

*Vespers for the Theophany  
of Our Lord, God, and Savior  
Jesus Christ*

*when January 5 falls on a Saturday or Sunday*



Metropolitan Cantor Institute  
Archeparchy of Pittsburgh

December 2018

In the Byzantine tradition, **January 5** is a day of strict fasting in preparation for the feast of Theophany, the Baptism of our Lord, God, and Savior Jesus Christ. During the day, the Royal Hours are celebrated, and in the afternoon or early evening, the day's fast is broken at a special service of Vespers together with the Divine Liturgy of Saint Basil the Great.

However, when January 5 falls on a Saturday or Sunday, the day of strict fasting (and the Royal Hours) are transferred to the preceding Friday, and the Divine Liturgy is celebrated on the morning of January 5. In the evening, Vespers is celebrated by itself, without the Divine Liturgy, since it is a general rule in our tradition that the Divine Liturgy is only celebrated once per day in each church.

This booklet provides the complete service of Vespers for use in those years when January 5 falls on Saturday or Sunday. Where official texts have been promulgated for the Byzantine Catholic Church, these have been used.

The text of the fixed portions of Vespers are the work of the Inter-Eparchial Liturgical Commission of the Byzantine Catholic Metropolitan Church of Pittsburgh, completed in 2009. The texts for Theophany are from the *Festal Menaion* of the Sisters of Saint Basil the Great of Uniontown, adapted in some places to conform to our Slavonic liturgical books.

Wherever lines of text are given, with the second set of lines indented, they are intended to be sung to the usual psalm tone, given at the beginning of the service.


The image on the cover is from the Ruthenian *Časoslov* (Rome, 1950).

We hope that this booklet will provide edification and help to God's faithful as they begin the celebration of the baptism of our Lord, God, and Savior, Jesus Christ.

# Vespers for the Theophany of Our Lord, God, and Savior, Jesus Christ

*The celebrant, vested in bright epitrachilion, stands before the closed holy doors. The deacon remains in the sanctuary. The faithful STAND.*

**Celebrant:** Blessed is our God, always, now and ever and forever.

**Response:**   
A - men.

Glory to you, our God,  
glory *to* you.

Heavenly King, Comforter, Spirit of Truth,  
everywhere present and filling all things,  
Treasury of Blessings and Giver of Life,  
come and dwell within us,  
cleanse us of all stain,  
and save our souls, O *gracious* One.

Holy God, Holy and Mighty, Holy and Immortal,  
have mercy *on* us. (*3 times*)

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit,  
now and ever and forever. Amen.

Most Holy Trinity, have mercy on us;  
Lord, cleanse us of our sins;  
Master, forgive our transgressions;  
Holy One, come to us and heal our infirmities for *your* name's sake.

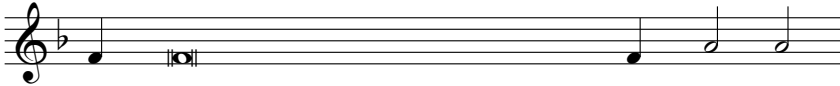
Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.  
Lord, *have* mercy.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit,  
now and ever and forever. Amen.

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* evil.

**Celebrant:** For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and ever and forever.

**Response:**



Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mer - cy.

*(sung twice)*



Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mer - cy.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit,  
now and ever and forever. Amen.

## Call to Worship

Come, let us worship our King and God. *(bow)*

Come, let us worship Christ, our King and God. *(bow)*

Come, let us worship and bow before the only Lord Jesus Christ,  
the King and *our* God. *(bow)*

*The celebrant quietly recites the Prayers of Light (pages 33-34) before the holy doors,  
while the faithful sing Psalm 103. The deacon returns to the altar.*

## Psalm 103



Bless the Lord, O my soul! Lord my God, how great you are,  
clothed in maj-es-ty and glo - - - ry, wrapped in light as in a robe.  
You stretch out the heav-ens like a tent. A-bove the rains you build your  
dwell - ing. You make the clouds your char - - i - ot, you walk on  
the wings of the wind; you make your an - gels spir - - - its  
and your min - is - ters a flam - ing fire. You found-ed the earth  
on its base, to stand firm from age to age. You make the grass grow for  
the cat - - - tle and the plants to serve man's needs, that he may  
bring forth bread from the earth and wine to cheer man's heart;

oil, to make his face shine and bread to strength-en  
 man's heart. I will sing to the Lord all my life, make mu - sic  
 to my God while I live. You made the moon to mark the months;  
 the sun knows the time for its set - ting. How man - y are your  
 works, O Lord! In wis-dom you have made them all. Glo - ry to  
 the Fa-ther, and to the Son, and to the Ho - ly Spir - it,  
 now and ev - - - er and for - ev - er. A - men.


*Three times, with a bow each time:*

Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Glo-ry to you, O God!


*The faithful may SIT as the Litany of Peace begins:*

## Litany of Peace

**Deacon:** In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

**Response:**   
1. Lord, have mer - cy.

**Deacon:** For peace from on high and for the salvation of our souls, let us pray to the Lord.

**Response:**   
2. Lord, have mer - cy.

**Deacon:** For peace in the whole world, for the stability of the holy Churches of God, and for the union of all, let us pray to the Lord.

**Response:** Lord, have mercy. (1)

**Deacon:** For this holy church and for all who enter it with faith, reverence, and fear of God, let us pray to the Lord.

**Response:** Lord, have mercy. (2)

**Deacon:** For our holy father, (*Name*), pope of Rome, let us pray to the Lord.

**Response:** Lord, have mercy. (1)

**Deacon:** For our most reverend metropolitan, (*Name*), for our God-loving bishop, (*Name*), for the venerable presbyterate, the diaconate in Christ, and all the clergy and people, let us pray to the Lord.

**Response:** Lord, have mercy. (2)

**Deacon:** For our government and for all in the service of our country, let us pray to the Lord.

**Response:** Lord, have mercy. (1)

**Deacon:** For this city, [*or*: For this holy monastery], for every city, community, and for the faithful living in them, let us pray to the Lord.

**Response:** Lord, have mercy. (2)

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

**Response:** Lord, have mercy. (1)

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

**Response:** Lord, have mercy. (2)

**Deacon:** That we be delivered from all affliction, wrath, and need, let us pray to the Lord.

**Response:** Lord, have mercy. (1)

**Deacon:** Protect us, save us, have mercy on us, and preserve us, O God, by your grace.

**Response:** Lord, have mercy. (2)

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

**Response:** A musical staff with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The melody consists of five notes: a quarter note G4, a quarter note A4, a quarter note B4, a quarter note G4, and a half note E4.

To you, O Lord.

**Celebrant:** Evening, morning, and at noon we praise you, we bless you, we thank you, and we pray to you, Master of All and loving Lord. Let our prayer rise like incense before you and do not let our hearts be turned to evil words or thoughts, but deliver us from all that might ensnare our souls. For to you Lord, O Lord, our eyes are turned and in you we hope; let us not be put to shame, O our God.

For to you, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, is due all glory, honor, and worship now and ever and forever.

**Response:** A musical staff with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The melody consists of three notes: a quarter note G4, a half note A4, and a quarter note G4.

A - men.

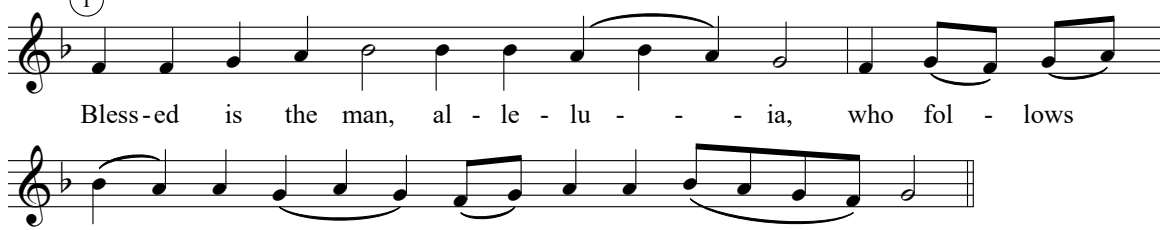


## The First Kathisma of the Psalter

*The First Kathisma is appointed to be sung at this time; in parochial practice, the following selected verses from the first station are sung with refrain.*

*Znammeny chant melody*

①



Bless-ed is the man, al - le - lu - - - ia, who fol - lows  
not the coun - sel of the wick - - - ed.

*and the people together with the cantor chant the refrain.*

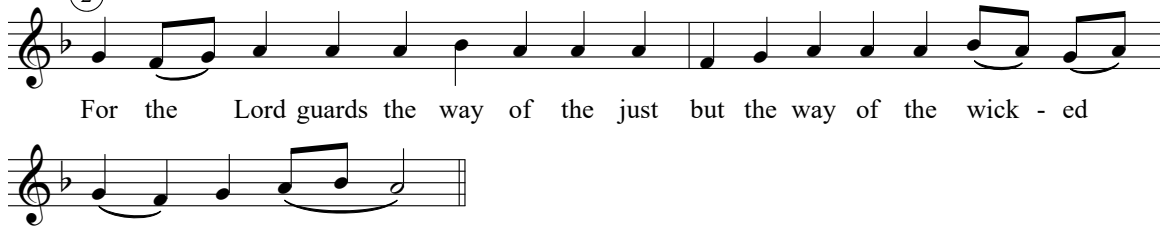


Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - - - ia.

*This refrain is sung after each of the following verses:*

*Psalm 1:6*


②



For the Lord guards the way of the just but the way of the wick - ed  
leads to doom.

*Psalm 2:11*

③



Serve the Lord with awe and trem-bling, pay him your hom - age.

*Psalm 2:12*

④



Bless-ed are they who put their trust in God.

*Psalm 3:8*

5

A - rise, O Lord! Save me, my God.

*Psalm 3:9*

6

O Lord of sal - va - tion, bless your peo - ple!

7

Glo - ry to the Fa - ther, and to the Son, and to the Ho - ly Spir - it.

8

Now and ev - er and for - ev - er. A - men.

*The cantor and people sing, twice, with a bow each time:*

Al - leluia, alleluia, allelu-ia! Glo - ry to you, O God!

*and a third time, with a bow:*

Al - leluia, alleluia, al-le - lu - ia! Glo - ry to you, O God!

*Then the following Small Litany may be intoned:*

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

**Response:**

Lord, have mer - cy.

**Deacon:** Protect us, save us, have mercy on us, and preserve us, O God, by your grace.

**Response:**   
Lord, have mer - cy.

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

**Response:**   
To you, O Lord.

**Celebrant:** For yours is the might; and yours are the kingdom and the power and the glory, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and ever and forever.

**Response:**   
A - men.

## The Lamplighting Psalms

*The faithful **STAND** for the great incensation of the church. They may **SIT** when the great incensation is complete.*

### Psalm 140 - Tone 2 samohlasen

  
O Lord, I have cried to you, hear me. Hear me, O Lord!

  
O Lord, I have cried to you, hear me; re-ceive the voice of my pray'r when I

  
call up - on you. Hear me, O Lord! Let my pray'r

as-cend to you like in - cense and the lift - ing up of my hands  
like an eve - ning sac - ri - fice. Hear me, O Lord!

O Lord, set a guard before my mouth  
and set a seal on the door of *my* lips.

Let not my heart be inclined to evil,  
nor make excuse for the sins I *commit*.

Let me never share in sinners' feasting.  
If a just man strikes or reproves me *it is* kindness

but let the oil of the wicked not anoint my head.  
Let my prayer be ever against *their* malice.

The princes were thrown down by the side of the rock;  
then they understood that my words *were* kind.

As a millstone is shattered to pieces on the ground,  
so their bones were strewn at the mouth of *the* grave.

To you, Lord God, my eyes are turned;  
in you I take refuge; spare *my* soul!

From the trap they have laid for me keep me safe;  
keep me from the snares of those who *do* evil.

Let the wicked fall into the traps they have set  
while I pursue my way *un*harméd.

### **Psalm 141**

With all my voice I cry to the Lord,  
with all my voice I entreat *the* Lord.

I pour out my trouble before him;  
I tell him all my distress while my spirit faints *within* me.

But you, O Lord, know my path.  
On the way where I shall walk they have hidden a snare to *entrap* me.

Look on my right and see:  
there is no one who takes *my* part.

I have no means of escape,  
not one who cares for *my* soul.

I cry to you, O Lord.  
I have said: "You are my refuge, all I have in the land of *the* living."

Listen, then, to my cry  
for I am in the depths of *distress*.

Rescue me from those who pursue me  
for they are stronger *than* I.

Bring my soul out of this prison  
and then I shall praise *your* name.

Around me the just will assemble  
because of your goodness *to* me.


**Psalm 129:** Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord;  
Lord, hear *my* voice!

Let your ears be attentive  
to the voice of *my* pleading.

If you, O Lord, should mark our guilt, Lord, who would survive?  
But with you is found forgiveness: for this we *revere* you.

My soul is waiting for the Lord. I count on his word.  
My soul is longing for the Lord more than watchman *for* daybreak.


Cantor



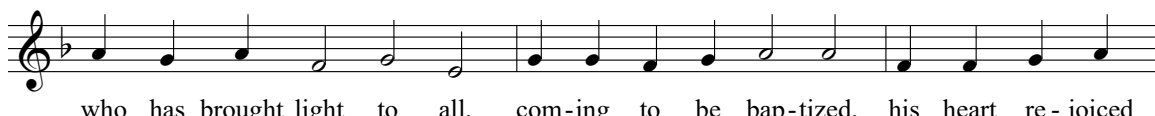
Let the watch-man count on daybreak and Is - ra - el on the Lord.

Stichera of the Theiphany of the Lord - Tone 2 samohlasen

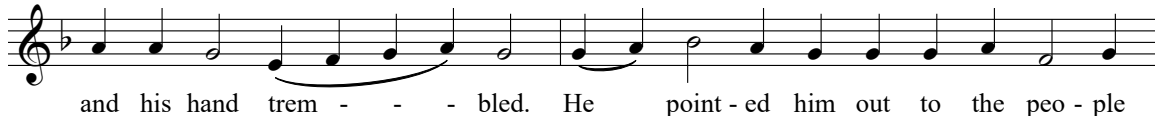
④




When the Fore - runner saw the One who is our en - light - en - ment, the One




who has brought light to all, com - ing to be bap - tized, his heart re - joiced



and his hand trem - - - bled. He point - ed him out to the peo - ple

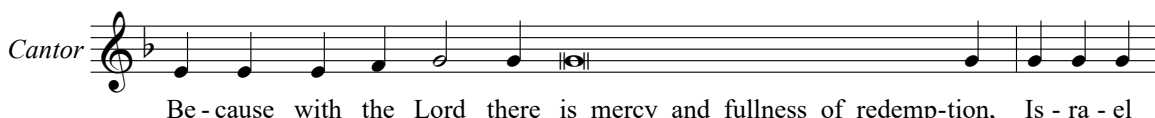


and said: This is the Sav - ior of Israel who delivered us from cor - rup - tion.




O Christ our God, O Sin - less One, glo - ry to you!

*Cantor*




Be - cause with the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemp - tion, Is - ra - el




in - deed he will re - deem from all its in - i - qui - ty.

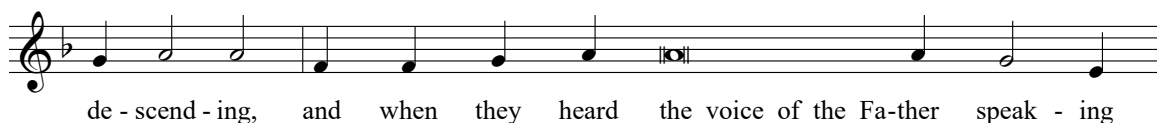
③



O our Sav - ior, the army of an - gels trem - bled when they saw you



bap - tized by your ser - vant, and the Ho - ly Spirit bearing wit - ness and



de - scend - ing, and when they heard the voice of the Fa-ther speak - ing



from heav - en: "This One up - on whom the Fore-run - ner lays his hands



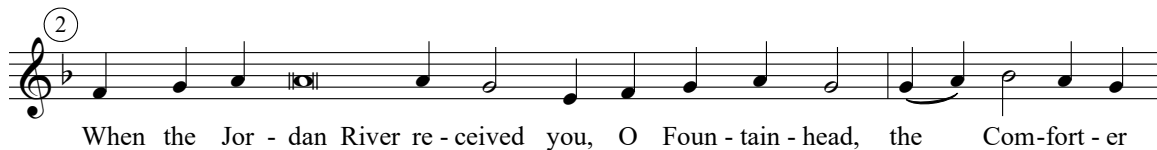
is my be - lov - ed Son in whom I am well - pleased." O Christ our



God, glo - ry to you!



*Cantor* Praise the Lord, all you na - tions; ac-claim him all you peo - ples!



② When the Jor - dan River re - ceived you, O Foun - tain - head, the Com-fort - er



descended in the form of a dove. Now be - hold the mar - vel: the One



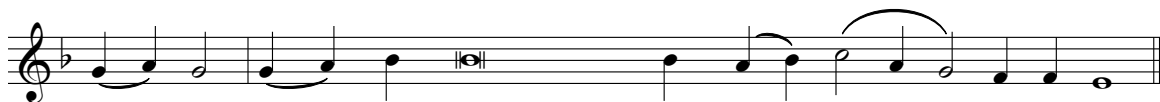
who bowed the heavens bows his head to the Fore - run - ner, and the one



made of clay cries out to his Mak - er: "Why do you com - mand me to perform




what is be - yond my pow - er? It is I who need to be bap - tized



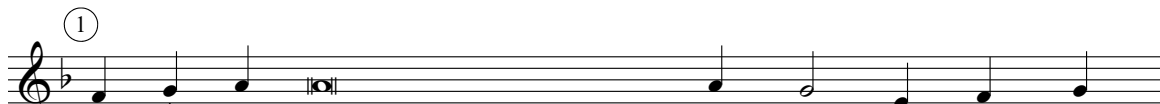
by you." O Christ our God, O Sin-less One, glo - ry to you!

*Cantor*

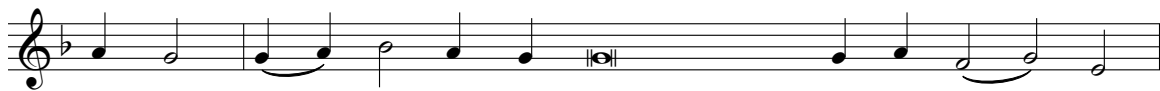


Strong is the love of the Lord for us; he is faith-ful for - ev - er.

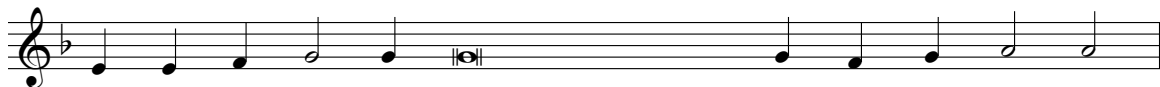
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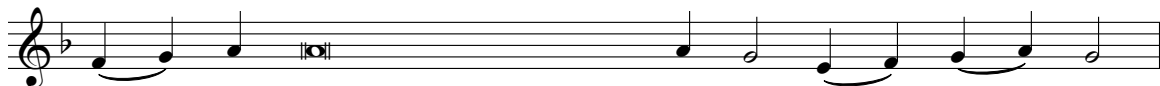
O God and Lord, when you resolved to save those who had strayed




from you, you con - de - scend - ed to take the form of a ser - vant,




for it was fit - ting that you assumed, for us, our hu - man na - ture.



And when you were baptized in the flesh, O our Re - deem - er,



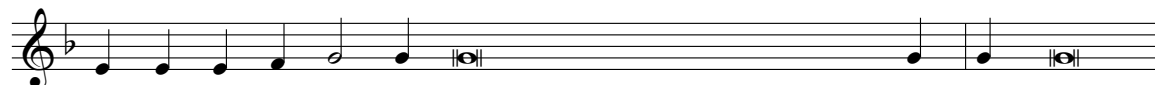
it made us wor - thy of your for - give - ness. There - fore, we cry out to



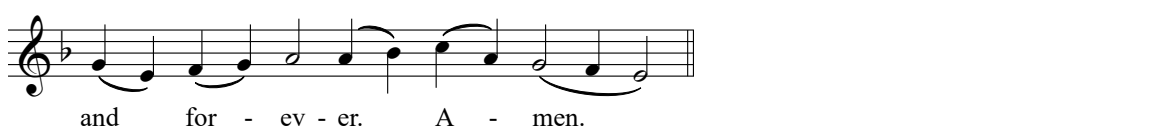
you: O Christ our God, our Ben - e - fac - tor, glo - - ry to you!



*The faithful **STAND** when the holy doors are opened and the cantor sings:*




Glo - ry to the Fa - ther, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spir-it, now and ever



and for - ev - er. A - men.

*While the sticheron at “Glory ...” is sung, the Little Entrance with the holy gospel book and censer is made through the northern door and the holy doors.*

**Doxastikon of the Theophany** - *Tone 2 samohlasen*




You have bowed your head before the Fore - run - - - ner, and you have



crushed the heads of the de - mons. You have de - scend - ed into the



waters and giv-en light to all things, that they may glo - ri - fy you,



O Sav - ior, the En - light - en - ment of our souls.

## The Festal Entrance

*At the Glory... of the Lamp-lighting stichera, the celebrant vests in the phelonion. The deacon opens the holy doors, takes the censer and the holy Gospel book, and they make the entrance through the northern door to stand before the holy doors. The following dialogue is recited quietly:*

**Deacon:** Let us pray to the Lord.

**Celebrant:** Good and loving King, who have blessed all things, we fervently implore you with contrite heart and humble spirit to bless our comings and goings. For your coming and going, and your dwelling among us are blessed, O Christ our true God, always, now and ever and forever. Amen.

**Deacon:** Reverend Father, bless the holy entrance.

**Celebrant:** Blessed is the entrance into your holy of holies, always, now and ever and forever.

*At the conclusion of the stichera, the deacon intones:*

**Deacon:** Wisdom! Be attentive!

*The clergy and servers enter the sanctuary as “O Joyful Light” is sung. The sanctuary and the faithful are incensed.*

O Joy - ful Light of the ho - ly glo - ry of the Fa - ther Im - mor - tal,  
the hea - ven - ly, ho - ly, bles - sed One, O Je - sus Christ: Now that we have  
reached the set - ting of the sun, and see the eve - ning light, we sing to God,  
Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Spir - it. It is fit - ting at all times to raise

a song of praise in meas - ured mel - o - dy to you, O Son of God, the  
Giv - er of Life. There-fore, the u - ni - verse sings your glo - ry.

## The Old Testament Readings

**Deacon:** Let us be attentive!

**Celebrant:** Peace be to all!

**Deacon:** Wisdom! Be attentive!

*The faithful sing the prokeimenon of the day of the week. The deacon chants the verse(s).*

**Saturday evening - Tone 6 samopodoben (Psalm 92: 1, 2, 5):**

The Lord reigns, the Lord reigns; he is clothed in  
maj - es - ty.

**Verse:** Robed is the Lord and girt about with strength.

**Verse:** The world he made firm, not to be moved.

**Verse:** Holiness is fitting to your house, O Lord, until the end of time.

**Sunday evening - Tone 8 (Psalm 133:1; 2):**

Come, bless the Lord, all you who serve the Lord; come, bless the Lord,



all you who serve the Lord.

**Verse:** Who stand in the house of the Lord, in the courts of the house of our God.

*The faithful SIT for the Old Testament and Epistle readings.*

*For each Old Testament reading, the deacon intones **Wisdom!** and the reader announces the book to be read (**A reading from...**). The deacon intones, **Let us be attentive!**, and the reader begins.*

*After each group of readings, the celebrant intones: **Peace to you, reader(s).***

**Readings 1-3** (For the sake of brevity, one or two readings may be chosen.)

**Genesis 1:1-13**

**Exodus 14: 15-18, 21-23, 27-29**

**Exodus 15: 22 through 16: 1** (This reading should always be included)

*Then the faithful sing the following responsorial troparion:*

**First Responsorial Troparion - Tone 5 troparion melody.**

*Refrain*



O Cre - a - tor of the world, you ap-peared in the world in or - der to



shine upon those who live in dark - ness. O Mer - ci - ful



One, glo - ry to you.

The cantor sings the verses of Psalm 66, and after each group of verses the faithful sing the second half of the troparion as a response: "In order to shine upon those who live in darkness. O Merciful One, glory to you!"

*Cantor*

Be gra-cious to us, O God, and bless us; let your face shine  
 u - pon us and have mer - cy on us. So will your ways be  
 known up - on earth and all na - tions learn your sav - ing help.

*Refrain*

*Cantor*

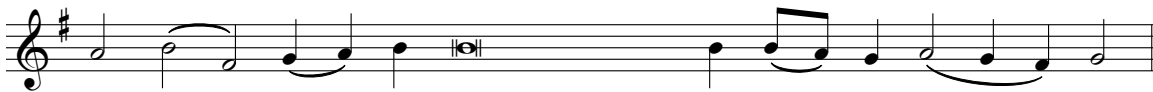
Let the peo - ples praise you, O God; let all the peo - ples praise you.  
 Let the na - tions be glad and exult for you rule the world with jus - tice.  
 With fair - ness you rule the peo - ples, you guide the  
 na - tions on earth.

*Refrain*

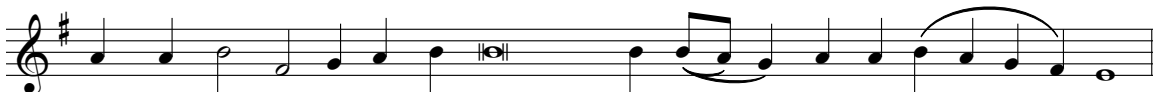
*Cantor*



Let the peo - ples praise you, O God; let all the peo - ples praise you.



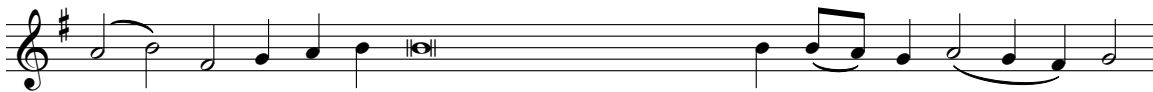
The earth has yield - ed its fruit, for God our God has blessed us.



May God still give us his bless - ing till the ends of the earth re - vere him.

*Refrain*

*Cantor*



Glo - ry to the Fa - ther, and to the Son, and to the Ho - ly Spir - it;



now and ev - er and for - ev - er. A - - - men.

*And the faithful sing the entire troparion: O Creator of the world, you appeared in the world \* in order to shine upon those who live in darkness. \* O Merciful One, glory to you.*

## **Readings 4-6**

*For the sake of brevity, one or two readings may be chosen.)*

**Joshua 3:7-8, 15-17**

**II Kings 2: 6-14**

**II Kings 5: 9-14** *(This reading should always be included)*

Then the faithful sing the following responsorial troparion:

**Second Responsorial Troparion** - *Tone 6 troparion melody.*

O our Sav-ior, through the greatness of your mer-cy, you cleansed the sin-ners

*Refrain*

and pub-lic-ans, and now your light shines upon those who live in dark-ness.

O Lord, glo-ry to you.

The cantor sings the verses of Psalm 92, and after each group of verses, the faithful sing the second half of the troparion as a response: "And now your light shines upon those who live in darkness. O Lord, glory to you!"

*Cantor*

The Lord reigns, he is clothed in ma-jes-ty; robed is the Lord, and girt a-bout with strength. The world he made firm, not to be moved; your throne has stood firm from of old. You are, O Lord, from all

*Refrain*

e-ter-ni-ty.

*Cantor*



The riv - ers have lift - ed up, O Lord, the riv - ers have lift - ed up



their voice; the riv - ers will lift up their waves, great-er than the roar of



might - y wa - ters.

*Refrain*

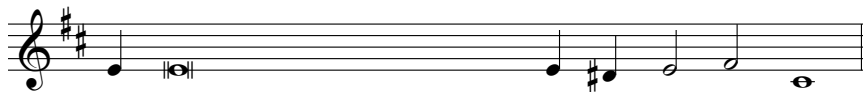
*Cantor*



More glo - rious than the surg - ings of the sea, the Lord is glo - ri - ous



on high. Your de - crees are worthy of trust in - deed. Ho - li - ness is



fit - ting to your house, O Lord, un - til the end of time.

*Refrain*

*Cantor*



Glo - ry to the Fa - ther, and to the Son, and to the Ho - ly Spir - it,



now and ev - er and for - ev - er. A - men.

*And the faithful sing the entire troparion: O our Savior, through the greatness of your mercy, \* you cleansed the sinners and publicans \* and now your light shines on those who live in darkness. \* O Lord, glory to you.*



**Reading 7-13**      *For the sake of brevity, a smaller number of readings may be chosen.)*

**Isaiah 1: 16-20**

**Genesis 32: 1-10**

**Exodus 2: 5-10**

**Judges 6: 36-40**

**I Kings 18: 30-39**

**II Kings 2: 19-22**

**Isaiah 49: 8-15** *(This reading should always be included.)*

*Then the following Small Litany may be intoned: (music on pp. 9-10)*

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

**Response:**    Lord, have mercy.

**Deacon:**      Protect us, save us, have mercy on us, and preserve us, O God, by your grace.

**Response:**    Lord, have mercy.

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

**Response:**    To you, O Lord.

**Celebrant:**    For you are holy, our God, and we we give glory to you, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and ever

**Response:**    Amen.

## **The Epistle and Gospel Readings**

**Deacon:**      Let us be attentive!

**Celebrant:**    Peace be to all.

**Deacon:**      Wisdom! Be attentive!

**Prokeimenon of the Vigil of Theophany - Tone 3 (Psalm 26: 1)**

The Lord is my light and my help; whom shall I fear? Whom  
shall I fear?

**Verse:** The Lord is the stronghold of my life; before whom shall I shrink?

**Deacon:** Wisdom!

**Lector:** A reading from the First Letter of Saint Paul the Apostle to the Corinthians.

**Deacon:** Let us be attentive!

*The lector reads 1 Corinthians 10:1-4.*

**Celebrant:** Peace to you, reader.

**Deacon:** Wisdom! Be attentive!

*The faithful **STAND** as the Alleluia is sung.*

**Alleluia of the Vigil of Theophany - Tone 6 (Psalm 44: 1-3)**

Al - le - lu - ia! Al - - - le - lu - - ia! Al - le - lu - - - ia!

**Verse:** My heart overflows with noble words.

To the king I must speak the song I have made

**Verse:** You are the fairest of the children of men.

**Celebrant:** Wisdom! Let us stand and listen to the holy Gospel. Peace be to all.

**Response:** And to your spirit.

**Deacon:** A reading from the Gospel according to Luke.

**Response:** Glory to you, O Lord, glory to you.


**Deacon:** Let us be attentive!

Then deacon reads the holy Gospel (Luke 3:1-18), and after it is read, the faithful respond, "Glory to you, O Lord, glory to you.."

The faithful *SIT*. A homily may be given at this time.

## Litany of Fervent Supplication


**Deacon:** Let us all say with our whole soul and with our whole mind, let us say:

**Response:**   
1. Lord, have mer - cy.

**Deacon:** O Lord almighty, God of our fathers, we pray you, hear and have mercy.

**Response:**   
2. Lord, have mer - cy.

**Deacon:** Have mercy on us, O God, according to your great mercy, we pray you, hear and have mercy.

**Response:**   
3. Lord, have mer - cy, Lord, have mer - cy, Lord, have mer - cy.

**Deacon:** Again we pray for our holy father, (*Name*), Pope of Rome, and for our most reverend Metropolitan (*Name*), for our God-loving Bishop (*Name*), for those who serve and have served in this holy church, for our spiritual fathers, and for all our brothers and sisters in Christ.

**Response:**   
4. Lord, have mer - cy, Lord, have mer - cy, Lord, have mer - cy.

**Deacon:** Again we pray for our government and for all in the service of our country.

**Response:** Lord, have mercy. (*three times, using response 4.*)

**Deacon:** Again we pray for the people here present who await your great and abundant mercy, for those who show us mercy, and for all Christians of the true faith.


**Response:** Lord, have mercy. (*three times, using response 3.*)

**Celebrant:** For you are a merciful and loving God, and we give glory to you, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and ever and forever.


**Response:**   
A - - men.

*The faithful STAND.*

### Hymn of Glorification

  
Make us wor - thy, O Lord, to be kept sin - less this eve - ning.

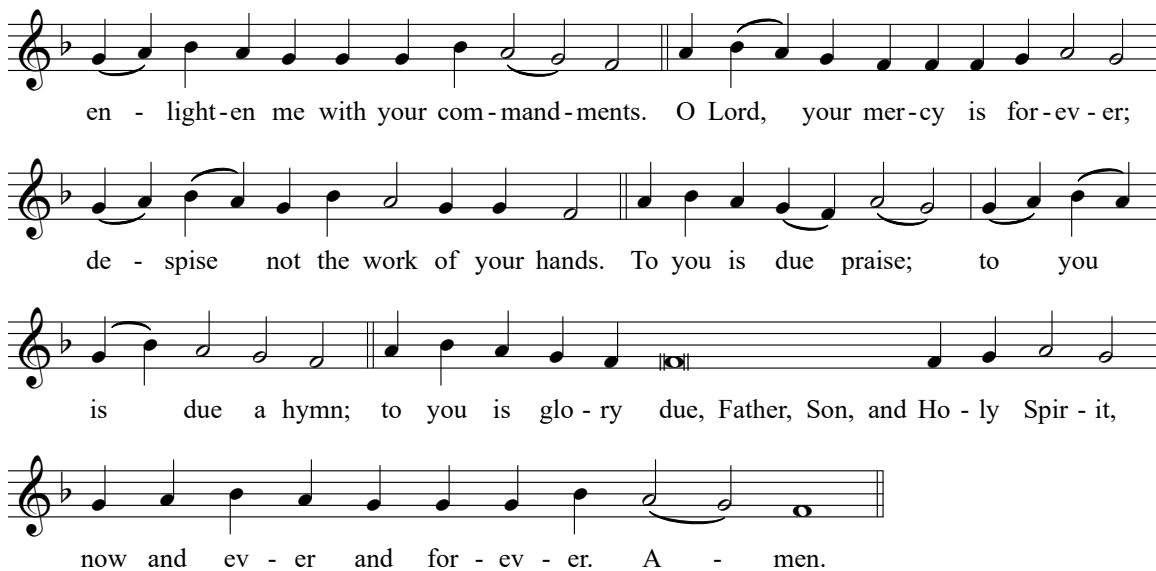
  
Bless-ed are you, O Lord, the God of our fa - thers, and praise-wor - thy

  
and glorious is your name for ev - er. A - - men. May your mer - cy, O Lord,  
*reverence*

  
be up - on us who have placed our hope in you. Bless-ed are you O  
*reverence*

  
Lord; teach me your com - mand - ments. Bless-ed are you, O Mas - ter;  
*reverence*

  
make me un - der - stand your com - mand - ments. Bless-ed are you, O Ho - ly One;



en - light-en me with your com - mand - ments. O Lord, your mer - cy is for - ev - er;  
 de - spise not the work of your hands. To you is due praise; to you  
 is due a hymn; to you is glo - ry due, Father, Son, and Ho - ly Spir - it,  
 now and ev - er and for - ev - er. A - men.

## Litany of Supplication

**Celebrant:** Let us complete our evening prayer to the Lord.

**Response:**



1. Lord, have mer - cy.


**Deacon:** Protect us, save us, have mercy on us, and preserve us, O God, by your grace.

**Response:**



2. Lord, have mer - cy.

**Celebrant:** That this whole evening be perfect, holy, peaceful, and without sin, let us beseech the Lord.



3. Grant this, O Lord.

**Deacon:** For an angel of peace, a faithful guide and guardian of our souls and bodies, let us beseech the Lord.

**Response:**   
4. Grant this, O Lord.

**Deacon:** For the pardon and remission of our sins and offenses, let us beseech the Lord.

**Response:** Grant this, O Lord. (3)

**Deacon:** For what is good and beneficial to our souls and for peace in the world, let us beseech the Lord.

**Response:** Grant this, O Lord (4)

**Deacon:** That we may spend the rest of our life in peace and repentance, let us beseech the Lord.

**Response:** Grant this, O Lord. (3)

**Deacon:** For a Christian, painless, unashamed, peaceful end of our life, and for a good account before the fearsome judgment seat of Christ, let us beseech the Lord.

**Response:** Grant this, O Lord. (4)

**Deacon:** Commemorating our most holy, most pure, most blessed and glorious Lady, the Theotokos and ever-Virgin Mary with all the Saints, let us commit ourselves and one another, and our whole life to Christ our God.

**Response:**   
To you, O Lord.


**Celebrant:** Great and most high God, you alone possess immortality and dwell in unapproachable light. You made all creation with wisdom, dividing light from darkness, establishing the sun to rule the day and the moon and stars to rule the night. You have allowed us sinners to approach your presence with thanksgiving in this present hour and to offer you evening praise. O loving Lord, make our

prayer ascend to you like incense and accept it as a sweet fragrance. Grant that we may spend the present evening and the coming night in peace; clothe us with the armor of light; deliver us from the fears of the night and from everything that lurks about in darkness. Grant that the sleep you have given us to refresh our fatigue may be free from all illusions of the devil. Yes, O Master of All, Giver of good things, let us feel contrition as we lie on our beds remembering your name throughout the night. Enlightened by meditation on your commands, may we rise with gladdened soul to give glory to your goodness, offering to your compassion prayers and supplications for our sins and those of all your people. Visit us with mercy through the intercession of the holy Theotokos.


For you are a good and loving God, and we give glory to you, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and ever and forever.

**Response:**   
A - men.

**Celebrant:** Peace be to all!

**Response:**   
And to your spir - - - it.

**Deacon:** Bow your heads to the Lord!

**Response:**   
To you, O Lord.

**Celebrant:** Lord our God, you bowed the heavens and came down for the salvation of the human race. Look upon your servants and upon your inheritance, for they have bowed their heads and bent their necks to you, the awesome judge who love us all. They do not expect human help, but await your mercy and long for your salvation. Protect them at all times, this evening and tonight, from every enemy, from all the devil's assaults, from vain thoughts and evil imaginings.

May the might of your kingdom be blessed and glorified, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and ever and forever.

**Response:**   
A - men.

*The Great Blessing of Water may be celebrated at this point, beginning with the singing of the Sticheron “The voice of the Lord...” Please refer to the separate booklet that has been made available for the Blessing of Water.*

## Dismissal

**Deacon:** Wisdom!

**Response:**   
Give the bles-sing.

**Celebrant:** Blessed is Christ our God, the One-Who-Is, always, now and ever and forever.

**Response:**   
A - men.

O God, uphold the holy and true faith,  
forever *and* ever.

**Celebrant:** Most holy Theotokos, save us!

**Response:** More honorable than the cherubim,  
and beyond compare more glorious than the seraphim,  
who, a virgin, gave birth to God the Word,  
you, truly the Theotokos, we magnify.

**Celebrant:** Glory to you, O Christ God, our hope; glory to you!


**Response:** Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit,  
now and ever and forever. Amen.



Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

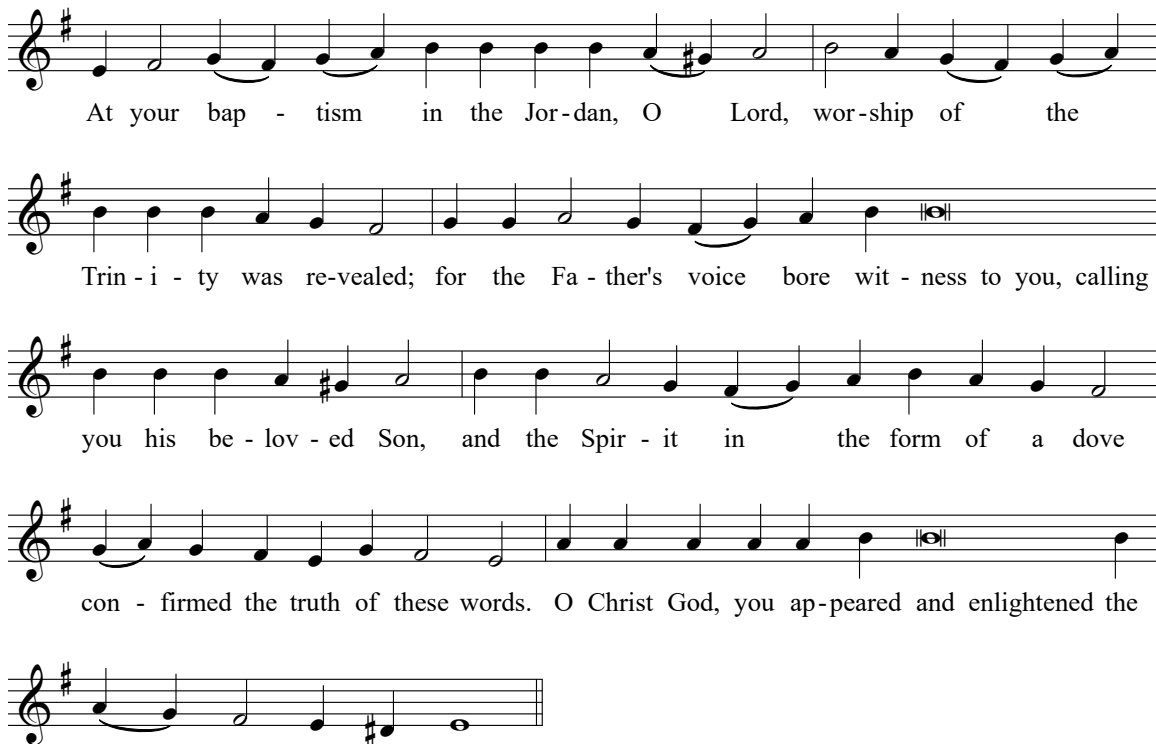
[Most Reverend (Arch)bishop,] give *the* blessing.

**Celebrant:** May Christ our true God, who for our salvation deigned to be baptized by John in the Jordan, have mercy on us and save us through the prayers of his most pure Mother and through the prayers of all the saints; for Christ is good and loves us all.

**Response:**   
A - - - - - men.

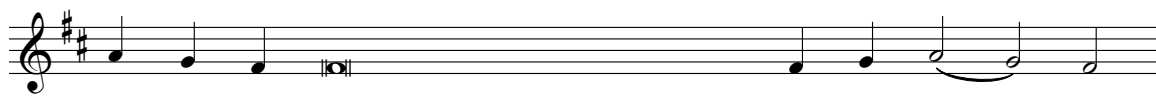
*Then a lighted candle is placed on a stand in the middle of the church. Standing beside it, the cantor sings the troparion and kontakion of the feast:*

**Troparion of Theophany - Tone 1**



At your bap - tism in the Jor-dan, O Lord, wor-ship of the  
Trin - i - ty was re-vealed; for the Fa - ther's voice bore wit - ness to you, calling  
you his be - lov - ed Son, and the Spir - it in the form of a dove  
con - firmed the truth of these words. O Christ God, you ap-peared and enlightened the  
world. Glo - ry to you!

*Cantor*



Glo - ry to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Ho - ly Spir - it,



now and ever and for - ev - er. A - men.

**Kontakion of Theophany - Tone 4**



You have re - vealed your - self to the world to - day; and your light, O Lord,



has set its seal on us. We rec - ognize you and ex - claim to you:



You have come and revealed your-self, O Un - ap - proach - a - ble Light.

## Prayers of Light

*To be said quietly by the celebrant during the chanting of Psalm 103.*

1. Lord, compassionate and merciful, long-suffering and rich in mercy, give ear to my prayer and attend to the sound of my plea. Show us a sign of your favor; guide us in your way so that we may walk in your truth. Gladden our hearts that we may fear your holy name, for you are great and do marvelous deeds. You alone are God, and among the gods there is none like you, O Lord. Powerful in mercy and gracious in strength, you help, comfort, and save all those who hope in your holy name. For to you, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, is due all glory, honor, and worship, now and ever and forever. Amen.

2. Lord, do not rebuke us in your anger, nor punish us in your wrath. Deal with us according to your kindness, O Physician and Healer of our souls. Guide us to the harbor of your will; enlighten the eyes of our minds that we may know your truth. Grant that we may spend what remains of this day and the rest of our life peacefully and sinlessly through the intercession of the holy Theotokos and of all the saints. For yours is the might; and yours are the kingdom and the power and the glory, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and ever and forever. Amen.

3. Lord our God, remember us your sinful and useless servants as we call upon your holy and sublime name, and do not put us to shame for hoping in your mercy. Grant us instead, O Lord, all our petitions which lead to salvation, and make us worthy to love and to fear you with all our hearts and to do your will in everything. For you are a good and loving God, and we give glory to you, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and ever and forever. Amen.

4. You are praised by the holy powers with hymns that are never silent and in doxologies that never cease. Fill our mouth with your praise that we may ascribe majesty to your holy name. Through the intercession of the holy Theotokos and of all the saints, give us a share and an inheritance with those who fear you in truth and who keep your commandments. For to you, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, is due all glory, honor, and worship, now and ever and forever. Amen.

5. Blessed are you, Lord God almighty. You know the human mind, you know our needs long before we ask or recognize them. Therefore, O loving King, good in every way, allow us in your great mercy to call upon your holy name with a clear conscience, and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from the evil one, and in your providence, arrange everything for our good. For to you, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, is due all glory, honor and worship, now and ever and forever. Amen.

6. Lord, O Lord, you hold all things in your spotless hand; you are long-suffering toward all of us, and you repent over our evil deeds. Remember your mercy and your compassion. Visit us in your goodness and for the rest of this day enable us to flee from the many wiles of the evil one, and keep our life secure by the grace of your all-holy Spirit. Through the mercy and the loving-kindness of your only-begotten Son with whom you are blessed, together with your all-holy, good, and life-creating Spirit, now and ever and forever. Amen.

7. Great and wonderful God, you govern all things with indescribable goodness and rich providence. You have granted us the good things of this earth, and through the good things already bestowed on us, have given us a pledge of the promised kingdom. You have kept us away from every evil during the part of this day which has passed, even until the present moment; now allow us to complete the rest of the day without blame in the presence of your holy glory singing hymns to you, O God, who alone are good and love us all. For you are our God, and we give glory to you, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and ever and forever. Amen.