

Holy Saturday Matins/Orthros

The Lamentations and the Procession with the Shroud



The Prayer to the Holy Spirit

PRIEST: Glory to You, our God. Glory to You.

O heavenly King, O Comforter, the Spirit of truth, Who are in all places and fill all things, the Treasury of good things and Giver of life: Come, and abide in us, and cleanse us from every stain, and save our souls, O good One.

The Trisagion Prayers

PEOPLE: 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.

All-holy Trinity, have mercy on us. Lord, cleanse us from our sins. Master, pardon our iniquities. Holy God, visit and heal our infirmities for Your 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 is 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.

PEOPLE: Amen.

READER/PEOPLE: 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 and fall down before God our King.

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

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

The Royal Psalms

(Optional)

Psalm 20 (LXX 19)

Psalm 21 (LXX 20)

Troparion and Kontakion of the Cross and Theotokion

O Lord, save Your people, and bless Your inheritance, granting to Your people victory over all adversaries, and by Your Cross preserving Your habitation.

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

O Lord, Who of Your own good will were lifted up on the Cross, O Christ our God, bestow Your generous gifts on the new nation which is called by Your name; make glad in Your might those who lawfully govern, that with them we may be led to victory over our adversaries, having in Your aid a weapon of peace and a trophy invincible.

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

O fearsome Champion, who cannot be put to confusion, despise not our petitions, O good and all-praised Theotokos; establish the way of the Orthodox; save those who have been called upon to govern us, leading us all to that victory which is from heaven, for you are she who gave birth to God and alone are blessed.

Litany and Blessing

PRIEST: Have mercy on us, O God, according to Your great mercy, hear us we pray, and have mercy.

PEOPLE: Lord, have mercy. (3x)

PRIEST: Again we pray for all pious and Orthodox Christians.

PEOPLE: Lord, have mercy. (3x)

PRIEST: Again we pray our father, (*metropolitan, archbishop, or bishop*) *N.*, and all our brotherhood in Christ.

PEOPLE: Lord, have mercy. (*3x*)

PRIEST: For You are a merciful God and love mankind, and unto You we ascribe glory: to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

PEOPLE: Amen.

READER/PEOPLE: Bless, father, in the name of the Lord.

PRIEST: Glory to the holy, consubstantial, life-giving, and undivided Trinity always, now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

PEOPLE: Amen.

READER: Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will among men. (*3x*)

O Lord, open my lips, and my mouth shall declare Your praise. (*2x*)

The Six Psalms

Psalm 3

Lord, how they have increased who trouble me! Many are they who rise up against me. Many are they who say of me, "There is no help for him in God." But You, O Lord, are a shield for me, my glory and the One Who lifts up my head. I cried to the Lord with my voice, and He heard me from His holy hill. I lay down and slept; I awoke, for the Lord sustained me. I will not be afraid of ten thousands of people who have set themselves against me all around. Arise, O Lord; save me, O my God! For You have struck all my enemies on the cheekbone; You have broken the teeth of the ungodly. Salvation belongs to the Lord. Your blessing is upon Your people.

I lay down and slept; I awoke, for the Lord sustained me.

Psalm 38 (LXX 37)

O Lord, do not rebuke me in Your wrath, nor chasten me in Your hot displeasure! For Your arrows pierce me deeply, and Your hand presses me down. There is no soundness in my flesh because of Your anger, nor any health in my bones because of my sin. For my iniquities have gone over my head; like a heavy burden they are too heavy for me. My wounds are foul and festering because of my foolishness. I am troubled, I am bowed down greatly; I go mourning all the day long. For my loins are full of inflammation, and there is no soundness in my flesh. I am feeble and severely broken; I groan because of the turmoil of my heart. Lord, all my desire is before You; and my sighing is not hidden from You. My heart pants, my strength fails me; as for the light of my eyes, it also has gone from me. My loved ones and my friends stand aloof from my plague, and my relatives stand afar off. Those also who seek my life lay snares for me; those who seek my hurt speak of destruction, and plan deception all the day long. But I, like a deaf man, do not hear; and I am like a mute who does not open his mouth. Thus I am like a man who does not hear, and in whose mouth is no response.

For in You, O Lord, I hope; You will hear, O Lord my God. For I said, "Hear me, lest they rejoice over me, lest, when my foot slips, they exalt themselves against me." For I am ready to fall, and my sorrow is continually before me. For I will declare my iniquity; I will be in anguish over my sin. But my enemies are vigorous, and they are strong; and those who hate me wrongfully have multiplied. Those also who render evil for good, they are my adversaries, because I follow what is 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 63 (LXX 62)

O God, You are my God; early will I seek You; my soul thirsts for You; my flesh longs for You in a dry and thirsty land where there is no water. So I have looked for You in the sanctuary, to see Your power and Your glory. Because Your loving-kindness is better than life, my lips shall praise You. Thus I will bless You while I live; I will lift up my hands in Your name. My soul shall be satisfied as with marrow and fatness, and my mouth shall praise You with joyful lips. When I remember You on my bed, I meditate on You in the night watches. Because You have been my help, therefore in the shadow of Your wings I will rejoice. My soul follows close behind You; Your right hand upholds me. But those who seek my life, to destroy it, shall go into the lower parts of the earth. They shall fall by the sword; they shall be a portion for jackals. But the king shall rejoice in God; everyone who swears by Him shall glory; but the mouth of those who speak lies shall be stopped. I meditate on You in the night watches. Because You have been my help, therefore in the shadow of Your wings I will rejoice.

My soul follows close behind You; Your 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 You, O God. (3x)

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.

Psalm 88 (LXX 87)

O Lord, God of my salvation, I have cried out day and night before You. Let my prayer come before You; incline Your ear to my cry. For my soul is full of troubles, and my life draws near to the grave. I am counted with those who go down to the pit; I am like a man who has no strength, adrift among the dead, like the slain who lie in the grave, whom You remember no more, and who are cut off from Your hand. You have laid me in the lowest pit, in darkness, in the depths. Your wrath lies heavy upon me, and You have afflicted me with all your waves. You have put away my acquaintances far from me; You have made me an abomination to them; I am shut up, and I cannot get out; my eye wastes away because of affliction. Lord, I have called daily upon You; I have stretched out my

hands to You. Will You work wonders for the dead? Shall the dead arise and praise You? Shall Your loving-kindness be declared in the grave? Or Your faithfulness in the place of destruction? Shall Your wonders be known in the dark? And Your righteousness in the land of forgetfulness? But to You I have cried out, O Lord, and in the morning my prayer comes before You. Lord, why do You cast off my soul? Why do You hide Your face from me? I have been afflicted and ready to die from my youth; I suffer Your terrors; I am distraught. Your fierce wrath has gone over me; Your terrors have cut me off. They came around me all day long like water; they engulfed me altogether. Loved one and friend You have put far from me, and my acquaintances into darkness.

O Lord, God of my salvation, I have cried out day and night before You. Let my prayer come before You; incline Your ear to my cry.

Psalm 103 (LXX 102)

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 iniquities, Who heals all your diseases, Who redeems your life from destruction, Who crowns you with loving-kindness and tender mercies, Who satisfies your mouth with good things, so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's. The Lord executes righteousness and justice for all who are oppressed. He made known His ways to Moses, His acts to the children of Israel. The Lord is merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in mercy. He will not always strive with us, nor will He keep His anger forever. He has not dealt with us according to our sins, nor punished us according to our iniquities. For as the heavens are high above the earth, so great is His mercy toward those who fear Him; as far as the east is from the west, so far has He removed 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 but dust. As for man, his days are like grass; as a flower of the field, so he flourishes. For the wind passes over it, and it is gone, and its place remembers it no more. But the mercy of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting on those who fear Him, and His righteousness to children's children, to such as keep His covenant, and to those who remember His commandments to do them. The Lord has established His throne in heaven, and His kingdom rules over all. Bless the Lord, You His angels, who excel in strength, who do His word, heeding the voice of His word. Bless the Lord, all you His hosts, you ministers of His, who do His pleasure. Bless the Lord, all His works, in all places of His dominion. Bless the Lord, O my soul!

In all places of His dominion, bless the Lord, O my soul!

Psalm 143 (LXX 142)

Hear my prayer, O Lord, give ear to my supplications! In Your faithfulness answer me, and in Your righteousness. Do not enter into judgment with Your servant, for in Your sight no one living is righteous. For the enemy has persecuted my soul; He has crushed my life to the ground; He has made me dwell in darkness, like those who have long been dead. Therefore my spirit is overwhelmed within me; my heart within me is distressed. I remember the days

of old; I meditate on all Your works; I muse on the work of Your hands. I spread out my hands to You; my soul longs for You like a thirsty land. Answer me speedily, O Lord; my spirit fails! Do not hide Your face from me, lest I be like those who go down into the pit. Cause me to hear Your loving-kindness in the morning, for in You do I trust; cause me to know the way in which I should walk, for I lift up my soul to you. Deliver me, O Lord, from my enemies; in You I take shelter. Teach me to do Your will, for You are my God; Your Spirit is good. Lead me in the land of uprightness. Revive me, O Lord, for Your name's sake! For Your righteousness' sake bring my soul out of trouble. In Your mercy cut off my enemies, and destroy all those who afflict my soul; for I am Your servant.

O Lord, give ear to my supplications and do not enter into judgment with Your servant. (2x)

Your Spirit is good. Lead me in the land of uprightness.

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 You, O God. (3x)

O our God and our Hope, glory to You.

The Twelve Morning Prayers

The priest pray these prayers quietly during the Six Psalms..

The Great Litany

DEACON: In peace let us pray to the Lord.

PEOPLE: Lord, have mercy.

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

PEOPLE: Lord, have mercy.

DEACON: For the peace of the whole world, for the good estate of the holy churches of God, and for the union of all men, let us pray to the Lord.

PEOPLE: Lord, have mercy.

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

PEOPLE: Lord, have mercy.

DEACON: For our father, (*metropolitan, archbishop, or bishop*) N., the honorable presbytery, the diaconate in Christ, and for all the clergy and the people, let us pray to the Lord.

PEOPLE: Lord, have mercy.

DEACON: For our president, all civil authorities, and for our armed forces, let us pray to the Lord.

PEOPLE: Lord, have mercy.

DEACON: For this city, every city and countryside, and for the faithful living in them, let us pray to the Lord.

PEOPLE: Lord, have mercy.

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

PEOPLE: Lord, have mercy.

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

PEOPLE: Lord, have mercy.

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

PEOPLE: Lord, have mercy.

DEACON: Help us, save us, have mercy on us, and keep us, O God, by Your grace.

PEOPLE: Lord, have mercy.

DEACON: Calling to remembrance 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.

PEOPLE: To You, O Lord.

Exclamation of the First Morning Prayer

PRIEST: For unto You are due all glory, honor, and worship: to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

PEOPLE: Amen.

“God is the Lord...” - Psalm 118 (LXX 117) - Tone 2

God is the Lord, Who has shown us light. Blessed is He Who comes in the name of the Lord.

O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good; for His mercy endures forever.

God is the Lord...

Troparion - “The Noble Joseph...” (Special metered version)

The Noble Joseph did take Your most pure body down
From off the Cross and did make with linen clean a shroud.
Anointing it with spices, and pouring out perfume,
He then so gently laid it within his own new tomb.

When You to death descended, O deathless Life of all,
Your light divine so splendid destroyed the reign of hell.
Its captive slaves delivered, all heaven sang anew;
“O Christ our God, Life-giver, all glory be to You.

The angel who was standing and watching at Your tomb
Said to the women bearing more spices and perfume:
“Indeed it's truly fitting to bring myrrh for the dead,
But Christ Himself, though dying, Has death's corruption shed.”

The Lamentations
Psalm 119 with Special Troparia

The First Stasis - Tone 5

Blessed are You, O Lord! Teach me Your statutes!

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

1. In a tomb they laid You,
O Christ the Life.

The angelic hosts were overcome with awe,
and glorified Your condescension.

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

2. O Life, how can You die?

How can You dwell in a tomb?

Yet by Your death You have destroyed the reign of death,
and raised all the dead from hell.

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

3. We magnify You,

O Jesus, our King.

We worship Your passion and Your burial,
for by these, You have saved us from death.

You have commanded Your precepts / to be diligently kept.

4. Earth's bounds You have measured,

O Jesus, King of all,

yet today You dwell in a narrow tomb,
raising the dead from their graves.

O that my ways may be steadfast / in keeping Your statutes!

5. O Messiah, Jesus,

my King, the Lord of all,

whom are You seeking in the depths of hell?

Have You come to free the race of mortal men?

Then I shall not be put to shame, having my eyes fixed on all Your countenances.

6. Lo, the sov'reign Ruler

of creation is dead.

Almighty God is laid in a new tomb,
to empty the graves of all their dead.

I will praise You with an upright heart, when I learn Your righteous ordinances.

7. In a tomb they laid You,

O Christ the Life.

By Your death You have cast down the might of death
and become the font of life for all the world.

I will observe Your statutes; O forsake me not utterly.

8. You have been numbered,
among transgressors, O Christ.

You have justified us all, O Lamb of God,
by freeing us from the devil's works.

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

9. You, O Lord are fairer
than all the sons of men.

You have filled creation with Your beauty,
How can You lie before us dead this day?

With my whole heart I seek You; let me not wander from Your commandments.

10. How could hell bear Your coming
and not shatter at once?

Death is blinded by Your splendor, O Lord.

Its gloom is scattered by Your dazzling light.

I have hidden Your word in my heart, that I might not sin against You.

11. O Jesus, my salvation,
my sweetness, my light!

How are You hidden in a dark tomb?

O patience, past our strength to understand!

Blessed are You, O Lord! Teach me Your statutes.

12. The spiritual powers
and the angelic hosts

stand in silence, overcome with wonder

before the awesome myst'ry of Your tomb.

With my lips I declare / all the ordinances of Your mouth.

13. A new and strange wonder!

He Who gave me life and breath

now is lifeless, breathless, carried to the tomb

and buried by Joseph's hands.

I will delight in Your statutes; I will not forget Your word.

16. O Christ, Creator,
You were laid within a tomb.
Hell's foundations quaked and trembled, seeing You
opening the graves of mortal men.

Remember Your word to Your servant, in which You have made me hope.

50. Your passion, I worship;
Your burial, I praise;
Your power, I magnify, O Loving Lord;
for from corrupting passions You have set me free.

This is my comfort in my affliction, that Your promise gives me life.

51. A sword was sharpened
against You, O Christ,
but the sword of the strong foe was blunted,
and the sword that guards Eden was turned back.

Godless men utterly deride me, but I do not turn away from Your law.

52. The Ewe saw her Lamb slaughtered
and cried aloud in grief.
She was pierced with anguish, and the flock of Christ
assembled to join her lament.

I hasten and do not delay / to keep Your commandments.

61. "My heart's desire, O Jesus!
Woe to me, my Light!
Woe to me, O Light of the world!"
cried the Virgin in her bitter grief.

Before I was humbled I went astray, but now I keep Your word.

68. "Who will give me water,
a spring for my tears,
that I may weep for my sweet Jesus?"
cried the Virgin Bride of God.

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

74. O Word of God, we praise You,
the Lord of all the world,
with Your Father and Your Holy Spirit,
and we glorify Your holy burial.

Now and ever / and unto ages of ages. Amen.

75. We bless you, O Virgin
Birth-giver of God.
And with faithful hearts we praise the burial
endured by your Son and our God.

The priest censes one time around the Shroud while the deacon with a candle goes opposite.

Repeat the first troparion.

1. In a tomb they laid You,
O Christ the Life.

The angelic hosts were overcome with awe,
and glorified Your condescension.

The Little Litany

DEACON: Again and again, in peace let us pray to the Lord.

PEOPLE: Lord, have mercy.

DEACON: Help us, save us, have mercy on us, and keep us, O God, by Your grace.

PEOPLE: Lord, have mercy.

DEACON: Calling to remembrance 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.

PEOPLE: To You, O Lord.

PRIEST: Blessed and glorified is the majesty of Your kingdom: of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

PEOPLE: Amen.

The Second Stasis – Tone 5

1. It is right to magnify You,
O Life-giving Lord.

You have stretched out Your most pure arms upon the cross,
and broken the enemy's power.

Your hands have made and fashioned me; give me understanding that I may learn Your commandments.

2. It is right to magnify You,
O Creator of all.

We are freed from passion through Your Passion,
and delivered from corruption.

Those who fear You shall see me and rejoice, because I have hoped in Your word.

3. 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.

Godless men have dug pitfalls for me, men who do not conform to Your law.

14. "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."

I will never forget Your precepts; for by them You have given me life.

22. "I am torn asunder with grief;
my heart is wounded unto death,
seeing You unjustly slaughtered, O my Son,"
said the all-pure Virgin in her tears.

I am Yours, save me; for I have sought Your precepts.

23. "How shall I close Your lips, O Word,
and Your eyes so sweet?
How shall I prepare Your Body for the tomb?"
Joseph cried in trembling.

The wicked lie in wait to destroy me, but I consider Your testimonies.

24. Joseph and Nicodemus
now sing hymns of burial,
as they stand before the tomb of Christ the Lord,
and with them sing the seraphim.

I do not turn aside from Your ordinances, for You have taught me.

31. A stone hewn by human hands
conceals the Cornerstone,
and a mortal man hides God within a tomb.
Be shaken and tremble, O earth!

How sweet are Your words to my taste, sweeter than honey to my mouth!

32. "Behold, the disciple You have loved
and Your own Mother!
Let us hear Your voice again, my sweetest Child,"
cried the Pure One, weeping.

Through Your precepts I gain understanding, therefore I hate every false way.

33. Though Your people nailed You to a Cross,
You did not destroy them,
but raised up their fathers from the dead, O Word,
as You are the Giver of Life.

Your word is a lamp to my feet, and a light to my path.

34. No form or beauty did You have
when You did suffer,
but when You were clothed in resurrection light,
You beautified the human race.

My soul is continually in Your hands, and I have not forgotten Your law.

38. Adam slept, and from his side came Eve;
who brought death to all flesh.

You have slept a blessed sleep, O Word of God,
and from Your side flows life for all the world.

The wicked have laid a snare for me, but I do not stray from Your precepts.

39. You have slept a little while,
and brought the dead to life.

You have raised up all who slept from every age,
by Your Resurrection, loving Lord.

Depart from me, you evildoers, and I will keep the commandments of my God.

44. Wounded in Your side, O Word,
like the pelican

You have given life to Your dead children,
with the life-giving drops of Your blood.

My eyes fail with watching for Your salvation, for the fulfillment of Your righteous promise.

52. O my Jesus, Light invisible,
when the sun beheld You

hidden without breath inside a tomb of stone,
it trembled and darkened its light.

Deal with Your servant according to Your mercy, and teach me Your statutes.

53. Your all-blameless Mother
wept most bitterly,

when she saw You laid within the tomb, O Word,
ineffable, eternal, God.

I am Your servant; / give me understanding, that I may know Your testimonies.

54. Your undefiled Mother,
when she saw You die,

cried to You, O Christ, in bitter sorrow:
“Do not tarry among the dead, O Life.”

It is time for the Lord to act, for they have broken Your law.

55. Hell, who had filled all men with fear,
trembled at the sight of You,
and in haste he yielded up his prisoners,
O Immortal Sun of Glory.

With open mouth I pant, because I long for Your commandments.

60. All Your faithful people, O Christ,
singing hymns of praise,
bless Your crucifixion and Your burial,
by which we are ransomed from death.

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

61. O God without beginning,

Eternal Word and Spirit,
help Your people to prevail against the foe,
as You are the Lover of mankind.

Now and ever / and unto ages of ages. Amen.

62. 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.

The priest censes one time around the Shroud while the deacon with a candle goes opposite.

We repeat the first troparion.

1. It is right to magnify You,
O Life-giving Lord,
You have stretched out Your most pure arms upon the cross,
and broken the enemy's power.

The Little Litany

DEACON: Again and again, in peace let us pray to the Lord.

PEOPLE: Lord, have mercy.

DEACON: Help us, save us, have mercy on us, and keep us, O God, by Your grace.

PEOPLE: Lord, have mercy.

DEACON: Calling to remembrance 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.

PEOPLE: To You, O Lord.

PRIEST: For holy are You, O our God, Who sit on the throne of the glory of the cherubim, and unto You we ascribe glory: to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

PEOPLE: Amen.

The Third Stasis – Tone 3

1. Every generation
offers You its hymn of praise
at Your burial, O my Christ.

Look upon me and be merciful to me, / as is Your good pleasure toward those who love Your name.

2. The Arimathean
took You down from the tree
and laid You in a tomb.

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

3. The myrrhbearing women,
with foresight brought sweet spices
and drew near to You, O my Christ.

Deliver me from the false accusations of men, that I may keep Your precepts.

4. Come, all creation,
sing a hymn to honor
the Creator's burial.

Make Your face to shine upon Your servant, and teach me Your statutes.

5. Let us, with the myrrhbearers,
anoint as dead the Living One
with the Myrrh of True Knowledge.

My eyes shed streams of tears, because men do not keep Your law.

6. O thrice blessed Joseph,
bury now the body
of Christ the Giver of Life.

Righteous are You, O Lord, / and right are Your judgments.

7. You fed Your people
with manna in the desert,
but they raised their heel against You.

You have appointed Your testimonies / in righteousness and in all faithfulness.

8. You fed the nations,
filling them with bounty.
They repay You with gall and vinegar.

My zeal consumes me, because my foes forget Your words.

9. O the folly
of those who killed the prophets!
Now they slay the Messiah.

Your promise is well tried in the fire, and Your servant loves it.

10. Judas the disciple,
like a foolish servant,
has betrayed the Abyss of Wisdom.

I am small and despised, yet I do not forget Your precepts.

11. Judas the traitor
has become a captive
by selling His Deliverer.

Your testimonies are righteous forever; give me understanding that I may live.

14. Joseph and Nicodemus

bury the Creator
with honors fitting for the dead.

I cry with my whole heart; / hear me, O Lord! I will keep Your statutes.

15. O Life-giving Savior,
You have destroyed hell.
Unto You be might and glory!

I cry to You; save me, / that I may observe Your testimonies.

16. The All-pure Virgin wept
with a mother's grief, O Word,
when she saw You lying dead.

I rise before dawn and cry for help; I hope in Your words.

17. "O my sweet springtime,
O my sweetest Child,
where has all Your beauty faded?"

My eyes are awake before the morning, that I may meditate upon Your promise.

18. Your All-pure Mother
mourned and lamented You,
when she saw You dead, O Word.

Hear my voice according to Your lovingkindness, O Lord; / in Your judgment give me life.

19. The myrrhbearing women
came at dawn with spices
to anoint Christ, the Myrrh of God.

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

20. By dying, O my God,
You have put death to death,
through Your divine power.

But You are near, O Lord, / and all Your commandments are true.

21. The deceiver has been deceived
and those whom he deceived are freed
by Your Wisdom, O my God.

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

26. O Son of God and King of all,
my God and my Creator
how can You endure such suffering?

Many are my persecutors and my adversaries, but I do not swerve from Your testimonies.

27. As a ewe beholds her lamb,
the Virgin gazed on You with grief
when she saw You hanging on the tree.

Consider how I love Your precepts! Give me life according to Your mercy.

29. The Virgin's heart was pierced.

She shed hot tears for You,
and cried out lamenting.

The sum of Your word is truth, and every one of Your righteous ordinances endures forever.

30. "O Light of my eyes,
O my Beloved Sun,
How are You now hidden in a tomb"

I rejoice at Your word / like one who finds great spoil.

32. "O my Son, I praise You!
for Your great compassion
that led You to this suffering."

Great peace have those who love Your law; nothing can make them stumble.

35. The myrrhbearing women
came, O Savior, to Your tomb,
offering You sweet spices.

I hope for Your salvation, O Lord, and I love Your commandments.

36. Arise, O Lord all-merciful!
Raise us from the depths of hell
and from the dark abyss of sin.

My soul keeps Your testimonies; I love them exceedingly.

37. The Mother who gave birth to You
prayed to You with weeping:
"Arise, O Lord, and Giver of life!"

I keep Your precepts and testimonies, for all my ways are before You, O Lord.

38. Make haste to arise, O Word!
Take away the sorrow
of Your Virgin Mother.

Let my cry come before You, O Lord; give me understanding according to Your word!

39. All the hosts of heaven
were filled with fear and wonder
when they saw You dead, O Lord.

My tongue will sing of Your word, for all Your commandments are right.

42. When You fled to Egypt,
Joseph guarded You, O Lord.
Now another Joseph buries You.

Let Your hand be near to save me, for I have chosen Your precepts.

43. Your all-holy Mother
weeps for You, lamenting
at Your death, O my Savior.

I long for Your salvation, O Lord, / and Your law is my delight.

44. The hosts of angels tremble
at the strange and fearful sight
of Your burial, O Maker of all.

During the following troparion the priest sprinkles the Shroud and the entire Church with rose water. (This troparion may be repeated as many times as necessary, until the priest is done.)

Let my soul live, that I may praise You, / and let Your ordinances help me.

45. Early in the morning,
the myrrhbearing women
came to You and sprinkled myrrh on Your tomb.

*I have gone astray like a lost sheep; seek Your servant, for I have not forgotten
Your commandments.*

46. By Your resurrection,
grant peace to Your Church,
and salvation to Your people.

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

47. O God in Trinity,
Father, Son and Spirit,
grant Your mercy to the world.

Now and ever / and unto ages of ages. Amen.

48. Grant us, your servants,
to behold, O Virgin,
the Resurrection of your Son!

We repeat the first troparion.

1. Every generation
offers You its hymn of praise
at Your burial, O my Christ.

The Little Litany

DEACON: Again and again, in peace let us pray to the Lord.

PEOPLE: Lord, have mercy.

DEACON: Help us, save us, have mercy on us, and keep us, O God, by Your grace.

PEOPLE: Lord, have mercy.

DEACON: Calling to remembrance 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.

PEOPLE: To You, O Lord.

PRIEST: For You are the King of peace and the Savior of our souls, and unto You we ascribe glory: to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

Resurrectional Evlogetaria - Tone 5

Blessed are You, O Lord. Teach me Your statutes.

The company of the angels was amazed, when they beheld You numbered among the dead; yet You, O Savior, were destroying the power of death and with Yourself raising up Adam and releasing all men from hell.

Blessed are You, O Lord. Teach me Your statutes.

Why, O women disciples, do you mingle sweet-smelling spices with your tears of pity? The radiant angel within the sepulcher cried to the myrrh-bearing women: "Behold the grave, and understand; for the Savior is risen from the tomb."

Blessed are You, O Lord. Teach me Your statutes.

Very early in the morning the myrrh-bearing women ran lamenting to Your tomb; but an angel came toward them, saying: "The time for lamentation is passed. Do not weep, but announce to the apostles the Resurrection."

Blessed are You, O Lord. Teach me Your statutes.

The myrrh-bearing women mourned as they carried ointments and drew near Your tomb, O Savior. But the angel spoke to them, saying: "Why do you number the living among the dead? Since He is God, He is risen from the grave."

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

We adore the Father, as also His Son, and the Holy Spirit, the Holy Trinity in one essence; crying with the seraphim: "Holy, holy, holy are You, O Lord."

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

Since you bore the Giver of life, O Virgin, you redeemed Adam from sin, and gave to Eve joy in place of sadness; and He Who was incarnate of you, Who is both God and man, has restored to life those who had fallen from it.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia. Glory to You, O God. (3x)

O our God and our hope, glory to You.

Psalm 51 (LXX 50)

Have mercy upon me, O God, according to Your loving-kindness; according to the multitude of Your tender mercies, blot out my transgressions. Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin. For I acknowledge my transgressions, and my sin is always before me. Against You, You only, have

I sinned, and done this evil in Your sight — that You may be found just when You speak, and blameless when You judge. Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, and in sins my mother conceived me. Behold, You desire truth in the inward parts, and in the hidden part You will make me to know wisdom. Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow. Make me hear joy and gladness, that the bones You have broken may rejoice. Hide Your face from my sins, and blot out all my iniquities. Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me. Do not cast me away from Your presence, and do not take Your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of Your salvation, and uphold me by Your generous Spirit. Then I will teach transgressors Your ways, and sinners shall be converted to You. Deliver me from the guilt of bloodshed, O God, the God of my salvation, and my tongue shall sing aloud of Your righteousness. O Lord, open my lips, and my mouth shall show forth Your praise. For You do not desire sacrifice, or else I would give it; You do not delight in burnt offering. The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit, a broken and a contrite heart — these, O God, You will not despise. Do good in Your good pleasure to Zion; build the walls of Jerusalem. Then You shall be pleased with the sacrifices of righteousness, with burnt offering and whole burnt offering; then they shall offer bulls on Your altar.

Kathisma Hymns – Tone 1

Joseph begged Your 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 myrrhbearing women cried out:
“As You have foretold, O Christ,
show us the Resurrection!”

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

“As You have foretold, O Christ,
show us the 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!

Matins Canon: Ode 1 - Tone 6 *(may be abbreviated)*

Irmos: Of old You buried the pursuing tyrant beneath the waves of the sea. Now the children of those who were saved bury You beneath the earth, but like the maidens let us sing to the Lord, for gloriously has He been glorified.

Refrain: Glory to You, our God, glory to You.

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

Refrain: Glory to You, our God, glory to You.

Beholding You upon the throne and on high and in the grave below, the things of heaven and the things beneath the earth trembled at Your death; for in a manner past understanding were You, the very Source of life, seen dead.

Refrain: Glory to You, our God, glory to You.

You descended to the depths of the earth to fill all with Your glory; for my person that is in Adam was not hidden from You, and when You were buried, You renewed me who am corrupt, O Lover of mankind.

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

The Irmos is repeated.

Ode 3

Irmos: You suspended the earth immovably upon the waters. Now creation beholds You suspended on Calvary. It quakes with great amazement and cries: "None is holy but You, O Lord."

Refrain: Glory to You, our God, glory to You.

By a multitude of visions You indicated the signs of Your burial, O Master. But now, as God and man, You make clear Your hidden things even unto those in hell, who cry: "None is holy but You, O Lord."

Refrain: Glory to You, our God, glory to You.

You have stretched out Your hands, O Savior, and united what before had been divided; and by clothing Yourself in a winding sheet You have saved even those held captive by the tomb, who cry: "None is holy but You, O Lord."

Refrain: Glory to You, our God, glory to You.

By Your will a sealed tomb contained You, Who cannot be contained; for by Your divine accomplishments You have made known Your power unto those who sing: "None is holy but You, O Lord Who love mankind."

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

The Irmos is repeated.

Kathisma Hymn - Tone 1

The soldiers guarding Your tomb, O Savior, became as dead men at the lightning flash of the angel who appeared announcing Your Resurrection to the women. We glorify You, who cleanse from corruption. We fall down before You, Who rose from the tomb, our only God.

Matins Canon: Ode 4

Irmos: Foreseeing Your divine humiliation on the cross, Habakkuk cried out trembling: “You shattered the dominion of the mighty by joining those in hell as the almighty Lord.”

Refrain: Glory to You, our God, glory to You.

You have sanctified this, the seventh day, which of old You blessed by rest from work; for You bring all things into being and renew them, O my Savior, while resting and reviving on the Sabbath.

Refrain: Glory to You, our God, glory to You.

By the overwhelming strength of Your divine nature You won the victory, O Word; for Your soul was parted from the flesh, sundering by Your might the bonds of hell and death.

Refrain: Glory to You, our God, glory to You.

When hell encountered You, O Word, it was embittered. Seeing You as a mortal man deified, marked with wounds yet having almighty power, it cried out at Your awesome presence.

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

The Irmos is repeated.

Ode 5

Irmos: Isaiah saw the never-setting light of Your 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.”

Refrain: Glory to You, our God, glory to You.

When You became earthly, O Creator, You renewed those born on earth, and the winding sheet and the grave revealed the mystery concerning You, O Word; for Joseph the noble counselor, fulfills the counsel of Him Who begot You and Who wondrously renews me in You.

Refrain: Glory to You, our God, glory to You.

Through death You transform what is mortal, and through burial You transform what is corruptible; for in a manner befitting God You make incorrupt and immortal the nature which You have assumed, since Your flesh did not see corruption and in a wondrous manner Your soul was not abandoned in hell.

Refrain: Glory to You, our God, glory to You.

You came forth from a painless birth, O my Maker, and Your side was pierced. By this have You, the new Adam, accomplished the restoration of Eve. You fell into a sleep surpassing nature and renewing nature, and, as the all-powerful One, You raised up life from sleep and corruption.

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

The Irmos is repeated.

Ode 6

Irmos: Jonah was caught but not held fast in the belly of the whale. He was a sign of You Who have 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."

Refrain: Glory to You, our God, glory to You.

You were killed, O Word, but not separated from the flesh which You share with us; for even though the temple of Your body was destroyed at the time of the passion, the Person of Your divinity and of Your flesh was one, for in both You remain one Son, Word of God, God and man.

Refrain: Glory to You, our God, glory to You.

The fall of Adam resulted in the death of man, not God; for even though the earthly substance of Your flesh suffered, Your divinity remained passionless. In Yourself You have transformed the corruptible to incorruption, and by Your resurrection You have revealed a fountain of incorruptible life.

Refrain: Glory to You, our God, glory to You.

Hell rules the race of mortal men, but not eternally; for when You were placed in the grave, O powerful One, You tore asunder the bars of death by Your life-creating hand and proclaimed true deliverance to those sleeping there from the ages, since You, O Savior, have become the first-born of the dead.

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

The Irmos is repeated.

Kontakion - Tone 6

He Who shut 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

He Who holds all things together has been lifted up 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: "This is the most blessed Sabbath on which Christ has fallen asleep to rise on the third day."

Matins Canon: Ode 7

Irmos: Inexpressible wonder! In the furnace You saved the holy youths from the flame. Now You are placed in the grave as a lifeless corpse, for the salvation of us who sing: “Blessed are You, O God, our Redeemer!”

Refrain: Glory to You, our God, glory to You.

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 are You, O God, our Redeemer!”

Refrain: Glory to You, our God, glory to You.

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 are You, O God, our Redeemer!”

Refrain: Glory to You, our God, glory to You.

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 are You, O God, our Redeemer!”

Refrain: Glory to You, our God, glory to You.

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 are You, O God, our Redeemer!”

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

The Irmos is repeated.

Ode 8

Irmos: Be amazed, O heavens! Be shaken, O foundations of the earth! Behold, He Who dwells in the highest is numbered among the dead and sheltered in a lowly tomb. Bless Him, O youths! Praise Him, O priests! O people, exalt Him above all forever!

Refrain: Glory to You, our God, glory to You.

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 people, exalt Him above all forever!

Refrain: Glory to You, our God, glory to You.

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 people, exalt Him above all forever!

Refrain: Glory to You, our God, glory to You.

What new wonders! What great goodness! What ineffable forbearance! For He Who dwells in the highest is willingly sealed beneath the earth, and God is slandered as a deceiver. Bless Him, O youths! Praise Him, O priests! O people, exalt Him above all forever!

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

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

The Irmos is repeated.

Ode 9

DEACON: The Theotokos and Mother of the Light, let us honor and magnify in song.

The deacon does a great censuring of the church in the usual manner.

Irmos: Weep not for Me, O Mother, beholding in the tomb the Son Whom you have conceived without seed in your womb. For I shall arise and be glorified, and as God I shall exalt in everlasting glory those who magnify you with faith and love.

Refrain: Glory to You, our God, glory to You.

“I escaped sufferings and was blessed beyond nature at Your strange birth, O Son Who are without beginning. But now, beholding You, my God, dead and without breath, I am sorely pierced by the sword of sorrow. But arise, that I may be magnified.”

Refrain: Glory to You, our God, glory to You.

“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.”

Refrain: Glory to You, our God, glory to You.

“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!”

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

The Irmos is repeated.

The Little Litany

DEACON: Again and again, in peace let us pray to the Lord.

PEOPLE: Lord, have mercy.

DEACON: Help us, save us, have mercy on us, and keep us, O God, by Your grace.

PEOPLE: Lord, have mercy.

DEACON: Calling to remembrance 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.

PEOPLE: To You, O Lord.

PRIEST: For all the powers of heaven praise You, and unto You we ascribe glory: to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

“Holy is the Lord our God...”

Holy is the Lord our God. (3x).

The Praises – Tone 2

Psalm 148

Let everything that has breath praise the Lord. Praise the Lord from the heavens; praise Him in the heights! To You, O God, is due a song.

Praise Him, all His angels; praise Him, all His hosts! To You, O God, is due a song.

Praise Him, sun and moon; praise Him, all you stars of light!

Praise Him, you heavens of heavens, and you waters above the heavens!

Let them praise the name of the Lord, for He commanded and they were created. He also established them forever and ever; He made a decree which shall not pass away.

Psalm 150

Praise God in His sanctuary; praise Him in His mighty firmament!

Praise Him for His mighty acts; praise Him according to His excellent greatness!

(Tone 2)

Today a tomb holds Him Who holds creation in the hollow 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 Your plan of salvation! By it You have fulfilled all things, granting us an eternal Sabbath rest: Your most holy resurrection from the dead!

Praise Him with the sound of the trumpet; praise Him with the lute and harp!

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 You reign forever and ever, and beyond measure is Your great mercy.

Praise Him with the timbrel and dance; praise Him with stringed instruments and flutes!

Come, let us see our Life lying in the tomb, to give life to those who lie dead in the tombs. Come, and look today on the Son of Judah sleeping; with Jacob the patriarch let us cry to Him: "You have stooped down; You have crouched as a lion; who dares rouse You up, O King?" But arise in Your own power, O You Who willingly give Yourself for us. O Lord, glory to You!

Praise Him with loud cymbals; praise Him with clashing cymbals! Let everything that has breath praise the Lord.

Joseph asked for the body of Jesus and placed it in his own new tomb. It was fitting for the Lord to come forth from the grave as from a bridal chamber. You have destroyed the dominion of death. You have opened to men the gates of paradise. O Lord, glory to You!

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

(Tone 6)

Moses the Great mystically prefigured this day, saying: "And 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 once again to what He was, He has granted us eternal life through His Resurrection, for He alone is good, and loves mankind."

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

Most blessed are you, O Virgin Theotokos, for through Him Who was incarnate of you Hades is plundered, Adam is recalled from the dead, the curse is made void, Eve is set free, death is slain, and we are given life. Therefore, in hymns of praise, we cry aloud: "Blessed are You, O Christ our God, Who are thus well pleased. Glory to You."

The Great Doxology

While the Great Doxology is sung the priest goes three times around the Shroud, censuring it from the four sides.

Glory to You, Who have shown us the light. Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will among men.

We praise You, we bless You, we worship You, we glorify You, we give thanks to You for Your great glory.

O Lord King, heavenly God, Father Almighty; O Lord, the only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ; and O Holy Spirit.

O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, Who take away the sin of the world, have mercy on us, You Who take away the sins of the world

Receive our prayer, You Who sit at the right hand of the Father, and have mercy on us.

For You only are holy, You only are the Lord, O Jesus Christ, to the glory of God the Father. Amen.

Every day I will bless You, and I will praise Your name forever; yes, forever and ever.

Grant, O Lord, to keep us this day without sin.

Blessed are You, O Lord the God of our fathers, and praised and glorified is Your name forever. Amen.

Let Your mercy, O Lord, be upon us, as we have set our hope on You.

Blessed are You, O Lord; teach me Your statutes. (3x)

Lord, You have been our refuge from generation to generation. I said: "Be merciful unto me; heal my soul, for I have sinned against You."

Lord, I have fled to You; teach me to do Your will, for You are my God.

For with You is the fountain of life; in Your light we shall see light.

Continue Your mercy to those who know You.

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.

Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal: have mercy on us.

The Procession with the Shroud

PEOPLE: Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal, have mercy on us.

The clergy take up the Bier on which rests the Shroud, and with the people make a procession around the outside of the Church. When the procession returns to the porch the Bier is held in front of the door and all the people venerate the Gospel held by the priest and enter under the Bier into the Church.

PRIEST: Wisdom! Let us attend.

Troparion - "The Noble Joseph..." (Special metered version)

When You to death descended, O deathless Life of all,
Your light divine so splendid destroyed the reign of hell.
Its captive slaves delivered, all heaven sang anew;
"O Christ our God, Life-giver, all glory be to You.

The Noble Joseph did take Your most pure body down
From off the Cross and did make with linen clean a shroud.
Anointing it with spices, and pouring out perfume,
He then so gently laid it within his own new tomb.

The angel who was standing and watching at Your tomb
Said to the women bearing more spices and perfume:
“Indeed it's truly fitting to bring myrrh for the dead,
But Christ Himself, though dying, Has death's corruption shed.”

Troparion of the Prophecy: Tone 2

O Christ, Who hold fast the ends of the earth, You have consented to be held fast
in the tomb, to deliver man from his fall into hell, and, as Immortal God, You
have given us life and immortality!

Prokeimenon / Psalm 44 - Tone 4

Arise, O Lord, and help us! Deliver us for Your name's sake.

*Verse: We have heard with our ears, O God, our fathers have told us what
deeds You perform in their days, in the days of old.*

The Old Testament Reading – Ezekiel 37:1-14

DEACON: Wisdom!

READER: The reading from the Prophecy of the Holy Prophet Ezekiel.

DEACON: Let us attend!

READER: *(The reader reads Ezekiel 37:1-14.)*

Prokeimenon / Psalm 9 - Tone 7

Arise, O Lord, my God, lift up Your hand! Forget not Your poor forever!

*Verse: I will praise You, O Lord my God, with all my heart; I will make all
Your wonders known!*

The Epistle Reading

1 Corinthians 5:6-8 Galatians 3:13-14

DEACON: Wisdom!

READER: The reading from the First Epistle of the holy Apostle Paul to the
Corinthians.

DEACON: Let us attend!

READER: 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.

The Alleluia before the Gospel: Tone 5 (Psalm 68)

Deacon censes as usual before the Gospel reading.

Verse: Let God arise! Let His enemies be scattered! Let those who hate Him flee from before His face!

PEOPLE: Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

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

PEOPLE: Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

Verse: So the sinners will perish before the face of God, but let the righteous be glad!

PEOPLE: Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

The Gospel Reading - Matthew 27:62-66

At the end of the Alleluia, the priest reads the Gospel from the holy doors.

DEACON: Wisdom. Let us attend. Let us hear the holy Gospel.

PRIEST: Peace be to all.

PEOPLE: And to your spirit.

PRIEST: The reading from the holy Gospel according to Saint Matthew.

PEOPLE: Glory to You, O Lord. Glory to You.

DEACON: Let us attend.

PRIEST: On the next day, which followed the Day of Preparation, the chief priests and Pharisees gathered together to Pilate, saying, "Sir, we remember, while He was still alive, how that deceiver said, 'After three days I will rise.' Therefore command that the tomb be made secure until the third day, lest His disciples come by night and steal Him away, and say to the people, 'He has risen from the dead.' So the last deception will be worse than the first." Pilate said to them, "You have a guard; go your way, make it as secure as you know how." So they went and made the tomb secure, sealing the stone and setting the guard.

PEOPLE: Glory to You, O Lord. Glory to You.

The Litany of Fervent Supplication / The Ektenia

DEACON: Have mercy on us, O God, according to Your great mercy, hear us we pray, and have mercy.

PEOPLE: Lord, have mercy. (3x)

DEACON: Again we pray for all pious and Orthodox Christians; for our father, (*metropolitan, archbishop, or bishop*) N.; for our brethren: the priests, deacons, and monastics and for all our brotherhood in Christ.

PEOPLE: Lord, have mercy. (3x)

DEACON: Again we pray for the blessed and ever-memorable founders of this holy church (*and for the servants of God NN.*) and for all our fathers and brethren, the Orthodox departed this life before us, who here and in all the world lie asleep in the Lord.

PEOPLE: Lord, have mercy. (3x)

DEACON: Again we pray for mercy, life, peace, health, salvation, and visitation, and for pardon and forgiveness of sins for *(the servants of God NN., and)* all Orthodox Christians of true worship, who live and dwell in this community.

PEOPLE: Lord, have mercy. (3x)

DEACON: Again we pray for those who bear fruit and do good works in this holy and all-venerable temple; for those who serve and those who sing; and for all the people here present, who await Your great and rich mercy.

PEOPLE: Lord, have mercy. (3x)

PRIEST: For You are a merciful God and love mankind, and unto You we ascribe glory: to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

PEOPLE: Amen.

The Morning Litany

DEACON: Let us complete our [morning] prayer to the Lord.

PEOPLE: Lord, have mercy.

DEACON: Help us, save us, have mercy on us, and keep us, O God, by Your grace.

PEOPLE: Lord, have mercy.

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

PEOPLE: Grant this, O Lord.

DEACON: For an angel of peace, a faithful guide, a guardian of our souls and bodies, let us ask of the Lord.

PEOPLE: Grant this, O Lord.

DEACON: For pardon and forgiveness of our sins and transgressions, let us ask of the Lord.

PEOPLE: Grant this, O Lord.

DEACON: For all things good and profitable for our souls, and peace for the world, let us ask of the Lord.

PEOPLE: Grant this, O Lord.

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

PEOPLE: Grant this, O Lord.

DEACON: For a Christian ending to our life, painless, blameless, and peaceful, and for a good defense before the fearful judgment seat of Christ, let us ask of the Lord.

PEOPLE: Grant this, O Lord.

DEACON: Calling to remembrance 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.

PEOPLE: To You, O Lord.

PRIEST: For You are the God of mercy and compassion and love toward mankind, and unto You we ascribe glory: to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

PEOPLE: Amen.

PRIEST: Peace be to all.

PEOPLE: And to your spirit.

The Prayer with Heads Bowed

DEACON: Let us bow our heads to the Lord.

PEOPLE: To You, O Lord.

PRIEST: O holy Lord, Who dwell on high and regard the humble of heart and with Your all-seeing eye behold all creation, to You have we bowed the neck of our soul and body, and we entreat You, O Holy of holies: Stretch forth Your invisible hand from Your holy dwelling-place and bless us all. And if in anything we have sinned, whether voluntarily or involuntarily, forgive us, inasmuch as You are a good God, and love mankind; granting us Your earthly and heavenly good things.

For Yours it is to show mercy and to save us, O our God, and unto You we ascribe glory: to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

PEOPLE: Amen.

The Blessing and Dismissal

DEACON: Wisdom.

PEOPLE: Father, bless.

PRIEST: Christ our God, the Existing One, is blessed always, now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

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

PRIEST: Most-holy Theotokos, save us.

PEOPLE: More honorable than the cherubim, and more glorious beyond compare than the seraphim, who without corruption gave birth to God the Word, and are truly Theotokos, we magnify you.

PRIEST: Glory to You, O Christ, our God and our hope, glory to You.

PEOPLE: 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) Father, bless.

PRIEST: May Christ our true God, *Who endured fearful sufferings, the life-giving Cross, and voluntary burial in the flesh, on behalf of us men and for our salvation*, through the intercessions of His all-pure and all-blameless, holy Mother, by the protection of the honorable, bodiless powers of heaven, through the prayers of (*N., patron of the church*), of the holy and righteous ancestors of God, Joachim and Anna, and of all the saints, have mercy on us and save us, for He is good and loves mankind.

Through the prayers of our holy fathers, Lord Jesus Christ, our God, have mercy on us and save us.

PEOPLE: Amen.

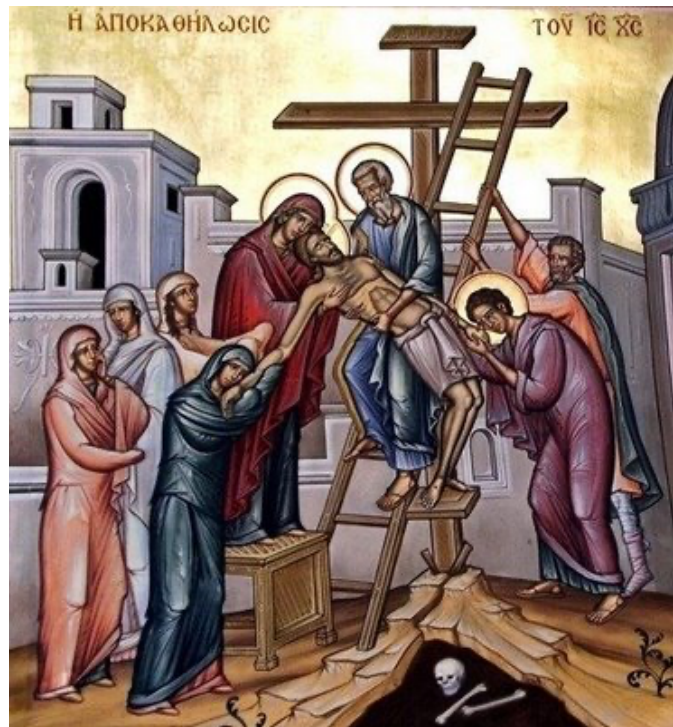
Come Let Us Bless Joseph

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 and beloved of my bosom! For what Simeon foretold in the temple now has come to pass: A sword has pierced my heart, but change my grief to gladness by Your Resurrection!”

We worship Your Passion, O Christ! We worship Your Passion, O Christ!
We worship Your Passion, O Christ and Your holy Resurrection!



Weep Not, O Mother (Special metered version, "Fairest, Lord Jesus")

“Weep not, O Mother, weep not for Me, for Me,
Your own dear Son born from your womb;
Weep not though now you see Him born in purity
Here lying in a cold, stone tomb.

“For I shall rise again, and shall be glorified,
And then as God shall glorify.
For all eternity all who do lovingly
You My true mother magnify.”

“O Son eternal, born through a miracle,
At Your strange birth I felt no pain;
But sharp swords pierce through me.
As You now dead I see.
My Son, my God, O live again!”

