

In today's Gospel, Mark 1:1-8, we hear of a person, a voice crying in the wilderness preaching baptism and repentance for the forgiveness of sins. This person clothed in camel's hair, with a leather girdle around his waist ate locusts and wild honey. The Holy and Glorious Prophet, Forerunner and Baptist, Saint John is he who proclaimed that after him, One mightier would come to baptize with the Holy Spirit.

Dearest ones, Saint John foretold of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ's coming, and proclaimed upon seeing Him, "Behold the Lamb of God, Which takes away the sin of the world." (John 1:29) Tomorrow we celebrate the Theophany of Christ Jesus, to which through the Baptism by Saint John, was revealed that He indeed was the Son of God witnessed by the descent of the Holy Spirit as a dove upon Him and the voice of the Father saying, "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased." (Matthew 3:17)

Christ is the light of the world; He who shines amidst the darkness and overcomes it! Yet, sometimes we may become overwhelmed with what is going on around us or within us. Let us remember that He is always with us and enlightens us if we reach out to Him who appeared and enlightened the world. Let us pray to the Holy Trinity whose veneration was revealed on this day, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, amen.