

## The 3<sup>rd</sup> Day of January

### The Forefeast of the Theophany; the Commemoration of the Prophet Málachi; and the Commemoration of the Holy Martyr Gordius of Cæsarea in Cappadocia.

#### Vespers

**Note:** If this day falls on the **Sunday Before Theophany**, 4 stichera of the Resurrection are first sung, then 3 of the Forefeast in Tone 6, taken from the Vespers Aposticha “Behold the enlightenment of the faithful...” *(without their verses)*, followed by 3 stichera of the Prophet.

**Note:** The service to St. Gordius is set aside **on the Sunday Before** and transferred to Compline on Friday night. Otherwise:

**At “Lord, I call...,” 6 stichera:**

**4 stichera of the Prophet, in Tone 8:** *To the melody, “Standing before the Tribunal....”*

**S**eeing the words of thy divinely-inspired tongue fulfilled /  
And marveling at their truthfulness /  
We bless thee, O prophet. /  
For the world was filled with thy resounding voice ///  
Announcing the salvific advent of the Lord.

**B**y living the angelic life /  
Thou wast truly an angel from heaven on the earth /  
In keeping with thy given name, O messenger of God. /  
Thou didst combine thy virtuous body with the spiritual splendor of thy soul, ///  
O blessed Malachi.

**I** offer Thee Thy prophet Malachi, O Lord, /  
As my prayerful intercessor before Thee, /  
That by his entreaties, O merciful One, /  
Thou might forgive all the sins /  
Of my transgressing and despairing soul, ///  
For Thou art compassionate by Thine essence and nature.

**And these 3 stichera of the Martyr, in the same Tone:** *To the melody, “O most glorious wonder....”*

**B**ehold the rise of darkness and error /  
Thou didst take to thy retreat and put thy trust in God, /  
O passion-bearing martyr Gordius. /

And having prepared thyself through prayer and fasting ///  
Thou didst come forth as a fierce warrior against the enemy.

**F**ull of faith, O Gordius, worthy of all praise, /  
Thou didst overcome the many assaults of the lawless enemy, /  
Putting to naught the wicked display. /  
And bravely standing in the midst of the arena /  
In a loud voice thou didst confess Christ the Lord /  
As the Creator and Master of all, ///  
Of one essence with the Father from everlasting and the Holy Spirit.

**B**eing beheaded by the sword /  
Thou didst pass from this life unto Life; /  
From mortality to immortality; /  
From corruption to incorruption, /  
Not awaiting thy natural end /  
But rather choosing to accept thy death. /  
Wondrous are the deeds thou didst accomplish ///  
By extolling to all the only compassionate Christ our God,  
O victorious martyr Gordius.

**Glory..., now and ever..., of the Forefeast, in Tone 4:** (*The composition of the monk, John of Damascus*)

**O** most-glorious wonder /  
He who baptizes by the fire of the Holy Spirit /  
Comes to the Jordan to be baptized of John. /  
He is not God who is naked, nor a common man, /  
But one and the same in two natures: /  
The only-begotten Son, seeking to release mankind from death /  
Through the cleansing of baptism, /  
And as God taking away all the sin of the world, ///  
Granting to all peace and great mercy.

**Note:** If it be the **Sunday Before**, then,

**Glory..., of the Forefeast** (*see above*): O most-glorious wonder..., **Now and ever...**, *the Dogmatic Theotokion, in the Tone of the Week, the Entrance and the Prokeimenon of the day. At the Litya, the stichera of the church or monastery. Otherwise:*

**At the Aposticha, these stichera of the Forefeast, in Tone 6:** (*except on the*

*Sunday Before — see below)*

**B**ehold the enlightenment of the faithful! /  
Behold, our Purification enters into the streams of Jordan /  
To wash away the impurity of evil from mankind ///  
And to restore our nature fallen through sin.

*Verse:* Therefore will I remember Thee from the land of Jordan and of the Hermonites.

**B**eholding Thy coming, O Lord, /  
Asking to be baptized of him, /  
The Forerunner cried aloud in fear; ///  
“O my Creator and my God, how can I baptize Thee, the only sinless One?

*Verse:* The waters saw Thee, O God, the waters saw Thee and were afraid.

**C**ome, all ye faithful, /  
And let us spiritually go to the river Jordan, /  
There to behold a great wonder: /  
The Creator of all comes visibly in the flesh ///  
That He may by baptized in its waters.

**Glory..., now and ever..., of the Forefeast, Tone 5:**

**Christ** our God is coming to be baptized in the Jordan /  
Desiring to cleanse us from our transgressions /  
By His own Theophany ///  
For He alone is Good and the Lover of mankind.

*Note:* If it be *the Sunday Before*, the Aposticha is from the Octoechos, then:

**Glory..., now and ever..., of the Forefeast (Tone 5—see above):** “Christ our God is coming to be baptized in the Jordan...”

**The Troparion of the Martyr, in Tone 4:**

**T**hy holy martyr Gordius, O Lord, /  
Through his sufferings received his incorruptible crown from Thee, our God /  
For having Thy strength he laid low his enemies /  
And shattered the powerless boldness of demons ///  
Through his intercessions, O Christ God, save our souls.

**The Troparion of the Forefeast, in Tone 4:**

**M**ake ready, O Zebulon! /  
Prepare, O Nephtali! /  
Thou, River Jordan, cease thy flow! /  
Receive with joy the Master coming to be baptized! /  
Thou, Adam, rejoice with the first mother! /  
Hide not yourselves as you once did in Paradise! /  
For, having seen you naked /  
He appeared to clothe you anew with the first robe! ///  
Yea, Christ hath appeared, desiring to renew the whole creation!

### **At Compline**

**We sing two Three-ode Canons of the Forefeast, repeating the Irmos  
and the Troparia for a total of 6 Troparia**

### **Ode 3**

#### **First Canon of the Forefeast, in Tone 2**

*having the acrostic: "Today I sing the praise of Holy Thursday"*

**Irmos:** ***O**n the rock of faith Thou hast preserved me, against mine enemies Thou hast opened my mouth; my spirit hath rejoiced in singing: None is holy as our God, none is righteous save Thee, O Lord.*

**Refrain:** Glory to Thee, our God, glory to Thee!

**T**errible was Herod's intent to secure his future by lawlessly killing the innocent babes, for Christ our Savior, as He is baptized, grants life immortal upon all.

**H**erod's evil command once killed the innocent babes making the streets of Bethlĕhem awash with blood; but Christ now comes to bring, through baptism, new children to the Church.

### **Ode 5**

#### **Second Canon of the Forefeast, in Tone 6**

*having the acrostic: "Today I sing the praise of Holy Saturday."*

**Irmos:** ***E**arly do I seek Thee, O Word of God, who in Thy compassion hast exceedingly humbled Thyself, deigning to be baptized by the hand of a servant: Grant peace unto me who hath fallen, O Lover of mankind.*

**H**aving purified our minds through participation in the mystery of the awesome dispensation, let us, the faithful, go to meet Christ, who cometh to the streams of the Jordan to cleanse us.

**W**e hear, O belovèd, the voice of the Word, the lamp of the Sun, the friend of the Bridegroom, as he cries out to the people: Repent, and make haste to be cleansed to meet the Creator!

**The Kontakion of the Forefeast, in Tone 4:** *To the melody, “Thou hast appeared today....”*

**W**hen the Lord descended today /  
Into the waters of the Jordan, /  
He cried aloud to John, /  
“Be not afraid to baptize Me, ///  
For I am come to save Adam, the first-formed man.”

### Ode 8

#### First Canon of the Forefeast

***Irmos:** The furnace was heated sevenfold, and the torturer’s words prevailed, but in the flames the youths were not scorched; though they scorned the command of the king; they sang: Praise the Lord, all ye works of the Lord, exalt Him throughout all ages.*

**L**et the fountain of our tears, O ye faithful, cleanse every stain from our souls, that in the light, we may see the three-fold Light when Christ shall come to be baptized. To Him, the Father shall bear witness from heaven, and the coming of the Holy Spirit shall shine forth in the form of a dove.

**C**hrist taketh away the tears from every face as He cometh forth, painlessly removing the pain of every disease of the soul in the waters of the Jordan, and renewing mankind, which hath grown old, through regeneration, as we sing: Let us exalt Him throughout all ages.

**S**ouls are sanctified through the divine laver of baptism and the fire of the Spirit, which purges the passions and burns away the weary substance of wickedness, and they are given grace that they might cry with compunction and say: Let us exalt Christ throughout all ages.

### Ode 8

#### Second Canon of the Forefeast

***Irmos:** Despising the wicked command of Herod, let us come to the river Jordan, O ye faithful, and let us behold Christ the Redeemer being baptized in the flesh in its waters. Him doth all creation praise, bless and glorify throughout all ages.*

**L**et us shake off the slumber of evil from the eyelids of our souls, O ye faithful, let us remove all wickedness from within our hearts, and let us cleanse our mind with fervent tears that we might behold Christ who hath appeared, whom we glorify Him throughout all ages.

**L**et us cast away all evil speech and wicked thoughts that, meditating upon words divine, we may make an offering to the Word, who hath appeared in the flesh for our sake and hath enlightened us as we sat in darkness. Him doth all creation praise, bless and glorify throughout all ages.

**“In thy haste, O John, thou didst decline to do that which I need thee to do. Make haste to do so now, and fulfill that which righteousness truly demand us to do,”** spoke the Master to His servant. Him doth all creation praise, bless and glorify throughout all ages.

***We praise, bless, and worship the Lord, singing and exalting Him throughout all ages.***

***Katavasia:*** *Despising the wicked command of Herod.... (prostration)*

### **Ode 9**

#### **First Canon of the Forefeast**

***Irmos:*** *With pure souls and blameless lips, let us come and magnify the pure and blameless Mother of Emmanuel; through her we beseech Christ born of her: Spare our souls, O God and save us!*

**L**et no one be so ungrateful nor so foolish as to scornfully disdain the long-suffering forbearance and kindness of Christ; but with fear and joy, let us, the faithful, all serve Him as we sing: Spare our souls, O Christ our God and save us!

**T**hus saith the Forerunner to the disobedient people: Who hath taught you to flee the wrath that is to come, O ye brood of vipers? Therefore, let us, the faithful, bring forth worthy first-fruits of repentance as we sing: Spare our souls, O Christ our God and save us!

**O** the audacity of blind arrogance! For Him, whom even foreigners worshipped as Christ the Redeemer with precious gifts, His own people madly sought to slay when He was born unto them. Spare our souls, O Christ our God and save us!

### **Ode 9**

#### **Second Canon of the Forefeast**

***Irmos:*** *More honorable than the cherubīm, and more glorious, beyond compare than the seraphīm, without corruption thou gavest birth to God the Word. True Theotokos, we magnify thee!*

**T**he ruinous fall of Adam hath been set aright by the new Adam who hath marvelously appeared granting us release through the regeneration of baptism.

**F**ulfilling the Law and the prophets, and accomplishing that which is just, the Savior of all now bows His head beneath the hand of a servant, thus releasing him from the bonds of the enemy.

**A** great light hath shone down upon all the nations; a great light hath arisen for those in darkness: Christ, the Sun of Glory is risen upon them that of old sat in the shadow of death!

*Glory..., now and ever....*

**A**ll the angelic host stood around the Redeemer as He was baptized in the Jordan, and with trembling they praised the great mystery of His ineffable condescension.

*Katavasia: More honorable than the Cherubīm.... (prostration)*

### **Matins**

**At “God is the Lord...” the Troparion of the Forefeast, in Tone 4:**

**M**ake ready, O Zebulon! /

Prepare, O Nephtali! /

Thou, River Jordan, cease thy flow! /

Receive with joy the Master coming to be baptized! /

Thou, Adam, rejoice with the first mother! /

Hide not yourselves as you once did in Paradise! /

For, having seen you naked /

He appeared to clothe you anew with the first robe! ///

Yea, Christ hath appeared, desiring to renew the whole creation! *(twice)*

**Glory..., the Troparion of the Martyr, in Tone 4:**

**T**hy holy martyr Gordius, O Lord, /

Through his sufferings received his incorruptible crown from Thee, our God /

For having Thy strength he laid low his enemies /

And shattered the powerless boldness of demons ///

Through his intercessions, O Christ God, save our souls.

**Now, and ever..., the Troparion of the Forefeast, in Tone 4:**

**M**ake ready, O Zebulon.... *(once)*

*Note: If it be the Sunday Before: Troparion of the Resurrection (twice);  
Glory..., Martyr; Now and ever..., Forefeast (once).*

**After the 1<sup>st</sup> Kathisma, the Sessional Hymn, in Tone 3:** *To the melody, “The beauty of virginity....”*

**H**e who is uncircumscribed in divinity /  
Is circumscribed by the material body /  
And is about to come forth to be baptized /  
In the waters of the Jordan. /  
Let us come to receive Him with purity of mind /  
For He wishes to accomplish the refashioning of all. /  
To Him let us cry out with trembling: ///  
Glory to Thine Epiphany, O Lord!

**Glory..., now and ever..., in the same Tone:**

**W**hen Thou didst reveal Thyself in the Jordan, O Savior /  
To be baptized in the flesh in its waters, /  
The host of angels were amazed to behold the Master and Creator of all /  
Standing naked before His servant. /  
The pre-eternal Father proclaimed Thee from on high; /  
Therefore we cry aloud to Thee with joy: ///  
Glory to Thine Epiphany, O Christ!

**After the 2<sup>nd</sup> Kathisma, the Sessional Hymn, in Tone 5:** *To the melody: The co-unoriginate Word...*

**T**he assembly of the angels trembled /  
Seeing the precious Word of the Father and the Spirit /  
Become incarnate out of great mercy and come to be baptized. /  
And the Jordan, perplexed and fearful, turned back its waters /  
Thus lifting us, who through passions had fallen into corruption ///  
To the heights of salvation.

**Glory..., now and ever..., in the same Tone: (and melody)**

**H**e who is co-unoriginate with the Father and the Spirit /  
Hath clothed Himself in our human form /  
Now in His great mercy, comes to be baptized for our sake. /  
Let us come spiritually together to meet Him /  
And with pure thoughts and let us cry aloud: /  
Blessèd art Thou, O Benefactor, Christ the Savior, ///  
Who art come to sanctify us.`

*Psalm 50 (51), as usual.*



## The Canon

Three Canons: that of the Forefeast, with 6 Troparia, including the Irmos; that of the Prophet, with 4 Troparia; and that of the Martyr, also with 4 Troparia. The Katavasia is the irmos of the 1<sup>st</sup> Canon of Theophany.

**Note:** If it be the **Sunday Before**, four Canons: that of the Resurrection, with 4 Troparia; that of the Forefeast, with 4 Troparia; that of the Prophet, with 3 Troparia; and that of the Martyr, also with 3 Troparia. The Katavasia is from the 1<sup>st</sup> Canon of Theophany.

## Ode 1

### Canon of the Forefeast, in Tone 4

*having as the acrostic the letters of the Greek alphabet,  
the composition of Joseph.*

**Irmos:** *I shall open my mouth, and it shall be filled with the Spirit, I shall utter the words of my song to the Queen and Mother: I shall be seen radiantly keeping festival, and joyfully praising her wonders.*

**Refrain:** Glory to Thee, our God, glory to Thee!

**O** Lord who lovest mankind, who, by thy command created the depths and suspended the earth upon the waters: humbling Thyself, Thou comest forth to be baptized in the waters of the river, and to wash me clean of all my sinful passions.

**T**hou comest to the waters of the Jordan, asking for baptism, O sinless Christ, who didst willingly make Thyself poor, thus enriching me who of mine own will became a pauper through mine own evil deeds.

**R**estoring the world which hath grown old through transgressions, O Lover of mankind, Thou comest to accomplish an awesome regeneration for all mankind through both water and the Spirit. Therefore, we glorify Thine appearance unto us!

**I**nspired by the Holy Spirit, David prophetically exclaimed: “What ails thee, O sea, that thou hast fled? And thee, O Jordan, that thou hast turned back, beholding Christ standing, naked, in thy waters?”

### Canon of the Prophet Malachi, in Tone 8

*Having the acrostic: “I praise the glory of Malachi,” the composition of Theophanes.*

**Irmos:** *The Indivisible divided that which could not be divided, and the sun beheld the earth which before could not be seen; the wicked enemy was drowned in the sea, and Israel passed over the impassable singing: Let us sing to the Lord, for gloriously hath He been glorified.*

**Refrain:** Holy prophet Malachi, pray to God for us.

**R**ejoicing with the choirs on high, and joining chorus together with them

delighting in the enlightenment of heaven, O divinely-inspired prophet, by thy prayers, preserve those who sing unto the Lord and who faithfully celebrate thine honored memory.

**A**dorned with the beauty and splendor of thine angelic soul and thy body, O divinely eloquent prophet, thou dost glory in the radiance of heaven, and, rejoicing, thou dost cry aloud: Let us sing to the Lord, for gloriously hath He been glorified.

**T**hou didst lead a magnificent and blameless life, cleansing thyself by accomplishing goodly works, O most blessed Malachi, and becoming a prophet of true piety, crying out: Let us sing to the Lord, for gloriously hath He been glorified.

*Refrain:* Most Holy Theotokos save us.

*Theotokion:* **O** pure Mother of God Almighty, O sovereign Lady thyself come from a royal stem, thou gavest rise to the One God who reigneth over all, and hast given birth to Him in the flesh beyond the laws of nature: Save us from every misfortune, who sing aloud to Him: Gloriously art Thou glorified, O Lord!

### **Canon of the Martyr Gordius, in Tone 8**

*Having the acrostic: "I praise the martyr Gordius with sweet hymns of praise,"  
the composition of Theophanes.*

*Irmos:* Let us sing a song unto the Lord, who led His people across the Red Sea: for He alone is glorified.

*Refrain:* Holy martyr Gordius, pray to God for us.

**O** all-blessed Gordius, thou all-famed witness of the Truth, grant that I may receive radiant grace from heaven through thy holy prayers.

**L**et us sing to the Lord who hath given strength to the passion-bearer against the adversary and adorned him with a crown of victory.

**M**ade strong by the power and full armor of the King of all, O most glorious Gordius, thou didst destroy the malice of the tyrants.

*Theotokion:* **O** Bride of God, thou wast revealed as the habitation of Him who poureth forth the waters of life which grant immortality to all mankind.

### **Ode 3**

#### **Canon of the Forefeast**

*Irmos:* **O** Theotokos, living and abiding fountain, strengthen those united in spiritual fellow-ship, the choirs assembled in thy divine glory, and give them

*crowns of glory.*

**B**e glad, O human nature, thou arid desert! For, behold! Christ, the restoration of all, the Water of life, hath appeared, watering thee with grace, springing forth anew!

**T**hou comest forth to the waters to seek me out who have gone astray in mind, O Christ; and entering them, Thou dost drown my transgressions, leading me up from the depths of evil, in that Thou art compassionate.

**H**aving beheld Thee naked, O Word, the sun hid its rays; for Thou comest to clothe, through the grace of baptism, me in the garment of salvation, who had been stripped naked through the deception of the serpent.

### **Canon of the Prophet**

*Irmos:* *Thou art the strength of those who flee to Thee, O Lord; Thou art the Light to those that sit in darkness; and my Spirit praises Thee.*

**R**ejoice now, O blessed and God-pleasing Malachi, beholding the fulfillment and accomplishment of thy prophecies!

**T**he noetic Sun of righteousness hath shone forth, granting healing on His wings, as Thou didst foretell, O divinely inspired one.

*Theotokion:* **A**ll my hope do I place in thee, O all-immaculate Lady, and, rejoicing, I stretch forth my soul and mind towards thee.

### **Canon of the Martyr**

*Irmos:* *There is none as holy as the Lord, and none as righteous as our God whom the whole of creation hymns; There is none more righteous than Thee, O Lord.*

**M**indful of the fleeting nature of transitory things, and pondering the constancy of things eternal, thou didst fearlessly enter the arena of suffering, O blessed and glorious martyr.

**T**hou didst reject fleeting vainglory, O richly-blessed Gordius, and didst cleave to things everlasting; and, fleeing from the company of fallen men, O divinely wise one, thou didst earn the right to dwell among the angels.

**D**espising earthly knowledge, O holy martyr, thou didst attain to heavenly life; for, unable to endure the sight of the arrogance of delusion, thou didst seek refuge in the wilderness.

*Theotokion:* **T**here is none as blameless as thee, O Sovereign Lady, and none more pure than thee, O all-immaculate one; for thy womb contained the Creator of all, who alone is greatly merciful.

*Katavasia.*

**After the Third Ode, the Kontakion of the Prophet Malachi, in Tone 4: To the melody, “Thou hast appeared today....”**

**B**eing enriched with the gift of prophecy, /  
Thou didst proclaim the advent of Christ our God, /  
Who hath come in order to save the world /  
Which is now illumined by His radiance, ///  
O holy prophet Malachi.

**And the Kontakion of the Martyr Gordius, in Tone 8: To the melody, “Of Wisdom....”**

**T**he earth is soaked with the sweat of thy labors, /  
And the whole universe rejoices in the spilling of thine honorable blood, O  
Gordius. /  
Thought thy holy prayers, O divinely-wise martyr, entreat for the salvation of all /  
Who faithfully sing thy glory and worthily honor thy memory, ///  
O glorious martyr, worthy of all praise.

**The Sessional Hymn for the Prophet, in Tone 8: To the melody “As the first-fruits....”**

**O** divinely inspired and spiritually rich prophet Malachi, /  
Thou wast given the grace of prophecy, /  
And wast taught by the Spirit the knowledge of things to come. /  
Thou didst foretell to all the advent of Christ /  
And the divine summoning of the nations; /  
Therefore, we celebrate thine honored memory on this day, /  
And we praise thee with love and bless thee with faith, /  
Crying out to thee, O glorious one: /  
Entreat Christ God, that He grant the forgiveness of sins ///  
To those who lovingly honor thy holy memory.

**Glory..., the Sessional Hymn, for the Martyr, in the same Tone:**

**A**flame with the love of Jesus, O martyr wise in God,  
Thou didst eagerly give thyself over to death,  
And standing before the tribunal, thou didst cry aloud to them:  
“Behold, I am come before you!”  
Whereupon, thou didst boldly denounce all their lies, /  
And thou wast beheaded by the sword, O glorious one. /

Now, having passed over to life everlasting. O all-praised Gordius, /  
Entreat Christ God, that He grant the forgiveness of sins ///  
To those who lovingly honor thy holy memory.

**Now and ever..., the Sessional Hymn of the Forefeast, in the same Tone: To the melody, “The shepherd’s pipes....”**

**T**he choir of the prophets rejoiceth, /  
Proclaiming the baptism of Christ /  
Which poureth forth life, as Isaiah proclaimed: /  
“Draw ye forth the water of purification!” /  
And as David, the ancestor of God hath put down in words: /  
“Why doth the sea flee from before the face of God  
Who of His own will hath come to save the race of mankind?”

#### Ode 4

##### Canon of the Forefeast

***Irmos:** Perceiving the unsearchable purpose of God concerning Thine incarnation from a Virgin, O Most-High, the prophet Habákkuk cried out: Glory to Thy power, O Lord!*

**H**eaven and the angelic armies were struck with amazement, beholding Thee as a servant, O Christ, coming to Thy servant and asking baptism.

**R**ejoice, O Baptist John! For the Lord who delivereth all hath come to bow humbly beneath thy hand, so that through divine baptism He might raise me up, wretch that I am.

**B**owing down the heavens, Thou didst descend into the Virgin, O Lover of mankind, and bowing Thy head before John, Thou didst ask for baptism. Glory to Thy surpassing loving-kindness, O Lord!

**L**oosening the bonds of my countless sins, O Word, Thou dost hasten to come to the waters of the Jordan to be baptized. Glory to Thy surpassing loving-kindness, O Master!

##### Canon of the Prophet

***Irmos:** I have heard the mystery of Thy dispensation, O Lord; I have considered Thy works and glorify Thy Godhead.*

**A**s a prophet of the goodness of the Godhead, O blessed one, thou didst proclaim to all the nations the deliverance which hath taken place.

**H**aving learned through the Spirit of the ineffable incarnation of the Word, O blessed Malachi, thou didst proclaim this awesome mystery.

*Theotokion:* **I**n thee have I placed all my hope for salvation and the direction of my life, O joyous Virgin Mary.

### **Canon of the Martyr**

*Irmos:* *The prophet perceived Thee with divine vision, O Word, when he foretold that Thou wast to become incarnate of the Theotokos alone, the Mountain overshadowed by the grace of God; and with awe, he glorified Thy power.*

**H**aving heard the words of Christ, thou didst rejoice and leave the corrupt army of men and enroll in the army of the King of heaven, O blessed crown-bearing martyr Gordius.

**T**he multitude of the tyrants and their idols were broken and defeated by thy patient and heroic suffering at their hands, O crown-bearing martyr Gordius.

**T**hou wast strengthened by the divine power of the Cross, that thou mightest cry aloud against the ungodly council: “For those who sought me not, I am found! And trusting in the Lord, I appear to those who asked of me not!”

**T**hou didst incite the mighty wrath of the tyrant against thee, O divinely wise one, and he marveled at the intention and the courage of thy soul.

*Theotokion:* **O** Mary Theotokos, Bride of God, deliver me from my many transgressions and the cruel misfortunes which beset me, and by thy supplications, guide me toward the calm haven of salvation.

### **Ode 5**

#### **Canon of the Forefeast**

*Irmos:* *All creation was amazed at thy divine glory, for thou, O Virgin, who knewest no wedlock, didst bear in thy womb the God over all, and thou gavest birth to the eternal Son, granting peace to all who sing thy praises.*

**T**aking pity on our human nature, which had fallen far away from God, the Word of God made Himself manifest as a man, and through the divine grace of baptism doth unite it to Himself, thus restoring it to its original dignity.

**O** most compassionate Lord and Giver of life, Thou art coming to bring life, through the streams of the Jordan, to us who have become mortal through our disobedience. Therefore, we now faithfully glorify Thine appearance and ineffable mercy.

**E**very soul doth marvel, pondering Thine awesome dispensation, O Word: how, desiring to restore us all, Thou, who art clothed with light, comest naked into the streams of the River Jordan.

### Canon of the Prophet

*Irmos:* O Lord who with divine wisdom hast brought the ends of the earth out of the night of darkness into the Light, enlighten Thou me with the dawn of Thy love for mankind.

**I**llumined by the divine Spirit, thou didst proclaim the awesome Day of the advent of Christ, O prophet Malachi, divinely wise in God.

**H**e who doth remove and wash away the defilement of men's souls with grace, as with medicinal herbs, hath so glorified thee, O divinely wise prophet Malachi.

*Theotokion:* **B**y thy life-bearing birthgiving thou didst destroy the power of death, O all-holy Virgin Maiden, pouring forth life everlasting upon us all.

### Canon of the Martyr

*Irmos:* O Lord who with divine wisdom.... *(same as above)*

**E**ntering fearlessly into the arena like a valiant lion, O blessed martyr, thou didst regard the mindless idols as stones devoid of souls.

**I**nstructed by the teachings of the divinely inspired Scriptures, O martyr Gordius, they led thee to salvation.

**P**erceiving the firmness of thy faith, O Gordius wise in God, the tyrant was broken by thy courage, as a wave is broken upon a rock.

*Theotokion:* **H**e who transcendently became incarnate in thy womb, O most pure Virgin, hath illumined the world with the radiance of divine knowledge.

### Ode 6

#### Canon of the Forefeast

*Irmos:* **C**ome, let us clap our hands, O divinely-wise ones, celebrating this divine, all-precious Feast of the Mother of God, and let us give glory to God who was born of her.

**O** ye, who of old were sitting in the darkness, awaiting the Light which is come; behold it now and be filled with joy! For the Lord hath appeared, clothed in the radiant streams of the Jordan.

**H**ow is it that the Forerunner beheld Thee coming asking for divine baptism, O Savior? How is it that the waters of the Jordan received thee, who art Thyself, the Water of forgiveness?

**L**et the clouds rejoice and shower their noetic joy! For, behold! The Lord hath come to be baptized, removing the clouds of darkness from our hearts.

### Canon of the Prophet



*Irmos:* I pour forth my prayer to the Lord, and I lift up my sorrows before Him, how my soul is become full of evil and how my life draweth near to Hades, and like Jonah I pray: Deliver me, O God, from corruption.

**T**hy was mind illumined by the very radiance of God, setting thyself apart from the things here on earth, and thou wast granted knowledge of things to come. Thus, thou didst foretell the calling of the Gentiles and the end of the force of the law.

**T**ruly the Lord, whom we sought in joy, hath come into the temple which He Himself wisely made, shining forth from God of the blessed Virgin, as He said, O glorious Malachi.

*Theotokion:* **H**e who is timeless from the beginning and consubstantial with the Father hath ineffably been born, assuming flesh as the only-begotten Child of the Virgin, and hath preserved as Virgin her who gave Him birth; for as God, He hath truly assumed human nature.

### Canon of the Martyr

*Irmos:* Thou didst deliver the prophet Jonah from the uttermost depths, O Christ God, so deliver me also from my sins, I pray, and direct my life, in that Thou lovest mankind.

**S**hedding his blood, O Master, Gordius hath made himself a sacred sacrifice and offered himself to Thee as a pleasing oblation, emulating thy voluntary suffering.

**T**he senseless tormentor promised thee corruptible glory, O thou who art rich in incorruptible glory and had laid up for thyself a wealth of immortality, O Gordius.

**D**irecting thy hope toward God, thou didst pass through this temporal life, and, beheaded by the sword, thou didst pass over into to the spacious place heaven.

*Theotokion:* **R**aise up my mind which hath been slain by the stormy waves of passions, O Theotokos, thou Mother of Christ, the eternal Life, who bestoweth healings upon us all.

*Katavasia.*

**After the Sixth Ode, the Kontakion of the Forefeast, in Tone 4: To the melody, "Thou hast appeared today..."**

**W**hen the Lord descended today /  
Into the waters of the Jordan, /  
He cried aloud to John, /  
"Be not afraid to baptize Me, ///  
For I am come to save Adam, the first-formed man."

*Ikos (by St. Roman, the Melodist):* "I do not ask thee, O Forerunner, to pass the bounds of propriety: I tell thee not, 'Say to Me what thou dost say to the



transgressors, the counsel that thou givest to sinners'. Only baptize Me in silence and the expectation of all that shall come from this My baptism. For this cause shalt thou have such honor as belongs not to the angels, and I shall make thee greater than all the prophets. Not one of them saw Me openly, but only in figures and shades and dreams, while thou hast seen Me standing of Mine own will before thee. For I am come to save Adam, the first-formed man."

### Ode 7

#### Canon of the Forefeast

*Irmos:* **The holy children bravely trampled upon the threatening fire, preferring not to worship creating things rather than the Creator, and they sang with joy: Blessèd art Thou, and praised above all, O Lord God of our fathers!**

**T**hou didst take pity and had mercy on me who am broken by transgressions and laying in the darkness of disobedience, and in Thy goodness, Thou hast come to be baptized in the waters of the Jordan, O Master.

**“What is this awesome sight?”** the ranks of the angels cried aloud. **“He who created the lakes and rivers by His command alone, hath come to clothe Himself in the rivers of the Jordan in order to restore Adam who had fallen!”**

**I**neffable are the heights and unfathomable are the depths of Thy dispensation, O Master, transcending every attainment of the mind. How is it that Thou has come to cleanse mortals with water and the All-holy Spirit?

#### Canon of the Prophet

*Irmos:* **The Hebrew children in the furnace boldly trampled upon the flame, and they changed the fire into dew as they cried aloud: Blessèd art Thou, O Lord, God of our fathers.**

**O** glorious prophet Malachi, thou didst foretell the most honorable advent of Him who hath dominion over all things, crying: Blessèd art Thou, O Lord our God, throughout the ages!

**O** compassionate Lord, accept Thou the glorious prophet Malachi, who prayeth for those who piously sing and cry aloud to Thee: Blessèd art Thou, O Lord our God, throughout the ages!

*Theotokion:* **O** compassionate Word of God, who didst clothe Thyself in my mortal flesh through the pure Virgin, and without any co-mingling Thou didst wholly unite Thy hypostatic nature with all mankind! Blessèd art Thou, O Lord our God, throughout the ages!

#### Canon of the Martyr

*Irmos:* **Thou didst bedew the children in the furnace and Thou didst preserve Thy Mother as a Virgin after giving birth. Blessèd art Thou, O Lord, God of our fathers.**

**H**aving attained the glorious crown of martyrdom, thou hast joined chorus with the angels, crying out to Christ: Blessèd art Thou, O Lord God of our fathers!

**B**eing filled with the boldness of piety, thou didst denounce the wicked, crying aloud to Christ : Blessèd art Thou, O Lord God of our fathers!

**P**ray thou, O glorious martyr Gordius, that we may be delivered from our transgressions who honor thy precious memory with faith and cry aloud: Blessèd art Thou, O Lord God of our fathers!

*Theotokion:* **O** all-pure and blessèd Theotokos, having given birth to God without seed, cleanse thou the poisonous wounds inflicted by the thorns of sins with the precious balm of thy healings.

### Ode 8

#### Canon of the Forefeast

*Irmos:* **The Offspring of the Theotokos saved the God-fearing children in the furnace He who was then prefigured has since been born on earth, and He raises up all creation to sing: Praise the Lord, all ye works of the Lord, highly éxalt Him throughout all ages!**

**T**he voice of the Father bore witness from on high to Thee, the consubstantial Son, who entered the waters and hath thereby sent abroad Thy blessing, O Christ; and the Holy Spirit proclaimeth Thee to all as God incarnate.

**D**ance, O creation, beholding the holy epiphany of God! Sing, O ye angels! Rejoice, O ye seas! Ye lands and rivers, mystically clap your hands in psalmody! For Christ hath come forth, illumining you with His blessings!

**L**et us sing our praises to the Lord who hath appeared in the waters of the Jordan, thus mending our broken state and crushing the head of the invisible foe; and let us cry aloud to Him: Praise the Lord, all ye works of the Lord, highly exalt Him throughout all ages!

**O**, wonder of wonders! How is it that our God, who is above all creation, taketh on our form and is made new through the Theotokos? How is it that of His own will, the only Benefactor restoreth and reneweth us through water and the Spirit in a wondrous manner?

#### Canon of the Prophet

*Irmos:* **The children, by Thy grace, vanquished both the tyrant and the flames by observing Thy commandments most faithfully, and they cried out: Bless the Lord, O ye works of the Lord!**

**H**aving made thyself a stranger to the material world, O holy one, thou didst show

thyself to be an undefiled mirror reflecting the radiance of God, and thou didst cry aloud: Bless the Lord, all ye works of the Lord, highly exalt Him throughout all ages!

**Beholding** the ineffable glory, O blessed one, thou didst proclaim the mysteries of heaven, ceaselessly crying aloud: Bless the Lord, all ye works of the Lord, highly exalt Him throughout all ages!

*Theotokion:* **We** acknowledge thee as the Mother of Life and the Bearer of God, O Virgin Mary, and we all honor thee in an Orthodox manner, blessing and highly exalting thine Offspring, Christ, throughout all ages!

### Canon of the Martyr

*Irmos:* *The holy children, inspired by God while treading down the flames in the fiery furnace sang: Bless the Lord, all ye works of the Lord.*

**The** grace which flowed from thee, shone forth invisibly, O martyr, as it filled thee with courage and valor, as thou didst cry: Bless the Lord, all ye works of the Lord!

**Quickly** running thy race, O witness of the Lord, thou didst reach the heavenly kingdom, thy desired end, crying aloud: Bless the Lord, all ye works of the Lord!

**The** glory and the immortal praise of Thy martyrs abideth throughout all ages! O, bless the Lord, all ye works of the Lord!

***Let us bless the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, the Lord!***

*Theotokion:* **By** conceiving the incorporeal yet incarnate Word, O Virgin, thou didst abolish the ancient curse of Eve, giving birth to Christ, the Blessing of the world.

***We praise, bless, and worship the Lord, singing and exalting Him throughout all ages.***

*Katavasia.*

### Ode 9

#### Canon of the Forefeast

*Irmos:* **Let** the earthborn leap for joy, enlightened by the Spirit, and let the angelic powers celebrate and honor the holy feast of the Mother of God, and let them cry aloud: Rejoice, all-blessèd and all-pure, Ever-virgin Mother of God.

**Behold**, the Lamb who taketh away the sins of mankind hath come to stand before His servant, asking baptism; yet He standeth like a servant while seeking to set us

free, who have been enslaved by the deceiver, having destroyed our original pristine beauty.

**G**od who in His goodness became incarnate hath truly come! He who hath clothed the heavens in clouds cometh forth to be clothed in the waters of the Jordan! Therefore, we now joyfully celebrate the honored forefeast of His epiphany.

**L**eap up with joy and prepare thyself to embrace the Water which floweth to life everlasting, O Jordan! O ye rivers, join chorus, beholding how the River of nourishment enters the streams of the Jordan and drying up the stagnant pools of evil.

**T**he Day of salvation hath dawned upon us who have been fitfully asleep during the night of evils! For Christ the Lord, who is the Sun of righteousness, hath come forward to bow His head before His servant and to be baptized in the flesh of His own will.

*Theotokion:* **O** all-immaculate Lady, the cherubīm and all the heavenly powers stand in awe of thy precious birthgiving, which surpasseth all understanding, to Him who, in His ineffable compassion, took upon Himself our flesh, and hath been baptized in the flesh. We now joyfully celebrate His divine epiphany!

### Canon of the Prophet

*Irmos:* Every ear trembled with fear at hearing of the ineffable condescension of God: how the Most High of His own will came down even unto the flesh and was made man from a virgin womb. Therefore, we the faithful magnify the Most-pure Theotokos.

**T**he divinely radiant and joyful of the prophet hath dawned today, illumining those who come with faith singing hymns about the splendors of thy prophecies, while pouring healings upon all souls and enlightening those who are wise in God.

**B**y Thy life-creating and mighty hand, O greatly merciful Lord, preserve Thy Church through the entreaties of Thy favored one, who foretold to us that Thou wouldst become a man and shine the light of salvation and deliverance upon our souls.

*Theotokion:* **I** embrace the fulness of life, unharmed by the tree of knowledge; for thou, O all-immaculate Lady, hast budded forth Christ, the Tree of life, who hath shown to all how to truly enter life. Therefore, O most pure Lady, we the faithful declare thee to be the Theotokos.

### Canon of the Martyr

*Irmos:* Moses the Lawgiver beheld a prophetic vision in the fire of the burning bush upon the mountain which prefigured thy birthgiving, O Ever-virgin, thou salvation of the faithful. Therefore we ceaselessly magnify thee with songs of praise.

**E**ntreat the Master of all to be merciful to those who honor thee with faith and celebrate thy radiant and honored feast, O Gordius, thou adornment of the martyrs.

**T**hou dost now enjoy all the fruits of thy labors and struggles in the eternal mansions, delighting in all the joys of incorruption, and the presence of God amid the never-waning light, O holy martyr Gordius.

**D**isdaining the fleeting and corrupt glory of the earth and trampling it down underfoot, O divinely wise martyr, thou dost now truly delight in everlasting glory, joyfully standing before the throne of the Master of all.

*Theotokion:* **S**aved from the ancient curse by thy divine birthgiving, O Virgin, we rightfully praise thee and cry aloud with our unceasing voices: Rejoice, O Theotokos, thou art our hope and exaltation!

### **The Exapostilarion of the Forefeast:**

**H**aving left Bethlēhem and its most-wondrous miracle, let us now hasten to Jordan with fervent souls, there to behold an awesome mystery: for my Christ now approaches naked, resplendent in His Divinity, clothing me with the garment of the kingdom of heaven. *(twice)*

*Note:* If, however, it be the **Sunday Before**, the **Exapostilarion** is that of the Resurrection; Glory..., now and ever..., that of the Forefeast.

**The Praises, 4 stichera of the Forefeast in Tone 6:** *To the melody, "Go on before, ye angelic powers...."*

*Note:* If, however, it be the **Sunday Before**, see below.

**T**he Master, having heaven for a throne /  
Came to earth incarnate of the Virgin, /  
And standing before the Jordan /  
Beseeches from John purification of all. /  
Come, all ye nations and let us sing to Him: /  
Blessèd is Thy Theophany O Lord, ///  
O our God, glory to Thee!

**C**hrist approaches the streams of the Jordan /  
Beseeching the cleansing of sin through baptism. /  
Let all the earth rejoice, and let the heavens be glad! /  
Rejoice, O Church of the Gentiles, bride of the King! /  
And faithfully let us cry aloud: /  
Blessèd is Thy Theophany O Lord, ///

O our God, glory to Thee!

**L**et the sweet dew of joy drop down from the mountains; /  
 Let all the nations clap their hands in spirit; /  
 And let the desert blossom! /  
 Raise thyself up, O Jordan; /  
 Come, O Baptist, and joyfully serve the mystery of deliverance; /  
 Come, O ye people, and let us sing: /  
 Blessèd is Thy Theophany O Lord, ///  
 O our God, glory to Thee!

**N**ow the Light that timelessly shone from the eternal Light /  
 Hath shone upon them that once sat in darkness and shadow /  
 To enlighten them and cleanse them from the gloominess of sin. /  
 Be glad, O Adam, and let Eve rejoice, /  
 For our Deliverance, Christ, is come! /  
 And thou, O David, cry aloud: /  
 Blessèd is Thy Theophany O Lord, ///  
 O our God, glory to Thee!

**Glory..., in Tone 8:**

**T**he star of Jacob is risen on the world /  
 Taking upon Himself mankind's fiery sins /  
 And drowns them in the waters of the Jordan, /  
 Radiating with the brightness of Divinity, /  
 Granting the Gentiles the enlightenment of the knowledge of God. ///  
 Blessèd is Thy Theophany O Lord our God, glory to Thee!

**Now and ever..., in the same Tone: (and melody)**

**B**eing the Fulfillment of the Law in the flesh, /  
 Christ came to the Jordan /  
 To fulfill the beginning of salvation. /  
 And being All-merciful, He inclines His head to the Baptist. /  
 Therefore, let us, O ye people, cry aloud in faith: ///  
 Blessèd is Thy Theophany O Lord our God, glory to Thee!

**Note:** If, however, it be the **Sunday Before**, we sing 8 stichera: 4 stichera of the Resurrection; and 4 of the Forefeast; and we continue: Glory..., the appointed Gospel sticheron; Now and ever..., "Thou art most-blessèd, O Theotokos....," Great Doxology, the usual Troparion, litanies and the

Dismissal. Otherwise:

**The Aposticha, of the Forefeast, in Tone 2:** *To the melody, “O house of Ephratha....”*

**L**et us pass over from Bethlēhem to Jordan /  
For there the Light begins to shine ///  
Upon those sitting in darkness.

*Verse:* Therefore will I remember Thee from the land of Jordan and of the Hermonites.

**O** land of Zebulon, /  
That lays beyond the River Jordan, ///  
Behold the approach of Christ, the Light, Salvation and the Deliverance of all!

*Verse:* The waters saw Thee, O God, the waters saw Thee and were afraid.

**P**repare thy streams, O Jordan, /  
For He who baptizes with fire approaches ///  
To restore His creation which had fallen.

**Glory..., now and ever..., in the same Tone:**

**T**he glory of the radiance of the Father /  
Is made manifest in the streams of the Jordan, ///  
Cleansing through baptism all defilement from our souls.

*After “It is good...,” the Trisagion prayers. After “Our Father...,” the Troparia of the Martyr, “Thy holy martyr Gordius, O Lord ...,” and Forefeast, “Make ready, O Zebulon..., followed by the usual litanies and the dismissal.*

### Liturgy

*Note:* For the **Sunday Before**, see below.

**At the Beatitudes, 6 Troparia:** 3 from the Third Ode and 3 from the Sixth Ode of the Canon for the Forefeast.

**1. Be** glad, O human nature, thou arid desert! For, behold! Christ, the restoration of all, the Water of life, hath appeared, watering thee with grace, springing forth anew!



**2.** Thou comest forth to the waters to seek me out who have gone astray in mind, O Christ; and entering them, Thou dost drown my transgressions, leading me up from the depths of evil, in that Thou art compassionate.

**3.** Having beheld Thee naked, O Word, the sun hid its rays; for Thou comest to clothe, through the grace of baptism, me in the garment of salvation, who had been stripped naked through the deception of the serpent.

**4.** O ye, who of old were sitting in the darkness, awaiting the Light which is come; behold it now and be filled with joy! For the Lord hath appeared, clothed in the radiant streams of the Jordan.

**5.** How is it that the Forerunner beheld Thee coming asking for divine baptism, O Savior? How is it that the waters of the Jordan received thee, who art Thyself, the Water of forgiveness?

**6.** Let the clouds rejoice and shower their noetic joy! For, behold! The Lord hath come to be baptized, removing the clouds of darkness from our hearts.

**The Troparion of the Forefeast, in Tone 4:**

**M**ake ready, O Zebulon! /  
Prepare, O Nephtali! /  
Thou, River Jordan, cease thy flow! /  
Receive with joy the Master coming to be baptized! /  
Thou, Adam, rejoice with the first mother! /  
Hide not yourselves as you once did in Paradise! /  
For, having seen you naked /  
He appeared to clothe you anew with the first robe! ///  
Yea, Christ hath appeared, desiring to renew the whole creation!

**The Troparion of the Martyr, in Tone 4:**

**T**hy holy martyr Gordius, O Lord, /  
Through his sufferings received his incorruptible crown from Thee, our God /  
For having Thy strength he laid low his enemies /  
And shattered the powerless boldness of demons ///  
Through his intercessions, O Christ God, save our souls.

**The Kontakion of the Prophet Malachi, in Tone 4:** *To the melody, "Thou hast appeared today..."*

**B**eing enriched with the gift of prophecy, /  
Thou didst proclaim the advent of Christ our God, /



Who hath come in order to save the world /  
Which is now illumined by His radiance, ///  
O holy prophet Malachi.

**Glory..., the Kontakion of the Martyr Gordius, in Tone 8:**

**T**he earth is soaked with the sweat of thy labors, /  
And the whole universe rejoices in the spilling of thine honorable blood, O  
Gordius. /  
Thought thy holy prayers, O divinely-wise martyr, entreat for the salvation of all /  
Who faithfully sing thy glory and worthily honor thy memory, ///  
O glorious martyr, worthy of all praise.

**Now and ever..., that of the Forefeast, in Tone 4:**

**W**hen the Lord descended today /  
Into the waters of the Jordan, /  
He cried aloud to John, /  
“Be not afraid to baptize Me, ///  
For I am come to save Adam, the first-formed man.”

**Prokeimenon, in Tone 7:** The righteous one shall rejoice in the Lord / and shall set his hope on Him. *Verse:* Hear my voice, O God, when I pray unto thee!

**The Epistle:** (292) 2 Tim. 2:1-10

**The Alleluia, in Tone 4:** The righteous shall flourish like a palm tree, and shall grow like a cedar in Lebanon. *Verse:* They that are planted in the house of the Lord shall flourish in the courts of our God.

**The Gospel** (36) Matthew 10:16-22

**Communion Hymn:** The righteous shall be in everlasting remembrance. He shall not be afraid of evil tidings. Alleluia....

**Liturgy when the Saturday Before Theophany**

The Prokeimenon, Alleluia and Communion Hymn are for the Day; the Epistle and Gospel readings are for the Saturday Before and for the Day.

**Liturgy when the Sunday Before Theophany**

At the Hours, Troparia: **Resurrection**; Glory..., **Forefeast**. Kontakia: **Resurrection** and **Forefeast** (to be said alternately).

**At the Beatitudes, 10 Troparia:** 6 of the Resurrection; and 4 from the third Ode of the Canon for the Forefeast.

**1-6. Of the Resurrection from the Octoechos.**

**7. Be** glad, O human nature, thou arid desert! For, behold! Christ, the restoration of all, the Water of life, hath appeared, watering thee with grace, springing forth anew!

**8. Thou** comest forth to the waters to seek me out who have gone astray in mind, O Christ; and entering them, Thou dost drown my transgressions, leading me up from the depths of evil, in that Thou art compassionate.

**9. Having** beheld Thee naked, O Word, the sun hid its rays; for Thou comest to clothe, through the grace of baptism, me in the garment of salvation, who had been stripped naked through the deception of the serpent.

**10. Repeat 7. Be** glad, O human nature, thou arid desert! For, behold! Christ, the restoration of all, the Water of life, hath appeared, watering thee with grace, springing forth anew!

**The Troparia of the Resurrection, and**

**The Troparion of the Forefeast, in Tone 4:**

**M**ake ready, O Zebulon! /

Prepare, O Nephtali! /

Thou, River Jordan, cease thy flow! /

Receive with joy the Master coming to be baptized! /

Thou, Adam, rejoice with the first mother! /

Hide not yourselves as you once did in Paradise! /

For, having seen you naked /

He appeared to clothe you anew with the first robe! ///

Yea, Christ hath appeared, desiring to renew the whole creation!

**The Kontakion of the Resurrection, and**

**The Kontakion of the Prophet Malachi, in Tone 4:** *To the melody, “Thou hast appeared today...”*

**B**eing enriched with the gift of prophecy, /

Thou didst proclaim the advent of Christ our God, /

Who hath come in order to save the world /

Which is now illumined by His radiance, ///

O holy prophet Malachi.

**Glory..., the Kontakion of the Martyr Gordius, in Tone 8:**

The earth is soaked with the sweat of thy labors, /  
And the whole universe rejoices in the spilling of thine honorable blood, O  
Gordius. /

Thought thy holy prayers, O divinely-wise martyr, entreat for the salvation of all /  
Who faithfully sing thy glory and worthily honor thy memory, ///  
O glorious martyr, worthy of all praise.

**Now and ever..., that of the Forefeast, in Tone 4:**

When the Lord descended today /  
Into the waters of the Jordan, /  
He cried aloud to John, /  
“Be not afraid to baptize Me, ///  
For I am come to save Adam, the first-formed man.”

**Prokeimenon (Sunday Before), in Tone 6:** O Lord save Thy people and bless  
Thine inheritance. *Verse:* To Thee, O Lord will I Call. O my God be not silent to  
me.

**The Epistle (Sunday Before):** (298) 2 Tim. 4:5-8

**The Alleluia (Sunday Before), in Tone 8:** O God, be bountiful to us and bless us,  
show the light of Thy countenance upon us, and have mercy on us. *Verse:* That we  
may know Thy way upon the earth, and Thy salvation among all nations.

**The Gospel (Sunday Before):** (1) Mark 1:1-8

**Communion Hymn:** “Praise the Lord from the heavens...”

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