

Prayer of Thanksgiving Over the Water/Baptismal Prayer

In the beginning, when your Spirit moved over the face of the waters,

light and life emerged from the dark and formless void.

At your calling, all creation came forth and You declared that it was good.

Within the presence of the same Spirit of light and life,

we give thanks for the gift of water that sustains life:

For the earth and the air

for plants and trees,

for birds and fish,

for animals and humans.

In the gift of your covenant, You led your people

through the Red Sea and out of slavery to freedom.

By the rivers of Babylon, you offered consolation to your people in captivity.

When Jesus was baptized in the Jordan River,

all creation was blessed by You.

Through his death on the cross, Jesus' baptism became complete

and in his resurrection the gift of eternal life is available to all.

We gather around this water to give thanks for the gift of birth

and for the experience of new birth.

We receive this water as part of the earth that you created,

*[from the local rivers of *** (at this point the celebrant will name the local rivers near
the gathering)]*

and pour it over our bodies to mark us as followers of Jesus Christ,

and to celebrate our calling as beloved children of God.

We give thanks for x whose call to discipleship we celebrate in the sacrament of baptism.

By your Spirit, breathe new life upon the one who passes through this water.

Bind them to Your unending love and to the community of faith

that they may share with joy this life of discipleship and mission, serving all in need.

Give them strength to follow faithfully in the way of Christ

that they may serve as a sign of your redemptive love

by caring for others and for the world that you created.

We praise you and thank You for your goodness that creates us,

calls us, and claims us as your own beloved children.

To You, Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer, be all glory and honor. Amen.