

A Universal and Supernal Celebration*

*Christ-loving Brothers and Sisters in Christ, beloved of God,
Radiant children of our Light-Bearing Orthodoxy:*



Yet again, today, a universal celebration!

“Things above keep festival with things below, and things below converse with things above”¹!

All of creation mystically dances, for the “Ancient Counsel”² of God, the “Good Pleasure”³ of the Father, Who loves Mankind, is revealed and proclaimed.

The Heavenly and the earthly, the visible and the invisible, all things “are gathered together in one”⁴ and are joined in one harmonious unity, in the Theanthropic Person of

our Savior Jesus Christ, by the co-working of the Holy Spirit.

Taking part in this universal and supernal celebration, we venerate with gratitude the Immaculate Mother of our Lord, the “Gate of Heaven.”⁵ By means of her, “all good things”⁶ came into the world: “God among men, the Light of the Jordan,”⁷ and all we Who are in the Light of the Holy Trinity!

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Feast-loving assembly of the Orthodox:

The Holy Trinity rejoices, and greatly rejoices, over the Great Mystery of the Divine Incarnation, which is made known, today, by revelation and with great voice, in the waters of the Jordan.

Angels, men, and all of creation exult, and greatly exult today, for, in the Baptized God-Man, unto Whom witness is borne, they see their *perfection*, their *deification*, and their *glory*.⁸

And the Holy Synod in Resistance of the Orthodox Church, following the Calendar of the Fathers, prays, in joy and exaltation, that the world be illumined “by the light of knowledge and reverence, through the descent of the Holy Spirit”;⁹ be re-Baptized in the light-bearing Mysteries of the Holy Church; and be renewed by its participation in the life of the Holy Trinity, that “the Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Love of our God and Father, and the Communion of the Holy Spirit”¹⁰ might be unceasingly and abundantly poured out onto our pious generation and onto all of mankind. Amen!

** Delivered by His Eminence, Metropolitan Cyprian of Oropos and Fili, at the radiant celebration of Holy Theophany in Oropos, Attika, on 6 January 2007 (Old Style).*

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1. Great Blessing of the Waters, Prologue.
 2. Cf. Isaiah 25:1.
 3. Cf. St. Matthew 3:17, 12:18, 17:5; II St. Peter 1:17.
 4. Cf. Ephesians 1:10
 5. Cf. Genesis 28:17; Ezekiel 44:1.
 6. Cf. The Menaion, 4 January, verses at Vespers.
 7. Ibid.
 8. Cf. St. Nikodemos the Hagiorite, On II Peter 1:17.
 9. Great Blessing of the Waters, Petitions.
 10. Cf. II Corinthians 13:13.