

SUNDAY, JANUARY 8, 2023
30th Sunday after Pentecost
Afterfeast of the Theophany
Sunday After the Theophany
Ven. George the Chozebite
Ven. Domnica of Constantinople

Afterfeast of Theophany

The second day of the Afterfeast of Theophany falls on January 8. At Vespers we repeat a hymn which has already been sung at Compline for Theophany. In the hymn Saint John wonders in whose name he should baptize Christ. Should he baptize Him in the name of the Father? The Lord Jesus Christ already bears Him in Himself. Of the Son? He Himself is the incarnate Son of God. Of the Holy Spirit? Christ Himself sends the Spirit.

St George the Chozebite

Saint George the Chozebite was born on the island of Cyprus toward the end of the sixth century. After the death of his parents, he went to Palestine to worship at the holy places. Here he entered into the monastic community of Chozeba between the River Jordan and Jerusalem, and he later became head of this monastery. Saint George presented the monks example in fasting, vigil and physical efforts. Having lived as an angel upon the earth, he died in peace.

GREAT VESPERS

LORD I CALL: 4 stichera of the Resurrection in tone 5 (spiral bound Vespers book), then ...

Feast, tone 2:

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 You!

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 You!

The streams of the Jordan received You, 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 do You command me to do what is beyond me;
for it is I that should be baptized by You?”//
O sinless One, Christ our God, glory to You!

St. George, tone 4:

The assaults of temptations
did not shake the fortress of your soul, O blessèd one,
for putting forth your firm ascetic discipline as a wall of defense,
you kept yourself unharmed and safe from the vicious enemy;
and you took your place before the Master of all, //
wearing the crown of victory.

Lying prostrate in prayer and overcome with tears,
standing through night-long vigils to the point of exhaustion,
you were a splendid example for monastics,
a rule for them to follow and the highest crown of praise.
And having mastered every virtue, O most wise Father,
through your ascetic labors, //
you were revealed to be an heir of the Kingdom on High.

Neither the length of the road nor the difficult terrain
could weaken the fervor of your journey to God.
For having joyfully visited the places

where the feet of our God had walked,
you did not spare yourself, O venerable George,
until, through ascetic deeds and labors, //
you attained to the heavenly Zion.

Glory ... Feast, tone 1:

He Who covers the heaven with clouds
is Himself covered today by the streams of Jordan;
He Who takes away the sin of the world
is cleansed, that I may be made clean.

The Only-begotten Son of the Most High Father
receives from above the testimony of the consubstantial Spirit.

Let us cry aloud to Him://

“O Christ our God, You have made Yourself manifest and have saved
us! Glory to You!”

now and ever ... the theotokion-dogmatikon of the Resurrection in tone 5 (spiral bound Vespers book)

APOSTICHA: All stichera of the Resurrection in tone 5 (spiral bound Vespers book), then ...

Glory ... now and ever ... Feast, tone 2:

John saw You coming to him in the Jordan, O Christ God,
and he said: “You have no uncleanness, O Lord,

why do You come to Your servant?

In whose Name will I baptize You?

In the Name of the Father?

But in Yourself You bear the Father.

In the Name of the Son?

But You Yourself are the Son incarnate.

In the Name of the Holy Spirit?

But by Your breath You can give the Spirit to the faithful.”//

O God Who shone forth, have mercy on us!

TROPARIA

Resurrection, tone 5:

When the stone had been sealed by the Jews,
while the soldiers were guarding Your most pure body,
You rose on the third day, O Savior,
granting life to the world.

The powers of heaven therefore cried to You, O Giver of Life:
“Glory to Your Resurrection, O Christ!

Glory to Your Kingdom!//

Glory to Your dispensation, O Lover of mankind!”

Feast, tone 1:

When You, O Lord, were baptized in the Jordan,
the worship of the Trinity was made manifest.

For the voice of the Father bore witness to You,
and called You His beloved Son;

and the Spirit in the form of a dove

confirmed the truthfulness of His word.

O Christ our God, You have revealed Yourself//

and have enlightened the world, glory to You.

Saint John of Damascus Orthodox Church

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