

ROYAL HOURS

EVE OF THE THEOPHANY OF OUR LORD AND SAVIOR,
JESUS CHRIST

First Hour

About the second hour of the day — eight o'clock in the Morning on the Eve of the Theophany of Christ. If The Eve of the Theophany falls on a Saturday or a Sunday, the Royal Hours are read on the preceding Friday. In such a case, the Divine Liturgy is not celebrated on Friday.

PRIEST: **BLESSÈD IS OUR GOD...**

READER: Amen. Glory to Thee, our God, Glory to Thee.

O Heavenly King, Comforter, Spirit of Truth; Who art everywhere and fillest all things. Treasury of Blessings, and Giver of Life: Come and abide in us, and cleanse us from every impurity, and save our souls, O Good One.

Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal, have mercy on us. (*THRICE WITH REVERENCES*)

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

Most Holy Trinity have mercy on us; Lord, cleanse our sins; Master, pardon our transgressions; Holy One, visit and heal our infirmities, for Thy Name's sake.

Lord have mercy. (*THRICE*)

Glory..., now, and ever... Amen.

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

PRIEST: **FOR THINE IS THE KINGDOM...**

READER: Amen. Lord have mercy. (*12 TIMES*)

Glory..., now, and ever... Amen.

Come, let us worship God our King! Come, let us worship and fall down before Christ, our King and our God! Come, let us worship and fall down before Christ Himself, our King and our God! (*WITH 3 REVERENCES*)

Psalm 5

Give ear to my words, O Lord,
And hearken to my prayer.
Attend to the voice of my supplication,
O my King and God —

For unto Théé, Lord, will I pray:

ROYAL HOURS

(THEOPHANY EVE)

Thou shalt hear my voice in the morning;
 In the morning shalt Thou behold me
 As I stand before Thee, Lórd.

For Thou art not a God that loveth wickedness,
 Nor can evil dwell beside Thee.
 Transgressors shall not stand before Thine eyes —
 For Thou hatest all who work iniquity.

Thou shalt destroy all those who speak a lie;
 The bloodthirsty and deceitful man shall the Lord abhor.
 But as for me, I shall enter into Thy House in the abundance of Thy mercy;
 And shall worship before Thy Holy Temple in the fear of Thee.

Lead me in Thy righteousness, O Lord;
 Make straight my way before Thee in the face of all mine enemies;
 For in their mouth there is no justice,
 And their heart is full of sin —

Their throat is like an open grave, and their mouth, it does deceive.
 Judge thém, O God, let thér own thoughts condemn them.
 Cast them out with the multitude of their transgressions,
 For they have risen up against Thee.

Then shall all who trust in Thee rejoice;
 They shall ever shout for joy —
 For Thou shalt dwell among them,
 And all they that love Thy Name shall be glorified in Thee,

For Thou, O Lord, wilt bless the righteous;
 Thou shalt crown us with Thy favor,
 And shall adorn us with Thy loving kindness
 As with a perfect shield.

Psalm 22 (23)

The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want
 He maketh me to lie down in green pastures:
 He leadeth me beside the still waters.
 He restoreth my soul:

He leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for His Name's sake.
 Yea though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,
 I will fear no evil for Thou art with me;

Thy rod and Thy staff they comfort me.

Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies;
Thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.
Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life;
And I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

Psalm 26 (27)

The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom then shall I fear?
The Lord is the defender of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?
When the wicked drew near to me to eat up my flesh,
My persecutors and mine enemies they fainted and fell.

Though an army should array itself against me,
My heart shall not fear:
Though in war they should rise up against me,
In this am I sure.

One thing have I asked of the Lord,
And this will I earnestly seek:
That I should dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life,
To contemplate His holy temple and behold the fair beauty of the Lord.

For in His sanctuary shall He hide me
In my day of trouble;
And in the secret of His tabernacle;
Shall He grant me shelter and lift me high up on a rock

And my head shall be lifted high above mine enemies.
I will go 'round and offer in His sanctuary
A sacrifice with shouts of joy.
Yea, I will sing and praise the Lord.

Hear, O Lord, my voice when I cry;
Have mercy upon me and hearken unto me.
My heart said to Thee, "I have diligently sought Thy face:
Thy face, O Lord, I will seek.

Turn not Thy face away from me,
Turn not Thou away from Thy servant in anger:
But be Thou Lord, my helper and reject me not;
Forsake me not, O God of my salvation!

ROYAL HOURS

(THEOPHANY EVE)

For my father and my mother have forsaken me,
 But the Lord has taken me to Himself.
 Teach me, O Lord, in Thy way, and guide me in the right path
 Because of all mine enemies.

Deliver me not over to the desire of them that afflict me;
 For unjust witnesses have risen up against me,
 And injustice has deceived itself.
 I believe that I shall see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living.

O wait on the Lord
 And be of good courage.
 O let thy heart be strengthened,
 Wait, I say, on the Lord.

Gloria..., now, and ever... Amen.

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

Lord have mercy. (**THRICE**)

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

Troparion of the Forefeast

Tone 4

- ▶ The river Jordan once turned back the mantle of Elisha /
 After Elijah had been taken up into heaven /
 And the waters were divided on this side and on that /
 The stream became a dry path before him /
 Forming a true figure of the baptism whereby we pass over the
 changeful course of life. /
 Christ has appeared in the Jordan ///
 To sanctify the waters.

READER: Now, and ever... Amen.

[Theotokion]

What shall we call thee, O Full of Grace? Heaven — for thou didst shine forth the Sun of Righteousness; Paradise — for thou hast blossomed forth the Flower of Incorruption; Virgin — for thou hast remained undefiled; Pure Mother — for thou hast held in thy holy embrace the Son, Who is God of all. Beseech thou Him to save our souls.

[Now, the following Stikhera]:

Tone 8

- ▶ Today the nature of the waters is **sanctified** /
And the Jordan is **parted** in two: /
It holds back the **stream** of its own **waters** ///
Seeing the Master **wash** Himself. (twice)

vs: Therefore will I remember Thee from the land of Jordan and of the Hermonites.

- ▶ O **Christ** the King, Thou hast come unto the **river** as a man, /
And in Thy **goodness** /
Thou dost make haste to receive the baptism of a servant at the **hands** of the Forerunner /
For the **sake** of our sins, ///
O Thou who lovest **man**kind.

vs: The waters saw Thee, O God, the waters saw Thee and were afraid.

- ▶ O **Christ** the King... ***[Repeat]***

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

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

Now, and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

- ▶ At the **voice** of one crying... ***[Repeat]***

[Immediately, the Prokeimenon is announced]:

ROYAL HOURS

(THEOPHANY EVE)

READER: The Prokeimenon in the 4th Tone:

The Lord thundered upon many waters / the voice of Thy thunder was in the heaven.

vs: I will love Thee, O Lord my strength: the Lord is my support, my refuge, and my deliverer.

DEACON: WISDOM!

READER: The Reading from the Prophecy of Isaiah. (Isaiah 35:1-10)

DEACON: LET US ATTEND.

READER:

Thus saith the Lord: Be glad, thou thirsty desert: let the wilderness exult and flower as the lily. And the desert places of Jordan shall blossom and rejoice; the glory of Lebanon has been given to it, and the honor of Carmel; and my people shall see the glory of the Lord, and the majesty of God. Be strong, ye weak hands and feeble knees. Comfort one another, ye fainthearted; be strong, fear not; behold, our God renders judgment, and He will render it; He will come and save us. Then shall the eyes of the blind be opened, and the ears of the deaf shall hear. Then shall the lame man leap as a hart, and the tongue of the stammerers shall speak plainly; for water has burst forth in the desert, and a stream of water in a thirsty land. And the dry land shall become a pool, and a fountain of water shall be

poured into the thirsty land; there shall there be a joy of birds, ready habitations and marshes. Then shall be there a pure way, and it shall be called a holy way; and then shall not pass by there any unclean person, neither shall there be there an unclean way; but the dispersed shall walk on it, and they shall not go astray. And then shall be no lion there, neither shall any evil beast go up upon it, nor at all be found there; but the redeemed and gathered on the Lord's behalf, shall walk in it, and shall return, and come to Zion with joy, and everlasting joy shall be over their head; for on their head shall be praise and exultation, and joy shall take possession of them: sorrow and pain, and groaning shall flee away.

DEACON: WISDOM!

READER: The Reading from the Acts of the Holy Apostles

(Pericope 33; Acts 13:25-33)

DEACON: LET US ATTEND.

READER:

In those days as John was finishing his course, he said, 'I am not He Whom ye think me to be. But behold, there comes One after me, the shoes of whose feet I am not worthy to loose.' Men and brethren, children of the stock of Abraham, and those among you who fear God, to you the word of this salvation is sent. For they that dwell at Jerusalem, and their rulers, because they did not know Him, nor even the voices of the prophets which are read every Sabbath, have fulfilled them in condemning Him. And though they found no cause for death in Him, they

asked Pilate that He should be put to death. And when they had fulfilled all that was written concerning Him, they took Him down from the tree and laid Him in a tomb. But God raised Him from the dead. And He was seen for many days by them that came up with Him from Galilee to Jerusalem, who to this present time are His witnesses to the people. And we declare unto you glad tidings — that the promise which was made to the fathers, God has fulfilled for us their children, in that He hath raised up Jesus.

DEACON: *THAT WE MAY BE ACCOUNTED WORTHY TO HEAR THE **HOLY GOSPEL**, LET US PRAY TO THE **LORD GOD**.*

CHOIR: Lord have mercy. (*THRICE*)

DEACON: *WISDOM! STAND ARIGHT! LET US HEAR THE **HOLY GOSPEL!***

PRIEST: *PEACE BE UNTO ALL!*

CHOIR: And to thy spirit.

PRIEST: *THE **READING IS FROM THE HOLY GOSPEL ACCORDING TO ST. MATTHEW.***

CHOIR: Glory to Thee O Lord, glory to Thee.

DEACON: *LET US ATTEND!*

[Now, the Priest reads from the Holy Gospel: (Pericope 5; Matthew 3:1-11)]

CHOIR: Glory to Thee O Lord, glory to Thee.

[And the Reader continues]:

READER: Order my steps in Thy word, and let not any iniquity have dominion over me. Deliver me from the treachery of men: and I shall keep Thy commandments. Show the light of Thy countenance upon Thy servant; and teach me Thy statutes.

ROYAL HOURS

(THEOPHANY EVE)

Let my mouth be filled with Thy praise, O Lord: that I may sing of Thy glory and majesty all the day long!

Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal, have mercy on us. (*THRICE WITH REVERENCES*)

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

Most Holy Trinity have mercy on us; Lord, cleanse our sins; Master, pardon our transgressions; Holy One, visit and heal our infirmities, for Thy Name's sake.

Lord have mercy. (*THRICE*)

Glory..., now, and ever... Amen.

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

PRIEST: ***FOR THINE IS THE KINGDOM...***

CHOIR: Amen.

Kontakion

Tone 4 (*TROPAR TONE*)

- When the Lord **descen**ded today /
 Into the waters of the **Jor**dan, /
 He cried **alou**d to John, /
 "Be not afraid to **bapti**ze Me, ///
 For I am come to save Adam, the **first-form**ed man."

READER: Lord, have mercy. (**40 TIMES**)

Thou Who at all times, and at every hour, both in heaven and on earth art worshipped and glorified, O Christ God, long-suffering and plenteous in mercy and compassion; Who lovest the just and showest mercy to those who are hardened in sin; Who callest all to salvation through the promise of good things to come: O Lord, in this hour receive our supplications and direct our lives according to Thy commandments. Sanctify our souls; purify our bodies; set aright our minds; cleanse our thoughts; and deliver us from all calamity, evil and

distress. Compass us 'round about with Thy holy angels; that, guided and guarded by their host, we may attain to the unity of the faith and the knowledge of Thine unapproachable glory. For blessed art Thou unto ages of ages. Amen.

Lord, have mercy. (**THRICE**)

Glory..., now, and ever... Amen.

More honorable than the Cherubim, and more glorious, beyond compare than the Seraphim, without corruption thou gavest birth to God the Word, true Theotokos, we magnify thee.

In the Name of the Lord, Father (**MASTER**) bless!

PRIEST: **GOD BE MERCIFUL TO US AND BLESS US, AND SHOW THE LIGHT OF THY COUNTEenance UPON US, AND HAVE MERCY ON US.**

READER: Amen.

PRIEST: **O CHRIST THE TRUE LIGHT THAT ENLIGHTENS AND SANCTIFIES EVERY MAN THAT COMETH INTO THE WORLD; LET THE LIGHT OF THY COUNTEenance BE SIGNED UPON US, THAT IN IT WE MIGHT BEHOLD THE UNAPPROACHABLE LIGHT. GUIDE OUR FOOTSTEPS IN THE KEEPING OF THY COMMANDMENTS, BY THE PRAYERS OF THY MOST PURE MOTHER AND OF ALL THY SAINTS. AMEN.**

Third Hour

READER: Come, let us worship God our King! Come, let us worship and fall down before Christ, our King and our God! Come, let us worship and fall down before Christ Himself, our King and our God! (**WITH 3 REVERENCES**)

Psalm 28 (29)

Offer to the Lord, O ye sons of God,
Offer young rams to the Lord;
Offer to the Lord glory and honor.
Offer to the Lord the glory due unto His Name!

Worship the Lord in the beauty of His holiness.
The voice of the Lord is upon the waters:
The God of glory thunders:
The Lord is upon many waters!

ROYAL HOURS

(THEOPHANY EVE)

The voice of the Lord is mighty;
 The voice of the Lord is full of majesty.
 There is the voice of the Lord who breaks the cedars;
 The Lord will break the cedars of Lebanon!

He maketh them also be consumed like a calf,
 So will the Beloved do even to Lebanon;
 The voice of the Lord divideth a flame of fire.
 The voice of the Lord shaketh the wilderness;

The Lord will shake the wilderness of Kadesh.
 The voice of the Lord maketh the hinds to calve,
 And strips the forests bare
 While in His temple all shall speak of His Glory!

The Lord shall dwell upon the waters:
 And the Lord shall sit a King for ever.
 The Lord shall give strength to His people;
 The Lord shall bless His people with peace.

Psalm 41 (42)

As the hart earnestly desires the fountains of water,
 So my soul longs after Thee, O God.
 My soul thirsts for the living God:
 When shall I come and appear before Thee, God?

My tears have been my bread both day and night,
 While they continually said unto me, "Where is thy god?"
 When I remember these things,
 I pour out my soul in me:

For I will go to the place of Thy wondrous Tabernacle
 With a voice of joy and praise,
 And with the sound of those who keep festival.
 Why art thou cast down, O my soul?

And wherefore dost thou trouble me?
 Hope, my soul, in God:
 For I shall give thanks to Him
 For His is the salvation of my countenance.

O my God, my soul has been troubled within me:

Therefore will I remember Thee from the land of Jordan,
And of the Hermonites,
And from the hill Mizár.

Deep calleth to deep at the voice of Thy torrents;
And Thy waves and Thy billows are gone over me.
Yet the Lord will command His mercy in the daytime,
And it shall be manifest by night,

For with me is prayer to the God of my life.
I will say unto God, "Thou art my helper,
Why hast Thou forgotten me?" Why do I go sad and mourning
While the enemy oppresses me?

While my bones were breaking,
They that afflicted me reproached me:
While they said unto me daily,
"Where is he, thy god?"

Why art thou cast down, O my soul?
And wherefore dost thou trouble me?
Hope, my soul, in God: for I shall give thanks unto Him
For He is the health of my countenance and He is my God.

Psalm 50 (51)

Have mercy on me, O God,
According to Thy great mercy;
And according to the multitude of Thy compassions
Blot out my transgressions.

Wash me thoroughly from mine iniquity,
And cleanse me from my sin.
For I know my transgressions:
And my sin is ever before me.

Against Thee only have I sinned,
And done that which is evil in Thy sight:
That Thou mayest be justified in Thy sayings,
And victorious when Thou dost judge.

Behold, I was conceived in iniquities,
And in sins did my mother bear me.

ROYAL HOURS

(THEOPHANY EVE)

For behold, Thou lovest truth:
And the secrets of Thy Wisdom Thou hast made known to me.

Thou shalt sprinkle me with hyssop, and I shall be clean:
Thou shalt wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.
Thou shalt make me hear of joy and gladness;
That the bones which Thou hast humbled may rejoice.

Turn Thy face away from my sins,
And blot out all mine iniquities.
Create in me a clean heart, O God,
And renew a right spirit within me.

Cast me not away from Thy presence,
And take not Thy Holy Spirit from me.
Restore to me the joy of Thy salvation,
And uphold me with Thy ruling Spirit.

Then shall I teach transgressors Thy ways,
And the godless shall return to Thee.
Deliver me from blood-guiltiness, O God, Thou God of my salvation:
And my tongue shall rejoice in Thy righteousness.

O Lord, open Thou my lips,
And my mouth shall show forth Thy praise.
For if Thou hadst desired a sacrifice,
Then would I have given it.

But Thou hast no delight in whole-burnt offerings.
The sacrifice acceptable to God is a broken spirit:
A broken and contrite heart, O God,
Thou wilt not despise.

Do good, O Lord, to Zion in Thy good pleasure
And let the walls of Jerusalem be built.
Then shalt Thou be pleased with the sacrifice of righteousness,
with oblations and whole-burnt offerings;
Then shall they offer bullocks upon Thine altar!

Glorious..., now, and ever... Amen.

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

Lord have mercy. (**THRICE**)

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

Troparion of the Forefeast

Tone 4

- ▶ The river Jordan once turned back the mantle of Elisha /
After Elijah had been taken up into heaven /
And the waters were divided on this side and on that /
The stream became a dry path before him /
Forming a true figure of the baptism whereby we pass over the
changeful course of life. /
Christ has appeared in the Jordan ///
To sanctify the waters.

READER: Now, and ever... Amen.

[Theotokion]

O Theotokos, thou art the true vine who didst bud forth for us the Fruit of Life:
We pray thee, O Lady, intercede together with the apostles and all the saints,
that He will have mercy on our souls.

[Now, the following Stikhera]:

Tone 8

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

vs: Therefore will I remember Thee from the land of Jordan and of the
Hermonites.

Tone 4

- ▶ The Trinity, our God, today has made Itself indivisibly manifest to us. /
For the Father in a loud voice bore clear witness to His Son; /
The Spirit in the form of a dove came down from the sky: /

ROYAL HOURS

(THEOPHANY EVE)

While the Son bent His immaculate head before the Forerunner, /
 And by receiving baptism He delivered us from bondage ///
 In His love for mankind.

vs: The waters saw Thee, O God, the waters saw Thee and were afraid.

► The Trinity, our God... **[Repeat]**

Glory... :

Tone 5

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

Now, and ever ... Amen.

► **Desiring** to receive... **[Repeat]**

[Immediately, the Prokeimenon is announced]:

READER: The Prokeimenon in the 6th Tone:

The waters saw Thee, O God, / the waters saw Thee and were afraid.

vs: I cried to the Lord with my voice, Yea, my voice was a prayer unto God and
 He gave ear unto me.

DEACON: WISDOM!

READER: The Reading from the Prophecy of Isaiah. (Isaiah 1: 16-20)

DEACON: LET US ATTEND.

READER:

Thus saith the Lord: Wash yourselves and be clean; remove your iniquities from your souls and from before mine eyes; cease to do evil. Learn to do well; diligently seek judgment, deliver him that has suffered wrong, plead for the orphan, and obtain justice for the widow. Come now, and let us reason together, saith the Lord: and though

your sins be as scarlet, I shall make them whiter than snow; and though they be red like crimson, I shall make them white as wool. And if ye be willing and if ye hearken unto Me, ye shall eat the good of the land; but if ye be not willing, nor hearken unto Me, a sword shall devour you: for the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it.

DEACON: **WISDOM!**

READER: **The Reading from the Acts of the Holy Apostles.** (Peric. 42; Acts 19:1-8)

DEACON: **LET US ATTEND.**

READER:

And it came to pass, while Apollos was at Corinth, that Paul, having passed through the upper regions, came to Ephesus. And finding some disciples he said unto them, "Have you received the Holy Spirit since ye believed?" And they said unto him, "We have not so much as heard whether there be any Holy Spirit." And he said unto them, "Unto what then were ye baptized?" And they said, "Unto the baptism of John." Then said Paul, "John truly baptized with a baptism of repentance, saying unto

the people that they should believe on Him who would come after him, that is, on Christ Jesus." When they heard this, they were baptized in the Name of the Lord Jesus. And when Paul had laid his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came upon them, and they spoke with tongues and prophesied. Now the men were about twelve in all. And he went into the synagogue and spoke boldly for three months, reasoning and persuading concerning the things of the Kingdom of God.

DEACON: **THAT WE MAY BE ACCOUNTED WORTHY TO HEAR THE *HOLY GOSPEL*...**

CHOIR: Lord have mercy. (***THRICE***)

DEACON: **WISDOM! STAND ARIGHT! LET US HEAR...**

PRIEST: **PEACE BE UNTO ALL!**

CHOIR: And to thy spirit.

PRIEST: **THE READING IS FROM THE *HOLY GOSPEL* ACCORDING TO **ST. MARK.****

CHOIR: Glory to Thee...

ROYAL HOURS

(THEOPHANY EVE)

CHOIR: Glory to Thee O Lord, glory to Thee.**DEACON:** *LET US ATTEND.***[Now, the Priest reads from the Holy Gospel: (Pericope 1; Mark 1:1-8)]****CHOIR:** Glory to Thee O Lord, glory to Thee.**[And the Reader continues]:**

Blessèd be the Lord God;
 Blessèd be the Lord from day to day;
 And may the God of our salvation prosper us,
 For He is our God, the God of salvation!

Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal, have mercy on us. (THRICE WITH REVERENCES)

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

Most Holy Trinity have mercy on us; Lord, cleanse our sins; Master, pardon our
 transgressions; Holy One, visit and heal our infirmities, for Thy Name's sake.

Lord have mercy. (**THRICE**)

Glory..., now, and ever... Amen.

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

PRIEST: *FOR THINE IS THE KINGDOM...***CHOIR:** Amen.**Kontakion****Tone 4** (TROPAR TONE)

- When the Lord **descended** today /
 Into the waters of the **Jordan**, /
 He cried **aloud** to John, /
 "Be not afraid to **baptize** Me, ///
 For I am come to save Adam, the **first-formed** man."

READER: Lord, have mercy. (**40 TIMES**)

Thou Who at all times, and at every hour, both in heaven and on earth art worshipped and glorified, O Christ God, long-suffering and plenteous in mercy and compassion; Who lovest the just and showest mercy to those who are hardened in sin; Who callest all to salvation through the promise of good things to come: O Lord, in this hour receive our supplications and direct our lives according to Thy commandments. Sanctify our souls; purify our bodies; set aright our minds; cleanse our thoughts; and deliver us from all calamity, evil and distress. Compass us 'round about with Thy holy angels; that, guided and guarded by their host, we may attain to the unity of the faith and the knowledge of Thine unapproachable glory. For blessed art Thou unto ages of ages. Amen.

Lord, have mercy. (**THRICE**)

Glory..., now, and ever... Amen.

More honorable than the Cherubim, and more glorious, beyond compare than the Seraphim, without corruption thou gavest birth to God the Word, true Theotokos, we magnify thee.

In the Name of the Lord, Father (**MASTER**) bless!

PRIEST: **GOD BE MERCIFUL TO US AND BLESS US, AND SHOW THE LIGHT OF THY
COUNTEenance UPON US, AND HAVE MERCY ON US.**

READER: Amen.

O God the Master, Father Almighty, O Lord, Jesus Christ, the Only-begotten Son, and Thou, O Holy Spirit, One Godhead, One Power: Have mercy upon me a sinner, and by Thy divine judgments save me, Thine unworthy servant; for blessed art Thou unto ages of ages. Amen.

Sixth Hour

READER: Come, let us worship God our King! Come, let us worship and fall down before Christ, our King and our God! Come, let us worship and fall down before Christ Himself, our King and our God! (**WITH 3 REVERENCES**)

Psalm 73 (74)

O God, why dost Thou cast us off?

Forever?

Why is Thy wrath kindled up against the sheep of Thy pasture?

ROYAL HOURS

(THEOPHANY EVE)

Remember Thy congregation, which Thou hast purchased of old;
 Thou didst ransom the rod of Thine inheritance,
 This mount Zion, wherein Thou dost dwelt.
 O lift up Thine hands against their pride;
 Because of all wickedness that the enemy hath done in Thy sanctuary.

And they that hate Thee have boasted in the midst of Thy feast;
 They have set their standards and their signs
 Ignorantly, as it were,
 In the entrances above.

And they cut down its doors at once with axes as if in a forest of trees;
 They have broken it down with their hatchets and hammers.
 They have burnt it down to the ground.
 And they have profaned the habitation of Thy Name

And in their hearts they said,
 Let us destroy all their kindred together,
 Come, let us abolish all the feasts of the Lord
 From the face of the earth!

Oh, we have ignored the signs:
 And there are no longer any prophets:
 And God will not know us any no longer.
 How long, O God, shall the enemy reproach us?

Shall the enemy blaspheme Thy Name, forever?
 Wherefore turnest Thou away Thine hand,
 Even Thy right hand
 From the midst of Thy bosom, forever?

But God is our King before the ages,
 He hath wrought salvation in the midst of the earth.
 Thou didst establish the sea in Thy might:
 Thou didst break to pieces the heads of the dragons in the waters.

Thou didst break the head of the dragon to pieces,
 And didst give him for meat to the hungry.
 Thou didst cleave the fountains and the waters:
 And Thou didst dry up mighty courses of the rivers.

The day is Thine — the night is also Thine;
 Thou hast prepared both the sun and the moon.

Thou hast established the borders of the land and the earth:
Thou hast made both the summer and spring.

Remember this, Thy creation,
For an enemy hath reproached Thee, Lord;
And a foolish people hath provoked Thy Name.
O deliver not the souls that praise Thee over to the wild beasts —

Forget not Thy poor for ever and look down upon Thy covenant
For the dark places of the earth are filled with the dens of iniquity.
O reject not the afflicted and oppressed:
Let the poor and the needy give praise to Thy Name.

Arise, O God, and plead Thy cause:
Remember how the foolish reproach Thee all the day long.
O forget not the voice of Thine enemies,
That the pride of them that hate Thee may continually ascend before Thee.

Psalm 76 (77)

I cried aloud with my voice to the Lord,
With my voice to God, and he heard me.
I sought God in the day of my affliction
With my hands uplifted in the night before Him, and was not deceived

When my soul refused to be comforted
I remembered God and was made glad:
When still I was not content —
My soul lost courage.

All mine enemies had set a watch against me
I was so troubled that I could not speak.
I considered long those days of old,
And remembered ancient years.

And as I meditated in the night,
I communed with my heart
And I diligently searched my spirit saying:
Will the Lord cast off forever?

And will He be well pleased no more?
Is His mercy gone forever? Even for ever and evermore?
Will God forget to have pity?

ROYAL HOURS

(THEOPHANY EVE)

Or will He shut up His compassions in His wrath?

And I said, "Now have I begun to see;

And now I see mine own infirmity!"

Long will I remember the right hand of the Lord Most High!

I will remember all the works of the Lord:

For I will remember all of Thy wonders

From the very beginning

And I will meditate upon all Thy doings,

And will consider all of Thy works.

Thy way, O God, is in the sanctuary:

Who is so great a God as our God?

Thou art the God that doest wonders:

Thou hast made known Thy power among the people!

Thou hast redeemed with Thine arm Thy people,

The sons of Jacob and Joseph.

The waters saw Thee, O God,

The waters saw Thee and were afraid:

The depths were also troubled.

There was an abundant sound of waters:

The clouds had uttered loud their voice,

For Thine arrows went forth swiftly —

And the voice of Thy thunder was in the whirlwind.

Thy lightning lighted up the world,

The earth, it trembled

And it shook.

Thy way is in the sea, and Thy paths in many waters,

So that Thy footsteps can not be known,

Thou Who by the hand of Moses and Aaron

Hast lead thy people like a flock.

Psalm 90 (91)

He that dwelleth in the aid of the Most High

Shall abide under the protection of the God of heaven.

He shall say to the Lord, Thou art my protector

And my refuge, my God. In Him will I trust!

For He shall deliver thee from the snare of the hunter and from every trouble.
He shall defend thee under His pinions,
And thou shalt find refuge under His wings,
And His truth shall cover thee as with a shield.

Thou shalt not be afraid for any terror by night,
Nor of the arrow that flieth by day;
Nor the pestilence that walketh in darkness,
Nor the demon that destroyeth at noonday.

A thousand shall fall beside thee,
And ten thousand at thy right hand,
But it shall not come near thee.
Yea, with thine eyes shalt thou behold and see the recompense of the wicked.

For thou, O Lord, art my hope,
Thou, my soul, hast made the Most High, thy habitation.
Therefore, no evil shall befall thee,
And no scourge shall come near thy tent.

For He shall give His angels charge over thee,
To keep thee in all thy ways.
They shall bear thee up in their hands,
Lest thou dash thy foot against a stone.

Thou shalt tread upon the asp and basilisk,
The lion and the dragon shalt thou trample underfoot.
“Because he hath set his love upon Me,
Therefore will I deliver him;

I will protect him, because he hath known My Name.
He shall call upon Me, and I will hear him:
I will be with him in trouble; I will deliver him, and glorify him;
With long life will I satisfy him, and show him My salvation.”

Glory..., now, and ever... Amen.

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

Lord have mercy. (**THRICE**)

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

Troparion of the Forefeast

Tone 4

- The river Jordan once turned back the mantle of Elisha /
 After Elijah had been taken up into heaven /
 And the waters were divided on this side and on that /
 The stream became a dry path before him /
 Forming a true figure of the baptism whereby we pass over the
 changeful course of life. /
 Christ has appeared in the Jordan ///
 To sanctify the waters.

READER: Now, and ever... Amen.

[Theotokion]

As there is no boldness in us because of the multitude of our sins, do thou, O Virgin Theotokos, intercede with the Son whom thou hast borne; for the entreaty of a mother has great power to win the favor of the Master. Despise not, O Pure One, the prayers of us sinners, for He Who graciously deigned to suffer for us is merciful and strong to save.

[Now, the following Stikhera]:

Tone 8

- Thus spake the Lord to John: /
 "O Prophet, come and baptize Me who created thee. /
 For I enlighten all men by grace and cleanse them. /
 Touch My divine head and doubt not. /
 O Prophet, suffer it to be so now, /
 For I have come to fulfill all righteousness. /
 Be in no doubt at all, /
 For I am in haste to slay the enemy hidden in the waters, /
 The prince of darkness, /
 That I may now deliver the world from his snares, ///
 Granting eternal life in My love for mankind." **(twice)**

vs: Therefore will I remember Thee from the land of Jordan and of the Hermonites.

Tone 6

- ▶ Today the prophecy of the psalms swiftly approaches its fulfillment /
The sea **saw** it and fled /
The Jordan was driven back before the **face** of the Lord /
Before the face of the God of **Jacob** /
When He came to receive baptism from His **servant**, /
That we, washed clean from the defilement of **idolatry** ///
Through Him might be **enlightened** in our souls.

vs: The waters saw Thee, O God, the waters saw Thee and were afraid.

- ▶ Today the prophecy... **[Repeat]**

Glory... :

Tone 5

- ▶ **Why** dost thou turn back thy waters, O **Jordan**? /
Why dost thou **stop** thy streams? /
And **why** dost thou not proceed upon thy **natural** course? /
“I cannot **bear**”, said he, “the Fire that **consumes** me. /
I am filled with wonder and with dread before His extreme
 condescension. /
For **I** am not used to wash **Him** that is clean, /
I have not **learned** to bathe the **sinless**, /
But to purge the filthy **vessels**. /
Christ who is baptized in me teaches me to burn the **thorns** of sin. /
John, the voice of the Word bears witness with **me** and cries: /
‘Behold the Lamb of God, who takest away the **sin** of the world.’ /
Unto **Him** let us the faithful **cry** aloud: ///
O God who art made manifest for our **salvation**, **Glory** to Thee!

Now, and ever ... Amen.

- ▶ **Why** dost thou turn back... **[Repeat]**

[Immediately, the Prokeimenon is announced]:

ROYAL HOURS

(THEOPHANY EVE)

READER: The Prokeimenon in the 4th Tone:

The voice of the Lord is upon the waters / the God of glory thundered, the Lord is upon many waters.

vs: Offer to the Lord, O ye sons of God, offer young rams to the Lord.

DEACON: WISDOM!

READER: The Reading from the Prophecy of Isaiah. (Isaiah 12: 3-6)

DEACON: Let us attend.

READER:

Thus saith the Lord: Draw ye therefore water out of the wells of salvation with joy. And in that day ye shall say, Sing to the Lord! Call aloud His Name! Proclaim His glorious deeds among the gentiles and declare that His

Name is exalted! Sing praises to the Lord for He hath done excellent things: declare this to the ends of the earth! Exalt and rejoice, ye that dwell in Zion: for the Holy One of Israel is in the midst of thee.

DEACON: WISDOM!

READER: The Reading from the Epistle of the Holy Apostle Paul to the Romans. (Pericope 91; Rom 6:3-11)

DEACON: LET US ATTEND.

READER:

Brethren, as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? Therefore we were buried with Him by baptism into death, that like as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. For if we have been planted together in the likeness of His death, certainly we also shall be in the likeness of His Resurrection: knowing this, that our old man is crucified with Him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that we should no longer

be enslaved to sin. For he that is dead is freed from sin. Now if we be dead with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with Him: knowing that Christ, rising from the dead, dieth no more. Death hath no more dominion over Him. For in that He died to sin, He died once; but in that He lives, He lives unto God. Likewise, reckon yourselves also to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Christ Jesus our Lord.

DEACON: *THAT WE MAY BE ACCOUNTED WORTHY TO HEAR THE **HOLY GOSPEL...***

CHOIR: Lord have mercy. (*THRICE*)

DEACON: ***WISDOM! STAND ARIGHT! LET US HEAR THE **HOLY GOSPEL!*****

PRIEST: ***PEACE BE UNTO ALL!***

CHOIR: And to thy spirit.

PRIEST: ***THE READING IS FROM THE **HOLY GOSPEL ACCORDING TO **ST. MARK.*******

CHOIR: Glory to Thee O Lord, glory to Thee.

DEACON: ***LET US ATTEND.***

[Now, the Priest reads from the Holy Gospel: (Pericope 2; Mark 1:9-11)]

CHOIR: Glory to Thee O Lord, glory to Thee.

[And the Reader continues]:

Let Thy tender mercies, O Lord, speedily go before us, for we are become exceedingly poor. Help us, O God our Savior, for the glory of Thy Name; O Lord, deliver us and purge away our sins for Thy Name's sake.

Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal, have mercy on us. (*THRICE WITH REVERENCES*)

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

Most Holy Trinity have mercy on us; Lord, cleanse our sins; Master, pardon our transgressions; Holy One, visit and heal our infirmities, for Thy Name's sake.

Lord have mercy. (*THRICE*)

Glory..., now, and ever... Amen.

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

PRIEST: ***FOR THINE IS THE KINGDOM...***

CHOIR: Amen.

ROYAL HOURS

(THEOPHANY EVE)

CHOIR: Amen.**Kontakion****Tone 4** (*TROPAR TONE*)

- When the Lord descended today /
 Into the waters of the Jordan, /
 He cried aloud to John, /
 “Be not afraid to baptize Me, ///
 For I am come to save Adam, the first-formed man.”

READER: Lord, have mercy. (**40 TIMES**)

Thou Who at all times, and at every hour, both in Heaven and on earth art worshipped and glorified, O Christ God, long-suffering and plenteous in mercy and compassion; Who lovest the just and showest mercy to those who are hardened in sin; Who callest all to salvation through the promise of good things to come: O Lord, in this hour receive our supplications and direct our lives according to Thy commandments. Sanctify our souls; purify our bodies; set aright our minds; cleanse our thoughts; and deliver us from all calamity, evil and distress. Compass us ‘round about with Thy holy angels; that, guided and guarded by their host, we may attain to the unity of the faith and the knowledge of Thine unapproachable glory. For blessed art Thou unto ages of ages. Amen.

Lord, have mercy. (**THRICE**)

Glory..., now, and ever... Amen.

More honorable than the Cherubim, and more glorious, beyond compare than the Seraphim, without corruption thou gavest birth to God the Word, true Theotokos, we magnify thee.

In the Name of the Lord, Father (**MASTER**) bless!

PRIEST: **GOD BE MERCIFUL TO US AND BLESS US, AND SHOW THE LIGHT OF THY
 COUNTENANCE UPON US, AND HAVE MERCY ON US.**

READER: Amen.

O God, the Lord of hosts, and Author of all creation, Who in Thine ineffable tender mercy hast sent down Thine Only-begotten Son, our Lord Jesus Christ for the salvation of our kind, and through His Precious Cross didst destroy the

handwriting of our sins, and didst thereby triumph over the princes and dominions of darkness. Do Thou, the same Lord, Who lovest mankind, accept also these prayers of thanksgiving and supplication even from us sinners, and deliver us from every deadly and dark transgression, and from all the visible and invisible enemies who seek to do us harm. Nail down our flesh with the fear of Thee, and incline not our hearts to evil words or thoughts, but wound our souls with longing for Thee, that ever gazing upon Thee, and being guided by thy Light and beholding Thee, the Unapproachable and Everlasting Light, we may send up unceasing praise and thanksgiving unto Thee, the Father without beginning, together with Thine Only-begotten Son, and Thine All-holy, Good and Life-creating Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Ninth Hour

READER: Come, let us worship God our King! Come, let us worship and fall down before Christ, our King and our God! Come, let us worship and fall down before Christ Himself, our King and our God! (*WITH 3 REVERENCES*)

Psalm 92 (93)

The Lord is King; He is robed in majesty.
The Lord is robed; He is girded with strength,
For He hath established the world so that it shall never be moved.
Thy throne is established of old and Thou art from everlasting.

The rivers have lifted up, O Lord,
The rivers have lifted up their voice;
At the voice of many waters,
Wonderous are the billows of the sea

And wonderous is the Lord on High.
Thy testimonies are made very sure:
Holiness befits Thy house, O Lord,
Forevermore.

Psalm 113 (114)

When Israel went forth from Egypt,
The house of Jacob from a barbarian people;
Judah became His sanctuary, and Israel His dominion.
The sea looked and fled; Jordan turned back.

ROYAL HOURS

(THEOPHANY EVE)

The mountains skipped like rams,
And the hills like little lambs.
What ails thee, O sea, that thou hast fled?
And thee, O Jordan, that thou hast turned back?

Ye mountains, that skipped like rams;
And ye little hills, like little lambs?
The earth trembled at the presence of the Lord,
At the presence of the God of Jacob,
Who turned the rock into pools of water,
And the flint into fountains of waters.
Not unto us, O Lord, not unto us, but to the glory of Thy Name,
For the sake of Thy mercy and truth.

Lest any of the nations should ever say:
“Where is now their god?”
But our God is in heaven and on earth:
And He doeth whatever He pleaseth.

The idols of the nations are silver and gold,
And are the work of the hands of men.
They have a mouth, but they cannot speak:
Eyes, but they cannot see:

They have ears, but they cannot hear:
Noses, but they cannot smell:
They have hands, but they cannot handle:
Feet, but they cannot walk: neither can they speak through their throat.

Let those that make them become like them;
And all of them that trust in them.
But the house of Israel trusts in the Lord:
He is their helper and defender.

The house of Aaron, trusts in the Lord:
He is their helper and defender.
They that fear the Lord, trust in the Lord:
For He is their helper and defender.

The Lord, He hath remembered us and blessed us;
He hath blessed the house of Israel;
He hath blessed the house of Aaron.
He hath blessed them all that fear the Lord, both small and great.

The Lord shall add blessings to you and to your children.
 Blessèd are ye of the Lord
 Who made both the heaven and the earth.
 The heaven of the heavens, are also of the Lord:
 But He hath given the earth to the sons of men.
 The dead shall not praise Thee, O Lord, neither any that go down into Sheol.
 But we will bless the Lord from this time forth,
 From henceforth and for evermore!

Psalm 85 (86)

Bow down Thine ear, O Lord, and hearken unto me:
 For I am poor and needy.
 Preserve my soul; for in áwe I worship Thee:
 O my God, save Thy servant that puts his trust in Thee.

Be merciful unto me, Lord:
 For I call upon Thee all the day long.
 Comfort the soul of Thy servant:
 For unto Thee, O Lord, do I lift up my soul.

For Thou, O Lord, art good, and gracious;
 And of great mercy to all that call upon Thee.
 Give ear, O Lord, unto my prayer;
 And attend to the voice of my supplications.

I will call upon Thee in the day of trouble:
 For Thou wilt answer me.
 There is none like Thee among the gods, O Lord;
 Neither are there any works like Thine.

All the nations whom Thou hast made
 Shall come and worship Thee, O Lord;
 They shall glorify Thy Name.
 For Thou art great, and doest wónders — Thou alóne art God!

Teach me Thy way, O Lord;
 And I shall walk in Thy truth:
 Let my heart rejoice to fear Thy Name.
 And I will give thanks to Thee, O Lord, with my whole heart:

I will praise Thy Name for ever.
 For great is Thy mercy toward me:

ROYAL HOURS

(THEOPHANY EVE)

And Thou hast delivered my soul
From the nethermost hell.

O God, the lawless have risen against me,
And the assemblies of the violent
Have sought after my soul;
They have not set Thee before them.

But Thou, O Lord, art compassionate and gracious,
Long-suffering, most merciful and true.
Look upon me, and have mercy on me;
Give Thy strength unto Thy servant, and save the son of Thy handmaiden.

Work in me a sign for good;
May those who hate me may see it, and be put to shame:
For Thou, O Lord, hast helped me,
Thou didst comfort me, O Lord.

Glory..., now, and ever... Amen.

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

Lord have mercy. (**THRICE**)

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

Troparion of the Forefeast

Tone 4

- ▶ The river Jordan once turned back the mantle of Elisha /
After Elijah had been taken up into heaven /
And the waters were divided on this side and on that /
The stream became a dry path before him /
Forming a true figure of the baptism whereby we pass over the
changeful course of life. /
Christ has appeared in the Jordan ///
To sanctify the waters.

READER: Now, and ever... Amen.

[Theotokion]

O Thou, Who for our sake wast born of a Virgin, and didst suffer crucifixion, O
Good One, and didst despoil death by death, and as God, didst reveal the

Resurrection: O despise not those whom Thou hast fashioned with Thine own hand; show forth Thy love for mankind, O Merciful One; accept the Theotokos who gave birth to Thee, and who intercedes for us; and save Thy despairing people, O our Savior.

[Now, the following Stikhera]:

Tone 7

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

vs: Therefore will I remember Thee from the land of Jordan and of the Hermonites.

Tone 2

- ▶ When he saw the Lord of glory draw **near** to him /
the Forerunner **cried** out: /
“Lo, **here** is He who redeems the world from **corruption**. /
Lo, here is He who delivers us from **affliction**. /
Lo, here is He who in mercy has come forth upon earth from
a pure **Virgin** /
Granting remission of sins. /
Instead of servants He makes us the **sons** of God /
Instead of darkness, He gives **mankind** light, /
Through the **water** of His divine **baptism**.” /
Come ye, then and let us with one accord **glorify** Him ///
Together with the Father and the Holy **Spirit**.

vs: The waters saw Thee, O God, the waters saw Thee and were afraid.

- ▶ When he saw the Lord... ***[Repeat]***

Glory..., Now and ever.... Amen.

ROYAL HOURS

(THEOPHANY EVE)

Tone 5

- With Thine **hand** hast thou hast touched the immaculate
 head of the **Master** / (3 TIMES)
 And with the **finger** of that hand thou hast **shown** Him to us, /
 On our behalf, O **Baptist** /
 Stretch **out** that same **hand** over Him /
 For **thou** hast great boldness **before** Him. /
 To thee He bore **witness**, /
 That **thou** art greater than all the **prophets**. /
 With thine own **eyes** hast thou beheld the Holy **Spirit** /
 Descending in the **form** of a dove. /
 Lift **up** those same eyes toward Him, O **Baptist** /
 And make Him **merciful towards** us. /
 Come and **stand** with us /
Come and **stand** with us /
 Come and **stand** with us ///
 Setting the seal upon our **song** and **beginning** our feast.

[Immediately, the Prokeimenon is announced]:

READER: The Prokeimenon of Prophecy in the 3rd Tone:

The Lord is my light and my salvation / **whom** then shall I fear?

vs: The Lord is the defender of my life, of whom shall I be afraid?

DEACON: WISDOM!

READER: The Reading from the Prophecy of Isaiah. (Isaiah 49:8-15)

DEACON: LET US ATTEND.

READER:

Thus saith the Lord: In a time acceptable to thee, and in a day of salvation have I helped thee and have preserved thee, and have given thee for a covenant of the nations to establish the earth and to cause thee to inherit the inheritance of the desert, saying to them that were in bonds: Go

ye forth to them that are in darkness, Show yourselves. They shall be fed in all the ways, and in the paths shall be their pastures. They shall not hunger, neither shall they thirst; neither shall the heat nor the sun smite them: but He that hath mercy on them shall lead them, even by the springs of water

shall He lead them. And I will make all my mountains a way, and every path a pasture to them. Behold, these shall come from afar: and these from the north and from the west; and others from the land of Persia. Let the heavens rejoice and the earth be glad; let the mountains break forth with joy, for the Lord hath shown mercy to His

people, and hath comforted the lowly and afflicted. But Zion said, "The Lord, He hath forsaken me, the Lord, He hath forgotten me." Can a woman forget her suckling child, so as not to have compassion on the offspring of her womb? But if a woman should forget even these, yet I will not forget thee. Thus saith the Lord Almighty.

DEACON: *WISDOM!*

READER: **The Reading from the Epistle of the Holy Apostle Paul to Titus.**

(Pericope 302; Titus 2:11-14; 3:4-7)

DEACON: *LET US ATTEND.*

READER:

My son Titus, the grace of God that bringeth salvation has appeared to all men, teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world, looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us all iniquity, and purify unto Himself His own people, zealous of good works.

But when the kindness and the love of God our Savior toward man appeared, not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit, Whom He poured out on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Savior, that having been justified by His grace we should become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

DEACON: *THAT WE MAY BE ACCOUNTED WORTHY TO HEAR THE **HOLY GOSPEL...***

CHOIR: Lord have mercy. (*THRICE*)

DEACON: *WISDOM! STAND ARIGHT! LET US HEAR...*

PRIEST: *PEACE BE UNTO ALL!*

CHOIR: And to thy spirit.

PRIEST: *THE READING IS FROM THE **HOLY GOSPEL ACCORDING TO ST. LUKE.***

CHOIR: Glory to Thee O Lord, glory to Thee.

DEACON: *Let us attend.*

ROYAL HOURS

(THEOPHANY EVE)

DEACON: *LET US ATTEND.***[Now, the Priest reads from the Holy Gospel: (Pericope 6; Matthew 3:13-17)]****CHOIR:** Glory to Thee O Lord, glory to Thee.**[And the Reader continues]:****READER:** Forsake us not utterly, for Thy Name's sake, neither break Thy covenant; nor take Thy mercies away from us, for the sake of Abraham whom Thou lovest, and for the sake of Isaac Thy servant, and of Israel, Thy holy one.**Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal, have mercy on us. (THRICE WITH REVERENCES)**

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

Most Holy Trinity have mercy on us; Lord, cleanse our sins; Master, pardon our transgressions; Holy One, visit and heal our infirmities, for Thy Name's sake.

Lord have mercy. **(THRICE)**

Glory..., now, and ever... Amen.

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

PRIEST: *FOR THINE IS THE KINGDOM...***CHOIR:** Amen.**Kontakion****Tone 4** (TROPAR TONE)

- ▶ When the Lord descended today /
- Into the waters of the Jordan, /
- He cried aloud to John, /
- "Be not afraid to baptize Me, ///
- For I am come to save Adam, the first-formed man."

READER: Lord, have mercy. **(40 TIMES)**

Thou Who at all times, and at every hour, both in heaven and on earth art worshipped and glorified, O Christ God, long-suffering and plenteous in mercy and compassion; Who lovest the just and showest mercy to those who are hardened in sin; Who callest all to salvation through the promise of good things to come: O Lord, in this hour receive our supplications and direct our lives according to Thy commandments. Sanctify our souls; purify our bodies; set aright our minds; cleanse our thoughts; and deliver us from all calamity, evil and distress. Compass us 'round about with Thy holy angels; that, guided and guarded by their host, we may attain to the unity of the faith and the knowledge of Thine unapproachable glory. For blessed art Thou unto ages of ages. Amen.

Lord, have mercy. (*THRICE*)

Glory..., now, and ever... Amen.

More honorable than the Cherubim, and more glorious, beyond compare than the Seraphim, without corruption thou gavest birth to God the Word, true Theotokos, we magnify thee.

In the Name of the Lord, Father (*MASTER*) bless!

PRIEST: *GOD BE MERCIFUL TO US AND BLESS US, AND SHOW THE LIGHT OF THY COUNTEenance UPON US, AND HAVE MERCY ON US.*

READER: Amen.

O Master, Lord Jesus Christ our God, Who art long-suffering toward our sins, and Who hast led us even to this present hour, in which Thou didst hang upon the life-giving Tree, and didst make a way into Paradise for the penitent thief, and didst destroy death by death: Cleanse us sinners and unworthy servants; for we have sinned and have done iniquity, and are not worthy to lift up our eyes and look upon the heights of heaven, for we have abandoned the way of righteousness and have walked after the desires of our own hearts. But we implore of Thy boundless goodness: Spare us, O Lord, according to the multitude of Thy mercies, and save us, for Thy holy Name's sake; for our days have passed away in vanity. Rescue us from the hand of the adversary, and forgive us all our sins, and mortify our carnal imagination; that putting off the old man we may be clothed with the new man, and may live for Thee, our Master and Benefactor; and that so following after thy commandments, we may attain unto rest eternal, where is the abode of all those who rejoice. For Thou art, indeed, the true joy and gladness of those who love Thee, O Christ our God, and unto Thee we ascribe glory, together with the Father, Who is without beginning,

and Thine All-holy, Good and Life-creating Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

The Typical Psalms

READER: Bless the Lord, O my soul; Blessèd art Thou, O Lord!

Psalm 102 (103)

Bless the Lord, O my soul:
And all that is within me, bless His Holy Name.
Bless the Lord, O my soul,
And forget not áll that He hath done for thee.

Who forgiveth all thine iniquities,
Who healeth all thy infirmities.
Who redeemeth thy life from corruption,
Who crowneth thee with mercy and compassion.

Who fulfilleth thy desire with good things,
So that thy youth shall be renewed like the eagle's.
The Lord showeth deeds of mercy
And executeth judgment for all that are oppressed.

He made His way known unto Moses
And His will to the children of Israel.
The Lord is compassionate and gracious,
Long-suffering and plenteous in mercy.

He will not bé always angry,
Neither will He be wroth with us forever.
He hath not dealt with us according to our sins
Nor hath He rewarded us according to our iniquities.

For as high as the heavens are above the earth,
So great is His mercy toward them that fear Him.
As far as the east is from the west,
So far hath He removed our transgressions away from us.

Like as a father that hath compassion on his children,
So the Lord hath compassion on those who fear Him.
For well He knoweth our nature,
And remembereth well that we are dust.

As for man, his days are as the grass —
 For he doth flourish as a flower in the field;
 And once the spirit that is within him passes, he is gone;
 And the place where he grew knoweth him no more.

But the mercy of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting unto
 those who fear Him,
 And His righteousness is upon their children's children;
 Unto such as keep His covenant,
 And to those who remember to do His commandments.

The Lord hath prepared His throne in the heavens,
 And His Kingdom ruleth over all.
 Bless the Lord, O ye angels of His, mighty in strength,
 Who perform His word, and hearken to the voice of His command.

Bless the Lord, all ye His Hosts;
 All ye ministers of His, all ye who do His will.
 Bless the Lord, all ye works of His, and in all places of His dominion.
 Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless His Holy Name!

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

Psalm 145 (146)

Praise the Lord, O my soul!
 I will praise the Lord for as long as I live;
 I will sing praises to my God while I have being.
 Put not your trust in princes, in sons of men, in whom there is no salvation.

When his breath departs he returns to his earth;
 On that very day his plans perish.
 Blesséd is he whose help is the God of Jacob,
 Whose hope is in the Lord his God,

Who made heaven and earth, the sea, and all things that are in them;
 Who keepeth truth unto eternity;
 Who giveth nourishment to the hungry;
 And justice to the oppressed.

The Lord freeth them that are in fetters;
 The Lord giveth wisdom to the blind.

ROYAL HOURS

(THEOPHANY EVE)

The Lord raiseth them that have been cast down;
The righteous are beloved of the Lord.

The Lord giveth shelter to the strangers,
And refuge to the orphan and the widow;
But the way of the wicked shall perish.
The Lord shall reign forever, thy God, O Zion, to all generations.

Now, and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Only-begotten Son and Immortal Word of God, Who for our salvation didst will to be incarnate of the Holy Theotokos and Ever-Virgin Mary, Who without change didst become man and wast crucified, O Christ our God, trampling down death by death, Who art One of the Holy Trinity, glorified with the Father and the Holy Spirit, save us!

The Beatitudes

Remember us, O Lord, when Thou comest into Thy Kingdom.

Blesséd are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blesséd are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.

Blesséd are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.

Blesséd are those who hunger and thirst after righteousness, for they shall be filled.

Blesséd are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy.

Blesséd are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.

Blesséd are the peacemakers, for they shall be called the sons of God.

Blesséd are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the Kingdom of heaven.

Blesséd are you when men shall revile you and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely for My sake.

Rejoice and be exceedingly glad, for great is your reward in Heaven.

Glory...., now and ever.... Amen.

Remember us, O Lord, when Thou comest into Thy Kingdom. **(REVERENCE)**

Remember us, O Master, when Thou comest into Thy Kingdom. (REVERENCE)

Remember us, O Holy One, when Thou comest into Thy Kingdom. (REVERENCE)

The heavenly choir sings Thy praises, crying: "Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord of Sabaoth! Heaven and earth are full of Thy glory!"

vs: Draw near to Him and be enlightened, and your faces shall not be ashamed.

The heavenly choir sings Thy praises, crying: "Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord of Sabaoth! Heaven and earth are full of Thy glory!"

Glory..., now and ever.... Amen.

The choir of angels and archangels with all the hosts of heaven sings Thy praises, crying: "Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord of Sabaoth! Heaven and earth are full of Thy glory!"

The Creed

[[If the Divine Liturgy follows, the Creed IS NOT read].

I Believe in One God, the Father Almighty; maker of heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible. And in One Lord, Jesus Christ, the Son of God, the Only-begotten; Begotten of the Father before all ages. Light of Light, True God of True God; Begotten not made; of One Essence with the Father, by Whom all things were made; Who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven, and was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary, and became man. And He was crucified for us under Pontius Pilate, and suffered, and was buried; and the third day He rose again, according to the Scriptures; and ascended into heaven, and sits at the right hand of the Father; and He shall come again with glory to judge the living and the dead; Whose Kingdom shall have no end. And in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the Giver of Life, Who proceeds from the Father; Who with the Father and the Son together is worshipped and glorified; Who spoke by the Prophets. In One, Holy, Catholic, and Apostolic Church; I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins. I look for the Resurrection of the dead, and the Life of the world to come. Amen.

Loose, remit, and pardon, O God, our sins both voluntary and involuntary, in thought, word, or deed, in knowledge or in ignorance, committed by day or by night, in mind, or by intention: forgive them all for Thou art good and lovest mankind.

ROYAL HOURS

(THEOPHANY EVE)

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

PRIEST: **FOR THINE IS THE KINGDOM...**

CHOIR: Amen.

Kontakion**Tone 4** (TROPAR TONE)

► When the Lord **descended** today /
 Into the waters of the **Jordan**, /
 He cried **aloud** to John, /
 “Be not afraid to **baptize** Me, ///
 For I am come to save Adam, the **first-formed** man.”

READER: Lord have mercy. **(40 TIMES)**

O Most Holy Trinity, Mighty, One in Essence, Kingdom undivided, the Cause of all good; have mercy even upon me, a sinner. Confirm and instruct my heart and take away from me every defilement. Enlighten my mind that I may ever glorify, praise and adore Thee, saying: “One is Holy, One is the Lord, Jesus Christ, to the glory of God the Father, Amen.

[If the Divine Liturgy follows, we continue]:

PRIEST: **WISDOM!**

CHOIR: It is truly meet to bless thee, O Theotokos! Ever-blessèd and most pure and the Mother of our God!

PRIEST: **MOST HOLY THEOTOKOS, SAVE US!**

CHOIR: More honorable than the Cherubim and more glorious beyond compare than the Seraphim! Without corruption thou gavest birth to God the Word! True Theotokos, we magnify thee!

PRIEST: **[THE DISMISSAL OF THE DAY].**

CHOIR: Amen.

PRIEST: *THROUGH THE PRAYERS...*

CHOIR: Amen.
Lord, have mercy. (THRICE)

[WE BEGIN VESPERS WITH THE DIVINE LITURGY OF ST. BASIL THE GREAT WITH]:

PRIEST: *BLESSÈD IS THE KINGDOM...*

CHOIR: Amen. "Come, let us worship..." Psalm 103 *[AND THE REST].*

[If the Divine Liturgy DOES NOT follow, we continue]:

READER: Blessèd be the Name of the Lord,
Henceforth and for evermore! (THRICE)

Glory..., now and ever.... Amen.

Psalm 33 (34)

I will bless the Lord at all times,
His praise shall be continually in my mouth.
My soul shall make her boast in the Lord:
Let the humble hear this and rejoice.

O magnify the Lord with me
And let us exalt His Name together.
I sought the Lord and He answered me
And He delivered me from all my troubles.

Come near unto Him and be enlightened
And your faces shall not ever be ashamed!
This poor man cried, and the Lord heard him,
And delivered him out of all of his afflictions.

The angel of the Lord will encamp 'round them that fear Him
And He will deliver them.

O taste and see that the Lord is good!
Blesséd is the man who has his hopes in Him.

O fear the Lord, all ye His saints

ROYAL HOURS

(THEOPHANY EVE)

For those who fear Him lack no good thing.
 The rich will become poor and hungry
 But they that seek the Lord shall not want for any good thing.

O come, ye children, hear me
 And I will teach you the fear of the Lord!
 Who is the man that desireth life,
 Who loveth to see good days?

O keep thy tongue away from evil
 And thy lips from speaking guile.
 Turn thyself away from evil,
 And instead do good, seek peace, pursue it!

The eyes of the Lord are upon the righteous,
 And His ears are open to their prayer:
 But the face of the Lord is against them that do evil
 To destroy their memory from the earth.

The righteous cried, and the Lord heard them,
 And He delivered them from all their troubles.
 The Lord is near those humbled in the spirit
 And He shall save those with a contrite heart.

Many are the afflictions of the righteous
 And the Lord will deliver them out of them all.
 The Lord keepeth all their bones:
 Not a one of them shall be broken.

Evil is the death of sinners
 And they that hate the righteous shall be destroyed.
 The Lord will redeem the souls of His servants
 And they that hope in Him shall not do any wrong.

PRIEST: **WISDOM!**

CHOIR: It is truly meet to bless thee, O Theotokos! Ever-blesséd and most pure and the Mother of our God!

PRIEST: **MOST HOLY THEOTOKOS, SAVE US!**

CHOIR: More honorable than the Cherubim and more glorious beyond compare than the Seraphim! Without corruption thou gavest birth to God the Word! True Theotokos, we magnify thee!

PRIEST: ***GLORY TO THEE, O CHRIST, OUR GOD AND OUR HOPE, GLORY TO THEE!***

CHOIR: Glory..., now and ever.... Amen.
Lord have mercy. **(3 TIMES)**
Father **(MASTER)** bless!

PRIEST: ***[THE DISMISSAL OF THE DAY].***

CHOIR: Amen.

The End
and Glory be to God.