

Vespers of Theophany

Lord I Call

Tone 2

When the Forerunner saw Him Who is our Enlightenment,
Who enlightens every man,
Coming to be baptized,
His heart rejoiced and his hand trembled.
He pointed Him out to the people and said:
“This is the Saviour of Israel, Who delivered us from corruption!” ///
O Christ God, the Sinless One, glory to You!

O our Saviour,
The armies of angels trembled when they saw You baptized by Your
servant,
And the Holy Spirit bearing witness by coming down,
And when they heard the Father’s voice speaking from heaven:
“This One upon Whom the Forerunner lays his hands
Is My beloved Son in Whom I am well-pleased.” ///
O Christ our God, glory to You!

When the Jordan River received You, O Fountainhead,
The Comforter came down in the form of a dove.
Behold, the marvel:
The One Who drew the curve of heaven
Bows His head to the Forerunner,
To one made of clay who cries out to his Maker:
“Why do You order me to do things beyond my worth?
It is I who need to be baptized by You!” ///
O Christ God, the Sinless One, glory to You!

O God and Lord,
When You resolved to save man, who was lost,
You deigned to take the form of a servant.
For it was needful for You to assume for our sake what was proper to us.
And when You were baptized in the flesh, O our Redeemer,
It made us worthy of Your forgiveness.
Therefore we cry out to You: ///
O Christ God, our Benefactor, glory to You!

Glory... Now and Ever...

When You bowed Your head to the Forerunner,
You crushed the heads of the dragons;
And when You stood in the midst of the stream,
You let Your light shine upon all creatures,
That they might glorify You, ///
Our Saviour, Who enlighten our souls!

Prokeimenon – *of the day unless the eve falls on a Friday*

On Friday: Tone 7

verse: When Israel went forth from Egypt, the house of Jacob from a
barbarian people, Judah became His sanctuary.

The sea looked and fled; Jordan turned back.

What ails you, O sea, that you fled; and O Jordan, that you
turned back?

Old Testament Readings:

Genesis 1:1-13

Exodus 14:15-29

Exodus 15:22 - 16:2

After the third reading:

People: *Lord I Call Tone 5*

You Who have created the world
Are made manifest in the world,

(Refrain:) To give light to those who sit in darkness.///
Glory to You, Who love mankind!

Reader: God be merciful to us and bless us, and cause His face to shine upon us, and have mercy on us.

People: *Refrain*

Reader: That Your way may be known upon the earth, Your salvation among all nations.

People: *Refrain*

Reader: Let the peoples praise You, O God; let all the peoples praise You! The earth has yielded its fruits.

People: *Refrain*

Reader: May God, our God, bless us; may God bless us; and let all the ends of the earth fear Him.

People: *Refrain*

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

People: *Tone 5*

You Who have created the world
Are made manifest in the world,

To give light to those who sit in darkness.///
Glory to You, Who love mankind!

Old Testament readings continue:

Joshua 3:7 - 1

2 Kings 2:6-14

2 Kings 5:9-14

After the sixth reading:

People: *Lord I Call Tone 6*
In the abundance of Your mercy
You made manifest to sinners and publicans,
O our Saviour.

(*Refrain:*) Where indeed should Your light have shone,
Except upon those
Who sit in darkness?///
Glory to You!

Reader: The Lord is King; He is robed in majesty! The Lord is robed;
He is girded with strength.

People: *Refrain*

Reader: 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.

People: *Refrain*

Reader: Wonderful are the mighty waves of the sea; wonderful is the
Lord on high; Your decrees are worthy of trust indeed.

People: *Refrain*

Reader: Holiness befits Your house, O Lord, forevermore.

People: *Refrain*

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

People: In the abundance of Your mercy...

[**Trisagion** - *If the Divine Liturgy of St Basil is being celebrated*]

Prokeimenon (Tone 3)

verse: The Lord is the defender of my life! Of whom shall I be afraid?

Epistle Reading: *I Corinthians 9: 19-27*

Alleluia

v. My heart pours forth with a good word; I speak of my works to the King.

v. You are more comely with a beauty more than the sons of men.

Gospel: *Luke 3: 1-18*

Liturgy now follows if the Divine Liturgy of St Basil is being celebrated. Instead of "It is Truly Meet" we sing "All of Creation".

Vespers continues as usual if liturgy is not being served.

Troparion of the Feast (Tone 1) (sung three times)

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 Who have revealed Yourself ///
And have enlightened the world, glory to You!

Dismissal

Great Blessing of the Waters (see separate sheet)

Kontakion of the Feast (Tone 4)

Today You have appeared to the universe,
And Your light, O Lord, has shone on us,
Who with understanding praise You:
You have come and revealed Yourself, ///
O Light unapproachable!

Ikos

Upon Galilee of the Gentiles, upon the land of Zebulon and the land of
Nephtali, as the prophet said, a great light has shone, even Christ. To
those that sat in darkness a bright dawn has appeared as lightning from
Bethlehem. The Lord born from Mary, the Sun of Righteousness, sheds
His rays upon the whole inhabited earth. Come then, naked children of
Adam, and let us clothe ourselves in Him, that we may warm ourselves.
You who are a protection and veil to the naked, a light to those in
darkness, You have come, You are made manifest:

People: O Light unapproachable!

Hymn to the Theotokos (see liturgy booklets for music)

People: Magnify, O my soul,
The most pure Virgin Theotokos, more honourable than the
heavenly hosts!
No tongue is capable of praising you worthily;
The angelic mind is overawed in exalting you, O Theotokos!
But accept our faith,
Since you are gracious and know our divine love.
You are the protectress of Christians,
And we praise you!

Repeat the first two lines of the Theotokion as a refrain alternating with reader verses. After the last verse the Theotokion is sung all the way through.

Reader: Every tongue is at a loss to praise you as is due: even a spirit from the world above is filled with dizziness when it seeks to sing your praises, O Theotokos. But since you are good, accept our faith: You know well our love inspired by God, for you are the protector of Christians and we magnify you.

People: Magnify, O my soul,
The most pure Virgin Theotokos, more honourable than the
heavenly hosts!

Reader: O David, come in spirit to those who are now to be enlightened and sing: 'Approach now to God in faith and receive enlightenment. Fallen Adam, the poor man, cried and the Lord heard him: He has come and in the streams of Jordan He has made him who was sunk in corruption to be new again.

People: Magnify, O my soul,
The most pure Virgin Theotokos, more honourable than the
heavenly hosts!

Reader: 'Wash, make yourselves clean', says Isaiah, 'Put away the evil of your doings from before the Lord. Everyone that thirsts, come to the living waters. For Christ will sprinkle with the water of renewal those who hasten to Him in faith. And He baptizes them with the Spirit unto life that does not grow old.'

People: Magnify, O my soul,
The most pure Virgin Theotokos, more honourable than the
heavenly hosts!

Reader: Let us, the faithful, keep ourselves safe through grace and through the seal of baptism. In the past the Hebrews fled destruction by marking the door posts with blood; so also this divine washing unto regeneration shall be our Exodus, and going hence we shall behold the light of the Trinity that never sets.

People: Magnify, O my soul... *(and we sing the entire hymn)*

Exapostilarion *(three times)*

The Saviour, Who is grace and truth, has appeared in the streams of the Jordan, and enlightened those that sleep in darkness and shadow. For the Light that no man can approach has come and is made manifest.

Kontakion of the Feast (Tone 4)

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And Your light, O Lord, has shone on us,
Who with understanding praise You:
You have come and revealed Yourself, ///
O Light unapproachable!

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Upon Galilee of the Gentiles, upon the land of Zebulon and the land of
Nephtali, as the prophet said, a great light has shone, even Christ. To
those that sat in darkness a bright dawn has appeared as lightning from
Bethlehem. The Lord born from Mary, the Sun of Righteousness, sheds
His rays upon the whole inhabited earth. Come then, naked children of
Adam, and let us clothe ourselves in Him, that we may warm ourselves.
You who are a protection and veil to the naked, a light to those in
darkness, You have come, You are made manifest:

People: O Light unapproachable!

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But accept our faith,
Since you are gracious and know our divine love.
You are the protectress of Christians,
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verses. After the last verse the Theotokion is sung all the way through.*

Exapostilarion (three times)

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Jordan, and enlightened those that sleep in darkness and shadow. For the
Light that no man can approach has come and is made manifest.

The Praises *Tone 1*

Light from Light, Christ our God has shone upon the world,
God made manifest: ///
O peoples, let us worship Him.

O Christ our Master,
How shall we Your servants give You worthy honour? ///
For You have renewed us all in the waters.

You, O our Saviour,
Were baptized in the Jordan and have sanctified the waters:
Accepting a servant's hand upon Your head,
You heal the passions of the world.
Great is the mystery of Your dispensation; ///
O Lord who loves mankind, Glory to You.

The true Light has appeared and bestows enlightenment on all.
Christ who is above all purity is baptized with us;
He brings sanctification to the water and it becomes a cleansing for our
souls.

That which is outward and visible is earthly,
That which is inwardly understood is higher than heaven.
Salvation comes through washing, and through water the Spirit:
By descending into the water we ascend to God. ///
Wonderful are Your works, O Lord, Glory to You.

He who covers the heaven with clouds
Is Himself covered today by the streams of Jordan;
And He who takes away the sin of the world is cleansed,
That I may be made clean.
The Only-begotten Son of the Most High Father receives from above
The testimony of the consubstantial Spirit.
To Him let us cry aloud: ///
O Christ our God who has made Yourself manifest and saved us, Glory to
You.

Glory... *Tone 6*

O Saviour, who clothe Yourself with light as with a garment,
You have clothed Yourself in the waters of the Jordan;
And You who measured heaven with a span,
Have bowed Your head before the Forerunner,
So that You might turn the world back from error ///
And save our souls.

Now and Ever... Tone 2

Today Christ has come to be baptized in the Jordan;
Today John touches the head of the Master.
The powers of heaven are amazed as they behold the marvellous mystery.
The sea saw it and fled:
Jordan at the sight was driven back.
And we who have been enlightened cry aloud: ///
Glory to God made manifest, who has appeared on earth and brought light
to the world.

Great Doxology

Troparion of the Feast (*Tone 1*) (*sung once*)
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 Who have revealed Yourself ///
And have enlightened the world, glory to You!

Appropriate Litanies (not on a Sunday)
Dismissal