

*[The priest then breaks the cake in half with the head of the household, holding the two halves together, the priest offers it to each person in the circle and all kiss it. The priest greets them each time with "Christ is in our midst" (or "Christ is risen") and they respond, "He is and always shall be." Then the following Troparia are sung]:*

*(Tone 2) Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; through the prayers of Saint John the Forerunner, O Merciful One, blot out the multitude of our transgressions.*

*Now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.*

Through the prayers of the Theotokos, O Merciful One, blot out the multitude of our transgressions.

*(Tone 6) Have mercy on me O God, according to Thy great goodness, and according to the multitude of Thy tender mercies, blot out my transgressions.*

Today the grace of the Holy Spirit gathers us together, and we all say, taking up Thy Cross: Blessed is He that comes in the Name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest!

*Priest: Have mercy on us O God, according to Thy great goodness, we pray Thee, hearken and have mercy!*

People: Lord, have mercy! (3x)

*Priest: Again we pray for our Bishop (name).*

People: Lord, have mercy! (3x)

*Priest: Again we pray for all of our brethren in Christ.*

People: Lord, have mercy! (3x)

*Priest: Again we pray for this home and for those who dwell herein (read the list of names), for mercy, life, peace, health and salvation, and for the pardon and remission of their sins.*

People: Lord, have mercy! (3x)

*Priest: For Thou art a merciful God Who lovest mankind, and unto Thee do we send up glory, to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages.*

People: Amen.

*Priest: Most Holy Theotokos save us!*

People: More honorable than the Cherubim and more glorious beyond compare than the Seraphim, without corruption thou gavest birth to God, the Word. True Theotokos, we magnify thee!

*Priest: Glory to Thee, O Christ our God and our hope, glory to Thee!*

People: Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen. Lord, have mercy (3x). Father, bless!

*[The priest intones the Dismissal for the Day, then sings "Many Years" and blesses all with holy water.]*

## Slava for St. John the Forerunner



*Commemorated January 7 / 20*

### **Cutting of the Patron Saint's Cake (kolach)**

*[The Priest is vested in Epitrachelion. The table is prepared with a Patron Saint's cake (kolach), a candle, a glass or cruet of red wine, a bread knife, and a list of the members of the household (living and departed). In many places it is also the custom to have a bowl of boiled sweetened wheat (koliva). The icon of the Patron saint will be on the table or on the wall nearby. The Priest begins with censer]:*

*Priest: Blessed is our God, always now and ever and unto ages of ages!*

People: Amen

Reader: Glory to Thee our God, glory to Thee! O Heavenly King the Comforter the Spirit of truth Who art everywhere present and fillest all things. Treasury of blessings and Giver of Life, come and abide in us, and cleanse us from every impurity and save our souls, O Good One!

Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal, have mercy on us! (3x)  
Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit,  
now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

O Most-holy Trinity, have mercy on us. Lord, cleanse us from our sins. Master, pardon our transgressions. Holy One, visit and heal our infirmities for Thy Name's sake.

Lord, have mercy (3x)! Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Our Father, Who art in Heaven, hallowed be Thy Name; Thy Kingdom come; Thy will be done on earth as it is in Heaven. Give us This day our Daily Bread, and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us, and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.

*Priest: For Thine is the Kingdom and the power and the glory of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages.*

People: Amen.

#### *Troparion for Saint John (Tone 2)*

The memory of the just is celebrated with hymns of praise, but the Lord's testimony is sufficient for you, O Forerunner. You were shown indeed to be the most honorable of the Prophets, for in the waters you baptized the One whom they preached. After suffering with joy on behalf of the truth, you proclaimed even to those in Hades the God Who appeared in the flesh, Who takes away the sin of the world, and grants us great mercy!

*Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit,  
now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.*

#### *Kontakion for Saint John (Tone 6)*

The River Jordan trembled, and was driven back filled with fear at Thy coming in the flesh, while John drew back in awe as he fulfilled the ministry of the Spirit. The ranks of Angels stood amazed, when they beheld Thee baptized in the stream; and we, who were in darkness, are filled with Light. We praise Thee, O God made manifest, as Thou dost enlighten all!

*[Then the priest blesses the wheat by pouring wine on it cross-wise after reciting this prayer]:*

*Priest: Let us pray to the Lord!*

People: Lord, have mercy.

*Priest: O Lord, Who created all things by Thy Word, and commanded the earth to bring forth various fruits for our food and drink, Who sustained the three youths and Daniel with vegetables in Babylon and showed them to be enlightened with good answers; do Thou, O most good King, Thyself bless these seeds of various fruits, and sanctify those who shall partake thereof; for this is offered by Thy servants for Thy glory, and in honor of Saint John and in memory of those faithful who have fallen asleep in the Lord (read the list of the departed). Grant them, O good One, all good things and a perfect remembrance, and all that is unto salvation and Thine eternal good things, through the prayers of our most-blessed Lady Theotokos and ever-virgin Mary, and Saint John, whose memory we celebrate, and of all Thy saints. For Thou art He Who blesses and sanctifies all things, O our God, and unto Thee we send up glory, to the Father Who is without beginning and Thine only-begotten Son, and Thine all-holy and good and life-giving Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages.*

People: Amen.

*[The priest then blesses the bread and wine saying]:*

O Lord Jesus Christ, our God, bless this bread and this wine by Thy Holy Spirit, for Thou art holy always, now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen. (3x)

*[Then taking the bread in his hands and elevating it, he says]:*

O Lord our God, we offer this unto Thee for the honor and glory of Saint John the Forerunner. By his prayers, O Most Merciful One, accept this sacrifice upon Thy heavenly Altar.

*[The priest then makes cuts in the cake from the bottom (about ¾ of the way through) in the form of a cross. He pours the blessed wine into the cuts in the form of the cross, and turns the bread right side up. The priest, members of the family, and guests gather around the bread and turn it with their fingers as they sing]:*

O holy Martyrs who fought the good fight and have received your crowns, entreat ye the Lord that He will have mercy on our souls!

Glory to Thee, O Christ God, the Apostles boast, the Martyrs' joy, whose preaching was the consubstantial Trinity!

Rejoice O Isaiah, a Virgin is with child, and shall call His Name Emmanuel, both God and Man, and Orient is His Name. Magnifying Him we call the Virgin blessed!