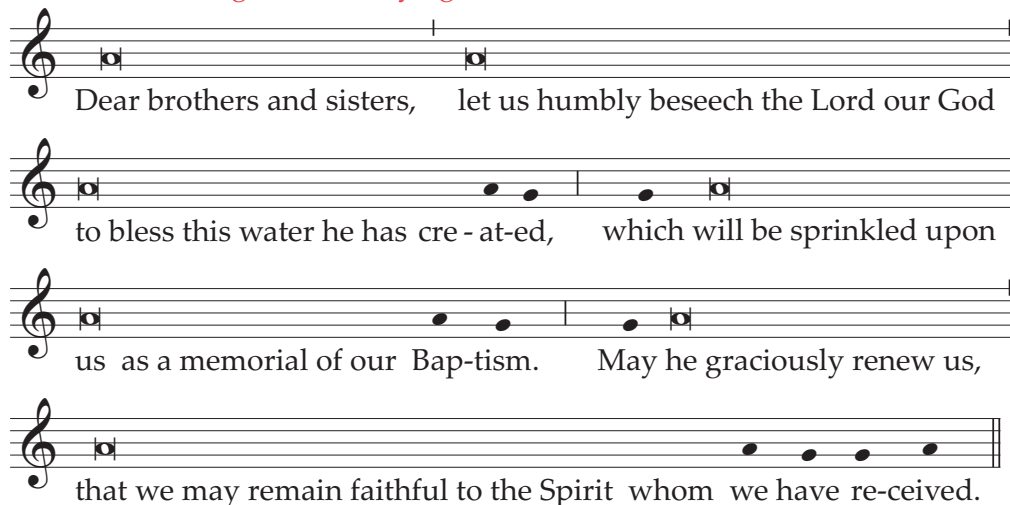


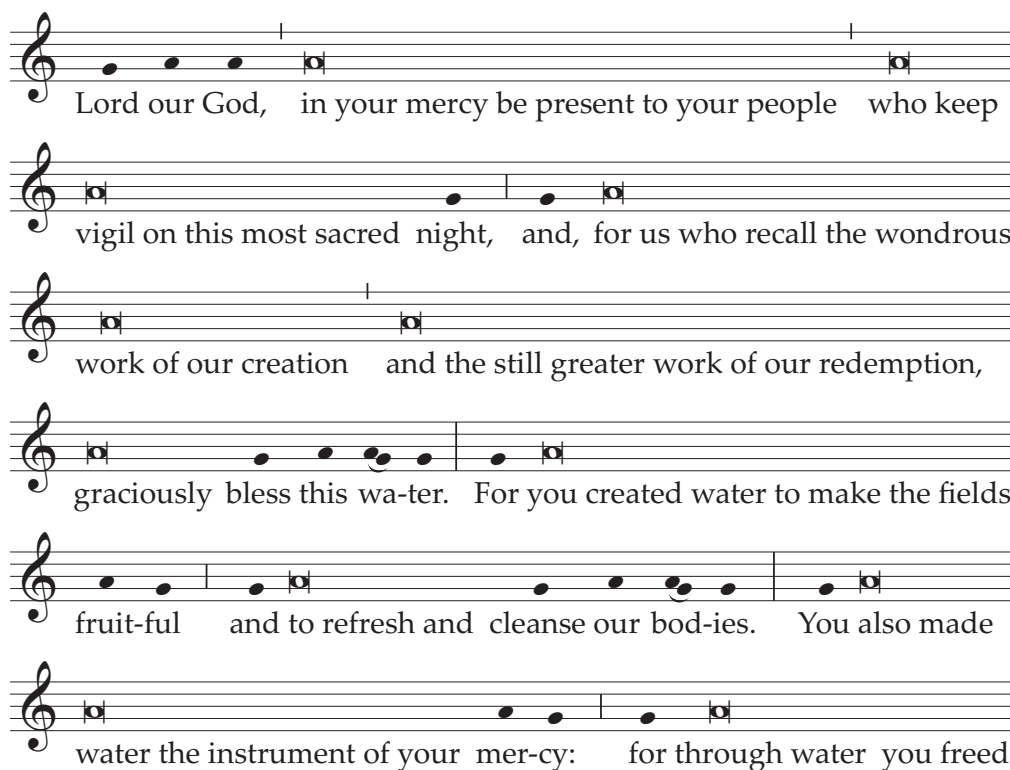
The Blessing of Water

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

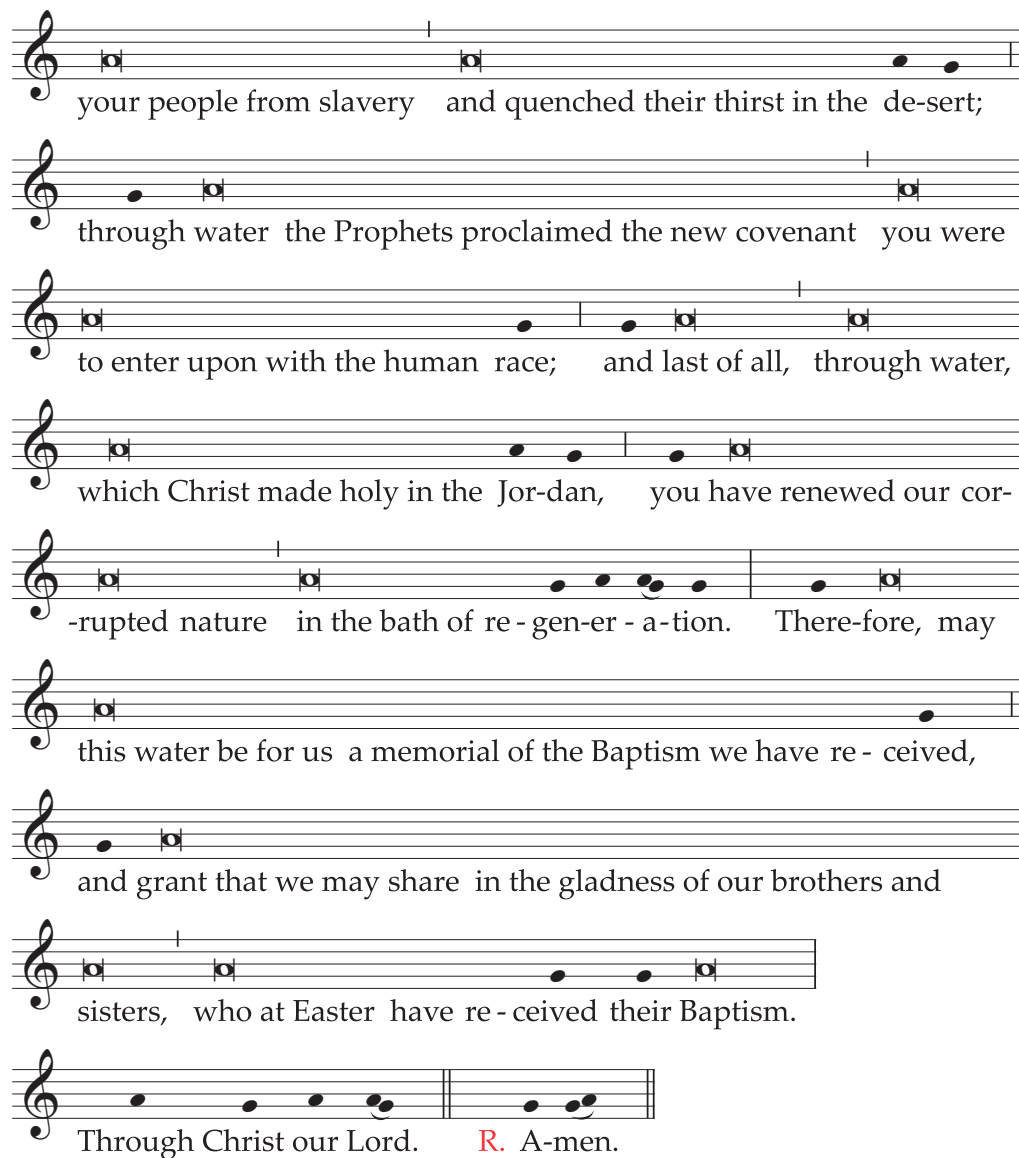


Dear brothers and sisters, let us humbly beseech the Lord our God
to bless this water he has cre - at-ed, which will be sprinkled upon
us as a memorial of our Bap-tism. May he graciously renew us,
that we may remain faithful to the Spirit whom we have re-ceived.

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



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



your people from slavery and quenched their thirst in the de-sert;
through water the Prophets proclaimed the new covenant you were
to enter upon with the human race; and last of all, through water,
which Christ made holy in the Jor-dan, you have renewed our cor-
-rupted nature in the bath of re - gen - er - a - tion. There-fore, may
this water be for us a memorial of the Baptism we have re - ceived,
and grant that we may share in the gladness of our brothers and
sisters, who at Easter have re - ceived their Baptism.
Through Christ our Lord. R. A-men.