**JANUARY 3**

**Eve of the Theophany**

**Royal Hours (sung on the morning of January 3, because Theophany falls on Monday)**

***(at the First Hour)***

**The Three Psalms:** *Ps.* *5*, *Ps.* 22/23, *Ps.* 26/27

**Tone 4 Troparion of the Forefeast**

The River Jordan was turned back by the mantle of Elisha,

after Elijah had been taken up to heaven.

The waters were parted in two,

and the stream became a dry path.

This was truly a type of baptism,

by which we pass over the stream of life.//

Christ has shone forth in the Jordan to sanctify the waters.

**Theotokion**

What shall we call thee, O full of grace?

Heaven, for from thee shone forth the Sun of Righteousness;

Paradise, for thou hast budded forth the flower of immortality;

Virgin, for thou hast remained undefiled;

Pure Mother, for thou hast held in thine arms the Son, Who is God of all?

Beseech Him to save our souls!

**Stichera at the First Hour**

**Tone 8** *(by Sophronios, Patriarch of Jerusalem)*

Today the nature of the waters is sanctified:

The Jordan is parted in two.

It holds back the flow of its waters,//

as it beholds the washing of the Master. *(twice)*

V. *Therefore will I remember Thee, from the land of Jordan and Hermon. (Ps. 41:7b)*

Thou hast come to the river as a man, O Christ the King,

hastening to be baptized like a servant by the Forerunner//

on account of our sins, O good God Who lovest mankind.

V. *The waters saw Thee, O God; the waters saw Thee and were afraid. (Ps. 76:15a)*

(Repeat: “Thou hast come to the river…”)

*Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit;*

To the voice of one crying in the wilderness,

“Prepare the way of the Lord,”

Thou didst come, O Lord, taking the form of servant.

Thou didst ask to be baptized though Thou hast no knowledge of sin.

The waters saw Thee and were afraid.

The Forerunner trembled and cried aloud:

“How will the Lamp illumine the Light?

How will a servant lay his hand on the Master?

Thou takest away the sin of the world, O Savior.//

Sanctify both me and the waters!”

*now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.*

(Repeat: “To the voice of one crying…”)

**Tone 4 Prokeimenon**

The Lord thundered in the heavens, / the Most High gave forth His voice.

*(Ps. 17:13)*

V. *I will love Thee, O Lord, my strength. The Lord is my support. (Ps. 17:1)*

**Old Testament Reading:** Isaiah 35:1-10

**Epistle:** (33)Acts of the Apostles 13:25-33

**Gospel:** (5)Matthew 3:1-11

**Tone 4 Kontakion** *(Forefeast)*

Today the Lord enters the Jordan and cries out to John:

“Do not be afraid to baptize Me.//

For I have come to save Adam, the first-formed man.”

***(at the Third Hour)***

**The Three Psalms:** *Ps. 28/29, Ps. 41/42, Ps. 50/51*

**Tone 4 Troparion of the Forefeast**

The River Jordan was turned back by the mantle of Elisha,

after Elijah had been taken up to heaven.

The waters were parted in two,

and the stream became a dry path.

This was truly a type of baptism,

by which we pass over the stream of life.//

Christ has shone forth in the Jordan to sanctify the waters.

**Theotokion**

O Theotokos,

thou art the true vine from whom the Fruit of Life blossomed.

We entreat thee, O Lady:

“Intercede together with the Apostles and all the Saints,//

that mercy may be granted to our souls!”

**Stichera at the Third Hour**

**Tone 8**

The Prophet above all prophets in honor,

the Forerunner and Baptist,

saw Thee, the Lamb of God, Who dost wash away the sins of the world.

His right hand trembled;

seized with anguish he cried aloud:

“I dare not touch Thy head, O Word.

Sanctify and enlighten me, O Merciful One;//

for Thou art the life and the light and the peace of the world!”  *(twice)*

V. *Therefore will I remember Thee, from the land of Jordan and Hermon. (Ps. 41:7b)*

**Tone 4**

Today our God, the Trinity,

revealed Himself to us as one and undivided:

for the Father with a loud voice bore witness to His Son;

the Spirit came down from heaven in the form of a dove;

the Son bowed His spotless head before the Forerunner John

and was baptized in His love for us,//

delivering us from bondage.

V. *The waters saw Thee, O God; the waters saw Thee and were afraid. (Ps. 76:15a)*

(Repeat: “Today our God, the Trinity…”)

*Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit;*

**Tone 5**

The Father bore witness to Thee,

and the Divine Spirit in the form of a dove descended to Thee,

as Thou camest in flesh to the Jordan, O Lord.

Thou didst desire to be baptized in human form,

that in Thy compassion Thou mightest enlighten us who have gone astray,

and deliver us from all the snares and wiles of the Dragon.//

Make Thy home in our souls, O Thou Who lovest mankind.

*Now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.*

(Repeat: “The Father bore witness to Thee…”)

**Tone 6 Prokeimenon**

The waters saw Thee, O God; /the waters saw Thee and were afraid. *(Ps. 76:15a)*

V. *I cried to the Lord with my voice, even to God with my voice, and He heard me. (Ps. 76:1)*

**Old Testament Reading:** Isaiah 1:16-20

**Epistle:** (42) Acts of the Apostles 19:1-8

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

**Tone 4 Kontakion** *(Forefeast)*

Today the Lord enters the Jordan and cries out to John:

“Do not be afraid to baptize Me.//

For I have come to save Adam, the first-formed man.”

***(at the Sixth Hour)***

**The Three Psalms:** *Ps. 73/74, Ps. 76/77, Ps. 90/91*

**Tone 4 Troparion of the Forefeast**

The River Jordan was turned back by the mantle of Elisha,

after Elijah had been taken up to heaven.

The waters were parted in two,

and the stream became a dry path.

This was truly a type of baptism,

by which we pass over the stream of life.//

Christ has shone forth in the Jordan to sanctify the waters.

**Theotokion**

We have no boldness because of the multitude of our sins,

but entreat Him Who was born of thee, O Virgin Theotokos,

for the prayer of a mother has great power to win the favor of the Master.

Do not despise the supplications of sinners, O all-pure one,

for merciful and strong to save is He Who willed to suffer for us!

**Stichera at the Sixth Hour**

**Tone 8**

“O Prophet,” the Lord now says to John,

“come and baptize Me, thy Creator,

for I cleanse and enlighten all with grace!

Touch My divine head and do not hesitate!

O Prophet, let it be so now;

for I have come to fulfill all righteousness!

Make haste; for I hasten to destroy the Enemy,

the prince of darkness, hidden in the waters,

that I might deliver the world from his snares,//

and in My love grant eternal life!”  *(twice)*

V. *Therefore will I remember Thee, from the land of Jordan and Hermon. (Ps. 41:7b)*

**Tone 6**

Today the prophecy of the psalm is brought swiftly to fulfillment,

for as it says the sea looked and fled;

Jordan turned back from before the face of the Lord,

from before the face of the God of Jacob,

Who came to be baptized by a servant,

so that we might be cleansed of the filth of idolatry,//

and our souls enlightened through Him.

V. *The waters saw Thee, O God; the waters saw Thee and were afraid. (Ps. 76:15a)*

(Repeat: “Today the prophecy…”)

*Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit;*

**Tone 5**

Why dost thou stop the flow of thy waters, O Jordan?

Why dost thou make thy streams flow back?

Why dost thou not follow thy natural course?

“I cannot bear the fire which consumes me,” it said.

“I am amazed and shudder at the extreme condescension.

I have not learned to wash the pure or cleanse the sinless.

I have learned only to wash the filthy garment.

Now Christ, Who is baptized in me,

teaches me to burn the thorns of sin.

And John, the voice of the Word, bears witness with me.

He cries out: ‘Behold the Lamb of God,

Who takes away the sin of the world.’”

Let us the faithful cry to Him:

“O God, Who didst shine forth for our salvation, glory to Thee!”

*now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen*.

(Repeat: “Why dost thou stop the flow of thy waters…”)

**Tone 4 Prokeimenon**

Thy way was through the sea, / and Thy paths through the great waters. *(Ps. 76:19)*

V. *The crash of Thy thunder was in the whirlwind*. *(Ps. 76:17a)*

**Old Testament Reading:** Isaiah 12:3-6

**Epistle:** (91) Romans 6:3-11

**Gospel:** (2) Mark 1:9-15

**Tone 4 Kontakion** *(Forefeast)*

Today the Lord enters the Jordan and cries out to John:

“Do not be afraid to baptize Me.//

For I have come to save Adam, the first-formed man.”

***(at the Ninth Hour)***

**The Three Psalms:** *Ps. 92/93, Ps. 113/114-115, Ps. 85/86*

**Tone 4 Troparion of the Forefeast**

The River Jordan was turned back by the mantle of Elisha,

after Elijah had been taken up to heaven.

The waters were parted in two,

and the stream became a dry path.

This was truly a type of baptism,

by which we pass over the stream of life.//

Christ has shone forth in the Jordan to sanctify the waters.

**Theotokion**

O loving Lord, Who for our sakes wast born of a virgin,

and hast endured crucifixion, trampling down death by death,

and as God didst reveal the Resurrection:

despise not the works of Thy hands,

but show Thy love for mankind, O merciful One.

Accept the prayers made on our behalf by her who gave Thee birth,

and save Thy despairing people, O our Savior!

**Stichera at the Ninth Hour**

**Tone 7**

What wonder, to look down in the river

and see the Maker of heaven and earth standing naked.

Like a servant at the hands of a servant

He accepts to be baptized for our salvation.

The choirs of Angels are astounded,

overwhelmed with fear and joy.//

With them we worship Thee; save us, O Lord!  *(twice)*

V. *Therefore will I remember Thee, from the land of Jordan and Hermon. (Ps. 41:7b)*

**Tone 2**

When he saw the Lord of glory draw near,

the Forerunner cried aloud:

“Behold, this is He Who redeems the world from corruption,

and Who delivers us from affliction!

Behold, the One Who grants us remission of sins!

In His mercy He has come forth on the earth from a pure Virgin.

He makes us children of God instead of servants;

through the waters of His baptism divine,

He gives light to us in place of darkness.//

Let us all glorify Him with the Father and the Holy Spirit!”

V. *The waters saw Thee, O God; the waters saw Thee and were afraid. (Ps. 76:15a)*

(Repeat: “When he saw the Lord of glory…”)

*Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit*

*now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.*

*(Then the canonarch, standing in the center of the church, chants this verse:)*

**Tone 5**

With thy hand, O Baptist,

thou hast touched the pure head of the Master.

With thy hand and thy finger thou didst show Him to us.

Stretch out this hand toward Him on our behalf,

since thou hast great boldness;

for He witnessed to thee as greater than all the prophets!

And again, with thine eyes, O Baptist,

thou didst see the Holy Spirit descend in the form of a dove.

Lift thine eyes to Him and make Him gracious toward us!

Come and stand with us!

Come and stand with us!

Come and stand with us!//

Confirm our song and lead our feast!

**Tone 3 Prokeimenon**

The Lord is my light and my Savior; / whom shall I fear? *(Ps. 26:1a)*

V. *The Lord is the defender of my life; of whom shall I be afraid? (Ps. 26:1b)*

**Old Testament Reading:** Isaiah 49:8-15

**Epistle:** (302) Titus 2:11-14; 3:4-7

**Gospel:** (6) Matthew 3:13-17

**Tone 4 Kontakion** *(Forefeast)*

Today the Lord enters the Jordan and cries out to John:

“Do not be afraid to baptize Me.//

For I have come to save Adam, the first-formed man.”

***(at the Typica)***

**Tone 4 Kontakion** *(Forefeast)*

Today the Lord enters the Jordan and cries out to John:

“Do not be afraid to baptize Me.//

For I have come to save Adam, the first-formed man.”

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