

Matins - Great and Holy Saturday

*The **Priest**, vested in black Epitrachelion, opens the Holy Doors.*

*The **Priest** with the censer, and the **Deacon** with a candle, do a complete censuring of the Sanctuary (the Deacon walks in front of the Priest while the Priest censures).*

*After censuring the Sanctuary, the **Deacon** exits the Sanctuary, stands to the right of the Holy Doors, and says:*

Deacon: Arise! Bless, Master!

*The **Priest**, moving to the front of the Altar Table, makes the Sign of the Cross with the censer and says:*

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

Reader: Amen.

They then complete the Lesser Censing.

The Trisagion Prayers

Reader: O Heavenly King, the Comforter, the Spirit of Truth, You are everywhere and fulfill 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. (3x)

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 Your name's sake!

Lord, have mercy. (3x)

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

All: Our Father, Who are in heaven, hallowed be Your name. Your kingdom
come. Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day
our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who
trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from
the evil one.

Priest: For Yours is the Kingdom, and the power, and the glory, of the Father,
and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of
ages.

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

Standing before the Altar Table, the Priest blesses with the censer:

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

The Reader stands in the center of the Temple.

Reader: Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men of His will. (3x)

The Holy Doors are closed.

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

The Six Psalms

Psalm 3

O Lord, why have those who trouble me increased?

Many are rising up against me.

Many are saying to my soul,

“There is no salvation for him in his God.”

But You, O Lord, are my Protector,
my glory and the One lifting up my head.

I cried out to the Lord with my voice,
and He answered me from His holy mountain.

I lay down to rest and slept.
I awoke and rose, because the Lord will always protect me.

I will not be afraid of myriads of people
arranged on every side against me.

Arise, O Lord, save me, O my God,
for You have struck all who without cause are my enemies.
You have broken the teeth of sinners.

Salvation is the gift of the Lord,
and Your blessing is upon Your people.

I lay down to rest and slept.
I awoke and rose, because the Lord will always protect me.

Psalm 37 (38)

O Lord, rebuke me, but not in Your anger;
and correct me, but not in Your wrath.

For Your arrows are stuck in me
and You are pressing Your hand upon me.

There is no healing in my flesh from the face of Your wrath;
there is no peace in my bones from the presence of my sins.

For my sins have gone over my head;
they weigh upon me like a heavy burden.

My wounds stink and fester
because of my foolishness.

I became miserable and utterly dejected,
I went mourning all day long.

For my soul is filled with mockings
and there is no healing in my flesh.

I was afflicted and humbled exceedingly,
I roared from the groaning of my heart.

Lord, all my desire is before You,
and my groaning is not hidden from You.

My heart is troubled, my strength fails me;
and the light of my eyes, even this is not with me.

My friends and neighbors drew near
and stood opposite me,
and my nearest ones stood far away

Those seeking my life took to violence,
and those seeking evils for me spoke idle words
and planned treachery all day long.

But I, like a deaf man, do not hear,
and I am like a dumb man who does not open his mouth.

I became like a man who does not hear
and in his mouth has no rebukes.

For on You, Lord, I have set my hope;
You will answer me, O Lord my God.

For I said, "Let my enemies never rejoice over me
or boast over me when my feet are shaken."

For I am ready for scourges
and my pain is before me continually.

For I will confess my lawlessness
and I will be concerned about my sin.

But my enemies live and are stronger than me,
and those who hate me wrongfully have multiplied.

Those who repay me evil for good, oppose me,
because I follow goodness.

Do not forsake me, O Lord;
O my God, do not stay far away from me!

Attend to my help,
O Lord of my salvation.

Do not forsake me, O Lord;
O my God, do not stay far away from me!

Attend to my help,
O Lord of my salvation.

Psalm 62 (63)

O God, my God, at dawn I rise to You!
My soul thirsts for You.

And how often my flesh longs for You,
in a desolate land, trackless and waterless!

So I appeared before You in the holy place,
to see Your power and Your glory.

For Your love is better than life;
my lips shall praise You.

So I will bless You as long as I live
and lift up my hands in Your name.

Let my soul be filled with delight,
and my mouth will praise You with joyful lips.

When I remember You on my bed,
I meditate on You in the morning watches.

For You have become my helper,
and in the shelter of Your wings I rejoice.

My soul is glued behind You
and Your right hand holds me tightly.

But those trying in vain to take my life
will go into earth's infernal regions.

They will be delivered to the hands of the sword,
they will be the portion of jackals.

But the king will rejoice in God,
all who swear by Him will be praised,
for the mouth of those who tell lies will be stopped.

I meditate on You in the morning watches.

For You have become my helper,
and in the shelter of Your wings I rejoice.

My soul is glued behind You
and Your right hand holds me tightly.

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 You, O God. (3x)

Lord, have mercy. (3x)

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

*According to custom, during the next three Psalms the **Priest** comes out through the North door to stand before the Shroud, without head covering, and quietly reads the twelve Matins prayers, found in Appendix A.*

Psalm 87 (88)

O Lord God of my salvation,
I have cried day and night before You.

Let my prayer come in before You;
incline Your ear to my petition.

For my soul is filled with evils
and my life has come near to Hades.

I am counted with those who go down into the pit,
I became like a helpless man, free among the dead,

like those who have been killed and sleep in the grave,
whom You remember no more
and who are cut off from Your hand.

They put me in the lowest pit,
in dark places and in the shadow of death.

Your anger leans hard upon me,
and You have brought upon me all Your waves.

You have put my acquaintances far from me;
they have made me an abomination to them;
I was betrayed and did not escape.

My eyes grew weak from poverty;
I cry all day to You, Lord,
I spread out my hands to You.

Will You work miracles for the dead
or will physicians raise them up so they will praise You?

Will anyone in the grave tell of Your mercy,
or will they tell of Your truth in the place of destruction?

Will Your wonders be known in the darkness
and Your justice in the land where all is forgotten?

But to You, O Lord, I have cried
and early in the morning my prayer will come before You.

Why, O Lord, do You reject my soul
and turn away Your face from me?

I am poor and in troubles from my youth;
but after being exalted, I am humbled and perplexed.

Your anger has passed over me,
Your terrors have troubled me.

They surrounded me like water all day long;
together they closed in upon me.

You have put far from me friend and neighbor
and my acquaintances because of my misery.

O Lord God of my salvation,
I have cried day and night before You.

Let my prayer come in before You;
incline Your ear to my petition.

Psalm 102 (103)

Bless the Lord, O my soul,
and all that is within me bless His holy name.

Bless the Lord, O my soul,
and do not forget all His rewards:

who forgives all your sins,
who heals all your diseases,

who redeems your life from destruction,
who crowns you with mercy and compassion,

who satisfies your desire with good things,
your youth will be renewed like an eagle's.

The Lord gives mercy and justice
to all who are being wronged.

He made known His ways to Moses,
His will to the people of Israel.

The Lord is compassionate and merciful,
most patient and most merciful.

He will not always be angry,
nor will He threaten forever.

He has not dealt with us according to our lawlessness,
nor rewarded us according to our sins.

For as high as heaven is from the earth,
so great is the Lord's mercy to those who fear Him.

As far as the east is from the west,
so far has He put our sins from us.

As a father has compassion on his children,
so the Lord has compassion on those who fear Him.

For He knows what we are made of,
He remembers that we are dust.

Man--his days are like grass;
he flourishes like a flower of the field.

When the spirit in him has passed, he will not exist,
and he will know his place no more.

But the Lord's mercy is from age to age
for those who fear Him,
and His justice is for their children's children.

for those who keep His covenant
and remember to carry out His commandments.

The Lord has prepared His throne in heaven
and His kingdom rules over all.

Bless the Lord, all you angels of His,
who are mighty in strength, who do His word
and listen for the sound of His words.

Bless the Lord, all His hosts,
His ministers who do His will.

Bless the Lord, all 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 (143)

Lord, listen to my prayer,
give ear to my need in Your truth.
Answer me in Your righteousness.

And do not enter into judgment with Your servant,
for in Your sight no one living is righteous.

For the enemy has persecuted my soul,
he has humbled my life to the ground.
He has made me sit in darkness
like the dead of long ago.

And my spirit desponded over me,
my heart within me was troubled.

I remember the days of old,
I meditate on all Your works,
I meditate on the works of Your hands.

I stretch out my hands to You,
my soul like parched earth thirsts for You.

Answer me quickly, O Lord, my spirit grows faint.
Do not turn away Your face from me,
or I shall be like those who go down to the pit.

Let me hear Your mercy in the morning,
for on You I have set my hope.
Make known to me the way I should go, O Lord,
For I lift up my soul to You.

Deliver me from my enemies, O Lord,
for I come running to You.

Teach me to do Your will,
for You are my God;
Your good Spirit will guide me in the straight land.

Revive me, O Lord, for Your name's sake.
In Your justice You will bring my soul out of trouble,
and in Your mercy You will put an end to my enemies
and destroy all who afflict my soul,
for I am Your servant.

*The **Deacon**, standing at the Southwest corner of the Altar Table, passing the High Place, exits the Sanctuary through the North door and stands before the Shroud until the conclusion of the Psalm.*

Answer me in Your righteousness,
And do not enter into judgment with Your servant.

Answer me in Your righteousness,
And do not enter into judgment with Your servant.

Your good Spirit will guide me in the straight land.

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 You, O God. (3x)

*At the conclusion of Psalm 142, the **Deacon** and the **Priest** bow to each other. The **Priest** returns to the Sanctuary through the South door and stands at his place before the Altar Table.*

*The **Deacon** lifts his Orarion and says:*

The Great Litany

Deacon: In peace let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

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

People: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: For the peace of the whole world, for the welfare of the holy churches of God, and for the union of all people, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

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

People: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: ¹For [his Beatitude] Metropolitan _____; for [his Grace] our Bishop _____; for the honorable priesthood, the diaconate in Christ, for all the clergy and the people, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: For the President² and all civil authorities of this country, and for those serving in its Armed Forces, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: For this city, [*if a monastery:* For this holy habitation,] for every city and countryside, and for the faithful dwelling in them, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

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

¹ We pray for the bishop of the temple in which we are praying. When not in a temple, we pray for the bishop of the diocese in which we are located. If outside the territory of any Orthodox Church or mission, only then do we pray for the bishop of the celebrating priest.

² We pray for the Chief of State and the civil authorities of the place in which we are praying.

People: Lord, have mercy.

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

People: Lord, have mercy.

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

People: Lord, have mercy.

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

People: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: Commemorating our most holy, pure, most blessed and glorious Lady, the Theotokos and ever-virgin Mary with all the saints, let us commend ourselves and each other, and all our life unto Christ our God.

People: To You, O Lord.

Priest: ³For to You belong 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.

People: Amen.

God is the Lord

Tone 2

Deacon: God is the Lord, and has revealed Himself to us. Blessed is he that comes in the name of the Lord.

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

³ Some ancient sources suggest Prayer 1 in Appendix A be read here.

People: God is the Lord, and has revealed Himself to us. Blessed is he that comes in the name of the Lord.

Deacon: All nations surrounded me; but in the name of the Lord I destroyed them.

People: God is the Lord, and has revealed Himself to us. Blessed is he that comes in the name of the Lord.

Deacon: I shall not die, but I shall live, and recount the deeds of the Lord.

People: God is the Lord, and has revealed Himself to us. Blessed is he that comes in the name of the Lord.

Deacon: The stone which the builders rejected has become the head of the corner. This is the Lord's doing; it is marvelous in our eyes.

People: God is the Lord, and has revealed Himself to us. Blessed is he that comes in the name of the Lord.

The Deacon enters the Sanctuary through the South door, goes to the High Place, bows, turns, bows to the Priest, and goes to his place at the Altar Table.

During the Troparion, the Priest, now vested in black Phelonion, opens the Holy Doors, and preceded by the Deacon with a candle, makes a Full Censing, beginning around the Shroud and concluding before it.

Troparion

Tone 2

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

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

People: When You descended to death, O Life Immortal,
You destroyed Hades with the splendor of Your Godhead!
And when from the depths You raised the dead,
all the Powers of Heaven cried out://
“O Giver of life, Christ our God, glory to You!”

Reader: ...now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

People: The angel came to the myrrh-bearing women at the tomb and said:
“Myrrh is fitting for the dead;//
but Christ has shown Himself a stranger to corruption.”

THE LAMENTATIONS

The following troparia, known as the Lamentations, are sung between the verses of Kathisma 17, Psalm 118 (119) in three Stases, as follows:

The First Stasis

Tone 5

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

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

1. They laid You in a tomb, O Christ the Life.
The angelic hosts were overcome with awe,
and glorified Your condescension.

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

2. O Life, how can You die? How can You dwell in a tomb?
Yet by Your death, You destroyed the reign of death,
and raised all the dead from Hades.

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

3. We magnify You, O Jesus, our King.
We worship Your passion and Your Burial,
for by them, You saved us from death.

You have commanded Your precepts to be kept diligently.

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

O that my ways may be steadfast in keeping Your statutes!

5. O Messiah, Jesus, my King, the Lord of all,
whom are You seeking in the depths of Hades?
Have You come to free the race of mortal men?

Then I shall not be put to shame, having my eyes fixed on all Your commandments.

6. Lo, the sovereign Ruler of creation is dead.
Almighty God is laid in a new tomb,
to empty the graves of all their dead.

I will praise You with an upright heart, when I learn Your righteous ordinances.

7. In a tomb they laid You, O Christ the Life.
By Your death You have cast down the might of death
and become the font of life for all the world.

I will observe Your statutes; O forsake me not utterly.

8. You were numbered among transgressors, O Christ.
You have justified us all, O Lamb of God,
by freeing us from the devil's works.

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

9. You are fairer, O Lord, than all the sons of men.
You have filled creation with Your beauty;
how can You lie before us dead this day?

With my whole heart I seek You; let me not wander from Your commandments.

10. How could Hades bear Your coming and not shatter at once?
Death is blinded by Your splendor, O Lord.
Its gloom is scattered by Your dazzling light.

I have hidden Your word in my heart, that I might not sin against You.

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

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

12. The spiritual powers and the angelic hosts
stand in silence, overcome with wonder
before the awesome mystery of Your tomb.

With my lips I declare all the ordinances of Your 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.

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

14. Buried in Your Body and in Hades with your soul,
yet not parted from your Father's side, O Christ!
O strange and awesome wonder!

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

15. O Jesus, all creation knew You to be its Lord!
You are truly King of heaven and earth,
though You are shut within a narrow tomb.

I will delight in Your statutes; I will not forget Your word.

16. O Christ, Creator, You were laid within a tomb.
Hades' foundations quaked and trembled,
seeing You opening the graves of mortal men.

Deal bountifully with Your servant; give me life, and I shall keep Your 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 Hades' grasping hand.

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

18. O my Life, my Savior, dwelling with the dead in death,
You have destroyed the iron bars of Hades,
and risen from corruption.

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

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

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

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

You have rebuked the proud, and cursed are those who wander from Your commandments.

21. O Jesus, slain willingly and laid beneath the earth,
You have raised me, O fountain of life,
when I lay dead in bitter sin.

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

22. The universe was altered at Your Passion, O Word;
knowing that You hold all in unity,
all created things suffered with You.

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

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

Your testimonies are my delight; they are my counselors.

24. You were buried in a new tomb, O Christ,
and the nature of mortals was made new,
when as God, You arose from the dead.

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

25. Wishing to save Adam, You came down to earth.
 Not finding him on earth, O Master,
 You descended to Hades seeking him.

When I told of my ways, You answered me; teach me Your statutes!

26. All the earth was troubled and quaked with fear.
 The daystar hid his brilliant face, O Word,
 when Your great light was hidden in the earth.

Make me understand the way of Your precepts, and I will meditate on Your wondrous works.

27. As a man, O Savior, You consented to die.
 As God You raised the dead from their tombs,
 and lifted them from the dark abyss of sin.

My soul melts away for sorrow; strengthen me according to Your word.

28. The Pure Virgin shed tears of lamentation for You, O Jesus.
 With a mother's grief, O Jesus, she cried out:
 "How can I lay You in the grave, O my Son?"

Put false ways far from me, and graciously teach me Your law.

29. The Grain of Wheat is laid in the earth's dark bosom.
 By its death, it shall bring forth abundant fruit:
 Adam's sons, freed from the chains of death.

I have chosen the way of truth; I have not forgotten Your ordinances.

30. As the sun at evening sets beneath the earth,
 You are hidden, covered by the night of death.
 O Savior, arise in brighter dawn!

I cleave to Your testimonies, O Lord; let me not be put to shame.

31. As when the moon covers the circle of the sun,
now the grave has hidden You, O Savior,
Your mortal flesh eclipsed in death.

I will run in the way of Your commandments when You have enlarged my heart.

32. By dying in the body O Life-giving Christ,
You have delivered mortal men from death,
bestowing new life upon us all.

Teach me, O Lord, the way of Your statutes, and I will keep it to the end.

33. Through the serpent's envy, Adam died of old,
but You came, O Savior, our new Adam
to bring him back to life, through Your death.

Give me understanding that I may keep Your law and observe it with my whole heart.

34. When the ranks of angels saw You laid out dead,
they were filled with fear and wonder, O Lord,
and covered their faces with their wings.

Lead me in the path of Your commandments, for I delight in it.

35. Ramah's son took You down from the Tree, O Savior.
He laid Your lifeless Body in his tomb;
but rise up as God to save us all.

Incline my heart to Your testimonies, and not to gain.

36. You are the gladness of angels, O Lord,
but today You have become their cause of grief,
as they see You in the flesh, a lifeless corpse.

Turn my eyes from looking at vanities, and give me life in Your ways.

37. Uplifted on the Cross to draw living men to You,
You descended beneath the earth as well,
to raise up all that lay buried there.

Establish Your promise in Your servant, that I may fear You.

38. O Savior, like a lion You slept in the flesh,
yet like a lion's cub You arose,
casting off the old age of the flesh.

Take away the reproach which I dread; for Your ordinances are good.

39. You have fashioned Eve from Adam's side.
Now a spear has pierced Your side, O Savior,
and from it flows a purifying stream.

Behold, I long for Your precepts; in Your righteousness give me life.

40. The lambs of old were slain secretly in Egypt,
but You were sacrificed beneath the open sky,
for the cleansing of the universe.

Let Your mercy come to me, O Lord; my salvation, according to Your promise.

41. What human tongue can utter this terrible, strange thing?
Today the Lord of heaven and earth
suffers and dies for our sake.

So shall I give an answer to those who taunt me, for I trust in Your word.

42. “How can we see the Giver of life now dead?”
 The angels cried in fear and awe.
 “How is God enclosed within a tomb?”

And take not the word of truth utterly out of my mouth, for my hope is in Your ordinances.

43. New life for Eve flows from Your opened side, O Savior.
 Through her I was banished from the Tree of Life;
 today she is redeemed, with all her sons.

I will keep Your law continually forever and ever.

44. When You were stretched out upon the wood, O Jesus,
 You drew us mortal men to unity;
 and from Your pierced side, forgiveness flowed for all.

And I shall walk at liberty, for I have sought Your precepts.

45. With trembling and fear, the noble Joseph
 lays Your body out for burial, O Lord,
 as he gazes with awe on Your dread form.

I also spoke of Your testimonies before kings, and was not ashamed.

46. You willed to go beneath the earth, O Savior.
 You freed death’s fallen captives from their chains,
 leading them from earth to heaven.

For I find my delight in Your commandments, which I love exceedingly.

47. Death seized You, O Jesus, and was strangled in Your trap.
Hades' gates were smashed, the fallen were set free,
and carried from beneath the earth on high.

I lift up my hands to Your commandments, which I love.

48. O Savior, death's corruption could not touch Your holy flesh.
You bound man's ancient murderer,
and restored all the dead to new life.

And I will meditate on Your statutes.

49. O, how great the joy, how full the gladness
that You have brought to Hades' prisoners,
like lightning flashing in its gloomy depths.

Remember Your word to Your servant, in which You have made me hope.

50. Your passion, I worship; Your burial, I praise;
Your power, I magnify, O Loving Lord;
for from corrupting passions, You have set me free.

This is my comfort in my affliction, that Your promise gives me life.

51. A sword was sharpened against you, O Christ,
but the sword of the strong foe was blunted,
and the sword that guards Eden was turned back.

Godless men utterly derided me, but I do not turn away from Your law.

52. The Ewe saw her Lamb slaughtered and cried aloud in grief.
She was pierced, with anguish,
and the flock of Christ assembled to join her lament.

When I think of Your ordinances from of old, I take comfort, O Lord.

53. Though You are buried in a grave, O Christ,
 though You go down to Hades, O Savior,
 You have stripped Hades naked, emptying its graves.

Hot indignation seizes me because of the wicked who forsake Your law.

54. You descended to Hades willingly, O Savior.
 There You restored the dead to new life,
 and led them back to the Father's house.

Your statutes have been my songs in the house of my exile.

55. For the sake of mortal men,
 one Person of the Godhead endures a shameful death on the Cross;
 the sun trembles and the earth quakes in fear.

I remember Your Name in the night, O Lord, and keep Your law.

56. The offspring of Judah became a poisoned well.
 They rejected You, the water of life,
 Who filled them with water from the rock.

This blessing has fallen to me, because I have kept Your precepts.

57. As one accused, the Judge stood at Pilate's judgment seat.
 He was handed over to an unjust death,
 and suspended on the wood of the Cross.

You are my portion, O Lord; I promise to keep Your words.

58. O blood-guilty people, faithless Israel,
you set free the murderer Barabbas,
but delivered your Savior to the Cross.

I entreat Your favor with all my heart; be merciful to me, according to Your promise.

59. You fashioned Adam from the dust of the earth.
Becoming man by nature, for his sake,
You offered up Your life on the Cross.

I thought of Your ways, and turned my feet to Your testimonies.

60. You obeyed your Father, O Word of God most high.
Descending to the dread depths of the pit,
You have raised the race of mortal men.

I hasten and do not delay to keep Your commandments.

61. The Virgin cried in her bitter grief,
“Woe to me, my Light, O Jesus, my heart’s desire!
Woe to me, O Light of the world!”

Though the cords of the wicked ensnare me, I do not forget Your law.

62. O blood-thirsty people, vengeful and envious,
be convicted by the shroud and napkin,
which bear witness to the rising of Christ.

At midnight I rise to praise You, because of Your righteous ordinances.

63. O evil disciple, murderer of God!
Tell me what poison entered your heart
to make you betray Christ.

I am a friend of all who fear You and keep Your commandments.

64. O money-loving blindness!
You claimed to love the poor, yet you sold Immortal Ointment for a price,
and earned wages of death and despair.

The earth, O Lord, is full of Your steadfast love; teach me Your statutes.

65. What price have you received for the Myrrh of Heaven?
You gained only madness, O cursed Satan
in exchange for the Pearl of great price.

You have dealt well with Your servant, O Lord, according to Your word.

66. For her soul's forgiveness, Mary poured out myrrh.
Judas claimed to love the poor, but envied her,
and for silver sold the Light of the world.

Teach me good judgment and knowledge, for I believe in Your commandments.

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

Before I was humbled I went astray, but now I keep Your word.

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

You are good, O Lord; in Your goodness teach me Your statutes.

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

The lies of the proud are multiplied against me, but with my whole heart I keep
Your precepts.

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

Their heart is gross like fat, but I delight in Your law.

71. Your side was pierced like the desert’s rock of old, O Jesus.
A stream of living water flows from it, O Savior,
wellspring of eternal life.

It was good for me that You have humbled me, that I might learn Your statutes.

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

The law of Your mouth is better to me than thousands of gold and silver pieces.

73. Of Your own will You were laid dead in the tomb, O Savior,
yet You are alive, and as You foretold,
by Your rising You shall raise up mortal man.

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

74. O Word of God, the Lord of all the world,
we praise You with Your Father and Your Holy Spirit,
and we glorify Your burial.

...now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

(Theotokion)

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

1. They laid You in a tomb, O Christ the Life.
The angelic hosts were overcome with awe,
and glorified Your condescension.

The Little Litany

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

People: Lord, have mercy.

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

People: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: Commemorating our most holy, pure, most blessed and glorious Lady,
the Theotokos and ever-virgin Mary with all the saints, let us commend
ourselves and each other and all our life unto Christ our God.

People: To You, O Lord.

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

People: Amen.

The Deacon does a Lesser Censing, beginning in front of the Tomb.

The Second Stasis

Tone 5

1. It is right to magnify You, O Life-giving Lord;
You stretched out Your most pure arms upon the Cross,
and broke the enemy's power.

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

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

Those who fear You shall see me and rejoice, because I have hoped in Your word.

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

I know, O Lord, that Your judgments are right, and that in faithfulness You have
afflicted me.

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

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

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

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

6. O Lord, the seraphim saw You lying dead on earth below,
yet united with Your Father on high
and they shuddered and trembled with fear.

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

7. The veil of the temple was torn at Your crucifixion,
and the lights of heaven hid their radiance,
when You, the Sun, were hidden in the earth.

Let those who fear You turn to me, that they might know Your testimonies.

8. Long ago the earth was set on its course by Your nod alone.
Now dead, You descended beneath the earth.
Tremble, O heaven, at this sight.

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

9. You, Who formed man with Your hand, have gone down beneath the
earth,
and with Your almighty right hand, O Sun,
You raised up fallen men.

My soul languishes for Your salvation; I hope in Your 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!"

My eyes fail with watching for Your promise; I ask, when will You comfort me?

11. O Word, You are in very truth the Myrrh of incorruption.
Therefore, the women brought precious myrrh
to anoint You as the Living God.

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

12. You destroyed the palaces of Hades by Your burial, O Christ.
You trampled death down by Your death, O Lord,
and redeemed earth's children from corruption.

How long must Your servant endure? When will You judge those who persecute me?

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

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

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

All Your commandments are sure; they persecute me with falsehood; help me!

15. O Morning-star of Righteousness, You set beneath the earth,
and raised up all the dead as though from sleep,
dispersing all the darkness of Hades.

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

16. The Seed, twofold in nature, that gives life to the world,
today is sown with tears in earth's dark furrows,
but tomorrow will sprout forth life.

In Your steadfast love spare my life, that I may keep the commandments of Your 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.

Forever, O Lord, Your word is firmly fixed in heaven.

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

Your truth endures to all generations. You have established the earth, and it stands fast.

19. Joseph laid You reverently in a new tomb, O Savior,
singing lamentations for Your exodus,
mingled with the voices mourning for You.

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

20. O Christ, when Your mother saw you pierced with nails upon the Cross,
she was stabbed with the nails of bitter grief;
her soul was pierced, as Simeon foretold.

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

21. O Sweetness of the universe,
when Your mother saw You drink the bitter vinegar upon the Cross,
her cheeks were wet with bitter tears.

I will never forget Your precepts; for by them You have given me life.

22. “O my Son, I am torn apart with grief;
my heart is wounded unto death, seeing You unjustly slaughtered,”
the All-pure Virgin said in her tears.

I am Yours, save me; for I have sought Your precepts.

23. Joseph cried trembling,
“How shall I close your lips, O Word, and Your eyes, so sweet?
How shall I prepare Your Body for the tomb?”

The wicked lie in wait to destroy me, but I consider Your 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.

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

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

O Lord, how I love Your law! It is my meditation all day Long!

26. Hades shook with fear, O Savior, seeing You, the Giver of Life,
spoiling him of all his hoarded riches,
and raising up the dead from every age.

Your commandment makes me wiser than my enemies for it is mine forever.

27. O Word, the sun rises brightly when the night is passed
and after Your death, You shall rise in splendor
as a bridegroom coming from his chambers.

I have more understanding than all my teachers, for Your testimonies are my meditation.

28. Earth shook and quaked in fear, O Savior and Creator,
when she enfolded You in her dark bosom,
and with her quaking she awoke the dead.

I understand more than my elders, for I seek Your commandments.

29. Joseph, that righteous man, with Nicodemus,
wrapped You in sweet spices as they cried aloud:
“Be terrified, and tremble, O Earth!”

I hold back my feet from every evil way, in order to keep Your word.

30. The sun set together with You, O Creator of the light.
All creation was then overcome with fear,
and confessed You as Creator.

I do not turn aside from Your ordinances, for You have taught me.

31. A stone hewn by human hands conceals the Cornerstone,
and a mortal man hides God within a tomb.
Be shaken and tremble, O Earth!

How sweet are Your words to my taste, sweeter than honey to my mouth!

32. The pure one cried, weeping,
“Behold the disciple You love and Your own Mother!
Let us hear Your voice again, my sweetest Child!”

Through Your precepts I gain understanding; therefore I hate every false way.

33. Though Your people nailed You to the Cross, You did not destroy them,
but raised up their fathers from the dead, O Word,
as You are the Giver of Life.

Your word is a lamp to my feet, and a light to my path.

34. When You suffered, You did not have form or beauty,
but when You were clothed in the light of the Resurrection,
You beautified the human race.

I have sworn an oath and confirmed it, to observe Your righteous ordinances.

35. You went down beneath the earth, O Daystar without evening.
The sun was darkened at the height of noon,
unable to endure the sight of You.

I am sorely afflicted, give me life, O Lord, according to Your word!

36. Like faithful servants clothed in black robes of mourning,
the sun and moon together, O my Savior,
were darkened completely at Your death.

Accept my offerings of praise, O Lord, and teach me Your ordinances.

37. The centurion knew You to be God, though You were cold in death.
Joseph cried, “How then shall I touch You with my hands?
My God I am afraid.”

My soul is continually in my hands, and I have not forgotten Your law.

38. Adam slept, and from his side came Eve, who brought death to all flesh.
You slept a blessed sleep, O Word of God,
and from Your side flows life for all the world.

The wicked have laid a snare for me, but I do not stray from Your precepts.

39. You slept a little while, and brought the dead to life.
You raised up all who slept from every age,
by your Resurrection, O loving Lord.

Your testimonies are my heritage forever; yea, they are the joy of my heart.

40. O Life-giving Vine, You were lifted from the earth;
there You poured out Your saving wine, O Lord.
I glorify Your passion and Your Cross!

I incline my heart to perform Your statutes forever, to the end.

41. O Savior, when the captains of the angels saw You
naked, stained with blood, condemned unjustly,
how could they bear such murderous cruelty?

I have hated transgressors, but Your law I have loved.

42. O deceitful people, unbelieving Israel,
knowing that His temple would be raised again,
why did you condemn Christ to the Cross?

You are my hiding place and my defender; I hope in Your word.

43. In a robe of mockery you clothe Him, Who orders all things,
though He filled the vault of heaven with bright stars,
and made the earth most wondrously.

Depart from me, you evildoers, and I will keep the commandments of my God.

44. Wounded in Your side, O Word,
like the pelican You have given life to Your dead children,
with the life-giving drops of Your Blood.

Uphold me according to Your promise, that I may live, and let me not be put to
shame in my hope.

45. Of old, Joshua made the sun stand still as he smote the heathen tribes;
You, O Lord, have blotted out its brightness,
when You crushed the Prince of darkness.

Help me, and I shall be saved, and I will meditate on Your statutes continually.

46. In Your love, You consented to become a mortal man;
without being parted from Your Father's side,
You went down to Hades, O Christ.

You spurn all who go astray from Your statutes; yes, their cunning is in vain.

47. He Who hung the earth upon the floods is hung upon the Cross.
The earth receives Him as a lifeless corpse
and quakes in terror at His presence.

I have regarded all the wicked of the earth as transgressors; therefore I love Your
testimonies.

48. "O my Beloved Son," laments the virgin,
"I now see You hanging condemned on the Cross,
whom I had hoped to see enthroned as King."

Nail my flesh with the fear of You, for I am afraid of Your judgments.

49. Gabriel announced to me this news,
when he flew down from heaven.
He said that the reign of my Son Jesus would endure forever.

I have done what is just and right; do not leave me to my oppressors.

50. Simeon's prophecy has been fulfilled today,
for the sword, of which he spoke, has pierced my heart,
O my Son, Emmanuel.

Uphold the welfare of Your servant; let not the godless oppress me.

51. Be ashamed, O Jews,
at the witness of your dead, raised to life
by Him Whom you condemned to death in malice and envy.

My eyes fail with watching for Your salvation, and for the fulfillment of Your righteous promise.

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

Deal with Your servant according to Your mercy, and teach me Your statutes.

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

I am Your servant; give me understanding, that I may know Your testimonies.

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

It is time for the Lord to act, for they have broken Your law.

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

Therefore I love Your commandments above gold, above fine gold.

56. O Savior, the sight before our eyes is great and terrible,
for the Cause of Life today submits to die,
wishing to give life to all.

Therefore, I direct my steps by all Your precepts; I hate every false way.

57. O Master, Your side is pierced and Your hands are nailed.
You have healed the wound of our first parents
and the sinful greed of their hands.

Your testimonies are wonderful; therefore my soul seeks them.

58. Once they wept for Rachel's children in every house of Bethlehem.
Now the Virgin laments for her Son
with the apostolic choir.

The unfolding of Your words gives light; it imparts understanding to the simple.

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

With open mouth I pant, because I long for Your commandments.

60. O Christ, all Your faithful people singing hymns of praise,
bless Your crucifixion and Your burial,
by which we are ransomed from death.

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

61. O God without beginning, Eternal Word and Spirit,
help Your people to prevail against the foe,
as You are the Lover of mankind.

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

(Theotokion)

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

1. It is right to magnify You, O Life-giving Lord;
You stretched out Your most pure arms upon the Cross,
and broke the enemy's power.

The Little Litany

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

People: Lord, have mercy.

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

People: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: Commemorating our most holy, pure, most blessed and glorious Lady, the Theotokos and ever-virgin Mary with all the saints, let us commend ourselves and each other and all our life unto Christ our God.

People: To You, O Lord.

Priest: For Holy are You, O God, Who rest upon the glorious throne of the cherubim, and to You we send up glory, together with Your Eternal Father, and Your most holy, good, and life-creating Spirit, now and ever and unto ages off ages.

People: Amen.

The Deacon does a Lesser Censing, beginning in front of the Tomb.

The Third Stasis

Tone 3

1. Every generation
offers You its hymn of praise
at Your burial, O my Christ.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Righteous are You, O Lord, and right are Your judgments.

7. You fed Your people
with manna in the desert,
but they raised their heel against You.

You have appointed Your testimonies in righteousness and in all faithfulness.

8. You fed the nations,
filling them with bounty.
They betray You with gall and vinegar.

My zeal consumes me, because my foes forget Your words.

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

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

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

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

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

Your righteousness is righteous forever, and Your law is truth.

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

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

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

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

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

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

15. O Life-giving Savior,
You have destroyed Hades.
Unto You be might and glory!

I cry to You; save me, that I may observe Your testimonies.

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

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

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

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

18. Your All-pure Mother
mourned and lamented You,
when she saw You dead, O Word.

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

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

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

20. By dying, O my God,
You put death to death,
through Your divine power.

But You are near, O Lord, and all Your commandments are true.

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

Long have I known from Your testimonies, that You have founded them forever.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

26. O Son of God and King of all,
my God and my Creator,
how can You endure such suffering?

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

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

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

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

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

29. The Virgin's heart was pierced;
she shed hot tears for You,
and cried out lamenting.

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

30. “O light of my eyes,
o my Beloved Sun,
how are You now hidden in a tomb?”

Princes persecute me without cause, but my heart stands in awe of Your words.

31. “Do not weep, O Mother!
I suffered all these things
to give freedom to Adam and Eve.”

I rejoice at Your word like one who finds great spoil.

32. “O my Son, I praise You!
For Your great compassion
that led You to this suffering.”

I hate and abhor falsehood but I love Your law.

33. You tasted vinegar
to free us from the bitter taste
of the fruit forbidden of old.

Seven times a day I praise You, for Your righteous ordinances.

34. You are nailed upon the Cross
who of old sheltered
your people with a pillar of cloud.

Great peace have those who love Your law; nothing can make them stumble.

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

I hope for Your salvation, O Lord, and I love Your commandments.

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

My soul keeps Your testimonies; I love them exceedingly.

37. The mother who gave birth to You
prayed to You with weeping:
“Arise, O Lord, and Giver of Life!”

I keep Your precepts and testimonies, for all my ways are before You, O Lord.

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

Let my cry come before You, O Lord; give me understanding according to Your word!

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

Let my supplication come before You; deliver me according to Your word.

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

My lips will pour forth praise, for You have taught me Your statutes.

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

My tongue will sing of Your word, for all Your commandments are right.

42. When you fled to Egypt,
Joseph guarded You, O Lord.
Now another Joseph buries You.

Let Your hand be near to save me, for I have chosen Your precepts.

43. Your all-holy Mother
weeps for You, lamenting
at Your death, O my Savior.

I long for Your salvation, O Lord, and Your law is my delight.

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

Let my soul live, that I may praise You, and let Your ordinances help me.

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

I have gone astray like a lost sheep; seek Your servant, for I have not forgotten
Your commandments.

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

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

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

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

(Theotokion)

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

*The Resurrectional Troparia are sung immediately, as the **Priest**, preceded by the **Deacon** with a lighted candle, censes the Shroud from four sides, the Sanctuary, and the rest of the Temple.*

The Eulogitaria of the Resurrection

Refrain: Blessed are You, O Lord! Teach me Your statutes!

Tone 5

The angelic host was filled with awe
when it saw You among the dead!
By destroying the power of death, O Savior,
You raised Adam and saved all men from Hades!

In the tomb, the radiant angel cried to the myrrh-bearers,
“Why do you women mingle myrrh with your tears?
Look at the tomb and understand!
The Savior is risen from the dead!

Very early in the morning,
the myrrh-bearers ran with sorrow to Your tomb.
But an angel came to them and said:
“The time for sorrow has come to an end!
Do not weep but announce the Resurrection to the Apostles!

The myrrh-bearers were sorrowful as they neared Your tomb,
but the angel said to them:
“Why do you number the living among the dead?
Since He is God, He is risen from the tomb!”

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

We worship the Father,
and His Son, and the Holy Spirit,
the Holy Trinity, one in essence.
We cry with the seraphim:
Holy, Holy, Holy, are You, O Lord!

...now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Since you gave birth to the Giver of life, O Virgin,
you delivered Adam from his sin!
You gave joy to Eve instead of sadness!
The God-man Who was born of you
has restored to life
those who had fallen from it.

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Glory to You, O God. (3x)

The Little Litany

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

People: Lord, have mercy.

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

People: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: Commemorating our most holy, pure, most blessed and glorious Lady, the Theotokos and ever-virgin Mary with all the saints, let us commend ourselves and each other and all our life unto Christ our God.

People: To You, O Lord.

Priest: For You are the King of peace, O Christ our God, and to You we send up glory, together with Your Eternal Father, and Your most holy, good, and life-creating Spirit, now and ever and unto ages off ages.

People: Amen.

The Clergy and Servers proceed into the Sanctuary. The Holy Doors are closed.

The Priest removes his phelonion.

The People extinguish their candles.

Kathisma Hymn

Tone 1

Joseph begged Your 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 You foretold, O Christ, show us Your Resurrection!”

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

As You foretold, O Christ,
show us Your 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 Hades,
They glorify Him as Creator and Lord!

Reader: Lord, have mercy. (3x)

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

Psalm 50 (51)

Reader: Have mercy on me, O God,
in Your great mercy,
and in Your abundant compassion
blot out my transgression.

Wash me thoroughly from my lawlessness
and cleanse me from my sin.

For I know my sinfulness
and my sin is before me continually.

Against You only have I sinned
and done what is evil in Your sight,
that You may be justified in Your words
and win when You are judged.

For I was conceived in iniquities
and in sins my mother gave me birth.

But You love truth;
the hidden and secret things of Your wisdom
You have made known to me.

You will sprinkle me with hyssop and I shall be clean.
You will wash me
and I shall be whiter than snow.

Make me hear joy and gladness.
The bones that have been humbled will rejoice.

Turn Your face from my sins
and blot out all my iniquities.

Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and renew a right spirit within me.

Do not cast me away from Your presence
or take Your Holy Spirit from me.

Restore to me the joy of Your salvation
and strengthen me with Your ruling Spirit.

I will teach Your ways to the lawless,
and sinners will return to You.

Deliver me from bloodshed, O God,
O God of my salvation.
My tongue will rejoice in Your righteousness.

O Lord, You will open my lips
and my mouth will declare Your praise.

For if You desired sacrifice,
I would have given it.
You take no delight in whole burnt offerings.

A sacrifice for God is a broken spirit;
a broken and humbled heart God will not despise.

Gladden Zion, O Lord, with Your goodwill,
and let the walls of Jerusalem be built.

Then You will delight in the sacrifice of righteousness,
in offering and whole burnt offerings.
Then they will offer young bulls on Your altar.

THE CANON

Ode I

Tone 6

Irmos: Of old You buried the pursuing tyrant
beneath the waves of the sea.
Now the children of those who were saved
bury You beneath the earth,
but like the maidens let us sing to the Lord,
for gloriously has He been glorified.

Refrain: Glory to You, our God, glory to You!

Unto You I sing a hymn for the departed
and a song of burial, O Lord my God,
Who by Your burial have opened for me the entrance to life
and by Your death have put death and Hades to death.

Refrain: Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit,

Beholding You upon the throne
and on high and in the grave below,
the things of heaven and the things beneath the earth
trembled at Your death;
for in a manner past understanding
were You, the very source of life, seen dead.

...now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

You descended to the depths of the earth
to fill all with Your glory;
for my person that is in Adam was not hidden from You,
and when You were buried,
You renewed me who am corrupt, O Lover of mankind.

Katavasia: Of old You buried the pursuing tyrant... (*repeat above*)

Ode III

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

Refrain: Glory to You, our God, glory to You!

By a multitude of visions
You indicated the signs of Your burial, O Master.
But now, as dead and man,
You make clear Your hidden things even unto those in Hades,
who cry: “None is holy but You, O Lord!”

Refrain: Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit,

You have stretched out Your hands, O Savior,
and united what before had been divided;
and by clothing Yourself in a winding sheet
You have saved even those held captive by the tomb,
who cry: None is holy but You, O Lord!

...now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

By Your will a sealed tomb contained You,
Who cannot be contained;
for by Your divine accomplishments
You have made known Your power unto those who sing:
“None is holy but You, O Lord, the Lover of mankind.”

Katavasia: You suspended the earth ... (*repeat above*)

The Little Litany

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

People: Lord, have mercy.

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

People: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: Commemorating our most holy, pure, most blessed and glorious Lady, the Theotokos and ever-virgin Mary with all the saints, let us commend ourselves and each other, and all our life unto Christ our God.

People: To You, O Lord.

Priest: For You are our God, and to You we send up glory: to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages.

People: Amen.

Kathisma Hymn

Tone 1

The soldiers guarding Your tomb, O Savior,
Became as dead men
at the lightning flash of the angel
Who appeared announcing Your resurrection to the women.
We glorify You, Who cleanse from corruption.
We fall down before You, Who rose from the tomb,
our only God.

Ode IV

Irmos: Foreseeing Your divine humiliation on the Cross,
Habakkuk cried out trembling:
“You shattered the dominion of the mighty
by joining those in Hades as the almighty Lord!”

Refrain: Glory to You, our God, glory to You!

You have sanctified this, the seventh day,
which of old You blessed by rest from work;
for You bring all things into being and renew them, O my Savior,
while resting and reviving on the sabbath.

Refrain: Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit,
By the overwhelming strength of Your divine nature.
You won the victory, O Word;
for Your soul was parted from the flesh,
sundering by Your might the bonds of Hades and death.
...now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

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

Katavasia: Foreseeing Your divine humiliation ... (repeat above)

Ode V

Irmos: Isaiah saw the never-setting light
of Your compassionate manifestation to us as God, O Christ.
Rising early from the night he cried out:
“The dead shall arise.
Those in the tombs shall awake.
All those on earth shall greatly rejoice.”

Refrain: Glory to You, our God, glory to You!

When You became earthly, O Creator,
You renewed those born on earth,
and the winding sheet and the grave
revealed the mystery concerning You, O Word;
for Joseph, the noble counselor,
fulfills the counsel of Him who begot You
and who wondrously renews me in You.

Refrain: Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit,

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

...now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

You came forth from a painless birth, O my Maker,
and Your side was pierced.
By this have You, the new Adam,
accomplished the restoration of Eve.
You fell into a sleep surpassing and renewing nature,
and as the all-powerful One,
You raised up life from sleep and corruption.

Katavasia: Isaiah saw the never-setting light... (*repeat above*)

Ode VI

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

Refrain: Glory to You, our God, glory to You!

You were killed, O Word, but not separated from the flesh
which You share with us;
for even though the temple of Your body was destroyed
at the time of the Passion,
the person of Your divinity and of Your flesh was one,
for in both You remain one Son,
O Word of God, God and man.

Refrain: Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit,

The fall of Adam resulted in the death of man, not God;
for even though the earthly substance of Your flesh suffered,
Your divinity remained passionless.
In Yourself You have transformed the corruptible to incorruption,
and by Your resurrection
You have revealed a fountain of incorruptible life.

...now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Hades rules the race of mortal men,
but not eternally;
for when You were placed in the grave, O powerful One,
You tore asunder the bars of death by Your life-creating hand
and proclaimed true deliverance to those sleeping there from the ages,
since You, O Savior, have become the first-born of the dead.

Katavasia: Jonah was caught but not held fast... (*repeat above*)

The Little Litany

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

People: Lord, have mercy.

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

People: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: Commemorating our most holy, pure, most blessed and glorious Lady,
the Theotokos and ever-virgin Mary with all the saints, let us commend
ourselves and each other, and all our life unto Christ our God.

People: To You, O Lord.

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

People: Amen.

Kontakion

Tone 6

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

Ikos

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

Ode VII

Irmos: Inexpressible wonder!
In the furnace You saved the holy youths from the flame.
Now You are placed in the grave as a lifeless corpse,
for the salvation of us who sing:
“Blessed are You, O God, our Redeemer!”

Refrain: Glory to You, our God, glory to You!

Hades was wounded in the 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 are You, O God, our Redeemer!”

Refrain: Glory to You, our God, glory to You!

Blessed is the tomb!
For having received the Creator as one asleep,
it became a divine treasury of life
for the salvation of us who sing:
“Blessed are You, O God, our Redeemer!”

Refrain: Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit,

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 are You, O God, our Redeemer!”

...now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

In Hades, in the tomb and in Eden,
with the Father and the Spirit,
the divinity of Christ was one and undivided
for the salvation of us who sing:
“Blessed are You, O God, our Redeemer!”

Katavasia: Inexpressible wonder!... (repeat above)

Ode VIII

Irmos: Be amazed, O heavens!
Be shaken, O foundations of the earth!
Behold, He that dwells in the highest
is numbered among the dead and sheltered in a lowly tomb.
Bless Him, O youths! Praise Him, O priests!
O people, exalt Him above all forever!

Refrain: Glory to You, our God, glory to You!

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 into the lowest chambers of Hades.
Bless Him, O youths! Praise Him, O priests!
O people, exalt Him above all forever!

Refrain: Glory to You, our God, glory to You!

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

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

What new wonders! What great goodness!
What ineffable forbearance!
For He who 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!

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

Katavasia: Be amazed, O heavens!... (*repeat above*)

At the 9th Ode, the Deacon receives the blessing from the Priest for the Lesser Censing. He begins by censing the Sanctuary and the Priest, exits through the North Door, censes around the Shroud, the right side of the Iconostasis, the left side of the Iconostasis, the people and the front of the Shroud. He remains there for the Little Litany.

Ode IX

Irmos: Do not lament me, O mother,
seeing Me in the tomb,
the Son conceived in the womb without seed.
For I shall arise and be glorified with eternal glory as God.
I shall exalt all who magnify you in faith and in love.

Refrain: Glory to You, our God, glory to You!

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

Refrain: Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit,

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

...now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

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

Katavasia: Do not lament me, O mother,... (repeat above)

The Deacon lifts his Orarion and says:

The Little Litany

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

People: Lord, have mercy.

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

People: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: Commemorating our most holy, pure, most blessed and glorious Lady,
the Theotokos and ever-virgin Mary with all the saints, let us commend
ourselves and each other, and all our life unto Christ our God.

People: To You, O Lord.

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

People: Amen.

A Hymn of Light

Deacon: Holy is the Lord our God.

People: Holy is the Lord our God.

Deacon: For holy is the Lord our God.

People: Holy is the Lord our God.

Deacon: Over all people is our God.

People: Holy is the Lord our God.

*The **Deacon** enters the Sanctuary through the South door, goes to the High Place, bows, turns, bows to the Priest, gives up the censer, and goes to his place at the Altar Table.*

*During the Praises, the **Priest** vests in full vestments.*

The Praises

People: Let everything that breathes praise the Lord!
Praise the Lord from the heavens,
Praise Him in the heights,
To You, O God, is due a song.

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

Psalm 148:1-2

Praise the Lord from the heavens,
praise Him in the heights,

Praise Him, all you angels of His,
praise Him, all His hosts.

Psalm 148:3-14

Praise Him, sun and moon,
praise Him, all you stars and light.

Praise Him, you heavens of heavens
and you water that is above the heavens.

Let them praise the name of the Lord,
for He spoke and they were born,
He commanded and they were created.

He has fixed them forever and ever.
He has made a law and it will not be bypassed.

Praise the Lord from the earth,
you sea monsters and all depths,

fire, hail, snow, ice,
the storm wind, all obeying His word,

all you mountains and hills,
all you fruit trees and cedars,

you wild beasts and all cattle,
reptiles and winged birds,

you kings of the earth and all peoples,
all you rulers and judges of the earth;

young men and virgins,
old men and children,

let them praise the name of the Lord,
for His name only is exalted;
His praise is above heaven and earth.

And He will exalt the power of His people.
This is a song for all His saints,
for the children of Israel,
for people drawing near to Him.

Psalm 149

Sing to the Lord a new song!
Let His praise be sung in the church of the saints.

Let Israel rejoice in Him Who made him,
and let the children of Zion exult in their King.

Let them praise His name with dancing,
let them sing to Him with drum and harp.

For the Lord takes pleasure in His people
and will exalt the meek with His salvation.

The saints will exult in glory,
and they will rejoice on their beds.

The high praises of God will be in their throat
and two-edged swords in their hands,

to pass judgment on the nations
and give rebukes among the peoples,

to bind their kings with chains
and their nobles with fetters of iron,

to pass judgment on them as God has written.
This glory will be for all His saints.

Psalm 150

Praise God in His saints,
praise Him in the expanse of His power.

Praise Him for His mighty acts,
praise Him for His infinite greatness.

Tone 2

People: Today, the tomb holds Him who holds creation in the palm of His hand.
A stone covers Him Who covered the heavens with glory!
Life sleeps, and Hades trembles,
Adam is set free from his bonds.
Glory to Your plan of salvation!
By it, You have fulfilled all things,
Granting us an eternal Sabbath rest:
Your all-holy resurrection from the dead!

Reader: Praise Him with the sound of the trumpet,
praise Him with psaltery and harp.

People: What is this sight we behold?
What is this present rest?
The King of the ages, Who through His passion
Fulfilled the plan of salvation,
Keeps Sabbath in the tomb, granting us a new Sabbath!
Let us cry aloud to Him:
Arise, O God, and judge the earth!
For Your great mercy is without measure
And You reign forever!

Reader: Praise Him with drum and dancing,
praise Him with strings and bells.

People: Come, let us behold our Life, lying in the tomb,
Giving life to those who lie dead in their graves.
Come, let us behold the Son of Judah as He sleeps today,
And with the prophet, let us cry aloud to Him:
Why do You lie, and sleep as a lion?
Who shall awaken You, O King?

But as You willingly give Yourself for us,
Arise by Your own free will!
O Lord, glory to you!

Reader: Praise Him with well-tuned cymbals,
praise Him with cymbals of victory!

Let everything that breathes praise the Lord!

Tone 6

People: Joseph asked for the body of Jesus
And laid it in his own new tomb:
For it was fitting that the Lord should come forth
Out of the grave as from a bridal chamber!
You have broken the power of death
And opened the gates of paradise to men:
O Lord, glory to You!

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

Tone 6

People: The great Moses mystically foreshadowed this day when he said:
“God blessed the seventh day.”
This is the blessed Sabbath;
This is the day of rest,
on which the only-begotten Son of God rested from all His works.
By suffering death to fulfill the plan of salvation,
He kept the Sabbath in the flesh;
by returning again to what He was,
He has granted us eternal life through His Resurrection,//
for He alone is Good and the Lover of mankind.

Reader: ...now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

The Holy Doors are opened.

*As the following verse is sung, the **Priest** with the censer and the **Deacon** with a candle, take their place in front of the Shroud.*

Tone 2

You are most blessed, O Virgin Theotokos!
Through the God-man Who took flesh from you,
Hades has been captured and Adam recalled!
Death has been slain, so we are given life!
Blessed is Christ our God, Whose good will it was!
Glory to You!

Great Doxology

Priest: Glory to You Who have shown us the light!

*During the singing of the Great Doxology, the **Priest** and the **Deacon** go three times around the Shroud, censuring it from the four sides. The **Priest** makes three prostrations before the Shroud.*

People: Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men of His will.

We praise You, we bless You, we worship You, we glorify You, we give thanks to You for Your great glory: O Lord, Heavenly King, God the Father Almighty: O Lord, the Only-Begotten Son, Jesus Christ: and O Holy Spirit.

O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, Who take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us. Who take away the sins of the world, accept our prayer. Who sit at the right hand of the Father, have mercy on us. For You alone are holy, You alone are Lord, Jesus Christ, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

Every day I will bless You and praise Your name forever, even unto ages of ages.

Grant, O Lord, to keep us this day without sin.
Blessed are You, O Lord, the God of our fathers, and praised and glorified is Your name unto ages of ages. Amen.

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

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

Blessed are You, O Master, make me to understand Your commandments.

Blessed are You, O Holy One, enlighten me with Your precepts.

Lord, You have been our refuge from generation to generation.

I said, "Lord, have mercy on me. Heal my soul, for I have sinned against You!"

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

For with You is the fountain of life, and in Your light shall we see light. Continue Your mercy unto those who know You.

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

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

Holy Immortal have mercy on us.

Then, in the solemn processional melody, we sing:

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

Procession

*As the processional Trisagion is sung, the **Priest** takes the Book of the Gospels, and four clergy (or laymen) take the Shroud and hold it above his head. They go in procession around the outside of the church, while the people continue to sing the Trisagion. The Cross, with the processional candles, leads the procession, followed by the choir, the **Deacon** with a candle and the incense, then the Shroud, and all the members of the congregation holding lighted candles. When the procession returns to the interior of the church, they carry the Shroud to the Holy Doors, and the **Sr. Priest** exclaims:*

Priest: Wisdom! Let us attend!

*As the People sing the Troparion, the Shroud is returned to its place in the center of the church, the Book of the Gospels is placed on it, and the **Priest** (and the **Deacon** with a candle) censes around it once.*

Troparion

Tone 2

People: The noble Joseph,
when he had taken down Your 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.

People: O Christ, Who hold fast the ends of the earth,
You have consented to be held fast in the tomb,
to deliver man from his fall into Hades,
and, as Immortal God,
You have given us life and immortality!

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

O Christ, Who hold fast... (*repeat above*).

now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

O Christ, Who hold fast... (*repeat above*).

The Prokeimena and Readings

Deacon: Wisdom!

Reader: The Prokeimenon in the Fourth Tone.

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

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

Reader: We have heard with our ears, O God, our fathers have told us what
deeds You performed in their days, in the days of old.

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

Reader: Arise, O Lord, and help us!

People: ...Deliver us for Your Name's sake.

Deacon: Wisdom!

Reader: The reading from the Prophecy of Ezekiel.

Deacon: Let us attend.

Reader: (37:1-14) Again the hand of the Lord came upon me, and brought me by
the Spirit of the Lord, and set me down in the midst of the plain, which
was full of human bones. So He led me round about them, and behold,
there was a great multitude of bones on the face of the plain. They were
very dry. Then He said to me, "Son of man, can these bones live?" So I
answered, "O Lord, You know this." Then He said to me, "Prophecy to
these bones, and say to them, 'O dry bones, hear the word of the Lord.
Thus says the Lord to these bones: "Behold, I will bring the Spirit of life
upon you. I will put muscles on you and bring flesh upon you. I will
cover you with skin and put my Spirit into you. Then you shall live and
know that I am the Lord.'""

So I prophesied as He commanded me, and it came to pass while I
prophesied that, behold, there was a shaking, and the bones came

together, each one to its joint. So I looked, and behold, muscle and flesh grew upon them, and skin covered them over; but no breath was in them. Then He said to me, “Prophecy to the wind, prophecy, son of man, and say to the wind, ‘Thus says the Lord: “Come from the four winds and breathe upon these dead men; and let them live.”’” So I prophesied as He commanded me, and the Spirit entered into them; and they lived, and stood upon their feet, an exceedingly great assembly.

Again the Lord spoke to me, saying, “Son of man, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They say, ‘Our bones are dry, our hope has perished, and we are lost.’ Therefore prophecy and say to them, ‘Thus says the Lord: “Behold, I will open your tombs, bring you up from your graves, and bring you into the land of Israel. Then you will know that I am the Lord, when I open your tombs to lead you, My people, up from their graves. I will put My Spirit in you, and you will live; and I will place you in your own land. Then you will know that I am the Lord. I have spoken and I will do it,” says the Lord.’”

Deacon: Wisdom!

The Deacon does a Lesser Censing, censing around the Shroud, the Iconostasis, the Priest and Servers, the People, and ending in front of the Shroud.

Reader: The Prokeimenon in the Seventh Tone.

Arise, O Lord, my God, lift up Your Hand!
Forget not Your poor forever! (*Ps. 9*)

People: Arise, O Lord, my God, lift up Your Hand!
Forget not Your poor forever!

Reader: I will praise You, O Lord my God, with all my heart; I will make all Your wonders known!

People: Arise, O Lord, my God, lift up Your Hand!
Forget not Your poor forever!

Reader: Arise, O Lord, my God, lift up Your Hand!

People: ...Forget not Your poor forever!

Deacon: Wisdom!

Reader: The reading from the First Epistle of the holy Apostle Paul to the Corinthians.

Deacon: Let us attend!

Reader: (5:6-8; Gal. 3:13-14) Brethren: Do you not know that a little leaven leavens the whole lump? Therefore purge out the old leaven, that you may be a new lump, since you truly are unleavened. For indeed Christ, our Passover, was sacrificed for us. Therefore let us keep the feast, not with old leaven, nor with the leaven of malice and wickedness, but with the unleavened *bread* of sincerity and truth. Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law, having become a curse for us (for it is written, "Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree"), that the blessing of Abraham might come upon the Gentiles in Christ Jesus, that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith.

Priest: + Peace to you who read.

Reader: And to your spirit.

Deacon: Wisdom!

Reader: The Alleluia in the Fifth Tone. Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

The Reader chants the Alleluia verses. After each one, the people sing the Alleluia.

Verses: Let God arise! Let His enemies be scattered!
Let those who hate Him flee from before His face!

As smoke vanishes, so let them vanish,
as wax melts before the fire!

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

The Priest reads the Gospel in front of the Shroud.

Deacon: Wisdom! Let us attend! Let us listen to the Holy Gospel.

Priest: + Peace be unto all.

People: And to your spirit.

Priest: The reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew.

People: Glory to You, O Lord! Glory to You!

Deacon: Let us attend.

Priest: (27:62-66) On the next day, which followed the Day of Preparation, the chief priests and Pharisees gathered together to Pilate, saying, “Sir, we remember, while He was still alive, how that deceiver said, ‘After three days I will rise.’ Therefore command that the tomb be made secure until the third day, lest His disciples come by night and steal Him *away*, and say to the people, ‘He has risen from the dead.’ So the last deception will be worse than the first.” Pilate said to them, “You have a guard; go your way, make *it* as secure as you know how.” So they went and made the tomb secure, sealing the stone and setting the guard.

People: Glory to You, O Lord! Glory to You!

Remaining in his place before the Shroud, the Deacon lifts his Orarion and prays:

The Litany of Fervent Supplication

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

People: Lord, have mercy. (3x)

Deacon: Again we pray for [His Beatitude] Metropolitan _____, for [His Grace] our Bishop _____, for priests, deacons, and all other clergy, and for all our brethren in Christ.

People: Lord, have mercy. (3x)

Deacon: Again we pray for the (*President*) and all civil authorities of this country and for those serving in its Armed Forces.

People: Lord, have mercy. (3x)

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

People: Lord, have mercy. (3x)

Deacon: Again we pray for mercy, life, peace, health, salvation, and visitation for the servants of God [especially _____], and for the pardon and remission of their sins.

People: Lord, have mercy. (3x)

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

People: Lord, have mercy. (3x)

Priest: For You are a merciful God, and You love mankind, and to You we send up glory: to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages.

People: Amen.

The Deacon lifts his Orarion and says:

The Morning Litany

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

People: Lord, have mercy.

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

People: Lord, have mercy.

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

People: Grant it, O Lord.

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

People: Grant it, O Lord.

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

People: Grant it, O Lord.

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

People: Grant it, O Lord.

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

People: Grant it, O Lord.

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

People: Grant it, O Lord.

Deacon: Commemorating our most holy, pure, most blessed and glorious Lady, the Theotokos and ever-virgin Mary with all the saints, let us commend ourselves and each other, and all our life unto Christ our God.

People: To You, O Lord.

Priest: ⁴For You are a good God, and You love mankind, and to You we send up glory: to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages.

People: Amen.

The Priest turns toward the people and blesses:

Priest: + Peace be unto all.

People: And to your spirit.

Deacon: Let us bow our heads to the Lord.

People: To You, O Lord.

⁴ Some ancient sources suggest Prayer 12 in Appendix A be read here.

The Prayer with Heads Bowed

Priest: O Holy Lord, Who dwell on high and look upon the humble, and Who with Your all-seeing eye do behold all creation: to You have we bowed the neck of our soul and body, and we implore You, O Holy of Holies, stretch forth Your invisible hand from Your holy dwelling place and bless us all. And if in any way we have sinned, either willingly or unwillingly, pardon us, inasmuch as You are good, and You love mankind, granting us Your good things in this age and in the age to come. For Yours it is to have mercy on us and to save us, O our God, and to You we send up glory: to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

People: Amen.

The Great Dismissal

Deacon: Wisdom!

People: Father, bless.

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

People: Amen.

Confirm, O God, the holy Orthodox faith and Orthodox Christians unto ages of ages.

Priest: Most holy Theotokos, save us.

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

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

People: 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. (3x)

Father, bless.

Priest: May He Who endured fearful suffering, the life-creating Cross, and voluntary burial in the flesh on behalf of us men and for our salvation, Christ our true God, through the prayers of His most pure Mother; of the holy, glorious, and all-laudable Apostles; of St. (of the temple.....); 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.

People: Amen.

The Clergy make two prostrations, venerate the Shroud, make a third prostration and proceed into the Sanctuary.

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

Tone 5

Come, let us bless Joseph of eternal memory,
Who came to Pilate by night,
Who 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, cried weeping:
‘Woe is me, O my Child!
Woe is me, Light of my eyes!
The beloved Fruit of my womb!
For what Simeon foretold in the Temple has come to pass this day:
A sword has pierced my heart!
But change my grief to joy by Your resurrection!’”

We venerate Your passion, O Christ.

We venerate Your passion, O Christ.

We venerate Your passion, O Christ; and Your holy resurrection!

The Holy Doors and curtain are closed.

APPENDIX A

THE TWELVE MATINS PRAYERS

I

We thank You, O Lord our God, Who have raised us from our beds and put into our mouths a word of praise, that we may adore and call on Your holy name. We entreat Your bounties, which You have always used in our life. Send down Your help even now on those who stand before the face of Your holy glory and await rich mercy from You. Enable those who serve You always with fear and love, to praise Your inexpressible goodness. For to You belong 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. Amen.

II

From the night our spirit wakes, O our God, for Your commandments are a light on the earth. Enlighten us now to perfect righteousness and holiness in fear of You, for we glorify You, our truly existing God. Incline Your ear and hear us. Remember by name, O Lord, all those who are with us and pray with us; save them by Your power. Bless Your people, and sanctify Your inheritance. Give peace to Your world, to the churches, to Your priests, to all those in civil authority, and to all Your people. For blessed and glorified is Your all-honorable and majestic name: of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

III

From the night our spirit wakes, O God, for Your commandments are a light. Teach us Your righteousness, O God, Your commandments and Your statutes. Enlighten the eyes of our understanding, lest at any time we should fall asleep to death in sin. Drive all gloom from our hearts. Grant us the Sun of Righteousness, and, by the seal of Your Holy Spirit, preserve our life unassailed. Guide our steps to the way of peace. Enable us to behold the dawn and the day with joy, that we

may raise our morning prayers to You. For Yours is the majesty, and Yours are 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. Amen.

IV

O Master, God, holy and unsearchable, Who commanded the light to shine out of darkness; Who refreshed us by the sleep of the night; and Who raised us for the glorification and supplication of Your goodness. Implored by Your own lovingkindness, accept now also us who bow before You and give thanks according to our ability. Grant us all our petitions which are for salvation. Show us to be sons of the light and of the day, heirs of Your eternal good things. Remember, O Lord, in the multitude of Your bounties, all Your people here present and praying with us; and all our brothers on land, on sea, in the air, and in every place of Your dominion who are in need of Your mercy and love for mankind; grant Your mercy to all of them. That being always preserved in safety of soul and body, we may with boldness glorify Your wondrous and blessed name: of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

V

Treasury of Blessings, ever-glowing Fountain, Holy Father Who work wonders, almighty and all-powerful! We all worship You and pray to You, entreating Your mercies and Your compassion, to help and preserve our humility. Remember Your servants, O Lord, and accept our morning prayers as incense in Your sight. Let none of us be found guilty, but surround us all with Your bounties. Remember, O Lord, those who keep vigil and sing to Your glory, and to the glory of Your only-begotten Son and our God and of the Holy Spirit. Be their helper and protector, and receive their supplications on Your heavenly and ideal altar. For You are our God, and to You we send up glory: to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

VI

We thank You, O Lord, God of our salvation, for You do all things which are good for life, that we may always look up to You, the Savior and Benefactor of our souls. You have refreshed us in the past night, and raised us from our beds, and set us in worship of Your honorable name. Therefore we entreat You, O Lord, grant us grace and power that we may sing to You with understanding, and pray without ceasing, working out our own salvation in fear and trembling through the help of Your Christ. Remember, O Lord, those who call out to You in the night; hear them and have mercy on them, destroying under their feet invisible and warring enemies. For You are the King of Peace, the Savior of our souls, and to You we send up glory: to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

VII

O God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, Who have raised us from our beds, and gathered us at the hour of prayer. Grant us grace in the opening of our lips, and accept our thanks according to our ability. Teach us Your statutes. We do not know how to pray as we entreat You, pardon and forgive whatever sins we may have committed up to this present hour, by word or thought, voluntarily or involuntarily. If You, O Lord, should mark iniquities, Lord, who could stand? But there is forgiveness with You. You only are holy, a mighty helper, the defender of our life; and our song shall always be of You. Blessed and most glorified be the majesty of Your kingdom: of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

VIII

O Lord our God, Who have driven the despair of sleep from us and assembled us by a holy call, that even in the night we might lift up our hands and give thanks to You for the judgments of Your righteousness, accept our prayers and petitions, the thanks of our nightly worship. Grant us, O Lord, a faith unashamed, a sure hope, a love unfeigned. Bless our comings and goings, our works and deeds, our words

and thoughts, and grant that we may begin this day, praising, singing, and blessing the goodness of Your ineffable beneficence. For blessed is Your name, and glorified is Your kingdom: of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

IX

Illumine our hearts, O Master Who love mankind, with the pure light of Your divine knowledge. Open the eyes of our mind to the understanding of Your gospel teachings. Implant also in us the fear of Your blessed commandments, that trampling down all carnal desires, we may enter upon a spiritual manner of living, both thinking and doing such things as are well-pleasing to You. For You are the illumination of our souls and bodies, O Christ our God, and to You we send up glory, together with Your Father Who is without beginning, and Your all-holy, good, and life-creating Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

X

O Lord our God, Who have granted men pardon through repentance, and set repentance unto forgiveness, for the prophet David as an example for us of acknowledgment of sin and confession. O Master, have mercy on us according to Your great goodness on account of the many and great iniquities into which we have fallen; and according to Your abundant mercy, blot out our transgression. For we have sinned against You, O Lord, Who know the secret and hidden things in the heart of man and Who alone have authority to pardon sins. Since You have created in us a clean heart; and put a new and right spirit within us; and made known to us the joy of Your salvation; cast us not away from Your presence. But since You are good, and You love mankind, graciously enable us, even to our last breath, to offer to You the sacrifice of righteousness, and an oblation on Your holy altar. Through the mercy and compassion and love for mankind of Your only-begotten Son, with Whom You are blessed, together with Your all-holy, good, and life-creating Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

XI

O God, our God, Who by Your will have made all the powers endowed with reason and understanding, we implore and supplicate You: Accept the praise which we offer with all Your creatures according to our ability; reward us with the rich gifts of Your goodness. For every knee in heaven and on earth and under the earth bends to You; and everything that breathes and every creature sings of Your ineffable glory; only You are the true and most merciful God. For all the powers of heaven praise You, and to You we send up glory: to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

XII

We praise, bless, sing, and thank You, O God of our Fathers, for You have led us through the shade of night and showed us again the light of day. We entreat Your goodness, cleanse us from our sins and accept our prayer in Your great tenderness of heart; for we run to You, the merciful and all powerful God! Make the true Sun of Your Righteousness dawn in our hearts. Enlighten our mind and guard all our senses; that walking uprightly as in the day in the way of Your commandments, we may attain to eternal life - for with You is the fountain of life, and we will be made worthy of enjoying Your unapproachable light. For You are our God, and to You we send up glory: to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.