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Sunday, January 7, 2024
31st Sunday after Pentecost - Tone 6
Afterfeast of the Theophany

Troparion:

The angelic powers were at Thy tomb; the guards became as dead men. Mary stood by Thy grave, seeking Thy most pure Body. Thou didst capture hell, not being tempted by it. Thou didst come to the Virgin, granting life. O Lord who didst rise from the dead: glory to Thee!

When Thou, O Lord, wast baptized in the Jordan, the worship of the Trinity was made manifest! For the voice of the Father bare 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!

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:

Today Thou hast appeared to the universe, and Thy light, O Lord, has shown on us, who with understanding praise Thee: Thou hast come and revealed Thyself, O Light Unapproachable!

The river Jordan trembled and was driven back filled with fear at Your coming in the flesh, while John drew back in awe as he fulfilled the ministry of a prophet. The ranks of angels stood amazed, when they beheld You in the flesh being baptized in the streams. and we, who were in darkness, are filled with light as we praise You, who have appeared to enlighten all.

Prokeimenon in the 1st Tone:

Let Thy mercy, O Lord, be upon us as we have set our hope on Thee.
(Vs.) Rejoice in the Lord, O you righteous! Praise befits the just!

Another, Tone 7 (Forerunner):

The righteous one shall rejoice in the Lord and shall set his hope on Him.

Epistle:

The reading from the Epistle of the Holy Apostle Paul to the Ephesians. (Eph. 4:7-13)

Brethren, grace was given to each of us according to the measure of Christ's gift. Therefore it is said, "When He ascended on high He led a host of captives, and He gave gifts to men." (In saying, "He ascended," what does it mean but that He had also descended into the lower parts of the earth? He who descended is He who also ascended far above all the heavens, that He might fill all things.) And His gifts were that some should be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ.

In those days, while Apol'los was at Corinth, Paul passed through the upper country and came

to Ephesus. There he found some disciples. And he said to them, "Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?" And they said, "No, we have never even heard that there is a Holy Spirit." And he said, "Into what then were you baptized?" They said, "Into John's baptism." And Paul said, "John baptized with the baptism of repentance, telling the people to believe in the one who was to come after him, that is, Jesus." On hearing this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. And when Paul had laid his hands upon them, the Holy Spirit came on them; and they spoke with tongues and prophesied. There were about twelve of them in all. And he entered the synagogue and for three months spoke boldly, arguing and pleading about the kingdom of God.. (Acts 19:1-8)

Alleluia Verses:

I will sing of Thy mercies, O Lord, forever; with my mouth I will proclaim Thy truth from generation to generation.

(Vs.) For Thou hast said: Mercy will be established forever, and Thy truth will be prepared in the heavens.

Another, Tone 5 (Forerunner):

Light dawns for the righteous, and joy for the upright in heart.

Gospel:

The Holy Gospel According to St. Matthew. (Chapter 4:12-17)

At that time when Jesus heard that John had been delivered up, He withdrew into Galilee. And leaving the town of Nazareth, He came and lived in Caparnaum, which is by the sea, in the territory of Zabulon and Nephtalim; that there might be fulfilled what was spoken through Isaiah the prophet: "Land of Zabulon and land of Nephtalim, by the way to the sea, beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles: the people who sat in darkness have seen a great light; and upon those who sat in the region and shadow of death, a light has arisen." From that time Jesus began to preach and to say, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."

At that time John saw Jesus coming to him, and he said, "Behold the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world! This is the one of whom I said, 'After me there comes one who has been set above me, because He was before me.' And I did not know Him. But that He may be known to Israel, for this reason have I come baptizing with water." And John bore witness, saying, "I beheld the Spirit descending as a dove from heaven, and it hovered over Him. And I did not know Him. But the one who sent me to baptize with water said to me, 'The man upon whom you will see the Spirit descending and hovering, He it is who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.' And I have seen and have borne witness that this is the Son of God.. (John 1:29-34)