#### "Lord I Call..." - Tone 3

Reader: In the Third Tone, Lord, I call upon You, hear me!

Lord, I call upon You, hear me.

Hear me, O Lord.

Lord, I call upon You, hear me.

Receive the voice of my prayer,

when I call upon You.//

Hear me, O Lord.

Let my prayer arise in Your sight as incense, and let the lifting up of my hands be an evening sacrifice.// Hear me, O Lord.



Reader: (Reads text from service book)

v. (10) Bring my soul out of prison, that I may give thanks to Your name!

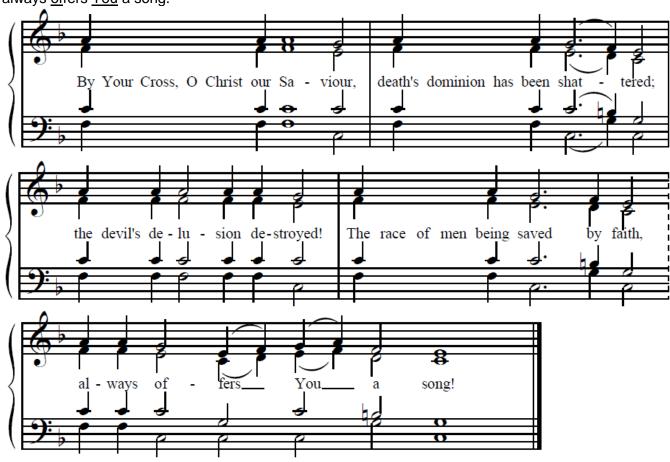
By Your Cross, O Christ our Savior,

death's dominion has been shattered;

the devil's delusion destroyed.

The race of men, being saved by faith,//

always offers You a song.

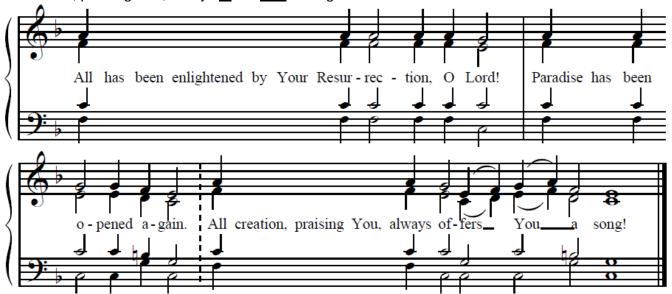


v. (9) The righteous will surround me; for You will deal bountifully with me.

All has been enlightened by Your Resurrection, O Lord.

Paradise has been opened again.//

All creation, praising You, always offers You a song.



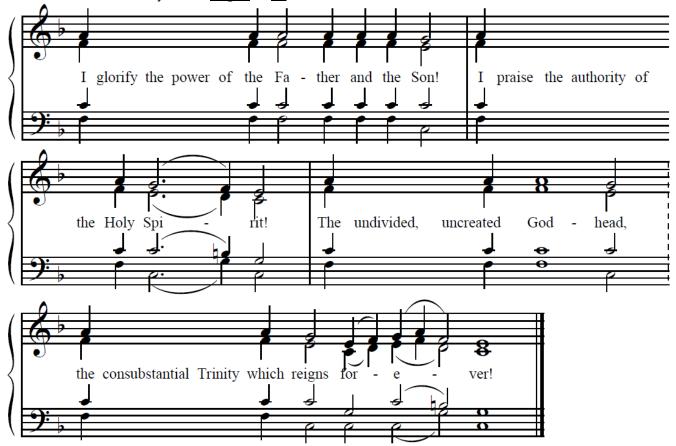
v. (8) Out of the depths I cry to You, O Lord. Lord, hear my voice!

I glorify the power of the Father and the Son.

I praise the authority of the Holy Spirit:

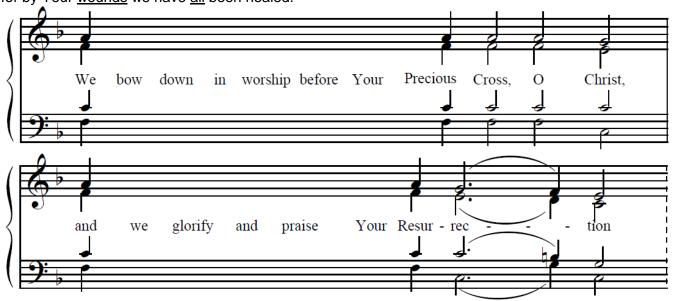
the undivided, uncreated Godhead,//

the consubstantial Trinity which reigns forever.



v. (7) Let Your ears be attentive to the voice of my supplications!

We bow down in worship before Your precious <u>Cross</u>, O Christ, and we glorify and praise Your Resur<u>rec</u>tion,// for by Your <u>wounds</u> we have <u>all</u> been healed.

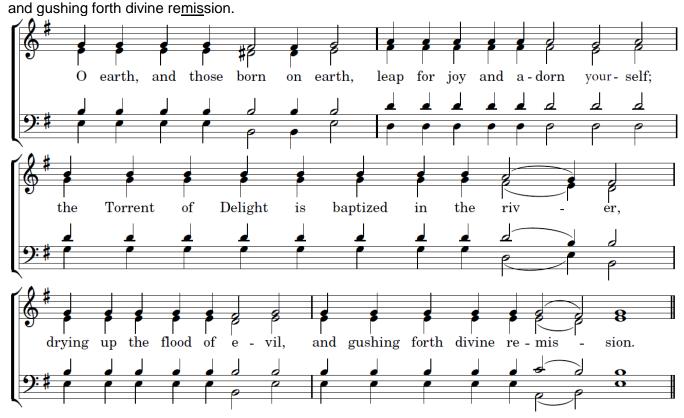




v. (6) In the Sixth Tone, If You, O Lord, should mark iniquities, Lord, who could stand? But there is forgiveness with You.

Tone 6 (for the Forefeast) (On the third day)

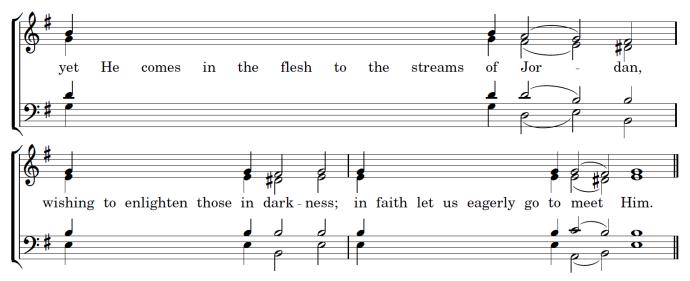
O earth, and those <u>born</u> on earth, leap for joy and a<u>dorn</u> yourself; the Torrent of Delight is baptized in the <u>riv</u>er, drying up the flood of <u>e</u>vil,//



v. (5) For Your name's sake I have waited for You, O Lord, my soul has waited for Your word; my soul has hoped on the Lord.

Jesus, as the Be<u>stow</u>er of Light, has no need to be baptized, yet He comes in the flesh to the streams of <u>Jor</u>dan, wishing to enlighten those in <u>dark</u>ness;// in faith let us eagerly go to meet Him.





v. (4) From the morning watch until night, from the morning watch, let Israel hope on the Lord! Bearing the appearance of a <u>ser</u>vant,

Christ comes to be baptized in the streams of the Jordan by a <u>ser</u>vant, granting deliverance from the servitude of the <u>ancient sin,//</u> and sanctifying and enlightening us.



v. (3) In the Fourth Tone, For with the Lord there is mercy and with Him is plenteous redemption, and He will deliver Israel from all his iniquities.

Let us praise the wise Theonas and Theopemptus;

for, obedient to the precepts of Christ, they utterly demolished all lawless worship,

and piously offered the worship that is august and holy,

courageously confessing one Lord and God in the presence of the tyrants;//

and they have been <u>crowned</u> from on high.



v. (2) Praise the Lord, all nations! Praise Him, all peoples!

Having abandoned the base way of life,

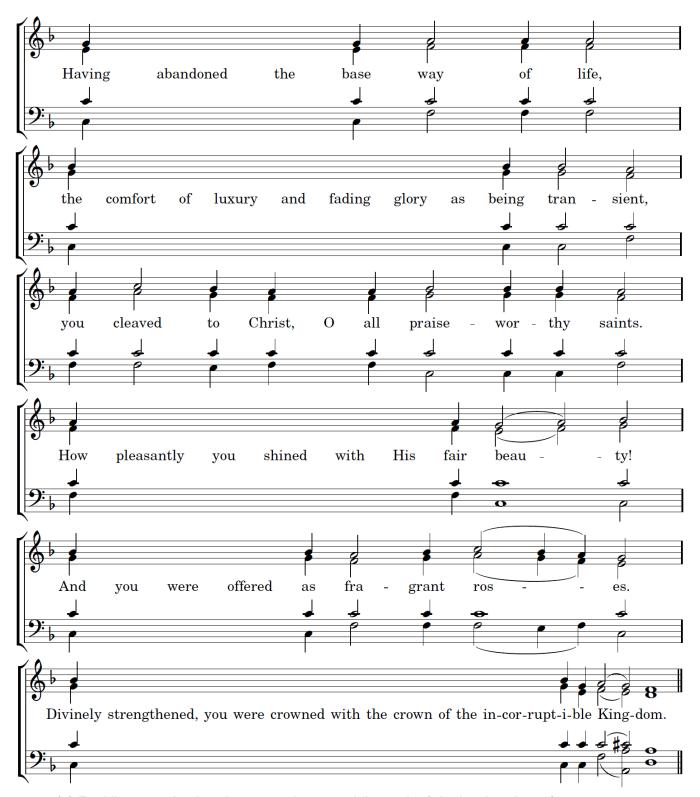
the comfort of luxury and fading glory as being transient,

you cleaved to Christ, O all-praiseworthy saints.

How pleasantly you shined with His fair beauty!

And you were offered as fragrant roses.//

Divinely strengthened, you were crowned with the crown of the incorruptible Kingdom.



v. (1) For His mercy is abundant towards us; and the truth of the Lord endures for ever.

Having hated the world, you appeared as above the world, and were joined to the Church of the First-born. With the Angels you sing the unfading song, as you stand face to face with God; and having destroyed the lawless deceit of idols,// you overthrew, as martyrs, the madness of the tyrants.



In the Sixth Tone, Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit;

#### Tone 6 (for the Forefeast)

Prepare, O River Jordan!

Behold, Christ is coming to be baptized by John in you!

Rejoice, O barren wilderness!

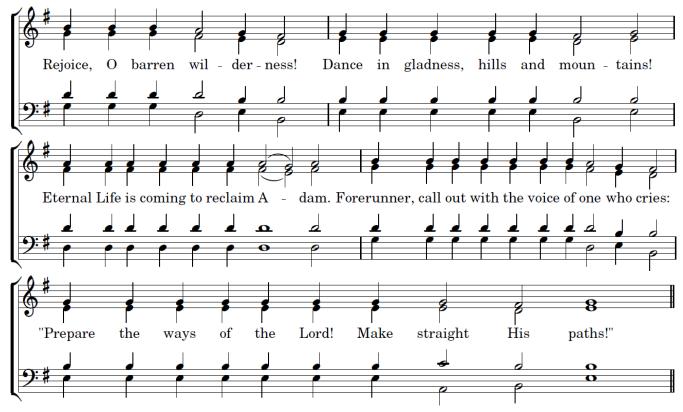
Dance in gladness, hills and mountains!

Eternal Life is coming to reclaim Adam.

Forerunner, call out with the voice of one who cries://

"Prepare the ways of the Lord! Make straight His paths!"





now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Tone 3 (Theotokion – Dogmatikon)

How can we not wonder

at your mystical childbearing, O exalted Mother?

For without receiving the touch of man,

you gave birth to a Son in the flesh, O immaculate Virgin.

The Son born of the Father before eternity

was born of you at the fullness of time, O honored Lady.

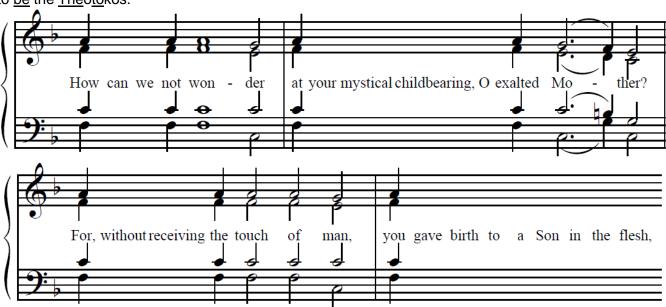
He underwent no mingling, no change, no division,

but preserved the fullness of each nature.

Entreat Him to save the souls, O Lady and Virgin, and Mother,

of those who confess you in the Orthodox manner //

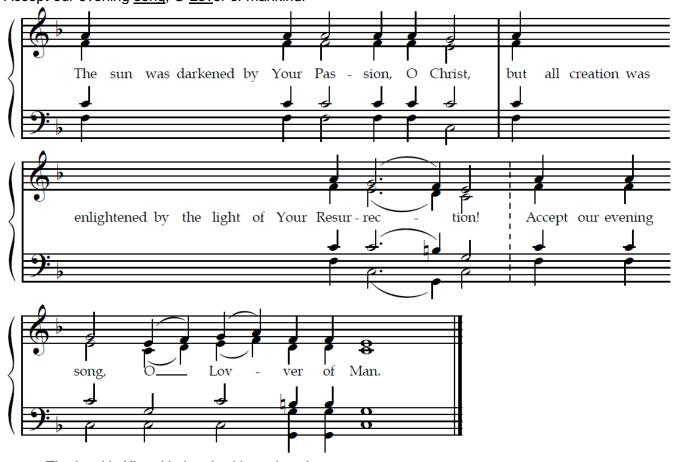
to be the Theotokos.





#### Aposticha - Tone 3

The sun was darkened by your <u>Passion</u>, O Christ, but all creation was enlightened by the light of Your Resur<u>rec</u>tion.// Accept our evening <u>song</u>, O <u>Lover</u> of mankind!

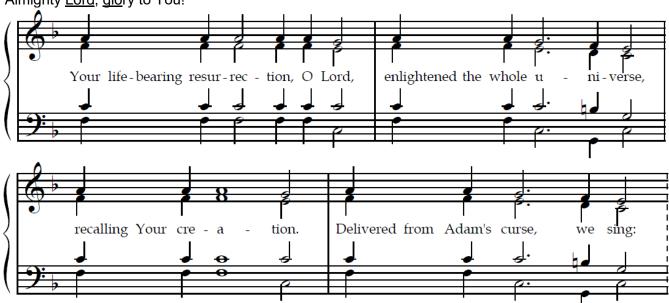


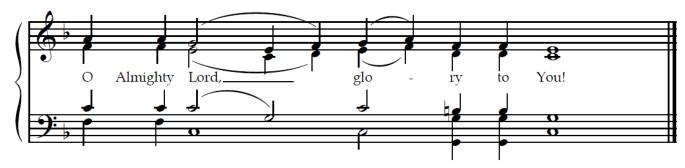
v. The Lord is King; He is robed in majesty!

Your life-bearing Resur<u>rec</u>tion, O Lord, enlightened the whole <u>u</u>niverse, recalling Your cre<u>a</u>tion.

Delivered from Adam's <u>curse</u>, we sing://

"Almighty Lord, glory to You!"





v. For He has established the world, so that it shall never be moved.

You are the changeless God,

Who, suffering in the <u>flesh</u>, were changed.

Creation could not endure seeing You on the Cross.

It was filled with fear while praising Your patience.

By descending to Hadesl and rising on the third day,//

You have granted to the world <u>life</u> and great <u>mer</u>cy.

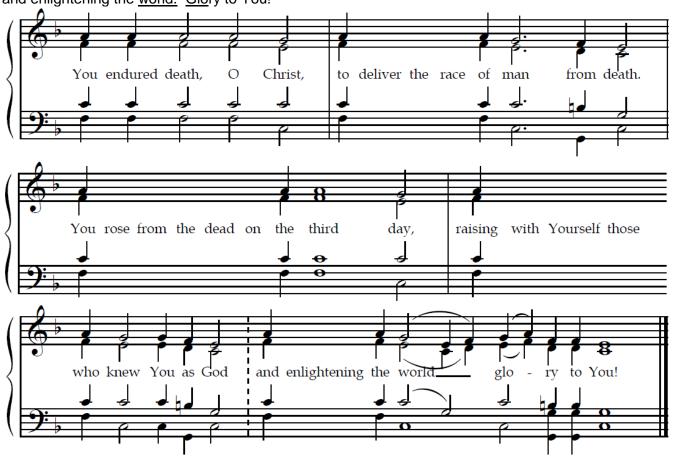


v. Holiness befits Your house, O Lord, forevermore!

You endured death, O Christ,

to deliver the race of man from death.

You rose from the dead on the third day, raising with Yourself those who knew You as God// and enlightening the world. Glory to You!



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

#### Tone 6 (for the Forefeast)

Let the wilderness of Jordan rejoice  $ex\underline{ceed}$ ingly

and burst into flower, like a lily;

for the voice of one crying out has been heard there:

"Prepare the way of the Lord."

For He Who caused the mountains to rise up in their place,

and fixed the valleys with a yoke,

Who as God fulfills all things,

is baptized as a servant;

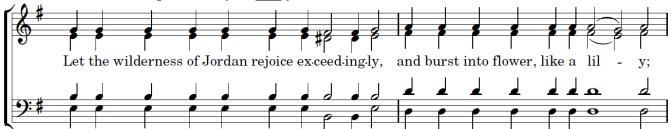
He begins to be poor, Who bestows abundant gifts.

Eve heard the words, "In sorrow will you bear children,"

but now the Virgin has heard:

"Rejoice, O maiden full of grace,//

the Lord, Who bestows great mercy, is with you."





Then, St. Symeon's Prayer (p. 25)

### (at Great Vespers)

Tone 3 Troparion (Resurrection)

(Resurrectional Troparion – Tone 3)

Let the heavens rejoice!

Let the earth be glad!

For the Lord has shown strength with His arm.

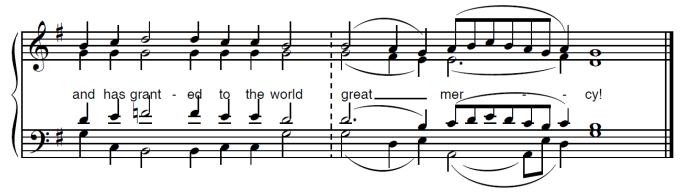
He has trampled down death by death.

He has become the first born of the dead.

He has delivered us from the depths of hell,

and has granted to the world//





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

### Tone 4 Troparion of the Forefeast

(Troparion for the Forefeast – Tone 4)

Of old the river Jordan

turned back turned back before Elisha's mantle at Elijah's ascension.

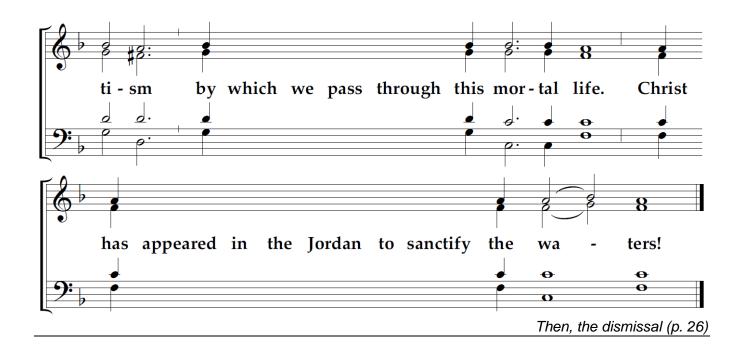
The waters were parted in two,

and the waterway became a dry path.

This is truly a symbol of baptism,

by which we pass through this mortal life.//

Christ has appeared in the Jordan to sanctify the waters. Soprano Alto Of old, the river Jor - dan turned back before Elisha's mantle Tenor Bass at Elijah's as-cen-sion. The waters were part-ed in two and the 8 8 This is truly a symbol of bap waterway became dry path. 0 0 O



### (at the Divine Liturgy)

Tone 3 Troparion (Resurrection)

(Resurrectional Troparion – Tone 3)

Let the heavens rejoice!

Let the earth be glad!

For the Lord has shown strength with His arm.

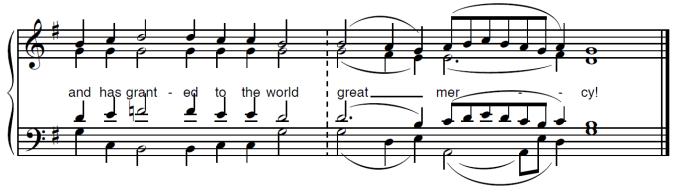
He has trampled down death by death.

He has become the first born of the dead.

He has delivered us from the depths of hell,

and has granted to the world//





Tone 4 Troparion of the Forefeast

(Troparion for the Forefeast – Tone 4)

Of old the river Jordan

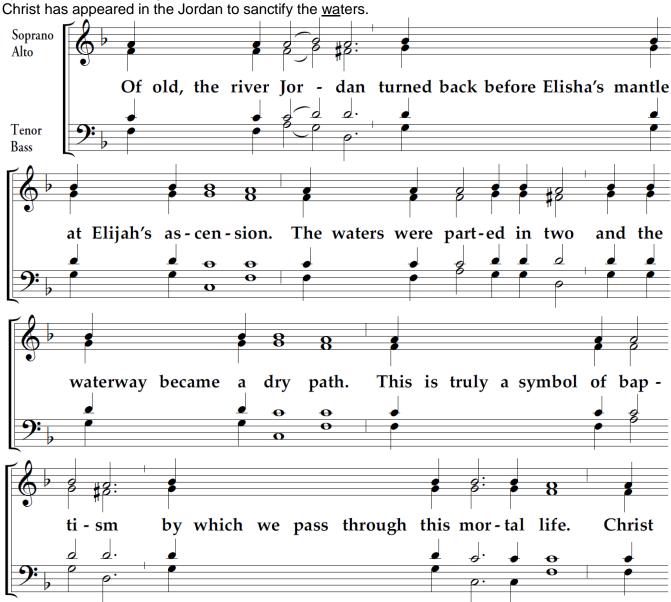
turned back turned back before Elisha's mantle at Elijah's ascension.

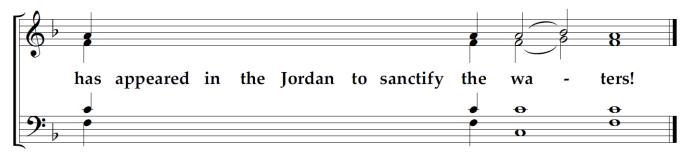
The waters were parted in two,

and thewaterway became a dry path.

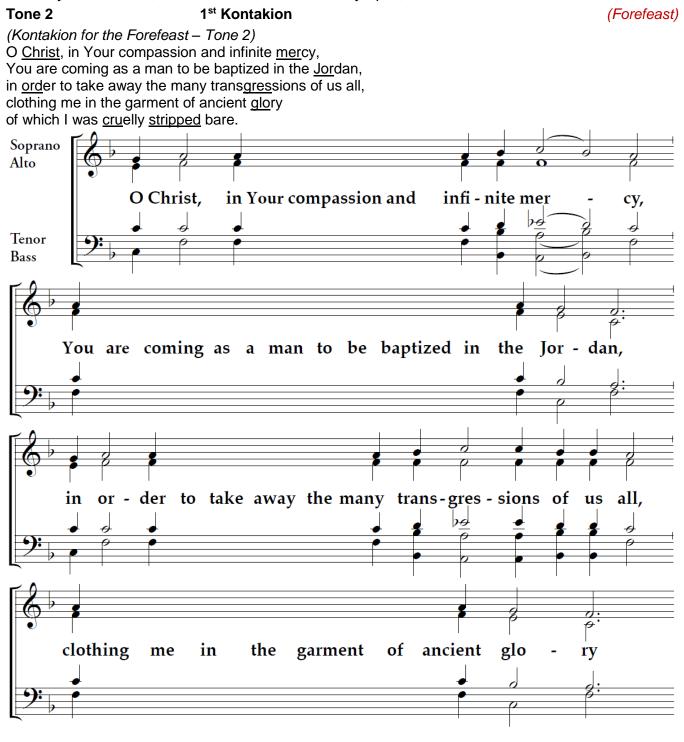
This is truly a symbol of baptism,

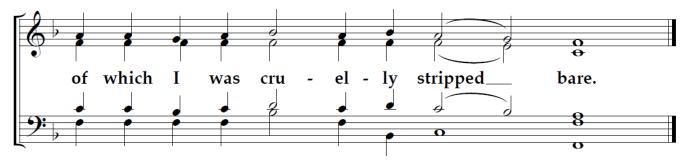
by which we pass through this mortal life.//





Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit,





now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

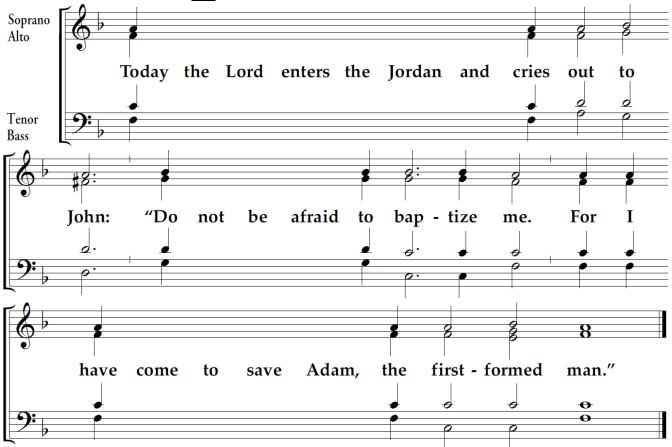
Tone 4 2<sup>nd</sup> Kontakion (Forefeast)

(Kontakion for the Forefeast – Tone 4)

Today the Lord enters the Jordan and cries out to John:

"Do not be afraid to baptize me,//

for I come to save Adam, the first-formed man!"



Tone 3 Kontakion (Resurrection)

(Resurrectional Kontakion - Tone 3)

On this day You rose from the tomb,

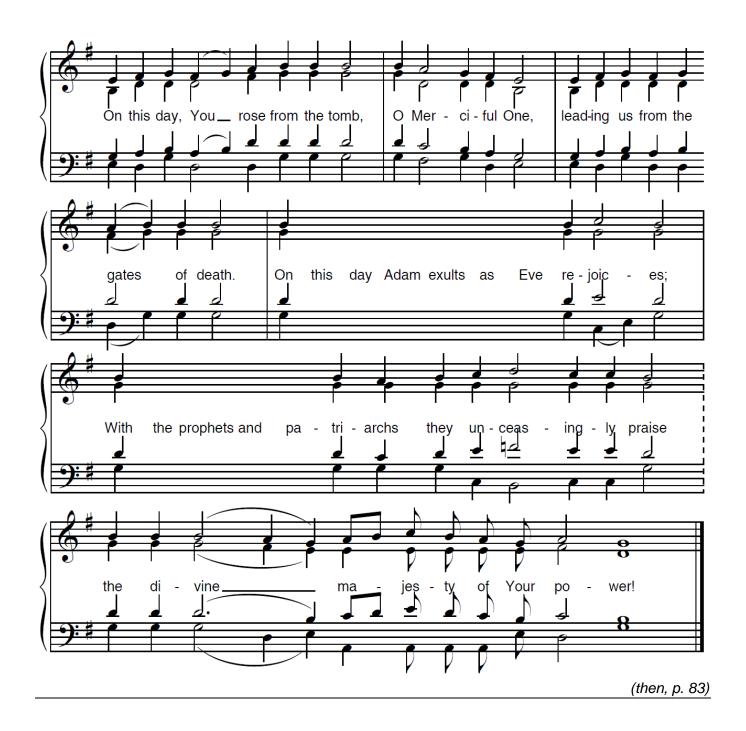
O Merciful One,

leading us from the gates of death.

On this day Adam exults as Eve rejoices;

with the Prophets and Patriarchs they unceasingly praise //

the divine majesty of Your power.



Tone 6 Prokeimenon (Sunday Before)

Prokeimenon, Tone 6

Priest: Let us attend! † Peace be unto all!

Reader: And with your spirit!

Priest: Wisdom!

Reader: The Prokeimenon, in the 6<sup>th</sup> Tone: O Lord, save Your people, and bless Your inheritance!

Choir: O Lord, save Your people, and bless Your inheritance, your inheritance!



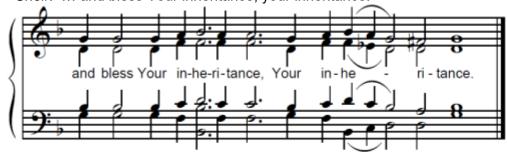
Reader: To You, O Lord, will I call. O my God, be not silent to me!

Choir: O Lord, save Your people, and bless Your inheritance, your inheritance!



Reader: O Lord, save Your people, ...

Choir: ... and bless Your inheritance, your inheritance!



Deacon: Wisdom!

**Epistle:** (298) 2 Timothy 4:5-8

Reader: The Reading from the Second Epistle of the Holy Apostle Paul to Timothy.

Deacon: Let us attend!

Reader: My son Timothy, be sober in all things, endure hardship, do the work of one who proclaims the Good News and fulfill your ministry.

As for me, I am already being offered in sacrifice, and the time of my release has come. I have fought the good fight! I have finished the course! I have kept the faith! From now on, the crown of righteousness is reserved for me, which the Lord – the righteous judge – will give me on that Day, and not only to me but also to all those who have loved his appearing.

Priest: † Peace be to you!

Alleluia: Tone 4

Reader: And to Your spirit. In the 8th Tone: Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

Choir: Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Reader: O God, be bountiful to us and bless us, show the light of Your countenance upon us, and have

mercy on us!

Choir: Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Reader: That we may know Your way upon the earth, and Your salvation among all nations.

Choir: Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

**Gospel:** (1) Mark 1:1-8 Page 320

*Priest:* The reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Mark.

Choir: Glory to You O Lord, Glory to You.

Priest: The beginning of the Good News of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. As it is written in the prophets:

Behold, I send my messenger before your face,

who will prepare your way before you.

The voice of one crying in the wilderness:

'Make ready the way of the Lord!

Make his paths straight!'

John came baptizing in the wilderness and preaching the baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. All the country of Judea and those from Jerusalem went out to him. They were all baptized by John in the Jordan river, confessing their sins. John was clothed with camel's hair, and a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. He preached, saying, "He who comes after me is more powerful than I, and I am not worthy to kneel down and untie the strap of his sandals. I baptized you in water, but he will baptize you in the Holy Spirit."

Choir: Glory to You O Lord, Glory to You.

**Sermon** (then p. 89)

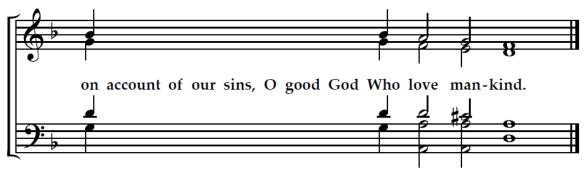
## **Great Blessing of Water**

The Priest, vested in Epitrachelion and Phelonion, censes the Cross lying on the Holy Table three times. After this, having given up the censer, he takes up the Cross and, holding it upon his head, exits through the Royal Gates. Before him goes candlebearers; and before all of them go two carrying banners, one of whom also carries the Gospel Book. The Priest takes the Cross from his head, makes the Sign of the Cross with it over the people from four sides, and places the Cross on the table prepared for it. But if the water be in a vessel, the Cross is set on the edge of it. A small table is prepared as at the Lesser Sanctification of Waters.

Choir:







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





Priest/Deacon: Wisdom!

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

Priest/Deacon: 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".

Priest/Deacon: Wisdom!

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

Priest/Deacon: 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.

Priest/Deacon: Wisdom!

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

Priest/Deacon: 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".

Priest: Let us attend! † Peace to all!

Reader: And to Your spirit! Priest/Deacon: Wisdom!

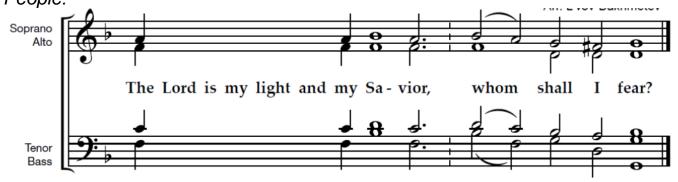
Priest serving alone returns to the Altar Table and is given the censer.

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?



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



Reader: The Lord is my light and my Savior ...

People: ... whom shall I fear?



Priest/Deacon: Wisdom!

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

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

Priest/Deacon: Let us attend!

*Priest/Deacon/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.

Priest: † Peace be to you.

Alleluia: Tone 4

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

People: Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!



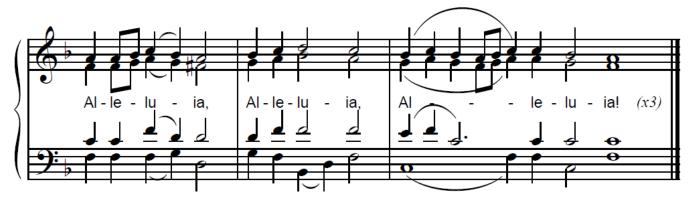
Reader: The voice of the Lord is upon the waters.

People: Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!



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

People: Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!



After the censing, the priest, standing at the Altar Table, reads the prayer before the Gospel:

Priest: 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.

The Gospel - (2) Mark 1:9-11

p 327 (Sixth Hour)

Priest/Deacon: Wisdom! Let us attend! Let us hear the Holy Gospel.

Priest (facing the people): † Peace to all.

People: And to your spirit.



First Deacon: The reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Mark.

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



Priest/Deacon: 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."

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



Then the Deacon says this Litany:

In peace let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy. (after each petition)



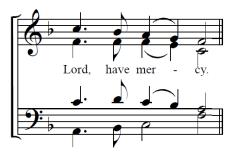
For the peace from above and for the salvation of our souls, let us pray to the Lord.



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 house and for those who enter with faith, reverence, and the fear of God, let us pray to the Lord.



Again we pray for our Archbishop *Alexander*, 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.

People: To You, O Lord.



If there be no Deacon, the Priest reads the Prayer, including "Amen", secretly after the Litany.

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. And he says to himself, "Amen".

And when the Deacon has finished the Litany, the Priest begins this Prayer with a loud voice:

Great are You, O Lord, and wondrous are Your works; and no word shall be sufficient to hymn Your wonders. *(thrice)* 

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 Peoples of Archangels worship You. The many-eyed Cherubim and the sixwinged Seraphim, standing and flying round about, cover themselves with fear at Your 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.

*(chanted)* 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:

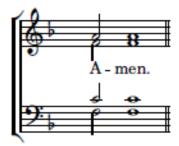
And, O Master, sanctify now this water by Your Holy Spirit. (x3)

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 Archbishop, *Alexander*, 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.

People: Amen.



Priest: † Peace to all.

People: And to your spirit.



Priest/Deacon: Let us bow our heads unto the Lord.

People: To You, O Lord.



# And the Priest, 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.

*Ekphonisis:* 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.

People: Amen.

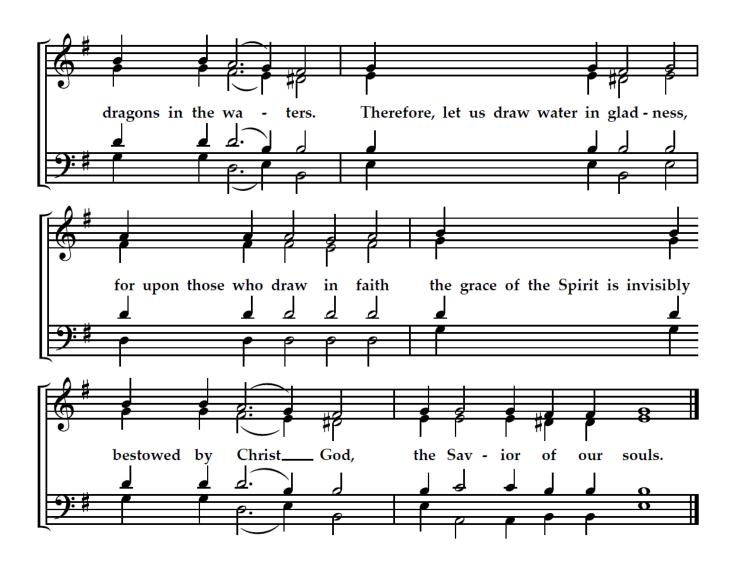


And immediately, blessing the water in crosswise form with the Precious Cross, he dips it perpendicularly, sinking it in the water and raising it, holding it by the crossbars with both hands, and singing this Troparion, TONE 1:



The Priest takes some of the sanctified water in a bowl, and turns to face the west. He holds the Cross in his left hand and the sprinkler (an aspergillus or branch of basil) in his right hand. Then all approach and kiss the Precious Cross, and the Priest signs each in the face with the sanctified water. And the Troparion is sung many times, until everyone has been sanctified by the sprinkling of the water. And all sing, in Tone 6:





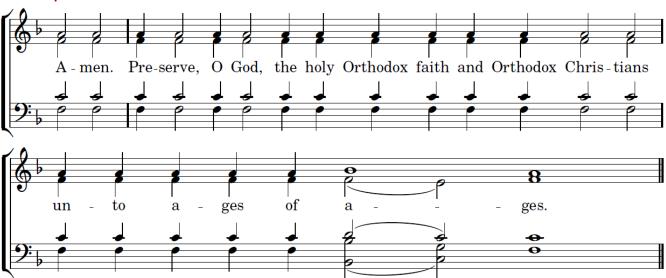
#### Deacon: Wisdom!

People: Father, bless.



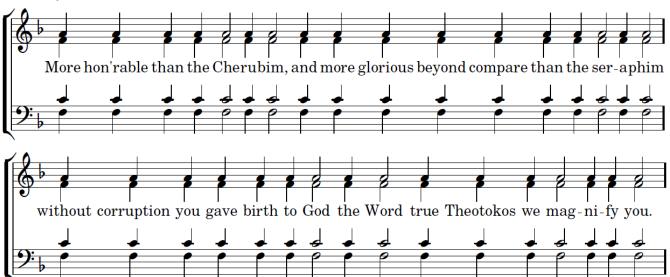
*Priest:* Blessed is He-who-is, Christ our God, always, now and ever and to the ages of ages.

People: Amin. Preserve, O God, ...



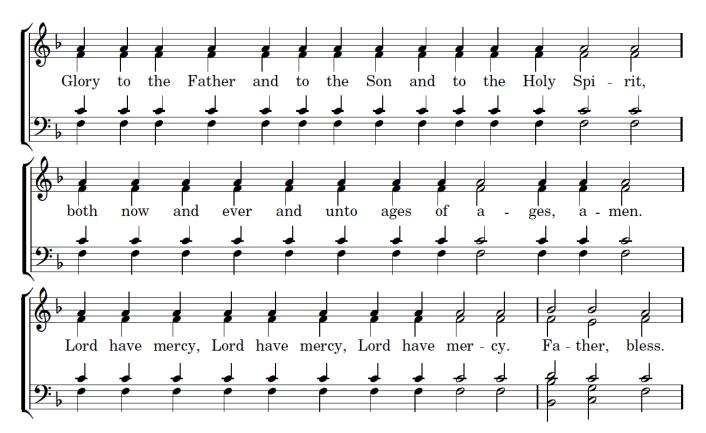
Priest: All-holy Birthgiver of God, have mercy on us.

People: More honorable than the Cherubim, and ...



Priest: Glory to You, Christ God, our Hope, glory to You.

People: Glory ... now and ever ... Lord, have mercy (x3). Father, bless.



And first having drunk of the sanctified water, the Priest makes the Full Dismissal:

*Priest, holding the blessing cross:* 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.

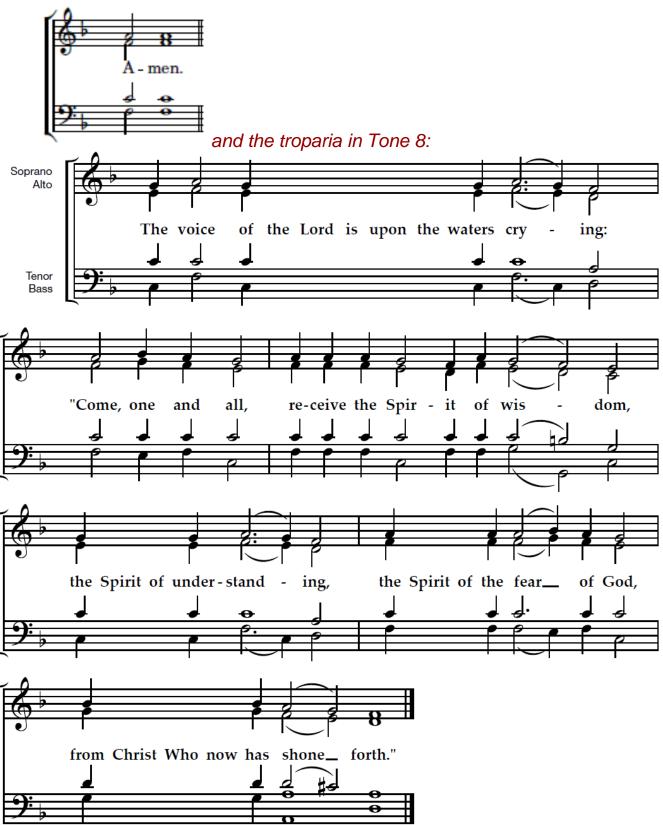


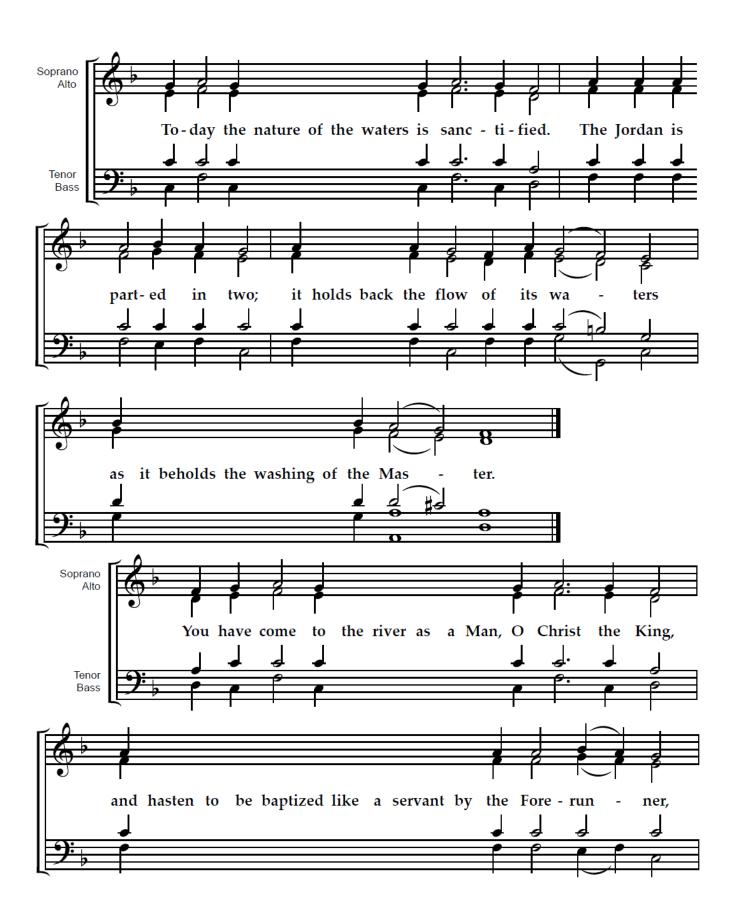
### **Great Blessing of Water – Outdoor**

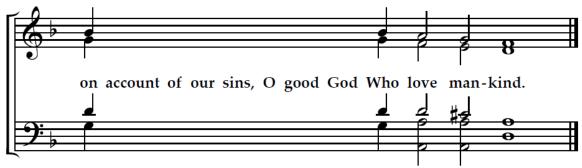
THE PRIEST(S) ARE VESTED IN EPITRACHELION AND PHELONION.

PRIEST: Blessed is our God always, now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

CHOIR/PEOPLE: Amen.

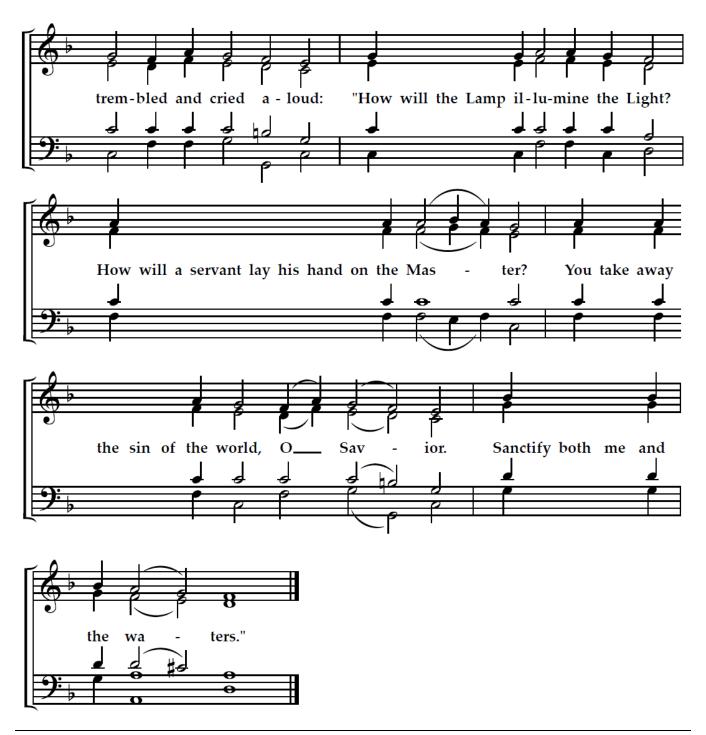






Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages, amen.





PRIEST: Wisdom!

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

PRIEST: 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".

PRIEST: Wisdom!

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

PRIEST: 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.

PRIEST: Wisdom!

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

PRIEST: 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".

PRIEST: Let us attend! † Peace to all!

**READER:** And to Your spirit!

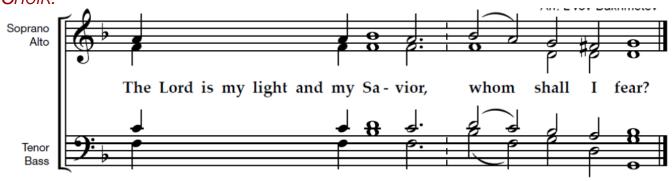
PRIEST: Wisdom!

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?



**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?

PRIEST: Wisdom!

THE EPISTLE READING (143 ctr – 1 CORINTHIANS 10:1-4)

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

PRIEST: 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.

PRIEST: † Peace to you who read.

Alleluia: Tone 4

**READER:** And to Your spirit. In the 4<sup>th</sup> Tone: Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

CHOIR: Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!



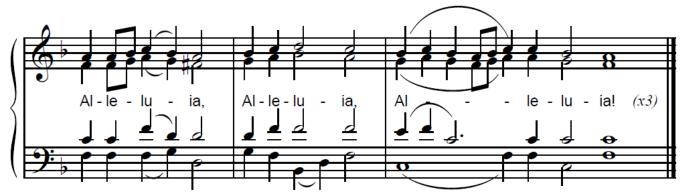
**READER:** The voice of the Lord is upon the waters.

CHOIR: Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!



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

CHOIR: Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!



PRIEST: 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.

## THE GOSPEL - (2) Mark 1:9-11

PRIEST: Wisdom! Let us attend! Let us hear the Holy Gospel.

FACING THE PEOPLE: † Peace to all.

**CHOIR:** And to your spirit.



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

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



PRIEST: 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, THE PRIEST 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

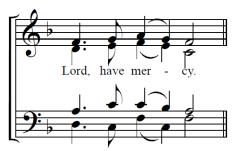
furthermore suffered to be baptized in Jordan by the hand of a servant, that You, O Sinless One, having sanctified the nature of water, might lead us unto regeneration by water and the Spirit, and restore us to our first freedom. Celebrating the memory of this Divine Mystery, we pray, O Master, the Lover 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

#### PRIEST:

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 Archbishop *ALEXANDER*, for the honorable Priesthood, the Diaconate in Christ, for all the clergy and people, let us pray to the Lord.



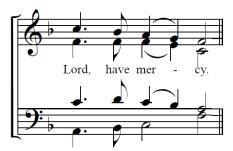
For the President of our country, for all civil authorities, and for the armed forces, let us pray to the Lord.



For this city, for every city and land, 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.



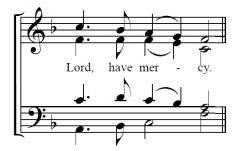
That this water may be sanctified by the power, operation and descent of the Holy Spirit, let us pray to the Lord.



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



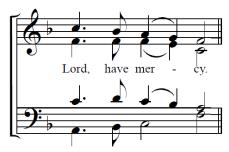
That there may be granted unto them the grace of redemption, the blessing of Jordan, by the power, operation and descent of the Holy Spirit, let us pray to the Lord.



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.



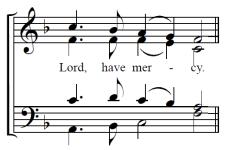
That the Lord God may deliver us from every attack and temptation of the adversary, and count us worthy of the good things that are promised, let us pray to the Lord.



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.

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

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

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

PRIEST: And, O Master, sanctify now this water by Your Holy Spirit.

PRIEST: And, O Master, sanctify now this water by Your Holy Spirit.

PRIEST: And, O Master, sanctify now this water by Your Holy Spirit.

**PRIEST:** 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 Archbishop, *ALEXANDER*, the Priests, Heiromonks, 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.

PRIEST: † Peace to all.

**CHOIR:** And to your spirit.



PRIEST: Let us bow our heads to the Lord.

CHOIR: To You, O Lord.

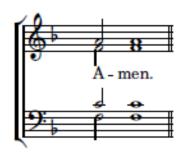


PRIEST, BOWING HIS HEAD, SAYS THIS PRAYER:

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.

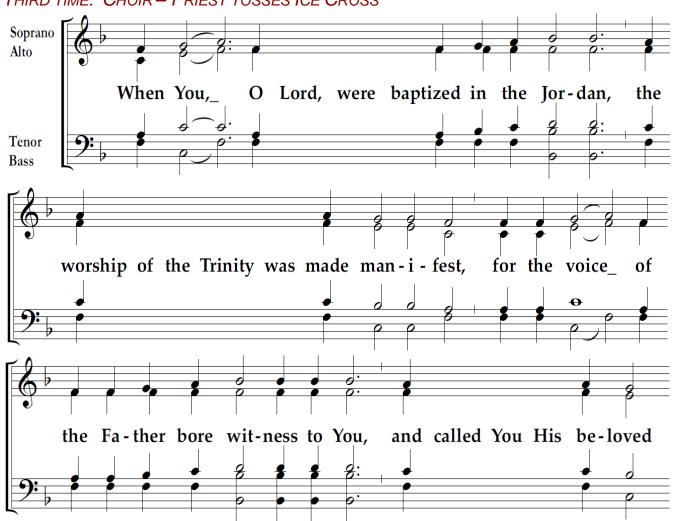
For You are our sanctification, and unto You do we send up glory, thanksgiving and worship, together with Your Father Who is without beginning, and Your Most-holy, Good and Lifegiving Spirit, now and ever, and unto the ages of ages.

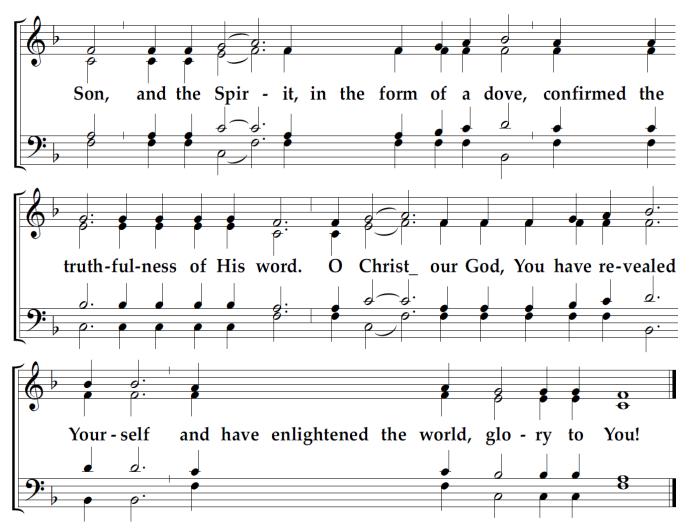
#### CHOIR: Amen.



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 – PRIEST TOSSES ICE CROSS SECOND TIME: CHOIR – PRIEST TOSSES ICE CROSS THIRD TIME: CHOIR – PRIEST TOSSES ICE CROSS





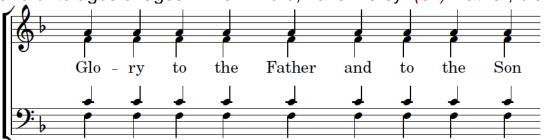
PRIEST: † The blessing of the Lord be upon you through His grace and love for mankind always, now and ever and unto ages of ages.

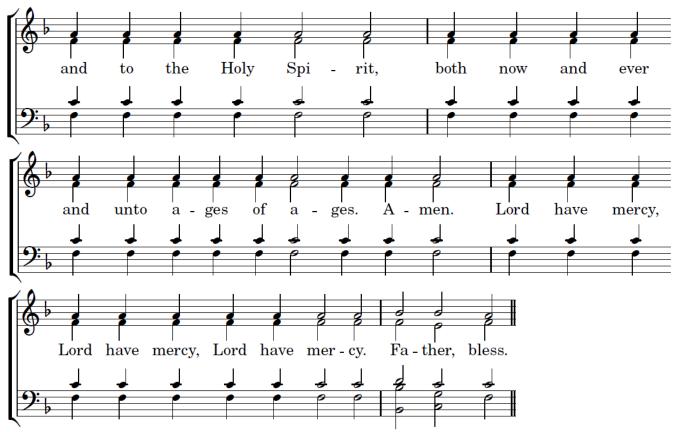
PEOPLE: Amen.



PRIEST: 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!





PRIEST: 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 loves mankind.

PEOPLE: Amen.

