

Season of creation 2005 – water readings

We hear a medley of some of the many readings in the gospels which feature water and rivers, concluding with the Revelation of John.

When Jesus had been baptized, just as he came up from the water, suddenly the skies were torn apart and the Spirit descended like a dove and landed on him. And a voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased." And immediately the Spirit drove him into the outback.

When he had finished speaking to the crowds, Jesus said to Simon, "Put out into the deep water and let down your nets for a catch."

Early in his ministry, at his mother's request, Jesus said to some servants as a wedding, "Fill the jars with water." And they filled them up to the brim. He said to them, "Now draw some out, and take it to the chief steward." So they took it, and realised it had become wine.

Once at a meal in Simon the Pharisees house, Jesus said to his host, "Do you see this woman? I entered your house; you gave me no water for my feet, but she has bathed my feet with her tears and dried them with her hair."

Another time Jesus met a woman at a well. After they spoke for a time, Jesus said to her, "If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, 'Give me a drink,' you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water. "Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, but those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty. The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life." The woman said to him, "Sir, give me this water, so that I may never be thirsty or have to keep coming here to draw water."

On another occasion, the disciples were rowing across the inland sea. Jesus came towards them early in the morning, walking on the sea. He intended to pass them by. But when they saw him walking on the sea, they thought it was a ghost and cried out; for they all saw him

and were terrified. But immediately he spoke to them and said, "Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid."

Then on the last day of the festival in Jerusalem, shortly before his death, Jesus cried out, "Let anyone who is thirsty come to me, and let the one who believes in me drink." As the scripture has said, 'Out of the believer's heart shall flow rivers of living water.'

Then in order to find a room to share his final Passover with the disciples, Jesus sent two of his disciples, saying to them, "Go into the city, and a man carrying a jar of water will meet you; follow him.

At the last supper, Jesus poured water into a basin and began to wash his disciples' feet and to wipe them with the towel that was tied around him.

Then after his arrest the next day Jesus was taken before Pilate. Pilate took some water and washed his hands before the crowd, saying, "I am innocent of this man's blood; see to it yourselves."

Finally, what else but water would suffice as a vision of the final reconciliation and renewal of all things? So we read in Revelation:

Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb through the middle of the street of the city.

The Spirit and the bride say, "Come."
And let everyone who hears say, "Come."
And let everyone who is thirsty come.
Let anyone who wishes take the water of life as a gift.