

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 12
25th Sunday after Pentecost (12th of Luke)
Sunday of the Holy Forefathers

TONE 8

"Lord I Call..." Tone 8

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 8 *(for the Resurrection)*

We offer to You, O Christ,
our evening song and reasonable service,
for You willed to have mercy on us//
by Your Resurrection.

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

Lord, Lord, do not cast us away from Your face!
For You willed to have mercy on us//
by Your Resurrection.

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

Rejoice, O holy Zion:
Mother of the churches, the abode of God,
for you were the first to receive remission of sins//
by the Resurrection.

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

(Resurrection stichera by Anatolius)

The Word of God the Father,
begotten before the ages,
in the latter times willed to be incarnate of the Virgin
and endured crucifixion unto death.
He has saved mortal man//
by His Resurrection.

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

We glorify You, O Lord,
for You voluntarily endured the Cross for our sake.
We fall down in worship before You, O almighty Savior.
Do not cast us away from Your face
but hear us and save us, O Lover of man,//
by Your Resurrection!

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.

Glory to You, O Savior Christ,
Only-begotten Son of God, who was nailed to the Cross//
and resurrected from the tomb on the third day!

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

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

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

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

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 illumined 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!

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

Tone 6 *(for the Forefathers, by Anatolius)*

Today, let us the faithful acclaim
all the Fathers before the Law:
Abraham, the friend of God,
Isaac, born of the promise,
Jacob and the twelve Patriarchs,
honoring with these the gentle David,
and Daniel, the Prophet of Desires,

and the three Youths who changed the furnace into dew.
Let us ask forgiveness of Christ our God, //
Who is glorified in His saints!

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

Tone 8 *(Theotokion – Dogmatikon)*

The King of heaven, because of His love for man,
appeared on earth and dwelt with men.
He took flesh from the pure Virgin
and after assuming it, He came forth from her.
The Son is one: in two natures, yet one Person.
Proclaiming Him as perfect God and perfect Man,
we confess Christ our God! //
Entreat Him, O unwedded Mother, to have mercy on our souls.

Aposticha

Tone 8 *(for the Resurrection)*

Descending from heaven to ascend the Cross,
the eternal Life has come for death
to raise those who are fallen;
to enlighten those in darkness. //
O Jesus, our Savior and illuminator, glory to You!

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

We glorify Christ, who rose from the dead.
He accepted the human body and soul,
and freed both from suffering.
His most pure soul descended to hell, which He spoiled.
His holy body did not see corruption in the tomb. //
He is the Redeemer of our souls.

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

In psalms and songs we glorify Your Resurrection from the dead, O Christ.
By it, You have freed us from the tortures of hell //
and as God have granted eternal life and great mercy.

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

O Master of all, incomprehensible Creator of heaven and earth,
by Your suffering on the Cross You have gained passionlessness for me.
Accepting burial and arising in glory,
You resurrected Adam with Yourself by Your almighty hand.
Glory to Your rising on the third day!
By it You have granted us eternal life and cleansing of sins//
as the only compassionate One.

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

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!

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

Tone 3 *(Theotokion)*

By the will of the Father,
without seed, of the Holy Spirit you conceived the Son of God.
He was born of the Father before eternity without a mother,
but now for our sake He came from you without a father!//
Do not cease entreating Him to deliver our souls from harm!

(at Great Vespers)

Tone 8 Troparion *(Resurrection)*

You descended from on high, O Merciful One!
You accepted the three day burial to free us from our sufferings!//
O Lord, our Life and Resurrection, glory to You!

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

Epistle

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

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)

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

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*)
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.