Essential supplies: bowl of Holy Water, blessing Cross*, and (weather and location permitting) a small table, gospel book, and candles.

* If the Cross is not to be retrieved by divers/swimmers, then it should have a length of fishing line / string / rope tied around it.

Deacon: Master, Bless!

Priest: Blessed is our God, always now and forever, and unto the ages of ages.

Choir: Amen.

By Sophronios, Patriarch of Jerusalem
Mode Plagal 4th

The voice of the Lord upon the waters cries out, saying, 'Come all of you, receive the Spirit of wisdom, the Spirit of understanding, the Spirit of the fear of God, of Christ who has appeared'.

Today the nature of the waters is made holy, and Jordan is parted and holds back the flow of its waters as it sees the Master washing himself.

As man, Christ King, you came to the river, and in your goodness you hasten to accept the baptism of a servant at the hands of the Forerunner, on account of our sins, O Lover of mankind.

Glory to the Father... Both now and forever...

At the voice of the one crying in the desert, 'Prepare the way of the Lord', you came, Lord, having taken the form of a servant, asking for Baptism, though you did not know sin. The waters saw you and were afraid. The Forerunner trembled and cried out, saying, 'How will the lamp enlighten the Light? The servant place his hand on the Master? Savior, who take away the sin of the world, make me and the waters holy'.

- 1 -
Deacon: Let us be attentive!

Reader: The Lord is my light and my salvation: whom shall I fear? The Lord is the protector of my life: of whom shall I be afraid?

Deacon: Wisdom!

Reader: The reading is from St. Paul’s 1st Letter to the Corinthians. (10:1-4)

Deacon: Let us be attentive.

Reader: Brethren, I want you to know, that our fathers were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea, and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, and all ate the same spiritual food and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank from the supernatural Rock which followed them, and the Rock was Christ.

Priest: Peace be with you the reader.

Choir: Alleluia. (3x)


Priest: Peace be with all.

Choir: And with your spirit.

Priest: The reading is from the Holy Gospel according to Mark. (1:9-11)

Deacon: Let us be attentive!

Choir: Glory to You O Lord, glory to You.
Priest: At that time, Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. And immediately as he was coming up from the water, he saw the heavens being parted and the Spirit like a dove coming down upon him. And there was a voice from heaven, “You are my beloved Son, in whom I am pleased.”

Choir: Glory to You O Lord, glory to You.

GREAT LITANY

Deacon: In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: For the peace from above and for the salvation of our souls, let us pray to the Lord.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: For the peace of the whole world, for the stability of the holy churches of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: For pious and Orthodox Christians, let us pray to the Lord.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: For our Archbishop and Father (Name), for the honorable presbyterate, for the diaconate in Christ, and for all the clergy and the people, let us pray to the Lord.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: For our country, for the president, and for all in public service, let us pray to the Lord.
Choir: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: For this city and for every city and land, and for the faithful who live in them, let us pray to the Lord.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: For favorable weather, an abundance of the fruits of the earth, and for peaceful times, let us pray to the Lord.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: For those who travel by land, sea, and air, for the sick, the suffering, the captives and for their salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: For this water to be sanctified by the power and operation and visitation of the Holy Spirit, let us pray to the Lord.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: That it may be given the grace of redemption and the blessing of the Jordan, let us pray to the Lord.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: That it may serve to the averting of every plot of the enemies, both visible and invisible, let us pray to the Lord.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: For our deliverance from all affliction, wrath, danger and constraint, let us pray to the Lord.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.
Deacon: Help us, save us, have mercy on us, and keep us, O God, by your grace.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: Commemorating our all-holy, pure, most blessed and glorious Lady, Mother of God and Ever-Virgin Mary, with all the Saints, let us entrust ourselves and one another and our whole life to Christ our God.

Priest: For to You belong all glory, honor, and worship, to the Father and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and forever, and unto the ages of ages.

Choir: Amen.

Priest: Peace be with all.

Choir: And with your Spirit.

Deacon: Let us bow our heads to the Lord.

Choir: To You, O Lord.

Priest: Incline your ear and hear us, Lord, who accepted to be baptized in Jordan and to sanctify the waters, and bless us all, who signify our calling as servants by the bending of our necks. And count us worthy to be filled with your sanctification through the partaking and sprinkling of this water. And let it be for us, Lord, for healing of soul and body. For you are the sanctification of our souls and bodies, and to you we ascribe glory, thanksgiving and worship, with your Father who is without beginning, and your All-holy, good and life-giving Spirit, now and forever, and unto the ages of ages.

Choir: Amen.

Priest: (1st Mode) As You were baptized in the Jordan, O Lord, then the worship of the Trinity became manifest, for the voice of the
Father bore witness to You, naming You the Beloved Son; and the Spirit, in the form of a dove, confirmed the certainty of the word. O Christ God, who appeared and illumined the world, glory to You.

*The hymn is repeated twice by the Cantors / Choir / People.*

*During the first singing of the hymn, the priest immerses the Cross 3 times in the bowl of Holy Water. During the second singing of the hymn, Holy Water is sprinkled upon the body of water and the Cross is thrown into the body of water (to either be retrieved by divers/swimmers, or to be pulled back via attached fishing line / string / rope). Following the third chanting of the hymn, the Kontakion of the Feast is chanted:*

*(4th Mode, Automelon) You appeared today to us * on earth, O Master, *
* and Your light was signed on us * who cry aloud to You and say *
* with understanding, O Christ our God: You came and shone forth, O Light unapproachable.*

*If the Cross is retrieved, then the following blessing is said by the priest over the person who retrieved it:*

**Priest:** May the blessing of the Lord and His mercy come upon you by His divine grace and love for mankind, always, now and forever, and to the ages of ages.

**Person Who Retrieved:** Amen.

*If the hierarch or celebrating priest blesses the people present individually, that should be done at this point (before the Dismissal), with hymns chanted during the blessing (hymns included at the end of this booklet).*

**Priest:** Glory to You, O God, glory be to You. May He who condescended for our salvation to be baptized by John in the Jordan (if on the Sunday after Theophany, “and who rose from the dead”) Christ our true God, through the intercessions of His all-pure and all-immaculate holy Mother; the power of the precious and life-giving
Cross; the protection of the honorable, bodiless powers of heaven; the supplications of the honorable, glorious prophet and forerunner John the Baptist; of the holy, glorious, and praiseworthy apostles; of the holy, glorious, and triumphant martyrs; of our righteous and God-bearing fathers; of (patron saint of the parish); of the holy and righteous ancestors of God, Joachim and Anna, (if done on a day other than Jan 6, include the saint(s) of the day) and of all the saints; have mercy on us and save us, for He is good and loves mankind.

Priest: Through the prayers of our holy fathers, Lord Jesus Christ our God, have mercy on us and save us.

Choir: Amen.

Hymns to be chanted if the hierarch or priest blesses those present individually:

(1st Mode) Light from Light, Christ our God, has shone upon the world. He is God and He appeared to us. O peoples, let us worship Him.

(1st Mode) How shall we servants worthily honor You the Master, O Christ, for renewing us all in the waters?

(1st Mode) When You our Savior were baptized in the River Jordan, You sanctified the waters, You were touched by the hand of Your servant, and You cured the world's passions. Great is the mystery of Your economy! O Lord who loves humanity, glory to You.

(1st Mode) The true Light has appeared and bestows illumination on all. Christ is baptized with us, even though He is above all purity; and thus He infuses sanctification into the water, which then becomes the purifying agent of our souls. What is seen belongs to earth; but what is understood transcends the heavens. By means of a bath comes salvation; by means of water comes the Spirit; by means
of immersion does our ascent to God come to pass. How wonderful are Your works, O Lord! Glory to You.

(1st Mode) He who wraps heaven in clouds wraps himself today in the streams of the Jordan. He who takes away the sin of the world washes himself in a wash that is meant for me. The cognate Spirit from above testifies of Him, that He is the Most High Father's Only-begotten Son. To Him let us cry aloud, "O Christ our God who appeared to us and saved us, glory to You."

(Pl. 2nd Mode) Let us the faithful extol the greatness of God's benevolent deeds concerning us. For He became man in our transgression; and now in the Jordan, He who alone is clean and undefiled is cleansed in the cleansing that is meant for us; and He sanctifies me and the waters, and on the water He crushes the heads of the dragons. Therefore, brethren, let us draw water with gladness. For to those who draw with faith, the grace of the Spirit is invisibly given by Christ, our God and the Savior of our souls.

(Pl. 2nd Mode) You wrapped yourself in the waters of the Jordan, O Savior who puts on light as a garment; and You bowed Your head before the Forerunner, O Lord who measured heaven with the span of Your hand, so as to turn the world back from error and to save our souls.

(2nd Mode) Today Christ came to be baptized in the Jordan. Today John touches the head of the Master. The hosts of heaven were astounded seeing the paradoxal mystery. The sea beheld it and fled; when the Jordan saw, it retreated. And we who are now illumined cry aloud, * "Glory be to God who appeared, and who was seen on earth, and who illumined the world."