

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 13

TONE 2

Sunday of the Holy Forefathers

Repose of Ven. Herman of Alaska, Wonderworker of All America

"Lord I Call..." Tone 2

Lord, I call upon You, hear me!

Hear me, O Lord!

Lord, I call upon You, hear me!

Receive the voice of my prayer,

when I call upon You!//

Hear me, O Lord!

Let my prayer arise

in Your sight as incense,

and let the lifting up of my hands

be an evening sacrifice!//

Hear me, O Lord!

v. (10) Bring my soul out of prison, that I may give thanks to Your name!

Tone 2 *(for the Resurrection)*

Come, let us worship the Word of God

begotten of the Father before all ages,

and incarnate of the Virgin Mary!

Having endured the Cross,

He was buried as He Himself desired.//

And having risen from the dead, He saved me, an erring man.

v. (9) The righteous will surround me; for You will deal bountifully with me.

Christ our Savior

nailed to the Cross the bond against us,

He voided it and destroyed the dominion of death.//

We fall down before His Resurrection on the third day.

v. (8) Out of the depths I cry to You, O Lord. Lord, hear my voice!

With the Archangels

let us praise the Resurrection of Christ!

He is our Savior, our Redeemer.

He is coming with awesome glory and mighty power//

to judge the world which He made.

v. (7) Let Your ears be attentive to the voice of my supplications!

Tone 8 *(for the Forefathers)* *(The Paradise of Eden)*

Today, as we celebrate the Forefathers' memory,
let us the faithful praise Christ the Redeemer,
Who magnified them in all the nations!
He is the Lord Who does wondrous deeds,
for He is powerful and mighty!
Through them He has shown us the rod of His strength:
she is Mary, the only pure and Virgin Maiden of God.
From her Christ blossomed,//
bringing forth life, eternal salvation, and unending bliss for all.

v. (6) If You, O Lord, should mark iniquities, Lord, who could stand? But there is forgiveness with You.

O Master, You delivered the Holy Youths from the fire,
and Daniel from the mouths of lions;
You blessed Abraham, Isaac, Your servant, and Jacob, his son;
You consented to become like us by being born of their seed,
to be crucified and buried,
in order to save our Forefathers, who fell of old.
Thus You crushed the bonds of death
and raised with Yourself all the dead of ages past,//
who worship You, O Christ, King of the ages.

v. (5) For Your Name's sake I wait for You, O Lord. My soul has waited for Your word; my soul has hoped on the Lord.

Walking amidst the flames as in a gentle shower of rain,
the godly Youths exulted in the dew of the Spirit.
By this they mystically prefigured the Trinity and Christ's incarnation.
Wise through faith, they quenched the power of fire.
So also the righteous Daniel stopped the mouths of lions.
Through their intercessions we beseech You, O Savior and Lover of man:
Deliver us from the unquenchable and eternal fire,//
and make us worthy of Your heavenly Kingdom!

v. (4) From the morning watch until night, from the morning watch, let Israel hope on the Lord!

Standing in a furnace of flaming fire as though in dew,
the Holy Youths mystically prefigured Your coming from a Virgin,
by which we are illuminated but not consumed.

So also the righteous Daniel, glorious among the Prophets,
clearly revealed Your divine Second Coming when he cried out:
“I saw thrones set up, and the Judge was seated,
and the river of fire flowed before Him.” //

By their intercessions save us from this fire, O Christ our Master!

v. (3) For with the Lord there is mercy and with Him is plenteous redemption, and He will deliver Israel from all his iniquities.

Tone 2 *(for St. Herman) (With what crowns)*

With what wreaths shall we crown the venerable Herman,
leader of the Aleuts and apostle of Orthodoxy?

He left his native land and went to an untamed people
to proclaim Christ and the Orthodox faith.

He was neither afraid nor terrified of the Enemy’s darkness,
but aided by divine grace, //

he enlightened a nation and led it to Christ, Who has great mercy.

v. (2) Praise the Lord, all nations! Praise Him, all peoples!

With what wreaths shall we crown the venerable Herman,
leader of the Aleuts and apostle of Orthodoxy?

He received the Valaam leavening of the Holy Spirit
and preached the Gospel to the Aleuts in word and deed,
disregarding, along with the flesh, all that is of the flesh.

With tears and prayers, with suffering and with prolonged fasting,
and with a most immortal love for the people, //

he led them to Christ, Who has great mercy.

v. (1) For His mercy is confirmed on us, and the truth of the Lord endures forever.

With what wreaths shall we crown the venerable Herman,
leader of the Aleuts and apostle of Orthodoxy?

Along with the struggle in the wilderness and the feat of holiness,
he accomplished the work of an apostle of Orthodoxy.

Laboring greatly, he saved the native peoples from the Evil One’s delusion,
receiving the grace of working wonders,

quenching the fires and turning back assaults of the waters. //

Having reached the end, he passed over to Christ, Who has great mercy.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit;

Tone 5 *(for St. Herman)*

You sent forth Your Apostles, O Lord,
to proclaim the Gospel to all creation,
and in the latter times You sent out this man to bring Orthodoxy
to the Aleutian Islands.

And having sown there the seed with grace,
he harvested abundantly a field of fruitfulness,
which remains, even till now, prospering in the Lord.
Therefore we pray to you, our venerable Father Herman:
Do not cease through your prayers to care for your people, //
and for all of us who lovingly celebrate your all-honorable memory!

now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Tone 2 *(Theotokion – Dogmatikon)*

The shadow of the Law passed when grace came;
as the Bush burned, yet was not consumed,
so the Virgin gave birth, yet remained a Virgin.
The Righteous Sun has risen instead of a pillar of flame.//
Instead of Moses, Christ, the Salvation of our souls.

Old Testament Readings

Wisdom of Solomon 3:1-9

Wisdom of Solomon 5:15-6:3

Wisdom of Solomon 4:7-15

Aposticha

Tone 2 *(for the Resurrection)*

Your Resurrection, O Christ our Savior,
has enlightened the whole universe,
recalling Your creation.//
Glory to You, O almighty Lord!

v. The Lord is King; He is robed in majesty!

By the Tree You destroyed the curse of the Tree, O Savior.
By Your burial You mortified the majesty of death.
You have enlightened our race by Your Resurrection.//
O Giver of life, Christ our God, glory to You!

V. For He has established the world, so that it shall never be moved.

When You were seen nailed to the Cross, O Christ,
You restored the beauty of Your creatures.
The soldiers showed their inhumanity when they pierced Your side with a spear.
The Hebrews, not knowing Your power,
asked that Your tomb might be sealed,
but through the mercy of Your compassion,
You accepted the tomb
and rose on the third day!//
O Lord, glory to You!

V. Holiness befits Your house, O Lord, forevermore!

O Christ, the Giver of life,
for the sake of the dead You voluntarily endured death,
descending into hell as the Mighty One
to save those who awaited Your coming,
granting them the life of paradise instead of hell.
Grant also to us who glorify Your Resurrection on the third day//
cleansing of our sins and great mercy!

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit;

Tone 1 *(for St. Herman)*

O Holy Father,
we remember today the great teachers and ascetics,
because of your deeds and example.
Your wondrous life confounded the Enemy.
You conversed with the Angels.
Together with them, pray for the salvation of our souls!

now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Tone 3 *(for the Forefathers, by Germanus)*

Come all who love the feast,
let us praise in psalms the assembly of the Forefathers:
Adam, our first Father,
Enoch, Noah, Melchizedek,
Abraham, Isaac and Jacob;
and those who came after the Law:
Moses, Aaron, Joshua,
Samuel and David,
Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel and Daniel,
and with them the Twelve Prophets:
Elijah, Elisha, and all the rest,
Zachariah and John the Baptist:
all those who proclaimed Christ, //
the Life and Resurrection of the human race!

(at Great Vespers)

Tone 2 **Troparion** *(Resurrection)*

When You descended to death, O Life Immortal,
You slew hell with the splendor of Your Godhead.
And when from the depths You raised the dead,
all the powers of heaven cried out: //
“O Giver of life, Christ our God, glory to You!”

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit,

Tone 7 **Troparion** *(St. Herman)*

O joyful North Star of the Church of Christ,
guiding all men to the Heavenly Kingdom,
teacher and apostle of the True Faith,
intercessor and defender of the oppressed,
adornment of the Orthodox Church in America:
Blessed Father Herman of Alaska,
pray to our Lord Jesus Christ //
for the salvation of our souls!

now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Tone 2 Troparion (*Forefathers*)

Through faith You justified the Forefathers,
betrothing through them the Church of the gentiles.
These saints exult in glory,
for from their seed came forth a glorious fruit:
she who bore You without seed.//
So by their prayers, O Christ God, have mercy on us!

(at the Divine Liturgy)

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Tone 2 Kontakion *(Resurrection)*

Hell became afraid, O almighty Savior,
seeing the miracle of Your Resurrection from the tomb!
The dead arose! Creation, with Adam, beheld this and rejoiced with You, //
and the world, my Savior, praises You forever.

Tone 3 Kontakion *(St. Herman)*

The eternal light of Christ our Savior
guided you, O blessed father Herman,
on your evangelical journey to America
to proclaim the Gospel of peace.
Now you stand before the throne of glory:
intercede for your land and its people, //
asking peace for the world and salvation for our souls.

Tone 6 Kontakion *(Forefathers)*

You did not worship the graven image,
O thrice-blessed ones,
but armed with the immaterial Essence of God,
you were glorified in a trial by fire.
From the midst of unbearable flames you called on God, crying:
“Hasten, O compassionate One!
Speedily come to our aid, //
for You are merciful and able to do as You will!”

Tone 4 Prokeimenon *(Forefathers)*

Blessed are You, O Lord God of our fathers, / and praised and glorified is
Your Name forever! *(Song of the Three Holy Children, v. 3)*

V. For You are just in all that You have done for us! (v. 4)

Tone 7 Prokeimenon *(St. Herman)*

Precious in the sight of the Lord / is the death of His saints. *(Ps. 115:6)*

Epistle

(257) Colossians 3:4-11 *(Forefathers)*

(213) Galatians 5:22-6:2 *(St. Herman)*

Tone 4

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

V. Moses and Aaron were among His priests; Samuel also was among those who called on His Name. (Ps. 98:6)

V. They called to the Lord and He answered them. (Ps. 98:6)

Tone 6

V. Blessed is the man who fears the Lord, who greatly delights in His commandments. (Ps. 111:1)

Gospel

(76) Luke 14:16-24 (*Forefathers*)

(24) Luke 6:17-23 (*St. Herman*)

Communion Hymn

Praise the Lord from the heavens, praise Him in the highest! (*Ps. 148:1*)

Rejoice in the Lord, O you righteous; praise befits the just! (*Ps. 32:1*)

The righteous shall be in everlasting remembrance. He shall not fear evil tidings. (*Ps. 111:6*)

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

In addition to translations from the Department of Liturgical Music and Translations, liturgical texts for this service represent modified versions of translations provided by Holy Myrrhbearers Monastery, Otego, New York and St. Tikhon's Monastery, South Canaan, Pa. The Department of Liturgical Music and Translations of the Orthodox Church in America expresses its gratitude to Holy Myrrhbearers Monastery and St. Tikhon's Monastery and to those translators whose work has been consulted at times in the course of reviewing and modifying these texts to their present form: Metropolitan Kallistos (Ware), Archimandrite Ephrem (Lash), Father Benedict Churchill, Isaac Lambertson, St. Vladimir's Seminary, and Holy Transfiguration Monastery, among others.