THE THREE HOLY HIERARCHS: BASIL THE GREAT, GREGORY THE THEOLOGIAN, AND JOHN CHRYSOSTOM. All three of these saints have their own feast days. This celebration began in 1100 in the days of the Emperor Alexis Comnenus. A great quarrel arose in Constantinople as to which of these three was the greatest theologian. They appeared in a dream to then Patriarch John and told him that they were equal before God, and each had his special gifts and talents. John chose January 30 to commemorate all three of them together, and composed the office.

Supplement for The Order of Vespers for Sundays after Pentecost, 2006

Lamplighting Psalms in the Tone of the Week (Tone 3, p. 48), stichera 10-7.

Cantor: (Tone 4) If you, O Lord, should mark our guilt, Lord, who would survive? But with you is found forgiveness: for this we revere you.

Stichera of the Three Holy Hierarchs - Tone 4 samohlasen

Let us glorify the three great preachers of the Trinity, the instruments of grace and

harps of the Spirit, renowned trumpets of divine preaching

who thundered awesome wonders which were revealed from on high. John, Basil

and Gregory made known the glory of God to the ends of the earth.
Let us worthily venerate the defenders of the Trinity. They are the three apostles added to the Twelve. They are rivers which overflowed living waters out of Eden.

They nourished the face of the earth with life-giving divine waters. They are the basic elements of nature, fashioning not creation but the true faith.

The prophet spoke of them, saying: No one who lives or speaks has not heard their voices, for the famous and excellent work of these sublime and wise teachers has spread through all the earth and sea. By their divine laws
the ends of the earth are joined together and preserved in the one true faith.

Cantor: Because with the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption, Israel indeed he will redeem from all its iniquity.

Let us, who follow their teachings, loudly sing and praise these instruments of the Holy Spirit. They are the true trumpets and orators of the Word.

Let us pray to them since they find favor with the Lord, that he may grant a strong and lasting universal peace and forgiveness to all of us.

Cantor: (Tone 2) Praise the Lord, all you nations, acclaim him all you peoples!

With what praise-worthy crowns shall we crown the teachers, distinct
in body but joined together in the Spirit? They are the God-bearing

defenders of the Trinity, the triad of ministers, the luminaries who enlighten the world, and pillars of the Church. Because they conquered all, Christ our God mercifully gave them crowns of glory.

Cantor: Strong is the love of the Lord for us;
(on I) he is faithful forever.

With what songs of joy shall we crown the God-bearing mystics and preachers?

They were the most outstanding theologians of the true faith: Basil the Great who revealed truths about God; the sublime theologian Gregory, and John the Golden-mouthed. They are fittingly glorified by the
Trinity, the Lord who grants his great mercy.

Let us exalt today those mystical trumpets of the Spirit, the God-man-tled Fathers, who, speaking of divine things, sang a unifying hymn in the midst of the Church: teaching that the Trinity is One, not differing in substance or Godhead; refuting Arius and contending for the true faith; and who always intercede with the Lord to have mercy on our souls.

Cantor: (Tone 3) Now and ever...

Doxastikon of the Three Holy Hierarchs - Tone 6 samohlasen

Dogmatikon in the Tone of the week (Tone 3, page 53).
O Holy Trinity, worthy of adoration, glory to your wise plan of salvation, for you have given three great luminaries to us. They enlighten us by the light of their knowledge of you, they inspire us by their teachings, and they shine with the radiance of your precious desires for our salvation. Through them the whole world has been enriched with the light of understanding; it radiates with your glory and hastens to your blessed kingdom. Since you are an all-generous God, O Holy Trinity, be attentive to their prayers on our behalf and save our souls, O
Lord and Lover of us all.

Cantor: (Tone 6) Glory...

Doxastikon - Tone 6 samohlasen

Having come together with songs of praise, O lovers of feasts, let us praise the bishops of Christ and the glory of the Fathers, the pillars of the faith, the teachers and defenders of the faithful. Let us cry out to them: Rejoice, O luminary of the Church and immutable pillar, wise Basil.

Rejoice, O heavenly mind and great hierarch, Gregory the Theologian.

Rejoice, O golden-voiced John, splendid preacher of penance. O thrice-blessed Fathers, never cease to pray to Christ in behalf of those who in faith and love observe your sacred and sublime feast.
Cantor: Now and ever...

Theotokion - in the same tone

Having come together with songs of praise, O lovers of feasts, let us extol the boast of virgins and the joy of angels, the only Mother of God and the strength of believers. Let us all cry out to her: Rejoice, O pure virgin Mother, splendid luminary and gate of heaven.

Rejoice, O sacred tabernacle and allpure One who contained God within your womb. Rejoice, for without exception you are higher than all the heavenly powers. Therefore, Lady and virgin Mother, do not cease to protect your servants who in faith and love extol you at all times, and who bow down to your holy and pure birthgiving.
Litany of the Litija, page 16

**Aposticha**

Sunday aposticha in the Tone of the Week (Tone 3, p. 54), concluding with:

**Cantor:** (Tone 2) Glory…

**Aposticha doxastikon of the Three Holy Hierarchs - Tone 2 samohlasen**

To-day the souls of mortals are elevated above earthly things. To-day they become heavenly beings as they commemorate the saints. The gates of heaven are opened for us, and the ways of the Lord are made known to us.

Tongues exalt his miracles and proclaim the words of the Word.

Let us also cry out to the Savior: Glory to you, O Christ God, because through them there has been peace for the faithful.

**Cantor:** Now and ever...

*Aposticha theotokion in the same tone (Tone 2, page 45).*
Troparia

Troparion of the Resurrection, in the Tone of the Week (Tone 3, p. 57).

Cantor: (Tone 4) Glory…

Troparion of the Three Holy Hierarchs - Tone 4

Teachers of the world, of one mind with the apostles, intercede with the

Lord of all to grant peace to the world, and abundant mercy to our souls.

Cantor: Now and ever...

Festal theotokion in the same tone (Tone 4, p. 68).