

31st Sunday after Pentecost/Afterfeast of the Theophany

Synaxis of the Holy Glorious Prophet, Forerunner, and Baptist John

"Lord I Call..." Tone 6

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!

Reader reads the rest of Psalm 140 and Psalm 141 on pgs 31 & 32 in the pew book, then:

v. (10) *Bring my soul out of prison, that I may give thanks to Your Name! Tone 6*

Possessing victory over hell, O Christ, / since You are free among the dead, You ascended the Cross / raising with Yourself those who sat in the shades of death.// Drawing life from Your light, O almighty Savior, have mercy on us!

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

Today Christ tramples on death, / for He is risen as He said! / Let us all sing this song, / for He has granted joy to the world: / O Light unapproachable, O Fountain of life!// O Savior almighty, have mercy on us!

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

Where shall we sinners flee from You, Who are in all creation? / In heaven You dwell! / In hell You trampled on death! / In the depths of the sea? / Even there is Your hand, O Master! / To You we flee, and falling before You, we pray:// O You Who rose from the dead, have mercy on us!

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

In Your Cross, we glory, O Christ. / We sing and glorify Your Resurrection. / For You are our God,// and we know no other than You.

v. (6) *If You, O Lord, shouldst mark iniquities, Lord, who could stand? But there is forgiveness with You. Tone 2*

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. (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.*

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

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. (3) For with the Lord there is mercy and with Him is plenteous redemption, and He will deliver Israel from all his iniquities. **Tone 1** (for the Forerunner) (O all-praised martyrs)*

When the Forerunner beheld You, O Christ,

drawing near to him to ask for baptism,

he cried out in trembling:

“Why do You ask me for what is beyond my strength?

How shall I touch You with my hand, O all-powerful Lord,

for You hold all things with Your hand? // But instead baptize me, Your servant!”

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

“This day have I appeared as a complete Man;

unapproachable by nature, I have become approachable to you.

Rich, I have willingly made Myself poor,

that what has grown poor I may make rich with incorruption and deliverance.

Draw near and baptize Him Who is not subject to corruption, //

and Who delivers the world from decay!”

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

“I am constrained on every side,” said the Forerunner to the Creator,

“and cannot tell which way to go.

Bountiful Lord, You are a stream flowing with nourishment;

how then shall the flowing streams receive You, O Word, //

Who comes to pour forth salvation on all who honor Your holy Epiphany!”

*Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; **Tone 6** (for the Forerunner)*

Light in the flesh and Forerunner of the Savior, / offspring of a barren mother, / and friend of Him

Who was born of a Virgin, / you have worshipped Him by leaping in the womb, / and have

baptized Him in the waters of the Jordan. / We entreat you to intercede with Him, O Prophet, //

that we may escape from the mighty tempests to come!

*now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen. **Tone 6** (Feast)*

God the Word has appeared in the flesh to the human race. / As He stood in the Jordan waiting to

be baptized, / the Forerunner said to Him, / “How can I reach out with my hand / and touch the

head that controls the universe? / Though as an infant You came from Mary, / yet I know You to be

the pre-eternal God. / You walk on earth, You who are extolled by the Seraphim. / And I do not

know how a servant ought to baptize his Master. // Incomprehensible Lord, glory to You.”

APOSTICHA

Tone 6 Your Resurrection, O Christ our Savior,
the Angels in heaven sing!
Enable us on earth//
to glorify You in purity of heart!

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

Destroying the gates of hell,
breaking the chains of death,
You resurrected the fallen human race as almighty God!//
O Lord, Who rose from the dead, glory to You!

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

Desiring to return us to Paradise,
Christ was nailed to the Cross and placed in a tomb.
The Myrrhbearing Women sought Him with tears, crying,
“Woe to us, O Savior!
How do You deign to descend to death?
What place can hold Your life bearing body?
Come to us as You promised!
Take away our wailing and tears!”
Then the Angel appeared to them:
“Stop your lamentations!
Go, proclaim to the Apostles:
“The Lord is risen,//
granting us purification and great mercy!”

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

Having been crucified as You willed,
by Your burial You captured death, O Christ,
rising on the third day as God in glory,//
granting the world unending life and great mercy!

*Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; **Tone 4** (for the Forerunner, by Byzans)*

As the lover of the Spirit,
the swallow that brings divine tidings of grace, O Forerunner,
you have made known clearly to mankind the dispensation of the King,
Who shone forth in brightness from a pure Virgin for the restoration of man.
You banish the dominion of dark and evil ways,
and guide the hearts of those baptized in repentance to eternal life,//
O blessed Prophet inspired by God!

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

Tone 4

(for the Feast, by Cosmas the Monk)

Let us imitate the wise virgins,
let us go and meet the Master Who appears;
like a bridegroom He comes forth to John.
Seeing You the Jordan holds back in fear.
John cries out: "I dare not hold Your immortal head."
The Spirit comes down in the form of a dove to sanctify the waters.
And a voice from heaven resounds:
"This is My Son, Who comes to the world to save the human race." //
O Lord, glory to You!

TROPARIA

Tone 6 The Angelic Powers were at Your tomb;
the guards became as dead men.
Mary stood by Your grave,
seeking Your most pure body.
You captured hell, not being tempted by it.
You came to the Virgin, granting life.
O Lord, Who rose from the dead, //
glory to You.

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

Tone 2 The memory of the righteous is celebrated with hymns of praise,
but the Lord's testimony is sufficient for you, O Forerunner.
You were shown in truth to be the most honorable of the Prophets,
for you were deemed worthy to baptize in the streams of the Jordan Him Whom they foretold.
Therefore, having suffered for the truth with joy,
you proclaimed to those in hell God Who appeared in the flesh,
Who takes away the sin of the world //
and grants us great mercy.

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

Tone 1

Troparion *(Feast)*

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 have enlightened the world, glory to You.