

**Menaion - January 5**

Forefeast of Epiphany.

**LITURGY**

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**Antiphon I. Mode 2.**

**Verse 1:** *It is good to give thanks to the Lord and to sing to Your name, O Most High.* [SAAS]

Through the intercessions of the Theotokos, Savior, save us. [GOA]

**Verse 2:** *To proclaim Your mercy in the morning and Your truth at night.* [SAAS]

Through the intercessions of the Theotokos, Savior, save us.

**Verse 3:** *The Lord my God is upright, and there is no wrongdoing in Him.* [SAAS]

Through the intercessions of the Theotokos, Savior, save us.

*Glory to the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit.*

*Both now and ever and to the ages of ages. Amen.*

Through the intercessions of the Theotokos, Savior, save us.

**Antiphon II. Mode 2.**

**Verse 1:** *The Lord reigns; He clothed Himself with majesty; the Lord clothed and girded Himself with power.* [SAAS]

*or:*

*Verse 1: Come, let us greatly rejoice in the Lord; let us shout aloud to God our savior.* [SAAS]

Save us, O Son of God, Who are wondrous in Your saints, we sing to You, Alleluia. [GOA]

**Verse 2:** *And He established the world, which shall not be moved.* [SAAS]

*or:*

*Verse 2: Let us come before His face with thanksgiving, and let us shout aloud to Him with psalms. For the Lord is a great God, a great King over all the earth.* [SAAS]

Save us, O Son of God, Who are wondrous in Your saints, we sing to You, Alleluia.

**Verse 3:** *Holiness is proper to Your house, O Lord, unto length of days.* [SAAS]

*or:*

*Verse 3: For in His hand are the ends of the earth, and the heights of the mountains are His. For the sea is His, and He made it, and His hands formed the dry land.* [SAAS]

Save us, O Son of God, Who are wondrous in Your saints, we sing to You, Alleluia.

*Glory to the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit.*

*Both now and ever and to the ages of ages. Amen.*

Only begotten Son and Logos of God, being immortal, You condescended for our salvation to take flesh from the holy Theotokos and ever-virgin Mary and, without change, became man. Christ, our God, You were crucified and conquered death by death. Being one of the Holy Trinity, glorified with the Father and the Holy Spirit: Save us. [GOA]

**Antiphon III.**

**Apolytikion. For the Forefeast.**

From Menaion ---

**Mode 4. Joseph marveled.**

Jordan River once turned back when Elisha struck its stream \* with his mantle in the wake of Elias's ascent; \* and the water was parted to the one side and to the other. \* And thus the fluid stream became a dry way for him, \* a symbol and truly a type of Baptism, \* by which we now pass over the streaming passage of the present life. \* And Christ appeared at the Jordan River \* to sanctify the waters. [SD]

**Entrance Hymn. Mode 2.**

Come, let us worship and bow down before Christ. Save us, O Son of God, Who are wondrous in Your saints, we sing to You, Alleluia. [GOA]

**Hymns After the Small Entrance.**

**Apolytikion. For the Forefeast.**

From Menaion ---

**Mode 4. Joseph marveled.**

Jordan River once turned back when Elisha struck its stream \* with his mantle in the wake of Elias's ascent; \* and the water was parted to the one side and to the other. \* And thus the fluid stream became a dry way for him, \* a symbol and truly a type of Baptism, \* by which we now pass over the streaming passage of the present life. \* And Christ appeared at the Jordan River \* to sanctify the waters. [SD]

**(Apolytikion of the Parish Church)**

(The text of the Apolytikion of the local church goes here.)

From Menaion ---

**Kontakion.**

**Mode 4. You appeared today.**

To the flowing streams today \* of River Jordan \* comes the Lord and cries aloud \* to John the Baptist, and He says, \* "Be not afraid to baptize me now; \* for I have come to save Adam, the first-formed man." [SD]

**THE TRISAGION HYMN**

Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal, have mercy on us. (3) [GOA]

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

Holy Immortal, have mercy on us.

**The Epistle**

Saturday Before Epiphany

**Prokeimenon. Mode pl. 2. Psalm 31.**

Be glad in the Lord and rejoice greatly.

[SAAS]

**Verse:** *Blessed are those whose transgressions are forgiven, and whose sins are covered.* [SAAS]

The reading is from Paul's First Letter to Timothy.

(3:13-16; 4:1-5)

Timothy, my son, those who serve well as deacons gain a good standing for themselves and also great confidence in the faith which is in Christ Jesus. I hope to come to you soon, but I am writing these instructions to you so that, if I am delayed, you may know how one ought to behave in the household of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and bulwark of the truth. Great indeed, we confess, is the mystery of our religion: God was manifested in the flesh, justified in

the Spirit, seen by angels, preached among the nations, believed on in the world, taken up in glory. Now the Spirit expressly says that in later times some will depart from the faith by giving heed to deceitful spirits and doctrines of demons, through the pretensions of liars whose consciences are seared, who forbid marriage and enjoin abstinence from foods which God created to be received with thanksgiving by those who believe and know the truth. For everything created by God is good, and nothing is to be rejected if it is received with thanksgiving; for then it is consecrated by the word of God and prayer.

[RSV]

**Alleluia. Mode pl. 2. Psalms 64, 101.**

Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia.

**Verse 1:** *Blessed are they whom You have chosen and received, O Lord.* [SAAS]

Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia.

**Verse 2:** *And their memorial abides from generation to generation.* [SAAS]

Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia.

### **The Gospel**

Saturday Before Epiphany

The reading is from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

(3:1-6)

At that time, John the Baptist came preaching in the wilderness of Judea, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand." For this is he who was spoken of by the prophet Isaiah when he said, "The voice of one crying in the wilderness: prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight." Now John wore a garment of camel's hair, and a leather girdle around

his waist; and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then went out to him Jerusalem and all Judea and all the region about the Jordan, and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. [RSV]

### **Hymn to the Theotokos.**

It is truly right to bless you, Theotokos, ever blessed, most pure, and Mother of our God. More honorable than the Cherubim, and beyond compare more glorious than the Seraphim, without corruption you gave birth to God the Logos. We magnify you, the true Theotokos. [GOA]

### **Communion Hymn. Psalms 64, 101.**

Blessed are they whom You have chosen and received, O Lord. Their memorial abides from generation to generation. Alleluia. [SAAS]

### **Hymn after Holy Communion. Mode 2.**

We have seen the true light; we have received the heavenly Spirit; we have found the true faith, worshiping the undivided Trinity, for the Trinity has saved us. [GOA]

### **The Great Blessing of the Waters**

*A Composition of Patriarch  
Sophronios of Jerusalem.*

### **CHOIR**

#### **Mode pl. 4.**

The voice of the Lord upon the waters cries out, saying, 'Come all of you, receive the Spirit of wisdom, the Spirit of understanding, the Spirit of the fear of God, of Christ who has appeared'. (3) [EL]

Today the nature of the waters is made holy, and Jordan is parted and holds back the flow of its waters as it sees the Master washing himself. (2) [EL]

As man, Christ King, you came to the river, and in your goodness you hasten to accept the baptism of a servant at the hands of the Forerunner, on account of our sins, O Lover of mankind. (2) [EL]

Glory. Both now. **Mode pl. 4.**

At the voice of the one crying in the desert, 'Prepare the way of the Lord', you came, Lord, having taken the form of a servant, asking for Baptism, though you did not know sin. The waters saw you and were afraid. The Forerunner trembled and cried out, saying, 'How will the lamp enlighten the Light? The servant place his hand on the Master? Saviour, who take away the sin of the world, make me and the waters holy'. [EL]

### **The Readings**

#### **READER**

The reading is from the Prophecy of Isaiah.

#### **DEACON**

Wisdom. Let us be attentive.

#### **READER**

(35:1-10)

Thus says the Lord: Be glad, you thirsty desert, and rejoice exceedingly, and let the desert blossom as a lily. The desert places of the Jordan shall blossom abundantly and rejoice exceedingly. The glory of Lebanon and the honor of Carmel shall be given to it, and My people shall see the glory of the Lord and the majesty of our God. Be strong, you relaxed hands and feeble knees. Be comforted, you

fainthearted. Be strong, do not fear. Behold, our God renders judgment and will render it. He will come and save us. Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf shall hear. Then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the dumb will speak clearly. For water shall burst forth in the desert, and a valley in the thirsty land. The waterless desert shall become meadows, and the thirsty land springs of water. There will be the gladness of birds, a habitation of reeds and marshes. A pure way shall be there, and it shall be called a holy way. No unclean man shall pass through there, neither shall there be an unclean way there. But those dispersed shall walk in it, and they shall not go astray. No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous animals go up on it, nor at all be found there. But the redeemed shall walk in it, and those gathered by the Lord shall return and come to Zion with gladness, and with everlasting gladness over their head. For praise and exceeding joy will be on their head, and gladness shall possess them. Pain, sorrow, and sighing fled away.

[SAAS]

#### **READER**

The reading is from the Prophecy of Isaiah.

#### **DEACON**

Wisdom. Let us be attentive.

#### **READER**

(55:1-13)

Thus says the Lord: "You who are thirsty, go to the water, and all who have no money, go and buy wine and fat, and eat and drink without money and price. Why do you value at the price of money, and give your toil for

what does not satisfy? Listen to Me and eat good things, and your soul will delight in good things. Incline your ears and follow my ways. Listen to Me, and your soul shall live in good things; and I will make an everlasting covenant with you, the holy and faithful things of David. Behold, I made him a witness among the Gentiles, a ruler and commander to the Gentiles. The Gentiles, which did not know you, shall call upon you, and the peoples who did not understand you shall take refuge in you, because of your God, the Holy One of Israel; for He glorified you." Seek God, and when you find Him, call upon Him when He draws near to you. Let the ungodly man abandon his ways, and the lawless man his counsels; and let him return to the Lord, and He will have mercy on him; for He shall forgive your sins abundantly. "For My counsels are not as your counsels, neither are your ways My ways," says the Lord. "But as heaven is distant from earth, so is My way distant from your ways, and your thoughts from My mind. For as rain comes down, or snow from heaven, and does not return until it saturates the earth, and it brings forth and produces, and gives seed to the sower and bread for food, so shall My word be, whatever proceeds from My mouth. It shall not return until it accomplishes whatever I willed, and I shall prosper your ways and My commandments. For you shall go forth with gladness and shall be taught with joy, for the mountains and hills shall exult to receive you with joy; and all the trees of the field shall applaud with their branches. Instead of the broom-tree shall come up the cypress, and instead of the nettle shall come up the myrtle;

and the Lord shall be for a name and for an everlasting sign, and He shall not fail." [SAAS]

**READER**

The reading is from the Prophecy of Isaiah.

**DEACON**

Wisdom. Let us be attentive.

**READER**

(12:3-6)

Thus says the Lord: You will draw water with gladness from the wells of salvation. In that day, you will say, "Praise the Lord; call upon His name. Declare His glorious things among the Gentiles and make mention that His name is exalted. Sing to the name of the Lord, for He has done great things. Declare this in all the earth. Exult and be glad, O inhabitants of Zion, for the Holy One of Israel is exalted in her midst." [SAAS]

**The Epistle**

**DEACON**

Let us be attentive.

**READER**

*Prokeimenon. Mode 3. Psalm 26.*

The Lord is my light and my savior.

**Verse:** *The Lord is the defender of my life.*

[SAAS]

**DEACON**

Wisdom.

**READER**

The reading is from Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians.

**DEACON**

Let us be attentive.

**READER**

(10:1-4)

Brethren, I want you to know that our Fathers were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea, and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, and all ate the same spiritual food and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank from the spiritual Rock which followed them, and the Rock was Christ. [RSV]

**PRIEST**

Peace be with you.

**CHOIR**

**Alleluia. Grave Mode. Psalm 44.**

Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia.

**Verse 1:** *My heart overflowed with a good word.* [SAAS]

Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia.

**Verse 2:** *You are more beautiful than the sons of men.* [SAAS]

Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia.

**DEACON**

Wisdom. Arise. Let us hear the Holy Gospel.

**PRIEST**

Peace be with all.

*(And with your spirit.)*

**DEACON**

The reading is from the Holy Gospel according to Mark.

**PRIEST**

Let us be attentive.

*(Glory to You, O Lord. Glory to You.)*

**DEACON**

(1:9-11)

In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. And when He came up out of the water, immediately he saw the heavens opened and the Spirit descending upon Him like a dove; and a voice came from heaven, "You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased." [RSV]

**PRIEST**

Peace be with you.

**CHOIR**

Glory to You, O Lord. Glory to You.

**DEACON**

In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

*(Lord, have mercy.)*

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

For the peace of the whole world, for the stability of the holy churches of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

For this holy house and for those who enter it with faith, reverence, and the fear of God, let us pray to the Lord.

For pious and Orthodox Christians, let us pray to the Lord.

For our Archbishop (Name), for the honorable presbyterate, for the diaconate in Christ, and for all the clergy and the people, let us pray to the Lord.

For our country, for the president, and for all in public service, let us pray to the Lord.

For this city, and for every city and land, and for the faithful who live in them, let us pray to the Lord.



For favorable weather, for an abundance of the fruits of the earth, and for peaceful times, let us pray to the Lord.

For those who travel by land, sea, and air, for the sick, the suffering, the captives and for their salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

That this water might be hallowed by the might, and operation, and descent of the Holy Spirit, let us pray to the Lord.

That there may descend upon these waters the cleansing operation of the super substantial Trinity; let us pray to the Lord.

That there may be sent down upon it the Grace of Redemption, the blessing of the Jordan; let us pray to the Lord.

That we may be illumined with the Light of Knowledge and Piety through the descent of the Holy Spirit; let us pray to the Lord.

That this water may become the gift of sanctification, redemption from sins, for the healing of soul and body, and for every suitable purpose, let us pray to the Lord.

That it may become water welling up to eternal life; let us pray to the Lord.

That this water may prove effectual for the averting of every plot of visible and invisible enemies; let us pray to the Lord.

For those who are sprinkled with it and take it for the blessing of homes; let us pray to the Lord.

That it may be for the purification of soul and body to all who with faith take and drink of it; let us pray to the Lord.

That we may be granted to be filled with sanctification through drinking this water, by the invisible manifestation of the Holy Spirit; let us pray to the Lord.

That the Lord God may listen to the voice of the prayer of us sinners and have mercy on us; let us pray to the Lord.

For our deliverance from all affliction, wrath, danger, and necessity, let us pray to the Lord.

Help us, save us, have mercy on us, and protect us, O God, by Your grace.

Commemorating our most holy, pure, blessed, and glorious Lady, the Theotokos and ever-virgin Mary, with all the saints, let us commend ourselves and one another and our whole life to Christ our God.

*(To You, O Lord.)*

*The Priest reads the following prayer in a low voice.*

Lord Jesus Christ, only-begotten Son, who are in the bosom of the Father, true God, source of life and immortality, Light from Light, who came into the world to enlighten it, flood our mind with light by your Holy Spirit and accept us as we bring you praise and thanksgiving for your wondrous mighty works from every age, and for your saving dispensation in these last times. By it you clothe yourself in our weak and beggared matter and coming down to the measure of our servitude, King of all, you accepted also to be baptised in the Jordan by the hand of a servant, so that, having sanctified the nature of the waters, you, the sinless one, might make a way for our rebirth through water and Spirit and re-establish us in our original freedom. As we celebrate the memory of this divine Mystery, we entreat you, Master, lover of mankind: Sprinkle on us, your unworthy servants, cleansing water, in accordance with your divine promise, the gift of your compassion, that the request of us sinners over

this water may become acceptable by your goodness and that through it your blessing to be granted to us and to all your faithful people, to the glory of your holy, venerated Name. For to you belong all glory, honour and worship, with your Father who is without beginning, with you all-holy, good and life-giving Spirit, now and forever, and to the ages of ages. Amen. [EL]

*And having said the Amen to himself, when the Deacon has finished the Litany, the Priest begins this Prayer in a loud voice:*

**A Composition of Patriarch  
Sophronios of Jerusalem.**

**PRIEST**

Great are you, O Lord, and wonderful your works, and no word is adequate to sing the praise of your wonders. (3) [EL]

*(Glory to You, O Lord. Glory to You.)*

For by your own will you brought the universe from non-existence into being, you hold creation together by your might, and by your providence you direct the world. You composed creation from four elements; with four seasons you crowned the circle of the year. All the spiritual Powers tremble before you. The sun sings your praise, the moon glorifies you, the stars entreat you, the light obeys you, the deeps tremble before you, the springs are your servants. You stretched out the heavens on the waters; you walled in the sea with sand; you poured out the air for breathing. Angelic Powers minister to you. The choirs of the Archangels worship you. The many-eyed Cherubim and the six-winged Seraphim as they stand and fly around you hide their faces in fear of your unapproachable

glory. For you, being God uncircumscribed, without beginning and inexpressible, came upon earth, taking the form of a servant, being found in the likeness of mortals. For you could not bear, Master, in the compassion of your mercy to watch the human race being tyrannised by the devil, but you came and saved us. We acknowledge your grace, we proclaim your mercy, we do not conceal your benevolence. You freed the generations of our race. You sanctified a virgin womb by your birth. All creation sang your praise when you appeared. For you are our God who appeared on earth and lived among mortals. You sanctified the streams of Jordan by sending down from heaven your All-holy Spirit and you smashed the heads of the dragons that lurked there. [EL]

Therefore, O King, lover of mankind, be present now too through the visitation of your Holy Spirit, and sanctify this water. (3) [EL]

*(Amen.)*

And give to it the grace of redemption and the blessing of Jordan. Make it a source of incorruption, a gift of sanctification, a deliverance from sins, an averting of diseases, unapproachable by hostile powers, filled with angelic strength. That all who draw from it and partake of it may have it for cleansing of souls and bodies, for healing of passions, for sanctification of homes, for every suitable purpose. For you are our God, who through water and Spirit renewed our nature made old by sin. You are our God, who in the days of Noë drowned sin through the water of the flood. You are our God, who through Moses freed the Hebrew race from the slavery of



Pharao through the sea. You are our God who split open the rock in the desert, and waters rushed out and torrents flooded down, and you satisfied your thirsty people. You are our God, who through Elias turned Israel from the error of Baal. <sup>[EL]</sup>

And now, Master, do you yourself sanctify this water by your Holy Spirit. (3) <sup>[EL]</sup>  
(Amen.)

Give to all who partake of it sanctification, blessing, cleansing, health. <sup>[EL]</sup>

And save, Lord, our faithful Rulers. (3) <sup>[EL]</sup>

And guard them under your protection in peace. Subdue beneath their feet every foe and enemy. Grant them all their requests that are for salvation and eternal life. Remember, Lord, our Archbishop N., the whole order of Presbyters, the Diaconate in Christ, every rank of the clergy, the people here present and our brethren who with good reason are absent, and have mercy on us in accordance with your great mercy. So that through elements and through Angels and through mortals and through things visible and through things unseen, your all-holy name may be glorified with the Father and the Holy Spirit, now and for ever, and to the ages of ages. <sup>[EL]</sup>

(Amen.)

Peace be with all.

(And with your spirit.)

Let us bow our heads to the Lord.

(To You, O Lord.)

*And the Priest says the Prayer in a low voice.*

Incline your ear and hear us, Lord, who accepted to be baptised in Jordan and to

sanctify the waters, and bless us all, who signify our calling as servants by the bending of our necks. And count us worthy to be filled with your sanctification through the partaking and sprinkling of this water. And let it be for us, Lord, for healing of soul and body. <sup>[EL]</sup>

*Aloud*

For you are the sanctification of our souls and bodies, and to you we give glory, thanksgiving and worship, with your Father who is without beginning, and your All-holy, good and life-giving Spirit, now and for ever, and to the ages of ages. <sup>[EL]</sup>

(Amen.)

*And the Priest immediately, blessing the waters in the figure of the Cross, immerses the precious Cross, plunging it upright into the water and lifting it out again, chanting the following Troparion. The Priest once and the Choirs once each.*

**PRIEST**

**Apolytikion. Mode 1.**

As You were baptized in the Jordan, O Lord, then the worship of the Trinity became manifest, for the voice of the Father bore witness to You, naming You the Beloved Son; and the Spirit, in the form of a dove, confirmed the certainty of the word. O Christ God, who appeared and illumined the world, glory to You. <sup>[SD]</sup>

**CHOIR**

As You were baptized in the Jordan, O Lord, then the worship of the Trinity became manifest, for the voice of the Father bore witness to You, naming You the Beloved Son; and the Spirit, in the form of a dove, confirmed the certainty of the word. O Christ

God, who appeared and illumined the world,  
glory to You. (2)

*And he sprinkles all the People with the water.*

**On January 5.**

**Kontakion. For the Forefeast.**

**Mode 4.** *You appeared today.*

To the flowing streams today \* of River  
Jordan \* comes the Lord and cries aloud \* to  
John the Baptist, and He says, \* "Be not afraid  
to baptize me now; \* for I have come to save  
Adam, the first-formed man." [SD]

**On January 6.**

**Kontakion. For the Feast.**

**Mode 4.** *Automelon.*

You appeared today to us \* on earth,  
O Master, \* and Your light was signed on  
us \* who cry aloud to You and say \* with  
understanding, O Christ our God: You came  
and shone forth, O Light unapproachable. [SD]

*As we enter the Church we chant the following  
Idiomelon.*

**CHOIR**

**Mode pl. 2.**

Let us the faithful extol the greatness of  
God's benevolent deeds concerning us. For  
He became man in our transgression; and  
now in the Jordan, He who alone is clean and  
undefiled is cleansed in the cleansing that  
is meant for us; and He sanctifies me and  
the waters, and on the water He crushes the  
heads of the dragons. Therefore, brethren,  
let us draw water with gladness. For to those  
who draw with faith, the grace of the Spirit  
is invisibly given by Christ, our God and the  
Savior of our souls. [SD]

## **THE DISMISSAL**

May He who condescended to be baptized  
by John in the Jordan, for our salvation, Christ  
our true God, through the intercessions of His  
all-pure and all-immaculate holy Mother, the  
power of the precious and life-giving Cross,  
the protection of the honorable, bodiless  
powers of heaven, the supplications of the  
honorable, glorious prophet and forerunner  
John the Baptist, of the holy, glorious, and  
praiseworthy apostles, of the holy, glorious,  
and triumphant martyrs, of our righteous  
and God-bearing fathers, (*local patron saint*);  
of the holy and righteous ancestors of God  
Joachim and Anna, and of all the saints, have  
mercy on us and save us, for He is good and  
loves mankind.

### **Fasting Rule**

*Wine: Wine and oil are allowed. Refrain from meat, fish,  
dairy, and eggs.*