

**Orthodox Church of the  
Resurrection of Christ  
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**Sunday, 26 January, 2023  
Divine Liturgy Sundays at 9:30 AM  
Confessions 8:45-9:15 AM**

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**\*\*\* EPIPHANY / БОГОЯВЛЕНИЕ \*\*\***

**18 Jan 2023 Wednesday 6:30 PM  
Vigil**

**19 Jan 2023 - Thursday 9:30 AM  
Divine Liturgy / Литургия  
Освящение Воды / Blessing of Water**



Сегодня  
Господь смиренно  
погружается в  
Иорданские струи.  
Сегодня Он,  
безгрешный,  
вместе с толпами  
грешников,  
уязвленных  
страстями и  
пороками,  
приходит на берега  
этой нашей  
сложной,  
невдохновенной

земной жизни. Он, не нуждающийся в покаянии,  
слушает проповедь Иоанна Крестителя! И  
вместе с вереницами тысяч людей на Иордан  
приходит Сам Бог, чтобы принять крещение.

Предтеча узнает Мессию, ужасается, и  
как говорит евангелист Матфей, «удерживает»  
Христа: *«Мне надобно креститься от Тебя, и  
Ты ли приходишь ко мне?»* И тогда он слышит  
кроткий Небесный, Божественный ответ: *«Так  
надлежит нам исполнить всякую правду».*

Правда и Истина Богоявления открылась  
и просияла человечеству в Христе,  
погружающемся в хрустальные воды Иордана,  
в «Родителевом глазе»: *«Сей есть Сын Мой  
возлюбленный, в Котором Мое благоволение»* и  
в Духе, сходящем с Неба *«в виде голубине».*

Господь погружается в Иорданские струи  
не для очищения от греха, но чтобы освятить  
эти воды, преобразить и наполнить их жизнью.  
Чтобы привести и наши сердца к благородию,  
сделать их благородной почвой для любви,  
добра и смирения.

Сегодня нам очень нужен Божественный Свет!  
Без этого Света, жизнь — это путеводитель по  
смерти.

Эта духовная борьба за раскрытие в себе  
образа Божия, обожение, уподобление Христу  
— самая важная, самая трудная, но самая  
глубокая, светлая и творческая духовная работа  
человека. У каждого из нас под рукой, рядом  
всегда есть прекрасный материал, мягкая  
податливая глина — наша собственная душа. Её  
надо украшать! О ней заботиться. Её лечить. О  
ней думать. Главное — чтобы мы не теряли  
вдохновения, не выгорали, помнили о Небе,  
старались стяжать покаянный дух, дух любви,  
радости, мира!

У каждого из нас много земных  
обязанностей, дел, устремлений. Но задача наша  
— держаться за Небо. Земля — может предать!  
Небо — никогда!

Господь открывает наше сердце Евангельскими  
страницами. Он прикасается к нашей душе через  
красоту мира, через мерцание звезд, ... Он тихо  
и бережно приглашает каждого из нас на  
Небесный Свой пир! А самое главное — это то,  
что сегодня мы видим, как Спаситель мира  
погружается в Иорданские струи. Он  
присоединяется к исстрадавшемуся  
человечеству. Вместе с кающимися грешниками  
приходит Он, не имеющий нужды в покаянии.  
Вместе с толпами грешников, крещается Он,  
безгрешный! (Игумен Тихон (Борисов))



*On the day of Epiphany, we remember the  
appearance on the Jordan River of God the Trinity:  
the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. This is the  
revelation of the greatest mystery within the divine  
being, to which many people have not been  
involved until now. This mystery largely determines  
our lives. A person who is not involved in it does  
not fully know what love is, although this word is*

used very often. After all, love is God Himself. God created us to treat each other like the persons of the Holy Trinity treat each other.

The Feast of Epiphany is also a revelation of who Christ is. Not just an outstanding person, the founder of Christianity, but the Son of God, who became Man for our sake.

The Lord commanded His Church to brightly celebrate His Epiphany, and He deigns to bring each of us into the joy of the festivities only through the judgment of conscience.

Celebrating the Holy Epiphany, let us transfer our thoughts to the very place of the event and let us reasonably listen to what was happening there! You see St. John on the shore, in clothes made of camel hair, with a removable belt (leather) about his loins. He is surrounded by countless people from Jerusalem, Judea and all the land of the Jordan. The baptism of the Savior has just ended; and the eyes of all are fixed on the Son of Man ascending from the water. But sharpen the eye of your mind with faith, and following John, bypassing this which is visible to all, fix an attentive look at what is not visible to everyone - at the open sky, the dove descending and the voice heard: "This is my beloved Son." (Matthew 3:17). Set your gaze and do not tear your attention away from this wondrous vision! O! Who will give our word the power to worthily sing the glory of God, who appeared in three forms on the Jordan!

When paradise was lost, the heavens were closed by the truth of God. But just as a strong barrier does not hold back the strong pressure of the waters, so at last the fortress of truth melted away

from the fire of God's love, and now the heavens opened. We are immersed in darkness, but here is abundant light. We are struck by a desolate separation - both from heaven and from ourselves; but here is a life-giving reconciliation. We are exhausted by impotence, but here is an inexhaustible source of all strength!

Just as a creature compressed by the cold of winter greedily meets the spring that resolves the bonds of cold and accepts again a harmonious revival, so we, animated by the hope of salvation, will perceive the reconciliation that shines in the baptized Lord, and enjoy it!

The prince of this world promises space and life and strength and contentment. But he has neither strength, nor freedom, nor contentment, but only a ghost of them - and those seduced by him only have a name that they are alive, free and contented, but in reality they are dazed (warm-cold), slaves tormented by hardships. Hurry, brethren, to acquire the habit of discerning all this in the light of the Epiphany, and do not be carried away by what is only called light, and peace, and power, but is not, but rather strive for Him Who is the way, truth, and life, indeed, both sanctification and deliverance.

The Lord commanded the Church to joyfully celebrate His Feast, and He deigns to bring each of us into the joy of the feast only through the judgment of conscience. He who has tasted the gifts for which the Church celebrates rejoices, but he who has not tasted, taste first, and you will rejoice. Amen. (*St. Theophan Govorov*)

As the Biblical book, "The Wisdom of Sirach" narrates: "*The fear of the Lord is a crown of wisdom, making peace and perfect health to flourish; both which are the gifts of God: and it enlargeth their rejoicing that love Him*" (Sirach 1:18). It is the fear of God – that is, sensing the Divine presence in our lives and walking reverently before God, fearing to grieve Him through sin – that leads to peace; for "*the fear of the Lord,*" as this Old Testament sage writes, "*is honor, and glory, and gladness, and a crown of rejoicing. The fear of the Lord maketh a merry heart, and giveth joy, and gladness, and a long life*" (Sirach 1:11-12). ... [T]he fear of God promises health, joy, and longevity. This is why it is so important for us to work on our spiritual lives, to remember God, His presence among us and participation in our lives. We must ... return to the roots of our faith and hope in God. ... Let us not forget to stop and hear with our hearts and understand with our minds that we are living in a time of the visitation of the Lord. He visits us not only in our present joy, but also in the trials surrounding us. And blessed is he who meets and spends these festive days fully armed with Christian virtues and spiritual vigor!

**+NICHOLAS**

Metropolitan of Eastern America and New York  
First Hierarch of the Russian Church Abroad