

# **Sunday, January 3, 2021 – Sunday before Theophany; the Holy Prophet Malachi (5th c. BC); the Holy Martyr Gordius (313-24)**

## ***Troparia and Kontakia***

*Troparion, Tone 6:* Angelic powers were upon Your tomb\* and the guards became like dead men;\* Mary stood before Your tomb\* seeking Your most pure body.\* You captured Hades without being overcome by it.\* You met the Virgin and granted life.\* O Lord, risen from the dead,\* glory be to You!

*Troparion, Tone 4:* Make ready, O Zabulon,\* and prepare yourself, O Nephtali;\* O river Jordan, stop and receive with joy\* the Master coming to be baptized.\* O Adam, rejoice with the first mother, Eve,\* and do not hide yourselves as before in paradise.\* For having seen you unclothed\* Christ has appeared to clothe you with the first robe:\* He has appeared to renew all creation.

+Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

*Kontakion, Tone 6:* With His life-giving hand\* Christ our God, the Giver of life,\* raised all the dead from the murky abyss\* and bestowed resurrection upon humanity.\* He is for all the Savior,\* the resurrection and the life, and the God of all.

Now and for ever and ever. Amen.

*Kontakion, Tone 4:* Today the Lord stood in Jordan's current telling John:\* Do not be afraid to baptize Me,\* for I have come to save Adam, the first man.

## ***Prokeimenon, Tone 6***

Save Your people, O Lord,\* and bless Your inheritance.

*verse:* Unto You I will cry, O Lord my God, lest You turn from me in silence. (*Psalm 27:9,1*)

***Epistle – A reading of Paul to Timothy: 2 Timothy 4:5-8 (NRSV)***

Timothy my Son, as for you, always be sober, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, carry out your ministry fully.

As for me, I am already being poured out as a libation, and the time of my departure has come. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. From now on there is reserved for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will give me on that day, and not only to me but also to all who have longed for his appearing.

***Alleluia, Tone 8***

*verse:* God, be merciful to us and bless us.

*verse:* Make the light of Your face shine upon us and have mercy on us. (*Psalm 66:2*)

***Gospel: Mark 1:1-8 (NRSV)***

The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. As it is written in the prophet Isaiah, “See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way; the voice of one crying out in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight,’” John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel’s hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. He proclaimed, “The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

***Communion Hymn***

Praise the Lord from the heavens;\* praise Him in the highest.\* Alleluia, alleluia,\* alleluia. (*Psalm 148:1*)