

*28<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost (Dec 23/Jan 5)*  
*Sunday of the Holy Fathers*

VESPERS: Tone 3

P. Regular Beginning

C. Lord I have cried... (Tone 3)

1. The **power** of death has been **destroyed** by Thy Cross/ and the **wiles** of the devil have been set to naught, O Christ our **Saviour**,/ **while** mankind, **saved** by faith,// offers Thee hymns of praise forever.
2. The **whole** inhabited earth has been enlightened by Thy Resurrection, O Lord,/ **and** the paradise of old has been reopened;/ **while** it extols Thee,// all creation offers Thee hymns of praise forever.
3. I **glorify** the might of the **Father**/ **and** of the Son and the power of the Holy **Spirit**;/ **and** I praise the dominion of the undivided, uncreated **Godhead**//--the consubstantial Trinity that reigns unto the **ages** of ages.
4. We **worship** Thy precious **Cross**, O Christ,/ and **praise** and glorify Thy Resurrection:// For by Thy wounds have we **all** been healed.

Stichera for the Forefeast (Tone 6)

5. The never-setting Sun doth come to shine forth from the **Virgin's** womb/ and to enlighten **all** the world./ Let us make haste to meet Him with pure **eyes** and deeds;/ and let us now make ready in **spirit**/ to receive Him Who cometh into His own through a **strange** birth,/ as He hath been well **pleased** to do,/ that, as He is **compassionate**,/ He might lead us up who have estranged ourselves from the life of **Eden**,// may be born in **Bethlehem**.
6. God the Word, Who is upborne upon the shoulders of the **cherubim**,/ having united Himself hypostatically **to** the flesh,/ hath made His abode within the womb of the all-**immaculate** one/ and **become** a man;/ and He hath come to earth to be born of the tribe of **Judah**./ The holy cave is **beautifully** adorned,/ like a most magnificent palace, for the **King** of all;/ and the manger, wherein the Virgin Mary layeth the Infinite One **as** a babe,/ is like a **fiery** throne,// and serveth for the renewal of **creation**.
7. In a manger of dumb beasts doth the Virgin **lay** Thee,/ O unoriginate **Word** of God,/ Who, in manner which passeth understanding, hast received a **beginning**./ For Thou comest to put an end to that **foolishness**/ which I assumed through the malice of the **serpent**,/ and to be wrapped in **swaddling** clothes,/ that Thou mightest rend asunder the rags and chains of my **transgressions**,/ O Thou Who alone art good and **lovest** mankind./ Wherefore, I **glorify** Thee/ and I hymn and most joyfully worship Thine advent **in** the flesh,// whereby I have been **set** free.

Stichera for the Holy Fathers (Tone 6)

8. Unto the **ends** of the earth/ hath the memory of the forefathers been **manifest**/ as truly filled with light and shining with **rays** of grace;/ for Christ, the radiant Sun, shining from **afar** on high,/ doth lead forth an assembly of stars which **shineth** with Him,/ and in the midst of Bethlehem a nativity is shown to be that of **God** and man./ Therefore, piously **clapping** our hands,// with faith let us all join chorus to utter pre-festive praise unto His **nativity**.
9. Re**joicing** today,/ Adam is adorned with the glory of divine **communion**,/ as the foundation and confirmation of the wise fore**fathers**;/ and with him Abel doth **leap** for joy/ and Enoch is glad, and Seth danceth together with **Noah**;/ the all-praised Abraham doth chant with the **patriarchs**,/ and from on high Melchizedek doth behold a birth wherein a father **had** no part./ Wherefore, celebrating the divine memory of the fore**fathers** of Christ,// we beseech Him, that our **souls** be saved.
10. With gladness hath the assembly of the divinely wise children in the furnace **shone** forth,/ and it proclaimeth the nativity of **Christ** on earth;/ for the Lord, descending like a **precious** dew,/ doth preserve unconsumed her that **gaveth** Him birth,/ doth keep her undefiled and doth enrich her with **divine** gifts./ Wherefore, the God-pleasing Daniel rejoiceth in **gladness**,/ for he hath clearly foreseen the Stone uncut from the **mountain**,// and with boldness doth he now pray in **behalf** of our souls.

Glory... (Tone 6)

Daniel, the man of **divine** desires,/ seeing Thee, the Stone uncut by **human** hands,/ O Lord, prophetically called Thee a babe **born** without seed,/ the Word incarnate of the Virgin, the **immaculate** God,// the **Saviour** of our souls.

Both now & ever... of the Forefeast (Tone 6)

Splendidly **adorn** thyself, O cave,/ for the ewe-lamb cometh who doth bear **Christ** in her womb!/ O manger, receive thou Him Who by a word doth release us mortals from irrational **activity**!/ Ye piping shepherds, bear witness to the awesome **wonder**!/ Ye magi from Persia, bring forth gold, **frankincense** and myrrh,/ for the Lord hath appeared from the Virgin **Mary**./ And the Mother, regarding Him as befitteth a **handmaid**,/ worshipped Him and cried out in greeting unto Him Who was **laid** in her arms:/ How wast Thou sown **within** me?/ How didst Thou spring **forth** in me,// O my Deliverer and God?

- P. Wisdom. Aright!  
 C. O Joyful Light...  
 P. Prokimenon. The Lord is King...  
 P. Wisdom!

Readings for the Fathers

- R. The reading from Genesis (14:14-20)

And when Abram heard that his brother was taken captive, he armed his trained servants, born in his own house, three hundred and eighteen, and

pursued them unto Dan. And he divided himself against them, he and his servants, by night, and smote them, and pursued them unto Hobah, which is on the left hand of Damascus. And he brought back all the goods, and also brought again his brother Lot, and his goods, and the women also, and the people. And the king of Sodom went out to meet him after his return from the slaughter of Chedorlaomer, and of the kings that were with him, at the valley of Shaveh, which is the king's dale. And Melchizedek king of Salem brought forth bread and wine: and he was the priest of the most high God. And he blessed him, and said, Blessed be Abram of the most high God, possessor of heaven and earth: And blessed be the most high God, which hath delivered thine enemies into thy hand. And he gave him tithes of all.

R. The reading from Deuteronomy (4:8-20)

And what nation is there so great, that hath statutes and judgments so righteous as all this law, which I set before you this day? Only take heed to thyself, and keep thy soul diligently, lest thou forget the things which thine eyes have seen, and lest they depart from thy heart all the days of thy life: but teach them thy sons, and thy sons' sons; Specially the day that thou stoodest before the Lord thy God in Horeb, when the Lord said unto me, Gather Me the people together, and I will make them hear My words, that they may learn to fear Me all the days that they shall live upon the earth, and that they may teach their children. And ye came near and stood under the mountain; and the mountain burned with fire unto the midst of heaven, with darkness, clouds, and thick darkness. And the Lord spake unto you out of the midst of the fire: ye heard the voice of the words, but saw no similitude; only ye heard a voice. And He declared unto you His covenant, which He commanded you to perform, even ten commandments; and He wrote them upon two tablets of stone. And the Lord commanded me at that time to teach you statutes and judgments, that ye might do them in the land whither ye go over to possess it. Take ye therefore good heed unto yourselves; for ye saw no manner of similitude on the day that the Lord spake unto you in Horeb out of the midst of the fire: Lest ye corrupt yourselves, and make you a graven image, the similitude of any figure, the likeness of male or female, the likeness of any beast that is on the earth, the likeness of any winged fowl that flieth in the air, the likeness of any thing that creepeth on the ground, the likeness of any fish that is in the waters beneath the earth: And lest thou lift up thine eyes unto heaven, and when thou seest the sun, and the moon, and the stars, even all the host of heaven, shouldest be driven to worship them, and serve them, which the Lord thy God hath divided unto all nations under the whole heaven. But the Lord hath taken you, and brought you forth out of the iron furnace, even out of Egypt, to be unto Him a people of inheritance, as ye are this day.

R. The reading from Deuteronomy (10:14-21)

Behold, the heaven and the heaven of heavens is the Lord's thy God, the earth also, with all that therein is. Only the Lord had a delight in thy fathers to love them, and He chose their seed after them, even you above all people, as it is this day. Circumcise therefore the foreskin of your heart, and be no more stiffnecked. For the Lord your God is God of gods, and Lord of lords, a great God, a mighty, and a terrible, which regardeth not persons, nor taketh reward: He doth execute the judgment of the fatherless and widow, and loveth the stranger, in giving him food and raiment. Love ye

therefore the stranger: for ye were strangers in the land of Egypt. Thou shalt fear the Lord thy God; Him shalt thou serve, and to Him shalt thou cleave, and swear by His name. He is thy praise, and He is thy God, that hath done for thee these great and terrible things, which thine eyes have seen.

- P. Augmented Litany
- R. Vouchsafe...
- P. Litany of Fervent Supplication

C. Litya (Tone 6)

In manner past understanding/ the boundless wisdom of God hath made Himself a house from the **Virgin**,/ and incomprehensibly desireth to be born in the **flesh** in the cave,// and laid in a manger of **dumb** beasts.

Thou didst reveal Thyself to the **prophets**/ as far as they were able to behold thee, the Creator, O Christ;/ but in latter times Thou didst show Thyself to all men,// becoming man in the city of **Bethlehem**.

The star made its transit, heralding Christ, the Sun of **righteousness**,/ to those who **observed** the stars,/ and in the city of Bethlehem the angels now announce glad tidings to the **shepherds**.// With them let us also hasten, O ye **divinely** wise.

Sticherion of the Fathers (Tone 1)

The **prophets** of great renown, splendid in the rays of divine eloquence,/ are ever blessed, and, putting forth the sayings of the **Spirit** as fruit,/ they **preached** to all the ineffable nativity of **Christ** God;/ and having lived most **wondrously**,// they ended their lives in accordance with the law.

Glory... of the Fathers (Tone 3)

**Come**, ye lovers of the **feasts** of the Church,/ and with **psalms** let us praise the assembly of the forefathers:/ **Adam**, the forefather of us all,/ **Enoch**, Noah, Melchizedek, Abraham, Isaac and **Jacob**;/ and, after the **Law**, Moses and Aaron, Joshua, Samuel and **David**,/ and, with **them**, Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Daniel and the twelve **prophets**,/ together with Elijah, Elisha and **all** the rest,/ **Zechariah** and the Forerunner:// who all preached Christ, the Life and Resurrection of our race.

Both now and ever... of the Forefeast (Tone 3)

**Adorn** thyself splendidly, O Bethlehem, for Eden hath been opened!/ Make **ready**, O Ephratha, for Adam is restored, and E-eve **with** him;/ **for** the curse is annulled, the salvation of the world hath **blossomed** forth,/ **and** the souls of the **righteous** are adorned./ And **bearing** hymnody as a gift of offering **instead** of myrrh,/ they **receive** salvation of soul and **incorruption**./ For, **lo!** He Who lieth in the manger doth **command** before,/ **that** a spiritual hymn be chanted by those who cry out **unceasingly**:// O Lord, **glory** be to Thee!

- P. *Litya prayers in back of Church*

APOSTICHA: (Tone 3)

1. **Thou** hast darkened the sun by Thy **Passion**, O Christ;/ **by** Thy Resurrection hast Thou given **all** things light.// Accept our evening hymn, O Thou Who **lovest** mankind.

V. The Lord is King,/ and hath put on glorious **apparel**.

2. **Thy** life-giving Resurre**ction**, O Lord,/ has brought **light** to all the **inhabited** earth/ and **called** up Thy creation that lay in **corruption**,/ so that **we**, released from the curse of Adam, **cry** aloud:// Glory unto Thee, O **Almighty** Lord.

V. He hath made the world so sure/ that it **cannot** be moved.

3. **Suffering** in the fl-esh, **Thou**, O God/ Who by **nature** cannot be changed, hast **changed** Thyself,/ and the **creation** unable to bear the sight of Thee hanging was bowed **down** by fear/ and it **groaned** as it sang the praises of Thy long-**suffering**./ And **Thou**, descending into hell, hast risen on the **third** day,// giving the world life and great **mercy**.

V. Holiness becometh Thine house/ O Lord, **forever**.

4. **Thou** hast suffered **death**, O Christ,/ **to** deliver our **kind** from death:/ **And**, risen the third day **from** the dead,/ **Thou** hast raised up with Thyself those who **acknowledge** Thee to be God/ and **Thou** hast **enlightened** the world.// O Lord, **glory** to Thee.

Glory... (Tone 2)

Rejoice, ye honourable **prophets**/ who dedicated yourselves well to the **Law** of the Lord,/ and by **faith** revealed yourselves as unshaken and unbreakable **pillars** of Christ;/ and, having passed on to **heaven**,// ye beseech Him to grant peace to the world and to **save** our souls.

Both... (Tone 2)

Behold, the hour of our salvation **draweth** nigh!/ Make ready, O cave, for the Virgin approacheth to **give** birth!/ **Rejoice** and be glad, O Bethlehem, land of **Judah**,/ for from thee shall our **Lord** shine forth!/ Harken, ye mountains and hills, and ye surrounding lands of **Judea**,/ for Christ cometh to save man whom He **created**,// in that He is the Lover of **mankind**!

C. St. Symeon's Prayer

R. Trisagion

C. Rejoice, O Virgin Theotokos x2

Troparion of the Fathers (Tone 2) x1

Great are the accomplishments of faith!/ In the fountain of flame, as in refreshing water,/ the three holy children rejoiced;/ and the prophet Daniel was shown to be a shepherd of lions, as of sheep.// By their prayers, O Christ God, save Thou our souls!

- P. Blessing of loaves.  
 C. Amen. Blessed be the Name of the Lord... x3  
 Psalm 33:1-10

MATINS: Tone 3

- P. Regular Beginning  
 P. Great Ectenia  
 C. God is the Lord... (Tone 3)

- C. Sunday Troparia (Tone 3) x2

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 firstborn of the dead!// He has delivered us from the depths of hell, // and has granted to the world great mercy.

Glory... Troparion of the Fathers (Tone 2)

Great are the accomplishments of faith!// In the fountain of flame, as in refreshing water, / the three holy children rejoiced; / and the prophet Daniel was shown to be a shepherd of lions, as of sheep. // By their prayers, O Christ God, save Thou our souls!

Both... Troparion of the Forefeast (Tone 4)

Make ready, O Bethlehem!// Open unto all, O **Eden!**// Adorn thyself, O **Ephratha!**// For the Tree of life hath blossomed forth from the Virgin **in** the cave. / Her womb is shown to be a noetic **paradise,** / wherein lieth a divine **garden,** / eating from whence we live, not dying like **Adam.** / Christ is born // to raise up His image which before was **fallen.**

Lord Have Mercy 3x  
 Glory...

- R. Now...  
 R. Kathisma II  
 P. Small Ectenia

- R. Sessional Hymns:

Christ hath arisen from the dead, the first-fruits of those who have fallen asleep, the firstborn of creation, the Creator of all that existeth; and in Himself He hath restored the nature of our race which had become corrupt. No longer dost thou have dominion, O death, for the Master of all hath destroyed thy realm!

V. Arise, O Lord my God, let Thy hand be lifted high; forget not Thy paupers to the end.

Having tasted the fruit of death, O Lord, Thou didst cut off the bitterness of death by Thine arising, and hast strengthened man against it, revoking the defeat of the primal curse. O Lord, Defender of our life, glory be to Thee!

G/B... We sing thy praises, O Virgin Theotokos, who dost intercede for the salvation of our kind; for thy Son and our God by taking flesh of thee and accepting to suffer through the Cross has delivered us from corruption because He loveth mankind.

R. Kathisma III  
P. Small Ectenia

R. Sessional Hymns:

Terrified of Thine immutable divinity and voluntary suffering, O Lord, hell lamented to itself, saying: "I tremble before a Being of incorrupt flesh; I behold One invisible, Who mystically contendeth against me. Wherefore, I hold fast to those who cry: Glory to Thy resurrection, O Christ!"

V. I will confess Thee, O Lord, with my whole heart, I will tell of all Thy wonders.

O ye faithful, let us theologize concerning the incomprehensibility of the crucifixion, the ineffability of the resurrection, the unspeakable mystery; for today death and hell have been made captive, and the human race hath been clothed in incorruption. Wherefore, giving thanks, we cry unto Thee: Glory to Thine arising, O Christ!

G/B... O Theotokos, thou didst mystically contain in thy womb the Unapproachable and Uncircumscribable One, Who is consubstantial with the Father and the Spirit, and through thy birthgiving we have learned to glorify in the world the one and unconfused power of the Trinity. Wherefore, with thanksgiving we cry out to thee: Rejoice, O thou who art full of grace!

R. Psalm 118  
C. Evlogitaria (Blessed art Thou, O Lord...)  
P. Small Ectenia

R. Ypakoe:

Amazing the myrrh-bearing women by the sight of Him, and refreshing them by his words, the radiant angel said to them: "Why seek ye the Living in the tomb? He Who hath emptied the graves hath arisen! Understand the Changer of corruption to be immutable! Say ye unto God: How awesome are Thy works, for Thou hast saved the human race!"

C. Sedalen to the Fathers (Tone 8)

With **hymns** let us all praise Abraham, Isaac and **Jacob**,/ the meek David, Joshua, and the twelve **patriarchs**,/ together with the three youths that quenched the fiery flame with the power of the **Spirit**./ And let us cry **out** to them:/ Rejoice, ye that bravely denounced the deception of the **mad** king!/  
Pray ye to Christ, that He grant remission of **offenses**// unto them that celebrate your holy memory **with** love.

G/B... From the bosom of the Father didst Thou come down, and in Thine ineffable condescension didst Thou take upon Thyself poverty like unto ours,

in manner surpassing nature, O Thou Who lovest mankind. It was Thy good pleasure to make Thine abode in a cave, O Lord, and like as a babe art Thou suckled at Thy Mother's breast, Who art Creator and Lord. Wherefore, the magi, guided by the star, bring gifts unto Thee and cry out: Glory in the highest to God, Who cometh to earth to be born as a man!

R. Hymn of Degrees: (Antiphon One)

Thou didst move the captivity of Sion away from Babylon, O Word. Draw me also forth from the passions unto life.

They who sow in the south with tears divine shall joyfully reap the grain of life everlasting.

G/B... Unto the Holy Spirit, as to the Father and the Son, shineth all thanksgiving, wherein all things live and move.

Hymn of Degrees: (Antiphon Two)

If the Lord buildeth not the house of the virtues, in vain do we labor; and when the Spirit protecteth it, no one will destroy our city.

Through the Spirit are the saints ever adopted by Thee, O Christ, as the fruit of Thee and the Father.

G/B... Through the Holy Spirit are all holiness and wisdom perceived. For He bringeth every created thing into existence. Him do we worship, for He is God, like the Father and the Word.

Hymn of Degrees: (Antiphon Three)

Blessed are they who fear the Lord, who walk the path of the commandments; for they shall eat of all the fruits of life.

Be Thou glad, O Chief Shepherd, beholding Thine offspring round about Thy table, bearing the branches of goodly works.

G/B... From the Holy Spirit are all the riches of glory; from Him are grace and life for every creation: for He is hymned with the Father and the Word.

P. Prokimenon: (Tone 3)

Say among the nations that the Lord is king;/ for He hath established the world, which shall not be shaken.

V. O sing unto the Lord a new song, sing unto the Lord all the earth.

C. Let every breath praise the Lord.

P. GOSPEL #6

C. Having Beheld the Resurrection of Christ...

R. Psalm 50

C. Glory... Now... Have mercy on me... Jesus having risen...

P. Save, O God, Thy People...

Anointing.

### Canticle One

Irmos: He Who of old gathered the waters into one at His divine behest/ and parted the sea for the people of Israel,/ is our



God and is most glorious.// To Him let us chant, for He hath been glorified.

Glory to Thy Holy Resurrection, O Lord.

Our God is He Who cursed the earth to bring forth as fruit thorns through the sweat of the transgressor, and in the flesh receiveth a crown of thorns from the hands of the transgressors of the law. He hath abolished the curse, in that He hath been glorified.

He of Whom death was afraid hath appeared as the vanquisher and victor over death; for having assumed animate flesh subject to sufferings, and contended against the tyrant, He hath raised all up with Himself. He is our God, for He hath been glorified.

#### Theotokion

All nations glorify thee as the true Theotokos who gave birth without seed; for He is our God Who, having descended into thy sanctified womb, became of our essence. God and Man was born of thee.

Glory to Thee, Our God, glory to Thee!

The Virgin now cometh to Bethlehem to give birth to Christ, Who becometh a babe in the flesh, to Christ, Who of His own will hath beggared Himself; to Christ, Who becometh visible. Let heaven and earth rejoice!

Leap up, ye mountains and hills! Join chorus, ye divinely eloquent prophets! Ye people and nations, clap your hands! Our salvation and Enlightenment, Who is born in the city of Bethlehem, hath nearly come.

#### Theotokion

Without change is God known as man through the Virgin who hath not known wedlock; He Who is rich becometh poor, enriching those who, through malice, have been reduced to poverty. Let us all hymn Him with praises, for He hath been glorified.

Holy Fathers, pray to God for us!

Today the assembly of the divine fathers doth radiantly celebrate the forefeast of the nativity of Christ, and most glorious grace doth prefigure it, for Abraham and the children of the Law are an image thereof.

Of old the sacred Abraham received One of the three Persons of the Godhead, and now the Word of the Father, Who is equally enthroned with Him, doth, through the divine Spirit, come to the children, He Who is gloriously praised.

The children that cast down godlessness in the furnace are in number and faith images of the divine Trinity, and they have revealed to the world the hidden mysteries of God.

Glory... Abraham delivered from the hands of the unrighteous, and the divine youths and Daniel the prophet were once saved from the flame of the furnace and from the den of wild beasts. Wherefore, we now celebrate the forefeast of the nativity of Christ.

Both... O joyous and unwedded Mother, incorrupt Virgin, we bless thee, for thou didst blossom forth from the generation of Abraham and the tribe of David, and gavest birth unto Christ, Who of old was foretold by the prophets.

C. Katavasia (Tone 1)

Christ is born, glorify Him./ Christ is from heaven receive Him./ Christ is on earth, be ye lifted up./ Sing unto the Lord, all the earth./ And praise Him with joy, ye people; // For He hath glorified Himself.

### Canticle Three

Irmos: O Most High, Thou Ruler of all,/ Who out of non-existence/ hast brought all things, which are fashioned by Thy Word/ and made perfect by the Spirit; // Confirm me in Thy love!

Glory to Thy Holy Resurrection, O Lord.

The ungodly one was confounded by Thy Cross, for he fell into the pit which he dug; but in Thy resurrection, O Christ, Thou didst raise up the lowly.

The preaching of piety to the nations covered them like the water of the sea, O Thou Who lovest mankind; for having risen from the tomb, Thou didst reveal the light of the Trinity.

### Theotokion

All-glorious things have been said of thee, O animate city of Him Who reigneth forever; for through thee, O Mistress, did God come to dwell with those on earth.

Glory to Thee, Our God, glory to Thee!

He Who in manner past understanding was born of the Father before the ages, hath become incarnate of the Virgin in latter times, as He Himself knew, desiring to restore humanity, which had become corrupt through the counsel of the evil serpent.

The unoriginate Son of God, Who is enthroned with the Father and the Spirit in the highest, beholding human nature which had been humbled, doth accept a beginning and desireth to be born in the flesh as man.

### Theotokion

She who is more holy than the angels and all creation doth now give birth without seed to the Angel of Great Counsel in the flesh, for the restoration of all who unceasingly chant unto Him: Holy art Thou, O Lord!

Holy Fathers, pray to God for us!

Faithfully preserving the glory of the image and likeness of God, with the fire of the Spirit the children, as champions, extinguished the fire of the golden image, chanting: We know but one Lord!

The captive children, clothed with the wisdom and power of the Spirit, put to shame the wise men of Babylon and boldly cried out: None is holy save Thee, O Lord, Lover of mankind!

Glory... The law doth rejoice and joineth chorus with the children and the prophets and doth exult today before the divine advent of the Lord. And Abraham doth rejoice, for from his seed hath the incarnate Lord appeared.

Both... A conception without pain, an acceptance of thy birthgiving hath transpired in manner beyond recounting, O Theotokos, for the Word of God, Who is God and was proclaimed by the prophets, hath shown Himself to be a mystery beyond nature.

C. Katavasia (Tone 1)

To the Son Who was begotten of the Father/ without change before all ages,/ and in the last times was without seed made flesh of the Virgin,/ to Christ our God let us cry aloud:// Thou hast raised up our horn, holy art Thou, O Lord.

P. Small Ectenia

C. Ypakoe (Tone 8)

An **Angel** bedewed the children in the **furnace**,/ and hath now put an end to the lamentation of the myrrh-bearing women, **saying**:// Why bring ye myrrh? Whom seek ye **in** the tomb?/ Christ God is **risen**,// for He is the life and salvation of the **human** race!

Canticle Four

Irmos: Thou hast shown us constant love, O Lord,/ for Thou didst give Thine only-begotten Son over to death for us./ Wherefore, in thanksgiving we cry to Thee:// Glory to Thy power, O Lord.

Glory to Thy Holy Resurrection, O Lord.

In Thy mercy, Thou didst withstand wounds and stripes, O Christ, enduring the malice of blows to Thy cheeks; and with long-suffering deigning to be spit upon, Thou didst thereby accomplish salvation for me. Glory to Thy power, O Lord.

Thou didst partake of death in a mortal body, O Life, for the sake of the suffering of the poor and the groans of Thy paupers; and having brought corruption upon the corrupter, O All-glorious One, Thou didst resurrect all with Thyself, in that Thou hast been glorified.

Theotokion

Remember, O Christ, the flock which Thou hast acquired by Thy suffering; and accepting the merciful entreaties of Thine all-glorious Mother, deliver it by Thy power, O Lord, visiting it in its affliction.

Glory to Thee, Our God, glory to Thee!

Thou hast given rise unto a staff from the root of Jesse, O Virgin, putting forth the unfading Blossom of the Creator of all, Who, as God, doth with flowers adorn all the earth, which crieth aloud to Him: Glory to Thy power, O Lord!

O Word of God, Thou hast come to edify me, who have been despoiled through evil food and dragged down in mind and made like unto dumb beasts; and, becoming a babe, Thou didst lie down in a manger of dumb beasts. Glory to Thy power, O Lord!

Theotokion

O Jesus, Habbakuk foresaw Thee incarnate of the Virgin, the mountain overshadowed, breaking down the mountains and hills of evil, and giving over to utter destruction the arrogance of the evil one and the uprisings of the demons.

Holy Fathers, pray to God for us!

Let us honour Abraham, Isaac and Jacob as the firstfruits of the fathers, for from their seed hath Christ shone forth incarnate of the Virgin, in that He is almighty.

Indicating the coming events of the descent of Christ unto all, Daniel clearly showed forth lions as sheep, for, as a prophet of God, he foresaw the future.

Glory... Not attracted by the poison of sin, O children, ye were delivered from the flame; for, being of wisdom more pure than gold, ye were not melted in the furnace of deception.

Both... O honoured and all-pure one, thine Offspring, Who surpasseth nature, is proclaimed aloud to be the expectation of the nations and the salvation of the world. And today the multitude of the fathers doth hymn Him.

C. Katavasia (Tone 1)

A rod from the root of Jesse/ and blossom therefrom, O Christ,/ Thou didst spring forth from the Virgin;/ from the mountain overshadowed and densely wooded hast Thou come,/ incarnate of her who knew not man,/ O Thou praised and immaterial God.// Glory to Thy power, O Lord!

Canticle Five

Irmos: I rise at dawn unto Thee, the Creator of all,/ Who passest  
all worldly understanding;/ for Thy commandments are light,//  
wherein do Thou direct me.

Glory to Thy Holy Resurrection, O Lord.

Through the envy of the Jews Thou wast given over to an unjust judge, O  
Beholder of all. And Thou who judgest the whole earth with justice hast  
delivered ancient Adam from condemnation.

O Christ Who hast risen from the dead, grant Thy peace unto Thy  
Churches through the invincible power of Thy Cross, and save Thou our souls.

Theotokion

O only Ever-virgin, thou hast been shown to be the holy tabernacle and  
more spacious than the heavens, in that thou didst receive the Word of God,  
Whom all creation cannot contain.

Glory to Thee, Our God, glory to Thee!

As the most perfect Son of God, the Master by nature, in Thy  
loving-kindness wast well pleased to be called the Son of man and reckoned  
among slaves, O most Compassionate One. Wherefore, willingly begging  
Thyself, Thou comest to be born in a cave, O All-good One.

O Christ our King, Who art uncontainable by nature, how can a little  
cave receive Thee? How can a manger hold Thee, Who comest in the flesh to  
Thine own for our sake, from a Mother who knew not wedlock, that Thou  
mightest save those who have been estranged from Thee, O Lord?

Theotokion

The Shepherd's ewe-lamb hath come to give birth. Make ready, O holy  
cave! Make haste, ye shepherds, to see the newborn Shepherd and Lamb! Ye  
magi, prepare yourselves with gifts to worship Him as King in the flesh.

Holy Fathers, pray to God for us!

Let us honour today the divine Daniel, of the race of Abraham, the  
firstfruit of the fathers, as a leader of the Law and of grace; for, as a  
prophet of God, he foretold the advent of Christ from the Virgin and goeth  
forth to meet His divine nativity.

Clearly prefiguring through the Angel's descent the coming of the Lord  
unto us, the children of Abraham extinguished the furnace; and, rendering  
the flame dewy with their faith, they consumed the splendor of the golden  
image therein.

Glory... Through the Spirit, Daniel closed the mouths of the wild  
beasts in the pit; and, through grace, the children of Abraham quenched the  
strength of the fire. And, saved from corruption, they proclaim Christ Who  
is born of the Virgin, entreating Him as the Deliverer of our salvation.

Both... Revealing through the divine Spirit Thy painless assumption of our nature, and keeping vigil in the Law of grace, O Lord, Isaiah cried out: From the race of Abraham and the tribe of Judah doth a Virgin come, giving birth in the flesh without seed.

C. Katavasia (Tone 1)

God of peace, the Father of mercies,/ Thou hast sent unto us an Angel of Thy great council,/ Who giveth us peace./ Therefore having been led unto the light of godly wisdom,/ waking early from the night// we do sing praises of Thee, O Lover of mankind.

Canticle Six

Irmos: The uttermost abyss of sins hath engulfed me,/ and my spirit doth perish./ But, stretching forth Thine upraised arm, O Master,// save me as Thou didst Peter, O Helmsman!

Glory to Thy Holy Resurrection, O Lord.

An abyss of mercy and compassion hath surrounded me through Thy compassionate descent; for having become incarnate and taken on the form of a servant, O Master, Thou didst deify me, glorifying me with Thyself.

The slayer underwent death, beholding Him Who was dead alive again. These were images of Thy resurrection, O Christ, and of Thine all-pure, vanquishing sufferings.

Theotokion

O all-pure one who alone dost mediate before the Creator and men, in manner past understanding: entreat thy merciful Son, and be thou a champion for thine all-sinful servants.

Glory to Thee, Our God, glory to Thee!

O Mistress, as a new heaven thou dost come, that Christ, the Sun of glory, might shine forth in the flesh from thy womb, as through a cloud, in the cave; for, in His boundless loving-kindness, He desireth splendidly to illumine all who are of this earth with rays of His own light.

Thou didst perceive our infirmity and misery, O compassionate Christ, and didst not disdain us; but, without leaving the Father, Thou didst abase Thyself and make Thine abode in the womb of her who knew not wedlock, who now cometh forth to give birth unto Thee, without pain, in the cave.

Theotokion

Ye mountains and hills, fields and vales, people and generations, nations and every creature: exult, filled with divine gladness, for the deliverance of all, the Word of God, the Timeless One, Who in His loving-kindness hath come under time, doth come with haste.

Holy Fathers, pray to God for us!

Hospitable was the nature and exalted was the faith of Abraham the forefather. Wherefore, receiving in image the divine mystery, he rejoiced, and, running before Christ, he now maketh merry.

The faith of the youths now holdeth creation subject by the gift of the Creator, for the all-devouring and shameless fire stood in awe of them that honour Jesus Christ, the Creator of fire.

Glory... Daniel the prophet, once closing the mouths of the lions in the pit, showed in godly manner that through the coming of Christ the savagery of the world is in harmony with divine peace.

Both... O Mary, Mother who knewest not man, from a virgin womb didst thou give birth unto Christ, Whom the prophets beheld in the Spirit; and the fathers who begot Him now join chorus before His nativity.

C. Katavasia (Tone 1)

The sea monster spat forth Jonah/ as it had received him, like a babe from the womb;/ while the Word, having dwelt in the Virgin and taken flesh,/ came forth from her yet kept her uncorrupt./ For being Himself not subject to decay,// He preserved His Mother free from harm.

P. Small Ectenia

C. Kontakion of the prefestal period (Tone 1)

Be glad, O Bethlehem! Make ready, O Ephratha! For, lo! She who beareth the Lamb and great Shepherd in her womb/ doth make haste to give birth./ Beholding this, the God-bearing fathers are glad,// with the shepherds hymning the Virgin who giveth milk.

R. Ikos of the Fathers of the prefestal period

Beholding the splendid radiance of thy birthgiving, O Virgin, the God-loving Abraham, the ever-memorable Isaac, Jacob and all the divinely assembled choir of saints rejoice, and, with joyous utterances, they lead creation forth to meet thee; for thou art shown to be the mediatrix of joy for all, having conceived in thy womb Him Who once was seen in Babylon, Who preserved unconsumed the youths that had been cast unjustly into the furnace, and Who showed thee forth in manner past all comprehension. Wherefore, the young maidens chant unto Him Who is borne in thine arms, hymning thee as the Virgin who giveth milk.

R. Reading from the Prologue or Synaxarion

Canticle Seven

Irmos: As of old Thou didst bedew the three pious children/ in the Chaldaean flame,/ with the radiant fire of Thy divinity/ illumine us who cry:// Blessed is the God of our fathers.

Glory to Thy Holy Resurrection, O Lord.

The splendid veil of the temple was rent in twain at the crucifixion of the Creator, revealing the truth hidden in the Scripture unto the faithful who cry: O God of our fathers, blessed art Thou!

When Thy side was pierced, O Christ, with the drops of Thy divinely flowing and life-creating blood, which fell upon the ground according to Thy design, Thou didst restore those on earth, who cry: O God of our fathers, blessed art Thou!

#### Triadicon

Let us glorify the good Spirit with the Father and the only-begotten Son, O ye faithful, worshipping the one Godhead and Sovereignty in three, crying: O God of our fathers, blessed art Thou!

Glory to Thee, Our God, glory to Thee!

The divine vine whereon the incorrupt Cluster did ripen, draweth nigh, coming to give birth unto Him Who poureth forth the wine of gladness and watereth us who cry out to Him: O God of our fathers, blessed art Thou!

The divine phial which beareth within herself the fragrant Myrrh cometh to pour It out in the cave of Bethlehem, filling with mystic fragrance those who chant: O God of our fathers, blessed art Thou!

#### Theotokion

The tongs which Isaiah the prophet beheld of old cometh, holding in her womb Christ, the divine Ember, which burneth up all the fuel of sin and enlighteneth the souls of the faithful.

Holy Fathers, pray to God for us!

O father Abraham, founder of thy race, having begotten Christ in the flesh, thou art clearly revealed by the Spirit as the father of nations, unto the salvation of us that chant: O God, our Deliverer, blessed art Thou!

The hymn of the inspired ones hath put to shame them that utter soulless noises, for the youths, bodily trampling down unharmed the furnace which burned with fire, chant: O God, our Deliverer, blessed art Thou!

Glory... Of old, the prophet Daniel, gazing with spiritual vision, revealed the second coming of Christ, and he foretelleth the dreadful things which shall come to pass therein, crying out: O God, our Deliverer, blessed art Thou!

Both... O strange wonder, known among the prophets and revealed of old to the fathers: a pure Virgin is come, wishing to give birth unto the salvation of us that chant: O God, our Deliverer, blessed art Thou!

C. Katavasia (Tone 1)



The youths who were brought up together in godliness,/ despising the command of the unrighteous infidel,/ were not terrified by the threatening fire,/ but standing in the midst of the flames they did sing:// O God of our fathers, blessed art Thou.

### Canticle Eight

Irmos: United in the unbearable fire,/ yet unharmed by its flame,/ the pious youths chanted a divine hymn in intercession:/ Bless the Lord, all ye works of the Lord,// and exalt Him supremely for all ages!

Glory to Thy Holy Resurrection, O Lord.

The splendor of the temple was rent in twain when Thy Cross was planted on Golgotha, and creation fell down in fear, singing: Bless the Lord, all ye works of the Lord! Hymn and exalt Him supremely forever!

Thou didst rise from the tomb, O Christ, and by Thy divine power didst set aright him who fell, deceived into eating of the tree; and he crieth and saith: Bless the Lord, all ye works of the Lord! Hymn and exalt Him supremely forever!

### Theotokion

Thou hast been shown to be the temple of God, an animate habitation, and the ark; for thou, O all-pure Theotokos, hast reconciled the Creator with men, and all of us, His works, hymn thee fittingly and exalt Him supremely for all ages.

Glory to Thee, Our God, glory to Thee!

In gladness let us cry out with the angels: Glory to God in the highest! The Saviour is born! The Master cometh, to Whom the star doth point! The magi hasten to behold Him, a Babe in a manger! Let all creation bless the Lord and exalt Him supremely for all ages!

Among slaves wast Thou enrolled of Thine own will, O Master, subjecting Thyself to the law of Caesar, that Thou mightest free mankind from slavery to the evil one, O most merciful God. Wherefore, rejoicing, we chant: Let all creation bless the Lord and exalt Him supremely for all ages!

### Theotokion

O Word Who art without beginning, I bear Thee as a newborn Babe, although I have in no wise known man", said the Virgin, marveling. "Whom on earth can I call Thy father? I know not. Wherefore, with all I chant to Thee: Let all creation bless the Lord and exalt Him supremely for all ages!"

Holy Fathers, pray to God for us!

Prefiguring Thy sacrifice, O Christ, Abraham, obedient to Thee, O Master, went forth with faith, wishing to sacrifice on the mountain the son whom he had begotten; but he returned with him, rejoicing and glorifying and exalting above all Thee, the Deliverer of the world.

When Thou didst clothe Thyself in ever-blazing flame as in a divine robe, O Christ, thou didst utterly extinguish the fire for the three holy children, and by Thy descent the dew hath cried out unto them that chant: Ye priests hymn and exalt Him supremely forever!

Let us bless Father, Son, Holy Spirit, the Lord!

The prophet Daniel is given to the lions as an unjust trial, but, through the precept of abstinence, in his piety he had the wild beasts as fellow fasters in the depths of the pit. Through his prayers and those of Abraham and the children, save them that hymn Thee in the world, O Christ!

Both... The voices of the prophets faithfully proclaimed Him as Jesus Immanuel, Who cometh in human form, God and man; and the Virgin Mary, without having known man, giveth birth in the city of Bethlehem unto a Son, the co-unoriginate Word, through the Holy Spirit.

We praise, we bless, we worship the Lord, praising and supremely exalting Him unto all ages.

C. Katavasia (Tone 1)

The furnace moist with dew/ was the image and figure of a wonder past nature./ For it burnt not the Children whom it had received,/ even as the fire of the Godhead consumed not the Virgin's womb into which it had descended./ Therefore in praise let us sing:// Let the whole creation bless the Lord and exalt Him above all forever.

P. Magnificat

C. Song of the Most Holy Theotokos.

### Canticle Nine

Irmos: A wonder new and divine:/ the Lord manifestly passeth through the closed door of the Virgin,/ naked at His entry;/ and God doth reveal Himself as corporeal as He issueth forth;/ and yet the gate remaineth shut.// Ineffably let us magnify her as the Mother of God.

Glory to Thy Holy Resurrection, O Lord.

Awesome is it to behold Thee, the Creator, O Word of God, uplifted upon the Tree: God suffering in the flesh for His servants, and lying in the tomb, bereft of breath, and releasing the dead from hell. Wherefore, O Christ, we magnify Thee as omnipotent.

Placed dead in the tomb, Thou didst save the forefathers from the corruption of death; and, raising up the dead, Thou didst cause life to

blossom forth, guiding human nature to the light and clothing it in divine incorruption. Wherefore, we ever magnify Thee as the Light of life.

Theotokion

Thou hast been shown to be the temple and throne of God, wherein He Who is in the highest dwelt, born of thee who knewest not man, O most pure one, without in any wise opening the gates of thy flesh. Wherefore, O pure one, by thine unceasing supplications quickly and utterly subdue the barbaric nations.

Glory to Thee, Our God, glory to Thee!

O mysteries strange, awesome and most glorious: the Lord of glory hath come to earth and, having beggared Himself, He hath entered a cave in the flesh, seeking to restore Adam and to deliver Eve from her pangs.

By Thy swaddling clothes Thou dost loose the bonds of our sinful falls; by Thy great poverty Thou dost enrich us all, O Compassionate One; and having been laid in a manger of dumb beasts Thou dost release men from irrational malice, O all-unoriginate Word of God.

Theotokion

The preaching of the prophets hath reached the ends of the earth, for they foretold Him Who was to come in the fullness of time; and He came and appeared incarnate of the pure Virgin. Let us receive Him with a pure mind!

Holy Fathers, pray to God for us!

Celebrating the feast of the fathers that were before the law, let us honour Christ, Who, in godly manner, is begotten of them in the flesh; for Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, who, through faith, are proclaimers of the Spirit and grace, are shown to be the foundation of the prophets and the law.

God, Who by the fire in the bush showed to Moses the godly mystery in manner past understanding, having descended into the fire for the children, showed the flame of the furnace to be dew through the fire of the Essence of His divinity.

Glory... The all-holy children, assembling with Abraham, and Daniel, the wondrous prophet of God, Isaac and Jacob, with Moses and Aaron, faithfully join chorus before the nativity of Christ, praying unceasingly that we be saved.

Both... All of creation doth rejoice in thy birthgiving, O Virgin, for Bethlehem hath opened Eden unto us. And, lo! delighting in the Tree of Life, we all earnestly cry out in faith: Thou hast fulfilled our prayers, O Mistress!

C. Katavasia (Tone 1)

A **strange** and most wonderful mystery do I **see**; / the cave is **heaven**; / the **Virgin** the throne of the **cherubim**; / the manger a room, in which Christ, the God Whom nothing can **contain**, is laid. // Him do we praise and **magnify**.

P. Small Ectenia

C. Holy is the Lord our God...

R. Exapostilarion Six (Luke 24:36-53)

Showing that Thou art man in essence, O Saviour, Thou hast risen from the tomb. And Thou hast partaken of food and hast stood in their midst to preach repentance. And Thou hast straightway ascended to the Father and promised to send the disciples the Comforter.

Glory... Exapostilarion of the Fathers

Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, the elect of the patriarchs, the fathers before the Law, have shone forth like beacons, for all the prophets and the righteous shone forth from them like radiant lamps. With rays of honourable prophecy have they illumined all creation; and they earnestly pray to God in behalf of the world.

Both... Theotokion of the Fathers

Wondrous hath this been! The unblemished ewe-lamb, the granddaughter of Adam and David, giveth birth unto the Lamb, the all-unoriginate Word, in the latter days, as is meet. The forefeast of her ineffable birthgiving doth the multitude of the fathers celebrate fittingly.

C. Lauds: Tone 3 Stichera

Let every bre-ath **praise** the Lord/

**Praise** the Lord from the **Heavens**/

**Praise** Him in the **highest**/

To **Thee** is due a **hymn**, O God/

**Praise** Him, all ye His **Angels**;/

**Praise** Him, all **ye** His hosts.//

To Thee is due a **hymn**, O God.

R. (The following may be read or sung antiphonally)

Praise Him, O sun and moon; praise Him, all ye stars and light.

Praise Him, ye heavens of heavens, and thou water that art above the heavens.

Let them praise the name of the Lord; For He spake, and they came to be; He commanded, and they were created.

He established them forever, yea, forever and ever; He hath set an ordinance, and it shall not pass away.

Praise the Lord from the earth, ye dragons and all ye abysses,

Fire, hail, snow, ice, blast of tempest, which perform His word,

The mountains and all the hills, fruitful trees, and all cedars,

The beasts and all the cattle, creeping things and winged birds,

Kings of the earth, and all peoples, princes and all judges of the earth,

Young men and virgins, elders with the younger; let them praise the name of the Lord, for exalted is the name of Him alone.

His praise is above the earth and heaven, and He shall exalt the horn of His people.

This is the hymn for all His saints, for the sons of Israel, and for the people that draw nigh unto Him.

Sing unto the Lord a new song; His praise is in the church of the saints. Let Israel be glad in Him that made him, let the sons of Sion rejoice in their king.

Let them praise His name in the dance; with the timbrel and the psaltery let them chant unto Him.

For the Lord taketh pleasure in His people, and He shall exalt the meek with salvation.

The saints shall boast in glory, and they shall rejoice upon their beds. The high praise of God shall be in their throat, and two-edged swords shall be in their hands.

To do vengeance among the heathen, punishments among the peoples,  
To bind their kings with fetters, and their nobles with manacles of iron,

V. To do among them the judgment that is written/ This glory shall be to **all** His saints.

1. O **come** all ye **nations**,/ **perceive** the might of this awful **mystery**./ Our **Saviour** Who in the **beginning** was the Word,/ has been **crucified** for us and of His own Will suffered **burial**,/ on the third **day** He rose again that He might **save** us all.// Therefore let us **worship** Him.

V. Praise ye God in His saints,/ praise Him in the firmament of His **power**.

2. The **watch** that **guarded** Thee, O Lord,/ **related** all the wonders that had **come** to pass,/ but the vain **assembly** of the Sanhedrin filled their **hands** with gifts,/ thus **thinking** to hide Thy Resurrection that the whole world **glorifies**.// Have **mercy** upon us.

V. Praise Him for His mighty acts,/ praise Him according to the multitude of His **greatness**.

3. All **things** were filled with joy at receiving the tidings of Thy Resurrection,/ **for** Mary Magdalene, when she **went** to Thy tomb,/ found an **angel** in shining raiment seated upon the **stone** who said:/ 'Why do ye seek the living **among** the dead?/ He is not **here**, but risen, **as** He said,// and He goes before you into **Galilee**.'

V. Praise Him with the sound of trumpet,/ praise Him with **psaltery** and harp.

4. O **Master** Who **lovest** mankind,/ in Thy **light** do we **see** light./ For **Thou** art risen **from** the dead/ and hast **bestowed** salvation on **mankind**./ Let all the **creation** give glory to Thee Who alone art **without** sin// and do Thou have **mercy** upon us.

V. Praise Him with timbrel and dance, praise Him with strings and flute. Praise Him with tuneful cymbals, praise Him with cymbals of jubilation./ Let every breath praise the Lord.

Stichera for the Fathers (Tone 5)

5/6. Lift up thy voice, O **Zion**,/ thou truly divine **city**,/ and **proclaim** the divine memory of the **fathers**,/ honoring **Abraham**, Isaac and the ever-memorable **Jacob**;/ for, lo! we all magnify Judah and Levi, the great **Moses**/ **and** the wondrous Aaron, and we honour David, Joshua and **Samuel**./ And **weaving** divine hymns into **godly** praise/ on the forefeast of Christ's **nativity**,/ we **ask** that we receive **grace** from Him,// and that He grant the **world** great mercy.

V. Blessed art Thou, O Lord, God of our fathers, and praised and glorified is Thy name unto the ages!

7. O-o **Elijah**,/ who once rode upon a divine **chariot** of fire,/ come thou **forth**, and thou, O divinely wise **Elisha**;/ and **joining** with Ezekiel and **Hosea**, rejoice!/ O ye honoured and divinely inspired twelve prophets, join **chorus**,/ and all ye **righteous**, chant in hymns unto the **nativity** of Christ;/ ye most blessed youths that quenched the flame of the furnace with the dew of the **Spirit**,/ entreat Christ in **our** behalf,// that He send down upon our **souls** great mercy.

V. For righteous art Thou in all which Thou hast done for us.

8. The **Virgin Theotokos**,/ she who through the ages hath been **preached** on earth/ by the **prophets** in their **utterances**,/ **she** whom the wise patriarchs and the assemblies of the **righteous** proclaim,/ with whom the comeliness of women joineth **chorus**:/ **Sarah**, Rebecca, Rachel and **Hannah**,/ together with the glorious Miriam, the sister of **Moses**./ With them all the ends of the **world** rejoice/ and all creation rendereth **honour**,/ for the Creator and God of all cometh to be **born** in the flesh// and to **grant** us great **mercy**.

Glory... (Tone 8)

The **compilation** of the **teachings** of the Law/ doth reveal the divine birth of **Christ** in the flesh/ as being from them that, **before** the Law,/ proclaimed the glad tidings of grace to them that lived **beyond** the Law./ Wherefore, in that this birth is the means of deliverance from **corruption**,/ for the sake of the resurrection they declared to the souls held fast in **Hades**:// O Lord, **glory** be to Thee!

Both now and ever... (Tone 2)

Most Blessed art Thou, O Virgin Theotokos,/ for through Him Who became incarnate of thee is hades led **captive**,/ **Adam** recalled, the curse annulled, Eve set free, **death** slain,/ and we are given life. Wherefore, we cry **aloud** in praise:/ Blessed art Thou, O **Christ** God,// Who hast been thus well-pleased, **glory** to Thee.

The Great Doxology

Dismissal Tropar:

Today is salvation come unto the world; let us sing to Him Who arose from the tomb, and is the Author of our life. For having destroyed death by death, He hath given us the victory and great mercy.

P. Litanies  
Dismissal

G/B... Gospel Sticheron (Tone 6)

Thou, O Christ, art **peace** indeed/ Who givest the peace of **God** to men,/ and after the Resurrection, Thou hast shown terrible things to the **disciples**/ who supposed they saw a **spirit**./ But Thou hast calmed the tumult **of** their souls,/ by showing them Thine **hands** and feet./ To those who nevertheless still **disbelieved**,/ Thou hast opened their minds to understand the **Scriptures**/ by partaking food with them and reminding them of Thy **teachings**./ And having assured them of the promise of the **Father**,/ and having blessed them, Thou hast gone away to **heaven**./ With them we therefore worship Thee, glory to **Thee**, O Lord.

R. Hours:  
Tropar: Resurrection & Fathers/Forefeast alternating  
Kontak: Fathers/Forefeast alternating

At Liturgy:

Order of Troparia & Kontakia:

Tropar Sunday

Tropar Fathers

Tropar Forefeast

Glory... Kontak Fathers

Both... Kontak Forefeast

Prokimenon for the Holy Fathers (Tone 4)

Blessed art Thou, O Lord, the God of our fathers...

Epistle(s): Heb 11:9-10,17-23,32-40

Alleluia for the Holy Fathers (Tone 4)

Gospel(s): Matt 1:1-25

Communion Verse: Praise ye & Rejoice in the Lord...