

Sunday, December 17, 2023
28th Sunday after Pentecost - Tone 3
Sunday of the Forefathers

Troparion:

Let the heavens rejoice! Let the earth be glad! For the Lord has shown strength with His arm! He has trampled down death by death! He has become the first-born of the dead! He has delivered us from the depths of hell, and has granted the world great mercy!

Through faith Thou didst justify the Forefathers, betrothing through them the church of the gentiles. These saints exult in glory, for from their seed came forth a noble fruit. She who without seed did bear Thee. By their entreaties, O Christ God, save our souls

Kontakion:

O thrice-blessed ones, you did not worship the image made by man, but armed with the invisible power of God, you were glorified in a trial by fire. From the midst of unbearable flames you called on God, crying: "Hasten, O compassionate one! Speedily come to our defense, for Thou art merciful and able to accomplish all that Thou dost will."

Prokeimenon in the 4th Tone (Forefathers):

Blessed art Thou, O Lord God of our Fathers: and praised and glorified is Thy Name forever!
(Vs.) For Thou art just in all that Thou hast done for us.

Epistle:

The reading from the Epistle of the Holy Apostle Paul to the Colossians. (Col. 3:4-11)

Brethren, when Christ who is our life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory. Put to death therefore what is earthly in you: fornication, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. On account of these the wrath of God is coming. In these you once walked, when you lived in them. But now put them all away: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and foul talk from your mouth. Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have put off the old nature with its practices and have put on the new nature, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator. Here there cannot be Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scyth'ian, slave, free man, but Christ is all, and in all.

Alleluia Verses:

Moses and Aaron were among His priests; Samuel also was among those who called on His Name.
(Vs.) They called to the Lord and He answered them.

Gospel:

The Holy Gospel According to St. Luke. (Chapter 14:16-24)

The Lord told this parable, "A certain man gave a great supper, and he invited many. And he sent his servant at supper time to tell those invited to come, for everything is now ready. And they all with one accord began to excuse themselves. The first said to him, 'I have bought a field, and I must go out and see it; please hold me excused.' And another said, 'I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I am on my way to try them; please hold me excused.' And another said, 'I have married a wife, and therefore I cannot come.' And the servant returned, and reported these things to his master. Then the master of the house became angry and said to his servant, 'Go out quickly into the streets and lanes of the city, and bring in here the poor, and the cripples, and the lame, and the blind.' And the servant said, 'Sir, your order has been carried out, and still there is room.' Then the master said to the servant, 'Go out into the highways and hedges, and make them come in, so that my house may be filled. For I tell you that none of those who were invited shall taste of my supper. For many are called but few are chosen."