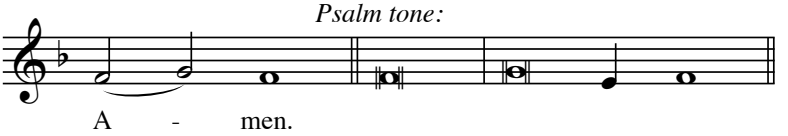
The Lesser Blessing of Water

The water is placed in a container and placed on a tetrapod and covered with a prepared cloth. The priest wears the epitrachilion and phelonion. The priest holds the hand cross with a sprig of basil. If basil is not available, use another green. The priest is accompanied by a deacon carrying the censer and by two candle bearers. He places the hand cross on the tetrapod and incenses around it in the form of a cross once.

Deacon: Father, give the blessing.

Priest: Blessed is our God, always, now and ever and forever.

Response:



Glory to you, our God,
glory ***to*** you.

Heavenly King, Comforter, Spirit of Truth,
everywhere present and filling all things,
Treasury of Blessings and Giver of Life,
come and dwell within us,
cleanse us of all stain,
and save our souls, O gra***cious*** One.

Holy God, Holy and Mighty, Holy and Immortal,
have mercy ***on*** us. *(3 times)*

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit,
now and ever and forever. ***A***men.

Most Holy Trinity, have mercy on us;
Lord, cleanse us of our sins;
Master, forgive our transgressions;
Holy One, come to us and heal our infirmities for ***your*** name's sake.

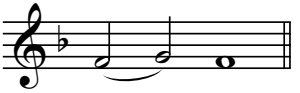
Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.
Lord, ***have*** mercy.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit,
now and ever and forever. ***A***men.

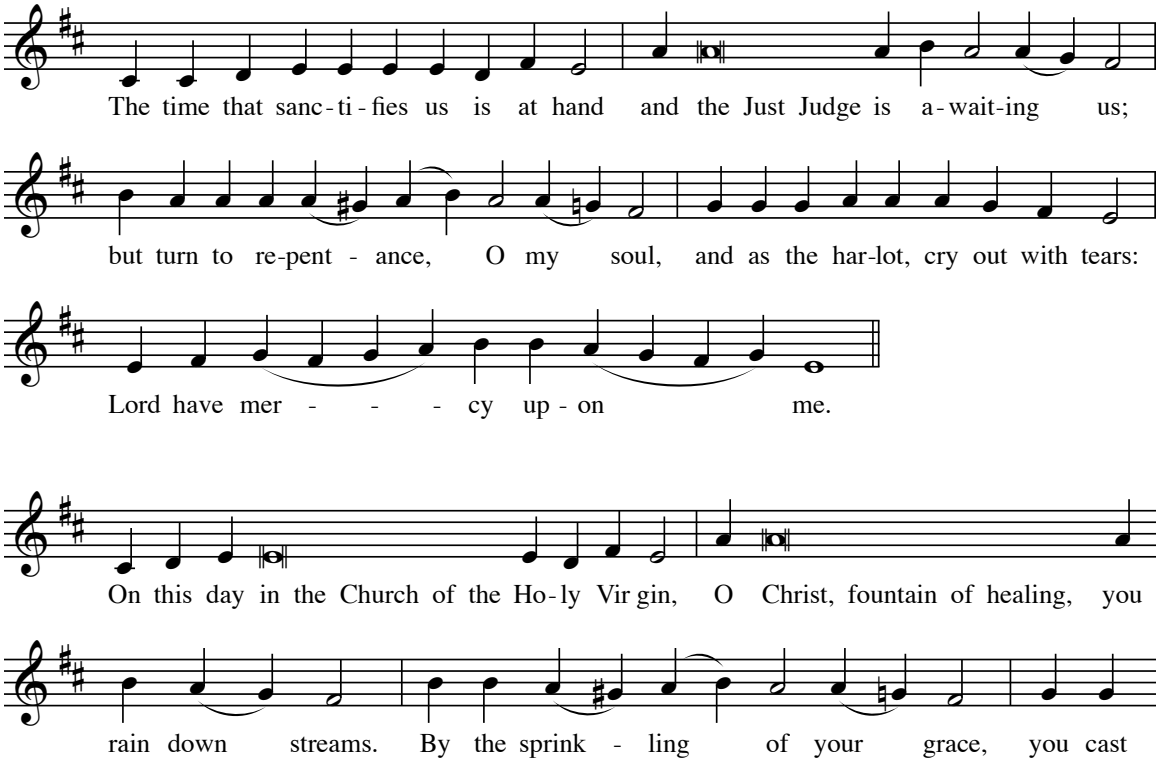
Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread,
and forgive us our trespasses
as we forgive those who trespass against us,
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us ***from*** evil.

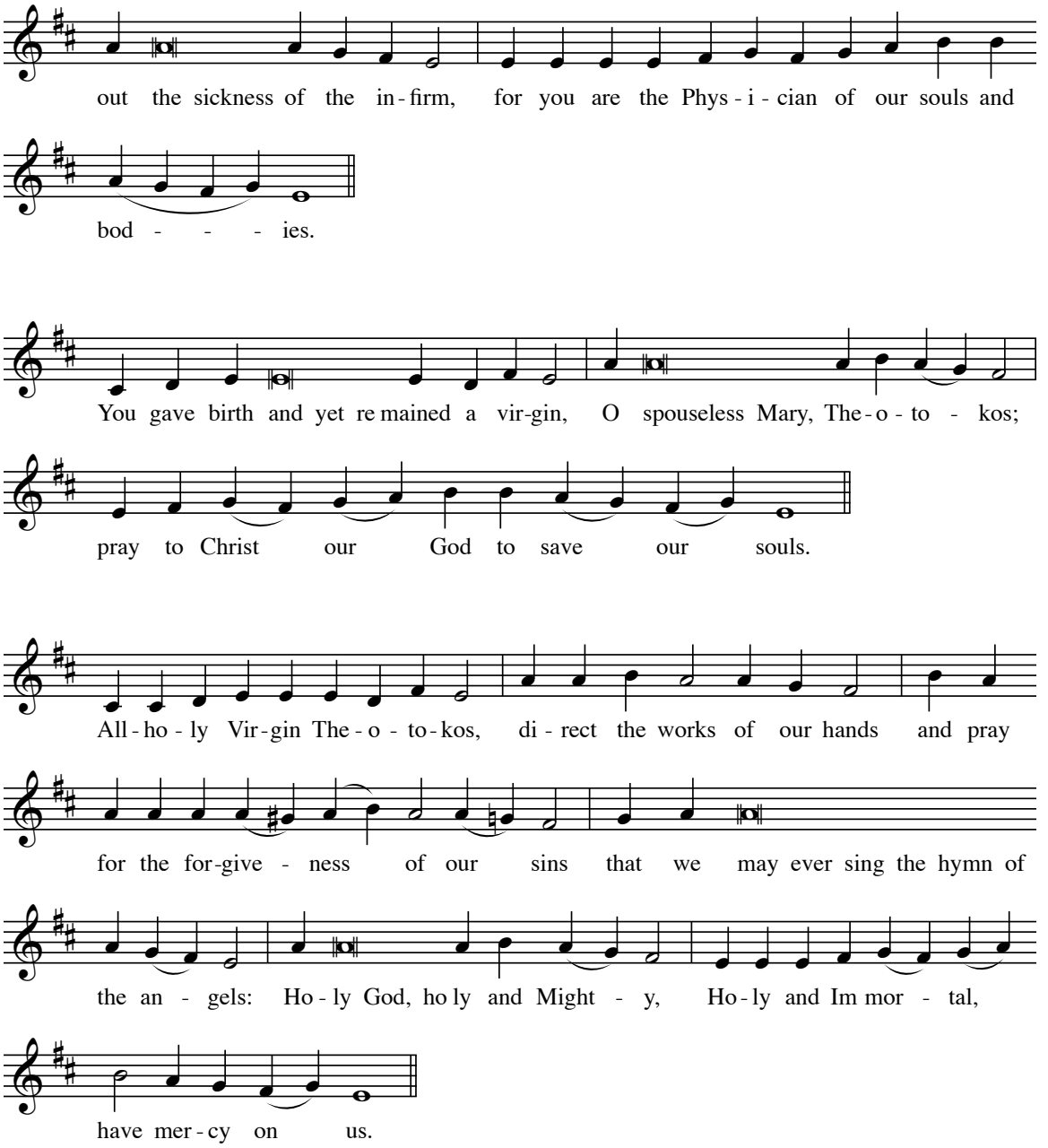
Priest: For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and ever and forever.

Response:



Stichera for the blessing of water - *Tone 6 samohlasen*



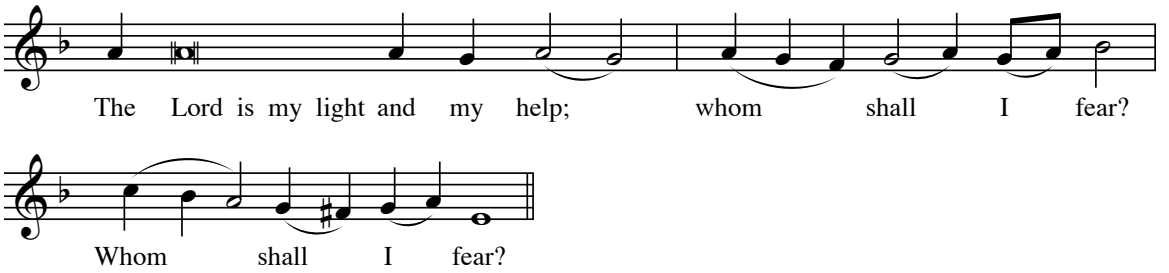

out the sickness of the in-firm, for you are the Phys-i-cian of our souls and
bod - - - ies.
You gave birth and yet re mained a vir-gin, O spouseless Mary, The-o-to - kos;
pray to Christ our God to save our souls.
All-ho-ly Vir-gin The-o-to-kos, di-rect the works of our hands and pray
for the for-give - ness of our sins that we may ever sing the hymn of
the an - gels: Ho-ly God, ho ly and Might - y, Ho-ly and Im mor - tal,
have mer-cy on us.

Deacon: Let us be attentive!

Priest: ✣ Peace be to all!

Deacon: Wisdom! Be attentive!

Prokeimenon - *Tone 3* (Psalm 26:1):



Verse: The Lord is the stronghold of my life; before whom shall I shrink?

Deacon: Wisdom!

Reader: A reading from the Letter to the Hebrews.

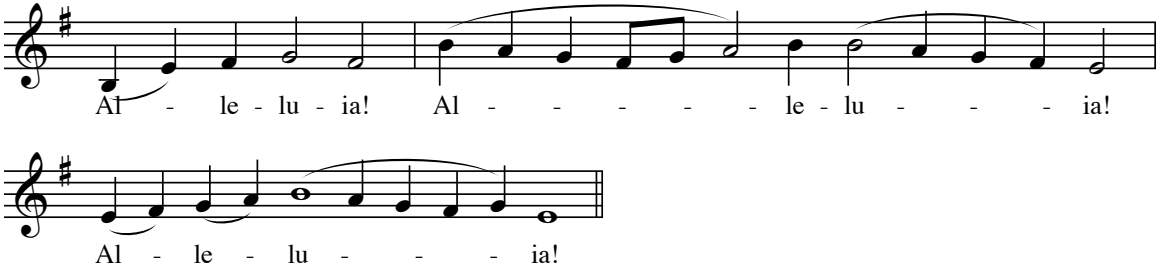
Deacon: Let us be attentive!

The Reader reads the Letter for the Sixth Hour of Great Friday (Hebrews 2: 11-18) from the Epistles and Testament Readings for the Liturgical Year.

Priest: Peace be to you, Reader!

Deacon: Wisdom! Be attentive!

Alleluia - *Tone 6* (Psalm 44: 1)

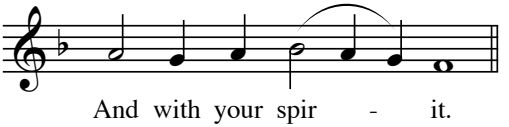


Verse: My heart overflows with noble words.
Verse: To the king I must speak the song I have made

Deacon: Wisdom! Let us stand and listen to the holy Gospel.
(or Concelebrant)

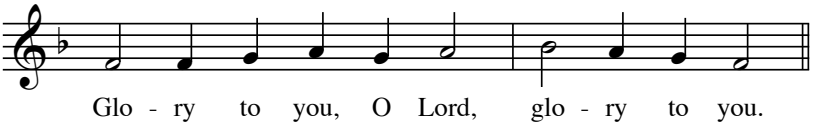
Priest: Peace ✣ be with all.

Response:



Deacon: A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Saint John.

Response:



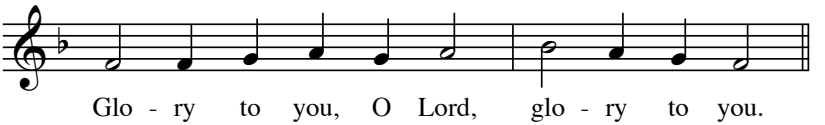
Deacon: Let us be attentive!

The Celebrant reads the Holy Gospel (John 5: 1-4)

Priest: At that time, Jesus went up to Jerusalem. Now in Jerusalem by the Sheep Pool there is a place with the Hebrew name Bethesda. Its five porticoes were crowded with sick people lying there blind, lame or disabled waiting for the movement of the water.

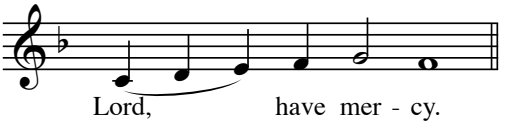
From time to time an angel of the Lord used to come down into the pool and the water was stirred up, so that the first one to get in after the stirring of the water was healed of whatever disease afflicted him.

Response:



Deacon: Let us pray to the Lord.

Response:



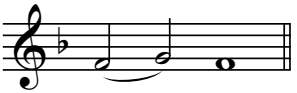
Priest: Majestic God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, you alone work wonders beyond number. Your voice is on the many waters; the waters saw and were afraid. The depths were troubled and great was the sound of the waters. Your way led through the sea, and your paths through the mighty waters and no one saw your footprints. By the baptism of your only-begotten incarnate Son, and by the descent of the all-holy Spirit on him in the form of a dove, and by your fatherly voice, you sanctified the streams of the Jordan.

Now we, your unworthy servants, humbly pray and beseech you: send the grace of your all-holy Spirit upon this water. Bless, purify and sanctify this water by your heavenly blessing. Grant it the grace and blessing of the Jordan, and the power to cleanse all defilements, to heal all illnesses, and to drive out evil spirits and their deceits and snares.

By the power, action, and grace of your all-holy Spirit, show this water to be for the forgiveness of sins, the calming of passions, the expulsion of all evil, the increase of virtue, the healing of illnesses, the sanctification of homes and of all places, the driving out of all destructive and evil-doing spirits, and the reception of your grace for those who drink this water in faith or receive it or are sprinkled with it.

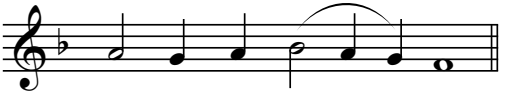
For you bless and sanctify all, O God, and we give glory to you, with your only-begotten Son and all-holy, good and life-creating Spirit, now and ever and forever.

Response:



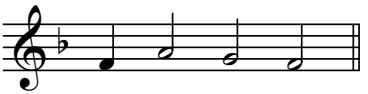
Priest: Peace ✣ be with all!

Response:



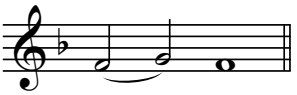
Deacon: Bow your heads to the Lord!

Response:



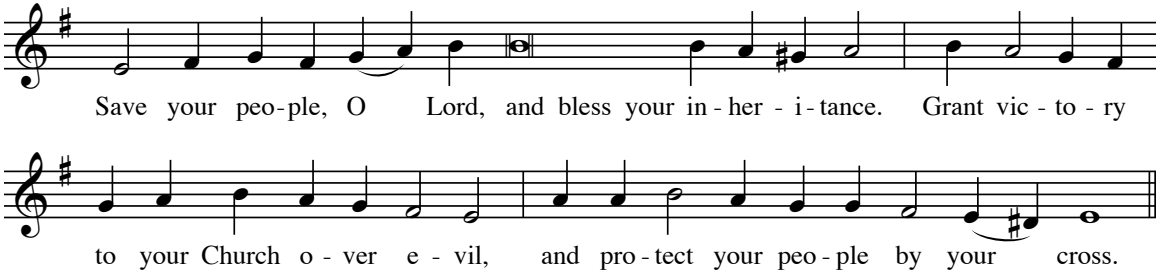
Priest: Incline your ear and hear us, O Lord, for you have accepted baptism in the Jordan and have sanctified the waters. Bless all of us who now bow our heads and show our servitude to you. Count us worthy to be filled with your sanctification through partaking of this water. May it bring us health of soul and body, O Lord, For you are the sanctification of our souls and bodies, and to you we give glory, thanksgiving and worship, with your eternal Father and your all-holy, good and life-creating Spirit, now and ever and forever.

Response:

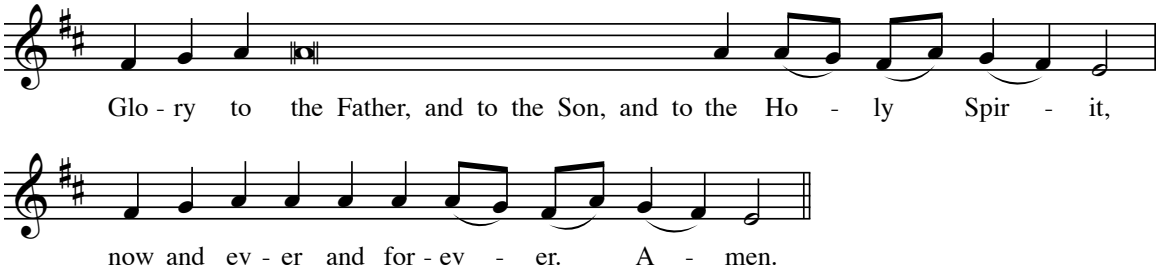


The Celebrant takes the hand cross and blesses the water in this manner: He submerges the cross, holding it upright and makes the sign of the cross with it in the water. He does this three times, once at each singing of the troparion of the Holy Cross. The celebrant sings the troparion once and the faithful sing it twice.

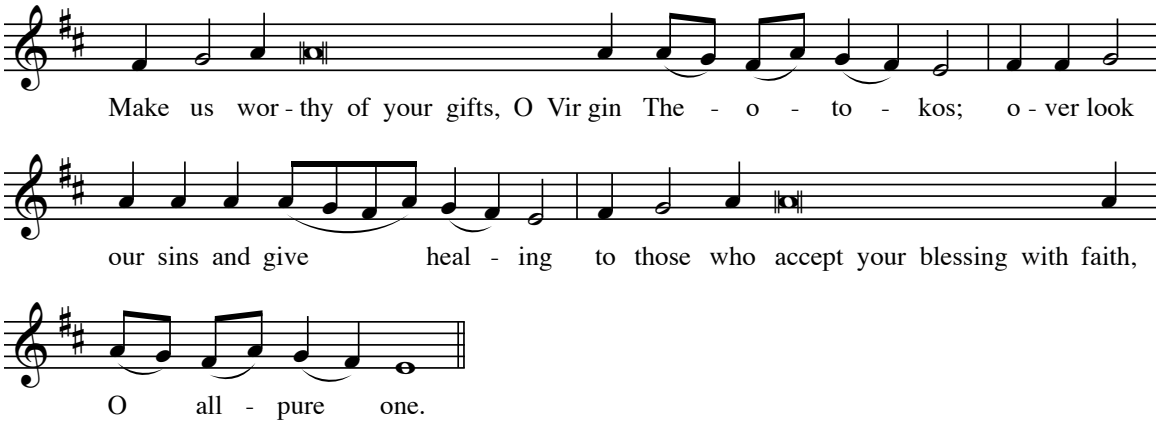
Troparion of the Holy Cross – *Tone 1:*



The faithful then sing the following:



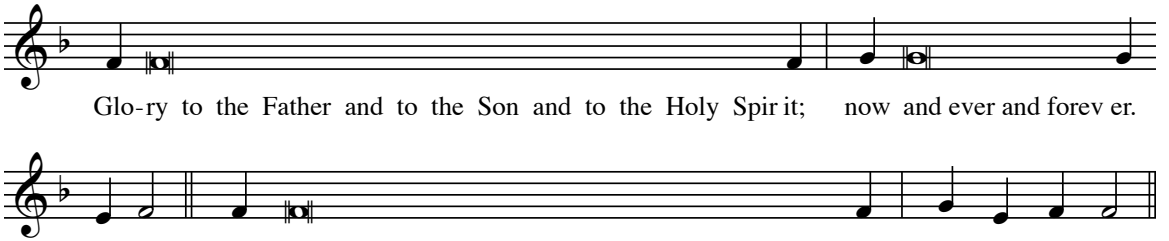
Troparion - *Tone 2*

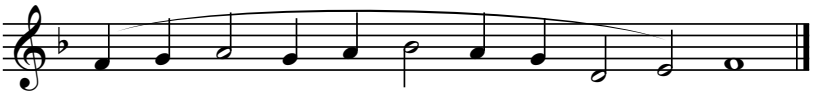


The Celebrant then kisses the holy cross and sprinkles the faithful with the water.

Priest: Glory to you, O Christ God, our hope; glory to you!

Response:



Priest: May Christ our true God have mercy on us and save us through the prayers of his most pure Mother; by the power of the precious and life-creating cross; of the holy *(Name/s)*, the patron [patroness] of this church, and through the prayers of all the saints; for Christ is God and loves us all.

Response: