

Great and Holy Saturday

Jerusalem Matins

MATINS OF GREAT AND HOLY SATURDAY

*The priest, vested in epitachelion,
takes the censer and begins:*

Deacon: Master, bless!

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

Reader: Amen.

Reader: Glory to Thee, O God; glory to Thee!

O Heavenly King, the Comforter, the Spirit of Truth, Who art everywhere present and fillest all things, Treasury of Blessings and Giver of Life: Come and abide in us; and cleanse us from every impurity, and save our souls, O Good One.

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

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

O Most-Holy Trinity: Have mercy on us. Lord: Cleanse us from our sins. Master: Pardon our transgressions. Holy One: visit and heal our infirmities, for Thy name's sake.

Lord, have mercy. (*thrice*)

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 the evil one.

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.

Reader: Amen. In the name of the Lord, bless, Father!

Priest: Glory to the holy, consubstantial, life-creating, and undivided Trinity

always, now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

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

During the Psalm the priest stands before the closed Royal Doors and quietly reads the twelve Matins Prayers.

Psalm 3

O Lord, how many are my foes! Many are rising against me; many are saying of me, there is no help for him in God.

But Thou, O Lord, art a shield about me, my glory, and the lifter of my head. I cry aloud to the Lord, and He answers me from His holy hill.

I lie down and sleep; I wake again, for the Lord sustains me, I am not afraid of ten thousands of people who have set themselves against me round about.

Arise, O Lord! Deliver me, O my God! For Thou dost smite all my enemies on the cheek. Thou dost break the teeth of the wicked.

Deliverance belongs to the Lord; Thy blessing be upon Thy people! I lie down and sleep; I wake again, for the Lord sustains me.

Psalm 38

O Lord, rebuke me not in Thine anger, nor chasten me in Thy wrath! For Thine arrows have sunk into me, and Thy hand has come down on me.

There is no soundness in my flesh because of Thine indignation; and there is no health in my bones because of my sin. For my iniquities have gone over my head; they weigh like a burden too heavy for me.

My wounds grow foul and fester because of my foolishness, I am utterly bowed down and prostrate; all the day I go about mourning. For my loins are filled with burning, and there is no soundness in my flesh. I am utterly spent and crushed; I groan because of the tumult of my heart.

Lord, all my longing is known to Thee, my sighing is not hidden from Thee. My heart throbs, my strength fails me; and the light of my eyes - it also has gone from me.

My friends and companions stand aloof from my plague, and my kinsmen stand afar off.

Those who seek my life lay their snares, those who seek my hurt speak of ruin, and meditate treachery all the day long. But I am like a deaf man, I do not hear, like a dumb man who does not open his mouth. Yea, I am like a man who does not hear, and in whose mouth are no rebukes.

But for Thee, O Lord, do I wait; it is Thou, O Lord my God who wilt

answer. For I pray, “Only let them not rejoice over me, who boast against me when my foot slips.”

For I am ready to fall, and my pain is ever with me. I confess my iniquity, I am sorry for my sin. Those who are my foes without cause are mighty, and many are those who hate me wrongfully. Those who render me evil for good are my adversaries because I follow after good.

Do not forsake me, O Lord! O my God, be not far from me! Make haste to help me, O Lord, my salvation!

Do not forsake me, O Lord! O my God, be not far from me! Make haste to help me, O Lord, my salvation!

Psalm 63

O God, Thou art my God, I seek Thee, my soul thirsts for Thee; my flesh faints for Thee, as in a dry and weary land where no water is. So I have looked upon Thee in the sanctuary, beholding Thy power and glory. Because Thy steadfast love is better than life, my lips will praise Thee. So I will bless Thee as long as I live; I will lift up my hands and call on Thy name.

My soul is feasted as with marrow and fat, and my mouth praises Thee with joyful lips, when I think of Thee upon my bed, and meditate on Thee in watches of the night;

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

But those who seek to destroy my life shall go down into the depths of the earth; they shall be given over to the power of the sword, they shall be prey for jackals. But the king shall rejoice in God; all who swear by Him shall glory; for the mouths of liars will be stopped.

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

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

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Glory to Thee, O God. (*thrice*)

The deacon exits the altar and comes before Tomb for the Great Litany.

The Great Litany

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

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

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

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

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

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

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

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: For His Beatitude, our Metropolitan ____, and for His (Eminence, Grace) our (Archbishop, Bishop) ____, for the honorable priesthood, the diaconate in Christ, for all the clergy and the people, let us pray to the Lord.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: For the President of our country, for all civil authorities, and for the armed forces, let us pray to the Lord.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: For this city, for every city and country, and for the faithful dwelling in them, let us pray to the Lord.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: For seasonable weather, for an abundance of the fruits of the earth, and for peaceful times, let us pray to the Lord.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

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

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

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

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

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

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

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

Choir: To Thee, O Lord.

Priest: For unto Thee are due 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.

Choir: Amen.

The priest enters the altar and vests in the phelonion. He opens the Royal Doors and comes to the Tomb with a lighted candle and distributes the light to the faithful.

Deacon: In the Second Tone: God is the Lord and has revealed Himself unto us; blessed is he that comes in the name of the Lord. O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good, for His mercy endures forever.

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

Deacon: All nations surrounded me, but in the Name of the Lord I destroyed them.

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

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

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

Deacon: The stone which the builders rejected has become the cornerstone. This is the Lord's doing and it is wonderful in our eyes.

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

The priest accompanied by the deacon censens the entire temple.

The Troparion (Tone 2)

The noble Joseph, / when he had taken Thy 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 Thou didst descend into death, O Life Immortal, / then Thou didst destroy hell with the radiance of Thy Divinity. / And when Thou hadst raised up the dead

from the depths, / all the powers of heaven cried aloud:// “O Life-Giver, Christ our God, glory to Thee!”

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.”

Kathisma Hymn (Tone 1)

Joseph begged Thy holy Body from Pilate; / He anointed it with sweet-smelling spices; / He wrapped it in clean linen and laid it in his own new tomb, / and early in the morning the myrrh-bearing women cried out: / as Thou hast foretold, O Christ, // show us the Resurrection!

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

As Thou hast 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!

Psalm 50

Have mercy on me, O God, according to Thy great mercy; according to the multitude of Thy tender mercies, blot out my transgressions. Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin!

For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me. Against Thee, Thee only, have I sinned, and done that which is evil in Thy sight, so that Thou art justified in Thy sentence and blameless in Thy judgment. Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, and in sin did my mother conceive me.

Behold, Thou desirest truth in the inward being; therefore teach me wisdom in my secret heart. Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow. Fill me with joy and gladness; let the bones which Thou hast broken rejoice. Hide Thy face from my sins, and blot out all my iniquities.

Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me. Cast me not away from Thy presence, and take not Thy holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of Thy salvation, and uphold me with a willing spirit.

Then I will teach transgressors thy ways, and sinners will return to Thee. Deliver me from bloodguiltiness, O God, Thou God of my salvation, and my tongue will sing aloud of Thy deliverance.

O Lord, open Thou my lips, and my mouth shall show forth Thy praise. For

Thou hast no delight in sacrifice; were I to give a burnt offering, Thou wouldst not be pleased. The sacrifice acceptable to God is a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, Thou wilt not despise.

Do good to Zion in Thy good pleasure; rebuild the walls of Jerusalem, then wilt Thou delight in right sacrifices, in burnt offerings and whole burnt offerings; then bulls will be offered on Thy altar.

The Canon

Ode I

Of old Thou didst bury the pursuing tyrant / beneath the waves of the sea. / Now the children of those who were saved / bury Thee beneath the earth. / But like the maidens, let us sing to the Lord, // for gloriously has He been glorified!

Ode III

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

Kathisma Hymn (Tone 1)

The soldiers guarding Thy tomb, O Savior, became as dead men at the lightning flash of the angel who appeared announcing Thy resurrection to the women. We glorify Thee, who cleanseest from corruption. We fall down before Thee, who didst rise from the tomb, our only God.

Ode IV

Foreseeing Thy divine humiliation on the Cross, / Habakkuk cried out trembling: / “Thou didst shatter the dominion of the mighty //by joining those in hell as almighty Lord!”

Ode V

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

Ode VI

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

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.”

Ode VII

Inexpressible wonder! / In the furnace Thou didst save the holy youths from the flame. / Now Thou art placed in the grave as a lifeless corpse, / for the salvation of us who sing: // “Blessed art Thou, O God, our Redeemer!”

Ode VIII

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.

Deacon: The Theotokos and the Mother of Light let us magnify in song!

Ode IX

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 Thee, our God, glory to Thee!

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

Glory to Thee, our God, glory to Thee!

“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 Thee, our God, glory to Thee!

“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.

First Stasis

1.

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

2.

How, O Life, canst Thou die? / In a grave how canst Thou dwell? / For the proud domain of death Thou destroyest now, // and the dead of Hades makest Thou to rise.

3.

Now we magnify Thee, / O Lord Jesus our King; / and we venerate Thy Passion and Burial, // for therewith hath Thou delivered us from Death.

4.

Earth her bounds Thou gavest, / yet how small is the Tomb, / where, O Jesus, King of All, Thou dost dwell today, // that dost 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 didst Thou 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 hath emptied of their dead.

7.

In a grave they laid Thee, / O my Life and my Christ: / yet the Lord of Death hast Thou by Thy death destroyed, // and the world of Thee doth 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 art Thou now by a grave and its darkness hid? // How unspeakable the myst'ry of Thy 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, / Thou wast laid in Thy Tomb, / the foundation stones of Hades with ruin shook, // and the graves of mortal men were opened up.

12.

I adore Thy Passion, / Thine entombing I praise, / and I magnify Thy might Thou 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 art all of my heart's desire, // so the Virgin spake lamenting at Thy Cross.

15.

O God and Word, / O the joy that was mine, / how can I bear Thy 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 Thee, / God of all things art Thou, / with Thy Father and Thy Spirit Most Holy praised, // and we glorify Thy burial divine.

Now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

18.

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

1.

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

The 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 Thy grace.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

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

Choir: To Thee, O Lord.

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

Choir: Amen.

Second Stasis

1.

Right is it indeed / life-bestowing Lord to magnify Thee / for upon the Cross were Thy hands outspread // and the strength of our dread Foe hast Thou destroyed.

2.

Right is it indeed / Maker of all things, to magnify Thee, / for by Thy 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 Thee, // with Thy 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 Thee with doom unjust." // So bewailing Him His grieving Mother cried.

6.

"Ah, those eye so sweet, / and Thy lips, O Word, how shall I close them? / How the dues of death shall I pay to Thee?" // 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 / Thy well-loved disciple and Thy Mother, / and Thy voice so sweet let us hear again,” // so with plenteous tears His Maiden Mother cried.

10.

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

11.

Trembling when he saw / Thee, my Christ, Thou Light That blindest seeing, / in a grave concealed and Thy breathing stilled, // with a veil of dark the sun concealed his face.

12.

Wailing bitter tears, / Word of God, Thy Spotless Mother mourned Thee. / When she saw that Thou in a grave wast laid, // O Ineffable and Everlasting God.

13.

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

14.

With our songs, O Christ, / now Thy Crucifixion and Entombing / we Thy faithful worship with one accord, // for Thy 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.

Now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

16.

Life was born of thee, / 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 Thee / for upon the Cross were Thy hands outspread // and the strength of our dread Foe hast Thou destroyed.

The 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 Thy grace.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

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

Choir: To Thee, O Lord.

Priest: For holy art Thou, O God, Who dost rest upon the glorious throne of the Cherubim and unto Thee we ascribe glory together with Thine Father and Thy most holy, good and life-creating Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages.

Choir: Amen.

Third Stasis

1.

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

2.

From Thy Cross he brought Thee / that Arimathean, / and in Thy Grave he laid Thee.

3.

Women bringing spices, / came with loving forethought, // Thy due of myrrh to give Thee.

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 Thy 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 Thy Might be glory, // for Thou hast vanquished Hades.

12.

When our Most-Pure Lady / saw Thee prone, O Logos, // a mother's dirge she gave Thee.

13.

"O, my precious Springtime! / O, my Son beloved, // O whither fades Thy beauty?"

14.

Wailing song to mourn Thee, / poured from Thy pure Mother, / when Thou, O Word, wast slaughtered.

15.

Women to anoint Him, / with their myrrh are coming // to Christ Who is Divine Myrrh.

16.

Death himself by Thy death, / O my God, hast Thou slain, / by power of Thy Godhead.

17.

Son of God, Almighty, / O my God and Maker, // whence came Thy 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 dost hide Thee?”

21.

“O my Son, I praise Thee, / for Thy great compassion // which moved Thee thus to suffer.”

22.

Bringing myrrh, the women, / to Thy 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, Thy rising, / and release from sorrow, / Thy spotless Maid that bare Thee.

25.

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

26.

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

27.

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

28.

With her wailing dirge song, / Thy most Holy Mother, // O Savior, mourns Thee slaughtered.

29.

Minds must tremble seeing, / Lord that madest all things // Thy 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 Thy Tomb e're dawning.

31.

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

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

32.

O Thou Triune Godhead, / Father, Son, and Spirit, // upon Thy world have mercy.

Now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

33.

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

1.

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

The 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 Thy grace.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

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

Choir: To Thee, O Lord.

Priest: For Thou art the King of Peace, O Christ our God, and to Thee we ascribe glory, together with Thine eternal Father, and Thy most holy, good and life-creating Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages.

Choir: Amen.

The priest accompanied by the deacon censes the entire temple.

Troparia of the Resurrection (Tone 5)

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

The angelic host was filled with awe, / when it saw Thee among the dead. / By destroying the power of death, O Savior, / Thou didst raise Adam, / and save all men from hell!

Blessed art Thou, O Lord, teach me Thy 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 is risen from the dead!

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

Very early in the morning, / the myrrh-bearers ran with sorrow to Thy 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 art Thou, O Lord, teach me Thy statutes.

The myrrh-bearers were sorrowful as they neared Thy 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 art Thou, O Lord!

Now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Since you gave birth to the Giver of Life, O Virgin, / you redeemed Adam from his sin! / 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 Thee, O God! (*thrice*)

The Royal Doors are closed. The priest vests in all of his priestly vestments.

The 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 Thy grace.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

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

Choir: To Thee, O Lord.

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

Choir: Amen.

Deacon: Holy is the Lord our God!

Choir: Holy is the Lord our God!

Deacon: For holy is the Lord our God!

Choir: Holy is the Lord our God!

Deacon: Over all peoples is our God.

Choir: Holy is the Lord our God!

The Praises

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

Praise Him, all you angels of His! / Praise Him, all His hosts! / To Thee, 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 Royal Doors are opened and 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 Thee!

The Great Doxology

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

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

Choir: Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will to men. We praise Thee, we bless Thee, we worship Thee, we glorify Thee, we give thanks to Thee for Thy great glory! O Lord, heavenly King, God the Father almighty! O Lord, the only-begotten Son Jesus Christ! And the Holy Spirit! O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, who takes away the sins of the world, have mercy on us. Thou who takes away the sins of the world, receive our prayer. Thou that sits at the right hand of the Father, have mercy on us. For Thou alone are holy, Thou alone are the Lord, Jesus Christ, in the glory of God the Father. Amen. Every day will I bless Thee and praise Thy name forever and ever! Vouchsafe, O Lord, to keep us this day without sin. Blessed art Thou, O Lord God of our fathers, and praised and glorified is Thy name forever. Amen. Let Thy mercy, O Lord, be upon us as we have set our hope on Thee! Blessed art Thou, O Lord, teach me Thy statutes! Blessed art Thou, O Lord, teach me Thy statutes! Blessed art Thou, O Lord, teach me Thy statutes! O Lord, Thou has been our refuge from generation to generation. I said: Lord, have mercy on me; heal my soul, for I have sinned against Thee. O Lord, I have fled to Thee! Teach me to do Thy will, for Thou are my God! For with Thee is the fountain of life; and in Thy light shall we see light! Continue Thy mercy on those who know Thee!

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 Epitaphion 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 Epitaphion 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 Epitaphion, goes to the Royal Doors, and exclaims:

Priest: Wisdom! Let us attend!

The priest returns the Epitaphion 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 Thy 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 holdest fast the ends of the earth, / Thou hast consented to be held fast in the tomb, / to deliver man from his fall into hell, / and, as Immortal God, // Thou hast given us life and immortality!

Deacon: Wisdom!

Reader: The Prokeimenon in the Fourth Tone: Arise, O Lord, and help us! / Deliver us for Thy Name's sake!

Choir: Arise, O Lord, and help us! / Deliver us for Thy Name's sake!

Reader: We have heard with our ears, O God, our fathers have told us what deeds Thou didst perform in their days, in the days of old.

Choir: Arise, O Lord, and help us! / Deliver us for Thy Name's sake!

Reader: Arise, O Lord, and help us!

Choir: Deliver us for Thy Name's sake!

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, thou knowest." 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 Thine hand! / Forget not Thy poor forever!

Choir: Arise, O Lord my God, lift up Thine hand! / Forget not Thy poor forever!

Reader: I will praise Thee, O Lord, my God, with all my heart; I will make all Thy wonders known!

Choir: Arise, O Lord my God, lift up Thine hand! / Forget not Thy poor forever!

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

Choir: Forget not Thy poor forever!

Deacon: Wisdom!

Reader: The reading from the First Epistle of the Holy 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 be unto you, reader(s)!

Reader: Alleluia in the Fifth Tone. Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Choir: Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

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

Choir: Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

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

Choir: Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

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

Choir: Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

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

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

Deacon: Wisdom! Attend! Let us listen to the Holy Gospel!

Priest: Peace be unto all!

Choir: And with your spirit!

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

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

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 Thee, O Lord! Glory to Thee!

The Augmented Litany

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

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

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

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

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

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

Deacon: Again we pray for the blessed and ever-memorable holy Orthodox patriarchs; and for the blessed and ever-memorable founders of this holy church; 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.

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

Deacon: Again we pray for mercy, life, peace, health, salvation, and visitation for the servants of God_____ and for the pardon and remission of their sins.

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

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

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

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

Choir: Amen.

The Litany of Matins

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

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

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

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

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

Choir: Grant it, O Lord.

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

Choir: Grant it, O Lord.

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

Lord.

Choir: Grant it, O Lord.

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

Choir: Grant it, O Lord.

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

Choir: Grant it, O Lord.

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

Choir: Grant it, O Lord.

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

Choir: To Thee, O Lord.

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

Choir: Amen.

Priest: Peace be unto all.

Choir: And to your spirit.

Deacon: Let us bow our heads unto the Lord.

Choir: To Thee, O Lord.

The Prayer at the Bowing of the Heads

Priest: O holy Lord, who dwells on high and looks upon the humble, and who with Thine all-seeing eye looks down upon all creation: unto Thee have we bowed the neck of our soul and body, and we pray Thee, O Holy of Holies, stretch forth Thine invisible hand from Thy holy dwelling place and bless us all. And if in any way we have sinned, either willingly or unwillingly, pardon us, inasmuch as Thou art good and lovest mankind, granting us Thy good things in this world and beyond this world. For Thine it is to have mercy on us and to save us, O our God, and unto Thee we ascribe glory, to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

Choir: Amen.

The Great Dismissal

Deacon: Wisdom!

Choir: Father, bless!

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

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

Priest: Most Holy Theotokos, save us!

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

Priest: Glory to Thee, O Christ our God and our hope, glory to Thee!

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

Priest: May He Who endured fearful suffering, the life-creating Cross, and voluntary burial in the flesh on behalf of us men and for our salvation, Christ our true God, through the prayers of His most 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, for He is good and loves mankind.

Choir: Amen.

As the faithful come forward to venerate the Epitaphion, 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 Thy Passion, O Christ! / We worship Thy Passion, O Christ! / We worship Thy Passion, O Christ! // and Thy Holy Resurrection.

