

**Sunday, January 3, 2021**  
**30th Sunday after Pentecost - Tone 5**  
**Sunday Before the Theophany**

Troparion:

Let us, the faithful, praise and worship the Word, coeternal 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.

Get ready, Zebulon! Bedeck yourself, Naphthali! Stop your flow and rejoice, O Jordan! The Master is coming to be baptized. Rejoice, Adam, with our first mother. Do not seek to cover yourselves as you did in Paradise. He Who saw you naked comes out publicly today, so that He may vest you in the primal robe. Christ is seen! And He wishes to renew all creation!

O Prophet and Forerunner of the coming of Christ, in spite of our honor and devotion we are unable to give you worthy praise, through your glorious and noble birth your mother's childlessness was ended, your father's tongue was freed, and the incarnation of the Son of God was proclaimed to the world.

Kontakion:

Thou didst descend into hell, O my Savior, shattering its gates as almighty; resurrecting the dead as Creator, and destroying the sting of death. Thou hast delivered Adam from the curse, O Lover of Man, and we all cry to Thee: O Lord, save us!

Today the Lord calls to John from the flowing Jordan water: Do not hesitate to baptize Me, for I have come to save the first man, Adam.

Prokeimenon in the 6th Tone:

O Lord, save Thy people and bless Thine inheritance!  
(Vs.) To Thee, O Lord, will I call. O my God, be not silent to me!

Epistle:

The reading from the Second Epistle of the Holy Apostle Paul to Timothy. (2 Tim. 4:5-8)

My child Timothy, always be steady, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry. For I am already on the point of being sacrificed; the time of my departure has come. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Henceforth there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will award to me on that Day, and not only to me but also to all who have loved his appearing.

Alleluia Verses:

O God, be bountiful to us and bless us, show the light of Thy countenance upon us, and have mercy on us.  
(Vs.) That we may know Thy way upon the earth, and Thy salvation among all nations.

Gospel:

The Holy Gospel According to St. Mark. (Chapter 1:1-8)

The beginning of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. As it is written in the prophets, "Behold, I send my messenger before you, who shall prepare your way, the voice of one crying in the desert, 'Make ready the way of the Lord, make straight His paths,'" there came John in the desert, baptizing and preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And all the country of Judea went out to him, and the inhabitants of Jerusalem; and all were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. And John was clothed in camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. And he preached, saying, "One mightier than I is coming after me, the strap of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and loose. I have baptized you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."