

FRIDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD

[GOOD FRIDAY]

1. On this and the following day, by a most ancient tradition, the Church does not celebrate the Sacraments at all, except for Penance and the Anointing of the Sick.
2. On this day, Holy Communion is distributed to the faithful only within the celebration of the Lord's Passion; but it may be brought at any hour of the day to the sick who cannot participate in this celebration.
3. The altar should be completely bare: without a cross, without candles and without cloths.

The Celebration of the Passion of the Lord

4. On the afternoon of this day, about three o'clock (unless a later hour is chosen for a pastoral reason), there takes place the celebration of the Lord's Passion consisting of three parts, namely, the Liturgy of the Word, the Adoration of the Cross, and Holy Communion.
In the United States, if the size or nature of a parish or other community indicates the pastoral need for an additional liturgical service, the Diocesan Bishop may permit the service to be repeated later. This liturgy by its very nature may not, however, be celebrated in the absence of a Priest.
5. The Priest and the Deacon, if a Deacon is present, wearing red vestments as for Mass, go to the altar in silence and, after making a reverence to the altar, prostrate themselves or, if appropriate, kneel and pray in silence for a while. All others kneel.
6. Then the Priest, with the ministers, goes to the chair where, facing the people, who are standing, he says, with hands extended, one of the following prayers, omitting the invitation Let us pray.

Prayer

Remember your mercies, O Lord,
and with your eternal protection sanctify your servants,
for whom Christ your Son,
by the shedding of his Blood,
established the Paschal Mystery.
Who lives and reigns for ever and ever.

R. Amen.

Or:

O God, who by the Passion of Christ your Son, our Lord,
abolished the death inherited from ancient sin
by every succeeding generation,
grant that just as, being conformed to him,
we have borne by the law of nature
the image of the man of earth,
so by the sanctification of grace
we may bear the image of the Man of heaven.
Through Christ our Lord.

R. Amen.

FIRST PART:**THE LITURGY OF THE WORD**

7. Then all sit and the First Reading, from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah (52: 13-53: 12), is read with its Psalm.
8. The Second Reading, from the Letter to the Hebrews (4: 14-16; 5: 7-9), follows, and then the chant before the Gospel.
9. Then the narrative of the Lord's Passion according to John (18: 1-19: 42) is read in the same way as on the preceding Sunday.
10. After the reading of the Lord's Passion, the Priest gives a brief homily and, at its end, the faithful may be invited to spend a short time in prayer.

The Solemn Intercessions

11. The Liturgy of the Word concludes with the Solemn Intercessions, which take place in this way: the Deacon, if a Deacon is present, or if he is not, a lay minister, stands at the ambo, and sings or says the invitation in which the intention is expressed. Then all pray in silence for a while, and afterwards the Priest, standing at the chair or, if appropriate, at the altar, with hands extended, sings or says the prayer.

The faithful may remain either kneeling or standing throughout the entire period of the prayers.

12. Before the Priest's prayer, in accord with tradition, it is permissible to use the Deacon's invitations Let us kneel — Let us stand, with all kneeling for silent prayer.

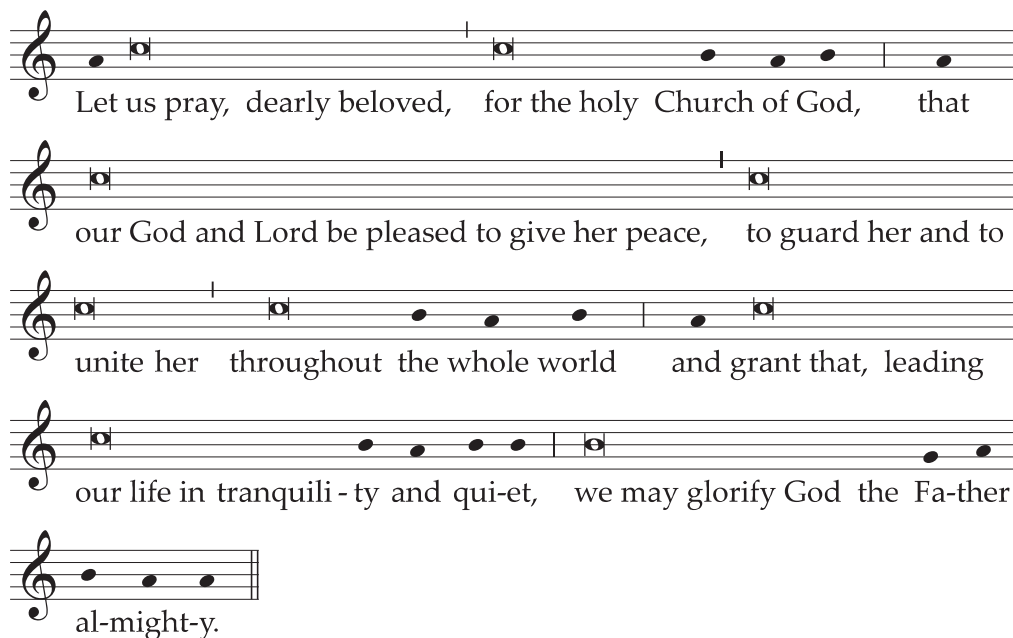
Text with music:



The Conferences of Bishops may provide other invitations to introduce the prayer of the Priest.

13. In a situation of grave public need, the Diocesan Bishop may permit or order the addition of a special intention.

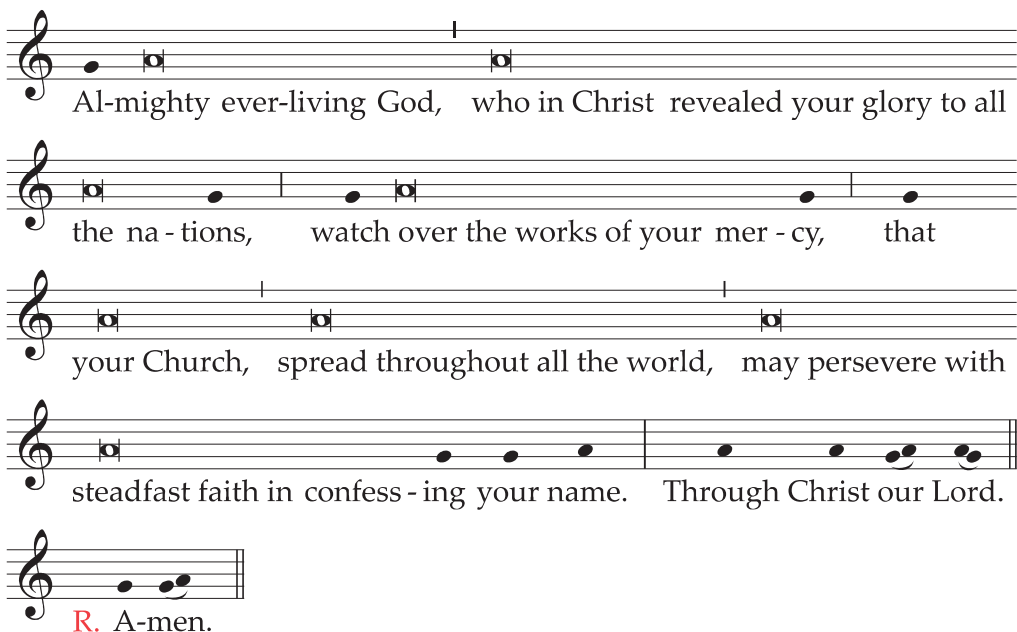
I. For Holy Church



The prayer is sung in the simple tone or, if the invitations Let us kneel — Let us stand are used, in the solemn tone.

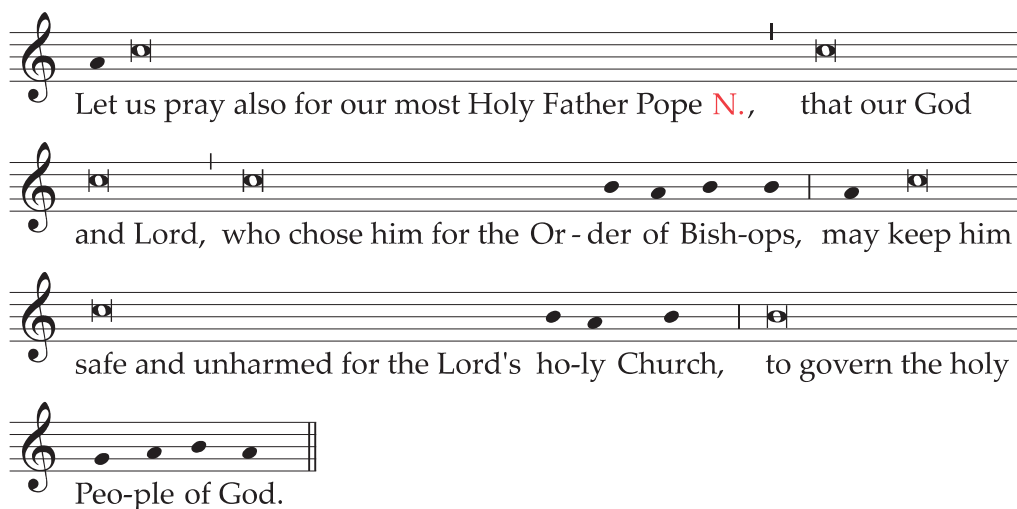
Let us pray, dearly beloved, for the holy Church of God,
that our God and Lord be pleased to give her peace,
to guard her and to unite her throughout the whole world
and grant that, leading our life in tranquility and quiet,
we may glorify God the Father almighty.

Prayer in silence. Then the Priest says:



Al-mighty ever-living God, who in Christ revealed your glory to all
the na - tions, watch over the works of your mer - cy, that
your Church, spread throughout all the world, may persevere with
steadfast faith in confess - ing your name. Through Christ our Lord.
R. A-men.

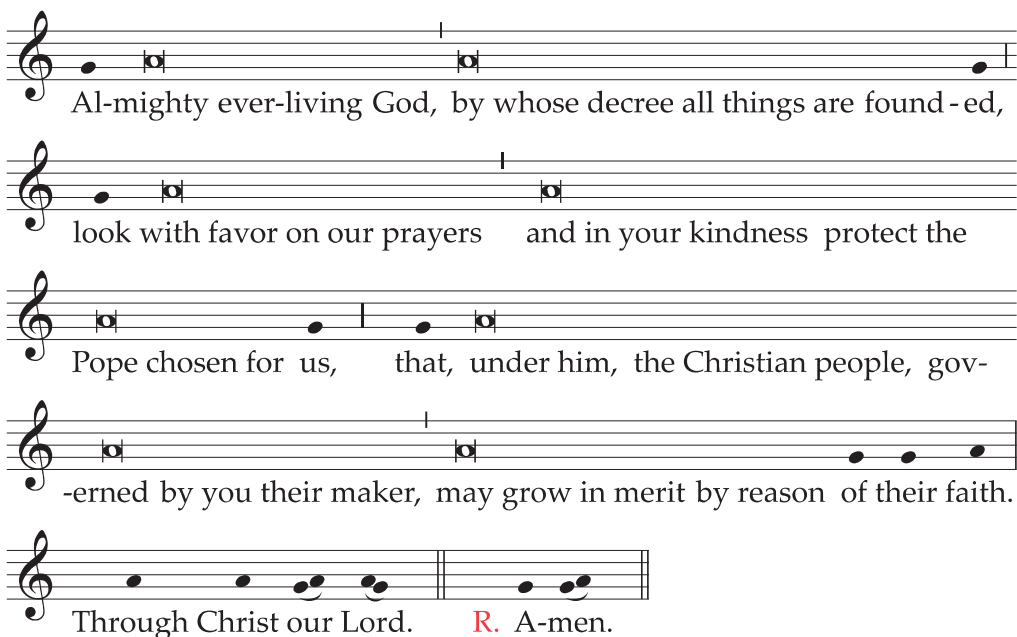
Almighty ever-living God,
who in Christ revealed your glory to all the nations,
watch over the works of your mercy,
that your Church, spread throughout all the world,
may persevere with steadfast faith in confessing your name.
Through Christ our Lord.
R. Amen.

II. **For the Pope**


Let us pray also for our most Holy Father Pope **N.**, that our God
and Lord, who chose him for the Or - der of Bish-ops, may keep him
safe and unharmed for the Lord's ho-ly Church, to govern the holy
Peo-ple of God.

Let us pray also for our most Holy Father Pope **N.**,
that our God and Lord,
who chose him for the Order of Bishops,
may keep him safe and unharmed for the Lord's holy Church,
to govern the holy People of God.

Prayer in silence. Then the Priest says:

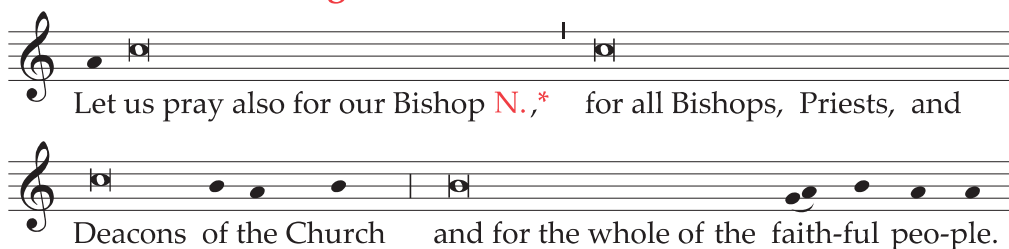


Al-mighty ever-living God, by whose decree all things are found - ed,
look with favor on our prayers and in your kindness protect the
Pope chosen for us, that, under him, the Christian people, gov-
-erned by you their maker, may grow in merit by reason of their faith.
Through Christ our Lord. **R.** A-men.

Almighty ever-living God,
 by whose decree all things are founded,
 look with favor on our prayers
 and in your kindness protect the Pope chosen for us,
 that, under him, the Christian people,
 governed by you their maker,
 may grow in merit by reason of their faith.
 Through Christ our Lord.

R. Amen.

III. For all orders and degrees of the faithful



Let us pray also for our Bishop N.,* for all Bishops, Priests, and
 Deacons of the Church and for the whole of the faith-ful peo-ple.

Let us pray also for our Bishop N.,*
 for all Bishops, Priests, and Deacons of the Church
 and for the whole of the faithful people.

* Mention may be made here of the Coadjutor Bishop, or Auxiliary Bishops, as noted in the *General Instruction of the Roman Missal*, no. 149.

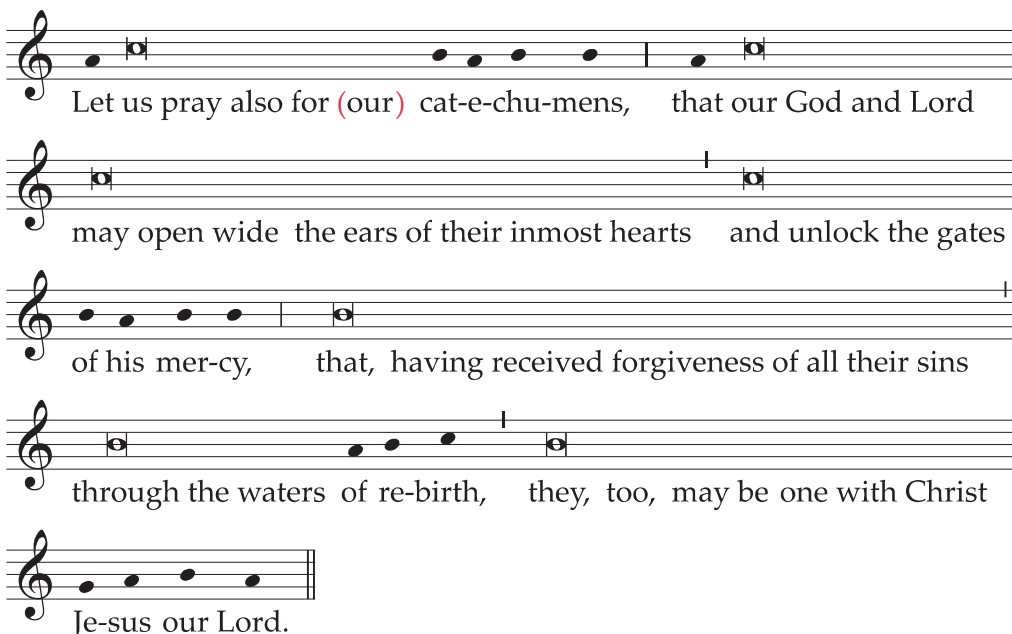
Prayer in silence. Then the Priest says:



Al-mighty ever-living God, by whose Spirit the whole body of the
Church is sanctified and gov - erned, hear our humble prayer for
your min - is - ters, that, by the gift of your grace, all may serve you
faith-ful-ly. Through Christ our Lord. **R.** A-men.

**Almighty ever-living God,
by whose Spirit the whole body of the Church
is sanctified and governed,
hear our humble prayer for your ministers,
that, by the gift of your grace,
all may serve you faithfully.
Through Christ our Lord.
R. Amen.**

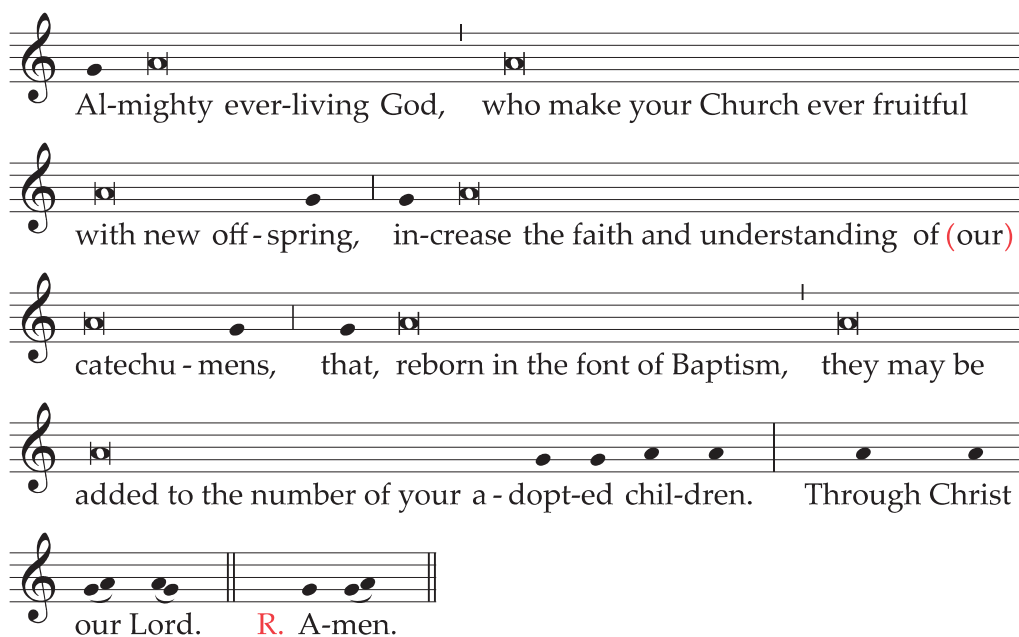
IV. **For catechumens**



Let us pray also for (our) cat-e-chu-mens, that our God and Lord
may open wide the ears of their inmost hearts and unlock the gates
of his mer-cy, that, having received forgiveness of all their sins
through the waters of re-birth, they, too, may be one with Christ
Je-sus our Lord.

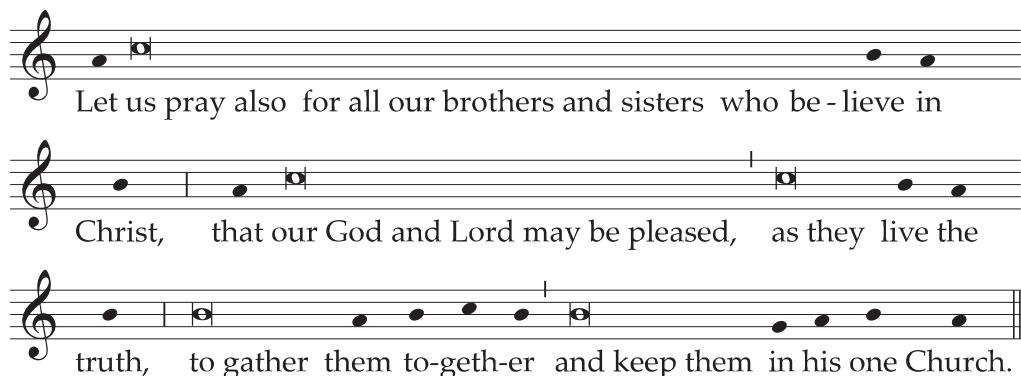
Let us pray also for (our) catechumens,
 that our God and Lord
 may open wide the ears of their inmost hearts
 and unlock the gates of his mercy,
 that, having received forgiveness of all their sins
 through the waters of rebirth,
 they, too, may be one with Christ Jesus our Lord.

Prayer in silence. Then the Priest says:



Al-mighty ever-living God, who make your Church ever fruitful
 with new off-spring, in-crease the faith and understanding of (our)
 catechu - mens, that, reborn in the font of Baptism, they may be
 added to the number of your a - dopt-ed chil-dren. Through Christ
 our Lord. R. A-men.

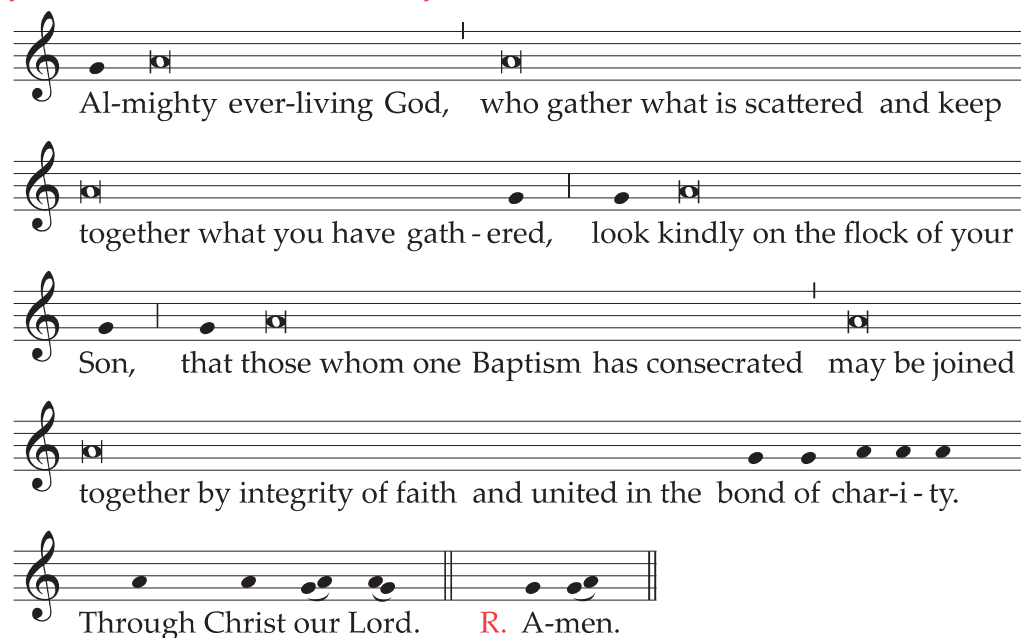
Almighty ever-living God,
 who make your Church ever fruitful with new offspring,
 increase the faith and understanding of (our) catechumens,
 that, reborn in the font of Baptism,
 they may be added to the number of your adopted children.
 Through Christ our Lord.
 R. Amen.

V. **For the unity of Christians**


Let us pray also for all our brothers and sisters who be - lieve in
 Christ, that our God and Lord may be pleased, as they live the
 truth, to gather them to-geth-er and keep them in his one Church.

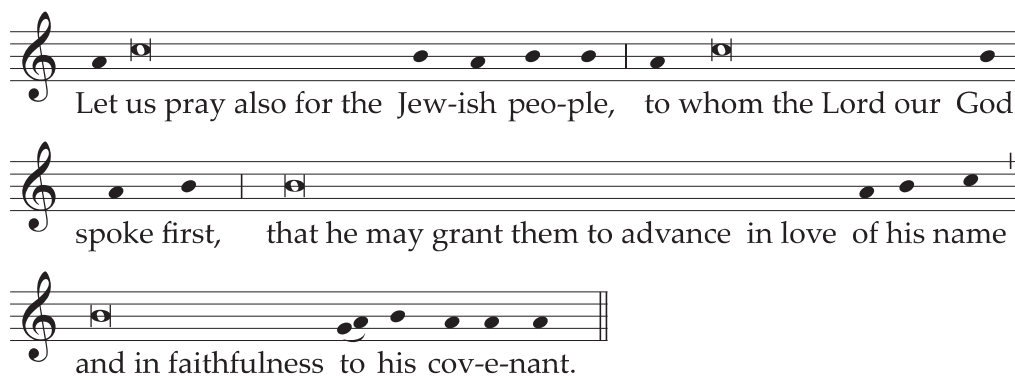
**Let us pray also for all our brothers and sisters who believe in Christ,
 that our God and Lord may be pleased,
 as they live the truth,
 to gather them together and keep them in his one Church.**

Prayer in silence. Then the Priest says:



Al-mighty ever-living God, who gather what is scattered and keep
 together what you have gath - ered, look kindly on the flock of your
 Son, that those whom one Baptism has consecrated may be joined
 together by integrity of faith and united in the bond of char-i - ty.
 Through Christ our Lord. **R.** A-men.

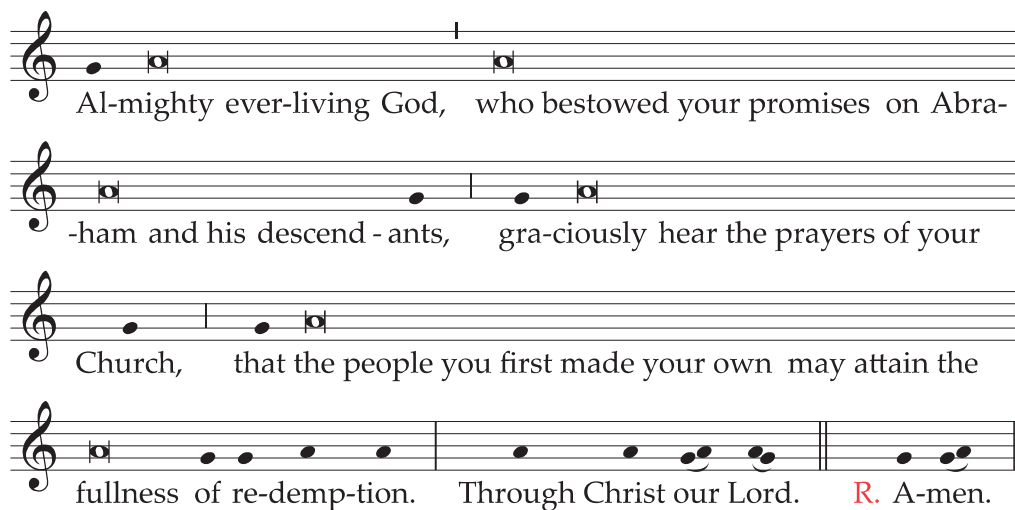
**Almighty ever-living God,
 who gather what is scattered
 and keep together what you have gathered,
 look kindly on the flock of your Son,
 that those whom one Baptism has consecrated
 may be joined together by integrity of faith
 and united in the bond of charity.
 Through Christ our Lord.
 R. Amen.**

VI. **For the Jewish people**


Let us pray also for the Jew-ish peo-ple, to whom the Lord our God
spoke first, that he may grant them to advance in love of his name
and in faithfulness to his cov-e-nant.

Let us pray also for the Jewish people,
to whom the Lord our God spoke first,
that he may grant them to advance in love of his name
and in faithfulness to his covenant.

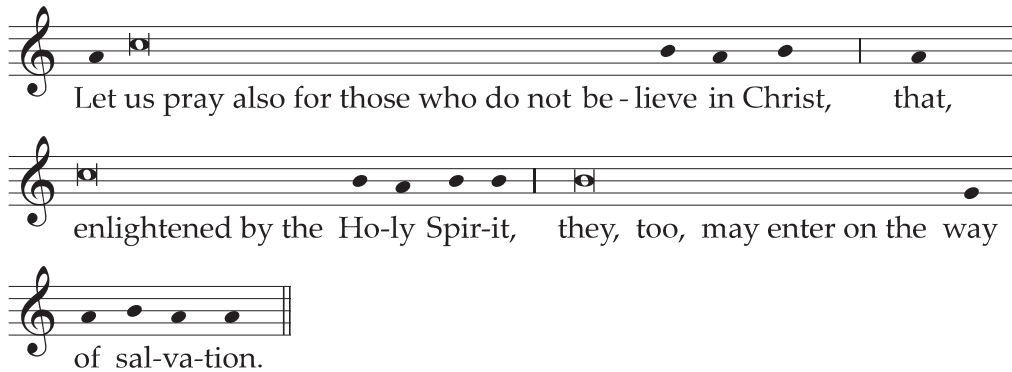
Prayer in silence. Then the Priest says:



Al-mighty ever-living God, who bestowed your promises on Abra-
-ham and his descend - ants, gra-ciously hear the prayers of your
Church, that the people you first made your own may attain the
fullness of re-demp-tion. Through Christ our Lord. **R.** A-men.

Almighty ever-living God,
who bestowed your promises on Abraham and his descendants,
graciously hear the prayers of your Church,
that the people you first made your own
may attain the fullness of redemption.
Through Christ our Lord.
R. Amen.

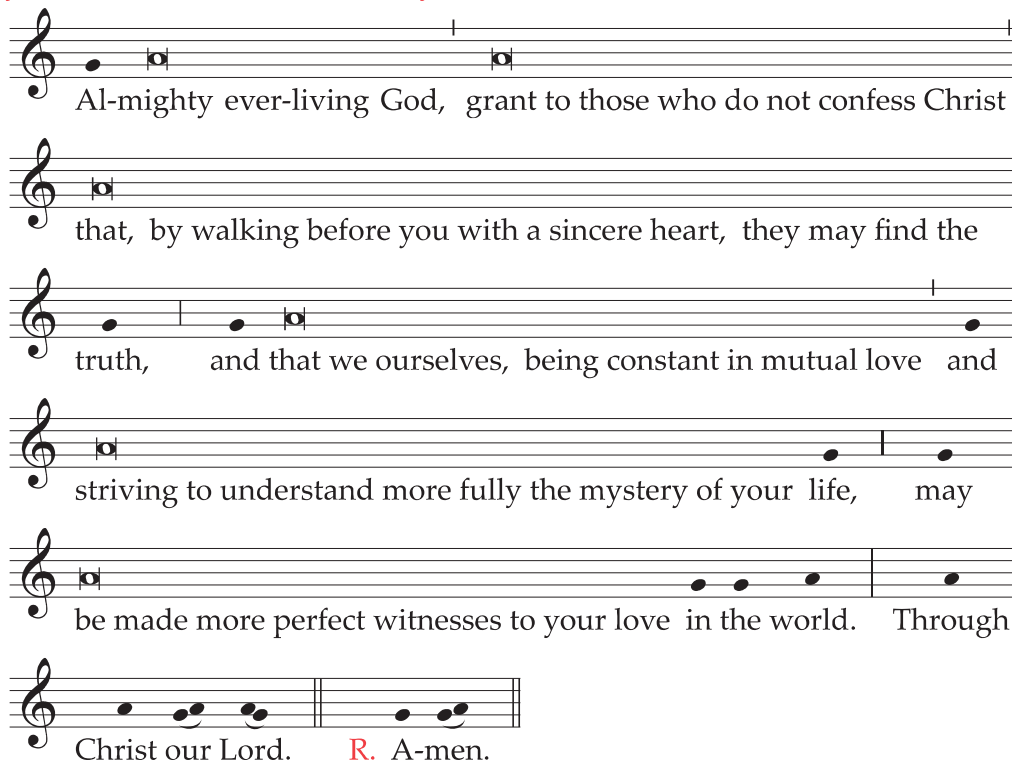
VII. For those who do not believe in Christ



Let us pray also for those who do not be - lieve in Christ, that,
enlightened by the Ho-ly Spir-it, they, too, may enter on the way
of sal-va-tion.

**Let us pray also for those who do not believe in Christ,
that, enlightened by the Holy Spirit,
they, too, may enter on the way of salvation.**

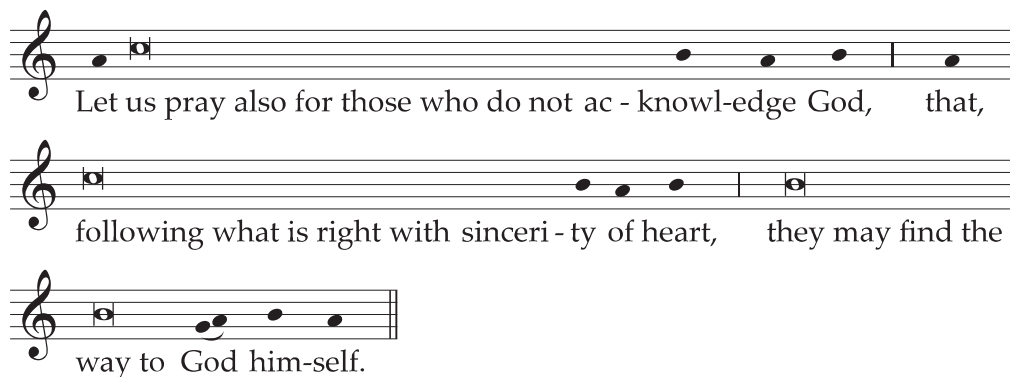
Prayer in silence. Then the Priest says:



Al-mighty ever-living God, grant to those who do not confess Christ
that, by walking before you with a sincere heart, they may find the
truth, and that we ourselves, being constant in mutual love and
striving to understand more fully the mystery of your life, may
be made more perfect witnesses to your love in the world. Through
Christ our Lord. **R.** A-men.

**Almighty ever-living God,
grant to those who do not confess Christ
that, by walking before you with a sincere heart,
they may find the truth
and that we ourselves, being constant in mutual love
and striving to understand more fully the mystery of your life,
may be made more perfect witnesses to your love in the world.
Through Christ our Lord.**

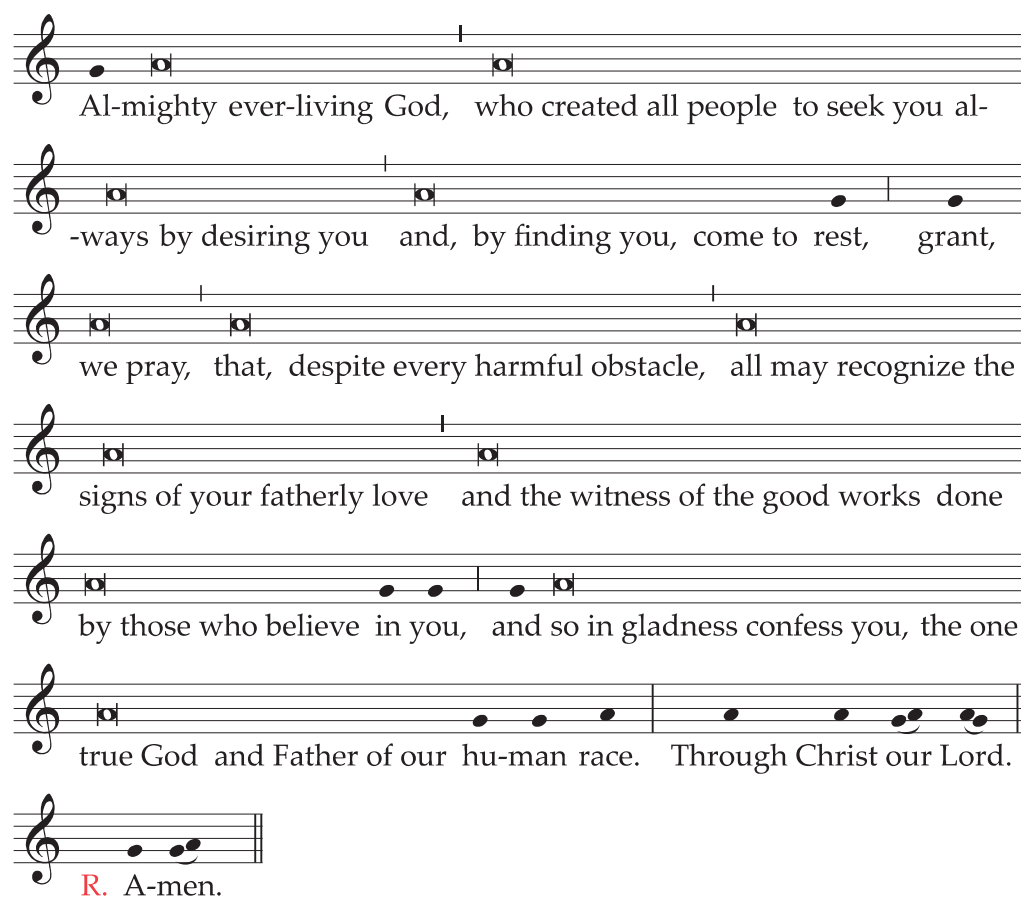
R. Amen.

VIII. **For those who do not believe in God**


Let us pray also for those who do not ac - knowl-edge God, that,
 following what is right with sinceri - ty of heart, they may find the
 way to God him-self.

**Let us pray also for those who do not acknowledge God,
 that, following what is right in sincerity of heart,
 they may find the way to God himself.**

Prayer in silence. Then the Priest says:

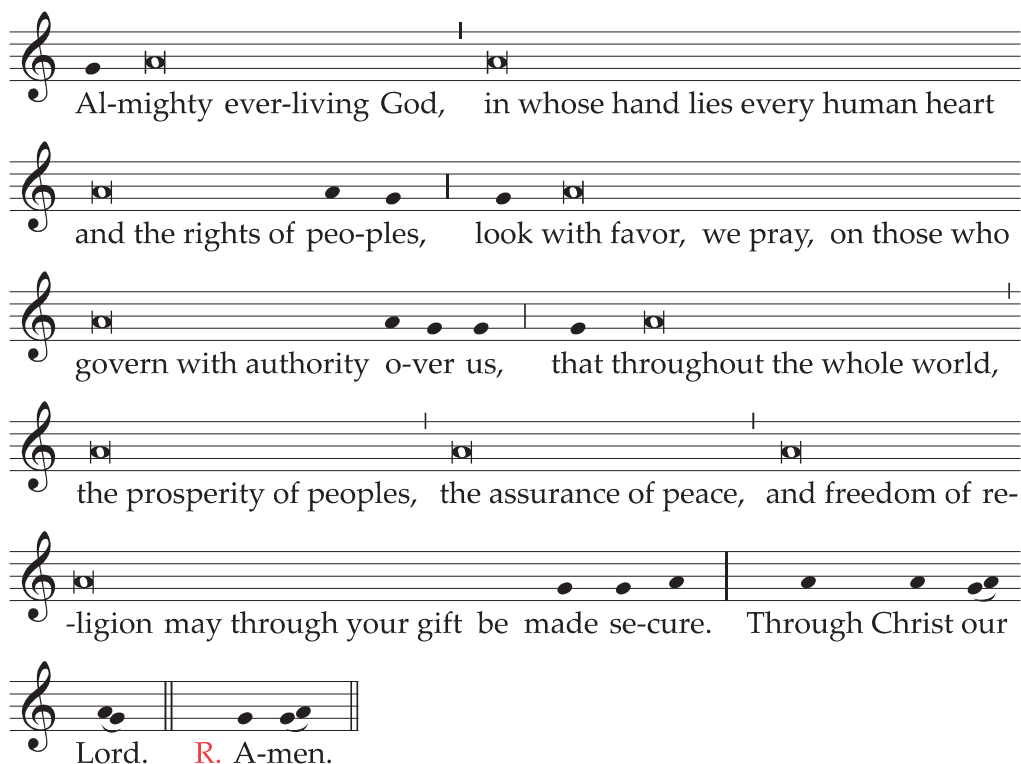


Al-mighty ever-living God, who created all people to seek you al-
 -ways by desiring you and, by finding you, come to rest, grant,
 we pray, that, despite every harmful obstacle, all may recognize the
 signs of your fatherly love and the witness of the good works done
 by those who believe in you, and so in gladness confess you, the one
 true God and Father of our hu-man race. Through Christ our Lord.
R. A-men.

Almighty ever-living God,
 who created all people
 to seek you always by desiring you
 and, by finding you, come to rest,
 grant, we pray,
 that, despite every harmful obstacle,
 all may recognize the signs of your fatherly love
 and the witness of the good works
 done by those who believe in you,
 and so in gladness confess you,
 the one true God and Father of our human race.
 Through Christ our Lord.
 R. Amen.

IX. **For those in public office**

Prayer in silence. Then the Priest says:



Al-mighty ever-living God, in whose hand lies every human heart
and the rights of peo-ples, look with favor, we pray, on those who
govern with authority o-ver us, that throughout the whole world,
the prosperity of peoples, the assurance of peace, and freedom of re-
-ligion may through your gift be made se-cure. Through Christ our
Lord. **R.** A-men.

**Almighty ever-living God,
in whose hand lies every human heart
and the rights of peoples,
look with favor, we pray,
on those who govern with authority over us,
that throughout the whole world,
the prosperity of peoples,
the assurance of peace,
and freedom of religion
may through your gift be made secure.
Through Christ our Lord.
R. Amen.**

X. **For those in tribulation**

Let us pray, dearly beloved, to God the Fa - ther al-might-y, that
 he may cleanse the world of all er-rors, ban-ish dis-ease, drive out
 hun-ger, un-lock pris-ons, loos-en fet-ters, granting to trav-el-ers
 safe-ty, to pil-grims re-turn, health to the sick, and salvation
 to the dy-ing.

Let us pray, dearly beloved,
 to God the Father almighty,
 that he may cleanse the world of all errors,
 banish disease, drive out hunger,
 unlock prisons, loosen fetters,
 granting to travelers safety, to pilgrims return,
 health to the sick, and salvation to the dying.

Prayer in silence. Then the Priest says:

Al-mighty ever-living God, comfort of mourners, strength of all who
 toil, may the prayers of those who cry out in any tribulation come
 before you, that all may rejoice, because in their hour of need your
 mercy was at hand. Through Christ our Lord. **R.** A-men.

Almighty ever-living God,
 comfort of mourners, strength of all who toil,
 may the prayers of those who cry out in any tribulation
 come before you,
 that all may rejoice,
 because in their hour of need
 your mercy was at hand.
 Through Christ our Lord.
 R. Amen.

SECOND PART:

THE ADORATION OF THE HOLY CROSS

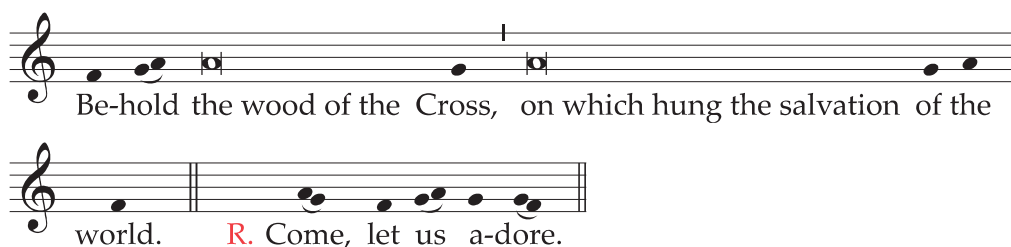
14. After the Solemn Intercessions, the solemn Adoration of the Holy Cross takes place. Of the two forms of the showing of the Cross presented here, the more appropriate one, according to pastoral needs, should be chosen.

The Showing of the Holy Cross

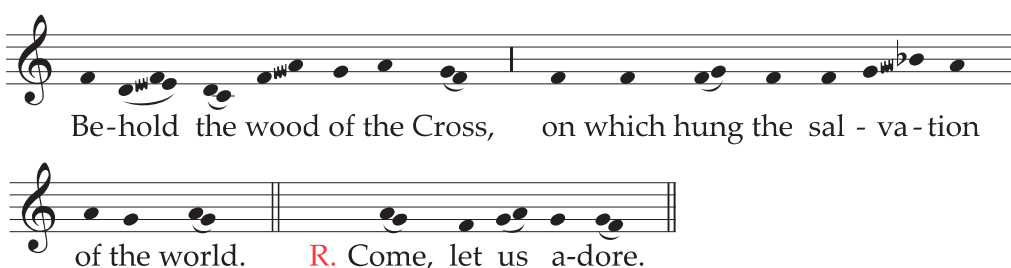
First Form

15. The Deacon accompanied by ministers, or another suitable minister, goes to the sacristy, from which, in procession, accompanied by two ministers with lighted candles, he carries the Cross, covered with a violet veil, through the church to the middle of the sanctuary.

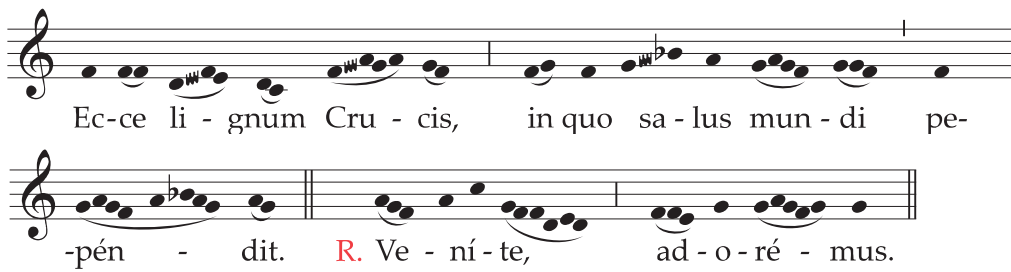
The Priest, standing before the altar and facing the people, receives the Cross, uncovers a little of its upper part and elevates it while beginning the *Ecce lignum Crucis* (Behold the wood of the Cross). He is assisted in singing by the Deacon or, if need be, by the choir. All respond, Come, let us adore. At the end of the singing, all kneel and for a brief moment adore in silence, while the Priest stands and holds the Cross raised.



Or:



Or:



**Behold the wood of the Cross,
on which hung the salvation of the world.**

R. Come, let us adore.

Then the Priest uncovers the right arm of the Cross and again, raising up the Cross, begins, Behold the wood of the Cross and everything takes place as above.

Finally, he uncovers the Cross entirely and, raising it up, he begins the invitation Behold the wood of the Cross a third time and everything takes place like the first time.

Second Form

16. The Priest or the Deacon accompanied by ministers, or another suitable minister, goes to the door of the church, where he receives the unveiled Cross, and the ministers take lighted candles; then the procession sets off through the church to the sanctuary. Near the door, in the middle of the church and before the entrance of the sanctuary, the one who carries the Cross elevates it, singing, Behold the wood of the Cross, to which all respond, Come, let us adore. After each response all kneel and for a brief moment adore in silence, as above.

The Adoration of the Holy Cross

17. Then, accompanied by two ministers with lighted candles, the Priest or the Deacon carries the Cross to the entrance of the sanctuary or to another suitable place and there puts it down or hands it over to the ministers to hold. Candles are placed on the right and left sides of the Cross.
18. For the Adoration of the Cross, first the Priest Celebrant alone approaches, with the chasuble and his shoes removed, if appropriate. Then the clergy, the lay ministers, and the faithful approach, moving as if in procession, and showing reverence to the Cross by a simple genuflection or by some other sign appropriate to the usage of the region, for example, by kissing the Cross.
19. Only one Cross should be offered for adoration. If, because of the large number of people, it is not possible for all to approach individually, the Priest, after some of the clergy and faithful have adored, takes the Cross and, standing in the middle before the altar, invites the people in a few words to adore the Holy Cross and afterwards holds the Cross elevated higher for a brief time, for the faithful to adore it in silence.
20. While the adoration of the Holy Cross is taking place, the antiphon *Crucem tuam adoramus* (We adore your Cross, O Lord), the Reproaches, the hymn *Crux fidelis* (Faithful Cross) or other suitable chants are sung, during which all who have already adored the Cross remain seated.

Chants to Be Sung during the Adoration of the Holy Cross

Ant. We adore your Cross, O Lord,
we praise and glorify your holy Resurrection,
for behold, because of the wood of a tree
joy has come to the whole world.

May God have mercy on us and bless us;
may he let his face shed its light upon us
and have mercy on us.

Cf. Ps 67 (66): 2

And the antiphon is repeated: We adore . . .

The Reproaches

Parts assigned to one of the two choirs separately are indicated by the numbers 1 (first choir) and 2 (second choir); parts sung by both choirs together are marked: 1 and 2. Some of the verses may also be sung by two cantors.

I

1 and 2 My people, what have I done to you?
Or how have I grieved you? Answer me!

1 Because I led you out of the land of Egypt,
you have prepared a Cross for your Savior.

1 Hagios o Theos,

2 Holy is God,

1 Hagios Ischyros,

2 Holy and Mighty,

1 Hagios Athanatos, eleison himas.

2 Holy and Immortal One, have mercy on us.

1 and 2 Because I led you out through the desert forty years
and fed you with manna and brought you into a land of plenty,
you have prepared a Cross for your Savior.

1 Hagios o Theos,

2 Holy is God,

1 Hagios Ischyros,

2 Holy and Mighty,

1 Hagios Athanatos, eleison himas.

2 Holy and Immortal One, have mercy on us.

1 and 2 What more should I have done for you and have not done?

Indeed, I planted you as my most beautiful chosen vine
and you have turned very bitter for me,
for in my thirst you gave me vinegar to drink
and with a lance you pierced your Savior's side.

1 Hagios o Theos,

2 Holy is God,

- 1 Hagios Ischyros,
2 Holy and Mighty,
1 Hagios Athanatos, eleison himas.
2 Holy and Immortal One, have mercy on us.

II

Cantors:

I scourged Egypt for your sake with its firstborn sons,
and you scourged me and handed me over.

1 and 2 repeat:

My people, what have I done to you?
Or how have I grieved you? Answer me!

Cantors:

I led you out from Egypt as Pharoah lay sunk in the Red Sea,
and you handed me over to the chief priests.

1 and 2 repeat:

My people . . .

Cantors:

I opened up the sea before you,
and you opened my side with a lance.

1 and 2 repeat:

My people . . .

Cantors:

I went before you in a pillar of cloud,
and you led me into Pilate's palace.

1 and 2 repeat:

My people . . .

Cantors:

I fed you with manna in the desert,
and on me you rained blows and lashes.

1 and 2 repeat:

My people . . .

Cantors:

I gave you saving water from the rock to drink,
and for drink you gave me gall and vinegar.

1 and 2 repeat:

My people . . .

Cantors:

I struck down for you the kings of the Canaanites,
and you struck my head with a reed.

1 and 2 repeat:

My people . . .

Cantors:

I put in your hand a royal scepter,
and you put on my head a crown of thorns.

1 and 2 repeat:

My people . . .

Cantors:

I exalted you with great power,
and you hung me on the scaffold of the Cross.

1 and 2 repeat:

My people . . .

Hymn

All:

Faithful Cross the Saints rely on,
Noble tree beyond compare!
Never was there such a scion,
Never leaf or flower so rare.
Sweet the timber, sweet the iron,
Sweet the burden that they bear!

Cantors:

Sing, my tongue, in exultation
Of our banner and device!
Make a solemn proclamation
Of a triumph and its price:
How the Savior of creation
Conquered by his sacrifice!

All:

Faithful Cross the Saints rely on,
Noble tree beyond compare!
Never was there such a scion,
Never leaf or flower so rare.

Cantors:

For, when Adam first offended,
Eating that forbidden fruit,
Not all hopes of glory ended
With the serpent at the root:
Broken nature would be mended
By a second tree and shoot.

All:

Sweet the timber, sweet the iron,
Sweet the burden that they bear!

Cantors:

Thus the tempter was outwitted
By a wisdom deeper still:
Remedy and ailment fitted,
Means to cure and means to kill;
That the world might be acquitted,
Christ would do his Father's will.

All:

Faithful Cross the Saints rely on,
Noble tree beyond compare!
Never was there such a scion,
Never leaf or flower so rare.

Cantors:

So the Father, out of pity
For our self-inflicted doom,
Sent him from the heavenly city
When the holy time had come:
He, the Son and the Almighty,
Took our flesh in Mary's womb.

All:

Sweet the timber, sweet the iron,
Sweet the burden that they bear!

Cantors:

Hear a tiny baby crying,
Founder of the seas and strands;
See his virgin Mother tying
Cloth around his feet and hands;
Find him in a manger lying
Tightly wrapped in swaddling-bands!

All:

Faithful Cross the Saints rely on,
Noble tree beyond compare!
Never was there such a scion,
Never leaf or flower so rare.

Cantors:

So he came, the long-expected,
Not in glory, not to reign;
Only born to be rejected,
Choosing hunger, toil and pain,

Till the scaffold was erected
And the Paschal Lamb was slain.

All:

Sweet the timber, sweet the iron,
Sweet the burden that they bear!

Cantors:

No disgrace was too abhorrent:
Nailed and mocked and parched he died;
Blood and water, double warrant,
Issue from his wounded side,
Washing in a mighty torrent
Earth and stars and oecumene.

All:

Faithful Cross the Saints rely on,
Noble tree beyond compare!
Never was there such a scion,
Never leaf or flower so rare.

Cantors:

Lofty timber, smooth your roughness,
Flex your boughs for blossoming;
Let your fibers lose their toughness,
Gently let your tendrils cling;
Lay aside your native gruffness,
Clasp the body of your King!

All:

Sweet the timber, sweet the iron,
Sweet the burden that they bear!

Cantors:

Noblest tree of all created,
Richly jeweled and embossed:
Post by Lamb's blood consecrated;
Spar that saves the tempest-tossed;
Scaffold-beam which, elevated,
Carries what the world has cost!

All:

Faithful Cross the Saints rely on,
Noble tree beyond compare!
Never was there such a scion,
Never leaf or flower so rare.

The following conclusion is never to be omitted:

All:

Wisdom, power, and adoration
To the blessed Trinity
For redemption and salvation
Through the Paschal Mystery,
Now, in every generation,
And for all eternity. Amen.

In accordance with local circumstances or popular traditions and if it is pastorally appropriate, the *Stabat Mater* may be sung, as found in the *Graduale Romanum*, or another suitable chant in memory of the compassion of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

21. When the adoration has been concluded, the Cross is carried by the Deacon or a minister to its place at the altar. Lighted candles are placed around or on the altar or near the Cross.

THIRD PART: HOLY COMMUNION

22. A cloth is spread on the altar, and a corporal and the Missal put in place. Meanwhile the Deacon or, if there is no Deacon, the Priest himself, putting on a humeral veil, brings the Blessed Sacrament back from the place of repose to the altar by a shorter route, while all stand in silence. Two ministers with lighted candles accompany the Blessed Sacrament and place their candlesticks around or upon the altar.
When the Deacon, if a Deacon is present, has placed the Blessed Sacrament upon the altar and uncovered the ciborium, the Priest goes to the altar and genuflects.
23. Then the Priest, with hands joined, says aloud:
**At the Savior's command
and formed by divine teaching,
we dare to say:**

The Priest, with hands extended says, and all present continue:

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread,
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.**

Text with music, p. 663.

24. With hands extended, the Priest continues alone:

**Deliver us, Lord, we pray, from every evil,
graciously grant peace in our days,
that, by the help of your mercy,
we may be always free from sin
and safe from all distress,
as we await the blessed hope
and the coming of our Savior, Jesus Christ.**

He joins his hands.

The people conclude the prayer, acclaiming:

For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours now and for ever.

Text with music, p. 664.

25. Then the Priest, with hands joined, says quietly:

**May the receiving of your Body and Blood,
Lord Jesus Christ,
not bring me to judgment and condemnation,
but through your loving mercy
be for me protection in mind and body
and a healing remedy.**

26. The Priest then genuflects, takes a particle, and, holding it slightly raised over the ciborium, while facing the people, says aloud:

**Behold the Lamb of God,
behold him who takes away the sins of the world.
Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.**

And together with the people he adds once:

**Lord, I am not worthy
that you should enter under my roof,
but only say the word
and my soul shall be healed.**

27. And facing the altar, he reverently consumes the Body of Christ, saying quietly: May the Body of Christ keep me safe for eternal life.
28. He then proceeds to distribute Communion to the faithful. During Communion, Psalm 22 (21) or another appropriate chant may be sung.
29. When the distribution of Communion has been completed, the ciborium is taken by the Deacon or another suitable minister to a place prepared outside the church or, if circumstances so require, it is placed in the tabernacle.
30. Then the Priest says: Let us pray, and, after a period of sacred silence, if circumstances so suggest, has been observed, he says the Prayer after Communion.

**Almighty ever-living God,
who have restored us to life
by the blessed Death and Resurrection of your Christ,
preserve in us the work of your mercy,
that, by partaking of this mystery,
we may have a life unceasingly devoted to you.
Through Christ our Lord.**

R. Amen.

31. **For the Dismissal the Deacon or, if there is no Deacon, the Priest himself, may say the invitation**
Bow down for the blessing.

Then the Priest, standing facing the people and extending his hands over them, says this
Prayer over the People:

**May abundant blessing, O Lord, we pray,
descend upon your people,
who have honored the Death of your Son
in the hope of their resurrection:
may pardon come,
comfort be given,
holy faith increase,
and everlasting redemption be made secure.
Through Christ our Lord.**

R. Amen.

32. **And all, after genuflecting to the Cross, depart in silence.**
33. **After the celebration, the altar is stripped, but the Cross remains on the altar with two or four candlesticks.**
34. **Vespers (Evening Prayer) is not celebrated by those who have been present at the solemn afternoon liturgical celebration.**