

خدمة جناز السيد المسيح  
الجمعة العظيمة المقدّسة



Great Friday Evening  
(Matins of Holy Saturday)

**Priest Blessed be our God always, now and for ever and to the ages of ages.**

**Choir Amen.**

**Priest Glory to You, O God, glory to You.**

**O Heavenly King, Comforter and Spirit of truth, You that are in all places and fill all things, the Treasury of blessings and the Giver of life: come to dwell in us, cleanse us from every stain, and save our souls, O gracious One.**

**Choir Holy God, holy mighty, holy immortal, have mercy on us. (3 times).**

**Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. now and for ever, and to the 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. (3 times).**

**Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. now and for ever, and to the 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 Yours is the kingdom, the power, and the glory: of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, now and for ever, and to the ages of ages.**

**Choir Amen.**

**Choir** O Lord, save Your people, and bless Your inheritance, granting to Your People victory over all adversaries, and by Your Cross preserving Your Estate.

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

O Christ our God, who of Your own good will was lifted up upon the Cross, bestow Your bounties upon 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 for ever, and to the ages of ages. Amen.**

O Champion dread, 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 on to govern us, leading us all to that victory which is from heaven, for you are she who gave birth to God, and you alone are Blessed.

**Priest** Have mercy on us, O God, according to Your great goodness, we pray to You: hear us and have mercy.

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

**Priest** Again we pray for all Orthodox Christians.

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

**Priest** Again we pray for our father and Metropolitan... and for all our Brethren in Christ

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

**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 for ever, and to the ages of ages.**

**Choir Amen. Bless, Father, in the Name of the Lord.**

**Priest Glory to the Holy, Consubstantial, Life-giving and Undivided Trinity, always: now and for ever, and to the ages of ages.**

**Choir Amen.**

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

*(Thrice)*

**O Lord, open my lips, and my mouth shall show forth Your praise.**

*(Twice)*

### **Psalm 3**

Lord, how numerous are my enemies: many they are that rise against me. Many there are that talk of me and say: 'There is no help for him in his God.'

But You Lord are about me as a shield: You are my glory and the lifter up of my head.

I cry to the Lord with a loud voice, and He answers me from His holy hill. I lay myself down and sleep: I wake again because the Lord sustains me. Therefore I will not be afraid of the multitudes of the nations who have set themselves against me on every side. Arise Lord and deliver me, O my God; for You will strike all my enemies on the cheek, You will break the teeth of the ungodly.

Deliverance belongs to the Lord: O let Your blessing be on Your people. I lay myself down and sleep: I wake again because the Lord sustains me.

## Psalm 37

O Lord rebuke me not in Your anger: neither chasten me in Your fierce displeasure.

For Your arrows have been aimed against me, and Your hand has come down heavy upon me.

There is no health in my flesh because of Your indignation, nor soundness in my bones, by reason of my sin.

The tide of my iniquities has gone over my head: their weight is a burden too heavy for me to bear.

My wounds stink and fester because of my foolishness.

I am bowed down and brought so low that I go mourning all the day long. For my loins are filled with a burning pain, and there is no sound part in all my body.

I am numbed and stricken to the ground: I cry aloud in the yearning of my heart.

O Lord, all I long for is before You and my deep sighing is not hidden from You.

My heart is in tumult, my strength fails me, and even the light of my eyes has gone from me.

My friends and my companions hold aloof from my affliction and my kinsmen stand far off.

Those who seek my life strike at me, and those that desire my hurt spread evil tales and murmur slanders all the day.

But I am like a deaf man and hear nothing; like one that is dumb, who does not open his mouth.

So I have become as one who cannot hear, in whose mouth there is no retort.

For in You, Lord, have I put my trust: and You will answer me, O Lord my God.

For I prayed 'Let them never exult over me those who turn arrogant when my foot slips

Truly, I am ready to fall and my pain is with me continually.

But I acknowledge my wickedness and I am filled with sorrow at my sin.

Those that are my enemies without cause are great in number: and those who hate me wrongfully are many.

Those also who repay evil for good are against me because I seek after good.

Forsake me not, O Lord go not far from me, my God:

Hasten to my help, O Lord my salvation.

Forsake me not, O Lord, go not far from me, my God:

Hasten to my help, O Lord my salvation.

## **Psalm 62**

O God, You are my God, eagerly will I seek You.

My soul thirsts for You, my flesh longs for You as a dry and thirsty land, where no water is.

So it was when I beheld You in the sanctuary and saw Your power and Your glory.

For Your unchanging goodness is better than life, therefore my lips shall praise You.

And so I will bless You as long as I live, and in Your name will I lift my hands on high.

My longing shall be satisfied as with marrow and fatness: my mouth shall praise You with exultant lips.

When I remember You upon my bed, when I meditate upon You in the night watches, how You have been my helper: then I sing for joy in the shadow of Your wings:

Then my soul clings to You, and Your right hand upholds me.

Those that seek my life are marked for destruction: they shall go down to the deep places of the earth. They shall be delivered to the sword: they shall be a portion for jackals.

The king will rejoice in God and all who take oaths on his name shall glory, but the mouths of liars shall be stopped.

I meditate upon You in the night watches, how You have been my helper: then I sing for joy in the shadow of Your wings,  
Then my soul clings to You and Your right hand upholds me.

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

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia. Glory be to You, O God. (*Thrice*)

Lord, have mercy. (*Thrice*)

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

## **Psalm 87**

O Lord my God, I call for help by day and by night also I cry out before You.

Let my prayer come into Your presence and turn Your ear to my loud crying.

For my soul is filled with trouble and my life has come even to the brink of the grave.

I am reckoned among those that go down to the Pit: I am a man that has no help. I lie among the dead,

Like the slain that sleep in the grave, whom You remember no more, who are cut off from Your power.

You have laid me in the lowest Pit: in darkness and in the watery depths.  
Your wrath lies heavy on me: and all Your waves are brought against me.  
You have put my friends far from me and made me to be abhorred by them.

I am so fast in prison I cannot get free: my eyes fail because of my affliction.

Lord I call to You every day: I stretch out my hands toward You.

Will You work wonders for the dead, or will the shades rise up again to praise You?

Shall Your love be declared in the grave, or Your faithfulness in the place of destruction?

Will Your wonders be made known in the dark, or Your righteousness in the land where all things are forgotten?

But to You, Lord, will I cry: early in the morning my prayer shall come before You.

O Lord, why have You rejected me: why do You hide Your face from me?  
I have been afflicted and wearied from my youth upward: I am tossed high and low, I cease to be.

Your fierce anger has overwhelmed me and Your terrors have put me to silence.

They surround me like a flood all the day long: they close upon me from every side.

Friend and acquaintance You have put far from me and kept my companions from my sight.

O Lord my God, I call for help by day and by night also I cry out before You.

Let my prayer come into Your presence: and turn Your ear to my loud crying.

## Psalm 102

Praise the Lord, O my soul: and all that is within me, praise His holy name.

Praise the Lord, O my soul and forget not all his benefits. Who forgives all Your sin and heals all Your infirmities,

Who redeems Your life from the Pit and crowns You with mercy and compassion;

Who satisfies Your being with good things, so that Your youth is renewed like an eagle's.

The Lord works righteousness and justice for all who are oppressed.

He made known his ways to Moses, and his works to the children of Israel.

The Lord is full of compassion and mercy, slow to anger and of great goodness. He will not always be chiding, nor will he keep his anger for ever.

He has not dealt with us according to our sins, nor rewarded us according to our wickedness.

For as the heavens are high above the earth, so great is His mercy over those that fear Him.

As far as the east is from the west, so far has He set our sins from us.

As a father is tender towards His children, so is the Lord tender to those that fear Him. For he knows of what we are made: he remembers that we are but dust.

The days of man are but as grass: He flourishes like a flower of the field; When the wind goes over it, it is gone and its place will know it no more.

But the merciful goodness of the Lord endures for ever and ever toward those that fear Him,

And his righteousness upon their children's children; upon those who keep His covenant and remember His commandments to do them.

he Lord has established His throne in heaven: and His kingdom rules over all.

Praise the Lord, all You His angels, You that excel in strength: You that fulfill His word, and obey the voice of His commandment.

Praise the Lord, all You His hosts, His servants who do His will.

Praise the Lord, all His works, in all places of His dominion, praise the Lord, O my soul!

In all places of His dominion, praise the Lord, O my soul.

## **Psalm 142**

Hear my prayer, O Lord: in Your faithfulness consider my petition, and in Your righteousness give me answer.

Bring not Your servant into judgment, for in Your sight can no man living be justified.

For the enemy has pursued me, he has crushed my life to the ground.

He has made me dwell in darkness like those for ever dead. Therefore my spirit grows faint and my heart is appalled within me.

I remember the days of old, I think on all that You have done: I consider the works of Your hands.

I stretch out my hands toward You: my soul yearns for You like a thirsty land.

Be swift to hear me, O Lord, for my spirit fails: hide not Your face from me, lest I be like those who go down to the Pit.

O let me hear of Your merciful kindness in the morning, for my trust is in You.

Show me the way that I should go, for You are my hope.

Deliver me from my enemies, O Lord, for I run to You for shelter. Teach me to do Your will, for You are my God.

Let Your kindly spirit lead me in an even path. For Your name's sake,  
O Lord, preserve my life,  
And for the sake of Your righteousness, bring me out of trouble. In Your  
merciful goodness slay my enemies, and destroy all those that come  
against me, for truly I am Your servant.  
In Your faithfulness consider my petition, and in Your righteousness give  
me answer. (X2)  
Let Your kindly spirit lead me in an even path.

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

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia. Glory be to You, O God. (*Thrice*)

O Lord our Hope, glory be to You.

## THE GREAT LITANY

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

Choir Lord, have mercy.

**Priest For the peace, which comes from on high, and for the  
salvation of our souls, let us pray to the Lord.**

Choir Lord, have mercy.

**Priest For the peace of the whole world, for the welfare of the holy  
churches of God, and for the gathering into one of all things,  
let us pray to the Lord.**

Choir Lord, have mercy.

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

Choir Lord, have mercy.

**Priest For all devout and Orthodox Christians, let us pray to the Lord.**

**Choir Lord, have mercy.**

**Priest For our Father and Metropolitan ...N., for the venerable Priesthood, for the Diaconate in Christ, for all the clergy and people, let us pray to the Lord.**

**Choir Lord, have mercy.**

**Priest For those who govern this country, all civil authorities and our Armed Forces every where, let us pray to the Lord.**

**Choir Lord, have mercy.**

**Priest For this city, for every city, and land, and for the faithful, who dwell in them, let us pray to the Lord.**

**Choir Lord, have mercy.**

**Priest For favourable weather, for abundance of the fruits of the earth, and for peaceful times; let us pray to the Lord.**

**Choir Lord, have mercy.**

**Priest For those who travel by sea, by land, by air, for the sick and suffering; for those in captivity; and for their salvation, let us pray to the Lord.**

**Choir Lord, have mercy.**

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

**Choir Lord, have mercy.**

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

**Choir Lord, have mercy.**

**Priest Commemorating our all-holy, pure, most blessed and glorious Lady, the Mother of God and Ever Virgin Mary, (*O most Holy Theotokos, save us*) with all the saints; let us entrust ourselves and one another, and our whole life, to Christ our God.**

**Choir To You, O Lord.**

**Priest For to You belong all glory, honour, and adoration: to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: now and for ever, and to the ages of ages.**

**Choir Amen.**

*The Choir sings the following in Tone Two*

God is the Lord, who has shown us light. Blessed is He that comes in the name of the Lord. (*Repeated after each stichera*)

- Give thanks to the Lord; for He is good: for His mercy endures for ever.
- All nations compassed me about: but in the name of the Lord will I destroy them.
- I shall not die, but live, and declare the works of the Lord.

**Troparion** (*in Tone Two*)

The noble Joseph, takes down Your most pure body from the Tree, and when he had wrapped it in clean linen with sweet spices, he laid it in a new tomb.

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

When You went down to death, O Life immortal, You destroyed hell by the radiancy of Your Godhead; and when from the depths You raised the dead, then all the powers of heaven cried aloud: “O Giver of life! O Christ our God! Glory be to You.”

Now, and for ever, and to the ages of ages. Amen

When You went down to death, O Life immortal, You destroyed hell by the radiancy of Your Godhead; and when from the depths You raised the dead, then all the powers of heaven cried aloud: “O Giver of life! O Christ our God! Glory be to You.”

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

**Choir Lord, have mercy.**

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

**Choir Lord, have mercy.**

**Priest Commemorating our all-holy, pure, most blessed and glorious Lady, the Mother of God and Ever Virgin Mary, (*O most Holy Theotokos, save us*) with all the saints; let us entrust ourselves and one another, and our whole life, to Christ our God.**

**Choir To You, O Lord.**

**Priest For Yours is the majesty, and Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory; of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, now and for ever, and to ages of ages.**

**Choir Amen.**

## **The Kathismata**    *Tone One*

Joseph begged Your sacred Body from Pilate, and after he had anointed it with sweet-smelling spices, he wrapped it in clean linen and laid it in a new tomb. The Myrrh-bearing Women arrived at dawn and cried out: “Reveal Your Resurrection to us, O Christ, as You foretold.”

**Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. Now and for ever, and to the ages of ages. Amen.**

The Choirs of angels are filled with wonder, beholding Him who rests in the bosom of the Father laid in the tomb as one dead, even though He is immortal. The ranks of angels surround Him, and with the dead in Hades they glorify Him as Creator and Lord.

### **Psalm 50**

Have mercy on me, O God, in Your enduring goodness, according to the fullness of Your compassion blot out my offences.

Wash me thoroughly from my wickedness and cleanse me from my sin.

For I acknowledge my rebellion, and my sin is ever before me. Against You only have I sinned and done what is evil in Your eyes; so You will be just in Your sentence and blameless in Your judging

Surely in wickedness I was brought to birth and in sin my mother conceived me.

You that desire truth in the inward parts, O teach me wisdom in the secret places of the heart.

Purge me with hyssop and I shall be clean, wash me and I shall be whiter than snow.

Make me hear of joy and gladness, let the bones which You have broken rejoice.

Hide Your face from my sins and blot out all my iniquities.

Create in me a clean heart, O God and renew a right spirit within me.  
Do not cast me out from Your presence, and do not take Your holy spirit from me.  
O give me the gladness of Your help again, and support me with a willing spirit.  
Then will I teach transgressors Your ways and sinners shall turn to You again.  
O Lord God of my salvation, deliver me from bloodshed, and my tongue shall sing of Your righteousness.  
O Lord, open my lips, and my mouth shall proclaim Your praise.  
You take no pleasure in sacrifice or I would give it: burnt offerings You do not want.  
The sacrifice of God is a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart O God You will not despise.  
In Your graciousness do good to Zion; rebuild the walls of Jerusalem.  
Then will You delight in right sacrifices, in burnt offerings and oblations; then will they offer young bulls upon Your altar.

## **The Canon**

### **Ode One**

He who in ancient times hid the pursuing tyrant beneath the waves of the sea, is hidden beneath the earth by the children of those whom once He saved. As for us, however, let us praise the Lord as did the youths; for in glory has He been glorified.

- **Glory to You, our God, glory to You.**

O Lord my God, I will sing a funeral hymn to You, a song at Your burial; for by Your burial You have opened the gates of life for me, and by Your death You have slain Death and Hades.

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

All things above and all beneath the earth quaked with fear at Your death, as they beheld You, O my Saviour, upon Your throne on high and in the tomb below. For beyond our understanding You lie before our eyes, a corpse and yet the very Source of Life.

- **Now and for ever, and to the ages of ages. Amen.**

You descended to the depths of the earth in order to fill all things with Your glory: for my person that is in Adam has not been hidden from You, but in Your love for man You are buried in the tomb and You restore me from corruption.

### **Ode Three**

*Irmos:* When the creation beheld You hanging on Golgotha, You who did hang the whole earth freely upon the waters, it was seized with amazement and it cried: “There is none holy save You, O Lord.”

- **Glory to You, Our God, glory to You.**

Signs and tokens of Your burial You have disclosed in a multitude of visions; and now, O Master, as both God and man, You have revealed Your hidden secrets to those in Hades who cry: “There is none holy save You, O Lord.”

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

You have stretched out Your arms and united all that before was separated; and by Your Burial in the linen and the grave You have loosed the prisoners, and they cry: 'There is none holy save You, O Lord.'

• **Now and for ever, and to the ages of ages. Amen.**

You whom nothing can contain, of Your own will You were enclosed and sealed within the tomb: but through Your energies You have as God revealed Your power to those who sing: 'There is none holy save You, O Lord who loves mankind.'

*Repeat Irmos* : When the creation beheld You hanging on Golgotha, You who did hang the whole earth freely upon the waters, it was seized with amazement and it cried: 'There is none holy save You, O Lord.'

### **The Little Ektenia**

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

**Choir** Lord, have mercy.

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

**Choir** Lord, have mercy.

**Priest** Commemorating our all-holy, pure, most blessed and glorious Lady, the Mother of God and Ever Virgin Mary, (*O most Holy Theotokos, save us*) with all the saints; let us entrust ourselves and one another, and our whole life, to Christ our God.

**Choir** To You, O Lord.

**Priest** For You are our God, and to You we ascribe glory, to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and for ever, and to the ages of ages.

**Choir** Amen.

## **Kasima** (*Tone One*)

The soldiers keeping watch over Your tomb, O Saviour, became as dead men in the presence of the shining angel, who proclaimed the Resurrection to the women. We glorify You, for You have destroyed corruption. We fall down before You, Who rose from the grave, our only God.

## **Ode Four**

*Irmos*: Foreseeing Your divine self-emptying upon the Cross, Habakkuk cried out marvelling: “You have cut short the strength of the powerful, O gracious and almighty Lord, and preached to those in Hades.”

- **Glory to You, our God, glory to You.**

Today You keep holy the seventh day, which You have blessed of old by resting from Your works. You bring all things into being and You make all things new, observing the sabbath rest, my Saviour, and restoring Your strength.

- **Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:**

You have gained the victory by Your greater strength: Your soul was parted from Your body, yet by Your power, O Word, You have burst asunder the bonds of death and Hades.

- **Now and for ever, and to the ages of ages. Amen.**

Hades was filled with bitterness when it met You, O Word, for it saw a mortal deified, marked by wounds yet all-powerful; and it shrank back in terror at this sight.

## Ode Five

*Irmos:* Isaiah, as he watched by night, beheld the light that knows no evening, the light of Your Theophany, O Christ, that came to pass from tender love for us; and he cried aloud: 'The dead shall arise and they that dwell in the tomb shall be raised up, and all those born on the earth shall rejoice exceedingly.'

- **Glory to You, our God, glory to You.**

When You became a creature formed from dust, O Creator, You made new those born on earth. The linen and the grave point, O Word, to the mystery that is within You. For the honourable Joseph, of sound belief, fulfils Your Father's plan, Who has gloriously refashioned me in You.

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

By death You transform mortality and by Your burial, corruption. With divine power You make incorruptible the nature which You have taken, rendering it immortal; for Your flesh, O Master, did not see corruption, and Your soul in a strange manner was not left in Hades.

- **Now and for ever, and to the ages of ages. Amen.**

You came forth from a Virgin who knew no travail. Your side, O my Creator, was pierced with a spear, by which You accomplished the re-creation of Eve, having Yourself become Adam. Supernaturally You fell into a sleep that renewed nature, raising life from sleep and corruption, for You are Almighty.

## Ode Six

Jonah the Prophet was enclosed but not held fast in the body of the whale; for, serving as a figure of You, who suffered and was buried in the tomb, he leapt forth from the monster as from a bridal chamber and he called out to the watch: 'in vain do You watch, O Watchmen; for You have neglected mercy.'

- **Glory to You, our God, glory to You.**

You were killed, O Word, but You were not separated from the body which You shared with us. For even though Your temple was destroyed at the time of the Passion, yet the Person of Your Godhead and of Your flesh is but one; in both You are one Son, the Word of God, both God and man.

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

The fall of Adam resulted in the death of a Man, not God; for though the substance of Your earthly body suffered, Your divinity remained impassible. That which was corruptible in Your human nature You have transformed to incorruption, and by Your Resurrection You have revealed a fountain of immortal life.

- **Now and for ever, and to the ages of ages. Amen.**

Verily, Hades ruled the race of man, but not for ever. For when You, O mighty Lord, were placed in the sepulchre, You burst asunder the bars of death with Your life-giving hand. To those from every age who slept in the tombs, You have proclaimed true deliverance, O Saviour, having become the First-Born of the dead.

*Repeat Irmos:* Jonah the Prophet was enclosed but not held fast in the body of the whale; for serving as a figure of You, who suffered and was buried in the tomb, he leapt forth from the monster as from a bridal chamber and he called out to the watch: 'in vain do You watch, O Watchmen; for You have neglected mercy.'

### **The Little Ektenia**

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

**Choir** Lord, have mercy.

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

**Choir** Lord, have mercy.

**Priest** Commemorating our all-holy, pure, most blessed and glorious Lady, the Mother of God and Ever Virgin Mary, (*O most Holy Theotokos, save us*) with all the saints; let us entrust ourselves and one another, and our whole life, to Christ our God.

**Choir** To You, O Lord.

**Priest** For You are the King of Peace, and to You we ascribe glory, to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and for ever and to the ages of ages.

**Choir** Amen.

### **KONTAKION**

He who closed the abyss lies before us dead; and as a corpse the Immortal is wrapped in linen with sweet spices and laid in a tomb. The women come to anoint Him with myrrh, weeping bitterly and crying: This is the most blessed Sabbath on which Christ sleeps, but on the third day He shall rise again.'

## OIKOS

He who holds all things in unity was lifted on the Cross, and the whole creation wept to see Him hanging naked on the Tree. The sun hid its rays and the stars cast aside their brightness; the earth shook in mighty fear, the sea fled and the rocks were rent, and many graves were opened and the bodies of the saints arose. Hades groaned below and the Jews considered how to spread false tidings against Christ's Resurrection. But the women cried aloud: This is the most blessed Sabbath on which Christ sleeps, but on the third day He shall rise again.'

## SYNAXARION

On the Great and Holy Saturday, we celebrate the Burial of the Divine Body and the descent of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ to Hades, through which He restored our kind from corruption and transplanted it to eternal life.

Wherefore, by Your ineffable condescension, O Christ our God, have mercy on us. Amen.

## Ode Seven

*Irmos:* Wonder past speech! He who delivered the holy Children from the fiery furnace, is laid a corpse without breath in the tomb, for the salvation of us who sing: Blessed are You, O God our Deliverer.

- **Glory to You, our God, glory to You.**

Verily, Hades was pierced and destroyed by the divine fire when it received in its heart him who was pierced in his side with a spear for the salvation of us who sing: Blessed are You, O God, our Deliverer.

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

O happy tomb! It received within itself the Creator as one asleep, and it was made a divine treasury of life, for our salvation who sing: Blessed are You, O God, our Deliverer.

- **Now and for ever, and to the ages of ages. Amen.**

In Hades and in the tomb and in Eden, the Godhead of Christ was indivisibly united with the Father and the Spirit, for our salvation who sing: Blessed are You, O God, our Deliverer.

## **Ode Eight**

Be amazed, O Heaven, be horribly afraid, and let the foundations of the earth be shaken. For lo, he who dwells on high is numbered with the dead and lodges as a stranger in a narrow tomb. Him do you children bless, you priests praise, and you people exalt above all for ever.

- **Glory to You, our God, glory to You.**

The most pure Temple is destroyed, but raises up the fallen tabernacle. The second Adam, He who dwells on high, has come down to the first Adam in the depths of Hades. Him do you children bless, you priests praise, and you people exalt above all for ever.

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

The disciples' courage failed, but Joseph of Arimathea was more bold; for seeing the God of all a corpse and naked, he asked for the body and buried Him, crying: Him do you children bless, you priests praise, and you people exalt above all for ever.

- **Now and for ever, and to the ages of ages. Amen.**

O strange wonders! O love and infinite forbearance! He who dwells on high is sealed beneath the earth with His own consent, and God is falsely accused as a deceiver. Him do you children bless, you priests praise, and you people exalt above all for ever.

- **We praise, we bless, we bow down before the Lord.**

Repeat irmos: Be amazed, O Heaven, be horribly afraid, and let the foundations of the earth be shaken. For lo, he who dwells on high is numbered with the dead and lodges as a stranger in a narrow tomb. Him do you children bless, you priests praise, and you people exalt above all for ever.

*(The faithful stand)*

**Priest The Theotokos and Mother of the Light, let us honour and magnify with song.**

## **Ode Nine**

Irmos: Weep not for me, O Mother, beholding in the sepulchre the Son whom you conceived without seed in your womb. For I shall rise and shall be glorified, and as God I shall exalt in everlasting glory those who magnify you with faith and love.

- **Glory to You, our God, glory to You.**

“O Son without beginning, in ways surpassing nature was I blessed at Your strange birth, for I was spared all travail. But now beholding You, my God, a lifeless corpse, I am pierced by the sword of bitter sorrow. But arise, that I may be magnified.”

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

“By My own will the earth covers me, O Mother, but the gate-keepers of Hades tremble as they see Me, clothed in the blood-stained garment of vengeance: for on the Cross as God have I struck down My enemies, and I shall rise again and magnify You.”

- **Now and for ever, and to the ages of ages. Amen.**

“Let the creation rejoice exceedingly, let all those born on earth be glad: for hell, the enemy, has been despoiled. Let the Women come to meet Me with sweet spices: for I am delivering Adam and Eve with all their offspring, and on the third day I shall rise again.”

*Repeat Irmos:* Weep not for Me. O Mother, beholding in the sepulchre the Son whom you conceived without seed in your womb. For I shall rise and shall be glorified, and as God I shall exalt in everlasting glory those who magnify you with faith and love.

*(The Congregation stands. The Clergy with the Altar Boys and the Choir assemble about the Epitaphios).*

*(And the Faithful join in the Chants).*

# THE LAMENTATIONS

## *First Part in Tone Five*

- 2        In a grave they laid You, O my life and my Christ  
          And the armies of the angels were so amazed  
          As they sang the praise of Your submissive love
- 4        O my sweet Lord Jesus, my Salvation, my Light  
          How are You now by a grave and its darkness hid?  
          How unspeakable the mystery of Your love
- 6        Gone the Light the world knew, gone the Light that was mine  
          O my Jesus Who are all of my heart's desire  
          So the Virgin spoke lamenting at Your grave
- 8        Who will give me water, for the tears I must weep?  
          So the maiden wed to God cried with loud lament  
          That for my sweet Jesus I may rightly mourn
- 10       All we call you Blessed, Theotokos most pure  
          And with faithful hearts we honour the burial  
          Suffering with you the death of our God
- 12       How O Life can You die? In a grave how can You dwell?  
          For the proud domain of death You destroy now  
          And the dead of Hades You make to rise
- 14       O my dear Christ Jesus, King and Ruler of all  
          Why to them that dwelt in Hades did You descend?  
          Was it not to set the race of mortals free?

16 In a grave they laid You, O my Lord and my Life  
Yet the Lord of Death have You by Your death destroyed  
And the world of You does drink rich streams of life

18 Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.  
I adore Your passion, Your entombing I praise  
And I magnify Your might You dear friend of man  
From destroying passions have they set me free

*Then the Priest says:*

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

**Choir Lord, have mercy.**

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

**Choir Lord, have mercy.**

**Priest Commemorating our all-holy, pure, most blessed and glorious  
Lady, the Mother of God and Ever Virgin Mary, (*O most Holy  
Theotokos, save us*) with all the saints; let us entrust ourselves  
and one another, and our whole life, to Christ our God.**

**Choir To You, O Lord.**

**Priest For blessed is Your Name and glorified is Your Kingdom, of  
the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit: Now and  
for ever, and to the ages of ages. Amen.**

**Choir Amen.**

*Then part two starts:*

# THE LAMENTATIONS

## *Part Two in Tone Five*

- 2 Right is it indeed  
Life-bestowing Lord, to magnify You  
For upon the cross were Your hands outspread  
And the strength of our dread foe have You destroyed.
- 4 Right is it indeed  
Maker of all things, to magnify You  
For by Your dear passion have we attained  
Victory over the flesh and rescue from decay.
- 6 I am rent with grief  
And my heart with woe is crushed and broken  
As I see them slay You with doom unjust  
So bewailing Him His grieving Mother cried.
- 8 Ah these eyes so sweet  
And Your lips, O Word, how shall I close them?  
How the dues of death shall I pay to You?  
So cried Joseph as he shook with holy fear.
- 10 Dirges at the tomb  
Blessed Joseph sings with Nicodemus  
Bringing praise to Christ, Who by man was slain  
And in song with them are joined the Seraphim.
- 12 O my Son behold  
Your well-loved disciple and Your Mother  
And Your voice so sweet let us hear again  
So with plenteous tears His Maiden Mother cried.

- 14 O my Light and Life  
Why in a grave they have laid You?  
Your Maiden Mother shouted with tears of grief  
Rise O my sweet Son as You did say to us.
- 16 Hades that dread foe  
Shook with terror when he looked upon You  
O Son of Glory that cannot die  
And his captives then he yielded up in haste.
- 18 Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.  
O Eternal God  
Begotten not made and Spirit  
Magnify Your might to the mortal men  
Blessing us with peace and freedom evermore.

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

**Choir** Lord, have mercy.

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

**Choir** Lord, have mercy.

**Priest** Commemorating our all-holy, pure, most blessed and glorious  
Lady, the Mother of God and Ever Virgin Mary, (*O most Holy  
Theotokos, save us*) with all the saints; let us entrust ourselves  
and one another, and our whole life, to Christ our God.

**Choir** To You, O Lord.

**Priest** For You are Holy, O our God, You who sit on the throne of  
the Cherubim, and to You we ascribe glory, together with  
Your Eternal Father, and the Holy and worshipful and  
Life-giving Spirit, now and ever, and to ages of ages.

**Choir** Amen.

# THE LAMENTATIONS

## *Part Three in Tone Five*

- 2 Every generation to Your grave comes bringing  
Dear Christ its dirge of praises
- 4 From the Cross he brought You that Arimathean  
And in a grave he laid You
- 6 Women bringing spices came with loving forethought  
Your due of Myrrh to give You
- 8 Joseph is entombing helped by Nicodemus  
The body of his Maker
- 10 O blessed Joseph lay away the body  
Of Jesus Christ our Lord
- 12 Oh what ignorance! The killing of the Saviour  
By the killers of Prophets
- 14 Ah my precious Springtime Ah my Son beloved  
Ah wither fades Your beauty
- 16 Son of God Almighty O my God and Maker  
How's it Your will to suffer?
- 18 Cries of woe the Maiden wailed with fervent weeping  
For grief her heart was piercing
- 20 Light more dear than seeing O my Son most precious  
How in a grave do You hide?
- 22 O my Son I praise You for Your great compassion  
Which moved You thus to suffer

24 Hasten, Word, Your rising                      And release from sorrow  
The spotless Maid who bore You.

26 Myrrh the women sprinkled                      Store of spices bringing  
To grace Your Tomb at dawning.  
(Repeated)

28 Merciful Lord rise    and raise us with You  
From the fires of Hades.

30 Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.  
Peace Your Church to prosper    To Your people salvation  
Be given through Your rising

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

Choir Lord, have mercy.

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

Choir Lord, have mercy.

**Priest** Commemorating our all-holy, pure, most blessed and glorious  
Lady, the Mother of God and Ever Virgin Mary, (*O most Holy  
Theotokos, save us*) with all the saints; let us entrust ourselves  
and one another, and our whole life, to Christ our God.

Choir To You, O Lord.

**Priest** For You are the King of Peace and the Saviour of our souls,  
O Christ our God, and to You we ascribe glory, to Your  
Father who is from everlasting, and to Your All Holy and  
Good, and Life-giving Spirit, now and ever, and to the ages of  
ages.

Choir Amen.

## THE BENEDICTIONS

*(Tone Five)*

- **Blessed are You, O Lord: teach me Your statutes.**

The company of the Angels was amazed, when they beheld You numbered among the dead, yet Yourself, O Saviour, destroying the power of death, and raising up Adam with You and releasing all men from hell.

- **Blessed are You, O Lord: teach me Your statutes.**

Wherefore, O Women Disciples, do you mingle sweet-smelling spices with your tears of pity? The Radiant Angel with the sepulchre cried unto the Myrrh-bearing Women: Behold the grave, and understand; for the Saviour is risen from the tomb.

- **Blessed are You, O Lord: teach me Your statutes.**

Very early in the morning, did the Myrrh-bearing Women run lamenting to your tomb; but an Angel came toward them saying; “The time for lametation is passed; weep not, but announce to the Apostles the Resurrection.”

- **Blessed are You, O Lord: teach me Your statutes.**

The Myrrh-bearing women mourned as bearing spices they drew near Your tomb, O Saviour. But the Angel spoke to them saying: “Why do you number the living among the dead? In that He is God, He is risen from the grave.”

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

We adore the Father, as also His Son and the Holy Spirit, the Holy Trinity, in one Essence, crying with the Seraphim: Holy, holy, holy are You, O Lord.

- **Now and for ever, and to the ages of ages. Amen.**

In that you bore the Giver of Life, O Virgin, you redeemed Adam from sin, and gave Eve joy in place of sadness; and He who was incarnate of you, both God and Man, has restored to life those who had fallen therefrom.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, glory be to You, O God. (*Thrice*)

### **The Little Ektenia**

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

**Choir** Lord, have mercy.

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

**Choir** Lord, have mercy.

**Priest** Commemorating our all-holy, pure, most blessed and glorious Lady, the Mother of God and Ever Virgin Mary, (*O most Holy Theotokos, save us*) with all the saints; let us entrust ourselves and one another, and our whole life, to Christ our God.

**Choir** To You, O Lord.

**Priest** For all the powers of heaven praise You, and to You we ascribe glory, to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and for ever, and to the ages of ages.

**Choir** Amen.

**The Exaposteilarion** (*Tone two*)

**Choir** Holy is the Lord our God. (*Thrice*)

**The Praises**  
**Ainoi** (*Tone two*)

Let everything that has breath, praise the Lord.

Praise the Lord from heaven: O praise him in the heights. To You, O God, is due our song.

Praise him, all his angels: O praise him, all his host. To You, O God, is due our song.

**Praise Him for His mighty acts:**

**Praise Him according to His abundant goodness.**

Today the grave holds Him Who holds creation in the hollow of His hand; a stone covers Him who covers the heavens with glory. Life sleeps and Hades trembles, and Adam is set free from his bonds. Glory to Your dispensation, through which, when all things were accomplished, You have presented to us an eternal rest, even Your most holy Resurrection from the dead.

**Praise Him in the blast of the ram's horn:**

**Praise Him upon the lute and harp.**

What is this sight which we now behold? What is this present rest? The King of the Ages completes His dispensation with His Passion. He rests in the tomb, and grants to us a new rest. To Him we will cry: Arise, O God, and judge the earth, for You reign to all Ages, O You Who are boundless in Your great mercy.

**Praise Him with the timbrel and dances:**

**Praise Him upon the strings and pipe**

Come let us behold our Life, lying in the grave in order that He may give life to those who lie in their graves. Come, and today let us see Him of Judea, Who sleeps, and to Him we will cry prophetically: Who shall raise You up, O King, You who did as a lion fall asleep? But of Your own power do You rise up, You who did willingly give Yourself for us. O Lord, glory be to You.

**Praise Him upon the high-sounding cymbals:**

**Praise Him upon the loud cymbals.**

**Let everything that has breath praise the Lord**

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

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

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 for ever, and to the ages of ages. Amen.**

Most blessed are you, O Virgin Theotokos, for through Him that was incarnate of you is Hades despoiled, Adam is recalled from the dead, the curse is made void, Eve is set free, death is slain, and we are endowed with life. Wherefore, in hymns of praise, we cry aloud: Blessed are You, O Christ our God, who is thus well pleased, glory to You.

### **The Great Doxology**

Glory be to You, for You have shown us the Light.

Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, goodwill to all mankind.

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

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

Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, You take away the sin of the world. have mercy upon us; You that take away the sins of the world.

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

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

Every day I will bless You, and praise Your Name, throughout all ages.

Grant, Lord, this day that we may be kept without sin.

Blessed are You, Lord God of our fathers, and praised and glorified is Your Name throughout all ages.

May Your mercy, O Lord, be upon us, even as our hope is in You.

Blessed are You, O Lord - teach me Your statutes. Blessed are You, O Lord - teach me Your precepts. Blessed are You, O Lord - teach me Your commandments.

Lord, You have been our refuge from one generation to another. I said, Lord, have mercy upon me, heal my soul, for I have sinned against You. Lord, I have run to You for refuge; teach me to do Your will, for You are my God.

For with You is the source of life: in Your light we shall see light.

Continue Your mercy to those that know You.

Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal: have mercy on us.  
*(Thrice)*

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. Now and for ever, and to the ages of ages. Amen.

Holy immortal: have mercy on us.

Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal, have mercy on us.

*Or the following in Tone Five:*

When Joseph saw that the sun had hidden its rays, and that the veil of the Temple was rent at the death of the Saviour, he approached Pilate and pleaded with him, crying out and saying:

Give me this Stranger, who from His youth has wandered like a stranger,  
Give me this Stranger, whom His kindred killed in hatred like a stranger.  
Give me this Stranger, at whom I wonder, beholding Him as a Guest of death.

Give me this Stranger, who knows how to take in the poor and strangers.  
Give me this Stranger, whom the Jews in envy estranged from the world.  
Give me this Stranger, so that I may bury Him in a tomb, since being a stranger He has no place to lay His head.

Give me this Stranger, to whom His mother cried, as she beheld Him dead, 'My Son, my inner parts are wounded and my heart burns as I behold You dead, yet I trust in Your Resurrection and I magnify You.' In these words the noble Joseph pleaded with Pilate, he took the Saviour's body and with awe wrapped it in linen and balm. He placed You in a tomb, You who grant everlasting life and Great Mercy to all.

**Priest Wisdom. Let us attend.**

**The reading is from the Prophecy of Ezekiel.**

The hand of the Lord was upon me, and He brought me out by the Spirit of the Lord, and set me down in the midst of the valley; it was full of bones. And He led me round among them; and behold there were very many upon the valley; and lo, they were very dry. And he said to me, "Son of man, can these bones live?" And I answered, "O Lord God, Thou knowest." Again he said to me, "Prophecy to these bones, and say to them, O dry bones, hear the word of the Lord. Thus says the Lord God to these bones: Behold, I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. And I will lay sinews upon you, and will cause flesh to come upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and you shall live; and you shall know that I am the Lord."

So I prophesied as I was commanded; and as I prophesied, there was a noise, and behold, a rattling; and the bones came together, bone to its bone. And as I looked, there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them; but there was no breath in them. Then he said to me, "Prophecy to the breath, prophecy, son of man, and say to the breath, Thus says the Lord God: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live." So I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood upon their feet, an exceedingly great host.

Then he said to me, "Son of man, these bones are the whole house of Israel. Behold, they say, 'Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are clean cut off.' Therefore prophesy, and say to them, Thus says the Lord God: Behold I will open your graves, and raise you up from your graves, O my people; and I will bring you home into the land of Israel. And you shall know that I am the Lord, when I open your graves and raise you up from your graves, O my people. And I will put my Spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you in your own land; then you shall know that I, the Lord, have spoken, and I have done it, says the Lord."

## EPISTLE

**Priest Let us attend.**

*Prokimenon in Tone Seven:*

Arise, O Lord my God, lift up Your hand: forget not Your poor for ever.

V. I will praise You, O Lord, with my whole heart: I will speak of all Your marvellous works.

Epistle: I Corinthians 5:6-8; Galatians 3:13-14.

Your boasting is no good. Do you not know that a little leaven leavens the whole lump? Cleanse out the old leaven that you may be a new lump, as you really are unleavened. For Christ, our paschal lamb has been sacrificed. Let us, therefore, celebrate the festival, not with the old leaven, the leaven of malice and evil, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.

Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law, having become a curse for us - for It is written, "Cursed be everyone who hangs on a tree" - that in Christ Jesus the blessing of Abraham might come upon the Gentiles, that we might receive the Promise of the Spirit through faith.

**Priest** Peace be to you reader.

**Choir** Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

## **The Gospel**

**Priest** Wisdom, rise. Let us hear the Holy Gospel. Peace be to you all.

**Choir** And to your spirit.

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

**Choir** Glory to You, O Lord, glory to You.

**Priest** Let us attend!

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

**Choir** Glory to You, O Lord, glory to You.

## The Ektenia of Fervent Supplication

**Priest** Let us all say with all our souls and with all our mind, let us say: **O Lord Almighty, God of our fathers, we beseech You, hear us and have mercy**

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

**Priest** **Have mercy on us, O God, according to Your great goodness, we pray You: hear us and have mercy.**

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

**Priest** **Again we pray for pious and Orthodox Christians**

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

**Priest** **Again we pray for our Father and Metropolitan ...N., for the venerable Priesthood, for the Diaconate in Christ, for all the clergy and people.**

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

**Priest** **Again we pray for mercy, life, peace, health, salvation and visitation, and pardon and remission of sins for the servants of God, all Orthodox Christians of true worship who live and dwell in this community.**

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

**Priest** **Again we pray for the blessed and ever memorable founders of this holy Temple; and for all our fathers and brethren, the Orthodox departed this life before us, who here and in all the world lie asleep in the Lord.**

Choir Lord, have mercy. (*Thrice*)

**Priest** Again we pray for those who bear fruit and do good works in this holy and all-venerable Temple; for those who serve and those who sing; and for all the people here present, who await Your great and rich mercy.

Choir Lord, have mercy. (*Thrice*)

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

Choir Amen.

### Ektenla

**Priest** Let us complete our prayer to the Lord.

Choir Lord, have mercy.

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

Choir Lord, have mercy.

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

Choir Grant this, O Lord.

**Priest** An Angel of peace, a faithful Guide, a Guardian of our souls and bodies, let us ask of the Lord.

Choir Grant this, O Lord

**Priest** Pardon and remission of our sins and transgressions, let us ask of the Lord.

Choir Grant this, O Lord.

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

**Choir** Grant this, O Lord.

**Priest** A Christian ending to our life, painless, blameless, peaceful; and a good defence before the dread Judgment Seat of Christ, let us ask of the Lord.

**Choir** Grant this, O Lord.

**Priest** Commemorating our all-holy, pure, most blessed and glorious Lady, the Mother of God and Ever-Virgin Mary, (*O most Holy Theotokos, save us*) with all the saints; let us entrust ourselves and one another, and our whole life, to Christ our God.

**Choir** To You, O Lord.

**Priest** For You are the God of mercies, of bounties, and of love, and to You we ascribe glory: to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and for ever, and to the ages of ages.

**Choir** Amen.

**Priest** Peace be to all.

**Choir** And to your spirit.

**Priest** Let us bow our heads to the Lord.

**Choir** To You, O Lord.

**Priest:** (*Quietly*) O holy Lord, You who dwell on high, and have regard for 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: 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, inasmuch as You are a good God, and love mankind; granting to us Your earthly and heavenly good things.

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

Choir Amen.

**Priest Wisdom!**

Choir Master bless

**Priest Christ our God, the Eternal, is blessed, always: now and for ever, and to the ages of ages. Amen.**

Choir Amen.

Choir Preserve, O God, the Holy Orthodox Faith, and all Orthodox Christians, to ages of ages. Amen.

**Priest O most holy Theotokos, save us.**

Choir More honoured than the Cherubim, and more glorious beyond compare than the Seraphim, in all purity you gave birth to God the Word; true Theotokos, we exalt You.

**Priest Glory to You, O Christ our God and our hope, glory to You.**

Choir Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. Now and for ever, and to the ages of ages. Amen.

Lord have mercy. (*thrice*)

Father, bless. (Master, bless)

**Priest** May Christ our true God, Who for us men and for our salvation voluntarily endured His terrible Passion, the Cross, and in the flesh the entombment, have mercy on us, through the prayers of His most pure, blameless and holy Mother; of the holy, glorious, and praiseworthy Apostles; of Saint Nicholas (*Patron Saint of the Church*); 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, O Lord Jesus Christ our God, have mercy on us and save us.**

Choir and  
People            Amen.

يُحفظ هذا الكتاب في الكنيسة - شكراً

**This book to be kept in the Church - Thank you.**

***St. Nicholas Antiochian Orthodox Church***

كنيسة القديس نيقولاوس الأنطاكية الأرثوذكسية

Parish Priest: Fr. Dimitri Baroudi

176 Simpson St., East Melbourne, Victoria

***Pascha 2010***