Matins of Holy Saturday
(typically offered Friday evening)
Arranged as an *abbreviated* Readers’ Service

Last revised 2020
The Senior Reader makes three metanias and says:

Sr. Rdr.: Through the prayers of our holy Fathers, O Lord Jesus Christ our God, have mercy on us and save us.

Reader: Amen.

The Trisagion Prayers

Reader: Glory to You, our God, glory to You!

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

Holy God! Holy Mighty! Holy Immortal! Have mercy on us. (3x)

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

O most-holy Trinity, have mercy on us!
O Lord, cleanse us from our sins!
O Master, pardon our transgressions!
O Holy One, visit and heal our infirmities, for Your name’s sake!

Lord, have mercy. (3x)

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

Our Father, Who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy Kingdom come. Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from the evil One.

Sr. Rdr.: O Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on us.

Reader: Amen.
Lord, have mercy. \( (12x) \)

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

Come, let us worship God our King!
Come, let us worship and fall down before Christ, our King and our God!
Come, let us worship and fall down before the very Christ Himself, our King and our God!

\textit{Reader}: Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men of His will. \( (3x) \)

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

\textbf{The Six Psalms}

(Number and selection of Psalms read is at the discretion of the Senior Reader)

\textit{Psalm 3}

O Lord, why have those who trouble me increased?

Many are rising up against me.

Many are saying to my soul,
“There is no salvation for him in his God.”

But You, O Lord, are my Protector,
my glory and the One lifting up my head.

I cried out to the Lord with my voice,
and He answered me from His holy mountain.

I lay down to rest and slept.
I awoke and rose, because the Lord will always protect me.
I will not be afraid of myriads of people arranged on every side against me.

Arise, O Lord, save me, O my God, for You have struck all who without cause are my enemies. You have broken the teeth of sinners.

Salvation is the gift of the Lord, and Your blessing is upon Your people.

I lay down to rest and slept. I awoke and rose, because the Lord will always protect me.

Psalm 37 (38)

O Lord, rebuke me, but not in Your anger; and correct me, but not in Your wrath.

For Your arrows are stuck in me and You are pressing Your hand upon me.

There is no healing in my flesh from the face of Your wrath; there is no peace in my bones from the presence of my sins.

For my sins have gone over my head; they weigh upon me like a heavy burden.

My wounds stink and fester because of my foolishness.

I became miserable and utterly dejected, I went mourning all day long.

For my soul is filled with mockings and there is no healing in my flesh.

I was afflicted and humbled exceedingly, I roared from the groaning of my heart.
Lord, all my desire is before You, 
and my groaning is not hidden from You.

My heart is troubled, my strength fails me; 
and the light of my eyes, even this is not with me.

My friends and neighbors drew near 
and stood opposite me, 
and my nearest ones stood far away

Those seeking my life took to violence, 
and those seeking evils for me spoke idle words 
and planned treachery all day long.

But I, like a deaf man, do not hear, 
and I am like a dumb man who does not open his mouth.

I became like a man who does not hear 
and in his mouth has no rebukes.

For on You, Lord, I have set my hope; 
You will answer me, O Lord my God.

For I said, “Let my enemies never rejoice over me 
or boast over me when my feet are shaken.”

For I am ready for scourges 
and my pain is before me continually.

For I will confess my lawlessness 
and I will be concerned about my sin.

But my enemies live and are stronger than me, 
and those who hate me wrongfully have multiplied.

Those who repay me evil for good, oppose me, 
because I follow goodness.
Do not forsake me, O Lord;
O my God, do not stay far away from me!

Attend to my help,
O Lord of my salvation.

Do not forsake me, O Lord;
O my God, do not stay far away from me!

Attend to my help,
O Lord of my salvation.

Psalm 62 (63)

O God, my God, at dawn I rise to You!
My soul thirsts for You.

And how often my flesh longs for You,
in a desolate land, trackless and waterless!

So I appeared before You in the holy place,
to see Your power and Your glory.

For Your love is better than life;
my lips shall praise You.

So I will bless You as long as I live
and lift up my hands in Your name.

Let my soul be filled with delight,
and my mouth will praise You with joyful lips.

When I remember You on my bed,
I meditate on You in the morning watches.

For You have become my helper,
and in the shelter of Your wings I rejoice.

My soul is glued behind You
and Your right hand holds me tightly.
But those trying in vain to take my life
will go into earth’s infernal regions.

They will be delivered to the hands of the sword,
they will be the portion of jackals.

But the king will rejoice in God,
all who swear by Him will be praised,
for the mouth of those who tell lies will be stopped.

I meditate on You in the morning watches.

For You have become my helper,
and in the shelter of Your wings I rejoice.

My soul is glued behind You
and Your right hand holds me tightly.

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

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

Lord, have mercy. (3x)

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

Psalm 87 (88)

O Lord God of my salvation,
I have cried day and night before You.

Let my prayer come in before You;
incline Your ear to my petition.

For my soul is filled with evils
and my life has come near to Hades.
I am counted with those who go down into the pit,
I became like a helpless man, free among the dead,
like those who have been killed and sleep in the grave,
whom You remember no more
and who are cut off from Your hand.

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

Your anger leans hard upon me,
and You have brought upon me all Your waves.

You have put my acquaintances far from me;
they have made me an abomination to them;
I was betrayed and did not escape.

My eyes grew weak from poverty;
I cry all day to You, Lord,
I spread out my hands to You.

Will You work miracles for the dead
or will physicians raise them up so they will praise You?

Will anyone in the grave tell of Your mercy,
or will they tell of Your truth in the place of destruction?

Will Your wonders be known in the darkness
and Your justice in the land where all is forgotten?

But to You, O Lord, I have cried
and early in the morning my prayer will come before You.

Why, O Lord, do You reject my soul
and turn away Your face from me?

I am poor and in troubles from my youth;
but after being exalted, I am humbled and perplexed.
Your anger has passed over me,  
Your terrors have troubled me.

They surrounded me like water all day long;  
together they closed in upon me.

You have put far from me friend and neighbor  
and my acquaintances because of my misery.

O Lord God of my salvation,  
I have cried day and night before You.

Let my prayer come in before You;  
incline Your ear to my petition.

Psalm 102 (103)

Bless the Lord, O my soul,  
and all that is within me bless His holy name.

Bless the Lord, O my soul,  
and do not forget all His rewards:

who forgives all your sins,  
who heals all your diseases,

who redeems your life from destruction,  
who crowns you with mercy and compassion,

who satisfies your desire with good things,  
your youth will be renewed like an eagle’s.

The Lord gives mercy and justice  
to all who are being wronged.

He made known His ways to Moses,  
His will to the people of Israel.

The Lord is compassionate and merciful,  
most patient and most merciful.
He will not always be angry, 
nor will He threaten forever.

He has not dealt with us according to our lawlessness, 
nor rewarded us according to our sins.

For as high as heaven is from the earth, 
so great is the Lord’s mercy to those who fear Him.

As far as the east is from the west, 
so far has He put our sins from us.

As a father has compassion on his children, 
so the Lord has compassion on those who fear Him.

For He knows what we are made of, 
He remembers that we are dust.

Man--his days are like grass; 
he flourishes like a flower of the field.

When the spirit in him has passed, he will not exist, 
and he will know his place no more.

But the Lord’s mercy is from age to age 
for those who fear Him, 
and His justice is for their children’s children.

for those who keep His covenant 
and remember to carry out His commandments.

The Lord has prepared His throne in heaven 
and His kingdom rules over all.

Bless the Lord, all you angels of His, 
who are mighty in strength, who do His word 
and listen for the sound of His words.
Bless the Lord, all His hosts,
His ministers who do His will.

Bless the Lord, all His works,
in every place of His dominion.
Bless the Lord, O my soul!

In every place of His dominion.
Bless the Lord, O my soul!

Psalm 142 (143)

Lord, listen to my prayer,
give ear to my need in Your truth.
Answer me in Your righteousness.

And do not enter into judgment with Your servant,
for in Your sight no one living is righteous.

For the enemy has persecuted my soul,
he has humbled my life to the ground.
He has made me sit in darkness
like the dead of long ago.

And my spirit desponded over me,
my heart within me was troubled.

I remember the days of old,
I meditate on all Your works,
I meditate on the works of Your hands.

I stretch out my hands to You,
my soul like parched earth thirsts for You.

Answer me quickly, O Lord, my spirit grows faint.
Do not turn away Your face from me,
or I shall be like those who go down to the pit.
Let me hear Your mercy in the morning,
for on You I have set my hope.
Make known to me the way I should go, O Lord,
For I lift up my soul to You.

Deliver me from my enemies, O Lord,
for I come running to You.

Teach me to do Your will,
for You are my God;
Your good Spirit will guide me in the straight land.

Revive me, O Lord, for Your name’s sake.
In Your justice You will bring my soul out of trouble,

and in Your mercy You will put an end to my enemies
and destroy all who afflict my soul,
for I am Your servant.

Answer me in Your righteousness,
And do not enter into judgment with Your servant.

Answer me in Your righteousness,
And do not enter into judgment with Your servant.

Your good Spirit will guide me in the straight land.

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

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

Sr. Rdr.: Lord, have mercy. (12x)

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

Sr. Rdr.: Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!
God is the Lord, Who has revealed Himself to us! Blessed is He that comes in the name of Lord!

O Give thanks to the Lord for He is good; for His mercy endures forever.

_People:_ God is the Lord, Who has revealed Himself to us! Blessed is He that comes in the name of Lord!

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

_People:_ God is the Lord, Who has revealed Himself to us! Blessed is He that comes in the name of Lord!

_Sr. Rdr.:_ I shall not die but live, and recount the works of the Lord.

_People:_ God is the Lord, Who has revealed Himself to us! Blessed is He that comes in the name of Lord!

_Sr. Rdr.:_ The stone which the builders rejected has become the cornerstone. This is the Lord’s doing and is wonderful in our eyes.

_People:_ God is the Lord, Who has revealed Himself to us! Blessed is He that comes in the name of Lord!

**Troparion**

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

_Reader:_ Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit,
People: When You descended to death, O Life Immortal, You slew Hades with the splendor of Your Godhead, and from the depths You raised the dead, all the powers of heaven cried out, “O Giver of life, Christ our God, glory to You.”

Reader: …now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

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

The following troparia, known as the Lamentations, are sung between the verses of Kathisma 17, Psalm 118 (119) in 3 Stases, as follows (this is an abbreviation of the full Lamentations):
GREAT AND HOLY SATURDAY MATINS
THE LAMENTATIONS
THE FIRST STASIS
TONE FIVE

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

BLESSED ARE THOSE WHOSE WAY IS BLAMELESS, WHO WALK IN THE LAW OF THE LORD.

In a tomb they laid You, O Christ the Life. The angelic hosts were overcome with awe, and glorified Your

condescension.
BLESSED ARE THOSE WHO KEEP HIS TESTIMONIES, WHO SEEK HIM WITH THEIR WHOLE HEART. FOR THOSE WHO WORK WICKEDNESS HAVE NOT WALKED IN HIS WAYS.

O LIFE, HOW CAN YOU DIE: HOW CAN YOU DWELL IN THE TOMB? YET BY YOUR DEATH YOU HAVE DESTROYED THE REIGN OF DEATH, AND RAISED ALL THE DEAD FROM HELL.

YOU HAVE COMMANDED YOUR PRECEPTS TO BE DILIGENTLY KEPT. O THAT MY WAYS MAY BE STEADFAST IN KEEPING YOUR STATUTES!

WE MAGNIFY YOU, O JESUS, OUR KING. WE WORSHIP YOUR PASSION AND YOUR BURIAL, FOR BY THEM, YOU HAVE SAVED US FROM DEATH.

THEN I SHALL NOT BE PUT TO SHAME, HAVING MY EYES FIXED ON ALL YOUR COMMANDMENTS. I WILL PRAISE YOU WITH AN UPRIGHT HEART, WHEN I LEARN YOUR RIGHTEOUS ORDINANCES.

O MESSIAH, JESUS, MY KING, THE LORD OF ALL, WHOM ARE YOU SEEKING IN THE DEPTHS OF HELL? HAVE YOU COME TO FREE THE RACE OF MORTAL MEN?

I WILL OBSERVE YOUR STATUTES; FORSAKE ME NOT UTTERLY. HOW CAN A YOUNG MAN KEEP HIS WAY PURE? BY GUARDING IT ACCORDING TO YOUR WORD.

LO, THE SOV’REIGN RULER OF CREATION IS DEAD. ALMIGHTY GOD IS LAID IN A NEW TOMB TO EMPTY THE GRAVES OF ALL THEIR DEAD.

WITH MY WHOLE HEART I SEEK YOU; LET ME NOT WANDER FROM YOUR COMMANDMENTS. I HAVE HIDDEN YOUR WORK IN MY HEART, THAT I MIGHT NOT SIN AGAINST YOU.

IN A TOMB THEY LAID YOU, O CHRIST THE LIFE. BY YOUR DEATH, YOU CAST DOWN THE MIGHT OF DEATH, AND BECAME THE FONT OF LIFE FOR ALL THE WORLD.

WITH MY LIPS I DECLARE ALL THE ORDINANCES OF YOUR MOUTH. IN THE WAY OF YOUR TESTIMONIES, I DELIGHT, AS MUCH AS IN ALL RICHES.

YOU, O LORD, ARE FAIRER THAN ALL THE SONS OF MEN. YOU HAVE FILLED CREATION WITH YOUR BEAUTY. HOW CAN YOU LIE BEFORE US DEAD THIS DAY?
I WILL MEDITATE ON YOUR PRECEPTS, AND FIX MY EYES ON YOUR WAYS.
I WILL DELIGHT IN YOUR STATUTES; I WILL NOT FORGET YOUR WORD.

HOW COULD HELL BEAR YOUR COMING AND NOT SHATTER AT ONCE?
DEATH IS BLINDED BY YOUR SPLENDOR, O LORD.
ITS GLOOM IS SCATTERED BY YOUR DAZZLING LIGHT.

DEAL BOUNTIFULLY WITH YOUR SERVANT; GIVE ME LIFE, AND I SHALL
KEEP YOUR WORD. OPEN MY EYES, THAT I MAY BEHOLD WONDROUS
THINGS OUT OF YOUR LAW.

A NEW AND STRANGE WONDER!
HE WHO GAVE ME LIFE AND BREATH NOW IS LIFELESS, BREATHLESS,
CARRIED TO THE TOMB AND BURIED BY JOSEPH'S HANDS.

I AM ONLY A SOJOURNER ON EARTH; HIDE NOT YOUR COMMANDMENTS
FROM ME. MY SOUL IS CONSUMED WITH LONGING FOR YOUR ORDINANCES
AT ALL TIMES.

IN YOUR BODY, BURIED IN HELL WITH YOUR SOUL,
YET NOT PARTED FROM YOUR FATHER'S SIDE, O CHRIST!
O STRANGE AND AWESOME WONDER!

YOU HAVE REBUKED THE PROUD, AND CURSED ARE THOSE WHO WANDER
FROM YOUR COMMANDMENTS. TAKE AWAY FROM ME THEIR SCORN AND
CONTEMPT, FOR I HAVE KEPT YOUR TESTIMONIES.

HE WHO HOLDS THE EARTH IN THE HOLLOW OF HIS HAND
HAS BEEN PUT TO DEATH AND HELD FAST BY THE EARTH,
TO SAVE THE DEAD FROM HELL'S GRASPING HAND.

EVEN THOUGH PRINCES SIT PLOTTING AGAINST ME, YOUR SERVANT WILL
MEDITATE ON YOUR STATUTES. YOUR TESTIMONIES ARE MY DELIGHT;
THEY ARE MY COUNSELORS.

NOW GOD'S FLESH IS HIDDEN BENEATH A VEIL OF EARTH,
YET IT IS A LAMPSTAND SHINING BRIGHTLY,
SCATTERING THE DARKNESS OF HELL.

WHEN I TOLD OF MY WAYS, YOU ANSWERED ME; TEACH ME YOUR
STATUTES! MAKE ME UNDERSTAND THE WAY OF YOUR PRECEPTS, AND
I WILL MEDITATE ON YOUR WONDROUS WORKS.

WILLINGLY SLAIN, O JESUS, AND LAID BENEATH THE EARTH,
YOU HAVE RAISED ME UP, O FOUNTAIN OF LIFE,
WHEN I LAY DEAD IN BITTER SIN.
MY SOUL MELTS AWAY FOR SORROW; STRENGTHEN ME ACCORDING TO YOUR WORD. PUT FALSE WAYS FAR FROM ME, AND GRACIOUSLY TEACH ME YOUR LAW.

WISHING TO SAVE ADAM, YOU CAME DOWN TO EARTH.
NOT FINDING HIM ON EARTH, O MASTER,
YOU DESCENDED TO HADES SEEKING HIM

I HAVE CHOSEN THE WAY OF TRUTH; I HAVE NOT FORGOTTEN YOUR ORDINANCES. I CLEAVE TO YOUR TESTIMONIES, O LORD; LET ME NOT BE PUT TO SHAME.

AS A MAN, O SAVIOR, YOU CONSENTED TO DIE.
AS GOD, YOU RAISED THE DEAD FROM THEIR TOMBS,
AND LIFTED THEM FROM THE DARK ABYSS OF SIN.

I WILL RUN IN THE WAY OF YOUR COMMANDMENTS WHEN YOU HAST ENLARGED MY HEART. TEACH ME, O LORD, THE WAY OF YOUR STATUTES, AND I WILL KEEP IT TO THE END.

THE PURE VIRGIN SHED TEARS OF LAMENTATION FOR YOU.
WITH A MOTHER’S GRIEF SHE CRIED OUT, O LORD:
HOW CAN I LAY YOU IN THE GRAVE, O MY SON?

GIVE ME UNDERSTANDING THAT I MAY KEEP YOUR LAW, AND OBSERVE IT WITH MY WHOLE HEART. LEAD ME IN THE PATH OF YOUR COMMANDMENTS FOR I DELIGHT IN IT.

AS THE SUN AT EVENING SETS BENEATH THE EARTH,
YOU ARE HIDDEN, COVERED BY THE NIGHT OF DEATH.
O SAVIOR, ARISE IN BRIGHTER DAWN!

INCLINE MY HEART TO YOUR TESTIMONIES, AND NOT TO GAIN. TURN MY EYES FROM LOOKING AT VANITIES, AND GIVE ME LIFE IN YOUR WAYS.

AS WHEN THE MOON COVERS THE CIRCLE OF THE SUN,
NOW THE GRAVE HAS HIDDEN YOU, O SAVIOR,
ECLIPSING YOUR MORTAL FLESH IN DEATH.

ESTABLISH YOUR PROMISE IN YOUR SERVANT, THAT I MAY FEAR YOU.
TURN AWAY THE REPROACH WHICH I DREAD; FOR YOUR ORDINANCES ARE GOOD.

THROUGH THE SERPENT’S ENVY, ADAM DIED OF OLD,
BUT YOU CAME, O SAVIOR, OUR NEW ADAM,
TO BRING HIM BACK TO LIFE, THROUGH YOUR DEATH.
BEHOLD, I LONG FOR YOUR PRECEPTS; IN YOUR RIGHTEOUSNESS, GIVE ME LIFE. LET YOUR MERCY COME TO ME, O LORD; YOUR SALVATION, ACCORDING TO YOUR PROMISE.

WHEN THE RANKS OF ANGELS SAW YOU LYING DEAD, THEY WERE FILLED WITH FEAR AND WONDER, O LORD, AND COVERED THEIR FACES WITH THEIR WINGS.

I WILL KEEP YOUR LAW CONTINUALLY, FOREVER AND EVER. AND I SHALL WALK AT LIBERTY, FOR I HAVE SOUGHT YOUR PRECEPTS.

THE LAMBS OF OLD WERE SLAIN SECRETLY IN EGYPT, BUT YOU WERE SACRIFICED BENEATH THE OPEN SKY, FOR THE CLEANSING OF THE UNIVERSE.

GLORY TO THE FATHER, AND TO THE SON, AND TO THE HOLY SPIRIT.

O WORD OF GOD, WE PRAISE YOU, THE LORD OF ALL THE WORLD, WITH YOUR FATHER AND YOUR HOLY SPIRIT, AND WE GLORIFY YOUR BURIAL.

NOW AND EVER, AND UNTO AGES OF AGES. AMEN.

WE BLESS YOU, Ô VIRGIN, BIRTHGIVER OF GOD. AND WITH FAITHFUL HEARTS, WE PRAISE THE BURIAL ENDURED BY YOUR SON AND OUR GOD.

AND WE REPEAT THE FIRST TROPARION: IN A TOMB THEY LAID YOU, Ô CHRIST THE LIFE. THE ANGELIC HOSTS WERE OVERCOME WITH AWE, AND GLORIFIED YOUR CONDESCENSION.

2nd Rdr.: Lord have mercy (3x)
GREAT AND HOLY SATURDAY MATINS
THE LAMENTATIONS
THE SECOND STASIS
TONE FIVE (SUNG IN THE SAME MELODY)

IT IS RIGHT TO MAGNIFY YOU, O LIFE-GIVING LORD.
YOU STRECHED OUT YOUR MOST PURE ARMS UPON THE CROSS,
AND BROKE THE ENEMY'S POWER.

YOUR HANDS HAVE MADE AND FASHIONED ME; GIVE ME UNDERSTANDING
THAT I MAY LEARN YOUR COMMANDMENTS.

IT IS RIGHT TO MAGNIFY YOU, O CREATOR OF ALL.
WE ARE FREED FROM PASSION THROUGH YOUR PASSION,
AND DELIVERED FROM CORRUPTION.

THOSE WHO FEAR YOU SHALL SEE ME AND REJOICE, BECAUSE I HAVE
HOPED IN YOUR WORD. I KNOW, O LORD, THAT YOUR JUDGMENTS ARE RIGHT,
AND THAT IN FAITHFULNESS, YOU HAVE AFFLICTED ME.

THE EARTH QUAKE WITH FEAR, O SAVIOR CHRIST;
THE SUN HID ITSELF SEEING YOU, THE LIGHT THAT KNOWS NO EVENING,
SINKING DOWN INTO THE TOMB.

LET YOUR STEADFAST LOVE BE READY TO COMFORT ME, ACCORDING TO
YOUR PROMISE TO YOUR SERVANT. LET YOUR MERCY COME TO ME THAT I
MAY LIVE, FOR YOUR LAW IS MY DELIGHT.

YOU SLEPT IN THE TOMB, O CHRIST, A LIFE-GIVING SLEEP,
BY WHICH YOU HAVE WAKENED ALL THE HUMAN RACE
FROM THE HEAVY SLUMBER OF SIN.

LET THE GODLESS BE PUT TO SHAME, BECAUSE THEY HAVE TRANSGRESSED
AGAINST ME UNJUSTLY; AS FOR ME, I WILL MEDITATE ON YOUR PRECEPTS.
LET THOSE WHO FEAR YOU TURN TO ME, THAT THEY MIGHT KNOW YOUR
TESTIMONIES.

BY YOUR NOD ALONE, LONG AGO, THE EARTH WAS SET ON ITS COURSE.
NOW YOU HAVE DESCENDED DEAD BENEATH THE EARTH.
TREMBLE, O HEAVEN, AT THIS SIGHT.

MAY MY HEART BE BLAMELESS IN YOUR STATUTES, THAT I MAY NOT BE PUT
TO SHAME. MY SOUL Languishes FOR YOUR SALVATION; I HOPE IN YOUR
WORD.
COME, LET US SING OUR LAMENT TO CHRIST, WHO DIES FOR US,
THAT WITH THE MYRRHBEARERS, WE MAY BE WORTHY,
TO HEAR HIS SAVING GREETING: REJOICE!

*MY EYES FAIL WITH WATCHING FOR YOUR PROMISE; I ASK, “WHEN WILL
YOU COMFORT ME?” FOR I HAVE BECOME LIKE A WINESKIN IN THE
SMOKE, YET I HAVE NOT FORGOTTEN YOUR STATUTES.*

YOU DESTROYED THE PALACE OF HELL BY YOUR BURIAL, O CHRIST
YOU HAVE TRAMPLED DOWN DEATH BY YOUR DEATH, O LORD,
AND REDEEMED EARTH’S CHILDREN FROM CORRUPTION.

*HOW LONG MUST YOUR SERVANT ENDURE? WHEN WILL YOU JUDGE
THOSE WHO PERSECUTE ME? GODLESS MEN HAVE DUG PITFALLS FOR
ME, MEN WHO DO NOT CONFORM TO YOUR LAW.*

“THAT I MAY FASHION ANEW ADAM’S BROKEN NATURE,
I WILLINGLY ENDURE DEATH’S STING IN MY FLESH.
O MOTHER, DO NOT STRIKE YOUR BREAST IN GRIEF.”

*ALL YOUR COMMANDMENTS ARE SURE; THEY PERSECUTE ME WITH
FALSEHOOD: HELP ME! THEY HAVE ALMOST MADE AN END OF ME ON
EARTH; BUT I HAVE NOT FORSAKEN YOUR PRECEPTS.*

THE SEED THAT GIVES LIFE TO THE WORLD, TWOFOLD IN NATURE,
SOWN TODAY WITH TEARS IN EARTH’S DARK FURROWS,
TOMORROW WILL SPROUT FORTH LIFE.

*IN YOUR STEADFAST LOVE SPARE MY LIFE, THAT I MAY KEEP THE
COMMANDMENTS OF YOUR MOUTH. FOREVER, O LORD, YOUR WORD IS
FIRMLY FIXED IN HEAVEN.*

SHE WHO GAVE BIRTH TO YOU, O CHRIST, POURED OUT HER TEARS FOR
YOU;
WHEN SHE SAW YOUR BODY BURIED IN THE TOMB,
“ARISE, AS YOU HAVE PROMISED,” SHE CRIED.

*YOUR TRUTH ENDURES TO ALL GENERATIONS. YOU HAVE ESTABLISHED THE
EARTH, AND IT STANDS FAST. THE DAY CONTINUES BY YOUR ORDINANCE,
FOR ALL THINGS ARE YOUR SERVANTS.*

WHEN YOUR MOTHER SAW YOU, O CHRIST, PIERCED WITH NAILS UPON THE
CROSS,
SHE WAS SMITTEN WITH NAILS OF BITTER GRIEF;
HER SOUL WAS PIERCED, AS FORETOLD BY SIMEON.
IF YOUR LAW HAD NOT BEEN MY DELIGHT, I SHOULD HAVE PERISHED IN MY AFFLICITION. I WILL NEVER FORGET YOUR PRECEPTS; FOR BY THEM YOU HAVE GIVEN ME LIFE.

"I AM TORN ASUNDER WITH GRIEF; MY HEART IS WOUNDED UNTO DEATH, SEEING YOU UNJUSTLY SLAUGHTERED, O MY SON," SAID THE ALL PURE VIRGIN IN HER TEARS.

I AM YOURS, SAVE ME; FOR I HAVE SOUGHT YOUR PRECEPTS. THE WICKED LIE IN WAIT TO DESTROY ME, BUT I CONSIDER YOUR TESTIMONIES.

JOSEPH AND NICodemus now sing hymns of burial, as they stand before the tomb of Christ the Lord, and with them sing the seraphim.

I HAVE SEEN THAT ALL THINGS COME TO AN END, BUT YOUR COMMANDMENT ALONE IS ETERNAL. OH, HOW I LOVE YOUR LAW, O LORD! IT IS MY MEDITATION ALL THE DAYLONG.

HELL SHOOK WITH FEAR, O SAVIOR, SEEING YOU, THE GIVER OF LIFE, SPOILING HIM OF ALL HIS HOAERED RICHES, AND RAISING THE DEAD FROM EVERY AGE.

YOUR COMMANDMENT MAKES ME WISER THAN MY ENEMIES, FOR IT IS MINE FOREVER. I HAVE MORE UNDERSTANDING THAN ALL MY TEACHERS, FOR YOUR TESTIMONIES ARE MY MEDITATION.

THE SUN RISES BRIGHTLY, O WORD, WHEN THE NIGHT IS PASSED. AND AFTER YOUR DEATH, YOU SHALL RISE IN SPLENDOR AS A BRIDEGROOM COMING FROM HIS CHAMBERS.

I UNDERSTAND MORE THAN MY ELDERS, FOR I SEEK YOUR COMMANDMENTS. I HOLD BACK MY FEET FROM EVERY EVIL WAY, IN ORDER TO KEEP YOUR WORD.

THE SUN SET TOGETHER WITH YOU, O CREATOR OF THE LIGHT. ALL CREATION WAS THEN OVERCOME WITH FEAR, AND CONFOSSSED YOU AS CREATOR.

I DO NOT TURN ASIDE FROM YOUR ORDINANCES, FOR YOU HAVE TAUGHT ME. HOW SWEET ARE YOUR WORDS TO MY TASTE, SWEETER THAN HONEY TO THE MOUTH.

THROUGH YOUR PRECEPTS I GAIN UNDERSTANDING; THEREFORE I HATE EVERY FALSE WAY. YOUR WORD IS A LAMP TO MY FEET, AND A LIGHT TO MY PATH.

NO FORM OR BEAUTY DID YOU HAVE WHEN YOU SUFFERED, BUT WHEN YOU WERE CLOTHED IN RESURRECTION LIGHT, YOU BEAUTIFIED THE HUMAN RACE.

I AM SORELY AFFLICTED, GIVE ME LIFE, O LORD, ACCORDING TO YOUR WORD! ACCEPT MY OFFERINGS OF PRAISE, O LORD, AND TEACH ME YOUR ORDINANCES.

THE CENTURION KNEW YOU TO BE GOD, THOUGH YOU WERE COLD IN DEATH.

“How then shall I touch you with my hands, my God? I am afraid,” cried Joseph.

MY SOUL IS CONTINUALLY IN YOUR HANDS, AND I HAVE NOT FORGOTTEN YOUR LAW. THE WICKED HAVE LAID A SNARE FOR ME, BUT I DO NOT STRAY FROM YOUR PRECEPTS.

O LIFE-GIVING VINE, YOU WERE LIFTED FROM THE EARTh; THERE YOU POURED OUT YOUR SAVING WINE, O LORD. I GLORIFY YOUR PASSION AND YOUR CROSS!

I INCLINE MY HEART TO PERFORM YOUR STATUTES FOREVER, TO THE END. I HAVE HATED TRANSGRESSORS, BUT YOUR LAW I HAVE LOVED.

YOU HAVE SLEPT A LITTLE WHILE, AND BROUGHT THE DEAD TO LIFE. YOU HAVE RAISED UP ALL WHO SLEPT FROM EVERY AGE, BY YOUR RESURRECTION, O LOVING LORD.

YOU SPURN ALL WHO GO ASTRAWY FROM YOUR STATUTES; YEA, THEIR CUNNING IS IN VAIN. I HAVE REGARDED ALL THE WICKED OF THE EARTH AS TRANSGRESSORS; THEREFORE I LOVE YOUR TESTIMONIES.

“O MY BELOVED SON,” LAMENTS THE VIRGIN, “I NOW SEE YOU HANGING ON THE CROSS CONDEMNED, WHOM I HAD HOPED TO SEE ENTHRONED AS KING.”

DEAL WITH YOUR SERVANT ACCORDING TO YOUR MERCY, AND TEACH ME YOUR STATUTES. I AM YOUR SERVANT: GIVE ME UNDERSTANDING, THAT I MAY KNOW YOUR TESTIMONIES.
SIMEON'S PROPHECY HAS BEEN FULFILLED TODAY,
FOR THE SWORD, OF WHICH HE SPOKE, HAS PIERCED MY HEART.
O MY SÓN, EMMANUEL.

UPHOLD THE WELFARE OF YOUR SERVANT; LET NOT THE GODLESS
OPPRESS ME. THEREFORE, I DIRECT MY STEPS BY ALL YOUR PRECEPTS: I
HATE EVERY FALSE WAY.

ONCE IN EVERY HOUSE OF BETHLEHEM THEY WEEPED FOR RACHEL'S
CHILDREN.
NOW HIS MOTHER, WITH THE ÀPOSTOLIC CHOIR,
THE VIRGIN LAMENTS FOR HER SÓN.

THE UNFOLDING OF YOUR WORDS GIVES LIGHT; IT IMPARTS
UNDERSTANDING TO THE SIMPLE. WITH OPEN MOUTH I PANT, BECAUSE I
LONG FOR YOUR COMMANDMENTS.

ALL YOUR FAITHFUL PEOPLE, O CHRIST, SING HYMNS OF PRAISE,
BLESSING YOUR CRUCIFIXION AND YOUR BURIAL,
BY WHICH WE ARE RANSOMED FROM DEATH.

GLORY TO THE FATHER AND TO THE SON AND TO THE HOLY SPIRIT,
NOW AND EVER AND UNTO AGES OF AGES. AMEN.

VIRGIN, PURE AND Undefiled, You Gave Birth To Our Life:
Make The Strife And Scandals Of The Church To Cease;
In Your Goodness, Grant Her Peace.

AND WE REPEAT THE FIRST TROPARION:

It Is Right To Magnify You, O Life-Giving Lord,
You Stretched Out Your Most Pure Arms Upon The Cross,
And Broke The Enemy’s Power.
GREAT AND HOLY SATURDAY MATINS
THE LAMENTATIONS
THE THIRD STASIS
TONE THREE

Ev'ry generation chants hymns of praise at your burial O Christ God

LOOK UPON ME AND HAVE MERCY ON ME, ACCORDING TO THE JUDGMENT OF THEM THAT LOVE THY NAME.

THE ARIMATHAEAN I TOOK YOU FROM THE CROSS AND/ DID LAY YOU IN A NEW TOMB.

MY STEPS DO YOU DIRECT ACCORDING TO YOUR SAYING, AND LET NO INIQUITY HAVE DOMINION OVER ME. DELIVER ME FROM THE FALSE ACCUSATIONS OF MEN, THAT I MAY KEEP YOUR PRECEPTS.

WOMEN, BRINGING SPICES,/ CAME WITH LOVING FORETHOUGHT,/ YOUR DUE OF MYRRH TO GIVE YOU.

MAKE YOUR FACE TO SHINE UPON YOUR SERVANT, AND TEACH ME YOUR STATUTES. MY EYES HAVE POURéd FORTH STREAMs OF WATERS, BECAUSE I KEPT NOT YOUR LAW.

COME, ALL THINGS CREATED,/ LET US SING A DIRGE-HYMn/ TO HONOR OUR CREATOR.

YOU ARE RIGHTEOUS, O LORD, AND UPRIGHT ARE YOUR JUDGMENTS. YOU HAVE APPOINTED YOUR TESTIMONIES IN RIGHTEOUSNESS AND IN ALL FAITHFULNESS.

LET US, LIKE THE WOMEN,/ WITH MYRRH AND TRUE KNOWLEDGE,/ ANOINT AS DEAD, THE LIVING.

MY ZEAL FOR YOU HAS MADE ME TO PINE AWAY, BECAUSE MY ENEMIES HAVE FORGOTTEN YOUR WORDS. YOUR PROMISE IS WELL-TRIED IN THE FIRE, AND YOUR SERVANT LOVES IT.

O THRICE-BLESSED JOSEPH,/ BURY NOW THE BODY/ OF CHRIST THE LIFE-BESTOWER.
I AM SMALL AND DESPISED, YET I DO NOT FORGET YOUR PRECEPTS. YOUR
RIGHTeousNESS IS AN EVERLASTING RIGHTeousNESS, AND YOUR LAW IS TRUTH
THOSE HE FED WITH MANNA/ LIFTED HEELS OF SPURNING/ AGAINST THEIR BENEFACtor.
TROUBLE AND ANGUISH HAVE COME UPON ME, BUT YOUR COMMANDMENTS ARE MY
DELIGHT. YOUR TESTIMONIES ARE RIGHTeous FOREVER; GIVE ME UNDERSTANDING
THAT I MAY LIVE.
THOSE HE FED WITH MANNA/ OFFER TO THE SAVIOR/ THE GIFTS OF GALL AND VINEGar.
I CRY WITH MY WHOLE HEART; HEAR ME, O LORD! I WILL KEEP YOUR STATUTES.
I CRY TO YOU: SAVE ME, THAT I MAY OBSERVE YOUR TESTIMONIES.
O, THE UTTER FOLLY,/ BRIMMING WITH CHRIST'S MURDER,/ OF THEM THAT SLEW THE
PROPHETS.
I RISE BEFORE DAWN AND CRY FOR HELP; I HOPE IN YOUR WORDS. MY EYES ARE AWAKE
BEFORE THE MORNING, THAT I MAY MEDITATE UPON YOUR PROMISE.
TAUGHT THE INNER MYST'RIES,/ HE, THE MINDLESS SERVANT,/ BETRAYED THE DEPTH OF
WISDOM.
HEAR MY VOICE ACCORDING TO YOUR LOVING-KINDNESS, O LORD; IN YOUR JUDGMENT
GIVE ME LIFE.
JUDAS, THE BETRAYOR,/ HAS SOLD HIS DELIVERER/ AND BECOME A CAPTIVE.
THOSE WHO PERSECUTE ME WITH EVIL PURPOSE DRAW NEAR; THEY ARE FAR FROM
YOUR LAW. BUT YOU ARE NEAR, O LORD, AND ALL YOUR COMMANDMENTS ARE TRUE.
HELPED BY NICODEMUS,/ JOSEPH DOES ENTOmB NOW/ THE BODY OF HIS MAKER.
LONG HAVE I KNOWN YOUR TESTIMONIES, THAT YOU HAVE FOUNDED THEM FOREVER.
LOOK UPON MY HUMILIATION AND DELIVER ME, FOR I DO NOT FORGET YOUR LAW.
LIFE-BESTOWING SAVIOR,/ TO YOUR MIGHT BE GLORY;/ FOR YOU HAVE VANQUISHED HADES.
JUDGE MY CAUSE AND REDEEM ME; GIVE ME LIFE ACCORDING TO YOUR PROMISE.
SALVATION IS FAR FROM THE WICKED, FOR THEY DO NOT SEEK YOUR STATUTES.
WHEN THE MOST PURE VIRGIN/ SAW YOU DEAD, O LOGOS/ A MOTHER'S DIRGE SHE SANG YOU.
GREAT ARE YOUR TENDER MERCIES, O LORD; GIVE ME LIFE ACCORDING TO YOUR JUSTICE. MANY ARE MY PERSECUTORS, AND MY ADVERSARIES, BUT I DO NOT SWERVE FROM YOUR TESTIMONIES.

O, MY MOST SWEET SPRINGTIME!/ O, MY SON BELOVED,/ HOW HAS YOUR BEAUTY FADED?

I LOOK AT THE FAITHLESS WITH DISGUST, BECAUSE THEY DO NOT KEEP YOUR COMMANDMENTS. CONSIDER HOW I LOVE YOUR PRECEPTS! GIVE ME LIFE, ACCORDING TO YOUR MERCY.

SONGS OF LAMENTATION/ POURED FROM YOUR PURE MOTHER/ WHEN YOU, O WORD, WERE SLAUGHTERED.

THE SUM OF YOUR WORDS IS TRUTH, AND EVERY ONE OF YOUR RIGHTEOUS ORDINANCES ENDURES FOREVER.

WOMEN TO ANOINT HIM/ WITH THEIR MYRRH ARE COME NOW/ TO CHRIST WHO IS DIVINE MYRRH.

PRINCES PERSECUTE ME WITHOUT CAUSE, BUT MY HEART STANDS IN AWE OF YOUR WORDS.

BY YOUR DEATH, O LORD GOD,/ DEATH ITSELF IS SLAIN BY/ YOUR DIVINE DOMINION.

I REJOICE AT YOUR WORD LIKE ONE WHO FINDS GREAT SPOILS.
I HATE AND ABHOR FALSEHOOD, BUT I LOVE YOUR LAW.

DECEIVED IS THE DECEIVER;/ DECEIVED MAN IS NOW RANSOMED,/ MY GOD, THROUGH YOUR GREAT WISDOM.

SEVEN TIMES A DAY I PRAISE YOU, FOR YOUR RIGHTEOUS ORDINANCES.
GREAT PEACE HAVE THOSE WHO LOVE YOUR LAW; NOTHING CAN MAKE THEM STUMBLE.

THE MOTHER WHO GAVE BIRTH TO YOU/ PRAYED TO YOU WITH WEEPING:/ "ARISE, O LORD, AND GIVER OF LIFE!"

I HOPE FOR YOUR SALVATION, O LORD, AND I LOVE YOUR COMMANDMENTS.
MY SOUL KEEPS YOUR TESTIMONIES; I LOVE THEM EXCEEDINGLY.

HASTEN TO ARISE, O WORD!/ TAKE AWAY THE SORROW/ OF YOUR VIRGIN MOTHER.

I KEEP YOUR PRECEPTS AND TESTIMONIES, FOR ALL MY WAYS ARE BEFORE YOU.

ALL THE HOSTS OF HEAVEN/ STOOD WITH FEAR, CONFOUNDED,/ BEHOLDING YOUR DEAD BODY.
LET MY CRY COME BEFORE YOU, O LORD; GIVE ME UNDERSTANDING ACCORDING TO YOUR WORD. LET MY SUPPLICATION COME BEFORE YOU; DELIVER ME ACCORDING TO YOUR WORD.

TO THEM THAT PRAISE YOUR PASSION/ WITH FAITH AND LOVE, O SAVIOR,/ GRANT US FORGIVENESS OF SINS.

MY LIPS WILL POUR FORTH PRAISE, FOR YOU HAVE TAUGHT ME YOUR STATUTES.

Ò SIGHT MOST STRANGE AND AWESOME!/ HOW DOES EARTH CONCEAL YOU,/ O WORD OF GOD AND SAVIOR?

MY TONGUE WILL SING OF YOUR WORD, FOR ALL YOUR COMMANDMENTS ARE RIGHT.

ONCE A JOSEPH FLED WITH YOU/ INTO EXILE, SAVIOR,/ ANOTHER NOW INTERS YOU.

LET YOUR HAND BE NEAR TO SAVE ME, FOR I HAVE CHOSEN YOUR PRECEPTS.

weeping and lamenting,/ your most holy mother/ does mourn you, o my savior.

i long for your salvation, o lord, and your law is my delight.

minds must tremble seeing,/ ò maker of creation,/ your strange and fearful burial.

let my soul live, that i may praise you, and let your ordinances help me.

myrrh the women sprinkled,/ bearing stores of spices,/ to grace your tomb 'ere dawning.

i have gone astray like a lost sheep; seek your servant, for i have not forgotten your commandments.

grant unto your church, peace,/ by your resurrection,/ and to your flock, salvation.

GLORY TO THE FATHER AND TO THE SON AND TO THE HOLY SPIRIT.

o the triune godhead/ father, son, and spirit,/ upon your world, have mercy.

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

grant that we who serve you/ may see the resurrection of/ your son, o blessed virgin.

(and again)

every generation/ chants hymns of praise at/ your burial, o christ god.
The Eulogitaria of the Resurrection

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

Tone 5

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 Hades!

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!

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!

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 delivered Adam from his sin!  
You gave joy to Eve instead of sadness!  
The God-man Who was born of you  
has restored to life  
those who had fallen from it.

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

2nd Rdr.:  Lord have mercy.  (3x)

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 foretold, O Christ, show us Your Resurrection!”

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit,  
As You foretold, O Christ,  
show us Your 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 Hades,  
They glorify Him as Creator and Lord!

Reader:  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 50 (51)

Reader: Have mercy on me, O God, in Your great mercy, and in Your abundant compassion blot out my transgression.

Wash me thoroughly from my lawlessness and cleanse me from my sin.

For I know my sinfulness and my sin is before me continually.

Against You only have I sinned and done what is evil in Your sight, that You may be justified in Your words and win when You are judged.

For I was conceived in iniquities and in sins my mother gave me birth.

But You love truth; the hidden and secret things of Your wisdom You have made known to me.

You will sprinkle me with hyssop and I shall be clean. You will wash me and I shall be whiter than snow.

Make me hear joy and gladness. The bones that have been humbled will rejoice.

Turn Your face from my sins and blot out all my iniquities.

Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.
Do not cast me away from Your presence 
or take Your Holy Spirit from me.

Restore to me the joy of Your salvation 
and strengthen me with Your ruling Spirit.

I will teach Your ways to the lawless, 
and sinners will return to You.

Deliver me from bloodshed, O God, 
O God of my salvation. 
My tongue will rejoice in Your righteousness.

O Lord, You will open my lips 
and my mouth will declare Your praise.

For if You desired sacrifice, 
I would have given it. 
You take no delight in whole burnt offerings.

A sacrifice for God is a broken spirit; 
a broken and humbled heart God will not despise.

Gladden Zion, O Lord, with Your goodwill, 
and let the walls of Jerusalem be built.

Then You will delight in the sacrifice of righteousness, 
in offering and whole burnt offerings. 
Then they will offer young bulls on Your altar.
THE CANON

Ode I

Tone 6

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

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

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

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

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

…now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

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

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

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

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

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

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

…now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

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

2nd Rdr.: Lord have mercy (3x)
Kathisma Hymn

Tone 1

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

Ode IV

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

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

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

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

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

…now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Ode VI**

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

*Refrain:* Glory to You, our God, glory to You!

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

*Refrain:* Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit,

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

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

2nd Rdr.: Lord have mercy (3x)

Kontakion

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.
Hades 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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

…now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.
In Hades, in the tomb and in Eden,  
with the Father and the Spirit,  
the divinity of Christ was one and undivided  
for the salvation of us who sing:  
“Blessed are You, O God, our Redeemer!”

**Ode VIII**

**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!

**Refrain:** Glory to You, our God, glory to You!

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

**Refrain:** Glory to You, our God, glory to You!

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

**Refrain:** Let us bless the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, the Lord,  
now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.
What new wonders! What great goodness!  
What ineffable forbearance!  
For He who dwells in the highest is willingly sealed beneath the earth,  
and God is slandered as a deceiver.  
Bless Him, O youths! Praise Him, O priests!  
O people, exalt Him above all forever!  
We praise, bless, and worship the Lord,  
singing and exalting Him throughout all ages.

Ode IX

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.

Refrain: Glory to You, our God, glory to You!  
I escaped sufferings and was blessed  
beauty nature at Your strange birth,  
O Son without beginning.  
But now, beholding You, my God, dead and without breath,  
I am sorely pierced by the sword of sorrow.  
But arise, that I may be magnified.

Refrain: Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit,  
By my own will, the earth covers me, O mother,  
but the gatekeepers of Hades 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.  
…now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.
Let creation rejoice!
Let all born on earth be glad!
For hateful Hades has been despoiled.
Let the women with myrrh come to meet Me;
for I am redeeming Adam and Eve and all their children,
and on the third day shall I arise!

2nd Rdr.: Lord have mercy (3x)

A Hymn of Light

Sr. Rdr.: Holy is the Lord our God.
People: Holy is the Lord our God.
Sr. Rdr.: For holy is the Lord our God.
People: Holy is the Lord our God.
Sr. Rdr.: Over all people is our God.
People: Holy is the Lord our God.

The Praises

People: Let everything that breathes praise the Lord!
Praise the Lord from the heavens,
Praise Him in the heights,
To You, O God, is due a song.

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

Psalm 148:1-2

Praise the Lord from the heavens,
praise Him in the heights,
Praise Him, all you angels of His,
praise Him, all His hosts.

Psalm 148:3-14

Praise Him, sun and moon,
praise Him, all you stars and light.

Praise Him, you heavens of heavens
and you water that is above the heavens.

Let them praise the name of the Lord,
for He spoke and they were born,
He commanded and they were created.

He has fixed them forever and ever.
He has made a law and it will not be bypassed.

Praise the Lord from the earth,
you sea monsters and all depths,

fire, hail, snow, ice,
the storm wind, all obeying His word,

all you mountains and hills,
all you fruit trees and cedars,

you wild beasts and all cattle,
reptiles and winged birds,

you kings of the earth and all peoples,
all you rulers and judges of the earth;

young men and virgins,
old men and children,

let them praise the name of the Lord,
for His name only is exalted;
His praise is above heaven and earth.
And He will exalt the power of His people.
This is a song for all His saints,
for the children of Israel,
for people drawing near to Him.

Psalm 149

Sing to the Lord a new song!
Let His praise be sung in the church of the saints.

Let Israel rejoice in Him Who made him,
and let the children of Zion exult in their King.

Let them praise His name with dancing,
let them sing to Him with drum and harp.

For the Lord takes pleasure in His people
and will exalt the meek with His salvation.

The saints will exult in glory,
and they will rejoice on their beds.

The high praises of God will be in their throat
and two-edged swords in their hands,
to pass judgment on the nations
and give rebukes among the peoples,
to bind their kings with chains
and their nobles with fetters of iron,
to pass judgment on them as God has written.
This glory will be for all His saints.

Psalm 150

Praise God in His saints,
praise Him in the expanse of His power.
Praise Him for His mighty acts,  
praise Him for His infinite greatness.

**People:** Today, the tomb holds Him who holds creation in the palm of His hand.   
A stone covers Him Who covered the heavens with glory!   
Life sleeps, and Hades trembles,   
Adam is set free from his bonds.   
Glory to Your plan of salvation!   
By it, You have fulfilled all things,   
Granting us an eternal Sabbath rest:   
Your all-holy resurrection from the dead!

**Reader:** Praise Him with the sound of the trumpet,   
praise Him with psaltery and harp.

**People:** What is this sight we behold?   
What is this present rest?   
The King of the ages, Who through His passion   
Fulfilled the plan of salvation,   
Keeps Sabbath in the tomb, granting us a new Sabbath!   
Let us cry aloud to Him:   
Arise, O God, and judge the earth!   
For Your great mercy is without measure   
And You reign forever!

**Reader:** Praise Him with drum and dancing,   
praise Him with strings and bells.
People: Come, let us behold our Life, lying in the tomb,
    Giving life to those who lie dead in their graves.
Come, let us behold the Son of Judah as He sleeps today,
And with the prophet, let us cry aloud to Him:
Why do You lie, and sleep as a lion?
Who shall awaken You, O King?
But as You willingly give Yourself for us,
    Arise by Your own free will!
O Lord, glory to you!

Reader: Praise Him with well-tuned cymbals,
    praise Him with cymbals of victory!

    Let everything that breathes praise the Lord!

Tone 6

People: Joseph asked for the body of Jesus
    And laid it in his own new tomb:
For it was fitting that the Lord should come forth
Out of the grave as from a bridal chamber!
You have broken the power of death
And opened the gates of paradise to men:
O Lord, glory to You!

Reader: Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit,
Tone 6

**People:** 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 His works.
He kept the Sabbath in the flesh,
Through the dispensation of death.
But on this day, He returned again
Through the Resurrection.
He has granted us eternal life,
For He alone is good, the Lover of mankind.

**Reader:** …now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Tone 2

You are most blessed, O Virgin Theotokos!
Through the God-man Who took flesh from you,
Hades has been captured and Adam recalled!
Death has been slain, so we are given life!
Blessed is Christ our God, Whose good will it was!
Glory to You!

**Great Doxology**

**Sr. Rdr.:** Glory to You Who have shown us the light!
*(Read / Chanted in a normal voice)*

**People:** Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men of His will.
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 O Holy Spirit.
O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, Who take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us. Who take away the sins of the world, accept our prayer. Who sit at the right hand of the Father, have mercy on us. For You alone are holy, You alone are Lord, Jesus Christ, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

Every day I will bless You and praise Your name forever, even unto ages of ages.

Grant, O Lord, to keep us this day without sin. Blessed are You, O Lord, the God of our fathers, and praised and glorified is Your name unto ages of ages. Amen.

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

Blessed are You, O Lord, teach me Your statutes. Blessed are You, O Master, make me to understand Your commandments. Blessed are You, O Holy One, enlighten me with Your precepts.

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!”

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, and in Your light shall we see light. Continue Your mercy unto those who know You.

Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal have mercy on us. (3x)

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

Holy Immortal have mercy on us.

Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal have mercy on us.
**Procession**

This procession should only occur at the community’s place of worship. Exceptions can be granted upon request for chapels and other communities without a church building.

As the people sing the following Trisagion, those who are moving the icon of Christ (Epitaphios / Shroud if available), the Holy Gospel book (or Bible), and the Cross (or processional Cross if one is available) prepare for the procession. The procession is then made around the church. A layperson should carry the Gospel upright below the head. The icon of Christ should be carried the same way (an Epitaphios / Shroud can be cradled in the arms). The Shroud can be preceded with a candle and a hand censer. All the members of the congregation holding lighted candles.

As the People sing the Troparion, the Shroud is returned to its place in the center of the church, the Book of the Gospels (and Cross if this is done a local tradition) is placed on it.

**Troparion**

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

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

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

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

O Christ, Who hold fast… *(repeat above).*
The Prokeimena and Readings

Sr. Rdr.: Wisdom!

Reader: The Prokeimenon in the Fourth Tone.

Arise, O Lord, and help us! Deliver us for Your Name’s sake.

(Ps. 44)

People: Arise, O Lord, and help us! Deliver us for Your Name’s sake.

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.

People: Arise, O Lord, and help us! Deliver us for Your Name’s sake.

Reader: Arise, O Lord, and help us!

People: …Deliver us for Your Name’s sake.

Sr. Rdr.: 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 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, “Prophesy 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, “Prophesy to the breath, prophesy, 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 prophesy 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.””

Reader: The Prokeimenon in the Seventh Tone.

Arise, O Lord, my God, lift up Your Hand!
Forget not Your poor forever! (Ps. 9)

People: Arise, O Lord, my God, lift up Your Hand!
Forget not Your poor forever!
Reader: I will praise You, O Lord my God, with all my heart; I will make all Your wonders known!

People: Arise, O Lord, my God, lift up Your Hand!
       Forget not Your poor forever!

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

People: …Forget not Your poor forever!

Reader: The reading from the First Epistle of the holy Apostle Paul to the Corinthians. (5:6-8; Gal. 3:13-14)

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.

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

The Reader chants the Alleluia verses. After each one, the people sing the Alleluia.

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

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

       So the sinners will perish before the face of God,
       but let the righteous be glad!
Sr. Rdr.: The reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. (Matthew 27:62-66)

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.

Reader: Lord have mercy (3x)

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

Lord, have mercy. (3x)

Bless, O Lord.

Dismissal Prayers

Sr. Rdr.: O Lord Jesus Christ Who endured fearful suffering, the life-creating Cross, and voluntary burial in the flesh on behalf of us men and for our salvation, through the prayers of His most pure Mother; of the holy, glorious, and all-laudable Apostles; of St. [of the temple.....]; 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.

People: Amen.
The faithful make two prostrations, venerate the Shroud, make a third prostration. As the faithful come to venerate the Shroud, the following hymn is sung:

**Tone 5**

Come, let us bless Joseph of eternal memory,
Who came to Pilate by night,
Who begged for the Life of all:
“Give me this stranger, who has no place to lay His head!
Give me this stranger, whom His evil disciple delivered to death!
Give me this stranger, whom His mother saw hanging on the Cross,
And with a mother's sorrow, cried weeping:
‘Woe is me, O my Child!
Woe is me, Light of my eyes!
The beloved Fruit of my womb!
For what Simeon foretold in the Temple has come to pass this day:
A sword has pierced my heart!
But change my grief to joy by Your resurrection!”
We venerate Your passion, O Christ.
We venerate Your passion, O Christ.
We venerate Your passion, O Christ; and Your holy resurrection