

Vesper Propers, Sunday of the Forefathers
December 16, 2007

Supplement for *The Order of Vespers for Sundays after Pentecost, 2006*

Tone of the Week: Tone 4 (begins on page 58), stichera 10 - 5

Cantor: (Tone 8) Let the watchman count on daybreak
(on 4) and Israel on the Lord.

Stichera of the Forefathers - Tone 8

To - day we commemo rate the an - ces - tors of Christ. Sing with fer - vor
a hymn of praise to Christ the Sav - ior who ex - alt - ed them among all
na - tions. He is the Lord who does won - drous deeds, be-cause he is
pow-er - ful and might - y. From them he brought forth a roy al scep - ter,
the im-mac-ulate maiden of God and vir-gin Ma - ry. From her, Christ our God
came forth to give life and e - ter - nal sal - va - tion to all.

Cantor: Because with the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption,
(on 3) Israel indeed he will redeem from all its iniquity.

O Lord and Mas - ter, you res - cued the three ho - ly youths from the fire.



You saved Dan-i-el from the li - ons' mouths; you blessed A - braham, Isaac your



serv-ant, and Ja - cob his son. You willed to be like one of us by



choos ing to be born from them in or - der that you might save our Fore fa - thers



who had fall - en. By your cross and resurrection you tore a part the bonds



of death. You raised up all those who for ages had been a-mong the dead,



and who bow to you, O Christ, the e - ter - nal King.

Cantor: Praise the Lord all the nations; **Psalm 116**
(on 2) acclaim him all you people.



The three holy youths were refreshed by the Ho - ly Spir - it when they



walked in the fire as though in a place of cool. In them the Trinity and the



In - car - na - tion of Christ were pre - fig - ured in a mys ti - cal man - - - ner.

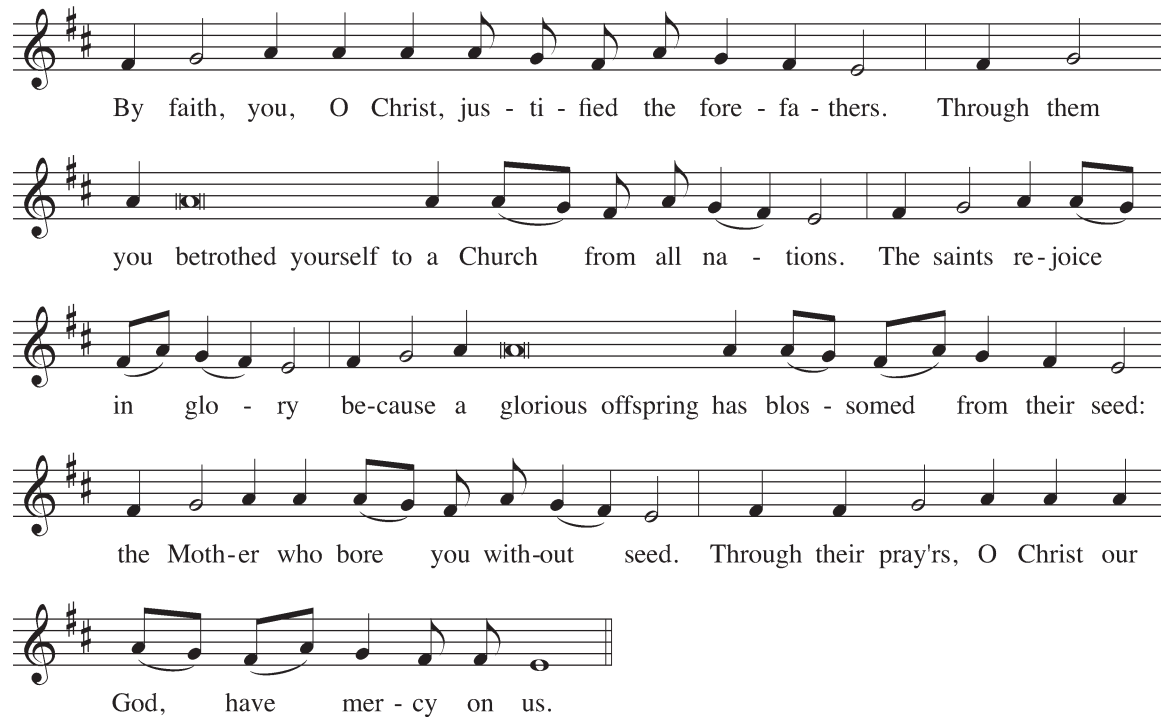
Cantor: Now and ever...

Aposticha Theotokion, Tone 3, p. 55

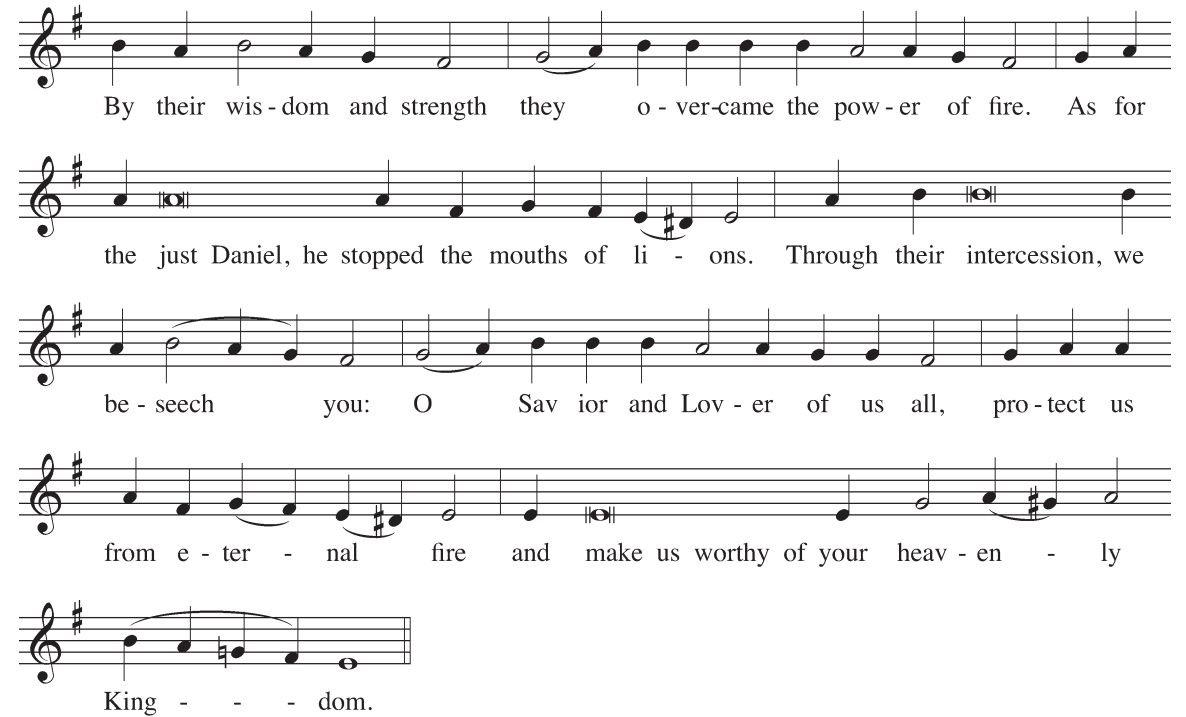
Troparion, Tone 4, p 68

(Tone 2) Glory...now and ever...

Troparion of the Forefathers - Tone 2

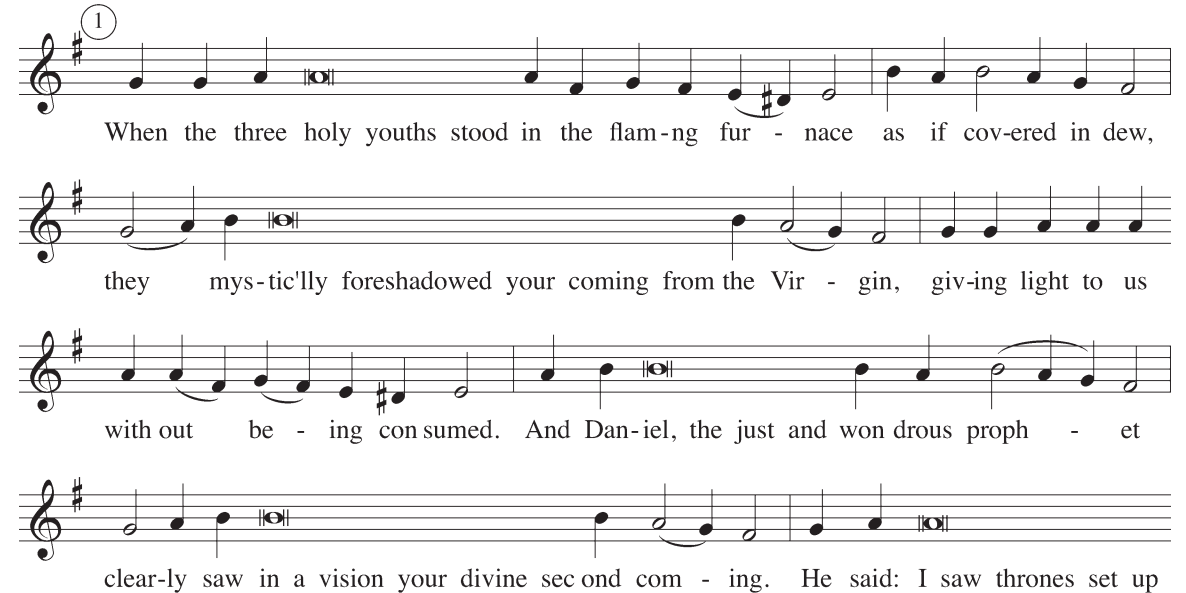


By faith, you, O Christ, jus - ti - fied the fore - fa - thers. Through them
you betrothed yourself to a Church from all na - tions. The saints re-joyce
in glo - ry be-cause a glorious offspring has blos - somed from their seed:
the Moth-er who bore you with-out seed. Through their pray'rs, O Christ our
God, have mer - cy on us.



By their wis - dom and strength they o - ver-came the pow - er of fire. As for
the just Daniel, he stopped the mouths of li - ons. Through their intercession, we
be - seech you: O Sav ior and Lov - er of us all, pro - tect us
from e - ter - nal fire and make us worthy of your heav - en - ly
King - - - dom.

Cantor: Strong is the love of the Lord for us;
(on 1) he is faithful forever.



When the three holy youths stood in the flam-ng fur - nace as if cov-ered in dew,
they mys-tic'lly foreshadowed your coming from the Vir - gin, giv-ing light to us
with out be - ing consumed. And Dan-iel, the just and won drous proph - et
clear-ly saw in a vision your divine sec ond com - ing. He said: I saw thrones set up

and the Judge seat - ed, and the riv - er of fire flowing in his pre - sence.

Through their in - ter - ces - sion, de - liv - er us from this fire, O Lord.

Cantor: (Tone 6) Glory...

Doxastikon - Tone 6

O be - liev - ers, let us give praise to - day to all the Fathers who lived be - fore

the Law: A - bra - ham who was be - loved by God; I - saac,

who was born according to the Prom - ise; Ja - cob and the Twelve Pa - tri - archs;

the ver - y meek David and the fa - vored proph - et Dan - iel. Let us al - so

glo - rify with them the three youths who changed the fiery furnace into a place

of re fresh ing dew. Let us beg forgiveness of our sins from Christ our God,

who is glo - ri - fied in his saints.

Cantor: (Tone 5) Now and ever...

Dogmatikon, Tone 4, p. 64

Aposticha, Tone 4, p. 65

Cantor: (Tone 3) Glory...

Doxastikon - Tone 3

Come, O lov - ers of the feast, let us sing a hymn of praise to the

assembly of the Fore - fa - thers: Ad - am, the father of the hu - man race,

E - noch, No - ah, Mel - chisedek, Abraham, Isaac, and Ja - cob. Let us

al - so honor those who came af - ter the Law: Mo - ses, Aaron, Joshua, Sam uel and

Da - vid; to - geth - er with I - sa - iah, Ezekiel, and Je re - mi - ah,

Dan - iel and the twelve mi - nor proph - ets; like - wise Elijah, Elisha, and all the

oth - ers; al - so Ze - cha - ri - ah and the Bap - tist, and all those

who preached Christ, the life and the Re sur - rec - tion of our race.