

SUNDAY, JANUARY 2

TONE 3

Sunday Before the Theophany

Forefeast of the Theophany

Rest of Ven. Seraphim, Wonderworker of Sarov

"Lord I Call..." Tone 3

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 3 *(for the Resurrection)*

By Your Cross, O Christ our Savior,

death's dominion has been shattered;

the devil's delusion destroyed.

The race of man, being saved by faith,//

always offers You a song.

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

All has been enlightened by Your Resurrection, O Lord.

Paradise has been opened again.

All creation, praising You,//

always offers You a song.

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

I glorify the power of the Father and the Son.

I praise the authority of the Holy Spirit:

the undivided, uncreated Godhead,//

the consubstantial Trinity which reigns forever.

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

Tone 4 *(for the Forefeast) (As one valiant among the martyrs)*

O faithful, let us celebrate the Forefeast of Christ's Theophany!
Let us sing hymns to honor the noble Baptism of our God,
for He wills to approach the Forerunner in the flesh!
As a Man He asks for the Baptism of salvation:
the regeneration of all those who accept Him in faith//
and become partakers of the Spirit.

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

Christ is made manifest.
God is revealed, as David clearly foretold of old.
Seeking Baptism He comes to His servant.
Be filled with joy, O river Jordan!
Dance, O earth and seas, O hills and mountains!
Exult, O hearts of men,//
for a great light is coming upon you!

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.

You are the River of Peace and Valley of Paradise,
O All-powerful Lord.
How can a river receive You, naked, in its course,
the One Who mantled the heavens with clouds?
You shall strip the evil Enemy naked,//
clothing mankind with immortality.

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

Tone 1 *(for St. Seraphim) (Oh, the Marvelous Wonder)*

Oh, the marvelous wonder!
An athlete of piety appears at Saróv;
he has become a fervent intercessor with God for us.
Rejoice, monks of Saróv, who possess the relics of the holy monk!
Rejoice, you Orthodox faithful,
for you possess the most holy Seraphim as your defender in affliction.
Cry out to him: "Rejoice, light of the Russian land,
who quenched the darkness of the enemy./."
Entreat the Lord to grant our souls peace and great mercy!"

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

Oh, the marvelous wonder!

Behold, in the monastery of Saróv a firm pillar of goodness;
the blessed Seraphim appears in truth to us.

Therefore the assemblies of those who are wise in God cry out, exulting in Spirit:
“O Saint and Father Seraphim,//
entreat the Lord to grant our souls peace and great mercy!”

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

Great are Your mysteries, O Christ our God!

You have given us the holy monk Seraphim to be a light for us,
a strong defender against the enemy,
intercessor before God for monastics and all the Orthodox faithful,
his own monastery's strength and boast.
For now he intercedes with You, O Lord,//
asking for our souls peace and great mercy.

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

When you entered the Saróv wilderness, O venerable Seraphim,
then, completely stripping off your own will,
you showed yourself steadfast in every obedience.
You endured insults and dishonor, rejoicing;
you loved the blows and wounds from evil men,
for whom you also prayed, O holy monk.

And as we glorify your most honorable memory,
we pray you, O venerable father://

“Entreat the Lord to grant peace to the world, and great mercy to our souls!”

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

Tone 8 *(for St. Seraphim)*

Come, O assemblies of the faithful,

let us glorify our most wondrous Father with songs of praise,
and let us cry out to him:

“O venerable Father Seraphim,
you have truly been granted life divine,
and have received a crown of unfading glory from God.
Therefore the Monastery of Saróv praises you,

and the people, beholding the precious shrine of your relics
and the miracles that have taken place,
glorify the Lord Who has glorified you.
Entreat Him now, O venerable Father,//
to grant peace and great mercy to our souls!"

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

Tone 3 *(Theotokion – Dogmatikon)*

How can we not wonder
at your mystical childbearing, O exalted Mother?
For without receiving the touch of man,
you gave birth to a Son in the flesh, O immaculate Virgin.
The Son born of the Father before eternity
was born of you at the fullness of time, O honored Lady.
He underwent no mingling, no change, no division,
but preserved the fullness of each nature.
Entreat Him, O Lady and Virgin, and Mother,
to save the souls of those who, in the Orthodox manner, confess you//
to be the Theotokos.

Old Testament Readings *(St. Seraphim)*

Wisdom of Solomon 3:1-9

Wisdom of Solomon 5:15-6:3

Wisdom of Solomon 4:7-15

Aposticha

Tone 3 *(for the Resurrection)*

The sun was darkened by Your Passion, O Christ,
but all creation was enlightened by the light of Your Resurrection.//
Accept our evening song, O Lover of man!

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

Your life-bearing Resurrection, O Lord,
enlightened the whole universe, recalling Your creation.
Delivered from Adam's curse, we sing://
O Almighty Lord, glory to You!

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

You are the changeless God,
Who, suffering in the flesh, were changed.
Creation could not endure seeing You on the Cross.
It was filled with fear while praising Your patience.
By descending to hell and rising on the third day, //
You have granted to the world life and great mercy.

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

You endured death, O Christ,
to deliver the race of men from death.
You rose from the dead on the third day,
raising with Yourself those who knew You as God //
and enlightening the world. Glory to You!

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

Tone 6 *(for St. Seraphim)*

Holy Father Seraphim, who can worthily praise your wondrous life?
What tongue can tell of your struggles in the wilderness:
the vigils and fasting, the isolation and silence, the ceaseless prayer?
Truly you are the pride of ascetics,
a powerful intercessor before God.
Rejoice, example of monks!
Rejoice, haven for those in torment! //
Pray to the Lord that our souls may be saved!

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

Tone 3 *(for the Forefeast)*

Come, all you faithful!
Let us leave the land of Judea!
Instead, let us go to the wilderness of Jordan!
Let us behold the Baptism of our incarnate Enlightener!
The Baptist hesitates, crying out with fear:
"I dare not place my hand on Your head, O Savior!
If the sea fled and the Jordan turned back,
how shall I touch the Fire before which the Seraphim tremble?
The Jordan was parted when Elisha struck it with Elijah's mantle;

shall not the waters return to their primal chaos
when they behold You naked in their courses?
How shall I not be burned by the all-consuming Fire?
The Jordan itself will forbid me, crying out:
'O Baptist, how will you baptize my Lord?'"
But the Lord commanded him, saying:
"Hinder not the cleansing of all!
I shall sanctify all creation with living water; //
for this I am made manifest!"

(at Great Vespers)

Tone 3 Troparion (*Resurrection*)

Let the heavens rejoice!
Let the earth be glad!
For the Lord has shown strength with His arm.
He has trampled down death by death.
He has become the first born of the dead.
He has delivered us from the depths of hell,
and has granted to the world //
great mercy.

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

Tone 4 Troparion (*St. Seraphim*)

You loved Christ from your youth, O blessed one,
and, longing to work for Him alone, you struggled in the wilderness in constant
prayer and labor.
With penitent heart and great love for Christ you were favored by the Mother of
God.
Therefore we cry to you: //
"Save us by your prayers, venerable Seraphim, our father!"

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 3 Kontakion *(Resurrection)*

On this day You rose from the tomb, O Merciful One,
leading us from the gates of death.
On this day Adam exults as Eve rejoices;
with the Prophets and Patriarchs//
they unceasingly praise the divine majesty of Your power.

Tone 2 Kontakion *(St. Seraphim)*

Forsaking the beauty as well as the corruption of this world,
you settled in the monastery of Saróv, O Saint.

There you lived an angelic life,
becoming for many the way to salvation.

Therefore, Christ has glorified you, O Father Seraphim,
enriching you with abundant healing and miracles.//

So we cry to thee: Save us by your prayers, venerable Seraphim, our father!

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)

Tone 7 Prokeimenon *(St. Seraphim)*

Precious in the sight of the Lord / is the death of His saints. *(Ps. 115:6)*

Epistle

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

(213) Galatians 5:22-6:2 *(St. Seraphim)*

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)

Tone 6

V. Blessed is the man who fears the Lord, who greatly delights in His commandments. (Ps. 111:1)

Gospel

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

(24) Luke 6:17-23 (*St. Seraphim*)

Communion Hymn

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

The righteous shall be in everlasting remembrance. He shall not fear evil
tidings. (*Ps. 111:6*)

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.