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READER'S HOURS APPOINTED FOR THE MORNING OF
MONDAY, JANUARY 5, 2026

The Royal Hours of the Theophany of Christ

THE FIRST HOUR

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

All: Amen

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.

Trisagion

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 evil.

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

O come, let us worship and fall down before God our King. (*Metania*)

O come, let us worship and fall down before Christ, our King and our God. (*Metania*)

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

PSALM 5

Unto my words give ear, O Lord, hear my cry. Attend unto the voice of my supplication, O my King and my God; for unto Thee will I pray, O Lord. In the morning shalt Thou hear my voice. In the morning shall I stand before Thee, and Thou shalt look upon me; for not a God that wiliest iniquity art Thou. He that worketh evil shall not dwell near Thee nor shall transgressors abide before Thine eyes. Thou hast hated all them that work iniquity; Thou shalt destroy all them that

speaking a lie. A man that is bloody and deceitful shall the Lord abhor. But as for me, in the multitude of Thy mercy shall I go into Thy house; I shall worship toward Thy holy temple in fear of Thee. O Lord, guide me in the way of Thy righteousness; because of mine enemies, make straight my way before Thee, For in their mouth there is no truth; their heart is vain. Their throat is an open sepulcher, with their tongues have they spoken deceitfully; judge them, O God. Let them fall down on account of their own devisings; according to the multitude of their ungodliness, cast them out, for they have embittered Thee, O Lord. And let all them be glad that hope in Thee; they shall rejoice, and Thou shalt dwell among them. And all shall glory in Thee that love Thy name, for Thou shalt bless the righteous. O Lord, as with a shield of Thy good pleasure hast Thou crowned us.

PSALM 22

The Lord is my shepherd, and I shall not want. In a place of green pasture, there hath He made me to dwell; beside the water of rest hath He nurtured me. He hath converted my soul, He hath led me on the paths of righteousness for His Name's sake. For though I should walk in the midst of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for Thou art with me; Thy rod and Thy staff, they have comforted me. Thou hast prepared a table for me in the presence of them that afflict me. Thou hast anointed my head with oil, and Thy cup which filleth me, how excellent it is! And Thy mercy shall pursue me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord unto length of days.

PSALM 26

The Lord is my light and my Savior; whom then shall I fear? The Lord is the defender of my life; of whom then shall I be afraid? When the wicked draw nigh against me to eat my flesh, they that afflict me and are mine enemies, they themselves became weak and they fell. Though a host should array itself against me, my heart shall not be afraid; though war should rise up against me, in this have I hoped. One thing have I asked of the Lord, this will I seek after: That I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, that I may behold the delight of the Lord, and that I may visit His holy temple. For He hid me in His tabernacle in the day of my troubles, He sheltered me in the secret place of His tabernacle, upon a rock hath He exalted me. And now, behold, He exalted my head above mine enemies. I went round about and I sacrificed in His tabernacle a sacrifice of praise and jubilation; I will sing and I will chant unto the Lord. Hearken, O Lord, unto my voice, wherewith I cried; have mercy on me, and hearken unto me. My heart said unto Thee: I will seek the Lord. My face hath sought after Thee; Thy face, O Lord, will I seek. Turn not Thy face from me and turn not away in wrath from Thy servant. Be Thou my helper; cast me not utterly away, and forsake me not, O God my Savior. For my father and my mother have forsaken me, but the Lord hath taken me to Himself. Set me a law, O Lord, in Thy way, and lead me in the right path because of mine enemies. Deliver me not over unto the souls of them that afflict me, for unjust witnesses are risen up against me, and injustice hath lied to itself. I believe that I shall see the good things of the Lord in the land of the living. Wait on the Lord; be thou manful, and let thy heart be strengthened, and wait on the Lord.

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

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

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia. Glory to Thee, O God. (*thrice*)

Lord, have mercy. (*thrice*)

TROPARION OF THE EVE OF THEOPHANY, IN TONE FOUR

*(**Joseph was amazed**)*

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

River Jordan was turned back by Elisseus' mantle once, * when the fiery man of zeal Elias had been taken up; * then were its waters divided hither and thither. * The running streams became dry passage unto him, * truly as a sign and type of Baptism, * whereby we pass to the other side of * the shifting stream of this fleeting life. * Christ hath appeared in the Jordan River, to sanctify the waters.

THEOTOKION OF THE FIRST HOUR, IN TONE EIGHT

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

What shall we call thee, O thou who art 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 incorrupt; Pure Mother, for thou hast held in thy holy embrace a Son, who is God of all. Beseech thou him to save our souls.

THE IDIOMELA OF THE FIRST HOUR

(by Sophronius, Patriarch of Jerusalem)

In Tone Eight

Today the nature of the waters is sanctified, and the Jordan is parted in two: it holds back the stream of its own waters, seeing the Master wash Himself. *(twice)*

Same Tone

Verse 1. Therefore will I remember Thee from the land of Jordan and Hermoniem. *(Ps.41:7)*
O Christ the King, Thou hast come unto the river as a man, and in Thy goodness Thou dost make haste to receive the baptism of a servant at the hands of the Forerunner, for the sake of our sins, O Thou who lovest mankind.

Verse 2. The waters saw Thee, O God, the waters saw Thee and were afraid. *(Ps.76:15)*
O Christ the King, Thou hast come unto the river as a man, and in Thy goodness Thou dost make haste to receive the baptism of a servant at the hands of the Forerunner, for the sake of our sins, O Thou who lovest mankind.

Same Tone

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

At the voice of one crying in the wilderness, 'Prepare ye the way of the Lord.' Thou hast come, O Lord, taking the form of a servant, and Thou who knowest not sin dost ask for baptism. The waters saw Thee and were afraid; the Forerunner was seized with trembling and cried aloud, saying: 'How shall the lamp illuminate the Light? How shall the servant set his hand upon the Master? O Saviour who takest away the sin of the world, sanctify both me and the waters.'

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

At the voice of one crying in the wilderness, 'Prepare ye the way of the Lord.' Thou hast come, O Lord, taking the form of a servant, and Thou who knowest not sin dost ask for baptism. The waters saw Thee and were afraid; the Forerunner was seized with trembling and cried aloud, saying: 'How shall the lamp illuminate the Light? How shall the servant set his hand upon the Master? O Saviour who takest away the sin of the world, sanctify both me and the waters.'

PROKEIMENON, IN TONE FOUR

The voice of the Lord is upon many waters; the voice of Thy thunder is in their rolling. (*Ps.28:3a; Ps.76:17b*)

Verse: I will love Thee, O Lord, my strength; the Lord is my foundation, and my refuge, and my deliverer. (*Ps.17:1*)

THE PROPHECY

Reader: The reading is from the Prophecy of Isaiah. (35:1-10)

These things doth the Lord say: the wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the lily. It shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice with joy and singing. The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the glory of the Lord, the majesty of our God. Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees. Say to those who are of a fearful heart, "Be strong, and fear not! Behold, your God will come with vengeance, with the recompense of God. He will come and save you." Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; then shall the lame man leap like a hart, and the tongue of the mute sing for joy. For waters shall break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert; the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water; the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp, the grass shall become reeds and rushes. And a highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Holy Way; the unclean shall not pass over it, and fools shall not err therein. No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it; they shall not be found there, but the redeemed shall walk there. And the ransomed of the Lord shall return, and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

THE APOSTOLOS

Reader: The reading is from the Acts of the Apostles §33 (13:25-33)

And it came to pass that when John was finishing his course, he said, "What do you suppose that I am? I am not He. No, but after me One is coming, the sandals of whose feet I am not worthy to untie." Brethren, children of the family of Abraham, and those among you that fear God, to us has been sent the message of this salvation. For those who live in Jerusalem and their rulers, because they did not recognize Him nor understand the utterances of the prophets which are read every sabbath, fulfilled these by condemning Him. Though they could charge Him with nothing deserving death, yet they asked Pilate to have Him killed. And when they had fulfilled all that was written of Him, they took Him down from the tree, and laid Him in a tomb. But God raised Him from the dead; and for many days He appeared to those who came up with Him from Galilee to Jerusalem, who are now His witnesses to the people. And we bring you the good news that what God promised to the fathers, this He has fulfilled to us their children by raising Jesus; as also it is written in the second psalm, "Thou art My Son, today I have begotten Thee."

THE GOSPEL

Choir: Alleluia. (3 times)

Reader: The reading is from the Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew §5 (3:1-6)

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

Reader: At that time, John the Baptist came preaching in the wilderness of Judea, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand." For this is he who was spoken of by the prophet Isaiah when

he said, "The voice of one crying in the wilderness: Prepare the way of the Lord, make His paths straight." Now John wore a garment of camel's hair, and a leather girdle around his waist; and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then went out to him Jerusalem and all Judea and the entire region about the Jordan, and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.

In Slavic usage this passage is extended up to Matthew 3:11

But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees come to his baptism, he said unto them, O generation of vipers, who hath warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bring forth therefore fruits meet for repentance: And think not to say within yourselves, We have Abraham to our father: for I say unto you, that God is able of these stones to raise up children unto Abraham. And now also the axe is laid unto the root of the trees: therefore every tree which bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire. I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance: but He that cometh after me is mightier than I, whose shoes I am not worthy to bear: He shall baptize you with the Holy Spirit.

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

Reader: My steps do thou direct according to thy saying, and so let no iniquity have dominion over me. Deliver me from the false accusation of men, and I will keep thy commandments. Make thy face to shine upon thy servant, and teach me thy statutes. Let my mouth be filled with thy praise, O Lord, that I may hymn thy glory and thy majesty all the day long.

Trisagion

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 evil.

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

All: Amen.

KONTAKION OF THE FOREFEAST IN TONE FOUR

*(**On this day Thou hast appeared**)*

In the running waters of * the Jordan River, * on this day the Lord of all * crieth to John: Be not afraid * and hesitate not to baptize Me, * for I am come to save Adam, the first-formed man.

Reader: Lord, have mercy. (*40 times*)

The Prayer of the Hours

Thou who, at all times and at every hour, both in heaven and on earth art worshipped and glorified, O Christ God, long-suffering, plenteous in mercy and compassion, who lovest the just and showest mercy to sinners, who callest all men to salvation through the promise of good things to come: Do thou, the same Lord, receive also our supplications at this present hour, and direct our lives according to thy commandments. Sanctify our souls; purify our bodies; set aright our minds;

cleanse our thoughts; and deliver us from all calamity, wrath and distress. Compass us round about with thy holy angels; that, guided and guarded by their host, we may attain unto the unity of the faith, and unto the comprehension of thine ineffable glory. For blessed art thou unto ages of ages. Amen

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

More honourable 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.

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

All: Amen.

The Prayer of the First Hour

Leader: O Christ, the true Light, which illumineth and sanctifieth every man who cometh into the world: Let the light of thy countenance be signed upon us, that in it we may behold the light ineffable. Guide our footsteps aright, to the keeping of thy commandments, through the intercessions of thine all-immaculate Mother and of all thy saints.

All: Amen.

THE THIRD HOUR

O come, let us worship and fall down before God our King. (*Metania*)

O come, let us worship and fall down before Christ, our King and our God. (*Metania*)

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

PSALM 28

Bring unto the Lord, ye sons of God, bring unto the Lord the sons of rams; bring unto the Lord glory and honor. Bring unto the Lord the glory due unto His Name, worship the Lord in His holy court. The voice of the Lord is upon the waters; the God of glory hath thundered, the Lord is upon the many waters. The voice of the Lord in might, the voice of the Lord in majesty. The voice of the Lord Who breaketh the cedars; yea, the Lord will break the cedars of Lebanon. And He will break them small like the calf of Lebanon, and His beloved is like a son of the unicorns. The voice of the Lord Who divideth the flame of fire, the voice of the Lord Who shaketh the wilderness; yea, the Lord will shake the wilderness of Kaddis. The voice of the Lord gathereth the harts, and shall reveal the thickets of oak, and in His temple every man uttereth glory. The Lord dwelleth in the flood; yea, the Lord shall sit as king forever. The Lord will give strength unto His people; the Lord will bless His people with peace.

PSALM 41

As the hart panteth after the fountains of water, so panteth my soul after Thee, O God. My soul thirsted for God, the mighty, the living; when shall I come, and appear before the face of God? My tears have been my bread by day and by night, whilst it is said to me daily: Where is thy God? These things have I remembered, and I poured out my soul within me, for I shall go to the place of the wondrous tabernacle, even to the house of God, with a voice of rejoicing and thanksgiving, yea, of the sound of them that keep festival. Why art thou cast down, O my soul? And why dost

thou disquiet me? Hope in God, for I will give thanks unto Him; He is the salvation of my countenance, and my God. Within me my soul hath been troubled; therefore will I remember Thee from the land of Jordan and Hermoniem, from the little mountain. Deep calleth unto deep, at the voice of Thy cataracts; all Thy billows and Thy waves have passed over me. By day the Lord will command His mercy, and by night His ode shall be with me, my prayer unto the God of my life. I will say unto God: Thou art my helper. Why hast Thou forgotten me? And wherefore go I with downcast face whilst mine enemy afflicteth me? Whilst my bones were broken, mine enemies reproached me; whilst they said to me daily: Where is thy God? Why art thou cast down, O my soul? And why dost thou disquiet me? Hope in God, for I will give thanks unto Him; He is the salvation of my countenance, and my God.

PSALM 50

Have mercy on me, O God, according to thy great mercy; and according to the multitude of thy compassions blot out my transgression. Wash me thoroughly from mine iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin. For I know mine iniquity, and my sin is ever before me. Against thee only have I sinned and done this evil before thee, that thou mightest be justified in thy words, and prevail when thou art judged. For behold, I was conceived in iniquities, and in sins did my mother bear me. For behold, thou has loved truth; the hidden and secret things of thy wisdom hast thou made manifest unto me. Thou shalt sprinkle me with hyssop, and I shall be made clean; thou shalt wash me, and I shall be made whiter than snow. Thou shalt make me to hear joy and gladness; the bones that be humbled, they shall rejoice. Turn thy face away from my sins, and blot out all mine iniquities. Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from thy presence, and take not thy Holy Spirit from me. Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation, and with thy governing Spirit establish me. I shall teach transgressors thy ways, and the ungodly shall turn back unto thee. Deliver me from blood-guiltiness, O God, thou God of my salvation; my tongue shall rejoice in thy righteousness. O Lord, thou shalt open my lips, and my mouth shall declare thy praise. For if thou hadst desired sacrifice, I had given it; with whole-burnt offerings thou shalt not be pleased. A sacrifice unto God is a broken spirit; a heart that is broken and humbled God will not despise. Do good, O Lord, in thy good pleasure unto Sion, and let the walls of Jerusalem be builded. Then shalt thou be pleased with a sacrifice of righteousness, with oblation and whole-burnt offerings. Then shall they offer bullocks upon thine altar.

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

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

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia. Glory to Thee, O God. (thrice)

Lord, have mercy. (thrice)

TROPARION OF THE EVE OF THEOPHANY, IN TONE FOUR

*(**Joseph was amazed**)*

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

River Jordan was turned back by Elisseus' mantle once, * when the fiery man of zeal Elias had been taken up; * then were its waters divided hither and thither. * The running streams became dry passage unto him, * truly as a sign and type of Baptism, * whereby we pass to the other side of * the shifting stream of this fleeting life. * Christ hath appeared in the Jordan River, to sanctify the waters.

THEOTOKION OF THE THIRD HOUR, IN TONE FOUR

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

O Theotokos, thou art the true vine who didst bud forth for us the Fruit of life. Implore thou him, we beseech thee, O Lady, together with the apostles and all the saints, that he will have mercy on our souls.

THE IDIOMELA OF THE THIRD HOUR

In Tone Eight

The right hand of the Forerunner and Baptist, the prophet honoured above all the prophets, trembled as he beheld Thee, the Lamb of God who cleanses the sins of the world. Seized with agony, he cried: 'I dare not touch Thy head, O Word. Do Thou Thyself in Thy mercy sanctify and enlighten me: for Thou art the life and the light and the peace of the world.' (*twice*)

In Tone Four

Verse 1. Therefore will I remember Thee from the land of Jordan and Hermoniem. (*Ps.41:7*)

The Trinity, our God, today hath made Himself indivisibly manifest unto us; for the Father in a loud voice bore clear witness to His Son; the Spirit in the form of a dove came down from the heavens; while the Son bowed His immaculate head unto the Forerunner, and, being baptized, delivered us from bondage, for He is the Lover of mankind.

Verse 2. The waters saw Thee, O God, the waters saw Thee and were afraid. (*Ps.76:15*)

The Trinity, our God, today hath made Himself indivisibly manifest unto us; for the Father in a loud voice bore clear witness to His Son; the Spirit in the form of a dove came down from the heavens; while the Son bowed His immaculate head unto the Forerunner, and, being baptized, delivered us from bondage, for He is the Lover of mankind.

In Tone Five

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

Desiring to receive baptism, O Lord, Thou hast come with Thy flesh in man's form to the Jordan, O Giver of life, to enlighten us who were gone astray, delivering us in Thy compassion from every device and snare of the dragon. Then the Father bore witness to Thee, and the divine Spirit in the form of a dove came down upon Thee. Make Thy dwelling in our souls, O Thou who lovest mankind.

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

Desiring to receive baptism, O Lord, Thou hast come with Thy flesh in man's form to the Jordan, O Giver of life, to enlighten us who were gone astray, delivering us in Thy compassion from every device and snare of the dragon. Then the Father bore witness to Thee, and the divine Spirit in the form of a dove came down upon Thee. Make Thy dwelling in our souls, O Thou who lovest mankind.

PROKEIMENON, IN TONE SIX

The waters saw Thee, O God, the waters saw Thee and were afraid. (*Ps.76:17*)

Verse: The voice of the Lord is upon the waters; the God of glory hath thundered, the Lord is upon the many waters. (*Ps.28:3*)

THE PROPHECY

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 APOSTOLOS

Reader: The reading is from the Acts of the Apostles §42 (19:1-8)

And it came to pass, while Apollos was at Corinth, Paul passed through the upper country and came to Ephesus. There he found some disciples. And he said to them, “Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?” And they said, “No, we have never even heard that there is a Holy Spirit.” And he said, “Into what then were you baptized?” They said, “Into John’s baptism.” And 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, Jesus.” On hearing this, they were baptized in the Name of the Lord Jesus. And when Paul had laid his hands upon them, the Holy Spirit came on them; and they spoke with tongues and prophesied. There were about twelve of them in all. And he entered the synagogue and for three months spoke boldly, arguing and pleading about the kingdom of God.

THE GOSPEL

Choir: Alleluia. (3 times)

Reader: The reading is from the Holy Gospel according to St. Mark §1 (1:1-8)

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

Reader: The beginning of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. As it is written in Isaiah the prophet, “Behold, I send my messenger before thy face, who shall prepare thy way; the voice of one crying in the wilderness: Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.” John the Baptizer appeared in the wilderness, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And there went out to him all the country of Judea, and all the people of Jerusalem; and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel’s hair, and had a leather girdle around his waist, and ate locusts and wild honey. And he preached, saying, “After me comes He Who is mightier than I, the strap of Whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. I have baptized you with water; but He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

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

Reader: Blessed is the Lord God, blessed is the Lord day by day; the God of our salvation shall prosper us along the way. Our God is the God of salvation.

Trisagion

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*)

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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 evil.

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

All: Amen.

KONTAKION OF THE FOREFEAST IN TONE FOUR

*(**On this day Thou hast appeared**)*

In the running waters of * the Jordan River, * on this day the Lord of all * crieth to John: Be not afraid * and hesitate not to baptize Me, * for I am come to save Adam, the first-formed man.

Reader: Lord, have mercy. *(40 times)*

The Prayer of the Hours

Thou who, at all times and at every hour, both in heaven and on earth art worshipped and glorified, O Christ God, long-suffering, plenteous in mercy and compassion, who lovest the just and showest mercy to sinners, who callest all men to salvation through the promise of good things to come: Do thou, the same Lord, receive also our supplications at this present hour, and direct our lives according to thy commandments. Sanctify our souls; purify our bodies; set aright our minds; cleanse our thoughts; and deliver us from all calamity, wrath and distress. Compass us round about with thy holy angels; that, guided and guarded by their host, we may attain unto the unity of the faith, and unto the comprehension of thine ineffable glory. For blessed art thou unto ages of ages. Amen

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

More honourable 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.

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

All: Amen.

Prayer of St. Mardarios

Leader: O Master God, Almighty Father, O Lord, the only-begotten Son Jesus Christ, and O Holy Spirit, one Godhead and one Power: Have mercy on me a sinner; and by the judgments which thou hast established, save me, thine unworthy servant, for thou art blessed unto ages of ages.

All: Amen.

THE SIXTH HOUR

O come, let us worship and fall down before God our King. *(Metania)*

O come, let us worship and fall down before Christ, our King and our God. *(Metania)*

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

PSALM 73

O God, why hast Thou cast us off unto the end? Why hath Thine anger raged against the sheep of Thy pasture? Remember Thy congregation which Thou hast purchased from the beginning.

Thou hast redeemed the rod of Thine inheritance, this Mount Zion wherein Thou hast dwelt. Lift up Thy hands against their pride at the end, against the things which the enemy hath wickedly done in Thy holy place. And they that hate Thee have boasted in the midst of Thy feast. They set up their ensigns, yea, signs (though they knew it not) as it were for the departing on high. As in a forest of trees, with axes they cut down the doors thereof together, with two-edged axe and mason's hammer have they broken it down. With fire have they burned down Thy sanctuary, they have profaned even unto the ground the habitation of Thy Name. They said in their heart, even the whole kindred of them together: Come, let us abolish all the feasts of God from the earth. Our signs have we not seen; there is no more any prophet, and he will know us no more. How long, O God, shall the enemy utter reproaches? Shall the adversary provoke Thy Name to the end? Wherefore turnest away Thy hand, and Thy right hand out of the midst of Thy bosom forever? But God is our king before the ages; He hath wrought salvation in the midst of the earth. Thou didst establish the sea by Thy might; Thou didst break the heads of the dragons in the water. Thou didst crush the head of the dragon; Thou gavest him as food to the Ethiopian peoples. Thou hast cloven fountains and torrents; Thou hast dried up the rivers of Etham. Thine is the day and Thine is the night; Thou hast perfected the light and the sun. Thou hast made all the borders of the earth; summer and spring hast Thou fashioned. Be mindful of this Thy creation. The enemy hath reproached the Lord, and a mindless people have provoked Thy Name. O deliver not unto beasts the soul which doth confess Thee; of the souls of Thy paupers be not forgetful unto the end. Look Thou upon Thy covenant, for the dark places of the earth are filled with the houses of iniquity. Let not the humbled and shamed man be turned away; the beggar and the poor man shall praise Thy Name. Arise, O God, judge Thine own cause; remember the reproach made against Thee by the mindless man all the day long. Forget not the voice of Thy suppliants; the pride of them that hate Thee ascendeth continually.

PSALM 76

With my voice unto the Lord have I cried, with my voice unto God, and He was attentive unto me. In the day of mine affliction I sought out God, with my hands upraised by night before Him, and I was not deceived. My soul refused to be comforted; I remembered God and I was gladdened; I spake in idleness and my spirit became faint-hearted. Mine eyes were wakeful before the watches; I was troubled and spake not. I thought upon the days of old, and the years of ages past I called to mind, and I meditated. By night I pondered in my heart, and my spirit searched diligently. Will the Lord then cast me off unto the ages, and will He be favorable no more? Or will He cut off His mercy unto the end? Hath He brought to an end His word from generation to generation? Or will the Lord forget to be merciful? Or in His wrath will He shut up His compassions forever? And I said: Now have I made a beginning; this change hath been wrought by the right hand of the Most High. I remembered the works of the Lord; for I will remember Thy wonders from the beginning. And I will meditate on all Thy works, and I shall ponder upon Thy ways. O God, in the sanctuary is Thy way. What God is as great as our God? Thou art God Who workest wonders. Thou hast made Thy power among the peoples; with Thine arm hast Thou redeemed Thy people, the sons of Jacob and Joseph. The waters saw Thee, O God, the waters saw Thee and were afraid; the abysses were troubled. Great was the resounding sound of the waters, the clouds gave forth a voice. Yea, for thine arrows passed abroad; the voice of Thy thunder is in their rolling. And Thy lightnings have lightened the world; the earth was shaken

and it trembled. In the sea are Thy byways, and Thy paths in many waters; and Thy footsteps shall not be known. Thou leddest Thy people as sheep by the hand of Moses and Aaron.

PSALM 90

He that dwelleth in the help of the Most High shall abide in the shelter of the God of heaven. He shall say unto the Lord: Thou art my helper and my refuge. He is my God, and I will hope in Him. For He shall deliver thee from the snare of the hunters and from every troubling word. With His shoulders will He overshadow thee, and under His wings shalt thou have hope. With a shield will His truth encompass thee; thou shalt not be afraid for the terror by night, nor for the arrow that flieth by day, Nor for the thing that walketh in darkness, nor for the mishap and demon of noon-day. A thousand shall fall at thy side, and ten thousand at thy right hand, but unto thee shall it not come nigh. Only with thine eyes shalt thou behold, and thou shalt see the reward of sinners. For Thou, O Lord, art my hope. Thou madest the Most High thy refuge; No evils shall come nigh thee, and no scourge shall draw nigh unto thy dwelling. For He shall give His angels charge over thee, to keep thee in all thy ways. On their hands shall they bear thee up, lest at any time thou dash thy foot against a stone. Upon the asp and basilisk shalt thou tread, and thou shalt trample upon the lion and dragon. For he hath set his hope on Me, and I will deliver him; I will shelter him because he hath known My name. He shall cry unto Me, and I will hearken unto him. I am with him in affliction, and I will rescue him and glorify him. With length of days will I satisfy him, and I will show him My salvation.

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

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

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia. Glory to Thee, O God. (*thrice*)

Lord, have mercy. (*thrice*)

TROPARION OF THE EVE OF THEOPHANY, IN TONE FOUR

(***Joseph was amazed***)

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

River Jordan was turned back by Elisseus' mantle once, * when the fiery man of zeal Elias had been taken up; * then were its waters divided hither and thither. * The running streams became dry passage unto him, * truly as a sign and type of Baptism, * whereby we pass to the other side of * the shifting stream of this fleeting life. * Christ hath appeared in the Jordan River, to sanctify the waters.

THEOTOKION OF THE SIXTH HOUR, IN TONE TWO

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

Seeing that we have no boldness, because of the multitude of our sins, do thou, O Virgin Theotokos, fervently entreat him who was born of thee; for the prayer of a mother availeth much to the good will of the Master. Despise not the supplications of sinners, O all-revered one; for merciful and mighty to save is he who graciously deigned to suffer for us.

THE IDIOMELA FOR THE SIXTH HOUR

In Tone Eight

Thus spake the Lord to John: "O Prophet, come and baptize me who created thee, for I enlighten all men by grace and cleanse them. Touch my divine head and doubt not. O Prophet, suffer it to be so now: for I have come to fulfill all righteousness. Be in no doubt at all: for I am in haste to

slay the enemy hidden in the waters, the prince of darkness, that I may now deliver the world from his snares, granting eternal life in my love for mankind." (*twice*)

In Tone Six

Verse 1. Therefore will I remember Thee from the land of Jordan and Hermoniem. (*Ps.41:7*)

Today the prophecy of the psalms swiftly approaches its fulfillment: The sea saw it and fled: Jordan was driven back, before the face of the Lord, before the face of the God of Jacob, when he came to receive baptism from his servant, that we, washed clean from the defilement of idolatry, through him might be enlightened in our souls.

Verse 2. The waters saw Thee, O God, the waters saw Thee and were afraid. (*Ps.76:15*)

Today the prophecy of the psalms swiftly approaches its fulfillment: The sea saw it and fled: Jordan was driven back, before the face of the Lord, before the face of the God of Jacob, when he came to receive baptism from his servant, that we, washed clean from the defilement of idolatry, through him might be enlightened in our souls.

In Tone Five

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

Why dost thou turn back thy waters, O Jordan? Why dost thou stop thy streams, and why dost thou not proceed upon thy natural course? "I cannot bear", said he, "the fire that consumes me. I am filled with wonder and with dread before his extreme condescension. For I am not used to wash him that is clean: I have not learnt to bathe the sinless, but to purge the filthy vessels. Christ who is baptized in me teaches me to burn the thorns of sin. John, the voice of the Word, bears witness with me and cries: "Behold the Lamb of God, faithful cry aloud: O God who art made manifest for our salvation, glory to Thee."

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

Why dost thou turn back thy waters, O Jordan? Why dost thou stop thy streams, and why dost thou not proceed upon thy natural course? "I cannot bear", said he, "the fire that consumes me. I am filled with wonder and with dread before his extreme condescension. For I am not used to wash him that is clean: I have not learnt to bathe the sinless, but to purge the filthy vessels. Christ who is baptized in me teaches me to burn the thorns of sin. John, the voice of the Word, bears witness with me and cries: "Behold the Lamb of God, faithful cry aloud: O God who art made manifest for our salvation, glory to Thee."

PROKEIMENON, IN TONE FOUR

The voice of the Lord is upon the waters; the God of glory hath thundered, the Lord is upon the many waters. (*Ps.28:3*)

Verse: Bring unto the Lord, ye sons of God, bring unto the Lord the sons of rams. (*Ps.28:1*)

THE PROPHECY

Reader: The reading is from the Prophecy of Isaiah (12:3-6)

These things the Lord doth say: With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation. And you will say in that day: Give thanks to the Lord, call upon His Name; make known His deeds among the nations, proclaim that His Name is exalted. Sing praises to the Lord, for He has done gloriously; let this be known in all the earth. Shout, and sing for joy, O inhabitant of Zion, for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.

THE APOSTOLOS

Reader: The reading is from the Epistle of St. Paul to the Romans §91 (6:3-11)

Brethren, do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? We were buried therefore with Him by baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life. if we have been united with Him in a death like His, we shall certainly be united with Him in a resurrection like His. We know that our old self was crucified with Him so that the sinful body might be destroyed, and we might no longer be enslaved to sin. For He Who has died is freed from sin. But if we have died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with Him. For we know that Christ being raised from the dead will never die again; Death no longer has dominion over him. In the death he died, he died to sin, once for all, but the life He lives, He lives to God. So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

THE GOSPEL

Choir: Alleluia. (3 times)

Reader: The reading is from the Holy Gospel according to St. Mark §2 (1:9-11)

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

Reader: In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee, and was baptized by John in the Jordan. And when He came up out of the water, immediately He saw the heavens opened and the Spirit descending upon Him like a dove; and a voice came from heaven, "Thou art My beloved Son; with Thee I am well pleased."

In Slavic usage this passage is extended up to Mark 19:15

The Spirit immediately drove Him out into the wilderness. And He was in the wilderness forty days, tempted by Satan; and He was with the wild beasts; and the angels ministered to Him. Now after John was arrested, Jesus came into Galilee, preaching the gospel of God, and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the Kingdom of God is at hand; repent, and believe in the gospel."

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

Reader: Let thy compassions quickly go before us, O Lord, for we are become exceedingly poor. Help us, O God our Saviour, for the sake of the glory of thy name; O Lord, deliver us, and be gracious unto our sins, for thy name's sake.

Trisagion

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 evil.

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

All: Amen.

KONTAKION OF THE FOREFEAST IN TONE FOUR

*(**On this day Thou hast appeared**)*

In the running waters of * the Jordan River, * on this day the Lord of all * crieth to John: Be not afraid * and hesitate not to baptize Me, * for I am come to save Adam, the first-formed man.

Reader: Lord, have mercy. (40 times)

The Prayer of the Hours

Thou who, at all times and at every hour, both in heaven and on earth art worshipped and glorified, O Christ God, long-suffering, plenteous in mercy and compassion, who lovest the just and showest mercy to sinners, who callest all men to salvation through the promise of good things to come: Do thou, the same Lord, receive also our supplications at this present hour, and direct our lives according to thy commandments. Sanctify our souls; purify our bodies; set aright our minds; cleanse our thoughts; and deliver us from all calamity, wrath and distress. Compass us round about with thy holy angels; that, guided and guarded by their host, we may attain unto the unity of the faith, and unto the comprehension of thine ineffable glory. For blessed art thou unto ages of ages. Amen

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

More honourable 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.

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

All: Amen.

Prayer of St. Basil

Leader: O God and Lord of hosts and Maker of all things created, who through the tender-hearted compassion of thine incomparable mercy didst send down thine only-begotten Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, for the salvation of our race, and by his precious cross didst destroy the handwriting of our sins and didst thereby triumph over the origin and powers of darkness: Do thou, the same Lord, who lovest mankind, receive also these thanksgivings and fervent prayers of us sinners. And deliver us from every harmful and gloomy transgression and from all enemies, both visible and invisible, who seek after us to destroy us. Nail our flesh with the fear of thee, and incline not our hearts to words or thoughts of wickedness; but wound our souls with the love of thee, that looking ever unto thee and guided by thee in the light, beholding thee, the Light ineffable and everlasting, we may ascribe unto thee ceaseless confession and thanksgiving unto the unoriginate Father, together with thine only-begotten Son, and thine all-holy and good and life-giving Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

All: Amen.

THE NINTH HOUR

O come, let us worship and fall down before God our King. *(Metania)*

O come, let us worship and fall down before Christ, our King and our God. *(Metania)*

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

PSALM 92

The Lord is King, He is clothed with majesty; the Lord is clothed with strength and He hath girt Himself. For He established the world which shall not be shaken. Thy throne is prepared of old; Thou art from everlasting. The rivers have lifted up, O Lord, the rivers have lifted up their voices. The rivers will lift up their waves, at the voices of many waters. Wonderful are the surgings of the sea, wonderful on high is the Lord. Thy testimonies are made very sure. Holiness becometh Thy house, O Lord, unto length of days.

PSALM 113

When Israel went out of Egypt, and the house of Jacob from among a barbarous people, Judea became His sanctuary, Israel His dominion. The sea beheld and fled; Jordan turned back. The mountains skipped like rams, and the hills like lambs of flocks. What aileth thee, O sea, that thou fleddest? And thou Jordan, that thou didst turn back? Ye mountains, that ye skipped like rams, and ye hills like lambs of flocks? At the presence of the Lord the earth was shaken, at the presence of the God of Jacob, Who turneth the rock into pools of waters, and the precipice into fountains of waters. Not unto us, O Lord, not unto us, but unto Thy Name give glory, for Thy mercy and Thy truth, lest haply the heathen say: Where is their God? But our God is in heaven and on earth; all things that He hath willed, He hath done. The idols of the nations are of silver and gold, the works of the hands of men. They have a mouth, but shall not speak; eyes have they, and shall not see. Ears have they, and shall not hear; noses have they, and shall not smell. Hands they have, and shall not feel; feet have they, and shall not walk; they shall make no sound in their throat. Let those that make them become like unto them, and all that put their trust in them. The house of Israel hath hoped in the Lord; their helper and defender is He. The house of Aaron hath hoped in the Lord; their helper and defender is He. They that fear the Lord have hoped in the Lord; their helper and defender is He. The Lord being mindful of us hath blessed us. He hath blessed the house of Israel; He hath blessed the house of Aaron. He hath blessed them that fear the Lord, the little with the great. The Lord grant you increase, to you and to your children. Ye are blessed of the Lord, Who made heaven and the earth. The heaven of heaven belongeth to the Lord, but the earth He gave unto the sons of men. Not the dead shall praise Thee, O Lord, nor any that go down to Hades. But we the living will bless the Lord from henceforth and for evermore.

PSALM 85

Bow down Thine ear, O Lord, and hearken unto me, for poor and needy am I. Preserve my soul, for I am holy; save Thy servant, O my God, that hopeth in Thee. Have mercy on me, O Lord, for unto Thee will I cry all the day long; make glad the soul of Thy servant, for unto Thee have I lifted up my soul. For Thou, O Lord, art good and gentle, and plenteous in mercy unto all them that call upon Thee. Give ear, O Lord, unto my prayer, and attend unto the voice of my supplication. In the day of mine affliction have I cried unto Thee, for Thou hast heard me. There is none like unto Thee among the gods, O Lord, nor are there any works like unto Thy works. All the nations whom Thou hast made shall come and shall worship before Thee, O Lord, and shall glorify Thy name. For Thou art great and workest wonders; Thou alone art God. Guide me, O Lord, in Thy way, and I will walk in Thy truth; let my heart rejoice that I may fear Thy name. I will confess Thee, O Lord my God, with all my heart, and I will glorify Thy name for ever. For great is Thy mercy upon me, and Thou hast delivered my soul from the nethermost hades. O God, transgressors have risen up against me, and the assembly of the mighty hath sought after my soul, and they have not set Thee before them. But Thou, O Lord my God, art compassionate and

merciful, long-suffering and plenteous in mercy, and true. Look upon me and have mercy upon me; give Thy strength unto Thy servant, and save the son of Thy handmaiden. Work in me a sign unto good, and let them that hate me behold and be put to shame; for Thou, O Lord, hast helped me and comforted me.

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

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

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia. Glory to Thee, O God. (*thrice*)

Lord, have mercy. (*thrice*)

TROPARION OF THE EVE OF THEOPHANY, IN TONE FOUR

(***Joseph was amazed***)

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

River Jordan was turned back by Elisseus' mantle once, * when the fiery man of zeal Elias had been taken up; * then were its waters divided hither and thither. * The running streams became dry passage unto him, * truly as a sign and type of Baptism, * whereby we pass to the other side of * the shifting stream of this fleeting life. * Christ hath appeared in the Jordan River, to sanctify the waters.

THEOTOKION OF THE NINTH HOUR, IN TONE EIGHT

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

Thou who for our sake wast born of a virgin and didst suffer crucifixion, O good One, and didst despoil death through death and as God didst reveal resurrection: Despise not those whom thou hast created with thine own hand; show forth thy love for mankind, O merciful One; accept the intercession of thy mother, the Theotokos, for us, and save thy despairing people, O our Saviour.

THE IDIOMELA FOR THE NINTH HOUR

In Tone Seven

A strange wonder it was to see the Maker of heaven and earth stand naked in the river, and as a servant receive baptism from a servant, for our salvation. The choirs of angels were filled with amazement, fear, and joy. Joining with them, we worship Thee: O Lord, save us. (*twice*)

In Tone Two

Verse 1. Therefore will I remember Thee from the land of Jordan and Hermoniem. (*Ps.41:7*)

When he saw the Lord of glory draw near to him, the Forerunner cried out: "Lo, here is he who redeems the world from corruption. Lo, here is he who delivers us from affliction. Lo, here is he who in mercy has come forth upon earth from a pure Virgin, granting remission of sins. Instead of servants, he makes us the sons of God; instead of darkness, he gives mankind light, through the water of his divine baptism. Come ye, then, and let us with one accord glorify him together with the Father and the Holy Spirit."

Verse 2. The waters saw Thee, O God, the waters saw Thee and were afraid. (*Ps.76:15*)

When he saw the Lord of glory draw near to him, the Forerunner cried out: "Lo, here is he who redeems the world from corruption. Lo, here is he who delivers us from affliction. Lo, here is he who in mercy has come forth upon earth from a pure Virgin, granting remission of sins. Instead of servants, he makes us the sons of God; instead of darkness, he gives mankind light, through the water of his divine baptism. Come ye, then, and let us with one accord glorify him together with the Father and the Holy Spirit."

The following is done slowly from the center of the church.

In Tone Five

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

With thine hand hast thou touched the immaculate head of the Master, (*thrice*)
And with the finger of that hand thou hast shown him to us: on our behalf, O Baptist, stretch out that same hand over him, for thou hast great boldness before him. To thee he bore witness, that thou art greater than all the prophets. With thine own eyes hast thou beheld the Holy Spirit descending in the form of a dove. Lift up those same eyes towards him, O Baptist, and make him merciful towards us.

Come and stand with us. (*thrice*)

Setting the seal upon our song and beginning our feast.

PROKEIMENON, IN TONE THREE

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

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

THE PROPHECY

Reader: The reading is 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 APOSTOLOS

Reader: The reading is from the Epistle of St. Paul to Titus §302 (2:11-15; 3:4-7)

My son Titus, the grace of God has appeared for the salvation of all men, training us to renounce irreligion and worldly passions, and to live sober, upright, and godly lives in this world; awaiting our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, Who gave Himself for us to redeem us from all iniquity and to purify for Himself a people of His own who are zealous for good deeds. Declare these things; exhort and reprove with all authority. Let no one disregard you. When the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, He saved us, not because of deeds done by us in righteousness, but in virtue of His own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal in the Holy Spirit, which He poured out upon us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that we might be justified by His grace and become heirs in hope of eternal life.

THE GOSPEL¹

Choir: Alleluia. (3 times)

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 Ituraea 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.

Reader: Deliver us not up utterly, for thy holy name's sake, neither disannul thou thy covenant, and cause not thy mercy to depart from us, for Abraham's sake, thy beloved, and for Isaac's sake, thy servant, and for Israel's, thy holy one.

Trisagion

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

¹ In Slavic usage, we read Matthew §6 (3:13-17): **At that time, Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to John, to be baptized by him. John would have prevented Him, saying, "I need to be baptized by Thee, and Thou dost come to me?" But Jesus answered him, "Let it be so now; for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness." Then he consented. And when Jesus was baptized, He went up immediately from the water, and behold, the heavens were opened and He saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and alighting on Him; and lo, a voice from heaven, saying, "This is My beloved Son, with Whom I am well pleased."** However, this is the same Gospel as the one from the Liturgy of the Feast. Interestingly, the passage included here is also a duplication, as it coincides with the Gospel read at the Vespers Liturgy.

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 evil.

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

All: Amen.

KONTAKION OF THE FOREFEAST IN TONE FOUR

(***On this day Thou hast appeared***)

In the running waters of * the Jordan River, * on this day the Lord of all * crieth to John: Be not afraid * and hesitate not to baptize Me, * for I am come to save Adam, the first-formed man.

Reader: Lord, have mercy. (*40 times*)

The Prayer of the Hours

Thou who, at all times and at every hour, both in heaven and on earth art worshipped and glorified, O Christ God, long-suffering, plenteous in mercy and compassion, who lovest the just and showest mercy to sinners, who callest all men to salvation through the promise of good things to come: Do thou, the same Lord, receive also our supplications at this present hour, and direct our lives according to thy commandments. Sanctify our souls; purify our bodies; set aright our minds; cleanse our thoughts; and deliver us from all calamity, wrath and distress. Compass us round about with thy holy angels; that, guided and guarded by their host, we may attain unto the unity of the faith, and unto the comprehension of thine ineffable glory. For blessed art thou unto ages of ages. Amen

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

More honourable 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.

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

All: Amen.

Prayer of St. Basil

Leader: O Master, Lord Jesus Christ our God, who art long-suffering toward our sins and who hast led us even to the present hour, in which, as thou didst hang upon the life-giving tree thou didst make a way into paradise for the penitent thief and by death didst destroy death: Be gracious unto us sinners and thine unworthy servants; for we have sinned and have dealt iniquitously, and we are not worthy to lift up our eyes and look upon the heights of heaven, inasmuch as we have departed from the path of thy righteousness and have walked after the desires of our own hearts. But we implore of thy boundless goodness: Spare us, O Lord, according to the multitude of thy mercy, and save us, for thy holy name's sake; for our days have passed away in vanity. Wrest us out of the hand of the adversary, and forgive our sins, and mortify our carnal imagination, that,

putting off the old man, we may be clothed upon with the new man and may live unto thee, our Master and our Benefactor, and that, so following after thy commandments, we may attain unto rest eternal, where is the abode of all those who rejoice. For thou art, in verity, the true Joy and Exultation of those who love thee, O Christ our God, and unto thee we ascribe glory, together with thine un-originate Father and thine all-holy and good and life-giving Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

All: Amen.

*Then we quickly **read** the Typika (no parts are sung!)*

THE TYPIKA

FIRST ANTIPHON: PSALM 102

Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me bless His holy name. Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all that He hath done for thee, Who is gracious unto all thine iniquities, Who healeth all thine infirmities, Who redeemeth thy life from corruption, Who crowneth thee with mercy and compassion, Who fulfilleth thy desire with good things; thy youth shall be renewed as the eagle's. The Lord performeth deeds of mercy, and executeth judgement for all them that are wronged. He hath made His ways known unto Moses, unto the sons of Israel the things that He hath willed. Compassionate and merciful is the Lord, long-suffering and plenteous in mercy; not unto the end will He be angered, neither unto eternity will He be wroth. Not according to our iniquities hath He dealt with us, neither according to our sins hath He rewarded us. For according to the height of heaven from the earth, the Lord hath made His mercy to prevail over them that fear Him. As far as the east is from the west, so far hath He removed our iniquities from us. Like as a father hath compassion upon his sons, so hath the Lord had compassion upon them that fear Him; for He knoweth whereof we are made, He hath remembered that we are dust. As for man, his days are as the grass; as a flower of the field, so shall he blossom forth. For when the wind is passed over it, then it shall be gone, and no longer will it know the place thereof. But the mercy of the Lord is from eternity, even unto eternity, upon them that fear Him. And His righteousness is upon sons of sons, upon them that keep His testament and remember His commandments to do them. The Lord in heaven hath prepared His throne, and His kingdom ruleth over all. Bless the Lord, all ye His angels, mighty in strength, that perform His word, to hear the voice of His words. Bless the Lord, all ye His hosts, His ministers that do His will. Bless the Lord, all ye His works, in every place of His dominion.

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

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

And again: Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me bless His holy Name; blessed art Thou, O Lord.

SECOND ANTIPHON: PSALM 145

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

Praise the Lord, O my soul. I will praise the Lord in my life, I will chant unto my God for as long as I have my being. Trust ye not in princes, in the sons of men, in whom there is no salvation. His spirit shall go forth, and he shall return unto his earth. In that day all his thoughts shall perish. Blessed is he of whom the God of Jacob is his help, whose hope is in the Lord his God, Who hath made heaven and the earth, the sea and all that is therein, Who keepeth truth unto eternity, Who

executeth judgement for the wronged, Who giveth food unto the hungry. The Lord looseth the fettered; the Lord maketh wise the blind; the Lord setteth aright the fallen; the Lord loveth the righteous; the Lord preserveth the proselytes. He shall adopt for His own the orphan and widow, and the way of sinners shall He destroy. The Lord shall be king unto eternity; thy God, O Sion, unto generation and generation.

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

THE HYMN OF JUSTINIAN

Only-begotten Son and Word of God, who art immortal, who for our salvation willed to be incarnate of the Holy Theotokos and ever-virgin Mary, and without change became man; and wast crucified, O Christ our God, and trampled down death by death; who art one of the Holy Trinity, glorified together with the Father and the Holy Spirit: save us.

THIRD ANTIPHON: THE BEATITUDES

- In Thy kingdom remember us, O Lord, when Thou comest in Thy kingdom.
- Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
- Blessed are they that mourn, for they shall be comforted.
- Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.
- Blessed are they that hunger and thirst after righteousness, for they shall be filled.
- Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy.
- Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.
- Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called the sons of God.
- Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
- Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake.
- Rejoice, and be exceedingly glad, for great is your reward in the heavens.
- Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.
- Both now and ever, and unto the ages of ages. Amen.

Then continue with the following

- Remember us, O Lord, when Thou comest in Thy kingdom.
- Remember us, O Master, when Thou comest in Thy kingdom.
- Remember us, O Holy One, when Thou comest in Thy kingdom.

The heavenly choir praiseth Thee and saith: Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord of Sabaoth; heaven and earth are full of Thy glory.

Verse: Come unto Him, and be enlightened and your faces shall not be ashamed.

The heavenly choir praiseth Thee and saith: Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord of Sabaoth; heaven and earth are full of Thy glory.

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

The choir of Holy angels and archangels, with all the heavenly hosts praiseth Thee and saith: Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord of Sabaoth; heaven and earth are full of Thy glory.

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

THE SYMBOL OF FAITH²

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible;

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God, the Only-begotten, Begotten of the Father before all worlds, Light of Light, Very God of Very God, Begotten, not made; of one essence with the Father, by whom all things were made; Who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven, and was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary, and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate, and suffered and was buried; and the third day He rose again, according to the Scriptures; and ascended into heaven, and sitteth at the right hand of the Father; and He shall come again with glory to judge the living and the dead, Whose kingdom shall have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and Giver of Life, Who proceedeth from the Father, Who with the Father and the Son together is worshipped and glorified, Who spake by the Prophets;

And I believe in One Holy Catholic and Apostolic Church. I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins. I look for the Resurrection of the dead, and the Life of the world to come. Amen.

Leader: Forgive, remit, and pardon, O God, our sins both voluntary and involuntary, in deed and in word, in knowledge and in ignorance, committed by night or by day, in intention and in thought: forgive us them all, for thou art good and the lover of mankind.

All: 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 evil.

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

All: Amen.

KONTAKION OF THE FOREFEAST IN TONE FOUR

(Plain reading)

In the running waters of * the Jordan River, * on this day the Lord of all * crieth to John: Be not afraid * and hesitate not to baptize Me, * for I am come to save Adam, the first-formed man.

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

O All-Holy Trinity, the consubstantial dominion, the indivisible Kingdom, and cause of every Good: Show Thy good will even unto me a sinner; make steadfast my heart and grant it understanding, and take away mine every defilement; enlighten my mind that I may glorify, hymn, worship, and say: One is Holy, One is Lord, Jesus Christ, to the Glory of God the Father. Amen.

*Choir:*³ Blessed be the Name of the Lord, henceforth and for evermore. *(thrice)*

PSALM 33

I will bless the Lord at all times, His praise shall continually be in my mouth. In the Lord shall my soul be praised; let the meek hear and be glad. O magnify the Lord with me, and let us exalt His name together. I sought the Lord, and He heard me, and delivered me from all my tribulations. Come unto Him, and be enlightened, and your faces shall not be ashamed. This poor man cried,

² The Creed is skipped, if served on January 5 and the Typika is immediately followed by the Liturgy.

³ "Blessed be the name," Psalm 33 & the Hymn to the Theotokos are omitted, if served on January 5 and the Typika is immediately followed by the Liturgy.

and the Lord heard him, and saved him out of all his tribulations. The angel of the Lord will encamp round about them that fear Him, and will deliver them. O taste and see that the Lord is good; blessed is the man that hopeth in Him. O fear the Lord, all ye His saints; for there is no want to them that fear Him. Rich men have turned poor and gone hungry; but they that seek the Lord shall not be deprived of any good thing. Come ye children, hearken unto me; I will teach you the fear of the Lord. What man is there that desireth life, who loveth to see good days? Keep thy tongue from evil, and thy lips from speaking guile. Turn away from evil, and do good; seek peace, and pursue it. The eyes of the Lord are upon the righteous, and His ears are opened unto their supplication. The face of the Lord is against them that do evil, utterly to destroy the remembrance of them from the earth. The righteous cried, and the Lord heard them, and He delivered them out of all their tribulations. The Lord is nigh unto them that are of a contrite heart, and He will save the humble of spirit. Many are the tribulations of the righteous, and the Lord shall deliver them out of them all. The Lord keepeth all their bones, not one of them shall be broken. The death of sinners is evil, and they that hate the righteous shall do wrong. The Lord will redeem the souls of His servants, and none of them will do wrong that hope in Him.

THE HYMN TO THE THEOTOKOS

(Plain reading)

It is truly meet to bless thee, O Theotokos, the ever blessed and all-blameless, and the mother of our God. More honourable 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.

THE DISMISSAL

Leader: O Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, for the sake of the prayers of Thy most pure Mother, our holy and God-bearing fathers, *of the holy Myrrh-Bearer and Equal-to-the-Apostles Mary Magdalene protector of this community*, and all the saints, have mercy on us and save us, for Thou art good and the Lover of 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.