

January 14: Apodosis of Theophany; St. Nina Stichera of the Litia

*If vigil is celebrated, at Litia we chant the stichera of the feast, the composition of Cosmas the Monk, idiomela, in **Tone 4**:*

He that doth clothe Himself with light as it were with a garment / hath
deigned for our sake to become like as we are; / and today He is covered with
the streams of the Jordan, / though He hath no need to be purified by them, /
but that, through the cleansing He receiveth, / He might Himself bestow
regeneration upon us. / Oh, the wonder! / Without fire Christ God, the Savior
of our souls, casteth anew, / and without shattering He fashioneth, //
and He saveth those who are enlightened in Him.

Beholding Thee, Who in the Spirit and in fire / doth purge away the sin of the
world, / coming to Him, the Baptist cried out in awe and trembling, saying: /
"I dare not touch Thine all-pure head! / Do Thou sanctify me by Thy divine
epiphany, // O Master Who alone lovest mankind!"

Come ye, let us emulate the wise virgins! / Come ye, let us greet the
Master Who hath appeared unto us! / For He hath come to John like a
Bridegroom. / The Jordan, seeing Thee, was afraid and ceased its flow. /
And John cried out: "I dare not touch the head of the Immortal One!" /
The Spirit descended in the form of a dove, to sanctify the water. /
And a voice was heard from heaven, saying: / "This is my Son Who hath
come into the world to save the human race!" // O Lord, glory be to Thee!

*(In the same tone, **Tone 4**)*

Christ is baptizēd. / He cometh up out of the waters / and leadeth the world up
with Himself. / And He beholdeth the heavens opening, / which Adam closed to
himself and to those with him. / And the Spirit beareth witness to His divinity, /
for He maketh haste to come to His like. / And a voice is heard from heaven; //
for the Savior of our souls is borne witness to from thence.

The hand of the baptist trembled / when it touched Thine all-pure head. /
The River Jordan turned back, not daring to minister unto Thee; / for if it was in
awe of Joshua son of Nun, / how could it not have been stricken with awe by its
own Creator? / O our Savior Who alone lovest mankind, / Thou hast fulfilled all
Thy dispensation, // that Thou mayest save the world by Thine epiphany.

Reader: In the 1st Tone: (the stichera of St. Nina)

The virgin Nina loved Christ God, Who was born of the Virgin, /
that with a loud voice she might proclaim His holy name / to the tribes of
Iberia. / Wherefore, Christ the Lord, the heavenly Bridegroom, /
bestowed upon her the gifts of the Holy Spirit / and made her an equal of the
apostles, / in that she is the vessel of the grace of the Spirit; / and through her
He hath given us salvation, // in that He loveth mankind.

O Christ, thou radiant Bridegroom, / where Thy feet were sweetly redolent, /
there trod Thy holy and chaste bride, the blessed Nina, / the pure dove, the
magnificent turtle-dove, / the melodious swallow; / and, exhaling the
fragrance of Thy myrrh, / she proclaimed Thy holy name with a loud voice, //
and with mighty power taught all the people of Iberia and Kartli to believe in
Thy divinity.

*(In the same tone, **Tone 1**)*

The dread power of darkness is cast down; / the devil hath been vanquished! /
Thunder hath smitten Armazi, / and the wrath of heaven hath overtaken
Zaden. / The Cross hath been lifted up, / and we have been given access to
the holy font of grace-bearing baptism / at the life-creating footprint./
Wherefore, having received baptism / through thy preaching of Christ,
O most lauded Nina, / we, the children of God, are gladdened spiritually, //
and renewed, we hymn Christ God.

Reader: Glory, in the 2nd Tone:

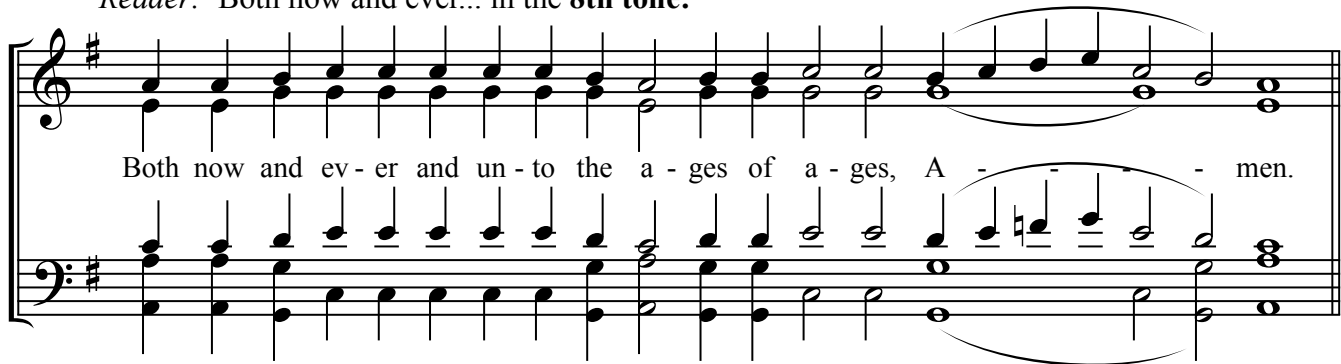
chant

Glory to the Fa-ther, and to the Son, and to the Ho-ly Spi - rit.

descant

Today the hosts of heaven rejoice with those one earth; /
today the land of Kartli, protected by the Cross, is arrayed in power, /
and the horn of the Church is lifted up; /
today the temple of the all-holy Theotokos is magnificently adorned /
for the memorial of the holy Nina. /
O ye faithful, let us hymn Christ, Who is both God and man, /
and let us cry aloud: //
Glory to God in the highest!

Reader: Both now and ever... in the **8th tone**:



Both now and ev - er and un - to the a - ges of a - ges, A - - men.

Today creation is enlightened! /

Today all things are glad, /

those of heaven and those on earth! /

Angels and men mingle together! /

For where the King arriveth, there doth order prevail. /

Wherefore, let us all hasten to the Jordan /

and see how John baptizeth the sinless head which no man fashioned. /

And, chanting the cry of the angel, /

let us exclaim together: /

The grace of God hath appeared, saving all men, //

illuminating and granting mercy unto the faithful!