

The Office of Readings

Vigil of Theophany

On the Eve of the Theophany, we keep watch for the Baptism of our Lord by an office of specially chosen psalms, ancient stichera (hymns), and readings from the Old Testament, the apostolic writings and the Gospels. In the present office, these texts are spread throughout the four offices/hours of the day (the First, Third, Sixth and Ninth Hours), and are called, therefore, in the Slav tradition, the “Royal Hours,” and in the Greek tradition, the “Great Hours.” In tradition, as, for example, in some of the Studite typicons of Constantinople, we see that this office of psalms and readings was often celebrated together at one of the the liturgical hours, usually the Sixth Hour, which could be served on days other than the actual eve of the feast. This arrangement, which is provided in this book, may better suit the pastoral needs of some communities, and help us to prepare by the word of God and our spiritual songs to welcome Christ into our minds and hearts as we commemorate his holy baptism.

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The Office of Readings

Vigil of Theophany

The Priest vests in a dark epitrachilion and phelonion, the deacon in a dark orarion and sticharion. The deacon incenses the church. The priest then stands before the altar, the deacon at the ambon.

Deacon: Reverend Father, give the blessing!

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

Psalm tone

Response:



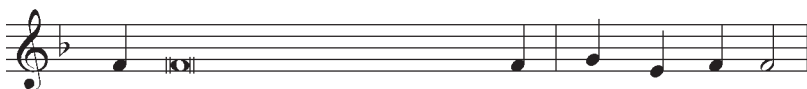
Glory to you, our God,
glory *to* you.

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.

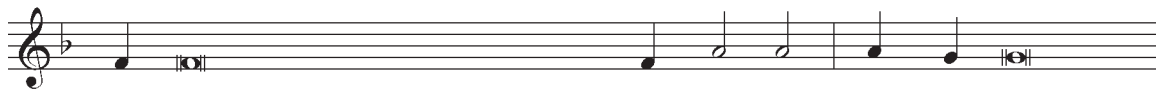


Lord, have mercy. Lord have mer-cy. Lord have mer-cy.

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.

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



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



have mercy. Lord, have mer - cy. (*sung twice*)

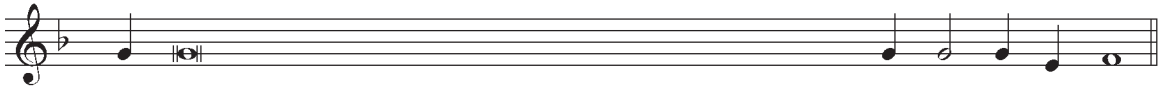
Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit,
now and ever and forever. *Amen.*

Call to Worship

Each time with a reverence:



Come, let us worship our King and God. Come, let us worship Christ, our King and God.



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

The deacon enters the altar.

Psalm 73 Why, O God, have you cast us off for ever?
Why blaze with anger at the sheep of *your* pasture?
Remember your people whom who chose long ago,
the tribe you redeemed to be your own possession,
the mountain of Zion where you made *your* dwelling.
Turn your steps to these places that are utterly ruined!
The enemy has laid waste the whole of *the* sanctuary.
Your foes have made uproar in your house of prayer:
they have set up their emblems, their foreign emblems,
high above the entrance to *the* sanctuary.
Their axes have battered the wood of its doors.
They have struck together with hatchet *and* pickax.
O God, they have set your sanctuary on fire;
they have razed and profaned the place where *you* dwell.
They said in their hearts: "Let us utterly crush them;
let us burn every shrine of God in *the* land."
There is no sign from God, nor have we a prophet,
we have no one to tell us how long it *will* last.
How long, O God, is the enemy to scoff?
Is the foe to insult your name *for* ever?
Why, O Lord, do you hold back your hand?
Why do you keep your right *hand* hidden?
Yet God is our king from time past,

the giver of help through all *the* land.
It was you who divided the sea by your might,
who shattered the heads of the monsters in *the* sea.
It was you who crushed Leviathan's heads
and gave him as food to the *untamed* beasts.
It was you opened springs and torrents;
it was you who dried up ever-flowing rivers.
Yours is the day and yours is the night.
It was you who appointed the light and *the* sun;
it was you who fixed the bounds of the earth:
you who made both summer *and* winter.
Remember this, Lord, and see the enemy scoffing;
a senseless people insults *your* name.
Do not give Israel, your dove, to the hawk
nor forget the life of your poor ones *for* ever.
Remember your covenant; every cave in the land
is a place where violence makes *its* home.
Do not let the oppressed return disappointed;
let the poor and the needy bless *your* name.
Arise, O God, and defend your cause!
Remember how the senseless revile you all *the* day.
Do not forget the clamor of your foes,
the daily increasing uproar of *your* foes.

Psalm 76

I cry aloud to God,
cry aloud to God that he *may* hear me.
In the day of my distress I sought the Lord.
My hands were raised at night without ceasing;
my soul refused to be *consoled*.
I remembered my God and I groaned.
I pondered and my *spirit* fainted.
You withheld sleep from my eyes.
I was troubled, I could *not* speak.
I thought of the days of long ago
and remembered the years *long* past.
At night I mused within my heart.
I pondered and my *spirit* questioned.

“Will the Lord reject us for ever?
Will he show us his favor *no* more?
Has his love vanished for ever?
Has his promise come to *an* end?
Does God forget his mercy
or in anger withhold his *compassion*?”
I said: “This is what causes my grief;
that the way of the Most High *has* changed.”
I remember the deeds of the Lord,
I remember your wonders *of* old,
I muse on all your works
and ponder your mighty deeds.
Your ways, O God, are holy.
What god is as great as *our* God?
You are the God who works wonders.
You showed your power among *the* peoples.
Your strong arm redeemed your people,
the sons of Jacob *and* Joseph.
The waters saw you, O God,
the waters saw you and trembled;
the depths were moved *with* terror.
The clouds poured down rain,
the skies sent forth their voice;
your arrows flashed to *and* fro.
Your thunder rolled round the sky,
your flashes lighted up *the* world.
The earth was moved and trembled
when your way led through *the* sea,
your path through the mighty waters
and no one saw *your* footprints.
You guided your people like a flock
by the hand of Moses *and* Aaron.

Psalm 90

He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High
and abides in the shade of the *Al*mighty
says to the Lord: “My refuge,
my stronghold, my God in whom *I* trust!”

It is he who will free you from the snare
of the fowler who seeks to **destroy** you;
he will conceal you with his pinions
and under his wings you will **find** refuge.
You will not fear the terror of the night
nor the arrow that flies **by** day,
nor the plague that prowls in the darkness
nor the scourge that lays waste **at** noon.
A thousand may fall at your side,
ten thousand fall at **your** right,
you, it will never approach;
his faithfulness is buckler **and** shield.
Your eyes have only to look
to see how the wicked are **repaid**,
you who have said: "Lord, my refuge!"
and have made the Most High **your** dwelling.
Upon you no evil shall fall,
no plague approach where **you** dwell.
For you has he commanded his angels,
to keep you in all **your** ways.
They shall bear you upon their hands
lest you strike your foot against **a** stone.
On the lion and the viper you will tread
and trample the young lion and **the** dragon.
Since he clings to me in love, I will free him;
protect him for he knows **my** name.
When he calls I shall answer: "I am with you,"
I will save him in distress and give **him** glory.
With length of days I will content him;
I shall let him see my **saving** power.

The deacon opens the Royal Doors and proceeds to the Ambon through the Northern door.

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

Twice, each with a reverence:
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!
Glory to you, O God!

Third time, with melody:



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

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:  To you, O Lord.

Priest: O Lord God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, you grant the prayers and receive the petitions of your servants who cry to you night and day. Incline your ear and listen to the prayers of us sinners. Do not turn your face away from us, O Lord, and do not remember our past sins, because you know our nature and understand our weakness. O Lord, remember that we are dust, a spirit that passes and does not return, and by the power of your arm, fill our lives with mercy. Lead us in the path of your commandments, teach us to do your will, to speak of your mysteries and to study your law day and night. Command your angels to watch us in all our steps. Deliver us from the arrow that flies by day, from the plague that prowls in the darkness, from the scourge that lays waste at noon. Fill our mouths with praise and our lips with joy, that we may greet one another in psalms and hymns, and spiritual songs in grace, singing and making melody with all our hearts, that we might give thanks to the God of all, for you give life to all who place their hope in your mercy. For you are a good God and you love us all, and to you belongs glory, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and ever and forever.

Response:  A - men.

As the following Troparion and stichera are sung, the deacon censers the altar three times, then the icon screen and the people and gives the censer to the server. The priest gives the Gospel Book to the Deacon, who carries it in procession to the analogion in the middle of the Church. There the deacon censers the Gospel three times, and the priest and deacon return to the altar.

Troparion - Tone 4



Zeb - u - lun, make read - y; Naphta - li, pre - pare your - self. O Riv - er Jor - dan,



stand and leap for joy to re - ceive the Master coming to be bap - tized.



O Ad - am, rejoice with the first moth - er, Eve, and do not hide yourselves as



once you did in Par - a - dise. For, see - ing you naked, Christ has appeared to



put on the first robe. He has appeared to re - new all cre - a - tion.

Cantor:

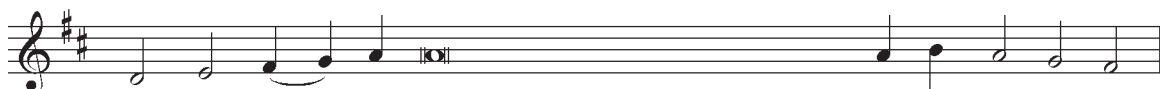


Glo - ry to the Fa - ther, and to the Son, and to the Ho - ly Spir - it;



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

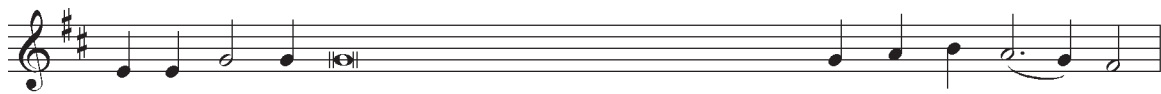
Theotokion



Since we have no one in whom we can confide because of our man - y sins,



O Vir-gin Theoto-kos, in-ter-cede for us with the One who was born of you,



for a moth-er's prayer is a powerful means for obtaining the Mas-ter's fa - vor.



You are most wor-thy of ven-er - a - tion, so do not turn away from the plead-ing



of us sin - ners; for the One who willed to suffer in the flesh for our sake



is full of mer - cy, and his power is suf-fi - cient to save us.

Stichera of the First Hour - Tone 8



To - day the nature of the wa-ters is sanc - ti - fied, and the Jor-dan is




part - ed in two; it holds back the streams of its own wa - ters,



see - ing the Mas - - - ter be - ing bathed.

Cantor - Tone 8 (Psalm 76: 17):




The waters saw you, O God; the wa - ters saw you and trem - - - bled

All:

Tone 8



You have gone down into the river as a man, O Christ our King; and in your



good-ness, you has-ten to re-ceive the bap - tism of a servant at the hands of the



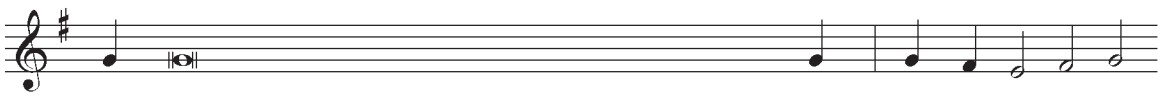
Fore-run - ner for the sake of our sins, O good God and



Lov - er of us all.

Cantor:

Tone 8



Glo - ry to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spir-it. Now and ev - er and



for - ev - er. A - men.

Prokeimenon - Tone 4 (Psalm 17:2)

The Lord's voice re-sound-ing on the wa - ters; the God of glo - ry
thun - - - ders.

Verse: I love you, Lord my strength;
my rock, my fortress, my Savior. *All repeat the Prokeimenon.*

Deacon: Wisdom!

Lector: A reading from the Prophecy of Isaiah

Deacon: Let us be attentive!

Lector: [Isaiah 35:1-10]

Priest: Wisdom!

Deacon: A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

Priest: Let us be attentive!

Deacon: [Acts of the Apostles 13:25-33]

Priest: Wisdom! Let us stand and listen to the Holy Gospel.
❖ Peace be to all!


Response:

And to your spir - - it.

Priest: A reading from the Holy Gospel according to the Holy Apostle and Evangelist Matthew.

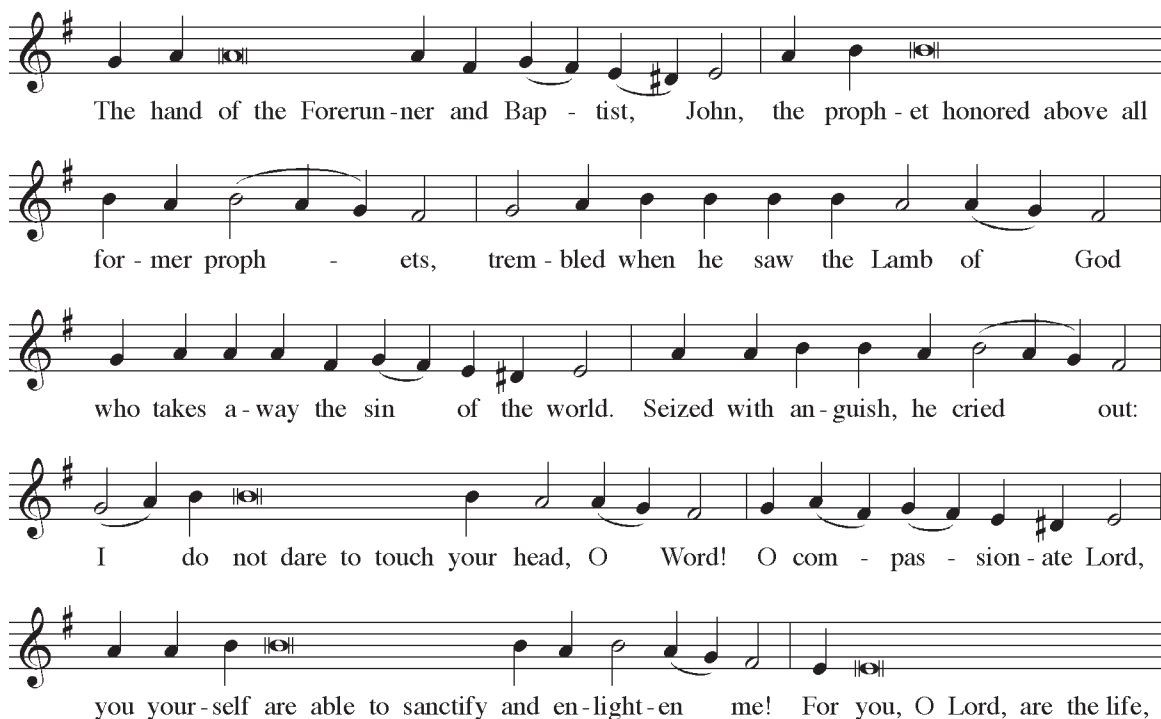
Response: 
Glo - ry to you, O Lord, glo - ry to you.

Priest: [Matthew 3: 1 - 11]

Response: 
Glo - ry to you, O Lord, glo - ry to you.

During the stichera the deacon censes the Gospel Book three times.

Stichera of the Third Hour - Tone 8



The hand of the Forerun-ner and Bap - tist, John, the proph-et honored above all
for - mer proph - ets, trem - bled when he saw the Lamb of God
who takes a-way the sin of the world. Seized with an-guish, he cried out:
I do not dare to touch your head, O Word! O com - pas - sion - ate Lord,
you your-self are able to sanctify and en-light-en me! For you, O Lord, are the life,

the light, and the peace of the world!

Cantor:

Tone 4

The wa - ters saw you, O God; the wa - ters saw you and trem - - bled.

All:

To-day, the Trin - i - ty, our God, has revealed Itself indivis - i - bly to us: The Fa - ther

bears his clear witness to his Son; the Spir - it comes down from heaven

in the form of a dove; the Son bows his spotless head be - fore the Bap - tist;

be - ing baptized, the Lover of Man - kind frees man - kind from sla - ve - ry.

Cantor:

Tone 5

Glo - ry to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spir - it, now and ev - er and

for - ev - er. A - - - men.

Doxastikon

Tone 5

Lord, you have come to the Jordan in the flesh to be baptized as a man, in
or - der to save our souls, which had gone a-stray, and to save us from the cunning
and snares of the dra-gon, and the Ho - ly Spirit descended upon you in the
form of a dove. Take up your dwelling in our souls for - ev - er,
O com - pas - sion - ate Lord and Lov - er of us all!

Deacon: Let us be attentive!

Priest: ❖ Peace be to all!

Deacon: Wisdom! Be attentive!

Prokeimenon - *Tone 6* (Psalm 75: 17; Psalm 28: 3)

The wa - ters saw you; the wa - ters saw you O God, and
trem - bled; saw you, O God, and trem - - - bled.

Verse: The Lord's voice resounding on the waters;
the Lord on the immensity of waters;
the God of Glory thunders. *All repeat Prokeimenon.*

Deacon: Wisdom!

Lector: A reading from the Prophecy of Isaiah.

Deacon: Let us be attentive!

Lector: [Isaiah 1: 16 - 20]

Priest: Wisdom!

Deacon: A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

Priest: Let us be attentive!

Deacon: [Acts of the Apostles 19: 1 - 8]

Priest: Wisdom! Let us stand and listen to the Holy Gospel.
✠ Peace be to all!

Response: 
And to your spir - - it.

Priest: A reading from the Holy Gospel according to the Holy Apostle and Evangelist Mark.

Response: 
Glo - ry to you, O Lord, glo - ry to you.

Priest: [Mark 1:1-8]

Response:



Glo - ry to you, O Lord, glo - ry to you.

During the stichera the deacon censes the Gospel Book three times.

Stichera of the Sixth Hour - Tone 8



The Lord spoke to ho - ly John: Come, proph - et, and baptize me who



cre - a - ted you, for I enlighten all men by grace and cleanse them!



Touch my divine head and do not hes - i - tate. O Proph-et, give in for now.



We must do this if we would fulfill all God's de - mands: Do not




hold back, for I am eager to slay the enemy hidden in the waters, the



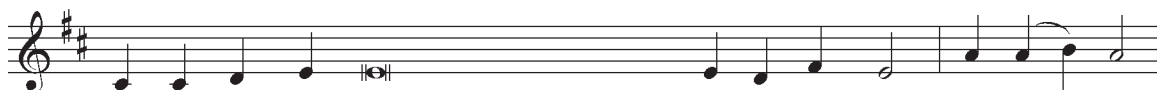
prince of dark - ness, that I may now deliver the whole world from his



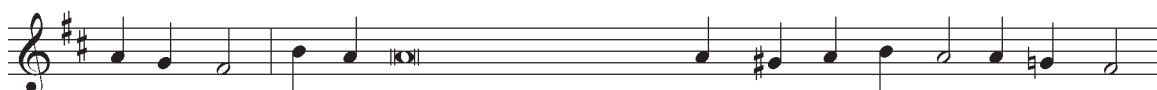
snares, grant-ing it e - ter - nal life in my love!

Cantor:*Tone 6*


The wa - ters saw you, O God; the wa - ters saw you and trem - bled.

All:*Tone 6*


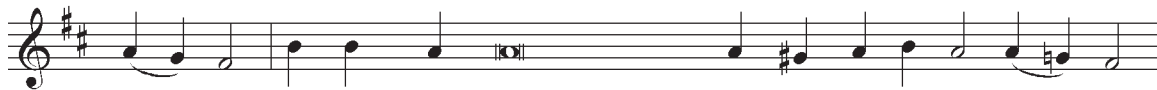
To - day the proph - ecy of the psalms comes to its ful - fill - ment: The sea fled



at the sight; the Jor - dan turned back on its course be - fore the face of the Lord,



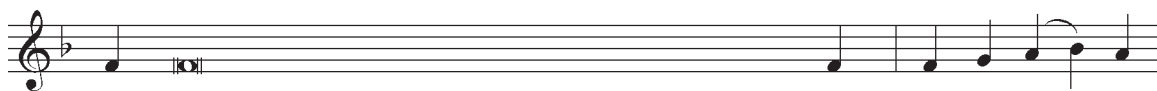
be - fore the face of the God of Ja - cob, who comes to seek baptism from a



serv - ant, so that, washed clean from the de - file - ment of i - dol - a - try,



our souls might be il - lu - mined in him.

Cantor:*Tone 5*


Glo - ry to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spir - it, now and ev - er



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

Doxastikon

Tone 5

Why is it, O Jordan, that you turn back your wa - ters? Why do you stop
 your streams and not flow up - on your nor - mal course? And he re - plies:
 I cannot endure the con-sum - ing Fire! I am o - ver-come with trem-bling
 be - fore his ex-treme con-de-scen - sion! I am not accustomed to washing
 him who is al-read - y pure; I have nev - er learned to cleanse the Sin-less One,
 but ra - ther to puri-fy stained ves - sels. Christ, who has come to be
 bap - tized in me, teach-es me to burn away the thorns of sin. John, the voice
 of the Word, bears witness with me and cries out: Be - hold the Lamb of God
 who takes away the sin of the world! O faith-ful, let us cry a-loud to him:

O God, who are made manifest for our sal - va - tion: glo - ry to you!

Deacon: Let us be attentive!

Priest: ❖ Peace be to all!

Deacon: Wisdom! Be attentive!

Prokeimenon - Tone 4 (Psalm 28: 3, 1)

The Lord's voice re - sound - ing on the wa - ters; the Lord on the im - mens - i - ty
of wa - ters; the God of glo - ry thun - - - ders.

Verse: O give the Lord, you sons of God,
give the Lord glory and power. *All repeat the Prokeimenon.*

Deacon: Wisdom!

Lector: A reading from the Prophecy of Isaiah.

Deacon: Let us be attentive!

Lector: [Isaiah 12:3-6]

Priest: Wisdom!

Deacon: A reading from the letter of the Apostle Paul to the Romans.

Priest: Let us be attentive!

Deacon: [Romans 6: 3 - 11]


Priest: Wisdom! Let us stand and listen to the Holy Gospel
❖ Peace be to all!

Response: 
And to your spir - - it.

Priest: A reading from the Holy Gospel according to the Holy Apostle and Evangelist Mark.

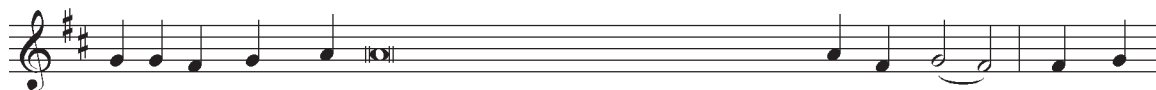
Response: 
Glo - ry to you, O Lord, glo - ry to you.


Priest: [Mark 1: 9 - 15]


Response: 
Glo - ry to you, O Lord, glo - ry to you.

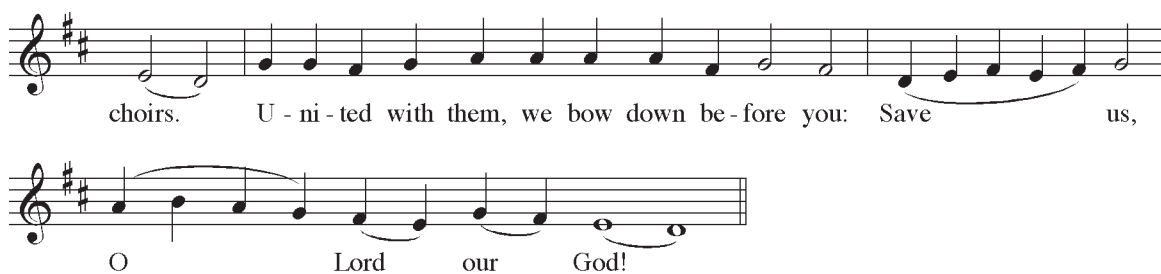
The deacon censes the altar, the icon screen, the people and then the Gospel Book, the latter three times, as the stichera are sung.

Stichera of the Ninth Hour - Tone 7


It is a strange won-der to see the Creator of the heavens and the earth stand-ing


nak-ed in the riv-er, wait-ing like a serv-ant to receive baptism from a servant for


our sal-va-tion. The an-gels in heaven were filled with awe and rejoic-ing in their



choirs. U - ni - ted with them, we bow down be - fore you: Save us,
O Lord our God!

Tone 2

Cantor:



The wa - ters saw you, O God; the wa - ters saw you and trem - bled

All:

Tone 2



When he saw the Lord of Glo - ry draw - ing near to him, the Fore - run - ner
cried a - loud at the sight: Be - hold, here comes the Savior who lifts the world
from cor - rup - tion! Be - hold, the One who deliv - ers us from af - flic - tion!
Be - hold, the One who has come upon earth, born of a spot - less Vir - gin,
to grant us the remission of sins in his love! From the slaves that we are, he

makes us sons of God! He makes man-kind a - rise from the dark - ness
 in or - der to illuminate it through his di - vine Bap - tism! Come, then, to - geth - er
 let us glo - ri - fy him with the Fa - ther and the Ho - ly Spir - it.

Cantor:

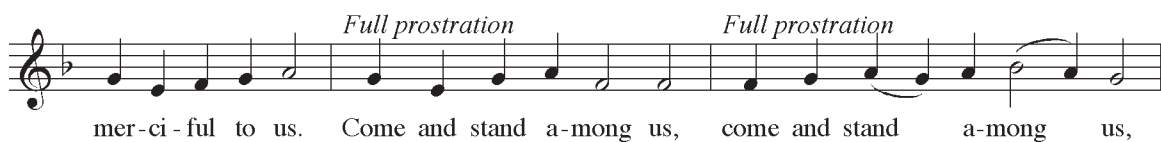
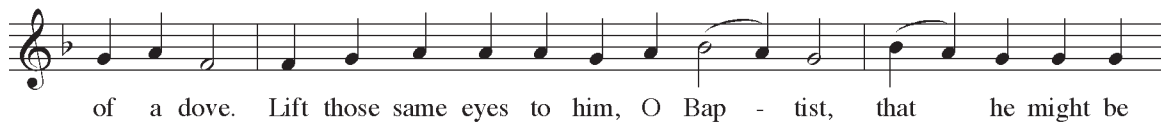
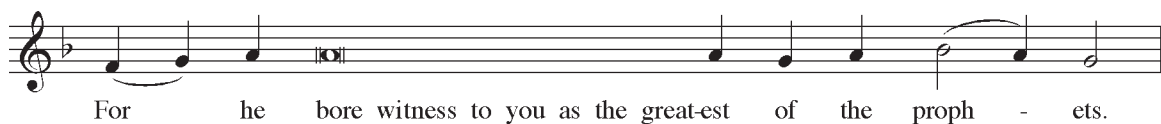
Tone 5

Glo - ry to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spir - it, now and ev - er and
 for - ev - er. A - - - men.

Doxastikon

Tone 5

With your hand, you have touched the head of the Mas - ter! And with that hand,
 you have shown him to us as our Sav - ior. O Bap - tist, stretch that hand
 out before him in pray'r on our be - half, for you have great boldness in his pres - ence.



Deacon: Let us be attentive!

Priest: ✠ Peace be to all!

Deacon: Wisdom! Be attentive!

Prokeimenon - Tone 3 (Psalm 26: 1, 16)



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

Deacon: Wisdom!

Lector: A reading from the Prophecy of Isaiah.

Deacon: Let us be attentive!

Lector: [Isaiah 49:8-15]

Priest: Wisdom!

Deacon: A reading from the letter of the Apostle Paul to Titus.

Priest: Let us be attentive!


Deacon: [Titus 2:11-14; 3:4-7]

Priest: Peace be with you, reader.


Priest: Wisdom! Let us stand and listen to the Holy Gospel.
✠ Peace be to all!

Response: 
And to your spir - - it.

Priest: A reading from the Holy Gospel according to the Holy Apostle and Evangelist Matthew.

Response: 
Glo - ry to you, O Lord, glo - ry to you.

Priest: [Matthew 3:13-17]

Response: 
Glo - ry to you, O Lord, glo - ry to you.

After the Gospel, the priest carries the Gospel book in procession to the Holy Table. The deacon precedes him, incensing. The Royal Doors remain open.

Kontakion - Tone 4



O most com-pas-sion-ate Christ, who take a-way the man - y sins of all
be-cause of your immeasur-a-ble mer - cy, you have come to be baptized in the
wa-ters of the Jor - dan as a man, clo-thing in a robe of glo - ry
the misery of my an - cient nak - ed - ness.

All: Lord, have mercy. (*40 times*)

Lector: O Good God, in all times and places you are worshiped and glorified both in heaven and on earth. You are long-suffering and generous in your mercy and compassion. You love the just and show mercy to the sinner, calling all to salvation through the promise of blessings to come. At this very hour, O Lord, receive our supplications and direct our lives in the path of your commandments. Sanctify our souls; purify our bodies; set right our minds; cleanse our thoughts; deliver us from all affliction, trouble and distress; surround us with your holy angels so that, guided and guarded in their camp, we may attain oneness of faith and the knowledge of your unpeakable glory. For you are blessed forever and ever. Amen.

We kneel for the following litany. The deacon says this litany standing, at the ambon.

Deacon: Let us complete our *morning/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.

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

Response: 
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 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 judgement 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.

Priest: O eternal God, you dwell in inaccessible light. No one has seen you nor is able to see you., O inexhaustible Treasury of eternal blessings. O Master of all, now protect those who hope in you, filling us with your divine and saving grace.

For to you is due all dominion and yours is the Kingdom, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and ever and forever.

Response: 
A - men.

All stand.

Priest: ✠ Peace be to all!

Response: 
And to your spir - - it.

Deacon: Bow your heads to the Lord!

Response: A single staff of music in G major, 4/4 time. The melody consists of five notes: G4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), B4 (quarter), C5 (quarter), and D5 (half).
To you, O Lord.

Priest: O Lord our God, look down upon your creation from the heights of your holy dwelling-place, and keep in peace and goodness those who bow their necks under the yoke of the good Christ.

For blessed and glorified is your honorable and majestic name, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and ever and forever.

Response: A single staff of music in G major, 4/4 time. The melody consists of three notes: A4 (quarter), B4 (quarter), and C5 (half).
A - men.

The deacon stands before the icon of Christ, and the priest proceeds to the ambon.

Priest: Let us go forth in peace.

Response: A single staff of music in G major, 4/4 time. The melody consists of eight notes: G4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), B4 (quarter), C5 (quarter), B4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), G4 (quarter), and F#4 (half).
In the name of the Lord.

Deacon: Let us pray to the Lord.

Response: A single staff of music in G major, 4/4 time. The melody consists of ten notes: G4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), B4 (quarter), C5 (quarter), B4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), G4 (quarter), F#4 (quarter), E4 (half), and D4 (half).
Lord have mer - - - cy.

At the Ambon, facing East, the priest prays:

Priest: O Lord our God, your love for us is beyond expression, for it pleased you to make your only-begotten Son a man, born of a pure woman, like us in every way except sin.

As a man he was baptized for our sakes by John the Forerunner,
 though he had no need for purification,
 that he might make the water holy
 and favor us with rebirth from water and the Holy Spirit,
 who descended upon him, and showed him to the Baptist.
 In him you sealed and anointed us through Baptism;
 you made us sharers of your Christ.
 Through him, do not fail us sinners,
 but strengthen us against all evil powers.
 Strengthen our government against all tyranny,
 and guide us into your kingdom.
 In us may your holy name, and that of your only-begotten Son,
 and that of your Holy Spirit be glorified –
 now and ever and forever.

Response:



A - men.

Deacon: Wisdom!

Response:



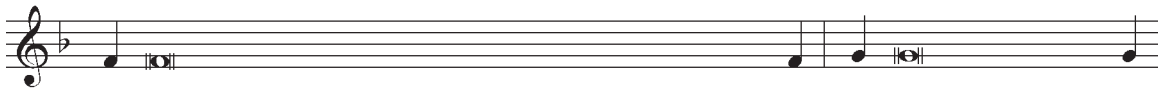
More honorable than the cheru-bim, and beyond compare more glorious than the seraphim,



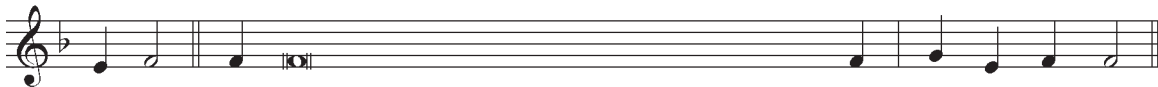
who, a virgin, gave birth to God the Word, you, truly the Theotokos, we mag-ni-fy.

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

Response:



Glo-ry to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spir-it; now and ever and for ev-er.



A-men. Lord, have mercy, Lord have mercy, Lord, have mer-cy. Give the bless-ing.

Priest:

May Christ our true God have mercy on us and save us, through the prayers of his most holy Mother, and of the holy, glorious, and illustrious apostles, and of our holy ascetical fathers and mothers, and of _____ (*patron of the church*) and of _____ (*whose feast we keep this day*) and of all the saints; for Christ is good and loves us all.

Response:



A - - - - - men.