

Celebrating with Sister Water

PARALITURGY - Season of Creation – Week III

*The mood is set by **water sounds** played before the prayer begins.*

Leader: Water is a universal common good, a common good of the entire human family. 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.

Call to Prayer

Voice 1: The Psalmist declares, “*The voice of the Lord is upon the waters.*” (*Psalm 29*)

Voice 2: Let us heed God’s voice! Let us make a difference for the members of the global population who suffer from water related issues. Let us, today, think about the future and ask God to help us protect this precious resource for future generations.

All: Let us celebrate Sister Water! With our holy father Francis we acclaim: “Praised be You, my Lord, through Sister Water who is so useful, humble, precious, and pure. (*St. Francis of Assisi*)

Hymn: Like a Watered Garden – ML I #22

Psalm of Commitment and Blessing

Leader: Father of all creation, whose Spirit moves over the waters, we ask your presence in our lives as we seek to bless all forms of Sister Water by our humble commitment to take action for her healing. May the light we bring to the water be the sign of your Spirit’s purifying grace, and reflections of the fire of Jesus’ love for the world.

7 floating or tea candles are lighted and placed on the water before the altar after each of the seven commitments is recited

1. Water is essential to health.
May we keep it pure and accessible for all. *(light 1st candle, let float on H₂O)*
2. Water is nature, ecosystems, the global water cycle.
May we strive to minimize climate change. *(2nd candle)*
3. Water is urbanization.
May we build sustainable cities. *(3rd candle)*
4. Water is industry.
May we reduce the use of water in manufacturing. *(4th candle)*
5. Water is energy.
May we expand renewable sources of energy that do not deplete water. *(5th candle, etc...)*
6. Water is food.
May we reduce agricultural demands on freshwater resources.
7. Water is equality, dignity and justice.
May we find ways to make clean water available for all people.

Song: Sprinkle our Lives – ML I #218

Word of God *Isaiah 55:1-3*

All you who are thirsty, come to the water! You who have no money, come, receive grain and eat; Come, without paying and without cost, drink wine and milk! Why spend your money for what is not bread; your wages for what fails to satisfy? Heed me, and you shall eat well, you shall delight in rich fare. Come to me heedfully, listen, that you may have life. I will renew with you the everlasting covenant, the benefits assured to David.

Response Song: Come to the Springs – CS #36 or
 Cantico di Frate Sole – CS # 31 (Ref-v.3-Ref)

Prayer (All)

Almighty God, you have made us fellow workers in your creation. We praise you and thank you for this precious gift of the earth teeming with life. Give us prudence, reverence and unselfishness that no one will suffer from our abuse of nature. Help us to find new ways to sustain the ecosystems that support all humankind. May future generations enjoy this world of your creation with all the joy and fulfillment that you intend. Amen.

Closing Hymn: Touch the Earth – CS # 243