**JANUARY 30**

**Synaxis of the Three Great Ecumenical Teachers and Hierarchs: Basil the Great, Gregory the Theologian, and John Chrysostom**

**"Lord I Call..." Tone 4**

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

**Tone 4** *(As one valiant among martyrs)*

Let us worthily honor the instruments of grace:

John, Basil, and Gregory,

the harps of the Spirit, the resounding trumpets of preaching,

awesome and clear in tone,//

thundering from the heights to declare the glory of God to the ends of the earth!

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

Let us worthily honor the three champions:

the bulwarks of devotion,

the three apostles added to the twelve,

rivers overflowing with living water from Eden,

flooding the face of the earth with life-bearing and divine streams!//

They have formed the faith, as the elements form creation.

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

It is said: “There is no speech, nor are there words

that are not heard in their voices”;

for the proclamation of the godly and wise teachers

has gone out through all the earth and the sea of creation.

Therefore, through their divine precepts, great things are gathered and

assembled//

into one true doctrine for the ends of the earth.

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.*

Let us who follow their teachings

praise the instruments of the Holy Spirit with hymns;

they are the trumpets of truth, the words of orators!

Let us entreat them, for they are bold before the Lord,

that He may always grant forgiveness to all of us,//

and great peace to the whole world!

V. (4) *From the morning watch until night, from the morning watch, let Israel hope on the Lord!*

**Tone 2** *(With what crowns)*

With what wreaths of praise

shall we crown the teachers?

In separate bodies, they were united in spirit:

God-bearing intercessors, equal in number to the Trinity,

ministers and lights who illumine the universe,

pillars of the Church, whom Christ, our merciful God,//

crowns with wreaths of victorious glory.

V. (3) *For with the Lord there is mercy and with Him is plenteous redemption, and He will deliver Israel from all his iniquities.*

With what beautiful hymns

shall we crown the God-bearing and heavenly initiates?

Preachers of the mysteries,

leading theologians of the Orthodox Faith:

Basil, manifest in holiness,

Gregory, godly and divinely inspired,

John of the golden tongue,//

whom the Trinity, the greatly merciful Lord, has fittingly glorified.

V. (2) *Praise the Lord, all nations! Praise Him, all peoples!*

With what words of praise

shall we extol the holy hierarchs?

Equals to the Apostles in grace and the honor of spiritual gifts,

destroyers of impiety,

saviors and guides in word and deed,

earthly angels and heavenly men,

Christ-like shepherds in the faith,//

whom Christ, the greatly merciful Lord of glory, has honored.

V. (1) *For His mercy is confirmed on us, and the truth of the Lord endures forever.*

With what wreaths of praise

shall we crown Chrysostom, together with Basil and Gregory?

Precious vessels of the Spirit, champions of the pure Faith,

pillars of the Church and strength of the faithful,

consolation for sinners,

springs overflowing with water

from which we drink for the delight of our souls,//

as we ask forgiveness of sins and great mercy.

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

**Tone 6**

Today let us praise the mystical trumpets of the Spirit,

the God-bearing Fathers,

who stand in the midst of the Church, singing true theology,

praising the changeless Trinity!

They laid low the errors of Arius

and upheld the Orthodox Faith.//

They always entreat the Lord to have mercy on our souls.

*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.

 **Old Testament Readings**

 **Deuteronomy 1:8-11, 15-17**

 **Deuteronomy 10:14-21**

 **Wisdom of Solomon 3:1-9**

**Litya**

 **Tone 2** *(by Nilus of Xanthopoulos)*

Come, O worshippers of the heavenly Trinity,

let us praise the earthly trinity of the divine hierarchs:

Gregory, the namesake of theology,

Basil, who bears the name of the Kingdom,

and John, truly named after grace!

They are the depths of wisdom,

the ocean currents of the Spirit,

fountains ever gushing forth cascades of living water,

lustrous pearls, luminaries on earth, rudders of the Church,

trees bearing magnificent fruit, stewards of grace,

mouthpiece of my Christ, and champions of the Trinity,

from Whom they are illumined without mediation;//

and they ceaselessly intercede for our souls.

Let us, who have been enlightened through them,

faithfully praise the coals kindled from the unbearable Fire!

For, blazing in union with It, they became luminaries for the world,

being a vital strength for the poor,

by preaching and extolling in true piety the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit;

Let us also say to them://

“Rejoice, O godly-wise trinity of the Trinity!”

 **Tone 6**

Let us faithfully acclaim David’s threefold sling,

Solomon’s scarlet cord, the Word’s three-stranded lash,

The wise hierarchs: Basil the Great, divine Gregory, and John Chrysostom;

for, having laid low the spiritual Goliath with the high Cornerstone,

they led the Faith to oneness,

enclosing it by the crimson blood of Christ.

By their teachings they drove away from the folds of Christ’s divine flock

the leaders of heresies,

those peddlers who argued over divine truths.

Even now they still confirm the faith//

and intercede with the Lord that He have mercy on our souls.

 **Tone 8**

The grace of God has appeared to all men,

educating us through the three teachers,

that, adorning our ways and improving our manner of life,

we might be illumined in mind by the brightness of divine knowledge.

Therefore we cry: “O Holy Trinity, O Lord of all,

by the prayers of Thy three Pastors,

preserve Thy flock in peace, in safety, and free of anguish,//

and save us, for Thou art the Lover of man!”

 **Tone 6**

O Trinity, holy and worthy of adoration,

glory to Thy wise providence!

For, from among men, Thou hast granted men three great luminaries,

who shine with the light of Thy perfect knowledge,

spreading the radiance of Thy saving and holy will.

Through them, the inhabited earth is enriched with the light of knowledge,

seeing Thy glory clearly;

and it eagerly seeks Thy blessed Kingdom,

urging us to be obedient to their divine teachings.

Do Thou Thyself, as the all-merciful God,

heed their prayers on our behalf,//

and save our souls, O Lover of man!

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

 **Tone 6**

Having assembled together, O lovers of the feasts,

let us praise with song the hierarchs of Christ and fame of the Fathers,

the towers of the Faith and teachers and guardians of the faithful!

Let us say: “Rejoice, most wise Basil, luminary and immovable pillar of the

Church!

Rejoice, Gregory the Theologian, heavenly mind and greatest high priest!

Rejoice, John, of golden words, brilliant and distinguished preacher of

repentance!“

Wherefore, O thrice-blessed Fathers,

cease not always to intercede with Christ//

for us who with faith and love celebrate your all-sacred and divine feast.

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

 **Tone 6** *(Theotokion)*

Having assembled together, O lovers of the feasts,

let us praise with song the beauty of virgins

the joy of the heavenly Hosts,

the only Theotokos and unbreakable wall,

defending the Faithful on every side:

and let us say: “Rejoice, O pure Virgin Mother,

gold-gleaming lampstand and heavenly gate!

Rejoice, O undefiled tabernacle of sanctification,

who didst contain God in thy womb!

Rejoice, thou who art incomparably higher than all the heavenly hosts!

Therefore, O Lady and Mother who didst not know man,

cease not to protect thy servants

who ever sing thy praises with faith and love,//

and who venerate thy birthgiving without seed!”

**Aposticha**

**Tone 1** *(O all-praised martyrs)*

Today let us worthily gather to praise

the spiritual initiates of the mysteries,

the trumpets of God and reflections of His glory:

Basil the Great, the divine Gregory of fiery inspiration,

and John, the truly golden-mouthed!//

They pour out streams of golden teachings on us.

V. *Thy saints shall exult in glory and rejoice upon their beds. (Ps. 149:5)*

Let us praise with worthy hymns the foundations of the faith:

the godly and watchful minds,

the radiant golden-streamed rivers and the shining beacons,

the champions of the Trinity, the vessels of the grace of the Spirit,//

the unshakable pillars and the strength of the Church!

V. *Thy priests shall be clothed with righteousness and Thy saints will shout for joy. (Ps. 131:9)*

O thrice-blessed Basil,

divinely wise Gregory,

and most golden and all-honored John,

you were instruments of the Spirit,

trumpets of divine thunder, lightning flashes of preaching,

most radiant beacons, shining with the golden light of God!//

Pray to Christ that He may save those who honor you!

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

 **Tone 2**

Today, the souls of mortals are raised up from earthly things.

Today, on the saints’ memorial, they become heavenly.

The gates of heaven are opened,

and the words of the Master are spoken to us.

Words proclaim the Word, and tongues sing hymns to His wonders.

We cry out to the Savior:

Glory to Thee, O Christ our God, //

for through them peace has been given to the faithful!

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

 **Tone 2** *(Forefeast of the Meeting of the Lord)*

Today Christ is carried in the sanctuary as an Infant;

today He Who gave the Law to Moses becomes subject to the Law.

The armies of angels wondered,

seeing Him Who holds all things carried in the arms of an elderly man.

Filled with reverence, Simeon cried out, rejoicing:

“O Savior, now let me depart from this fleeting life to a

rest that grows not old,//

for I have seen Thee, and I rejoice!”

***(at Great Vespers)***

**Tone 1** **Troparion** *(Three Hierarchs)*

Let us who love their words come together with hymns,

and honor the three great torch-bearers of the ^triune Godhead:

Basil the Great, Gregory the Theologian and John Chrysostom!

These men have enlightened the world with the rays of their divine doctrines.

They are sweetly flowing rivers ^of wisdom,

and have filled all creation with springs of heavenly knowledge.

They ceaselessly intercede for us//

before the Holy Trinity.

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

**Tone 4** **Troparion** *(Three Hierarchs)*

As sharers of the Apostles’ life and character

and teachers of the universe,

intercede with the Master of all

to grant peace to the world,//

and great mercy to our souls!

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

**Tone 8** **Resurrectional Dismissal Theotokion**

For our sake Thou wast born of the Virgin

and didst endure crucifixion, O Good One, destroying death by death.

Revealing the Resurrection as God, do not despise the work of Thy hand!

Reveal Thy love for man, O Merciful One, and accept the Theotokos praying

for us,//

and save the despairing people, O our Savior!

***(at Vigil)***

**Tone 1** **Troparion** *(Three Hierarchs)*

Let us who love their words come together with hymns,

and honor the three great torch-bearers of the ^triune Godhead:

Basil the Great, Gregory the Theologian and John Chrysostom!

These men have enlightened the world with the rays of their divine doctrines.

They are sweetly flowing rivers ^of wisdom,

and have filled all creation with springs of heavenly knowledge.

They ceaselessly intercede for us//

before the Holy Trinity. *(once)*

**Tone 4** **Troparion** *(Three Hierarchs)*

As sharers of the Apostles’ life and character

and teachers of the universe,

intercede with the Master of all

to grant peace to the world,//

and great mercy to our souls! *(once)*

**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. *(once)*

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

**Tone 1** **Troparion** *(Three Hierarchs)*

Let us who love their words come together with hymns,

and honor the three great torch-bearers of the ^triune Godhead:

Basil the Great, Gregory the Theologian and John Chrysostom!

These men have enlightened the world with the rays of their divine doctrines.

They are sweetly flowing rivers ^of wisdom,

and have filled all creation with springs of heavenly knowledge.

They ceaselessly intercede for us//

before the Holy Trinity.

**Tone 4** **Troparion** *(Three Hierarchs)*

As sharers of the Apostles’ life and character

and teachers of the universe,

intercede with the Master of all

to grant peace to the world,//

and great mercy to our souls!

**Tone 2** **Kontakion** *(Three Hierarchs)*

O Lord, Thou hast taken up to eternal rest

and to the enjoyment of Thy blessings

the divinely-inspired heralds, the greatest of Thy teachers,

for Thou hast accepted their labors and deaths as a sweet-smelling sacrifice,//

for Thou alone art glorified in Thy saints.

**Tone 8** **Prokeimenon** *(Three Hierarchs)*

Their proclamation has gone out into all the earth, / and their words to the ends

of the universe. *(Ps. 18:4)*

V. *The heavens are telling the glory of God, and the firmament proclaims His handiwork. (Ps. 18:1)*

**Epistle**

 (334) Hebrews 13:7-16 *(Three Hierarchs)*

 **Tone 1**

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

V. *The heavens will praise Thy wonders, O Lord; and Thy truth in the congregation of the saints. (Ps. 88:5)*

V. *God is glorified in the council of the saints! (Ps. 88:7a)*

 **Gospel**

 (11) Matthew 5:14-19 *(Three Hierarchs)*

**Communion Hymn**

Rejoice in the Lord, O you righteous; praise befits the just! *(Ps. 32:1)*

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

In addition to translations from the Department of Liturgical Music and Translations, 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), Father Benedict Churchill, Isaac Lambertson, St. Vladimir’s Seminary, and Holy Transfiguration Monastery, among others.