

St Peter the Apostle Antiochian Orthodox Church

14 December 2008

1ST MODE

SUNDAY OF FOREFATHERS (ANCESTORS) OF CHRIST

RESURRECTIONAL APOLYTIKION IN TONE ONE

While the stone was sealed by the Jews, and the soldiers were guarding Thy most pure body, Thou didst arise on the third day, O Savior, granting life to the world. For which cause the heavenly powers cried aloud unto Thee, O giver of life. Glory to Thy Resurrection O Christ, glory to Thy kingdom, glory to Thy providence, O Thou Who alone art the lover of mankind.

APOLYTIKION OF THE FOREFATHERS IN TONE TWO

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 she it was who gave birth to Thee without seed. Wherefore, by their pleadings, O Christ God, save our souls.

- *Now sing the apolytikion of the patron saint or feast of the temple.*

KONTAKION OF PREPARATION OF NATIVITY IN MODE THREE

The Virgin cometh today to the cave to give birth, ineffably to bring forth the Word eternal. Therefore, rejoice, O earth, at the message; with the angels and shepherds give glory to Him Who shall appear by His own will as a young child, He Who is from eternity, God.

THE EPISTLE

(For the Holy Forefathers)

Blessed art Thou, O Lord, the God of our Fathers.

For Thou art just in all that Thou hast done for us.

The Reading is from the Epistle of St. Paul to the Colossians. (3:4-11)

Brethren, when Christ, Who is our life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory. Put to death therefore what is earthly in you: fornication, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. On account of these, the wrath of God is coming upon the sons of disobedience. In these you once walked, when you lived in them. But now put them all away: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and foul talk from your mouth. Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have put off the old nature with its practices and have put on the new nature, which is being

renewed in knowledge after the image of its Creator. Here there cannot be Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave, free man, but Christ is all, and in all.

THE GOSPEL

(For the Holy Forefathers)

The Reading is 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."

***** Announcements for the Week of December 14th *****

- ❖ **TODAY, Dec 14th: Parish Council session, after the agape meal.**
- ❖ **Fasting days:** The Nativity Fast on all days through Dec 24.
- ❖ **DAILY MATINS every day, except Thursday. VESPERS: Tuesday, and Friday.**
- ❖ **FOREFEAST of Nativity begins Saturday, Dec 20. Every evening, Dec 19th through Dec 23rd, VESPERS with Canon of Forefeast will be served, at 6 PM.**
- ❖ **Parish study continues this Tuesday, December 9th.** Our theme: "How to get into the Kingdom of Heaven." We are in the LAST of three weeks on this theme, using the famous catechism by St Innocent of Alaska. Each participant receives a copy!
- ❖ **WELCOME to the V. Rev. Fr Paul Doyle** in serving the liturgy today! Fr Patrick is in Salt Lake City today, serving as sponsor for the ordination of Dn Justin Havens to the presbyterate.
- ❖ **SCHEDULE OF HOLY-DAY SERVICES FOR NATIVITY AND THEOPHANY ARE POSTED ON THE CHURCH DOOR AND WEBSITE.**