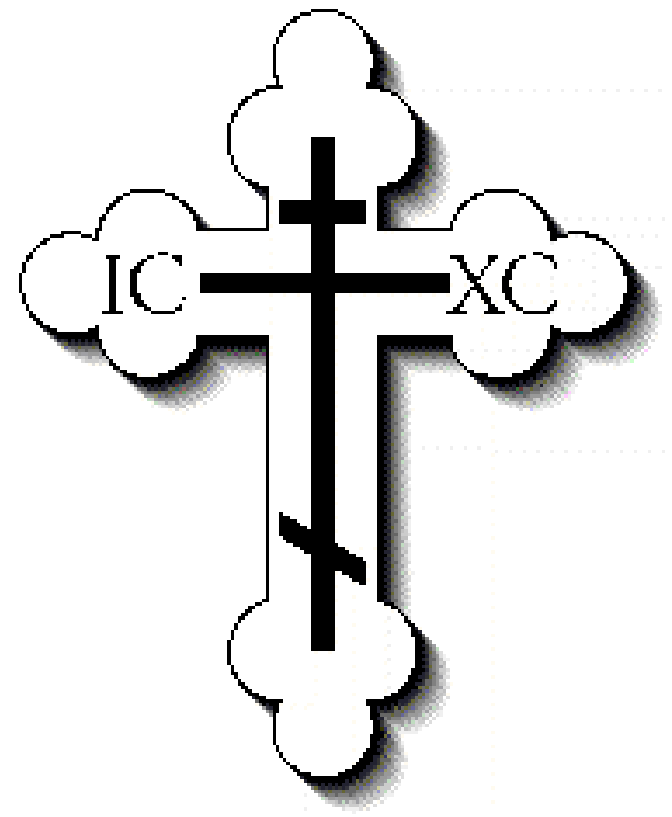


THE GREAT BLESSING OF WATER



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The Great Blessing of Water

on Epiphany

Following the prayer behind the ambo, at Divine Liturgy, we sing the following:

Verse 1 - Tone 8

THE VOICE OF THE LORD UPON THE WATERS CRIED SAY - ING:

COME, RECEIVE ALL THE SPIRIT OF WIS - DOM, THE SPIR - IT OF

UN - DER - STAND - ING, THE SPIRIT OF THE FEAR OF GOD,

OF CHRIST WHO IS MADE MAN - I - FEST.

Verse 2

TO - DAY THE NATURE OF THE WATERS IS SANC - TI - FIED AND THE JOR - DAN

never be ashamed. This poor man cried, and the Lord heard him, and saved him out of all his troubles. The angel of the Lord encamps around those who fear him, and delivers them. O taste and see that the Lord is good! Happy is the man who takes refuge in him! O fear the Lord, you his saints, for those who fear him have no want! The young lions suffer want and hunger; but those who seek the Lord lack no good thing. Come, O sons, listen to me, I will teach you the fear of the Lord. What man is there who desires life, and covets many days, that he may enjoy good? Keep your tongue from evil, and your lips from speaking deceit. Depart from evil, and do good; seek peace, and pursue it. The eyes of the Lord are toward the righteous, and his ears toward their cry. The face of the Lord is against evildoers, to cut off the remembrance of them from the earth. When the righteous cry for help, the Lord hears, and delivers them out of all their troubles. The Lord is near to the brokenhearted, and saves the crushed in spirit. many are the afflictions of the righteous; but the Lord delivers him out of them all. He keeps all his bones; not one of them is broken. Evil shall slay the wicked; and those who hate the righteous will be condemned. The Lord redeems the life of his servants; none of those who take refuge in him will be condemned.

THE GRACE OF THE SPIRIT IS INVISIBLE BE-STOWED BY FAITH THE GOD AND
SAV-IOR OF OUR SOULS.

Blessed be the name of the Lord henceforth and forevermore (3x)

Priest: 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.

It is customary to sing Psalm 34 but in many parishes this is omitted.

PSALM 34

I will bless the Lord at all times; his praise shall continually be in my mouth. My soul makes its boast in the Lord; let the afflicted hear and be glad. O magnify the Lord with me, and let us exalt his name together! I sought the Lord, and he answered me, and delivered me from all my fears. Look to him, and be radiant; so your faces shall

IS PAR-TED IN TWO; IT HOLDS BACK THE STREAM OF ITS OWN WA-

TERS SEE-ING THE MAS-TER WASH HIM-SELF.

Verse 3

AS A MAN THOU DID COME TO THE RIVER, O CHRIST THE KING,

HAST-ENING TO RECEIVE THE BAPTISM OF A SER-VANT, AT THE HANDS OF

THE FORERUNNER FOR THE SAKE OF OUR SINS, O THOU WHO

LOV-EST MAN-KIND.

GLO - RY TO THE FATHER, AND TO THE SON, AND TO THE HOLY SPIR - IT,

NOW AND EV - ER AND UN - TO A - GES OF A - GES. A - MEN.

Verse 4

TO THE VOICE OF ONE CRYING IN THE WIL - DER - NESS: *PRE - PARE YE

THE WAY OF THE LORD*, THOU DID COME, O LORD, TAKING THE FORM

OF A SER - VANT, ASK - ING FOR BAPTISM, THOU KNOW - EST NOT SIN.

THE WATERS SAW THEE AND WERE A - FRAID THE FORERUNNER BE - GAN

After the Troparion we sing the following in Tone 6:

YOU FAITHFUL, LET US PRAISE THE GREATNESS OF GOD'S DIS - PEN - SA - TION FOR US,

FOR HE WHO BECAME MAN BECAUSE OF OUR TRANSGRESSIONS AND WHO ALONE IS

CLEAN AND UN - DE - FILED, FOR OUR CLEANSING WAS CLEANSED IN

JOR - DAN, THAT HE MIGHT SANCTIFY ME AND THE WATERS AND CRUSH THE

HEADS OF THE DRAGONS IN THE WA - TER. LET US THEN DRAW WATER IN GLAD -

NESS O BREATH - REN, FOR UPON THOSE THAT DRAW IN FAITH,

Troparion

Tone 1

WHEN THOU, O LORD WAS BAP - TIZED IN THE JOR - DAN,

THE WORSHIP OF THE TRINITY WAS MADE MAN - I - FEST FOR THE

VOICE OF THE FA - THER BARE WIT - NESS TO THEE, AND CALLED THEE

HIS BE - LOV - ED SON! AND THE SPIR - IT, IN THE FORM OF A DOVE

CON - FIRMED THE TRUTH - FUL - NESS OF HIS WORD, O CHRIST OUR GOD WHO

HAS RE - VEAL - ED THY - SELF AND HAS ENLIGHTENED THE WORLD GLO - RY TO THEE!

TO TREM - BLE AND CRIED SAY - ING: HOW SHALL THE SERVANT LAY

HANDS ON THE MAS - TERT SANCTIFY ME AND THE WATERS O

SAY - IOR, WHO TAKES AWAY THE SINS OF THE WORLD.

Old Testament Readings

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

Thus saith the Lord: The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice with joy and singing. The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the glory of the LORD, the majesty of our God. Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees. Say to those who are of a fearful heart, "Be strong

fear not! Behold, your God will come with vengeance, with the recompense of God. He will come and save you." Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; then shall the lame man leap like a hart, and the tongue of the dumb sing for joy. For waters shall break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert; the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water; the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp, the grass shall become reeds and rushes. And a highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Holy Way; the unclean shall not pass over it, and fools shall not err therein. No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it; they shall not be found there, but the redeemed shall walk there. And the ransomed of the Lord shall return, and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

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

Thus saith the Lord: Everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; and he who has no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price. Why do you spend your money

souls and bodies. For thou art the sanctification of our souls and bodies; and unto thee we ascribe glory, and thanksgiving and worship, together with Thy Father, who is from everlasting, and Thine all-holy, and good, and life-giving Spirit, now, and ever, and unto ages of ages.

Choir: Amen.

And blessing the water with the holy cross, the priest dips three times into the water holding it upright with both hands while the choir sings the following troparion:

Save, O Lord, and show mercy upon the Most Holy Synod, and keep them in peace beneath thy shelter. subdue under them every foe and adversary; grant all their petitions which are unto salvation and life eternal, that with the elements and men, and Angels, and with all things visible and invisible; they may magnify Thy most holy Name, together with the Father, and the Holy Spirit, now, and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen:

Priest: Peace be unto all.

Choir. And with thy spirit

Priest. Bow your heads unto the Lord.

Choir. To Thee, O Lord.

Incline Thy ear, O Lord, and hear us, O Thou who wast graciously pleased to receive baptism in Jordan, and didst sanctify the waters. Bless all us who, by the bowing of our necks, do outwardly signify our humility of mind: and graciously grant that we may be filled with Thy sanctification, through our partaking of this water, and through sprinkling therewith. And may it be for us, O Lord, the health of our

for that which is not bread, and your labor for that which does not satisfy? Hearken diligently to me, and eat what is good, and delight yourselves in fatness. Incline your ear, and come to me; hear, that your soul may live; and I will make with you an everlasting covenant, my steadfast, sure love for David. Behold, I made him a witness to the peoples, a leader and commander for the peoples. Behold, you shall call nations that you know not, and nations that knew you not shall run to you, because of the Lord your God, and of the Holy One of Israel, for he has glorified you. "Seek the Lord while he may be found, call upon him while he is near; let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts; let him return to the Lord, that he may have mercy on him, and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon. For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, says the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts. "For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and return not thither but water the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater, so shall my word be that goes forth from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty,

but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and prosper in the thing for which I sent it. "For you shall go out in joy, and be led forth in peace; the mountains and the hills before you shall break forth into singing, and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands. Instead of the thorn shall come up the cypress; instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle; and it shall be to the Lord for a memorial, for an everlasting sign which shall not be cut off."

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

Thus saith the Lord: With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation. And you will say in that day: "Give thanks to the Lord call upon his name; make known his deeds among the nations, proclaim that his name is exalted." Sing praises to the Lord, for he has done gloriously; let this be known in all the earth. Shout, and sing for joy, O inhabitant of Zion, for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel."

angelic might. And may it be unto all those who shall draw it, and shall partake of it unto the purification of their souls and bodies, unto the healing of their passions, unto the sanctification of their houses, and unto every expedient service. For Thou art our God, who through water and the Spirit renewed our nature, which had fallen into decay through sin. For Thou art our God, who with water didst drown sin in the days of Noah. For Thou art our God, who by the sea, through Moses, didst set free from slavery to Pharaoh the Hebrew race. For Thou art our God, who didst cleave the rock in the wilderness, so that Water poured forth, and who made the floods to well forth abundantly; and didst satisfy Thy thirsty people. For Thou art our God, who by fire and water, through Elijah, didst set Israel free from the errors of Baal. *Do Thou, the same Master and sanctify now also this water by Thy Holy Spirit.*(3x) Grant also unto all who shall be sprinkled therewith, and shall partake thereof, and shall anoint themselves therewith, sanctification, blessing, purification and bodily health: and save, O Lord, Thy servant, our most God-fearing Bishop _____ and all the Authorities.

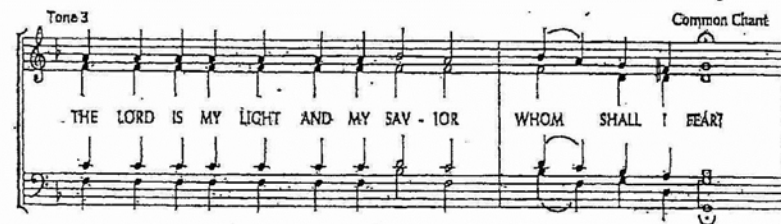
of men. For Thou couldst not endure, O Master, because of Thy tender-hearted mercy, to behold the children of men tormented by the devil; but Thou didst come, and didst save us. We confess Thy grace; we proclaim Thy mercy; we conceal not Thy gracious deeds. Thou has set at liberty the generations of our race; by Thy birth Thou has sanctified a virgin's womb. All creation sings praises unto Thee, who didst reveal thyself; for Thou, our God, didst manifest Thyself upon earth, and didst dwell among men. Thou didst hallow the streams of the Jordan, in that Thou didst send down from heaven Thy Holy Spirit, and didst crush the heads of the serpents which lurked there.

Then the Priest repeats three times the following, and blesses the water with his hand at each repetition.

Wherefore O King who lovest mankind, come down now also through the descent of Thy Holy Spirit, and sanctify this water. (3x) And impart unto it the grace of redemption, the blessing of the Jordan. Make it a fountain of immortality, a gift of sanctification, a remission of sins, a healing of infirmities, a destruction of demons; unapproachable by hostile powers, filled with

Prokeimenon (Tone 3)

The Lord is my Light and my Savior, whom shall I fear? (Ps 26/27:1)



The reading is from the Epistle of the Holy Apostle Paul to the Corinthians (I Cor.10:1-4)

Brethren, I want you to know that our fathers were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea, and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, and all ate the same supernatural food and all drank the same supernatural drink. For they drank from the supernatural Rock which followed them, and the Rock was Christ.

Alleluia

v: The voice of the Lord is upon the waters (Ps 28:3)

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



The Great Litany

In peace, let us pray to the Lord

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

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

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

For our Metropolitan _____, for our Bishop _____, for the honorable priesthood, the deaconate in Christ, for all the clergy and the people, let us pray to the Lord.

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

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

Great art thou, O Lord, and marvelous are Thy works, and no words suffices to hymn Thy wonders. (3x) For Thou, by Thy will, from nothingness hast brought all things into being; by Thy majesty Thou dost uphold all creation, and by Thy providence Thou dost direct the world. When Thou hadst formed the universe out of four elements, Thou didst crown the circle of the year with four seasons. All the reason-endowed powers tremble before Thee. The Sun sings Thy praises, and the Moon glorifies Thee; the Stars, also, stand before Thy presence. The Light obeys Thee. The deeps shudder with awe before Thee; the waterspings do Thy bidding. Thou hast spread out the heavens like a curtain. Thou hast established the earth upon the waters. With sand hast Thou walled in the sea. Thou hast shed abroad the air for breathing. The Angelic Powers serve Thee. The Archangelic hosts adore Thee. The many-eyed Cherubim and the six-winged Seraphim, as they stand round about and do fly, veil their faces with awe before Thine unapproachable glory. For Thou, the God which cannot be circumscribed, who art from everlasting and didst come down upon earth, taking on the form of a servant, being made in the likeness

Thee majesty and thanksgiving for Thy marvelous works which are from all eternity, and for Thy saving providence in these latter days in which Thou hast clothed Thyself in our frail and lowly substance, and hast condescended to the stature of a servant; who yet art King of all; who also didst receive baptism in the Jordan at the hands of a servant: that Thou, O Sinless One, having sanctified the nature of the water might make for us a way which should be unto a new birth, through water and the Spirit, and unto the deliverance first instituted for us. Celebrating the memory of which divine mystery, we beseech Thee, O Lord who loves mankind; sprinkle us, Thine unworthy servants, according to Thy divine promise, with pure water, the gift of Thy tenderness of heart. May the supplications of us sinners over this holy water be well pleasing unto Thy goodness; and may thy blessing through it be given to us and all Thy faithful people to the glory of Thy holy and adorable Name. For unto Thee belong glory, honor and worship, together with Thy Father who is from everlasting and Thine all-holy, good and life-creating Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages.

Choir: Amen

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

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

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

That the purifying operation of the Holy Trinity may descend on this water, let us pray to the Lord.

That it may be given the grace of redemption and the blessing of the Jordan, let us pray to the Lord.

That Satan may speedily be crushed under our feet and that every evil council directed against us may be brought to nothing, let us pray to the Lord.

That the Lord our God will free us from every attack and temptation of the enemy and make us worthy of the good things which He hath promised, let us pray to the Lord.

That we may be enlightened by the light of knowledge and piety through the descent of the Holy Spirit, let us pray to the Lord.

That this water may become a gift of sanctification, remission of sin, for the healing of soul and body, and for every good thing, let us pray to the Lord.

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

That it may become a cleansing of souls and bodies for all those who draw in faith and drink it, let us pray to the Lord.

That it may serve for banishing every plot of the enemy, both visible and invisible, let us pray to the Lord.

That the Lord our God will listen to the voice of us sinners as we plead and have mercy on us, let us pray to the Lord.

That we may become worthy to be filled with holiness through the use of this water by the invisible revelation of the Holy Spirit, let us pray to the Lord.

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

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

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

Choir: To Thee, O Lord.

For to Thee belong all glory, honor, and worship, to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages.

Choir: Amen.

Prayer of Patriarch Sophronios of Jerusalem

O Lord Jesus Christ, only-begotten Son, Thou art in the bosom of the Father, the true God, source of life and immortality, Light of Light, who art come into the world to illuminate it. Enlighten our minds with Thy Holy Spirit and accept us who offer unto