

# MATINS OF HOLY SATURDAY

ALSO CALLED: MATINS OF THE LAMENTATIONS

SERVED ON FRIDAY NIGHT

*Please note: I have shortened some parts of the service to make it easier to be said at home (the Lamentations and the Kathisma Hymns and Praises), but I have not shortened the Canon or the readings.*

**Reader:** Through the prayers of our Holy Fathers, O Lord Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Amen.

Glory to Thee, our God, glory to Thee!

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

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

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

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

Lord, have mercy. *Thrice.*

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

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

Through the prayers of our Holy Fathers, O Lord Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Amen.

Lord have mercy. *Twelve* Times.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. Now and Ever, and unto 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 our God.

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

### THE SIX PSALMS

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

At the dawn I meditated on Thee. For Thou art become my helper; in the shelter of Thy wings will I rejoice.

**M**y soul hath cleaved after Thee, Thy right hand hath been quick to help me.

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

**A**lleluia, alleluia, alleluia. Glory to Thee, O God. *Thrice. (Without bows)*

**L**ord. have mercy. *Thrice.*

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

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

**O** Lord God of my salvation, by day have I cried and by night before Thee.

L et my prayer come before Thee, bow down Thine ear unto my supplication.

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

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

O Lord, hear my prayer, give ear unto my supplication in Thy truth; hearken unto me in Thy righteousness. And enter not into judgment with Thy servant, for in Thy sight shall no man living be justified. For the enemy hath persecuted my soul; he hath humbled my life down to the earth. He hath sat me in darkness as those that have been long dead, and my spirit within me is become despondent; within me my heart is troubled. I remembered days

of old, I meditated on all Thy works, I pondered on the creations of Thy hands. I stretched forth my hands unto Thee; my soul thirsteth after thee like a waterless land. Quickly hear me, O Lord; my spirit hath fainted away. Turn not Thy face away from me, lest I be like unto them that go down into the pit. Cause me to hear Thy mercy in the morning; for in Thee have I put my hope. cause me to know, O Lord, the way wherein I should walk; for unto Thee have I lifted up my soul. Rescue me from mine enemies, O Lord; unto Thee have I fled for refuge. Teach me to do Thy will, for Thou art my God. Thy good Spirit shall lead me in the land of uprightness; for Thy name's sake, O Lord, shalt Thou quicken me. In Thy righteousness shalt Thou bring my soul out of affliction, and in Thy mercy shalt Thou utterly destroy mine enemies. And Thou shalt cut off all them that afflict my soul, for I am Thy servant.

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

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

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

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

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

Lord, have mercy. *Forty Times.*

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

## GOD IS THE LORD AND TROPARIA

In the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tone: God is the Lord and has revealed Himself to us. Blessed is He that comes in the Name of the Lord. *O give thanks to the Lord, for He is good; for His mercy endures forever.*

God is the Lord and has revealed Himself to us. Blessed is He that comes in the Name of the Lord.

*All the nations surrounded me, but in the Name of the Lord I destroyed them.*

God is the Lord and has revealed Himself to us. Blessed is He that comes in the Name of the Lord.

*I shall not die, but live, and I will tell of all the works of the Lord.*

God is the Lord and has revealed Himself to us. Blessed is He that comes in the Name of the Lord.

*The stone which the builders rejected has become the head of the corner. This is the Lord's doing and it is wonderful in our eyes.*

God is the Lord and has revealed Himself to us. Blessed is He that comes in the Name of the Lord.

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

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

When Thou didst descend to death, O Life Immortal,  
Thou didst slay Hell with the splendor of Thy Godhead,  
And when from the depths Thou didst raise the dead,  
All the powers of Heaven cried out:  
“Oh Giver of Life, Christ our God, glory to Thee!”

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

The Angel came to the myrrhbearing women at the tomb and said:

“Myrrh is fitting for the dead;

but Christ has shown Himself a stranger to corruption.”

## THE LAMENTATIONS

### The First Stasis

*Blessed art Thou, O Lord, teach me Thy statutes. Blessed are the blameless in the way, who walk in the law of the Lord.*

In a grave they laid Thee, / O my Life and my Christ / and the armies of the angels were sore amazed / as they sang the praise of Thy submissive love.

*Blessed are they that search out His testimonies; with their whole heart shall they seek after him.*

How, O Life, canst Thou die? / Or abide in a grave? / For Thou dost destroy the kingdom of death, O Lord, / and Thou raisest up the dead of Hades' realm.

*For they that work iniquity have not walked in His ways.*

Now we magnify Thee, / O Lord Jesus, our King; / and we venerate Thy Passion and Burial, / whereby from corruption's bowels we are redeemed.

*Thou hast enjoined Thy commandments, that we should keep them most diligently.*

Thou Who didst establish / the earth's bounds dost now dwell, / in a small grave, O my Jesus, Thou King of all, / who dost call the dead to leave their graves and rise.

*Would that my ways were directed to keep Thy statutes.*

O my dear Christ Jesus, / King and Ruler of all, / why to them that dwelt in Hades didst Thou descend? / Was it not to set the race of mortals free?

*Then shall I not be ashamed, when I look on all Thy commandments.*



Lo, the sov'reign Ruler / of creation is dead / and is buried in a tomb never used before, / He that emptied all the graves of all their dead.

*I will confess Thee with uprightness of heart, when I have learned the judgments of Thy righteousness.*

In a grave they laid Thee, / O my Life and my Christ. / Yet behold now, by Thy death, death is stricken down, / and Thou pourest forth life's streams for all the world!

*I will keep Thy statutes; do not utterly forsake me.*

Thou, O Christ, wast numbered / with men of evil deeds / as one evil, and didst also deliver us / from the ancient schemer's evil works and deeds.

*Wherewithall shall a young man correct his way? By keeping Thy words!*

Lo, how fair His beauty! / Never man was so fair! / Yet how doth He seem a dead man bereft of form, / though all nature's beauty had Him as its source!

*With my whole heart have I sought after Thee, cast me not away from Thy commandments.*

How could Hades, O Savior, / bear Thy presence divine, / and not rather be demolished in utter gloom, / blinded by the splendor of Thy dazzling light?

*In my heart have I hid Thy sayings that I might not sin against thee.*

O my sweet Lord Jesus, / my Salvation, my Light: / How art Thou now hid within a dark sepulcher? / Lo, Thy burial surpasseth human speech.

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

Word of God, we hymn Thee. / God of all things art Thou, with Thy Father and Thy Spirit Most Holy praised; / and we glorify Thy burial divine.

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

All we call thee blessed, / Theotokos most pure, / and with faithful hearts we honor the burial / suffered three days by thy Son who is our God.

In a grave they laid Thee, / O my Life and my Christ, / and the armies of the angels were sore amazed, / as they sang the praise of Thy submissive love.

## Stasis Two

Right it is indeed, life bestowing Lord, to magnify Thee; for upon the Cross were Thy most pure hands outspread, and the strength of our dread foe hast Thou destroyed.

*Thy hands have made me and fashioned me; give me understanding and I will learn Thy commands.*

Right it is indeed, Maker of all things, to magnify Thee; for by Thy dear Passion have we all now attained unto blest dispassion and deliverance.

*They that fear Thee shall see me and be glad, for on Thy words have I set my hope.*

Earth with trembling shook, and the sun concealed his face with darkness; for the light unwaning that hath shone forth from Thee, with Thy Body sank to darkness and the grave.

*I have known, O Lord, that Thy judgments are righteousness, and with truth hast Thou humbled me.*

Thou hast slept, O Christ, in the grave the sleep that is life-giving, and hast raised up with Thyself the whole race of man from the grievous and most heavy sleep of sin.

*Let now Thy mercy be my comfort, according to Thy saying unto Thy servant.*

Of all womankind, I alone gave birth to Thee without pain, said the most pure Virgin; Lo, now I must endure pain unbearable at Thy great suffering.

*Let Thy Compassions come upon me and I shall live, for Thy law is my meditation.*

All the seraphim shuddered when they saw Thee, O my Saviour, Who above art with the Father insepar'able, though Thou liest dead within the earth below.

*Let the proud be put to shame, for unjustly have they transgressed against me; but as for me I will ponder on Thy commandments.*

Lo, the temple's veil was once rent at Thy dread crucifixion and the stars above in heaven did hide their light, seeing Thee, the Sun, now hidden in the earth.

*Let those that fear Thee return unto me, and those that know Thy testimonies.*

By a word alone, Thou didst form the art in the beginning; yet now as a dead man, Thou art hid in the earth. O ye heavens, shake with fear at this dread sight.

*Let my heart be blameless in Thy statutes, that I may not be put to shame.*

Thou, Who with Thy hand didst create man, hast sunk in earth's bosom, that by Thine almighty pow'r and strength, O Sun, Thou might'st raise the multitude of fallen men.

*My soul fainteth for Thy salvation; on Thy words have I set my hope.*

Come, let us now sing / sacred dirges to our Christ Who dieth, as once the myrrh-bearing women did sing to Him, that with them we all might hear the word: Rejoice!

*Mine eyes are grown dim with waiting for Thine oracle; they say: when wilt Thou comfort me.*

Truly, Thou, O Word, art as myrrh most precious which is poured forth. Wherefore, unto Thee, who art the true Living God, the myrrh-bearing women brought most precious myrrh.

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

O Eternal God, Word co-unoriginate, and Spirit: Stablish Thou the faith and strength of the Orthodox against heresy and error, O Good One.

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

Birthgiver of Life, O most blameless and most holy Virgin: Quell every offence within our most Holy Church, blessing us with peace forever, O Good Maid.

Right it is indeed, life bestowing Lord, to magnify Thee; for upon the Cross were Thy most pure hands outspread, and the strength of our dread foe hast Thou destroyed.

### Stasis Three:

Every generation chanteth hymns of praise at Thy burial, O Christ God!

*Look upon me and have mercy on me, according to the judgment of them that love Thy name.*

The Arimathaeon, took Thee from the Cross and did lay Thee in a new grave.

*My steps do Thou direct according to Thy saying, and let no iniquity have dominion over me.*

Women, bringing spices, came with loving forethought, Thy due of myrrh to give Thee.

*Deliver me from the false accusations of men, and I will keep Thy commandments.*

Come, all things created, let us sing a dirge-hymn to honor our Creator.

*Make Thy face to shine upon Thy servant, and teach me Thy statutes.*

With myrrh and true knowledge, let us like the women, anoint as dead the Living.

*Mine eyes have poured forth streams of waters, because I kept not Thy laws.*

O thrice-blessed Joseph, bury now the Body of Christ the Life-bestower.

*Righteous art Thou, O Lord, and upright are Thy judgments.*

Those He fed with manna lifted heels of spurning against their Benefactor.

*Thou hast ordained as Thy testimonies exceeding righteousness and truth.*

Those He fed with manna bring the Savior gall and vinegar intermingled.

*My zeal for Thee hath made me to pine away, because mine enemies have forgotten Thy words.*

O, the utter folly, brimming with Christ's murder, of them that slew the prophets.

*Thine oracle is tried with fire to the uttermost, and Thy servant hath loved it.*

Taught the inner mysteries, he, the mindless servant, betrayed the Depth of Wisdom.

*I am young and accounted as nothing, yet Thy statutes have I not forgotten.*

He that sold his Savior sold himself as captive, that crafty traitor Judas.

*Thy righteousness is an everlasting righteousness, and Thy law is truth.*

As Solomon spake saying: The mouth of lawless Jews is a yawning pit and chasm.

*Tribulations and necessities have found me, Thy commandments are my meditation.*

In the crooked pathways of the lawless Jews snares and countless traps lay hidden.

*Thy testimonies are righteousness forever; give me understanding and I shall live.*

Helped by Nicodemus, Joseph doth entomb now the Body of his Maker.

*I have cried with my whole heart; hear me, O Lord, and I will seek after Thy statutes.*

Life-bestowing Savior, to Thy might be glory; for Thou hast vanquished Hades.

*I have cried unto Thee; save me, and I will keep Thy testimonies.*

When the most pure Virgin saw Thee prone, O Logos, a mother's dirge she sang Thee.

*I arose in the dead of night and I cried; on Thy words have I set my hope.*

O, my most sweet Springtime! O, my Son beloved, whither doth fade Thy beauty?

*Mine eyes woke before the morning that I might meditate on Thy sayings.*

Songs of lamentation poured from Thy pure Mother, when Thou, O Word, was slaughtered.

*Hear my voice, O Lord, according to Thy mercy; according to Thy judgment quicken me.*

Women to anoint Him, with their myrrh, are come now to Christ, Who is Divine Myrrh.

*They have drawn nigh that lawlessly persecute me, but from Thy law are they far removed.*

By Thy death, O Lord God, death itself hast Thou slain by Thy divine dominion.

*Near art Thou, O Lord, and all Thy ways are truth.*

Deceived is the deceiver; deceived man is now ransomed, my God, through Thy great wisdom.

*My soul shall live and shall praise Thee, and Thy judgments will help me.*

Myrrh the women sprinkled, bearing stores of spices, to grace Thy tomb ere dawning.

*I have gone astray like a sheep that is lost; O seek Thy servant, for I have not forgotten Thy commandments.*

Grant unto Thy church peace, by Thy Resurrection, and to Thy flock salvation.

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

O Thou Triune Godhead, Father, Son, and Spirit, upon Thy world have mercy.

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

Grant that we who serve thee may see the Resurrection of thy Son, O blessed Virgin!

Every generation chanteth hymns of praise at Thy burial, O Christ God.

## THE CANON

### ODE ONE

Of old Thou didst bury the pursuing tyrant

Beneath the waves of the sea.

Now the children of those who were saved

Bury Thee beneath the earth.

But like the maidens, let us sing to the Lord,

For gloriously has He been glorified.

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

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

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

Beholding Thee upon the throne on high and in the grave below, the things of heaven and the things beneath the earth trembled at Thy death; for in a manner past understanding wast Thou, the very Source of Life, seen dead.

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

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

### ODE THREE

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## ODE FOUR

Foreseeing Thy divine humiliation on the Cross,  
Habakkuk cried out trembling:  
“Thou didst shatter the dominion of the mighty  
By joining those in Hell as the Almighty Lord.”

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

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

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

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

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

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



## ODE FIVE

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

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

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

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

Through death Thou dost transform what is mortal, and through burial Thou dost transform what is corruptible; for in a manner befitting God Thou dost make incorrupt and immortal the nature which Thou hast assumed, since Thy flesh did not see corruption and in a wondrous manner Thy soul was not abandoned in hell.

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

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

## ODE SIX

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

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

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

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

The fall of Adam resulted in the death of man, not God; for even though the earthly substance of Thy flesh suffered, Thy divinity remained passionless. In Thyself Thou hast transformed the corruptible to incorruption, and by Thy resurrection Thou hast revealed a fountain of incorruptible life.

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

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

## THE KONTAKION

### Tone Six – Troparion Tone

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.”

He Who holds all things together has been lifted up upon the cross, and all of creation weeps at seeing Him hanging, naked, upon the wood. The sun hid its rays and the stars cast aside their splendor. The earth shook with great fear, the sea fled, and the rocks were split asunder. Many tombs were opened, and the bodies of holy men arose. Hell groaned below and the Jews considered how to slander the resurrection of Christ, but the women cried, “This is the most blessed sabbath on which Christ has fallen asleep to rise on the third day.”

## THE CANON CONTINUED

### ODE SEVEN

Inexpressible wonder!

In the furnace Thou didst save the holy youths from the flame.

Now Thou art placed in the grave as a lifeless corpse,

For the salvation of us who sing:

Blessed art Thou, O God our Redeemer!

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## ODE EIGHT

Be amazed, O heavens!

Be shaken, O foundations of the earth!

Behold, He that dwells in the highest

Is numbered among the dead and sheltered in a lowly tomb.

Bless Him, O youths! Praise him, O priests!

O people, exalt Him above all forever!

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

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

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

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

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

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

We praise, bless, and worship the Lord, singing and exalting Him throughout all ages.

## ODE NINE

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 thee in faith and in love.

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

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

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

“By My own will, the earth covers Me, O Mother, but the gatekeepers of hell tremble at seeing Me clothed in the blood-stained garments of vengeance; for when I have vanquished My enemies on the cross, I shall arise as God and magnify Thee.”

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

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

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 thee in faith and in love.

Lord, have mercy. *Thrice.*

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

## THE GREAT DOXOLOGY

Glory to Thee who hast shown us the light! Glory be to God on high, and on earth peace, and good will among men.

We praise Thee, we bless Thee, we worship Thee, we glorify Thee, we give thanks unto Thee for Thy great glory: O Lord, heavenly King, God the Father Almighty; O Lord, the only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ; and the Holy Spirit.

O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy on us. Thou that takest away the sins of the world, receive our prayer. Thou that sittest at the right hand of the Father, and have mercy on us.

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

Every day will I bless Thee and I will praise Thy name forever, yea for ever and ever.

Vouchsafe, O Lord, to keep us this day without sin. Blessed art Thou, O Lord, God of our fathers, and praised and glorified is Thy name forever. Amen.

Let Thy mercy, O Lord, be upon us, as we do put our hope in Thee. Blessed art Thou, O Lord; teach me Thy statutes. Blessed art Thou, O Lord; teach me Thy statutes. Blessed art Thou, O Lord; teach me Thy statutes.

Lord, Thou has been our refuge in all generations. I said be merciful unto me. Heal my soul, for I have sinned against Thee. Lord I have fled unto Thee. Teach me to do Thy will, for Thou art my God. For with Thee is the fountain of life, and in Thy light shall we see light. Continue Thy lovingkindness unto them that know thee.

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

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

**Troparion in Tone Two:**

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

The Troparion of the Prophecy in the Second Tone:

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

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

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

Arise, O God, and help us! Deliver us for Thy name's sake!

*Arise, O God, and help us!*

Deliver us for Thy name's sake!

The reading is from the prophet Ezekiel. (**Ezekiel 37:1-14**)



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

*I will praise Thee, O Lord my God, with all my heart; I will make all Thy wonders known!*

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

*Arise, O Lord my God, lift up Thy hand!*

Forget not Thy poor forever!

The Reading is from the Epistle of the holy Apostle Paul to the Corinthians.

**(1 Corinthians 5:6-8; Galatians 3:13-14)**

The Alleluia is in the Fifth Tone: *Let God arise! Let His enemies be scattered! Let those that hate Him flee from before His face!*

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

*As smoke vanishes so let them vanish. As wax melts before the fire!*

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

*So the sinners will perish before the face of God, but let the righteous be glad!*

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

Glory to Thee, O Lord, Glory to Thee!

**(Matthew 27:62-66)**

Glory to Thee, O Lord, Glory to Thee!

## DISMISSAL

More honorable than the Cherubim and more glorious beyond compare than the Seraphim.  
Without corruption thou gavest birth to God the Word, true Theotokos we magnify thee.

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

Lord, have mercy. *Thrice.*

O Lord, bless.

Through the prayers of our Holy Fathers, of the Venerable New Martyr Elizabeth, and of all the saints, Lord Jesus Christ our God, who endured fearful suffering, the life-creating Cross, and voluntary burial in the flesh on behalf of us men and for our salvation, have mercy on us and save us!

Amen!

### **Tone Five: Come, Let Us Bless Joseph**

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 mine 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 Thy Resurrection!’”  
We worship Thy Passion, O Christ!  
We worship Thy Passion, O Christ!  
We worship Thy Passion, O Christ!  
And Thy Holy Resurrection!