

Holy Thursday Evening

*The Matins Service of Great Friday
Service of the Holy Passions Gospels*

The priest, standing before the Royal Doors, makes three metanias and says in an audible voice:

DEACON: Bless, Master.

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

PEOPLE: Amen.

PRIEST: Glory to thee, O Lord, glory to thee.

PRIEST: O heavenly King, O Comforter, the Spirit of Truth, who art in all places, and fillest all things, treasury of good things, and Giver of life, come and dwell in us, and cleanse us from every stain and save our souls, O Good One.

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

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

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

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

All-Holy Trinity, have mercy on us. Lord, cleanse us from our sins. Master, pardon our iniquities. Holy God, visit and heal our infirmities for thy Name's sake.

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

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

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come; thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily¹ bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.²

PRIEST: For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit: now and ever, and unto ages of ages.”

PEOPLE: Amen. Lord have mercy. *(12 times)*

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

O come, let us worship and fall down before God our King. *(low bow)*

O come, let us worship and fall down before Christ, our King and our God. *(low bow)*

O come, let us worship and fall down before Christ himself, our King and our God. *(low bow)*

And Reader the following Psalms:

Psalm 20 (19)

May the Lord answer thee in the day of trouble!
May the name of the God of Jacob defend thee;
May he send thee help from the sanctuary,
and give thee support from Zion;
May he remember all thy offerings,
and enrich thy burnt sacrifices.
May he grant thee according to thine heart's desire,
and fulfill all thy plans.
We will rejoice in thy salvation,

¹Or, “living”.

²Or the evil one.

and in the name of our God we will boast!
May the Lord fulfill all thy petitions.
Now I know that the Lord has saved his anointed;
he will answer him from his holy heaven,
with mighty salvation by his right hand.
Some take pride in chariots, and some in horses;
but our pride is in the name of the Lord our God.
They have collapsed and fallen;
but we have risen and stand upright.
Save the king, O Lord, and answer us when we call.

Psalm 21 (20)

In thy strength the king rejoices, O Lord; and in thy
salvation how greatly he exults!
Thou hast given him his heart's desire,
and hast not withheld the request of his lips.
For thou hast met him with the blessings of goodness;
thou hast set a crown of precious stones on his head.
he asked thee for life, and thou gavest it to him;
length of days forever and ever.
His glory is great through thy salvation;
glory and majesty thou hast placed upon him.
For thou bestowest on him blessings forever;
thou makest him exceedingly glad with thine appearance.
For the king trusts in the Lord,
and through the mercy of the Most High he shall not be moved.
Let thine hand find all thine enemies;
let thy right hand find those who hate thee.
Thou shalt make them as a fiery oven
in the time of thine appearance;
the Lord shall afflict them in his wrath,
and the fire shall consume them.
Their offspring thou shalt destroy from the earth,
and their descendants from among mankind.
For they intended evil against thee;
they devised a plot which they are not able to perform.
Therefore thou wilt make them turn their backs;
thou wilt make ready thine arrows on thy string toward their faces.

Be exalted, O Lord, in thine own strength!
we will sing and praise thy power.

The priest takes up the censer and does the great censuring.

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

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

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

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

All-Holy Trinity, have mercy on us. Lord, cleanse us from our sins. Master, pardon our iniquities. Holy God, visit and heal our infirmities for thy Name's sake.

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

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

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come; thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily³ bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.⁴

PRIEST: For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit: now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

PEOPLE: Amen.

Troparia

O Lord, save thy people and bless thine inheritance, granting them victory over all adversaries, and by thy Cross protect thy community.

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

O Christ our God, uplifted on the Cross by thine own will, bestow thy mercy upon the new people of thy name; and in thy might make glad the Orthodox, granting to them victory over all adversaries. May they have as an ally thine invincible weapon of peace.

³Or, "living".

⁴Or, "the evil one."

Now and ever and unto ages of ages, Amen.

O eminent and victorious champion, O good and all-praised Theotokos, do not overlook our supplications. Strengthen the community of the Orthodox; save those called to govern; and grant them victory from heaven; for thou, O only blessed one, gavest birth to God.

Litany

The priest, standing before the Holy table, censes one side on every petition while intoning the following petitions:

PRIEST: Have mercy on us, O God, according to thy great goodness; we pray thee, hearken, and have mercy.

PEOPLE: Lord, have mercy. *(Three times)*

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

PEOPLE: Lord, have mercy. *(Three times)*

PRIEST: Again we pray for our Father and Metropolitan PHILIP and for all our brethren in Christ.

PEOPLE: Lord, have mercy. *(Three times)*

PRIEST: For thou art a merciful God and lovest mankind, and unto thee we give glory: to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: now and ever and unto ages of ages.

PEOPLE: Amen. Father, bless in the name of the Lord.

PRIEST: Glory to the holy, consubstantial, life-giving, and undivided Trinity, always: now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

PEOPLE: Amen.

Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will among men *(Three times)*.⁵

O Lord open thou my lips, and my mouth will declare thy praise. *(Two times)*

⁵Or "Those whom he favors".

Psalm 3

O Lord, how they have increased who afflict me!
many are rising against me;
many are saying concerning my soul,
there is no salvation for him from 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 from his holy mountain.
I laid down and slept,
I awoke, for the Lord sustains me.
I will not be afraid of tens of thousands of people
who have set themselves against me all around.
Rise up, O Lord!
Deliver me, O my God!
For thou hast struck all who are my enemies without cause,
thou hast broken the teeth of the wicked.
Deliverance belongs to the Lord;
thy blessing is upon thy people.

I laid down and slept,
I awoke, for the Lord sustains me.

Psalm 38(37)

O Lord, do not rebuke me in thine anger,
or discipline me in thy wrath.
For thine arrows have pierced me,
and thine hand hast pressed down upon me.

There is no health in my flesh,
because of thine anger.
There is no peace in my bones
because of my sins.
For my iniquities are piled over my head;

a burden too heavy for me.

My wounds grow foul and fester
because of my foolishness;
I have been wretched and bowed down continually;
all day I went around mourning,
for my soul was filled with delusion.
There is no health in my flesh,
I have been utterly afflicted and brought down.
I have roared because of the tumult of my heart.

O Lord, all my longing is before thee;
my sighing is not hidden from thee.
My heart throbs, my strength fails me;
and the light of my eyes has gone from me.
My friends and neighbors drew near and stand against me,
but my relatives stand far off.
Those who seek my spirit pressed hard on me,
those who seek to hurt me spoke of ruin,
and meditated treachery all day long.

But I was like the deaf, who do not hear;
I was like the mute, who cannot speak.
Truly, I was like one who does not hear,
and in whose mouth is no retort.

For in thee, O Lord, I trusted;
it is thou, O Lord my God, who wilt hear me.
For I said, "Do not let my enemies rejoice over me."
For when my feet slipped, they boasted against me.

For I am ready to fall,
and my pain is ever before me.
I confess my iniquity;
I am sorry for my sin.

But my enemies are mighty
and are stronger than I,
and those who hate me wrongfully have multiplied.
Those who render evil for good slandered me,
because I followed after righteousness.

Forsake me not, O Lord;
O my God, do not be far from me;
make haste to help me,
O Lord, my salvation.

Forsake me not, O Lord;
O my God, do not be far from me;
make haste to help me,
O Lord, my salvation.

Psalm 63(62)

O God, thou art my God, early will I seek thee,
my soul thirsts for thee;
my flesh also longs for thee,
as in a dry and trackless land,
where there is no water.
Thus I have looked upon thee in the sanctuary,
beholding thy power and glory.
Because thy mercy is better than life,
my lips will praise thee.
Thus I will bless thee as long as I live;
in thy name I will lift up my hands.

Let my soul be filled with fat and abundance,
and my joyful lips will praise thy name.
When I was thinking of thee in my bed,
I meditated on thee in the watches of the night:
for thou hast been my help,
and in the shelter of thy wings I rejoice.

My soul clung to thee;
thy right hand upheld me.

And those who sought my soul in vain
shall go down into the depths of the earth;
they shall be given over to the power of the sword,
they shall be prey for jackals.
But the king shall rejoice in God;
all who swear by him shall exult,
for the mouths of those who speak lies shall be stopped.
I meditated on thee in the watches of the night:
for thou hast been my help,
and in the shelter of thy wings I rejoice.
My soul clung to thee;
thy right hand upheld me.

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

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, glory to thee, O God. *(low bow)*

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

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

Psalm 88 <87>

O Lord, God of my salvation,
I have cried out day and night before thee;
let my prayer come before thee;
incline thine ear to my supplication.
For my soul is full of trouble,
and my life draws near to Hades.
I have been counted among those who
go down to the pit;
I became like those who have no help,
adrift among the dead,

like the wounded ones, cast out,
who sleep in the tombs,
like those whom thou rememberest no more,
for they were cut off from thy hand.
Thou hast put me in the depths of the pit,
in the dark regions, and in the shadow of death.
Thy wrath has lain heavily upon me,
and thou hast overwhelmed me with
all thine anger.

Thou hast removed my companions far from me;
they have made me an abomination to themselves,
I am shut in so that I cannot escape;
my eyes grew dim through misery.
Every day I call on thee, O Lord;
I spread out my hands to thee.
Dost thou work wonders for the dead?
Or do the physicians raise them to praise thee?
Is thy mercy declared in the grave,
or thy truth in Hades?
Are thy wonders known in the darkness,
or thy righteousness in the land of
forgetfulness?

But I cry out to thee, O Lord;
in the morning my prayer comes before thee.
O Lord, why dost thou cast me off?
Why dost thou hide thy face from me?
I am in misery and trouble from my youth up,
I have been exalted and brought low,
I am driven to despair.
Thy wrath has overwhelmed me;
thy terrors have frightened me,
they surrounded me like a flood all day long;
they have closed in upon me, and cut off all assistance.

Thou hast removed friends and acquaintances far from me
because of my wretchedness.

O Lord, God of my salvation,
I have cried out day and night before thee;
let my prayer come before thee;
incline thine ear to my supplication.

Psalm 103 <102>

Bless the Lord, O my soul,
and all that is within me
bless his holy name.
Bless the Lord, O my soul,
and do not forget all his benefits--
who forgives all your iniquities,
who heals all your diseases,
who redeems your life from corruption,
who crowns you with mercy and compassion,
who satisfies your desire with good,
so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.

The Lord works mercy and justice for all who are oppressed.
He made known his ways to Moses,
his acts to the people of Israel.
The Lord is merciful and gracious,
forbearing and very merciful.
He will not keep his anger forever,
nor will he forever be wrathful.
He does not deal with us
according to our sins,
nor repay us according to our iniquities.
For as high as the heavens are above the earth,
so great is his mercy toward those who fear him;
as far as the east is from the west,
so far does he remove our transgressions from us.

As a father has compassion for his children,
so the Lord has compassion for those who fear him.
For he knows how we were made;
he remembers that we are dust.

As for people, their days are like grass;
they flourish like a flower of the field;
for the wind passes over it, and it is gone,
and its place knows it no more.
But the mercy of the Lord is from everlasting
to everlasting on those who fear him,
and his righteousness to children's children,
to those who keep his covenant
and remember to do his commandments.

The Lord has prepared his throne in the heavens,
and his kingdom rules over all.
Bless the Lord, all his angels,
you mighty ones who do his bidding,
obedient to his voice.
Bless the Lord, all his hosts,
his ministers who do his will.
Bless the Lord all his works,
in all places of his dominion.
Bless the Lord, O my soul,
in all places of his dominion.
Bless the Lord, O my soul.

Psalm 143 (142)

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

For the enemy has persecuted my soul,
crushing my life to the ground,
making me sit in darkness like those
who have been long dead.
Therefore, my spirit was grieved within me;
my heart within me was troubled.
I remembered the days of old,
I meditated on all thy deeds,
I meditated on the works of thy hands.
I stretched out my hands to thee;
my soul thirsts for thee like a dry land.
Answer me quickly, O Lord;
my spirit has failed.
Hide not thy face from me,
or I shall be like those who go down to the pit.

Let me hear of thy mercy in the morning,
for in thee I have put my hope.
Teach me the way I should go,
for th thee have I lifted up my soul.

Save me, O Lord, from my enemies;
I have fled to thee for refuge.
Teach me to do thy will,
for thou art my God.
Let your good Spirit lead me in a straight path.

For thy name's sake, O Lord,
give life to me.
In thy righteousness,
bring my soul out of affliction.
In thy mercy, destroy my enemies;
and bring to naught all my adversaries;
for I am thy servant.

Answer me in thy righteousness.

Enter not into judgment with thy servant *(Twice)*.

Let thy good Spirit lead me in a straight path.

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

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, glory to thee, O God. *(low bow)*

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, glory to thee, O God. *(low bow)*

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, glory to thee, O God. *(low bow)*

Our God and our Hope, Glory to thee.

While the preceding six psalms are being read, the priest says the following twelve morning prayers. The first three are said before the Altar, and the remaining nine are said standing before the icon of Christ.

1.

We give thanks to thee, O Lord our God, who raised us from our beds, and put a word of praise in our mouths,⁶ so that we may worship and call on thy holy name.⁷ We implore thy mercies, which thou hast given always for our life. Send thy help⁸ upon us and all who stand before the face of thy holy glory, eagerly waiting the rich mercy, which is from thee. Grant that we, in awe and love, may always worship thee, praise thee, sing hymns to thee, and fall down before thine indescribable goodness. For unto thee are due all-glory, honor and worship: to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit: now and ever, and unto ages of ages, Amen.

2.

⁶(Ps.40<39>:3).

⁷(Ps.80<78>:18).

⁸(Ps.20<19>:2).

Our soul yearns for thee, O our God, in the night;⁹ for thy commandments are a light upon the earth. Teach us to fulfill righteousness and holiness in thy fear; for we glorify thee, our God, HE WHO IS. Incline thine ear, and hear us, and remember, O Lord, by name those who are present with us and those who pray with us, and save them by thy might. Bless thy people and sanctify thine inheritance, give peace to thy world, to thy churches, to the priests, to all civil authorities, and to all thy people. For blessed and glorified is thy most honorable and majestic name: of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages, Amen.

3.

Our soul yearns for thee, O our God, in the night;¹⁰ for thy commandments are a light upon the earth. Teach me, O God, thy righteousness, thy commandments, and thy statutes;¹¹ or I will sleep the sleep of death¹² in sins. Drive away all darkness from our hearts; and grant us the sun of righteousness; and by the seal of thy Holy Spirit, preserve our life unaffected. Guide our steps in the way of peace. Grant us to behold the dawn and the day with rejoicing, that we may send up our morning prayers to thee; for thine is the majesty, the kingdom, the power, and the glory, of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages, Amen.

4.

⁹(Is.26:9).

¹⁰(Is.26:9).

¹¹(Ps.119<118>:135).

¹²(Ps.13<12>:3).

O Master, our God, holy and incomprehensible, who said, “Let light shine out of darkness”;¹³ who gave us rest through the sleep of the night and raised us up to glorify and implore thy goodness: as we now ask thy tender loving-kindness, receive us who fall down before thee and give thanks to thee to the utmost of our power. Grant us all our petitions which lead us to salvation. Appoint us to be children of light and of the day,¹⁴ and heirs of thine everlasting good things. Remember, O Lord, according to thine abundant mercy,¹⁵ all thy people who are present with us and who pray with us, and all our brethren who are on land, on sea, and in the air, and in every place of thy mastery, who implore thy love for mankind and thy help; and grant thy great mercy to all, that being preserved in safety in body and soul, we may with boldness glorify thy marvelous and blessed name, of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages, Amen.

5.

O treasury of good things, ever-flowing fountain, O wonder-working, omnipotent and almighty holy Father: we all fall before thee; and we pray to thee, calling upon thy mercies and thy compassion to aid and help our affliction. Remember, O Lord, thy suppliants; receive our morning prayers as incense before thee; consider not anyone of us to be without worth; but preserve us all with thy compassion. Remember, O Lord, those who watch over thy flock and sing to thy glory and to the glory of thine only-begotten Son and thy Holy Spirit. Be their helper and protector. Receive their supplications upon thy celestial and spiritual altar; for thou art our God, and unto thee we give glory: to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit: now and ever, and unto ages of ages, Amen.

6.

We give thanks unto thee, O Lord God of our salvation; for thou dost all things for the benefit of our souls, so that we may ever look up to thee, the Savior and Benefactor of our souls; for thou gavest us rest in the night just passed, and raised us from our beds, and enabled us to stand and to fall down before thy most holy name. Wherefore, we entreat thee, O Lord, give us grace and power, so that we may in full awareness be made worthy to sing praises to thee and to pray without ceasing, working out our salvation in fear and trembling, by the help of thy Christ. Remember, O Lord, those who cry out to thee in the night. Hear them, and have mercy, and crush under their feet the invisible and hostile enemies. For thou art the King of Peace, and Savior of our souls, and unto thee we give glory: to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit: now and ever, and unto ages of ages, Amen.

7.

¹³(2 Cor. 4:6).

¹⁴(1 Thess. 5:5)

¹⁵(Ps.69<68>:16).

O God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, thou hast raised us up from our beds and hast gathered us together at this hour of prayer. Grant us grace in the opening of our mouths; and receive our thanksgiving, offered to the utmost of our ability; and teach us thy statutes, for we do not know how to pray as we ought¹⁶ unless thou guidest us, O Lord, by thy Holy Spirit. Wherefore, we entreat thee: Remit, forgive, pardon all the sins we may have committed to this present hour by word or deed or thought, voluntary or involuntary: for if thou, O Lord, shouldest mark iniquities, who could stand?¹⁷ For from thee is redemption, and thou only art holy and mighty and the helper and protector of our life. Our praise is continually of thee.¹⁸ Blessed and glorified be the supreme might of thy kingdom: of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages, Amen.

8.

¹⁶(Ro.8:26).

¹⁷(Ps 130<129>:3).

¹⁸(Ps 71<70>6).

O Lord our God, thou hast driven away from us the indolence of sleep and hast assembled us together by a holy calling, so that in the night also we may lift up our hands and give thanks for thy righteous ordinances.¹⁹ Receive our prayers, petitions, praises, and night-time worship. And grant us, O Lord, a confident faith that cannot be put to shame, firm hope and sincere love. Bless our going out and our coming in,²⁰ our deeds, words and thoughts. Grant us that we may come to the beginning of the day, praising, singing hymns, and blessing the goodness of thine inexpressible kindness; for blessed be thy most holy name, and glorified be thy Kingdom: of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages, Amen.

9.

O Master, lover of mankind, shine within our hearts the pure light of thy divine knowledge; and open the eyes of our minds that we may comprehend²¹ the message of thy Gospel. Instill in us, also, reverence for thy blessed commandments, so that having conquered²² sinful desires, we may pursue a spiritual way of life, both thinking and doing all those things that are pleasing to thee.²³ For thou art our sanctification, and unto thee we give glory: to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit: now and ever, and unto ages of ages, Amen.

10.

¹⁹(Ps. 119<118>:160).

²⁰(Ps.121<120>:8).

²¹(Eph.1:18).

²²(Ps. 91<90>:13).

²³(1 John 3:22).

O Lord our God, thou hast given us forgiveness through repentance and hast shown the repentance of the prophet David as a pattern of the acknowledgment of sin and of confession that leads to forgiveness. Have mercy, O Master, according to thy great mercy, on us who are falling into many and great sins.²⁴ According to thine abundant mercy, blot out our transgressions.²⁵ Against thee have we sinned, O Lord, who knows the hidden and secret things in the human heart and has authority to forgive sins.²⁶ Thou hast created a clean heart in me and established a yearning spirit within me and made known the joy of thy salvation. Cast me not away from thy presence.²⁷ But as thou art good and the lover of mankind, take delight that, until our uttermost breath, we may offer unto thee the sacrifice of righteousness, and an oblation upon thine altar. Through the mercy and compassion and love for mankind of thine only-begotten Son, with whom thou art blessed, together with thine all-holy and good and life giving Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages, Amen.

11.

God, our God, thou hast brought into existence by thine own will the powers endowed with reason and intelligence. We pray thee and we supplicate thee: Receive our glorification, offered together with all thy creatures, according to the utmost of our power. Reward us with the rich gifts of thy goodness; for unto thee every knee bows, whether in heaven, or on earth, or in the underworld, and every human spirit and creature sings hymns to thine inexpressible glory; for thou alone art the true and most merciful God. For all the powers of heaven praise thee, and unto thee they give glory: to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit: now and ever, and unto ages of ages, Amen.

12.

²⁴(Ps.51<50>:1).

²⁵(Ps. 51<50:1).

²⁶(Mt. 9:6).

²⁷(Ps 51<50>10-12).

We praise thee, we sing unto thee, we bless thee, we give thanks unto thee, O God of our fathers; for thou hast made the shades of night to pass away and hast shown us once more the light of the day. And we entreat thy goodness: be gracious to our sins, and receive our prayer in thy great tenderness. For we flee unto thee, the merciful and almighty God. Shine within our hearts the true sun of thy righteousness. Enlighten our minds. And guard all our senses that, walking decently as in the day in the way of thy commandments, we may reach the eternal life--for thou art the fountain of life--and that we may be accounted worthy to enjoy thine unapproachable light.²⁸ For thou art our God, and unto thee we give glory: to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit: now and ever, and unto ages of ages, Amen.

The Litany of Peace

DEACON: In peace let us pray to the Lord.

CHOIR: Lord, have mercy.

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

CHOIR: Lord, have mercy.

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

CHOIR: Lord, have mercy.

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

CHOIR: Lord, have mercy.

DEACON: For our Father and Metropolitan PHILIP, for the venerable priesthood, the diaconate in Christ, for all the clergy and the people, let us pray to the Lord.

CHOIR: Lord, have mercy.

DEACON: For the President of the United States and all civil authorities, and for our armed forces everywhere, let us pray to the Lord.

CHOIR: Lord, have mercy.

²⁸(1 Tim 6:16).

DEACON: For this city, and for every city and land, and for the faithful who dwell therein, let us pray to the Lord.

CHOIR: Lord, have mercy.

DEACON: For healthful seasons, for abundance of the fruits of the earth, and for peaceful times, let us pray to the Lord.

CHOIR: Lord, have mercy.

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

CHOIR: Lord, have mercy.

DEACON: For our deliverance from all tribulation, wrath, danger, 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 all-holy, immaculate, most blessed and glorious Lady Theotokos and ever-virgin Mary, with all the Saints, let us commend ourselves and each other, and all our life unto Christ our God.

CHOIR: To thee, O Lord.

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

CHOIR: Amen.

They chant Alleluia (3 times) in the eighth Tone:

Eighth Tone

CHOIR: 1. My soul yearns for thee in the night, for thy commandments are a light in the earth²⁹.

²⁹(Is. 26:9).

Alleluia. *(Three times)*

2. Learn righteousness, O inhabitants of the earth³⁰.

Alleluia. *(Three times)*

³⁰(Is. 26:9).

3. Thy zeal will take hold of the ignorant people, and fire will consume thine adversaries³¹.

Alleluia. *(Three times)*

4. Increase thy punishment upon them, increase thy punishment upon the glorious ones of the earth³².

Alleluia. *(Three times)*

Tone Eight

The Glorious disciples being enlightened at the Supper during the washing of the feet, the impious Judas was stricken and darkened by the love of money. And to lawless judges he delivered thee up, O righteous judge. Behold, O lover of money, he who hung himself for this very love. Flee from the greedy desire which dared such a deed against the Master. O Lord, who are Good toward all, glory to thee. *(Three times)*

DEACON: And that we may be accounted worthy to hear the Holy Gospel, let us pray to the Lord our God.

PEOPLE: Lord, Have mercy. *(Three times)*

DEACON: Wisdom. Attend, let us hear the Holy Gospel.

PRIEST: Peace be to all.

PEOPLE: And to thy Spirit.

PRIEST: The reading from the Holy Gospel according to Saint John.

PEOPLE: Glory to thee, O Lord, Glory to thee.

DEACON: Let us attend.

³¹(Is. 26:11).

³²(Is. 26:15).

First Gospel
John 13:31-38

The Lord said to his disciples, “Now is the Son of Man glorified, and in him God is glorified. If God is glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself, and glorify him at once. Little children, yet a little while I am with you. You will seek me; and as I said to the Jews, so now I say to you ‘Where I am going, you cannot come.’ A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; even as I have loved you, that you also love one another. By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.”

Simon Peter said to Jesus, “Lord, where are you going?” Jesus answered him, “Where I am going you cannot follow me now, but you shall follow me afterward.” Peter said to him, “Lord, why cannot I follow you now? I will lay down my life for your sake.” Jesus answered, “Will you lay down your life for my sake? Truly, truly, I say to you, the cock will not crow, till you have denied me three times.”

John 14:1-31

Let not your hearts be troubled; believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father’s house are many rooms; if it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And when I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself; that where I am, you may be also. And where I am going you know, and the way you know.” Thomas said to him, “Lord, we do not know where you are going; how can we know the way?” Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father but by me. If you had known me, you would have known my Father also; henceforth, you know him and have seen him.”

Philip said to him, “Lord, show us the Father, and we shall be satisfied.” Jesus said to him, “Have I been with you so long, and yet you do not know me, Philip? He who has seen me has seen the Father; so how can you say, ‘Show us the Father’? Do you not believe that I am in the Father, and the Father in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own authority; but the Father who dwells in me does the works. Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father in me, or else believe me for the sake of the works themselves.

“Truly, truly, I say to you, he who believes in me shall also do the works that I do; and greater works than these will he do because I go to my Father. Whatever you ask in my name, I will do it, that the Father may be glorified in the Son; If you ask anything in my name, I will do it.

If you love me, keep my commandments. And I will pray to the Father, and he will give you another Counselor to be with you forever; the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive because it neither sees him nor knows him; you know him, for he dwells with you and will be in you.

I will not leave you desolate; I will come to you. Yet a little while longer and the world will see me no more, but you will see me. Because I live, you will live also. In that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. He who has my commandments and keeps them, he it is who loves me. And he who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and manifest myself to him.” Judas (not Iscariot) said to him, “Lord, how is it that you will manifest yourself to us, and not to the world?” Jesus answered him, “If a man loves me, he will keep my word; and my Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him. He who does not love me does not keep my words; and the word which you hear is not mine but

the Father's who sent me.

These things I have spoken to you while I am still with you. But the Counselor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you. Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid. You heard me say to you, 'I go away and I will come to you.' If you loved me, you would have rejoiced because I go to the Father, for my Father is greater than I. And now I have told you before it takes place, so that when it does take place, you may believe. I will no longer talk much with you, for the ruler of this world is coming. He has no power over me. But I do as the Father has commanded me so that the world may know that I love the Father. Arise, let us go hence.

John 15:1-27

I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine-dresser. Every branch of mine that bears no fruit, he takes away; and every branch that bears fruit, he prunes that it may bear more fruit. You are already clean by the word which I have spoken to you. Abide in me and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me. I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in me and I in him, he it is who bears much fruit: for apart from me you can do nothing. If a man does not abide in me, he is cast out as a branch and withers; and the branches are gathered and thrown into the fire and burned. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you will, and it shall be done for you. By this my Father is glorified: that you bear much fruit, and so prove to be my disciples. As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full.

This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. Greater love has no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you. No longer do I call you servants, for the servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all that I have heard from my Father I have made known to you. You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit, and that your fruit should abide; so that whatever you ask the Father in my name, he may give it to you. This I command you, to love one another.

If the world hates you, you know that it hated me before it hated you. If you were of the world, the world would love its own. But because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you. Remember the word that I said to you, 'A servant is not greater than his master.' If they persecuted me, they will also persecute you. If they kept my word, they will keep yours also. But all this they will do to you for my name's sake because they do not know him who sent me. If I had not come and spoken to them, they would not have sin, but now they have no excuse for their sin. He who hates me hates my Father also. If I had not done among them the works which no one else did, they would not have sin; but now they have seen and hated both me and my Father. It is to fulfil the word that is written in their law, 'They hated me without a cause.' But when the Counselor comes, whom I shall send to you from the Father, even the Spirit of truth who proceeds from the Father, he will bear witness to me. And you also are witnesses because you have been with me from the beginning.

John 16:1-33

I have said all this to you to keep you from falling away. They will put you out of the synagogues; indeed, the hour is coming when whoever kills you will think he is offering service to God. And they will do this because they have not known the Father nor me. But I have said these things to you, that when their hour comes, you may remember that I told you of them.

I did not say these things to you from the beginning because I was with you. But now I am going to him who sent me, yet none of you asks me, ‘Where are you going?’ But because I have said these things to you, sorrow has filled your heart. Nevertheless I tell you the truth. It is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Counselor will not come to you; but if I go away, I will send him to you. And when he comes, he will convict the world concerning sin, and righteousness, and judgment: concerning sin, because they do not believe in me; concerning righteousness, because I go to the Father and you will see me no more; concerning judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged.

I have yet many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth; for he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak; and he will declare to you the things that are to come. He will glorify me, for he will take what is mine and declare it to you. All that the Father has is mine. Therefore I said that he will take what is mine and declare it to you.

A little while, and you will see me no more; again a little while, and you will see me because I go to the Father.” Some of his disciples said to one another: “What is this that he says to us, ‘A little while, and you will not see me; and again a little while, and you will see me’; and, ‘because I go to the Father?’” They said, “What does he mean by ‘A little while’? We do not know what he means.” Jesus knew that they wanted to ask him, so he said to them, “Is this what you are asking yourselves: what I mean by saying, ‘A little while, and you will not see me; and again a little while, and you will see me’? Truly, truly, I say to you, you will weep and lament, but the world will rejoice; you will be sorrowful, but your sorrow will turn into joy. When a woman is in travail, she has sorrow because her hour has come; but when she is delivered of the child, she no longer remembers her anguish, for joy that a child is born into the world. So you have sorrow now; but I will see you again and your hearts will rejoice, and no one will take your joy from you. In that day you will ask nothing of me. Truly, truly, I say to you, if you ask anything of the Father, he will give it to you in my name. Hitherto, you have asked nothing in my name. Ask, and you will receive, that your joy may be full.

I have spoken to you in figures; the hour is coming when I shall no longer speak to you in figures, but tell you plainly of the Father. In that day you will ask in my name, and I do not say to you that I shall pray to the Father for you; for the Father himself loves you because you have loved me and have believed that I came from God. I came from the Father and have come into the world. Again, I am leaving the world and going to the Father.”

His disciples said, “Ah, now you are speaking plainly, and not in any figure! Now we know that you know all things and need no one to question you. By this we believe that you came from God.” Jesus answered them, “Do you now believe? The hour is coming, indeed, it has come, when you will be scattered, every man to his own, and will leave me alone; yet I am not alone, for the Father is with me. I have said this to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world.”

John 17:1-26

When Jesus had spoke these words, he lifted up his eyes to heaven, and said: “Father, the hour has come. Glorify thy Son, that thy Son also may glorify

thee, since thou hast given him power over all flesh, to give eternal life to all whom thou hast given him. And this is eternal life, that they may know thee, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom thou hast sent. I glorified thee on the earth, having accomplished the work which thou hast given me to do. And now, Father, glorify me together with thyself, with the glory which I had with thee before the world was.

I have manifested thy name to the men whom thou gavest me out of the world. They were thine, thou gavest them to me, and they have kept thy word. Now they know that everything that thou hast given me is from thee, for I have given them the words which thou gavest me; and they have received them, and know in truth that I came from thee; and they have believed that thou didst send me. I am praying for them. I am not praying for the world but for those whom thou hast given me, for they are thine. And all mine are thine, and thine are mine, and I am glorified in them. And now I am no more in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to thee. Holy Father, keep them in thy name, which thou hast given me, that they may be one as we are. While I was with them in the world, I kept them in thy name, which thou gavest me, I have guarded them, and none of them is lost but the son of perdition, that the Scripture might be fulfilled. But now I am coming to thee, and these things I speak in the world, that they may have my joy fulfilled in themselves. I have given them thy word; and the world has hated them because they are not of the world, even as I am not of the world. I do not pray that thou shouldest take them out of the world, but that thou shouldest keep them from the evil one. They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world. Sanctify them in the truth. Thy word is truth. As thou hast sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world. And for their sakes I sanctify myself, that they also may be sanctified in truth.

I do not pray for these only, but also for those who believe in me through their word; that they may all be one, even as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee; that they also may be one in us, so that the world may believe that thou hast sent me. The glory which thou hast given me I have given to them, that they may be one even as we are one: I in them, and thou in me; that they may become perfectly one, so that the world may know that thou hast sent me, and hast loved them even as thou hast loved me. Father, I desire that they also, whom thou hast given me, may be with me where I am, to behold my glory which thou hast given me; for thou loved me before the foundation of the world. O righteous Father! The world has not known thee, but I have known thee, and these know that thou hast sent me. I made known to them thy name, and I will make it known, that the love with which thou hast loved me may be in them, and I in them.”

John 18:1

When Jesus had spoken these words, he went forth with his disciples across the Kidron valley, where there was a garden, which he and his disciples entered.

PEOPLE: Glory to thy long-suffering, O Lord, Glory to thee.

First Antiphon, Eighth Tone

CHOIR: The rulers of the people took counsel together against the Lord and his anointed.³³

³³(Ps. 2:2).

They denounced me with a lawless accusation,³⁴ Lord, Lord, do not forsake me.

³⁴(Ps. 41<40>:8).

Let us present our senses purified to Christ, and as his friends let us lay down our lives for his sake. Let us not, as Judas, choke ourselves with the cares for this life, but let us cry in the private rooms³⁵ of our hearts: Our Father who art in heaven,³⁶ rescue us from the evil one.³⁷

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

Theotokion

As a Virgin thou hast not known wedlock, yet thou hast given birth to a child and hast remained virgin, O unwed Mother, Mary the Theotokos, implore Christ our God to save us.

Second Antiphon, Second Tone

CHOIR: Judas ran to the law-transgressing scribes and said: “What will you give me if I betray him to you?”³⁸ While they were conspiring to betray thee, thou stood invisibly in the midst of them. O Lord, who knowest human hearts, have pity on our souls.

In compassion let us serve God, as did Mary at the supper, and let us not acquire love of money, like Judas, so that we may be ever with Christ³⁹ our God.

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

³⁵(Matt. 6:6).

³⁶(Matt. 6:9).

³⁷(Matt. 6:13).

³⁸(Matt. 26:15).

³⁹(John 17:1-24).

Theotokion

CHOIR: O Virgin, never cease to implore him to whom thou didst inexplicably give birth, so he may rescue those who take refuge in thee, for he is the lover of mankind.

Third Antiphon Second Tone

CHOIR: For raising of Lazarus, the children of the Hebrews cried out: Hosanna⁴⁰ to thee, O lover of mankind. But Judas the law breaker was unwilling to understand.

O Christ our God, at thy Supper thou didst say in advance: “One of you will betray me.”⁴¹ But Judas the law breaker was unwilling to understand.

O Lord, when John asked thee, “Who will betray thee?”⁴² Thou didst make him known through the giving of the bread. But Judas the law breaker was unwilling to understand.

O Lord, for thirty pieces of silver and with a false kiss, the Jews planned to kill thee. But Judas the law breaker was unwilling to understand.

O Christ our God, at the washing of the feet, thou didst exhort thy disciples saying: “You also should do as I have done to you.”⁴³ But Judas the law breaker was unwilling to understand.

⁴⁰“save, we pray” (Ps. 118<117>:25).

⁴¹(Matt. 26:21).

⁴²(John 13:25-6).

⁴³(John 13:15).

Thou didst say to thy disciples, O our God: “Stay awake and pray that you may not come into temptation.”⁴⁴ But Judas the law breaker was unwilling to understand.

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

Theotokion

CHOIR: O Theotokos, deliver thy servants from danger, for after God, we all take refuge in thee, as an impregnable rampart and protection.

Kathisma (Sessional Hymn)

Seventh Tone

CHOIR: As thou fedest the Disciples at the Supper, knowing the conspiracy of the betrayal, thou proved Judas guilty. Thou didst recognize him as an incorrigible man, and thou madest it known that thou wast delivered to death by thine own will, to take the world away from the enemy. O long-suffering Lord, glory to thee.

DEACON: And that we may be accounted worthy to hear the Holy Gospel, let us pray to the Lord our God.

PEOPLE: Lord, Have mercy. (*Three times*)

DEACON: Wisdom. Attend, let us hear the Holy Gospel.

PRIEST: Peace be to all.

PEOPLE: And to thy Spirit.

PRIEST: The reading from the Holy Gospel according to Saint John.

PEOPLE: Glory to thee, O Lord, glory to thee.

PRIEST: Let us attend.

Second Gospel
John 18:1-28

⁴⁴(Matt. 26:41).

At that time, Jesus went forth with his disciples over the Kidron brook, where there was a garden, which he and his disciples entered. Now Judas, who betrayed him, also knew the place; for Jesus often met there with his disciples. So Judas, procuring a band of soldiers and some officers from the chief priests and Pharisees, went there with lanterns, torches, and weapons. Then Jesus, knowing all that was to befall him, came forward and said to them, "Whom do you seek?" They answered him, "Jesus of Nazareth." Jesus said to them, "I am he." And Judas, who betrayed him, was standing with them. When Jesus said to them, "I am he," they drew back and fell to the ground. Again Jesus asked them, "Whom do you seek?" And they said, "Jesus of Nazareth." Jesus answered, "I told you that I am he; so, if you seek me, let these men go." This was to fulfil the word which he had spoken, "Of those whom thou gavest me I lost none." Then Simon Peter, having a sword, drew it and struck the high priest's servant, and cut off his right ear. The servant's name was Malchus. Jesus said to Peter, "Put your sword into the sheath; Shall I not drink the cup which the Father has given me?"

So the band of soldiers and their captain and the officers of the Jews seized Jesus and bound him. First they led him to Annas, for he was the father-in-law of Caiaphas who was high priest that year. It was Caiaphas who had given counsel to the Jews that it was expedient that one man should die for the people.

Simon Peter followed Jesus, and so did another disciple. As this disciple was known to the high priest, he entered the court of the high priest along with Jesus, while Peter stood outside at the door. So the other disciple, who was known to the high priest, went out and spoke to the maid who kept the door, and brought Peter in. Then the maid who kept the door said to Peter, "Are you not also one of this Man's disciples?" Peter said, "I am not." Now the servants and officers had made a charcoal fire, for it was cold, and they were warming themselves. Peter also was with them standing and warming himself.

The high priest then questioned Jesus about his disciples and his doctrine. Jesus answered him, "I have spoken openly to the world. I have always taught in synagogue and in the temple, where all Jews come together; I have said nothing secretly. Why do you ask me? Ask those who have heard me what I said to them; they know what I said." When Jesus had said this, one of the officers standing by struck him with his hand, saying, "Is that how you answer the high priest?" Jesus answered him, "If I have spoken wrongly, bear witness to the wrong; but if I have spoken rightly, why do you strike me?" Annas then sent him bound to Caiaphas the high priest.

Now Simon Peter was standing and warming himself. They said to him, "Are you not also one of his disciples?" He denied it and said, "I am not!" One of the servants of the high priest, a kinsman of the man whose ear Peter cut off, asked: "Did I not see you in the garden with him?" Peter again denied it; and at once the cock crowed.

Then they led Jesus from Caiaphas to the Praetorium. It was early. They themselves did not enter the Praetorium, so that they might not be defiled, but might eat the Pascha.

PEOPLE: Glory to thy long-suffering, O Lord, Glory to thee.

Fourth Antiphon, Fifth Tone

PEOPLE: Today Judas rejects the Master and accepts the devil. Blinded by the passion of the love of money, he became darkened losing light. How could

he see, having sold the illuminating Star for thirty pieces of silver? But he who suffered for the world's sake has risen for us. To him let us cry: Glory to thee, for thou sufferest and sharest human sufferings.

Today Judas is disguised under godliness and thus alienates himself from the divine gift; though a disciple, he turns a traitor. Under a guise of fraternity he hides his guile. He foolishly prefers thirty pieces of silver to the Master's love, and becomes a guide to the law-transgressing council. But we have Christ as our salvation, let us glorify him.

First Tone

As brethren in Christ, let us obtain brotherly love. Let us not be careless to our neighbor, so that we may not be condemned like the unmerciful servant for money's sake, or repent like Judas to no profit.

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

Theotokion

O Mary Theotokos, virgin worthy of all praise, glorious things have been spoken of thee in all places, for thou gavest birth in the flesh to the Creator of all.

Fifth Antiphon, Sixth Tone

CHOIR: The Teacher's disciple agreed upon the price and sold the Lord for thirty pieces of silver; with a deceitful kiss he betrayed him to the transgressors of the Law to be put to death.

Today the Creator of heaven and earth said to his disciples: The hour is at hand,⁴⁵ and Judas who betrays me has come. Let none of you deny me, when you see me on the Cross between two thieves. For though I suffer as man, as Lover of mankind I save those who believe in me.

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

Theotokion

O Virgin, in the last days thou hast inexpressibly conceived and given birth to thine own Creator, save those who magnify thee.

Sixth Antiphon, Seventh Tone

CHOIR: Today Judas is watchful to betray the Lord, the pre-eternal Savior of the world, who fed the multitude with five loaves. Today the transgressor of the Law denies his Teacher; though a disciple, he betrays the Teacher. He sold for money the One who fed the people with manna.

⁴⁵(Matthew 26:45).

Today the Jews nailed to the Cross the Lord, who divided the sea with a rod and led them in the wilderness. Today they pierced his side with a spear,⁴⁶ who for their sake stroke Egypt with plagues. They offered him gall to drink, who showered down upon them manna for food.

O Lord, when thou didst approach thy voluntary passion, thou didst cry out to thy disciples: If you could not stay awake with me one hour, how did you promise to die with me? Do you see Judas, how he does not sleep but spares no effort to betray me to the transgressors of the law? Awake, and pray so that none of you may deny me when you see me on the Cross. O long-suffering Lord, glory to thee.

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

Theotokion

Rejoice, O Theotokos: whom the heavens cannot contain thou hast contained in thy womb. Rejoice, O Virgin, for thou art the proclamation of the prophets, and from thee Immanuel has shone on us. Rejoice! O Mother of Christ God.

Kathisma (Sessional Hymn)

Seventh Tone

CHOIR: O Judas, how did you become the betrayer of the Savior? Did he renounce you from the company of the Apostles? Did he deprive you of the gift of healing? As he dined with all of you, did he drive you away from the table? When he washed the other's feet, did he overlook you? How ungrateful you are for so many blessings! You were denounced for your ungrateful intent, but his enormous forbearance and great mercy are proclaimed.

DEACON: And that we may be accounted worthy to hear the Holy Gospel, let us pray to the Lord our God.

PEOPLE: Lord, Have mercy. (*Three times*)

DEACON: Wisdom. Attend, let us hear the Holy Gospel.

PRIEST: Peace be to all.

PEOPLE: And to thy Spirit.

⁴⁶(John 19: 34).

PRIEST: The reading from the Holy Gospel according to Saint Matthew.

PEOPLE: Glory to thee, O Lord, glory to thee.

PRIEST: Let us attend.

Third Gospel
Matthew 26:57-75

At that time, the soldiers seized Jesus and led him to Caiaphas the high priest, where the scribes and the elders had gathered. But Peter followed him at a distance, as far as the courtyard of the high priest. And going inside he sat with the guards to see the end. Now the chief priests and the whole council sought false testimony against Jesus that they might put him to death, but they found none, though many false witnesses came forward. At last two came forward and said, "This fellow said, 'I am able to destroy the temple of God and to build it in three days.'" And the high priest stood up and said: "Have you no answer to make? What is it that these men testify against you?" But Jesus was silent. And the high priest said to him, "I adjure you by the living God: Tell us if you are the Christ, the Son of God!" Jesus said to him, "You have said so. But I tell you, hereafter you will see the Son of Man seated at the right hand of the Power and coming on the clouds of heaven." Then the high priest tore his robes and said, "He has uttered blasphemy! Why do we still need witnesses? You have now heard his blasphemy! What is your judgment?" They answered, "He deserves death." Then they spat in his face and struck him; and some slapped him saying, "Prophecy to us, you Christ! Who is it that struck you?"

Now Peter was sitting outside in the courtyard. And a maid came up to him and said, "You also were with Jesus the Galilean." But he denied it before them all saying, "I do not know what you mean." And when he went out to the porch, another maid saw him and said to the bystanders, "This man was with Jesus of Nazareth." And again Peter denied it with an oath, "I do not know the Man!" After a little while the bystanders came up and said to Peter, "Certainly, you also are one of them, for your accent betrays you." Then Peter began to invoke a curse on himself and swear, "I do not know the Man!" And immediately the cock crowed. And Peter remembered the saying of Jesus, "Before the cock crows, you will deny me three times." And Peter went out and wept bitterly.

PEOPLE: Glory to thy long-suffering, O Lord, Glory to thee.

Seventh Antiphon, Eighth Tone

CHOIR: While enduring the transgressors of the law seizing thee, O Lord, thou didst cry aloud: Even if you strike the shepherd and scatter the twelve sheep, my disciples, yet I could bring into your presence more than twelve legions of angels. But I endure patiently, so that the secret and hidden things that I have manifested through my prophets may be fulfilled. O Lord, glory to thee.

Having denied thee three times, Peter comprehended thy words to him, so he offered to thee the tears of repentance. O Lord, have mercy on me and save me.

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

Theotokion

As a gate of salvation and a pleasant paradise, and a cloud of the eternal light, let us sing praises to the Holy Virgin and say to her, “Rejoice.”

Eighth Antiphon, Second Tone

CHOIR: O transgressors of the law, tell us what you heard from our Savior. Didn't he expound the teaching of the prophets? How then have you taken counsel to betray to Pilate him who is God and Word of God and Redeemer of our souls?

Though they had always delighted in the divine gifts, they shouted: Let him be crucified⁴⁷; and the murderers of the upright asked for the release of a criminal. But thou, O Christ, kept silent, enduring their insolence, willing to suffer and save because thou lovest mankind.

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

Theotokion

Since we have no more boldness toward God⁴⁸, for the multitude of our sins, implore him who was born of you, O virgin Theotokos; for the prayers of the Mother are indeed effective in obtaining the Master's favor. O most venerable one, do not turn away from the pleading of sinners; for the one who willed to suffer for our sins is merciful and able to save us.

Ninth Antiphon, Third Tone

⁴⁷(Matt. 27:23).

⁴⁸The confidence of mankind in God was lost after fall.

They took the thirty pieces of silver the price of the most precious One, on whom some of the children of Israel had set a price.⁴⁹ Stay awake and pray, that you may not come into temptation; the spirit is indeed willing, but the flesh is weak.⁵⁰ Therefore, stay awake.

They gave me gall to eat and in my thirst they gave me vinegar to drink.⁵¹ O Lord, raise me up and I will grant them their reward.

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

Theotokion

O pure Theotokos, we the gentiles sing praises to thee, for you gave birth to Christ our God, who through thee delivered mankind from the curse.

Kathisma (Sessional Hymn)

Eighth Tone

CHOIR: How could Judas, who was formerly thy disciple plot to betray thee! The deceitful and the unrighteous man dined deceitfully with thee. Thus, when he went to the priests he said to them: What will you give me, if I betray to you⁵² the One who violated and profaned the Sabbath? O long-suffering Lord, Glory to thee.

DEACON: And that we may be accounted worthy to hear the Holy Gospel, let us pray to the Lord our God.

PEOPLE: Lord, Have mercy. (*Three times*)

DEACON: Wisdom. Attend, let hear the Holy Gospel.

⁴⁹(Zechariah 11:13).

⁵⁰(Matt. 26:41).

⁵¹(Ps. 68:22).

⁵²(Matt. 26:14).

PRIEST: Peace be to all.

PEOPLE: And to thy Spirit.

PRIEST: The reading from the Holy Gospel according to Saint John.

PEOPLE: Glory to thee, O Lord, glory to thee.

DEACON: Let us attend.

Fourth Gospel
John 18:28-40

At that time, they led Jesus from Caiaphas to the Praetorium. It was early. They themselves did not enter the Praetorium so that they might not be defiled, but might eat the Pascha. So Pilate went out to them and said, "What accusation do you bring against this Man?" They answered him, "If this man were not an evildoer, we would not have handed him over." Pilate said to them, "Take him yourselves and judge him by your own law." The Jews said to him, "It is not lawful for us to put any man to death." This was to fulfil the word which Jesus had spoken showing by what death he was to die. Pilate entered the Praetorium again and called Jesus and said to him, "Are you the King of the Jews?" Jesus answered, "Do you say this of your own accord, or did others say it to you about me?" Pilate answered, "Am I a Jew? Your own nation and the chief priests have handed you over to me; what have you done?" Jesus answered, "My kingdom is not of this world. If my kingdom were of this world, my servants would fight that I might not be handed over to the Jews; but my kingdom is not from the world." Pilate said to him, "So you are a king?" Jesus answered, "You say that I am a king. For this I was born, and for this I have come into the world, to bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth hears my voice." Pilate said to him, "What is truth?"

After Pilate had said this, he went out to the Jews again and told them, "I find no crime in him. But you have a custom that I should release one man for you at the Pascha. Will you have me release for you the King of the Jews?" They cried out again, "Not this Man, but Barabbas!" Now Barabbas was a robber.

John 19:1-16

Then Pilate took Jesus and scourged him. And the soldiers plaited a crown of thorns and put it on his head, and they arrayed him in a purple robe; they came up to him saying, "Rejoice, King of the Jews!" And struck him with their hands. Pilate went out again and said to them, "See, I am bringing him out to you, that you may know that I find no crime in him." So Jesus came out, wearing the crown of thorns and the purple robe. Pilate said to them, "Behold the Man!" When the chief priests and officers saw him, they cried out, "Crucify him, crucify him!" Pilate said to them, "Take him yourself and crucify him, for I find no crime in him." The Jews answered him, "We have a law, and by our law he ought to die because he made himself the Son of God." When Pilate heard these words, he was the more afraid. He entered the Praetorium again and said to Jesus, "Where are you from?" But Jesus gave him no answer. Pilate therefore said to him, "You will not speak to me? Do you not know that I have power to crucify you, and power to release you?" Jesus answered him, "You would have no power over me unless it had been given to you from above. Therefore the one who delivered me to you has the greater sin."

Upon this Pilate sought to release him, but the Jews cried out, “If you release this Man, you are not Caesar’s friend. Every one who makes himself a king speaks against Caesar.” When Pilate heard these words, he brought Jesus out and sat down in the judgment seat at a place called The Pavement, but in Hebrew, Gabbatha. Now it was the day of Preparation of the Pascha, it was about the sixth hour. Pilate said to the Jews, “Behold your King!” They cried out, “Away with him, away with him! Crucify him!” Pilate said to them, “Shall I crucify your King?” The chief priests answered, “We have no king but Caesar!” Then he handed Jesus over to them to be crucified.

PEOPLE: Glory to thy long-suffering, O Lord, glory to thee.

Tenth Antiphon, Sixth Tone

CHOIR: The One who is robed in light as with a garment⁵³ stood naked on trial; on his cheeks he received slaps from the hands which he created. The law-transgressing people crucified the Lord of Glory.⁵⁴ At that moment, the curtain of the temple was torn in two,⁵⁵ and the sun was darkened, for it could not bear to see being cursed the God before whom all the universe trembles. Let us fall down before him.

The disciple denied thee, and the thief cried aloud: Remember me, O Lord, in thy kingdom.⁵⁶

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

Theotokion

O Lord, thou consented to take flesh from the Virgin for the sake of thy servants: grant peace to the world, that accordingly we glorify thee, O lover of mankind.

⁵³(Ps 104<103>:2).

⁵⁴(1 Cor. 2:8).

⁵⁵(Matt. 27:51).

⁵⁶(LK. 23:42).

Eleventh Antiphon Sixth Tone

CHOIR: O Christ, in return for the good things that thou hast provided to the Hebrew people, they condemned thee to be crucified, giving thee vinegar and gall to drink. But render to them, O Lord, according to their works, for they did not comprehend thy condescension.

The Hebrew people were not satisfied with thy betrayal, O Christ, but they derided and mocked thee shaking their heads.⁵⁷ Render to them, O Lord, according to their works, for they plot in vain⁵⁸ against thee.

Neither the shaking of the earth, nor the splitting of the rocks, nor the tearing of the curtain of the temple, nor the raising of the dead persuaded the Jews. But render to them, O Lord, according to their works, for they plot in vain⁵⁹ against thee.

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

Theotokion

O Virgin Theotokos, who alone art pure and blessed, we have know that God took flesh from thee. Therefore, we continually sing praises to thee and magnify thee.

Twelfth Antiphon, Eighth Tone

⁵⁷(Matt. 27:39).

⁵⁸(Ps. 2:1).

⁵⁹(Ps. 2:1).

This is what the Lord says to the Jews: O my people, what have I done to you? In what have I wearied you?⁶⁰ I gave light to your blind, I raised up the bed ridden man. O my people, what have I done to you? And how have you repaid me? Instead of manna, you have given me gall; instead of water, vinegar; instead of loving me, you nailed me on the Cross. I can endure no more. I will call my gentiles, and they will glorify me with the Father and the Spirit, and I will grant them eternal life.”

Today the curtain of the temple is torn as a reproach to the law breakers; the sun hides its own rays, seeing the Master crucified.

O lawgivers of Israel, Jews and Pharisees, the company of the apostles cries aloud to you: Behold the temple that you have destroyed, here is the Lamb you have crucified. You delivered him to the tomb, but by his own power he has risen. Do not stray away, O Jews, for it is he who rescued you from the sea and fed you in the wilderness. He is the life and light and peace of the world.

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

Theotokion

Rejoice O Gate of the King of glory, through which the Most High alone has passed, preserving thee sealed, to save our souls.

Sessional Hymn, Eighth Tone

⁶⁰(Micah 6:3).

O God, when thou wast standing before Caiaphas and wast delivered up to Pilate, O Judge, the powers of heaven shook in awe. Thou wast lifted up on the Cross between two thieves, and though sinless thou wast numbered among the transgressors⁶¹ to save mankind. O long-suffering Lord, glory to thee.

DEACON: And that we may be accounted worthy to hear the Holy Gospel, let us pray to the Lord our God.

PEOPLE: Lord, Have mercy. (*Three times*)

DEACON: Wisdom. Attend, let us hear the Holy Gospel.

PRIEST: Peace be to all.

PEOPLE: And to thy Spirit.

PRIEST: The reading from the Holy Gospel according to Saint Matthew.

PEOPLE: Glory to thee, O Lord, glory to thee.

DEACON: Let us attend.

Fifth Gospel
Matthew 27:3-32

At that time, when Judas, his betrayer, saw that Jesus was condemned, he felt regret and brought back the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and elders, saying, "I have sinned by betraying innocent blood." They said, "What is that to us? See to it yourself!" And throwing down the pieces of silver in the temple he departed, and he went and hanged himself. But the chief priests taking the pieces of silver said, "It is not lawful to put them into the treasury, since they are blood money." So they took counsel and bought with them the potter's field, to bury strangers in. Therefore that field has been called the Field of Blood to this day. Then was fulfilled what had been spoken by the prophet Jeremiah, saying, "And they took the thirty pieces of silver, the price of him who was valued by the sons of Israel, and they gave them for the potter's field, as the Lord directed me."

Now Jesus stood before the governor. And the governor asked him, "Are you the King of the Jews?" Jesus said, "You have said so." But when he was accused by the chief priests and elders, he made no answer. Then Pilate said to him, "Do you not hear how many things they testify against you?" But Jesus gave him no answer, not even to a single charge, so that the governor wondered greatly.

⁶¹(Is. 53:12).

Now at the feast the governor was accustomed to release for the crowd any one prisoner whom they wanted. And they had then a notorious prisoner called Barabbas. So when they had gathered, Pilate said to them, "Whom do you want me to release for you? Barabbas, or Jesus who is called Christ?" For he knew that it was out of envy that they had delivered him up. Besides, while he was sitting on the judgment seat, his wife sent word to him, "Have nothing to do with that righteous Man, for I have suffered much over him today in a dream." Now the chief priests and elders persuaded the people to ask for Barabbas and destroy Jesus. The governor again said to them, "Which of the two do you want me to release for you?" And they said, "Barabbas!" Pilate said to them, "Then what shall I do with Jesus who is called Christ?" They all said, "Let him be crucified!" And Pilate said, "Why, what evil has he done?" But they shouted all the more, "Let him be crucified!"

When Pilate saw that he was gaining nothing, but rather a riot was beginning, he took water and washed his hands before the crowd, saying, "I am innocent of this righteous man's blood. See to it yourselves." And all the people answered, "His blood be on us and on our children." Then Pilate released for them Barabbas, and having scourged Jesus, delivered him to be crucified.

Then the soldiers of the governor took Jesus into the Praetorium, and they gathered the whole battalion before him. And they stripped him and put a scarlet robe on him. And plaiting a crown of thorns, they put it on his head and a reed in his right hand. And kneeling before him they mocked him saying, "Rejoice, King of the Jews!" And they spat on him and took the reed and struck him on the head. And when they had mocked him, they stripped him of the robe, put his own clothes on him, and led him away to crucify him.

As they went out, they came upon a man of Cyrene, Simon by name. This man they compelled to carry the cross of Jesus.

PEOPLE: Glory to thy long-suffering, O Lord, glory to thee.

Thirteenth Antiphon, Sixth Tone

CHOIR: O Lord, the assembly of the Jews asked Pilate to crucify thee. Though they could find no charge against thee, they set free the guilty Barabbas; and thee, the innocent One, they condemned. So they incurred the charge of blood-guiltiness. Render to them, O Lord, according to their works, for they plotted in vain against thee.

Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God,⁶² before whom all things tremble and shake with fear, to whom every tongue sing praises, is slapped on the face by the priests and given gall to drink. Yet he willingly suffered all things, wishing to save us from our wickedness by his own blood, for he is the lover of mankind.

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

⁶²(1 Cor. 1:24).

Theotokion

O Theotokos, by a word that is over and above any word, thou gavest birth to the Creator himself: entreat him to save our souls.

Fourteenth Antiphon, Eighth Tone

O Lord, thou hast accepted as companion the thief who had stained his hands with blood. Number us also with him, for thou art good and the lover of mankind.

The thief uttered few words upon the cross, yet he proved to have great faith. In one movement he was saved, and he was the first to enter Paradise when thou opened its gates and accepted his repentance. O Lord, glory to thee.

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

Theotokion

Rejoice, for thou hast received from the angel the Joy of the world. Rejoice, for thou hast given birth to thy Creator and thy Lord. Rejoice, for thou wast made worthy to become Mother of Christ our God!

While Antiphon 15 is sung, the Procession of the Holy Crucifix takes place in the following manner:

- a. when the chanter completes, Antiphon 14, the Priest censens the Holy Crucifix (nine times).*
- b. the Church is darkened and remains as dark as possible during the rest of the service.*
- c. as the Priest begins to sing: "Today he is suspended on a tree" very slowly, he carries the Crucifix on his right shoulder around the Church as in the Great Entrance of the Divine Liturgy.*
- d. the Procession is led by altar boys carrying the Processional cross, candles and incense.*
- e. the people kneel during the Procession.*
- f. when the Priest reaches the middle of the Solea, he carries the Holy Crucifix around the stand (three times.)*
- g. the Priest then censens the Holy Crucifix (nine times).*
- h. while the chanter sings: "Today he is suspended on a tree," the Priest makes three prostrations before the Holy Crucifix, kisses it, and returns to the Sanctuary with the Altar Boys.*

Fifteenth Antiphon

Today he who hung the earth on the waters is hung on the tree. *(Three times)*

The King of Angels is arrayed with a crown of thorns.⁶³

⁶³(Jn.19:2).

He who dressed the heavens with clouds,⁶⁴
is dressed with a false purple.⁶⁵

He who in Jordan set Adam free, received slaps.

The bridegroom of the Church is transfixed with nails.

The son of the Virgin is pierced with a spear.

We fall down before thy passion, O Christ (*Three times*).

Show us thy glorious resurrection.

Sixth Tone

Let us not observe a festival as the Jews; for Christ God, who is our Pascha, is slaughtered for us. But let us cleanse ourselves from every defilement and with purity implore him: Arise, O Lord, and save us, for thou lovest mankind.

O Lord, thy Cross is life and resurrection to thy people. Putting our confidence in it, we sing praises to thee our Crucified God: Have mercy on us.

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

Theotokion

Seeing thee hanging on the Cross, O Christ, thy Mother cried aloud: My Son, what is this strange mystery that I see? Nailed in the flesh, O bestower of life, How dost thou die on the Cross?

Kathisma (Sessional Hymn)

Fourth Tone

⁶⁴(Ps. 147<146>:8).

⁶⁵(Jn. 19:2).

Thou hast redeemed us from the curse of the Law⁶⁶ by thy precious blood. Nailed to the Cross, and pierced by the spear, thou hast produced immortality in abundance for mankind, O our Savior, glory to thee.

DEACON: And that we may be accounted worthy to hear the Holy Gospel, let us pray to the Lord our God.

PEOPLE: Lord, Have mercy. (*Three times*)

DEACON: Wisdom. Attend, let us hear the Holy Gospel.

PRIEST: Peace be to all.

PEOPLE: And to thy Spirit.

PRIEST: The reading from the Holy Gospel according to Saint Mark.

PEOPLE: Glory to thee, O Lord, glory to thee.

DEACON: Let us attend.

Sixth Gospel
Mark 15:16-32

At that time, the soldiers led Jesus away inside the palace (that is, Praetorium); and they called together the whole battalion. And they clothed him in a purple cloak; and plaiting a crown of thorns, they put it on him. And they began to salute him, "Rejoice, King of the Jews!" And they struck his head with a reed and spat on him; and knelt down in homage to him. And when they had mocked him, they stripped him of the purple cloak, and put his own clothes on him, and led him out to crucify him.

And they compelled a passer-by, Simon of Cyrene, who was coming in from the country, the father of Alexander and Rufus, to carry the cross of Jesus. And they brought Jesus to the place called Golgotha, (which means the Place of a Skull). And they offered him wine mingled with myrrh, but he did not take it. And when they crucified him, they divided his garments among them, casting lots for them, to decide what each should take. And it was the third hour when they crucified him. And the inscription of the charge against him read, "THE KING OF THE JEWS." And with him they also crucified two robbers, one on his right and one on his left. And the Scripture was fulfilled which says, "He was reckoned with the transgressors." And those who passed by derided him, wagging their heads saying, "Aha! You who would destroy the temple and build it in three days, save yourself, and come down from the

⁶⁶(Gal. 3:13).

cross!” So also the chief priests mocked him to one another with the scribes saying, “He saved others; he cannot save himself. Let the Christ, the King of Israel, come down now from the cross that we may see and believe.”

PEOPLE: Glory to thy long-suffering, O Lord, glory to thee.

The Beatitudes
Fourth Tone

CHOIR: In thy Kingdom, remember us, O Lord, when thou comest into thy Kingdom.

Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.⁶⁷

Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.⁶⁸

Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.⁶⁹

READER: Through a tree, Adam had to live far away from his home in Paradise, and through the tree of the cross the thief came to live in Paradise. For the one by eating transgressed the commandment of the Creator; but the other, who was crucified at thy side, confessed thee as the hidden God. Remember us also, O Savior, in thy Kingdom.

⁶⁷(Matthew 5:3)

⁶⁸(Matthew 5:4)

⁶⁹(Matthew 5:5).

CHOIR: Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be filled.⁷⁰

READER: The Law breakers took the Law maker from his disciples, and they made him stand as a Law breaker before the court of Pilate crying: Crucify him, crucify him who gave them manna in the wilderness. Following the example of the upright thief, we cry aloud in faith: Remember us, O Savior, in thy Kingdom.

CHOIR: Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy.⁷¹

READER: The Law-transgressing people of the Jews, murderers of God, cried to Pilate madly saying: Crucify the guiltless Christ; pleading, instead, that Barabbas be released. But we cry with the voice of the grateful thief: Remember us, O Savior, in thy Kingdom.

CHOIR: Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.⁷²

READER: O Christ, thy life-bearing side gushed as a fountain from Eden watering thy Church as a spiritual Paradise. From this very source it flows into the four branches of the Gospels. It refreshes the world with its streams, making glad the creation and teaching the nations to fall down in faith before thy Kingdom.

CHOIR: Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.⁷³

READER: Thou wast crucified for my sake, so that thou mightest pour forth salvation for me. Thy side was pierced, so that thou might gush forth upon me streams of life. Thou wast fastened with nails, so that through the depths of thy sufferings, I might believe in the height of thy power and cry aloud to thee: O Savior, life-giving Christ, Glory to thy Cross and to thy passion.

⁷⁰(Matthew 5:6).

⁷¹(Matthew 5:7).

⁷²(Matthew 5:8).

⁷³(Matthew 5:9).

CHOIR: Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.⁷⁴

READER: Seeing thee crucified, O Christ, all creation trembled. The foundations of the earth shook in fear of thy might. The stars hid themselves, and the curtain of the temple was torn in two. The mountains trembled and the rocks were split. The faithful thief cried with us to thee: Remember us, O Savior.

CHOIR: "Blessed art thou when they revile and persecute you, and say all kinds of evil against you falsely for my sake."⁷⁵

READER: O Lord, on the Cross thou didst tear apart the record that stood against us. When thou wast numbered among the dead, thou didst bind fast the tyrant, delivering all mankind from the imprisonment of death by thy Resurrection, through which we were enlightened. Therefore, we cry aloud to thee, O Lord, lover of mankind: Remember us also, O Savior, in thy Kingdom.

⁷⁴(Matthew 5:10).

⁷⁵(Matthew 5:11).

CHOIR: “Rejoice and be exceedingly glad, for great is your reward in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.”⁷⁶

READER: Thou wast lifted up on the Cross and didst destroy the power of death and as God thou didst erase the record that stood against us.⁷⁷ Grant to us also the repentance of the thief, O Christ our God, O only lover of mankind, for with faith we worship thee and cry aloud to thee: Remember us also, O Savior, in thy Kingdom.

CHOIR: Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit,

READER: Let us all the faithful pray accordingly, so that we might worthily glorify the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, one Godhead in three Persons, simple and without confusion, inseparable and unapproachable, and by whom we are redeemed from the fire of punishment.

CHOIR: Now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Theotokion

O Christ, as our intercessor, we offer thy Mother, who without human seed gave birth to thee in the flesh; she is the true virgin who remained virgin after childbirth. O Master, rich in mercy, ever grant forgiveness of their sins to those who cry: Remember us also, O Savior, in thy Kingdom.

Prokeimenon (Offertory) Fourth Tone

⁷⁶(Matthew 5:12).

⁷⁷(Col. 2:14).

CHOIR: They divided my clothes among themselves, and for my clothing they cast lots.⁷⁸ *(Two times)*

O God, my God, look upon me, why hast thou forsaken me?⁷⁹

They divided my clothes among themselves, and for my clothing they cast lots.⁸⁰

DEACON: And that we may be accounted worthy to hear the Holy Gospel, let us pray to the Lord our God.

PEOPLE: Lord, Have mercy. *(Three times)*

DEACON: Wisdom. Attend, let us hear the Holy Gospel.

PRIEST: Peace be to all.

PEOPLE: And to thy Spirit.

PRIEST: The reading from the Holy Gospel according to Saint Matthew.

PEOPLE: Glory to thee, O Lord, glory to thee.

DEACON: Let us attend.

Seventh Gospel
Matthew 27:33-54

At that time, the soldiers led Jesus to a place called Golgotha, (which means the Place of a Skull), and they offered him wine to drink mingled with gall;

⁷⁸(Ps. 22<21>:18).

⁷⁹(Ps.22<21>:1).

⁸⁰(Ps. 22<21>:18).

but when he had tasted it, he would not drink. And when they had crucified him, they divided his garments among them by casting lots, that what was spoken by the prophet might be fulfilled: “They parted my garments among them, and for my clothing they cast lots.” Then they sat down and kept watch over him there. And over his head they put a charge against him which read: THIS IS JESUS THE KING OF THE JEWS. Then two robbers were crucified with him, one on the right and one on the left. And those who passed by derided him, wagging their heads and saying, “You who would destroy the temple and build it in three days, save yourself! If you are the Son of God, come down from the cross.” So also the chief priests, with the scribes and elders, mocked him, saying, “He saved others; he cannot save himself. If he is the King of Israel, let him come down now from the cross, and we will believe in him. He trusts in God; let God deliver him now if he desires him; for he said, ‘I am the Son of God.’” And the robbers who were crucified with him also reviled him in the same way.

Now from the sixth hour there was darkness over all the land until the ninth hour. And about the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice saying, “Eli , Eli, lama sabachthani?” That is, “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?” And some of bystanders hearing it said, “This Man is calling for Elijah!” And one of them at once ran and took a sponge, filled it with vinegar and put it on a reed, and gave it to him to drink. But the others said, “Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to save him.” And Jesus cried out again with a loud voice, and gave up the spirit.

And behold, the curtain of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom, and the earth shook, and the rocks were split; the tombs were opened, and many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised; and coming out of the tombs after his resurrection, they went into the holy city and appeared to many. When the centurion and those who were with him, keeping watch over Jesus, saw the earthquake and what took place, they were filled with awe and said, “Truly this was the Son of God!”

PEOPLE: Glory to thy long-suffering, O Lord, glory to thee.

Psalm 51<50>

Have mercy on me, O God,
according to thy great mercy,
according to the multitude of thy compassions,
blot out my transgressions.
Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity,
and cleanse me from my sin.

For I acknowledge my transgressions,
and my sin is ever before me.
Against thee only have I sinned,
and done what is evil in thy sight,
so that thou art justified in thy sentences,
and prevailest when thou passest judgment.

For indeed, I was conceived in iniquities,
and in sins did my mother conceive me.

For behold: thou lovest truth,
thou hast made known to me the secret
and hidden things of thy wisdom.

Sprinkle me with hyssop,
and I shall be clean,
Wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.

Let me hear joy and gladness,
then the afflicted bones shall rejoice.

Turn away thy face from my sins,
and blot out all my iniquities.

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

Deliver me from bloodshed, O God,
the God of my salvation,
and my tongue will joyfully
sing aloud of thy righteousness.

O Lord, open my lips;
and my mouth will declare thy praise;
for If thou hadst delight in sacrifice,

I would have given it;
but thou wouldst not be pleased by burnt offering.
The sacrifice to God is a broken spirit:
a broken and contrite heart,
O God, thou wilt not despise.

Do good in thy good pleasure to Zion,
and let the walls of Jerusalem be built;
then thou wilt delight in a sacrifice of righteousness,
in offerings and whole burnt offerings;
then they will offer bulls upon thine altar.

DEACON: And that we may be accounted worthy to hear the Holy Gospel, let us pray to the Lord our God.

PEOPLE: Lord, Have mercy. *(Three times)*

DEACON: Wisdom. Attend, let us hear the Holy Gospel.

PRIEST: Peace be to all.

PEOPLE: And to thy Spirit.

PRIEST: The reading from the Holy Gospel according to Saint Luke.

PEOPLE: Glory to thee, O Lord, glory to thee.

DEACON: Let us attend.

Eighth Gospel
Luke 23:32-49

At that time, two others also, who were criminals, were led away to be put to death with Jesus. And when they came to the place which is called the Skull, there they crucified him, and the criminals, one on the right hand and one on the left. And Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do." And they cast lots to divide his garments. And the people who stood by watching and the rulers scoffed at him, saying, "He saved others; let him save himself. If he is the Christ, the chosen of God." The soldiers also mocked him, coming up and offering him vinegar and saying, "If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself." There was also an inscription over him in letters of Greek, Latin, and Hebrew: THIS IS THE KING OF THE JEWS.

One of the criminals who were hanged railed at him saying, “If you are the Christ, save yourself and us.” But the other rebuked him saying, “Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? And we indeed justly, for we are receiving the due reward of our deeds; but this Man has done nothing wrong.” And he said to Jesus, “Lord, remember me when thou comest into Thy kingdom.” And Jesus said to him, “Truly, I say to you, today you will be with me in Paradise.”

It was now about the sixth hour, and there was darkness over all the whole land until the ninth hour while the sun’s light failed; and the curtain of the temple was torn in two. Then Jesus, crying with a loud voice, said, “Father, into thy hands I commit my spirit.” And having said this, he gave up the spirit.

Now when the centurion saw what had taken place, he glorified God and said, “Certainly this was a righteous Man!” And all the multitudes who assembled to see the sight, when they saw what had taken place, returned beating their breasts. And all his acquaintances and the women who had followed him from Galilee stood at a distance and saw these things.

PEOPLE: Glory to thy long-suffering, O Lord, glory to thee.

***Fifth Ode
Tone Six***

CHOIR: Irmos: I seek thee early in the morning, O Word of God, for in thy mercy toward fallen man, thou emptied thyself immutably and yielded to thy passions impassibly. Grant me peace, O Lover of mankind.

Glory to thee, O our God, glory to thee.

As the feet of thy servants are washed and are purified, now they partake of the divine mystery, O Christ. Ascending with thee from Zion to the great Mount of Olives, they sing praises of thee, O Lover of mankind.

Glory to thee, O our God, glory to thee.

My friends, see that you are not alarmed,⁸¹ for the hour has come when I will be captured and slain at the hands of the law breakers. You will be scattered, and you will leave me alone,⁸² but I will gather you together, to proclaim me, a lover of mankind.

The Kontakion

Come, let us all sing the praises of him who was crucified for us, for Mary saw thee on the Tree and said: Although thou hast endured the Cross, thou art

⁸¹(Matt. 24:6).

⁸²(John 16:32).

my Son and my God.

The Oikos

Seeing her own Lamb being led to the slaughter, Mary followed him wailing with the other women, and she cried aloud: Where art thou going, my child? Why art thou finishing the course so swiftly? Is there another wedding in Cana? Art thou going there to turn the water into wine? Should I go with thee, my child, or should I wait for thee? Give me word, O Word, do not pass me by in silence. Thou hast preserved me pure, for thou art my Son and my God.

The Synaxarion

On great Friday we celebrate the holy, saving, and awesome Passion of our Lord and God and Savior Jesus Christ. For us he willingly endured the spittings, the slapping, the humiliations, the insults, the mockings, the purple robe, the reed, the sponge, the vinegar, the nails, the spear, and above all the Cross and death.

Also we celebrate the saving confession on the Cross of the right-minded thief, who was crucified with him.

Thou art the living God, but thou wast put to death on the Tree.

O Lord, though naked and dead, yet Word of the living God.

Opening the locked gates of Eden, the thief used the keyword, "Remember me."

Through thine enormous and infinite compassion for us, O Christ our God, have mercy on us. Amen.

Eighth Ode *Tone Six*

CHOIR: **Irmos:** The divine children publicly ridiculed the statue of ungodly wickedness, and the law-transgressing council raging against Christ conspired in vain to to put to death the One who holds life in the palm of his hand, and whom the whole creation blesses glorifying him to all ages.

Glory to thee, O our God, glory to thee.

Thou hast said to thy disciples: Shake now the sleep from your eyelids, watch in prayer, so that you will not fall into temptation. Thou, in particular, O Simon, for the trial is greater for the strong. Know me, O Peter, whom the whole creation blesses glorifying him to all ages.

Glory to thee, O our God, glory to thee.

O Master, no godless word will ever pass my lips, Peter cried. Even if all deny thee, I will die with thee, as the righteous person should. Neither flesh nor blood revealed thee, but your Father, whom the whole creation blesses glorifying him to all ages.

Glory to thee, O our God, glory to thee.

The Lord said: Thou hast not carefully fathomed the whole depth of divine wisdom and knowledge, thou hast not understood the depth of my judgement. Boast not, for thou art flesh, and three times thou wilt deny me, whom the whole creation blesses glorifying him to all ages.”

Glory to thee, O our God, glory to thee.

The Lord said: O Simon Peter, thou renoucest what thou wilt shortly do, as I have foretold. A maid will suddenly approach and fill thee with fear. Weeping bitterly, yet thou wilt find me very merciful, who the whole creation blesses glorifying him to all ages.

We praise, we bless, and we worship the Lord.

The divine children publicly ridiculed the statue of ungodly wickedness, and the law-transgressing council raging against Christ conspired in vain to to put to death the One who holds life in the palm of his hand, and whom the whole creation blesses glorifying him to all ages.

The Deacon stands in the Holy door facing the icon of the Theotokos and says:

DEACON: The Theotokos and Mother of Light let us honor and magnify in song.

The Deacon censes the sanctuary and the people in the usual manner, while People chant the following:

More honorable than the Cherubim
and more glorious beyond compare than the Seraphim, thou who
without corruption,⁸³ gavest birth to God the Word,
and art truly Theotokos, we magnify thee.

Glory to thee, O our God, glory to thee.

The synagogue of God murderers, the destructive band of God haters came up to thee, O Christ, and like a malefactor dragged thee out: thou the Creator of all, whom we magnify.

Glory to thee, O our God, glory to thee.

⁸³Or “remaining virgin, you gave birth...” etc.,

Ignorant of the Law, yet studying the words of the prophets in vain, the godless people led thee like a sheep to slaughter, O Lord of all, whom we magnify.

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

Striking by murderous malice the natural Lifegiver, the priests and scribes delivered to Gentiles Life itself, whom we magnify.

Now and ever and unto ages of ages, Amen.

Like many dogs they surrounded thee, O King, and struck thee on thy cheek, questioning thee and bearing false witness against thee. But enduring all things thou saved us all.

More honorable than the Cherubim
and more glorious beyond compare than the Seraphim, thou who
without corruption,⁸⁴ gavest birth to God the Word,
and art truly Theotokos, we magnify thee.

The Little Litany

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

PEOPLE: Lord, have mercy.

DEACON: Help us; save us; have mercy on us; and keep us, O God, by thy grace.

PEOPLE: Lord, have mercy.

DEACON: Calling to remembrance our all-holy, immaculate, most blessed and glorious Lady Theotokos and ever-virgin Mary, with all the saints, let us commend ourselves and each other and all our life unto Christ our God.

PEOPLE: To thee, O Lord.

PRIEST: For all the powers of heaven praise thee, and unto thee they give glory: to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit: now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

⁸⁴Or “remaining virgin, you gave birth...” etc.,

PEOPLE: Amen.

Exapostelarion
Third Tone

CHOIR: O Lord, on this very day, thou hast made the thief worthy of paradise. By the wood of the Cross enlighten me also and save me. *(Three times)*.

DEACON: And that we may be accounted worthy to hear the Holy Gospel, let us pray to the Lord our God.

PEOPLE: Lord, Have mercy. *(Three times)*

DEACON: Wisdom. Attend, let us hear the Holy Gospel.

PRIEST: Peace be to all.

PEOPLE: And to thy Spirit.

PRIEST: The reading from the Holy Gospel according to Saint John.

PEOPLE: Glory to thee, O Lord, glory to thee.

DEACON: Let us attend.

Ninth Gospel
John 19:25-37

At that time, standing by the cross of Jesus were his mother, and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing near, he said to his mother, "Woman, behold your son!" Then he said to the disciple, "Behold your mother!" And from that hour that disciple took her to his own.

After this, Jesus, knowing that all now was finished, said (to fulfil the Scripture) "I thirst!" A bowl full of vinegar stood there; so they put a sponge full of vinegar on hyssop, and held it to his mouth. When Jesus had received the vinegar, he said, "It is finished!" And he bowed his head, and gave up the spirit.

Since it was the day of Preparation, in order to prevent the bodies from remaining on the cross on the Sabbath (for that Sabbath was a high day), the Jews asked Pilate that their legs might be broken and that they might be taken away. So the soldiers came and broke the legs of the first and of the other who had been crucified with him. But when they came to Jesus and saw that he was already dead, they did not break his legs. But one of the soldiers pierced his side

with a spear, and at once there came out blood and water. He who saw it has borne witness--his testimony is true, and he knows that he tells the truth--that you also may believe. For these things took place that the Scripture might be fulfilled, "Not a bone of him shall be broken." And again another Scripture says, "They shall look on him whom they have pierced."

PEOPLE: Glory to thy long-suffering, O Lord, glory to thee.

The Praises (Ainoi)
Third Tone

CHOIR: Let every thing that has breath praise the Lord! Praise the Lord from the heavens: praise him in the heights! To thee, O God, is due our song.

Praise him all his angels; praise him all his hosts! To thee, O God, is due our song.

The Praises are sung along with the following verses:

CHOIR: *Verse: Praise him for his mighty deeds; praise him according to his surpassing greatness!*

My first-born son, Israel, has committed two evils: he has forsaken me, the fountain of living water, and dug out for himself a cracked cistern.⁸⁵ Upon the tree he has crucified me, and asked for the release of Barabbas. At this the heaven was amazed, and the sun hid its rays. Yet thou, O Israel, wast not ashamed, but has delivered me to death. Holy Father forgive them, for they do not know what they have done.⁸⁶

Verse: Praise him with trumpet sound; Praise him with lute and harp!

Every member of thy sacred body endured humiliation for our sakes: thy head, thorns; thy face, spitting; thy cheeks, slapping; thy mouth, taste of vinegar mixed with gall; thine ears, impious blasphemy; thy back, scourging; and thy hand, the reed. Thy whole body endured stretching on the Cross; thy limbs, the nails; and thy side, the spear. O Savior Almighty, thou suffered for us and delivered us from suffering and in thy love for mankind, thou condescended to raise us up: have mercy on us.

Verse: Praise him with tambourine and dance; Praise him with strings and pipe!

⁸⁵(Jer. 2:13).

⁸⁶(Lk. 23:34).

Seeing thee crucified, O Christ, the whole creation trembled. The foundations of the earth shook vigorously for fear of thy dominion. For when thou wast raised today, the people of the Hebrews were ruined. The curtain of the temple was torn in two; the tombs also were opened, and many who had fallen asleep were raised.⁸⁷ When the centurion saw the wonder, he trembled with fear. Thy mother, standing by thee, lamented with a mother's love: How shall I not mourn and strike my breast, seeing thee stripped naked, hanging as a criminal on the tree? O Lord, who were crucified and buried and risen from the dead, glory to thee.

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

Sixth Tone

⁸⁷(Matt. 27:51,52).

CHOIR: They stripped me of my garment and clothed me in a scarlet cloak. They set a crown of thorns on my head and placed a reed in my right hand so that I may dash them in pieces like a potter's vessel.⁸⁸

Now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Same Tone

CHOIR: I gave my back to scourging. I did not hide my face from spitting. I stood before the judgment seat of Pilate and endured the Cross for the salvation of the world.

DEACON: And that we may be accounted worthy to hear the Holy Gospel, let us pray to the Lord our God.

PEOPLE: Lord, Have mercy. *(Three times)*

DEACON: Wisdom. Attend, let us hear the Holy Gospel.

PRIEST: Peace be to all.

PEOPLE: And to thy Spirit.

PRIEST: The reading from the Holy Gospel according to Saint Mark.

PEOPLE: Glory to thee, O Lord, glory to thee.

DEACON: Let us attend.

Tenth Gospel

Mark 15:43-47

At that time, Joseph of Arimathea, a respected member of the council, who was also himself looking for the kingdom of God, took courage and went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. And Pilate wondered if he were already dead; and summoning the centurion, he asked him whether Jesus was already dead. And when he learned from the centurion that Jesus was dead, he granted the body to Joseph. And he bought a linen shroud, and taking Jesus down, wrapped him in the linen shroud, and laid him in a tomb which had been hewn out of the rock, and rolled a stone against the door of the tomb. Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of Jesus observed where Jesus was laid.

⁸⁸(Ps. 2:9).

PEOPLE: Glory to thy long suffering, O Lord, glory to thee.

The Little Doxology

To thee belongs glory, O Lord our God, and unto thee we give glory: to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

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

We praise thee, we bless thee, we worship thee, we glorify thee, we give thanks to thee for thy great glory.

O Lord, Heavenly King, God the Father Almighty; O Lord, the only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit.

O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, who takes away the sins of the world⁸⁹, have mercy on us--Thou who takest away the sin of the world.

Receive our prayer, thou who sittest at the right hand of the Father, and have mercy upon us.

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

Every day I will bless thee, and praise thy name forever and ever.

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

O Lord, unto thee have I fled for refuge: Teach me to do thy will, for thou art my God.

For thou art the source of life, and in thy light shall we see light.

⁸⁹(Jn 1:29).

O Continue thy mercy to those who know thee⁹⁰.

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

Blessed art thou, O Lord God of our Fathers, and praised and glorified is thy name forever, Amen.

O Lord, let thy mercy be on us, even as we have set our hope on thee.

Blessed art thou, O Lord, teach me thy statutes.

Blessed art thou, O Master, make me to understand thy statutes.

Blessed art thou, O Holy One; enlighten me with thy statutes.

⁹⁰(Ps.36<35>:10).

Thy Mercy, O Lord, endures forever:⁹¹ Forsake not the works of thy hands⁹².

To thee belongs praise, to thee belongs song,⁹³ to thee belongs Glory, to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit: now and ever and unto ages of ages, Amen.

The Litany of Supplication

DEACON: Let us complete our morning prayer to the Lord.

PEOPLE: Lord, have mercy.

DEACON: Help us; save us; have mercy on us; and keep us, O God, by thy grace.

PEOPLE: Lord, have mercy.

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

PEOPLE: Grant this, O Lord.

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

PEOPLE: Grant this, O Lord.

DEACON: Pardon and remission of our sins and transgressions, let us ask of the Lord.

PEOPLE: Grant this, O Lord.

⁹¹(Ps.107;106:1).

⁹²(Ps.138;137:8).

⁹³(Ps.65;65:1).

DEACON: All that is good and profitable for our souls, and peace for the world, let us ask of the Lord.

PEOPLE: Grant this, O Lord.

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

PEOPLE: Grant this, O Lord.

DEACON: For a Christian ending to our life, painless, blameless, peaceful, and a good defense before the awesome judgment seat of Christ, let us ask of the Lord.

PEOPLE: Grant this, O Lord.

DEACON: Calling to remembrance our all-holy, immaculate, most blessed and glorious Lady the Theotokos and Ever-Virgin Mary, with all the Saints, let us commend ourselves and each other, and all our life unto Christ our God.

PEOPLE: To thee, O Lord.

PRIEST: For thou art the God of mercy and compassions and love toward mankind, and unto thee we give glory: to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: now and ever and unto ages of ages.

PEOPLE: Amen.

PRIEST: Peace be to all.

PEOPLE: And to thy spirit.

DEACON: Let us bow our heads unto the Lord.

PEOPLE: To thee, O Lord.

The Prayer at the Bowing of Heads

PRIEST: O holy One who dwellest on high and regards the humble heart and with thine all-seeing eye beholds all creation, unto thee have we bowed the neck of our soul and body, and we entreat thee: O holy of holies, stretch forth thine invisible hand from thy holy dwelling-place and bless us all. And if in aught we have sinned, whether voluntarily or involuntarily, forgive, inasmuch as thou art a good God and lover of mankind,

vouchsafing unto us thy earthly and heavenly good things.

PRIEST: For thine it is to show mercy and save us, O our God, and unto thee we give glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: now and ever and unto ages of ages.

PEOPLE: Amen.

DEACON: And that we may be accounted worthy to hear the Holy Gospel, let us pray to the Lord our God.

PEOPLE: Lord, Have mercy. *(Three times)*

DEACON: Wisdom. Attend, let us hear the Holy Gospel.

PRIEST: Peace be to all.

PEOPLE: And to thy Spirit.

PRIEST: The reading from the Holy Gospel according to Saint John.

PEOPLE: Glory to thee, O Lord, glory to thee.

DEACON: Let us attend.

Eleventh Gospel

JOHN 19:38-42

At that time, Joseph of Arimathea, who was a disciple of Jesus, but secretly, for fear of the Jews, asked Pilate that he might take away the body of Jesus; and Pilate gave him leave. So he came and took away Jesus' body. Also Nicodemus, who had at first come to Jesus by night, came bringing a mixture of myrrh and aloes, about a hundred pounds' weight. They took the body of Jesus, and bound it in linen cloths with the spices, as is the burial custom of the Jews. Now in the place where he was crucified, there was a garden, and in the garden a new tomb where no one had ever been laid. So, because of the Jewish day of Preparation, as the tomb was close at hand, they laid Jesus there.

PEOPLE: Glory to thy long-suffering, O Lord, glory to thee.

Aposticha

First Tone

CHOIR: Seeing thee hanging on the Cross, O Christ, the whole creation was changed by fear; the sun was darkened; the foundations of the earth shook vigorously; all things suffered with the Creator of all. O Lord, who willingly endured these things for us, Glory to thee.

Second Tone

They divided my clothes among themselves, and for my clothing they cast lots.⁹⁴

Why do the ungodly and law-transgressing people plot in vain? Why have they condemned to death the life of all? O great wonder! The Creator of the world is delivered into the hands of the transgressors of the law, and the Lover of mankind is raised on the Cross, so that he may set free the prisoners in Hades, who cry: O long-suffering Lord, glory to thee.

⁹⁴(Ps. 22<21>:18).

They gave me gall to eat and for my thirst they gave me vinegar to drink.⁹⁵

Today, seeing thee hanging on the Cross, O Word, the blameless Virgin mourned with a mother's affection and her heart was bitterly wounded. Mourning from the depth of her soul she sighed striking her face in sorrow. Beating her breast, she cried lamenting: "Woe is me, O Divine Child! Woe is me, O Light of the world! Why didst thou disappear from my sight, O Lamb of God?" Then, the hosts of angels were seized with trembling, and they said: O incomprehensible Lord, glory to thee.

God is our King before the ages, working salvation in the midst of the earth.⁹⁶

Seeing thee hanging on the Cross, O Christ, Creator and God of all, thine unwedded mother cried bitterly: "O my Son, where is the beauty of thy form? I cannot endure seeing thee crucified unjustly. Make haste, arise, so that I too may see thy Resurrection after three days from the dead.

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

Eighth Tone

O Lord, when thou ascended on the Cross, fear and trembling fell on all the creation. Thou prevented the earth from swallowing up those who crucified thee; but thou commanded Hades to return its prisoners, giving new birth to the mortals. O Judge of the living and the dead, thou hast come to bring life, not death. O Lover of mankind, glory to thee.

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

Same Tone

The unjust judges have already dipped their pens in ink, and Jesus is sentenced and condemned to be crucified. The creation suffers seeing the Lord on the Cross. O Good Lord, who suffered in the nature of the flesh for my sake, glory to thee.

DEACON: And that we may be accounted worthy to hear the Holy Gospel, let us pray to the Lord our God.

PEOPLE: Lord, Have mercy. (*Three times*)

⁹⁵(Ps.69<68>:21).

⁹⁶(Ps.74 <73>:12).

DEACON: Wisdom. Attend, let us hear the Holy Gospel.

PRIEST: Peace be to all.

PEOPLE: And to thy Spirit.

PRIEST: The reading from the Holy Gospel according to Saint Matthew.

PEOPLE: Glory to thee, O Lord, glory to thee.

DEACON: Let us attend.

Twelfth Gospel
Matthew 27:62-66

On the next day, that is, after the Day of Preparation, the chief priests and Pharisees gathered before Pilate and said, “Sir, we remember how that imposter said, while he was still alive, ‘After three days I will rise.’ Therefore, order the sepulcher to be made secure until the third day, lest his disciples go by night and steal him away and tell the people, ‘He has risen from the dead’; and the last fraud will be worse than the first.” Pilate said to them, “You have a guard of soldiers; go, make it as secure as you can. So they went and made the sepulcher secure by sealing the stone and setting the guard.

PEOPLE: Glory to thy long-suffering, O Lord, glory to thee.

PRIEST: It is good to give thanks to the Lord, to sing praises to thy name, O Most High; to declare thy mercy in the morning, and thy truthfulness by night⁹⁷.

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

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

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

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

All-Holy Trinity, have mercy on us. Lord, cleanse us from our sins. Master, pardon our iniquities. Holy One, visit and heal our infirmities for

⁹⁷(Ps 91<90>:1-2).

thy Name's sake.

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

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

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come; thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily⁹⁸ bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.⁹⁹

PRIEST: For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit: now and ever, and unto ages of ages.”

PEOPLE: Amen.

Dismissal Hymn

Fourth Tone

CHOIR: Thou “hast redeemed us from the curse of the Law”¹⁰⁰ by thy precious blood. Nailed to the Cross and pierced by the spear, thou hast poured forth immortality in abundance on mankind, O our Savior, glory to thee.

The Litany of Fervent Supplication

DEACON: Let us say with all our soul and with all our mind, let us say:

⁹⁸Or, “living”.

⁹⁹Or “the evil one”.

¹⁰⁰(Gal. 3:13).

PEOPLE: Lord, have mercy (*One time*).

DEACON: O Lord Almighty, God of our fathers: we pray thee, hearken, and have mercy.

PEOPLE: Lord, have mercy. (*One time*)

DEACON: Have mercy on us, O God, according to thy great goodness: we pray thee, hearken, and have mercy.

PEOPLE: Lord, have mercy. (*Three times*)

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

PEOPLE: Lord, have mercy. (*Three times*)

DEACON: Again we pray for our Father and Metropolitan PHILIP for presbyters, deacons, and all monastics; and for all our brethren in Christ.

PEOPLE: Lord, have mercy. (*Three times*)

DEACON: Again we pray for mercy, life, peace, health, salvation, and visitation, and forgiveness and remission of the sins of the servants of God: (*Names*) (*Here prayer may be offered for the people with special needs*); and for all devout Orthodox Christians who live and dwell in this community.

PEOPLE: Lord, have mercy. (*Three times*)

DEACON: Again we pray for the blessed and ever-memorable founders of this holy house, and for all our fathers and brethren, the Orthodox fallen asleep before us, (*Names*) (*Here prayer may be offered for the departed people*) who here and throughout the world lie asleep in the Lord.

PEOPLE: Lord, have mercy. (*Three times*)

DEACON: Again we pray for those who bring offerings and do good works in this holy and venerable church; for those who serve and those who sing; and for all the people here present who await thy great and rich mercy.

PEOPLE: Lord, have mercy. (*Three times*)

PRIEST: For thou art a merciful God and lovest mankind, and unto thee we give glory, to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

PEOPLE: Amen.

The Dismissal

DEACON: Wisdom!

PEOPLE: Father, bless.

PRIEST: Blessed is HE WHO IS, Christ our God, always now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

PEOPLE: Amen. Preserve, O God, the holy Orthodox Faith, and all Orthodox Christians, now and ever, and unto ages of ages, Amen.

PRIEST: O most holy Theotokos, save us!

PEOPLE: More honorable than the Cherubim and more glorious beyond compare than the Seraphim, thou who without corruption¹⁰¹, gavest birth to God the Word and art truly Theotokos, we magnify thee.

PRIEST: Glory to thee, O Christ, our God and our hope, glory to thee.

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

PRIEST: May Christ our true God who endured spittings, scourgings, beatings, crucifixion and death for our salvation, through the intercessions of his all-immaculate and all-blameless holy Mother; by the might of the precious and life-giving cross; by the protection of the honorable bodiless powers of heaven; at the supplication of the honorable, glorious Prophet, Forerunner and Baptist John; of the holy, glorious and all-laudable apostles; of our father among the saints, of the holy, glorious and right-victorious martyrs; of our venerable and God-bearing Fathers; of the holy and righteous ancestors of God, Joachim and Anna; of Saint (*N*) patron Saint of this Church; of Saint(s) *N.N.*, whose memory we celebrate; and of all the saints: have mercy upon us, and save us, forasmuch as he is good and loves mankind.

Then facing the icon of Christ, the priest says:

¹⁰¹Or “remaining virgin...” etc.,

PRIEST: Through the prayers of our Holy Fathers, Lord Jesus Christ our God, have mercy upon us and save us.

PEOPLE: Amen.