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GREAT VESPERS ON TUESDAY, JUNE 23, 2026

## *The Nativity of the Venerable and Glorious Prophet, Forerunner, and Baptist John*

*Priest:* Blessed is our God, always, now and ever, and unto the ages of ages.

*All:* Amen.

*Priest:* 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

*People:* 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.

*Priest:* For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

*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.

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

*Deacon:* In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

*Choir:* Lord, have mercy.

*Deacon:* For the peace from above and the salvation of our souls, let us pray to the Lord.

*Choir:* Lord, have mercy.

*Deacon:* For the peace of the whole world, the good estate of the holy churches of God and the union of all men, let us pray to the Lord.

*Choir:* Lord, have mercy.

*Deacon:* For this holy house and those who with faith, reverence and fear of God enter therein, let us pray to the Lord.

*Choir:* Lord, have mercy.

*Deacon:* For our (*metropolitan or archbishop or bishop*), *N.*, the honorable presbytery, the diaconate in Christ, all the clergy and the people, let us pray to the Lord.

*Choir:* Lord, have mercy.

*Deacon:* For our president (*or appropriate head of state*), civil authorities and armed forces, let us pray to the Lord.

*Choir:* Lord, have mercy.

*Deacon:* For this city and every city and countryside and the faithful who dwell therein, let us pray to the Lord.

*Choir:* Lord, have mercy.

*Deacon:* For healthful seasons, abundance of the fruits of the earth and peaceful times, let us pray to the Lord.

*Choir:* Lord, have mercy.

*Deacon:* For travelers by sea, by land and by air, the sick, the suffering, captives and their salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

*Choir:* Lord, have mercy.

*Deacon:* For our deliverance from all tribulation, wrath, danger and necessity, let us pray to the Lord.

*Choir:* Lord, have mercy.

*Deacon:* Help us; save us; have mercy on us; and keep us, O God, by thy grace.

*Choir:* Lord, have mercy.

*Deacon:* Calling to remembrance our all-holy, immaculate, most blessed and glorious Lady Theotokos and ever-virgin Mary, with all the saints, let us commend ourselves and each other and all our life unto Christ our God.

*Choir:* To thee, O Lord.

*Priest:* For unto thee are due all glory, honor and worship to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

*Choir:* Amen.

### “BLESSED IS THE MAN”

*(A melodic abbreviation of 1<sup>st</sup> Stasis of Kathisma I, chanted in tone 5 or tone 8)*

*Choir:* Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the wicked. Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

- For the Lord knows the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked shall perish. Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.
- Serve ye the Lord with fear, and rejoice in Him with trembling. Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.
- Blessed are all who take refuge in Him. Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.
- Arise, O Lord, save me, O my God. Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.
- Salvation belongs to the Lord, and Thy blessing be upon Thy people. Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.
- 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.

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.

### LITTLE LITANY

*Deacon:* Again and again, in peace, let us pray to the Lord.

*Choir:* Lord, have mercy.

*Deacon:* Help us; save us; have mercy on us; and keep us, O God, by thy grace.

*Choir:* Lord, have mercy.

*Deacon:* Calling to remembrance our all-holy, immaculate, most blessed and glorious Lady Theotokos and ever-virgin Mary, with all the saints, let us commend ourselves and each other and all our life unto Christ our God.

*Choir:* To thee, O Lord.

*Priest:* For thine is the might, and thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

*Choir:* Amen.

### “LORD, I HAVE CRIED” IN TONE FOUR

*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 round 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, Lord, are mine eyes; in Thee have I put my trust, take not away my soul.
- Keep me from the snare which they have laid for me, and the traps of the workers of iniquity.
- Let the wicked fall into their own nets, whilst I alone escape.
- 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 man 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.

For the Baptist's Nativity in Tone Four  
*Verse 8. Out of the depths have I cried to Thee, O Lord, Lord hear my voice.*

By his birth, John looseth Zacharias' silence; for it was not meet that the father should keep silence when the Voice was coming forth; but even as he formerly bound the tongue that spake unbelief, in like manner, at his manifestation, he doth free his father, by whom also he was proclaimed. He was born the Voice of the Word and Fore-runner of the Light, and he intercedeth for our souls.

*Verse 7. Let Thine ears be attentive to the voice of my supplication.*

By his birth, John looseth Zacharias' silence; for it was not meet that the father should keep silence when the Voice was coming forth; but even as he formerly bound the tongue that spake unbelief, in like manner, at his manifestation, he doth free his father, by whom also he was proclaimed. He was born the Voice of the Word and Fore-runner of the Light, and he intercedeth for our souls.

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

Today John, the Voice of the Word, looseth his father's voice, which was held fast because of unbelief; and in loosing the bonds of his mother's barrenness, he showeth forth the Church as a mother of many children. The lamp of the Light cometh forth; the dawn proclaimeth the coming of the Sun of Righteousness, for the fashioning of all and the salvation of our souls.

*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 Word of God was about to be born of the Virgin, the messenger came forth from a barren woman's travail, even he that is the greatest among them that are born of women, and more than a prophet; for it was meet that the beginnings of divine things should be marvelous: here, fruitfulness past age; there, a conception without seed. O Thou Who workest wonders for our salvation, glory be to Thee.

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

The great Forerunner John was made manifest today, when he came forth from the barren loins of Elizabeth. He is the Prophet greater than all the Prophets, and like him there is none other, neither shall one arise. The transcendently brilliant Light followeth after the forerunning lamp, the Word cometh after the Voice, and the Bridegroom after the Bridegroom's friend, who prepareth a people for the Lord's own possession and cleanseth them for the Spirit beforehand with water. He is the scion of Zacharias, the excellent nursling of the wilderness, the preacher of repentance, and the cleansing of sins. Unto those in Hades he proclaimeth the good tidings of the Resurrection from the dead, and he intercedeth in behalf of our souls.

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

From the womb wast thou shown to be the Prophet and Forerunner of Christ, O John, leaping and rejoicing in thy mother's womb, upon beholding the Queen coming to the handmaid with Him Who is beyond time, and motherless from the Father, as she brought Him unto thee, who shonest forth from the barren woman and the elder according to the promise. Entreat Him that our souls find mercy.

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

O strange wonder! He who would not be persuaded by the Angel which said that Elizabeth would conceive and bear a son; he who said, How can she give birth? For I am well stricken in years, and her members are dead with age; he who was condemned to silence because of his unbelief, today seeth him born that had been promised; and released from silence, he escorteth gladness in as he crieth: Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, for He hath visited and wrought redemption for His people, He that granteth the world the Great Mercy.

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

O all-lauded John, Apostle to the whole world, thou good tidings of Gabriel and offspring of a barren woman, fairest scion of the wilderness and true friend of Christ the Bridegroom: entreat Him that our souls find mercy.

DOXASTICA FOR THE BAPTIST'S  
NATIVITY IN TONE SIX

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

Today John, like a shining star, the lamp of the Light prepareth the way for the coming of God the Word. Today Zacharias, who had

practiced silence at the Angel's command, hath made his tongue to speak plainly. For so did it become the father of the Voice not to keep silence as the Voice came forth from a barren womb, and openly proclaimed the good tidings of the redemption of the world.

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

Elizabeth conceived the Forerunner of Grace, and the Virgin the Lord of Glory. The mothers embraced each other, and the babe leapt. For from within, the servant praised the Master; and in wonder, the mother of the Forerunner began to cry: Whence is this to me, that the Mother of my Lord should come to me? It is that He might save a despairing people. O Thou that hast Great Mercy, glory to Thee.

*Deacon:* Wisdom! Let us attend!

THE HYMN OF THANKSGIVING AT  
THE LIGHTING OF THE LAMPS

*Choir:* 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.

TUESDAY EVENING PROKEIMENON

*Psalm 22, in Tone One*

*Deacon:* The Evening Prokeimenon!

*Choir:* Thy mercy, O Lord, shall follow me all the days of my life. (*twice*)

*Verse:* The Lord is my shepherd, and I shall not want. In a place of green pasture, there hath He made me to dwell.

*Choir:* Thy mercy, O Lord, shall follow me all the days of my life.

THE PARAMIA

*Deacon:* Wisdom.

*Reader:* The Reading is from the Book of Genesis (17:15-17, 19; 18:11-14; 21:1-2, 4-8).

*Deacon:* Let us attend.

*Reader:* The Lord God said to Abraham: "Sara your wife—her name shall not be called Sara, Sarah shall be her name. And I will bless her, and give you a son of her, and I will bless him, and he shall become nations, and kings of nations shall be of him." And Abraham fell upon his face, and laughed; and spoke in his heart, saying, "Shall there be a child to one who is a hundred years old, and shall Sarah who is ninety years old, bear?" And God said to Abraham, "Yea, behold, Sarah your wife shall bear you a son, and you shall call his name Isaac; and I will establish My covenant with him, for an everlasting covenant, to be a God to him and to his seed after him." And Abraham and Sarah were old, advanced in days, and the custom of women ceased with Sarah. And Sarah laughed in herself, saying, "The thing has not as yet happened to me, even until now, and my lord is old." And the Lord said to Abraham, "Why is it that Sarah has laughed in herself, saying, 'Shall I then indeed bear? But I am grown old.' Shall anything be impossible with the Lord? At this time I will return to you seasonably, and Sarah shall have a son." And the Lord visited Sarah, as He said; and the Lord did to Sarah, as He spoke. And she conceived and bore to Abraham a son in old age, at the set time according as the Lord spoke to him. And Abraham circumcised Isaac on the eighth day, as God commanded him. And Abraham was a hundred years old when Isaac his son was born to him. And Sarah said, "The Lord has made laughter for me, for whoever shall hear shall rejoice with me." And she said, "Who shall say to Abraham that Sarah suckles a child? For I have

born a child in my old age.” And the child grew and was weaned, and Abraham made a great feast the day that his son Isaac was weaned.

*Deacon:* Wisdom.

*Reader:* The Reading is from the Book of Judges (13:2-8, 13-14, 17-18, 21).

*Deacon:* Let us attend.

*Reader:* In those days, there was a man of the kindred of Dan, and his name was Manoah, and his wife was barren, and bore not. And an angel of the Lord appeared to the woman, and said to her, “Behold, you are barren and have not borne; yet you shall conceive a son. And now be very cautious, and drink neither wine nor strong drink, and eat no unclean thing; for behold, you are with child, and shall bring forth a son. And there shall come no razor upon his head, for the child shall be a Nazarite to God from the womb; and he shall begin to save Israel from the hand of the Philistines.” And the woman went in, and spoke to her husband, saying, “A man of God came to me, and his appearance was as of an angel of God, very dreadful; and I did not ask him whence he was, and he did not tell me his name. And he said to me, ‘Behold, you are with child, and shall bring forth a son; and now drink neither wine nor strong drink, and eat no unclean thing; for the child shall be holy to God from the womb until the day of his death.’” And Manoah prayed to the Lord and said, “I pray Thee, O Lord, concerning the man of God whom Thou sentest; let him now come to us once more, and teach us what we shall do to the child about to be born.” And the angel of the Lord said to Manoah, “Of all things concerning which I spoke to the woman, she shall beware. She shall eat of nothing that comes of the vine yielding wine, and let her not drink wine or strong liquor, and let her not eat anything

unclean: all things that I have charged her she shall observe.” And Manoah said to the angel of the Lord, “What is your name, that when your word shall come to pass, we may glorify you?” And the angel of the Lord said to him, “Why do you thus ask after my name; whereas it is wonderful?” And the angel of the Lord appeared no more to Manoah and to his wife.

*Deacon:* Wisdom.

*Reader:* The Reading is from the Prophecy of Isaiah (40:1-5, 9; 41:17-18; 45:8; 48:20-21; 54:1).

*Deacon:* Let us attend.

*Reader:* Thus saith the Lord: Comfort ye, comfort ye my people, saith God. Speak, priests, to the heart of Jerusalem; comfort her, for her humiliation is accomplished, her sin is put away: for she has received of the Lord’s hand double the amount of her sins. The voice of one crying in the wilderness: Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight the paths of our God. Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. And all flesh shall see the salvation of God. O you that bring glad tidings to Zion, go up on the high mountain; lift up your voice with strength, you that bring glad tidings to Jerusalem; lift it up, fear not; say unto the cities of Judah, Behold your God! And the poor and the needy shall exult; for when they shall seek water, and there shall be none, and their tongue is parched with thirst, I the Lord God, I the God of Israel will hear, and will not forsake them. But I will open rivers on the mountains, and fountains in the midst of plains: I will make the desert pools of water, and a thirsty land into watercourses. Let the heaven rejoice from above, and let the clouds rain righteousness: let the earth bring forth, and blossom with mercy, and bring

forth righteousness likewise: I am the Lord that created you. Go forth of Babylon, you that flee from the Chaldeans: utter aloud a voice of joy, and let this be made known, proclaim it to the end of the earth; say: The Lord hath delivered his servant Jacob. And if they shall thirst, he shall lead them through the desert; he shall bring forth water to them out of the rock: the rock shall be cloven, and the water shall flow forth, and my people shall drink. Rejoice, you barren that bear not; break forth and cry, you that do not travail: for more are the children of the desolate than of her that has a husband.

#### THE AUGMENTED EKTENIA

*Deacon:* Let us all say with our whole soul and with our whole mind, let us say:

*Choir:* Lord, have mercy.

*Deacon:* O Lord Almighty, the God of our fathers, we pray thee, hearken and have mercy.

*Choir:* Lord, have mercy.

*Deacon:* Have mercy on us, O God, according to thy great mercy, we pray thee, hearken and have mercy.

*Choir:* Lord, have mercy, Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy

*Deacon:* Again we pray for all pious and Orthodox Christians.

*Choir:* Lord, have mercy, Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy

*Deacon:* Again we pray for our (*metropolitan or archbishop or bishop*), *N.*

*Choir:* Lord, have mercy, Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy

*Deacon:* Again we pray for our brethren: the priests, hiero-monks, deacons, hierodeacons and monastics and all our brotherhood in Christ.

*Choir:* Lord, have mercy, Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy

*Deacon:* Again we pray for mercy, life, peace, health, salvation and visitation and

pardon and forgiveness of sins for (*the servants of God, NN., and*) all Orthodox Christians of true worship, who live and dwell in this community.

*Choir:* Lord, have mercy, Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy

*Deacon:* Again we pray for the blessed and ever-memorable founders of this holy church (*and for the servants of God, NN.*), and all our fathers and brethren, the Orthodox departed this life before us, who here and in all the world lie asleep in the Lord.

*Choir:* Lord, have mercy, Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy

*Deacon:* Again we pray for those who bear fruit and do good works in this holy and all-venerable temple, those who serve and those who sing and all the people here present, who await thy great and rich mercy.

*Choir:* Lord, have mercy, Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy

*Priest:* For thou art a merciful God and lovest mankind, and unto thee we ascribe glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages.

*Choir:* Amen.

#### THE EVENING PRAYER

*People:* 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 Fa-

ther, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

### THE LITANY OF SUPPLICATION

*Deacon:* Let us complete our evening prayer unto the Lord.

*Choir:* Lord, have mercy.

*Deacon:* Help us; save us; have mercy on us; and keep us, O God, by thy grace.

*Choir:* Lord, have mercy.

*Deacon:* That the whole evening may be perfect, holy, peaceful and sinless, let us ask of the Lord.

*Choir:* Grant this, O Lord.

*Deacon:* An angel of peace, a faithful guide, a guardian of our souls and bodies, let us ask of the Lord.

*Choir:* Grant this, O Lord.

*Deacon:* Pardon and forgiveness of our sins and transgressions, let us ask of the Lord.

*Choir:* Grant this, O Lord.

*Deacon:* All things good and profitable for our souls and peace for the world, let us ask of the Lord.

*Choir:* Grant this, O Lord.

*Deacon:* That we may complete the remaining time of our life in peace and repentance, let us ask of the Lord.

*Choir:* Grant this, O Lord.

*Deacon:* A Christian ending to our life, painless, blameless, peaceful, and a good defense before the fearful judgment seat of Christ, let us ask.

*Choir:* Grant this, O Lord.

*Deacon:* Calling to remembrance our all-holy, immaculate, most blessed and glorious Lady Theotokos and ever-virgin Mary, with all the saints, let us commend ourselves and each other and all our life unto Christ our God.

*Choir:* To thee, O Lord.

*Priest:* For thou art a good God and lovest mankind, and unto thee we ascribe glory to

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

*Choir:* Amen.

### THE PEACE

*Priest:* Peace be to all.

*Choir:* And to thy spirit.

*Deacon:* Bow your heads unto the Lord.

*Choir:* To Thee, O Lord.

*All bow their heads as the priest says the following prayer:*

*Priest:* O Lord our God, who didst bow the heavens and come down for the salvation of mankind: Look upon thy servants and thine inheritance; for unto thee, the fearful Judge who yet lovest mankind, have thy servants bowed their heads and submissively inclined their necks, awaiting not help from men but entreating thy mercy and looking confidently for thy salvation. Guard them at all times, both during this present evening and in the approaching night, from every foe, from all adverse powers of the devil and from vain thoughts and from evil imaginations.

Blessed and glorified be the might of thy kingdom of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

*Choir:* Amen.

### APOSTICHA FOR THE BAPTIST'S NATIVITY IN TONE TWO

With psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, let us acclaim the glorious John, the Prophet sprung from a Prophet and the scion of a barren woman, him that is greatest among all born of women, the citizen of the desert; and let us cry to him: O Baptist and Forerunner of the Savior, since thou hast boldness on the day of thine august nativity, beseech Christ that peace be granted to the world and Great Mercy to our souls.

*Verse 1. Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, for He hath visited and wrought redemption for His people.*

The voice of the grace of the Word, the herald of the Sun, is come; for on this day, according to the promise, John the Forerunner is born of a childless and barren woman. Rejoice, O ye peoples. He is come to prepare the way of salvation for us. While yet in his mother's womb, he leapt and worshipped the Lamb which taketh away the sin of the world and granteth us Great Mercy.

*Verse 2. And thou, child, shalt be called the prophet of the Most High; for thou shalt go before the face of the Lord, to prepare His ways.*

He that was sanctified from his mother's womb and received the fullness of the prophecy, is born today from a barren woman, plainly proclaiming the advent of the Lord: Repent ye, for the Kingdom of Heaven is at hand.

DOXASTICA FOR THE BAPTIST'S  
NATIVITY IN TONE EIGHT

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

Now is the saying of Isaiah the Prophet fulfilled this day, in the birth of John, who is greater than the Prophets. For, saith he, behold, I shall send My messenger before Thee, who shall prepare Thy way. This soldier of the Heavenly King, who goeth before Him, truly making straight the paths of our God, is a man by nature, but an Angel in manner of life. For having embraced perfect purity and chastity, he kept that which is according to nature, and he fled that which is contrary to nature, by struggling in a manner surpassing nature. O ye faithful, let us all imitate him in his virtues and beseech him to intercede for us, that our souls be saved.

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

Behold Elizabeth as she speaketh with the Virgin Mary: Wherefore art thou, the Mother of my Lord, come unto me? Thou carriest the King, and I the soldier; thou the Giver of the Law, and I the expounder of the Law; thou the Word, and I the Voice that shall proclaim the Kingdom of Heaven.

THE HYMN OF ST. SIMEON  
THE GOD-RECEIVER

*All:* 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

*People:* 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.

*Priest:* For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

*All:* Amen.

APOLYTIKION OF THE NATIVITY OF  
ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST IN TONE FOUR

*(\*\*Be quick to anticipate\*\*)*

O prophet and Forerunner of Christ God's coming to us, \* all we who with longing now extol thee are at a loss to honor thee worthily. \* For thy mother's barrenness and father's long silence, \* by thine all-renowned and hallowed birth, were both ended, \* and the Incarnation of the Son of God is preached unto all the world.

THEOTOKION FROM THE OCTOECHOS<sup>1</sup>  
IN 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.*

The Mystery which was hidden from everlasting and was unknown of the angels, O Theotokos, wast revealed through thee, to those who dwell upon earth. In that God, having become incarnate—in unconfused union—of His own good will accepted the Cross for our sake. Whereby He raised again the first created, and hath saved our souls from death.

*Deacon:* Wisdom.

*Reader:* Father, bless.

*Priest:* Christ our God, the Existing, is blessed, always now and ever and unto ages of ages.

*Choir:* Amen.

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

*Priest:* Most holy Theotokos, save us.

*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.

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

*Reader:* 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. Father, bless.

THE GREAT DISMISSAL

*Priest:* May Christ our true God, through the intercessions of his all-immaculate and all-blameless holy Mother; by the might of the precious and life-giving cross; by the protection of the honorable bodiless powers of heaven; at the supplication of the honorable, glorious Prophet, Forerunner and Baptist John—whose Nativity we now celebrate; of the holy, glorious and all-laudable apostles; of the holy, glorious and right-victorious martyrs; of our venerable and God-bearing fathers; of the Holy Myrrh-Bearer and Equal to the Apostles, Mary Magdalene, protector of this community; of the holy and righteous ancestors of God, Joachim and Anna; of the holy, glorious and right-victorious New-martyr Panayiotis of Caesarea in Cappadocia, whose memory we celebrate today, and of all the saints: have mercy on us, and save us, for Thou art good and lovest mankind.

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

*All:* Amen.

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<sup>1</sup> This Theotokion is the same one used at Saturday evening Vespers, in the tone matching the final Apolytikion. It is always used at Great Vespers for high rank commemoration when served Sunday through Friday evenings.