

## Sabbath Prayers for Water

*When the poor and needy seek water,  
I will open rivers on the bare heights,  
and fountains in the midst of the valleys;  
I will make the wilderness a pool of water,  
and the dry land springs of water.*

*Isaiah 41:17-18*

**MOBILIZING  
FAITH,  
FIGHTING  
POVERTY**

### **Remembering Those Who Thirst ...**

The poor of the world are thirsty  
for justice and for peace;  
their journey is unending  
til hate and oppression cease.

The Lord of Heaven is thirsty  
for justice and for peace;  
His battle is unending  
til hate and oppression cease.

### **Moving Toward Refreshment ...**

God of life,  
God of all those who walk  
miles for water,  
God of those whose only  
supply is contaminated,  
bringing death, not life.  
May water, clean and life-  
giving, be available to  
every living creature.  
May that vision move  
forward.

May your will be done.

-----

### **Water in Bible Lands ...**

Water is a central symbol of life in the Biblical tradition especially in a region of the world where there was little water. In Ancient Palestine the contrast between the Dead Sea, with its sulphurous air, oppressive heat and high (7%) salt content, and the living water of the river Jordan was very real. There were few streams in ancient Palestine, many of the springs and wells were unreliable and the people relied on the run-off from winter rains. Towns grew up around permanent springs and in cities like Jerusalem they built tunnels and conduits to ensure continuous access. The frequent references to water as a symbol of life are earthed in the experience of the people.

-----

### **A Call to Worship**

God of Life

The earth belongs to you

**And we are your people.**

**We come in worship,**

**acknowledging how much we need your grace  
in a world where there is so much violence  
and greed.**

**We long for the living water that refreshes and  
gives life**

**Seeking justice and praying for peace**

You are our hope and our strength

**We open our hearts to your word.**

Amen

**Prayer of Approach**

Rejoice in the Lord,  
For he has refreshed the parched earth  
**We praise you, O God**

Rejoice for the rain that falls by night,  
And soaks gently into the dry ground,  
Causing half dried up roots to swell,  
And the deep cracks in the earth to close.  
**We praise you, O God**

Rejoice for the great drops that fall at midday;  
Rejoice in the small streams,  
Singing on their way  
From the hills down into the valleys,  
To make the rivers swell  
And fill the reservoirs  
And supply the cities  
And irrigation channels with water.

**We praise you, O God**

-----  
**An Intercessory Prayer**

God of the running water,  
We pray for our world where waterways are  
polluted with rubbish, where streams that once  
were clean now carry poisonous bacteria and  
chemicals and our rivers are being clogged with  
didymo. So many people have depended on  
clean water for life but now they have been  
abandoned by those who could help.  
Hear the cries of those without clean water  
**And quench their thirst**

We pray for those who have power to bring water where the people need it, especially for governments who set policy and decide where to build pipes or to go to war. May they listen to the people and acknowledge their continued roles in maintaining their water systems while seeking better ways of sharing the water with all who depend on it.

Hear the cries of those without clean water

**And quench their thirst**

We pray for those that we know who are in need of your life-giving water at this time... (add names and circumstances known to you). May their thirst be quenched.

Hear the cries of those without clean water

**And quench their thirst**

Life-giving God we ask these things and much more in your name.

**Amen**

-----

### **A Closing Prayer**

As Jesus walked to Jerusalem  
So we make our way in this world  
Committed to the Cross  
Committed to the Word  
Committed to our lives together.

We go knowing that we can draw on your wells  
And in the hope of new life.

Amen

-----  
Source: Church World Service

<http://www.churchworldservice.org/PDFs/Resources/WorshipWater.pdf>

<http://www.cws.org.nz/files/World%20Water%20Day%202007.pdf>