The Prophecy Readings

of the

Coptic Rite

The Apostle and Prophet Readings of the Coptic Rite

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# Annual Time

## January or Ⲧⲱⲃⲓ

### January 6 (7) / Ⲧⲱⲃⲓ 11

Joyful Tune

The Glorious Feast of Theophany

#### The Prophecies of the Blessing of the Waters (Lakane—the Prayer over the Basin)

##### Habakkuk 3:2-19

From the book of Habakkuk the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

Lord, I have heard Your report and was afraid;

I considered Your works and was greatly astonished.

You shall be known between the two living creatures;

In the approaching years You shall be acknowledged;

You will be revealed when the time comes.

When my soul is troubled,

You will in wrath remember mercy.

God will come from Teman,

The Holy One from the mount of shaded leafy trees. Pause.

His excellence covered the heavens,

And the earth was full of His praise.

His brightness will be like the light;

Horns will be in His hand,

And He established a mighty love of His strength.

Before His face a word will go forth;

It will go out by the shoes of His feet.

The earth stood and was shaken to and fro;

He looked and the nations melted away.

The mountains were shattered by force;

The everlasting hills wasted away.

In the place of distresses, I saw His eternal ways.

The tents of the Ethiopians will be dismayed,

Even the tents of the land of Midian.

Were you angry, O Lord, with the rivers?

Or was Your wrath against the rivers,

Or was Your fury against the sea,

That You will mount on Your horses,

And Your chariot is salvation?

“You will stretch your bow against scepters,” says the Lord. Pause.

The land of rivers shall be torn asunder.

Many peoples will see you and be in travail,

Dispersing waters from its course.

The abyss uttered its voice;

Raising its form on high.

The sun arose, and the moon stood in its course;

At the light of Your arrows they went forth,

At the flashing of Your gleaming weapons.

You will bring low the land with threatening;

You will break the nations in wrath.

You went forth for the salvation of Your people,

To save Your anointed ones.

You brought death upon the heads of the lawless;

You brought bonds upon their neck. Pause.

You cut off the heads of rulers in amazement;

They shall tremble in it.

They will break their bridles

Like a poor man eating secretly.

You ran your horses into the sea,

Churning up the many waters.

I kept watch, and my belly trembled

From the sound of the prayer of my lips;

And trembling penetrated into my bones.

And my very frame of mind was troubled.

I shall rest in the day of tribulation

To go up to the people of my sojourn.

For though the fig tree will not bear fruit

And there be no grapes on the vines;

The labor of the olive tree fail

And the fields yield no food;

Though the sheep have no pasture

And there be no oxen in the cribs;

Yet I will glory in the Lord;

I will rejoice in God my Savior.

The Lord God is my strength;

He will direct my feet to the end;

He will set me upon high places,

So to conquer by His song.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

##### Isaias 35:1-2 (Literal translation from the Coptic)

From the book of Isaias the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

Let the wilderness of Jordan rejoice, for it has been given the glory of Lebanon, and the honour of Carmel.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

##### Isaias 40:1-5

Again from the book of Isaias the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

“Comfort, yes, comfort My people,” says God. “O priests, speak to the heart of Jerusalem, comfort her, for her humiliation is ended, her sin is pardoned; for she received from the Lord’s hand double for her sins.” The voice of one crying in the wilderness: “Prepare the way of the Lord; make straight the paths of our God. Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill humbled; the crooked places shall be made straight, and the rough places into plains. The glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see the salvation of God; for the Lord has spoken.”

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

##### Isaias 9:1

And again from the book of Isaias the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

Do this first and do it quickly: O country of Zebulun, land of Naphtali, by the way of the sea, and the rest dwelling along the seacoast and parts of Judea, and the land beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles, a people who walk in darkness, behold a great light; and you who dwell in the country of the shadow of death, upon you a light will shine.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

##### Baruch 3:36-4:4

From the book of Baruch the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

This is our God; no other shall be compared to Him. He found the whole way of knowledge and gave it to Jacob His servant and to Israel His beloved. Afterwards, He was seen upon the earth and lived among men.

She is the book of the commandments of God and the law that endures forever. All those who keep her will live, but those forsaking her will die. Return, O Jacob, and take hold of her. Walk toward the radiance of the presence of her light. Do not give your glory to another or the things that are of advantage to you to a foreign nation.

O Israel, we are blessed, for what is pleasing to our God is known to us.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

##### Ezekiel 36:25-29a

From the book of Ezekiel the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

[The Lord says,]\* I shall sprinkle clean water on you, and you will be cleansed from all your uncleanness, and I will also cleanse you from all your idols. I shall give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you. I shall take the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. I shall put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My requirements, and you will keep My judgments and do them. You will dwell in the land I gave to your fathers. You will be My people, and I shall be your God. I shall save you from all your uncleanness.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

\*Found in Copitc, lacking in LXX including OSB.

##### Ezekiel 47:1-9

Again from the book of Ezekiel the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

Then he brought me back to the outer door of the house, and there was water, flowing from under the open air of the chamber toward the east; and the water was flowing from under the right side court, from the south to the altar. Then he brought me out by way of the north gate and led me around on the outside to the outer gate that faces east; and there was water coming down, running out on the right side, in the direction in which a man went forth opposite. There was a measure in his hands, and he measured a thousand cubits with the measure; and he passed through the water. It was the water of remission. Again he measured a thousand, and he passed through the water, and the water was up to the knees. Again he measured a thousand, and the water came up to the waist. Again he measured a thousand, and it could not be crossed; for it broke into a rushing torrent which man cannot pass through.

He said to me, “Son of man, have you seen this?” Then he led me to the bank of the river. As I returned, behold, along the bank of the river there were very many trees on this side and the other. Then he said to me, “This is the water that flows into Galilee, which is to the east. Then it goes down upon Arabia and reaches as far as the sea to the outlet of the water; and it will heal the waters. So it shall be that every living thing that moves, wherever the river goes, will live. There will be a very great multitude of fish, because these waters go there; for they will be healed, and everything will live wherever the river goes.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

## June or Ⲉⲡⲏⲡ

### June 29 / Ⲉⲡⲏⲡ 5

Annual Tune

The Apostles’ Feast

Sts. Theodosia and her Companions

#### The Prophecies of the Blessing of the Waters (Lakane—the Prayer over the Basin)

##### Exodus 15:22-16:1a

From the book of Exodus of Moses the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

Thus Moses brought Israel from the Red Sea; then they went out into the Wilderness of Shur. They went three days in the desert and found no water to drink. Now when they came to Marah, they could not drink the waters of Marah, for they were bitter. Therefore he named that place Bitterness. Then the people complained against Moses, saying, “What shall we drink?” So he cried to the Lord, and the Lord showed him a tree. When he cast it into the waters, the waters were made sweet. There He made a statute and an ordinance for them. There He proved him and said, “If you diligently heed the voice of the Lord your God and do what is pleasing in His sight, give ear to His commandments and keep all His ordinances, I will put none of the diseases on you that I brought on the Egyptians; for I am the Lord your God who heals you.”

Then they came to Elim, where there were twelve fountains of water and seventy palm trees; so they camped there by the waters.

Now they journeyed from Elim, and all the congregation of the children of Israel came to the Wilderness of Sin, which is between Elim and Sinai.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

##### Exodus 30:17-30

Again from the book of Exodus of Moses the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

Then the Lord spoke to Moses, saying, “You shall also make a laver of bronze, with its base also of bronze, for washing. You shall put it between the tabernacle of testimony and the altar. You shall put water in it, for Aaron and his sons shall wash their hands and feet with water from it. When they go into the tabernacle of testimony, they shall wash with water, lest they die, or when they come near the altar to minister and to offer whole burnt offerings to the Lord. So they shall wash their hands and feet with water when they go into the tabernacle of testimony, lest they die. It shall be an ordinance forever to them—for him and his genealogy after him.”

Furthermore the Lord spoke to Moses, saying, “Also take for yourself aromatic spices, the flower of costly myrrh—five hundred shekels’ worth—and fragrant cinnamon—half as much, two hundred and fifty, and two hundred and fifty shekels of sweet-smelling calamus, and five hundred shekels of cassia, according to the shekel of the sanctuary, and a hin of olive oil. You shall make from these a holy anointing oil, an ointment compounded according to the art of the perfumer. It shall be a holy anointing oil. With it you shall anoint the tabernacle of testimony and the ark of the tabernacle of testimony; and the table and all its utensils, the lampstand and its utensils, and the altar of incense; and the altar of whole burnt offerings with all its utensils, and the table and all its utensils, and the laver and its base. You shall sanctify them so they may be most holy; whatever touches them will be holy. You shall anoint Aaron and his sons and consecrate them so they may minister to Me as priests.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

##### Isaias 1:16-26

From the book of Isaias the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

Wash yourselves, make yourselves clean. Put away the evils from your souls before My eyes. Cease from your evils. Learn to do good. Seek judgment and redeem the wronged. Defend the orphan and justify the widow. Come now, and let us reason together,” says the Lord, “although your sins are like crimson, I shall make them white like snow, and although they are as scarlet, I shall make them white like wool. If you are willing and obedient, you shall eat the good things of the land. But if you are unwilling and disobedient, you shall be devoured by the sword,” for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.

How the faithful city of Zion has become a prostitute! It was full of judgment. Righteousness lodged in it, but now murderers. Your silver is worthless; your tavern-keepers mix wine with water. Your rulers are disobedient and companions of thieves. Everyone loves bribes and follows after rewards. They do not defend the orphans, nor do they regard the cause of the widow. Therefore says the Master, the Lord of hosts: “Woe to the mighty ones of Israel, for My anger against the adversaries will not cease; and I will execute judgment on My enemies. I will bring My hand upon you and purge you completely. I will destroy those who disobey and remove all the lawless from you; I will humble all the arrogant. I will establish your judges as at the first and your counselors as at the beginning. Afterward, you shall be called the city of righteousness, Zion, the faithful mother-city.”

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

##### Isaias 35:1-10

Again from the book of Isaias the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

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.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

##### Isaias 43:16-44:6

And again from the book of Isaias the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

Thus says the Lord, who makes a way in the sea and a path in the mighty water, who brings forth chariot and horse, and a mighty host. But they fell asleep, and shall not arise. They are extinguished, like a quenched lamp-wick: “Do not remember the former things, nor reason about the things of old. Behold, I will do new things, which shall now spring forth, and you shall know them; and l will make a road in the desert and rivers in the waterless places. The wild animals of the field will bless Me, the sirens and the daughters of sparrows, because I gave water in the wilderness and rivers in the waterless place, to give drink to My race, My chosen, My people whom I preserved to declare My virtues. I have not called on you now, O Jacob, neither have I made you grow weary, O Israel. You have not brought Me sheep for your whole burnt offerings, neither have you glorified Me with your sacrifices, nor have I wearied you with frankincense. Neither have you purchased sweet incense for Me with money, nor have I desired the fat of your sacrifices; but I set before you your sins and wrongdoings. I, even I, am He who blots out your lawlessness, and I will not remember them. But remember, and let us judge; tell your lawless first, that you may be made righteous. Your fathers first, and their rulers after them, acted lawlessly against Me. Your rulers defiled My holy things; thus I gave Jacob to destruction and Israel for reproach.”

Yet hear now, O Jacob My servant, and Israel, whom I chose. Thus says the Lord God who made you, and formed you from the womb: “You will yet be helped; fear not, Jacob My servant, and Israel, My beloved, whom I chose. For I will give water to the thirsty who walk in a waterless place. I will put My Spirit upon your seed and My blessings upon your children. They will spring up like grass in the midst of the water and like willows by the flowing water. One will say, ‘I am God’s,’ and will call himself by the name of Jacob. Another will write, ‘I am God’s,’ and call himself by the name of Israel.”

Thus says God, the King of Israel who delivers him, the God of hosts: “I am the first and the last; besides Me there is no God.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

##### Zecharias 8:7-19

From the book of Zecharias the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

Thus says the Lord Almighty: ‘Behold, I shall deliver My people from the land of the east and from the land of the west. I shall bring them in and settle them in the midst of Jerusalem. They shall be to Me a people and I will be to them a God in truth and in righteousness.’

“Thus says the Lord Almighty: ‘Let your hands be strong, you who hear in these days these words from the mouth of the prophets, from the day that the house of the Lord Almighty was founded, and from the time the temple was built. For before those days, men’s wages will not be profitable and a price for livestock will not even exist, and because of affliction there will be no peace for those going out and those coming in, and I will send forth all men, each against his neighbor. But now I do not do to the remnant of this people as in the former days,’ says the Lord Almighty. ‘Rather I will show forth peace, for the vine shall give its fruit, the earth her produce, the heaven its dew, and I will give all these things as an inheritance to the remnant of this people. And it shall come to pass that as you were a curse among the nations, O house of Judah and house of Israel, so I will save you, and you will be for a blessing; be of good courage and strengthen your hands.’

“For thus says the Lord Almighty: ‘As I purposed to afflict you when your fathers provoked Me to anger,’ says the Lord Almighty, ‘and I did not relent, so now in these days I have prepared and purposed to do good to Jerusalem and to the house of Judah; be of good courage. These are the things you shall do: speak the truth, each man to his neighbor, and judge with peaceful judgment in your gates, and let none of you plan evil in his heart against his neighbor, and do not love a false oath, for all these things I hate,’ says the Lord Almighty.”

And the word of the Lord Almighty came to me, saying, “Thus says the Lord Almighty: ‘The fourth-month fast, and the fifth-month fast, and the seventh-month fast, and the tenth-month fast shall be for joy and gladness and in good feasts to the house of Judah. And you will rejoice, and you will love truth and peace.’

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

##### Zecherias 14:8-11

Again from the book of Zercharais the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

And in that day living water shall come forth out of Jerusalem, half of it toward the eastern sea and half toward the western sea. So it will be in both summer and spring. And the Lord shall be King of all the earth, and in that day the Lord shall be one Lord, and His name one name, encircling all the land, even the wilderness from Geba to Rimmon south of Jerusalem. But Rama shall remain in her place; from Benjamin’s Gate to the place of the First Gate; to the Gate of the Corners, and to the Tower of Hananeel, as far as the king’s winepresses, they will dwell in her, and it will no longer be a curse. Jerusalem shall dwell securely.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.