**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)