Living Streams (Song for the Sprinkling Rite)

Dan Schutte Mass of Christ the Savior



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(Guitar/Vocal)



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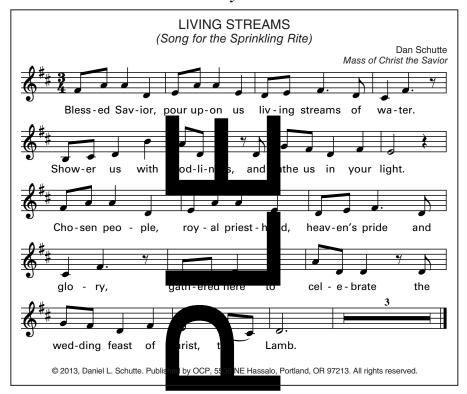
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(Song for the Sprinkling Rite)





Assembly Edition



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Composer Notes

So many "sprinkling songs" seem to focus on the cleansing and washing aspects of the waters of baptism, but not many highlight the initiation into and participation in the priesthood of Christ. I wanted to emphasize these latter elements in "Living Streams" with the hope of balancing people's understanding of baptism.

In this light, the lyrics emphasize the anointing of bands. (i.e., "pour upon us," "shower us," "bathe us") more than "washing" and "cleansing." Saint and especially emphasizes "godliness" in his first letter to Timothy. We are to pray for those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness. We are to that purselves to be godly. We are to pursue godliness in our own lives since it is the equivalent of living lives of grace and devotion to God.

Participation in the Eucharist is our right and duty as a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation" (1 Peter 2:9). Like a father who sees the beauty and goodness of his children, God sees us, as he did the people of Israel, as his pride and joy (Jeruriah 13:11; Isaiah 4:2). We belong to God now; we are his beloved ones. As Church, we are the Bride of Christ. As referenced in Revelation 19:9, we are invited to celebrate the wedding feast of Christ, the Lamb.

Since the sprinkling song is one in whet the ascent y should rightly participate, a longer but simple refrain is the foundation of this piece. The reiterated melody allows for people to sing and yet not visually miss the ritual action that is happening with the sprinkling. For most average size communities, this should require the refrain to be sung no more than 3–4 times. Much like a Taizéstyle piece, the refrain is meant to be embellished each time it is sung (e.g., first time unison, second time with SAB choir, third with instruments and descant, etc.). In this way the piece grows and evolves with each singing until the Rite of Sprinkling is complete.