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READER'S GREAT VESPERS ON THURSDAY, JANUARY 5, 2023

The Theophany of Our Lord, God, and Saviour Jesus Christ

NOTE: The *Great Vespers for Theophany* shown here is only appointed when the eve of the Feast falls on a Saturday or a Sunday. In all other instances (as is the case today), the *Vesperal Liturgy of St. Basil the Great* is served in the evening (or late afternoon). This means that the service given here is used, either

- (a) when January 5 falls on a Saturday or a Sunday, or otherwise,
- (b) when a Priest is not available to serve the Vesperal Liturgy, or
- (c) when the Vesperal Liturgy is served in church, but we are unable to attend, so we read Vespers at home.

Leader: Through the prayers of our holy fathers, Lord Jesus Christ our God, have mercy on us, and save us.

Reader: Amen.

If the 9th Hour has not been served prior to the Vespers:

Reader: Glory to Thee, our God. Glory to Thee!

O heavenly King, Comforter, the Spirit of truth, who art everywhere present and fillest all things, the Treasury of good things and Giver of life: Come, and abide in us, and cleanse us from every stain, and save our souls, O good One.

THE TRISAGION PRAYERS

Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal: have mercy on us. (*Thrice*)

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. Both now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen

All-holy Trinity, have mercy on us. Lord, cleanse us from our sins. Master, pardon our iniquities. Holy One, visit and heal our infirmities for thy Name's sake.

Lord, have mercy. (*Thrice*)

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. Both now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name; thy kingdom come; thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.

Leader: O Lord, Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on us.

All: Amen

Reader: Lord, have mercy. (*12 times*)

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. Both now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Reader: O come, let us worship and fall down before God our King.

O come, let us worship and fall down before Christ, our King and our God.

O come, let us worship and fall down before the Very Christ, our King and our God.

PSALM 103

Reader: Bless the Lord, O my soul; O Lord my God, Thou hast been magnified exceedingly. Confession and majesty hast Thou put on, Who coverest Thyself with light as with a garment, Who stretchest out the heaven as it were a curtain; Who supporteth His chambers in the waters, Who appointeth the clouds for His ascent, Who walketh upon the wings of the winds, Who maketh His angels spirits, and His ministers a flame of fire, Who establisheth the earth in the sureness thereof; it shall not be turned back for ever and ever. The abyss like a garment is His mantle; upon the mountains shall the waters stand. At Thy rebuke they will flee, at the voice of Thy thunder shall they be afraid. The mountains rise up and the plains sink down, unto the place where Thou hast established them. Thou appointedst a bound that they shall not pass, neither return to cover the earth. He sendeth forth springs in the valleys; between the mountains will the waters run. They shall give drink to all the beasts of the field; the wild asses will wait to quench their thirst. Beside them will the birds of the heaven lodge, from the midst of the rocks will they give voice. He watereth the mountains from His chambers; the earth shall be satisfied with the fruit of Thy works. He causeth the grass to grow for the cattle, and green herb for the service of men, To bring forth bread out of the earth; and wine maketh glad the heart of man. To make his face cheerful with oil; and bread strengtheneth man's heart. The trees of the plain shall be satisfied, the cedars of Lebanon, which Thou hast planted. There will the sparrows make their nests; the house of the heron is chief among them. The high mountains are a refuge for the harts, and so is the rock for the hares. He hath made the moon for seasons; the sun knoweth his going down. Thou appointedst the darkness, and there was the night, wherein all the beasts of the forest will go abroad. Young lions roaring after their prey, and seeking their food from God. The sun ariseth, and they are gathered together, and they lay them down in their dens. But man shall go forth unto his work, and to his labour until the evening. How magnified are Thy works, O Lord! In wisdom hast Thou made them all; the earth is filled with Thy creation. So is this great and spacious sea, therein are things creeping innumerable, small living creatures with the great. There go the ships; there this dragon, whom Thou hast made to play therein. All things wait on Thee, to give them their food in due season; when Thou givest it them, they will gather it. When Thou openest Thy hand, all things shall be filled with goodness; when Thou turnest away Thy face, they shall be troubled. Thou wilt take their spirit, and they shall cease; and unto their dust shall they return. Thou wilt send forth Thy Spirit, and they shall be created; and Thou shalt renew the face of the earth. Let the glory of the Lord be unto the ages; the Lord will rejoice in His works. Who looketh on the earth and maketh it tremble, Who toucheth the mountains and they smoke. I will sing unto the Lord throughout my life, I will chant to my God for as long as I have my being. May my words be sweet unto Him, and I will rejoice in the Lord. O that sinners would cease from the earth, and they that work iniquity, that they should be no more. Bless the Lord, O my soul. The sun knoweth his going down. Thou appointedst the darkness, and there was the night. How magnified are Thy works, O Lord! In wisdom hast Thou made them all.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; both now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia. Glory to Thee, O God. (*Twice*)

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia: Glory to Thee, O God our Hope, O Lord, glory be to Thee.

THE LITANY OF PEACE REPLACEMENT

Choir: Lord, have mercy. (*12 times*)

Senior Reader: Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, Both now and ever and unto ages of ages.

Choir: Amen.

No Kathisma reading!

“LORD, I HAVE CRIED” IN TONE TWO

Psalm 140

Choir: O Lord, I have cried out unto Thee, hear Thou me; hear Thou me, O Lord. O Lord, I have cried out unto Thee, hear Thou me. Give ear to the voice of my supplication when I cry out unto Thee: hear Thou me, O Lord.

Choir: Let my prayer be set forth before Thee as the incense, and the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice; hear Thou me, O Lord.

- Set a watch, O Lord, before my mouth and a protecting door about my lips.
- Incline not my heart to evil words, to make excuses in sins.
- With men that work iniquity; and I will not communicate with the choicest of them.
- The just man shall correct me in mercy, and shall reprove me; but let not the oil of the sinner anoint my head.
- For my prayer also shall still be against the things with which they are well pleased; their judges falling upon the rock have been swallowed up.
- They shall hear my words for they are sweet; as when the thickness of the earth is broken upon the ground, their bones are scattered by the side of Hell.
- But to Thee, O Lord, are my eyes; in Thee have I put my trust; take not away my soul.
- Keep me from the snare(s) which they have laid for me, and the traps of the workers of iniquity.
- Let the wicked fall into their own nets, while I alone escape.

Psalm 141

- I cried unto the Lord with my voice; with my voice unto the Lord did I make my supplication.
- I poured out my supplication before Him; I showed before Him my trouble.
- When my spirit was overwhelmed within me, then Thou knewest my path.
- In the way wherein I walked have they secretly laid a snare for me.
- I looked on my right hand and beheld, but there was no one that would know me.
- Refuge failed me; no one cared for my soul.
- I cried unto Thee, O Lord; I said, Thou art my refuge and my portion in the land of the living.
- Attend unto my cry, for I am brought very low.
- Deliver me from my persecutors; for they are stronger than I.

- Bring my soul out of prison, that I may praise Thy Name.
- The righteous shall wait for me until Thou recompense me.

Psalm 129

- Out of the depths have I cried to Thee, O Lord, Lord hear my voice.
- Let Thine ears be attentive to the voice of my supplication.

For the Feast in Tone Two

Verse 6. If Thou, O Lord, shouldest mark iniquities, O Lord, who shall stand? For with Thee there is forgiveness.

When the Forerunner saw Him Who is our Illumination, Who doth illuminate every man, coming, to be baptized, his soul rejoiced, and his hand trembled. Then, pointing to Him he said to the people, Behold the Rescuer of Israel, Who delivereth us from corruption. Wherefore, O Christ our God, Who art sinless, glory to Thee.

Verse 5. Because of Thy Name have I waited for Thee, O Lord; my soul hath waited upon Thy word, my soul hath hoped in the Lord.

When the Forerunner saw Him Who is our Illumination, Who doth illuminate every man, coming, to be baptized, his soul rejoiced, and his hand trembled. Then, pointing to Him he said to the people, Behold the Rescuer of Israel, Who delivereth us from corruption. Wherefore, O Christ our God, Who art sinless, glory to Thee.

Verse 4. From the morning watch until night, from the morning watch let Israel trust in the Lord.

The hosts of the angels trembled when they beheld our Redeemer being baptized by a servant, and testified to by the presence of the Spirit, while a heavenly voice from the Father cried, saying, Verily, this One on whom the Forerunner placeth his hands, is my beloved Son in Whom I am well pleased. Wherefore, O Christ our God, glory to Thee.

Verse 3. For with the Lord there is mercy and with Him is abundant redemption, and He will deliver Israel from all his iniquities.

The hosts of the angels trembled when they beheld our Redeemer being baptized by a servant, and testified to by the presence of the Spirit, while a heavenly voice from the Father cried, saying, Verily, this One on whom the Forerunner placeth his hands, is my beloved Son in Whom I am well pleased. Wherefore, O Christ our God, glory to Thee.

Psalm 116

Verse 2. Praise the Lord, all ye nations; praise Him, all ye people.

The courses of the Jordan received Thee, O Fountain; and the Comforter descended in the likeness of a dove. Yea, He Who bowed the heavens, boweth His own head; and the clay crieth unto the potter, saying, How dost thou command me to do what is more exalted than my station? It is I who need to be baptized by Thee. Wherefore, O Christ God, Who art sinless, glory to Thee.

Verse 1. For His mercy is great toward us, and the truth of the Lord endureth forever.

When Thou didst choose to save lost man, Thou didst not disdain to put on the likeness of a servant; for it was meet for Thee, O Lord God, to accept what is ours for our sakes; for when Thou wast baptized in the flesh, O Redeemer, Thou didst make us worthy of forgiveness. Wherefore, we cry to Thee, O Christ our benevolent God, glory to Thee.

DOXASTICON FOR THE FEAST IN TONE TWO

*Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit;
both now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.*

Thou didst bow Thy head to the Forerunner, thereby crushing the heads of the dragons. And having stood in the streams, Thou didst illuminate the whole creation. Wherefore, let it glorify Thee, O Savior, Thou Illumination of our souls.

THE HYMN OF THANKSGIVING AT THE LIGHTING OF THE LAMPS

Gladsome light of the Holy glory that shines from the immortal Father in Heaven, the Holy, the Blessed, O Jesus Christ! Lo now that we come to sunset, now that we see the evening light, we sing the praise of Father, Son and Holy Spirit, One God. Worthy art Thou to be praised at all times with voices meet for holy song. Son of God, Thou Giver of Life, wherefore the world glorifieth thee.

OPTIONAL

(If following the Greek/Arabic Typikons proceed immediately with the Paramia)

THURSDAY EVENING PROKEIMENON IN TONE SIX

Leader: The Evening Prokeimenon!

Choir: My help cometh from the Lord, Who hath made heaven and the earth. *(twice)*

Verse: I have lifted up mine eyes to the mountains, from whence cometh my help.

Choir: My help cometh from the Lord, Who hath made heaven and the earth.

THE PARAMIA¹

The First Passage

Reader: The Reading is from the Book Genesis (1:1-13).

In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. The earth was without form and void, and darkness was upon the face of the deep; and the Spirit of God was moving over the face of the waters. And God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light. And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, one day. And God said, "Let there be a firmament in the midst of the waters, and let it separate the waters from the waters." And God made the firmament and separated the waters which were under the firmament from the waters which were above the firmament. And it was so. And God called the firmament Heaven. And there was evening and there was morning, a second day. And God said, "Let the waters under the heavens be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear." And it was so. God called the dry land Earth, and the waters that were gathered together he called Seas. And God saw that it was good. And God said, "Let the earth put forth vegetation, plants yielding seed, and fruit trees bearing fruit in which is their seed, each according to its kind, upon the earth." And it was so. The earth brought forth vegetation, plants yielding seed according to their own kinds, and trees bearing fruit in which is their seed, each according to its kind. And God saw that it was good. And there was evening and there was morning, a third day.

¹ [From Dr. Sam Cohlmi] Another option, instead of reading all 13 readings, is offered in the Typikon, which suggests that only Old Testament Readings 1, 5, and 6 be read, with the intervening troparia (shown below) being chanted.

The Second Passage

Reader: The reading is from the Book of Exodus (14:15-18, 21-23, 27-29).

The Lord said to Moses, “Why do you cry to Me? Tell the people of Israel to go forward. Lift up your rod, and stretch out your hand over the sea and divide it, that the people of Israel may go on dry ground through the sea. And I will harden the hearts of the Egyptians so that they shall go in after them, and I will get glory over Pharaoh and all his host, his chariots, and his horsemen. And the Egyptians shall know that I am the Lord, when I have gotten glory over Pharaoh, his chariots, and his horsemen.” Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea; and the Lord drove the sea back by a strong east wind all night, and made the sea dry land, and the waters were divided. And the people of Israel went into the midst of the sea on dry ground, the waters being a wall to them on their right hand and on their left. The Egyptians pursued, and went in after them into the midst of the sea, all Pharaoh’s horses, his chariots, and his horsemen. So Moses stretched forth his hand over the sea, and the sea returned to its wonted flow when the morning appeared; and the Egyptians fled into it, and the Lord routed the Egyptians in the midst of the sea. The waters returned and covered the chariots and the horsemen and all the host of Pharaoh that had followed them into the sea; not so much as one of them remained. But the people of Israel walked on dry ground through the sea, the waters being a wall to them on their right hand and on their left.

The Third Passage

Reader: The reading is from the Book of Exodus (15:22-6:1).

Moses led Israel onward from the Red Sea, and they went into the wilderness of Shur; they went three days in the wilderness and found no water. When they came to Marah, they could not drink the water of Marah because it was bitter; therefore it was named Marah. And the people murmured against Moses, saying, “What shall we drink?” And he cried to the Lord; and the Lord showed him a tree, and he threw it into the water, and the water became sweet. There the Lord made for them a statute and an ordinance and there He proved them, saying, “If you will diligently hearken to the voice of the Lord thy God, and do that which is right in His eyes, and give heed to His commandments and keep all His statutes, I will put none of the diseases upon ye which I put upon the Egyptians; for I am the Lord, thy healer.” Then they came to Elim, where there were twelve springs of water and seventy palm trees; and they encamped there by the water. They set out from Elim, and all the congregation of the people of Israel came to the wilderness of Sin, which is between Elim and Sinai, on the fifteenth day of the second month after they had departed from the land of Egypt.

TROPARION WITH VERSES FROM PSALM 66, IN TONE FIVE

Choir: Thou Who madest the world hast appeared in the world, to enlighten them that sit in darkness. O Friend of man, glory be to Thee.

Verse: God be gracious unto us and bless us, and cause His face to shine upon us and have mercy on us.

Choir: To enlighten them that sit in darkness. O Friend of man, glory be to Thee.

Verse: That we may know upon the earth Thy way, among all the nations Thy salvation.

Choir: To enlighten them that sit in darkness. O Friend of man, glory be to Thee.

Verse: Let the peoples give Thee praise, O God, let all the peoples praise Thee; the earth hath yielded her fruit.

Choir: To enlighten them that sit in darkness. O Friend of man, glory be to Thee.

Verse: Let God, our God, bless us; let God bless us, and let all the ends of the earth fear Him.

Choir: To enlighten them that sit in darkness. O Friend of man, glory be to Thee.

Same Tone

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

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

Choir: Thou Who madest the world hast appeared in the world, to enlighten them that sit in darkness. O Friend of man, glory be to Thee.

THE PARAMIA (CONTINUED)

The Fourth Passage

Reader: The reading is from Joshua the Son of Nun (3:7-8, 15-17).

And the Lord said to Joshua, "This day I will begin to exalt you in the sight of all Israel, that they may know that, as I was with Moses, so I will be with you. And you shall command the priests who bear the Ark of the Covenant, 'When you come to the brink of the waters of the Jordan, you shall stand still in the Jordan.'" And when those who bore the Ark had come to the Jordan, and the feet of the priests bearing the Ark were dipped in the brink of the water (the Jordan overflows all its banks throughout the time of harvest), the waters coming down from above stood and rose up in a heap far off, at Adam, the city that is beside Zarethan, and those flowing down toward the sea of the Arabah, the Salt Sea, were wholly cut off; and the people passed over opposite Jericho. And while all Israel were passing over on dry ground, the priests who bore the Ark of the Covenant of the Lord stood on dry ground in the midst of the Jordan, until all the nation finished passing over the Jordan.

The Fifth Passage

Reader: The reading is from the Fourth Book of Kings (II Kings 2:6-14).

Elijah said to Eliseus, "Tarry here, I pray you; for the Lord has sent me to the Jordan." But he said, "As the Lord lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you." So, the two of them went on. Fifty men of the sons of the prophets also went, and stood at some distance from them, as they both were standing by the Jordan. Then Elijah took his mantle, and rolled it up, and struck the water, and the water was parted to the one side and to the other, till the two of them could go over on dry ground. When they had crossed, Elijah said to Elisha, "Ask what I shall do for you, before I am taken from you?" And Elisha said, "I pray you, let me inherit a double share of your spirit." And he said, "You have asked a hard thing; yet, if you see me as I am being taken from you, it shall be so for you; but if you do not see me, it shall not be so." And as they still went on and talked, behold, a chariot of fire and horses of fire separated the two of them. And Elijah went up by a whirlwind into heaven. And Elisha saw it and he cried, "My father, my father! The chariots of Israel and its horsemen!" And he saw him no more. Then he took hold of his own clothes and rent them in two pieces. And he took up the mantle of Elijah that had fallen from him, and went back and stood on the bank of the Jordan. Then he took the mantle of Elijah that had fallen from him, and struck the water, saying, "Where is the Lord, the God of Elijah?" And when he had struck the water, the water was parted to the one side and to the other; and Elisha went over.

The Sixth Passage

Reader: The reading is from the Fourth Book of Kings (II Kings 5:9-14).

So Naaman came with his horses and chariots, and halted at the door of Elisha's house. And Elisha sent a messenger to him, saying, "Go and wash in the Jordan seven times, and your flesh

shall be restored, and you shall be clean.” But Naaman was angry, and went away, saying, “Behold, I thought that he would surely come out to me, and stand, and call on the name of the Lord his God, and wave his hand over the place, and cure the leper. Are not Abana and Pharpar, the rivers of Damascus, better than all the waters of Israel? Could I not wash in them, and be clean?” So he turned and went away in a rage. But his servants came near and said to him, “My father, if the prophet had commanded you to do some great thing, would you not have done it? How much rather, then, when he says to you, ‘Wash, and be clean’?” So he went down and dipped himself seven times in the Jordan, according to the word of the man of God; and his flesh was restored like the flesh of a little child, and he was clean.

TROPARION WITH VERSES FROM PSALM 92, IN TONE SIX

Choir: In abundance of Thy mercy Thou hast appeared to sinners and publicans, O our Savior. Where indeed should Thy light have shone, if not upon them that sit in darkness? Glory be to Thee.

Verse: *The Lord is King, He is clothed with majesty; the Lord is clothed with strength and He hath girt Himself.*

Choir: Where indeed should Thy light have shone, if not upon them that sit in darkness? Glory be to Thee.

Verse: *The rivers have lifted up, O Lord, the rivers have lifted up their voices.*

Choir: Where indeed should Thy light have shone, if not upon them that sit in darkness? Glory be to Thee.

Verse: *Wonderful are the surgings of the sea, wonderful on high is the Lord.*

Choir: Where indeed should Thy light have shone, if not upon them that sit in darkness? Glory be to Thee.

Verse: *Holiness becometh Thy house, O Lord, unto length of days.*

Choir: Where indeed should Thy light have shone, if not upon them that sit in darkness? Glory be to Thee.

Same Tone

*Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;
Both now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.*

Choir: In abundance of Thy mercy Thou hast appeared to sinners and publicans, O our Savior. Where indeed should Thy light have shone, if not upon them that sit in darkness? Glory be to Thee.

THE PARAMIA (CONTINUED)

The Seventh Passage

Reader: The reading is from the Prophecy of Isaiah (1:16-20)

These things doth the Lord say: Wash yourselves; make yourselves clean; remove the evil of your doings from before my eyes; cease to do evil, learn to do good; seek justice, correct oppression; defend the fatherless, plead for the widow. Come now, let us reason together, says the Lord: though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red like crimson, they shall become like wool. If you are willing and obedient, you shall eat the good of the land; but if you refuse and rebel, you shall be devoured by the sword; for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.

The Eighth Passage

Reader: The reading from the book of Genesis (32:1-10).

Jacob went on his way and the angels of God met him; and when Jacob saw them he said, "This is God's army!" So he called the name of that place Mahanaim. And Jacob sent messengers before him to Esau his brother in the land of Seir, the country of Edom, instructing them, "Thus you shall say to my lord Esau: Thus says your servant Jacob, 'I have sojourned with Laban, and stayed until now; and I have oxen, asses, flocks, menservants, and maidservants; and I have sent to tell my lord, in order that I may find favor in your sight.'" And the messengers returned to Jacob, saying, "We came to your brother Esau, and he is coming to meet you, and four hundred men with him." Then Jacob was greatly afraid and distressed; and he divided the people that were with him, and the flocks and herds and camels, into two companies, thinking, "If Esau comes to the one company and destroys it, then the company which is left will escape." And Jacob said, "O God of my father Abraham and God of my father Isaac, O Lord Who didst say to me, 'Return to your country and to your kindred, and I will do you good,' I am not worthy of the least of all the steadfast love and all the faithfulness which thou hast shown to thy servant, for with only my staff I crossed this Jordan; and now I have become two companies."

The Ninth Passage

Reader: The reading from the book of Exodus (2:5-10).

Now the daughter of Pharaoh came down to bathe at the river, and her maidens walked beside the river; she saw the basket among the reeds and sent her maid to fetch it. When she opened it she saw the child; and lo, the babe was crying. She took pity on him and said, "This is one of the Hebrews' children." Then his sister said to Pharaoh's daughter, "Shall I go and call you a nurse from the Hebrew women to nurse the child for you?" And Pharaoh's daughter said to her, "Go." So the girl went and called the child's mother. And Pharaoh's daughter said to her, "Take this child away, and nurse him for me, and I will give you your wages." So the woman took the child and nursed him. And the child grew, and she brought him to Pharaoh's daughter, and he became her son; and she named him Moses, for she said, "Because I drew him out of the water."

The Tenth Passage

Reader: The reading from the book of Judges (6:36-40).

Then Gideon said to God, "If Thou wilt deliver Israel by my hand, as Thou hast said, behold, I am laying a fleece of wool on the threshing floor; if there is dew on the fleece alone, and it is dry on all the ground, then I shall know that Thou wilt deliver Israel by my hand, as Thou hast said." And it was so. When he rose early next morning and squeezed the fleece, he wrung enough dew from the fleece to fill a bowl with water. Then Gideon said to God, "Let not Thine anger burn against me, let me speak but this once; pray, let me make trial only this once with the fleece; pray, let it be dry only on the fleece, and on all the ground let there be dew." And God did so that night; for it was dry on the fleece only, and on all the ground there was dew.

The Eleventh Passage

Reader: The reading from the Third Book of Kings (I Kings 18:30-39).

Then Elijah said to all the people, "Come near to me"; and all the people came near to him. And he repaired the altar of the Lord that had been thrown down; Elijah took twelve stones, according to the number of the tribes of the sons of Jacob, to whom the word of the Lord came, saying, "Israel shall be your name"; and with the stones he built an altar in the name of the Lord. And he made a trench about the altar, as great as would contain two measures of seed. And he put the wood in order, and cut the bull in pieces and laid it on the wood. And he said, "Fill four jars with water, and pour it on the burnt offering, and on the wood." And he said, "Do it a second time";

and they did it a second time. And he said, “Do it a third time”; and they did it a third time. And the water ran round about the altar, and filled the trench also with water. And at the time of the offering of the oblation, Elijah the Prophet came near and said, “O Lord, God of Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, let it be known this day that Thou art God in Israel, and that I am Thy servant, and that I have done all these things at Thy word. Answer me, O Lord, answer me, that this people may know that Thou, O Lord, art God, and that Thou hast turned their hearts back.” Then the fire of the Lord fell, and consumed the burnt offering, and the wood, and the stones, and the dust, and licked up the water that was in the trench. And when all the people saw it, they fell on their faces; and they said, “The Lord, He is God; the Lord, He is God.”

The Twelfth Passage

Reader: The reading from the Fourth Book of Kings (II Kings 2:19-22).

Now the men of the city of Jericho said to Elisha, “Behold, the situation of this city is pleasant, as my lord sees; the water is bad, and the land is unfruitful.” He said, “Bring me a new bowl, and put salt in it.” So they brought it to him. Then he went to the spring of water and threw salt in it, and said, “Thus says the Lord, I have made this water wholesome; henceforth neither death nor miscarriage shall come from it.” So the water has been wholesome to this day, according to the word which Elisha spoke.

The Thirteenth Passage

Reader: The reading from the prophecy of Isaiah (49:8-15).

Thus says the Lord: “In a time of favor I have answered you, in a day of salvation I have helped you; I have kept you and given you as a covenant to the people, to establish the land, to apportion the desolate heritages; saying to the prisoners, ‘Come forth,’ to those who are in darkness, ‘Appear.’ They shall feed along the ways, on all bare heights shall be their pasture; they shall not hunger or thirst, neither scorching wind nor sun shall smite them, for He who has pity on them will lead them, and by springs of water will guide them. And I will make all my mountains a way, and my highways shall be raised up. Lo, these shall come from afar, and lo, these from the north and from the west, and these from the land of Syene.” Sing for joy, O heavens, and exult, O earth; break forth, O mountains, into singing! For the Lord has comforted His people, and will have compassion on His afflicted. But Zion said, “The Lord has forsaken me, my Lord has forgotten me.” Saith the Lord: “Can a woman forget her sucking child, that she should have no compassion on the son of her womb? Even these may forget, yet I will not forget you.”

THE PROKEIMENON IN TONE THREE (*Psalm 26*)

The Lord is my light and my saviour; whom then shall I fear? (*twice*)

Verse: The Lord is the defender of my life; of whom then shall I be afraid?

The Lord is my light and my saviour; whom then shall I fear?

THE APOSTOLOS

Reader: The reading is from the First Epistle of St. Paul to the Corinthians §143 (9:19-27).

Brethren, though I am free from all men, I have made myself a slave to all, that I might win the more. To the Jews I became as a Jew, in order to win Jews; to those under the law I became as one under the law—though not being myself under the law—that I might win those under the law. To those outside the law I became as one outside the law—not being without law toward God but under the law of Christ—that I might win those outside the law. To the weak I became

weak, that I might win the weak. I have become all things to all men, so that I might by all means save some. I do it all for the sake of the Gospel, that I may share in its blessings. Do you not know that in a race all the runners compete, but only one receives the prize? So run that you may obtain it. Every athlete exercises self-control in all things. They do it to receive a perishable wreath, but we an imperishable. Well, I do not run aimlessly, I do not box as one beating the air; but I pommel my body and subdue it, lest after preaching to others I myself should be disqualified.

ALLELUIA IN TONE SIX (Psalm 44)

Choir: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Verse: My heart hath poured forth a good word; I speak of my works to the king.

Choir: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Verse: Comely art Thou in beauty, more than the sons of men.

Choir: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

THE GOSPEL

Reader: The reading is from the Holy Gospel according to St. Luke §9 (3:1-18).

Choir: Glory to thee, O Lord, glory to thee.

Reader: In the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar, Pontius Pilate being governor of Judea, and Herod being tetrarch of Galilee, and his brother Philip tetrarch of the region of Iturea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias tetrarch of Abilene, in the high-priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the Word of God came to John the son of Zachariah in the wilderness; and He went into all the region about the Jordan, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. As it is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet, "The voice of one crying in the wilderness: Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be brought low, and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough ways shall be made smooth; and all flesh shall see the salvation of God." He said therefore to the multitudes that came out to be baptized by him, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruits that befit repentance, and do not begin to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our father'; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the axe is laid to the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire." And the multitudes asked him, "What then shall we do?" And he answered them, "He who has two coats, let him share with him who has none; and he who has food, let him do likewise." Tax collectors also came to be baptized, and said to him, "Teacher, what shall we do?" And he said to them, "Collect no more than is appointed you." Soldiers also asked him, "And we, what shall we do?" And he said to them, "Rob no one by violence or by false accusation, and be content with your wages." As the people were in expectation, and all men questioned in their hearts concerning John, whether perhaps he were the Christ, John answered them all, "I baptize you with water; but He Who is mightier than I is coming, the strap of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie; He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire. His winnowing fork is in His hand, to clear His threshing floor, and to gather the wheat into his granary, but the chaff He will burn with unquenchable fire." So, with many other exhortations, he preached good news to the people.

Choir: Glory to thee, O Lord, glory to thee.

AUGMENTED EKTENIA REPLACEMENT

Reader: Lord have mercy (40 times)

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; both now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

THE EVENING PRAYER

Reader: Vouchsafe, O Lord, to keep us this evening without sin. Blessed art thou, O Lord, the God of our fathers, and praised and glorified is thy name forever. Amen. Let thy mercy be upon us, O Lord, even as we have set our hope on thee. Blessed art thou, O Lord; teach me thy statutes. Blessed art thou, O Master; make me to understand thy statutes. Blessed art thou, O Holy One; enlighten me with thy statutes. Thy mercy, O Lord, endureth forever. O despise not the works of thy hands. To thee belongeth worship, to thee belongeth praise, to thee belongeth glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

LITANY OF SUPPLICATION (& THE PEACE) REPLACEMENT

Reader: Lord have mercy (*12 times*)

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; both now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

THE APOSTICHA FOR THE FEAST IN TONE TWO

As John beheld Thee, O Christ God, coming to him in the River Jordan, he said: Wherefore art Thou, Who hast no defilement, come unto Thy servant, O Lord? In whose name shall I baptize Thee? In the Father's? But thou bearest Him in Thyself. In the Son's? But Thou Thyself art He, become incarnate. In the Holy Spirit's? But Thou art able to give Him unto the faithful through Thine own mouth, O God, Who hast appeared, have mercy on us.

Verse1: The sea beheld and fled, Jordan turned back.

The waters saw Thee, O God, the waters saw Thee and were afraid. For the Cherubim are not able to lift their eyes towards Thy glory, nor can the Seraphim gaze upon Thee; but standing by in fear, the first exalt, and the second glorify Thy power. With them, O Compassionate One, we proclaim Thy praise and we say: O God, Who hast appeared,, have mercy on us.

Verse2: What aileth thee, O sea, that thou fleddest? And thou Jordan, that thou didst turn back? Today the Creator of heaven and earth cometh in the flesh unto the Jordan, and he Who is sinless asketh for Baptism, that He may cleanse the world from the error of the enemy. The Master of all is baptized by a servant, and granteth the race of man cleansing through water. Unto Him let us cry: O our God, Who hast appeared, glory be to Thee.

DOXASTICON FOR THE FEAST IN TONE EIGHT

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

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

Seeing the Sun that came forth from a Virgin asking for Baptism in the Jordan, the shining Lamp that was born of a barren woman cried to Him in fear and joy: Do Thou sanctify me, O Master, by Thy divine Epiphany.

THE HYMN OF SYMEON THE GOD-RECEIVER

Leader: Lord, now lettest thou Thy servant depart in peace, according to Thy word; for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation, which Thou hast prepared before the face of all people, a light to lighten the Gentiles and the glory of Thy people Israel.

THE TRISAGION PRAYERS

Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal: have mercy on us. (*Thrice*)

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. Both now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen

All-holy Trinity, have mercy on us. Lord, cleanse us from our sins. Master, pardon our iniquities. Holy One, visit and heal our infirmities for thy Name's sake.

Lord, have mercy. (*Thrice*)

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. Both now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name; thy kingdom come; thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.

Leader: O Lord, Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on us.

All: Amen.

APOLYTIKION OF THE FEAST IN TONE ONE

When Thou, O Lord, wast baptized in the Jordan, worship of the Trinity was made manifest. For the voice of the Father bore witness to thee, calling thee His beloved Son; and the Spirit in the likeness of a dove, confirmed the truth of His word. O Christ our God, who hath appeared and enlightened the world, glory to Thee. (*thrice without "Glory...", "Both now..."*)

THE DISMISSAL

Choir: Preserve, O God, the holy Orthodox faith and all Orthodox Christians, unto ages of ages. Amen.

Choir: More honorable than the Cherubim, and more glorious beyond compare than the Seraphim, thou who without corruption bearest God the Word and art truly Theotokos: we magnify thee.

The Leader bows toward the icon of Christ on the iconostasis, saying:

Leader: Glory to thee, O Christ our God and our Hope, glory to thee.

All: Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, both now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. O Lord, bless.

Leader: O Thou Who deigned to be baptized by John in the Jordan for our salvation, Christ our true God, through the intercessions of His all-immaculate and all-blameless holy Mother; of our venerable and God-bearing fathers; of the Holy Equal to the Apostles and Myrrh-Bearer Mary Magdalene, protector of this community; and of all the saints: have mercy on us, and save us, for Thou art good and lovest mankind.

Then, facing the icon of Christ, on the iconostasis, the Leader says:

Leader: Through the prayers of our holy fathers, Lord Jesus Christ our God, have mercy on us, and save us.

All: Amen.