

SYNAXIS OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST 31ST SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST HYMNS & READINGS • JANUARY 7, 2018

Verses for the Beatitudes (Tone 6)

Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called the sons of God.

By a tree was Adam deceived; yet again by the Tree of the Cross was the thief saved, who cried out: Remember me in Thy Kingdom, O Lord!

*Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness sake,
for theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven.*

O Bestower of Life, Who hast broken down the gates and portals of hades, Thou hast saved all who cry out to Thee, O Saviour: Glory to Thine arising!

*Blessed are you when men shall revile you and persecute you,
and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely for my sake.*

O Thou Who by Thy burial hast made death captive, and by Thy resurrection hast filled all with joy: remember me, in that Thou art compassionate.

Rejoice and be exceedingly glad, for great is your reward in heaven.

The myrrh-bearing women who came to the tomb heard an angel cry out: Christ, Who hath enlightened all things, is risen!

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

The Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit let us glorify, saying: O Holy Trinity, save Thou our souls!

Now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen!

O Virgin, who ineffably conceived in the latter days and gavest birth unto Thy Creator: Save those who magnify thee!

Troparion & Kontakion

Troparion, Tone VI -

The Angelic Powers were at Thy tomb; the guards became as dead men. Mary stood by Thy grave, seeking Thy most pure body. Thou didst capture hell not being tempted by it. Thou didst come to the Virgin, granting life. O Lord, Who didst rise from the dead, glory to Thee.

Troparion, Tone I -

When Thou, O Lord, wast baptized in the Jordan, the worship of the Trinity was made manifest. For the voice of the Father bore witness to Thee, and called Thee His beloved Son; and the Spirit in the form of a dove, confirmed the truthfulness of His word. O Christ our God, Who hast revealed Thyself and hast enlightened the world, glory to Thee.

Troparion, Tone II

The memory of the righteous is celebrated with hymns of praise, but the Lord's testimony is sufficient for thee, O Forerunner. Thou wast shown in truth to be the most honourable of the Prophets, for Thou wast deemed worthy to baptize in the streams of the Jordan Him Whom they foretold. Therefore, having suffered for the truth with joy, thou proclaimedst to those in hell God Who appeared in the flesh, Who taketh away the sin of the world, and granteth us great mercy.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit

Kontakion, Tone VI -

The river Jordan trembled, and was driven back, filled with fear at Thy coming in the flesh, while John drew back in awe as he fulfilled the ministry of a prophet. The ranks of Angels stood amazed when they beheld Thee in the flesh being baptized in the streams. And we, who were in darkness, are filled with light as we praise Thee, Who hast appeared to enlighten all.

Now and ever and unto ages of ages, Amen

Kontakion, Tone IV

Today Thou hast appeared to the universe; and Thy light, O Lord, hath shone on us, who with understanding praise Thee. Thou hast come and revealed Thyself, O Light Unapproachable.

Prokeimenon & Epistle

Tone 1 (*Resurrection*): Let Thy mercy, O Lord, be upon us as we have set our hope on Thee!

Verse: (Sunday after Theophany) Rejoice in the Lord, O ye righteous! Praise befits the just!

Tone 7 (*St. John the Baptist*): The righteous shall rejoice in the Lord, and shall hope in Him.

Epistle: (*Ephesians 4:7-13*) *Brethren,* ⁷ But to each one of us grace was given according to the measure of Christ's gift. ⁸ Therefore He says: "When He ascended on high, He led captivity captive, And gave gifts to men." ⁹ (Now this, "He ascended"—what does it mean but that He also first descended into the lower parts of the earth? ¹⁰ He who descended is also the One who ascended far above all the heavens, that He might fill all things.) ¹¹ And He Himself gave some *to be* apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, ^{12f} or the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, ¹³ till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ;

Alleluia Verses:

(*Tone 5*) I will sing of Thy mercies, O Lord, forever; with my mouth I will proclaim Thy truth from generation to generation

(*Tone 5*) For Thou hast said: "Mercy will be established forever; My truth will be prepared in the heavens."

Gospel: *(Matthew 4:12-17)* At that time, when Jesus heard that John had been put in prison, He departed to Galilee. ¹³ And leaving Nazareth, He came and dwelt in Capernaum, which is by the sea, in the regions of Zebulun and Naphtali, ¹⁴ that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Isaiah the prophet, saying: ¹⁵ “The land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, By the way of the sea, beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles: ¹⁶ The people who sat in darkness have seen a great light, And upon those who sat in the region and shadow of death Light has dawned.” ¹⁷ From that time Jesus began to preach and to say, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.”

