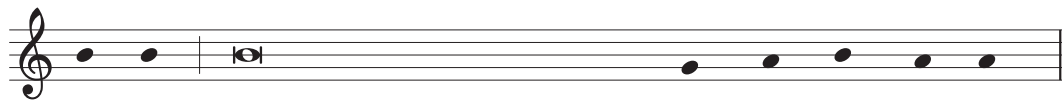


THE BLESSING OF A CHURCH

Prayer of Blessing (Chapter V, no. 21)

Bless - ed are you, O God, who accepted the Sacrifice of your Christ
offered on the altar of the Cross for the redemption of the hu - man
race, and who with a father's love gather your people at the table of
the Lord to celebrate his me-mo - ri - al. There-fore look, O Lord, up-
on this altar, which we have prepared for the celebration of your mys-
ter-ies. Let it be the center of our praise and thanks-giv-ing; let
it be the altar where we offer in mystery the sacrifice of Christ; let
it be the table where we break the bread of life and drink of the cup
of u - ni - ty; let it be the fountain from which flows an unend-
ing stream of sal - va - tion, so that, as we come to Christ, the liv -
ing stone, we may grow in him into a ho - ly tem - ple; and
offer on the altar of our heart the sacrifice of a life spent in ho -



li - ness, pleasing and acceptable to the praise of your glo - ry.

All:



Bless-ed be God for ev - er.

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