

## Matins of Great and Holy Saturday

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

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

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

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

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

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

Lord, have mercy. (3x)

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

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

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

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

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

**Reader:** Amen.

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

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

### **The Six Morning Psalms (*Three are taken*)**

#### **Psalm 88**

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

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

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

But I, O LORD, cry to thee; in the morning my prayer comes before thee. O LORD, why dost thou cast me off? Why dost thou hide thy face from me? Afflicted and close to death from my youth up, I suffer thy terrors; I am helpless. Thy wrath has swept over me; thy dread assaults destroy me. They surround me like a flood all day long; they close in upon me together. Thou hast caused lover and friend to shun me; my companions are in darkness.

### **Psalm 103**

Bless the LORD, O my soul; and all that is within me, bless his holy name! Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits, who forgives all your iniquity, who heals all your diseases, who redeems your life from the Pit, who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy, who satisfies you with good as long as you live so that

your youth is renewed like the eagle's.

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

For as the heavens are high above the earth, so great is his steadfast love toward those who fear him; as far as the east is from the west, so far does he remove our transgressions from us. As a father pities his children, so the LORD pities those who fear him. For he knows our frame; he remembers that we are dust. As for man, his days are like grass; he flourishes like a flower of the field; for the wind passes over it, and it is gone, and its place knows it no more.

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

and his kingdom rules over all.

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

### **Psalm 143**

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

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

Make haste to answer me, O LORD! My spirit fails! Hide not thy face from me, lest I be like those who go down to the Pit. Let me hear in the morning of thy

steadfast love, for in thee I put my trust. Teach me the way I should go, for to thee I lift up my soul.

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

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

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

## The Great Litany

**Priest:** In peace let us pray to the Lord.

**All:** Lord, have mercy.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

**All:** To thee O Lord.

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

**All:** Amen.

### **God is the Lord & *The Noble Joseph***

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

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

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

### **Troparia**

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

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. When Thou didst descend to death, O Life Immortal, Thou didst slay hell with the splendor of Thy Godhead, and when from the depths Thou didst raise the dead, all the powers of Heaven cried

out: “O Giver of Life, Christ our God, glory to Thee!”

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

### **Psalm 119 (118) -- The Lamentations**

*Psalm 119 is read each night at the midnight office. It is also sung at every Orthodox funeral matins, although in a very abbreviated form. Psalm 119 is the longest chapter in Holy Scripture, at 176 verses, and is divided into three parts, called “stases.” Following each verse is a troparion, or hymn, which reflects on the mystery of the death and resurrection of Christ.*

*(Each stasis below includes only 20 verses and their troparia.)*

#### **The First Stasis (Tone 5)**

Blessed art Thou, O Lord//  
Teach me Thy statutes.

*Priest: Blessed are those whose way is blameless, who walk in the law of the Lord.*

In the tomb they laid Thee,  
O Christ the Life.  
The angelic hosts were overcome with awe//  
and glorified Thy condescension

*Priest: Blessed are those who keep His testimonies, who seek Him with their whole heart.*

O Life, how can Thou die?  
How can Thou dwell in a tomb?  
Yet by Thy death Thou has destroyed the reign  
of death//  
and raised all the dead from Hell.

*Priest: For those who work wickedness have not walked in His ways.*

We magnify Thee  
O Jesus, our King.  
We worship Thy Passion and Thy burial//  
for, by them Thou has saved us from death

*Priest: Thou has commanded Thy precepts to be diligently kept.*

Earth's bounds Thou has measured  
O Jesus, King of all  
yet today Thou dwell in a narrow tomb//  
raising the dead from their graves.

*Priest: O That my ways may be steadfast in keeping Thy statutes*

O Messiah Jesus  
my King, the Lord of all,  
whom are Thou seeking in the depths of Hell/  
Has Thou come to free the race of mortal men?

*Priest: Then I shall not be put to shame, having my eyes fixed on all Thy commandments*

Lo, the sov'reign Ruler  
of creation is dead  
Almighty God is laid in a new tomb//  
to empty the graves of all their dead.

*Priest: I will praise Thee with an upright heart, when I learn Thy righteous ordinances*

In the tomb they laid Thee,  
O Christ the Life.  
By Thy death Thou hast cast down the might  
of death//  
and become the Font of Life for all the world.

*Priest: I will observe Thy statutes; O forsake me not utterly*

Thou has been numbered  
among transgressors, O Christ;  
Thou has justified us all, O Lamb of God//  
by freeing us from the Devil's works

*Priest: How can a young man keep his way pure? By  
guarding it according to Thy word.*

Thou, O Lord, are fairer  
than all the sons of men.  
Thou has filled creation with Thy beauty//  
how can Thou lie before us dead this day?

*Priest: With my whole heart I seek Thee; let me not wander  
from Thy commandments.*

How could Hell bear Thy coming  
and not shatter at once?  
Death is blinded by Thy splendor, O Lord//  
Its gloom is scattered by Thy dazzling light

*Priest: I have hidden Thy word in my heart, that I might  
not sin against Thee.*

O Jesus, my Salvation,  
my Sweetness, my Light!  
How are Thou hidden in a dark tomb?//  
O patience past our strength to understand!

*Priest: Blessed art Thou, O Lord! Teach me Thy statutes.*

The spiritual powers  
and the angelic hosts  
stand in silence, overcome with wonder//  
before the awesome mystery of Thy tomb

*Priest: With my lips I declare all the ordinances of Thy  
mouth*

A new and strange wonder!  
He who gave me life and breath  
now is lifeless, breathless carried to the tomb//

and buried by Joseph's hands.

*Priest: In the way of Thy testimonies I delight, as much as  
in all riches.*

In Thy body, buried  
in Hell with Thy soul  
yet not parted from Thy Father's side, O  
Christ//  
O strange and awesome wonder!

*Priest: I will meditate on Thy precepts and fix my eyes on  
Thy ways*

O Jesus all creation  
knew Thee to be its Lord!  
Thou are truly King of Heaven and earth//  
though Thou are shut within a narrow tomb.

*Priest: I will delight in Thy statues; I will not forget Thy  
word.*

O Christ, Creator  
Thou was laid within a tomb  
Hell's foundations quaked and trembled,  
seeing Thee//



opening the graves of mortal men.

*Priest: Deal bountifully with Thy servant; give me life and I shall keep Thy word.*

He who holds the earth  
in the hollow of His hand  
has been put to death and held fast by the  
earth//  
to save the dead from Hell's grasping hand.

*Priest: Open my eyes, that I may behold wondrous things out of Thy law.*

O my Life, my Savior  
dwelling with the dead in death  
Thou has destroyed the iron bars of Hell//  
and has risen from corruption.

*Priest: I am only a Sojourner on earth; hide not Thy commandments from me.*

Now is the God's flesh hidden  
beneath a veil of earth  
yet it is a lampstand brightly shining//  
scattering the darkness of Hell.

*Priest: My soul is consumed with longing for Thy ordinances at all times.*

Joseph, Nicodemus  
and all the heavenly hosts  
hasten to a narrow tomb to enclose Thee//  
whom the heights of Heaven cannot contain

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

O Word of God, we praise Thee  
the Lord of all the world,  
with Thy Father and Thy Holy Spirit//  
and we glorify Thy burial

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

We bless you, O Virgin  
Birth-giver of God  
and with faithful hearts we praise the burial//  
endured by your Son and our God.

In the tomb they laied Thee,  
O Christ the Life.

The angelic hosts were overcome with awe//  
and glorified Thy condescension

### The Second Stasis (Tone 5)

It is right to magnify Thee  
O Life-giving Lord.  
Thou hast stretched out Thy most pure arms  
upon the cross//  
and broken the Enemy's power

*Priest: Thy hands have made and fashioned me; give me  
understanding that I may learn Thy  
commandments.*

It is right to magnify Thee  
O Creator of All  
We are freed from passion through Thy  
Passion//  
and delivered from corruption.

*Priest: Those who fear Thee shall see me and rejoice,  
because I have hoped in Thy word.*

The earth quaked with fear, O Christ

the sun hid itself  
seeing Thee, the Light that knows no evening//  
sinking down into the tomb.

*Priest: I know, O Lord, that Thy judgments are right, and  
that in faithfulness Thou has afflicted me.*

Thou has slept in the tomb, O Christ  
a life-giving sleep  
by which Thou has wakened all the human  
race//  
from the heavy slumber of sin.

*Priest: Let Thy steadfast love be ready to comfort me,  
according to Thy promise to Thy servant*

“Alone among women, O my Child  
I gave birth to Thee without pain.  
Now I cannot bear the grief I suffer.”//  
the Most Pure Mother cried.

*Priest: Let Thy mercy come to me that I may live, for Thy  
law is my delight*

The seraphim saw Thee, O Lord,  
lying dead on earth below

yet united with Thy Father on high//  
and they shuddered and trembled with fear.

*Priest: Let the godless be put to shame because they have transgressed against me unjustly; as for me, I will meditate on Thy statutes.*

The veil of the temple was torn  
at Thy crucifixion  
and the lights of Heaven hid their radiance//  
when Thou, the Sun, was hidden in the earth.

*Priest: Let those who fear Thee turn to me, that they might know Thy testimonies.*

By Thy nod alone, long ago  
the earth was set on its course.  
Now, Thou has descended dead beneath the  
earth//  
Tremble, O Heaven, at this sight!

*Priest: May my heart be blameless in Thy statutes that I may not be put to shame.*

Thou, who did form man with Thy hand  
has gone down beneath the earth

and with Thine almighty right hand//  
Thou has raised up fallen man.

*Priest: My soul languishes for Thy salvation; I hope in  
Thy word.*

Come, let us sing our lament  
to Christ, who dies for us,  
that we may be worthy, with the  
myrrhbearers//  
to hear His saving greeting: "Rejoice"

*Priest: My eyes fail with watching for Thy promise; I ask,  
"When will Thou comfort me?"*

Thou are in very truth, O Word,  
the Myrrh of Incorruption  
Therefore, to anoint Thee as the Living God,//  
The women brought Thee precious myrrh.

*Priest: For I have become like a wineskin in the smoke, yet I  
have not forgotten Thy statutes.*

Thou has destroyed the palaces of Hell  
by Thy burial, O Christ

Thou has trampled death down by Thy death,  
O Lord//  
and redeemed earth's children from  
corruption.

*Priest: How long must Thy servant endure? When will  
Thou judge those who persecute me?*

The Source of the River of Life  
the Wisdom of God  
has descended to the utmost depths of Hell//  
to give life to all held captive there.

*Priest: Godless men have dug pitfalls for me, men who do  
not conform to Thy law.*

“That I may fashion anew  
Adam's broken nature,  
I willingly endure Death's sting in my flesh.//  
O Mother, do not strike your breast in grief.”

*Priest: All Thy commandments are sure; they persecute me  
with falsehood; help me!*

O Morning Star of Righteousness  
Thou has set beneath the earth

and has raised up all the dead as though from  
sleep//  
dispersing all the darkness of Hell.

*Priest: They have almost made an end of me on earth; but I  
have not forsaken Thy precepts.*

The Seed that gives life to the world  
two-fold in nature  
sown today with tears in earth's dark furrows//  
tomorrow will sprout forth life

*Priest: In Thy steadfast love spare my life, that I may keep  
the commandments of Thy mouth*

Adam was greatly afraid  
when God walked in Paradise.  
Now, with joy he sees God stalking Hades'  
depths.//  
There he fell, but here he is raised up.

*Priest: Forever, O Lord, Thy word is firmly fixed in  
Heaven.*

She who gave birth to Thee, O Christ  
poured out her tears for Thee;



when she saw Thy body buried in the tomb//  
“Arise, as Thou has promised!” she cried.

*Priest: Thy truth endures to all generations. Thou has established the earth and it stands fast.*

In a new tomb, O Savior,  
Joseph laid Thee reverently,  
singing lamentations for Thy exodus//  
mingled with the voices mourning for Thee.

*Priest: The day continues by Thy ordinance, for all things are Thy servants.*

When Thy Mother saw Thee, O Christ,  
pierced with nails upon the cross,  
she was smitten with the nails of bitter grief//  
her soul was pierced, as Simeon foretold.

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

O God without beginning  
Eternal Word and Spirit,  
help Thy people to prevail against the foe//  
as Thou are the Lover of Mankind

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

O Virgin, pure and undefiled  
you gave birth to our Life  
make the strife and scandals of the Church to  
cease//  
in your goodness, grant her peace.

It is right to magnify Thee  
O Life-giving Lord.  
Thou has stretched out Thy most pure arms  
upon the cross/  
and broken the Enemy's power.

### **The Third Stasis (Tone 3)**

Every generation  
offers Thee its hymn of praise//  
at Thy burial, O my Christ.

*Priest: Look upon me, and be merciful to me, as is Thy  
good pleasure toward those who love Thy name.*

The Arimathean

took Thee down from the tree//  
and laid Thee in a tomb

*Priest: Order my steps according to Thy promise, and let  
no iniquity have dominion over me.*

The myrrhbearing women  
with foresight brought sweet spices//  
and drew near to Thee, O my Christ.

*Priest: Deliver me from the false accusation of men, that I  
may keep Thy precepts.*

Come, all creation  
sing a hymn to honor//  
the Creator's burial

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

Let us, with the myrrhbearers,  
anoint as dead the Living One//  
with the Myrrh of True Knowledge

*Priest: My eyes shed streams of tears, because men do not  
keep Thy law.*

O Thrice-blessed Joseph,  
bury now the body//  
Of Christ the Giver of Life

*Priest: Righteous art Thou, O Lord and right are Thy  
judgments.*

Thou did feed Thy people  
with manna in the desert//  
but they raised their heel against Thee.

*Priest: Thou has appointed Thy testimonies in  
righteousness and in all faithfulness*

Thou did feed the nations  
filling them with bounty//  
They repay Thee with gall and vinegar

*Priest: My zeal consumes me, because my foes forget Thy  
words.*

Oh, the folly  
of those who killed the prophet//  
Now they slay the Messiah

*Priest: Thy promise is well tried in the fire, and Thy servant loves it.*

Judas the disciple  
like a foolish servant//  
has betrayed the Abyss of Wisdom

*Priest: I am small and despised, yet I do not forget Thy precepts.*

Judas the traitor  
has become a captive//  
by selling his Deliverer

*Priest: Thy righteousness is righteousness forever, and Thy law is truth*

As Solomon has written  
the mouth of the transgressor//  
is a pit of evil

*Priest: Trouble and anguish have come upon me, but Thy commandments are my delight.*

God's chosen people  
chose to walk on the crooked paths//

Thorns and snares are in their way!

*Priest: Thy testimonies are righteous forever; give me understanding that I may live.*

Joseph and Nicodemus  
bury the Creator//  
with honor fitting for the dead.

*Priest: I cry with my whole heart; hear me, O Lord! I will keep Thy statutes.*

O Life-giving Savior  
Thou has destroyed hell//  
Unto Thee be might and glory!

*Priest: I cry to Thee; save me, that I may observe Thy testimonies.*

The All-pure Virgin wept  
with a mother's grief, O Word//  
When she saw Thee lying dead

*Priest: I rise before dawn and cry for help, I hope in Thy words.*

“O my sweet springtime,  
O my sweetest Child//  
where has all Thy beauty faded?”

*Priest: My eyes are awake before the morning, that I may meditate upon Thy promise.*

Thine All-pure Mother  
mourned and lamented Thee//  
when she saw Thee dead, O Word.

*Priest: Hear my voice according to Thy lovingkindness, O Lord; in Thy judgment give me life.*

The myrrhbearing women  
came at dawn with *spices*//  
to anoint Christ, the Myrrh of God

*Priest: They draw near who persecute me with evil purpose; they are far from Thy law.*

By dying, O my God  
Thou has put death to death//  
through Thy divine power.

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

O God in Trinity  
Father, Son and Spirit//  
grant Thy mercy to the world.

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

Grant us, your servants  
to behold, O Virgin//  
the Resurrection of your Son!

Every generation  
offers Thee its hymn of praise//  
at Thy burial, O my Christ.

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

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

- The angelic host was filled with awe, when it saw Thee among the dead. By destroying



the power of death, O Savior, Thou didst raise Adam and save all men from hell. [R]

- In the tomb, the radiant angel cried to the myrrhbearers, “Why do you women mingle myrrh with your tears? Look at the tomb and understand! The Savior is risen from the dead.” [R]
- Very early in the morning the myrrhbearers ran with sorrow to Thy tomb. But an angel came to them and said, “The time for sorrow has come to an end. Do not weep but announce the resurrection to the Apostles.” [R]
- The myrrhbearers were sorrowful as they neared Thy tomb, but the angel said to them, “Why do you number the living among the dead? Since He is God He is risen from the tomb.”
- Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit. We worship the Father and His Son and the Holy Spirit -- the Holy Trinity one in essence. We cry with the

Seraphim: Holy, Holy, Holy art Thou, O Lord.

- Now and ever and unto ages of ages, Amen. Since you gave birth to the giver of life O Virgin you delivered Adam from his sin. You gave joy to Eve instead of sadness. The God-man who was born of you has restored to life those who had fallen from it.
- Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Glory to Thee O God (3x)

### **Psalm 51**

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

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

I was brought forth in iniquity, and in sin did my mother conceive me.

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

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

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

wilt not despise.

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

## The Canon of Holy Saturday (Tone 6)

### Ode 1

**Irmos:** Of old Thou didst bury the pursuing tyrant / beneath the waves of the sea. / Now the children of those who were saved / bury Thee beneath the earth. / But like the maidens, let us sing to the Lord, // for gloriously has He been glorified.

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Katavasia:** Of old Thou didst bury ...

### Ode 3

**Irmos:** Thou didst suspend the earth / immovably upon the waters. / Now creation beholds Thee / suspended on Calvary. / It quakes with great

amazement and cries: // “None is holy but Thee, O Lord!”

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

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

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

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

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

**Reader:** By Thy will a sealed tomb contained Thee who cannot be contained; for by Thy divine accomplishments Thou hast made known Thy

power unto those who sing: “None is holy but  
Thee, O Lord who lovest mankind!”

**Katavasia:** Thou didst suspend the earth ...

## Ode 4

**Irmos:** Foreseeing Thy divine humiliation on the  
cross, / Habakkuk cried out trembling: / “Thou  
didst shatter the dominion of the mighty / by  
joining those in hell as the Almighty Lord!”

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

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

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

**Reader:** By the overwhelming strength of Thy divine  
nature Thou didst win the victory, O Word;  
for Thy soul was parted from the flesh,

sundering by Thy might the bonds of hell and death.

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

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

**Katavasia:** Foreseeing Thy divine humiliation ...

## Ode 5

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

One, didst raise up life from sleep and corruption.

**Katavasia:** Isaiah saw the never setting light ...

## Ode 6

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Katavasia:** Jonah was caught ...

## Kontakion (Tone 6)

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

## Oikos

**Reader:** He who holds all things together has been lifted up upon the cross, and all of creation weeps at seeing him hanging naked upon the wood. The sun hid its rays and the stars cast aside their splendor. The earth shook with great fear, the sea fled, and rocks were split asunder. Many tombs were opened, and the bodies of holy men arose. Hell groaned below, and the Jews considered how to slander the resurrection of Christ, but the women cried:

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

## Ode 7

**Irmos:** Inexpressible wonder! / In the furnace Thou didst save the holy youths from the flame. / Now Thou art placed in the grave as a lifeless corpse, / for the salvation of us who sing: // “Blessed art Thou, O God our Redeemer.”

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Katavasia:** Inexpressible wonder ...

## Ode 8

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

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

**Reader:** The pure Temple has been destroyed, yet He raises with Himself the tabernacle that had

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Katavasia:** Be amazed, O heavens ...

## Ode 9

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

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

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

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

**Reader:** "By mine own will, the earth covers me, O Mother, but the gatekeepers of hell tremble at seeing me clothed in the blood-stained garments of vengeance; for when I have



vanquished mine enemies on the cross, I shall arise as God and magnify you.”

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

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

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

### Little Litany

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

**Choir:** Lord have mercy.

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

**Choir:** Lord have mercy.

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

**Choir:** To Thee, O Lord.

**Priest:** For all the powers of heaven praise Thee, and to Thee do we ascribe glory: to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

**Choir:** Amen.

### **Holy is the Lord our God**

**Priest:** Holy is the Lord is our God!

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

**Priest:** For holy is the Lord is our God!

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

**Priest:** Over all people is our God!

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

## The Praises

*(Tone 2)*

Let everything that breathes praise the Lord!

Praise the Lord from the heavens

Praise Him in the highest//

To Thee, O God, is due a song!

Praise Him, all you angels of His

Praise Him, all His hosts//

To Thee O God, is due a song!

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

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

A stone covers Him who covered the heavens with  
glory.

Life sleeps and Hell trembles

Adam is set free from his bonds.

Glory to Thy plan of salvation

By it Thou hast fulfilled all things

granting us an eternal Sabbath rest//

Thy most holy resurrection from the dead!

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

What is the sight we behold?

What is the present rest?

The King of the Ages keeps the Sabbath in the tomb  
through His Passion He has fulfilled the plan of  
salvation

granting us a new Sabbath rest

To Him let us cry aloud

“Arise, O God and judge the earth,

for Thou dost reign forever//

and beyond measure is Thy great mercy!”

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

Come, let us see our Life lying in the tomb,  
to give life to those who lie dead in the tombs.

Come, look today on the Son of Judah sleeping  
with Jacob the patriarch, let us cry to Him

“Thou hast stooped down; Thou hast crouched as a  
lion

who dares rouse Thee up, O King?”

But arise in Thine own pow’r

O Thou who didst willingly give Thyself for us//  
O Lord, glory to Thee!

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

**(Tone 6)**

Joseph sought the body of Jesus  
and laid it in his own new tomb  
for it was fitting that Christ come forth from the  
grave as from a bridal chamber  
O Thou who hast destroyed the pow'r of death  
and hast opened for mankind the gates of  
Paradise//  
Glory to Thee!

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

The great Moses mystic'ly foreshadowed this day  
when he said;  
"God blessed the seventh day  
This is the blessed Sabbath  
This is the day of rest  
on which the Only-begotten Son of God rested from  
all His works.

By suffering death to fulfill the plan of salvation  
He kept the Sabbath in the flesh  
by returning again to what He was,  
He has granted us eternal life through His  
    resurrection//  
for He alone is Good and the Lover of Man.

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

**(Tone 2)**

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

## Great Doxology

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

**Choir:** Glory to God in the highest,  
and on earth peace, good will among men.  
We praise You, we bless You,

we worship You, we glorify You,  
we give thanks to You for Your great glory.  
O Lord, heavenly King, God the Father  
Almighty;  
O Lord, the Only-Begotten Son, Jesus Christ,  
and the Holy Spirit.  
O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father  
Who take away the sin of the world, have  
mercy on us.  
You who take away the sins of the world,  
receive our prayer.  
You who sit at the right hand of the Father,  
have mercy on us.  
For You only are holy,  
You only are the Lord, Jesus Christ, to the  
glory of God the Father. Amen.  
Every day will I bless You and praise Your  
name forever and ever.  
Grant, O Lord, to keep us this day without sin.  
Blessed are You, O Lord, the God of our  
fathers,  
and praised and glorified is Your name  
forever. Amen.  
Let Your mercy, O Lord, be upon us according  
as we put our hope in You.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Continue Your loving kindness to those who know You.

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

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

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

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



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

### **Procession with the Burial Shroud**

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

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

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

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

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

**Priest:** Wisdom!

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

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

**Priest:** Wisdom!

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

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

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

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

**Reader:** Arise, O God, and help us!

**Choir:** Deliver us for Thy Name's sake!

**Priest:** Wisdom!

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

**Priest:** Let us attend!

**Reader:** (*Ezekiel 37:1-14*). In those days, the hand of the LORD was upon me, and he brought me out by the Spirit of the LORD, and set me down in the midst of the valley; it was full of bones. <sup>2</sup> And he led me round among them; and behold, there were very many upon the valley; and lo, they were very dry. <sup>3</sup> And he said to me, "Son of man, can these bones live?" And I answered, "O Lord GOD, thou knowest." <sup>4</sup> Again he said to me, "Prophecy to these bones, and say to them, O dry bones, hear the word of the LORD. <sup>5</sup> Thus says the Lord GOD to these bones: Behold, I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. <sup>6</sup> And I will lay sinews upon you, and will cause flesh to come upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and you shall live; and you shall know that I am the LORD." <sup>7</sup> So I prophesied as I was commanded; and as I prophesied, there was a noise, and behold, a rattling; and the bones came together, bone to its bone. <sup>8</sup> And as I

looked, there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them; but there was no breath in them. <sup>9</sup> Then he said to me, "Prophecy to the breath, prophecy, son of man, and say to the breath, Thus says the Lord GOD: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live." <sup>10</sup> So I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood upon their feet, an exceedingly great host. <sup>11</sup> Then he said to me, "Son of man, these bones are the whole house of Israel. Behold, they say, 'Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are clean cut off.' <sup>12</sup> Therefore prophecy, and say to them, Thus says the Lord GOD: Behold, I will open your graves, and raise you from your graves, O my people; and I will bring you home into the land of Israel. <sup>13</sup> And you shall know that I am the LORD, when I open your graves, and raise you from your graves, O my people. <sup>14</sup> And I will put my Spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you in your own land; then you shall know that I, the LORD, have spoken, and I have done it, says the LORD."

**Priest:** Wisdom!

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

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

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

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

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

**Choir:** Forget not Thy poor forever!

**Priest:** Wisdom!

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

**Priest:** Let us attend!

**Reader:** (*1 Corinthians 5:6-8, Galatians 3:13-14*).

Brethren, do you not know that a little leaven  
leavens the whole lump? <sup>7</sup> Cleanse out the old  
leaven that you may be a new lump, as you  
really are unleavened. For Christ, our paschal

lamb, has been sacrificed. <sup>8</sup> Let us, therefore, celebrate the festival, not with the old leaven, the leaven of malice and evil, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth. <sup>13</sup> Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law, having become a curse for us -- for it is written, "Cursed be every one who hangs on a tree" -- <sup>14</sup> that in Christ Jesus the blessing of Abraham might come upon the Gentiles, that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith.

**Priest:** Peace be to you who have read!

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Choir:** And to your spirit.

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

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

**Priest:** Let us attend!

**Priest:** (*Matthew 27:62-66.*) On the next day, that is, after the day of Preparation, the chief priests and the Pharisees gathered before Pilate <sup>63</sup> and said, "Sir, we remember how that impostor said, while he was still alive, 'After three days I will rise again.'<sup>64</sup> Therefore order the sepulchre to be made secure until the third day, lest his disciples go and steal him away, and tell the people, 'He has risen from the dead,' and the last fraud will be worse than the first."<sup>65</sup> Pilate said to them, "You have a guard of soldiers; go, make it as secure as you can."<sup>66</sup> So they went and made the sepulchre secure by sealing the stone and setting a guard.

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

## Augmented Litany

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

**Choir:** Lord have mercy. (3x)

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

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

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



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

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

**Priest:** For Thou art a merciful God and love  
mankind, and to Thee we ascribe glory; to the  
Father, and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit,  
now and ever and unto ages of ages.

**Choir:** Amen

### Litany of Matins

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

**Choir:** Lord, have mercy.

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

**Choir:** Lord, have mercy.

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

**Choir:** Grant it, O Lord.

**Priest:**

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

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

**Choir:** To Thee, O Lord.

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

**Priest:** Peace, be unto all.

**Choir:** And to your spirit.

**Priest:** Let us bow our heads unto the Lord.

**Choir:** To Thee, O Lord.

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

For Thine it is to show mercy and to save us, O our God, and to Thee we ascribe glory: to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

**Choir:** Amen.

### **The Dismissal**

**Priest:** Wisdom!

**Choir:** Father bless!

**Priest:** Christ our God, the existing one, is blessed, always now and ever and unto ages of ages.

**Choir:** Amen. Preserve, O God, the Holy Orthodox faith and Orthodox Christians, unto ages of ages!

**Priest:** Most Holy Theotokos save us!

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

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

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

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

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