

THE HOLY FEAST OF THE EPIPHANY OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST

Anthem of the Chancel

Text: *A thousand thousand and ten thousand times ten thousand surround it.*

I will extol you, O my Lord, the King.

Cherubim surround the awful throne of your greatness, O Lord, and fearfully, with quaking, they cover their faces with their wings, for they are not able to lift up their eyes and look upon the fire which is your Godhead; and you, who are thus glorious, dwelt among men, not to set them ablaze but to enlighten them. Great is your mercy and grace, O my Lord, for you visited our race. Glory be to you!

Your throne, O God, is for ever.

Cherubim surround the awful throne of your greatness, O Lord, and fearfully, with quaking, they cover their faces with their wings, for they are not able to lift up their eyes and look upon the fire which is your Godhead; and you, who are thus glorious, dwelt among men, not to set them ablaze but to enlighten them. Great is your mercy and grace, O my Lord, for you visited our race. Glory be to you!

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; from everlasting, and for ever and ever. Amen.

Your servants wait for life and eternal blessings, O our Savior, and take refuge in the faith, seeking shelter under the wings of the Cross. Keep in your compassion the company of your worshippers, and fulfill for them your declared promises, for you said to your friends in your Gospel, Everyone who believes in me shall inherit the Kingdom and eternal life. Make us worthy, O my Lord, to sing to you with your saints in the wedding feast of your Kingdom. Glory be to you!

The Lections

Numbers 24:2-9; 15-end

And Balaam lifted up his eyes, and saw Israel encamping tribe by tribe. And the Spirit of God came upon him, and he took up his discourse, and said,

"The oracle of Balaam the son of Beor,
the oracle of the man whose eye is opened,
the oracle of him who hears the words of God,
who sees the vision of the Almighty,
falling down, but having his eyes uncovered:
how fair are your tents, O Jacob,

your encampments, O Israel!
Like valleys that stretch afar,
 like gardens beside a river,
like aloes that the LORD has planted,
 like cedar trees beside the waters.
Water shall flow from his buckets,
 and his seed shall be in many waters,
his king shall be higher than Agag,
 and his kingdom shall be exalted.
God brings him out of Egypt;
 he has as it were the horns of the wild ox,
he shall eat up the nations his adversaries,
 and shall break their bones in pieces,
 and pierce them through with his arrows.
He couched, he lay down like a lion,
 and like a lioness; who will rouse him up?
Blessed be every one who blesses you,
 and cursed be every one who curses you."

And he took up his discourse, and said,
"The oracle of Balaam the son of Beor,
 the oracle of the man whose eye is opened,
the oracle of him who hears the words of God,
 and knows the knowledge of the Most High,
who sees the vision of the Almighty,
 falling down, but having his eyes uncovered:
I see him, but not now;
 I behold him, but not nigh:
a star shall come forth out of Jacob,
 and a scepter shall rise out of Israel;
it shall crush the forehead of Moab,
 and break down all the sons of Sheth.
Edom shall be dispossessed,
 Seir also, his enemies, shall be dispossessed,
 while Israel does valiantly.
By Jacob shall dominion be exercised,
 and the survivors of cities be destroyed!"

Then he looked on Amalek, and took up his discourse, and said,
"Amalek was the first of the nations,

but in the end he shall come to destruction."

And he looked on the Kenite, and took up his discourse, and said,
"Enduring is your dwelling place,
and your nest is set in the rock;
nevertheless Kain shall be wasted.
How long shall Asshur take you away captive?"

And he took up his discourse, and said,
"Alas, who shall live when God does this?
But ships shall come from Kittim
and shall afflict Asshur and Eber;
and he also shall come to destruction."

Then Balaam rose, and went back to his place; and Balak also went his way.

Isaiah 4:2-5; 11:1-5; 12:4-end

In that day the branch of the LORD shall be beautiful and glorious, and the fruit of the land shall be the pride and glory of the survivors of Israel. And he who is left in Zion and remains in Jerusalem will be called holy, every one who has been recorded for life in Jerusalem, when the Lord shall have washed away the filth of the daughters of Zion and cleansed the bloodstains of Jerusalem from its midst by a spirit of judgment and by a spirit of burning. Then the LORD will create over the whole site of Mount Zion and over her assemblies a cloud by day, and smoke and the shining of a flaming fire by night; for over all the glory there will be a canopy and a pavilion. . . .

There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse,
and a branch shall grow out of his roots.
And the Spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him,
the spirit of wisdom and understanding,
the spirit of counsel and might,
the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD.
And his delight shall be in the fear of the LORD.

He shall not judge by what his eyes see,
or decide by what his ears hear;
but with righteousness he shall judge the poor,
and decide with equity for the meek of the earth;
and he shall smite the earth with the rod of his mouth,

and with the breath of his lips he shall slay the wicked.
Righteousness shall be the girdle of his waist,
and faithfulness the girdle of his loins.

And you will say in that day:
"Give thanks to the LORD,
call upon his name;
make known his deeds among the nations,
proclaim that his name is exalted.

"Sing praises to the LORD, for he has done gloriously;
let this be known in all the earth.
Shout, and sing for joy, O inhabitant of Zion,
for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel."

The Shuraya

Therefore God, your God, has anointed you,
Let us honor the Baptism of Christ with spiritual songs.
With the oil of gladness above your fellows;
Let us honor the Baptism of Christ with spiritual songs.
Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit;
Let us honor the Baptism of Christ with spiritual songs.
From everlasting, and for ever and ever. Amen.
Let us honor the Baptism of Christ with spiritual songs.

The Apostle

Titus 2:11-3:7

. . . [T]he grace of God has appeared for the salvation of all men, training us to renounce irreligion and worldly passions, and to live sober, upright, and godly lives in this world, awaiting our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, who gave himself for us to redeem us from all iniquity and to purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.

Declare these things; exhort and reprove with all authority. Let no one disregard you.

Remind them to be submissive to rulers and authorities, to be obedient, to be ready for any honest work, to speak evil of no one, to avoid quarreling, to be gentle, and to show perfect courtesy toward all men. For we ourselves were once foolish,

disobedient, led astray, slaves to various passions and pleasures, passing our days in malice and envy, hated by men and hating one another; but when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of deeds done by us in righteousness, but in virtue of his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal in the Holy Spirit, which he poured out upon us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that we might be justified by his grace and become heirs in hope of eternal life.

The Zumara

My heart overflows with goodly themes; I will speak of my works to the king; my tongue is the pen of a skilful scribe.

Therefore God, your God, has anointed you with the oil of gladness above your fellows; myrrh and stacte and cassia make all your clothing fragrant.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; from everlasting, and for ever and ever. Amen.

The Gospel

Matthew 3

In those days came John the Baptist, preaching in the wilderness of Judea, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand." For this is he who was spoken of by the prophet Isaiah when he said,

"The voice of one crying in the wilderness:
Prepare the way of the Lord,
make his paths straight."

Now John wore a garment of camel's hair, and a leather girdle around his waist; and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then went out to him Jerusalem and all Judea and all the region about the Jordan, and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.

But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruit that befits repentance, and do not presume to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our father'; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the axe is laid to the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.

"I baptize you with water for repentance, but he who is coming after me is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry; he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his

threshing floor and gather his wheat into the granary, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

Then Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to John, to be baptized by him. John would have prevented him, saying, "I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?" But Jesus answered him, "Let it be so now; for thus it is fitting for us to fulfil all righteousness." Then he consented. And when Jesus was baptized, he went up immediately from the water, and behold, the heavens were opened and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and alighting on him; and lo, a voice from heaven, saying, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased."

Anthem of the Mysteries

Text: *Also, creation shall be freed from the bondage of corruption.*

Sing to the Lord a new song.

Creation was gladdened by its Lord and acknowledged its Savior, who, while being baptized, revealed to it in the Jordan the teaching of the Trinity: the Father, who called out and proclaimed, This is my beloved Son in whom I have been well-pleased; and the Spirit who came and remained upon him, making known his glory in the presence of the nations.

The world and all its inhabitants.

Creation was gladdened by its Lord and acknowledged its Savior, who, while being baptized, revealed to it in the Jordan the teaching of the Trinity: the Father, who called out and proclaimed, This is my beloved Son in whom I have been well-pleased; and the Spirit who came and remained upon him, making known his glory in the presence of the nations.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; from everlasting, and for ever and ever. Amen.

Come, believers, on this holy Feast. Behold and wonder at the fearful and perfect Mystery, for the sinless Son was baptized in the Jordan. The Baptist, while inquiring of him, besought and said, I have need to be baptized by you, my Lord, for the mire cannot approach the fountain, nor can the lamp illuminate the sun; but because it pleases you to bow your head before me, I will make bold to lay my right hand upon you at your command for the salvation of the race of men.

They offer the Hallowing of Mar Nestorius.

Then, in the place of "You Are Terrible", they say "Hallelujah, Hallelujah".

Verses:

A star shone forth from Jacob, and a ruler arose from Israel, hallelujah, hallelujah!
A thousand thousands stand before him, and ten thousand times ten thousand hallow
his name, hallelujah, hallelujah!

Continuation:

There was a voice from Heaven saying, This is my beloved Son in whom I have been
well-pleased.

Let us all continue with him and serve his Lordship with all our heart, saying, You are
holy, you are holy, you are holy, O Friend of men, hallelujah!

And the deacon says: Give praise to the living God!

Anthem of the Bema

Come, let us all together confess and worship the Savior of the race of men, and of all
the world, from the Evil One, for he has given us in his loving-kindness the heavenly
gift of his Body and Blood for the pardon of debts.

Let us all continue with him and serve

Verses:

A rod has come forth from the stump of Jesse, and a shoot has sprung up from his root.

Let us all continue with him and serve

Of your Body and Blood: Verses:

We have been sanctified by water and the Spirit; through your Body and Blood we gain
life. O Good One who fashioned us from the dust, through water and the Spirit you
renewed our image; through water and the Spirit you fashioned us anew. Glorious is
your renewal, and lovely is your coming.