January 12th

After-Feast of Theophany (Epiphany)

Stichera at "O Lord, I have cried"

Byzantine Tone 2
Special Melody: When he took thee
Adapted by Dn. John El Massih

1) O ye faithful, come with mind most pure: following the Feast of Christ's Baptism, let us sing festal hymns;

He Who in the nature of His own Divinity doth exist everlastingly with Father and Spirit, came unto the Jordan in the flesh and said to John:

Come, O Baptist, baptize Me straightway, for I wish to cleanse mankind's nature from defilement, since I am the Friend of man.

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2) All the hosts of Angels minister unto Thee with trembling, O Christ, as unto their King and their God; never do the Cherubim dare set their gaze on Thee. Yet, O Lord, Thou now chargest me to touch Thy divine head, though I am but grass, O Master; John replied to Him.

I am seized with measureless terror, lest the unendurable fire of Thy dread Divinity should burn me up.

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3) Made flesh from a Virgin, I am come to the flowing streams of the Jordan that I might make Adam new;

so did God the Savior answer the Runner's doubts. Hence draw near Me as unto Christ,

for I am indeed He; come to Me and baptize Me now in the flesh, O John,

that I crush the heads of the dragons in the waters: I am the Lord God,

and I take away the sin of all the world.

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