

JANUARY 6

**The Holy Theophany of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ
Great Blessing of Waters**

(After the prayer before the ambo at the end of Liturgy, the clergy go in procession, with candles and incense, to the place where the Blessing of Water is to take place. The priest holds the precious cross in his hand. The choir sings the following stichera: by Sophronios, Patriarch of Jerusalem:)

Stichera at the Great Blessing of Water

Tone 8 *(by Sophronios, Patriarch of Jerusalem)*

The voice of the Lord is upon the waters crying:

“Come, one and all,

receive the Spirit of wisdom,

the Spirit of understanding,

the Spirit of the fear of God, //

from Christ Who now has shone forth!” *(thrice)*

Today the nature of the waters is sanctified:

The Jordan is parted in two.

It holds back the flow of its waters, //

as it beholds the washing of the Master. *(twice)*

Thou hast come to the river as a man, O Christ the King,

hastening to be baptized like a servant by the Forerunner //

on account of our sins, O good God Who lovest mankind. *(twice)*

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

Tone 8

To the voice of one crying in the wilderness,

“Prepare the way of the Lord,”

Thou didst come, O Lord, taking the form of servant.

Thou didst ask to be baptized though Thou hast no knowledge of sin.

The waters saw Thee and were afraid.

The Forerunner trembled and cried aloud:

“How will the Lamp illumine the Light?

How will a servant lay his hand on the Master?

Thou takest away the sin of the world, O Savior. //

Sanctify both me and the waters!”

Old Testament Readings

Isaiah 35:1-10

Isaiah 55:1-13

Isaiah 12:3-6

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-ctr) 1 Corinthians 10:1-4

Tone 4

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

V. The voice of the Lord is upon the waters; the God of glory thunders; the Lord is upon many waters. (Ps. 28:3)

Gospel

(2) Mark 1:9-11

Tone 1 Troparion

When Thou, O Lord, wast baptized in the Jordan,
the worship of the Trinity was made manifest.
For the voice of the Father bore witness to Thee,
and called Thee His beloved Son;
and the Spirit in the form of a dove
confirmed the truthfulness of His word.
O Christ our God, Who hast revealed Thyself//
and hast enlightened the world, glory to Thee.

(At the conclusion of the Blessing of the Water, this sticheron is sung.)

Tone 6

Let us the faithful praise the greatness of God's plan for us.
For He Who alone is pure and undefiled
becomes a man because of our transgressions.
He is cleansed with our cleansing in the Jordan,
sanctifying both us and the waters,
and crushing the heads of the dragons in the water.
Therefore, let us draw water in gladness,
for upon those who draw in faith
the grace of the Spirit is invisibly bestowed by Christ God, //
the Savior of our souls.

Tone 1 Troparion

When Thou, O Lord, wast baptized in the Jordan,
the worship of the Trinity was made manifest.
For the voice of the Father bore witness to Thee,
and called Thee His beloved Son;
and the Spirit in the form of a dove
confirmed the truthfulness of His word.
O Christ our God, Who hast revealed Thyself //
and hast enlightened the world, glory to Thee.

Tone 4 Kontakion

Today Thou hast shone forth to the world, O Lord,
and the light of Thy countenance has been marked on us.
Knowing Thee, we sing Thy praises:
"Thou hast come and revealed Thyself, //
O unapproachable Light."