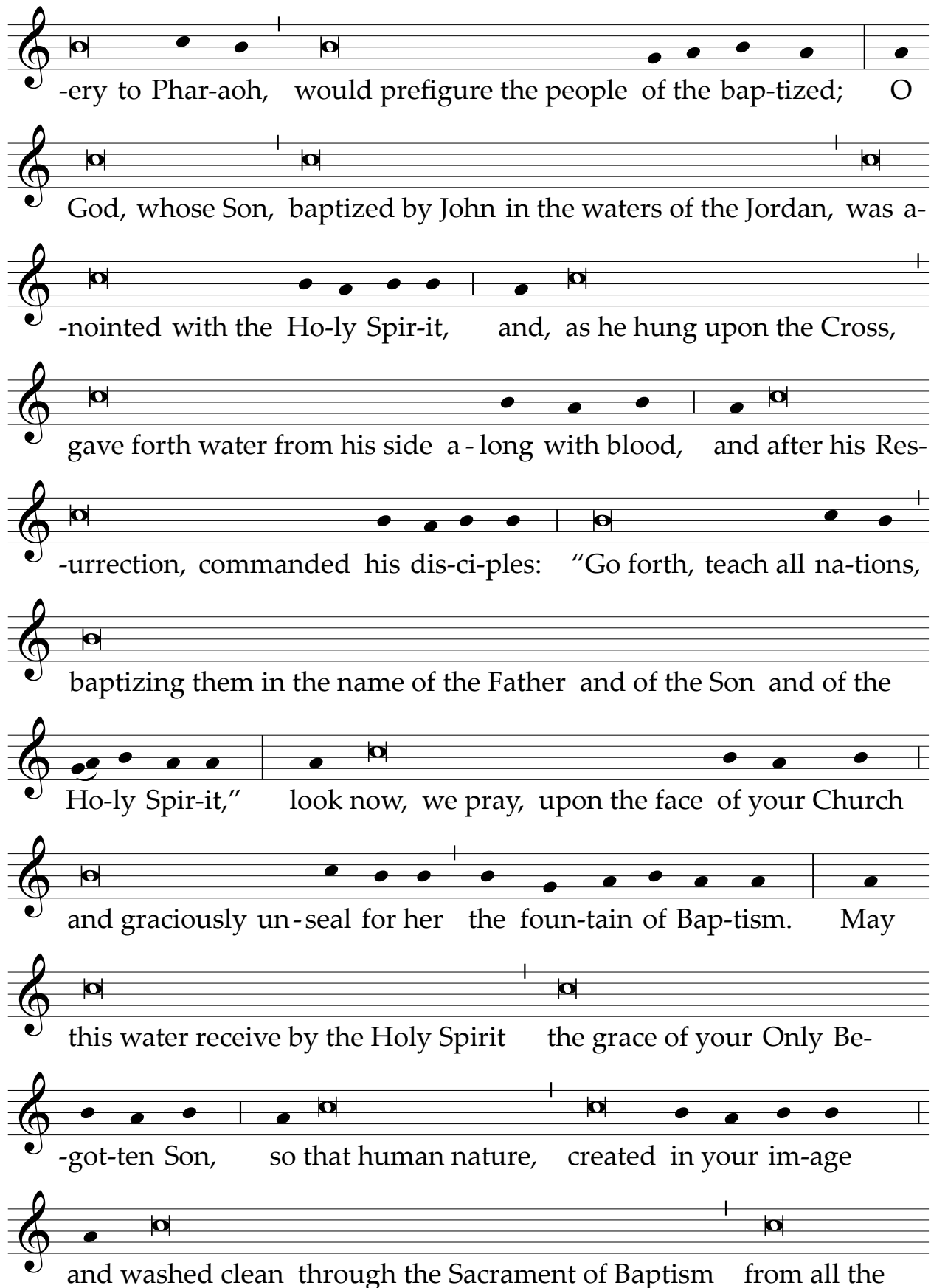


Blessing of Baptismal Water

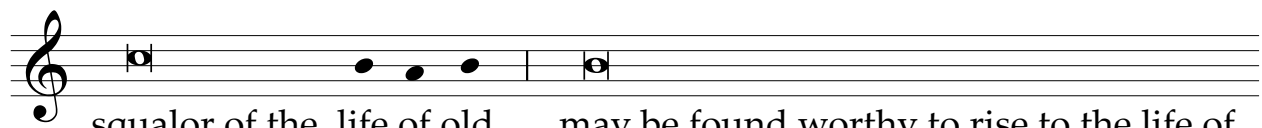
The Priest then blesses the baptismal water, singing this prayer with hands extended:



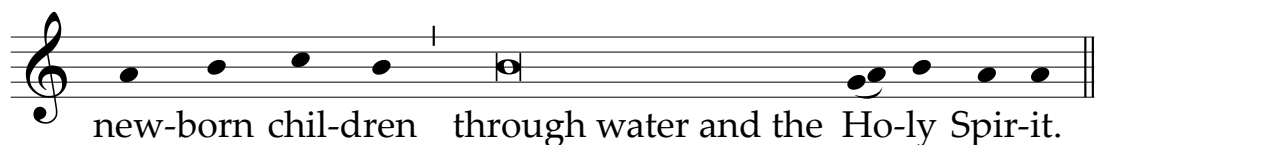
O God, who by invisible power accomplish a wondrous effect
through sacra - men - tal signs and who in many ways have pre-
-pared water, your cre - a - tion, to show forth the grace of Bap - tism;
O God, whose Spirit in the first moments of the world's creation
hovered o - ver the wa - ters, so that the very substance of wa - ter
would even then take to itself the pow - er to sanc - ti - fy; O God, who
by the outpouring of the flood foreshadowed re - gen - er - a - tion,
so that from the mystery of one and the same ele - ment of wa - ter
would come an end to vice and a be - gin - ning of vir - tue; O
God, who caused the children of Abraham to pass dry - shod
through the Red Sea, so that the chosen people, set free from slav -



-ery to Phar-ah, would prefigure the people of the bap-tized; O
God, whose Son, baptized by John in the waters of the Jordan, was a-
nointed with the Ho-ly Spir-it, and, as he hung upon the Cross,
gave forth water from his side a-long with blood, and after his Res-
-urrection, commanded his dis-ci-ples: "Go forth, teach all na-tions,
baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the
Ho-ly Spir-it," look now, we pray, upon the face of your Church
and graciously un-seal for her the foun-tain of Bap-tism. May
this water receive by the Holy Spirit the grace of your Only Be-
-got-ten Son, so that human nature, created in your im-age
and washed clean through the Sacrament of Baptism from all the




squalor of the life of old, may be found worthy to rise to the life of

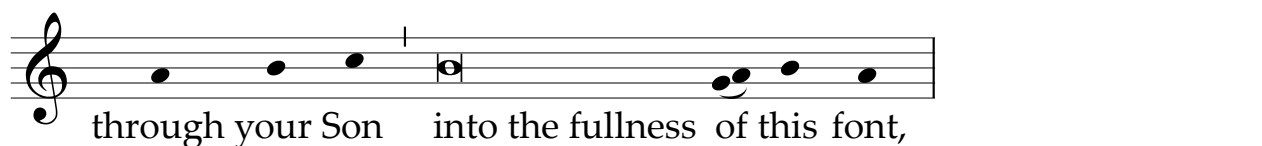


new-born children through water and the Holy Spirit.

And, if the occasion so suggests, lowering the paschal candle into the water once or three times, he continues:

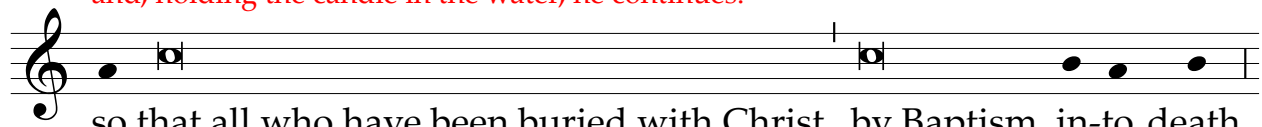


May the power of the Holy Spirit, O Lord, we pray, come down




through your Son into the fullness of this font,


and, holding the candle in the water, he continues:




so that all who have been buried with Christ by Baptism into death



may rise again to life with him. Who lives and reigns with you

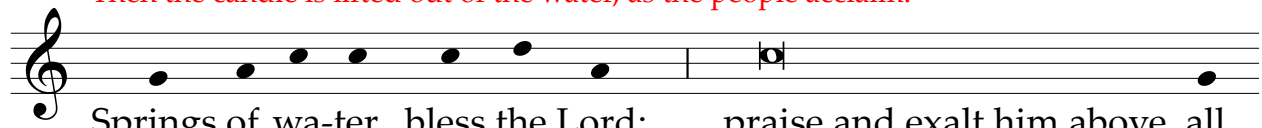


in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.




R. A-men.

Then the candle is lifted out of the water, as the people acclaim:



Springs of water, bless the Lord; praise and exalt him above all



for ever.

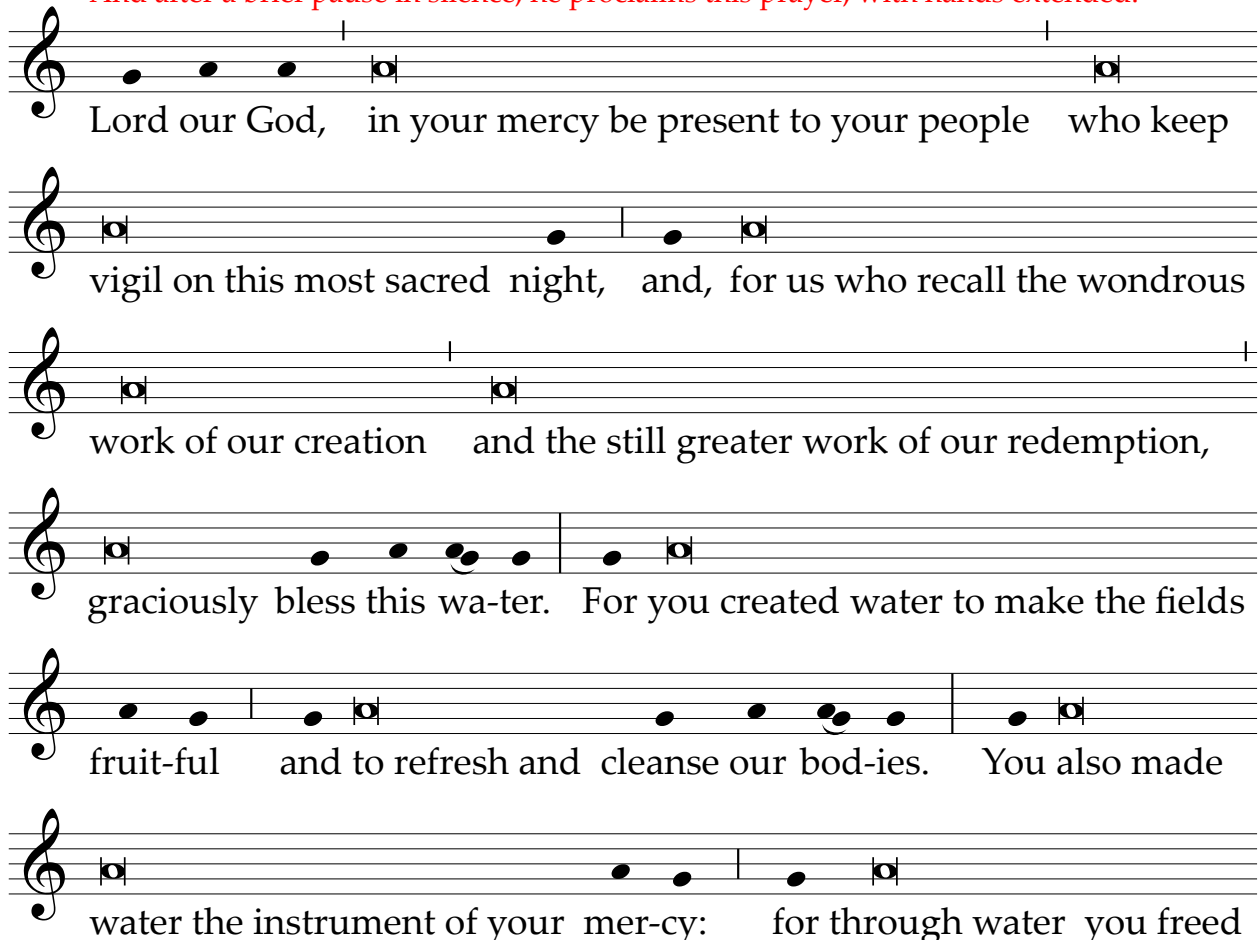
The Blessing of Water

If no one present is to be baptized and the font is not to be blessed, the Priest introduces the faithful to the blessing of water, singing:

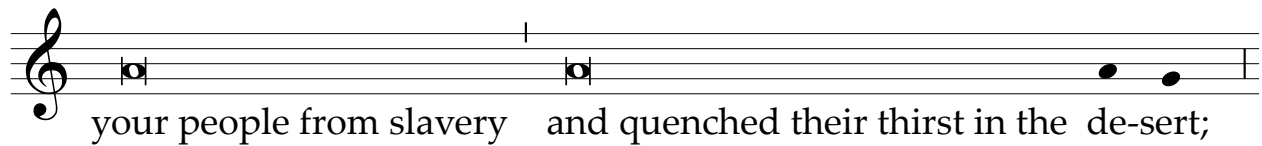


Dear brothers and sisters, let us humbly beseech the Lord our God
to bless this water he has cre - at-ed, which will be sprinkled upon
us as a memorial of our Bap-tism. May he graciously renew us,
that we may remain faithful to the Spirit whom we have re-ceived.

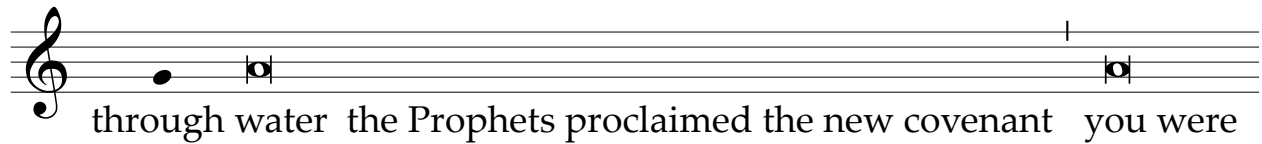
And after a brief pause in silence, he proclaims this prayer, with hands extended:



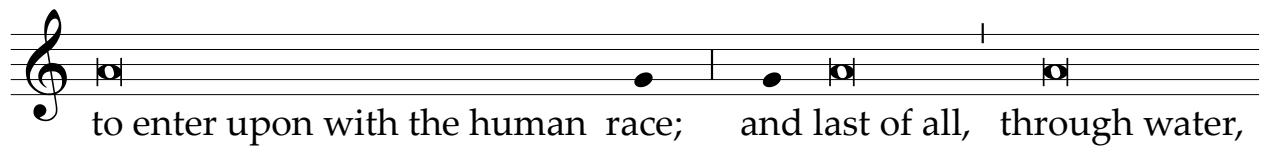
Lord our God, in your mercy be present to your people who keep
vigil on this most sacred night, and, for us who recall the wondrous
work of our creation and the still greater work of our redemption,
graciously bless this wa-ter. For you created water to make the fields
fruit-ful and to refresh and cleanse our bod-ies. You also made
water the instrument of your mer-cy: for through water you freed



your people from slavery and quenched their thirst in the de-sert;



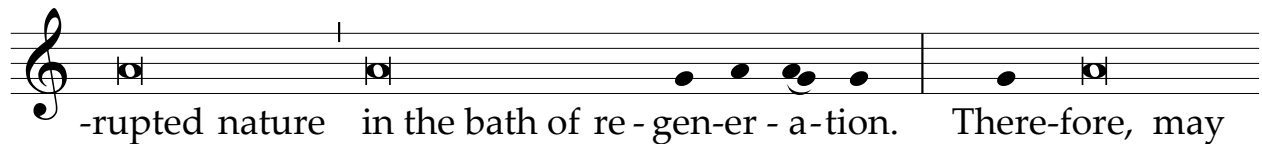
through water the Prophets proclaimed the new covenant you were



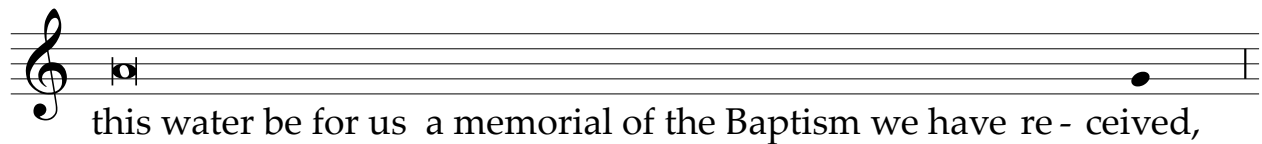
to enter upon with the human race; and last of all, through water,



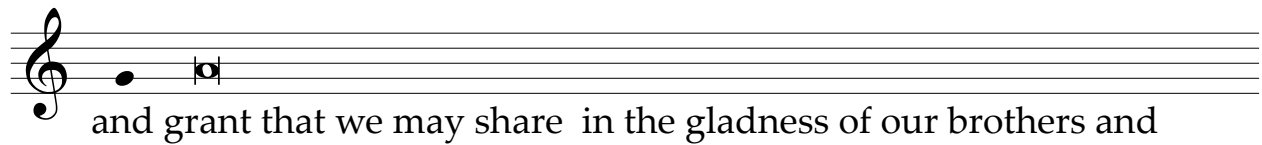
which Christ made holy in the Jor-dan, you have renewed our cor-



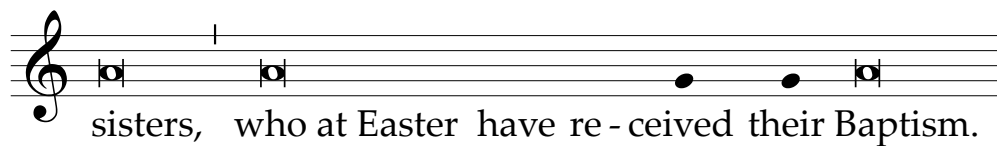
-rupted nature in the bath of re - gen - er - a - tion. There-fore, may



this water be for us a memorial of the Baptism we have re - ceived,



and grant that we may share in the gladness of our brothers and



sisters, who at Easter have re - ceived their Baptism.




Through Christ our Lord. **R.** A-men.

The Renewal of Baptismal Promises

The Priest sprinkles the people with the blessed water, while all sing:

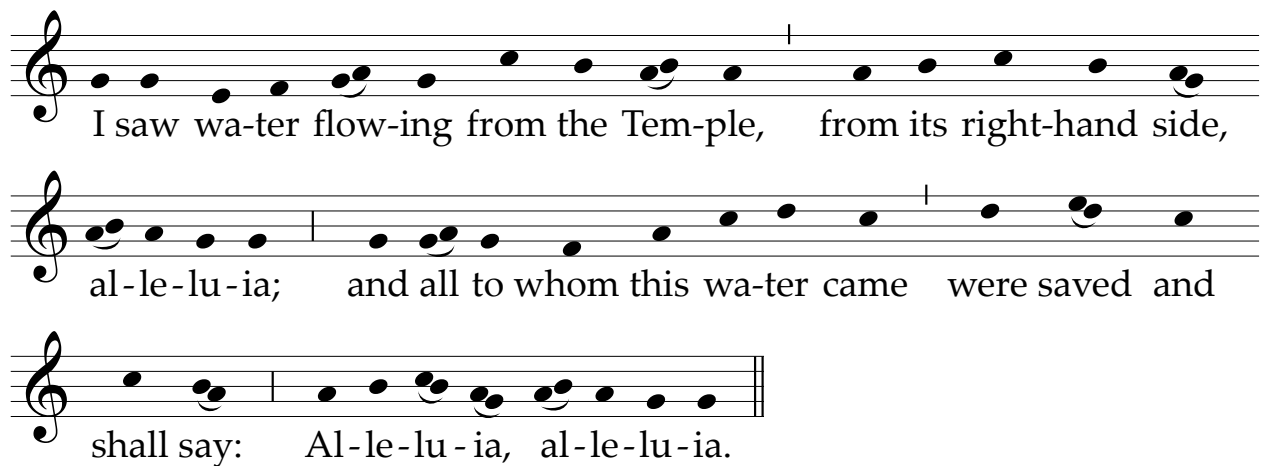
Antiphon



Vi-di a-quam e-gre - di-én-tem de tem - plo, a lá-
-te-re dex - tro, al - le - lú - ia; et o - mnes, ad quos
per-vé-nit a - qua i - sta, sal - vi fac - ti sunt et
di - cent: Al - le - lú - ia, al - le - lú - ia.

Or:

Antiphon



I saw wa-ter flow-ing from the Tem-ple, from its right-hand side,
al-le-lu-ia; and all to whom this wa-ter came were saved and
shall say: Al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia.

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