

**Russian Orthodox Church of the  
Resurrection of Christ**

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**Sunday, January 16, 2022**

**Divine Liturgy Sundays at 9:00 AM**

**Confessions 8 - 8:50 AM**

**Today is Sunday, January 16, 2022**

**Богоявление - Крещение Господне  
Theophany - The Baptism of Christ**

**Wednesday, 19 January 2022**

**Среда - 19-го Января 2022**

**9:00 AM Divine Liturgy / Литургия**

**with Blessing of Water / освящение воды**

**Бдение / Vigil 6:30 PM Вторник вечера /  
Tuesday evening**



**A sermon of St. Theophan (Govorov), the hermit  
(+1894) on the Baptism of the Lord (excerpted):**

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

Celebrating the Holy Theophany, 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. They don't see anything more than this.

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, Hear ye Him!" (*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!

Together with the lost paradise, 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. Let us  
open (ourselves), brethren, and we will see all  
the powers of our nature, we will insatiably  
receive God who has been revealed, and enjoy  
Him. Let us saturate all our feelings with them,  
all our thoughts and desires.

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!

Hurry, brethren, to acquire the habit of  
discerning all this in the light of the Theophany  
-- Christ's baptism, and let us not be carried  
away by what is called only light, and peace,  
and power, and not what is, but rather to strive  
for Him Who is the way, truth, and life, indeed,  
both sanctification and deliverance.

This is what the Lord wants. He  
commanded the Church to joyfully celebrate  
His Theophany, and He deigns to bring each of  
us into the joy of the feast through the  
judgment of conscience. You who have tasted  
the gifts for which the Church celebrates,  
rejoice; but you who have not tasted, taste first,  
and you will rejoice. Amen. (*January 6, 1864*)