

*Sunday before the Theophany and Eve of the Theophany
Hieromartyr Theopemptus and Martyr Theonas*

Fr. Martin D. Watt, Priest-in-Charge

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and rectory:

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Welcome! We are honored that you have joined us in our celebration of the Lord's resurrection this day.

If you are a first time visitor to our parish, we invite you to sign our guest book. If you have a question, a prayer request, or any need, please speak with Fr. Marty, or with any parish member.

For our friends present with us who are not Orthodox Christians, please note that we have specific disciplines regarding receiving Communion. We ask that you refrain from going to Communion until you have spoken with Fr. Marty and understand our discipline and piety regarding this sacrament and its implication for responsibility towards and membership in the Orthodox Church. The bread and wine offered after communion and the bread offered at the end of the service is available to all.

If you are an Orthodox Christian from another parish who has prepared in accordance with your discipline, and have a blessing from your home priest to do so, we invite and encourage you to partake of Holy Communion.

This booklet contains the variable hymns and readings specific to today. Please feel free to take it with you. There are coil-bound booklets available with the text for the Divine Liturgy – if you find it useful, please feel free to take one of those as well, with our compliments. Please leave the hardback versions for future parishioners to use.

We also hope you will stay and join us in our coffee and fellowship hour, which immediately follows the service. We want the opportunity to get to know you, and for you to get to know us. Again, welcome!

Regular services:

Great Vespers, Saturday at 6:30pm

Confession, immediately following Great Vespers, other times by appointment.

Third and Sixth Hour Prayers, Sunday at 9:40am

Divine Liturgy, immediately following the hours.

621 Kellogg Avenue, Ames, Iowa 50010
(corner of 7th and Kellogg)

(Resurrectional Troparion – Tone 4)

When the women Disciples of the Lord learned from the Angel
the joyous message of Your Resurrection,
they cast away the ancestral curse
and elatedly told the Apostles:

“Death is overthrown!

Christ our God is risen,//
granting the world great mercy!”

(Troparion for the Forefeast – Tone 4)

Of old the river Jordan
turned back turned back before Elisha’s mantle at Elijah’s
ascension.

The waters were parted in two,
and the waterway became a dry path.

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

Christ has appeared in the Jordan to sanctify the waters.

(Kontakion for the Forefeast – Tone 2)

O Christ, in Your compassion and infinite mercy,
You are coming as a man to be baptized in the Jordan,
in order to take away the many transgressions of us all,
clothing me in the garment of ancient glory
of which I was cruelly stripped bare.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit,

(Kontakion for the Forefeast – Tone 4)

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!”

now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

(Resurrectional Kontakion – Tone 4)

My Savior and Redeemer as God

rose from the tomb and delivered the earth-born from their chains.

He has shattered the gates of Hades,

and as Master,//

He has risen on the third day!

(then, p. 83)

Prokeimenon, Tone 6

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

Reader: And with your spirit!

Priest: Wisdom!

Reader: The Prokeimenon, in the 6th Tone: O Lord, save Your people, and bless Your inheritance!

Choir: O Lord, save Your people, and bless Your inheritance, your inheritance!

Reader: To You, O Lord, will I call. O my God, be not silent to me!

Choir: O Lord, save Your people, and bless Your inheritance, your inheritance!

Reader: O Lord, save Your people, ...

Choir: ... and bless Your inheritance, your inheritance!

Deacon: Wisdom!

Epistle: (298) 2 Timothy 4:5-8

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

Deacon: Let us attend!

Reader: My son Timothy, be sober in all things, endure hardship, do the work of one who proclaims the Good News and fulfill your ministry.

As for me, I am already being offered in sacrifice, and the time of my release has come. I have fought the good fight! I have finished the course! I have kept the faith! From now on, the crown of righteousness is reserved for me, which the Lord – the righteous judge – will give me on that Day, and not only to me but also to all those who have loved his appearing.

Priest: † Peace be to you!

Alleluia: Tone 4

Reader: And to Your spirit. In the 8th Tone: Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

Choir: Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Reader: O God, be bountiful to us and bless us, show the light of Your countenance upon us, and have mercy on us!

Choir: Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Reader: That we may know Your way upon the earth, and Your salvation among all nations.

Choir: Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Gospel: (1) Mark 1:1-8

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

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

Priest: The beginning of the Good News of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. As it is written in the prophets:

*Behold, I send my messenger before your face,
who will prepare your way before you.*

The voice of one crying in the wilderness:

'Make ready the way of the Lord!'

Make his paths straight!'

John came baptizing in the wilderness and preaching the baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. All the country of Judea and those from Jerusalem went out to him. They were all baptized by John in the Jordan river, confessing their sins. John was clothed with camel's hair, and a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. He preached, saying, "He who comes after me is more powerful than I, and I am not worthy to kneel down and untie the strap of his sandals. I baptized you in water, but he will baptize you in the Holy Spirit."

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

Sermon

(then p. 89)

Please join us in our fellowship hour immediately following the dismissal!

Calendars for 2020: The new calendars with the readings for each day, and the fast days indicated, are available in the Narthex on the literature table.

Theophany Services:

January 5, 2020 (Sunday) 4:30 PM – Great Blessing of the Water, Outdoors, Squaw Creek at Stuart Smith Park. (Great Vespers and indoor blessing of water to follow at Holy Transfiguration.)