

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 18

TONE 2

27<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost (13<sup>th</sup> of Luke)

Sunday Before the Nativity, Sunday of the Holy Ancestors

"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!*

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

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

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

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

*(Resurrection stichera by Anatolius)*

The Angel proclaimed You,  
the crucified and buried Master.  
He told the women: "Come, see the place where He lay!  
He is risen as He said,  
for He is almighty."  
We worship You, O only immortal One.//  
Have mercy on us, O Christ, the Giver of life!

*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.*

By Your Cross, You destroyed the curse of the tree.  
By Your burial You destroyed the dominion of death.  
By Your rising, You enlightened the race of man.//  
O Benefactor, Christ our God, glory to You!

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

The gates of death opened to You from fear, O Lord.  
When the guards of hell saw You they were afraid,  
for You demolished the gates of brass and smashed the iron chains.//  
You have led us from the darkness and shadows of death, and have broken our  
bonds.

*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 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 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 *(Holy Fathers)*

Genesis 14:14-20

Deuteronomy 1:8-11, 15-17

Deuteronomy 10:14-21

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 acc<sup>e</sup>pted 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 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 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 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.