

## LITURGICAL VARIABLES – SUNDAY, JANUARY 7, 2024

### *Synaxis of the Holy Prophet, Forerunner, & Baptist John*

#### FIRST ANTIPHON

When Israel went out of Egypt, and the house of Jacob from among a barbarous people; Judah became His sanctuary; Israel His dominion.

**Refrain: Through the intercessions of the Theotokos, Savior, save us!**

The sea beheld and fled: Jordan turned back. What aileth thee, O sea, that thou fleddest? And thou Jordan, that thou didst turn back? (*Refrain*)

Glory...Both now...(Refrain)

#### SECOND ANTIPHON

I am filled with love, for the Lord will hear the voice of my supplication. For He hath inclined His ear unto me, and in my days will I call upon Him.

**Refrain: Save us, O Son of God, Who wast baptized by John in the Jordan; who sing to Thee: Alleluia!**

The pangs of death have encompassed me; the perils of hades have found me. Tribulation and sorrow have I found, and I called upon the name of the Lord. Merciful is the Lord, and righteous; and our God hath mercy. (*Refrain*)

Glory...Both now...O Only-begotten Son...

#### THIRD ANTIPHON

O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good; for His mercy endureth forever. Let the house of Israel now confess that He is good; for His mercy endureth forever. Let the house of Aaron confess that He is good; for His mercy endureth forever. Let them now who fear the Lord confess that He is good; for His mercy endureth forever.

• *During the Little Entrance, after the verses of the Third Antiphon, chant the Apolytikion of the Theophany of Christ. Then, the following:*

#### ENTRANCE HYMN OF THE RESURRECTION

Come let us worship and fall down before Christ. Save us, O Son of God, **Who art risen from the dead**; who sing to Thee: Alleluia!

• *After the Entrance, sing the hymns in the following order below:*

#### RESURRECTIONAL APOLYTIKION (TONE 6)

When Mary stood at Thy grave, looking for Thy sacred body, angelic powers shone above Thy revered tomb; and the soldiers who were to keep guard became as dead men. Thou led Hades captive and wast not tempted thereby. Thou didst meet the Virgin and didst give life to the world, O Thou, Who art risen from the dead, O Lord, glory to Thee.

#### APOLYTIKION OF THE THEOPHANY OF CHRIST (TONE 1)

When Thou, O Lord, wast baptized in the Jordan, worship of the Trinity wast made manifest; for the voice of the Father bore witness to Thee, calling Thee His beloved Son. And the Spirit in the likeness of a dove confirmed the truth of His word. O Christ our God, Who hast appeared and enlightened the world, glory to Thee.

#### APOLYTIKION OF THE SYNAXIS OF JOHN THE BAPTIST (TONE 2)

The memory of the righteous is celebrated with songs of praise, but the Lord's testimony is sufficient for thee, O Forerunner. Thou wast shown indeed to be the most honorable of the prophets, for in the waters thou didst baptize Him Who had been proclaimed. After suffering with joy in behalf of the truth, thou didst proclaim even to those in Hades the God Who appeared in the flesh, Who taketh away the sin of the world, and granteth us the Great Mercy.

#### APOLYTIKION FOR ST. NICHOLAS (TONE 4)

In truth you were revealed to your flock, as a rule of faith, a model of meekness and a teacher of self-control. Therefore you have won the heights by humility, riches by poverty. Holy Father, Bishop Nicholas, intercede with Christ our God that our souls may be saved.

#### KONTAKION OF THE THEOPHANY OF CHRIST (TONE 4)

On this day Thou hast appeared \* unto the whole world, \* and Thy light, O Sovereign Lord, \* is signed on us who sing Thy praise \* and chant with knowledge: Thou hast now come, \* Thou hast appeared, O Thou Light unapproachable.

#### ANTI-TRISAGION HYMN

As many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ: Alleluia! (*thrice*)

*Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; both now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.* Have put on Christ. Alleluia.

As many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ: Alleluia!

#### THE EPISTLE (*Synaxis of John the Baptist*)

*The righteous shall rejoice in the Lord. O God, hear my prayer.*

*Reading from the Acts of the Apostles (19:1-8)*

In those days, while Apollos 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.

### **THE HOLY GOSPEL (*Synaxis of John the Baptist*)**

*Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. John (1:29-34)*

At that time, John saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, "Behold, the Lamb of God, Who takes away the sin of the world! This is He of Whom I said, 'After me comes a man Who ranks before me, for He was before me.' I myself did not know Him; but for this I came baptizing with water, that He might be revealed to Israel." And John bore witness, "I saw the Spirit descend as a dove from heaven, and it remained on Him. I myself did not know Him; but He Who sent me to baptize with water said to me, 'He on Whom you see the Spirit descend and remain, this is He Who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.' And I have seen and have borne witness that this is the Son of God."

### **COMMUNION HYMN OF THE SYNAXIS (TONE 8)**

In everlasting remembrance shall the righteous be;  
he shall not be afraid of evil tidings!

### **WELCOME TO OUR GUESTS**

We are grateful that you have joined us for worship of God this morning! While Holy Communion may only be received by prepared Orthodox Christians, our non-Orthodox Christian guests will be offered holy bread (*as a sign of hospitality*) in their pew or seat. At the Dismissal, please join us in veneration of the Holy Cross (*held by the Priest*) and receive additional holy bread at the end of the Liturgy. After service, please join us for food and drink during Fellowship so that we can meet and greet you! Please contact Fr. Paul Fuller (479-379-6220 or [saintnicholasar@gmail.com](mailto:saintnicholasar@gmail.com)) to schedule a time to meet and learn more about our parish community and the Orthodox Faith.

AN ORTHODOX COMMUNITY WHERE PEOPLE FIND TRANSFORMATION IN JESUS CHRIST

# SAINT NICHOLAS ORTHODOX CHURCH

3171 South 48th Street, Springdale, AR 72762  
Mail: PO Box 6522, Springdale, AR 72766

(479) 379-6220 ✧ Please visit us at: [StNicholasAR.org](http://StNicholasAR.org)

Like us on Facebook:  
Saint Nicholas Orthodox Church (@StNicholasAR)

Parish Priest:  
Rev. Fr. Paul Fuller ✧ [saintnicholasar@gmail.com](mailto:saintnicholasar@gmail.com)

A parish in the Diocese of Miami and the Southeast within the Antiochian Orthodox  
Christian Archdiocese of North America

[Domse.org](http://Domse.org) ✧ [Antiochian.org](http://Antiochian.org)

Welcome to our church community! We are blessed to have you worshipping with us today. We are the jurisdiction of the Orthodox Christian Church whose roots trace directly back to first century Antioch, the city in which the disciples of Jesus Christ were first called "Christians" (Acts 11:26). The Orthodox Church is the oldest and second largest Christian group in the world. We are called by God our creator to worship and follow Him, and to proclaim to the world His message of love, peace and salvation.