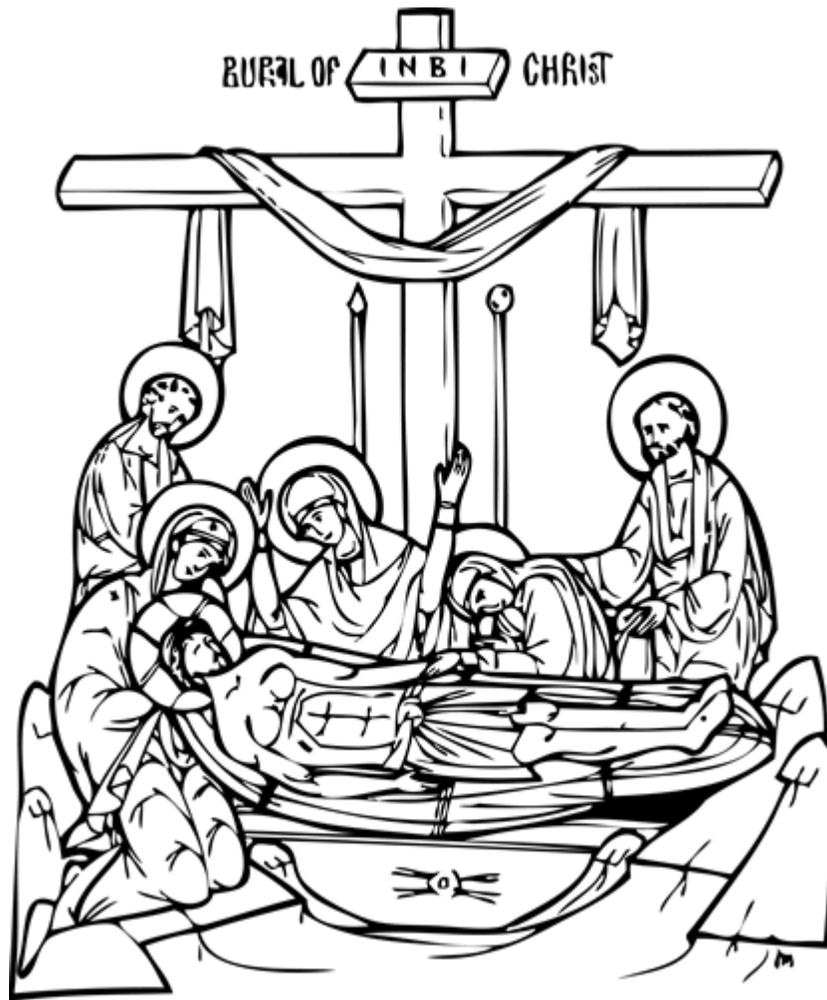


*Vespers for Great and Holy
Friday*



GREAT, HOLY AND GOOD FRIDAY VESPERS

Deacon: Bless Master.

Priest: Blessed is our God; always, now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

Choir: Amen.

Reader: Glory to Thee, O God, glory to Thee.

O heavenly King, the Comforter, Spirit of Truth, Who art everywhere, and fillest all things, Treasury of blessings, and Giver of life, come, and abide in us, and cleanse us from every impurity; and save our souls, O Good One.

Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal: have mercy on us. (3x)

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

O Most-holy Trinity, have mercy on us; Lord, cleanse us from our sins; Master, pardon our transgressions; Holy One, visit and heal our infirmities for Thy Name's sake.

Lord, have mercy. (3x)

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Our Father, Who art in Heaven,
hallowed be Thy Name.

Thy Kingdom come;

Thy will be done on earth as it is in Heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread;

and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us,
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

Priest: For Thine are the Kingdom and the power, and the glory: of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

Reader: Amen. Lord, have mercy. (12x)

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Come, let us worship God our King.

Come, let us worship and fall down before the Christ, our King and our God.

Come, let us worship and fall down before Christ Himself, our King and our God.

Psalm 103(104)

Bless the Lord, O my soul! O Lord my God, Thou art very great! Thou art clothed with honor and majesty, Who coverest Thyself with light as with a garment, Who hast stretched out the heavens like a tent, Who hast laid the beams of Thy chambers on the waters, Who makest the clouds Thy chariot, Who ridest on the wings of the wind, Who makest the winds Thy messengers, fire and flame Thy ministers. Thou didst set the

earth on its foundations, so that it should never be shaken. Thou didst cover it with the deep as with a garment; the waters stood above the mountains. At Thy rebuke they fled; at the sound of Thy thunder they took to flight. The mountains rose, the valleys sank down to the place which Thou didst appoint for them. Thou didst set a bound which they should not pass, so that they might not again cover the earth. Thou makest springs gush forth in the valleys; they flow between the hills, they give drink to every beast of the field; the wild asses quench their thirst. By them the birds of the air have their habitation; they sing among the branches. From Thy lofty abode Thou waterest the mountains; the earth is satisfied with the fruit of Thy work. Thou dost cause the grass to grow for the cattle, and plants for man to cultivate, that he may bring forth food from the earth, and wine to gladden the heart of man, oil to make his face shine, and bread to strengthen man's heart. The trees of the Lord are watered abundantly, the cedars of Lebanon which He planted. In them the birds build their nests; the stork has her home in the fir trees. The high mountains are for the wild goats; the rocks are a refuge for the badgers. Thou hast made the moon to mark the seasons; the sun knows its time for setting. Thou makest darkness, and it is night, when all the beasts of the forest creep forth. The young lions roar for their prey, seeking their food from God. When the sun rises, they get them away and lie down in their dens. Man goes forth to his work and to his labor until the evening. O Lord, how manifold are Thy works! In wisdom hast Thou made them all! The earth is full of Thy creatures. Yonder is the sea, great and wide, which teems with things innumerable, living things both small and great. There go the ships and Leviathan which Thou didst form to sport in it. These all look to Thee, to give them their food in due season. When Thou givest to them, they gather it up; when Thou openest Thy hand, they are filled with good things. When Thou hidest Thy face, they are dismayed; when Thou takest away their breath, they die and return to their dust. When Thou sendest forth Thy Spirit, they are created; and Thou renewest the face of the ground. May the glory of the Lord endure forever, may the Lord rejoice in His works, Who looks on the earth and it trembles, Who touches the mountains and they smoke! I will sing to the Lord as long as I live; I will sing praise to my God while I have being. May my meditation be pleasing to Him, for I rejoice in the Lord. Let sinners be consumed from the earth, and let the wicked be no more! Bless the Lord, O my soul! Praise the Lord! The sun knows its time for setting; Thou makest darkness, and it is night. O Lord, how manifold are Thy works! In wisdom hast Thou made them all!

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia; glory to Thee, O God. (3x)

Great Litany

Deacon: In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: For the peace from above, and for the salvation of our souls, let us pray to the Lord.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: For the peace of the whole world, for the welfare of the Holy Churches of God, and for the union of all, let us pray to the Lord.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: For this holy house, and for those who enter with faith, reverence, and the fear of God, let us pray to the Lord.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: For His Beatitude our Metropolitan *N*, and for His [Grace/Eminence] our [Arch-] Bishop *N*, for the venerable Priesthood, the Diaconate in Christ, for all the clergy and the people, let us pray to the Lord.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: For the President of this country, for all civil authorities, and for our Armed Forces everywhere, let us pray to the Lord.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: For this city, and for every city and land, and for the faithful who dwell therein, let us pray to the Lord.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: For healthful seasons, for abundance of the fruits of the earth, and for peaceful times, let us pray to the Lord.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: For travelers by sea, by land, and by air; for the sick and the suffering; for captives and their salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: For our deliverance from all tribulation, wrath, danger, and necessity, let us pray to the Lord.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: Help us; save us; have mercy on us; and keep us, O God, by Thy grace.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: Commemorating our most-holy, most-pure, most-blessed and glorious Lady Theotokos and ever-virgin Mary, with all the Saints; let us commend ourselves and each other, and all our life unto Christ our God.

Choir: To Thee, O Lord.

Priest: For unto Thee are due glory, honor, and worship: to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; now and ever and unto ages of ages.

Choir: Amen.

Lord I Call - Tone 1

Lord, I call upon Thee, hear me.
Hear me, O Lord.
Lord, I call upon Thee, hear me.
Receive the voice of my prayer,
when I call upon Thee.//
Hear me, O Lord.
Let my prayer arise
in Thy sight as incense,
and let the lifting up of my hands
be an evening sacrifice.//
Hear me, O Lord.

Reader: Set a guard over my mouth, O Lord; keep watch over the door of my lips! Incline not my heart to any evil, to busy myself with wicked deeds in company with men who work iniquity; and let me not partake of their delights! Let a good man strike or rebuke me in kindness, but let the oil of the wicked never anoint my head; for my prayer is continually against their wicked deeds. When they are given over to those who shall condemn them, then they shall learn that the word of the Lord is true. As a rock which one cleaves and shatters on the land, so shall their bones be strewn at the mouth of Sheol. But my eyes are toward Thee, O Lord God; in Thee I seek refuge; leave me not defenseless! Keep me from the trap which they have laid for me, and from the snares of evildoers! Let the wicked together fall into their own nets, while I escape. I cry with my voice to the Lord, with my voice I make supplication to the Lord, I pour out my complaint before Him, I proclaim my trouble before Him. When my spirit is faint, Thou knowest my way! In the path where I walk they have hidden a trap for me. I look to the right and watch, but there is none who takes notice of me; no refuge remains to me, no man cares for my soul. I cry to Thee, O Lord; I say, Thou art my refuge, my portion in the land of the living. Give heed to my cry; for I am brought very low! Deliver me from my persecutors; for they are too strong for me! Bring my soul out of prison that I may give thanks to Thy name. The Righteous will surround me; for Thou wilt deal bountifully with me. Out of the depths have I cried to Thee, O Lord; Lord hear my voice. Let Thine ears be attentive to the voice of my supplication.

If Thou, O Lord, shouldst mark iniquities, Lord, who could stand? But there is forgiveness with Thee.

All creation was changed by fear
when it saw Thee hanging upon the Cross, O Christ.
The sun was darkened,
and the foundations of the earth were shaken.
All things suffered with the Creator of all.//
O Lord, Who willingly endured this for us, glory to Thee!

For Thy name's sake I have waited for Thee, O Lord; my soul hath waited for Thy word, my soul hath hoped in the Lord.

All creation was changed by fear
when it saw Thee hanging upon the Cross, O Christ.

The sun was darkened,
and the foundations of the earth were shaken.
All things suffered with the Creator of all.//
O Lord, Who willingly endured this for us, glory to Thee!

In the 2nd Tone: From the morning watch until night, from the morning watch, let Israel hope in the Lord.

Tone 2

An impious and transgressing people -
why do they imagine vain things?
Why do they condemn to death the Life of all?
Oh, great wonder!
The Creator of the world is betrayed into the hands of lawless men.
He, Who loves mankind, is lifted up upon the Wood,
that He might free those bound in Hell, who cry://
"O long-suffering Lord, glory to You!"

For with the Lord there is mercy, and with Him is plenteous redemption; and He shall deliver Israel from all his iniquities.

Today the blameless Virgin
saw Thee suspended upon the Cross, O Word.
She mourned within herself and was sorely pierced in her heart.
She groaned in agony from the depth of her soul.
Exhausted from tearing her hair and cheeks and beating her breast,
She cried out, lamenting:
"Woe is me, O my divine Child!
Woe is me, O Light of the world!
Why hast Thou departed from mine eyes, O Lamb of God?"
Then the Bodiless Hosts were seized with trembling and cried:
"O incomprehensible Lord, glory to Thee!"

Praise the Lord all nations, praise Him all peoples.

When she who bore Thee without seed
saw Thee suspended upon the Tree,
O Christ, the Creator and God of all,
she cried bitterly: "Where is the beauty of Thy form, O my Son?
I cannot bear to see Thee unjustly crucified!
Hasten and arise,//
that I too may see Thy Resurrection from the dead on the third day!"

In the 6th Tone: For His mercy is confirmed on us, and the truth of the Lord endures forever.

Tone 6

Today the Master of creation stands before Pilate.
Today the Creator of all is condemned to die on the Cross.
Of His own will, He is led as a Lamb to the slaughter.
He Who fed His people with manna in the desert is transfixed with nails.

His side is pierced, and a sponge of vinegar touches His lips.
The Redeemer of the world is slapped on the face.
The Maker of all is mocked by His own servants.
How great is the Master's love for mankind!
For those who crucified Him, He prayed to His Father, saying://
"Forgive them this sin, for they know not what they do!"

*During the following hymns the Clergy perform the Entrance with the Gospel Book.
In the 6th Tone: Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit,*

Tone 6

See how the lawless assembly condemns the King of creation to death!
They are not ashamed, even when He reminds them of His mighty works:
"My people, what have I done to you?
Have I not filled Judea with miracles?
Have I not raised the dead by My Word alone?
Have I not healed every sickness and disease?
How have you repaid Me?
Why have you abandoned Me?
In return for healing, you give Me blows;
In return for life, you put Me to death.
You hang your Benefactor on the Cross as an evildoer;
Your Lawgiver, as a transgressor;
the King of all, as one condemned."//
O long-suffering Lord, glory to Thee!

In the same Tone: Now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

We see a strange and fearful mystery accomplished today:
He Whom none may touch is seized.
He Who looses Adam from the curse is bound.
He Who tries the hearts of men is unjustly brought to trial.
He Who closed the abyss is shut in prison.
He before Whom the Hosts of Heaven stand with trembling stands before Pilate.
The Creator is struck by the hand of His creature.
He Who comes to judge the living and the dead is condemned to the Cross.
The Conqueror of Hell is enclosed in a tomb.
Thou, Who hast endured all these things in Thy tender love,
have saved all mankind from the curse.//
O long-suffering Lord, glory to Thee!

The Entrance

Deacon: Wisdom. Let us attend.

Choir: Gladsome Light of the holy glory of the immortal, heavenly, holy, blessed Father: O Jesus Christ. Now that we have come to the setting of the sun, and behold the light of evening, we praise the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, God. For meet it is at all times to

worship Thee with voices of praise, O Son of God, and giver of life. Therefore, all the world glorifies Thee.

1st Prokeimenon & Reading

Deacon: Let us attend.

Priest: Peace be to all.

Deacon: Wisdom.

Reader: The Prokeimenon is in the 4th Tone: They divide my garments among them, and for my raiment they cast lots.

v: My God, My God, look upon Me! Why hast Thou forsaken Me?

Deacon: Wisdom.

Reader: The reading is from Exodus (33:11-23)

Deacon: Let us attend.

Reader: The Lord spoke to Moses face to face, as a man speaks to his friend. And he would return to the camp, but his servant Joshua the son of Nun, a young man, did not depart from the tabernacle. Then Moses said to the Lord, "See, Thou hast said to me, 'Bring up this people.' But Thou hast not let me know whom Thou wilt send with me. Yet Thou hast said, 'I know you by name, and you have also found grace in My sight.' Now therefore, I pray, if I have found grace in Thy sight, show me now Thy way, that I may know Thee and that I may find grace in Thy sight. And consider that this nation is Thy people." And the Lord said, "My Presence will go with you, and I will give you rest." Then Moses said to Him, "If Thy Presence does not go with us, do not bring us up from here. For how then will it be known that Thy people and I have found grace in Thy sight, except Thou dost go with us? So we shall be separate, Thy people and I, from all the people who are upon the face of the earth." So the Lord said to Moses, "I will also do this thing that you have spoken; for you have found grace in My sight, and I know you by name." And Moses said, "Please, show me Thy glory." Then the Lord said, "I will make all My glory pass before you, and I will proclaim the Name of the Lord before you. I will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and I will have compassion on whom I will have compassion." But He said, "You cannot see My face; for no man shall see Me, and live." And the Lord said, "Here is a place by Me, and you shall stand on the rock. So it shall be, while My glory passes by, that I will put you in the cleft of the rock, and will cover you with My hand while I pass by. Then I will take away My hand, and you shall see My back; but My face shall not be seen."

2nd Prokeimenon & 2nd and 3rd Readings

Deacon: Let us attend.

Priest: Peace be to all.

Deacon: Wisdom.

Reader: The Prokeimenon is in the 4th Tone: Judge, O Lord, those who wrong me; fight against those who fight against me!

v: They rewarded me evil for good; My soul is forlorn.

Deacon: Wisdom.

Reader: The reading from the Book of Job (42:12-17)

Deacon: Let us attend.

Reader: Now the Lord blessed the latter days of Job more than his beginning; for he had fourteen thousand sheep, six thousand camels, one thousand yoke of oxen, and one thousand female donkeys. He also had seven sons and three daughters. And he called the name of the first Day, the name of the second Cassia, and the name of the third Amaltheia's Horn. In all the land were found no women so beautiful as the daughters of Job; and their father gave them an inheritance among their brothers. After this Job lived one hundred and forty years, and saw his children and grandchildren for four generations. So Job died, old and full of days. And it was also written that he will rise with those whom our Lord shall raise.

Deacon: Wisdom.

Reader: The reading from the Prophecy of Isaiah

Deacon: Let us attend.

Reader: Thus saith the Lord: "Behold, My Servant shall prosper, He shall be exalted and lifted up, and shall be very high. As many were astonished at Him — His appearance was so marred, beyond human semblance, and His form beyond that of the sons of men — so shall He startle many nations; kings shall shut their mouths because of Him; for that which has not been told them they shall see, and that which they have not heard they shall understand. Who has believed what we have heard? And to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed? For He grew up before Him like a young plant, and like a root out of dry ground; He had no form or comeliness that we should look at Him, and no beauty that we should desire Him. He was despised and rejected by men; a Man of Sorrows, and acquainted with grief; and as one from Whom men hide their faces He was despised, and we esteemed Him not. Surely He has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed Him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted. But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; upon Him was the chastisement that made us whole, and with his stripes we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the Lord has laid on Him the iniquity of us all. He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet He opened not His mouth; like a Lamb that is led to the slaughter, and like a Sheep that before its shearers is dumb, so He opened not His mouth. By oppression and judgment He was taken away; and as for His generation, who considered that He was cut off out of the land of the living, stricken for the transgression of my people? And they made His grave with the wicked and with a rich man in His death, although He had done no violence, and there was no deceit in His mouth. Yet it was the will of the Lord to bruise Him; He has put Him to grief; when He makes Himself an offering for sin, He shall see

His offspring, He shall prolong His days; the will of the Lord shall prosper in His hand; He shall see the fruit of the travail of His soul and be satisfied; by His knowledge shall the Righteous One, My Servant, make many to be accounted righteous; and He shall bear their iniquities. Therefore I will divide Him a portion with the great, and He shall divide the spoil with the strong; because He poured out His soul to death, and was numbered with the transgressors; yet He bore the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors."

The Epistle

Deacon: Let us attend.

Priest: Peace be to all.

Deacon: Wisdom.

Reader: The Prokeimenon is in the 6th Tone: They have laid Me in the depths of the pit, in the regions dark and deep!

v: O Lord God of my salvation, I call for help by day; I cry out in the night before Thee.

Deacon: Wisdom.

Reader: The reading from the Book of Job (42:12-17)

Deacon: Let us attend.

Reader: Brethren: the word of the Cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. For it is written, "I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the cleverness of the clever I will thwart." Where is the wise man? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, it pleased God through the folly of what we preach to save those who believe. For Jews demand signs and Greeks seek wisdom, but we preach Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and folly to Gentiles, but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the Power of God and the Wisdom of God. For the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men. For consider your call, brethren; not many of you were wise according to worldly standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth; but God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise, God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong, God chose what is low and despised in the world, even things that are not, to bring to nothing things that are, so that no human being might boast in the presence of God. He is the source of your life in Christ Jesus, Whom God made our wisdom, our righteousness and sanctification and redemption; therefore, as it is written, "Let him who boasts, boast of the Lord." When I came to you, brethren, I did not come proclaiming to you the testimony of God in lofty words or wisdom. For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and Him crucified.

Priest: Peace be unto you, reader.

Reader: And to your spirit. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia. Save me, O God; for the waters have come up to my neck.

Choir: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Reader: They gave Me gall for food, and in My thirst they gave Me vinegar to drink.

Choir: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Reader: Let their eyes be darkened, so that they cannot see.

Choir: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

The Gospel

Deacon: And that we may be accounted worthy to hear the Holy Gospel, let us pray to the Lord God.

Choir: Lord have mercy. (3x)

Deacon: Wisdom. Let us attend. Let us listen to the holy Gospel.

Priest: Peace be to all.

Choir: And to your spirit.

Priest: The reading from the holy Gospel according to Saint Matthew. (*Matt. 27:1-38; Luke 23:39-43; Matt. 27:39-54; John 19:31-37; Matt. 27:55-61*)

Choir: Glory to Thy Passion, O Lord.

Deacon: Let us attend.

Priest: At that time: When morning came, all the chief priests and the elders of the people took counsel against Jesus to put Him to death; and they bound Him and led Him away and delivered Him to Pilate the governor. When Judas, His betrayer, saw that he was condemned, he repented and brought back the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and the elders, saying, "I have sinned in betraying innocent blood." They said, "What is that to us? See to it yourself." And throwing down the pieces of silver in the temple, he departed; and he went and hanged himself. But the chief priests, taking the pieces of silver, said, "It is not lawful to put them into the treasury, since they are blood money." So they took counsel, and bought with them the potter's field, to bury strangers in. Therefore that field has been called the Field of Blood to this day. Then was fulfilled what had been spoken by the Prophet Jeremiah, saying, "And they took the thirty pieces of silver, the price of Him on Whom a price had been set by some of the sons of Israel, and they gave them for the potter's field, as the Lord directed me." Now Jesus stood before the governor; and the governor asked Him, "Are You the King of the Jews?" Jesus said to Him, "You have said so." But when He was accused by the chief priests and elders, He made no answer. Then Pilate said to Him, "Do you not hear how many things they testify against You?" But He gave him no answer, not even to a single charge; so that the governor wondered greatly. Now at the feast the governor was accustomed to release for the crowd any one prisoner whom they wanted. And they had then a notorious prisoner, called Barab'bas. So when they had gathered, Pilate said to them, "Whom do you want me to release for you, Barab'bas or Jesus who is called Christ?" For he knew that it was out of envy that they had delivered Him up. Besides, while he was sitting on the judgment seat, his wife sent word to him, "Have nothing to do with that righteous Man, for I have suffered much over Him today in a dream." Now the chief priests and the elders persuaded the people to ask for

Barab'bas and destroy Jesus. The governor again said to them, "Which of the two do you want me to release for you?" And they said, "Barab'bas." Pilate said to them, "Then what shall I do with Jesus who is called Christ?" They all said, "Let Him be crucified." And he said, "Why, what evil has He done?" But they shouted all the more, "Let Him be crucified." So when Pilate saw that he was gaining nothing, but rather that a riot was beginning, he took water and washed his hands before the crowd, saying, "I am innocent of this righteous Man's blood; see to it yourselves." And all the people answered, "His blood be on us and on our children!" Then he released for them Barab'bas, and having scourged Jesus, delivered Him to be crucified. Then the soldiers of the governor took Jesus into the praetorium, and they gathered the whole battalion before Him. And they stripped Him and put a scarlet robe upon Him, and plaiting a crown of thorns they put it on His head, and put a reed in His right hand. And kneeling before Him they mocked Him, saying, "Hail, King of the Jews!" And they spat upon Him, and took the reed and struck Him on the head. And when they had mocked Him, they stripped Him of the robe, and put His own clothes on Him, and led Him away to crucify Him. As they were marching out, they came upon a man of Cyre'ne, Simon by name; this man they compelled to carry His Cross. And when they came to a place called Gol'gotha (which means the place of a skull), they offered Him wine to drink, mingled with gall; but when He tasted it, He would not drink it. And when they had crucified Him, they divided His garments among them by casting lots; then they sat down and kept watch over Him there. And over His head they put the charge against Him, which read, "This is Jesus the King of the Jews." Then two robbers were crucified with Him, one on the right and one on the left. One of the criminals who were hanged railed at him, saying, "Are you not the Christ? Save yourself and us!" But the other rebuked him, saying, "Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? And we indeed justly; for we are receiving the due reward of our deeds; but this Man has done nothing wrong." And he said, "Jesus, remember me when You come in Your Kingdom." And He said to Him, "Truly, I say to you, today you will be with Me in Paradise." And those who passed by derided Him, wagging their heads and saying, "You Who would destroy the temple and build it in three days, save Yourself! If You are the Son of God, come down from the Cross." So also the chief priests, with the scribes and elders, mocked Him, saying, "He saved others; He cannot save Himself. He is the King of Israel; let Him come down now from the Cross, and we will believe in Him. He trusts in God; let God deliver Him now, if he desires Him; for He said, 'I am the Son of God.'" And the robbers who were crucified with Him also reviled Him in the same way. Now from the sixth hour there was darkness over all the land until the ninth hour. And about the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice, "Eli, Eli, la'ma sabach-tha'ni?" that is, "My God, My God, why hast Thou forsaken Me?" And some of the bystanders hearing it said, "This man is calling Eli'jah." And one of them at once ran and took a sponge, filled it with vinegar, and put it on a reed, and gave it to Him to drink. But the others said, "Wait, let us see whether Eli'jah will come to save Him." And Jesus cried again with a loud voice and yielded up His spirit. And behold, the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom; and the earth shook, and the rocks were split; the tombs also were opened, and many bodies of the Saints who had fallen asleep were raised, and coming out of the tombs after His resurrection they

went into the holy city and appeared to many. When the centurion and those who were with him, keeping watch over Jesus, saw the earthquake and what took place, they were filled with awe, and said, "Truly this was the Son of God!" Since it was the day of Preparation, in order to prevent the bodies from remaining on the Cross on the Sabbath (for that Sabbath was a high day), the Jews asked Pilate that their legs might be broken, and that they might be taken away. So the soldiers came and broke the legs of the first, and of the other who had been crucified with Him; but when they came to Jesus and saw that He was already dead, they did not break His legs. But one of the soldiers pierced His side with a spear, and at once there came out blood and water. He who saw it has borne witness – his testimony is true, and he knows that he tells the truth – that you also may believe. For these things took place that the Scripture might be fulfilled, "Not a bone of Him shall be broken." And again another Scripture says, "They shall look on Him Whom they have pierced." There were also many women there, looking on from afar, who had followed Jesus from Galilee, ministering to Him; among whom were Mary Mag'dalene, and Mary the mother of James and Joseph, and the mother of the sons of Zeb'edee. When it was evening, there came a rich man from Arimathea, named Joseph, who also was a disciple of Jesus. He went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. Then Pilate ordered it to be given to him. And Joseph took the Body, and wrapped it in a clean linen shroud, and laid it in his own new tomb, which he had hewn in the rock; and he rolled a great stone to the door of the tomb, and departed. Mary Mag'dalene and the other Mary were there, sitting opposite the sepulcher.

Choir: Glory to Thy long-suffering, O Lord.

Augmented Litany

Deacon: Let us say, with all our soul and with all our mind, let us say.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: O Lord almighty, the God of our fathers, we pray Thee, hearken and have mercy.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: Have mercy upon us, O God, according to Thy great mercy, we pray Thee hearken and have mercy.

Choir: Lord, have mercy. (3x)

Deacon: Again we pray for His Beatitude our Metropolitan ____, and for His Grace/Eminence our (Arch)Bishop ____; for priests, deacons, and all other clergy and for all our brethren in Christ.

Choir: Lord, have mercy. (3x)

Deacon: Again we pray for the President of our country, for all civil authorities, and for our armed forces everywhere.

Choir: Lord, have mercy. (3x)

Deacon: Again we pray for the blessed and ever-memorable Orthodox Patriarchs; for the blessed and ever-memorable founders of this holy house; and for all our fathers and

brethren, the Orthodox Christians departed this life before us, especially ___ (all those we have in mind at this time), who here and in all the world lie asleep in the Lord.

Choir: Lord, have mercy. (3x)

Deacon: Again we pray for mercy, life, peace health, salvation, and visitation for the servants of God ___ (all those whom they have in mind at this time), and for the pardon and remission of their sins

Choir: Lord, have mercy. (3x)

Deacon: Again we pray for those who bear fruit and do good works in this holy and all-venerable house, for those who labor and those who sing, and for all the people here present, who await Thy great and rich mercy.

Choir: Lord, have mercy. (3x)

Priest: For Thou art a merciful God Who lovest mankind, and unto Thee do we ascribe glory: to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

Choir: Amen.

Vouchsafe O Lord

Reader: Vouchsafe, O Lord, to keep us this evening without sin. Blessed art Thou, O Lord, the God of our fathers, and praised and glorified is Thy name forever. Amen. Let Thy mercy be upon us, O Lord, even as we have set our hope on Thee. Blessed art Thou, O Lord, teach me Thy statutes. Blessed art Thou, O Master, make me to understand Thy commandments. Blessed art Thou, O Holy One, enlighten me with Thy precepts. Thy mercy, O Lord, endures forever. O despise not the works of Thy hands. To Thee belongs worship, to Thee belongs praise, to Thee belongs glory: to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Evening Litany

Deacon: Let us complete our evening prayer unto the Lord.

Choir: Lord have mercy.

Deacon: Help us, save us, have mercy on us, and keep us, O God, by Thy grace.

Choir: Lord have mercy.

Deacon: That the whole day may be perfect, holy, peaceful, and sinless, let us ask of the Lord.

Choir: Grant it, O Lord.

Deacon: An angel of peace, a faithful guide and guardian of our souls and bodies, let us ask of the Lord.

Choir: Grant it, O Lord.

Deacon: Pardon and remission of our sins and transgressions, let us ask of the Lord.

Choir: Grant it, O Lord.

Deacon: All things good and profitable for our souls and peace for the world, let us ask of the Lord.

Choir: Grant it, O Lord.

Deacon: That we may complete the remaining time of our life in peace and repentance, let us ask of the Lord.

Choir: Grant it, O Lord.

Deacon: A Christian ending to our life, painless, blameless, peaceful, and a good defense before the dread Judgment Seat of Christ, let us ask of the Lord.

Choir: Grant it, O Lord.

Deacon: Commemorating our most-holy, most-pure, most-blessed and glorious Lady Theotokos and ever-virgin Mary, with all the Saints; let us commend ourselves and each other, and all our life unto Christ our God.

Choir: To Thee, O Lord.

Priest: For Thou art a merciful God, who lovest mankind and unto Thee do we ascribe glory: to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; now and ever and unto ages of ages.

Choir: Amen.

Priest: Peace be to all.

Choir: And to thy spirit.

Deacon: Let us bow our heads unto the Lord.

Choir: To Thee, O Lord.

Priest: O Lord our God, Who didst bow the heavens and come down for the salvation of the human race: Look upon Thy servants and Thine inheritance; for unto Thee, the awesome Judge who yet lovest mankind, have Thy servants bowed their heads and submissively inclined their necks, awaiting not help from men, but entreating Thy mercy and looking confidently for Thy salvation. Guard them at all times, both during this present evening and in the approaching night, from every foe, from all adverse powers of the devil, and from vain thoughts and from evil imaginations. Blessed and glorified be the majesty of Thy Kingdom: of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit; now and ever and unto ages of ages.

Choir: Amen.

Aposticha - Tone 2

Joseph of Arimathea took Thee down from the tree,
the Life of all, cold in death.

Bathing Thee with sweet and costly myrrh,
he gently covered Thee with finest linen,
and, with sorrow and tender love in his heart,
he embraced Thy most-pure body.

Trembling at this awesome sight,
he cried out to Thee, O Christ://
“Glory to Thy condescension, O Lover of man!”

v: The Lord is King; He is robed in majesty!

When Thou, the Redeemer of all, were placed in a tomb
all Hell’s powers quaked in fear.

Its bars were broken, its gates were smashed.
Its mighty reign was brought to an end,
for the dead came forth alive from their tombs,
casting off the bonds of their captivity.

Adam was filled with joy!
He gratefully cried out to Thee, O Christ://
“Glory to Thy condescension, O Lover of man!”

v: He has established the world so that it shall never be moved.

In the flesh Thou wast willingly enclosed in the tomb,
Who are boundless and infinite in Thy divinity.
Thou didst close the chambers of Death, O Christ.
Thou didst empty all the palaces of Hell.//
Thou hast honored this Sabbath with Thy blessing, glory, and honor.

v: Holiness befits Thy house, O Lord, forevermore.

The Powers of Heaven shook with fear,
when they saw Thine ineffable forbearance.
They beheld Thee slandered by lawless men,
mocked as a deceiver by transgressors.
They beheld the stone that closed Thy tomb,
sealed by the same hands that pierced Thy side,
but they knew that Thy death would be our life,
and joyfully they cried out to Thee, O Christ://
“Glory to Thy condescension, O Lover of man!”

*In the 5th Tone: Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; now and ever,
and unto ages of ages. Amen.*

{During the following hymn the chief celebrant censes around the Plashchinitza on the Altar 3x.}

Tone 5

Joseph, together with Nicodemus,
took Thee down from the Tree,
Who dost clothe Thyself with light as with a garment.
He gazed on Thy body – dead, naked, and unburied,
and, in grief and tender compassion, he lamented:
“Woe is me, my sweetest Jesus!
A short while ago, the sun beheld Thee hanging on the Cross,
and it hid itself in darkness.
The earth quaked in fear at the sight.

The veil of the Temple was torn in two.
Lo, now I see Thee willingly submit to death for our sake.
How shall I bury Thee, O my God?
How can I wrap Thee in a shroud?
How can I touch Thy most-pure Body with my hands?
What songs can I sing for Thine exodus, O compassionate One?
I magnify Thy Passion.
I glorify Thy burial,
and Thy holy Resurrection,
crying, 'O Lord, glory to Thee!'"

Prayer of St. Symeon the God-receiver

Choir: Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant depart in peace,
according to Thy Word,
for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation,
which Thou hast prepared before the face of all people;
a light to enlighten the Gentiles
and the to be glory of Thy people, Israel.

Reader: Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal: have mercy on us. (3x)

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; now and ever, and unto
ages of ages. Amen.

O Most-holy Trinity, have mercy on us; Lord, cleanse us from our sins; Master,
pardon our transgressions; Holy One, visit and heal our infirmities for Thy Name's
sake.

Lord, have mercy. (3x)

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; now and ever, and unto
ages of ages. Amen.

Our Father, Who art in Heaven,
hallowed be Thy Name.

Thy Kingdom come;

Thy will be done on earth as it is in Heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread;

and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us,
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

Priest: For Thine are the Kingdom and the power, and the glory; of the Father, and of the
Son, and of the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

Reader: Amen.

*{During the Troparion, the chief celebrant carries the Plashchinitsa in procession to the tomb, escorted by
fans and candles. When it is placed in the Tomb, he censes around it 3x. The people kneel.}*

Troparia – Tone 2

Choir: The noble Joseph,

when he had taken down Thy most-pure Body from the Tree,
wrapped it in fine linen and anointed it with spices,//
and placed it in a new tomb.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

The Angel came to the Myrrhbearing women at the tomb and said:
“Myrrh is fitting for the dead;
but Christ has shown Himself a stranger to corruption.”

{The chief celebrant may give a short homily on the Feast now or after the Dismissal, which is given from the front of the Tomb.}

Deacon: Wisdom!

Choir: Master (Father) bless.

Priest: Christ our God, the only truly existing One, is blessed always now and ever and unto ages of ages.

Choir: Amen. Preserve, O God, the holy Orthodox Faith and all Orthodox Christians, unto ages of ages.

Priest: Most-holy Theotokos save us!

Choir: More honorable than the Cherubim and more glorious beyond compare than the Seraphim, without defilement you gave birth to God the Word; true Theotokos we magnify you.

Priest: Glory to Thee, O Christ our God and our Hope, glory to Thee.

Choir: Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen. Lord, have mercy. (3x) Master (Father), bless.

Priest: May He Who endured fearful suffering, the life-creating Cross and voluntary burial in the flesh for us and for our salvation, Christ our true God; through the prayers of His most-pure Mother; by the power of the honorable and life-creating Cross; through the prayers of the holy, glorious, all-laudable Apostles; of Ss. Alexis and Sebastian who labored in Minneapolis; of the holy and righteous Ancestors of God, Joachim and Anna, and of all the Saints: have mercy on us and save us, forasmuch as He is good and loves mankind.

{As the people approach to venerate the Plashchinitsa, the Choir sings the following:}

Choir: Come let us bless Joseph of eternal memory
who came by night to Pilate
and begged for the Life of all.
“Give me this Stranger,
Who has no place to lay His head!
Give me this Stranger,
Whom an evil disciple betrayed to death!
Give me this Stranger,
Whom His Mother saw hanging upon the Cross,

and with a mother's sorrow cried weeping:
'Woe is me, O my Child
Light of my eyes, Beloved of my bosom!
For what Simeon foretold in the temple now has come to pass;
a sword has pierced,
but change my grief to gladness by Thy resurrection!'"
We worship Thy Passion, O Christ!
We worship Thy Passion, O Christ!
We worship Thy Passion, O Christ!
And Thy holy Resurrection!