

Matins on Holy Saturday

Matins on Holy Saturday

The Royal Office

The priest, in epitrachelion, opens the curtain; the holy doors remain closed. He comes before the tomb. Taking the censer in his right hand, he begins:

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 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.

Come, let us worship God our King.

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

Come, let us worship and fall down before Christ Himself, our King and our God. (*with three bows*)

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

Choir: Amen.

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

O Lord, open thou my lips, and my mouth shall show forth thy praise. (*twice*)

Psalm 3

Lord, why are they increased that trouble me? Many are they that rise against me. Many one there be that say of 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 did call upon the Lord with my voice, and he heard me out of his holy hill. I laid me down and slept, and rose up again, for the Lord will sustain me. I will not be afraid for ten thousands of the people that have set themselves against me round about. Arise, O Lord; save me, O my God, for thou hast smitten all who without cause are mine enemy; thou hast broken the teeth of sinners. Salvation is of the Lord, and thy blessing is upon thy people.

I laid me down and slept, and rose up again, for the Lord will sustain me.

Psalm 37

O Lord, rebuke me not in thine anger, neither chasten me in thy wrath: for thine arrows are stuck fast in me, and thy hand presseth me sore. There is no health in my flesh, because of thy displeasure; neither is there any rest in my bones, by reason of my sin. For my wickednesses are gone over my head; like a sore burden have they become too heavy for me. My wounds stink, and are corrupt, because of my foolishness. I am brought into great torment and misery; I go mourning all the day long. For my loins are filled with sores, and there is no healing in my flesh. I was bitter, and utterly humbled; I roared for the very groaning of my heart. Lord, all my desire is before thee, and my lamentation is not hid from thee. My heart is troubled; my strength hath failed me, and the light of mine eyes, even that is gone from me. My friends and my neighbors came right up to me and confronted me, while my kinsmen stood afar off, and they that sought my soul clamored for it; and they that wished me evil spake vanity, and imagined deceit all the day long. But I was like a deaf man, and heard not, and as one that is dumb, who doth not open his mouth. And I became as a man that heareth not, and in whose mouth are no reproofs. For in thee, O Lord, have

I put my trust; thou wilt hear me, O Lord my God. For I said, Let never mine enemies triumph over me; for when my foot slipped, they boasted against me. For I am ready for scourges, and my pain is ever before me. For I will confess my wickedness, and be sorry for my sin. But mine enemies live, and are stronger than I, and they are become many that hate me wrongfully. They also that reward me evil for good have slandered me, because I follow the thing that good is. Forsake me not, O Lord my God, be not far from me. Attend unto my help, O Lord of my salvation.

Forsake me not, O Lord my God, be not far from me. Attend unto my help, O Lord of my salvation.

Psalm 62

O God, my God, early will I seek thee. My soul hath thirsted for thee, and how my flesh also hath longed after thee in a barren and empty land where no water is. Thus have I looked for thee in the sanctuary, that I might behold thy power and thy glory. For thy mercy is better than life itself; my lips shall praise thee. I will bless thee in my life on this manner: I will lift up my hands in thy name. For my soul shall be satisfied, even as it were with marrow and fatness, and my mouth shall praise thee with joyful lips. If I remembered thee upon my bed, in the morning I would take comfort in thee, because thou hast been my helper, and in the shelter of thy wings will I rejoice. My soul hath hanged upon thee; thy right hand hath upholden me. These also that in vain seek my soul shall go under the earth. They shall be given over to the hand of the sword; they shall be a portion for foxes. But the King shall rejoice in God; every one that sweareth by him shall be commended, for the mouth of them that speak lies hath been stopped.

In the morning I would take comfort in thee, because thou hast been my helper, and in the shelter of thy wings will I rejoice. My soul hath hanged upon thee; thy right hand hath upholden 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. *(thrice)*

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. The Lord is God 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. The Lord is God 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.

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

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.

The holy doors are opened, and the priest and concelebrating clergy come to the epitaphion through the holy doors. The main celebrant distributes candles to the concelebrants. The people also light and hold their candles while the priest does a Great Censing (in the same style as the Magnification censing at a festal Matins) with the deacon, beginning and ending at the tomb.

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

Second Tone

Choir: Noble Joseph, taking down thy most pure body from the Tree, wrapped it in clean linen with sweet spices, and he laid it in a new tomb.

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

Going down to death, O Life immortal, thou hast slain hell with the dazzling light of thy divinity. And when thou hast raised up the dead from their dwelling place beneath the earth, all the powers of heaven cried aloud: "Giver of Life, O Christ our God, glory to thee."

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

The angel stood by the tomb, and to the women bearing spices he cried aloud: "Myrrh is fitting for the dead, but Christ has shown himself a stranger to corruption."

The Lamentations

The choir and clergy alternate the following. In some traditions, the choir sings the Psalm verses while the priest chants the megalyrnarion; in other traditions, the opposite is true.

Note in the following that the verses from the stases are preceded by V.

First Stasis

Fifth Tone

The Choir and the Clergy sing the Stasis.

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 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.

At the beginning of the second stasis, the priest censens the epitaphion from the four sides, the iconostasis and the people.

Second Stasis

Fifth Tone

The Choir and Clergy sing the Second Stasis

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 holy art thou, O our God, who dost rest upon the glorious throne of the cherubim, and unto thee do we send up glory; together with thine eternal Father and thy most holy, good and life-creating Spirit, now and ever, and to the ages of ages. Amen.

Choir: Amen.

At the beginning of the third stasis, the priest censens the epitaphion from the four sides, the iconostasis and the people.

Third Stasis

Third Tone

The Choir and Clergy sing the Third Stasis

Evlogitaria of the Resurrection

Fifth Tone

The priest and deacon now do a whole censuring of the Church as at the Evlogitaria of a festal Matins, beginning and ending at the tomb.

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

The company of angels was amazed, beholding thee, O Saviour, numbered among the dead, who hast destroyed the power of death and raised up Adam with thyself, setting all men free from hell.

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

“Why mingle ye sweet-smelling ointment with tears of pity, O ye women disciples?” cried the angel who shone as lightning within the tomb to the women bearing myrrh.

“Behold the tomb and rejoice: for the Saviour has risen from the grave.”

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

The women bearing myrrh hastened early in the morning to thy tomb, lamenting; but the angel came to them and said: “The time for lamentation is ended; weep not: but tell the apostles of the Resurrection.”

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

The women bearing myrrh came with sweet spices to thy tomb, O Saviour. But they heard an angel say to them: “Why count ye the Living among the dead? For as God he has risen from the tomb.”

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

We worship the Father together with his Son and the Holy Spirit, the Holy Trinity, one in Essence, and we cry with the seraphim: Holy, holy, holy art thou, O Lord,

Now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

O Virgin, who hast borne the Giver of Life, thou hast delivered Adam from sin, and to Eve thou hast brought joy in place of sorrow. He that took flesh from thee, who is both God and man, has restored the fallen unto life.

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.

The clergy go into the altar. The holy doors are closed. The priests remove their phelonia.

First Tone

Choir: Joseph begged thy holy body from Pilate and, anointing it with sweet-smelling spices, he wrapped it in clean linen and laid it in a new tomb; and early in the morning the women bearing myrrh cried out: “As thou hast foretold, O Christ, show to us the Resurrection.”

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

Sessional Hymns

As thou hast foretold, O Christ, show to us the Resurrection.

Now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

The angelic choirs are filled with wonder, beholding him who rests in the bosom of the Father laid in the tomb as one dead, though he is immortal. The ranks of angels surround him, and with the dead in hell they glorify him as Creator and Lord.

Psalm 50

Reader: Have mercy upon me, O God, after thy great goodness, and according to the multitude of thy mercies do away mine offences. Wash me thoroughly from my wickedness, and cleanse me from my sin. For I know my fault, and my sin is ever before me. Against thee only have I sinned, and done evil before thee, that thou mightest be justified in thy words, and prevail when thou art judged. For behold, I was conceived in wickedness, and

in sins did my mother bear me. For behold, thou hast loved truth; the hidden and secret things of thy wisdom hast thou revealed unto me. Thou shalt sprinkle me with hyssop, and I shall be made clean; thou shalt wash me, and I shall become whiter than snow. Thou shalt give joy and gladness to my hearing; the bones that have been humbled will rejoice. Turn thy face from my sins, and put out all my misdeeds. Make 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. O give me the comfort of thy salvation, and stablish me with thy governing Spirit. Then shall I teach thy ways unto the wicked, and the ungodly shall be converted unto thee. Deliver me from blood-guiltiness, O God, the God of my salvation, and my tongue shall rejoice in thy righteousness. O Lord, open thou my lips, and my mouth shall show forth thy praise. For if thou hadst desired sacrifice, I would have given it; but thou delightest not in burnt offerings. The sacrifice unto God is a contrite spirit; a contrite and humble heart God shall not despise. O Lord, be favorable in thy good will unto Zion, and let the walls of Jerusalem be builded up. Then shalt thou be pleased with the sacrifice of righteousness, with oblation and whole-burnt offerings; then shall they offer young bullocks upon thine altar.

First Ode

Irmos, Sixth Tone

Choir: He who in ancient times hid the pursuing tyrant beneath the waves of the sea, is hidden beneath the earth by the children of those whom once he saved. But as the maidens let us sing unto the Lord, for he is greatly glorified.

The following troparia may be read by one or two readers.⁵ In each ode the troparia are repeated so as to make up the number twelve. The irmos is sung also as the katavasia.

Reader: R. Glory to thee, our God, glory to thee.

O Lord my God, I will sing to thee a funeral hymn, a song at thy burial: for by thy burial thou hast opened for me the gates of life, and by thy death thou hast slain death and hell.
R.

All things above and all beneath the earth quaked with fear at thy death, as they beheld thee, O my Saviour, upon thy throne on high and in the tomb below. For beyond our understanding thou dost lie before our eyes, a corpse yet the very Source of Life. R.

To fill all things with thy glory, thou hast gone down into the nethermost parts of the earth: for my person that is in Adam has not been hidden from thee, but in thy love for man thou art buried in the tomb and dost restore me from corruption. R.

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

Katavasia, Sixth Tone

Choir: He who in ancient times hid the pursuing tyrant beneath the waves of the sea, is hidden beneath the earth by the children of those whom once he saved. But as the maidens let us sing unto the Lord, for he is greatly glorified.

Third Ode

Irmos, Sixth Tone

Choir: When the creation beheld thee hanging in Golgotha, who hast hung the whole earth freely upon the waters, it was seized with amazement and it cried: "There is none holy save thee, O Lord."

Reader: R. Glory to thee, our God, glory to thee.

Signs and tokens of thy burial thou hast disclosed in a multitude of visions; and now, O Master, as both God and man, thou hast revealed thy hidden secrets unto those in hell who cry: "There is none holy save thee, O Lord." R.

Thou hast stretched out thine arms and united all that before was separated; wrapped in a winding-sheet, O Saviour, and buried in a tomb, thou hast loosed the prisoners, and they cry: "There is none holy save thee, O Lord." R.

O thou whom nothing can contain, of thine own will thou wast enclosed and sealed within the tomb: but through thine energies thou hast as God revealed thy power to those who sing: "There is none holy save thee, O Lord who lovest mankind." R.

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

Katavasia, Sixth Tone

Choir: When the creation beheld thee hanging in Golgotha, who hast hung the whole earth freely upon the waters, it was seized with amazement and it cried: "There is none holy save thee, O Lord."

The deacon, standing before the tomb, now says the Little Litany (or, if no deacon is serving, the priest, remaining before the holy table, says the Little Litany).

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.

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

The soldiers keeping watch...

Fourth Ode

Irmos, Sixth Tone

Choir: Foreseeing thy divine self-emptying upon the Cross, Habakkuk cried out marvelling: "Thou hast cut short the strength of the powerful, O gracious and almighty Lord, and preached to those in hell."

Reader: R. Glory to thee, our God, glory to thee.

Today thou dost keep holy the seventh day, which thou hast blessed of old by resting from thy works. Thou bringest all things into being and thou makest all things new, observing the sabbath rest, my Saviour, and restoring thy strength. R.

Thou hast gained the victory by thy greater strength: thy soul was parted from thy body, yet by thy power, O Word, thou hast burst asunder the bonds of death and hell. R.

Hell was filled with bitterness when it met thee, O Word, for it saw a mortal deified, marked by wounds yet all-powerful; and it shrank back in terror at this sight. R.

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

Then follows the katavasia, sung by the choir:

Katavasia, Sixth Tone

Choir: Foreseeing thy divine self-emptying upon the Cross, Habakkuk cried out marvelling: “Thou hast cut short the strength of the powerful, O gracious and almighty Lord, and preached to those in hell.”

Fifth Ode

Irmos, Sixth Tone

Choir: Isaiah, as he watched by night, beheld the light that knows no evening, the light of thy Theophany, O Christ, that came to pass from tender love for us; and he cried aloud: “The dead shall arise and they that dwell in the tomb shall be raised up, and all those born on the earth shall rejoice exceedingly.”

Reader: R. Glory to thee, our God, glory to thee.

Becoming a creature formed from dust, O Creator, thou makest new those born on earth. The winding-sheet and tomb point, O Word, to the mystery that is within thee. For the honourable counsellor fulfils the counsel of thy Father, who has gloriously refashioned me in thee. R.

By death dost thou transform mortality, and by thy burial, corruption. With divine power thou makest incorruptible the nature thou hast taken, rendering it immortal; for, O Master, thy flesh saw not corruption, nor was thy soul left in hell as that of a stranger. R.

Coming forth from a birth without travail and wounded in thy side with a spear, O my Maker, thou hast brought to pass the recreation of Eve. Becoming Adam, thou hast in ways surpassing nature slept a life-giving sleep, awakening life from sleep and from corruption by thine almighty power. R.

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

Katavasia, Sixth Tone

Choir: Isaiah, as he watched by night, beheld the light that knows no evening, the light of thy Theophany, O Christ, that came to pass from tender love for us; and he cried aloud: “The dead shall arise and they that dwell in the tomb shall be raised up, and all those born on the earth shall rejoice exceedingly.”

Sixth Ode

Irmos, Sixth Tone

Choir: Jonah was enclosed but not held fast in the belly of the whale; for, serving as a figure of thee, who hast suffered and wast buried in the tomb, he leapt forth from the monster as from a bridal chamber and he called out to the watch: “O ye who keep guard falsely and in vain, ye have forsaken your own mercy.”

Reader: R. Glory to thee, our God, glory to thee.

Thou wast torn but not separated, O Word, from the flesh that thou hadst taken. For though thy temple was destroyed at the time of thy passion, yet the Person of thy Godhead and of thy flesh is but one; in both thou art one Son, the Word of God, both God and man. R.

The fall of Adam brought death to man but not to God. For though the earthly substance of thy flesh suffered, yet the Godhead remained impassible; that which was corruptible in thy human nature thou hast transformed to incorruption, and by thy Resurrection thou hast revealed a fountain of immortal life. R.

Hell is king over mortal men, but not for ever. Laid in the sepulchre, mighty Lord, with thy life-giving hand thou hast burst asunder the bars of death. To those from every age who slept in the tombs, thou hast proclaimed true deliverance, O Savior, who art become the firstborn from the dead. R.

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

Katavasia, Sixth Tone

Choir: Jonah was enclosed but not held fast in the belly of the whale; for, serving as a figure of thee, who hast suffered and wast buried in the tomb, he leapt forth from the monster as from a bridal chamber and he called out to the watch: “O ye who keep guard falsely and in vain, ye have forsaken your own mercy.”

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

Sixth Tone

He who closed the abyss lies before us dead; and as a corpse the Immortal is wrapped in linen with sweet spices and laid in a tomb. The women come to anoint him with myrrh, weeping bitterly and crying: "This is the most blessed Sabbath on which Christ sleeps, but on the third day he shall rise again."

Irmos

He who holds all things in unity was lifted on the Cross, and the whole creation wept to see him hanging naked on the Tree. The sun hid its rays and the stars cast aside their brightness; the earth shook in mighty fear, the sea fled and the rocks were rent, and many graves were opened and the bodies of the saints arose. Hell groaned below and the Jews considered how to spread false tidings against Christ's Resurrection. But the women cried aloud: "This is the most blessed Sabbath on which Christ sleeps, but on the third day he shall rise again."

Seventh Ode

Irmos, Sixth Tone

Choir: Wonder past speech! He who delivered the holy children from the fiery furnace, is laid a corpse without breath in the tomb, for our salvation who sing: O God our Deliverer, blessed art thou.

Reader: R. Glory to thee, our God, glory to thee.

Hell was wounded in the heart when it received him whose side was pierced by the spear; consumed by divine fire it groaned aloud at our salvation who sing: O God our Deliverer, blessed art thou. R.

O happy tomb! It received within itself the Creator, as one asleep, and it was made a divine treasury of life, for our salvation who sing: O God our Deliverer, blessed art thou. R.

The Life of all submits to be laid in the tomb, according to the law of the dead, and he makes it a source of awakening, for our salvation who sing: O God our Deliverer, blessed art thou. R.

In hell and in the tomb and in Eden, the Godhead of Christ was indivisibly united with the Father and the Spirit, for our salvation who sing: O God our Deliverer, blessed art thou. R.

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

Katavasia, Sixth Tone

Choir: Wonder past speech! He who delivered the holy children from the fiery furnace, is laid a corpse without breath in the tomb, for our salvation who sing: O God our Deliverer, blessed art thou.

Eighth Ode

Irmos, Sixth Tone

Choir: Be ye astonished, O ye heavens, be ye horribly afraid, and let the foundations of the earth be shaken. For lo, he who dwells on high is numbered with the dead and lodges as a stranger in a narrow tomb. Him do ye children bless, ye priests praise, and ye people exalt above all for ever.

Reader: R. Glory to thee, our God, glory to thee.

The most pure Temple is destroyed, but raises up the fallen tabernacle. The second Adam, he who dwells on high, has come down to the first Adam in the depths of hell. Him do ye children bless, ye priests praise, and ye people exalt above all for ever. R.

The disciples' courage failed, but Joseph of Arimathaea was more bold; for seeing the God of all a corpse and naked, he asked for the body and buried him, crying: him do ye children bless, ye priests praise, and ye people exalt above all for ever. R.

O strange wonders! O love and infinite forbearance! He who dwells on high is sealed beneath the earth with His own consent, and God is falsely accused as a deceiver. Him do ye children bless, ye priests praise, and ye people exalt above all for ever. R.

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

Katavasia, Sixth Tone

Choir: Be ye astonished, O ye heavens, be ye horribly afraid, and let the foundations of the earth be shaken. For lo, he who dwells on high is numbered with the dead and lodges as a stranger in a narrow tomb. Him do ye children bless, ye priests praise, and ye people exalt above all for ever.

The deacon (or priest, if no deacon is serving) now does a full censuring of the Church. The Magnificat is not appointed. This censuring may start earlier depending on available time.

Ninth Ode

Irmos, Sixth Tone

Choir: Weep not for me, O Mother, beholding in the sepulchre the Son whom thou hast conceived without seed in thy womb. For I shall rise and shall be glorified, and as God I shall exalt in everlasting glory those who magnify thee with faith and love.

Reader: R. Glory to thee, our God, glory to thee.

“O Son without beginning, in ways surpassing nature was I blessed at thy strange birth, for I was spared all travail. But now beholding thee, my God, a lifeless corpse, I am pierced by the sword of bitter sorrow. But arise, that I may be magnified.” R.

“By mine own will the earth covers me, O Mother, but the gatekeepers of hell tremble as they see me, clothed in the bloodstained garment of vengeance: for on the Cross as God have I struck down mine enemies, and I shall rise again and magnify thee.”R.

“Let the creation rejoice exceedingly, let all those born on earth be glad: for hell, the enemy, has been despoiled. Ye women, come to meet me with sweet spices: for I am delivering Adam and Eve with all their offspring, and on the third day I shall rise again.”R.

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

Katavasia, Sixth Tone

Choir: Weep not for me, O Mother, beholding in the sepulchre the Son whom thou hast conceived without seed in thy womb. For I shall rise and shall be glorified, and as God I shall exalt in everlasting glory those who magnify thee with faith and love.

The deacon, standing before the tomb, now says the Little Litany (or, if no deacon is serving, the priest, remaining before the holy table).

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.

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 main celebrant now vests as for Divine Liturgy.

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 acts, praise him according to the multitude of his 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 the sound of the trumpet, praise him upon the psaltery 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 upon the 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 upon the well-tuned cymbals, praise him upon the cymbals of jubilation. Let every thing that hath breath praise the Lord.

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: Moses the great mystically prefigured this present day, saying: “And God blessed the seventh day.” For this is the blessed Sabbath, this is the day of rest, on which the only-begotten Son of God rested from all his works. Suffering death in accordance with the plan of salvation, he kept the Sabbath in the flesh; and returning once again to what he was, through his Resurrection he has granted us eternal life, for he alone is good and loves mankind.

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 Theotokos, for through him who took flesh from thee, is hell led captive, Adam recalled from the dead, the curse made void, Eve set free, and we are given life. Therefore we cry aloud in praise: Blessed art thou, O Christ our God, who hast so been pleased: Glory to thee.

Great Doxology

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

The main celebrant and deacon now cense three times around the tomb.

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, 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, O Jesus Christ, to the glory of God the Father. Amen.

Every day will I give thanks to thee and praise thy name forever; yea, for ever and ever.

Vouchsafe, O Lord, that we may be kept 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. Blessed art thou, O Master: make me to understand thy statutes. Blessed art thou, O Holy One: enlighten me with thy statutes.

Lord, thou hast been our refuge from generation to generation. I said, Lord, be merciful to me and heal my soul, for I have sinned against thee. Lord, I have fled 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. O continue thy mercy upon them that know thee.

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 epitaphion; he is 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 procession 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 epitaphion (if no deacon is serving, an altar server holds, but does not swing, the censer); the epitaphion; and finally the people, carrying their lit candles.

While the procession, by custom, goes around the temple three times, only one time is actually call for.

After reentering the temple, the epitaphion is carried onto the amvon up to the holy doors. The priest says,

Priest: Wisdom. Stand upright.

Troparion

Second Tone

Choir: Noble Joseph, taking down thy most pure body from the Tree, wrapped it in clean linen with sweet spices, and he laid it in a new tomb.

During the singing of the troparion, the epitaphion is placed back on the tomb, carried feet first. The Gospel is replaced upon it. The priest and deacon cense around the tomb once. The clergy remain before the tomb until the end of the service. Following the troparion, the deacon intones,

Deacon: Wisdom.

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

Troparion of the Prophecy

Second Tone

Choir: O Christ, who holdest fast the ends of the earth, thou hast accepted to be held fast within the tomb, to deliver man from his fall into hell; and as immortal God thou hast conferred upon us immortality and life.

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

O Christ, who holdest fast...

Deacon: Wisdom.

Reader: The prokimenon in the fourth tone. Arise, Lord, and help us: and deliver us for thy Name's sake.

Prokimenon

Sixth Tone

Choir: Arise, Lord, and help us: and deliver us for thy Name's sake.

Reader: We have heard with our ears, O God, and our fathers have told us.

Choir: Arise, Lord, and help us: and deliver us for thy Name's sake.

Reader: Arise, Lord, and help us.

Choir: And 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, “Prophecy 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: “Prophecy to the wind; prophecy, 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, prophecy, 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.

Fifth Tone

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.

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.

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.

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.

Deacon: Wisdom.

The deacon reenters the altar.

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 corruption thou gavest birth to God the Word. True Theotokos, we magnify thee.

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 for us men and for our salvation endured in the flesh the dread passion, the life-giving Cross and voluntary burial, Christ our true God, through the prayers of his most pure mother, and of all the saints, have mercy on us and save us, for he is good and loves mankind.

There is no Amen, but the choir immediately sings,

Fifth Tone

Choir: Come and let us bless Joseph of everlasting memory, who came to Pilate by night and begged for the Life of all: “Give me this stranger, who has no place to lay His head. Give me this stranger, whom His evil disciple delivered to death. Give me this stranger, whom His Mother saw hanging on the Cross, and with a mother’s sorrow she cried weeping: ‘Woe is me, my Child! Woe is me, Light of mine eyes and beloved fruit of my womb! For what Simeon foretold in the temple is come to pass today: a sword pierces my heart, but do thou change my grief to gladness by thy Resurrection.’ ”

We venerate thy Passion, O Christ.

We venerate thy Passion, O Christ.

We venerate thy Passion, O Christ, and thy Holy Resurrection.

The faithful, during the above hymn, now venerate the epitaphion as at Vespers of Holy Friday.

First Hour

The First Hour is read in the narthex, though in practice, because the faithful are continuing to venerate the epitaphion, it is served in the typical manner. First Hour is said simply and without singing.

The priest, if no deacon is serving, reenters the altar by the south door. The curtain is closed and the deacon receives a blessing to remove his vestments.

Reader: Come, let us worship God our King.

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

Come, let us worship and fall down before Christ Himself, our King and our God. *(with three bows)*

Psalm 5

Hear my words, O Lord; consider my cry. Attend unto the voice of my supplication, my King, and my God, for unto thee will I pray, O Lord. Early in the morning shalt thou hear

my voice; early in the morning will I stand before thee, and thou shalt watch over me. For thou art a God that hast no pleasure in wickedness; the evil-doer shall not dwell nigh thee. Such as be lawless shall not stand in thy sight, for thou hatest all them that work iniquity. Thou shalt destroy all them that speak lies; the Lord will abhor the blood-thirsty and deceitful man. But as for me, by the multitude of thy mercy I will come into thine house; in thy fear will I worship toward thy holy temple. Lead me, O Lord, in thy righteousness; because of mine enemies, make my way plain before thee. For there is no truth in their mouth; their heart is vain; their throat is an open sepulchre; they flatter with their tongue. Judge them, O God; let them fall through their own imaginations; cast them out according to the multitude of their ungodliness; for they have embittered thee, O Lord. And let all them that put their trust in thee be glad; they shall ever rejoice; and thou shalt dwell in them and they that love thy name shall be joyful in thee. For thou wilt bless the righteous, O Lord, for with the shield of thy favorable kindness hast thou crowned us.

Psalm 89

Lord, thou hast been our refuge from generation to generation. Before ever the mountains were formed, or the earth and the world were created, even from age to age thou art. Turn not man away unto humiliation; yea, thou hast said, Be converted, ye children of men. For a thousand years before thine eyes, O Lord, are but as yesterday when it is past, and as a watch in the night. Fleeting shall their years be; he shall go by in the morning like the grass; in the morning it shall flourish, and grow up, but in the evening it shall fall away, and dry up, and wither. For we consumed away in thy displeasure, and were troubled at thy wrathful indignation. Thou hast set our misdeeds before thee, our years are in the light of thy countenance. For all our days are spent, and we have disappeared in thy wrath; our years are spun out like a spider's web. The days of our age are threescore years and ten, or if we be so strong, fourscore years, and more than these is but labor and sorrow; for frailty shall come upon us, and we shall be chastened. Who knoweth the power of thy wrath, and from fear of thee, who can recount thine anger? So make thy right hand known to me, and to them that are bound by the heart in wisdom. Turn thee again, O Lord; how long? And be gracious unto thy servants. We were satisfied with thy mercy in the morning, O Lord, and we rejoiced and were glad; we were glad all our days; for the days wherein thou didst humble us, the years wherein we saw adversity. And look upon thy servants, and upon thy works, and guide their children, and let the brightness of the Lord our God be upon us, and prosper thou the work of our hands upon us; yea, prosper thou our handy-work.

Psalm 100

Mercy and judgment shall be my song unto thee, O Lord; I sing and understand in a blameless way; when wilt thou come unto me? I have walked in the innocency of my heart in the midst of my house. I have set no unlawful thing before mine eyes; I have hated the

workers of iniquity. A froward heart hath not cleaved unto me; I did not know the crafty man that turned away from me. Whoso privily slandereth his neighbor, him did I drive out; whoso hath a proud look and a greedy stomach, with such I did not eat. Mine eyes look upon such as are faithful in the land, that they may dwell with me; whoso leadeth a godly life, he shall be my servant. The proud doer hath not dwelt in the midst of my house; he that speaketh unjustly shall have no place in my sight. In the morning I slew all the sinners of the land, to consume all the workers of lawlessness from the city of the Lord.

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. *(thrice)*

Lord have mercy. *(thrice)*

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

Noble Joseph, taking down thy most pure body from the Tree, wrapped it in clean linen with sweet spices, and he laid it in a new tomb.

Now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

What shall we call thee, O full of grace? Heaven, for thou didst shine forth the Sun of Righteousness. Paradise, for thou hast blossomed forth the flower of immortality. Virgin, for thou hast remained incorrupt. Pure Mother, for thou hast held in thy holy embrace a Son who is God of all. Beseech him to save our souls.

Direct my steps according to thy word, and let not any wickedness have dominion over me. O deliver me from the calumny of men, and I shall keep thy commandments. Make thy face to shine upon thy servant, and teach me thy statutes. O let my mouth be filled with thy praise, O Lord, that I may sing unto thy glory, and all day unto thy majesty.

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.

He who closed the abyss lies before us dead; and as a corpse the Immortal is wrapped in linen with sweet spices and laid in a tomb. The women come to anoint him with myrrh, weeping bitterly and crying: "This is the most blessed Sabbath on which Christ sleeps, but on the third day he shall rise again."

Lord, have mercy. (*forty times*)

Thou who at every season and every hour in heaven and on earth art worshipped and glorified: O Christ our God, who art long-suffering, merciful, and compassion-ate; who lovest the just and showest mercy upon the sinner; who callest all to sal- vation through the promise of blessings to come: O Lord, in this hour receive our supplications and direct our lives according to thy commandments. Sanctify our souls, hallow our bodies, correct our thoughts, cleanse our minds; deliver us from all tribulations, evil, and distress. Compass us about with thy holy angels, that guid- ed and guarded by them, we may attain to the unity of the faith and to the knowledge of thine unapproachable glory. For thou art blessed unto ages of ages. Amen.

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.

More honorable than the cherubim, and more glorious beyond compare than the seraphim, without corruption thou gavest birth to God the Word: true Theotokos, we magnify thee.

In the name of the Lord, Father bless.

Priest: O God, be bountiful unto us and bless us; shine the light of thy countenance upon us, and have mercy upon us.

Reader: Amen.

With head uncovered:

Priest: O Christ, the true Light, which illumines and sanctifies every man who comes into the world: Let the light of thy countenance be signed upon us, that in it we may behold the

light unapproachable. Guide our footsteps aright, to the keeping of thy commandments, through the intercessions of thine all-immaculate Mother and of all thy saints. Amen.

Reader: O victorious leader of triumphant hosts: we thy servants, delivered from evil, sing our grateful thanks to thee, O Theotokos. As thou dost possess invincible might, set us free from every calamity, so that we may sing: Rejoice, O unwedded Bride!

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

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

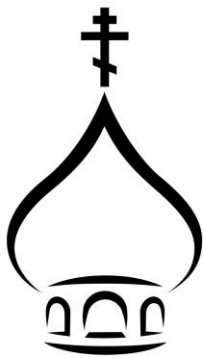
Lord, have mercy. (*thrice*)

Father bless.

Priest: May Christ our true God, through the prayers of his most pure Mother, of our venerable and God-bearing Fathers, and of all the saints, have mercy on us and save us, for he is good and loves mankind.

Choir: Amen.

Readers are appointed from the parish to keep watch at the tomb, reading from the Psalter, assuming Third Hour does not take place immediately following First Hour.



SAINT NICHOLAS
RUSSIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH

Revised April 2021