**JANUARY 3**

**Forefeast of the Theophany**

**Holy Prophet Malachi**

**Martyr Gordius at Caesarea in Cappadocia**

**"Lord I Call..." Tone 8**

Lord, I call upon You, hear me!

Hear me, O Lord!

Lord, I call upon You, hear me!

Receive the voice of my prayer,

when I call upon You!//

Hear me, O Lord!

Let my prayer arise

in Your sight as incense,

and let the lifting up of my hands

be an evening sacrifice!//

Hear me, O Lord!

V. (6) *If You, O Lord, should mark iniquities, Lord, who could stand? But there is forgiveness with You.*

**Tone 8** *(for Prophet Malachi)* *(Lord, though Thou didst stand)*

Beholding the words that came forth from your divinely-inspired tongue,

truly marveling, I bless you, O Prophet of truth,

for your clear message has illumined the world,//

foretelling the coming of the Lord for our salvation.

V. (5) *For Your Name’s sake I wait for You, O Lord. My soul has waited for Your word; my soul has hoped on the Lord.*

You were an angel on earth,

emulating the Angels with your way of life.

You were enriched by appropriately bearing the name of Angel,[[1]](#footnote-1)

and harmoniously you joined beauty of soul with beauty of body,//

O most blessed Malachi.

V. (4) *From the morning watch until night, from the morning watch, let Israel hope on the Lord!*

O Lord, I set before You Your Prophet

as an advocate and intercessor.

By his entreaties and prayers, O Compassionate One,

put an end to the misdeeds of my despairing soul,

for You are full of loving-kindness,//

as You possess essential and natural goodness.

V. (3) *For with the Lord there is mercy and with Him is plenteous redemption, and He will deliver Israel from all his iniquities.*

**Tone 8** *(for St. Gordius) (Oh, most glorious wonder)*

Beholding the darkness of deception,

you fled for refuge and patiently waited for the Lord,

O passion-bearing Gordius.

Through exercise, work, and fasting,

being conscious of your own potential,//

you became an eager combatant challenging the adversary.

V. (2) *Praise the Lord, all nations! Praise Him, all peoples!*

With powerful conviction, O most glorious Gordius,

you destroyed the multitude of hostile enemies,

regarding the assembly of the lawless as nothing.

Standing in their midst as a herald of free will,

you loudly proclaimed Christ, the Creator and Lord,

co-eternal with the Father,//

and equally honored and co-everlasting with the Holy Spirit.

V. (1) *For His mercy is confirmed on us, and the truth of the Lord endures forever.*

Beheaded by the sword, you clearly passed from life to life,

from mortality to immortality,

and from corruption to incorruption,

without awaiting the mortification of nature,

but voluntarily choosing to die.

How great were your sufferings, O passion-bearer Gordius,//

through which you magnified Christ, Who alone is compassionate!

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

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

**Tone 4** *(for the Forefeast, by John the Monk)*

Oh, the marvelous wonder!

He Who baptizes by the Holy Spirit and by fire

comes to be baptized by John in the Jordan.

Neither simply God nor plainly man,

but, in both His natures, He is one only-begotten Son.

In His humanity, He asks a servant to baptize Him;

in His divinity, He takes away the sins of the world//

granting great mercy to all.

**Aposticha**

**Tone 6** *(for the Forefeast)* *(On the third day)*

Behold the Enlightenment of the faithful!

See, our Atonement desires to enter the streams of the river,

that He may wash away man’s filth and corruption,//

refashioning us, who had been broken to pieces!

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

O Lord, Your Forerunner cried out in fear,

when he saw You approaching and asking to be baptized:

“O my God! My Creator!//

How can I baptize You, the sinless One?”

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

O faithful, let us assemble in spirit

at the streams of Jordan,

that we may clearly behold the great wonder!

We shall see the Creator of all made manifest,//

as He comes to be baptized.

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

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

**Tone 5** *(for the Forefeast)*

Christ our God is coming to be baptized in the river Jordan,

desiring to cleanse us from our iniquities by His appearance,//

for He alone is good and loves mankind.

***(at Vespers)***

**Tone 4** **Troparion** *(St. Gordius)*

Your holy martyr Gordius, O Lord,

through his sufferings has received an incorruptible crown from You, our God.

For having Your strength, he laid low his adversaries,

and shattered the powerless boldness of demons.//

Through his intercession, save our souls!

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

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

**Tone 4 Troparion** *(Forefeast)*

Prepare, O Zebulon,

and adorn yourself, O Naphtali!

River Jordan, cease flowing,

and receive with joy the Master coming to be baptized!

Adam, rejoice with our first Mother,

and do not hide yourselves as you did of old in Paradise;

for having seen you naked,

He has appeared to clothe you with the first garment.//

Christ has appeared to renew all creation.

*NOTE: Because the Feast of Theophany falls on Monday, the Royal Hours are sung on Friday and the Divine Liturgy is not celebrated on that day.*

*Prepared by the Department of Liturgical Music and Translations, Orthodox Church in America.*

1. The name Malachi in Hebrew means “my messenger.” [↑](#footnote-ref-1)