

The 17th Day of December



Commemoration of the Holy Prophet Daniel; and the Three Holy Youths, Ananias, Azarias, and Misael.

Vespers

At “Lord, I call...,” 6 stichera,

3 stichera of the Prophet, in Tone 4: *To the melody, “As one valiant among the martyrs...”*

O wondrous prophet Daniel, /
Thou didst acquire a pure heart, an abode of the Spirit; /
And having been illumined by Him /
Thou didst clearly foretell the revelation of things to come /
For thou wast adorned with the splendor of prophecy, /
Clearly explaining the hidden dreams ///
Of the most mighty and transgressing kings.

Having prepared thy body in advance by arduous fasting /
Thou didst stop the mouths of lions, /
For, standing in their midst, O inspired prophet, /
Thou didst lift up thine eyes to our good God in heaven, /
And thou didst remain unharmed /
Through the ineffable power of the Redeemer of our souls ///
Who wondrously brings all things to pass.

Thou didst see seated upon the throne, encircled by the angels, /
The One beyond all comprehension, /
The Judge who alone is just, O wondrous prophet. /
Amazed at this awesome and fearful sight, /
Thou didst describe for all who would come after thee, ///
Of the dread second coming of our incarnate God.

And 3 stichera of the Holy Youths, in the same Tone: *(and melody)*

Observing all the laws given by God, /
O all-blessed ones, /
You were not defiled by the polluted food /
But having preserved the beauty of your souls intact, /
You kept unspoiled and incorrupt the beauty of the flower of your flesh ///
For the glory of your Master, who glorifies His favored ones.

Set afire by the divine flame /
The three youths scorned the physical fire /

And the holy ones were showered with dew amidst the fiery flames /
As they formed a most beautiful choir /
Singing songs and hymns of many praises /
To the joy of Daniel, the most glorious prophet of God, ///
As he beheld the glory of the everlasting kingdom.

The tyrant was astonished at the discernment of thy words /
O right-wondrous prophet Daniel, /
And being amazed at the wisdom of the youths, /
And he appointed the holy ones, /
To govern and rule the Chaldean lands, /
For the enemy clearly understood your virtue and the splendor of life ///
For you restrained the passions from gaining power over you.

Glory..., of the Prophet, in Tone 2: (by Anatolius)

The prophet Daniel hath mystically gathered us today, O ye faithful, /
And laid a bountiful table of the virtues, /
For both the rich and the poor, for pilgrims and household servants, /
He offers a spiritual chalice pouring streams of piety /
That gladden the hearts of the faithful /
And grant the grace of the Holy Spirit to all. /
For the glorious prophet Daniel is a radiant lamp shining upon the world /
That cast down the Assyrian idols, /
And stopped the mouths of the savage beasts; /
And with him the three holy youths are also acclaimed. /
For not being gold by nature, they were shown to be more proven than gold in
the furnace: /
Not being melted like gold, they were kept unharmed as naphtha and pitch were
thrown on them. /
May the Lord who hath brought us to this season of the year /
Grant that we may also reach the supreme and holy day of the Nativity of Christ, ///
Who through their prayers grants us cleansing of sins and great mercy.

Now and ever..., Theotokion of the Forefeast: (The composition of Andrew Pyrrhus)

Come all ye faithful, /
And let us celebrate the Forefeast of the Nativity of Christ, /
And in our thoughts, let us offer a hymn of praise like the star of the Magi, /
And with the shepherds, let us cry aloud: /
The Deliverance of the nations hath come forth from a Virgin's womb ///
And He summons forth all the faithful.

The Aposticha from the Octoechos, and:

Glory..., now and ever..., of the Prophet Daniel, in Tone 6:

Daniel, known as the man of desires, /
When he saw Thee, O Lord, /
The Stone not cut by human hands
Prophesied Thee an infant born without seed, /
The Word Incarnate from the Virgin, ///
The Eternal God and Savior of our souls.

The Troparion, in Tone 2:

Great are the accomplishments of faith, /
For the three holy youths rejoiced in the fountain of flames as though at
the waters of rest. /
And the prophet Daniel appeared /
A shepherd to the lions as though they were sheep: /
So by their prayers, O Christ God, save our souls.

Glory..., now and ever..., Theotokion, or the Stavrotheotokion.

Matins

— incomplete as of 12/2/2022

**After the Third Ode, the Kontakion of the Prophet Daniel, in Tone 3: To the melody: “
Today the Virgin...”**

Thy pure heart, enlightened by the Spirit /
Became the vessel of the brightest prophesies, /
For thou didst see things afar off /
As though they were near. ///
Therefore, we honor thee, O blessed and glorious prophet Daniel.

**After the Sixth Ode, the Kontakion of the Three Holy Youths, in Tone 2: (Tone 6 in some
books)**

O thrice-blessèd ones, you did not worship the image made by man /
But armed with the invisible power of God /
You were glorified in a trial by fire; /
From the midst of unbearable flames you called on God /
Crying: Hasten, O Compassionate One! /
Speedily come to our defense ///
For Thou art merciful and able to accomplish all that Thou dost will.