

JANUARY 30

**Synaxis of the Three Great Ecumenical Teachers and Hierarchs: Basil the Great, Gregory the Theologian, and John Chrysostom**

**"Lord I Call..." Tone 4**

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.*

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

**Tone 4**      *(As one valiant among martyrs)*

Let us worthily honor the instruments of grace:  
John, Basil, and Gregory,  
the harps of the Spirit, the resounding trumpets of preaching,  
awesome and clear in tone,//  
thundering from the heights to declare the glory of God to the ends of the earth!

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

Let us worthily honor the three champions:  
the bulwarks of devotion,  
the three apostles added to the twelve,  
rivers overflowing with living water from Eden,  
flooding the face of the earth with life-bearing and divine streams!//  
They have formed the faith, as the elements form creation.

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

It is said: “There is no speech, nor are there words that are not heard in their voices”;  
for the proclamation of the godly and wise teachers has gone out through all the earth and the sea of creation.  
Therefore, through their divine precepts, great things are gathered and assembled//  
into one true doctrine for the ends of the earth.

*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 who follow their teachings  
praise the instruments of the Holy Spirit with hymns;  
they are the trumpets of truth, the words of orators!  
Let us entreat them, for they are bold before the Lord,  
that He may always grant forgiveness to all of us, //  
and great peace to the whole world!

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

**Tone 2**      *(With what crowns)*

With what wreaths of praise  
shall we crown the teachers?  
In separate bodies, they were united in spirit:  
God-bearing intercessors, equal in number to the Trinity,  
ministers and lights who illumine the universe,  
pillars of the Church, whom Christ, our merciful God, //  
crowns with wreaths of victorious glory.

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

With what beautiful hymns  
shall we crown the God-bearing and heavenly initiates?  
Preachers of the mysteries,  
leading theologians of the Orthodox Faith:  
Basil, manifest in holiness,  
Gregory, godly and divinely inspired,  
John of the golden tongue, //  
whom the Trinity, the greatly merciful Lord, has fittingly glorified.

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

With what words of praise  
shall we extol the holy hierarchs?  
Equals to the Apostles in grace and the honor of spiritual gifts,  
destroyers of impiety,  
saviors and guides in word and deed,  
earthly angels and heavenly men,  
Christ-like shepherds in the faith, //  
whom Christ, the greatly merciful Lord of glory, has honored.

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

With what wreaths of praise  
shall we crown Chrysostom, together with Basil and Gregory?  
Precious vessels of the Spirit, champions of the pure Faith,  
pillars of the Church and strength of the faithful,  
consolation for sinners,  
springs overflowing with water  
from which we drink for the delight of our souls, //  
as we ask forgiveness of sins and great mercy.

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

### **Tone 6**

Today let us praise the mystical trumpets of the Spirit,  
the God-bearing Fathers,  
who stand in the midst of the Church, singing true theology,  
praising the changeless Trinity!  
They laid low the errors of Arius  
and upheld the Orthodox Faith. //  
They always entreat the Lord to have mercy on our souls.  
*now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.*

### **Tone 6**      *(Theotokion – Dogmatikon)*

Who will not bless you, O most holy Virgin?  
Who will not sing of your most pure childbearing?  
The only-begotten Son shone timelessly from the Father,  
but from you He was ineffably incarnate.  
God by nature, yet Man for our sake,  
not two persons, but one known in two natures.  
Entreat Him, O pure and all-blessed Lady, //  
to have mercy on our souls!

**Old Testament Readings**  
**Deuteronomy 1:8-11, 15-17**  
**Deuteronomy 10:14-21**  
**Wisdom of Solomon 3:1-9**

**Litya**

**Tone 2**      *(by Nilus of Xanthopoulos)*

Come, O worshippers of the heavenly Trinity,  
let us praise the earthly trinity of the divine hierarchs:  
Gregory, the namesake of theology,  
Basil, who bears the name of the Kingdom,  
and John, truly named after grace!  
They are the depths of wisdom,  
the ocean currents of the Spirit,  
fountains ever gushing forth cascades of living water,  
lustrous pearls, luminaries on earth, rudders of the Church,  
trees bearing magnificent fruit, stewards of grace,  
mouthpiece of my Christ, and champions of the Trinity,  
from Whom they are illumined without mediation;//  
and they ceaselessly intercede for our souls.

Let us, who have been enlightened through them,  
faithfully praise the coals kindled from the unbearable Fire!  
For, blazing in union with It, they became luminaries for the world,  
being a vital strength for the poor,  
by preaching and extolling in true piety the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit;  
Let us also say to them://  
“Rejoice, O godly-wise trinity of the Trinity!”

**Tone 6**

Let us faithfully acclaim David’s threefold sling,  
Solomon’s scarlet cord, the Word’s three-stranded lash,  
The wise hierarchs: Basil the Great, divine Gregory, and John Chrysostom;  
for, having laid low the spiritual Goliath with the high Cornerstone,  
they led the Faith to oneness,  
enclosing it by the crimson blood of Christ.  
By their teachings they drove away from the folds of Christ’s divine flock  
the leaders of heresies,  
those peddlers who argued over divine truths.  
Even now they still confirm the faith//  
and intercede with the Lord that He have mercy on our souls.

### **Tone 8**

The grace of God has appeared to all men,  
educating us through the three teachers,  
that, adorning our ways and improving our manner of life,  
we might be illumined in mind by the brightness of divine knowledge.  
Therefore we cry: "O Holy Trinity, O Lord of all,  
by the prayers of Your three Pastors,  
preserve Your flock in peace, in safety, and free of anguish,//  
and save us, for You are the Lover of man!"

### **Tone 6**

O Trinity, holy and worthy of adoration,  
glory to Your wise providence!  
For, from among men, You have granted men three great luminaries,  
who shine with the light of Your perfect knowledge,  
spreading the radiance of Your saving and holy will.  
Through them, the inhabited earth is enriched with the light of knowledge,  
seeing Your glory clearly;  
and it eagerly seeks Your blessed Kingdom,  
urging us to be obedient to their divine teachings.  
Do You Yourself, as the all-merciful God,  
heed their prayers on our behalf,//  
and save our souls, O Lover of man!

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

### **Tone 6**

Having assembled together, O lovers of the feasts,  
let us praise with song the hierarchs of Christ and fame of the Fathers,  
the towers of the Faith and teachers and guardians of the faithful!  
Let us say: "Rejoice, most wise Basil, luminary and immovable pillar of the  
Church!  
Rejoice, Gregory the Theologian, heavenly mind and greatest high priest!  
Rejoice, John, of golden words, brilliant and distinguished preacher of  
repentance!"  
Wherefore, O thrice-blessed Fathers,  
cease not always to intercede with Christ//  
for us who with faith and love celebrate your all-sacred and divine feast.

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

**Tone 6**      *(Theotokion)*

Having assembled together, O lovers of the feasts,  
let us praise with song the beauty of virgins  
the joy of the heavenly Hosts,  
the only Theotokos and unbreakable wall,  
defending the Faithful on every side:  
and let us say: "Rejoice, O pure Virgin Mother,  
gold-gleaming lampstand and heavenly gate!  
Rejoice, O undefiled tabernacle of sanctification,  
who contained God in your womb!  
Rejoice, you who are incomparably higher than all the heavenly hosts!  
Therefore, O Lady and Mother who did not know man,  
cease not to protect your servants  
who ever sing your praises with faith and love, //  
and who venerate your birthgiving without seed!"

**Aposticha**      **Tone 1**      *(O all-praised martyrs)*

Today let us worthily gather to praise  
the spiritual initiates of the mysteries,  
the trumpets of God and reflections of His glory:  
Basil the Great, the divine Gregory of fiery inspiration,  
and John, the truly golden-mouthed! //  
They pour out streams of golden teachings on us.

*V. Your saints shall exult in glory and rejoice upon their beds. (Ps. 149:5)*

Let us praise with worthy hymns the foundations of the faith:  
the godly and watchful minds,  
the radiant golden-streamed rivers and the shining beacons,  
the champions of the Trinity, the vessels of the grace of the Spirit, //  
the unshakable pillars and the strength of the Church!

*V. Your priests shall be clothed with righteousness and Your saints will shout for joy. (Ps. 131:9)*

O thrice-blessed Basil,  
divinely wise Gregory,  
and most golden and all-honored John,  
you were instruments of the Spirit,  
trumpets of divine thunder, lightning flashes of preaching,  
most radiant beacons, shining with the golden light of God! //  
Pray to Christ that He may save those who honor you!

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

**Tone 2**

Today, the souls of mortals are raised up from earthly things.  
Today, on the saints' memorial, they become heavenly.  
The gates of heaven are opened,  
and the words of the Master are spoken to us.  
Words proclaim the Word, and tongues sing hymns to His wonders.  
We cry out to the Savior:  
"Glory to You, O Christ our God, //  
for through them peace has been given to the faithful!"  
*now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.*

**Tone 2**      *(Forefeast of the Meeting of the Lord)*

Today Christ is carried in the sanctuary as an Infant;  
today He Who gave the Law to Moses becomes subject to the Law.  
The armies of angels wondered,  
seeing Him Who holds all things carried in the arms of an elderly man.  
Filled with reverence, Simeon cried out, rejoicing:  
"O Savior, now let me depart from this fleeting life to a rest that grows not  
old, //  
for I have seen You, and I rejoice!"

*(at Great Vespers)*

**Tone 1**      **Troparion**

Let us who love their words come together with hymns,  
and honor the three great torch-bearers of the triune Godhead:  
Basil the Great, Gregory the Theologian and John Chrysostom!  
These men have enlightened the world with the rays of their divine doctrines.  
They are sweetly flowing rivers of wisdom,  
and have filled all creation with springs of heavenly knowledge.  
They ceaselessly intercede for us //  
before the Holy Trinity.

*Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit,  
now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.*

## **Tone 1      Resurrectional Dismissal Theotokion**

When Gabriel announced to you, O Virgin, saying “Rejoice!”  
with that word the Master of all was incarnate in ^you,  
the holy Ark, spoken of by the righteous David!  
Your womb became more spacious than the heavens,  
for you carried your Creator.  
Glory to Him Who took abode in you!  
Glory to Him Who came ^forth from you!//  
Glory to Him Who freed us by being born of you!

*(at the Divine Liturgy)*

## **Tone 1      Troparion**

Let us who love their words come together with hymns,  
and honor the three great torch-bearers of the ^triune Godhead:  
Basil the Great, Gregory the Theologian and John Chrysostom!  
These men have enlightened the world with the rays of their divine doctrines.  
They are sweetly flowing rivers ^of wisdom,  
and have filled all creation with springs of heavenly knowledge.  
They ceaselessly intercede for us//  
before the Holy Trinity.

## **Tone 2      Kontakion**

O Lord, You have taken up to eternal rest  
and to the enjoyment of Your blessings  
the divinely-inspired heralds, the greatest of Your teachers,  
for You have accepted their labors and deaths as a sweet-smelling sacrifice,//  
for You alone are glorified in Your saints.

## **Tone 8      Prokeimenon      *(Three Hierarchs)***

Their proclamation has gone out into all the earth, / and their words to the ends  
of the universe. *(Ps. 18:4)*

*V. The heavens are telling the glory of God, and the firmament proclaims His  
handiwork. (Ps. 18:1)*



## **Epistle**

(334) Hebrews 13:7-16 (*Three Hierarchs*)

### **Tone 1**

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

*V. The heavens will praise Your wonders, O Lord; and Your truth in the congregation of the saints. (Ps. 88:5)*

*V. God is glorified in the council of the saints! (Ps. 88:7a)*

## **Gospel**

(11) Matthew 5:14-19 (*Three Hierarchs*)

### **Communion Hymn**

Their proclamation has gone out into all the earth, and their words to the ends of the universe. (*Ps. 18:4*)

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.