



*Gathering in Prayer. . .*

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***World Water Day 2024***

**BACKGROUND:** This year's theme for World Water Day is 'Water for Peace,' which focuses on the critical role water plays in the stability and prosperity of the world. When water is scarce or polluted, or when people are unequal or have no access, tensions can rise between communities and countries.

As climate change impacts increase, and the global population grows, we must unite around protecting and conserving our most precious resource.

By working together to balance everyone's human rights and needs, water can be a stabilizing force and a catalyst for sustainable development.

**WELCOME:**

**LEADER:** We gather on this Global World Water Day, in communion with our sisters and brothers throughout the world. May we allow the wisdom of water to well up within us and show us the way forward. Pope Francis calls on us to recognise the intrinsic value of water. The Pope recalled the words of St. Francis of Assisi' in his ode to creation, *Laudato Si'*, "Praised be you, my Lord, through Sister Water, who is very useful and humble and precious and chaste."

Let us begin as we sign ourselves as we pray.

**All:** In the name of God who is gracious Creator, Jesus who is Eternal Word, and Spirit who is Wellspring of Wisdom. Amen.

**OPENING SONG:** (*The melody is the well-known Praise, my Soul, the King of Heaven. CBW III #565*)

## **SONG OF THE WATERS**

Watch once more the windswept storm clouds.  
Suddenly the sky has wings!  
God has come to rain among us,  
Giving hope to all dry things.  
Sing a song of splashing waters,  
Pulsing through the veins of Earth.

Feel the breath of God move softly,  
Gentle mists that brush the skin.  
Earth is breathing God's own spirit,  
Life renewed from deep within.  
Sing a song of living waters,  
Pulsing through the veins of Earth.



### **READINGS:**

#### **FIRST READING: A READING FROM GENESIS**

And God said, "Let the waters under the sky be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear." And it was so. God called the dry land Earth, and the waters that were gathered together he called Seas. And God saw that it was good.

#### **SECOND READING: A READING FROM ISAIAH**

When the poor and needy seek water, 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.

#### **THIRD READING: LET US LISTEN TO WATER AS SHE SPEAKS TO US.**

I, the surprise of the snowflake and the blessing of the babbling brook, reflect your inner beauty and magnificence. We vibrate with the same energy. Help us attune to that energy.

I, the ancient liquid of the stars, precious, pure, and holy, am a limited resource. I am asking you to treat me as a rare gift, to use me sparingly with respect and reverence.

I, who am the delight of the soul and nourishment of the body, will be contaminated with pollutants which carry disease, deformity, and death. I am pleading with you to listen to the wail of my weeping.

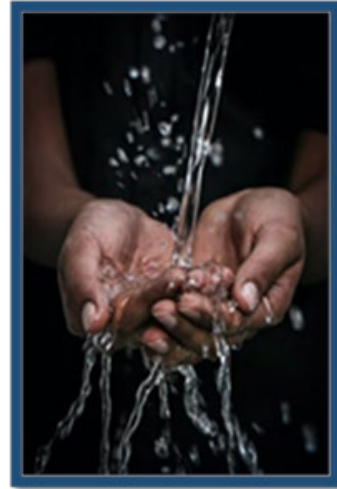
**RESPONSE TO THE READINGS:**

**All: We are listening.**

**PERSONAL REFLECTION:** (5 minutes)

**LEADER:** What might we wish to say?

Let us take a few moments to address our thoughts to the Creator and/or Sister Water.



**LITANY OF PRAISE:**

**LEADER:** Rejoice in the Lord, for he has refreshed the parched earth.

**All: We praise you, O God.**

**LEADER:** Rejoice for the rain that falls by night, and soaks at once into the dry ground, causing half-dried-up roots to swell, and the deep cracks in the earth to close.

**All: We praise you, O God.**

**LEADER:** Rejoice for the great drops that fall at midday; rejoice in the small streams, singing on their way from the hills down into the valleys, to make the rivers swell and fill the reservoirs and supply the cities and irrigation channels with water.

**All: We praise you, O God.**

**LEADER:** For the ground, for rain, for seeds and tools, for strength in arms and backs, for the will to work and for creative minds.

**All: We praise you, O God.**

**CLOSING PRAYER:**

**LEADER:** Let us pray...

**ALL:** God of life, God of all those who walk miles for water, God of those whose only supply is contaminated, bringing death, not life. May water, clean and lifegiving, be available to every living creature. May that vision move forward. May your will be done.

**LEADER:** Let us conclude as we sign ourselves as we pray.

**All:** In the name of God who is gracious Creator, Jesus who is Eternal Word, and Spirit who is Wellspring of Wisdom. Amen.

**CLOSING HYMN:** All Creatures of our God and King #543 CBW III verses 1, 3, and 7. *Note: As we journey through this Lenten season, please replace all "Alleluias" with "O praise God".*

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**CREDITS:**

**COVER DESIGN:** created by Gert Stefanko

**Background:** - <https://www.un.org/en/observances/water-day>

**WELCOME:**

[https://www.mercyworld.org/f/45074/x/7743b3be24/water-day-prayer-ritual-2017\\_a4.pdf](https://www.mercyworld.org/f/45074/x/7743b3be24/water-day-prayer-ritual-2017_a4.pdf)

and <https://www.vaticannews.va/en/pope/news/2023-03/pope-audience-appeal-world-water-day-primary-good.html>

**SIGN OF THE CROSS** – —Joan Brown, OSF

**OPENING SONG-** Words: © Norman Habel 2001 in Habel Hymns Volume One. Used with his permission.

**GRAPHIC OF WATER DROPLET-** Izzy Gibson at <https://unsplash.com/>

**FIRST READING:** Genesis 1:9-10

**SECOND READING:** Isaiah 41:17-18

**THIRD READING:** Listening to the water as she speaks to us at [https://www.mercyworld.org/f/45074/x/7743b3be24/water-day-prayer-ritual-2017\\_a4.pdf](https://www.mercyworld.org/f/45074/x/7743b3be24/water-day-prayer-ritual-2017_a4.pdf)

**LITANY OF PRAISE:** <https://cwsglobal.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/09/WorshipWater.pdf>

**CLOSING PRAYER:** <https://csjla.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/waterprayers- 2 .pdf>

**CLOSING HYMN:** CBW III #543



***Acknowledgements:*** *This prayer service has been created by Sister Nancy Wales a member of the Ecology Committee of the Federation of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Canada for use of our Sisters and Associates. © March 2023 CSJ Federation Ecology Committee.*

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