



7 - 11 Jan, 2020

Jesus Christ, Whom we have put on

**‘For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus.
For as many of you as were baptized into Christ
have put on Christ’ Galatians 3:26-27**

‘There is not one Theophany, but two’ Saint John Chrysostom

- † Theophany means the manifestation of God
- † The one actual, which already has occurred at the Baptism of Christ, and the second in the future, which will happen with glory at the end of the world
- † Saint Paul tells Titus about the first Theophany, *‘For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men, teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age’ Ti 2:11-12*
- † He continues to say about the second Theophany, *‘looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ’ Ti 2:13*

Why is not the day on which the Lord was born considered Theophany?

- † Jesus Christ revealed Himself as God on the day He was baptized. On that same day the Trinity was revealed too **(Mt 3:13-17)**

The baptism of John was like a bridge between both baptisms, the Jewish and the Christian

- † The Jewish cleansings did not free from sins, but only from bodily impurities
- † *‘There is also an antitype which now saves us—baptism (not the removal of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God), through the resurrection of Jesus Christ’ 1 Pt 3:22*
- † The Christian baptism manifests a great grace, whereby it sets free from sin, it cleanses the spirit and bestows the gifts of the Spirit
- † The baptism of John was far more sublime than the Jewish, but less so than the Christian **(Jn 3:1-12)**

- † John did not say, ‘wash your clothes, wash your body, and ye will be pure,’ but rather, ‘*bear fruits worthy of repentance*’ (Mt 3:8)
- † John’s baptism gave the commandment to repent, but it was powerless to absolve sins
- † *‘I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance, but He who is coming after me is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire’* Mt 3:11
- † Paul asked some disciples in Ephesus if they have received the Holy Spirit when they believed (Acts 19:1-6). They had been baptized John’s baptism but have not heard of the Holy Spirit. Paul says, *‘John indeed baptized with a baptism of repentance, saying to the people that they should believe on Him who would come after him, that is, on Christ Jesus. ‘When they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus...the Holy Spirit came upon them’* Acts 19:4-6

Clothed with Christ (Mt 22:1-14)

- † Through baptism we ‘put on Christ’
 - If we have put on Christ, then we have put on His love, His forgiveness, His peace, His joy, His servanthood, then we shall suffer as Christ suffered; we shall be persecuted for the truth as Christ was persecuted, we shall be resurrected as Jesus was, we shall be glorified as Christ was glorified, we shall ascend to the Father as He ascended to the Father we shall sit at the right hand of the Father with Jesus we shall partake of His divine nature and share in His life and glory, becoming ‘gods by grace’ as He is God by nature and essence
- † *‘But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to fulfill its lusts’* Rom 13:14
- † The man in verse 11, was not naked, or in rags; he was dressed up but not in a wedding garment worthy of the Joyful Wedding Banquet which is the Kingdom of Heaven
- † Those who put on Jesus Christ, who live by faith in Christ, and to whom He is all in all, have put on the wedding garment
- † *‘and that you put on the new man which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness’* Eph 4:24
- † *‘and have put on the new man who is renewed in knowledge according to the image of Him who created him’* Col 3:10

Bibliography

1. 'On the Night of Nativity.' Orthodox.net. Accessed September 10, 2019. <http://www.orthodox.net/nativity/on-night-of-nativity-ephraim-syrian.html>.
2. Unless otherwise noted, all Biblical passages referenced are from the New King James Version

Legend

 Refers to mandatory readings

Verse to memorize

'For all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ' Galatians 3:27

In my Prayer and Faith Autobiography Book

God acts

✝ The Holy Spirit has clothed me with Christ

My reaction

✝ Am I compassionate and merciful even to those who do not love me?

✝ Am I seeking Christ's knowledge, wisdom and courage?

During the coming week, let us pray expectantly

1. seeking the Lord's will to be done in Lebanon
2. for CrossTalk to find a locale
3. for David, Gisele, Habib and Karim
4. to become more of saints and less of sinners
5. to seek the Lord in every word I say, every act I do and every thought I think
6. to help in building His Kingdom by building His Church on earth
7. to deny ourselves, carry our cross and follow Him
8. to thank Him for creating us and each one around us, on His image and likeness, and choosing us to reveal His splendor
9. to all the sick
10. to all those in prison
11. to the unity of the Christians
12. to one another to be honest and not lack integrity
13. to put all that we have in the Lord's hands trusting His management
14. to all the Christians who are being persecuted, and to those who are persecuting them

15. to all families, that the Lord unites the parents together in His Name and stops all fights

16. to the situation in Lebanon, Syria, Egypt, Iraq and the whole region

During this coming week, we will lift the Maronite Church in prayer

الصلاة الربانية

أبانا الَّذِي فِي السَّمَوَاتِ
لِيَتَقَدَّسَ اسْمُكَ
لِيَأْتِ مَلَكُوتُكَ
لِتَكُنْ مَشِيئَتُكَ
كَمَا فِي السَّمَاءِ
كَذَلِكَ عَلَى الْأَرْضِ
أَعْطِنَا خُبْرَنَا كِفَافَتَ يَوْمِنَا
وَاعْفُرْ لَنَا ذُنُوبَنَا وَخَطَايَانَا
كَمَا نَحْنُ نَعْفُرُ
لِمَنْ خَطِيئَتُنَا إِلَيْنَا
وَلَا تُدْخِلْنَا فِي التَّجَارِبِ
لَكِنْ نَجِّنَا مِنَ الشَّرِّيرِ
لَأَنَّ لَكَ الْمَلِكَ وَالْقُوَّةَ وَالْمَجْدَ
إِلَى أَبَدِ الْأَبَدِينَ
أَمِينَ

قانون الايمان

نؤمن بالله واحد
أب ضابط الكل
خالق السماء والأرض
كل ما يرى وما لا يرى
وبرب واحد يسوع المسيح
ابن الله الوحيد
المولود من الأب قبل كل الدهور
إله من إله، نور من نور، إله حق من إله حق
مولود غير مخلوق، مساو للأب في الجوهر
الذي به كان كل شيء
الذي من أجلنا نحن البشر ومن أجل خلاصنا
نزل من السماء
وتجسد من الروح القدس ومن مريم العذراء
وصار إنساناً
وصُلب عنا على عهد بيلاطس البنطي
تألم ومات وقبر
وقام في اليوم الثالث كما جاء في الكتب
وصعد إلى السماء وجلس عن يمين الله الأب
وأيضاً يأتي بمجد عظيم ليدين الأحياء والأموات
الذي لا فناء لملكه
ونؤمن بالروح القدس
الرب المحيي
المنبثق من الأب والابن
الذي هو مع الأب والابن
يُسجد له ويُمجَّد
الناطق بالأنبياء والرسل
وبكنيسة واحدة، جامعة، مقدسة، رسولية
ونعترف بعمودية واحدة لمغفرة الخطايا
ونترجى قيامة الموتى والحياة الجديدة
في الدهر الآتي
أمين