Vesper Propers, January 7  
Synaxis of the Prophet, Forerunner, and Baptist, John

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

Lamplighting Psalms Tone 2, p. 36

Bring my soul out of this prison * 
and then I shall praise your name.

Around me the just will assemble * 
because of your goodness to me.

Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord; * 
Lord, hear my voice!

Let your ears be attentive * 
to the voice of my pleading.

Cantor: 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.

Tone 2 samohlasen

When the Forerunner saw the One who is our enlightenment, 
the One who has brought light to all, coming to be baptized, 
his heart rejoiced and his hand trembled. He pointed him out to the people and said: This is the Savior of Israel 
who delivered us from corruption. O Christ our God, O Sinless
One, glory to you!

Cantor: My soul is longing for the Lord. I count on his word.

(on 5) My soul is longing for the Lord more than watchman for daybreak.

O our Savior, the army of angels trembled when they saw you

baptized by your servant, and the Holy Spirit bearing witness and

descending, and when they hear the voice of the Father speaking from

heaven: "This One upon whom the Fore-runner lays his hands

is my beloved Son in whom I am well-pleased. O Christ our

God, glory to you!

Cantor: Let the watchman count on daybreak

(on 4) and Israel on the Lord.

When the Jordan River received you, O Fountain-head, the
Com-fort-er descended in the form of a dove. Now be-hold the mar-vel:

the One who bowed the heavens bows his head to the Fore-runner,

and the one made of clay cries out to his Mak-er: "Why do you com-mand me to perform what is be-yond my pow-er? It is

I who need to be bap-tized by you." O Christ our God, O Sin-less One, glo-ry to you!

Cantor: (Tone 1) Because with the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption,
(on 3) Israel indeed he will redeem from all its iniquity.

Stichera of the Synaxis - Tone 1 podoben: Prechvalnii mučenicy

O Christ, the Fore-runner saw you com-ing to him and ask-ing for bap-ti-sm

With trem-bling he cried out: Why do you command me to do that which is beyond
my power, O all-powerful Lord? How am I to touch you with my hand, since you preserve all things with your hand? Rather you should baptize me, your servant.

Cantor: Praise the Lord, all you nations, Psalm 116
(on 2) acclaim him all you peoples!

I manifest myself as completely human. I who am rich have willingly become poor, so that I may enrich with incorruption and deliverance all the poor. Come! Baptize the One who is not subject to corruption and who frees the world from decay.

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

(on 1) The Fore-runner said to the Creator: For my part I am held back,
and I do not know where to flee. O generous One, you are the river of delight. How is it, therefore, that the streams of the river receive you as you enter them? To all those who venerate your holy manifestation, you pour out salvation, O Word!

Cantor: (Tone 6) Glory...

Doxastikon - Tone 6

O Lu-minary in the flesh and Forerunner of the Sav-ior, O off-spring of the bar-ren one, O friend, by leap-ing in the womb you ad-ored the One who is born of the Vir-gin; and you baptized him in the waters of the Jordan.

O proph-et, we pray to you: Im-plore him that we may es-cape the fu-ture tor-ments.
God the Word manifested himself in the flesh to the human race.

He stood in the Jordan to be baptized, and the Forerunner said to him:

How can I extend my hand and touch the head of him who governs all things?

Even though you were an infant born of Mary, I know that you are the eternal God. You are praised by the Seraphim and yet you walk on earth;

and the servant has not learned how to baptize the Master. O ineffable Lord, glory to you!

But if it is Friday evening, then sing Now and ever... in the tone of the week, followed by the Dogmatikon in the Tone of the Week, from Saturday evening.

The service continues with the Hymn of the Evening, p. 12.
Great Prokeimenon of Theophany - *Tone 7* (Psalm 113:11):

But our God is in the heavens; he does whatever he wills; he does whatever he wills.

**Verse:** When Israel came forth from Egypt, Jacob's sons from an alien people, Judah became the Lord's temple.

**Verse:** The sea fled at the sight; the Jordan turned back on its course.

**Verse:** Why was it, sea, that you fled? that you turned back, Jordan, on your course?

*The service continues with the Litany of Fervent Supplication, p. 13.*

**Apostichya**

*Tone 4 podoben: Dal jesi znamenije*

O Master, when John the Forerunner saw you coming to him, he was amazed.

As a faithful servant he cried out with fear: O Savior, with what humility and lowliness have you clothed yourself? Since you are compassionate,

you have clothed yourself in our flesh; and by the richness of your kindness,
you have raised us up and we are glorified.

Cantor

The sea fled at the sight; the Jordan turned back on its course.

Come to me; for on this day, I fulfill the mystery of salvation,
said the Savior of the universe to the Foreunner. Serve with fear
and do not be terrified, because I am renewing Adam who was crushed by sin.

Though I am undefiled by nature, I am baptized in the waters of the Jordan.

Cantor

Why is it, O sea, that you fled, that you turned back, Jordan, on
your course?
In response, John said: What creature can see the Sun being cleansed, or who can see stripped the One who clothes the heavens with the clouds; who can see the Creator of springs and rivers coming into the waters? O Master, I marvel at your ineffable providence. Do not burden your servant with such awesome commands.

Cantor: (Tone 4) Glory…

Doxastikon - Tone 4 samohlasen

As a lover of the Holy Spirit, O Forerunner, and as a swallow sweetly singing of divine grace, you have made known to all people the plan of salvation of their King. He gloriously came forth from the Pure One for the renewal of all. He takes away their ancient sadness and reforms
the hearts of those baptized in repentance that they may receive eternal life, O blessed Prophet, inspired by God.

Cantor: Now and ever...

Let us imitate the wise virgins; come, let us go to meet the Master who is now present, for he approaches John as a Bridegroom. When the Jordan saw him, it bowed down in fear and stopped; John spoke out, saying: I am unworthy to touch your immortal head. The spirit descended in the form of a dove and sanctified the waters, and a voice was heard from on high: This is my Son who comes into the world to save all. O Lord, glory to you!
Troparia

Troparion of the Synaxis - Tone 2

O prophet, forerunner, and dweller in the desert, you heard the divine voice of the Father, you were deemed worthy to baptize the Son and Lord, and you were a witness of the Holy Spirit. Having proclaimed the baptism of repentance, now ask for us the forgiveness of sins, that through your prayers we may receive the great mercy of Christ our God.

Cantor: (Tone 1) Glory...now and ever...

Troparion of the Theophany - Tone 1

At your baptism in the Jordan, O Lord, worship of the Trinity was revealed; for the Father's voice bore witness to you, calling you his beloved Son, and the Spirit in the form of a dove
con - firmed the truth of these words. O Christ God, you ap- peared and enlightened the

world. Glo - ry to you!

The service concludes with the Dismissal, p. 21.