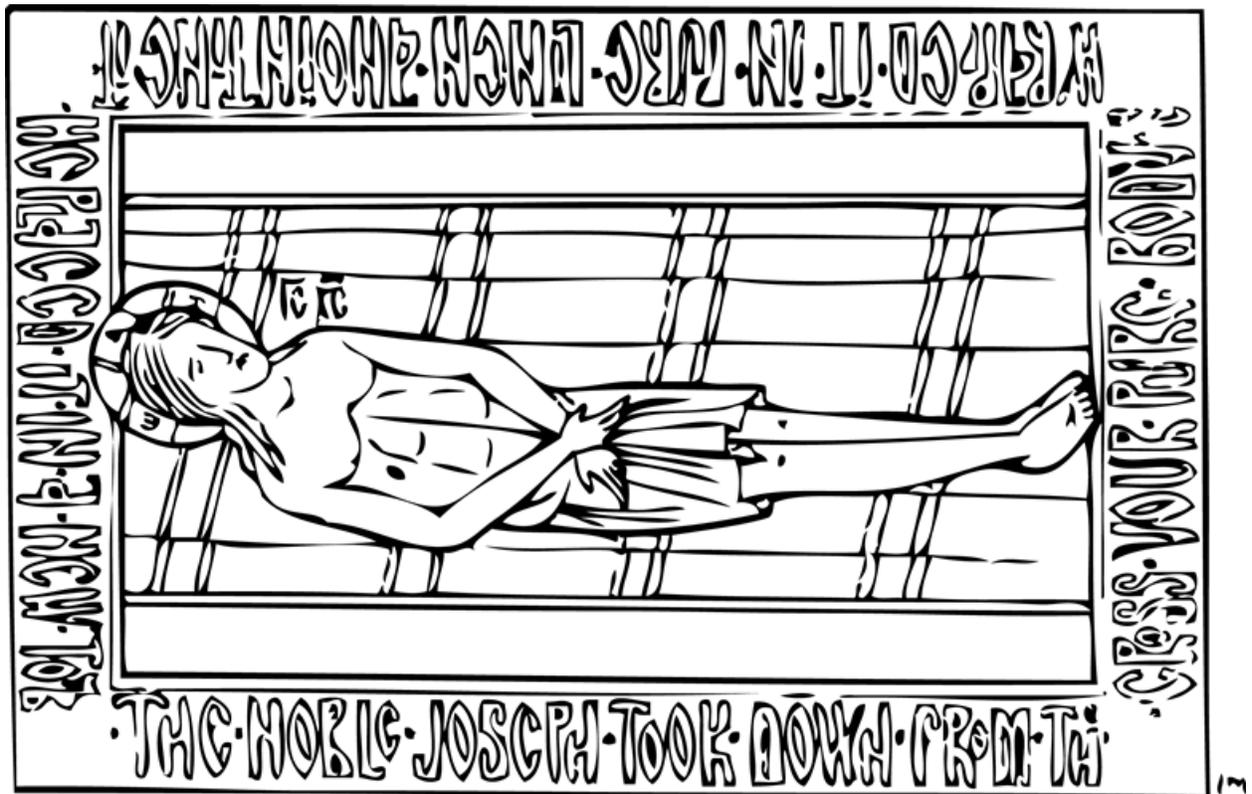


*Matins of
Great and Holy Saturday
+ The Most Blessed Sabbath +
with
The 'Lamentations/Praises'*



{Christ's Funeral}

MATINS OF GREAT AND HOLY SATURDAY
(Celebrated in anticipation on Great and Holy Friday night)

{All things the Clergy usually do from or in front of the Amvon are done in front of the Tomb.}

Deacon: Bless Master.

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

Choir: Amen.

{During the Trisagion Prayers the Priest censens the Sanctuary, the Tomb, the Iconostasis and People}

Reader1: 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.

Reader1: Amen. In the name of the Lord, Master (Father) bless.

Priest: Glory to the holy, consubstantial, life-creating and undivided Trinity; always, now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

Reader1: Amen. Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace, good will towards men. (3x)
O Lord, open Thou my lips, and my mouth shall show forth Thy praise. (2x)

{As the first half of the Hexapsalm is read, the chief celebrant recites the first half of the Morning Prayers of Light in front of the Altar Table. Sitting is permitted.}

Hexapsalm

Psalm 3

O Lord, how many are my foes! Many are rising against me; many are saying of me, there is no help for him in God. But Thou, O Lord, art a shield about me, my glory, and the lifter of my head. I cry aloud to the Lord, and He answers me from His holy hill. I lie down and sleep; I awake again, for the Lord sustains me. I am not afraid of ten thousands of people who have set themselves against me round about. Arise, O Lord! Deliver me, O my God! For Thou dost smite all my enemies on the cheek, Thou dost break the teeth of the wicked. Deliverance belongs to the Lord; Thy blessing be upon Thy people! I lie down and sleep; I awake again, for the Lord sustains me.

Psalm 37/38

O Lord, rebuke me not in Thy anger, nor chasten me in Thy wrath! For Thy arrows have sunk into me, and Thy hand has come down on me. There is no soundness in my flesh because of Thy indignation; there is no health in my bones because of my sin; for my iniquities have gone over my head, they weigh like a burden too heavy for me. My wounds grow foul and fester because of my foolishness, I am utterly bowed down and prostrate; all the day I go about mourning, for my loins are filled with burning and there is no soundness in my flesh. I am utterly spent and crushed; I groan because of the tumult of my heart. Lord, all my longing is known to Thee, my sighing is not hidden from Thee. My heart throbs, my strength fails me; and the light of my eyes -- it also has gone from me. My friends and companions stand aloof from my plague, and my kinsmen stand afar off. Those who seek my life lay their snares, those who seek my hurt speak of ruin, and meditate treachery all the day long. But I am like a deaf man, I do not hear, like a dumb man who does not open his mouth. Yea, I am like a man who does not hear, and in whose mouth are no rebukes. But for Thee, O Lord, do I wait; it is Thou, O Lord my God, Who wilt answer. For I pray, "Only let them not rejoice over me, who boast against me when my foot slips!" For I am ready to fall, and my pain is ever with me. I confess my iniquity, I am sorry for my sin. Those who are my foes without cause are mighty, and many are those who hate me wrongfully. Those who render me evil for good are my adversaries because I follow after good. Do not forsake me, O Lord! O my God, be not far from me! Make haste to help me, O Lord, my salvation! Do not forsake me, O Lord! O my God, be not far from me! Make haste to help me, O Lord, my salvation!

Psalm 62/63

O God, Thou art my God, I seek Thee, my soul thirsts for Thee; my flesh faints for Thee, as in a dry and weary land where no water is. So I have looked upon Thee in the sanctuary, beholding Thy power and glory. Because Thy steadfast love is better than life, my lips will praise Thee. So I will bless Thee as long as I live; I will lift up my hands and call on Thy name. My soul is feasted as with marrow and fat, and my mouth praises Thee with joyful lips, when I think of Thee upon my bed, and meditate on Thee in the watches of the night; for Thou hast been my help, and in the shadow of Thy wings I sing for joy. My soul clings to Thee; Thy right hand upholds me. But those who seek to destroy my life shall go down into the depths of the earth; they shall be given over to the power of the sword, they shall be prey for jackals. But the king shall rejoice in God; all who swear by Him shall glory; for the mouths of liars will be stopped. I meditate on Thee in the watches of the night; for Thou hast

been my help, and in the shadow of Thy wings I sing for joy. My soul clings to Thee; Thy right hand upholds me.

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)

Reader1: Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit;

Reader2: Now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

{As the second half of the Hexapsalm is read, the chief celebrant recites the second half of the Morning Prayers of Light in front of the Tomb.}

Psalm 87/88

O Lord God of my salvation, I call for help by day; I cry out in the night before Thee. Let my prayer come before Thee, incline Thy ear to my cry! For my soul is full of troubles, and my life draws near to Sheol (*SHAY-ōl*). I am reckoned among those who go down to the Pit; I am a man who has no strength, like one forsaken among the dead, like the slain that lie in the grave, like those whom Thou dost remember no more, for they are cut off from Thy hand. Thou hast put me in the depths of the Pit, in the regions dark and deep. Thy wrath lies heavy upon me, and Thou dost overwhelm me with all Thy waves. Thou hast caused my companions to shun me; Thou hast made me a thing of horror to them. I am shut in so that I cannot escape; my eye grows dim through sorrow. Every day I call upon Thee, O Lord; I spread out my hands to Thee. Dost Thou work wonders for the dead? Do the shades rise up to praise Thee? Is Thy steadfast love declared in the grave, or Thy faithfulness in Abaddon? Are Thy wonders known in the darkness, or Thy saving help in the land of forgetfulness? But I, O Lord, cry to Thee; in the morning my prayer comes before Thee. O Lord, why dost Thou cast me off? Why dost Thou hide Thy face from me? Afflicted and close to death from my youth up, I suffer Thy terrors; I am helpless. Thy wrath has swept over me; Thy dread assaults destroy me. They surround me like a flood all day long; they close in upon me together. Thou hast caused lover and friend to shun me; my companions are in darkness. O Lord God of my salvation, I call for help by day; I cry out in the night before Thee. Let my prayer come before Thee, incline Thy ear to my cry!

Psalm 102/103

Bless the Lord, O my soul; and all that is within me, bless His holy name! Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all His benefits, Who forgives all your iniquity, Who heals all your diseases, Who redeems your life from the Pit, Who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy, Who satisfies you with good as long as you live, so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's. The Lord works vindication and justice for all who are oppressed. He made known His ways to Moses, His acts to the people of Israel. The Lord is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. He will not always chide, nor will He keep His anger forever. He does not deal with us according to our sins, nor requite us according to our iniquities. For as the heavens are high above the earth, so great is His steadfast love toward those who fear Him; as far as the east is from the west, so far does He remove our transgressions

from us. As a father pities his children, so the Lord pities those who fear Him. For He knows our frame; He remembers that we are dust. As for man, his days are like grass; he flourishes like a flower of the field; for the wind passes over it, and it is gone, and its place knows it no more. But the steadfast love of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting upon those who fear Him, and His righteousness to children's children, to those who keep His covenant and remember to do His commandments. The Lord has established His throne in the heavens, and His Kingdom rules over all. Bless the Lord, O you His Angels, you mighty ones who do His word, hearkening to the voice of His word! Bless the Lord, all His hosts, His ministers that do His will! Bless the Lord, all His works, in all places of His dominion. Bless the Lord, O my soul!

Psalm 142/143

Hear my prayer, O Lord; give ear to my supplications! In Thy faithfulness, answer me; in Thy righteousness, enter not into judgment with Thy servant; for no man living is righteous before Thee. For the Enemy has pursued me; he has crushed my life to the ground; he has made me sit in darkness like those long dead. Therefore my spirit faints within me; my heart within me is appalled. I remember the days of old, I meditate on all that Thou hast done; I muse on what Thy hands have wrought. I stretch out my hands to Thee; my soul thirsts for Thee like a parched land. Make haste to answer me, O Lord! My spirit fails! Hide not Thy face from me, lest I be like those who go down to the Pit. Let me hear in the morning of Thy steadfast love, for in Thee I put my trust. Teach me the way I should go, for to Thee I lift up my soul. Deliver me, O Lord, from my enemies! I have fled to Thee for refuge! Teach me to do Thy will, for Thou art my God! Let Thy good Spirit lead me on a level path! For Thy name's sake, O Lord, preserve my life! In Thy righteousness bring me out of trouble! And in Thy steadfast love cut off my enemies, and destroy all my adversaries, for I am Thy servant.

In Thy faithfulness, answer me; in Thy righteousness, enter not into judgment with Thy servant. (2x) Let Thy good Spirit lead me on a level path!

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 {Stand}

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.

God is the Lord

Deacon: Alleluia in the 2nd Tone: God is the Lord and has revealed Himself to us; blessed is He that comes in the name of the Lord. O give thanks to the Lord for He is good; for His mercy endures forever.

Choir: God is the Lord and has revealed Himself to us; blessed is He that comes in the name of the Lord.

Deacon: All nations surrounded me: but in the Name of the Lord will I withstood them.

Choir: God is the Lord and has revealed Himself to us; blessed is He that comes in the name of the Lord.

Deacon: I shall not die, but live, and declare the works of the Lord.

Choir: God is the Lord and has revealed Himself to us; blessed is He that comes in the name of the Lord.

Deacon: The stone which the builders rejected is become the headstone of the corner. This is the Lord's doing; it is marvelous in our eyes.

Choir: God is the Lord and has revealed Himself to us; blessed is He that comes in the name of the Lord.

{As the Choir sings the Troparia of Holy Saturday, the Clergy and Servers with candles and fans exit the Sanctuary and take their places before the Tomb; the chief celebrant, with a Deacon, then performs the Great Censing, beginning and ending before the Tomb.}

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;

When Thou didst descend to death, O Life Immortal,
Thou didst slay Hades with the splendor of Thy Godhead;
and when from the depths Thou didst raise the dead,
all the Powers of Heaven cried out:

“O Giver of Life, Christ our God, glory to Thee!”

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 Lamentations/Praises

{With the continual, gentle censing of the Holy Shroud, the Clergy intone the verses of Ps.118/119 – which, in more abbreviated form is also intoned at every Orthodox Funeral – while the Choir sings the intervening Hymns.}

The First Stasis ~ Tone 5

Choir: *Blessed art Thou, O Lord; // teach me Thy statutes!*

Priest: Blessed are those whose way is blameless, who walk in the law of the Lord.

Choir: *In a tomb they laid Thee, / O Christ the Life, / The angelic Hosts were overcome with awe, // and glorified Thy condescension.*

Priest: Blessed are those who keep His testimonies, who seek Him with their whole heart.

Choir: *O Life, how canst Thou die? / How canst Thou dwell in a tomb? / Yet by Thy death Thou hast destroyed the reign of Death, // and raised all the dead from Hell.*

Priest: For those who work wickedness have not walked in His ways.

Choir: *We magnify Thee, / O Jesus, our King, / We worship Thy Passion and Thy burial, // for by them Thou hast saved us from death.*

Priest: Thou hast commanded Thy precepts to be kept diligently.

Choir: *Earth's bounds Thou hast measured,/ O Jesus, King of all,/ yet today Thou dost dwell in a narrow tomb,// raising the dead from their graves.*

Priest: O that my ways may be steadfast in keeping Thy statutes!

Choir: *O Messiah, Jesus,/ my King, the Lord of all,// Whom art Thou seeking in the depths of Hell?// Hast Thou come to free the race of mortal men?*

Priest: Then I shall not be put to shame, having my eyes fixed on all Thy commandments.

Choir: *Lo, the sovereign Ruler/ of creation is dead./ Almighty God is in a new tomb,// to empty the graves of all their dead.*

Priest: I will praise Thee with an upright heart, when I learn Thy righteous ordinances.

Choir: *In a tomb they laid Thee,/ O Christ the Life./ By Thy death Thou hast cast down the might of Death// and become the Font of Life for all the world.*

Priest: I will observe Thy statutes; O forsake me not utterly.

Choir: *Thou hast been numbered/ among the transgressors, O Christ,/ Thou hast justified us all, O Lamb of God,// by freeing us from the Devil's works.*

Priest: How can a young man keep his way pure? By guarding it according to Thy word.

Choir: *Thou, O Lord, art fairer/ than all the sons of men. Thou hast filled creation with Thy beauty;// how canst Thou lie before us dead this day?*

Priest: With my whole heart I seek Thee; let me not wander from Thy commandments.

Choir: *How could Hell bear Thy coming/ and not shatter at once?/ Death is blinded by Thy splendor, O Lord.// Its gloom is scattered by Thy dazzling light.*

Priest: I have hidden Thy word in my heart, that I might not sin against Thee.

Choir: *O Jesus, my Salvation,/ my Sweetness, my Light!/ How art Thou hidden in a dark tomb,// O Patience past our strength to understand?*

Priest: Blessed art Thou, Lord! Teach me Thy statutes!

Choir: *The spiritual Powers/ and the angelic Hosts/ stand in silence, overcome with wonder// before the awesome mystery of Thy Tomb.*

Priest: Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.

Choir: *O Word of God, we praise Thee,/ the Lord of all the world,/ with Thy Father and Thy Holy Spirit,// and we glorify Thy burial.*

Priest: Now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Choir: *We bless you, O Virgin/ Birth-giver of God;/ and with faithful hearts we praise the burial// endured by Thy Son and our God.*

Choir: *In a tomb they laid Thee,/ O Christ the Life./ The angelic Hosts were overcome with awe,// and glorified Thy condescension.*

The Little Litany

Deacon: In peace, 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 blessed is Thy name, and glorified is Thy Kingdom: of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

Choir: Amen.

The Second Stasis ~ Tone 5

{With the continual, gentle censuring of the Holy Shroud, the Clergy continue to intone the verses of Ps.118/119 while the Choir sings the intervening Hymns.}

Choir: *It is right to magnify Thee,/ O Life-giving Lord;/ Thou hast stretched out Thy most-pure arms upon the Cross// and broken the Enemy's power.*

Priest: Thy hands have made and fashioned me; give me understanding that I may learn Thy commandments.

Choir: *It is right to magnify Thee,/ O Creator of all./ We are freed from passion through Thy Passion,// and delivered from corruption.*

Priest: Those who fear Thee shall see me and rejoice, because I have hoped in Thy word.

Choir: *The earth quaked with fear, O Savior Christ;/ the sun hid itself,/ seeing you, the light that knows no evening,// sinking down into the tomb.*

Priest: I know, Lord, that Thy judgments are right, and that in faithfulness Thou hast afflicted me.

Choir: *Thou hast slept in the Tomb, O Christ,/ a life-giving sleep,/ by which Thou hast wakened all the human race// from the heavy slumber of sin.*

Priest: Let Thy steadfast love be ready to comfort me, according to Thy promise to Thy servant.

Choir: *Alone among women, O my Child,/ I gave birth Thee without pain./ Now I cannot bear the grief I suffer, the most-pure Mother cried.*

Priest: Let Thy mercy come to me that I may live, for Thy law is my delight.

Choir: *The Seraphim saw Thee, O Lord,/ lying dead on earth below,/ yet united with Thy Father on high// and they shuddered and trembled with fear.*

Priest: Let the godless be put to shame, because they have transgressed against me unjustly; as for me, I will meditate on Thy precepts.

Choir: *The veil of the temple was torn/ at Thy Crucifixion,/ and the lights of Heaven hid their rad'ance,// when Thou, the Sun, wast hidden in the earth.*

Priest: Let those who fear Thee turn to me, that they might know Thy testimonies.

Choir: *By Thy nod alone, long ago,/ the earth was set on its course./ Now Thou hast descended dead beneath the earth.// Tremble, O Heaven, at this sight.*

Priest: May my heart be blameless in Thy statutes, that I may not be put to shame.

Choir: *Thou, Who didst form Man with Thy hand,/ hast gone down beneath the earth,/ and, O Sun, with Thine almighty right hand,/ Thou hast raised up fallen men.*

Priest: My soul languishes for Thy salvation; I hope in Thy word.

Choir: *Come, let us sing our lament/ to Christ, Who dost die for us,/ that we may be worthy, with the Myrrhbearers,// to hear His saving greeting – Rejoice!*

Priest: My eyes fail with watching for Thy promise; I ask, when wilt Thou comfort me?

Choir: *Thou art in very truth, O Word,/ the Myrrh of incorruption./ Therefore, to anoint Thee as the Living God,// the women brought Thee precious myrrh.*

Priest: For I have become like a wineskin in the smoke, yet I have not forgotten Thy statutes.

Choir: *Thou hast destroyed the palaces of Hell/ by Thy burial, O Christ. Thou hast trampled down Death by Thy death, O Lord,// and redeemed earth's children from corruption.*

Priest: How long must Thy servant endure? When wilt Thou judge those who persecute me?

Choir: *The Source of the River of Life,/ the Wisdom of God,/ has descended to the utmost depths of Hell,// to give life to all held captive there.*

Priest: Godless men have dug pitfalls for me, men who do not conform to Thy law.

Choir: *That I may fashion anew/ Adam's broken nature,/ I willingly endure Death's sting in My flesh. O Mother, do not strike your breast in grief.*

Priest: All Thy commandments are sure; they persecute me with falsehood; help me!

Choir: *O Morning Star of Righteousness,/ Thou hast set beneath the earth,/ and hast raised up all the dead as though from sleep,// dispersing all the darkness of Hell.*

Priest: Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit,

Choir: *O God without beginning,/ eternal Word and Spirit,/ help Thy people prevail against the Foe,// as Thou art the Lover of mankind.*

Priest: Now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Choir: *O Virgin, pure and undefiled,/ you gave birth to our Life;/ make the strife and scandals of the Church to cease;// in your goodness, grant Her peace.*

Choir: *It is right to magnify Thee,/ O Life-giving Lord;/ Thou hast stretched out Thy most-pure arms upon the Cross// and broken the Enemy's power.*

The Little Litany

Deacon: In peace, 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 holy art Thou, O our God, Who dost rest upon the glorious Throne of the Cherubim, and to 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.

The Third Stasis ~ Tone 3

{With the continual, gentle censing of the Holy Shroud, the Clergy continue to intone the verses of Ps.118/119 while the Choir sings the intervening Hymns.}

Choir: *Every generation/ offers Thee its hymn of praise// at Thy burial, O my Christ.*

Priest: Look upon me, and be merciful to me, as is Thy good pleasure toward those who love Thy name.

Choir: *The Arimathean/ took Thee down from the Tree// and laid Thee in a tomb.*

Priest: Order my steps according to Thy promise, and let no iniquity have dominion over me.

Choir: *The Myrrhbearing Women,/ with foresight brought sweet spices// and drew near to Thee, O my Christ.*

Priest: Deliver me from the false accusation of men, that I may keep Thy precepts.

Choir: *Come, all creation,/ sing a hymn to honor// the Creator's burial.*

Priest: Make Thy face to shine upon Thy servant, and teach me Thy statutes.

Choir: *Let us, with the Myrrhbearers,/ anoint as dead the Living One// with the myrrh of true knowledge.*

Priest: My eyes shed streams of tears, because men do not keep Thy law.

Choir: *O thrice-blessed Joseph,/ bury now the body// of Christ the Giver of Life.*

Priest: Righteous art Thou, O Lord, and right are Thy judgments.

Choir: *Thou didst feed Thy people/ with manna in the desert/ but they raised their heel against Thee.*

Priest: Thou hast appointed Thy testimonies in righteousness and in all faithfulness.

Choir: *Thou didst feed the nations,/ filling them with bounty.// They betrayed Thee with gall and vinegar.*

Priest: My zeal consumes me, because my foes forget Thy words.

Choir: *O the folly/ of those who killed the Prophets!// Now the slay the Messiah!*

Priest: Thy promise is well tried in the fire, and Thy servant loves it.

Choir: *Judas the disciple/ life foolish servant,// has betrayed the Abyss of Wisdom.*

Priest: I am small and despised, yet I do not forget Thy precepts.

Choir: *Judas the traitor/ has become a captive// by selling his Deliverer.*

Priest: Thy righteousness is righteous forever, and Thy law is truth.

Choir: *As Solomon has written,/ the mouth of the transgressor// is a pit of evil.*

Priest: Trouble and anguish have come upon me, but Thy commandments are my delight.

Choir: *God's chosen people,/ chose to walk on crooked paths;// thorns and snares are in their way!*

Priest: Thy testimonies are righteous forever; give me understanding that I may live.

Choir: *Joseph and Nicodemus/ bury the Creator// with honors fitting for the dead.*

Priest: I cry with my whole heart; hear me, O Lord! I will keep Thy statutes.

Choir: *O Life-giving Savior/ Thou hast destroyed Hell. Unto Thee be might and glory!*

Priest: I cry to Thee; save me, that I may observe Thy testimonies.

Choir: *The all-pure Virgin wept/ with a mother's grief, O Word,// when she saw Thee lying dead.*

Priest: I rise before dawn and cry for help; I hope in Thy words.

Choir: *O my sweet Springtime,/ O my sweetest Child// where has all Thy beauty faded?*

Priest: My eyes are awake before the morning, that I may meditate upon Thy promise.

Choir: *Thine all-pure Mother/ mourned and lamented Thee// when she saw Thee dead, O Word.*

Priest: Hear my voice according to Thy loving-kindness, Lord; in Thy judgment give me life.

Choir: *The Myrrhbearing Women/ came at dawn with spices// to anoint Christ, the Myrrh of God.*

Priest: They draw near who persecute me with evil purpose; they are far from Thy law.

Choir: *By dying, O my God,/ Thou hast put Death to death,// through Thy divine pow'r.*

Priest: But Thou art near, Lord, and all Thy commandments are true.

Choir: *The Deceiver has been deceived/ and those whom he deceived are freed// by Thy Wisdom, O My God.*

Long have I known from Thy testimonies, that Thou hast established them forever.

Choir: *The traitor has thrown himself/ down to depths of Hell// and the pit of destruction.*

Look on my humiliation and deliver me, for I do not forget Thy law.

Choir: *Foolish and most wretched,/ Judas chose an evil path.// Thorns and snares are in his way.*

Judge my cause, and redeem me; give me life according to Thy promise.

Choir: *All who crucified Thee, O Word,/ shall be destroyed together// O Son of God and King of all.*

Salvation is far from the wicked, for they do not seek Thy statutes.

Choir: *All blood-guilty men/ shall be destroyed together// in the pit of destruction.*

Great are Thy tender mercies, O Lord; give me life according to Thy justice.

Choir: *O Son of God and King of all,/ my God and my Creator?// How canst Thou endure such suffering?*

Priest: Many are my persecutors and my adversaries, but I do not swerve from Thy testimonies.

Choir: *As a ewe beholds her lamb,/ the Virgin gazed on Thee with grief// when she saw Thee hanging on the Tree.*

Priest: I look at the faithless with disgust, because they do not keep Thy commandments.

Choir: *Joseph and Nicodemus/ bury the Body// that gives life to all the world.*

Priest: Consider how I love Thy precepts! Give me life, according to Thy mercy.

Choir: *The Virgin's heart was pierced;/ she shed hot tears for Thee,// and cried out lamenting.*

Priest: The sum of Thy word is truth, and every one of Thy righteous ordinances endures forever.

Choir: *Light of my eyes,/ O my beloved Sun,// how art Thou now hidden in a Tomb?*

Priest: Princes persecute me without cause, but my heart stands in awe of Thy words.

Choir: *Do not weep, O Mother!/ I suffered all these things// to give freedom to Adam and Eve.*

Priest: I rejoice at Thy word like one who finds great spoil.

Choir: *O my Son, I praise Thee!/ For Thy great compassion// that led Thee to this suffering.*

Priest: I hate and abhor falsehood but I love Thy law.

Choir: *Thou hast tasted vinegar/ to free us from the bitter taste// of the Fruit forbidden of old.*

Priest: Seven times a day I praise Thee, for Thy righteous ordinances.

Choir: *Thou art nailed upon the Cross/ Who of old didst shelter// Thy people with a pillar of cloud.*

Priest: Great peace have those who love Thy law; nothing can make them stumble.

Choir: *The Myrrhbearing Women/ came, O Savior, to Thy Tomb,// offering Thee sweet spices.*

Priest: I hope for Thy salvation, Lord, and I love Thy commandments.

Choir: *Arise, O Lord, all-merciful!/ Raise us from the depths of Hell// and the dark abyss of sin.*

Priest: My soul keeps Thy testimonies; I love them exceedingly.

Choir: *The Mother who gave birth to Thee/ prayed to Thee with weeping:// "Arise, O Lord, and Giver of Life!"*

Priest: I keep Thy precepts and testimonies, for all my ways are before Thee, O Lord.

Choir: *Make haste to arise, O Word!/ Take away the sorrow// of Thy virgin Mother.*

Priest: Let my cry come before Thee, O Lord; give me understanding according to Thy word!

Choir: *All the Hosts of Heaven/ were filled with fear and wonder// when they saw Thee dead, O Lord.*

Priest: Let my supplication come before Thee; deliver me according to Thy word.

Choir: *We honor Thy Passion/ with love and fear, O Lord; // grant us forgiveness of our sins.*

Priest: My lips will pour forth praise, for Thou hast taught me Thy statutes.

Choir: *O strange and dreadful wonder!/ How art Thou now hidden// in the earth, O Word of God?*

Priest: My tongue will sing of Thy word, for all Thy commandments are right.

Choir: *When Thou didst flee to Egypt,/ Joseph guarded Thee, O Lord; // now another Joseph buries Thee.*

Priest: Let Thy hand be near to save me, for I have chosen Thy precepts.

Choir: *Thine all-holy Mother/ weeps for Thee, lamenting// at Thy death, O my Savior.*

Priest: I long for Thy salvation, O Lord, and Thy law is my delight.

Choir: *The Hosts of Angels tremble/ at the strange and fearful sight// of Thy burial, O Maker of all.*

Priest: Let my soul live, that I may praise Thee, and let Thine ordinances help me.

Choir: *Early in the morning./ the Myrrhbearing Women// came to Thee and sprinkled myrrh on Thy Tomb.*

Priest: I have gone astray like a lost sheep; seek Thy servant, for I have not forgotten Thy commandments.

Choir: *By Thy Resurrection,/ grant to Thy Church// and salvation to Thy People.*

Priest: Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.

Choir: *O God in Trinity/ Father, Son and Spirit, // grant Thy mercy to the world.*

Priest: Now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Choir: *Grant us, your servants,/ to behold, O Virgin, // the Resurrection of your Son!*

Choir: *Every generation/ offers Thee its hymn of praise// at Thy burial, O my Christ.*

Evlogetaria ~ Resurrectional Troparia

{The chief celebrant and a Deacon perform the Great Censing, beginning and ending before the Tomb.}

Choir: Blessed art Thou, O Lord: teach me Thy statutes.

The assembly of Angels was amazed, beholding Thee among the dead, by destroying the power of death, O Savior, Thou didst Adam with Thyself and saved all men from Hell.

Blessed art Thou, O Lord: teach me Thy statutes.

In the tomb the radiant Angel cried to the Myrrhbearers: ‘Why do you women mingle myrrh with your tears?’ ‘Look at the Tomb, and understand: for the Savior has risen from the dead’.

Blessed art Thou, O Lord: teach me Thy statutes.

Very early in the morning the Myrrhbearers ran with sorrow to Thy Tomb; but the Angel came to them and said, 'The time for sorrow has come to an end. Do not weep; but announce the Resurrection to the Apostles'.

Blessed art Thou, O Lord: teach me Thy statutes.

The Myrrhbearers were sorrowful when they neared Thy Tomb; but the Angel said to them, 'Why do you number the Living among the dead? Since He is God He has risen from the Tomb'.

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

We worship the Father, and His Son, and the Holy Spirit: the holy Trinity one in essence; we cry with the Seraphim, 'Holy, holy, holy art Thou, O Lord!'

Now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Since you gave birth to the Giver of Life, O Virgin, you redeemed Adam from his sin, and brought Eve joy instead of sadness. The God-Man Who was born of you, has restored to life those who had fallen from it.

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

The Little Litany

Deacon: In peace, 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 Thou art the King of Peace, O Christ our God, and to Thee do we ascribe glory together with Thine unoriginate Father and Thine most-holy, good and life-giving Spirit; now and ever and unto ages of ages.

Choir: Amen.

Kathisma Hymn - Tone 1

Joseph begged Thy Holy Body from Pilate;
he anointed it with sweet-smelling spices;
he wrapped it in clean linen and laid it in his own new tomb
and early in the morning the Myrrh-bearing Women cried out:
"As Thou hast foretold, O Christ, //
show us Thy resurrection!

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

“As Thou hast foretold, O Christ, //
show us Thy resurrection!”
Now and ever and unto ages of ages, amen.

The choirs of Angels are filled with awe,
seeing Him Who rests in the Father’s bosom
laid in the Tomb as dead, though He is immortal!
The ranks of Angels surround Him;
together with the dead in Hell, //
they glorify Him as Creator and Lord!

Psalm 50/51 {Sitting permitted.}

Reader1: Have mercy on me, O God, according to Thy steadfast love; according to Thy abundant mercy blot out my transgressions. Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin! For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me. Against Thee, Thee only, have I sinned, and done that which is evil in Thy sight, so that Thou art justified in Thy sentence and blameless in Thy judgment. Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, and in sin did my mother conceive me. Behold, Thou desirest truth in the inward being; therefore teach me wisdom in my secret heart. Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow. Fill me with joy and gladness; let the bones which Thou hast broken rejoice. Hide Thy face from my sins, and blot out all my iniquities. Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me. Cast me not away from Thy presence, and take not Thy Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of Thy salvation, and uphold me with a willing spirit. Then I will teach transgressors Thy ways, and sinners will return to Thee. Deliver me from blood-guiltiness, O God, Thou God of my salvation, and my tongue will sing aloud of Thy deliverance. O Lord, open Thou my lips, and my mouth shall show forth Thy praise. For Thou hast no delight in sacrifice; were I to give a burnt offering, Thou wouldst not be pleased. The sacrifice acceptable to God is a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, Thou wilt not despise. Do good to Zion in Thy good pleasure; rebuild the walls of Jerusalem, then wilt Thou delight in right sacrifices, in burnt offerings and whole burnt offerings; then bulls will be offered on Thy altar.

Canon – Tone 6 {Sitting permitted}

Ode 1

Choir: [Irmos] Of old Thou didst bury the pursuing tyrant,
beneath the waves of the sea.
Now the children of those who were saved
bury Thee beneath the earth,
but with the maidens, let us sing to the Lord:
“For gloriously has He been glorified.”

Reader1: Glory to Thee, our God, glory to Thee!

Reader2: Unto Thee I sing a hymn for the departed and a song of burial, O Lord my God, Who by Thy burial have opened for me the entrance to life and by Thy death have put death and hell to death.

Reader1: Glory to Thee, our God, glory to Thee!

Reader2: Beholding Thee upon the Throne and on high and in the grave below, the things of Heaven and the things beneath the earth trembled at Thy death; for in a manner past understanding wast Thou, the very Source of life, seen dead!"

Reader1: Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Reader2: Thou didst descended to the depths of the earth to fill all with Thy glory; for my person that is in Adam was not hidden from Thee, and when Thou wast buried, Thou didst renew me who am corrupt, O Lover of mankind!"

Ode 3

Choir: [Irmos] Thou didst suspend the earth,
immovably upon the waters.
Now creation beholds Thee
suspended on Calvary.
It quakes with great amazement and cries:
"None is holy but Thee, O Lord!"

Reader2: Glory to Thee, our God, glory to Thee!

Reader1: By a multitude of visions Thou didst indicate the signs of Thy burial, O Master. But now, as God and man, Thou dost make clear Thy hidden things even unto those who cry: "None is holy but Thee, O Lord!"

Reader2: Glory to Thee, our God, glory to Thee!

Reader1: Thou hast stretched out Thy hands, O Savior, and united what before had been divided; and by clothing Thyself in a winding sheet Thou hast saved even those held captive by the tomb, who cry: "None is holy but Thee, O Lord!"

Reader2: Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Reader1: By Thy will a sealed tomb contained Thee, Who cannot be contained; for by Thy divine accomplishments Thou hast made known Thy power unto those who sing: None is holy but Thee, O Lord, Who lovest mankind!"

Kathisma Hymn - Tone 1

Choir: The soldiers guarding Thy Tomb, O Savior,
became as dead men at the lightning flash of the Angel
who appeared announcing Thy resurrection to the women.
We glorify Thee, Who cleanest from corruption.
We fall down before Thee, //
Who didst rise from the Tomb, our only God.

Ode 4

Choir: [Irmos] Foreseeing Thy divine humiliation on the Cross
Habakkuk cried out trembling:
“Thou didst shatter the dominion of the mighty//
by joining them in Hell as the almighty Lord.”

Reader1: Glory to Thee, our God, glory to Thee!

Reader2: Thou hast sanctified this, the Seventh Day, which of old Thou didst bless by rest from work; for Thou dost bring all things into being and renew them, O my Savior, while resting and reviving on the Sabbath.

Reader1: Glory to Thee, our God, glory to Thee!

Reader2: By the overwhelming strength of Thy divine nature Thou didst win the victory, O Word; for Thy soul was parted from the flesh, sundering by Thy might the bonds of Hell and Death.

Reader1: Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Reader2: When Hell encountered Thee, O Word, it was embittered. Seeing Thee as a mortal man deified, marked with wounds yet having almighty power, it cried out at Thine awesome appearance.

Ode 5

Choir: [Irmos] Isaiah saw the never-setting light
of Thy compassionate manifestation to us as God, O Christ.
Rising early from the night he cried out:
“The dead shall arise,
those in the tombs shall awake.
All those on earth shall greatly rejoice.”

Reader2: Glory to Thee, our God, glory to Thee!

Reader1: When Thou didst become earthly, O Creator, Thou didst renew those born on earth, and the winding sheet and the grave revealed the mystery concerning Thee, O Word: for Joseph the noble counsellor fulfills the counsel of Him Who begot Thee and who wondrously renews me in Thee.

Reader2: Glory to Thee, our God, glory to Thee!

Reader1: Through death Thou dost transform what is mortal, and through burial Thou dost transform what is corruptible; for in a manner befitting God Thou dost make incorrupt and immortal the nature which Thou hast assumed, since Thy flesh did not see corruption and in a wondrous manner Thy soul was abandoned in Hell.

Reader2: Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Reader1: Thou didst come forth from a painless birth, O my Maker, and Thy side was pierced. By this hast Thou, the New Adam, accomplished the restoration of Eve. Thou didst fall into a sleep surpassing nature and renewing nature, and, as the All-powerful One, Thou didst raise up Life from sleep and corruption!

Ode 6

Choir: [Irmos] Jonah was caught but not held fast
in the belly of the whale.
He was sign of Thee,
Who hast suffered and accepted burial.
Coming forth from the beast as from a bridal chamber,
he called out to the guard:
“By observing vanities and lies you have forsaken your own mercy!”

Reader1: Glory to Thee, our God, glory to Thee!

Reader2: Thou wast killed, O Word, but not separated from the flesh which Thou dost share with us; for even though the temple of Thy body was destroyed at the time of the Passion, the Person of Thy divinity and of Thy flesh was one, for in both dost Thou remain one Son, Word of God, God and Man!

Reader1: Glory to Thee, our God, glory to Thee!

Reader2: The fall of Adam resulted in the death of Man, not God; for even though the earthly substance of Thy flesh suffered, Thy divinity remained passionless. In Thyself Thou hast transformed the corruptible to incorruption, and by Thy resurrection, Thou hast revealed a fountain of incorruptible life!

Reader1: Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Reader2: Hell rules the race of Man, but not eternally; for when Thou wast placed in the grave, O powerful One, Thou didst tear asunder the bars of death by Thy life-creating hand and didst proclaim true deliverance to those sleeping there from the ages, since Thou, O Savior, hast become the first-born of the dead.

Kontakion - Tone 6 {Stand}

Choir: He Who shut in the depths is beheld dead,
wrapped in fine linen and spices.
The Immortal One is laid in a tomb as a mortal man.
The Women have come to anoint Him with myrrh,
weeping bitterly and crying:
“This is the most-blessed Sabbath
on which Christ has fallen asleep to rise on the third day!”

Ikos

Reader1: He Who holds all things together has been lifted upon the Cross, and all of creation weeps at seeing Him hanging, naked, upon the Wood. The sun hid its rays and the stars cast aside their splendor. The earth shook with great fear, the sea fled, and the

rocks were split asunder. Many tombs were opened and the bodies of holy men arose. Hell groaned below and the Jews considered how to slander the Resurrection of Christ, but the women cried:

Choir: “This is the most-blessed Sabbath on which Christ has fallen asleep to rise on the third day!”

Ode 7 *{Sitting permitted except for the Censing}*

Choir: **[Irmos]** Inexpressible wonder!
In the furnace Thou didst save the Holy Youths from the flame.
Now Thou art placed in the grave as a lifeless corpse,
for the salvation of us who sing:
“Blessed art Thou, O God, our Redeemer!”

Reader2: Glory to Thee, our God, glory to Thee!

Reader1: Hell was wounded in heart when it received Him Whose side was pierced by a spear, and it groans, consumed by divine fire, unto the salvation of us who sing:
“Blessed art Thou, O God, our Redeemer!”

Reader2: Glory to Thee, our God, glory to Thee!

Reader1: Happy is the Tomb! For having received the Creator as one asleep, it became a divine treasury of life, for the salvation of us who sing: “Blessed art Thou, O God, our Redeemer!”

Reader2: Glory to Thee, our God, glory to Thee!

Reader1: In accordance with the law of the dead, the Life of all accepts burial in the Tomb, and the Tomb becomes the source of resurrection, unto the salvation of us who sing:
“Blessed art Thou, O God, our Redeemer!”

Reader2: Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Reader1: In Hell, in the Tomb, and in Eden, the divinity of Christ was one and undivided, with the Father and the Spirit, for the salvation of us who sing: “Blessed art Thou, O God, our Redeemer!”

Ode 8

Choir: **[Irmos]** Be amazed, O Heavens!
Be shaken, O foundations of the earth!
Behold, He that dwells in the highest
is numbered among the dead and sheltered in a lowly tomb.
Bless Him, O youths! Praise Him, O priests!
O peoples exalt Him above all forever!

Reader1: Glory to Thee, our God, glory to Thee!

Reader2: The pure Temple has been destroyed, yet He raises with Himself the tabernacle that had fallen; for the Second Adam, Who dwells in the highest, has descended to the

first Adam, even unto the lowest chambers of Hell. Bless Him, O youths! Praise Him, O Priests! O peoples exalt Him above all forever!

Reader1: Glory to Thee, our God, glory to Thee!

Reader2: The courage of all the Disciples failed, but Joseph of Arimathea showed valor; for seeing the God of all dead and naked, he sought Him and dressed Him for burial, crying: "Bless Him, O youths! Praise Him, O Priests! O peoples exalt Him above all forever!"

Reader1: Let us bless the Lord: Father, Son and Holy Spirit; now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Reader2: What new wonders! What great goodness! What ineffable forbearance! For He that dwells in the highest is willingly sealed beneath the earth, and God is slander as a deceiver. "Bless Him, O youths! Praise Him, O Priests! O peoples exalt Him above all forever!"

Choir: We praise, bless, and worship the Lord, singing and exalting Him throughout all ages.

Ode 9

Choir: [Irmos] Do not lament Me, O Mother
seeing Me in the Tomb,
the Son conceived in the womb without seed;
for I shall arise,
and be glorified with eternal glory as God!
I shall exalt all who magnify you in faith and in love!

Reader2: Glory to Thee, our God, glory to Thee!

Reader1: "I escaped sufferings and was blessed beyond nature at Thy strange birth, O Son Who art without beginning. But now, beholding Thee, my God, dead and without breath, I am sorely pierced by the sword of sorrow. But arise, that I may be magnified!"

Reader2: Glory to Thee, our God, glory to Thee!

Reader1: "By My own will the earth covers Me, O Mother; but the gatekeepers of Hell tremble at seeing Me clothed in the blood-stained garments of vengeance; for when I have vanquished My enemies on the Cross, I shall arise as God and magnify you."

Reader2: Glory to Thee, our God, glory to Thee!

Reader1: "Let creation rejoice! Let all born on earth be glad! For hateful Hell has been despoiled. Let the women with myrrh come to meet Me; for I am redeeming Adam and Eve and all their descendants, and on the third day shall I arise!"

Reader2: Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Choir: [Katavasia] Do not lament Me, O Mother
seeing Me in the Tomb,

the Son conceived in the womb without seed;
for I shall arise,
and be glorified with eternal glory as God!
I shall exalt all who magnify you in faith and in love!

Little Litany

Deacon: In peace, 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 all the Powers of Heaven praise Thee, 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.

Exaposteilarion

Deacon: Holy is the Lord our God.

Choir: Holy is the Lord our God.

Deacon: For holy is the Lord our God.

Choir: Holy is the Lord our God.

Deacon: Over all peoples is our God.

Choir: Holy is the Lord our God.

The Praises - Tone 2

Choir: Let every breath praise the Lord!
Praise the Lord from the Heavens!
Praise Him in the highest!//
To Thee, O Lord, is due a song!

Praise Him all you Angels of His!
Praise Him all His Hosts!//
To Thee, O God is due a song!

Reader1: Praise Him for His mighty deeds; praise Him according to His exceeding greatness!

Choir: Today a tomb holds Him Who holds creation in the palm of His hand.
A stone covers Him Who covered the Heavens with glory.
Life sleeps, and Hell trembles.
Adam is set free from his bonds.
Glory to Thy plan of salvation!
By it Thou hast fulfilled all things,

granting us an eternal Sabbath rest://
"They most-holy Resurrection from the dead."

Reader1: Praise Him with trumpet sound; praise Him with lute and harp!

Choir: What is this sight we behold?
What is this present rest?
The King of the ages keeps the Sabbath in the Tomb.
Through His Passion He has fulfilled the plan of salvation,
granting us a new Sabbath rest.
To Him let us cry aloud:
"Arise, O God, and judge the earth;
for Thou dost reign forever,
and beyond measure is Thy great mercy!"

Reader1: Praise Him with timbrel and dance; praise Him with strings and pipe!

Choir: Come let us see our Life lying in the Tomb,
to give life to those who lie dead in the tombs.
Come, look today on the Son of Judah sleeping;
with Jacob the Patriarch let us cry to Him:
"Thou hast stooped down; Thou hast couched like a lion;
who dares rouse Thee up, O King?
But arise in Thine own power,
O Thou Who didst willingly give Thyself for us, //
O Lord, glory to Thee!"

Reader1: In the 6th Tone: Praise Him with sounding cymbals; praise Him with loud clashing cymbals! Let everything that breathes praise the Lord! Praise the Lord!

Choir: **(Tone 6)** Joseph asked for the body of Jesus
and placed it in his own new tomb.
It is fitting for the Lord to come forth from the grave as from a bridal chamber.
Thou hast destroyed the dominion of Death.
Thou hast opened to men the gates of Paradise. //
O Lord, glory to Thee!

Reader1: The Doxastikon of the Blessed Sabbath in the 6th Tone: Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit;

Choir: The great Moses mystically foreshadowed this day when he said:
"God blessed the Seventh Day."
This is the blessed Sabbath,
this is the day of rest,
on which the Only-begotten Son of God rested from all His works.
By suffering death to fulfill the plan of salvation,
He kept the Sabbath in the flesh;
by returning again to what He was,
He has granted us eternal life through His Resurrection,
for He alone is good, the Lover of Man.

Reader1: In the 2nd Tone:: Now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

{During the following hymn, the Royal Doors are opened and the Clergy and Servers gather before the Tomb. People stand.}

Choir: (Tone 2) You are most-blessed, O Virgin Theotokos,
for through the God and Man Who was born of you,
Hell has been captured and Adam recalled;
the curse has been annulled and Eve set free.
Death has been slain, so we are given life.
Blessed is Christ our God, Whose good will it was//
glory to Thee.

Great Doxology

Priest: Glory to Thee, Who hast shone us the light!

{During the Great Doxology, the chief celebrant or other Priest, lead by a Deacon, censes around the Tomb 3x as the procession forms up. During the Censing kneel; when the Censing is complete, stand.}

Choir: Glory to God in the highest, and on earth, peace and good will toward men. We praise Thee, we bless Thee, we worship Thee, we glorify Thee, we give thanks to Thee for Thy great glory: O Lord, heavenly King, God the Father Almighty; O Lord, the only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ; and Thou, O Holy Spirit. O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, Who takest away the sins of the world, have mercy on us; Thou that takest away the sins of the world, receive our prayer; Thou that sittest at the right hand of the Father, have mercy on us. For Thou alone art holy; Thou alone art the Lord, O Jesus Christ, to the glory of God the Father. Amen.

Every day will I bless Thee, and I will praise Thy Name forever; yea, forever and ever. Lord, Thou hast been our refuge from generation to generation. I said: O Lord, have mercy on me, heal my soul, for I have sinned against Thee. Lord, have I fled to Thee; teach me to do Thy will, for Thou art my God. For with Thee is the Fountain of life, in Thy light shall we see light. Continue Thy mercy unto those who know Thee.

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.

Holy Immortal, have mercy on us.

*{The Choir now shifts to the "processional" Trisagion as the "Funeral" Procession of our Lord begins. The Cross and candles lead the Holy Shroud, carried over the chief celebrant's head by laypeople; escorted by fans followed by the remaining Clergy, then Choir and people. They make a circuit of the Church. **If inclement weather prevents a procession outside, the laity should remain kneeling as the Holy Shroud is carried in procession around the interior of the Church.**}*

When they return to the entrance of the church, the Shroud-bearers hold the Holy Shroud up so the people can enter under it, venerate the Gospel and return to their seat. In the case on an interior procession, they will position themselves a few pews in and the people shall go down the side aisles toward the back of the church, pass under the Shroud, as above, and back to their seats. After the last person, the chief celebrant resumes his place and the Shroud-bearers carry the Shroud to the top of the Amvon, where the chief celebrant – facing the Altar – proclaims:

Priest: Wisdom! Let us attend!

{As the Choir sings the first Troparion of Holy Saturday, the chief celebrant and Shroud-bearers process to the Tomb, where the Holy Shroud is formally "interred"; the chief celebrant then censes around the Tomb three times.}

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.

*{*The following is often assigned to one adept at one of the traditional 'special' chanting styles used for this reading.}*

The Troparion of the Prophecy

Priest: Wisdom!

Reader*: The Troparion of the Prophecy in the 2nd Tone.

Choir: O Christ, Who holdest fast the ends of the earth,
Thou hast consented to be held fast in the Tomb,
to deliver Man from his fall into Hell,
and as Immortal God, //
Thou hast given us life and immortality!

The Prophecy (The 'Dry Bones')

Deacon: Wisdom.

Reader*: The reading is from the Prophecy of Ezekiel (37:1-14)

Deacon: Let us attend.

Reader*: In those days the hand of the Lord came upon me and the Lord led me forth in the Spirit, and set me down in the midst of the plain; it was full of the bones of men. And he led me round among them; and behold, there were very many upon the plain; and lo, they were very dry. And he said to me, "*Son of man, can these bones live?*" And I answered, "*O Lord God, Thou knowest.*" Again he said to me, "*Prophesy to these bones, and say to them, 'You dry bones, hear the word of the Lord. Thus says the Lord God to these bones: Behold, I will the breath of life upon you, and I will lay sinews upon you, and will cause flesh to come upon you, and cover you with skin, and put My Spirit into you, and you shall live; and you shall know that I am the Lord.'*"

So I prophesied as the Lord commanded me; and as I prophesied, there was a noise, and behold, a rattling; and the bones approached each other, each one to its joint. And as I looked, sinews and flesh grew upon them, and skin had covered them; but there was no breath in them. Then the Lord said to me, "*Prophesy to the wind, prophesy, son of man, and say to the Spirit, 'Thus says the Lord God: Come from the four winds, O Spirit, and breathe upon these dead men, and let them live.'*" So I prophesied as the Lord commanded me, and the Spirit entered into them, and they lived, and stood upon their feet, an exceedingly great multitude.

Then the Lord said to me, "*Son of man, these bones are the whole house of Israel, and they say, 'Our bones are dried up, and our hope is perished; we are clean cut off.' Therefore prophesy, and say to them: 'Thus says the Lord God: Behold, I will open your tombs, and raise you from your tombs, O My people; and I will bring you home into the land of Israel. And*

you shall know that I am the Lord, when I open your graves, and raise you from your graves, O My people. And I will put My Spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you in your own land; then you shall know that I am the Lord. I have spoken, and I will do it, says the Lord."

The Epistle {Sitting permitted.}

Deacon: Wisdom!

Reader2: The Prokeimenon in the 7th Tone: Arise, O Lord, my God, lift up Thy hand; forget not Thy poor forever.

Choir: Arise, O Lord, my God, lift up Thy hand; forget not Thy poor forever.

Reader2: I will praise Thee, O Lord my God, I will make all Thy wonders known.

Choir: Arise, O Lord, my God, lift up Thy hand; forget not Thy poor forever.

Reader2: Arise, O Lord, my God, lift up Thy hand;

Choir: forget not Thy poor forever.

Deacon: Wisdom.

Reader2: The reading is from the first Epistle of the holy Apostle Paul to the Corinthians.
(1Cor.5:6-8; Gal.3:13-14)

Deacon: Let us attend.

Reader2: Brethren – Do you not know that a little leaven leavens the whole lump? Therefore purge out the old leaven, that you may be a new lump, since you truly are unleavened. For indeed Christ, our Passover, was sacrificed for us. Therefore let us keep the feast, not with old leaven, nor with the leaven of malice and wickedness, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth. Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law, having become a curse for us (for it is written, “Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree”), that the blessing of Abraham might come upon the Gentiles in Christ Jesus, that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith.

Priest: Peace be unto you, reader!

Reader2: And to your spirit. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia. Let God arise, let His enemies be scattered; let those who hate Him flee from before His face!

Choir: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Reader2: As smoke vanishes, so let them vanish, as wax melts before the fire!

Choir: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Reader2: So the sinners will perish before the face of God; but let the Righteous be glad!

Choir: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

The Gospel {Stand}

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 unto all!

Choir: And to your spirit.

Priest: The reading from the Holy Gospel according to Saint Matthew. (27:62-66)

Choir: Glory to Thee, O Lord, glory Thee.

Deacon: Let us attend.

Priest: At that time: Next day, that is, after the day of Preparation, the chief priests and the Pharisees gathered before Pilate and said, "Sir, we remember how that imposter said, while he was still alive, 'After three days I will rise again.' Therefore order the sepulcher to be made secure until the third day, lest his disciples go and steal him away, and tell the people, 'He has risen from the dead,' and the last fraud will be worse than the first." Pilate said to them, "You have a guard of soldiers; go, make it as secure as you can." So they went and made the sepulcher secure by sealing the stone and setting a guard.

Choir: Glory to Thee, O Lord, glory to Thee.

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 this day), 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 this day), 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.

Morning Litany

Deacon: Let us complete our morning 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 the God of mercies and compassion and of love for 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 with your spirit.

Deacon: Let us bow our heads unto the Lord.

Choir: To Thee, O Lord.

Priest: O holy Lord, Who dwells on high and looks upon the humble, and Who with Thine all-seeing eye looks down upon all creation, unto Thee have we bowed the neck of our soul and body, and we pray Thee, O Holy of Holies, stretch forth Thine invisible hand from Thy holy dwelling place and bless us all. And if we have sinned, either willingly or unwillingly, pardon us, inasmuch as Thou art a good God and lovest mankind, granting unto us Thy earthly and heavenly good things. For Thine it is to have mercy on us and to save us, O our God, 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.

The Dismissal

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.

Choir: Amen. Lord have mercy. (3x)

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

Choir: (Tone 5) 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!



***Christ's Descent into and Destruction of Hell ~ the Spiritual Resurrection
 Icon of Great and Holy Saturday***