



The Sunday of the Holy Forefathers

Note

On the Sunday that occurs on or immediately after the eleventh of this month, we commemorate Christ's forefathers according to the flesh, both those that came before the Law, and those that lived after the giving of the Law.

Special commemoration is made of the Patriarch Abraham, to whom the promise was first given, when God said to him, "In thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed" (Gen. 22:18). This promise was given some two thousand years before Christ, when Abraham was seventy-five years of age. God called him and commanded him to forsake his country, parents, and kinsmen, and to depart to the land of the Canaanites. When he arrived there, God told him, "I will give this land to thy seed" (Gen. 12:7); for this cause, that land was called the "Promised Land," which later became the country of the Hebrew people, and which is also called Palestine by the historians. There, after the passage of twenty-four years, Abraham received God's law concerning circumcision. In the one hundredth year of his life, when Sarah was in her ninetieth year, they became the parents of Isaac. Having lived 175 years altogether, he reposed in peace, a venerable elder full of days.

Text: The Great Horologion © 1997 The Holy Transfiguration Monastery Brookline, Massachusetts 02445
Icon courtesy The Holy Transfiguration Monastery Brookline, Massachusetts 02445

The Resurrection Dismissal Hymn and Kontakion of the Tone of the Week

PLAGAL OF THE FIRST TONE

Dismissal Hymn

LET us, the faithful, praise and worship the Word, Who is co-beginningless with the Father and the Spirit, and Who was born for of the Virgin for our salvation; for He was pleased to ascend the Cross in the flesh and to endure death, and to raise the dead by his glorious Resurrection.

Kontakion

IN Thy condescension, Thou didst descend unto Hades, O my Saviour, and having broken the gates thereof as One omnipotent, as Creator Thou didst raise the dead together with Thyself. And Thou didst break the sting of death, O Christ, and didst deliver Adam from the curse, O Friend of man. Wherefore, we all cry unto Thee: Save us, O Lord.

Dismissal Hymn of the Forefathers, Second Tone

BY faith didst Thou justify the Forefathers, when through them Thou didst betroth Thyself aforetime to the Church from among the nations. The Saints boast in glory that from their seed there is a glorious fruit, even she that bare Thee seedlessly. By their prayers, O Christ God, save our souls.

Hypakoë. Second Tone

THE fire was transformed into dew for the Children, and lament was changed into joy for the women. For in both an Angel ministered the wonders; for the first he turned the furnace into a place of rest, and to the others he revealed the Resurrection on the third day. O Author of our life, Lord, glory be to Thee.

Kontakion. Plagal of Second Tone

AHAND-WROUGHT image ye would not worship, O thrice-blessed ones; but armed by the Undepictable Essence, ye were glorified in your ordeal by fire. Standing in the midst of the irresistible flame, ye called upon God: Speed Thou, O Compassionate One, and hasten, since Thou art merciful, to come unto our aid; for Thou art able, if it be Thy will.