

January 4

**Third day of the Forefeast of Theophany;
Synaxis of the Seventy Holy Disciples;
Commemoration of our venerable father Theoctistos,
Hegumen of the Monastery of Cucume in Sicily
(5th Class)**

VESPERS

Stichera for the Disciples (Tone 6)

6. O Cleophas, Andronicos, Sylvan, Agabos, Ananias and Philip, Prochoros and Nicanor, Sosthenes and Rufus, with Stachys and Linus, Stephen, Timon, Hermas and Phlegon, Mark and Luke, Sosipater, Tychicos and Philemon, Gaius and Jason: by our sacred hymns, we the faithful call you blessed.
5. Narcissos and Trophimos, Caesar and Zenas, Aristarchos, Silas, with Mark and Gaius, Hermes, Asyncritos, Cephas, Apollos, Clement and Justin, with Erastes and Quartos, Luke, Onesiphoros, Evodios and Carpos, James and Matthias, Aristobulos and Urban, with Aristarchos and Tychicos: you are all worthily venerated!
4. Pudens, Herodion, Philologos, Artemas, Rhodion, Olympas, Apelles, Amphias, Patrobos and Titus, Tertios and Thaddeus, the admirable Epenetos, Archaicos, Aquila, Lucios, Barnabas, Fortunatos, Crescens and Apollos, so worthy of our hymns, sacred heralds of our God: we wish to honor you!

For Theoctistos (Tone 2)

3. O blessed Theoctistos, when your soul was wounded by love for God, you took up your Cross and followed the crucified One with joy. Mortifying the cares of the flesh by abstinence, you welcomed the living energy of the Spirit into yourself, in order to put an end to the winter of sickness by the warmth of your prayers acceptable to God. Thus, with one voice, we call you blessed.
2. When by your ceaseless prayers and constant fasting, you purified your soul's vision, O holy Father, you became a temple for the triple-lighted Divinity. Receiving the holy unction of priesthood, you entered into the sanctuary to offer in sacrifice the One who had been sacrificed for you through His ineffable condescension toward us.
1. O father Theoctistos, you manifested a pure sweetness and resignation in your soul. You inherited the earth promised to the meek. Deified in communion with God, you experience true joy, delight and rejoicing. Constantly remember the faithful who wholeheartedly celebrate and venerate your holy falling asleep.
- v. Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and forever and to the ages of ages. Amen.

Dogmatikon (Tone 3)

Radiant was the feast that passed; the day that approaches is full of glory. In the first, the Magi adored the Savior; on the second, a chosen servant baptizes the Lord. Then the shepherds, passing the night in the fields, saw and worshiped the only Son, whom the Father now proclaims with His own voice.

"O Joyful Light..." Prokimenon of Wednesday evening.

APOSTICHA (*Tone 2*)

1. O lampstand of the true Light, ray announcing the Sun, Forerunner of the Word, Friend of the Bridegroom: carry out your ministry, O prophet!

All: I think of you from the country of Jordan and Mount Hermon.

2. Behold, illumination has come to the Jordan, and the Redeemer is manifested. Come, let us all purify ourselves and sing of the forefeast with joy.

All: The waters saw You, O God; the waters saw You and trembled.

3. All good has come to me through you, O Mother of God: the divine Incarnation, the enlightenment from the Jordan, and my communion in the divine Light.

All: Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and forever and to the ages of ages. Amen.

Dogmatikon (*Tone 6*)

Christ, the Truth, comes to the Jordan to be baptized by holy John, who says to Him: "I should be baptized by You, yet You come to me! I who am chaff dare not touch the Fire. O Master, sanctify me by Your holy Theophany!"

TROPARION OF THE DISCIPLES (*Tone 3*)

O holy Disciples, intercede with the Merciful God that He may grant our souls the forgiveness of sins.

v. Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit,

TROPARION OF THEOCTISTOS (*Tone 8*)

Your abundant tears made the wilderness sprout and bloom, and your deep sighings made your labors fruitful a hundredfold. You became a star shining over the world with miracles, holy father Theoctistos. Pray to Christ God that He may save our souls.

- now and forever and to the ages of ages. Amen.

TROPARION OF THE FOREFEAST (*Tone 4*)

Make ready, Zebulon, and prepare Nephtali! And you, Jordan River, stop your flow and receive with a thrill of joy the Master coming to be baptized. And you, Adam, rejoice with the first mother, Eve, and hide not as you did of old in Paradise: for Christ at the sight of your nakedness has come forth to clothe you with the robe of innocence. Indeed, Christ has come to renew the whole creation.