

Holy Baptism

The priest takes up the censer and approaches the baptismal font and censes round about it and then all the people present.

Deacon: Master, bless!

Priest: Blessed is the Kingdom of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

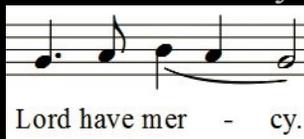
All: Amen.

While the deacon says the extended litany (below), the priest says the following prayer, quietly to himself. If there be no deacon, the priest still says this prayer quietly after concluding the litany. In this case, the choir may be instructed to chant the response, "Lord have mercy", very slowly and repeatedly as is done in the corresponding litany at holy Ordination.

Priest: O compassionate and merciful God, who searchest out the hearts and reins, and alone art familiar with the deep secrets of men; for there is no matter that is not manifest in thy sight, rather, all things are naked and open to thine eyes. O thou who knowest the things concerning me, do not despise me, nor turn thy face away from me, but disregard my transgressions at this hour, O thou who disregardest the sins of men unto repentance. Wash from me the defilement of the body and the blemish of the soul, and sanctify the whole of me with thine all-perfect, invisible power and spiritual right hand; lest, while proclaiming freedom to others and providing it with faith dependent on thine ineffable love for mankind, I myself become reprobate as a slave of sin. May I not, O Master, who alone art good and the lover of mankind, may I not be turned away humiliated and ashamed! But rather, send forth power from on high to me and strengthen me for the service of this forthcoming Mystery, so great and heavenly. And form thy Christ in the one about to be born again through my pitiable estate and build him (her) up on the foundation of thine apostles and prophets. And do not tear down but rather plant him (her) as a planting of truth in thy holy catholic and apostolic Church and do not uproot him (her). As he (she) advanceth in godliness, through him (her) may be glorified thine all-holy name, of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

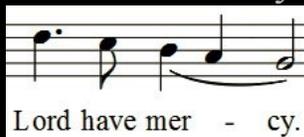
Deacon: In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

All: Lord have mercy. ①



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

All: Lord have mercy. ②



Deacon: For the peace of the whole world, the good estate of the holy churches of God, and the union of all; let us pray to the Lord.

All: Lord have mercy. ①

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

All: Lord have mercy. ②

Deacon: For our Metropolitan N., [and Bishop N.,] the honorable presbytery, the diaconate in Christ, all the clergy and the laity; let us pray to the Lord.

All: Lord have mercy. ①

(petitions for blessing of the baptismal water omitted)

Deacon: That he (she) who is baptized therein may be made worthy of the kingdom incorruptible; let us pray to the Lord.

All: Lord have mercy. ②

Deacon: For he (she) who is now coming unto holy Illumination, and for his (her) salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

All: Lord have mercy. ①

Deacon: That he (she) may be made a son of the light, and an heir of eternal good things; let us pray to the Lord.

All: Lord have mercy. ②

Deacon: That he (she) may become planted with, and a communicant in, the death and resurrection of Christ our God; let us pray to the Lord.

All: Lord have mercy. ①

Deacon: That he (she) may preserve the vestment of Baptism and the pledge of the Spirit pure and undefiled unto the fearful Day of Christ our God; let us pray to the Lord.

All: Lord have mercy. ②

Deacon: That this water may be to him (her) a washing of regeneration, unto the forgiveness of sins, and a garment of incorruption; let us pray to the Lord.

All: Lord have mercy. ①

Deacon: That the Lord God will hearken to the voice of our petition; let us pray to the Lord.

All: Lord have mercy. ②

Deacon: That he (she) and all of us may be delivered from all affliction, wrath, danger and necessity; let us pray to the Lord.

All: Lord have mercy. ①

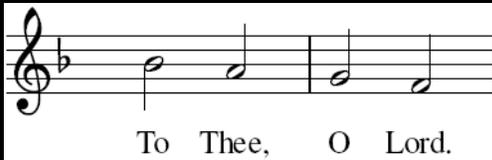
Deacon: Help us, save us, have mercy on us; and keep us, O God, by thy grace.

All: Lord have mercy. ②

Deacon: Calling to remembrance our all-holy, immaculate, most blessed and glorious Lady Theotokos (**MHTSU**) and ever-virgin Mary, with all the saints, let us commend ourselves and each other and all our life unto Christ our God.

Priest: *For to thee are due all glory, majesty, honor, and worship, together with thy beginningless Father, and thine all-holy and good and life-creating Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages.*

All: To thee, O Lord.



(sanctification of the baptismal water omitted)

Prayer of the Oil

Priest: Peace be to all.

All: And to thy spirit.



Deacon: Let us bow our heads unto the Lord.

All: To thee, O Lord.

Deacon: Let us pray to the Lord.

All: Lord have mercy. ①

Priest: O Master, Lord, the God of our fathers, who to them that were in the ark of Noah didst send a dove, bearing in its beak a leafy twig of olive, the symbol of reconciliation and salvation from the flood; who didst prefigure through these the mystery of grace and didst provide the fruit of the olive for the fulfilling of thy holy Mysteries; who thereby didst fill with thy Holy Spirit those that were under the law, and perfectest also those that are under grace: Do thou bless also this holy oil with the power, energy and visitation of thy Holy Spirit, that it may be an anointing of incorruption, an armor of righteousness, a renewal of soul and body, a means of victory against every diabolical energy, unto deliverance from every evil to those who are anointed with it in faith and receive it, unto thy glory and that of thine only-begotten Son, and of thine all-holy and good and life-creating Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages.

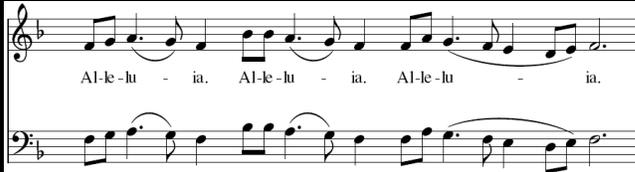
All: Amen.

The Anointing of the Sanctified Waters

Deacon: Let us attend.

The priest takes the vial of blessed oil and pours some oil from it into the water, making with it the sign of the cross three times (that is, three oil-crosses in the water), as he with the people chant melodiously:

All: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia. (1x)



Priest: Blessed is God, who illumineth and sanctifieth every man that cometh into the world, now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

All: Amen.

Then (each) baptizand is presented, (in turn) facing east. The priest takes of the oil with his finger, and anoints the (each) baptizand by making the sign of the Cross, first upon the baptizand's forehead, saying:

Priest: The servant of God, N., is anointed with the Oil of Gladness, in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen.

Then upon the chest and the back:

Priest: Unto the healing of soul and body.

All: Amen.

On the ears, saying:

Priest: Unto the hearing of the faith.

All: Amen.

On the feet, saying:

Priest: That he (she) may walk in thy footsteps.

All: Amen.

On the hands, saying:

Priest: Thy hands have created me and fashioned me.

All: Amen.

The Act of Triple-Baptism

Then, with the help of the Deacon, or one assigned to hold the phelonion back, the priest baptizes each baptizand, facing the east, saying:

Priest: The servant of God, N., is baptized in the name of the Father,

All: Amen.

Priest: and of the Son,

All: Amen.

Priest: and of the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen.

Reader: *(intoned 3X in Prokeimenon fashion)*

Blessed are they whose iniquities are forgiven and whose sins are covered.

Holy Chrismation

(the Priest says quietly...)

The sponsor escorts the newly-baptized out of the holy Font, from the hands of the priest. The sponsor receives him or her into an unfolded winding sheet or large towel. The sponsor offers the new baptismal robe to the priest who blesses it with his hand.

Priest: The servant of God, N., is clothed with the garment of righteousness, in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen.

During the dressing of the newly-illumined, the chanter reads Psalm 31 and then chants the Troparion.

Psalm 31 (read)

Reader: Blessed is the man unto whom the Lord hath not imputed sin, and in whose mouth there is no guile. Because I kept silence, my bones grew old through my crying out all the day long. For day and night thy hand lay heavy upon me, I was reduced to misery whilst the thorn stuck fast in me. Mine iniquity have I acknowledged, and my sin have I not hid. I said, Against myself will I declare mine iniquity unto the Lord. And as for thee, thou didst forgive the impiety of my heart. For this reason, every one that is devout shall pray unto thee at an opportune time; and yet, in a flood of many waters shall they not come nigh unto him. Thou art a refuge for me from the affliction that encompasseth me O my Joy, deliver me from them that surround me. I will give thee understanding and I will guide thee in this way, in which thou shalt go; I will fix mine eyes upon thee. Do not become like horse and mule that have no understanding, whose jaws thou must hold with bit and bridle lest they turn on thee. Many are the scourges of the sinner, but mercy shall surround him that hopeth in the Lord. Be glad in the Lord, and rejoice, ye righteous; and exult, all ye that are upright of heart. Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, both now and ever and unto ages of ages.

All: Amen.

Troparion: Plagal of 4th Mode

Reader: Grant unto me a luminous robe, O thou who coverest thyself with light as with a garment. O most merciful Christ our God. (**cadence**)

As the newly-baptized is presented again, now dressed in the (simple inner) bright garment, the priest continues:

The Prayer of the Myron (Chrism)

Deacon: Let us pray to the Lord.

All: Lord, have mercy.

Priest: Blessed art thou, O Lord God Almighty, the source of good things, the sun of righteousness, who shinest the light of salvation upon those in darkness, through the epiphany of thine only-begotten Son and our God; and who hast bestowed upon us unworthy ones, blessed purification in this holy water, and divine sanctification in the life-creating Chrism; who now, also, hast been well-pleased to regenerate thy newly-illuminated servant through water and Spirit, and grantest unto him (her) forgiveness of voluntary and involuntary sins. Do thou, therefore, O Master, compassionate King of all, grant unto him (her) also the seal of the gift of thy holy, and all-powerful, and worshipped Spirit, and the communion of the holy Body and the precious Blood of thy Christ. Guard him (her) in thy sanctification; establish him (her) in the Orthodox faith; deliver him (her) from the evil one and from all his pursuits. And preserve his (her) soul in purity and righteousness, by the saving fear of thee; that pleasing thee in every deed and word, he (she) may become son and heir of thy heavenly kingdom.
For thou art our God, a God to show mercy and to save; and unto thee do we offer up glory, to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages.

All: Amen.

The priest then chrismates the newly-baptized with holy Myron, making with it the sign of the cross: on the forehead, both eyes, both nostrils, the mouth, both ears, the chest, both hands, and on both feet, saying each time:

Priest: The seal of the gift of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

The baptismal candle is lit and given to the newly-illuminated, and a baptismal cross may now be affixed around the neck. The newly-illuminated now is led from the font into the nave of the Church where the newly-illuminated hears the New Testament scriptures on Baptism and receives Holy Communion etc. as follows:

Entrance Procession

The priest, with the sponsor(s) who accompanies the neophyte, proceed from the analogion to the Font. With the Deacon (or one appointed) censing and the Priest carrying the Holy Gospel, the sponsors, parents, and servers, circle the Font 3x as all present sing the following hymn:

All: As many of you as have been baptized into Christ, have put on Christ, alleluia. (3x):



As ma - ny of you as have been bap-tized in - to Christ, have



put on Christ, al-le-lu - ia.

All: Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen. Have put on Christ, alleluia. (1x):



Glo - ry to the Fa - ther and to the Son and to the Ho-ly Spi - rit, both now and ev -

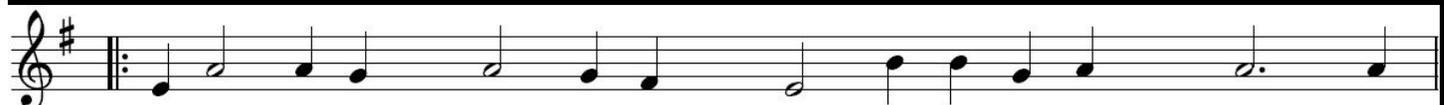


er and un-to a - ges of a - ges. A - men. Have put on Christ,



al - le - lu - ia.

All: As many of you as have been baptized into Christ, have put on Christ, alleluia. (1x):



As ma - ny of you as have been bap-tized in - to Christ, have



put on Christ, al-le-lu - ia.

The Epistle

Deacon: Let us attend.

Reader: The Lord is my light and my savior; whom then shall I fear? The Lord is the defender of my life; of whom then shall I be afraid?

Deacon: Wisdom.

Reader: The reading is from the Epistle of St. Paul to the Romans (6:3-11).

Deacon: Let us attend.

Reader: Brethren, know ye not that as many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death? Therefore we are buried with him by baptism unto death, that just as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, so we shall also be in the likeness of his resurrection, knowing this: that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin. For he that is dead is freed from sin. Now if we be dead with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with him, knowing that Christ, being raised from the dead, dieth no more; death no more hath dominion over him. For in that he died, he died unto sin once; but in that he liveth, he liveth unto God. Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Priest: Peace be to thee that readest.

All:



Reader: My heart hath poured forth a good word; I speak of my works to the king.

All:



Reader: My tongue is the pen of a swiftly writing scribe.

All:



The Gospel

Deacon: Wisdom. Stand upright. Let us hear the Holy Gospel.

Priest: Peace be to all.

All: And to thy spirit.



Priest: The reading is from the Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew. (28:16-20)

All: Glory to thee, O Lord, glory to thee.



Deacon: Let us attend.

Priest: At that time the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. And when they saw him they worshipped him; but some doubted. And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even unto the close of the age. Amen.

All: Glory to thee, O Lord, glory to thee.



[First Holy Communion]

In some cases if a Baptism occurs on a Saturday, holy communion is not given until the following Sunday morning. However, if the newly illumined is to partake the day of his/her Baptism, then the priest prepares the chalice with the reserved sacrament, while the choir sings the following communion hymn:

Re - ceive me to - day O Son of God,

The first system of musical notation features a treble and bass clef with a key signature of two flats. The melody is written in the treble clef, and the bass line is in the bass clef. The lyrics 'Re - ceive me to - day O Son of God,' are positioned below the notes. A fermata is placed over the final note of the first phrase.

as par - ta - ker of thy mys - ti - cal sup - - -

The second system continues the melody and bass line. The lyrics 'as par - ta - ker of thy mys - ti - cal sup - - -' are written below. A fermata is placed over the final note of the second phrase.

per; for I will not speak, for I will not

The third system concludes the hymn. The lyrics 'per; for I will not speak, for I will not' are written below. A fermata is placed over the final note of the third phrase.

speak of thy mys - te - ry (to) to thine en - e - mies,

nei - ther will I give thee a kiss as did (will)

Ju - - das; but like the thief (will) will (will)

I con - fess thee: Re - mem - ber me, O Lord, re -

mem-ber me, O Lord, in thy king - - - dom.

The image shows a musical score for a hymn. It consists of two staves: a treble clef staff on top and a bass clef staff on the bottom. The key signature has two flats (B-flat and E-flat), and the time signature is common time (C). The lyrics are written below the notes. The melody is primarily in the treble staff, with some accompaniment in the bass staff. The lyrics are: 'mem-ber me, O Lord, in thy king - - - dom.' The word 'king' is followed by three hyphens, indicating a long note or a pause.

The Ablution

Priest: Peace be to all.

All: And to thy spirit.

Deacon: Bow your heads to the Lord.

All: To thee, O Lord.

Deacon: Let us pray to the Lord.

All: Lord, have mercy.

First Prayer of Ablution

Priest: O thou who, through holy baptism, hast given to thy servant redemption from sins, and hast bestowed upon him (her) a life of regeneration: Do thou thyself, O Master Lord, be well-pleased to shine forth in his (her) heart the illumination of thy countenance forevermore. Keep the shield of his (her) faith unassailed by enemies. Preserve in him (her) undefiled and unpolluted the garment of incorruption, which he (she) hath put on. Keep, by thy grace, the spiritual seal unbroken in him (her), thereby showing mercy to him (her) and to us, according to the multitude of thy compassions.

For blessed and glorified is thine all-honorable and majestic name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

All: Amen.

Deacon: Let us pray to the Lord.

All: Lord, have mercy.

Second Prayer of Ablution

Priest: O Master, Lord our God, who through the font grantest the heavenly illumination to those who undergo Baptism, who has regenerated thy newly-illuminated servant(s) through water and Spirit, and who hast bestowed upon him (her) the forgiveness of sinful acts, both voluntary and involuntary, do thou lay thy mighty hand upon him (her), guard him (her) in the power of thy goodness, preserve the pledge inviolate and make him (her) worthy of eternal life and of thy good pleasure.

For thou art our sanctification, and to thee do we offer up glory, to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages.

All: Amen.

Third Prayer of Ablution

Priest: Peace be unto all.

All: And to thy spirit.

Deacon: Bow your heads to the Lord.

All: To thee, O Lord.

Deacon: Let us pray to the Lord.

All: Lord, have mercy.

Priest: He (She) who hath put on thee, our Christ and God, keepeth his (her) head bowed to thee, along with us. Do thou preserve him (her) as an invincible struggler so as to endure those who bring vain hostility to bear against both him (her) and us; and do thou show forth all as victors unto the end through thine incorruptible crown.

For thine it is to have mercy and to save us, and to thee do we offer up glory, together with thy beginningless Father, and thine all-holy and good and life-creating Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages.

All: Amen.

Priest: Thou hast been baptized; thou hast been illumined; thou hast been sanctified; thou hast been washed; in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen.

The Tonsure

First Prayer of Tonsure

Deacon: Let us pray to the Lord.

All: Lord, have mercy.

Priest: O Master Lord our God, thou hast honored man with thine image and hast furnished him with a rational soul and a well-suited body so that the body might serve the rational soul. Thou hast placed the head at the highest spot and hast established in it most of the senses, so that they may not interfere with one another. Thou hast crowned the head with hair so that it might not be harmed with the changes of the weather, and thou hast implanted in him all of the members in a useful way in order that through all of them he might give thanks to thee, the master craftsman. Do thou, O Master, who hast commanded us through thy chosen vessel, Paul the Apostle, to do all things for thy glory, bless thy servant who draweth near to make a first-fruit offering; namely, the tonsuring of the hair of his (her) head; and bless also his (her) sponsor and grant them all to meditate on thy law and to perform the things which are well-pleasing to thee.

For thou art a merciful God and the lover of mankind, and to thee do we offer up glory, to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages.

All: Amen.

Priest: Peace be unto all.

All: And to thy spirit.

Deacon: Bow your heads to the Lord.

All: To thee, O Lord.

Deacon: Let us pray to the Lord.

All: Lord, have mercy.

Second Prayer of Tonsure

Priest: O Lord our God, who, through the fullness of the font, by thy goodness hast sanctified them that believe on thee; bless this child present here, and let thy blessing descend upon his (her) head. And as thou didst bless David the king through the prophet Samuel, bless also the head of thy servant, N., by the hand of me, the sinner, and visit him (her) with thy Holy Spirit; that as he (she) advanceth in age and growth old and grey, he (she) may offer up glory to thee, and behold the good things of Jerusalem all the days of his (her) life.

For to thee are due 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.

All: Amen.

Priest: The hair of the head of the servant of God, N., is tonsured in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen.

(the tonsured hair must not be put in any place by chance, but rather in a sacred place)

Final Ektenia

Deacon: Have mercy upon us, O God, according to thy great goodness, we pray thee, hearken and have mercy.

All: Lord, have mercy. (3x)



Deacon: Again we pray for mercy, life, peace, health, salvation and visitation for the newly-illumined servant(s) of God, N.; and his (her) sponsor(s), NN., and his (her) parents, and all here present, and for the pardon and remission of their sins.

All: Lord, have mercy. (3x)



Priest: For thou art a merciful God and lovest mankind, and unto thee we ascribe glory, to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

All: Amen.

Dismissal

Priest: Glory to thee, O Christ our God and our Hope, glory to thee.

All: Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, both now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen. Lord, have mercy. (3x) Father, bless.

Priest: May he who deigned to be baptized in the Jordan by John for our salvation, Christ our true God, through the intercessions of his all-immaculate and all-blameless holy Mother; of the honorable glorious Prophet, Forerunner and Baptist John; and of all the saints; have mercy on us and save us, forasmuch as he is good and loveth mankind.

Through the prayers of our holy fathers, Lord Jesus Christ our God, have mercy on us and save us.

All: Amen.

Priest: Grant, O Lord, a peaceful life, health, salvation, visitation, and furtherance in all good things to the newly illumine servant(s) of God, N., and the sponsor(s), and preserve him, (her, them) for many years:

All: God grant you many years; God grant you many years; God grant you many, many, many years.