

6 JANUARY 2018  
§ Theophany of Christ

VESPERS (AND LITURGY)

*This is normally in the morning of Theophany Eve after the Hours and is followed by the Liturgy of St Basil. In the Typikon of the Great Church only three Old Testament readings are used from the Menaion.*

Lord I have cried

Tone 2

O Lord, I have cried to you, listen to me;  
O Lord, listen to me.

O Lord, I have cried to you, listen to me;  
Note the voice of my plea when I cry to you.  
O Lord, listen to me.

<sup>2</sup> Let my prayer be directed before you like incense,  
the raising of my hands be an evening sacrifice.  
O Lord, listen to me.

S6: O Lord, if you mark offences, who will stand?  
But there is forgiveness with you.

S5: O Lord, I have waited for you for your name's sake;  
my soul has waited for your word,  
my soul has hoped in the Lord.

The Forerunner saw our Enlightenment, who illuminates every man, approach to be baptised. He rejoiced in soul, but his hand trembled. He showed him to the people and said, "See the Redeemer of Israel who sets us free from corruption." O sinless *Lord*, Christ our God, glory to you! X2

S4: Let Israel hope in the Lord  
from morning watch until night,  
from morning watch.

S3: For there is mercy with the Lord  
and abundant redemption with *him*.  
He will redeem Israel from all his offences.

The angelic armies were filled with fear when they saw our Saviour as he was baptised by a servant and received witness through the coming of the Spirit. The Father's voice was heard from above, "The one on whom the Forerunner lays his hand is my dear Son in whom I am well pleased." O Christ our God, glory to you! X2

S2: Every nation, praise the Lord;  
every people, acclaim him!

O Source, the streams of the Jordan received you and the Advocate descended in the form of a dove. The *Lord* who bowed the heavens inclined his head and the clay cried out to the one who formed him, "Why do you command me to do what lies beyond my power, for I need to be baptised by you?" O sinless *Lord*, Christ our God, glory to you!

S1: For his mercy is strengthened over us  
and the truth of the Lord remains for ever.

When you wanted to save the human race which had gone astray, you did not disdain to clothe yourself in the form of a servant. O Rescuer, it was right for you, as Master and God, to take our nature on yourself for our sake, for you have been baptised in the flesh and made us worthy to receive forgiveness. Therefore, we cry out to you, "O Christ our God and Benefactor, glory to you!"

Glory: Both now:

You bowed your head before the Forerunner and crushed the heads of the serpents. O Saviour, Enlightenment of our souls, you descended into the waters and have illuminated all, so that they may glorify you.

*Entrance (Most years with Gospel Book)*

Phos Ilarón

P/D: Wisdom! Stand upright!

O Jesus Christ, joyful light of the holy glory

of the immortal, heavenly, holy, blessed Father,  
when we come to the setting of the sun  
and see the light of evening,  
we praise God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

For it is right at all times to worship you  
with voices of praise,  
O Son of God and Giver of life.  
Therefore the world glorifies you.

*No Prokeimenon*

Prophecy 1

*The primeval water is organised; Christ redeems us through water.*

From the Book of Genesis (1:1-13)

In the beginning God made the heaven and the earth. <sup>2</sup> But the earth was invisible and unformed. Darkness was over the deep and the Spirit of God moved over the water. <sup>3</sup> And God said: Let there be light and there was light. <sup>4</sup> And God saw the light that it was good, and God divided between the light and the darkness. <sup>5</sup> And God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night, and there was evening and there was morning, the first day. <sup>6</sup> And God said, Let there be a firmament in the midst of the water, and let it be a division between water and water, and it was so. <sup>7</sup> And God made the firmament, and God divided between the water which was under the firmament and the water which was above the firmament. <sup>8</sup> And God called the firmament Heaven, and God saw that it was good, and there was evening and there was morning, the second day. <sup>9</sup> And God said, Let the water which is under the heaven be collected into one place, and let the dry land appear, and it was so. And the water which was under the heaven was collected into its places, and the dry land appeared. <sup>10</sup> And God called the dry land Earth, and the gathering of the waters he called Seas, and God saw that it was good. <sup>11</sup> And God said, Let the earth produce the vegetation of grass bearing seed according to its kind and according to its likeness, and the fruit-tree bearing fruit whose seed is in it, according to its kind on the earth, and it was so. <sup>12</sup> And the earth produce the vegetation of grass bearing seed according to its kind, and according to its likeness, and the fruit tree bearing fruit whose seed is in it, according to its kind on the earth, and God saw that it was good. <sup>13</sup> And there was evening and there was morning, the third day.

Tropáion 1 Ps 66

Tone 5

You have created the world and been revealed to the world in order to give light to those who sit in darkness. Glory to you, O Lover of the human race!

S1: May God be compassionate to us and bless us;  
may he cause his face to shine on us and be merciful to us,  
R: in order to give light to those who sit in darkness. Glory to you, O Lover of the human race!

S2: So may people know your way on earth,  
your salvation among all the nations,  
R: in order to give light to those who sit in darkness. Glory to you, O Lover of the human race!

S3: O God, let the peoples acknowledge you  
and all the peoples thank you;  
the earth has yielded its fruit.  
R: in order to give light to those who sit in darkness. Glory to you, O Lover of the human race!

S4: May God our God, bless us!  
May God bless us  
and all the ends of the earth fear him!  
R: in order to give light to those who sit in darkness. Glory to you, O Lover of the human race!

Glory: Both now:

You have created the world and been revealed to the world in order to give light to those who sit in darkness. Glory to you, O Lover of the human race!

### Prophecy 5

*The Jordan parts for Elijah to cross; Christ redeems us through water.*

From the Fourth Book of Kingdoms (2:6-14)

Elijah said to Elisha: Stay here, I pray you, for the Lord has sent me to Jordan. But Elisha said: As the Lord lives and your soul lives, I will not leave you, and they both went on. <sup>7</sup> Fifty men of the sons of the prophets went also, and they stood opposite at a distance, while both *the prophets* stood on the bank of the Jordan. <sup>8</sup> Then Elijah took his cloak, gathered it together and struck the water. Then the water was divided on this side and on that side, and they both went over on dry ground. <sup>9</sup> It came to pass that while they were crossing over, Elijah said to Elisha: Ask what I can do for you before I am taken up from you. So Elisha said: Let there be, I pray you, a double portion of your spirit on me. <sup>10</sup> And Elijah said: You have asked a hard thing; if you see me when I am taken up from you, then it will be so for you; and if not, it will not be so. <sup>11</sup> It came to pass that, as they were proceeding and talking, then see, there was a chariot of fire, and horses of fire, which separated them both. Elijah was taken up in a whirlwind as it were into heaven. <sup>12</sup> Then Elisha saw, and cried: Father, father, the chariot of Israel, and its horseman! Then he no longer saw him; he seized his clothes and tore them into two pieces. <sup>13</sup> Then Elisha took up the cloak of Elijah, which fell from off from him on to Elisha. Elisha returned, stood on the bank of the Jordan, <sup>14</sup> took the cloak of Elijah, which had fallen off him, struck the water, and said: Where is the Lord God of Elijah? Elisha struck the waters a second time, then the waters were divided and Elisha went over on dry ground.

### Tropárium 2 Ps 92

Tone 6

Our Saviour, you have shown yourself to sinners and tax collectors in the abundance of your mercy. Where indeed should your light have shone, if not on those who sit in darkness? Glory to you!

S1: The Lord reigns *and* is clothed with majesty.

R: Where indeed should your light have shone, if not on those who sit in darkness? Glory to you!

S2: O Lord, the rivers have risen;  
the watercourses have raised their voices.

R: Where indeed should your light have shone, if not on those who sit in darkness? Glory to you!

S3: The surging of the sea is wonderful;  
the Lord is marvellous in the heights.

R: Where indeed should your light have shone, if not on those who sit in darkness? Glory to you!

Glory: Both now:

Our Saviour, you have shown yourself to sinners and tax collectors in the abundance of your mercy. Where indeed should your light have shone, if not on those who sit in darkness? Glory to you!

### Prophecy 6

*Náaman is cleansed in the waters of the Jordan.*

From the Fourth Book of Kingdoms (5:9-14)

In those days Náaman came with horse and chariot, and stood at the door of the house of Elisha. <sup>10</sup> And Elisha sent a messenger to him, saying: Go and wash seven times in the Jordan, and your flesh will return to you, and you will be cleansed. <sup>11</sup> And Náaman was angry, and departed, and said: See, I said: He will by all means come out to me, and stand, and call on the name of his God, and lay his hand on the place, and recover the leper. <sup>12</sup> *Are* not the Abána and Phárpar, rivers of Damascus, better than all the waters of Israel? May I not go and wash in them, and be cleansed? So he turned and went away in a rage. <sup>13</sup> But his servants came near and said to him: *Suppose* the prophet had

spoken a great thing to you, surely you would perform it? Yet he has only said to you: Wash, and be cleansed. <sup>14</sup> So Náaman went down, and dipped himself seven times in the Jordan, according to the word of Elisha. Then his flesh returned to him like the flesh of a little child, and he was cleansed.

### Acclamation

D/P: Let us pray to the Lord.

P: For holy are you our God, and to you we send up glory, to the Father, the Son and Holy Spirit, now and ever and to the ages of ages.  
*Amen*

### Triságion

#### Prokeímenon Ps 26 Tone 3

R: The Lord is my Light and my Saviour.

S: The Lord is the defender of my life.

### Apóstolos

From the First Letter of Paul to the Corinthians (9:19-27)

Brothers, although I am free from all men, I have made myself a slave to all, so that I might win more *people*. <sup>20</sup> To the Jews I became as a Jew, in order to win Jews; to those under the law I became as one under the law -- though not being myself under the law -- that I might win those under the law. <sup>21</sup> To those outside the law I became as one outside the law -- not being without law toward God but under the law of Christ -- that I might win those outside the law. <sup>22</sup> To the weak I became weak, so that I might win the weak. I have become all things to all men, so that I might in every way save some. <sup>23</sup> I do it all for the sake of the gospel, so that I may share in its blessings. <sup>24</sup> Do you not know that in a race all the runners compete, but only one receives the prize? So run that you may obtain it. <sup>25</sup> Every athlete exercises self-control in all things. They do it to receive a perishable wreath, but we an imperishable one. <sup>26</sup> Well, I do not run aimlessly; I do not box like someone beating the air; <sup>27</sup> but I punish my body and subdue it, in case after preaching to others I myself should be disqualified.

#### Alleluia Ps 44 Tone 6

S1: The Lord's voice *is* over the waters.

S2: The glorious God has thundered over the waters.

### Gospel

From the Holy Gospel according to Luke (3:1-18)

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Tibérius Caesar, Pontius Pilate being governor of Judea, and Herod being tetrarch of Galilee, and his brother Philip tetrarch of the region of Ituraía and Trachonítis, and Lysánias tetrarch of Abilení, <sup>2</sup> in the high-priesthood of Ánnas and Cáíáphas, the word of God came to John the son of Zechariah in the wilderness; <sup>3</sup> and he went into all the region about the Jordan, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. <sup>4</sup> 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. <sup>5</sup> 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; <sup>6</sup> and all flesh shall see the salvation of God." <sup>7</sup> He said therefore to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? <sup>8</sup> 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. <sup>9</sup> 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." <sup>10</sup> And the crowds asked him, "What then shall we do?" <sup>11</sup> 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." <sup>12</sup> Tax collectors also came to be baptized, and said to him, "Teacher, what shall we do?" <sup>13</sup> And he said to them, "Collect no more than is appointed you." <sup>14</sup> 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." <sup>15</sup> As the people were in expectation, and all men

questioned in their hearts concerning John, whether perhaps he were the Christ, <sup>16</sup> John answered them all, "I baptize you with water; but he who is mightier than I is coming, the thong of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie; he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire. <sup>17</sup> 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." <sup>18</sup> So, with many other exhortations, he preached good news to the people.

*And the rest of the Liturgy of Basil*

*In years when when the Liturgy is served after Orthros in the morning of 5 January, continue with Vespers.*

### **Ektení**

#### **Prayer**

O Lord, allow us this night to be guarded from sin. Blessed are you, O Lord, God of our fathers! Praised and glorified be your name for ever. Amen. O Lord, let your mercy be on us, for we have hoped in you. Blessed are you, O Lord; teach me your statutes. Blessed are you, O Master; make me understand your statutes. Blessed are you, O Holy One; enlighten me with your statutes. O Lord, your mercy lasts for ever; do not overlook the work of your hands. To you belongs worship, to you belongs praise, to you belongs glory, to the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, both now and ever, and to ages of ages. Amen.

### **Plirotiká**

#### **Prayer**

P: Peace be with you all. R: And with your spirit  
D: Bow down your heads to the Lord. R: To you, O Lord.

P: For blessed and glorified is the power of your Kingdom, of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, now and ever and to the ages of ages. *Amen.*

### **Apósticha**

#### **Liti**

Tone 8

O Lord, in your desire to fulfil what you appointed from eternity, you have selected servants from the whole creation to accomplish about your mysteries. *There is* Gabriel from among the angels, the Virgin from among men, the star from the heavens and Jordan from the waters; you have washed away the offences of the world in its stream. O Saviour, glory to you!

### **Apósticha**

Tone 2

O Christ our God, when he saw you approach him in the River Jordan, John said, "O Lord, why have you, the undefiled one, come to your servant? In whose name shall I baptise you? Of the Father? But you bear him in yourself. Of the Son? But you are yourself this Son made flesh. Of the Holy Spirit? But you know that you give him to the faithful through your own mouth." O God, you have appeared; have mercy on us.

S1: The sea saw and fled. <sup>Ps 113</sup>

O God, the waters saw you; the waters saw you and were afraid. The Cherubim cannot raise their eyes to your glory, nor can the Seraphim gaze at you, but, as they stand beside you in fear, the one carries you and the other glorifies your might. O merciful Lord, we proclaim your praises with them and say, "O God, you have appeared; have mercy on us."

S2: O sea, what *happened* to you that you fled? <sup>Ps 113</sup>

Today the Maker of heaven and earth comes in the flesh to the Jordan. The One who is sinless asks for baptism so that he may cleanse the world from the error of the enemy. The One who is the Master of all is

baptised by a servant and gives the human race cleansing through water. Let us cry aloud to him, "O God you have appeared; have mercy on us."

Glory: Both now: Tone 6

When he saw the Sun, who came from a Virgin and asked for baptism in the Jordan, the shining Lamp who was born from an infertile woman cried to him with fear and joy, "O Master, sanctify me by your Theophany."

### **Song of Simeon**

B/P: O Master, now let your servant depart in peace according to your word,

<sup>2</sup> for my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared before all peoples,

<sup>3</sup> a light of revelation for *the* nations and *the* glory of your people Israel.

### **Triságion Prayers**

#### **Apolytikion**

Tone 1

O Lord, when you were baptised in the Jordan, the worship of the Trinity was revealed. For the voice of the Father witnessed to you and called you his dear Son. And the Spirit, in the form of a dove, confirmed the truthfulness of his word. O Christ our God, you have revealed yourself and enlightened the world; glory to you! X3

#### **Dismissal**

### **ORTHROS**

#### **God is the Lord Ps 117**

R: God is the Lord, and has shone over us.

Blessed is the one who comes in the Lord's name. <sup>Ps 117</sup>

S1: Thank the Lord, for he is good, for his mercy lasts for ever.

S2: All the nations surrounded me, but I opposed them in the Lord's name.

S3: This *is* the Lord's doing and it is wonderful in our eyes.

#### **Apolytikion Tone 1**

O Lord, when you were baptised in the Jordan, the worship of the Trinity was revealed. For the voice of the Father witnessed to you and called you his dear Son. And the Spirit, in the form of a dove, confirmed the truthfulness of his word. O Christ our God, you have revealed yourself and enlightened the world; glory to you! X3

#### **Small Litany**

P: For yours is the might, and yours is the kingdom, the power and the glory, of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and to the ages of ages, now and always and to the ages of ages. *Amen*

#### **Kathisma 1**

Tone 3

O Saviour Christ, you have appeared in the Jordan and were baptised by the Forerunner. Testimony was offered about you, that you are the dear Son. You were revealed as the co-eternal with the Father and the Holy Spirit descended on you. We are enlightened by you and cry, "Glory to God in Trinity." X2

#### **Kathisma 2**

Tone 4

O River Jordan, what have you seen which makes you so amazed? "I have seen the invisible One naked and I trembled. How could I not tremble before him and reverse my flow?" When the angels saw him, they were afraid; the sky was filled with wonder and the earth shook. The sea with everything visible and invisible withdrew, for Christ has appeared in the Jordan to sanctify the waters. X2

### Kathisma 3

Tone 4 O Christ our God, you have sanctified the streams of the Jordan and crushed the power of sin. You have inclined your head beneath the hand of the Forerunner and rescued man from error. Therefore we pray to you, "Save your world." X2

### Small Litany

P: For blessed is your name, and glorified is your kingdom, of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, now and ever and to the ages of ages. *Amen.*

### Anaváthmi Ps 128 Tone 4

1: Many passions have fought against me from my youth, but help me and save me, O my Saviour. X2  
2: Those who hate Zion will be shamed by the Lord; they will be withered like grass by the fire. X2 Glory:  
3: Every soul lives through the Holy Spirit, is exalted in purity and illuminated by the Triune Unity in a sacred mystery. Both now:  
4: The streams of grace pour out through the Holy Spirit; they water all creation and produce life.

### Prokeímenon Ps 113 Tone 4

R: The sea saw and fled; Jordan was turned back.  
S: O sea, why did you flee?

### Gospel Dialogue

P/D: Let us pray to the Lord. *Lord have mercy*  
P: For you, O God, are holy and rest in the Holy Place. We send up glory to you, to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and to the ages of ages. *Amen.*

R: Let everything with breath praise the Lord. X3  
Praise God in his saints;  
praise him in his mighty firmament. ps 50

P/D: And that we may be counted worthy to listen to the Holy Gospel, let us pray to the Lord our God. *Lord have mercy* X3

P/D: Wisdom. Stand up. Let us listen to the Holy Gospel.

P: Peace be with you all. *And with your spirit*

P: A reading from the Holy Gospel according to John.

P/D: Let us attend.

R: Glory to you, O Lord, glory to you.

### Gospel

From the Holy Gospel according to Mark (1:9-11)  
In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. <sup>10</sup> And when he came up out of the water, immediately he saw the heavens opened and the Spirit descending upon him like a dove; <sup>11</sup> and a voice came from heaven, "You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased."

R: Glory to you, O Lord, glory to you.

### Psalm 50

O God, have mercy on me in your abundant mercy  
and wipe out my offence through your great pity.

<sup>4</sup> Wash me thoroughly from my lawless act  
and cleanse me from my sin,

<sup>5</sup> for I know my lawlessness  
and my sin is always before me.

<sup>6</sup> I have sinned against you alone  
and done what is evil before you

<sup>6b</sup> so that you might be right in your words  
and overcome when you are judged,

<sup>7</sup> for see, I was conceived in lawlessness  
and my mother desired me in sin,

<sup>8</sup> for see, you have loved truth  
and shown me the mysteries and secrets of your wisdom.

<sup>9</sup> You will sprinkle me with hyssop and I will be clean;  
you will wash me and I will become whiter than snow.

<sup>10</sup> You will make me hear about joy and gladness;  
humbled bones will rejoice.

<sup>11</sup> Turn your face from my sins  
and wipe out all my lawlessness.

<sup>12</sup> O God, make a pure heart within me  
and renew an upright spirit within me.

<sup>13</sup> Do not banish me from your presence  
or remove your Holy Spirit from me.

<sup>14</sup> Restore your saving joy to me  
and strengthen me with your directing Spirit.

<sup>15</sup> I will teach the lawless your ways  
and the ungodly will return to you.

<sup>16</sup> O God, God of my salvation, free me from bloodshed,  
*then* my tongue will rejoice in your justice.

<sup>17</sup> O Lord, you will open my lips  
and my mouth will announce your praise,

<sup>18</sup> for if you had wanted sacrifice, I would have given it;  
you will not be pleased with burnt offerings.

<sup>19</sup> Sacrifice for God is a broken spirit;  
God will not despise a broken and humbled heart.

<sup>20</sup> O Lord, be good to Zion in your pleasure  
and let the walls of Jerusalem be built,

<sup>21</sup> then you will be pleased with a just sacrifice,  
with an offering and burnt sacrifices;  
then they will offer calves on your altar.

Glory: Tone 2

Today let all things greatly rejoice,  
for Christ has appeared in the Jordan.

Both now:

Today let all things greatly rejoice,  
for Christ has appeared in the Jordan.

Have mercy: Tone 6

God the Word appeared to the human race in the flesh. He stood in the Jordan ready for baptism and the Forerunner said to him, "How can I stretch out my hand and touch the head of the Ruler of all? Although you are the Child of Mary, I know you as the pre-eternal God. Although you walk on the earth, you are praised by the Seraphim. I am only a servant; I do not know how to baptise the Master." O Lord, you are beyond all understanding; glory to you!

### Intercession

#### Short form

P/D: O God, save your people and bless your inheritance. Visit your world with mercy and compassion; exalt the horn of Orthodox Christians and send down on them your rich mercy, through the prayers of our all-pure Lady, Theotokos and Ever-virgin Mary, by the power of the honourable and life-giving cross, through the protection of the honourable bodiless powers of heaven, through the prayers of the honourable, glorious, prophet, Forerunner and Baptist John, of the holy, glorious, all-praised apostles, of the holy, all-praised and victorious martyrs, of our holy and God-bearing fathers, of the holy and just forebears of God, Ioachim and Anna, and of all the saints. We ask you, only merciful Lord, "Listen to us sinners as we pray to you, and have mercy on us."

*Lord have mercy. X12*

Through the mercy, compassion and love for the human race of your only-begotten Son, with whom you are blessed, together with the all-holy, good and life-giving Spirit, now and ever and to the ages of ages. *Amen.*

### Kontákion

Tone 4 O Lord, you have appeared today to the inhabited earth and your light has shone on us, for we praise you with understanding. "O unapproachable Light, you have come and revealed yourself."

## Íkos

“A great light has shone on Galilee of the Gentiles, on the land of Zebulon and the land of Nephthali,” as the prophet said. It is Christ, the bright Dawn who appeared as lightning from Bethlehem for those who sat in darkness. The Lord born from Mary, the Sun of Justice, sheds his rays on the whole inhabited earth. O naked children of Adam, come then and clothe ourselves in him so that we may warm ourselves. You are a Protection and Veil to the naked, and a Light to those in darkness. O unapproachable Light, you have come and revealed yourself.

## Synaxáron

Today we celebrate the holy Theophany of our Lord, God and Saviour, Jesus Christ. The baptism was a revelation of the Holy Trinity. It opened the heavens and allowed all those who kept their robes pure to enter through the opening. On the Sixth the Forerunner baptised Christ in the river. To him be glory and might to the ages of ages. Amen.

## Katavasías Tone 2

1: The Lord *who is* mighty in battle uncovered the foundations of the deep and led his servant to dry ground, but covered their adversaries with the water, for he has been glorified.

Israel passed through the storm-tossed deep of the sea which God had turned into dry land, but the dark waters completely covered the chief captains of Egypt in a watery grave through the mighty strength of the Master's right hand.

3: The Lord who gives strength to our kings and exalts the horn of his Anointed, is born from a Virgin and comes to baptism. Therefore, O faithful, let us cry aloud, “No one is holy like our God and no one is just except you, O Lord.”

We have all been freed from the ancient snares and the jaws of the devouring lions have been broken. Let us, therefore, greatly rejoice and open our mouths in song, as we weave with words a melody to the Word who delights to grant us gifts.

4: O Lord, the one whom you called, “The voice of one crying in the wilderness,” heard your voice when you thundered on many waters and bore witness to your Son. He was totally filled with the Spirit who had come and cried aloud, “You are Christ, God's wisdom and power.”

After he had been cleansed by the fire of a mystic vision, the prophet sang praises about the renewal of mortal man. He was filled with the inspiration of the Spirit, raised his voice and spoke about the incarnation of the ineffable Word who had shattered the dominion of the strong.

5: Jesus, the Prince of life, has come to free the first-formed man from condemnation. Although, as God, he needs no cleansing, yet he is cleansed in the Jordan for the sake of fallen man. He slew enmity in its streams and grants the peace which passes all understanding.

We have been washed by the cleansing of the Spirit from the poison of the dark and unclean enemy. We have set out on a new path free from error which leads to joy of heart beyond all effort and which only those reach whom God has reconciled to himself.

6: The voice of the Word, the candlestick of the Light, the Morning Star and Forerunner of the Sun, cried in the wilderness to all the people, “Repent and be cleansed while there is yet time. For see Christ is at hand who rescues the world from corruption.”

The Father in a voice full of joy revealed his dear Son whom he had begotten from the womb. “This is indeed my Child,” he said, “of the same nature as myself. My living Word has come to the human race bearing light. He is made a mortal man through divine providence.

7: The breath of the wind *which was* heavy with dew, and the descent of God's angel preserved the Holy Children from all harm as they walked in the fiery furnace. They were refreshed with dew in the

flames and sang in thanksgiving, “Blessed are you and praised above all, O Lord God of our fathers!”

The *Lord* who in the furnace stilled the heat of the flame which mounted high in the air and encircled the godly children, burnt the heads of the dragons in the stream of the Jordan. He washes away all the stubborn obscurity of sin with the dew of the Spirit.

8: Let us praise, bless and worship the Lord. The Babylonian furnace, as it poured out dew, foreshadowed a marvellous mystery. *This was* how the Jordan would receive in its streams the immaterial Fire and encompass the Creator when he was baptised in the flesh. O people, bless and exalt him above all for ever!

The creation finds itself set free and those in darkness are now made sons of light; only the Prince of Darkness groans. Let all the inheritance of the nations who were in misery beforehand, now eagerly bless him who has caused this change.

## Ode Nine

*The Magnificat is not sung*

### Canon 1 Tone 2

O my soul, glorify the one who is more honourable than the heavenly hosts.

O Theotokos, no tongue is capable of praising you worthily and the angelic mind is overawed in exalting you. Accept our faith, since you are gracious and know our love for divine things. You are the protector of Christians and we praise you.

O my soul, glorify the one who is more honourable than the heavenly hosts.

O Theotokos, no tongue is capable of praising you worthily and the angelic mind is overawed in exalting you. Accept our faith, since you are gracious and know our love for divine things. You are the protector of Christians and we praise you.

O my soul, glorify the *Lord* who comes to be baptised in the Jordan. O David, come in spirit to those who are now to be enlightened and sing, “Approach now to God in faith and receive enlightenment.” Fallen Adam, the poor man, cried and the Lord heard him. In the streams of the Jordan he has come and renewed the one who was sunk in corruption.

O my soul, glorify the baptism which is administered by the Forerunner.

O David, come in spirit to those who are now to be enlightened and sing, “Approach now to God in faith and receive enlightenment.” Fallen Adam, the poor man, cried and the Lord heard him. In the streams of the Jordan he has come and renewed the one who was sunk in corruption.

O my soul, glorify the *Lord* to whom the voice of the Father testifies. Isaiah says, “Wash and make yourselves clean. Set aside your evil action before the Lord. Attention, everyone who thirsts! Come to the living waters, for Christ will sprinkle those who hurry to him in faith with the water of renewal!” He baptises them with the Spirit into life which never ages.”

O my soul, glorify one of the Trinity who bowed his head and received baptism.

Isaiah says, “Wash and make yourselves clean. Set aside your evil action before the Lord. Attention, everyone who thirsts! Come to the living waters, for Christ will sprinkle those who hurry to him in faith with the water of renewal!” He baptises them with the Spirit into life which never ages.”

O Prophet, come to me; extend your hand and baptise me swiftly.

O faithful, let us keep ourselves safe through grace and the seal of baptism. In the past time the Hebrews fled from destruction by marking the door posts with blood. So also this divine washing for regeneration

will be our Exodus and we will see the unfading light of the Trinity as we go out.

O prophet, allow it to be so now and baptise me as I wish, for I have come to fulfil all justice.

O faithful, let us keep ourselves safe through grace and the seal of baptism. In the past time the Hebrews fled from destruction by marking the door posts with blood. So also this divine washing for regeneration will be our Exodus and we will see the unfading light of the Trinity as we go out.

#### Canon 2

Today the Master bows his head beneath the hand of the Forerunner. Most pure Bride, blessed Mother, the wonders of your childbearing pass all understanding. Through you we have obtained the Salvation of all and rightly rejoice. Truly, our Benefactor, we bring a song of thanksgiving before you as a gift.

Today John baptises the Master in the streams of the Jordan. Most pure Bride, blessed Mother, the wonders of your childbearing pass all understanding. Through you we have obtained the Salvation of all and rightly rejoice. Truly, our Benefactor, we bring a song of thanksgiving before you as a gift.

Today the Master buries in the waters the sin of mortal man. What was revealed to Moses in the bush, we see accomplished here in a strange manner. The Virgin bore Fire within her, yet was not consumed when she gave birth to the Benefactor who brings us light; the streams of the Jordan suffered no harm when they received him.

Today the Master receives testimony from on high that he is the dear Son. What was revealed to Moses in the bush, we see accomplished here in a strange manner. The Virgin bore Fire within her, yet was not consumed when she gave birth to the Benefactor who brings us light; the streams of the Jordan suffered no harm when they received him.

Today the Master has come to sanctify the nature of the waters. What was revealed to Moses in the bush, we see accomplished here in a strange manner. The Virgin bore Fire within her, yet was not consumed when she gave birth to the Benefactor who brings us light; the streams of the Jordan suffered no harm when they received him.

Today the Master receives baptism at the hand of the Forerunner. What was revealed to Moses in the bush, we see accomplished here in a strange manner. The Virgin bore Fire within her, yet was not consumed when she gave birth to the Benefactor who brings us light; the streams of the Jordan suffered no harm when they received him.

#### Glory:

O my soul, glorify the power of the undivided Divinity in Three Persons.

O Theotokos, no tongue is capable of praising you worthily and the angelic mind is overawed in exalting you. Accept our faith, since you are gracious and know our love for divine things. You are the protector of Christians and we praise you.

#### Both now:

O my soul, glorify the most pure Virgin who has rescued us from the curse.

Most pure Bride, blessed Mother, the wonders of your childbearing pass all understanding. Through you we have obtained the Salvation of all and rightly rejoice. Truly, our Benefactor, we bring a song of thanksgiving before you as a gift.

#### Small Litany

P: For all the powers of heaven praise you, and to you we send up glory, to the Father, the Son and Holy Spirit, now and ever and to the ages of ages. *Amen.*

#### Exaposteiláron

#### Tone 3

The Saviour, who is grace and truth, has appeared in the streams of the Jordan and enlightened those who sleep in darkness and shadow. For the Light which no one can approach has come and been revealed. X3

#### Praises

#### Tone 1

Let everything with breath praise the Lord!

Praise the Lord from the heavens;  
praise him in the heights.  
To you, O God, is due a song.

Praise him, all his angels;  
praise him, all his powers.  
To you, O God, is due a song.

S4: Praise him with cymbal and dance;  
praise him with strings and flute.

The Light from Light, Christ our God has shone on the world; he is revealed as God. O people, let us worship him.

S3: Praise him with tuneful cymbals;  
praise him with joyful cymbals.

Let everything with breath praise the Lord.

Our Saviour, you were baptised in the Jordan and have sanctified the waters. You accepted a servant's hand on your head and heal the passions of the world. Great is the mystery of your dispensation! O Lord and Lover of the human race, glory to you!

S2: The sea saw and fled; Jordan was turned back. Ps 113

The true Light has appeared and grants enlightenment to all. Christ, who is above all purity, is baptised with us; he brings sanctification to the water and it becomes a cleansing for our souls. What is outward and visible is earthly and what is inwardly understood is higher than heaven. Salvation comes through washing; the Spirit through water. We ascend to God by descending into water. O Lord, how wonderful are your works; glory to you!

S1: O sea, what *happened* to you that you fled  
and you, O Jordan, that you turned back? Ps 113

The *Lord* who covers the heavens with clouds is himself covered today by the streams of Jordan. The one who takes away the sin of the world is cleansed so that I may be made clean. The only-begotten Son of the most high Father receives the testimony of the consubstantial Spirit from above. Let us cry aloud to him, "O Christ our God, you have revealed yourself and saved us; glory to you!"

#### Glory: Tone 6

O Saviour, you robe yourself with light as though with a garment; you have clothed yourself in the waters of the Jordan and have measured heaven with a span, yet you have bowed your head before the Forerunner so that you might turn the world back from error and save our souls.

Bothnow: Tone2 Today Christ has come to be baptised in the Jordan; today John touches the head of the Master. The powers of heaven are amazed as they witness the amazing mystery. The sea observed and fled; Jordan was driven back at the sight. We, who have been enlightened, cry aloud, "Glory to the revealed God who has appeared on earth and brought light to the world."

#### Great Doxology

Glory to you who have shown us the light!

glory to God in the highest!

Peace on earth and goodwill to men!

<sup>2</sup> We praise you, we bless you, we worship you,

we glorify you, we thank you for your great glory,

<sup>3</sup> O Lord King, heavenly God, almighty Father,

O Lord, only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ,

and you, O Holy Spirit!

<sup>4</sup> O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,

you take away the sin of the world;  
 have mercy on us,  
*for* you take away the sin of the world.  
<sup>5</sup> Receive our prayer,  
*for* you sit on the right of the Father,  
 and have mercy on us.  
<sup>6</sup> For only you are holy, only you are Lord,  
 O Jesus Christ, to the glory of God the Father. Amen.  
<sup>7</sup> I will bless you every day  
 and always praise your name for ever and ever. Ps 144  
<sup>8</sup> O Lord, allow us this day  
 to be guarded from sin.  
<sup>9</sup> Blessed are you, O Lord God of our fathers!  
 Praised and glorified be your name for ever. Amen. Daniel 3  
<sup>10</sup> O Lord, let your mercy *be* on us,  
 for we have hoped in you. Ps 32.  
<sup>16</sup> Blessed are you, O Lord!  
 Teach me your statutes. X3 Ps 118  
<sup>12</sup> O Lord, you have been our refuge  
 from generation to generation. Ps 89  
 I said, "O Lord, have mercy on me;  
 heal my soul, for I have sinned against you." Ps 40  
<sup>14</sup> O Lord, I have fled to you;  
 teach me to do your will, for you are my God. Ps 142  
<sup>15</sup> For with you is the source of life  
 and in your light we will see light. Ps 35  
<sup>16</sup> Stretch out your mercy  
 to those who know you. Ps 35

### Triságion

#### Apolytikion

Tone 1

O Lord, when you were baptised in the Jordan, the worship of the Trinity was revealed. For the voice of the Father witnessed to you and called you his dear Son. And the Spirit, in the form of a dove, confirmed the truthfulness of his word. O Christ our God, you have revealed yourself and enlightened the world; glory to you!

### LITURGY

#### Antíphon 1 Ps 113 Tone 1

S1: When Israel left Egypt, and the house of Jacob,

R: Through the prayers of the Theotokos, Saviour, save us.

S2: Judah became his sanctuary.

S3: The sea saw and fled; Jordan was turned back.

S4: O sea, why did you flee? O Jordan, why did you turn back?

S5: Glory: Both now:

#### Antíphon 2 Ps 114 Tone 2

S1: I have loved, for the Lord will listen to the voice of my plea.

R: Save us, O Son of God. You were baptised by John in the Jordan. We sing to you, "Alleluia!"

S2: For he has inclined his ear to me;  
 I will call to him throughout my days.

S3: Pains of death have surrounded me;  
 perils of Hades have discovered me.

S4: The Lord is merciful and just;  
 our God has pity.

S5: Glory: Both now:

*Monogenes*

#### Antíphon 3 Ps 117 Tone 1

S1: Thank the Lord, for he is good, for his mercy lasts for ever.

R: O Lord, when you were baptised in the Jordan, the worship of the Trinity was revealed. For the voice of the Father witnessed to you and called you his dear Son. And the Spirit, in the form of a dove, confirmed the truthfulness of his word. O Christ, our God, you have revealed yourself and have enlightened the world, glory to you!

S2: Let the house of Israel now say that he is good,  
 for his mercy lasts for ever.

S3: Let the house of Aaron now say that he is good,  
 for his mercy lasts for ever.

S4: Let all those who fear the Lord now say that he is good,  
 for his mercy lasts for ever.

### Entrance Ps 117

Tone 2

Blessed is the one who comes in the Lord's name;  
 we have blessed you from the Lord's house.  
 God is the Lord, and has shone over us.

Save us, O Son of God.

You were baptised by John in the Jordan.

We sing to you, "Alleluia!"

### Apolytikion

Tone 1

O Lord, when you were baptised in the Jordan, the worship of the Trinity was revealed. For the voice of the Father witnessed to you and called you his dear Son. And the Spirit, in the form of a dove, confirmed the truthfulness of his word. O Christ our God, you have revealed yourself and enlightened the world; glory to you!

### Kontáktion

Tone 4

O Lord, you have appeared today to the inhabited earth and your light has shone on us, for we praise you with understanding. "O unapproachable Light, you have come and revealed yourself."

### Triságion Substitute

For as many as have been baptised into Christ,  
 have put on Christ. Alleluia!

### Prokeimenon Ps 117 Tone 4

R: Blessed is the one who comes in the Lord's name.

S: Thank the Lord, for he is good.

### Apóstolos

From the Letter of Paul to Titus (2:11-3:7)

Brothers, the grace of God has appeared for the salvation of all men. <sup>12</sup> It trains us to renounce godless behaviour and worldly passions, and to live sober, upright and godly lives in this world, <sup>13</sup> as we wait for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Saviour Jesus Christ, <sup>14</sup> who gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds. <sup>15</sup> Declare these things; urge and rebuke with all authority. Let no one disregard you. <sup>1</sup> Remind them to be submissive to rulers and authorities, to be obedient, to be ready for any honest work, <sup>2</sup> to speak evil of no one, to avoid quarrelling, to be gentle, and to show perfect courtesy toward all men. <sup>3</sup> For we ourselves were once foolish, disobedient, led astray, slaves to various passions and pleasures, passing our days in malice and envy, hated by men and hating one another. <sup>4</sup> But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Saviour appeared, <sup>5</sup> he saved us, not because of deeds done by us in justice, but by virtue of his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal in the Holy Spirit, <sup>6</sup> which he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Saviour, <sup>7</sup> so that we might be justified by his grace and become heirs in hope of eternal life.

### Alleluia Ps 28 Tone 2

S1: Bring to the Lord, O sons of God,  
 bring to the Lord glory and honour.

S2: The Lord's voice *is* over the waters.

### **Gospel**

From the Holy Gospel according to Matthew (3:13-17)

At that time Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to John, to be baptized by him. <sup>14</sup> John would have prevented him, saying, "I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?" <sup>15</sup> But Jesus answered him, "Let it be so now; for thus it is fitting for us to fulfil all righteousness." Then he consented. <sup>16</sup> 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; <sup>17</sup> and lo, a voice from heaven, saying, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased."

### **Theotókoion**

Tone 2

O my soul, glorify the most pure virgin Theotokos; *she is* more honourable than the heavenly hosts. O Theotokos, no tongue is capable of praising you worthily and the angelic mind is overawed in exalting you. Accept our faith, since you are gracious and know our love for divine things. You are the protector of Christians and we praise you.

### **Communion Titus 2**

The grace of God which brings salvation to all men has appeared.  
Alleluia!

### **Post Communion**

Tone 1

O Lord, when you were baptised in the Jordan, the worship of the Trinity was revealed. For the voice of the Father witnessed to you and called you his dear Son. And the Spirit, in the form of a dove, confirmed the truthfulness of his word. O Christ, our God, you have revealed yourself and enlightened the world, glory to you!