

VECER ON LINE

GOD APPEARED

Today is Twelfth Day- Epiphany

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In Biblical Palestine, on the 19th day of January, the day of Epiphany (when God appeared), the Son of God entered into the Jordan waters. St. John the Baptist baptized him. In memory of the baptism of the Lord Jesus Christ and the announcement of the Holy Trinity, the great Lord's feast Epiphany is celebrated.



When the Lord Jesus reached thirty years of physical life, he began his teaching and redeemer efforts. The very beginning of this he marked with receiving Baptism of Jordan.

In the words of St. Cyril of Jerusalem:

"The beginning of the world is water, the beginning of the Gospel is Jordan."

When Jesus Christ was baptized in the waters of the Jordan, the secret was revealed to the world which in the Old Testament was only hinted at, for which in Egypt and India was legendary: The Secret of the Divine Trinity.

At age 30 He was baptized in the Jordan River, by John the Baptist.

"Do not be afraid" - Jesus told John - be brave: Baptize me: for I will free the world, I submit to death to survive the numb nature. You, though I command you, you shirk to lend your helping hand, and the Jews, after a while will not be ashamed to shamelessly raise their hands against Me, to deliver me to death... Because of man, I became Man. So, it is no wonder that as the Son of Man, I came to be baptized. For, creation on my own hands I did not overripe, I did not embarrass from the earthly nature; I remain as I was, and what I was not, I took upon myself, and my being remains unchangeable. " (St. John Golden-mouth)

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Orthodox Christians celebrate on Monday the great Christian holiday of Epiphany - Epiphany.

With entry into the River Jordan, Jesus consecrated the water, the holiday is also known by the name Epiphany.

On this day we celebrate the Father who spoke from above and Whose voice was heard, His son, who down on the earth is being baptized in the Jordan waters, and the Spirit, Which descended like a dove. We celebrate the Trinity One God Whom we worship forever.



In memory of this divine secret - Baptism of the Lord Jesus Christ, to commemorate this important event in the life of His salvation work on earth today, even today water is consecrated.

On the holiday the Epiphany, a great Epiphany ceremony is held and that is outside the temple in his yard, at sea, lake, river, fountain, source, etc.

Solemnly, with a procession, you head to the site of the waters.

You invoke prayers to God, for the waters to be sanctified, with power, action and the descent of the Holy Spirit and for us to be enlightened by the light of knowledge.

Let God grant us boon and send us the Jordan blessing.

The church song: "The voice of the Lord " is sung –the call above the waters is:

“Come, all receive the spirit of wisdom, the spirit of understanding, the spirit of fear Godly, from Christ Who called ... Lord, you came to the voice of one crying in the wilderness - Prepare the way of the Lord - after receiving the character of a servant, seeking baptism - You who knew no sin. They saw the waters and got scared.

Pretechata trembled and cried: How to light a beacon of light, as a servant to lay the hand of the Lord? Sanctify me and the waters, Savior, You, Who takes the sin of the world".

With songs we celebrate the greatness and wonders of God:

"How Great Thou, O Lord, and marvelous are thy works, and not one word is enough to sing Thy wonders."

On January 20 celebrations are held with songs the holiday Council of St. John the Forerunner and Baptist of the Lord.

This day marks the memory of the right hand of St. John the Baptist, the holy hand that touches the head of Christ at baptism, which the Holy Evangelist Luke relayed from Sebastia in Antioch.

Later it was transferred to Constantinople.

For the greatness of John the Baptist, the Lord Jesus Christ himself tells us:

"Truly I tell you, among those born of women there has not appeared one greater than John the Baptist."

St. John the Baptist publicly criticized the immorality of King Herod, who lived with the wife of his brother Philip, who was alive.

That's why he ordered his beheading.

Temples dedicated to St. John are built on the site of the baptism of the Lord, in Sebastia - where he was slain in Antioch - where St. Ev. Luke brought his right hand in Constantinople - the world where this holy hand was transferred from Antioch, as well as worldwide.

Exactly at the place where the Jordan River flows out of the Sea of Galilee is the place of the baptism - Jordanit. Pilgrims, devotees and tourists from around the world gather here and dressed in long white shirts, enter into Jordan and are baptized.