

MATINS OF GREAT AND HOLY SATURDAY

The priest, vested in epitrachelion, opens the curtain and takes the censer and begins:

Deacon: Master, bless!

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

Reader: Amen.

Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, Good Will among men. (3x)

Lord, you will open my lips and my mouth will proclaim Your praise. (2x)

During the first three psalms the priest takes the SKOUFIA OFF and reads the first six prayers of the light from before the holy table. When the people finish the third psalm and say "Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit. . ." the priest exits the sanctuary and reads the remaining prayers of the light from before the icon of Christ:

SIT

Psalm 3

A psalm to David, when he escaped from the face of Abesalom his son.

Lord, why did the one who afflict me multiply? Many rise up upon me.

² Many tell my soul, There is not salvation for him in his God.

³ But you, O Lord, are the one who takes hold of me, my glory, and the one who lifts up my head.

⁴ With my voice I cried to the Lord, and he heard me from his holy mountain.

⁵ And I lay down and fell asleep, I was awakened, that the Lord will take hold of me.

⁶ I will not be frightened by tens of thousands of people who round about set up together upon me.

⁷ Rise, O God, save me, my God, for you struck all those who are at enmity with me for nothing, the teeth of sinners you shattered.

⁸ Salvation is the Lord's, and your blessing upon your people.

Psalm 37

A psalm to David, for remembrance concerning the Sabbath.

Lord, do not rebuke me in your anger, nor chastise me in your wrath.

² For your arrows stuck fast in me, and you laid your hand hard upon me.

³ There is not healing in my flesh from the Face of your wrath, there is not peace in my bones from the face of my sins.

⁴ For my iniquities rose over my head, like a heavy burden they weighed upon me.

⁵ My bruises stank and rotted, from the face of my mindlessness.

⁶ I was wretched and was bent down utterly, all the day I walked about glooming.

⁷ For my loins were filled with mockings, and there is not healing in my flesh.

⁸ I was distressed and was humbled greatly, I howled from the groaning of my heart.

⁹ Lord, in front of you – all my desire, and my groaning from you was not hidden.

¹⁰ My heart was troubled, my strength forsook me, and the light of my eyes, it too is not with me.

¹¹ My friends and my neighbors drew near in front of me and stood, and those nearest me stood from afar off.

¹² The ones who seek my soul used force, and the ones who seek bad things for me spoke vanities, and were thoughtful of deceits all the day.

¹³ But as for me I, like someone deaf, did not hear, and, like someone mute who does not open his mouth.

¹⁴ And I became like the one who does not hear, and who does not have reproofs in his mouth.

¹⁵ For in you, O Lord, I have hoped; you will hear, O Lord my God.

¹⁶ For I said, Only let not my enemies be joyful over me. And when my feet faltered, they spoke boastfully over me.

¹⁷ For I am prepared for whippings, and my pain is always before me.

¹⁸ For I will proclaim my iniquity, and will worry about my sin.

¹⁹ But my enemies live and prevailed over me, and the ones who hate me unjustly multiplied.

²⁰ The ones who repay me bad things for good accused me, since I closely pursued goodness.

²¹ Do not forsake me, O Lord. My God, do not keep away from me. Attend to my help, Lord of my salvation.

Psalm 62

A psalm to David, when he was in the wilderness of Judea.

O God, my God, at dawn I keep vigil for you. My soul has thirsted for you, how often my flesh – for you in a desert land, untrodden, and waterless.

² Thus I appeared to you in the holy place, to see your Power and your Glory.

³ For your mercy – better than lives, my lips will praise you.

⁴ Thus I will bless you in my life, and in your name I will lift up my hands.

⁵ That my soul be filled with marrow and fatness, my mouth will praise you with lips of rejoicing.

⁶ If I remembered you upon my bed, at dawn I was thoughtful of you.

⁷ For you became my helper, and in the shelter of your wings I will rejoice.

⁸ My soul cleaved to you, and your right hand took hold of me.

⁹ But in vain they sought my soul, they will go into the deepest parts of the earth, will be delivered into the hands of the sword, and will be portions for foxes.

¹⁰ But the king will be gladdened in God, everyone who swears in him will be praised, for the mouth of those who speak unrighteous things has been muzzled.

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

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia. Glory to you, O God. **(x3)**

Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy

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

When the people finish the third psalm and say “Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit. . .” the priest exits the sanctuary and reads the remaining prayers of the light from before the icon of Christ.

Psalm 87

An ode of psalm to the sons of Kore, to completion, over Maeleth, that a word be answered.

Of understanding to Aitham the Israelite.

Lord God of my salvation, I have cried by day and at night in front of you.

² Let my prayer come in front of you, incline your ear to my supplication.

³ For my soul was filled with bad things, and my life drew near to hell.

⁴ I was counted with the ones who go down to the pit, I became like a helpless man, free within the dead.

⁵ Like ones slain who sleep in a tomb, whom you no longer remembered, and they were driven away from your hand.

⁶ They put me in the lowest pit, in dark places and in shadow of death.

⁷ Your anger was laid hard upon me, and you brought all your risings upon me.

⁸ You took the ones who know me far off from me, and they made me an abomination to themselves.

⁹ I was handed over and I did not come out, my eyes weakened from poverty.

¹⁰ I cried to you, O Lord, all the day, I stretched out my hands toward you.

¹¹ Surely you will not work wonders for the dead? Or will physicians raise up again, and will confess to you?

¹² Surely someone will not describe your mercy in the tomb, and your truth in destruction?

¹³ Surely your wonders will not be known in the dark, or your righteousness in a forgotten land?

¹⁴ But I, O Lord, I cried to you, and in the morning my prayer will be before you.

¹⁵ What for, O Lord, did you drive away my soul, what for do you turn your Face from me?

¹⁶ Poor am I and in toils from my youth; and lifted up, I was humbled and brought to despair.

¹⁷ Over me your wraths spread out, and your terrors troubled me.

¹⁸ They encircled me like water, all the day they surrounded me altogether.

¹⁹ You took far off from me friend and neighbor, and the ones who know me because of my misery.

Psalm 102

To David.

Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all which are within me – his holy name.

² Bless the Lord, O my soul, and do not forget all his repayments.

³ Who is much-forgiving to all your iniquities, who heals all your diseases.

⁴ Who redeems your life from rotting, who crowns you with mercy and pities.

⁵ Who fills your desire with good things, your youth will be renewed like an eagle's.

⁶ The Lord who makes mercies, and judgment to all who are wronged.

⁷ He made known his ways to Moses, to the sons of Israel his wills.

⁸ The Lord – pitying and merciful, long-suffering and full of mercy. He will not be wrathful utterly, nor will he be enraged to the age.

⁹ Not according to our iniquities has he done to us, nor according to our sins has he repaid us.

¹⁰ For according to the height of heaven from the earth, has the Lord strengthened his mercy over the ones who fear him.
¹¹ As far as the east is from the west, so far off has he taken our iniquities from us.
¹² As a father pities his sons, has the Lord pitied the ones who fear him; for he knew our fashioning, has remembered that we are dust.
¹³ The human – his days like grass; like a flower of the field, so he will blossom.
¹⁴ For a wind has passed through it and it will not be, and it will no longer know its place.
¹⁵ But the mercy of the Lord – from the age, and until the age over the ones who fear him.
¹⁶ And his righteousness over sons of sons, over the ones who keep his testament, and remember his commandments to do them.
¹⁷ The Lord in heaven has prepared his throne and his kingdom has dominion over all.
¹⁸ Bless the Lord, all his angels, powerful in strength, who do his word, in order to hear the voice of his words.
¹⁹ Bless the Lord, all his powers, his liturgizers who do his will.
²⁰ Bless the Lord, all his works, in every place of his dominion. Bless the Lord, O my soul.

Psalm 142

A psalm to David, when Abesalom, his son, was pursuing him.

Lord, hear my prayer, give ear to my supplication in your truth, hear me in your righteousness.
² And do not enter into judgment with your servant, for everyone living will not be righteous before you.
³ For the enemy closely pursued my soul, to the ground he humbled my life.
⁴ He made me sit in dark places like the dead of the age, and my spirit became despondent in me, and my heart was troubled within me.
⁵ I have remembered days of old, I have been thoughtful of all your works, I was thoughtful of the makings of your hands.
⁶ I stretched out my hands toward you, my soul – like waterless land, to you.
⁷ Quickly hear me, O Lord; my spirit has vanished.
⁸ Do not turn your Face from me, and I will be like the ones who go down into the pit.
⁹ Make your mercy heard to me in the morning, for I have hoped in you.
¹⁰ Lord, make known to me the way in which I will walk, for I have lifted up my soul toward you.
¹¹ Take me away from my enemies, O Lord, for I have run to you for refuge. Teach me to do your will, for you, you are my God.
¹² Your good Spirit will guide me in a straight land; for your name's sake, O Lord, you will make me live.
¹³ In your righteousness you will lead my soul out of affliction, and in your mercy you will destroy my enemies.
¹⁴ And you will lay waste to all who afflict my soul, for I, I am your servant.

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

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia. Glory to you, O God. (3x).

When the psalms are finished, the priest puts the SKOUFIA ON and, if there is a deacon, enters the sanctuary while the deacon says the litany from before the holy doors. If there is no deacon, the priest himself says the great litany from before the holy doors.

STAND

LITANY OF PEACE

Deacon/Priest: In peace let us pray to the Lord. *Choir:* Lord, have mercy. *(and after each petition)*

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

For the peace of the whole world, for the stability of the holy Churches of God, and for the union of all, let us pray to the Lord.

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

For our archbishop and father _____, for the honorable priesthood, the diaconate in Christ, for all the clergy and the people, let us pray to the Lord.

For the civil authorities of this country and for those serving in its armed forces, let us pray to the Lord.

For this city, for every monastery, city, and countryside, and for those who in faith dwell in them, let us pray to the Lord.

For good temperance of the air, abundance of the fruits of the earth, and for peaceful seasons, let us pray to the Lord.

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

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

Help us, save us, have mercy on us, and keep us, O God, by your grace.

Remembering our all-holy, pure, most blessed, and glorious Lady, the Birthgiver of God and ever-virgin Mary, with all the saints, let us offer ourselves and one another, and our whole life to Christ God.

Choir: To You, O Lord.

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

Choir: Amen.

Deacon: In the second tone: The Lord is God and has revealed Himself to us; blessed is he who comes in the name of "Lord." (*Psalms 117:27, 26*) Confess to the Lord, that he is good, that his mercy is to the age. (*Psalms 117:1*)

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

Deacon: All the nations encircled me, and in the name of the Lord I kept them off. (*Psalms 117:10*)

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

Deacon: I will not die, but I will live, and I will describe the works of the Lord. (*Psalms 117:17*)

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

Deacon: A stone which the builders rejected, this one as made into the head of the corner. This came to be from the Lord, and it is wondrous in our eyes. (*Psalms 117:22-23*)

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

TROPARION (Tone 2)

The noble Joseph, / when he had taken Your pure Body down from the tree, / he enwrapped it in fine linen, / and laid it for burial in a new tomb.

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

When You descended into death, O Life Immortal, You destroyed hell with the radiance of Your Divinity. And when You had raised the dead from the depths, all the powers of heaven cried aloud: "O Life-giver, Christ our God, glory to You!"

Now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Before the myrrh-bearing women at the tomb, an angel stood crying, / "Spices are fitting for the dead, / but Christ has shown Himself free from corruption."

SIT

Kathisma Hymn (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 myrrh-bearing 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!

STAND

Psalm 50

To completion, a psalm to David when Nathan the prophet came to him, at the time when he went in to Virsavee, the woman of Ourias.

- ¹ Have mercy on me, O God, according to your great mercy, and according to the fullness of your compassions blot out my transgression.
- ² More thoroughly wash me from my lawlessness, and cleanse me from my sin.
- ³ For I do know my lawlessness, and my sin is ever before me.
- ⁴ Against you only I have sinned and have done the evil before you, so that you are righteous in your words and conquer in your judging.
- ⁵ For, behold, in iniquities I was conceived, and in sins my mother bore me.
- ⁶ For, behold, you have loved truth, the unseen and hidden things of your wisdom you have shown me.
- ⁷ You will sprinkle me with hyssop and I will be cleansed; you will wash me, and I will be made whiter than snow.
- ⁸ You will make me hear joy and gladness; the humbled bones will rejoice.
- ⁹ Turn away your face from my sins, and blot out all my iniquities.
- ¹⁰ Create a clean heart in me, O God, and renew a right Spirit in my inward parts.
- ¹¹ Do not cast me away from your Face, and do not take your Holy Spirit from me.
- ¹² Give me back the joy of your salvation, and make me steadfast with a governing Spirit.
- ¹³ I will teach the lawless your ways, and the impious will turn around to you.
- ¹⁴ Deliver me from blood, O God, God of my salvation, and my tongue will rejoice in your righteousness.
- ¹⁵ Lord, you will open my lips, and my mouth will proclaim your praise.
- ¹⁶ For if you had willed a sacrifice, I would have given it; you will not well-will whole burnt offerings.
- ¹⁷ A sacrifice to God is a shattered spirit; a shattered and humbled heart God will not despise.
- ¹⁸ Do good, Lord, to Sion in your good pleasure and the walls of Jerusalem be rebuilt.
- ¹⁹ Then you will well-will sacrifice of righteousness, offering and whole burnt offerings.
- ²⁰ Then they will offer calves upon your altar.

The priest fully vests in his vestments.

SIT

THE CANON

Ode 1

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!

Glory to You, our God, glory to You!

Ode 3

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!"

Glory to You, our God, glory to You!

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 cleanses from corruption. We fall down before You, who rose from the tomb, our only God.

Ode 4

Foreseeing Your divine humiliation on the Cross, Habbakuk cried out trembling: "You shattered the dominion of the mighty by joining those in hell as the almighty Lord!"

Glory to You, our God, glory to You!

Ode 5

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!"

Glory to You, our God, glory to You!

Ode 6

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."

Glory to You, our God, glory to You!

Kontakion (Tone 6) 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

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."

The priest opens the Royal Doors and censes three times around the Tomb of our Lord.

Ode 7

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!"

Glory to You, our God, glory to You!

Ode 8

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 people, exalt Him above all forever!

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

Royal doors are open. The deacon stands before the icon of the Theotokos, raises his orarion and says:

STAND

Deacon: The Birthgiver of God and mother of Light let us magnify, honoring in hymns!

Then the deacon takes the censer and does a great censuring. The faithful light their candles.

Ode 9

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.

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.”

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.”

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.

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.

The clergy and servers assemble at the Tomb with censer, incense, and candles.

FIRST STASIS

1. *Priest censens around the tomb on all four sides as he sings the first verse of the stasis.*

In a grave they laid You, / O my Life and my Christ, / and the armies of the Angels were sore amazed, // as they sang the praise of Your submissive love.

2.

How, O Life, can You die? / In a grave how can You dwell? / For the proud domain of death You destroy now, // and the dead of Hades make You to rise.

3.

Now we magnify You, / O Lord Jesus our King; / and we venerate Your Passion and Burial, // for thereby have You delivered us from Death.

4.

Earth her bounds You gave, / yet how small is the Tomb, / where, O Jesus, King of All, You do dwell today, // that You call the dead to leave their graves and rise.

5.

O my dear Christ Jesus, / King and Ruler of All, / why to them that dwell in Hades did You descend? // Was it not to set the race of mortals free?

6.

Lo, the Sov'reign Ruler / of creation is dead, / and is buried in a Tomb never used before, // He that all the graves has emptied of their dead.

7.

In a grave they laid You, / O my Life and my Christ: / yet the Lord of Death have You by Your death destroyed, // and the world of You does drink rich stream of life.

8.

Lo, how fair His beauty! / Never man was so fair; / but how strangely now has death changed that Face we knew, // though all nature all her beauty to Him owes.

9.

O my sweet Lord Jesus, / my salvation, my Light, / how are You now by a grave and its darkness hid? // How unspeakable the myst'ry of Your Love.

10.

Lo, how strange these wonders, / deeds amazing and new, / for the Giver of my life is borne lifeless forth, // by the hands of weeping Joseph to His rest.

11.

When, O Christ our Maker, / You were laid in Your Tomb, / the foundation stones of Hades with ruin shook, // and the graves of mortal men were opened up.

12.

I adore Your Passion, / Your entombing I praise, / and I magnify Your might You dear Friend of man, // from destroying passions have they set me free.

13.

When the Ewe that bare Him, / saw them slaying her Lamb, / tossed by swelling waves of pain she wailed forth her woe, // and moved all the Flock to join her bitter cries.

14.

Gone the Light the world knew, / gone the Light that was mine, / O my Jesus, That are all of my heart's desire, // so the Virgin spoke lamenting at Your Cross.

15.

O God and Word, / O the joy that was mine, / how can I bear Your three-day burial, // being torn by motherly compassion.

16.

Who will give me water / for tears I must weep? / So the Maiden wed to God cried with loud lament, // that for my sweet Jesus I may rightly mourn.

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

17.

Word of God, we hymn You, / God of all things are You, / with Your Father and Your Spirit Most Holy praised, // and we glorify Your burial divine.

Priest censes around the tomb on all four sides.

Now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

18.

All we call you blessed, / Theotokos Most Pure: / and with faithful hearts we honor the burial // suffered three days by your Son Who is our God.

1.

In a grave they laid You, / O my Life and my Christ, / and the armies of the Angels were sore amazed, // as they sang the praise of Your submissive love.

SIT

LITTLE LITANY

Deacon: Again and again 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 Your grace.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: Remembering our all-holy, pure, most blessed, and glorious Lady, the Birthgiver of God and Ever-Virgin Mary, with all the saints, let us offer ourselves and one other, and our whole life to Christ God.

Choir: To You, O Lord.

Priest: For Your name has been blessed and Your Kingdom has been glorified, of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, now and ever and to the ages of ages.

Choir: Amen.

STAND

SECOND STASIS

1.

Right is it indeed / life-bestowing Lord to magnify You / for upon the Cross were Your hands outspread // and the strength of our dread Foe have You destroyed.

2.

Right is it indeed / Maker of all things, to magnify You, / for by Your dear Passion have we attained // victory o'er the flesh and rescue from decay.

3.

Earth with trembling shook, / and the sun concealed His face with darkness; / for the Light unwaning that shines from You, // with Your Body sank to darkness and the grave.

4.

"That I may renew / man's lost nature now from beauty fallen, / gladly in My Flesh I take death on Me, // wherefore, Mother, slay Me not with bitter tears."

5.

"I am rent with grief, / and my heart with woe is crushed and broken, / as I see them slay You with doom unjust." // So bewailing Him His grieving Mother cried.

6.

"Ah, those eye so sweet, / and Your lips, O Word, how shall I close them? / How the dues of death shall I pay to You?" // So cried Joseph as he shook with holy fear.

7.

Dirges at the Tomb / goodly Joseph sings with Nicodemus, / bringing praises to Christ Who by men was slain; // and in song with them are joined the Seraphim.

8.

Stone that man has wrought / now conceals the Cornerstone of Promise; / mortal man his God in a grave would hide, // as if God were mortal; shake with fear, O Earth.

9.

“O my Son, behold / Your well-loved disciple and Your Mother, / and Your voice so sweet let us hear again,” // so with plenteous tears His Maiden Mother cried.

10.

Like a pelican / with Your side, O Word, by wounding riven, / have You made Your children once dead to live. // By distilling on them Moisture rich with Life.

11.

Trembling when he saw / You, my Christ, You Light That blinds seeing, / in a grave concealed and Your breathing stilled, // with a veil of dark the sun concealed his face.

12.

Wailing bitter tears, / Word of God, Your Spotless Mother mourned You. / When she saw that You in a grave were laid, // O Ineffable and Everlasting God.

13.

Hades, that dread Foe, / shook with terror when he looked upon You, / O You Sun of Glory, That can not die; // and his captives then he yielded up in haste.

14.

With our songs, O Christ, / now Your Crucifixion and Entombing / we Your faithful worship with one accord, // for Your Burial has ransomed us from death.

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

15.

O Eternal God, / Word co-unoriginate, and Spirit, / magnify the might of America, // blessing us with peace and freedom evermore.

Priest censes around the tomb on all four sides.

Now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

16.

Life was born of you, / O Most Blameless and Most Holy Virgin, / keep the Church from ev'ry dissension free, // blessing us with peace and freedom evermore.

1.

Right is it indeed / life-bestowing Lord to magnify You / for upon the Cross were Your hands outspread // and the strength of our dread Foe have You destroyed.

SIT

LITTLE LITANY

Deacon: Again and again 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 Your grace.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: Remembering our all-holy, pure, most blessed, and glorious Lady, the Birthgiver of God and Ever-Virgin Mary, with all the saints, let us offer ourselves and one other, and our whole life to Christ God.

Choir: To You, O Lord.

Priest: For holy are You, O God, Who rest upon the glorious throne of the Cherubim and to You we send up glory together with Your Father and Your most holy, good and life-creating Spirit, now and ever and to the ages of ages.

Choir: Amen.

STAND

THIRD STASIS

1.

Ev'ry generation / to Your Grave comes bringing // dear Christ its dirge of praises.

2.

From Your Cross he brought You / that Arimathean, / and in Your Grave he laid You.

3.

Women bringing spices, / came with loving forethought, // Your due of myrrh to give You.

4.

Come, all things created, / let us sing a dirge hymn, // to honor our Creator.

5.

Him as dead though living, / let us, like the women, // in love anoint with spices.

6.

Joseph, greatly blessed, / bury now Your Body, // of Christ the Lifebestower.

7.

Those He fed with manna / lifted heels of spurning // against their Benefactor.

8.

Ah, those minds so foolish, / hearts so Christ-destroying // of them that slew the prophets.

9.

He that sold his Savior, / sold himself as captive, // that crafty traitor Judas.

10.
Joseph is entombing, / helped by Nicodemus, // the Body of his Maker.
11.
Life-bestowing Savior, / to Your Might be glory, // for You have vanquished Hades.
12.
When our Most-Pure Lady / saw You prone, O Logos, // a mother's dirge she gave You.
13.
"O, my precious Springtime! / O, my Son beloved, // O where fades Your beauty?"
14.
Wailing song to mourn You, / poured from Your pure Mother, / when You, O Word, were slaughtered.
15.
Women to anoint Him, / with their myrrh are coming // to Christ Who is Divine Myrrh.
16.
Death himself by Your death, / O my God, hast You slain, / by power of Your Godhead.
17.
Son of God, Almighty, / O my God and Maker, // whence came Your will to suffer?
18.
When she saw her Youngling, / on the Cross suspended, // the Heifer wailed with grieving.
19.
Cries of woe the Maiden / wailed with fervent weeping, // for grief her heart was piercing.
20.
"Light more dear than seeing, / O my Son most precious, // how in a grave do You hide?"
21.
"O my Son, I praise You, / for Your great compassion // which moved You thus to suffer."
22.
Bringing myrrh, the women, / to Your Tomb, O Savior, // are come their myrrh to offer.
23.
Rise, O Lord of Mercy, / raising us up also, // who languish deep in Hades.

24.

Hasten, Word, Your rising, / and release from sorrow, / Your spotless Maid that bore You.

25.

All the Hosts of Heaven, / were with fear confounded, // beholding Your dead Body.

26.

To those who in desire and fear, / honor Your sublime passions, // O grant remission of our sins.

27.

Once a Joseph bore You / into exile, Savior, // another now inters You.

28.

With her wailing dirge song, / Your most Holy Mother, // O Savior, mourns You slaughtered.

29.

Minds must tremble seeing, / Lord that made all things // Your strange and dire Entombing.

30.

Repeat while the priest sprinkles the tomb and people with rose water.

Myrrh the Women sprinkled, / store of spices bringing, // to grace Your Tomb e're dawning.

31.

Peace Your Church to prosper, / to Your folk, Salvation, // be given through Your Rising.

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

32.

O You Triune Godhead, / Father, Son, and Spirit, // upon Your world have mercy.

Priest censes around the tomb on all four sides.

Now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

33.

On the Resurrection, / of Your Son, O Virgin, / grant us to look who serve You.

1.

Ev'ry generation / to Your Grave comes bringing // dear Christ its dirge of praises.

SIT

LITTLE LITANY

Deacon: Again and again 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 Your grace.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: Remembering our all-holy, pure, most blessed, and glorious Lady, the Birthgiver of God and Ever-Virgin Mary, with all the saints, let us offer ourselves and one other, and our whole life to Christ God.

Choir: To You, O Lord.

Priest: For You are the King of Peace and the Savior of our souls, and to you we send up glory, to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and to the ages of ages.

Choir: Amen.

STAND

The priest accompanied by the deacon censens the entire temple.

EVLOGITARIA (Tone 5)

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

The angelic host was filled with awe, / when it saw You among the dead. / By destroying the power of death, O Savior, / You raised Adam, / and saved all men from hell!

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

In the tomb, the radiant angel cried to the myrrh-bearers: / Why do you women mingle myrrh with your tears? / Look at the tomb and understand! / The Savior has risen from the dead!

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

Very early in the morning, / the myrrh-bearers ran with sorrow to Your tomb, / but an 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 are You, O Lord, teach me Your statutes.

The myrrh-bearers were sorrowful as they neared Your tomb, / but the angel said to them: / Why do you number the living among the dead? / Since He is God, He is 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 are You, 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! / You gave joy to Eve instead of sadness! / The God and Man who was born of you / has restored to life those who had fallen from it!

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia! Glory to You, O God! (*thrice*)

SIT

LITTLE LITANY

Deacon: Again and again 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 Your grace.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: Remembering our all-holy, pure, most blessed, and glorious Lady, the Birthgiver of God and Ever-Virgin Mary, with all the saints, let us offer ourselves and one other, and our whole life to Christ God.

Choir: To You, O Lord.

Priest: For all the powers of heaven praise You and to You we send up glory: to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and to the ages of ages.

Choir: Amen.

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!

PRAISES

Let everything that breathes praise the Lord! / Praise the Lord from the heavens! / Praise Him in the highest! / To You, O God, is due a song!

Praise Him, all you angels of His! / Praise Him, all His hosts! / To You, O God, is due a song!

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

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, and the Lover of man.

The clergy and serves assemble at the Tomb.

Now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

You are most blessed, O Virgin Theotokos! / Through the God-man who took flesh from 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 You!

STAND

THE GREAT DOXOLOGY

Priest: Glory to You Who has shown us the Light!

While the choir sings the Doxology, the priest censes three times around the Tomb.

Choir: Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will towards men. We praise You, we bless You, we worship You, we glorify You, we give thanks to You for Your great glory! O Lord, heavenly King, God the Father almighty! O Lord, the only-begotten Son Jesus Christ! And the Holy Spirit! O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, who take up the sin of the world, have mercy on us. You who take up the sins of the world, accept our prayer. You who sit on the right hand of the Father, have mercy on us. For You alone are holy, You alone are the Lord, Jesus Christ, in the glory of God the Father. Amen. Every day I will bless You and praise Your name forever and ever, unto ages of ages! Vouchsafe, O Lord, to keep us this day without sin. Blessed are You, O Lord 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! Blessed are You, O Lord, teach me Your statutes! Blessed are You, O Lord, teach me Your statutes! Lord, You have been our refuge from generation to generation. I said: Lord, have mercy on me; heal my soul, for I have sinned against You. O 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 on those who know You!

Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal have mercy on us. (*thrice*)

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.

PROCESSION

As the processional Trisagion is sung, the priest and deacon make three prostrations before the Tomb and the priest lifts up the Epitaphios and places it on the bier which four laymen carry. Then, taking up the Book of the Gospels, stands beneath the bier. The deacon precedes the Epitaphios with incense, followed by the choir and the faithful. The procession goes outside (weather permitting) and turns to the south and circles the temple counterclockwise. At the doors to the church the bier is held aloft as the people pass underneath it and venerate the Book of the Gospels held by the priest. Then the bier is brought into the church and the priest takes up the Epitaphios, goes to the Royal Doors, and exclaims:

Priest: Wisdom! Upright!

The priest returns the Epitaphios to the Tomb, places the Book of the Gospels upon it and, as the choir sings the Troparion, he censes around it once assisted by the deacon.

TROPARION

The noble Joseph, / when he had taken Your pure Body down from the tree, / he enwrapped it in fine linen, / and laid it for burial in a new sepulcher.

Deacon: Wisdom!

Reader: The troparion of the prophecy in the second tone.

Choir: O Christ, Who holds 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!

Deacon: Wisdom!

Reader: The prokeimenon in the fourth tone: Arise, O Lord, and help us! / Deliver us for Your Name's sake! (*Psalms 43:26*)

Choir: Arise, O Lord, and help us! / Deliver us for Your Name's sake! (*Psalms 43:26*)

Reader: We have heard with our ears, O God, our fathers have told us what deeds You performed in their days, in the days of old. (*Psalms 43:1*)

Choir: Arise, O Lord, and help us! / Deliver us for Your Name's sake! (*Psalms 43:26*)

Reader: Arise, O Lord, and help us!

Choir: Deliver us for Your Name's sake! (*Psalms 43:26*)

Deacon: Wisdom!

Reader: The reading from the prophecy of Ezekiel. (37:1-14)

Deacon: Let us attend!

Reader: In those days the hand of the LORD was upon me, and he brought me out by the Spirit of the LORD, and set me down in the midst of the valley; it was full of bones. And he led me round among them; and behold, there were very many upon the valley; and lo, they were very dry. And he said to me, "Son of man, can these bones live?" And I answered, "O Lord GOD, You know." Again he said to me, "Prophecy to these bones, and say to them, O dry bones, hear the word of the LORD. Thus says the Lord GOD to these bones: Behold, I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. And I will lay sinews upon you, and will cause flesh to come upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and you shall live; and you shall know that I am the LORD." So I prophesied as I was commanded; and as I prophesied, there was a noise, and behold, a rattling; and the bones came together, bone to its bone. And as I looked, there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them; but there was no breath in them. Then he said to me, "Prophecy 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 slain, that they may live." So I prophesied as he commanded me, and the Spirit came into them, and they lived, and stood upon their feet, an exceedingly great host. Then he said to me, "Son of man, these bones are the whole house of Israel. Behold, they say, 'Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are clean cut off.' Therefore prophesy, and say to them, Thus says the Lord GOD: Behold, I will open your graves, and raise you from your graves, 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, the LORD, have spoken, and I have done it, says the LORD."

Deacon: Wisdom!

Reader: The prokeimenon in the seventh tone: Arise, O Lord my God, lift up Your hand! / Forget not Your poor forever!

Choir: Arise, O Lord my God, lift up Your hand! / Forget not Your poor forever! (*Psalms 9:32*)

Reader: I will praise You, O Lord, my God, with all my heart; I will make all Your wonders known! (*Psalms 9:1*)

Choir: Arise, O Lord my God, lift up Your hand! / Forget not Your poor forever! (*Psalms 9:32*)

Reader: Arise, O Lord my God, lift up Your hand! /

Choir: Forget not Your poor forever! (*Psalms 9:32*)

Deacon: Wisdom!

Reader: The reading from the First Epistle of the Apostle Paul to the Corinthians. (*5:6-8, Galatians 3:13-14*)

Deacon: Let us attend!

Reader: Brethren: Do you not know that a little yeast leavens the whole dough? Cleanse out the old leaven that you may be a fresh dough, as you really are unleavened. For Christ, our Paschal Lamb, has been sacrificed. Let us, therefore, celebrate the feast, not with the old leaven, the leaven of malice and evil, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth. Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law, having become a cursed thing for us -- for it is written, "Cursed be every one who hangs on a tree" -- that in Christ Jesus the blessing of Abraham might come upon the Gentiles, that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith.

Priest: Peace to you, reader(s)!

Reader: Alleluia in the fifth tone. Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Choir: Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Reader: Let God be risen and his enemies be scattered, let the ones who hate him fall from before his Face! (*Psalms 67:1*)

Choir: Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Reader: As smoke vanishes, let them vanish, as wax melts before the face of fire! (*Psalms 67:2*)

Choir: Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Reader: Thus the sinners will perish before the Face of God. And the righteous be gladdened. (*Psalms 67:2-3*)

Choir: Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Deacon: And that we be accounted worthy of hearing the holy Gospel, let us implore the Lord our God.

Choir: Lord, have mercy! (*thrice*)

Deacon: Wisdom! Upright! Let us hear the holy Gospel!

Priest: Peace to all!

Choir: And with your spirit!

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

Choir: Glory to You, O Lord! Glory to You!

Deacon: Let us attend!

Priest: 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 impostor 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 You, O Lord! Glory to You!

SIT

AUGMENTED LITANY

Deacon: Have mercy on us, O God, according to your great mercy, we pray you, hear and have mercy.

Choir: Lord, have mercy. (3x) [and after each petition]

Again we pray for pious and right-glorifying Christians.

Again we pray for our Archbishop and Father (name).

Again we pray for our brethren, priests, ieromonks, deacons, ierodeacons, and monastics, and for all our brotherhood in Christ.

Again we pray for mercy, life, peace, health, salvation, care, and the pardon and remission of the sins of all pious and right-glorifying Christians who dwell in or visit this town, and the members, stewards, founders, and benefactors of this holy church.

Again we pray for the blessed and ever-remembered founders of this holy Church and for all our right-glorifying fathers and brethren who are in their rest before us who piously lie asleep here and everywhere.

Again we pray for those who bring offerings and those who make acceptable sacrifices in this holy and all-venerable temple, for those who labor, those who sing, and all the people standing here, awaiting the great and rich mercy that is from you.

Priest: For you are a merciful God and love mankind, and to you we send up glory, to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and to the ages of ages.

Choir: Amen.

LITANY OF MATINS

Deacon/Priest: Let us complete our morning supplication to the Lord.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

Help us, save us, have mercy on us and keep us, O God, by your grace.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

The whole day, perfect, holy, peaceful, and sinless, let us ask of the Lord.

Choir: Grant it, O Lord. (and after the next petitions)

An angel of peace, faithful guide, guardian of our souls and bodies, let us ask of the Lord.
Pardon and remission of our sins and transgressions, let us ask of the Lord.

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

To complete the remaining time of our life in peace and repentance, let us ask of the Lord.

The completions of our life to be Christian, painless, blameless, and peaceful; and a good defense before the fearful judgment seat of Christ, let us ask.

Remembering our all-holy, pure, most blessed, and glorious Lady, the Birthgiver of God and ever-Virgin Mary, with all the saints, let us offer ourselves and one another, and our whole life to Christ God.

Choir: To you, O Lord

Priest: For you are a God of mercy, compassions, and love for mankind, and to you we send up glory, to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and to the ages of ages.

Choir: Amen.

STAND

BOWING OF HEADS

Priest: Peace to all.

Choir: And to your spirit.

Deacon/Priest: Let us bow our heads to the Lord.

Choir: To You, O Lord.

Priest: Holy Lord, who dwell on high and regard the lowly and with your all-seeing eye watch over all creation, to you we have bent the neck of our soul and body, and we implore you, Holy of holies: stretch forth your invisible hand from your holy dwelling place and bless us all, and, whether we have sinned voluntarily or involuntarily, forgive as a good God who loves mankind, granting us your earthly and heavenly good things, for yours it is to have mercy and to save us, our God, and to you we send up glory, to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and to the ages of ages.

Choir: Amen.

APOLYSIS

Deacon: Wisdom!

Choir: Father, bless!

Priest: Blessed is He-who-is, Christ our God, always, now and ever, and to the ages of ages.

Choir: Amen. Preserve, O God, the Holy Orthodox faith and Orthodox Christians, unto ages of ages.

Priest: All-holy Birthgiver of God, 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 you, Christ God, our hope, glory to you!

Choir: Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto the ages of ages. Amen. Lord have mercy. Lord have mercy. Lord have mercy. Father, bless!

Priest: He Who for us men and for our salvation received in the flesh the fearful passions and the life-creating Cross and the voluntary burial, Christ our true God, through the intercessions of His all-pure Mother; of the holy, glorious and all-laudable Apostles, of the holy and righteous ancestors of God, Joachim and Anna; and of all the Saints, have mercy on us and save us, as one who is good and loves mankind.

Choir: Amen.

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

Choir: Amen.

As the faithful come forward to venerate the Epitaphios, the following hymn is sung:

Tone 5

Come, let us bless the ever-memorable Joseph, / who came by night to Pilate / and begged for the Giver of Life: / "Give me this Stranger, / who has no place to lay His head; / Give me this Stranger / Whom the crafty disciple has betrayed to death; / Give me this Stranger, / whose Mother, when she saw Him hanging on the Cross, / and with a mother's sorrow cried with weeping and maternal feeling exclaimed: / 'Woe is me, O my Child! / Woe is me, my Light, the Beloved of my bosom! / That which was foretold in the church by Simeon has come to pass today! / A weapon has pierced my heart; / but lamenting shall be changed by the joy of the resurrection!'" / We worship Your Passion, O Christ! / We worship Your Passion, O Christ! / We worship Your Passion, O Christ! // and Your Holy Resurrection.