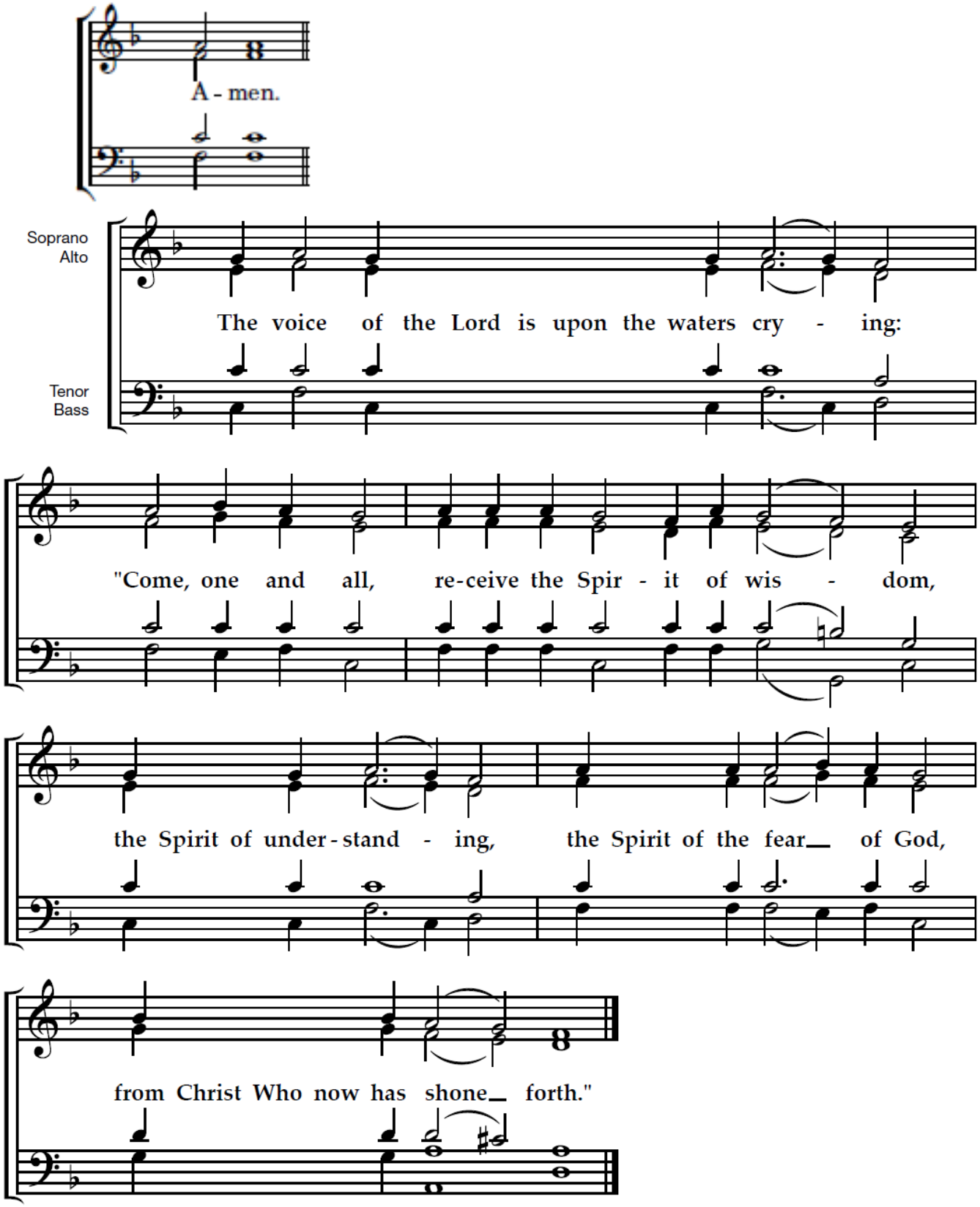
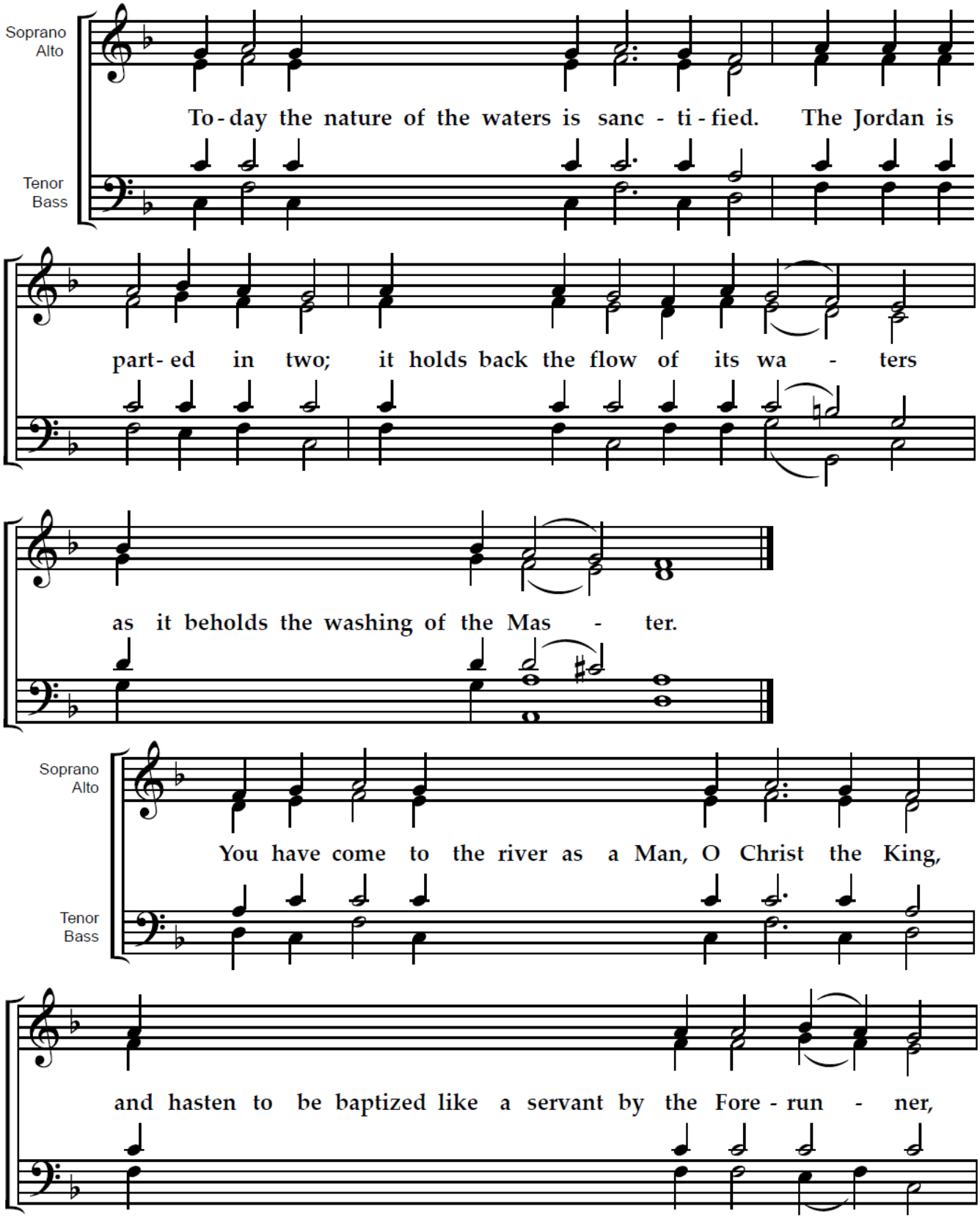
# Great Blessing of Water

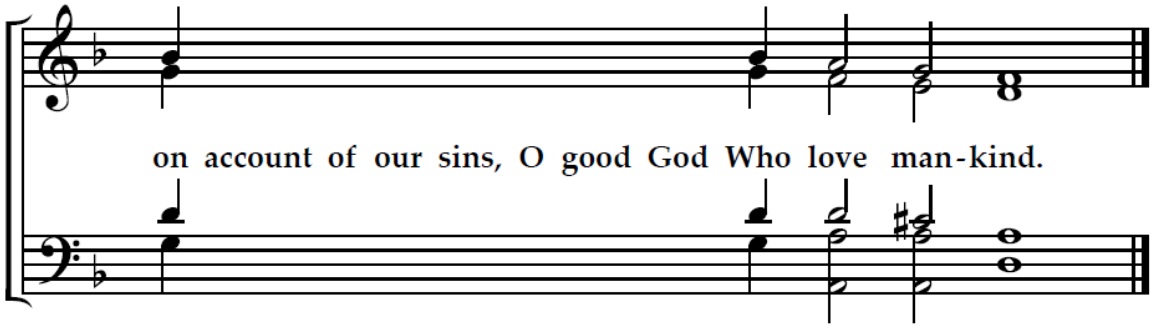
*THE PRIEST(S) ARE VESTED IN EPITRACHELION AND PHELONION.*

*FR. M:* Blessed is our God always, now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

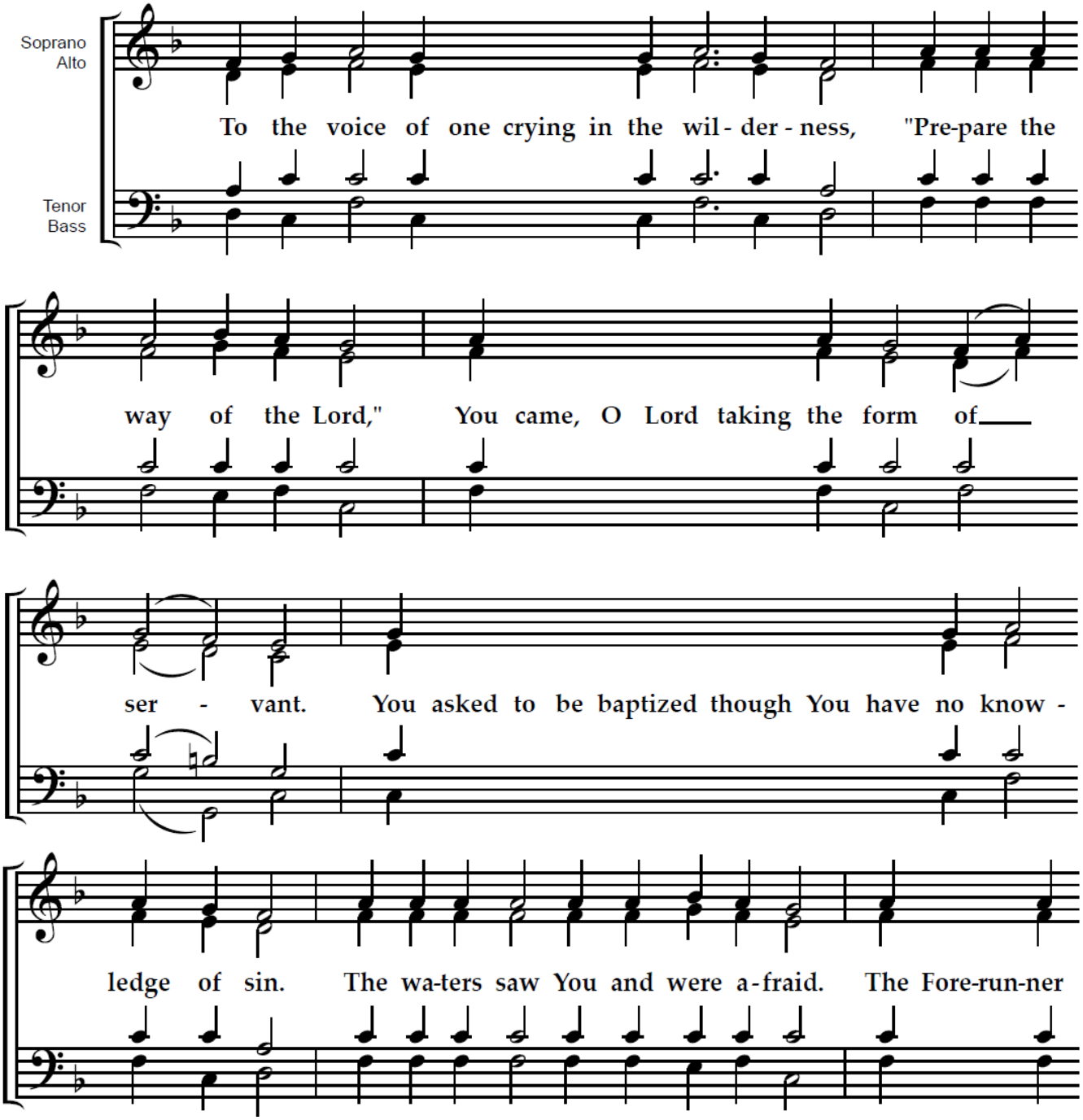
*CHOIR/PEOPLE:* Amen.

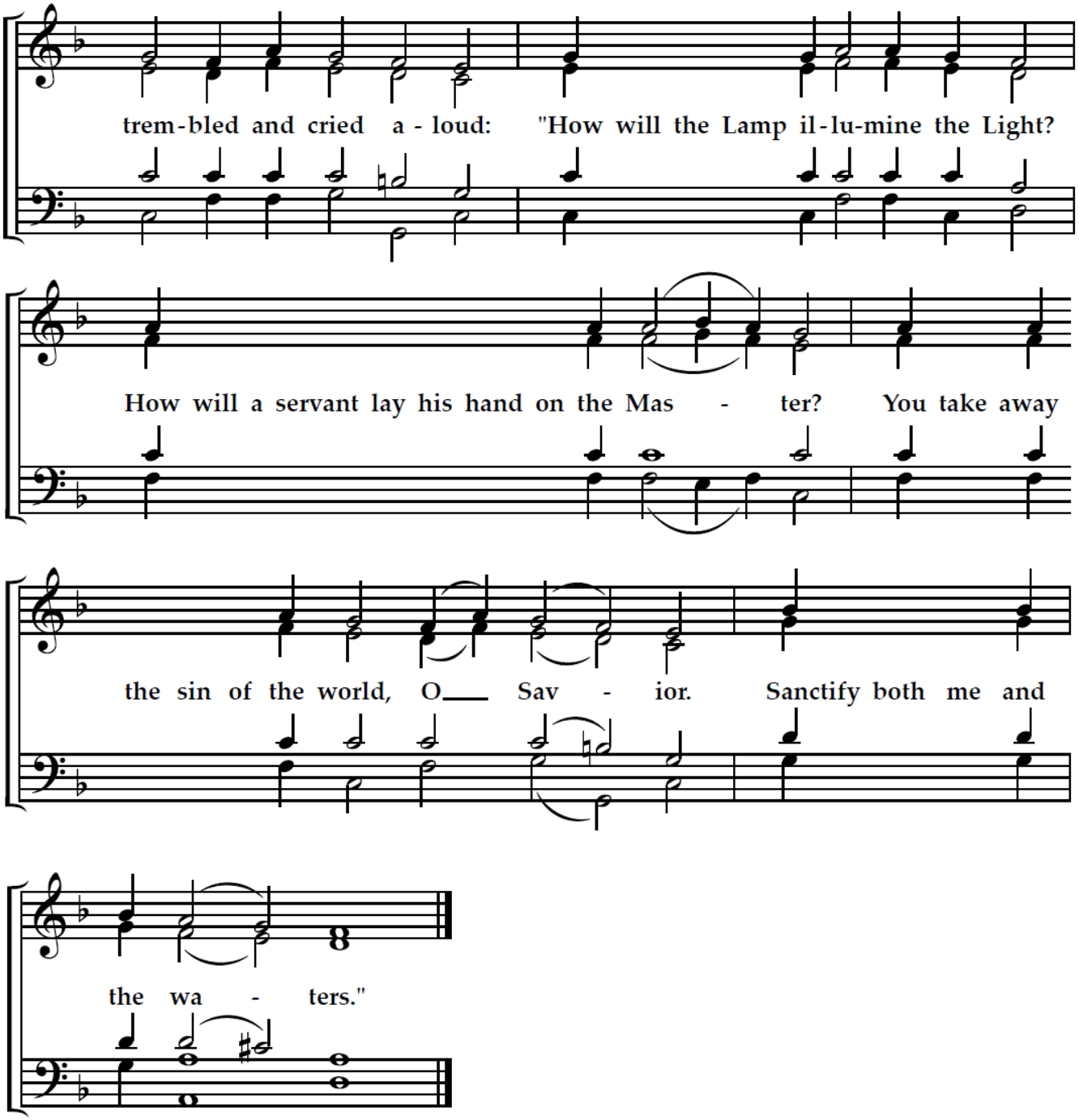



Soprano
Alto
Tenor
Bass
To - day the nature of the waters is sanc - ti - fied. The Jordan is
part - ed in two; it holds back the flow of its wa - ters
as it beholds the washing of the Mas - ter.
Soprano
Alto
Tenor
Bass
You have come to the river as a Man, O Christ the King,
and hasten to be baptized like a servant by the Fore - run - ner,




Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages, amen.



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*FR. M:* Wisdom!

*READER:* The reading from the Prophecy of Isaiah *(35:1-10)*

*FR. M:* Let us attend!

*READER:* Thus says the Lord: Rejoice, thirsty desert. Let the desert be glad and flower like a lily. The deserts of Jordan shall blossom and be overgrown and be glad. The glory of Lebanon has been given to it and the honor of Carmel. And my people shall see the glory of the Lord and the majesty of God. Be strong, enfeebled hands and palsied knees. Give comfort and

say to the faint-hearted, “Be strong and do not fear. See, our God is giving judgment and will give it. He himself will come and save us. Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened and the ears of the deaf shall hear. Then the lame shall leap like a deer and the tongue of stammerers shall speak clearly, because water has burst out in the desert and a channel in a thirsty land. And the waterless land shall become pools and there shall be a spring of water for the thirsty land. There shall be joy of birds there, roosts of owls and reed beds and pools. And there shall be a pure way there, and it shall be called a holy way, and no one unclean may pass along it. There shall be no unclean way there. But the scattered shall walk upon it and not go astray. There shall be no lion there, nor shall any of the evil wild beasts go up on it or be found there. But the redeemed and gathered by the Lord will walk on it. And they shall return and come to Sion with joy and exultation, and everlasting joy shall be upon their head. For on their head shall be praise and rejoicing, and gladness shall possess them. Pain, grief and sighing have fled away”.

*FR. BASIL:* Wisdom!

*READER:* The reading from the Prophecy of Isaiah *(55:1-13)*

*FR. BASIL:* Let us attend!

*READER:* Thus says the Lord: You that thirst, go for water. And as many of you as have no money, make your way and buy. And eat and drink wine and fat without money and price. Why do you spend money on what is not food, and toil for what does not satisfy? Hear me, and eat what is good, and your soul shall delight in good things. Give heed with your ears and follow in my ways. Listen to me and your soul shall live among good things. And I will make an eternal Covenant with you, the sure mercies of David. See, I have given him as a testimony among the Nations, a ruler and commander among the Nations. See, Nations who do not know you shall call upon you, and peoples who are not acquainted with you shall take

refuge with you, for the sake of the Lord your God and the Holy One of Israel, because he has glorified you. Seek the Lord, and when you find him, call upon him. But when he comes near you, let the impious abandon his ways and a lawless man his plans. And return to the Lord and you shall find mercy, and cry out, for he will abundantly forgive your sins. For my plans are not like your plans, nor are my ways like your ways, says the Lord. But as far as heaven is from earth, so far is my way from your ways and your thoughts from my mind. For as rain or snow comes down from heaven and does not return until it has saturated the earth and it brings forth and sprouts and gives seed to the sower and bread for food, so shall my word be. Whatever comes out of my mouth shall not return to me empty, until everything that I wished has been fulfilled. And I will make my ways and my commands prosper. You shall go out with gladness and be taught with joy. For the mountains and hills shall leap up, welcoming you with joy, and all the trees of the field shall clap with their branches. And instead of brambles cypress shall come up, and instead of nettles myrtle shall come up. And there shall be for the Lord a name and an everlasting sign, and it shall not fail.

*FR. BARTHOLOMEW:* Wisdom!

*READER:* The reading from the Prophecy of Isaiah *(12:3-6)*

*FR. BARTHOLOMEW:* Let us attend!

*READER:* Thus says the Lord: Draw water with gladness from the wells of salvation. And you shall say in that day, “Sing praise to the Lord and cry out his name. Proclaim among the Nations his glorious deeds Remind them that his name has been exalted. Sing praise to the name of the Lord, for he has done mighty things. Proclaim these in all the earth. Rejoice and be glad, you that dwell in Sion, because the Holy One of Israel has been exalted in the midst of her”.

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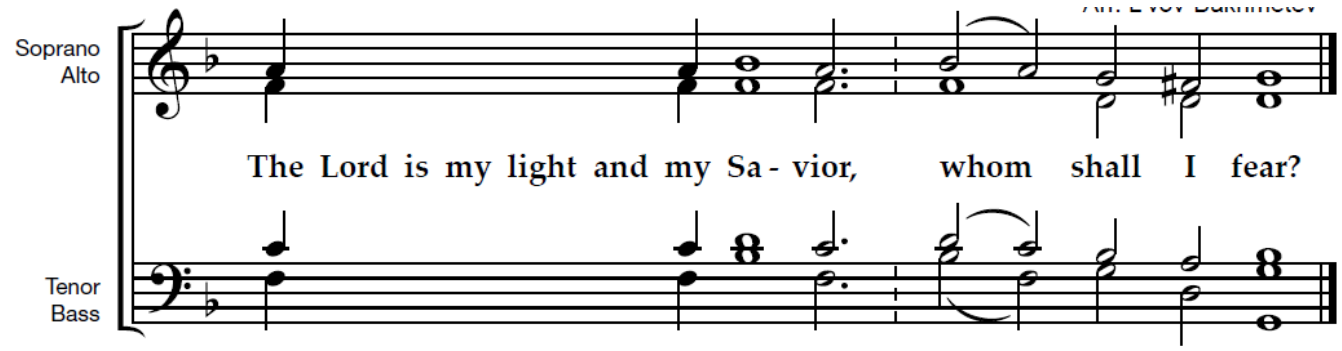
*FR. M:* Let us attend! † Peace be unto all!

*READER:* And to Your spirit!

*Fr. M:* Wisdom!

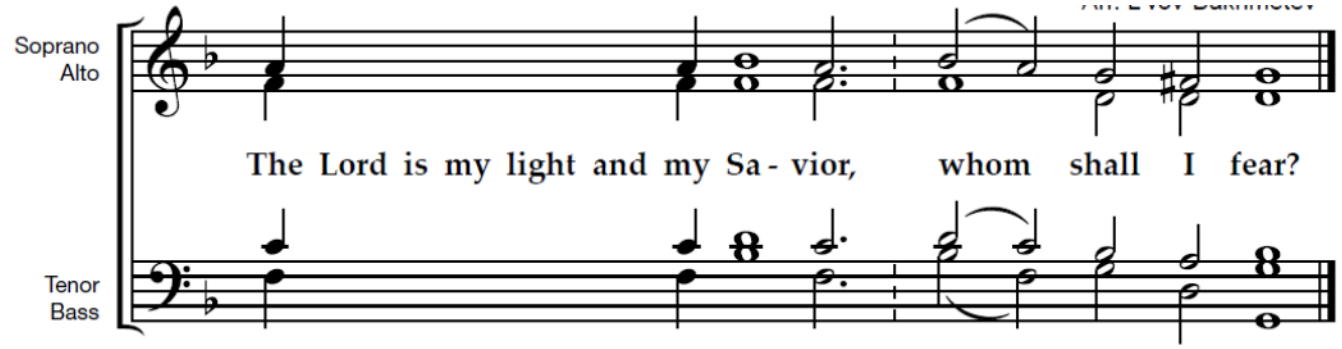
*Reader, For the Great Blessing of Water, Tone 3:* The prokeimenon in the Third Tone, The Lord is my light and my Savior, whom shall I fear?

*Choir:*




*Reader:* The Lord is the defender of my life, of whom shall I be afraid?

*Choir:*




*Reader:* The Lord is my light and my Savior …

*Choir:* … whom shall I fear?

*Fr. M:* Wisdom!

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*The Epistle Reading (**143 ctr** – 1 Corinthians 10:1-4)*

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*Reader:* The reading from the First Epistle of St. Paul to the Corinthians.

*Fr. M:* Let us attend!

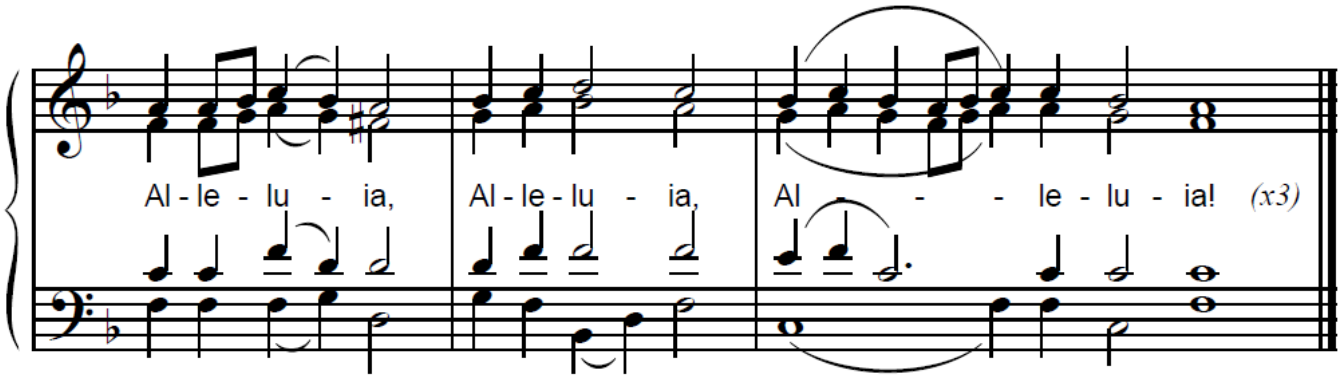
*Reader:* Brothers and sisters, I do not want you to be ignorant, that our forefathers were all under the cloud: all passed through the sea; and they were all baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea. They all ate the same spiritual food and drank the same spiritual drink. They drank from a spiritual rock that followed them, and that rock was Christ.

*Fr. M:* † Peace be to you.

*Alleluia: Tone 4*

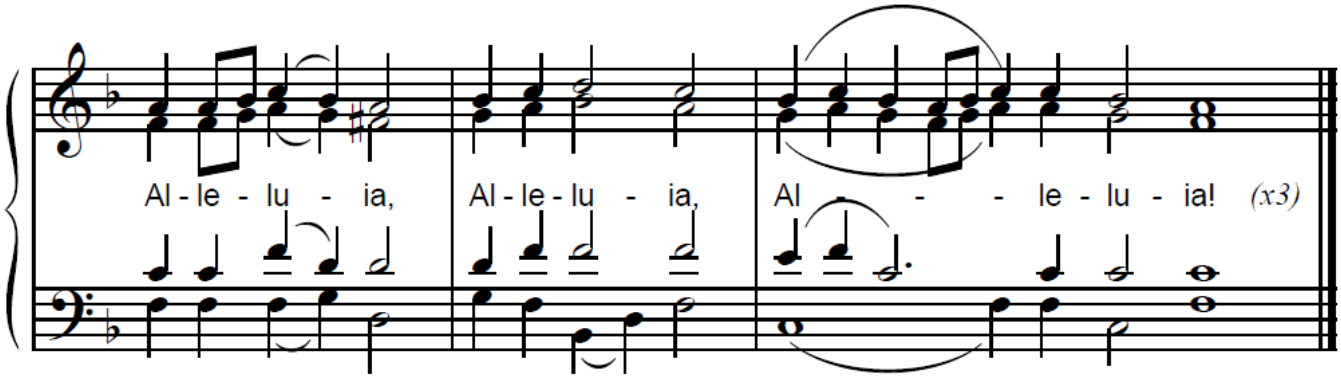
*Reader:* **And to Your spirit.** In the 4th Tone: Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

*Choir:* Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!



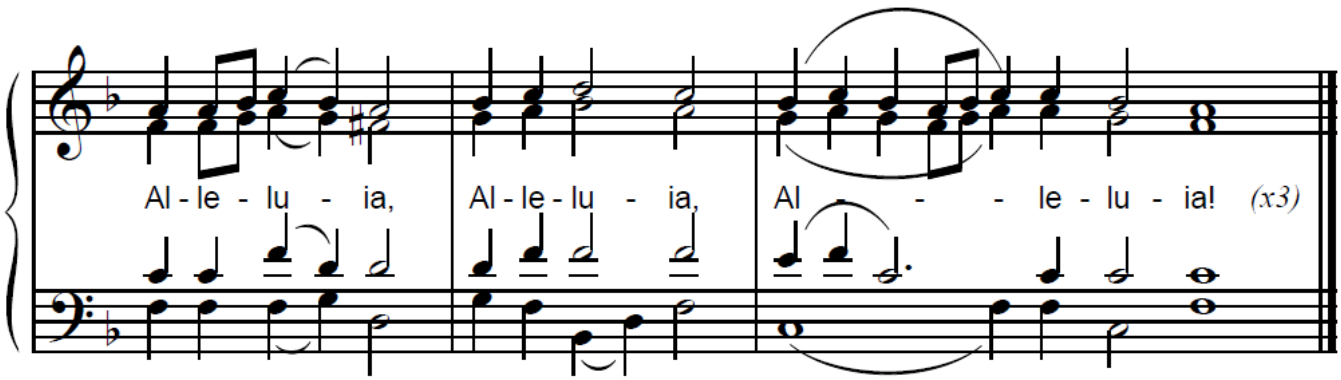

*Reader:* The voice of the Lord is upon the waters.

*Choir:* Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!




*Reader:* The God of glory thunders; the Lord is upon many waters.

*Choir:* Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!




*Fr. Bartholomew: Illumine our hearts, O Master, Who loves mankind, with the pure light of Your divine knowledge. Open the eyes of our mind to the understanding of Your gospel*

*teachings. Implant also in us the fear of Your blessed commandments that trampling down all carnal desires, we may enter upon a spiritual manner of living, both thinking and doing such things as are well pleasing to You. For You are the illumination of our souls and bodies, O Christ our God, and unto You we ascribe glory, together with Your Father, Who is from everlasting, and Your all-holy, good, and life-creating Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.*

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THE GOSPEL – *(2) Mark 1:9-11*

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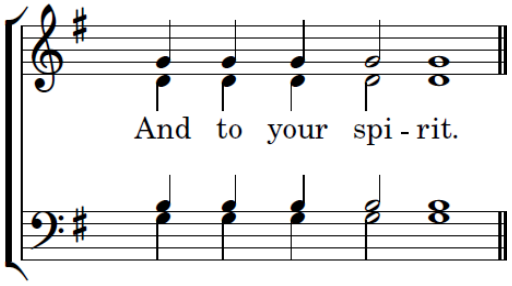
FR. BARTHOLOMEW: Wisdom! Let us attend! Let us hear the Holy Gospel.

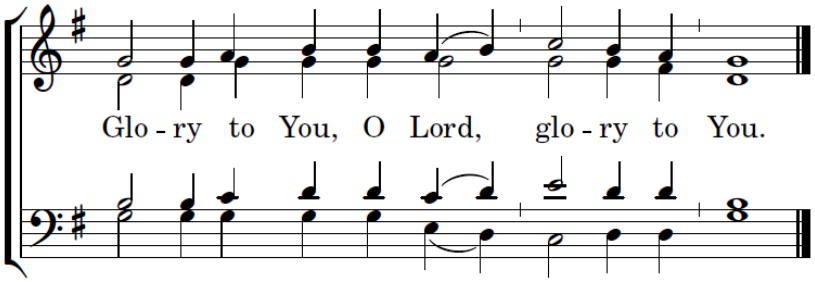
FACING THE PEOPLE: † Peace be to all.

CHOIR: And to your spirit.




FR. BARTHOLOMEW: The reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Mark.

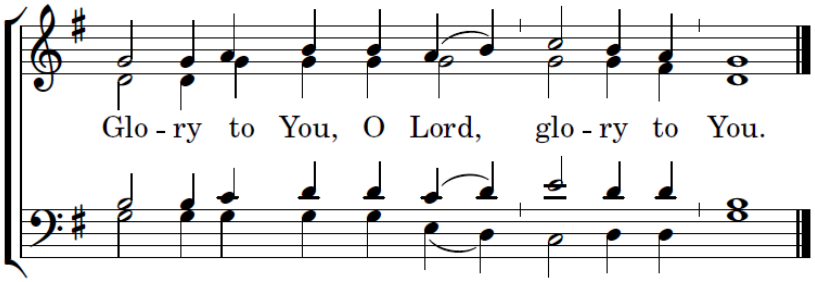
CHOIR: Glory to You, O Lord, glory to You.




FR. BARTHOLOMEW: Let us attend!

At that time, Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee, and he was baptized by John in the Jordan. Immediately coming up from the water, he saw the heavens torn open and the Spirit descending on him like a dove. A voice came out of the heavens, “You are my beloved Son. In you I am well pleased.”

*CHOIR:* Glory to You, O Lord, glory to You.




*DURING THE NEXT LITANY, FR. BARTHOLOMEW READS THE PRAYER, INCLUDING "AMEN",* ***SECRETLY****.*

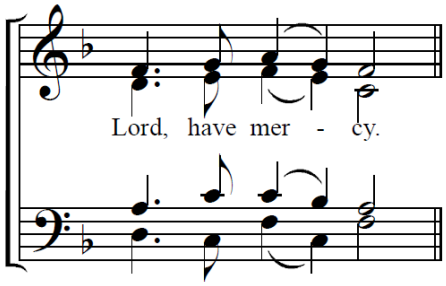
*O Lord Jesus Christ, the Only-begotten Son, Who is in the bosom of the Father, O True God, Fountain of life and immortality, O Light from light, that came into the world to enlighten it: Illumine our mind by Your Holy Spirit, and accept us who are offering majesty and thanksgiving unto You for Your wondrous and mighty works which are from the ages, and for Your saving Providence in these latter ages, in which You have clothed Yourself in our weak and poor substance, and, condescending to the estate of a servant, Who is King of all, and furthermore suffered to be baptized in Jordan by the hand of a servant, that You, O Sinless One, having sanctified the nature of water, might lead us unto regeneration by water and the Spirit, and restore us to our first freedom. Celebrating the memory of this Divine Mystery, we pray, O Master, the Lover of Mankind: Sprinkle upon us, Your unworthy servants, according to Your divine promise, pure water, the gift of Your deep compassion, that the prayer of us sinners over this water may be acceptable through Your grace, and that through it Your blessing may be granted unto us and unto all Your faithful people, to the glory of Your holy and adorable Name. For unto You is due all glory, honor and worship, together with Your Father Who is without beginning, and Your Most-holy, Good and Lifegiving Spirit, now and ever, and unto the ages of ages. Amen.*

*LITANY FOR THE BLESSING OF THE WATERS*

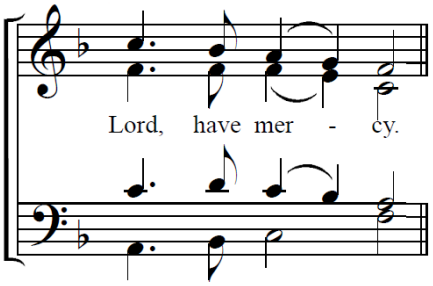
*FR. M.:*

In peace let us pray to the Lord.

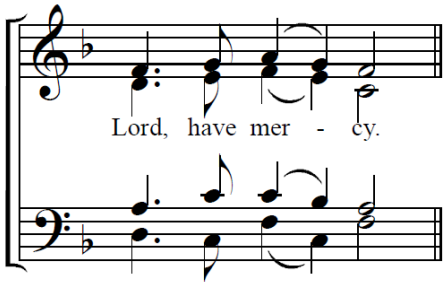
*CHOIR:* Lord, have mercy. *(AFTER EACH PETITION)*



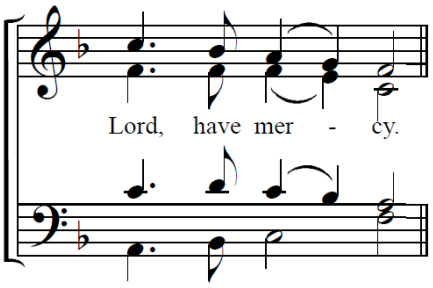

For the peace from above and for the salvation of our souls, let us pray to the Lord.



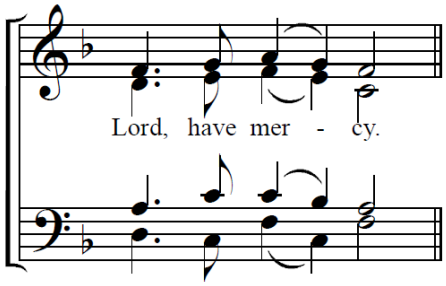

For the peace of the whole world, for the welfare of the holy churches of God, and for the union of all, let us pray to the Lord.



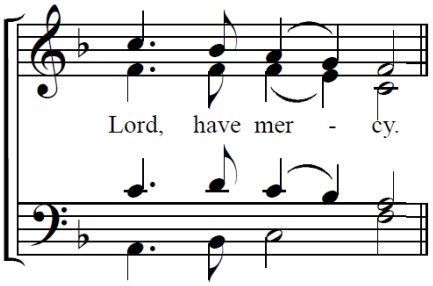

For this holy place and for those who enter with faith, reverence, and the fear of God, let us pray to the Lord.



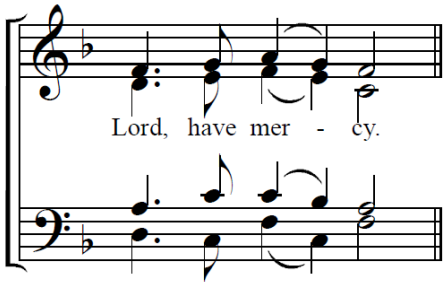
Again we pray for our Metropolitan *TIKHON*,
for our Archbishop *ALEXANDER,*
Our Bishop *PAUL*
Our Archbishop *DEMITRIOS*
Our Bishop *NICHOLAS*
for the honorable Priesthood, the Diaconate in Christ, for all the clergy and people, let us pray to the Lord.



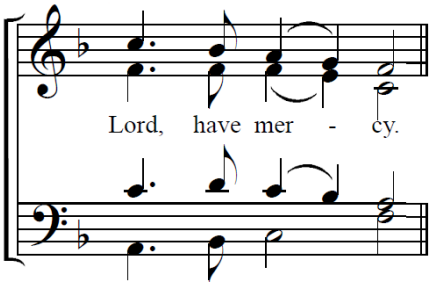

For the President of our country, for all civil authorities, and for the armed forces, let us pray to the Lord.



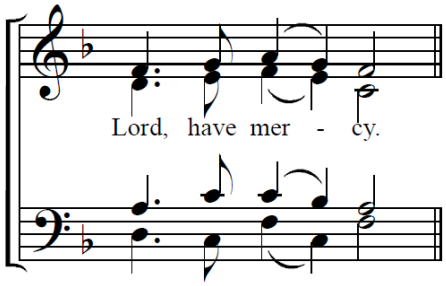

For this city, for every city and countryside, and for the faithful dwelling in them, let us pray to the Lord.



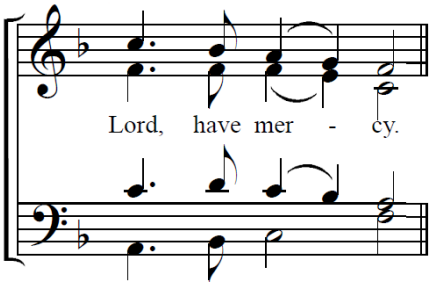

For seasonable weather, for abundance of the fruits of the earth, and for peaceful times, let us pray to the Lord.



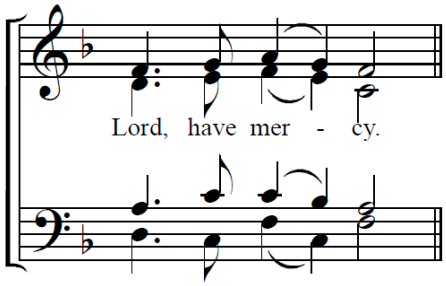
For travelers by land, by sea, and by air; for the sick and the suffering; for captives and their salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



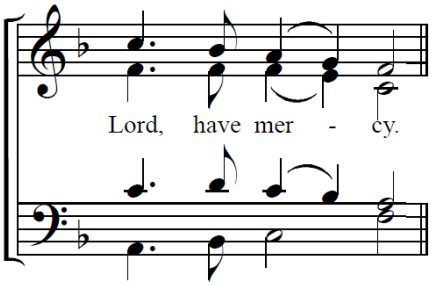

That this water may be sanctified by the power, operation and descent of the Holy Spirit, let us pray to the Lord.



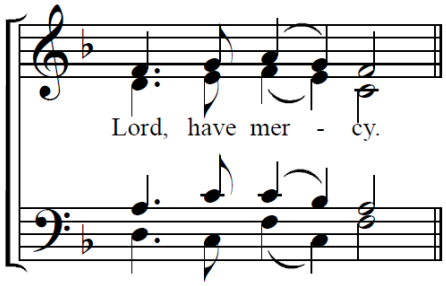

That there may come upon this water the purifying operation of the supersubstantial Trinity, let us pray to the Lord.



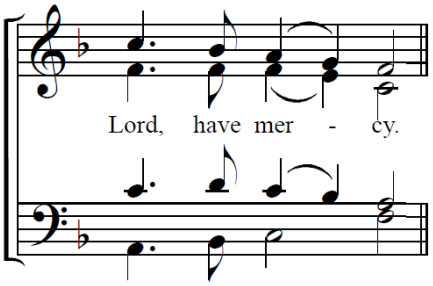

That there may be granted unto them the grace of redemption, the blessing of Jordan, by the power, operation and descent of the Holy Spirit, let us pray to the Lord.



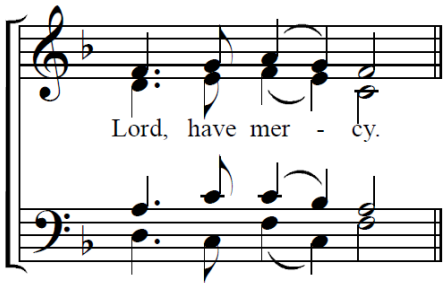

That Satan may quickly be crushed under our feet, and that every evil counsel directed against us may be brought to ruin, let us pray to the Lord.



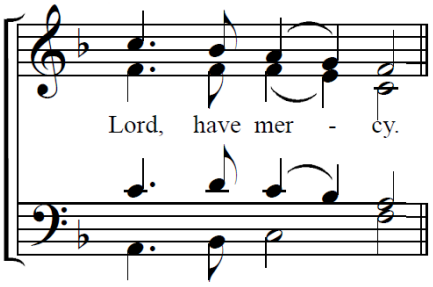

That the Lord God may deliver us from every attack and temptation of the adversary, and count us worthy of the good things that are promised, let us pray to the Lord.



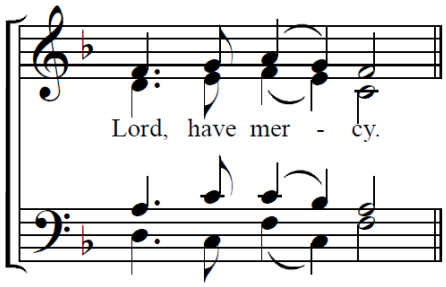

That we may be illumined with the illumination of understanding and piety, through the descent of the Holy Spirit, let us pray to the Lord.



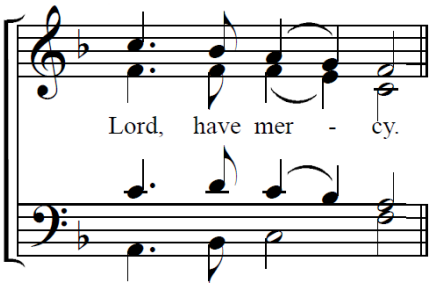

That the Lord God will send down the blessing of Jordan, and sanctify these waters, let us pray to the Lord.



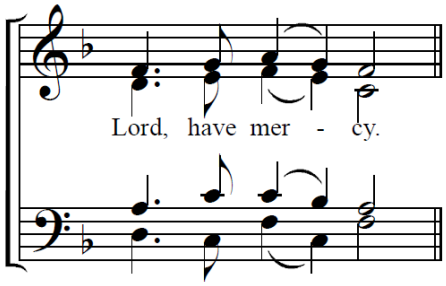

That this water may be a gift of sanctification, and a deliverance from sins, for the healing of soul and body, and for every good purpose, let us pray to the Lord.



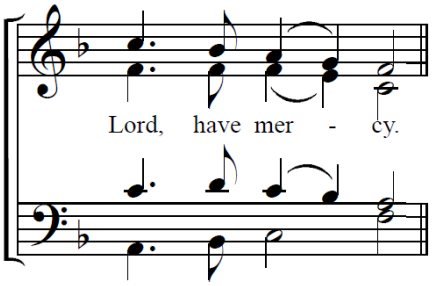

That this water may spring up unto life eternal, let us pray to the Lord.



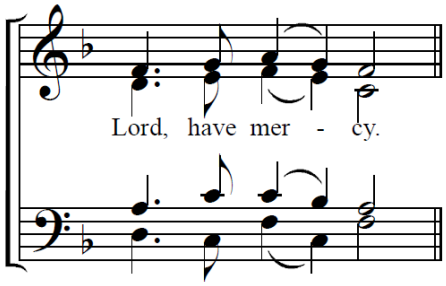

That it may be shown to be the averting of every snare of enemies, visible and invisible, let us pray to the Lord.



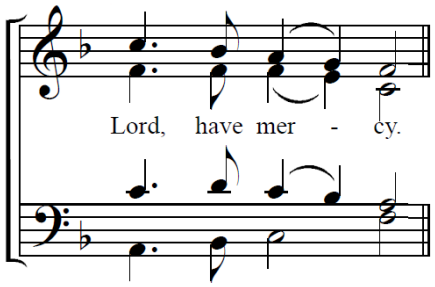

For them that draw of it and take of it for the sanctification of their homes, let us pray to the Lord.



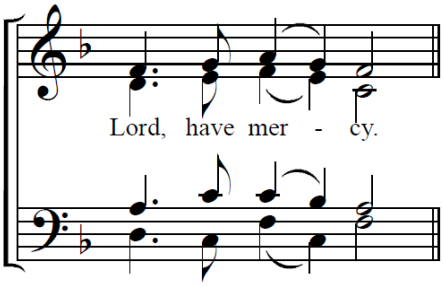

That it may be to the cleansing of soul and body of all that with faith draw and partake of it, let us pray to the Lord.



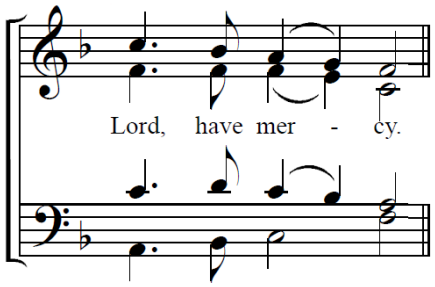
That we may be counted worthy to be filled with sanctification through the partaking of these waters, by the invisible manifestation of the Holy Spirit, let us pray to the Lord.



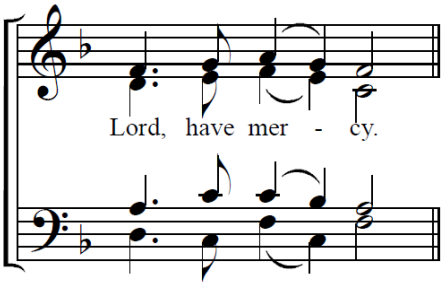

That the Lord God may hearken unto the voice of supplication of us sinners, and have mercy upon us, let us pray to the Lord.




For our deliverance from all affliction, wrath, danger, and necessity, let us pray to the Lord.




Help us, save us, have mercy on us, and keep us, O God, by Your grace.




Commemorating our most holy, most pure, most blessed and glorious Lady Theotokos and Ever-Virgin Mary, with all the Saints, let us commend ourselves and each other, and all our life unto Christ our God.

*CHOIR:* To You, O Lord.

*FR. M:* Great are You, O Lord, and wondrous are Your works; and no word shall be sufficient to hymn Your wonders.

*FR. BASIL:* Great are You, O Lord, and wondrous are Your works; and no word shall be sufficient to hymn Your wonders.

*FR. BARTHOLOMEW:* Great are You, O Lord, and wondrous are Your works; and no word shall be sufficient to hymn Your wonders.

*FR. M:* For You, by Your will, from nothingness brought all things into being, by Your might You uphold creation, and by Your providence You order the world. From four elements You have formed creation; You have crowned the course of the year with four seasons. All the rational powers tremble before You. The sun hymns You. The moon glorifies You. The stars meet together before You. The light hearkens unto You. The deeps shudder before You. The springs of water serve You. You have stretched out the heaven as a curtain. You have established the earth upon the waters. You have bounded the sea with sand. You have spilled out the air for breathing. The Angelic Powers serve You. The choirs of Archangels worship You. The many-eyed Cherubim and the six-winged Seraphim, standing and flying round about, cover themselves with fear at Thine unapproachable glory. For You, who are God inexpressible, unoriginate, and ineffable, came down upon earth, taking the; form of a servant, being made in the likeness of man. For You, O Master, for the sake of Your tender mercy, could not endure to behold the race of man tormented by the devil; but You came and saved us. We confess Your grace. We proclaim Your mercy. We conceal not Your benevolent acts. You have liberated the nature of our race. You sanctified the Virginal womb by Your nativity. All creation sings the praises of You who has manifested Yourself. For You, O our God, have revealed Yourself upon earth, and have dwelt among men. You sanctified the streams of Jordan, sending

down from heaven Your Holy Spirit, and crushed the heads of the dragons that lurked therein.

O King, the Lover of mankind, come now through the descent of Your Holy Spirit, and sanctify this water.

And give it the grace of redemption, the blessing of Jordan. Make it a fountain of incorruption, a gift of sanctification, a loosing of sins, a healing of sicknesses, a destruction of demons, unapproachable by hostile powers, filled with angelic might, that all them that draw and partake of it may have it for the cleansing of souls and bodies, for the healing of sufferings, for the sanctification of homes, and for every useful purpose. For You are our God, Who through water and the Spirit renewed our nature grown old through sin. You are our God, Who through water drowned sin in the days of Noah. You are our God, Who through the sea, by Moses, freed the Hebrew race from the slavery of Pharaoh. You are our God, Who cleaved the rock in the Wilderness, and it gushed forth waters and poured out streams, and satisfied Your thirsty people. You are our God, Who through water and fire, by Elijah, converted Israel from the delusion of Ba'al.

*THEN THE PRIEST SAYS THE FOLLOWING THRICE, BLESSING THE WATER WITH HIS HAND AT EACH REPETITION:*

*FR. M:* And, O Master, sanctify now this water by Your Holy Spirit.

*FR. BASIL:* And, O Master, sanctify now this water by Your Holy Spirit.

*FR. BARTHOLOMEW:* And, O Master, sanctify now this water by Your Holy Spirit.

*FR. M:* And grant unto all them that touch it, and partake of it, and anoint themselves with it, sanctification, health, cleansing and blessing.

Save, O Lord, and be merciful unto our Metropolitan, *TIKHON*, our Archbishop, *ALEXANDER*, our Bishop *PAUL*, our Archbishop *DEMITRIOS*, our Bishop *NICHOLAS*, the Priests, Priestmonks, the

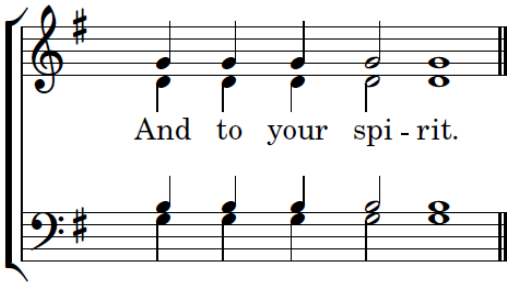
Diaconate in Christ, all the clergy and people here present, together with our brothers and sisters who are absent for just cause.

Save, O Lord, our faithful rulers. And preserve them under Your protection in peace, and subdue under them every enemy and adversary, granting all their petitions which are for salvation and life eternal, that by the elements, by men and angels, by things visible and invisible, Your Most-holy Name may be glorified, with the Father and the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto the ages of ages.

*Choir:* Amen.

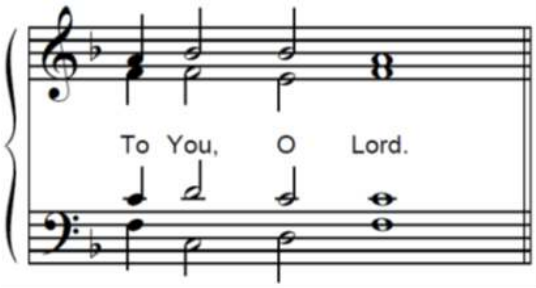
*Fr. Bartholomew:* † Peace be unto all.

*Choir:* And to your spirit.




*Fr. Bartholomew:* Let us bow our heads unto the Lord.

*Choir:* To You, O Lord.

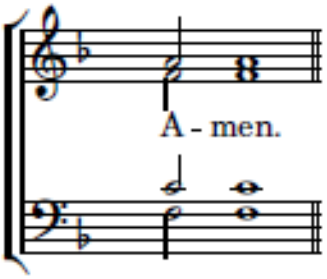



*Fr. Bartholomew, bowing his head, says this Prayer:*

Incline Your ear, O Lord, and hear us, You Who willed to be baptized in the Jordan, and sanctified the waters. And bless all of us who, through the bending of our necks, signify our servitude. And count us worthy to be filled with Your sanctification by partaking of this water. And may it be to us, O Lord, for the healing of soul and body.

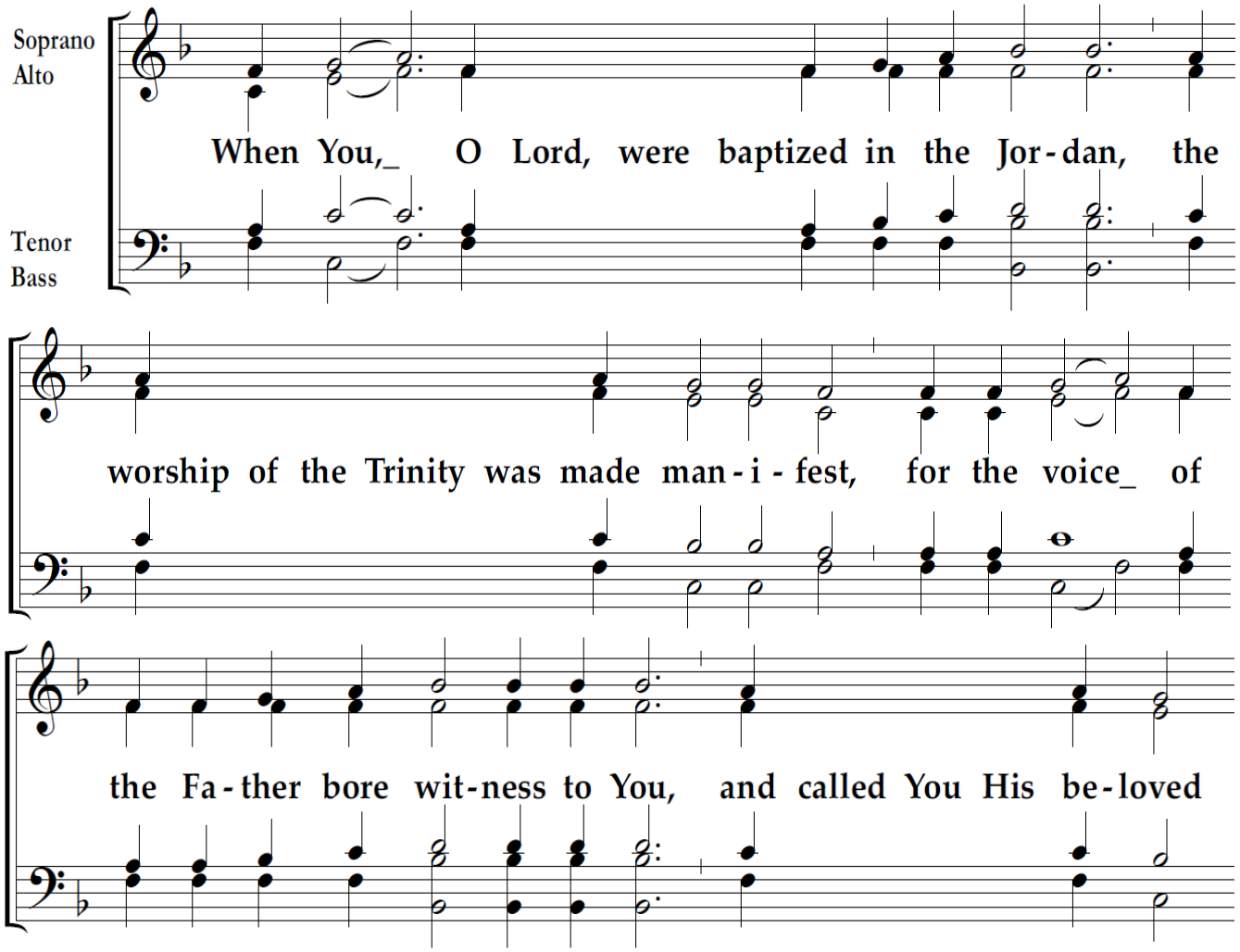
For You are our sanctification, and unto You do we send up glory, thanksgiving and worship, together with Your Father Who is without beginning, and Your Most-holy, Good and Lifegiving Spirit, now and ever, and unto the ages of ages.

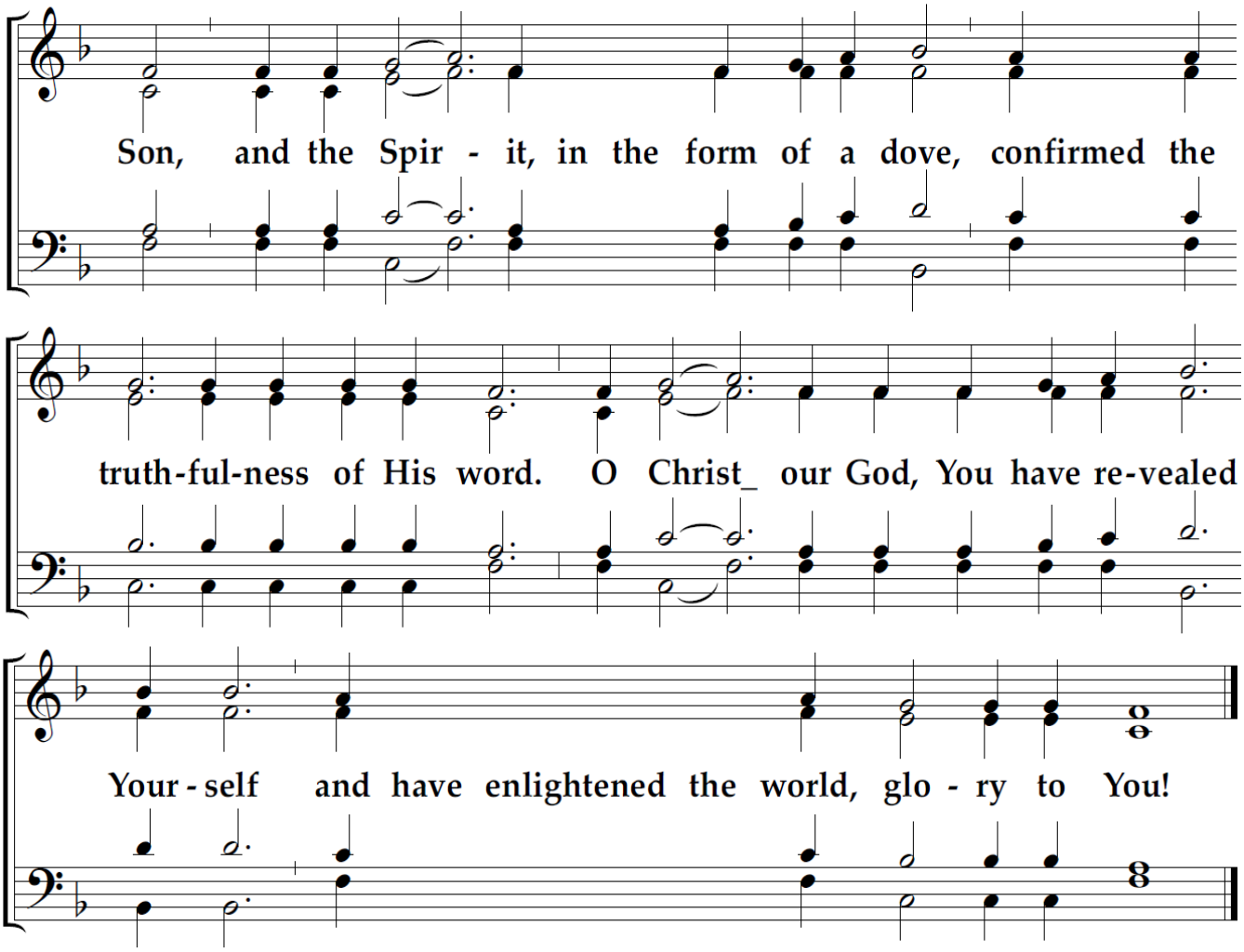
*CHOIR:* Amen.




*AND IMMEDIATELY, BLESSING THE WATER IN CROSSWISE FORM WITH THE PRECIOUS CROSS, HE TOSSES THE ICE CROSSES INTO THE MOVING WATER, SINGING THIS TROPARION, TONE 1:*

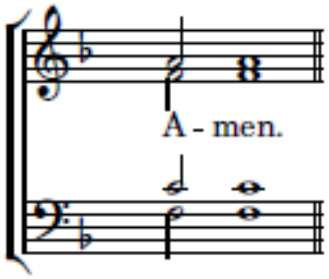
*FIRST TIME: CLERGY – FR. M TOSSES ICE CROSS*
*SECOND TIME: CHOIR – FR. BARTHOLOMEW TOSSES ICE CROSS*
*THIRD TIME: CHOIR – FR. BASIL TOSSES ICE CROSS*





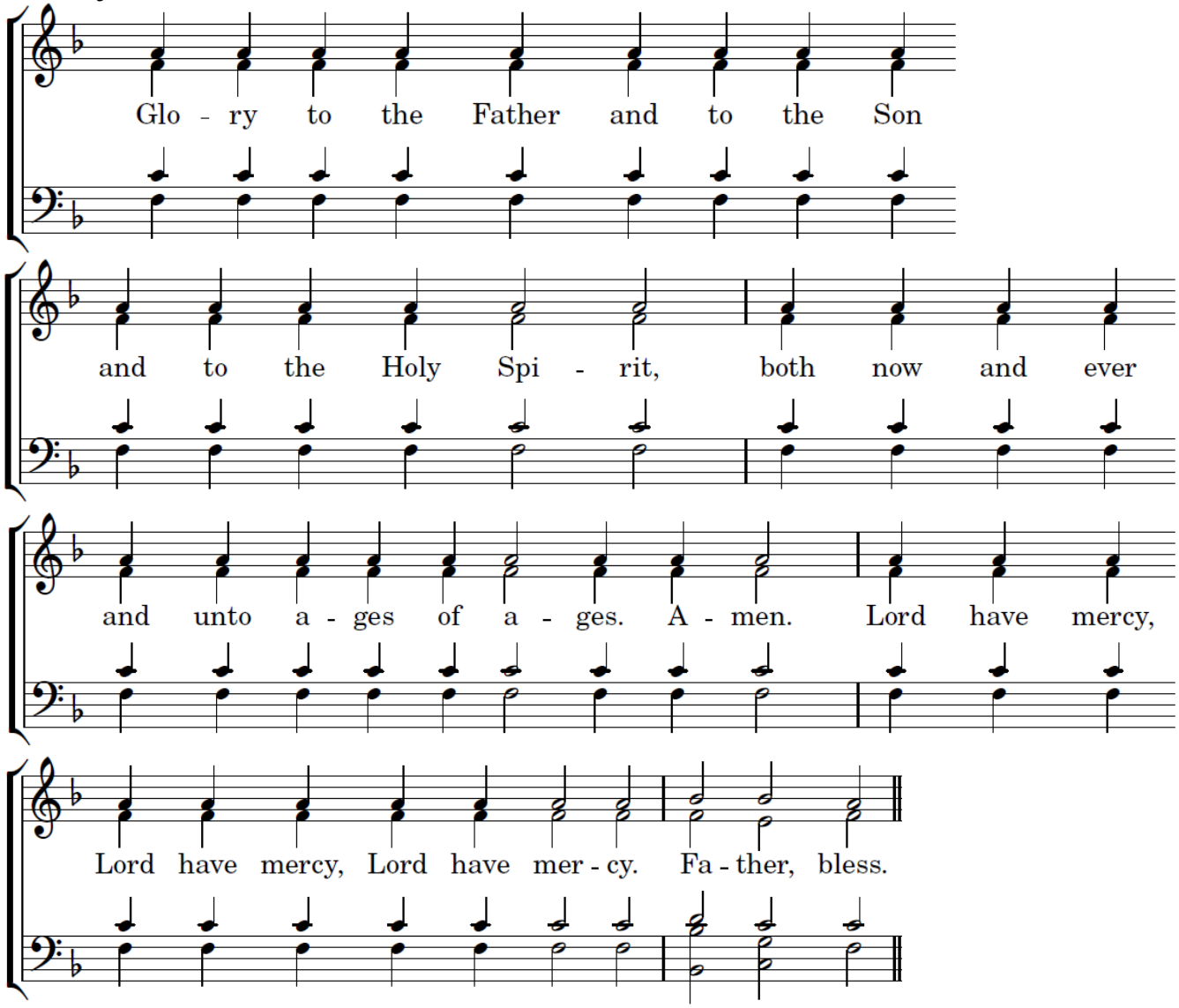

*Fr. M:* † The blessing of the Lord be upon you through His grace and love for mankind always, now and ever and unto ages of ages.

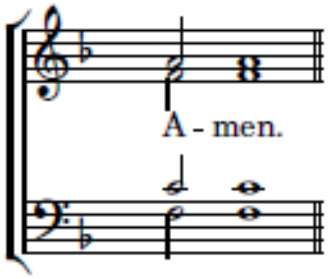
*People:* Amen.




*Fr. M:* Glory to you, O Christ our God and our hope, glory to you!

*PEOPLE:* Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen. Lord, have mercy. *(3X)* Father, bless!




*FR. M:* May He Who deigned to be baptized by John in the Jordan for our salvation, Christ our True God, through the prayers of His Most-pure Mother, and of all the Saints, have mercy on us and save us, for He is good and the Lover of Mankind.

*PEOPLE:* Amen.