

Vesper Propers, December 18, 2016  
SUNDAY BEFORE THE NATIVITY  
Sunday of the Ancestors

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

*Lamplighting Psalms in the Tone of the Week (Tone 6, p. 82), stichera 10-5.*

**Cantor:** (Tone 6) Let the watchman count on daybreak  
(on 4) and Israel on the Lord.

**Stichera of the Ancestors - Tone 6 samohlasen**

The com-mem-o-ra-tion of the Ho-ly Fa-thers is man-i-fest-ed to the  
ends of the world. It is tru-ly full of splen-dor, and it glistens with the  
rays of grace: for Christ the wondrous Sun has shone forth on high  
from a-far. He forms the assembly of stars which glis-ten with him,  
and the star reveals that the nativity of the God-man will be in  
Beth-le-hem. There-fore, we pi-ously and faithful-ly clap our hands

and leap with joy at this na - tiv - i - ty, and we give  
praise be - fore the feast.

**Cantor:** Because with the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption,  
(on 3) Israel indeed he will redeem from all its iniquity.  
*All repeat: "The commemoration of the Holy Fathers..."*

**Cantor:** Praise the Lord, all you nations, **Psalm 116**  
(on 2) acclaim him all you peoples!

The Ho - ly Fa - thers are a - dorned by the glory of the divine sharing of our  
na - ture. Ad - am re - joic - es this day, since he is the founda - tion  
and the strength of the wise Fore - fa - thers; A - bel leaps for joy  
as well. E - noch is glad; Seth and Noah dance to - geth - er. The praiseworthy  
Abraham sings with the Pa - tri - archs. Mel - chi - se - dek now sees from on high  
the birth with - out a fa - - - ther.

and be - yond the pow - er of un - der - stand - ing. For you re - tained  
the seal of pur - i - ty, and your vir - ginity re - mained in - vi - o - late;  
yet you are ac - knowledged, with - out doubt, to be the Mother who gave birth  
to the true God. We beg you, therefore, to en - treat him to save our souls.

There - fore we venerate you and ask you to al - ways be - seech him to have  
mer - cy on us and save our souls.

### Troparia

*Troparion of the Resurrection in the Tone of the Week (Tone 6, page 91), then:*

**Cantor:** (Tone 2) Glory...

**Troparion of the Ancestors - Tone 2**

Great are the ac-com - plish - ments of faith: the three ho - ly youths rejoiced in  
the streams of fire as if in re - fresh - ing wa - ters; and Dan - iel the prophet  
shep - herd - ed li - ons like sheep. Through their pray'rs, O  
Christ our God, save our souls.

**Cantor:** Now and ever...

**Theotokion of the Ancestors - Tone 2**

O The - o - tokos, the mysteries surrounding you are ex - ceed - ing - ly glo - rious,

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

The faith - ful and God - wise youths are radiant with joy in the fur - nace.  
They her - ald the na - tiv - i - ty of Christ on earth. As the pre - cious dew which  
the Lord sent down, he now preserves the Vir - gin with - out stain, and en - rich - es  
her with sub - lime gifts. There - fore Dan - iel, in - spired by God,  
is also hap - py and full of joy be - cause he had a clear vis - ion  
of the un - hewn stone from the moun - tain. He now zeal - ous - ly prays  
for our souls.

**Cantor:** Glory...

**Doxastikon of the Ancestors - Tone 6 samohlasen**

Dan - iel was a be - lov - ed man. He saw you, O Lord, as the Rock which was

hewn with-out the use of a hand. He fore-told that you, the In-car-nate Word,  
 the Unchangeable God, and Sav-ior of our souls, would be born  
 with-out seed as a Child of a Vir-gin.

**Cantor:** (Tone 6) Now and ever...

*Dogmatikon in the Tone of the week (Tone 6, page 87).*

- Readings:** 1) Genesis 14:14-20 (EOT 301-302)  
 2) Deuteronomy 1:8-11.15-17  
 3) Deuteronomy 10:14-21

### Aposticha

*Aposticha in the Tone of the Week (Tone 6, p. 88), concluding with:*

**Cantor:** (Tone 2) Glory...

**Doxastikon of the Ancestors - Tone 2 samohlasen**

Re-joice, O il-lus-tri-ous Proph-ets! You firm-ly es-tab-lished  
 the Law of the Lord, and you faith-ful-ly mani-fest-ed your-selves to be  
 in-vin-cible and un-shak-a-ble pil-lars. You have been tak-en to heav-en

and have shown your-selves to be mediators of the new Law of Christ. Im-plore him  
 to give peace to the world and to save our souls.

**Cantor:** Now and ever...

**Aposticha theotokion of the Ancestors - Tone 2 samohlasen**

We now be-hold a new won-der great-er far than the won-ders of old.  
 For who has ever known a mother to bear a child without the help of man?  
 Who has known a mother to hold with-in her arms the Source of all  
 cre-a-tion? It was God's own will to be born in this man-ner; and you,  
 O most pure Vir-gin, car-ried him as an in-fant in your arms.  
 Be-cause of this, you can approach God with the bold-ness of a moth-er.