

20. JANUARY. 2019. 34-th. SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST. TONE – 1. SUNDAY AFTER THEOPHANY. AFTERFEAST OF THEOPHANY. SOBOR OF THE HOLY PROPHET, FORERUNNER, AND BAPTIST OF THE LORD JOHN. 20, СІЧЕНЬ, 2019. 34-та. НЕДІЛЯ ПО П'ЯТИДЕСЯТНИЦІ. ГОЛОС – 1-ий. НЕДІЛЯ ПІСЛЯ БОГОЯВЛЕННЯ. СОБОР СВЯТОГО ПРОРОКА, ПРЕТЕЧІ Й ХРЕСТИТЕЛЯ ГОСПОДНЬОГО ІОАНА.



Assemblage (“Sobor” or Synaxis”) of the Forerunner and Baptist of the Lord, John. Martyr Athanasias of Attaleia (+ 1770). In the Orthodox Church the custom was established, that on the day following the Great Feasts of the Lord and the Mother of God, would be remembered those saints who most essentially participated in whichever the sacred event. And thus, on the day following after the Theophany of the Lord, the Church honours he that participated directly in the Baptism of Christ, indeed placing his own hand upon the head of the Saviour. Saint John, the holy Forerunner and Baptist of the Lord, termed by our Lord the greatest of the prophets, both concludes the history of the Old Testament and opens up the epoch of the New Testament. The holy Prophet John gave witness concerning the arrival on earth of the Only-Begotten Son of God, incarnated humanly in the flesh. Saint John was deemed worthy to baptise Him in the

waters of the Jordan and he was a witness of the Theophany or Manifestation of the Most Holy Trinity on the day of the Baptism of the Saviour. The holy Prophet John was a kinsman of the Lord on His mother’s side, the son of the Priest Zachariah and Righteous Elizabeth. The holy Forerunner of the Lord, John, was born six months earlier than Christ Jesus. The Archangel Gabriel was the messenger of his birth, in the Jerusalem Temple revealing to his father, that for him a son was to be born. Through the prayers offered up beforehand, the child was filled with the Holy Spirit. Saint John prepared himself in the wilds of the desert for his great service by a strict life, by fasting, prayer and sympathy for the fate of God’s people. At the age of about 30 years he came forth preaching repentance. He appeared at the banks of the Jordan, by his preaching to prepare the people for acceptance of the Saviour of the world. In the expression of churchly song, Saint John was a “bright morning star”, whose gleaming outshone the shining of all the other stars, announcing the coming morning of the day of grace, illumined with the light of the spiritual Son, – our Lord Jesus Christ. Having baptised the sinless Lamb of God, Saint John soon died a martyr’s death, beheaded by the sword on orders of king Herod in fulfilling the request of his daughter Salome.

[https://en.ortodox.md/articles/assemblage-sobor-or-synaxis-of-the-forerunner-and-baptist-of-the-lord-john/Moldova Ortodoxă](https://en.ortodox.md/articles/assemblage-sobor-or-synaxis-of-the-forerunner-and-baptist-of-the-lord-john/Moldova%20Ortodox%C3%A3)

TROPAR OF SUNDAY IN TONE-1.

When the stone had been sealed by the Jews, and the soldiers were guarding Your Most Pure Body, You arose on the third day, O Saviour, granting life to the world. Therefore, the Powers of Heaven cried out to You, O Giver of life: Glory to Your Resurrection, O Christ. Glory to Your Kingdom. Glory to Your Providence, O only lover of mankind.

TROPAR OF FEAST IN TONE-1.

When You, O Lord, were baptized in the Jordan, the worship of the Trinity was made manifest. For the voice of the Father bore witness unto You and called You the Beloved Son. And The Spirit in the form of a dove confirmed the truth of His word. O Christ our God Who has appeared and enlightened the world, glory be to You.

TROPAR OF THE FORERUNNER IN TONE – 2.

The memory of the righteous is praised, but you, O Forerunner, are well pleased with the testimony of the Lord. For you have truly been revealed as more honourable than the prophets since you were deemed worthy to baptize in the river the One of whom they foretold. Therefore, having fought and suffered for the Truth, you have also joyfully preached to those in hades the good tidings of God revealed in the flesh, Who takes away the sins of the world and grants us great mercy.

GLORY to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit

KONDAK OF THE FORERUNNER IN TONE – 6.

The Jordan was filled with fear at Your coming in the flesh, it was driven back trembling and John, fulfilling the ministry of the Spirit, drew back in fear. The hosts of angels stood amazed, beholding You in the stream and baptized in the flesh. And all those in darkness were illumined, and sang praises to You, Who has appeared and enlightens us. **NOW** and forever and to the ages of ages. Amen

ТРОПАР НЕДІЛНИЙ НА ГОЛОС 1-ий.

Хоч камінь запечатали юдеї, і воїни стерегли Пречисте Тіло Твоє, воскрес Ти на третій день, Спасе, даруючи світові життя. Ради цього Сили Небесні взивали до Тебе, Життєдавче, Слава Воскресінню Твоєму, Христе, слава Царству Твоєму, слава Провидінню Твоєму, Єдиний Чоловіколюбче.

ТРОПАР ПІСЛЯСВЯТА НА ГОЛОС 1-ий. У

Йордані хрестився Ти, Господи, і Троїчне явилось поклоніння, бо голос Отцівський свідчив про Тебе, улюбленим Сином Тебе називаючи, і Дух, у вигляді голубиним, ствердив слово об'явлене. Слава Тобі, Христе Боже, що явився і світ просвітив.

ТРОПАР ПРЕДТЕЧІ НА ГОЛОС 2-ий.

Пам'ять праведного з похвалами, тобі ж бо достатньо свідчення Господнього, бо в струменях сподобився хрестити Проповіданого. Тому то за істину постраждав, радіючись, благовістив еси і тим, що в аді, Бога, явленого в Тілі, що взяв гріхи світу і подає нам велику муліст.

СЛАВА Отцю і Сину і Святому Духові.

КОНДАК ПРЕДТЕЧІ НА ГОЛОС 2 -ий.

Тілесного Твого приходу убоявшись, Йордан зі страхом назад вертався, а пророче служіння виконуючи, Іоан, тремтячи, жахається, чини ангельські дивувалися, бачивши в плоті Тебе, у струменях хрещеного, і всі суцї в темряві були осяяні, прославляючи Тебе, що явився і все просвітив. **І НИНІ** і повсякчас і на віки вічні, Амін.

KONDAK OF THE FEAST IN TONE – 4.

You have appeared today unto the whole world, and Your Light, O Lord, has been signed upon us, who with knowledge chant unto You: You have come and are made manifest, O unapproachable Light.

READER : “ **PROKIMEN IN TONE – 1.** Let Your mercy, O Lord, be upon us as we have put our hope in You.”

CHOIR : “ Let Your mercy, O Lord, be upon us as we have put our hope in You.”

READER : “ Rejoice in the Lord, you righteous. Praise befits the upright.”

CHOIR : “ Let Your mercy, O Lord, be upon us as we have put our hope in You.”

READER : “ ANOTHER PROKIMEN IN TONE -7.

The righteous man shall rejoice in the Lord and hope in Him.”

CHOIR : “ The righteous man shall rejoice in the Lord and hope in Him.”

КОНДАК ПІСЛЯСВЯТА НА ГОЛОС 4-ий. Ти явився сьогодні цілому світові, і Світло Твоє, Господи, знаминувалося на нас, що з розумінням оспівуємо Тебе, прийшов єси і явився єси – Світло неприступне.”

ЧИТ. : “ ПРОКІМЕН НА ГОЛОС 1-ий. Милість Твоя, Господи, хай буде над нами, бо уповаємо на Тебе.”

ХОР. : “ Милість Твоя, Господи, хай буде над нами, бо уповаємо на Тебе

.” ЧИТ. : (СТИХ) “ Радуйтеся, праведні, в Господі, праведним належиться похвала.”

ХОР. : “ Милість Твоя, Господи, хай буде над нами, бо уповаємо на Тебе.”

ЧИТ. : “ ДРУГИЙ ПРОКІМЕН НА ГОЛОС 7-ий.

Звеселиться праведник у Господі і уповатиме на Нього.”

ХОР. : “ Звеселиться праведник у Господі і уповатиме на Нього.”

EPISTLE:**Ephesians. 4 : 7 - 13.**

⁷ But to each one of us grace was given according to the measure of Christ’s gift. ⁸ Therefore He says: “When He ascended on high, He led captivity captive, And gave gifts to men.”

⁹ (Now this, “He ascended”—what does it mean but that He also first descended into the lower parts of the earth? ¹⁰ He who descended is also the One who ascended far above all the heavens, that He might fill all things.)

¹¹ And He Himself gave some *to be* apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, ¹² for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, ¹³ till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ;

Acts. 19 : 1 - 8.

19 And it happened, while Apollos was at Corinth, that Paul, having passed through the upper regions, came to Ephesus. And finding some disciples ² he said to them, “Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?” So they said to him, “We have not so much as heard whether there is a Holy Spirit.”

³ And he said to them, “Into what then were you baptized?” So they said, “Into John’s baptism.”

⁴Then Paul said, “John indeed baptized with a baptism of repentance, saying to the people that they should believe on Him who would come after him, that is, on Christ Jesus.”

⁵When they heard *this*, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. ⁶And when Paul had laid hands on them, the Holy Spirit came upon them, and they spoke with tongues and prophesied. ⁷Now the men were about twelve in all. ⁸And he went into the synagogue and spoke boldly for three months, reasoning and persuading concerning the things of the kingdom of God.

READER : “ **ALLELUIA IN TONE – 5.** Of Your mercies O Lord, I will sing forever; unto generation and generation I will proclaim Your truth with my mouth. Alleluia.”

CHOIR : “ Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.”

READER : “ You have said: Mercy will be established forever and My Truth will be prepared in the heavens. Alleluia.”

CHOIR : “ Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.”

READER : “**ALLELUIA IN TONE – 5.** A light has shone forth upon the righteous, and joy for the upright in heart. Alleluia.”

CHOIR : “ Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.”

ЧИТ. : “ **АЛИЛУЯ НА ГОЛОС 5-ий.** Милості Твої, Господи, повік оспівуватиму, з роду в рід оповім істину Твою устами моїми. Аلیلія.”

ХОР. : “ Аلیلія, Аلیلія, Аلیلія.”

ЧИТ. : “ Бо Ти сказав, повік збудується милість, на небесах утвердиться істина Твоя. Аلیلія.”

ХОР. : “ Аلیلія, Аلیلія, Аلیلія.”

ЧИТ. : “ **АЛИЛУЯ НА ГОЛОС 5-ий.** Світло засяло праведнику, для праведних серцем веселість.”

ХОР. : “ Аلیلія, Аلیلія, Аلیلія.”

GOSPEL:

Matthew 4 : 12 - 17.

¹²Now when Jesus heard that John had been put in prison, He departed to Galilee. ¹³And leaving Nazareth, He came and dwelt in Capernaum, which is by the sea, in the regions of Zebulun and Naphtali, ¹⁴that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Isaiah the prophet, saying:

¹⁵“The land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali,
By the way of the sea, beyond the Jordan,
Galilee of the Gentiles:

¹⁶The people who sat in darkness have seen a great light,
And upon those who sat in the region and shadow of death
Light has dawned.”

¹⁷From that time Jesus began to preach and to say, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven ^[c]is at hand.”

John. 1 : 29 - 34.

²⁹ The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, “Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! ³⁰ This is He of whom I said, ‘After me comes a Man who is preferred before me, for He was before me.’ ³¹ I did not know Him; but that He should be revealed to Israel, therefore I came baptizing with water.”

³² And John bore witness, saying, “I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and He remained upon Him. ³³ I did not know Him, but He who sent me to baptize with water said to me, ‘Upon whom you see the Spirit descending, and remaining on Him, this is He who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.’ ³⁴ And I have seen and testified that this is the Son of God.”

INSTEAD OF “ IT IS TRULY WORTHY....” :

Magnify, O my soul, the Most Pure Virgin Theotokos who is more honourable than the hosts on high.

IRMOS, IN TONE – 2. Every tongue is at a loss to worthily praise you, even a spirit from the world above is overawed in trying to sing your praises, O Theotokos. But since You are good, accept our faith. You know well our God-inspired love. We magnify You, for You are the Protectress of Christians.

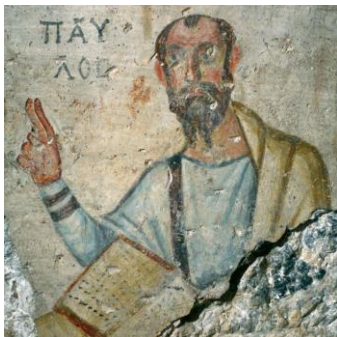
ЗАДОСТОЙНИК : Величай, душе моя, чеснішую від Горніх Воїнств, Діву Пречисту Богородицю.

ІРМОС, ГОЛ. 2 - ий. Не зуміє ніякий язик достойно благовалити, тривожиться навіть і надсвітній ум оспівувати Тебе, Богородице. Одначе Ти, благая, прийми віру, ти бо знаєш нашу божественну любов. Тебе величаємо, бо Ти християн еси заступниця.

COMMUNION VERSE:

“ Praise the Lord from the heavens, praise Him in the highest. Alleluia.” “ The righteous man shall be in everlasting remembrance. He shall not fear evil tidings. Alleluia.”

ПРИЧАСНИЙ. “ Хвалить Господа з небес, хвалить Його в вишніх. Аلیلія.” “ В пам’ять вічну буде праведник, лихої слави він не убоїться. Аلیلія.”



from The Gift of God’s Grace

<http://stgeorgegoc.org/pastors-corner/fr-ricks-sermons/the-gift-of-gods-grace>

It is very important to remember the maxim St. Paul puts forward **in today’s Epistle** reading from Ephesians 4:7-13, that each of us has been given a portion of God’s grace as a gift (v.7). Human words are inadequate but we can say that we all receive the gift of God’s grace at our baptism and chrismation. It may come in a different shape and size for each of us. That grace is renewed and energized by our continual participation in the life of the Church. Without that, it would be like visiting the gas station one

time and expecting the fuel to last forever and never need a fill-up again. Without prayer, worship, Holy Communion, Holy Unction, Holy Confession, and fellowship with godly people, the gift of God's grace will lie dormant within us, a buried treasure with no value or purpose.

Our purpose and meaning in life is deeply connected the role that we take on in the life of the Church. In other words, you can be at/in the Church, but if our role is minimal, passive, irregular, inconsistent and apathetic, then we will still be adrift. This would be analogous to sitting on a boat in the middle of the beautiful Aegean or Ionian Sea (take your pick) and being surrounded with attractive island destinations but the boat does not have an engine for power, nor a rudder to steer, and you sit going nowhere. The Apostle Paul says that gift of God's grace enables some Christians *"to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers"* (v.11). Now this is not an exhaustive list of roles within the Church but they are primary, or most important. In my opinion, most of us underestimate the grace given to us and the role God is calling us to fulfill in the life of the Church, and by extension, outside of the Church as well...

St. Paul says the purpose of God giving grace to each one of us is for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ...the unity of the faith...the knowledge of the Son of God" (v.12-13). If we want to find our purpose in life, let us start with finding our purpose, meaning and role in the life of the local parish of God's One, Holy, Catholic and Apostolic Church. Amen!

Who Was the Venerable Melania? 383-439 AD



Our venerable Mother **Melania the Younger** (or **Melane the Roman** - feastday: January 13) came from a rich and glorious family. Her grandmother is also commemorated as a saint: Melania the Righteous Because she loved the Lord with her whole heart, she chose to remain a virgin. But her parents forced her to get married even unwillingly with a man and she became the mother of two children. Then her parents and children died. That is why this blessed woman left the city of Rome and was living at her farm with every ascetic practice and virtue. She used to take care of the sick, received the foreigners

who came to her, and visited the imprisoned and the exiled. Then she sold all her estates and possessions, which were many, and collected 120,000 gold coins, which she distributed to churches and monasteries.

In the beginning she used to eat once every couple of days but later on she used to fast five days per week and she would only eat on Saturdays and Sundays. Then she went to Africa and, after she had spent seven years there distributing most of her wealth, she went to Alexandria and from there to Jerusalem. There she closed herself in a cell and with her example she attracted ninety virgins and nuns to this same zeal for asceticism. She used to provide for their daily needs unceasingly. Because she was overcome by the pain of the side, she got very sick and, after she had called the bishop of Eleutheroupolis, she received from him the Eucharist. Then she bid all the sisters farewell, and lastly uttered these words of Job: "As the Lord wishes, so let it be." And in this way she immediately commended her soul to the hands of God. rthodoxwiki.org/Melania_the_Younger