

1. JANUARY. 2017. 28-th. SUNDAY AFT. PENTECOST.
SUNDAY BEFORE THE NATIVITY. SUNDAY OF THE HOLY FATHERS.

TONE – 3.

1, СІЧЕНЬ, 2017. 28-ма. НЕДІЛЯ ПО П'ЯТИДЕСЯТНИЦІ.
НЕДІЛЯ ПЕРЕД РІЗДВОМ ХРИСТОВИМ, СВЯТИХ ОТЦІВ.

ГОЛОС 3-ий.



The **Sunday of the Fathers** is the Sunday before the Nativity of the Lord . On this day the Church honors all those who were well-pleasing to God from all ages, from Adam to St Joseph the Betrothed of the Most Holy Theotokos, those who are mentioned in the genealogy of Luke 3:23-38. The holy prophets and prophetesses are also remembered on this day, especially the Prophet Daniel and the three holy youths. The previous Sunday, the Sunday of the Forefathers, the Church commemorated all the righteous of the Old Testament who awaited the coming of Christ, this day remembers all those in the Old Testament who were related to Christ by blood and those who spoke of his birth as a man. This Sunday is part of the Forefeast of the Nativity, which strictly speaking begins on January 1.

TROPAR OF SUNDAY IN TONE – 3. Let the heavens rejoice. Let earth be glad. For the Lord has shown strength with His arm. He has trampled down death by death. He has become the First-Born of the Dead. He has delivered us from the depths of hades and has granted to the world great mercy.

ТРОПАР НЕДІЛЬНИЙ НА ГОЛОС 3-ий. Нехай веселяться небесні, нехай радуються земнії, бо сотворив державу силою Своєю Господь, подолав смертю смерть, первістком мертвих став, із безодні аду визволив нас і подав світові велику милість.

TROPAR OF THE HOLY FATHERS IN TONE-2. Great are the achievements of faith! In the fountain of flames the Three Holy Children rejoice as in refreshing waters, and the prophet Daniel in the midst of lions is like a shepherd among his sheep. Through their prayers, O Christ God, save our souls. GLORY to the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. NOW AND FOREVER and to the ages of ages, Amen.

ТРОПАР ОТЦЯМ НА ГОЛОС 2-ий. Великі діла віри, у джерелі полум'я, як на спокійній воді, святі три юнаки радувалися, а пророк Даниїл пастухом левів, наче овець, з'явився. Молитвами їх, Христе Боже, спаси душі наші. СЛАВА Отцю і Сину і Святому Духові І НИНІ і повсякчас і на віки вічні, Амінь.

KONDAK OF THE FATHERS IN TONE-6. You would not worship a handmade image, O thrice blessed ones, but armed with the boundless essence of God, You were glorified in a trial by fire. Standing in the midst of unbearable flames You called on God: Hasten, O Compassionate One, come quickly to our defense, since You are merciful; for You are able if it be Your Will.

READER : “ PROKIMEN IN TONE-4. Blessed are You, Lord God of our Fathers, and praised and glorified is Your Name to the ages.”
CHOIR : “ Blessed are You, Lord God of our Fathers, and praised and glorified is Your Name to the ages.”

READER : “ For You are righteous in all that You have done for us.”
CHOIR : “ Blessed are You, Lord God of our Fathers, and praised and glorified is Your Name to the ages.”

READER : “ Blessed are You, Lord God of our Fathers.”
CHOIR : “ And praised and glorified is Your Name to the ages.”

КОНДАК ОТЦІВ НА ГОЛОС 6-ий.
Рукотворного образу не почитавшись, але неописаним єством захистившись, триблаженні, в подвизі вогню ви прославилися і посеред нестерпного полум'я стоячи, Бога призивали: Прискори, милосердний, і поспішися, як Милостивий на поміч нам, бо Ти можеш, якщо воля Твоя.

ЧИТ. ; “ ПРОКІМЕН НА ГОЛОС 4-ий.
Благословен єси, Господи Боже отців наших, і хвальне, і прославлене Ім'я Твоє навіки.”
ХОР. : “ Благословен єси, Господи Боже отців наших, і хвальне, і прославлене Ім'я Твоє навіки.”

ЧИТ. ; “ Бо праведний єси в усьому, що вчинив Ти нам.”
ХОР. : “ Благословен єси, Господи Боже отців наших, і хвальне, і прославлене Ім'я Твоє навіки.”

ЧИТ. ; “ Благословен єси, Господи Боже отців наших.”
ХОР. : “ І хвальне, і прославлене Ім'я Твоє навіки.”

THE EPISTLE

Hebrews 11 : 9-10, 17-23, 32-40.

⁹ By faith he dwelt in the land of promise as *in* a foreign country, dwelling in tents with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise; ¹⁰ for he waited for the city which has foundations, whose builder and maker *is* God.

¹⁷ By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac, and he who had received the promises offered up his only begotten *son*, ¹⁸ of whom it was said, “In Isaac your seed shall be called,” ¹⁹ concluding that God *was* able to raise *him* up, even from the dead, from which he also received him in a figurative sense.

²⁰ By faith Isaac blessed Jacob and Esau concerning things to come.

²¹ By faith Jacob, when he was dying, blessed each of the sons of Joseph, and worshiped, *leaning* on the top of his staff.

²² By faith Joseph, when he was dying, made mention of the departure of the children of Israel, and gave instructions concerning his bones.

²³ By faith Moses, when he was born, was hidden three months by his parents, because they saw *he was* a beautiful child; and they were not afraid of the king's command.

³² And what more shall I say? For the time would fail me to tell of Gideon and Barak and Samson and Jephthah, also *of* David and Samuel and the prophets: ³³ who through faith subdued kingdoms, worked righteousness, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions, ³⁴ quenched the violence of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, out of weakness were made strong, became valiant in battle, turned to flight the armies of the aliens. ³⁵ Women received their dead raised to life again.

Others were tortured, not accepting deliverance, that they might obtain a better resurrection.

³⁶ Still others had trial of mockings and scourgings, yes, and of chains and imprisonment. ³⁷ They were stoned, they were sawn in two, were tempted, were slain with the sword. They wandered about in sheepskins and goatskins, being destitute, afflicted, tormented— ³⁸ of whom the world was not worthy. They wandered in deserts and mountains, *in dens* and caves of the earth.

³⁹ And all these, having obtained a good testimony through faith, did not receive the promise,

⁴⁰ God having provided something better for us, that they should not be made perfect apart from us.

READER : “ ALLELUIA IN TONE-4. Alleluia.”

CHOIR : “ Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.”

ЧИТ. ; “ АЛИЛУЯ НА ГОЛОС 4-ий.

Алилуя.”

ХОР. : “ Алилуя, Алилуя, Алилуя.”

READER : “ We have heard with our ears O God, and our fathers have told us what deeds You performed. Alleluia.”

CHOIR : “ Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.”

ЧИТ. ; “ Боже, вухами нашими почули ми, і отці наші сповістили нам.

Алилуя.”

ХОР. : “ Алилуя, Алилуя, Алилуя.”

READER : “ You have saved us from them that afflict us and have put those who hate us o shame. Alleluia.”

CHOIR : “ Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.”

ЧИТ. ; “ Ти спас нас від тих, що нападають на нас, та осоромив тих, що ненавидять нас. Алилуя.

ХОР. : “ Алилуя, Алилуя, Алилуя.”

GOSPEL/ΕΒΑΝΓΕΛΙΕ.

MATTHEW. 1 : 1 - 25.

1 The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the Son of David, the Son of Abraham:

² Abraham begot Isaac, Isaac begot Jacob, and Jacob begot Judah and his brothers. ³ Judah begot Perez and Zerah by Tamar, Perez begot Hezron, and Hezron begot Ram. ⁴ Ram begot Amminadab, Amminadab begot Nahshon, and Nahshon begot Salmon. ⁵ Salmon begot Boaz by Rahab, Boaz begot Obed by Ruth, Obed begot Jesse, ⁶ and Jesse begot David the king.

David the king begot Solomon by her *who had been the wife* of Uriah. ⁷ Solomon begot Rehoboam, Rehoboam begot Abijah, and Abijah begot Asa. ⁸ Asa begot Jehoshaphat, Jehoshaphat begot Joram, and Joram begot Uzziah. ⁹ Uzziah begot Jotham, Jotham begot Ahaz, and Ahaz begot Hezekiah. ¹⁰ Hezekiah begot Manasseh, Manasseh begot Amon, and Amon begot Josiah. ¹¹ Josiah begot Jeconiah and his brothers about the time they were carried away to Babylon.

¹² And after they were brought to Babylon, Jeconiah begot Shealtiel, and Shealtiel begot Zerubbabel. ¹³ Zerubbabel begot Abiud, Abiud begot Eliakim, and Eliakim begot Azor. ¹⁴ Azor begot Zadok, Zadok begot Achim, and Achim begot Eliud. ¹⁵ Eliud begot Eleazar, Eleazar begot Matthan, and Matthan begot Jacob. ¹⁶ And Jacob begot Joseph the husband of Mary, of whom was born Jesus who is called Christ.

¹⁷ So all the generations from Abraham to David *are* fourteen generations, from David until the captivity in Babylon *are* fourteen generations, and from the captivity in Babylon until the Christ *are* fourteen generations.

¹⁸ Now the birth of Jesus Christ was as follows: After His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹ Then Joseph her husband, being a just *man*, and not wanting to make her a public example, was minded to put her away secretly. ²⁰ But while he thought about these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take to you Mary your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit. ²¹ And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name JESUS, for He will save His people from their sins."

²² So all this was done that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the Lord through the prophet, saying: ²³ "Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel," which is translated, "God with us."

²⁴ Then Joseph, being aroused from sleep, did as the angel of the Lord commanded him and took to him his wife, ²⁵ and did not know her till she had brought forth her firstborn Son. And he called His name JESUS.



In the Book of Daniel, The **Three Holy Children**, Hananiah (Shadrach), Mishael (Meshach), and Azariah (Abednego) were all companions of the Prophet Daniel and fellow kinsmen in the tribe of Judah. During the reign of King Jechonias they were taken prisoner and led away as captives with other Jews during the Babylonian Captivity. Eventually they were taken into the court of King Nebuchadnezzar as servants, stripped of their Hebrew names, and given Babylonian names which honored pagan deities. They later would be delivered by God from death after being placed in furnace by Nebuchadnezzar.

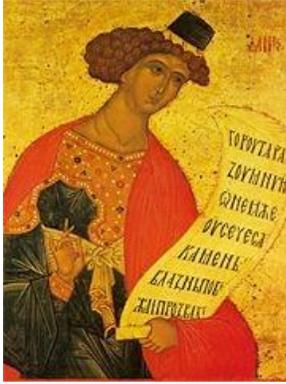
The Fiery Furnace

As told in Chapter Three in the Book of Daniel, King Nebuchadnezzar constructs a

golden cult image of himself which he orders the populace to worship. Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah defy the king's order, refusing to worship anyone but God alone. Nebuchadnezzar, in a fit of rage, orders that the three children be thrown in a furnace. Inside the furnace, Azariah prays for the forgiveness of his sins and those of his people, asking God to demonstrate his power to the Babylonians. They are delivered from the fire by an angel who makes the flames feel like a cool breeze over dew. Seen in the furnace walking with a fourth individual unscathed and praising God, the three children emerge. Nebuchadnezzar then orders the people to worship their God instead of the idol.

Before this event, Daniel interpreted a mysterious dream Nebuchadnezzar had of a statue composed of precious metals which was ground to dust by a rock hewn from a mountain without human craftsmanship. This vision is said to prefigure of Christ's incarnation, the Son of God who is begotten and not made, destroying death through His Resurrection.

The Church also teaches that it was Christ taking the form of an angel who saved the youths from their torment. In icons of this miracle, the angel sports a halo bearing a cross, indicating that He is Christ. The reading of the story of the furnace, including the song Prayer of the Three Holy Children, is prescribed for the vespers Divine Liturgy celebrated by the Church on Holy Saturday.



The Book of Daniel relates of three main events that happened to these Holy Youth:

First Event: Fasting of Daniel and the 3 Holy Youth:

Daniel “purposed in his heart” not to eat from the meat slaughtered to the idols. Fasting from eating the meat slaughtered to the idols is a commandment in the Old and New Testaments. Daniel’s decision came out of his heart. Daniel and his three friends asked to be put under test for ten days “*And the chief of the eunuchs said to Daniel, “I fear my lord the king, who has appointed your food and drink. For why should he see your faces looking worse than the young men who are your age? Then you would endanger my head before the king” (Dan 1:10).* They were sure of the successful result; they were sure that their health would not deteriorate since their goal was to please only God; “*And at the end of ten days their features appeared better and fatter in flesh than all the young men who ate the portion of the of the king’s delicacies.”(Dan 1:15).* God awarded them for their steadfastness and firmness in the truth “*Then the king interviewed them, and among them all none was found link Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah; therefore they served before*

the king. And in all matters of wisdom and understanding about which the king examined them, he found them ten times better than all the magicians and astrologers who were in all his realm” (Dan 1:19,20). Daniel and the Three Holy Youth refused to conform to this world.

The King had a dream, and he asked his magicians to interpret it, *without* telling them the dream itself! He also threatened to kill them if they could not. Daniel asked for some time in order to pray for the matter, “*So Daniel went and asked the king to give him time, that he might tell the king the interpretation (Dan 2:16)*”. By doing this, he depended on the mercy of God and not on his own wisdom. Daniel informed his 3 friends and they prayed as a “group” and God revealed the secret to Daniel. Daniel and his friends glorified God:

“Daniel answered and said: Blessed be the name of God forever and ever, For wisdom and might are His” (Dan 2:20).

Upon the revelation of the secret to Daniel, he went to the king, and spoke to him about God, not about his own abilities “*But there is God in heaven who reveals secrets, and He has made known to king Nebuchadnezzar what will be in the latter days. Your dream, and the visions of your head upon your bed, were these:” (Dan 2:28)* Then he revealed the dream and its interpretation. The humility of Daniel made him introduce God only and not himself, it is clear in this verse “*But as for me, this secret has not been revealed to me because I have more wisdom than anyone living, but for our sakes who make known the interpretation to the king, and that you may know the thoughts of your heart.”(Dan 2:30).* lacopts.org/story/the-three-holy-youth-and-the-power-of-the-resurrection