The Sunday Before the Nativity of Christ

December 18 - 24

Apolytikion

Second Mode

Great are the achievements of faith! In the fountain of flame, as by the water of rest, the Three Holy Children rejoiced. And the Prophet Daniel proved a shepherd of lions as of sheep. By their prayers, O Christ God, save our souls.
The Sunday Before
the Nativity of Christ

December 18 - 24

Kontakion

Second Mode

ςΧς Α

Intonation: #4

Χειρόγραφον έικόνα

hand-wrought im-age ye would not wor-ship, O thrice-bless-ed ones; but armed by the Un-de-pict-a-ble Es-sence,

ye were glo-ri-fied in your or-deal by fire. Stand-ing in the

midst of the ir-re-sis-ti-ble flame, ye called up-on 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.
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Kontakion of the Forefeast

First Mode (soft chromatic)
"The soldiers standing guard"

Beth-lehem, re-joice; Eph-ra-tha, make thou read-y;
for in her womb the Ewe-lamb doth bear the Great Shep-herd, and
lo, she now ur-gent-ly mak-eth haste to give birth to
Him. On be-hold-ing Him, the right-eous God-bear-ing Fa-

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thers all re-joice, and with the shep-herds sing hymns in praise of the

Vir-gin that nursed a child.