

# **The Order of Matins & First Hour for Holy Saturday As a Reader Service**

*Note: The translation used for the Horologion is primarily that of Fr. Lawrence of Jordanville. Texts from the Triodion are primarily taken from the Triodion, by Bishop Kallistos and Mother Mary.*

**Senior Reader:** Through the prayers of our holy Fathers, O Lord Jesus Christ our God, have mercy on us.

**Reader:** Amen. Glory to Thee, our God, glory to Thee.

O Heavenly King, Comforter, Spirit of Truth, Who art everywhere present and fillest all things, Treasury of good things and Giver of life: Come and dwell in us, and cleanse us of all impurity, and save our souls, O Good One.

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

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

O Most Holy Trinity, have mercy on us. O Lord, blot out our sins. O Master, pardon our iniquities. O Holy One, visit and heal our infirmities for Thy name's sake.

Lord have mercy. **Thrice.**

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

Our Father, Who art in the Heavens, 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 debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.

**Senior Reader:** O Lord, Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on us.

**Reader:** Amen.

Lord have mercy. **Twelve Times.**

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

O come, let us worship God our King.

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

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

### *Psalm 19*

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

### *Psalm 20*

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

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

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

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

O Most Holy Trinity, have mercy on us. O Lord, blot out our sins. O Master, pardon our iniquities. O Holy One, visit and heal our infirmities for Thy name's sake.

Lord have mercy. *Thrice.*

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

Our Father, Who art in the Heavens, 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 debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.

*Senior Reader:* O Lord, Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on us.

*Reader:* Amen. *And these troparia:*

O Lord, save Thy people and bless Thine inheritance. Grant Thou victory unto Orthodox Christians over their enemies, and by the power of Thy Cross do Thou preserve Thy commonwealth.

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

O Thou Who wast lifted up willingly upon the Cross, bestow Thy mercies upon the new community named after Thee, O Christ God; gladden with Thy power the Orthodox Christians, granting them victory over enemies; may they have as Thy help the weapon of peace, the invincible trophy.

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

O Awesome intercession that cannot be put to shame, O good one, disdain not our prayer; O all-hymned Theotokos, establish the commonwealth of the

Orthodox, save the Orthodox Christians, and grant unto them victory from heaven, for thou didst bring forth God, O thou only blessed one.

**Choir:** *Lord have mercy. Nine Times*

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

**Choir:** Amen. In the name of the Lord, father bless.

**Senior Reader:** Through the prayers of our holy Fathers, O Lord Jesus Christ our God, have mercy on us.

**Choir:** Amen.

### ***The Six Psalms***

Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will among men.

**Thrice**

O Lord, Thou shalt open my lips, and my mouth shall declare Thy praise.

**Twice**

### ***Psalm 3***

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

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

### ***Psalm 37***

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

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

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

### *Psalm 62*

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

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

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

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia. Glory to Thee, O God. *Thrice*,

Lord. have mercy. *Thrice*

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

### *Psalm 87*

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

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

### *Psalm 102*

Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me bless His holy name. Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all that He hath done for thee, Who is gracious unto all thine iniquities, Who healeth all thine infirmities, Who redeemeth thy life from corruption, Who crowneth thee with mercy and

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

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

### *Psalm 142*

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

shalt Thou utterly destroy mine enemies. And Thou shalt cut off all them that afflict my soul, for I am Thy servant.

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

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

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

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia. Glory to Thee, O God. **Thrice.**

**Choir:** Lord, have mercy. **Twelve Times.**

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

**Choir:** Amen.

**Senior Reader:** In the **2nd Tone:** God is the Lord and hath appeared unto us. Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord.

*Stichos 1:* O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good, for His mercy endureth forever.

**Choir:** God is the Lord and hath appeared unto us. Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord. *This is sung after each stichos.*

*Stichos 2:* Surrounding me they compassed me, and by the name of the Lord I warded them off.

*Stichos 3:* I shall not die, but live, and I shall tell of the works of the Lord.

*Stichos 4:* The stone which the builders rejected, the same is become the head of the corner. This is the Lord's doing, and it is marvelous in our eyes.

*Then the Choir sings the Troparia:*

**Tone 2:** The Noble Joseph, /  
taking Thy most pure body down from the Tree /  
and having wrapped it in pure linen and spices, //  
laid it in a new tomb.

**Glory... Tone 2:**

When Thou didst descend unto death, O Life Immortal, /

then didst Thou slay hell with the lightning of Thy divinity. /  
And when Thou didst also raise the dead /  
out of the nethermost depths, /  
all the hosts of the heavens cried out: //  
O Life-Giver, Christ our God, glory be to Thee.

**Both now... Tone 2:**

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

**The Lamentations**

*During the singing of the Troparia, the Senior Reader censures the Epitaphion from the four sides. Then the troparia of the Lamentations are sung, interspersed between the verses of Psalm 118, divided into three stases. Since there is a wide variety of music and translations used for this, the text of the Lamentations themselves are not reproduced here.*

**After the First stasis of the Lamentations:**

**Choir:** Lord, have mercy. *Thrice.*

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

**Choir:** Amen.

**After the Second stasis of the Lamentations:**

**Choir:** Lord, have mercy. *Thrice.*

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

**Choir:** Amen.

**After the Third stasis of the Lamentations:**

**THE EVLOGITARIA**

Blessed art Thou, O Lord, \* teach me Thy statutes.

The assembly of angels was amazed, \* beholding Thee numbered among the dead; \* yet, O Savior, \* destroying the stronghold of death, \* and with Thyself raising up Adam, \* and freeing all from hades.

Blessed art Thou, O Lord, \* teach me Thy statutes.

Why mingle ye myrrh with tears of pity, \* O ye women disciples? \* Thus the radiant angel within the tomb \* addressed the myrrh-bearing women; \* behold the tomb and understand, \* for the Savior is risen from the tomb.

Blessed art Thou, O Lord, \* teach me Thy statutes.

Very early \* the myrrh-bearing women hastened \* unto Thy tomb, lamenting, \* but the angel stood before them and said: \* the time for lamentation is passed, weep not, \* but tell of the Resurrection to the apostles.

Blessed art Thou, O Lord, \* teach me Thy statutes.

The myrrh-bearing women, \* with myrrh came to Thy tomb, O Savior, bewailing, \* but the angel addressed them, saying: \* Why number ye the living among the dead, \* for as God \* He is risen from the tomb.

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

Let us worship the Father, \* and 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 the ages of ages. Amen.

In bringing forth the Giver of life, \* thou hast delivered Adam from sin, O Virgin, \* and hast brought joy to Eve \* instead of sorrow; \* and those fallen from life \* have thereunto been restored, \* by Him Who of thee was incarnate, God and man.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia. Glory to Thee, O God. *Thrice.*

*Choir:* Lord, have mercy. *Thrice.*

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

**Choir:** Amen.

*After this the Choir sings the Sessional hymn from the Triodion:*

**Tone 1 [Troparion Melody]:**

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

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

“As Thou hast foretold, O Christ, //  
show to us the Resurrection.”

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

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

**Reader:**

### ***Psalm 50***

Have mercy on me, O God, according to Thy great mercy; and according to the multitude of Thy compassions blot out my transgression. Wash me thoroughly from mine iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin. For I know mine iniquity, and my sin is ever before me. Against Thee only have I sinned and done this evil before Thee, that Thou mightest be justified in Thy words, and prevail when Thou art judged. For behold, I was conceived in iniquities, and in sins did my mother bear me. For behold, Thou hast loved truth; the hidden and secret things of Thy wisdom hast Thou made manifest unto me. Thou shalt sprinkle me with hyssop, and I shall be made clean; Thou shalt wash me, and I shall be made whiter than snow. Thou shalt make me to hear joy and gladness; the bones that be humbled, they shall rejoice. Turn Thy face away from my sins, and blot out all mine iniquities. Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from Thy presence, and take not Thy Holy Spirit from me. Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation, and with Thy governing Spirit establish me. I shall teach transgressors Thy ways, and the ungodly shall turn back unto Thee. Deliver me from blood-guiltiness, O God, Thou God of my salvation; my tongue shall rejoice in Thy righteousness. O Lord, Thou shalt open my lips, and my mouth shall declare Thy praise. For if Thou hadst desired sacrifice, I had given it; with whole-burnt offerings Thou shalt not be pleased. A sacrifice unto God is a broken spirit; a heart that is broken and humbled God will not despise. Do good, O Lord, in Thy good pleasure unto Zion, and let the walls of Jerusalem be builded. Then shalt Thou be pleased with a sacrifice of righteousness, with oblation and whole-burnt offerings. Then shall they offer bullocks upon Thine altar.

*Note: The arrangement of the "Glory... Both now..." is set up here with the assumption that the troparia of the canon will not be repeated so as to make up the full number called for by the Typikon. If you were doing it that way, the "Glory..." would always be on the penultimate troparion. Some would argue that even if you are not repeating the troparia, you should nevertheless have "Glory..." on the penultimate troparia. I have not done that on odes in which there are only three troparia for the canon of Holy Saturday, and I made that choice following the example of short canons, such as the pre-communion canon, as it is found in the prayer book. This is a stylistic choice, that others are free to not stick to.*

### **The Canon**

## Ode I

***Irmos, Tone 6:*** He Who in ancient times hid the pursuing tyrant beneath the waves of the sea, is hidden beneath the earth by the children of those whom once He saved. But let us, like the maidens, sing unto the Lord, for gloriously is He glorified.

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

O Lord my God, I will sing to Thee a funeral hymn, a song at Thy burial: for by Thy burial Thou hast opened for me the gates of life, and by Thy death Thou hast slain death and hades.

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

All things above and all beneath the earth quaked with fear at Thy death, as they beheld Thee, O my Savior, upon Thy throne on high and in the tomb below. For seeing Thou wert mortal is beyond understanding, O Author of life.

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

To fill all things with Thy glory, Thou hast gone down into the nethermost parts of the earth: for my substance that is in Adam is not hidden from Thee, but when buried, Thou dost restore me from corruption, O Lover of mankind.

***Katavasia, Tone 6:*** He Who in ancient times hid the pursuing tyrant beneath the waves of the sea, is hidden beneath the earth by the children of those whom once He saved. But let us, like the maidens, sing unto the Lord, for gloriously is He glorified.

## Ode III

***Irmos, Tone 6:*** When the creation beheld Thee, Who hast hung the whole earth freely upon the waters, hanging on Golgotha, it was seized with horror and cried aloud: "There is none holy beside Thee, O Lord."

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

Images of Thy burial hast Thou disclosed in a multitude of visions; and now, as the God-Man, Thou hast revealed Thy secrets unto those in hades, O Master, who cry aloud: "There is none holy beside Thee, O Lord."

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

Thou hast stretched out Thine arms and united all that of old was separated; clothed in a winding sheet, O Savior, and buried in a tomb, Thou hast loosed the captives, who cry aloud: "There is none holy beside Thee, O Lord."

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

By a tomb and seals, O Uncontainable One, wast Thou held of Thine own will; but through Thine energies Thou hast showed Thy power by Divine action to those who sing: "There is none holy beside Thee, O Lord, Lover of mankind.

***Katavasia, Tone 6:*** When the creation beheld Thee, Who hast hung the whole earth freely upon the waters, hanging on Golgotha, it was seized with horror and cried aloud: "There is none holy beside Thee, O Lord."

***Choir:*** Lord, have mercy. ***Thrice.***

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

***Choir:*** Amen.

***Then the Sessional hymn:***

**Tone 1 [Troparion Melody]:**

The soldiers keeping watch over Thy tomb, O Savior, became as dead men /  
from the shining brightness at the appearing of the angel, /  
who proclaimed to the women the Resurrection. /  
We glorify Thee as the Destroyer of corruption; /  
we fall down before Thee, //  
risen from the tomb, our only God. /

## Ode IV

***Irmos, Tone 6:*** Foreseeing Thy divine self-emptying upon the Cross, Habakkuk, amazed, cried out: "Thou hast cut asunder the strength of the mighty, O Good One, and preached to those in hades, as the Almighty One.

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

Today Thou hast sanctified the seventh day, which anciently Thou didst bless by resting from Thy works. Thou bringest all things into being and renewest all things, observing the Sabbath, O my Savior, and restoring all.

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

By Thy greater power, Thou hast conquered; from the flesh Thy soul was parted, yet Thou hast burst asunder both bonds, death and hades, O Word, by Thy might.

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

Hades was embittered when it met Thee, O Word, for it saw a mortal deified, striped with wounds, yet all-powerful; and it shrank back in terror at this sight.

***Katavasia, Tone 6:*** Foreseeing Thy divine self-emptying upon the Cross, Habakkuk, amazed, cried out: "Thou hast cut asunder the strength of the mighty, O Good One, and preached to those in hades, as the Almighty One.

## Ode V

***Irmos, Tone 6:*** Thy Theophany, O Christ, the Unwaning Light, that mercifully came to pass for us, Isaiah, keeping watch, beheld out of the night, and he cried aloud: "The dead shall arise, and those in the tombs shall be raised up, and all that are born of earth shall rejoice."

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

Thou makest new those of earth, O Creator, becoming a thing of dust, and the winding-sheet and tomb reveal, O Word, the mystery that is within Thee; for the noble counselor typifies the counsel of Him that begat Thee, Who hath majestically refashioned me in Thee.

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

By Thy death dost Thou transform mortality and by Thy burial, corruption, for Thou makest incorruptible, by divine majesty, the nature Thou hast taken, rendering it immortal; for Thy flesh saw not corruption, O Master, nor was Thy soul left in hades as that of a stranger.

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

Coming forth from an unwedded Mother, and wounded in Thy side with a spear, O my Maker, Thou hast brought to pass the re-creation of Eve. Becoming Adam, Thou hast in ways surpassing nature slept a nature-restoring sleep, raising life from sleep and from corruption, for Thou art the Almighty.

***Katavasia, Tone 6:*** Thy Theophany, O Christ, the Unwaning Light, that mercifully came to pass for us, Isaiah, keeping watch, beheld out of the night, and he cried aloud: "The dead shall arise, and those in the tombs shall be raised up, and all that are born of earth shall rejoice."

## Ode VI

***Irmos, Tone 6:*** Caught but not held in the belly of the whale was Jonah; for, bearing the image of Thee, Who hast suffered and wast given to burial, he came forth from the monster as from a bridal chamber, and he called out to the watch: "O ye who keep guard falsely and in vain, ye have forsaken your own mercy."

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

Torn wast Thou, but not separated, O Word, from the flesh of which Thou hadst partaken; for though Thy temple was destroyed at the time of Thy Passion, yet the Substance of Thy Godhead and of Thy flesh is but one. For in both Thou art one Son, the Word of God, both God and man.

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

Fatal to man, but not to God, was the sin of Adam; for though the earthly substance of Thy flesh suffered, yet the Godhead remained impassable; that

which in Thy nature was corruptible Thou hast transformed to incorruption, and a fountain of life incorruptible hast Thou revealed by Thy Resurrection.

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

Hades reigneth, but not for ever over the race of man; for Thou, laid in a tomb, O Sovereign Lord, hast burst asunder the bars of death with Thy life-giving hand, and Thou hast proclaimed to those who slept from the ages the true redemption, O Savior, Who art become the Firstborn from the dead.

***Katavasia, Tone 6:*** Caught but not held in the belly of the whale was Jonah; for, bearing the image of Thee, Who hast suffered and wast given to burial, he came forth from the monster as from a bridal chamber, and he called out to the watch: "O ye who keep guard falsely and in vain, ye have forsaken your own mercy."

***Choir:*** Lord, have mercy. *Thrice.*

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

***Choir:*** Amen.

***Then Kontakion and Ikos Holy Saturday:***

**Tone 6:**

He that shut up the abyss is seen as one dead, /  
and like a mortal, the Immortal One is wrapped in linen and myrrh, /  
and placed in a grave. /  
And women came to anoint Him, weeping bitterly and crying out: /  
This is the most blessed Sabbath day //  
wherein Christ, having slept, shall arise on the third day.

***Ikos:*** He Who sustaineth all things was lifted upon the Cross, and all creation wept, seeing Him hanging naked on the Tree. The sun hid its rays, and the stars cast aside their light; the earth shook in much fear, and the sea fled, and the rocks were rent, and many graves were opened and the bodies of the saints arose. Hades groaned below, and the Jews conspired to spread slander against Christ's Resurrection. But the women cried aloud: "This is the most blessed Sabbath day wherein Christ, having slept, shall arise on the third day."

## Ode VII

***Irmos, Tone 6:*** O ineffable wonder! He Who delivered the holy Children from the fiery furnace is laid a corpse without breath in the tomb, for the salvation of us who sing: "O God our Redeemer, blessed art Thou."

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

Wounded in the heart was hades when it received Him Who was wounded in the side by a spear, and consumed by divine fire it groaned aloud at the salvation of us who sing: "O God our Redeemer, blessed art Thou."

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

O wealthy tomb! For it received within itself the Creator, as one asleep, and it was shown to be a divine treasury of life, for the salvation of us who sing: "O God our Redeemer, blessed art Thou."

*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 submitteth to be laid in the tomb, and He showeth it to be a source of awakening, for the salvation of us who sing: "O God our Redeemer, blessed art Thou."

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

Whether in hades or in the tomb or in Eden, the Godhead of Christ was indivisibly one with the Father and the Spirit, for the salvation of us who sing: "O God our Redeemer, blessed art Thou."

***Katavasia, Tone 6:*** O ineffable wonder! He Who delivered the holy Children from the fiery furnace is laid a corpse without breath in the tomb, for the salvation of us who sing: "O God our Redeemer, blessed art Thou."

## Ode VIII

***Irmos, Tone 6:*** Be ye astonished and afraid, O heaven, and let the foundations of the earth be shaken; for lo, He Who dwelleth on high is numbered with the dead and lodgeth as a stranger in a narrow tomb. Him do ye children bless, ye priests praise, and ye people supremely exalt unto all ages.

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

The most pure Temple is destroyed, but raiseth up the fallen tabernacle. For the second Adam, He Who dwelleth on high, hath come down to the first Adam, even into the chambers of hades. Him do ye children bless, ye priests praise, and ye people supremely exalt unto all ages.

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

The disciples' courage failed, but Joseph of Arimathea was bolder; for, seeing the God of all a corpse and naked, he asked for the body and buried Him, crying: Him do ye children bless, ye priests praise, and ye people supremely exalt unto all ages.

*We bless Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, the Lord; both now and ever, and unto the ages of ages. Amen.*

O new wonders! O what goodness! O ineffable forbearance! For of His own will He Who dwelleth on high is sealed beneath the earth, and God is falsely accused as a deceiver. Him do ye children bless, ye priests praise, and ye people supremely exalt unto all ages.

*After the last troparion of the Canon:*

***Choir:*** We praise, we bless, we worship the Lord, //  
praising and supremely exalting Him unto all ages.

***Katavasia, Tone 6:*** Be ye astonished and afraid, O heaven, and let the foundations of the earth be shaken; for lo, He Who dwelleth on high is numbered with the dead and lodgeth as a stranger in a narrow tomb. Him do ye children bless, ye priests praise, and ye people supremely exalt unto all ages.

## Ode IX

*The Magnificat and “More honorable than the cherubim” are not sung.*

**Irmos, Tone 6:** Weep not for Me, O Mother, beholding in the tomb the Son Whom thou hast conceived without seed in the womb; for I shall arise and shall be glorified, and as God I shall exalt with glory unceasing those that with faith and love magnify thee.

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

At Thy strange birth, O Son without beginning, I was blessed in ways surpassing nature, for I was spared all travail. But now, beholding Thee, my God, a lifeless corpse, I am pierced with the sword of bitter grief. But arise, that I may be magnified.

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

The earth covereth Me as I desire, O Mother, but the gatekeepers of hades tremble as they see Me, clothed in the bloodstained garment of vengeance; for on the Cross as God have I struck down Mine enemies, and I shall rise again and magnify thee.

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

Let creation rejoice, let all that are born of earth be glad, for the enemy, hades, hath been despoiled; let the women come with myrrh to meet Me, for I am delivering Adam and Eve with all their offspring, and on the third day I shall rise again.

**Katavasia, Tone 6:** Weep not for He, O Mother, beholding in the tomb the Son Whom thou hast conceived without seed in the womb; for I shall arise and shall be glorified, and as God I shall exalt with glory unceasing those that with faith and love magnify thee.

**Choir:** Lord, have mercy. **Thrice.**

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

**Choir:** Amen.

**Reader:** Holy is the Lord our God.

**Choir: Tone 2:** Holy is the Lord our God.

**Reader:** For holy is the Lord our God.

**Choir:** Holy is the Lord our God.

**Reader:** Above all peoples is our God.

**Choir:** Holy is the Lord our God.

### ***The Lauds (the Praises)***

**Reader:** In the **Second Tone**, Let every breath praise the Lord.

**Choir:** Let every breath praise the Lord. \* Praise the Lord from the heavens, \* praise Him in the highest. \* To Thee is due praise, O God.

Praise Him, all ye His angels; \* praise Him, all ye His hosts. \* To Thee is due praise, O God.

Praise Him, O sun and moon; praise Him all ye stars and light.

Praise Him, ye heavens of heavens, and thou water that art above the heavens.

Let them praise the name of the Lord; for He spake, and they came to be; He commanded, and they were created.

He established them for ever, yea, for ever and ever; He hath set an ordinance, and it shall not pass away.

Praise the Lord from the earth, ye dragons, and all ye abysses.

Fire, hail, snow, ice, blast of tempest, which perform His word.

The mountains and all the hills, fruitful trees, and all cedars.

The beasts and all the cattle, creeping things and winged birds.

Kings of the earth, and all peoples, princes and all the judges of the earth.

Young men and virgins, elders with the younger; let them praise the name of the Lord, for exalted is the name of Him alone.

His praise is above the earth and heaven, and He shall exalt the horn of His people.

This is the hymn for all His saints, for the sons of Israel, and for the people that draw nigh unto Him.

Sing unto the Lord a new song; His praise is in the church of the saints.

Let Israel be glad in Him that made him, let the sons of Zion rejoice in their King.

Let them praise His name in the dance; with the timbrel and the psaltery let them chant unto Him.

For the Lord taketh pleasure in His people, and He shall exalt the meek with salvation.

The saints shall boast in glory, and they shall rejoice upon their beds.

The high praise of God shall be in their throat, and two-edged swords shall be in their hands.

To do vengeance among the heathen, punishments among the peoples.

To bind their kings with fetters, and their nobles with manacles of iron.

To do among them the judgment that is written, this glory shall be to all His saints.

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

***Praise Him for His mighty acts, \*praise Him according to the multitude of His greatness.***

**Tone 2:** Today a tomb holds Him Who holds the creation /  
in the hollow of His hand; /  
a stone covers Him who covered the heavens with glory. /  
Life sleeps and hell trembles, /  
and Adam is set free from his bonds. /  
Glory to Thy dispensation, /  
whereby Thou hast accomplished all things, /  
granting us an eternal Sabbath, //  
Thy most holy Resurrection from the dead.

***Praise Him with the sound of trumpet, \*praise Him with the psaltery and harp.***

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

***Praise Him with timbrel and dance, \* praise him with strings and flute.***

Come, let us see our Life lying in the tomb, /  
that He may give life to those that in their tombs lie dead. /  
Come, let us look today on the Son of Judah as He sleeps, /  
and with the prophet let us cry aloud to Him: /  
Thou hast lain down, as a lion hast Thou slept; /  
who shall awaken Thee, O King? /  
But of Thine own free will do Thou rise /  
Who willingly dost give Thyself for us. //  
O Lord, glory to Thee.

***Praise Him with tuneful cymbals, praise Him with cymbals of jubilation. \* Let every breath praise the Lord.***

**Tone 6:** Joseph asked for the body of Jesus /  
and he laid it in his own new tomb: /  
for it was fitting that the Lord should come forth from the grave /  
as from a bridal chamber. /  
O Thou who hast broken the power of death /  
and opened the gates of Paradise to men, //  
glory be to Thee.

**Glory... Tone 6:**

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

**Both now... Tone 2:**

Most blessed art Thou, O Virgin Theotokos, /  
for through Him Who became incarnate of Thee /  
is hades led captive, Adam recalled, /  
the curse annulled, Eve set free, /  
death slain, and we are given life. /  
Wherefore, we cry aloud in praise: //  
Blessed is Christ God Who hast been so pleased, glory to Thee.

**Choir:** [Glory to Thee Who hast showed us the light.]<sup>1</sup> Glory to God in the highest, 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 O 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, 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 is Thy name unto the ages. Amen.

Let Thy mercy, O Lord, be upon us, according as we have hoped in Thee.

Blessed are Thou, O Lord, teach me Thy statutes. Thrice

Lord, thou hast been our refuge in generation and generation. I said: O Lord, have mercy on me, heal my soul, for I have sinned against Thee.

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<sup>1</sup> "Glory to Thee Who hast showed us the light." Is not normally sung by the Choir in Russian practice, but it is in Greek practice.

O Lord, unto Thee have I fled for refuge, teach me to do Thy will, for Thou art my God. For in Thee is the fountain of life, in Thy light shall we see light. O continue Thy mercy unto them that know Thee.

Holy God, Holy mighty, Holy Immortal have mercy on us. Thrice  
Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, both now and  
ever, and unto the ages of ages. Amen. Holy Immortal have mercy on us.  
Holy God, Holy mighty, Holy Immortal have mercy on us.

*At the conclusion of the Praises, the senior reader could pick up the Epitaphios, and process outside around the Church, if this service is done in a Church, but where this is not practical, you could simply sing the troparion "The Noble Joseph" three times:*

*The choir then sings the troparion:*

**Tone 2:** The Noble Joseph, /  
taking Thy most pure body down from the Tree /  
and having wrapped it in pure linen and spices, //  
laid it in a new tomb. /

*When the singing of 'The Noble Joseph' is completed, there follows the troparion of the prophecy:*

**Reader:** The Troparion of the Prophecy in the **2<sup>nd</sup> Tone:** O Christ, Who holdest fast the ends of the earth, Thou hast accepted to be held fast within the tomb, to deliver man from his fall into hell; and as immortal God Thou hast conferred upon us immortality and life.

**Choir: Glory... Both now...**

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

**Reader:** *The Prokimenon in the 4<sup>th</sup> Tone: Arise, O Lord, help us, and redeem us for Thy name's sake.*

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

**Reader:** *O God, with our ears have we heard, for our fathers have told us.*

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

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

**Choir:** And redeem us for Thy name's sake.

**Reader:** The reading is from the Prophecy Ezekiel.

The hand of the Lord came upon me, and the Lord brought me forth by the Spirit, and set me in the midst of the plain, and it was full of human bones. And He led me round about them every way. And behold, there were very many on the face of the plain, very dry. And He said to me, Son of man, will these bones live? And I said, O Lord God, Thou knowest this! And He said to me, Prophecy upon these bones, and you shall say to them, Ye dry bones, hear the word of the Lord. Thus saith Adonai the Lord to these bones: Behold, I will bring upon you the breath of life; and I will lay sinews upon you, and will bring up flesh upon you, and will spread skin upon you, and I will put My Spirit into you, and ye shall live; and ye shall know that I am the Lord. So I prophesied as the Lord commanded me. And it came to pass while I was prophesying, that behold, there was an earthquake, and the bones came together, bone to bone, each one to his joint. And I looked, and behold, sinews came upon them, and flesh grew and came upon them, and skin was spread upon them above, but there was no breath in them. And He said to me, Prophecy to the wind, prophecy, son of man, and say to the wind, Thus saith Adonai the Lord: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these dead, and let them live. So I prophesied as He commanded me, and the breath entered into them, and they lived, and stood upon their feet, a very great assembly. And the Lord spoke to me, saying, Son of man, these bones are the whole house of Israel: and they say, Our bones have become dry, our hope hath perished, we are quite spent. Therefore prophecy, son of man, and say, Thus saith Adonai the Lord: Behold, I will open your tombs, My people, and will bring you up out of your tombs, and I will bring you into the land of Israel. And ye shall know that I am the Lord, when I have opened your graves, that I may bring you up from your graves, My people; and I will put My Spirit within you, and ye shall live. And I will place you upon your own land; and you shall know that I am the Lord; I have spoken, and will do it, saith Adonai the Lord.

**Reader:** *The Prokimenon in the 7<sup>th</sup> Tone: Arise, O Lord my God, let Thy hand be lifted high; forget not Thy paupers to the end.*

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

**Reader:** *I will confess Thee, O Lord with my whole heart, I will tell of all Thy wonders.*

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

**Reader:** *Arise, O Lord my God, let Thy hand be lifted high.*

**Choir:** Forget not Thy paupers to the end.

**Reader:** The reading is from the Epistles of the Holy Apostle Paul to the Corinthians [1 Corinthians 5:6-8; Galatians 3:13-14].

Brethren: Know ye not that a little leaven leaveneth the whole lump? Purge out therefore the old leaven, that ye may be a new lump, as ye are unleavened. For even Christ our passover is sacrificed for us: Therefore let us keep the feast, not with old leaven, neither with the leaven of malice and wickedness; but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth. Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, Cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree: That the blessing of Abraham might come on the Gentiles through Jesus Christ; that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith.

**Reader:** *Alleluia in the 5<sup>th</sup> Tone: Let God arise, and let His enemies be scattered.*

**Choir:** Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

**Reader:** *As smoke vanisheth, so let them vanish; as wax melteth before the fire.*

**Choir:** Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

**Reader:** *So let sinners perish at the presence of God.*

**Choir:** Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

**Senior Reader:** The Reading is from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

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

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

Lord, have mercy. *Forty Times.*

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

**Choir:** Amen. Establish, O God, the holy Orthodox Faith of Orthodox Christians unto the ages of ages.

More honorable than the Cherubim, and beyond compare more glorious than the Seraphim; who without corruption gavest birth to God the Word, the very Theotokos, thee do we magnify.

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

Lord have mercy. *Thrice.*

Father, bless.

**Senior Reader (Facing the East, rather than facing the people):** O Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, for the sake of the prayers of Thy most pure Mother, of our holy and God-bearing fathers, and all the saints, have mercy on us and save us, for Thou art good and the Lover of mankind.

**Choir: Amen.**

### *The Many Years*

Our Great Lord and Father *N.* /  
the Most-holy Patriarch of Moscow and All Russia; /  
our Lord the Very Most Reverend Metropolitan *N.*; /  
First Hierarch of the Russian Church Abroad, /  
and our Lord the Most Reverend Archbishop (or Bishop) *N.*; /  
the brotherhood of this holy temple, and all Orthodox Christians: //  
preserve, O Lord, for many years.

**After the Dismissal the faithful come up to venerate the Epitaphios, while the choir sings:**

**Tone 5:** Come and let us bless Joseph of everlasting memory, /  
who came to Pilate by night /  
and begged for the Life of all: /  
'Give me this stranger, /  
Who has no place to lay His head. /  
Give me this stranger, /  
Whom His evil disciple delivered to death. /

Give me this stranger, /  
Whom His Mother saw hanging on the Cross, /  
and with a mother's sorrow she cried weeping: /  
"Woe is me, O my Child! /  
Woe is me, Light of mine eyes and beloved fruit of my womb! /  
For what Symeon foretold in the temple is come to pass today: /  
a sword pierces my heart, /  
but do Thou change my grief to gladness by Thy Resurrection." ' /  
We venerate Thy Passion, O Christ! /  
We venerate Thy Passion, O Christ! /  
We venerate Thy Passion, O Christ, //  
and Thy Holy Resurrection!

***Then the reader immediately begins the first hour.***

## The First Hour

**Reader:** O come, let us worship God our King.

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

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

### Psalm 5

Unto my words give ear, O Lord, hear my cry. Attend unto the voice of my supplication, O my King and my God; for unto Thee will I pray, O Lord. In the morning shalt Thou hear my voice. In the morning shall I stand before Thee, and Thou shalt look upon me; for not a God that willest iniquity art Thou. He that worketh evil shall not dwell near Thee nor shall transgressors abide before Thine eyes. Thou hast hated all them that work iniquity; Thou shalt destroy all them that speak a lie. A man that is bloody and deceitful shall the Lord abhor. But as for me, in the multitude of Thy mercy shall I go into Thy house; I shall worship toward Thy holy temple in fear of Thee. O Lord, guide me in the way of Thy righteousness; because of mine enemies, make straight my way before Thee, For in their mouth there is no truth; their heart is vain. Their throat is an open sepulcher, with their tongues have they spoken deceitfully; judge them, O God. Let them fall down on account of their own devisings; according to the multitude of their ungodliness, cast them out, for they have embittered Thee, O Lord. And let all them be glad that hope in Thee; they shall rejoice, and Thou shalt dwell among them. And all shall glory in Thee that love Thy name, for Thou shalt bless the righteous. O Lord, as with a shield of Thy good pleasure hast Thou crowned us.

### Psalm 89

Lord, Thou hast been our refuge in generation and generation. Before the mountains came to be and the earth was formed and the world, even from everlasting to everlasting art Thou. Turn not man away unto lowliness; yea, Thou hast said: Turn back ye sons of men. For a thousand years in Thine eyes, O Lord, are but as yesterday that is past, and as a watch in the night. Things of no account shall their years be; in the morning like grass shall man pass away. In the morning shall he bloom and pass away. In the evening shall he fall and grow withered and dry. For we have fainted away in Thy wrath, and in Thine anger have we been troubled. Thou hast set our iniquities before us; our lifespan is in the light of Thy countenance. For all our days are faded away, and in Thy wrath are we fainted away; our years have, like a spider, spun out their tale. As for the days of our years, in their span, they be threescore years and ten. And if we be in strength, mayhap fourscore years; and what is more than

these is toil and travail. For mildness is come upon us, and we shall be chastened. Who knoweth the might of Thy wrath? And out of fear of Thee, who can recount Thine anger? So make Thy right hand known to me, and to them that in their heart are instructed in wisdom. Return, O Lord; how long? And be Thou entreated concerning Thy servants. We were filled in the morning with Thy mercy, O Lord, and we rejoiced and were glad. In all our days, let us be glad for the days wherein Thou didst humble us, for the years wherein we saw evils. And look upon Thy servants, and upon Thy works, and do Thou guide their sons. And let the brightness of the Lord our God be upon us, and the works of our hands do Thou guide aright upon us, yea, the works of our hands do Thou guide aright.

### **Psalm 100**

Of mercy and judgment will I sing to Thee, O Lord; I will chant and have understanding in a blameless path. When wilt Thou come unto me? I have walked in the innocence of my heart in the midst of my house. I have no unlawful thing before mine eyes; the workers of transgressions I have hated. A crooked heart hath not cleaved unto me; as for the wicked man who turned from me, I knew him not. Him that privily talked against his neighbor did I drive away from me. With him whose eye was proud and his heart insatiate, I did not eat. Mine eyes were upon the faithful of the land, that they might sit with me; the man that walked in the blameless path, he ministered unto me. The proud doer dwelt not in the midst of my house; the speaker of unjust things prospered not before mine eyes. In the morning I slew all the sinners of the land, utterly to destroy out of the city of the Lord all them that work iniquity.

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

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia. Glory to Thee, O God. Thrice.

Lord, have mercy. Thrice.

The Noble Joseph, taking Thy most pure body down from the Tree and having wrapped it in pure linen and spices, laid it in a new tomb

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

When Thou didst descend unto death, O Life Immortal, then didst Thou slay hell with the lightning of Thy divinity. And when Thou didst also raise the

dead out of the nethermost depths, all the hosts of the heavens cried out: O Life-Giver, Christ our God, glory be to Thee.

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

*Theotokion:* What shall we call thee, O thou who art full of grace? Heaven, for from thee hast dawned forth the Sun of Righteousness. Paradise, for from thee hath blossomed forth the flower of immortality. Virgin, for thou hast remained incorrupt. Pure Mother, for thou hast held in thy holy embrace the Son, the God of all. Do thou entreat Him to save our souls.

My steps do Thou direct according to thy saying, and let no iniquity have dominion over me. Deliver me from the false accusations of men, and I will keep Thy commandments. Make Thy face to shine upon Thy servant, and teach me Thy statutes.

Let my mouth be filled with Thy praise, that I may hymn Thy glory and Thy majesty all the day long.

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 the ages of ages. Amen.

O Most Holy Trinity, have mercy on us. O Lord, blot out our sins. O Master, pardon our iniquities. O Holy One, visit and heal our infirmities for Thy name's sake.

Lord have mercy. *Thrice.*

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

Our Father, Who art in the Heavens, 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 debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.

*Senior Reader:* O Lord, Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on us.

*Reader:* Amen.

He that shut up the abyss is seen as one dead, and like a mortal, the Immortal One is wrapped in linen and myrrh, and placed in a grave. And women came to anoint Him, weeping bitterly and crying out: This is the most blessed Sabbath day wherein Christ, having slept, shall arise on the third day

Lord, have mercy. *Forty times.*

*And the Prayer of the Hours:*

Thou Who at all times and at every hour, in heaven and on earth, art worshipped and glorified, O Christ God, Who art long-suffering, plenteous in mercy, most compassionate, Who lovest the righteous and hast mercy on sinners; Who callest all men to salvation through the promise of good things to come: Receive, O Lord, our prayers at this hour, and guide our life toward Thy commandments. Sanctify our souls, make chaste our bodies, correct our thoughts, purify our intentions, and deliver us from every sorrow, evil, and pain. Compass us about with Thy holy angels, that, guarded and guided by their array, we may attain to the unity of the faith and to the knowledge of Thine unapproachable glory: For blessed art Thou unto the ages of ages. Amen.

Lord, have mercy. *Thrice.*

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

More honorable than the cherubim and beyond compare more glorious than the seraphim; who without corruption gavest birth to God the Word, the very Theotokos, thee do we magnify.

**Senior Reader:** Through the prayers of our holy fathers, O Lord Jesus Christ our God, have mercy on us.

**Reader:** Amen.

***Then the Prayer of the First Hour:***

O Christ, the True Light, Who enlightenest and sanctifiest every man that cometh into the world: Let the Light of Thy countenance be signed upon us, that in it we may see the Unapproachable Light, and guide our steps in the doing of Thy commandments, through the intercessions of Thy most pure Mother, and of all Thy saints. Amen.

***Choir: Tone 8:*** To Thee, the Champion Leader, we Thy servants dedicate a feast of victory and of thanksgiving as ones rescued out of sufferings, O Theotokos: but as Thou art one with might which is invincible, from all dangers that can be do Thou deliver us, that we may cry to Thee: Rejoice, Thou Bride Unwedded! \*

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

Lord, have mercy. Thrice.

O Lord, bless.

***Senior Reader (Facing the East, rather than facing the people):*** O Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, for the sake of the prayers of Thy most pure Mother, our holy and God-bearing fathers, and all the saints, have mercy on us and save us, for Thou art good and the Lover of mankind.

***Choir:*** Amen. Lord, have mercy. ***Thrice***

**The End of the First Hour**

*Revised 4/9/2020*