

January 7th

The Synaxis of the Holy Prophet, Forerunner & Baptist John

Stichera at the Aposticha at Vespers

Byzantine Chant Tone/Mode 4
Special Melody: *Unto them that fear thee*

Adapted by Dn. John El Massih

E Un. E

1) When John the Fore-run-ner saw Thee draw-ing near him, O

Sov-'reign Lord, he was seized with as-ton-ish-ment; and

G E

be-ing Thy pru-dent and right-ly think-ing ser-vant,

he cried out with fear: What is this hu-mil-i-ty of Thine?

What is this pov-er-ty that Thou hast put on? Who

in the rich-es of Thy good-ness hast raised up hum-bled

G E

man a-gain, by en-cloth-ing Thy-self in him

through com-pas-sion, O Sav-ior Christ.

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Verse: The sea saw and fled; the Jordan turned back on its course.

2) Hith - er, come to Me this_ day, as I ac - com - plish a

mys - ter - y; so the Sav - ior of all re - plied un -

- to the Fore - run - ner John; serve Me, though with trem - bling:

draw not back in fear, see - ing Me, Who am by na - ture pure,

stand in the wa - ters of Jor - dan here with thee; for

I am bap - tized as a man that I might make Ad - am

new a - gain, as I whol - ly re - fash - ion him

who was bro - ken and crushed by sin.

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Verse: What ailed thee, O thou sea, that thou didst flee? Why didst thou turn back, O Jordan, on thy course?

E Un. E

3) John re - plied: What earth - born man hath ev - er seen the sun

be - ing washed? Who hath seen Him that cov - er - eth the

G E

heav - en with veils of clouds stand - ing whol - ly na - ked?

Who hath ev - er seen Him that made the riv - ers and the springs

Him - self step in - to the wa - ters that He made? I

sore - ly am as - ton - ished at Thy dis - pen - sa - tion, which

G E

pass - eth speech; bur - den not with such dread com - mands

me Thy ser - vant, O Sov - 'reign Lord.