

SERVICE OF THE GREAT BLESSING OF THE WATERS

After the Prayer behind the Ambo, we go all out to the Font, where the blessing is to take place, the Deacon and Priest going ahead with the Gospel and incense, and the brethren chant the following verses.

Tone 8

The voice of the Lord up - - - on the wa - - - - ters cries
out, say - - - - ing: "Come all of you
re - ceive the Spir - - - - it of wis - dom, the Spir - - - - it of
un - - der - stand - ing, the Spir - - - - it of the fear of
God, of Christ who has
ap - - - - - peared".

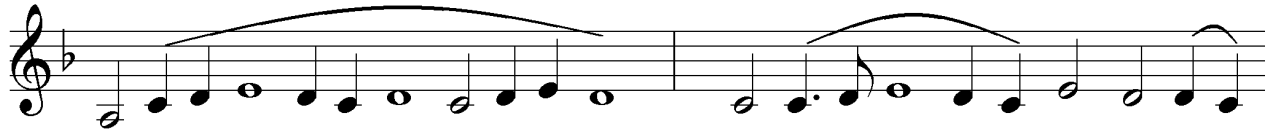
(three times)

As a man you came to
the riv - - - - -
er, O Christ the King, and has - - - - - tened
to re - - - - - ceive the Bap - - - - -
- - - - - tis - - - - - m of a ser - - - - - vant,
O Good One, at the hands of the Fore - - - - -
- - - - - run - - - - - ner, on
ac - count of our sins, O Lov - - - - - er of
man - - - - - kind.

(twice)



sin. The wa - - - - - ters saw you, and were



a - fraid. The Fore - - - - - run - ner was



trem - - - bling,



and cried out, say - - - - ing:



"How



can the lamp il - - - lu - - - mi - nate



the Light? How

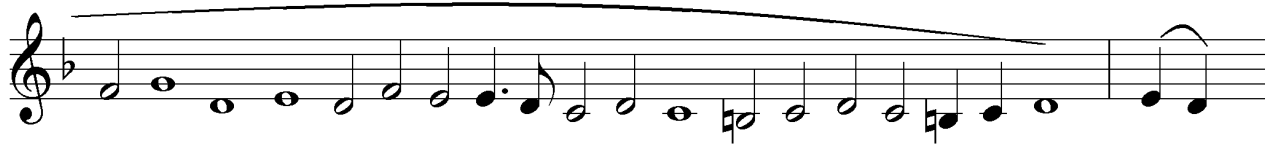




can the ser - vant put his hand



on the Mas - ter? Sanc - ti - - - fy me



and



the wa - - - - - ters, O Sav - - - - - iour, who take



a - - - way the sin of the world.

And immediately the Readings.

Deacon: Wisdom.

Reader: The Reading is from the Prophecy of Esaias. [35:1-10]

Deacon: Let us attend.

Reader:

Thus says the Lord: Thirsty desert rejoice, let the desert exult and flower like a lily. And the deserts of Jordan will flower and be overgrown and rejoice. And the glory of Lebanon has been given to it, and the honour of Carmel. And my people will 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 judgement. He himself will come and save us.' Then the eyes of the blind will be opened, and the ears of the deaf will hear. Then the lame will leap like a deer, and the tongue of the stammerers will speak clearly; because water has broken out in the desert, and a channel in a thirsty land. And the waterless land will become pools, and there will be a spring of water for the thirsty land; there will be joy of birds there, folds for flocks and reed beds and pools. And there will be a pure way there, and it will be called a holy way; and no one unclean may pass along it, there will be no unclean way there; but the scattered will walk upon it, and not go astray. There will be no lion there, neither will any evil wild beasts go up on it or be found there; but those redeemed and gathered by the Lord will walk on it; and they will return and come to Zion with joy and exultation, and everlasting joy will be upon their head: praise and exultation and joy will possess them; pain, grief and sighing have fled away.

Deacon: Wisdom.

Reader: The Reading is from the Prophecy of Esaias. [55:1-13]

Deacon: Let us attend.

Reader:

Thus says the Lord: You that thirst, go to the 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 will delight in good things. Give heed with your ears and follow in my ways. Listen to me, and your soul will live among good things. And I shall make an eternal covenant with you, the sure mercies of David. See, I have given him as a testimony among the Nations, a prince and commander among the Nations. See, Nations who do not know you will call upon you, and peoples who are not acquainted with you will 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 on him. But when he comes near you, let the ungodly abandon his ways, and the lawless man his plans. And return to the Lord your God, and you will find mercy, 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 will my word be, whatever comes out of my mouth will not return to me empty, until everything that I wished has been fulfilled. And I shall make my ways and my commands prosper. You will go out with gladness, and be taught with joy. For the mountains and hills will leap up, welcoming you with joy, and all the trees of the field will clap with their branches. And instead of brambles the cypress will come up, and instead of nettles the myrtle will come up. And there shall be for the Lord a name and an everlasting sign, and it will not fail.

Deacon: Wisdom.

Reader: The Reading is from the Prophecy of Esaias. [12:3-6]

Deacon: Let us attend.

Thus says the Lord: Draw out water with gladness from the wells of salvation. And you will say in that day: Sing to the Lord and cry out his name, proclaim among the Nations his glorious deeds; remind them that his name has been exalted. Sing to the name of the Lord, for he has done great things. Proclaim these in all the earth. Exult and be glad, you that dwell in Zion, because the Holy One of Israel has been exalted in the midst of her.

Deacon: Wisdom

Reader: Prokeimenon in the Third Tone. [Psalm 26]

The Lord is my light and my sav - iour, whom shall

I fear?

Verse: The Lord is the guard of my life; from whom shall I shrink?

Deacon: Wisdom.

Reader: The Reading is from the Epistle of the Holy Apostle Paul to the Corinthians.
[1 Cor 10:1-4]

Deacon: Let us attend.

Reader:

Brethren, I do not want you to be ignorant of how our Fathers were all under the cloud and all passed through the sea. And they were all baptised into Moses in the cloud and in the sea. And they all ate the same spiritual food. And they all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank from the spiritual rock that followed them. Now the rock was Christ.

Alleluia. Tone 4. [Psalm 28:3]

Alleluia:



Verse 1: The voice of the Lord is upon the waters.

Verse 2: The God of glory thundered upon the waters.

Deacon: Wisdom. Stand upright. Let us listen to the Holy Gospel.

Priest: Peace to all.

People:



Priest: The Reading is from the holy Gospel according to Mark. [1:9-11]



Priest:

At that time, Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee, and was baptised by John in the Jordan. And immediately as he was coming up from the water, he saw the heavens being parted and the Spirit like a dove coming down upon him. And there was a voice from heaven: 'You are my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.'



Then the Deacon begins the Litany.

In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



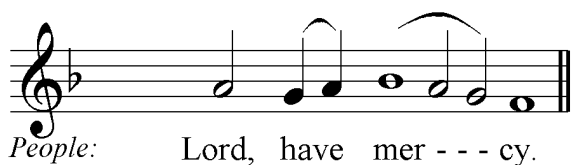
For the peace from on high and for the salvation of our souls, let us pray to the Lord.



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 it with faith, reverence and the fear of God, let us pray to the Lord.



For all devout and Orthodox Christians, let us pray to the Lord.



For our Archbishop *N.*, for the honoured order of presbyters, for the diaconate in Christ, for all the clergy and the people, let us pray to the Lord.



People: Lord, have mer - - - cy.

For our country, for our Sovereign Lady, Queen Elizabeth, the Royal Family, her Government, and all in authority, and for every Christian country, let us pray to the Lord.



People: Lord, have mer - cy.

For this city [*or holy monastery or town or village*], for every [*monastery*] city, town and village, and for the faithful who dwell in them, let us pray to the Lord.



People: Lord, have mer - - - cy.

For favourable weather, an abundance of the fruits of the earth, and temperate seasons, let us pray to the Lord.



People: Lord, have mer - cy.

For those who travel by land, air or water, for the sick, the suffering, for those in captivity, and for their safety and salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



People: Lord, have mer - - - cy.

For this water to be sanctified by the power and operation and visitation of the Holy Spirit, let us pray to the Lord.



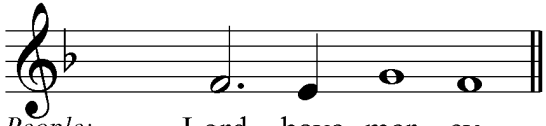
People: Lord, have mer - cy.

For there to come down upon these waters the cleansing operation of the Trinity beyond all being, let us pray to the Lord.



People: Lord, have mer - - - cy.

For there to be given them the grace of redemption, the blessing of Jordan, let us pray to the Lord.



People: Lord, have mer - cy.

That Satan may be swiftly crushed beneath our feet, and that every counsel that is directed against us by the Evil One may be made of no effect, let us pray to the Lord.



People: Lord, have mer - - - cy.

That the Lord God will deliver us from every attack and temptation of the Adversary, and make us worthy of the good things that are promised, let us pray to the Lord.



People: Lord, have mer - cy.

For us to be enlightened with the enlightenment of knowledge and true religion through the visitation of the Holy Spirit, let us pray to the Lord.



People: Lord, have mer - - - cy.

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



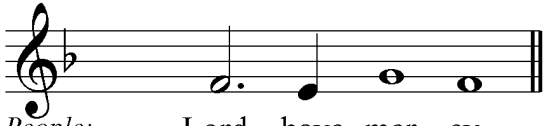
People: Lord, have mer - cy.

For this water to become a gift of sanctification, a deliverance from sins, for healing of soul and body and for every suitable purpose, let us pray to the Lord.



People: Lord, have mer - - - cy.

For this water to become a fountain springing up to eternal life, let us pray to the Lord.



People: Lord, have mer - cy.

For this water to be shown to be an averting of every assault of visible and invisible enemies, let us pray to the Lord.



People: Lord, have mer - - - cy.

For those who draw from it and take from it for the sanctification of their homes, let us pray to the Lord.



People: Lord, have mer - cy.

For it to be for cleansing of souls and bodies for all those who draw from it with faith and who partake of it, let us pray to the Lord.



People: Lord, have mer - - - cy.

For us to be counted worthy to be filled with sanctification through communion of these waters by the invisible manifestation of the Holy Spirit, let us pray to the Lord.



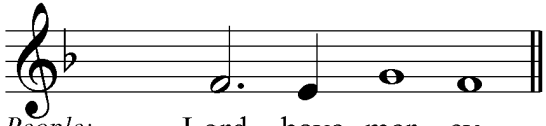
People: Lord, have mer - cy.

For the Lord God to hear the voice of supplication of us sinners and have mercy on us, let us pray to the Lord.



People: Lord, have mer - - - cy.

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



People: Lord, have mer - cy.

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



People: Lord, have mer - - - cy.

Commemorating our all-holy, pure, most blessed and glorious Lady, Mother of God and Ever-Virgin Mary, with all the Saints, let us entrust ourselves and one another and our whole life to Christ our God.



People: To you, O Lord.

The Priest reads the following prayer in a low voice.

Lord Jesus Christ, only-begotten Son, who are in the bosom of the Father, true God, source of life and immortality, Light from Light, who came into the world to enlighten it, flood our mind with light by your Holy Spirit and accept us as we bring you praise and thanksgiving for your wondrous mighty works from every age, and for your saving dispensation in these last times. But if you clothed yourself in our weak and beggared matter and came down to the measure of our servitude, O King of all, you accepted also to be baptised in the Jordan by the hand of a servant, so that, having sanctified the nature of the waters, you, the sinless one, might make a way for our rebirth through water and Spirit and re-establish us in our original freedom. As we celebrate the memory of this divine Mystery, we entreat you, O Master, lover of mankind: Sprinkle on us, your unworthy servants, cleansing water, in accordance with your divine promise, the gift of your compassion, so that the request of us sinners over this water may become acceptable by your goodness, and that through it your blessing may be granted to us and to all your faithful people, to the glory of your holy, venerated Name.

Exclamation: For to you belong all glory, honour and worship, with your Father who is without beginning, and your all-holy, good and life-giving Spirit, now and forever, and to the ages of ages.

And he says to himself: Amen.

When the Deacon has finished the Litany, the Priest begins this Prayer in a loud voice:

Great are you, O Lord, and wonderful are your works, and no word is adequate to sing the praise of your wonders. *(Three times)*

For by your own will you brought the universe from non-existence into being, you hold creation together by your might, and by your providence you direct the world. You composed creation from four elements; with four seasons you crowned the circle of the year. All the spiritual Powers tremble before you. The sun sings your praise, the moon glorifies you, the stars entreat you, the light obeys you, the deeps tremble before you, the springs are your servants. You stretched out the heavens on the waters; you walled in the sea with sand; you poured out the air for breathing. Angelic Powers minister to you. The choirs of the Archangels worship you. The many-eyed Cherubim and the six-winged Seraphim as they stand and fly around you hide their faces in fear of your unapproachable glory. For you, being God uncircumscribed, without beginning and inexpressible, came upon earth, taking the form of a servant, being found in the likeness of man. For you could not bear, O Master, in the compassion of your mercy to watch mankind being tyrannised by the devil, but you came and saved us. We acknowledge your grace, we proclaim your mercy, we do not conceal your benevolence. You freed the generations of our race. You sanctified a virgin womb by your birth. All creation sang your praise when you appeared. For you are our God, who appeared on earth and lived among men. You sanctified the streams of Jordan by sending down from heaven your All-holy Spirit and you crushed the heads of the dragons that lurked there.

And the Priest says this verse three times, blessing the water with his hand at each verse:

Therefore, O King, lover of mankind, be present now too through the visitation of your Holy Spirit, and sanctify this water.

And give to it the grace of redemption and the blessing of Jordan. Make it a source of incorruption, a gift of sanctification, a deliverance from sins, an averting of diseases, unapproachable by hostile powers, filled with angelic strength; so that all who draw from it and partake of it may have it for cleansing of souls and bodies, for healing of passions, for sanctification of homes, for every suitable purpose. For you are our God, who through water and Spirit renewed our nature made old by sin. You are our God, who in the days of Noah drowned sin through the water of the flood. You are our God, who through the sea freed the Hebrew race from the slavery of Pharaoh through Moses. You are our God, who split open the rock in the desert, and waters rushed out and torrents flooded down, and you satisfied your thirsty people. You are our God, who through Elias turned Israel from the error of Baal.

And now as then, O Master, sanctify this water by your Holy Spirit. *(Three times)*

Give to all who touch it, anoint themselves with it or drink from it, sanctification, blessing, cleansing, and health.

And save, O Lord, our Sovereign Lady Queen Elisabeth, and all in authority.

And guard them under your protection in peace. Subdue beneath their feet every foe and enemy. Grant them all their requests that are for salvation and eternal life.

Remember, O Lord, our Archbishop *N.*, the whole order of Presbyters, the Diaconate in Christ, every order of the clergy, the people here present and our brethren who with good reason are absent, and have mercy on us in accordance with your great mercy.

So that by the elements, by mankind and by Angels, and by things visible and invisible, your all-holy name may be glorified with the Father and the Holy Spirit, now and for ever, and to the ages of ages.



People: A - men.

Priest: Peace to all.

People:



And to your spir - - it.

Deacon: Let us bow our heads to the Lord.



People: To you, O Lord.

And the Priest says the Prayer with head bowed:

Incline your ear and hear us, O Lord, who accepted to be baptised in the Jordan and to sanctify the waters, and bless us all, who signify our calling as servants by the bending of our necks. And count us worthy to be filled with your sanctification through the partaking and sprinkling of this water. And let it be for us, O Lord, for healing of soul and body.

Exclamation:

For you are the sanctification of our souls and bodies, and to you we give glory, thanksgiving and worship, with your Father who is without beginning, and your All-holy, good and life-giving Spirit, now and for ever, and to the ages of ages.

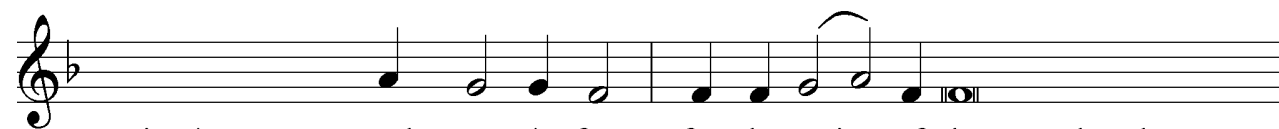


People: A - men.

And the Priest immediately, blessing the waters in the figure of the Cross, immerses the precious Cross, plunging it upright into the water and lifting it out again, chanting the following Troparion in Tone 1.



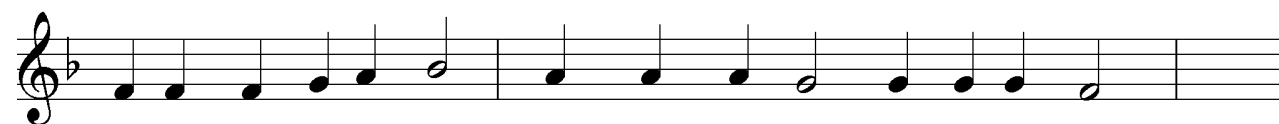
As you were bap - tized in the Jor - dan, Lord, the wor - ship of the



Trin - i - ty was made man - i - fest, for the voice of the Fa - ther bore



wit - ness to you, nam - ing you the Be - lov - ed Son; and the Spir - - it,



in the form of a dove, con - firmed the sure - ness of the word.



Christ God, who ap - peared and en - light - ened the world, glo - ry to you.

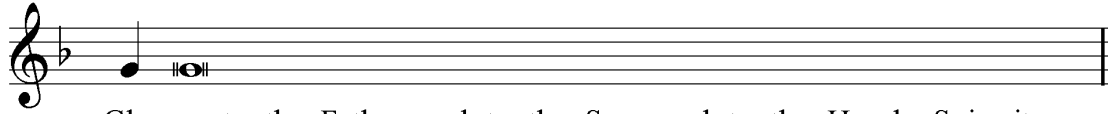
And the choirs sing it.

The Priest plunges the Cross into the water a second time, whilst the choir sings the Troparion. Likewise, a third time. Next the priest dips a branch of basil in the water and sprinkles the four corners of the Church. Then the Priests approach the Superior, kiss the Cross, and are sprinkled with the Holy Water. Then the Priests return to their place. Likewise all the brethren.

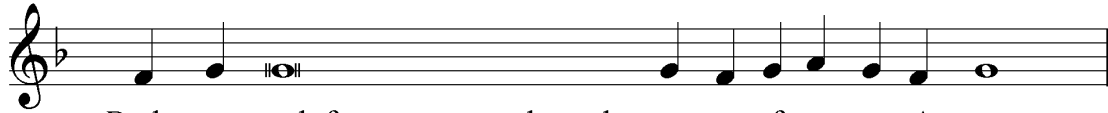
We sing the Troparion ("As you were baptized in the Jordan") many times while all the brethren are sprinkled with the Holy Water.

As we enter the Church we chant the following Idiomel in Tone 6.

Glory. Both now. Tone 6



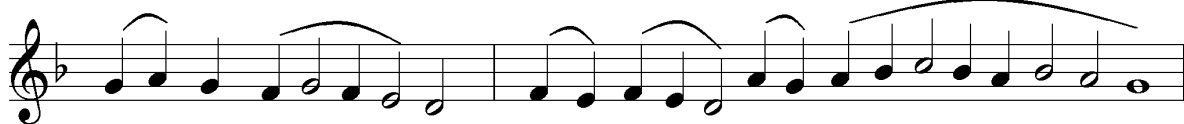
Glo - ry to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Ho - ly Spir - it.



Both now and for ev - er, and to the ag - es of ag - es. A - men.



Let us the faith - ful praise the great - ness of God's



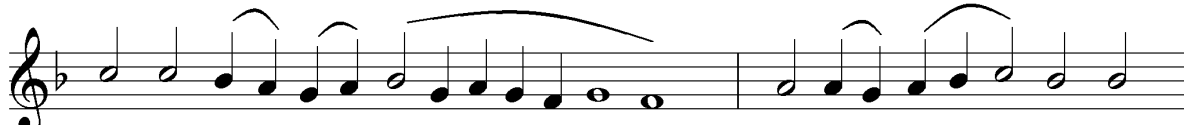
dis - - pen - sa - - - - - tion con - - cer - - - - - ning us.



For be - - com - ing man on ac - - count of our



trans - - - - gres - sion, he who a - - lone is clean and



un - de - filed is cleansed in the Jor - - - - dan that



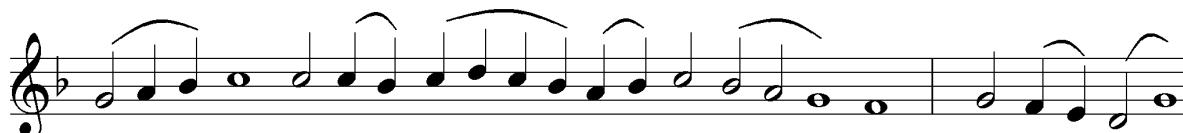
we might be made clean, sanc - ti - - - - fy - - ing



me and the wa - - ters, and crush - ing the heads of the



drag - - - ons in the wa - - ters. Let us there - fore



draw wa - ter with glad - - - - - ness, O breth - - - ren. For to those



who draw with faith the grace of the Spir - - - - - it



is be - - ing giv - - en in - - - - - vis - - i - - - - bly by



Christ, the God and the Sav - - - - - iour



of our souls.

Then: Blessed be the name of the Lord as usual and then the Psalm [33], I will bless the Lord at all times.

And we first drink from the Holy Water and then receive the Antidoron from the Priest.

And we use this Dismissal:

May he who condescended to be baptized by John in the Jordan for our salvation, Christ our true God, at the prayers of his all-pure Mother, and of all the saints, have mercy on us and save us, for he is good and loves mankind.