The
Parish
Church
Of
Saint
Matthew
~
Big Lamp
~
Newcastle

The Liturgy for Sung Masses in **Advent**

- **To our visitors:**

Welcome to Saint Matthew's Parish Church.

- **The Mass:**

The Mass is the central act of worship of the Christian Church. Before He died, Jesus commanded His followers to continue the practice of a shared meal with the blessing of bread and a cup of wine in thanksgiving for all God's blessings. After the Resurrection, Christians were aware that in the celebration of the Eucharist (as they called the Mass), Christ's presence was particularly intense, especially in the elements of bread and wine (which Jesus had identified with His Body and Blood), in the reading of Holy Scripture and in the gathering itself.

- **Advent:**

Advent is a four week season at the beginning of the Church's year to prepare to celebrate the Birth of Jesus Christ at Christmas. At the same time, we reflect on the coming of Jesus into our own lives. In the Christian tradition, seasons of preparation are marked by a slightly gentler mood, when, in the context of celebrating our faith, we put slightly more emphasis on our unworthiness before God.

- **This service:**

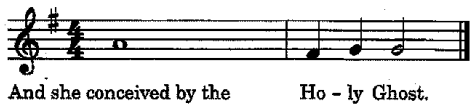
Following the ancient Christian tradition, inherited from the Jewish practice, much of our Liturgy is sung.

- **The hymns:**

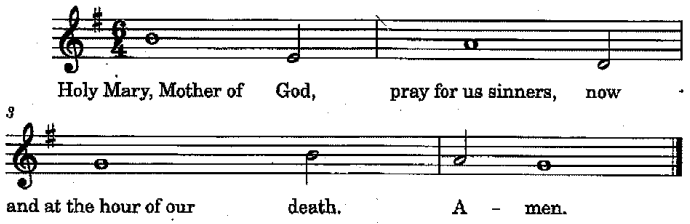
The words of the hymns and other varying texts are Details of the hymns and psalm and other varying texts are printed on the weekly sheet.

On Sundays, we may then sing this commemoration of Mary, the Mother of God:

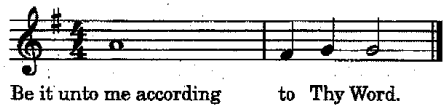
The Angel of the Lord brought the tidings to Mary:



Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee; blessed art thou amongst women and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus;

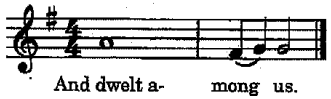


Behold the Handmaid of the Lord.



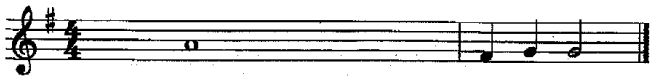
Hail Mary &c

The Word was made flesh:



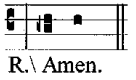
Hail Mary &c

Pray for us, O holy Mother of God.



Let us pray:

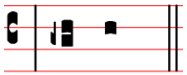
THE COLLECT OF THE ANGELUS



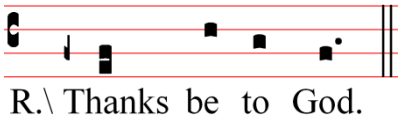
There follows the **FINAL HYMN**.

STAND

THE BLESSING (+)



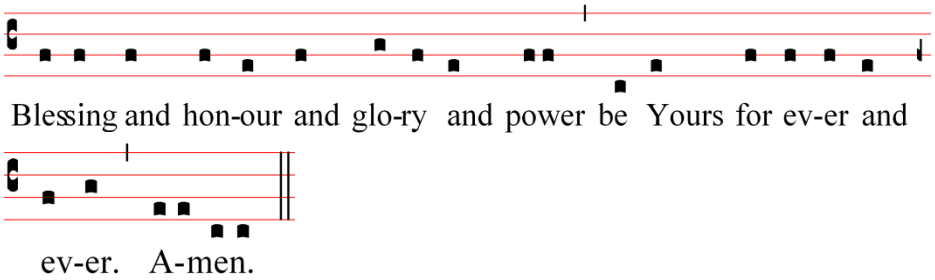
The Mass is ended. Go in the Peace of Christ.



As the procession enters the church all STAND *and sing the* **ENTRANCE HYMN**.

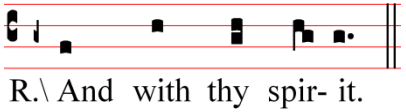
The hymn may pause for the lighting of candles in the Advent wreath.

... unto the ages of ages:



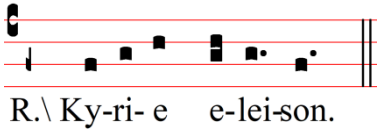
The priest, president of the assembly, greets the congregation:

The Lord be with you:



The priest then invites the congregation to reflect on the times when we have fallen short of God's ideals, before we make an act of penitence:

... Kyrie eleison *[Lord, have mercy]*



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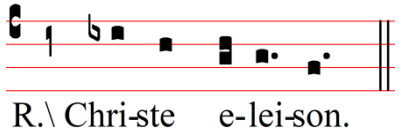
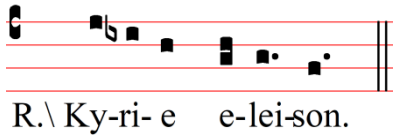
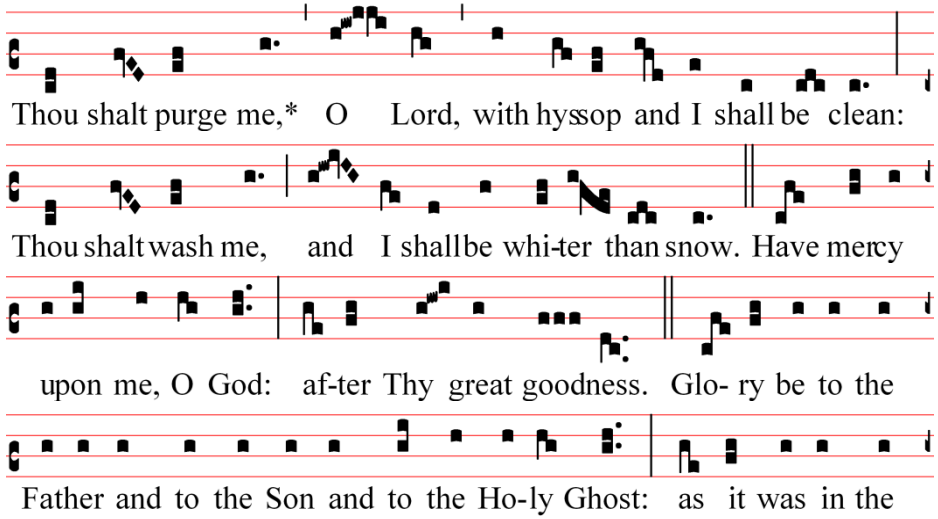
...Christ eleison *[Christ, have mercy]*



... Kyrie eleison



The priest then sprinkles the congregation with Baptismal water to remind us of the forgiveness of our sins that we received in our Baptism. Traditionally, people make the sign of the Cross as they are sprinkled to denote their acceptance of God's forgiveness. During this the following antiphon is sung:



Whilst the Sacred Ministers receive Holy Communion, the choir sings the **COMMUNION ANTIPHON**.

A bell rings and Holy Communion follows. If you are a communicant, in good standing with your own tradition, you are invited to receive Communion at our Altar. Otherwise, you are welcome to come to the rail to receive a blessing (in which case, please keep your head lowered as the priest approaches).

The Host (the consecrated bread) is offered with the words **The Body of Christ** *and the Chalice with the words* **The Blood of Christ***: the response to both is* **Amen**.

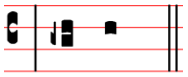
Towards the end of the administration of Holy Communion we sing the **COMMUNION HYMN**.

At the end of Holy Communion, the choir sings the ministers consume what is left of the consecrated bread and wine and clean the vessels. As they return to the Altar the choir sings the **POSTCOMMUNION ANTIPHON**. *The priest then sings the final prayer of the Mass:*

Let us pray:

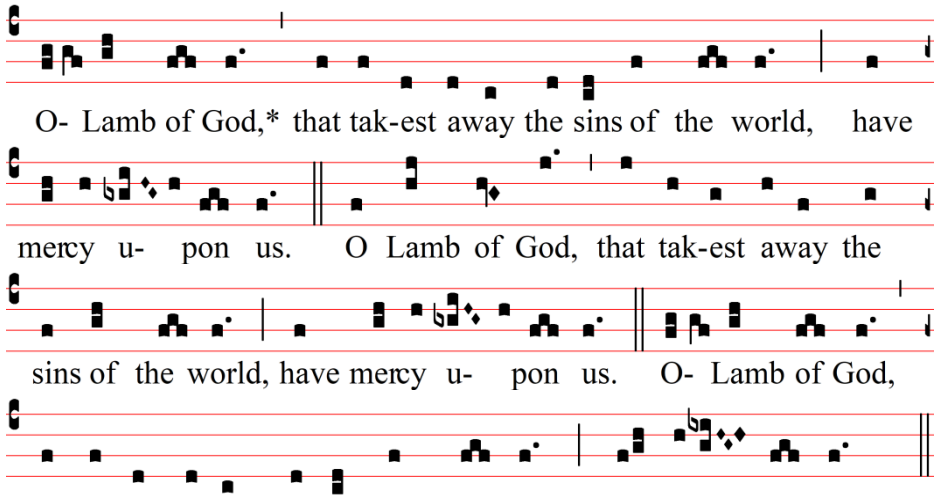
STAND

THE POSTCOMMUNION PRAYER



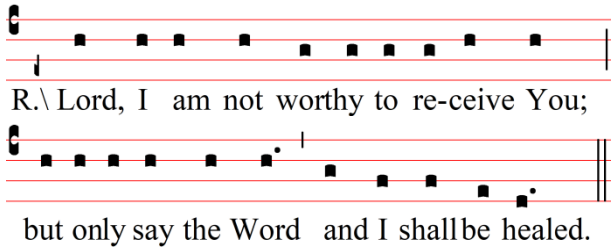
SIT

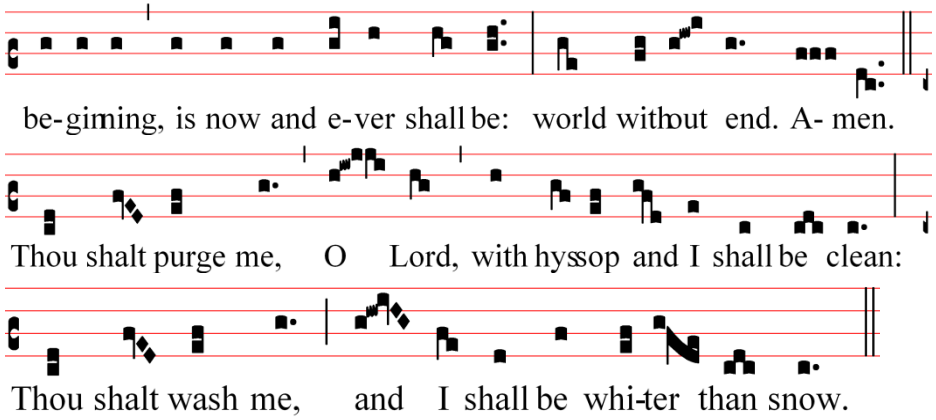
THE NOTICES



The priest and those with him hold up the consecrated bread and wine and show it to the congregation and invite them to receive Holy Communion:

Behold the Lamb of God; behold Him Who takes away the sins of the world; blessed are they who are called to His Supper.



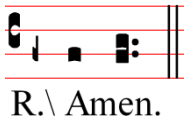


As the choir sings the **INTROIT ANTIPHON**, *the priest honours God's presence, marked by the Altar, using incense.*

The priest then sings a prayer, which reflects some of the thoughts that we have at this Mass:

Let us pray:

THE COLLECT



We now SIT *to listen to readings from the Bible.*

THE FIRST READING

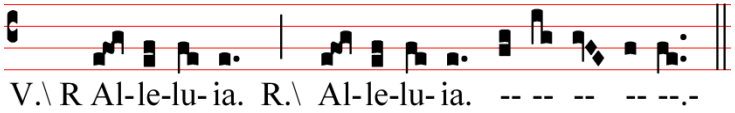
This is the Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

THE PSALM

THE SECOND READING

This is the Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

STAND

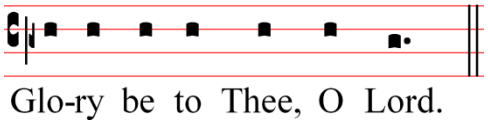


THE GRADUAL VERSE

R.\ Alleluia!

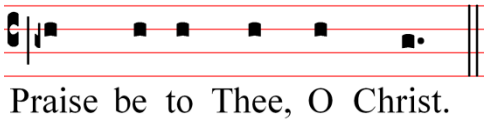
The Gospel Book is carried into the body of the church to read part of the account of Jesus' life. As the procession moves into the nave, we turn to face the Book. Incense is used to honour the presence of Christ in the words of the Gospel.

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to N.



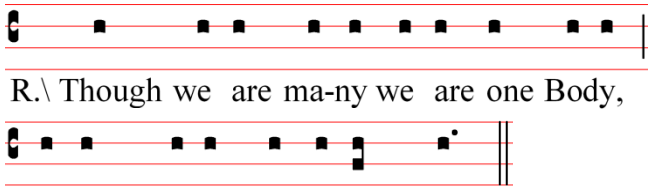
THE GOSPEL READING

This is the Gospel of the Lord



Let us pray for the coming of the Kingdom in the words our Saviour gave us:

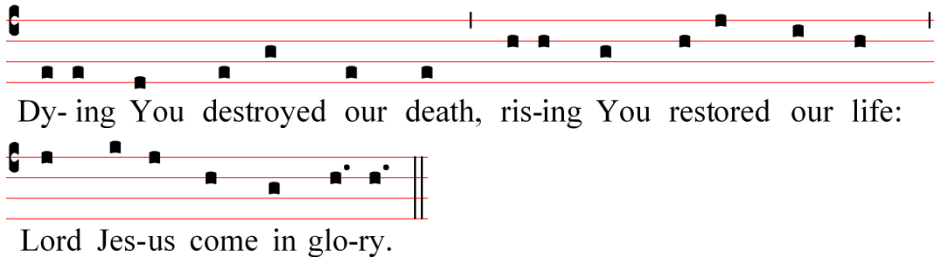
We break this bread to share in the Body of Christ.



KNEEL

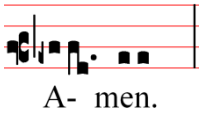
The priest then continues the prayer. As he repeats the words spoken by Jesus at the Last Supper, we acknowledge the presence of Christ in the sacramental bread and wine. A bell rings three times as the consecrated bread is held up for everyone to see; a few moments later, the bell rings three times again as the chalice of consecrated wine is held up. The priest then continues the prayer until:

... we proclaim His Death and Resurrection until He comes in glory:



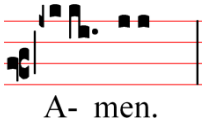
The priest then continues to the end of the prayer, the bread and wine are lifted up again, offering them to God; the people associate themselves with the prayer:

... by Whom and with Whom and in Whom:



in the unity of the Holy Spirit,

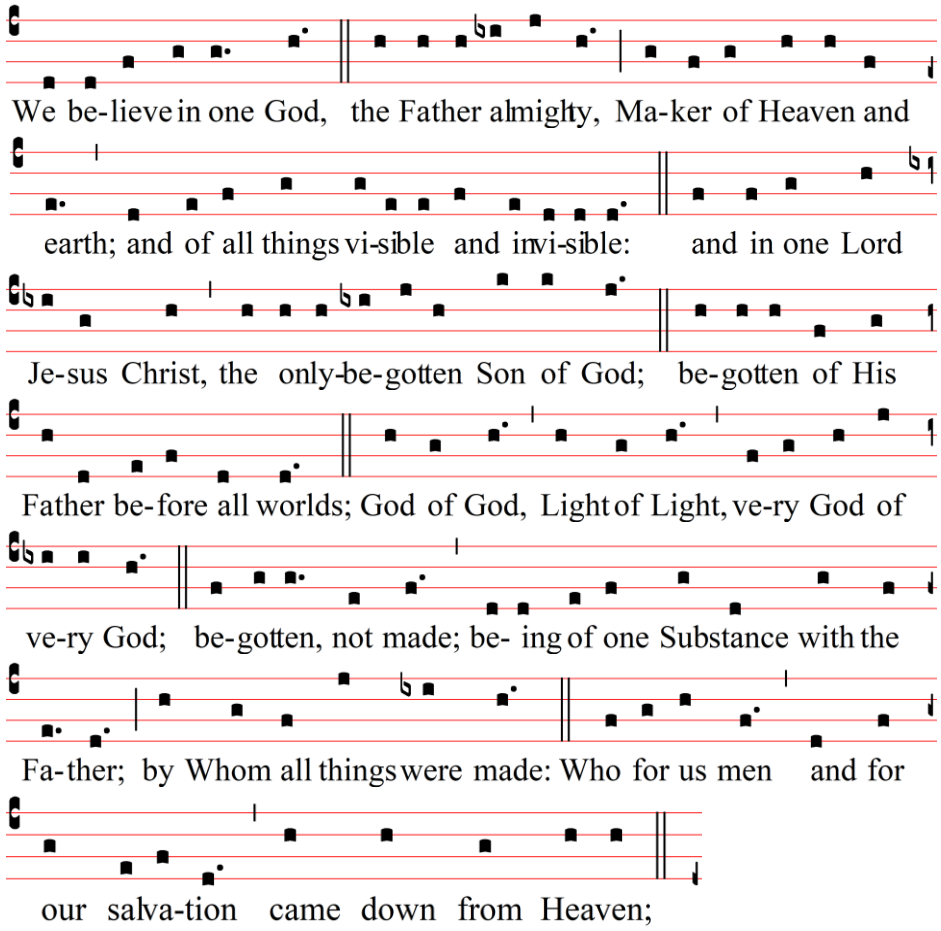
all honour and glory are Yours, almighty Father, for ever and ever.



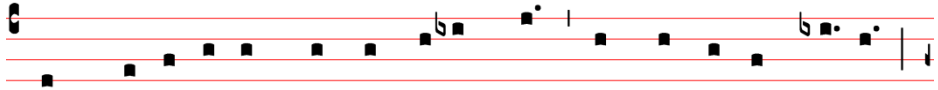
SIT

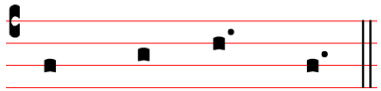
THE SERMON

STAND

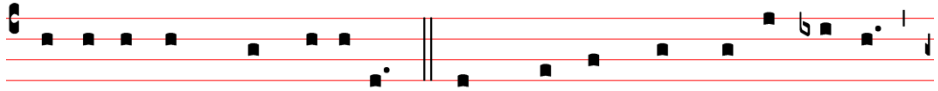


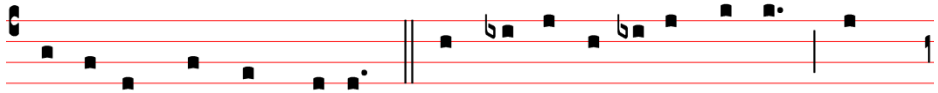
KNEEL

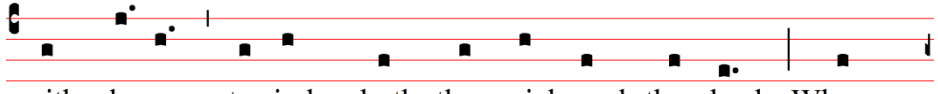


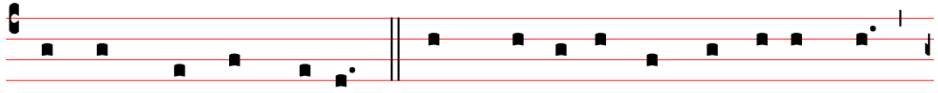


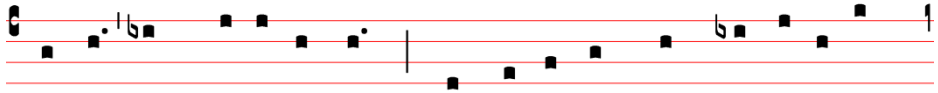
STAND





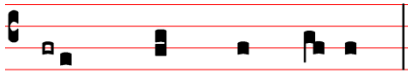




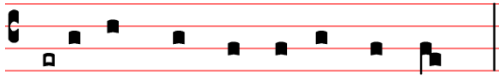


The priest begins the **GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**:

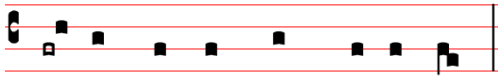
The Lord be with you.



Lift up your hearts.

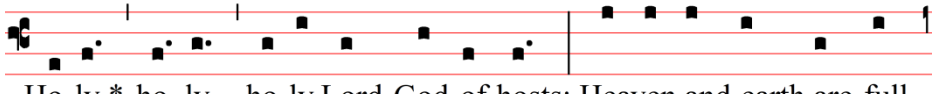


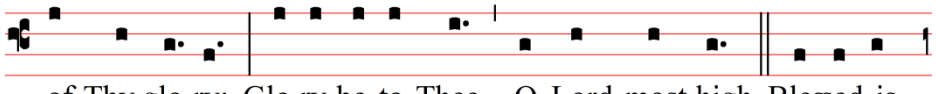
Let us give thanks unto our Lord God.

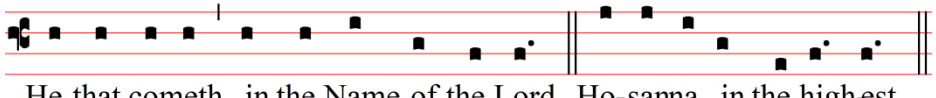


The priest continues the **Great Prayer of Thanksgiving**, *recalling the mighty acts of God. The prayer continues as far as ...*

Advent 1 - 3: ... for ever praising You and singing:
Advent 4: ... and join in their unending hymn of praise:



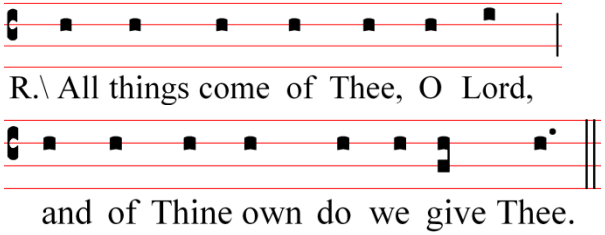




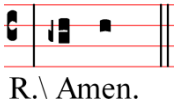
The Altar will then be prepared for the Mass itself and bread and wine placed upon it. Incense is used again, denoting our reverence for the place where, as the Church has taught from earliest times, Christ will become present in the bread and wine over which we give thanks. Then, in turn and by groups, the people in the Church will also be censed because we are, by our Baptism, included in the priestly activity of Christ. During this all sing:

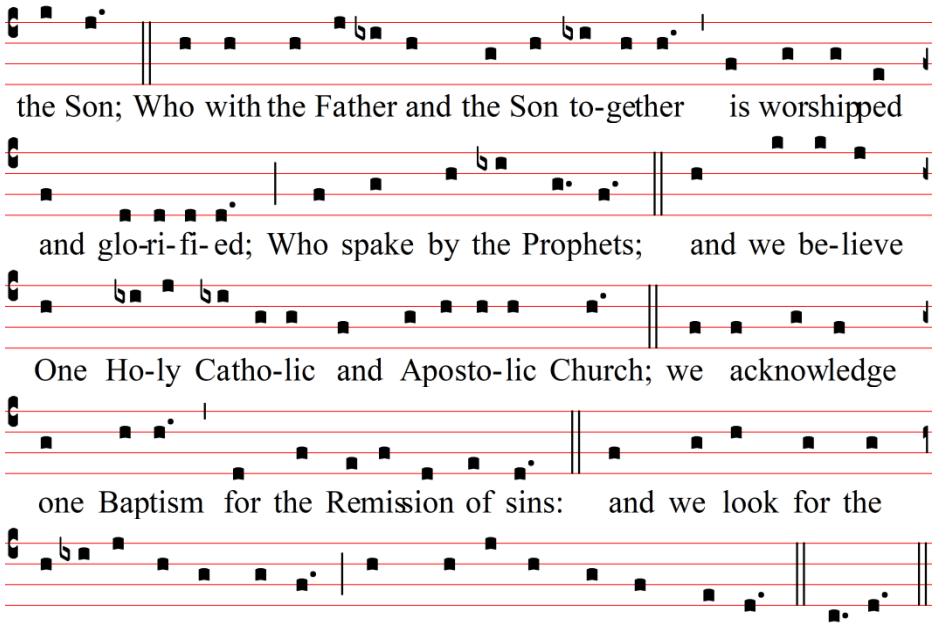
THE OFFERTORY HYMN

Thine, O Lord, is the greatness, the power
and the glory and the victory and the majestsy.
All that is in Heaven and earth is Thine:



THE PRAYER OVER THE BREAD AND WINE

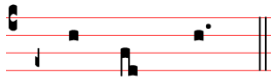




The priest invites the congregation to offer intercessions to God our Father:

THE INTERCESSIONS

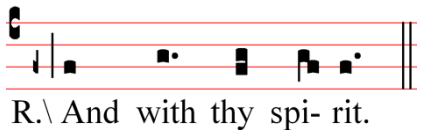
Response to the intercessions:
Lord, in Your mercy.
Hear our prayer.



At the end:
... through Jesus Christ our Lord:

The priest introduces the sharing of Christ's peace to seal the prayer and worship, that we have just offered, in the peace that Christ came to bring to the world:

... The Peace of the Lord be always with you.



The choir sings the **OFFERTORIUM**, *then, as the bread and wine (tokens of our offering to God of all we have and all) we are all sing:*