

Tone 4

Troparion of the Forefast

Of old, the river Jordan
turned back by Elisha's mantle at Elijah's ascension.

after Elijah had been taken up to heaven.
The waters were parted in two,
and the waterway became a dry path.

This is truly a symbol of baptism,
by which we pass over the mortal life.//

Christ has appeared in the Jordan to sanctify the waters.

Soprano
Alto

Tenor
Bass

Of old, the river Jor - dan turned back before Elisha's mantle
at Elijah's as - cen - sion. The waters were part-ed in two and the
waterway became a dry path. This is truly a symbol of bap -
ti - sm by which we pass through this mor - tal life. Christ
has appeared in the Jordan to sanctify the wa - ters!

Tone 4**Kontakion of the Forefast**

Today the Lord enters the Jordan and cries out to John:

“Do not be afraid to baptize me, //

for I come to save Adam, the first-formed man!”

Soprano
Alto

Tenor
Bass

Today the Lord enters the Jordan and cries out to

John: “Do not be afraid to bap - tize me. For I

have come to save Adam, the first - formed man.”

(then, p. 83)

Tone 8**Prokeimenon**

Prokeimenon, Tone 8

Priest: Let us attend! † Peace be unto all!

Reader: And with your spirit!

Priest: Wisdom!

Reader: The Prokeimenon, in the 8th Tone: Rejoice in the Lord / and be glad, O you righteous!

Choir: Rejoice in the Lord / and be glad, O you righteous!

Rejoice in the Lord and be glad, O you right - - - eous.

Reader: Blessed are they whose transgressions are forgiven, and whose sins are covered.

Choir: Rejoice in the Lord / and be glad, O you righteous!



Reader: Rejoice in the Lord ...

Choir: ... and be glad, O you righteous!



Deacon: Wisdom!

Epistle: (284) 1 Timothy 3:14-4:5 (*Saturday before the Theophany*)
(273) 1 Thessalonians 5:14-23

Reader: The Reading from the First Epistle of the Holy Apostle Paul to Timothy.

Deacon: Let us attend!

Reader: I write to you these things, hoping to come to you shortly. If I am delayed, I want you to know how the people should behave in the house of God, which is the Church of the living God, the pillar and foundation of the truth. Without a doubt, great is the mystery of godliness:

God was revealed in the flesh, vindicated in the spirit, seen by angels, preached among the nations, believed on in the world, and received up in glory.

The Spirit clearly says that in the last times, some will fall away from the faith, paying attention to seducing spirits and doctrines of demons through the hypocrisy of men who speak lies, branded in their own conscience as with a hot iron. They forbid marriage and command to abstain from foods which God created to be received with thanksgiving by those who believe and know the truth. Everything that God has created is good and nothing is to be rejected, if it is received with thanksgiving. Indeed, it is sanctified through the word of God and prayer.

Brothers and sisters, we exhort you, admonish the disorderly, encourage the fainthearted, support the weak, be patient toward all. See that no one returns evil for evil to anyone, but always pursue what is good, both for one another and for all.

Rejoice always! Pray without ceasing. Give thanks in everything because this is God's will in Christ Jesus for you. Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise prophecies, but test all things, and hold firmly to what is good. Abstain from every form of evil.

May the God of peace himself sanctify you completely. May your whole spirit, soul, and body be preserved blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Priest: † Peace be to you!

Alleluia: *Tone 4*

Reader: **And to Your spirit.** In the 4th Tone: Alleluia, Alleluia! Alleluia!

Choir: Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Reader: The righteous cried and the Lord heard them, and delivered them out of all their troubles.

Choir: Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Reader: Many are the afflictions of the righteous; the Lord will deliver them out of them all.

Choir: Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Gospel: (5) Matthew 3:1-11 (*Saturday before the Theophany*)
(88) Luke 18:2-8

Priest: The reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. **Matthew**.

Choir: Glory to You O Lord, Glory to You.

Priest: In those days, John the Baptizer was preaching in the wilderness of Judea, saying: "Repent, for the Kingdom of Heaven is at hand!" This is the one whom Isaiah the prophet had spoken about in these words:

The voice of one crying in the wilderness:

Make ready the way of the Lord! Make his paths straight!

It was peculiar about John that he wore clothing made of camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist. His food was locusts and wild honey.

Soon, people from Jerusalem, all of Judea and the entire region around the Jordan river went out to listen to him. They were baptized by John in the Jordan, confessing their sins. But when John saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to receive his baptism, he told them, "You offspring of vipers, who warned you to flee from the wrath to come?"

Therefore, bring forth fruit worthy of repentance! Do not think that you can say to yourselves: 'We have Abraham as our father!' For I tell you that from these stones, God is able to raise up children to Abraham! Even now, the axe lies at the root of the trees! Therefore, every tree that does not produce good fruit is to be cut down and cast into the fire. I indeed baptize you in water for repentance, but he who comes after me is more powerful than I, and I am not worthy to carry his sandals! He will baptize you in the Holy Spirit and with fire.

The Lord said this parable: "In a certain city, there was a judge who did not fear God and did not care about anyone. A widow lived in that city, and she often came to him, saying: 'Defend me from my adversary!' For a time, he would not do anything, but after a while, he said to himself, 'Although I neither fear God nor care for anyone, yet because this widow is bothering me, I will defend her, or else she will wear me out by her continual visits.'"

The Lord said, "Listen to what the unrighteous judge has to say! Will not God grant justice to his elect who are crying out to him day and night, although he exercises patience regarding them? I tell you that he will avenge them quickly! And yet, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on the earth?"

Choir: Glory to You O Lord, Glory to You.

Sermon

(then p. 89)

Communion Hymn

Rejoice in the Lord, O you righteous; praise befits the just! Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!