

**SUNDAY 15 DECEMBER 2019**  
**+ Sunday of the Holy Forefathers**  
**± Hieromartyr Elefthérios of Illyria C2**  
**26<sup>th</sup> Sunday Tone 1 & Eothinón 4**

**VESPERS**

**Lord I have cried**

Tone 1

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.

<sup>2</sup> Let my prayer be directed before you like incense,  
 the raising of my hands be an evening sacrifice.  
 O Lord, listen to me.

S10: Lead my soul from prison that I may acknowledge your name.  
 O holy Lord, accept our evening prayers and grant us remission of sins, for you alone have revealed the resurrection to the world

S9: The just will wait for me until you reward me.  
 O people, encircle Zion and surround her. Give glory in her to the *Lord* who rose from the dead, for he is our God, who has rescued us from our offences.

S8: O Lord, I have cried to you from the depths;  
 O Lord listen to my voice.  
 O people, come, praise and fall down before Christ as we glorify his resurrection from the dead, for he is our God, who has rescued the world from the deceit of the enemy.

S7: Let your ears note the voice of my plea.  
 Let the heavens, be glad and the foundations of the earth sound trumpets. Let the mountains sing with joy. See Emmanuel has nailed our sins to the cross. The Giver of life has killed death and raised Adam, for he is the Lover of the human race.

Tone 8

S6: O Lord, if you mark offences, who will stand?  
 But there is forgiveness with you.

O faithful, today as we celebrate the Forefathers' memory, let us praise Christ the Redeemer, who glorified them in every nation. He is the Lord who accomplishes marvellous deeds, for he is powerful and mighty. Through them he has revealed to us the Rod of his strength; she is Mary, the only pure and virgin Maiden of God. Christ bloomed from her; he brought life, eternal salvation and eternal bliss for all.

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 Master, you rescued the holy youths from the fire and Daniel from the mouths of lions. You blessed Abraham, Isaac your servant and Jacob his son. You consented to become like us by being born from their seed, and to be crucified and buried in order to save our forefathers who fell in the past. Therefore, O Christ, King of the ages, you crushed the bonds of death and raise with yourself all the dead from the past ages who worship you.

S4: Let Israel hope in the Lord from the morning watch until night, from the morning watch.  
 When they stood in a furnace of flaming fire as though in dew, the holy youths mystically foreshadowed your coming from a Virgin through which we are illuminated but not consumed. So also the just Daniel, glorious among the prophets, clearly revealed your divine second coming when he cried out, "I saw thrones set up and the Judge was seated; the river of fire flowed before him. O Christ our Master, save us from this fire through their intercessions.

Tone 2

S3: For there is mercy with the Lord  
 and abundant redemption with him.  
 He will redeem Israel from all his offences.

O venerable Elefthérios, witness for the Lord, when you had purified your soul of its passions, you became an instrument of the Holy Spirit. You received the divine and sacred anointing which made you a bishop, a guide for the people of God, and an invincible martyr for the *Lord* who suffered for us; he set us free from passion by his passion.

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

O Elefthérios, joy of martyrs, splendour of holy hierarchs, you did not worry about your body when it was covered with wounds and burnt with fire. You grounded your spirit on the supreme beauty of divine love whose sweetness had enthused you. Pray for our souls.

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

O holy martyr, when she saw you as you fought the good fight, your mother who had graciously brought you into this world was filled with the desire to follow the same road. She embraced you in the middle of the arena and was led to the slaughter like a lamb. Together with her, O blessed Elefthérios, we implore you to pray for us to God our Saviour.

Glory: Tone 6

O faithful, today let us acclaim all the fathers who came before the Law. *They are* Abraham the friend of God, Isaac born from the promise, Jacob and the twelve patriarchs. Let us honour with them the gentle David, Daniel the prophet of desires and the three youths who changed the furnace into dew. Let us ask forgiveness from Christ our God who is glorified in his saints.

Both now: Tone 1

Let us praise the Virgin Mary, the gate of heaven, the glory of the world, the song of the angels and the beauty of the faithful. She was born from man, yet gave birth to God; she was revealed as heaven and the temple of the Divinity. She destroyed the middle wall of enmity. She commenced the peace and opened the palace of the King. Because we have her as the anchor 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.

### 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

P/D: The Evening Prokeímenon

R: The Lord reigns *and* is clothed with majesty.

S1: The Lord has put on power and clothed himself.

S2: He founded the world, which will not be moved.

### 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 1

O Christ, we have been freed from passions by your passion and have been rescued from corruption by your resurrection. O Lord, glory to you!

S1: The Lord reigns *and* is clothed with majesty;  
the Lord has put on power and clothed himself. Ps 92

Let creation rejoice! Let the heavens be glad! Let the nations clap their hands with joy! For Christ our Saviour has nailed our sins to the cross. He has given life by slaying death and raised fallen Adam, *for he is* the Lover of the human race.

S2: For he founded the world which will not be moved. Ps 92

O incomprehensible *Lord*, you were willingly crucified because of your love for the human race as King of heaven and earth. Hades was angry when it met you below. Adam rose when he saw you, the Creator, under the earth. Wonder! How has the Life of all tasted death? He wished to enlighten the world which cries, "O Lord, who rose from the dead, glory to you!"

S3: O Lord, holiness is right for your house to length of days. *Ps 92*

The myrrh-bearing women came speedily and tearfully to your tomb. They did not find your most pure body, but learnt about the new and glorious wonder from the angel. They told the apostles, "The Lord is risen and has granted the world great mercy."

Glory: Tone 6

O blessed Elefthérios, you were a commendable bishop to the very end. As you celebrated the divine and ineffable mysteries, you poured out your blood for Christ our God. You offered yourself as an acceptable victim to the Lord. You have influence with him, so continually plead with him to rescue the faithful who devoutly celebrate your honourable memory from trial, misfortune, and every danger.

Both now: Tone 3

All you feast-lovers, come and praise with psalms the assembly of the Forefathers: our first-father Adam, Enoch, Noah, Melchizedek Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. *Let us also praise* those who came after the law: Moses, Aaron, Joshua, Samuel and David. *Let us also praise* Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Daniel and the twelve prophets, Elijah, Elisha, and all the rest, Zachariah and John the Baptist. *Let us praise* those all those who proclaimed Christ, the life and resurrection of the human race.

### Song of Simeon

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

### Triságion Prayers

#### Apolytikia

Tone 1

O Saviour, when the stone had been sealed by the Jews and while the soldiers were guarding your most pure body, you rose on the third day and granted life to the world. Therefore, O Giver of life, the powers of heaven cried to you, "Glory to your resurrection, O Christ! Glory to your Kingdom! Glory to your dispensation, O Lover of the human race!"

Tone 4

O saint inspired by God, you became a partner of the apostles in their way of life and a successor to their thrones; you found the means for approaching divine vision. Therefore you have truly taught the word of truth and fought for the faith even to death. O hieromartyr Elefthérios, plead with Christ God to save our souls.

Tone 2

You justified the Forefathers through faith and betrothed the Church of the Gentiles because of them. These saints rejoice in glory, for from their seed came a noble fruit, the *woman* who gave birth to you without seed. O Christ God, save our souls through their prayers.

#### 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 1

O Saviour, when the stone had been sealed by the Jews and while the soldiers were guarding your most pure body, you rose on the third day and granted life to the world. Therefore, O Giver of life, the powers of heaven cried to you, "Glory to your resurrection, O Christ! Glory to your Kingdom! Glory to your dispensation, O Lover of the human race!"

Tone 4

O saint inspired by God, you became a partner of the apostles in their way of life and a successor to their thrones; you found the means for approaching divine vision. Therefore you have truly taught the word of truth and fought for the faith even to death. O hieromartyr Elefthérios, plead with Christ God to save our souls.

Tone 2

You justified the Forefathers through faith and betrothed the Church of the Gentiles because of them. These saints rejoice in glory, for from their seed came a noble fruit, the *woman* who gave birth to you without seed. O Christ God, save our souls through their prayers.

#### 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 1

O Saviour, the soldiers who kept watch over your tomb fell down as dead at the lightning flash of the angel who appeared and proclaimed the resurrection to the women. We glorify you, *for you are* the destroyer of corruption. You alone are our God who rose from the tomb; we all fall down before you.

Glory:

O merciful *Lord*, you were willingly nailed to the cross. O Giver of life, you were laid in the tomb as though dead. Almighty *Master*, you wiped out the power of death by your death. The gatekeepers of Hades trembled before you. Only Lover of the human race, you raised with you the dead from all the ages.

Both now:

We know you are the Theotokos and we all yearn to seek refuge in your goodness. After childbirth you remained truly a virgin. Only pure *Lady*, we sinners truly have you for protection, and as our salvation in temptation.

#### Kathisma 2

The women who came early to your tomb trembled at the sight of the angel. The tomb shone with life and this wonder amazed them. They returned and announced the resurrection to the disciples, "Christ, *who is* alone mighty and powerful, has despoiled Hades. He has raised up all those who are in corruption and released the human race from fear of condemnation through the power of the cross."

Glory:

The Life of all was nailed to the cross. The immortal Lord, the Saviour who rose on the third day and raised Adam from corruption, was counted among the dead. Therefore, O Giver of Life, the powers of heaven cry out, "Glory to your resurrection! Glory to your condescension, only Lover of the human race!"

Both now:

O Mary, exalted vessel of the Master, raise us who have fallen into a bottomless pit of despair, sin and affliction, for you are the salvation, aid and powerful protection of sinners; you save your servants.

#### Evlogitária

Blessed are you, O Lord; teach me your statutes.

The assembly of angels was amazed when it saw you among the dead. O Saviour, by destroying the power of death, you raised Adam with you and freed everyone from Hades.

Blessed are you, O Lord; teach me your statutes.

The radiant angel cried to the Myrrhbearers from the tomb, "Why do you women mingle myrrh with your tears? Look at the tomb and understand. The Saviour has risen from the tomb."

Blessed are you, O Lord; teach me your statutes.

The Myrrhbearers ran sorrowfully to your tomb very early in the morning, but an angel came to them and said, "The time for sorrow has come to an end. Do not weep, but announce the resurrection to the apostles."

Blessed are you, O Lord; teach me your statutes.

The Myrrhbearers were sorrowful as they approached your tomb, but the angel said to them: Why do you number the Living among the dead? As God he has risen from the tomb.

Glory:

We worship the Father, his Son and the Holy Spirit, the Holy Trinity, one in Being. We cry with the Seraphim, "Holy, Holy, Holy are you, O Lord."

Both now:

O Virgin, because you gave birth to the Giver of Life, you rescued Adam from his sin. You gave Eve joy instead of sadness. The Divine Man who was born from you has restored to life those who had fallen from it.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia. Glory to you, O God. (X3)

O our God and our hope, glory to you.

#### 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*

#### Ypakói

*Read without note*

O Christ our God, the Thief stole Paradise through repentance. The wailing of the myrrh-bearing women brought joy to light, for you have risen and grant the world great mercy.

**Anaváthmi Tone 1**

Antiphon 1 Ps 119

I call to the Lord in my distress,

“Listen to my grief.”

The longing for God is unceasing for those in the desert;  
they are removed from the emptiness of the world.

Glory: Both now:

Honour and glory are due to the Holy Spirit,  
as also to the Father together with the Son  
and so we praise the Trinity, one in might.

Antiphon 2 Ps 120

O God, you have exalted me to the hills of your laws;

make me shine with virtues so that I may praise you.

O Word, take me by your right hand; guard and keep me,  
so that the fire of sin does not burn me.

Glory: Both now:

The whole creation is renewed in the Holy Spirit.  
It returns to its pristine state,  
for he is equal in might with the Father and the Word.

Antiphon 3 Ps 123

My soul rejoiced and my heart is glad

with those who said to me,

“Let us go to the courts of the Lord.” Ps 123

Great fear will be in the house of David for there,

when the thrones are placed,

every tribe and tongue of the earth will be judged.

Glory: Both now:

It is right to offer glory, might and power to the Holy Spirit,  
as to the Father and the Son,  
for the Trinity is one in being, but not in persons.

**Prokeímenon Ps 11**

R: I will rise now,” says the Lord;

“I will place them in safety *and* speak openly about it.”

S: The Lord’s promises are pure words.

**Small Litany**

For you are the King of Peace and Saviour of our souls, and we send up glory to you, to the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, always, now and for ever, and to the ages of ages. *Amen*

**Kontákion**

*Read without Note*

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

**Íkos**

Stretch out your hand, which both the pursuing Egyptians and the persecuted Hebrews knew in days of old. Do not forsake us in case death, which thirsts for us, and Satan, who hates us, swallow us up. Instead approach us and be merciful to us, as once you showed mercy to the children in Babylon. They constantly sang hymns to you, and for your sake were cast into the furnace, from where they cried to you, “O compassionate *Lord*, hurry! Quickly come to our defence, for you are merciful and able to accomplish everything you wish.

**Synaxáron**

Today we remember the suffering of the holy hieromartyr Elefthérios of Illyria and his mother Evanthía who lived in the Second Century. He guided an entire flock of believers to Christ. On the Fifteenth he departed from this earth through the sword.

Together with them we remember:

Ascetic Paul of Látros C10

Martyr Elefthérios of Constantinople C4

Confessor Stephen of Sourouz C8

**Υπόμνημα**

Let us praise Adam, Abel, Seth and Enos, Enoch, Noah, Melchizedek, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Moses, Aaron, Joshua, Barak, Samson, Jephtha, Samuel, David, Solomon, Job, Elijah, Elisha, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Daniel, the Twelve Prophets, Eliezar, Zachariah and John the Baptist. Through the prayers of your holy ancestors, O Lord Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. 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 the one 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 spewed 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 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 entire creation bless the Lord and exalt him above all for ever!"

#### 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 his mighty firmament. 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 John.

P/D: Let us attend

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

#### Eothinón Gospel 4

From the Holy Gospel according to Luke (24:1-12)

On the first day of the week, at early dawn, the women went to the tomb, taking the spices which they had prepared. <sup>2</sup> And they found the stone rolled away from the tomb, <sup>3</sup> but when they went in they did not find the body. <sup>4</sup> While they were perplexed about this, behold, two men stood by them in dazzling apparel; <sup>5</sup> and as they were frightened and bowed their faces to the ground, the men said to them, "Why do you seek the living among the dead? <sup>6</sup> Remember how he told you, while he was still in Galilee, <sup>7</sup> that the Son of man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, and be crucified, and on the third day rise." <sup>8</sup> And they remembered his words, <sup>9</sup> and returning from the tomb they told all this to the eleven and to all the rest. <sup>10</sup> Now it was Mary Magdalene and Joanna and Mary the mother of James and the other women with them who told this to the apostles; <sup>11</sup> but these words seemed to them an idle tale, and they did not believe them. <sup>12</sup> But Peter got up and ran to the tomb; stooping and looking in, he saw the linen cloths by themselves; then he went home, amazed at what had happened.

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

#### Resurrection Ode

P/R: Now that we have seen the resurrection of Christ, let us worship the holy Lord Jesus, the only sinless one. O Christ, we venerate your cross, and praise and glorify your holy resurrection; for you are our God, and we know no one else apart from you. We address your name. All you faithful, come and venerate Christ's holy resurrection. For see, joy has come into all the world through the cross. Let us always bless the Lord and praise his resurrection. For he has destroyed death by death by enduring the cross for us.

#### Psalm 50

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

<sup>4</sup> Wash me thoroughly from my lawless act  
and cleanse me from my sin,

<sup>5</sup> for I know my lawlessness

and my sin is always before me.  
<sup>6</sup> I have sinned against you alone  
 and done what is evil before you  
<sup>6b</sup> so that you might be right in your words  
 and overcome when you are judged,  
<sup>7</sup> for see, I was conceived in lawlessness  
 and my mother desired me in sin,  
<sup>8</sup> for see, you have loved truth  
 and shown me the mysteries and secrets of your wisdom.  
<sup>9</sup> You will sprinkle me with hyssop and I will be clean;  
 you will wash me and I will become whiter than snow.  
<sup>10</sup> You will make me hear about joy and gladness;  
 humbled bones will rejoice.  
<sup>11</sup> Turn your face from my sins  
 and wipe out all my lawlessness.  
<sup>12</sup> O God, make a pure heart within me  
 and renew an upright spirit within me.  
<sup>13</sup> Do not banish me from your presence  
 or remove your Holy Spirit from me.  
<sup>14</sup> Restore your saving joy to me  
 and strengthen me with your directing Spirit.  
<sup>15</sup> I will teach the lawless your ways  
 and the ungodly will return to you.  
<sup>16</sup> O God, God of my salvation, free me from bloodshed,  
 then my tongue will rejoice in your justice.  
<sup>17</sup> O Lord, you will open my lips  
 and my mouth will announce your praise,  
<sup>18</sup> for if you had wanted sacrifice, I would have given it;  
 you will not be pleased with burnt offerings.  
<sup>19</sup> Sacrifice for God is a broken spirit;  
 God will not despise a broken and humbled heart.  
<sup>20</sup> O Lord, be good to Zion in your pleasure  
 and let the walls of Jerusalem be built,  
<sup>21</sup> then you will be pleased with a just sacrifice,  
 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 apostles.

Both now:

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

Have mercy:

Jesus has risen from the tomb as he foretold  
 and grants us eternal life and great mercy.

### Intercession

*Short form*

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 of the holy hieromartyr Elefthérios, of the holy forefathers, 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 only-begotten 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.*

### 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.

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

<sup>3</sup> 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:

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

<sup>5</sup> 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:

<sup>6</sup> 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*

#### Holy is the Lord

Holy is the Lord our God. X3  
Exalt the Lord our God and worship at his footstool.  
for he is holy.

#### Exaposteilária

Tone 4

Let us be radiant and shine with virtues while we see the angel in brilliant clothing as he stands inside the tomb. He brought life to the downcast faces of the myrrhbearing women. Let us learn about the resurrection of the Lord of heaven. Let us hurry to the tomb with Peter and wonder at the great event. Let us wait to see Christ the Life.

Tone 3

Let us who love the fathers come together and rejoice in their memory. Let us rightly praise Abraham, Isaac and Jacob from whom Christ was revealed as coming in the flesh in his great compassion.

Tone 3

O holy father, you guided a whole flock of believers to Christ like a shepherd. The mother who gave birth to you clung to you like a ewe to her lamb and was sacrificed at your side. O holy Elefthérios, together with her, I now sing to you.

All-pure Virgin, I address you as an advocate with your Son. Let me be rescued from every punishment and every pain which are merited by my offences.

#### Praises

Tone 1

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.

S8: This glory will be for all his holy ones.  
O Christ, we praise your saving passion and glorify your resurrection.

S7: Praise God in his saints;  
praise him in his mighty firmament.

O Lord, you have endured the cross, made death of no effect and have risen from the dead. Grant peace in our lives, for you are the only almighty *Lord*.

Tone 2

S6: Praise him for his mighty *deeds*;  
praise him for the abundance of his majesty.

Now let us all celebrate the memorial of the holy Forefathers. Let us praise their way of life for which they have been glorified.

S5: Praise him with the trumpet sound;  
praise him with lute and harp.

Now let us all celebrate the memorial of the holy Forefathers. Let us praise their way of life for which they have been glorified.

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

The youths rejoiced in the furnace and extinguished the power of the fire. They sang a hymn of praise to the almighty God.

Tone 8

S3: Praise him with tuneful cymbals;  
praise him with joyful cymbals.

Let everything with breath praise the Lord.

O holy bishop, you received the grace of the divine apostles from Christ our God and wholeheartedly followed their course to the last. Therefore, O holy Elefthérios, we correctly celebrate your great deeds.

S2: O Lord God, rise; let your hand be exalted  
*and* never forget the poor.

O holy bishop, you received the grace of the divine apostles from Christ our God and wholeheartedly followed their course to the last. Therefore, O holy Elefthérios, we correctly celebrate your great deeds.

S1: O Lord, I will thank you with all my heart;  
I will recount all your wonders.

You refuted lies through your teaching, then confronted the father of lies in the arena. You put him to death and so threw down before your feet the one who had arrogantly exalted himself.

Glory: Tone 7

Come and let us all faithfully celebrate the fathers before the Law. *It is* our annual commemoration of Abraham and those with him. Let us rightly honour the tribe of Judah and praise the youths in Babylon who quenched the flames of the furnace, for they were an image of the Trinity. Together with them, let us praise Daniel and hold fast to the predictions of the prophets. Let us cry with Isaiah, "See, a virgin will conceive in her womb and bear a son, Emmanuel, who is God with us.

Both now: Tone 2

O Virgin Theotokos, you are most blessed, for through the *Lord* who was born of you, Hades has been captured and Adam recalled. The curse has been annulled, and Eve set free. Death has been slain, so we are given life. Blessed is Christ our God, whose good will it was. Glory to you!

### Great Doxology

Glory to you who have shown us the light!  
glory to God in the highest!  
Peace on earth and goodwill to men!

<sup>2</sup> We praise you, we bless you, we worship you,  
we glorify you, we thank you for your great glory,

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

<sup>4</sup> 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.

<sup>5</sup> Receive our prayer,  
*for* you sit on the right of the Father,  
and have mercy on us.

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

<sup>7</sup> I will bless you every day  
and always praise your name for ever and ever. Ps 144.2

<sup>8</sup> O Lord, allow us this day  
to be guarded from sin.

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

<sup>10</sup> O Lord, let your mercy *be* on us,  
for we have hoped in you. Ps 32.22

<sup>16</sup> Blessed are you, O Lord!  
Teach me your statutes. X3 Ps 118.12

<sup>12</sup> O Lord, you have been our refuge  
from generation to generation. Ps 89.1

I said, "O Lord, have mercy on me;  
heal my soul, for I have sinned against you." Ps 40.5

- <sup>14</sup> O Lord, I have fled to you;  
 teach me to do your will, for you are my God. Ps 142:10
- <sup>15</sup> For with you is the source of life  
 and in your light we will see light. Ps 35:10
- <sup>16</sup> Stretch out your mercy  
 to those who know you. Ps 35:11

### Triságon

#### Resurrection Troparion

Today salvation has come to the world. Let us sing to the one who rose from the dead, the Author of our life. When he destroyed death by death, he gave us victory and great mercy.

### LITURGY

#### Antiphon 1 Ps 91

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

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 arose from the dead  
 We sing to you, "Alleluia!"

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

S3: Your throne *was* made ready in the past;  
 you are from eternity.

*Monogenes*

#### Antiphon 3 Ps 94 Tone 1

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

R: O Saviour, when the stone had been sealed by the Jews and while the soldiers were guarding your most pure body, you rose on the third day and granted life to the world. Therefore, O Giver of life, the powers of heaven cried to you, "Glory to your resurrection, O Christ! Glory to your Kingdom! Glory to your dispensation, O Lover of the human race!"

S2: Let us enter his presence with thanksgiving  
 and gladly cry to him with psalms,

S3: 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 arose from the dead.  
 We sing to you, "Alleluia!"

#### Apolytikia

Tone 1

O Saviour, when the stone had been sealed by the Jews and while the soldiers were guarding your most pure body, you rose on the third day and granted life to the world. Therefore, O Giver of life, the powers of heaven cried to you, "Glory to your resurrection, O Christ! Glory to your Kingdom! Glory to your dispensation, O Lover of the human race!"

Tone 2

You justified the Forefathers through faith and betrothed the Church of the Gentiles because of them. These saints rejoice in glory, for from their seed came a noble fruit, the *woman* who gave birth to you without seed. O Christ our God, save our souls through their prayers.

## Tone 4

O saint inspired by God, you became a partner of the apostles in their way of life and a successor to their thrones; you found the means for approaching divine vision. Therefore you have truly taught the word of truth and fought for the faith even to death. O hieromartyr Elefthérios, plead with Christ God to save our souls.

*Of the Church***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****Prokeimenon Ps 115 Tone 4**

R: The death of his saints is precious in the sight of the Lord.

S: What shall we give back to the Lord  
for everything which he has given us?

**Apostolos of the Hieromartyr**

From the Second Letter of Paul to Timothy (1:8-18)

My son Timothy, do not be ashamed then of testifying to our Lord, nor of me his prisoner, but share in suffering for the gospel in the power of God, <sup>9</sup>who saved us and called us with a holy calling, not in virtue of our works but in virtue of his own purpose and the grace which he gave us in Christ Jesus ages ago, <sup>10</sup>and now has manifested through the appearing of our Saviour Christ Jesus, who abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel. <sup>11</sup>For this gospel I was appointed a preacher and apostle and teacher, <sup>12</sup>and therefore I suffer as I do. But I am not ashamed, for I know whom I have believed, and I am sure that he is able to guard until that Day what has been entrusted to me. <sup>13</sup>Follow the pattern of the sound words which you have heard from me, in the faith and love which are in Christ Jesus; <sup>14</sup>guard the truth that has been entrusted to you by the Holy Spirit who dwells within us. <sup>15</sup>You are aware that all who are in Asia turned away from me, and among them Phygelus and Hermógenes. <sup>16</sup>May the Lord grant mercy to the household of Onesiphorus, for he often refreshed me; he was not ashamed of my chains, <sup>17</sup>but when he arrived in Rome he searched for me eagerly and found me -- <sup>18</sup>may the Lord grant him to find mercy from the Lord on that Day -- and you well know all the service he rendered at Ephesus.

**Alleluia Ps 131 Tone 2**

S1: O Lord, your priests will be clothed with justice  
*and* your holy ones will rejoice.

S2: For the Lord has chosen Zion.

**Gospel - Sunday Luke 11**

From the Holy Gospel according to Luke (14:16-24)

The Lord spoke this parable, "A man once gave a great banquet, and invited many; <sup>17</sup> and at the time for the banquet he sent his servant to say to those who had been invited, 'Come; for all is now ready.'<sup>18</sup> But they all alike began to make excuses. The first said to him, 'I have bought a field, and I must go out and see it; I pray you, have me excused.'<sup>19</sup> And another said, 'I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I go to examine them; I pray you, have me excused.'<sup>20</sup> And another said, 'I have married a wife, and therefore I cannot come.'<sup>21</sup> So the servant came and reported this to his master. Then the householder in anger said to his servant, 'Go out quickly to the streets and lanes of the city, and bring in the poor and maimed and blind and lame.'<sup>22</sup> And the servant said, 'Sir, what you commanded has been done, and still there is room.'<sup>23</sup> And the master said to the servant, 'Go out to the highways and hedges, and compel people to come in, that my house may be filled. <sup>24</sup> For I tell you, none of those men who were invited shall taste my banquet.'"

**Communion Ps 148**

Praise the Lord from the heavens;  
praise him in the heights. Alleluia!