

**Vespers sung on Saturday 16th December 2023 for Sunday 17th December
28th Sunday after Pentecost ♦ Sunday of the Holy Forefathers
The Holy Prophet Daniel and the Three Holy Youths: Ananias, Azarias & Misael**

“LORD I CALL ...”

Tone 3

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!

Bring my soul out of prison, that I may give thanks to Thy Name.

Tone 3 (For the Resurrection)

By Thy Cross, O Christ our Saviour,
death's dominion has been shattered;
the devil's delusion destroyed.
The race of man, being saved by faith,//
always offers Thee a song.

The righteous will surround me, for Thou wilt deal bountifully with me.

All has been enlightened by Thy Resurrection, O Lord.
Paradise has been opened again.
All creation, praising Thee,//
always offers Thee a song.

Out of the depths I cry to Thee, 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.

Let Thine ears be attentive to the voice of my supplications!

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

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

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

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.

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!"

From the morning watch until night, from the morning watch, let Israel hope on the Lord!

Tone 8 *(For the Forefathers)*

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.

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.

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 Saviour and Lover of man:
Deliver us from the unquenchable and eternal fire, //
and make us worthy of Thy heavenly Kingdom!

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)*

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,

honouring 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 thy mystical childbearing, O exalted Mother?

For without receiving the touch of man,

thou gavest birth to a Son in the flesh, O immaculate Virgin.

The Son born of the Father before eternity

was born of thee at the fullness of time, O honoured 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 thee//

to be the Theotokos.

APOSTICHA

Tone 3 *(For the Resurrection)*

The sun was darkened by Thy Passion, O Christ,

but all creation was enlightened by the light of Thy Resurrection.//

Accept our evening song, O Lover of man!

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

Thy life-bearing Resurrection, O Lord,

enlightened the whole universe, recalling Thy creation.

Delivered from Adam's curse, we sing://

O Almighty Lord, glory to Thee!

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

Thou art the changeless God,
Who, suffering in the flesh, wast changed.
Creation could not endure seeing Thee on the Cross.
It was filled with fear while praising Thy patience.
By descending to hell and rising on the third day, //
Thou hast granted to the world life and great mercy.

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

Thou didst endure death, O Christ,
to deliver the race of men from death.
Thou didst rise from the dead on the third day,
raising with Thyself those who knew Thee as God //
and enlightening the world. Glory to Thee!

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

Tone 3 *(For the Forefathers)*

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!

TROPARIA

Troparion of the Resurrection in Tone 3

[Music on website / Green Book page 6]

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.*

Troparion of the Holy Forefathers in Tone 2

[[Music on website / Sheet](#)]

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!