

Sunday, December 13
Sunday of the Holy Fore-Fathers
Post-feast of Immaculate Conception

Sunday Tropar, tone 3: Let the heavens be glad, let the earth rejoice, * for the Lord has done a mighty deed with His arm. * He trampled death by death; He became the first born of the dead; * He saved us from the abyss of Hades * and granted great mercy to the world.

Tropar of the Forefathers, tone 2: O Christ, You have justified the forefathers by faith, * thus forming through them the Church of the gentiles. * These saints are glorified because the Virgin who bore You descends from them. * O Christ God, through their prayers have mercy on us.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:

Kondak of the Forefathers, tone 6: Armed with invisible power, * you did not adore the idols made by human hands, O thrice-holy youths; * strengthened by a power beyond words, * you stood in the midst of a devouring fire and called upon God, saying, * "Hasten, O merciful One, and speed to our help, * for You are good and have power to do whatever you desire."

Now and for ever and ever. Amen!

Sunday Kondak, tone 3: You arose from the tomb, O compassionate Lord, * and led us out from the gates of death. * Today Adam exults and Eve rejoices, * and the prophets together with the patriarchs unceasingly acclaim * the divine might of Your power.

Prokimen, tone 4: Blessed are you, and praiseworthy, O Lord, the God of our fathers, and glorious forever is your name.

Verse: For you are just in all you have done.

Epistle: Colossians 3: 4 - 11

Brothers and Sisters! When Christ our life appears, then you shall appear with him in glory. Put to death whatever in your nature is rooted in earth: fornication, uncleanness, passion, evil desires, and that lust which is idolatry. These are the sins which provoke God's wrath. Your own conduct was once of this sort, when these sins were your very life. You must put that aside now: all the anger and quick temper, the malice, the insults, the foul language. Stop lying to one another. What you have done is put aside your old self with its past deeds and put on a new man, one who grows in knowledge as he is formed anew in the image of his Creator. There is no

Greek or Jew here, circumcised or uncircumcised, foreigner Scythian, slave, or freeman. Rather, Christ is everything in all of you.

Alleluia Verses: Moses and Aaron were among his priests, and Samuel, among those who called upon his name.

They called upon the Lord, and he answered them.

Gospel: Luke 14: 16-24

At that time the Lord said this parable: "A man was giving a large dinner and he invited many. At dinner time he sent his servant to say to those invited, 'Come along, everything is ready now.' But they began to excuse themselves, one and all. The first one said to the servant, 'I have bought some land and must go out and inspect it. Please excuse me.' Another said, 'I have bought five yoke of oxen and I am going out to test them. Please excuse me.' A third said, 'I am newly married and so I cannot come.' The servant returning reported all this to his master. The master of the house grew angry at the account. He said to his servant, 'Go out quickly into the streets and alleys of the town and bring in the poor and the crippled, the blind and the lame.' The servant reported, after some time, 'Your orders have been carried out, my lord, and there is still room.' The master then said to the servant, 'Go out into the highways and along the hedgerows and force them to come in. I want my house to be full, but I tell you that not one of those invited shall taste a morsel of my dinner. For many are called, but few are chosen.' "

Instead of 'It is truly right . . .': O my soul, extol the glorious conception* of the Mother of God. * You are an inexhaustible source of life, * O Mother of God. * You are a radiant lamp of grace, a temple of the Holy Spirit, * an all-pure tent more spacious * than the heavens and the earth. * Therefore, we the faithful, * praise you.

Communion Hymn: Praise the Lord from the heavens, praise Him in the highest.

Exult, you just, in the Lord; praise from the upright is fitting. Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!