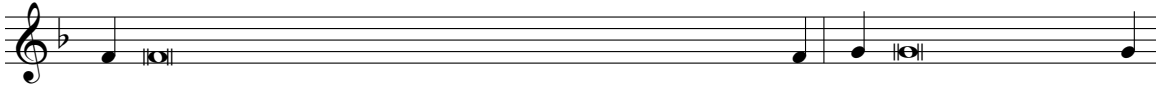


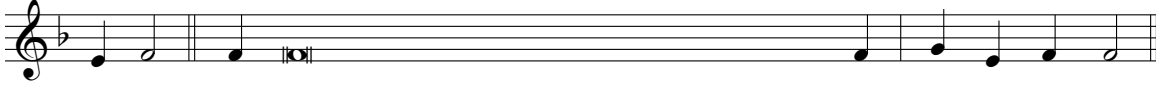
*The Order of Vespers
for the Theophany of our Lord, God,
and Savior Jesus Christ
used when January 6 falls on a Sunday*

Metropolitan Cantor Institute,
Archeparchy of Pittsburgh
Byzantine Catholic Seminary
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, 2007

Response:

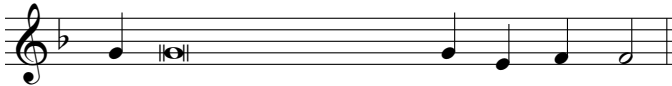


Glo-ry to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spir-it; now and ever and for ev-er.



A-men. Lord, have mercy, Lord have mercy, Lord, have mer-cy. Give the bless-ing.

** Or, when a bishop serves:*



Most reverend Metropolitan, give the bless-ing.
bishop,

Celebrant: May Christ our true God, who for our salvation deigned to be baptized by John in the Jordan, have mercy on us and save us through the prayers of his most pure Mother; and of our holy Father Basil the Great, Archbishop of Caesarea in Cappadocia; and through the prayers of all the saints; for Christ is good and loves us all.

Response:



A - - - - - men.

Celebrant: The blessing of the Lord be upon you through his grace and loving-kindness, always, now and ever and forever.

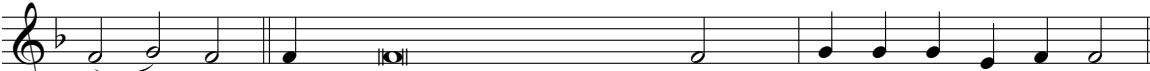
Response: 
A - - men.

Dismissal

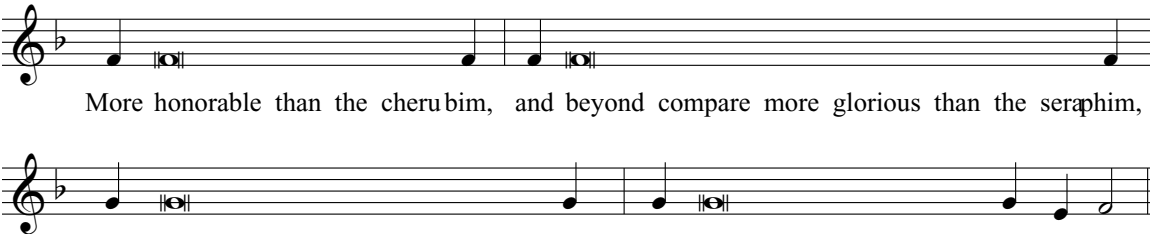
Deacon: Wisdom!

Response: 
Give the bless-ing.

Celebrant: Blessed is Christ our God, the One-Who-Is, always, now and ever and forever.

Response: 
A - men. O God, strengthen the true faith, for - ev - er and ev - er.


Celebrant: O most holy Theotokos, save us!

Response: 
More honorable than the cherubim, and beyond compare more glorious than the seraphim,
who, a virgin, gave birth to God the Word, you, truly the Theotokos, we mag-ni - fy.

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

THE ORDER OF VESPERS

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

Response: 
A - - - men.

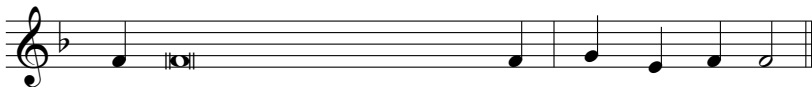
Glory to you, our God,
glory *to* you.

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 *gracious* 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. *Amen*.

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 mer-cy. Lord have mer-cy.

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

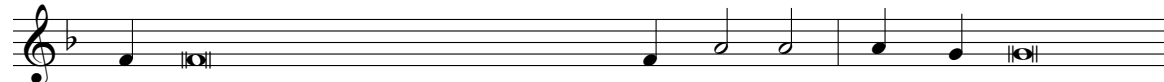
Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread,
and forgive us our trespasses
as we forgive those who trespass against us,
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us *from* evil.

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


Response:



A - men.



Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mer - cy. Lord, have mercy. Lord,



have mercy. Lord, have mer - cy. *(sung twice)*

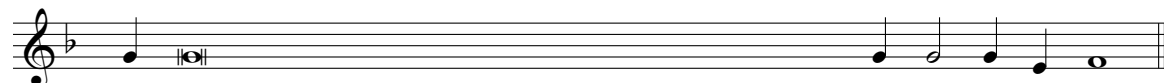
Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and forever. *Amen.*

Call to Worship

Each time with a reverence:



Come, let us worship our King and God. Come, let us worship Christ, our King and God.



Come, let us worship and bow before the only Lord Jesus Christ, the King and our God.


Psalm 103



1. Bless the Lord, O my soul! Lord my God, how great you are,



2. clothed in maj-es-ty and glo - - - ry, wrapped in light as in a robe.



Bless - ed be the name of the Lord, now and for - ev - er.

Psalm 33

I will bless the Lord at all times,
his praise always on *my* lips;

in the Lord my soul shall make its boast.
The humble shall hear and *be* glad.

Glorify the Lord with me.
Together let us praise *his* name.

I sought the Lord and he answered me;
from all my terrors he set *me* free.

Look towards him and be radiant;
let your faces not be *abashed*.

This poor man called, the Lord heard him
and rescued him from all his *distress*.

The angel of the Lord is encamped,
around those who revere him, *to* rescue them.

Taste and see that the Lord is good.
He is happy who seeks refuge *in* him.

Revere the Lord, you his saints.
They lack nothing, those who *revere* him.

Strong lions suffer want and go hungry
but those who seek the Lord lack *no* blessing.

For the grace of the Holy Spirit is invisibly im - part - - - ed
to all who, in faith, take there - of, by Christ our God, who
is al - so the Sav - ior of our souls.

If Great Compline will be sung, omit the Blessing of Bread and Psalm 33.

Blessing of Bread

Deacon: Let us pray to the Lord.

Response: Lord, have mer - cy.

Celebrant: Lord Jesus Christ our God, you blessed the five loaves in the wilderness and fed the five thousand. Likewise bless these loaves, wheat, wine, and oil, and multiply them in this city and through your whole world. Sanctify your faithful who will partake of them, for you yourself bless and sanctify all things, O Christ our God, and we give glory to you with your eternal Father and your all-holy, good, and life-creating Spirit, now and ever and forever.

Response: A - - men.

Celebrant, then All:

Bless - ed be the name of the Lord, now and for - ev - er,

3. You stretch out the heav-ens like a tent. A-bove the rains you build your
dwell - ing. 4. You make the clouds your char - - - i - ot, you walk on
the wings of the wind; 5. you make your an-gels spir - - - - its
and your min - is - ters a flam - ing fire. 6. You found-ed the earth
on its base, to stand firm from age to age. 7. You make the grass grow for
the cat - - - tle and the plants to serve man's needs, 8. that he may
bring forth bread from the earth and wine to cheer man's heart;
9. oil, to make his face shine and bread to strength - en
man's heart. 10. I will sing to the Lord all my life, make mu - sic
to my God while I live. 11. You made the moon to mark the months;

the sun knows the time for its set - ting. 12. How man - y are your
works, O Lord! In wis - dom you have made them all. 13. Glo - ry to
the Fa - ther, and to the Son, and to the Ho - ly Spir - it,
14. now and ev - - - er and for - ev - er. A - men.

Three times, each with a reverence

Al - - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Glo - ry to you, O God!

Litany of Peace

Deacon: In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

Response: 1. Lord, have mer - cy.

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

Response: 2. Lord, have mer - cy.

All: and enlightened the world. Glo - ry to you!

The priest, twice more, makes the sign of the cross in the water while the people sing the Troparion. The priest takes some of the blessed water, and, facing the west (the people), he holds a handcross in his left hand and a cluster of basil in his right hand (or some sprinkling instrument).

First the clergy, according to rank, then the faithful come forward to kiss the cross and receive a blessing from the priest with the basil dipped into a container holding the newly blessed water. During the sprinkling of the people with Jordan water, the following is sung in Tone 6:

Let us praise in song, O faith - ful, the greatness of the fa - vor of God to us.

For hav - ing become man because of our trans - gres - sions,

he is pu - rified in the Jordan for our puri - fi - ca - tion. He, the only

pure and spot - less One, who sanc - ti - fies me and the wa - ters,

and crush - es the heads of the dragons in the wa - ters. Where - fore,

O broth - ers and sis - ters, let us take of that wa - ter with joy!

Deacon: Bow your heads to the Lord!

Response: To you, O Lord.

Celebrant: Incline your ear, O Lord, and hear us. You sanctified the water when you consented to be baptized in the Jordan; now bless us who through the bowing of our heads signify our servitude. Grant that we be filled with your sanctification by the partaking of this water, and let it be for the healing of our souls and bodies, O Lord.

For you are our sanctification, and to you do we give glory, thanksgiving, and worship, and to your eternal Father and your all-holy, gracious, and life-giving Spirit, now and ever and forever.

Response: A - men.

Holding the handcross in both hands, the priest makes the sign of the cross directly in the water, meanwhile singing the following Troparion in Tone 1:

At your bap - tism in the Jor-dan, O Lord, wor-ship of the
Trin - i - ty was re-vealed; for the Fa - ther's voice bore wit - ness to you,
calling you his be - lov - ed Son, and the Spir - it in the form of a dove
con - firmed the truth of these words. O Christ God, you ap - peared

Deacon: For peace in the whole world, for the stability of the holy Churches of God, and for the union of all, let us pray to the Lord.

Response: Lord, have mercy. (1)

Deacon: For this holy church and for all who enter it with faith, reverence, and fear of God, let us pray to the Lord.

Response: Lord, have mercy. (2)

Deacon: For our holy father, *(Name)*, pope of Rome, let us pray to the Lord.

Response: Lord, have mercy. (1)

Deacon: For our most reverend metropolitan, *(Name)*, for our God-loving bishop, *(Name)*, for the venerable presbyterate, the diaconate in Christ, and all the clergy and people, let us pray to the Lord.

Response: Lord, have mercy. (2)

Deacon: For our government and for all in the service of our country, let us pray to the Lord.

Response: Lord, have mercy. (1)

Deacon: For this city, [*or:* For this holy monastery], for every city, community, and for the faithful living in them, let us pray to the Lord.

Response: Lord, have mercy. (2)

Deacon: For favorable weather, for an abundance of the fruits of the earth, and for peaceful times, let us pray to the Lord.

Response: Lord, have mercy. (1)

Deacon: For those who travel by sea, air, and land, for the sick, the suffering, the captive and for their salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

Response: Lord, have mercy. (2)


Deacon: That we be delivered from all affliction, wrath, and need, let us pray to the Lord.

Response: Lord, have mercy. (1)

Deacon: Protect us, save us, have mercy on us, and preserve us, O God, by your grace.

Response: Lord, have mercy. (2)

Deacon: Commemorating our most holy, most pure, most blessed and glorious Lady, the Theotokos and ever-Virgin Mary with all the saints, let us commit ourselves and one another and our whole life to Christ our God.


Response: 
To you, O Lord.

Priest: Evening, morning, and at noon we praise you, we bless you, we thank you, and we pray to you, Master of All, Lord and Lover of us all. Let our prayer rise like incense before you and do not let our hearts be turned to evil words or thoughts, but deliver us from all that might ensnare our souls. For to you, Lord, O Lord, our eyes are turned and in you we hope; let us not be put to shame, O our God. For to you, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, is due all glory, honor, and worship now and ever and forever.

Response: 
A - men.

The First Kathisma

Cantor



1. Bless-ed is the man, al - le - lu - - - ia, who has not walked
in the coun - - - sel of the wick - - - ed.

Three times the priest breathes over the water in the form of a cross, each time saying:

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

The the priest prays:

Grant it the grace of redemption and the blessing of the Jordan. Make it a fount of incorruptibility, a gift of sanctification, a redemption of sins, a healing potion for illness, and a destroyer of demons. Make it immune to hostile powers, and fill it with angelic power so that all who drink and receive of it may be purified in soul and body, cured of ills, sanctified in their homes, and given every befitting grace.

For you are our God, who through water and the Spirit rejuvenated our nature grown old by sin. You are our God, who drowned sin in the waters at the time of Noah. You are our God, who, on the sea and at the hands of Moses, delivered the Hebrews from the bondage of Pharaoh. You are our God, who split the rock in the wilderness, so that the waters gushed out, and the valleys overflowed, and the people were satisfied. You are our God, who, with fire and water, and at the hands of Elijah, delivered Israel from the errors of Baal.

The priest makes the sign of the cross in the water three times with his hand, each time saying:


Wherefore, O Master, sanctify this water by your Holy Spirit.

Then the priest prays:

Grant sanctification, blessing, cleansing, and health to all who touch it, are blessed with it, or who partake of it. O Lord, save your servants, our civil authorities. Keep them in peace within your protective shadow, granting them all salutary requests and eternal life. May your all-holy name be glorified by the elements, by men, by angels, by all that is visible or invisible, together with the Father and the Holy Spirit, now and ever and forever.

Response: 
A - men.

Celebrant: ✠ Peace be to all!

Response: 
And to your spir - - - it.

Today land and sea share in the joy of the world, and the world is filled with rejoicing. The waters beheld you, O Lord; the waters beheld you and they trembled. The river Jordan turns back on its course as it beholds the fire of the Godhead coming down upon it and entering it in the flesh. The river Jordan turns back in its course as it beholds the Holy Spirit descending in the likeness of a dove, and hovering over you. The river Jordan turns back in its course as it beholds the Invisible made visible, the Creator existing in the flesh, and the Master in the likeness of a servant. The river Jordan turns back in its course, and the mountains leap for joy as they behold God in the flesh. And the clouds give voice and are filled with awe by the One who is coming, Light of Light, true God of true God; the One who, in the river Jordan, has drowned to death sin, the thorn of error, and the bonds of hell, and granted the baptism of salvation to the world. So also I, your unworthy and sinful servant overcome with fear, proclaim your great wonders: and I cry reverently to you and say:

With the triple candle, the priest makes three times the sign of the Cross in the water, saying each time the following:

Great are you, O Lord, and wonderful are your works; no word suffices to give praise to your wonders.

Then the priest says:

By your will you brought forth all things from nothingness into being; by your might you control creation, and by your providence you govern the world. You created all things from four elements, and crowned the cycle of the year with four seasons. The spiritual powers tremble before you. The sun praises you, the moon glorifies you, the stars serve you. Light obeys you, the depths tremble before you, and the springs adore you. You spread out the heavens like a tent. You established the earth upon the waters. You fringed the seas with beaches of sand. You poured forth air for breathing. The angelic powers serve you; the ranks of archangels worship you; the many-eyed cherubim and the six-winged seraphim stand before you or hover over you, yet they dare not gaze at your unapproachable glory. Although you are God, boundless, indescribable, and without beginning, you came upon earth, and taking the likeness of a servant, became like one of us. Because of the depth of your compassion, O Master, you could not bear to see mankind under the tyranny of the Devil, and so you came to save us. We profess your goodness; we proclaim your mercy, and we do not conceal your graciousness. You freed all human offspring by sanctifying the virginal womb through your birth. All creation praises your appearance, for you, our God, came upon earth by sending down your Holy Spirit from heaven, and you crushed the head of every dragon nesting in it.

Refrain:

Al - le - lu - - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - - - ia.
Refrain

Cantor

2. For the Lord knows the way of the just, but the way of the wick - ed
shall be lost.
Refrain

Cantor

3. Serve the Lord with fear, ex - ult in him with trem - bling.
Refrain

Cantor

4. Bless-ed are those who trust in him.
Refrain

Cantor

5. A-rise, O Lord! Save me, my God.
Refrain

Cantor

6. Sal - va-tion is of the Lord! Up - on your peo - ple, your bles - sing!
Refrain

Cantor

7. Glo-ry to the Fa-ther and to the Son and to the Ho - ly Spir - it.
Refrain

Cantor

8. Now and ev - er and for - ev - er. A - men.

Refrain

All: Two times, each with a reverence:

Al - lelulia, alleluia, allelu-ia! Glo - ry to you, O God!

All: Last time, with a reverence:

Al - lelulia, alleluia, al-le - lu - ia! Glo - ry to you, O God!

The Lamplighting Psalms

Psalm 140 - Tone 2

O Lord, I have cried to you, hear me. Hear me, O Lord!

O Lord, I have cried to you, hear me; re - ceive the voice of my pray'r when I

call up - on you. Hear me, O Lord! Let my pray'r

as - cend to you like in - cense and the lift - ing up of my hands

like an eve - ning sac - ri - fice. Hear me, O Lord!

The priest may say the following prayer out loud:

Celebrant: O Trinity, transcendent in essence, in goodness, and in divinity, almighty, invisible, and incomprehensible, who watch over all; O Creator of intelligent beings, of natures endowed with speech; O Goodness of utter and unapproachable brilliance, who enlighten everyone who comes into the world: enlighten me also, your unworthy servant! Illumine the eyes of my mind, that I may venture to praise your immeasurable goodness and your might; let my supplication on behalf of these people be wholly acceptable, so that my sins may not prevent the descent of the Holy Spirit upon this place; that without condemnation, I may be permitted to cry out to you and say: "We glorify you, O Master and Lover of us all, almighty and eternal King! We glorify you, O only-begotten Son, born of a mother without a father and of a father without a mother; for in the preceding feast we have seen you as a babe, and in this present feast as perfect man appearing as our perfect God.

Today is the time of feasting, and the ranks of saints and angels have joined us in celebration; today the grace of the all-holy Spirit in the likeness of a dove comes down upon the waters; today shines the Sun that never sets, and the world sparkles with the light of the Lord! Today the moon is bright, together with the earth in the glowing radiance of its beams; today the brilliant stars adorn the universe with the splendor of their twinkling; today the clouds from heaven shed upon the human race a shower of justice; today the Uncreated One willingly permits the hands of his creatures to be laid upon him; today the Prophet and Forerunner approaches the Lord and, standing before him in awe, witnesses the condescension of God towards us; today through the presence of the Lord, the waters of the river Jordan are changed into remedies; today the whole universe is refreshed with mystical streams; today the sins of the human race are blotted out by the waters of the river Jordan; today paradise as been opened to all, and the Sun of Righteousness has shone upon us; today, at the hands of Moses, the bitter water is changed into sweetness by the presence of the Lord!

Today we are delivered from the ancient mourning, and like a new Israel, we are saved; today we are delivered from darkness, and, through the light of the knowledge of God, we are illumined; today the darkness of the world vanishes with the appearing of our God; today the whole creation is brightened from on high; today errors are destroyed and a way of salvation is prepared for us by the coming of the Lord; today the inhabitants of heaven rejoice with those of the earth; and the inhabitants of earth with those of heaven; today the noble and eloquent assembly of the faithful rejoices; today the Lord comes to be baptized, so that the human race may be lifted up; today the One who never has to bow, inclines himself before his servant, so that he may release our chains; today we have acquired the kingdom of heaven; indeed, the kingdom of heaven that has no end.

That the Lord God may hear the supplications of us sinners and have mercy on us, let us pray to the Lord. (2)

That we be delivered from all affliction, wrath, and need, let us pray to the Lord. (1)

Protect us, save us, have mercy on us, and preserve us, O God, by your grace. (2)

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

Response:



To you, O Lord.

And while the deacon is saying the Litany, the Priest says this Prayer to himself secretly. If there be no deacon, the Priest reads the prayer (including Amen) secretly after the Litany is concluded, and before the Prayer of Blessing.

O Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son, who are 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 to you for your wondrous and mighty works which are from the ages; and for your saving Providence in these latter times, in which you have clothed yourself in our weak and poor substance; and, condescending to the estate of a servant (even though you are King of all), permitted yourself to be baptized in the Jordan by the hand of a servant, that you, O Sinless One, having sanctified the nature of water, might lead us into re-birth by water and the Spirit, restoring to us our first freedom. Celebrating the memory of this divine mystery, we pray to you, O Master and Lover of us all. 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 to us and to all your faithful people, to the glory of your holy and adorable Name. For to you is due all glory, honor, and worship, together with your Father who is without beginning and your holy, good, and lifegiving Spirit, now and ever and forever. Amen.

O Lord, set a guard before my mouth
and set a seal on the door of *my* lips.

Let not my heart be inclined to evil,
nor make excuses for sins I *commit*.

Let me never share in sinners' feasting.
If a just man strikes or reproves me it *is* kindness

but let the oil of the wicked not anoint my head.
Let my prayer be ever against *their* malice.

The princes were thrown down by the side of the rock;
then they understood that my words *were* kind.

As a millstone is shattered to pieces on the ground,
so their bones were strewn at the mouth of *the* grave.

To you, Lord God, my eyes are turned;
in you I take refuge; spare *my* soul!

From the trap they have laid for me keep me safe;
keep me from the snares of those who *do* evil.

Let the wicked fall into the traps they have set
while I pursue my way *unharm*ed.

Psalm 141 With all my voice I cry to the Lord,
with all my voice I entreat *the* Lord.

I pour out my trouble before him;
I tell him all my distress while my spirit faints *within* me.

But you, O Lord, know my path.
On the way where I shall walk they have hidden a snare to *entrap* me.

Look on my right and see:
there is no one who takes *my* part.

I have no means of escape,
not one who cares for *my* soul.

I cry to you, O Lord.
I have said: "You are my refuge, all I have in the land of *the* living."

Listen, then, to my cry
for I am in the depths of *distress*.

Rescue me from those who pursue me
for they are stronger *than* I.

Bring my soul out of this prison
and then I shall praise *your* name.

Around me the just will assemble
because of your goodness *to* me.

Cantor: Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord; **Psalm 129**
(on 8) Lord, hear my voice!

Stichera of Theophany - Tone 2 samohlasen

When the Fore - runner saw the One who is our en - light - en - ment, the One
who has brought light to all, com - ing to be bap - tized, his heart re - joiced
and his hand trem - - - bled. He point - ed him out to the peo - ple and said:
This is the Sav - ior of Israel who delivered us from cor - rup - tion.
O Christ our God, O Sin - less One, glo - - - - ry to you!

Cantor: Let your ears be attentive
(on 7) to the voice of my pleading. *All repeat "When the Forerunner saw..."*

For those who travel by sea, air, and land, for the sick, the suffering, the captive and for their salvation, let us pray to the Lord. (2)

For favorable weather, for an abundance of the fruits of the earth, and for peaceful times, let us pray to the Lord. (1)

For those who travel by sea, air, and land, for the sick, the suffering, the captive and for their salvation, let us pray to the Lord. (2)

That these waters may be sanctified by the power, action, and descent of the Holy Spirit, let us pray to the Lord. (1)

That the purifying action of the transcendent Trinity may descend upon these waters, let us pray to the Lord. (2)

That these waters may be given the grace of redemption, the blessing of the river Jordan by the power, action, and descent of the Holy Spirit, let us pray to the Lord. (1)

That Satan may be swiftly crushed beneath our feet, and for the dissolution of every plot conceived against us, let us pray to the Lord. (2)

That the Lord God may prevent our ensnarement by the devil, and make us worthy to receive his promises, let us pray to the Lord. (1)

That by the descent of the Holy Spirit we may be enlightened with the light of understanding and piety, let us pray to the Lord. (2)

That the Lord God may send down the blessing of the river Jordan and sanctify these waters, let us pray to the Lord. (1)

That this water may be a sanctifying gift, a deliverance from sins, for the healing of soul and body, and a help in every necessity, let us pray to the Lord. (2)

That this water may be a spring for eternal life, let us pray to the Lord. (1)

That it may avert every snare of our enemies, visible and invisible, let us pray to the Lord. (2)

For those who draw and take of it for the sanctification of their homes, let us pray to the Lord. (1)

That it be for the purification of soul and body for all who draw of it with faith and partake of it, let us pray to the Lord. (2)


That through the sharing of these waters we may be worthy to be filled with sanctification by the invisible presence of the Holy Spirit, let us pray to the Lord. (1)

Deacon: [Mark 1: 9 - 11]

Response: 
Glo - ry to you, O Lord! Glo - ry to you!

Litany for the Blessing

Deacon: In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

Response: 
1. Lord, have mer - cy.

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

Response: 
Lord, have mer - cy.

Deacon: For peace in the whole world, for the stability of the holy Churches of God, and for the union of all, let us pray to the Lord.

Response: Lord, have mercy. (1)

Deacon: For this holy church and for all who enter it with faith, reverence, and fear of God, let us pray to the Lord.

Response: Lord, have mercy. (2)


Deacon: For our holy father, *(Name)*, pope of Rome, let us pray to the Lord. (1)

For our most reverend metropolitan, *(Name)*, for our God-loving bishop, *(Name)*, for the venerable presbyterate, the diaconate in Christ, and all the clergy and people, let us pray to the Lord. (2)

For our government and for all in the service of our country, let us pray to the Lord. (1)

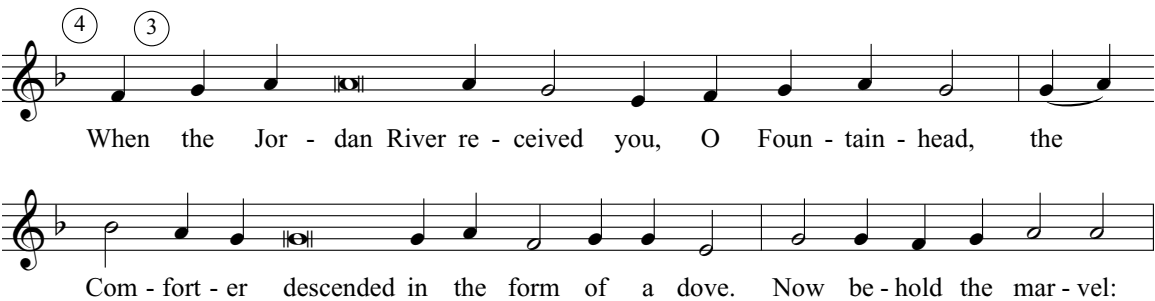
For this city, [*or:* For this holy monastery], for every city, community, and for the faithful living in them, let us pray to the Lord. (2)

Cantor: If you, O Lord, should mark our guilt, Lord, who would survive?
(on 6) But with you is found forgiveness: for this we revere you.


O our Sav - ior, the army of an - gels trem - bled when they saw you
bap-tized by your ser - vant, and the Ho-ly Spirit bearing wit-ness and de-scend-ing,
and when they hear the voice of the Fa-ther speak-ing from heav - en: "This One
up - on whom the Fore-run - ner lays his hands is my be - lov - ed Son in whom
I am well-pleased. O Christ our God, glo - - - ry to you!

Cantor: My soul is waiting for the Lord. I count on his word.
(on 5) My soul is longing for the Lord more than watchman for daybreak.
All repeat "O our Savior..."

Cantor: Let the watchman count on daybreak,
(on 4) and Israel on the Lord.


When the Jor - dan River re - ceived you, O Foun - tain - head, the
Com - fort - er descended in the form of a dove. Now be - hold the mar - vel:

the One who bowed the heavens bows his head to the Fore - run - ner,
 and the one made of clay cries out to his Mak - er: "Why do you
 com - mand me to perform what is be - yond my pow - er? It is I who need to be
 bap - tized by you." O Christ our God, O Sin-less One, glo - ry to you!

Cantor: Because with the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption,
 (on 3) Israel indeed he will redeem from all its iniquity.
All repeat "When the Jordan River received you..."

Cantor: Praise the Lord all you nations; **Psalm 116**
 (on 2) acclaim him all you peoples.

O God and Lord, when you resolved to save those who had strayed from you,
 you con - de - scend - ed to take the form of a ser - - - vant,
 for it was fit - ting that you assumed, for us, our hu - man na - ture.
 And when you were baptized in the flesh, O our Re - deem - er,

Deacon: Wisdom! Be attentive!

*The faithful **STAND** as the Alleluia is sung.*

Alleluia - Tone 4

Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - - - ia! Al - - - le - lu - - - ia!

Verse: The Lord's voice resounding on the waters,
 the Lord is on the immensity of the waters.

Verse: The God of glory thunders;
 the Lord is on the immensity of the waters.

The holy gospel book is incensed along with the faithful.

Deacon: Reverend Father, bless the proclaimer of the Gospel of the holy apostle and evangelist Mark.

Celebrant: May God, through the prayers of the holy, glorious, and illustrious apostle and evangelist Mark, grant that you proclaim the word with great power for the fulfillment of the Gospel of his beloved Son, our Lord Jesus Christ.

Deacon: Amen.

Celebrant: Wisdom! Let us stand and listen to the holy Gospel. Peace be to all.

Response:

And to your spir - - - it.

Deacon: A reading from the holy gospel according to Mark.

Response:

Glo - ry to you, O Lord! Glo - ry to you!

Celebrant: Let us be attentive!

Deacon: Let us be attentive!

Lector: [Isaiah 55: 1-13]

Deacon: Wisdom!

Lector: A reading from the prophecy of Isaiah.

Deacon: Let us be attentive!

Lector: [Isaiah 12: 3-6]

Deacon: Let us be attentive!

Celebrant: Peace ❖ be to all!

Deacon: Wisdom! Be attentive!

The faithful sing the Prokeimenon. The deacon chants the verse.

Prokeimenon - Tone 3 (Psalm 26:1):

The Lord is my light and my help; whom shall I fear?

Whom shall I fear?

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

Deacon: Wisdom!

Lector: A reading from the First Letter of Paul to the Corinthians

Deacon: Let us be attentive!

Lector: [I Corinthians 10: 1 - 4]

Celebrant: Peace to you, reader.

it made us wor-thy of your for-give - ness. There-fore, we cry out to you:

O Christ our God, our Ben-e - fac - tor, glo - - - ry to you!

The faithful STAND when the holy doors are opened and the cantor sings:

Cantor: Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.
Now and ever and forever. Amen.

Doxastikon

You have bowed your head before the Fore-run - - - ner, and you have crushed

the heads of the de - mons. You have de - scend - ed into the waters and giv-en

light to all things, that they may glo - ri - fy you, O Sav - ior,

the En - light - en - ment of our souls.

The Festive Entrance

Deacon: Wisdom! Be attentive!

The clergy and servers enter the sanctuary as "O Joyful Light" is sung. The sanctuary and the faithful are incensed.

The Hymn of the Evening

O Joy - ful Light of the ho - ly glo - ry of the Fa - ther Im - mor - tal,
the hea - ven - ly, ho - ly, bles - sed One, O Je - sus Christ: Now that we have
reached the set - ting of the sun, and see the eve - ning light, we sing to God,
Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Spir - it. It is fit - ting at all times to raise
a song of praise in meas - ured mel - o - dy to you, O Son of God, the
Giv - er of Life. There - fore, the u - ni - verse sings your glo - ry.

The Evening Prokeimenon

Deacon: Let us be attentive!

Priest: ✠ Peace be to all!

Deacon: Wisdom! Be attentive!

Cantor: (Tone 8) Glory...now and ever...

Doxastikon - Tone 8 samohlasen

To the voice of the one crying in the wil - der - ness: Pre - pare the way of the Lord,
you came, O Lord, as a ser - vant, seek - ing to be bap - tized e - ven
though you had no sin. When the wa - ters saw you, they trem - bled in fear
like the Fore - run - ner, who ex - claimed: How can a lamp give light to the Light?
How can a servant touch his Mas - - - ter? Rath - er, O Savior, bless the
wa - ters and me, for you take a - way the sin of the world.

Liturgy of the Word

Deacon: Wisdom!

Lector: A reading from the prophecy of Isaiah.

Deacon: Let us be attentive!

Lector: [Isaiah 35: 1-10]

Deacon: Wisdom!

Lector: A reading from the prophecy of Isaiah.

The Great Blessing of Water

Stichera at the Great Blessing of Water - Tone 8 samohlasen

①



The voice of the Lord resounds o-ver the wa-ters, say - ing: Come and re-ceive the



spir - it of wis - dom; the spir - it of un-der - stand - ing; the spir - it



of the fear of the Lord from this rev - e - la - tion of Christ.

②



To-day the nature of wa-ter is sanc - ti - fied. The Jor-dan is part - ed.



Its wa-ters cease to flow when it sees its Mas-ter be-ing bap - - - tized.

③



O Christ our King, you came as a man in - to the riv - er. For our sins,



O lov-ing and bless-ed Lord, you de - sired to be baptized like a ser - vant



by the hands of the Fore - run - ner.

Saturday, from Psalm 92: Tone 6 samopodoben



The Lord reigns, the Lord reigns; he is clothed in maj - es - ty.

The Deacon chants the verses as follows The Prokeimenon is repeated after each verse.

- Robed is the Lord and girt about with strength.
- The world he made firm, not to be moved.
- Holiness is fitting to your house, O Lord, until the end of time.

Reading 1 *(For the sake of brevity, only one reading may be taken.)*

Genesis 1:1-13

Exodus 14: 15-18, 21-23, 27-29

***Exodus 15: 22 through 16: 1** *(This reading should always be taken)*

First Responsorial Troparion - Tone 5

All



O Cre - a - tor of the world, you ap-peared in the world in or - der to



shine upon those who live in dark - - - ness. O Mer - ci - ful



One, glo - ry to you.

Cantor



O God, be gra-cious and bless us and let

your face shed its light up - on us.

All

O Mer - ci - ful One, glo - ry to you.

Cantor

So will your ways be known up - on earth and all na - tions
learn your sav - ing help.

All repeat "O Merciful One..."

Cantor

Let the peo - ples praise you, O God, let all the peo - ples praise you.
The earth has yield - - ed its fruit.

All repeat "O Merciful One..."

Cantor

For God, our God, has blessed us. May God still give us

to cleanse the human race from the er - ror of the en - e - my; the Mas - ter

of all is baptized at the hand of the serv - ant in or - der to grant us the

cleans - ing through wa - ter. There - fore, let us cry out to him: O

God who has ap - peared to us, glo - ry to you!

Cantor: *(Tone 6)* Glory...now and ever...

Doxastikon - Tone 6 samohlasen

When John, the bright lamp that was born of a bar - ren moth - er, per - ceived

that Christ, the Sun who had risen from a vir - gin, was now ask - ing for baptism,

he cried out with joy: O Lord, sanc - ti - fy me by your The - oph - a - ny.

The Hymn of the Holy Simeon the God-bearer is OMITTED.

trem - bled, for the ver - y Cher - u - bim do not dare to look up - on your glo - ry,

nor can the Ser - a - phim rest their eyes up - on you. They stand in awe

be - fore you, some on guard, oth - ers glori - fy - ing your might.

To - geth - er with them we proclaim your praise, O Mer - ci - ful One, and say:

O God who has appeared to us, have mer - cy on us.

Cantor

Why was it, O sea, that you fled, that you turned back, O Jor - dan,

on your course?

③

To - day the Creator of heav - en and earth ap - proach - es the Jor - dan Riv - er

in the flesh; the One who is free from sin seeks to be bap - tized in or - der

his bless - ing till the ends of the earth re - vere him.

All repeat "O Merciful One..."

Cantor

Glo - ry to the Fa - ther, and to the Son, and to the Ho - ly Spir - - - it;

now and ev - er and for - ev - - - er. A - - - - men.

All

O Cre - a - tor of the world, you ap - peared in the world in or - der to

shine upon those who live in dark - - - ness. O Mer - ci - ful

One, glo - ry to you.

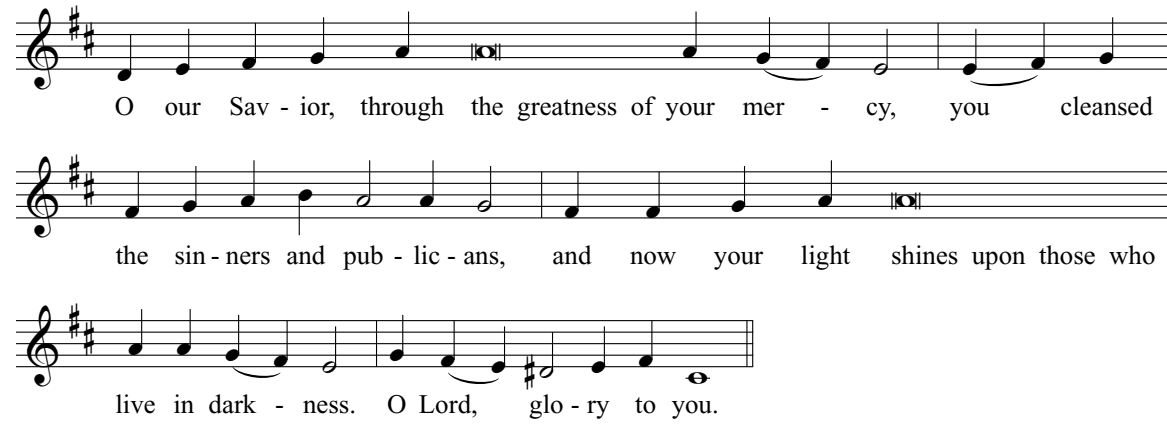
Reading 2 *For the sake of brevity, only one reading may be taken.)*

Joshua 3:7-8, 15-17

II Kings 2: 6-14

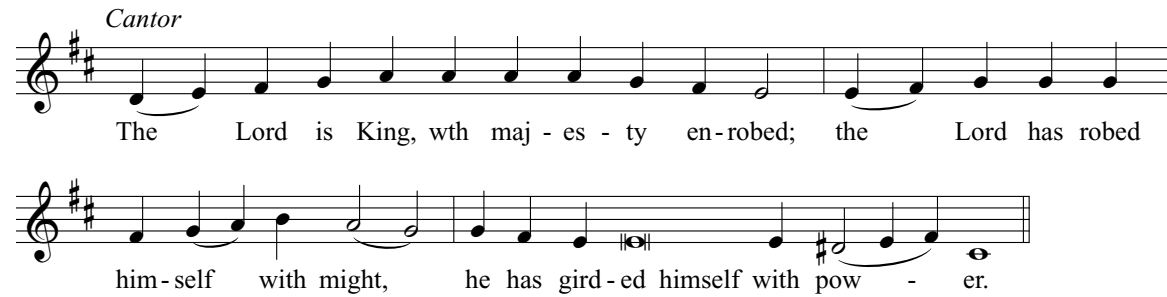
***II Kings 5: 9-14** *(This reading should always be taken)*

Second Responsorial Troparion - Tone 6



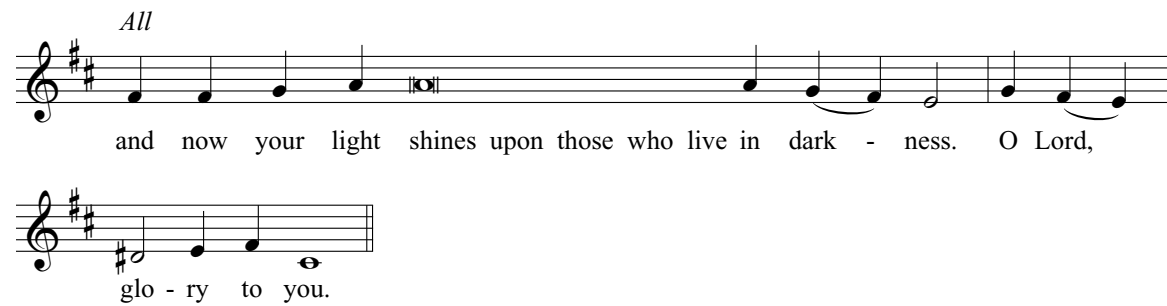
O our Sav - ior, through the greatness of your mer - cy, you cleansed
the sin - ners and pub - lic - ans, and now your light shines upon those who
live in dark - ness. O Lord, glo - ry to you.

Cantor



The Lord is King, wth maj - es - ty en-robbed; the Lord has robbed
him-self with might, he has gird-ed himself with pow - er.

All



and now your light shines upon those who live in dark - ness. O Lord,
glo - ry to you.

Cantor



The floods have lift - ed up, O Lord; the wa - ters have lift - ed up

Aposticha

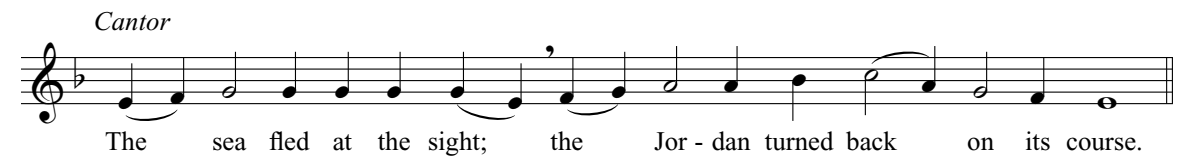
Tone 2 samohlasen

①



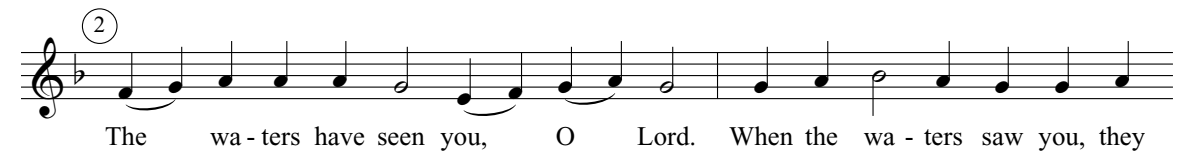
O Lord, when John saw you approaching him at the Jor-dan Riv-er, he cried out:
How do you, O Lord who are sinless, come to me your serv - ant? In whose
name shall I bap-tize you? In the name of the Father whom you pos - sess in
your - self? In the name of the Son, while you are the ver - y Son in the flesh?
In the name of the Holy Spirit whom you grant to the faithful with the breath
of your mouth? O God who has appeared to us, glo - ry to you!

Cantor




The sea fled at the sight; the Jor - dan turned back on its course.

②




The wa - ters have seen you, O Lord. When the wa - ters saw you, they

Priest: Peace ✠ be to all!

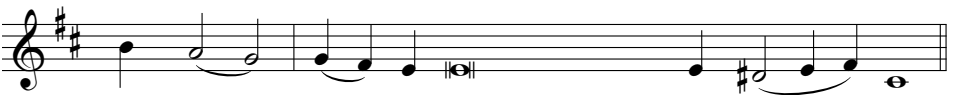
Response: 
And to your spir - - - it.

Deacon: Bow your heads to the Lord!

Response: 
To you, O Lord.


Priest: All-merciful Master, Lord Jesus Christ our God, make our prayer acceptable: through the prayers of our all-pure Lady, the Theotokos and ever-virgin Mary; through the power of the precious and life-creating Cross; through the protection of the honorable, heavenly, and angelic powers; through the prayers of the honorable and glorious prophet, forerunner, and baptist John; of the holy, glorious, and illustrious apostles; of our holy fathers, the great hierarchs and universal teachers: Basil the Great, Gregory the Theologian, and John Chrysostom; of our holy father Nicholas the Wonderworker, Archbishop of Myra in Lycia; of the holy equals to the apostles and teachers of the Slavs, Cyril and Methodius; of the holy equal to the apostles, the faithful great prince Vladimir; of the holy martyr Josaphat, bishop of Polotsk; of the blessed martyr Theodore, bishop of Mukačevo; of our blessed fathers and confessors Paul, bishop of Prešov, and Basil, bishop of Medila; of the holy, glorious, and victorious martyrs; of our venerable and God-bearing fathers, Anthony and Theodosius of the Monastery of the Caves, and of our other venerable and God-bearing fathers; of the holy and just ancestors of God, Joachim and Anna; and of all the saints; grant us remission of our faults; shelter us under the shadow of your wings; drive far from us every enemy and adversary and make our life peaceful. Lord, have mercy on us and on your world and save our souls, for you are good and you love us all.

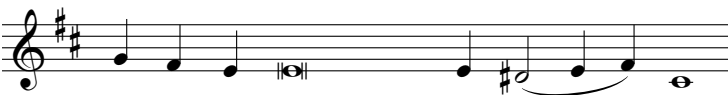
Response: 
A - men.



their voice; the wa - ters have lifted up their thun - der.


All repeat "and now your light shines..."

Cantor 
More glo - rious than the surg - ings of the sea, the Lord is glo - rious on high.





Tru - ly your decrees are to be trust - - - ed.

All repeat "and now your light shines..."

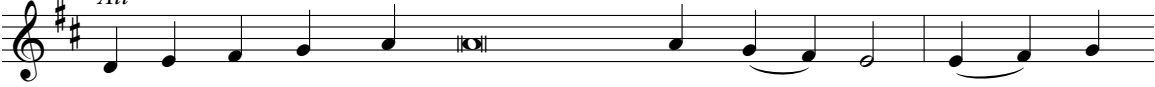
Cantor 
Ho - li - ness is fit - ting for your house, O Lord, un - til the end of time.

All repeat "and now your light shines..."

Cantor 
Glo - ry to the Fa - ther, and to the Son, and to the Ho - ly Spir - it;



now and ev - er and for - ev - er. A - men.

All 
O our Sav - ior, through the greatness of your mer - cy, you cleansed

the sin-ners and pub - lic - ans, and now your light shines upon those who
live in dark - ness. O Lord, glo - ry to you.

Reading 3 *For the sake of brevity, only one reading may be taken.)*

Isaiah 1: 16-20

Genesis 32: 1-10

Exodus 2: 5-10

Judges 6: 36-40

I Kings 18: 30-39

II Kings 2: 19-22

***Isaiah 49: 8-15** *(This reading should always be taken.)*

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Deacon: Let us be attentive!

Celebrant: Peace ✝ be to all.

Deacon: Wisdom! Be attentive!

The faithful sing the PROKEIMENON. The lector chants the verse.

Prokeimenon - Tone 3 (Psalm 26:1):

The Lord is my light and my help; whom shall I fear?
Whom shall I fear?

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

Response:

Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mer - cy. Lord, have mercy. Lord,
have mercy. Lord, have mer - cy.

Deacon: Again we pray for our Holy Father (*Name*), pope of Rome, for his health and salvation, and that the Lord God may hasten and assist him in everything; O Lord, hear and have mercy.

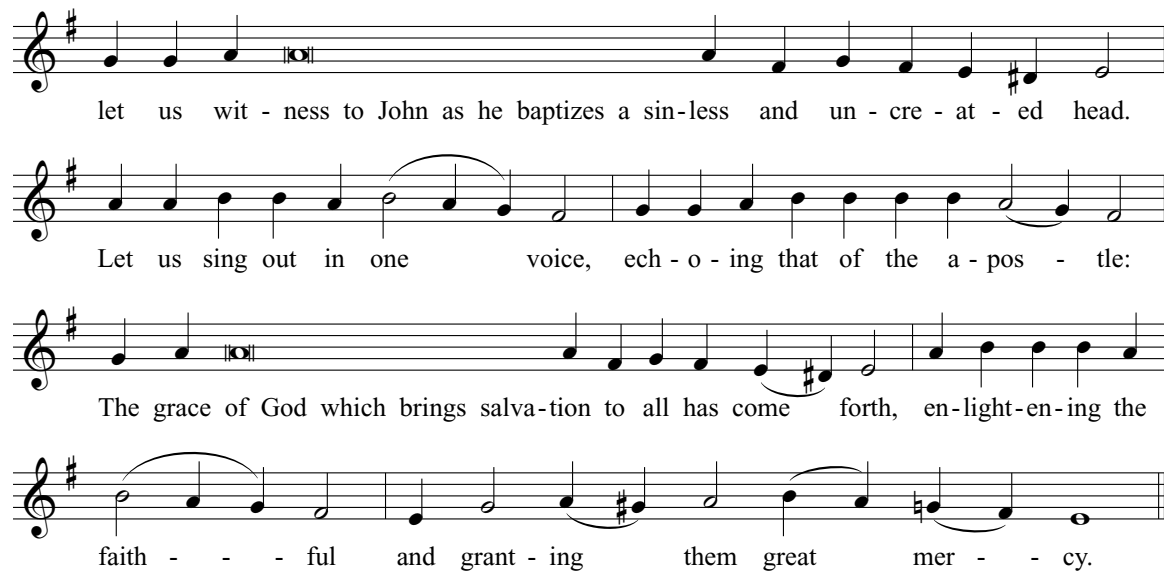
Response: Lord, have mercy. *(as above)*

Deacon: Again we pray for our most reverend metropolitan (*Name*), for our God-loving bishop (*Name*); for our spiritual fathers and for all our brothers and sisters in Christ, and for every Christian soul that is troubled and afflicted and in need of God's mercy and help; for the protection of this city and those who dwell here; for the peace and serenity of the whole world, for the stability of the holy Churches of God; for the salvation and assistance of our fathers and brothers and sisters who labor and serve with diligence and fear of God; for those who are absent and for those who are traveling; for the healing of those who are confined by illness; for the repose, blessed memory, and remission and forgiveness of sins of all our true-believing fathers and brothers and sisters who have gone before us; and for all our brothers and sisters who are present at these services; and for all who have served and now serve in this holy church, let us say:

Response: Lord, have mercy. *(as above)*

Priest: Hear us, O God our Savior, hope of the ends of the earth and of those far off at sea, and be merciful to us, O merciful Master, on account of our sins, and have mercy on us. For you are a merciful and loving God, and we give glory to you, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and ever and forever.

Response:
A - men.



let us wit - ness to John as he baptizes a sin-less and un - cre - at - ed head.

Let us sing out in one voice, ech - o - ing that of the a - pos - tle:

The grace of God which brings salva-tion to all has come forth, en-light-en-ing the

faith - - - ful and grant - ing them great mer - - - cy.

Litany of the Litija

Deacon: Save your people, O God, and bless your inheritance. Watch over your world in mercy and compassion. Exalt the strength of true Christians and send down upon us your abundant mercies. Through the prayers of our all-pure Lady, the Theotokos and ever-virgin Mary; through the power of the precious and life-creating Cross; through the protection of the honorable, heavenly, and angelic powers; through the prayers of the honorable and glorious prophet, forerunner, and baptist John; of the holy, glorious, and illustrious apostles; of our holy fathers, the great hierarchs and universal teachers: Basil the Great, Gregory the Theologian, and John Chrysostom; of our holy father Nicholas the Wonderworker, Archbishop of Myra in Lycia; of the holy equals to the apostles and teachers of the Slavs, Cyril and Methodius; of the holy equal to the apostles, the faithful great prince Vladimir; of the holy martyr Josaphat, bishop of Polotsk; of the blessed martyr Theodore, bishop of Mukačevo; of our blessed fathers and confessors Paul, bishop of Prešov; and Basil, bishop of Medila; of the holy, glorious, and victorious martyrs; of our venerable and God-bearing fathers, Anthony and Theodosius of the Monastery of the Caves, and of our other venerable and God-bearing fathers; of the holy and just ancestors of God, Joachim and Anna; and of all the saints; we beseech you, all-merciful Lord, hear the prayers of us sinners and have mercy on us.

Deacon: Wisdom!

Lector: A reading from the First Letter of Paul to the Corinthians

Deacon: Let us be attentive!

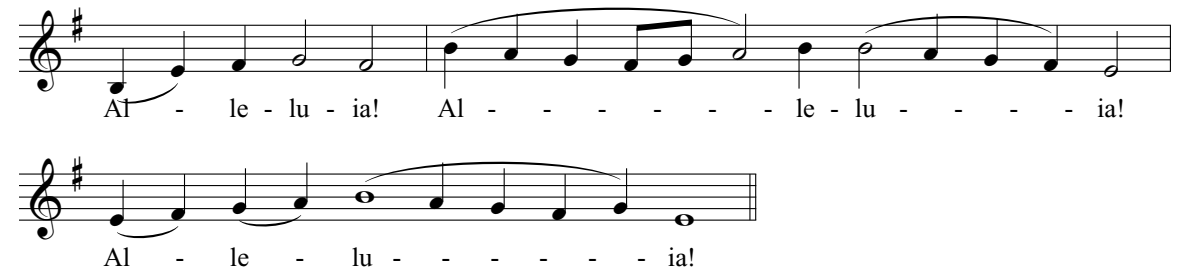
Lector: [I Corinthians 9: 19-27]

Celebrant: Peace to you, reader.

Deacon: Wisdom! Be attentive!

*The faithful **STAND** as the Alleluia is sung.*

Alleluia - Tone 6 (Psalm 90: 1, 2)



Al - le - lu - ia! Al - - - - - le - lu - - - - ia!

Al - le - lu - - - - - ia!

Verse: The one who dwells in the shelter of the Most High abides in the shadow of the God of heaven.

Verse: He says to the Lord: You are my Protector, my Refuge, and my God in whom I trust.

The holy gospel book is incensed along with the faithful.

Deacon: Reverend Father, bless the proclaimer of the Gospel of the holy apostle and evangelist Luke.

Celebrant: May God, through the prayers of the holy, glorious, and illustrious apostle and evangelist Luke, grant that you proclaim the word with great power for the fulfillment of the Gospel of his beloved Son, our Lord Jesus Christ.


Deacon: Amen.

Celebrant: Wisdom! Let us stand and listen to the holy Gospel. Peace be to all.



Response: And to your spir - - - it.

Deacon: A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke.

Response: 
Glo - ry to you, O Lord! Glo - ry to you!

Celebrant: Let us be attentive!

The deacon proclaims the holy Gospel (Luke 3: 1 - 18)

Response: 
Glo - ry to you, O Lord! Glo - ry to you!

The faithful SIT.

Litany of Fervent Supplication


Deacon: Let us all say with our whole soul and with our whole mind, let us say:

Response: 
1. Lord, have mer-cy.

Deacon: O Lord almighty, God of our fathers, we pray you, hear and have mercy.


Response: 
2. Lord, have mer-cy.


Deacon: Have mercy on us, O God, according to your great mercy, we pray you, hear and have mercy.


Response: 
3. Lord, have mer-cy, Lord, have mer-cy, Lord, have mer - cy.


Deacon: Again we pray for our holy father, (*Name*), pope of Rome, and for our most reverend metropolitan, (*Name*), for our God-loving bishop, (*Name*), for those who serve and have served in this holy church, for our spiritual fathers, and for all our brothers and sisters in Christ.


Doxastikon - Tone 8 samohlasen


De - sir - ing to fulfill all that was ordained for you from e - ter - ni - ty, O Lord,


you re - ceived ministers from all creation at this mys - t'ry of yours: Ga - bri - el


from a - mong the an - gels, the Vir - gin from a - mong the hu - man race,


the star from a - mong the heav - ens, and the Jor - dan from among the wa - ters;


and in it you have cleansed the sins of the world. O our Sav - - ior,


glo - ry to you!

Cantor: Now and ever...


To - day all cre - a - tion is en - light - ened. To - day all na - ture re - joic - - es,


those in heav - en and those up - on the earth. An - gels and peo - ple join to geth - er


in the pres - ence of the King and his ar - my. Let us has - ten to the Jor - dan;

One who has de - scend - ed; for he is the Sav - ior of our souls.

Up - on touch - ing your im - mac - u - late head, the hand of the Bap - tist

trem - bled. The streams of the Jor - dan turned back, feel - ing un - wor - thy

to serve you. How could the one who stood in awe

of Josh - u - a the son of Nun, be un - a - fraid to stand

be - fore the Cre - a - tor of Josh - u - a? You have com - plet - ed all that was

as - signed to you, O Sav - ior, so that you might redeem the world by

your The - oph - a - ny, for you a - lone love the hu - man race.

Cantor: (Tone 8) Glory...

Response: 4. Lord, have mer - cy, Lord, have mer - cy, Lord, have mer - cy.

Deacon: Again we pray for our government and for all in the service of our country.

Response: Lord, have mercy. (*three times, using response 4.*)

Deacon: Again we pray for the people here present who await your great and abundant mercy, for those who show us mercy, and for all Christians of the true faith.

Response: Lord, have mercy. (*three times, using response 3.*)

Priest: For you are a merciful and loving God, and we give glory to you, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and ever and forever.

Response: A - men.

Hymn of Glorification

Make us wor - thy, O Lord, to be kept sin - less this eve - ning.

Bless - ed are you, O Lord, the God of our fa - thers, and praise - wor - thy

and glorious is your name for ev - er. A - men. May your mer - cy, O Lord, *reverence*

be up - on us who have placed our hope in you. Bless - ed are you O

reverence

Lord; teach me your com-mand - ments. Bless-ed are you, O Mas-ter;

reverence

make me un-der-stand your com-mand - ments. Bless-ed are you, O Ho-ly One;

en - light-en me with your com-mand - ments. O Lord, your mer-cy is for-ev - er;

de - spise not the work of your hands. To you is due praise; to you

is due a hymn; to you is glo - ry due, Father, Son, and Ho - ly Spir - it,

now and ev - er and for - ev - er. A - men.

Litany of Supplication

Deacon: Let us complete our evening prayer to the Lord.

Response: 1. Lord, have mer-cy.

Deacon: Protect us, save us, have mercy on us, and preserve us, O God, by your grace.

Response: 2. Lord, have mer-cy.

im - - - mor-tal head. The Spir - it de-scend-ed in the form of a dove

and sanc-ti - fied the wa-ters. and a voice was heard from on high:

This is my Son who comes in - to the world to save all. O Lord,

glo - - - - ry to you!

⁴ To-day Christ is bap - tized; he e-merg-es from the wa-ters and

up - lifts the world with him. He be - holds the o - pen-ing of the heav-ens

which Ad-am had closed for him-self and his de - scend - ants. The Spir-it

tes - ti - fies to his di-vine na-ture, for he is in ac-cord with his own.

A voice is heard from the heav - - - ens, giv - ing wit - ness to the

②

When John the Bap - tist saw you ap-proach, the One who pu - ri - fies the sin
of the world by fire and the Spir - it, he cried out with fear and trem-bling,
say - ing: I am un - wor - thy to place my hand on your im - mac - u - late head.
There - fore, O Master, purify me by your The - oph - a - ny, for you a - lone
love the hu - man race.

③

Let us im - i - tate the wise vir-gins; come, let us go to meet the Mas-ter
who is now pres - ent, for he ap-proach - es John as a Bride-groom.
When the Jor - dan saw him, it bowed down in fear and stopped;
John spoke out say - ing: I am un - wor - thy to touch your

Deacon: That this whole evening be perfect, holy, peaceful, and without sin, let us beseech the Lord.

Response:
3. Grant this, O Lord.

Deacon: For an angel of peace, a faithful guide and guardian of our souls and bodies, let us beseech the Lord.

Response:
4. Grant this, O Lord.

Deacon: For the pardon and remission of our sins and offenses, let us beseech the Lord.

Response: Grant this, O Lord. (3)

Deacon: For what is good and beneficial to our souls and for peace in the world, let us beseech the Lord.

Response: Grant this, O Lord (4)

Deacon: That we may spend the rest of our life in peace and repentance, let us beseech the Lord.

Response: Grant this, O Lord. (3)

Deacon: For a Christian, painless, unashamed, peaceful end of our life, and for a good account before the fearsome judgment seat of Christ, let us beseech the Lord.

Response: Grant this, O Lord. (4)


Deacon: Commemorating our most holy, most pure, most blessed and glorious Lady, the Theotokos and ever-Virgin Mary with all the Saints, let us commit ourselves and one another, and our whole life to Christ our God.

Response:
To you, O Lord.


Priest: Great and most high God, you alone possess immortality and dwell in unapproachable light. You made all creation with wisdom, dividing light from darkness, establishing the sun to rule the day and the moon and stars to rule the night. You have allowed us sinners to approach your presence with thanksgiving in this present hour and to offer you evening praise. O Lord, Lover of us all, make our prayer ascend to you like incense and accept it as a sweet fragrance. Grant that we may spend the present evening and the coming night in peace; clothe us with the armor of light; deliver us from the fears of the night and from everything that lurks about in darkness. Grant that the sleep you have given us to refresh our fatigue may be free from all illusions of the devil. Yes, O Master of All, Giver of good things, let us feel contrition as we lie on our beds remembering your name throughout the night. Enlightened by meditation on your commands, may we rise with gladdened soul to give glory to your goodness, offering prayers and supplications to your compassion for our sins and those of all your people. Visit us with mercy through the intercession of the holy Theotokos. For you, O God, are good and love us all, and we glorify you, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and ever and forever.

Response: 
A - men.

Priest: ❖ Peace be to all!

Response: 
And to your spir - - - it.

Deacon: Bow your heads to the Lord!

Response: 
To you, O Lord.

Priest: Lord our God, you bowed the heavens and came down for the salvation of the human race. Look upon your servants and upon your inheritance, for they have bowed their heads and bent their necks to you, the awesome Judge who love us all. They do not expect human help, but await your mercy and long for your salvation. Protect them at all times, this evening and tonight, from every enemy, from all the devil's assaults, from vain thoughts and evil imaginings. May the might of your kingdom be blessed and glorified, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and ever and forever.

Response: 
A - men.

If Great Compline is NOT sung, the Litija and the Apostichera are sung as follows. If Great Compline IS sung, then go immediately to the Great Blessing of Waters and omit the Litija and the Apostichera.

Hymns of the Litija

Tone 4 Bolhar


The One who clothes him - self with light as with a robe deigned, for our


sakes, to be - come as we are. To - day he is clothed in the


streams of the Jor - dan e - ven though he has no need to be pu - ri - fied.


He re - fash - ions us through the cleans - ing he re - ceives. What a mar - vel - ous


won - - - - - der! He cre - ates a - new with - out fire


and re - fash - ions with - out tear - - - - ing a - part; he grants sal - va - tion to


those en - light - ened in him, Christ our God, the Sav - ior of our souls.