

MATINS OF HOLY SATURDAY

With the Praises and Lamentations

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MATINS OF GREAT AND HOLY SATURDAY

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

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

READER Amen.

While the following prayers are being read, the priest censes the altar, the sanctuary, and the people.

READER Glory to Thee, O God; glory to Thee!

O Heavenly King, the Comforter, the Spirit of Truth; who are 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! (3)

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. (3)

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.

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, Father, bless.

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

READER Amen. Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace,
good will towards men (3)

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

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

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

Psalm 38

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

has come down on me.

There is no health in my flesh because of Thine indignation; and

There is no peace 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 health in my flesh. I am utterly spent and crushed; I groan because of the tumult of my heart.

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

My friends and companions stand aloof from me; 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.

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.

For in Thee, O Lord, have I hoped; Thou wilt hear, O Lord my God! For I pray, "Only let them not rejoice over me, who boast against me when my foot slips."

For I am ready for wounds, and my pain is ever before me. I will confess my iniquity, I will be sorry for my sin.

My foes live, and have strengthened themselves on me, 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 Lord my God, do not depart from me! Attend to me help, O Lord, my salvation! Do not forsake me, O Lord! O Lord my God, do not depart from me! Attend to my help, O Lord, my salvation!

Psalm 63

O God, my God, for Thee I keep vigil, 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 mercy 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 with marrow and fat, and my mouth praises Thee with joyful lips, 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 comforts 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 sword, they shall be prey for jackals.

But the king shall rejoice in God; all who swear by Him shall glory; For the mouths of liars will be stopped.

I meditate on Thee in the watches of the night; for Thou hast been my help, and in the shadow of Thy wings I sing for

joy. My soul clings to Thee; Thy right hand comforts 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. (3) Lord, have mercy. (3) Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

The priest exits the Sanctuary and, standing before the Winding-Sheet in the centre of the Church, quietly says the morning prayers.

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 Thine ear to my cry!

For my soul is full of troubles, and my life draws near to hell. 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 shades and shadow of death. Thy wrath lies heavy upon me, and Thou dost overwhelm 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 eyes grown 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 truth in perdition? Are Thy wonders known in the darkness, or Thy righteousness 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 off my soul? Why dost Thou hide Thy face from me? I am needy and afflicted from my youth up; I lifted myself and was chastised.

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 from passions. O Lord God of my salvation, 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 delivers your life from corruption, who crowns you with mercy and bounties, who satisfies you with good in your wishes, 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 compassionate and merciful, long suffering and of great goodness. He will not chastise until the end, nor will He keep His anger for ever.

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 sons, so the Lord pities those who fear Him. For He knows our frame; He remembers that we are dust.

Man: his days are like grass; he flourishes like a flower of the field. His spirit passes away and he is no more, and his place knows him no more.

The mercy of the Lord is from age to age upon those who fear Him; and His righteousness to the sons of sons, 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 work!

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 truth, answer me in Thy righteousness! Enter not into judgement 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 despairs within me; my heart within me is appalled.

I remember the days of old, I meditate on all Thy acts; 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 vanishes!

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 mercy, 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! 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, give me life through Thy righteousness! Bring my soul from sorrow! And in Thy mercy cut off my enemies, for I am Thy servant.

Answer me, in Thy righteousness! Enter not into judgement with Thy servant. Answer me, in Thy righteousness and 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. (3)

And the deacon or priest standing in the middle of the church before the Winding-Sheet begins the Great Litany:

The Great Litany

DEACON In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

CHOIR Lord, have mercy.

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

CHOIR Lord, have mercy.

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

CHOIR Lord, have mercy.

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

CHOIR Lord, have mercy.

DEACON For His Beatitude, our Pope and Patriarch _____, and for His Eminence our Archbishop_____, for the honourable priesthood, the diaconate in Christ, for all the clergy and the people, let us pray to the Lord.

CHOIR Lord, have mercy.

DEACON For the president of our country, for all civil authorities, and for the armed forces, let us pray to the Lord.

CHOIR Lord, have mercy.

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

CHOIR Lord, have mercy.

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

CHOIR Lord, have mercy.

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

CHOIR Lord, have mercy.

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

CHOIR Lord, have mercy.

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

CHOIR Lord, have mercy.

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

CHOIR To Thee, O Lord.

PRIEST For unto Thee are due all glory, honour, and worship; to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

CHOIR Amen.

DEACON *(Tone 2)* God is the Lord, and has revealed Himself to us! Blessed is he that comes in The Name of the Lord!

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

CHOIR **God is the Lord, and has revealed Himself to us! Blessed is he that comes in The Name of the Lord!**

DEACON All nations surrounded me, but in the Name of the Lord I withstood them

CHOIR **God is the Lord...**

DEACON I shall not die, but live, and recount the works of the Lord.

CHOIR **God is the Lord...**

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

CHOIR **God is the Lord...**

As the following troparia are sung, the priest, accompanied by the deacon bearing a lighted candle, censes the entire church, beginning by censing around the Winding-Sheet, and concluding by censing before it.

**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 splendour 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 myrrh bearing women and the
tomb and said:
myrrh is fitting for the dead,
but Christ has shown Himself a stranger to corruption.**

DEACON Again and again in peace, let us pray to the Lord.

CHOIR Lord, have mercy.

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

CHOIR Lord, have mercy.

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

CHOIR To Thee, O Lord.

PRIEST For Thine is the dominion, and Thine is the Kingdom,
and the power and the glory, of the Father, and to the
Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto
ages of ages.

CHOIR Amen.

Kathisma Hymn (*Tone 1*)

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

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, 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 dead in heal,
they glorify Him as Creator and lord!**

Psalm 51

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 sin did my mother conceive me.

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

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

Then I will teach transgressors Thy ways, and sinners will return to Thee. Deliver me from 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 Thy altar.

The prayer of intercession, O Lord, save Thy people, is not said on this day. The Canon begins immediately.

The Canon (*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 with the maidens let us sing to the Lord,
for gloriously has He been glorified.**

REFRAIN: 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.

REFRAIN: Glory to Thee, our God, glory to Thee.

Beholding Thee upon the throne and 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, seen dead.

REFRAIN: 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.”

REFRAIN: 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 is holy but Thee, O Lord.”

REFRAIN: Glory to Thee, our God, glory to Thee.

Thou hast stretched out Thy hands, O Saviour, 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.”

REFRAIN: 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."

Kathisma Hymn (*Tone 1*)

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

Ode 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."

REFRAIN: 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 Saviour, while resting and reviving on the Sabbath.

REFRAIN: 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.

REFRAIN: 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, O Word, it was embittered. Seeing Thee as a mortal man deified, marked with wounds yet having almighty power, it cried out at Thy 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.”

REFRAIN: 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, fulfils the counsel of Him who begot Thee and who wondrously renews me in Thee.

REFRAIN: 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.

REFRAIN: 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 hast Thou, the new Adam, accomplished the restoration of Eve. Thou didst fall into a sleep surpassing nature and renewing nature, and, as

the all-powerful One, Thou 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.”

REFRAIN: 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, Word of God, God and man.

REFRAIN: 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.

REFRAIN: 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 Saviour, hast become the first-born of the dead.

Kontakion (*Tone 6*)

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

Ikos

He who holds all things together has been lifted up upon the cross, and all of creation weeps at seeing Him hanging, naked, upon the wood. The sun hid its rays and the stars cast aside their splendour. The earth shook with great fear, the sea fled, and the earth shook with great fear, the sea fled, and the rocks were split asunder. Many tombs were opened, and the bodies of holy men arose. Hell groaned below and the Jews considered how to slander the resurrection of Christ, but the women cried: **“This is the most blessed Sabbath on which Christ has fallen asleep to rise on the third day.”**

Synaxarion

(The Synaxarion of the day is read from the “Menaion” Book, followed by that of Great Friday from the “Triodion”)

On the Great and Holy Saturday, we celebrate the Burial of the Divine Body, and the descent of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ to Hades, through which He restored our kind, from corruption and transplanted it to eternal life.

Wherefore, by Thine ineffable condescension, O Christ our God, have mercy on us. Amen.

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!”

REFRAIN: 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!”

REFRAIN: 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!”

REFRAIN: Glory to Thee, our God, glory to Thee.

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 art Thou, 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.

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 dwell 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 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!

REFRAIN: Glory to Thee, our God, glory to Thee.

The courage of all the disciples failed, but Joseph of Arimathea showed valour; 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 Lord: Father Son, and Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen

What new wonders! What great 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.**

REFRAIN: 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.”

REFRAIN: Glory to Thee, our God, glory to Thee.

“By my own will, the earth covers me, O mother, but the gatekeepers of hell tremble at seeing me clothed in the blood-stained garments of vengeance; for when I have vanquished my enemies on the cross, I shall arise as God and magnify you.”

REFRAIN: 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 shall I arise!”

**CHOIR: 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.**

Then the Little Litany, with the exclamation:

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

CHOIR Amen.

The Lamentations

THE FIRST STASIS

- 1. In the grave they laid Thee,
O My Life and My Christ
And the armies of the Angels was so amazed,
As they sang the praise of Thy submissive love!**

- 2. O my sweet Lord Jesus
My salvation, my light
How art Thou now by a grave and its darkness hid?
How unspeakable the mystery of Thy Love!**

- 3. Gone the Light the world knew.
Gone the Light that was mine.
O my Jesus, Thou art all of my heart' desire;
So the Virgin spake lamenting at Thy grave.**

- 4. Who will give me water,
For the tears I must weep?
So the maiden wed to God cried with loud lament;
That for my sweet Jesus I may rightly mourn.**

- 5. All we call Thee blessed,
Theotokos, most pure.
And with faithful hearts we honour the burial**

Suffered three days by Thy Son who is our God.

- 6. How O life canst Thou die?
 In a grave how canst dwell?
 For the proud domain of death Thou destroyest now
 And the dead of hades makest Thou to rise.**
- 7. Now we magnify Thee,
 O Lord Jesus our King.
 And we venerate Thy passion and burial,
 For therewith hast Thou delivered us from death.**
- 8. O my dear Christ Jesus,
 King and Ruler of all.
 Why to them that dwelt in Hades didst Thou descend?
 Was it not to set the race of mortals free?**
- 9. In a grave they laid Thee,
 O my life and my Christ.
 Yet the Lord of death hast Thou by Thy death
 destroyed.
 And the world of Thee doth drink rich streams of life.**

***Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy
Spirit,***
- 10. I adore Thy Passion,**

**Thine entombing I praise.
And I magnify thy might, Thou dear friend of man.
From destroying passions have they set me free.**

Now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

**11. Word of God we Hymn Thee,
God of all things art Thou,
With the Father and Thy Spirit Most Holy praised.
And we glorify Thy burial divine.**

**12. In the grave they laid Thee,
O my Life and my Christ
And the armies of the Angels was so amazed,
As they sang the praise of Thy submissive love!**

Then the little litany, with the exclamation:

PRIEST For blessed is Thy Name and gloried 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.

As the second stasis begins, the priest censes the Winding-Sheet from four sides, the iconostasis, and the people.

THE SECOND STASIS

1. **Right it is indeed,
Life-bestowing Lord, to magnify Thee;
For upon the Cross word Thy hands outspread,
And the strength of our dread foe hast Thou destroyed.**

2. **Right it is indeed,
Maker of all things, to magnify Thee:
For by Thy dear Passion have we attained
Victory o'er the flesh and rescue from decay.**

3. **Earth with trembling shook,
And the sun concealed his face with darkness;
For the light unwaning that shines from Thee,
With Thy Body sank to darkness and the grave.**

4. **“That I may renew
Man’s lost nature now from beauty fallen,
Gladly in my Flesh I take death on Me:
Wherefore, Mother, slay Me not with bitter tears”.**

5. **“I am rent with grief,
And my heart with woe is crushed and broken,
As I see them slay Thee with doom unjust”,
So bewailing Him His grieving Mother cried.**

6. **“Ah, those eyes so sweet,**

**And Thy lips, O Word, how shall I close them?
How the dues of death shall I pay Thee?
So cried Joseph as he shook with holy fear.**

7. Dirges at Thy Tomb

**Goodly Joseph sings with Nicodemus,
Bringing praise to Christ who by men was slain;
And in song with them are joined the Seraphim.**

8. Stone what man has wrought

**Now conceals the Cornerstone of Promise:
Mortal man his God in a grave would hide,
As if God were mortal: Shake with fear, O earth.**

9. "O my son, behold

**Thy beloved Disciple and Thy Mother,
And Thy voice so sweet let us hear again",
So with plenteous tears His Maiden Mother cried.**

10. Beauty, Word of God,

**Nor yet charm was Thine when Thou didst suffer;
But Thy risen Glory its Light poured down,
Shedding beauty on all men with rays divine.**

- 11. Sleeping not for long,
Thou didst yet the dead to life awaken.
And when Thou wast risen Thou madest rise
Them that thought the years had slept, O gracious Lord.**
- 12. Trembling when he saw Thee,
My Christ, Thou Light that blindest seeing,
In a grave concealed and Thy breathing stilled,
With a veil of dark the sun concealed his face.**
- 13. Wailing bitter tears,
Word of God, Thy Spotless Mother mourned Thee,
When she saw that Thou in a grave wast laid,
O ineffable and Everlasting God.**
- 14. Hades, that dread foe,
Shook with terror when he looked upon Thee,
O Thou Sun of Glory that canst not die:
And his captives then he yielded up in haste.**
- 15. With our songs, O Christ,
Now Thy crucifixion and entombing**

**We Thy faithful worship with one accord:
For Thy burial has ransomed us from death.**

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

- 16. Life was born of Thee,
O most Blameless and Most Holy Virgin,
Keep the Church from every dissension free,
Blessing us with peace and freedom evermore.**

Now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

- 17. Right it is indeed,
Life-bestowing Lord, to magnify Thee;
For upon the Cross were Thy hands outspread,
And the strength of our dread foe hast Thou destroyed.**

Then the little litany, with the exclamation:

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

CHOIR: Amen

As the third stasis begins, the priest once more censes the Winding-Sheet, the iconostasis, and the people.

THE THIRD STASIS

- 1. Every generation
Offers Thee its hymn of praise
At Thy burial, O my Christ.**

- 2. The Arimathean
Took Thee down from the tree
And laid Thee in a tomb.**

- 3. The myrrh-bearing women
With foresight brought sweet spices
And drew near to Thee, O my Christ.**

- 4. Come, all creation,
Sing a hymn to honour
The Creator's burial.**

- 5. Let us, with the Myrrh-bearers,**

**Anoint as dead the Living One
With the myrrh of true knowledge.**

- 6. O thrice-blessed Joseph,
Bury now the Body
Of Christ the Giver of Life.**

- 7. Thou didst feed Thy people
With manna in the desert,
But they raised their heel against Thee.**

- 8. Thou didst feed the nations
Filling them with bounty;
They repay Thee with gall and vinegar.**

- 9. The treacherous Judas,
Who sold the Deliverer,
Becomes himself a captive.**

- 10. Joseph and Nicodemus
Tend the Creator
In a way befitting of the dead.**

11. (Solo voice) **“O my sweet springtime,
O my sweetest Child,
Where has all Thy beauty faded?”**

12. **Thine all-Holy Mother
Was moved to tears,
When Thou, O word, didst die.**

13. **The myrrh-bearing women
Came at dawn with spices
To anoint Christ, the Myrrh of God.**

14. **O Son of God and King of all,
My God and my Creator,
How canst Thou endure such suffering?**

15. **The Mother cried aloud
When she saw her Son
Hanging on the tree.**

16. **The Holy Maiden**

**Pierced to the heart
Cried out in fervent weeping.**

**17. "O Light of my eyes,
My beloved child,
How art Thou hidden in the grave"?**

**18. Arise O merciful Master,
And raise us up
From the chasm of hades.**

**19. The Mother, who bore Thee,
Cried out weeping:
Arise, O Giver of Life.**

**20. Our hearts shudder
At the strange and awful tomb
Of Thee, Creator of all.**

**21. (Sung 3x) The myrrh-bearing women
Came early in the morning
And sprinkled myrrh upon the tomb.**

**22. O God in Trinity,
Father, Son and Spirit,
Grant Thy mercy to Thy world.**

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

**23. Make us, thy servant, O Virgin,
Worthy to behold
The resurrection of Thy son.**

Now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

**24. Every generation
Offers Thee its hymn of praise
At Thy burial, O my Christ.**

The Resurrectional Troparia are then sung immediately, as the priest, carrying a lighted candle, censes the Winding-Sheet from four sides, the sanctuary, and the rest of the church.

Resurrectional Troparia

CHOIR *(Tone 5)*

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

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

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

**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 Saviour is risen from the dead!**

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

**Very early in the morning,
the myrrh-bearers ran with sorrow to Thy tomb,
but an angel came to them and said:
The time for sorrow has come to an end!
Do not weep, but announce the resurrection to the
apostles!**

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

**The myrrh-bearers were sorrowful as they neared Thy
tomb,**

but the angel said to them:

Why do you number the living among the dead?

Since He is God, He is risen from the tomb!

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

**We worship the Father, and His Son, and the Holy Spirit:
the Holy Trinity, one in essence!**

We cry with the seraphim:

Holy, Holy, Holy are Thou, 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 Thee, O God. (3)

Then the Little Litany, with the exclamation:

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

CHOIR Amen.

(Tone 2)

DEACON Holy is the Lord, our God!

CHOIR **Holy is the Lord, our God!**

DEACON For holy is the Lord, our God!

CHOIR **Holy is the Lord, our God!**

DEACON Over all people is our God!

CHOIR **Holy is the Lord, our God!**

Announcements may be made at this point.

During the Praises, the priest vests in full vestments.

The Praises *(Tone 2)*

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!**

VERSE Praise Him for His mighty deeds; praise Him according to His exceeding greatness.

CHOIR **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 eternal Sabbath rest:
Thy most holy Resurrection from the dead!**

VERSE Praise Him with trumpet sound; praise Him with lute and harp.

CHOIR **What is this sight we behold?
What is this 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.**

VERSE Praise Him with timbrel and dance; praise Him with strings and pipe.

CHOIR **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 Him:
“Thou hast stooped down; Thou hast couched 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!**

VERSE Praise Him with sounding cymbals; praise Him with loud clashing cymbals. Let everything that breathes praise the Lord.

CHOIR **Joseph asked for the Body of Jesus
and placed it in his own new tomb
It was fitting for the Lord to come forth from the grave
as from a bridal chamber.
Thou hast destroyed the dominion of death.**

**You are most blessed, O Virgin Theotokos!
Through the God-man who took flesh from you,
Hell has been captured and Adam recalled!
The curse has been annulled, and Eve set free!
Death has been slain, so we are given life!
Blessed is Christ our God, whose good will it was!
Glory to Thee!**

During the singing of the Great Doxology, the priest goes three times around the Shroud, censing it from the four sides.

The Great Doxology

PRIEST Glory to Thee, who has shown us the light!

CHOIR Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward 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, that takest away the sins 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 the 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 bless 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, O Lord, be upon us, as we have set our hope on Thee.

Blessed art Thou, O Lord; teach me Thy statutes. (3)

O 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!

O Lord, I flee 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.

Continue Thy mercy unto those who know Thee.

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

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!

Then, in the solemn processional melody, we sing:

Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal, have mercy

on us!

As the processional Trisagion is sung, the priest takes the Book of the Gospels, and four laymen take the Winding-Sheet and hold it above his head. They go in the procession around the outside of the Church, while the people continue to sing the Trisagion. The Cross with the processional candles leads the procession, followed by the choir, the deacon or server with the incense, then the Winding-Sheet, and all the members of the congregation holding lighted candles. When the procession returns to the interior of the church, they carry the Winding-Sheet to the Holy Doors, and the priest exclaims:

DEACON Wisdom! Let us attend!

As the choir sings the troparion, the Shroud is returned to its place in the centre of the Church, the Book of the Gospels is placed on it, and the priest censes around it once.

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.**

DEACON Wisdom!

READER The Troparion of the Prophecy in the Second Tone.

CHOIR **O Christ, who holdest fast the ends of
the earth,
Thou hast consented to be held fast in the tomb,
to deliver man from his fall into hell,
and, as Immortal God,
Thou hast given us life and immortality!**

DEACON Wisdom!

READER The Prokeimenon in the Fourth Tone

**Arise, O Lord and help us! Deliver us for Thy Name's
sake. (*Psalm 44*)**

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

DEACON Wisdom!

READER The reading from the Prophet Ezekiel.
(Ezekiel 37:1-14)

DEACON Let us attend.

READER Brethren: In those days the hand of the Lord came upon me, and the Lord led me forth in the Spirit and set me in the midst of the plain, and it was full of the bones of men. And he led me round among them; and behold, there were very many upon the plain, and lo, they were very dry. And He said to me, "Son of man, can these bones live?" And I answered, "O Lord God, Thou knowest." Again the Lord said to me, "Prophecy to these bones, and say to them, "You dry bones, hear the work of the Lord! Thus says the Lord God to these bones: Behold, I will bring the breath of life upon you, and I will lay sinews upon you, and will cause flesh to come upon you, and cover you with skin, and I will put my Spirit into you, and you shall live, and you shall know that I am the Lord." So I prophesied as the Lord commanded me, and as I prophesied there was a noise, and behold, a rattling, and the bones approached each one to its joint. And as I looked, sinews and flesh grew upon them, and skin had covered them, but there was no breath in them. Then the Lord said to me: "Prophecy to the wind, prophecy, son of man, and say to the Spirit: 'Thus says the Lord God: Come from the four winds, O Spirit, and breathe upon these dead men, and let them live.'"

So I prophesied as He commanded me, and the Spirit entered into them, and they lived, and stood upon their

feet, an exceedingly great multitude. And the Lord said to me: “Son of man, these bones are the whole house of Israel, and they say, ‘Our bones are dried up, our hope is perished; we are clean cut off.’ Therefore, prophesy and say to them: ‘Thus says the Lord God: Behold, I will open your tombs, and will raise you from your tombs, O my people, and I will bring you home into the land of Israel. And you shall know that I am the Lord, when I have opened your graves, and have raised you from your graves, O my people. And I will put my spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you in your own land; then you shall know that I am the Lord. I have spoken, and I will do it, says the Lord.’”

DEACON Wisdom!

READER The Prokeimenon in the Seventh Tone.

Arise, O Lord, my God, lift up Thy Hand!

Forget not Thy poor forever! (*Psalm 9*)

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

DEACON Wisdom!

READER The reading from the First Epistle of the holy apostle Paul to the Corinthians.

(1 Cor. 5:6-8; Gal. 3:13-14)

DEACON Let us attend!

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

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia. *(Tone Five Psalm 68:2)*

VERSES 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!

The priest reads the Gospel from in front of the Shroud.

DEACON Wisdom! Attend! Let us listen to the Holy Gospel!

PRIEST Peace be unto all!

CHOIR **And to your spirit.**

PRIEST The reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew. (*Matt. 27:62-66*)

CHOIR **Glory to Thee, O Lord! Glory to Thee!**

PRIEST The next day that is, after the day of Preparation, the chief priests and the Pharisees gathered before Pilate and said: "Sir, we remember how that imposter said, while He was still alive, 'After three days I will rise again.' Therefore order the sepulchre to be made secure until after the third day, lest His disciples go and steal Him away, and tell the people, 'He has risen from the dead,' and the last fraud will be worse than the first." Pilate said to them, "You have a guard of soldiers; go make it as secure as you can." So they went and made the sepulchre secure by sealing the tomb with a stone and setting a guard.

CHOIR Glory to Thee, O Lord! Glory to Thee!

Remaining in their place before the Shroud, the priest and deacon say the two litanies and the dismissal of Matins.

The Augmented Litany

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

CHOIR Lord, have mercy. (3)

DEACON Again we pray for His Beatitude, our Pope and Patriarch _____ , and His Eminence, our Archbishop _____ , for priests, deacons, and all other clergy; and for all our brethren in Christ.

CHOIR Lord, have mercy. (3)

DEACON Again we pray for the president of our country, and for all civil authorities, and for the armed forces.

CHOIR Lord, have mercy. (3)

DEACON Again we pray for the blessed and ever-memorable founders of this holy house; and for all of our fathers, mothers, brothers and sisters, the Orthodox departed

this life before us, who here and in all the world lie asleep in the Lord.

CHOIR Lord, have mercy. (3)

DEACON Again we pray for mercy, life, peace, health, salvation and visitation, pardon and remission of sins, for (all) the servants of God _____, and for the pardon and remission of their sins.

CHOIR Lord, have mercy. (3)

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

CHOIR Lord, have mercy. (3)

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

CHOIR Amen.

The Litany of Fervent Supplication

DEACON Let us complete our morning prayer with the Lord.

CHOIR Lord, have mercy.

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

CHOIR Lord, have mercy.

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

CHOIR Grant it, O Lord.

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

CHOIR Grant it, O Lord.

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

CHOIR Grant it, O Lord.

DEACON Pardon and remission of our sins and transgressions, let us ask of the Lord.

CHOIR Grant it, O Lord.

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

CHOIR Grant it, O Lord.

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

CHOIR Grant it, O Lord.

DEACON A Christian ending to our life; painless, blameless, and peaceful; and a good defence before the dread judgement seat of Christ, let us ask of the Lord.

CHOIR Grant it, O Lord.

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

CHOIR To Thee, O Lord.

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

CHOIR Amen.

PRIEST Peace be unto all.

CHOIR And to your spirit.

DEACON Let us bow our heads unto the Lord.

CHOIR To Thee, O Lord.

The Prayer at the Bowing of the Heads

PRIEST O holy Lord, who dwellest on high and lookest upon the humble, and who with Thine all-seeing eye lookest down upon all creation: unto Thee have we bowed the neck of our soul and body, and we pray Thee, O Holy of Holies, stretch forth Thine invisible hand from Thy holy dwelling place and bless us all. And if in any way we have sinned, either willingly or unwillingly, pardon us, inasmuch as Thou art good and lovest mankind, granting us Thy good things in this world and beyond this world.

For Thine it is to have mercy on us and to save us, O our God, and unto Thee we ascribe glory, to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

CHOIR Amen.

The Great Dismissal

DEACON Wisdom!

CHOIR Father, bless!

PRIEST Christ our God, the Existing One, is blessed, 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 honourable 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 (3)

Father, bless.

PRIEST May He Who endured fearful suffering, the life-creating Cross, and voluntary burial in the flesh on behalf of us men and for our salvation, Christ our true God, through the prays of His most pure Mother; of the holy, glorious, and all-laudable Apostles, of the holy and righteous ancestors of God, Joachim and Anna, and of all the saints, have mercy on us and save us, for He is good and loves mankind.

CHOIR Amen.

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

(Tone 5)

CHOIR **Come, let us bless Joseph of eternal memory,
who came by night to Pilate
and begged for the Life of all:**

**“Give me this Stranger,
who from His youth has been received as a stranger in
this world.**

**Give me this Stranger,
who has no place to lay His head:
Give me this Stranger,
whom an evil disciple betrayed to death.
Give me this Stranger,
the refuge of the poor and weary.**

**Give me this Stranger,
whom His Mother saw hanging upon the cross, and
with a mother’s sorrow cried, weeping: ‘Woe is me, O
my Child,
Light of my eyes and Beloved of my bosom,
for what Simeon foretold in the temple now has come
to pass:
a sword has pierced my heart;
but change my grief to gladness by Thy resurrection.’”
We worship Thy Passion, O Christ!
We worship Thy Passion, O Christ!
We worship Thy Passion, O Christ!
and Thy Holy Resurrection.**