

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17

TONE 3

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

Sunday of the Forefathers, Holy Prophet Daniel and the Three Holy Youths:  
Ananias, Azarias, and Misael

"Lord I Call..." Tone 3

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 3**      *(for the Resurrection)*

By Your Cross, O Christ our Savior,

death's dominion has been shattered;

the devil's delusion destroyed.

The race of man, being saved by faith,//

always offers You a song.

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

All has been enlightened by Your Resurrection, O Lord.

Paradise has been opened again.

All creation, praising You,//

always offers You a song.

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

I glorify the power of the Father and the Son.

I praise the authority of the Holy Spirit:

the undivided, uncreated Godhead,//

the consubstantial Trinity which reigns forever.

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

*(Resurrection stichera by Anatolius)*

We bow down in worship before Your precious Cross, O Christ,  
and we glorify and praise Your Resurrection,//  
for by Your wounds we have all been healed.

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

We praise the Savior incarnate of the Virgin,  
for He was crucified for our sake and resurrected on the third day,//  
granting us great mercy.

*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.*

Christ descended to hell proclaiming the glad tidings:  
"Behold! Now I have triumphed!  
I am the Resurrection, I will lead you out,//  
for I have shattered the gates of death!"

*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 illuminated 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 3**      *(Theotokion – Dogmatikon)*

How can we not wonder  
at your mystical childbearing, O exalted Mother?  
For without receiving the touch of man,  
you gave birth to a Son in the flesh, O immaculate Virgin.  
The Son born of the Father before eternity  
was born of you at the fullness of time, O honored Lady.  
He underwent no mingling, no change, no division,  
but preserved the fullness of each nature.  
Entreat Him, O Lady and Virgin and Mother,  
to save the souls of those who, in the Orthodox manner, confess you //  
to be the Theotokos.

**Aposticha**

**Tone 3**      *(for the Resurrection)*

The sun was darkened by Your Passion, O Christ,  
but all creation was enlightened by the light of Your Resurrection. //  
Accept our evening song, O Lover of man!

*v. The Lord is King; He is robed in majesty!*

Your life-bearing Resurrection, O Lord,  
enlightened the whole universe, recalling Your creation.  
Delivered from Adam's curse, we sing: //  
O Almighty Lord, glory to You!

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

You are the changeless God,  
Who, suffering in the flesh, were changed.  
Creation could not endure seeing You on the Cross.  
It was filled with fear while praising Your patience.  
By descending to hell and rising on the third day, //  
You have granted to the world life and great mercy.

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

You endured death, O Christ,  
to deliver the race of men from death.  
You rose from the dead on the third day,  
raising with Yourself those who knew You as God //  
and enlightening the world. Glory to You!

*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 3**     **Troparion**   *(Resurrection)*

Let the heavens rejoice!  
Let the earth be glad!  
For the Lord has shown strength with His arm.  
He has trampled down death by death.  
He has become the first born of the dead.  
He has delivered us from the depths of hell,  
and has granted to the world//  
great mercy.

*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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Let the earth be glad!  
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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, from the 26<sup>th</sup> Sunday*)

### 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!

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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), Bishop Benedict (Churchill), Isaac Lambertson, St. Vladimir's Seminary, and Holy Transfiguration Monastery, among others.