

## **The Midnight Office**

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

*Reader:* Amen.

## **The Trisagion Prayers**

*Reader:* 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 evil.

*Sr. Rdr.:* Through the prayers of our holy Fathers, O Lord Jesus Christ our 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.

*Psalm 50 (51)*

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 with 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 You, our God, glory to You!

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

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

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

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

**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 You, our God, glory to You!

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

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

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

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

### **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 You, our God, glory to You!

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

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

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.

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

### **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 You, our God, glory to You!

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

and in a wondrous manner Your soul was not abandoned in Hades.

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

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

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

### **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 You, our God, glory to You!

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

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

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.

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

### **Kontakion**

*Tone 6 By Romanos the Melodist*

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 You, our God, glory to You!

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

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

In 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!”

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

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

What new wonders! What great goodness!  
What ineffable forbearance!

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

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

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

*During the following ode, if an Icon of Christ such as Extreme Humility or another icon other our Lord is in the center of the Nave, it could be exchanged with an icon of the Descent into Hades, the Empty Tomb, or the Risen Christ.*

### **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  
beyond 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 You, our God, glory to You!

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.

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

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!

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

*Reader:* Amen.

### **The Trisagion Prayers**

*Reader:* 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 evil.

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

*Reader:* Amen.

### **Resurrectional Troparion**

*Tone 2*

*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.”

*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.

*People:* Amen.

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

Lord, have mercy. (3x)

O Lord, bless.

*Sr. Rdr.:* O Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, through the prayers of Your most pure Mother; of our venerable and God-bearing fathers, and of all the saints: have mercy on us and save us.

*People:* Amen.