

**Octoechos - Mode 1.**

On Sunday Morning

**Menaion - December 11-17**

Sunday of the Holy Forefathers

**Menaion - December 15**

Memory of St. Eleftherios

**LITURGY**

*Unless otherwise indicated, the texts of the prayers and hymns of the Divine Liturgy are from: The Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom (© 2016), used with permission from the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America. This text was produced by the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America and approved by the Ecumenical Patriarchate.*

**Antiphon I. Mode 2.**

**Verse 1:** *Bless the Lord, O my soul, and everything within me, bless His holy name.* [SAAS]

Through the intercessions of the Theotokos, Savior, save us. [GOA]

**Verse 2:** *Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all His rewards.* [SAAS]

Through the intercessions of the Theotokos, Savior, save us.

**Verse 3:** *The Lord prepared His throne in heaven, and His Kingdom rules over all.* [SAAS]

Through the intercessions of the Theotokos, Savior, save us.

*Glory to the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit.*

*Both now and ever and to the ages of ages. Amen.*

Through the intercessions of the Theotokos, Savior, save us.

**Antiphon II. Mode 2.**

**Verse 1:** *Praise the Lord, O my soul! I shall praise the Lord while I live; I shall sing to my God as long as I exist.* [SAAS]

Save us, O Son of God, risen from the dead. We sing to You, Alleluia. [GOA]

**Verse 2:** *Blessed is he whose help is the God of Jacob; his hope is in the Lord his God.* [SAAS]

Save us, O Son of God, risen from the dead. We sing to You, Alleluia.

**Verse 3:** *The Lord shall reign forever; your God, O Zion, to all generations.* [SAAS]

Save us, O Son of God, risen from the dead. We sing to You, Alleluia.

*Glory to the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit.*

*Both now and ever and to the ages of ages. Amen.*

Only begotten Son and Logos of God, being immortal, You condescended for our salvation to take flesh from the holy Theotokos and ever-virgin Mary and, without change, became man. Christ, our God, You were crucified and conquered death by death. Being one of the Holy Trinity, glorified with the Father and the Holy Spirit: Save us. [GOA]

**Antiphon III.**

**Mode 1.**

**Verse 1:** *This is the day the Lord made; let us greatly rejoice and be glad therein.* [SAAS]

**Resurrectional Apolytikion.**

**Mode 1. Automelon.**

The stone had been secured with a seal by the Judeans, \* and a guard of soldiers was watching Your immaculate body. \* You

rose on the third day, O Lord \* and Savior,  
granting life unto the world. \* For this reason  
were the powers of heaven crying out to You,  
O Life-giver: \* Glory to Your resurrection,  
O Christ; \* glory to Your kingdom; \* glory  
to Your dispensation, only One who loves  
mankind. [SD]

**Verse 2:** *Let heaven and earth praise Him.*

[SAAS]

The stone had been secured with a seal  
by the Judeans, \* and a guard of soldiers  
was watching Your immaculate body. \* You  
rose on the third day, O Lord \* and Savior,  
granting life unto the world. \* For this reason  
were the powers of heaven crying out to You,  
O Life-giver: \* Glory to Your resurrection,  
O Christ; \* glory to Your kingdom; \* glory  
to Your dispensation, only One who loves  
mankind. [SD]

*An optional alternative to the Antiphons are the Typika (Psalms 102 and 145), and the Beatitudes with the appointed troparia, which are provided here.*

**Psalm 102.**

**Psalm 145.**

**The Beatitudes.**

**Mode 1.**

In Your kingdom. Remember us, O Lord, when You come in Your kingdom. Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven

Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.

Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.

**Resurrectional.**

From Octoechos - - -

*Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy.* [RSV]

Then the foe used eating from the tree \* to get Adam banished from Paradise. \* Now crucified upon a tree, \* Christ allowed the Robber enter it, \* when he said: Remember me \* when You come in Your kingdom, O Lord.

[SD]

*Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.* [RSV]

I revere and honor and extol \* Your holy Passion, and I glorify \* Your resurrection, and I sing \* joining Adam and the Robber and say \* joyfully: Remember me \* when You come in Your kingdom, O Lord. [SD]

*Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.* [RSV]

Sinless Savior, You were crucified \* and laid in a tomb voluntarily. \* But then, as God, You arose, \* resurrecting Adam with yourself. \* He cried out: Remember me \* when You come in Your kingdom, O Lord. [SD]

*Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.* [RSV]

**Theotokion.**

We Your people now invoke the name \* of Your holy Mother entreating for us. \* O Good One, at her fervent prayers, \* send Your mercies to us, Christ, as we sing \* glorifying You who rose \* from the sepulcher, like a sun for us. [SD]

**Canon for the Forefathers.**

From Menaion - - -

**Ode vi. Mode 1. N/M (Such as it received.)**

*Blessed are you when men revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely [for my sake].* [RSV]

You clearly became a figure of Christ's Passion,/most blessed Isaac,/as you were raised up to be sacrificed/through your Father's ready obedience./Therefore you are blessed, and revealed as a true friend of God,// and you dwell with all the righteous. [OCA]

*Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven.* [RSV]

Jacob was seen to be a most faithful servant of the God of all:/He wrestled with an angel;/his name was changed as he beheld God with his mind,/and as he slept, he beheld the divine ladder upon which our God came

down//Who in His goodness was united with  
the flesh. [OCA]

Glory.

Joseph as a lover of obedience to his  
Father,/was cast into a pit and sold./Thus  
he prefigured Christ Who was sacrificed and  
went down into the pit./He was appointed  
to feed Egypt with corn,//for in chastity and  
righteousness he truly ruled over the passions.

[OCA]

Both now.

The Existing One, eternally with the  
Father and the Spirit,/is known as a little  
child on earth./He Who was revealed  
clothing the earth with clouds/is wrapped  
in swaddling clothes and laid in a manger  
of dumb beasts./Now let us rejoice in  
the prefeast//as we celebrate His seedless  
Nativity! [OCA]

### Entrance Hymn. Mode 2.

Come, let us worship and bow down before Christ. Save us, O Son of God, risen from the dead. We sing to You, Alleluia. [GOA]

### Hymns After the Small Entrance.

From Octoechos - - -

#### Resurrectional Apolytikion.

##### Mode 1. Automelon.

The stone had been secured with a seal by the Judeans, \* and a guard of soldiers was watching Your immaculate body. \* You rose on the third day, O Lord \* and Savior, granting life unto the world. \* For this reason were the powers of heaven crying out to You, O Life-giver: \* Glory to Your resurrection, O Christ; \* glory to Your kingdom; \* glory to Your dispensation, only One who loves mankind. [SD]

#### For the Forefathers.

##### Mode 2.

By faith You justified the Forefathers, having through them betrothed to yourself the Church that came out of the nations. The saints are boasting in glory; for the glorious fruit, the Virgin who without seed gave birth to You, is from their progeny. At their entreaties, O Christ our God, save our souls.

[SD]

#### For the Hieromartyr.

From Menaion - - -

##### Mode pl. 1. *Let us worship the Word.*

You were fully adorned with the sacred priestly robes. \* You were dripping with streams of your own martyric blood. \* In this state, you ran to Christ your Master, O blessed Saint \* Eleftherius, destroyer of Satan; you are wise. \* Therefore cease not interceding \* for

us who loyally honor \* your blessed contest of martyrdom. [SD]

### Apolytikion of the Parish Church

(The text of the Apolytikion of the local church goes here.)

From Menaion - - -

#### Kontakion.

##### Mode 3. Automelon.

On this day the Virgin Maid \* goes to the grotto to give birth \* to the pre-eternal Word \* in an ineffable manner. \* Dance for joy, all the inhabited earth, on hearing. \* Glorify along with Angels and with the shepherds \* Him who willed that He appear as \* a newborn Child, \* the pre-eternal God. [SD]

### THE TRISAGION HYMN

Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal, have mercy on us. (3) [GOA]

Glory to the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Both now and ever and to the ages of ages. Amen.

Holy Immortal, have mercy on us.

### The Epistle

For the Saint.

#### Prokeimenon. Grave Mode. Psalm 115.

Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of His holy one. [SAAS]

**Verse:** *What shall I give back to the Lord for all He rendered to me?* [SAAS]

2 Tim. 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 Ephesos. [RSV]

**Alleluia. Mode pl. 4.**

Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia.

**Verse 1:** *Moses and Aaron are among His priests.* [SAAS]

Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia.

**Verse 2:** *The righteous cried, and the Lord heard them.* [SAAS]

Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia.

**The Gospel**  
**Sunday For the Forefathers.**

Lk. 14:16-24

The Lord said this parable: "A man once gave a great banquet, and invited many; and at the time of the banquet he sent his servant to say to those who had been invited, 'Come; for all is now ready.' But they all alike began to make excuses. The first said to him, 'I have bought a field, and I go out and see it; I pray you, have me excused.' And another said, 'I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I must 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 there is still 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.'" [RSV]

**Hymn to the Theotokos.**

It is truly right to bless you, Theotokos, ever blessed, most pure, and Mother of our God. More honorable than the Cherubim, and beyond compare more glorious than the Seraphim, without corruption you gave birth to God the Logos. We magnify you, the true Theotokos. [GOA]

**Communion Hymn. Psalm 148.**

Praise the Lord from the heavens, praise  
Him in the highest. Alleluia. [SAAS]

*and the following:*

**Communion Hymn. Psalm 111/112.**

The righteous will be remembered for  
ever. Alleluia. [RSV]

**Hymn after Holy Communion.**

**Mode 2.**

We have seen the true light; we have  
received the heavenly Spirit; we have found  
the true faith, worshiping the undivided  
Trinity, for the Trinity has saved us. [GOA]

**THE DISMISSAL**

May He Who rose from the dead, Christ  
our true God, through the intercessions of His  
all-pure and all-immaculate holy Mother, the  
power of the precious and life-giving Cross,  
the protection of the honorable, bodiless  
powers of heaven, the supplications of the  
honorable, glorious prophet and forerunner  
John the Baptist, of the holy, glorious, and  
praiseworthy apostles, of the holy, glorious,  
and triumphant martyrs, of our righteous  
and God-bearing fathers, (*local patron  
saint*); of the holy and righteous ancestors  
of God Joachim and Anna, the holy and  
glorious hieromartyr Eleftherios, and the holy  
Forefathers, whose memory we observe; and  
of all the saints, have mercy on us and save us,  
for He is good and loves mankind.

**Fasting Rule**

*Wine: Wine and oil are allowed. Refrain from meat, fish,  
dairy, and eggs.*

*It is the Christmas fast.*