

Music for Holy and Great Saturday Matins

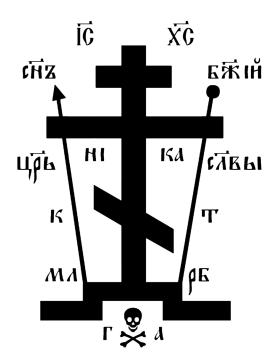
Доми стыхи жени муроносици

Holy Myrrh-bearers

Ο Οἶκος τὧν Άγίων Μυροφόρων

www.myrrh-bearers.org

≱ВЌ**д.** MMXXIV



Music for Holy and Great Saturday Matins

домя стыхи жени муроносици

Holy Myrrh-bearers

Ο Οἶκος τὧν Άγίων Μυροφόρων

www.myrrh-bearers.org

≱вќд. MMXXIV

 ${\it The \ Lenten \ Triodion}$ © 1977 Mother Mary of the Monastery of the Veil and Kallistos Ware

Choral arrangements from
Music for the Order of Matins and the First Hour of
Holy and Great Saturday: The Lamentations
© 1996 Timothy J. Clader

Editor, Subdeacon Paul Daniels Редактор, иподиакон Павел Даниэлс

A.D. 2024 Saint Spyridon the Wonderworker, Bishop of Tremithus 2024 г. Свт. Спиридона, еп. Тримифунтского, чудотворца

Music for Holy and Great Saturday: Matins

Contents

Ma	atins	4
	The Six Psalms	6
	God is the Lord, Tone II	10
	Noble Joseph	12
	The Lamentations	17
	The Evlogitaria of the Resurrection	32
	The Canon	35
	Kontakion, Tone VI	48
	Holy is the Lord Our God, Tone II	57
	Let Every Breath Praise the Lord, Tone II	58
	Verses of the Psalms of Praise	59
	Stichera at the Psalms of Praise	60
	Noble Joseph	70
	Troparion of the Prophecy, Tone II	75
	Prokimenon, Tone IV	75
	Prokimenon, Tone VII	77
	Alleluia, Tone V	78
Hc	ours	82
Аp	pendix	83
	The Prophecy of Ezekiel	83

Holy and Great Saturday

Matins

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

Reader: Amen.

Glory to Thee, our God, glory to Thee.

O Heavenly King, Comforter, Spirit of Truth, Who art everywhere present and fillest all things, Treasury of good things and Giver of life: Come and dwell in us, and cleanse us of all 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, both now and ever, and unto the 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, both now and ever, and unto the ages of ages. Amen.

Our Father, Who art in the heavens, 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 debts, as we forgive our debtors; 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 the ages of ages.

Reader: Amen.

Lord have mercy. (12 times)

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

O come, let us worship God our King.

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

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

Psalm 19

The Lord hear thee in the day of affliction; the name of the God of Jacob defend thee. Let Him send forth unto thee help from His sanctuary, and out of Sion let Him help thee. Let Him remember every sacrifice of thine, and thy whole-burnt offering let Him fatten. The Lord grant thee according to thy heart, and fulfill all thy purposes. We will rejoice in Thy salvation, and in the name of the Lord our God shall we be magnified. The Lord fulfill all thy requests. Now have I known that the Lord hath saved His anointed one; He will hearken unto him out of His holy heaven; in mighty deeds is the salvation of His right hand. Some trust in chariots, and some in horses, but we will call upon the name of the Lord our God. They have been fettered and have fallen, but we are risen and are set upright. O Lord, save the king, and hearken unto us in the day when we call upon Thee.

Psalm 20

O Lord, in Thy strength the king shall be glad, and in Thy salvation shall he rejoice exceedingly. The desire of his heart hast Thou granted unto him, and hast not denied him the requests of his lips. Thou wentest before him with the blessings of goodness, Thou hast set upon his head a crown of precious stone. He asked life of Thee, and Thou gavest him length of days unto ages of ages. Great is his glory in Thy salvation; glory and majesty shalt Thou lay upon him. For Thou shalt give him blessing for ever and ever, Thou shalt gladden him in joy

with Thy countenance. For the king hopeth in the Lord, and through the mercy of the Most High shall he not be shaken. Let Thy hand be found on all Thine enemies; let Thy right hand find all that hate Thee. For Thou wilt make them as an oven of fire in the time of Thy presence; the Lord in His wrath will trouble them sorely and fire shall devour them. Their fruit wilt Thou destroy from the earth, and their seed from the sons of men. For they have intended evil against Thee, they have devised counsels which they shall not be able to establish. For Thou shalt make them turn their backs; among those that are Thy remnant, Thou shalt make ready their countenance. Be Thou exalted, O Lord, in Thy strength; we will sing and chant of Thy mighty acts.

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

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

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

Our Father, Who art in the heavens, 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 debts, as we forgive our debtors; 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 the ages of ages. *Reader:* Amen.

And these troparia:

O Lord, save Thy people and bless Thine inheritance. Grant victory unto Orthodox Christians over their adversaries, and by the power of Thy Cross do Thou preserve Thy commonwealth.

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

O Thou Who wast lifted up willingly upon the Cross, bestow Thy mercies upon the new community named after Thee, O Christ God; gladden with Thy power the Orthodox Christians, granting them victory over enemies; may they have as Thy help the weapon of peace, the invincible trophy.

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

O Awesome intercession that cannot be put to shame, O good one, disdain not our prayer; O all-hymned Theotokos, establish the commonwealth of the Orthodox, save the Orthodox Christians, and grant unto them victory from heaven, for thou didst bring forth God, O thou only blessed one.

Litany

Deacon: Have mercy on us, O God, according to Thy great mercy, we pray Thee, hearken and have mercy.

Choir: Lord, have mercy. (*Thrice*)

Deacon: Again let us pray for our Archbishop *Name*.

Choir: Lord, have mercy. (*Thrice*)

Deacon: Again we pray for all the brethren and for all Christians.

Choir: Lord, have mercy. (Thrice)

Priest: For a merciful God art Thou, and the Lover of mankind, and unto Thee do we send up glory: to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto the ages of ages.

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

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

Choir: Amen.

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*)

Psalm 3

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.

Psalm 37

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 neighbors 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.

Psalm 62

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. My soul hath cleaved after Thee, Thy right hand hath been quick to help me.

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. Glory to Thee, O God. (Thrice)

Lord. have mercy. (Thrice)

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

Psalm 87

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 neighbor, and mine acquaintances because of my misery.

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.

Psalm 102

Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me bless His holy name. Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all 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 ve 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.

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

Psalm 142

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. (Twice)

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)

Great Litany

Deacon: In peace let us pray to the Lord.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

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

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: For the peace of the whole world, the good estate of the holy churches of God, and the union of all, let us pray to the Lord.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: For this holy temple, and for them that with faith, reverence, and the fear of God enter herein, let us pray to the Lord

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: For our Archbishop *Name*; for the venerable priesthood, the deaconate in Christ, for all the clergy and people, let us pray to the Lord.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

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

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: For the suffering Russian land and its Orthodox people both in the homeland and in the diaspora, and for their salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

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

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: For this city (*or* this town, *or* this holy monastery), for every city and country, and the faithful that dwell therein, let us pray to the Lord.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

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

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

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

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

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

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

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

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

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

Choir: To Thee O Lord.

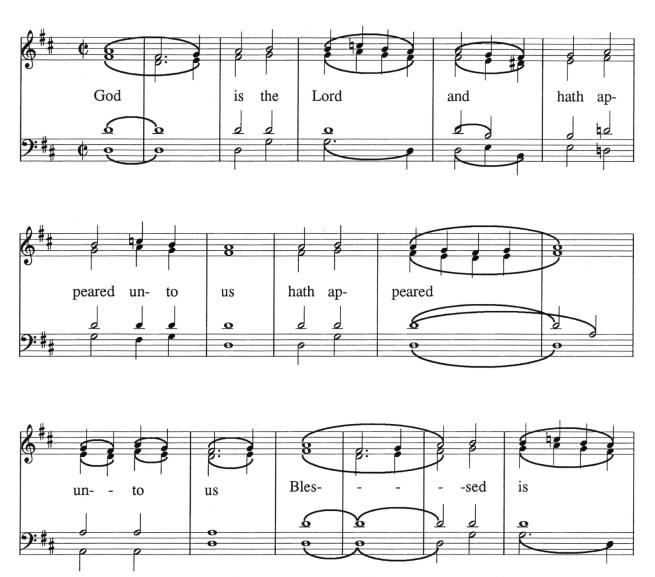
Priest: For unto Thee is due all glory, honor and worship; to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto the ages of ages.

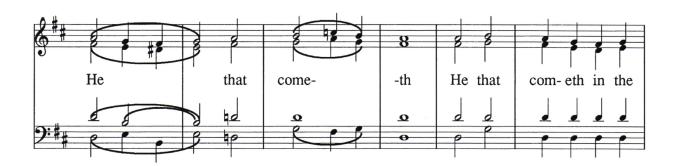
Choir: Amen.

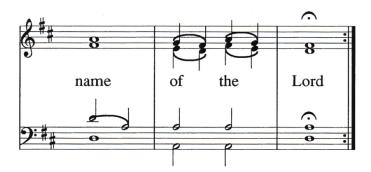
God is the Lord, Tone II

Deacon: In the 2nd Tone: God is the Lord and hath appeared unto us. Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord.

O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good, for His mercy endureth forever.







Deacon: Surrounding me they compassed me, and by the name of the Lord I warded them off.

Choir: God is the Lord and hath appeared unto us. Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord.

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

Choir: God is the Lord and hath appeared unto us. Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord.

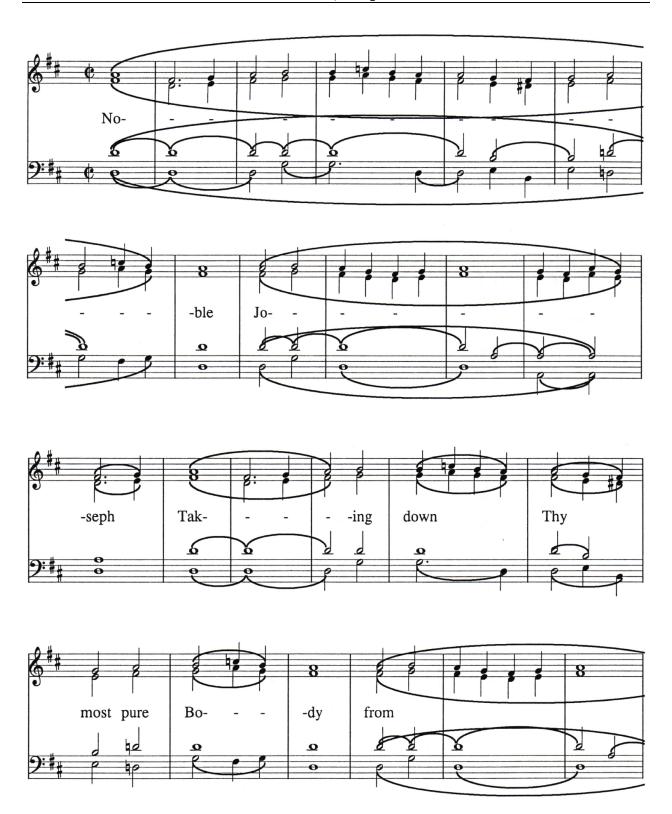
Deacon: The stone which the builders rejected, the same is become the head of the corner. This is the Lord's doing, and it is marvelous in our eyes.

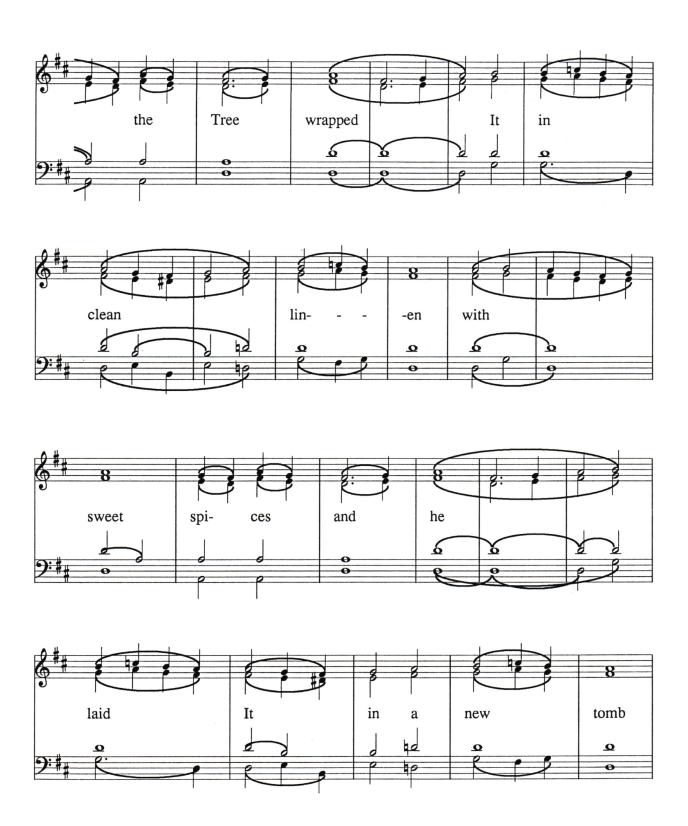
Choir: God is the Lord and hath appeared unto us. Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord.

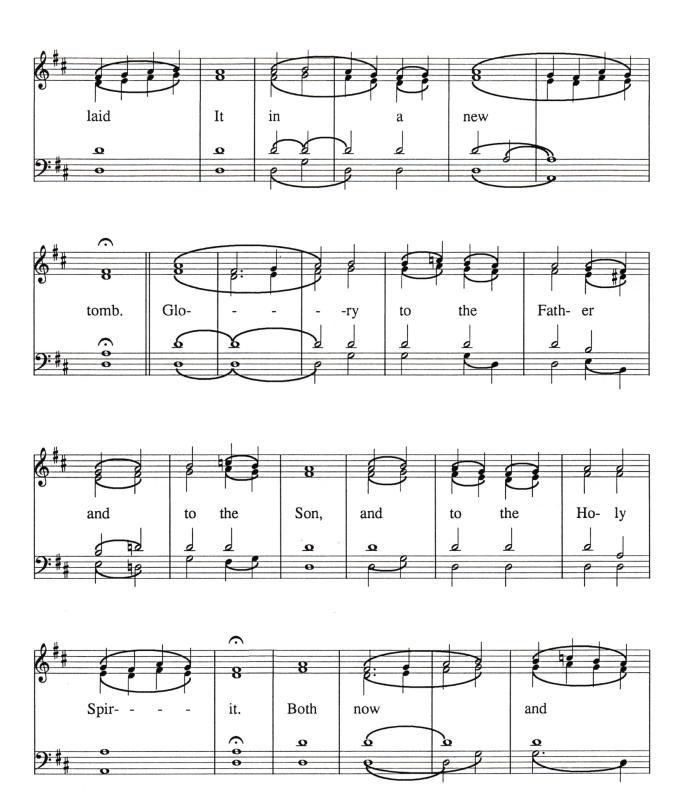
Deacon: God is the Lord and hath appeared unto us.

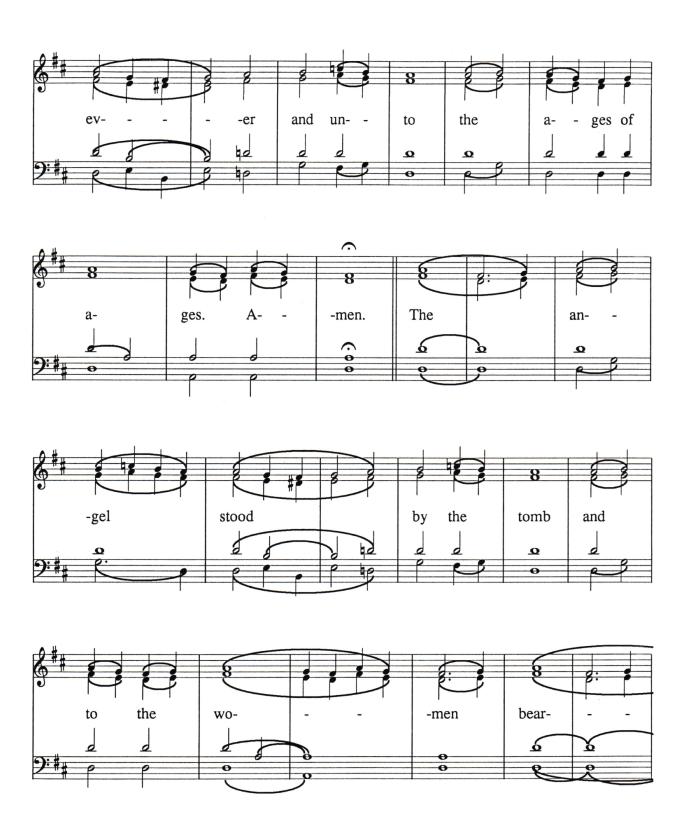
Choir: Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord.

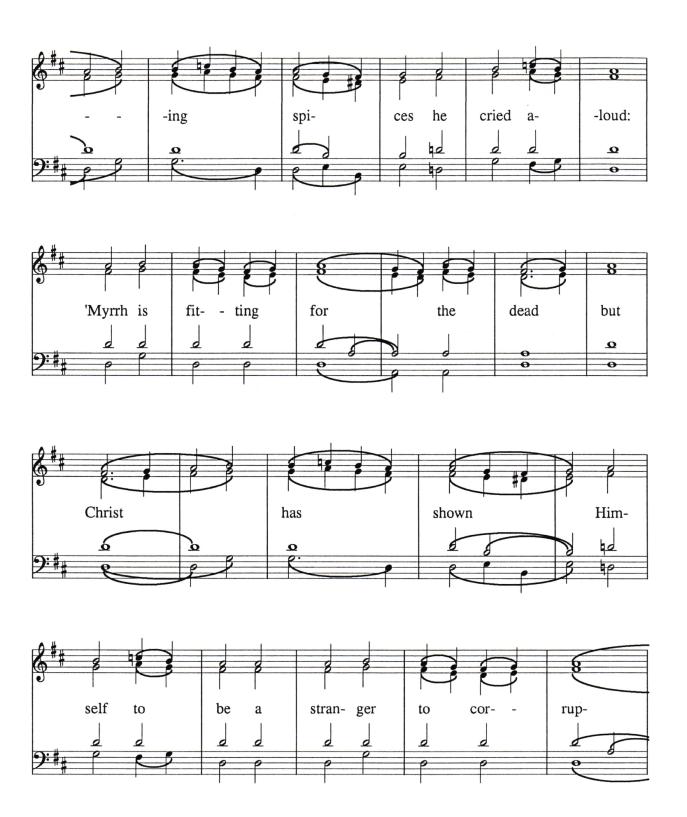
Noble Joseph











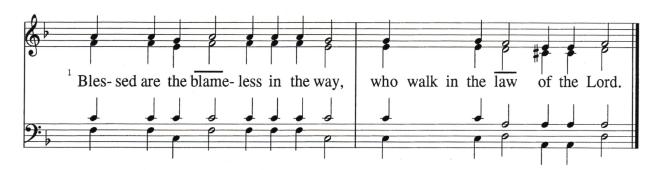


The Lamentations

During the singing of the troparia, the clergy come out from the sanctuary and stand in front of the Epitaphion. The senior priest, accompanied by the deacon, or else the deacon alone, censes the Epitaphion from the four sides and then the sanctuary and then the whole Church. Then the troparia of the Lamentations are sung, interspersed between the verses of Psalm 118, divided into three stases.

First Stasis Tone V

Blessed art Thou, O Lord: teach me Thy statutes.



Thou who art the Life wast laid in a tomb, O Christ; and the hosts of angels were amazed and glorified Thy self-abasement.

Refrain: Blessed are they that search out His testimonies,/ and seek Him with their whole heart.

O Life, how canst Thou die? How canst Thou dwell in a tomb? Yet Thou dost destroy death's kingdom and raise the dead from hell.

Refrain: For they that work wickedness/ have not walked in His ways.

We magnify Thee, Jesus our King: we honour Thy burial and Thy sufferings, whereby Thou hast saved us from corruption.

Refrain: Thou hast commanded us/ to keep Thy precepts diligently.

O Jesus, King of all, who hast set measures to the earth, Thou dost go this day to dwell in a narrow grave, raising up the dead from their tombs.

Refrain: O that my ways were directed/ to keep Thy statutes!

O Jesus, my Christ and King of all, why hast Thou come to those in hell? Is it to set free the race of mortal men?

Refrain: Then shall I not be ashamed,/ when I give heed unto all Thy commandments.

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

Refrain: I will praise Thee with uprightness of heart,/ when I shall have learned the judgements of Thy righteousness.

Thou who art Life wast laid in a tomb, O Christ: by Thy death Thou hast destroyed death and art become a fountain of life for the world.

Refrain: I will keep Thy statutes:/ O forsake me not utterly.

Numbered with the transgressors, O Christ, Thou dost free us all from the guilt brought upon us of old by the deceiver.

Refrain: Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way?/ By keeping Thy words.

Fairer in His beauty than all mortal men, He appears now as a corpse without form or comeliness, He who has made beautiful the nature of all things.

Refrain: With my whole heart have I sought Thee:/ O let me not wander from Thy commandments.

How could hell endure Thy coming, O Saviour? Was it not shattered and struck blind by the dazzling radiance of Thy light?

Refrain: Thy words have I hid in my heart,/ that I might not sin against Thee.

O Jesus, my sweetness and light of salvation, how art Thou hidden in a dark tomb? O forbearance ineffable, beyond all words!

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

The spiritual powers and die angelic hosts are amazed, O Christ, at the mystery of Thy burial past utterance and speech.

Refrain: With my lips have I declared/all die judgements of Thy mouth.

O strange wonder, new to man! He who granted me the breath of life is carried lifeless in Joseph's hands to burial.

Refrain: I have rejoiced in the way of Thy testimonies,/ as much as in all riches.

Thou hast gone down into the tomb, O Christ, yet wast Thou never parted from Thy Father's side. O marvellous wonder!

Refrain: I will meditate on Thy precepts,/ and I will understand Thy ways.

Though Thou wast shut within the narrowest of sepulchres, O Jesus, all creation knew Thee as true King of heaven and earth.

Refrain: My study shall be in Thy statutes:/ I will not forget Thy words.

When Thou wast laid in a tomb, O Christ the Creator, the foundations of hell were shaken and the graves of mortal men were opened.

Refrain: O reward Thy servant: give me life,/ and I shall keep Thy words.

He who holds die earth in die hollow of His hand is held fast by the earth; put to death according to the flesh, He delivers the dead from the grasping hand of hell.

Refrain: Open Thou mine eyes,/ that I may behold the wondrous things of Thy law.

O Saviour, my Life, dying Thou hast gone to dwell among the dead: yet Thou hast shattered the bars of hell and arisen from corruption.

Refrain: I am but a sojourner upon the earth:/ hide not Thy commandments from me.

The flesh of God is hidden now beneath the earth, like a candle underneath a bushel, and it drives away the darkness in hell.

Refrain: My soul is consumed with the longing/ that it has for Thy judgements at all times. The multitude of the heavenly powers makes haste with Joseph and Nicodemus, and

within a narrow sepulchre they enclose Thee whom nothing can contain.

Refrain: Thou hast rebuked the proud:/ and cursed are they that do err from Thy commandments.

With Thine own consent slain and laid beneath the earth, O my Jesus, Fountain of Life, Thou hast brought me back to life when I was dead through bitter sin.

Refrain: Remove from me reproach and contempt;/ for I have sought Thy testimonies.

The whole creation was altered by Thy Passion: for all things suffered with Thee, knowing, O Word, that Thou holdest all in unity.

Refrain: Princes also did sit and speak against me:/ but Thy servant did meditate on Thy statutes.

All-devouring hell received within himself the Rock of Life, and cast forth all the dead that he had swallowed since the beginning of the world.

Refrain: Thy testimonies also are my study:/ and Thy statutes are my counsellors.

Thou wast laid in a new tomb, O Christ, and hast made new the nature of mortal man, rising from the dead by Thy divine power.

Refrain: My soul has cleaved unto the dust:/ quicken Thou me according to Thy word.

To earth hast Thou come down, O Master, to save Adam: and not finding him on earth, Thou hast descended into hell, seeking him there.

Refrain: I have declared my ways,/ and Thou heardest me: teach me Thy statutes.

The whole earth quaked with fear, O Word, and the daystar hid its rays, when Thy great Light was hidden in the earth.

Refrain: Make me to understand the way of Thy precepts:/ so shall I talk of Thy wondrous works.

Willingly Thou diest as a mortal man, O Saviour, but as God Thou dost raise up the dead from the grave and from the depths of sin.

Refrain: My soul is grown drowsy from heaviness:/ strengthen me with Thy words.

Tears of lamentation the pure Virgin shed over Thee, Jesus, and with a mother's grief she cried: 'How shall I bury Thee, my Son?'

Refrain: Remove from me the way of lying:/ and take pity on me with Thy law.

Buried in the earth like a grain of wheat, Thou hast yielded a rich harvest, raising to life the mortal sons of Adam.

Refrain: I have chosen the way of truth:/ Thy judgements have I not forgotten.

Now art Thou hidden like the setting sun beneath the earth and covered by the night of death: but, O Saviour, rise in brighter dawn.

Refrain: I have stuck unto Thy testimonies:/ O Lord, put me not to shame.

As the moon hides the circle of the sun, O Saviour, now the grave has hidden Thee, bodily eclipsed in death.

Refrain: I have run the way of Thy commandments:/ for Thou hast enlarged my heart.

Christ the Life, by tasting death, has delivered mortal men from death, and now gives life to all.

Refrain: Teach me, O Lord, the way of Thy statutes;/ and I shall seek it always.

Adam was slain of old through envy, but by Thy dying Thou hast brought him back to life, O Saviour, revealed in the flesh as the new Adam.

Refrain: Give me understanding, and I shall seek Thy law;/ yea, I shall observe it with my whole heart.

When the ranks of angels saw Thee, O Saviour, laid out dead for our sake, they were filled with wonder and veiled their faces with their wings.

Refrain: Make me to go in the path of Thy commandments; / for therein do I delight.

Taking Thee down dead from the Tree, O Word, Joseph now has laid Thee in a tomb: but rise up as God to save us all.

Refrain: Incline my heart unto Thy testimonies,/ and not to covetousness.

Thou art the Joy of the angels, O Saviour, but now Thou art become the cause of their grief, as they see Thee in the flesh a lifeless corpse.

Refrain: Turn away mine eyes from beholding vanity,/ and quicken Thou me in Thy way. Uplifted on the Cross, Thou hast uplifted with Thyself all living men; and then descending beneath the earth, Thou raisest all that lie buried there.

Refrain: Stablish Thy word in Thy servant,/ that I may fear Thee.

As a lion hast Thou fallen asleep in the flesh, O Saviour, and as a young lion hast Thou risen from the dead, putting off the old age of the flesh.

Refrain: Take away my reproach which I fear:/ for Thy judgements are good.

O Thou who hast fashioned Eve from Adam's side, Thy side was pierced and from it flowed streams of cleansing.

Refrain: Behold, I have longed after Thy precepts:/ quicken me in Thy righteousness.

Of old the lamb was sacrificed in secret; but Thou, longsuffering Saviour, wast sacrificed beneath the open sky and hast cleansed the whole creation.

Refrain: Let Thy mercy come also upon me, O Lord,/ even Thy salvation, according to Thy word.

Who can describe this strange and terrible thing? The Lord of Creation today accepts the Passion and dies for our sake.

Refrain: So shall I give an answer to them that reproach me:/ for I trust in Thy word.

'How do we see the Giver of Life now dead?' the angels cried in amazement. 'How is God enclosed within a tomb?'

Refrain: And take not the word of truth utterly out of my mouth;/ for I have hoped in Thy judgements.

Pierced by a spear, O Saviour, from Thy side Thou pourest out life upon Eve, the mother of all the living, who banished me from life; and Thou quickenest me also with her.

Refrain: So shall I keep Thy law continually/ for ever and ever.

Stretched out upon the Wood, Thou hast drawn mortal men to unity; pierced in Thy lifegiving side, O Jesus, Thou art become a fountain of forgiveness unto all.

Refrain: And I walked at liberty:/ for I have sought Thy precepts.

With fear and reverence noble Joseph lays Thee out for burial as a corpse, O Saviour, and he looks with wonder on Thy dread form.

Refrain: I spoke of Thy testimonies also before kings,/ and was not ashamed.

Of Thine own will descending as one dead beneath the earth, O Jesus, Thou leadest up the fallen from earth to heaven.

Refrain: And my study was in Thy commandments,/ which I have loved exceedingly.

Dead in outward appearance, yet alive as God, O Jesus, Thou leadest up the fallen from earth to heaven.

Refrain: My hands also have I lifted up unto Thy commandments,/ which I have loved.

Dead in outward appearance, yet alive as God, Thou hast restored dead mortals to life and slain him that slew me.

Refrain: And I have meditated/ in Thy statutes.

How great the joy, how full the gladness, that Thou hast brought to those in hell, shining as lightning in its gloomy depths.

Refrain: Remember Thy words unto Thy servant,/ in which Thou hast caused me to hope.

I venerate Thy Passion, I sing the praises of Thy burial, and I magnify Thy power, O loving Lord: through them I am set free from corrupting passions.

Refrain: This is my comfort in my affliction:/ for Thy word has quickened me.

A sword was sharpened against Thee, O Christ: but the sword of the strong was blunted, and the sword that guards Eden was turned back.

Refrain: The proud have transgressed exceedingly:/ yet have I not turned aside from Thy law.

The Ewe, seeing her Lamb slaughtered, was pierced with anguish: and she cried aloud in grief, calling the flock to lament with her.

Refrain: I remembered Thy judgements of old, O Lord;/ and was comforted.

Though Thou art buried in a grave, though Thou goest down to hell, O Saviour Christ, yet hast Thou emptied the graves and stripped hell naked.

Refrain: Discouragement has taken hold upon me,/ because of the wicked that forsake Thy law.

Willingly, O Saviour, Thou hast gone down beneath the earth, and Thou hast restored the dead to life, leading them back to the glory of the Father.

Refrain: Thy statutes have been my songs/ in the house of my pilgrimage.

One of the Trinity endures a shameful death in the flesh on our account; the sun trembles and the earth quakes.

Refrain: I have remembered Thy Name, O Lord, in the night,/ and have kept Thy law.

Offspring from a bitter source, the children of the tribe of Judah have cast into a pit Jesus who fed them with manna.

Refrain: This has been my reward,/ because I sought Thy precepts.

The Judge stood as one accused before the judgement-seat of Pilate, and He was condemned to an unjust death upon the wood of the Cross.

Refrain: Thou art my portion, O Lord:/ I have said that I would keep Thy law.

O arrogant Israel, O people guilty of blood, why hast thou set free Barabbas but delivered the Saviour to be crucified?

Refrain: I entreated Thy favour with my whole heart:/ be merciful unto me according to Thy word.

With Thy hand Thou hast fashioned Adam from the earth; and for his sake Thou hast become by nature man and wast of Thine own will crucified.

Refrain: I thought on Thy ways,/ and turned my feet unto Thy testimonies.

In obedience to Thine own Father, O Word, Thou hast descended to dread hell and raised up the race of mortal men.

Refrain: I made ready, and I was not troubled:/ that I might keep Thy commandments.

'Woe is me, Light of the world! Woe is me, my Light! Jesus, my heart's desire!' cried the Virgin in her bitter grief.

Refrain: The cords of the wicked have entangled me:/ but I have not forgotten Thy law.

O bloodthirsty people, jealous and vengeful! May the very graveclothes and the napkin put you to shame at Christ's Resurrection.

Refrain: At midnight I rose to give thanks unto Thee/ because of the judgements of Thy righteousness.

Come, evil disciple, murderer of thy Lord, and show me the manner of thy wickedness, how thou hast become Christ's betrayer.

Refrain: I am a companion of all them that fear Thee/ and keep Thy commandments.

O blind fool, utterly wicked, implacable in hatred, thou dost make a pretence of love for

men, yet thou hast sold for money the sweet Myrrh.

Refrain: The earth, O Lord, is full of Thy mercy:/ teach me Thy statutes.

What price hast thou received for the heavenly Myrrh? What wast thou given in exchange for Him who is precious? Thou hast gained folly and madness, O accursed Satan.

Refrain: Thou hast dealt well with Thy servant, O Lord,/ according unto Thy word.

If thou lovest the poor and dost grieve over the ointment emptied out in cleansing propitiation for a soul, how canst thou sell the Giver of Light for gold?

Refrain: Teach me goodness, discipline and knowledge:/ for I have believed in Thy commandments.

'O my God and Word, my Joy, how shall I endure Thy three days in the tomb? Now is my heart torn in pieces by a mother's grief.'

Refrain: Before I was humbled I went astray:/ but now have I kept Thy word.

'Who will give me water and springs of tears,' cried the Virgin Bride of God, 'that I may weep for my sweet Jesus?'

Refrain: Thou art good, O Lord:/ in Thy goodness teach me Thy statutes.

'O hills and valleys, the multitude of men, and all creation, weep and lament with me, the Mother of our God.'

Refrain: The injustice of the proud is multiplied against me:/ but I will seek Thy commandments with my whole heart.

'When shall I see Thee, Saviour, Light eternal, the joy and gladness of my heart?' cried the Virgin in her bitter grief.

Refrain: Their heart is curdled like milk;/ but my study has been in Thy law.

Thy side was pierced, O Saviour, like the rock of flint in the wilderness; but Thou hast poured forth a stream of living water, for Thou art the Fount of Life.

Refrain: It is good for me that Thou hast humbled me:/ that I might learn Thy statutes.

Out of Thy side, as from a single source, there flows a double stream; and drinking from it we gain immortal life.

Refrain: The law of Thy mouth is better unto me/than thousands of gold and silver pieces.

Of Thine own will, O Word, Thou wast laid dead in the tomb: yet dost Thou live, my Saviour, and, as Thou hast foretold, Thou shalt raise up mortal men by Thy Resurrection.

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

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

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

Theotokion

We bless thee, O pure Theotokos, and with faith we honour the three-day burial of thy Son and our God.

And we repeat the first troparion:

Thou who art Life wast laid in a tomb, O Christ, and the hosts of angels were amazed and glorified Thy self-abasement.

Small Litany

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

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

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

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

Calling to remembrance our most holy, most pure, most blessed, glorious Lady Theotokos and Ever-Virgin Mary with all the saints, let us commit ourselves and one another and all our

life unto Christ our God.

Choir: To Thee, O Lord.

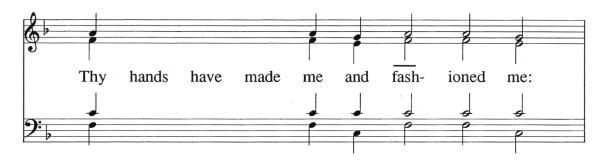
Priest: For blessed is thy name and glorified is Thy Kingdom, of the Father, and of the Son,

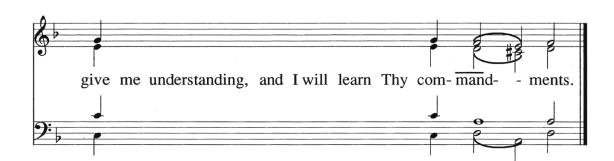
and of the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto the ages of ages.

Choir: Amen.

Second Stasis Tone V

It is right to magnify Thee, Giver of Life, who hast stretched out Thine arms upon the Cross and broken the power of the enemy.





It is right to magnify Thee, Creator of all, for through Thy Passion we are freed from passions and corruption.

Refrain: They that fear Thee will be glad when they see me:/ because I have hoped in Thy words.

The earth trembled with fear, O Saviour Christ, and the sun hid itself, seeing Thee, the Light that knows no evening, sinking in Thy body down into the tomb.

Refrain: I know, O Lord, that Thy judgements are right,/ and that with truth Thou hast humbled me.

Thou hast slept, O Christ, a life-giving sleep in the tomb, and aroused mankind from the heavy slumber of sin.

Refrain: O let Thy merciful kindness be for my comfort,/ according to Thy word unto Thy servant.

'Alone among women without pain I bore Thee, my Child,' said the Holy Virgin. 'But now at Thy Passion I suffer unbearable pain.'

Refrain: Let Thy tender mercies come unto me, and I shall live:/ for Thy law is my study.

The seraphim, O Saviour, beheld Thee on high, united inseparably with the Father, yet they saw Thee below lying dead in the tomb; and they trembled with fear.

Refrain: Let the proud be ashamed, for they have transgressed against me unjustly:/ but

I will meditate on Thy commandments.

The veil of the temple is rent in twain at Thy Crucifixion, O Word, and the lights of heaven hide their radiance, when Thou, the Sun, art hidden beneath the earth.

Refrain: Let those that fear Thee turn unto me,/ and those that know Thy testimonies.

He who at the beginning by His will alone set the earth upon its course, now descends dead beneath the earth. Tremble, O heaven, at this sight.

Refrain: Let my heart be blameless in Thy statutes:/ that I be not ashamed.

O Thou who hast fashioned Adam with Thine own hand, Thou hast gone down beneath the earth, to raise up fallen men by Thine almighty power.

Refrain: My soul faints for Thy salvation:/ and I have hoped in Thy words.

Come, and as the women bearing myrrh let us sing a holy lament to the dead Christ, that like them we too may hear Him say 'Rejoice!'

Refrain: Mine eyes have grown dim with waiting for Thy word;/ they say: when wilt Thou comfort me?

Thou art in very truth, O Word, the myrrh that never fails: yet the women with their spices brought myrrh to Thee, the living God, to anoint Thee as a corpse.

Refrain: For I am become like a wineskin in the frost;/ yet have I not forgotten Thy statutes.

Through Thy burial, O Christ, Thou dost destroy the palaces of hell: by Thy death Thou slayest death, and dost deliver from corruption the children of the earth.

Refrain: How many are the days of Thy servant?/ When wilt Thou execute judgement on them that persecute me?

Source of the river of life, the Wisdom of God descends into the tomb and gives life to all those in the depths of hell.

Refrain: The transgressors told me idle tales,/ which are not after Thy law, O Lord.

'To renew the broken nature of mortal men, willingly have I been wounded in the flesh by death. O Mother, do not strike thy breast in grief.'

Refrain: All Thy commandments are true:/ they persecute me wrongfully; help Thou me.

O Morning Star of righteousness, Thou art gone down beneath the earth and hast raised up the dead as if from sleep, dispersing all the darkness of hell.

Refrain: They had almost made an end of me upon earth;/ but I forsook not Thy commandments.

The life-giving Seed, twofold in nature, today is sown with tears in the furrows of the earth; but springing up He will bring joy to the world.

Refrain: Quicken me according to Thy mercy;/ so shall I keep the testimonies of Thy mouth.

Adam was afraid when God walked in Paradise, but now he rejoices when God descends to hell. Then he fell, but now he is raised up.

Refrain: For ever, O Lord,/ Thy word endures in heaven.

Seeing Thy body laid in the tomb, O Christ, Thy Mother brings Thee the offering of her tears, and she says: 'Arise, my Child, as Thou hast foretold.'

Refrain: Thy truth also remains from one generation to another:/ Thou hast established the earth, and it abides.

Joseph hid Thee reverently in a new tomb, O Saviour, and lamenting sang to Thee a funeral hymn fitting for God.

Refrain: The day continues according to Thine ordinance:/ for all things are Thy servants. Seeing Thee, O Word, pierced with nails upon the Cross, Thy Mother was wounded in her

soul with the nails and arrows of bitter grief.

Refrain: Unless Thy law had been my study,/ I should have perished in my humiliation.

Thy Mother saw Thee drink the bitter vinegar, O Sweetness of the world, and her checks were wet with bitter tears.

Refrain: I will never forget Thy precepts:/ for with them Thou hast quickened me.

'I am grievously wounded and my heart is torn, O Word, as I behold Thee slain unjustly', said the All-pure Virgin weeping.

Refrain: I am Thine, save me;/ for I have sought Thy precepts.

'How shall I close Thy sweet eyes and Thy lips, O Word? And how shall I lay Thee out for burial as a corpse?' cried Joseph trembling.

Refrain: Sinners have waited for me to destroy me:/ but I have understood Thy testimonies.

Joseph and Nicodemus now sing hymns of burial to the dead Christ; and with them sing the seraphim.

Refrain: I have seen the outcome of all perfection:/ but Thy commandment is exceeding broad.

O Saviour, Sun of Righteousness, Thou dost set beneath the earth: therefore the Moon, Thy Mother, is eclipsed in grief, seeing Thee no more.

Refrain: O how I have loved Thy law, O Lord!/ It is my meditation all the day.

Hell trembled, O Saviour, when he saw Thee, the Giver of Life, despoiling him of his wealth and raising up the dead from every age.

Refrain: Thou through Thy commandment hast made me wiser than mine enemies:/ for it is mine for ever.

After the night the sun shines out again in brightness; and after death do Thou, O Word, arise once more and shine in Thy glory, as a bridegroom coming from his chamber.

Refrain: I have more understanding than all my teachers:/ for Thy testimonies are my meditation.

When she received Thee in her bosom, O Creator and Saviour, the earth shook in fear, and with her quaking she awoke the dead.

Refrain: I understand more than my elders,/ because I have sought Thy commandments. In a new and strange way Nicodemus and noble Joseph buried Thee with spices, and they cried aloud: 'Tremble, all the earth!'

Refrain: I have restrained my feet from every evil way,/ that I might keep Thy words.

Thou hast gone down beneath the earth, O Creator of light, and with Thee the sun's light has also set; creation is seized with trembling and proclaims Thee the Maker of all.

Refrain: I have not departed from Thy judgements:/ for Thou hast taught me.

A stone hewn from the rock covers the Cornerstone; and a mortal man now buries God in the grave as one dead. Tremble, O earth!

Refrain: How sweet are Thy words unto my taste!/ yea, sweeter than honey to my mouth! 'Behold the disciple whom Thou hast loved and Thine own Mother, O my sweetest Child, and do Thou speak to them', cried the pure Virgin weeping.

Refrain: Through "Thy commandments I have gained understanding:/ therefore have I hated every evil way.

Since Thou art Life-giver, O Word, when stretched out upon the Cross, Thou hast not slain the Jews but raised their forefathers from the dead.

Refrain: Thy law is a lamp unto my feet,/ and a light unto my path.

At Thy Passion, O Word, there was neither form nor beauty in Thee: but Thou hast risen

in glory, and with Thy divine light Thou hast given beauty to mortal men.

Refrain: I have sworn, and am steadfastly purposed,/ that I will keep the judgements of Thy righteousness.

Daystar without evening, Thou hast gone down in the flesh beneath the earth; and the sun grew dark at height of noon-day, for it could not bear to look upon Thee.

Refrain: I have been very greatly humbled:/ quicken me, O Lord, according unto Thy word.

The sun and moon grew dark together, O Saviour, like faithful servants clothed in black robes of mourning.

Refrain: Accept, I beseech Thee, the free-will offerings of my mouth, O Lord,/ and teach me Thy judgements.

'The centurion knew Thee to be God, though Thou wast dead. How, then, my God, shall I touch Thee with my hands? I am afraid', cried Joseph.

Refrain: My soul is continually in Thy hands:/ yet have I not forgotten Thy law.

Adam slept, and from his side there came death; now Thou dost sleep, O Word of God, and from Thy side there flows a fountain of life for the world.

Refrain: Sinners have laid a snare for me:/ yet have I not gone astray from Thy commandments.

Thou hast slept a little while, and brought the dead to life; Thou hast arisen, O loving Lord, and raised up those that from the beginning of time had fallen asleep.

Refrain: Thy testimonies have I received as an heritage for ever:/ for they are the rejoicing of my heart.

O life-giving Vine, Thou wast lifted up from the earth, yet hast Thou poured out the wine of salvation. I glorify Thy Passion and Thy Cross.

Refrain: I have inclined my heart to perform Thy statutes:/ for therein is an everlasting reward.

When the chief captains of the heavenly hosts saw Thee, Saviour, stripped, bloodstained and condemned, how could they bear the boldness of Thy crucifiers?

Refrain: I have hated transgressors:/ but Thy law have I loved.

Perverse and crooked people of the Hebrews, ye knew how the temple would be raised again: why then did ye condemn Christ?

Refrain: Thou art my helper and defender:/ I have hoped in Thy words.

In a robe of mockery ye clothe Him who ordered all things, who adorned the heavens with stars and the earth with wonders.

Refrain: Depart from me, ye evildoers:/ for I will seek the commandments of my God.

Wounded in Thy side, O Word, through the life-giving drops of Thy blood as the pelican Thou hast restored Thy dead children to life.

Refrain: Uphold me according unto Thy word, and give me life:/ and turn me not away in shame from mine expectation.

Of old Joshua made the sun stand still, as he smote the heathen tribes; but Thou hast blotted out its light, whilst casting down the prince of darkness.

Refrain: Help me, and I shall be saved:/ and my study shall be ever in Thy statutes.

Without leaving Thy Father's side, O merciful Christ, Thou hast consented in Thy love to become a mortal man, and Thou hast gone down to hell.

Refrain: Thou hast brought to nothing all them that depart from Thy statutes:/ for their inward thought is unrighteous.

He who hung the earth upon the waters is hung upon the Cross. As a lifeless corpse He is

laid in the earth, and it quakes in terror, unable to endure His presence.

Refrain: I have regarded all the wicked of the earth as transgressors:/ therefore I love Thy testimonies.

'Woe is me, my Son!' laments the Virgin. 'I see Thee now condemned upon the Cross, whom I had hoped to see enthroned as King.'

Refrain: Nail my flesh with the fear of Thee:/ for I am afraid of Thy judgements.

'Such were the tidings Gabriel brought me when he flew down from heaven: for he said that the Kingdom of my Son Jesus would be eternal.'

Refrain: I have done judgement and justice:/ O give me not over unto mine oppressors.

'Alas! the prophecy of Simeon has been fulfilled: for Thy sword has pierced my heart, Emmanuel.'

Refrain: Be surety for Thy servant for good:/ let not the proud accuse me falsely.

Be ashamed, O Jews, for the Life-giver raised your dead, yet ye slew Him out of envy.

Refrain: Mine eyes have failed with waiting for Thy salvation,/ and for the word of Thy righteousness.

Seeing Thee, my Christ, the Light invisible, hidden lifeless in the tomb, the sun trembled and darkened its light.

Refrain: Deal with Thy servant according unto Thy mercy,/ and teach me Thy statutes.

Thine all-blameless Mother wept bitterly, O Word, when she beheld Thee in the grave, God ineffable and without beginning.

Refrain: I am Thy servant; give me understanding,/ that I may know Thy testimonies.

Thine undefiled Mother, seeing Thy death, O Christ, cried to Thee in bitter sorrow: 'Tarry not, O Life, among the dead.'

Refrain: It is time for the Lord to act:/ for they have made void Thy law.

Cruel hell trembled when he saw Thee, O immortal Sun of glory, and in haste he yielded up his prisoners.

Refrain: Therefore have I loved Thy commandments/ above gold or topaz.

Great and fearful is the sight now before our eyes, O Saviour: for of His own will the Cause of life submits to death, that Me may give life to all.

Refrain: Therefore I walked uprightly according unto all Thy commandments:/ and I hated every evil way.

Thy side is pierced, O Master, and Thy hands are transfixed with nails; so Thou healest the wound of our first parents and the sinful greed of their hands.

Refrain: Thy testimonies are wonderful:/ therefore has my soul sought them.

Once they wept in every house for Rachel's child; and now the company of Christ's disciples with His Mother lament for the Virgin's Son.

Refrain: The revelation of Thy words shall give light/ and understanding unto the simple. With their hands they struck Christ in the face, though He it was who formed man with

With their hands they struck Christ in the face, though He it was who formed man with His hand and crushed the teeth of the beast.

Refrain: I opened my mouth, and drew in my breath:/ for I longed for Thy commandments.

In our hymns, O Christ, with all the faithful we worship now Thy Crucifixion and Thy Sepulchre, for by Thy burial we are set free from death.

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

O God without beginning, Word coeternal, and Holy Spirit, in Thy love strengthen the power of our rulers against their enemies.

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

Theotokion

O Virgin pure and undefiled, who hast given birth to our Life, bring to an end the scandals of the Church and in thy love grant her peace.

And we repeat the first troparion of the second stasis:

It is right to magnify Thee, Giver of Life, who hast stretched Thine arms upon the Cross and broken the power of the enemy.

Small Litany

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

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

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

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

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

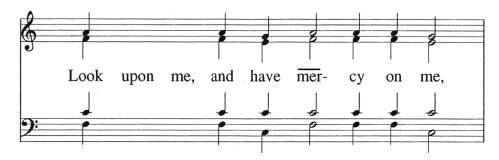
Choir: To Thee, O Lord.

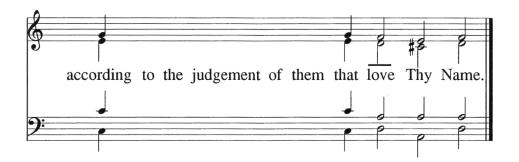
Priest: For holy art Thou, our God, Who does rest upon the glorious throne of the cherubim, and to Thee we ascribe glory, together with Thine eternal Father and Thy most holy, good and life-creating Spirit, now and ever, and unto the ages of ages.

Choir: Amen.

Third Stasis Tone III

Every generation, O my Christ, offers praises at Thy burial.





Taking Thee down from the Tree, Joseph of Arimathaea lays Thee in a sepulchre. *Refrain:* Order my steps in Thy word:/ and let not any iniquity have dominion over me. Providently bringing Thee sweet spices, O my Christ, the Myrrh-bearers drew near. *Refrain:* Deliver me from the false accusation of men:/ so will I keep Thy commandments. Come, and with the whole creation let us offer a funeral hymn to the Creator.

Refrain: Make Thy face to shine upon Thy servant; / and teach me Thy statutes.

Understanding what we do, with the Myrrh-bearers let us all anoint the Living as a corpse.

Refrain: Rivers of water have run down from mine eyes,/ because I kept not Thy law.

O thrice-blessed Joseph, bury the body of Christ, the Giver of Life.

Refrain: Righteous art Thou, O Lord,/ and upright are Thy judgements.

Those He fed with manna have lifted up their heel against their Benefactor.

Refrain: Thy testimonies that Thou hast commanded/ are righteous and very faithful.

Those He fed with manna offer to the Saviour vinegar and gall.

Refrain: My zeal has consumed me,/ because mine enemies have forgotten Thy words.

O the folly of those who killed the prophets and slew Christ!

Refrain: Thy word is tried in the fire to the uttermost:/ therefore has Thy servant loved it.

Like a foolish servant, the disciple has betrayed the Abyss of Wisdom.

Refrain: I am young and despised:/ yet have I not forgotten Thy statutes.

Judas the traitor has sold his Deliverer and himself become a captive.

Refrain: Thy righteousness is an everlasting righteousness,/ and Thy law is. truth.

As Solomon said, the mouth of the transgressing Hebrews is a deep pit.

Refrain: Trouble and anguish have taken hold on me:/ yet Thy commandments are my study.

In the crooked paths of the transgressing Hebrews there are thorns and snares.

Refrain: The righteousness of Thy testimonies is everlasting:/ give me understanding, and l shall live.

Joseph and Nicodemus bury the Creator with the honours that befit the dead.

Refrain: I cried with my whole heart; hear me, O Lord:/ I will seek Thy statutes.

Life-giver and Saviour, Thou hast destroyed hell: to Thy power be glory!

Refrain: I cried unto Thee; save me,/ and I shall keep Thy testimonies.

When she saw Thee lying dead, O Word, the all-pure Virgin wept with a mother's grief.

Refrain: I rose up before it was dawn, and cried:/ I have hoped in Thy word.

'O my sweet springtime, O my sweetest Child, where has all Thy beauty gone?'

Refrain: Mine eyes woke before the morning:/ that I might meditate in Thy words.

When Thou, O Word, wast dead, Thine all-pure Mother raised a lamentation for Thee.

Refrain: Hear my voice according unto Thy loving-kindness, O Lord:/ quicken me according to Thy judgement.

The women came with myrrh to anoint Christ, the Myrrh of God,

Refrain: They draw nigh that persecute me unlawfully:/ they are far from Thy Law.

By dying, O my God, Thou puttest death to death through Thy divine power.

Refrain: Thou art near, O Lord:/ and all Thy ways are truth.

The deceiver is deceived, and those he misled are set free by Thy wisdom, O my God.

Refrain: Concerning Thy testimonies,/ I have known of old that Thou hast founded them for ever.

The traitor was cast down to the depths of hell, and to the pit of destruction.

Refrain: Behold my humiliation, and deliver me:/ for I have not forgotten Thy law.

Thorns and snares beset the path of Judas the foolish and the thrice-wretched.

Refrain: Judge my cause, and deliver me:/ quicken me according to Thy word.

All that crucified Thee shall be destroyed together, O Word, Thou Son of God and King of all.

Refrain: Salvation is far from the wicked:/ for they have not sought Thy statutes.

In the pit of destruction shall all the men of blood be destroyed together.

Refrain: Many are Thy tender mercies, O Lord:/ quicken me according to Thy judgement.

O Son of God and King of all, my God and my Creator, how hast Thou accepted suffering?

Refrain: Many are they that persecute and afflict me:/ yet have I not turned aside from Thy testimonies.

As the mother of a foal, the Virgin gazed on Thee in grief when she saw Thee hanging on the Tree.

Refrain: I beheld the foolish and was grieved;/ because they kept not Thy words.

Joseph and Nicodemus bury the body that is the Source of life.

Refrain: See how I have loved Thy commandments:/ quicken me, O Lord, in Thy mercy.

Pierced to the heart, the Virgin shed warm tears and cried aloud.

Refrain: The beginning of Thy words is truth:/ and every one of Thy righteous judgements endures for ever.

'O Light of mine eyes, my sweetest Child, how art Thou hidden now in the sepulchre?'

Refrain: Princes have persecuted me without a cause:/ but my heart stands in awe of Thy words.

'Weep not, O Mother, for I suffer this to set at liberty Adam and Eve.'

Refrain: I will rejoice at Thy words,/ as one that finds great spoil.

'O my Son, I glorify Thy supreme, compassion, that causes Thee to suffer so.'

Refrain: I have hated and abhorred injustice:/ but Thy law have I loved.

Thou hast drunk vinegar and gall, in Thy compassion, to loose us from the guilt of the forbidden fruit.

Refrain: Seven times a day have I praised Thee/ because of the judgements of Thy right-

Thou art nailed upon the Cross, who of old hast sheltered Thy people with a pillar of cloud.

Refrain: Great peace have they that love Thy law:/ and for them there is no stumbling-block.

The women bearing myrrh came, O Saviour, to Thy tomb and offered Thee sweet spices.

Refrain: Lord, I have looked for Thy salvation,/ and loved Thy commandments.

Arise, O merciful Lord, and raise us from the depths of hell.

Refrain: My soul has kept Thy testimonies:/ and loved them exceedingly.

'Arise, O Giver of Life', the Mother who bore Thee said with tears.

Refrain: I have kept Thy commandments and Thy testimonies:/ for all my ways are before Thee, O Lord.

Make haste to arise, O Word, and take away the sorrow of Thy Virgin Mother.

Refrain: Let my prayer draw near to Thee, O Lord;/ give me understanding according to Thy word.

All the powers of heaven were filled with fear and wonder when they saw Thee dead.

Refrain: Let my supplication come before Thee, O Lord:/ deliver me according to Thy word.

With love and fear we honour Thy Passion: grant us the forgiveness of our sins.

Refrain: Let my lips speak of Thy praise:/ for Thou hast taught me Thy statutes.

Strange and dreadful wonder! How art Thou now hidden in the earth, O Word of God?

Refrain: Let my tongue speak of Thy words:/ for all Thy commandments are righteousness.

Holy and Great Saturday

Joseph once fled with Thee, O Saviour, and now another Joseph buries Thee.

Refrain: Let Thine hand be near to save me:/ for I have chosen Thy commandments.

Thine all-holy Mother weeps for Thee lamenting, O my Saviour, at Thy death.

Refrain: I have longed for Thy salvation, O Lord;/ and Thy law is my study.

The spiritual powers tremble at Thy strange and fearful burial, O Maker of all.

Refrain: My soul shall live, and it shall praise Thee:/ and Thy judgements shall help me.

Early in the morning the myrrh-bearers came to Thee and sprinkled myrrh upon Thy tomb.

Refrain: I have gone astray like a lost sheep:/ seek Thy servant, for I have not forgotten Thy commandments.

By Thy Resurrection give peace to the Church and salvation to Thy people.

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

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

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

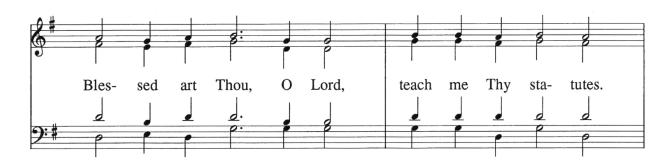
Theotokion

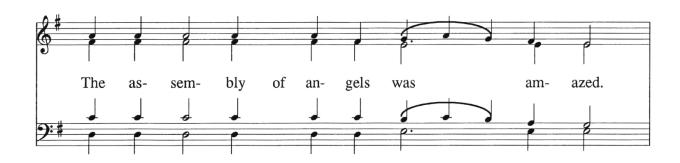
Grant to us thy servants to behold, O Virgin, the Resurrection of thy Son.

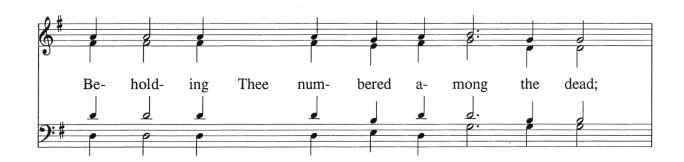
This is immediately followed by the Evlogitaria of the Resurrection, during which the priest with the deacon censes the Epitaphion, the sanctuary and the whole church.

The Evlogitaria of the Resurrection

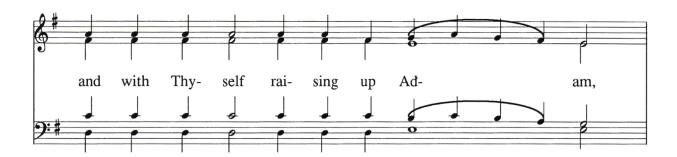
Obikhod, Tone V













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

Why mingle ye myrrh with tears of pity,/ O ye women disciples?/ Thus the radiant angel within the tomb/ addressed the myrrh-bearing women;/ behold the tomb and understand,/ for the Savior is risen from the tomb.

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

Very early/ the myrrh-bearing women hastened/ unto Thy tomb, lamenting,/ but the angel stood before them and said:/ the time for lamentation is passed, weep not,/ but tell of the Resurrection to the apostles.

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

The myrrh-bearing women,/ with myrrh came to Thy tomb, O Savior, bewailing,/ but the angel addressed them, saying:/ Why number ye the living among the dead,/ for as God/ He is risen from the tomb.

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

To the Trinity

Let us worship the Father,/ and His Son, and the Holy Spirit,/ the Holy Trinity,/ one in essence,/ crying with the Seraphim:/ Holy, Holy, Holy art Thou, O Lord.

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

Theotokion

In bringing forth the Giver of life,/ thou hast delivered Adam from sin, O Virgin,/ and hast brought joy to Eve/ instead of sorrow;/ and those fallen from life/ have thereunto been restored,/ by Him Who of thee was incarnate, God and man.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia. Glory to Thee, O God. (Thrice)

Small Litany

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

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

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

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

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

Choir: To Thee, O Lord.

Priest: For Thou art the King of peace, O Christ our God, and to Thee we ascribe glory, together with Thine eternal Father, and Thy most holy, good and life-creating Spirit, now and ever, and unto the ages of ages.

Choir: Amen.

Sessional Hymns

Tone I

Joseph begged Thy holy body from Pilate and,/ anointing it with sweet-smelling spices,/ he wrapped it in clean linen and laid it in a new tomb;/ and early in the morning the women bearing myrrh cried out:/ "As Thou hast foretold, O Christ,// show to us the Resurrection."

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

Joseph begged Thy holy body from Pilate and,/ anointing it with sweet-smelling spices,/ he wrapped it in clean linen and laid it in a new tomb;/ and early in the morning the women bearing myrrh cried out:/ "As Thou hast foretold, O Christ,// show to us the Resurrection."

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

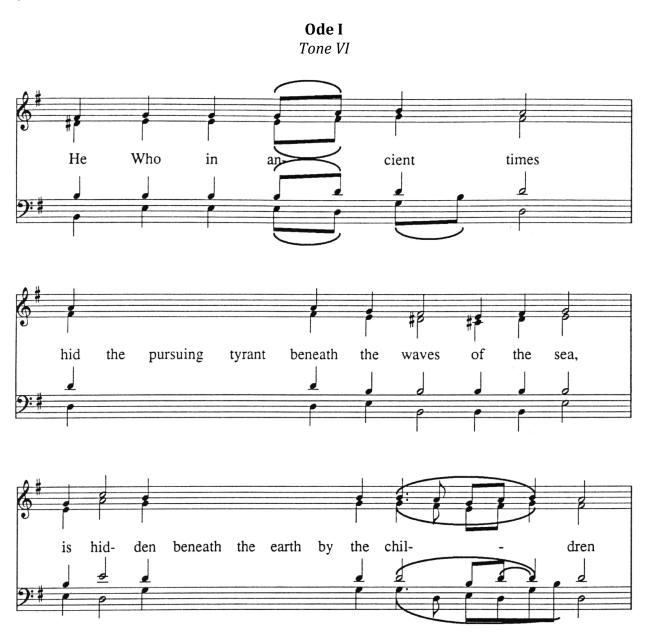
The angelic choirs are filled with wonder,/ beholding Him Who rests in the bosom of the Father/ laid in the tomb as one dead, though He is immortal./ The ranks of the angels surround Him,/ and with the dead in hell they glorify Him// as Creator and Lord.

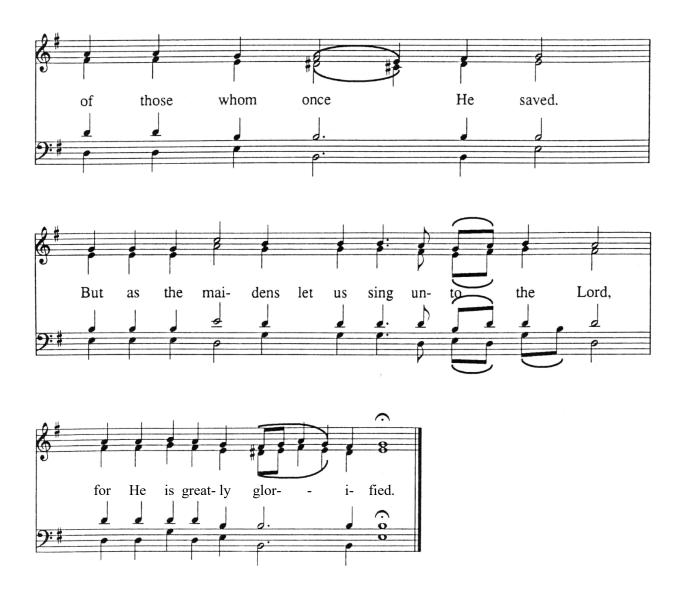
Psalm 50

Reader: Have mercy on me, O God, according to Thy great mercy; and according to the multitude of Thy compassions blot out my transgression. Wash me thoroughly from mine iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin. For I know mine iniquity, and my sin is ever before me. Against Thee only have I sinned and done this evil before Thee, that Thou mightest be justified in Thy words, and prevail when Thou art judged. For behold, I was conceived in iniquities, and in sins did my mother bear me. For behold, Thou hast loved truth; the hidden and secret things of Thy wisdom hast Thou made manifest unto me. Thou shalt sprinkle me with hyssop, and I shall be made clean; Thou shalt wash me, and I shall be made whiter than snow. Thou shalt make me to hear joy and gladness; the bones that be humbled, they shall rejoice. Turn Thy face away from my sins, and blot out all mine iniquities. Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from Thy presence, and take not Thy Holy Spirit from me. Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation, and with Thy governing Spirit establish me. I shall teach transgressors Thy ways, and the ungodly shall turn back unto Thee. Deliver me from blood-guiltiness, O God, Thou God of my salvation; my tongue shall rejoice in Thy righteousness. O Lord, Thou shalt open my lips, and my mouth shall declare Thy praise. For if Thou hadst desired sacrifice, I had given it; with whole-burnt offerings Thou shalt not be pleased. A sacrifice unto God is a broken spirit; a heart that is broken and humbled God will not despise. Do good, O Lord, in Thy good pleasure unto Sion, and let the walls of Jerusalem be builded. Then shalt Thou be pleased with a sacrifice of righteousness, with oblation and whole-burnt offerings. Then shall they offer bullocks upon Thine altar.

The Canon

In each Ode the Irmos is sung twice, and then the Troparia are repeated four times. The Irmos is sung at the end as Katavasia. Before the Troparia we say Glory to Thee, our God, glory to Thee. The first, third, fourth, and fifth Odes of this canon are the work of Mark the Monk, Bishop of Hydrous, and the last four Odes are by Kosmas of the Holy City. The irmoi are the work of Kassiani.





O Lord my God, I will sing to Thee a funeral hymn, a song at Thy burial: for by Thy burial Thou hast opened for me the gates of life, and by Thy death Thou hast slain death and hades.

All things above and all beneath the earth quaked with fear at Thy death, as they beheld Thee, O my Savior, upon Thy throne on high and in the tomb below. For seeing Thou wert mortal is beyond understanding, O Author of life.

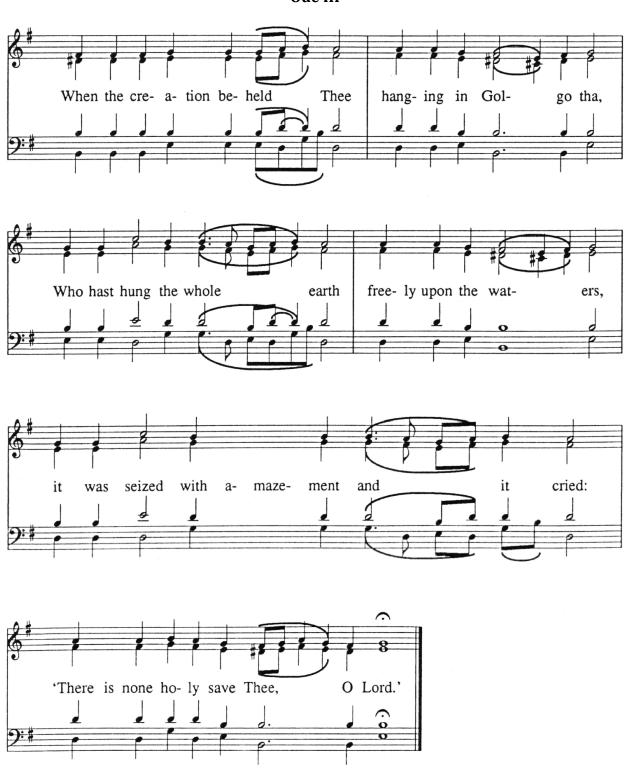
Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, both now and ever, and unto the ages of ages. Amen.

To fill all things with Thy glory, Thou hast gone down into the nethermost parts of the earth: for my substance that is in Adam is not hidden from Thee, but when buried, Thou dost restore me from corruption, O Lover of mankind.

Katavasia

He Who in ancient times...

Ode III



Images of Thy burial hast Thou disclosed in a multitude of visions; and now, as the God-Man, Thou hast revealed Thy secrets unto those in hades, O Master, who cry aloud: "There is none holy beside Thee, O Lord."

Thou hast stretched out Thine arms and united all that of old was separated; clothed in a winding sheet, O Savior, and buried in a tomb, Thou hast loosed the captives, who cry aloud: "There is none holy beside Thee, O Lord."

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

By a tomb and seals, O Uncontainable One, wast Thou held of Thine own will; but through Thine energies Thou hast showed Thy power by Divine action to those who sing: "There is none holy beside Thee, O Lord, Lover of mankind.

Katavasia

When the creation beheld Thee...

Small Litany

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

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

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

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

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

Choir: To Thee, O Lord.

Priest: For Thou art our God, and unto Thee do we send up glory, to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto the ages of ages.

Choir: Amen.

Sessional Hymn

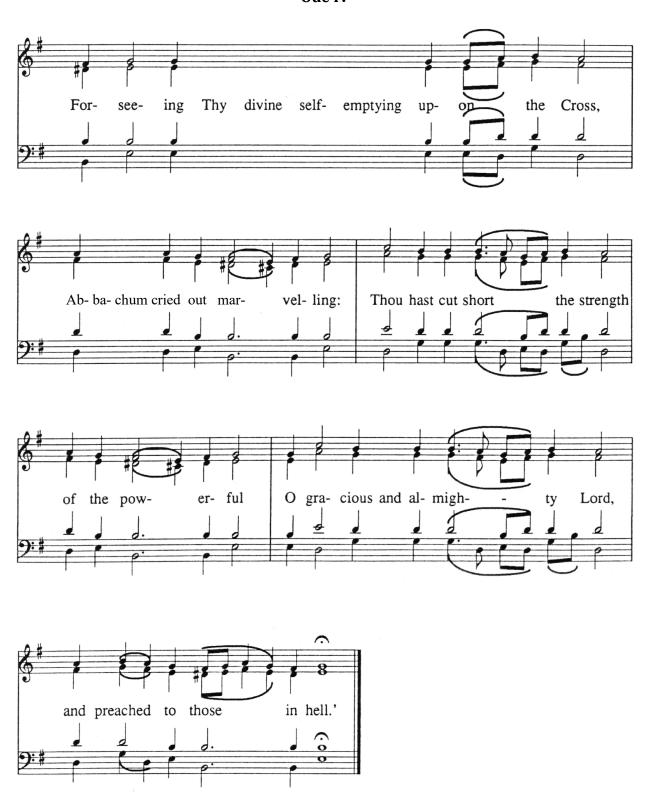
Tone I

The soldiers keeping watch over Thy tomb, O Savior, became as dead men/ from the shining brightness at the appearing of the angel,/ who proclaimed to the women the Resurrection./ We glorify Thee as the Destroyer of corruption;/ we fall down before Thee,// risen from the tomb, our only God.

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

The soldiers keeping watch... Repeat.

Ode IV



Today Thou hast sanctified the seventh day, which anciently Thou didst bless by resting from Thy works. Thou bringest all things into being and renewest all things, observing the Sabbath, O my Savior, and restoring all.

By Thy greater power, Thou hast conquered; from the flesh Thy soul was parted, yet Thou hast burst asunder both bonds, death and hades, O Word, by Thy might.

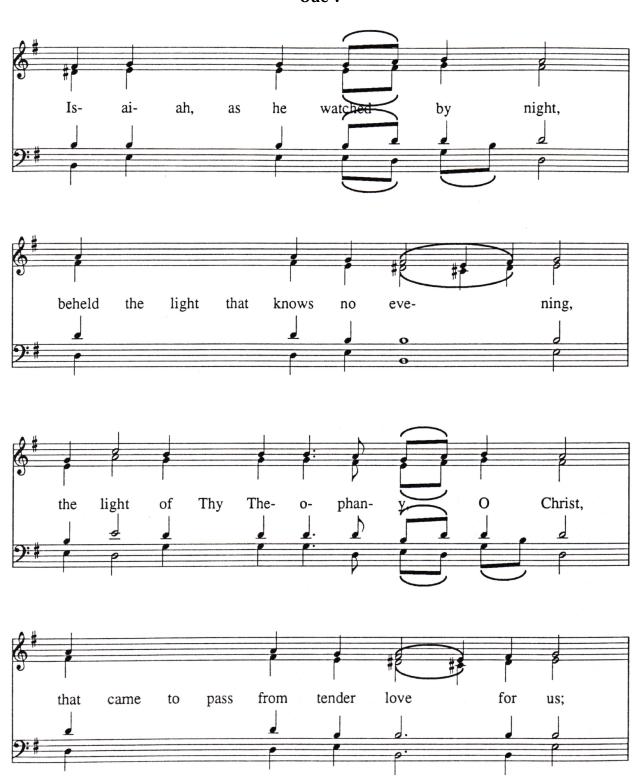
Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, both now and ever, and unto the ages of ages. Amen.

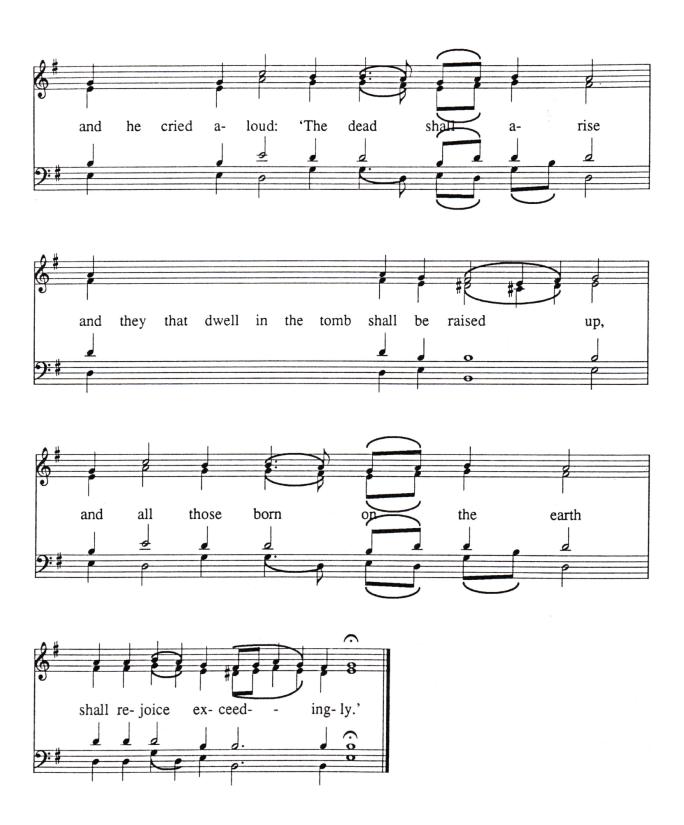
Hades was embittered when it met Thee, O Word, for it saw a mortal deified, striped with wounds, yet all-powerful; and it shrank back in terror at this sight.

Katavasia

Foreseeing Thy divine self-emptying...

Ode V





Thou makest new those of earth, O Creator, becoming a thing of dust, and the windingsheet and tomb reveal, O Word, the mystery that is within Thee; for the noble counselor typifies the counsel of Him that begat Thee, Who hath majestically refashioned me in Thee.

By Thy death dost Thou transform mortality and by Thy burial, corruption, for Thou makest incorruptible, by divine majesty, the nature Thou hast taken, rendering it immortal; for Thy flesh saw not corruption, O Master, nor was Thy soul left in hades as that of a stranger.

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

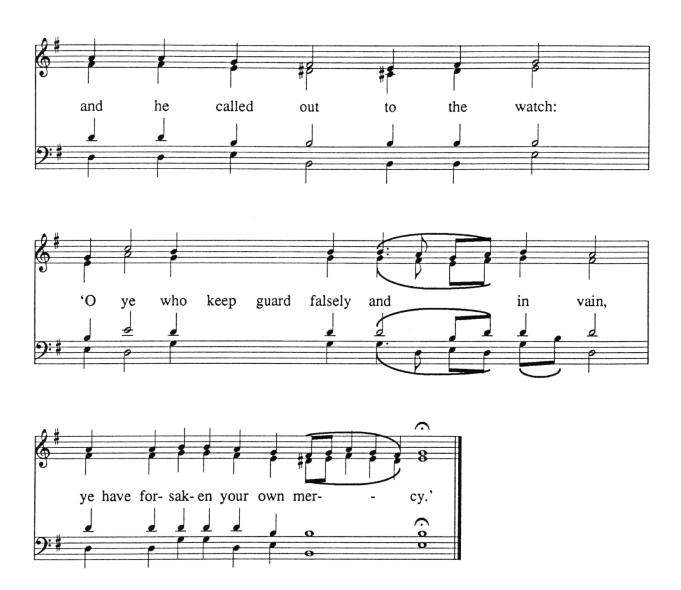
Coming forth from an unwedded Mother, and wounded in Thy side with a spear, O my Maker, Thou hast brought to pass the re-creation of Eve. Becoming Adam, Thou hast in ways surpassing nature slept a nature-restoring sleep, raising life from sleep and from corruption, for Thou art the Almighty.

Katavasia

Isaiah, as he watched by night...

Ode VI





Torn wast Thou, but not separated, O Word, from the flesh of which Thou hadst partaken; for though Thy temple was destroyed at the time of Thy Passion, yet the Substance of Thy Godhead and of Thy flesh is but one. For in both Thou art one Son, the Word of God, both God and man.

Fatal to man, but not to God, was the sin of Adam; for though the earthly substance of Thy flesh suffered, yet the Godhead remained impassable; that which in Thy nature was corruptible Thou hast transformed to incorruption, and a fountain of life incorruptible hast Thou revealed by Thy Resurrection.

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

Hades reigneth, but not for ever over the race of man; for Thou, laid in a tomb, O Sovereign Lord, hast burst asunder the bars of death with Thy life-giving hand, and Thou hast proclaimed to those who slept from the ages the true redemption, O Savior, Who art become the Firstborn from the dead.

Katavasia

Jonah was enclosed but not held fast...

Small Litany

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

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

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

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

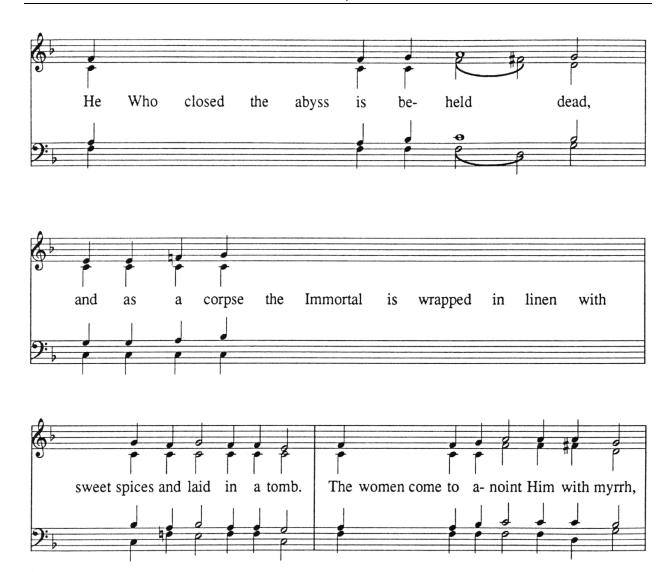
Calling to remembrance our most holy, most pure, most blessed, glorious Lady Theotokos and Ever-Virgin Mary with all the saints, let us commit ourselves and one another and all our life unto Christ our God.

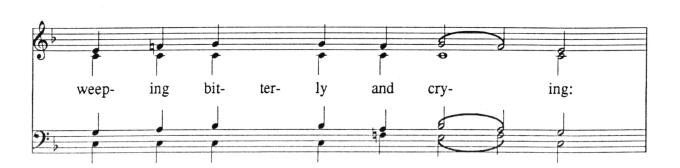
Choir: To Thee, O Lord.

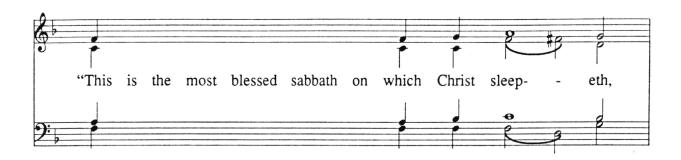
Priest: For Thou art the King of Peace and the Saviour of our souls, and unto Thee do we send up glory, to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto the ages of ages.

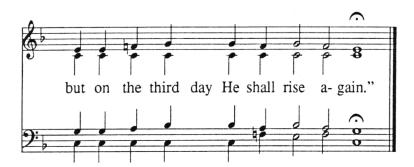
Choir: Amen.

Kontakion, Tone VI



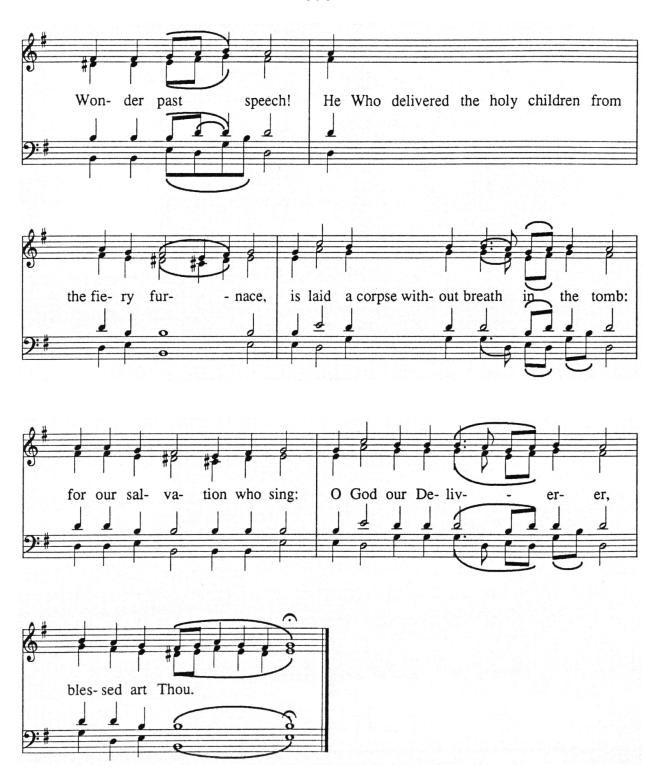






Ikos: He Who sustaineth all things was lifted upon the Cross, and all creation wept, seeing Him hanging naked on the Tree. The sun hid its rays, and the stars cast aside their light; the earth shook in much fear, and the sea fled, and the rocks were rent, and many graves were opened and the bodies of the saints arose. Hades groaned below, and the Jews conspired to spread slander against Christ's Resurrection. But the women cried aloud: "This is the most blessed Sabbath day wherein Christ, having slept, shall arise on the third day."

Ode VII



Wounded in the heart was hades when it received Him Who was wounded in the side by a spear, and consumed by divine fire it groaned aloud at the salvation of us who sing: "O God our Redeemer, blessed art Thou.

O wealthy tomb! For it received within itself the Creator, as one asleep, and it was shown to be a divine treasury of life, for the sa1vation of us who sing: "O God our Redeemer, blessed art Thou."

In accordance with the law of the dead, the Life of all submitteth to be laid in the tomb, and He showeth it to be a source of awakening, for the salvation of us who sing: "O God our Redeemer, blessed art Thou."

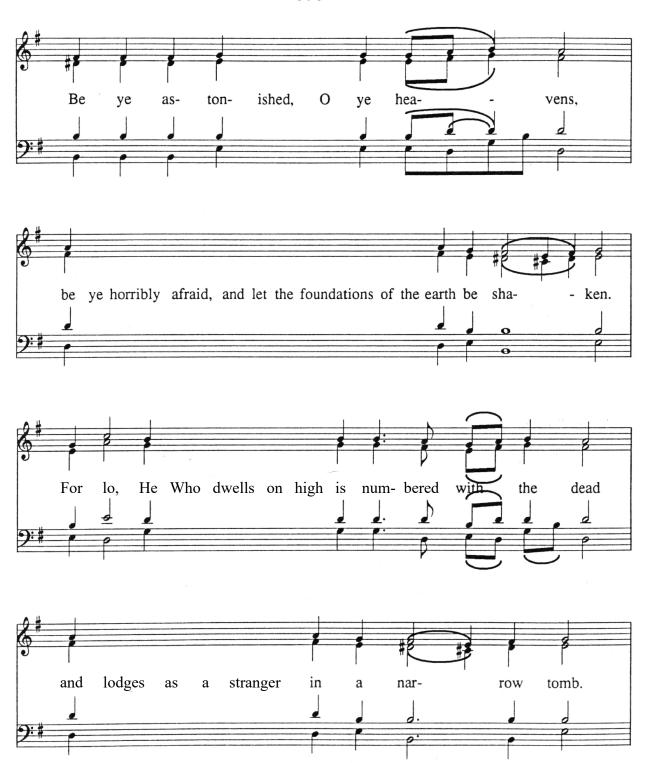
Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, both now and ever, and unto the ages of ages. Amen.

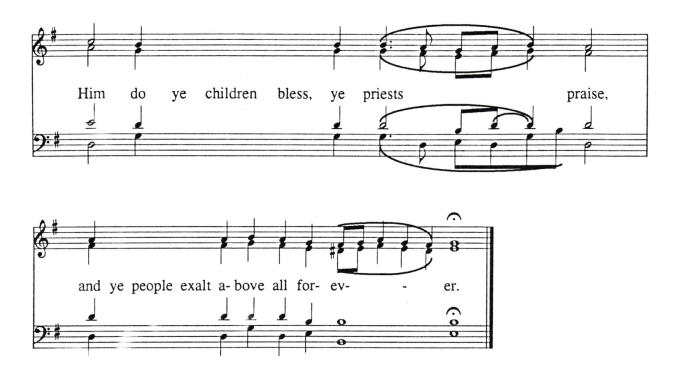
Whether in hades or in the tomb or in Eden, the Godhead of Christ was indivisibly one with the Father and the Spirit, for the salvation of us who sing: "O God our Redeemer, blessed art Thou."

Katavasia

Wonder past speech!...

Ode VIII





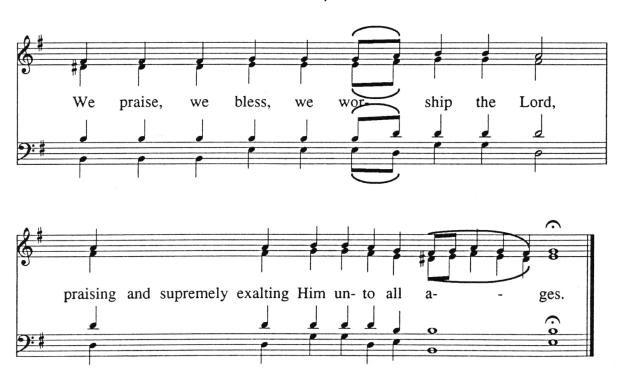
The most pure Temple is destroyed, but raiseth up the fallen tabernacle. For the second Adam, He Who dwelleth on high, hath come down to the first Adam, even into the chambers of hades. Him do ye children bless, ye priests praise, and ye people supremely exalt unto all aces.

The disciples' courage failed, but Joseph of Arimathea was bolder; for, seeing the God of all a corpse and naked, he asked for the body and buried Him, crying: Him do ye children bless, ye priests praise, and ye people supremely exalt unto all ages.

We bless Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, the Lord; both now and ever, and unto the ages of ages. Amen.

O new wonders! O what goodness! O ineffable forbearance! For of His own will He Who dwelleth on high is sealed beneath the earth, and God is falsely accused as a deceiver. Him do ye children bless, ye priests praise, and ye people supremely exalt unto all ages.

We Praise, We Bless

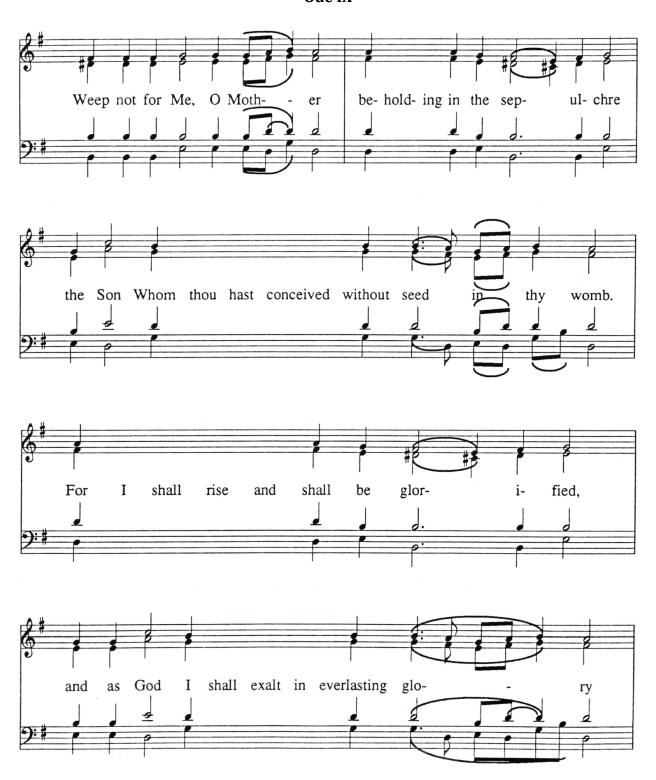


Katavasia

Be ye astonished, O ye heavens...

We do not sing the Magnificat and More honourable than the cherubim...

Ode IX





At Thy strange birth, O Son without beginning, I was blessed in ways surpassing nature, for I was spared all travail. But now, beholding Thee, my God, a lifeless corpse, I am pierced with the sword of bitter grief. But arise, that I may be magnified.

The earth covereth Me as I desire, O Mother, but the gatekeepers of hades tremble as they see Me, clothed in the bloodstained garment of vengeance; for on the Cross as God have I struck down Mine enemies, and I shall rise again and magnify thee.

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

Let creation rejoice, let all that are born of earth be glad, for the enemy, hades, hath been despoiled; let the women come with myrrh to meet Me, for I am delivering Adam and Eve with all their offspring, and on the third day I shall rise again.

Katavasia

Weep not for Me, O Mother...

Small Litany

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

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

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

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

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

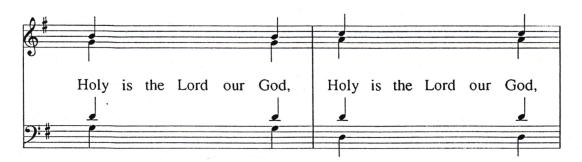
Choir: To Thee, O Lord.

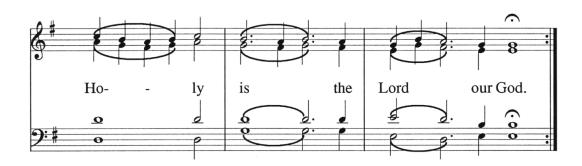
Priest: For all the Hosts of Heaven praise Thee, and unto Thee do we send up glory, to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto the ages of ages.

Choir: Amen.

Holy is the Lord Our God, Tone II

Deacon: Holy is the Lord our God.





Deacon: For holy is the Lord our God.

Choir: Holy is the Lord our God.

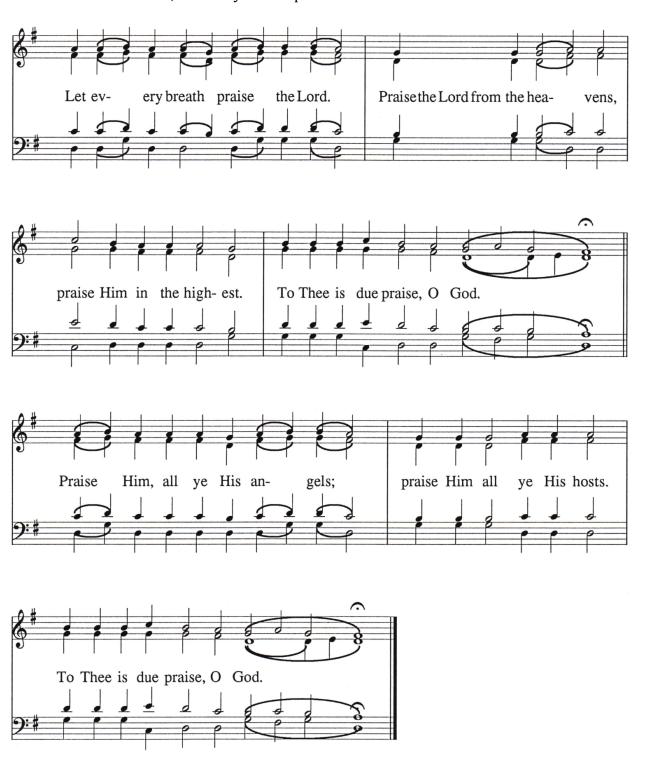
Deacon: Above all peoples is our God.

Choir: Holy is the Lord our God.

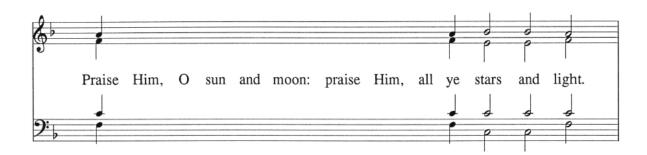
During the Psalms of Praise, the senior priest puts on all his vestments, and as the choir sing the Theotokion he comes out of the sanctuary with the rest of the clergy and stands before the Epitaphion (Plashchanitsa).

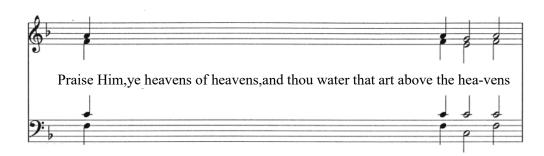
Let Every Breath Praise the Lord, Tone II

Reader: In the 2nd Tone, Let every breath praise the Lord.



Verses of the Psalms of Praise





Let them praise the name of the Lord; for He spake, and they came to be; He commanded, and they were created.

He established them for ever, yea, for ever and ever; He hath set an ordinance, and it shall <u>not</u> pass away.

Praise the Lord from the earth, ye dragons, and all ye abyses,

Fire, hail, snow, ice, blast of tempest, which perform His word,

The mountains and all the hills, fruitful trees, and all <u>ce</u>dars,

The beasts and all the cattle, creeping things and winged birds,

Kings of the earth, and all peoples, princes and all the <u>judges</u> of the earth,

Young men and virgins, elders with the younger; let them praise the name of the Lord, for exalted is the name of <u>Him</u> alone.

His praise is above the earth and Heaven, and He shall exalt the horn of His <u>people</u>.

This is the hymn for all His saints, for the sons of Israel, and for the people that draw <u>nigh</u> unto Him.

Sing unto the Lord a new song; His praise is in the <u>church</u> of the saints.

Let Israel be glad in Him that made him, let the sons of Sion rejoice in their King.

Let them praise His name in the dance; with the timbrel and the psaltery let them <u>chant</u> unto Him.

For the Lord taketh pleasure in His people, and He shall exalt the meek with salvation.

The saints shall boast in glory, and they shall rejoice upon their beds.

The high praise of God shall be in their throat, and two-edged swords shall <u>be</u> in their hands.

To do vengeance among the heathen, punishments among the peoples,

To bind their kings with fetters, and their nobles with <u>ma</u>nacles of iron.

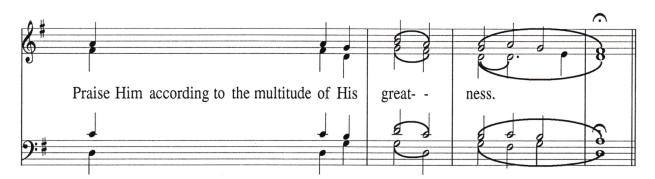
To do among them the judgment that is written, this glory shall be to <u>all</u> His saints.

Praise ye God in His saints, praise Him in the firmament of His power.

Stichera at the Psalms of Praise

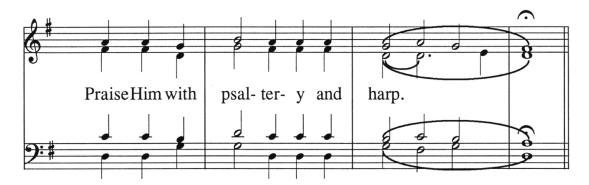
Tone II

Stichos: Praise Him for His mighty acts:



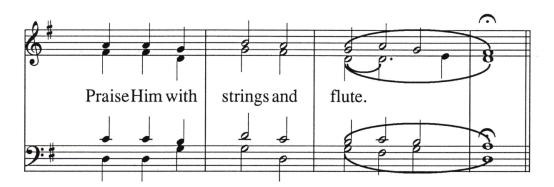
Today a tomb holds Him Who holds the creation/ in the hollow of His hand;/ a stone covers Him who covered the heavens with glory./ Life sleeps and hell trembles,/ and Adam is set free from his bonds./ Glory to Thy dispensation,/ whereby Thou hast accomplished all things,/ granting us an eternal Sabbath,// Thy most holy Resurrection from the dead.

Stichos: Praise Him with the sound of trumpet:



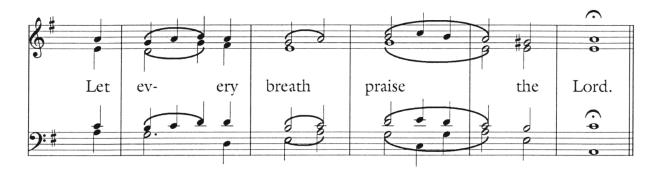
What is this sight that we behold?/ What is this present rest?/ The King of the ages,/ having through His Passion fulfilled the plan of salvation,/ keeps Sabbath in the tomb, granting us a new Sabbath./ Unto Him let us cry aloud:/ Arise, O Lord, judge Thou the earth,/ for measureless is Thy great mercy// and Thou dost reign for ever.

Stichos: Praise Him with timbrel and dance:



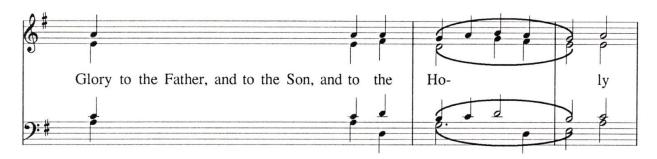
Come, let us see our Life lying in the tomb,/ that He may give life to those that in their tombs lie dead./ Come, let us look today on the Son of Judah as He sleeps,/ and with the prophet let us cry aloud to Him:/ Thou hast lain down, Thou hast slept as a lion;/ who shall awaken Thee, O King?/ But of Thine own free will do Thou rise/ Who willingly dost give Thyself for us.// O Lord, glory to Thee.

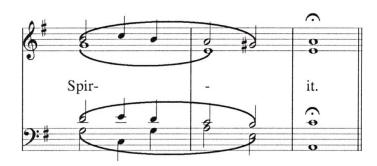
Tone VIStichos: Praise Him with tuneful cymbals, praise Him with cymbals of jubilation:



Joseph asked for the body of Jesus/ and he laid it in his own new tomb:/ for it was fitting that the Lord should come forth from the grave/ as from a bridal chamber./ O Thou who hast broken the power of death/ and opened the gates of Paradise to men,// glory be to Thee.

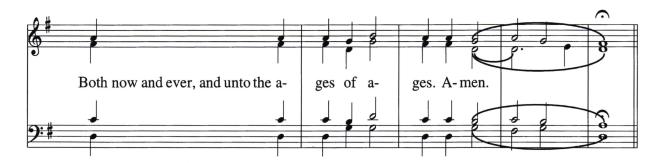
Glory, Tone VI





Moses the great mystically prefigured this present day, saying:/ 'And God blessed the seventh day.'/ For this is the blessed Sabbath, this is the day of rest,/ on which the only-begotten Son of God rested from all His works./ Suffering death in accordance with the plan of salvation,/ He kept the Sabbath in the flesh;/ and returning once again to what He was,/ through His Resurrection He has granted us eternal life,// for He alone is good and loves mankind.

Both Now, Tone II

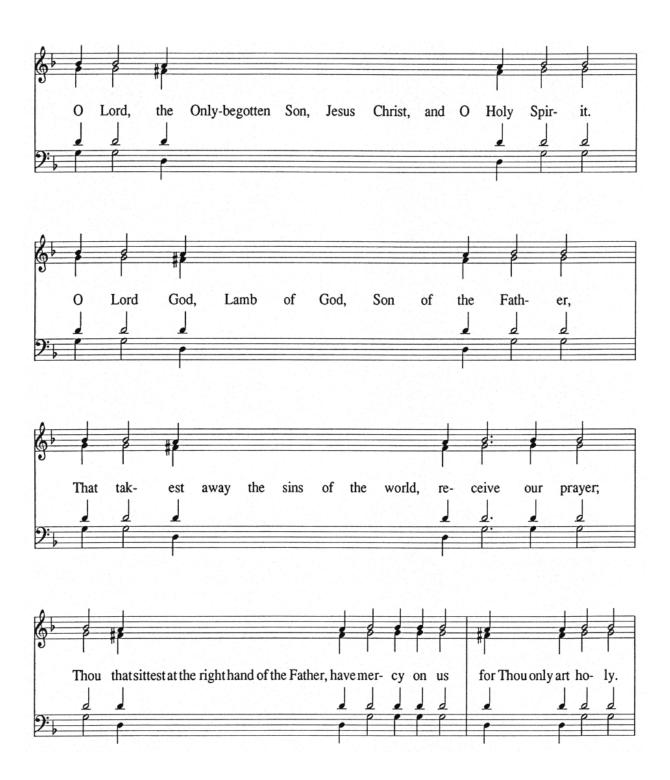


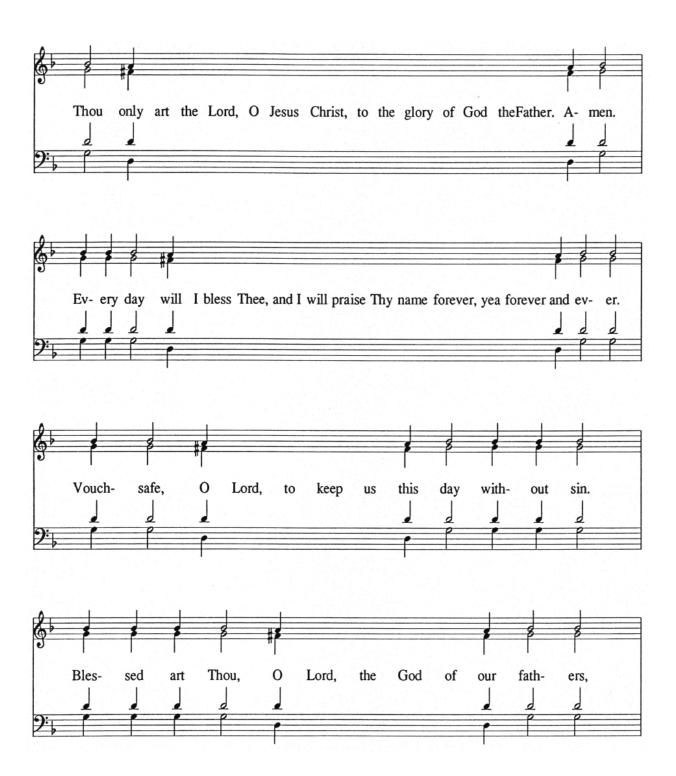
Most blessed art Thou, O Virgin Theotokos,/ for through Him Who became incarnate of Thee/ is hades led captive, Adam recalled,/ the curse annulled, Eve set free,/ death slain, and we are given life./ Wherefore, we cry aloud in praise:// Blessed is Christ God Who hast been so pleased, glory to Thee.

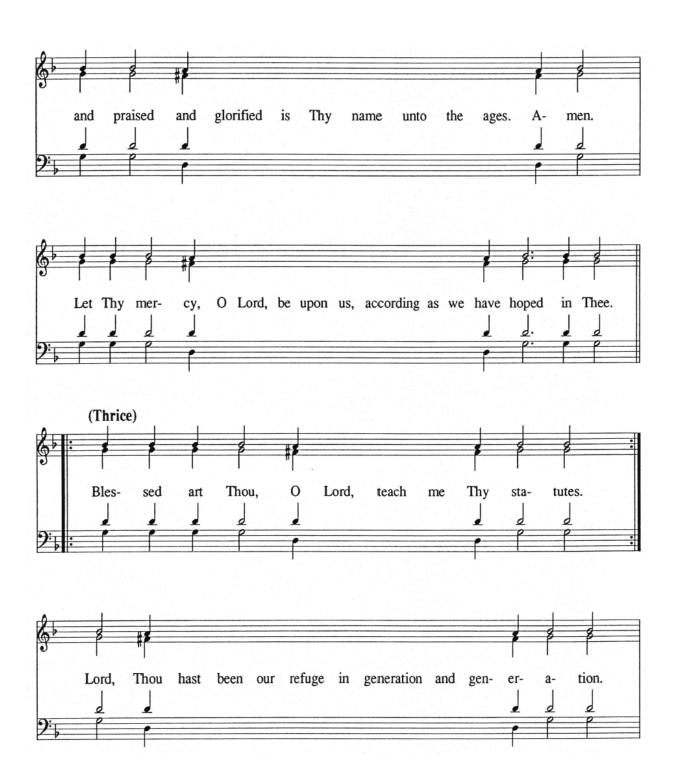
Great Doxology

Priest: Glory to Thee Who hast shown forth the light.

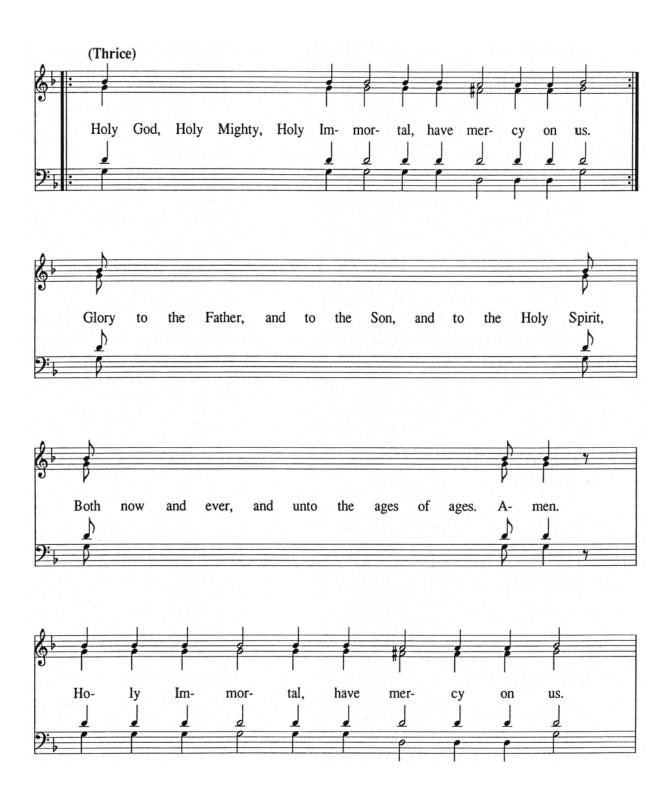


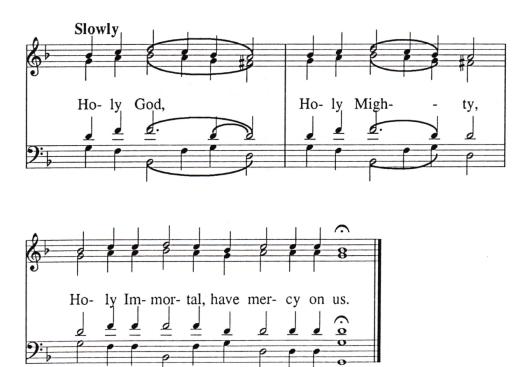










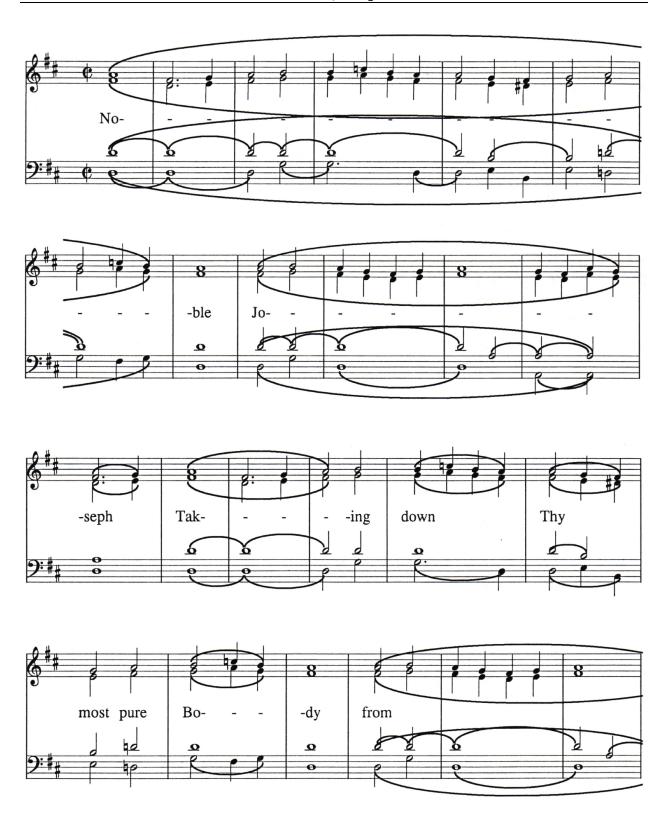


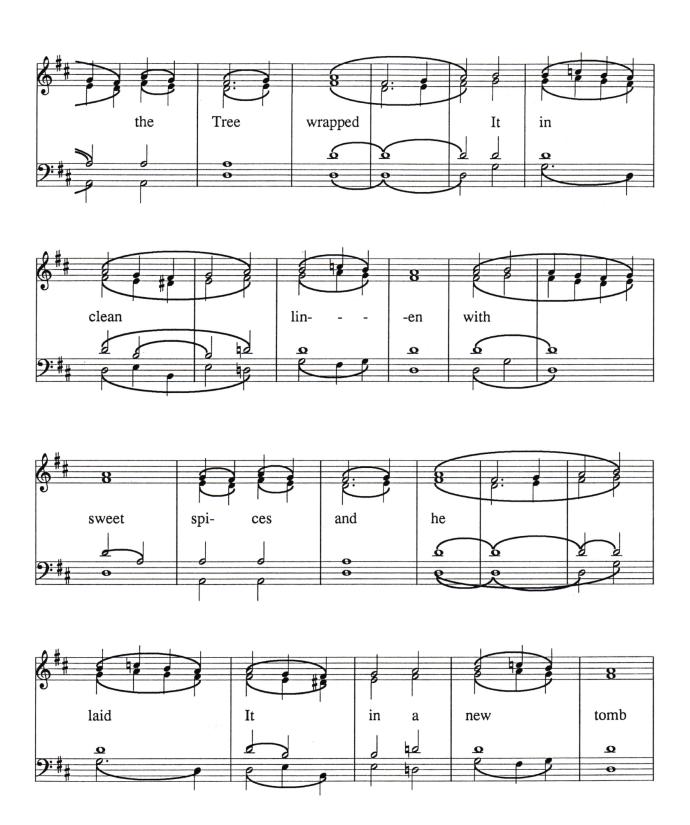
During the singing of the Great Doxology he goes three times round the Epitaphion, censing it from the four sides. Then, while the choir sings the final Holy God to a slow and solemn melody, as at the Burial Service, he takes the Book of the Gospels and the other clergy take the Epitaphion which they hold above his head. They go in procession round the outside of the church, the choir meanwhile continuing to sing Holy God as often as is necessary. The Cross with the processional candles is carried at the head of the procession; then comes the choir; then the deacon with the incense, the clergy with the Epitaphion, and after them all the members of the congregation, holding lighted candles. The procession returns to the interior of the church, and stopping before the Holy Doors with the Epitaphion the senior priest says:

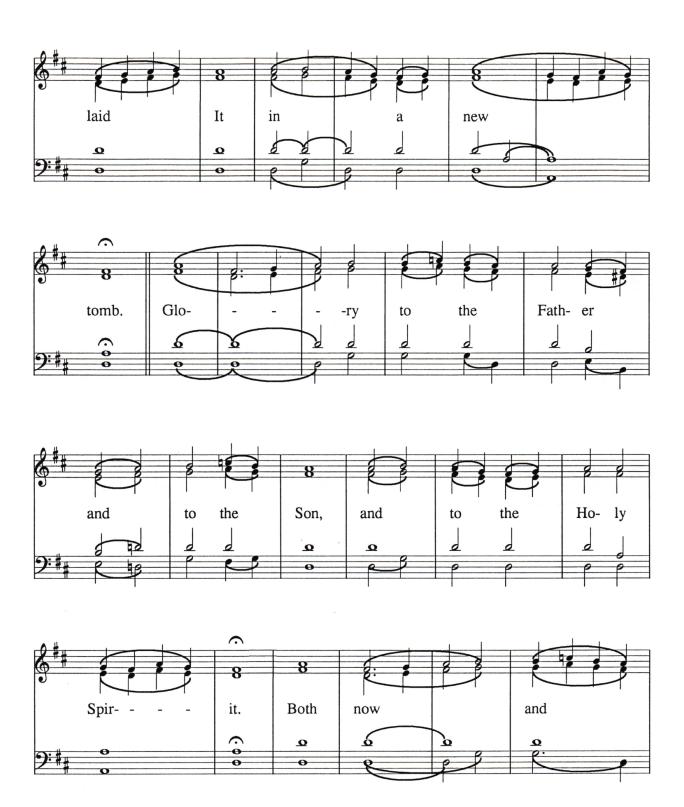
Wisdom, let us attend!

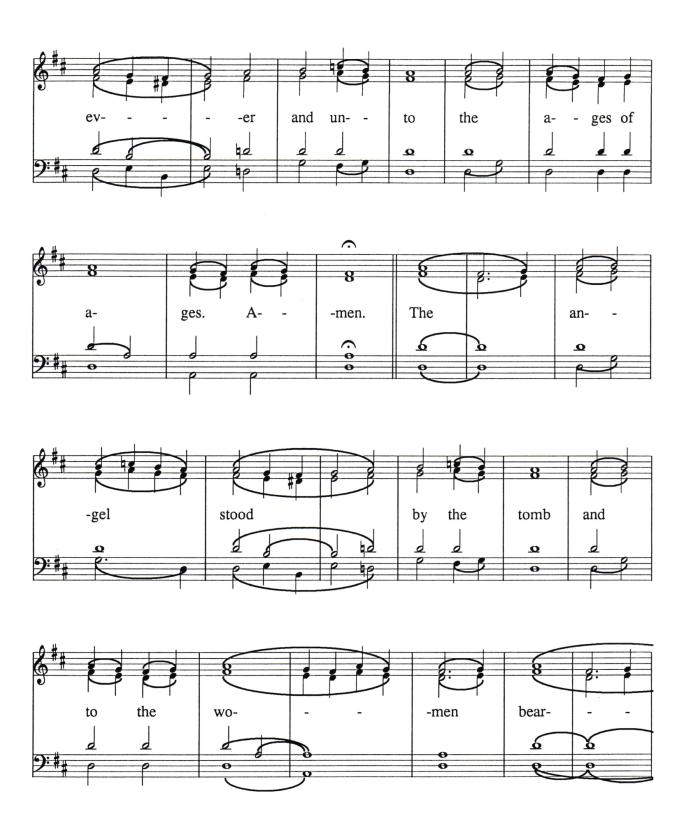
The choir then sings the troparion:

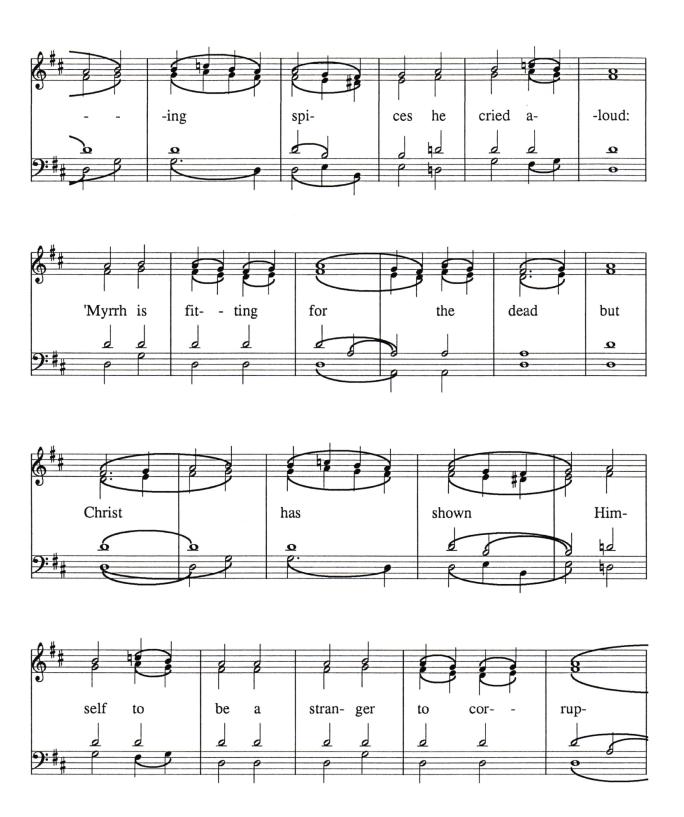
Noble Joseph













And the clergy replace the Epitaphion on the table in the center of the church, putting the Book of the Gospels on it, as before. The senior priest goes once around the Epitaphion, censing it from the four sides.

When the singing of Noble Joseph is completed, there follows the troparion of the prophecy:

Troparion of the Prophecy, Tone II

Reader: The Troparion of the Prophecy in the 2nd Tone:

O Christ, Who holdest fast the ends of the earth, Thou hast accepted to be held fast within the tomb, to deliver man from his fall into hell; and as immortal God Thou hast conferred upon us immortality and life.

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

O Christ, Who holdest fast the ends of the earth,/ Thou hast accepted to be held fast within the tomb,/ to deliver man from his fall into hell;// and as immortal God Thou hast conferred upon us immortality and life.

Deacon: Let us attend! Wisdom! Let us attend!

Prokimenon, Tone IV

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



Reader: O God, with our ears have we heard, for our fathers have told us.

Choir: Arise, O Lord, help us, and redeem us for Thy name's sake.

Reader: Arise, O Lord, help us.

Choir: And redeem us for Thy name's sake.

Paroemia

Ezekiel 37:1-14

Deacon: Wisdom!

Reader: The reading is from the Prophecy Ezekiel.

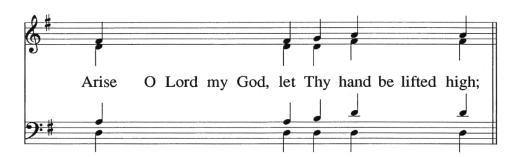
Deacon: Let us attend.

Reader: The hand of the Lord came upon me, and the Lord brought me forth by the Spirit. and set me in the midst of the plain, and it was full of human bones. And He led me round about them every way. And behold, there were very many on the face of the plain, very dry. And He said to me, Son of man, will these bones live? And I said, O Lord God, Thou knowest this! And He said to me, Prophesy upon these bones, and you shall say to them, Ye dry bones, hear the word of the Lord. Thus saith Adonai the Lord to these bones: Behold, I will bring upon you the breath of life; and I will lay sinews upon you, and will bring up flesh upon you. and will spread skin upon you, and I will put My Spirit into you, and ve shall live; and ve shall know that I am the Lord. So I prophesied as the Lord commanded me. And it came to pass while I was prophesying, that behold, there was an earthquake, and the bones came together. bone to bone, each one to his joint. And I looked, and behold, sinews came upon them, and flesh grew and came upon them, and skin was spread upon them above, but there was no breath in them. And He said to me, Prophesy to the wind, prophesy, son of man, and say to the wind. Thus saith Adonai the Lord: Come from the four winds. O breath, and breathe upon these dead, and let them live. So I prophesied as He commanded me, and the breath entered into them, and they lived, and stood upon their feet, a very great assembly. And the Lord spoke to me, saving, Son of man, these bones are the whole house of Israel: and they say, Our bones have become dry, our hope hath perished, we are guite spent. Therefore prophesy, son of man, and say, Thus saith Adonai the Lord: Behold, I will open your tombs, My people, and will bring you up out of your tombs, and I will bring you into the land of Israel. And ye shall know that I am the Lord, when I have opened your graves, that I may bring you up from your graves, My people; and I will put My Spirit within you, and ye shall live. And I will place you upon your own land; and you shall know that I am the Lord; I have spoken, and will do it, saith Adonai the Lord.

Prokimenon, Tone VII

Deacon: Let us attend! Wisdom! Let us attend!

Reader: The Prokimenon in the 7th Tone: Arise, O Lord my God, let Thy hand be lifted high; forget not Thy paupers to the end.





Reader: I will confess Thee, O Lord with my whole heart, I will tell of all Thy wonders.

Choir: Arise, O Lord my God, let Thy hand be lifted high; forget not Thy paupers to the end.

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

Choir: Forget not Thy paupers to the end.

Epistle

1 Corinthians §133 (1 Corinthians 5: 6-8; Galatians 3: 13-14)

Deacon: Wisdom!

Reader: The reading is from the Epistles of the Holy Apostle Paul to the Corinthians and Galatians.

Deacon: Let us attend.

Reader: Brethren: Your glorying is not good. Know ye not that a little leaven leaveneth the whole lump? Purge out therefore the old leaven, that ye may be a new lump, as ye are unleavened. For even Christ our passover is sacrificed for us: Therefore let us keep the feast, not with old leaven, neither with the leaven of malice and wickedness; but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.

Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, Cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree: That the blessing of Abraham might come on the Gentiles through Jesus Christ; that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith.

Priest: Peace be unto thee. *Reader:* And to thy spirit.

Alleluia, Tone V

Deacon: Wisdom!

Reader: Alleluia in the 5th Tone: Let God arise, and let His enemies be scattered.





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

Choir: Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

Reader: So let sinners perish at the presence of God.

Choir: Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

Holy Gospel

Matthew §114 (27:62-66)

Deacon: Wisdom! Aright! Let us hear the Holy Gospel.

Priest: Peace be unto all. *Choir:* And to thy spirit.

Deacon: The Reading is from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Choir: Glory to Thee, O Lord, glory to thee.

Priest: Let us attend.

Deacon: On the next day, that followed the day of the preparation, the chief priests and Pharisees came together unto Pilate, Saying, Sir, we remember that that deceiver said, while he was yet alive, After three days I will rise again. Command therefore that the sepulchre be made sure until the third day, lest his disciples come by night, and steal him away, and say unto the people, He is risen from the dead: so the last error shall be worse than the first. Pilate said unto them, Ye have a watch: go your way, make it as sure as ye can. So they went, and made the sepulchre sure, sealing the stone, and setting a watch.

Choir: Glory to Thee, O Lord, glory to thee.

Augmented Litany

Deacon: Have mercy on us, O God, according to Thy great mercy, we pray Thee, hearken and have mercy.

Choir: Lord, have mercy. (Thrice)

Deacon: Again we pray for our Archbishop Name and all our brethren in Christ.

Choir: Lord, have mercy. (*Thrice*)

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

Choir: Lord, have mercy. (*Thrice*)

Deacon: Again we pray for the suffering Russian land and its Orthodox people both in the homeland and in the diaspora and for their salvation.

Choir: Lord, have mercy. (*Thrice*)

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

Choir: Lord, have mercy. (*Thrice*)

Deacon: Again we pray for our brethren, the priests, priestmonks, and all our brethren in Christ.

Choir: Lord have mercy. (*Thrice*)

Deacon: Again we pray for the blessed and ever-memorable, holy Orthodox patriarchs; for pious kings and right-believing queens; and for the founders of this holy temple (if it be a monastery: this holy monastery): and for all our fathers and brethren gone to their rest before us, and the Orthodox here and everywhere laid to rest.

Choir: Lord, have mercy. (*Thrice*)

Deacon: Again we pray for them that bring offerings and do good works in this holy and allvenerable temple; for them that minister and them that chant, and for all the people here present, that await of Thee great and abundant mercy.

Choir: Lord, have mercy. (*Thrice*)

Priest: For a merciful God art Thou, and the Lover of mankind, and unto Thee do we send up glory: to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto the ages of ages.

Litany of Fervent Supplication

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

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

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

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

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

Choir: Grant this, O Lord.

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

Choir: Grant this. O Lord.

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

Choir: Grant this, O Lord.

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

Choir: Grant this. O Lord.

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

ask of the Loru.

Choir: Grant this. O Lord.

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

Choir: Grant this, O Lord.

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

Choir: To Thee, O Lord.

Priest: For Thou art a God of mercy, compassion and love for mankind, and unto Thee do we send up glory: to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto the ages of ages.

Choir: Amen.

Priest: Peace be unto all. *Choir:* And to thy spirit.

Deacon: Let us bow our heads unto the Lord.

Choir: To Thee, O Lord. (Very Slowly)

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

Choir: Amen.

Dismissal

Deacon: Wisdom! Choir: Father bless!

Priest: He that is is blessed, Christ our God, always, now and ever, and unto the ages of ages. *Choir:* Amen. Establish, O God, the holy Orthodox Faith of Orthodox Christians unto the ages of ages.

Priest: O most holy Theotokos, save us.

Choir: More honorable than the Cherubim, and beyond compare more glorious than the Seraphim; who without corruption gavest birth to God the Word, the very Theotokos, thee do we magnify.

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

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

Lord have mercy. (Thrice)

Father, bless.

Priest: May Christ our true God, Who for us men and for our salvation did deign to suffer the dread passion, and the life-creating Cross and voluntary burial in the flesh, through the intercessions of His most pure Mother; of the holy and glorious apostles; and Saint *Name* (*to whom the church is dedicated*); of the holy and righteous ancestors of God, Joachim and Anna; and of all the saints: have mercy on us and save us, for He is good and loveth mankind.

Choir: Amen.

After the Dismissal the faithful come up to venerate the Epitaphion, while the choir sings:

Come and Let us Bless Joseph, Tone V

Come and let us bless Joseph of everlasting memory,/ who came to Pilate by night/ and begged for the Life of all:/ 'Give me this stranger,/ Who has no place to lay His head./ Give me this stranger,/ Whom His evil disciple delivered to death./ Give me this stranger,/ Whom His Mother saw hanging on the Cross,/ and with a mother's sorrow she cried weeping:/ "Woe is me, O my Child!/ Woe is me, Light of mine eyes and beloved fruit of my womb!/ For what Symeon foretold in the temple is come to pass today:/ a sword pierces my heart,/ but do Thou change my grief to gladness by Thy Resurrection."/ We venerate Thy Passion, O Christ!/ We venerate Thy Passion.

Then the reader immediately begins the First Hour.

Hours

The Hours are read in the usual, non-Lenten manner.

1st Troparion

All Hours

The Noble Joseph, taking Thy most pure body down from the Tree and having wrapped it in pure linen and spices, laid it in a new tomb.

2nd Troparion

1st and 6th Hours

When Thou didst descend unto death, O Life Immortal, then didst Thou slay hell with the lightning of Thy divinity. And when Thou didst also raise the dead out of the nethermost depths, all the hosts of the heavens cried out: O Life-Giver, Christ our God, glory be to Thee.

2nd Troparion

3rd and 9th Hours

Unto the myrrh-bearing women did the angel cry out as he stood by the grave: Myrrh is meet for the dead, but Christ hath proved a stranger to corruption.

Kontakion

All Hours

He that shut up the abyss is seen as one dead, and like a mortal, the Immortal One is wrapped in linen and myrrh, and placed in a grave. And women came to anoint Him, weeping bitterly and crying out: This is the most blessed Sabbath day wherein Christ, having slept, shall arise on the third day.

Appendix

The Prophecy of Ezekiel

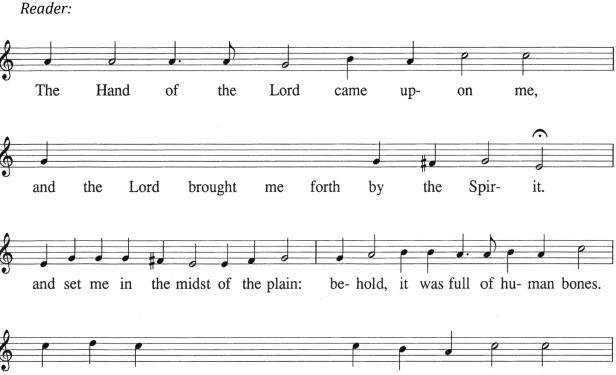
Ezekiel 37:1-14

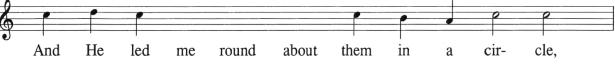
Deacon: Wisdom!

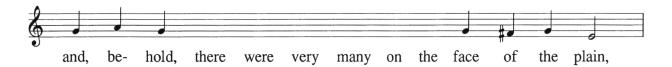
Reader:



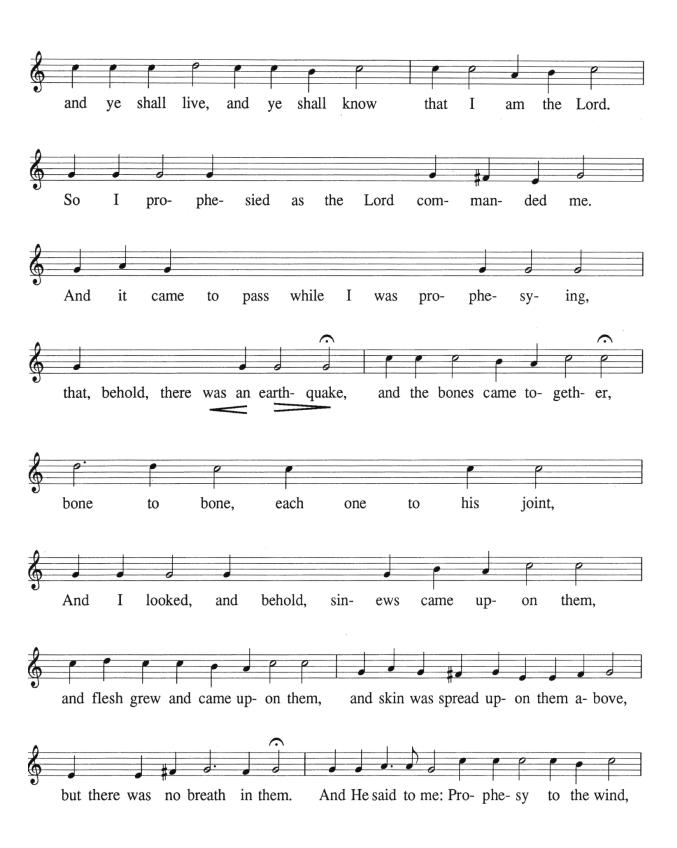
Deacon: Let us attend.

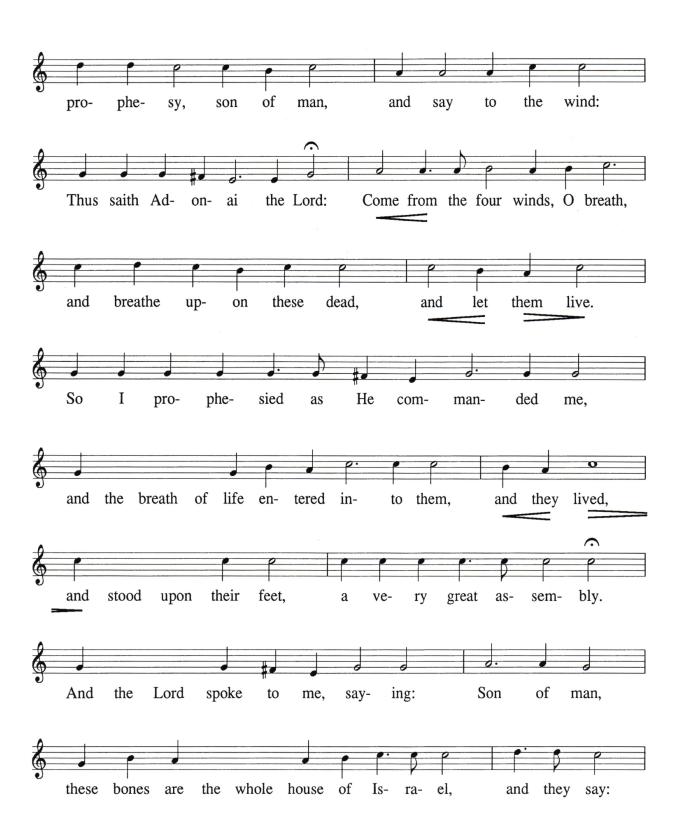


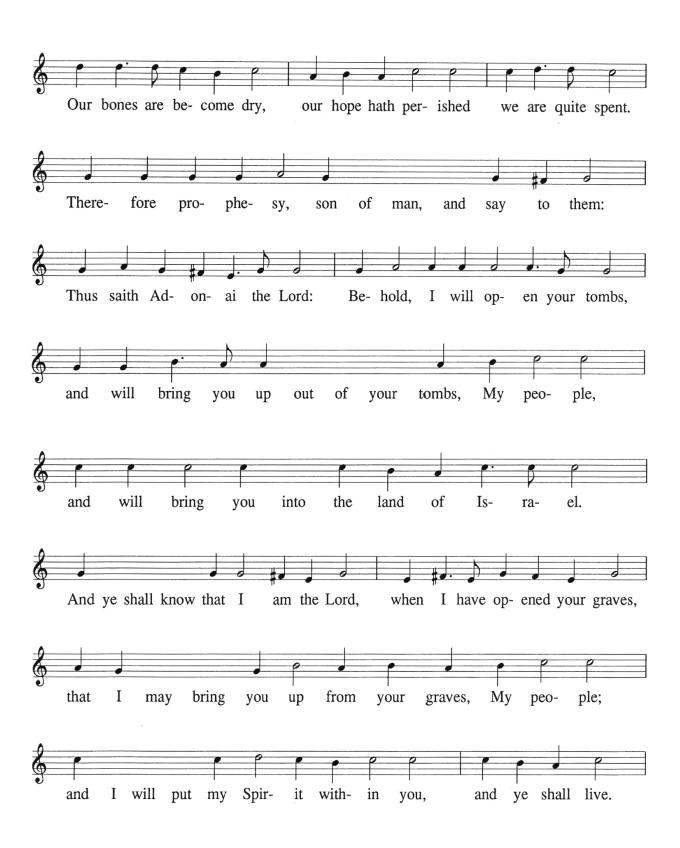


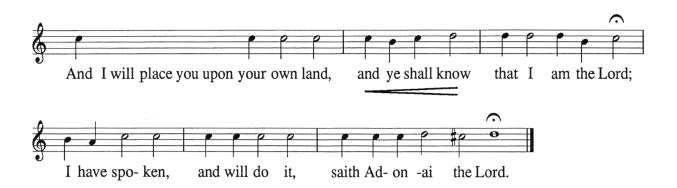












Доми стыхи жени муроносици

Holy Myrrh-bearers Ὁ Οἶκος τῶν Ἁγίων Μυροφόρων

www.myrrh-bearers.org

≱ВБД. MMXXIV