

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 11
26th Sunday after Pentecost (12th of Luke)
Sunday of the Forefathers

TONE 1

"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!

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

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

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

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

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. (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.

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. (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 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.

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 world 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 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 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,
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.