

SUNDAY, JANUARY 2, 2022

TONE 3

Sunday Before the Theophany/Forefeast of the Theophany/Repose of Ven. Seraphim of Sarov

STICHERA

V. (10) *Bring my soul out of prison, that I may give thanks to Your name! Tone 3*

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!*

We bow down in worship before Your precious Cross, O Christ,
and we glorify and praise Your Resurrection, //
for by Your wounds we have all been healed.

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

We praise the Savior incarnate of the Virgin,
for He was crucified for our sake and resurrected on the third day, //
granting us great mercy.

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.*

Christ descended to hell proclaiming the glad tidings:
"Be bold! Now I have triumphed!
I am the Resurrection, I will lead you out, //
for I have shattered the gates of death!"

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

Tone 4 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. (3) *For with the Lord there is mercy and with Him is plenteous redemption, and He will deliver Israel from all his iniquities.*

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

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

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.

*Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; **Tone 4***

O marvelous wonder!

He who baptizes by the Holy Spirit and by fire

comes to be baptized by John in the Jordan.

Neither simply God nor plainly man,

but, in both His natures, He is one only-begotten Son.

In His humanity, He asks a servant to baptize Him;

in His divinity, He takes away the sins of the world//

granting great mercy to all.

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.

APOSTICHA

Tone 3 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;
now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen. **Tone 8***

O John the Baptizer,
who knew Me, the Lamb, in the womb,
serve Me in the river with the angels.
Stretch forth your hand and touch My pure head.
And when you sees the mountains tremble and the Jordan turn back,
then shout with them, saying,
O You Who have been incarnate of the Virgin for our salvation,//
O Lord, glory to You.

Walking amidst the flames as in a gentle shower of rain,
the godly Youths exulted in the dew of the Spirit.
By this they mystically prefigured the Trinity and Christ's incarnation.
Wise through faith, they quenched the power of fire.
So also the righteous Daniel stopped the mouths of lions.
Through their intercessions we beseech You, O Savior and Lover of man:
Deliver us from the unquenchable and eternal fire,//
and make us worthy of Your heavenly Kingdom!

TROPARIA

Tone 3 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,
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.