

Matins of Great and Holy Saturday

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

Reader: Amen. Glory to thee, O God, glory to thee.

O heavenly King, the Comforter, the Spirit of truth, who art everywhere and fillest all things; Treasury of blessings and Giver of life: Come and abide in us and cleanse us from every impurity, and save our souls, O Good One.

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

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

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

Lord, have mercy. (3x)

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

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

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

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

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

Reader: Amen.

Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, goodwill towards man (3x).

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

The Six Morning Psalms (*Three are taken*)

Psalm 88

O LORD, my God, I call for help by day; I cry out in the night before thee. Let my prayer come before thee, incline thy ear to my cry! For my soul is full of troubles, and my life draws near to Sheol. I am reckoned among those who go down to the Pit; I am a man who has no strength, like one forsaken among the dead, like the slain that lie in the grave, like those whom thou dost remember no more, for they are cut off from thy hand.

Thou hast put me in the depths of the Pit, in the regions dark and deep. Thy wrath lies heavy upon me, and thou dost overwhelm me with all thy waves. Thou hast caused my companions to shun me; thou hast made me a thing of horror to them. I am shut in so that I cannot escape; my eye grows dim through sorrow.

Every day I call upon thee, O LORD; I spread out my hands to thee. Dost thou work wonders for the dead? Do the shades rise up to praise thee? Is thy steadfast love declared in the grave, or thy faithfulness in Abaddon? Are thy wonders known in the darkness, or thy saving help in the land of forgetfulness?

But I, O LORD, cry to thee; in the morning my prayer comes before thee. O LORD, why dost thou cast me off? Why dost thou hide thy face from me? Afflicted and close to death from my youth up, I suffer thy terrors; I am helpless. Thy wrath has

swept over me; thy dread assaults destroy me. They surround me like a flood all day long; they close in upon me together. Thou hast caused lover and friend to shun me; my companions are in darkness.

Psalm 103

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 his benefits, who forgives all your iniquity, who heals all your diseases, who redeems your life from the Pit, who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy, who satisfies you with good as long as you live so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.

The LORD works vindication and justice for all who are oppressed. He made known his ways to Moses, his acts to the people of Israel. The LORD is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. He will not always chide, nor will he keep his anger forever. He does not deal with us according to our sins, nor requite us according to our iniquities.

For as the heavens are high above the earth, so great is his steadfast love toward those who fear him; as far as the east is from the west, so far does he remove our transgressions from us. As a father pities his children, so the LORD pities those who fear him. For he knows our frame; he remembers that we are dust. As for man, his days are like grass; he flourishes like a flower of

the field; for the wind passes over it, and it is gone, and its place knows it no more.

But the steadfast love of the LORD is from everlasting to everlasting upon those who fear him, and his righteousness to children's children, to those who keep his covenant and remember to do his commandments. The LORD has established his throne in the heavens, and his kingdom rules over all.

Bless the LORD, O you his angels, you mighty ones who do his word, hearkening to the voice of his word! Bless the LORD, all his hosts, his ministers that do his will! Bless the LORD, all his works, in all places of his dominion. Bless the LORD, O my soul!

Psalm 143

Hear my prayer, O LORD; give ear to my supplications! In thy faithfulness answer me, in thy righteousness! Enter not into judgment with thy servant; for no man living is righteous before thee.

For the enemy has pursued me; he has crushed my life to the ground; he has made me sit in darkness like those long dead. Therefore my spirit faints within me; my heart within me is appalled. I remember the days of old, I meditate on all that thou hast done; I muse on what thy hands have wrought. I stretch out my hands to thee; my soul thirsts for thee like a parched land.

Make haste to answer me, O LORD! My spirit fails! Hide not thy face from me, lest I be like those who go down to the Pit. Let me hear in the morning of thy steadfast love, for in thee I put my trust. Teach me the way I should go, for to thee I lift up my soul.

Deliver me, O LORD, from my enemies! I have fled to thee for refuge! Teach me to do thy will, for thou art my God! Let thy good spirit lead me on a level path! For thy name's sake, O LORD, preserve my life! In thy righteousness bring me out of trouble! And in thy steadfast love cut off my enemies, and destroy all my adversaries, for I am thy servant.

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

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

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

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

The Great Litany

Priest: In peace let us pray to the Lord.

All: Lord, have mercy.

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

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

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

For His Beatitude our Metropolitan _____ ; for His Eminence (Grace) our Archbishop (Bishop) _____ ; for the honorable priesthood, the diaconate in Christ, for all the clergy and the people, let us pray to the Lord.

For this country, its president, for all civil authorities, and for the armed forces, let us pray to the Lord.

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

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

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

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

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

Commemorating our most holy, most pure, most blessed and glorious Lady Theotokos and ever-virgin Mary with all the saints, let us commend

ourselves and each other, and all our life unto Christ our God.

All: To thee O Lord.

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

All: Amen.

God is the Lord & *The Noble Joseph*

Priest: God is the Lord and has revealed Himself to us. Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord. O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good. His mercy endures forever.

Choir: God is the Lord and has revealed Himself to us. Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.

- All the nations surrounded me, but in the name of the Lord I withstood them.
- I shall not die, but I shall live, and recount the deeds of the Lord.
- The stone which the builders rejected has become the head of the corner. This is the Lord's doing and it is marvelous in our eyes.

Troparia

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

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. When Thou didst descend to death, O Life Immortal, Thou didst slay hell with the splendor of Thy Godhead, and when from the depths Thou didst raise the dead, all the powers of Heaven cried out: "O Giver of Life, Christ our God, glory to Thee!"

Now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen. The angel came to the myrrhbearing women at the tomb and said: "Myrrh is fitting for the dead, but Christ has shown Himself a stranger to corruption."

Psalm 119 (118) The Lamentations

Psalm 119 is read each night at the midnight office. It is also sung at every Orthodox funeral matins, although in a very abbreviated form.

Psalm 119 is the longest chapter in Holy Scripture, at 176 verses, and is divided into three parts, called "stases."

Following each verse is a troparion, or hymn, which reflects on the mystery of the death and resurrection of Christ.

*For the Lamentation Stases sung this evening,
please see the booklet insert.*

Resurrectional Evlogitaria ("Blessed art Thou, O Lord")

Refrain: Blessed art Thou O Lord, teach me Thy statues.

- The angelic host was filled with awe, when it saw Thee among the dead. By destroying the power of death, O Savior, Thou didst raise Adam and save all men from hell. [R]
- In the tomb, the radiant angel cried to the myrrhbearers, "Why do you women mingle myrrh with your tears? Look at the tomb and understand! The Savior is risen from the dead." [R]
- Very early in the morning the myrrhbearers ran with sorrow to Thy tomb. But an angel came to them and said, "The time for sorrow has come to an end. Do

not weep but announce the resurrection to the Apostles.” [R]

- The myrrhbearers were sorrowful as they neared Thy tomb, but the angel said to them, “Why do you number the living among the dead? Since He is God He is risen from the tomb.”
- Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit. We worship the Father and His Son and the Holy Spirit -- the Holy Trinity one in essence. We cry with the Seraphim: Holy, Holy, Holy art Thou, O Lord.
- Now and ever and unto ages of ages, Amen. Since you gave birth to the giver of life O Virgin you delivered Adam from his sin. You gave joy to Eve instead of sadness. The God-man who was born of you has restored to life those who had fallen from it.
- Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Glory to Thee O God (3x)

Psalm 51

Have mercy on me, O God, according to thy steadfast love; according to thy abundant mercy blot out my transgressions. Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from

my sin!

For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me. Against thee, thee only, have I sinned, and done that which is evil in thy sight, so that thou art justified in thy sentence and blameless in thy judgment. Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, and in sin did my mother conceive me.

Behold, thou desirest truth in the inward being; therefore teach me wisdom in my secret heart. Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow. Fill me with joy and gladness; let the bones which thou hast broken rejoice. Hide thy face from my sins, and blot out all my iniquities.

Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me. Cast me not away from thy presence, and take not thy holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of thy salvation, and uphold me with a willing spirit. Then I will teach transgressors thy ways, and sinners will return to thee.

Deliver me from bloodguiltiness, O God, thou God of my salvation, and my tongue will sing aloud of thy deliverance. O Lord, open thou my lips, and my mouth shall show forth thy praise. For thou hast no delight in sacrifice; were I to give a burnt offering, thou wouldst not be pleased. The sacrifice acceptable to God is a broken spirit; a broken and

contrite heart, O God, thou wilt not despise.

Do good to Zion in thy good pleasure; rebuild the walls of Jerusalem, then wilt thou delight in right sacrifices, in burnt offerings and whole burnt offerings; then bulls will be offered on thy altar.

The Canon of Holy Saturday (Tone 6)

Ode 1

Irmos: 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.

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

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

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

Reader: Beholding Thee upon the throne 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 understanding wast Thou, the very Source of Life, seen dead.

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

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

Katavasia: Of old Thou didst bury ...

Ode 3

Irmos: 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!"

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

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

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

Reader: Thou hast stretched out Thy hands, O Savior, 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!”

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

Reader: By Thy will a sealed tomb contained Thee who cannot be contained; for by Thy divine accomplishments Thou hast made known Thy power unto those who sing: “None is holy but Thee, O Lord who lovest mankind!”

Katavasia: Thou didst suspend the earth ...

Ode 4

Irmos: 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!”

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

Reader: Thou hast sanctified this, the seventh day, which of old Thou didst bless by rest from work; for Thou dost bring

all things into being and renew them, O my Savior,
while resting and reviving on the Sabbath.

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

Reader: 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.

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

Reader: When hell encountered Thee as a mortal man deified,
marked with wounds yet having almighty power, it
cried out at Thine awesome appearance.

Katavasia: Foreseeing Thy divine humiliation ...

Ode 5

Irmos: 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!”

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

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

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

Reader: 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.

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

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

Katavasia: Isaiah saw the never setting light ...

Ode 6

Irmos: 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!”

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

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

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

Reader: 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.

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

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

Katavasia: Jonah was caught ...

Kontakion (Tone 6)

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

Ikos

Reader: He who holds all things together has been lifted up upon the cross, and all of creation weeps at seeing him hanging naked upon the wood. The sun hid its rays and the stars cast aside their splendor. The earth shook with great fear, the sea fled, and rocks were split asunder. Many tombs were opened, and the bodies of

holy men arose. Hell groaned below, and the Jews considered how to slander the resurrection of Christ, but the women cried:

Choir: “This is the most blessed Sabbath, on which Christ has fallen asleep to rise on the third day!”

Ode 7

Irmos: 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.”

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

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

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

Reader: 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!”

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

Reader: In accordance with the law of the dead, the Life of all accepts burial in the tomb, and the tomb becomes the source of resurrection, unto the salvation of us who sing: “Blessed art Thou, O God, our Redeemer!”

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

Reader: 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 ...

Ode 8

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

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

Reader: The pure Temple has been destroyed, yet He raises with Himself the tabernacle that had fallen; for the second

Adam, who dwells in the highest, has descended to the first Adam, even unto the lowest chambers of hell. Bless Him, O youths! Praise Him, O priests! O people, exalt Him above all forever!

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

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

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

Reader: What wonders! What 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!

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

Katavasia: Be amazed, O heavens ...

Ode 9

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

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

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

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

Reader: “By mine 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 mine enemies on the cross, I shall arise as God and magnify you.”

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

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

Katavasia: Do not lament me, O Mother ...

Little Litany

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

Choir: Lord have mercy.

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

Choir: Lord have mercy.

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

Choir: To Thee, O Lord.

Priest: For all the powers of heaven praise Thee, and to 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.

Holy is the Lord our God

Priest: Holy is the Lord is our God!

Choir: Holy is the Lord is our God!

Priest: For holy is the Lord is our God!

Choir: Holy is the Lord is our God!

Priest: Over all people is our God!

Choir: Holy is the Lord is our God!

The Praises

(Tone 2)

Let everything that breathes praise the Lord!

Praise the Lord from the heavens

Praise Him in the highest//

To Thee, O God, is due a song!

Praise Him, all you angels of His

Praise Him, all His hosts//

To Thee O God, is due a song!

Praise Him for His mighty deeds, praise Him according to His exceeding greatness!

Today a tomb holds Him who holds creation in the hollow
of His hand.

A stone covers Him who covered the heavens with glory.

Life sleeps and Hell trembles

Adam is set free from his bonds.

Glory to Thy plan of salvation

By it Thou hast fulfilled all things
granting us an eternal Sabbath rest//
Thy most holy resurrection from the dead!

Praise Him with trumpet sound; praise Him with lute and harp!

What is the sight we behold?
What is the present rest?
The King of the Ages keeps the Sabbath in the tomb
through His Passion He has fulfilled the plan of salvation
granting us a new Sabbath rest
To Him let us cry aloud
“Arise, O God and judge the earth,
for Thou dost reign forever//
and beyond measure is Thy great mercy!”

Praise Him with timbrel and dance; praise Him with strings and pipe!

Come, let us see our Life lying in the tomb,
to give life to those who lie dead in the tombs.
Come, look today on the Son of Judah sleeping
with Jacob the patriarch, let us cry to Him
“Thou hast stooped down; Thou hast crouched as a lion
who dares rouse Thee up, O King?”
But arise in Thine own pow’r
O Thou who didst willingly give Thyself for us//
O Lord, glory to Thee!

Praise Him with sounding cymbals; praise Him with loud clashing cymbals! Let everything that breathes praise the lord! Praise the Lord!

(Tone 6)

Joseph sought the body of Jesus
and laid it in his own new tomb
for it was fitting that Christ come forth from the grave as
from a bridal chamber

O Thou who hast destroyed the pow'r of death
and hast opened for mankind the gates of Paradise//
Glory to Thee!

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

The great Moses mystic'ly foreshadowed this day when he
said;

“God blessed the seventh day

This is the blessed Sabbath

This is the day of rest

on which the Only-begotten Son of God rested from all His
works.

By suffering death to fulfill the plan of salvation

He kept the Sabbath in the flesh

by returning again to what He was,

He has granted us eternal life through His resurrection//
for He alone is Good and the Lover of Man.

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

(Tone 2)

You are most blessed, O Virgin Theotokos
for through the God and Man who was born of you,
Hell has been captured and Adam recalled
the curse has been annulled and Eve set free
death has been slain, so we are given life
blessed is Christ our God, whose good will it was//
Glory to you!

Great Doxology

Priest: Glory to Thee who has shown us the light!

Choir: Glory to God in the highest,
and on earth peace, good will among men.
We praise You, we bless You,
we worship You, we glorify You,
we give thanks to You for Your great glory.
O Lord, heavenly King, God the Father Almighty;
O Lord, the Only-Begotten Son, Jesus Christ, and the
Holy Spirit.
O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father
Who take away the sin of the world, have mercy on us.
You who take away the sins of the world, receive our
prayer.

You who sit at the right hand of the Father, have mercy
on us.

For You only are holy,
You only are the Lord, Jesus Christ, to the glory of God
the Father. Amen.

Every day will I bless You and praise Your name
forever and ever.

Grant, O Lord, to keep us this day without sin.
Blessed are You, O Lord, the God of our fathers,
and praised and glorified is Your name forever. Amen.
Let Your mercy, O Lord, be upon us according as we
put our hope in You.

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

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

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

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

I said: O Lord, be merciful to me! Heal my soul, for I
have sinned against You!

Lord, I flee to You. Teach me to do Your will, for You
are my God;

For with You is the fountain of life, in Your light we
shall see light.

Continue Your loving kindness to those who know You.

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, 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.

Procession with the Burial Shroud

All: (*Processional melody.*) Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal, have mercy on us.

(The faithful return to the Church by passing below the burial shroud and venerating the Holy Gospel.)

Priest: (*From the Royal Doors, with the Shroud held aloft.*)
Wisdom!

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

As the choir sings, the Priest returns the Shroud to the center of the Church, places the Gospel upon it, and censes around it once.

Priest: Wisdom!

Reader: The Troparion of the Prophecy in the Second Tone.

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

Priest: Wisdom!

Reader: The prokeimenon in the Fourth Tone: Arise, O God, and help us! Deliver us for Thy Name's sake!

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

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

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

Reader: Arise, O God, and help us!

Choir: Deliver us for Thy Name's sake!

Priest: Wisdom!

Reader: The reading is from the Prophet Ezekiel.

Priest: Let us attend!

Reader: (*Ezekiel 37:1-14*). In those days, 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. ² And he led me round among them; and behold, there were very many upon the valley; and lo, they were very dry. ³ And he said to me, "Son of man, can these bones live?" And I answered, "O Lord GOD, thou knowest." ⁴ Again he said to me, "Prophecy to these bones, and say to them, O dry bones, hear the word of the LORD. ⁵ Thus says the Lord GOD to these bones: Behold, I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. ⁶ 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." ⁷ 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. ⁸ 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. ⁹ Then he said to me, "Prophecy to the breath, prophecy, 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." ¹⁰ 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. ¹¹ 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.' ¹² 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. ¹³ And you shall know that I am the LORD, when I open your graves, and raise you from your graves, O my people. ¹⁴ 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."

Priest: Wisdom!

Reader: The prokeimenon in the Seventh Tone: Arise, O Lord my God, lift up Thy hand! Forget not Thy poor forever!

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

Reader: I will praise Thee, O Lord my God, with all my heart; I will make all Thy wonders known.

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

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

Choir: Forget not Thy poor forever!

Priest: Wisdom!

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

Priest: Let us attend!

Reader: (*1 Corinthians 5:6-8, Galatians 3:13-14*). Brethren, do you not know that a little leaven leavens the whole lump? ⁷ 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. ⁸ 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. ¹³ Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law, having become a curse for us -- for it is written, "Cursed be every one who hangs on a tree" -- ¹⁴ 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 you who have read!

Reader: And to your spirit! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Choir: Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

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

Choir: Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

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

Choir: Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Priest: Wisdom let us attend, let us listen to the Holy Gospel!
Peace be unto all!

Choir: And to your spirit.

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

Choir: Glory to Thee, O Lord, glory to Thee!

Priest: Let us attend!

Priest: (*Matthew 27:62-66.*) On the next day, that is, after the day of Preparation, the chief priests and the Pharisees gathered before Pilate ⁶³ and said, "Sir, we remember how that impostor said, while he was still alive, 'After three days I will rise again.'⁶⁴ Therefore order the sepulchre 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."⁶⁵ Pilate said to them, "You have a guard of soldiers; go, make it as secure as you can."⁶⁶ So

they went and made the sepulchre secure by sealing the stone and setting a guard.

Choir: Glory to Thee, O Lord, glory to Thee!

Augmented Litany

Priest: Have mercy on us, O God, according to Thy great goodness, we pray Thee, hear us and have mercy.

Choir: Lord have mercy. (3x)

Again we pray for His Beatitude, our Metropolitan____, His Grace/Eminence, our Bishop/Archbishop _____, for priests, deacons, and all other clergy, and for all our brethren in Christ.

Again we pray for this country, its president, for all civil authorities, and for the armed forces.

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

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

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

Priest: For Thou art a merciful God and love mankind, and to 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

Litany of Matins

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

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

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

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

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

Choir: Grant it, O Lord.

- Priest:**
- An angel of peace, a faithful guide, a guardian of our souls and bodies, let us ask of the Lord.
 - Pardon and remission of our sins and transgressions, let us ask of the Lord.
 - All things that are good and profitable for our souls, and peace for the world, let us ask of the Lord.
 - That we may complete the remaining time of our life in peace and repentance, let us ask of the Lord.
 - A Christian ending to our life: painless, blameless, and peaceful; and a good defense before the dread judgment seat of Christ, let us ask of the Lord.
 - Commemorating our most holy, most pure, most blessed and glorious Lady Theotokos and ever-virgin Mary with all the saints, let us commend ourselves and each other, and all our life unto Christ our God.

Choir: To Thee, O Lord.

Priest: For Thou art a good God and the Lover of mankind, and to Thee we ascribe glory. To the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Priest: Peace, be unto all.

Choir: And to your spirit.

Priest: Let us bow our heads unto the Lord.

Choir: To Thee, O Lord.

Priest: O Holy Lord, who dwells on high and regards the humble of heart, and who with Thine all-seeing eye beholds all creation: to Thee have we bowed the neck of our soul and body and we entreat Thee: Stretch forth Thine invisible hand from Thy holy dwelling-place and bless us all. And if in any way we have sinned, whether voluntary or involuntary, forgive, inasmuch as Thou art a good God, and the lover of mankind, vouchsafing to us Thy earthly and heavenly good things.

For Thine it is to show mercy and to save us, O our God, and to 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 Dismissal

Priest: 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 Orthodox Christians, unto ages of ages!

Priest: Most Holy Theotokos save us!

Choir: More honorable than the cherubim, and more glorious beyond compare than the seraphim, without defilement you gave birth to God the Word, true Theotokos we magnify you!

Priest: Glory to Thee, O Christ our God and our hope, glory to The!

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

Priest: May He who endured fearful suffering, the life-creating Cross, and voluntary burial in the flesh for our sake and for our salvation, Christ our true God, through the prayers of His most pure mother, of the holy, glorious, and all-laudable apostles, of the holy and righteous ancestors of God Joachim and Anna, and of all the saints, have mercy on us and save us, for as much as He is good, and loves mankind!

Choir: Amen! Lord have mercy, Lord have mercy, Lord have mercy!