

The Holy Theophany of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ

Vespers with the Divine Liturgy of Saint Basil the Great

Sung on 5th January 2023

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

Reader: O come, let us worship God our King.

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

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

PSALM 103

Reader: 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 forever and ever. The abyss like a garment is His mantle; upon the mountains shall the waters stand. At Thy rebuke they will 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; now and ever, and unto the ages of ages. Amen.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, glory to Thee, O God. (x 3)

THE LITANY OF PEACE

“LORD I CALL ...”

Tone 2 (Sheet)

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 let the lifting up of my hands
be an evening sacrifice!//
Hear me, O Lord!

v. Out of the depths I cry to Thee, O Lord. Lord, hear my voice!

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 Thee!

v. Let Thine ears be attentive to the voice of my supplications!

Repeat: “Our Light that enlightens all ...”

v. If Thou, O Lord, shouldst mark iniquities, Lord, who could stand? But there is forgiveness with Thee.

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 Thee!

v. For Thy Name’s sake I wait for Thee, O Lord. My soul has waited for Thy word; my soul has hoped on the Lord.

Repeat: “A servant baptized our Redeemer ...”

v. From the morning watch until night, from the morning watch, let Israel hope on the Lord!

The streams of the Jordan received Thee, 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 dost Thou command me to do what is beyond me;
for it is I that should be baptized by Thee?”//
O sinless One, Christ our God, glory to Thee!

v. For with the Lord there is mercy and with Him is plenteous redemption, and He will deliver Israel from all his iniquities.

Repeat: “The streams of the Jordan received Thee, their source ...”

v. Praise the Lord, all nations! Praise Him, all peoples!

Wishing to save mankind that had gone astray,
Thou didst not think it unworthy for Thee
to be clothed in the form of a servant;
for it was proper for Thee as Master and God
to take upon Thyself human nature for our sake.
Being baptized in the flesh, O Redeemer,
Thou didst make us worthy of forgiveness.
And so we cry out to Thee://
"O Benefactor, Christ our God, glory to Thee!"

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

Repeat: "Wishing to save mankind that had gone astray ..."

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

Tone 2

Thou didst bow Thy head before the Forerunner
and didst crush the heads of the dragons.
Thou didst stand in the waters and enlighten all things//
that they might glorify Thee, O Saviour, the Light of our souls.

THE ENTRANCE WITH THE GOSPEL

Priest: Wisdom! Stand upright!

O GLADSOME LIGHT (Vespers Folder)

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, the Giver of Life; therefore all the world doth glorify Thee.

THE EVENING PROKEIMENON

Priest: Let us attend! Peace be to all!

Choir: And to thy spirit.

Priest: The Evening Prokeimenon

Reader: My help cometh from the Lord, Who hath made heaven and the earth.

Choir: My help cometh from the Lord, Who hath made heaven and the earth.

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

Choir: My help cometh from the Lord, Who hath made heaven and the earth.

Reader: My help cometh from the Lord,

Choir: Who hath made heaven and the earth.

OLD TESTAMENT READINGS (Festal Menaion pages 339-340)

1. Genesis 1:1-13
2. Exodus 14:15-18, 21-23, 27-29
3. Exodus 15:22-16:1

All stand for the Troparion. The Reader chants the verses and the Choir repeats the Refrain.

Troparion in Tone 5 (Sheet)

Thou, the Creator of the world,
hast shone forth in the world,
to give light to those who sit in darkness.//
O God Who lovest man, glory to Thee!

v. O God, be gracious unto us and bless us; make Thy face to shine upon us and have mercy on us, that Thy way may be known upon the earth, Thy saving power among the nations.

Refrain: To give light to those who sit in darkness.//
O God Who lovest man, glory to Thee!

v. *Let the peoples confess Thee, O God; let all the peoples confess Thee. Let the nations be glad and sing for joy, for Thou judgest the peoples with equity and guidest the nations upon the earth.*

Refrain: To give light to those who sit in darkness.//
O God Who lovest man, glory to Thee!

v. *Let the peoples confess Thee, O God; let all the peoples confess Thee: the earth has yielded its increase. May God, our God bless us. May God bless us. Let all the ends of the earth fear Him.*

Refrain: To give light to those who sit in darkness.//
O God Who lovest man, glory to Thee!

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

Troparion in Tone 5

Thou, the Creator of the world,
hast shone forth in the world,
to give light to those who sit in darkness.//
O God Who lovest man, glory to Thee!

OLD TESTAMENT READINGS (Festal Menaion pages 341-343)

4. Joshua 3:7-8, 15-17
5. 4 Kings 2:6-14
6. 4 Kings 5:9-14

All stand for the Troparion. The Reader chants the verses and the Choir repeats the Refrain.

Troparion in Tone 6 (Sheet)

Thou hast shone forth to tax collectors and sinners
because of Thine abundant mercies.
Where should Thy light shine but on those who sit in darkness?//
O our Saviour, glory to Thee!

v. *The Lord is King; He is robed in majesty! The Lord is robed, He is girded with strength. For He has established the world, so that it shall never be moved; Thy throne is from of old; Thou art from everlasting.*

Refrain: Where should Thy light shine but on those who sit in darkness?//
O our Saviour, glory to Thee!

v. *The floods have lifted up, O Lord, the floods have lifted up their voice; the floods lift up their waves at the voice of many waters.*

Refrain: Where should Thy light shine but on those who sit in darkness?//
O our Saviour, glory to Thee!

v. *Wonderful are the mighty waves of the sea; wonderful is the Lord on high. Thy testimonies are very sure. Holiness befits Thy house, O Lord, forevermore!*

Refrain: Where should Thy light shine but on those who sit in darkness?//
O our Saviour, glory to Thee!

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

Troparion in Tone 6

Thou hast shone forth to tax collectors and sinners
because of Thine abundant mercies.
Where should Thy light shine but on those who sit in darkness?//
O our Saviour, glory to Thee!

OLD TESTAMENT READINGS (Festal Menaion pages 344-347)

7. Isaiah 1:16-20
8. Genesis 32:1-10
9. Exodus 2:5-10
10. Judges 6:36-40
11. 3 Kings 18:30-39
12. 4 Kings 2:19-22
13. Isaiah 49:8-15

The Divine Liturgy continues with the Little Litany and the Trisagion.

PROKEIMENON

Priest: Let us attend! Peace be to all!

Choir: And to thy spirit.

Priest: Wisdom!

Reader: The Prokeimenon in the Third Tone.

Reader: The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom then shall I fear?

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

Reader: The Lord is my light and my salvation;

Choir: whom then shall I fear?

EPISTLE: 1 Corinthians 9:19-27 (Festal Menaion page 347)

ALLELUIA

Reader: And to thy spirit. Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

Choir: Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

Reader: My heart overflows with a goodly theme: I address my verses to the king.

Choir: Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

Reader: Thou art the fairest of the sons of men.

Choir: Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

GOSPEL: Luke 3:1-18 (Festal Menaion page 334)

And the rest of the Liturgy of Saint Basil.

ZADOSTOYNIK (Sheet)

All of creation rejoices in thee,

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 thy body into a throne,

and thy womb He made more spacious than the heavens.

All of creation rejoices in thee;//

O Full of Grace, Glory to thee!

COMMUNION HYMN

Praise the Lord from the heavens, praise Him in the highest! Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

THE GREAT BLESSING OF WATERS (White Book pages 86-93)

Immediately after the Prayer behind the Ambon, the Priest and Servers go to the font for the Blessing of the Waters.