

LITURGICAL VARIABLES – SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2024

*Sunday of the Forefathers (Ancestors) of Christ
& Hieromartyr Eleutherios, Bishop of Illyria*

FIRST ANTIPHON

It is good to give praise unto the Lord, and to chant unto Thy Name,
O Most High!

Refrain: Through the intercessions of the Theotokos, O Savior, save us!
To proclaim in the morning Thy mercy and Thy truth by night. *(Refrain)*
Upright is the Lord our God, and there is no unrighteousness in Him.
(Refrain)

Glory...Both now...*(Refrain)*

SECOND ANTIPHON

The Lord is King; He is clothed with majesty! The Lord is clothed with
strength and hath girt Himself.

**Refrain: Save us, O Son of God, Who art risen from the dead:
who sing to Thee: Alleluia!**

For He established the world which shall not be shaken. *(Refrain)*
Holiness cometh Thy house, O Lord, unto length of days. *(Refrain)*
Glory...Both now...O Only-begotten Son...

• *During the Little Entrance, chant the following Entrance Hymn:*

ENTRANCE HYMN OF THE RESURRECTION

Come let us worship and fall down before Christ. Save us, O Son of God,
Who art risen from the dead; who sing to Thee: Alleluia!

• *After the Entrance, sing the hymns in the following order below:*

RESURRECTIONAL APOLYTIKION (TONE 8)

From the heights Thou didst descend, O compassionate One, and Thou
didst submit to the three-day burial, that Thou might deliver us from
passion; Thou art our life and our Resurrection, O Lord, glory to Thee.

APOLYTIKION OF THE FOREFATHERS (TONE 2)

Thou hast justified by faith the ancient Forefathers, and through them
Thou hast gone before and betrothed unto Thyself the Church of the
Gentiles. Let the saints, therefore, take pride in glory; for from their seed
sprouted forth a noble fruit, and it was she who gave birth to Thee
without seed. Wherefore, by their pleadings, O Christ God, save our
souls.

APOLYTIKION OF ST. ELEUTHERIOS OF ILLYRIA (TONE 5)

Being comely adorned in thy sacred priestly robes * and newly drenched with
the streams of thy pure and sanctified blood, * thou didst soar aloft to stand
before thy Master, Christ; * hence never cease to intercede * for those honoring
with faith thy mighty and blessed contest, * thou overthrower of Satan, O wise
and blessed Eleutherios.

APOLYTIKION OF ST. NICHOLAS (TONE 4)

In truth you were revealed to your flock, as a rule of faith, a model of meekness
and a teacher of self-control. Therefore, you have won the heights by humility,
riches by poverty. Holy Father, Bishop Nicholas, intercede with Christ our God
that our souls may be saved.

KONTAKION OF PREPARATION OF CHRIST'S NATIVITY (TONE 3)

On this day the Virgin cometh to the cave to give birth to * God the Word
ineffably, * Who was before all the ages. * Dance for joy, O earth, on hearing *
the gladsome tidings; * with the Angels and the shepherds now glorify Him *
Who is willing to be gazed on * as a young Child Who * before the ages is God.

THE EPISTLE

Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of His saint.

What shall we render unto the Lord for all that He hath rendered unto us?

Reading from the 2nd Epistle of St. Paul to St. Timothy (1:8-18)

Timothy, my son, 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,
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, and now has manifested through the appearing of our
Savior Christ Jesus, Who abolished death and brought life and immortality
to light through the gospel. For this gospel I was appointed a preacher and
apostle and teacher, 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. Follow the pattern of the
sound words which you have heard from me, in the faith and love which
are in Christ Jesus; guard the truth that has been entrusted to you by the
Holy Spirit Who dwells within us. You are aware that all who are in Asia
turned away from me, and among them Phygelos and Hermogenes. May
the Lord grant mercy to the household of Onesiphoros, for he often
refreshed me; he was not ashamed of my chains, but when he arrived in
Rome he searched for me eagerly and found me. 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.

THE GOSPEL

Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Luke (14:16-24)


The Lord spoke this parable: "A man once gave a great banquet, and invited many; 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.' But, one by one, they all 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.' And another said, 'I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I go to examine them; I pray you, have me excused.' And another said, 'I have married a wife, and therefore I cannot come.' 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.' And the servant said, 'Sir, what you commanded has been done, and still there is room.' 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. For I tell you, none of those men who were invited shall taste my banquet.' For many are called, but few are chosen."

COMMUNION HYMN OF THE RESURRECTION (TONE 8)

Praise the Lord from the Heavens, praise Him in the highest!

THE SYNAXARION

On December 15, we celebrate the Sunday of the Holy Forefathers (Ancestors) of our Lord Jesus. We remember all the holy Patriarchs of the Old Testament who prefigured or foretold Christ: Adam the first Father, Enoch, Melchizedek, Abraham, the friend of God, Isaac, the fruit of the Promise, Jacob and the twelve patriarchs. We then commemorate those who lived under the Law: Moses, Aaron, Joshua, Samuel, David, and the Prophets: Isaiah, Jeremiah, and Ezekiel; the twelve minor prophets; Elijah, Elisha, Zachariah, and John the Baptist; and finally the Virgin Mary, the intermediary between mankind and her divine Son. Indeed, the Lord Jesus did not come to abolish the Law and the Prophets, but to redeem humanity which bemoaned the weight of evil since Adam; to realize the promise made to Abraham; to change the Law of Fear into the Law of Love; and to give Resurrection and Life to mankind. This feast prepares us for the Nativity of Jesus Christ, placing before us the anticipation and hope for His coming among us.



AN ORTHODOX COMMUNITY WHERE PEOPLE FIND TRANSFORMATION IN JESUS CHRIST

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Welcome to our church community! We are blessed to have you worshipping with us today. We are the jurisdiction of the Orthodox Christian Church whose roots trace directly back to first century Antioch, the city in which the disciples of Jesus Christ were first called "Christians" (Acts 11:26). The Orthodox Church is the oldest and second largest Christian group in the world. We are called by God our creator to worship and follow Him, and to proclaim to the world His message of love, peace and salvation.