

Sunday, January 7, 2024 – Sunday after Theophany. Synaxis of the Holy and Glorious Prophet, Forerunner and Baptist John.

Antiphon 1 When Israel came forth from Egypt, the house of Jacob from an alien people. *Through the prayers of the Mother of God,* O Savior, save us.*

Judah became His sanctuary, Israel His dominion. *Through the prayers of the Mother of God,* O Savior, save us.*

The sea beheld this and fled,* the Jordan turned back on its course. *Through the prayers of the Mother of God,* O Savior, save us.*

Why was it, O sea, that you fled,* that you, O Jordan, turned back on your course? *Through the prayers of the Mother of God,* O Savior, save us.*

+Glory... Now... Only-Begotten Son...

Antiphon 3 Come, let us sing joyfully to the Lord, let us acclaim God, our Savior. *Son of God, baptized by John in the Jordan, save us who sing to You: Alleluia.*

Let us come before His face with praise, and acclaim Him in psalms. *Son of God, baptized by John in the Jordan, save us who sing to You: Alleluia.*

For God is the great Lord, and the great king over all the earth. *Son of God, baptized by John in the Jordan, save us who sing to You: Alleluia.*

Entrance Come, let us worship and fall down before Christ. *Son of God, baptized by John in the Jordan, save us who sing to You: Alleluia.*

Troparia and Kontakia *Troparion, Tone 7:* By Your cross You destroyed death;* You opened Paradise to the thief;* You changed the lamentation of the myrrh-bearers to joy,* and charged the apostles to proclaim* that You are risen, O Christ our God,* offering great mercy to the world.

Troparion, Tone 1: When You, O Lord, were baptized in the Jordan,* worship of the Trinity was revealed;* 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 word's certainty.* Glory to You, O Christ God,* who appeared and enlightened the world.

Troparion, Tone 2: The just man is remembered with praises,* but for you the Lord's testimony suffices, O Forerunner,* for you truly became more honourable than the prophets* and were deemed worthy to baptize the One foretold.* Then you suffered for the truth and joyfully announced to those in Hades* that God appeared in the flesh taking away the sin of the world* and offering us great mercy.

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

Kontakion, Tone 3: She who once was barren gives birth today to the Forerunner of Christ,* who will fulfil every prophecy.* In the Jordan he placed his hand upon the One Whom the prophets foretold,* and thus was shown to be the prophet, the herald,* and the Forerunner of the Word of God.

Now and for ever and ever. Amen.

Kontakion, Tone 4: Today, You have appeared to the world* and Your light, O Lord, has been signed on us,* who with knowledge sing Your praises.* You have come, You have appeared, O unapproachable Light.

Prokeimenon, Tone 1 Let your mercy, O Lord, be upon us* as we have hoped in you.
verse: Rejoice in the Lord, O you just; praise befits the righteous. (*Psalms 32:2,1*)

Prokeimenon, Tone 7

The just man shall be glad in the Lord and shall hope in Him.

Epistle – A reading of Paul to the Ephesians: Ephesians 4:7-13; Acts 19:1-8 (NRSV)

Brothers and Sisters, each of us was given grace according to the measure of Christ's gift. Therefore it is said, "When he ascended on high he made captivity itself a captive; he gave gifts to his people." (When it says, "He ascended," what does it mean but that he had also descended into the lower parts of the earth? He who descended is the same one who ascended far above all the heavens, so that he might fill all things.) The gifts he gave were that some would be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until all of us come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to maturity, to the measure of the full stature of Christ.

Acts 19:1-8

In those days, Apollos was in Corinth, Paul passed through the interior regions and came to Ephesus, where he found some disciples. He said to them, "Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you became believers?" They replied, "No, we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit." Then he said, "Into what then were you baptized?" They answered, "Into John's baptism." Paul said, "John baptized with the baptism of repentance, telling the people to believe in the one who was to come after him, that is, in Jesus." On hearing this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. When Paul had laid his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came upon them, and they spoke in tongues and prophesied—altogether there were about twelve of them. He entered the synagogue and for three months spoke out boldly, and argued persuasively about the kingdom of God.

Alleluia, Tone 5 *verse*: Your mercies, O Lord, I will sing for ever; from generation to generation I will announce Your truth with my mouth. *verse*: For You have said: Mercy shall be built up for ever; in the heavens Your truth shall be prepared. (*Psalm 88:2,3*) *verse*: Light shines forth for the just and joy for the upright of heart.

Gospel: Matthew 4:12-17; John 1:29-34 (NRSV)

At that time when Jesus heard that John had been arrested, he withdrew to Galilee. He left Nazareth and made his home in Capernaum by the sea, in the territory of Zebulun and Naphtali, so that what had been spoken through the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled: "Land of Zebulun, land of Naphtali, on the road by the sea, across the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles — the people who sat in darkness have seen a great light, and for those who sat in the region and shadow of death light has dawned." From that time Jesus began to proclaim, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near."

John 1:29-34

At that time John saw Jesus coming toward him and declared, "Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! This is he of whom I said, 'After me comes a man who ranks ahead of me because he was before me.' I myself did not know him; but I came baptizing with water for this reason, that he might be revealed to Israel." And John testified, "I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and it remained on him. I myself did not know him, but the one who sent me to baptize with water said to me, 'He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain is the one who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.' And I myself have seen and have testified that this is the Son of God."

Hymn to the Mother of God O my soul, magnify Christ the King, baptized in the Jordan.

Irmos: Every tongue is at a loss to praise you as is your due, O Mother of God. Even a spirit from above is filled with dizziness when seeking to sing your praises. But since you are good accept our faith, for you know well our love inspired by God. For it is you who protect all Christians; therefore, we magnify you.

Communion Hymn The grace of God has appeared* bringing salvation to all. (*Titus 2:11*)* The just man shall be in everlasting remembrance;* of evil hearsay he shall have no fear.* Alleluia, alleluia,* alleluia. (*Psalm 111:6*)

Instead of We have seen the true light... we sing:

All creation is filled with rejoicing today, for Christ is baptized in the Jordan.

Instead of May our mouths... and Blessed be the Name... we sing:

All creation is filled with rejoicing today, for Christ is baptized in the Jordan. (3)