

Holy Friday Matins/Orthros

The Reading of the Twelve Passion Gospels and the Procession of the Holy Cross



The Prayer to the Holy Spirit

PRIEST: Glory to You, our God. Glory to You.

O heavenly King, O Comforter, the Spirit of truth, Who are in all places and fill all things, the Treasury of good things and Giver of life: Come, and abide in us, and cleanse us from every stain, and save our souls, O good One.

The Trisagion Prayers

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

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

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 Your name's sake.

Lord, have mercy. (3x)

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

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

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.

READER/PEOPLE: Lord, have mercy. (12x)

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

Come, let us worship and fall down before God our King.

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

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

The Royal Psalms

(Optional)

Psalm 20 (LXX 19)

Psalm 21 (LXX 20)

Troparion and Kontakion of the Cross and Theotokion

O Lord, save Your people, and bless Your inheritance, granting to Your people victory over all adversaries, and by Your Cross preserving Your habitation.

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

O Lord, Who of Your own good will were lifted up on the Cross, O Christ our God, bestow Your generous gifts on the new nation which is called by Your name; make glad in Your might those who lawfully govern, that with them we may be led to victory over our adversaries, having in Your aid a weapon of peace and a trophy invincible.

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

O fearsome Champion, who cannot be put to confusion, despise not our petitions, O good and all-praised Theotokos; establish the way of the Orthodox; save those who have been called upon to govern us, leading us all to that victory which is from heaven, for you are she who gave birth to God and alone are blessed.

Litany and Blessing

PRIEST: Have mercy on us, O God, according to Your great mercy, hear us we pray, and have mercy.

PEOPLE: Lord, have mercy. (3x)

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

PEOPLE: Lord, have mercy. (3x)

PRIEST: Again we pray our father, (*metropolitan, archbishop, or bishop*) N., and all our brotherhood in Christ.

PEOPLE: Lord, have mercy. (3x)

PRIEST: For You are a merciful God and love mankind, and unto You we ascribe glory: to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

PEOPLE: Amen.

READER/PEOPLE: Bless, father, 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.

READER: Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will among men. (3x)

O Lord, open my lips, and my mouth shall declare Your praise. (2x)

The Six Psalms

Psalm 3

Lord, how they have increased who trouble me! Many are they who rise up against me. Many are they who say of me, "There is no help for him in God." But You, O Lord, are a shield for me, my glory and the One Who lifts up my head. I cried to the Lord with my voice, and He heard me from His holy hill. I lay down and slept; I awoke, for the Lord sustained me. I will not be afraid of ten thousands of people who have set themselves against me all around. Arise, O Lord; save me, O my God! For You have struck all my enemies on the cheekbone; You have broken the teeth of the ungodly. Salvation belongs to the Lord. Your blessing is upon Your people.

I lay down and slept; I awoke, for the Lord sustained me.

Psalm 38 (LXX 37)

O Lord, do not rebuke me in Your wrath, nor chasten me in Your hot displeasure! For Your arrows pierce me deeply, and Your hand presses me down. There is no soundness in my flesh because of Your anger, nor any health in my bones because of my sin. For my iniquities have gone over my head; like a heavy burden they are too heavy for me. My wounds are foul and festering because of my foolishness. I am troubled, I am bowed down greatly; I go mourning all the day long. For my loins are full of inflammation, and there is no soundness in my flesh. I am feeble and severely broken; I groan because of the turmoil of my heart. Lord, all my desire is before You; and my sighing is not hidden from You. My heart pants, my strength fails me; as for the light of my eyes, it also has gone from me. My loved ones and my friends stand aloof from my plague, and my relatives stand afar off. Those also who seek my life lay snares for me; those who seek my hurt speak of destruction, and plan deception all the day long. But I, like a deaf man, do not hear; and I am like a mute who does not open his mouth.

Thus I am like a man who does not hear, and in whose mouth is no response. For in You, O Lord, I hope; You will hear, O Lord my God. For I said, "Hear me, lest they rejoice over me, lest, when my foot slips, they exalt themselves against me." For I am ready to fall, and my sorrow is continually before me. For I will declare my iniquity; I will be in anguish over my sin. But my enemies are vigorous, and they are strong; and those who hate me wrongfully have multiplied. Those also who render evil for good, they are my adversaries, because I follow what is good. Do not forsake me, O Lord; O my God, be not far from me! Make haste to help me, O Lord, my salvation!

Do not forsake me, O Lord; O my God, be not far from me! Make haste to help me, O Lord, my salvation!

Psalm 63 (LXX 62)

O God, You are my God; early will I seek You; my soul thirsts for You; my flesh longs for You in a dry and thirsty land where there is no water. So I have looked for You in the sanctuary, to see Your power and Your glory. Because Your loving-kindness is better than life, my lips shall praise You. Thus I will bless You while I live; I will lift up my hands in Your name. My soul shall be satisfied as with marrow and fatness, and my mouth shall praise You with joyful lips. When I remember You on my bed, I meditate on You in the night watches. Because You have been my help, therefore in the shadow of Your wings I will rejoice. My soul follows close behind You; Your right hand upholds me. But those who seek my life, to destroy it, shall go into the lower parts of the earth. They shall fall by the sword; they shall be a portion for jackals. But the king shall rejoice in God; everyone who swears by Him shall glory; but the mouth of those who speak lies shall be stopped. I meditate on You in the night watches. Because You have been my help, therefore in the shadow of Your wings I will rejoice.

My soul follows close behind You; Your right hand upholds 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 You, O God. (3x)

Lord, have mercy. (3x)

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

Psalm 88 (LXX 87)

O Lord, God of my salvation, I have cried out day and night before You. Let my prayer come before You; incline Your ear to my cry. For my soul is full of troubles, and my life draws near to the grave. I am counted with those who go down to the pit; I am like a man who has no strength, adrift among the dead, like the slain who lie in the grave, whom You remember no more, and who are cut off from Your hand. You have laid me in the lowest pit, in darkness, in the depths. Your wrath lies heavy upon me, and You have afflicted me with all your waves. You have put away my acquaintances far from me; You have made me an abomination to them; I am shut up, and I cannot get out; my eye wastes away

because of affliction. Lord, I have called daily upon You; I have stretched out my hands to You. Will You work wonders for the dead? Shall the dead arise and praise You? Shall Your loving-kindness be declared in the grave? Or Your faithfulness in the place of destruction? Shall Your wonders be known in the dark? And Your righteousness in the land of forgetfulness? But to You I have cried out, O Lord, and in the morning my prayer comes before You. Lord, why do You cast off my soul? Why do You hide Your face from me? I have been afflicted and ready to die from my youth; I suffer Your terrors; I am distraught. Your fierce wrath has gone over me; Your terrors have cut me off. They came around me all day long like water; they engulfed me altogether. Loved one and friend You have put far from me, and my acquaintances into darkness.

O Lord, God of my salvation, I have cried out day and night before You. Let my prayer come before You; incline Your ear to my cry.

Psalm 103 (LXX 102)

Bless the Lord, O my soul; and all that is within me, bless His holy name! Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all His benefits: Who forgives all your iniquities, Who heals all your diseases, Who redeems your life from destruction, Who crowns you with loving-kindness and tender mercies, Who satisfies your mouth with good things, so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's. The Lord executes righteousness and justice for all who are oppressed. He made known His ways to Moses, His acts to the children of Israel. The Lord is merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in mercy. He will not always strive with us, nor will He keep His anger forever. He has not dealt with us according to our sins, nor punished us according to our iniquities. For as the heavens are high above the earth, so great is His mercy toward those who fear Him; as far as the east is from the west, so far has He removed our transgressions from us. As a father pities his children, so the Lord pities those who fear Him. For He knows our frame; He remembers that we are but dust. As for man, his days are like grass; as a flower of the field, so he flourishes. For the wind passes over it, and it is gone, and its place remembers 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 such as keep His covenant, and to those who remember His commandments to do them. The Lord has established His throne in heaven, and His kingdom rules over all. Bless the Lord, You His angels, who excel in strength, who do His word, heeding the voice of His word. Bless the Lord, all you His hosts, you ministers of His, who do His pleasure. 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 (LXX 142)

Hear my prayer, O Lord, give ear to my supplications! In Your faithfulness answer me, and in Your righteousness. Do not enter into judgment with Your servant, for in Your sight no one living is righteous. For the enemy has persecuted my soul; He has crushed my life to the ground; He has made me dwell in darkness, like those who have long been dead. Therefore my spirit is

overwhelmed within me; my heart within me is distressed. I remember the days of old; I meditate on all Your works; I muse on the work of Your hands. I spread out my hands to You; my soul longs for You like a thirsty land. Answer me speedily, O Lord; my spirit fails! Do not hide Your face from me, lest I be like those who go down into the pit. Cause me to hear Your loving-kindness in the morning, for in You do I trust; cause me to know the way in which I should walk, for I lift up my soul to you. Deliver me, O Lord, from my enemies; in You I take shelter. Teach me to do Your will, for You are my God; Your Spirit is good. Lead me in the land of uprightness. Revive me, O Lord, for Your name's sake! For Your righteousness' sake bring my soul out of trouble. In Your mercy cut off my enemies, and destroy all those who afflict my soul; for I am Your servant.

O Lord, give ear to my supplications and do not enter into judgment with Your servant. (2x)

Your Spirit is good. Lead me in the land of uprightness.

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 You, O God. (3x)

O our God and our Hope, glory to You.

The Twelve Morning Prayers

The priest pray these prayers quietly during the Six Psalms..

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 First Morning 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.

Alleluia (Tone 8)

READER: My spirit seeks You early in the morning, O God, for Your commandments are a light upon the earth.

PEOPLE: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

READER: Learn righteousness, you who dwell upon the earth.

PEOPLE: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

READER: The wrath of God shall fall upon a disobedient people, and fire shall now devour the enemy.

PEOPLE: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

READER: Bring more evils upon them, O Lord, bring more evils upon those who are glorious on earth.

PEOPLE: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Troparion, Tone 8 - "The Glorious Disciples..."

The glorious disciples were illumined at the washing of the feet, but ungodly Judas was darkened by the disease of greed, and he delivered You, the righteous Judge, to lawless judges. See, O lover of money, how for money's sake he hanged himself. Flee from the greed which made him do such things against his Master. O Lord Who love mankind, glory to You!
(3x)

The First Gospel Reading: John 13:31- 18:1

[Note the special refrain below, sung after all the Gospels.]

PEOPLE: Glory to Your long-suffering, O Lord.

[The Antiphons that follow may be sung alternately between the chanters and the people, with the people singing the bold stanzas, and the chanters always taking the "Glory...now and ever...."]

1st Antiphon - Tone 8

The rulers of the people took counsel together // against the Lord and against His anointed.

They laid a lawless accusation against Me. // O Lord, Lord, forsake Me not.

Let us bring to Christ pure senses and affections, / and as His friends let us sacrifice our lives for His sake. / Let us not, as Judas, // choke ourselves with the cares of this life. \ But in the inner chambers of our hearts let us cry: // "Our Father Who art in heaven, deliver us from the evil one."

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

As a virgin you have borne a Child and have remained a virgin, / O Mother who have not known wedlock. / O Mary Theotokos, // pray to Christ our God that we may be saved.

2nd Antiphon - Tone 6

Judas ran to the lawless scribes and said: // "What will you give me, and I shall deliver Him to you?" \ And while they conspired together, / You against Whom they were conspiring, / were Yourself standing invisibly in their midst. // O You Who know the hearts of men, spare our souls.

In loving compassion let us minister to God, / as Mary at the supper; / and let us not as Judas acquire love of money, // that we may ever abide with Christ our God.

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

Cease not to pray, O Virgin, unto Him / Whom you have borne in ways past all interpretation, / and Who loves mankind: // that He may save from danger all who flee to you for refuge.

3rd Antiphon - Tone 2

Because of the raising of Lazarus, / the children of the Hebrews cried Hosanna unto You, / O Lord Who love mankind. // But Judas the transgressor had no wish to understand.

At Your supper, O Christ our God, / You have foretold to Your disciples: / “One of you shall betray Me.” // But Judas the transgressor had no wish to understand.

When John asked You, O Lord, / “Who is he that shall betray You?” / You have shown him through the giving of the bread. // But Judas the transgressor had no wish to understand.

With thirty pieces of silver, O Lord, / and with a false kiss, / the Jews sought to kill You. // But Judas the transgressor had no wish to understand.

During the washing of the feet, O Christ our God, / You have commanded Your disciples, / “Do as you have seen Me do.” // But Judas the transgressor had no wish to understand.

“Watch and pray, / that you enter not into temptation,” / You, our God, have said to Your disciples. // But Judas the transgressor had no wish to understand.

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

Keep your servants safe from danger, / O Theotokos, / for after God we all flee to you for refuge, // as an unconquerable rampart and protection.

Kathisma Hymn – Tone 7

As You gave food to the disciples at the Supper, knowing the plot for Your betrayal, You accused Judas of it. You understood that he would not come to repentance, yet You desired to show to all that You were betrayed of Your own will, to save the world from the enemy. O longsuffering Lord, glory to You.

The Second Gospel Reading: John 18:1-28

[Note the special refrain below, sung after all the Gospels.]

PEOPLE: Glory to Your long-suffering, O Lord.

4th Antiphon - Tone 5

Today Judas forsakes the Master / and accepts the devil: / he is blinded by the passion of avarice // and darkened he falls from the Light. \ For how could he see, who sold the Light for thirty pieces of silver? / But He Who suffered for the world has shone upon us as the dawn. / To Him let us cry: // O You Who suffer with men and for their sakes, glory to You.

Today Judas makes a pretence of godliness / and becomes a stranger to the gift of grace; / though a disciple, he turns traitor, // and under a guise of friendship he conceals deceit. \ In his foolishness he prefers thirty pieces of silver to the Master's love, / and acts as guide to the lawless Sanhedrin. / But we have Christ as our salvation: // let us glorify Him.

As brothers in Christ, let us acquire brotherly love; / and let us not be lacking in compassion for our neighbor, / lest for money's sake we be condemned like the unmerciful servant, // and repent like Judas to no purpose.

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

Glorious things are spoken of you throughout the world, / for you have borne in the flesh the Maker of all, / O Mary Theotokos, // unwedded, worthy of all praise.

5th Antiphon - Tone 6

The disciple agreed upon the price of the Master, / and for thirty pieces of silver he sold the Lord; / with a deceitful kiss he betrayed Him to the transgressors // to be put to death.

Today the Creator of heaven and earth / said to His disciples: / "The hour is at hand, // and Judas who betrays Me has drawn near. \ Let none of you deny Me / when you see Me on the Cross between two thieves. / For as man I suffer, // but 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.

O Virgin who in the last days / have ineffably conceived / and borne your own Creator, // save those who magnify you.

6th Antiphon - Tone 7

Today Judas watches how he may deliver up the Lord, / the pre-eternal Savior of the world, / Who with five loaves // satisfied the multitude. \ Today the transgressor denies his Teacher; / though a disciple he betrays

the Master. / He sells for money the Lord // Who fed His people with manna in the wilderness.

Today the Jews / nailed to the Cross / the Lord Who divided the sea with a rod // and led them through the wilderness. \ Today they pierced with a lance / the side of Him Who for their sake smote Egypt with plagues. / They gave Him gall to drink, // Who rained down manna on them for food.

O Lord, as You came to Your voluntary Passion, / You have cried aloud to Your disciples: / “If you could not even watch with Me one hour, // why then did you promise to die for My sake? \ See how Judas sleeps not, / but makes haste to deliver Me to the transgressors? / Awake, rise and pray, // and let none deny Me when he sees Me on the Cross.” \ O longsuffering Lord, // glory to You.

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

Hail, O Theotokos, / who have contained within your womb / Him Whom the heavens cannot contain. // Hail, O Virgin whom the prophets preached. \ Through you Emmanuel has shone forth upon us. // Hail, O Mother of Christ our God.

Kathisma Hymn – Tone 7

What caused you, O Judas, to betray the Savior? Did He expel you from the company of the apostles? Did He deprive you of the gift of healing? When you were at supper with the others, did He drive you from the table? When He washed the others' feet, did He pass you by? How many are the blessings that you have forgotten! You are condemned for your ingratitude, but His measureless longsuffering and great mercy are proclaimed to all.

The Third Gospel Reading: Matthew 26:57-75

PEOPLE: Glory to Your long-suffering, O Lord.

7th Antiphon - Tone 8

Allowing the transgressors to lay hold of You, / O Lord, You have cried aloud: / “Although you smite the Shepherd // and scatter abroad the twelve sheep, My disciples, \ still I could call to My aid more than twelve legions of angels. / But in My patience I forbear, / that the hidden secrets I made known to you through My prophets may be fulfilled.” // O Lord, glory to You.

Peter denied You three times, / and straightway he understood Your words; / but he offered You tears of repentance. // O God, be merciful to 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.

The holy Virgin is a gateway of salvation, / a fair Paradise, and a cloud of everlasting light. / Let us all sing in praise of her // and say to her, “Rejoice!”

8th Antiphon - Tone 2

O you transgressors, tell us what you heard from our Savior? / Did He not expound the Law and the teaching of the prophets? / How then have you taken counsel to deliver up to Pilate // the Word, God of God, and the Deliverer of our souls?

“Let Him be crucified!” they cried, / though they had always taken pleasure in Your gifts of grace; / and the murderers of the righteous // asked for the release of an evildoer in place of their Benefactor. \ But You, O Christ, were silent / and have endured their arrogance, / wishing to suffer and to save us // in Your love for mankind.

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

As there is no boldness in us because of the multitude of our sins, / O Virgin Theotokos, intercede with the Son Whom you have borne; / for the prayers of His Mother // have great power to win the favor of the Master. \ Despise not, O all-honored Lady, / the prayers of sinners, / for He Who took upon Himself to suffer for our sake / is merciful and strong to save.

9th Antiphon - Tone 3

They took the thirty pieces of silver, / the price of Him that was valued, / on Whom the children of Israel had set a price. // Therefore watch and pray, that you do not enter into temptation: \ the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak. // Watch, therefore, and pray!

They gave Me gall to eat, / and in My thirst they gave Me vinegar to drink. / But raise Me up, O Lord, // and I shall 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.

We Gentiles sing of you, / O pure Theotokos, / for you have borne Christ our God, // Who through you delivered mankind from the curse.

Kathisma – Tone 8 (or 2)

How could Judas, who was once Your disciple, plot to betray You! In his treachery and wickedness he ate with You at the supper, and then he went to the priests and said: “What will you give me, and I will deliver to you Him who set aside the Law and defiled the Sabbath?” O longsuffering Lord, glory to You.

The Fourth Gospel Reading: John 18:28 – 19:16

PEOPLE: Glory to Your long-suffering, O Lord.

10th Antiphon - Tone 6

He Who clothes Himself in light as in a garment, / stood naked at the judgment; / on His cheek He received blows from the hands which He had formed. // The lawless people nailed to the Cross the Lord of Glory. \ Then the veil of the temple was torn in two, and the sun was darkened, / for it could not bear to see such outrage done to God, / before Whom all things tremble. // Let us worship Him.

The disciple denied You and the thief cried aloud: // Remember me, O Lord, in Your Kingdom.

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

O Lord Who love mankind, / and for the sake of Your servants were pleased to take flesh from the Virgin: / grant peace to the world, // that with one accord we may glorify You.

11th Antiphon - Tone 6

In return for the blessings which You have granted, O Christ, / to the people of the Hebrews, / they condemned You to be crucified, // giving You vinegar and gall to drink. \ But render unto them, O Lord, according to their works, // for they have not understood Your loving self-abasement.

The people of the Hebrews were not satisfied with Your betrayal, O Christ, / but wagged their heads, and reviled and mocked You. / But render unto them, O Lord, according to their works, // for they have devised vain things against You.

Neither the quaking of the earth, nor the splitting of the rocks, / nor the rending of the veil of the temple, / nor the resurrection of the dead //

persuaded the Jews. \ But render unto them, O Lord, according to their works, // for they have devised vain things against You.

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

O Virgin Theotokos, who alone are pure and blessed, / through you we have come to know God, / for He took flesh from you. // Therefore without ceasing we sing your praises and magnify you.

12th Antiphon - Tone 8

Thus says the Lord to the Jews: / “O My people, / what have I done to you? // Or where have I wearied you? \ I gave light to your blind and cleansed your lepers, / I raised up the man who lay upon his bed. / 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 have nailed Me to the Cross. // I can endure no more. \ I shall call My Gentiles / and they shall glorify Me / with the Father and the Spirit; // and I shall bestow on them eternal life.”

Today the veil of the temple is torn in two, / as a reproof against the transgressors; / and the sun hides its own rays, // seeing the Master crucified.

O lawgivers of Israel, you Jews and Pharisees, / the company of the apostles cries aloud to you: / Behold the Temple that you have destroyed; // behold the Lamb that you have crucified. \ You gave Him over to the tomb, but by His own power He has risen again. / Be not deceived, you Jews; / for this is He Who saved you in 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.

Hail! Gate of the King of Glory, / through which the Most High alone has passed; / and He left you sealed again, // for the salvation of our souls.

Kathisma – Tone 8

When You the Judge, O God, were standing before Caiaphas and were delivered to Pilate, then the powers of heaven quaked with fear. You were raised upon the Cross between two thieves, and though sinless You were numbered with transgressors, for the salvation of mankind. O longsuffering Lord, glory to You.

The Fifth Gospel Reading: Matthew 27:3-32

PEOPLE: Glory to Your long-suffering, O Lord.

13th Antiphon - Tone 6

The assembly of the Jews asked Pilate to crucify You, O Lord. / Even though they found no guilt in You, / they released Barabbas the criminal and condemned You the Righteous; // and so they incurred the guilt of murder. \ But give them, O Lord, their reward, // for they devised vain things against You.

He before Whom all things quake and tremble, / to Whom every tongue gives praise, / Christ the Power of God and the Wisdom of God, // is struck on the face by the priests. \ And they give Him gall to drink. / Yet He was pleased to suffer all things, / wishing to save us from our sins by His own blood, // in His love for mankind.

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

O Theotokos, who through a word / in ways past speech have borne your own Creator, / pray unto Him // for the salvation of our souls.

During the 14th Antiphon the priest censes the Cross behind the altar 9x. The icon of the body of Christ is removed and placed on the altar. At the end of the Antiphon a procession will be made with the Cross, led by the acolytes with candles and the deacon with the censer. The priest will carry the Cross as he would hold an icon and is followed by other any other celebrating priests.

14th Antiphon - Tone 8

O Lord, You have taken as Your companion / the thief who had soiled his hands with blood. / In Your goodness and love for mankind, // number us also with him.

Few were the words that the thief uttered upon the Cross, / yet great was the faith that he showed. / In one moment he was saved, and opened the gates of Paradise // and was the first to enter in. \ O Lord, Who have accepted his repentance, // glory to You.

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

Hail, you who through the angel have received the Joy of the world! / Hail, for you have borne your Maker and your Lord! / Hail, for you were counted worthy // to become Mother of Christ our God!

The Procession with the Cross

At the beginning of the 15th Antiphon the lights in the Church are darkened.

THE PEOPLE KNEEL.

The 15th Antiphon is sung slowly as the priest carries the Cross in procession around the Church, as in the Great Entrance.

At the front of the Church the priest carries the Cross three times around the stand and then places the Cross in the stand. He then brings the icon of the Body of Christ from the altar and places it on the Cross. The priest censes the Cross 9x.

15th Antiphon - Tone 6

Today He Who hung the earth upon the waters is hung upon the Tree.
Today He Who hung the earth upon the waters is hung upon the Tree.
Today He Who hung the earth upon the waters is hung upon the Tree.
He Who is King of the angels is arrayed in a crown of thorns.
He Who wraps the heavens in clouds is wrapped in the purple of mockery.
He Who freed Adam in the Jordan receives a blow on the face.
The Bridegroom of the Church is affixed to the Cross with nails.
The Son of the Virgin is pierced by a spear.
We worship Your Passion, O Christ.
We worship Your Passion, O Christ.
We worship Your Passion, O Christ.
Show us also Your glorious Resurrection.

As the chanters repeat the first part of the 15th Antiphon the clergy make three prostrations, venerate the Cross, and return to the Altar.

THE PEOPLE STAND.

Let us not keep festival as the Jews; / for Christ our God and Passover is sacrificed for us. / But let us cleanse ourselves from all defilement, // and with sincerity pray to Him: \ Arise, O Lord, and save us // in Your love for mankind.

Your Cross, O Lord, is life and resurrection to Your people; / and putting all our trust in it, / we sing to You, 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.

Beholding You hanging on the Cross, O Christ, / Your Mother cried aloud: / “O my Son, what is this strange mystery that I behold? // Nailed in the flesh, O Giver of Life, how do You die upon the Tree?”

Kathisma – Tone 4

You have redeemed us from the curse of the Law by Your precious Blood: nailed to the Cross and pierced by the spear, You have poured forth immortality upon mankind. O our Savior, glory to You.

The Sixth Gospel Reading: Mark 15:16-32

PEOPLE: Glory to Your long-suffering, O Lord.

The Beatitudes – Tone 4

In Your Kingdom remember us, O Lord, when You come in Your Kingdom.

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

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

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

Through a tree Adam lost his home in Paradise, and through the Tree of the Cross the thief made Paradise his home. For the one, by eating, transgressed the commandment of his Maker; but the other, crucified at Your side, confessed You as the hidden God. Remember us also, O Savior, in Your Kingdom.

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst after righteousness, for they shall be filled.

The lawless people bought the Maker of the Law from His disciple, and they led Him as a transgressor before the judgment-seat of Pilate, crying “Crucify Him,” though it was He Who gave them manna in the wilderness. But, following the example of the righteous thief, we cry with faith: Remember us also, O Savior, in Your Kingdom.

Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy.

The murderers of God, the lawless nation of the Jews, cried to Pilate in their madness, saying, “Crucify the innocent Christ;” and they asked instead for Barabbas. But with the words of the good thief we cry to Him: Remember us also, O Savior, in Your Kingdom.

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

Your life-giving side, O Christ, flowing as a fountain from Eden, waters Your Church as a living Paradise. Then, dividing into the four branches of the Gospels, with its streams it refreshes the world, making glad the creation and teaching the nations to venerate Your Kingdom with faith.

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

For my sake You were crucified, to become for me a fountain of forgiveness. Your side was pierced, that You might pour upon me streams of life. You were transfixed with nails, that through the depth of Your sufferings I might know with certainty the height of Your power, and cry to You, “O Christ the Giver of Life: O Savior, glory to Your Cross and Your Passion.”

Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

When You were crucified, O Christ, all the creation saw and trembled. The foundations of the earth quaked in fear of Your power. The lights of heaven hid themselves and the veil of the temple was torn in two, the mountains trembled and the rocks were split. With the believing thief we cry: “Remember us, O Savior.

Blessed are you when men shall revile you and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely for My sake.

O Lord, on the Cross You have torn up the record of our sins; numbered among the departed, You have bound fast the ruler of hell, delivering all men from the chains of death by Your Resurrection. Through this Your Resurrection, O Lord Who love mankind, we have been granted light, and cry to You: "Remember us also, O Savior, in Your Kingdom."

Rejoice and be exceedingly glad, for great is your reward in heaven.

You were lifted up, O Lord, upon the Cross and have destroyed the power of death; and as God You have blotted out the record of our sins that was against us. Grant to us also the repentance of the thief, O Christ our God Who alone love mankind, for we worship You with faith and cry to You: "Remember us also, O Savior, in Your Kingdom."

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

Let us the faithful pray with one accord that we may rightly glorify the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, one Godhead in three Persons, unconfused, simple, and undivided; Whom no man can approach, and by Whom we are delivered from the fire of punishment.

Now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

O Christ, we offer You as intercessor Your Mother who without seed bore You in the flesh, true Virgin who remained inviolate after childbirth. O Master rich in mercy, ever grant forgiveness of sins to those who cry: "Remember us also, O Savior, in Your Kingdom."

Prokeimenon - Tone 4

They divide My garments among them, and for My raiment they cast lots.

Verse: O God, My God, look upon Me: Why have you forsaken Me?

The Seventh Gospel Reading: Matthew 27:33-54

PEOPLE: Glory to Your long-suffering, O Lord.

Psalms 51 (LXX 50)

Have mercy upon me, O God, according to Your loving-kindness; according to the multitude of Your tender mercies, 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 always before me. Against You, You only, have I sinned, and done this evil in Your sight — that You may be found just when You speak, and blameless when You judge. Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, and in sins my mother conceived me. Behold, You desire truth in the inward parts, and in the hidden part You will make me to know wisdom. Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow. Make me hear joy and gladness, that the bones You have broken may rejoice.

Hide Your face from my sins, and blot out all my iniquities. Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me. Do not cast me away from Your presence, and do not take Your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of Your salvation, and uphold me by Your generous Spirit. Then I will teach transgressors Your ways, and sinners shall be converted to You. Deliver me from the guilt of bloodshed, O God, the God of my salvation, and my tongue shall sing aloud of Your righteousness. O Lord, open my lips, and my mouth shall show forth Your praise. For You do not desire sacrifice, or else I would give it; You do not delight in burnt offering. The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit, a broken and a contrite heart — these, O God, You will not despise. Do good in Your good pleasure to Zion; build the walls of Jerusalem. Then You shall be pleased with the sacrifices of righteousness, with burnt offering and whole burnt offering; then they shall offer bulls on Your altar.

The Eighth Gospel Reading: Luke 23:32-49

PEOPLE: Glory to Your long-suffering, O Lord.

Matins Canon: Ode 5 (Tone 6) *(may be abbreviated)*
by Saint Kosmas

Irmos: I seek You early in the morning, O Word of God; for in Your tender mercy towards fallen man, without change You have emptied Yourself, and impassibly You have submitted to Your Passion. Grant me Your peace, O Lord Who love mankind.

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

Their feet were washed, and in preparation they were cleansed by partaking in the divine Mystery; and now, O Christ, Your servants went up with You from Zion to the great Mount of Olives, singing Your praises, O Lord Who love mankind.

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

“Do not be not troubled, O My friends,” You have said. “For now the hour is come when I shall be taken and slain by the hands of wicked men; and you shall all be scattered and forsake Me. But I shall gather you together to proclaim Me, in My love for mankind.”

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

The Irmos is repeated.

Kontakion (Tone 8)

Come and let us sing all the praises of Him Who was crucified for us. For Mary said when she beheld Him on the Tree: “Though You suffer on the Cross, still You are my Son and God.”

Ikos

Seeing her own Lamb led to the slaughter, Mary His Mother followed Him with the other women and in her grief she cried: "Where are You going, my Child? Why do You run so swiftly? Is there another wedding in Cana, and are You hastening there to turn the water into wine? Shall I go with You, my Child, or shall I wait for You? Speak some word to me, O Word; do not pass me by in silence. You have preserved me in virginity, and You are my Son and my God."

Synaxarion

READER: On the great holy Friday we celebrate the holy, fearful and saving Passion of our Lord God and Savior Jesus Christ: the spittings, blows, and scourges; the curses, jeers, and the wearing of the purple; the rod, sponge, and vinegar; the nails, the spear, and especially the Cross and death, which He received willingly for our sakes. We celebrate also the confession of salvation which the grateful thief made on the cross with Him.

Matins Canon: Ode 8 (Tone 6)

Irmos: The holy Children brought mockery upon the idol of ungodly wickedness; and the lawless Sanhedrin raged and took vain counsel against Christ, purposing to kill Him Who holds life in the hollow of His hand. The whole creation blesses Him, and glorifies Him to all ages.

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

"Shake the sleep now from your eyelids," You have said to the disciples, O Christ. "Watch in prayer, that you fall not into temptation. And you, O Simon, most of all, for the trial is greater to the strong. Know Me, O Peter, for the whole creation blesses Me and glorifies Me to all ages."

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

"No profane word shall ever pass my lips, O Master," Peter cried. "Gladly will I die with You, though all men shall deny You. Neither flesh nor blood, but Your Father has revealed You to me: and the whole creation blesses You and glorifies You to all ages."

Let us bless the Lord: Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit:

"You have not fathomed the full depth of divine wisdom and knowledge," said the Lord. "You have not understood the abyss of My judgments. Therefore do not boast, for you are flesh, and three times shall you deny Me, though the whole creation blesses Me and glorifies Me to all ages."

Now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

"You protest, O Simon Peter, against the very thing that you shall shortly do, even as I have foretold. A maidservant shall suddenly approach and fill you with fear," said the Lord. "Yet, weeping bitterly, you shall find Me merciful; for the whole creation blesses Me and glorifies Me to all ages."

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

The Irmos is repeated.

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

Matins Canon: Ode 9 (Tone 6)

Irmos: More honorable than the cherubim, and more glorious beyond compare than the seraphim, who without corruption gave birth to God the Word, and are truly Theotokos, we magnify you.

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

The destructive band of evil men, hateful to heaven, the synagogue of the murderers of God, drew near to You, O Christ, and as a criminal they led You away, Who are the Creator of all, and Whom we magnify.

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

Ignorant of the Law in their impiety, studying the words of the prophets in vain and to no purpose, unjustly they led You as a Lamb to the slaughter, O Master of all, Whom we magnify.

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

Moved by jealous wickedness, the priests and scribes took Him Who is by nature Life and Life-giver, and they delivered to the Gentiles to be put to death Him, Whom we magnify.

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

Like many dogs they surrounded You, O King, and struck You on the face; they questioned You and bore false witness against You. And all these things You have endured to save us all.

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

The Irmos is repeated.

The Little Litany

Exapostilarion – Tone 3

The wise thief You made worthy of Paradise in a single moment, O Lord. By the wood of the Cross illumine me as well and save me. (3x)

The Ninth Gospel Reading: John 19:25-37

PEOPLE: Glory to Your long-suffering, O Lord.

The Praises – Tone 3

Psalms 148

Let everything that has breath praise the Lord. Praise the Lord from the heavens; praise Him in the heights! To You, O God, is due a song.

Praise Him, all His angels; praise Him, all His hosts! To You, O God, is due a song.

Praise Him, sun and moon; praise Him, all you stars of light!

Praise Him, you heavens of heavens, and you waters above the heavens!

Let them praise the name of the Lord, for He commanded and they were created. He also established them forever and ever; He made a decree which shall not pass away.

Psalm 150

Praise God in His sanctuary; praise Him in His mighty firmament!

Praise Him for His mighty acts; praise Him according to His excellent greatness!

Praise Him with the sound of the trumpet; praise Him with the lute and harp!

Israel, My first-born Son, has committed two evils: He has forsaken Me, the Fountain of the water of life, and dug for himself a broken cistern. Upon the Cross he has crucified Me, and instead asked for Barabbas and let him go. Heaven was amazed at this and the sun hid its rays; yet you, O Israel, were not ashamed, and instead have delivered Me to death. Forgive them, Holy Father, for they do not know what they have done.

Praise Him with the timbrel and dance; praise Him with stringed instruments and flutes!

Every member of Your holy body endured dishonor for our sakes: Your head, the thorns; Your face, the spitting; Your cheeks, the buffeting; Your mouth, the taste of gall mingled with vinegar; Your ears, the impious blasphemies; Your back, the scourging and Your hand, the reed; Your whole body, the stretching on the Cross; Your limbs, the nails; and Your side, the spear. You have suffered for us and by Your Passion set us free from passions; in loving self-abasement You have stooped down to us and raised us up: O Savior almighty, have mercy on us.

Praise Him with loud cymbals; praise Him with clashing cymbals! Let everything that has breath praise the Lord.

Seeing You crucified, O Christ, the whole creation trembled. The foundations of the earth shook with fear at Your power. For when You were raised up today, the nation of the Hebrews was destroyed. The veil of the temple was torn in two, the graves were opened, and the dead rose from the tombs. When the centurion saw the wonder, he was filled with dread. And Your Mother, standing by You, cried with a mother's sorrow: "How shall I not lament and strike my breast, seeing You stripped naked and hung upon the wood as one condemned?" You were crucified and buried, and You have risen from the dead: O Lord, glory to You.

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

(Tone 6)

They stripped Me of My garments and clothed Me in a scarlet robe; they set a crown of thorns upon My head and placed a reed in My right hand, that I may break them in pieces like pottery.

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

I gave My back to scourging; I did not turn away My face from spitting; I stood before the judgment-seat of Pilate, and endured the Cross for the salvation of the world.

The Tenth Gospel Reading: Mark 15:43-47

PEOPLE: Glory to Your long-suffering, O Lord.

“Yours is the glory...”

READER: Yours is the glory, O Lord our God, and unto You we ascribe glory: to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

The Little Doxology

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

We praise You, we bless You, we worship You, we glorify You, we give thanks to You for Your great glory.

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

O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, Who take away the sin of the world, have mercy on us, You Who take away the sins of the world

Receive our prayer, You Who sit at the right hand of the Father, and have mercy on us.

For You only are holy, You only are the Lord, O Jesus Christ, to the glory of God the Father. Amen.

Every day I will bless You, and I will praise Your name forever; yes, forever and ever.

Lord, You have been our refuge from generation to generation. I said: “Be merciful unto me; heal my soul, for I have sinned against You.”

Lord, I have fled to You; teach me to do Your will, for You are my God.

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

Continue Your mercy to those who know You.

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

Blessed are You, O Lord the God of our Fathers, and praised and glorified is Your name forever. Amen.

Let Your mercy, O Lord, be upon us, as we have set our hope on You.

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

Blessed are You, O Master; make me to understand Your statutes.

Blessed are You, O holy One; enlighten me with Your statutes.

Your mercy, O Lord, endures forever; despise not the works of Your hands.

To You belongs worship, to You belongs praise, to You belongs glory: to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

The Morning Litany

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 Your grace.

PEOPLE: Lord, have mercy.

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

PEOPLE: Grant this, O Lord.

DEACON: For 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: For pardon and forgiveness of our sins and transgressions, let us ask of the Lord.

PEOPLE: Grant this, O Lord.

DEACON: For all things 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, and peaceful, and for a good defense before the fearful judgment seat of Christ, let us ask of the Lord.

PEOPLE: Grant this, O Lord.

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.

PRIEST: For You are the God of mercy and compassion and love toward mankind, and unto You we ascribe 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 your spirit.

The Prayer with Heads Bowed

DEACON: Let us bow our heads to the Lord.

PEOPLE: To You, O Lord.

PRIEST: O holy Lord, Who dwell on high and regard the humble of heart and with Your all-seeing eye behold all creation, to You have we bowed the neck of our soul and body, and we entreat You, O Holy of holies: Stretch forth Your invisible hand from Your holy dwelling-place and bless us all. And if in anything we have sinned, whether voluntarily or involuntarily, forgive us, inasmuch as You are a good God, and love mankind; granting us Your earthly and heavenly good things.

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

PEOPLE: Amen.

The Eleventh Gospel Reading: John 19:38-42

PEOPLE: Glory to Your long-suffering, O Lord.

Aposticha - Psalm 22 (LXX 21)

(Tone 1)

The whole creation was changed by fear, / when it saw You, O Christ, hanging on the Cross. / The sun was darkened and the foundations of the earth were shaken; // all things suffered with the Creator of all. \ Of Your own will You have endured this for our sakes: // O Lord, glory to You.

Verse: They divide my garments among them, and for My raiment they cast lots.

Why do the impious and transgressing people imagine vain things? / Why have they condemned to death the Life of all? / O mighty wonder! // The Creator of the world is delivered into the hands of lawless men. \ And He Who loves mankind / is raised upon the Cross, / that He may free the prisoners in hell, who cry: // O longsuffering Lord, glory to You.

Verse: They gave me gall to eat; and in My thirst they gave Me vinegar to drink.

Today the most pure Virgin saw You hanging on the Cross, O Word; / and with a mother's love she wept and bitterly her heart was wounded. / She groaned in anguish from the depth of her soul, // and in her grief she struck her face and tore her hair. \ And, beating her breast, she cried lamenting: / "Woe is me, my divine Child! / Woe is me, You Light of the world! // Why do You vanish from my sight, O Lamb of God?" \ Then the hosts of angels were seized with trembling, and said: // "O Lord beyond our understanding, glory to You."

Verse: God is our King before the ages; working salvation in the midst of the earth. (Psalm 74, LXX 73:12)

Seeing You hanging on the Cross, / O Christ the Creator and God of all, / bitterly Your Virgin Mother cried: // “O my Son, where is the beauty of Your form? \ I cannot bear to look upon You crucified unjustly. / Make haste, then, to arise, // that I too may see Your Resurrection on the third day from the dead.”

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

(Tone 8)

Lord, when You have ascended on the Cross, / fear and trembling seized all creation. / You have not allowed the earth to swallow those that crucified You; // but You have commanded hell to give up its prisoners for the regeneration of mortal men. \ Judge of the living and the dead, / You have come to bring, not death, but life. / O You Who love mankind, // glory to You.

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

Already the unjust judges have dipped their pens in ink, / and Jesus is sentenced and condemned to the Cross; / the creation suffers, seeing the Lord crucified. // O loving Master, Who in Your bodily nature have suffered for my sake, glory to You.

The Twelfth Gospel Reading: Matthew 27:62-66

PEOPLE: Glory to Your long-suffering, O Lord.

“It is a good thing...”

PRIEST: It is a good thing to confess to the Lord, to sing praises to Your name, O Most High, to declare Your mercy in the morning and Your truth by night.

The Trisagion Prayers

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

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

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 Your name's sake.

Lord, have mercy. (3x)

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

Our Father, Who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name; Thy kingdom come; Thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and

forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

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.

Troparion/Apolytikion - Tone 4

You have redeemed us from the curse of the Law by Your precious Blood: nailed to the Cross and pierced by the spear, You have poured forth immortality upon mankind. O our Savior, glory to You.

The Litany of Fervent Supplication / The Ektenia

DEACON: Have mercy on us, O God, according to Your great mercy, hear us we pray, and have mercy.

PEOPLE: Lord, have mercy. (3x)

(And the rest of the Litany.)

PRIEST: For You are a merciful God and love mankind, and unto You we ascribe glory: to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

PEOPLE: Amen.

The Blessing and Dismissal

DEACON: Wisdom.

PEOPLE: Father, bless.

PRIEST: Christ our God, the Existing One, is blessed always, now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

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

PRIEST: Most-holy Theotokos, save us.

PEOPLE: More honorable than the cherubim, and more glorious beyond compare than the seraphim, who without corruption gave birth to God the Word, and are truly Theotokos, we magnify you.

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 endured spittings and scourges, the Cross and death, for the salvation of the world, ...

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

PEOPLE: Amen.

Holy Friday Matins
Exapostilarion / Hymn of Light

*The wise thief
You made worthy
of Paradise
in a single moment, O Lord.
By the wood of the Cross
illumine me as well
and save me,
and save me.*



The Wise Thief