



■ † Synaxis of St. John the Forerunner

## “The Lamb of God Who taketh away the sin of the world”\*

**S**t John bore witness to Christ Jesus, that He is in truth “The Lamb of God, Who taketh away the sin of the world” (St. John 1:29), that He is the promised Redeemer, awaited by all.

Those who were near him heard this and believed. From them this witness passed on to the people, and everyone began to think that He to Whom John bore witness was not an ordinary man.

The Savior pointed this out when, during His last days, He posed a question to the chiefs of the Temple: “The baptism of John, was it from Heaven or of men?” (St. Mark 11:30).

They refrained from answering, because it was impossible for them not to see that John, baptizing with water, had not come of himself. But if they were to say this, they would immediately have to acknowledge John's testimony that the Messiah was before them, and would therefore be compelled to submit to His teaching.

But they did not want to submit—not for any well-founded reasons, but solely because of their prejudice.

However, their obstinacy does not in the least lessen the power of the witness of St. John. To this day, it is as



certain as it was when it came forth from his mouth.

**W**e hearken to John, who shows us the true Redeemer, and through his witness we strengthen our faith, as a faith that has tangible proof behind it.



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(\*) St. Theophan the Recluse, *Thoughts for Each Day of the Year According to the Daily Church Readings from the Word of God*