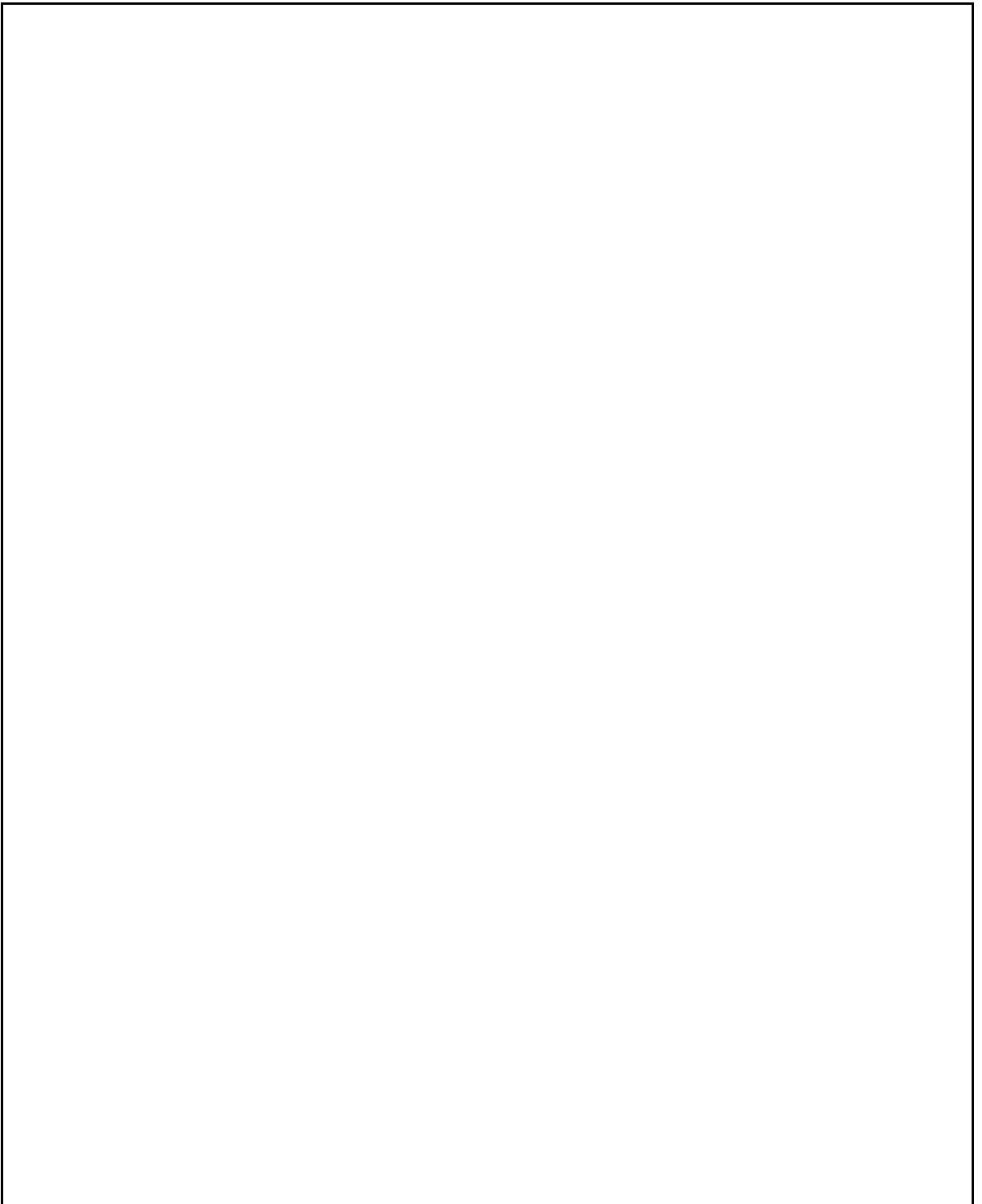


Matins on Holy Saturday

As Served at St. Nicholas Russian Orthodox Church
Bethlehem, Pennsylvania

Revised Great Lent 2025



The Royal Beginning

The priest, in epitrachelion, opens the curtain; the holy doors remain closed.

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

And the priest (not the deacon) performs a Great Censing.

Reader: Amen.

Glory to thee, our God, glory to thee.

O heavenly King, the Comforter, the Spirit of Truth, who art everywhere present 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. *(thrice)*

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. *(thrice)*

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 the evil one.

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.

Lord, have mercy. *(twelve times)*

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

O Come, let us worship God our King.

O Come, let us worship and fall down before Christ, our King and our God.

O Come, let us worship and fall down before Christ himself, our King and our God.

Psalm 19

The Lord hear thee in the day of affliction; the name of the God of Jacob defend thee. Let Him send forth unto thee help from His sanctuary, and out of Zion let Him help thee. Let Him remember every sacrifice of thine, and thy whole-burnt offering let Him fatten. The Lord grant thee according to thy heart, and fulfill all thy purposes. We will rejoice in Thy salvation, and in the name of the Lord our God shall we be magnified. The Lord fulfill all thy requests. Now have I known that the Lord hath saved His anointed one; He will hearken unto him out of His holy heaven; in mighty deeds is the salvation of His right hand. Some trust in chariots, and some in horses, but we will call upon the name of the Lord our God. They have been fettered and have fallen, but we are risen and are set upright. O Lord, save the king, and hearken unto us in the day when we call upon Thee.

Psalm 20

O Lord, in Thy strength the king shall be glad, and in Thy salvation shall he rejoice exceedingly. The desire of his heart hast Thou granted unto him, and hast not denied him the requests of his lips. Thou wentest before him with the blessings of goodness, Thou hast set upon his head a crown of precious stone. He asked life of Thee, and Thou gavest him length of days unto ages of ages. Great is his glory in Thy salvation; glory and majesty shalt Thou lay upon him. For Thou shalt give him blessing for ever and ever, Thou shalt gladden him in joy with Thy countenance. For the king hopeth in the Lord, and through the mercy of the Most High shall he not be shaken. Let Thy hand be found on all Thine enemies; let Thy right hand find all that hate Thee. For Thou wilt make them as an oven of fire in the time of Thy presence; the Lord in His wrath will trouble them sorely and fire shall devour them. Their fruit wilt Thou destroy from the earth, and their seed from the sons of men. For they have intended evil against Thee, they have devised counsels which they shall not be able to establish. For Thou shalt make them turn their backs; among those that are Thy remnant, Thou shalt make ready their countenance. Be Thou exalted, O Lord, in Thy strength; we will sing and chant of Thy mighty acts.

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

Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal: have mercy on us. *(thrice)*

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. *(thrice)*

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 the evil one.

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.

Choir: Amen. In the Name of the Lord, Father, bless.

And the priest takes the censer and makes the sign of the Cross before the holy table, saying:

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

Choir: Amen.

The Six Psalms

Reader: Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will among men. *(thrice)*

O Lord, Thou shalt open my lips, and my mouth shall declare Thy praise. *(twice)*

Psalm 3

O Lord, why are they multiplied that afflict me? Many rise up against me. Many say unto my soul: There is no salvation for him in his God. But Thou, O Lord, art my helper, my glory, and the lifter up of my head. I cried unto the Lord with my voice, and He heard me out of His holy mountain. I laid me down and slept; I awoke, for the Lord will help me. I will not be afraid of ten thousands of people that set themselves against me round about. Arise, O Lord, save me, O my God, for Thou hast smitten all who without cause are mine enemies; the teeth of sinners hast Thou broken. Salvation is of the Lord, and Thy blessing is upon Thy people.

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

Psalm 37

O Lord, rebuke me not in Thine anger, nor chasten me in Thy wrath. For Thine arrows are fastened in me, and Thou hast laid Thy hand heavily upon me. There is no healing in my flesh in the face of Thy wrath; and there is no peace in my bones in the face of my sins. For mine iniquities are risen higher than my head; as a heavy burden have they pressed heavily upon me. My bruises are become noisome and corrupt in the face of my folly. I

have been wretched and utterly bowed down until the end; all the day long I went with downcast face. For my loins are filled with mockings, and there is no healing in my flesh. I am afflicted and humbled exceedingly, I have roared from the groaning of my heart. O Lord, before Thee is all my desire, and my groaning is not hid from Thee. My heart is troubled, my strength hath failed me; and the light of mine eyes, even this is not with me. My friends and my neighbors drew nigh over against me and stood, and my nearest of kin stood afar off. And they that sought after my soul used violence; and they that sought evils for me spake vain things, and craftinesses all the day long did they meditate. But as for me, like a deaf man I heard them not, and was as a speechless man that openeth not his mouth. And I became as a man that heareth not, and that hath in his mouth no reproofs. For in Thee have I hoped, O Lord; Thou wilt hearken unto me, O Lord my God. For I said: Let never mine enemies rejoice over me; yea, when my feet were shaken, those men spake boastful words against me. For I am ready for scourges, and my sorrow is continually before me. For I will declare mine iniquity, and I will take heed concerning my sin. But mine enemies live and are made stronger than I, and they that hated me unjustly are multiplied. They that render me evil for good slandered me, because I pursued goodness. Forsake me not, O Lord my God, depart not from me. Be attentive unto my help, O Lord of my salvation.

Forsake me not, O Lord my God, depart not from me. Be attentive unto my help, O Lord of my salvation.

Psalm 62

O God, my God, unto Thee I rise early at dawn. My soul hath thirsted for Thee; how often hath my flesh longed after Thee in a land barren and untrodden and unwatered. So in the sanctuary have I appeared before Thee to see Thy power and Thy glory. For Thy mercy is better than lives; my lips shall praise Thee. So shall I bless Thee in my life, and in Thy name will I lift up my hands. As with marrow and fatness let my soul be filled, and with lips of rejoicing shall my mouth praise Thee. If I remembered Thee on my bed, at the dawn I meditated on Thee. For Thou art become my helper; in the shelter of Thy wings will I rejoice. My soul hath cleaved after Thee, Thy right hand hath been quick to help me. But as for these, in vain have they sought after my soul; they shall go into the nethermost parts of the earth, they shall be surrendered unto the edge of the sword; portions for foxes shall they be. But the king shall be glad in God, everyone shall be praised that sweareth by Him; for the mouth of them is stopped that speak unjust things.

At the dawn I meditated on Thee. For Thou art become my helper; in the shelter of Thy wings will I rejoice. My soul hath cleaved after Thee, Thy right hand hath been quick to help me.

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

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia. Glory to Thee, O God. (*thrice*)

Lord. have mercy. (*thrice*)

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

Psalm 87

O Lord God of my salvation, by day have I cried and by night before Thee. Let my prayer come before Thee, bow down Thine ear unto my supplication. For filled with evils is my soul, and my life unto hades hath drawn nigh. I am counted with them that go down into the pit; I am become as a man without help, free among the dead. Like the bodies of the slain that sleep in the grave, whom Thou rememberest no more, and they are cut off from Thy hand. They laid me in the lowest pit, in darkness and in the shadow of death. Against me is Thine anger made strong, and all Thy billows hast Thou brought upon me. Thou hast removed my friends afar from me; they have made me an abomination unto themselves. I have been delivered up, and have not come forth; mine eyes are grown weak from poverty. I have cried unto Thee, O Lord, the whole day long; I have stretched out my hands unto Thee. Nay, for the dead wilt Thou work wonders? Or shall physicians raise them up that they may give thanks unto Thee? Nay, shall any in the grave tell of Thy mercy, and of Thy truth in that destruction? Nay, shall Thy wonders be known in that darkness, and Thy righteousness in that land that is forgotten? But as for me, unto Thee, O Lord, have I cried; and in the morning shall my prayer come before Thee. Wherefore, O Lord, dost Thou cast off my soul and turnest Thy face away from me? A poor man am I, and in troubles from my youth; yea, having been exalted, I was humbled and brought to distress. Thy furies have passed upon me, and Thy terrors have sorely troubled me. They came round about me like water, all the day long they compassed me about together. Thou hast removed afar from me friend and neighbor, and mine acquaintances because of my misery.

O Lord God of my salvation, by day have I cried and by night before Thee. Let my prayer come before Thee, bow down Thine ear unto my supplication.

Psalm 102

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 that He hath done for thee, Who is gracious unto all thine iniquities, Who healeth all thine infirmities, Who redeemeth thy life from corruption, Who crowneth thee with mercy and compassion, Who fulfilleth thy desire with good things; thy youth shall be renewed as the eagle's. The Lord performeth deeds of mercy, and executeth

judgment for all them that are wronged. He hath made His ways known unto Moses, unto the sons of Israel the things that He hath willed. Compassionate and merciful is the Lord, longsuffering and plenteous in mercy; not unto the end will He be angered, neither unto eternity will He be wroth. Not according to our iniquities hath He dealt with us, neither according to our sins hath He rewarded us. For according to the height of heaven from the earth, the Lord hath made His mercy to prevail over them that fear Him. As far as the east is from the west, so far hath He removed our iniquities from us. Like as a father hath compassion upon his sons, so hath the Lord had compassion upon them that fear Him; for He knoweth whereof we are made, He hath remembered that we are dust. As for man, his days are as the grass; as a flower of the field, so shall he blossom forth. For when the wind is passed over it, then it shall be gone, and no longer will it know the place thereof. But the mercy of the Lord is from eternity, even unto eternity, upon them that fear Him. And His righteousness is upon sons of sons, upon them that keep His testament and remember His commandments to do them. The Lord in heaven hath prepared His throne, and His kingdom ruleth over all. Bless the Lord, all ye His angels, mighty in strength, that perform His word, to hear the voice of His words. Bless the Lord, all ye His hosts, His ministers that do His will. Bless the Lord, all ye His works, in every place of His dominion. Bless the Lord, O my soul.

In every place of His dominion, bless the Lord, O my soul.

Psalm 142

O Lord, hear my prayer, give ear unto my supplication in Thy truth; hearken unto me in Thy righteousness. And enter not into judgment with Thy servant, for in Thy sight shall no man living be justified. For the enemy hath persecuted my soul; he hath humbled my life down to the earth. He hath sat me in darkness as those that have been long dead, and my spirit within me is become despondent; within me my heart is troubled. I remembered days of old, I meditated on all Thy works, I pondered on the creations of Thy hands. I stretched forth my hands unto Thee; my soul thirsteth after thee like a waterless land. Quickly hear me, O Lord; my spirit hath fainted away. Turn not Thy face away from me, lest I be like unto them that go down into the pit. Cause me to hear Thy mercy in the morning; for in Thee have I put my hope. cause me to know, O Lord, the way wherein I should walk; for unto Thee have I lifted up my soul. Rescue me from mine enemies, O Lord; unto Thee have I fled for refuge. Teach me to do Thy will, for Thou art my God. Thy good Spirit shall lead me in the land of uprightness; for Thy name's sake, O Lord, shalt Thou quicken me. In Thy righteousness shalt Thou bring my soul out of affliction, and in Thy mercy shalt Thou utterly destroy mine enemies. And Thou shalt cut off all them that afflict my soul, for I am Thy servant.

Hearken unto me, O Lord, in Thy righteousness, and enter not into judgment with Thy servant. *(twice)*

Thy good Spirit shall lead me in the land of uprightness.

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

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia. Glory to Thee, O God. Thrice, with the sign of the Cross and a bow each time.

Lord, have mercy. *(thrice)*

Great Litany

Deacon: In peace let us pray to the Lord.

Choir: R. Lord, have mercy. *(And so after each of the following petitions.)*

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

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. R.

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

For our metropolitan N., for our Bishop [or Archbishop] N., for the honorable priesthood, the diaconate in Christ, and for all the clergy and the people, let us pray to the Lord. R.

For this country, its President [*or the title of the highest civil authority*], for all civil authorities, and for the armed forces, let us pray to the Lord. R.

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

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

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

That we may be delivered from all affliction, wrath, danger, and necessity, let us pray to the Lord. R.

Help us, save us, have mercy on us, and keep us, O God, by thy grace. R.

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.

Deacon: In the second tone. God is the Lord and has revealed himself to us: blessed is he that comes in the name of the Lord. O give thanks unto the Lord, for he is good; for his mercy endures forever.

Choir: R. God is the Lord and has revealed himself to us: blessed is he that comes in the name of the Lord.

(And so after each of the following verses.)

Deacon: All nations compassed me round about, but in the Name of the Lord have I driven them back. R.

V. I shall not die, but live, and declare the works of the Lord. R.

V. The stone which the builders refused, is become the head stone of the corner: this is the Lord's doing, and it is marvelous in our eyes. R.

After singing the fourth and final The Lord is God..., the choir sings:

Second Tone

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.

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.

First Stasis (abbreviated for parish use)

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

vs. Blessed are those whose way is blameless, who walk in the law of the Lord.

1. In a tomb they laid Thee, O Christ the Life. The angelic hosts were overcome with awe, and glorified Thy condescension.

vs. Blessed are those who keep His testimonies, who seek Him with their whole heart.

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.

vs. For those who work wickedness have not walked in His ways.

3. We magnify Thee, O Jesus, our King. We worship Thy passion and Thy Burial, for by them, Thou hast saved us from death.

vs. Thou hast commanded Thy precepts to be diligently kept.

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.

vs. O that my ways may be steadfast in keeping Thy statutes!

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?

vs. Then I shall not be put to shame, having mine eyes fixed on all Thy commandments.

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.

vs. I will praise Thee with an upright heart, when I learn Thy righteous ordinances.

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.

vs. I will observe Thy statutes; O forsake me not utterly.

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.

vs. How can a young man keep his way pure? By guarding it according to Thy word.

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?

vs. With my whole heart I seek Thee; let me not wander from Thy commandments.

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.

vs. I have hidden Thy word in my heart, that I might not sin against Thee.

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

vs. Blessed art Thou, O Lord! Teach me Thy statutes.

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

vs. With my lips I declare all the ordinances of Thy mouth.

13. A new and strange wonder! He who gave me life and breath now is lifeless, breathless, carried to the tomb and buried by Joseph's hands.

vs. In the way of Thy testimonies I delight, as much as in all riches.

14. In Thy Body, buried, in hell with Thy soul, yet not parted from Thy Father's side, O Christ! O strange and awesome wonder!

vs. I will meditate on Thy precepts, and fix my eyes on Thy ways.

15. O Jesus, all creation knew Thee to be its Lord! Thou art truly King of heaven and earth. Though Thou art shut within a narrow tomb.

vs. I will delight in Thy statutes; I will not forget Thy word.

16. O Christ, Creator, Thou wast laid within a tomb. Hell's foundations quaked and trembled, seeing Thee opening the graves of mortal men.

vs. Deal bountifully with Thy servant; give me life, and I shall keep Thy word.

17. He who holds the earth in the hollow of His hand has been put to death and held fast by the earth, to save the dead from hell's grasping hand.

vs. Open my eyes, that I may behold wondrous things out of Thy law.

18. O my Life, my Savior, dwelling with the dead in death, Thou hast destroyed the iron bars of hell, and hast risen from corruption.

vs. I am only a sojourner on earth; hide not Thy commandments from me.

19. Now is God's flesh hidden beneath a veil of earth, yet it is a lampstand brightly shining, scattering the darkness of hell.

vs. My soul is consumed with longing for Thine ordinances at all times.

20. Joseph, Nicodemus - and all the heavenly hosts - hasten to a narrow tomb to enclose Thee whom the heights of heaven cannot contain.

vs. Thou hast rebuked the proud, and cursed are those who wander from Thy commandments.

21. Slain willingly, O Jesus, and laid beneath the earth, Thou hast raised me up, O Fountain of life, when I lay dead in bitter sin.

vs. Take away from me their scorn and contempt, for I have kept Thy testimonies.

22. The universe was altered at Thy Passion, O Word; knowing that Thou boldest all in unity, all created things suffered with Thee.

vs. Even though princes sit plotting against me, Thy servant will meditate on Thy statutes.

23. When devouring Hades engulfed the Rock of Life, in great pain he burst asunder, and the dead held captive from all ages were released.

vs. Thy testimonies are my delight; they are my counselors.

24. Thou, O Christ, wast buried in a new tomb, and the nature of mortals was made new, when as God, Thou didst rise from the dead.

vs. My soul cleaves to the dust; revive me according to Thy word.

25. Wishing to save Adam, Thou didst come down to earth. Not finding him on earth, O Master, Thou didst descend to Hades seeking him.

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

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.

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

We bless thee, O Virgin Theotokos. 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.

Second Stasis (abbreviated for parish use)

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.

vs. Thy hands have made and fashioned me; give me understanding that I may learn Thy commandments.

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

vs. Those who fear Thee shall see me and rejoice, because I have hoped in Thy word.

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.

vs. I know, O Lord, that Thy judgments are right, and that in faithfulness Thou hast afflicted me.

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.

vs. Let Thy steadfast love be ready to comfort me, according to Thy promise to Thy servant.

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.

vs. Let Thy mercy come to me that I may live, for Thy law is my delight.

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.

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

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.

vs. Let those who fear Thee turn to me, that they might know Thy testimonies.

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.

vs. May my heart be blameless in Thy statutes, that I may not be put to shame.

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.

vs. My soul languishes for Thy salvation; I hope in Thy word.

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!

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

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.

vs. For I have become like a wineskin in the smoke, yet I have not forgotten Thy statutes.

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.

vs. How long must Thy servant endure? When wilt Thou judge those who persecute me?

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.

vs. Godless men have dug pitfalls for me, men who do not conform to Thy law.

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."

vs. All Thy commandments are sure; they persecute me with falsehood; help me!

15. O Morning-Star of Righteousness, Thou hast set beneath the earth, and hast raised up all the dead as though from sleep, dispersing all the darkness of hell.

vs. They have almost made an end of me on earth; but I have not forsaken Thy precepts.

16. The Seed that gives life to the world, Twofold in Nature, Sown today with tears in earth's dark furrows, tomorrow will sprout forth life.

vs. In Thy steadfast love spare my life, that I may keep the commandments of Thy mouth.

17. Adam was greatly afraid when God walked in Paradise. Now, with joy he sees God stalking Hades' depths. There he fell, but here he is raised up.

vs. Forever, O Lord, Thy word is firmly fixed in heaven.

18. She who gave birth to Thee, O Christ, poured out her tears for Thee; when she saw Thy Body buried in the tomb, "Arise, as Thou hast promised," she cried.

vs. Thy truth endures to all generations. Thou hast established the earth, and it stands fast.

19. In a new tomb, O Savior, Joseph laid Thee rev'rently, singing lamentations for Thy Exodus, mingled with the voices mourning for Thee.

vs. The day continues by Thy ordinance, for all things are Thy servants.

20. When Thy Mother saw Thee, O Christ, pierced with nails upon the cross, she was smitten with the nails of bitter grief; her soul was pierced, as Simeon foretold.

vs. If Thy law had not been my delight, I should have perished in my affliction.

21. O Sweetness of the universe, when Thy Mother saw Thee drink the bitter vinegar upon the cross, her cheeks were wet with bitter tears.

vs. I will never forget Thy precepts; for by them Thou hast given me life.

22. "I am torn asunder with grief; my heart is wounded unto death, seeing Thee unjustly slaughtered, O my Son," said the All-Pure Virgin in her tears.

vs. I am Thine, save me; for I have sought Thy precepts.

23. "How shall I close Thy lips, O Word, and Thy eyes, so sweet? How shall I prepare Thy Body for the tomb?" Joseph cried in trembling.

vs. The wicked lie in wait to destroy me, but I consider Thy testimonies.

24. Joseph and Nicodemus now sing hymns of burial, as they stand before the tomb of Christ the Lord, and with them sing the seraphim.

vs. I have seen that all things come to an end, but Thy commandment alone is eternal.

25. O Savior, Sun of Righteousness, Thou hast set beneath the earth, and the moon, Thy Mother, is eclipsed with grief, suffering the loss of Thy light

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

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

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

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.

Third Stasis (abbreviated for parish use)

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

vs. Look upon me, and be merciful to me, as is Thy good pleasure toward those who love Thy name.

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

vs. Order my steps according to Thy promise, and let no iniquity have dominion over me.

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

vs. Deliver me from the false accusation of men, that I may keep Thy precepts.

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

vs. Make Thy face to shine upon Thy servant, and teach me Thy statutes.

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

vs. My eyes shed streams of tears, because men do not keep Thy law.

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

vs. Righteous art Thou, O Lord, and right are Thy judgments.

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

vs. Thou hast appointed Thy testimonies in righteousness and in all faithfulness.

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

vs. My zeal consumes me, because my foes forget Thy words.

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

vs. Thy promise is well tried in the fire, and Thy servant loves it.

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

vs. I am small and despised, yet I do not forget Thy precepts.

11. Judas the traitor has become a captive by selling His Deliverer.

vs. Thy righteousness is righteous forever, and Thy law is truth.

12. As Solomon has written, the mouth of the transgressor is a pit of evil.

vs. Trouble and anguish have come upon me, but Thy commandments are my delight.

13. God's chosen people chose to walk on crooked paths. Thorns and snares are in their way!

vs. Thy testimonies are righteous forever; give me understanding that I may live.

14. Joseph and Nicodemus bury the Creator with honors fitting for the dead.

vs. I cry with my whole heart; hear me, O Lord! I will keep Thy statutes.

15. O Life-Giving Savior, Thou hast destroyed hell. Unto Thee be might and glory!

vs. I cry to Thee; save me, that I may observe Thy testimonies.

16. The All-Pure Virgin wept with a mother's grief, O Word, when she saw Thee lying dead.

vs. I rise before dawn and cry for help; I hope in Thy words.

17. "O my sweet springtime, O my sweetest Child, where has all Thy beauty faded?"

vs. My eyes are awake before the morning, that I may meditate upon Thy promise.

18. Thine All-Pure Mother mourned and lamented Thee, when she saw Thee dead, O Word.

vs. Hear my voice according to Thy loving-kindness, O Lord; in Thy judgment give me life.

19. The myrrh-bearing women came at dawn with spices to anoint Christ, the Myrrh of God.

vs. They draw near who persecute me with evil purpose; they are far from Thy law.

20. By dying, O my God, Thou hast put death to death, through Thy divine power.

vs. But Thou art near, O Lord, and all Thy commandments are true.

21. The deceiver has been deceived and those whom he deceived are freed by Thy Wisdom, O my God.

vs. Long have I known from Thy testimonies, that Thou hast founded them forever.

22. The traitor has thrown himself down to the depths of hell and the pit of destruction.

vs. Look on my humiliation and deliver me, for I do not forget Thy law.

23. Foolish and most wretched, Judas chose an evil path. Thorns and snares are in his way!

vs. Judge my cause, and redeem me; give me life according to Thy promise.

24. All who crucified Thee, O Word, shall be destroyed together, O Son of God and King of all.

vs. Salvation is far from the wicked, for they do not seek Thy statutes.

25. All blood-guilty men shall be destroyed together in the pit of destruction.

vs. Great are Thy tender mercies, O Lord; give me life according to Thy justice.

26. O Son of God and King of all, my God and my creator how canst Thou endure such suffering?

vs. Many are my persecutors and my adversaries, but I do not swerve from Thy testimonies.

27. As a ewe beholds her lamb, the Virgin gazed on Thee with grief when she saw Thee hanging on the tree.

vs. I look at the faithless with disgust, because they do not keep Thy commandments.

28. Joseph and Nicodemus bury the Body that gives life to all the world.

vs. Consider how I love Thy precepts! Give me life, according to Thy mercy.

29. The Virgin's heart was pierced. She shed hot tears for Thee, and cried out lamenting.

vs. The sum of Thy word is truth, and every one of Thy righteous ordinances endures forever.

30. "O light of my eyes, O my Beloved Sun, How art Thou now hidden in a tomb?"

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

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

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

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

Evlogitaria of the Resurrection

Fifth Tone

Choir: Blessed art thou, O Lord: teach me thy statutes.

The company of angels was amazed, O Savior, when they beheld thee numbered among the dead, destroying the power of death and with Thee raising up Adam, and releasing all men free from hell.

Blessed art thou, O Lord: teach me thy statutes.

Wherefore, O women disciples, do ye mingle sweet smelling spices with your tears of pity? The radiant angel within the sepulcher cried unto the Myrrh-bearing women: behold the grave, and understand: for the Savior is risen from the tomb

Blessed art thou, O Lord: teach me thy statutes.

Very early in the morning did the myrrh-bearing women run lamenting unto Thy tomb; but an angel came toward them saying: the time for lamentation is passed; weep not; but announce unto the apostles the resurrection

Blessed art thou, O Lord: teach me thy statutes.

The Myrrh-bearing women mourned as, bearing unguents they drew near Thy tomb, O Savior, But the angel spake unto them saying; why number ye the living among the dead? In that He is God, He is risen from the grave.

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

We adore the Father, as also the His Son and Holy Spirit, the holy Trinity in one essence, crying with the Seraphim: Holy, Holy, Holy art Thou, O Lord.

Now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

In that thou didn't bear the Giver of Life, O virgin, thou didst redeem Adam from sin; and give unto Eve joy in place of sadness; and He who was incarnate of thee, both God and man, hath restored to life those who had fallen therefrom.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia. Glory to thee, O God. *(thrice)*

Little Litany

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

Choir: R. Lord, have mercy. (*And so after each of the following petitions.*)

Deacon: Help us, save us, have mercy on us, and keep us, O God, by thy grace. R.

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 the King of peace, O Christ our God, and unto thee do we send up glory; to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages.

Choir: Amen.

Sessional Hymns

Choir: (First Tone) 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 50

Reader: Have mercy on me, O God, according to Thy great mercy; and according to the multitude of Thy compassions blot out my transgression. Wash me thoroughly from mine iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin. For I know mine iniquity, and my sin is ever before me. Against Thee only have I sinned and done this evil before Thee, that Thou mightest be justified in Thy words, and prevail when Thou art judged. For behold, I was conceived in iniquities, and in sins did my mother bear me. For behold, Thou hast loved truth; the hidden and secret things of Thy wisdom hast Thou made manifest unto me. Thou shalt

sprinkle me with hyssop, and I shall be made clean; Thou shalt wash me, and I shall be made whiter than snow. Thou shalt make me to hear joy and gladness; the bones that be humbled, they shall rejoice. Turn Thy face away from my sins, and blot out all mine iniquities. Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from Thy presence, and take not Thy Holy Spirit from me. Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation, and with Thy governing Spirit establish me. I shall teach transgressors Thy ways, and the ungodly shall turn back unto Thee. Deliver me from blood-guiltiness, O God, Thou God of my salvation; my tongue shall rejoice in Thy righteousness. O Lord, Thou shalt open my lips, and my mouth shall declare Thy praise. For if Thou hadst desired sacrifice, I had given it; with whole-burnt offerings Thou shalt not be pleased. A sacrifice unto God is a broken spirit; a heart that is broken and humbled God will not despise. Do good, O Lord, in Thy good pleasure unto Sion, and let the walls of Jerusalem be builded. Then shalt Thou be pleased with a sacrifice of righteousness, with oblation and whole-burnt offerings. Then shall they offer bullocks upon Thine altar.

The Canon

First Ode

Choir: Irmos, (Sixth Tone) 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.

Verse: Glory to thee, our God, glory to thee.

Reader: 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.

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

Reader: 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.

Third Ode

Choir: (Irmos, Sixth Tone) 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."

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

Reader: 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.

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

Reader: 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."

Little Litany

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

Choir: R. Lord, have mercy. (*And so after each of the following petitions.*)

Deacon: Help us, save us, have mercy on us, and keep us, O God, by thy grace. R.

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 our God, and unto thee do we send up glory: to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages.

Choir: Amen.

Sessional Hymn

First Tone

Choir: The soldiers keeping watch over thy tomb, O Saviour, became as dead men in the presence of the shining angel, who proclaimed the Resurrection to the women. We glorify thee, for thou hast destroyed corruption. We fall down before thee, risen from the tomb, our only God.

Fourth Ode

Choir: (Irmos, Sixth Tone) Foreseeing Thy divine humiliation on the cross, Habakkuk cried out trembling: "Thou didst shatter the dominion of the mighty by joining those in hell as the almighty Lord."

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

Reader: 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.

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

Reader: 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.

Fifth Ode

Choir: Irmos, (Sixth Tone) 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."

Verse: Glory to thee, our God, glory to thee.

Reader: 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.

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

Reader: 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.

Sixth Ode

Choir: Irmos, (Sixth Tone) 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."

Verse: Glory to thee, our God, glory to thee.

Reader: 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.

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

Reader: 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.

Little Litany

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

Choir: R. Lord, have mercy. (*And so after each of the following petitions.*)

Deacon: Help us, save us, have mercy on us, and keep us, O God, by thy grace. R.

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 the King of peace and the Savior of our souls, and unto thee do we send up glory: to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages.

Choir: Amen.

Kontakion

Choir: (Sixth Tone) 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."

Irmos

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."

Seventh Ode

Choir: Irmos (Sixth Tone) 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!"

Verse: Glory to thee, our God, glory to thee.

Reader: 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!"

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

Reader: 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!"

Eighth Ode

Choir: Irmos (Sixth Tone) 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!

Verse: Glory to thee, our God, glory to thee.

Reader: 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!

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

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

Katavasia

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

Choir: Katavasia (Sixth Tone) 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!

Ninth Ode

Choir: Irmos (Sixth Tone) 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.

Verse: Glory to thee, our God, glory to thee.

Reader: "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."

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

Reader: "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!"

Katavasia

Choir: Irmos (Sixth Tone) 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.

Little Litany

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

Choir: R. Lord, have mercy. (*And so after each of the following petitions.*)

Deacon: Help us, save us, have mercy on us, and keep us, O God, by thy grace. R.

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 all the powers of heaven praise thee, and unto thee do we send up glory: to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages.

Choir: Amen.

Holy is the Lord our God

Deacon: In the second tone. Holy is the Lord our God.

Choir: Holy is the Lord our God.

Deacon: For holy is the Lord our God.

Choir: Holy is the Lord our God.

Deacon: Above all peoples is our God.

Choir: Holy is the Lord our God.

The Praises

Second Tone

Choir: Let every breath 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 ye His angels; praise him, all ye his hosts. To thee, O God, is due a song.

Reader: Praise him for his mighty deeds, praise him according to His exceeding greatness.

Choir: Today a tomb holds him who holds the creation in the hollow of his hand; a stone covers him who covered the heavens with glory. Life sleeps and hell trembles, and Adam is set free from his bonds. Glory to thy dispensation, whereby thou hast accomplished all things, granting us an eternal Sabbath, thy most holy Resurrection from the dead.

Reader: Praise him with trumpet sounds, praise him with lute and harp.

Choir: What is this sight that we behold? What is this present rest? The King of the ages, having through his passion fulfilled the plan of salvation, keeps Sabbath in the tomb, granting us a new Sabbath. Unto him let us cry aloud: Arise, O Lord, judge thou the earth, for measureless is thy great mercy and thou dost reign for ever.

Reader: Praise him with the timbrel and dance, praise him with strings and pipe.

Choir: Come, let us see our Life lying in the tomb, that he may give life to those that in their tombs lie dead. Come, let us look today on the Son of Judah as he sleeps, and with the prophet let us cry aloud to him: thou hast lain down, thou hast slept as a lion; who shall

awaken thee, O King? But of thine own free will do thou rise up, who willingly dost give thyself for us. O Lord, glory to thee.

Reader: *In the sixth tone.* Praise him with sounding cymbals, praise him with loud clashing cymbals

Sixth Tone

Choir: Joseph asked for the body of Jesus and he laid it in his own new tomb: for it was fitting that the Lord should come forth from the grave as from a bridal chamber. O thou who hast broken the power of death and opened the gates of Paradise to men, glory to thee.

Reader: In the same tone. Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

Choir: The great Moses mystically foreshadowed this day, saying: “And God blessed the seventh day.” This is the blessed Sabbath, it is the day of rest, and on it the only-begotten Son of God rested from all His work, and through the dispensation of death, in the flesh He rested. On this day He returned again through the resurrection and as a righteous and merciful Lord bestowed on us eternal life.

The holy doors are now opened, and all the clergy come through them to the epitaphion.

Reader: In the second tone. Now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Second Tone

Choir: Most blessed art thou, O virgin birth-giver of God, for through him who was incarnate from thee, Hades was made captive, Adam was recalled, the curse was annulled, Eve was set free, death was put to death, and we were endued with Life. Wherefore with hymns we cry: Blessed art Thou, O Christ our God, who did so will, glory to Thee.

The Great Doxology

Priest: Glory to thee who hast shown us the light.

Choir: Glory to God in the highest, and on earth, peace, good will to men. We praise Thee, we bless Thee, we worship Thee, we glorify Thee, we give thanks to Thee for Thy great glory. O Lord God, 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 God the Father, have mercy on us. For Thou only art holy; Thou only art the Lord, Thou only, O Jesus Christ, art most high in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

Every day will I give thanks to Thee, and praise Thy Name forever and ever.

Vouchsafe, O Lord, to keep us this day without sin. Blessed art Thou, O Lord, the God of our Fathers, and praised and glorified be Thy name unto the ages. Amen.

Let Thy merciful kindness, O Lord, be upon us, as we have put our trust in Thee. Blessed art Thou, O Lord, teach me Thy statutes. Blessed art Thou, O Lord, teach me Thy statutes. Blessed art Thou, O Lord, teach me Thy statutes.

Lord, thou hast been our refuge from generation to generation. I said Lord, be merciful to me, heal my soul, for I have sinned against Thee. O Lord, I flee to Thee, teach me to do Thy will, for Thou art my God. For with Thee is the fountain of life, in Thy light shall we see light. O continue Thy lovingkindness to those who know Thee.

Procession

Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal: have mercy on us. *(thrice)*

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.

Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal: have mercy on us. *(repeated for the entirety of the procession)*

At the final Holy God..., the priest takes up the winding sheet; either assisted in holding it by other priests or by pious laymen, and he then takes up the Gospel.

They go in procession immediately from the tomb to the outside of the temple. The pro-cession turns left, going counter-clockwise, in walking around the temple.

The order for the procession is as follows: beginning with the processional torch or lantern; the processional Cross; the choir; the altar servers, walking in pairs, holding candles; the deacons, who slowly cense the winding sheet (if no deacon is serving, an altar server holds, but does not swing, the censer); the winding sheet; and finally the people, carrying their lit candles.

After reentering the temple, the winding sheet is carried up to the holy doors. The priest says,

Priest: Wisdom. Let us attend.

Troparion

Second Tone

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

Deacon: Wisdom.

Reader: The Troparion of the prophecy in the second tone.

Troparion of the Prophecy

Second Tone

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

Deacon: Wisdom.

Reader: The Prokimenon in the fourth tone. Arise, O Lord, and help us! Deliver us for Thy Name's sake.

Prokimenon

Sixth Tone

Choir: Arise, O Lord, and help us! Deliver us for Thy Name's sake..

Reader: 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.

Choir: Arise, O Lord, and help us! Deliver us for Thy Name's sake.

Reader: Arise, O Lord, and help us...

Choir: ...Deliver us for Thy Name's sake.

Deacon: Wisdom.

Reader: The reading from the prophecy of Ezekiel.

Deacon: Let us attend.

Ezekiel 37:1–14

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, 'Ye dry bones, hear the word of the Lord! Thus saith 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 saith 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 saith 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, saith the Lord.’”

Deacon: Wisdom.

Reader: The Prokimenon in the seventh tone. Arise, O Lord my God, lift up thine hand! Forget not thy poor forever!

Prokimenon Seventh Tone

Choir: Arise, O Lord my God, lift up thine hand! Forget not thy poor forever!

Reader: I will give thanks to thee, O Lord, with my whole heart. I will tell of all thy wonders.

Choir: Arise, O Lord my God, lift up thine hand! Forget not thy poor forever!

Reader: Arise, O Lord my God, lift up thine hand!

Choir: Forget not thy poor forever!

Deacon: Wisdom.

Reader: The reading from the first epistle of the Holy Apostle Paul to the Corinthians.

Deacon: Let us attend.

1 Corinthians 5:6–8; Galatians 3:13–14

Reader: Brethren, a little leaven leavens the whole lump. Therefore purge out the old leaven, that ye may be a new lump, since ye truly are unleavened. For even Christ, our Pascha, was sacrificed for us. Therefore let us keep the feast, not with old leaven, nor with the leaven of malice and wickedness, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth. Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us (for it is written, “cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree”), that the blessing of Abraham might come on the Gentiles through Christ Jesus, that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith.

Priest: Peace be unto thee, reader.

Reader: And to thy spirit.

Deacon: Wisdom.

Reader: The Alleluia in the fifth tone. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia. Let God arise, and let his enemies be scattered. Let those who hate him flee from before his face.

Choir: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

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

Choir: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Reader: So the sinners will perish before the face of God, but let the righteous be glad.

Choir: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

The Gospel

Deacon: And that we may be accounted worthy of hearing the holy Gospel, let us pray to the Lord God.

Choir: Lord, have mercy. (*thrice*)

Deacon: Wisdom. Stand upright. Let us hear the holy Gospel.

Priest: Peace be unto all.

Choir: And to thy spirit.

Priest: The reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Choir: Glory to thee, O Lord, glory to thee.

Deacon: Let us attend.

Matthew 27:62–66; §114

Priest: On the next day, that followed the day of the preparation, the chief priests and Pharisees came together unto Pilate, saying, “Sir, we remember that that deceiver said, while he was yet alive, ‘After three days I will rise again.’ Command therefore that the sepulchre be made sure until the third day, lest his disciples come by night, and steal him away, and say unto the people, ‘He is risen from the dead’: so the last error shall be worse than the first.” Pilate said unto them, “Ye have a watch: go your way, make it as sure as ye can.” So they went, and made the sepulchre sure, sealing the stone, and setting a watch.

Choir: Glory to thee, O Lord, glory to thee.

The Augmented Litany

Deacon: Have mercy on us, O God, according to thy great goodness, we pray thee, hearken and have mercy.

Choir: R. Lord, have mercy. (*thrice*) (*And so after each of the following petitions.*)

Deacon: Again we pray for our Metropolitan N., for our Bishop [or Archbishop] N., and for all our brethren in Christ. R.

Again we pray for this country, its President (*or title of the highest civil authority*), for all civil authorities, and for the armed forces. R.

Again we pray for the blessed and ever-memorable holy Orthodox Patriarchs; and for the blessed and ever-memorable founders of this holy church; [for NN.,] and for all our fathers and brethren, the Orthodox departed this life before us, who here and in all the world lie asleep in the Lord. R.

Again we pray for mercy, life, peace, health, salvation, and visitation for the servants of God, [NN., and for] the brethren of this holy temple, and for the pardon and remission of their sins. R.

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

Priest: For thou art a merciful God and lovest mankind, and unto thee do we send up glory: to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages.

Choir: Amen.

The Morning Litany

Deacon: Let us complete our morning prayer unto the Lord.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: Help us, save us, have mercy on us, and keep us, O God, by thy grace.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

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

Choir: R. Grant this, O Lord. (*And so after each of the following petitions.*)

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

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

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

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

A Christian ending to our life, painless, blameless, and peaceful, and a good defence before the dread Judgment Seat of Christ, let us ask. R.

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 do we send up 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 thy spirit.

Deacon: Let us bow our heads unto the Lord.

Choir: To thee, O Lord.

And the priest, with uncovered head:

Priest: O Holy Lord who dwellest on high and regardest the humble of heart, and with thine all-seeing eye dost behold all creation: unto thee have we bowed the neck of our soul and body, and we entreat 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, whether voluntarily or involuntarily, forgive, inasmuch as thou art a good God, and lovest mankind, granting us thine earthly and heavenly good things.

Exclamation: For thine it is to show mercy and to save us, O our God, and unto thee do we send up glory: to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages.

Choir: Amen.

The Dismissal

Deacon: Wisdom.

Choir: Father bless.

Priest: Blessed be He Who Is, Christ our God, always, now and ever and unto ages of ages.

Choir: Amen. Confirm, O God, the holy Orthodox faith of 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. (*thrice*)

Father bless.

The priest says the Dismissal from the ambo.

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.

