

On the Forefeast of the Theophany of Our Lord The Royal Hours

THE FIRST HOUR

Priest Blessed ✠ is our God, always, now, and ever, and to the ages of ages.

Amen.

Priest Glory to You, Christ God, our Hope, glory to You.

Heavenly King, Comforter, the Spirit of truth, Who are everywhere present and Who fill all things, Treasury of good things and Giver of life: come and dwell in us and cleanse us of all impurity; and save our souls, O good One.

Trisagion Prayers

Holy ✠ God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal, have mercy on us.

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Holy ✠ God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal, have mercy on us.

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

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

Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

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

Our Father, Who art in the heavens, 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 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 to the ages of ages.

Amen. **L**ord, have mercy. (12)

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

Come, let us worship and fall down before ✠ God, our King.

Come, let us worship and fall down before ✠ Christ God, our King.

Come, let us worship and fall down before ✠ Christ Himself, our King and God.

Psalms 5, 22, and 26

Psalm 5

Give ear to my words, O Lord; hear my cry; Attend to the voice of my supplication, O my King and God; for I will pray to You, Lord.

In the morning You shall hear my voice.

In the morning I shall stand before You, and You shall look upon me; for You are not a God that wills iniquity.

He who works evil shall not dwell near You, nor shall transgressors abide before Your eyes.

You have hated all those who work iniquity; You shall destroy all those who speak a lie.

The Lord shall abhor a man that is bloody and deceitful.

But as for me I shall go into Your house in the multitude of Your mercy; I shall worship toward Your holy temple in fear of You.

O Lord, guide me in the way of Your righteousness; make my way straight before You because of my enemies.

For in their mouth there is no truth; their heart is vain.

Their throat is an open sepulcher, they have spoken deceitfully with their tongues; judge them, O God.

Let them fall down on account of their own devisings; cast them out according to the multitude of their ungodliness; for they have embittered You, O Lord.

And let all those who hope in You be glad; they shall ever rejoice, and You shall dwell among them, and all who love Your name shall glory in You.

For You shall bless the righteous; O Lord, You have crowned us as with a shield of Your good pleasure.

Psalm 22

The Lord is my shepherd, and I shall not want; He has made me to dwell in a place of green pasture.

He has nurtured me beside the water of rest, He has converted my soul.

He has 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 You are with me.

Your rod and Your staff, they have comforted me.

You have prepared a table before me in the presence of those who afflict me.

You have anointed my head with oil, and Your cup which fills me, how excellent it is!

And Your 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 near against me to eat my flesh, those who afflict me and are my enemies 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 I have hoped.

One thing have I asked of the Lord, this I will 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, He has exalted me upon a rock; and now, behold, He has exalted my head above my enemies.

I went round about and I sacrificed a sacrifice of praise and jubilation in His tabernacle; I will sing and chant unto the Lord.

Hear my voice, O Lord, with which I cry; have mercy on me, and hear me.

My heart said unto You: I will seek the Lord, my face has sought after You; I will seek Your face, O Lord.

Do not turn Your face from me and do not turn away from Your servant. in wrath

Be my helper; do not cast me utterly away, and do not forsake me, O God my Savior.

For my father and my mother have forsaken me, but the Lord has taken me to Himself.

Set a law for me in Your way, O Lord,, and lead me in the right path because of my enemies.

Do not deliver me over unto the souls of those who afflict me

For unjust witnesses have risen up against me, and injustice has 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 manful, and let your heart be strengthened, and wait on the Lord.

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

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia. Glory to You, O God.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia. Glory to You, O God.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia. Glory to You, O God.

Lord have mercy. Lord have mercy. Lord have mercy.

Troparion of the Forefeast

January 3 or 4

Tone 4

Joseph was amazed

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

Zabulon prepare yourself, and make ready, Naphthali; and you, O Jordan river • stand still to receive with joy • the Master coming to be baptized. • Rejoice, O Adam, • together with the first mother Eve; • do not hide yourselves, as you did before in paradise; • for having seen you naked, He appeared • in order to clothe you with the first raiment. • Christ has appeared, • wanting to renew the entire creation.

January 5

Tone 4

Joseph was amazed

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

The river Jordan was turned back at one time • by the sheepskin mantle of Elisha • when Elias ascended into heaven, • and the waters were divided to this side and that; • and the wet path became dry for him • thus becoming truly a symbol of baptism • through which we over the flowing stream • of life pass across • Christ appeared • in Jordan to sanctify its waters.

Theotokion

Now and ever, and to the ages of ages. Amen.

What shall we call you, O you that are full of grace? Heaven? for you have dawned forth the Sun of justice. Paradise? for you have blossomed forth the flower of immortality. Virgin? for you have remained incorrupt. Pure Mother? for you have held in your holy embrace the Son Who is God of all: entreat Him to save our souls.

The Deacon censens the faithful with the katzíon.

Idiomela

By Sophronios

Patriarch of Jerusalem

Tone Plagal 4

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.

(Again) 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.

Tone 3

Therefore I will remember You from the land of Jordan and Mount Hermon. (Psalm 41:7)

You have come to the river as a man, O Christ the King, and in Your goodness You make haste to receive the baptism of a servant at the hands of the Forerunner, for the sake of our sins, O You Who Love mankind.

Tone 3

The waters saw You, O God. (Psalm 76:15)

(Again) You have come to the river as a man, O Christ the King, and in Your goodness You make haste to receive the baptism of a servant at the hands of the Forerunner, for the sake of our sins, O You Who Love mankind.

Tone Plagal 4

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

At the voice of one crying in the wilderness, saying, "Prepare the way of the Lord," You have come, O Lord, taking the form of a servant; and You Who are without sin ask for baptism. The waters saw You 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 Savior Who takes away the sin of the world, sanctify both me and the waters."

Now and ever, and to the ages of ages. Amen.

At the voice of one crying in the wilderness, saying, "Prepare the way of the Lord," You have come, O Lord, taking the form of a servant; and You Who are without sin ask for baptism. The waters saw You 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 Savior Who takes away the sin of the world, sanctify both me and the waters."

Prokeimenon

Tone 4

The voice of the Lord has thundered upon the many waters. (*cf. Psalm 28:3*)

I will love You, O Lord, my strength. (*Psalm 17:1*)

Prophecy

Isaiah 35:1-10

Deacon Wisdom!

The reading from the Prophecy of Isaiah.

Deacon Let us be attentive.

THUS SAYS THE LORD: The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom; it shall blossom abundantly like the crocus, 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, do not fear! 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 shall be unstopped; then the lame man shall leap like a hart, and the tongue of the dumb shall 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 shall become 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 blunder in it. 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 Sion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness, *and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.*

Epistle

Acts 13:25-32

Deacon Wisdom!

The reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

Deacon Let us be attentive.

IN THOSE DAYS, as 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, sons of the family of Abraham, and those among you that fear God: the message of this salvation has been sent to us. Because those who live in Jerusalem and their rulers did not recognize Him nor understand the utterances of the prophets which are read every Sabbath, they fulfilled these very same by condemning Him. Though they could charge Him with nothing deserving death, they nevertheless 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.

Gospel

Matthew 3:1-6

Deacon Wisdom. Rise. Let us hear the Holy Gospel.

Priest Peace be with all.

And with your spirit.

Priest The reading from the Holy Gospel of Matthew.

Deacon Let us be attentive.

Glory to You, O Lord, glory to You.

Priest IN THOSE DAYS 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 all the region about the Jordan, and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.

Glory to You, O Lord, glory to You.

Psalm Verses

Direct my steps according to Your saying, and let no iniquity have dominion over me. (*Psalm 118:133*)

Deliver me from the false accusation of men, and I will keep Your commandments. (*Psalm 118:134*)

Make Your face shine upon Your servant, and teach me Your statutes. (*Psalm 118:135*)

Let my mouth be filled with praise, that I may hymn Your glory and Your majesty all the day long. (*Psalm 70:7*)

Trisagion Prayers

Holy ✠ God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal, have mercy on us.

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Holy ✠ God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal, have mercy on us.

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

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

Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

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

Our Father, Who art in the heavens, 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 to the ages of ages.

Amen.

Kontakion

Tone 4

Today on the banks of the Jordan, • the Lord has appeared. • He cries out to John, • "do not be dismayed at baptizing me. • Indeed I have come • to save Adam, • the first to be created."

Prayer of the Hours

Lord, have mercy. *(40)*

O You Who at all times and at every hour are worshipped and glorified both in heaven and on earth, O Christ God; Who are long suffering and generous in mercy and compassion; Who love the just and show mercy to those hardened in sin; Who call all people to salvation through the promise of good things to come: receive, O Lord, our supplications at this time, and direct our lives according to Your commandments. Sanctify our souls; purify our bodies; set our minds aright; cleanse our thoughts; and deliver us from all calamity, wrath and distress. Surround us with Your holy Angels, so that guided and guarded by them we may attain the unity of the faith, and the comprehension of Your ineffable glory; for You are blessed to the ages of ages. Amen.

Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

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

More honorable than the Cherubim, and incomparably more glorious than the Seraphim, the one who incorruptibly gave birth to God the Word, truly the Theotokos, we magnify you.

In the name of the Lord, father, bless.

Priest May God be gracious to us and bless us and make His face to shine upon us, and be merciful unto us. *(Psalm 66:1)*

Amen.

Prayer at the First Hour

Priest O Christ the true Light Who enlightens and sanctifies every man that comes into the world: let the light of Your countenance be signed upon us, that in it we may see the unapproachable Light. Guide our steps in the way of Your commandments, through the intercessions of Your most-pure Theotokos and of all Your saints. Amen.

THE THIRD HOUR

Come, let us worship and fall down before ✠ God, our King.

Come, let us worship and fall down before ✠ Christ God, our King.

Come, let us worship and fall down before ✠ Christ Himself, our King and God.

Psalms 28, 41, and 50

Psalm 28

Bring unto the Lord, O you 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 to His name: worship the Lord in His holy court.

The voice of the Lord is upon the waters; the God of glory has 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 breaks the cedars, yes, 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 divides the flame of fire.

The voice of the Lord Who shakes the wilderness, yes, the Lord will shake the wilderness of Kaddis.

The voice of the Lord gathers the harts, and shall reveal the thickets of oak, and every man utters glory in His temple.

The Lord dwells in the flood, yes, the Lord shall sit as king unto the ages.

The Lord will give strength unto His people.

The Lord will bless His people with peace.

Psalm 41

As the hart pants after the fountains of water, so does my heart pant after You, O God.

My soul thirsted for the living God; when shall I come, and appear before the face of God?

My tears have been my bread by day and by night, while it is said to me daily: Where is your God?

I have remembered these things, 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, yes, with the sound of those who keep festival.

Why are you cast down, O my soul? And why do you disquiet me? Hope in God, for I will give thanks unto Him; He is the salvation of my countenance: my God.

Within me my soul has been troubled; therefore I will remember You from the land of Jordan and Mount Hermon, from the little mountain.

Deep calls unto deep, at the voice of Your cataracts; all Your billows and Your 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: You are my helper."

Why have You forgotten me? And for what purpose do I go with downcast face while my enemy afflicts me?

While my bones were broken, my enemies reproached me

While they said to me each day: Where is your God?

Why are you cast down, O my soul? And why do you 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 Your great mercy, and according to the multitude of Your compassions blot out my transgression.

Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin.

For I know my iniquity, and my sin is ever before me.

Against You only have I sinned, and have done evil in Your sight, that You may be justified in Your words, and be victorious when You are judged.

For behold, I was conceived in iniquities, and in sins did my mother bear me.

For behold, You have loved the truth; the hidden and secret things of Your wisdom You have made manifest to me.

Sprinkle me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be made whiter than snow.

Make me to hear joy and gladness; the bones that are humbled shall rejoice.

Turn Your face away from my sins, and blot out all my iniquities.

Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.

Do not cast me away from Your presence, and do not take Your Holy Spirit from me.

Restore the joy of Your salvation to me, and establish me with Your governing Spirit.

I shall teach transgressors Your ways, and the impious shall turn back to You.

Deliver me from bloodguilt, O God, the God of my salvation; my tongue shall rejoice in Your righteousness.

Lord, You shall open my lips, and my mouth shall declare Your praise.

For if You had desired sacrifice, I would have given it; with whole-burnt offerings You shall not be pleased.

A sacrifice to God is a broken spirit; a heart that is broken and humbled God will not reject.

Do good, Lord, in Your good pleasure to Sion, and let the walls of Jerusalem be built.

Then You shall be pleased with a sacrifice of righteousness, with oblation and whole-burnt offerings.

Then they shall offer young bulls upon Your altar.

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

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia; glory to You, O God.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia; glory to You, O God.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia; glory to You, O God.

Lord have mercy. Lord have mercy. Lord have mercy.

Troparion of the Forefeast

January 3 or 4

Tone 4

Joseph was amazed

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

Zabulon prepare yourself, and make ready, Naphthali; and you, O Jordan river • stand still to receive with joy • the Master coming to be baptized. • Rejoice, O Adam, • together with the first mother Eve; • do not hide yourselves, as you did before in paradise; • for having seen you naked, He appeared • in order to clothe you with the first raiment. • Christ has appeared, • wanting to renew the entire creation.

January 5

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The river Jordan was turned back at one time • by the sheepskin mantle of Elisha • when Elias ascended into heaven, • and the waters were divided to this side and that; • and the wet path became dry for him • thus becoming truly a symbol of baptism • through which we over the flowing stream • of life pass across • Christ appeared • in Jordan to sanctify its waters.

Theotokion

Now and ever, and to the ages of ages. Amen.

O Theotokos, you are the true vine that has blossomed forth the Fruit of life. We beseech you: intercede, O Lady, together with the holy apostles, that our souls may find mercy.

The Deacon censures the faithful with the katzíon.

Idiomela

Tone Plagal 4

The right hand of the Forerunner and Baptist, the prophet honored above all the prophets, trembled as he beheld You, the Lamb of God Who cleanses the sins of the world. Seized with agony, he cried, "I dare not touch Your head, O Word. But You, Yourself, in Your mercy sanctify and enlighten me; for You are the life and the light and the peace of the world."

(Again) **T**he right hand of the Forerunner and Baptist, the prophet honored above all the prophets, trembled as he beheld You, the Lamb of God Who cleanses the sins of the world. Seized with agony, he cried, "I dare not touch Your head, O Word. But You, Yourself, in Your mercy sanctify and enlighten me; for You are the life and the light and the peace of the world."

Tone 4

Therefore I will remember You from the land of Jordan and Mount Hermon. (Psalm 41:7)

The Trinity, our God, has made itself indivisibly manifest to us today. 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 sky; while the Son bent His immaculate head before the Forerunner, and by receiving baptism He delivered us from bondage, in His love for mankind.

The waters saw You, O God. (Psalm 76:15)

(Again) **T**he Trinity, our God, has made itself indivisibly manifest to us today. 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 sky; while the Son bent His immaculate head before the Forerunner, and by receiving baptism He delivered us from bondage, in His love for mankind.

Tone Plagal 1

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

You have come in the flesh to the Jordan, O Lord, desiring to receive baptism in the form of man, O Giver of Life, that You might enlighten us who have gone astray, delivering us in Your compassion from every device and snare of the dragon. Then the Father bore witness to You, and the divine Spirit in the form of a dove came down upon You. Make Your dwelling in our souls, O You Who love mankind.

Now and ever, and to the ages of ages. Amen.

(Again) **Y**ou have come in the flesh to the Jordan, O Lord, desiring to receive baptism in the form of man, O Giver of Life, that You might enlighten us who have gone astray, delivering us in Your compassion from every device and snare of the dragon. Then the Father bore witness to You, and the divine Spirit in the form of a dove came down upon You. Make Your dwelling in our souls, O You Who love mankind.

Prokeimenon

Tone 4

The waters saw You, O God. *(Psalm 76:15)*

The voice of the Lord is upon the waters. *(Psalm 28:3a)*

Prophecy

Isaiah 1:1-20

Deacon Wisdom!

The reading from the Prophecy of Isaiah.

Deacon Let us be attentive.

THUS SAYS THE LORD: 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.*

Epistle

Acts 19:1-8

Deacon Wisdom!

The reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

Deacon Let us be attentive.

IN THOSE DAYS, 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.

Gospel

Mark 1:1-8

Deacon Wisdom. Rise. Let us hear the Holy Gospel.

Priest Peace be with all.

And with your spirit.

Priest The reading from the Holy Gospel of Mark.

Deacon Let us be attentive.

Glory to You, O Lord, glory to You.

Priest 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 thong 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."

Glory to You, O Lord, glory to You.

Psalm Verses

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. (*Psalm 67:20-21*)

Trisagion Prayers

Holy ✠ God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal, have mercy on us.

Holy ✠ God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal, have mercy on us.

Holy ✠ God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal, have mercy on us.

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

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Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

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Our Father, Who art in the heavens, 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 to the ages of ages.

Amen.

Kontakion

Tone 4

Today on the banks of the Jordan, • the Lord has appeared. • He cries out to John, • "do not be dismayed at baptizing me. • Indeed I have come • to save Adam, • the first to be created."

Prayer of the Hours

Lord, have mercy. (40)

O You Who at all times and at every hour are worshipped and glorified both in heaven and on earth, O Christ God; Who are long suffering and generous in mercy and compassion; Who love the just and show mercy to those hardened in sin; Who call all people to salvation through the promise of good things to come: receive, O Lord, our supplications at this time, and direct our lives according to Your commandments. Sanctify our souls; purify our bodies; set our minds aright; cleanse our thoughts; and deliver us from all calamity, wrath and distress. Surround us with Your holy Angels, so that guided and guarded by them we may attain the unity of the faith, and the comprehension of Your ineffable glory; for You are blessed to the ages of ages. Amen.

Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

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

More honorable than the Cherubim, and incomparably more glorious than the Seraphim, the one who incorruptibly gave birth to God the Word, truly the Theotokos, we magnify you.

In the name of the Lord, father, bless.

Priest May God be gracious to us and bless us and make His face to shine upon us, and be merciful unto us. (*Psalm 66:1*)

Amen.

Prayer of Saint Mardarios

Priest O sovereign God, Father almighty; Lord only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ; and Holy Spirit, one God-head, one Power: have mercy on me the sinner; and save me, Your unworthy servant, according to Your judgments; for blessed are You to the ages of ages. Amen.

THE SIXTH HOUR

Come, let us worship and fall down before ✠ God, our King.

Come, let us worship and fall down before ✠ Christ God, our King.

Come, let us worship and fall down before ✠ Christ Himself, our King and God.

Psalms 73, 76, and 90

Psalm 73

O God, why have You cast us off unto the end? Why has Your anger raged against the sheep of Your pasture?

Remember Your congregation which You purchased from the beginning.

You have redeemed the rod of Your inheritance, this Mount Sion where You have dwelt.

Lift up Your hands against their pride at the end, against the things which the enemy has wickedly done in Your holy place.

And those who hate You have boasted in the midst of Your feast.

They set up their ensigns as signs, though they did not know it, as though for the departing on high.

As though in a forest of trees, they cut down the doors with axes, they have broken it down with two-edged axe and mason's hammer.

They have burned down Your sanctuary with fire, they have profaned the habitation of Your name even unto the ground.

They said in their heart, even the whole kindred of them together: Come, let us abolish all the feasts of God from the earth.

We have not seen their signs; there is no longer any prophet, and he will know us no more.

How long, O God, shall the enemy utter reproaches? Shall the adversary provoke Your name to the end?

Why do You turn away Your hand, and Your right hand out of the midst of Your bosom to the end?

But God is our King before the ages, He has worked salvation in the midst of the earth.

You established the sea by Your might, You broke the heads of dragons in the water.

You crushed the head of the dragon, You gave him as food to the Ethiopian people.

You have divided fountains and torrents, You have dried up the rivers of Etham.

Yours is the day and Yours is the night; You have perfected the light and the sun.

You have made all the borders of the earth; You have fashioned summer and spring.

Be mindful of this Your creation: The enemy has reproached the Lord, and a mindless people has provoked Your name.

Do not deliver the soul which confesses You unto beasts; do not be forgetful of the souls of Your paupers unto the end.

Look upon Your covenant, for the dark places of the earth are filled with the houses of iniquity.

Do not let the humbled and shamed man be turned away; the beggar and the poor man shall praise Your name.

Arise, O God, judge Your own cause; remember the reproach made against You by the mindless man all the day long.

Do not forget the voice of Your supplicants; the pride of those that hate You ascends continually.

Psalm 76

I have cried unto the Lord with my voice, with my voice unto God, and He was attentive unto me.

I sought out God in the day of my affliction, 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 spoke in idleness and my spirit became faint-hearted.

My eyes were wakeful before the watches; I was troubled and did not speak.

I thought upon the days of old, and I called to mind the years of ages past, and I meditated.

And I pondered in my heart, by night and my spirit searched diligently.

Will the Lord then cast me off unto the ages, and will He no longer be favorable?

Or will He cut off His mercy unto the end? Has He brought His word from generation to generation to an end?

Or will the Lord forget to be merciful? Or in His wrath will He shut off His compassions?

And I said: Now I have made a beginning; this change has been worked by the right hand of the Most High.

I remembered the works of the Lord; for I will remember Your wonders from the beginning.

And I will meditate on all Your works, and I shall ponder on Your ways.

O God, Your way is in the sanctuary: What God is as great as our God? You are the God Who works wonders.

You have made Your power known among the peoples; You have redeemed Your people, the sons of Jacob and Joseph, with Your arm.

The waters saw You, O God, the waters saw You and were afraid; the abysses were troubled.

Great was the resounding sound of the waters, the clouds gave forth a voice.

Yes, for Your arrows passed abroad; the voice of Your thunder is in their rolling.

And Your lightnings have lightened the world; the earth was shaken and it trembled.

Your byways are in the sea, and Your paths in many waters; and Your footsteps shall not be known.

You led Your people as sheep by the hand of Moses and Aaron.

Psalm 90

He who dwells in the help of the Most High shall abide in the shelter of the God of heaven.

He shall say to the Lord: You are my Helper and my Refuge, He is my God, and I will hope in Him.

For He shall deliver you from the snare of the hunters and from every troubling word.

He will overshadow you with His shoulders, and you shall have hope under His wings.

His truth will encompass You with a shield; you shall not be afraid of the terror by night, nor of the arrow that flies by day.

Nor of the thing that walks in darkness, nor of the mishap and demon of noonday.

A thousand may fall at your side, and ten thousand at your right hand, but it shall not come near to you.

You shall behold only with your eyes, and you shall see the reward of sinners.

For You, O Lord, are my Hope; You made the Most High your refuge.

No evils shall come near you, and no scourge shall draw near to your dwelling.

For He shall give His angels charge over you, to keep you in all your ways.

They shall bear you up on their hands, lest you dash your foot at any time against a stone.

You shall tread upon the asp and basilisk, and you shall trample upon the lion and the dragon.

For he has set his hope on Me, and I will deliver him; I will shelter him because he has known My name.

He shall cry to Me, and I will hear him; I am with him in affliction, and I will rescue him and glorify him.

I will satisfy him with length of days, and I will show him My salvation.

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

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia; glory to You, O God.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia; glory to You, O God.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia; glory to You, O God.

Lord have mercy. Lord have mercy. Lord have mercy.

Troparion of the Forefeast

January 3 or 4

Tone 4

Joseph was amazed

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

Zabulon prepare yourself, and make ready, Naphthali; and you, O Jordan river • stand still to receive with joy • the Master coming to be baptized. • Rejoice, O Adam, • together with the first mother Eve; • do not hide yourselves, as you did before in paradise; • for having seen you naked, He appeared • in order to clothe you with the first raiment. • Christ has appeared, • wanting to renew the entire creation.

January 5

Tone 4

Joseph was amazed

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

The river Jordan was turned back at one time • by the sheepskin mantle of Elisha • when Elias ascended into heaven, • and the waters were divided to this side and that; • and the wet path became dry for him • thus becoming truly a symbol of baptism • through which we over the flowing stream • of life pass across • Christ appeared • in Jordan to sanctify its waters.

Theotokion

Now and ever, and to the ages of ages. Amen.

Seeing that we have no boldness on account of our many sins, do you beseech Him that was born of you, O Virgin Theotokos; for the supplications of a Mother avail much to win the Master's favor. Disdain not the prayers of sinners, O all-pure one, for merciful and mighty to save is He, Who deigned also to suffer for our sake.

The Deacon censures the faithful with the katzíon.

Idiomela

Tone Plagal 4

Thus spoke the Lord to John: O Prophet, come and baptize Me Who created you, for I enlighten all men by grace and cleanse them. Touch My divine head and do not doubt. O Prophet, suffer it to be so at this time; for I have come to fulfill all righteousness. Be in no doubt at all; for I hasten to slay the enemy that is 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.

(Again) **T**hus spoke the Lord to John: O Prophet, come and baptize Me Who created you, for I enlighten all men by grace and cleanse them. Touch My divine head and do not doubt. O Prophet, suffer it to be

so at this time; for I have come to fulfill all righteousness. Be in no doubt at all; for I hasten to slay the enemy that is 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.

Tone Plagal 2

Therefore I will remember You from the land of Jordan and Mount Hermon. (Psalm 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, so that we, being washed clean from the defilement of idolatry, might be enlightened in our souls through Him.

Tone 4

The waters saw You, O God. (Psalm 76:15)

(Again) **T**oday 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, so that we, being washed clean from the defilement of idolatry, might be enlightened in our souls through Him.

Tone Plagal 1

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

Why do you turn back your waters, O Jordan? Why do you stop your streams, and why do you not proceed upon your natural course? I cannot bear the fire that consumes me, said the river. I am filled with wonder and with dread before His extreme condescension. For I am not used to wash Him Who is clean; I have not learned to bathe the sinless, but to purge 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, Who takes away the sin of the world." Let us the faithful cry aloud to Him, saying, O God Who are made manifest for our salvation, glory to You.

Now and ever, and to the ages of ages. Amen.

(Again) **W**hy do you turn back your waters, O Jordan? Why do you stop your streams, and why do you not proceed upon your natural course? I cannot bear the fire that consumes me, said the river. I am filled with wonder and with dread before His extreme condescension. For I am not used to wash Him Who is clean; I have not learned to bathe the sinless, but to purge 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, Who takes away the sin of the world." Let us the faithful cry aloud to Him, saying, O God Who are made manifest for our salvation, glory to You.

Prokeimenon

Tone 4

The voice of the Lord is upon the waters. *(Psalm 28:3a)*

Bring unto the Lord, you sons of Gods. *(Psalm 28:1a)*

Prophecy
Isaiah 12:3-6

Deacon Wisdom!

The reading from the Prophet Isaiah.

Deacon Let us be attentive.

THUS SAYS THE LORD: 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 Sion, *for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.*"

Epistle
Romans 6:3-11

Deacon Wisdom!

The reading from the Epistle of Paul to the Romans.

Deacon Let us be attentive.

BRETHREN: 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. For 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 that 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. 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.

Gospel
Mark 2:1-10

Deacon Wisdom. Rise. Let us hear the Holy Gospel.

Priest Peace be with all.

And with your spirit.

Priest The reading from the Holy Gospel of Mark.

Deacon Let us be attentive.

Glory to You, O Lord, glory to You.

Priest 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, "You are my beloved Son; in Whom I am well pleased."

Glory to You, O Lord, glory to You.

Psalm Verses

Let Your compassions quickly go before us, O Lord, for we are become exceedingly poor. Help us, O God our Savior, for the sake of the glory of Your name; O Lord deliver us and be gracious unto our sins for Your name's sake. (*Psalm 78:8-9*)

Trisagion Prayers

Holy ✠ God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal, have mercy on us.

Holy ✠ God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal, have mercy on us.

Holy ✠ God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal, have mercy on us.

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

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

Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

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

Our Father, Who art in the heavens, 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 to the ages of ages.

Amen.

Kontakion

Tone 4

Today on the banks of the Jordan, • the Lord has appeared. • He cries out to John, • "do not be dismayed at baptizing me. • Indeed I have come • to save Adam, • the first to be created."

Prayer of the Hours

Lord, have mercy. *(40)*

O You Who at all times and at every hour are worshipped and glorified both in heaven and on earth, O Christ God; Who are long suffering and generous in mercy and compassion; Who love the just and show mercy to those hardened in sin; Who call all people to salvation through the promise of good things to come: receive, O Lord, our supplications at this time, and direct our lives according to Your commandments. Sanctify our souls; purify our bodies; set our minds aright; cleanse our thoughts; and deliver us from all calamity, wrath and distress. Surround us with Your holy Angels, so that guided and guarded by them we may attain the unity of the faith, and the comprehension of Your ineffable glory; for You are blessed to the ages of ages. Amen.

Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

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

More honorable than the Cherubim, and incomparably more glorious than the Seraphim, the one who incorruptibly gave birth to God the Word, truly the Theotokos, we magnify you.

In the name of the Lord, father, bless.

Priest May God be gracious to us and bless us and make His face to shine upon us, and be merciful unto us. *(Psalm 66:1)*

Amen.

Prayer at the Sixth Hour of Saint Basil

Priest O God and Lord of hosts, O Maker of all creation, Who by the tender compassion of Your mercy which transcends comprehension, sent down Your only-begotten Son, our Lord Jesus Christ,

for the salvation of our race, and by His precious cross did tear asunder the handwriting of our sins, and thereby triumphed over the principalities and powers of darkness: You Yourself, O Master Who loves mankind, accept also from us sinners these prayers of thanksgiving and entreaty, and deliver us from every destructive and dark transgression, and from all enemies, both visible and invisible, that seek to do us evil. Nail down our flesh with the fear of You, and do not incline our hearts to words or thoughts of evil, but pierce our souls with longing for You, so that being guided by Your light as we behold You, the unapproachable and everlasting Light, we may send up unceasing praise and thanksgiving to You the unoriginate Father, with Your only-begotten Son, and Your all-holy and good and life-creating Spirit, now and ever, and to the ages of ages. Amen.

THE NINTH HOUR

Come, let us worship and fall down before ☩ God, our King.

Come, let us worship and fall down before ☩ Christ God, our King.

Come, let us worship and fall down before ☩ Christ Himself, our King and God.

Psalms 92, 113, and 85

Psalm 92

The Lord is King, He is clothed with majesty; the Lord is clothed with strength and He has girded Himself.

For He established the world which shall not be shaken.

Your throne is prepared of old; You are from the ages.

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.

Your testimonies are made very sure.

Holiness becomes Your house, O Lord, unto length of days.

Psalm 110

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 ails you, O sea, that you flee? And you, O Jordan, that you turned back?

O mountains, that you skipped like rams, and O hills like lambs of flocks?

Before the face of the Lord the earth was shaken, at the presence of the God of Jacob.

Who turns the rock into pools of waters, and the precipice into fountains of waters.

Not unto us, O Lord, not unto us, but unto Your name give glory, for Your mercy and Your truth.

Lest possibly the heathen say: Where is their God?

But our God is in heaven and on earth; He has done all things that He has willed.

The idols of the nations are of silver and gold, they are the works of the hands of men.

They have a mouth, but they shall not speak; they have eyes, but they shall not see; they have ears, and they shall not hear; they have noses, and they shall not smell; they have hands, and they shall not feel; they have feet, and they 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 has hoped in the Lord; He is their Helper and Defender.

The house of Aaron has hoped in the Lord; He is their Helper and Defender.

Those who fear the Lord have hoped in the Lord; He is their Helper and Defender.

The Lord is mindful of us and has blessed us.

He has blessed the house of Israel, He has blessed the house of Aaron.

He has blessed those who fear the Lord, the little with the great.

The Lord grant you increase, to you and to your children.

You are blessed of the Lord, Who made the heavens and the earth; the heaven of heaven belongs to the Lord, but He gave the earth to the sons of men.

The dead shall not praise You, O Lord, nor any who go down to Hades, but we the living will bless the Lord from henceforth and to the ages.

Psalm 85

Bow down Your ear, O Lord, and hear me, for I am poor and needy.

Preserve my soul, for I am holy; save Your servant, who hopes in You, my God.

Have mercy on me, O Lord, for I will cry to You all the day long; make the soul of Your servant glad, for I have lifted up my soul to You.

For You, O Lord, are good and gentle, and plenteous in mercy to all who call upon You.

Give ear to my prayer, O Lord, and attend to the voice of my supplication.

I have cried to You in the day of my affliction, for You have heard me.

There is none like You among the gods, O Lord, nor are there any works like Your works.

All the nations whom You have made shall come and shall worship before You, O Lord, and shall glorify Your name.

For You are great and work wonders; You alone are God.

Guide me, O Lord, in Your way, and I will walk in Your truth; let my heart rejoice that I may fear Your name.

I will confess You, O Lord my God, with all my heart, and I will glorify Your name to the ages.

For Your mercy is great upon me, and You have delivered my soul from the depths of Hades.

Transgressors have risen up against me, O God, and the assembly of the mighty has sought after my soul, and they have not set You before them.

But You, O Lord my God, are compassionate and merciful, long-suffering and plenteous in mercy, and true.

Look on me, and have mercy on me; give Your strength to Your servant, and save the son of Your handmaiden.

Work in me a sign to good; and let those who hate me behold, and be put to shame, for You, O Lord, have helped me and comforted me.

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

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia; glory to You, O God.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia; glory to You, O God.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia; glory to You, O God.

Lord have mercy. Lord have mercy. Lord have mercy.

Troparion of the Forefeast

January 3 or 4

Tone 4

Joseph was amazed

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

Zabulon prepare yourself, and make ready, Naphthali; and you, O Jordan river • stand still to receive with joy • the Master coming to be baptized. • Rejoice, O Adam, • together with the first mother Eve; • do not hide yourselves, as you did before in paradise; • for having seen you naked, He appeared • in order to clothe you with the first raiment. • Christ has appeared, • wanting to renew the entire creation.

January 5

Tone 4

Joseph was amazed

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

The river Jordan was turned back at one time • by the sheepskin mantle of Elisha • when Elias ascended into heaven, • and the waters were divided to this side and that; • and the wet path became dry for him • thus becoming truly a symbol of baptism • through which we over the flowing stream • of life pass across • Christ appeared • in Jordan to sanctify its waters.

Theotokion

Now and ever, and to the ages of ages. Amen.

You were born of a Virgin and endured crucifixion, O good One; You crushed death by Your death, and being God brought forth the resurrection. Do not turn away from those whom You have created; instead reveal unto them Your love for mankind, and accept as an intercessor the Virgin Theotokos who gave You birth, and save, O our Savior, a desperate people.

The Deacon censens the faithful with the katzion.

Idiomela

Grave Tone

It is a strange wonder to see the Maker of heaven and earth standing naked in the river, receiving baptism for our salvation from a servant as though He Himself were a servant. The choirs of angels were filled with amazement, fear, and joy. Joining with them, we worship You: O Lord, save us.

(Again) **I**t is a strange wonder to see the Maker of heaven and earth standing naked in the river, receiving baptism for our salvation from a servant as though He Himself were a servant. The choirs of angels were filled with amazement, fear, and joy. Joining with them, we worship You: O Lord, save us.

Therefore I will remember You from the land of Jordan and Mount Hermon. (Psalm 41:7)

When he saw the Lord of glory draw near to Him, the Forerunner cried out: "Behold, here is He Who redeems the world from corruption. Behold, here is He Who delivers us from affliction. Behold, 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 light to mankind through the water of His divine baptism. Come, then, let us glorify Him with one accord, together with the Father and the Holy Spirit."

The waters saw You, O God. (Psalm 76:15)

(Again) **W**hen he saw the Lord of glory draw near to Him, the Forerunner cried out: "Behold, here is He Who redeems the world from corruption. Behold, here is He Who delivers us from affliction. Behold, 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 light to mankind through the water of His divine baptism. Come, then, let us glorify Him with one accord, together with the Father and the Holy Spirit."

Tone Plagal 1

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

The Kanonarch sings the following in a melodious voice from the center of the solea, facing the Royal Doors.

With your hand, you have touched the immaculate head of the Master, ...

(Repeat) **W**ith your hand, you have touched the immaculate head of the Master, ...

(Repeat) **W**ith your hand, you have touched the immaculate head of the Master, ...

... and with the finger of that hand, you have shown Him to us; on our behalf, O Baptist, stretch out that same hand over Him, for you have great boldness before Him. To you He bore witness, that you are greater than all the prophets. With your own eyes you have beheld the Holy Spirit descending in the form of a dove. Lift up those same eyes towards Him, O Baptist, and make Him merciful toward us.

And come and stand with us, ...

(Repeat) **A**nd come and stand with us, ...

(Repeat) **A**nd come and stand with us, ...

... setting the seal upon our song and beginning our feast.

Prokeimenon

Tone 4

The Lord is my Light and my Savior. *(Psalm 26:1a)*

The Lord is the Defender of my life. *(Psalm 26:1b)*

Prophecy
Isaiah 49:8-15

Deacon Wisdom!

The reading from the Prophet Isaiah.

Deacon Let us be attentive.

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,' and to those who are in darkness, 'Appear.' They shall feed along the ways, their pasture shall be on all bare heights; they shall not hunger nor thirst, neither scorching wind nor sun shall smite them, for He who has pity on them will lead them, and will guide them by springs of water. And I will make all my mountains a way, and my highways shall be raised up. Behold, these shall come from afar, and behold, these from the north and from the west, and these from the land of Persia." 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 Sion said, "The Lord has forsaken me, my Lord has forgotten me." 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, says the Lord almighty.*

Epistle

Titus 2:11-14, 3:4-7

Deacon Wisdom!

The reading from the Epistle of Paul to Titus.

Deacon Let us be attentive.

TITUS MY CHILD, 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. But 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.

Gospel

Luke 3:1-18

Deacon Wisdom. Rise. Let us hear the Holy Gospel.

Priest Peace be with all.

And with your spirit.

Priest The reading from the Holy Gospel according to Luke.

Deacon Let us be attentive.

Glory to You, O Lord, glory to You.

Priest IN THE FIFTEENTH YEAR of the reign of Tiberius Caesar, Pontius Pilate being governor of Judea, and Herod being tetrarch of Galilee, and his brother Philip tetrarch of the region of Iturea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias tetrarch of Abilene, in the high-priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John the son of Zachariah in the wilderness; and he went into all the region about the Jordan, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. As it is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet, "The voice of one crying in the wilderness: Prepare the way of the Lord, make His paths straight. Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be brought low, and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough ways shall be made smooth; and all flesh shall see the salvation of God." He said therefore to the multitudes that came out to be baptized by him, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruits that befit

repentance, and do not begin to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our father'; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the axe is laid to the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire." And the multitudes asked him, "What then shall we do?" And he answered them, "He who has two coats, let him share with him who has none; and he who has food, let him do likewise." Tax collectors also came to be baptized, and said to him, "Teacher, what shall we do?" And he said to them, "Collect no more than is appointed you." Soldiers also asked him, "And we, what shall we do?" And he said to them, "Rob no one by violence or by false accusation, and be content with your wages." As the people were in expectation, and all men questioned in their hearts concerning John, whether perhaps he were the Christ, John answered them all, "I baptize you with water; but He Who is mightier than I is coming, the thong 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.

Glory to You, O Lord, glory to You.

Verses

For the sake of Your holy name, do not deliver us up utterly, neither disannul Your covenant, and do not cause Your mercy to depart from us, for the sake of Abraham Your beloved, and for the sake of Isaac Your servant, and for the sake of Israel Your holy one. (*Daniel 3:34-35*)

Trisagion Prayers

Holy ✠ God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal, have mercy on us.

Holy ✠ God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal, have mercy on us.

Holy ✠ God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal, have mercy on us.

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

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

Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

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

Our Father, Who art in the heavens, 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 to the ages of ages.

Amen.

Kontakion

Tone 4

Today on the banks of the Jordan, • the Lord has appeared. • He cries out to John, • "do not be dismayed at baptizing me. • Indeed I have come • to save Adam, • the first to be created."

Prayer of the Hours

Lord, have mercy. (40)

O You Who at all times and at every hour are worshipped and glorified both in heaven and on earth, O Christ God; Who are long suffering and generous in mercy and compassion; Who love the just and show mercy to those hardened in sin; Who call all people to salvation through the promise of good things to come: receive, O Lord, our supplications at this time, and direct our lives according to Your commandments. Sanctify our souls; purify our bodies; set our minds aright; cleanse our thoughts; and deliver us from all calamity, wrath and distress. Surround us with Your holy Angels, so that guided and guarded by them we may attain the unity of the faith, and the comprehension of Your ineffable glory; for You are blessed to the ages of ages. Amen.

Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

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

More honorable than the Cherubim, and incomparably more glorious than the Seraphim, the one who incorruptibly gave birth to God the Word, truly the Theotokos, we magnify you.

In the name of the Lord, father, bless.

Priest May God be gracious to us and bless us and make His face to shine upon us, and be merciful unto us. (Psalm 66:1)

Amen.

Prayer of Saint Basil

Priest Master, Lord Jesus Christ, our God, Who are long-suffering in the face of our transgressions, and Who has brought us even to this present hour, wherein You hung upon the life-giving tree, and did make a way into paradise for the wise thief, and by death did destroy death: be gracious to us sinners and Your unworthy servants; for we have sinned and committed iniquity, and are not worthy to lift up our eyes and behold the height of heaven, for we have abandoned the way of Your righteousness, and have walked in the desires of our hearts. But we beseech Your boundless goodness: spare us, Lord, according to the multitude of Your mercy and save us for Your holy name's sake; for our days are consumed in vanity. Rescue us from the hand of the adversary, and forgive us our sins, and mortify our carnal mind; that, putting aside the old man, we may be clad with the new, and live for You, our Master and Benefactor; and that thus by following in Your commandments, we may attain to rest everlasting, wherein is the dwelling-place of all those who rejoice. For You are indeed the true joy and gladness of those who love You, Christ our God, and to You we send up glory, with Your unoriginate ✠ Father, and Your most-holy and good and life-creating Spirit, now and ever, and to the ages of ages. Amen.

Small Dismissal

Priest Glory to You, O God, our hope, glory to You.

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

Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

Holy father, bless.

Priest **M**ay Christ our true God, through the intercessions of His all-pure and all-blameless holy Mother; of the holy, glorious, and all-praiseworthy Apostles; of *(the patron of the temple)*; of the holy and righteous ancestors of God, Joachim and Anna; ...

January 3 ... of Malachi the Prophet (†400 BC), and of Gordios the Martyr (†4th cent.). ...

January 4 ... of the Holy 70 Apostles whose Synaxis we celebrate, and of the Venerable Theoktistos (†800) ...

January 5 of Theopemptos and Theonas the Martyrs (†303), and of the Venerable Synkletike (†350) ...

... whom we commemorate, and of all the saints: have mercy on us and save us, for He is a good and loves mankind.

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

Amen.



To God be the glory.