

St Peter the Apostle Antiochian Orthodox Church

4 January 2009

4TH MODE

SUNDAY BEFORE THEOPHANY OF CHRIST

SYNAXIS OF THE SEVENTY HOLY APOSTLES; VENERABLE THEOKTISTOS OF SICILY; VENERABLE MARTYRS EUTHYMIOS AND HIS TWELVE COMPANIONS OF VATOPEDI MONASTERY ON MOUNT ATHOS

RESURRECTIONAL APOLYTIKION IN MODE FOUR

Having learned the joyful message of the Resurrection from the angel the women disciples of the Lord cast from them their parental condemnation. And proudly broke the news to the Disciples, saying, Death hath been spoiled; Christ God is risen, granting the world Great Mercy.

APOLYTIKION OF THE FOREFEAST OF THEOPHANY IN MODE FOUR

Make ready, O Zebulon, and prepare, O Nephtali, and thou, River Jordan, cease thy flow and receive with joy the Master coming to be baptized. And thou, Adam, rejoice with the first mother, and hide not your selves as ye did of old in paradise; for having seen thee naked, He appeared to clothe thee with the first robe. Yea, Christ hath appeared desiring to renew the whole creation.

- *Now sing the apolytikion of the patron saint or feast of the temple.*

KONTAKION OF THE FOREFEAST OF THEOPHANY IN MODE FOUR

Today hath the Lord appeared in the courses of the Jordan, crying to John and saying, Be not dismayed at my Baptism; for I have verily come to save Adam, the first to be created.

THE EPISTLE

(For the Sunday before the Theophany of Christ)

O Lord, save Thy people and bless Thine inheritance. Unto Thee will I cry, O Lord my God.

The Reading is from St. Paul's Second Epistle to Timothy. (4:5-8)

Timothy, my son, 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, and 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.

THE GOSPEL

(For the Sunday before the Theophany of Christ)

The reading is from the Holy Gospel according to St. Mark. (1:1-8)

The beginning of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. As it is written in Isaiah the prophet, "Behold, I send my messenger before thy face, who shall prepare thy way; the voice of one crying in the wilderness: Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight." John the Baptizer appeared in the wilderness, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And there went out to him all the country of Judea, and all the people of Jerusalem; and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel's hair, and had a leather girdle around his waist, and ate locusts and wild honey. And he preached, saying, "After me comes He Who is mightier than I, the strap of Whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. I have baptized you with water; but He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

***** *Announcements for the Week of January 4th* *****

- ❖ His Grace, our father in Christ, Bishop JOSEPH presides at the hierarchical Divine Liturgy TODAY, January 4th.
- ❖ SCHEDULE OF HOLY-DAY SERVICES FOR THE FEAST OF THEOPHANY ARE POSTED ON THE CHURCH DOOR AND WEBSITE.
- ❖ There is a fast on Monday, Jan 5th, the paramon of Theophany. The usual Wednesday and Friday fast resumes on Wednesday, January 7th.