

**Sunday before the Nativity of Christ: Sunday of the Holy Fathers;  
Forefeast of the Nativity of Christ**

**Troparion, Tone 3: (page 29)**

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.

**Troparion, Tone 2:**

Great are the achievements of faith!\* In the fountain of flames, the three holy youths rejoiced as by the water of rest,\* and the prophet Daniel was revealed shepherding lions like sheep.\* Through their intercession, O Christ God,\* save our souls.

**Troparion, Tone 4:**

Bethlehem, make ready, for Eden has been opened for all. \* Ephrathah, be alert, for the Tree of Life has blossomed forth from the Virgin in the cave. \* Her womb has become a spiritual paradise \* wherein fruit was planted, \* and if we eat of it we shall live and not die like Adam. \* Christ is coming forth to bring back to life \*\* the likeness that had been lost in the beginning.

† Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

**Kontakion, Tone 6:**

Armed by the Being that defies description\* You defied the man-made idol, O thrice blessed youth.\* In the midst of the unbearable flames you stood and cried out to God: \* "In Your mercy, O gracious One, hasten and come to our aid,"\* for You can do whatever You will.

Now and for ever and ever. Amen.

**Kontakion, Tone 3:**

Today the Virgin is on her way to the cave\* where she will give birth in a manner beyond understanding\* to the Word Who is in all eternity.\* Rejoice, therefore, universe, when you hear it heralded.\* With the angels and the shepherds, glorify Him\* Who chose to be seen as a newborn Babe\*\* while remaining God in all eternity.

**Prokeimenon, Tone 4: (page 33)**

Blessed are You, Lord God of our fathers,\* and praised and glorified is Your Name forever.

**verse:** For You are righteous\* in everything that You have done to us.

**Alleluia, Tone 4: (page 33)**

**verse:** O God, we have heard with our ears,\* and our fathers have told us the work You did in their days.

**verse:** You saved us from our oppressors\* and put to shame those who hate us.

**Communion verse: (page 67)**

Praise the Lord from the heavens;\* praise Him in the highest.\* Rejoice in the Lord, O you just;\* praise befits the righteous.\* Alleluia. (3X)