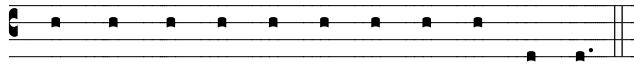


Sunday Blessing of Water

Bells ring¹ as the clergy go in procession vestments to the choir-step.² There the priest³ sings, in a semi-loud voice:

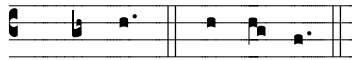


Ixorcise thee, O creature of salt, by the ✠ living God, by the true ✠ God, by the ✠ holy God, by the God Who commanded thee to be cast into the water by Elisæus⁴ the prophet to heal the water's barrenness: that thou mayest be made salt (he looks at it:) exorcised for the salvation of them that believe, and that thou mayest be safety of soul and body to all that receive thee, and from that place where thou shalt be sprinkled every phantasy, wickedness, and craft of the Devil's cunning may flee and depart along with every unclean spirit that is adjured. ✠ Through Him Who shall come to judge

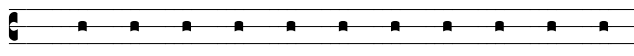


the quick and the dead and the world by fire.⁵

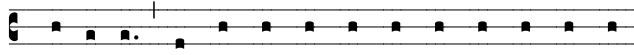
Choir: Priest:



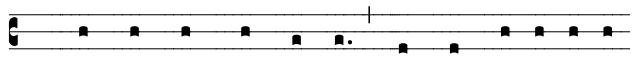
℞: A- men. Let us pray.⁶ He sings in collect-tone:



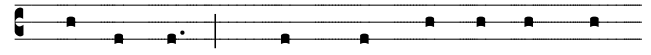
We humbly implore Thy limitless mercy, almighty, everlasting God, (he looks at the salt:) that this creature of salt, which Thou hast granted for the use of the human race, Thou wouldst deign of Thy goodness to ✠ bless and ✠



sanctify: that it may be, to all making use of it,



health of mind and bo-dy: and that whatsoever is touched or sprinkled therewith may be free from all impurity and every assault of spiritual



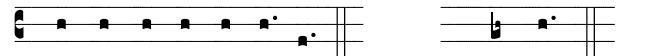
wick-ed-ness. Through our Lord Je-sus Christ,



Thy Son, Who liv-eth and reign-eth with Thee,



in the u-ni-ty of the Ho-ly Spi-rit, God through



all the ag-es of ag-es.⁷ Choir: ℞: A- men.

He sings this exorcism like the first one:

Ixorcise thee, O creature of water, in the name of God ✠ the Father almighty, and in the name of Jesus ✠ Christ His Son, and by the power of the Holy ✠ Spirit: that thou mayest become water exorcised for putting to flight every power of the enemy, and that thou mayest have the power to root out and crush the enemy himself, with his apostate angels: by power of the same our Lord Jesus Christ, ✠ Who shall come to judge the quick and the dead and the world by fire.⁵ ℞: Amen. Priest: Let us pray.

He sings this collect like the first one:

O God, Who for the salvation of the human⁹ race hast hidden the greatest and holiest mysteries in the element of water, mercifully be here and help our invocations, and pour into this element (he looks at the water:) prepared for diverse purifications the power of Thy ✠ blessing: that Thy creature, in obedience to Thy mysteries, may by divine grace take on the effect of casting out demons and staving off diseases: that whatsoever shall be sprinkled with it in the faithful's homes or lands may be free from all uncleanness and delivered from harm. Let no pestilent spirit nor corrupting breath ...

¹The 3 bells ring separately & briefly, largest first. ²The priest stands in centre; east of him stands a server with the book, at whose side is a server with salt & water; east of them stands the deacon, then subdeacon; then the thurifer with the censer; then the cross-bearer, flanked by 2 candle-bearers. All face east except the servers next to the priest. Small churches: 2 candle-bearers flank the priest at a table west of the rood-door—or all is done quietly before Matins at a side altar (which is a documented usage). ³If the dean is Mass-priest, the subdean blesses the waters. ⁴Eh-lee-SAY-us (i.e., Elisha). ⁵Exorcízo. ⁶Or *do-do-la*. ⁷Or *do-fa*. Prayer: Imménsam. ⁹Deus qui ad.