

CONTENTS

Preface	xi
Acknowledgments	xv
Abbreviations	xvi
1. The Gift of Blessings	1
2. Blessings in the Old Testament	7
3. Blessings in the New Testament	23
4. A History of Blessings in the Church	47
5. The <i>Book of Blessings</i>	73
6. Holy Water	89
7. Who Can Bless?	99
8. The Nature of Blessings: Disputed Questions	113
Summary	135
Notes	143
Selected Bibliography	165