

Koinonia Year Two—January
Content from *Growing Faithful*
Scripture from the NRSV Bible

**The Holy Theophany (or Epiphany)
of Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ
January 6**

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, Amen.

Kontakion of the Holy Theophany of Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ

Today you have appeared to the inhabited world,
and your light, O Lord, has been signed upon us,
who with knowledge sing your praise:
You have come,
you have appeared,
the unapproachable Light.

HEAR the Word of God—

Titus 2:11-14; 3:4-7

11For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, 12training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, 13while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. 14He it is who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.

3:4But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, 5he saved us, not because of any works of righteousness that we had done, but according to his mercy, through the water of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit. 6This Spirit he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, 7so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

Matthew 3:13-17

13Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan, to be baptized by him. 14John would have prevented him, saying, "I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?" 15But Jesus answered him, "Let it be so now; for it is proper for us in this way to fulfill all righteousness." Then he consented. 16And when Jesus had been baptized, just as he came up from the water, suddenly the heavens were opened to him

and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him. 17And a voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased."

Please read also the Matins Gospel reading—Mark 1:9-11.

SHARE thoughts and insights—

- * How are we saved?
- * How are we justified?
- * What is the grace of God?
- * How and where do you see the grace of God in the Gospel reading?
- * How and where do you see the Trinity in the baptism of Christ?
- * How does Christ's baptism reveal *the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ*?
- * What of "eternity now" do you see—experience and realize—in and through the Theophany of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ?
- ~ Why did John not want to baptize Jesus? What did Jesus say to John?
- ~ Why do you think Jesus wanted to be baptized?
- ~ What is the Holy Trinity?
- ~ Who are the Holy Trinity?
- ~ What sign do we make on ourselves and each other to represent the Holy Trinity?
- ~ Describe the Spirit of God.

GROW in faith—

- * How do we grow in grace?
- * What does grace look like in your life?
- * How would you like to grow in the grace of God?
- * How would you like the grace of God to grow in you?

~ Picture God saying to you, “You are my child, my beloved, in you I am delighted.”

SERVE one another in love—

* Practice living deeply in the grace of God so that *the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior* will be revealed in and through you.

~ Make the Sign of the Cross on someone you love each day for a week.

PRAY—

Apolytikion of the Holy Theophany of Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ

As you were baptized in the Jordan, Lord,
the worship of the Trinity was made manifest,
for the voice of the Father bore witness to you,
naming you the Beloved Son;
and the Spirit, in the form of a dove, confirmed the sureness of the word.

Christ God,
who appeared and enlightened the world,
glory to you.