

17 DECEMBER
± Prophet Daniel (Danil) and Three Holy Youths C5 BC

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.
We celebrate today with divine songs the most renowned among the prophets, the most radiant lights, the divine storehouse of the Spirit's graces, the perpetual spring, the heavenly and honourable pillar of prophetic teaching, the indestructible staff and the support of the inhabited earth.

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.
O Daniel, man of great desires, we honour you as the luminous star heralding the dawn. You are brilliant in the sheen of your virtues, and enlighten the souls and bodies of believers. O inspired prophet, we ask you to plead with the Lord to save the faithful who sing to you.

S4: Let Israel hope in the Lord
from morning watch until night,
from morning watch.
O Daniel, your tongue was truly the pen of a quick writer. God's law was in your heart and your mouth enunciated wisdom. Therefore you confused the evil old men and saved Susanna from death. You are the splendour of the divine prophets.

S3: For there is mercy with the Lord
and abundant redemption with *him*.
He will redeem Israel from all his offences.
All-blessed *youths*, you clung to the laws given by God and were not defiled by the polluted food. When you had preserved the beauty of the soul without corruption, you truly kept unspoiled and fading the flower of brightness and the joyful beauty of the Master who glorifies those who serve him.

S2: Every nation, praise the Lord;
every people, acclaim him!
When they were kindled with a divine flame, the youths despised the fire. The holy ones were covered with dew in it as they formed a choir which shone most brilliantly. They sang the song of many praises, for the all-wise and glorious *young men* longed for the truly everlasting and unchangeable kingdom.

S1: For his mercy is strengthened over us
and the truth of the Lord remains for ever.
O amazing Daniel, the tyrants were astonished at the words of your wisdom and at the intelligence of the youths. O holy ones, they appointed you to rule and supervise the land of Chaldea, for even the enemy clearly knows how to admire the virtue and splendour of life. You conquered your passions and became governors.

Glory: Tone 2

O faithful, today the prophet Daniel has gathered us in spirit and bountifully sets a table of virtues before the rich and poor, the strangers and citizens. He offers a spiritual chalice which pours out a stream of devotion and grants the grace of the Spirit. For this prophet, a most radiant lamp who enlightens the world, has destroyed the Assyrian idols and closed the mouths of savage animals.

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Together with him we acclaim the three children who were not gold by nature, but were revealed as more tested than gold, for the fire of the furnace did not melt them, but kept unharmed those who were surrounded by burning naphtha, wood and pitch. May the Lord, who has brought us to the cycle of the year, grant us also to reach the supreme and holy day of Christ's nativity, for through their prayers he grants us cleansing of sins and great mercy.

Both now:

Come, let us faithfully celebrate in advance the birth of Christ, and with our minds, offer a song like the star to the Wise Men. Together with the shepherds, let us cry out with praise, "The Saviour of the human race has come from a virgin's womb and he summons the faithful."

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

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*.

Apósticha

Tone 4

O marvellous Daniel, you acquired a pure heart and were a home of the Spirit. Because you were enlightened by him, you clearly foretold the shape of things to come, for you were adorned with the splendour of prophecy. You clearly explained the hidden dreams of powerful and lawless kings.

S1: God is wonderful in his saints;
the God of Israel will give power and strength to his people. ^{Ps 67}
After you had strengthened your body with constant fasting, you stopped the mouths of lions. O inspired prophet, while you stood in their midst, you looked earnestly towards the good God. You remained unharmed through the ineffable might of the one who marvellously brings all things to pass. He is the Redeemer of our souls.

S2: The Lord is wonderful in the saints on his earth;
all his goodwill *is* for them. *Ps 15*

O amazing prophet, you saw the one who is beyond understanding as he was seated on the throne. He is the just Judge who is surrounded by angels. You were amazed at the dreadful and fearful sight, but you described it for all those who would come after you. You described the second coming of our incarnate God.

Glory: Tone 6

O triply-blessed youths, in the middle of the fiery furnace you sang the ode of creation with a humble spirit in your glorious. Your voice was heard by the Lord who is close to broken spirits and saves the humble heart. He rescued you from harm and accepted you as pure victims. Previously you were descendents of Abraham, but now you were worthy to become children of God. Through the confidence which you have in his presence continually plead for our souls to be saved.

Both now:

O Lord, when Daniel, the man of desires, truly saw you as a stone cut without human hands, he foretold you as a Child born without seed, the Word incarnate from the virgin, the immutable God and the Saviour of our souls.

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.

Trisagion Prayers

Apolytikia

Tone 2

Great are the accomplishments of faith, for the three holy youths rejoiced in the flames as though they were at the waters of rest. The prophet Daniel appeared as a shepherd to the lions as though they were sheep. O Christ our God, save our souls through their prayers.

O Theotokos, your mysteries are beyond every thought and your mysteries are exceedingly glorious. You have been sealed with purity and preserved in virginity. You were revealed without deception as the mother who gave birth to the true God. Plead with him to save our souls.

Dismissal

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.

Apolytikia

Tone 2

Great are the accomplishments of faith, for the three holy youths rejoiced in the flames as though they were at the waters of rest. The prophet Daniel appeared as a shepherd to the lions as though they were sheep. O Christ our God, save our souls through their prayers.

O Theotokos, your mysteries are beyond every thought and your mysteries are exceedingly glorious. You have been sealed with purity and preserved in virginity. You were revealed without deception as the mother who gave birth to the true God. Plead with him to save our souls.

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*

Kathisma 1

Tone 3

O Daniel inspired by God, great among the prophets, because you were enlightened by the Holy Spirit, you announced the incarnation of the Word beforehand. Therefore we glorify you as a prophet and today celebrate your memory. O wise *prophet*, we cry to you in unison, "Implore Christ to save our souls."

Glory: Both now:

O sovereign Lady made joyful by God, the fearful divine mystery which has come to pass in you is inconceivable and incomprehensible, because, after you conceived, you gave birth to the One without limits, yet clothed with the flesh of your most pure blood. O pure *Lady*, continually implore him as your Son to save our souls.

Kathisma 2

Tone 6

O blessed one, you were a prophet and the divine instrument of the Advocate. You were always clearly prompted by his grace. O glorious Daniel, you proclaim beforehand the revelation of unknown happenings and illuminate those who come to you in faith. Implore Christ our God to grant us great mercy.

Both now:

The prophets have announced, the apostles have taught, the martyrs have acknowledged and we believe that you are the true Theotokos. Therefore we also glorify your ineffable giving-birth.

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*

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.

Kontákia

Tone 3

O blessed and glorious prophet Daniel, your pure heart was enlightened by the Holy Spirit so that it could become an instrument of prophecy. You perceived distant events as though they were present. When you were thrown into the pit, you closed the mouths of lions, therefore we venerate you.

Tone 2

O thrice-blessed ones, you did not worship the image made by man, but armed yourselves with the invisible power of God and were glorified in a trial by fire. From the midst of unbearable flames you called out to God and cried, "O compassionate Lord, hurry! Quickly come to our defence, for you are merciful and able to accomplish whatever you wish."

Íkos

O Lord, extend your hand which the Egyptian army faced when they fought and pursued the people of Israel. Do not allow us to be consumed by choking death or by the Devil who hates us. O Lord, do not neglect us, but approach us. Grant us your grace, just as you once released the youths in Babylon who continually cried to you, "O compassionate Lord, hurry! Quickly come to our defence, for you are merciful and able to accomplish whatever you wish."

Synaxáron

Today we remember the three youths and the prophet Daniel who lived in the Sixth Century before Christ. They refrained from eating unclean food in the court of King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon. Daniel was given the grace to interpret dreams. Through jealousy he was thrown to the lions, but survived. His companions were unharmed in the furnace. In chapter 7 we read about Christ as the Son of Man. On the Seventeenth the prophet of the future died.

Together with them we remember:

Wonderworker Dionysios, Bishop of Égina C17

Abbot and Martyr Páisos of Serbia C19

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

Katavasías

1: Christ is born, glorify him! Christ is from heaven, receive him!
 Christ is on earth, be raised! All the earth, sing to the Lord! All you people, praise him with joy, for he has been glorified!

3: Let us cry out to Christ our God, to the Son begotten of the Father before all ages and incarnate from the Virgin without seed in these latter days, "O Lord, you have raised our horn and are holy."

4: O Rod of the stem of Jesse and Flower which bloomed from a virgin, O all-praised Christ, you have come from the mountain covered with darkness. You have been made flesh from her who did not know marriage. O God not formed from matter, O Lord, glory to your might!

5: God of peace and Father of mercies, you have sent us the Angel of Great Council who grants us peace. So we are guided to the light of the knowledge of God. O Lover of the human race, we wake early from the night and praise you.

6: The sea-monster threw out Jonah unharmed as it had received him, like a baby from the womb. When the Word came to live in the Virgin and was made flesh, he came out, yet preserved her incorrupt, for he himself was not subject to decay and he kept his mother free from harm.

7: The children brought up together in godliness, despised the unjust command, and were not afraid of the threat of fire, but as they stood in the midst of the flames, they sang, "Blessed are you, O God of our fathers!"

8: Let us praise, bless and worship the Lord.
 The furnace which was moist with dew was the image of a wonder beyond nature, for it did not burn the children whom it had received, just as the fire of divinity did not consume the Virgin's womb when it entered. So let us raise the song, "Let the one whole creation bless the Lord and exalt him above all for ever!"

Ode 9

My soul glorifies the Lord
 and my spirit has rejoiced in God my Saviour. R:

R: *You are* more honourable than the Cherubim
 and beyond compare more glorious than the Seraphim.

You gave birth to God the Word without defilement;
 O true Theotokos, we glorify you.

² For he has regarded his servant's humility;
 see, from now all generations will call me blessed. R:

³ For the Almighty has accomplished great *things* for me
 and his name is holy.

His mercy is from generation to generation
 on those who fear him. R:

⁴ He has accomplished strength with his arm
 and scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts. R:

⁵ He has put down the mighty from *their* thrones
 and exalted the humble.

He has satisfied the hungry with good *things*
 and dismissed the rich with nothing. R:

⁶ He has helped his servant Israel
 in remembering his mercy,
 as he spoke to our fathers,
 to Abraham and his seed for ever. R:

9: I see a strange and most glorious mystery. Heaven is the cave and the cherubic throne is the Virgin. The manger is the place where Christ lay. *He* is the God who cannot be contained and whom we glorify in song.

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 2

Let Daniel now be honoured! He is the greatest among the prophets, for he saw Christ our God as a stone cut, not by human hands, but from the mountain of the pure Virgin. Together with him, let the three youths be praised who were saved unharmed from the fire of the furnace through the divine and ineffable image of the Virgin through whom the world has been saved.

All-pure *Lady*, the all-wise Daniel teaches the mysteries through the divine Spirit. O Theotokos, the three children of Abraham foreshadow your seedless childbearing by faith, for the Word who is without bounds in his divinity, because he desired to be limited in the flesh through you, is born in Bethlehem for the salvation of the human race.

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.
Come and celebrate the honourable memory of Daniel and the three youths. Sing about their holy lives in which they were glorified.

S3: Praise him with tuneful cymbals;
praise him with joyful cymbals.
Let everything with breath praise the Lord.
Come and celebrate the honourable memory of Daniel and the three youths. Sing about their holy lives in which they were glorified.

S2: God is wonderful in his saints;
the God of Israel will give power and strength to his people. *Ps 67*
When he was shut in the den and lived among he lions, the prophet Daniel appeared safe and unharmed by any danger from them.

S1: The Lord is wonderful in the saints on his earth;
all his goodwill *is* for them. *Ps 15*
Truly the youths overcame the power of the fire by sitting in the middle of the furnace and praising God as almighty.

Glory: Tone 2

O faithful, today the prophet Daniel has mystically assembled us and bountifully lays a table of virtues before rich and poor, strangers and residents. He offers a spiritual chalice which pours out a stream of devotion and grants the grace of the Spirit. For this prophet, the most radiant lamp who enlightens the world, has destroyed the Assyrian idols and stopped the mouths of wild animals. Together with him we acclaim the three youths. They were not gold by nature, but were shown as more proven than gold, for the fire of the furnace did not melt them, but kept unharmed those surrounded by burning naphtha, wood and pitch. May the Lord, who has brought us to the cycle of the year, grant that we may also reach the supreme and holy day of Christ's birth, for he grants us cleansing from sins and great mercy through their prayers.

Both now:

O faithful, come and celebrate in advance the birth of Christ. In our minds let us offer a song like the star to the Wise Men. Let us cry out with praise, together with the shepherds, "The Saviour of the human race has come from a virgin's womb and he summons the faithful."

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*

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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

Apolytikion

Tone 2

Great are the accomplishments of faith, for the three holy youths rejoiced in the flames as though they were at the waters of rest. The prophet Daniel appeared as a shepherd to the lions as though they were sheep. O Christ our God, save our souls through their prayers.

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 92 Tone 2

S1: The Lord reigns *and* is clothed with majesty;
the Lord has put on power and clothed himself.

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

S2: For he founded the world which will not be moved.

S3: O Lord, holiness is right for your house
to length of days.

S4: Glory: Both now:

Monogenes

Antiphon 3 Ps 94 Tone 2

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

R: Great are the accomplishments of faith, for the three holy youths rejoiced in the flames as though they were at the waters of rest. The prophet Daniel appeared as a shepherd to the lions as though they were sheep. O Christ our God, save our souls through their prayers.

S2: Let us enter his presence with thanksgiving
and gladly cry to him with psalms,
For the Lord is a great God
and a high king over all the earth.

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!"

Apolytikia

Tone 2

Great are the accomplishments of faith, for the three holy youths rejoiced in the flames as though they were at the waters of rest. The prophet Daniel appeared as a shepherd to the lions as though they were sheep. O Christ our God, save our souls through their prayers.

Kontákion

Tone 3

Today the Virgin comes to the cave where she will ineffably give birth to the pre-eternal Word. O inhabited earth, rejoice when you hear the news! Glorify with the angels and shepherds the one who chose to be revealed as a new born Child, *yet was* God before the ages.

Triságion**Prokeímenon Ps 67 Tone 4**

R: God is wonderful in his saints.

S: Bless God, in *the* churches.**Apóstolos**

From the Letter to the Hebrews (11:33-12:2)

Brothers, the saints through faith conquered kingdoms, enforced justice, received promises, stopped the mouths of lions, ³⁴quenched raging fire, escaped the edge of the sword, gained strength from weakness, became valiant in war and put foreign armies to flight. ³⁵Women received their dead back by resurrection. Some were tortured and refused to accept release, so that they might rise again to a better life. ³⁶Others suffered mocking and scourging, even chains and imprisonment. ³⁷They were stoned, sawn in two, killed with the sword, and went about in skins of sheep and goats. *They were* destitute, afflicted *and* ill-treated. ³⁸The world was not worthy of them. They wandered over deserts and mountains, and *were* in dens and caves of the earth. ³⁹And all these, though well attested by their faith, did not receive what was promised, ⁴⁰since God had foreseen something better for us, that apart from us they should not be made perfect. ¹Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and sin which clings so closely. Let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, ²and look towards Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despised the shame and is seated at the right hand of God's throne.

Alleluia Ps 33 Tone 4

S1: The just cried and the Lord heard them.

S2: The Lord released them from all their afflictions.

Gospel

From the Holy Gospel according to Luke (11:47-12:1)

The Lord said to the Jews who followed him, "Woe to you! for you build the tombs of the prophets whom your fathers killed. ⁴⁸ So you are witnesses and consent to the deeds of your fathers; for they killed them, and you build their tombs. ⁴⁹ Therefore also the Wisdom of God said, 'I will send them prophets and apostles, some of whom they will kill and persecute,' ⁵⁰ that the blood of all the prophets, shed from the foundation of the world, may be required of this generation, ⁵¹ from the blood of Abel to the blood of Zechariah, who perished between the altar and the sanctuary. Yes, I tell you, it shall be required of this generation. ⁵² Woe to you lawyers! for you have taken away the key of knowledge; you did not enter yourselves, and you hindered those who were entering." ⁵³ As he went away from there, the scribes and the Pharisees began to press him hard, and to provoke him to speak of many things, ³⁴ lying in wait for him, to catch at something he might say. ¹ In the meantime, when so many thousands of the crowd had gathered together that they trod upon one another, he began to say to his disciples first, "Beware of the leaven of the Pharisees, which is hypocrisy.

Communion Ps 111

The just will be in everlasting remembrance. Alleluia!