

VESPERAL LITURGY

6/18 January - Eve of the Theophany

Deacon: Bless, Master!

Priest: Blessed is the Kingdom of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto the ages of ages.

Chanters: Amen.

Reader: Glory to Thee, our God, glory to Thee.

O Heavenly King, Comforter, Spirit of Truth, Who art everywhere present and fillest all things, Treasury of good things and Giver of life: Come and dwell in us, and cleanse us of all impurity, and save our souls, O Good One.

Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal, have mercy on us. (*thrice*)

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

O Most Holy Trinity, have mercy on us. O Lord, blot out our sins. O Master, pardon our iniquities. O Holy One, visit and heal our infirmities for Thy name's sake.

Lord, have mercy. (*thrice*)

Glory: both now.

Our Father, Who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.

Priest: For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory: of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto the ages of ages.

Chanters: Amen.

Reader: Lord, have mercy. (*Twelve times*)

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

O come, let us worship God our King.

O come, let us worship and fall down before Christ our King and God.

O come, let us worship and fall down before Christ Himself, our King and God.

(*Ps. 103*)

Bless the Lord, O my soul; O Lord my God, Thou hast been magnified exceedingly. Confession and majesty hast Thou put on, Who coverest Thyself with light as with a garment, Who stretchest out the heaven as it were a curtain; Who supporteth His chambers in the waters, Who appointeth the clouds for His ascent, Who walketh upon the wings of the winds, Who maketh His angels spirits, and His ministers a flame of fire, Who establisheth the earth in the sureness thereof, it shall not be turned back for ever and ever. The abyss like a garment is His mantle; upon the mountains shall the waters stand. At Thy rebuke they all flee, at the voice of Thy thunder shall they be afraid. The mountains rise up and the plains sink down, unto the place where Thou hast established them. Thou appointedst a bound that they shall not pass, neither return to cover the earth. He sendeth forth springs in the valleys; between the mountains will the waters run. They shall give drink to all the beasts of the field: the wild asses will wait to quench their thirst. Beside them will the birds of the heaven lodge, from the midst of the rocks will they give voice. He watereth the mountains from His chambers; the earth shall be satisfied with the fruit of Thy works. He causeth the grass to grow for the cattle, and green herb for the service of men, To bring forth bread

out of the earth; and wine maketh glad the heart of man. To make his face cheerful with oil; and bread strengtheneth man's heart. The trees of the plain shall be satisfied, the cedars of Lebanon, which Thou hast planted. There will the sparrows make their nests; the house of the heron is chief among them. The high mountains are a refuge for the harts, and so is the rock for the hares. He hath made the moon for seasons; the sun knoweth his going down. Thou appointedst the darkness, and there was the night, wherein all the beasts of the forest will go abroad. Young lions roaring after their prey, and seeking their food from God. The sun ariseth, and they are gathered together, and they lay them down in their dens. But man shall go forth unto his work, and to his labour until the evening. How magnified are Thy works, O Lord! In wisdom hast Thou made them all; the earth is filled with Thy creation. So is this great and spacious sea, therein are things creeping innumerable, small living creatures with the great. There go the ships; there this dragon, whom Thou hast made to play therein. All things wait on Thee, to give them their food in due season; when Thou givest it them, they will gather it. When Thou openest Thy hand, all things shall be filled with goodness; when Thou turnest away Thy face, they shall be troubled. Thou wilt take their spirit, and they shall cease; and unto their dust shall they return. Thou wilt send forth Thy Spirit, and they shall be created; and Thou shalt renew the face of the earth. Let the glory of the Lord be unto the ages; the Lord will rejoice in His works, Who looketh on the earth and maketh it tremble, Who toucheth the mountains and they smoke. I will sing unto the Lord throughout my life, I will chant to my God for as long as I have my being. May my words be sweet unto Him, and I will rejoice in the Lord. O that sinners would cease from the earth, and they that work iniquity, that they should be no more. Bless the Lord, O my soul. The sun knoweth his going down, Thou appointedst the darkness, and there was the night. How magnified are Thy works, O Lord! In wisdom hast Thou made them all.

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

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia. Glory to Thee, O God. *(Thrice)*

Deacon: In peace let us pray to the Lord.

Chanters: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: For the peace from above, and the salvation of our souls, let us pray to the Lord.

Chanters: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: For the peace of the whole world, the good estate of the holy churches of God, and the union of all, let us pray to the Lord.

Chanters: Lord, have mercy,

Deacon: For this holy temple, and for them that with faith, reverence, and the fear of God enter herein, let us pray to the Lord.

Chanters: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: For His Eminence, Metropolitan (*name*), for His Grace, Bishop (*name*), for the venerable priesthood, the diaconate in Christ, for all the clergy and people, let us pray to the Lord.

Chanters: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: For Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth the Second and all the royal house, for our country of Canada, its authorities and armed forces, let us pray to the Lord.

Chanters: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: For this city, every city and country, and the faithful that dwell therein, let us pray to the Lord.

Chanters: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: For seasonable weather, abundance of the fruits of the earth, and peaceful times, let us pray to the Lord.

Chanters: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: For travelers by sea, land, and air, for the sick, the suffering, the imprisoned, and for their salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

Chanters: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: That we may be delivered from all tribulation, wrath, danger and necessity, let us pray to the Lord.

Chanters: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: Help us, save us, have mercy on us, and keep us, O God, by Thy grace.

Chanters: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: Calling to remembrance our most holy, most pure, most blessed, glorious Lady Theotokos and Ever-Virgin Mary with all the saints, let us commit ourselves and one another and all our life unto Christ our God.

Chanters: To Thee, O Lord.

Priest: For unto Thee is due all glory, honour, and worship: to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto the ages of ages

Chanters: Amen.

In tone 2:

**Lord, I call upon Thee, hear me.
Hear me, O Lord.
Lord, I call upon Thee, hear me;
receive the voice of my prayer,
when I call upon Thee.
Hear me, O Lord.
Let my prayer arise
in Thy sight as incense,
and the lifting up of my hands
be an evening sacrifice. Hear me, O Lord.**

Set, O Lord, a watch before my mouth, and a door of enclosure round about my lips.
Incline not my heart unto words of evil, to make excuse with excuses in sins. With men that work iniquity; and I will not join with their chosen.
The righteous man will chasten me with mercy and reprove me; as for the oil of the sinner, let it not anoint my head.
For yet more is my prayer in the presence of their pleasures; swallowed up near by the rock have their judges been.
They shall hear my words, for they be sweetened; as a clod of earth is broken upon the earth, so have their bones been scattered nigh unto hades.
For unto Thee, O Lord, O Lord, are mine eyes, in Thee have I hoped; take not my soul away.
Keep me from the snare which they have laid for me, and from the stumbling-blocks of them that work iniquity.
The sinners shall fall into their own net, I am alone until I pass by.
With my voice unto the Lord have I cried, with my voice unto the Lord have I made supplication.
I will pour out before Him my supplication, mine affliction before Him will I declare.
When my spirit was fainting within me, then Thou knewest my paths.
In this way wherein I have walked they hid for me a snare.
I looked upon my right hand, and beheld, and there was none that did know me.
Flight hath failed me, and there is none that watcheth out for my soul.
I have cried unto Thee, O Lord; I said: Thou art my hope, my portion art Thou in the land of the living.
Attend unto my supplication, for I am brought very low.

Deliver me from them that persecute me, for they are stronger than I.
Bring my soul out of prison: that I may confess Thy name.
The righteous shall wait patiently for me until Thou shalt reward me.

Out of the depths have I cried unto Thee, O Lord;* O Lord, hear my voice.

(and we begin to sing the stykhyry, in tone 2)

**The Forerunner beheld our Enlightenment,
who has brought light to all mankind,
draw near for baptism:
and he rejoiced in soul while his hand trembled.
And he shewed Him to the people, saying;
Behold the Redeemer of Israel, who sets us free from corruption.
O sinless Christ our God, glory to Thee.**

Let Thine ears be attentive * to the voice of my supplication.

The Forerunner beheld our Enlightenment, . . .

If Thou shouldest mark iniquities, O Lord, O Lord, who shall stand?* For with Thee there is forgiveness.

**The hosts of angels were filled with fear,
as they beheld our Deliverer baptized by a servant
and receiving witness through the coming of the Spirit.
And the Father's voice was heard from on high:
He upon whom the Forerunner lays his hand,
the same is My beloved Son in whom I am well pleased.
O Christ our God, glory to Thee.**

For Thy name's sake have I patiently waited for Thee, O Lord; my soul hath waited patiently for Thy word,* my soul hath hoped in the Lord.

The hosts of angels were filled with fear, . . .

From the morning watch until night, from the morning watch* let Israel hope in the Lord.

**The streams of the Jordan received Thee who art the fountain,
and the Comforter descended in the form of a dove.
He who bowed the heavens, bowed His head,
and the clay cried aloud to Him that formed Him:
Why dost Thou command of me what lies beyond my power?
For I have need to be baptized of Thee.
O sinless Christ our God, glory to Thee.**

For with the Lord there is mercy, and with Him is plenteous redemption; * and He shall redeem Israel out of all his iniquities.

The streams of the Jordan received Thee who art the fountain . . .

O praise the Lord, all ye nations;* praise Him, all ye peoples.

**Wishing to save man gone astray,
Thou has not disdained to clothe Thyself in the form of a servant.
For it befitted Thee, as Master and God,
to take upon Thyself our nature for our sakes.
For Thou, O Deliverer, hast been baptized in the flesh,
making us worthy of forgiveness.
Therefore we cry unto Thee,
O Christ our God and Benefactor, glory to Thee.**

For He hath made His mercy to prevail over us,* and the truth of the Lord abideth forever.

Wishing to save man gone astray, . . .

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

**Thou hast bowed Thine head before the Forerunner
and hast crushed the heads of the dragons.
Thou hast descended into the waters
and hast given light to all things,
that they may glorify Thee, O Saviour,
the Enlightenment of our souls.**

Deacon: Let us pray to the Lord.

Priest: In the evening, the morning, and at noonday, we praise, bless, give thanks and pray to Thee, O Master of all. Let our prayer arise in Thy sight as incense, and do not give our hearts to words or thoughts of evil. Deliver us from all who seek our souls, for to Thee, O Lord, Lord, do we look and on Thee have we hoped, that Thou wilt not forsake us, O our God! For unto Thee are due all glory, honour, and worship: to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto the ages of ages. Amen.

Deacon: Bless, Master, the Holy Entrance.

Priest: Blessed is the entrance of Thy saints, now, always, and unto the ages of ages.

Deacon: Amen.

Deacon: Wisdom, Aright!

And all sing:

**O Gladsome Light of the holy glory of the immortal Father,
heavenly, holy, blessed Jesus Christ:
Now that we have come to the setting of the sun, and behold the light of evening,
we praise God Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
For meet it is at all times to worship Thee with voices of praise,
O Son of God, and Giver of life.
Therefore, all the world doth glorify Thee.**

Deacon: Let us attend!

Priest: + Peace be unto all.

Chanters: And to thy spirit.

Deacon: Wisdom! The Prokeimenon in the - - - Tone.

The Daily Prokimena

On Monday evening, the fourth Tone:

The Lord hears me when I call to Him.

The verse: When I called upon Thee, O God of my righteousness, Thou didst hearken unto me.

On Tuesday evening, the first tone:

Thy mercy, O Lord, shall follow me all the days of my life.

The verse: The Lord is my shepherd, and I shall not want. In a place of green pasture, there hath He made me to dwell.

On Wednesday evening, the Fifth Tone:

Save me, O God, by Thy name and judge me by Thy strength.

The verse: O God, hearken unto my prayer, give ear unto the words of my mouth.

On Thursday evening, the Sixth Tone:

My help comes from the Lord, Who made heaven and earth.

The verse: I have lifted up mine eyes to the mountains, from whence cometh my help.

On Friday evening, the seventh Tone:

Thou, O God, art my helper, and Thy mercy shall go before me.

The verse: Rescue me from mine enemies, O God, and from them that rise up against me redeem me.

And we continue with the following readings:

Priest: Wisdom!

Reader: The reading is from the book of Exodus.

Priest Let us be attentive!

Reader: Moses brought Israel from the Red sea, and they went out into the wilderness of Shur; and they went three days in the wilderness, and found no water. And when they came to Marah, they could not drink of the waters of Marah, for they were bitter: therefore the name of it was called Marah. And the people murmured against Moses, saying, What shall we drink? And he cried unto the Lord; and the Lord shewed him a tree, which when he had cast into the waters, the waters were made sweet: there he made them a statute and an ordinance, and there he proved them, And said, If thou wilt diligently harken to the voice of the Lord thy God, and wilt do that which is right in his sight, and wilt give ear to his commandments, and keep all his statutes, I will put none of these diseases upon thee, which I have brought upon the Egyptians: for I am the Lord that healeth thee. And they came to Elim, where were twelve wells of water, and threescore and ten palm trees: and they encamped there by the waters. And they took their journey from Elim, and all the congregation of the children of Israel came unto the wilderness of Sin, which is between Elim and Sinai, on the fifteenth day of the second month after their departing out of the land of Egypt.

The priest or reader then intones this tropar in tone 5:

**O Thou Who hast created the world,
Thou hast appeared in the world,
That Thou mightest enlighten those in darkness.
O Thou Who lovest mankind, Glory to Thee!**

Chanters:

**That Thou mightest enlighten those in darkness.
O Thou Who lovest mankind,
Glory to Thee!**

Priest:

God be merciful unto us, and bless us: and cause His face to shine upon us , and His mercy upon us, that we may know upon the earth Thy way, among the nations Thy salvation.

Chanters:

**That Thou mightest enlighten those in darkness.
O Thou Who lovest mankind,
Glory to Thee!**

Priest:

Let the peoples give Thee praise, O Glod, let all the peoples praise Thee. Let the nations be glad and rejoice, for Thou shalt judge peoples with righteousness; and nations shalt Thou guide upon the earth.

Chanters:

**That Thou mightest enlighten those in darkness.
O Thou Who lovest mankind, Glory to Thee!**

Priest:

Let the peoples give Thee praise, O God, let all the peoples praise Thee; the earth hath yielded her fruit. Let God, our God, bless us; let God bless us, and let all the ends of the earth fear him.

Chanters:

**That Thou mightest enlighten those in darkness.
O Thou Who lovest mankind,
Glory to Thee!**

Priest:

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

And again we sing::

**O Thou Who hast created th world,
Thou hast appeared in the world,
That Thou mightest enlighten those in darkness.
O Thou Who lovest mankind, Glory to Thee!**

(and we resume the readings)

Priest: Wisdom!

Reader: The reading is from the Fourth Book of Kings.

Priest Let us be attentive!

Reader: So Naaman came with his horses and with his chariot, and stood at the door of the house of Elisha. And Elisha sent a messenger unto him, saying, Go and wash in Jordan seven times, and thy flesh shall come again to thee, and thou shalt be clean. But Naaman was wroth, and went away, and said, Behold, I thought, He will surely come out to me, and stand, and call on the name of the Lord his God, and strike his hand over the place, and recover the leper. Are not Abana and Pharpar, rivers of Damascus, better than all the waters of Israel? So he turned and went away in rage. And his servants came near, and spake unto him, and said, My father, if the prophet had bid thee do some great thing, wouldest thou not have done it? How much rather then when he saith to thee, Wash and be clean? Then went he down, and dipped himself seven times in Jordan, according to the saying of the man of God: and his flesh came again like unto the flesh of a little child, and he was clean.

The reader or priest then intones this tropar in tone 6:

To sinners and publicans hast Thou revealed Thyself,
In the magnitude of Thy mercy, O our Saviour;
For where should thy light shine save upon those who sit in darkness?
Glory be to Thee!

Chanters:

For where should thy light shine
save upon those who sit in darkness?
Glory be to Thee!

Verse: The Lord is King, and hath put on glorious apparel: the Lord hath put on His apparel and girded Himself with strength. For He established the world which shall not be shaken. Thy throne is prepared of old: Thou art from everlasting.

Chanters:

For where should thy light shine
save upon those who sit in darkness?
Glory be to Thee!

Verse: The rivers have lifted up , O Lord, the rivers have lifted up their voices. The rivers will lift up their waves, at the voices of many waters.

Chanters:

For where should thy light shine
save upon those who sit in darkness?
Glory be to Thee!

Verse: Wonderful are the surgings of the sea, wonderful on high is the lord. Thy testimionies are made very sure. Holiness becometh Thy house, O Lord, unto length of days.

Chanters:

**For where should thy light shine
save upon those who sit in darkness?
Glory be to Thee!**

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

Chanters:

**For where should thy light shine
save upon those who sit in darkness?
Glory be to Thee!**

And the priest or reader again intones:

**To sinners and publicans hast Thou revealed Thyself,
In the magnitude of Thy mercy, O our Saviour;
For where should thy light shine save upon those who sit in darkness?
Glory be to Thee!**

Priest: Wisdom!

Reader: The reading is from the Prophecy of Isaiah.

Priest Let us be attentive!

Reader: Thus saith the Lord, In an acceptable time have I heard thee, and in a day of salvation have I helped thee: and I will preserve thee, and give thee for a covenant of the people, to establish the earth, to cause to inherit the desolate heritages; That thou mayest say to the prisoners, Go forth; to them that are in darkness, Shew yourselves. They shall feed in the ways, and their pastures shall be in all high places. They shall not hunger nor thirst; neither shall the heat nor sun smite them: for he that hath mercy on them shall lead them, even by the springs of water shall he guide them. And I will make all my mountains a way, and my highways shall be exalted. Behold, these shall come from far: and, lo, these from the north and from the west; and these from the land of Sinim. Sing, O heavens; and be joyful, O earth; and break forth into singing, O mountains: for the Lord hath comforted his people, and will have mercy upon his afflicted. But Zion said, The Lord hath forgotten me. Can a woman forget her sucking child, that she should not have compassion on the son of her womb? Yea, they may forget, yet will I not forget thee.

Deacon: Again and again, in peace let us pray to the Lord.

Chanters: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: Help us, save us, have mercy on us, and keep us, O God, by Thy grace.

Chanters: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: Calling to remembrance our most holy, most pure, most blessed, glorious Lady Theotokos and Ever-Virgin Mary with all the saints, let us commit ourselves and one another and all our life unto Christ our God.

Chanters: To Thee, O Lord.

Priest: For holy art Thou, O our God, and unto Thee do we send up glory: to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto the ages of ages.

Chanters: Amen.

**Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal, have mercy on us! (*thrice*)
Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, both now and ever,
and unto the ages of ages. Amen.
Holy Immortal, have mercy on us!
Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal, have mercy on us!**

Priest: Let us be attentive! Peace be to all!

Reader: **And to your spirit!**

Priest: Wisdom!

Reader: The prokimenon is in the third tone:**The Lord is my light and my salvation: whom shall I fear?**

Choir: The Lord is my light and my salvation: whom shall I fear?

Reader: **The Lord is the defender of my life: of whom shall I be afraid?**

Choir: The Lord is my light and my salvation: whom shall I fear?

Reader: **The Lord is my light and my salvation:**

Choir: Whom shall I fear?

Priest: Wisdom!

Reader: **The lesson is from the first letter of the Holy Apostle St. Paul to the Corinthians**

Priest: Let us be attentive!

Reader: (*Reads the lesson, I Cor. 9: 19-27*)

After the Epistle, Alleluia, and the Gospel we then continue with the litany of fervent supplication and the usual order of the Liturgy

In place of "It is truly worthy" we sing:

**All of Creation Rejoices in You,
O Full of Grace.
The Assembly of Angels and the Race of Men.
O Sanctified Temple and Spiritual Paradise,
The Glory of Virgins,
From Whom God was Incarnate and Became a Child,
Our God Before the Ages,
He made Your Body into a Throne,
Ad Your Womb He Made More Spacious than the Heavens.
All of Creation Rejoices in You
O Full of Grace.
Glory to You.**

We sing the usual communion hymn of Sunday - "Praise the Lord. . ."

Following the Ambon Prayer, after the "Amen" and immediately before "Blessed be the name of the Lord," we begin the waterblessing service.