

**FESTAL ORTHROS ON JANUARY 07, 2007**  
**SYNAXIS OF THE GLORIOUS PROPHET, FORERUNNER & BAPTIST JOHN**  
JULIAN THE DEACON; HIEROMARTYR ROMANOS; NEWMARTYR ATHANASIOS OF ATTALIA;  
VENERABLE BRANNOCK OF BRAUNTON

Priest: Blessed is our God always, now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

Choir: Amen.

People: Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal: have mercy on us. (THRICE)  
*Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; both now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.*

All-holy Trinity, have mercy on us. Lord, cleanse us from our sins. Master, pardon our iniquities. Holy God, visit and heal our infirmities for Thy Name's sake.

Lord, have mercy. (THRICE)

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

Priest: For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory: of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit; now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

Choir: Amen. (Choir continues.)

O Lord, save Thy people and bless Thine inheritance, granting to Thy people victory over all their enemies, and by the power of Thy Cross preserving Thy commonwealth.

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

Do Thou, Who of Thine own good will wast lifted up upon the Cross, O Christ our God, bestow Thy bounties upon the new Nation which is called by Thy Name; make glad in Thy might those who lawfully govern, that with them we may be led to victory over our adversaries, having in Thine aid a weapon of peace and a trophy invincible.

*Both now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.*

O Champion dread, who cannot be put to confusion, despise not our petitions, O Good and All-praised Theotokos; establish the way of the Orthodox; save those who have been called upon to govern us, leading us to that victory which is from heaven, for thou art she who gavest birth to God, and alone art blessed.

EKTENIA

Priest: Have mercy on us, O God, according to Thy great goodness, we pray Thee, hearken and have mercy.

Choir: Lord, have mercy. (THRICE)

Priest: Again we pray for all pious and Orthodox Christians.

Choir: Lord, have mercy. (THRICE)

Priest: Again we pray for our father and Metropolitan PHILIP, for our Archbishop JOSEPH, and for all our Brotherhood in Christ.

Choir: Lord, have mercy. (THRICE)

Priest: For Thou art a merciful God and lovest mankind, and unto Thee we ascribe glory: to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

Choir: Amen. Bless, Father, in the Name of the Lord.

Priest: Glory to the Holy, Consubstantial, Life-giving and Undivided Trinity, always, now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

Choir: Amen.

Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, and good will toward men. (THRICE)

O Lord, open Thou my lips, and my mouth shall show forth Thy praise. (TWICE)

### PSALM 3

O Lord, why are they multiplied that afflict me? Many rise up against me. Many say unto my soul: There is no salvation for him in his God. But Thou, O Lord, art my helper, my glory, and the lifter up of my head. I cried unto the Lord with my voice, and He heard me out of His holy mountain. I laid me down and slept; I awoke, for the Lord will help me. I will not be afraid of ten thousands of people that set themselves against me round about. Arise, O Lord, save me, O my God, for Thou hast smitten all who without cause are mine enemies; the teeth of sinners hast Thou broken. Salvation is of the Lord, and Thy blessing is upon Thy people.

I laid me down and slept; I awoke, for the Lord will help me.

### PSALM 37

O Lord, rebuke me not in Thine anger, nor chasten me in Thy wrath. For Thine arrows are fastened in me, and Thou hast laid Thy hand heavily upon me. There is no healing in my flesh in the face of Thy wrath; and there is no peace in my bones in the face of my sins. For mine iniquities are risen higher than my head; as a heavy burden have they pressed heavily upon me. My bruises are become noisome and corrupt in the face of my folly. I have been wretched and utterly bowed down until the end; all the day long I went with downcast face. For my loins are filled with mocking, and there is no healing in my flesh. I am afflicted and humbled exceedingly, I have roared from the groaning of my heart. O Lord, before Thee is all my desire, and my groaning is not hid from Thee. My heart is troubled, my strength hath failed me; and the light of mine eyes, even this is not with me. My friends and my neighbors drew nigh over against me and stood, and my nearest of kin stood afar off. And they that sought after my soul used violence; and they that sought evils for me spake vain things, and craftiness all the day long did they meditate. But as for me, like a deaf man I heard them not, and was as a speechless man that openeth not his mouth. And I became as a man that heareth not, and that hath in his mouth no reproofs. For in Thee have I hoped, O Lord; Thou wilt hearken unto me, O Lord my God. For I said: Let never mine enemies rejoice over me; yea, when my feet were shaken, those men spake boastful words against me. For I am ready for scourges, and my sorrow is continually before me. For I will declare mine iniquity, and I will take heed concerning my sin. But mine enemies live and are made stronger than I, and they that hated me unjustly are multiplied. They that render me evil for good slandered me, because I pursued goodness. Forsake me not, O Lord my God, depart not from me. Be attentive unto my help, O Lord of my salvation.

Forsake me not, O Lord my God, depart not from me. Be attentive unto my help, O Lord of my salvation.

PSALM 62

O God, my God, unto Thee I rise early at dawn. My soul hath thirsted for Thee; how often hath my flesh longed after Thee in a land barren and untrodden and unwatered. So in the sanctuary have I appeared before Thee to see Thy power and Thy glory, For Thy mercy is better than lives; my lips shall praise Thee. So shall I bless Thee in my life, and in Thy name will I lift up my hands. As with marrow and fatness let my soul be filled, and with lips rejoicing shall my mouth praise Thee. If I remembered Thee on my bed, at the dawn I meditated on Thee. For Thou art become my helper; in the shelter of Thy wings will I rejoice. My soul hath cleaved after Thee; Thy right hand hath been quick to help me. But as for these, in vain have they sought after my soul; they shall go into the nethermost parts of the earth, they shall be surrendered unto the edge of the sword; portions for foxes shall they be. But the king shall be glad in God, everyone shall be praised that sweareth by Him; for the mouth of them is stopped that speak unjust things.

At the dawn I meditated on Thee. For Thou art become my helper; in the shelter of Thy wings will I rejoice. My soul hath cleaved after Thee; Thy right hand hath been quick to help me.

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

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia. Glory to Thee, O God. (THRICE)  
Lord, have mercy. (THRICE)

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

PSALM 87

*Both now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.*

O Lord God of my salvation, by day have I cried and by night before Thee. Let my prayer come before Thee, bow down Thine ear unto my supplication, for filled with evils is my soul, and my life unto Hades hath drawn nigh. I am counted with them that go down into the pit; I am become as a man without help, free among the dead, like the bodies of the slain that sleep in the grave, whom Thou rememberest no more, and they are cut off from Thy hand. They laid me in the lowest pit, in darkness and in the shadow of death. Against me is Thine anger made strong, and all Thy billows hast Thou brought upon me. Thou hast removed my friends afar from me; they have made me an abomination unto themselves. I have been delivered up, and have not come forth; mine eyes are grown weak from poverty. I have cried unto Thee, O Lord, the whole day long; I have stretched out my hands unto Thee. Nay, for the dead wilt Thou work wonders? Or shall physicians raise them up that they may give thanks unto Thee? Nay, shall any in the grave tell of Thy mercy, and of Thy truth in that destruction? Nay, shall Thy wonders be known in that darkness, and Thy righteousness in that land that is forgotten? But as for me, unto Thee, O Lord, have I cried; and in the morning shall my prayer come before Thee. Wherefore, O Lord, dost Thou cast off my soul and turnest Thy face away from me? A poor man am I, and in troubles from my youth; yea, having been exalted, I was humbled and brought to distress. Thy furies have passed upon me, and Thy terrors have sorely troubled me. They came round about me like water, all the day long they compassed me about together. Thou hast removed afar from me friend and neighbor, and mine acquaintances because of my misery.

O Lord God of my salvation, by day have I cried and by night before Thee. Let my prayer come before Thee, bow down Thine ear unto my supplication.

PSALM 102

Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me bless His holy name. Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all that He hath done for thee, Who is gracious unto all thine iniquities, Who healeth all thine infirmities, Who redeemeth thy life from corruption, Who crowneth thee with mercy and compassion, Who fulfilleth thy desire with good things; thy youth shall be renewed as the eagle's. The Lord performeth deeds of mercy, and executeth judgment for all them that are wronged. He hath made His ways known unto Moses, unto the sons of Israel the things that He hath willed. Compassionate and merciful is the Lord, long-suffering and plenteous in mercy; not unto the end will He be angered; neither unto eternity will He be wroth. Not according to our iniquities hath He dealt with us, neither according to our sins hath He rewarded us. For according to the height of heaven from the earth, the Lord hath made His mercy to prevail over them that fear Him. As far as the east is from the west, so far hath He removed our iniquities from us. Like as a father hath compassion upon his sons, so hath the Lord had compassion upon them that fear Him; for He knoweth whereof we are made, He hath remembered that we are dust. As for man, his days are as the grass; as a flower of the field, so shall he blossom forth. For when the wind is passed over it, then it shall be gone, and no longer will it know the place thereof. But the mercy of the Lord is from eternity, even unto eternity, upon them that fear Him. And His righteousness is upon sons of sons, upon them that keep His testament and remember His commandments to do them. The Lord in heaven hath prepared His throne, and His kingdom ruleth over all. Bless the Lord, all ye His angels, mighty in strength, that perform His word, to hear the voice of His words. Bless the Lord, all ye His hosts, His ministers that do His will. Bless the Lord, all ye His works, in every place of His dominion. Bless the Lord, O my soul.

In every place of His dominion, bless the Lord, O my soul.

PSALM 142

O Lord, hear my prayer, give ear unto my supplication in Thy truth; hearken unto me in Thy righteousness. And enter not into judgment with Thy servant, for in Thy sight shall no man living be justified. For the enemy hath persecuted my soul; he hath humbled my life down to the earth. He hath sat me in darkness as those that have been long dead, and my spirit within me is become despondent; within me my heart is troubled. I remembered days of old, I meditated on all Thy works, I pondered on the creations of Thy hands. I stretched forth my hands unto Thee; my soul thirsteth after Thee like a waterless land. Quickly hear me, O Lord; my spirit hath fainted away. Turn not Thy face away from me, lest I be like unto them that go down into the pit. Cause me to hear Thy mercy in the morning; for in Thee have I put my hope. Cause me to know, O Lord, the way wherein I should walk; for unto Thee have I lifted up my soul. Rescue me from mine enemies, O Lord; unto Thee have I fled for refuge. Teach me to do Thy will, for Thou art my God. Thy good Spirit shall lead me in the land of uprightness; for Thy name's sake, O Lord, shalt Thou quicken me. In Thy righteousness shalt Thou bring my soul out of affliction, and in Thy mercy shalt Thou utterly destroy mine enemies. And Thou shalt cut off all them that afflict my soul, for I am Thy servant.

O Lord, give ear unto my supplication and enter not into judgment with Thy servant. (TWICE)  
Thy good Spirit shall lead me in the land of uprightness.

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

*Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia. Glory to Thee, O God. (THRICE)  
O our God and our Hope, glory to Thee!*

## THE GREAT EKTENIA

- Deacon: In peace, let us pray to the Lord.
- Choir: Lord, have mercy.
- Deacon: For the peace from above, and for the salvation of our souls, let us pray to the Lord.
- Choir: Lord, have mercy.
- Deacon: For the peace of the whole world, for the good estate of the Holy Churches of God, and for the union of all men, let us pray to the Lord.
- Choir: Lord, have mercy.
- Deacon: For this Holy House, and for those who with faith, reverence, and fear of God, enter therein, let us pray to the Lord.
- Choir: Lord, have mercy.
- Deacon: For our father and Metropolitan PHILIP, for our Archbishop JOSEPH, for the venerable Priesthood, the Deaconate in Christ, for all the clergy and the people, let us pray to the Lord.
- Choir: Lord, have mercy.
- Deacon: (In the United States) For the President of the United States, for all civil authorities, and for our Armed Forces everywhere, let us pray to the Lord.  
(In Canada) For Her Majesty, the Queen, for the Prime Minister of Canada, for all civil authorities, and for our Armed Forces everywhere, let us pray to the Lord.
- Choir: Lord, have mercy.
- Deacon: That He will aid them and grant them victory over every enemy and adversary, let us pray to the Lord.
- Choir: Lord, have mercy.
- Deacon: For this city, and for every city and land, and for the faithful who dwell therein, let us pray to the Lord.
- Choir: Lord, have mercy.
- Deacon: For healthful seasons, for abundance of the fruits of the earth, and for peaceful times, let us pray to the Lord.
- Choir: Lord, have mercy.
- Deacon: For travelers by sea, by land, and by air; for the sick and the suffering; for captives and their salvation, let us pray to the Lord.
- Choir: Lord, have mercy.
- Deacon: For our deliverance from all tribulation, wrath, danger, and necessity, let us pray to the Lord.
- Choir: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: Help us; save us; have mercy on us; and keep us, O God, by Thy grace.  
Choir: Lord, have mercy.  
Deacon: Calling to remembrance our all-holy, immaculate, most blessed and glorious Lady Theotokos and ever-virgin Mary, with all the Saints: let us commend ourselves and each other, and all our life unto Christ our God.  
Choir: To Thee, O Lord.  
Priest: For unto Thee are due all glory, honor, and worship: to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; now and ever and unto ages of ages.  
Choir: Amen.

“GOD IS THE LORD” IN TONE ONE

Choir: God is the Lord Who hath shown us light. Blessed is He that cometh in the Name of the Lord.

1. O give thanks unto the Lord; for He is good: for His mercy endureth forever.  
God is the Lord....
2. All nations compassed me about: but in the Name of the Lord will I destroy them.  
God is the Lord....
3. I shall not die, but live, and declare the works of the Lord.  
God is the Lord....
4. The stone which the builders refused is become the headstone of the corner. This is the Lord’s doing; it is marvelous in our eyes.  
God is the Lord....

APOLYTIKION OF THE THEOPHANY OF CHRIST IN TONE ONE

When Thou, O Lord, wast baptized in the Jordan, worship of the Trinity wast made manifest; for the voice of the Father bore witness to Thee, calling Thee His beloved Son. And the Spirit in the form of a dove confirmed the truth of His word. O Christ our God, Who hath appeared and enlightened the world, glory to Thee.

APOLYTIKION OF SYNAXIS OF JOHN THE BAPTIST IN TONE TWO

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

The memory of the righteous is celebrated with songs of praise, but the Lord’s testimony is sufficient for thee, O Forerunner. Thou wast shown indeed to be the most honorable of the prophets, for in the waters thou didst baptize Him Who had been proclaimed. After suffering with joy in behalf of the truth, thou didst proclaim even to those in Hades the God Who appeared in the flesh, Who takest away the sin of the world, and granteth us the Great Mercy.

APOLYTIKION OF THE THEOPHANY OF CHRIST IN TONE ONE

*Both now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.*

When Thou, O Lord, wast baptized in the Jordan, worship of the Trinity wast made manifest; for the voice of the Father bore witness to Thee, calling Thee His beloved Son. And the Spirit in the form of a dove confirmed the truth of His word. O Christ our God, Who hath appeared and enlightened the world, glory to Thee.

THE LITTLE EKTENIA

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

Choir: Lord, have mercy.  
Deacon: Help us; save us; have mercy on us; and keep us, O God, by Thy grace.  
Choir: Lord, have mercy.  
Deacon: Calling to remembrance our all-holy, immaculate, most-blessed and glorious Lady Theotokos and ever-virgin Mary, with all the saints: let us commend ourselves and each other, and all our life unto Christ our God.  
Choir: To Thee, O Lord.  
Priest: For Thine is the majesty, and Thine is the kingdom, and the power and the glory: of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit; now and ever, and unto ages of ages.  
Choir: Amen.

#### POETIC KATHISMATA FOR THE SYNAXIS (Plain Reading)

When Jesus had been born of the blameless Virgin Mary, and when He was baptized of John in the waters of the Jordan, the Spirit descended upon Him, appearing in the likeness of a dove. For this cause the holy Prophet cried out and said together with all the Angels: Glory unto Thy coming, O Christ God. Glory be unto Thy Kingdom. Glory to Thy dispensation, O Thou only Lover of mankind.

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

When the great Forerunner John saw Thee, O Christ God, in the Jordan's running streams, come to be baptized willingly, he cried in gladness: Thou hast now come, Thou hast appeared, O Thou Light unapproachable.

#### FESTAL ANABATHMOI IN TONE FOUR

- + From my youth up many passions have warred against me. But do Thou help and save me, O my Savior. (REPEAT)
- + Ye who hate Zion shall be put to confusion of the Lord; like grass in the fire shall ye be withered up. (REPEAT)
- + *Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.*
- + Through the Holy Spirit is every soul quickened and exalted in purity, and made resplendent by the Triune Unity in mystic holiness.
- + *Both now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.*
- + Through the Holy Spirit the channels and streams of grace overflow showering all creation with invigorating Life.

#### PROKEIMENON OF THE SYNAXIS IN TONE FOUR

And thou, O youth, shalt be called Prophet of the Most High. (REPEAT)

*Stichos: Blessed be the Lord God of Israel.*

And thou, O youth, shalt be called Prophet of the Most High.

Deacon: Let us pray to the Lord.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

Priest: For Holy art Thou, O our God, Who retest in the Holy Place, and unto Thee we ascribe glory: to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

Choir: Amen.

Let everything that hath breath praise the Lord. (TWICE)

*Praise ye God in His saints; praise Him in the firm foundation of His power.*

Let everything that hath breath praise the Lord.

### THE FESTAL ORTHROS GOSPEL

Deacon: And that we may be accounted worthy to hear the Holy Gospel, let us pray to the Lord God.

Choir: Lord, have mercy. (THRICE)

Deacon: Wisdom! Attend! Let us hear the Holy Gospel.

Priest: Peace be to all.

Choir: And to thy spirit.

Priest: The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to Saint Matthew (11:2-15).

Choir: Glory to Thee, O Lord, glory to Thee.

Deacon: Let us attend!

### \*\*TO BE READ FROM THE ROYAL DOORS.\*\*

Priest: At that time, when John heard in prison about the deeds of the Christ, he sent word by his disciples and said to Him, "Are you He Who is to come, or shall we look for another?" And Jesus answered them, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised up, and the poor have good news preached to them. And blessed is he who takes no offense at Me." As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds concerning John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to behold? A reed shaken by the wind? Why then did you go out? To see a man clothed in soft raiment? Behold, those who wear soft raiment are in kings' houses. Why then did you go out? To see a prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is he of whom it is written, 'Behold, I send my messenger before thy face, who shall prepare thy way before thee.' Truly, I say to you, among those born of women there has risen no one greater than John the Baptist; yet he who is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he. From the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven has suffered violence, and men of violence take it by force. For all the prophets and the law prophesied until John; and if you are willing to accept it, he is Elijah who is to come. He who has ears to hear, let him hear."

Choir: Glory to Thee, O Lord, glory to Thee. (NO VENERATION OF GOSPEL BOOK.)

### PSALM 50

Reader: Have mercy on me, O God, according to Thy Great Mercy; and according to the multitude of Thy compassions blot out my transgression. Wash me thoroughly from mine iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin. For I know mine iniquity, and my sin is ever before me.

Against Thee only have I sinned and done this evil before Thee, that Thou mightest be justified in Thy words, and prevail when Thou art judged. For behold, I was conceived in iniquities, and in sins did my mother bear me. For behold, Thou hast loved truth; the hidden and secret things of Thy wisdom hast Thou made manifest unto me. Thou shalt sprinkle me with hyssop, and I shall be made clean; Thou shalt wash me, and I shall be made whiter than snow. Thou shalt make me to hear joy and gladness; the bones that be humbled, they shall rejoice. Turn Thy face away from my sins, and blot out all mine iniquities. Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from Thy presence, and take not Thy Holy Spirit from me. Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation, and with Thy governing Spirit establish me. I shall teach transgressors Thy ways, and the ungodly shall turn back unto Thee. Deliver me from blood-guiltiness, O God, Thou God of my salvation; my tongue shall rejoice in Thy righteousness. O Lord, Thou shalt open my lips, and my mouth shall declare Thy praise. For if Thou hadst desired sacrifice, I had given it; with whole-burnt offerings Thou shalt not be pleased. A sacrifice unto God is a broken spirit; a heart that is broken and humbled God will not despise. Do good, O Lord, in Thy good pleasure unto Zion, and let the walls of Jerusalem be built up. Then shalt Thou be pleased with a sacrifice of righteousness, with oblation and whole-burnt offerings. Then shall they offer bullocks upon Thine altar.

#### FESTAL TROPARIA AFTER PSALM 50 IN TONE TWO

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

Through the intercessions of the Forerunner, O Thou Who art merciful, blot out all the multitudes of our transgressions.

*Both now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.*

Through the intercessions of the Theotokos, O Thou Who art merciful, blot out all the multitudes of our transgressions.

(TONE ONE) *Have mercy upon me, O God, according to Thy loving-kindness: according unto the multitude of Thy tender mercies blot out my transgressions.*

O John the Prophet and Forerunner, thou art the Proclaimer of the Word, the Lamb of God, thou who beforehand foretold the future and declared it unto the nations saying: Behold, the Lamb of God that taketh away the sins of the world and granteth unto all peace and Great Mercy.

#### THE INTERCESSION

Deacon: O God, save Thy people, and bless Thine inheritance. Visit Thy world with mercies and bounties. Exalt the estate of Orthodox Christians, and send down upon us Thy rich mercies. Through the intercessions of our all-immaculate Lady Theotokos and ever-virgin Mary; by the might of the precious and life-giving Cross; by the protection of the honorable bodiless Powers of heaven; at the supplication of the honorable, glorious prophet, forerunner and Baptist John—whose Synaxis we now celebrate—of the holy, glorious, all-laudable apostles Peter and Paul, and of all the holy apostles; of our fathers among the saints, great hierarchs and ecumenical teachers, Basil the Great, Gregory the Theologian and John Chrysostom; of our fathers among the saints, Athanasios, Cyril and John the Merciful, patriarchs of Alexandria; Nicholas of Myra, Spyridon of Trimythous and Nektarios of Pentapolis, the Wonder-workers; Nicholai of Zicha, who labored in America, Innocent, Evangelizer of Alaska and Tikhon, patriarch of Moscow, Enlighteners of North America; John, Wonderworker of Shanghai and San Francisco, and Raphael, bishop of Brooklyn; of the holy, glorious, great-martyrs, George the Trophy-bearer, Demetrios the Myrrh-streamer, Theodore the Soldier, Theodore the General, and Menas the wonder-worker; of the

hieromartyrs Ignatios the God-bearer of Antioch, Charalampos and Eleutherios, and Juvenaly of Iliamna; of the holy, glorious great women martyrs, Thekla, Barbara, Anastasia, Katherine, Kyriaki, Photeini, Marina, Paraskeva and Irene; of the holy, glorious, right-victorious martyrs, especially Peter the Aleut; of our venerable and God-bearing fathers who shone in the ascetic life, Anthony the Great, Seraphim of Sarov, and Herman of Alaska; *of Saint N., the patron and protector of this holy community*; of the holy and righteous ancestors of God, Joachim and Anna; of the holy, glorious and right-victorious Hieromartyr Romanos; Julian the deacon; Newmartyr Athanasios of Attalia; and Venerable Brannock of Braunton, whose memory we celebrate today, and of all Thy Saints: we beseech Thee, O most merciful Lord, hearken unto the petitions of us sinners who make our supplications unto Thee, and have mercy upon us.

Choir: Lord, have mercy. (*Twelve times*)

Priest: Through the mercies and compassions and love for mankind of Thine Only-begotten Son, with Whom Thou art blessed, together with Thine all-holy, and good, and life-giving Spirit: now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

Choir: Amen.

#### **KONTAKION AND OIKOS FOR THE SYNAXIS (Plain Reading)**

The Jordan, filled with fear at Thy coming in the flesh, was driven back trembling, and John, fulfilling the ministry of the Spirit, drew back in awe. The ranks of angels stood amazed, beholding Thee in the streams baptized in the flesh. And all those in darkness were filled with light, singing the praises of Thee Who art made manifest and giveth life to all.

Adam became blind in Eden, but now in Bethlehem the Sun has appeared to him and opened his eyes, washing them clean in the waters of Jordan. Unto him that was in black darkness a Light has risen that shall never be put out: there is no more night for him, but all is day. For his sake the hour has now come round to break of day: for, as it written, it was the cool of evening when he hid. He who fell at evening has found the Brightness that raises him up: he is released from gloom and has come to the Dawn, that is made manifest and giveth life to all.

#### **THE SYNAXARION (Plain Reading)**

On January 7 in the Holy Orthodox Church, we commemorate the Hieromartyr Romanos; Julian the deacon; Newmartyr Athanasios of Attalia; and Venerable Brannock of Braunton.

On this day, we celebrate the Synaxis (Gathering) of the holy and glorious Prophet, Forerunner and Baptist John. On the same day is also commemorated the translation of his most precious and holy right hand unto the city of Constantinople.

#### ***Verses***

How shall this tongue of mine now praise thee, O Preacher,  
Whom Christ's tongue calleth greater than all the earthborn?  
The famous Forerunner's memorial is the lot of the seventh.

Because John's main role in his life was played out on the day of Theophany (Epiphany), the Church from earliest times dedicated the "day after" to his memory. Among the Gospel personalities who surround the Savior, John the Baptist occupies a totally unique place by his roles in baptizing the Messiah and in baptizing people for repentance. John prepared himself in the wilderness of the desert for 30 years for his great service by a strict life, by fasting, prayer and sympathy for the fate of God's people. John was of such moral purity that, in truth, he could

be called an angel (messenger) as Holy Scripture calls him rather than a mortal man. He appeared on the banks of the Jordan, to prepare the people by his preaching to accept the Savior of the world. In church hymnology, the Baptist is called a “bright morning star,” whose gleaming outshone the brilliance of all the other stars, announcing the coming dawn of the day of grace, illumined with the light of the spiritual Sun, our Lord Jesus Christ. John differs from all other prophets especially in that he had that privilege of being able, with his hand, to show the world Him about Whom he prophesied. As the holy Forerunner and Baptist of the Lord—whom the Lord called the greatest of the prophets—John concludes the history of the Old Testament and opens the era of the New Testament. He bore witness to the Only-Begotten Son of God, incarnate in the flesh. John was accounted worthy to baptize Him in the waters of the Jordan, and he was a witness of the Theophany of the Most Holy Trinity at the Savior’s Baptism. By the intercessions of Thy Forerunner, O Christ our God, have mercy on us and save us. Amen.

#### KATAVASIAS OF SECOND CANON OF CHRIST’S THEOPHANY IN TONE TWO

**Ode 1.** Verily, Israel passed the tempest of the tumultuous sea, having appeared to him again as dry land. But the tri-speared Egyptians were lost wholly by the darkness of the deep, as a graveyard swept by waters, by the power of the precious right hand of the Master.

**Ode 3.** O ye who were delivered from the ancient snares, since the tusks of devouring lions had been crushed. Wherefore, let us rejoice and open wide our mouths, inditing to the Word sayings of praise for His benefactions granted to us; for He is pleased thereby.

**Ode 4.** The Prophet having been cleansed by the fire of mystical vision, praising the renewal of mankind, sang with a great voice, moved by the Spirit, revealing the ineffable Incarnation, the Incarnation of the Word, by which the might of the mighty hath been crushed.

**Ode 5.** We who have been washed by the purification of the Spirit from the venom of the dark and mire-defiled enemy, have come upon a new way, not misleading, but leading to a bliss unapproachable except by those who have been reconciled to God.

**Ode 6.** Him Whom the Father had caused to overflow from the womb, in His all-blissful voice He proclaimed beloved, saying: Yea, this is My Son consubstantial with Me; the Radiance of My light hath been born of mankind. And He Himself is My living Word and Man at the same time, for His own dispensation.

**Ode 7.** Verily, He Who quenched the flaming fire of the furnace containing the youths of true worship, hath burned the heads of dragons in the courses of water; and by the dew of the Spirit hath cleansed the abysmal darkness resulting from sin.

*Let us praise, bless, and worship the Lord.*

**Ode 8.** The prince of darkness sigheth to himself because creation hath been freed, and those who were of old in darkness have become sons of the Light. Wherefore, all the nations of the Gentiles that before hath been wretched, now ceaselessly bless Christ the Cause.

Deacon:       The Theotokos and Mother of the Light let us honor and magnify in song.

#### NINTH ODE OF THE SECOND CANON OF CHRIST’S THEOPHANY IN TONE TWO

*Today the Master bendeth His neck to the hand of the Forerunner.*

O the wonder of thy super-intelligent birth-giving, thou all-pure bride, the blessed Mother through whom we have received perfect salvation, we indite a fitting song, offering as a gift the song of gratitude.

*Magnify, O my soul, the might of the three-personed and indivisible Trinity.*

Having known the outward things which appeared to Moses in the bush, let us come and behold the wonders taking place with strange signs; for as that was preserved, so the Virgin was preserved when she conceived Fire, giving birth to the light-bearing Benefactor. And so was it with the courses of the Jordan when they received Him.

*Magnify, O my soul, the Maiden who delivered us from the curse.*

O eternal King, when Thou didst cleanse the substance of mankind in pure streams, and anointed it, perfecting it by the communion of the Spirit, and betraying the power of darkness that had possessed it, Thou didst translate it to life immortal.

#### NINTH ODE OF THE CANON OF THE SYNAXIS IN TONE TWO

*O Baptist of Christ, intercede for us.*

The voice of the Forerunner from the wilderness revealed the Word that was come to dwell among us in the flesh; and in exceeding joy he made ready to baptize Christ, who had drawn near and who through faith cleanses our souls from sin.

*O Baptist of Christ, intercede for us.*

Thou art a holy mediator between the Law and Grace: thou settest the seal upon the first, and dost make a beginning of the second. The Word honored thee above all the Prophets, and now thou hast passed beyond things visible, O most venerable John.

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

He who displayed a life which outshone that of the bodiless powers of heaven, now makes glad with the angelic choirs; and standing by the throne of the Master, he rejoices to intercede for the forgiveness and salvation of those who honor his memory.

*Both now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.*

In His supreme compassion, the Deliverer of all becomes man: for man's own sake He Who loves mankind, Whose nature it is to show love towards us, accepts to be born according to the flesh from thy virginal womb, O all-blessed Mother of God.

#### KATAVASIA OF THE SECOND CANON OF CHRIST'S THEOPHANY IN TONE TWO

**Ode 9.** *Magnify, O my soul, the Maiden who delivered us from the curse.*

O the wonder of thy super-intelligent birth-giving, thou all-pure bride, the blessed Mother through whom we have received perfect salvation, we indite a fitting song, offering as a gift the song of gratitude.

#### THE LITTLE EKTENIA

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

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: Help us; save us; have mercy on us; and keep us, O God, by Thy grace.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: Calling to remembrance our all-holy, immaculate, most-blessed and glorious Lady Theotokos and ever-virgin Mary, with all the saints: let us commend ourselves and each other, and all our life unto Christ our God.

Choir: To Thee, O Lord.

Priest: For all the powers of Heaven praise Thee, and unto Thee do we ascribe glory: to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

Choir: Amen.

THE EXAPOSTEILARION OF THE SYNAXIS IN TONE TWO

The Master didst foretell thee to be a Prophet, O thou who art more exalted than the law foretold; thou didst see Him in the flesh; and having baptized Him, thou didst appear nobler than them all.

THE EXAPOSTEILARION FOR THEOPHANY IN TONE THREE

Verily, the Savior, Who is Grace and Truth, hath appeared in the courses of the Jordan, and lighted those who lie in darkness and the shadow of death; for He hath come, and the unapproachable Light hath appeared.

AINOI (PRAISES) IN TONE ONE

Choir: Let everything that hath breath, praise the Lord. Praise ye the Lord from the heavens: praise Him in the heights. To Thee, O God, is due our song.

Choir: Praise ye Him, all His angels: praise ye Him, all His hosts. To Thee, O God, is due our song.

For the Theophany of Christ in Tone One

*Verse 1. This glory shall be to all His saints.*

Christ our God, Who is Light of Light, God manifest, hath shone forth to the world. Let us, O nations, worship Him.

*Verse 2. Praise God in His sanctuary: praise Him in the firmament of His power.*

Christ our God, Who is Light of Light, God manifest, hath shone forth to the world. Let us, O nations, worship Him.

*Verse 3. Praise Him for His mighty acts: praise Him according to His excellent greatness.*

How shall we servants fittingly honor Thee, O Christ Master? For by water Thou didst renew us all.

*Verse 4. Praise Him with the sound of the trumpet. Praise Him with the psaltery and harp.*

When Thou wast baptized in the Jordan, O our Savior, Thou didst sanctify the courses by the laying of Thy servant's hand upon Thee, healing the sufferings of the world. Wherefore, great is the mystery of Thy dispensation. O Lord, Lover of mankind, glory to Thee.

*Verse 5. Praise Him with the timbrel and dance; praise Him with stringed instruments and organs.*

The true Light hath appeared, granting illumination to all. And Christ transcending all purity is baptized with us, charging the water with sanctity for the purification of souls. Wherefore, the thing apparent is earthly, but its significance transcendeth the heavens; for by washing salvation is attained, by water the Spirit, and by immersion ascent to God. Wherefore, great are Thy works, O Lord, glory to Thee.

*Verse 6. Praise Him upon the loud cymbals: praise Him upon the high-sounding cymbals. Let everything that hath breath praise the Lord.*

He that encompasseth the heavens with clouds putteth on today the courses of the Jordan; and He that lifteth the sin of the world, cleanseth and purifieth me. Yea, the Spirit hath testified of Him from on high that He is the only Son of the Father on high. Let us, therefore, shout to Him, crying, O Thou Who didst appear and save us, glory to Thee.

#### THE DOXASTICON OF THE SYNAXIS IN TONE SIX

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

Thou hast come from the suffering of barrenness, O Baptizer, an angel and a dweller in the wilderness from the age of swaddling clothes, appearing as the seal of all the Prophets; for He Whom they beheld in sundry manners, foretelling Him by symbols, thou wast worthy to baptize in the Jordan. And thou didst hear from heavenly a fatherly voice testifying to His Sonship; and thou didst see the Spirit in the likeness of a dove attracting the voice of the One baptized. Wherefore, O thou who art greater than all the Prophets, cease not to intercede for our sakes, who celebrate thy memorial in faith.

#### THE DOXASTICON OF THE THEOPHANY IN TONE TWO

*Both now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.*

Today Christ cometh to the Jordan to be baptized. Today, John toucheth the head of the Master. The powers of heaven were astonished at beholding the strange mystery. The sea saw and fled; Jordan, beholding, turned back. But we who were lighted shout, saying: Glory to God Who was manifest on earth and lighted the world.

#### THE GREAT DOXOLOGY IN TONE TWO

- + Glory to Thee, Who hast shown us the Light; Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will among men.
- + We praise Thee, we bless Thee, we worship Thee, we glorify Thee; we give thanks unto Thee for Thy great glory.
- + O Lord, heavenly King, God the Father Almighty; O Lord, the only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ; and the Holy Spirit.
- + O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, Who takest away the sin of the world, have mercy on us; O Thou Who takest away the sins of the world.
- + Receive our prayer, O Thou Who sittest at the right hand of the Father, and have mercy on us.
- + For Thou only art holy, Thou only art the Lord, O Jesus Christ, to the Glory of God the Father. Amen.
- + Every day will I bless Thee, and I will praise Thy Name forever; yea, forever and ever.
- + Vouchsafe, O Lord, to keep us this day without sin.
- + Blessed art Thou, O Lord God of our Fathers, and praised and glorified be Thy Name forever. Amen.
- + Let Thy mercy, O Lord: be upon us, as we do put our hope in Thee.
- + Blessed art Thou, O Lord: teach me Thy statutes. (THRICE)
- + Lord, Thou hast been our refuge in all generations. I said: Be merciful unto me; heal my soul, for I have sinned against Thee.
- + Lord, I have fled unto Thee: teach me to do Thy will, for Thou art my God.
- + For with Thee is the fountain of life: in Thy light shall we see light.
- + O continue Thy loving-kindness unto them that know Thee.
- + Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal: have mercy on us. (THRICE)

- + Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:
- + Both now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.
- + Holy Immortal: have mercy on us.
- + Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal: have mercy on us.

#### APOLYTIKION OF SYNAXIS OF JOHN THE BAPTIST IN TONE TWO

The memory of the righteous is celebrated with songs of praise, but the Lord's testimony is sufficient for thee, O Forerunner. Thou wast shown indeed to be the most honorable of the prophets, for in the waters thou didst baptize Him Who had been proclaimed. After suffering with joy in behalf of the truth, thou didst proclaim even to those in Hades the God Who appeared in the flesh, Who takest away the sin of the world, and granteth us the Great Mercy.

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