

**eMatins powered by AGES**

# Holy Week

**The Graveside Lamentation**

**on Friday Evening**

**Matins of Holy Saturday**

**Text in English**

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**Holy Week**  
**The Graveside Lamentation**  
**on Friday Evening**  
*Matins of Holy Saturday*

**SERVICE OF MATINS**

**PRIEST**

Blessed is our God always, now and ever,  
and to the ages of ages.

**READER**

Amen.

**PRIEST**

Glory to You, our God. Glory to You.

Heavenly King, Comforter, Spirit of Truth,  
present in all places and filling all things,  
treasury of good things and giver of life: come;  
take Your abode in us; cleanse us of every  
stain, and save our souls, O Good one.

**READER**

**Trisagion Prayers.**

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

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

All-holy Trinity, have mercy on us.  
Lord, forgive our sins. Master, pardon our  
transgressions. Holy One, visit and heal our  
infirmities for your name's sake.

Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.  
Lord, have mercy.

Glory to the Father and the Son and the  
Holy Spirit. Both now and ever and to the 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 forever and to the  
ages of ages.

**READER**

Amen.

Save, O Lord, Your people and bless Your  
inheritance, granting victory to the faithful  
over the enemy, and by Your Cross protecting  
Your commonwealth.

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

You who were lifted on the cross  
voluntarily, \* O Christ our God, bestow  
Your tender compassions \* upon Your new  
community to which You gave Your name. \*  
Cause our faithful emperors to be glad in Your  
power, \* granting them the victories against  
their adversaries. \* And for an ally, Lord, may  
they have You, \* peace as their armor, the  
trophy invincible.

Both now and ever and to the ages of ages.  
Amen.

O awesome and unshamable Protection,  
O good and praiseworthy Theotokos, do  
not despise our petitions; make firm the  
community of the Orthodox; save those whom  
you have called to rule; grant them victory

from heaven, for you gave birth to God and are truly blessed.

**PRIEST**

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

*(Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.)*

Let us pray for pious and Orthodox Christians.

*(Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.)*

Again we pray for (episcopal rank) (name).

*(Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.)*

For You are a merciful God Who loves mankind, and to You we offer up glory, to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and forever and to the ages of ages.

**CHANTER**

Amen. In the name of the Lord, Father, bless!

**PRIEST**

Glory to the holy and consubstantial, and life giving, and undivided Trinity, always, now and forever and to the ages of ages.

(Amen.)

*Then the appointed Reader reverently reads the Six Psalms. The congregation should remain standing during this reading.*

*The priest stands at the holy altar table, head uncovered, and reverently reads silently the twelve Prayers of Matins.*

*After the first three of the Six Psalms have been read, the priest bows before the holy altar and moves to stand before the icon of Christ the Master; he bows and silently reads the remaining prayers.*

**PRIEST** (*inaudibly*)

### **1st Prayer**

We thank you, Lord our God, who have roused us from our beds and placed in our mouth a word of praise, to worship and call upon your Holy Name, and we beseech you by your acts of pity, with which you have always treated our life. And now send forth your help on those who stand before the presence of your holy glory and who await the rich mercy which comes from you, and grant that they may always serve, praise, hymn and worship your inexpressible loving-kindness.

(EL)

For to you belong all glory, honour and worship, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, now and for ever, and to the ages of ages. (EL)

### **2nd Prayer**

At night our spirit rises early to you, our God, for your commandments are light upon the earth. Teach us justice and sanctification in fear of you; for we glorify you who are our God, the One who truly exists. Incline your ear and hear us; and remember, Lord, by name all those who are present and who pray with us, and save them by your power. Bless your people and sanctify your inheritance. Give peace to your world, to the churches,

to the priests, to our rulers and to all your people. (EL)

For blessed and glorified is your all-honoured and majestic name, of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit now and for ever, and to the ages of ages. (EL)

### **3rd Prayer**

At night our spirit rises early to you, O God, for your commandments are light. Teach us your justice, O God, your commands and your statutes. Enlighten the eyes of our understanding, lest we ever sleep unto death in sins. Drive away all gloomy darkness from our hearts. Give us the grace of the sun of justice and by the seal of your Holy Spirit keep our life free from harm. Direct our steps in the way of peace. Grant that we may see the dawn and the day in joy, that we may offer your our morning prayers. (EL)

For yours is the might, and yours is the kingdom, the power and the glory, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, now and for ever, and to the ages of ages. (EL)

### **4th Prayer**

Master and God, holy and beyond understanding, who said: Let light shine out of darkness, who have given us rest by the sleep of the night and raised us up to glorify and implore your loving kindness; entreated by your own compassion, accept us who now worship you and give you thanks in the measure of our power, and grant us all our requests that are for salvation. Declare us to be children of light and of the day, and heirs of your eternal blessings. Remember also, Lord, in the greatness of your compassion all your people, those present with us and who pray

with us, and all our brethren by land and sea and in every place of your dominion who ask for your love for humankind and your help; and give to all your great mercy. (EL)

So that, always kept safe in soul and body, we may glorify with boldness your wondrous and blessed name, of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, now and for ever, and to the ages of ages. (EL)

### 5th Prayer

Treasury of blessings, ever-flowing Source, Holy Father, worker of wonders, all-powerful and almighty, we all worship you and beseech you, as we invoke your acts of mercy and compassion to help and assist our lowliness. Remember your suppliants, Lord; accept the morning prayers of us all like incense before you, and make none of us reprobate, but keep us all through your acts of compassion. Remember, Lord, those who keep vigil and who chant to your glory and that of your Son and our God and of your Holy Spirit. Be their help and their aid; accept their supplications on your heavenly and spiritual altar. (EL)

For you are our God and to you we give glory, to the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, now and for ever, and to the ages of ages. (EL)

### 6th Prayer

We give thanks to you, Lord God of our salvation, for you do all things for the well-being of our life, that we may at all times look to you, the Saviour and Benefactor of our souls. We give thanks to you, for you have given us rest in the part of the night which has passed and roused us from our

beds and placed us here for the worship of your honoured name. Therefore we beg you, Lord: Give us grace and power, so that we may be counted worthy to chant to you with understanding and to pray without ceasing in fear and trembling, as we work out our salvation through the assistance of your Son. Remember too, Lord, those who cry out to you by night. Hear them and have mercy, and crush beneath their feet their invisible and hostile foes. (EL)

For you are the King of peace and the Saviour of our souls, and to you we give glory, to the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, now and for ever, and to the ages of ages. (EL)

### 7th Prayer

God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who have raised us from our beds and gathered us together for this hour of prayer, give us grace by the opening of our mouths and accept our thanksgivings, in the measure of our ability. Teach us your statutes, because we do not know how to pray as we ought, unless you, Lord guide us by your Holy Spirit. Therefore we beg you, if we have sinned in any way until the present hour in word or deed or by thought, voluntarily or involuntarily, remit, forgive, pardon. For if you should regard iniquities, Lord; Lord, who will stand? For there is redemption from you. You alone are holy, a helper, a mighty defender of our life, and in you is our praise at all times. (EL)

Blessed and glorified be the might of your Kingdom, of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, now and for ever, and to the ages of ages. (EL)

### 8th Prayer

Lord our God, who have driven from us the sloth of sleep and called us together with a holy summons to lift up our hands and to give you thanks for the judgements of your justice, accept our supplications, our requests, our thanksgivings, our nocturnal worship; and give us, O God, the grace of faith unashamed, sure hope, love without pretence. Bless our comings in and our goings out, our deeds, works, words, desires, and grant that we may meet the beginnings of the day praising, singing, blessing the loving-kindness of your ineffable goodness. (EL)

For blessed is your all-holy name and glorified is your kingdom, of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, now and for ever, and to the ages of ages. (EL)

### 9th Prayer

Light in our hearts, Master, lover of humankind, the unsullied light of your divine knowledge, and open the eyes of our mind to the understanding of the proclamation of your Gospel. Instil in us also the fear of your blessed commandments, so that having trampled down all the desires of the flesh we may pass over to a spiritual way of life, thinking and doing all things that are well-pleasing to you. (EL)

For you are our sanctification [and illumination] and to you we give glory, to the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, now and for ever, and to the ages of ages. (EL)

### 10th Prayer

Lord our God, who have granted humankind forgiveness through repentance and shown us an image of acknowledgement

and confession of sins: the repentance leading to pardon of the prophet David, in accordance with your great mercy have mercy on us, who have fallen by many and great offences, and, in accordance with the multitude of your pity, wipe away our offences. For we have sinned against you, Lord, who know too the hidden and secret things of the human heart and who alone have authority to forgive sins. Create a clean heart in us and by your sovereign Spirit establish us and make known to us the joy of your salvation. Do not cast us away from your presence, but be well pleased, as you are good and love humankind, for us to offer you until our last breath a sacrifice of justice and an offering on your holy altars. (EL)

By the mercy and compassion and love for humankind of your only-begotten Son, with whom you are blessed, together with your all-holy, good and life-giving Spirit, now and for ever, and to the ages of ages. (EL)

### 11th Prayer

O God, our God, who by your will have brought into being the spiritual and rational Powers, we beseech and implore you, accept with that of all your creatures our hymn of glory in the measure of our power, and grant us in return the rich gifts of your loving-kindness. For to you bends every knee of those in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and everything that has breath and all creation sings the praise of your incomprehensible glory. For you alone are God, true and of great mercy. (EL)

For all the Powers of heaven praise you and to you we give glory, to the Father, the

Son and the Holy Spirit, now and for ever, and  
to the ages of ages. (EL)

**12th Prayer**

We praise, hymn, bless and give you  
thanks, O God of our fathers, for you have  
turned aside the shades of night and shown  
us again the light of day. But we implore  
your loving-kindness: Be merciful to our sins  
and accept our supplication in your great  
compassion, for we take refuge in you, the  
merciful and all-powerful God. Make the true  
sun of justice shine in our hearts; enlighten  
our mind and guard all our senses, so that,  
walking uprightly by day in the way of your  
commandments, we may reach eternal life; for  
with you is the source of life, and may we be  
counted worthy to come to the enjoyment of  
the unapproachable light. (EL)

For you are our God and to you we give  
glory, to the Father, the Son and the Holy  
Spirit, now and for ever, and to the ages of  
ages. (EL)



**READER**

**The Six Psalms.**

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

O Lord, You shall open my lips, and my mouth will declare Your praise. (2)

**Psalm 3.**

O Lord, why do those who afflict me multiply? Many are those who rise up against me. Many are those who say to my soul, "There is no salvation for him in his God." But You, O Lord, are my protector, 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 will help me. I will not be afraid of ten thousands of people who set themselves against me all around. Arise, O Lord, and save me, O my God, for You struck all those who were foolishly at enmity with me; You broke the teeth of sinners. Salvation is of the Lord, and Your blessing is upon Your people.

I lay down and slept; I awoke, for the Lord will help me.

**Psalm 37 (38).**

O Lord, do not rebuke me in Your wrath, nor chasten me in Your anger. For Your arrows are fixed in me, and Your hand rests on me; there is no healing in my flesh because of Your wrath; there is no peace in my bones because of my sins. For my transgressions rise up over my head; like a heavy burden they are heavy on me. My wounds grow foul and fester because of my folly. I suffer misery, and I am utterly bowed down; I go all the day long with a sad face. For my loins are filled with mockeries, and there is no healing in

my flesh. I am afflicted and greatly humbled; I roar because of the groaning of my heart. O Lord, all my desire is before You, and my groaning is not hidden from You. My heart is troubled; my strength fails me, and the light of my eyes, even this is not with me. My friends and neighbors draw near and stand against me, and my near of kin stand far off; and those who seek my soul use violence, and those who seek evil for me speak folly; and they meditate on deceit 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. I am like a man who does not hear, and who has no reproofs in his mouth. For in You, O Lord, I hope; You will hear, O Lord my God. For I said, "Let not my enemies rejoice over me, for when my foot was shaken, they boasted against me." For I am ready for wounds, and my pain is continually with me. For I will declare my transgression, and I will be anxious about my sin. But my enemies live, and are become stronger than I; and those who hate me unjustly are multiplied; those who repaid me evil for good slandered me, because I pursue righteousness; and they threw away my love as though it were a stinking corpse. Do not forsake me, O Lord; O my God, do not depart from me; give heed to help me, O Lord of my salvation.

Do not forsake me, O Lord; O my God, do not depart from me. Give heed to help me, O Lord of my salvation.

**Psalm 62 (63).**

O God, my God, I rise early to be with You; my soul thirsts for You. How often my flesh thirsts for You in a desolate, impassable,

and waterless land. So in the holy place I appear before You, to see Your power and Your glory. Because Your mercy is better than life, my lips shall praise You. Thus I will bless You in my life; I will lift up my hands in Your name. May my soul be filled, as if with marrow and fatness, and my mouth shall sing praise to You with lips filled with rejoicing. If I remembered You on my bed, I meditated on You at daybreak; for You are my helper, and in the shelter of Your wings I will greatly rejoice. My soul follows close behind You; Your right hand takes hold of me. But they seek for my soul in vain; they shall go into the lowest parts of the earth. They shall be given over to the edge of the sword; they shall be a portion for foxes. But the king shall be glad in God; all who swear by Him shall be praised, for the mouth that speaks unrighteous things is stopped.

I meditated on You at daybreak. For You are my helper, and in the shelter of Your wings I will greatly rejoice. My soul follows close behind You; Your right hand takes hold of me.

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

Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia. Glory to You, O God.

Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia. Glory to You, O God.

Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia. Glory to You, O God.

Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.  
Lord, have mercy.

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

**Psalm 87 (88).**

O Lord God of my salvation, I cry day and night before You. Let my prayer come before You; incline Your ear to my supplication, O Lord. For my soul is filled with sorrows, and my soul draws near to Hades; I am counted among those who go down into the pit; I am like a helpless man, free among the dead, like slain men thrown down and sleeping in a grave, whom You remember no more, but they are removed from Your hand. They laid me in the lowest pit, in dark places and in the shadow of death. Your wrath rested upon me, and You brought all Your billows over me. You removed my acquaintances far from me; they made me an abomination among themselves; I was betrayed, and did not go forth. My eyes weakened from poverty; O Lord, I cry to You the whole day long; I spread out my hands to You. Will You work wonders for the dead? Or will physicians raise them up, and acknowledge You? Shall anyone in the grave describe Your mercy and Your truth in destruction? Shall Your wonders be known in darkness, and Your righteousness in a forgotten land? But I cry to You, O Lord, and in the morning my prayer shall come near to You. Why, O Lord, do You reject my soul, and turn away Your face from me? I am poor and in troubles from my youth; but having been exalted, I was humbled and brought into despair. Your fierce anger passed over me, and Your terrors greatly troubled me; they compassed me like water all the day long; they surrounded me at once. You removed

far from me neighbor and friend, and my acquaintances because of my misery.

O Lord God of my salvation, I cry day and night before You. Let my prayer come before You; incline Your ear to my supplication, O Lord.

**Psalm 102 (103).**

Bless the Lord, O my soul, and everything within me, bless His holy name. Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all His rewards: who is merciful to all your transgressions, who heals all your diseases, who redeems your life from corruption, who crowns you with mercy and compassion, who satisfies your desire with good things; and your youth is renewed like the eagle's. The Lord shows mercies and judgment to all who are wronged. He made known His ways to Moses, the things He willed to the sons of Israel. The Lord is compassionate and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in mercy. He will not become angry to the end, nor will He be wrathful forever; He did not deal with us according to our sins, nor reward us according to our transgressions; for according to the height of heaven from earth, so the Lord reigns in mercy over those who fear Him; as far as the east is from the west, so He removes our transgressions from us. As a father has compassion on his children, so the Lord has compassion on those who fear Him, for He knows how He formed us; He remembers we are dust. As for man, his days are like grass, as a flower of the field, so he flourishes; for the wind passes through it, and it shall not remain; and it shall no longer know its place. But the mercy of the

Lord is from age to age upon those who fear Him, and His righteousness upon children's children, to such as keep His covenant and remember His commandments, to do them. The Lord prepared His throne in heaven, and His Kingdom rules over all. Bless the Lord, all you His angels, mighty in strength, who do His word, so as to hear the voice of His words. Bless the Lord, all you His hosts, His ministers who 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 142 (143).**

O Lord, hear my prayer; give ear to my supplication in Your truth; answer me in Your righteousness; do not enter into judgment with Your servant, for no one living shall become righteous in Your sight. For the enemy persecuted my soul; he humbled my life to the ground; he caused me to dwell in dark places as one long dead, and my spirit was in anguish within me; my heart was troubled within me. I remembered the days of old, and I meditated on all Your works; I meditated on the works of Your hands. I spread out my hands to You; my soul thirsts for You like a waterless land. Hear me speedily, O Lord; my spirit faints within me; turn not Your face from me, lest I become like those who go down into the pit. Cause me to hear Your mercy in the morning, for I hope in You; make me know, O Lord, the way wherein I should walk, for I lift up my soul to You. Deliver me from my enemies, O Lord, for to You I flee for refuge. Teach me to do Your

will, for You are my God; Your good Spirit shall guide me in the land of uprightness. For Your name's sake, O Lord, give me life; in Your righteousness You shall bring my soul out of affliction. In Your mercy You shall destroy my enemies; You shall utterly destroy all who afflict my soul, for I am Your servant.

Answer me in Your righteousness. Do not enter into judgment with Your servant.

Answer me in Your righteousness. Do not enter into judgment with Your servant.

Your good Spirit shall guide me in the land of uprightness.

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

Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia. Glory to You, O God.

Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia. Glory to You, O God.

*(intoned)*

Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia. Glory to You, O God. Our hope, O Lord, glory to You.

### **PRIEST/DEACON**

In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

*(Lord, have mercy.)*

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

*(Lord, have mercy.)*

For the peace of the whole world, for the stability of the holy churches of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

*(Lord, have mercy.)*

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

*(Lord, have mercy.)*

For pious and Orthodox Christians, let us pray to the Lord.

*(Lord, have mercy.)*

For our (episcopal rank) (name), for the honorable presbyterate, for the diaconate in Christ, and for all the clergy and the people, let us pray to the Lord.

*(Lord, have mercy.)*

For our country, for the president, and for all in public service, let us pray to the Lord.

*(Lord, have mercy.)*

For this city, and for every city and land, and for the faithful who live in them, let us pray to the Lord.

*(Lord, have mercy.)*

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

*(Lord, have mercy.)*

For those who travel by land, sea, and air, for the sick, the suffering, the captives and for their salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

*(Lord, have mercy.)*

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

*(Lord, have mercy.)*

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

*(Lord, have mercy.)*

Commemorating our most holy, pure, blessed, and glorious Lady, the Theotokos and ever-virgin Mary, with all the saints, let us

commend ourselves and one another and our whole life to Christ our God.

*(To You, O Lord.)*

**PRIEST**

For to You belong all glory, honor, and worship, to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and forever and to the ages of ages.

*(Amen.)*

**CHOIR**

**Mode 2.**

God is the Lord, and He revealed Himself to us. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. (SAAS)

**Verse 1:** *Give thanks to the Lord and call upon His holy name.*

*or: Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good; for His mercy endures forever.*

**Verse 2:** *All the nations surrounded me, but in the name of the Lord I defended myself against them.*

**Verse 3:** *And this came about from the Lord, and it is wonderful in our eyes.*

**Apolytikia. Mode 2.**

When he took down Your immaculate Body from the Cross, the honorable Joseph wrapped it in a clean linen shroud with spices and laid it for burial in a new tomb. (SD)

Glory.

When You descended unto death, O Lord who yourself are immortal Life, then did You mortify Hades by the lightning flash of Your Divinity. Also when You raised the dead from the netherworld, all the Powers of the heavens were crying out: O Giver of life, Christ our God, glory to You. (SD)

Both now.

The Angel standing at the sepulcher cried out and said to the ointment-bearing women: The ointments are appropriate for mortal men, but Christ has been shown to be a stranger to decay. (SD)

**DEACON**

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

(Lord, have mercy.)

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

(Lord, have mercy.)

Commemorating our most holy, pure, blessed, and glorious Lady, the Theotokos and ever-virgin Mary, with all the saints, let us commend ourselves and one another and our whole life to Christ our God.

(To You, O Lord.)

**PRIEST**

For Yours is the dominion, 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.

(Amen.)

**CHOIR**

**Kathisma I.**

**Mode 1. The soldiers keeping watch.**

From Pilate Joseph asked for Your worshipful Body. \* He wraps it in a clean linen shroud and with spices \* anoints it for burial and he lays it in his new tomb. \* Then at early dawn the women came with their ointments, \* and they cried, "Show us the Resurrection, O Savior, \* as You had foretold, O Christ." (SD)

Glory.

And they cried, "Show us the Resurrection, O Savior, \* as You had foretold, O Christ." (SD)

Both now.

Astounded were the hosts of the Angels, beholding \* how He, who sits above in the bosom of the Father, \* is laid in a sepulcher, the Immortal One, as a corpse. \* He is surrounded by angelic armies, who praise



Him \* and, together with the dead in Hades, give glory \* to Him, their Creator and Lord. (SD)

**READER**

**Psalm 50 (51).**

Have mercy on me, O God, according to Your great mercy; and according to the abundance of Your compassion, blot out my transgression. Wash me thoroughly from my lawlessness and cleanse me from my sin. For I know my lawlessness, and my sin is always before me. Against You only have I sinned and done evil in Your sight; that You may be justified in Your words, and overcome when You are judged. For behold, I was conceived in transgressions, and in sins my mother bore me. Behold, You love truth; You showed me the unknown and secret things of Your wisdom. You shall sprinkle me with hyssop, and I will be cleansed; You shall wash me, and I will be made whiter than snow. You shall make me hear joy and gladness; my bones that were humbled shall greatly rejoice. Turn Your face from my sins, and blot out all my transgressions. Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right 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 with Your guiding Spirit. I will teach transgressors Your ways, and the ungodly shall turn back to You. Deliver me from bloodguiltiness, O God, the God of my salvation, and my tongue shall greatly rejoice in Your righteousness. O Lord, You shall open my lips, and my mouth will declare Your praise. For if You desired sacrifice, I would give it; You will not be pleased with whole burnt offerings. A sacrifice to God

is a broken spirit, a broken and humbled heart God will not despise. Do good, O Lord, in Your good pleasure to Zion, and let the walls of Jerusalem be built; then You will be pleased with a sacrifice of righteousness, with offerings and whole burnt offerings; then shall they offer young bulls on Your altar. (SAAS)

**CHOIR**

**The Canon.**

**Ode i. Mode pl. 2. Heirmos.**

He, who with a sea-wave had buried the tyrant pursuer long ago, was buried beneath the earth by sons of those then delivered. Now, as once the maidens did, let us sing to the Lord, "For He is greatly glorified."

**Troparia.**

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

I will sing an anthem of exodus and a funeral hymn to You, O Lord my God, who by Your burial opened the entrances of life to me. By Your death You put Hades and death to death. (SD)

Glory.

Those who are above earth and those in the netherworld saw You on the throne on high and down below within the grave, O my Savior. They were agitated by Your death, for they saw You dead, incomprehensibly, O Source of Life. (SD)

Both now.

Lord, You have descended into the nethermost regions of the earth, to fill all things with Your glory. My person in Adam was not hidden from You who love mankind. You are buried and You renew me, the corrupted one. (SD)

**Katavasia.**

He, who with a sea-wave had buried the tyrant pursuer long ago, was buried beneath the earth by sons of those then delivered. Now, as once the maidens did, let us sing to the Lord, "For He is greatly glorified." (SD)

**Ode iii. Heirmos.**

When creation beheld You, who without restraint suspended all the earth on the waters, now suspended on a cross on Golgotha, it was constrained by great astonishment, and cried aloud, "No one is holy, but You, O Lord."

**Troparia.**

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

Of old by many visions, You revealed the symbols of Your burial. But what You once kept secret, O Master, now, as God and man, You clearly showed to those in Hades, who cried aloud, "No one is holy, but You, O Lord."

(SD)

Glory.

Savior, when You extended Your hands, You united things that had been divided. By Your confinement in the shroud and the sepulcher, You set free those who were fettered. To You they cry aloud, "No one is holy, but You, O Lord." (SD)

Both now.

You, uncontainable Master, were confined by the tomb and seals, of Your own will. By Your actions as God, O Friend of man, You made Your power known to all, who cry aloud, "No one is holy, but You, O Lord." (SD)

**Katavasia.**

When creation beheld You, who without restraint suspended all the earth on the waters, now suspended on a cross on Golgotha, it was constrained by great astonishment, and cried aloud, "No one is holy, but You, O Lord." (SD)

**DEACON**

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

*(Lord, have mercy.)*

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

*(Lord, have mercy.)*

Commemorating our most holy, pure, blessed, and glorious Lady, the Theotokos and ever-virgin Mary, with all the saints, let us commend ourselves and one another and our whole life to Christ our God.

*(To You, O Lord.)*

**PRIEST**

For you are our God, and to you we give glory, to the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, now and forever and to the ages of ages.

*(Amen.)*

**CHOIR**

**Kathisma I.**

**Mode 1. Automelon.**

The soldiers keeping watch at Your tomb, O my Savior, \* became as dead for fear of the radiant Angel. \* And he proclaimed that You arose to the women who came at dawn. \* We extol You, Lord, for You abolished corruption, \* and we worship You, our only God, who was buried \* and rose from the sepulcher. (SD)



Glory. Both now.

The soldiers keeping watch at Your tomb, O my Savior, \* became as dead for fear of the radiant Angel. \* And he proclaimed that You arose to the women who came at dawn. \* We extol You, Lord, for You abolished corruption, \* and we worship You, our only God, who was buried \* and rose from the sepulcher. (SD)

**Ode iv. Heirmos.**

When he foresaw Your divine emptying on the Cross, Prophet Habakkuk cried out astonished, "You went to those in Hades and there cut off the heads of the rulers, O Good One, as the almighty God."

**Troparia.**

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

Today, You sanctified the seventh day, which You had blessed of old, when You rested from Your works. For You, O Savior, generate and renew all things; and, while keeping the Sabbath, You are reclaiming them.

(SD)

Glory.

When You, O Logos, were victorious through superior strength, Your soul was separated from Your body; and it shattered the bonds of both Death and Hades by the power of Your divinity. (SD)

Both now.

Hades was embittered in meeting You, O Logos, seeing a deified mortal, who bore the marks of bruises and yet was all-powerful. At the fearful sight, it was speechless and horrified. (SD)

**Katavasia.**

When he foresaw Your divine emptying on the Cross, Prophet Habakkuk cried out astonished, "You went to those in Hades and there cut off the heads of the rulers, O Good One, as the almighty God." (SD)

**Ode v. Heirmos.**

Prophet Isaiah once beheld the never-setting light of Your Theophany, that is when You, O Christ our God, sympathetically appeared to us. Rising early in the morning, he cried aloud, "The dead shall rise up, and those in the tombs shall arise, and all those in the earth shall be glad and greatly rejoice."

**Troparia.**

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

Since You, the Fashioner, became a human being, You remake the earthborn; and the shroud and sepulcher, O Word of God, indicate the mystery borne in You. For Joseph, the respected member of the council, now performs the counsel of Your Father, who magnificently in You makes me new again. (SD)

Glory.

You change mortality through death; by means of burial You change corruption; for properly, as God, You make incorruptible and immortal that which You had assumed. For Your body saw no corruption; likewise, Your soul was not abandoned in Hades, O Master, extraordinarily. (SD)

Both now.

Born of a woman spared travail, You were yet speared in the side, O my Maker. From this side You wrought Eve's refashioning; for becoming Adam, You fell asleep supernaturally in a life-producing sleep, and

then You raised up Life herself from slumber and from corruption, as almighty God. (SD)

**Katavasia.**

Prophet Isaiah once beheld the never-setting light of Your Theophany, that is when You, O Christ our God, sympathetically appeared to us. Rising early in the morning, he cried aloud, "The dead shall rise up, and those in the tombs shall arise, and all those in the earth shall be glad and greatly rejoice." (SD)

**Ode vi. Heirmos.**

Prophet Jonah was in the belly of the whale detained, but not retained. For, in that he prefigured You, the One who suffered and was buried, he sprang forth from the beast as from a bridal room, and he cried out to the guard of soldiers, "You, who are keeping watch and follow vanity and lies, have forsaken the mercy that was meant for you."

**Troparia.**

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

You were murdered, O Word, but not sundered from the flesh in which You shared. For even if Your temple was destroyed at the time of Your Passion, nevertheless, one was the hypostasis of Your human flesh and of Your Godhead. For in both natures, You are one Son, the Word of God, as You are truly God and man. (SD)

Glory.

Adam's failure resulted in death for humanity but not for God. For though the human nature of Your flesh had suffered at the Passion, yet Your divinity remained impassible. By Your resurrection, You transformed Your corruptible body to

incorruption, and made it a source of life incorruptible. (SD)

Both now.

Hades reigned over the human race, but would not do so forever. For after You were buried, You broke the bolts and bars of death asunder, O mighty Master, with Your hand that causes life. You proclaimed the sure and true redemption to those who lay asleep there from all ages, O Savior, and You became the firstborn of the dead. (SD)

**Katavasia.**

Prophet Jonah was in the belly of the whale detained, but not retained. For, in that he prefigured You, the One who suffered and was buried, he sprang forth from the beast as from a bridal room, and he cried out to the guard of soldiers, "You, who are keeping watch and follow vanity and lies, have forsaken the mercy that was meant for you." (SD)

**DEACON**

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

*(Lord, have mercy.)*

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

*(Lord, have mercy.)*

Commemorating our most holy, pure, blessed, and glorious Lady, the Theotokos and ever-virgin Mary, with all the saints, let us commend ourselves and one another and our whole life to Christ our God.

*(To You, O Lord.)*

**PRIEST**

For You are the King of peace and the savior of our souls, and to You we give glory,

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

*(Amen.)*

From Triodion ---

**READER**

**Kontakion.**

**Mode 2.**

He who closed the abyss is seen as dead;  
As a mortal the Deathless one, Wrapped in  
spice and linen, Is laid within a grave. Women  
came to anoint Him, Wailing bitter, crying out,  
"Exceeding blessed is this Sabbath, On which  
the Christ has slumbered, To rise on the third  
day." (SD)

**Oikos.**

He who holds all things together is  
raised upon a Cross, And all creation mourns  
beholding this One hung Naked on a Tree.  
The sun hid its beams, And the stars withheld  
their shine. The earth, full-feared, was shaken,  
And the sea has fled away. The rocks were  
split asunder, And the graves of scores were  
opened, And the forms of holy men arose.  
Hades groans below, Yet Judeans plan to  
slander The resurrection of Christ. And the  
women cry aloud, "Exceeding blessed is this  
Sabbath, On which the Christ has slumbered,  
To rise on the third day." (SD)

**Synaxarion.**

*From the Triodion.*

On great and holy Saturday, we celebrate  
the burial of the divine Body and the descent  
into Hades of our Lord and Savior Jesus  
Christ, through which He recalled our human  
race from corruption and passed it over into  
life eternal.

**Verses**

In vain you guard the grave, O guards.

No tomb can hold Him who is life itself.

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

**CHOIR**

**Ode vii. Heirmos.**

Ineffable wonder! He who delivered the  
pious youths in the furnace from the raging  
fire is laid out today, dead and breathless, in a  
tomb, for the salvation of us who sing, "O our  
God and Redeemer, You are blessed." (2)

**Troparia.**

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

Hades is wounded at its heart by  
receiving Him, whom a lance had wounded in  
the side. And it groans, consumed by the fire  
of divinity, for the salvation of us who sing, "O  
our God and Redeemer, You are blessed." (SD)

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

The sepulcher is precious. When it  
received within itself the Creator as though  
He were asleep, it became a divine treasure  
house of Life, for the salvation of us who sing,  
"O our God and Redeemer, You are blessed."

(SD)

Glory.

The Life of all things accepts interment  
and burial, which is the law for those who  
have died. His tomb thus becomes the source  
of resurrection for the salvation of us who  
sing, "O our God and Redeemer, You are  
blessed." (SD)

Both now.

One was the Godhead of Christ with  
the Father and the Spirit, and there was no  
separation in Hades, in the tomb, and in

Paradise, for the salvation of us who sing, "O our God and Redeemer, You are blessed." (SD)

**Katavasia.**

Ineffable wonder! He who delivered the pious youths in the furnace from the raging fire is laid out today, dead and breathless, in a tomb, for the salvation of us who sing, "O our God and Redeemer, You are blessed." (SD)

**Ode viii. Heirmos.**

Heaven, be astonished and amazed, and let the foundations of the earth be shaken! Behold, He who ever dwells in the heights is numbered among the dead; a small tomb receives Him as a stranger. Bless the Lord, O you Servants; sing a hymn, Priests; and People, exalt Him beyond measure unto all the ages.

**Troparia.**

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

The undefiled temple was destroyed; then, with itself it raised up the fallen tabernacle. The second Adam, who dwells in the heights, went down to the chambers of Hades, in order to save the first one. Bless the Lord, O you Servants; sing a hymn, Priests; and People, exalt Him beyond measure unto all the ages. (SD)

*We bless the Lord: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit; we sing a hymn to Him and exalt Him beyond measure unto the ages.*

Though the Disciples' courage failed, yet that of Joseph of Arimathea has excelled. For when he sees that the God over all is hanging dead and naked, he asks for Him and buries Him, crying, "Bless the Lord, O you Servants;

sing a hymn, Priests; and People, exalt Him beyond measure unto all the ages." (SD)

Both now.

Oh, novel marvels that were wrought! Oh, the benevolence! Oh, the patience passing speech! For, of His own will, He who dwells in the heights is sealed beneath the earth, and God is defamed as a deceiver. Bless the Lord, O you Servants; sing a hymn, Priests; and People, exalt Him beyond measure unto all the ages. (SD)

**Katavasia.**

*We praise and we bless and we worship the Lord.*

Heaven, be astonished and amazed, and let the foundations of the earth be shaken! Behold, He who ever dwells in the heights is numbered among the dead; a small tomb receives Him as a stranger. Bless the Lord, O you Servants; sing a hymn, Priests; and People, exalt Him beyond measure unto all the ages. (SD)

**DEACON**

Let us honor and magnify in song the Theotokos and the Mother of the light.

**CHOIR**

**CHOIR**

**Ode ix. Heirmos.**

Weep not for Me, O Mother, as you see your Son, whom you conceived in your womb without seed, lying in a tomb. For I will rise from the dead and will be glorified; and as God, I will unceasingly exalt in glory those who magnify you with faith and love.

**Troparia.**

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

I was blest in escaping labor, in a manner past nature, at Your unusual birth, O unoriginate Son. But now as I see You, my God, not breathing and dead, I am painfully torn by the sword of my sorrow. So arise, so that I may be magnified. (SD)

Glory.

Earth covers Me by My own will. But the doorkeepers of Hades shudder and quake, as they behold that I am clothed in the bloodstained garment of vengeance. After I smite My enemies with the Cross, as God, O Mother, I will rise again and magnify you. (SD)

Both now.

Greatly rejoice, O creation! And everyone who was born on earth, be glad! Hades, the enemy, has been despoiled. Let the women with their ointments come to meet Me. I am rescuing Adam and Eve and all mankind. And on the third day I will rise again. (SD)

**Katavasia.**

Weep not for Me, O Mother, as you see your Son, whom you conceived in your womb without seed, lying in a tomb. For I will rise from the dead and will be glorified; and as God, I will unceasingly exalt in glory those who magnify you with faith and love. (SD)

**The Lamentations.**

*The clergy come out of the sanctuary and stand in front of the Epitaphion, censing and beginning each stanza.*

**First Stanza. Mode pl. 1.**

Blessed are You, O Lord;  
teach me Your ordinances.

**Verse:** *Blessed are the blameless in the way who walk in the law of the Lord.*

In the tomb they laid you, \* you, O Christ, who are Life; \* in amazement angel armies lift up their song \* as they glorify your self-abasement, Lord. (EL)

**Verse:** *Blessed are those who search out His testimonies; they shall search for Him with their whole heart.*

Life, how can you perish, \* or how dwell in a tomb? \* Yet the royal hall of Death you now bring to nought, \* and from Hades' realm you raise the dead again. (EL)

**Verse:** *For those who work lawlessness do not walk in His ways.*

Now we magnify you, \* O Lord Jesus, our King, \* we pay honor to your Passion and burial \* for from foul corruption you saved us thru them. (EL)

**Verse:** *You commanded us regarding Your commandments, that we should be very diligent to keep them.*

King of all, O Jesus, \* who established earth's bounds \* on this day you make your home in a little tomb, \* raising up the dead of ages from their graves. (EL)

**Verse:** *Would that my ways were led, that I might keep Your ordinances.*

O my Christ, my Jesus, \* King and Monarch of all, \* seeking what have you descended to those in Hell? \* Was it not to liberate the mortal race? (EL)

**Verse:** *Then I would not be ashamed when I regard all Your commandments.*

He who governs all things \* here is seen as a corpse, \* new the grave in which his body is laid to rest, \* he the one who empties graves of all their dead. (EL)

**Verse:** *I will give thanks to You, O Lord, with an upright heart, when I learn the judgments of Your righteousness.*

In the tomb they laid you, \* you, O Christ who are Life; \* death itself you brought to nothing by your own death, \* and became the fount of life for all the world. (EL)

**Verse:** *I shall keep Your ordinances; do not utterly forsake me.*

Guilty with the guilty \* you were judged, O my Christ, \* at the moment you wrought justice for all of us, \* from the ancient trickster's foul and evil deeds. (EL)

**Verse:** *How shall a young man keep his way straight? when he keeps Your words.*

Fairer he in beauty \* than are all mortal kind, \* now a corpse we see, unsightly, bereft of form, \* he who beautified the nature of all things. (EL)

**Verse:** *I searched for You with my whole heart; do not drive me away from Your commandments.*

How could Hell endure it, \* when in splendor you came, \* and how not be swiftly shattered and plunged in dark, \* blinded by the blazing glory of your light? (EL)

**Verse:** *I hid Your teachings in my heart so as not to sin against You.*

Light that saves, O Jesus, \* you are sweetness to me, \* in the darkness of the grave how can you lie hid? \* O forbearance that no language can express! (EL)

**Verse:** *Blessed are You, O Lord; teach me Your ordinances.*

Angels are bewildered, \* and the bodiless host \* at a loss, O Christ, before that great mystery \* your ineffable entombment, beyond speech. (EL)

**Verse:** *With my lips I declared all the judgments of Your mouth.*

O most strange of wonders! \* What new deeds we now see! \* He who gave me my life's breath, lies unbreathing now, \* borne to burial at noble Joseph's hands. (EL)

**Verse:** *I delight in the way of Your testimonies as much as in all riches.*

Like the sun when setting, \* to the tomb you descend, \* yet, O Christ, your Father's bosom you do not leave. \* What strange paradox, what wondrous thing this is. (EL)

**Verse:** *I shall meditate on Your commandments, and I shall understand Your ways.*

As the sky's true monarch, \* as true king of the earth, \* though enclosed within the narrowest sepulcher, \* you were known by all creation, Jesus Lord. (EL)

*(End with the first one again.)*

In the tomb they laid you, \* you, O Christ, who are Life; \* in amazement angel armies



lift up their song \* as they glorify your self-abasement, Lord. (EL)

**DEACON**

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

*(Lord, have mercy.)*

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

*(Lord, have mercy.)*

Commemorating our most holy, pure, blessed, and glorious Lady, the Theotokos and ever-virgin Mary, with all the saints, let us commend ourselves and one another and our whole life to Christ our God.

*(To You, O Lord.)*

**PRIEST**

For blessed is your name, and glorified is your kingdom, of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, now and forever and to the ages of ages.

*(Amen.)*

**Second Stanza. Mode pl. 1.**

It is right indeed \* we should magnify the one who grants life, \* you, that stretched your hands wide upon the Cross, \* broke and smashed the might and power of the foe. (EL)

**Verse:** *Your hands made and fashioned me; instruct me, and I will learn Your commandments.*

It is right indeed \* you to magnify, who fashion all things, \* your pains from corruption deliver us, \* and your Passion grants dispassion to our souls. (EL)

**Verse:** *Those who fear You will see me and be glad, because I hope in Your words.*

All Earth quaked in fear \* and the sun concealed itself, O Savior, \* when, O Christ,

our light, you set bodily, \* as the light that knows no evening was entombed. (EL)

**Verse:** *I know, O Lord, Your judgments are righteousness, and You humbled me with truth.*

Sleeping in the tomb \* with the sleep that breathes forth life, Anointed, \* from sin's heavy sleep you, as God, aroused \* all the human race that sin had held enthralled. (EL)

**Verse:** *Let Your mercy be for my comfort, according to Your teaching to Your servant.*

"Of all woman-kind \* I alone bore you, my child, without pain; \* cruel pangs now wrack me as I behold \* your great suffering", the Holy Virgin cries. (EL)

**Verse:** *Let Your compassions come to me, and I shall live; for Your law is my meditation.*

Seeing you on high, \* never separated from the Father, \* yet below on Earth, laid out as a corpse, \* the dread Seraphim, my Saviour, shake with fear. (EL)

**Verse:** *Let the arrogant be shamed, for they transgressed unjustly against me; but I shall meditate on Your commandments.*

See, the Temple Veil, \* rent asunder at your crucifixion, \* Heaven's beacons hide, O my Christ, their light, \* to see you, the Sun, now hid beneath the earth. (EL)

**Verse:** *Let those who fear You turn to me, and those who know Your testimonies.*

He who at the start \* by His will alone set Earth revolving, \* lifeless as a mortal sets under earth; \* let the sky now shake and tremble at the sight. (EL)

**Verse:** *Let my heart be blameless in Your ordinances, that I may not be disappointed.*

Human-kind you formed, \* with your own hand fashioned us, O Saviour, \* now, O Sun, you set underneath the earth, \* raising companies of mortals from the fall. (EL)

**Verse:** *My soul earnestly longs for Your salvation, and I hope in Your word.*

Come, now, let us sing, \* let our sacred hymn lament the dead Christ, \* singing as the Myrrh-bearing women did, \* that with them we too may hear the word "rejoice!" (EL)

**Verse:** *My eyes strained to look at Your teaching, saying, "When will You comfort me?"*

Truly you are Myrrh, \* truly, Word of God, the Myrrh Unfailing, \* so it was myrrh-bearers brought myrrh to you, \* to the Living God brought myrrh as to the dead. (EL)

**Verse:** *I am like a leather bag in a frost; I did not forget Your ordinances.*

Buried, O my Christ, \* the great palaces of Hell you shattered, \* Death you put to death by your death, O Lord, \* from corruption you set free those born of earth. (EL)

**Verse:** *How many are the days of Your servant? When will You execute judgment for me upon those who persecute me?*

To the grave descends \* he, the Wisdom of our God, that pours out \* streams of life; descending into a tomb, \* giving life to those in Hades deepest depths. (EL)

**Verse:** *Transgressors described their meditations to me, but these are not like Your law, O Lord.*

"Willingly by death \* I was wounded in the flesh, dear Mother, \* thus the broken nature of mortal kind \* to renew, so do not beat your breast in grief." (EL)

**Verse:** *All Your commandments are truth; they persecuted me unjustly; help me.*

When beneath the Earth \* you had set, the Morning Star of justice, \* you aroused the dead as if they but slept, \* as you put to flight the murk and gloom of Hell. (EL)

*(End with the first one again.)*

It is right indeed \* we should magnify the one who grants life, \* you, that stretched your hands wide upon the Cross, \* broke and smashed the might and power of the foe. (EL)

## DEACON

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

*(Lord, have mercy.)*

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

*(Lord, have mercy.)*

Commemorating our most holy, pure, blessed, and glorious Lady, the Theotokos and ever-virgin Mary, with all the saints, let us commend ourselves and one another and our whole life to Christ our God.

*(To You, O Lord.)*

## PRIEST

For holy are You, our God, resting on the glorious throne of the cherubim, and to You we send up glory, together with Your eternal



Father and Your all-holy, good, and life-giving Spirit, now and ever and to the ages of ages.

(Amen.)

**Third Stanza. Mode 3.**

Each generation offers, \* my Christ, for your entombment \* in hymns and songs its praises. (EL)

**Verse:** *Look upon me and have mercy on me, according to the judgment of those who love Your name.*

The Noble Joseph takes you \* down from the Tree, my Saviour, \* and in the tomb he lays you. (EL)

**Verse:** *Direct my steps according to Your teaching and let no lawlessness rule over me.*

Myrrh-bearing Woman came then, \* providently bringing \* to you, O Christ, the sweet myrrh. (EL)

**Verse:** *Ransom me from the slander of men, and I will keep Your commandments.*

Let all Creation join us, \* as to the Creator \* our farewell hymns we now sing. (EL)

**Verse:** *Make Your face shine upon Your servant and teach me Your ordinances.*

With myrrh-bearing women \* let us, with understanding, \* anoint as dead the Living. (EL)

**Verse:** *My eyes poured down streams of tears because they did not keep Your law.*

O thrice-blessed Joseph, \* entomb Messiah's body, \* the corpse of Him who grants life. (EL)

**Verse:** *Righteous are You, O Lord, and upright is Your judgment.*

Those he fed with manna \* raised their heels against him, \* against the Benefactor. (EL)

**Verse:** *You commanded Your testimonies exceedingly In righteousness and truth.*

Those he fed with manna \* bring vinegar and gall now \* to offer to the Saviour.. (EL)

**Verse:** *The zeal of Your house caused me to yearn for home, for my enemies forgot Your words.*

O the boundless folly \* of those who slew the prophets \* and now slay God's Anointed. (EL)

**Verse:** *Your teaching is exceedingly purified in fire, and Your servant loves it.*

Initiate yet traitor, \* he, the senseless servant, \* sold the Abyss of Wisdom. (EL)

**Verse:** *I am young, and beheld as nothing, but I have not forgotten Your ordinances.*

Judas the deceiver \* for silver sold the Saviour, \* and thus became a captive. (EL)

**Verse:** *Your righteousness is righteousness forever, and Your law is truth.*

Solomon declared it: \* like a deep-dug pit the mouth \* of Law-transgressing Hebrews. (EL)

**Verse:** *Affliction and trouble found me, but Your commandments are my meditation.*

Law-transgressing Hebrews \* on the crooked paths they tread \* face pits and traps and sharp snares. (EL)

**Verse:** *Your testimonies are righteousness forever; give me understanding, and I shall live.*

With Nicodemus, Joseph \* buries the Creator \* as for the dead is fitting. (EL)

**Verse:** *I cry out with my whole heart; hear me, O Lord; I shall search Your ordinances.*

O Life-giving Saviour, \* the conqueror of Hades, \* to your great might be glory. (EL)

*Repeat the following verse several times, as the priest sprinkles the tomb and the people.*

**Myrrh-bearers came and sprinkled \* sweet myrrh upon your tomb, Lord, \* at early dawn they come now.**

Peace unto your Church, Lord, \* salvation to your people, \* grant by your Resurrection.

(EL)

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

Father, Son and Spirit, \* O Trinity, my One God, \* have mercy on the whole world. (EL)

**Verse:** *Both now and ever and to the ages of ages. Amen.*

Count all your servants worthy, \* to see, Most Holy Virgin, \* you Son's bright Resurrection. (EL)

*(End with the first one again.)*

Each generation offers, \* my Christ, for your entombment \* in hymns and songs its praises. (EL)

### DEACON

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

*(Lord, have mercy.)*

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

*(Lord, have mercy.)*

Commemorating our most holy, pure, blessed, and glorious Lady, the Theotokos and ever-virgin Mary, with all the saints, let us

commend ourselves and one another and our whole life to Christ our God.

*(To You, O Lord.)*

### PRIEST

For You are the King of peace and the Savior of our souls, O Christ our God, and to You we send up glory, together with Your eternal Father and Your all-holy, good, and life-giving Spirit, now and ever and to the ages of ages.

*(Amen.)*

### CHOIR

#### Resurrectional Evlogetaria.

#### Mode pl. 1.

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

When the hosts of the Angels saw how You were accounted among the dead, they all marveled. You, O Savior, are the One who destroyed the might of death; and when You arose You raised Adam with yourself and from Hades liberated everyone. (SD)

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

"Why do you mingle the ointments with your tears full of pity, O women disciples?" Thus the Angel who was shining in the tomb cried to the myrrh-bearing women. "See for yourselves the empty tomb and understand, that the Savior has risen from the sepulcher."

(SD)

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

Very early in the morning, the myrrh-bearing women were hastening to Your tomb lamenting. But the Angel appeared to them and uttered, "The time for lamentation has

ended; weep no more. Go announce the Resurrection to the Apostles." (SD)

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

When the myrrh-bearing women had come with their spices to Your sepulcher, O Savior, they heard the voice of an Angel clearly speaking to them, "Why do you account among the dead the One who lives? For as God, He has risen from the sepulcher."

(SD)

Glory.

We bow down in worship to the Father and His Son and the Holy Spirit, the Holy Trinity, one in essence; and we cry aloud with the Seraphim: Holy, Holy, Holy are You, O Lord. (SD)

Both now.

Giving birth to the Giver of life, O Virgin, you delivered Adam from sin, and to Eve you have rendered joy in place of sorrow. He who from you became incarnate, God and man, has directed to life him who fell from it. (SD)

Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia. Glory to You, O God. (3) (SD)

**DEACON**

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

*(Lord, have mercy.)*

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

*(Lord, have mercy.)*

Commemorating our most holy, pure, blessed, and glorious Lady, the Theotokos and ever-virgin Mary, with all the saints, let us

commend ourselves and one another and our whole life to Christ our God.

*(To You, O Lord.)*

**PRIEST**

For all the powers of heaven praise You and give You glory, to the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, now and forever and to the ages of ages.

*(Amen.)*

From Triodion - -

**CHOIR**

**Exaposteilarion. Mode 2.**

Holy is the Lord our God. (3)

**Lauds. Mode 2.**

Let everything that breathes praise the Lord. Praise the Lord from the heavens, praise Him in the highest. It is fitting to sing a hymn to You, O God. (SAAS)

Praise Him, all you His angels; praise Him, all you His hosts. It is fitting to sing a hymn to You, O God. (SAAS)

From Triodion - -

**Sticheron 1. Idiomelon. Mode 2.**

*Praise Him for His mighty acts; praise Him according to the abundance of His greatness.* (SAAS)

Today, the sepulcher holds Him who holds creation in the palm of His hand, and a stone covers Him who covers the heavens with virtue. Life sleeps, and Hades trembles, and Adam is released from his bonds. Glory to Your dispensation, through which, when You had accomplished all, You gave us the eternal Sabbath rest, Your all-holy Resurrection from the dead. (SD)

**Sticheron 2. Idiomelon. Mode 2.**

*Praise Him with the sound of trumpet; praise Him with the harp and lyre. (SAAS)*

What is this wonder we see now? What is the present rest? The King of the ages has completed the dispensation with His Passion, and now He takes His Sabbath rest in the tomb, granting us a new Sabbath. Let us cry out to Him, "Arise, O God; judge the earth, for You reign forever, You who have immeasurable great mercy." (SD)

**Sticheron 3. Idiomelon. Mode 2.**

*Praise Him with timbrel and dance; praise Him with strings and flute. (SAAS)*

Come, let us see our Life, lying in the tomb. He is there so that He may give life to those who lie in the graves. Come, as we see Him, from the seed of Judah, sleeping today, and let us say to Him the words of the Prophet, "You bowed down, and slept as a lion; and who shall rouse You, O King? So, arise by Your own power, You who willingly gave yourself for us! Glory to You, O Lord!" (SD)

**Sticheron 4. Idiomelon. Mode pl. 2.**

*Praise Him with resounding cymbals; praise Him with triumphant cymbals. Let everything that breathes praise the Lord. (SAAS)*

Joseph asked for the Body of Jesus and he laid it in his own new tomb; for Jesus had to emerge from the grave as from His bridal chamber. "You who shattered the dominion of death and opened the gates of Paradise for all mankind, glory to You!" (SD)

Glory.

From Triodion - - -

**Mode pl. 2.**

Moses, the great Prophet, mystically prefigured this day saying, "Then God blessed the seventh day." For this is the blessed Sabbath; this is the day of rest, on which the only-begotten Son of God rested from all His works, observing the Sabbath rest in the flesh, through the dispensation involving death. And returning once again to what He was, through the Resurrection, He granted to us eternal life, for He alone is good and He loves humanity. (SD)

Both now. **Theotokion.**

**Mode 2.**

You are supremely blessed, O Virgin Theotokos. For through Him who from you became incarnate was Hades taken prisoner, and Adam has been summoned back; the curse has been neutralized, and Eve has been liberated; death has been put to death, and we have been brought to life. Therefore extolling we cry out: O Christ our God, You are blessed, for so was Your good pleasure. Glory to You!

(SD)

**GREAT DOXOLOGY**

Glory be to You who showed the light. Glory in the highest to God. His peace is on earth, His good pleasure in mankind. (SD)

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

Lord King, heavenly God, Father, Ruler over all; Lord, only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ; and You, O Holy Spirit.

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

Accept our supplication, You who sit at the right hand of the Father, and have mercy on us.

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

Every day I will bless You, and Your name will I praise to eternity, and to the ages of ages.

Vouchsafe, O Lord, this day, that we be kept without sin.

Blessed are You, O Lord, the God of our fathers, and praised and glorified is Your name to the ages. Amen.

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

Blessed are You, O Lord. Teach me Your statutes.

Blessed are You, O Lord. Teach me Your statutes.

Blessed are You, O Lord. Teach me Your statutes.

Lord, You have been our refuge from generation to generation. I said: Lord, have mercy on me. Heal my soul, for I have sinned against You.

Lord, I have fled to You. Teach me to do Your will, for You are my God.

For with You is the fountain of life; in Your light we shall see light.

Continue Your mercy to those who know You.

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

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

Both now and ever and to the ages of ages. Amen.

Holy Immortal, have mercy on us.

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

*The procession of the canopied Epitaphion around the Sanctuary takes place.*

### CHOIR

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

### DEACON

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

*(Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.)*

Let us pray for pious and Orthodox Christians.

Again we pray for (episcopal rank) (name).

Again let us pray for our country, the president, and all those in public service.

### PRIEST

For You are a merciful God Who loves mankind, and to You we offer up glory, to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and forever and to the ages of ages.

*(Amen.)*

**CHOIR**

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

**DEACON**

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

*(Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord,  
have mercy.)*

Again we pray for mercy, life, peace,  
health, salvation, protection, forgiveness,  
and remission of the sins of the servants of  
God, all pious Orthodox Christians residing  
and visiting in this city: the parishioners, the  
members of the parish council, the stewards,  
and benefactors of this holy church.

**PRIEST**

For You are a merciful God Who loves  
mankind, and to You we offer up glory, to the  
Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit,  
now and forever and to the ages of ages.

*(Amen.)*

**CHOIR**

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

**DEACON**

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

*(Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord,  
have mercy.)*

Again we pray for the blessed memory  
and eternal repose of all pious Orthodox  
Christians who have fallen asleep in the  
hope of the resurrection unto life everlasting,  
emperors, patriarchs, bishops, priests,  
deacons, hieromonks, deacon-monks, monks,  
nuns, fathers, forebears, grandparents, great-  
grandparents, parents, spouses, children,

siblings, and all our relatives, from the  
beginning until the end of time; and for the  
forgiveness of all their sins, both voluntary  
and involuntary.

**PRIEST**

For You are the resurrection, the life  
and the repose of all the departed faithful  
Orthodox Christians, Christ our God, and to  
You we give glory, with Your eternal Father  
and Your all-holy, good and life giving Spirit,  
now and forever and to the ages of ages.

*(Amen.)*

**CHOIR**

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

**DEACON**

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

*(Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord,  
have mercy.)*

Again we pray for the protection of this  
holy church, this city and every city and land,  
from wrath, famine, pestilence, earthquake,  
flood, fire, sword, foreign invasions, civil  
strife, and accidental death. That our good  
and loving God may be merciful, gracious and  
favorable to us by turning and keeping from  
us all wrath and sickness, and deliver us from  
His just rebuke, and have mercy on us.

**PRIEST**

For You are a merciful God Who loves  
mankind, and to You we offer up glory, to the  
Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit,  
now and forever and to the ages of ages.

*(Amen.)*

*As the Clergy with the canopied Epitaphion enter the  
Sanctuary:*



**PRIEST**

Let us be attentive. Peace be with all.  
Wisdom.

**CHOIR**

**Apolytikia. Mode 2.**

When You descended unto death, O Lord who yourself are immortal Life, then did You mortify Hades by the lightning flash of Your Divinity. Also when You raised the dead from the netherworld, all the Powers of the heavens were crying out: O Giver of life, Christ our God, glory to You. (SD)

The Angel standing at the sepulcher cried out and said to the ointment-bearing women: The ointments are appropriate for mortal men, but Christ has been shown to be a stranger to decay. (SD)

When he took down Your immaculate Body from the Cross, the honorable Joseph wrapped it in a clean linen shroud with spices and laid it for burial in a new tomb. (SD)

**CHOIR**

**Troparion before the Prophecy. Mode 2.**

O Christ, who hold the whole world in Your hand, You accepted to be held in the sepulcher, so that You might rescue humanity, which was swallowed by Hades, and, as immortal God, give us life and immortality. (SD)

Glory. Both now. **Repeat.**

From Triodion - - -

**THE PROPHECY**

**READER**

Prokeimenon. Mode 4. Psalm 43 (44).

Arise, O Lord; help us, and redeem us for Your name's sake. (SAAS)

*O God, we heard with our ears; our fathers proclaimed it to us, the work You performed in their days, in days of old. (SAAS)*

The reading is from the Prophecy of Ezekiel.

**DEACON**

Wisdom. Let us be attentive.

**READER**

(37:1-14)

Again the hand of the Lord came upon me, and brought me by the Spirit of the Lord, and set me in the midst of the plain, which was full of human bones. So He led me round about them, and behold, there was a great multitude of bones on the face of the plain. They were very dry. Then He said to me, "Son of man, can these bones live?" So I answered, "O Lord, You know this." Then He said to me, "Prophecy to these bones and say to them, 'O dry bones, hear the word of the of the Lord. Thus says the Lord to these bones: "Behold, I will bring the Spirit of life upon you. I will put muscles on you and bring flesh upon you. I will cover you with skin and put my Spirit into you. Then you shall live and know that I am the Lord."'" So I prophesied as He commanded me, and it came to pass while I prophesied that, behold, there was a shaking, and the bones came together, each one to its joint. So I looked, and behold, muscle and flesh grew upon them, and skin covered them over; but no breath was in them. Then He said to me, "Prophecy to the wind, prophesy, son of man, and say to the wind, "Thus says the Lord: "Come from the four winds 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 assembly. Again the Lord spoke to me, saying, "Son of man, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They say, 'Our bones are dry, our hope has perished, and we are lost.' Therefore prophesy and say to them, 'Thus says the Lord: "Behold, I will open your tombs, bring you up from your graves, and bring you into the land of Israel. Then you will know that I am the Lord, when I open your tombs to lead you, My people, up from their graves. I will put My Spirit in you, and you will live; and I will place you in your own land. Then you will know that I am the Lord, I have spoken, and I will do it," says the Lord.'" (SAAS)

### THE EPISTLE

#### DEACON

Let us be attentive.

#### READER

Prokeimenon. Mode pl. 2. Psalm 9 (9, 10).

Arise, O Lord my God, let Your hand be lifted high, and do not forget Your poor to the end.

**Verse:** *I will give thanks to You, O Lord, with my whole heart; I will tell of all Your wondrous things.*

#### DEACON

Wisdom.

#### READER

The reading is from Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians.

#### DEACON

Let us be attentive.

#### READER

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

Brethren, a little leaven leavens the whole lump. Cleanse out the old leaven that you may be a new lump, as you really are unleavened. For Christ, our paschal lamb, has been sacrificed. Let us, therefore, celebrate the festival, 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 become a curse 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. (RSV)

#### PRIEST

Peace be with you.

#### CHOIR

Alleluia. Mode pl. 2. Psalm 64 (65). Psalm 101 (102).

Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia.

**Verse 1:** *Let God arise, and let His enemies be scattered, and let those who hate Him flee from before His face.*

Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia.

**Verse 2:** *As smoke vanishes, so let them vanish, as wax melts before the fire.*

Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia.

#### PRIEST (in a low voice)

#### THE PRAYER OF THE HOLY GOSPEL

Shine in our hearts, O Master Who loves mankind, the pure light of Your divine knowledge, and open the eyes of our mind that we may comprehend the proclamations of Your Gospels. Instill in us also reverence for Your blessed commandments so that, having trampled down all carnal desires, we may lead



a spiritual life, both thinking and doing all those things that are pleasing to You. For You, Christ our God, are the illumination of our souls and bodies, and to You we offer up glory, together with Your Father, Who is without beginning, and Your all-holy, good, and life-creating Spirit, now and forever and to the ages of ages. Amen.

## THE GOSPEL

Friday Night

### DEACON

Wisdom. Arise. Let us hear the Holy Gospel.

### PRIEST

Peace be with all.

*(And with your spirit.)*

### DEACON

The reading is from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

### PRIEST

Let us be attentive.

*(Glory to You, O Lord. Glory to You.)*

### DEACON

*(27:62-66)*

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 impostor said, while he was still alive, 'After three days I will rise again.' Therefore order the sepulcher to be made secure until 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 sepulcher secure by sealing the stone and setting a guard. *(RSV)*

### PRIEST

Peace be with you.

### CHOIR

Glory to You, O Lord. Glory to You.

### DEACON

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

*(Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.)*

Let us pray for pious and Orthodox Christians.

*(Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.)*

Again we pray for (episcopal rank) (name).

*(Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.)*

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

*(Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.)*

Again we pray for mercy, life, peace, health, salvation, protection, forgiveness, and remission of the sins of the servants of God, all pious Orthodox Christians residing and visiting in this city: the parishioners, the members of the parish council, the stewards, and benefactors of this holy church.

*(Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.)*

Again we pray for the blessed and ever-memorable founders of this holy church, and for all our fathers and brethren who have fallen asleep before us, who here have been piously laid to their rest, as well as the Orthodox everywhere.

*(Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.)*

Again we pray for those who bear fruit and do good works in this holy and all-venerable church, for those who labor and those who sing, and for the people here present who await Your great and rich mercy.

*(Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.)*

**PRIEST**

For You are a merciful God Who loves mankind, and to You we offer up glory, to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and forever and to the ages of ages.

*(Amen.)*

**DEACON**

Let us complete our morning prayer to the Lord.

*(Lord, have mercy.)*

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

*(Lord, have mercy.)*

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

*(Grant this, O Lord.)*

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

*(Grant this, O Lord.)*

For pardon and remission of our sins and transgressions, let us ask the Lord.

*(Grant this, O Lord.)*

For that which is good and beneficial for our souls, and for peace for the world, let us ask the Lord.

*(Grant this, O Lord.)*

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

*(Grant this, O Lord.)*

And let us ask for a Christian end to our life, peaceful, without shame and suffering, and for a good defense before the awesome judgment seat of Christ.

*(Grant this, O Lord.)*

Commemorating our most holy, pure, blessed, and glorious Lady, the Theotokos and ever-virgin Mary, with all the saints, let us commend ourselves and one another and our whole life to Christ our God.

*(To You, O Lord.)*

**PRIEST**

For You are the God of mercy and compassion and love for mankind, and to You we give glory, to the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, now and forever and to ages of ages.

*(Amen.)*

**PRIEST**

Peace be with all.

*(And with your spirit.)*

**DEACON**

Let us bow our heads to the Lord.

*(To You, O Lord.)*

**PRIEST** *(in a low voice)*

Holy Lord, dwelling on high and beholding things below and, with your eye that observes all, keeping watch over the whole creation, to you we have bowed the neck of our soul and body, and we beseech you, O Holy of Holies: Stretch forth your invisible hand from your holy dwelling and bless us all. And, as you are good and love humankind, pardon us if we have sinned in anything, voluntarily or involuntarily, granting us

your blessings both of this world and of the world above.

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

*(Amen.)*

**DEACON**

Wisdom.

*(Father, bless!)*

**PRIEST**

Blessed are You, Christ our God, always now and forever and to the ages of ages.  
*(Amen.)*

Make firm, Lord our God, the holy and pure faith of the pious Orthodox Christians, together with the Holy Church and this city forever.

**READER**

Amen.

Greater in honour than the Cherubim \* and beyond compare more glorious than the Seraphim, \* without corruption \* you gave birth to God the Word; \* truly the Mother of God, \* we magnify you.

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

Lord, have mercy. (3) Father, bless!

**PRIEST**

May He who for us men and for our salvation voluntarily endured the awful Passion, the Cross, and Burial, Christ our true God, through the intercessions of His all-pure and all-immaculate holy Mother, the power of the precious and life-giving Cross, the protection of the honorable, bodiless powers of heaven, the supplications of the honorable, glorious prophet and forerunner

John the Baptist, of the holy, glorious, and praiseworthy apostles, of the holy, glorious, and triumphant martyrs, of our righteous and God-bearing fathers, (**local patron saint**); 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.

Through the prayers of our holy fathers, Lord Jesus Christ, our God, have mercy on us [and save us].

*(Amen.)*