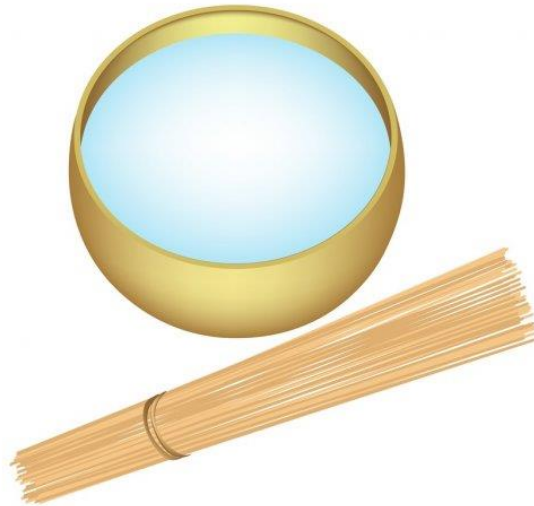


# Making an Aspergillum for a Water Blessing

An **aspergillum** is a liturgical implement used to sprinkle holy water. It comes in two common forms: a brush that is dipped in the water and shaken, and a silver ball on a stick. We will be making a brush that you can dip in water and sprinkle on things you wish to bless.



## Why do We Bless Things with Water?

There is no life without water, and where water is ample, life flourishes. But it seems that water is not just a requirement to sustain physical life -- water also sustains us spiritually. Haven't humans always been drawn to water? We love to go to the beach; we want to escape to homes near lakes or the ocean. No wonder then that we use water to bless our grounds today!

In the Bible there are more than 700 references to water and a repeated connection between water and salvation. God cleanses the earth of its sin in the story of Noah and the flood. Pharaoh's daughter pulls baby Moses out of the Nile river. Later, Moses leads the Hebrew people through the Red Sea and out of slavery. After forty years in the wilderness, the Israelites cross the Jordan River to inherit the promised land. John baptizes people in the Jordan River to symbolize God's ability to wash away sins, which is why we baptize babies today as a continuation of that symbolic ritual.

You can use water to bless anything you would like, and you can make your own liturgical tool to do so. If you don't want to make an aspergillum, you can follow in the early Israelites' footsteps and use a piece of shrub (they used Hyssop) or anything else you can imagine.

**For Discussion:**

If you could live near any body of water -- river, lake, ocean -- where would you live and why?  
What is the first thing you want to bless with your aspergillum and why?

Holy simply means “set apart” so any water you set apart to use for blessing becomes holy. Write a Water Blessing of your own:

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**For Stewardship of the Earth:**

- 1) Spend time near a body of water and pick up litter
- 2) Turn off the faucet while you're washing your hands for 20 seconds!
- 3) Download an app that allows you to see how your household uses water and where you use the most. Watering the lawn? Washing? Showers? Toilets?

**For Experiencing: Make an aspergillum**

Things you will need:

- Broom corn (from a broom if you have one) or twigs
- A stick
- Thread or yarn
- Scissors

To begin, divide your broom corn into 3 or 5 equal bunches.

Tie off each bunch near the top.

Arrange your 5 sections around and near one end of a stick.

Take a long piece of thread and fold it in half so you are working with 2 strands together. Begin wrapping the thread tightly around the broom corn and the stick.

To make a woven top, once you have secured your sections around the end of the stick, continue to wrap the thread over one of your 5 sections, under the next section, over the following section, etc.

When you reach the end of your woven section (it's up to you how big to make it), wrap the thread tightly again around the outside of all the broom corn sections and tie it off.

Watch the video tutorial on our YouTube channel (you can find the link on the homepage of our website: [crawfordmethodist.org](http://crawfordmethodist.org)).

Decorate as you wish.

Now you have an aspergillum you can use for water blessings of your own!