**Prayer**

Eternal God,

We thank you for the glory of your creation – a mystery that surpasses our knowledge.

Eternal God,

We thank you for the earth and water, sun and wind, creatures and peoples – cultures – nations:

Guide us as we gather to confess that we have violated the gift of life given to us.

Strengthen us as we seek to affirm that the earth and all therein is yours.

Enable us as we seek to recall your covenant and make it our own.

(Source: World Council of Churches. Reproduced by ECEN for Creation Time 2003)

**Water Is Life**

In the Bible, water is a powerful symbol for the life that God’s spirit brings. Water is also portrayed as an agent – God cares for all creatures by providing them with water (eg Psalm 104:10-16). Thus, God’s coming kingdom is a place of abundant clean water – the desert blooms (Isaiah 35) and a life-giving river flows through God’s city (Revelation 22).

Praised be You, my Lord,
through Sister Water
who is so useful,
humble,
precious,
and pure.

**- From The Canticle of the Creatures by St. Francis of Assisi**

In my first sleep
I came to the river
And looked down
Through the clear water -
Only in dream
Water so pure,
Laced and undulant
Lines of flow
On its rocky bed
Water of life
Streaming for ever.

A house was there
Beside the river
And I, arrived,
An expected guest
About to explore
Old gardens and libraries -
But the car was waiting
To drive me away.

One last look
Into that bright stream -
Trout there were
And clear on the bottom
Monster form
Of the great crayfish
That crawls to the moon.
On its rocky bed
Living water
In whorls and ripples
Flowing unbended.

There was the car
To drive me away.
We crossed the river
Of living water -
I might not stay,
But must return
By the road too short
To the waiting day.

In my second dream
Pure I was and free
By the rapid stream,
My crystal house the sky,
The pure crystalline sky.

Into the stream I flung
A bottle of clear glass
That twirled and tossed and spun
In the water's race
Flashing the morning sun.

Down that swift river
I saw it borne away,
My empty crystal form,
Exultant saw it caught
Into the current's spin,
The flashing water's run.  [Kathleen Jessie Raine](https://www.poemhunter.com/kathleen-jessie-raine/poems/)

## Prayer for Sister Water

We praise and thank You, Lord,
for the gift of living water.
Guide us
to use it wisely,
learn from its humility,
consume it sparingly,
and protect its purity,
so that with St. Francis,
we may truly

# enjoy water

Amen.

##### - by Br. Cathal Duddy ofm

## Lord, grant us Wisdom to Care for the Earth

Lord, grant us the wisdom to care for the earth and till it.

Help us to act now for the good of future generations

and all your creatures.

Help us to become instruments of a new creation,

founded on the covenant of your love.

Amen.

- from [The Cry of the Earth](http://www.catholicbishops.ie/images/stories/cco_publications/other/cry_of_the_earth_pastoral_short.pdf)