

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?

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  
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  
pass - eth speech; bur - den not with such dread com - mands  
me Thy ser - vant, O Sov - 'reign Lord.