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**Sunday, January 2, 2022**  
**28th Sunday after Pentecost - Tone 3**  
**Sunday Before the Theophany**

Troparion:

Let the heavens rejoice! Let the earth be glad! For the Lord has shown strength with His arm! He has trampled down death by death! He has become the first-born of the dead! He has delivered us from the depths of hell, and has granted the world great mercy!

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!

You loved Christ from your youth, O blessed one, and longing to work for Him alone you struggled in the wilderness in constant prayer and labor. With penitent heart and great love for Christ you were favored by the Mother of God. Therefore we cry to you: "Save us by your prayers, venerable Seraphim, our father."

Kontakion:

On this day Thou didst rise from the tomb, O Merciful One, leading us from the gates of death. On this day Adam exults as Eve rejoices; with the prophets and patriarchs they unceasingly praise the divine majesty of Thy power!

Forsaking the beauty as well as the corruption of this world, you settled in the monastery of Sarov, O Saint. There you lived an angelic life, becoming for many the way to salvation. Therefore, Christ has glorified you, Father Seraphim, enriching you with abundant healing and miracles. So we cry to you: "Save us by your prayers, venerable Seraphim, our father."

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!

Tone 7 (St. Seraphim):

Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of His saints.

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.

Brethren, the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such there is no law. And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. If we live by the Spirit, let us also walk by the Spirit. Let us have no self-

conceit, no provoking of one another, no envy of one another. Brethren, if a man is overtaken in any trespass, you who are spiritual should restore him in a spirit of gentleness. Look to yourself, lest you too be tempted. Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfil the law of Christ. (Gal 5:22-6:2)

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.

Tone 6 (St. Seraphim):

Blessed is the man who fears the Lord, who greatly delights in His commandments.

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."

At that time Jesus took His stand on a level stretch, with a crowd of His disciples, and a great multitude of people from all Judea and Jerusalem, and the sea coast of Tyre and Sidon, who came to listen to Him and to be healed of their diseases. And those who were troubled with unclean spirits were cured. And all the crowd were trying to touch Him, for power went forth from Him and healed all. And He lifted up His eyes to His disciples, and said, "Blessed are you poor, for yours is the kingdom of God. Blessed are you who hunger now, for you shall be satisfied. Blessed are you who weep now, for you shall laugh. Blessed shall you be when men hate you, and when they shut you out, and reproach you, and reject your name as evil, because of the Son of Man. Rejoice on that day and exult, for behold your reward is great in heaven. (Luke 6:17-23)