

# The Sacrament of Baptism

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Baptism is the Holy Sacrament through which we are born again by being immersed in water three times in the name of the Holy Trinity: the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. The Sacrament of Baptism has the primacy among the Seven Holy Sacraments for it is the door through which the individual enters the Church (as a congregation) and is given the right to partake of the rest of the Sacraments.

## Institution of the Sacrament:

Lord Jesus Christ instituted this Sacrament **after** His blessed resurrection, having completed our redemption and having made salvation available, He said to His disciples, “All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. 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” (**Mt 28:18-19**), and “He who believes **and is baptized** will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned” (**Mk 16:16**).

Thus baptism is necessary for salvation as the Lord indicated, “Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is **born of water** and the Spirit, he cannot enter the Kingdom of God” (**Jn 3:5**).

## How Exactly Does Baptism Save Us?

Salvation simply means remission of sins and it is written, “Without shedding of blood [death] there is no remission” (**Heb 9:22**). Salvation is made available through the redemptive death of Lord Jesus Christ on the cross. In order to have a share in this salvation, we must share the death and resurrection of the Lord. Therefore, St. Paul said, “That I may know Him and the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of His suffering being conformed to His death” (**Phil 3:10**). Unless a person undergoes such death, he/she will not be saved!

Now how can we undergo such death? How can we share the death of the Lord? The answer is “Through Baptism”. St. Paul said, “Or do you not know that as many of you were baptized into Christ Jesus were **baptized into His death**? Therefore **we were buried with Him through baptism into death**” (**Rom 6:3-4**). It is our death and burial with the Lord through baptism that saves us and makes us share the glories of His Resurrection. St. Paul affirms, “For if we have been united together **in the likeness of His death** [baptism], certainly we shall be in the likeness of His resurrection... now if we died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with Him” (**Rom 6:5-8**). The salvation that began with our death and burial with Lord Jesus through baptism continues to be effective in us also through death. We obtain salvation through death and our bodies must always remain dead in relation to worldly lusts. For as long as the body is dead to sin, salvation lives in it, but when carnal lusts rise from this death, we become liable to lose our salvation since salvation is only attained through death. Hence St. Paul exhorts us saying:

- “Reckon yourselves to be dead indeed to sin, but alive to God in Christ our Lord. Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body that you should obey it in its lusts.” (**Rom 6:11-12**).
- “If by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live.” (**Rom 8:13**)
- “Those who are Christ’s have crucified the flesh and its passions and desires.” (**Gal 5:24**)

- “I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me.” **(Gal 2:20)** - “For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God.” **(Col 3:3)**
- “Always carrying about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus.” **(2 Cor 4:10)**
- “Put to death your members which are on earth: fornication, uncleanness...” **(Col 3:5)** - “He who has died has been freed from sin.” **(Rom 6:7)**

The salvation that we obtained through baptism continues with us through death. Thus we pray saying,

“O, who tasted death in the flesh in the ninth hour for our sake, we sinners, **put to death our carnal lusts**, O Christ, our God, and deliver us” (From the prayer of the 9<sup>th</sup> hour – Coptic Book of Hours).

### **Symbols of Baptism in the Old Testament:**

**1.** It is written in the Holy Book of Genesis, “The Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters”

**(Gen 1:2).** This is both a symbol and a prophecy about the work of the Holy Spirit in baptismal water to give it its saving efficacy.

**2.** St. Peter interpreted the story of Noah’s ark and the flood **(Gen 7)** as a symbol of baptism, he said, “The divine longsuffering waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was being prepared, in which a few, that is, eight souls, were **saved through water. There is also an antitype which now saves us** – baptism (not the removal of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God), through the resurrection of Jesus Christ” **(1 Pet 3:20-21)**

Notice the link between baptism and salvation through the resurrection of the Lord.

**3.** St. Paul interprets the commandment of circumcision **(Gen 17)** as a symbol of baptism, he said, “You were also circumcised with the circumcision made without hands, by putting off the body of the sins of the flesh, **by the circumcision of Christ, buried with Him in baptism**, in which you also were raised with Him through faith in the working of God who raised Him from the dead” **(Col 2:11-12)**

Notice the link between baptism and salvation (through the resurrection of the Lord) for God said about the child who is not circumcised that he will be “cut off from his people, he has broken My covenant” **(Gen 17:14).**

Likewise, a child who is not baptized cannot enter the Kingdom of God **(Jn 3:5).**

**4.** The relation between the ark, the circumcision, the saving resurrection of the Lord, and baptism goes even further. Notice that St. Peter emphasizes that only **eight** souls were saved from the evil world through the water of the flood. Also notice that God ordered that children must be circumcised on the **eighth** day.

Now the Lord’s resurrection took place on the first day of the week **(Jn 20:1)** that is the **eighth** day from the previous week. The number eight represents the new life and eternity. In fact number **eight** is the only number **(from 1-10)** that does not have a beginning and end **(8)**, which is basically the definition of eternity.

**5.** St. Paul interpreted the story of crossing the sea **(Ex 14)** as a symbol of baptism, he said, “All our fathers were under the cloud, all passed through the sea, all **were baptized** into Moses in the

cloud and in the sea” (1 Cor 10:1-2). The sea was a symbol of the baptismal water that draws its saving efficacy from the precious blood of our Lord (no wonder its called the **Red Sea**), the cloud was a symbol of the Holy Spirit who works through the baptismal water, and Pharaoh was a symbol of the devil who is destroyed by the cross of Lord Jesus through the water of baptism.

6. The Priesthood was not given to Aaron and his sons except after being washed with water (**Ex 29:4**), also the laver of bronze and its water set between the tabernacle of meeting and the altar (**Ex 30:18**) was a symbol of the spiritual cleansing effect of baptismal water.

7. The sacrifice of Elijah the Prophet was accepted after pouring water on it three times (**1 Kings 18:34**). Moreover, Elijah himself was not taken up to heaven until he crossed the waters of the Jordan river (**2Kings 2:8**). The same happened with the Israelites who went into the promised land after going through the waters of the Jordan (**Joshua 3**). In the Holy Book of Revelation we read about “a sea of glass” (**Rev 4:6**) before the throne of God. The point is that we must go through the waters of baptism to reach heavenly Promised Land and enjoy the company of God.

### **The Effectiveness of Baptismal Water:**

It may be objected, “What does mere water do when a person is immersed in it?” One might just as well ask, what does water do when poured into the boiler? The water in the boiler can do nothing of and by itself, nor can the water in the baptistery, but when the water in the boiler is united with the mind of an engineer, it can drive an engine across a continent or a ship across the sea. So too, when water is united with the power of the Holy Spirit, it can give regeneration and spiritual cleansing. Those who think that the effectiveness of baptism depends on the water alone bring to mind the story of Naaman (**2 Kings 5**), the commander of the Syrian army, who was a leper. This man came to Elisha the Prophet to be healed from leprosy so he told him, “Go and wash in the Jordan seven times, and your flesh shall be restored to you, and you shall be clean” (**2 Kings 5:10**).

Naaman was insulted and became furious; he said angrily, “Are not the Abanah and the Pharpar, the rivers of Damascus, better than all the waters of Israel? Could I not wash in them and be clean?” (**2 Kings 5:12**). His servants, however, said to him, “My father, if the prophet had told you to do something great, would you not have done it? How much more then, when he says to you, ‘Wash and be clean?’” (**2 Kings 5:13**). So Naaman went down and dipped in the Jordan and he was healed! Likewise, if the blind man from birth had questioned the words of Lord Jesus about washing in the pool of Siloam (**Jn 9:11**), he would have remained blind. Our Lord emphasized the relation between the water and the Spirit (**Jn 3:5-6**) thus baptismal water is not to be considered mere water for “There are three that bear witness on earth: The Spirit, the water, and the blood; and these three agree as one” (**1 Jn 5:7**).

## **The Main Segments of the Sacrament of Baptism**

- 1. The Sanctification of the Baptismal Water**
- 2. The Absolution of the Mother (if the baptized is a baby and his mother is present)**
- 3. The Baptismal Prayers**
- 4. The Actual Baptism using the sanctified water**

# 1 - The Sanctification of the Baptismal Water

The Baptismal font is being filled with water then:

- prayers,
- associated with offering of Incense,
- and the use of the Three types of Oils

are used in order to Sanctify the water.

## The Three Oil

**1 – Regular holy oil:** This is an oil that has been blessed by prayers in the church and is traditionally the oil that is used on Bright Saturday while reading the Book of Revelation (Apocalypse)

**2 – Galilawen Oil** which is translated as oil of Joy, and this comes as the residue of making the Meiroon Oil (The Holy Chrismation Oil). This oil has been used traditionally in the church for exorcism, and that is why the baptized person is anointed with it *before* being baptized (as we shall see in the order of baptism)

**3 – Meiroon Oil (Chrismation Oil):** This is the Holiest Oil in the church because it is used to bestow the Holy Spirit on the baptized person *after* being baptized, and this is a completely new mystery (sacrament) called *The Mystery of Chrismation*. Then the Holy Spirit dwells in the person after being anointed by it 36 times on their body.

This is the third oil that is put in the water after following a certain order in the prayers. Which is what we shall do now.

## *The Order of the Rite of Sanctification of the Water for Baptism*

### 1 - The Prayer of Thanksgiving:

This is the beginning of all the church prayers. A certain phrase gets changed when we pray it depending on the liturgy that we are praying. This liturgy of sanctifying the water we add the phrase “and from this baptismal font” as is being underlined below:

Let us give thanks to the beneficent and merciful God, the Father of our Lord, God and Saviour, Jesus Christ, for He has covered us, helped us, guarded us, accepted us to Him, spared us, supported us, and has brought us to this hour.

Let us also ask Him, the Lord our God, The Pantocrator, to guard us in all peace this holy day and all the days of our life.

**DEACON:** Pray. Prosevevaxte. **CONGREGATION:** Lord have mercy.

**PRIEST:**

O Master, Lord, God, the Pantocrator, the Father of our Lord, God and Saviour, Jesus Christ, we thank You for every condition, concerning every condition, and in every condition. For You have covered us, helped us, guarded us, accepted us to You, spared us, supported us, and have brought us to this hour.

**DEACON:**

Pray that God have mercy and compassion upon us, hear us, help us and accept the supplications and prayers of His saints, for that which is good, on our behalf, at all times, and forgive us our sins.

**CONGREGATION:** Lord have mercy.

**PRIEST:**

Therefore, we ask and entreat Your goodness, O Philanthropic One, grant us to complete this holy day, and all the days of our life, in all peace with Your fear. All envy, all temptation, all the work of Satan, the counsel of wicked men and the rising up of enemies, hidden and manifest,

take them away from us,

and from all Your people,

and from this Basin (or baptismal font)

and from this holy place that is Yours.

But those things which are good and profitable do provide for us, for it is You who have given us the authority to tread on serpents and scorpions, and upon all the power of the enemy.

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, by the grace, compassion and philanthropy, of Your Only-begotten Son our Lord, God and Saviour, Jesus Christ. Through Whom the glory, the honor, the dominion, and the adoration are due unto You, with Him, and the Holy Spirit, the Life-Giver, Who is of one essence with You, now and at all times, and unto the age of all ages. Amen.

## **2 – Putting the Regular Holy Oil**

*PRIEST While HOLDING THE **regular oil** in his right hand:*

Does the sign on the Cross on Himself while holding the Oil

*In the Name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God.*

THEN POURS THE OIL IN THE WATER IN THE FORM OF THREE SIGNS OF THE CROSS as follows:

First sign of the Cross on the water: *Blessed be God the Father Pantocrator. Amen.*

Second sign of the Cross on the water: *Blessed be His Only Begotten Son Jesus Christ our Lord.*

*Amen.*

Third sign of the Cross on the water : *Blessed be the Holy Spirit, the Comforter. Amen.*

Glory and Honor, Honor and Glory unto the Holy Trinity, the Father, and the Son and the Holy Spirit.

Now and ever and to the ages of ages. Amen.

*The PRIEST then says the following prayer inaudibly:*

*Invite Your servant, O Lord, into Your Pure Light. Make them worthy of this great blessing of Holy baptism. Cast away their old nature and renew their birth through eternal life. Fill them with the power of Your Holy Spirit and the knowledge of Your Christ, that they no longer be of the flesh but they become children of heaven, through the grace of Your Only Begotten Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, for all glory, honor, and worship is Yours, Almighty Father, with Him and the Holy Spirit, forever and ever. Amen.*

### **3 – THE READINGS**

#### **PAULINE READING**

*The PRIEST then offers up the Incense, **5 spoons of Incense.***

*Then, a reading from St. Paul's Epistle to **Titus** 2:11 through 3:8.*

For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men, teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age, looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for Himself His own special people, zealous for good works. Speak these things, exhort, and rebuke with all authority. Let no one despise you.

Remind them to be subject to rulers and authorities, to obey, to be ready for every good work, <sup>2</sup>to speak evil of no one, to be peaceable, gentle, showing all humility to all men. <sup>3</sup>For we ourselves were

also once foolish, disobedient, deceived, serving various lusts and pleasures, living in malice and envy, hateful and hating one another. <sup>4</sup>But when the kindness and the love of God our Savior toward man appeared, <sup>5</sup>not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit, <sup>6</sup>whom He poured out on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Savior, <sup>7</sup>that having been justified by His grace we should become heirs according to the hope of eternal life. <sup>8</sup>This is a faithful saying, and these things I want you to affirm constantly, that those who have believed in God should be careful to maintain good works. These things are good and profitable to men.

**The grace of God the Father be with us all. Amen.**

### **THE CATHOLIC EPISTLE**

**A reading from the First Epistle of John is read (I John 5: 5-14)**

<sup>5</sup>Who is he who overcomes the world, but he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God? <sup>6</sup>This is He who came by water and blood--Jesus Christ; not only by water, but by water and blood. And it is the Spirit who bears witness, because the Spirit is truth. <sup>7</sup>For there are three that bear witness in heaven: the Father, the Word, and the Holy Spirit; and these three are one. <sup>8</sup>And there are three that bear witness on earth: the Spirit, the water, and the blood; and these three agree as one. <sup>9</sup>If we receive the witness of men, the witness of God is greater; for this is the witness of God which He has testified of His Son. <sup>10</sup>He who believes in the Son of God has the witness in himself; he who does not believe God has made Him a liar, because he has not believed the testimony that God has given of His Son. <sup>11</sup>And this is the testimony: that God has given us eternal life and this life is in His Son. <sup>12</sup>He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life. <sup>13</sup>These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life, and that you may continue to believe in the name of the Son of God. **(Love not the world...)**

### **THE ACTS OF THE APOSTLES (with incense)**

**A reading from the Acts of the Apostles, may their blessings be with us all. Amen. (Acts 8: 26-40).**

<sup>26</sup>Now an angel of the Lord spoke to Philip, saying, "Arise and go toward the south along the road which goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." This is desert. <sup>27</sup>So he arose and went. And behold, a man of Ethiopia, a eunuch of great authority under Candace the queen of the Ethiopians, who had charge of all her treasury, and had come to Jerusalem to worship, <sup>28</sup>was returning. And sitting in his chariot, he was reading Isaiah the prophet. <sup>29</sup>Then the Spirit said to Philip, "Go near and overtake this chariot." <sup>30</sup>So Philip ran to him, and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah, and said, "Do you understand what you are reading?" <sup>31</sup>And he said, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" And he asked Philip to come up and

sit with him. <sup>32</sup>The place in the Scripture which he read was this: "He was led as a sheep to the slaughter; And as a lamb before its shearer is silent, So He opened not His mouth. <sup>33</sup>In His humiliation His justice was taken away, And who will declare His generation? For His life is taken from the earth."

<sup>34</sup>So the eunuch answered Philip and said, "I ask you, of whom does the prophet say this, of himself or of some other man?" <sup>35</sup>Then Philip opened his mouth, and beginning at this Scripture, preached Jesus to him. <sup>36</sup>Now as they went down the road, they came to some water. And the eunuch said, "See, here is water. What hinders me from being baptized?" <sup>37</sup>Then Philip said, "If you believe with all your heart, you may." And he answered and said, "I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God." <sup>38</sup>So he commanded the chariot to stand still. And both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water, and he baptized him. <sup>39</sup>Now when they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord caught Philip away, so that the eunuch saw him no more; and he went on his way rejoicing. **May the Word of the Lord grow and multiply in this church and in all churches forever and ever. Amen.**

**CONGREGATION: sings Agios**

### **The Gospel**

A psalm of David, the prophet and king, may his blessings be with us all. Amen.

**(Psalm 31: 1, 2)**

Blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered. Blessed is the man unto whom the Lord imputes not iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no guile. Alleluia.

**(John 3: 1-21) (Nicodemus meeting Jesus Christ)**

<sup>1</sup>There was a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews. <sup>2</sup>This man came to Jesus by night and said to Him, "Rabbi, we know that You are a teacher come from God; for no one can do these signs that You do unless God is with him." <sup>3</sup>Jesus answered and said to him, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God." <sup>4</sup>Nicodemus said to Him, "How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother's womb and be born?" <sup>5</sup>Jesus answered, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. <sup>6</sup>That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. <sup>7</sup>Do not marvel that I said to you, 'You must be born again.' <sup>8</sup>The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear the sound of it, but cannot tell where it comes from and where it goes. So is everyone who is born of the Spirit." <sup>9</sup>Nicodemus answered and said to Him, "How can these things be?" <sup>10</sup>Jesus answered and said to him, "Are you the teacher of Israel, and do not know these things? <sup>11</sup>Most assuredly, I say to

you, We speak what We know and testify what We have seen, and you do not receive Our witness. <sup>12</sup>If I have told you earthly things and you do not believe, how will you believe if I tell you heavenly things? <sup>13</sup>No one has ascended to heaven but He who came down from heaven, that is, the Son of Man who is in heaven. <sup>14</sup>And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up, <sup>15</sup>that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. <sup>16</sup>For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. <sup>17</sup>For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved. <sup>18</sup>"He who believes in Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God. <sup>19</sup>And this is the condemnation that the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. <sup>20</sup>For everyone practicing evil hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed. <sup>21</sup>But he who does the truth comes to the light, that his deeds may be clearly seen, that they have been done in God."

**(Glory be to God forever)**

#### **4 – The Litanies associated with incense offering**

- 1. The sick**
- 2. The Travelers**
- 3. air of heaven and the fruits of the earth, the waters of the rivers, the seeds, the herbs and the plants of the field,**
- 4. The King**
- 5. The Departed**
- 6. The Oblations**
- 7. The Catechumens:** those who are being taught the teachings of the Orthodox faith in preparation for getting Baptized and Chrismated (anointed with Meiroon)
- 8. The Peace of the Church**
- 9. The Fathers (Patriarch, Bishop, and clergy)**
- 10. The Gathering (The assembly of the believers for prayers)**

#### **5 – THE CREED**

It is prayed in order to acknowledge the true Orthodox faith as a necessity for being baptized, and that the water is sanctified to grant the power of being newly born according to that faith. The faith in the Trinity and Salvation.

#### **6 – The Pouring of Galilawen Oil**

Exactly in the same fashion as we explained in the Regular Holy Oil above but using the Galilawen Oil instead.

### **7 – The Liturgical prayers for sanctifying the water**

These are passages of prayers prayed on the water in order to sanctify it, in a similar fashion of the prayers that are prayed in Communion to sanctify the Bread and Wine. The priest in some parts of the prayers blessed the water in the form of the sign of the Cross by moving the cross in his inside the water itself.

#### **PRIEST:**

O Creator of water and Maker of everything, we pray to Your self-created and righteous power, in the Name that is superior to all names, that of Your Only Begotten Son, our Lord, Jesus Christ, who was crucified for us under Pontius Pilate. We ask Your Majesty for these Your servants: transform them, convert them, sanctify them, and strengthen them, so that through this water and this oil and all the evil powers may be abolished. Detain, cast off, and restrain the evil spirits, as well as all magic, idolatry, and spells.

*Here, the **PRIEST** breathes over the water three times in the form of the cross, while saying the following:*

O God, sanctify this water and this oil that they may be used for the baptism of the new birth. **Amen.** Eternal life. **Amen.** Incorruptible vestment. **Amen.** The grace of filiation. **Amen.** Renewal by the Holy Spirit. **Amen.** Because Your Only Begotten Son, our Lord, Jesus Christ, Who went down into the River Jordan and sanctified it, declared that: “EXCEPT a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the Kingdom of God.” He also commanded His Holy disciples and pure apostles, saying: “Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them:

*Here, he makes the sign of the Cross over the water three times while saying:*

In the Name of the Father(+), and of the Son(+), and the Holy Spirit(+).” Enter us, O All-Powerful One, and save us, O Holy One. Send Your thunder, O Almighty God, over this water, so that through it and by the power of Your Holy Spirit, Your servants, who have come to You may be reborn by Your Divine Power. Make them worthy of the remission of their sins and of the incorruptible of their sins and of the incorruptible vestments. Through the grace, compassion, and the Love for Mankind of Your Only Begotten Son, our Lord, God and Savior, Jesus Christ; for, indeed, praise, adoration, and glory are Your due, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and always and forever and ever. Amen.

#### **DEACON:**

Pray for perfect peace, love, and the Holy apostolic kisses.

#### **CONGREGATION:**

John the Baptist testified, saying: “I have baptized my Savior in the waters of the Jordan, and heard the voice of God the Father declaring loudly, ‘This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.’” O Jesus, our Lord, who have been baptized in the River Jordan, cleanse us of all

iniquity and forgive us our trespasses.

**DEACON:**

Lord have mercy. Lord have mercy. Lord have mercy. Yes, Lord, who is Jesus Christ, the Son of God, hear us and have mercy upon us. Offer, offer, offer in order. Stand with trembling. Look towards the East. Let us attend.

**CONGREGATION:**

Through the intercessions of the Theotokos, Saint Mary, O Lord, grant us the forgiveness of our sins. Through the intercession of the three pure luminaries, Michael, Gabriel, and Rafael, Lord grant us the forgiveness of our sins.

Through the intercession of the forerunner, John the Baptist, Lord, grant us the forgiveness of our sins. We worship You, O Christ, with Your Good Father and the Holy Spirit for You have been baptized and saved us.

A mercy of peace, a baptism to glorify God.

**PRIEST:**

The love of God the Father, and the grace of the Only Begotten Son, our Lord, God, and Savior, Jesus Christ, and the communion and gift of the Holy Spirit, be with you all.

**CONGREGATION:** And with your spirit.

**PRIEST:** Lift up your hearts.

**CONGREGATION:** They are with the Lord.

**PRIEST:** Let us give thanks to the Lord.

**CONGREGATION:** Worthy and right.

**PRIEST:**

Worthy and right. Worthy and right. Worthy and right.

We have lifted up our eyes to You, O Lord, and the eyes of our souls are directed toward You. We ask You, O Lord Almighty, the God of our fathers, Who created heaven and earth and all their beauty, Who created the waters above the sky and established the earth on the waters, Who gathered all waters into one place, Who gathered all waters into one place, Who tied the sea and closed the deep pit and sealed it with Your Name, which is filled with glory and fear, of Whom everything is afraid and trembles before Your power.

You, Lord, establish the sea with Your power, for You did break the heads of the dragon on the waters.

**DEACON:** You who are seated, stand.

**PRIEST:**

You split the fountains and the valleys and made the water come out. O God, when the waters saw You, they became afraid and the depths of the earth were disturbed by the voice of the surging water, You looked at the Red Sea with Your awesome power and dried it up for the Israelites to cross, and by Moses You baptized them all.

**DEACON:** Unto the east, look.

**PRIEST:**

You did command the massive rock and water came forth abundantly to Your people. You did turn bitter waters into sweet water. You, through Joshua, the son of Nun, pushed back the waters of the flowing rivers. You are the fearful One. Who can stand before You? The sacrifice of Elijah with water, You accepted with fire from heaven. You also, our Master, through Elijah, revealed the water that is for the birth of life. And Naaman and Syrian, You did purify by the Jordan waters. You are Omnipotent and nothing is impossible for You.

**CONGREGATION:**

By joyful like lambs, O Jordan, and your wilderness, for the Lamb has come to you Who carried the sin of the world. Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Jesus Christ, the Son of God has been baptized in the Jordan River. Be merciful to us according to Your great mercy.

**PRIEST:**

Agios. Agios. Agios. Holy, Holy, O Lord and Holy are You in everything. Now also, our King, God of powers and King of Heavenly armies, come forth, You Who sit upon the Cherubic throne. Manifest Yourself and look upon Your creation, this water grant it the grace of the Jordan, heavenly comfort. And as Your Holy Spirit descends upon it, bestow the blessing of the Jordan upon it. **Amen.**

Give it power to become life-giving. **Amen.**

Pure water. **Amen.**

Water to cleanse sins. **Amen.**

Water for the baptism of the new birth. **Amen.**

Water of filiation. **Amen.**

Grant that evil spirits do not descend upon this water or enter with the person being baptized, nor unclean spirits, nor the spirits of noon, nor the spirit of the evening, nor the spirits of the night, nor the spirits of the air, nor the spirits of drowning, nor the spirits of the devil which are underneath the earth, but vanquish them all by Your mighty power. May they become as naught before the sign of Your Cross and Your Holy Name which we call upon, and which is full of glory and is feared by those opposing us, so that whosoever is baptized in it will cast away the old nature which corrupts, like evil desires, and put on the new nature which restores him to the image of this Creator, and make him illuminated with the light of the truth from Your Holy

Spirit, and attain eternal life and blessed hope and stand before the throne of Christ and receive the heavenly crown and the remission of sins. May this oil and water be blessed, and filled with glory and purity.

***PRIEST crosses the water three times with cross saying:***

In the Name of the Father(+) and the Son(+) and the Holy Spirit(+), and the gratitude of all Your people and Your servants who have offered to You their children. Glory and honor to Your Holy Name, receive them upon Your Holy rational and heavenly altar, as a fragrant incense offered to Your majesty in heaven by the service of Your angels and pure archangels. Lord save Your people. Bless Your inheritance; protect and elevate them forever. Keep them in Your Orthodox faith all their lives. Fill them with love that is above everything and peace that is beyond all understanding, through the intercessions and supplications of Saint Mary, the Theotokos, who is full of glory, and the forerunner, Saint John the Baptist and all the apostolic fathers and all the saints who have pleased You since the beginning of creation. Through the grace and mercies and love of mankind, of Your Only Begotten Son, our Lord, our God, our Savior Jesus Christ to Whom is due glory, honor and power together with You and the Holy Spirit Who is One in Essence with You, now and always and forever and ever. Amen.

**CONGREGATION:** Our Father Who art in heaven...

### **8 – Three Absolutions**

In a very similar fashion to the way they are prayed at the end of raising of incense of vespers and matins, two absolutions are prayed inaudibly towards the East, and the third one, which is called the “Absolution of the Son” is prayed facing the congregation (this is the same absolution that the confessor gets from the priest after confessing their sins).

### **9 – Pouring the Holy Chrismation (the Meiroon Oil)**

The priest does that in the exact same fashion as the Regular Holy Oil and The Galilawen Oil:

Doing the sign of the Cross on himself while holding the Oil

*In the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit.*

*and pours very little from it in the baptismal font three times in the form of the cross to bless the water, saying each time:*

*Blessed is our God, the Father Pantocrator. Amen.*

*And blessed is His Only Begotten Son, Jesus Christ. Amen.*

*Blessed is the Holy Spirit, the Paraclete. Amen.*

**10 – Stirring the water with The Cross while praying some Psalms passages**

*PRIEST says these portions form the Psalms as he stirs the water:*

**Psalm 28: 3, 4**

The voice of the Lord is upon the waters: the God of glory thunders: the Lord is upon many waters. Alleluia.

The voice of the Lord is powerful; the voice of the Lord is full of majesty. Alleluia.

**Psalm 31: 5**

Come, you children, hearken unto me: I will teach you the fear of the Lord. Alleluia.

**Psalm 65: 11**

We went through fire and through water: but You brought us out into a wealthy place.

**Psalm 50: 7, 9, 10**

Purge me with hyssop and I shall be clean: wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow. Alleluia.

Hide your face from my sins, and blot out all mine iniquities. Alleluia.

Create in me a clean heart, o God; and renew a right spirit within me. Alleluia.

**Psalm 132: 13**

For the Lord has chosen Zion; He has desired it for His habitation. Alleluia.

**PRIEST:**

Bless me; I bow to You. Forgive me, O my fathers and brethren. Pray for me. Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto the age of ages. O Lord, who give light to every human coming to the world, we bless You now and always and forever and ever. Amen.

(end of The Sanctification of the Water Liturgy)



## **HOLY BAPTISM**

*PRIEST says the **Thanksgiving Prayer** (page ) then:*

### ***For Mother***

O Master, Lord, God Pantocrator, Creator of all ages, who directed his servant, Moses, in the law and taught him the rules of purity necessary for all women who give birth to a child and they not touch anything which is Holy until the days of their purification are completed, but kept him that they be saved. Likewise, we ask and entreat Your goodness for Your servant (*name*) who has kept Your laws and walked in Your commandments. She now desires to enter Your Holy place and bow before Your altar and be a partaker of Your Holy and immortal sacrament.

We ask and entreat Your goodness, O Lover-of-Mankind, bless Your servant (*name*), absolve her and purify her from any uncleanness that is alien to Your Holiness. Make her worthy to be a partaker of Your Holy and immortal sacraments without falling into condemnation.

### ***For Baby***

Likewise, our Master, this child that is born of her, bless him (her), sanctify him (her), bring him (her) to stature and wisdom and may he (she) grow according to your divine will. Keep him (her) in Your Orthodox faith, Your hope and Your love, by the grace of Your Orthodox faith, Your hope and Your love, by the grace of Your Only-Begotten Son, our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, to whom is due all glory and worship, together with You and the Holy Spirit, who is One in Essence with You now and forever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

## **Litany of the Catechumens**

### **PRIEST:**

O Master, Lord, God Pantocrator, father of our Lord, God and Savior Jesus Christ, we ask and entreat Your goodness, O Lover of mankind, for the catechumens of Your people that have been instructed, have mercy upon them.

O Lord, confirm their faith in You. Uproot all traces of idolatry from their hearts. Establish in their hearts Your law, Your fear, your commandments, Your truth, and Your Holy precepts. Grant that they know the permanence of the preaching they have received. In due course, let them be worthy of the baptism of the new birth for the remission of their sins. Prepare them to be a sanctuary for Your Holy Sprit through the grace and mercy of Your Only-Begotten Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, to Whom is due all glory, honor, and power, together with You an the Holy Spirit, the Life-Giver, who is One in Essence with You, now and always and forever and ever. Amen.

**DEACON:** Pray to the Lord.

**PRIEST:** Let us pray.

### **PRIEST:**

O Master, Lord Jesus Christ, Who subdued the heavens and descended to the earth; Whose words destroy the rocks more than the swords, for Whom the water trembled and receded, save this child who comes to be catechized. Make known to him (her) the way he (she) should go. Teach him (her) by the grace of Your divine Holy Spirit so that he (she) may receive the incorruptible gift that is Your Spirit.

Grant him (her) the remission of his (her) sin. Graciously bestow upon him (her) the awareness of his (her) salvation from moral sin. Make him (her) worthy of the Holy baptism which is for the new birth. May he (she) receive the unblemished gift of the washing of regeneration by Your Holy Spirit. Give him (her) pure insight into the firm understanding so that they will glorify You, O God. For Yours are the kingdom, the power, and the glory, together with Your Good Father and the Holy Spirit forever and ever. Amen.

**DEACON:** Pray to the Lord.

**PRIEST:** Let us pray.

## **Prayer for Anointing the Catechumens with the Regular Holy Oil**

### **PRIEST:**

O Master, Lord, God Pantocrator, Father of our Lord, God and Savior Jesus Christ, we ask and entreat Your goodness, O lover of mankind, the Only true God, with Your Only-begotten Son Jesus Christ our Lord, and the Holy Spirit, to bless Your creation, which is this oil, that it may destroy all the works of Satan and his deception and worship of idols. Transform it into oil of

anointment and sermons so that the soul may believe in You, our God Jesus Christ, to Whom is due all glory and honor and power, together with the Father and the Holy Spirit, the Life-giver Who is One in Essence with You now and always and forever and ever. Amen.

**DEACON:** Pray to the Lord.

**PRIEST:** Let us pray.

**PRIEST:**

O Master, Lord, God Pantocrator, Father of our Lord of Savior, Jesus Christ, Your Only Begotten son the Word, who was crucified for us all under Pontius Pilate and witnessed the good confession, we ask and entreat Your goodness, O lover of Mankind, to send Your divine power on this oil that it becomes a sermon's oil to vanquish the work of the evil-doer; sorcery, incantation and all the worship of idols and suppress all his bad deeds, by the grace of Your Only Begotten son, our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, to Whom is due all glory and honor and power together with You and the Holy Spirit, the Life-giver Who is One in Essence with You now and always and forever and ever. Amen.

*The **PRIEST** checks the baptizee and asks that everything be taken off their ears, feet, and hands. He takes the vessel of oil and anoints the male children first, then the female, while saying:*

**Then he anoints the child's heart, his hands, and his back while saying:**

I anoint you (Name), in the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit, One God, with the sermon's oil in the Holy, Catholic and Apostolic Orthodox Church of God.

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**DEACON:** Let us ask the Lord.

**PRIEST:**

Blessed are You, our King, God the Pantocrator. Blessed is Your Only Begotten Son, Jesus Christ, our God, through Whom all the nations have been invited from darkness to the true and marvelous light, from the darkness of sin and falsehood of idols into the knowledge of truth.

**DEACON:** Pray to the Lord.

**PRIEST:**

You have called this Your servant by Your Holy blessed Name. Write his (her) name in the Book of Life and consider him (her) with Your people who revere You. Graciously, O Lord, bestow on him growth in faith and forgiveness of sins. Prepare him (her) to be a temple for Your Holy Spirit by Your Only Begotten Son, Jesus Christ, our God, to whom is due glory, honor and power together with You and the Holy Spirit, the Life-giver who is One in Essence with You, now and always and forever and ever. Amen.

**DEACON:** Let us ask the Lord.

**PRIEST:**

O Master, Lord, God Pantocrator, the Father of our Lord and God, our Savior Jesus Christ, for Your servant whose name was presented and entered into the faith by Your grace. Make him (her) worthy to attain Your grace for which he (she) was brought forward. Purify him (Her) from the sin, which is in the world, and give him (her) freedom from servitude of corruption, for in Your hands, Almighty God, is the power of mercy.

**DEACON:**

Ask for him (her) whose name was presented, that the Almighty God will make him (her) worthy of the washing of the new birth for the remission of sins.

**CONGREGATION:** Lord have mercy.

**PRIEST:**

O Master, Lord, God Pantocrator, the Father of our Lord and God, our Savior Jesus Christ, we ask and entreat Your goodness, O Lover-of-Mankind, have mercy on Your servant whose name was presented. Make him (her) worthy of the grace for which he (she) was brought forward to receive from Your Holy Spirit. May he (she) be filled with Your divine power and be like Your Only Begotten Son, our Lord Jesus Christ and become one with Him. Bestow on him (her) a clean heart and pure mind. Grant unto Your servant protection by the grace of Your Holy Spirit. Guide him (her) into the hope of eternal gifts by Your Only Begotten Son Jesus Christ; for Yours is the glory, honor and power together with Him and the Holy Spirit, the Life-giver Who is One in Essence with You now and always and forever and ever. Amen.

*They kneel down.*

**DEACON:** Let us ask the Lord.

**PRIEST:**

Again, we ask with importunity, God the Pantocrator, the Father of our Lord, God and Savior Jesus Christ, for Your servant whose name was presented, to open the hearing of his (her) heart, shine upon him (her) with the light of knowledge, soften his (her) heart to know the confirmation of the instruction preached to him (her), for in Your hands, Almighty God, is the power of mercy.

**DEACON:** Pray

**PRIEST:**

O Master, Lord, God the Pantocrator, Father of our Lord and God, our Savior Jesus Christ, we ask and entreat Your goodness, O lover of mankind, that as we call upon Your Holy Name, all powers be destroyed and the spirit of all evil doers be prevented and forbidden, for You have invited Your servant who is entering from darkness into light, from death into life, fro sin into the knowledge of truth, from the worship of idols to the knowledge of the true God. Search the treasures of his (her) heart for You have searched Jerusalem with a lamp. Prevent any unclean spirit from dwelling in him (her). Grant him (her) purity.

Bestow upon him (her) eternal salvation. Cause him (her) to be born again by the washing of regeneration for the remission of his (her) sins. Prepare him (her) to be a sanctuary for Your Holy Spirit by Your Only Begotten Son, Jesus Christ, to Whom is due glory, honor, dominion and worship with You, and the Holy Spirit the Life-giver who is One in Essence with You now and every and unto the ages of ages. Amen.

***PRIEST lays his hand on him (her) while saying:***

In the Name of the Only Begotten Son, Jesus Christ, I present for purification this person. In the Name of the Only Begotten Son, Jesus Christ, may he (she) be safe from all devils and unclean spirits. May all darkness flee from this body and all thought of scantily faith flee from this soul, in the Name of the Only Begotten son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, you are purified and freed from all evil forever. Amen.

*He then unveils the baptizee, who looks to the west with his right hand raised up and repeats the following: (if he is a child; his father, mother, or godparent repeats it for him).*

### **Denouncing Satan**

The mother undresses her child and holds her/him looking towards the West and lifts her right hand, reciting after the priest the following statements of Renouncing Satan (if the baptized is not a child, he recites the statements personally):

***I renounce you, Satan, with all you impure works, all your evil soldiers, all your wickedness, all your powers, all your despicable worship, all your deceiving and misleading trickery, all your armies, all your principalities, and all the rest of your hypocrisy. I renounce you! I renounce you! I renounce!***

*PRIEST breathes over his face three times, saying: Come out, you unclean spirit.*

- ✘ Undressing the child reminds us of the nakedness of Adam and Eve when they obeyed Satan and disobeyed the commandment of God, so they were put to shame before Him and hid from Him when they realized their nakedness. (Genesis 3:7-10)
- ✘ Facing the West symbolizes exile and separation from God, and submission to the dominion of Satan, who was the first to be exiled and separated from God; falling from his angelic rank due to pride. Also, the direction of the West signifies the end, death and darkness, just as how the sun sets in the West. In the Greek language, the word for evil:  $\kappa\alpha\kappa\iota\alpha$  , and the word for darkness:  $\chi\alpha\kappa\iota$  , are quite similar.

### **Accepting Christ**

*Then the PRIEST turns the baptizee around to **face the east**, with his hand raised up, and has him (her) repeat the following after him:*

***I accept You, O Christ, my God, with all Your Holy commandments, all Your life-giving service and works.***

***Truly, I believe in One God, God the Father the Pantocrator and his Only Begotten Son, Jesus Christ, our God, with the Holy Spirit, the Life-giver. I believe in the resurrection of the body and in one Holy, Catholic, and Apostolic Orthodox church Amen.***

**PRIEST asks the baptize (or his parent if a child) 3 times:** You have believed for him (her)?

**BAPTIZEE:** I believe. I believe. I believe.

- ✘ Facing the East signifies new birth, as the day starts by the rising of the sun in the East, and with sunrise a new day begins. Facing the East also signifies light. (2 Corinthians 4:6)
- ✘ When the mother or the guardian father says, “*I believe for this child*”, they mean they believe in the grace that is granted to the child in the Sacrament of Baptism, which is the grace of sonship to God and the spiritual preparation for the Kingdom of God. This also means that they undertake to teach the child the principles of faith, church tradition and dogmas, as if engraving on stone.

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**DEACON:** Let us ask the Lord.

**PRIEST:**

O Master, Lord, God the Pantocrator, Father of our Lord, God, and Savior, Jesus Christ, Who have created everything, God of heaven and earth, Who have given Your knowledge to the inhabitants of the earth through Your Only Begotten Son, Jesus Christ, Who prepared the heavens for the chosen, and made them firm by Your power, make steadfast the obedience of Your servant. May he (she) have power so that he (she) will not return even once to what he (she) has left. Keep him (her) in Your faith so that nothing may separate him (her) from You. Build him (her) upon the foundation of Your apostolic faith, invite him (her) into Your pure light, make him (her) worthy of Your enormous grace, free him (her) from servitude and renew his (her) life. Fill him (her) with the power of Your Holy Spirit, by the unity and comfort of Your Only Begotten Son, so that he (she) will not be a son (daughter) of the flesh but a son (daughter) of the truth and become an honest and wise servant. We ask this in the Name of Jesus Christ, our God, to Whom is due all glory, honor, power, with You and the Holy Spirit, now and always, forever and ever. Amen.

**DEACON:** Bow your heads to the Lord.

*They all kneel down, and the PRIEST prays for them:*

**PRIEST:**

O Master, Our Savior, Lover of mankind, Beneficent, to You alone this mystery is consummated. To You every knee shall bow in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue shall confess, saying: Jesus Christ is Lord. For Your servant who has sought Your refuge and is kneeling before You, we ask and entreat Your goodness, O Lover-of-Mankind, be in charge of his (her) soul and enlighten his (her) thoughts by the light of Your knowledge. Sorcery and all evil deeds do cast away from them... uproot all traces of the worship of idols and disbelief from his (her) heart. Prepare him (her) to accept the Holy Spirit. May he (she) be worthy of the washing of rebirth, the incorruptible garment, and remission of sins, for You have prepared him (her) to be a sanctuary for Your Holy Spirit, through the good will of Your Good Father and the Holy Spirit, now and always and forever and ever. Amen.

*PRIEST takes the (**Galilaon-oil of joy**) and anoints the baptizee's heart, arms, and the front of the heart, as well as the palms of his hands, in the form of the cross, while saying:*

**PRIEST:**

I anoint you (name) with ointment of joy against all evil deeds. Be planted in the olive tree, in the one Holy Catholic and Apostolic Orthodox Church of God.  
Amen.

**DEACON:** Amen.

**DEACON:** Pray to the Lord.

*A prayer for the laying of hands on Catechumens after anointing them with the Holy oil (**oil of joy - Galilawen**).*

**DEACON:** Let us ask the Lord.

**PRIEST:**

O Master, Lord, God the Pantocrator, we cry unto Your Holy Blessed Name to search out and cast away all deceptive and adversary powers when we pray to You, O Master, with all Your saints. Search Your servant's heart who has come forward for the washing by Your grace. If the wickedness of Satan is hidden in him (her), uncover and declare it. Cast him away from the body and soul of Your servant, a believer in Your Holy Name. Renew his (her) life, make him (her) worthy, unblemished and pure to accept the light, the seal of Your Christ and the gift of Your Holy Spirit, Who is One in Essence with You. May he (she) become like a cloak of light and wear the garment of salvation and shield of faith that cannot be conquered or resisted by the opposing powers. May he (she) become a sheep in Your flock, a son (daughter) of Your Heavenly inheritance and heir of Your incorruptible eternal kingdom in Jesus Christ, our God, to Whom is due all glory, honor and power together with You now and always and forever and ever. Amen.

**DEACON:** Let us pray.

**PRIEST:**

O Master, Lord God, Eternal One, Who created man in His image and likeness, who gave him domination over creation. And when he fell into sin, You did not leaven him, but planned the salvation of the world by the incarnation of Your Only Begotten Son, Jesus Christ, deliver from the servitude of the enemy, accept him into Your kingdom. Open the eyes of his (her) heart that he (she) may be enlightened by the light of Your gospel of the Kingdom. May his (her) life be guarded by the angels of light to save him (her) from every plot and evil confrontation, from the arrow that flies by day, the destruction that wastes at noonday, from those who are in darkness, from the apparitions of the night. Uproot from his (her) heart, the spirit of darkness and deception, the spirit of love of money, the worship of idols, the spirit of untruth, and all the uncleanness of demonic teaching. Make him (her) a sheep in Your Holy flock which is for Your Christ, a wholly pure member of the universal church, a pure vessel, a son (daughter) of light, an heir to Your kingdom, that he (she) may fight according to Christ's commandments, protect the seal from any thief and the garment from deterioration; that he (she) may attain the holiness given the saints by Jesus Christ, our Lord, to Whom is due all glory, honor and power together with You and the Holy Spirit, the Life-giver Who is One in Essence with You now and always and forever and ever. Amen.

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**PRIEST** recites the Prayer of the **Laying on of the Hand:**

O Lord, descend upon these Your servants, who serve You and call upon Your Holy Name and humble themselves before You; walk amongst them, O Lord and help them in every good endeavor; direct their hearts away from all earthly thoughts; grant them that they think as befits the living beings and that they understand Your will. We ask this through Your Only-Begotten Son, Jesus Christ, Our Lord and God; for, indeed, praise, adoration, and glory are Your due, Father, Son, and the Holy Spirit, now and always and forever and ever. Amen.

DEACON *chants*: "We have been truly redeemed."

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**PRIEST: says the following prayer silently on his own behalf while kneeling down before the baptismal font.**

O, Merciful, Compassionate, and Loving God, you scrutinize the hearts and kidneys and You know the innermost secrets of all human beings, and to You nothing they do is invisible, but rather they are all known and submissive before You. O God, You know the other things I do, do not detest me and do not turn Your face away from me, but grant that all my sins flee away from me and this hour. O God, who forgive the sins of the people and bring them to repentance, wash away the dirt of my body and soul, and cleanse me completely with Your invisible power and devine hand, so that if I read the absolution to others who ask me to give it to them, which is the faith made available to us through Your abundant and indescribable Love of Mankind-then I am not myself condemned as a slave to sin. On the contrary, O Lord, who alone are without sin, who alone are Good and Lover of Mankind, let not Your humble servant return shamefaced, but forgive me my sins. Send Your Mighty Power down from Your Holy Exaltedness, and

strengthen me that I perform the service of this great divine mystery. Grant that the image of Christ be portrayed in those who receive the baptism of the new birth through me a sinner.

Establish them on the foundation of Your apostles and prophets and do not destroy them ever after. Place them like a true vine in Your Catholic and Apostolic Orthodox church that they advance in Your worship and that Your Holy Name be glorified everywhere, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and always and forever and ever. Amen

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## **THE IMMERSION IN THE WATER**

*The deacon holds the baptize at the west side and moves with him/her to the east side of the baptismal font, to the left of the Priest, so that he may dip him/hr in the Holy water three times. Each time, he brings the baptizee out of the water and breathes over his/her face. As he dips the child in the Holy water for the first time, he says:*

**I baptize you (name) in the Name of the Father;**

*During the second dip, he says:*

**And the Son:**

*And during the third dip, he says:*

**And the Holy Spirit, Amen.**

**CONGREGATION: chant Psalm 150**

## **Disposal of Baptism Water**

*After the baptism, the PRIEST pours some water on his hands in the baptismal font, washes his hands, the cross, and the area around the baptismal font.*

*PRIEST prays on the Holy Water to return (transform) into its original nature.*

O Master, Lord, God Almighty, Who created everything in Your true wisdom. Since the beginning, You have gathered the waters in one place. You have also made a rank for each of Your creations according to the greatness of Your infinite power and understanding. You, Our Master, have made this water pure through the blessing of Your Christ, and dwelling of the Holy Spirit. It has become for Your servants who have been baptized cleansing for the new birth, freedom from the old sin and enlightened by Your divinity.

We ask You and beseech You, O Lover-of-Mankind, to transform this water into its original nature so that it may go back into the earth as usual. Be our help and our salvation that we may always glorify You, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, and send to You glory, honor, and worship, now and always and forever and ever. Amen.

*Then the PRIEST disposes of the water.*