

Thanksgiving Over the Water (*Baptism of the Lord*)

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.)

Blessed are you, O God, Alpha and Omega,
the beginning and the end.

You are the One who makes all things new.

To the thirsty you give water from the spring of the water of life.

You make the wasteland glad,
the desert rejoice and blossom,

turning parched ground into a refreshing pool
and arid terrain into an overflowing fountain.

By the gift of water you nourish and renew all living things.

Glory to you for ever and ever.

In the beginning, when darkness covered the face of the deep,
you breathed your Spirit over the waters,
calling forth life in abundance.

In the time of Noah, when the flood of judgment engulfed the earth,
you rescued and made a covenant with your creation.

Glory to you for ever and ever.

At the Red Sea,

you drove back the waters by the strong wind of your Spirit,
opening up a path to liberation.

You released the children of Israel from the shackles of slavery
to dance and sing on the shore of freedom and promise.

Glory to you for ever and ever.

In the fullness of time, Jesus was baptized in the River Jordan,
repenting for the sin of the world
and restoring to water its healing work in all creation.

Glory to you for ever and ever.

In the Jordan,
you revealed Jesus as the one in whom your soul delights.
You anointed him to open the eyes that are blind,
to rescue the prisoners from the dungeon,
to set free those who sit in darkness,
and to bring forth justice to the nations.

Glory to you for ever and ever.

Suffering the baptism of death and resurrection,
Jesus set us free from the bondage of sin and death,
and gave birth to the New Creation.
The crucified and risen Christ stands among us,
baptizing with the Holy Spirit and with fire,
enlivening us to proclaim the gospel to all nations,
serve you as a royal priesthood,
and act as faithful stewards of all that you have made.

Glory to you for ever and ever.

Breathe your Spirit, O God, upon this water
that your servants who are washed and anointed
may share with your Christ in his death and resurrection.
Let there be no distinction among those
whom one font, one Spirit, one faith make one people.
Together, may we stand as a sign and foretaste of your Kingdom,
a covenant to the people, a light to the nations.
We give you praise and honour and worship
through your Child, Jesus the Christ,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and for ever.

Glory to you for ever and ever. Amen.