**JANUARY 5(6)**

**The Holy Theophany of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ**

**Vespers with the Divine Liturgy of St. Basil the Great (sung on January 5)[[1]](#footnote-1)**

**"Lord I Call..." Tone 2**

Lord, I call upon Thee, hear me!

Hear me, O Lord!

Lord, I call upon Thee, hear me!

Receive the voice of my prayer,

when I call upon Thee!//

Hear me, O Lord!

Let my prayer arise

in Thy sight as incense,

and let the lifting up of my hands

be an evening sacrifice!//

Hear me, O Lord!

V. (8) *Out of the depths I cry to Thee, O Lord. Lord, hear my voice!*

**Tone 2** *(by John the Monk)*

Our Light that enlightens all

comes to be baptized.

The Forerunner sees Him and rejoices in His soul.

His hand trembles as he shows Him to the people:

“Behold, the Redeemer of Israel,

the One Who frees us from corruption.”//

O sinless One, Christ our God, glory to Thee!

V. (7) *Let Thine ears be attentive to the voice of my supplications!*

(Repeat: “Our Light that enlightens all…”)

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

A servant baptized our Redeemer

and the coming of the Spirit bore witness to Him.

The hosts of Angels saw this and shook with fear.

And the voice of the Father was heard from heaven:

“The One on Whom the Forerunner lays his hand,

He is My beloved Son; I am well pleased in Him.”//

O Christ our God, glory to Thee!

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

(Repeat: “A servant baptized our Redeemer…”)

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

The streams of the Jordan received Thee, their Source,

and the Comforter descended in the form of a dove.

He Who bowed the heavens now bows His head.

The Clay cries aloud to the Potter:

“Why dost Thou command me to do what is beyond me;

for it is I that should be baptized by Thee?”//

O sinless One, Christ our God, glory to Thee!

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

(Repeat: “The streams of the Jordan received Thee, their source…”)

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

Wishing to save mankind that had gone astray,

Thou didst not think it unworthy for Thee

to be clothed in the form of a servant;

for it was proper for Thee as Master and God

to take upon Thyself human nature for our sake.

Being baptized in the flesh, O Redeemer,

Thou didst make us worthy of forgiveness.

And so we cry out to Thee://

“O Benefactor, Christ our God, glory to Thee!”

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

(Repeat: “Wishing to save mankind that had gone astray…”)

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

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

**Tone 2** *(by Byzas)*

Thou didst bow Thy head before the Forerunner

and didst crush the heads of the dragons.

Thou didst stand in the waters and enlighten all things//

that they might glorify Thee, O Savior, the Light of our souls.

*Entrance with the Gospel, “O Gladsome Light,” and the prokeimenon of the day.*

**Old Testament Readings**

1. **Genesis 1:1-13**
2. **Exodus 14:15-18, 21-23, 27-29**
3. **Exodus 15:22-16:1**

*(Then we stand and sing the following troparion. The reader chants the verses and the choir responds. Sometimes the reader also chants the first line of the choral response. The choir then sings the last line.)*

**Tone 5 Troparion**

Thou, the Creator of the world,

hast shone forth in the world,

to give light to those who sit in darkness.//

O God Who lovest man, glory to Thee!

V. *O God, be gracious unto us and bless us; make Thy face to shine upon us and have mercy on us, that Thy way may be known upon the earth, Thy saving power among the nations. (Ps. 66:1-2)*

…to give light to those who sit in darkness.//

O God Who lovest man, glory to Thee!

V. *Let the peoples confess Thee, O God; let all the peoples confess Thee. Let the nations be glad and sing for joy, for Thou judgest the peoples with equity and guidest the nations upon the earth. (Ps. 66:3-4)*

…to give light to those who sit in darkness.//

O God Who lovest man, glory to Thee!

V. *Let the peoples confess Thee, O God; let all the peoples confess Thee: the earth has yielded its increase. May God, our God bless us. May God bless us. Let all the ends of the earth fear Him. (Ps. 66:5-6)*

…to give light to those who sit in darkness.//

O God Who lovest man, glory to Thee!

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

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

Thou, the Creator of the world,

hast shone forth in the world,

to give light to those who sit in darkness.//

O God Who lovest man, glory to Thee!

**Old Testament Readings**

1. **Joshua 3:7-8, 15-17**
2. **4[2] Kings 2:6-14**
3. **4[2] Kings 5:9-14**

*(Then we stand and sing the following troparion in the same manner as above.)*

**Tone 6 Troparion**

Thou hast shone forth to tax collectors and sinners

because of Thine abundant mercies.

Where should Thy light shine but on those who sit in darkness?//

O our Savior, glory to Thee!

V. *The Lord is King; He is robed in majesty! The Lord is robed, He is girded with strength. For He has established the world, so that it shall never be moved; Thy throne is from of old; Thou art from everlasting. (Ps. 92:1-3)*

Where should Thy light shine but on those who sit in darkness?//

O our Savior, glory to Thee!

V. *The floods have lifted up, O Lord, the floods have lifted up their voice; the floods lift up their waves at the voice of many waters. (Ps. 92:4-5)*

Where should Thy light shine but on those who sit in darkness?//

O our Savior, glory to Thee!

V. *Wonderful are the mighty waves of the sea; wonderful is the Lord on high. Thy testimonies are very sure. Holiness befits Thy house, O Lord, forevermore! (Ps. 92:6-7)*

Where should Thy light shine but on those who sit in darkness?//

O our Savior, glory to Thee!

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

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

Thou hast shone forth to tax collectors and sinners

because of Thine abundant mercies.

Where should Thy light shine but on those who sit in darkness?//

O our Savior, glory to Thee!

**Old Testament Readings**

1. **Isaiah 1:16-20**
2. **Genesis 32:1-10**
3. **Exodus 2:5-10**
4. **Judges 6:36-40**
5. **3[1] Kings 18:30-39**
6. **4[2] Kings 2:19-22**
7. **Isaiah 49:8-15**

*(Then the Little Litany and the Trisagion)*

**Tone 3 Prokeimenon**

The Lord is my light and my Savior; / whom shall I fear? *(Ps. 26:1a)*

V. *The Lord is the defender of my life; of whom shall I be afraid? (Ps. 26:1b)*

**Epistle**

(143) 1 Corinthians 9:19-27

**Tone 6**

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

V. *My heart overflows with a goodly theme: I address my verses to the king.*

*(Ps. 44:1a)*

V. *Thou art the fairest of the sons of men. (Ps. 44:2a)*

**Gospel**

(9) Luke 3:1-18

***(Instead of “It is truly meet …,” we sing the following)***

**Hymn to the Theotokos**

All of creation rejoiceth in thee, O Full of Grace:

the assembly of Angels and the race of men.

O sanctified temple and spiritual paradise,

the glory of virgins,

from whom God was incarnate and became a Child:

our God before the ages.

He made thy body into a throne,

and thy womb He made more spacious than the heavens.

All of creation rejoiceth in thee, O Full of Grace.//

Glory to thee!

**Communion Hymn**

Praise the Lord from the heavens, praise Him in the highest! *(Ps. 148:1)*

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

*After the prayer before the ambo, the Great Blessing of Waters takes place.*

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.

1. Vespers should begin in the early afternoon on January 5. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)