

Vesper Propers, January 2, 2011
SUNDAY BEFORE THEOPHANY

Our holy father Sylvester, Pope of Rome, who piously ruled the Church for many years. During his pontificate, Constantine the Emperor built basilicas worthy of veneration and the Nicene Council of 325 acclaimed Christ the Son of God. On this day in Rome in the cemetery of Priscilla his body was laid to rest. (335)

*Supplement for **The Order of Vespers for Sundays After Pentecost, 2006***

Lamplighting Psalms in the Tone of the Week (Tone 7, p. 92), stichera 10-7.

Cantor: (Tone 4) If you, O Lord, should mark our guilt, Lord, who would survive?
(on 6) But with you is found forgiveness: for this we revere you.

Stichera of the Prefeast - Tone 4

⑥

Let us piously sing the pre-fes - tive hymns of the honorable bap-tism of our God.

Be - hold, he desires to come in the flesh to his own Fore - run - ner, and to ask

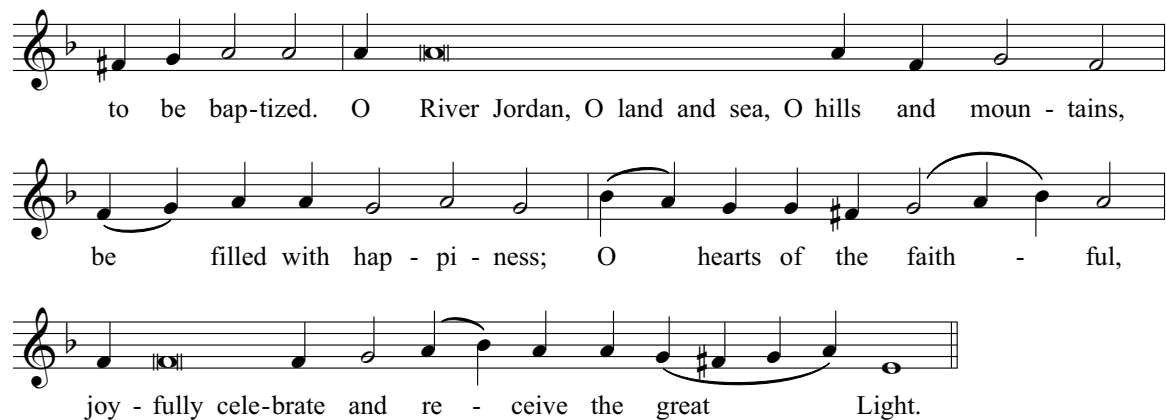
for the baptism of sal - va - tion for the re - creation of those who are en-light - ened

through the faith and who are par - tak - ers of the Spir - - - it.

Cantor: My soul is waiting for the Lord. I count on his word.
(on 5) My soul is longing for the Lord more than watchman for daybreak.

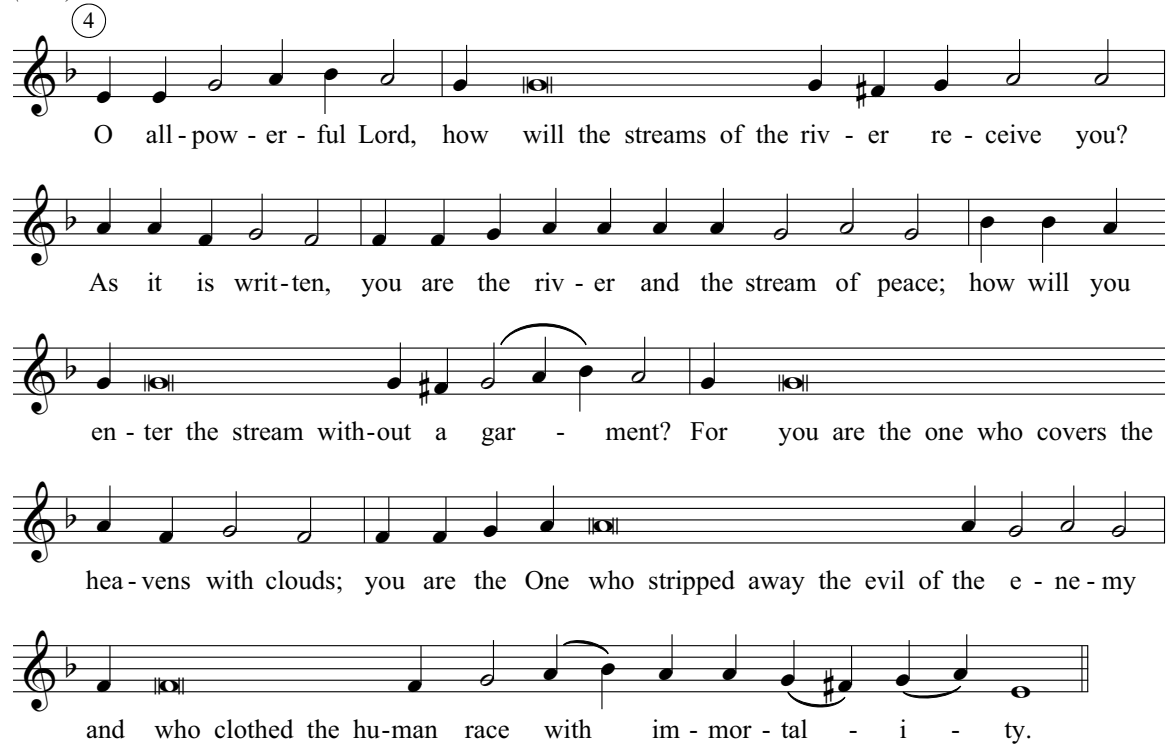
⑤

Christ is revealed and God appears, as it is writ - ten; he comes to his serv-ant

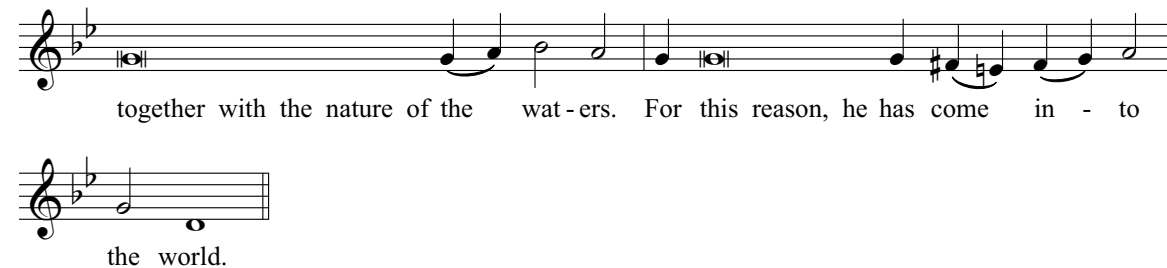


to be bap-tized. O River Jordan, O land and sea, O hills and moun - tains,
 be filled with hap - pi - ness; O hearts of the faith - ful,
 joy - fully cele-brate and re - ceive the great Light.

Cantor: Let the watchman count on daybreak,
 (on 4) and Israel on the Lord.



④
 O all-pow - er - ful Lord, how will the streams of the riv - er re - ceive you?
 As it is writ-ten, you are the riv - er and the stream of peace; how will you
 en - ter the stream with-out a gar - ment? For you are the one who covers the
 hea - vens with clouds; you are the One who stripped away the evil of the e - ne - my
 and who clothed the hu-man race with im - mor - tal - i - ty.



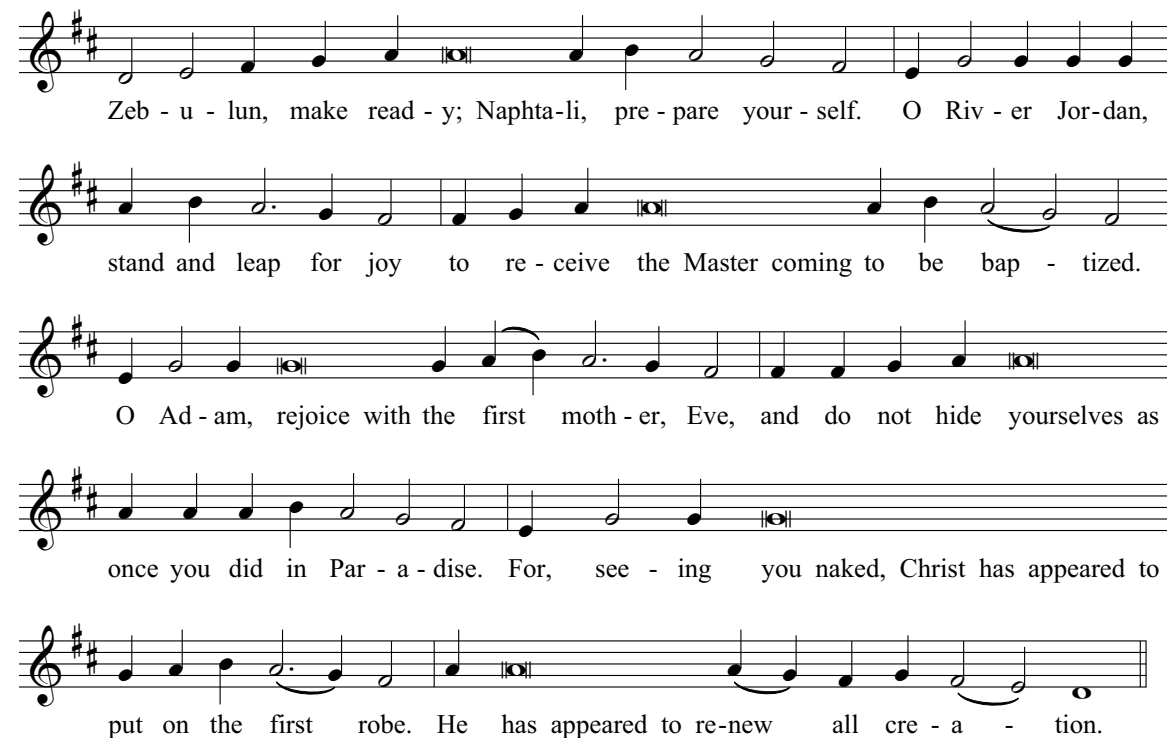
together with the nature of the wat-ers. For this reason, he has come in - to
 the world.

Troparia

Troparion of the Resurrection in the Tone of the Week (Tone 7, page 101).

Cantor: (Tone 4) Glory.... Now and ever...

Troparion of the Prefeast - Tone 4



Zeb - u - lun, make read - y; Naphta-li, pre - pare your - self. O Riv - er Jor-dan,
 stand and leap for joy to re - ceive the Master coming to be bap - tized.
 O Ad - am, rejoice with the first moth - er, Eve, and do not hide yourselves as
 once you did in Par - a - dise. For, see - ing you naked, Christ has appeared to
 put on the first robe. He has appeared to re-new all cre - a - tion.

Jor - dan, He is asking the Forerun-ner for bap - tism. John re - fus-es
 and cries out in fear: I do not dare to touch the divine Fire with my hand
 of clay. The Jordan and the sea fled, O Sav-ior and then re - turned. And how
 shall I place a hand on your head, which e - ven the Ser - a - phim fear?
 The Jordan fled when Elisha received the mantle of E - li - jah; how will it
 not go in - to the A - byss when it sees you un-clothed in the stream?
 The Jor - dan then cries out to John: Why do you hes - i - tate to baptize
 my Lord? Why do you delay the purification of so man - y - peo - ple?
 He has already sanctified all cre - a - tion. Let me al - so be sanctified

Cantor: (Tone 8) Because with the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption,
 (on 3) Israel indeed he will redeem from all its iniquity.

Stichera of our holy father Sylvester, Pope of Rome - Tone 8

O ho - ly Father Syl-ves-ter, bish - op of God, through the light of the priesthood you
 were en - light - ened. You have illumined the faithful through your clear teach - ings
 in or - der to honor the dwelling of the three Per - sons in one na - ture; you al - so
 cast away the dark-ness of her - e - sies. For this rea-son, we re-joice to - day
 and gloriously celebrate your light - bear - ing mem - o - ry.

Cantor: Praise the Lord all the nations; **Psalm 116**
 (on 2) acclaim him all you people.

O ho - ly Father Syl-ves-ter, bear - er of God, you re-vealed yourself to be a
 pil - lar of fire. You con-voked a sa - cred coun - cil and were the cloud
 which gives shade. You led the faithful away from the E-gyp - tian her - e - sy

and al - ways brought them to the divine land by your true teach - ing. There-fore,

we venerate your blest and all - ho - ly mem - o - ry.

Cantor: (Tone 8) Strong is the love of the Lord for us;
(on 1) he is faithful forever.

O ho - ly Father Syl-ves-ter, her - ald of God, by your pray'rs you firmly silenced the

man - y faced ser - pent. We are amazed at your priest - ly work.

You brought a multi-tude of pa - gans to God; you qui - eted the harshness

of the her - e - tics; you pub - lically performed great miracles be - fore them.

There-fore, we ven - er - ate you and call you bless - ed.

Cantor: (Tone 3) Glory...

Doxastikon of the Prefeast - Tone 3

Christ the Truth is coming to the Jor - dan to be bap-tized by John, and the

Bap - tiz - er says to him: I should be bap - tized by you, but you are

com-ing to me. I do not dare to put straw to the fire. O Master,

sancti - fy me by your di - vine The - o - pha - ny.

Cantor: (Tone 7) Now and ever...

Dogmatikon in the Tone of the week (Tone 7, page 98).

Aposticha

Aposticha in the Tone of the Week (Tone 7, page 99), concluding with:

Cantor: (Tone 3) Glory... Now and ever...

Aposticha Doxastikon of the Prefeast - Tone 3

O come all you faith - ful ones. Leav - ing the re - gion of Ju - de - a,

we shall cross the wilderness of the Jor - dan; and to - day we shall

see him who revealed himself in the flesh for our sake. In the streams of the