

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 19

TONE 1

26th Sunday after Pentecost (13th of Luke)

Sunday of the Holy Fathers, Sunday before the Nativity

"Lord I Call..." Tone 1

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!

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

Tone 1 (for the Resurrection)

Accept our evening prayers, O holy Lord!

Grant us remission of sins,//

for You alone have manifested the Resurrection to the world.

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

Encircle Zion

and surround her, O people!

Give glory in her to the One Who rose from the dead!

For He is our God,//

Who has delivered us from our transgressions!

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

Come, O people,

let us hymn and fall down before Christ,

glorifying His Resurrection from the dead!

For He is our God,//

Who has delivered the world from the Enemy's deceit!

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

(Resurrection stichera by Anatolius)

Be glad, O heavens!
Sound trumpets, O foundations of the earth!
Sing in gladness, O mountains!
Behold Emmanuel has nailed our sins to the Cross!
Granting life, He has slain death.//
He has resurrected Adam as the Lover of man.

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.

Let us praise Him
Who voluntarily was crucified in the flesh for our sake.
He suffered, was buried, but rose from the dead.
By Orthodoxy confirm Your Church, O Christ.//
Grant peace for our life as the gracious Lover of man.

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

We stand before Your life-bearing tomb unworthily, O Christ God,
offering glory to Your ineffable compassion.
You have accepted the Cross and death, O sinless One//
to grant Resurrection to the world as the Lover of man.

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 6 *(for the Holy Fathers)* *(Having placed all their hope)*

The memory of the Ancestors is revealed to the ends of the world,
truly filling it with light
and making known the dawning of grace.
For Christ shone forth from afar, brighter than the sun,
the leading rank of stars shining with Him;
and the divine-human birth was revealed to take place in Bethlehem.
Therefore with faith let us all gather at this birth,//
rejoicing in chorus and singing the pre-festal praise!

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

Adorned with the glory of divine communion,
Adam rejoices today,
as he is the foundation and support of the wise Ancestors.
With him Abel leaps with joy, and Enoch makes glad;
Seth dances, and Noah with him;
the all-praiseworthy Patriarch Abraham sings;
Melchizedek beholds from afar the birth that is without a father.
Therefore, as we celebrate the divine memory of the Forefathers of Christ, //
we pray for the salvation of our souls.

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

The three Youths, wise in God,
who shone with joy in the furnace,
proclaimed the birth of Christ on earth;
For just as the Lord sent down a precious dew,
He preserved from the flame her who gave birth,
keeping her undefiled and enriching her with divine gifts.
Therefore Daniel, pleasing to God, rejoiced and was glad,
for having foreseen the Stone from the unquarried mountain, //
he now prays with boldness in behalf of our souls.

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

Tone 6 *(for the Holy Fathers)*

Daniel, the man of desires, beheld You, O Lord,
the Stone cut without human hands from the Mountain.
Thus, he foretold that You would take flesh without seed,
O Word of God, born of the Virgin, //
the changeless God and Savior of our souls!

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

Tone 1 *(Theotokion – Dogmatikon)*

Let us praise the Virgin Mary!
The gate of heaven, the glory of the world!
The song of the angels, the beauty of the faithful!
She was born of man, yet gave birth to God!
She was revealed as the heaven, as the temple of the Godhead!

She destroyed the wall of enmity!
She commenced the peace; she opened the Kingdom!
Since she is our foundation of faith,
our defender is the Lord Whom she bore!
Courage! Courage! O People of God!
For Christ will destroy our enemies//
since He is all powerful.

Old Testament Readings (*Holy Fathers*)

Genesis 14:14-20

Deuteronomy 1:8-11, 15-17

Deuteronomy 10:14-21

Aposticha

Tone 1 (*for the Resurrection*)

We have been freed from sufferings
by Your suffering, O Christ.
We have been delivered from corruption
by Your Resurrection.//
O Lord, glory to You!

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

Let creation rejoice!
Let the heavens be glad!
Let the nations clap their hands with gladness,
for Christ our Savior has nailed our sins to the Cross.
Slaying death, He has given life.//
He has resurrected fallen Adam as the Lover of man.

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

As King of heaven and earth,
You were voluntarily crucified in Your love for man.
Hell was angered when it met You below.
Adam rose seeing You, the Creator, under the earth.
O wonder! How has the Life of all tasted death?
You enlightened the wold which cries://
O Lord, Who rose from the dead, glory to You!

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

The myrrhbearing women came with haste to Your tomb,
bearing myrrh and lamenting.
Not finding Your most pure body,
they learned from the angel of the new and glorious wonder.
They told the Apostles://
“The Lord is risen, granting the world great mercy.”

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

Tone 2 *(for the Holy Fathers, by Cyprian)*

Rejoice, O honored Prophets,
who laid well the foundation of the Law of the Lord,
and were revealed as firm and unshaken pillars of faith!
You became indeed the mediators of Christ’s new covenant.
Since, therefore, you have been taken up into heaven,//
intercede with Him to grant peace to the world and salvation to our souls!

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

Tone 2 *(Theotokion)*

A new miracle surpasses all ancient miracles!
Who knows of a Mother who gave birth without a man,
who carried in her arms her Creator?
This birth is the will of God!
Since you carried Him as an infant in your arms, O most pure one,
and since you possess motherly boldness before Him,
do not cease praying for us who honor you,//
that He may be bountiful and save our souls!

(at Great Vespers)

Tone 1 Troparion *(Resurrection)*

When the stone had been sealed by the Jews,
while the soldiers were guarding Your most pure body,
You rose on the third day, O Savior,
granting life to the world.
The powers of heaven therefore cried to You, O Giver of Life:
“Glory to Your Resurrection, O Christ!
Glory to Your Kingdom!//
Glory to Your dispensation, O Lover of mankind!”

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

Tone 2 Troparion *(Holy Fathers)*

Great are the accomplishments of faith,
for the three Holy Youths rejoice in the fountain of flames as though in the
waters of rest;
and the Prophet Daniel appeared
a shepherd to the lions as though they were sheep.//
So by their prayers, O Christ God, save our souls!

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

Tone 2 Resurrectional Dismissal Theotokion

All beyond thought, all most glorious,
are your mysteries, O Theotokos.
Sealed in purity, preserved in virginity,
you were revealed to be the true Mother who gave birth to the True God.//
Entreat Him to save our souls.

(at the Divine Liturgy)

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Tone 6 Kontakion *(Holy Fathers)*

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 *(Holy Fathers)*

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

(328) Hebrews 11:9-10, 17-23, 32-40 *(Sunday Before)*

Tone 4

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

V. We have heard with our ears, O God, for our fathers have told us. (Ps. 43:1a)

V. For You have saved us from them that oppose us, and hast put to shame them that hate us. (Ps. 43:8)

Gospel

(1) Matthew 1:1-25 (*Sunday Before*)

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.