

# Reader's Vespers on Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> January for Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2026

30<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost  
Sunday Before the Theophany  
Forefeast of the Theophany  
Synaxis of the Seventy Apostles

"LORD, I CALL ..."

**Tone 5**

[Music on website / Sheet]

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!

*Bring my soul out of prison, that I may give thanks to Thy Name.*

**Tone 5 (For the Resurrection)**

[Music on website / Sheet]

By Thy precious Cross, O Christ,

Thou hast put the devil to shame.

By Thy Resurrection, Thou hast blunted the sting of sin

and saved us from the gates of death.//

We glorify Thee, O only-begotten One.

*The righteous will surround me, for Thou wilt deal bountifully with me.*

Christ was led as a sheep to the slaughter

in order to grant Resurrection to the human race.

The princes of hell were frightened by this,

for the gates of sorrow were lifted.

Christ the King of glory had entered,

saying to those in chains: "Go forth!"//

And to those in darkness: "Come to the light!"

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

O great wonder!

The Creator of the invisible suffered in the flesh in His love for man

and rose again immortal.

Come, O sons of nations,

let us worship Him,

for delivered from error by His compassion,//

we have learned to sing of one God in three Persons!

*Let Thine ears be attentive to the voice of my supplications!*

We offer Thee our evening worship,  
O never-setting Light,  
Who didst come in these last days to the world in the flesh;  
Who even didst descend to hell to dispel its darkness.  
Who hast revealed the light of Resurrection to the nations.//  
Glory to Thee, O Lord and Giver of light!

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

**Tone 8 (For the Forefeast of Theophany)**

John said to the Creator Who came to be baptized:  
"I am grass and ashes, and Thou art the Unapproachable Fire.  
Before Thee the hosts of heaven tremble.  
Then why dost Thou bow Thy holy head before me, O my Christ?//  
Great is Thy life-giving condescension!"

*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.*

Here is our Light, our Redemption,  
and our Salvation,  
coming to the Jordan to reveal Himself.  
By clothing Himself in the waters  
He clothes Himself with the nakedness of all//  
and lays bare the counsel of the demons.

*From the morning watch until night, from the morning watch, let Israel hope on the Lord!*

This is indeed the Unbearable Fire,  
Who comes to the Jordan  
to cleanse me from the destruction of my evil transgressions.  
Let me partake of the earthly rain  
and in the midst of the waters wash the filth of my many sins,//  
for Thou art bountiful and dost grant many mercies!

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

**Tone 4 (For the Apostles)**

Come, O faithful,  
let us praise the Apostles with sacred songs:  
Cleópas, Andrónicus, Áhab, Silv<sup>á</sup>nus,  
Ananías, Phílíp, Próchorus, Nícanor.  
Rúfus, Sósthenes, Línus, Stáchi<sup>u</sup>s,  
Stéphen and Tímon, Hérmes, Philegóntus, Mark and Luke,  
Sosípater, Jáson, and Philémon,//  
Tíchicus and Gáius!

*Praise the Lord, all nations! Praise Him, all peoples!*

It is fitting to honor the Apostles:  
Narcíssus, Tróphemus, Caésar, Zebínus, Aristárchus,  
Mark, Sílas, Gáius, Hérmes, Asíncritus,  
Apóllos, Céphas, Clément, and Iústis,  
Mathías, Erástus, Luke, Onesíphorus,  
Cárpus and Eódus, Quártus and James,//  
Úrban, Aristóbulus, Tíchicus and Aristárchus.

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

Let us honor the wonderful preachers of God:  
Púdens, Heródion, and Ártemus,  
Philológus, Olýmpus and Ródion,  
Apéles, Ámplius, Pátrobus, and Mark,  
Tértius, and Tháddeus,  
the wondrous Epenétus,  
Acháicus, Aquíla, Lúcius, Bárnabas, Fortunátus, //  
and the glorious Apóllos and Críspus!

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

**Tone 3** (*For the Forefeast of Theophany*)

[Music on website / Sheet]

The feast which passed was radiant,  
but the one to come is even more glorious.  
There the Magi worshipped the Savior;  
here the servant baptizes the Master.  
There the shepherds saw the Child and were amazed; //  
here the voice of the Father proclaims the only-begotten Son.

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

**Tone 5** (*Theotokion – Dogmatikon*)

[Music on website / Sheet]

In the Red Sea of old,  
a type of the Virgin Bride was prefigured.  
There Moses divided the waters;  
here Gabriel assisted in the miracle.  
There Israel crossed the sea without getting wet,  
here the Virgin gave birth to Christ without seed.  
After Israel's passage, the sea remained impassable;  
after Emmanuel's birth, the Virgin remained a Virgin.  
O ever-existing God Who didst appear as Man, //  
O Lord, have mercy on us!

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**APOSTICHA**

**Tone 5** (*For the Resurrection*)

We magnify Thee in songs of praise,  
O incarnate Christ and Savior.  
By accepting the Cross and death for our sake,  
as the Lord and Lover of man,  
Thou didst overthrow the gates of hell, //  
and didst arise on the third day, saving our souls.

**V.** *The Lord is King; He is robed in majesty!*

By being pierced in the side, O Lover of man,  
Thou hast poured out drops of life and salvation for all.  
By accepting death in the flesh, Thou hast granted us immortality.  
Thou hast freed us by being placed in the tomb,  
and hast resurrected us with Thyself in glory, as God. //  
Glory to Thee, O Lord and Lover of man!

**V.** *For He has established the world, so that it shall never be moved.*

Thy crucifixion and descent into hell are awesome, O Lover of man.  
Thou hast captured it, releasing the ancient prisoners.  
Thou hast opened Paradise and given it to us.  
Grant us purification of sins,  
who glorify Thy Resurrection on the third day!  
Make us worthy of Paradise//  
and save us, O Lover of man!

*V. Holiness befits Thy house, O Lord, forevermore!*

For our sake, Thou didst accept death in the flesh,  
to rise from the dead on the third day.  
Heal us from our earthly passions,  
and restore us from our evil transgressions;//  
and save us, O Lover of man!

*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 of Theophany)**

Christ, the Truth, comes to the Jordan  
to be baptized by John, who says to Him:  
"It is I who need to be baptized by Thee;  
why comest Thou to me?  
I am only grass! I dare not touch the Fire!  
Sanctify me, O Master,//  
by Thy divine Theophany!"

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**TROPARIA**

**Troparion of the Resurrection in Tone 5**

[Music on website / Green Book page 10]

Let us, the faithful, praise and worship the Word,  
co-eternal with the Father and the Spirit,  
born for our salvation from the Virgin;  
for He willed to be lifted up on the Cross in the flesh,  
to endure death,  
and to raise the dead//  
by His glorious Resurrection.

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

**Troparion of the 70 Apostles in Tone 3**

[Music on website / Sheet]

Holy Apostles of the Seventy  
entreat the merciful God //  
to grant our souls forgiveness of transgressions!

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

**Troparion of the Forefeast of Theophany in Tone 4** [Music on website / Sheet]

Prepare, O Zebulon,  
and adorn thyself, O Naphtali!  
River Jordan, cease flowing,  
and receive with joy the Master coming to be baptized!  
Adam, rejoice with our first Mother,  
and do not hide yourselves as you did of old in Paradise;  
for having seen you naked,  
He has appeared to clothe you with the first garment.//  
Christ has appeared to renew all creation.