

Ephrem, Against Heresies, Hymn 22

(18)

Wisely let them be asked
 from whom have you received this?
 If they have received it from us and rejected it,
 It's enough for our truth
 But if they have daringly acted as priests,
 this is enough to reprove them

This is sufficient for their shame
 That anyone is a priest who wants
 to lay a hand on his head
 Response: Confusion of desperation!

(19)

The high one inclined to Mt Sinai
 And covered Moses with His hand
 Moses put it on Aaron
 And it extended to John
 So our Lord said to him
 "It is righteousness that I be baptized by you,
 Lest order be lost."

Our Lord gave it to his disciples
 And look! It's succession is within our church
 Response: Blessed is the One who has handed
 down His order

In Matthew, "Suffer now, for thus it
 is becoming to us to fulfil all righteousness,
 So John agreed to baptize Jesus. iii. 15