**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15 TONE 1**

**26th Sunday after Pentecost/ Sunday of the Holy Forefathers**

**Hieromartyr Eleutherius and his mother Martyr Anthia**

*The service to the Hieromartyr and his mother is sung whenever the Rector desires.*

**"Lord I Call..." Tone 1**

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 1** *(for the Resurrection)*

Accept our evening prayers, O holy Lord!

Grant us remission of sins,//

for Thou alone hast manifested the Resurrection to the world.

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

Encircle Zion

and surround her, O people!

Give glory in her to the One Who rose from the dead!

For He is our God, //

Who has delivered us from our transgressions!

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

Come, O people,

let us hymn and fall down before Christ,

glorifying His Resurrection from the dead!

For He is our God, //

Who has delivered the world from the Enemy’s deceit!

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

*(Resurrection stichera by Anatolius)*

Be glad, O heavens!

Sound trumpets, O foundations of the earth!

Sing in gladness, O mountains!

Behold Emmanuel has nailed our sins to the Cross!

Granting life, He has slain death.//

He has resurrected Adam as the Lover of man.

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

Let us praise Him Who voluntarily was crucified in the flesh for our sake.

He suffered, was buried, but rose from the dead.

By orthodoxy confirm Thy Church, O Christ. //

Grant peace for our life as the gracious Lover of man.

*v. (5) For Thy name’s sake have I waited for Thee, O Lord, my soul has waited for Thy word; my soul has hoped on the Lord.*

We stand before Thy life-bearing tomb unworthily, O Christ God,

offering glory to Thine ineffable compassion.

Thou hast accepted the Cross and death, O sinless One//

to grant Resurrection to the world as the Lover of man.

*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, thou 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 abundant towards us; and the truth of the Lord endures for ever.*

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 1**  *(Theotokion – Dogmatikon)*

Let us praise the Virgin Mary!

The gate of heaven, the glory of the world!

The song of the angels, the beauty of the faithful!

She was born of man, yet gave birth to God!

She was revealed as the heaven,

as the temple of the godhead!

She destroyed the wall of enmity!

She commenced the peace; she opened the Kingdom!

Since she is our foundation of faith,

our defender is the Lord Whom she bore!

Courage! Courage! O People of God!

For Christ will destroy our enemies//

since He is all powerful.

**26th Sunday after Pentecost/Sunday of the Holy Forefathers**

**Litya** *(If the rector desires the Litya, following the stichera to 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 didst carry in thine arms the compassionate One,

have compassion on thy servants,//

and pray that our souls may be saved!

**26th Sunday after Pentecost/Sunday of the Holy Forefathers**

**Aposticha**

**Tone 1**  *(for the Resurrection)*

We have been freed from sufferings

by Thy suffering, O Christ.

We have been delivered from corruption

by Thy Resurrection.//

O Lord, glory to Thee!

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

Let creation rejoice!

Let the heavens be glad!

Let the nations clap their hands with gladness,

for Christ our Savior has nailed our sins to the Cross.

Slaying death, He has given life.//

He has resurrected fallen Adam as the Lover of man.

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

As King of heaven and earth,

Thou wast voluntarily crucified in Thy love for man.

Hell was angered when it met Thee below.

Adam rose seeing Thee, the Creator, under the earth.

O wonder! How has the Life of all tasted death?

Thou didst enlighten the world which cries://

O Lord, Who didst rise from the dead, glory to Thee!

*v. Holiness befitteth Thy house, O Lord, forevermore!*

The myrrhbearing women came with haste to Thy tomb,

bearing myrrh and lamenting.

Not finding Thy most pure body,

they learned from the angel of the new and glorious wonder.

They told the Apostles:

“The Lord is risen, //

granting the world great mercy.”

*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 came from thee without a father.//

Do not cease entreating Him to deliver our souls from harm.

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***(at Great Vespers)***

**Tone 1** **Troparion**  *(Resurrection)*

When the stone had been sealed by the Jews,

while the soldiers were guarding Thy most pure body,

Thou didst rise on the third day, O Savior,

granting life to the world.

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

“Glory to Thy Resurrection, O Christ!

Glory to Thy ^Kingdom!//

Glory to Thy dispensation, O Thou who lovest mankind!”

*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!

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***(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!

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***(at the Divine Liturgy)***

**Tone 1** **Troparion**  *(Resurrection)*

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Thou didst rise on the third day, O Savior,

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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)*

Ye did not worship the graven image,

O thrice-blessed ones,

but armed with the immaterial Essence of God,

ye were glorified in a trial by fire.

From the midst of unbearable flames ye 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** *(Song of the Fathers)*

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**

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 98/99:6)*

*v: They called to the Lord and He answered them. (Ps 98/99:6)*

**Gospel**

Luke 14:16-24 *(Forefathers)*

**Communion Hymns**

Praise the Lord from the heavens! Praise Him in the highest! *(Ps 148:1)*

Rejoice in the Lord, O ye righteous; praise befits the just! *(Ps 32/33:1)*

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

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), Archimandrite Juvenaly, Fr Benedict Churchill, Isaac Lambertson, St. Vladimir’s Seminary, and Holy Transfiguration Monastery, among others.