

The Service of the Blessing of the Waters

Maui Orthodox Christian Mission

Metropolis of San Francisco

Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America

Service held at Saint Theresa Church

Kihei, Maui, Hawaii

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Maui Orthodox Christian Mission Project for a Daily Sequential Hymnal in English

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The Blessing of the Waters

IDIOMELA

By Sophronios, Patriarch of Jerusalem

Mode pl. 4.

The voice of the Lord upon the waters cries out, saying: “Come all of you, receive the Spirit of wisdom, the Spirit of understanding, the Spirit of the fear of God, of Christ who has appeared.”

Today the nature of waters is made holy, and Jordan is parted and holds back the flow of its waters as it sees the Master washing himself.

As man, Christ King, you came to the river, and in your goodness you hasten to accept the baptism of a servant at the hands of the Forerunner, on account of our sins, O Lover of mankind.

Glory to the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Both now and ever and to the ages of ages. Amen.

At the voice of the one crying in the desert, “Prepare the way of the Lord,” you came, O Lord, having taken the form of a servant, asking for Baptism, though you did not know sin. The waters saw You and were afraid. The Forerunner trembled and cried out, saying: “How will the lamp enlighten the Light? The servant place his hand on the Master? Savior, who take away the sin of the world, make me and the waters holy.”

EPISTLE

Bishop: Let us be attentive.

Reader: The reading from the first letter of the Apostle Paul to the Corinthians [I Corinthians 10:1-4].

Bishop: Wisdom. Let us be attentive.

Reader: Brethren, I want you to know that our Fathers were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea, and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, and all ate the same spiritual food and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank from the spiritual Rock which followed them, and the Rock was Christ.

Bishop: Peace be to you who have read.

People: Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia.

GOSPEL

Priest: Wisdom. Let us be attentive. Let us hear the Holy Gospel.

Bishop: Peace be to all.

People: And with your spirit.

Bishop: The reading from the Holy Gospel according to Saint Mark [Mark 1:9-11].

Bishop: Let us be attentive.

People: Glory to You, O Lord, glory to You.

Bishop: At that time, Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. And when he came up out of the water, immediately he saw the heavens opened and the Spirit descending upon him like a dove; and a voice came from heaven, "You are my beloved Son; with whom I am well pleased."

People: Glory to You, O Lord, glory to You.

LITANY OF PEACE

Priest: In peace let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Priest: For the peace from above and for the salvation of our souls, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Priest: For the peace in the whole world, for the stability of the holy churches of God, and for the union of all, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Priest: For pious and Orthodox Christians, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Priest: For our Archbishop Gerasimos, the honorable presbytery, the diaconate in Christ, and for all the clergy and the laity, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Priest: For the president of the United States, for all civil authorities, and for our armed forces on land, at sea, and in the air, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Priest: For favorable weather, an abundance of the fruits of the earth, and for peaceful times, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Priest: For travelers by sea, land and air; the sick, the suffering, the captives and their salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Priest: That these waters may be sanctified by the power and operation and visitation of the Holy Spirit, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

(The Metropolitan throws the Holy Water into the ocean.)

Priest: That the Lord, our God, will free us from every attack and temptation of the enemy, and make us worthy of the good things which He has promised, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Priest: That these waters may be for the purification of the souls and bodies of all those who, with faith, shall draw and partake of it, and that He will deliver us from all tribulation, wrath, danger and want, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Priest: Help us, save us, have mercy on us, and protect us, O God, by Your grace.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Priest: Commemorating our all-holy, pure, most-blessed, and glorious Lady, the Theotokos and ever-Virgin Mary, with all the saints, let us commit ourselves and one another and all our life to Christ our God.

People: To You, O Lord.

Bishop: That by the elements, by the angels, and by men, by things visible and invisible, Your All-Holy Name may be glorified together with the Father and the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto the ages of all ages.

People: Amen.

PRAYER

Bishop: Peace be to all.

People: And with your spirit.

Priest: Let us bow our heads to the Lord.

People: To You, O Lord.

Bishop: Incline Your ear, O Lord, and hear us. You Who sanctified water when You consented to be baptized in the Jordan, bless all of us who by bowing our heads indicate our bondage.

And make us worthy to be filled with Your sanctification by receiving this water and sprinkling it; let it be, O Lord, for the health of our souls and bodies.

Bishop: For You are the sanctification of our souls and bodies, and to You we send up glory: Father Who has no beginning, and to the all-Holy Spirit, the God and Author of life, now and ever, and unto the ages of ages.

People: Amen.

APOLYTIKION OF THEOPHANY

Mode 1.

(As the Apolytikion of Theophany is chanted, the Bishop throws the Precious Cross into the ocean and the Orthodox divers enter the waters to retrieve it.)

Lord, when you were baptized in the Jordan, * the veneration of the Trinity was revealed, * for the voice of the Father gave witness to You, * calling You Beloved, * and the Spirit in the form of a dove * confirmed the certainty of His Words. * Glory to You, Christ our God, * Who appeared and enlightened the world.

(The Apolytikion of Theophany is chanted three times.)

DISMISSAL

Bishop: Blessed be the name of the Lord, now and always and to the ages of ages.

People: Amen. Glory to You, O Lord, glory to You.

Bishop: Glory be to God, our hope, glory be to You.

Bishop: May Christ our true God, who condescended for our salvation, to be baptized by John in the Jordan, through the intercessions of His most pure and holy Mother; through the power of the precious and life-giving Cross; the protection of the honorable, bodiless heavenly powers; the supplications of the honorable, glorious, Prophet and Forerunner John the Baptist; the holy, glorious and praiseworthy Apostles; the holy, glorious and triumphant Martyrs; our venerable and God-bearing Fathers; the holy and righteous ancestors of God, Joachim and Anna; and of all the Saints: have mercy on us and save us, for He is good and loves mankind.

Bishop: Through the prayers of our Hierarch, Lord Jesus Christ our God, have mercy on us and save us.

Priest: Through the prayers of our Holy Master, Lord Jesus Christ our God, have mercy on us and save us.

People: Amen.