

Orthros of Great and Holy Saturday The Lamentations Service Great and Holy Friday Evening



The Service of Lamentations

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

People: Amen.

Priest: Glory be to You, O God, Glory be to You!

O Heavenly King, Comforter, and Spirit of Truth, You that are in all places and fill all things; the treasury of Blessings and the giver of Life; come to dwell in us, cleanse us from every stain, and save our souls, O gracious One.

People: Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal: have mercy on us.
(x3)

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

All Holy Trinity, have mercy on us; Lord, cleanse us from our sins; Master, pardon our transgressions; Holy One, visit and heal our infirmities for Your Name's sake.

Lord have mercy. (x3)

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

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

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

People: Amen.

Troparion of the Holy Cross

O Lord save Your people, and bless Your inheritance, granting victory to Your people over their adversaries, and by virtue of Your Cross preserve Your habitation.

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

Kontakion of the Holy Cross

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

Now and forever and to the ages of ages. Amen.

Kontakion to the Theotokos

O fearsome champion, who cannot be put to confusion despise not our petitions, O good and all-praised Theotokos, Mother of God. Establish the way of the Orthodox, save those who have been called upon to govern us, leading us all to that victory which is from Heaven, for you are she who gave birth to God and alone are blessed.

The Litany

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

People: Lord have mercy, Lord have mercy, Lord have mercy.

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

People: Lord have mercy, Lord have mercy, Lord have mercy.

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

People: Lord have mercy, Lord have mercy, Lord have mercy.

Priest: For You are a merciful God and loving toward mankind, and to You we ascribe glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and forever and to the ages of ages.

People: Amen. In the name of the Lord, Father give the blessing.

Priest: **Glory to the Holy, Consubstantial, Life-giving and Undivided Trinity, always, now and forever and to the ages of ages.**

People: Amen.

Six Psalms

Reader: Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, goodwill towards all people. (x3)

O Lord, open my lips, and my mouth shall proclaim Your praise. (x2)

Psalm 3

Lord, how they have increased who trouble me! Many are they who rise up against me. Many are they who say of me, “There is no help for him in God.” But You, O Lord, are a shield for me, 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 sustained me. I will not be afraid of ten thousands of people Who have set themselves against me all around. Arise, O Lord; Save me, O my God! For You have struck all my enemies on the cheekbone; You have broken the teeth of the ungodly. Salvation belongs to the Lord. Your blessing is upon Your people.

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

Psalm 37

O Lord do not rebuke me in Your wrath, Nor chasten me in Your hot displeasure! For Your arrows pierce me deeply, And Your hand presses me down. There is no soundness in my flesh Because of Your anger, Nor any health in my bones Because of my sin. For my iniquities have gone over my head; Like a heavy burden they are too heavy for me. My wounds are foul and festering Because of my foolishness. I am troubled, I am bowed down greatly; I go mourning all the day long. For my loins are full of inflammation, And there is no soundness in my flesh. I am feeble and severely broken; I groan because of the turmoil of my heart.

Lord, all my desire is before You; And my sighing is not hidden from You. My heart pants, my strength fails me; As for the light of my eyes, it also has gone from me. My loved ones and my friends stand aloof from my plague, And my relatives stand afar off. Those also who seek my life lay snares for me; Those who seek my hurt speak of destruction, And plan deception 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.

Thus, I am like a man who does not hear, And in whose mouth is no response.

For in You, O Lord, I hope; You will hear, O Lord my God. For I said, “Hear me, lest they rejoice over me, Lest, when my foot slips, they exalt themselves against me.” For I am ready to fall, And my sorrow is continually before me. For I will declare my iniquity; I will be in anguish over my sin. But my enemies are vigorous, and they are strong; And those who hate me wrongfully have multiplied. Those also who render evil for good, They are my adversaries, because I follow what is good.

Do not forsake me, O Lord; O my God, be not far from me! Make haste to help me, O Lord, my salvation! Do not forsake me, O Lord; O my God, be not far from me! Make haste to help me, O Lord, my salvation!

Psalm 62

O God, You are my God; Early will I seek You; My soul thirsts for You; My flesh longs for You In a dry and thirsty land Where there is no water. So, I have looked for You in the sanctuary, To see Your power and Your glory. Because Your lovingkindness is better than life, My lips shall praise You. Thus, I will bless You while I live; I will lift up my hands in Your Name. My soul shall be satisfied as with marrow and fatness, And my mouth shall praise You with joyful lips. When I remember You on my bed, I meditate on You in the night watches. Because You have been my help, Therefore in the shadow of Your wings I will rejoice. My soul follows close behind You; Your right hand upholds me. But those who seek my life, to destroy it, Shall go into the lower parts of the Earth. They shall fall by the sword; They shall be a portion for jackals.

But the king shall rejoice in God; Everyone who swears by Him shall glory; But the mouth of those who speak lies shall be stopped. I meditate on You in the night watches. Because You have been my

help, therefore in the shadows of Your wings I will rejoice. My soul follows close behind You; Your right hand upholds me.

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

Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia. Glory to You, O God! (x3)

Lord have mercy. (x3)

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

Psalm 87

O Lord, God of my salvation, I have cried out day and night before You. Let my prayer come before You; Incline Your ear to my cry. For my soul is full of troubles, And my life draws near to the grave. I am counted with those who go down to the pit; I am like a man who has no strength, Adrift among the dead, Like the slain who lie in the grave, Whom You remember no more, And who are cut off from Your hand. You have laid me in the lowest pit, In darkness, in the depths. Your wrath lies heavy upon me, And You have afflicted me with all Your waves. You have put away my acquaintances far from me; You have made me an abomination to them; I am shut up, and I cannot get out; My eye wastes away because of affliction. Lord, I have called daily upon You; I have stretched out my hands to You. Will You work wonders for the dead? Shall the dead arise and praise You? Shall Your lovingkindness be declared in the grave? Or Your faithfulness in the place of destruction? Shall Your wonders be known in the dark? And Your righteousness in the land of forgetfulness?

But to You I have cried out, O Lord, And in the morning my prayer comes before You. Lord, why do You cast off my soul? Why do You hide Your face from me? I have been afflicted and ready to die from

my youth; I suffer Your terrors; I am distraught. Your fierce wrath has gone over me; Your terrors have cut me off. They came around me all day long like water; They engulfed me altogether. Loved one and friend You have put far from me, And my acquaintances into darkness.

O Lord, God of my salvation, I have cried out day and night before You. Let my prayer come before You; Incline Your ear to my cry.

Psalm 102

Bless the Lord, O my soul; And all that is within me, bless His Holy Name! Bless the Lord, O my soul, And forget not all His benefits: Who forgives all your iniquities, Who heals all your diseases, Who redeems your life from destruction, Who crowns you with lovingkindness and tender mercies, Who satisfies your mouth with good things, So that your youth is renewed like the eagle's. The Lord executes righteousness And justice for all who are oppressed. He made known His ways to Moses, His acts to the children of Israel. The Lord is merciful and gracious, Slow to anger, and abounding in mercy. He will not always strive with us, Nor will He keep His anger forever. He has not dealt with us according to our sins, Nor punished us according to our iniquities.

For as the Heavens are high above the Earth, So great is His mercy toward those who fear Him; As far as the east is from the west, So far has He removed 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; As a flower of the field, so he flourishes. For the wind passes over it, and it is gone, And its place remembers it no more. But the mercy of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting On those who fear Him, And His righteousness to children's children, To such as keep His covenant, And to those who remember His commandments to do them.

The Lord has established His throne in Heaven, And His kingdom rules over all. Bless the Lord, you His angels, Who excel in strength, who do His word, Heeding the voice of His word. Bless the Lord, all you His hosts, You ministers of His, who do His pleasure. Bless the Lord, all His works, In all places of His dominion.
Bless the Lord, O my soul!

Psalm 142

Hear my prayer, O Lord, Give ear to my supplications! In Your faithfulness answer me, And in Your righteousness. Do not enter into judgment with Your servant, For in Your sight no one living is righteous. For the enemy has persecuted my soul; He has crushed my life to the ground; He has made me dwell in darkness, Like those who have long been dead. Therefore, my spirit is overwhelmed within me; My heart within me is distressed.

I remember the days of old; I meditate on all Your works; I muse on the work of Your hands. I spread out my hands to You; My soul longs for You like a thirsty land. Answer me speedily, O Lord; My spirit fails! Do not hide Your face from me, Lest I be like those who go down into the pit. Cause me to hear Your lovingkindness in the morning, For in You do I trust; Cause me to know the way in which I should walk, For I lift up my soul to You.

Deliver me, O Lord, from my enemies; In You I take shelter. Teach me to do Your will, For You are my God; Your Spirit is good. Lead me in the land of uprightness. Revive me, O Lord, for Your Name's sake! For Your righteousness' sake bring my soul out of trouble. In Your mercy cut off my enemies and destroy all those who afflict my soul; For I am Your servant.

O Lord Give ear to my supplications: Do not enter into judgment with Your servant. (x2)

Your Spirit is good. Lead me in the land of uprightness.

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

Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia. Glory to You, O God! (x3)

O our God and our hope, glory to You.

The Great Litany

Priest: In peace let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Priest: For the peace, from on high, and for the salvation of our souls, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

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

People: Lord, have mercy.

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

People: Lord, have mercy.

Priest: For our Father Metropolitan (*Name*), for the venerable Priesthood, for the Diaconate in Christ, for all the Clergy, monks, nuns, and all the people, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Priest: For those who govern this country, for all civil authorities and for our armed forces everywhere, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Priest: For this blessed city, for every monastery, city, town and village, and for the faithful, who dwell in them; let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Priest: For favourable weather, for abundance of the fruits of the earth, and for peaceful times; let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Priest: For those who travel by sea, by land, by air, for the sick and suffering; for those in captivity; and for their salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

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

People: Lord, have mercy.

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

People: Lord, have mercy.

Priest: Commemorating our all-holy, pure, most blessed and glorious Lady, Theotokos and Ever Virgin Mary, (*Most Holy Theotokos, save us*) with all the saints; let us entrust ourselves and one another, and our whole life, to Christ our God.

People: To You, O Lord.

Priest: For to You belong all glory, honour, and adoration to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and forever and to the ages of ages.

People: Amen.

God is the Lord (Tone 2)

God is the Lord and has appeared unto us; blessed is He that comes in the Name of the Lord.

O give thanks unto the Lord, and call upon His Holy Name.

God is the Lord and has appeared unto us; blessed is He that comes in the Name of the Lord.

All nations compassed me round about, and by the Name of the Lord I warded them off.

God is the Lord and has appeared unto us; blessed is He that comes in the Name of the Lord.

This is the Lord's doing; It is marvellous in our eyes.

God is the Lord and has appeared unto us; blessed is He that comes in the Name of the Lord.

Troparion (Tone 2)

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

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

When You O Immortal Life went down to death, You did destroy death by the splendour of Your divinity and when You did raise the dead from the under-world, all the powers of heaven cried aloud unto You, O Christ our God giver of Life Glory to You.

Both now and forever and unto the ages of ages. Amen.

Verily the Angel came to the tomb and said to the ointment bearing women, ointment is meet for the dead, but Christ has shown himself to be free from corruption.

The Little Litany

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

People: Lord have mercy.

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

People: Lord have mercy.

Priest: Commemorating our all-holy, pure, most blessed and glorious Lady, Theotokos and Ever Virgin Mary, (*Most Holy Theotokos, save us*) with all the saints; let us entrust ourselves and one another, and our whole life, to Christ our God.

People: To You, O Lord.

Priest: For Yours is the majesty, 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 unto ages of ages.

People: Amen.

Kathismata (Tone 1)

Joseph asked Pilate for Your sacred Body. Anointing It with fragrant spices, and with clean linen laid It in a new tomb. Whereupon the Myrrh-bearing women arriving at early dawn, cried out: "Show us, O Christ, as You foretold, Your Resurrection."

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

The choirs of Angels were astonished, seeing the One, Who rests in the bosom of the Father, the Immortal One placed in the tomb, as dead; Who the ranks of Angels encircle and glorify together with the dead in Hades, as Creator and Lord.

Psalm 50

Have mercy upon me, O God, according to Your lovingkindness; According to the multitude of Your tender mercies, blot out my transgressions. Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin. For I acknowledge my transgressions, and my sin is always before me. Against You, You only, have I sinned, and done this evil in Your sight that You may be found just when You speak, and blameless when You judge.

Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, and in sin my mother conceived me. Behold, You desire truth in the inward parts, and in the hidden part You will make me to know wisdom. Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; Wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow. Make me hear joy and gladness, that the bones You have broken may rejoice. Hide Your face from my sins and blot out all my iniquities. Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a steadfast 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 by Your generous Spirit. Then I will teach transgressors Your ways, And sinners shall be converted to You. Deliver me from the guilt of bloodshed, O God, The God of my salvation, and my tongue shall sing aloud of Your righteousness. O Lord open my lips, and my mouth shall show forth Your praise. For You do not desire sacrifice, or else I would give it; You do not delight in burnt offering. The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit, a broken and a contrite heart These, O God, You will not despise. Do good in Your good pleasure to Zion; Build the walls of Jerusalem. Then You shall be pleased with the sacrifices of righteousness, with burnt offering and whole burnt offering; Then they shall offer bulls on Your altar.

The Canon

First Ode (Tone 6) *Heirmos*

The children of those, who were saved, buried under ground the God, Who made the pursuing tyrant of old disappear in the waves of the sea. As for us however, let us praise the Lord, as did the maidens; for gloriously He has been glorified.

Glory to You, our God, glory to You.

O Lord my God, I shall sing You a funeral hymn and a burial ode; for through Your Burial You opened for me the portals of life; and by death You have put death and Hades to death.

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

The super-terrestrial, and those of the nether world, beholding You, my Saviour, on Your throne on High, and in the grave below, were shaken with Your death; for You were seen in a manner, transcending the mind, as dead; You, the Source of Life.

Now and forever and to the ages of ages. Amen.

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

Katavasia

The children of those, who were saved, buried under ground the God, Who made the pursuing tyrant of old disappear in the waves of the sea. As for us however, let us praise the Lord, as did the maidens; for gloriously He has been glorified.

Third Ode Heirmos

Truly, creation, having beheld You suspended on Golgotha, Who suspended the whole earth freely on the waters, was seized with great wonder. "There is none Holy, save You, O Lord."

Glory to You, our God, glory to You.

You have revealed the symbols of Your burial by many visions. But now, You have manifested Your secrets as God and Man, even to those in Hades, O Master. "There is none Holy, save You, O Lord."

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

You stretched out Your arms and united those who were divided of old. Restrained by the shroud and tomb, You loosed those held captive, who cry out: "There is none Holy, save You, O Lord."

Now and forever and to the ages of ages. Amen.

O uncontainable One, You were sealed in a tomb of Your own will; and You made known Your Power through Your Divine actions to those, who sing: "There is none Holy, save You, O Loving Lord."

Katavasia

Truly, creation, having beheld You suspended on Golgotha, Who suspended the whole earth freely on the waters, was seized with great wonder. "There is none Holy, save You, O Lord."

The Little Litany

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

People: Lord have mercy.

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

People: Lord have mercy.

Priest: Commemorating our all-holy, pure, most blessed and glorious Lady, Theotokos and Ever Virgin Mary, (*Most Holy Theotokos, save us*) with all the saints; let us entrust ourselves and one another, and our whole life, to Christ our God.

People: To You, O Lord.

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

People: Amen.

Kathisma (Tone 1)

The soldiers guarding Your tomb, O Saviour, became like dead from the lightning of the appearing Angel, proclaiming Your Resurrection to the women. We glorify You, the Despoiler of corruption, and to You we kneel, risen from the grave, our only God.

The Canon (Continued) **Fourth Ode (Tone 6) *Heirmos***

Foreseeing Your Divine self-emptying on the Cross, Habakkuk cried out in amazement: "You cut off the power of the mighty, O Good One, speaking to those in Hades, as the Almighty."

Glory to You, our God, glory to You.

You have sanctified the seventh day, which You blessed before You rested from Your labours; for You create everything, and You renew them, observing the Sabbath, and restoring Yourself.

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

When Your soul was separated from the body, the bonds of both Hades and death were shattered with great strength by Your might, O Word of God.

Now and forever and to the ages of ages. Amen.

Hades in encountering You, O Word, was embittered, beholding a mortal deified; covered with bruises, yet all powerful. Wherefore, it shrank back at the awesome sight.

Katavasia

Foreseeing Your Divine self-emptying on the Cross, Habakkuk cried out in amazement: "You cut off the power of the mighty, O Good One, speaking to those in Hades, as the Almighty."

Fifth Ode Heirmos

Your loving manifestation made through Your compassion for us, was seen by Isaiah as an unwaning light; and rising early from the night watch, he cried aloud: "The dead shall rise, and they who are in the tombs shall awake, and all those on the earth shall rejoice."

Glory to You, our God, glory to You.

When You the Creator became earthly, You renewed those of the earth. The linen and the tomb demonstrate the inherent mystery, O Word; for the honourable Councillor, fulfils Your Father's will, through Whom You renew me majestically.

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

You transform the mortal by death, and the corrupt by burial; for as befits God, You have made incorruptible and immortal the nature You assumed; for Your body, O Master, did not see corruption, nor was Your soul abandoned as a stranger in Hades.

Now and forever and to the ages of ages. Amen.

You came from a Virgin who knew no travail; Your side, O my Creator, was pierced, by which You accomplished the re-creation of Eve, having Yourself become Adam. Supernaturally, You fell into a sleep that renewed nature, awakening life from sleep and corruption, as the Almighty.

Katavasia

Your loving manifestation made through Your compassion for us, was seen by Isaiah as an unwaning light; and rising early from the night watch, he cried aloud: "The dead shall rise, and they who are in the tombs shall awake, and all those on the earth shall rejoice."

Sixth Ode Heirmos

Truly, Jonah the Prophet was caught, but not held in the belly of the whale. For being an impression of You, Who suffered and was given over to burial, he sprang forth from the whale as from a chamber, and said to the watchmen: "Falsely, and in vain do you guard, O watchmen; for you have neglected your own mercy."

Glory to You, our God, glory to You.

You were slain, O Word, but were not separated from the body, which You shared with us; for even though Your temple was destroyed during Your Passion, the Person of Your Divinity and humanity was still one; for in both You are One Son, the Word of God, God and Man.

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

The fall of Adam resulted in the death to Man, but not to God; for though the substance of Your earthly body suffered, Your Divinity remained passionless, transforming the corruptible into incorruption and showing it to be the fountain of Resurrection for immortal Life.

Now and forever and to the ages of ages. Amen.

Truly, Hades rules the race of mortals, but not forever; for You, O mighty One, when placed in the tomb, demolished the bars of death

with Your Life-giving hand, and preached to those, who slept there from the ages of old the true redemption, becoming O Saviour, the First-born of the dead.

Katavasia

Truly, Jonah the Prophet was caught, but not held in the belly of the whale. For being an impression of You, Who suffered and was given over to burial, he sprang forth from the whale as from a chamber, and said to the watchmen: "Falsely, and in vain do you guard, O watchmen; for you have neglected your own mercy."

The Little Litany

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

People: Lord have mercy.

Priest: Help us, save us, have mercy on us, and watch over us, O God, by Your grace.

People: Lord have mercy.

Priest: Commemorating our all-holy, pure, most blessed and glorious Lady, Theotokos and Ever Virgin Mary, (*Most Holy Theotokos, save us*) with all the saints; let us entrust ourselves and one another, and our whole life, to Christ our God.

People: To You, O Lord.

Priest: For You are the King of Peace, and the Saviour of our souls, and to You we ascribe glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and forever and to the ages of ages.

People: Amen.

Kontakion

He Who closed the abyss, is seen as dead; wrapped in linen and with myrrh, the Immortal One is placed in a tomb as dead. The women came to anoint Him, weeping bitterly and crying out: "Behold this the most blessed Sabbath, in which Christ having fallen asleep, will rise on the third day."

Oikos

He Who sustains all things was raised on the Cross, and all creation mourns, seeing Him hanging naked on the Wood. The Sun hid its rays, and the stars cast off their gleam; the earth quaked with great fright, and the sea fled; the rocks were split asunder; many graves were opened, and the bodies of holy men arose. Hades groaned below, and the Judeans plan to spread false rumours against the Resurrection of Christ, while the women cried out: "Behold, this the most blessed Sabbath, in which Christ having fallen asleep, will rise on the third day."

Synaxarion

On the Holy and Great Saturday, we celebrate the Burial of the Divine Body, and the descent of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ to Hades, through which He restored our kind from corruption and transplanted it to eternal life.

On the following day, which was Saturday, and which fell on the twenty-fourth of March, the enemies of God, the high priests and Pharisees, came to Pilate and asked him to seal the tomb until the third day, lest the Disciples come at night, as they claimed, and steal the buried body, and then preach among the people, proclaiming the truth of the Resurrection, which that deceiver had foretold when he was alive, and the last error should be worse than the first. Thus they

obtained permission to seal the tomb, and so they went and sealed it and placed a guard upon it from among the soldiers who were guarding the city.

Wherefore by Your ineffable condescension, O Christ our God, have mercy on us. Amen.

The Canon (Continued)
Seventh Ode (Tone 6) *Heirmos*

Ineffable wonder! He Who saved the righteous youths from the fire of the furnace, is placed in the grave a breathless corpse, for the salvation of us who sing: "Blessed are You, O God, our deliverer."

Glory to You, our God, glory to You.

Hades was pierced in the heart, having received the One pierced in His side, and was consumed by the force of divine fire, for the salvation of us who sing: "Blessed are You, O God, our deliverer."

Glory to You, our God, glory to You.

Blessed tomb! Having received in it the Creator as if sleeping, it was manifested to be a divine treasure of Life, for the salvation of us who sing: "Blessed are You, O God, our deliverer."

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

The Life of all, in accordance with the law of the dead, submits to the tomb, and shows it to be the fountain of Resurrection, for the salvation of us who sing: "Blessed are You, O God, our deliverer."

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

The Godhead of Christ was one with the Father and the Spirit, without separation in the tomb and in Eden, for the salvation of us who sing: "Blessed are You, O God, our deliverer."

Katavasia

Ineffable wonder! He Who saved the righteous youths from the fire of the furnace, is placed in the grave a breathless corpse, for the salvation of us who sing: "Blessed are You, O God, our deliverer."

Eighth Ode Heirmos

Be astonished, O Heaven, and let the foundations of the Earthquake; for lo! The One, Who dwells in the Highest, is accounted among the dead, and lodges as a stranger in a humble tomb. O you youths bless Him; you priests, praise Him; and you people, exalt Him to all the ages.

Glory to You, our God, glory to You.

The pure Temple has been dissolved, but He raised up with Him the fallen tabernacle; for the second Adam Who dwells in the Highest, descended to the first Adam to the depths of Hades. O you youths bless Him; you priests, praise Him; and you people, exalt Him to all the ages.

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

The courage of the Disciples failed. But Joseph of Arimathea shows valour; for beholding the God of all, dead and naked, he asked for Him and arrayed Him, crying out: "O you youths, bless Him; you priests, bless Him; and you people, exalt Him to all the ages."

Now and forever and to the ages of ages. Amen.

O what new wonders! O what goodness! O what ineffable forbearance! For He that dwells in the Highest, is sealed under the earth of His own will, and is slandered as a deceiver. O you youths bless Him; you priests, praise Him; and you people, exalt Him to all the ages.

We praise, we bless and we worship the Lord.

Katavasia

Be astonished, O Heaven, and let the foundations of the Earth quake; for lo! the One, Who dwells in the Highest, is accounted among the dead, and lodges as a stranger in a humble tomb. O you youths bless Him; you priests, praise Him; and you people, exalt Him to all the ages.

Priest: The Theotokos and Mother of the Light let us honour and magnify in Hymns.

Ninth Ode (Tone 6) Heirmos

Lament not for Me, Mother, as you behold Me in the grave, Who as a Son you conceived in your womb without seed. For I shall rise and be glorified, and as God, I shall ceaselessly exalt in glory those, who in faith and yearning, magnify you.

Glory to You, our God, glory to You.

My eternal Son, I was spared the travail at Your strange Birth, and was marvellously blessed. And now, beholding You, my God, a breathless corpse, I am torn apart with the spear of bitter sorrow; but arise, that I may be magnified.

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

The earth, O Mother, covers Me of My own will, but the gate-keepers of Hades trembled seeing Me clothed in a blood-spattered robe of vengeance; for as God, I have struck down the enemies with the Cross, and I will rise again, and magnify you.

Now and forever and to the ages of ages. Amen.

Let all creation rejoice, and all the earthborn be glad; for Hades, the enemy has been despoiled. Let the women meet Me with myrrh; for I redeem Adam along with Eve, and all their descendants, and will rise on the third day.

Katavasia

Lament not for Me, Mother, as you behold Me in the grave, Who as a Son you conceived in your womb without seed. For I shall rise and be glorified, and as God, I shall ceaselessly exalt in glory those, who in faith and yearning, magnify you.

(At the completion of the 9th ode the Metropolitan, Priests, and the deacons exit the sanctuary through the holy door, facing the decorated bier, and the senior priest begins chanting the first stasis of the Lamentation. Censing the bier at the end of each stasis)

The Lamentations
The First Stasis (Tone 5)

In a grave they laid You, O my Life and my Christ;
And the armies of the angels were so amazed,
As they sang the praise of Your submissive love.

O, my sweet Lord Jesus, My Salvation, my Light
How are You now by a grave and its darkness hid
How unspeakable the mystery of Your love.

Gone the Light the world knew, gone the Light that was mine;
O my Jesus Who are all of my heart's desire.
So, the Virgin spoke lamenting at Your grave.

Who will give me water, for the tears I must weep?
So, the maiden wed to God cried with loud lament.
That for my sweet Jesus I may rightly mourn.

All we called you blessed, Theotokos most pure
And with faithful hearts we honour the burial
Suffering with you the death of Our Lord.

How O Life can You die? In a grave how can You dwell.
The proud domain of death You destroy now,
And the dead of Hades You make to rise.

O my dear Christ Jesus, King and Ruler of all;
Why to them that dwell in Hades did You descend?
Was it not to set the race of Mortals free?

In a grave they laid You, O My Life and my Christ;
Yet the Lord of Death have You by Your death destroyed,
And the world of You does drink rich streams of life.

Now we magnify You, O Lord Jesus our King;
And we venerate Your Passion and burial,
For by this have You delivered us from death.

Word of God we hymn You. You are God of all things;
With Your Father and Your Spirit Most Holy praised,
And we glorify Your burial Divine.

It was known O Jesus, by all creation;
That You were in truth the King of Heaven and Earth.
Even though You were enclosed in a narrow tomb.

O my Life and my Saviour, walking among the dead;
You ascended from corruption when You were dead,
And crushing the bars of Hades.

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

I adore Your passion, Your entombing I praise;
And I magnify Your might, dear friend of Man.
From destroying passions have they set me free.

Now and forever and to the ages of ages. Amen.

O pure Theotokos we bless the in faith.
And we honor the three-day burial.
Of your only Son who is our God.

(Repeat first Troparion)

In a grave they laid You, O my Life and my Christ;
And the armies of the angels were so amazed,
As they sang the praise of Your submissive love.

The Little Litany

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

People: Lord have mercy.

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

People: Lord have mercy.

Priest: Commemorating our all-holy, pure, most blessed and glorious Lady, Theotokos and Ever Virgin Mary, (*Most Holy Theotokos, save us*) with all the saints; let us entrust ourselves and one another, and our whole 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 forever and to the ages of ages.

People: Amen.

The Second Stasis (Tone 5)

Right is it indeed...Life-bestowing Lord to magnify You;
For upon the Cross were Your hands outspread,
And the strength of our dread foe have You destroyed.

Right is it indeed...Maker of all things to magnify You;
For by Your dear passion have we attained
Victory over the flesh and rescue from decay.

I am rent with grief...And my heart with woe is crushed and broken;
As I see them slay You with doom unjust,
So bewailing Him His grieving Mother cried.

Ah those eyes so sweet... And Your lips O Word how shall I close them?

How the dues of death shall I pay to You
So cried Joseph as he shook with Holy fear.

Dirges at the tomb... Goodly Joseph sings with Nicodemus;
ringing praise to Christ Who by man was slain,
And in song with them are joined the Seraphim.

O my Light and Life... Why in a Grave they have laid You?
Your maiden Mother shouted with tears of grief
Rise O my sweet Son as You did say to us.

Wailing bitter tears... Word of God Your spotless Mother mourned
You;
When she saw that in a grave You were laid,
O ineffable and everlasting God.

Life was born of you... O most holy Virgin and most pure;
Keep the church from every dissension free,
Blessing us with peace and freedom everywhere.

With our songs, O Christ... Now Your crucifixion and entombing;
We Your faithful worship with one accord,
For Your burial has ransomed us from death.

Buried, O my Christ... the great palaces of Hell you shattered,
Death you put to death by your death, O Lord,
From corruption you set free those born of earth.

Seeing you on high... never separated from the Father,
Yet below on Earth, laid out as a corpse,
The dread Seraphim, my Saviour, shake with fear.

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

O eternal God Begotten not made and Spirit
Magnify you might of the mortal men
Blessing us with peace and freedom evermore.

Now and forever and to the ages of ages. Amen.

O most blameless and most Holy Theotokos.
Keep the Church from every dissention free.
Blessing us with peace and freedom evermore.

(Repeat first Troparion)

Right is it indeed...Life-bestowing Lord to magnify You;
For upon the Cross were Your hands outspread,
And the strength of our dread foe have You destroyed.

The Little Litany

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

People: Lord have mercy.

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

People: Lord have mercy.

Priest: Commemorating our all-holy, pure, most blessed and glorious Lady, Theotokos and Ever Virgin Mary, *(Most Holy Theotokos, save us)* with all the saints; let us entrust ourselves and one another, and our whole life, to Christ our God.

People: To You, O Lord.

Priest: For Holy are You, our God, Who sits on the throne of glory of the Cherubim and to You we ascribe glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and forever and to the ages of ages.

People: Amen.

The Third Stasis (Tone 3)

Every generation...to Your grave comes bringing;
Dear Christ, its dirge of praises.

From the Cross He brought You...That Arimathaeon;
And in a grave he laid You.

Joseph is entombing...Helped by Nicodemus;
The body of His Saviour.

O blessed Joseph...Lay away the Body
Of Jesus Christ Our Lord.

O what ignorance...The killing of the Saviour
By the Killers of Prophets.

Ah my precious Springtime! Ah my Son beloved;
Ah, whither fades Your beauty?

Son of God Almighty...O my God and Maker
How is it You will to suffer.

Oh, my Son I praise You...For Your great compassion
Which moved You thus to suffer.

Hastened, Word Your Rising...And release from sorrow
The spotless maid who bore You.

Women bringing spices...Came with loving forethought;
Your due of myrrh to give You...

Myrrh the women sprinkled...store of spices bringing
To grace Your tomb at dawning.

Merciful Lord rise...And arise us with You
From the fires of Hades.

Come all things created...Let us sing a dirge-hymn;
To honour our creator.

Rise O Lord of Mercy...Raising us up also;
Who languish deep in Hades.

Grant us remission of sin...as with love and with fear;
We honour Your Passion.

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

Peace to Your church...To prosper to Your people;
Salvation be given to Your rising.

Now and forever and to the ages of ages. Amen.

O pure Theotokos.
Make us to behold.
The Resurrection of Your Son.

(Repeat first Troparion)

Every generation...to Your grave comes bringing;
Dear Christ, its dirge of praises.

Little Litany

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

People: Lord have mercy.

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

People: Lord have mercy.

Priest: Commemorating our all-holy, pure, most blessed and glorious Lady Theotokos and ever-Virgin Mary with all the Saints, let us commit ourselves and one another, and our whole life, to Christ our God!

People: To You, O Lord.

Priest: For You are the King of Peace and the Saviour of our souls, and to You we ascribe glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and forever and to the ages of ages.

People: Amen.

Evlogetaria (Tone 5)

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

The assembly of the angels was amazed to see You accounted among the dead, You Who have destroyed the might of death, O Saviour, and did raise up Adam with Yourself, and who had freed all men from Hades.

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

Why do you mingle myrrh with tears of compassion, O you women disciples? The radiant angel in the grave addressed the myrrh-bearing women: Behold the grave and exult, for the Saviour has arisen from the sepulchre.

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

At early morn, the myrrh-bearers hastened to Your sepulchre with lamentations; but an angel came to them and said: “The time for sorrow is ended; weep you no longer. And tell the apostles of the Resurrection.

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

The myrrh-bearing Women came with myrrh unto Your tomb, O Saviour, and they heard an angel saying unto them: “Why do you count the Living among the dead? For, as God, He is risen from the sepulchre.

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; and we cry out with the Seraphim: Holy, Holy, Holy are You O Lord.

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

By giving birth to the Giver of Live, O Virgin, you did rescue Adam from sin, and you did grant Eve joy instead of sorrow; for the God and Man Who was incarnate of you guided back to life him that fallen away therefrom.

Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia. Glory to You, O God! (x3)

O our God and our hope, glory to You!

The Little Litany

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

People: Lord have mercy.

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

People: Lord have mercy.

Priest: Commemorating our all-holy, pure, most blessed and glorious Lady, Theotokos and Ever Virgin Mary, (*Most Holy Theotokos, save us*) with all the saints; let us entrust ourselves and one another, and our whole life, to Christ our God.

People: To You, O Lord.

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

People: Amen.

Exaposteilarion (Tone 2)

Holy is the Lord, our God. (x3)

The Praises (Tone 2)

Let every breath praise the Lord. Praise the Lord from the heavens, praise Him in the heights. To You is due praise, O God.

Praise Him, all His angels; praise Him, all His hosts. To You is due praise, O God.

Praise God in His Sanctuary. Praise Him in His mighty firmament!

Today the grave holds Him Who holds creation in His palm. A stone covers Him, Who covers the Heavens with virtue. Life sleeps, and Hades trembles; and Adam is set free from his bonds. Glory to Your dispensation, through which, when all things were accomplished, You presented to us an eternal Sabbath rest, granting us Your most Holy Resurrection from the dead.

Praise Him for His mighty acts; Praise Him according to His excellent greatness!

What is the sight, which is now beheld? What is the present rest? The King of the ages having completed the dispensation with His Passion takes His Sabbath rest in the tomb, granting us a new Sabbath. To Him let us cry out: "Arise, O God, and judge the earth, for You reign to the ages, Who is boundless in Your great mercy."

Praise Him with the sound of the trumpet; Praise Him with the lute and harp.

Come, let us behold our Life, lying in the tomb, that He may give life to those, who lie in the graves. Come today, let us see Him of the lineage of Judah sleeping, prophetically crying out to Him: "Who shall raise You up, O King, Who falling back sleeps as a lion?" But of Your own will, rise up, Who willingly gave Yourself for us. O Lord, glory to You.

Praise Him with the timbrel and dance, praise Him with stringed instruments and organs.

Joseph asked for the Body of Jesus and placed It in his own new tomb; for He had to emerge from the grave as from a bridal chamber. Glory to You, Who shattered the dominion of Death, and opened the portals of Paradise to all mankind.

Tone 6

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

The great Moses mystically foreshadowed this day, saying: "And God blessed the seventh day." For this is the blessed Sabbath; it is the day of quiet, and rest, in which the Only-begotten Son of God rested from all His works, and through the dispensation of death, in body He rested. And having returned to it again through the Resurrection, as the only Good and Merciful Lord, He granted to us Life Eternal.

Now and forever and to the ages of ages. Amen.

Most blessed are you, O Virgin, Theotokos; for through Him that was incarnate of you is Hades despoiled, Adam is recalled from the dead, the curse is made void, Eve is set free, death is slain, and we are endowed with life. Wherefore, in hymns of praise, we cry aloud: "Blessed are You, O Christ our God, Who is thus well pleased; glory to You".

The Great Doxology (Tone 6)

Glory be to You, for You have shown us the light. Glory to God in the Highest, and on Earth peace, goodwill to all people.

We praise You, we bless You, we worship You, we glorify You, we give You thanks for Your great glory.

O Lord King, Heavenly 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, and have mercy on us.

For You alone are Holy, You alone are Lord, Jesus Christ, to the glory of God the Father. Amen.

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

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

Blessed are You, Lord, the God of our Fathers, and praised and glorified is Your Name, unto the ages. Amen

Let your mercy, O Lord, be upon us, even as we have hoped 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, have mercy upon 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 fountain of life, in Your light we shall see light.

Continue Your mercy unto those who know You.

Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal: have mercy on us. (x3)

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

Holy Immortal: have mercy on us.

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

The Prophecy

Priest: Let us attend.

Reader: Arise for our help and redeem us for Your mercies' sake.
We have heard with our ears, O God, Our fathers have told us.

Priest: Wisdom.

Reader: A reading from the Book of Ezekiel. (Chapter 37:1-14)

Priest: Let us attend.

The hand of the Lord came upon me and brought me out in the Spirit of the Lord and set me down in the midst of the valley; and it was full of bones. Then He caused me to pass by them all around, and behold, there were very many in the open valley; and indeed, they

were very dry. And He said to me, "Son of man, can these bones live?" So, I answered, "O Lord God, You know." Again, He said to me, "Prophecy to these bones, and say to them, 'O dry bones, hear the word of the Lord! Thus, says the Lord God to these bones: "Surely, I will cause breath to enter into you, and you shall live. I will put sinews on you and bring flesh upon you, cover you with skin and put breath in you; and you shall live." Then you shall know that I am the Lord.' "

So, I prophesied as I was commanded; and as I prophesied, there was a noise, and suddenly a rattling; and the bones came together, bone to bone. Indeed, as I looked, the sinews and the flesh came upon them, and the skin covered them over; but there was no breath in them. Also, 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 on these slain, that they may live.' "

So, I prophesied as He commanded me, and breath came into them, and they lived, and stood upon their feet, an exceedingly great army. Then He said to me, "Son of man, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They indeed say, 'Our bones are dry, our hope is lost, and we ourselves are cut off!' Therefore, prophecy and say to them, 'Thus says the Lord God: "Behold, O My people, I will open your graves and cause you to come up from your graves, and bring you into the land of Israel. Then you shall know that I am the Lord, when I have opened your graves, O My people, and brought you up from your graves. I will put My Spirit in you, and you shall live, and I will place you in your own land. Then you shall know that I, the Lord, have spoken it and performed it, says the Lord.' "

The Epistle Reading

Priest: Let us attend.

Reader: Arise, O Lord, let Your hand be exalted. I will give praise to You, O Lord, with my whole heart.

Priest: Wisdom.

Reader: A reading from the First Epistle of Saint Paul to the Corinthians. (1 Cor 5:6-8 and Gal 3:13-14)

Priest: Let us attend.

Do you not know that a little leaven leavens the whole lump. Therefore, purge out the old leaven, that you may be a new lump, since you truly are unleavened. For indeed Christ, our Passover, was sacrificed for us. Therefore, let us keep the feast, not with old leaven, nor with the leaven of malice and wickedness, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.

Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law, having become a curse for us (for it is written, "Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree."), that the blessing of Abraham might come upon the Gentiles in Christ Jesus, that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith.

Priest: Peace be to you reader.

People: Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia.

The Gospel Lesson

Priest: Wisdom! Let us attend and hear the Holy Gospel.

Peace be to you all.

People: And to your spirit.

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

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

Priest: Let us attend.

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

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

The Ektenia of Fervent Supplication

Priest: Let us say with all our souls and with all our mind, let us say: O Lord Almighty, the God of our Fathers, we pray You: Hear us and have mercy.

People: Lord, have mercy. (x3)

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

People: Lord, have mercy. (x3)

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

People: Lord, have mercy. (x3)

Priest: Again we pray for our Father Metropolitan (*Name*), for the Priests, Deacons, Monks and Nuns; and for all our brethren in Christ.

People: Lord, have mercy. (x3)

Priest: Again we pray for mercy, life, peace, health and salvation for the servants of God, the Orthodox Christians who dwell in this city. For those who are gathering in this Holy Church, for the Parish Council, for those who give and for their visitation, pardon and remission of their sins.

People: Lord, have mercy. (x3)

Priest: Again we pray for the blessed and ever memorable founders of this holy Temple; and for all our fathers and brethren, the Orthodox departed this life before us, who here and in all the world lie asleep in the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy. (x3)

Priest: Again we pray for those who bear fruit and do good works in this holy and all-venerable Temple; for those who serve and those

who sing; 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 love mankind, and to You we ascribe glory: to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: now and for ever, and to the ages of ages.

People: Amen.

Litany of Supplication

Priest: Let us complete our prayer unto the Lord.

People: Lord have mercy.

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

People: Lord have mercy.

Priest: That the whole evening may be perfect, holy, peaceful and without sin, let us ask of the Lord.

People: Grant this O Lord.

Priest: 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.

Priest: Pardon and forgiveness of our sins and transgressions, let us ask of the Lord.

People: Grant this O Lord.

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

People: Grant this O Lord.

Priest: 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.

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

People: Grant this O Lord.

Priest: Commemorating our all-holy, pure, most blessed and glorious Lady, Theotokos and Ever Virgin Mary, (Most Holy Theotokos, save us) with all the saints; let us entrust ourselves and one another, and our whole life, to Christ our God.

People: To You, O Lord.

Priest: **For You are the God of mercies and of bounties and of love toward mankind, and unto You we ascribe glory: to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; both now and ever, and unto ages of ages.**

People: Amen.

Priest: Peace be to you all.

People: And to your Spirit

Priest: Let us bow our heads to the Lord.

People: To You, O Lord.

Priest: O holy Lord, who dwells on high regard the humble of heart and with your all-seeing eye does behold all creation unto You have bowed the neck of our soul and body and we entreat You O Holy of holies stretch forth Your invisible hand from your Holy dwelling place and bless us all and if in aught we have sinned, whether voluntary or involuntary forgive inasmuch as You are a good God and loves mankind. Vouchsafe unto us Your earthly and heavenly good things.

Priest: For it is Yours to show mercy and to save us, O, our God, and to You we ascribe glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and forever and to the ages of ages.

People: Amen.

The Dismissal

Priest: Wisdom.

People: Father bless.

Priest: Christ our God, the Existing One, is blessed, always, now and forever and to the ages of ages.

People: Amen. Preserve, O God, the holy Orthodox faith and Orthodox Christians, to the ages of ages. Amen.

Priest: Most holy Theotokos, save us.

People: More honoured than the Cherubim, and more glorious beyond compare than the Seraphim, in all purity you gave birth to God the Word, true Theotokos, we exalt You.

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

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

Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

In the name of the Lord, holy Father give the blessing.

Priest: May He Who for us men and for our salvation voluntarily endured the awful Passion, the Cross, and the entombment, Christ our True God, through the prayers of His most pure, blameless and holy Mother; of Saint (*Name*) the patron(s) of this Church; of the holy and righteous ancestors of God, Joachim and Anna; and of all the Saints; have mercy on us and save us, for He is good and loves mankind.

Priest: Through the prayers of our holy Fathers, O Lord Jesus Christ our God, have mercy on us and save us.

People: Amen.

Procession with the Epitaphion

(The Priest, Altar Boys and Choir leading the Epitaphios, followed by the congregation, proceed around the church building, while the Choir chants: "Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal, have mercy on us." The procession pauses at 4 cross points to invoke petitions. Returning in the church, the Epitaphios is taken into the Sanctuary and after going around the Altar 3 times it is placed on the Altar while the following hymns are sung:

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

Priest: Let us attend. Peace be to you all. Wisdom!

Tone Five

When he saw that the sun had hidden its rays, and the veil of the Temple was rent at the death of the Savior, Joseph came unto Pilate and entreated him, saying: Give me this Stranger, Who from His youth hath been received as a stranger in this world. Give me this Stranger, Whom His kinsmen killed in hatred like a stranger. Give me this Stranger, concerning Whom I am in perplexity, seeing the strangeness of His death. Give me this Stranger, Who knew how to take in the poor and strangers. Give me this Stranger, Whom the Jews in their malice, estranged from the world. Give me this Stranger, that I may conceal, Him in a tomb, Who being a Stranger has no place whereon to lay His head. Give me this Stranger, to Whom His Mother on beholding Him dead, cried: O my Son and my God, though my bowels be wounded, and I be pierced in my heart as I behold Your dead, yet trusting in Your Resurrection, I magnify You. Having, therefore, besought Pilate with these words, the noble Joseph receives the Savior's body, which with fear he wrapped in linen and spices. In a tomb he placed the One Who granted unto all life everlasting and great mercy.

Troparion (Tone 2)

When You O Immortal Life went down to death, You did destroy death by the splendour of Your divinity and when You did raise the dead from the under-world, all the powers of heaven cried aloud unto You, O Christ our God giver of Life Glory to You.

Verily the Angel came to the tomb and said to the ointment bearing women, ointment is meet for the dead, but Christ has shown himself to be free from corruption.

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

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

Now and forever and to the ages of ages. Amen.

You, O Christ, Who holds the universe in Your hands, condescended to be held in the Tomb, to redeem fallen mankind from Hades, thereby giving immortal life to us, as immortal God.



Saints Michael and Gabriel Antiochian Orthodox Church