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THE RITE OF THE HOLY CROSS

DOXOLOGY

Cel: ✠ Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; from our beginning until our end, may mercy and compassion be poured forth upon us weak sinners in both worlds, forever. **Amen.**

Deacon: For the tranquility and peace of the whole world faithful to the Messiah from one end of creation to the other; for the sick and the afflicted; for the souls lying in affliction; for our fathers, brothers and superiors; for our sins and transgressions; for the departed believers who have left from amongst us, we pray to the Lord.

OPENING PRAYER

Cel: God who was crucified for our sake, we worship You and profess that by Your life-giving cross the world received salvation. By it the authority of the Evil One was made naught and light reigned over the earth. Lord, in Your eternal mercy protect Your flock, which was ransomed by Your cross, and deliver her from the Evil One and his hosts that she may raise glory to You, and to Your Blessed Father, and to Your Living and Holy Spirit, now and at all times, forever. **Amen.**

GREETING AND HYMN OF THE ANGELS

Cel: Peace ✠ be with the Church and her Children!

Syriac: *soogheeto (o lokh 'olmo)*

Glo - ry to God, in the high - est, and on earth peace and good hope to all.

Glo - ry to God, in the high - est, and on earth peace and good hope to all.

PRAYER

Cel: Cause, Lord, Your tranquility and peace to abound in Your Holy Church. Adorn her with the gifts of the Holy Spirit and protect her children by Your life-giving cross that she may joyfully celebrate the memorial of Your precious cross and raise glory and thanksgiving to You, and to Your Father, and to Your Living and Holy Spirit, now and at all times, forever. **Amen.**

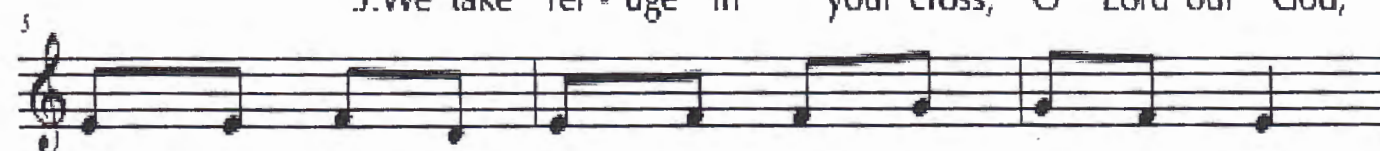
QOLO

All are seated. The first verse is chanted by the clergy and then alternated with the congregation. All sing the final verse together.

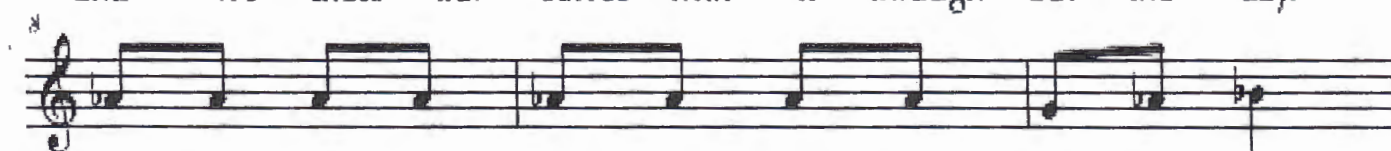
Syriac: *Imaryam yoldat aloho*



1. Son of God, your Church a - dores your ho - ly cross.
 2. Mo - ses took the staff in hand to part the sea.
Al-le-lu-ia! 3. All the signs and im - a - ges of pro - phe - cy
 4. By the cross the walls of death were ov - er - thrown,
 5. We take ref - uge in your cross, O Lord our God,



May true peace and love a - bide with - in her fold.
 Though the peo - ple crossed on foot; yet Pha - raoh drowned.
 that were hid - den in the past are now ex - plained.
 and the right - eous were set free from it's dark realm.
 and we bless our - selves with it through - out the day.



May the priests who ven - e - rate your cross with joy,
 Je - sus by his liv - ing cross killed death it - self
 For the cross of Je - sus Christ ful - filled the words
 By the cross we can ap - proach the tree of life,
 May it guard your flock from harm and keep her safe.



dwell with all the an - gel hosts in — par - a - dise.
 sav - ing Ad - am's child - ren from cap - ti - vi - ty.
 that the pro - phets had pro - claimed so — long a - go.
 for the gates of par - a - dise are — op - en now.
 May it guard us from the one who tempts us all.

All stand.

- Cel: May we be worthy to raise glory, thanksgiving, worship, honor, praise, exaltation, greatness and beauty to the Savior who, by His cross, concluded the mysteries of the prophets and completed the parables of the seers. He confirmed the types of the foreshadowers and fulfilled the images of the ancients. He made the speech of the preachers glorious, gave the word with power to the evangelists, and they proclaimed His Gospel in the four corners and gathered the peoples and nations for His dominical worship. To the Good One is due glory and honor, at this time and in all feasts, moments, hours, seasons and days of our lives, now and in all ages, forever. **Amen.**
- Cel: Today we celebrate the memorial of the feast of the salvific, precious and holy cross by which the bill of evil was torn up and shredded. By it, old things passed away and were fulfilled, and everything became new by it. By it, the debt of the transgression of the commandment was repaid. The host of the Adversary was scattered and hope dawned upon the faithful by the sign of the salvific and life-giving cross: the cross, the cause of blessings; the cross, the sign of victory; the cross, the principal of dogmas; the cross, the hope of believers; the cross, the strengthener of Christians; the cross, the font of life; the cross, the intercessor of blessings; the cross, the key of Paradise; the cross, the slayer of the serpent; the cross, crusher of the head of the dragon; the cross, destroyer of sin; the cross, the banisher of death; the cross, the crusher of error; the cross, the shame of infidels; the cross, the staff of the human race; the cross, the dissolver of decay; the cross, the light of the world; the cross, the pride of our witness; the cross, the root of our life; the cross, the crown of believers; the cross, the foundation of churches; the cross, the uprooter of Sheol. By the cross, the resurrection dawned upon us. By the cross, the Enemy was defeated. By the cross, we were restored to Paradise: the cross, the rampart of life; the cross, the rafter of our altars; the cross, the armor in battle; the cross, the sign of tranquility and reconciliation; the cross, the icon of the Word God; the cross, the pledge of inheritance; the cross, the confidence of the prophets; the cross, the honor of the apostles; the cross, the teachings of teachers; the cross, the rampart of the Holy Church; the cross, the perfection of love; the cross, the fear of demons; the cross, the staff of wonders; the cross, the palm of parables; the cross, the consummation of all priestly labor. By the cross, our sacrifices are perfected. By the cross, our prayers are sealed. By the cross, our bodies are signed. By the cross, our senses are equipped. By the cross, our souls are preserved. The cross is an insurmountable tower. The cross is a refuge that cannot be shamed. The cross is an invincible rampart. The cross is our fortified citadel and village of escape. The cross is our protection, our house of refuge and cause of all our blessings.

We celebrate this today for in its finding our image is found and the rust of our sin is polished off, our oldness is made new, our souls are illumined by God and we become family members and kinsmen to the Son of the Heavenly Father. To Him, who became present in flesh, we petition and ask Him that He be for us a consoler in distresses, a rescuer in afflictions, a deliverer from temptations, a shelter from persecutors, a healer of illnesses, a mender and supporter in heartbreaks, a forgiver of sinners and a giver of relief to the departed believers that as we celebrate the feast of His dispensation today we may be worthy of the place above and raise glory to Him, and to His Father, and to His Holy Spirit, now and at all times, forever. **Amen.**

All are seated. The first verse is chanted by the clergy and then alternated with the congregation.

Syriac: *balbeeboo asheento*

1. Your cross saved us, Je - sus Christ our Lord and God, and it
 2. God told Mo - ses: "Make a ser - pent out of bronze; raise it
 3. Through the a - ges, kings and ru - lers of the world and the
 gave us life. — Now on this day, in all lands the
 up on high. When those bit - ten by the ser - pents
 Church of faith humb - ly bowed down to a - dore the
 Church bows down and a - dore your cross, — and her child - ren sing praise:
 see this sign, they will not taste death." Mo - ses did as God said.
 cross of Christ, who is King and Judge. Ho - ly life - giv - ing Cross,
 "By your death on the cross you have saved the world."
 This fore - sha - dowed the cross that gives life to all. —
 grant the world un - i - ty. Lord, we give you thanks.

Cel: In the arms of Your cross, Lord, shelter Your destitute people and shine its light on the faces of our departed believers. May we and they stand on Your right hand and raise glory and honor to You, and to Your Father, and to Your Holy Spirit, now and at all times, forever. **Amen.**

MAZMOORO

The first verse is chanted by the clergy and then alternated with the congregation.

Syriac: *ramremain*

In your cross we take ref - uge
 Lord, your cross con - quered Sa - tan.
 By your cross, peace is giv - en;
 Je - sus Christ, our Lord and God. By your
 Bles - sed be your ho - ly cross! It has
 heights and depths are re - con - ciled. May your
 cross you have saved us. We a - dore it
 saved us from stray - ing. Bles - sed be your
 Church and her chil - dren be pro - tec - ted
 at sav ing times.
 by your cross! cross.

READINGS

The readings for the rite are now proclaimed.

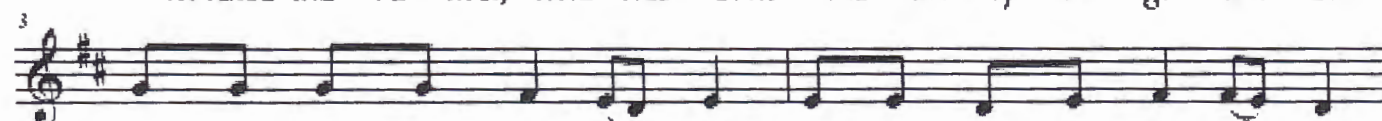
SUPPLICATION

All are seated. The first verse is chanted by the clergy and then alternated with the congregation.

Syriac: *bo'oto dmor afrem*



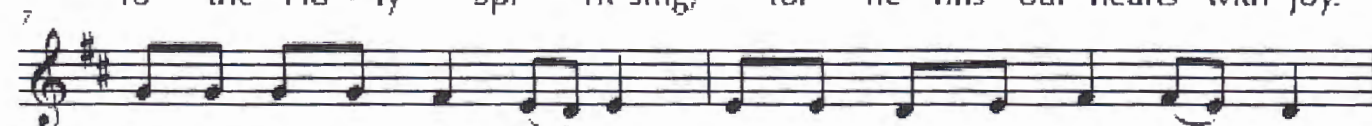
1. When the cross of light ap-peared, Con-stantine was filled with awe.
2. Lord, to-day your ho-ly Church ho-nors and e-xalts your cross.
3. We e-xalt the cross of life and the stan-dard of our King.
4. Praise the Fa-ther, who has sent his on-ly be-got-ten Son.



He took heart and gained new strength and he fought tri-um-phant-ly.
Lift her head a-bove all fears and the wor-ship of false gods.
From the cross God's mer-cy flows here and in the world to come.
Let us thank the Son, who died; by his cross he saved the world.



Now the faith-ful Church, O Lord, looks u-pon your sav-ing cross.
Bles-sed be your flock, O Lord, for the gifts you gave to her.
All in hea-ven and on earth, come re-joice with us to-day!
To the Ho-ly Spi-rit sing, for he fills our hearts with joy.



May it be her strong de-fense in her fight with Sa-tan's power.
She is guar-ded by your cross and is served by faith-ful priests.
Glo-ri-fy our Lord and God, who has saved us by his cross!
Glo-ri-fy the Tri-ni-ty; may his mer-cy shine on us.

PROCESSION

The Celebrant takes the Cross, covering it with a white veil and carries it in procession with the people. All process outside and circle the church, led by the processional cross and candles, incense, the attending clergy, the celebrant with the Saving Cross accompanied by ripidia, the bishop, the choir, and then the people.

z'oro

On this day the bles - sed Church
 By the cross we have been saved;
 Let us praise the Son of God,
 Chil - dren of the Church, pro - claim:

sings with joy through - out the world.
 death and Sa - tan have been crushed.
 who was cru - ci - fied for us.
 "Lord, have mer - cy on us all!"

She re - joi - ces in the cross.
 Hope is giv - en to the world.
 By his death we are re - deemed.
 Praise our Sav - ior, Je - sus Christ.

Come ex - alt the cross of life!

RITE OF BLESSING WITH THE CROSS

BLESSING OF THE EAST

The Celebrant faces the altar on the East side, bearing the cross. He proclaims in a loud voice:

Cel: May Your salvation, Lord, come upon Your Faithful Church for she boasts in Your living cross. While surrounded by its grace, may the entirety of the Christian people drive away hidden and manifest enemies and suppliantly say, "Lord God, forgive and have mercy upon us." Let us cry out and say three times:

Cong: **Kyrie Eleison, Kyrie Eleison, Kyrie Eleison.**

Here the Celebrant makes the sign of the Cross to the East, to the West, to the South, and to the North, once in each direction, then he turns back to the altar. Meanwhile, the following hymn is sung.

Clergy: All the earth shook, **All:** quaked, and trem-bled, **Clergy:** when the Lord, on the cross, died.

All: For the peo - ple **Clergy:** cru-ci-fied him, **All:** Je - sus Christ, King of Glo - ry.

Clergy: Death was fear - ful **All:** when they saw him, **Clergy:** and the dead rose to praise him.

All: Now the Church sings **Clergy:** and gives hon - or **All:** to the cross of her Sav - ior.

Clergy: She cries out to - day in **All:** faith: — "Grant your mer - cy, Lord, we pray!"
thoodaow etqaba'

The Celebrant, facing the East, prays:

Cel: Beautiful and Dominical Presence whose invincible power exceeds all things who stretched out four times and bound the four corners of the world together as one by His love, through You we obtain full knowledge that You effaced the power of the Evil One – by the Lord, whom You are, who reached out corporeally while existing by nature as God. May our eyes look to You, Holy One of the Mystical Israel. Life was hung before us that we should not fear the encounters of the night or the daytime arrows at the noontime of passions which are shot at us by the Adversary for You are our mighty refuge, and we worship You and give You thanks, now and at all times, forever. **Amen.**

BLESSING OF THE WEST

The Celebrant turns West and proclaims:

Cel: The Church, Your betrothed, boasts in You, and she and her children are sealed by Your living mark. She is rescued by You from the Evil One, her Enemy. She honors the arms of the champion of her people and she receives total victory through You. She cries out to You who were crucified and says, "Lord, forgive Your people and do not turn away from Your inheritance." Let us cry out and say three times:

Cong: Kyrie Eleison, Kyrie Eleison, Kyrie Eleison.

Here the Celebrant makes the sign of the Cross to the West, to the East, to the South, and to the North, twice in each direction, then he turns back to the altar. Meanwhile, the following hymn is sung.

Clergy: All: Clergy:

Paul and Pe - ter; all A-pos - tles, on this day sing God's prai - ses!

5 All: Clergy: All:

For all na - tions were con-ver - ted when you taught them the Gos - pel.

9 Clergy: All: Clergy:

They give hon - or and raise glo - ry to the cross of their Sav - ior.

13 All: Clergy: All:

As they praise it, with the an - gels, they sing hymns of re-joi - cing.

17 Clergy: All:

They cry out to - day in faith: — "Grant your mer - cy,

21

Lord, we pray!" —

hondaaw etaaba'

The Celebrant, facing the West, prays:

Cel: Savior of the afflicted, Finder of the lost, Raiser of the fallen, raise us up, Lord, from the fall of our sin and loose from us the fetters of evil deeds. May Your cross be a guardian of our souls against the Evil One and his hosts for our hope is in You and we call to You, our Lord and our God, to You be glory forever. **Amen.**

BLESSING OF THE SOUTH

The Celebrant turns South and proclaims:

Cel: In a typology of the cross of light, Moses divided the sea for the Israelite people and as a symbol of it he held a bronze serpent for the healing the bites of snakes. By the stretching out of his hands He defeated Amalek and his host. Grant us, Lord, that we may defeat the height which rises against the Church, which was ransomed by Your cross. Let us humbly call out to You, "Forgive and have mercy on us" as we cry out three times:

Cong: **Kyrie Eleison, Kyrie Eleison, Kyrie Eleison.**

Here the Celebrant makes the sign of the Cross to the South, to the North, to the East, and to the West, three times in each direction, then he turns back to the altar. Meanwhile, the following hymn is sung.

Clergy: On this day, Lord, we give hon - or to your cross that has saved us.

All: And with great joy we ex - alt it through the hands of your priests, Lord.

Clergy: By your cross, Lord, you de - fend us from all harm and from e - vil.

All: Now the Church sings, while re - joi - cing, for the cross is her ref - uge.

Clergy: She cries out to - day in faith: — "Grant your mer - cy, Lord, we pray!"
lhoo daaw etqaba'

The Celebrant, facing the South, prays:

Cel: Upon the Sign of life, by which we obtain knowledge of God, the holy cross the Word God was stretched out that He might bless the four corners. The Son of the Father, the glorious Son, appeared in the flesh and saved us from sin, death and Satan. Therefore, the Holy Church offers the thrice holy praise to You. Immortal One, You were crucified for our sake on Your sign of which we three times sign ourselves with Your icon. May it be for us a mighty power of assistances against all the haters of Your truth. May we be rescued by You from all harm of soul and body, and from all evil and wicked men. With a praise alien to matters of sin, may we glorify, praise and exalt You, now and at all times, forever. **Amen.**

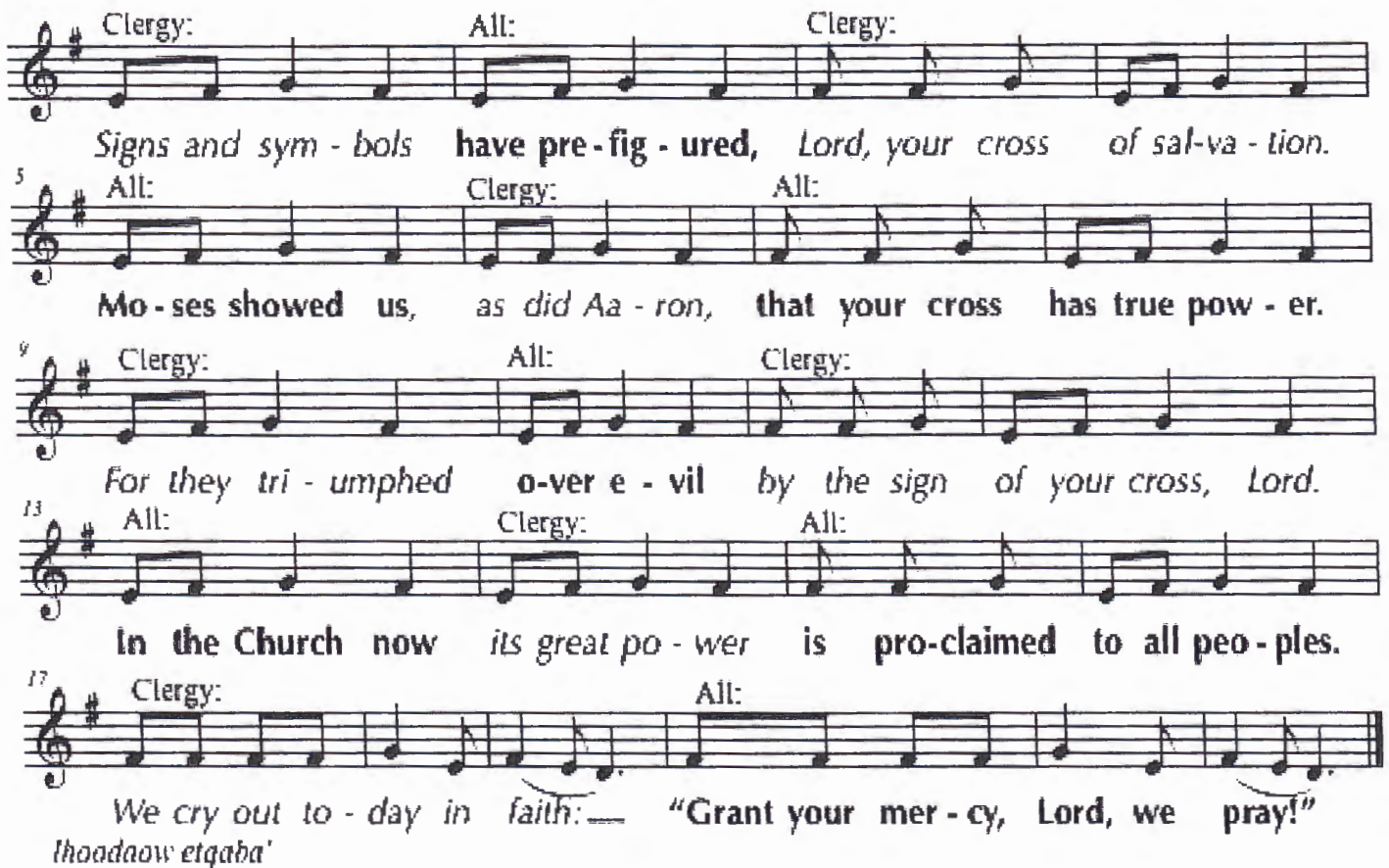
BLESSING OF THE NORTH

The Celebrant turns North and proclaims:

Cel: By the procession of the life-giving cross the East and the West and the North and the South are sanctified in their entirety. May those who are under its arms take shelter and be delivered from all the harm of the Adversary. Like the sign upon the houses of the sons of Israel, the senses of our souls and bodies are signed. Let us cry out and say three times:

Cong: **Kyrie Eleison, Kyrie Eleison, Kyrie Eleison.**

Here the Celebrant makes the sign of the Cross to the North, to the South, to the East, and to the West, four times in each direction, then he turns back to the altar. Meanwhile, the following hymn is sung.



Clergy: Signs and sym - bols **All:** have pre - fig - ured, **Clergy:** Lord, your cross of sal - va - tion.

All: Mo - ses showed us, **Clergy:** as did Aa - ron, **All:** that your cross has true pow - er.

Clergy: For they tri - umphed **All:** o - ver e - vil **Clergy:** by the sign of your cross, Lord.

All: In the Church now **Clergy:** its great po - wer **All:** is pro - claimed to all peo - ples.

Clergy: We cry out to - day in **All:** faith: — "Grant your mer - cy, Lord, we pray!"
thoodaow etqaba'

The Celebrant, facing the North, prays:

Cel: Messiah full of mercy, pour forth Your mercy upon the sheep of Your flock, which was ransomed by Your victorious cross. Source of blessings, pardon our debts in Your mercy. Healer of all infirmities, heal our sickness in Your compassion. Treasure of assistances, enrich our poverty by the treasury of Your riches. Good Shepherd who sacrificed Himself for the sake of His flock that He could collect her from the stumbling-blocks of sin, gather our thoughts from vain wandering to Your holy enclosures. Heavenly Sacrifice who, through Himself, wrought purification for our sins, purify our bodies and souls of every ugly thing. Whiten our blemishes by Your hyssop, Pardoner of All, that we may give thanks to Your goodness and worship Your compassion, now and at all times, forever. **Amen.**

BLESSING OF THE WATER

Cel: O Lord, grant peace to your Church.

Cong: **That we may enter her with faith and reverence.**

Cel: Bless this water through the indwelling of your Holy Spirit.

Cong: **May this water purify us through the power of the Most Holy Trinity.**

Cel: May this water heal our souls and bodies and overcome the power of our enemy.

Cong: **May it guard and protect us all.**

Cel: May we inherit the kingdom by drinking or sprinkling this water.

Cong: **May it deliver us from distress.**

Cel: O powerful God who can change all things, sanctify ✕ this water, bless ✕ it and transform it with your Holy Spirit into a force capable of opposing the wiles of the enemy and to abolish magic, witchcraft and sorcery. Grant that anyone who takes, drinks, or uses this water to wash or sprinkle his house, clothing, or any other place, to obtain healing of soul and body. That everything blessed with this water deliver them from all the blows of evil spirits, by it we obtain the rich mercies that come from you, by the grace of your only Son, and the fellowship of your Holy Spirit. Glory to you forever. **Amen.**

Deacon: Bow your heads to the Lord.

bash-lo-mo l'mor-yo net-ka-shaf

| In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

Cel: O Lord, you sanctified all waters when you received baptism in the Jordan River. As we bow before you now, sanctify us and grant health to our souls and bodies by the use of this water. You are our sanctification, O Lord, and we raise glory to you, now and forever. **Amen.**

Cel: May this water be blessed and sanctified in the name of the undivided and Most Holy Trinity, the ✕ Father, and the ✕ Son, and the Holy ✕ Spirit. **Amen.**

The Celebrant uses the hand cross to bless the congregation while singing the following:

Father Geoffrey Abdallah

Cleanse me with hys-sop, and I shall be pure; wash me, and

I shall be whi - ter than snow, All: whi - ter than snow.

CONCLUDING PRAYER

Cel: O Lord, we pray on behalf of this holy assembly and for every city and place throughout the world. Spare us from the ravages of war and hunger and from every manmade and natural disaster. Protect the faithful inhabitants of this city and send your power to sustain and strengthen them through this water. Answer our petitions, have mercy on your people, and save your inheritance, for you are gracious and the Lover of Mankind, O Lord our God, to you be glory, now and forever. **Amen.**

