

The Fountain of Life: Thanksgiving over Water

J. Frank Henderson

© February 2002

The following five prayers are suitable for use in liturgies of baptism and baptismal renewal. One of these may be used alone, or several used in any combination, or all six used together. Each may be followed by a response such as “Blessed be God for ever.” The prayer may conclude with a doxology and Amen. The form or structure of these prayers is somewhat different from many now in use.

A

O God, you are the fountain of life:
we bless you for these baptismal waters
in which you show us your great love.
Like morning dew upon the grass,
let your Holy Spirit come upon us
that we may be full of wonder and delight
and may witness to your Word and your Wisdom. R.

B

O God, you call us forth as from the waters of your womb:
we thank you for these baptismal waters
in which you adopt us as daughters and sons, sisters and brothers of Jesus Christ.
Like spring showers upon the thirsty soil,
let your Holy Spirit come upon us,
that we may be life-giving and creative
and may know Christ in the breaking of the bread. R.

C

O God, you rescue us from deep waters:
we praise you for these baptismal waters
in which you deliver us from slavery to sin and death.
Like cleansing water upon the body,
let your Holy Spirit come upon us
that we may have strength and energy
and may continue Christ’s ministry of peace and justice. R.

D

O God, you quench our thirst with living water:
we bless you for these baptismal waters
in which you call us to be disciples of Jesus Christ.
Like ocean waves upon the shore,
let your Holy Spirit come upon us
that we may be committed and persistent
and may build up Christ's Body, the church. R.

E

O God, you refresh us beside still waters and wipe away every tear from our eyes:
we thank you for these baptismal waters
in which you make us inheritors with Christ of your own realm.
Like rivers flowing from melting glaciers,
let your Holy Spirit come upon us
that we may be hospitable and caring
and may manifest Christ's love for all. R.

The following doxology may be used, or another:

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