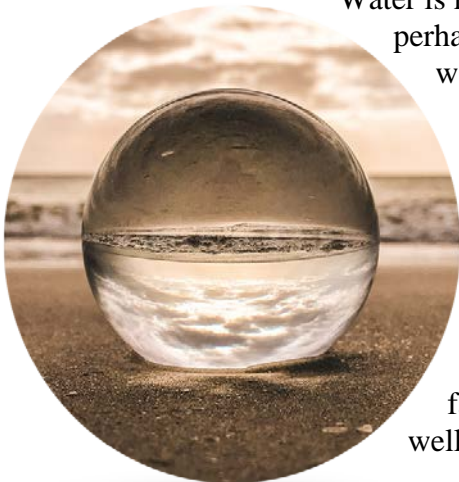
Without water, we would die. Water is essential for life on earth, not just human life but all life. Water is needed for drinking, cleaning, washing and making crops grow. There is no substitute for this precious resource. And yet we waste it, we pollute it and we even commodify it! Let's start anew, and begin by thanking the Lord for the gift of water.

Prayer:

Praise be You, my Lord, through Sister Water who is useful, humble, precious and pure. We praise and thank You, Lord for the gift of living water. Guide us to use it wisely, learn from its humility, consume it sparingly and protect its purity, so that with St. Francis, we may truly enjoy water.

—Br. Cathal Duddy, OFM

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*

Reflection questions:

How would you describe your relationship with Water?

How might we develop a respect for Water?

How might we be living water for others?

Time for reflection/sharing

Intercessory prayers:

(Response: **God give us the waters of new life**)

For hope when our lives run dry.

For strength when our world seems barren.

To let peace flow like a river and love spring forth like a fountain.

To make justice roll down like water and righteousness like a living stream.

For compassion for all who suffer from a lack of water.

Closing prayer:

Loving God, whose son Jesus Christ called all who were thirsty to come to him, believe and drink: Look in mercy on your people living in dry lands, and struggling to survive without access to safe drinking water. Forgive our selfishness in life and our misuse of our natural resources. We commit ourselves to value and care for your gifts to us. May rivers of living water and practical 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.



Prayer service created by: Barbara Spears, SNJM

The Spiritual Ministries Network of the Sisters of the Holy Names of Jesus and Mary (SNJM) provides a variety of prayer services for personal and group spiritual nourishment. May your prayer life draw you closer to the Divine.

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