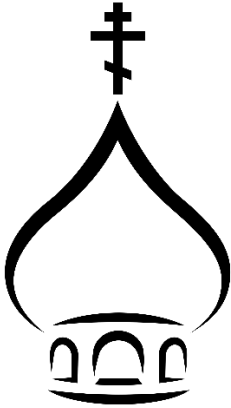


Readers Vespers
Wednesday, January 6, 2021
Synaxis of St. John the Baptist



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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Readers Vespers

Wednesday, January 6, 2021

Synaxis of St. John the Baptist

At the appointed time we begin:

O God cleanse me a sinner and have mercy on me (3).

Blessed is our God, always now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

O Heavenly King, the comforter, the Spirit of Truth, Who art everywhere present and fillest all things, treasury of blessings and giver of life, come and abide in us, and cleanse us from every impurity, and save our souls, O good One.

Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal, have mercy on us. (3)

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto the ages of ages. Amen.

O Most Holy Trinity, have mercy on us. Lord, cleanse us from our sins. Master, pardon our transgressions. Holy One, visit and heal our infirmities for Thy name's sake.

Lord have mercy. (3)

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto the ages of ages. 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 the evil one.

For Thine is the Kingdom, and the power and the glory of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages. (Amen.)

Lord have mercy (12) Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto the ages of ages. Amen.

Come, let us worship God our King! (metania)

Come, let us worship and fall down before Christ, our King and our God! (metania)

Come, let us worship and fall down before Christ Himself our King and our God! (metania)

Psalm 104

Praise the LORD, O my soul. O LORD my God, you have become exceedingly glorious; you are clothed with majesty and honor. You clothe yourself with light as with a garment, and spread out the heavens like a curtain. You lay the beams of your chambers in the waters, and make the clouds your chariot, and walk upon the wings of the wind. You make winds your messengers, and flames of fire your ministers. You laid the foundations of the earth, that it never should move at any time. You cover it with the deep as with a garment; the waters stand above the hills. At your rebuke they fled; at the voice of your thunder they hastened away. They went up as high as the hills, and down to the valleys beneath, even to the place you had appointed for them. You have set bounds for them which they shall not pass; neither shall they again cover the earth. You send the springs into the rivers, which run among the hills. All beasts of the field drink thereof, and the wild donkeys quench their thirst. Beside them shall the birds of the air have their habitation and sing among the branches. You water the hills from above; the earth is filled with the fruit of your works. You bring forth grass for the cattle, and plants for the service of mankind, That they may bring food out of the earth, and wine that makes glad the heart, and oil to make a cheerful countenance, and bread to strengthen the heart. The trees of the LORD also are full of sap, even the cedars of Lebanon which he planted, Wherein the birds make their nests, and the fir trees are a dwelling for the stork. The high hills are a refuge for the wild goats, and so are the stony cliffs for the rock badgers. You appointed the moon to mark the seasons, and the sun knows its going down. You make darkness that it may be night, in which all the beasts of the forest move. The lions, roaring after their prey, seek their meat from God. The

sun arises, and they go away together, and lay themselves down in their dens. Man goes forth to his work, and to his labor until the evening. O LORD, how manifold are your works; in wisdom you made them all; the earth is full of your creatures. So is the great and wide sea also, in which are things creeping innumerable, creatures both small and great. There go the ships, and there is that Leviathan, whom you made to take its pleasure therein. These all wait upon you, that you may give them food in due season. When you give it to them, they gather it, and when you open your hand, they are filled with good things. When you hide your face, they are troubled; when you take away their breath, they die, and are turned again to their dust. When you let your breath go forth, they shall be made, and you shall renew the face of the earth. The glorious majesty of the LORD shall endure for ever; the LORD shall rejoice in his works. He looks at the earth and it trembles; if he even touches the hills, they shall smoke. I will sing unto the LORD as long as I live; I will praise my God while I have my being, And so shall my words please him; my joy shall be in the LORD. As for sinners, they shall perish from the earth, and the ungodly shall come to an end. Praise the LORD, O my soul. Praise the LORD.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: both now and ever, and to ages of ages. Amen. Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia. Glory to Thee, O God! (3)

Great Litany

The regular petitions are not intoned, instead:

Lord, have mercy! (12) Through the prayers of our holy fathers, O Lord Jesus Christ our God, have mercy on us. (Amen.)

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!

6. If thou, Lord, shouldest mark iniquities, O Lord, who shall stand? But there is forgiveness with thee.

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!

5. For thy name's sake have I patiently waited for thee, O Lord; my soul hath waited patiently for thy word: My soul hath hoped in the Lord.

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!

4. From the morning watch until night, from the morning watch: Let Israel hope in 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 I rather should be baptized by Thee." O sinless One, Christ our God, glory to thee!

3. For with the Lord, there is mercy; and, with Him, is plenteous redemption: And He shall redeem Israel from all his iniquities.

When the Forerunner beheld Thee, O Christ, drawing near to him to ask for baptism, he cried out in trembling: "Why dost Thou ask me for what is beyond my strength? How shall I touch Thee with my hand, O all-powerful Lord, for Thou holdest all things with Thy hand? But instead baptize me, Thy servant!"

2. O praise the Lord, all ye nations: Praise Him, all ye people.

"This day have I appeared as a complete Man; unapproachable by nature, I have become approachable to thee. Rich, I have willingly made Myself poor, that what has grown poor I may make rich with incorruption and deliverance. Draw near

and baptize Him Who is not subject to corruption, and Who delivers the world from decay!"

1. For His merciful kindness is great towards us: And the truth of the Lord endureth forever.

"I am constrained on every side," said the Forerunner to the Creator, "and cannot tell which way to go. Bountiful Lord, Thou art a stream flowing with nourishment; how then shall the flowing streams receive Thee, O Word, Who come to pour forth salvation on all who honor Thy holy Epiphany!"

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

(Tone 6) Light in the flesh and Forerunner of the Savior, offspring of a barren mother, and friend of Him Who was born of a Virgin, thou hast worshipped Him by leaping in the womb, and hast baptized Him in the waters of the Jordan. We entreat thee to intercede with Him, O Prophet, that we may escape from the mighty tempests to come!

Now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

(Tone 6) God the Word shone forth in the flesh to the human race. He stood waiting to be baptized in the Jordan. And the Forerunner said to Him: "How can my hand touch the head which rules all things? Though Thou art the child of Mary, yet I know that Thou art God before the ages. Thou art hymned by the Seraphim, yet Thou walkest on earth. And I a servant have not learned how to baptize the Master. O Lord past understanding, glory to thee."

Wisdom! Let us attend!

Gladsome Light

O Gladsome Light of the holy glory of the immortal Father, heavenly, holy, blessed, O Jesus Christ! Now that we have come to the setting of the sun, and behold the light of evening, we praise God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit! For meet it is at all times to worship Thee with voices of praise O Son of God, and Giver of Life. Therefore all the world doth glorify Thee!

Evening Prokeimenon

Wisdom! Let us Attend! The Prokeimenon in the 5th tone: Save me, O God, by Thy name and judge me by Thy strength!

Verse: Hear my prayer, O God, hearken to the words of my mouth!

Vouchsafe, O Lord

Vouchsafe, O Lord, to keep us this night without sin. Blessed art Thou, O Lord, the God of our fathers, and praised and glorified is Thy Name forever. Amen. Let Thy mercy be upon us, O Lord, even as we have set our hope on Thee. Blessed art Thou, O Lord, teach me Thy statutes! Blessed art Thou, O Master, make me to understand Thy statutes! Blessed art Thou, O Holy One, enlighten me with Thy statutes! Thy mercy, O Lord, endureth forever. O despise not the works of Thy hands. To Thee belongeth worship, to Thee belongeth praise, to Thee belongeth glory: to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen

Litany of Supplication

The regular petitions are not intoned, instead:

Lord, have mercy! (12) Through the prayers of our holy fathers, O Lord Jesus Christ our God, have mercy on us. (Amen.)

Aposticha

When he saw Thee draw near to him, O Master, John the Forerunner was amazed, and as a faithful servant he cried out in fear: "O Savior, what is this humility? What is this poverty Thou hast put on? In the wealth of Thy goodness and compassion, Thou hast raised up man from his humiliation, by clothing Thyself in him!"

The sea looked and fled; Jordan turned back.

"Come to me this day," the Savior of all replied to the Forerunner, "for I bring to pass a mystery. Serve me with trembling, yet do not draw back in fear. For, undefiled by nature, I stand now before thee in the waters of the Jordan and am baptized as Man: I renew Adam, who was shattered by sin."

What aileth thee, O thou sea, that thou fleddest? Thou Jordan, that thou didst turn back?

"Who among men," replied John, "has seen the Sun being cleansed, and Him Who covered the heaven with clouds stripped naked? Who has seen Him Who made the springs and rivers, Himself enter the waters? I stand amazed at Thine ineffable dispensation, O Master. Do not burden Thy servant with fearful commands!"

"Glory" in the 4th Tone: Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.

As the lover of the Spirit, the swallow that brings divine tidings of grace, O Forerunner, thou hast made known clearly to mankind the dispensation of the King, Who shone forth in brightness from a pure Virgin for the restoration of man. Thou dost banish the dominion of dark and evil ways, guiding the hearts of those baptized in repentance to eternal life, O blessed Prophet inspired by God! "

Now and ever" in the same tone: Now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Let us imitate the wise virgins, let us go and meet the Master Who appears; like a bridegroom He comes forth to John. Seeing Thee, the Jordan holds back in fear. John cries out: "I dare not hold Thine immortal head!" The Spirit comes down in the form of a dove to sanctify the waters. And a voice from heaven resounds: "This is My Son, Who comes to the world to save the human race." O Lord, glory to thee!

St. Symeon's Prayer

Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant depart in peace, according to Thy Word, for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation, which Thou hast prepared before the face of all people: a light to enlighten the Gentiles and the glory of Thy people, Israel.

Trisagion (Thrice Holy)

Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal, have mercy on us. (3)

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto the ages of ages. Amen.

O Most Holy Trinity, have mercy on us. Lord, cleanse us from our sins. Master, pardon our transgressions. Holy One, visit and heal our infirmities for Thy name's sake.

Lord have mercy. (3)

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto the ages of ages. 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 the evil one.

For Thine is the Kingdom, and the power and the glory of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages. (Amen.)

Troparia

(Tone 2) The memory of the righteous is celebrated with songs of praise, but the Lord's testimony is sufficient for thee, O Forerunner. Thou wast shown indeed to be the most honorable of the Prophets, for in the waters thou didst baptize Him Whom thou didst preach. After suffering with joy on behalf of the truth, thou didst proclaim even to those in hell the God Who appeared in the flesh, Who takes away the sin of the world and grants us great mercy!

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

(Tone 1) When Thou, O Lord, wast baptized in the Jordan, the worship of the Trinity was made manifest. For the voice of the Father bore witness to Thee, and called Thee His beloved Son; and the Spirit in the form of a dove confirmed the truthfulness of His word. O Christ our God, Who hast revealed Thyself and hast enlightened the world, glory to Thee.

Dismissal

Wisdom! Blessed be He Who Is, Christ our God, always now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen. Preserve O God, the Holy Orthodox faith of Orthodox Christians, unto ages of ages.

Most holy Theotokos, save us! More honorable than the cherubim, and more glorious beyond compare than the seraphim: without corruption thou gavest birth to God the Word. True Theotokos, we magnify thee!

Glory to Thee, O Christ our God, and our only sure hope, 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.

Lord have Mercy (3)

Lord Bless.

May Christ our True God, through the prayers of His most pure Mother, of the glorious and all-laudable Apostles, of Nicholas the Wonderworker, Archbishop of Myra in Lycia, the patron of this holy house, **of The Holy Prophet, Forerunner and Baptist John**, who we commemorate today, of all those Saints who have shone forth in this North American land, of the holy and righteous ancestors of God, Joachim and Anna, and of all the saints, have mercy on us and save us, for as much as He is good and loves mankind. Amen.

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.