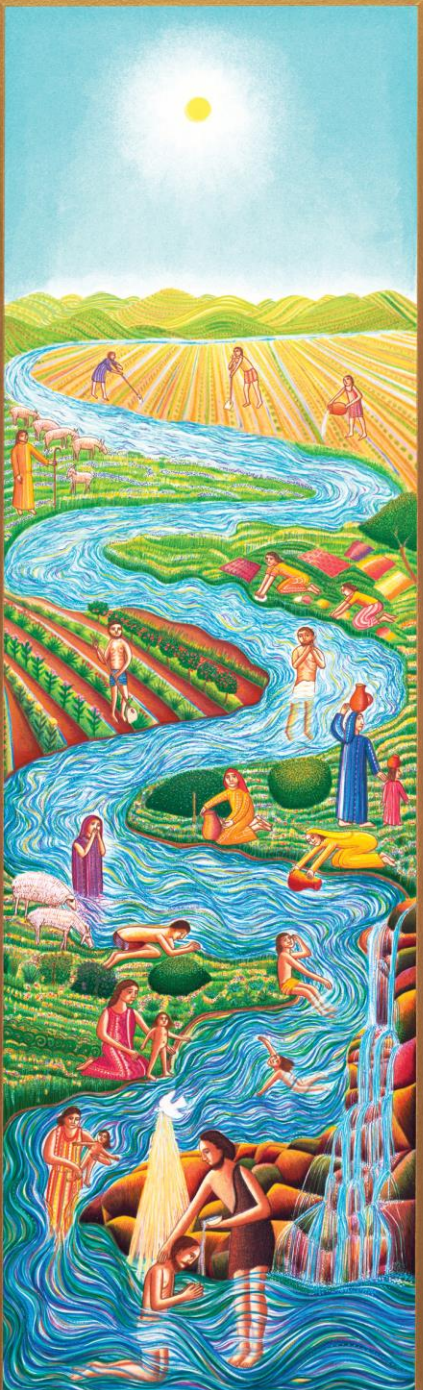


**AN OFFICE FOR
THE FEAST OF
THE BAPTISM OF OUR LORD**

ENTRANCE OF THE LIGHT

Remembering Christ's incarnation, life, death and rising,
we rejoice in the Light no darkness can overcome.

*All glory be to you, through Jesus Christ our risen Lord,
in the light of the life-giving love of the Holy Spirit now
and unto ages of ages. Amen.*



THE ASSEMBLY REPENTS

In the presence of your Light, our darkness is revealed.

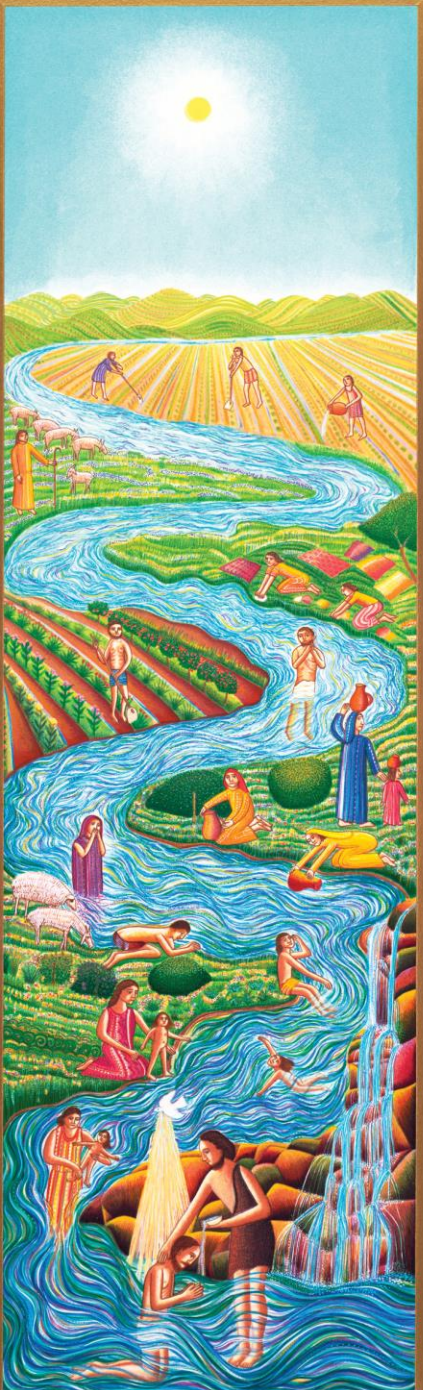
Together we reject all that hampers the fullness of life you bring.

You are giving us freedom from the sin that limits our abilities to know you and profess you to others. Holding to one another, we place our whole trust in you, and open ourselves to the diverse canopy of your promise being fulfilled.

As one and many siblings who find our voice and home in you:

Glory to you, O Trinity, most holy and blessed:

One God, now and forever, Amen.



CALL TO PRAISE AND PRAYER

Faithful people of God, give praise!

Praise the Name of our God! Alleluia!

From the rising of the sun to its setting,

glory be to God, most holy and blessed Trinity!

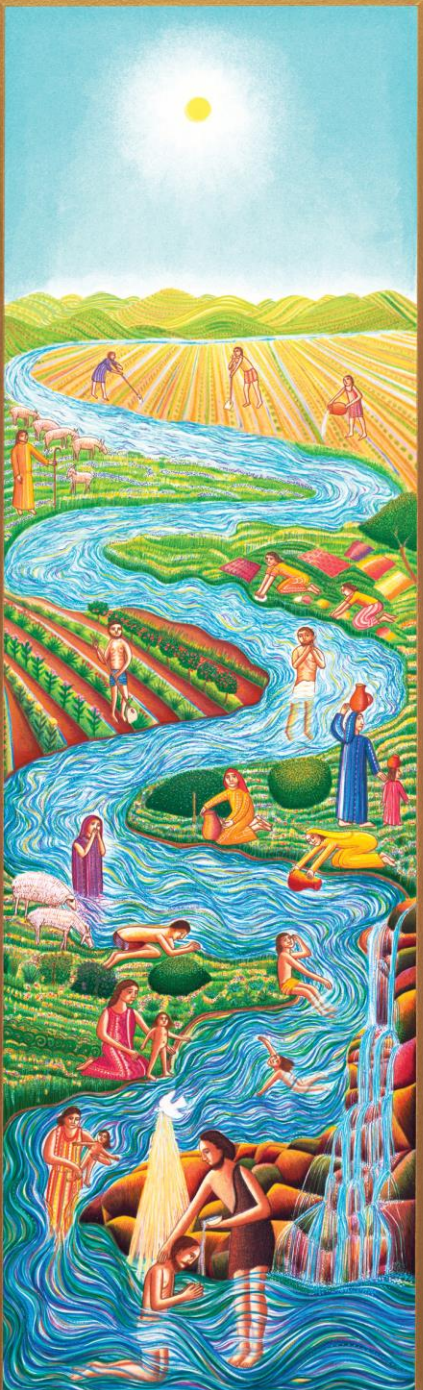
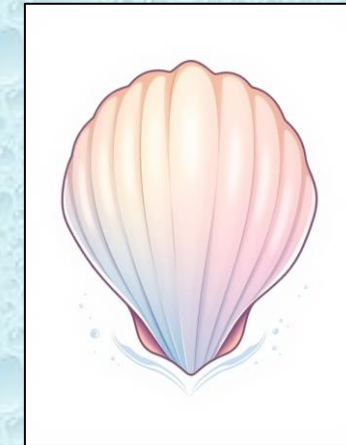
REMEMBRANCE OF BAPTISM

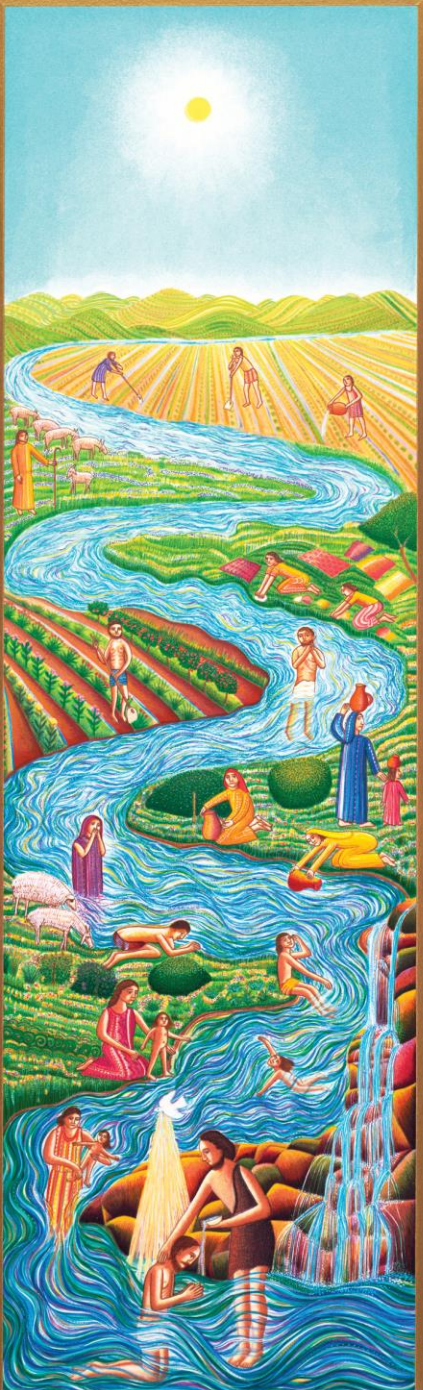
By Word and water, it is God who renews us,
refreshing us in grace

and bathing us in the Spirit for life.

Remember your baptism and be thankful!

water may be touched or poured





HYMN

God of the Sparrow, God of the Whale

122UMH

God of the sparrow — God of the whale — God of the swirling stars
How does the creature say Awe — How does the creature say Praise

God of the earthquake — God of the storm — God of the trumpet blast
How does the creature cry Woe — How does the creature cry Save

God of the rainbow — God of the cross — God of the empty grave
How does the creature say Grace — How does the creature say Thanks

God of the hungry — God of the sick — God of the prodigal
How does the creature say Care — How does the creature say Life

God of the neighbor — God of the foe — God of the pruning hook
How does the creature say Love — How does the creature say Peace

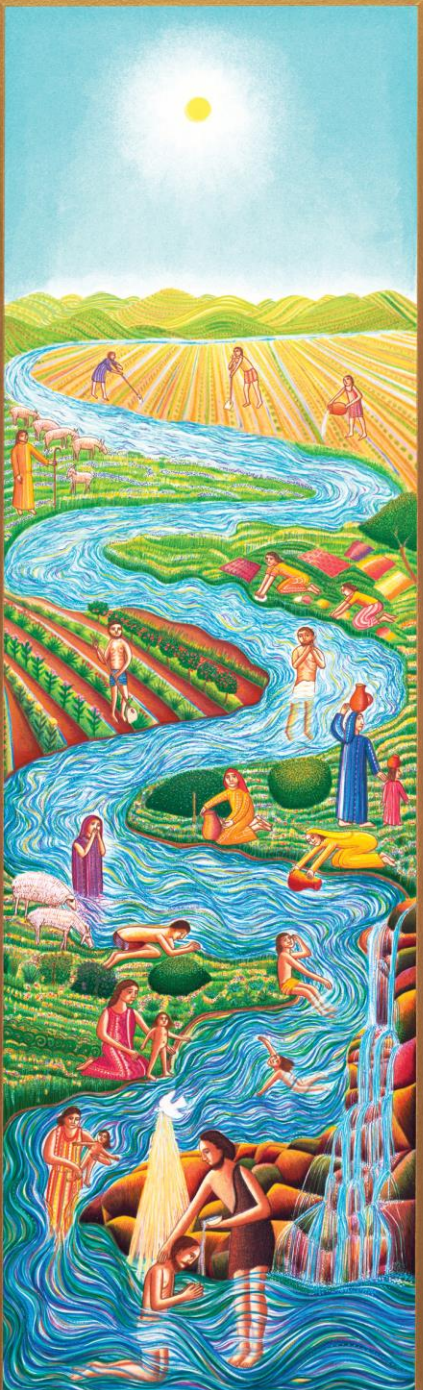
God of the ages — God near at hand — God of the loving heart
How do your children say Joy — How do your children say Home

PRAYER

The Holy One be with you,
and also with you.

O God, who through Jesus Christ endowed the baptismal waters with grace, sending your Holy Spirit on him in the sign of the dove: pour out your blessing on your Church to direct the way of all who follow Jesus, opening the door of your reign of peace and justice to all who are willing to enter, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Adapted from the Ancient Gothic Sacramentary, 9th c. TJC



PSALTER

PSALM 29

Antiphon

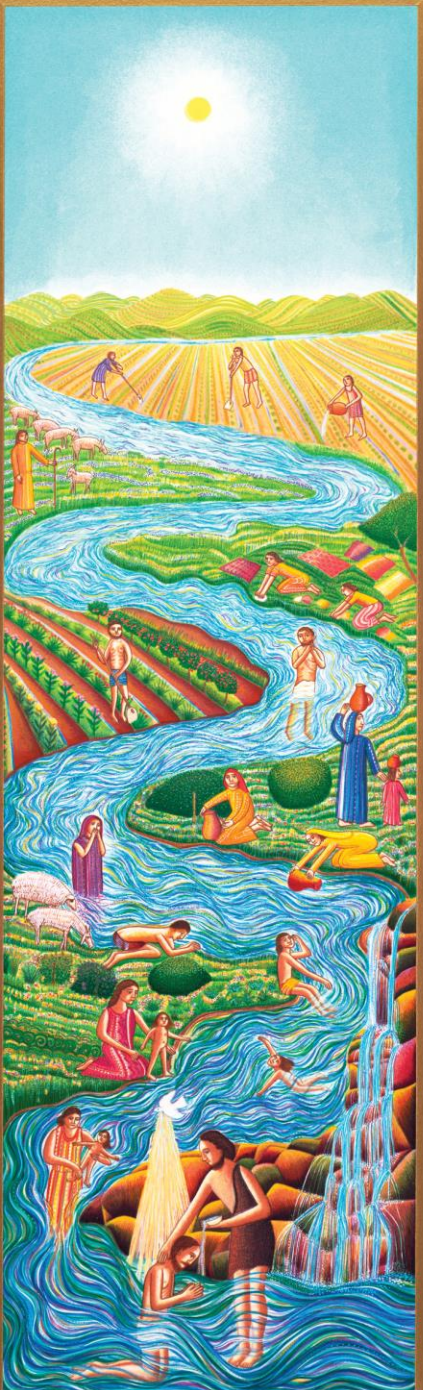
*The voice of ADONAI resounds over the waters;
the God of glory thunders over the waters.*

¹Give glory to Adonai, you heavenly beings,
Give Adonai, glory and strength.

²*Give forth the glory God's name deserves;
and worship Adonai in the splendor of holiness.*

³The voice of Adonai resounds over the waters;
the God of glory thunders,
the LORD thunders over the raging seas.

⁴*The voice of the LORD is powerful;
the voice of the LORD is full of majesty.*



PSALTER

PSALM 29

⁵ The voice Adonai snaps the cedars;
shattering the cedars of Lebanon.

⁶ *Adonai's voice makes Lebanon leap like a calf,
Sirion like a young wild ox.*

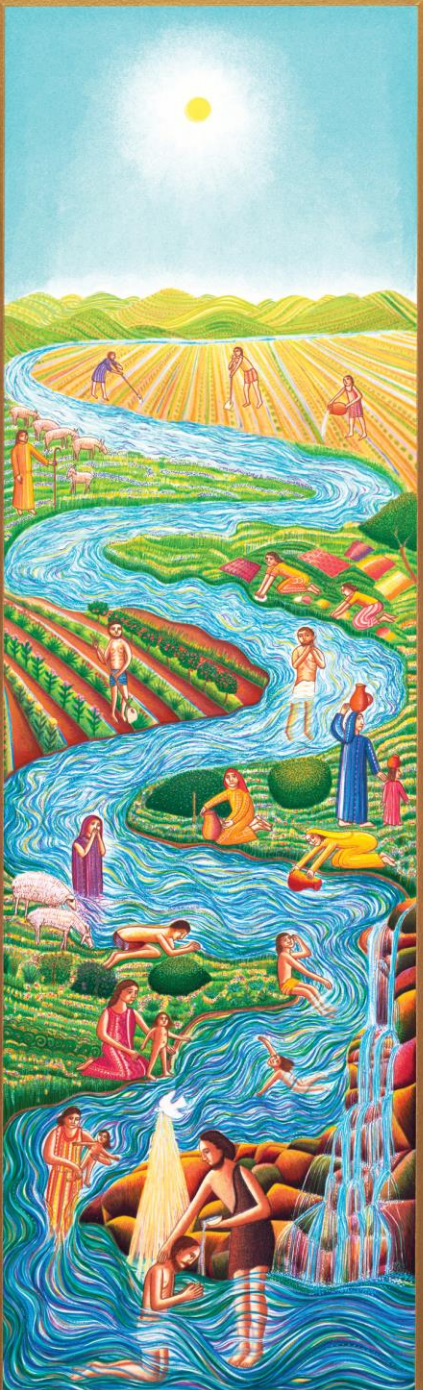
⁷ The voice of Adonai strikes
with bolts of lightning.

⁸ *The voice of ADONAI shakes the wilderness;
the wilderness of Kadesh.*

⁹ The voice of GOD twists the oaks^[c]
and strips the forests bare.

And in God's temple all cry, "Glory!"

¹⁰ *ADONAI sits in judgment over the flood;
ADONAI is its Ruler forever.*



PSALTER

PSALM 29

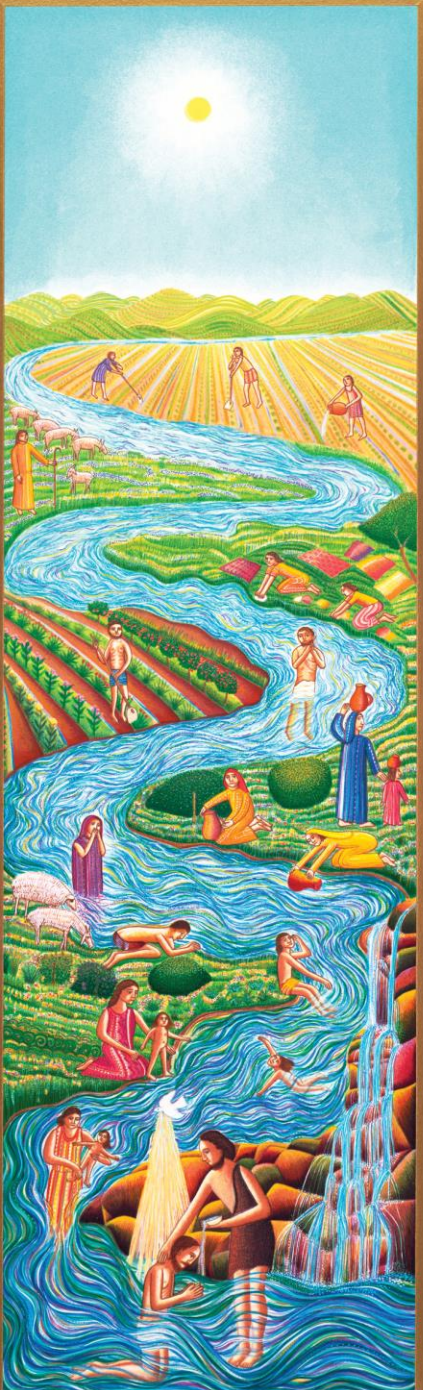
¹¹ Give strength to your people, ADONAI!
Bless your people with peace!

GLORIA

*Glory to God: Source of all good, Eternal Word and Ho-ly Spirit,
one God, holy and bless-ed Trinity, who is now, ever was, and
ever shall be for endless ages. A-men.*

Antiphon *The voice of ADONAI resounds over the waters;
the God of glory thunders over the waters.*

- Silence -



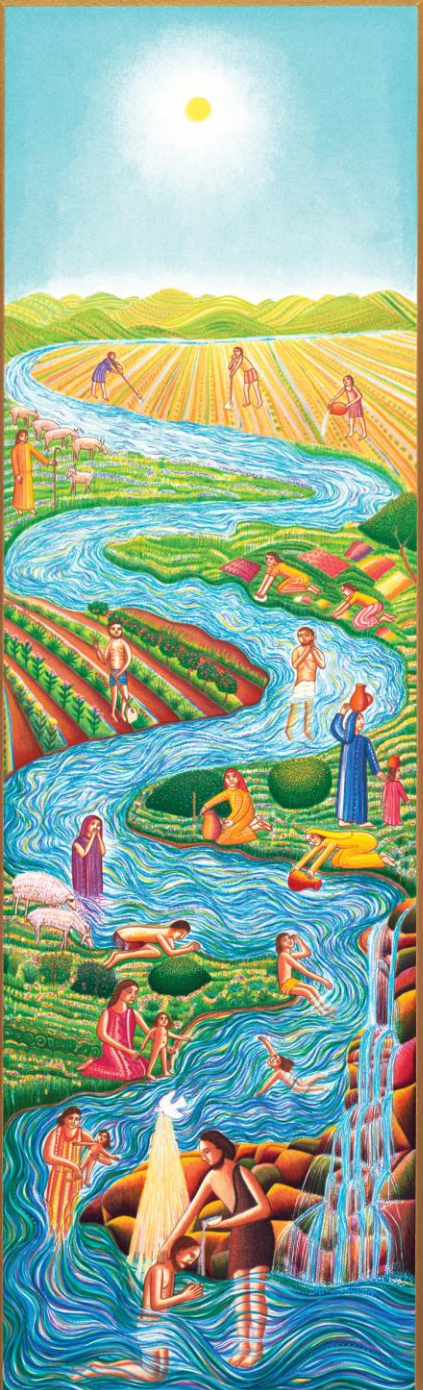
*As we prepare to hear our Scripture reading,
please take note of any word that speaks to you
– sharing will follow the reading.*

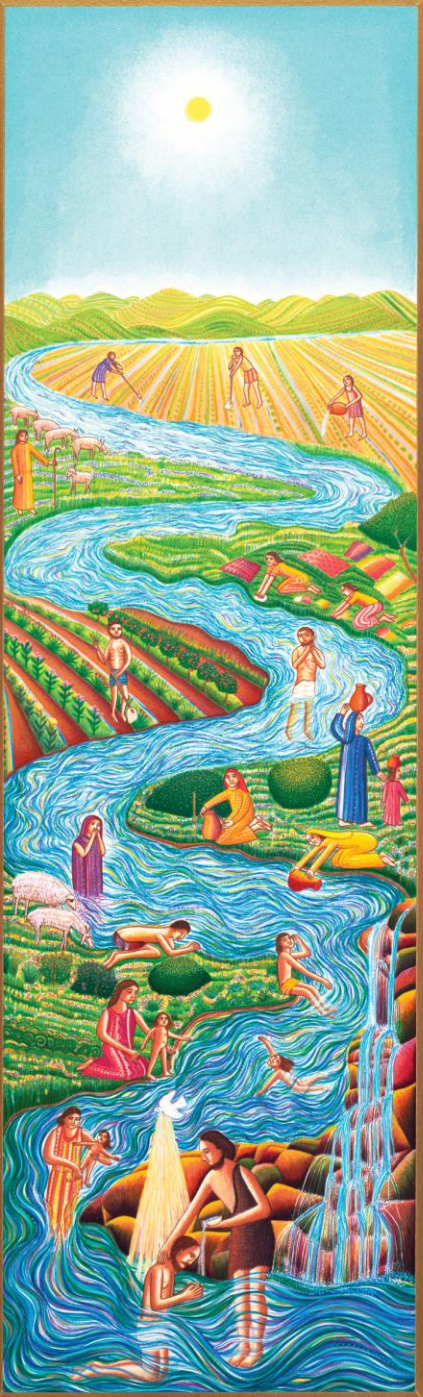
WORD

John 1:29-34

²⁹ The next day, catching sight of Jesus approaching, John exclaimed, “Look, There is God’s sacrificial Lamb, who takes away the world’s sin! ³⁰ This is the one I was talking about when I said, ‘The One who comes after me ranks ahead of me for this One existed before I did.’

³¹ I did not recognize him, but it was so that he would be revealed to Israel that I came baptizing with water.”





³² John also gave this testimony: “I saw the Spirit descend from heaven like a dove and she came to rest on him. ³³ I didn’t recognize him, but the one who sent me to baptize with water told me, ‘When you see the Spirit descend and rest on someone, that is the One who will baptize with the Holy Spirit. ³⁴ Now I have seen for myself and have testified that this is the Only Begotten of God.’”

Holy wisdom! Holy word!

Thanks be to God!

Hear what the Spirit is saying:

- *Sharing* -

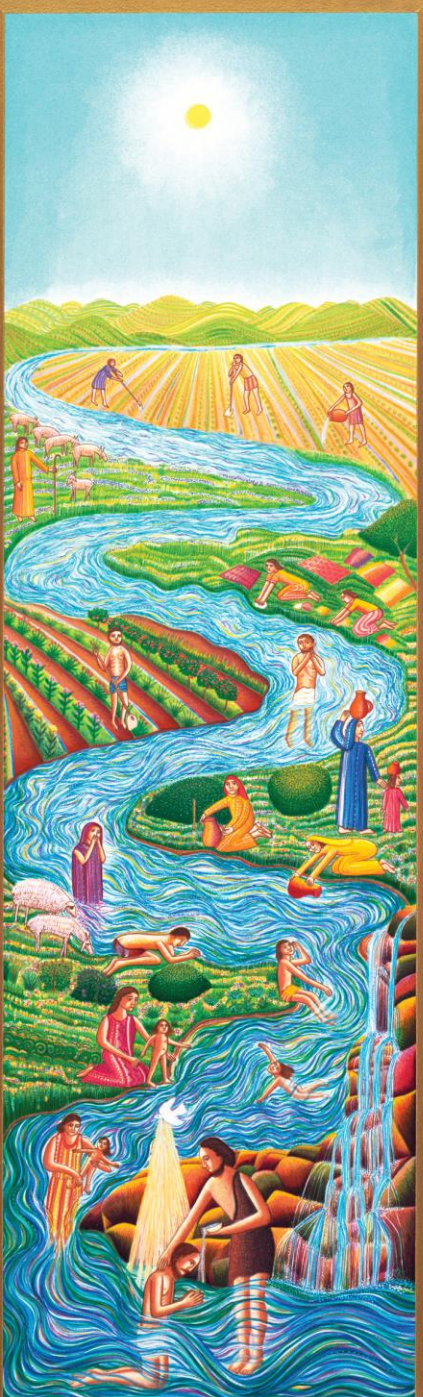
- *Silence* —

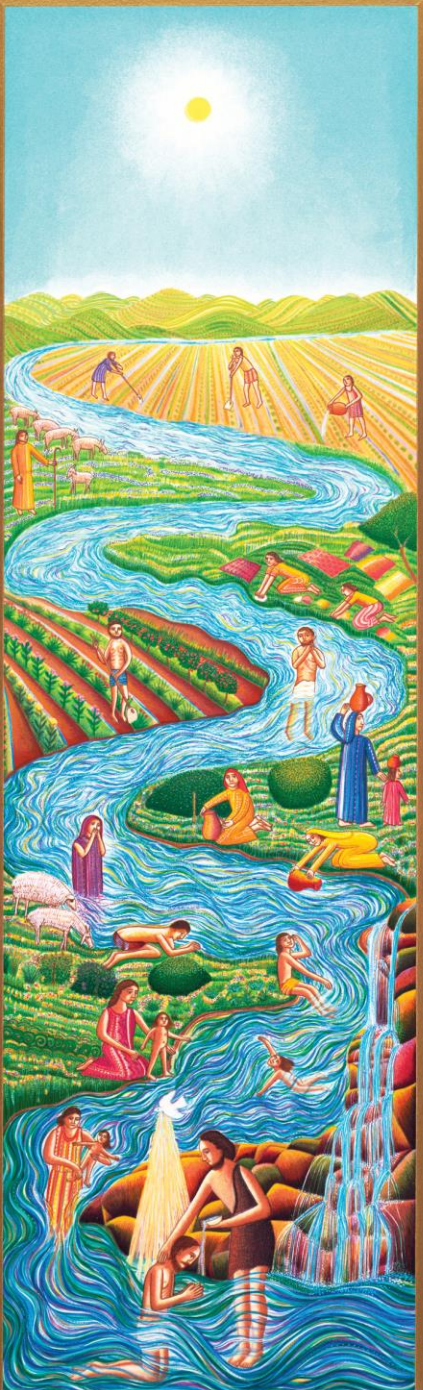
THE CANTICLE OF THE REDEEMED

Antiphon

*Salvation belongs to God,
who guides us to springs of living water.*

- 1 Behold, a great multitude which no one could number,
- 2 From every nation, from all tribes and peoples and tongues,
standing before the throne and the Lamb.
- 3 They were clothed in white robes and had palms in their hands,
and they cried with a loud voice, saying,
- 4 'Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb.'
- 5 These are they who have come out of the great tribulation,
they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb;





6 Therefore they stand before the throne of God,
whom they serve day and night within the temple.

7 And the One who sits upon the throne will shelter them with his presence.

8 They shall never again feel hunger or thirst,
the sun shall not strike them, nor any scorching heat.

9 For the Lamb at the heart of the throne will be their Shepherd,

10 He will guide them to springs of living water,
and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.

Revelation 7.9,10,14b-17

***To the One who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be blessing
and honor and glory and might, for ever and ever. Amen.***

***Salvation belongs to God,
who guides us to springs of living water.***

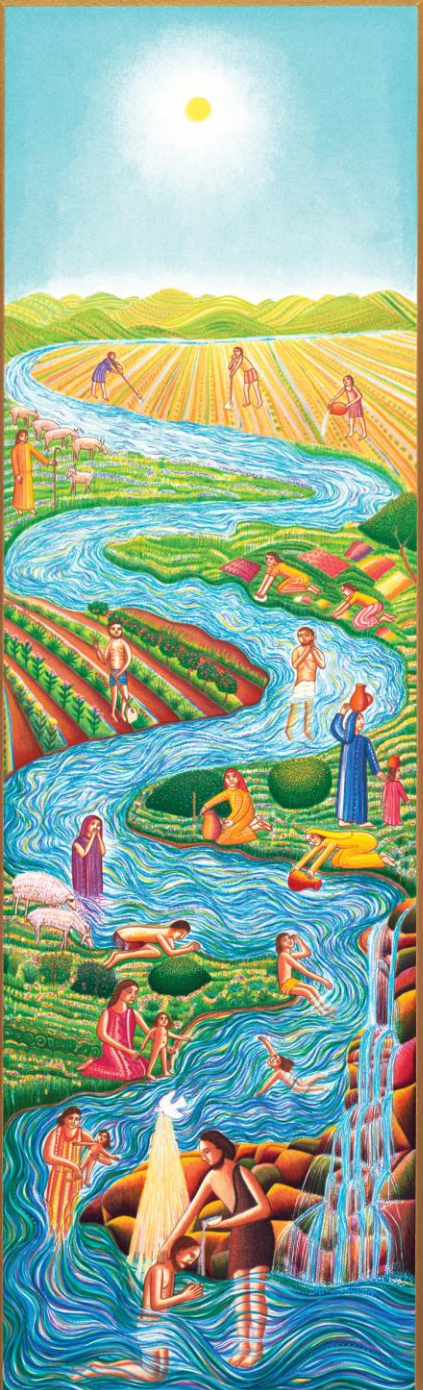
A READING FOR MEDITATION AND REFLECTION

Bishop Mariann Edgar Budde
Episcopal Church

*“I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming . . .
He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.”*

*When John the Baptist speaks, the image for many is: “He is going
to clean house—make a clean sweep of your lives, He’ll place every-
thing true in its proper place before God; everything false he’ll
put out with the trash to be burned.”*

(Eugene Peterson, The Message Luke 3:1-12.)



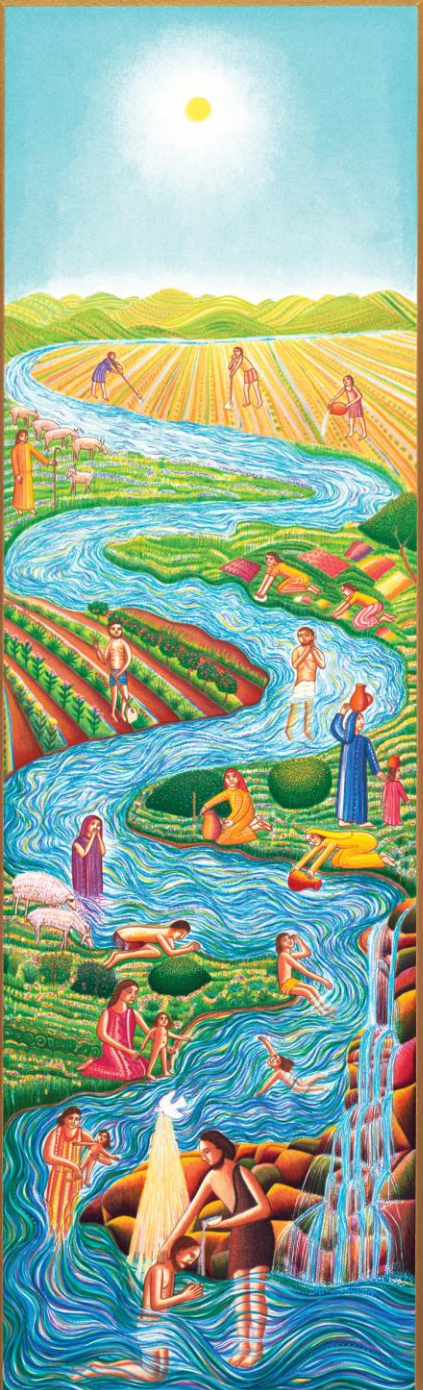
A READING FOR MEDITATION AND REFLECTION

That's not really how Jesus comes. The reality is that he doesn't have to baptize us with fire. Life itself does that. We cause our own fires, or other people thrust us into fire, for good or ill. What Jesus does is help us adapt to new realities, to pass through the fire and come out on the other side.

Baptisms by fire are hard, but with Jesus, we are not alone in them. He's there to see us through.

This fire burns away the chaff in us and leaves behind what matters most. And we left with the essence of who we are, a greater capacity to let go, and the ability to face the world as it is. Here's the challenge: what makes an experience a baptism by fire as opposed to a calamity that destroys us, or sets us on a path of resentment and stuckness, is our response.

By the grace of God, we can choose a faithful response.

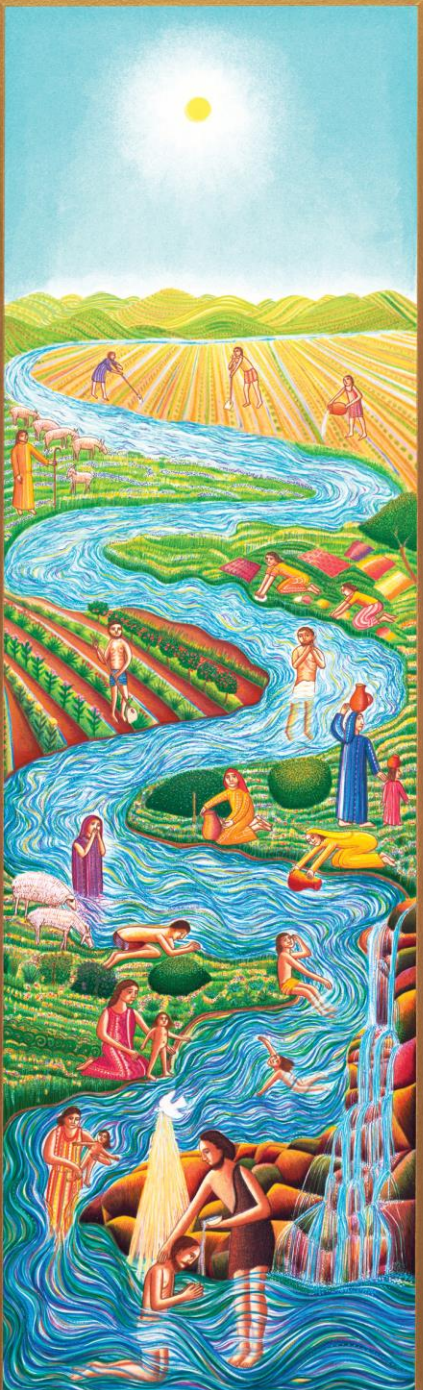


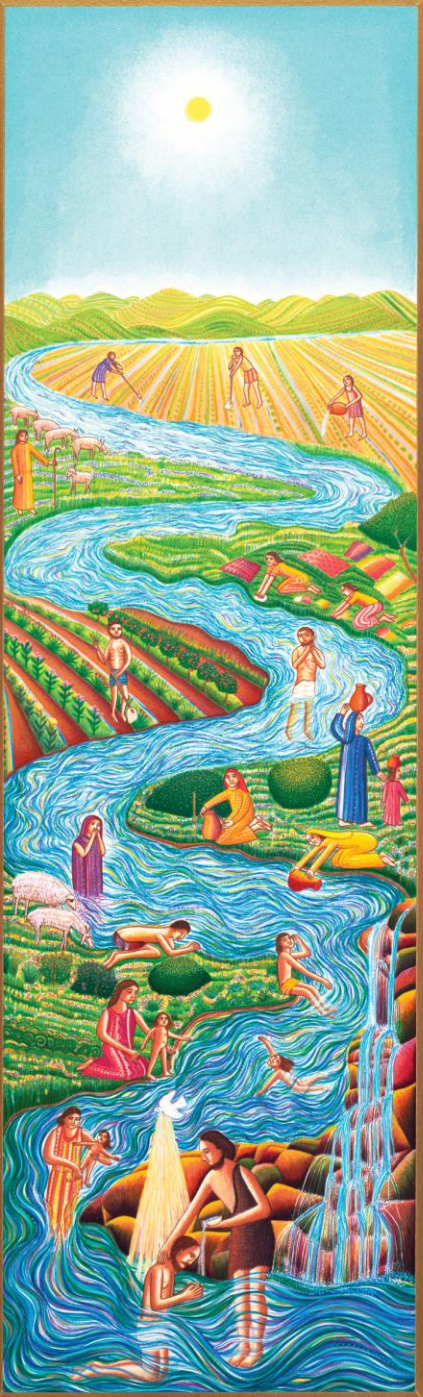
A READING FOR MEDITATION AND REFLECTION

I don't know what your baptisms by fire are, but whatever they are, I know that they're hard. I wish it were otherwise, for all of us, but it's not. We don't follow a Savior who promises to spare us from those fires, but to walk with us through them, and in the process help us become more like him, who withstood all manner of fire for our sake.

What's important to remember in times like this is how much God loves you, and that love is unconditional, no matter what happens. Like Jesus rising from the waters of baptism, we are God's beloved. In challenging times, the way God loves us may not feel like love, because God doesn't spare us from the fire. God's love is real nonetheless and can be trusted. It's what carries us through to the other side. What burns away in our baptisms by fire, according to Scripture, is all that is no longer needed.

We may think we need it, but we don't.





Ritual for Eucharist in Dispersion

When circumstances and concern for the common good keep us from gathering to share the Eucharistic Feast in person we gather to pray, separated in the body, yet **ONE IN THE SPIRIT** and **ONE IN CHRIST JESUS!!**

CENTERING: Recognizing the presence of God

God is with us.

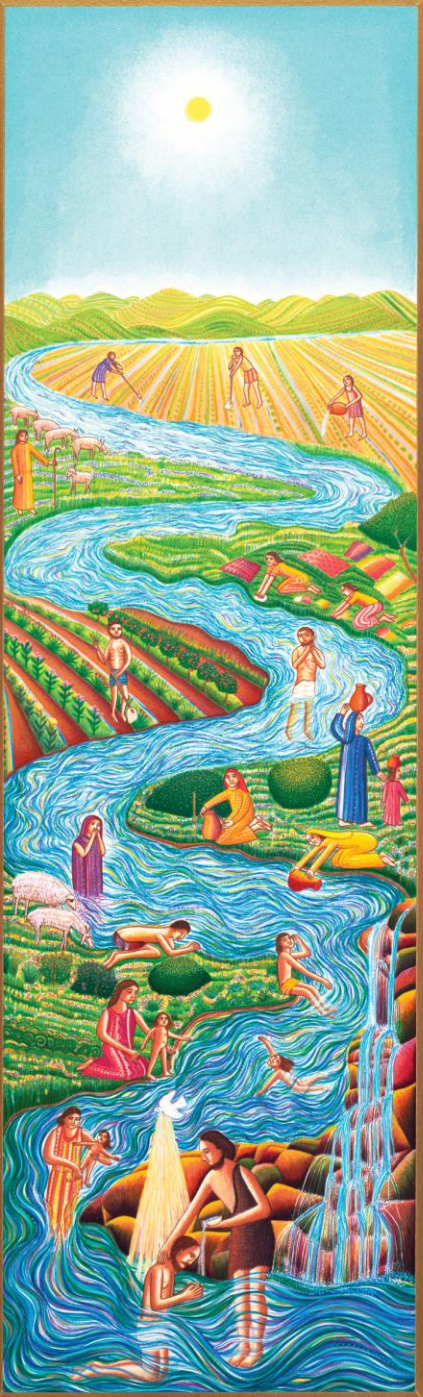
We are not alone.

Christ is with us.

***The Risen One has met us,
blessed and fed us on the road that leads us home.***

The community of the Holy Spirit is with us.

***We gather with the communion of the saints in light
throughout history and with God's people around the world.***



With brothers and sisters, absent in body but united in Spirit, we pray:

Holy One, Trinity of grace and power,

Maker and Mother, Beloved and Lover, Father and Friend:

Thanks be to you, O God!

You are ever the father who gives us bread, not stones.

You are the mother who never forgets we're her own.

From the beginning of life to the closing of time,

you are the One who is with us to the end.

And so, with all who breathe on earth and all who sing in heaven,
we praise your name and join Creation's song:

Now thank we all our God with heart and hands and voices,

Who wondrous things has done in whom this world rejoices,

The one eternal God, whom earth and heaven adore,

for thus it was, is now, and shall be evermore.

Martin Rinkart, 1663, translated by Catherine Winkworth, 1858

WORD AND RESPONSE

First reading:

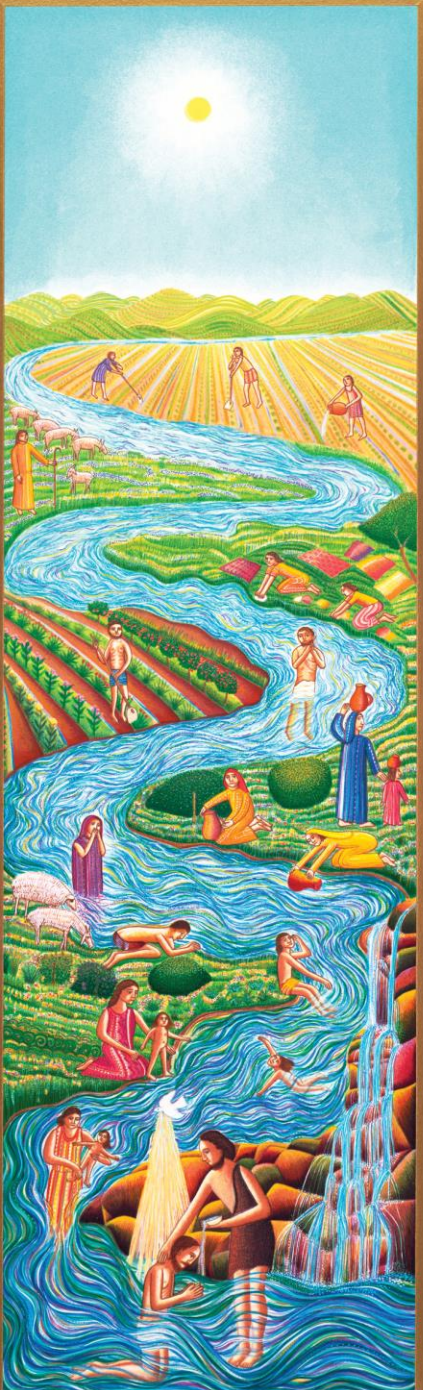
“I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me
will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life.” (John 8:12)

Light the candle.

Jesus Christ, you are the light of the world.

You are our Risen Lord in whom light has conquered darkness.

Sit silently in the light, feeling the power and presence of the Risen Christ.



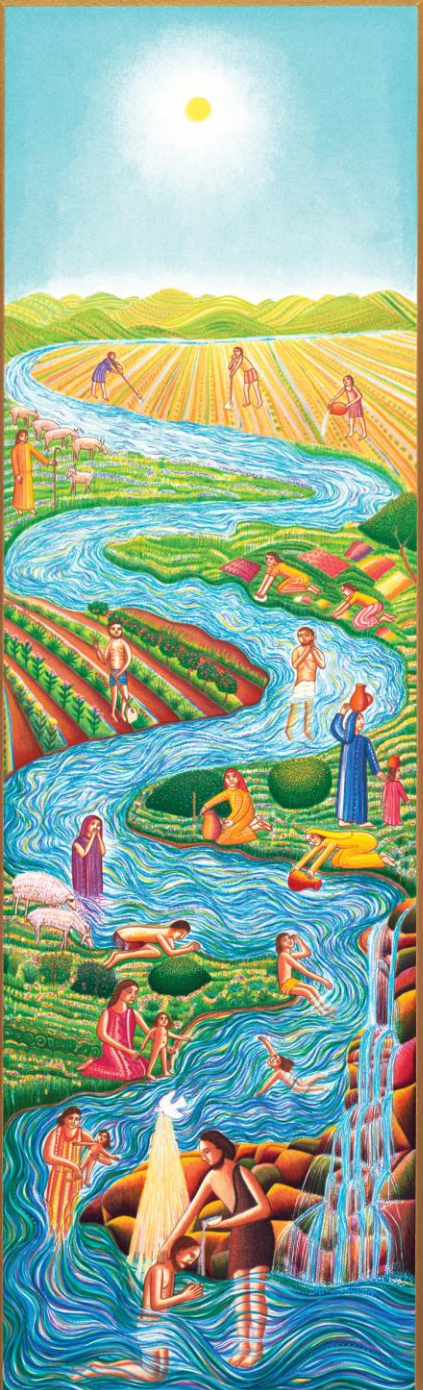
Second reading:

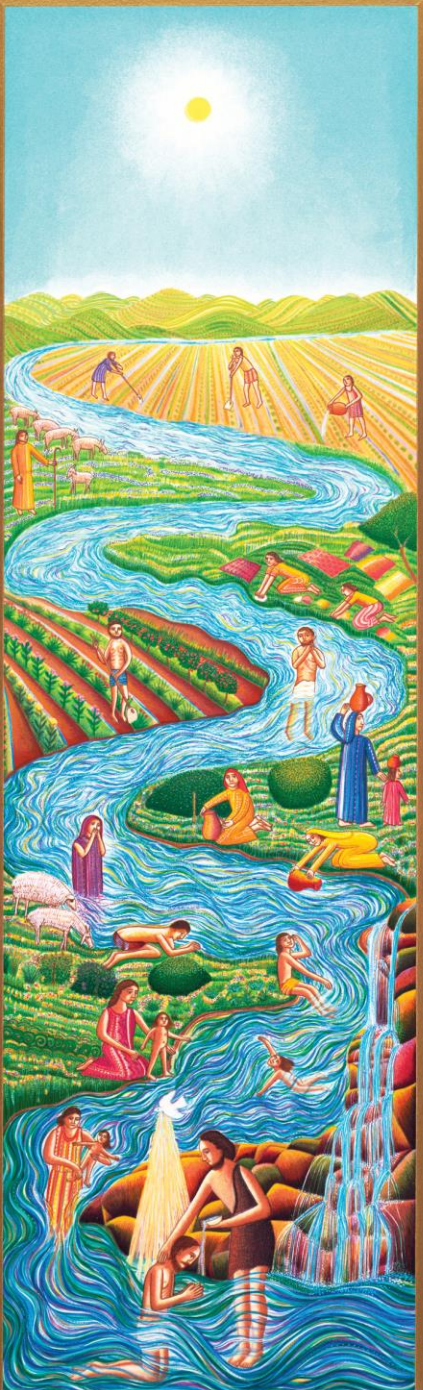
Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life." (John 14:6)

Hold the Bible.

Here in our hands is the story of God's covenant of steadfast love with God's people. We are assured of God's presence with us at all times and places – even in the midst of fear and difficulty.

Sit quietly and absorb the stories of God's love and grace that can sustain you wherever you are.





Third reading:

On the last day, the climax of the festival, Jesus stood and shouted to the crowds, “Anyone who is thirsty may come to me! Anyone who believes in me may come and drink! For the Scriptures declare, ‘Rivers of living water will flow from his heart.’” (John 7:37-38)

Hold the glass of water in your hands.

Without water, there can be no life.

In creation, the Spirit of God hovered over the water and brought forth light.

God brought John to the Jordan River to call us to repentance.

We were nourished in the water of the womb.

We were baptized by water and the Spirit into God’s family.

***Water reminds us of the gifts of creation that God has so abundantly given us,
and of the love and grace we have all received.***

Drink the water slowly. Feel it flow into your body.

Know that God’s love is flowing into your body and soul right now.

Fourth reading:

Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty." (John 6:35)

Take a piece of bread in your hands.

Christ broke bread and fed the multitudes. Christ broke bread and formed a new covenant with his closest friends and with all who break bread in remembrance of him.

Christ was made known to his disciples in the breaking of the bread.

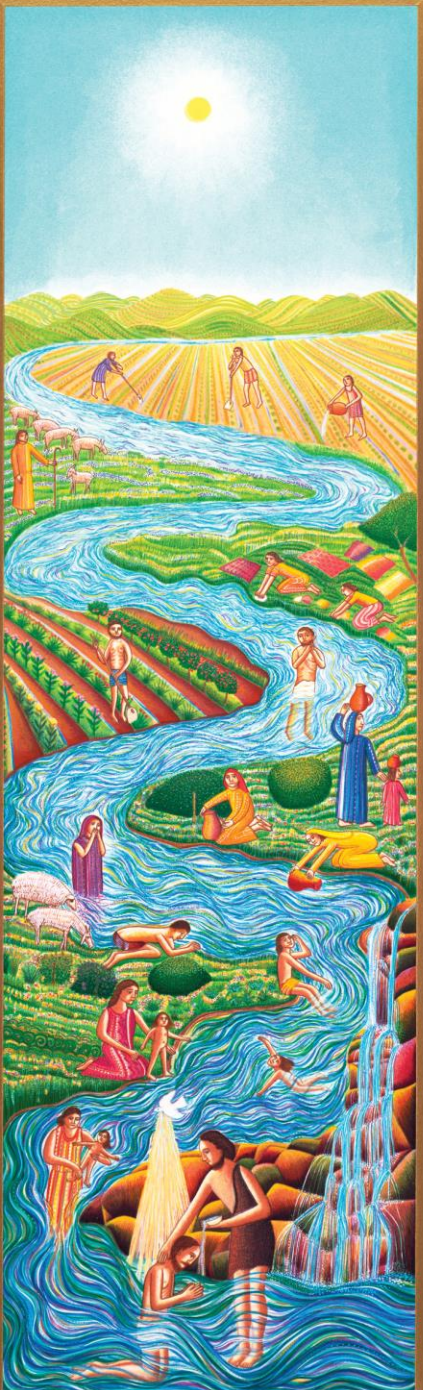
Bread reminds us that, just like individual grains of wheat are gathered together to make a single loaf, we who are scattered are one body in Christ.

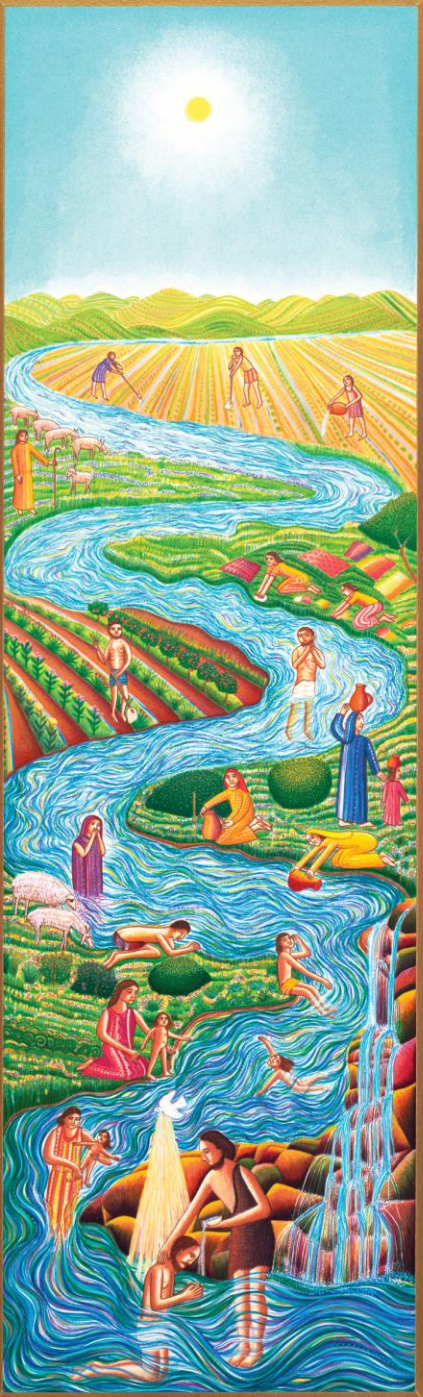
Break and eat the piece of bread that you are holding.

Remember the times you have received bread in the sacrament of Holy Communion. Remember those who gathered with you. Remember the presence of Christ in that moment.

Be assured that Christ is with you in every moment of your life.

Sit silently and allow Christ's love to surround you.





PRAYER

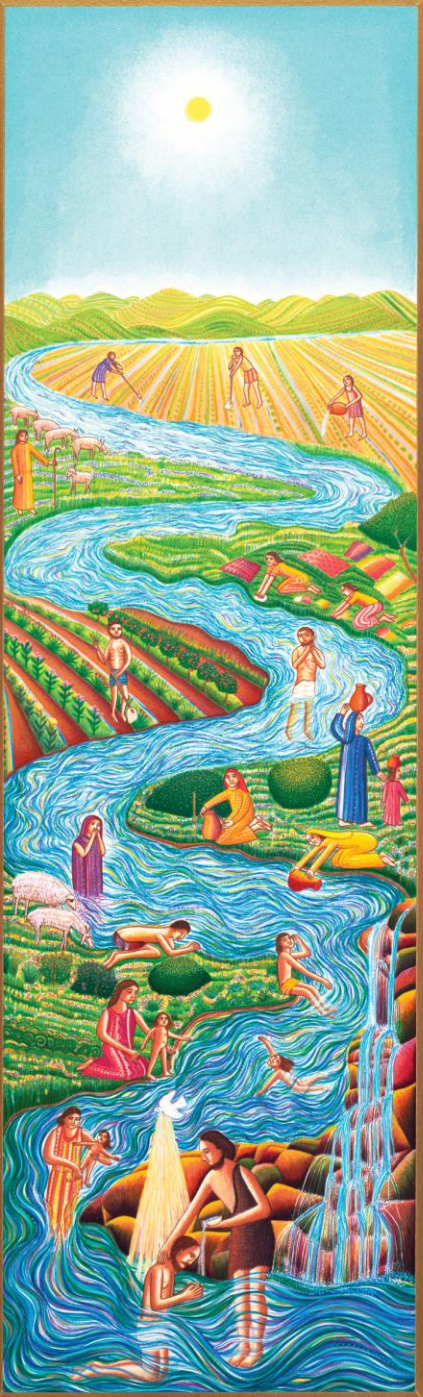
In the silence after every petition (marked by . . .), specific names or situations may be spoken aloud or held closely in the heart.

Lord Jesus Christ, light of the world, you speak to us words of life.
Call forth in us rivers of living water, and feed our deepest hunger.

In trying times, in times of loneliness or confusion, in times we feel most alone, remind us that we are never alone, for you are with us always.

Hear us now, and pray for us in our weakness with sighs too deep for words,
as we lift up:

- Those whom we love – those present with us and those from whom we are separated . . .
- The prisoners, and those held captive physically, mentally, or spiritually . . .
- The sick and the suffering . . .
- Those who care for the sick, both medical caregivers and families who wait and watch with them . . .

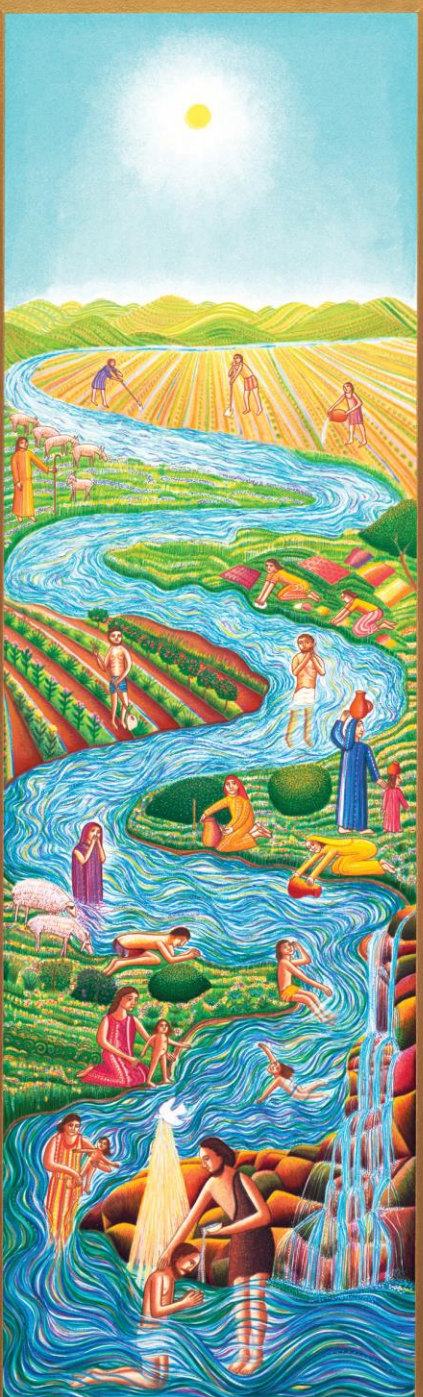


- Those who mourn the loss of loved ones, the loss of freedom, the loss of security, the loss of a livelihood, or the loss of a sense of order and control . . .
- Those with more questions than answers, and all who long for your guiding light for their path . . .
- The lonely, the isolated, and those who long for a loving touch . . .
- Those whose remaining days on this earth are few, and for those walking in the valley of the shadow of death . . .
- Those whom we too easily forget, and those whose needs are known only to you . . .

God of compassion, hear our prayers;

fill us with your grace, and inspire us to be instruments of mercy and hope,

for we pray in Christ's name. Amen.



COLLECT FOR THE ORDER OF SAINT LUKE

O Shepherd of us all, who inspired your servant Saint Luke the physician to set forth in the Gospel the love and healing power of Jesus: Grant, we ask you, your Spirit to the Order of Saint Luke, that we may proclaim faithfully the Apostolic hope, magnify the Sacraments, and embody Christ's healing grace for all creation, through the same Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

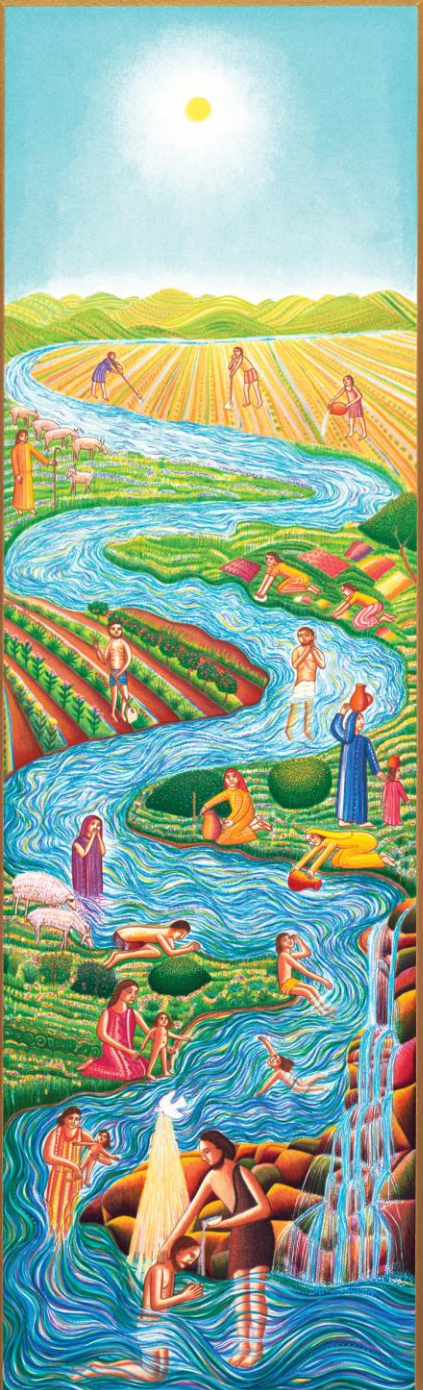
PRAYER

Holy Fire,
as you called Moses from the flaming bush on Sinai,
so, in baptism you call us by name—
the divine life around us

calling forth the divine life within us.

This day by water and your Spirit's fire stand up in us
and we will say, "I am here"
for you, Adonai,
for mercy's seeing, for love's hearing,
for compassion's justice,
in the name of Christ Jesus. Amen.

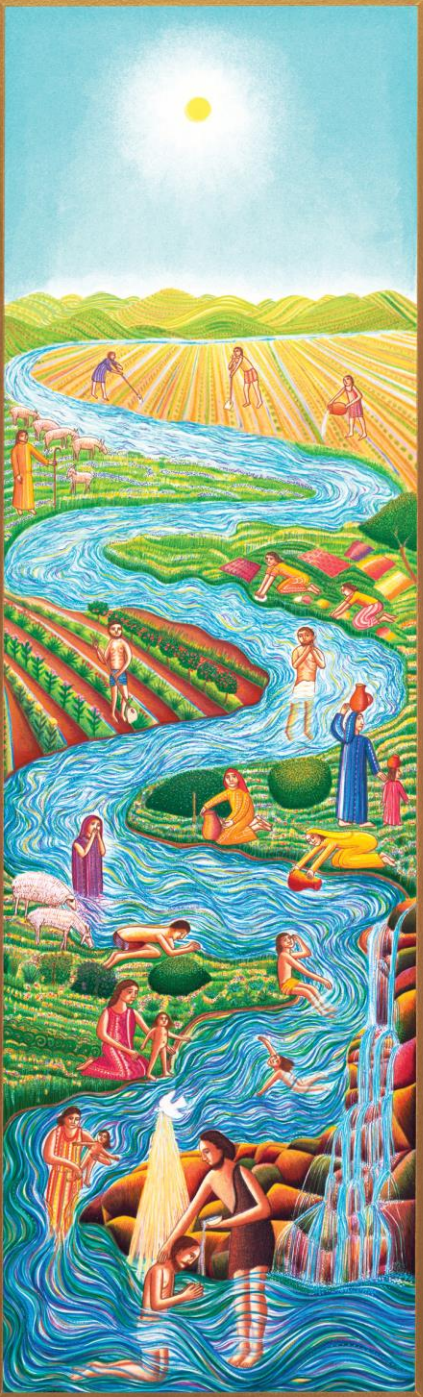
(allusions to Exodus 3:1-12 TIB, DTB)



HYMN

When Jesus Came To Jordan

252 UMH



When Jesus came to Jordan
To be baptized by John,
He did not come for pardon,
But as his Father's Son.
He came to share repentance
With all who mourn their sins,
To speak the vital sentence
With which good news begins.
He came to share temptation,
Our utmost woe and loss,
For us and our salvation
To die upon the cross.

So when the Dove descended
On him, the Son of Man,
The hidden years had ended,
The age of grace began.
Come, Holy Spirit, aid us
To keep the vows we make,
This very day invade us,
And every bondage break.
Come, give our lives direction,
The gift we covet most:
To share the resurrection
That leads to Pentecost.

THE SENDING

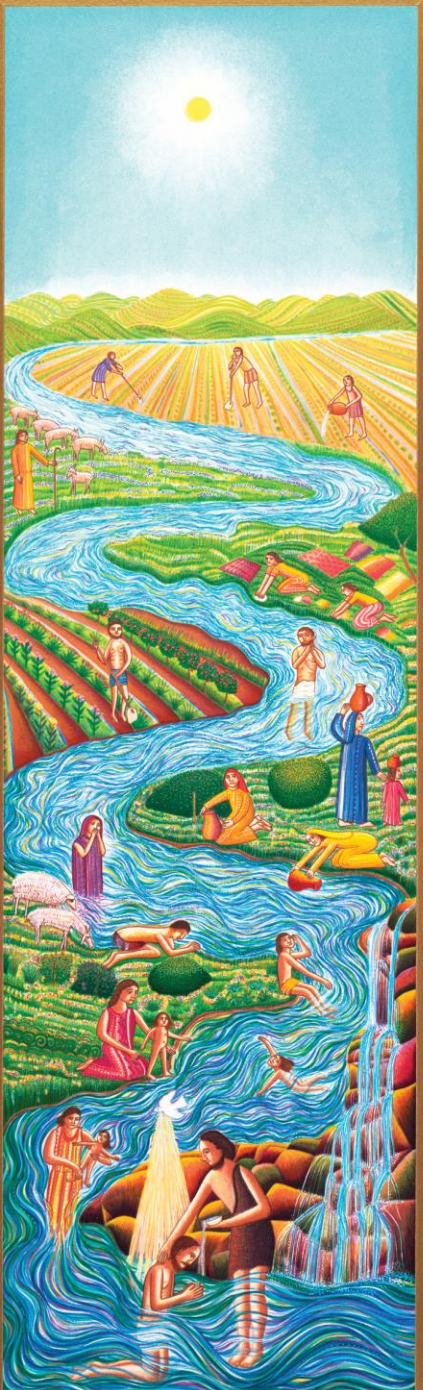
As a water-washed and Spirit-born people, let us rejoice in the Lord always; again I say rejoice! May the peace of God which passes all our understanding guard our hearts and our minds in Christ Jesus, the Chosen One on whom God's favor rests. Amen.

Philippians 4:4-7

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with us.

Let us bless the Lord.

Thanks be to God.



A Lukan Book of Feasts and Holy Days, The Book of Offices and Services,

