

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2022
26th Sunday after Pentecost (12th of Luke)
Sunday of the Forefathers

The Sunday that falls between December 11-17 is known as the Sunday of the Holy Forefathers. These are the ancestors of Christ according to the flesh, who lived before the Law and under the Law, especially the Patriarch Abraham, to whom God said, “In thy seed shall all of the nations of the earth be blessed” (Gen. 12:3, 22:18).

GREAT VESPERS

LORD I CALL: 6 stichera of the Resurrection in tone 1
(spiral bound Vespers book), then ...

Forefathers, tone 8:

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.

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.

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!

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 Pro-
phets,
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 ... Forefathers, tone 6:

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 ... the theotokion-dogmatikon of the
Resurrection in tone 1 (spiral bound Vespers book)***

***APOSTICHA: All stichera of the Resurrection in tone 1
(spiral bound Vespers book), then ...***

Glory ... Forefathers, tone 3:

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 ... theotokion of the Resurrection in
tone 3 (spiral bound Vespers book)*

TROPARIA

Resurrection, tone 1:

When the stone had been sealed by the Jews,
while the soldiers were guarding Your most pure body,
You rose on the third day, O Savior,
granting life to the world.

The powers of heaven therefore cried to You, O Giver of
Life:

“Glory to Your Resurrection, O Christ!

Glory to Your Kingdom!//

Glory to Your dispensation, O Lover of mankind!”

Forefathers, tone 2:

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!

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