

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15

TONE 8

25th Sunday after Pentecost (13th of Luke)

Sunday of the Holy Forefathers

[Hieromartyr Eleutherius, Bishop of Illyria] (*sung whenever the Superior wishes*)

"Lord I Call..." Tone 8

Lord, I call upon Thee, hear me!

Hear me, O Lord!

Lord, I call upon Thee, hear me!

Receive the voice of my prayer,
when I call upon Thee!//

Hear me, O Lord!

Let my prayer arise
in Thy 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 Thy Name.

Tone 8 (*for the Resurrection*)

We offer to Thee, O Christ,
our evening song and reasonable service,
for Thou didst will to have mercy on us//
by Thy Resurrection.

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

Lord, Lord, do not cast us away from Thy face!
For Thou didst will to have mercy on us//
by Thy Resurrection.

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

Rejoice, O holy Zion:
Mother of the churches, the abode of God,
for thou wast the first to receive remission of sins//
by the Resurrection.

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

(Resurrection stichera by Anatolius)

The Word of God the Father,
begotten before the ages,
in the latter times willed to be incarnate of the Virgin
and endured crucifixion unto death.
He has saved mortal man//
by His Resurrection.

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

We glorify Thee, O Lord,
for Thou didst voluntarily endure the Cross for our sake.
We fall down in worship before Thee, O almighty Savior.
Do not cast us away from Thy face
but hear us and save us, O Lover of man,//
by Thy Resurrection!

v. (5) For Thy Name's sake I wait for Thee, O Lord. My soul has waited for Thy word; my soul has hoped on the Lord.

Glory to Thee, O Savior Christ,
Only-begotten Son of God, who wast nailed to the Cross//
and resurrected from the tomb on the third day!

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, Thou didst deliver the holy Youths from the fire,
and Daniel from the mouths of lions;
Thou didst bless Abraham, Isaac, Thy servant, and Jacob, his son;
Thou didst consent 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 Thou didst crush the bonds of death,
raising with Thyself all the dead of ages past, //
who worship Thee, 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 Thee, O Savior and Lover of man:
Deliver us from the unquenchable and eternal fire, //
and make us worthy of Thy 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 Thy coming from a Virgin,
by which we are illumined but not consumed.
So also the righteous Daniel, glorious among the Prophets,
clearly revealed Thy 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 8 *(Theotokion – Dogmatikon)*

The King of heaven, because of His love for man,
appeared on earth and dwelt with men.
He took flesh from the pure Virgin
and after assuming it, He came forth from her.
The Son is one: in two natures, yet one Person.
Proclaiming Him as perfect God and perfect Man,
we confess Christ our God! //
Entreat Him, O unwedded Mother, to have mercy on our souls.

Litya

*(If the rector desires the Litya, following the sticheron to the Patron Saint of the Temple,
these stichera are sung)*

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

Tone 1 *(for the Forefathers)*

Enlightened by the rays of divine utterance,
the Prophets, distinguished in name, are called blessed forever.
With the words of the Spirit, they proclaimed to all the birth of Christ God,
which in words is inexpressible. //
And having lawfully completed their end, they live the life that is most
wondrous.

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

Tone 1 *(Theotokion)*

Behold, Isaiah's prophecy is fulfilled,
for the Virgin gave birth, yet remained a Virgin!

God was born, and so nature was restored anew.
Do not despise the entreaties of thy servants, O Mother of God!
We offer them to thee in thy temple.
Since thou hast carried in thine arms the compassionate One,
have compassion on thy servants,//
and pray that our souls may be saved.

Aposticha

Tone 8 *(for the Resurrection)*

Descending from heaven to ascend the Cross,
the eternal Life has come for death
to raise those who are fallen;
to enlighten those in darkness.//
O Jesus, our Savior and illuminator, glory to Thee!

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

We glorify Christ, who rose from the dead.
He accepted the human body and soul,
and freed both from suffering.
His most pure soul descended to Hades, which He spoiled.
His holy body did not see corruption in the tomb.//
He is the Redeemer of our souls.

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

In psalms and songs we glorify Thy Resurrection from the dead, O Christ.
By it, Thou hast freed us from the tortures of Hades//
and as God hast granted eternal life and great mercy.

v. Holiness befits Thy house, O Lord, forevermore!

O Master of all, incomprehensible Creator of heaven and earth,
by Thy suffering on the Cross Thou hast gained passionlessness for me.
Accepting burial and arising in glory,
Thou didst resurrect Adam with Thyself by Thine almighty hand.
Glory to Thy rising on the third day!
By it Thou hast granted us eternal life and cleansing of sins//
as the only compassionate One.

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 thou didst conceive the Son of God.
He was born of the Father before eternity without a mother,
but now for our sake He didst come from thee without a father! //
Do not cease entreating Him to deliver our souls from harm!

(at Great Vespers)

Tone 8 **Troparion** *(Resurrection)*

Thou didst descend from on high, O Merciful One!
Thou didst acept the three day burial to free us from our sufferings! //
O Lord, our Life and Resurrection, glory to Thee!

*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 Thou didst justify 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 Thee without seed.//
So by their prayers, O Christ God, have mercy on us!

(at Vigil)

Tone 4 Troparion to the Theotokos

Rejoice, O Virgin Theotokos,
Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee!
Blessed art thou among women,
and blessed is the Fruit of thy womb,//
for thou hast borne the Savior of our souls. (*twice*)

Tone 2 Troparion (*Forefathers*)

Through faith Thou didst justify 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 Thee without seed.//
So by their prayers, O Christ God, have mercy on us! (*once*)

(at the Divine Liturgy)

Tone 8 Troparion (*Resurrection*)

Thou didst descend from on high, O Merciful One!
Thou didst accept the three day burial to free us from our sufferings!//
O Lord, our Life and Resurrection, glory to Thee!

Tone 2 Troparion (*Forefathers*)

Through faith Thou didst justify 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 Thee without seed.//
So by their prayers, O Christ God, have mercy on us!

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 Thou art merciful and able to do as Thou dost will!”

Tone 4 Prokeimenon *(Forefathers)*

Blessed art Thou, O Lord God of our fathers, / and praised and glorified is Thy
Name forever! *(Song of the Three Holy Children, v. 3)*

V. For Thou art just in all that Thou hast 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!

Prepared by the Department of Liturgical Music and Translations, Orthodox Church in America.