

THE BLESSING of the WATERS

on the

FEAST of the BAPTISM of the LORD

(With thanks, much of the Rite is borrowed from the Church of St Magnus the Martyr in London where they bless the Thames each year on the Feast of our Lord's Baptism. It is presented with their kind permission.)

Notes:

This is an ancient custom and a wonderful reminder that our Lord, by his own Baptism, sanctified the waters of the earth to our use.

The presiding Bishop or Priest should be vested in cassock & surplice (or alb) with white stole and cope (and mitre and crosier for Bishop).

The Readings can be those from any of those appointed in the 3 Year Lectionary...though it might be nice to use different ones from those that have been used in the church.

The cross for casting into the water should be biodegradable....and one of flowers especially desirable.

A vessel to retrieve water from the loch, harbour or river...and an evergreen "bouquet" for the sprinkling will also be required.

THE RITE

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

I will take you from the nations:

and gather you from all countries.

I will sprinkle clean water upon you:

and purify you from all uncleanness.

A new heart I will give you:

and put a new spirit within you.

You shall be my people:

and I shall be your God.

The Lord be with you

and also with you.

Let us Pray:

Eternal Father, you have given us your only-begotten Son

to take our nature upon him, and revealed him to us

at his baptism in the River Jordan,

grant that we, who have been born again of water and the Holy Spirit,

and made your children by adoption and grace,

may daily be renewed by your Holy Spirit,

through Jesus Christ, our Saviour,

who is alive with you,

in the unity of the Holy Spirit,

one God, now and for ever.

Amen.

Reading : Jeremiah 17. 7-8

A reading from the prophet Jeremiah.

Blessed are those who trust in the Lord,
whose trust is the Lord.

They shall be like a tree planted by water,
sending out its roots by the stream.

It shall not fear when heat comes,
and its leaves shall stay green;
in the year of drought it is not anxious,
and it does not cease to bear fruit.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 46

The response to the psalm is

All The river makes glad the city of God.

God is our refuge and strength,
a very present help in trouble;

Therefore we will not fear, though the earth be moved,
and though the mountains tremble in the heart of the sea; **R.**

Though the waters rage and swell,
and though the mountains quake at the towering seas.

There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God,
the holy place of the dwelling of the Most High. **R.**

God is in the midst of her;
therefore shall she not be removed;
God shall help her at the break of day.

The nations are in uproar and the kingdoms are shaken,
but God utters his voice and the earth shall melt away. **R.**

Reading Revelation : 22. 1-5

A reading from the book of the Revelation to St John.

The angel showed me the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb through the middle of the street of the city. On either side of the river is the tree of life with its twelve kinds of fruit, producing its fruit each month; and the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations. Nothing accursed will be found there any more. But the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and his servants will worship him; they will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. And there will be no more night; they need no light of lamp or sun, for the Lord God will be their light, and they will reign for ever and ever.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The Song of Ephrem the Syrian

Jesus, how wonderful your footsteps, walking on the waters!
You subdued the great sea beneath your feet.

**Yet to a little stream you subjected your head,
bending down to be baptized in it.**

The stream was like John who performed the baptism in it,
in their smallness each an image of the other.

**To the stream so little, to the servant so weak,
the Lord of them both subjected himself.**

Gospel : Mark 1. 9-11

Hear the Gospel of Our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark.

Glory to Christ, our Saviour!.

In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. And a voice came from heaven, 'You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to Christ, our Lord↯

Prayers for all Involved with our Lochs, Harbours & Rivers

The response to Lord, in your mercy is:

All hear our prayer.

The Blessing of the Loch/Harbour/River

The Lord be with you.

and also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is indeed right, it is our duty and our joy,
at all times to give you thanks and praise,
for today the grace of the Holy Spirit
in the form of a dove descended upon the waters.

Today the sun that never sets has risen
and the world is filled with splendour
by the light of the Lord.

Today the clouds drop down upon all people
the dew of righteousness from on high.

Today the Uncreated of his own will
accepts the laying on of hands from his own creature.

Today the waters of the Jordan
are transformed for healing by the coming of the Lord.

Today the blinding mist of the world is dispersed by the Epiphany of our God.

Today things above keep feast with things below,
and things below commune with things above.

So, Father, accept our sacrifice of praise;
by the power of your life-giving Spirit
bless the waters of this great river
through your anointed Son, Jesus Christ our Lord,
to whom with you and the Holy Spirit
we lift our voices of praise:

**All blessed be God, our strength and our salvation,
now and for ever.**

Amen.

*At the 'all-clear' a wooden cross(or a biodegradable floral one)
is dropped into the river/harbour/loch by the presider.*

*(In the Eastern Churches, the Bishop or Priest casts their blessing cross into the body of water and
the brave dive in to retrieve it....with its finder being given a special blessing!)*

May your Holy Spirit,
who has brought us to new birth in the family of your Church,
raise us in Christ, our anointed Lord,
to full and eternal life.

For all might, majesty and dominion are yours,
now and for ever.

Alleluia! Amen.

The people are sprinkled with blessed water by the presider.

God, who in Christ gives us a spring of water
welling up to eternal life,
perfect in you the image of his glory;
and the blessing of God Almighty,
the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit
be upon you and remain with you always.

Amen.

Let us go, rejoicing in the peace of Christ

Thanks be to God.

Please make your way to _____ for light refreshments