BLESSING OF WATER

# Thanksgiving over the Water

The Celebrant blesses the water, first saying

The Lord be with you.

*People* And also with you.

*Celebrant* Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

*People* It is right to give him thanks and praise.

#### Celebrant

We thank you, Almighty God, for the gift of water. Over it the Holy Spirit moved in the beginning of creation. Through it you led the children of Israel out of their bondage in Egypt into the land of promise. In it your Son Jesus received the baptism of John and was anointed by the Holy Spirit as the Messiah, the Christ, to lead us, through his death and resurrection, from the bondage of sin into everlasting life.

We thank you, Father, for the water of Baptism. In it we are buried with Christ in his death. By it we share in his resurrection. Through it we are reborn by the Holy Spirit. Therefore in joyful obedience to your Son, we bring into his fellowship those who come to him in faith, baptizing them in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

### At the following words, the Celebrant touches the water

Grant, by the power of your Holy Spirit, that those who here are cleansed from sin and born again may continue for ever in the risen life of Jesus Christ our Savior.

To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.

#### Procession and Blessing of Animals

Note: Everyone with an animal for the procession, please line up in the West Cloister (hallway) before the service. The procession of animals will walk up the center aisle and circle around down the north aisle in the Nave. You then go into a pew with your pet for the duration of the service.

#### PROCESSION AND BLESSING OF SERVICE ANIMALS

The Officiant explains that we have invited service animals to join the celebration and invites those animals and their companions to come forward up the center aisle.

Once all the animals are in place across the front of the nave, the Officiant says

Officiant The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

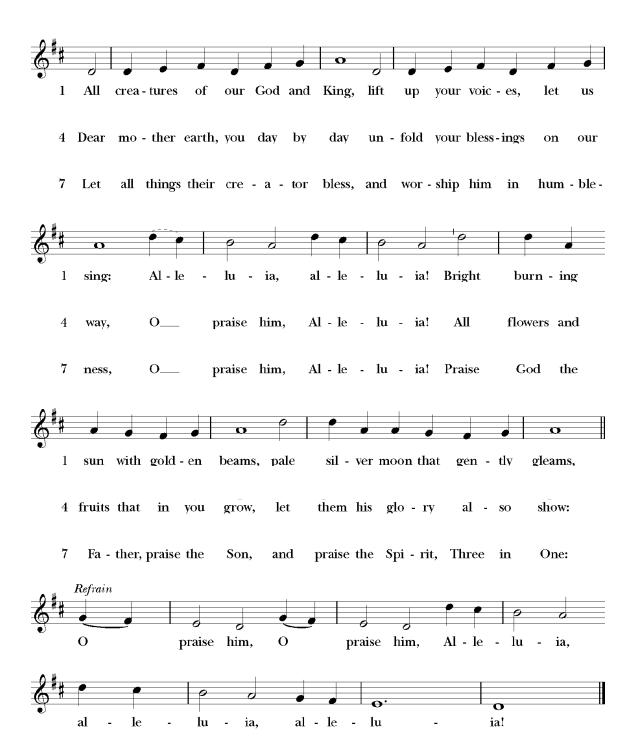
through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Officiant Let us pray.

O God, creator of the earth,
we give you thanks for calling us
to care for all your creatures
and for the companionship and labor we share with them:
Bless these working and service animals
and all service animals they represent,
that those who benefit from their labor
will be encouraged to be good stewards of your creation;
Bless their human co-workers as well
that their work and well-being might flourish
along with their animal companions
and that their relationship would be for us

a reminder of your delight in us and the world you have made;

The officiant asperges the service animals and invites those designated to come forward and present the service animals with a gift bag. Then the officiant directs them all to proceed either to their pew or back down the center aisle as festive music is played.



 $\label{thm:continuous} \textit{The refrain may be sung antiphonally, by phrase; all join in the final Alleluia.}$ 

The Officiant begins the service with one or more of these sentences of Scripture,

Give thanks to the Lord, and call upon his Name; make known his deeds among the peoples.

PSALM 105:1

# The Invitatory and Psalter

All stand

Officiant Lord, open our lips.

*People* And our mouth shall proclaim your praise.

Officiant and People

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. Alleluia.

#### The Psalm

#### The Officiant introduces the psalm saying

Let us say together Psalm 137, verses 1 through 6 as found in the service leaflet. We will say it antiphonally by verse, beginning with this side.

- 1 By the waters of Babylon we sat down and wept, \* when we remembered you, O Zion.
- 2 As for our harps, we hung them up \* on the trees in the midst of that land.
- 3 For those who led us away captive asked us for a song, and our oppressors called for mirth: \*

  "Sing us one of the songs of Zion."
- 4 How shall we sing the Lord's song \* upon an alien soil.
- 5 If I forget you, O Jerusalem, \* let my right hand forget its skill.
- 6 Let my tongue cleave to the roof of my mouth if I do not remember you, \* if I do not set Jerusalem above my highest joy.

### Said by all following the Psalm

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.

#### Matthew 11:25-30

At that time Jesus said, 'I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and the intelligent and have revealed them to infants; yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. All things have been handed over to me by my Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him. Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.'

Reader The Word of the Lord.

Lesson

*People* Thanks be to God.

### The congregation stands when the hymn is introduced.



# The Homily

Wait 30 seconds from the and of the homily

# The Apostles' Creed

The Officiant invites the congregation in these words

Let us stand and affirm our faith by reciting the Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty,

creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit

and born of the Virgin Mary.

He suffered under Pontius Pilate,

was crucified, died, and was buried.

He descended to the dead.

On the third day he rose again.

He ascended into heaven,

and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,

the holy catholic Church,

the communion of saints,

the forgiveness of sins,

the resurrection of the body,

and the life everlasting. Amen.

## The Prayers

#### The people kneel

*Officiant* The Lord be with you.

*People* And also with you.

Officiant Let us pray.

Our Father, who art in heaven,
 hallowed be thy Name,
 thy kingdom come,
 thy will be done,
 on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread.

And forgive us our trespasses,
 as we forgive those who trespass against us.

And lead us not into temptation,
 but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,
 for ever and ever. Amen.

### The Collect of Francis of Assisi

Most high, omnipotent, good Lord, grant your people grace to renounce gladly the vanities of this world; that, following the way of blessed Francis, we may for love of you delight in your whole creation with perfectness of joy; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

# A Collect for Knowledge of God's Creation

Almighty and everlasting God, you made the universe with all its marvelous order, its atoms, worlds, and galaxies, and the infinite complexity of living creatures: Grant that, as we probe the mysteries of your creation, we may come to know you more truly, and more surely fulfill our role in your eternal purpose; in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen*.

# A Collect for the Right Use of God's Gifts

Almighty God, whose loving hand has given us all that we possess: Grant us grace that we may honor you with our substance, and, remembering the account which we must one day give, may be faithful stewards of your bounty, through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen*.

## **Greeting and Announcements**

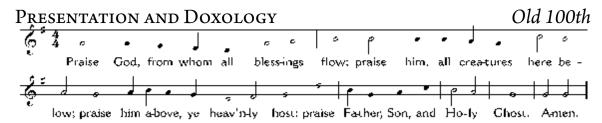
## **Offertory Sentence**

One of the following, or some other appropriate sentence of Scripture, may be used

Offer to God a sacrifice of thanksgiving, and make good your vows to the Most High. *Psalm 50:14* 

Ascribe to the Lord the honor due his Name; bring offerings and come into his courts. *Psalm 96:8* 

Walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself for us, an offering and sacrifice to God. *Ephesians 5:2* 



#### **CLOSING PRAYER**

OFFICIANT The Lord be with you.

PEOPLE And also with you.

Officiant Let us pray.

A Collect for the Beauty of the Earth

We give you thanks, most gracious God,

for the beauty of earth and sky and sea;

for the richness of mountains, plains, and rivers;

for the songs of birds and the loveliness of flowers.

We praise you for these good gifts,

and pray that we may safeguard them for our posterity.

Grant that we may continue to grow in our grateful enjoyment

of your abundant creation,

to the honor and glory of your Name,

now and for ever. Amen.

#### THE BLESSING

The peace of God, which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, be among you, and remain with you always. *Amen*.

