

Thanksgiving Over the Water (*All Saints' Day/Sunday*)

A suitable alternate acclamation may be sung or said instead of "Glory to you for ever and ever."

The Lord be with you.

(or May God be with you.)

And also with you.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

(or Let us give thanks to God our Creator.)

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

(or It is right to offer thanks and praise.)

We give you thanks, source and sustainer of life, for the gift of water.
This is the water your Spirit stirred at the dawn of creation,
separating the soil from the sea,
and calling forth a humanity fashioned to bear your image.

Glory to you, for ever and ever.

This is the water through which you delivered twelve tribes
enslaved to the powers of empire and oppression.
You made a covenant with them in the wilderness beyond the Red Sea,
and led them through the Jordan into a land of promise,
uniting them as one people,
chosen to display your liberating power for all held in captivity.

Glory to you, for ever and ever.

This is the water sprinkled upon a people in exile,
gifting them with a new heart and a new spirit,
gathering them together from north and south, east and west,
a fulfillment of your promise to restore those who weep in despair
to the joy and dignity of hope.

Glory to you, for ever and ever.

This is the water in which Jesus, Redeemer of the world,
was baptized and named as your beloved child.

This is the water that takes its course
from the wounded side of Christ crucified,

the living water that bursts tomb-sealing rock,
giving rise to the new creation,
and birthing from every tongue and nation
a people consecrated to you.

Glory to you, for ever and ever.

This is the water of life that springs forth in that city
where you dwell with a multitude beyond number,
united in the One whom they worship to the end of time and for ever.

Glory to you, for ever and ever.

Gathered around this font,
and surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses,
we ask you to stir the waters once again
by the movement of your Holy Spirit.
From these waters, raise up a people hungry for justice and peace,
one with Christ, one with each other,
and one in ministry to all the world,
a sign of your promise for all creation,
until Christ comes in final victory
and we feast at the promised and eternal banquet.

We pray in communion with all the saints on earth and heaven,
with the martyrs and the faithful of all ages,
and in the name of the Lamb who was slain,
but now reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
above all rule and authority, power and dominion,
for ever and ever.

Glory to you, for ever and ever. Amen.