

# HOLY SATURDAY MATINS

## (Burial of Christ and the Lamentations)

**Friday Evening**



### Holy Saturday Matins

It consists of psalms, hymns and readings, dealing with the death of Christ, in contrast to His Divinity, and in expectation of His Resurrection. One of the hymns relates: "He Who holds all things is raised up on the Cross and all creation laments to see Him hang naked on the Tree." The thoughtful, and well-written Odes, sung by the choir, compare the compassion of God and the cruelty of man; the Might of God and the weakness of man. The Odes picture all Creation trembling when witnessing its Creator hung by His own creatures: "Creation was moved . . . with intense astonishment when it beheld You hung in Golgotha. " The Odes remind us of the vision of Isaiah, who saw Christ, "the unwaning light of the manifestation", and cried aloud, "The dead indeed shall arise and all those on earth shall rejoice." During this service the Body of Christ is carried in procession around the church. In some parishes the entire flower-bedecked Sepulcher, symbolizing the Tomb, is carried in the procession.

The entire congregation joins in singing the three parts of the "Hymns of Praise" (there are approximately 300 hymns, but only a few are sung). After these hymns are sung, the priest sprinkles the Sepulcher and the whole congregation with fragrant water. There is a simultaneous praise of both the Crucifixion and Resurrection of Christ with their purpose of the redemption of man. We no longer lament the sufferings of the Crucified One; we now lament chiefly for our own

sins because we are far from God. So these services should have a rather personal meaning of repentance and of strong faith in God.

Christians observe Good Friday with fasting, prayer, cleanliness, self-examination, confession and good works, in humility and, repentance so that the Grace of the Cross might descend upon them.

On Good Friday evening, the theme is Christ's descent into Hades during which the Gospel of repentance and reconciliation with God is shared with those who died before Christ's saving dispensation in the flesh. The service begins with lamentations sung as we stand before the tomb of Christ commemorating His unjust punishment and the shedding of His innocent blood. But the service ends on a note of joy and hope, with the reading of the Prophet Ezekiel in which he describes his vision of our resurrection yet to come; in the midst of despair, we are told there is hope, for not even death can separate us from the unfailing love and power of God. Death is about to be conquered and faithfulness rewarded.

### Opening Doxology and Prayers

Priest: Blessed is our God, always, now and forever and to the ages of ages.

People: **Amen.**

Priest: Glory be to You, O God, Glory be to You!

O Heavenly King, Comforter, and Spirit of Truth, You that are in all places and fill all things; the treasury of Blessings and the giver of Life; come to dwell in us, cleanse us from every stain, and save our souls, O gracious One.

The Priest begins censing the whole church.
---

People: **Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal: have mercy on us. [3 times]**

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

**All Holy Trinity, have mercy on us; Lord, cleanse us from our sins; Master, pardon our transgressions; Holy One, visit and heal our infirmities for Your Name's sake.**

**Lord have mercy [3 times].**

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

**Our Father in Heaven, hallowed be Your Name. Your kingdom come, Your will be done, on Earth, as it is in Heaven. Give us this day, our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.**

Priest: For Yours is the kingdom, the power, and the glory of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, now and forever and to the ages of ages.

People: **Amen.**

### Troparion of the Holy Cross

Reader: O Lord, save Your people, and bless Your inheritance, granting victory to Your people over their adversaries, and by virtue of Your Cross preserve Your habitation.

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

### Kontakion of the Holy Cross

Reader: O Christ our God, Who of Your own good will was lifted up on the

Cross, bestow Your bounties upon the new nation which is called by Your Name. Make glad in Your might those who lawfully govern, that with them we may be led to victory over our adversaries, having in Your aid a weapon of peace and a trophy invincible.

Now and forever and to the ages of ages. Amen.

### Kontakion to the Theotokos

Reader: O fearsome champion, who cannot be put to confusion despise not our petitions, O good and all-praised Theotokos, Mother of God. Establish the way of the Orthodox, save those who have been called upon to govern us, leading us all to that victory which is from Heaven, for you are she who gave birth to God and alone are blessed.

### The Litany

The Priest censens around the Altar and in front of the Preparation Table as he says:

Priest: Have mercy upon us, O God, according to Your great goodness, we pray to You, hear us and have mercy.

People: **Lord have mercy, Lord have mercy, Lord have mercy.**

Priest: Again we pray for all Orthodox Christians.

People: **Lord have mercy, Lord have mercy, Lord have mercy.**

Priest: Again we pray for our Father and Metropolitan [Name].

People: **Lord have mercy, Lord have mercy, Lord have mercy.**

Priest: Again we pray for all priests, deacons, monks and nuns and for all our brethren in Christ.

People: **Lord have mercy, Lord have mercy, Lord have mercy.**

Priest: For You are a merciful God and love mankind, and unto You we ascribe glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, both now and forever and throughout all ages.

People: **Amen. Bless, Father, in the Name of the Lord.**

The Priest makes the sign of the cross with the Censer over the holy Gospel and says:

Priest: Glory to the Holy, Consubstantial, Life-giving and Undivided Trinity, always, now and forever and to the ages of ages.

People: **Amen.**

### Six Psalms

Reader: Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, goodwill towards

all people [*3 times*].

O Lord, open my lips, and my mouth shall proclaim Your praise [*2 times*].

### Psalm 3

Reader: LORD, how they have increased who trouble me! Many are they who rise up against me. Many are they who say of me, “There is no help for him in God.” But You, O LORD, are a shield for me, My glory and the One Who lifts up my head. I cried to the LORD with my voice, And He heard me from His holy hill.

I lay down and slept; I awoke, for the LORD sustained me. I will not be afraid of ten thousands of people Who have set themselves against me all around. Arise, O LORD; Save me, O my God! For You have struck all my enemies on the cheekbone; You have broken the teeth of the ungodly. Salvation belongs to the LORD. Your blessing is upon Your people.

I lay down and slept; I awoke, for the LORD sustained me.

### Psalm 38

Reader: O LORD, do not rebuke me in Your wrath, Nor chasten me in Your hot displeasure! For Your arrows pierce me deeply, And Your hand presses me down. There is no soundness in my flesh Because of Your anger, Nor any health in my bones Because of my sin. For my iniquities have gone over my head; Like a heavy burden they are too heavy for me. My wounds are foul and festering Because of my foolishness. I am troubled, I am bowed down greatly; I go mourning all the day long. For my loins are full of inflammation, And there is no soundness in my flesh. I am feeble and severely broken; I groan because of the turmoil of my heart.

Lord, all my desire is before You; And my sighing is not hidden from You. My heart pants, my strength fails me; As for the light of my eyes, it also has gone from me. My loved ones and my friends stand aloof from my plague, And my relatives stand afar off. Those also who seek my life lay snares for me; Those who seek my hurt speak of destruction, And plan deception all the day long. But I, like a deaf man, do not hear; And I am like a mute who does not open his mouth. Thus I am like a man who does not hear, And in whose mouth is no response.

For in You, O LORD, I hope; You will hear, O Lord my God. For I said, “Hear me, lest they rejoice over me, Lest, when my foot slips, they exalt themselves against me.” For I am ready to fall, And my

sorrow is continually before me. For I will declare my iniquity; I will be in anguish over my sin. But my enemies are vigorous, and they are strong; And those who hate me wrongfully have multiplied. Those also who render evil for good, They are my adversaries, because I follow what is good.

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

### Psalm 63

Reader: O God, You are my God; Early will I seek You; My soul thirsts for You; My flesh longs for You In a dry and thirsty land Where there is no water. So I have looked for You in the sanctuary, To see Your power and Your glory. Because Your lovingkindness is better than life, My lips shall praise You. Thus I will bless You while I live; I will lift up my hands in Your Name. My soul shall be satisfied as with marrow and fatness, And my mouth shall praise You with joyful lips.

When I remember You on my bed, I meditate on You in the night watches. Because You have been my help, Therefore in the shadow of Your wings I will rejoice. My soul follows close behind You; Your right hand upholds me. But those who seek my life, to destroy it, Shall go into the lower parts of the Earth. They shall fall by the sword; They shall be a portion for jackals.

But the king shall rejoice in God; Everyone who swears by Him shall glory; But the mouth of those who speak lies shall be stopped. I meditate on You in the night watches. Because You have been my help, therefore in the shadows of Your wings I will rejoice. My soul follows close behind You; Your right hand upholds me.

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

Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia. Glory be to You, O God! [*3 times*]

Lord have mercy [*3 times*].

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

### Psalm 88

Reader: O LORD, God of my salvation, I have cried out day and night before You. Let my prayer come before You; Incline Your ear to

my cry. For my soul is full of troubles, And my life draws near to the grave. I am counted with those who go down to the pit; I am like a man who has no strength, Adrift among the dead, Like the slain who lie in the grave, Whom You remember no more, And who are cut off from Your hand.

You have laid me in the lowest pit, In darkness, in the depths. Your wrath lies heavy upon me, And You have afflicted me with all Your waves. You have put away my acquaintances far from me; You have made me an abomination to them; I am shut up, and I cannot get out; My eye wastes away because of affliction. LORD, I have called daily upon You; I have stretched out my hands to You. Will You work wonders for the dead? Shall the dead arise and praise You? Shall Your lovingkindness be declared in the grave? Or Your faithfulness in the place of destruction? Shall Your wonders be known in the dark? And Your righteousness in the land of forgetfulness?

But to You I have cried out, O LORD, And in the morning my prayer comes before You. LORD, why do You cast off my soul? Why do You hide Your face from me? I have been afflicted and ready to die from my youth; I suffer Your terrors; I am distraught. Your fierce wrath has gone over me; Your terrors have cut me off. They came around me all day long like water; They engulfed me altogether. Loved one and friend You have put far from me, And my acquaintances into darkness.

O LORD, God of my salvation, I have cried out day and night before You. Let my prayer come before You; Incline Your ear to my cry.

### Psalm 103

Reader: 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 iniquities, Who heals all your diseases, Who redeems your life from destruction, Who crowns you with lovingkindness and tender mercies, Who satisfies your mouth with good things, So that your youth is renewed like the eagle's. The LORD executes righteousness And justice for all who are oppressed. He made known His ways to Moses, His acts to the children of Israel. The LORD is merciful and gracious, Slow to anger, and abounding in mercy. He will not always strive with us, Nor will He keep His anger forever. He has not dealt with us according to our sins, Nor punished us according to our iniquities.

For as the Heavens are high above the Earth, So great is His mercy toward those who fear Him; As far as the east is from the west, So far has He removed our transgressions from us. As a father pities his children, So the LORD pities those who fear Him. For He knows our frame; He remembers that we are dust. As for man, his days are like grass; As a flower of the field, so he flourishes. For the wind passes over it, and it is gone, And its place remembers it no more. But the mercy of the LORD is from everlasting to everlasting On those who fear Him, And His righteousness to children's children, To such as keep His covenant, And to those who remember His commandments to do them.

The LORD has established His throne in Heaven, And His kingdom rules over all. Bless the LORD, you His angels, Who excel in strength, who do His word, Heeding the voice of His word. Bless the LORD, all you His hosts, You ministers of His, who do His pleasure. Bless the LORD, all His works, In all places of His dominion.

Bless the LORD, O my soul! In all places of His dominion.

### Psalm 143

Reader: Hear my prayer, O LORD, Give ear to my supplications! In Your faithfulness answer me, And in Your righteousness. 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 crushed my life to the ground; He has made me dwell in darkness, Like those who have long been dead. Therefore my spirit is overwhelmed within me; My heart within me is distressed.

I remember the days of old; I meditate on all Your works; I muse on the work of Your hands. I spread out my hands to You; My soul longs for You like a thirsty land. Answer me speedily, O LORD; My spirit fails! Do not hide Your face from me, Lest I be like those who go down into the pit. Cause me to hear Your lovingkindness in the morning, For in You do I trust; Cause me to know the way in which I should walk, For I lift up my soul to You.

Deliver me, O LORD, from my enemies; In You I take shelter. Teach me to do Your will, For You are my God; Your Spirit is good. Lead me in the land of uprightness. Revive me, O LORD, for Your Name's sake! For Your righteousness' sake bring my soul out of trouble. In Your mercy cut off my enemies, And destroy all those who afflict my soul; For I am Your servant.

O LORD, Give ear to my supplications: Do not enter into judgment



with Your servant [2 *times*].

Your Spirit is good. Lead me in the land of uprightness.

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

Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia. Glory be to You, O God! [3 *times*]

O our God and our hope, glory to You.

### The Great Litany

Priest: In peace, let us pray to the Lord!

People: **Lord have mercy.**

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

People: **Lord have mercy.**

Priest: For the peace of the whole world, the well-being of the holy churches of God and for the unity of all people, let us pray to the Lord.

People: **Lord have mercy.**

Priest: For this holy house and for those who enter it in faith, reverence and the fear of God, let us pray to the Lord.

People: **Lord have mercy.**

Priest: For our Father and Metropolitan [*Name*], for the revered priesthood, for the deacons in Christ and for all the clergy and people, let us pray to the Lord.

People: **Lord have mercy.**

Priest: For the Prime Minister of our country, for all national and regional government and for the civil administration, let us pray to the Lord.

People: **Lord have mercy.**

Priest: For our armed forces, that the Lord God will grant them wisdom and strength to preserve our nation in harmony and stability, and to maintain peace in the world, let us pray to the Lord.

People: **Lord have mercy.**

Priest: For this city, for every city, town and village and for the faithful who dwell in them, let us pray to the Lord.

People: **Lord have mercy.**

Priest: For seasonable weather, for abundance of the fruits of the earth and

for peaceful times, let us pray to the Lord.

People: **Lord have mercy.**

Priest: For travellers by land, sea and air, for the sick and those who suffer, for prisoners, and for the salvation of them all, let us pray to the Lord.

People: **Lord have mercy.**

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

People: **Lord have mercy.**

Priest: Help us, save us, have mercy on us, and watch over us, O God, by Your grace.

People: **Lord have mercy.**

Priest: Commemorating our all-holy, pure, most blessed and glorious Lady Theotokos and ever-Virgin Mary with all the Saints, let us commit ourselves and one another, and our whole life, to Christ our God!

People: **To You, O Lord.**

Priest: For to You belong all glory, honour, and adoration to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and forever and to the ages of ages.

People: **Amen.**

### God is the Lord (Tone 2)

People: **God is the Lord, Who has revealed Himself to us; blessed is He Who comes in the Name of the Lord.**

Reader: 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 Who comes in the Name of the Lord.**

Reader: All nations surrounded me, But in the Name of the LORD I will destroy them.

People: **God is the Lord, Who has revealed Himself to us; blessed is He Who comes in the Name of the Lord.**

Reader: I shall not die, but live, And declare the works of the LORD.

People: **God is the Lord, Who has revealed Himself to us; blessed is He Who comes in the Name of the Lord.**

Reader: The stone which the builders rejected Has become the chief

cornerstone. This was the LORD's doing; It is marvellous in our eyes.

People: **God is the Lord, Who has revealed Himself to us; blessed is He Who comes in the Name of the Lord.**

### Troparia (Tone 2)

Chanter: The noble Joseph taking down from the Cross Your spotless Body, enwrapped It in clean linen with aromas, and laid It for burial in a new Tomb.

Reader: Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.

Chanter: When You went down to death, O Life immortal, You destroyed hell by the radiancy of Your Godhead; and when from the depths You raised the dead, then all the Powers of heaven cried aloud: O Giver of Life! O Christ our God! Glory be to You!

Reader: Now and forever and to the ages of ages. Amen.

Chanter: The Angel standing by the Tomb, cried out to the Myrrh-bearing women: "The Myrrh is fitting for the dead, but Christ has shown Himself a stranger to corruption."

### The Little Litany

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

People: **Lord have mercy.**

Priest: Help us, save us, have mercy on us, and watch over us, O God, by Your grace.

People: **Lord have mercy.**

Priest: Commemorating our all-holy, pure, most blessed and glorious Lady Theotokos and ever-Virgin Mary with all the Saints, let us commit ourselves and one another, and our whole life, to Christ our God!

People: **To You, O Lord.**

Priest: For Yours is the might, and Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, now and forever and to the ages of ages.

People: **Amen.**

### Kathismata (Tone 1)

Chanter: Joseph asked Pilate for Your sacred Body. Anointing It with fragrant spices, and with clean linen laid It in a new tomb. Whereupon the Myrrh-bearing women arriving at early dawn, cried out: "Show us, O Christ, as You foretold, Your Resurrection."

Reader: Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and forever and to the ages of ages. Amen.

Chanter: The choirs of Angels were astonished, seeing the One, Who rests in the bosom of the Father, the Immortal One placed in the tomb, as dead; Who the ranks of Angels encircle and glorify together with the dead in Hades, as Creator and Lord.

### Psalm 51

Reader: Have mercy upon me, O God, According to Your lovingkindness; According to the multitude of Your tender mercies, Blot out my transgressions. Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, And cleanse me from my sin. For I acknowledge my transgressions, And my sin is always before me. Against You, You only, have I sinned, And done this evil in Your sight – That You may be found just when You speak, And blameless when You judge.

Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, And in sin my mother conceived me. Behold, You desire truth in the inward parts, And in the hidden part You will make me to know wisdom. Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; Wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow. Make me hear joy and gladness, That the bones You have broken may rejoice. Hide Your face from my sins, And blot out all my iniquities.

Create in me a clean heart, O God, And renew a steadfast spirit within me. Do not cast me away from Your presence, And do not take Your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of Your salvation, And uphold me by Your generous Spirit. Then I will teach transgressors Your ways, And sinners shall be converted to You.

Deliver me from the guilt of bloodshed, O God, The God of my salvation, And my tongue shall sing aloud of Your righteousness. O Lord, open my lips, And my mouth shall show forth Your praise. For You do not desire sacrifice, or else I would give it; You do not delight in burnt offering. The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit, A broken and a contrite heart – These, O God, You will not despise. Do good in Your good pleasure to Zion; Build the walls of Jerusalem. Then You shall be pleased with the sacrifices of righteousness, With burnt offering and whole burnt offering; Then they shall offer bulls on Your altar.

The Canon  
Ode 1 (Tone 6)

Chanter: [*Irmos*] The children of those, who were saved, buried under ground the God, Who made the pursuing tyrant of old disappear in the waves of the sea. As for us however, let us praise the Lord, as did the maidens; for gloriously He has been glorified.

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

Chanter: O Lord my God, I shall sing You a funeral hymn and a burial ode; for through Your Burial You opened for me the portals of life; and by death You have put death and Hades to death.

Reader: Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.

Chanter: The super-terrestrial, and those of the nether world, beholding You, my Saviour, on Your throne on High, and in the grave below, were shaken with Your death; for You were seen in a manner, transcending the mind, as dead; You, the Source of Life.

Reader: Now and forever and to the ages of ages. Amen.

Chanter: You descended to the depths of the earth to fill all things with Your glory; for my person that is in Adam was not hidden from You; and being buried, You renewed me, from corruption, O Lover of mankind.

Chanter: [*Repeat Irmos*] The children of those, who were saved ...

Ode 3 (Tone 6)

Chanter: [*Irmos*] Truly, creation, having beheld You suspended on Golgotha, Who suspended the whole earth freely on the waters, was seized with great wonder. "There is none Holy, save You, O Lord."

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

Chanter: You have revealed the symbols of Your burial by many visions. But now, You have manifested Your secrets as God and Man, even to those in Hades, O Master. "There is none Holy, save You, O Lord."

Reader: Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.

Chanter: You stretched out Your arms and united those who were divided of old. Restrained by the shroud and tomb, You loosed those held captive, who cry out: "There is none Holy, save You, O Lord."

Reader: Now and forever and to the ages of ages. Amen.

Chanter: O uncontainable One, You were sealed in a tomb of Your own will; and You made known Your Power through Your Divine actions to

those, who sing: "There is none Holy, save You, O Loving Lord."

Chanter: [*Repeat Irmos*] Truly, creation having beheld ...

### The Little Litany

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

People: **Lord have mercy.**

Priest: Help us, save us, have mercy on us, and watch over us, O God, by Your grace.

People: **Lord have mercy.**

Priest: Commemorating our all-holy, pure, most blessed and glorious Lady Theotokos and ever-Virgin Mary with all the Saints, let us commit ourselves and one another, and our whole life, to Christ our God!

People: **To You, O Lord.**

Priest: For You are a good God and loving toward mankind, and to You we ascribe glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and forever and to the ages of ages.

People: **Amen.**

### Kathisma (Tone 1)

Chanter: The soldiers guarding Your tomb, O Saviour, became like dead from the lightning of the appearing Angel, proclaiming Your Resurrection to the women. We glorify You, the Despoiler of corruption, and to You we kneel, risen from the grave, our only God.

### Ode 4 (Tone 6)

Chanter: [*Irmos*] Foreseeing Your Divine self-emptying on the Cross, Habakkuk cried out in amazement: "You cut off the power of the mighty, O Good One, speaking to those in Hades, as the Almighty."

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

Chanter: You have sanctified the seventh day, which You blessed before You rested from Your labours; for You create everything, and You renew them, observing the Sabbath, and restoring Yourself.

Reader: Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.

Chanter: When Your soul was separated from the body, the bonds of both Hades and death were shattered with great strength by Your might, O Word of God.

Reader: Now and forever and to the ages of ages. Amen.

Chanter: Hades in encountering You, O Word, was embittered, beholding a mortal deified; covered with bruises, yet all powerful. Wherefore, it shrank back at the awesome sight.

Chanter: [*Repeat Irmos*] Foreseeing Your Divine self-emptying ...

### Ode 5 (Tone 6)

Chanter: [*Irmos*] Your loving manifestation made through Your compassion for us, was seen by Isaiah as an unwaning light; and rising early from the night watch, he cried aloud: "The dead shall rise, and they who are in the tombs shall awake, and all those on the earth shall rejoice."

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

Chanter: When You the Creator became earthly, You renewed those of the earth. The linen and the tomb demonstrate the inherent mystery, O Word; for the honourable Councillor, fulfils Your Father's will, through Whom You renew me majestically.

Reader: Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.

Chanter: You transform the mortal by death, and the corrupt by burial; for as befits God, You have made incorruptible and immortal the nature You assumed; for Your body, O Master, did not see corruption, nor was Your soul abandoned as a stranger in Hades.

Reader: Now and forever and to the ages of ages. Amen.

Chanter: You came from a Virgin who knew no travail; Your side, O my Creator, was pierced, by which You accomplished the re-creation of Eve, having Yourself become Adam. Supernaturally, You fell into a sleep that renewed nature, awakening life from sleep and corruption, as the Almighty.

Chanter: [*Repeat Irmos*] Your loving manifestation made ...

### Ode 6 (Tone 6)

Chanter: [*Irmos*] Truly, Jonah the Prophet was caught, but not held in the belly of the whale. For being an impression of You, Who suffered and was given over to burial, he sprang forth from the whale as from a chamber, and said to the watchmen: "Falsely, and in vain do you guard, O watchmen; for you have neglected your own mercy."

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

Chanter: You were slain, O Word, but were not separated from the body, which You shared with us; for even though Your temple was destroyed during Your Passion, the Person of Your Divinity and

humanity was still one; for in both You are One Son, the Word of God, God and Man.

Reader: Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.

Chanter: The fall of Adam resulted in the death to Man, but not to God; for though the substance of Your earthly body suffered, Your Divinity remained passionless, transforming the corruptible into incorruption and showing it to be the fountain of Resurrection for immortal Life.

Reader: Now and forever and to the ages of ages. Amen.

Chanter: Truly, Hades rules the race of mortals, but not forever; for You, O mighty One, when placed in the tomb, demolished the bars of death with Your Life-giving hand, and preached to those, who slept there from the ages of old the true redemption, becoming O Saviour, the First-born of the dead.

Chanter: [*Repeat Irmos*] Truly, Jonah the Prophet was caught ...

#### The Little Litany

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

People: **Lord have mercy.**

Priest: Help us, save us, have mercy on us, and watch over us, O God, by Your grace.

People: **Lord have mercy.**

Priest: Commemorating our all-holy, pure, most blessed and glorious Lady Theotokos and ever-Virgin Mary with all the Saints, let us commit ourselves and one another, and our whole life, to Christ our God!

People: **To You, O Lord.**

Priest: For You are the King of Peace, and to You we ascribe glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and forever and to the ages of ages.

People: **Amen.**

#### Kontakion (Tone 2)

Chanter: He Who closed the abyss, is seen as dead; wrapped in linen and with myrrh, the Immortal One is placed in a tomb as dead. The women came to anoint Him, weeping bitterly and crying out: "Behold this the most blessed Sabbath, in which Christ having fallen asleep, will rise on the third day."

#### Oikos (Tone 2)

Chanter: He Who sustains all things was raised on the Cross, and all creation



mourns, seeing Him hanging naked on the Wood. The Sun hid its rays, and the stars cast off their gleam; the earth quaked with great fright, and the sea fled; the rocks were split asunder; many graves were opened, and the bodies of holy men arose. Hades groaned below, and the Judeans plan to spread false rumours against the Resurrection of Christ, while the women cried out: "Behold, this the most blessed Sabbath, in which Christ having fallen asleep, will rise on the third day."

Synaxarion (To be read, not chanted)

Reader: On the Holy and Great 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.

On the following day, which was Saturday, and which fell on the twenty-fourth of March, the enemies of God, the high priests and Pharisees, came to Pilate and asked him to seal the tomb until the third day, lest the Disciples come at night, as they claimed, and steal the buried body, and then preach among the people, proclaiming the truth of the Resurrection, which that deceiver had foretold when he was alive, and the last error should be worse than the first. Thus they obtained permission to seal the tomb, and so they went and sealed it and placed a guard upon it from among the soldiers who were guarding the city.

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

Ode 7 (Tone 6)

Chanter: [*Irmos*] Ineffable wonder! He Who saved the righteous youths from the fire of the furnace, is placed in the grave a breathless corpse, for the salvation of us who sing: "Blessed are You, O God, our deliverer."

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

Chanter: Hades was pierced in the heart, having received the One pierced in His side, and was consumed by the force of divine fire, for the salvation of us who sing: "Blessed are You, O God, our deliverer."

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

Chanter: Blessed tomb! Having received in it the Creator as if sleeping, it was manifested to be a divine treasure of Life, for the salvation of us who sing: "Blessed are You, O God, our deliverer."

Reader: Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.

Chanter: The Life of all, in accordance with the law of the dead, submits to the tomb, and shows it to be the fountain of Resurrection, for the salvation of us who sing: "Blessed are You, O God, our deliverer."

Reader: Now and forever, and to the ages of ages. Amen.

Chanter: The Godhead of Christ was one with the Father and the Spirit, without separation in the tomb and in Eden, for the salvation of us who sing: "Blessed are You, O God, our deliverer."

Chanter: [*Repeat Irmos*] Ineffable wonder! He Who saved ...

### Ode 8 (Tone 6)

Chanter: [*Irmos*] Be astonished, O Heaven, and let the foundations of the Earth quake; for lo! the One, Who dwells in the Highest, is accounted among the dead, and lodges as a stranger in a humble tomb. O you youths, bless Him; you priests, praise Him; and you people, exalt Him to all the ages.

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

Chanter: The pure Temple has been dissolved, but He raised up with Him the fallen tabernacle; for the second Adam Who dwells in the Highest, descended to the first Adam to the depths of Hades. O you youths, bless Him; you priests, praise Him; and you people, exalt Him to all the ages.

Reader: We bless Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, the Lord.

Chanter: The courage of the Disciples failed. But Joseph of Arimathea shows valour; for beholding the God of all, dead and naked, he asked for Him and arrayed Him, crying out: "O you youths, bless Him; you priests, bless Him; and you people, exalt Him to all the ages."

Reader: Now and forever and to the ages of ages. Amen.

Chanter: O what new wonders! O what goodness! O what ineffable forbearance! For He that dwells in the Highest, is sealed under the earth of His own will, and is slandered as a deceiver. O you youths, bless Him; you priests, praise Him; and you people, exalt Him to all the ages.

Reader: We praise, we bless and we worship the Lord.

Chanter: [*Repeat Irmos*] Be astonished, O Heaven, and let ...

The Deacon goes through the Royal Doors and stands before the Icon of the Theotokos, raises his Orarion and says:
---

Deacon: The Theotokos and Mother of the Light let us honour and magnify

in song.

The Deacon censens the whole church as the Choir sings Ode 9.

### Ode 9 (Tone 6)

Chanter: [*Irmos*] Lament not for Me, Mother, as you behold Me in the grave, Who as a Son you conceived in your womb without seed. For I shall rise and be glorified, and as God, I shall ceaselessly exalt in glory those, who in faith and yearning, magnify you.

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

Chanter: My eternal Son, I was spared the travail at Your strange Birth, and was marvellously blessed. And now, beholding You, my God, a breathless corpse, I am torn apart with the spear of bitter sorrow; but arise, that I may be magnified.

Reader: Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.

Chanter: The earth, O Mother, covers Me of My own will, but the gate-keepers of Hades trembled seeing Me clothed in a blood-spattered robe of vengeance; for as God, I have struck down the enemies with the Cross, and I will rise again, and magnify you.

Reader: Now and forever and to the ages of ages. Amen.

Chanter: Let all creation rejoice, and all the earthborn be glad; for Hades, the enemy has been despoiled. Let the women meet Me with myrrh; for I redeem Adam along with Eve, and all their descendants, and will rise on the third day.

Chanter: [*Repeat Irmos*] Lament not for Me, Mother ...

### The Little Litany

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

People: **Lord have mercy.**

Priest: Help us, save us, have mercy on us, and watch over us, O God, by Your grace.

People: **Lord have mercy.**

Priest: Commemorating our all-holy, pure, most blessed and glorious Lady Theotokos and ever-Virgin Mary with all the Saints, let us commit ourselves and one another, and our whole life, to Christ our God!

People: **To You, O Lord.**

Priest: For Yours is the might, and Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, now and forever and to the ages of ages.

People: **Amen.**

The Priest with the Altar Boys and the Choir assemble about the Epitaphios. All the faithful are asked to join in the chants.

### The Lamentations

#### The First Stasis (Tone 5)

People: **In a Grave they laid You, O my life and my Christ.  
And the armies of the angels were so amazed.  
As they sang the praise of Your submissive love.  
O my dear Lord Jesus, my salvation, my light;  
How are You now by a grave and its darkness hid.  
How unspeakable the mystery of Your love.  
Gone the Light the world knew, gone the Light that was mine;  
O my Jesus Who are all of my heart's desire.  
So the Virgin spoke lamenting at Your grave.  
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.  
All we call you blessed, Theotokos most pure;  
And with faithful hearts we honour the burial,  
Suffering with you the death of our Lord.  
How O Life can you die? In a grave how can you dwell.  
For the proud domain of death You destroy now.  
And the dead of Hades You make to rise.  
O my dear Christ Jesus, King and Ruler of all;  
Why to them who dwell in Hades did You descend?  
Was it not to set the race of Mortals free?  
In a grave they laid You, O my Lord and my Life.  
Yet the Lord of death have you by Your death destroyed.  
And the world of You does drink rich streams of Life.  
Now we magnify You, O Lord Jesus Our King.  
And we venerate Your Passion and burial.  
For by this have You delivered us from death.**

Reader: **Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.**

People: **I adore Your Passion, Your entombing I praise.  
And I magnify Your might dear friend of Man.  
From destroying passions have they set me free.**

Repeat the first troparion

People: **In a grave they laid You, O my Life and my Christ;  
And the armies of the angels were so amazed,  
As they sang the praise of Your submissive love...**

### The Little Litany

The Priest censens the Bier.

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

People: **Lord have mercy.**

Priest: Help us, save us, have mercy on us, and watch over us, O God, by Your grace.

People: **Lord have mercy.**

Priest: Commemorating our all-holy, pure, most blessed and glorious Lady Theotokos and ever-Virgin Mary with all the Saints, let us commit ourselves and one another, and our whole life, to Christ our God!

People: **To You, O Lord.**

Priest: For Your Name has been blessed, and Your kingdom has been glorified of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, now and forever and to the ages of ages.

People: **Amen.**

### The Second Stasis (Tone 5)

People: **Right is it indeed...Life-bestowing Lord to magnify You;  
For upon the Cross were Your hands outspread,  
And the strength of our dread foe have You destroyed.**

**Right is it indeed... Maker of all things to magnify You;  
For by Your dear passion have we attained,  
Vict'ry over the flesh and rescue from decay.**

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

**Ah those eyes so sweet.  
And Your lips O Word how shall I close them.  
How the dues of death shall I pay to You.  
So cried Joseph as he shook with Holy fear.**

**Dirges at Your tomb...Goodly Joseph sings with Nicodemus;**

**Bringing praise to Christ Who by man was slain,  
And in song with them are joined the Seraphim.**

**O my light and life.**

**Why in a grave have they laid You?**

**Your maiden mother shouted with tears of grief.**

**Rise O my sweet son as You did say to us.**

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

People: **O eternal God...Begotten not made and Spirit;  
Magnify the might to the mortal men,  
Blessing us with peace and freedom evermore.**

Repeat the first troparion

People: **Right is it indeed...Life-bestowing Lord to magnify You;  
For upon the Cross were Your hands outspread,  
And the strength of our dread foe have You destroyed...**

### The Little Litany

The Priest censes the Bier.

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

People: **Lord have mercy.**

Priest: Help us, save us, have mercy on us, and watch over us, O God, by Your grace.

People: **Lord have mercy.**

Priest: Commemorating our all-holy, pure, most blessed and glorious Lady Theotokos and ever-Virgin Mary with all the Saints, let us commit ourselves and one another, and our whole life, to Christ our God!

People: **To You, O Lord.**

Priest: For Holy are You, our God, Who sits on the throne of glory of the Cherubim and to You we ascribe glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and forever and to the ages of ages.

People: **Amen.**

### The Third Stasis (Tone 3)

The practice in most parishes is that only some of the following verses are chanted.

People: **Every generation...to Your grave comes bringing;  
Dear Christ its dirge of praises.**

**From the Cross he brought You...That Arimathean;**

**And in a grave he laid You.**

**Joseph is entombing...helped by Nicodemus;  
The body of His Saviour.**

**O Blessed Joseph, lay away the body;  
Of Jesus Christ our Lord.**

**O what ignorance, the killing of the saviour,  
by the killers of prophets.**

**Ah my precious spring time, ah my Son beloved,  
ah whither fades your beauty.**

**Son of God Almighty, O my God and maker,  
How is your will to suffer.**

**O my son I praise you, for your great compassion,  
Which moved you thus to suffer.**

**Hasten word your rising, and release from sorrow,  
The spotless maid that bore you.**

**Myrrh the women sprinkled...store of spices bringing;  
To grace Your tomb at dawning...**

(repeat the above verse as necessary while the Priest sprinkles the Epitaphios with rose-water)

**Merciful Lord rise, and a-rise us with you,  
from the fires of Hades...**

Reader: **Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.**

People: **Peace to Your Church prosper, to your peoples salvation,  
be given through your rising...**

Repeat the first troparion

People: **Every generation...to Your grave comes bringing;  
Dear Christ, its dirge of praises.**

At the next verse in the 3rd Stanza the Priest sprinkles with rose-water the Epitaphios and the Congregation while the below hymn is repeated.

Chanter: **The myrrh-bearing Women ... came very early in the morning;  
and sprinkled the tomb with myrrh [3 Times].**

### Little Litany

The Priest censes the Bier.

Priest: **Again and again in peace, let us pray to the Lord.**

People: **Lord have mercy.**

Priest: Help us, save us, have mercy on us, and watch over us, O God, by Your grace.

People: **Lord have mercy.**

Priest: Commemorating our all-holy, pure, most blessed and glorious Lady Theotokos and ever-Virgin Mary with all the Saints, let us commit ourselves and one another, and our whole life, to Christ our God!

People: **To You, O Lord.**

Priest: For You are the King of Peace and the Saviour of our souls, O Christ our God, and to You we ascribe glory together with Your Eternal Father and Your All-Holy and Good, and Life-giving Spirit, now and forever and to the ages of ages.

People: **Amen.**

### Evlogetaria (Tone 5)

Chanter: Blessed are You, O Lord: teach me Your statutes.

The assembly of the Angels was amazed, beholding You numbered among the dead, O Saviour, destroying the power of death, with Yourself You raised up Adam and freed everyone from Hades.

Blessed are You, O Lord: teach me Your statutes.

Wherefore, O Women Disciples, do you mingle sweet smelling spices with your tears of pity? The Radiant Angel within the sepulchre cried unto the Myrrh-bearing Women: Behold the grave, and understand; for the Saviour is risen from the tomb.

Blessed are You, O Lord: teach me Your statutes.

At the daybreak the Myrrh-bearing Women hastened with lamenting to Your tomb; but the Angel drew near to them and said to them: The time for lamentation is over; weep not; but proclaim the Resurrection to the Apostles.

Blessed are You, O Lord: teach me Your statutes.

The Myrrh-bearing Women mourned as bearing spices they drew near Your tomb, O Saviour. But the Angel spoke unto them, saying: "Why do you number the living among the dead? In that He is God He is risen from the grave."



### Troparion to the Trinity

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

Chanter: We worship the Father, and His Son, and His Holy Spirit, the Holy Trinity, One in Essence; crying out with the Seraphim: Holy, holy, holy are You, O Lord.

### Theotokion

Both now and forever and throughout all ages. Amen

Chanter: In that you bore the Giver of Life, O Virgin, you redeemed Adam from sin, and gave to Eve joy in place of sadness; and He who was incarnate of you, both God and man, has restored to life those who had fallen therefrom.

Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia. Glory be to You, O God! [*3 times*]

O our God and our Hope, glory be to You.

### The Little Litany

Deacon: Again and again in peace let us pray to the Lord.

People: **Lord have mercy.**

Deacon: Help us, save us, have mercy on us, and watch over us, O God, by Your grace.

People: **Lord have mercy.**

Priest: Commemorating our all-holy, pure, most blessed and glorious Lady Theotokos and ever-Virgin Mary with all the Saints, let us commit ourselves and one another, and our whole life, to Christ our God!

People: **To You, O Lord.**

Priest: For all the Powers of Heaven praise You, and to You we ascribe glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and forever and to the ages of ages.

People: **Amen.**

### Exaposteilarion (Tone 2)

Reader: Holy is the Lord, our God [*3 Times*].

Exalt the Lord our God, and worship at His footstool, for He is Holy.

### The Praises (Tone 2)

Chanter: Let everything that has breath, praise the Lord. Praise the Lord from the Heavens, praise Him in the heights. To You, O God, is due our song. Praise Him, all His Angels; praise Him all His Hosts. To You,

O God, is due our song.

Reader: This honour have all His saints.

Chanter: Today the grave holds Him Who holds creation in His palm. A stone covers Him, Who covers the Heavens with virtue. Life sleeps, and Hades trembles; and Adam is set free from his bonds. Glory to Your dispensation, through which, when all things were accomplished, You presented to us an eternal Sabbath rest, granting us Your most Holy Resurrection from the dead.

Reader: Praise God in His Sanctuary. Praise Him in His mighty firmament!

Chanter: What is the sight, which is now beheld? What is the present rest? The King of the ages having completed the dispensation with His Passion takes His Sabbath rest in the tomb, granting us a new Sabbath. To Him let us cry out: "Arise, O God, and judge the earth, for You reign to the ages, Who is boundless in Your great mercy."

Reader: Praise Him for His mighty acts; Praise Him according to His excellent greatness!

Chanter: Come, let us behold our Life, lying in the tomb, that He may give life to those, who lie in the graves. Come today, let us see Him of the lineage of Judah sleeping, prophetically crying out to Him: "Who shall raise You up, O King, Who falling back sleeps as a lion?" But of Your own will, rise up, Who willingly gave Yourself for us. O Lord, glory to You.

Reader: Praise Him with the sound of the trumpet; Praise Him with the lute and harp.

Chanter: Joseph asked for the Body of Jesus and placed It in his own new tomb; for He had to emerge from the grave as from a bridal chamber. Glory to You, Who shattered the dominion of Death, and opened the portals of Paradise to all mankind.

### Tone 6

Reader: Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.

Chanter: Moses the great, mystically foreshadowed this day, saying: "And God blessed the seventh day." For this is the blessed Sabbath; it is the day of rest, in which the Only-begotten Son of God rested from all His works, and through the dispensation of death, in body He rested. And having returned to it again through the Resurrection, as the only Good and Merciful Lord, He granted to us Life Eternal.

Reader: Now and forever and to the ages of ages. Amen.

Chanter: Most blessed are you, O Virgin, Theotokos; for through Him that

was incarnate of you is Hades despoiled, Adam is recalled from the dead, the curse is made void, Eve is set free, death is slain, and we are endowed with life. Wherefore, in hymns of praise, we cry aloud: "Blessed are You, O Christ our God, Who is thus well pleased; glory to You".

### The Great Doxology (Tone 6)

Priest: Glory be to You, for You have shown us the light. Glory to God in the Highest, and on Earth peace, goodwill to all people.

Chanter: We praise You, we bless You, we worship You, we glorify You, we give You thanks for Your great glory.

Lord God, Heavenly King, God the Father almighty; Lord, the Only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ; and the Holy Spirit.

Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, You take away the sin of the world, have mercy on us; You take away the sins of the world.

Receive our prayer, You that sit at the right hand of the Father, and have mercy on us.

For You alone are Holy, You alone are the Lord, Jesus Christ, to the glory of God the Father. Amen.

Every day I will bless You, and praise Your Name, throughout all ages.

Grant, Lord, this day that we may be kept without sin.

Blessed are You, Lord God of our fathers, and praised and glorified is Your Name, throughout all ages.

May your mercy, O Lord, be upon us, even as our hope is in You.

Blessed are You, O Lord, teach me Your statutes. Blessed are You, O Lord, teach me Your precepts. Blessed are You, O Lord, teach me Your commandments.

Lord, You have been our refuge from one generation to another. I said, Lord, have mercy upon me, heal my soul, for I have sinned against You.

Lord, I have run to You for refuge; teach me to do Your will, for You are my God.

For with You is the source of life, and in Your light we shall see light.

Continue Your mercy to those that know You. Holy God, Holy

Mighty, Holy Immortal: have mercy on us.

Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal: have mercy on us.

Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal: have mercy on us.

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

Now and forever and to the ages of ages. Amen.

Holy Immortal: have mercy on us.

Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal: have mercy on us.

### Procession with the Epitaphios

The Priest, Altar Boys and Choir leading the Epitaphios, followed by the congregation, proceed around the church building, while the Choir chants: "Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal, have mercy on us." The procession pauses at 4 cross points to invoke petitions. Returning in the church, the Epitaphios is taken into the Sanctuary and after going around the Altar 3 times it is placed on the Altar while the following hymns are sung:

Priest: Let us attend. Peace be to you all. This is wisdom!

### Troparion (Tone 2)

Chanter: When Thou, O immortal Life, did humble Thyself unto death, then did Thou destroy death by the brightness of Thy Godhead. And when Thou did raise the bowels of the earth, then all the Heavenly Powers exclaimed: O Christ our God, the Giver of Life! Glory to Thee!

The Angel, standing by the Tomb cried out to the myrrh-bearing Women: "The Myrrh is fitting for the dead, but Christ has shown Himself a stranger to corruption."

Reader: Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.

The noble Joseph taking down from the Cross Your spotless Body, enwrapped It in clean linen with aromas, and laid It for burial in a new Tomb.

Reader: Now and forever and to the ages of ages. Amen.

You, O Christ, Who holds the universe in Your hands, condescended to be held in the Tomb, to redeem fallen mankind from Hades, thereby giving immortal life to us, as immortal God.

### The Prophecy

Priest: Let us attend.

Reader: Arise for our help, And redeem us for Your mercies' sake. We have heard with our ears, O God, Our fathers have told us.

Deacon: This is wisdom!

Reader: A reading from the Book of Ezekiel.  
(Chapter 37:1-14)

Priest: Let us attend.

Reader: The hand of the LORD came upon me and brought me out in the Spirit of the LORD, and set me down in the midst of the valley; and it was full of bones. Then He caused me to pass by them all around, and behold, there were very many in the open valley; and indeed they were very dry. And He said to me, "Son of man, can these bones live?" So I answered, "O Lord GOD, You know." Again He said to me, "Prophecy to these bones, and say to them, 'O dry bones, hear the word of the LORD! Thus says the Lord GOD to these bones: "Surely I will cause breath to enter into you, and you shall live. I will put sinews on you and bring flesh upon you, cover you with skin and put breath in you; and you shall live." Then you shall know that I am the LORD.' "

So I prophesied as I was commanded; and as I prophesied, there was a noise, and suddenly a rattling; and the bones came together, bone to bone. Indeed, as I looked, the sinews and the flesh came upon them, and the skin covered them over; but there was no breath in them. Also He said to me, "Prophecy to the breath, prophecy, son of man, and say to the breath, Thus says the Lord GOD: 'Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe on these slain, that they may live.' "

So I prophesied as He commanded me, and breath came into them, and they lived, and stood upon their feet, an exceedingly great army. Then He said to me, "Son of man, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They indeed say, 'Our bones are dry, our hope is lost, and we ourselves are cut off!' Therefore prophecy and say to them, 'Thus says the Lord GOD: "Behold, O My people, I will open your graves and cause you to come up from your graves, and bring you into the land of Israel. Then you shall know that I am the LORD, when I have opened your graves, O My people, and brought you up from your graves. I will put My Spirit in you, and you shall live, and I will place you in your own land. Then you shall know that I, the LORD, have spoken it and performed it, says the LORD.' "

### The Epistle Reading

Priest: Let us attend.

Reader: Arise, O LORD! O God, lift up Your hand! Do not forget the humble. I will praise You, O LORD, with my whole heart; I will tell

of all Your marvellous works.

Deacon: This is wisdom!

Reader: A reading from the First Epistle of Saint Paul to the Corinthians.  
(1 Cor 5:6-8 and Gal 3:13-14)

Priest: Let us attend.

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

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

Priest: Peace be to you reader.

People: **Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia.**

### The Gospel Lesson

Deacon: This is wisdom! Arise! Let us hear the holy Gospel.

Priest: Peace be to you all.

People: **And to your spirit.**

Priest: A reading from the holy Gospel according to St. Matthew.  
(Chapter 27:62-66)

People: **Glory be to You, O Lord, glory be to You.**

Deacon: Let us attend!

Priest: 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.

People: **Glory be to You, O Lord, glory be to You.**

The Litany of Fervent Supplication

Deacon: Let us say with all our soul and with all our mind, let us say.

People: **Lord have mercy, Lord have mercy, Lord have mercy.**

Deacon: Lord Almighty, the God of our Fathers, we ask You, hear us and have mercy.

People: **Lord have mercy, Lord have mercy, Lord have mercy.**

Deacon: Have mercy on us, O God, according to Your great mercy, we ask You, hear us and have mercy.

People: **Lord have mercy, Lord have mercy, Lord have mercy.**

Deacon: Again we pray for all devout and Orthodox Christians

People: **Lord have mercy, Lord have mercy, Lord have mercy.**

Deacon: Again we pray for our Father and Metropolitan [*Name*].

People: **Lord have mercy, Lord have mercy, Lord have mercy.**

Deacon: Again we pray for our brethren, the priests, hieromonks, deacons, hierodeacons, and monastics and for all our brethren in Christ.

People: **Lord have mercy, Lord have mercy, Lord have mercy.**

Deacon: Again we pray for mercy, life, peace, health, salvation, visitation, pardon and forgiveness of sins for the servants of God [*Name*].

People: **Lord have mercy, Lord have mercy, Lord have mercy.**

Deacon: Again we pray for the blessed and ever-memorable founders of this holy house; for all our fathers and brethren, departed this life before us, especially [*Name*], who here and in all the world lie asleep in the Lord.

People: **Lord have mercy, Lord have mercy, Lord have mercy.**

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 Your great and rich mercy.

People: **Lord have mercy, Lord have mercy, Lord have mercy.**

The Prayer of the Fervent Supplication

Priest: Lord our God, accept this fervent supplication from Your servants, and have mercy on us according to the abundance of Your mercy, and send down Your compassion on us and on all Your people, who await Your rich mercy.

Priest: For You are a merciful and loving God, and to You we offer glory

to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and forever and to the ages of ages.

People: **Amen.**

Litany of Supplication

Deacon: Let us complete our evening prayer to the Lord.

People: **Lord have mercy.**

Deacon: Help us, save us, have mercy on us, and protect us, O God, by Your grace.

People: **Lord have mercy.**

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

People: **Grant this, O Lord.**

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

People: **Grant this O Lord.**

Deacon: For pardon and forgiveness of our sins and offences, let us ask of the Lord.

People: **Grant this, O Lord.**

Deacon: For that which is good and profitable to our souls, and for the peace of the world, let us ask of the Lord.

People: **Grant this, O Lord.**

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

People: **Grant this, O Lord.**

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

People: **Grant this, O Lord.**

Deacon: Commemorating our all-holy, pure, most blessed and glorious Lady Theotokos and ever-Virgin Mary with all the Saints, let us commit ourselves and one another, and our whole life, to Christ our God!

People: **To You, O Lord.**

Priest: For You are a good and loving God, and to You we offer glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and forever and to the ages of ages.



People: **Amen.**

Priest: Peace be to you all.

People: **And to your Spirit**

Deacon: Let us bow our heads to the Lord.

People: **To You, O Lord.**

Priest: For it is Yours to show mercy and to save us, our God, and to You we ascribe glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and forever and to the ages of ages.

People: **Amen.**

### The Dismissal

Priest: Wisdom!

People: **Father bless.**

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

People: **Amen. Preserve, O God, the holy Orthodox faith and Orthodox Christians, to the ages of ages. Amen.**

Priest: Most holy Theotokos, may your Son save us, through your prayers!

People: **More honoured than the Cherubim, and more glorious beyond compare than the Seraphim, in all purity you gave birth to God the Word, true Theotokos, we exalt You.**

Priest: Glory be to You, O Christ, our God and our hope, glory be to You.

People: **Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and forever and to the ages of ages. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Father bless!**

Priest: May He Who for us men and for our salvation voluntarily endured the awful Passion, the Cross, and the entombment, Christ our True God, through the prayers of His most pure, blameless and holy Mother; of [*patron saint(s) of the community*] the patron(s) of this community; of [*saints of day*], whose memory we celebrate today; and of all the Saints; have mercy on us and save us, for He is good and loves mankind.

People: **Amen.**

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

People: **Amen.**

After the service, the faithful very reverently approach the Solea, upon which is the flower decked Bier, and after making the sign of the cross and with bows or prostrations, they kiss the Epitaphios.