Second Sunday before the Nativity
Sunday of the Forefathers

DECEMBER 11-17

1. Let us now praise famous men, tell their stories once again.
2. Those were honored in their age—priest and monarch, prophet, sage—
3. These, the godly ones, we praise, who endured the darkest days,

Ruling kingdoms in their might, known for valor in men’s sight.
And have left behind a name, which their children e’er can claim.
Covenant, Lord, with you, and whose grace has seen them through.

Those with counsel true and wise, those who saw with prophet’s eyes—
Others, though, have run this race, vanished, leaving not a trace,
All our hymns of praise we bring for their steadfastness, O King!

Those who wrote the psalms we sing; those who taught the sage and king.
As if they had never been, they and children after them.
From their seed, upon this earth, you have taken humble birth.

For their gifts and witness, Lord, we sing praise with one accord.

Text: J. Michael Thompson, based on Ecclesiasticus 44: 1-10, 13-14
Melody: Mendelssohn (“Hark! The herald angels sing”)