

Matins of Holy Saturday



The Lamentations Before the Epitaphios

For Use at Holy Ascension Orthodox Mission in Melbourne, Victoria.
Please Return this Booklet after the Service

**HOLY ASCENSION
ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN MISSION**

www.ascensionorthodox.org

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This project is still in draft and continues as a work-in-progress.

Matins of Holy Saturday Lamentations Before the Epitaphios

(Served on Holy Friday Evening in Anticipation)

According to the Typicon, Matins begins at the seventh hour of the night (approximately one o'clock in the morning). According to current practice it is usually served somewhat earlier.

The priest, standing in front of the Epitaphios and vested in a dark epitachelion and cuffs begins (Greek practice: White vestments):

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

Priest commences Great Censing.

Normal melodies for litanies. NOT Lenten.

Reader: Amen. Glory to You, our God, glory to You.
Heavenly King, Comforter, Spirit of Truth,
present everywhere and filling all things,
Treasury of good things and Giver of life:
Come and dwell in us, cleanse us of all
impurity, and save our souls, O Good One.

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

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

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

Lord, have mercy. (x 3)

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

Our Father in the Heavens, hallowed be Your Name. Your Kingdom come, Your will be done, on earth as it is in Heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.

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

Reader: Amen.

Lord, have mercy. (*x 12*)

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

Reader: May the Lord hear you in the day of affliction; may the name of the God of Jacob defend you. May He

send you help from His holy place, and may He support you from Zion. May He remember every sacrifice of yours, and may your whole burnt offering be honored. May He give you according to your heart, may He fulfill all your counsel. We will greatly rejoice in Your salvation, and in the name of our God we will be magnified. Now I know the Lord has saved His anointed; He will hear him from His holy heaven; the salvation of His right hand is mighty. Some glory in chariots, some in horses, but in the name of the Lord our God we shall be magnified. Their feet were tied together; so they fell; but we rose up and were restored. O Lord, save Your King, and hear us in the day we call upon You.

Psalm 20

Reader: O Lord, the king shall be glad in Your power, and in Your salvation he will greatly rejoice. You gave him his soul's desire, and You did not deprive him of his lips' request. For You anticipated him with blessings of goodness; You placed a crown of precious stones on his head. He asked You for life, and You gave it to him, length of days to the ages of ages. Great is his glory in Your salvation; glory and majesty You shall place upon him. For You shall give him blessing to the ages of ages; You shall fill him with the joy of Your presence. For the king hopes in the Lord, and in the mercy of the Most High he will not be shaken. May Your hand be found on all Your enemies; may Your right hand find all who hate You. You shall make them like a fiery furnace in the time of Your presence; the Lord shall throw them into confusion in His wrath, and the fire shall devour them. You shall destroy their offspring from the earth and their seed from among the sons of men. For they vented all their evils against You; they

reasoned through a counsel they could not establish. For You shall make them turn their back; among Your remnants, You shall make ready their countenance. Be exalted, O Lord, in Your power; we will sing and praise Your mighty deeds.

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

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

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

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

Lord, have mercy. (x 3)

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

Our Father in the Heavens, hallowed be Your Name. Your Kingdom come, Your will be done, on earth as it is in Heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.

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

Reader: Amen. O Lord, save Your people and bless Your inheritance. Grant victory to Orthodox Christians over their enemies, and protect Your dominion by the power of Your Cross.

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

O Christ our God, of Your own will You were lifted up on the Cross, grant Your compassions upon the new community named after You; with Your power make us glad, granting us victory over our enemies; may we have as Your help the weapon of peace, the invincible trophy.

Now and ever, and to the ages of ages. Amen.

O all-praised Theotokos, fearful and shameless protection, do not ignore our prayers. O good one, strengthen the dominion of the Orthodox, save those whom you have called to govern, and grant them victory from Heaven, for you gave birth to God, O only blessed lady.

Priest censes on the spot in front of Altar.

Priest: Have mercy on us, O God, according to Your great mercy, we pray to You, hear us and have mercy.

People: Lord, have mercy. (x3)

Priest: Again we pray for our great lord and father, His Holiness, Patriarch **N.**; for our lord the Most Reverend Metropolitan **N.**, First Hierarch of the Russian Church Abroad; for our lord the Most Reverend (Archbishop **or** Bishop **N.**, **whose diocese it is**) and all our brethren in Christ.

People: Lord, have mercy. (x3)

Priest: Again we pray for all the brethren and for all Orthodox Christians.

People: Lord, have mercy. (x3)

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

People: Amen. In the name of the Lord, Father, Bless!

Priest in front of Altar makes Sign of the Cross in the air with the Censer and censens 3 x 3.

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

People: Amen.

All Lights are turned off at this point. The Priest is handed a taper to read the silent prayers during the Six Psalms. The Priest, bareheaded, stands before the Altar during the first 3 readings. Then he goes out through the North Door and stands before the closed Holy Doors for the last 3 readings.

The rubrics call for the Superior of the Community to read them. It is generally a good idea for the Sacristan or a Server to put a fresh charcoal in the Censer. All candles in the stands should be extinguished (and relit at the end of the reading).

The usual practice now is for the Reader to read the Six Psalms in the middle of the Church, using a candle.

Everybody should stand and listen to the reading of the Psalms as if Christ Himself is reading them. Everybody is supposed to be perfectly still during the reading and makes no reverences between the Psalms.

Reader: Glory to God in the highest and on Earth peace, good will among men. (x 3)

O Lord, You will open my lips, and my mouth will declare Your praise. (x 2)

The Six Psalms ***Psalm 3***

Reader: O Lord, why do those who afflict me multiply? Many are those who rise up against me. Many are those who say to my soul, "There is no salvation for him in his God." But You, O Lord, are my protector, my glory and the One who lifts up my head. I cried to the Lord with my voice, and He heard me from His holy hill. I lay down and slept; I awoke, for the Lord will help me. I will not be afraid of ten thousands of people who set themselves against me all around. Arise, O Lord, and save me, O my God, for You struck all those who were foolishly

at enmity with me; You broke the teeth of sinners. Salvation is of the Lord, and Your blessing is upon Your people.

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

Psalm 37

Reader: O Lord, do not rebuke me in Your wrath, nor chasten me in Your anger. For Your arrows are fixed in me, and Your hand rests on me; there is no healing in my flesh because of Your wrath; there is no peace in my bones because of my sins. For my transgressions rise up over my head; like a heavy burden they are heavy on me. My wounds grow foul and fester because of my folly. I suffer misery, and I am utterly bowed down; I go all the day long with a sad face. For my loins are filled with mockeries, and there is no healing in my flesh. I am afflicted and greatly humbled; I roar because of the groaning of my heart. O Lord, all my desire is before You, and my groaning is not hidden from You. My heart is troubled; my strength fails me, and the light of my eyes, even this is not with me. My friends and neighbors draw near and stand against me, and my near of kin stand far off; and those who seek my soul use violence, and those who seek evil for me speak folly; and they meditate on deceit all the day long. But I like a deaf man do not hear, and I am like a mute who does not open his mouth. I am like a man who does not hear, and who has no reproofs in his mouth. For in You, O Lord, I hope; You will hear, O Lord my God. For I said, "Let not my enemies rejoice over me, for when my foot was shaken, they boasted against me." For I am ready for wounds, and my pain is continually with me. For I will declare my transgression, and I will be anxious about my sin. But my enemies live, and have

become stronger than I; and those who hate me unjustly are multiplied; those who repaid me evil for good slandered me, because I pursue righteousness; and they threw away my love as though it were a stinking corpse. Do not forsake me, O Lord; O my God, do not depart from me; give heed to help me, O Lord of my salvation.

Do not forsake me, O Lord; O my God, do not depart from me; give heed to help me, O Lord of my salvation.

Psalm 62

Reader: O God, my God, I rise early to be with You; my soul thirsts for You. How often my flesh thirsts for You in a desolate, impassable, and waterless land. So in the holy place I appear before You, to see Your power and Your glory. Because Your mercy is better than life, my lips shall praise You. Thus I will bless You in my life; I will lift up my hands in Your name. May my soul be filled, as if with marrow and fatness, and my mouth shall sing praise to You with lips filled with rejoicing. If I remembered You on my bed, I meditated on You at daybreak; for You are my helper, and in the shelter of Your wings I will greatly rejoice. My soul follows close behind You; Your right hand takes hold of me. But they seek for my soul in vain; they shall go into the lowest parts of the earth. They shall be given over to the edge of the sword; they shall be a portion for foxes. But the king shall be glad in God; all who swear by Him shall be praised, for the mouth that speaks unrighteous things is stopped.

I meditated on You at daybreak; for You are my helper, and in the shelter of Your wings I will greatly rejoice. My

soul follows close behind You; Your right hand takes hold of me.

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

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia. Glory to You, O God. *(x 3 Without bows, with the Sign of the Cross only.)*

Reader: Lord, have mercy. *(x3)*

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

The Priest exits the Sanctuary via the North Door and, standing bareheaded before the Holy Doors, quietly continues reading the Morning Prayers.

Psalm 87

Reader: O Lord God of my salvation, I cry day and night before You. Let my prayer come before You; incline Your ear to my supplication, O Lord. For my soul is filled with sorrows, and my soul draws near to Hades; I am counted among those who go down into the pit; I am like a helpless man, free among the dead, like slain men thrown down and sleeping in a grave, whom You remember no more, but they are removed from Your hand. They laid me in the lowest pit, in dark places and in the shadow of death. Your wrath rested upon me, and You brought all Your billows over me. You removed my acquaintances far from me; they made me an abomination among themselves; I was betrayed, and did not go forth. My eyes weakened from poverty; O Lord, I cry to You the whole

day long; I spread out my hands to You. Will You work wonders for the dead? Or will physicians raise them up, and acknowledge You? Shall anyone in the grave describe Your mercy and Your truth in destruction? Shall Your wonders be known in darkness, and Your righteousness in a forgotten land? But I cry to You, O Lord, and in the morning my prayer shall come near to You. Why, O Lord, do You reject my soul, and turn away Your face from me? I am poor and in troubles from my youth; but having been exalted, I was humbled and brought into despair. Your fierce anger passed over me, and Your terrors greatly troubled me; they compassed me like water all the day long; they surrounded me at once. You removed far from me neighbor and friend, and my acquaintances because of my misery.

O Lord God of my salvation, I cry day and night before You. Let my prayer come before You; incline Your ear to my supplication, O Lord.

Psalm 102

Reader: Bless the Lord, O my soul, and everything within me, bless His holy name. Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all His rewards: Who is merciful to all your transgressions, who heals all your diseases, who redeems your life from corruption, who crowns you with mercy and compassion, who satisfies your desire with good things; and your youth is renewed like the eagle's. The Lord shows mercies and judgment to all who are wronged. He made known His ways to Moses, the things He willed to the sons of Israel. The Lord is compassionate and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in mercy. He will not become angry to the end, nor will He be wrathful forever; He did not deal with us according to our sins, nor

reward us according to our transgressions; for according to the height of Heaven from Earth, so the Lord reigns in mercy over those who fear Him; as far as the East is from the West, so He removes our transgressions from us. As a father has compassion on his children, so the Lord has compassion on those who fear Him, for He knows how He formed us; He remembers we are dust. As for man, his days are like grass, as a flower of the field, so he flourishes; for the wind passes through it, and it shall not remain; and it shall no longer know its place. But the mercy of the Lord is from age to age upon those who fear Him, and His righteousness upon children's children, to such as keep His covenant and remember His commandments, to do them. The Lord prepared His throne in Heaven, and His Kingdom rules over all. Bless the Lord, all you His angels, mighty in strength, who do His word, so as to hear the voice of His words. Bless the Lord, all you His hosts, His ministers who do His will; bless the Lord, all His works, in all places of His dominion; bless the Lord, O my soul.

In all places of His dominion; bless the Lord, O my soul.

Psalm 142

Reader: O Lord, hear my prayer, give ear to my supplication in Your truth, answer me in Your righteousness. Do not enter into judgment with Your servant, for no one living shall become righteous in Your sight. For the enemy persecuted my soul; he humbled my life to the ground, he caused me to dwell in dark places as one long dead, and my spirit was in anguish within me, my heart was troubled within me. I remembered the days of old, and I meditated on all Your works, I meditated on the

works of Your hands. I spread out my hands to You; my soul thirsts for You like a waterless land. Hear me speedily, O Lord; my spirit faints within me. Turn not Your face from me, lest I become like those who go down into the pit. Cause me to hear Your mercy in the morning; for I put my hope in You; make me know, O Lord, the way wherein I should walk, for I lift up my soul to You. Deliver me from my enemies, O Lord, for to You I flee for refuge. Teach me to do Your will, for You are my God. Your good Spirit shall guide me in the land of uprightness. For Your name's sake, O Lord, give me life, in Your righteousness You shall bring my soul out of affliction. In Your mercy You shall destroy my enemies, You shall utterly destroy all who afflict my soul, for I am Your servant.

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

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia. Glory to You, O God. *(x3 With the sign of the Cross and Bows from the waist.)*

Morning Prayers
(Inaudible Priestly Prayers)

Priest:

1. We thank You, Lord our God, Who has raised us up from our beds, and has put into our mouth the word of praise, that we may worship and call on Your holy name. And we entreat Your compassion, which You have always shown concerning our life: Send down Your help on them that stand before the presence of Your holy glory and await rich mercy from You. And grant them, who always serve You with fear and love, to praise Your inexpressible goodness. For to You is due all glory, honor, and worship: to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and to the ages of ages. Amen.

2. Out of the night our spirit wakes at dawn to You, our God, for Your commandments are a light upon the earth. Teach us to fulfill righteousness and holiness in Your fear; for we glorify You, our God who truly exists. Incline Your ear, and hear us and remember by name, Lord, all that are with us and pray with us, and save them by Your power. Bless Your people and sanctify Your inheritance. Give peace to Your world, to Your churches, to Your priests, and to all Your people.

For blessed and glorified is Your all-honorable and majestic name: of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and to the ages of ages. Amen.

3. Out of the night our spirit wakes at dawn to You, God, for Your commandments are a light. Teach us, God, Your righteousness, Your commandments and Your statutes; enlighten the eyes of our understanding, lest at any time we sleep to death in sins. Dispel all darkness from our hearts. Grant us the Sun of Righteousness, and preserve our life secure by the seal of Your Holy Spirit. Guide our steps

into the way of peace. Grant us to behold the dawn and the day in rejoicing, that we may send up our morning prayers to You.

For Yours is the dominion, and Yours is the Kingdom, and the power and the glory: of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and to the ages of ages. Amen.

4. Sovereign God, holy and incomprehensible, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness; who has refreshed us by the sleep of the night; and has raised us up for the glorification and supplication of Your goodness. We entreat You, in Your mercy accept us even now bowing down in worship to You and giving thanks to You according to the measure of our strength, and grant us all our requests which are for our salvation. Show us to be sons of the light and of the day, and heirs of Your eternal good things. Remember, Lord, in the multitude of Your compassions, all Your people that are with us and pray with us, and all our brethren, on land, on the sea, in the air, and in every place of Your dominion, needing Your help and love for mankind, and grant Your great mercy; that always preserved in safety of soul and body, we may with boldness glorify Your wondrous and blessed name: of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, now and ever and to the ages of ages. Amen.

5. Treasury of good things, ever-flowing fountain, Holy Father, Miracle-Worker, Omnipotent and Almighty One, we all worship You and pray to You, calling upon Your mercy and compassion for the help and defence of our lowliness. Remember Your servants Lord; accept the morning prayers of us all as incense before You and let none of us be found guilty, but provide us all with Your compassions. Remember, Lord, them that keep vigil and chant to Your glory, and to the glory of Your only-begotten Son and our God, and of Your Holy Spirit. Be their helper and defender. Accept their petitions at Your all heavenly and noetical altar.

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

6. We give thanks to You, Lord God of our salvation, for You do all things for the benefit of our life, that we may always look to You, the Saviour and Benefactor of our souls; for You have given us rest in the part of the night that is past, and have raised us up from our beds, and have set us in the worship of Your venerable name. Therefore, we entreat You, Lord, grant us grace and strength, that we may be made worthy to hymn You with understanding, and to pray without ceasing, working out our own salvation in fear and trembling through the help of Your Christ. Remember, Lord, also them that cry aloud to You by night; hear them and have mercy, and crush under their feet invisible and warring enemies.

For You are the King of Peace and the Saviour of our souls, and to You we send up glory: to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and to the ages of ages. Amen.

7. God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, Who has raised us up from our beds, and gathered us together at the hour of prayer, grant us grace in the opening of our mouth, and accept our thanksgivings according to our power, and teach us Your statutes. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, if You, Lord, do not guide us by Your Holy Spirit. Therefore we entreat You: If we have sinned even until the present hour, in word, deed, or thought, voluntarily or involuntarily: loose, remit, pardon; for if You should mark iniquities, Lord, O Lord, who will stand? For with You there is redemption; You alone are holy, a mighty Helper, the Defender of our life; and our song is continually of You.

Blessed and most glorified be the dominion of Your kingdom: of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and to the ages of ages. Amen.

8. Lord our God, Who has banished from us the sleep of despondency and has called us together by a holy bidding, that in the night we may lift up our hands and give thanks to You for the judgments of Your righteousness: Accept our prayers, supplications, thanksgivings, and night worship; and grant us, God, faith unashamed, unwavering hope, a love unfeigned; bless our comings in and goings out, our deeds, works, words, thoughts; and grant to us to come to the beginning of the day praising, hymning, and blessing the goodness of Your unutterable beneficence.

For blessed is Your all-holy name, and glorified is Your Kingdom: of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, now and ever and to the ages of ages. Amen.

9. Make to shine in our hearts, Master, Lover of mankind, the incorruptible light of Your divine knowledge, and open the eyes of our mind to the understanding of the preaching of Your Gospel; instill in us also fear of Your blessed commandments, that trampling down all carnal desires, we may pursue a spiritual way of life, both meditating and doing all that is well-pleasing to You.

For You are the sanctification and the enlightenment of our souls and bodies, Christ our God, and to You we send up glory, together with Your unoriginate Father, and Your All-Holy and good, and life-giving Spirit, now and ever and to the ages of ages. Amen.

10. Lord our God, Who has granted to man forgiveness through repentance, and has shown us, as an example of the knowledge and confession that leads to forgiveness, the repentance of the Prophet

David: Master, notwithstanding the many and great sins into which we have fallen, have mercy on us according to Your great mercy, and according to the multitude of Your compassions blot out our transgressions; for we have sinned against You, Lord, Who knows the hidden and secret things of the heart of man, and Who alone has authority to remit sins; having renewed a right spirit within us, and having made known to us the joy of Your salvation, do not cast us away from Your presence; but, be pleased, as You are good and the Lover of mankind, to allow us even to our last breath to offer to You the sacrifice of righteousness and an oblation upon Your holy altars.

Through the mercies and compassions and love for mankind of Your only-begotten Son, with Whom You are blessed, together with Your all-holy, and good, and life-giving Spirit, now and ever, and to the ages of ages. Amen.

11. God, our God, Who by Your will has brought into being the intelligent and rational hosts, we entreat You: Accept our doxology which, together with all Your creatures, we offer according to our strength, and reward us with the abundant gifts of Your goodness; for every knee in heaven and on earth and under the earth bends to You, and every breath and creature hymns Your unsearchable glory; for You alone are the true God and plenteous in mercy.

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

12. We praise You, we hymn You, we bless You, we give thanks to You, God of our fathers, for You have brought us through the shadow of night and have shown us again the light of day. But we entreat Your goodness: Blot out our sins and accept our prayer in Your great loving-kindness, for we flee to You, the merciful and omnipotent God. Make to shine in our hearts the true Son of Your righteousness, enlighten our mind and guard all our senses, that walking honestly as in the day in the way of Your commandments, we may attain to eternal life, for in You is the fountain of life; and may we be made worthy of enjoying Your unapproachable light.

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

The Deacon exits the North Door and stands in front of the Holy Doors in his usual place for the Great Litany. If there is no Deacon, the Priest remains in front of the Holy Doors. Otherwise, the Deacon and Priest make the Sign of the Cross thrice, bow to each other, then the Priest returns to the Sanctuary.

The Reader goes to the Priest to receive a blessing after completing the Six Psalms.

The Great Litany

Deacon (1): In peace let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

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

People: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: For the peace of the whole world, the stability of the holy churches of God, and for the unity of them all, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

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

People: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: For our great lord and father, His Holiness, Patriarch **N.**; for our lord the Most Reverend Metropolitan **N.**, First Hierarch of the Russian Church Abroad; for our lord the Most Reverend (Archbishop **or** Bishop **N.**); for the venerable priesthood, the diaconate in Christ, for all the clergy and people, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: For this land, its authorities and armed forces, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: That He may deliver His people from enemies visible and invisible, and confirm in us oneness of mind, brotherly love and piety, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: For this city, for every city and country, and the faithful who live in them, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

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

People: Lord, have mercy.

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

People: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: That we may be delivered from all tribulation, wrath, and necessity, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

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

People: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: Commemorating our most holy, most pure, most blessed, glorious Lady Theotokos and Ever-Virgin Mary, with all the saints, let us commit ourselves and one another and all our life to Christ our God.

People: To You O Lord.

Priest: For to You is due all glory, honor and worship; to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and to the ages of ages.

People: Amen.

***God is the Lord
Special Melody***

Deacon: God is the Lord and has revealed Himself to us. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Give thanks to the Lord for He is good, for His mercy endures forever.

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

Deacon: All the nations surrounded me, but in the name of the Lord I defended myself against them.

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

Deacon: I shall not die, but live; and tell of the Lord's works.

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

Deacon: The stone the builders rejected, the same became the head of the corner, and this came about from the Lord, and it is wonderful in our eyes.

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

During the chanting of the following troparia, the Holy Doors are opened and the priests in dark phelonia come out to the Epitaphios, and the senior priest with the deacon begins a great censuring beginning at the Epitaphios. Candles are distributed to the faithful.

Troparia
Tone 2 Special Melody

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

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

People:

When You descended into the realm of death O Life
Immortal, /
You struck Hades dead with the lightning of Your Divinity, /
And when You also raised the dead from the deepest
depths, /
All the Heavenly Powers cried out: //
O Christ our God, the Giver-of-Life, glory to You!

People: Now and ever, and to the ages of ages.
Amen.

People:

The Angel standing by the tomb cried to the myrrh-bearing
women: /
Myrrh is fitting for the dead, //
but Christ has shown Himself a stranger to corruption.

At the conclusion of the troparia, we begin the Lamentations: troparia which are chanted
between the verses of Psalm 118 (the 17th Kathisma).

The Lamentations
First Stasis
Tone 5

1.

Priest:

*Blessed are you, O Lord, teach me your commandments.
Blessed are the blameless in the way who walk in the law
of the Lord.*

People:

O Christ, the Life, /
in the tomb, You were laid, /
and the angelic armies were amazed, //
as they glorified Your condescension.

2.

Priest:

Blessed are those who search out His testimonies; they shall search for Him with their whole heart.

People:

O Life, how can You die? /
How can You dwell in the tomb? /
But You destroyed the kingdom of Death, //
and You raised the dead from Hades.

3.

Priest:

For those who work lawlessness do not walk in His ways.

People:

We magnify You, /
O Jesus, our King, /
and we honour Your burial and Passion, //
for by them You saved us from corruption.

4.

Priest:

You commanded us regarding Your commandments that we should be very diligent to keep them.

People:

O Jesus, King of all, /
You founded the boundaries of Earth, /
but today You dwell in a small tomb, //
while You raise up the dead from their graves.

5.

Priest:

Would that my ways were led, that I might keep Your commandments.

People:

O my Jesus Christ, /
You are the king of all, /
why have You come to those in Hades? //
Was it to release the mortal race?

6.

Priest:

Then I would not be ashamed when I regard all Your commandments.

People:

The Master of all, /
is now seen lying dead, /
and is buried in a new tomb; //
He who empties the tombs of the dead.

7.

Priest:

I will give thanks to You, O Lord, with an upright heart, when I learn the judgments of Your righteousness.

People:

O Christ, the Life, /
in the tomb, You were laid, /
by Your death, You destroyed Death //
and became the fount of life for all the world.

8.

Priest:

I shall keep Your commandments, do not utterly forsake me.

People:

With men of evil deeds, /
You were numbered as an evil-doer, O Christ, /
while absolving us from evil deeds //
from the ancient deceiver.

9.

Priest:

How shall a young man keep his way straight? When he keeps Your words.

People:

Fairer in His beauty, /
than all the sons of men, /
He appears now as a corpse without beauty //
He who beautified the nature of all things.

10.

Priest:

I searched for You with my whole heart; do not drive me away from Your commandments.

People:

O Savior, /
how could Hades endure Your coming? /
Was it not demolished and plunged into darkness, //
blinded by the blazing radiance of Your light?

11.

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

People:

O Word and God of all, /
in our hymns we praise You, /
with the Father and Your Holy Spirit, //
and we glorify Your divine burial.

12.

Priest: *Now and ever, and to the ages of ages.
Amen.*

Theotokion

People:

We bless you, /
O pure Theotokos, /
and we faithfully honor the three-day burial //
of your Son and our God.

And the first Troparion again.

People:

O Christ, the Life, /
in the tomb, You were laid, /
and the angelic armies were amazed, //
as they glorified Your condescension.

Small Litany

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

People: Lord, have mercy.

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

People: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: Commemorating our most holy, most pure, most blessed, glorious Lady Theotokos and Ever-Virgin Mary, with all the saints, let us commit ourselves and one another and all our life to Christ our God.

People: To You O Lord.

Priest: For blessed is Your name and glorified is Your kingdom: of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and to the ages of ages.

People: Amen.

Second Stasis
Tone 5

There is a small censing beginning at the Epitaphios.

1.

Priest:

Your hands made and fashioned me; instruct me, and I will learn Your commandments.

People:

Truly it is right to magnify You, /
the Giver of Life, /
for You stretched out Your hands upon the Cross, //
and You crushed the power of the enemy.

2.

Priest:

*Those who fear You will see me and be glad, because I
hope in Your words.*

People:

Truly it is right to magnify You, /
the Creator of all, /
for through Your Passion, //
we are freed from the passion of corruption.

3.

Priest:

*I know, O Lord, Your judgments are righteousness, and
You humbled me with truth.*

People:

O Saviour, the Earth trembled, /
And the sun hid itself, /
when You O Christ the evening-less light, //
were set down bodily in the tomb.

4.

Priest:

Let Your mercy be for my comfort, according to Your
teaching to Your servant.

People:

O Christ in the tomb, /
You have slept the life-breathing sleep, /
through which You have awakened mankind, //
from the heavy slumber of sin.

5.

Priest:

*Let Your compassions come to me, and I shall live; for
Your law is my meditation.*

People:

“Free from pain, O my Child, /
“I alone among women bore You,” /
said the Holy Virgin, //
“But now at Your Passion I suffer unbearable pain.”

6.

Priest:

Let the arrogant be shamed, for they transgressed unjustly
against me; but I shall meditate on Your commandments.

People:

O Savior on high, the Seraphim /
saw You united inseparably with the Father, /
and now below on Earth seeing You lying dead, //
they tremble and shake with fear.

7.

Priest:

Let those who fear You turn to me, and those who know
Your testimonies.

People:

O Word, the veil of the Temple is torn, /
by Your Crucifixion, /
the lights of Heaven hide their radiance, //
seeing You, the Sun, hidden beneath the Earth.

8.

Priest:

Let my heart be blameless in Your commandments, that I may not be disappointed.

People:

You set the Earth revolving /
in the beginning by Your will alone. /
Now You have descended dead beneath the Earth; //
O Heaven tremble at this sight!

9.

Priest:

My soul earnestly longs for Your salvation, and I hope in Your Word.

People:

You who created man by Your own hand, /
have gone down beneath the Earth, /
to raise the company of fallen men, //
by Your almighty power.

10.

Priest:

My eyes strained to look at Your teaching, saying, "When will You comfort me?"

People:

Come, let us sing, /
our sacred lament to the dead Christ, /
like the Myrrh-bearing women did before, //
that with them we may hear: 'Rejoice!'

11.

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

People:

O God without beginning, /
co-eternal Word and Spirit, /
strengthen Orthodox rulers, against our enemies, //
as a righteous Lord.

12.

Priest: *Now and ever, and to the ages of ages.
Amen.*

Theotokion

People:

O Birthgiver of Life, /
the most pure, immaculate Virgin, /
end the scandals of the Church, //
and grant us peace as you are good.

And again the first Troparion.

People:

Truly it is right to magnify You, /
the Giver of Life, /
for You stretched out Your hands upon the Cross, //
and You crushed the power of the enemy.

Small Litany

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

People: Lord, have mercy.

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

People: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: Commemorating our most holy, most pure, most blessed, glorious Lady Theotokos and Ever-Virgin Mary, with all the saints, let us commit ourselves and one another and all our life to Christ our God.

People: To You, O Lord.

Priest: For You are holy, O our God who dwells with the saints, and to You we send up glory: to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and to the ages of ages.

People: Amen.

***Third Stasis
Tone 3***

There is a small censing beginning at the Epitaphios.

1.

People:

Every generation, /
offers You a hymn of lament, //
at Your burial O My Christ.

2.

Priest:

Look upon me and have mercy on me, according to the judgment of those who love Your name.

People:

Taking You down from the Tree, /
the Arimathean, //
buries You in a tomb.

3.

Priest:

*Direct my steps according to Your teaching and let no
lawlessness rule over me.*

People:

The Myrrh-bearing women, /
wisely brought sweet spices, //
to anoint You my Christ.

4.

Priest:

*Rescue me from the slander of men, and I will keep Your
commandments.*

People:

Come all creation, /
sing the hymn of farewell //
to the Creator of all.

5.

Priest:

*Make Your face shine upon Your servant and teach me
Your commandments.*

People:

With the myrrh-bearing women, /
let us wisely anoint, //
the Living One as He were dead.

6.

Priest:

My eyes poured down streams of tears because they did not keep Your law.

People:

O thrice-blessed Joseph, /
bury now the body, //
of Christ the Giver of life.

7.

Priest:

Righteous are You, O Lord, and upright is Your judgment.

People:

Those who were nourished, /
with manna in the desert, //
raised their heels against their Benefactor.

8.

Priest:

You commanded Your testimonies exceedingly in righteousness and truth.

People:

Those who were nourished, /
with manna in the desert, //
now bring vinegar and gall to the Savior.

9.

Priest:

My soul shall live and praise You, and Your judgments shall help me.

People:

Early in the morning, /
the myrrh-bearing women, //
came and sprinkled myrrh upon Your tomb. (x3)

In Greek use sung three times, while the Priest sprinkles the Epitaphios and people with sweet fragrances and flowers.

10.

Priest:

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

People:

Grant peace to Your Church, /
salvation to Your people, //
by Your Resurrection.

11.

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

People:

O Trinity, my God, /
Father, Son and Spirit, //
have mercy on the world.

12.

Priest: *Now and ever, and to the ages of ages.
Amen.*

Theotokion

People:

O Virgin Theotokos, /
grant us your servants, //
to see the resurrection of your Son.

And again the first Troparion.

People:

Every generation, /
offers You a hymn of lament, //
at Your burial O My Christ.

Great Censing during Evlogitaria

Troparia of the Resurrection (Evlogitaria)

People:

Blessed are You, O Lord: / teach me Your
commandments.

The assembly of the Angels was amazed, /
seeing You numbered among the dead. /
O Saviour You have destroyed the power of death, //
raising Adam with Yourself and freeing all from Hades.

*Blessed are You, O Lord: / teach me Your
commandments.*

The radiant Angel in the tomb said to the myrrh-bearers, /
'Why do you mingle myrrh with your tears, O women
disciples? /
See the tomb, and understand: //
for the Saviour has risen from the grave.'

*Blessed are You, O Lord: / teach me Your
commandments.*

Early in the morning the myrrh-bearers hurried with
lamenting to Your tomb; /
but the Angel stood before them and said, /
'The time for lamentation has passed. //
Do not weep; but tell the Apostles of the Resurrection.'

Blessed are You, O Lord: / teach me Your commandments.

The women bearing myrrh coming to Your tomb, O Saviour, /
heard the Angel clearly saying to them, /
'Why do you number the living with the dead? //
For as God He has risen from the tomb.'

People: Glory to the Father, and to the Son, / and to the Holy Spirit.

Triadicon

We worship the Father, and His Son, and the Holy Spirit: /
the Holy Trinity, one in essence, /
crying out with the Seraphim, //
'Holy, holy, holy are You, O Lord!'

People: Now and ever, / and to the ages of ages.
Amen.

Theotokion

O Virgin, having given birth to the Life-Giver, /
you redeemed Adam from his sins, /
and to Eve you granted joy instead of sorrow. /
He who was incarnate from you, /
who is both God and man, //
has restored the fallen to life.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia. / Glory to You, O God. (x3)

Small Litany

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

People: Lord, have mercy.

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

People: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: Commemorating our most holy, most pure, most blessed, glorious Lady Theotokos and Ever-Virgin Mary, with all the saints, let us commit ourselves and one another and all our life to Christ our God.

People: To You, O Lord.

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

People: Amen.

The priests enter the Sanctuary and remove their phelonia. The Holy Doors are closed and the faithful extinguish their candles.

Sessional Hymns **Tone 1**

People:

Joseph begged Your holy Body from Pilate, /
he anointed it with sweet-smelling spices, /
he wrapped it in clean linen and laid it in his own new
tomb /
and early in the morning the myrrh-bearing women cried
out, //
'As You have foretold, O Christ, show us the
Resurrection.'

Reader:

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

People:

'As You have foretold, O Christ, show us the
Resurrection.'

Reader:

Now and ever, and to the ages of ages.
Amen.

People:

The choirs of angels are filled with awe, /
seeing Him who rested in the Father's bosom, /
laid in the tomb as dead, though He is immortal. /
The ranks of angels, surround Him /
together with the dead in hell, they glorify Him //
as Creator and Lord.

Psalm 50

Reader:

Have mercy on me, O God, according to Your great
mercy; and according to the abundance of Your

compassion, blot out my transgression. Wash me thoroughly from my lawlessness and cleanse me from my sin. For I know my lawlessness, and my sin is always before me. Against You only have I sinned and done evil in Your sight; that You may be justified in Your words, and overcome when You are judged. For behold, I was conceived in transgressions, and in sins my mother bore me. Behold, You love truth; You showed me the unknown and secret things of Your wisdom. You shall sprinkle me with hyssop, and I will be cleansed; You shall wash me, and I will be made whiter than snow. You shall make me hear joy and gladness; my bones that were humbled shall greatly rejoice. Turn Your face from my sins, and blot out all my transgressions. Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Do not cast me away from Your presence, and do not take Your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of Your salvation, and uphold me with Your guiding Spirit. I will teach transgressors Your ways, and the ungodly shall turn back to You. Deliver me from bloodguiltiness, O God, the God of my salvation, and my tongue shall greatly rejoice in Your righteousness. O Lord, You shall open my lips, and my mouth will declare Your praise. For if You desired sacrifice, I would give it; You will not be pleased with whole burnt offerings. A sacrifice to God is a broken spirit, a broken and humbled heart God will not despise. Do good, O Lord, in Your good pleasure to Zion, and let the walls of Jerusalem be built; then You will be pleased with a sacrifice of righteousness, with offerings and whole burnt offerings; then shall they offer young bulls on Your altar.

Canon

Acrostic (in Greek): And today I sing a great Sabbath.
In each ode, the Irmos is sung twice (second time as the Katavasia).

Ode 1 **Irmos Tone 6**

People:

Of old You buried the pursuing tyrant /
beneath the waves of the sea.¹ /
Now the children of those who were saved /
bury You beneath the Earth.
But like the maidens, let us sing to the Lord; //
for gloriously has He been glorified.²

Reader:

Verse

Glory to You, our God, glory to You.

Troparion

O Lord, my God, I will sing a song for Your departure, a funeral hymn for You who by Your burial opened up for me the entrances to life, and by Your death put Death and Hades to death.

Verse

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

Troparion

All things above the world and all below the earth quaked with fear at Your death, as they saw You on the throne above and below in a tomb; for beyond understanding You appeared as one dead, You who are the source of life.

¹ Exodus 14

² Exodus 15: 20

Verse Now and ever, and to the ages of ages.
Amen.

Troparion In order to fill all things with Your glory, You went down into the lowest parts of the earth. For my nature, which is also in Adam, was not hidden from You. By being buried You make me new, who once had been corrupted, O Lover of mankind.

Katavasia

People:

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

Ode 3 ***Irmos***

People:

You suspended the Earth immovably upon the waters. /
Now creation beholds You /
suspended on Calvary. /
It quakes with great amazement and cries, //
'None is holy but You, O Lord.'³

Reader:

Verse Glory to You, our God, glory to You.

³ 1 Kingdoms 2: 2

Troparion Multiplying visions, You revealed symbols of Your burial, while now, as God and man, You have also made clear Your secrets, O Master, to those in Hades, who cry, 'None is holy but You, O Lord.'

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

Troparion You opened Your palms and united things that before were separated, while by being closed in a shroud and a grave, O Savior, You loosed those who were bound. None is holy but You, O Lord.

Verse Now and ever, and to the ages of ages. Amen.

Troparion By your will, O uncontainable Lord, You were held fast by grave and seals; and by Your energies You made known Your power as God to those who sing, 'None is holy but You, O Lord, Lover of mankind.'

Katavasia

People:

You suspended the Earth immovably upon the waters. /

Now creation beholds You /
suspended on Calvary. /

It quakes with great amazement and cries, //
'None is holy but You, O Lord.'

Small Litany

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

People: Lord, have mercy.

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

People: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: Commemorating our most holy, most pure, most blessed, glorious Lady Theotokos and Ever-Virgin Mary, with all the saints, let us commit ourselves and one another and all our life to Christ our God.

People: To You, O Lord.

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

People: Amen.

***Sessional Hymns from the Triodion
Tone 1 Model Melody***

People:

The soldiers guarding Your tomb O Savior /
became as dead men /
at the lightning flash of the Angel /
who appeared announcing Your Resurrection to the
women. /
We glorify You, who cleanses from corruption. /
We fall down before You, who rose from the tomb, //
our only God.

***Ode 4
Irmos***

People:

Foreseeing Your divine humiliation on the Cross, /
Habakkuk cried out trembling, /
'You have shattered the dominion of the mighty //
by joining⁴ those in Hades as the Almighty Lord.'⁵

Reader:

Verse Glory to You, our God, glory to You.

Troparion You sanctified the seventh day, which of old
You blessed by resting from Your works; for
You bring all things into being and make
them new, as You keep the Sabbath rest, O
Savior, and restore Your strength.

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

⁴ Preaching to those in Hades.

⁵ Habakkuk 3: 14

Troparion By Your greater strength You gained the victory; Your soul was parted from Your body, shattering the bonds of both Death and Hades, O Word, by Your might.

Verse Now and ever, and to the ages of ages. Amen.

Troparion O Word, when Hades met You, it was embittered, seeing a mortal made divine, marked by wounds and all powerful, and it shrank back in terror at the sight.

Katavasia

People:

Foreseeing Your divine humiliation on the Cross, /
Habakkuk cried out trembling, /
'You have shattered the dominion of the mighty //
by joining⁶ those in Hades as the Almighty Lord.'

Ode 5 Irmos

People:

Isaiah saw the never-setting light /
of Your compassionate manifestation to us as God, O
Christ. /
Rising early from the night he cried out: /
"The dead shall arise. /
Those in the tombs shall awake. //
All those on Earth shall greatly rejoice."⁷

⁶ Preaching to those in Hades.

⁷ Isaiah 26: 19

Reader:
Verse

Glory to You, our God, glory to You.

Troparion O Creator, becoming a creature formed of dust, You make new those born of Earth, and the shroud and the tomb point to the mystery within You, O Word; for the Noble Counsellor fulfils the counsel of Your Begetter, who in You gloriously makes me new.

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

Troparion Through death You transform mortality, through burial corruption; for in a manner fitting God You make incorruptible the nature You took on and make it immortal. For Your flesh did not know corruption, O Master, nor was Your soul, like a stranger, abandoned in Hades.

Verse Now and ever, and to the ages of ages. Amen.

Troparion You came forth from a birth without pain and, pierced in Your side, my Creator, You worked the renewal of Eve by becoming Adam, sleeping supernaturally a life-producing sleep and raising life from sleep and corruption, as all-powerful.

Katavasia

People:

Isaiah saw the never-setting light /
of Your compassionate manifestation to us as God, O
Christ. /

Rising early from the night he cried out: /

“The dead shall arise. /

Those in the tombs shall awake. //

All those on Earth shall greatly rejoice.”

Ode 6

Irmos

People:

Jonah was caught but not held fast /
in the belly of the whale.⁸ /

He was a sign of You /

who have suffered and accepted burial. /

Coming forth from the beast as from a bridal chamber, /

He cried out to the guard, //

“By observing vanities and lies you have forsaken your
own mercy.”⁹

Reader:

Verse

Glory to You, our God, glory to You.

Troparion

O Word, You were torn, but not torn away
from the flesh You had taken. For though
Your temple was destroyed at the moment of
the Passion, You were still one person in
Your divinity and Your flesh; for in both You
are one Son, Word of God, God and man.

⁸ Jonah 2

⁹ Jonah 2: 9

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

Troparion Adam's fall slew mortals but not God, for though Your substance of dust suffered, yet Your divinity remained impassible. That which was corruptible in You, You have transformed to incorruption, and You have revealed a source of incorruptible life from Your Resurrection.

Verse Now and ever, and to the ages of ages. Amen.

Troparion Hades reigns over the race of mortals, but not for ever; for You, O Mighty One, when placed in the tomb, shattered with Your palm the bars of Death, and proclaimed to those who slept there from every age no false redemption, O Savior, the origin of life, who have become the first-born of the dead.

Katavasia

People:

Jonah was caught but not held fast /

in the belly of the whale. /

He was a sign of You /

who have suffered and accepted burial. /

Coming forth from the beast as from a bridal chamber, /

He cried out to the guard, //

“By observing vanities and lies you have forsaken your own mercy.’

Small Litany

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

People: Lord, have mercy.

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

People: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: Commemorating our most holy, most pure, most blessed, glorious Lady Theotokos and Ever-Virgin Mary, with all the saints, let us commit ourselves and one another and all our life to Christ our God.

People: To You, O Lord.

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

People: Amen.

Kontakion

By Romanus the Melodist

Tone 6

People:

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 was lifted up on the Cross, and all creation lamented seeing Him hanging naked on the Tree. The sun hid its rays, and the stars threw away their light. The Earth quaked with great fear, the sea fled and the rocks were broken. Many graves were opened, and bodies of holy men were raised. Hades below is groaning and the Jews are considering how to discredit Christ's resurrection. The women are crying out:

People:

'This is the most blessed Sabbath, on which Christ has fallen asleep, to rise on the third day.'

Ode 7
Irmos

People:

Inexpressible wonder! /

In the furnace You have saved the holy youths from the flame. /

Now You are placed in the grave as a lifeless corpse, /
for the salvation of us who sing, //

‘Blessed are You O God our Redeemer!’¹⁰

Reader:

Verse

Glory to You, our God, glory to You.

Troparion

Hades has been wounded, having received in its heart the One whose side was pierced by a lance, and consumed by divine fire groans aloud at the salvation of us who sing, ‘Blessed are You O God our Redeemer!’

Verse

Glory to You, our God, glory to You.

Troparion

O happy tomb! For having received in itself the Creator as one asleep, it has been revealed as a treasure house of life for the salvation of us who sing, ‘Blessed are You O God our Redeemer!’

Verse

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

¹⁰ Book of Daniel

Troparion The life of all things accepts being laid in the tomb, according to the law of those who die, and He shows it to be a source of rising for the salvation of us who sing, 'Blessed are You O God our Redeemer!'

Verse Now and ever, and to the ages of ages. Amen.

Troparion In Hades and in the tomb and in Eden, Christ's divinity was one and inseparable with the Father and the Spirit for the salvation of us who sing, 'Blessed are You O God our Redeemer!'

Katavasia

People:

Inexpressible wonder! /

In the furnace You have saved the holy youths from the flame. /

Now You are placed in the grave as a lifeless corpse, /
for the salvation of us who sing, //
'Blessed are You O God our Redeemer!''

Ode 8
Irmos

People:

Be amazed, O heavens!¹¹ /

Be shaken, O foundations of the Earth!¹² /

Behold, He who 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.'

Reader:

Verse

Glory to You, our God, glory to You.

Troparion

The Immaculate Temple has been destroyed, but raises up the fallen tabernacle; for the second Adam, who dwells in the highest, has come down to the first as far down as the storehouses of Hades. Bless Him, O Youths! Praise Him, O priests! O people, exalt Him above all forever.'

Verse

Let us bless the Lord: the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

Troparion

The daring of the disciples has failed, but Joseph of Arimathea has proved valiant; for seeing the God over all dead and naked he asked for Him and gave Him burial, crying, Bless Him, O Youths! Praise Him, O priests! O people, exalt Him above all forever.'

¹¹ Jeremiah 2: 12

¹² Psalm 81: 5

Verse Now and ever, and to the ages of ages.
Amen.

Troparion Oh! What new wonders! Oh! What goodness!
Oh! What indescribable mercy! For He who dwells in the Highest, is sealed under the Earth of His own will, and is slandered as a deceiver. Bless Him, O Youths! Praise Him, O priests! O people, exalt Him above all forever.'

People: We praise, we bless, and we worship the Lord: Praising the Lord and supremely exalting Him to all the ages.

Katavasia

People:

Be amazed, O heavens! /

Be shaken, O foundations of the Earth! /

Behold, He who 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.'

There is a great censuring.

At the 9th Ode we do not sing the Magnification.

Ode 9
Irmos

People:

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.

Reader:

Verse

Glory to You, our God, glory to You.

Troparion

‘O my Son without beginning, I supernaturally escaped the pangs at Your strange birth, and I was made blessed; but now, my God, as I see You dead, I am pierced terribly by the sword of sorrow; but arise, that I may be magnified.’

Verse

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

Troparion

‘O Mother, the Earth covers Me by My own will, but the gatekeepers of Hades shudder as they see Me clothed in the blood-stained robe of vengeance. For having trampled on My enemies by the Cross, I shall arise again and magnify you.’

Verse

Now and ever, and to the ages of ages.
Amen.

Troparion 'Let creation rejoice, let all born of earth be glad; for Hades, the enemy, has been despoiled; let women come to meet Me with sweet spices; for I am rescuing Adam and Eve with all their race, and on the third day I shall rise again.'

Katavasia

People:

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.

Small Litany

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

People: Lord, have mercy.

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

People: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: Commemorating our most holy, most pure, most blessed, glorious Lady Theotokos and Ever-Virgin Mary, with all the saints, let us commit ourselves and one another and all our life to Christ our God.

People: To You, O Lord.

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

People: Amen.

The senior priest vests in full vestments (as for a Liturgy), the other priests vest only in epitachelion and phelonion. During the singing of the Theotokion at the Praises, the Holy Doors are opened and the priests come out to the Epitaphios.

“Holy is the Lord our God,” is sung as the exaposteilarion.

Exaposteilarion

Tone 2

Deacon: Holy is the Lord our God.

People: Holy is the Lord our God.

Deacon: For holy is the Lord our God.

People: Holy is the Lord our God.

Deacon: Above all peoples is our God.

People: Holy is the Lord our God.

Praises

Tone 6

Psalm 148

1st Choir: Let every breath praise the Lord. / Praise the Lord from the heavens; / praise Him in the highest. // To You, O God, is due a song!

2nd Choir: Praise Him, all you angels of His; / praise Him, all His hosts! // To You, O God, is due a song!

1st Reader: Praise Him, sun and moon; praise Him, all you stars and light.

2nd Reader: Praise Him, you heavens of heavens, and you waters above the heavens. Let them praise the Lord's name.

1st Reader: For He spoke, and they were made; He commanded, and they were created.

2nd Reader: He established them forever and to the ages of ages; He set forth His ordinance, and it shall not pass away.

1st Reader: Praise the Lord from the Earth, you dragons and all the deeps.

2nd Reader: Fire and hail, snow and ice, stormy wind, which perform His word.

1st Reader: Mountains and all the hills, fruitful trees and all cedars.

2nd Reader: Wild animals and all cattle, creeping things and flying birds.

1st Reader: Kings of the Earth and all peoples, princes and all judges of the Earth.

2nd Reader: Young men and maidens, elders with younger, let them praise the Lord's name, for His name alone is exalted.

1st Reader: His thanksgiving is in Earth and Heaven.
And He shall exalt the strength of His people.

2nd Reader: A hymn for all His saints, for the children of Israel, a people who draw near to Him.

Psalm 149

1st Reader: Sing to the Lord a new song, His praise in the assembly of His holy ones.

2nd Reader: Let Israel be glad in Him who made him, and let the children of Zion greatly rejoice in their King.

1st Reader: Let them praise His name with dance; with tambourine and harp let them sing to Him.

2nd Reader: For the Lord is pleased with His people, and He shall exalt the gentle with salvation.

1st Reader: The holy ones shall boast in glory, and they shall greatly rejoice on their beds.

2nd Reader: The high praise of God shall be in their mouth and a two-edged sword in their hand.

1st Reader: To deal retribution to the nations, reproving among the peoples.

2nd Reader: To shackle their kings with chains and their nobles with fetters of iron.

1st Reader: To fulfill among them the written judgment.
This glory have all His holy ones.

2nd Reader: Psalm 150
Praise God in His saints; praise Him in the
firmament of His power.

1st Reader: Praise Him for His mighty acts;

People: Praise Him according to the abundance of
His greatness.

Here we insert 4 Stichera from the Triodion.

Tone 2

People:

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 Your plan of salvation! /

By it You have fulfilled all things, /

granting us eternal Sabbath rest; //

Your most holy resurrection from the dead!

Reader: Praise Him with the sound of a trumpet.

People: Praise Him with the harp and lyre.

People:

What is this sight we behold? /

What is this 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 You reign forever, //

and beyond measure is Your great mercy.

Reader:

Praise Him with timbrel and dance.

People:

Praise Him with strings and flute.

People:

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, /

'You have stooped down, You have couched as a lion. /

Who dares rouse You up, O King?' /

But arise in Your own power, /

O You who willingly gave Yourself for us. //

O Lord, glory to You!

Reader:

Praise Him with resounding cymbals; praise
Him with triumphant cymbals.

Tone 6

People:

Let every breath praise the Lord.

People:

Joseph sought the body of Jesus, /
and laid it in His own new tomb; /
for it was fitting that Christ came forth from the grave as
from a bridal chamber. /
O You who have destroyed the power of death /
and have opened for mankind the gates of Paradise; //
glory to You!

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

People:

The Great Moses mystically foreshadowed this day when
he said, /
'And God blessed the seventh day.' /
This is the blessed Sabbath, /
this 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.

Tone 2

People: Now and ever, and to the ages of ages.
Amen.

Open Holy Doors. Clergy go out to the Epitaphios. The priest takes the Holy Gospel out with him. The deacon/altar server brings censer and processional candle.

Theotokion

People:

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!

During the Great Doxology, the priest censes three times around the Epitaphios.

Great Doxology

Priest: Glory to You who has shown us the light.

People:

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. Lord, heavenly King, God the Father Almighty; Lord, the only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ; and Holy Spirit. Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, who takes away the sin of the world; have mercy on us; You who takes away the sins of the world. Accept our prayer; You who sits at the right hand of the Father and have mercy on us. For only You are holy; only You are Lord, Jesus Christ, to the glory of God the Father. Amen.

Every day I will bless You, and I will praise Your Name forever, and to the ages of ages.

O Lord, make us worthy to keep this day without sin.

Blessed are You, O Lord, the God of our Fathers, and praised and glorified is Your name to the ages. Amen.

O Lord, let Your mercy be upon us, as we have hoped in You.

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

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

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

O Lord, You have been our refuge from generation to generation. I said: Lord, have mercy on me, heal my soul, for I have sinned against You.

O Lord, to You have I fled for refuge, teach me to do Your will, for You are my God. For in You is the fount of life, in Your Light we shall see light. Extend Your mercy 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 to the ages of ages. Amen.

Holy Immortal, have mercy on us.

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

While the choir sings the concluding, "Holy God, Holy Mighty..." to a slow and solemn melody (as at a Burial Service), the priest takes the Book of the Gospels and the other clergy take the Epitaphios which they hold above their head. They go in procession around the outside of the church. **The choir continues to sing, "Holy God..." to the funeral melody as often as is necessary.**

Order of Epitaphios Procession:

Processional Cross
Processional Candles
Deacons censing
Clergy with Epitaphios
Choir
Faithful with candles

The procession returns inside the church. Then, stopping before the Holy Doors with the Epitaphios, the senior priest exclaims:

Priest: Wisdom! Arise!

The clergy put the Epitaphios on the sepulcher in the center of the church, putting the Book of the Gospels on it as before. The senior priest censes the Epitaphios again three times.

Tone 2 Special Melody

People:

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

***Troparion of the Prophecy
Tone 2***

People:

O Christ, who holds fast the ends of the Earth, /
You have consented to be held fast in the tomb, /
to deliver man from his fall into Hell, /
and as immortal God //
You have given us life and immortality.

***1st Prokeimenon
Tone 4***

(Psalm 43: 27, 2)

Deacon: Let us attend.

Priest: Peace be to all.

Reader: And to your spirit.

Deacon: Wisdom!

Reader: The Prokeimenon in the 4th Tone: Arise, O Lord; help us, and redeem us for Your name's sake.

People: Arise, O Lord; help us, and redeem us for Your name's sake.

Reader: O God, we heard with our ears; Our fathers proclaimed it to us.

People: Arise, O Lord; help us, and redeem us for Your name's sake.

Reader: Arise, O Lord; help us.

People: And redeem us for Your name's sake.

Deacon: Wisdom!

Reader: The Reading is from the Prophecy of Ezekiel.

Deacon: Let us attend.

Ezekiel 37: 1 - 14

Reader:

The hand of the Lord came upon me, and brought me by the Spirit of the Lord, and set me in the midst of the plain, which was full of human bones. So He led me round about them, and behold, there was a great multitude of bones on the face of the plain. They were very dry. Then He said to me, "Son of man, can these bones live?" So I answered, "O Lord, You know this." Then He said to me, "Prophecy to these bones and say to them, 'O dry bones, hear the word of the Lord. Thus says the Lord to these bones: "Behold, I will bring the Spirit of life upon you. I will put muscles on you and bring flesh upon you. I will cover you with skin and put my Spirit into you. Then you shall live and know that I am the Lord." "' So I prophesied as He commanded me, and it came to pass while I prophesied that, behold, there was a shaking, and the bones came together, each one to its joint. So I looked, and behold, muscle and flesh grew upon them, and skin covered them over; but no breath was in them. Then He said to me, "Prophecy to the wind, prophecy, son of man, and say to the wind, 'Thus says the Lord: "Come from the four winds

and breathe upon these dead men; and let them live.” ”
So I prophesied as He commanded me, and the Spirit entered into them; and they lived and stood upon their feet, an exceedingly great assembly. Again the Lord spoke to me, saying, “Son of man, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They say, ‘Our bones are dry, our hope has perished, and we are lost.’ Therefore prophesy and say to them, ‘Thus says the Lord: “Behold, I will open your tombs, bring you up from your graves, and bring you into the land of Israel. Then you will know that I am the Lord, when I open your tombs to lead you, My people, up from their graves. I will put My Spirit in you, and you will live; and I will place you in your own land. Then you will know that I am the Lord. I have spoken, and I will do it,” says the Lord.’”

2nd Prokeimenon Tone 7

(Psalm 9: 33, 2)

Deacon: Wisdom!

Reader: The Prokeimenon in the 7th Tone: Arise, O Lord God, let Your hand be lifted high, and do not forget Your poor.

People: Arise, O Lord God, let Your hand be lifted high, and do not forget Your poor.

Reader: I will give thanks to You, O Lord, with my whole heart; I will tell of all Your wondrous things.

People: Arise, O Lord God, let Your hand be lifted high, and do not forget Your poor.

Reader: Arise, O Lord God, let Your hand be lifted high.

People: And do not forget Your poor.

Deacon: Wisdom!

Reader: The Reading is from the first epistle of the Holy Apostle Paul to the Corinthians.

Deacon: Let us attend.

1 Corinthians 5: 6 – 8; Galatians 3: 13 - 14

Reader: Brethren, a little yeast leavens the whole lump. Purge out the old yeast, so that you may be a new lump, even as you are unleavened. And certainly, Christ, who is our Passover, has been sacrificed in our place. Therefore, let us keep the feast, not with old yeast, neither with the yeast of malice and wickedness, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth. For Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law, having become a curse for our sake. For it is written, "Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree," so that Abraham's blessing might also come to the Gentiles through Christ Jesus, and that we might all receive the promise of the Spirit through faith.

Alleluiarion Tone 5

(Psalm 67: 2, 3, 4)

Priest: Peace be to you the reader.

Reader: And to your spirit.

Deacon: Wisdom!

Reader: Alleluia in the 5th Tone: Let God arise, and let His enemies be scattered, and let those who hate Him flee from before His face.

People: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

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

People: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Reader: So let the sinners perish from the face of God. And let the righteous be glad.

People: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

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

Priest: Peace be to all.

People: And to your spirit.

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

People: Glory to You, Lord, glory to You.

Deacon: Let us attend.

Gospel

Priest: **Matthew 27: 62 – 66**

People: Glory to You, Lord, glory to You.

The Augmented Litany

Deacon 1: Have mercy on us, O God, according to Your great mercy, we pray to You, hear us and have mercy.

People: Lord, have mercy. (x3)

Deacon: Again we pray for our great lord and father, His Holiness, Patriarch N.; for our lord the Most Reverend Metropolitan N., First Hierarchy of the Russian Church Abroad; for our lord the Most Reverend (Archbishop or Bishop N., whose diocese it is) and all our brethren in Christ.

People: Lord, have mercy. (x3)

Deacon: Again we pray for this land, its authorities and armed forces.

People: Lord, have mercy. (x3)

Deacon: Again we pray to the Lord our God that He may deliver His people from enemies visible and invisible, and confirm in us oneness of mind, brotherly love and piety.

People: Lord, have mercy. (x3)

Deacon: Again we pray for the blessed and ever-memorable holy Orthodox patriarchs; for pious kings and right-believing queens; and for the founders of this holy temple (or: this holy Monastery); and for all our fathers and brethren gone to their rest before us, and

the Orthodox here and everywhere laid to rest.

People: Lord, have mercy. (x3)

Deacon: Again we pray for mercy, life, peace, health, salvation, visitation, pardon and remission of the sins of the servants of God, the brethren of this holy temple (or: this holy monastery).

People: Lord, have mercy. (x3)

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

People: Lord, have mercy. (x3)

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

People: Amen.

The Litany of Supplication

Deacon 2: Let us complete our morning prayer to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

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

People: Lord, have mercy.

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

People: Grant this, O Lord.

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

People: Grant this, O Lord.

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

People: Grant this, O Lord.

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

People: Grant this, O Lord.

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

People: Grant this. O Lord.

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

People: Grant this, O Lord.

Deacon: Commemorating our most holy, most pure, most blessed, glorious Lady Theotokos and Ever-Virgin Mary, with all the saints, let us commit ourselves and one another and all our life to Christ our God.

People: To You, O Lord.

Prayer at the Bowing of the Heads

Priest (quietly): O Holy Lord, who dwells on high and looks down on things that are lowly, and with Your all-seeing eye looks down on all creation: to You we have bowed the neck of our heart and body, entreating You: Stretch out Your invisible hand from Your holy dwelling place and bless us all. Pardon us if we have sinned voluntarily or involuntarily, for You are a good God and the Lover of mankind, granting us Your earthly and spiritual good things.

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

People: Amen.

Priest: Peace be to all.

People: And to your spirit.

Deacon 2: Let us bow our heads to the Lord.

People: To You, O Lord.

Priest: For yours it is to show mercy and to save us, O our God, and to you we send up glory, to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and to the ages of ages.

People: Amen.

Deacon 1: Wisdom!

Deacons returns to Sanctuary.

People: Father bless.

Priest: Blessed is He Who Is, Christ our God, always, now and ever, and to the ages of ages.

People: Amen. Establish, O God, the holy Orthodox Faith of Orthodox Christians, to the ages of ages.

Priest: O most holy Theotokos save us.

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

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

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

Lord, have mercy. (x 3)

Father bless.

Priest: May Christ our true God, who suffered the terrible Passion and the life-giving Cross, and voluntary burial in the flesh, through the intercessions of His all pure Mother; of the holy, glorious and all-praised apostles, of our holy and God-bearing fathers and of all the saints, have mercy on us and save us, for He is good and the Lover of mankind.

People: Amen.

The faithful venerate the Epitaphios. During the veneration the choir can sing the sticheron:

Sticheron
Tone 5

People:
Come, let us bless Joseph of eternal memory, /
who came by night to Pilate /
and begged for the Life of all, /
'Give me this stranger, /
who has no place to lay His head. /
Give me this stranger, /
whom an evil disciple betrayed to death. /
Give me this stranger, /
whom His mother saw hanging upon the Cross, /
and with a mother's sorrow cried weeping: /

“Woe is me, O my Child! /
Light of my eyes and beloved of my bosom. /
For what Simeon foretold in the Temple now has come to
pass: /
a sword has pierced my heart, /
but change my grief to gladness by Your Resurrection.” /
We venerate Your Passion, O Christ. /
We venerate Your Passion, O Christ. /
We venerate Your Passion, O Christ, //
and Your Holy Resurrection.

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