

Holy Saturday Vesperal Liturgy

PRIEST: O heavenly King...Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace...

DEACON: Bless, Father.

PRIEST: Blessed is the kingdom of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages.

PEOPLE: Amen.

Vespers begins as usual. After "O Joyful Light," the people sit for the readings from the Old Testament.

"Come Let Us Worship..."

Psalm 104

Bless the Lord, O my soul! O Lord You are very great: / You are clothed with honor and majesty, / Who cover Yourself with light as with a garment, / Who stretch out the heavens like a curtain.

He lays the beams of His upper chambers in the waters, / Who makes the clouds His chariot, / Who walks on the wings of the wind, / Who makes His angels spirits, His ministers a flame of fire.

You Who laid the foundations of the earth, / so that it should not be moved forever, / You covered it with the deep as with a garment; / the waters stood above the mountains.

At Your rebuke they fled; / at the voice of Your thunder they hastened away. / They went up over the mountains; they went down into the valleys, / to the place which You founded for them.

You have set a boundary that they may not pass over, / that they may not return to cover the earth. / He sends the springs into the valleys, / which flow among the hills.

They give drink to every beast of the field; / the wild donkeys quench their thirst. / By them the birds of the heavens have their habitation; / they sing among the branches.

He waters the hills from His upper chambers; / the earth is satisfied with the fruit of Your works.

He causes the grass to grow for the cattle, / and vegetation for the service of man, / that he may bring forth food from the earth, / and wine that makes glad the heart of man,

oil to make his face shine, / and bread which strengthens man's heart.

The trees of the Lord are full of sap, / the cedars of Lebanon which He planted, / where the birds make their nests; / the stork has her home in the fir trees.

The high hills are for the wild goats; / the cliffs are a refuge for the rock badgers.
**He appointed the moon for the seasons; / the sun know its going down. /
You made darkness, and it is night, / in which all the beasts of the forest
creep about.**

The young lions roar after their prey, / and seek their food from God. / When the
sun arises, they gather together / and lie down in their dens.

**Man goes out to his work / and to his labor until the evening. / O Lord,
how manifold are Your works! / In wisdom You have made them all.**

The earth is full of Your possessions / – this great and wide sea, / in which are
innumerable teeming things, / living things both small and great.

**There the ships sail about and there is that Leviathan / which You have
made to play there. / These all wait for You, / that You may give them
their food in due season.**

What You give them they gather in; / You open Your hand, they are filled with
good. / You hide Your face, they are troubled; / You take away their breath, they
die and return to their dust.

**You send forth Your Spirit, they are created; / and You renew the face of
the earth. / May the glory of the Lord endure forever; / may the Lord
rejoice in His works.**

He looks on the earth, and it trembles; / He touches the hills, and they smoke.

**I will sing to the Lord as long as I live; / I will sing praise to my God while
I have my being. / May my meditation be sweet to Him; / I will be glad in
the Lord.**

May sinners be consumed from the earth, / and the wicked be no more. / Bless
the Lord, O my soul! / Praise the Lord!

**The sun knows its going down. / You make darkness and it is night. / O
Lord, how manifold are Your works! / In wisdom You have made them
all.**

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

PEOPLE: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia. Glory to You, O God. (3x)

O our God and our hope, glory to You!

The Great Litany

DEACON: In peace let us pray to the Lord.

PEOPLE: Lord, have mercy.

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

PEOPLE: 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.

PEOPLE: Lord, have mercy.

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

PEOPLE: Lord, have mercy.

DEACON: For our father, (*metropolitan, archbishop, or bishop*) N., the honorable presbytery, the diaconate in Christ, and for all the clergy and the people, let us pray to the Lord.

PEOPLE: Lord, have mercy.

DEACON: For our president, all civil authorities, and for our armed forces, let us pray to the Lord.

PEOPLE: Lord, have mercy.

DEACON: For this city, every city and countryside, and for the faithful living in them, let us pray to the Lord.

PEOPLE: Lord, have mercy.

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

PEOPLE: Lord, have mercy.

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

PEOPLE: Lord, have mercy.

DEACON: For our deliverance from all tribulation, wrath, danger, and necessity, 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 Your grace.

PEOPLE: Lord, have mercy.

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

PEOPLE: To You, O Lord.

Exclamation of the Fourth Prayer

PRIEST: For unto You 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.

PEOPLE: Amen.

O Lord, I Cry...” – Tone 5

Opening Psalm Verses - Psalm 141:1, 2 (LXX 140)

O Lord, I cry out unto You, hear me! Hear me, O Lord. O Lord, I cry out to You, hear me. Give ear to my voice when I cry out, when I cry out to You. Hear me, O Lord.

Let my prayer be set forth before You as incense, and the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice. Hear me, O Lord.

Set a guard, O Lord over my mouth; keep watch o'er the door of my lips.

Do not incline my heart to any evil thing, to practice wicked works with men who work iniquity; and do not let me eat of their delicacies.

Let the righteous strike me; it shall be a kindness, and let him reprove me; it shall be as excellent oil. Let not my head refuse it, for still my prayer is against the deeds of the wicked.

Their judges are overthrown by the sides of the cliff and they hear my words for they are sweet. Our bones are scattered at the mouth of the grave, as when one plows and breaks up the earth.

But my eyes are upon You, O God the Lord; in You I take refuge; do not leave my soul destitute.

Keep me from the snares which they have laid for me, and from the traps of the workers of iniquity. Let the wicked fall into their own nets, while I escape safely.

Psalm 142 (LXX 141)

I cry out to the Lord with my voice; with my voice to the Lord I make my supplication.

I pour out my complaint before Him; I declare before Him my trouble.

When my spirit was overwhelmed within me, then You knew my path. In a way in which I walk they have secretly set a snare for me.

Look on my right hand and see, for there is no one who acknowledges me; refuge has failed me; no one cares for my soul.

I cried out to You, O Lord. I said, "You are my refuge, my portion in the land of the living.

Attend to my cry, for I am brought very low; deliver me from my persecutors for they are stronger than I."

Bring my soul out of prison, that I may praise Your name.

The righteous shall surround me, for You shall deal bountifully with me.

Psalm 130 (LXX 129)

Out of the depths I have cried to You, O Lord; Lord, hear my voice!

(Tone 1)

Accept our evening prayers, O holy Lord, and grant us remission of our sins, for You alone revealed the Resurrection to the world.

Let Your ears be attentive to the voice of my supplications.

Encircle Zion O people, and surround her, and give glory to Him Who has risen from the dead, for He is our God and has delivered us from our iniquities.

If You, Lord, should mark iniquities, O Lord, who could stand? But there is forgiveness with You, that You may be feared.

Come, O people, let us praise and worship Christ, glorifying His Resurrection from the dead. For He is our God and has delivered the world from the deception of the enemy.

I wait for the Lord, my soul waits, and in His word I do hope.

By Your passion, O Christ, we have been set free from sufferings; and by Your Resurrection we have been delivered from corruption. O Lord, glory to You.

My soul waits for the Lord more than those who watch for the morning, I say more than those who watch for the morning. O Israel, hope in the Lord;

(Tone 8)

Today hell groans and cries aloud: 'It had been better for me, had I not accepted Mary's Son, for He has come to me and destroyed my power; He has shattered the gates of brass, and as God He has raised up the souls that once I held.' Glory to Your Cross, O Lord, and to Your Resurrection.

For with the Lord there is mercy, and with Him is abundant redemption. And He shall redeem Israel from all his iniquities.

Today hell groans and cries aloud: 'It had been better for me, had I not accepted Mary's Son, for He has come to me and destroyed my power; He has shattered the gates of brass, and as God He has raised up the souls that once I held.' Glory to Your Cross, O Lord, and to Your Resurrection.

Psalm 117 (LXX 116)

O, praise the Lord, all you Gentiles! Laud Him, all you peoples!

Today hell groans and cries aloud: 'My power has been destroyed. I accepted a mortal man as one of the dead; yet I cannot keep Him prisoner, and with Him I shall lose all those over whom I ruled. I held in my power the dead from all the ages; but see, He is raising them all.' Glory to Your Cross, O Lord, and to Your Resurrection.

For His merciful kindness is great toward us, and the truth of the Lord endures forever.

Today hell groans and cries aloud: 'My dominion has been swallowed up; the Shepherd has been crucified and He has raised Adam. I am deprived of those whom I once ruled; in my strength I devoured them, but now I have cast them forth. He Who was crucified has emptied the tombs; the power of death has no more strength.' Glory to Your Cross, O Lord, and to Your Resurrection.

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

(Tone 6)

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

Now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

(Tone 1)

Let us sing the praises of the Virgin Mary, the door of heaven and the glory of all the world, the song of the angels, and the beauty of all the earth. For she was born a human yet gave birth to God. She was revealed as heaven and the temple of the Godhead. Tearing down the wall of enmity, she ushered in peace and threw open the kingdom. Therefore, since she is the foundation of our faith, we have as our defender the Lord, Who was born of her. Be bold, therefore, be bold, O people of God, for Christ will destroy all our enemies, since He is all-powerful.

The Prayer before the Entrance

DEACON: Let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mercy.

PRIEST: In the evening and in the morning and at noonday we praise You, we bless You, we give thanks to You, and we pray to You, O Master of all, Lord Who love mankind. Direct our prayer before You as incense, and incline not our hearts to words or thoughts of evil; but deliver us from all who seek after our souls. For unto You, Lord, O Lord, we lift up our eyes, and in You have we hoped. Put us not to shame, O our God.

For unto You 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.

DEACON: Amen.

DEACON: Bless, father, the holy entrance.

PRIEST: Blessed is the entrance into Your holy place always, now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

DEACON: Amen.

DEACON: Wisdom. Let us attend.

“O Joyful Light”

PEOPLE: O joyful Light of the holy glory of the immortal, heavenly, holy, blessed Father: O Jesus Christ. Now that we have come to the setting of the sun and behold the light of evening, we praise God: the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. For it is right at all times to worship You with voices of praise, O Son of God and Giver of life. Therefore all the world glorifies You.

After “O Joyful Light,” the First Old Testament Reading begins immediately.

First Old Testament Reading

Genesis 1:1-13

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. The earth was without form, and void; and darkness was on the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters. Then God said, “Let there be light”; and there was light.

And God saw the light, that it was good; and God divided the light from the darkness. God called the light Day, and the darkness He called Night. So the evening and the morning were the first day. Then God said, “Let there be a firmament in the midst of the waters, and let it divide the waters from the waters.” Thus God made the firmament, and divided the waters which were under the firmament from the waters which were above the firmament; and it was so. And God called the firmament Heaven. So the evening and the morning were the second day. Then God said, “Let the waters under the heavens be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear”; and it was so. And God called the dry land Earth, and the gathering together of the waters He called Seas. And God saw that it was good. Then God said, “Let the earth bring forth grass, the herb that yields seed, and the fruit tree that yields fruit according to its kind, whose seed is in itself, on the earth”; and it was so. And the earth brought forth grass, the herb that yields seed according to its kind, and the tree that yields fruit, whose seed is in itself according to its kind. And God saw that it was good. So the evening and the morning were the third day.

Second Old Testament Reading

Exodus 12:1-11, 31-42; 13:20-15:1

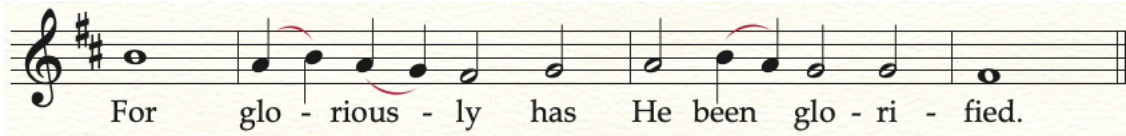
Now the Lord spoke to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt, saying, “This month shall be your beginning of months; it shall be the first month of the year to you. Speak to all the congregation of Israel, saying: ‘On the tenth of this month every man shall take for himself a lamb, according to the house of his father, a lamb for a household. And if the household is too small for the lamb, let him and his neighbor next to his house take it according to the number of the persons; according to each man’s need you shall make your count for the lamb. Your lamb shall be without blemish, a male of the first year. You may take it from the sheep or from the goats. Now you shall keep it until the fourteenth day of the same month. Then the whole assembly of the congregation of Israel shall kill it at twilight. And they shall take some of the blood and put it on the two doorposts and on the lintel of the houses where they eat it. Then they shall eat the flesh on that night; roasted in fire, with unleavened bread and with bitter herbs they shall eat it. Do not eat it raw, nor boiled at all with water, but roasted in fire—its head with its legs and its entrails. You shall let none of it remain until morning, and what remains of it until morning you shall burn with fire. And thus you shall eat it: with a belt on your waist, your sandals on your feet, and your staff in your hand. So you shall eat it in haste. It is the Lord’s Passover. Then he called for Moses and Aaron by night, and said, “Rise, go out from among my people, both you and the children of Israel. And go, serve the Lord as you have said. Also take your flocks and your herds, as you have said, and be gone; and bless me also.” And the Egyptians urged the people, that they might send them out of the land in haste. For they said, “We shall all be dead.” So the people took their dough before it was leavened, having their kneading bowls bound up in their clothes on their shoulders. Now the children of Israel had done according to the word

of Moses, and they had asked from the Egyptians articles of silver, articles of gold, and clothing. And the Lord had given the people favor in the sight of the Egyptians, so that they granted them what they requested. Thus they plundered the Egyptians. Then the children of Israel journeyed from Rameses to Succoth, about six hundred thousand men on foot, besides children. A mixed multitude went up with them also, and flocks and herds—a great deal of livestock. And they baked unleavened cakes of the dough which they had brought out of Egypt; for it was not leavened, because they were driven out of Egypt and could not wait, nor had they prepared provisions for themselves. Now the sojourn of the children of Israel who lived in Egypt was four hundred and thirty years. And it came to pass at the end of the four hundred and thirty years—on that very same day—it came to pass that all the armies of the Lord went out from the land of Egypt. It is a night of solemn observance to the Lord for bringing them out of the land of Egypt. This is that night of the LORD, a solemn observance for all the children of Israel throughout their generations. So they took their journey from Succoth and camped in Etham at the edge of the wilderness. And the Lord went before them by day in a pillar of cloud to lead the way, and by night in a pillar of fire to give them light, so as to go by day and night. He did not take away the pillar of cloud by day or the pillar of fire by night from before the people. Now the Lord spoke to Moses, saying: “Speak to the children of Israel, that they turn and camp before Pi Hahiroth, between Migdol and the sea, opposite Baal Zephon; you shall camp before it by the sea. For Pharaoh will say of the children of Israel, ‘They are bewildered by the land; the wilderness has closed them in.’ Then I will harden Pharaoh’s heart, so that he will pursue them; and I will gain honor over Pharaoh and over all his army, that the Egyptians may know that I am the Lord.” And they did so. Now it was told the king of Egypt that the people had fled, and the heart of Pharaoh and his servants was turned against the people; and they said, “Why have we done this, that we have let Israel go from serving us?” So he made ready his chariot and took his people with him. Also, he took six hundred choice chariots, and all the chariots of Egypt with captains over every one of them. And the Lord hardened the heart of Pharaoh king of Egypt, and he pursued the children of Israel; and the children of Israel went out with boldness. So the Egyptians pursued them, all the horses and chariots of Pharaoh, his horsemen and his army, and overtook them camping by the sea beside Pi Hahiroth, before Baal Zephon. And when Pharaoh drew near, the children of Israel lifted their eyes, and behold, the Egyptians marched after them. So they were very afraid, and the children of Israel cried out to the Lord. Then they said to Moses, “Because there were no graves in Egypt, have you taken us away to die in the wilderness? Why have you so dealt with us, to bring us up out of Egypt? Is this not the word that we told you in Egypt, saying, ‘Let us alone that we may serve the Egyptians’? For it would have been better for us to serve the Egyptians than that we should die in the wilderness.” And Moses said to the people, “Do not be afraid. Stand still, and see the salvation of the Lord, which He will accomplish for you today. For the Egyptians

whom you see today, you shall see again no more forever. The Lord will fight for you, and you shall hold your peace.” And the Lord said to Moses, “Why do you cry to Me? Tell the children of Israel to go forward. But lift up your rod, and stretch out your hand over the sea and divide it. And the children of Israel shall go on dry ground through the midst of the sea. And I indeed will harden the hearts of the Egyptians, and they shall follow them. So I will gain honor over Pharaoh and over all his army, his chariots, and his horsemen. Then the Egyptians shall know that I am the Lord, when I have gained honor for Myself over Pharaoh, his chariots, and his horsemen.” And the Angel of God, who went before the camp of Israel, moved and went behind them; and the pillar of cloud went from before them and stood behind them. So it came between the camp of the Egyptians and the camp of Israel. Thus it was a cloud and darkness to the one, and it gave light by night to the other, so that the one did not come near the other all that night. Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea; and the Lord caused the sea to go back by a strong east wind all that night, and made the sea into dry land, and the waters were divided. So the children of Israel went into the midst of the sea on the dry ground, and the waters were a wall to them on their right hand and on their left. And the Egyptians pursued and went after them into the midst of the sea, all Pharaoh’s horses, his chariots, and his horsemen. Now it came to pass, in the morning watch, that the Lord looked down upon the army of the Egyptians through the pillar of fire and cloud, and He troubled the army of the Egyptians. And He took off their chariot wheels, so that they drove them with difficulty; and the Egyptians said, “Let us flee from the face of Israel, for the Lord fights for them against the Egyptians.” Then the Lord said to Moses, “Stretch out your hand over the sea, that the waters may come back upon the Egyptians, on their chariots, and on their horsemen.” And Moses stretched out his hand over the sea; and when the morning appeared, the sea returned to its full depth, while the Egyptians were fleeing into it. So the Lord overthrew the Egyptians in the midst of the sea. Then the waters returned and covered the chariots, the horsemen, and all the army of Pharaoh that came into the sea after them. Not so much as one of them remained. But the children of Israel had walked on dry land in the midst of the sea, and the waters were a wall to them on their right hand and on their left. So the Lord saved Israel that day out of the hand of the Egyptians, and Israel saw the Egyptians dead on the seashore. Thus Israel saw the great work which the Lord had done in Egypt; so the people feared the Lord, and believed the Lord and His servant Moses. Then Moses and the children of Israel sang a song of praise and thanksgiving to the Lord.

The Song of Moses (Exodus 15)

Refrain:



I will sing to the Lord, for He has triumphed gloriously: the horse and his rider He has thrown into the sea. The Lord is my strength and my song and He has become my salvation. This is my God, and I will praise Him, the God of my father's and I will exalt Him.

Your right hand, O Lord, is glorious in power; Your right hand, O Lord, shatters the enemy. In the greatness of Your majesty You overthrow Your adversaries; You send forth Your fury, it consumes them like stubble.

In Your steadfast love You have led the peoples whom You have redeemed, You have guided them by Your strength to Your holy abode. You will bring them in, and plant them on Your own land; which Your hands have established. The Lord will reign forever and ever.

For when the horses of Pharoah with his chariots and his horsemen went into the sea, the Lord brought back the waters of the sea upon them: but the people of Israel walked on dry ground in the midst of the sea. Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Third Old Testament Reading

Jonah 1:1-4:11

Now the word of the Lord came to Jonah the son of Amittai, saying, "Arise, go to Nineveh, that great city, and cry out against it; for their wickedness has come up before Me." But Jonah arose to flee to Tarshish from the presence of the Lord. He went down to Joppa, and found a ship going to Tarshish; so he paid the fare, and went down into it, to go with them to Tarshish from the presence of the Lord. But the Lord sent out a great wind on the sea, and there was a mighty tempest on the sea, so that the ship was about to be broken up. Then the mariners were afraid; and every man cried out to his god, and threw the cargo that was in the ship into the sea, to lighten the load. But Jonah had gone down into the lowest parts of the ship, had lain down, and was fast asleep. So the captain came to him, and said to him, "What do you mean, sleeper? Arise, call on your God; perhaps your God will consider us, so that we may not perish." And they said to one another, "Come, let us cast lots, that we may know for whose cause this trouble has come upon us." So they cast lots, and the lot fell on Jonah. Then they said to him, "Please tell us! For whose cause is this trouble upon us? What is your occupation? And where do you come from? What is your country? And of what people are you?" So he said to them, "I am a Hebrew; and I fear the Lord, the God of heaven, who made the sea and

the dry land.” Then the men were exceedingly afraid, and said to him, “Why have you done this?” For the men knew that he fled from the presence of the Lord, because he had told them. Then they said to him, “What shall we do to you that the sea may be calm for us?”—for the sea was growing more tempestuous. And he said to them, “Pick me up and throw me into the sea; then the sea will become calm for you. For I know that this great tempest is because of me.” Nevertheless the men rowed hard to return to land, but they could not, for the sea continued to grow more tempestuous against them. Therefore they cried out to the Lord and said, “We pray, O Lord, please do not let us perish for this man’s life, and do not charge us with innocent blood; for You, O Lord, have done as it pleased You.” So they picked up Jonah and threw him into the sea, and the sea ceased from its raging. Then the men feared the Lord exceedingly, and offered a sacrifice to the Lord and took vows. Now the Lord had prepared a great fish to swallow Jonah. And Jonah was in the belly of the fish three days and three nights. Then Jonah prayed to the Lord his God from the fish’s belly. And he said: “I cried out to the Lord because of my affliction, And He answered me. “Out of the belly of Sheol I cried, and You heard my voice. For You cast me into the deep, into the heart of the seas, and the floods surrounded me; all Your billows and Your waves passed over me. Then I said, ‘I have been cast out of Your sight; yet I will look again toward Your holy temple.’ The waters surrounded me, even to my soul; the deep closed around me; weeds were wrapped around my head. I went down to the moorings of the mountains; the earth with its bars closed behind me forever; yet You have brought up my life from the pit, O Lord, my God. “When my soul fainted within me, I remembered the Lord; and my prayer went up to You, into Your holy temple. “Those who regard worthless idols forsake their own Mercy. But I will sacrifice to You with the voice of thanksgiving; I will pay what I have vowed. Salvation is of the Lord.” So the Lord spoke to the fish, and it vomited Jonah onto dry land. Now the word of the Lord came to Jonah the second time, saying, “Arise, go to Nineveh, that great city, and preach to it the message that I tell you.” So Jonah arose and went to Nineveh, according to the word of the Lord. Now Nineveh was an exceedingly great city, a three-day journey in extent. And Jonah began to enter the city on the first day’s walk. Then he cried out and said, “Yet forty days, and Nineveh shall be overthrown!” So the people of Nineveh believed God, proclaimed a fast, and put on sackcloth, from the greatest to the least of them. Then word came to the king of Nineveh; and he arose from his throne and laid aside his robe, covered himself with sackcloth and sat in ashes. And he caused it to be proclaimed and published throughout Nineveh by the decree of the king and his nobles, saying, Let neither man nor beast, herd nor flock, taste anything; do not let them eat, or drink water. But let man and beast be covered with sackcloth, and cry mightily to God; yes, let everyone turn from his evil way and from the violence that is in his hands. Who can tell if God will turn and relent, and turn away from His fierce anger, so that we may not perish? Then God saw their works, that they turned from their evil way; and God relented from the disaster that He had said He would bring upon them, and He did not do it. But it displeased Jonah exceedingly, and he became angry. So he prayed to the Lord, and said, “Ah, Lord, was not this what I said when I was still in my country? Therefore I fled previously to Tarshish; for I know that You are a gracious and merciful God, slow to anger and

abundant in lovingkindness, One who relents from doing harm. Therefore now, O Lord, please take my life from me, for it is better for me to die than to live!" Then the Lord said, "Is it right for you to be angry?" So Jonah went out of the city and sat on the east side of the city. There he made himself a shelter and sat under it in the shade, till he might see what would become of the city. And the Lord God prepared a plant and made it come up over Jonah, that it might be shade for his head to deliver him from his misery. So Jonah was very grateful for the plant. But as morning dawned the next day God prepared a worm, and it so damaged the plant that it withered. And it happened, when the sun arose, that God prepared a vehement east wind; and the sun beat on Jonah's head, so that he grew faint. Then he wished death for himself, and said, "It is better for me to die than to live." Then God said to Jonah, "Is it right for you to be angry about the plant?" And he said, "It is right for me to be angry, even to death!" But the Lord said, "You have had pity on the plant for which you have not labored, nor made it grow, which came up in a night and perished in a night. And should I not pity Nineveh, that great city, in which are more than one hundred and twenty thousand persons who cannot discern between their right hand and their left - and much livestock?" Amen.

Fourth Old Testament Reading

Daniel 3:1-56 (Orthodox Study Bible LXX)

In his eighteenth year, King Nebuchadnezzar made a golden image. Its height was sixty cubits and its width, six cubits, and he set it up in the plain of Dura, in the province of Babylon. Then Nebuchadnezzar sent to gather together the high officials, the commanders, the governors, the rulers, and all those in authority, along with all the rulers of the provinces, to come to the dedication of the image King Nebuchadnezzar set up. So the governors, the high officials, the leaders, the great rulers, and all those in authority who ruled the provinces came to the dedication of the image King Nebuchadnezzar set up, and they stood before the image Nebuchadnezzar made.

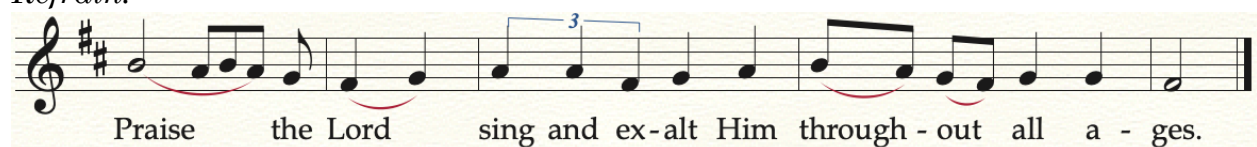
Then the herald cried out in a loud voice, "To you it is commanded, O peoples and tribes and languages, that in what hour you hear the sound of the trumpet, the pipe, the harp, the four-stringed instrument, the psaltery, the symphony, and every kind of music, you shall fall down and worship the golden image King Nebuchadnezzar set up. But whoever does not fall down and worship shall be cast into the burning fiery furnace." So at that time, when all the peoples heard the sound of the trumpet, the pipe, the harp, the four-stringed instrument, the psaltery, the symphony, and every kind of music, all the peoples, tribes, and languages fell down and worshipped the golden image King Nebuchadnezzar set up. Then Chaldean men came forward and brought charges against the Jews, and said to King Nebuchadnezzar, "O king, live forever, You O king, made a decree, that every man who hears the sound of the trumpet, the pipe; the harp, the four-stringed instrument, the psaltery, the symphony, and every kind of music, but does not fall down and worship the golden image shall be cast into the burning fiery furnace. Now there are certain Jews you set over the affairs of the province of Babylon: Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. Those men did not obey your decree, O king; and they do not serve your gods, nor do they worship the golden image you set up." Then

Nebuchadnezzar; in rage and fury, gave the command to bring Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. So the men were brought before the king. Nebuchadnezzar then answered and said to them, "Is it true, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, that you do not serve my gods or worship the golden image I set up? Now then, if you are ready, when you hear the sound of the trumpet, the pipe, the harp, the four-stringed instrument, the psaltery, the symphony, and every kind of music, that you shall fall down and worship the golden image I made. But indeed, if you do not worship it at that time, you shall be cast into the burning fiery furnace. Then what god is there who will deliver you from my hands?" Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego answered and said to King Nebuchadnezzar, "We have no need to answer you in regard to this thing. For there is a God in the heavens, Whom we serve, and He is able to save us from the burning fiery furnace; and He will deliver us from your hands, O king. But if not, let it be known to you, O king, that we will not serve your gods, nor worship the golden image you set up." Then Nebuchadnezzar was full of anger, and the expression on his face changed toward Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. So he commanded them to heat the furnace seven times more, until it burned to its fullest. Then he commanded certain very strong men to bind Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego and to cast them into the burning fiery furnace. Thereupon, those men were bound together with their sandals, caps, leg-coverings, and clothing, and were cast into the midst of the burning fiery furnace. Because the king's command was urgent, and the furnace was exceedingly hot, these three men, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego fell bound into the midst of the burning fiery furnace. But they walked about in the midst of the flame, singing to God and praising the Lord. Then Meshach stood and prayed thus and opened his mouth in the midst of the fire and said: "Blessed are You and praiseworthy, O Lord, the God of our fathers, and praised and glorified is Your name unto the ages. For You are righteous in all You did for us, and all Your works are true. Your ways are upright, and all Your judgments are true. The judgments You made are true, according to all You brought on us and on the holy city of our fathers, because in truth and judgment You did all these things on account of our sins. For we sinned and acted lawlessly to depart from You. We sinned in every way, and did not obey Your commandments. Neither did we treasure or do as You commanded that it might go well with us. Everything You brought on us and all You did to us, You did in true judgment. You delivered us into the hands of lawless and rebellious enemies and to an unjust king the most evil in any land, now it is not for us to open our mouth, for this has become a shame and disgrace to Your servants and to those who worship You. For Your name's sake, do not hand us over to the end, and do not reject Your covenant. Do not withdraw Your mercy from us for the sake of Abraham, who is loved by You, and for the sake of Isaac, Your servant, and of Israel, Your holy one, As You spoke to them, saying that You would multiply their seed as the stars of heaven, and as the sand along the seashore. Yet we have been diminished in number, O Master, more than all the nations, and we are humbled in all the earth today because of our sins. "At this time, there is no prince, no prophet, and no leader; There is no whole burnt offering, no sacrifice, no offering, and no incense; there is no place to bear fruit before You and to find mercy. Yet with a contrite soul and humbled spirit, may we receive mercy, as with whole burnt offerings of rams and bulls, and as with

thousands of fatted lambs. So let this be our sacrifice before You today, and may it be accomplished for those who follow You; for there is no shame for those who trust in You. Now we are following You with all our heart, and we fear You and seek Your face. “Do not put us to shame, but deal with us according to Your kindness and according to the abundance of Your mercy. Deliver us by Your wondrous works and give glory to Your name, O Lord. May all those who inflict evils upon Your servants be put to shame and humiliated in their power; and let their strength be crushed. Let them know that You alone are the Lord God and glorious over all the inhabited earth.” Now the king's servants who cast them in did not cease to stoke the furnace with naphtha, pitch, coarse fiber, and brush- wood. The flame shot forty-nine cubits above the furnace, and it broke out and burned those it found around the furnace of the Chaldeans. But the Angel of the Lord went down into the furnace to join Meshach and his companions, and shook off the fiery flame of the furnace. He made the inside of the furnace to be as though a dew-laden breeze were blowing through it, so the fire did not touch them at all, or cause them pain, or trouble them. Then the three, as if with one mouth, sang, glorified, and blessed God in the furnace, saying: “Blessed are You, O Lord God of our fathers, for You are praiseworthy and exalted beyond measure unto the ages. Blessed is Your name and the temple of your glory, and You are praised exceedingly and exalted beyond measure unto the ages. You are blessed in the holy temple of Your glory, and are highly praised and exceedingly glorious unto the ages. Blessed are You on the throne of Your kingdom, and You are praised and exalted beyond measure unto the ages. Blessed are You who behold the depths and sit upon the cherubim. You are praiseworthy and exalted beyond measure unto the ages. Blessed are You in the firmament of heaven, for You are praised and glorified unto the ages.”

The Song of the Three Young Men (Daniel 3)

Refrain:



Bless the Lord, all you works of the Lord. Bless the Lord, you heavens and you angels of the Lord. Bless the Lord, all waters above the heavens and all powers of the Lord. Bless the Lord, sun and moon and you stars of heaven.

Bless the Lord, all rain and dew and all winds. Bless the Lord, fire and heat, winter and summer. Bless the Lord, dews and snows, ice and cold. Bless the Lord, frosts and snows, lightnings and clouds.

Bless the Lord, nights and days, light and darkness. Bless the Lord, earth, mountains and hills, and all things that grow on the earth. Bless the Lord, you springs, seas and rivers, you whales and all creatures that move in the waters. Bless the Lord, all birds of the air, all beasts and cattle.

Bless the Lord, you sons of men, bless the Lord, O Israel. Bless the Lord, you priests of the Lord, and you servants of the Lord. Bless the Lord, you spirits and souls of the righteous, you who are holy and humble in heart. Bless the Lord, Shadrach, Meshach and Abed'nego. Bless the Lord, you apostles, prophets, and martyrs of the Lord.

Chrismation of Converts

The Liturgy of St. Basil begins.

Anti-Trisagion

“As many as have been baptized...”

As many as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ. Alleluia. (3x)

Prokeimenon: Tone 66 (Psalm 65)

Let all the earth worship You and sing unto You; let them praise Your name, Most High.

Verse: Make a joyful shout to God, all the earth! Sing out the honor of His name.

Verse: Make His praise glorious. Say to God, “How awesome are Your works!”

Verse: Through the greatness of Your power Your enemies shall cringe before You.

Epistle Reading – Romans 6:3-11

Or do you not know that as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. For if we have been united together in the likeness of His death, certainly we also shall be in the likeness of His Resurrection, knowing this, that our old man was crucified with Him, that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves of sin. For he who has died has been freed from sin. Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with Him, knowing that Christ, having been raised from the dead, dies no more. Death no longer has dominion over Him. For the death that He died, He died to sin once for all; but the life that He lives, He lives to God. Likewise you also, reckon yourselves to be dead indeed to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

In place of the Alleluia we sing the following refrain from Psalm 82 with verses by the cantors. During these verses the color of vestments and Altar coverings are changed from dark to light.

Refrain: Arise, O God, judge the earth; for You shall have an inheritance in all the nations.

Verse: God stands in the congregation of the mighty; He judges among the gods.

Verse: How long will you judge unjustly, and show partiality to the wicked?

Verse: Defend the poor and fatherless; do justice to the afflicted and needy.

Verse: Deliver the poor and needy; free them from the hand of the wicked.

Verse: They do not know nor do they understand; they walk about in darkness; all the foundations of the earth are unstable.

Verse: I said, "You are gods, and all of you are children of the Most High.

Verse: But you shall die like men, and fall like one of the princes."

Verse: Arise, O God, judge the earth; for You shall inherit all nations.

Gospel Reading – Matthew 28:1-20

Now after the Sabbath, as the first day of the week began to dawn, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary came to see the tomb. And behold, there was a great earthquake; for an angel of the Lord descended from heaven, and came and rolled back the stone from the door, and sat on it. His countenance was like lightning, and his clothing as white as snow. And the guards shook for fear of him, and became like dead men. But the angel answered and said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you seek Jesus Who was crucified. He is not here; for He is risen, as He said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay. And go quickly and tell His disciples that He is risen from the dead, and indeed He is going before you into Galilee; there you will see Him. Behold, I have told you." So they went out quickly from the tomb with fear and great joy, and ran to bring His disciples word. And as they went to tell His disciples, behold, Jesus met them, saying, "Rejoice!" So they came and held Him by the feet and worshiped Him. Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid. Go and tell My brethren to go to Galilee, and there they will see Me." Now while they were going, behold, some of the guard came into the city and reported to the chief priests all the things that had happened. When they had assembled with the elders and consulted together, they gave a large sum of money to the soldiers, saying, "Tell them, 'His disciples came at night and stole Him away while we slept.' And if this comes to the governor's ears, we will appease him and make you secure." So they took the money and did as they were instructed; and this saying is commonly reported among the Jews until this day. Then the eleven disciples went away into Galilee, to the mountain which Jesus had appointed for them. When they saw Him, they worshiped Him; but some doubted. And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." Amen.

Great Entrance Hymn – "Let All Mortal Flesh..." (metered)

Let all mortal flesh keep silence, and with fear and trembling stand;
Ponder nothing earthly minded, for with blessing in His hand
Christ our God to earth descendeth, our full homage to demand.

King of kings, yet born of Mary, as of old on earth He stood,
Lord of lords in human vesture, in the Body and the Blood
He will give to all the faithful His own self for heavenly food.

Rank on rank the host of heaven, spreads its vanguard on the way,
As the Light of light descendeth, from the realms of endless day,
That the powers of hell may vanish as the darkness clears away.

Repeat above until the Great Entrance which is made in silence.

At His feet the six-winged seraph; cherubim and sleepless eye,
Veil their faces to the presence, as with ceaseless voice they cry,
“Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Lord most High.”

Magnification Hymn

All of creation rejoices in you, O full of grace, the angelic hosts and the race
of men. O sanctified temple and spiritual paradise, glory of virgins, of whom
God was incarnate and became a little Child, even our God Who is before all
the ages, for He made your womb a throne and your body He made more
spacious than the heavens. All of creation rejoices in you, O full of grace!
Glory to you!

The Communion Hymn (Psalm 78)

The Lord awakes as if from sleep. He's risen as if from sleep.
He is risen and saves us. Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

Post Communion Hymn

Remember us, merciful One, as You remember the thief in the
Kingdom of heaven. (3x)

The Dismissal

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

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

Lord, have mercy. (3x)

Father, bless.

PRIEST: May Christ our true God, *Who rose from the dead*, through the intercessions of His all-pure and all-blameless, holy Mother... at the supplication of (*N., patron of the church*), of the holy and righteous ancestors of God, Joachim and Anna, and of all the saints, have mercy on us and save us, for He is good and loves mankind.

Through the prayers of our holy fathers, Lord Jesus Christ, our God, have mercy on us and save us.

PEOPLE: Amen.

Kathisma Hymn - Tone 1

*The soldiers guarding Your tomb, O Savior,
became as dead men at the lightning flash of the angel
who appeared announcing Your Resurrection to the women.
We glorify You, Who cleanse from corruption.
We fall down before You, Who rose from the tomb,
our only God.*



The Myrrhbearers



Burial of Christ

Kontakion - Tone 6

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

Ikos

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

“Joseph with Nicodemus...” (Special metered version, *Passion Chorale*)

Joseph with Nicodemus took You down from the Tree,
Who died there to redeem us, from sin to set us free.
And You Whose robes are glory he saw now stripped and slain,
Unburied, wounded, gory; and cried with bitter pain:

“O woe is me, my Jesus! The sun did turn its head;
The earth did quake around us, when they beheld You dead.
And now I see You hanging, for me accepting death.
My God, Who died so willing what can I wrap You with?

“What song at Your departure shall I to You now sing?
O gentle loving Savior, what praises shall I bring?
I praise Your crucifixion; I praise Your lowly tomb;
I praise Your Resurrection. Lord, glory be to You.”

Weep Not, O Mother (Special metered version, *“Fairest, Lord Jesus”*)

“Weep not, O Mother, weep not for Me, for Me,
Your own dear Son born from your womb;
Weep not though now you see Him born in purity
Here lying in a cold, stone tomb.

“For I shall rise again, and shall be glorified,
And then as God shall glorify.
For all eternity all who do lovingly
You My true mother magnify.”

“O Son eternal, born through a miracle,
At Your strange birth I felt no pain;
But sharp swords pierce through me.
As You now dead I see.
My Son, my God, O live again!”

Matins Canon Katavasia: Tone 6

Odes 1-9

Of old You buried the pursuing tyrant beneath the waves of the sea. Now the children of those who were saved bury You beneath the earth, but like the maidens let us sing to the Lord, for gloriously has He been glorified.

Refrain: Glory to You, our God, glory to You.

You suspended the earth immovably upon the waters. Now creation beholds You suspended on Calvary. It quakes with great amazement and cries: "None is holy but You, O Lord."

Refrain: Glory to You, our God, glory to You.

Foreseeing Your divine humiliation on the cross, Habakkuk cried out trembling: "You shattered the dominion of the mighty by joining those in hell as the almighty Lord."

Refrain: Glory to You, our God, glory to You.

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

Refrain: Glory to You, our God, glory to You.

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

Refrain: Glory to You, our God, glory to You.

Inexpressible wonder! In the furnace You saved the holy youths from the flame. Now You are placed in the grave as a lifeless corpse, for the salvation of us who sing: "Blessed are You, O God, our Redeemer!"

Refrain: Glory to You, our God, glory to You.

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

Refrain: Glory to You, our God, glory to You.

Weep not for Me, O Mother, beholding in the tomb the Son Whom you have conceived without seed in your womb. For I shall arise and be glorified, and as God I shall exalt in everlasting glory those who magnify you with faith and love.