

# AKATHIST HYMN



to SAINT JOHN the BAPTIST

*Priest:* Blessed is our God, always, now and ever and unto ages of ages.

*Reader:* Amen.

Glory to You, O our God, glory to You.

O Heavenly King, the Comforter, the Spirit of Truth, everywhere present and filling all things. Treasury of Blessings, and Giver of Life, come and abide in us, and cleanse us from every impurity, and save our souls, O Good One.

Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal, have mercy on us. (3x)

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

O Most Holy Trinity, have mercy on us. O Lord, cleanse us from our sins. O Master, pardon our transgressions. O Holy One, visit and heal our infirmities, for Your Name's sake.

Lord, have mercy. (3x)

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

*Everyone:* Our Father, Who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy Name. Thy Kingdom come. Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us, and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.

*Priest:* For Thine is the Kingdom, and the power and the glory, of the Father and the Son and the Holy

Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages.

*Reader:* Amen. Lord, have mercy. (3x)

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

Come, let us worship God our King.

Come, let us worship and fall down before Christ, our King and our God.

Come, let us worship and fall down before Christ Himself, our King and our God.

### PSALM 51 (50 LXX)

Have mercy on me, O God, in Your great mercy,  
and in the abundance of Your compassions  
blot out my transgressions.

Wash me thoroughly from my lawlessness,  
and cleanse me from my sin.

For I know my transgressions,  
and my sin is always before me.

Against You alone I have sinned,  
and done evil before You,

so that You are justified in Your words  
and victorious in Your judgment.

For, behold, I was conceived in iniquity,  
and in sin my mother gave birth to me.

For, behold, You love truth,  
You revealed to me the unknown  
and secret things of Your wisdom.

Sprinkle me with hyssop, and I will be cleansed.  
Wash me, and I will be whiter than snow.  
Make me to hear joy and gladness,  
let the bones that You have humbled rejoice.  
Turn Your face away from my sins,  
and blot out all my transgressions.  
Create in me a clean heart, O God,  
and renew a right Spirit within me.  
Do not cast me away from Your presence,  
and do not take Your Holy Spirit from me.  
Restore to me the joy of Your salvation,  
and establish me with Your guiding Spirit.  
Then I will teach transgressors Your ways,  
and sinners will return to You.  
Rescue me from bloodshed, O God,  
the God of my salvation,  
and my tongue will rejoice at Your righteousness.  
O Lord, open my lips,  
and my mouth will declare Your praise,  
for if You had desired sacrifice,  
I would have given it,  
You will not take pleasure in whole burnt offerings.  
The sacrifice to God is a broken spirit,  
a broken and humbled heart God will not despise.  
Do good, O Lord, to Zion, in Your good pleasure,  
and let the walls of Jerusalem be rebuilt.  
Then You will be pleased  
with the sacrifice of righteousness,

with offerings and whole-burnt offerings,  
then bulls will be offered on Your altar.

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

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, glory to You, O God.

(3x)

**TROPARION of the NATIVITY of  
SAINT JOHN *the* BAPTIST**

O Prophet and Forerunner of the coming of Christ, although we cannot praise you worthily, we honor you in love, for by your glorious nativity you ended your mother's barrenness and your father's silence, proclaiming to the world the incarnation of the Son of God.

**TROPARION of SAINT JOHN *the* BAPTIST**

The memory of the righteous is celebrated with hymns of praise, but the Lord's testimony is sufficient for you, O Forerunner. You were shown in truth to be the most honorable of the prophets, for you were deemed worthy to baptize in the streams of the Jordan Him Whom they foretold. Therefore, having suffered for the truth with joy, you proclaimed to those in hell God Who appeared in the flesh, Who takes away the sin of the world, and grants us great mercy.

## KONTAKION 1

Chosen from days of old to be the Forerunner and Baptist of Christ God, the Savior of the world, O Divinely-praised John, while glorifying the Lord, Who glorified you, we sing you hymns of praise as to the greatest of those born of a woman, as to an angel in the flesh and preacher of repentance. For as you have great boldness before the Lord, free us from dangers of all kinds and move us to repentance, as we sing to you with love:

Rejoice, great John, Prophet, Forerunner and Baptist of the Lord.

## IKOS 1

Archangel Gabriel, who stands before God, was sent to the priest Zachariah, when he, serving according to his rank, entered with incense into the Sanctuary of the Lord. Standing to the right of the Altar of Incense, the angel announced to him the good news of your birth, O great John, proclaiming to Zachariah joy and gladness, as many would rejoice at God's awesome good will concerning you, reverently singing in praise of you:

Rejoice, inexpressible confidant of the counsel of God.

Rejoice, fulfillment of His marvelous plan of salvation.

Rejoice, for you were revealed many years before

by the prophecy of Isaiah.

Rejoice, messenger before the face of the Lord,  
prophesied of old.

Rejoice, for you were foreordained to be a great  
prophet of the Most High.

Rejoice, for you were born according to the  
promise of an angel.

Rejoice, for you were filled with the Holy Spirit  
even in your mother's womb.

Rejoice, for you were consecrated for a great  
ministry before your birth.

Rejoice, release of parents' barrenness.

Rejoice, joy and gladness of a priest of God.

Rejoice, offspring of a daughter of Aaron.

Rejoice, God-given fruit of prayer.

Rejoice, great John, Prophet, Forerunner, and  
Baptist of the Lord.

## KONTAKION 2

When Zachariah saw the angel appearing to him, he  
was disturbed and fear fell upon him, and he did not  
believe the words of the angel's announcement  
concerning your birth, but when he was stricken  
with dumbness for his disbelief, he marveled at this  
most glorious wonder, singing to God with all his  
heart: Alleluia.

## IKOS 2

Seeking to understand the incomprehensible Mind, the people awaited Zachariah, wondering at his delay in the Sanctuary, but when he came out and could not speak to them, but only made signs, they all understood that he had beheld a vision. And we, glorifying God, the marvelous Creator of miracles, sing to you:

Rejoice, good source of your father's silence.

Rejoice, change of your mother's tears into joy.

Rejoice, removal of her reproach among the people.

Rejoice, great consolation for those who gave you birth.

Rejoice, for in the sixth month after your conception, the Most Holy Virgin Mary was visited by an angel in Nazareth.

Rejoice, for many rejoiced over your birth.

Rejoice, for you received a grace-filled name, given by an angel.

Rejoice, for by your name the silence of your father Zachariah was ended.

Rejoice, for the Name of God was blessed by your father on your account.

Rejoice, for fear and wonder over your miraculous birth came upon those living around.

Rejoice, for the news of your miraculous birth



spread over the entire land of Judea.

Rejoice, for by you salvation appeared to many in this world.

Rejoice, great John, Prophet, Forerunner, and Baptist of the Lord.

### KONTAKION 3

The power of the Most High ended the barrenness of the righteous Elizabeth, who was beyond the natural age for bearing children, for she conceived you, the glorious Forerunner of the Lord, and keeping this secret for five months, she said, “For this is what the Lord has done for me, when He looked favorably on me, and took away the disgrace I have endured among my people.” But when Elizabeth received her who bore Christ in her womb, she was filled with the Holy Spirit and said with a loud voice, “Why has this happened to me, that the Mother of my Lord should come to me?” And rejoicing with her, she sang to God: Alleluia.

### IKOS 3

Since you were to go before the Lord in the spirit and power of Elijah, you were filled with the Holy Spirit while still in your mother’s womb, from where you appeared as a marvelous prophet, when you leapt with rejoicing at the coming of the Mother of the Lord, for you recognized God born in the womb of her who is full of grace. And by your mother’s voice

you preached Him, for it was proper for the Divine things to have most glorious beginning. For this reason, reverently marveling at this, with joy we sing to you:

Rejoice, while still in your mother's womb proclaiming with miraculous gladness the Lord Who glorified you.

Rejoice, for because of you and your mother Elizabeth the incarnation of Christ was revealed.

Rejoice, for she also was filled with the Holy Spirit.

Rejoice, for she also appeared as a most marvelous prophetess.

Rejoice, for by your mother the Most Holy Virgin Mary was called blessed among women.

Rejoice, for by her Mary was also named the Mother of the Lord.

Rejoice, for the Virgin's seedless Fruit was declared most blessed.

Rejoice, manifestation of divine wisdom.

Rejoice, blessing of a holy marriage.

Rejoice, wonderful offspring of a barren womb.

Rejoice, for you astonished men by your birth.

Rejoice, radiant voice of the Word.

Rejoice, great John, Prophet, Forerunner, and Baptist of the Lord.

## KONTAKION 4

Disturbed by a storm of doubt, the priest Zachariah was unable to speak, according to the angel's word. But when after your birth, O Forerunner of the Lord, he wrote your grace-filled name, immediately his lips and tongue were loosened, and he spoke, blessing God and prophesying, saying, "Blessed is the Lord God of Israel, for He has visited and redeemed His people. And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High," singing to Him: Alleluia.

## IKOS 4

Upon hearing of your most glorious and miraculous birth, the people who lived around said among themselves with amazement: "What will this child become?" But we unworthily honoring you, O most glorious Forerunner of the Lord, as the greatest of those born of women, sing to you these words of praise:

Rejoice, for you were filled with manifestations of grace from your conception.

Rejoice, for you were glorified by God in your birth.

Rejoice, for in your infancy you were called a prophet of the Most High by your father.

Rejoice, for in your childhood you were enlightened and strengthened by the Holy Spirit.

Rejoice, for you were a blood relative of God incarnate.

Rejoice, for you received from God the noble calling of Forerunner and Baptist.

Rejoice, ray proclaiming New Light to the world.

Rejoice, star illumining the path that leads to Christ.

Rejoice, morning star of the Unsetting Sun.

Rejoice, lamp of the Never-waning Light.

Rejoice, for you prepare the way for the approaching Christ.

Rejoice, for you appear as both angel and man.

Rejoice, great John, Prophet, Forerunner, and Baptist of the Lord.

## KONTAKION 5

The ungodly command of Herod, the lawless murderer of children, drove you out of your father's house into the trackless wilderness, carried by your mother, O Forerunner of the Lord, and there you stayed until the day of your appearance in Israel, eating locusts and wild honey, and calling to God: Alleluia.

## IKOS 5

Beholding God's wonderful providence concerning you, O John praised by God, you appeared as a lover of a life of fasting from infancy's swaddling clothes, from where you were sent to preach the approaching

salvation in Christ by the will of the Most High. For this reason, with amazement and love, we sing to you:

Rejoice, for while yet an infant, you terrified King Herod.

Rejoice, for you were preserved from his vain murdering by the right hand of the Most High.

Rejoice, fragrant rose of the desert.

Rejoice, for you amazed everyone by the height of your ascetic labors.

Rejoice, faithful indicator of the true way.

Rejoice, most wonderful preserver of purity and chastity.

Rejoice, perfect example of self-denial of the Gospel.

Rejoice, monastics' protection and security.

Rejoice, enlightenment of theologians' minds.

Rejoice, for you open the doors of God's compassion to the sinful.

Rejoice, for you grant forgiveness from God to repentant sinners.

Rejoice, for you help to bring forth fruits worthy of repentance.

Rejoice, great John, Prophet, Forerunner, and Baptist of the Lord.

## KONTAKION 6

A glorious preacher, a divine Forerunner, you were shown to be in the desert of Jordan on the day of the appearance of Christ God to the world, for upon His approaching you, you showed Him to the people, saying, “Behold, the Lamb of God Who takes away the sin of the world.” And we, having known Him through faith, sing to Him: Alleluia.

## IKOS 6

You shone as a light of truth, O John enlightened by God, manifesting to everyone the rich brightness of the glory of the Father, appearing in the flesh for our sake. For you cried out to the people in the wilderness, “Repent, for the Kingdom of heaven is at hand, bring forth fruit worthy of repentance. For behold, there comes after me, One Who will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire.” Therefore, we sing to you with praises:

Rejoice, messenger of the coming of the Messiah.

Rejoice, for you prepared the paths of the Lord.

Rejoice, intercessor of the old and new grace.

Rejoice, end of the prophets and the beginning of the apostles.

Rejoice, renowned voice of the Word.

Rejoice, thundering preacher of repentance.

Rejoice, for you converted many of the sons of Israel to the Lord.

Rejoice, for you made people perfect for the Lord.

Rejoice, for you boldly exposed the Pharisees and Sadducees.

Rejoice, for you teach to bear fruit worthy of repentance.

Rejoice, indicator of spiritual enlightenment.

Rejoice, untiring intercessor for those seeking your protection.

Rejoice, great John, Prophet, Forerunner, and Baptist of the Lord.

## KONTAKION 7

When the Lord Jesus wanted to be baptized, O Divinely-blessed John, you said, “I need to be baptized by You.” However, submitting to Him Who said, “Let it be so now.” You raised your right hand upon His head and having baptized Him Who did not need purification, you cried out: Alleluia.

## IKOS 7

Giving you new grace, the Lord willed to be baptized by you, granting you to behold the coming of the Spirit and to hear the Father’s voice from the heavens testifying to His Sonship. From that time, you taught us to worship One God in Three Persons, Whom glorifying with lips of clay, we offer these praises to you:

Rejoice, first preacher of Trinity’s divine revelation.

Rejoice, true worshipper of the One God in Three Persons.

Rejoice, clear beholder of the Holy Spirit in the form of a dove.

Rejoice, witness to His descent from the Father upon the Son.

Rejoice, hearer of the voice of God the Father from heaven.

Rejoice, beholder of the revelation of the Father's love for the Son.

Rejoice, chosen baptist of the Son of God.

Rejoice, fulfiller of His holy will.

Rejoice, zealous struggler in the glorious service for the salvation of the human race.

Rejoice, first celebrant of the great Mystery of Baptism.

Rejoice, messenger of the divine joy.

Rejoice, first teacher of the New Testament.

Rejoice, great John, Prophet, Forerunner, and Baptist of the Lord.

## KONTAKION 8

Having beheld the strange and inexpressible humility of the Incarnate God the Word, O Divinely-blessed Baptist, when He bowed His Divine Head to you and received a humble baptism, you yourself were completely filled with great humility. Entreat, therefore, the virtue of humility for us also, who are



possessed by pride, that we may sing to Him from a humble heart: Alleluia.

## IKOS 8

Entirely filled with the gifts of grace, in finishing the course of earthly life, O John the Divinely-chosen, you taught everyone to please God well through the fulfillment of the Law and repentance. Therefore, we sing thankful praises to you, the great teacher of the truth:

Rejoice, planter of the Law and Statutes of the Lord.

Rejoice, exposor of Herod's lawlessness.

Rejoice, zealot for his correction.

Rejoice, for you suffered imprisonment and bonds for the sake of righteousness.

Rejoice, for you were beheaded for the truth.

Rejoice, for your body was given an honorable burial by your disciples.

Rejoice, for by God's providence your head was preserved incorrupt.

Rejoice, for it has granted consolation, sanctification, and healing to Christians.

Rejoice, for the faithful piously bow down also before your right hand, which baptized the Lord.

Rejoice, for many miracles are accomplished by it even to the present day.

Rejoice, for by you the faithful are delivered from

the dishonor of passions.

Rejoice, for by you the sinful are moved to repentance.

Rejoice, great John, Prophet, Forerunner, and Baptist of the Lord.

## KONTAKION 9

The angelic realm was amazed at the height of your ministry, and the Church reverently praises you as the friend of Christ God, coming before Him in the spirit and power of Elijah. For, zealous for truth, you boldly exposed the Pharisees and the lawless Herod, from whom you received a martyr's end. Therefore, we bow down before your holy head, and pray to you: deliver us from the dishonor of passions, that with a pure heart and lips we may chant: Alleluia.

## IKOS 9

No words of the earthly-born can suffice worthily to praise you, O John the Divinely-praised, for the lips of Christ praised you, calling you higher than the prophets and the greatest of all those born of a woman. For this reason, not knowing how to offer you worthy praise, we sing to you:

Rejoice, great glory of the Church of Christ.

Rejoice, most marvelous wonder of the angels.

Rejoice, joy and glorification of the forefathers.

Rejoice, illustrious praise of the prophets.

Rejoice, Divinely-illuminated crown of the

apostles.

Rejoice, magnificent beauty of the hierarchs.

Rejoice, beginning of martyrs in the new grace.

Rejoice, perfection of the holy monastics.

Rejoice, adornment of the righteous.

Rejoice, foundation of virgins and fasters.

Rejoice, great consolation of all Christians.

Rejoice, for your name is glorified by all Christian generations.

Rejoice, great John, Prophet, Forerunner, and Baptist of the Lord.

## KONTAKION 10

You proclaimed to those in hell the Gospel of Christ, come in the flesh to save the world, for like the morning star preceding the sun, you illumined those sitting in the darkness and shadow of death, from where you were soon led out by the Lord with all the righteous from the beginning of the age, chanting to Him as the Deliverer and Conqueror of death: Alleluia.

## IKOS 10

You are a wall and saving refuge to all who hasten to you in prayer, O blessed John, therefore, we bless you with these hymns of praise:

Rejoice, our mighty intercessor and faithful preserver from harm.

Rejoice, quick helper and deliverer of those

suffering from the spirits of malice.

Rejoice, for you send down the blessing from God on the barren.

Rejoice, for you deliver those who run to you with faith from great disturbance of passions.

Rejoice, for you quickly reconcile those who are in animosity.

Rejoice, for you grant speedy help to those who fervently hasten to you in every need and sorrow.

Rejoice, for you rescue those who are running the good race from the self-deception and spiritual delusion.

Rejoice, for you help those who entrust themselves to your intercession at the hour of death.

Rejoice, for by your intercession you deliver those who love you from the toll-houses of the air.

Rejoice, for eternal life is granted to those who honor your glorious memory.

Rejoice, defense of the poor and widows and orphans.

Rejoice, after God and the Theotokos, the refuge and hope of Christians.

Rejoice, great John, Prophet, Forerunner, and Baptist of the Lord.

## KONTAKION 11

No hymn is sufficient to praise you according to the legacy of your great deeds, O Baptist of the Lord. But

we, compelled by love, dare to hymn your greatness. Mercifully accept this from us, O intercessor, before the Throne of the Most Holy Trinity, and pray to free us from every sinful corruption, that with pure heart and lips we may chant to God: Alleluia.

## IKOS 11

Knowing you to be a lamp of the Unapproachable Light and entirely filled with the all-radiant gifts of grace, O John the Divinely-enlightened, joyfully we offer you these words of praise:

Rejoice, eyewitness of the Divine Light shining from on high.

Rejoice, for you praise God by the light of your virtues.

Rejoice, for you reveal the majestic glory of the Most Holy Trinity.

Rejoice, for you point out the correct and marvelous path to heaven.

Rejoice, messenger of the Gospel of God Incarnate for those in hell.

Rejoice, bearer of glad tidings for the righteous held in the nether regions from the beginning of the age.

Rejoice, sincere friend of the Master, Christ God.

Rejoice, for you reveal to the world the True Light.

Rejoice, radiance of the shining light of the

Gospel.

Rejoice, glorification of the Christian race.

Rejoice, fulfillment of the Counsel of God.

Rejoice, for from the rising to the setting of the sun your name is to be praised.

Rejoice, great John, Prophet, Forerunner, and Baptist of the Lord.

## KONTAKION 12

Bearing the name of grace, O Baptist of the Lord, and enriched with grace, you appeared as a most glorious bearer of victory, for you conquered enemies and every malice, and you sealed your ministry with martyrdom. And now, standing before the Throne of the King of kings, entreat Him to grant to all the faithful victory over their enemies and Godspeed in all things, and the strengthening of grace in virtues, as they chant to Him: Alleluia.

## IKOS 12

Hymning God, Who was wondrously glorified in you, we praise you, O Divinely-blessed Baptist, as the sincere friend of Christ. We praise your great ascetic struggles, we bless your martyr's death, and joyfully sing to you the words of praise:

Rejoice, universal apostle and first martyr of the New Testament.

Rejoice, first preacher of the Kingdom of heaven manifested by the appearance of Christ on the earth.

Rejoice, foreteller of the divine calling of the Gentiles.

Rejoice, for you manifested to the world the hidden and secret things of the wisdom of God.

Rejoice, for you were shown to be more fruitful than others in divine acts.

Rejoice, for by the light of your works the Heavenly Father was glorified.

Rejoice, for you unspeakably gladden the Church of Christ concerning your memory.

Rejoice, for now you eternally enjoy abundant gladness.

Rejoice, illuminated one by the divine rays of the Light of the Triune sun.

Rejoice, for you unceasingly chant with the bodiless powers the thrice-holy hymn to God.

Rejoice, for now, with the mirror removed, you directly behold the Holy Trinity.

Rejoice, great John, Prophet, Forerunner, and Baptist of the Lord.

## KONTAKION 13

*This kontakion is repeated three times.*

O great and most glorious John, Forerunner and Baptist of the Lord: Receive from us now this supplication offered to you, and by your prayers, which are pleasing to God, deliver us from evil of all kind, and rescue us from eternal suffering, and make

us heirs of the Kingdom of Heaven, that throughout the ages we may chant to God: Alleluia.

*And again:*

## IKOS 1

Archangel Gabriel, who stands before God, was sent to the priest Zachariah, when he, serving according to his rank, entered with incense into the Sanctuary of the Lord. Standing to the right of the Altar of Incense, the angel announced to him the good news of your birth, O great John, proclaiming to Zachariah joy and gladness, as many would rejoice at God's awesome good will concerning you, reverently singing in praise of you:

Rejoice, inexpressible confidant of the counsel of God.

Rejoice, fulfillment of His marvelous plan of salvation.

Rejoice, for you were revealed many years before by the prophecy of Isaiah.

Rejoice, messenger before the face of the Lord, prophesied of old.

Rejoice, for you were foreordained to be a great prophet of the Most High.

Rejoice, for you were born according to the promise of an angel.

Rejoice, for you were filled with the Holy Spirit



even in your mother's womb.

Rejoice, for you were consecrated for a great ministry before your birth.

Rejoice, release of parents' barrenness.

Rejoice, joy and gladness of a priest of God.

Rejoice, offspring of a daughter of Aaron.

Rejoice, God-given fruit of prayer.

Rejoice, great John, Prophet, Forerunner, and Baptist of the Lord.

## KONTAKION 1

Chosen from days of old to be the Forerunner and Baptist of Christ God, the Savior of the world, O Divinely-praised John, while glorifying the Lord, Who glorified you, we sing you hymns of praise as to the greatest of those born of a woman, as to an angel in the flesh and preacher of repentance. For as you have great boldness before the Lord, free us from dangers of all kinds and move us to repentance, as we sing to you with love:

Rejoice, great John, Prophet, Forerunner and Baptist of the Lord.

## LITANY

*Priest:* Have mercy on us, O God, in Your great goodness, we pray You, hear us and have mercy.

*People:* Lord, have mercy. (3x)

Again we pray for our Patriarch *[name]*, and for

our Bishop [name], for priests, deacons, and all other clergy, and for all our brethren in Christ.

*People:* Lord, have mercy. (3x)

Again we pray for this country, its president, for all civil authorities, and for the armed forces.

*People:* Lord, have mercy. (3x)

Again we pray for mercy, life, peace, health, salvation, and visitation for the servants of God [names], and for all parishioners of our community, and for the forgiveness and remission of our sins.

*People:* Lord, have mercy. (3x)

We also pray to You, O Lord our God, that the voice of our petition and prayer be heard: Have mercy upon Your servants, [names], in Your grace and goodness, and fulfill all our supplications, and forgive our transgressions both voluntary and involuntary, that our petitions and offerings be acceptable before the Throne of Your Majesty, and protect us from all visible and invisible enemies, from all attacks, misfortune, and sorrow, and save us from illness, and grant us health and length of days: we pray You, O Lord, hear us and have mercy.

*People:* Lord, have mercy. (3x)

Look down, O Master Who love of mankind with Your merciful eye upon Your servants, [name], and hear our prayers offered in faith, for You Yourself have said, “Whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you receive them, and you will have them”

(Mark 11:24), and again, “Ask, and it will be given to you” (Matthew 7:7, Luke 11:9), therefore, though unworthy, but trusting Your mercy, we ask: Grant Your grace to all of us gathered here today, and to our relatives, friends, and neighbors, to those who are in need of Your mercy, and fulfill all of our good desires, preserve us in peace and safety, in health and length of days all of our life, we pray You, hear us quickly and graciously have mercy.

*People:* Lord, have mercy. (3x)

Hear us, O God our Savior, the Hope of all the ends of the earth, and show mercy to those far off upon the sea, and show mercy, O Master, upon us sinners, and be merciful to us. For You are a merciful God and love mankind, and to You we give glory, to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages.

*People:* Amen.

## PRAYER to SAINT JOHN the BAPTIST

*Priest:* Let us pray to the Holy Prophet, Forerunner, and Baptist John.

*People:* O Holy John, pray to God for us.

*Priest:* O Baptist of Christ, Holy Forerunner, last of the prophets, first of the martyrs, instructor of fasters and desert-dwellers, teacher of purity, and close friend of Christ: We pray to you, we run to you,

do not reject us from your protection, but lift us up who are fallen in many sins, renew our souls by repentance, as by a second Baptism. Purify us, corrupted by sins, and compel us to enter into the Kingdom of heaven where no corruption can enter.

*People:* Amen.

## DISMISSAL

*Priest:* Wisdom. Most Holy Theotokos, save us.

*Reader:* More honorable than the Cherubim, and more glorious beyond compare than the Seraphim, without corruption you gave birth to God the Word, true Theotokos we magnify you.

*Priest:* Glory to You, O Christ our God and our hope, glory to You.

*Reader:* Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Lord, have mercy. (3x) Father bless.

*Priest:* May Christ our true God, by the prayers of His most pure Mother; by the prayers of the holy Prophet, Forerunner, and Baptist John; by the prayers of the holy and righteous Ancestors of God, Joachim and Anna; and by the prayers of all the saints, have mercy on us and save us, for He is good and loves mankind.

*People:* Amen.