

## A Blessing of the Waters

### The Gathering

The Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with you all.

*And also with you.*

### Opening Sentences

The voice of the Lord upon the waters cries out, saying, 'Come all of you, receive the Spirit of wisdom, the Spirit of understanding, the Spirit of the fear of God, of Christ who has appeared'. Today the nature of the waters is made holy, and Jordan is parted and holds back the flow of its waters as it sees the Master washing himself.

As man, Christ King, you came to the river, and in your goodness you hasten to accept the baptism of a servant at the hands of the Forerunner, on account of our sins, O Lover of mankind.

At the voice of the one crying in the desert, 'Prepare the way of the Lord', you came, Lord, having taken the form of a servant, asking for Baptism, though you did not know sin. The waters saw you and were afraid. The Forerunner trembled and cried out, saying, 'How will the lamp enlighten the Light? The servant place his hand on the Master, Saviour, who takes away the sin of the world, make me and the waters holy'.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:

*as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.*

### The Readings

A reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah.

Isaiah 35:1-10

*(After the Reading)*

The Word of the Lord.

***Thanks be to God.***

A reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah.

Isaiah 55:1-13

*(After the Reading)*

The Word of the Lord.

***Thanks be to God.***

A reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah.

Isaiah 12:3-6

*(After the Reading)*

The Word of the Lord.

***Thanks be to God.***

Psalm 27

- 1 The LORD is my light and my salvation;  
whom then shall I fear? \*  
the LORD is the strength of my life;  
of whom then shall I be afraid?
  
- 2 When evildoers came upon me to eat up my flesh, \*  
it was they, my foes and my adversaries, who  
stumbled and fell.
  
- 3 Though an army should encamp against me, \*  
yet my heart shall not be afraid;
  
- 4 And though war should rise up against me, \*  
yet will I put my trust in him.
  
- 5 One thing have I asked of the LORD;  
one thing I seek; \*  
that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days

of my life;

- 6 To behold the fair beauty of the LORD \*  
and to seek him in his temple.
- 7 For in the day of trouble he shall keep me safe  
in his shelter; \*  
he shall hide me in the secrecy of his dwelling  
and set me high upon a rock.
- 8 Even now he lifts up my head \*  
above my enemies round about me.
- 9 Therefore I will offer in his dwelling an oblation  
with sounds of great gladness; \*  
I will sing and make music to the LORD.
- 10 Hearken to my voice, O LORD, when I call; \*  
have mercy on me and answer me.
- 11 You speak in my heart and say, "Seek my face." \*  
Your face, LORD, will I seek.
- 12 Hide not your face from me, \*  
nor turn away your servant in displeasure.
- 13 You have been my helper;  
cast me not away; \*  
do not forsake me, O God of my salvation.

14 Though my father and my mother forsake me, \*  
the LORD will sustain me.

15 Show me your way, O LORD; \*  
lead me on a level path, because of my enemies.

16 Deliver me not into the hand of my adversaries, \*  
for false witnesses have risen up against me,  
and also those who speak malice.

17 What if I had not believed  
that I should see the goodness of the LORD \*  
in the land of the living!

18 O tarry and await the LORD'S pleasure;  
be strong, and he shall comfort your heart; \*  
wait patiently for the LORD.

A reading from the 1st Epistle of Paul to the Corinthians.  
1 Corinthians 10:1-4

*(After the Reading)*

The Word of the Lord.

***Thanks be to God.***

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark.

***Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.***

Mark 1:9-11

*(At the conclusion of the Gospel)*

The Gospel of Christ.

***Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.***

## **The Prayers of the People**

*Deacon or other leader*

In peace let us pray to the Lord, saying, "Lord, have mercy."

For the peace from on high and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

***Lord, have mercy.***

For the peace of the whole world, for the welfare of the Holy Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

***Lord, have mercy.***

For our bishops, and for all the clergy and people, let us pray to the Lord.

***Lord, have mercy.***

For Elizabeth our Queen, for the leaders of the First Nations of Canada, for the leaders of all nations, and for all in authority, let us pray to the Lord.

***Lord, have mercy.***

For *this city (town, village, etc.)*, for every city and community, and for those who live in them in faith, let us pray to the Lord.

***Lord, have mercy.***

For good weather, and for abundant harvests for all to share, let us pray to the Lord.

***Lord, have mercy.***

For those who travel on land, on water, or in the air, let us pray to the Lord.

***Lord, have mercy.***

For the aged and infirm, for the widowed and orphans, and for the sick and the suffering, let us pray to the Lord.

***Lord, have mercy.***

For , let us pray to the Lord.

***Lord, have mercy.***

For the poor and the oppressed, for the unemployed and the destitute, for prisoners and captives, and for all who remember and care for them, let us pray to the Lord.

***Lord, have mercy.***

For our deliverance from all affliction, strife, and need, let us pray to the Lord.

***Lord, have mercy.***

For the absolution and remission of our sins and offenses, let us pray to the Lord.

***Lord, have mercy.***

For all who have died (especially...), let us pray to the Lord.

***Lord, have mercy.***

That we may end our lives in faith and hope, without suffering and without reproach, let us pray to the Lord.

***Lord, have mercy.***

That these waters may be sanctified by the power, and effectual operation, and descent of the Holy Spirit, let us pray to the Lord.

***Lord, have mercy.***

That there may descend upon these waters the cleansing operation of the super-substantial Trinity, let us pray to the Lord.

***Lord, have mercy.***

That he will endue them with the grace of redemption, the blessing of Jordan, the might, and operation, and descent of the Holy Spirit; let us pray to the Lord.

***Lord, have mercy.***

That Satan may speedily be crushed under our feet, and that every evil counsel directed against us may be brought to nothing, let us pray to the Lord.

***Lord, have mercy.***

That the Lord our God will free us from every attack and temptation of the enemy, and make us worthy of the good things which he has promised, let us pray to the Lord.

***Lord, have mercy.***

That he will illumine us with the light of understanding and of piety, and with the descent of the Holy Spirit, let us pray to the Lord.

***Lord, have mercy.***

That the Lord our God will send down the blessing of Jordan, and sanctify these waters, let us pray to the Lord.

***Lord, have mercy.***

That this water may be to us the bestowing of sanctification; unto the remission of sins; unto the healing of soul and body; and unto every expedient service, let us pray to the Lord.

***Lord, have mercy.***

That this water may be a fountain welling forth unto life eternal, let us pray to the Lord.

***Lord, have mercy.***

That it may manifest itself effectual unto the averting of every machination of our foes, whether visible or invisible, let us pray to the Lord.

***Lord, have mercy.***

For those who shall draw of it and take of it to sanctify their homes, let us pray to the Lord.

***Lord, have mercy.***

That it may be for the purification of the souls and bodies of all those who, with faith, shall draw and partake of it, let us pray to the Lord.

***Lord, have mercy.***

That he will graciously enable us to perfect sanctification by participation in these waters, through the invisible manifestation of the Holy Spirit, let us pray to the Lord.

***Lord, have mercy.***

Defend us, deliver us, and in thy compassion protect us, O Lord, by thy grace.

***Lord, have mercy.***

In the communion of [and of all the] saints, let us commend ourselves, and one another, and all our life, to Christ our God.

***To you, O Lord our God.***

Almighty God, you have given us grace at this time with one accord to make our common supplications to you; and you have promised through your well-beloved Son that when two

or three are gathered together you will hear their requests. Fulfill now our desires and petitions as may be best for us; granting us in this world knowledge of your truth, and in the age to come eternal life; for you, Father, are good and loving, and we glorify you through your Son Jesus Christ our Lord, in the Holy Spirit, now and for ever. Amen.

## **Thanksgiving over the Water**

The Lord be with you.

### **And also with you.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

***It is right to give our thanks and praise.***

*One of more of the following blessings is used:*

### **Blessing Form I**

We give you thanks, almighty God and Father, for by the gift of water you nourish and sustain all living things.

***Blessed be God for ever.***

We give you thanks that through the waters of the Red Sea, you led your people out of slavery to freedom in the promised land.

***Blessed be God for ever.***

We give you thanks for sending your Son Jesus. For he was baptized by John in the river Jordan. For us he was anointed as Christ by your Holy Spirit. For us he suffered the baptism of his own death and resurrection, setting us free from the bondage of sin and death, and opening to us the joy and freedom of everlasting life.

***Blessed be God for ever.***

We give you thanks for your Holy Spirit who teaches us and leads us into all truth, filling us with his gifts so that we might proclaim the gospel to all nations and serve you as a royal priesthood.

***Blessed be God for ever.***

*The water is blessed, three times, with the sign of the Cross or with a Cross dipped in the water; each time the following is said:*

Now sanctify this water, we pray you, by the power of your Holy Spirit.



Almighty and Merciful God, in the Baptism of your Son, you have restored Creation and fulfilled it as a means of salvation. Show this water to be the water of redemption and the purification of flesh and spirit, through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

***Great are You, O Lord, and marvelous are Your works, and no word will suffice to praise Your wonders.***

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***Great are You, O Lord, and marvelous are Your works, and no word will suffice to praise Your wonders.***

Today the grace of the Holy Spirit in the form of a dove dwelt upon the waters.

Today the Sun that never sets has dawned and the world is made radiant with the light of the Lord.

Today the Moon with its radiant beams sheds light on the world. Today the stars formed of light make the inhabited world lovely with the brightness of their splendour.

Today the clouds rain down from heaven the shower of justice for mankind. Today the Uncreated by his own will accepts the laying on of hands by his own creature.

Today the Prophet and Forerunner draws near, but stands by with fear seeing God's condescension towards us. Today the streams of Jordan are changed into healing by the presence of the Lord.

Today all creation is watered by mystical streams.

Today the failings of mankind are being washed away by the waters of Jordan.

Today Paradise is opened for mortals and the Sun of justice shines down on us. Today the bitter water as once for Moses' people is changed to sweetness by the presence of the Lord.

Today we have been delivered from the ancient grief, and saved as the new Israel.

Today we have been redeemed from darkness and are filled with radiance by the light of the knowledge of God.

Today the gloomy fog of the world is cleansed by the manifestation of our God. Today all creation shines with light from on high.

Today error has been destroyed and the coming of the Master makes for us a way of salvation.

Today things on high keep festival with those below, and those below commune with those on high.

Today the sacred and triumphant festal assembly of the Church exults.

Today the Master hastens towards baptism, that he may lead humanity to the heights.

Today the One who does not bow bows down to his own servant, that he may free us from servitude.

Today we have purchased the Kingdom of heaven, for the Kingdom of the Lord will have no end.

Today earth and sea share the joy of the world, and the world has been filled with gladness.

## Blessing Form II

Trinity above being, above goodness, above divinity, all-powerful, all-seeing, invisible, incomprehensible, creator of all spiritual beings and rational natures; goodness itself, the inaccessible light enlightening all who come into the world, shine in me, Your unworthy servant, and enlighten the eyes of my understanding, that I may make bold to praise Your infinite benevolence and power. May my prayer for the people here present be well-pleasing; may my offenses not impede the coming of the Holy Spirit among us, but judge me uncondemned as I cry to You now and say of Your surpassing goodness:

We glorify You, loving Master, almighty, king from everlasting. We glorify You, creator and author of all.

We glorify You, only begotten Son of God, born of the Father without a mother, and of a mother without father. For in the previous feast we saw You an infant; in this present one we see You complete, perfect, manifested from the perfect God. For today the time for feasting has come and the choir of the saints holds assembly with us, and angels celebrate with men.

Today the grace of the Holy Spirit, in the form of a dove, came upon the waters. Today the unwaning sun has dawned, and the world is lit up with the light of the Lord. Today the moon with its brilliant rays shares its light with the earth. Today the luminous stars embellish the universe with their joyous luster. Today the clouds refresh humanity with a rain of justice from above. Today the uncreated One is by His own will touched by the creature. Today the prophet and forerunner approaches the Master, but pauses in awe, seeing God's condescension towards us. Today the waters of the Jordan are turned into healing by the presence of the Lord. Today all creation is watered by mystical waters. Today men's sins are washed away in the waters of the Jordan. Today Paradise is thrown open to humankind, and the sun of righteousness shines upon us. Today the water that the people under Moses found bitter, is turned into sweetness at the Lord's presence.

Today we are free of the ancient grief, and like a new Israel have been redeemed. Today we are delivered from the darkness and are bathed in the light of the knowledge of God. Today the world's gloom is dispersed in the epiphany of our God. Today the entire universe is lit as by a heavenly torch. Today error is abolished and the coming of the Lord opens the way to salvation. Today the heavenly joins the earthly in celebration, and that which is below holds discourse with that which is above. Today the holy and vibrant assembly of the Orthodox rejoices. Today the Master hastens towards baptism so as to raise humankind to the heights. Today He Who bends to none, bows before His own servant, so as to free us from bondage. Today heaven has been deeded to us, for of the Lord's kingdom there shall be no end. Today the earth and the sky have divided the world's joy, and the world is filled with gladness.

The waters saw You, O God, the waters saw You and were afraid. The Jordan reversed its flow when it saw the fire of divinity descending bodily and entering it. The Jordan turned back seeing the Holy Spirit descending in the form of a dove and hovering about You. The Jordan turned back seeing the invisible become visible, the creator made flesh, the Master in the form of servant. The Jordan turned back and the mountains leapt, seeing God in the flesh, and the clouds gave voice, marveling at the One present, light of light, true God of true God, Who submerged in the Jordan the death of disobedience and the sting of error and the bond of Hades, giving to the world a baptism of salvation.

Wherefore I your sinful and unworthy servant, recounting the greatness of Your wonders, seized with dread, in deepest awe cry out to You:

***Great are You, O Lord, and marvelous are Your works, and no word will suffice to praise Your wonders.***

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***Great are You, O Lord, and marvelous are Your works, and no word will suffice to praise Your wonders.***

For by Your will You brought all things into being out of nothingness, and in Your might You sustain creation, and in Your providence govern the universe. Once You had shaped creation out of four elements, You crowned the cycle of the year with four seasons. All intelligent life trembles before You. The Sun praises You. The moon sings Your glory. The stars come together around You. The light heeds Your command. The deeps quiver at Your presence. The wellsprings are at Your service. You have stretched out the heavens like a tent; You have made the earth firm upon the waters; You have contained the seas with sands; You have poured forth the air for breathing. The Angelic Powers minister to You; the Choirs of the Archangels pay You homage; the Cherubim of many eyes and the six-winged Seraphim circling and hovering about You, veil themselves in awe of Your surpassing glory.

For though You are God, without beginning, beyond describing or expressing, You came to earth, taking the form of a servant, being made in the likeness of men. For in the tenderness of Your mercy, You could not endure to see humankind under the devil's sway, but came and saved us. We confess Your grace. We proclaim Your mercy. We do not conceal the great kindness. You have set free the generations of our race, You hallowed the Virgin womb by Your birth. All creation magnified Your appearing. For You our God were seen on earth and dwelt among men. You also sanctified the streams of the Jordan, sending down upon them from heaven Your Holy Spirit, crushing the heads of dragons that lurked there.

*Will You also now, Loving King, be present through the descent of Your Holy Spirit and sanctify this water.*

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*Will You also now, Loving King, be present through the descent of Your Holy Spirit and sanctify this water.*

And give to it the grace of redemption, the blessing of Jordan. Make it a fountain of immortality, a gift of sanctification, for the remission of sins, protection against infirmities, destructive to evil forces, inaccessible to opposing powers, filled with angelic might.

That all who draw from it or partake of it may find in it purification of souls and bodies, healing of infirmities, sanctification of houses, every fit benefit. For You are our God, Who through water and the Spirit renewed our nature corrupted by sin. You are our God, Who in the time of Noah washed away sin in the waters.

You are our God, Who at the hand of Moses brought the Hebrew nation to freedom by the sea.

You are our God, Who split the rock in the wilderness and waters flowed and streams were filled and You satisfied Your thirsting people. You are our God, Who at the time of Elijah by water and fire delivered Israel from the falsehood of Baal.

*Will You now, Master, sanctify this water by Your Holy Spirit.*

*Will You now, Master, sanctify this water by Your Holy Spirit.*

*Will You now, Master, sanctify this water by Your Holy Spirit.*

And grant to all, whether they touch it or are anointed by or partake of it, sanctification, blessing, cleansing, health

**The Lord's Prayer**

**The Blessing**

**The Dismissal**