

30 JANUARY
+ Synaxis of the Three Ecumenical Teachers C5
Pope Ippólytos of Rome C3

VESPERS

Lord I have cried

Tone 4

O Lord, I have cried to you, listen to me;

O Lord, listen to me.

O Lord, I have cried to you, listen to me;

Note the voice of my plea when I cry to you.

O Lord, listen to me.

² Let my prayer be directed before you like incense,
the raising of my hands be an evening sacrifice.

O Lord, listen to me.

S6: O Lord, if you mark offences, who will stand?

But there is forgiveness with you.

S5: O Lord, I have waited for you for your name's sake;

my soul has waited for your word,

my soul has hoped in the Lord.

Let us worthily honour John, Basil and Gregory. *They* are instruments of grace, harps of the Spirit, resounding trumpets of preaching, who are awesome and clear in tone. They thunder from the heights to declare the glory of God to the ends of the earth. *X2*

S4: Let Israel hope in the Lord

from morning watch until night,

from morning watch.

S3: For there is mercy with the Lord

and abundant redemption with *him*.

He will redeem Israel from all his offences.

Let us worthily honour the three champions of the Trinity. *They are* fortifications for devotion and three apostles added to the twelve. *They are* rivers which overflow with living water from Eden and flood the face of

the earth with life-bearing and divine streams. They have formulated the faith just as the elements form creation. X2

S2: Every nation, praise the Lord;
every people, acclaim him!

The prophet said, “There is no speech, nor are there words which are not heard in their voices,” for the proclamation of the godly and wise teachers has gone out through the entire world and into the sea of creation. Therefore great *words* are gathered and compiled into one true doctrine for the ends of the earth through their divine precepts.

S1: For his mercy is strengthened over us
and the truth of the Lord remains for ever.

Let us follow their teaching as we praise in song these instruments of the Spirit who radiate the truth, these great preachers of the Word. Since they possess boldness before the Lord, let us ask them to seek peace for the world and remission of sins for us all.

Glory: Tone 6

Today let us praise the mystical trumpets of the Spirit. *They are* the God-bearing fathers, who stand in the midst of the Church, sing the true theology and praise the one changeless Trinity. They demolished the errors of Arius and upheld the Orthodox faith. They always implore the Lord to have mercy on our souls.

Both now:

Most holy Virgin, who will not bless you? Who will not sing about your most pure childbearing? O pure *Lady*, the uniquely-fathered Son shone timelessly from the Father, but was ineffably incarnate from you. He was God by nature, but became man for our sake. He was not divided into two persons, but known as one in two natures. O honoured and all-blessed Lady, plead with him to have mercy on our souls.

Entrance

Phos Ilarón

P/D: Wisdom! Stand upright!
O Jesus Christ, joyful light of the holy glory

of the immortal, heavenly, holy, blessed Father,
 when we come to the setting of the sun
 and see the light of evening,
 we praise God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

For it is right at all times to worship you
 with voices of praise,
 O Son of God *and* Giver of life.
 Therefore the world glorifies you.

Prokeímenon

Of the Day

Prophecy 1

From the Book of Deuteronomy (1:8-11, 15-17)

Moses spoke to the sons of Israel: See, God has delivered the land before you; go in and inherit the land, which I swore to your fathers, Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, to give them and to their seed after them. ⁹ I spoke to you at that time, saying: I will be unable by myself to bear you. ¹⁰ The Lord your God has increased you, and, see, you are today like the stars of heaven for multitude. ¹¹ May the Lord God of your fathers add to you a thousand-fold more than you are, and bless you as he has spoken to you. ¹⁵ So I took from you wise, understanding and prudent men, and I set them to rule over you as rulers of thousands, rulers of hundreds, rulers of fifties, rulers of tens and officers for your judges. ¹⁶ I ordered your judges at that time, saying: Hear causes between your brothers, and judge rightly between a man and his brother, and the stranger who is with him. ¹⁷ You must not respect status in judgment, but must judge small and great equally. You must not shrink from the standing of a man, for the judgment is God's.

Prophecy 2

From the Book of Deuteronomy (10:14-18, 20-21)

Moses said to the sons of Israel: See, the heaven and the heaven of heavens *belong* to the Lord your God, the earth and everything in it. ¹⁵ Also the Lord chose your fathers to love them, and he chose their seed after them, even you, beyond all nations, as on this day. ¹⁶ Therefore you must circumcise the hardness of your heart and you must not harden your neck. ¹⁷ For the Lord our God, he is the God of gods, and the Lord of lords, the great, mighty and terrible God, who does not show favouritism, nor

will he by any means accept a bribe. ¹⁸ He executes judgment for the stranger, orphan and widow, and he loves the stranger, giving him food and clothing. ²⁰ You must fear the Lord your God, serve him alone, cling to him and swear by his name. ²¹ He is your boast, and he is your God, who has accomplished in the midst of you these great and glorious events, which your eyes have seen.

Prophecy 3

From the Wisdom of Solomon (3:1-9)

The souls of the just are in the hand of God and no torment will touch them. ² In the sight of the foolish they seemed to die and their departure is taken for misery, ³ and their going from us to be utter destruction, but they are in peace. ⁴ For although they may be punished in the sight of men, yet their hope is full of immortality. ⁵ Having been a little disciplined, they will be greatly rewarded, for God tested them and found them worthy for himself. ⁶ Like gold in the furnace he has tried them and received them as a burnt offering. ⁷ In the time of their visitation they will shine, and run to and fro like sparks among the stubble. ⁸ They will judge the nations, have dominion over the people, and their Lord will reign for ever. ⁹ Those who put their trust in him will understand the truth. Those who are faithful in love will live with him, for grace and mercy *belongs* to his saints and he visits his chosen.

Ektení

Prayer

O Lord, allow us this night to be guarded from sin. Blessed are you, O Lord, God of our fathers! Praised and glorified be your name for ever. Amen. O Lord, let your mercy be on us, for we have hoped in you. Blessed are you, O Lord; teach me your statutes. Blessed are you, O Master; make me understand your statutes. Blessed are you, O Holy *One*; enlighten me with your statutes. O Lord, your mercy lasts for ever; do not overlook the work of your hands. To you belongs worship, to you belongs praise, to you belongs glory, to the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, both now and ever, and to ages of ages. Amen.

Plirotiká

Prayer

P: Peace be with you all. R: And with your spirit

D: Bow down your heads to the Lord. R: To you, O Lord.

P: For blessed and glorified is the power of your Kingdom, of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, now and ever and to the ages of ages.

Amen.

Lití

Tone 6

O feast-lovers, let us assemble to sing the praises of the three hierarchs of Christ. *They are* the glory of the fathers, castles of the Faith, and teachers and guardians of believers. Let us say to them, “Hail, O holy Basil, light of the Church and immoveable pillar! Hail, O Gregory of heavenly spirit, great archbishop and theologian! Hail, O John of golden words, fearless preacher of repentance! O thrice-blessed fathers, continually plead for the faithful who lovingly celebrate your holy and divine feast.”

Apósticha

Tone 5

Hail, O trinity of bishops! You are the great fortifications of the Church, the pillars of justice, the strength of the faithful and the downfall of heretics. You shepherded the flock of Christ with godly teaching and fed them with many virtues. You were openly preachers of grace and set out laws for the fullness of Christ's Church. O heavenly guides and gates of Paradise, plead with Christ to grant our souls great mercy.

S1: The holy ones will boast in glory

and rejoice on their beds. Ps 149

Hail, O trinity of bishops! You are the earthly angels who travelled the heavens, the salvation of the world, the joy of everyone, the champions of the Word, the teachers of the inhabited earth, the skilful physicians of soul and body, the perpetually-flowing rivers of the Spirit which water the face of the earth with your teaching, and the ladders of theology. O golden *saints* of golden preaching, plead with Christ to grant our souls great mercy.

S2: O Lord, your priests will clothe themselves with justice;

and your holy ones will rejoice. Ps 131

Hail, O trinity of bishops! You are the earthly skies which reflect the sun, the radiance and lamps of the Trinity, the enlightenment of those who are in darkness, and the fragrant and beautiful flowers of Paradise. O Theologian, wise Basil and Chrysostom, O adornments of wisdom, *you are* tablets of the Spirit *which are* written by the finger of God. You nourish us with the milk of salvation; plead with Christ to grant our souls great mercy.

Glory: Tone 5

Let us sound the trumpet of hymns! Let us dance to the music of the feast! Let us leap with joy on the festival of our teachers! Let kings and princes hurry to sing about the three hierarchs, those three great rivers of doctrine *and* fast-flowing streams of the eternal living Spirit. Let bishops clap their hands with hymns about the three initiates of the sacred mysteries of the Holy Trinity! Let us assemble and praise them. Let philosophers praise them, for they are wise. Let priests, *praise them*, for they are pastors. Let sinners, *praise them*, for they are intercessors. Let the poor, *praise them*, for they bring riches. Let the sorrowful, *praise them*, for they comfort them. Let those who travel *praise them*, for they travel with them. Let those at sea *praise them*, for they are their guides. Let all of us everywhere fervently praise the godly bishops and say, “All-holy teachers, come quickly to rescue the faithful from the temptations of life and rescue them from eternal torments through your prayers.”

Both now:

Let us sound the trumpet of hymns. The virgin Mother, *who is* the Queen of all, bows down from the heavens to crown with blessings those who honour her with hymns. Let kings and princes assemble! Let them clap their hands with hymns for the Queen who gave birth to the King. He was pleased in his love for the human race to loose those held by death. Let pastors and teachers assemble! Let us praise the all-pure Mother of the Good Shepherd. *She is* the lampstand of golden Light, the light-bearing cloud more spacious than the heavens, the living ark, the fiery throne of the Master, the golden jar of manna, the closed gate of the Word *and* the refuge of all Christians. Let us praise her with inspired hymns and say, “O palace of the Word, grant us the Kingdom of Heaven in our humility, for everything is possible through your prayers.”

Song of Simeon

B/P: O Master, now let your servant depart in peace
 according to your word,
² for my eyes have seen your salvation,
 which you have prepared before all peoples,
³ a light of revelation for *the* nations
 and *the* glory of your people Israel.

Triságion Prayers

Apolytikia

Tone 1

Let us who love their words assemble with hymns and honour the three great torch-bearers of the triune Divinity, Basil the Great, Gregory the Theologian and John Chrysostom. These men have enlightened the world with the rays of their divine teaching. They are flowing rivers of wisdom and have filled all creation with springs of heavenly knowledge. They continually intercede for us before the Holy Trinity.

Tone 4

O teachers of the inhabited earth and equals of the apostles in your way of life, plead with the Lord of all to grant peace to the world and great mercy to our souls.

Tone 4

O Theotokos, the mystery hidden from eternity and unknown to the angels, is revealed to those on earth through you. God was incarnate from you in union without confusion and of his own volition freely endured the cross for us. He raised the first-formed man and has saved our souls from death.

Dismissal

30 JANUARY
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ORTHROS

God is the Lord Ps 117

R: God is the Lord and has appeared to us.

Blessed is the one who comes in the Lord's name. *Ps 117*

S1: Thank the Lord, for he is good,
 for his mercy lasts for ever.

S2: All the nations surrounded me,
 but I opposed them in the Lord's name.

S3: This *is* the Lord's doing
 and it is wonderful in our eyes.

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Small Litany

P: For yours is the might, and yours is the kingdom, the power and the glory of the Father, the Son and Holy Spirit, now and ever and to the ages of ages. *Amen*

Kathísma 1

Tone 4

O divinely-wise fathers, shining lamps of the Church of Christ, you have enlightened the world with your teachings. You have dried up the errors of heresy and quenched the fire of blasphemy. As Christ's holy bishops, pray for us to be saved.

Glory: Both now:

O Virgin, worthy to receive our hymns, *you are* the mother of Christ our God, the holy unwedded bride *and* the help of the faithful. O Lady Theotokos, rescue from every danger and commotion all those who take refuge under your protection with love and faith.

Kathísma 2

Tone 4

Like bees hovering over the meadow of the Scriptures, you embraced the wonderful pollen of their flowers. Together you have produced for all the faithful the honey of your teaching for their complete delight. Therefore as we all enjoy this, we cry out with gladness, “O blessed *hierarchs*, even after death be advocates for us who praise you.”

Glory: Both now:

O Virgin, I am assaulted by the storms of passion, so I fervently cry to you, “O *Lady*, you have given birth to the Lord and are very rich in mercy, so do not leave me without help. I have no other hope, except in you, so do not allow the enemy to deride my expectation. You have all the power as Theotokos.”

Polyeleos

Kathísma 3

Tone 4

The wise teachers of the inhabited earth, who glorified their Lord by their words and literature here below, are adored today, for they labour for our salvation.

Glory:

Today the Church celebrates the honourable festival of the Three Teachers, for it has been strengthened by their holy teaching.

Both now:

O invisible protector of the afflicted, fervent defence of those who hope in you, rescue me from danger, for you are the help of the world.

Small Litany

P: For blessed is your name, and glorified is your kingdom, of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and to the ages of ages. *Amen*

Anaváthmi Ps 128 Tone 4

1: Many passions have fought against me from my youth,
but help me and save me, O my Saviour. *X2*

2: Those who hate Zion will be shamed by the Lord;
they will be withered like grass by the fire. *X2*

Glory:

3: Every soul lives through the Holy Spirit, is exalted in purity
and illuminated by the Triune Unity in a sacred mystery.

Both now:

4: The streams of grace pour out through the Holy Spirit;
they water all creation and produce life.

Prokeímenon Ps 131 & 48 Tone 4

R: Your priests will clothe themselves with justice.

S: My mouth will speak about wisdom;.

Gospel Dialogue

P/D: Let us pray to the Lord. *Lord have mercy*

P: For you, O God, are holy *and* rest in the Holy Place. We send up glory to you, to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and to the ages of ages. *Amen.*

R: Let everything with breath praise the Lord. *X3*

Praise God in his saints;

praise him in the firmament of his power. *Ps 50*

P/D: And that we may be counted worthy to listen to the Holy Gospel, let us pray to the Lord our God. *Lord have mercy X3*

P/D: Wisdom. Stand up. Let us listen to the Holy Gospel.

P: Peace be with you all. *And with your spirit*

P: A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Luke.

P/D: Let us attend

R: Glory to you, O Lord, glory to you.

Gospel

From the Holy Gospel according to John (10:9-16)

The Lord said to those who followed him: I am the door; if any one enters by me, he will be saved, and will go in and out and find pasture. ¹⁰ The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly. ¹¹ I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. ¹² He who is a hireling and not a shepherd, whose own the sheep are not, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and flees; and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. ¹³ He flees because he is a hireling and cares nothing for the sheep. ¹⁴ I am the good shepherd; I know my own and my own know me, ¹⁵ as the Father knows me and I know the Father; and I lay down my life for the sheep. ¹⁶ And I have other sheep, that are not of this fold; I must bring them also, and they will heed my voice. So there shall be one flock, one shepherd.

R: Glory to you, O Lord, glory to you.

Psalm 50

O God, have mercy on me in your abundant mercy
and wipe out my offence through your great compassion.

⁴ Wash me thoroughly from my lawless act
and cleanse me from my sin.

⁵ For I know my lawlessness
and my sin is always before me.

⁶ I have sinned against you alone
and done this evil before you

^{6b} so that you might be justified in your words
and overcome when you are judged.

⁷ For see, I was conceived in lawlessness
and my mother gave birth to me in sin.

⁸ For see, you have loved truth

- and revealed to me the hidden and secret *things* of your wisdom.
- ⁹ You will sprinkle me with hyssop and I will be clean;
you will wash me and I will become whiter than snow.
- ¹⁰ You will make me hear about joy and gladness;
the humbled bones will rejoice.
- ¹¹ Turn your face from my sins
and wipe out all my lawlessness.
- ¹² O God, create a pure heart within me
and renew an upright spirit within me.
- ¹³ Do not banish me from your presence
or remove your Holy Spirit from me.
- ¹⁴ Restore the joy of your salvation to me
and make me firm with your directing Spirit.
- ¹⁵ I will teach the lawless your ways
and the ungodly will return to you.
- ¹⁶ O God, set me free from the guilt of blood;
O God of my salvation,
my tongue will rejoice in your justice.
- ¹⁷ O Lord, you will open my lips
and my mouth will proclaim your praise.
- ¹⁸ For if you had wanted sacrifice, I would have given it;
you will not be pleased with burnt offerings.
- ¹⁹ Sacrifice for God is a broken spirit;
God will not despise a broken and humbled heart.
- ²⁰ O Lord, be good to Zion in your pleasure
and let the walls of Jerusalem be built.
- ²¹ Then you will be pleased with a sacrifice of justice,
with an offering and burnt sacrifices;
then they will offer calves on your altar.

Glory: Tone 6

O merciful *Lord*, blot out the abundance of our offences through the prayers of the holy teachers.

Both now:

O merciful *Lord*, blot out the abundance of our offences through the prayers of the Theotokos.

Have mercy: Tone 6

O holy fathers, grace is poured out on your lips and you have become shepherds of Christ's Church. You teach the spiritual flock to believe in the consubstantial Trinity in one Divinity.

Intercession

P/D: O God, save your people and bless your inheritance.

Visit your world with mercy and compassion; exalt the horn of Orthodox Christians and send down on them your rich mercy, through the prayers of our all-pure Lady, Theotokos and Ever-virgin Mary, by the power of the honourable and life-giving cross, through the protection of the honourable bodiless powers of heaven, through the prayers of the honourable, glorious, prophet, Forerunner and Baptist John, of the holy, glorious, all-praised apostles, of the holy, all-praised and victorious martyrs, of our holy and God-bearing fathers, of the holy and just forebears of God, Ioachim and Anna, of our fathers among the saints and oecumenical teachers Gregory the Theologian, Basil the Great and John Chrysostom, and of all the saints. We ask you, only merciful Lord, "Listen to us sinners as we pray to you, and have mercy on us."

Lord have mercy. X12

Through the mercy, compassion and love for the human race of your uniquely-fathered Son, with whom you are blessed, together with the all-holy, good and life-giving Spirit, now and ever and to the ages of ages.

Amen.

Kontákion

Tone 2

O Lord, you have taken up the holy preachers of divine truths to their eternal rest and the enjoyment of your good things. You have accepted their struggles and deaths, for you alone are glorified in your saints.

Íkos

Who can open his lips and move his tongue about those who breathed fire in the power of the Word and the Spirit? Yet I will be bold to speak a word about what is so great. For these three have transcended all human nature in their many and great gifts. They have surpassed those who are renowned in both action and vision. Therefore you counted them worthy

to receive great gifts, for they are your faithful servants and you alone are glorified in your saints.

Synaxáron

Today we remember our fathers among the saints, the great oecumenical teachers and hierarchs, Basil the Great, Gregory the Theologian and John Chrysostom. The feast was instituted in the Eleventh Century when there was a disagreement about which of the fathers was the greatest. On the Thirtieth their triple light is radiant.

On the same day we commemorate the suffering of the holy hieromartyr Ippólytos, Pope of Rome, together with his companions Kensourinos, Savainos, Chrysi and others. They lived in the Third Century. Ippolytos wrote a number of theological works.

Together with them we remember:

Virgin Tudy, Daughter of King Brychan

Martyr Theóphilos the New of Cyprus C8

King Peter of Bulgaria C10

New Martyr Hatzi-Theódoros of Mytilíni C18

O God, have mercy on us through their holy prayers. Amen.

Katavasías

1: The sun's rays once shone on dry land in the midst of the deep, for the water on both sides became as firm as a wall while the people crossed over the sea on foot. They offered this song acceptable to God, "Let us sing to the Lord, for he has been greatly glorified."

3: O Lord, *you are* the firm foundation of those who put their trust in you. Strengthen the Church which you have purchased with your precious blood.

4: O Christ, your virtue has covered the heavens, for after you came from your undefiled Mother, the ark of your sanctification, you appeared in the Temple of your glory as a Child in arms and the whole world was filled with your praise.

5: Isaiah symbolically saw God on a throne. He was lifted high and carried in triumph by angels in glory. He cried, "Woe is me, for I have

seen the incarnate God beforehand. He is the Lord of the light which knows no evening and the King of peace.”

6: When the Elder with his eyes saw the Salvation which had come to the Gentiles, he cried aloud to you, “O Christ, *you* come from God and are my God.”

7: O Word of God, you dropped dew on the children as they spoke about divine matters in the midst of the fire. You took up your home in the pure Virgin. We praise you as we sing with devotion, “Blessed are you, O God of our fathers!”

8: Let us praise, bless and worship the Lord. The youths who fought for godliness stood together in the unbearable fire, yet were not harmed by it. They sang a divine hymn, “Bless the Lord, all you his works, and exalt him above all for ever!”

Canticle Nine

The Magnificat is not sung.

Tone 1

My soul, glorify the three great lamps among the priests. See your field; the flock for which you undertook the greatest labours. We have assembled to bring the three of you together. Your good union is our common claim.

My soul glorify the three-branched light of the Church of Christ. Grace did not wield a doubled-edged sword against her enemies, but a three-edged dagger, the hewing mouths of the three orators. They were one sword which was forged in heaven, had three tempered blades of tongues and always fought in defence of the one thrice-radiant Divinity.

My soul, glorify the men who gave order and beauty to the Church of Christ. O glorious *hierarchs*, your citizenship was in the heavens with those clothed in undefiled flesh. Now you live with them exclusively and plead for us who still wear earthly wreathes, so that we may remember and work towards higher things.

My soul, glorify the all pure virgin Theotokos; *she is* more honourable than the heavenly armies. O Lady, the breadth of your great works

restricts me and overwhelms the prudence of my speech. I am at a glorious loss and lack an answer to my hesitation. So let us glorify the *Lord* who has so greatly glorified you.

9: O pure virgin Mother, what is fulfilled in you is beyond the comprehension of angels and men. Those of us who are faithful see the outline in the shadow of the Law and in the Scriptures, “Every male child which opens the womb will be holy for God.” Therefore we also glorify the First-begotten Word, and Son of the Father who has no beginning, the First-born Son of the unwedded Mother.

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Small Litany

P: For all the powers of heaven praise you, and to you we send up glory, to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and to the ages of ages. *Amen*

Exaposteilária

Tone 3

Let us all now praise the vessels of light, the fiery lighting strikes. They are Basil the Great, Gregory the Theologian and John Chrysostom.

O Divinity whose Persons are united, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, through the prayers of your holy Basil, Gregory and John, and of the all-pure Theotokos, do not let me be cut off from your glory.

O golden palace, O castle with twelve towers, O throne lit by the Sun, O City of the Great King, O wonder beyond comprehension, how could you carry the Lord?

Praises

Tone 2

Let everything with breath
praise the Lord.

Praise the Lord from the heavens;

praise him in the heights.
To you, O God, is due a song.

Praise him, all his angels;
praise him, all his powers.
To you, O God, is due a song.

S4: Praise him with cymbal and dance;
praise him with strings and flute.

With what praises can we crown these holy teachers? They were separated in their bodies, but united in spirit. They were the leaders of the God-bearing fathers, the servants of the Trinity who were equal in number, the lights of the inhabited world and the pillars of the Church. You were crowned as glorious victors by Christ our God who grants us great mercy.

S3: Praise him with tuneful cymbals;
praise him with joyful cymbals.
Let everything with breath praise the Lord.

With what hymns can we crown those God-bearing fathers? They understand the heavenly mysteries. Basil the Great, Gregory the Theologian and the renowned Orator with the golden mouth are preachers of Orthodoxy and the purest of theologians. They are worthily glorified by the Trinity, the Lord who grants us great mercy.

S2: The holy ones will boast in glory
and rejoice on their beds. Ps 149

With what tributes can we praise these holy hierarchs? They are equal to the apostles in grace and honoured with them for the gifts which they received. They destroyed disrespect through their writings and words. They are our guides, saviours, shepherds who resemble Christ in their faith, earthly angels and heavenly men. They were loaded with great honours by Christ, the Lord of glory, who grants us great mercy.

S1: Your priests will clothe themselves with justice
and your holy ones will rejoice. Ps 131

With what praises can we crown Gregory, John and Basil? They are pure instruments of the Spirit, sure defenders of the faith, pillars of the Church, supports of the faithful, consolations for every sinner and the reviving

streams to refresh our souls. They plead for the forgiveness of our sins and great mercy.

Glory: Tone 2

Today, the souls of mortals are raised up from earthly things. Today they become heavenly at the commemoration of the saints. 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 Saviour, “Glory to you, O Christ our God, for peace has been given to the faithful through them.”

Both now:

Today Christ is carried into the sanctuary as an infant. Today, the *Lord* who gave the Law to Moses becomes subject to the Law. The armies of angels wondered when they saw the one who upholds everything being carried in the arms of an elderly man. Simeon was filled with reverence and joyfully cried out, “O Saviour, now let me depart from this fleeting life to a rest which never grows old, for I have seen you and rejoice.”

Great Doxology

Glory to you who have shown us the light!

glory to God in the highest!

Peace on earth and goodwill to men!

² We praise you, we bless you, we worship you,
we glorify you, we thank you for your great glory,

³ O Lord King, heavenly God, almighty Father,
O Lord, only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ,
and you, O Holy Spirit!

⁴ O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,
you take away the sin of the world;

have mercy on us,

for you take away the sin of the world.

⁵ Receive our prayer,
for you sit on the right of the Father,
and have mercy on us.

⁶ For only you are holy, only you are Lord,
O Jesus Christ, to the glory of God the Father. Amen.

⁷ I will bless you every day
and always praise your name for ever and ever. Ps 144

⁸ O Lord, allow us this day
to be guarded from sin.

⁹ Blessed are you, O Lord God of our fathers!
Praised and glorified be your name for ever. Amen. Daniel 3

¹⁰ O Lord, let your mercy *be* on us,
for we have hoped in you. Ps 32.

¹⁶ Blessed are you, O Lord!
Teach me your statutes. X3 Ps 118

¹² O Lord, you have been our refuge
from generation to generation. Ps 89

I said, "O Lord, have mercy on me;
heal my soul, for I have sinned against you." Ps 40

¹⁴ O Lord, I have fled to you;
teach me to do your will, for you are my God. Ps 142

¹⁵ For with you is the source of life
and in your light we will see light. Ps 35

¹⁶ Stretch out your mercy
to those who know you. Ps 35

Triságion

Apolytíkion

Tone 1

Let us who love their words assemble with hymns and honour the three great torch-bearers of the triune Divinity, Basil the Great, Gregory the Theologian and John Chrysostom. These men have enlightened the world with the rays of their divine teaching. They are flowing rivers of wisdom and have filled all creation with springs of heavenly knowledge. They continually intercede for us before the Holy Trinity.

LITURGY

Antiphon 1 Ps 91 Tone 5

S1: It is good to thank the Lord
and make melody to your name, O Most High.

R: At the prayers of the Theotokos, Saviour, save us!

S2: To announce your mercy in the morning

and your truth by night,

S3: For the Lord our God is upright
and there is no injustice in him.

S4: Glory: Both now:

Antiphon 2 Ps 94 Tone 2

S1: Come, let us rejoice in the Lord,
and shout with joy to God our Saviour.

R: Save us, O Son of God. You are wonderful in your saints.
We sing to you, “Alleluia!”

S2: Let us enter his presence with gratitude
and shout with gladness to him in psalms.

For the Lord is a great God
and an exalted king over all the earth.

S3: For the ends of the earth are in his hand
and the summits of the mountains are his.

For the sea is his and he made it;
his hands have formed the dry land.

Monogenes

Antiphon 3 Ps 149 & 131 Tone 1

S1: The holy ones will boast in glory
and rejoice on their beds. Ps 149

R: Let us who love their words assemble with hymns and honour the three great torch-bearers of the triune Divinity, Basil the Great, Gregory the Theologian and John Chrysostom. These men have enlightened the world with the rays of their divine teaching. They are flowing rivers of wisdom and have filled all creation with springs of heavenly knowledge. They continually intercede for us before the Holy Trinity.

S2: O Lord, your priests will clothe themselves with justice;
and your holy ones will rejoice. Ps 131

Entrance Ps 94

Come, let us worship and fall down before Christ.
Save us, O Son of God.

You are wonderful in your saints.
We sing to you, “Alleluia!”

Apolytíkion

Tone 1

Let us who love their words assemble with hymns and honour the three great torch-bearers of the triune Divinity, Basil the Great, Gregory the Theologian and John Chrysostom. These men have enlightened the world with the rays of their divine doctrines. They are flowing rivers of wisdom and have filled all creation with springs of heavenly knowledge. They continually intercede for us before the Holy Trinity.

Of the Church

Kontákion

Tone 1

O Christ God, you sanctified the Virgin's womb by your birth and blessed Simeon's hands; now you have come and saved us. Grant peace to your people in time of war and strengthen the rulers whom you have loved, for you are the only Lover of the human race.

Triságion

Prokeimenon Ps 18 Tone 8

R: Their sound has gone out into all the earth.

S: The heavens declare God's glory.

Apostolos

From the Letter of Paul to the Hebrews (13:7-16)

Brothers, remember your leaders, men who spoke to you the word of God, and considering the results of their conduct, imitate their faith. ⁸ Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever. ⁹ Do not be carried away by various and strange teachings, for it is good that the heart be established by grace, not by food, through which those who were so occupied were not benefited. ¹⁰ We have an altar from which those who serve the holy tabernacle have no right to eat. ¹¹ For the bodies of those animals, whose blood is brought into the holy place by the high priest as an offering for sin, are burned outside of the camp. ¹² Therefore Jesus also, that he might sanctify the people through his own blood, suffered outside of the gate. ¹³

Let us therefore go forth to him outside of the camp, bearing his reproach.
¹⁴ For we do not have here an enduring city, but we seek what is to come.
¹⁵ Through him, then, let us offer up a sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of lips which make confession to his name. ¹⁶
 But do not forget to be doing good and sharing, for with such sacrifices God is well pleased.

Alleluia Ps 88 Tone 1

S1: O Lord, the heavens will acknowledge your wonders.

S2: God is glorified in the council of his saints.

Gospel

From the Holy Gospel according to Matthew (5:14-19)

The Lord said to those who followed him: You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hid. ¹⁵ Nor do men light a lamp and put it under a bushel, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. ¹⁶ Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven. ¹⁷ "Think not that I have come to abolish the law and the prophets; I have come not to abolish them but to fulfil them. ¹⁸ For truly, I say to you, till heaven and earth pass away, not an iota, not a dot, will pass from the law until all is accomplished. ¹⁹ Whoever then relaxes one of the least of these commandments and teaches men so, shall be called least in the Kingdom of Heaven; but he who does them and teaches them shall be called great in the Kingdom of Heaven.

Communion Ps 18

Their sound has gone out into all the earth
 and their words to the ends of the world. Alleluia!