Vesper Propers, January 2, 2022
SUNDAY BEFORE THEOPHANY

Our holy father Sylvester, Pope of Rome, who piously ruled the Church for many years. During his pontificate, Constantine the Emperor built basilicas worthy of veneration and the Nicene Council of 325 acclaimed Christ the Son of God. On this day in Rome in the cemetery of Priscilla his body was laid to rest. (335)

Supplement for The Order of Vespers for Sundays After Pentecost, 2006

Lamplighting Psalms in the Tone of the Week (Tone 7, p. 92), stichera 10-7.

Cantor: (Tone 4) If you, O Lord, should mark our guilt, Lord, who would survive?
(on 6) But with you is found forgiveness: for this we revere you.

Stichera of the Prefeast - Tone 4 podoben: Jako dobl'a

Let us piously sing the festive hymns of the honorable baptism of our God. Behold, he desires to come in the flesh to his own Forerunner, and to ask for the baptism of salvation for the recreation of those who are enlightened through the faith and who are partakers of the Spirit.

Cantor: My soul is waiting for the Lord. I count on his word.
(on 5) My soul is longing for the Lord more than watchman for daybreak.
Christ is revealed and God appears, as it is written; he comes to his servant to be baptized. O River Jordan, O land and sea, O hills and mountains, be filled with happiness; O hearts of the faithful, joyfully celebrate and receive the great Light.

Cantor: Let the watchman count on daybreak, and Israel on the Lord.

O all powerful Lord, how will the streams of the river receive you?

As it is written, you are the river and the stream of peace; how will you enter the stream without a garment? For you are the one who covers the heavens with clouds; you are the One who stripped away the evil of the enemy and who clothed the human race with immortality.
O holy Father Sylvester, bishop of God, through the light of the priesthood you were enlightened. You have illuminated the faithful through your clear teachings in order to honor the dwelling of the three Persons in one nature; you also cast away the darkness of heresies. For this reason, we rejoice today and gloriously celebrate your light-bear ing memory.

Cantor: Praise the Lord all the nations; Psalm 116

O holy Father Sylvester, bearer of God, you revealed yourself to be a pillar of fire. You convoked a sacred council and were the cloud which gives shade. You led the faithful away from the Egyptian heresy.
and always brought them to the divine land by your true teaching. Therefore, we venerate your blest and all-holy memory.

Cantor: Strong is the love of the Lord for us; he is faithful forever.

(on 1) O holy Father Sylvester, herald of God, by your pray'rs you firmly silenced the many faced serpent. We are amazed at your priestly work.

You brought a multitude of pagans to God; you quieted the harshness of the heretics; you publicly performed great miracles before them.

Therefore, we venerate you and call you blessed.

Cantor: (Tone 6) Glory...

Doxastikon of the Prefeast - Tone 6

Christ the Truth is coming to the Jordan to be baptized by John, and the
Baptizer says to him: I should be baptized by you, but you are coming to me. I do not dare to put straw to the fire. O Master, sanctify me by your divine Theophany.

Cantor: (Tone 7) Now and ever...

Dogmatikon in the Tone of the week (Tone 7, page 98).

Aposticha

Aposticha in the Tone of the Week (Tone 7, page 99), concluding with:

Cantor: (Tone 3) Glory... Now and ever...

Aposticha Doxastikon of the Pre feast - Tone 3

O come all you faithful ones. Leaving the region of Judea, we shall cross the wilderness of the Jordan; and today we shall see him who revealed himself in the flesh for our sake. In the streams of the
Jordan, He is asking the Forerunner for baptism. John refuses and cries out in fear: I do not dare to touch the divine Fire with my hand of clay. The Jordan and the sea fled, O Savior and then returned. And how shall I place a hand on your head, which even the Seraphim fear?

The Jordan fled when Elisha received the mantle of Elijah; how will it not go into the Abyss when it sees you unclothed in the stream?

The Jordan then cries out to John: Why do you hesitate to baptize my Lord? Why do you delay the purification of so many people?

He has already sanctified all creation. Let me also be sanctified.
together with the nature of the waters. For this reason, he has come into the world.

Troparia

Troparion of the Resurrection in the Tone of the Week (Tone 7, page 101).

Cantor: (Tone 4) Glory... Now and ever...

Troparion of the Prefeast - Tone 4

Zebulun, make ready; Naphtali, prepare yourself. O River Jordan, stand and leap for joy to receive the Master coming to be baptized.

O Adam, rejoice with the first mother, Eve, and do not hide yourselves as once you did in Paradise. For, seeing you naked, Christ has appeared to put on the first robe. He has appeared to renew all creation.