

CHRIST'S DESCENT INTO HADES

Matins of Great and Holy Saturday

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

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

READER: Amen.

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

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

O Heavenly King, the Comforter, the Spirit of Truth; who art everywhere and fillest all things; Treasury of blessings, and Giver of life: come and abide in us, and cleanse us from every impurity, and save our souls, O Good One.

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

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

O most-holy Trinity: have mercy on us.

O Lord: cleanse us from our sins. O Master: pardon our transgressions. O Holy One: visit and heal our infirmities, for Thy Name's sake.

Lord, have mercy. (3)

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

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

PRIEST: For Thine is the Kingdom, and the power, and the Glory: of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

READER: Amen. In the name of the Lord, bless, Father.

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

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

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

The Six Psalms

Psalm 3

O Lord, how many are my foes! Many are rising against me; many are saying of me, there is no help for him in God.

But Thou, O Lord, art a shield about me, my glory, and the lifter of my head. I cry aloud to the Lord, and He answers me from His holy hill.

I lie down and sleep; I wake again, for the Lord sustains me, I am not afraid of ten thousands of people who have set themselves against me round about.

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

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

Psalm 38

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

There is no soundness in my flesh because of Thine indignation; and there is no health in my bones because of my sin. For my iniquities have gone over my head; they weigh like a burden too heavy for me.

My wounds grow foul and fester because of my foolishness, I am utterly bowed down and prostrate; all the day I go about mourning. For my loins are filled with burning, and there is no soundness in my flesh. I am utterly spent and crushed; I groan because of the tumult of my heart.

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

My friends and companions stand aloof from my plague, and my kinsmen stand afar off.

Those who seek my life lay their snares, those who seek my hurt speak of ruin, and meditate treachery all the day long.

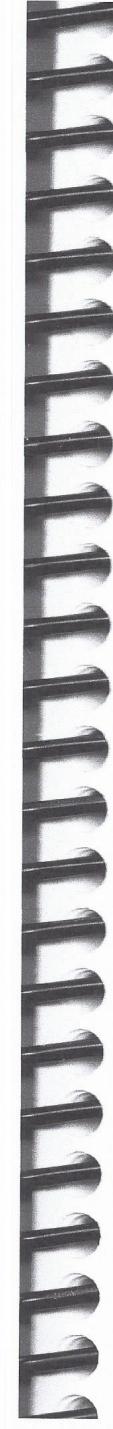
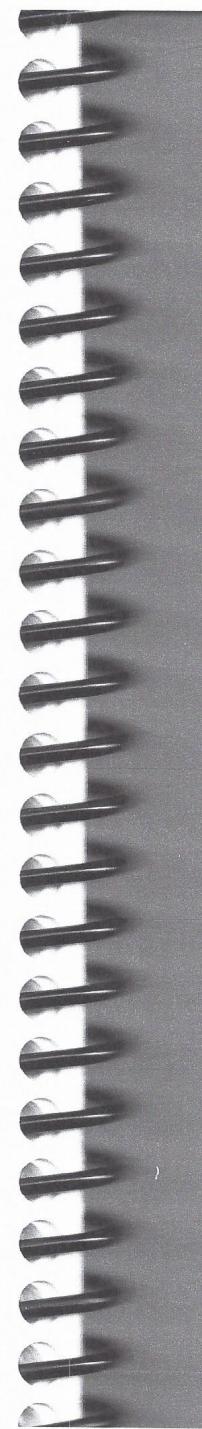
But I am like a deaf man, I do not hear, like a dumb man who does not open his mouth. Yea, I am like a man who does not hear, and in whose mouth are no rebukes.

But for Thee, O Lord, do I wait; it is Thou, O Lord my God who wilt answer. For I pray, "Only let them not rejoice over me, who boast against me when my foot slips."

For I am ready to fall, and my pain is ever with me. I confess my iniquity, I am sorry for my sin. Those who are my foes without cause are mighty, and many are those who hate me wrongfully. Those who render me evil for good are my adversaries because I follow after good.

Do not forsake me, O Lord! O 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

O God, Thou art my God, I seek Thee, my soul thirsts for Thee; my flesh faints for Thee, as in a dry and weary land where no water is. So I have looked upon Thee in the sanctuary, beholding Thy power and glory. Because Thy steadfast love is better than life, my lips will praise Thee. So I will bless Thee as long as I live; I will lift up my hands and call on Thy name.

My soul is feasted as with marrow and fat, and my mouth praises Thee with joyful lips, when I think of Thee upon my bed, and meditate on Thee in watches of the night;

For Thou hast been my help, and in the shadow of Thy wings I sing for joy. My soul clings to Thee; Thy right hand upholds me.

But those who seek to destroy my life shall go down into the depths of the earth; they shall be given over to the power of the sword, they shall be prey for jackals. But the king shall rejoice in God; all who swear by Him shall glory; for the mouths of liars will be stopped.

I meditate on Thee in the watches of the night; for Thou hast been my help, and in the shadow of Thy wings I sing for joy. My soul clings to Thee; Thy right hand upholds me.

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

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Glory to Thee, O God.(3)

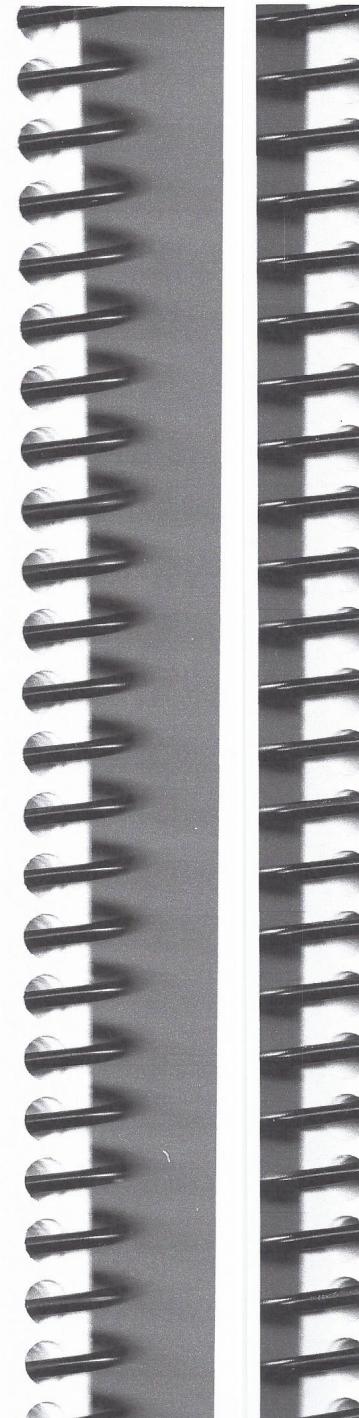
Lord, have mercy. (3)

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.
The priest exits the Sanctuary and, standing before the Winding-Sheet in the center of the church, quietly says the morning prayers.

Psalm 88

O Lord, my God, I call for help by day; I cry out in the night before Thee. Let my prayer come before Thee, incline Thine ear to my cry!
For my soul is full of troubles, and my life draws near to Sheol. I am reckoned among those who go down to the Pit; I am a man who has no strength, like one forsaken among the dead, like the slain that lie in the grave, like those whom Thou dost remember no more, for they are cut off from Thy hand. Thou hast put me in the depths of the Pit, in the regions dark and deep. Thy wrath lies heavy upon me, and Thou dost overwhelm me with all Thy waves.

Thou hast caused my companions to shun me; Thou hast made me a thing of horror to them. I am shut in so that I cannot escape; my eyes grow dim through sorrow. Every day I call upon Thee, O Lord; I spread out my hands to Thee. Dost Thou work wonders for the dead? Do the shades rise up to praise Thee? Is Thy steadfast love declared in the grave, or Thy faithfulness in Abaddon? Are Thy wonders known in the darkness, or Thy saving help in the land of forgetfulness?



But I, O Lord, cry to Thee; in the morning my prayer comes before Thee. O Lord, why dost Thou cast me off? Why dost Thou hide Thy face from me? Afflicted and close to death from my youth up, I suffer Thy terrors; I am helpless. Thy wrath has swept over me; Thy dread assaults destroy me. They surround me like a flood all day long; they close in upon me together. Thou hast caused lover and friend to shun me; my companions are in darkness.

Psalm 103

Bless the Lord, O my soul; and all that is within me, bless His holy name! Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all His benefits, who forgives all your iniquity, who heals all your diseases, who redeems your life from the Pit, who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy, who satisfies you with good as long as you live so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.

The Lord works vindication and justice for all who are oppressed. He made known His ways to Moses, His acts to the people of Israel. The Lord is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. He will not always chide, nor will He keep His anger for ever.

He does not deal with us according to our sins, nor requite us according to our iniquities. For as the heavens are high above the earth, so great is His steadfast love toward those who fear Him; as far

as the east is from the west, so far does He remove our transgressions from us. As a father pities his 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; he flourishes like a flower of the field; for the wind passes over it, and it is gone, and its place knows it no more.

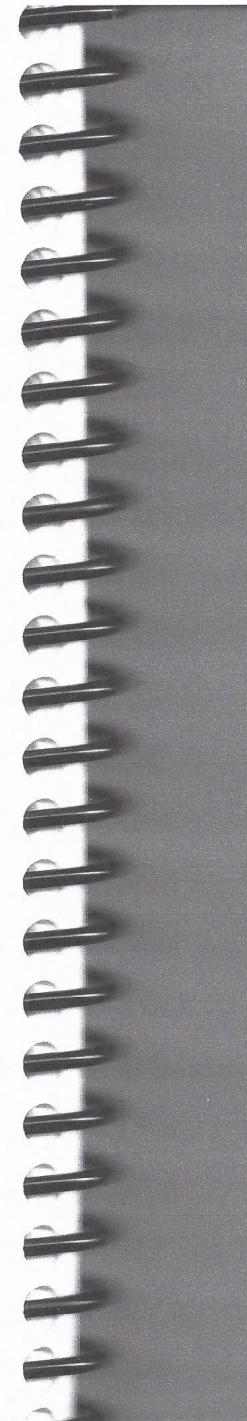
But the steadfast love of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting upon those who fear Him, and His righteousness to children's children, to those who keep His covenant and remember to do His commandments.

The Lord has established His throne in the heavens, and His kingdom rules over all. Bless the Lord, O you His angels, you mighty ones who do His word, hearkening to the voice of His word! Bless the Lord, all His hosts, His ministers that do His will! Bless the Lord, all His works, in all places of His dominion. Bless the Lord, O my soul! In all places of His dominion, bless the Lord, O my soul!

Psalm 143

Hear my prayer, O Lord; give ear to my supplications! In Thy faithfulness answer me, in Thy righteousness! Enter not into judgment with Thy servant; for no man living is righteous before Thee.

For the enemy has pursued me; he has crushed my life to the ground; he has made me sit in darkness



like those long dead. Therefore my spirit faints within me; my heart within me is appalled.

I remember the days of old, I meditate on all that Thou hast done; I muse on what Thy hands have wrought. I stretch out my hands to Thee; my soul thirsts for Thee like a parched land.

Make haste to answer me, O Lord! My spirit fails! Hide not Thy face from me, lest I be like those who go down to the Pit. Let me hear in the morning of Thy steadfast love, for in Thee I put my trust. Teach me the way I should go, for to Thee I lift up my soul.

Deliver me, O Lord, from my enemies! I have fled to Thee for refuge! Teach me to do Thy will, for Thou art my God! Let Thy good Spirit lead me on a level path!

For Thy name's sake, O Lord, preserve my life! In Thy righteousness bring me out of trouble! And in Thy steadfast love cut off my enemies, and destroy all my adversaries, for I am Thy servant.

In Thy faithfulness, answer me, in Thy righteousness! Enter not into judgment with Thy servant. In Thy faithfulness answer me, in Thy righteousness! Enter not into judgment with Thy servant. Let Thy good Spirit lead me on a level path!

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

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Glory to Thee, O God. (3)

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

The Great Litany

- PRIEST: In peace, let us pray to the Lord.
- CHOIR: Lord, have mercy.
- PRIEST: For the peace from above and for the salvation of our souls, let us pray to the Lord.
- CHOIR: Lord, have mercy.
- PRIEST: For the peace of the whole world, for the welfare of the holy churches of God, and for the union of all, let us pray to the Lord.
- CHOIR: Lord, have mercy.
- PRIEST: For this holy house and for those who enter with faith, reverence, and the fear of God, let us pray to the Lord.
- CHOIR: Lord, have mercy.
- PRIEST: For His Beatitude, our Metropolitan _____, and for His (Eminence, Grace) our (Archbishop, Bishop) _____, for the honorable priesthood, the diaconate in Christ, for all the clergy and the people, let us pray to the Lord.
- CHOIR: Lord, have mercy.
- PRIEST: For the President of our country, for all civil authorities, and for the armed forces, let us pray to the Lord.

- CHOIR: Lord, have mercy.
- PRIEST: For this city, for every city and country, and for the faithful dwelling in them, let us pray to the Lord.
- CHOIR: Lord, have mercy.
- PRIEST: For seasonable weather, for abundance of the fruits of the earth, and for peaceful times, let us pray to the Lord.
- CHOIR: Lord, have mercy.
- PRIEST: For travelers by land, by sea, and by air; for the sick and suffering; for captives and their salvation, let us pray to the Lord.
- CHOIR: Lord, have mercy.
- PRIEST: For our deliverance from all affliction, wrath, danger, and necessity, let us pray to the Lord.
- CHOIR: Lord, have mercy.
- PRIEST: Help us, save us, have mercy on us, and keep us, O God, by Thy grace.
- CHOIR: Lord, have mercy.
- PRIEST: Commemorating our most holy, most pure, most blessed and glorious Lady Theotokos and ever-virgin Mary, with all the saints, let us commend ourselves and each other, and all our life unto Christ our God.
- CHOIR: To Thee, O Lord.

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

CHOIR: Amen.

PRIEST: (*Tone 2*) God is the Lord, who has revealed Himself to us! Blessed us He that comes in The Name of the Lord!

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

CHOIR: God is the Lord, who has revealed Himself to us! Blessed is He that comes in the Name of the Lord!

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

CHOIR: God is the Lord . . .

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

CHOIR: God is the Lord . . .

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

CHOIR: God is the Lord . . .

As the following troparia are sung, the priest censes the entire church, beginning by censing around the Winding-Sheet, and concluding by censing before it.

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

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

When Thou didst descend to death, O Life Immortal,
Thou didst slay hell with the splendor of Thy Godhead,
and when from the depths Thou didst raise the dead,
all the powers of heaven cried out,
O Giver of life, Christ our God, glory to Thee.

Now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

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

The Praises

The following troparia, known as the Praises, are then sung between the verses of Psalm 119 in three sections, or stases, as follows:

The First Stasis (Tone Five)

Blessed art Thou, O Lord! Teach me Thy Statutes!

Blessed are those whose way is blameless, who walk in the law of the Lord. (*Psalm 119:1*)

1. In a tomb they laid Thee,
O Christ the Life.

The angelic hosts were overcome with awe,
and glorified Thy condescension.

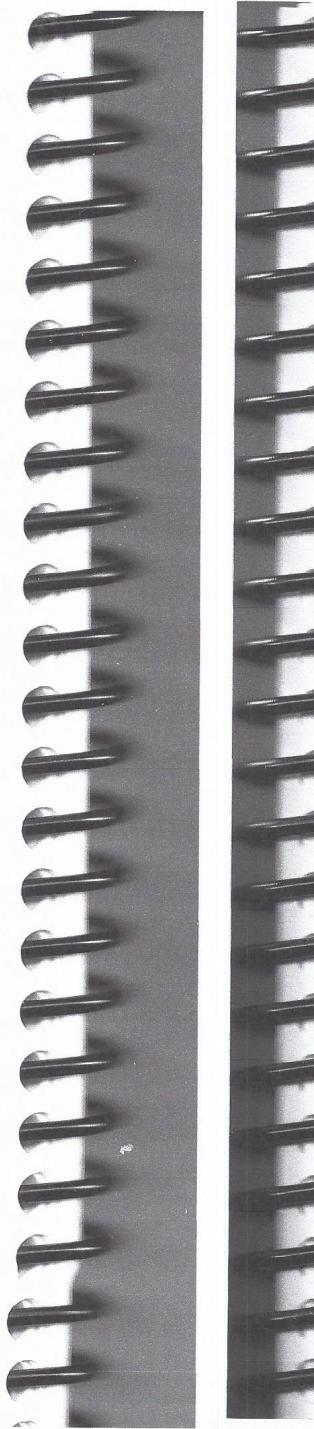
Blessed are those who keep His testimonies, who seek Him with their whole heart. (*v. 2*)

2. O Life, how canst Thou die?
How canst Thou dwell in a tomb?
Yet by Thy death Thou hast destroyed the reign of
death,
and raised all the dead from hell.

For those who work wickedness have not walked in His ways. (*v. 3*)

3. We magnify Thee,
O Jesus, our King.

We worship Thy passion and Thy Burial,
for by them, Thou hast saved us from death.



Thou hast commanded Thy precepts to be diligently kept. (*v. 4*)

4. Earth's bounds Thou hast measured,
O Jesus, King of all,
yet today Thou dwellest in a narrow tomb,
raising the dead from their graves.

O that my ways may be steadfast in keeping Thy statutes! (*v. 5*)

5. O Messiah, Jesus,
my King, the Lord of all,
whom art Thou seeking in the depths of hell?
Hast Thou come to free the race of mortal men?

Then I shall not be put to shame, having my eyes fixed on all Thy commandments. (*v. 6*)

6. Lo, the sov'reign Ruler
of creation is dead.

Almighty God is laid in a new tomb,
to empty the graves of all their dead.

I will praise Thee with an upright heart, when I learn Thy righteous ordinances. (*v. 7*)

7. In a tomb they laid Thee,
O Christ the Life.
By Thy Death Thou hast cast down the might of
death
and become the font of life for all the world.

I will observe Thy statutes; O forsake me not utterly. (*v. 8*)

**8. Thou hast been numbered,
among transgressors, O Christ.**

**Thou hast justified us all, O Lamb of God,
by freeing us from the devil's works.**

How can a young man keep his way pure? By
guarding it according to Thy word. (v. 9)

**9. Thou, O Lord, art fairer
than all the sons of men.**

**Thou hast filled creation with Thy beauty,
How canst Thou lie before us dead this day?**

With my whole heart I seek Thee; let me not wander
from Thy commandments. (v. 10)

**10. How could hell bear Thy coming
and not shatter at once?**

**Death is blinded by Thy splendor, O Lord.
Its gloom is scattered by Thy dazzling light.**

I have hidden Thy word in my heart, that I might
not sin against Thee. (v. 11)

**11. O Jesus, my salvation,
my sweetness, my light!
How art Thou hidden in a dark tomb?
O patience, past our strength to understand!**

Blessed art Thou, O Lord! Teach me Thy statutes.
(v. 12)

**12. The spiritual powers
and the angelic hosts
stand in silence, overcome with wonder
before the awesome myst'ry of Thy tomb.**

➤ **Thou hast dealt well with Thy servant, O Lord,
according to Thy word. (v. 65)**

**66. For her soul's forgiveness,
Mary poured out myrrh.**

Judas claimed to love the poor, but envied her,
and for silver sold the Light of the world.

Teach me good judgment and knowledge, for I
believe in Thy commandments. (v. 66)

**67. O Word of God Immortal,
my joy and my desire,
how shall I endure Thy three days in the tomb?
My heart is torn asunder with grief.**

Before I was humbled I went astray, but now I keep
Thy word. (v. 67)

**68. "Who will give me water,
a spring for my tears,
that I may weep for my sweet Jesus?"
cried the Virgin Bride of God.**

Thou art good, O Lord; in Thy goodness teach me
Thy statutes. (v. 68)

**69. "O hills and valleys,
the multitude of men,
and all creation, weep and lament
with me, the Mother of your God."**

The lies of the proud are multiplied against me,
but with my whole heart I keep Thy precepts. (v. 69)

**70. "O Joy and Light eternal,
the gladness of my heart,
when shall I see Thee, O my Savior?"
cried the Virgin in her bitter grief.**

Their heart is gross like fat, but I delight in Thy law. (v. 70)

71. **Thy side was pierced, O Jesus,**
like the desert's rock of old.
From it, O Savior, wellspring of eternal life,
a stream of living water flows.

It was good for me that Thou hast humbled me, that I might learn Thy statutes. (v. 71)

72. **Blood and water flowing**
in a double stream
from Thy pierced side as from a single source
has quenched our thirst for immortal life.

The law of Thy mouth is better to me than thousands of gold and silver pieces. (v. 72)

73. **Of Thine own will, O Savior,**
Thou wast laid dead in the tomb,
yet Thou art alive, and as Thou hast foretold,
by Thy rising Thou shalt raise up mortal man.

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

74. **O Word of God, we praise Thee,**
the Lord of all the world,
with Thy Father and Thy Holy Spirit,
and we glorify Thy Burial.

Now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

75. **We bless you, O Virgin**
Birth-giver of God.
And with faithful hearts we praise the burial
endured by your Son and our God.

And we repeat the first troparion:

In a tomb they laid Thee,
O Christ the Life.

The angelic hosts were overcome with awe,
and glorified Thy condescension.

Then the Little Litany, with the exclamation:

PRIEST: For blessed is Thy Name, and glorified is Thy Kingdom, of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

CHOIR: Amen.

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

The Second Stasis (*Tone Five*)

1. It is right to magnify Thee,
O Life-giving Lord.
Thou hast stretched out Thy most pure arms upon
the cross,
and broken the enemy's power.

Thy hands have made and fashioned me; give me
understanding that I may learn Thy commandments. (v. 73)

2. It is right to magnify Thee,
O Creator of all.
We are freed from passion through Thy Passion,
and delivered from corruption.

Those who fear Thee shall see me and rejoice,
because I have hoped in Thy word. (v. 74)

3. The earth quaked with fear, O Savior Christ;
the sun hid itself,
seeing Thee, the Light that knows no evening,
sinking down into the tomb.

I know, O Lord, that Thy judgments are right, and
that in faithfulness Thou hast afflicted me. (v. 75)

4. Thou hast slept in the tomb, O Christ,
a life-giving sleep,
by which Thou hast wakened all the human race
from the heavy slumber of sin.

Let Thy steadfast love be ready to comfort me,
according to Thy promise to Thy servant. (v. 76)

5. "Alone among women, O my Child,
I gave birth to Thee without pain.
Now I cannot bear the grief I suffer,"
the Most Pure Mother cried.

Let Thy mercy come to me that I may live, for Thy
law is my delight. (v. 77)

6. The seraphim saw Thee, O Lord,
lying dead on earth below,
yet united with Thy Father on high;
and they shuddered and trembled with fear.

Let the godless be put to shame, because they have
transgressed against me unjustly; as for me, I will
meditate on Thy precepts. (v. 78)

7. The veil of the temple was torn
at Thy crucifixion,
and the lights of heaven hid their radiance,
when Thou, the Sun, wast hidden in the earth.

Let those who fear Thee turn to me, that they might
know Thy testimonies. (v. 79)

8. By Thy nod alone, long ago,
the earth was set on its course.
Now Thou hast descended dead beneath the earth.
Tremble, O heaven, at this sight.

May my heart be blameless in Thy statutes, that
I may not be put to shame. (v. 80)

9. Thou, who didst form man with Thy hand,
hast gone down beneath the earth,
and, O Sun, with Thine almighty right hand,
Thou hast raised up fallen men.

My soul languishes for Thy salvation; I hope in Thy word. (v. 81)

10. Come, let us sing our lament to Christ, who dies for us, that we may be worthy, with the myrrhbearers, to hear His saving greeting: Rejoice!

My eyes fail with watching for Thy promise; I ask, "When wilt Thou comfort me?" (v. 82)

11. Thou art in very truth, O Word, the Myrrh of incorruption.

Therefore, to anoint Thee as the Living God, the women brought Thee precious myrrh.

For I have become like a wineskin in the smoke, yet I have not forgotten Thy statutes. (v. 83)

12. Thou hast destroyed the palaces of hell by Thy Burial, O Christ.

Thou hast trampled death down by Thy death, O Lord,

and redeemed earth's children from corruption.

How long must Thy servant endure? When wilt Thou judge those who persecute me? (v. 84)

13. The Source of the River of Life, the Wisdom of God, has descended to the utmost depths of Hell, to give life to all held captive there.

Godless men have dug pitfalls for me, men who do not conform to Thy law. (v. 85)

14. "That I may fashion anew Adam's broken nature, I willingly endure death's sting in my flesh. O Mother, do not strike your breast in grief."

My eyes fail with watching for Thy salvation, and for the fulfillment of Thy righteous promise. (v. 123)

52. O my Jesus, Light invisible, when the sun beheld Thee hidden without breath inside a tomb of stone, it trembled and darkened its light.

> Deal with Thy servant according to Thy mercy, and teach me Thy statutes. (v. 124)

53. Thine all-blameless Mother wept most bitterly, when she saw Thee laid within the Tomb, O Word, ineffable, eternal God.

I am Thy servant; give me understanding, that I may know Thy testimonies. (v. 125)

54. Thine undefiled Mother, when she saw Thee die, cried to Thee, O Christ, in bitter sorrow: "Do not tarry among the dead, O Life."

It is time for the Lord to act, for they have broken Thy law. (v. 126)

55. Hell, who had filled all men with fear, trembled at the sight of Thee, and in haste he yielded up his prisoners, O Immortal Sun of Glory.

Therefore I love Thy commandments above gold, above fine gold. (v. 127)

56. O Savior, the sight before our eyes is great and terrible,

for the Cause of Life today submits to die,
wishing to give life to all.

Therefore, I direct my steps by all Thy precepts; I
hate every false way. (v. 128)

**57. O Master, Thy side is pierced
and Thy hands are nailed.**

Thus Thou hast healed the wound of our first
parents
and the sinful greed of their hands.

Thy testimonies are wonderful; therefore my soul
seeks them. (v. 129)

**58. Once in every house of Bethlehem
they wept for Rachel's children.**

Now His Mother, with the apostolic choir,
laments for the Virgin's Son.

The unfolding of Thy words gives light; it imparts
understanding to the simple. (v. 130)

**59. Christ was slapped on the face
by the hands of mortal men,
though He fashioned man with His Almighty
Hand,
and crushed the teeth of the beast.**

With open mouth I pant, because I long for Thy
commandments. (v. 131)

**60. All Thy faithful people, O Christ,
singing hymns of praise,
bless Thy Crucifixion and Thy Burial,
by which we are ransomed from death.**

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

**61. O God without beginning,
Eternal Word and Spirit,
help Thy people to prevail against the foe,
as Thou art the Lover of mankind.**

Now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

**62. O Virgin, pure and undefiled,
You gave birth to our life:
make the strife and scandals of the Church to cease;
in your goodness, grant her peace.**

And we repeat the first troparion:

**It is right to magnify Thee,
O Live-giving Lord,
Thou hast stretched out Thy most pure arms upon
the cross,
and broken the enemy's power.**

Then the Little Litany, with the exclamation:

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

CHOIR: Amen.

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

The Third Stasis (Tone Three)

**1. Every generation
offers Thee its hymn of praise
at Thy burial, O my Christ.**

Look upon me, and be merciful to me, as is Thy good pleasure toward those who love Thy name. (v. 132)

**2. The Arimathean
took Thee down from the tree
and laid Thee in a tomb.**

Order my steps according to Thy promise, and let no iniquity have dominion over me. (v. 133)

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

Deliver me from the false accusation of men, that I may keep Thy precepts. (v. 134)

**4. Come, all creation,
sing a hymn to honor
the Creator's Burial.**

Make Thy face to shine upon Thy servant, and teach me Thy statutes. (v. 135)

**5. Let us, with the myrrhbearers,
anoint as dead the Living One
with the Myrrh of True Knowledge.**

My eyes shed streams of tears, because men do not keep Thy law. (v. 136)

**6. O thrice blessed Joseph,
bury now the body
of Christ the Giver of Life.**

Righteous art Thou, O Lord, and right are Thy judgments. (v. 137)

**7. Thou didst feed Thy people
with manna in the desert,
but they raised their heel against Thee.**

Thou hast appointed Thy testimonies in righteousness and in all faithfulness. (v. 138)

**8. Thou didst feed the nations,
filling them with bounty.
They repay Thee with gall and vinegar.**

My zeal consumes me, because my foes forget Thy words. (v. 139)

**9. O the folly
of those who killed the prophets!
Now they slay the Messiah.**

Thy promise is well tried in the fire, and Thy servant loves it. (v. 140)

**10. Judas the disciple,
like a foolish servant,
has betrayed the Abyss of Wisdom.**

I am small and despised, yet I do not forget Thy precepts. (v. 141)

Seven times a day I praise Thee, for Thy righteous ordinances. (v. 164)

34. Thou art nailed upon the cross,
who of old didst shelter
Thy people with a pillar of cloud.

Great peace have those who love Thy law; nothing can make them stumble. (v. 165)

35. The myrrh-bearing women came, O Savior, to Thy tomb,
offering Thee sweet spices.

I hope for Thy salvation, O Lord, and I love Thy commandments. (v. 166)

36. Arise, O Lord all-merciful!
Raise us from the depths of hell
and from the dark abyss of sin.

→ My soul keeps Thy testimonies; I love them exceedingly. (v. 167)

37. The Mother who gave birth to Thee
prayed to Thee with weeping:
“Arise, O Lord, and Giver of life!”

I keep Thy precepts and testimonies, for all my ways are before Thee, O Lord. (v. 168)

38. Make haste to arise, O Word!
Take away the sorrow
of Thy Virgin Mother.

Let my cry come before Thee, O Lord; give me understanding according to Thy word! (v. 169)

39. All the hosts of heaven
were filled with fear and wonder
when they saw Thee dead, O Lord.

Let my supplication come before Thee; deliver me according to Thy word. (v. 170)

40. We honor Thy passion
with love and fear, O Lord.
Grant us forgiveness of our sins.

My lips will pour forth praise, for Thou hast taught me Thy statutes. (v. 171)

41. O strange and dreadful wonder!
How art Thou now hidden
in the earth, O Word of God.

My tongue will sing of Thy word, for all Thy commandments are right. (v. 172)

42. When Thou didst flee to Egypt,
Joseph guarded Thee, O Lord.
Now another Joseph buries Thee.

Let Thy hand be near to save me, for I have chosen Thy precepts. (v. 173)

43. Thine all-holy Mother
weeps for Thee, lamenting
at Thy death, O my Savior.

I long for Thy salvation, O Lord, and Thy law is my delight. (v. 174)

44. The hosts of angels tremble
at the strange and fearful sight
of Thy Burial, O Maker of all.

Let my soul live, that I may praise Thee, and let Thine ordinances help me. (v. 175)

45. Early in the morning,
the myrrh-bearing women
came to Thee and sprinkled myrrh on Thy tomb.

I have gone astray like a lost sheep; seek Thy servant, for I have not forgotten Thy commandments. (v. 176)

46. By Thy resurrection,
grant peace to Thy Church,
and salvation to Thy people.

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

47. O God in Trinity,
Father, Son and Spirit,
grant Thy mercy to the world.

Now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

48. Grant us, your servants,
to behold, O Virgin,
the Resurrection of your Son!

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

Resurrectional Troparia

CHOIR: (*Tone Five*)

Blessed art Thou, O Lord, teach me Thy statutes.
The angelic host was filled with awe,
when it saw Thee among the dead.
By destroying the power of death, O Savior,
Thou didst raise Adam,
and save all men from hell!

Blessed art Thou, O Lord, teach me Thy statutes.
In the tomb, the radiant angel cried to the myrrh-bearers:
Why do you women mingle myrrh with your tears?
Look at the tomb and understand!
The Savior is risen from the dead!

Blessed art Thou, O Lord, teach me Thy statutes.
Very early in the morning,
the myrrhbearers ran with sorrow to Thy tomb,
but an angel came to them and said:
The time for sorrow has come to an end!
Do not weep, but announce the resurrection to the apostles!

Blessed art Thou, O Lord, teach me Thy statutes.
The myrrhbearers were sorrowful as they neared
Thy tomb,
but the angel said to them:

Why do you number the living among the dead?
Since He is God, He is risen from the tomb!

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

We worship the Father, and His Son, and the Holy Spirit:

the Holy Trinity, one in essence!

We cry with the seraphim:

Holy, Holy, Holy art Thou, O Lord!

Now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Since you gave birth to the Giver of Life, O Virgin,
you delivered Adam from his sin!

You gave joy to Eve instead of sadness!

The God-man who was born of you
has restored to life those who had fallen from it!

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia! Glory to Thee, O God! (3)

Then the Little Litany, with the exclamation:

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

CHOIR: Amen.

Kathisma Hymn (Tone 1)

Joseph begged Thy holy Body from Pilate;
He anointed it with sweet-smelling spices;
He wrapped it in clean linen and laid it in his own
new tomb,

and early in the morning the myrrh-bearing women
cried out:

as Thou hast foretold, O Christ,
show us the resurrection!

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

As Thou hast foretold, O Christ,
show us the Resurrection!

Now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

The choirs of angels are filled with awe,
seeing Him who rests in the Father's bosom
laid in the tomb as dead,
though He is immortal.

The ranks of angels surround Him;
together with the dead in hell,
they glorify Him as Creator and Lord!

Psalm 51

READER: Have mercy on me, O God, according to
Thy great mercy; according to the multitude of
Thy tender mercies, blot out my transgressions.
Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and
cleanse me from my sin!

For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me. Against Thee, Thee only, have I sinned, and done that which is evil in Thy sight, so that Thou art justified in Thy sentence and blameless in Thy judgment. Behold I was brought forth in iniquity, and in sin did my mother conceive me.

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

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

Then I will teach transgressors Thy ways, and sinners will return to Thee. Deliver me from bloodguiltiness, O God, Thou God of my salvation, and my tongue will sing aloud of Thy deliverance.

O Lord, open Thou my lips, and my mouth shall show forth Thy praise. For Thou hast no delight in sacrifice; were I to give a burnt offering, Thou wouldst not be pleased. The sacrifice acceptable to God is a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, Thou wilt not despise.

Do good to Zion in Thy good pleasure; rebuild the walls of Jerusalem, then wilt Thou delight in right sacrifices, in burnt offerings and whole burnt offerings; then bulls will be offered on Thy altar.

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

The Canon (Tone 6)

Ode 1

IRMOS: Of old Thou didst bury the pursuing tyrant beneath the waves of the sea.

Now the children of those who were saved bury Thee beneath the earth,
but with the maidens let us sing to the Lord,
for gloriously has He been glorified.

REFRAIN: Glory to Thee, our God, glory to Thee.
Unto Thee I sing a hymn for the departed and a song of burial, O Lord my God, who by Thy burial hast opened for me the entrance to life and by Thy death hast put death and hell to death.

REFRAIN: Glory to Thee, our God, glory to Thee.
Beholding Thee upon the throne and on high and in the grave below, the things of heaven and the things beneath the earth trembled at Thy death; for in a manner past understanding wast Thou, the very source of life, seen dead.

REFRAIN: Glory to Thee, our God, glory to Thee.
Thou didst descend to the depths of the earth to fill all with Thy glory; for my person that is in Adam was not hidden from Thee, and when Thou wast buried, Thou didst renew me who am corrupt, O Lover of mankind.

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

KATAVASIA: Of old . . .

Ode 3

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

REFRAIN: Glory to Thee, our God, glory to Thee.
By a multitude of visions Thou didst indicate the signs of Thy burial, O Master. But now, as God and man, Thou dost make clear Thy hidden things even unto those in hell, who cry: “None is holy but Thee, O Lord.”

REFRAIN: Glory to Thee, our God, glory to Thee!
Thou hast stretched out Thy hands, O Savior, and united what before had been divided; and by clothing Thyself in a winding sheet Thou hast saved even those held captive by the tomb, who cry: “None is holy but Thee, O Lord.”

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

By Thy will a sealed tomb contained Thee, who cannot be contained; for by Thy divine accomplishments Thou hast made known Thy power unto those who sing: “None is holy but Thee, O Lord who lovest mankind.”

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

KATAVASIA: Thou didst suspend . . .

Kathisma Hymn (Tone 1)

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

Ode 4

IRMOS: Forseeing Thy divine humiliation on the cross,

Habakkuk cried out trembling:
“Thou didst shatter the dominion of the mighty by joining those in hell as the almighty Lord.”

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

Thou hast sanctified this, the seventh day, which of old Thou didst bless by rest from work; for Thou

dost bring all things into being and renew them, O my Savior, while resting and reviving on the sabbath.

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

By the overwhelming strength of Thy divine nature Thou didst win the victory, O Word; for Thy soul was parted from the flesh, sundering by Thy might the bonds of hell and death.

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

When hell encountered Thee, O Word, it was embittered. Seeing Thee as a mortal man deified, marked with wounds yet having almighty power, it cried out at Thy awesome appearance.

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

KATAVASIA: Foreseeing . . .

Ode 5

IRMOS: Isaiah saw the never-setting light of Thy compassionate manifestation to us as God, O Christ.

Rising early from the night he cried out:
“The dead shall arise.
Those in the tombs shall awake.
All those on earth shall greatly rejoice.”

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

When Thou didst become earthly, O Creator, Thou didst renew those born on earth, and the winding sheet and the grave revealed the mystery concerning Thee, O Word; for Joseph the noble counsellor, fulfills the counsel of Him who begot Thee and who wondrously renews me in Thee.

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

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

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

Thou didst come forth from a painless birth, O my Maker, and Thy side was pierced. By this hast Thou, the new Adam, accomplished the restoration of Eve. Thou didst fall into a sleep surpassing nature and renewing nature, and, as the all-powerful One, Thou didst raise up life from sleep and corruption.

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

KATAVASIA: Isaiah saw . . .

Ode 6

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

REFRAIN: Glory to Thee, our God, glory to Thee.
Thou wast killed, O Word, but not separated from
the flesh which Thou dost share with us; for even
though the temple of Thy body was destroyed at the
time of the passion, the person of Thy divinity and
of Thy flesh was one, for in both dost Thou remain
one Son, Word of God, God and man.

REFRAIN: Glory to Thee, our God, glory to Thee.
The fall of Adam resulted in the death of man, not
God; for even though the earthly substance of Thy
flesh suffered, Thy divinity remained passionless. In
Thyself Thou hast transformed the corruptible to
incorruption, and by Thy resurrection Thou hast
revealed a fountain of incorruptible life.

REFRAIN: Glory to Thee, our God, glory to Thee.
Hell rules the race of mortal men, but not eternally;
for when Thou wast placed in the grave, O powerful
One, Thou didst tear asunder the bars of death by

Thy life-creating hand and didst proclaim true
deliverance to those sleeping there from the ages,
since Thou, O Savior, hast become the first-born of
the dead.

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

KATAVASIA: Jonah was caught . . .

Kontakion (Tone 6)

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

Ikos

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

Ode 7

IRMOS: Inexpressible wonder!

In the furnace Thou didst save the holy youths from the flame.

Now Thou art placed in the grave as a lifeless corpse, for the salvation of us who sing:

"Blessed art Thou, O God, our Redeemer!"

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

Hell was wounded in heart when it received Him whose side was pierced by a spear, and it groans, consumed by divine fire, unto the salvation of us who sing: "Blessed art Thou, O God, our Redeemer!"

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

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

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

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

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

In hell, in the tomb and in Eden, the divinity of Christ was one and undivided, with the Father and

the Spirit, for the salvation of us who sing: "Blessed art Thou, O God, our Redeemer!"

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

KATAVASIA: Inexpressible wonder . . .

Ode 8

IRMOS: Be amazed, O heavens!

Be shaken, O foundations of the earth!

Behold, He that dwells in the highest is numbered among the dead and sheltered in a lowly tomb.

Bless Him, O youths! Praise Him, O priests! O people, exalt Him above all forever!

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

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

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

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

REFRAIN: Glory to Thee, our God, glory to Thee.
What new wonders! What great goodness! What ineffable forebearance! For He that dwells in the highest is willingly sealed beneath the earth, and God is slandered as a deceiver. Bless Him, O youths! Praise Him, O priests! O people, exalt Him above all forever!

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

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

KATAVASIA: Be amazed . . .

Ode 9

IRMOS: Do not lament me, O mother,
seeing me in the tomb,
the Son conceived in the womb without seed.
For I shall arise and be glorified with eternal glory
as God.

I shall exalt all who magnify you in faith and in love.

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

"I escaped sufferings and was blessed beyond nature at Thy strange birth, O Son who art without beginning. But now, beholding Thee, my God, dead and without breath, I am sorely pierced by the sword of sorrow. But arise, that I may be magnified."

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

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

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

"Let creation rejoice! Let all born on earth be glad! For hateful hell has been despoiled. Let the women with myrrh come to meet me; for I am redeeming Adam and Eve and all their descendants, and on the third day shall I arise!"

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

KATAVASIA: Do not lament me. . . .

The Little Litany, with the exclamation:

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

CHOIR: Amen.

(Tone 2)

PRIEST: Holy is the Lord, our God!

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

PRIEST: For holy is the Lord, our God!

CHOIR: Holy is the Lord, our God!
PRIEST: Over all people is our God!
CHOIR: Holy is the Lord, our God!
During the Praises, the priest vests in full vestments.

The Praises (Tone 2)

CHOIR: Let everything that breathes praise the Lord!
Praise the Lord from the heavens!
Praise Him in the highest!
To Thee, O God, is due a song!

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

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

CHOIR: Today a tomb holds Him who holds
creation in the hollow of His Hand.
A stone covers Him who covered the heavens with
glory.
Life sleeps, and hell trembles.
Adam is set free from his bonds.
Glory to Thy plan of salvation!
By it Thou hast fulfilled all things,
granting us an eternal Sabbath rest:
Thy most holy Resurrection from the dead!

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

CHOIR: What is this sight we behold?
What is this present rest?
The King of the ages keeps the Sabbath in the tomb;
Through His Passion He has fulfilled the plan of
salvation,
granting us a new Sabbath rest.
To Him let us cry aloud:
Arise, O God, and judge the earth,
for Thou dost reign forever,
and beyond measure is Thy great mercy.

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

CHOIR: Come, let us see our Life lying in the tomb,
to give life to those who lie dead in the tombs.
Come, look today on the Son of Judah sleeping;
with Jacob the patriarch let us cry to Him:
“Thou hast stooped down; Thou hast couched as a
lion;
who dares rouse Thee up, O King?”
But arise in Thine own power,
O Thou who didst willingly give Thyself for us.
O Lord, glory to Thee!

(Tone 6)

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

CHOIR: Joseph asked for the Body of Jesus
and placed it in his own new tomb.
It was fitting for the Lord to come forth from the
grave as from a bridal chamber.
Thou hast destroyed the dominion of death.
Thou hast opened to men the gates of paradise.
O Lord, glory to Thee!

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

The great Moses mystically foreshadowed this day,
when he said:
God blessed the seventh day.
This is the Blessed Sabbath;
this is the day of rest,
on which the Only-Begotten Son of God rested
from all His works.
By suffering death to fulfill the plan of salvation,
He kept the Sabbath in the flesh;
by returning again to what He was,
He has granted us eternal life through His
resurrection,
for He alone is good, and the Lover of man.

(Tone 2)

As the following verse is sung, the priest takes his place in front of the Shroud.

VERSE: Now and ever, and unto ages of ages.
Amen.

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

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

The Great Doxology

PRIEST: Glory to Thee, who hast shone us the light!
CHOIR: Glory to God in the highest, and on earth
peace, good will toward men.
We praise Thee, we bless Thee, we worship Thee, we
glorify Thee, we give thanks to Thee for Thy great
glory: O Lord, heavenly King, God the Father
Almighty; O Lord, the only-begotten Son, Jesus
Christ; and the Holy Spirit.

O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, that
takest away the sins of the world, have mercy on
us. Thou that takest away the sins of the world,
receive our prayer. Thou that sittest at the right
hand of the Father, have mercy on us.

For Thou alone art holy, Thou alone art Lord,
Jesus Christ, in the glory of God the Father.
Amen.

Every day will I bless Thee, and praise Thy name forever and ever. Vouchsafe, O Lord, to keep us this day without sin.

Blessed art Thou, O Lord God of our fathers, and praised and glorified is Thy Name forever. Amen.

Let Thy mercy, O Lord, be upon us, as we have set our hope on Thee.

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

O Lord, Thou hast been our refuge from generation to generation.

I said: Lord, have mercy on me! Heal my soul, for I have sinned against Thee!

O Lord, I flee unto Thee! Teach me to do Thy will, for Thou art my God.

For with Thee is the fountain of life, and in Thy light shall we see light.

Continue Thy mercy unto those who know Thee.

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

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

Holy Immortal, have mercy on us!

Then, in the solemn processional melody, we sing:

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

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

PRIEST: Wisdom! Let us attend!

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

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

**In the Greek practice, when the procession returns inside the church the choir sings the hymn "Come, let us bless Joseph of eternal memory. . ." Then, after the priest exclaims "Wisdom, let us attend!" he carries the Shroud into the sanctuary, and places it on the altar, and censes around the altar as the choir sings the troparion.*

PRIEST: Wisdom!

READER: The Troparion of the Prophecy in the Second Tone.

CHOIR: O Christ, who holdest fast the ends of the earth,

Thou hast consented to be held fast in the tomb,
to deliver man from his fall into hell,
and, as Immortal God,
Thou hast given us life and immortality!

PRIEST: Wisdom!

READER: The Prokeimenon in the Fourth Tone.

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

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

PRIEST: Wisdom!

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

PRIEST: Let us attend.

READER: In those days the hand of the Lord came upon me, and the Lord led me forth in the Spirit and set me in the midst of the plain, and it was full of the bones of men. And he led me round among them; and behold, there were very many upon the plain, and lo, they were very dry. And He said to me, "Son of man, can these bones live?" And I answered, "O

Lord God, Thou knowest." Again the Lord said to me, "Prophesy to these bones, and say to them, 'You dry bones, hear the word of the Lord! Thus says the Lord God to these bones: Behold, I will bring the breath of life upon you, and I will lay sinews upon you, and will cause flesh to come upon you, and cover you with skin, and I will put my Spirit into you, and you shall live, and you shall know that I am the Lord.' So I prophesied as the Lord commanded me, and as I prophesied there was a noise, and behold, a rattling, and the bones approached each one to its joint. And as I looked, sinews and flesh grew upon them, and skin had covered them, but there was no breath in them. Then the Lord said to me: "Prophesy to the wind, prophesy, son of man, and say to the Spirit: 'Thus says the Lord God: Come from the four winds, O Spirit, and breathe upon these dead men, and let them live.' "

So I prophesied as He commanded me, and the Spirit entered into them, and they lived, and stood upon their feet, an exceedingly great multitude. And the Lord said to me: "Son of man, these bones are the whole house of Israel, and they say, 'Our bones are dried up, our hope is perished; we are clean cut off.' Therefore, prophesy and say to them: 'Thus says the Lord God: Behold, I will open your tombs, and will raise you from your tombs, O my people, and I will bring you home into the land of Israel. And you shall know that I am the Lord,

when I have opened your graves, and have raised you from your graves, O my people. And I will put my spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you in your own land; then you shall know that I am the Lord. I have spoken, and I will do it, says the Lord.' "

PRIEST: Wisdom!

READER: The Prokeimenon in the Seventh Tone.

Arise, O Lord, my God, lift up Thy Hand! Forget not Thy poor forever! (Psalm 9)

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

PRIEST: Wisdom!

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

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

PRIEST: Let us attend!

READER: Brethren: Do you not know that a little yeast leavens the whole lump? Cleanse out the old leaven, that you may be fresh dough, as you really are unleavened. For Christ, our Paschal Lamb, has been sacrificed. Let us, therefore, celebrate the feast, not with the old leaven, the leaven of malice and evil, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth. Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law, having become a cursed thing for us, for it is written, "Cursed be every one who hangs on a tree,"

that in Christ Jesus the blessing of Abraham might come upon the Gentiles, that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith.

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

VERSES: Let God arise! Let His enemies be scattered!
Let those who hate Him flee from before His face!
As smoke vanishes, so let them vanish, as wax melts before the fire!

So the sinners will perish before the face of God, but let the righteous be glad!

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

PRIEST: Wisdom! Attend! Let us listen to the Holy Gospel! Peace be unto all!

CHOIR: And to your spirit.

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

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

PRIEST: The next day, that is, after the day of Preparation, the chief priests and the Pharisees gathered before Pilate and said: "Sir, we remember how that imposter said, while He was still alive, 'After three days I will rise again.' Therefore order the sepulchre to be made secure until after the third day, lest His disciples go and steal Him away, and tell the people, 'He has risen from the dead,' and the last fraud will be worse than the first." Pilate said to

them, "You have a guard of soldiers; go make it as secure as you can." So they went and made the sepulchre secure by sealing the tomb with a stone and setting a guard.

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

Remaining in his place before the Shroud, the priest says the two litanies and the dismissal of Matins.

The Augmented Litany

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

CHOIR: Lord, have mercy. (3)

PRIEST: Again we pray for His Beatitude, our Metropolitan ___, and His Grace, our Bishop ___, for priests, deacons, and all other clergy; and for all our brethren in Christ.

CHOIR: Lord, have mercy. (3)

PRIEST: Again we pray for the President of our country, and for all civil authorities, and for the armed forces.

CHOIR: Lord, have mercy. (3)

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

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

CHOIR: Lord, have mercy. (3)

PRIEST: Again we pray for mercy, life, peace, health, salvation and visitation, pardon and remission of sins, for all the brethren of this holy house.

CHOIR: Lord, have mercy. (3)

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

CHOIR: Lord, have mercy. (3)

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

CHOIR: Amen.

The Litany of Fervent Supplication

PRIEST: Let us complete our morning prayer with the Lord.

CHOIR: Lord, have mercy.

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

CHOIR: Lord, have mercy.

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

CHOIR: Grant it, O Lord.

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

CHOIR: Grant it, O Lord.

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

CHOIR: Grant it, O Lord.

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

CHOIR: Grant it, O Lord.

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

CHOIR: Grant it, O Lord.

PRIEST: A Christian ending to our life; painless, blameless, and peaceful; and a good defense before the dread judgment seat of Christ, let us ask of the Lord.

CHOIR: Grant it, O Lord.

PRIEST: Commemorating our most holy, most pure, most blessed and glorious Lady Theotokos and ever-virgin Mary, with all

the saints, let us commend ourselves and each other, and all our life unto Christ our God.

CHOIR: To Thee, O Lord.

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

CHOIR: Amen.

PRIEST: Peace be unto all.

CHOIR: And to your spirit.

PRIEST: Let us bow our heads unto the Lord.

CHOIR: To Thee, O Lord.

The Prayer at the Bowing of the Heads

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

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

CHOIR: Amen.

The Great Dismissal

PRIEST: Wisdom!

CHOIR: Father, bless!

PRIEST: Christ our God, the Existing One, is blessed, now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

CHOIR: Amen. Preserve, O God, the holy Orthodox faith and Orthodox Christians, unto ages of ages.

PRIEST: Most holy Theotokos, save us!

CHOIR: More honorable than the cherubim, and more glorious beyond compare than the seraphim: without defilement you gave birth to God the Word. True Theotokos, we magnify you!

PRIEST: Glory to Thee, O Christ, our God and our hope, glory to Thee!

CHOIR: Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

Amen.

Lord, have mercy. (3)

Father, bless.

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

CHOIR: Amen.

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

(Tone Five)

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

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

Give me this Stranger,
who has no place to lay His head:
Give me this Stranger
Whom an evil disciple betrayed to death.

*Bracketed material occurs in the Greek usage but not in the Slavic.

Give me this Stranger,
the refuge of the poor and weary.
Give me this Stranger,
whom His Mother saw hanging upon the cross,
and with a mother's sorrow cried, weeping:
'Woe is me, O my Child,
Light of my eyes and Beloved of my bosom,
for what Simeon foretold in the temple now has
come to pass:

a sword has pierced my heart;
but change my grief to gladness by Thy
resurrection.'"

We worship Thy Passion, O Christ!
We worship Thy Passion, O Christ!
We worship Thy Passion, O Christ!
and Thy Holy Resurrection.