

# Thanksgiving for Water



*Hymn numbers taken from Hymns Old and New (New Anglican Edition 1996)*

## Background

*'Everyone who thirsts, come to the waters,' so says the opening of Isaiah in his invitation to abundant life. Without water there can be no life, at least not in any form that we currently understand it. From conception to the grave, water is within and without us. It is there in our daily lives and in our rituals: from that first ritual wash after birth, through baptism and use in many Eucharistic services, to our final washing after death, water is an integral part of our lives. It sustains and cleanses us; it provides an avenue for leisure and transport. We use water in our language; we speak of it literally and metaphorically. There are well over a thousand references to it in the Bible. So let us give thanks to our Creator for this source of life.*

## Responses

The Creator God turns a desert into pools of water:

**A parched land into springs of water.**

There he lets the hungry live,

**And they establish homes to dwell in.**

They sow fields and plant crops

**And get a fruitful yield.**

**By the blessing of the Creator they multiply greatly.**

## Reading (Isaiah 41: 17 - 20 NRSV)

When the poor and needy seek water; and there is none  
and their tongue is parched,

I the Lord will answer them,

I the God of Israel will not forsake them.

I will open rivers on the bare heights  
and fountains in the midst of the valleys;  
I will make the wilderness a pool of water  
and the dry land springs of water.

I will put in the wilderness the cedar,  
the acacia, the myrtle and the olive;

I will set in the desert the cypress,  
the plane and the pine together;  
that people may see and know,  
may consider and understand together  
that the hand of the Lord has done this,  
the Holy One of Israel has created it.

## Hymn

'Peace is flowing like a river' (HO&N 412)

## Responses

In the beginning, the waters covered the land:

**Cooling and cleansing;**

Birthing waters of the earth:

**Protecting and nourishing;**

Mighty rivers and trickling streams:

**Lifeblood of the land;**

Crystal fountains and holy wells:

**Sustaining our bodies and nourishing the earth.**

Jesus said: 'Let anyone who is thirsty come to me.'

**We believe! We will drink of Christ's living waters.**

**May our hearts and lives become**

**as rivers of living water to the world.**

**We will live lives that will nourish and cherish God's creation.**

## Hymn:

Let all who are thirsting

Come and drink of my waters

And you that have no money

Come and buy and come and eat.

*Drink the life of the Spirit,*

*Drink of the living vine;*

*From the word of the Saviour,*

*Spring the waters divine.*

Let all who are seeking

Come and drink of my waters.

And you that are heartsore

Come and bathe in the stream.

*Chorus*

Let all who are lonely

Come and drink of my waters.

And you that are sad and weary

I will give you comfort and rest.

*Chorus*

*(Linda J. Probyn)*

*Tune: Afton Water; Scottish Traditional*

or

*'Have you heard the raindrops' (HO&N 202)*

## Blessing

May the Spirit that moved over the waters cover you;

May Christ's living water sustain and nourish you;

May you and those you love

bathe in the light of God's love;

now and always.

And the blessing of the Triune God,

Creator, Preserver and Sustainer,

be with you and those you love, always.

**Amen.**

*or*

The blessing of Almighty God be upon these and all waters;  
springs and brooks, wells and lakes,  
small and great rivers, and the great outer oceans.

The blessing of Almighty God be upon all ships and sailors,  
on merchant seamen and fishermen,  
and on all the brotherhood of the sea.

The blessing of Almighty God be with you all,  
to lead you peacefully by still waters:  
in the name of the Father,  
and of the Son  
and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

**Reading at a place with flowing water** (*Psalm 78:15-16 NIV*)

God split the rocks in the desert and gave the children of Israel water as abundant as the seas; he brought streams out of a rocky crag and made water flow down like rivers.

*or*

*(John 4: 13 NIV)*

Jesus said: 'Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again, but whoever drinks the water that I give him will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give him will become in him a spring of water, welling up to eternal life.'

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