

SUNDAY, JANUARY 3
30th Sunday after Pentecost
Sunday before the Theophany
Forefeast of the Theophany
Holy Prophet Malachi

tone 5

"Lord I Call..." Tone 5

Lord, I call upon You, hear me!
Hear me, O Lord!
Lord, I call upon You, hear me!
Receive the voice of my prayer,
when I call upon You!//
Hear me, O Lord!

Let my prayer arise
in Your sight as incense,
and let the lifting up of my hands
be an evening sacrifice!//
Hear me, O Lord!

v. (10) Bring my soul out of prison, that I may give thanks to Your name!

Tone 5 *(for the Resurrection)*

By Your precious Cross, O Christ,
You have put the devil to shame.
By Your Resurrection, You have blunted the sting of sin
and saved us from the gates of death.//
We glorify You, O only begotten One.

v. (9) The righteous will surround me; for You will deal bountifully with me.

Christ was led as a sheep to the slaughter
in order to grant Resurrection to the human race.
The princes of hell were frightened by this,
for the gates of sorrow were lifted.
Christ the King of glory had entered,
saying to those in chains: "Go forth!"//
And to those in darkness: "Come to the light!"

v. (8) Out of the depths I cry to You, O Lord. Lord, hear my voice!

O great wonder!

The Creator of the invisible suffered in the flesh in His love for man
and rose again immortal.

Come, O sons of nations,

let us worship Him,

for delivered from error by His compassion,//

we have learned to sing of one God in three Persons!

v. (7) Let Your ears be attentive to the voice of my supplications!

(Resurrection stichera by Anatolius)

We offer You our evening worship,

O never setting Light,

Who came in these last days to the world in the flesh;

Who even descended to hell to dispel its darkness.

Who has revealed the light of Resurrection to the nations.//

Glory to You, O Lord and Giver of light!

v. (6) If You, O Lord, should mark iniquities, Lord, who could stand? But there is forgiveness with You.

Tone 6 *(for the Forefeast) (On the third day)*

Behold the Enlightenment of the faithful!

See, our Atonement desires to enter the streams of the river,

that He may wash away man's filth and corruption,//

refashioning us, who had been broken to pieces!

v. (5) For Your Name's sake I wait for You, O Lord. My soul has waited for Your word; my soul has hoped on the Lord.

O Lord, Your Forerunner cried out in fear,

when he saw You approaching and asking to be baptized:

"O my God! My Creator!//

How can I baptize You, the sinless One?"

v. (4) From the morning watch until night, from the morning watch, let Israel hope on the Lord!

O faithful, let us assemble in spirit

at the streams of Jordan,

that we may clearly behold the great wonder!

We shall see the Creator of all made manifest,//

as He comes to be baptized.

v. (3) For with the Lord there is mercy and with Him is plenteous redemption, and He will deliver Israel from all his iniquities.

Tone 8 *(for Prophet Malachi)* *(Lord, though You stood)*

Beholding the words that came forth from your divinely-inspired tongue, truly marveling, I bless you, O Prophet of truth, for your clear message has illuminated the world, // foretelling the coming of the Lord for our salvation.

v. (2) Praise the Lord, all nations! Praise Him, all peoples!

You were an angel on earth, emulating the Angels with your way of life. You were enriched by appropriately bearing the name of Angel,* and harmoniously you joined beauty of soul with beauty of body, // O most blessed Malachi.

v. (1) For His mercy is confirmed on us, and the truth of the Lord endures forever.

O Lord, I set before You Your Prophet as an advocate and intercessor. By his entreaties and prayers, O Compassionate One, put an end to the misdeeds of my despairing soul, for You are full of loving-kindness, // as You possess essential and natural goodness.

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

Tone 4 *(for the Forefeast, by John the Monk)*

Oh, the marvelous wonder! He Who baptizes by the Holy Spirit and by fire comes to be baptized by John in the Jordan. Neither simply God nor plainly man, but, in both His natures, He is one only-begotten Son. In His humanity, He asks a servant to baptize Him; in His divinity, He takes away the sins of the world // granting great mercy to all.

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

* The name Malachi in Hebrew means “my messenger.”

Tone 5 *(Theotokion – Dogmatikon)*

In the Red Sea of old,
a type of the Virgin Bride was prefigured.
There Moses divided the waters;
here Gabriel assisted in the miracle.
There Israel crossed the sea without getting wet,
here the Virgin gave birth to Christ without seed.
After Israel's passage, the sea remained impassable;
after Emmanuel's birth, the Virgin remained a Virgin.
O ever-existing God Who appeared as Man, //
O Lord, have mercy on us!

Aposticha

Tone 5 *(for the Resurrection)*

We magnify You in songs of praise,
O incarnate Christ and Savior.
By accepting the Cross and death for our sake,
as the Lord and Lover of man,
You overthrew the gates of hell, //
and arose on the third day, saving our souls.

v. The Lord is King; He is robed in majesty!

By being pierced in the side, O Lover of man,
You have poured out drops of life and salvation for all.
By accepting death in the flesh, You have granted us immortality.
You have freed us by being placed in the tomb,
and have resurrected us with Yourself in glory, as God. //
Glory to You, O Lord and Lover of man!

v. For He has established the world, so that it shall never be moved.

Your crucifixion and descent into hell are awesome, O Lover of man.
You have captured it, releasing the ancient prisoners.
You have opened Paradise and given it to us.
Grant us purification of sins,
who glorify Your Resurrection on the third day!
Make us worthy of Paradise //
and save us, O Lover of man!

v. Holiness befits Your house, O Lord, forevermore!

For our sake, You accepted death in the flesh,
to rise from the dead on the third day.
Heal us from our earthly passions,
and restore us from our evil transgressions; //
and save us, O Lover of man!

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

Tone 5 *(for the Forefeast)*

Christ our God is coming to be baptized in the river Jordan,
desiring to cleanse us from our iniquities by His appearance; //
for He alone is good and loves mankind.

(at Great Vespers)

Tone 5 **Troparion** *(Resurrection)*

Let us, the faithful, praise and worship the Word,
co-eternal with the Father and the Spirit,
born for our salvation from the Virgin;
for He willed to be lifted up on the Cross in the flesh,
to endure death,
and to raise the dead //
by His glorious Resurrection.

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

Tone 4 **Troparion** *(Forefeast)*

Prepare, O Zebulon,
and adorn yourself, O Naphtali!
River Jordan, cease flowing,
and receive with joy the Master coming to be baptized!
Adam, rejoice with our first Mother,
and do not hide yourselves as you did of old in Paradise;
for having seen you naked,
He has appeared to clothe you with the first garment. //
Christ has appeared to renew all creation.

(at the Divine Liturgy)

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Tone 5 Kontakion *(Resurrection)*

You descended into hell, O my Savior,
shattering its gates as Almighty,
resurrecting the dead as Creator,
and destroying the sting of death.
You have delivered Adam from the curse, O Lover of man//
and we cry to You: "O Lord, save us!"

Tone 4 Kontakion *(Prophet Malachi)*

Endowed with the gift of prophecy, O Malachi,
you clearly proclaimed the saving coming of Christ to the world//
His brightness has brought light to the whole universe.

Tone 4 Kontakion *(Forefeast)*

Today the Lord enters the Jordan and cries out to John:
"Do not be afraid to baptize Me//
For I have come to save Adam, the first-formed man."

Tone 6 Prokeimenon *(Sunday before)*

O Lord, save Your people, / and bless Your inheritance! *(Ps. 27:9a)*

V. To You, O Lord, will I call. O my God, be not silent to me! (Ps. 27:1a)

Epistle

(298) 2 Timothy 4:5-8 *(Sunday before)*

Tone 8

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

V. O God, be bountiful to us and bless us, show the light of Your countenance upon us, and have mercy on us. (Ps. 66:1)

V. That we may know Your way upon the earth, and Your salvation among all the nations. (Ps. 66:2)

Gospel

(1) Mark 1:1-8 *(Sunday before)*

Communion Hymn

Praise the Lord from the heavens, praise Him in the highest! *(Ps. 148:1)*

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

In addition to translations from the Department of Liturgical Music and Translations, liturgical texts for this service represent modified versions of translations provided by Holy Myrrhbearers Monastery, Otego, New York and St. Tikhon's Monastery, South Canaan, Pa. The Department of Liturgical Music and Translations of the Orthodox Church in America expresses its gratitude to Holy Myrrhbearers Monastery and St. Tikhon's Monastery and to those translators whose work has been consulted at times in the course of reviewing and modifying these texts to their present form: Metropolitan Kallistos (Ware), Archimandrite Ephrem (Lash), Father Benedict Churchill, Isaac Lambertson, St. Vladimir's Seminary, and Holy Transfiguration Monastery, among others.