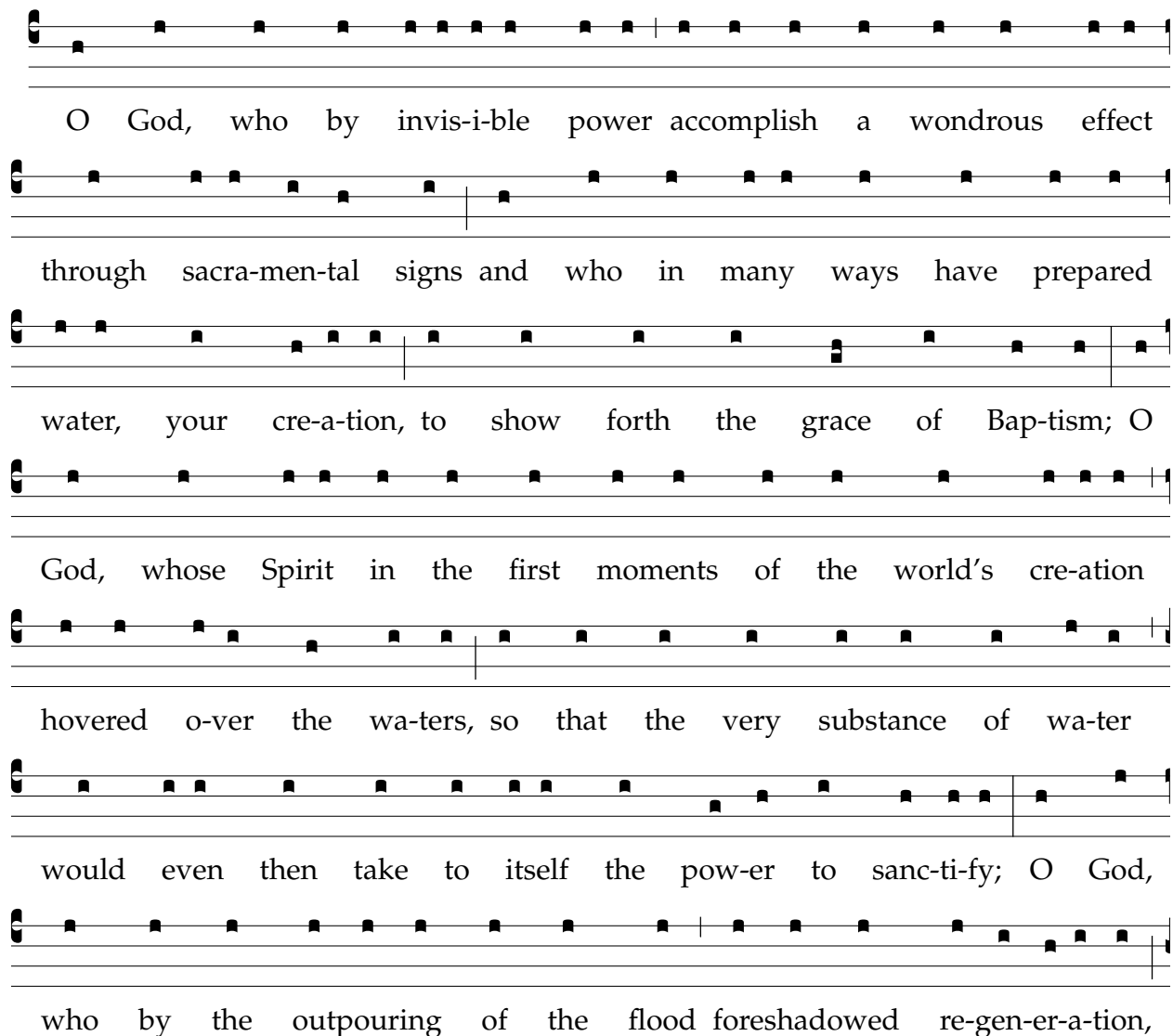
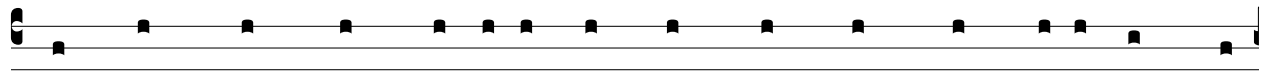


Blessing of Baptismal Water

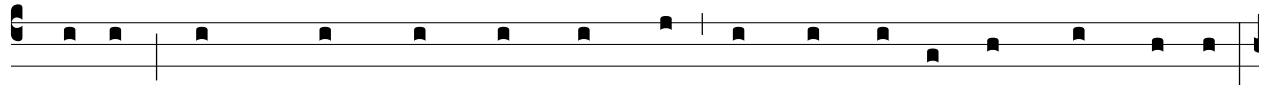
The Priest then blesses the baptismal water, singing the following prayer with hands extended:



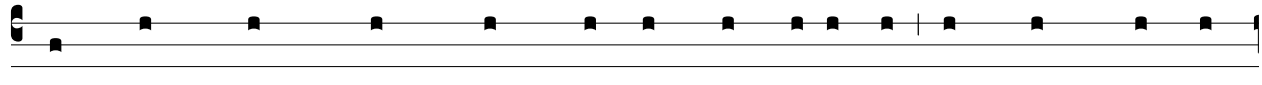
O God, who by invis-i-ble power accomplish a wondrous effect
through sacra-men-tal signs and who in many ways have prepared
water, your cre-a-tion, to show forth the grace of Bap-tism; O
God, whose Spirit in the first moments of the world's cre-ation
hovered o-ver the wa-ters, so that the very substance of wa-ter
would even then take to itself the pow-er to sanc-ti-fy; O God,
who by the outpouring of the flood foreshadowed re-gen-er-a-tion,



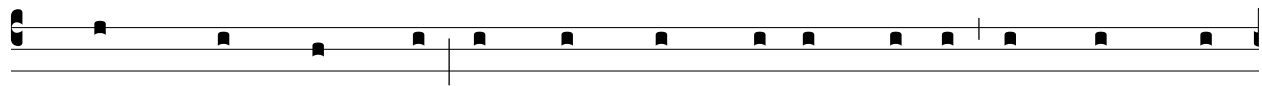
so that form the myster-y of one and the same e-le-ment of



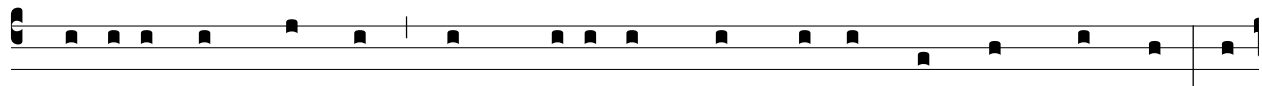
wa-ter would come an end to vice and a be-gin-ning of vir-tue;



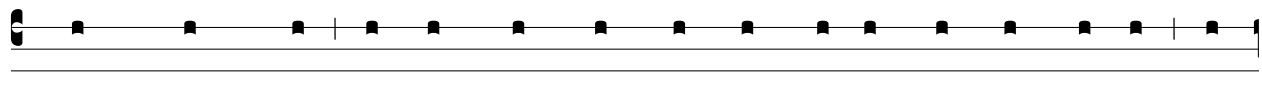
O God, who caused the children of Abraham to pass dry-shod



through the Red Sea, so that the chosen people, set free from



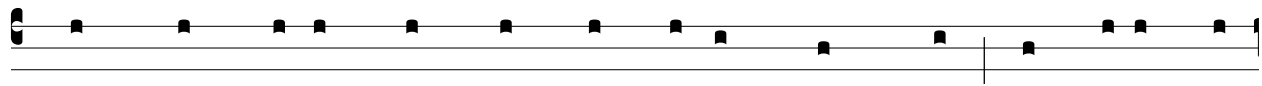
slaver-y to Phar-aoh, would prefigure the people of the bap-tized; O



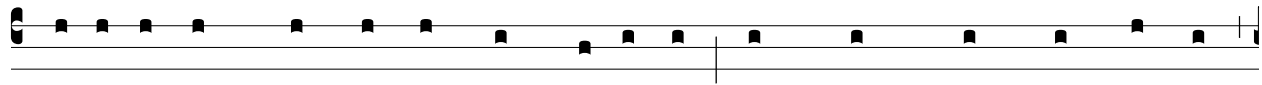
God, whose Son, baptized by John in the waters of the Jordan, was



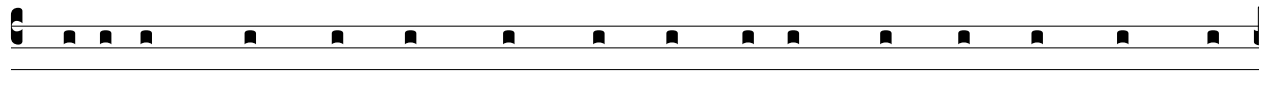
anointed with the Ho-ly Spir-it, and, as he hung upon the Cross,



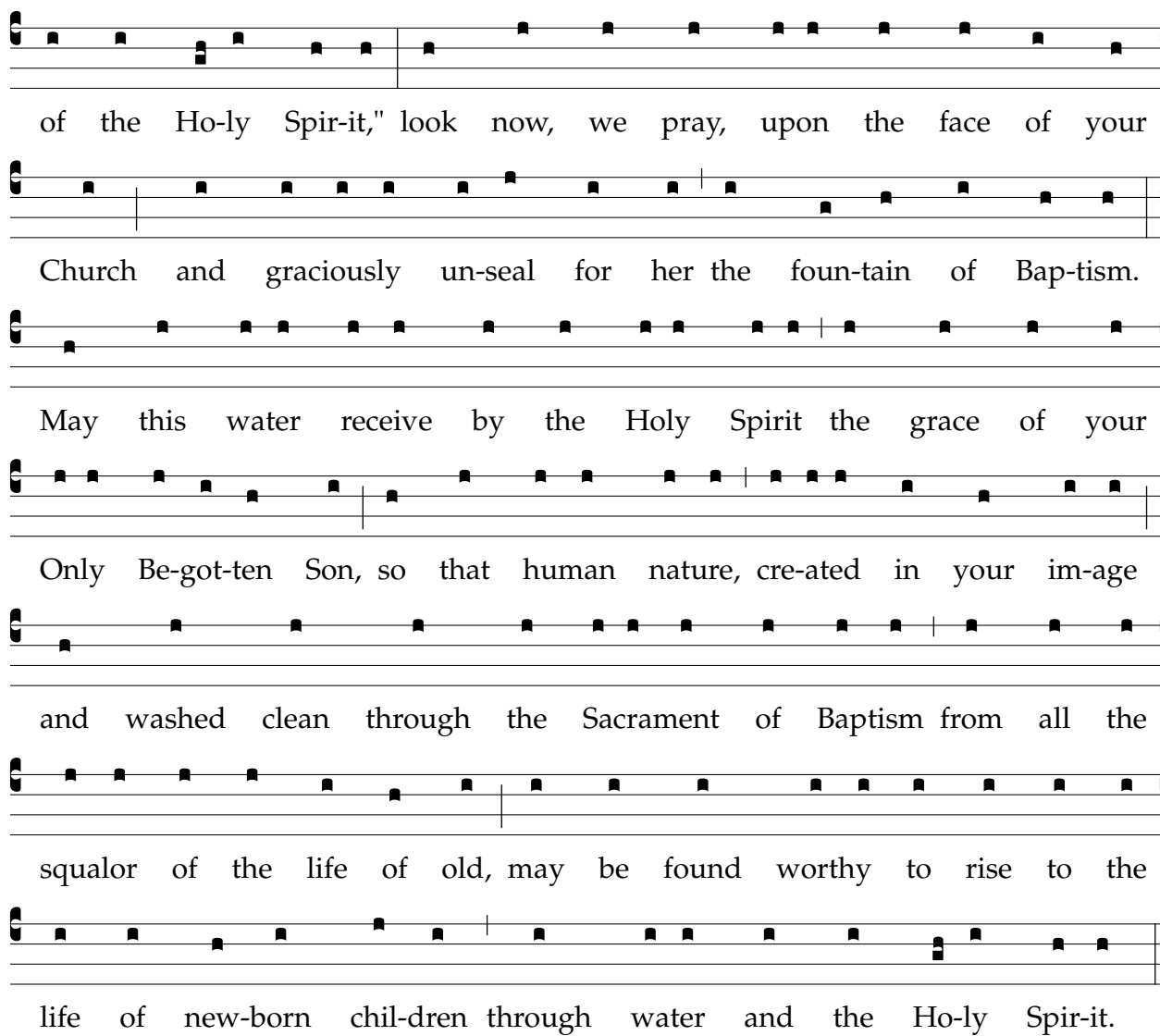
gave forth water from his side a-long with blood, and after his



Resurrection, commanded his dis-ci-ples: "Go forth, teach all na-tions,

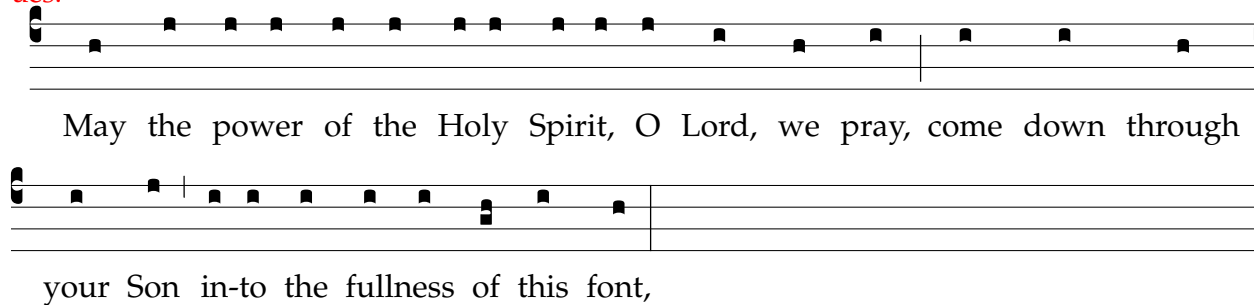


baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and



of the Ho-ly Spir-it," look now, we pray, upon the face of your
Church and graciously un-seal for her the foun-tain of Bap-tism.
May this water receive by the Holy Spirit the grace of your
Only Be-got-ten Son, so that human nature, cre-ated in your im-age
and washed clean through the Sacrament of Baptism from all the
squalor of the life of old, may be found worthy to rise to the
life of new-born chil-dren through water and the Ho-ly Spir-it.

And, if appropriate, lowering the paschal candle into the water once or three times, he continues:

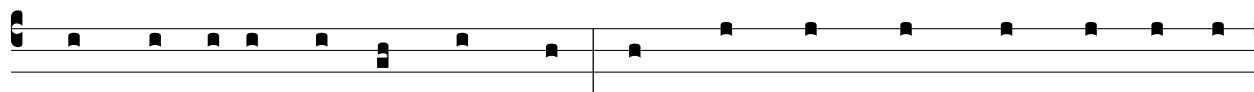


May the power of the Holy Spirit, O Lord, we pray, come down through
your Son in-to the fullness of this font,

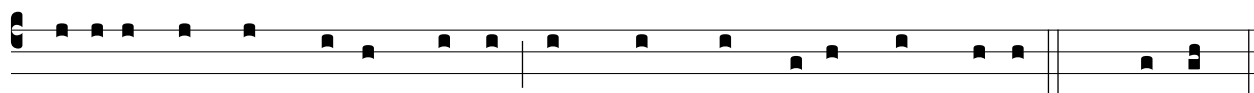
and, holding the candle in the water, he continues:



so that all who have been buried with Christ by Baptism in-to death

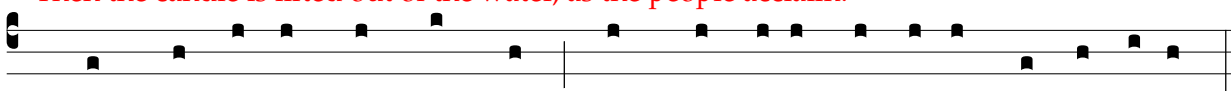


may rise again to life with him. Who lives and reigns with you in the



un-i-ty of the Ho-ly Spir-it, one God, for ev-er and ev-er. Rz. Amen.

Then the candle is lifted out of the water, as the people acclaim:



Springs of wa-ter, bless the Lord; praise and exalt him above all for e-ver.