

Sunday, January 3 Sunday before Theophany

Tropar, tone 6: Angelic powers were upon Your tomb * and the guards became like dead men; * Mary stood before Your tomb seeking Your most pure body. * You captured Hades without being overcome by it. * You met the Virgin and granted life. * O Lord, risen from the dead, glory be to You.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and forever and ever. Amen.

Kondak, tone 6: With His life-giving hand Christ our God, the Giver of life, * raised all the dead from the murky abyss * and bestowed resurrection upon humanity. * He is for all the Savior, * the resurrection and the life, and the God of all.

Prokimen, tone 6: Save Your people, O Lord, and bless Your inheritance.
Verse: Unto You I will cry, O Lord my God, lest You turn from me in silence.

Epistle: 2nd Timothy 4: 5-8
Timothy my son! Be steady and self-possessed; put up with hardship, perform your work as an evangelist, fulfill your ministry. I for my part am already being poured out like a libation. The time of my dissolution is near. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race. I have kept the faith. From now on a merited crown awaits me, on that Day the Lord, just judge that he is, will award it to me -- and not only to me, but to all who have looked for his appearing with eager longing.

Alleluia Verses: May God have pity on us and bless us.
May he let his face shine upon us

Gospel: Mark 1: 1-8

Here begins the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. In Isaiah the prophet it is written: "I send my messenger before you to prepare your way; a herald's voice in the desert, crying, 'Make ready the way of the Lord, clear him a straight path.'" "Thus it was that John the Baptizer appeared in the desert, proclaiming a baptism of repentance which led to the forgiveness of sins. All the Judean countryside and the people of Jerusalem went out to him in great numbers. They were being baptized by him in the Jordan River as they confessed their sins. John was clothed in camel's hair, and wore a leather belt around his waist. His food was grasshoppers and wild honey. The theme of his preaching was: "One more powerful than I is to come after me. I am not fit to stoop and untie his sandal straps. I have baptized you in water; he will baptize you in the Holy Spirit."

Communion Hymn: Praise the Lord from the heavens, Praise Him in the highest. Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!