

JANUARY 5(6)

**The Holy Theophany of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ
Great Vespers alone***

Note: In a desire to provide as many options as possible for the celebration of the Theophany this year, in light of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, His Beatitude Metropolitan Tikhon has blessed the preparation of this Great Vespers service, in the event that the normal cycle of services cannot be served due to the pandemic. This order of services is given this year for what the Typikon might call a "great necessity." If possible, the normal cycle of services should be celebrated.

*Great Vespers begins as normal, with Psalm 103 and the Great Litany. "Blessed is the man..." is **NOT** sung.*

"Lord I Call..." Tone 2

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!

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

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

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

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

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

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

Tone 2 *(by John the Monk)*

Our Light that enlightens all
comes to be baptized.

The Forerunner sees Him and rejoices in His soul.
His hand trembles as he shows Him to the people:
“Behold, the Redeemer of Israel,
the One Who frees us from corruption.” //
O sinless One, Christ our God, glory to You!

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

A servant baptized our Redeemer
and the coming of the Spirit bore witness to Him.
The hosts of Angels saw this and shook with fear.
And the voice of the Father was heard from heaven:
“The One on Whom the Forerunner lays his hand,
He is My beloved Son; I am well pleased in Him.” //
O Christ our God, glory to You!

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

The streams of the Jordan received You, their Source,
and the Comforter descended in the form of a dove.
He Who bowed the heavens now bows His head.
The Clay cries aloud to the Potter:
“Why do You command me to do what is beyond me;
for it is I that should be baptized by You?” //
O sinless One, Christ our God, glory to You!

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

Wishing to save mankind that had gone astray,
You did not think it unworthy for You
to be clothed in the form of a servant;
for it was proper for You as Master and God
to take upon Yourself human nature for our sake.
Being baptized in the flesh, O Redeemer,
You made us worthy of forgiveness.
And so we cry out to You: //
“O Benefactor, Christ our God, glory to You!”

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

Tone 2 (by Byzas)

You bowed Your head before the Forerunner
and crushed the heads of the dragons.
You stood in the waters and enlightened all things//
that they might glorify You, O Savior, the Light of our souls.

“O Gladsome Light,” and the prokeimenon of the day.

Old Testament Readings

1. **Genesis 1:1-13**
2. **Exodus 14:15-18, 21-23, 27-29**
3. **Exodus 15:22-16:1**

(Then we stand and sing the following troparion. The reader chants the verses and the choir responds. Sometimes the reader also chants the first line of the choral response. The choir then sings the last line.)

Troparion Tone 5

You, the Creator of the world,
have shone forth in the world,
to give light to those who sit in darkness//
O God Who loves mankind, glory to You!

V. O God, be gracious unto us and bless us; make Your face to shine upon us and have mercy on us, that Your way may be known upon the earth, Your saving power among the nations. (Ps. 66:1-2)

...to give light to those who sit in darkness//
O God Who loves mankind, glory to You!

V. Let the peoples confess You, O God; let all the peoples confess You. Let the nations be glad and sing for joy, for you judge the peoples with equity and guidest the nations upon the earth. (Ps. 66:3-4)

...to give light to those who sit in darkness//
O God Who loves mankind, glory to You!

V. Let the peoples confess You, O God; let all the peoples confess You: the earth has yielded its increase. May God, our God bless us. May God bless us. Let all the ends of the earth fear Him. (Ps. 66:5-6)

...to give light to those who sit in darkness//
O God Who loves mankind, glory to You!

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

You, the Creator of the world,
have shone forth in the world,
to give light to those who sit in darkness.//
O God Who loves mankind, glory to You!

4. Joshua 3:7-8, 15-17

5. 4[2] Kings 2:6-14

6. 4[2] Kings 5:9-14

(Then we stand and sing the following troparion in the same manner as above.)

Tone 6 Troparion

You have shone forth to tax collectors and sinners
because of Your abundant mercies.
Where should Your light shine but on those who sit in darkness?//
O our Savior, glory to You!

V. The Lord is King; He is robed in majesty! The Lord is robed, He is girded with strength. For He has established the world, so that it shall never be moved; Your throne is from of old; You are from everlasting. (Ps. 92:1-3)

Where should Your light shine but on those who sit in darkness?//
O our Savior, glory to You!

V. The floods have lifted up, O Lord, the floods have lifted up their voice; the floods lift up their waves at the voice of many waters. (Ps. 92:4-5)

Where should Your light shine but on those who sit in darkness?//
O our Savior, glory to You!

V. Wonderful are the mighty waves of the sea; wonderful is the Lord on high. Your testimonies are very sure. Holiness befits Your house, O Lord, forevermore! (Ps. 92:6-7)

Where should Your light shine but on those who sit in darkness?//
O our Savior, glory to You!

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

You have shone forth to tax collectors and sinners
because of Your abundant mercies.

Where should Your light shine but on those who sit in darkness?//
O our Savior, glory to You!

7. Isaiah 1:16-20
8. Genesis 32:1-10
9. Exodus 2:5-10
10. Judges 6:36-40
11. 3[1] Kings 18:30-39
12. 4[2] Kings 2:19-22
13. Isaiah 49:8-15

(Then the Little Litany and the Trisagion)

Tone 3 Prokeimenon

The Lord is my light and my Savior; / whom shall I fear? *(Ps. 26:1a)*

V. The Lord is the defender of my life; of whom shall I be afraid? (Ps. 26:1b)

Epistle

(143) 1 Corinthians 9:19-27

Tone 6

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

*V. My heart overflows with a goodly theme: I address my verses to the king.
(Ps. 44:1a)*

V. You are the fairest of the sons of men. (Ps. 44:2a)

Gospel

(9) Luke 3:1-18

Augmented Litany, "Vouchsafe, O Lord...", and the Evening Litany.

Aposticha

Tone 2 (by Anatolius) *Idiomela*

John saw You coming to him in the Jordan, O Christ God,
and he said: "You have no uncleanness, O Lord,
why do You come to Your servant?
In whose Name will I baptize You?
In the Name of the Father?
But in Yourself You bear the Father.
In the Name of the Son?
But You Yourself are the Son incarnate.
In the Name of the Holy Spirit?
But by Your breath You can give the Spirit to the faithful." //
O God Who has shone forth, have mercy on us!

V. The sea looked and fled, Jordan turned back. (Ps. 113:3)

The waters saw You, O God,
the waters saw You and were afraid.
For the Cherubim cannot lift up their eyes to Your glory,
and the Seraphim cannot gaze at You;
but they stand by You in fear:
the Cherubim bear You up, and the Seraphim glorify Your might.
With them, O merciful Lord, we proclaim Your praise and say://
"O God Who has shone forth, have mercy on us!"

V. What ailed you, O sea, that you fled? O Jordan, that you turned back? (Ps. 113:5)

Today the Maker of heaven and earth comes to the Jordan in human flesh.
He Who is sinless asks to be baptized,
that He may cleanse the world from the error of the Enemy.
The Master of all is baptized by a servant;
through water He gives cleansing to the human race.
Let us cry aloud to Him://
"O God Who has shone forth, glory to You!"

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

Tone 6 *(by Theophanes)*

When the Son Who was born of a Virgin
asked to be baptized in the Jordan,
the Shining Lamp, born of a barren woman, cried to Him in fear and joy://
“Sanctify me, O Master, by Your divine Epiphany!”

“Lord, now lettest...” and the Trisagion.

Tone 1 **Troparion**

When You, O Lord, were baptized in the Jordan,
the worship of the Trinity was made manifest.
For the voice of the Father bore witness to You,
and called You His beloved Son;
and the Spirit in the form of a dove
confirmed the truthfulness of His word.
O Christ our God, You have revealed Yourself//
and hast enlightened the world, glory to You. *(thrice)*

Festal Dismissal.