

## MATINS OF GREAT AND HOLY SATURDAY

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

*Reader:* Amen. 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. *(3x)*

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

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

Lord, have mercy. *(3x)*

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

Our Father, who art in heaven. Hallowed be thy Name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from 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, Master, bless.

Glory to the holy, con-substantial, life-creating, and undivided Trinity, always, *Priest:*

now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

*Reader:* Amen.

Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, goodwill towards man (3x).

O Lord, open Thou my lips and my mouth shall show forth Thy praise (2x).

## THE SIX PSALMS

### 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 thy anger, nor chasten me in thy wrath! For thy arrows have sunk into me, and thy hand has come down on me. There is no soundness in my flesh because of thy indignation; there is no health in my bones because of my sin. For my iniquities have gone over my head; they weigh like a burden too heavy for me. My wounds grow foul and fester because of my foolishness, I am utterly bowed down and prostrate; all the day I go about mourning. For my loins are filled with burning, and there is no soundness in my flesh. I am utterly spent and crushed; I groan because of the tumult of my heart. Lord, all my longing is known to thee, my sighing is not hidden from

thee. My heart throbs, my strength fails me; and the light of my eyes, it also has gone from me. My friends and companions stand aloof from my plague, and my kinsmen stand afar off. Those who seek my life lay their snares, those who seek my hurt speak of ruin, and meditate treachery all the day long. But I am like a deaf man, I do not hear, like a dumb man who does not open his mouth. Yea, I am like a man who does not hear, and in whose mouth are no rebukes. But for thee, O Lord, do I wait; it is thou, O Lord my God, who wilt answer. For I pray, "Only let them not rejoice over me, who boast against me when my foot slips!" For I am ready to fall, and my pain is ever with me. I confess my iniquity, I am sorry for my sin. Those who are my foes without cause are mighty, and many are those who hate me wrongfully. Those who render me evil for good are my adversaries because I follow after good. Do not forsake me, O Lord! O my God, be not far from me! Make haste to help me, O Lord, my salvation!

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

### **PSALM 63**

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

My soul clings to thee; thy right hand upholds me.

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

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia. Glory to Thee, O God! (3x)

Lord, have mercy. (3x)

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

### PSALM 88

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

## PSALM 103

Bless the Lord, O my soul; and all that is within me, bless his holy name! Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits, who forgives all your iniquity, who heals all your diseases, who redeems your life from the Pit, who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy, who satisfies you with good as long as you live so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's. The Lord works vindication and justice for all who are oppressed. He made known his ways to Moses, his acts to the people of Israel. The Lord is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. He will not always chide, nor will he keep his anger forever. He does not deal with us according to our sins, nor requite us according to our iniquities. For as the heavens are high above the earth, so great is his steadfast love toward those who fear him; as far as the east is from the west, so far does he remove our transgressions from us. As a father pities his children, so the Lord pities those who fear him. For he knows our frame; he remembers that we are dust. As for man, his days are like grass; he flourishes like a flower of the field; for the wind passes over it, and it is gone, and its place knows it no more. But the steadfast love of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting upon those who fear him, and his righteousness to children's children, to those who keep his covenant and remember to do his commandments. The Lord has established his throne in the heavens, and his kingdom rules over all. Bless the Lord, O you his angels, you mighty ones who do his word, hearkening to the voice of his word! Bless the Lord, all his hosts, his ministers that do his will! Bless the Lord, all his works, in all places of his dominion. Bless the Lord, O my soul!  
In all places of his dominion. Bless the Lord, O my soul!

## PSALM 143

Hear my prayer, O Lord; give ear to my supplications! In thy faithfulness answer me, in thy righteousness! Enter not into judgment with thy servant; for no man living is righteous before thee. For the enemy has pursued me; he has crushed my life to the

ground; he has made me sit in darkness like those long dead. Therefore my spirit faints within me; my heart within me is appalled. I remember the days of old, I meditate on all that thou hast done; I muse on what thy hands have wrought. I stretch out my hands to thee; my soul thirsts for thee like a parched land. Make haste to answer me, O Lord! My spirit fails! Hide not thy face from me, lest I be like those who go down to the Pit. Let me hear in the morning of thy steadfast love, for in thee I put my trust. Teach me the way I should go, for to thee I lift up my soul. Deliver me, O Lord, from my enemies! I have fled to thee for refuge! Teach me to do thy will, for thou art my God! Let thy good spirit lead me on a level path! For thy name's sake, O Lord, preserve my life! In thy righteousness bring me out of trouble! And in thy steadfast love cut off my enemies, and destroy all my adversaries, for I am thy servant.

In thy faithfulness answer me, in thy righteousness! Enter not into judgment with thy servant.

In thy faithfulness answer me, in thy righteousness! Enter not into judgment with thy servant.

Let thy good spirit lead me on a level path!

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

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia. Glory to Thee, O God! (3x)

## THE GREAT LITANY

*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.

*Priest:* God is the Lord and has revealed Himself to us. Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord. O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good. His mercy endures

forever.

*Choir:* God is the Lord and has revealed Himself to us. Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.

*Priest:* All the nations surrounded me, but in the name of the Lord I withstood them.

*Choir:* God is the Lord...

*Priest:* I shall not die, but I shall live, and recount the deeds of the Lord.

*Choir:* God is the Lord...

*Priest:* The stone which the builders rejected has become the head of the corner. This is the Lord's doing and it is marvelous in our eyes.

*Choir:* God is the Lord...

### **TROPARIA**

The noble Joseph, when he had taken down Thy most pure body from the tree, wrapped it in fine linen and anointed it with spices and placed it in a new tomb.

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

When Thou didst descend to death, O Life Immortal, Thou didst slay hell with the splendor of Thy Godhead, and when from the depths Thou didst raise the dead, all the powers of Heaven cried out: "O Giver of Life, Christ our God, glory to Thee!"

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

The angel came to the myrrhbearing women at the tomb and said: "Myrrh is fitting for the dead, but Christ has shown Himself a stranger to corruption."

PSALM 119 (118)  
*THE LAMENTATIONS*  
**FIRST STASIS**

LITTLE LITANY

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

*Choir:* Amen.

**SECOND STASIS**

LITTLE LITANY

*Priest:* For Holy art Thou, O God, Who dost rest upon glorious throne of the cherubim, and to The we send up glory

*Choir:* Amen.

**THIRD STASIS**

**EVLOGITARIA: BLESSED ART THOU, O LORD**

*Tone 5*

*R. 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.

*R. 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.”



*R. 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."

*R. 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."

*R. 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."

*R. Now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.*

Since thou gavest birth to the Giver of Life, O Virgin, thou didst deliver Adam from his sin. Thou gavest joy to Eve instead of sadness. The God-man Who was born of thee has restored to life those who had fallen from it.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, glory to Thee, O God. (*thrice*)

## LITTLE LITANY

*Priest:* For Thou art the King of peace and the Savior of our souls, and unto Thee do we send up glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

*Choir:* Amen.

## PSALM 50

*Reader:* 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 sins did my mother conceive me. Behold, Thou desirest truth in the inward being; therefore teach me wisdom in my secret heart. Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow. Fill me with joy and gladness; let the bones which Thou hast broken rejoice. Hide Thy face from my sins, and blot out all my iniquities. Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me. Cast me not away from Thy presence, and take not Thy Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of Thy salvation, and uphold me with a willing spirit. Then I will teach transgressors Thy ways, and sinners will return to Thee. Deliver me from blood-guiltiness, O God, Thou God of my salvation, and my tongue will sing aloud of Thy deliverance. O Lord, open Thou my lips, and my mouth shall show forth Thy praise. For Thou hast no delight in sacrifice; were I to give a burnt offering, Thou wouldst not be pleased. The sacrifice acceptable to God is a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, Thou wilt not despise. Do good to Zion in Thy good pleasure; rebuild the walls of Jerusalem, then wilt Thou delight in right sacrifices, in burnt offerings and whole burnt offerings; then bulls will be offered on Thine altar.

## **THE CANON OF HOLY SATURDAY**

### **(TONE 6) ODE 1**

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

*Reader:* *Glory to Thee, our God, glory to Thee.*

Unto Thee I sing a hymn for the departed and a song of burial, O Lord my God, who by Thy burial hast opened for me the entrance to life and by Thy death hast put Death and Hell to death.

*Glory to Thee, our God, glory to Thee.*

Beholding Thee upon the throne on high and in the grave below, the things of heaven and the things beneath the earth trembled at Thy death; for in a manner past understanding wast Thou, the very Source of Life, see dead.

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

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

### ODE 3

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

*Reader:* *Glory to Thee, our God, glory to Thee.*

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

*Glory to Thee, our God, glory to Thee.*

Thou hast stretched out Thy hands, O Savior, and united what before had been divided;

and by clothing Thyself in a winding sheet Thou hast saved even those held captive by the tomb, who cry: “None is holy but Thee, O Lord!”

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

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

#### ODE 4

*Irmos:* 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 the Almighty Lord!”

*Reader:* *Glory to Thee, our God, glory to Thee.*

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

*Glory to Thee, our God, glory to Thee.*

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

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

When hell encountered Thee as a mortal man deified, marked with wounds yet having almighty power, it cried out at Thine awesome appearance.

## ODE 5

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

*Reader:* *Glory to Thee, our God, glory to Thee.*

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

*Glory to Thee, our God, glory to Thee.*

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

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

Thou didst come forth from a painless birth, O my Maker, and Thy side was pierced. By this Thou, the new Adam, accomplished the restoration of Eve. Thou didst fall into a sleep surpassing nature, and, as the all-powerful One, didst raise up life from sleep and corruption.

## ODE 6

*Irmos:* 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!”

*Reader:* *Glory to Thee, our God, glory to Thee.*

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

*Glory to Thee, our God, glory to Thee.*

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

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

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

*Reader:* Lord, have mercy (3x). Glory... Now and ever... Amen.

### **Kontakion (Tone 6)**

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

### **Oikos**

*Reader:* 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 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 7

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

*Reader:* *Glory to Thee, our God, glory to Thee.*

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

*Glory to Thee, our God, glory to Thee.*

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

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

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

## ODE 8

*Irmos:* Be amazed, O heavens! Be shaken, O foundations of the earth! Behold, He that dwells in the highest is numbered among the dead and sheltered in a lowly tomb. Bless



Him, O youths! Praise Him, O priests! O people, exalt Him above all forever!

*Reader: Glory to Thee, our God, glory to Thee.*

The pure Temple has been destroyed, yet He raises with Himself the tabernacle that had fallen; for the second Adam, who dwells in the highest, has descended to the first Adam, even unto the lowest chambers of hell. Bless Him, O youths! Praise Him, O priests! O people, exalt Him above all forever!

*Glory to Thee, our God, glory to Thee.*

The courage of all the disciples failed, but Joseph of Arimathea showed valor; for seeing the God of all dead and naked, he sought Him and dressed Him for burial, crying: “Bless Him, O youths! Praise Him, O priests! O people, exalt Him above all forever!”

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

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

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

## ODE 9

*Irmos:* Do not lament me, O Mother, seeing me in the tomb, the Son conceived in the womb without seed, for I shall arise and be glorified with eternal glory as God. I shall

exalt all who magnify you in faith and in love.

*Reader: 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 mine 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 anquished mine enemies on the cross, I shall arise as God and magnify you.”

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

“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 I shall arise!”

#### LITTLE LITANY

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

*Choir:* Amen.

*Priest:* Holy is the Lord our God.

*Choir:* Holy is the Lord our God.

*Priest:* For holy is the Lord our God.

*Choir:* Holy is the Lord our God.

*Priest:* Over all peoples is our God.

*Choir:* Over all peoples is our God.

## THE PRAISES

*Choir:* 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!

*Reader:* *Praise Him for His mighty deeds, praise Him according to His exceeding greatness!*

Today a tomb holds Him who holds creation in the hollow of His hand.

A stone covers Him who covered the heavens with glory. Life sleeps and Hell trembles

Adam is set free from his bonds. Glory to Thy plan of salvation By it Thou hast fulfilled  
all things granting us an eternal Sabbath rest Thy most holy resurrection from the dead!

*Praise Him with trumpet sound; praise Him with lute and harp*

What is the sight we behold? What is the present rest? The King of the Ages keeps the  
Sabbath in the tomb through His Passion He has fulfilled the plan of salvation  
granting us a new Sabbath rest To Him let us cry aloud “Arise, O God and judge the  
earth, for Thou dost reign forever and beyond measure is Thy great mercy!”

*Praise Him with timbrel and dance; praise Him with strings and pipe!*

Come, let us see our Life lying in the tomb, to give life to those who lie dead in the tombs.

Come, look today on the Son of Judah sleeping with Jacob the patriarch, let us cry to im

“Thou hast stooped down; Thou hast crouched as a lion who dares rouse Thee up, O King?” But arise in Thine own power O Thou who didst willingly give Thyself for us O Lord, glory to Thee!

*Praise Him with sounding cymbals; praise Him with loud clashing cymbals! Let everything that breathes praise the lord! Praise the Lord!*

Joseph sought the body of Jesus and laid it in his own new tomb for it was fitting that Christ come forth from the grave as from a bridal chamber O Thou who hast destroyed the power of death and hast opened for mankind the gates of Paradise Glory to Thee!

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

The great Moses mystic’ly 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.

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

*Choir:* You are most blessed, O Virgin Theotokos for through the God and Man who was born of you, Hell has been captured and Adam recalled the curse has been annulled and Eve set free death has been slain, so we are given life blessed is Christ our God, whose good will it was Glory to you!

*Priest:* Glory to Thee Who hast shown us the light!

## GREAT DOXOLOGY

*Choir:* Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will towards 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 takest away the sin of the world, have mercy on us. Thou that takest away the sins of the world, receive our prayer. Thou that sittest at the right hand of Father have mercy on us. For Thou alone art holy, Thou alone art Lord, Jesus Christ, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

Every day will I give thanks to Thee and praise Thy Name for ever 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 be upon us, O Lord, as we have set our hope on Thee.

Blessed art Thou, O Lord, teach me Thy statutes. (*thrice*)

Lord, Thou hast been our refuge from generation to generation. I said: Lord, have mercy on me, heal my soul, for I have sinned against Thee. Lord, I have fled unto Thee. Teach me to do Thy will, for Thou art my God. For with Thee is the fountain of life, and in Thy light shall we see light. O continue Thy mercy unto 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 with the Burial Shroud around the church.*

*From the Royal Doors, with the Shroud held aloft*

*Priest:* Wisdom!

## TROPARION

*Choir:* The noble Joseph, when he had taken down Thy most pure body from the tree, wrapped it in fine linen and anointed it with spices and placed it in a new tomb.

*As the choir sings, the Priest returns the Shroud to the center of the Church, places the Gospel upon it, and censes around it once.*

*Priest:* Wisdom!

*Reader:* The **Troparion of the Prophecy** in the Second Tone.

*Choir:* O Christ, who hold fast the ends of the earth, Thou have consented to be held fast in the tomb, to deliver man from his fall into hell! And, as immortal God, Thou have given us life and immortality!

*Priest:* Wisdom!

*Reader:* The prokeimenon in the Fourth Tone: Arise, O God, and help us! Deliver us for Thy Name's sake!

*Choir:* Arise, O God, 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, the days of old.

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

*Reader:* Arise, O God, and help us!

*Choir:* Deliver us for Thy Name's sake!

*Priest:* Wisdom!

*Reader:* The reading is from the Prophet Ezekiel.

*Priest:* Let us attend!

*Reader:* The hand of the LORD came upon me and brought me out in the Spirit of the LORD, and set me down in the midst of the valley; and it was full of bones. Then He caused me to pass by them all around, and behold, there were very many in the open valley; and indeed they were very dry. And He said to me, "Son of man, can these bones live?" So 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: "Surely I will cause breath to enter into you, and you shall live. "I will put sinews on you and bring flesh upon you, cover you with skin and put breath in you; and you shall live. Then you shall know that I am the LORD." ' ' " So I prophesied as I was commanded; and as I prophesied, there was a noise, and suddenly a rattling; and the bones came together, bone to bone. Indeed, as I looked, the sinews and the flesh came upon them, and the skin covered them over; but there was no breath in them. Also He said to me, "Prophecy to the breath, prophecy, son of man, and say to the breath, 'Thus says the Lord GOD: "Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe on these slain, that they may live." ' ' " So I prophesied as He commanded me, and breath came into them, and they lived, and stood upon their feet, an exceedingly great army. Then He said to me, "Son of man, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They indeed say, 'Our bones are dry, our hope is lost, and we ourselves are cut off!' "Therefore prophecy and say to them, 'Thus says the Lord GOD: "Behold, O My people, I will open your graves and cause you to come up from your graves, and bring you into the land of Israel. "Then you shall know that I am the LORD, when I have opened your graves, O My people, and brought you up from your graves. "I will put My Spirit in you, and you shall live, and I will place you in your own land. Then you shall know that I, the LORD, have spoken it and performed it," says the LORD.' "

*Priest:* Wisdom!

*Reader:* The prokeimenon in the Seventh Tone: Arise, O Lord my God, lift up Thy hand! Forget not Thy poor forever!

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

*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 Thy hand! Forget not Thy poor forever!

*Reader:* Arise, O Lord my God, lift up Thy hand!

*Choir:* Forget not Thy poor forever!

*Priest:* Wisdom!

*Reader:* The reading is from the First Epistle of the Holy Apostle Paul to the Corinthians.

*Priest:* Let us attend!

*Reader:*

Brethren, Do you not know that a little leaven leavens the whole lump? Therefore purge out the old leaven, that you may be a new lump, since you truly are unleavened. For indeed Christ, our Passover, was sacrificed for us. Therefore let us keep the feast, not with old leaven, nor with the leaven of malice and wickedness, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.

Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law, having become a curse for us (for it is written, "Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree"), that the blessing of Abraham might come upon the Gentiles in Christ Jesus, that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith.

*Priest:* Peace be to you who have read!

*Reader:* And to your spirit! 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!

*Priest:* Wisdom let us attend, let us listen to the Holy Gospel! Peace be unto all!

*Choir:* And to your spirit.

*Priest:* The reading is from the Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew.

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

*Priest:* Let us attend!

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

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

## AUGMENTED LITANY

*Priest:* For Thou art a merciful God and love mankind, and to 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

## LITANY OF MATINS

*Priest:* For Thou art a good God and the Lover of mankind, and to 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.

*Priest:* Let us bow our heads unto the Lord.

*Choir:* To Thee, O Lord.

*Priest:* O Holy Lord, who dwells on high and regards the humble of heart, and who with Thine all-seeing eye beholds all creation: to Thee have we bowed the neck of our soul and body and we entreat Thee: Stretch forth Thine invisible hand from Thy holy dwelling-place and bless us all. And if in any way we have sinned, whether voluntary or involuntary, forgive, inasmuch as Thou art a good God, and the lover of mankind, vouchsafing to us Thy earthly and heavenly good things.

For Thine it is to show mercy and to save us, O our God, and to 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 DISMISSAL

*Priest:* Wisdom!

*Choir:* Master, 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 ages of ages. Amen. Lord have mercy. Lord have mercy. Lord have mercy. Master, bless!

*Priest:* May He who endured fearful suffering, the life-creating Cross, and voluntary burial in the flesh for our sake 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 as much as He is good, and loves mankind!

*Choir:* Amen! Lord have mercy, Lord have mercy, Lord have mercy!