**JANUARY 5**

**Eve of the Theophany**

**Hieromartyr Theopemptus, Bishop of Nicomedia, and Martyr Theonas**

**Ven. Syncletica of Alexandria**

**Vespers (sung on the evening of January 4)**

**"Lord I Call..." Tone 4**

Lord, I call upon You, hear me!

Hear me, O Lord!

Lord, I call upon You, hear me!

Receive the voice of my prayer,

when I call upon You!//

Hear me, O Lord!

Let my prayer arise

in Your sight as incense,

and let the lifting up of my hands

be an evening sacrifice!//

Hear me, O Lord!

V. (6) *If You, O Lord, should mark iniquities, Lord, who could stand? But there is forgiveness with You.*

**Tone 4** *(for the Martyrs) (As one valiant among the martyrs)*

Let us praise the wise Theonas and Theopemptus;

for, obedient to the precepts of Christ, they utterly demolished all lawless

worship,

and piously offered the worship that is august and holy,

courageously confessing one Lord and God in the presence of the tyrants;//

and they have been crowned from on high.

V. (5) *For Your Name’s sake I wait for You, O Lord. My soul has waited for Your word; my soul has hoped on the Lord.*

Having abandoned the base way of life,

the comfort of luxury and fading glory as being transient,

you have cleaved to Christ, O all-praiseworthy saints.

How pleasantly you shone with His fair beauty!

And you were offered as fragrant roses.//

Divinely strengthened, you were crowned with the crown of the

incorruptible Kingdom.

V. (4) *From the morning watch until night, from the morning watch, let Israel hope on the Lord!*

Having hated the world, you appeared as above the world,

and were joined to the Church of the First-born.

With the Angels you sing the unfading song,

as you stand face to face with God;

and having destroyed the lawless deceit of idols,//

as martyrs, you overthrew the madness of the tyrants.

V. (3) *For with the Lord there is mercy and with Him is plenteous redemption, and He will deliver Israel from all his iniquities.*

 **Tone 1** *(for Ven. Syncletica)* *(Joy of the Heavenly Hosts)*

Having yearned for the glory of the Fathers,

you desired the glory that is immortal;

therefore, having withdrawn from pleasures,

you surrendered your body to all manner of toils;

and now you receive the rewards of your work,//

as you reign together with Christ.

V. (2) *Praise the Lord, all nations! Praise Him, all peoples!*

He Who acceded to the one who demanded that Job be handed over,

and who wished to set you on fire,

released your body like a golden treasure

to suffer the power of the Evil One;

wherefore you put the tempter to shame

by the patient endurance of sicknesses,//

and were crowned with the wreath of victory.

V. (1) *For His mercy is confirmed on us, and the truth of the Lord endures forever.*

Desiring the comely beauty of the Bridegroom Christ

and wanting to be betrothed to Him,

you adorn yourself with all goodness and beauty

through the spiritual discipline of toils and sufferings.//

Wherefore, you now reign with Him in His bridal chamber.

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

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

 **Tone 6** *(for the Forefeast)*

Prepare, O River Jordan!

Behold, Christ is coming to be baptized by John in you!

Rejoice, O barren wilderness!

Dance in gladness, O hills and mountains!

Eternal Life is coming to reclaim Adam.

O Forerunner, call out with the voice of one who cries://

“Prepare the ways of the Lord! Make straight His paths!”

**Aposticha**

**Tone 6** *(for the Forefeast) (On the third day)*

O earth and you that are born on earth,

leap for joy and adorn yourselves;

the Torrent of Delight is baptized in the river,

drying up the flood of evil,//

and gushing forth divine remission.

V. *Therefore will I remember You, from the land of Jordan and Hermon. (Ps. 41:7b)*

Jesus, as the Bestower of Light,

has no need to be baptized,

yet He comes in the flesh to the streams of Jordan,

wishing to enlighten those in darkness;//

in faith let us eagerly go to meet Him.

V. *The waters saw You, O God; the waters saw You and were afraid. (Ps. 76:15a)*

Bearing the appearance of a servant,

Christ comes to be baptized in the streams of the Jordan by a servant,

granting deliverance from the servitude of the ancient sin,//

and sanctifying and enlightening us.

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

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

**Tone 6** *(for the Forefeast)*

Let the wilderness of Jordan rejoice exceedingly,

and burst into flower, like a lily;

for the voice of one crying out has been heard there:

“Prepare the way of the Lord.”

For He Who caused the mountains to rise up in their place,

and fixed the valleys with a yoke,

Who as God fulfills all things,

is baptized as a servant;

He becomes poor, Who bestows abundant gifts.

Eve heard the words, “In sorrow will you bear children,”

but now the Virgin has heard:

“Rejoice, O maiden full of grace,//

the Lord, Who bestows great mercy, is with you!”

 **Tone 4 Troparion of the Forefeast**

The River Jordan was turned back by the mantle of Elisha,

after Elijah had been taken up to heaven.

The waters were parted in two,

and the stream became a dry path.

This was truly a type of baptism,

by which we pass over the stream of life.//

Christ has shone forth in the Jordan to sanctify the waters.

In addition to translations from the Department of Liturgical Music and Translations, liturgical texts for this service represent modified versions of translations provided by Holy Myrrhbearers Monastery, Otego, New York and St. Tikhon’s Monastery, South Canaan, Pa. The Department of Liturgical Music and Translations of the Orthodox Church in America expresses its gratitude to Holy Myrrhbearers Monastery and St. Tikhon’s Monastery and to those translators whose work has been consulted at times in the course of reviewing and modifying these texts to their present form: Metropolitan Kallistos (Ware), Archimandrite Ephrem (Lash), Father Benedict Churchill, Isaac Lambertson, St. Vladimir’s Seminary, and Holy Transfiguration Monastery, among others.