

Great Vespers

Saturday, January 2, 2021

Sunday before the Theophany

Forefeast of the Theophany

Holy Prophet Malachi



SAINT NICHOLAS
RUSSIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH



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Note to our Guests and Friends Visiting St. Nicholas:

We offer a most sincere and heart-felt welcome to St. Nicholas Church! Please be advised that according to the ancient traditions of the Orthodox Church, the Sacrament of Holy Communion is to be administered only to Orthodox Christians who have prepared themselves to receive the Holy Sacrament.

(Please note - Information to be included in next Sunday's bulletin must be submitted by noon on Thursday. Thank you! ~ Jennifer N. Bzik)

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Holy Prophet Malachi

Lord, I Call

(Tone 5) 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!

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

Tone 5 *(for the Resurrection)*

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.

(9) *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!"

(8) *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!

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

(Resurrection stichera by Anatolius)

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!

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

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

Behold the Enlightenment of the faithful! See, our Atonement desires to enter the streams of the river, that He may wash away man's filth and corruption, refashioning us, who had been broken to pieces!

(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.

O Lord, Thy Forerunner cried out in fear, when he saw Thee approaching and asking to be baptized: "O my God! My Creator! How can I baptize Thee, the sinless One?"

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

O faithful, let us assemble in spirit at the streams of Jordan, that we may clearly behold the great wonder! We shall see the Creator of all made manifest, as He comes to be baptized.

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

Tone 8 *(for Prophet Malachi) (Lord, though Thou didst stand)*

Beholding the words that came forth from thy divinely-inspired tongue, truly marveling, I bless thee, O Prophet of truth, for thy clear message has illumined the world, foretelling the coming of the Lord for our salvation.

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

Thou wast an angel on earth, emulating the Angels with thy way of life. Thou wast enriched by appropriately bearing the name of Angel, and harmoniously thou didst join beauty of soul with beauty of body, O most blessed Malachi.

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

O Lord, I set before Thee Thy Prophet as an advocate and intercessor. By his entreaties and prayers, O Compassionate One, put an end to the misdeeds of my despairing soul, for Thou art full of loving-kindness, as Thou dost possess essential and natural goodness.

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

Tone 4 *(for the Forefeast, by John the Monk)*

Oh, the marvelous wonder! He Who baptizes by the Holy Spirit and by fire comes to be baptized by John in the Jordan. Neither simply God nor plainly man, but, in both His natures, He is one only-begotten Son. In His humanity, He asks a servant to baptize Him; in His divinity, He takes away the sins of the world granting great mercy to all.

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

Tone 5 *(Theotokion - Dogmatikon)*

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!

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.

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!

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!

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 5 *(for the Forefeast)*

Christ our God is coming to be baptized in the river Jordan, desiring to cleanse us from our iniquities by His appearance, for He alone is good and loves mankind.

Troparia

Tone 5 **Troparion** *(Resurrection)*

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,

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

Tone 4 **Troparion** *(Forefeast)*

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.

Heavenly Father...

Physician of our souls and bodies, Who has sent Your only-begotten Son to heal every sickness and infirmity, visit and heal us, Your Servants, from all physical and spiritual ailments, through the grace of Your Son, Jesus Christ. Grant to us patience in this sickness, strength of body, and recovery of health. Lord, You have taught us through Your Word to pray for each other that we may be healed. For You are the source of healing, and to You we give glory; Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.

Prayers at the Divine Liturgy for the Health of the Servants of God:

Metropolitan Herman

Igumen David Lewis

Archpriests: Thomas Edwards, John Perich, Rodion Pfeifer, James Mason, Claude Vinyard, Dimitri Oselinsky, David Shewczyk, Dennis Swenki, James Weremedic

Priests: Matthew Joyner, Ian Shipley, John Nightingale

Deacons: Geoffrey LoBalbo

Matushki: Ashley Joyner, Marie Mason, Johanna Bohush, Evelyn Edwards, Paraskeva Vansuch, Myra Kovalak, Gloria Martin, Maryann Oselinsky, Priscilla Shipley, Katia Vansuch, Lisa Weremedic

Servants: Bethany Bruder, Mary Brzuchalski, Helen Cotirgasanu, Roberta Cusick, Val Danchenko, Christopher Felix, Olga Frimenko, Patricia G. Fu, David Gowarty, Patricia Grammes, Walter Grigoruk, Rachel Hardesty, Nicholas Hazzard, Jonathan Hontz, Sherry Hromiak, Michael H. Isbansky, Sarah Jubinski, Pauline Kasick, Mary K. Koretski, Stephanie Koretski, David Lezinsky, Judy Lezinsky, Olga Maksimova, Peter Marsh, Lanelle Mikolaitis, Catherine Miller, Nicolae & Doina Marian, Mary Orzolek, Kylie Pinho, Ryan Pinkowicz, Kiera Pheiffer, Alex Roberts, Gordon Roberts, Clara Roman, Victoria Ross, Mary Ruzila, Nancy A. Sabol, Robert Schainfeld, Cate Shea, Julia Smith, Julia G. Smolenski, Mary Strohecker, Ola Tatusko, Irene Witanek

Child of God: Emily Estrin

Please remember them and all our homebound and nursing home parishioners in your daily intercessory prayers.