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# *The Entombment of the Holy Body of our Lord God and Savior Jesus Christ*

THE MATINS SERVICE OF HOLY SATURDAY  
(Served by anticipation on the evening of Holy Friday)

## THE OPENING

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

*All:* Amen.

*Priest:* Glory to Thee, our God. Glory to Thee! O heavenly King, Comforter, the Spirit of truth, who art everywhere present and fillest all things, the Treasury of good things and Giver of life: Come, and abide in us, and cleanse us from every stain, and save our souls, O good One.

## THE TRISAGION PRAYERS

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

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

All-holy Trinity, have mercy on us. Lord, cleanse us from our sins. Master, pardon our iniquities. Holy One, visit and heal our infirmities for thy Name's sake.

Lord, have mercy. (*Thrice*)

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

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

*Priest:* For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory of the Father and of the

Son and of the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

*All:* Amen.

*Reader:* O Lord, save Thy people and bless Thine inheritance, granting to Thy people victory over all their enemies, and by the power of Thy Cross preserving Thy commonwealth.

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

Do Thou, Who of Thine own good will was lifted up upon the Cross, O Christ our God, bestow Thy bounties upon the new Nation which is called by Thy Name; make glad in Thy might those who lawfully govern, that with them we may be led to victory over our adversaries, having in Thine aid a weapon of peace and a trophy invincible.

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

O Champion dread, who cannot be put to confusion, despise not our petitions, O Good and All-praised Theotokos; establish the way of the Orthodox; save those who have been called upon to govern us, leading us to that victory which is from heaven, for thou art she who gavest birth to God, and alone art blessed.

## THE EKTENIA

*The priest, standing before the holy table facing east, censes and intones the petitions of the following ektenia.*

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

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

*Priest:* Again we pray for all pious and Orthodox Christians.

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

*Priest:* Again we pray for our Father and Metropolitan, *N.*, (*our Bishop, N.*) and all our brethren in Christ.

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

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

*Choir:* Amen. Bless, Father, in the Name of the Lord.

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

*Choir:* Amen.

### *The Six Psalms<sup>1</sup>*

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

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

#### PSALM 3

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

*And again:* I laid me down and slept; I awoke, for the Lord will help me.

#### PSALM 37

O Lord, rebuke me not in Thine anger, nor chasten me in Thy wrath. For Thine arrows are fastened in me, and Thou hast laid Thy hand heavily upon me. There is no healing in my flesh in the face of Thy wrath; and there is no peace in my bones in the face of my sins. For mine iniquities are risen higher than my head; as a heavy burden have they pressed heavily upon me. My bruises are become noisome and corrupt in the face of my folly. I have been wretched and utterly bowed down until the end; all the day long I went with downcast face. For my loins are filled with mocking, and there is no healing in my flesh. I am afflicted and humbled exceedingly, I have roared from the groaning of my heart. O Lord, before Thee is all my desire, and my groaning is not hid from Thee. My heart is troubled, my strength hath failed me; and the light of mine eyes, even this is not with me. My friends and my neighbors drew nigh over against me and stood, and my nearest of kin stood afar off. And they that sought after my soul used violence; and they that sought evils for me spake vain things, and craftiness all the day long did they meditate. But as for me, like a deaf man I heard them not, and was as a speechless man that openeth not his mouth. And I became as a man that heareth not, and that hath in his mouth no reproofs. For in Thee have I hoped, O Lord; Thou wilt hearken unto me, O Lord my God. For I said: Let never mine enemies rejoice over me; yea, when my feet were shaken, those men spake boastful words against me. For I am ready for scourges, and my sorrow is continually before me. For I will declare mine iniquity, and I will take heed concerning my sin. But mine enemies live and are made stronger than I, and they that hated me unjustly are multiplied. They that render me evil for good

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<sup>1</sup> While the reader continues by reading the Six Psalms, the priest says the twelve Orthros prayers, found in the Liturgikon.

slandered me, because I pursued goodness. Forsake me not, O Lord my God, depart not from me. Be attentive unto my help, O Lord of my salvation.

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

PSALM 62

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

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

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

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia. Glory to Thee, O God. (*Thrice*)

Lord, have mercy. (*thrice*)

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

PSALM 87

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

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

neighbor, and mine acquaintances because of my misery.

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

PSALM 102

Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me bless His holy name. Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all that He hath done for thee, Who is gracious unto all thine iniquities, Who healeth all thine infirmities, Who redeemeth thy life from corruption, Who crowneth thee with mercy and compassion, Who fulfilleth thy desire with good things; thy youth shall be renewed as the eagle's. The Lord performeth deeds of mercy, and executeth judgment for all them that are wronged. He hath made His ways known unto Moses, unto the sons of Israel the things that He hath willed. Compassionate and merciful is the Lord, long-suffering and plenteous in mercy; not unto the end will He be angered; neither unto eternity will He be wroth. Not according to our iniquities hath He dealt with us, neither according to our sins hath He rewarded us. For according to the height of heaven from the earth, the Lord hath made His mercy to prevail over them that fear Him. As far as the east is from the west, so far hath He removed our iniquities from us. Like as a father hath compassion upon his sons, so hath the Lord had compassion upon them that fear Him; for He knoweth whereof we are made, He hath remembered that we are dust. As for man, his days are as the grass; as a flower of the field, so shall he blossom forth. For when the wind is passed over it, then it shall be gone, and no longer will it know the place thereof. But the mercy of the Lord is from eternity, even unto eternity, upon them that fear Him. And His righteousness is upon sons of sons, upon them that keep His testament and remember His

commandments to do them. The Lord in heaven hath prepared His throne, and His kingdom ruleth over all. Bless the Lord, all ye His angels, mighty in strength, that perform His word, to hear the voice of His words. Bless the Lord, all ye His hosts, His ministers that do His will. Bless the Lord, all ye His works, in every place of His dominion. Bless the Lord, O my soul.

*And again:* In every place of His dominion, bless the Lord, O my soul.

PSALM 142

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

*And again:* O Lord, give ear unto my supplication and enter not into judgment with Thy servant. *(twice)*

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

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

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia. Glory to Thee, O God. *(Twice)*

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia. Glory to Thee, O God our Hope, O Lord, glory be to Thee.

#### THE LITANY OF PEACE

*Deacon:* In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

*Choir:* Lord, have mercy.

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

*Choir:* Lord, have mercy.

*Deacon:* For the peace of the whole world, the good estate of the holy churches of God and the union of all men, let us pray to the Lord.

*Choir:* Lord, have mercy.

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

*Choir:* Lord, have mercy.

*Deacon:* For our *(metropolitan or archbishop or bishop)*, N., the honorable presbytery, the diaconate in Christ, all the clergy and the people, let us pray to the Lord.

*Choir:* Lord, have mercy.

*Deacon:* For our president *(or appropriate head of state)*, civil authorities and armed forces, let us pray to the Lord.

*Choir:* Lord, have mercy.

*Deacon:* For this city and every city and countryside and the faithful who dwell therein, let us pray to the Lord.

*Choir:* Lord, have mercy.

*Deacon:* For healthful seasons, abundance of the fruits of the earth and peaceful times, let us pray to the Lord.

*Choir:* Lord, have mercy.

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

*Choir:* Lord, have mercy.

*Deacon:* For our deliverance from all tribulation, wrath, danger and necessity, let us pray to the Lord.

*Choir:* Lord, have mercy.

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

*Choir:* Lord, have mercy.

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

*Choir:* To thee, O Lord.

*Priest:* For unto thee are due all glory, honor, and worship, to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, Both now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

*Choir:* Amen.

#### “GOD IS THE LORD” IN TONE TWO

*Choir:* God is the Lord and hath appeared unto us. Blessed is He that cometh in the Name of the Lord.

*Verse 1:* *O give thanks unto the Lord and call upon His Holy Name.*

*Choir:* God is the Lord and hath appeared unto us. Blessed is He that cometh in the Name of the Lord.

*Verse 2:* *All nations compassed me about: but in the Name of the Lord will I destroy them.*

*Choir:* God is the Lord and hath appeared unto us. Blessed is He that cometh in the Name of the Lord.

*Verse 3:* *This is the Lord’s doing; it is marvelous in our eyes.*

*Choir:* God is the Lord and hath appeared unto us. Blessed is He that cometh in the Name of the Lord.

APOLYTIKIA OF HOLY SATURDAY, IN TONE 2  
The noble Joseph, taking Thine immaculate  
Body down from the Tree, and having  
wrapped It in pure linen and spices, laid It for  
burial in a new tomb.

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

When thou didst submit thyself unto death, O  
thou deathless and immortal one. Then thou  
didst destroy Hell, with thy Godly power.  
And when thou didst raise the dead from be-  
neath the earth, all the powers of heaven did  
cry aloud unto thee, "O Christ, thou Giver of  
life, glory to thee!"

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

Unto the myrrh-bearing women did the An-  
gel cry out as he stood by the grave: Myrrh-  
oils are meet for the dead, but Christ hath  
proved to be a stranger to corruption.

#### LITTLE LITANY

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

*Choir:* Lord, have mercy.

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

*Choir:* Lord, have mercy.

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

*Choir:* To thee, O Lord.

*Priest:* For thine is the might, and thine is  
the kingdom and the power and the glory of  
the Father and of the Son and of the Holy  
Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

*Choir:* Amen.

#### THE KATHISMATA IN TONE ONE<sup>2</sup>

*(\*\*The soldiers standing guard\*\*)*

When Joseph asked Thy worshipful Body  
from Pilate, \* anointing It with spices divine,  
he then wrapped It \* about with pure linen  
and laid It in a new sepulcher. \* Wherefore,  
ere the day had dawned, the myrrh-bearing  
women \* cried aloud: Show us Thy Resurrec-  
tion, O Savior, \* as Thou didst foretell to us.

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

The Angel choirs were awe-struck to see Him  
that sitteth \* in God the Father's bosom, the  
only Immortal, \* now laid in a tomb below as  
a dead man for burial. \* Him do all the An-  
gels' ranks encircle in Heaven \* and they glo-  
rify Him with the dead down in Hades \* as  
Maker and Lord of all.

#### PSALM 50

*Reader:* Have mercy on me, O God, accord-  
ing to Thy Great Mercy; and according to the  
multitude of Thy compassions blot out my  
transgression. Wash me thoroughly from  
mine iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin.  
For I know mine iniquity, and my sin is ever  
before me. Against Thee only have I sinned  
and done this evil before Thee, that Thou  
mightest be justified in Thy words, and pre-  
vail when Thou art judged. For behold, I was  
conceived in iniquities, and in sins did my  
mother bear me. For behold, Thou hast loved  
truth; the hidden and secret things of Thy wis-  
dom hast Thou made manifest unto me. Thou  
shalt sprinkle me with hyssop, and I shall be  
made clean; Thou shalt wash me, and I shall  
be made whiter than snow. Thou shalt make  
me to hear joy and gladness; the bones that be  
humbled, they shall rejoice. Turn Thy face  
away from my sins, and blot out all mine in-  
iquities. Create in me a clean heart, O God,  
and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me

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<sup>2</sup> The kathismata may be plainly read or chanted at the discre-  
tion of the pastor.

not away from Thy presence, and take not Thy Holy Spirit from me. Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation, and with Thy governing Spirit establish me. I shall teach transgressors Thy ways, and the ungodly shall turn back unto Thee. Deliver me from blood-guiltiness, O God, Thou God of my salvation; my tongue shall rejoice in Thy righteousness. O Lord, Thou shalt open my lips, and my mouth shall declare Thy praise. For if Thou hadst desired sacrifice, I had given it; with whole-burnt offerings Thou shalt not be pleased. A sacrifice unto God is a broken spirit; a heart that is broken and humbled God will not despise. Do good, O Lord, in Thy good pleasure unto Zion, and let the walls of Jerusalem be built up. Then shalt Thou be pleased with a sacrifice of righteousness, with oblation and whole-burnt offerings. Then shall they offer bullocks upon Thine altar.

THE CANON OF HOLY SATURDAY,<sup>3</sup> IN TONE 6  
Ode 1

*Heirmos:* Of old Thou didst bury the pursuing tyrant beneath the waves of the sea. Now the children of those who were saved bury Thee beneath the earth. But like the maidens, let us sing to the Lord, for gloriously has He been glorified.

*Glory to Thee, O our God, glory to Thee.*

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

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

Beholding Thee upon the throne and on high and in the grave below, the things of heaven and the things beneath the earth trembled at Thy death; for in a manner past under-

standing wast Thou, the very source of life, seen dead.

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

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

*(Katavasia)*

Of old Thou didst bury the pursuing tyrant beneath the waves of the sea. Now the children of those who were saved bury Thee beneath the earth. But like the maidens, let us sing to the Lord, for gloriously has He been glorified.

Ode 3

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

*Glory to Thee, O our God, glory to Thee.*

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

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

Thou hast stretched out Thy hands, O Saviour, and united what before had been divided; and by clothing Thyself in a winding sheet Thou hast saved even those held captive by the tomb, who cry: "None is holy but Thee, O Lord."

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

By Thy will a sealed tomb contained Thee, who cannot be contained; for by Thy divine accomplishments Thou hast made known

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<sup>3</sup> The translation given here (taken from OCA sources) matches the Russian chant music we have at the Church.

Thy power unto those who sing: “None is holy but Thee, O Lord who lovest mankind.”

*(Katavasia)*

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

LITTLE LITANY

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

*Choir:* Lord, have mercy.

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

*Choir:* Lord, have mercy.

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

*Choir:* To thee, O Lord.

*Priest:* For Thou art our God, and unto Thee we ascribe glory: to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

*Choir:* Amen.

MESODION KATHISMA IN TONE ONE

*(\*\*The original melody\*\*)*

The soldiers standing guard at Thy tomb, O my Savior, \* became as dead on seeing the lightning-like Angel \* who preached to the women of Thine arising, O Holy Lord. \* Thee we glorify, Who hast abolished corruption; \* Thee do we adore, Who from the grave hast arisen \* and Who alone art our God.

*Continuation of the Canon, in tone 6*

Ode 4

*Heirmos:* Foreseeing Thy divine humiliation on the cross, Habakkuk cried out trembling; “Thou didst shatter the dominion of the mighty by joining those in hell as the almighty Lord.”

*Glory to Thee, O our God, glory to Thee.*

Thou hast sanctified this, the seventh day, which of old Thou didst bless by rest from work; for Thou dost bring all things into being and renew them, O my Saviour, while resting and reviving on the Sabbath.

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

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

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

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

*(Katavasia)*

Foreseeing Thy divine humiliation on the cross, Habakkuk cried out trembling; “Thou didst shatter the dominion of the mighty by joining those in hell as the almighty Lord.”

Ode 5

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

*Glory to Thee, O our God, glory to Thee.*

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

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

Through death Thou dost transform what is mortal, and through burial Thou dost transform what is corruptible; for in a manner

befitting God Thou dost make incorrupt and immortal the nature which Thou hast assumed, since Thy flesh did not see corruption and in a wondrous manner Thy soul was not abandoned in hell.

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

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

*(Katavasia)*

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

#### Ode 6

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

*Glory to Thee, O our God, glory to Thee.*

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

*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 Thy flesh suffered, Thy divinity remained passionless. In Thyself Thou hast transformed the corruptible to incorruption,

and by Thy resurrection Thou hast revealed a fountain of incorruptible life.

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

Hell rules the race of mortal men, but not eternally; for when Thou wast placed in the grave, O powerful One, Thou didst tear asunder the bars of death by Thy life creating hand and didst proclaim true deliverance to those sleeping there from the ages, since Thou, O Saviour, hast become the first-born of the dead.

*(Katavasia)*

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

#### LITTLE LITANY

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

*Choir:* Lord, have mercy.

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

*Choir:* Lord, have mercy.

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

*Choir:* To thee, O Lord.

*Priest:* For Thou art the King of peace, and the Savior of our souls, and unto Thee we ascribe glory: to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; now and ever and unto ages of ages.

*Choir:* Amen.

#### KONTAKION

*(Read without intonation)*

*Reader:* He who closed the depth of the sea is beheld wrapped in linen and embalmed

with myrrh; the Deathless One placed in a tomb like one who is dead. The women came to embalm Him, weeping bitterly and crying, 'Behold the Sabbath transcendent in blessings in which Christ hath slept, and shall rise on the Third Day.'

#### OIKOS

*(Read without intonation)*

*Reader:* Verily, the Almighty hath been elevated upon the Cross, and the whole creation mourned, seeing Him suspended naked upon a tree. The sun hid his rays, and the stars gave not their light; the earth quaked with great fright, and the sea ran away; the rocks were split asunder, and many graves were opened, and the bodies of holy men arose. Hades sighed below, but the Jews were planning slanders against the Resurrection of Christ; and the women shouted, crying, 'Behold the Sabbath transcendent in blessings on which Christ hath slept, and shall rise on the Third Day.'

#### THE SYNAXARION

*(Read without intonation)*

*Reader:* On this day, Great and Holy Saturday, in the Orthodox Church, we celebrate the Burial of the divine Body, and the descent of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ to hades, through which he restored our kind from corruption and transplanted it to eternal life.

#### *Verses*

In vain do ye now guard the grave, O ye guardsmen;

For a tomb cannot hold back Life Self-existent.

On Saturday, the high priests and Pharisees gathered together before Pilate and asked him to have Jesus' tomb sealed until the third day; because, as those enemies of God said, "We suspect that His disciples will come and steal His buried body by night, and then proclaim to the people that His resurrection is true, as that deceiver Himself foretold while He was

yet alive; and then the last deception shall be worse than the first." After they had said these things to Pilate and received his permission, they went and sealed the tomb, and assigned a watch for security, that is, guards from among the soldiers under the supervision of the high priests (Matt. 27:62-66). While commemorating the entombment of the holy Body of our Lord today, we also celebrate His dread descent with His soul, whereby He destroyed the gates and bars of Hades, and made His light to shine where only darkness had reigned; death was put to death, Hades was stripped of all its captives, our first parents and all the righteous who died from the beginning of time ran to Him Whom they had awaited, and the holy angelic orders glorified God for the restoration of our fallen race.

Wherefore, by Thine ineffable condescension, O Christ our God, have mercy upon us. Amen.

*Continuation of the Canon, in tone 6*

#### Ode 7

*Heirmos:* Inexpressible wonder! In the furnace Thou didst save the holy youths from the flame. Now Thou art placed in the grave as a lifeless corpse, for the salvation of us who sing: "Blessed art Thou, O God, our Redeemer!"

*Glory to Thee, O our God, glory to Thee.*

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

*Glory to Thee, O our God, glory to Thee.*

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

*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 art Thou, O God, our Redeemer!”

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

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

*(Katavasia)*

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

Ode 8

*Heirmos:* Be amazed, O heavens! Be shaken, O foundations of the earth! Behold, He that dwell 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!

*Glory to Thee, O our God, glory to Thee.*

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

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

The courage of all the disciples failed, but Joseph of Arimathea showed valour; 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!

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

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

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

*(Katavasia)*

Be amazed, O heavens! Be shaken, O foundations of the earth! Behold, He that dwell 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!

*Deacon:* The Theotokos and Mother of Light let us honor and magnify in song.

*The Deacon does the great censuring.*

Ode 9

*Heirmos:* 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.

*Glory to Thee, O our God, glory to Thee.*

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

*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 hell tremble at seeing me clothed in the blood-stained garments of vengeance; for when I have vanquished my enemies on the cross, I shall arise as God and magnify you.”

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

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

*(Katavasia)*

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.

*At the completion of the Ninth Ode, the priest takes up the censer in his right hand and a candle in his left. Then he and the deacon exit the sanctuary through the holy doors, while the altar servers exit the sanctuary through the north doors carrying the torches and fans. The altar servers stand on the north and south side of the Bier, facing it, and the priest and deacon stand on the west side of the Bier facing east. The priest begins chanting the first stasis of the Lamentations, as he encircles the bier, censuring it on all four sides. At the end of each stasis, he encircles the bier and censes it on all four sides again.*

#### THE LAMENTATIONS<sup>4</sup> IN TONE FIVE FIRST STASIS

*Priest:* In a grave they laid thee, // O my Life and my Christ: // And the armies of the angels were sore amazed, // As they sang the praise of thy submissive love.

*Choir:* How, O Life, canst thou die? // In a grave how canst dwell? // For the proud domain of Death thou destroyest now, // and the dead of Hades makest thou to rise.

- Now we magnify thee, // O Lord Jesus our King; // and we venerate thy Passion and Burial: // for therewith hast thou delivered us from death.
- O my dear Christ Jesus, // King and Ruler of all, // Why to them that dwelt in Hades

didst thou descend? // Was it not to set the race of mortals free?

- Lo, the sov'reign Ruler // Of creation is dead, // And is buried in a tomb never used before, // He that all the graves hath emptied of their dead.
- In a grave they laid thee, // O my Life and my Christ: // Yet the Lord of Death hast thou by thy Death destroyed, // And the world of thee doth drink rich streams of life.
- Lo, how fair his beauty! // Never man was so fair; // But how strangely now has death changed that face we knew // Though all nature all her beauty to him owes.
- O my sweet Lord Jesus, // My Salvation, my Light: // How art thou now by a grave and its darkness hid? // How unspeakable the myst'ry of thy love.
- Lo, how strange these wonders, // Deeds amazing and new: // For the Giver of my life is borne lifeless forth // By the hands of weeping Joseph to his rest.
- When, O Christ our Maker, // Thou wast laid in thy tomb, // The foundation stones of Hades with ruin shook, // And the graves of mortal men were opened wide.
- Earth her bounds thou gavest: // Yet how small is the tomb // Where, O Jesus, King of all, thou dost dwell today // That dost call the dead to leave their graves and rise.
- I adore thy Passion, // Thine Entombing I praise, // And I magnify thy might, thou dear Friend of man: // From destroying passions have they set me free.
- When the Ewe that bare him // Saw them slaying her Lamb, // Tossed by swelling waves of pain she wailed forth her woe, // And moved all the flock to join her bitter cries.

<sup>4</sup> This is the “traditional” translation, widely used in the North American Antiochian Archdiocese.

- Gone the Light the world knew! // Gone the Light that was mine! // O my Jesus, that art all of my heart's desire: // So the Virgin spake lamenting at thy grave.
- Who will give me water // For the tears I must weep // So the maiden wed to God cried with loud lament // That for my sweet Jesus I may rightly mourn.
- Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.
- Word of God, we hymn thee, // God of all things art thou, // With thy Father and thy Spirit most holy praised: // And we glorify thy Burial divine.
- Both now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.
- O pure Theotokos // We bless thee in faith // And we honor the three day burial // Of thy only Son who is our God.

In a grave they laid thee, // O my Life and my Christ: // And the armies of the angels were sore amazed, // As they sang the praise of thy submissive love.

#### LITTLE LITANY

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

*Choir:* Lord, have mercy.

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

*Choir:* Lord, have mercy.

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

*Choir:* To thee, O Lord.

*Priest:* Blessed and glorified be the might of thy kingdom of the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; now and ever and unto ages of ages.

*Choir:* Amen.

#### THE LAMENTATIONS IN TONE FIVE

##### SECOND STASIS

*Priest:* Right is it indeed, // Life-bestowing Lord, to magnify thee: // For upon the Cross were thy hands outspread, // And the strength of our dread Foe hast thou destroyed.

*Choir:* Right is it indeed, // Maker of all things, to magnify thee: // For by thy dear Passion have we attained // Vict'ry o'er the flesh and rescue from decay

- I am rent with grief, // And my heart with woe is crushed and broken, // As I see them slay thee with doom unjust: // So bewailing him his grieving Mother cried.
- Ah, those eyes so sweet, // And thy lips, O Word, how shall I close them? // How the dues of death shall I pay to thee? // So cried Joseph as he shook with holy fear.
- Dirges at the tomb // Goodly Joseph sings with Nicodemus, // Bringing praise to Christ who by men was slain, // And in song with them are joined the seraphim.
- O my Son, behold // Thy well-loved disciple and thy Mother, // And thy voice so sweet let us hear again: // So with plentiful tears his maiden Mother cried.
- Beauty Word of God, // Nor yet charm was thine when thou didst suffer; // But thy risen glory its light poured down, // Shedding beauty on all men with rays divine.
- Trembling when he saw thee, // My Christ, thou Light that blindest seeing, // In a grave concealed and thy breathing stilled, // With a veil of dark the sun concealed his face.
- Earth with trembling shook, // And the sun concealed his face with darkness; // For the light unwaning that shines from thee, // With thy body sank to darkness and the grave.
- That I may renew // Man's lost nature now from beauty fallen, // Gladly in my flesh I

take death on me: // Wherefore, Mother, slay me not with bitter tears.

- Stone that man has wrought, // Now conceals the Corner-stone of promise; // Mortal man his God in a grave would hide, // As if God were mortal: Shake with fear, O earth.
- Sleeping not for long, // Thou didst yet the dead to life awaken; // And when thou wast risen thou madest rise // Them that through the years had slept, O gracious Lord.
- Like a pelican, // With thy side, O Word, by wounding riven, // Hast thou made thy children once dead to live, // By distilling on them moisture rich with life.
- Wailing bitter tears, // Word of God, thy spotless Mother mourned thee, // When she saw that thou in a grave wast laid, // O ineffable and everlasting God.
- Hades, that dread Foe, // Shook with terror when he looked upon thee, // O thou Sun of glory that canst not die: // And his captives then he yielded up in haste.
- With our songs, O Christ, // Now thy Crucifixion and Entombing, // We thy faithful worship with one accord: // For thy Burial has ransomed us from death.
- Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.
- O eternal God, // Word co-unoriginate, and Spirit: // Magnify the might of America, // Blessing us with peace and freedom evermore.
- Both now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.
- Life was born of thee, // O most blameless and most holy Virgin: // Keep the Church from ev'ry dissention free, // Blessing us with peace and freedom evermore.

Right is it indeed, // Life-bestowing Lord, to magnify thee: // For upon the Cross were thy hands outspread, // And the strength of our dread Foe hast thou destroyed.

#### LITTLE LITANY

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

*Choir:* Lord, have mercy.

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

*Choir:* Lord, have mercy.

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

*Choir:* To thee, O Lord.

*Priest:* For Holy art Thou O our God, who sittest on the throne of glory of the cherubim, and unto Thee we ascribe glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

*Choir:* Amen.

#### THE LAMENTATIONS IN TONE FIVE THIRD STASIS

*Priest:* Ev'ry generation // To thy Grave comes bringing, // Dear Christ, its dirge of praises.

*Choir:* From the Cross he brought thee, // That Arimathaeon, // And in the Grave he laid thee.

- Women bringing spices // Came with loving forethought, // Thy due of myrrh to give thee.
- Come, all things created, // Let us sing a dirge hymn // To honor our Creator.
- Him as dead though living, // Let us, like the women, // In love anoint with spices.
- Joseph greatly blessed, // Bury now the body // Of Christ the Life-bestower.
- Those he fed with manna // Lifted heels of spurning // Against their Benefactor.
- Ah, those minds so foolish, // Hearts so Christ-destroying, // Of them that slew the prophets.

- Taught the inner myst'ries, // He like mindless servant // Betrayed the Well of wisdom.
  - He that sold his Saviour, // Sold himself as captive, // That crafty traitor, Judas.
  - Joseph is entombing, // Helped by Nicodemus, // The body of his Maker.
  - Life-bestowing Saviour, // To thy might be glory: // For thou hast vanquished Hades.
  - When our most pure Lady // Saw thee prone, O Logos, // A mother's dirge she gave thee.
  - Ah, my precious Springtime! // Ah, my Son beloved. // Ah, whither fades thy beauty?
  - Wailing song to mourn thee // Poured from thy pure Mother // When thou, O Word, wast slaughtered.
  - Women to anoint him // With their myrrh are coming // To Christ, who is divine Myrrh.
  - Death himself by thy Death, // O my God, hast thou slain // By power of thy God-head.
  - Snared is now the Snarer, // Man ensnared is ransomed, // My God, through thy great wisdom.
  - Son of God, Almighty; // O my God and Maker, // Whence came thy will to suffer?
  - When she saw her Youngling // On the Cross suspended // The Heifer wailed with grieving.
  - Cries of woe the Maiden // Wailed with fervent weeping: // For grief her heart was piercing.
  - Light more dear than seeing, // O my Son most precious, // How in a grave dost hide thee?
  - O my Son, I praise thee // For thy great compassion, // Which moved thee thus to suffer.
  - Bringing myrrh, the women // To thy tomb, O Saviour, // Are come their myrrh to offer.
  - Rise, O Lord of mercy // Raising us up also, // Who languish deep in Hades.
  - Rise, O Life-bestower, // She that bare thee sayeth, // Thy grief-torn weeping Mother.
  - Hasten, Word, thy rising, // And release from sorrow // The spotless Maid that bare thee.
  - All the hosts of Heaven // Were with Fear confounded, // Beholding thy dead body.
  - Once a Joseph bore thee // Into exile, Saviour: // Another now inters thee.
  - With her wailing dirge song // Thy most holy Mother, // O Saviour, mourns thee slaughtered.
  - Minds must tremble seeing, // Lord that madest all things, // Thy strange and dire Entombing.
  - Myrrh, the women sprinkled, // Store of spices bringing // To grace thy tomb ere dawning. (*Repeat this hymn as necessary while the priest sprinkles the faithful with rose water.*)
  - Grant thy Church peace, // And thy flock Salvation, // By thy Resurrection.
  - Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.
  - O thou Triune Godhead, // Father, Son and Spirit, // Upon thy world have mercy
  - Both now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.
  - O pure Theotokos // Make us to behold // The Resurrection of thy Son.
- Ev'ry generation // To thy Grave comes bringing, // Dear Christ, its dirge of praises.

#### LITTLE LITANY

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

*Choir:* Lord, have mercy.

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

*Choir:* Lord, have mercy.

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

*Choir:* To thee, O Lord.

*Priest:* For Thou art the King of peace and the Savior of our souls, and unto Thee we ascribe glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; now and ever and unto ages of ages.

*Choir:* Amen.

#### THE EVLOGETARIA IN TONE FIVE

##### *In Tone 5*

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

*Verse:* The company of the Angels was amazed, when they beheld thee numbered among the dead, yet thyself, O Savior, destroyed the power of death, and with thee raising up Adam and releasing all men from Hell.

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

*Verse:* Wherefore, O Women Disciples, do ye mingle sweet-smelling spices with your tears of pity? The radiant Angel within the sepulcher cried unto the Myrrh-bearing Women: Behold the grave, and understand; for the Savior is risen from the tomb.

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

*Verse:* Very early in the morning did the Myrrh-bearing Women run lamenting unto thy tomb; but an Angel came toward them, saying: The time for lamentation is passed; weep not, but announce unto the Apostles the Resurrection.

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

*Verse:* The Myrrh-bearing Women mourned as bearing spices they drew near thy tomb, O Savior. But the Angel spake unto them, saying: Why number ye the living among the dead? In that he is God he is risen from the grave.

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

*Verse:* We adore the Father, as also his Son, and the Holy Spirit, the Holy Trinity One in Essence; crying with the Seraphim: Holy holy holy art thou, O Lord.

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

*Verse:* In that thou didst bear the Giver of Life, O Virgin, thou didst redeem Adam from sin, and didst give to Eve joy in place of sadness; and He who was incarnate of thee, both God and man, hath restored to life those who had fallen therefrom.

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

O our God and our Hope, glory to thee.

#### LITTLE LITANY

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

*Choir:* Lord, have mercy.

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

*Choir:* Lord, have mercy.

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

*Choir:* To thee, O Lord.

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

*Choir:* Amen.

#### EXAPOSTEILARION IN TONE TWO

*Choir:* Holy is the Lord our God. (*thrice*)

## THE PRAISES IN TONE TWO

*Choir:* Let everything that hath breath, praise the Lord.

- Praise ye the Lord from the heavens: praise Him in the heights. To Thee, O God, is due our song.
- Praise ye Him, all His angels: praise ye Him, all His hosts. To Thee, O God, is due our song.
- This glory shall be to all His saints.
- Praise God in His sanctuary; praise Him in the firmament of His power.

For Holy Saturday in Tone Two

*Verse: Praise Him for His mighty acts; praise Him according to His excellent greatness.*

Today the grave holdeth Him Who holdeth creation in the palm of His hand. A stone covereth Him that covered the Heavens with virtue. Life doth sleep, and Hades doth tremble, and Adam is re-leased from his bonds. Glory to Thy dispensation, whereby, when Thou hadst accomplished all things, Thou didst grant us an everlasting Sabbath, even Thine all-holy Resurrection from the dead.

*Verse: Praise Him with the sound of the trumpet; praise Him with the psaltery and harp.*

What is this spectacle before our eyes? What is this present rest? The King of the ages, having accomplished His dispensation through the Passion, keepeth Sabbath in the tomb, granting a new Sabbath rest unto us. To Him let us cry: Arise, O God, judge the earth, for Thou shalt be king unto the ages, O Thou Who hast immeasurably great mercy.

*Verse: Praise Him with the timbrel and dance; praise Him with stringed instruments and flute.*

Come let us behold our Life lying in the grave, that He might make those lying in the graves to live. As we see Him of Judah sleeping today, come, let us cry out to Him according to the prophecy: Having couched, Thou hast slept as a lion; who shall rouse Thee up, O King? But arise of Thine own power, Who

willingly gavest Thyself for us. O Lord, glory be to Thee.

In Tone Six

*Verse: Praise Him upon the loud cymbals; praise Him upon the high-sounding cymbals. Let everything that hath breath praise the Lord.*

Joseph asked for the Body of Jesus and laid it in his new sepulchre; for it was meet that He should come forth from the grave as from a bridal chamber. O Thou Who hast crushed the dominion of death and hast opened the gates of Paradise unto man, glory be to Thee.

## DOXASTICON & THEOTKION FOR HOLY SATURDAY IN TONE SIX

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

Great Moses mystic'ly prefigured this day, saying: And God blessed the seventh day. This is the blessed Sabbath; this is the day of rest, whereon, through the dispensation of death, the Only-begotten Son of God rested from all His works, keeping Sabbath in the flesh. And through the Resurrection, He resumed again His former state, and granted us life everlasting, since He alone is good and the Friend of man.

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

Most blessed art thou, O Virgin Theotokos; for through Him Who was incarnate of thee, Hades was taken captive, Adam was recalled, the curse was annulled. Eve was freed, death was put to death, and we were brought to life. Wherefore, with hymns we cry aloud: Blessed art Thou, O Christ our God, Who hast been thus well pleased; glory be to Thee.

## THE GREAT DOXOLOGY IN TONE SIX

*Choir:* Glory to thee, who hast shown us the Light. Glory be to God on high, and on earth peace, good will among men.

We praise thee, we bless thee, we worship thee, we glorify thee, we give thanks to thee for thy great glory.

O Lord, heavenly King, God the Father Almighty; O Lord, the only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit.

O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy on us, thou that takest away the sins of the world.

Receive our prayer, thou that sittest at the right hand of the Father, and have mercy on us.

For thou only art holy thou only art the Lord, O Jesus Christ, to the glory of God the Father. Amen.

Every day will I bless thee, and I will praise thy Name forever; yea, forever and ever.

Vouchsafe, O Lord, to keep us this day without sin.

Blessed art thou, O Lord, the God of our Fathers, and praised and glorified be thy name forever. Amen.

Let thy mercy be upon us, O Lord, as we have set our hope in thee.

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

Lord, thou hast been our refuge in all generations. I said: Lord, be merciful unto me, heal my soul, for I have sinned against thee.

Lord, I have fled unto thee, teach me to do thy will, for thou art my God.

For with thee is the fountain of life: in thy light shall we see light.

O continue thy loving-kindness unto them that know thee.

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

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

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

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

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

Holy Immortal: have mercy on us.<sup>5</sup>

*The Procession with the bier begins here, during which the Choir sings "Holy God, Holy Mighty Holy Immortal: have mercy on us" slowly and repeat as many times as necessary.*

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

*During the Procession under the Epitaphios, the choir may start singing the following*

#### TROPARION IN TONE FIVE

When he saw that the sun had hidden its rays, and the veil of the Temple was rent at the death of the Savior, Joseph approaching Pilate pleaded him, saying: Give thou me this Stranger, Who from His youth hath wandered like a stranger. Give me this Stranger, Whom His kinsmen killed in hatred like a stranger. Give me this Stranger, at Whom I wonder, beholding Him as a guest of death. Give me this Stranger, Who knoweth how to take in the poor and strangers. Give me this Stranger, Whom the Jews in envy, estranged from the world. Give me this Stranger, that I may bury Him in a tomb, Who being a Stranger hath no place whereon to lay His head. Give me this Stranger, to Whom His Mother, beholding Him dead, cried: O my Son and my God, even though my vitals be wounded, and my heart burns as I behold Thee dead, yet trusting in Thy Resurrection, I magnify Thee. In these words the honorable Joseph pleaded with Pilate, took the Savior's body, and with fear wrapped it in linen and balm. In a tomb he placed thee, O Thou Who grandest to all everlasting life and great mercy.

<sup>5</sup> In a Church setting,

*After all the people have returned to the church, having walked back in under the Bier, those carrying the Bier return it to its place in front of the Holy Doors on the solea. As the following apolytikia are sung, the priest brings the Epitaphios into the altar and carries it three times around the holy table. He then sets it there where it remains until the leave-taking of Pascha.*

*Priest:* Let us attend! Peace be all! Wisdom!

#### APOLYTIKIA OF HOLY SATURDAY, IN TONE 2

When thou didst submit thyself unto death, O thou deathless and immortal one. Then thou didst destroy Hell, with thy Godly power. And when thou didst raise the dead from beneath the earth, all the powers of heaven did cry aloud unto thee, "O Christ, thou Giver of life, glory to thee!"

The noble Joseph, taking Thine immaculate Body down from the Tree, and having wrapped It in pure linen and spices, laid It for burial in a new tomb.

Unto the myrrh-bearing women did the Angel cry out as he stood by the grave: Myrrh-oils are meet for the dead, but Christ hath proved to be a stranger to corruption.

#### THE PROPHECY

*Prokeimenon, tone 4 [Psalm 43]*

*Deacon:* Let us attend.

*Reader:* Arise, O Lord, help us, and redeem us for Thy name's sake.

*Verse:* O God, we have heard with our ears.

*Deacon:* Wisdom.

*Reader:* The reading is from the Prophecy of Ezekiel (37:1-14).

*Deacon:* Let us attend.

*Reader:* The hand of the LORD was upon me, and he brought me out by the Spirit of the LORD, and set me down in the midst of the valley; it was full of bones. And he led me round among them; and behold, there were very many upon the valley; and lo, they were very dry. And he said to me, "Son of man, can these bones live?" And I answered, "O Lord GOD, thou knowest." Again 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 GOD to these bones: Be-hold, I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. And I will lay sinews upon you, and will cause flesh to come upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and you shall live; and you shall know that I am the LORD." So I prophesied as I was commanded; and as I prophesied, there was a noise, and behold, a rattling; and the bones came together, bone to its bone. And as I looked, there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them; but there was no breath in them. Then he said to me, "Prophecy to the breath, prophesy, son of man, and say to the breath, Thus says the Lord GOD: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live." So I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood upon their feet, an exceedingly great host. Then he said to me, "Son of man, these bones are the whole house of Israel. Behold, they say, 'Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are clean cut off.' Therefore prophesy, and say to them, Thus says the Lord GOD: Behold, I will open your graves, and raise you from your graves, O my people; and I will bring you home into the land of Israel. And you shall know that I am the LORD, when I open your graves, and raise you from your graves, O my people. And I will put my Spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you in your own land; then you shall know that I, the LORD, have spoken, and I have done it, says the LORD."

#### THE APOSTOLOS & GOSPEL

*Prokeimenon, tone 7 [Psalm 9]*

*Deacon:* Let us attend.

*Reader:* Arise, O Lord my God, let Thy hand be lifted high; forget not Thy paupers to the end.

*Verse:* I will give praise to thee, O Lord, with my whole heart.

*Deacon:* Wisdom!

*Reader:* The Reading is from the First Epistle of St. Paul to the Corinthians. (1 Corinthians 5:6-8 & Galatians 3.13-14)

*Deacon:* Let us attend.

*Reader:* Brethren, a little leaven leavens the whole whole lump. Cleanse out the old leaven that you may be a new lump, as you really are unleavened. For Christ our paschal lamb has been sacrificed. Let us, therefore, celebrate the festival, not with the old leaven, the leaven of malice and evil, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.

(Galatians 3.13-14) Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law, having become a curse for us — for it is written, “Cursed is everyone that hangs on a tree” — that in Christ Jesus the blessing of Abraham might come upon the Gentiles, that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith.

*Priest:* Peace be to thee that readest.

#### THE GOSPEL

*Choir:* Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.<sup>6</sup>

*Deacon:* Wisdom! Stand upright! Let us hear the Holy Gospel.

*Priest:* Peace be all.

*Choir:* And to thy spirit.

*Priest:* The reading is from the holy Gospel according to St. Matthew (27:62-66)

*Choir:* Glory to Thee, O Lord, glory to Thee.

*Deacon:* Let us attend.

*Priest:* The next day, that is, after the day of Preparation, the chief priests and the Pharisees gathered before Pilate and said, “Sir, we remember how that impostor said, while he was still alive, ‘After three days I will rise again.’ Therefore, order the sepulcher to be made secure until the third day, lest his

disciples go and steal him away, and tell the people, ‘He has risen from the dead,’ and the last fraud will be worse than the first.” Pilate said to them, “You have a guard of soldiers; go, make it as secure as you can.” So they went and made the sepulcher secure by sealing the stone and setting a guard.

*Choir:* Glory to Thee, O Lord, glory to Thee.

#### THE LITANY OF FERVENT SUPPLICATION

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

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

*Deacon:* Again we pray for all pious and Orthodox Christians.

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

*Deacon:* Again we pray for our father and Metropolitan, N., our Bishop, N.

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

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

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

*Deacon:* Again we pray for mercy life, peace, health, salvation and visitation and pardon and forgiveness of sins for (the servants of God, NN., and) all Orthodox Christians of true worship, who live and dwell in this community.

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

*Deacon:* Again we pray for the blessed and ever-memorable founders of this holy church (and the servants of God, NN.) and all of our fathers and brethren, the Orthodox departed this life before us, who here and in all the world lie asleep in the Lord.

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

*Deacon:* Again we pray for those who bear fruit and do good works in this holy and all-

<sup>6</sup> The Lenten Triodion appoints the Alleluia to be sung in tone 5, with the following verses inserted: 1. Let God arise, and let His enemies be scattered. 2. As smoke vanisheth, so let them

vanish; as wax melteth before the fire. 3. So let sinners perish at the presence of God. After 3<sup>rd</sup> verse sing Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia again.

venerable temple, those who serve and those who sing and all the people here present, who await thy great and rich mercy

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

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

*Choir:* Amen.

#### THE LITANY OF SUPPLICATION

*Deacon:* Let us complete our morning prayer(s) unto the Lord.

*Choir:* Lord, have mercy.

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

*Choir:* Lord, have mercy.

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

*Choir:* Grant this, O Lord.

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

*Choir:* Grant this, O Lord.

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

*Choir:* Grant this, O Lord.

*Deacon:* All things good and profitable for our souls and peace for the world, let us ask of the Lord.

*Choir:* Grant this, O Lord.

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

*Choir:* Grant this, O Lord.

*Deacon:* A Christian ending to our life, painless, blameless, peaceful; and a good defense before the dread Judgment Seat of Christ, let us ask.

*Choir:* Grant this, O Lord.

*Deacon:* Calling to remembrance our all-holy, immaculate, most blessed and glorious Lady Theotokos and ever-virgin Mary, with

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

*Choir:* To thee, O Lord.

*Priest:* For Thou art the God of mercy and compassion and love toward mankind, and unto Thee do we ascribe glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

*Choir:* Amen.

#### THE PEACE

*Priest:* Peace be to all.

*Choir:* And to thy spirit.

*Deacon:* Bow your heads unto the Lord.

*Choir:* To Thee, O Lord.

*All bow their heads as the priest says the following prayer:*

*Priest:* O holy Lord, who dwellest on high and regardest the humble of heart and with thine all-seeing eye dost behold all creation, unto thee have we bowed the neck of our soul and body, and we entreat thee: O Holy of holies, stretch forth thine invisible hand from thy holy dwelling-place, and bless us all. And if in aught we have sinned, whether voluntarily or involuntarily, forgive, inasmuch as thou art a good God, and lovest mankind, vouchsafing unto us thine earthly and heavenly good things.

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

#### THE DISMISSAL

*Deacon:* Wisdom.

*Choir:* Father, bless.

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

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

*Priest:* Most-holy Theotokos, save us.

*Choir:* More honorable than the Cherubim, and more glorious beyond compare than the Seraphim, thou who without corruption bearest God the Word and art truly Theotokos: we magnify thee.

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

*All:* Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, both now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Father, bless.

*Priest:* May He Who endured terrible sufferings, the life-giving cross, and voluntary burial in the flesh, on behalf of us and for our salvation, Christ our True God, through the intercessions of His all-immaculate and all-blameless holy Mother; by the might of the precious and life-giving Cross; by the protection of the honorable Bodiless Powers of heaven; at the supplication of the honorable, glorious Prophet, Forerunner and Baptist John; of the holy, glorious, all-laudable Apostles; of the holy, glorious, and right-victorious Martyrs; of our venerable and God-bearing Fathers; of the Holy Myrrh-Bearer and Equal to the Apostles Mary Magdalene, protector of our community, of the holy and righteous ancestors of God, Joachim and Anna; and of all the saints: have mercy on us and save us, forasmuch as He is good and loveth mankind.

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

*All:* Amen.

*The people come forward silently to reverently venerate the Bier and receive the blessing and a flower from the priest.*