

# Holy Week

## *Bridegroom Matins*

**Deacon:** Bless, Most Blessed, Master.

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

**Reader:** Amen. Glory to Thee, our God, glory to Thee!

O Heavenly King, the Comforter, the Spirit of Truth; who art everywhere and fillest all things. Treasury of blessings, and giver of life. Come and abide in us, and cleanse us from every impurity, and save our souls, O good one.

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.

Most Holy Trinity have mercy on us. Lord, cleanse us from our sins, Master, pardon our transgressions. Holy One, visit and heal our infirmities, for Thy 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.

# Holy Week

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## *Bridegroom Matins*

**Priest:** For Thine are 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.

**Reader:** Amen.  
In the name of the Lord, bless, Father!

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

**Reader:** Amen.  
Glory to God in the highest, and on earth, peace, good will towards men. (3x)

O Lord, open my lips, and my mouth shall show forth Thy praise. (2x)

**Psalm 3** O Lord, how many are my foes! Many are rising against me; many are saying of me, there is no help for him in God. But Thou, O Lord, art a shield about me, my glory, and the lifter of my head.

I cry aloud to the Lord and He answers me from His holy hill.  
I lie down and sleep; I awake again for the Lord sustains me.  
I am not afraid of ten thousands of people who have set themselves against me round about.

Arise, O Lord, deliver me, O my God! For Thou dost smite all my enemies on the cheek. Thou dost break the teeth of the wicked.

Deliverance belongs to the Lord: Thy blessing be upon Thy people.

I lie down and sleep; I awake again for the Lord sustains me.

***Psalm 37 (38)***

O Lord, rebuke me not in Thy anger, nor chasten me in Thy wrath! For Thy arrows have sunk into me, and Thy hand has come down on me.

There is no soundness in my flesh because of Thy indignation; there is no health in my bones because of my sin. For my iniquities have gone over my head; they weigh like a burden too heavy for me.

My wounds grow foul and fester because of my foolishness; I am utterly bowed down and prostrate; all the day I go about mourning. For my loins are filled with burning, and there is no soundness in my flesh. I am utterly spent and crushed, I groan because of the tumult of my heart.

Lord, all my longing is known to Thee, my sighing is not hidden from Thee. My heart throbs, my strength fails me, and the light of my eyes – it has also gone from me.

My friends and companions stand aloof from my plague, and my kinsmen stand afar off.

Those who seek my life lay their snares, those who seek my hurt speak of ruin and meditate treachery all the day long.

# Holy Week

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## *Bridegroom Matins*

But I am like a deaf man, I do not hear, like a dumb man who does not open his mouth. Yea, I am like a man who does not hear, and in whose mouth are no rebukes.

But for Thee, O Lord, do I wait; it is Thou, O Lord my God, Who wilt answer; for I pray, “Only let them not rejoice over me, who boast against me when my foot slips!” For I am ready to fall, and my pain is ever with me.  
I confess my iniquity, I am sorry for my sin.

Those who are my foes without cause are mighty, and many are those who hate me wrongfully. Those who render me evil for good are my adversaries because I follow after 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 62 (63)***

O God, Thou art my God! I seek Thee, my soul thirsts for Thee, my flesh faints for Thee as in a dry and weary land where no water is.

So I have looked upon Thee in the sanctuary, beholding Thy power and glory. Because Thy steadfast love is better than life, my lips will praise Thee. So I will bless Thee as long as I live; I will lift up my hands and call on Thy Name.

My soul is feasted as with marrow and fat, and my mouth praises Thee with joyful lips, when I think of Thee upon my bed, and meditate on Thee in the watches of the night; for

Thou hast been my help, and in the shadow of Thy wings I sing for joy. My soul clings to Thee, Thy right hand upholds me.

But those who seek to destroy my life shall go down into the depths of the earth; they shall be given over to the power of the sword, they shall be prey for jackals. But the king shall rejoice in God, all who swear by him shall glory; for the mouths of liars will be stopped.

I meditate on Thee in the watches of the night; for Thou hast been my help, and in the shadow of Thy wings I sing for joy. My soul clings to Thee, Thy 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 Thee, 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 87 (88)**

O Lord my God, I call for help by day; I cry out in the night before Thee. Let my prayer come before Thee, incline Thy ear to my cry.

For my soul is full of troubles, and my life draws near to sheol. I am reckoned among those who go down to the pit; I am a man who has no strength, like one forsaken among the dead; like the slain that lie in the grave; like those whom Thou dost remember no more, for they are cut off from Thy hand.

# Holy Week

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## *Bridegroom Matins*

Thou hast put me in the depths of the pit, in the regions dark and deep. Thy wrath lies heavy upon me, and Thou dost overwhelm me with all Thy waves.

Thou hast caused my companions to shun me, Thou hast made me a thing of horror to Them.

I am shut in so that I cannot escape; my eye grows dim through sorrow.

Every day I call upon Thee, O Lord; I spread out my hands to Thee.

Dost Thou work wonders for the dead? Do the shades rise up to praise Thee? Is Thy steadfast love declared in the grave, or Thy faithfulness in Abaddon? Are Thy wonders known in the darkness, or Thy saving help in the land of forgetfulness?

But I, O Lord, cry to Thee; in the morning my prayer comes before Thee.

O Lord, why dost Thou cast me off? Why dost Thou hide Thy face from me?

Afflicted and close to death from my youth up, I suffer Thy terrors; I am helpless. Thy wrath has swept over me, Thy dread assaults destroy me. They surround me like a flood all day long; they close in upon me together.

Thou hast caused lover and friend to shun me; my companions are in darkness.

O Lord my God, I call out for help by day; I cry out in the night before Thee. Let my prayer come before Thee; incline Thy ear to my cry.

***Psalm 102 (103)***

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 iniquity, Who heals all your diseases; Who redeems your life from the pit; Who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy;

Who satisfies you with good as long as you live, so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.

The Lord works vindication and justice for all who are oppressed. He made His ways known unto Moses, His acts to the people of Israel.

The Lord is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

He will not always chide, nor will He keep His anger forever. He does not deal with us according to our sins, nor requite us according to our iniquities.

For as the heavens are high above the earth, so great is His steadfast love toward those who fear Him. As far as the East is from the West, so far does He remove our transgressions from us.

# Holy Week

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## *Bridegroom Matins*

As a father pities his children, so the Lord pities those who fear Him. For He knows our frame; He remembers that we are dust.

As for man, his days are like grass; he flourishes like a flower of the field; for the wind passes over it and it is gone, and its place knows it no more.

But the steadfast love of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting upon those who fear Him, and His righteousness to children's children; to those who keep His covenant and remember to do His commandments.

The Lord has established His throne in the heavens, and His Kingdom rules over all.

Bless the Lord, O you His angels, you mighty ones who do His Word, hearkening to the voice of His Word! Bless the Lord, all His hosts, His ministers that do His will!

Bless the Lord, all His works, in all places of His dominion, bless the Lord, O my soul! In all places of His dominion, bless the Lord, O my soul!

### ***Psalm 142 (143)***

Hear my prayer, O Lord; give ear to my supplications! In Thy faithfulness answer me, in Thy righteousness!

Enter not into judgment with Thy servant, for no man living is righteous before Thee.

For the enemy has pursued me; he has crushed my life to the ground; he has made me sit in darkness like those long dead.



Therefore my spirit faints within me; my heart within me is appalled.

I remember the days of old, I meditate on all that Thou hast done; I muse on what Thy hands have wrought. I stretched out my hands to Thee; my soul thirsts for Thee like a parched land.

Make haste to answer me, O Lord, my spirit fails! Hide not Thy face from me, lest I be like those who go down to the pit. Let me hear in the morning of Thy steadfast love, for in Thee I put my trust.

Teach me the way that I should go, for to Thee I lift up my soul. Deliver me, O Lord, from my enemies; I have fled to Thee for refuge! Teach me to do Thy will, for Thou art my God! Let Thy good spirit lead me on a level path!

For Thy Name's sake, O Lord, preserve my life! In Thy righteousness bring me out of trouble, and in Thy steadfast love cut off my enemies and destroy all my adversaries, for I am Thy servant.

In Thy faithfulness answer me, in Thy righteousness! Enter not into judgment with Thy servant! In Thy faithfulness answer me, in Thy righteousness! Enter not into judgment with Thy servant!

Let Thy good Spirit lead me on a level path!

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

*Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, glory to Thee, O God! (3x)*

# Holy Week

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## *Bridegroom Matins*

### ***Psalm 50 (51)***

Have mercy on me, O God, according to Thy steadfast love; according to Thy abundant mercy blot out my transgressions. Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin! For I know my transgressions and my sin is ever before me.

Against Thee, Thee only have I sinned, and done that which is evil in Thy sight, so that Thou art justified in Thy sentence and blameless in Thy judgment.

Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity and in sin did my mother conceive me. Behold, Thou desirest truth in the inward being; therefore teach me wisdom in my secret heart.

Purge me with hyssop and I shall be clean, wash me and I shall be whiter than snow. Fill me with joy and gladness, let the bones which Thou hast broken rejoice. Hide Thy face from my sins, and blot out all my iniquities.

Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me. Cast me not away from Thy presence, and take not Thy Holy Spirit from me.

Restore to me the joy of Thy salvation, and uphold me with a willing spirit. Then I will teach transgressors Thy ways, and sinners will return to Thee. Deliver me from bloodguiltiness, O God, Thou God of my salvation, and my tongue will sing aloud of Thy deliverance.

O Lord, open Thou my lips, and my mouth shall show forth Thy praise. For Thou hast no delight in sacrifice; were I to give a burnt offering, Thou wouldst not be pleased. The

sacrifice acceptable to God is a broken spirit, a broken and contrite heart Thou wilt not despise.

Do good to Zion in Thy good pleasure; rebuild the walls of Jerusalem, then wilt Thou delight in right sacrifices, in burnt offerings and whole burnt offerings; then bulls will be offered on Thy altar.

# **Holy Week**

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## *Bridegroom Matins*

### **Bridegroom Matins Kanon (for Monday)**

#### **ODE 1**

*Glory to Thee, our God, glory to Thee!*

O, the inexpressible condescension of the Word of God! For Christ, who is both God and man, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied Himself and appeared to His disciples in the form of a servant. Gloriously has He been glorified!

*Glory to Thee, our God, glory to Thee!*

“With the wealth of my divine nature, I came in order to minister to Adam in his poverty. I fashioned his body and now willingly I put it on. Though in my divine nature I am not subject to passion, I lay down my life to ransom his.”

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

*After the Kontakion is sung, the Ikos is read:*

#### **IKOS**

Today let us add lamentation to lamentation. Let our tears flow with those of Jacob, who weeps for his celebrated and sober-minded son; for though bodily Joseph was indeed a slave, he preserved the freedom of his soul and was lord over all Egypt.

*The choir finishes the Ikos with the verse:*

**Choir:** For God prepares for His servants an incorruptible crown.

## ODE 8

*Glory to Thee, our God, glory to Thee!*

“By this all men know that you are my disciples,” said the Savior to His friends as He went to His passion, “If you will keep my commandments. Be at peace among yourselves and with all men. Think humbly of yourselves and you will be exalted. And, knowing that I am the Lord, you will sing and exalt me throughout all ages.”

*Glory to Thee, our God, glory to Thee!*

“Let your order be contrary to that of the Gentiles, who hold power over their fellowmen, for such is not my portion, but rather self-appointed tyranny. He, then, who would be great among you, must be the servant of all, and knowing that I am the Lord, he will sing and exalt me throughout all ages.”

*Let us bless the Lord: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages, Amen.*

## ODE 9

*Glory to Thee, our God, glory to Thee!*

Thou didst warn Thine apostles, O Wisdom of all: “Flee from all impure passion. Seek instead wisdom worthy of the Kingdom of God. Thus you will be glorified and shine more brightly than the sun.”

*Glory to Thee, our God, glory to Thee!*

The Lord said to His disciples: “As you look at me, do not be haughty, but be joined to the lowly. The cup which I drink, drink also, that you may be glorified with me in my Father’s Kingdom.”

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

# **Holy Week**

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## *Bridegroom Matins*

### **Bridegroom Matins Kanon (for Tuesday)**

*After the Kontakion is sung, the Ikos is read:*

#### **IKOS**

Why are you idle, my wretched soul? What useless cares cause you to be lost in dreams? Why busy yourself with things that pass away? The last hour is at hand, and we shall be parted from all early things. Therefore, while there is yet time, rouse yourself and cry: “I have sinned before Thee, O my Savior. Do not cut me off like the barren fig tree. In Thy compassion, O Christ, take pity on me who calls out with fear:”

*The choir finishes the Ikos with the verse:*

**Choir:** “Let us not remain outside the bridal chamber of Christ.

#### **ODE 8**

*Glory to Thee, our God, glory to Thee!*

Let us cast aside all idleness, and with shining lamps and hymns meet Christ, the immortal Bridegroom, singing: “Bless the Lord, O works of the Lord.”

*Glory to Thee, our God, glory to Thee!*

May we together have enough oil in the vessels of our souls, so that, not wasting the time of rewards in buying more, we may sing: “Bless the Lord, O works of the Lord.”

*Glory to Thee, our God, glory to Thee!*

May all who have received a talent from God, now, with the help of Christ, increase according to the grace given by Him, and sing: “Bless the Lord, O works of the Lord.”

*Let us bless the Lord: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages, Amen.*

### **ODE 9**

*Glory to Thee, our God, glory to Thee!*

The Good One said to His disciples: “Watch, for you know not the hour in which the Lord will come to repay each man.”

*Glory to Thee, our God, glory to Thee!*

At Thy dread second coming, O Master, number me with the sheep at Thy right hand, overlooking my many transgressions.

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

# **Holy Week**

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## *Bridegroom Matins*

### **Bridegroom Matins Kanon (for Wednesday)**

#### **ODE 3**

*Glory to Thee, our God, glory to Thee!*

The assembly of lawless men gathers together for empty discussion and with evil intent, to pronounce sentence upon Thee, O Christ the Deliverer. But we sing to Thee: Thou art our God, and none is holy but Thee, O Lord.

*Glory to Thee, our God, glory to Thee!*

The fearful council of lawless men, with souls full of hatred toward God, intends to kill the righteous Christ as an evildoer. But we sing to Thee: Thou art our God, and none is holy but Thee, O Lord.

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

*After the Kontakion is sung, the Ikos is read:*

#### **IKOS**

The woman who was once a profligate suddenly is wise. She hates her shameful deeds and carnal pleasures, remembering the magnitude of her shame and the verdict of condemnation which awaits profligates and harlots. Of these, I am indeed the first, and though in terror, I foolishly remain in my evil ways. But the harlot, though in terror, hastens to the Deliverer to cry: In Thy compassion and love for mankind,

*The choir finishes the Ikos with the verse:*

**Choir:** Deliver me from the filth of my evil deeds.



## ODE 8

*Glory to Thee, our God, glory to Thee!*

The woman poured precious myrrh upon Thy kingly, divine and awesome head, O Christ. She grasped Thy most pure feet with her impure hands and cried: “Praise the Lord, all works of the Lord! Sing and exalt Him throughout all ages!”

*Glory to Thee, our God, glory to Thee!*

A sacred rite of redemption, wrought of saving compassion and a flood of tears, is administered to the right-minded woman. Washed in this fountain by her confession, she is not ashamed, but cried out: “Praise the Lord, all works of the Lord! Sing and exalt Him throughout all ages!”

*Let us bless the Lord: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages, Amen.*

## ODE 9

*Glory to Thee, our God, glory to Thee!*

Envious Judas proved himself both ignorant and evil. He sold the divine gift through whom our debt of sin is loosed. This miserable man sold the grace of God’s love. But spare our souls, O Christ our God, and save us!

*Glory to Thee, our God, glory to Thee!*

Judas went to the lawless rulers and said: “What will you give me if I betray to you Christ whom you seek?” From intimate companionship with Christ, Judas is drawn away by gold. But spare our souls, O Christ our God, and save us!

## **Holy Week**

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### *Bridegroom Matins*

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

O blind and greedy avarice! Have you forgotten what you were taught, that the whole world is not worth your soul? Yet you, O traitor, despaired of your life, and made a noose and hanged yourself. But spare our souls, O Christ our God, and save us!

## **Bridegroom Matins Kanon (for Thursday)**

### **ODE 1**

*Glory to Thee, our God, glory to Thee!*

Cause of all and Giver of Life, the infinite Wisdom of God has built a house from a pure, unwedded mother. For clothed in the temple of His body, gloriously has Christ our God been glorified!

*Glory to Thee, our God, glory to Thee!*

Initiating His, friends into the mystery, the true Wisdom of God has set a table that nourishes the soul, and has mixed a cup of immortality for the faithful. Let us draw near with reverence and cry out: “Gloriously has Christ our God been glorified!”

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

### **ODE 3**

*Glory to Thee, our God, glory to Thee!*

Thou didst fill Thy cup of gladness, which redeems all the race of men, and didst give it to Thy disciples to drink, O Good One. Thou didst offer Thyself: crying: “Drink my blood and be confirmed in faith.

*Glory to Thee, our God, glory to Thee!*

“Foolish is the man among you who is a betrayer,” foretold the patient One to His disciples. “He shall not know these things, and being without understanding, He shall not understand. Yet abide in Me and be confirmed in faith.”

# **Holy Week**

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## *Bridegroom Matins*

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

### **ODE 4**

*Glory to Thee, our God, glory to Thee!*

Going to the passion which pours forth freedom from passion to all of Adam's race, Thou didst say to Thy friends, O Christ: "I have earnestly desired to share this Passover with you. For the Father has sent me, the only-begotten Son, into the world as its atonement."

*Glory to Thee, our God, glory to Thee!*

Partaking of the cup, Thou didst cry out to Thy disciples, O Immortal One: "No more shall I drink of the fruit of the vine while I am living among you. For the Father has sent me, the only-begotten Son, into the world as its atonement."

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

### **ODE 5**

*Glory to Thee, our God, glory to Thee!*

The Wisdom of God, who rules the ungovernable waters of the heavens, who tames the deeps and restrains the seas, now pours water into a basin, and the Master washes the feet of His servants.

*Glory to Thee, our God, glory to Thee!*

The Master shows the disciples an example of humility; He who wraps the vault of heaven in clouds girds Himself with a towel; He who holds in His hands the breath of all that exists, kneels down to wash the feet of His servants.

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

## **ODE 6**

*Glory to Thee, our God, glory to Thee!*

“You call me Lord and Teacher, O disciples, for so I am, Therefore imitate the example which you have seen in me.”

*Glory to Thee, our God, glory to Thee!*

He who has no filth does not need to wash, except for his feet. And you are clean, O disciples, but not all of you. For a mad impulse rages within one of you.

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

*After the Kontakion is sung, the Ikos is read:*

## **IKOS**

Let us all approach the mystical table in fear and receive the Bread with pure souls; and let us stay with the Master so that we may see how He washes His disciples’ feet and wipes them with a towel. Let us do as we have seen Him do, submitting to one another and washing one another’s feet, for Christ Himself thus commanded His disciples,

*The choir finishes the Ikos with the verse:*

**Choir:** But the servant and deceiver Judas did not take heed.

# **Holy Week**

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## *Bridegroom Matins*

### **ODE 7**

*Glory to Thee, our God, glory to Thee!*

Christ cried out to His friends, “One of you will betray me.” They forgot their gladness and were seized by anxiety and grief, saying, “Tell us who it is, O God of our Fathers.”

*Glory to Thee, our God, glory to Thee!*

“He that boldly dips his hand in the same dish with me. It would be better for that man if he had never passed through the gate of life.” Thus the God of our fathers disclosed the one who would betray Him.

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

### **ODE 8**

*Glory to Thee, our God, glory to Thee!*

The blessed Apostles, those guests faithfully present with the Word in Zion, followed the Shepherd like sheep; and united by Christ, from whom they were not parted, they fed upon the divine Word, crying out in thanksgiving: Praise the Lord, all works of the Lord! Exalt Him throughout all the ages!

*Glory to Thee, our God, glory to Thee!*

Without conscience Judas accepted the Body that cleanses from sin and the Blood that was shed for the world. But he was not ashamed of drinking what he had sold for a price. He was not offended at evil, and knew not how to cry: Praise the Lord, all works of the Lord! Exalt Him throughout all ages!

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*Let us bless the Lord: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages, Amen.*

## **ODE 9**

*Glory to Thee, our God, glory to Thee!*

“Go,” says the Word to His disciples, “and in the upper chamber prepare the Passover which confirms the mind of those whom I initiate with the unleavened word of truth; and magnify the strength of grace.”

*Glory to Thee, our God, glory to Thee!*

Before the ages the Father begot me, His creative Wisdom. He made me the beginning of His ways for His works, which now have been mystically perfected. For being by nature the uncreated Word, I make my own the words of that nature which I have now assumed.

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

Just as I am man in essence and not in imagination, so also the nature which has been united to me is God by reason of communion. Therefore know me, the one Christ, who am saving those things from which and in which I was brought forth.

# Holy Week

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*Bridegroom Matins*

## The Lesser Doxology

**Reader:** Glory to Thee, Who hast shown us the Light!

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

We praise Thee, we bless Thee, we worship Thee, we glorify Thee, we give thanks to Thee for Thy great glory.

O Lord, Heavenly King, God the Father Almighty! O Lord, the Only-Begotten Son, Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit;

O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, Who takes away the sin of the world, have mercy on us! Thou that takes away the sins of the world, receive our prayer. Thou that sits at the right hand of God the Father have mercy on us!

For Thou alone art holy, Thou alone art Lord, Thou only, O Jesus Christ, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

Every day will I give thanks to Thee and praise Thy Name for ever and ever!

Lord, Thou hast been our refuge from generation to generation! I said, Lord, have mercy on me; heal my soul, for I have sinned against Thee. Lord, I flee unto Thee. Teach me to do Thy will, for Thou art my God.

For with Thee is the fountain of life, and in Thy light shall we see light. O continue Thy mercy unto those who know Thee!



Vouchsafe, O Lord to keep us this day without sin. Blessed art Thou, O Lord, God of our Fathers, and praised and glorified is Thy Name forever. Amen. Let Thy mercy, O Lord, be upon us, as we have set our hope on Thee.

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

Blessed art Thou, O Master, make me to understand Thy commandments.

Blessed art Thou, O Holy One, enlighten me with Thy precepts.

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

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

# Holy Week

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## *Bridegroom Matins*

### Trisagion Prayers after the Aposticha

**Reader:** It is good to give thanks to the Lord, to sing praises to Thy name, O Most High, to declare Thy mercy in the morning, and Thy truth by night.

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.

O Most Holy Trinity have mercy on us; Lord, cleanse us from our sins; Master, pardon our transgressions; Holy One, visit and heal our infirmities for Thy 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 are 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.

**Reader:** Amen.

O Heavenly King, establish the Orthodox Christians, confirm the Faith, quiet the heathen, give peace to the world, place our departed fathers and brethren in the tabernacles of the Righteous, and accept us sorrowers and penitents, for Thou art good and the Lover of mankind. Amen.

# Holy Week

## *Holy Thursday Vesperal Liturgy*

**Deacon:** Bless, Most Blessed, Master.

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

**Reader:** Amen. Glory to Thee, our God, glory to Thee!  
O Heavenly King, the Comforter, the Spirit of Truth; who art everywhere and fillest all things. Treasury of blessings, and giver of life. Come and abide in us, and cleanse us from every impurity, and save our souls, O good one.

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.

Most Holy Trinity have mercy on us. Lord, cleanse us from our sins, Master, pardon our transgressions. Holy One, visit and heal our infirmities, for Thy 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.

# Holy Week

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*Holy Thursday Vesperal Liturgy*

**Priest:** For Thine are 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.

**Reader:** Amen. 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 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!

## ***Psalm 104***

Bless the Lord, O my soul! O Lord my God, Thou art very great! Thou art clothed with honor and majesty, who covers Thyself with light as with a garment; Thou hast stretched out the heavens like a tent.

Thou hast laid the beams of Thy chambers on the waters, Thou makest the clouds Thy chariot, who rides on the wings of the wind. Thou makest Thy angels spirits, and Thy ministers a flame of fire.

Thou hast set the earth on its foundations so that it should never be shaken. Who covers it with the deep as with a garment; the waters stood above the mountains.

At Thy rebuke they fled; at the sound of Thy thunder they took to flight! The mountains rose, the valleys sank down to the place which Thou didst appoint for them.

Thou didst set a bound which they should not pass, so that they might not again cover the earth. Thou makest springs gush forth in the valleys; they flow between the hills.

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

From Thy lofty abode Thou waterest the mountains; the earth is satisfied with the fruit of Thy work. Thou hast caused the grass to grow for the cattle, fodder for the animals that serve man.

That he may bring forth food from the earth, and wine to gladden the heart of man, oil to make his face shine, and bread to strengthen man's heart.

The trees of the Lord are watered abundantly, the cedars of Lebanon which He planted. In them the birds build their nests; the stork has her home in the fir trees.

The high mountains are for the wild goats; the rocks are a refuge for the badgers. Thou hast made the moon to mark the seasons. The sun knows its time for setting.

Thou makest darkness, and it is night, when all the beasts of the forest creep forth. The young lions roar for their prey, seeking their food from God.

When the sun rises, they get them away and lie down in their dens. Man goes forth to his work and to his labor until the evening.

O Lord, how manifold are Thy works! In wisdom hast Thou made them all! The earth is full of Thy creatures. Yonder is the

# Holy Week

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*Holy Thursday Vesperal Liturgy*

sea, great and wide, which teems with things innumerable, living things both small and great.

There go the ships and Leviathan which Thou didst form to sport in it. These all look to Thee, to give them their food in due season.

When Thou givest to them, they gather it up; when Thou openest Thy hand, they are filled with good things. When Thou hidest Thy face, they are dismayed; when Thou takest away their breath, they die and return to their dust.

When Thou sendest forth Thy Spirit, they are created and Thou renewest the face of the earth! May the glory of the Lord endure forever! May the Lord rejoice in His works!

Who looks on the earth and it trembles! Who touches the mountains and they smoke! I will sing to the Lord as long as I live; I will sing praise to my God while I have being!

May my meditation be pleasing to Him, for I rejoice in the Lord! Let sinners be consumed from the earth, and let the wicked be no more!

Bless the Lord, O my soul!

The sun knows its time for setting. Thou makest darkness, and it is night. O Lord, how manifold are Thy works! In wisdom hast Thou made them all!

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

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Glory to Thee, O God! (3x)

## **Lord, I Call** *sung in the tone 2*

**People:** *Lord, I call upon Thee, hear me.  
Hear me, O Lord.  
Lord, I call upon Thee, hear me.  
Receive the voice of my prayer.  
When I call upon Thee, hear me, O Lord.  
Let my prayer arise in Thy sight as incense.  
And let the lifting up of my hands,  
be an evening sacrifice,  
hear me, O Lord.*

**Reader:** Set a guard over my mouth, O Lord, keep watch over the door of my lips!  
Incline not my heart to any evil, to busy myself with wicked deeds in company with men who work iniquity, and let me not partake of their delights!  
Let a good man strike or rebuke me in kindness, but let the oil of the wicked never anoint my head for my prayer is continually against their wicked deeds.  
When they are given over to those who shall condemn them, then they shall learn that the word of the Lord is true.  
As a rock which one cleaves and shatters on the land, so shall their bones be strewn at the mouth of sheol.  
But my eyes are toward Thee, O Lord God; in Thee I seek refuge; leave me not defenseless! Keep me from the trap which they have laid for me, and from the snares of evildoers!  
Let the wicked together fall into their own nets, while I alone escape.  
I cry with my voice to the Lord, with my voice I make supplication to the Lord, I pour out my trouble before Him.  
When my spirit departs from me, Thou knowest my way!  
In the path where I walk they have hidden a trap for me.

# Holy Week

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*Holy Thursday Vesperal Liturgy*

I look to the right and watch, but there is none who takes notice of me; no refuge remains to me, no man cares for me.

I cry to Thee, O Lord; I say Thou art my refuge, my portion in the land of the living.

Give heed to my cry; for I am brought very low!

Deliver me from my persecutors; for they are too strong for me!

- (X) Bring my soul out of prison, that I may give thanks to Thy name!
- (IX) The righteous await me, for Thou wilt deal bountifully with me!
- (VIII) Out of the depths I cry to Thee, O Lord! Lord, hear my voice!
- (VII) Let Thine ears be attentive to the voice of my supplication!
- (VI) If Thou O Lord, shouldst mark iniquities, Lord, who could stand? But there is forgiveness with Thee.
- (V) For Thy name's sake I wait for Thee, O Lord. My soul has waited for Thy word, my soul has hoped on the Lord.
- (IV) From the morning watch until night, from the morning watch, let Israel hope on the Lord.
- (III) For with the Lord there is mercy and with Him is redemption, and He will deliver Israel from all his iniquities.
- (II) Praise the Lord, all nations! Praise Him, all peoples!
- (I) For His mercy is confirmed on us, and the truth of the Lord endures forever!

In the 6<sup>th</sup> Tone: Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, Now and ever and unto ages of ages, Amen.



## Readings from the Scriptures

**Deacon:** Let us attend!

**Priest:** Peace be unto All!

**Reader:** And to your spirit!

**Deacon:** Wisdom!

**Reader:** The prokeimenon is in the 1<sup>st</sup> Tone: Deliver me, O Lord, from violent men.

**Choir:** *repeats prokeimenon*

**Reader:** Who have schemed unrighteousness in their hearts all the day long!

**Choir:** *repeats prokeimenon*

**Reader:** Deliver me, O Lord

**Choir:** *finishes the prokeimenon*

**Deacon:** Wisdom!

**Reader:** The reading is from the book of Exodus. (19:10-19)

**Deacon:** Let us attend!

**Reader:** Then the Lord said to Moses, “Go to the people and consecrate them today and tomorrow, and let them wash their clothes.

<sup>11</sup> “And let them be ready for the third day. For on the third day the Lord will come down upon Mount Sinai in the sight of all the people.

<sup>12</sup> “You shall set bounds for the people all around, saying, ‘Take heed to yourselves that you do not go up to the mountain or touch its base. Whoever touches the mountain shall surely be put to death.

# Holy Week

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*Holy Thursday Vesperal Liturgy*

- 13 ‘Not a hand shall touch him, but he shall surely be stoned or shot with an arrow; whether man or beast, he shall not live.’ When the trumpet sounds long, they shall come near the mountain.”
- 14 So Moses went down from the mountain to the people and sanctified the people, and they washed their clothes.
- 15 And he said to the people, “Be ready for the third day; do not come near your wives.”
- 16 Then it came to pass on the third day, in the morning, that there were thundering and lightning, and a thick cloud on the mountain; and the sound of the trumpet was very loud, so that all the people who were in the camp trembled.
- 17 And Moses brought the people out of the camp to meet with God, and they stood at the foot of the mountain.
- 18 Now Mount Sinai was completely in smoke, because the Lord descended upon it in fire. Its smoke ascended like the smoke of a furnace, and the whole mountain quaked greatly.
- 19 And when the blast of the trumpet sounded long and became louder and louder, Moses spoke, and God answered him by voice.

*After the 1<sup>st</sup> Reading is completed, the 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading begins as follows:*

**Deacon:** Let us attend!

**Priest:** Peace be unto All!

**Reader:** And to your spirit!

**Deacon:** Wisdom!

**Reader:** The prokeimenon is in the 7<sup>th</sup> Tone: Deliver me from my enemies, O God. Save me from those who rise up against me!

**Choir:** *repeats prokeimenon*

**Reader:** Deliver me from those who work evil.

**Choir:** *repeats prokeimenon*

**Reader:** Deliver me from my enemies, O God

**Choir:** *finishes the prokeimenon*

**Deacon:** Wisdom!

**Reader:** The reading is from the book of Job. (38:1-23; 42:1-5)

**Deacon:** Let us attend!

**Reader:** Then the Lord answered Job out of the whirlwind, and said:

<sup>2</sup> “Who is this who darkens counsel By words without knowledge?

<sup>3</sup> Now prepare yourself like a man; I will question you, and you shall answer Me.

<sup>4</sup> “Where were you when I laid the foundations of the earth? Tell Me, if you have understanding.

<sup>5</sup> Who determined its measurements? Surely you know! Or who stretched the line upon it?

<sup>6</sup> To what were its foundations fastened? Or who laid its cornerstone,

<sup>7</sup> When the morning stars sang together, And all the sons of God shouted for joy?

<sup>8</sup> “Or who shut in the sea with doors, When it burst forth and issued from the womb;

<sup>9</sup> When I made the clouds its garment, And thick darkness its swaddling band;

<sup>10</sup> When I fixed My limit for it, And set bars and doors;

<sup>11</sup> When I said, ‘This far you may come, but no farther, And here your proud waves must stop!’

<sup>12</sup> “Have you commanded the morning since your days began, And caused the dawn to know its place,

# Holy Week

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## *Holy Thursday Vesperal Liturgy*

- <sup>13</sup> That it might take hold of the ends of the earth, And the wicked be shaken out of it?
- <sup>14</sup> It takes on form like clay under a seal, And stands out like a garment.
- <sup>15</sup> From the wicked their light is withheld, And the upraised arm is broken.
- <sup>16</sup> “Have you entered the springs of the sea? Or have you walked in search of the depths?
- <sup>17</sup> Have the gates of death been revealed to you? Or have you seen the doors of the shadow of death?
- <sup>18</sup> Have you comprehended the breadth of the earth? Tell Me, if you know all this.
- <sup>19</sup> “Where is the way to the dwelling of light? And darkness, where is its place,
- <sup>20</sup> That you may take it to its territory, That you may know the paths to its home?
- <sup>21</sup> Do you know it, because you were born then, Or because the number of your days is great?
- <sup>22</sup> “Have you entered the treasury of snow, Or have you seen the treasury of hail,
- <sup>23</sup> Which I have reserved for the time of trouble, For the day of battle and war?
- <sup>1</sup> Then Job answered the Lord and said:
- <sup>2</sup> “I know that You can do everything, And that no purpose of Yours can be withheld from You.
- <sup>3</sup> You asked, ‘Who is this who hides counsel without knowledge?’ Therefore I have uttered what I did not understand, Things too wonderful for me, which I did not know.
- <sup>4</sup> Listen, please, and let me speak; You said, ‘I will question you, and you shall answer Me.’
- <sup>5</sup> “I have heard of You by the hearing of the ear, But now my eye sees You.

*After the 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading is completed, the 3<sup>rd</sup> Reading begins as follows:*

**Deacon:** Wisdom!

**Reader:** The reading is from the prophecy of Isaiah (50:4-11)

**Deacon:** Let us attend!

**Reader:** Thus says the Lord:

<sup>4</sup> “The Lord God has given Me The tongue of the learned, That I should know how to speak A word in season to him who is weary. He awakens Me morning by morning, He awakens My ear To hear as the learned.

<sup>5</sup> The Lord God has opened My ear; And I was not rebellious, Nor did I turn away.

<sup>6</sup> I gave My back to those who struck Me, And My cheeks to those who plucked out the beard; I did not hide My face from shame and spitting.

<sup>7</sup> “For the Lord God will help Me; Therefore I will not be disgraced; Therefore I have set My face like a flint, And I know that I will not be ashamed.

<sup>8</sup> He is near who justifies Me; Who will contend with Me? Let us stand together. Who is My adversary? Let him come near Me.

<sup>9</sup> Surely the Lord God will help Me; Who is he who will condemn Me? Indeed they will all grow old like a garment; The moth will eat them up.

<sup>10</sup> “Who among you fears the Lord? Who obeys the voice of His Servant? Who walks in darkness And has no light? Let him trust in the name of the Lord And rely upon his God.

<sup>11</sup> Look, all you who kindle a fire, Who encircle yourselves with sparks: Walk in the light of your fire and in the sparks you have kindled— This you shall have from My hand: You shall lie down in torment.

# Holy Week

## *Holy Friday Matins*

**Deacon:** Bless, Most Blessed, Master.

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

**Reader:** Amen. Glory to Thee, our God, glory to Thee!

O Heavenly King, the Comforter, the Spirit of Truth; who art everywhere and fillest all things. Treasury of blessings, and giver of life. Come and abide in us, and cleanse us from every impurity, and save our souls, O good one.

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.

Most Holy Trinity have mercy on us. Lord, cleanse us from our sins, Master, pardon our transgressions. Holy One, visit and heal our infirmities, for Thy 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 are 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.

**Reader:** Amen.  
In the name of the Lord, bless, Father!

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

**Reader:** Amen.  
Glory to God in the highest, and on earth, peace, good will towards men. (3x)

O Lord, open my lips, and my mouth shall show forth Thy praise. (2x)

**Psalm 3** O Lord, how many are my foes! Many are rising against me; many are saying of me, there is no help for him in God. But Thou, O Lord, art a shield about me, my glory, and the lifter of my head.

I cry aloud to the Lord and He answers me from His holy hill.  
I lie down and sleep; I awake again for the Lord sustains me.

I am not afraid of ten thousands of people who have set themselves against me round about.

Arise, O Lord, deliver me, O my God! For Thou dost smite all my enemies on the cheek. Thou dost break the teeth of the wicked.

# Holy Week

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## *Holy Friday Matins*

Deliverance belongs to the Lord: Thy blessing be upon Thy people.

I lie down and sleep; I awake again for the Lord sustains me.

### ***Psalm 37 (38)***

O Lord, rebuke me not in Thy anger, nor chasten me in Thy wrath! For Thy arrows have sunk into me, and Thy hand has come down on me.

There is no soundness in my flesh because of Thy indignation; there is no health in my bones because of my sin. For my iniquities have gone over my head; they weigh like a burden too heavy for me.

My wounds grow foul and fester because of my foolishness; I am utterly bowed down and prostrate; all the day I go about mourning. For my loins are filled with burning, and there is no soundness in my flesh. I am utterly spent and crushed, I groan because of the tumult of my heart.

Lord, all my longing is known to Thee, my sighing is not hidden from Thee. My heart throbs, my strength fails me, and the light of my eyes – it has also gone from me.

My friends and companions stand aloof from my plague, and my kinsmen stand afar off.

Those who seek my life lay their snares, those who seek my hurt speak of ruin and meditate treachery all the day long.



But I am like a deaf man, I do not hear, like a dumb man who does not open his mouth. Yea, I am like a man who does not hear, and in whose mouth are no rebukes.

But for Thee, O Lord, do I wait; it is Thou, O Lord my God, Who wilt answer; for I pray, “Only let them not rejoice over me, who boast against me when my foot slips!” For I am ready to fall, and my pain is ever with me.

I confess my iniquity, I am sorry for my sin.

Those who are my foes without cause are mighty, and many are those who hate me wrongfully. Those who render me evil for good are my adversaries because I follow after 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 62 (63)***

O God, Thou art my God! I seek Thee, my soul thirsts for Thee, my flesh faints for Thee as in a dry and weary land where no water is.

So I have looked upon Thee in the sanctuary, beholding Thy power and glory. Because Thy steadfast love is better than life, my lips will praise Thee. So I will bless Thee as long as I live; I will lift up my hands and call on Thy Name.

My soul is feasted as with marrow and fat, and my mouth praises Thee with joyful lips, when I think of Thee upon my

# Holy Week

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## *Holy Friday Matins*

bed, and meditate on Thee in the watches of the night; for Thou hast been my help, and in the shadow of Thy wings I sing for joy. My soul clings to Thee, Thy right hand upholds me.

But those who seek to destroy my life shall go down into the depths of the earth; they shall be given over to the power of the sword, they shall be prey for jackals. But the king shall rejoice in God, all who swear by him shall glory; for the mouths of liars will be stopped.

I meditate on Thee in the watches of the night; for Thou hast been my help, and in the shadow of Thy wings I sing for joy. My soul clings to Thee, Thy 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 Thee, 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 87 (88)***

O Lord my God, I call for help by day; I cry out in the night before Thee. Let my prayer come before Thee, incline Thy ear to my cry.

For my soul is full of troubles, and my life draws near to sheol. I am reckoned among those who go down to the pit; I am a man who has no strength, like one forsaken among the dead;

like the slain that lie in the grave; like those whom Thou dost remember no more, for they are cut off from Thy hand.

Thou hast put me in the depths of the pit, in the regions dark and deep. Thy wrath lies heavy upon me, and Thou dost overwhelm me with all Thy waves.

Thou hast caused my companions to shun me, Thou hast made me a thing of horror to Them.

I am shut in so that I cannot escape; my eye grows dim through sorrow.

Every day I call upon Thee, O Lord; I spread out my hands to Thee.

Dost Thou work wonders for the dead? Do the shades rise up to praise Thee? Is Thy steadfast love declared in the grave, or Thy faithfulness in Abaddon? Are Thy wonders known in the darkness, or Thy saving help in the land of forgetfulness?

But I, O Lord, cry to Thee; in the morning my prayer comes before Thee.

O Lord, why dost Thou cast me off? Why dost Thou hide Thy face from me?

Afflicted and close to death from my youth up, I suffer Thy terrors; I am helpless. Thy wrath has swept over me, Thy dread assaults destroy me. They surround me like a flood all day long; they close in upon me together.

# Holy Week

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## *Holy Friday Matins*

Thou hast caused lover and friend to shun me; my companions are in darkness.

O Lord my God, I call out for help by day; I cry out in the night before Thee. Let my prayer come before Thee; incline Thy ear to my cry.

### ***Psalm 102 (103)***

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 iniquity, Who heals all your diseases; Who redeems your life from the pit; Who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy;

Who satisfies you with good as long as you live, so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.

The Lord works vindication and justice for all who are oppressed. He made His ways known unto Moses, His acts to the people of Israel.

The Lord is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

He will not always chide, nor will He keep His anger forever. He does not deal with us according to our sins, nor requite us according to our iniquities.

For as the heavens are high above the earth, so great is His steadfast love toward those who fear Him. As far as the East is from the West, so far does He remove our transgressions from us.

As a father pities his children, so the Lord pities those who fear Him. For He knows our frame; He remembers that we are dust.

As for man, his days are like grass; he flourishes like a flower of the field; for the wind passes over it and it is gone, and its place knows it no more.

But the steadfast love of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting upon those who fear Him, and His righteousness to children's children; to those who keep His covenant and remember to do His commandments.

The Lord has established His throne in the heavens, and His Kingdom rules over all.

Bless the Lord, O you His angels, you mighty ones who do His Word, hearkening to the voice of His Word! Bless the Lord, all His hosts, His ministers that do His will!

Bless the Lord, all His works, in all places of His dominion, bless the Lord, O my soul! In all places of His dominion, bless the Lord, O my soul!

## ***Psalm 142 (143)***

Hear my prayer, O Lord; give ear to my supplications! In Thy faithfulness answer me, in Thy righteousness!

Enter not into judgment with Thy servant, for no man living is righteous before Thee.

For the enemy has pursued me; he has crushed my life to the ground; he has made me sit in darkness like those long dead.

# Holy Week

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## *Holy Friday Matins*

Therefore my spirit faints within me; my heart within me is appalled.

I remember the days of old, I meditate on all that Thou hast done; I muse on what Thy hands have wrought. I stretched out my hands to Thee; my soul thirsts for Thee like a parched land.

Make haste to answer me, O Lord, my spirit fails! Hide not Thy face from me, lest I be like those who go down to the pit.

Let me hear in the morning of Thy steadfast love, for in Thee I put my trust.

Teach me the way that I should go, for to Thee I lift up my soul. Deliver me, O Lord, from my enemies; I have fled to Thee for refuge! Teach me to do Thy will, for Thou art my God! Let Thy good spirit lead me on a level path!

For Thy Name's sake, O Lord, preserve my life! In Thy righteousness bring me out of trouble, and in Thy steadfast love cut off my enemies and destroy all my adversaries, for I am Thy servant.

In Thy faithfulness answer me, in Thy righteousness! Enter not into judgment with Thy servant! In Thy faithfulness answer me, in Thy righteousness! Enter not into judgment with Thy servant!

Let Thy good Spirit lead me on a level path!

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

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, glory to Thee, O God! (3x)

## The Beatitudes *(after the 6<sup>th</sup> Gospel)*

**Choir:** *In Thy Kingdom remember us, O Lord, when Thou comest in Thy 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.*

**Reader:** Through a tree Adam lost his home in paradise, but through the tree of the cross the thief came there to dwell. By tasting of the fruit, the first broke the Creator's commandment, but He who was crucified with Thee confessed Thee, the hidden God. Remember us also, O Savior, in Thy kingdom!

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

**Reader:** Lawless men bought the Creator of the law from a disciple and brought Him before the judgment seat of Pilate as a transgressor. Though He had given them manna in the wilderness, they cried out: Crucify Him! But we, imitating the righteous thief, cry out in faith: Remember us also, O Savior, in Thy kingdom!

**Choir:** *Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy.*

**Reader:** The swarm of those who would kill God, the lawless nation of the Jews, cried out in fury to Pilate: Crucify Him! –Christ, the innocent one. And they sought instead the release of Barabbas. But with the wise thief we lift up our voices: Remember us also, O Savior, in Thy kingdom!

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

# Holy Week

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## *Holy Friday Matins*

**Reader:** From Thy life-bearing side, O Christ, a fountain flows forth as from Eden, giving drink to Thy Church as to a living paradise. From there it divided to become the four rivers of the Gospels, watering the world, gladdening creation, and teaching the nations to worship Thy kingdom in faith.

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

**Reader:** Thou wast crucified for my sake, in order to pour forth forgiveness for me. Thy side was pierced so that streams of life might flow for me. Thy hands were transfixed by nails so that, convinced of the height of Thy power by the depth of Thy sufferings, I might cry out to Thee, O Christ, giver of life: Glory to Thy cross and to Thy Passion, O Savior!

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

**Reader:** When it beheld Thee crucified, O Christ, all creation trembled. The foundations of the earth shook for fear of Thy might. The lights of heaven hid themselves, and the curtain of the temple was torn in two. The mountains quaked, and the rocks were split, and with us the believing thief cried out to Thee, O Savior: Remember me in Thy kingdom!

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

**Reader:** On the cross Thou didst destroy the legal bond against us, O Lord. Thou wast reckoned with the dead and there bound the tyrant, delivering all from the bonds of death by Thy resurrection. By it we have been illumined, O Lord who loves



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mankind, and we cry out to Thee: Remember us also, O Savior, in Thy kingdom!

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

**Reader:** Thou wast lifted up upon the cross, O Lord. Thou didst destroy the power of death, and as God, Thou didst cancel the legal bond against us. Grant the repentance of the thief also unto us who worship Thee in faith, O only lover of mankind, and who cry out to Thee, O Christ our God: Remember us also, O Savior, in Thy kingdom!

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

**Reader:** Let us, the faithful, all pray that with one voice we may worthily glorify the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit: One God existing in three persons yet remaining unconfused, simple, undivided, and unapproachable; by Whom we escape the flames of punishment.

**Choir:** *Now and ever and unto ages of ages, Amen.*

**Reader:** We offer to Thee as an intercessor, O Christ, Thy mother who bore Thee in the flesh without seed, the true virgin who after giving birth remained incorrupt. Through her intercessions, O most merciful Master, grant forgiveness of sins to us who cry unceasingly: Remember us also, O Savior, in Thy kingdom!

# Holy Week

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*Holy Friday Matins*

## Prokeimenon

**Deacon:** Wisdom!

**Reader:** The prokeimenon is in the 4th Tone: They divide my garments among them, and for my raiment they cast lots.

**Choir:** *repeats prokeimenon*

**Reader:** My God, my God, look upon me! Why hast Thou forsaken me?

**Choir:** *repeats prokeimenon*

**Reader:** They divide my garments among them.

**Choir:** *finishes prokeimenon*

**Psalm 50 (51)** *(after the 7<sup>th</sup> Gospel)*

Have mercy on me, O God, according to Thy steadfast love; according to Thy abundant mercy blot out my transgressions. Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin! For I know my transgressions and my sin is ever before me.

Against Thee, Thee only have I sinned, and done that which is evil in Thy sight, so that Thou art justified in Thy sentence and blameless in Thy judgment.

Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity and in sin did my mother conceive me. Behold, Thou desirest truth in the inward being; therefore teach me wisdom in my secret heart.

Purge me with hyssop and I shall be clean, wash me and I shall be whiter than snow. Fill me with joy and gladness, let the bones which Thou hast broken rejoice. Hide Thy face from my sins, and blot out all my iniquities.

Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me. Cast me not away from Thy presence, and take not Thy Holy Spirit from me.

Restore to me the joy of Thy salvation, and uphold me with a willing spirit. Then I will teach transgressors Thy ways, and sinners will return to Thee. Deliver me from bloodguiltiness, O God, Thou God of my salvation, and my tongue will sing aloud of Thy deliverance.

# Holy Week

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## *Holy Friday Matins*

O Lord, open Thou my lips, and my mouth shall show forth Thy praise. For Thou hast no delight in sacrifice; were I to give a burnt offering, Thou wouldst not be pleased. The sacrifice acceptable to God is a broken spirit, a broken and contrite heart Thou wilt not despise.

Do good to Zion in Thy good pleasure; rebuild the walls of Jerusalem, then wilt Thou delight in right sacrifices, in burnt offerings and whole burnt offerings; then bulls will be offered on Thy altar.

**Kanon** *(after the 8<sup>th</sup> Gospel)***ODE 5:**

*Glory to Thee, our God, glory to Thee!*

With their feet washed, and themselves purified by their participation in the Divine Mystery, Thy servants, O Christ, now ascend from Zion to the great Mount of Olives, praising Thee, who lovest mankind.

*Glory to Thee, our God, glory to Thee!*

Thou didst say: “See that you are not alarmed, O friends. For the hour is now at hand for me to be seized and slain at the hands of lawless men. All of you will be scattered, forsaking me. But I shall gather you to proclaim me, who loved mankind.”

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

*After the Kontakion is sung, the Ikos is read:*

**Reader:** Beholding her own lamb led to the slaughter, Mary followed with the other women, in distress and crying out: “Where do You go, my child? Why do You run so swift a course? Surely there is not another wedding in Cana to which You now hasten to change water into wine? Shall I come with You, my child, or shall I wait for You? Give me a word, You who are the Word. Do not pass me by in silence, You keep me pure, for:

*The choir finishes the Ikos with the verse:*

**Choir:** *Thou art my Son and my God.*

# Holy Week

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*Holy Friday Matins*

## ODE 8:

*Glory to Thee, our God, glory to Thee!*

“O my disciples, now shake off sleep from your eyelids,” said Christ. “Keep watch in prayer, that you may not fall into temptation; and I speak particularly to Simon, since the test is greatest for the strongest. O Peter, acknowledge me, whom all creation blesses and glorifies throughout all ages.”

*Glory to Thee, our God, glory to Thee!*

“O Master, a profane word shall never pass my lips,” cried Peter. “Even if all deny Thee, I shall die with Thee as a loyal friend. For not flesh and blood, but Thy Father has revealed to me Thee, whom all creation blesses and glorifies throughout all ages.”

*Let us bless the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit the Lord.*

“You have not sought out the depth of divine wisdom and knowledge,” said the Lord. “You have not comprehended the abyss of my judgments, O man. Do not boast, for you are flesh, and three times will you deny me, whom all creation blesses and glorifies throughout all ages.”

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

“You will deny your convictions as soon as the question is put to you, O Simon Peter, and the sudden approach of a servant girl will terrify you,” said the Lord. “But after weeping bitterly you will have great mercy from me, whom all creation blesses and glorifies throughout all ages.”

## ODE 9:

*Glory to Thee, our God, glory to Thee!*

A destructive band of God-forsaken, wicked murderers of God, the Synagogue, attacked Thee, O Christ and dragged Thee away as an evil-doer – the Creator of all, whom we magnify.

*Glory to Thee, our God, glory to Thee!*

The priests and scribes caused the life that had been betrayed to the Gentiles to be destroyed, striking in their jealous wickedness Him who by nature is the Giver of life, whom we magnify.

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

Like a pack of dogs they surrounded Thee, O King, smiting Thee on the cheek with their hands. They questioned Thee and bore false witness against Thee, yet by enduring all things Thou hast saved all.

# Holy Week

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*Holy Friday Matins*

## The Praises *(after the 9<sup>th</sup> Gospel)*

**Reader:** Praise the Lord from the heavens, praise Him in the heights!  
Praise Him all His angels, praise Him all His hosts!  
Praise Him sun and moon, praise Him all you shining stars!  
Praise Him, you highest heavens, and you waters above the heavens!  
Let them praise the Name of the Lord, for He spoke and they came to be; He commanded and they were created.  
He established them for ever and ever; He fixed their bounds which cannot be passed.  
Praise the Lord from the earth, you sea monsters and all deeps; fire and hail, snow and frost, stormy winds fulfilling His command!  
Mountains and all hills, fruit trees and all cedars! Beasts and cattle, creeping things and flying birds!  
Kings of the earth and all peoples, princes and all rulers of the earth! Young men and maidens together, old men and children!  
Let them praise the Name of the Lord, for His Name alone is exalted; His glory is above earth and heaven.  
He has raised up a horn for His people, praise for all His saints, for the people of Israel who are near to Him.

**Psalm 149** Sing to the Lord a new song, His praise in the assembly of the faithful! Let Israel be glad in His maker, let the sons of Zion rejoice in their King! Let them praise His Name with dancing, making melody with timbrel and lyre!  
For the Lord takes pleasure in His people; He adorns the humble with victory.  
Let the faithful exult in glory; let them sing for joy on their couches.



Let the high praises of God be in their throats and two-edged swords in their hands, to wreak vengeance on the nations, and chastisement on the peoples; to bind their kings with chains and their nobles with fetters of iron; to execute on them the judgment written; this is glory for all His faithful ones.

**Psalm 150** Praise God in His sanctuary; praise Him in His mighty firmament!  
Praise Him for His mighty deeds, praise Him according to His exceeding greatness!  
Praise Him with trumpet sound;  
praise Him with lute and harp!

*Choir sings stichera*

Praise Him with timbrel and dance, praise Him with strings and pipe!

*Choir sings stichera*

Praise Him with sounding cymbals; praise Him with loud clashing cymbals!

*Choir sings stichera*

Let everything that breathes praise the Lord! Praise the Lord!

*Choir sings stichera*

In the 6<sup>th</sup> Tone: Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

*Choir sings stichera*

# Holy Week

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*Holy Friday Matins*

## **The Lesser Doxology** *(after the 10<sup>th</sup> Gospel)*

**Reader:** To Thee, O Lord Our God belongs glory, and to Thee we send up glory; to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Glory to Thee, Who hast shown us the Light!

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

We praise Thee, we bless Thee, we worship Thee, we glorify Thee, we give thanks to Thee for Thy great glory.

O Lord, Heavenly King, God the Father Almighty! O Lord, the Only-Begotten Son, Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit;

O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, Who takes away the sin of the world, have mercy on us! Thou that takes away the sins of the world, receive our prayer. Thou that sits at the right hand of God the Father have mercy on us!

For Thou alone art holy, Thou alone art Lord, Thou only, O Jesus Christ, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

Every day will I give thanks to Thee and praise Thy Name for ever and ever!

Lord, Thou hast been our refuge from generation to generation! I said, Lord, have mercy on me; heal my soul, for I have sinned against Thee. Lord, I flee unto Thee. Teach me to do Thy will, for Thou art my God.

For with Thee is the fountain of life, and in Thy light shall we see light. O continue Thy mercy unto those who know Thee!

Vouchsafe, O Lord to keep us this day without sin. Blessed art Thou, O Lord, God of our Fathers, and praised and glorified is Thy Name forever. Amen. Let Thy mercy, O Lord, be upon us, as we have set our hope on Thee.

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

Blessed art Thou, O Master, make me to understand Thy commandments.

Blessed art Thou, O Holy One, enlighten me with Thy precepts.

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

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

# Holy Week

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*Holy Friday Matins*

## Trisagion Prayers *(after the 12<sup>th</sup> Gospel)*

**Reader:** It is good to give thanks to the Lord, to sing praises to Thy name, O Most High, to declare Thy mercy in the morning, and Thy truth by night.

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.

O Most Holy Trinity have mercy on us; Lord, cleanse us from our sins; Master, pardon our transgressions; Holy One, visit and heal our infirmities for Thy 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 are 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.

# **Holy Week**

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*Holy Friday Matins*

# Holy Week

## *Holy Friday Vespers*

**Deacon:** Bless, Most Blessed, Master.

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

**Reader:** Amen. Glory to Thee, our God, glory to Thee!  
O Heavenly King, the Comforter, the Spirit of Truth; who art everywhere and fillest all things. Treasury of blessings, and giver of life. Come and abide in us, and cleanse us from every impurity, and save our souls, O good one.

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.

Most Holy Trinity have mercy on us. Lord, cleanse us from our sins, Master, pardon our transgressions. Holy One, visit and heal our infirmities, for Thy 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.

**Reader:** Amen. 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 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!

## ***Psalm 104***

Bless the Lord, O my soul! O Lord my God, Thou art very great! Thou art clothed with honor and majesty, who covers Thyself with light as with a garment; Thou hast stretched out the heavens like a tent.

Thou hast laid the beams of Thy chambers on the waters, Thou makest the clouds Thy chariot, who rides on the wings of the wind. Who makes Thy angels spirits, and Thy ministers a flame of fire.

Thou hast set the earth on its foundations so that it should never be shaken. Thou didst cover it with the deep as with a garment; the waters stood above the mountains.

At Thy rebuke they fled; at the sound of Thy thunder they took to flight! The mountains rose, the valleys sank down to the place which Thou didst appoint for them.

# Holy Week

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## *Holy Friday Vespers*

Thou didst set a bound which they should not pass, so that they might not again cover the earth. Thou makest springs gush forth in the valleys; they flow between the hills.

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

From Thy lofty abode Thou waterest the mountains; the earth is satisfied with the fruit of Thy work. Thou hast caused the grass to grow for the cattle, fodder for the animals that serve man.

That he may bring forth food from the earth, and wine to gladden the heart of man, oil to make his face shine, and bread to strengthen man's heart.

The trees of the Lord are watered abundantly, the cedars of Lebanon which He planted. In them the birds build their nests; the stork has her home in the fir trees.

The high mountains are for the wild goats; the rocks are a refuge for the badgers. Thou hast made the moon to mark the seasons. The sun knows its time for setting.

Thou makest darkness, and it is night, when all the beasts of the forest creep forth. The young lions roar for their prey, seeking their food from God.

When the sun rises, they get them away and lie down in their dens. Man goes forth to his work and to his labor until the evening.

O Lord, how manifold are Thy works! In wisdom hast Thou made them all! The earth is full of Thy creatures. Yonder is the



sea, great and wide, which teems with things innumerable, living things both small and great.

There go the ships and Leviathan which Thou didst form to sport in it. These all look to Thee, to give them their food in due season.

When Thou givest to them, they gather it up; when Thou openest Thy hand, they are filled with good things. When Thou hidest Thy face, they are dismayed; when Thou takest away their breath, they die and return to their dust.

When Thou sendest forth Thy Spirit, they are created and Thou renewest the face of the earth! May the glory of the Lord endure forever! May the Lord rejoice in His works!

Who looks on the earth and it trembles! Who touches the mountains and they smoke! I will sing to the Lord as long as I live; I will sing praise to my God while I have being!

May my meditation be pleasing to Him, for I rejoice in the Lord! Let sinners be consumed from the earth, and let the wicked be no more!

Bless the Lord, O my soul!

The sun knows its time for setting. Thou makest darkness, and it is night. O Lord, how manifold are Thy works! In wisdom hast Thou made them all!

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

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Glory to Thee, O God! (3x)

# Holy Week

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*Holy Friday Vespers*

## Lord, I Call Upon Thee *sung in tone 1*

**People:** *Lord, I call upon Thee, hear me.  
Hear me, O Lord.  
Lord, I call upon Thee, hear me.  
Receive the voice of my prayer.  
When I call upon Thee, hear me, O Lord.  
Let my prayer arise in Thy sight as incense.  
And let the lifting up of my hands,  
be an evening sacrifice,  
hear me, O Lord.*

**Reader:** Set a guard over my mouth, O Lord, keep watch over the door of my lips!  
Incline not my heart to any evil, to busy myself with wicked deeds in company with men who work iniquity, and let me not partake of their delights!  
Let a good man strike or rebuke me in kindness, but let the oil of the wicked never anoint my head for my prayer is continually against their wicked deeds.  
When they are given over to those who shall condemn them, then they shall learn that the word of the Lord is true.  
As a rock which one cleaves and shatters on the land, so shall their bones be strewn at the mouth of sheol.  
But my eyes are toward Thee, O Lord God; in Thee I seek refuge; leave me not defenseless! Keep me from the trap which they have laid for me, and from the snares of evildoers!  
Let the wicked together fall into their own nets, while I alone escape.  
I cry with my voice to the Lord, with my voice I make supplication to the Lord, I pour out my trouble before Him.  
When my spirit departs from me, Thou knowest my way!

In the path where I walk they have hidden a trap for me.  
I look to the right and watch, but there is none who takes notice of me; no refuge remains to me, no man cares for me.  
I cry to Thee, O Lord; I say Thou art my refuge, my portion in the land of the living.  
Give heed to my cry; for I am brought very low!  
Deliver me from my persecutors; for they are too strong for me!  
Bring my soul out of prison, that I may give thanks to Thy name!  
The righteous await me, for Thou wilt deal bountifully with me!  
Out of the depths I cry to Thee, O Lord! Lord, hear my voice!  
Let Thine ears be attentive to the voice of my supplication!  
If Thou O Lord, shouldst mark iniquities, Lord, who could stand? But there is forgiveness with Thee.

*Choir sings stichera*

- (V) For Thy name's sake I wait for Thee, O Lord. My soul has waited for Thy word, my soul has hoped on the Lord.

*Choir sings stichera*

- (IV) From the morning watch until night, from the morning watch, let Israel hope on the Lord.

*Choir sings stichera*

- (III) For with the Lord there is mercy and with Him is redemption, and He will deliver Israel from all his iniquities.

*Choir sings stichera*

- (II) Praise the Lord, all nations! Praise Him, all peoples!

*Choir sings stichera*

# Holy Week

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*Holy Friday Vespers*

- (I) For His mercy is confirmed on us, and the truth of the Lord endures forever!

*Choir sings stichera*

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

*Choir sings stichera*

Now and ever and unto ages of ages, Amen.

## Readings from the Scriptures

**Deacon:** Let us attend!

**Priest:** Peace be unto All!

**Reader:** And to your spirit!

**Deacon:** Wisdom!

**Reader:** The Prokeimenon is in the 4<sup>th</sup> Tone: They divide my garments among them, and for my raiment they cast lots.

**Choir:** *repeats prokeimenon*

**Reader:** My God, my God, look upon me! Why hast Thou forsaken me?

**Choir:** *repeats prokeimenon*

**Reader:** They divide my garments among them

**Choir:** *finishes the prokeimenon*

**Deacon:** Wisdom!

**Reader:** The reading is from the book of Exodus. (33:11-23)

**Deacon:** Let us attend!

**Reader:** So the Lord spoke to Moses face to face, as a man speaks to his friend. And he would return to the camp, but his servant Joshua the son of Nun, a young man, did not depart from the tabernacle.

<sup>12</sup> Then Moses said to the Lord, “See, You say to me, ‘Bring up this people.’ But You have not let me know whom You will send with me. Yet You have said, ‘I know you by name, and you have also found grace in My sight.’”

# Holy Week

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## *Holy Friday Vespers*

- <sup>13</sup> “Now therefore, I pray, if I have found grace in Your sight, show me now Your way, that I may know You and that I may find grace in Your sight. And consider that this nation is Your people.”
- <sup>14</sup> And He said, “My Presence will go with you, and I will give you rest.”
- <sup>15</sup> Then he said to Him, “If Your Presence does not go with us, do not bring us up from here.
- <sup>16</sup> “For how then will it be known that Your people and I have found grace in Your sight, except You go with us? So we shall be separate, Your people and I, from all the people who are upon the face of the earth.”
- <sup>17</sup> So the Lord said to Moses, “I will also do this thing that you have spoken; for you have found grace in My sight, and I know you by name.”
- <sup>18</sup> And he said, “Please, show me Your glory.”
- <sup>19</sup> Then He said, “I will make all My goodness pass before you, and I will proclaim the name of the Lord before you. I will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and I will have compassion on whom I will have compassion.”
- <sup>20</sup> But He said, “You cannot see My face; for no man shall see Me, and live.”
- <sup>21</sup> And the Lord said, “Here is a place by Me, and you shall stand on the rock.
- <sup>22</sup> “So it shall be, while My glory passes by, that I will put you in the cleft of the rock, and will cover you with My hand while I pass by.
- <sup>23</sup> “Then I will take away My hand, and you shall see My back; but My face shall not be seen.”

After the 1<sup>st</sup> Reading is completed, the 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading begins as follows:

**Deacon:** Let us attend!

**Priest:** Peace be unto All!

**Reader:** And to your spirit!

**Deacon:** Wisdom!

**Reader:** The Prokeimenon is in the 4<sup>th</sup> Tone: Judge, O Lord, those who wrong me; fight against those who fight against me!

**Choir:** *repeats prokeimenon*

**Reader:** Take hold of shield and buckler, and arise for my help!

**Choir:** *repeats prokeimenon*

**Reader:** Judge, O Lord, those who wrong me!

**Choir:** *finishes the prokeimenon*

**Deacon:** Wisdom!

**Reader:** The reading is from the book of Job. (42:12-17)

**Deacon:** Let us attend!

**Reader:** Now the Lord blessed the latter days of Job more than his beginning; for he had fourteen thousand sheep, six thousand camels, one thousand yoke of oxen, and one thousand female donkeys.

<sup>13</sup> He also had seven sons and three daughters.

<sup>14</sup> And he called the name of the first Jemimah, the name of the second Keziah, and the name of the third Keren-Happuch.

<sup>15</sup> In all the land were found no women so beautiful as the daughters of Job; and their father gave them an inheritance among their brothers.

# Holy Week

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*Holy Friday Vespers*

<sup>16</sup> After this Job lived one hundred and forty years, and saw his children and grandchildren for four generations.

<sup>17</sup> So Job died, old and full of days.

*After the 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading is completed, the 3<sup>rd</sup> Reading begins as follows:*

**Deacon:** Wisdom!

**Reader:** The reading is from the prophecy of Isaiah (52:13-54:1)

**Deacon:** Let us attend!

**Reader:** Thus says the Lord:

<sup>13</sup> Behold, My Servant shall deal prudently; He shall be exalted and extolled and be very high.

<sup>14</sup> Just as many were astonished at you, So His visage was marred more than any man, And His form more than the sons of men;

<sup>15</sup> So shall He sprinkle many nations. Kings shall shut their mouths at Him; For what had not been told them they shall see, And what they had not heard they shall consider.

<sup>1</sup> Who has believed our report? And to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed?

<sup>2</sup> For He shall grow up before Him as a tender plant, And as a root out of dry ground. He has no form or comeliness; And when we see Him, There is no beauty that we should desire Him.

<sup>3</sup> He is despised and rejected by men, A Man of sorrows and acquainted with grief. And we hid, as it were, our faces from Him; He was despised, and we did not esteem Him.

<sup>4</sup> Surely He has borne our griefs And carried our sorrows; Yet we esteemed Him stricken, Smitten by God, and afflicted.

<sup>5</sup> But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; The chastisement for our peace was upon Him, And by His stripes we are healed.



- <sup>6</sup> All we like sheep have gone astray; We have turned, every one, to his own way; And the Lord has laid on Him the iniquity of us all.
- <sup>7</sup> He was oppressed and He was afflicted, Yet He opened not His mouth; He was led as a lamb to the slaughter, And as a sheep before its shearers is silent, So He opened not His mouth.
- <sup>8</sup> He was taken from prison and from judgment, And who will declare His generation? For He was cut off from the land of the living; For the transgressions of My people He was stricken.
- <sup>9</sup> And they made His grave with the wicked— But with the rich at His death, Because He had done no violence, Nor was any deceit in His mouth.
- <sup>10</sup> Yet it pleased the Lord to bruise Him; He has put Him to grief. When You make His soul an offering for sin, He shall see His seed, He shall prolong His days, And the pleasure of the Lord shall prosper in His hand.
- <sup>11</sup> He shall see the labor of His soul, and be satisfied. By His knowledge My righteous Servant shall justify many, For He shall bear their iniquities.
- <sup>12</sup> Therefore I will divide Him a portion with the great, And He shall divide the spoil with the strong, Because He poured out His soul unto death, And He was numbered with the transgressors, And He bore the sin of many, And made intercession for the transgressors.
- <sup>1</sup> “Sing, O barren, You who have not borne! Break forth into singing, and cry aloud, You who have not labored with child! For more are the children of the desolate Than the children of the married woman,” says the Lord.

# Holy Week

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*Holy Friday Vespers*

## The Epistle and Prokeimenon

**Deacon:** Wisdom!

**Reader:** The prokeimenon is in the 6th Tone: They have laid me in the depths of the pit, in the regions dark and deep.

**Choir:** *repeats prokeimenon*

**Reader:** O Lord God of my salvation, I call for help by day; I cry out in the night before Thee.

**Choir:** *repeats prokeimenon*

**Reader:** They have laid me in the depths of the pit.

**Deacon:** Wisdom!

**Reader:** The reading is from the 1st Epistle of the Holy Apostle Paul to the Corinthians. (1:18-2:2)

**Deacon:** Let us attend.

**Reader:** Brethren: the word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. For it is written, "I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the cleverness of the clever I will thwart." Where is the wise men? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, it pleased God through the folly of what we preach to save those who believe. For Jews demand signs and Greeks seek wisdom, but we preach Christ crucified, a stumbling-block to Jews and folly to Gentiles, but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the

wisdom of God. For the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men.

For consider your call, brethren; not many of you were wise according to worldly standards, not many were powerful, no many were of noble birth; but God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise, God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong, God chose what is low and despised in the world, even things that are not, to bring to nothing things that are, so that no human being might boast in the presence of God. He is the source of your life in Christ Jesus, whom God made our wisdom, our righteousness and sanctification and redemption; therefore, as it is written, “Let him who boasts, boast of the Lord.”

When I came to you, brethren, I did not come proclaiming you the testimony of God in lofty words or wisdom. For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and him crucified.

**Priest:** Peace be unto, Reader. Wisdom!

**Reader:** And to your spirit, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

**Choir:** *Alleluia!*

**Reader:** Save me, O God, for the waters have come up to my neck.

**Choir:** *Alleluia!*

**Reader:** They gave me gall for food, and in my thirst they gave me vinegar to drink.

**Choir:** *Alleluia!*

**Reader:** Let their eyes be darkened, so that they cannot see.

**Choir:** *Alleluia!*

# Holy Week

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*Holy Friday Vespers*

## Vouchsafe, O Lord

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

Blessed art Thou, O Lord God of our fathers, and praised and glorified is Thy name forever. Amen.

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

Blessed art Thou, O Lord, teach me Thy statutes! Blessed art Thou, O Master, let me understand Thy commandments! Blessed art Thou, O Holy One, enlighten me with Thy precepts!

Thy mercy, O Lord, endures forever. Do not despise the works of Thy hands.

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

## Aposticha

The Lord is King! He is robed in majesty!

He has established the world so that it shall never be moved!

Holiness befits Thy house, O Lord, forevermore!

In the 5<sup>th</sup> Tone: Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages, Amen!

## Trisagion Prayers

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.

O Most Holy Trinity have mercy on us; Lord, cleanse us from our sins; Master, pardon our transgressions; Holy One, visit and heal our infirmities for Thy 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 are 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.

**Reader:** Amen.

# Holy Week

## *Holy Saturday Matins*

**Deacon:** Bless, Most Blessed, Master.

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

**Reader:** Amen. Glory to Thee, our God, glory to Thee!

O Heavenly King, the Comforter, the Spirit of Truth; who art everywhere and fillest all things. Treasury of blessings, and giver of life. Come and abide in us, and cleanse us from every impurity, and save our souls, O good one.

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.

Most Holy Trinity have mercy on us. Lord, cleanse us from our sins, Master, pardon our transgressions. Holy One, visit and heal our infirmities, for Thy 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 are 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.

**Reader:** Amen.  
In the name of the Lord, bless, Father!

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

**Reader:** Amen.  
Glory to God in the highest, and on earth, peace, good will towards men. (3x)

O Lord, open my lips, and my mouth shall show forth Thy praise. (2x)

**Psalm 3** O Lord, how many are my foes! Many are rising against me; many are saying of me, there is no help for him in God. But Thou, O Lord, art a shield about me, my glory, and the lifter of my head.

I cry aloud to the Lord and He answers me from His holy hill.  
I lie down and sleep; I awake again for the Lord sustains me.  
I am not afraid of ten thousands of people who have set themselves against me round about.

Arise, O Lord, deliver me, O my God! For Thou dost smite all my enemies on the cheek. Thou dost break the teeth of the wicked.

Deliverance belongs to the Lord: Thy blessing be upon Thy people.

# Holy Week

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*Holy Saturday Matins*

I lie down and sleep; I awake again for the Lord sustains me.

## ***Psalm 37 (38)***

O Lord, rebuke me not in Thy anger, nor chasten me in Thy wrath! For Thy arrows have sunk into me, and Thy hand has come down on me.

There is no soundness in my flesh because of Thy indignation; there is no health in my bones because of my sin. For my iniquities have gone over my head; they weigh like a burden too heavy for me.

My wounds grow foul and fester because of my foolishness; I am utterly bowed down and prostrate; all the day I go about mourning. For my loins are filled with burning, and there is no soundness in my flesh. I am utterly spent and crushed, I groan because of the tumult of my heart.

Lord, all my longing is known to Thee, my sighing is not hidden from Thee. My heart throbs, my strength fails me, and the light of my eyes – it has also gone from me.

My friends and companions stand aloof from my plague, and my kinsmen stand afar off.

Those who seek my life lay their snares, those who seek my hurt speak of ruin and meditate treachery all the day long.

But I am like a deaf man, I do not hear, like a dumb man who does not open his mouth. Yea, I am like a man who does not hear, and in whose mouth are no rebukes.



But for Thee, O Lord, do I wait; it is Thou, O Lord my God,  
Who wilt answer; for I pray, “Only let them not rejoice over  
me, who boast against me when my foot slips!” For I am  
ready to fall, and my pain is ever with me.

I confess my iniquity, I am sorry for my sin.

Those who are my foes without cause are mighty, and many  
are those who hate me wrongfully. Those who render me evil  
for good are my adversaries because I follow after 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 62 (63)***

O God, Thou art my God! I seek Thee, my soul thirsts for  
Thee, my flesh faints for Thee as in a dry and weary land  
where no water is.

So I have looked upon Thee in the sanctuary, beholding Thy  
power and glory. Because Thy steadfast love is better than  
life, my lips will praise Thee. So I will bless Thee as long as I  
live; I will lift up my hands and call on Thy Name.

My soul is feasted as with marrow and fat, and my mouth  
praises Thee with joyful lips, when I think of Thee upon my  
bed, and meditate on Thee in the watches of the night; for  
Thou hast been my help, and in the shadow of Thy wings I  
sing for joy. My soul clings to Thee, Thy right hand upholds  
me.

# Holy Week

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*Holy Saturday Matins*

But those who seek to destroy my life shall go down into the depths of the earth; they shall be given over to the power of the sword, they shall be prey for jackals. But the king shall rejoice in God, all who swear by him shall glory; for the mouths of liars will be stopped.

I meditate on Thee in the watches of the night; for Thou hast been my help, and in the shadow of Thy wings I sing for joy. My soul clings to Thee, Thy 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 Thee, 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 87 (88)***

O Lord my God, I call for help by day; I cry out in the night before Thee. Let my prayer come before Thee, incline Thy ear to my cry.

For my soul is full of troubles, and my life draws near to sheol. I am reckoned among those who go down to the pit; I am a man who has no strength, like one forsaken among the dead; like the slain that lie in the grave; like those whom Thou dost remember no more, for they are cut off from Thy hand.

Thou hast put me in the depths of the pit, in the regions dark and deep. Thy wrath lies heavy upon me, and Thou dost overwhelm me with all Thy waves.

Thou hast caused my companions to shun me, Thou hast made me a thing of horror to Them.

I am shut in so that I cannot escape; my eye grows dim through sorrow.

Every day I call upon Thee, O Lord; I spread out my hands to Thee.

Dost Thou work wonders for the dead? Do the shades rise up to praise Thee? Is Thy steadfast love declared in the grave, or Thy faithfulness in Abaddon? Are Thy wonders known in the darkness, or Thy saving help in the land of forgetfulness?

But I, O Lord, cry to Thee; in the morning my prayer comes before Thee.

O Lord, why dost Thou cast me off? Why dost Thou hide Thy face from me?

Afflicted and close to death from my youth up, I suffer Thy terrors; I am helpless. Thy wrath has swept over me, Thy dread assaults destroy me. They surround me like a flood all day long; they close in upon me together.

Thou hast caused lover and friend to shun me; my companions are in darkness.

O Lord my God, I call out for help by day; I cry out in the night before Thee. Let my prayer come before Thee; incline Thy ear to my cry.

# Holy Week

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*Holy Saturday Matins*

## **Psalm 102 (103)**

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 iniquity, Who heals all your diseases;  
Who redeems your life from the pit; Who crowns you with  
steadfast love and mercy;  
Who satisfies you with good as long as you live, so that your  
youth is renewed like the eagle's.

The Lord works vindication and justice for all who are  
oppressed. He made His ways known unto Moses, His acts to  
the people of Israel.

The Lord is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and  
abounding in steadfast love.

He will not always chide, nor will He keep His anger forever.  
He does not deal with us according to our sins, nor requite us  
according to our iniquities.

For as the heavens are high above the earth, so great is His  
steadfast love toward those who fear Him. As far as the East is  
from the West, so far does He remove our transgressions from  
us.

As a father pities his children, so the Lord pities those who fear  
Him. For He knows our frame; He remembers that we are dust.

As for man, his days are like grass; he flourishes like a flower  
of the field; for the wind passes over it and it is gone, and its  
place knows it no more.

But the steadfast love of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting upon those who fear Him, and His righteousness to children's children; to those who keep His covenant and remember to do His commandments.

The Lord has established His throne in the heavens, and His Kingdom rules over all.

Bless the Lord, O you His angels, you mighty ones who do His Word, hearkening to the voice of His Word! Bless the Lord, all His hosts, His ministers that do His will!

Bless the Lord, all His works, in all places of His dominion, bless the Lord, O my soul! In all places of His dominion, bless the Lord, O my soul!

### ***Psalm 142 (143)***

Hear my prayer, O Lord; give ear to my supplications! In Thy faithfulness answer me, in Thy righteousness!

Enter not into judgment with Thy servant, for no man living is righteous before Thee.

For the enemy has pursued me; he has crushed my life to the ground; he has made me sit in darkness like those long dead.

Therefore my spirit faints within me; my heart within me is appalled.

I remember the days of old, I meditate on all that Thou hast done; I muse on what Thy hands have wrought. I stretched out my hands to Thee; my soul thirsts for Thee like a parched land.

# Holy Week

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*Holy Saturday Matins*

Make haste to answer me, O Lord, my spirit fails! Hide not Thy face from me, lest I be like those who go down to the pit. Let me hear in the morning of Thy steadfast love, for in Thee I put my trust.

Teach me the way that I should go, for to Thee I lift up my soul. Deliver me, O Lord, from my enemies; I have fled to Thee for refuge! Teach me to do Thy will, for Thou art my God! Let Thy good spirit lead me on a level path!

For Thy Name's sake, O Lord, preserve my life! In Thy righteousness bring me out of trouble, and in Thy steadfast love cut off my enemies and destroy all my adversaries, for I am Thy servant.

In Thy faithfulness answer me, in Thy righteousness! Enter not into judgment with Thy servant! In Thy faithfulness answer me, in Thy righteousness! Enter not into judgment with Thy servant!

Let Thy good Spirit lead me on a level path!

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

*Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, glory to Thee, O God! (3x)*

***Psalm 50 (51)***

Have mercy on me, O God, according to Thy steadfast love; according to Thy abundant mercy blot out my transgressions. Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin! For I know my transgressions and my sin is ever before me.

Against Thee, Thee only have I sinned, and done that which is evil in Thy sight, so that Thou art justified in Thy sentence and blameless in Thy judgment.

Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity and in sin did my mother conceive me. Behold, Thou desirest truth in the inward being; therefore teach me wisdom in my secret heart.

Purge me with hyssop and I shall be clean, wash me and I shall be whiter than snow. Fill me with joy and gladness, let the bones which Thou hast broken rejoice. Hide Thy face from my sins, and blot out all my iniquities.

Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me. Cast me not away from Thy presence, and take not Thy Holy Spirit from me.

Restore to me the joy of Thy salvation, and uphold me with a willing spirit. Then I will teach transgressors Thy ways, and sinners will return to Thee. Deliver me from bloodguiltiness, O God, Thou God of my salvation, and my tongue will sing aloud of Thy deliverance.

O Lord, open Thou my lips, and my mouth shall show forth Thy praise. For Thou hast no delight in sacrifice; were I to give a burnt offering, Thou wouldst not be pleased. The

# Holy Week

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*Holy Saturday Matins*

sacrifice acceptable to God is a broken spirit, a broken and contrite heart Thou wilt not despise.

Do good to Zion in Thy good pleasure; rebuild the walls of Jerusalem, then wilt Thou delight in right sacrifices, in burnt offerings and whole burnt offerings; then bulls will be offered on Thy altar.



## Kanon

### ODE 1

*Glory to Thee, our God, glory to Thee!*

Unto Thee I sing a hymn for the departed and song of burial, O Lord my God, who by Thy burial has opened for me the entrance to life and by Thy death has put death and hell to death.

*Glory to Thee, our God, glory to Thee!*

Beholding Thee upon the throne on high and in the grave below, the things of heaven and the things beneath the earth trembled at Thy death; for in a manner past understanding wast Thou, the very source of life, seen dead.

*Glory to Thee, our God, glory to Thee!*

Thou didst descend to the depths of the earth to fill all with Thy glory; for my person that is in Adam was not hidden from Thee, and when Thou wast buried, Thou didst renew me who am corrupt, O Lover of mankind.

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

### ODE 3

*Glory to Thee, our God, glory to Thee!*

By a multitude of visions, Thou didst indicate the signs of Thy burial, O Master. But now, as God and man, Thou dost make clear Thy hidden things even unto those in hell, who cry: "None is holy but Thee, O Lord."

# Holy Week

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*Holy Saturday Matins*

*Glory to Thee, our God, glory to Thee!*

Thou hast stretched out Thy hands, O Savior, and united what before had been divided; and by clothing Thyself in a winding sheet Thou hast saved even those held captive by the tomb, who cry: “None is holy but Thee, O Lord.”

*Glory to Thee, our God, glory to Thee!*

By Thy will a sealed tomb contained Thee, who cannot be contained; for by Thy divine accomplishments Thou hast made known Thy power unto those who sing: “None is holy but Thee, O Lord who loves mankind.”

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

## **ODE 4**

*Glory to Thee, our God, glory to Thee!*

Thou hast sanctified this, the seventh day, which of old Thou didst bless by rest from work; for Thou didst bring all things into being and renew them, O my Savior, while resting and reviving on the Sabbath.

*Glory to Thee, our God, glory to Thee!*

By the overwhelming strength of Thy divine nature, Thou didst win the victory, O Word; for Thy soul was parted from the flesh, sundering by Thy might the bonds of hell and death.

*Glory to Thee, our God, glory to Thee!*

When hell encountered Thee, O Word, it was embittered. Seeing Thee as a mortal man deified, marked with wounds yet having almighty power, it cried out at Thy awesome appearance.

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

## **ODE 5**

*Glory to Thee, our God, glory to Thee!*

When Thou didst become earthly, O Creator, Thou didst renew those born on earth, and the winding sheet and the grave revealed the mystery concerning Thee, O Word; for Joseph the noble counselor, fulfills the counsel of Him who begot Thee and who wondrously renews me in Thee.

*Glory to Thee, our God, glory to Thee!*

Through death Thou didst transform what is mortal, and through burial Thou didst transform what is corruptible; for in a manner befitting God Thou made incorrupt and immortal the nature which Thou hast assumed, since Thy flesh did not see corruption and in a wondrous manner Thy soul was not abandoned in hell.

*Glory to Thee, our God, glory to Thee!*

Thou didst come forth from a painless birth, O my Maker, and Thy side was pierced. By this hast Thou, the new Adam, accomplished the restoration of Eve. Thou didst fall into a sleep surpassing nature and renewing nature, and as the all-powerful One, Thou didst raise up life from sleep and corruption.

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

# Holy Week

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*Holy Saturday Matins*

## ODE 6

*Glory to Thee, our God, glory to Thee!*

Thou wast killed, O Word, but not separated from the flesh which Thou didst share with us; for even though the temple of Thy body was destroyed at the time of the passion, the person of Thy divinity and of Thy flesh was one, for in both dost Thou remain one Son, Word of God, God and man.

*Glory to Thee, our God, glory to Thee!*

The fall of Adam resulted in the death of man, not God; for even though the earthly substance of Thy flesh suffered, Thy divinity remained passionless. In Thyself Thou hast transformed the corruptible to incorruption, and by Thy resurrection Thou hast revealed a fountain of incorruptible life.

*Glory to Thee, our God, glory to Thee!*

Hell rules the race of mortal men, but not eternally; for when Thou wast placed in the grave, O powerful One, Thou didst tear asunder the bars of death by Thy life-creating hand and didst proclaim true deliverance to those sleeping there from the ages, since Thou, O Savior, hast become the first-born of the dead.

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

*After the Kontakion is sung, the Ikos is read:*

## **IKOS**

He who holds all things together has been lifted up upon the cross, and all of creation weeps at seeing Him hanging, naked, upon the wood. The sun hid its rays and the stars cast aside their splendor. The earth shook with great fear, the sea fled, and the rocks were split asunder. Many tombs were opened, and the bodies of holy men arose. Hell groaned below and the Jews considered how to slander the resurrection of Christ, but the women cried:

*The choir finishes the Ikos with the verse:*

**Choir:**        “*This is the most blessed Sabbath on which Christ has fallen asleep to rise on the third day.*”

## **ODE 7**

*Glory to Thee, our God, glory to Thee!*

Hell was wounded in the heart when it received Him whose side was pierced by a spear, and it groans, consumed by divine fire, unto the salvation of us who sing: “Blessed art Thou, O God, our Redeemer!”

*Glory to Thee, our God, glory to Thee!*

Happy is the tomb! For having received the Creator as one asleep, it became a divine treasury of life, for the salvation of us who sing: “Blessed art Thou, O God, our Redeemer!”

*Glory to Thee, our God, glory to Thee!*

In accordance with the law of the dead, the Life of all accepts burial in the tomb, and the tomb becomes the source of resurrection, unto the salvation of us who sing: “Blessed art Thou, O God, our Redeemer!”

# Holy Week

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*Holy Saturday Matins*

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

## **ODE 8**

*Glory to Thee, our God, glory to Thee!*

The pure Temple has been destroyed, yet He raises with Himself the tabernacle that had fallen; for the second Adam, who dwells in the highest, has descended to the first Adam, even unto the lowest chambers of hell. Bless Him, O youths! Praise Him, O priests! O people, exalt Him above all forever!

*Glory to Thee, our God, glory to Thee!*

The courage of all the disciples failed, but Joseph of Arimathea showed valor; for seeing the God of all dead and naked, he sought Him and dressed Him for burial, crying: Bless Him, O youths! Praise Him, O priests! O people, exalt Him above all forever!

*Glory to Thee, our God, glory to Thee!*

What new wonders! What great goodness! What ineffable forbearance! For He that dwells in the highest is willingly sealed beneath the earth, and God is slandered as a deceiver. Bless Him, O youths! Praise Him, O priests! O people, exalt Him above all forever!

*Let us bless the Lord: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages, Amen.*

## ODE 9

*Glory to Thee, our God, glory to Thee!*

“I escaped sufferings and was blessed beyond nature at Thy strange birth, O Son who art without beginning. But now, beholding Thee, my God, dead and without breath, I am sorely pierced by the sword of Sorrow. But arise, that I may be magnified.”

*Glory to Thee, our God, glory to Thee!*

“By my own will, the earth covers me, O my mother, but the gatekeepers of hell tremble at seeing me clothed in the bloodstained garments of vengeance; for when I have vanquished my enemies on the cross, I shall arise as God and magnify you.”

*Glory to Thee, our God, glory to Thee!*

“Let creation rejoice! Let all born on ear be glad! For hateful hell has been despoiled. Let the women with myrrh come to meet me; for I am redeeming Adam and Eve and all their descendants, and on the third day shall I arise!”

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

*(The Choir sings the Katavasia of ODE 9)*

# **Holy Week**

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*Holy Saturday Matins*



## 1st Prokeimenon and Old Testament Reading

**Deacon:** Wisdom!

**Reader:** The prokeimenon is in the 4th Tone: Arise, O Lord, and help us! Deliver us for Thy Name's sake.

**Choir:** *repeats prokeimenon*

**Reader:** We have heard with our ears, O God, our fathers have told us what deeds Thou didst performed in their days, in the days of old.

**Choir:** *repeats prokeimenon*

**Reader:** Arise, O Lord, and help us!

**Choir:** *finishes prokeimenon*

**Deacon:** Wisdom!

**Reader:** The reading is from the Prophecy of Ezekiel (37:1-14)

**Deacon:** Let us attend!

**Reader:** In those days the hand of the Lord came upon me, and the Lord led me forth in the Spirit and set me in the midst of the plain, and it was full of the bones of men. And He led me round among them; and behold, there were very many upon the plain, 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 the Lord said to me, "Prophecy to these bones, and say to them, 'You dry bones, hear the word of the Lord! Thus says the Lord God to these bones: Behold, I will bring the breath of life upon you, and I will lay sinews upon you, and will cause flesh to come upon you, and cover you

# Holy Week

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*Holy Saturday Matins*

with skin, and I will put my Spirit into you, and you shall live, and you shall know that I am the Lord.” So I prophesied as the Lord commanded me, and as I prophesied there was a noise, and behold, a rattling, and the bones approached each one to its joint. And as I looked, sinews and flesh grew upon them, and skin had covered them, but there was no breath in them.

Then the Lord said to me: “Prophecy to the wind, prophecy, son of man, and say to the Spirit: ‘Thus says the Lord God: Come from the four winds, O Spirit, and breathe upon these dead men, and let them live.’”

So I prophesied as He commanded me, and the Spirit entered into them, and they lived, and stood upon their feet, an exceedingly great multitude. And the Lord said to me: “Son of man, these bones are the whole house of Israel, and they say, ‘Our bones are dried up, our hope is perished; we are clean cut off.’ Therefore, prophecy and say to them: ‘Thus says the Lord God: Behold, I will open your tombs, and will raise you from your tombs, 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 have opened your graves, and have raised you 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 am the Lord. I have spoken, and I will do it, says the Lord.’”

## Prokeimenon and Epistle

**Deacon:** Wisdom!

**Reader:** The prokeimenon is in the 7th Tone: Arise, O Lord, my God, lift up Thy hand! Forget not Thy poor forever!

**Choir:** *repeats prokeimenon*

**Reader:** I will praise Thee, O Lord my God, with all my heart; I will make all Thy wonders known!

**Choir:** *repeats prokeimenon*

**Reader:** Arise, O Lord, my God, lift up Thy hand!

**Choir:** *finishes prokeimenon*

**Deacon:** Wisdom

**Reader:** The reading is from the 1st Epistle of the holy apostle Paul to the Corinthians (5:6-8 & Gal 3:13-14)

**Deacon:** Let us attend!

**Reader:** Brethren: Do you not know that a little yeast leavens the whole lump? Cleanse out the old leaven, that you may be fresh dough, as you really are unleavened. For Christ, our Paschal Lamb, has been sacrificed. Let us, therefore, celebrate the feast, 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 cursed thing for us, for it is written, "Cursed be every one 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.

# Holy Week

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*Holy Saturday Matins*

**Priest:** Peace be unto you, Reader.

**Reader:** And with your spirit, Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

**Choir:** *Alleluia!*

**Reader:** Let God arise! Let His enemies be scattered!

**Choir:** *Alleluia!*

**Reader:** As smoke vanishes, so let them vanish, as wax melts before the fire!

**Choir:** *Alleluia!*

**Reader:** So the sinners will perish before the face of God, but let the righteous be glad!

**Choir:** *Alleluia!*

# Holy Week

## *Holy Saturday Vesperal Liturgy*

**Deacon:** Bless, Most Blessed, Master.

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

**Reader:** Amen. Glory to Thee, our God, glory to Thee!  
O Heavenly King, the Comforter, the Spirit of Truth; who art everywhere and fillest all things. Treasury of blessings, and giver of life. Come and abide in us, and cleanse us from every impurity, and save our souls, O good one.

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.

Most Holy Trinity have mercy on us. Lord, cleanse us from our sins, Master, pardon our transgressions. Holy One, visit and heal our infirmities, for Thy 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.

# Holy Week

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*Holy Saturday Vesperal Liturgy*

**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.

**Reader:** Amen. 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 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!

## ***Psalm 104***

Bless the Lord, O my soul! O Lord my God, Thou art very great! Thou art clothed with honor and majesty, who covers Thyself with light as with a garment; Thou hast stretched out the heavens like a tent.

Thou hast laid the beams of Thy chambers on the waters, Thou makest the clouds Thy chariot, who rides on the wings of the wind. Who makes Thy angels spirits, and Thy ministers a flame of fire.

Thou hast set the earth on its foundations so that it should never be shaken. Thou didst cover it with the deep as with a garment; the waters stood above the mountains.

At Thy rebuke they fled; at the sound of Thy thunder they took to flight! The mountains rose, the valleys sank down to the place which Thou didst appoint for them.

Thou didst set a bound which they should not pass, so that they might not again cover the earth. Thou makest springs gush forth in the valleys; they flow between the hills.

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

From Thy lofty abode Thou waterest the mountains; the earth is satisfied with the fruit of Thy work. Thou hast caused the grass to grow for the cattle, fodder for the animals that serve man.

That he may bring forth food from the earth, and wine to gladden the heart of man, oil to make his face shine, and bread to strengthen man's heart.

The trees of the Lord are watered abundantly, the cedars of Lebanon which He planted. In them the birds build their nests; the stork has her home in the fir trees.

The high mountains are for the wild goats; the rocks are a refuge for the badgers. Thou hast made the moon to mark the seasons. The sun knows its time for setting.

Thou makest darkness, and it is night, when all the beasts of the forest creep forth. The young lions roar for their prey, seeking their food from God.

When the sun rises, they get them away and lie down in their dens. Man goes forth to his work and to his labor until the evening.

O Lord, how manifold are Thy works! In wisdom hast Thou made them all! The earth is full of Thy creatures. Yonder is the

# Holy Week

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*Holy Saturday Vesperal Liturgy*

sea, great and wide, which teems with things innumerable, living things both small and great.

There go the ships and Leviathan which Thou didst form to sport in it. These all look to Thee, to give them their food in due season.

When Thou givest to them, they gather it up; when Thou openest Thy hand, they are filled with good things. When Thou hidest Thy face, they are dismayed; when Thou takest away their breath, they die and return to their dust.

When Thou sendest forth Thy Spirit, they are created and Thou renewest the face of the earth! May the glory of the Lord endure forever! May the Lord rejoice in His works!

Who looks on the earth and it trembles! Who touches the mountains and they smoke! I will sing to the Lord as long as I live; I will sing praise to my God while I have being!

May my meditation be pleasing to Him, for I rejoice in the Lord! Let sinners be consumed from the earth, and let the wicked be no more!

Bless the Lord, O my soul!

The sun knows its time for setting. Thou makest darkness, and it is night. O Lord, how manifold are Thy works! In wisdom hast Thou made them all!

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

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Glory to Thee, O God! (3x)



## Lord, I Call Upon Thee *sung in tone 1*

**People:**     *Lord, I call upon Thee, hear me.  
Hear me, O Lord.  
Lord, I call upon Thee, hear me.  
Receive the voice of my prayer.  
When I call upon Thee, hear me, O Lord.  
Let my prayer arise in Thy sight as incense.  
And let the lifting up of my hands,  
be an evening sacrifice,  
hear me, O Lord.*

**(VIII)**        Out of the depths I cry to Thee, O Lord! Lord, hear my voice!

*Choir sings stichera*

**(VII)**         Let Thine ears be attentive to the voice of my supplication!

*Choir sings stichera*

**(VI)**         If Thou O Lord, shouldst mark iniquities, Lord, who could stand? But there is forgiveness with Thee.

*Choir sings stichera*

**(V)**          For Thy name's sake I wait for Thee, O Lord. My soul has waited for Thy word, my soul has hoped on the Lord.

*Choir sings stichera*

**(IV)**         From the morning watch until night, from the morning watch, let Israel hope on the Lord.

*Choir sings stichera*

**(III)**         For with the Lord there is mercy and with Him is redemption, and He will deliver Israel from all his iniquities.

# Holy Week

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*Holy Saturday Vesperal Liturgy*

*Choir sings stichera*

(II) Praise the Lord, all nations! Praise Him, all peoples!

*Choir sings stichera*

(I) For His mercy is confirmed on us, and the truth of the Lord endures forever!

*Choir sings stichera*

In the 6<sup>th</sup> Tone: Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit,

*Choir sings stichera*

In the 1<sup>st</sup> Tone: Now and ever and unto ages of ages, Amen.

## 15 Old Testament Readings - 1<sup>st</sup> Reading

**Deacon:** Wisdom!

**Reader:** The Reading is from Genesis (1:1-13)

**Deacon:** Let us attend!

**Reader:** In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. The earth was without form and void, and darkness was upon the face of the deep; and the Spirit of God was moving over the face of the waters.

And God said, “Let there be light”; and there was light. And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, one day.

And God said, “Let there be a firmament in the midst of the waters, and let it separate the waters from the waters.” And God made the firmament and separated the waters which were under the firmament from the waters which were above the firmament. And it was so. And God called the firmament Heaven. And there was evening and there was morning, a second day.

And God said, “Let the waters under the heavens be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear.” And it was so. God called the dry land Earth, and the waters that were gathered together he called Seas. And God saw that it was good. And God said, “Let the earth put forth vegetation, plants yielding seed, and fruit trees bearing fruit in which is their seed, each according to its kind, upon the earth.” And it was

# Holy Week

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*Holy Saturday Vesperal Liturgy*

so. The earth brought forth vegetation, plants yielding seed according to their own kinds, and trees bearing fruit in which is their seed, each according to its kind. And God saw that it was good. And there was evening and there was morning, a third day.

## 15 Old Testament Readings – 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading

**Deacon:** Wisdom!

**Reader:** The Reading is from Prophecy of Isaiah (60:1-6)

**Deacon:** Let us attend!

**Reader:** Thus says the Lord: Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you. For behold, darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the Lord will arise upon you, and His glory will be seen upon you. And nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your rising.

Lift up your eyes about, and see; they all gather together, they come to you; your sons shall come from far, and your daughters shall be carried in the arms. Then you shall see and be radiant, your heart shall thrill and rejoice; because the abundance of the sea shall be turned to you, the wealth of the nations shall come to you. A multitude of camels shall cover you, the young camels of Midian and Ephah; all those from Sheba shall come. They shall bring gold and frankincense, and shall proclaim the praise of the Lord. All the flocks of Kedar shall be gathered to you, the rams of Nebaioth shall minister to you; they shall come up with acceptance on my altar, and I will glorify my glorious house.

Who are these that fly like a cloud, and like doves to their windows? For the coastlands shall wait for me, the ships of Tarshish first, to bring your sons from far, their silver and gold with them, for the name of the Lord your God, and for the Holy One of Israel, because He has glorified you.

Foreigners shall build up your walls, and their kings shall minister to you; for in my wrath I smote you, but in my favor I have had mercy on you. Your gates shall be open continually; day and night they shall not be shut; that men may bring to you the wealth of the nations, with their kings led in procession.

For the nation and kingdom that will not serve you shall perish; those nations shall be utterly laid waste. The glory of Lebanon shall come to you, the cypress, the plane, and the pine, to beautify the place of my sanctuary; and I will make the place of my feet glorious. The sons of those who oppressed you shall come bending low to you; and all who despised you shall bow down at your feet; they shall call you the City of the Lord, the Zion of the Holy One of Israel.

Whereas you have been forsaken and hated, with no one passing through, I will make you majestic for ever, a joy from age to age. You shall suck the milk of nations, you shall suck the breast of kings; and you shall know that I, the Lord, am your Savior and your Redeemer, the Mighty One of Israel.

# Holy Week

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*Holy Saturday Vesperal Liturgy*

## 15 Old Testament Readings – 3<sup>rd</sup> Reading

**Deacon:** Wisdom!

**Reader:** The Reading is from Exodus (12:1-11)

**Deacon:** Let us attend!

**Reader:** The Lord said to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt, “This month shall be for you the beginning of months; it shall be the first month of the year for you. Tell all the congregation of Israel that on the tenth day of this month they shall take every man a lamb according to their fathers’ houses, a lamb for the household; and if the household is too small for a lamb, then a man and his neighbor next to his house shall take according to the number of persons; according to what each can eat you shall make your count for the lamb. Your lamb shall be without blemish, a male a year old; you shall take it from the sheep or from the goats; and you shall keep it until the fourteenth day of this month, when the whole assembly of the congregation of Israel shall kill their lambs in the evening. Then they shall take some of the blood, and put it on the two door posts and the lintel of the houses in which they eat them.

They shall eat the flesh that night, roasted; with unleavened bread and bitter herbs they shall eat it. Do not eat any of it raw or boiled with water, but roasted, its head with its legs and its inner parts. And you shall let none of it remain until the morning, anything that remains until the morning you shall burn. In this manner you shall eat it: your loins girded, your sandals on your feet, and your staff in your hand; and you shall eat it in haste. It is the Lord’s Pascha.

## 15 Old Testament Readings – 4<sup>th</sup> Reading

**Deacon:** Wisdom!

**Reader:** The Reading is from the Prophecy of Jonah  
(1:1-17, 2:1-10, 3:1-10, 4:1-11)

**Deacon:** Let us attend!

**Reader:** Now the Word of the Lord came to Jonah, the son of Amittai, saying, “Arise, go to Nineveh, that great city, and cry against it; for their wickedness has come up before me.” But Jonah rose to flee to Tarshish from the presence of the Lord. he went down to Joppa and found a ship going to Tarshish; so he paid the fare, and went on board, to go with them to Tarshish, away from the presence of the Lord.

But the Lord hurled a great wind upon the sea, and there was a mighty tempest on the sea, so that the ship threatened to break up. Then the mariners were afraid, and each cried to his god; and they threw the wares that were in the ship into the sea, to lighten it for them. But Jonah had gone down into the inner part of the ship and had lain down, and was fast asleep. So the captain came and said to him, “What do you mean, you sleeper? Arise, call upon your God! Perhaps God will save us, that we do not perish.”

And they said to one another, “Come, let us cast lots, that we may know on whose account this evil has come upon us.” So they cast lots, and the lot fell upon Jonah. Then they said to him, “Tell us, on whose account this evil has come upon us? What is your occupation? And whence do you come? What is your country? And of what people are you?” And he said to them, “I am a Hebrew; and I fear the Lord, the God of heaven, who made the sea and the dry land.” Then the men were

# Holy Week

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*Holy Saturday Vesperal Liturgy*

exceedingly afraid, and said to him, “What is this that you have done!” For the men knew that he was fleeing from the presence of the Lord, because he had told them.

Then they said to him, “What shall we do to you, that the sea may quiet down for us?” The sea grew more and more tempestuous. He said to them, “Take me up and throw me into the sea; then the sea will quiet down for you; for I know it is because of me that this great tempest has come upon you.” Nevertheless the men rowed hard to bring the ship back to land, but they could not, for the sea grew more and more tempestuous against them. Therefore they cried to the Lord, “We beseech You, O Lord, let us not perish for this man’s life, and lay not on us innocent blood; for You, O Lord, have done as it pleased You.” So they took up Jonah and threw him into the sea; and the sea ceased from its raging. Then the men feared the Lord exceedingly, and they offered a sacrifice to the Lord and made vows.

And the Lord appointed a great whale to swallow up Jonah; and Jonah was in the belly of the whale three days and three nights.

The Jonah prayed to the Lord his God from the belly of the whale saying, “I called to the Lord, out of my distress, and He answered me; out of the belly of Sheol I cried, and You did hear my voice. For You did cast me into the deep, into the heart of the seas, and the flood was round about me; all Your waves and Your billows passed over me. Then I said, ‘I am cast out from Your presence; how shall I again look upon Your holy temple?’ The waters closed in over me, the deep was round about me; weeds were wrapped about my head at the roots of the mountains. I went down to the land whose bars



closed upon me forever; yet You did bring up my life from the Pit, O Lord my God. When my soul fainted with me, I remembered the Lord: and my prayer came to me, into Your holy temple. Those who pay regard to vain idols forsake their true loyalty. But I with the voice of thanksgiving will sacrifice to You; what I have vowed I will pay. Deliverance belongs to the Lord!” And the Lord spoke to the whale and it cast out Jonah upon the dry land.

Then the Word of the Lord came to Jonah the second time, saying, “Arise, go to Nineveh, that great city, and proclaim to it the message that I tell you.” So Jonah arose and went to Nineveh, according to the word of the Lord. Now Nineveh was an exceedingly great city, three days’ journey in breadth. Jonah began to go into the city, going a day’s journey. And he cried, “Yet forty days, and Nineveh shall be overthrown!” And the people of Nineveh believed God; they proclaimed a fast, and put on sackcloth, from the greatest of them to the least of them.

Then tidings reached the king of Nineveh, and he arose from his throne, removed his robe, and covered himself with sackcloth, and sat in ashes. And he made proclamation and published through Nineveh, “By the decree of the king and his nobles: Let neither man nor beast, herd nor flock, taste anything; let them not feed, or drink water, but let man and beast be covered with sackcloth, and let them cry mightily to God; yea, let everyone turn from his evil way and from the violence which is in his hands. Who knows, God may yet repent and turn from His fierce anger, so that we perish not?”

When God saw what they did, how they turned from their evil way, God repented of the evil which He had said He would do to them; and He did not do it.

# Holy Week

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*Holy Saturday Vesperal Liturgy*

But it displeased Jonah exceedingly, and he was troubled. And he prayed to the Lord and said, “I pray You, Lord, is not this what I said when I was yet in my country? That it why I made haste to flee to Tarshish; for I knew that You are a gracious God and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and repents of evil. Therefore, now, O Lord, take my life from me, I beseech You, for it is better for me to die than to live.” And the Lord said, “Do you do well to be angry?” Then Jonah went out of the city and sat to the east of the city, and made a booth for himself there. He sat under it in the shade, till he should see what would come of the city.

And the Lord God appointed a plant, and made it come up over Jonah, that it might be a shade over his head, to save him from his discomfort. So Jonah was exceedingly glad because of the plant. But when dawn came up the next day, God appointed a worm which attacked the plant, so that it withered. When the sun rose, God appointed a sultry east wind, and the sun beat upon the head of Jonah so that he was faint; and he asked that he might die, and said, “It is better for me to die than to live.” But God said to Jonah, “Do you do well to be angry for the plant?”

And he said, “I do well to be angry, angry enough to die.” And the Lord, said, “You pity the plant, for which you did not labor, nor did you make it grow, which came into being in a night, and perished in a night. And should not I pity Nineveh, that great city, in which there are more than a hundred and twenty thousand persons who do not know their right hand from their left, and also much cattle?”

## 15 Old Testament Readings – 5<sup>th</sup> Reading

**Deacon:** Wisdom!

**Reader:** The Reading is from Joshua (5:10-15)

**Deacon:** Let us attend!

**Reader:** While the people Israel were encamped in Gilgal they kept the Passover on the fourteenth day of the month at evening in the plains of Jericho.

And on the morrow after the Passover, on that very day, they ate of the produce of the land, unleavened cakes and parched grain. And the manna ceased on the morrow, when they ate of the produce of the land; and the people of Israel had manna no more, but ate of the fruit of the land of the Phoenicians that year.

When Joshua was by Jericho, he lifted up his eyes and looked, and behold, a man stood before him with his drawn sword in his hand; and Joshua went to him and said to him, “Are you for us, or for our adversaries?” And he said, “No, but as a commander of the army of the Lord I have now come.” And Joshua fell on his face to the earth, and worshipped and said to him, “What does my Lord bid his servant?” And the commander of the Lord’s army said to Joshua, “Put off your shoes from your feet; for the place where you stand is holy.” And Joshua did so.

# Holy Week

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*Holy Saturday Vesperal Liturgy*

## 15 Old Testament Readings – 6<sup>th</sup> Reading

**Deacon:** Wisdom!

**Reader:** The Reading is from Exodus (13:20-15:1)

**Deacon:** Let us attend!

**Reader:** And they moved on from Succoth, and encamped at Etham, on the edge of the wilderness. And the Lord went before them by day in a pillar of cloud to lead them along the way, and by night in a pillar of fire to give them light, that they might travel by day and by night; the pillar of cloud by day and the pillar of fire by night did not depart from before the people.

Then the Lord said to Moses, “Tell the people of Israel to turn back and encamp in front of Pi-ha-hiroth, between Migdol and the sea, in front of Ba`al-zephon; you shall encamp over against it, by the sea. For Pharaoh will say of the people of Israel, ‘They are entangled in the land; the wilderness has shut them in.’ And I will harden Pharaoh’s heart, and he will pursue them and I will get glory over Pharaoh and all his host; and the Egyptians shall know that I am the Lord.” And they did so.

When the king of Egypt was told that the people had fled, the mind of Pharaoh and his servants was changed toward the people, and they said, “What is this we have done, that we have let Israel go from serving us?” So he made ready his chariot and took his army with him, and took six hundred picked chariots and all the other chariots of Egypt with officers over all of them. And the Lord hardened the heart of Pharaoh, king of Egypt, and he pursued the people of Israel as they went forth defiantly. The Egyptians pursued them, all Pharaoh’s horses and chariots and his horsemen and his army, and

overtook them encamped at the sea, by Pi-ha-hiroth, in front of Ba`al-zephon.

When Pharaoh drew near, the people of Israel lifted up their eyes and, behold, the Egyptians were marching after them; and they were in great fear. And the people of Israel cried out to the Lord; and they said to Moses, “Is it because there were no graves in Egypt that you have taken us away to die in the wilderness? What have you done to us, in bringing us out of Egypt? Is not this what we said to you in Egypt, ‘Let us alone and let us serve the Egyptians?’ For it would have been better for us to serve the Egyptians than to die in the wilderness.”

And Moses said to the people, “Fear not, stand firm, and see the salvation of the Lord, which He will work for you today; for the Egyptians whom you see today, you shall never see again. The Lord will fight for you, and you have only to be still.” The Lord said to Moses, “Why do you cry to me? Tell the people of Israel to go forward. Lift up your rod, and stretch out your hand over the sea and divide it, that the people of Israel may go on dry ground through the sea. And I will harden the hearts of the Egyptians, so that they shall go in after them and I will get glory over Pharaoh and all his host, his chariots, and his horsemen. And the Egyptians shall know that I am the Lord, when I have gotten glory over Pharaoh, his chariots, and his horsemen.”

Then the angel of God who went before the host of Israel moved and went behind them; and the pillar of cloud moved from before them and stood behind them, coming between the host of Egypt and the host of Israel. And there was the cloud and the darkness; and the night passed without one coming near the other all night.

# Holy Week

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*Holy Saturday Vesperal Liturgy*

Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea; and the Lord drove the sea back by a strong east wind all night, and made the sea dry land, and the waters were divided. And the people of Israel went into the midst of the sea on dry ground, the waters being a wall to them on their right hand and on their left. The Egyptians pursued, and went in after them into the midst of the sea, all Pharaoh's horses, his chariots, and his horsemen. And in the morning watch, the Lord in the pillar of fire and of cloud looked down upon the host of the Egyptians, and discomfited the host of Egyptians, clogging their chariot wheels so that they drove heavily; and the Egyptians said, "Let us flee from before Israel; for the Lord fights for them against the Egyptians."

Then the Lord said to Moses, "Stretch out your hand over the sea, that the waters may come back upon the Egyptians, upon their chariots, and upon their horsemen." So Moses stretched forth his hand over the sea, and the sea returned to its wonted flow when the morning appeared; and the Egyptians fled into it, and the Lord routed the Egyptians in the midst of the sea. The waters returned and covered the chariots and the horsemen and all the host of Pharaoh that had followed them into the sea; not so much as one of them remained. But the people of Israel walked on dry ground through the sea, the waters being a wall to them on their right hand and on their left.

Thus the Lord saved Israel that day from the hand of the Egyptians; and Israel saw the Egyptians dead upon the seashore. And Israel saw the great work which the Lord did against the Egyptians, and the people feared the Lord; and they believed in the Lord and in His servant Moses.

Then Moses and the children of Israel sang this song to the Lord, and spoke saying: Let us sing to the Lord:

**Choir:** *For gloriously has He been glorified! (repeated after each verse)*

**Reader:** The horse and his rider He has thrown into the sea. Let us sing unto the Lord!

He was to me a helper and protector for salvation. Let us sing unto the Lord!

This is my God and I will glorify Him; the God of my father and I will exalt Him. Let us sing unto the Lord!

The Lord bringing wars to naught, the Lord is His name. Pharaoh's chariots and his host He cast into the sea. Let us sing unto the Lord!

And his chosen officers are sunk in the Red Sea. Let us sing unto the Lord!

The floods cover them; they went down into the depths like a stone. Let us sing unto the Lord!

Your right hand, O Lord, has been glorified in power. Let us sing unto the Lord!

Your right hand, O Lord, has shattered the enemy, and in the greatness of Your majesty You have overthrown Your adversaries! Let us sing unto the Lord!

You send forth Your fury, it consumes them like stubble, and by the spirit of Your displeasure the water parted asunder. Let us sing unto the Lord!

The waters stood up like a wall, the deeps congealed in the heart of the sea. Let us sing unto the Lord!

# Holy Week

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*Holy Saturday Vesperal Liturgy*

The enemy said: I will pursue and I will overtake, I will divide the spoil, I will satisfy my soul, I will destroy with my sword, my hand shall have dominion. Let us sing unto the Lord!

You did send Your Spirit and the sea covered them; they sank as lead in the mighty waters. Let us sing unto the Lord!

Who is like You, O Lord, among the gods? Who is like You – glorified in holiness, marvelous in glory, doing wonders. Let us sing unto the Lord!

You did stretch out Your right hand and the earth swallowed them. You have led in Your righteousness the people whom You have redeemed. Let us sing unto the Lord!

Now are the chiefs of Edom dismayed, the leaders of Moab, trembling seizes them; all the inhabitants of Canaan have melted away. Let us sing unto the Lord!

Let trembling and fear fall upon them; because of the greatness of Your arm, let them become as stone. Let us sing unto the Lord!

Until Your people pass by, O Lord until the people pass by whom You have purchased. Let us sing unto the Lord!

You will bring them in and plant them on Your mountain, the place, O Lord, which You have made for Your abode. The sanctuary, O Lord, which Your hands have made ready. Let us sing unto the Lord!

The Lord shall reign for ever and ever. For when the horse of the Pharaoh with the chariots and horsemen went into the sea, the Lord brought back the water of the sea upon them. Let us sing unto the Lord!



But the children of Israel walked on dry ground in the midst of the sea. Let us sing unto the Lord!

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit. Let us sing unto the Lord!

Now and ever and unto ages of ages, Amen! Let us sing unto the Lord!

**Choir:**     *For gloriously has He been glorified!*

*The Reader sings:*

For gloriously has He been glorified!

## **15 Old Testament Readings – 7<sup>th</sup> Reading**

**Deacon:**    Wisdom!

**Reader:**    The Reading is from Zephaniah (3:8-15)

**Deacon:**    Let us attend!

**Reader:**    Thus says the Lord: “Wait for me, for the day when I arise as a witness. For my decision is to gather nations, to assemble kingdoms, to pour out upon them my indignation, all the heat of my anger; for in the fire of my jealous wrath all the earth shall be consumed.

“Yes, at that time I will change the speech of the peoples to a pure speech, that all of them may call on the name of the Lord and serve Him with one accord. From beyond the rivers of Ethiopia my supplicants, the daughter of my dispersed ones, shall bring my offering.

# Holy Week

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*Holy Saturday Vesperal Liturgy*

“On that day you shall not be put to shame because of the deeds by which you have rebelled against me; for then I will remove from your midst your proudly exultant ones, and you shall no longer be haughty in my holy mountain. For I will leave in the midst of you a people humble and lowly. They shall seek refuge in the name of the Lord, those who are left in Israel; they shall do no wrong and utter no lies, nor shall there be found in their mouth a deceitful tongue. For they shall pasture and lie down, and none shall make them afraid.”

Sing aloud, O daughter of Zion; shout, O Israel! Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O daughter of Jerusalem! The Lord has taken away the judgments against you, He has cast out your enemies. The King of Israel, the Lord, is in your midst; you shall see evil no more.

## **15 Old Testament Readings – 8<sup>th</sup> Reading**

**Deacon:** Wisdom!

**Reader:** The Reading is from the 3<sup>rd</sup> Book of Kings (17:8-24)

**Deacon:** Let us attend!

**Reader:** Then the Word of the Lord came to Elijah, saying: “Arise, go to Zarephath, which belongs to Sidon, and dwell there. Behold, I have commanded a widow there to feed you.” So he arose and went to Zarephath; and when he came to the gate of the city, behold, a widow was there gathering sticks; and he called to her and said, “Bring me a little water in a vessel, that I may drink.” And as she was going to bring it, he called to her and said, “Bring me a morsel of bread in your hand.” And she said, “As the Lord your God lives, I have nothing baked, only a handful of meal in a jar, and a little oil in a cruse; and now, I

am gathering a couple of sticks that I may go in and prepare it for myself and my son, that we may eat it and die.”

And Elijah said to her, “Fear not; go and do as you have said; but first make me a cake of it and bring it to me, and afterward make for yourself and your son. For thus says the Lord, the God of Israel, ‘The jar of meal shall not be spent, and the cruse of oil shall not fail, until the day that the Lord sends rain upon the earth.’” And she went and did as Elijah said; and she, and he, and her household ate for many days. The jar of meal was not spent, neither did the cruse of oil fail, according to the Word of the Lord with He spoke by Elijah.

After this the son of the woman, the mistress of the house, became ill; and his illness was so severe that there was no breath left in him. And she said to Elijah, “What have you against me, O man of God? You have come to me to bring my sin to remembrance, and to cause the death of my son!” And he said to her, “Give me your son.” And he took him from her bosom, and carried him up into the upper chamber, where he lodged, and laid him upon his own bed. And he cried to the Lord, “O Lord my God, have You brought calamity even upon the widow with whom I sojourn, by slaying her son?” Then he stretched himself upon the child three times, and cried to the Lord, “O Lord my God, let this child’s soul come into him again.” And the Lord hearkened to the voice of Elijah; and the soul of the child came into him again, and he revived. And Elijah took the child, and brought him down from the upper chamber into the house, and delivered him to his mother; and Elijah said, “See your son lives.” And the woman said to Elijah, “Now I know that you are a man of God, and that the word of the Lord in your mouth is truth.”

# Holy Week

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*Holy Saturday Vesperal Liturgy*

## 15 Old Testament Readings – 9<sup>th</sup> Reading

**Deacon:** Wisdom!

**Reader:** The Reading is from Prophecy of Isaiah (61:10-62:5)

**Deacon:** Let us attend!

**Reader:** Thus says the Lord: My soul shall rejoice in the Lord, for He has clothed me with the garment of salvation, He has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland, and as a bride adorns herself with jewels. For as the earth brings forth its shoots, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up, so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise to spring forth before all the nations.

For Zion's sake I will not keep silent, and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest, until her vindication goes forth as brightness, and her salvation as a burning torch. The nations shall see your vindication, and all the kings your glory; and you shall be called by a new name which the mouth of the Lord will give. You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the Lord, and a royal diadem in the hand of your God. You shall no more be termed Forsaken, and your land shall no more be termed Desolate; but you shall be called My delight is in her, and your land Married; for the Lord delights in you, and your land shall be married. For as a young man marries a virgin, so shall your sons marry you, and as the bridegroom rejoices over the bride, so shall your God rejoice over you.

## 15 Old Testament Readings – 10<sup>th</sup> Reading

**Deacon:** Wisdom!

**Reader:** The Reading is from Genesis (22:1-18)

**Deacon:** Let us attend!

**Reader:** After these things God tested Abraham, and said to him, “Abraham!” And he said, “Here am I.” He said, “Take your son, your only son, Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering upon one of the mountains of which I shall tell you.” So Abraham rose early in the morning, saddled his ass, and took two of his young men with him, and his son Isaac; and he cut the wood for the burnt offering, and arose and went to the place of which God had told him. On the third day Abraham lifted up his eyes and saw the places afar off. Then Abraham said to his young men, “Stay here with the ass; I and the lad will go yonder and worship, and come again to you.” And Abraham took the wood of the burnt offering, and laid it on Isaac his son; and he took in his hand the fire and the knife. So they went both of them together. And Isaac said to his father Abraham, “My Father!” And he said, “Here am I, my son.” He said, “Behold, the fire and the wood; but where is the lamb for a burnt offering?” Abraham said, “God will provide Himself the lamb for a burnt offering, my son.” So they went both of them together.

When they came to the place of which God had told him, Abraham built an altar there, and laid the wood in order, and bound Isaac his son, and laid him on the altar, upon the wood. Then Abraham put forth his hand, and took the knife to slay his son. But the angel of the Lord called to him from heaven, and said, “Abraham, Abraham!” And he said, “Here am I.” He said, “Do not lay your hand on the lad or do anything to him;

# Holy Week

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*Holy Saturday Vesperal Liturgy*

for now I know that you fear God, seeing you have not withheld your son, your only son, from me.”

And Abraham lifted up his eyes and looked, and behold, behind him was a ram, caught in a thicket by his horns; and Abraham went and took the ram, and offered it up as a burnt offering instead of his son. So Abraham called the name of that place ‘The Lord has seen’; as it is said to this day, “On the mount the Lord was seen.”

And the angel of the Lord called to Abraham a second time from heaven, and said, “By myself I have sworn, says the Lord, because you have done this, and have not withheld your son, your only son, I will indeed bless you, and I will multiply your descendants as the stars of heaven and as the sand which is the seashore. And your descendants shall possess the gate of their enemies, and by your descendants shall all the nations of the earth bless themselves, because you have obeyed my voice.”

## **15 Old Testament Readings – 11<sup>th</sup> Reading**

**Deacon:** Wisdom!

**Reader:** The Reading is from Prophecy of Isaiah (61:1-19)

**Deacon:** Let us attend!

**Reader:** The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me to bring good tidings to the afflicted; He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to those who are bound; to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; to grant to

those who mourn in Zion – to give them a garland instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit; that they may be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the Lord, that He may be glorified. They shall build up the ancient ruins, they shall raise up the former devastations; they shall repair the ruined cities, the devastations of many generations.

Aliens shall stand and feed your flocks, foreigners shall be your plowmen and vine-dressers; but you shall be called the priests of the Lord, men shall speak of you as the ministers of our God; you shall eat the wealth of the nations, and in their riches you shall glory. Instead of your shame you shall have a double portion, instead of dishonor you shall rejoice in your lot; therefore, in your land you shall possess a double portion; yours shall be everlasting joy.

For I the Lord love justice, I hate robbery and wrong; I will faithfully give them their recompense, and I will make an everlasting covenant with them. Their descendants shall be known among the nations, and their offspring in the midst of the peoples; all who see them shall acknowledge them, that they are a people whom the Lord has blessed. “And they shall greatly rejoice in the Lord.”

# Holy Week

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*Holy Saturday Vesperal Liturgy*

## 15 Old Testament Readings – 12<sup>th</sup> Reading

**Deacon:** Wisdom!

**Reader:** The Reading is from the 4<sup>th</sup> Book of Kings (4:8-27)

**Deacon:** Let us attend!

**Reader:** One day Elisha went on to Shunem, where a wealthy woman lived, who urged him to eat some food. So whenever he passed that way, he would turn in there to eat food. And she said to her husband, “Behold now, I perceive that this is a holy man of God, who is continually passing our way. Let us make a small roof chamber with walls, and put there for him a bed, a table, a chair, and a lamp, so that whenever he comes to us, he can go in there.”

One day he came there, and he turned into the chamber and rested there, and he said to Gehazi his servant, “Call this Shunamite.” When he had called her, she stood before him. And he said to him, “Say now to her, ‘See you have taken all this trouble for us; what is to be done for you? Would you have a word spoken on your behalf to the king or to the commander of the army?’” She answered, “I dwell among my own people.” And he said, “What then is to be done for her?” Gehazi answered, “Well, she has no son, and her husband is old.” He said, “Call her.” And when he had called her, she stood in the doorway. And he said, “At this season, when the times comes round, you shall embrace a son.” And she said, “No, my lord, O man of God; do not lie to your maidservant.” But the woman conceived, and she bore a son about that time the following spring, as Elisha had said to her.

When the child had grown, he went out one day to his father among the reapers. And he said to his father, “Oh, my head,



my head!” The father said to his servant, “Carry him to his mother.” And when he had lifted him, and brought him to his mother, the child sat on her lap till noon, and then he died.

And she went up and laid him on the bed of the man of God, and shut the door upon him, and went out. Then she called to her husband, and said, “Send me one of the servants and one of the asses, that I may quickly go to the man of God, and come back again.” And he said, “Why will you go to him today? It is neither new moon nor sabbath.” She said, “It will be well.” Then she saddled the ass, and she said to her servant, “Urge the beast on; do not slacken the pace for me unless I tell you.” So she set out, and came to the man of God at Mount Carmel.

When the man of God saw her coming, he said to Gehazi his servant, “Look, yonder is the Shunamite; run at once to meet her, and say to her, ‘Is it well with you? Is it well with your husband? Is it well with the child?’” And she answered, “It is well.” And when she came to the mountain to the man of God, she caught hold of his feet. And Gehazi came to thrust her away. But the man of God said, “Let her alone, for she is in bitter distress; and the Lord has hidden it from me, and has not told me.” Then she said, “Did I ask my lord for a son? Did I not say, ‘Do not deceive me?’” He said to Gehazi, “Gird up your loins, and take my staff in your hand, and go. If you meet anyone, do not salute him; and if any one salutes you, do not reply; and lay my staff upon the face of the child.” Then the mother of the child said, “As the Lord lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you.” So he arose and followed her. Gehazi went on ahead and laid the staff upon the face of the child, but there was no sound or sign of life. Therefore he returned to meet him, and told him, “The child has not awakened.”

# Holy Week

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*Holy Saturday Vesperal Liturgy*

When Elisha came into the house, he saw the child lying dead on his bed. So he went in and shut the door upon the two of them, and prayed to the Lord. Then he went up and lay upon the child, putting his mouth upon his mouth, his eyes upon his eyes, and his hands upon his hands; and as he stretched himself upon him, the flesh of the child became warm. Then he got up again, and walked once to and fro in the house, and went up, and stretched himself upon him; the child sneezed seven times, and the child opened his eyes.

Then he summoned Gehazi and said, “Call this Shunamite.” So he called her. And when she came to him, he said, “Take up your son.” She came and fell at his feet, bowing to the ground; then she took up her son and went out.

## **15 Old Testament Readings – 13<sup>th</sup> Reading**

**Deacon:** Wisdom!

**Reader:** The Reading is from Prophecy of Isaiah (63:11-64:5)

**Deacon:** Let us attend!

**Reader:** Thus says the Lord: Where is He who brought up out of the sea the shepherd of His sheep? Where is He who put in the midst of them His holy Spirit, who caused His glorious arm to go at the right hand of Moses, who divided the water before them to make for Himself an everlasting name, who let them through the depths? Like a horse in the desert, they did not stumble. Like cattle that go down into the valley, the Spirit of the Lord gave them rest. So You did lead Your people, to make for Yourself a glorious name.

Look down from heaven and see, from Your holy and glorious habitation. Where art Thour zeal and Your might? The yearning of Your heart and Your compassion are withheld from me. For You are our Father, though Abraham does not know us and Israel does not acknowledge us; You, O Lord, are our Father, our Redeemer from of old is Your name. O Lord, why do You make us err from Your ways and harden our heart, so that we fear You not? Return for the sake of Your servants, the tribes of Your heritage. Your holy people possessed Your sanctuary a little while; our adversaries have trodden it down. We have become like those over whom You have never ruled, like those who are not called by Your name.

O that You would rend the heavens and come down, that the mountains might quake at Your presence—as when fire kindles brushwood and the fire causes water to boil—to make Your name known to Your adversaries, and that the nations might tremble at Your presence! When You did terrible things which we looked not for, You came down, the mountains quaked at Your presence. From of old no one has heard or perceived by the ear, no eye has seen a God besides You, who works for those who wait for Him. You meet him that joyfully works righteousness, those that remember You in Your ways.

# Holy Week

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*Holy Saturday Vesperal Liturgy*

## **15 Old Testament Readings – 14<sup>th</sup> Reading**

**Deacon:** Wisdom!

**Reader:** The Reading is from Prophecy of Jeremiah (31:31-34)

**Deacon:** Let us attend!

**Reader:** Thus says the Lord: Behold, the days are when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah, not like the covenant which I made with their fathers when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt, my covenant which they broke, though I was their husband, says the Lord. But this is the covenant which I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put my law within them, and I will write it upon their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. And no longer shall each man teach his neighbor and each his brother, saying, ‘Know the Lord,’ for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the Lord; for I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more.”

## **15 Old Testament Readings – 15<sup>th</sup> Reading**

**Deacon:** Wisdom!

**Reader:** The Reading is from Prophecy of Daniel (3:1-57)

**Deacon:** Let us attend!

**Reader:** In the eighteenth year, King Nebuchadnezzar made an image of gold, whose height was sixty cubits and its breadth six cubits. He set it up on the plain of Dura, in the province of Babylon. Then King Nebuchadnezzar sent to assemble the satraps, the prefects, and the governors, the counselors, the

treasurers, the justices, the magistrates, and all the officials of the provinces to come to the dedication of the image which King Nebuchadnezzar had set up. Then the satraps, the prefects, and the governors, the counselors, the treasurers, the justices, the magistrates, and all the officials of the provinces, were assembled for the dedication of the image that King Nebuchadnezzar had set up; and they stood before the image that Nebuchadnezzar had set up. And the herald proclaimed aloud, “You are commanded, O peoples, nations, and languages, that when you hear the sound of the horn, pipe, lyre, trigon, harp, bagpipe, and every kind of music, you are to fall down and worship the golden image that King Nebuchadnezzar has set up; and whoever does not fall down and worship shall immediately be cast into a burning fiery furnace.” Therefore, as soon as all the people heard the sound of the horn, pipe, lyre, trigon, harp, bagpipe, and every kind of music, all the peoples, nations, and languages fell down and worshipped the golden image which King Nebuchadnezzar had set up.

Therefore at that time certain Chaldeans came forward and maliciously accused the Jews. They said to King Nebuchadnezzar, “O king, live forever! You, O king, have made a decree that every man who hears the sound of the horn, pipe, lyre, trigon, harp, bagpipe, and every kind of music, shall fall down and worship the golden image; and whoever does not fall down and worship shall be cast into a burning fiery furnace. There are certain Jews whom you have appointed over the affairs of the province of Babylon: Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. These men, O king, pay no heed to you; they do not serve your gods or worship the golden image which you have set up.”

# Holy Week

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*Holy Saturday Vesperal Liturgy*

Then Nebuchadnezzar in a furious rage commanded that Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego be brought. When they brought these men before the king, Nebuchadnezzar said to them, “Is it true, O Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, that you do not serve my gods or worship the golden image which I have set up? Now if you are ready when you hear the sound of the horn, pipe, lyre, trigon, harp, bagpipe, and every kind of music, to fall down and worship the image which I have made, well and good; but if you do not worship, you shall immediately be cast into a burning fiery furnace; and who is the God that will deliver you out of my hands?”

Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego answered the king, “O Nebuchadnezzar, we have no need to answer you in this matter. If it be so, our God whom we serve is in the heavens, able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace; and He will deliver us out of your hand, O king. But if not, be it known to you, O king, that we will not serve your gods or worship the golden image which you have set up.”

Then Nebuchadnezzar was full of fury, and the expression of his face was changed against Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. He ordered the furnace heated seven times more than it was wont to be heated. And he ordered certain mighty men of his army to bind Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, and to cast them into the burning fiery furnace. Then these men were bound in their mantles, their tunics, their hats, and their other garments, and they were cast into the burning fiery furnace. Because the king’s order was strict and the furnace very hot, the flame of the fire slew those men who took up Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. And these three men, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, fell bound into the burning fiery furnace.

And they walked about in the midst of the flames, singing hymns to God and blessing the Lord. Then Azariah stood and offered this prayer; in the midst of the fire he opened his mouth and said:

“Blessed art Thou, O Lord, God of our fathers, and worthy of praise; and Thy Name is glorified for ever.

For Thou art just in all that Thou hast done to us, and all Thy works are true and Thy ways right, and all Thy judgments are truth.

Thou hast executed true judgments in all that Thou hast brought upon us and upon Jerusalem, the holy city of our fathers, for in truth and justice Thou hast brought all this upon us because of our sins.

For we have sinfully and lawlessly departed from Thee, and have sinned in all things and have not obeyed Thy commandments; we have not observed them or done them, as Thou hast commanded us that it might go well with us.

So all that Thou hast brought upon us, and all that Thou hast done to us, Thou hast done in true judgment.

Thou hast given us into the hands of lawless enemies, most hateful rebels, and to an unjust king, the most wicked in all the world.

And now we cannot open our mouths; shame and disgrace have befallen Thy servants and worshipers.

# Holy Week

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*Holy Saturday Vesperal Liturgy*

For Thy name's sake do not give us up utterly, and do not break Thy covenant, and do not withdraw Thy mercy from us, for the sake of Abraham Thy beloved and for the sake of Isaac Thy servant and Israel Thy holy one, to whom Thou didst promise to make their descendants as many as the stars of the heaven and as the sand on the shore of the sea.

For we, O Lord, have become fewer than any nation, and are brought low this day in all the world because of our sins.

And at this time there is no prince, or prophet, or leader, no burnt offering, or sacrifice, or oblation, or incense, no place to make an offering before Thee or to find mercy.

Yet with a contrite heart and a humble spirit may we be accepted, as though it were with burnt offerings of rams and bulls, and with tens of thousands of fat lambs; such may our sacrifice be in Thy sight this day, and may we wholly follow Thee, for there will be no shame for those who trust in Thee.

And now with all our heart we follow Thee, we fear Thee and seek Thy face.

Do not put us to shame, but deal with us in Thy forbearance and in Thine abundant mercy.

Deliver us in accordance with Thy marvelous works, and give glory to Thy name, O Lord!

Let all who do harm to Thy servants be put to shame; let them be disgraced and deprived of all power and dominion, and let their strength be broken.



Let them know that Thou art the Lord, the only God, glorious over the whole world.”

Now the king’s servants who threw them in did not cease feeding the furnace fires with naphtha, pitch, tow and brush. And the flame streamed out above the furnace forty-nine cubits, and it broke through and burned those of the Chaldeans whom it caught about the furnace. But the angel of the Lord came down into the furnace to be with Azariah and his companions, and drove the fiery flame out of the furnace, and made the midst of the furnace like a moist whistling wind, so that the fire did not touch them at all or hurt or trouble them.

Then the three, as with one mouth, praised and glorified and blessed God in the furnace, saying:

“Blessed art Thou, O Lord, God of our fathers, and to be praised and highly exalted for ever;

And blessed is Thy glorious, holy name, and to be highly praised and highly exalted for ever;

Blessed art Thou in the temple of Your holy glory, and to be extolled and highly glorified for ever.

Blessed art Thou, who sits upon the cherubim and looks upon the deeps, and to be praised and highly exalted for ever.

Blessed art Thou upon the throne of Thy kingdom, and to be extolled and highly exalted for ever.

Blessed art Thou in the firmament of heaven, and to be sung and glorified for ever!”

# Holy Week

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*Holy Saturday Vesperal Liturgy*

**Choir:**     *Praise the Lord, sing and exalt Him throughout all the ages!*  
*(repeated after each verse)*

**Reader:**    Bless the Lord, all works of the Lord.

Bless the Lord, you heavens,

Bless the Lord, you angels of the Lord.

Bless the Lord, all waters above the heaven.

Bless the Lord, all powers.

Bless the Lord, sun and moon.

Bless the Lord, stars of heaven.

Bless the Lord, all rain and dew.

Bless the Lord, all winds.

Bless the Lord, fire and heat.

Bless the Lord, winter cold and summer heat.

Bless the Lord, dews and snows.

Bless the Lord, nights and days.

Bless the Lord, light and darkness.

Bless the Lord, ice and cold.

Bless the Lord, frosts and snow.

Bless the Lord, lightning and clouds.

Let the earth bless the Lord.

Bless the Lord, mountains and hills.

Bless the Lord, all things that grow on the earth.

Bless the Lord, you springs.

Bless the Lord, seas and rivers.

Bless the Lord, you whales and all creatures that move in the waters.

Bless the Lord, all birds of the air.

Bless the Lord, all beasts and cattle.

Bless the Lord, you sons of men.

Bless the Lord, O Israel.

Bless the Lord, you priests of the Lord.

Bless the Lord, you servants of the Lord.

Bless the Lord, spirits and souls of the righteous.

Bless the Lord, you who are holy and humble in heart.

Bless the Lord, Ananiah, Azariah, and Mishael.

Bless the Lord, apostles, prophets and martyrs of the Lord.

We bless the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

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

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

**Choir:** *Praise the Lord, sing and exalt Him throughout all the ages!*

*The Reader sings:*

Praise the Lord, sing and exalt Him throughout all the ages!

# Pascha

## *Nocturns*

**Deacon:** Bless, Most Blessed, Master.

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

**Reader:** Amen.

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.

Most Holy Trinity have mercy on us. Lord, cleanse us from our sins, Master, pardon our transgressions. Holy One, visit and heal our infirmities, for Thy 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.

**Reader:** Amen.

Come, let us worship 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!

***Psalm 50 (51)***

Have mercy on me, O God, according to Thy steadfast love; according to Thy abundant mercy blot out my transgressions. Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin! For I know my transgressions and my sin is ever before me.

Against Thee, Thee only have I sinned, and done that which is evil in Thy sight, so that Thou art justified in Thy sentence and blameless in Thy judgment.

Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity and in sin did my mother conceive me. Behold, Thou desirest truth in the inward being; therefore teach me wisdom in my secret heart.

Purge me with hyssop and I shall be clean, wash me and I shall be whiter than snow. Fill me with joy and gladness, let the bones which Thou hast broken rejoice. Hide Thy face from my sins, and blot out all my iniquities.

Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me. Cast me not away from Thy presence, and take not Thy Holy Spirit from me.

Restore to me the joy of Thy salvation, and uphold me with a willing spirit. Then I will teach transgressors Thy ways, and sinners will return to Thee. Deliver me from bloodguiltiness,

# Pascha

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## *Nocturns*

O God, Thou God of my salvation, and my tongue will sing aloud of Thy deliverance.

O Lord, open Thou my lips, and my mouth shall show forth Thy praise. For Thou hast no delight in sacrifice; were I to give a burnt offering, Thou wouldst not be pleased. The sacrifice acceptable to God is a broken spirit, a broken and contrite heart Thou wilt not despise.

Do good to Zion in Thy good pleasure; rebuild the walls of Jerusalem, then wilt Thou delight in right sacrifices, in burnt offerings and whole burnt offerings; then bulls will be offered on Thy altar.

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**Kanon****ODE 1**

*Glory to Thee, our God, glory to Thee!*

Unto Thee I sing a hymn for the departed and song of burial, O Lord my God, who by Thy burial has opened for me the entrance to life and by Thy death has put death and hell to death.

*Glory to Thee, our God, glory to Thee!*

Beholding Thee upon the throne on high and in the grave below, the things of heaven and the things beneath the earth trembled at Thy death; for in a manner past understanding wast Thou, the very source of life, seen dead.

*Glory to Thee, our God, glory to Thee!*

Thou didst descend to the depths of the earth to fill all with Thy glory; for my person that is in Adam was not hidden from Thee, and when Thou wast buried, Thou didst renew me who am corrupt, O Lover of mankind.

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

**ODE 3**

*Glory to Thee, our God, glory to Thee!*

By a multitude of visions, Thou didst indicate the signs of Thy burial, O Master. But now, as God and man, Thou dost make clear Thy hidden things even unto those in hell, who cry: "None is holy but Thee, O Lord."

# Pascha

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*Nocturns*

*Glory to Thee, our God, glory to Thee!*

Thou hast stretched out Thy hands, O Savior, and united what before had been divided; and by clothing Thyself in a winding sheet Thou hast saved even those held captive by the tomb, who cry: “None is holy but Thee, O Lord.”

*Glory to Thee, our God, glory to Thee!*

By Thy will a sealed tomb contained Thee, who cannot be contained; for by Thy divine accomplishments Thou hast made known Thy power unto those who sing: “None is holy but Thee, O Lord who loves mankind.”

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

## **ODE 4**

*Glory to Thee, our God, glory to Thee!*

Thou hast sanctified this, the seventh day, which of old Thou didst bless by rest from work; for Thou didst bring all things into being and renew them, O my Savior, while resting and reviving on the Sabbath.

*Glory to Thee, our God, glory to Thee!*

By the overwhelming strength of Thy divine nature, Thou didst win the victory, O Word; for Thy soul was parted from the flesh, sundering by Thy might the bonds of hell and death.

*Glory to Thee, our God, glory to Thee!*



When hell encountered Thee, O Word, it was embittered. Seeing Thee as a mortal man deified, marked with wounds yet having almighty power, it cried out at Thy awesome appearance.

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

## ODE 5

*Glory to Thee, our God, glory to Thee!*

When Thou didst become earthly, O Creator, Thou didst renew those born on earth, and the winding sheet and the grave revealed the mystery concerning Thee, O Word; for Joseph the noble counselor, fulfills the counsel of Him who begot Thee and who wondrously renews me in Thee.

*Glory to Thee, our God, glory to Thee!*

Through death Thou didst transform what is mortal, and through burial Thou didst transform what is corruptible; for in a manner befitting God Thou made incorrupt and immortal the nature which Thou hast assumed, since Thy flesh did not see corruption and in a wondrous manner Thy soul was not abandoned in hell.

*Glory to Thee, our God, glory to Thee!*

Thou didst come forth from a painless birth, O my Maker, and Thy side was pierced. By this hast Thou, the new Adam, accomplished the restoration of Eve. Thou didst fall into a sleep surpassing nature and renewing nature, and as the all-powerful One, Thou didst raise up life from sleep and corruption.

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

# Pascha

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*Nocturns*

## ODE 6

*Glory to Thee, our God, glory to Thee!*

Thou wast killed, O Word, but not separated from the flesh which Thou didst share with us; for even though the temple of Thy body was destroyed at the time of the passion, the person of Thy divinity and of Thy flesh was one, for in both dost Thou remain one Son, Word of God, God and man.

*Glory to Thee, our God, glory to Thee!*

The fall of Adam resulted in the death of man, not God; for even though the earthly substance of Thy flesh suffered, Thy divinity remained passionless. In Thyself Thou hast transformed the corruptible to incorruption, and by Thy resurrection Thou hast revealed a fountain of incorruptible life.

*Glory to Thee, our God, glory to Thee!*

Hell rules the race of mortal men, but not eternally; for when Thou wast placed in the grave, O powerful One, Thou didst tear asunder the bars of death by Thy life-creating hand and didst proclaim true deliverance to those sleeping there from the ages, since Thou, O Savior, hast become the first-born of the dead.

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

*The Kontakion is sung, then:*

## IKOS

He who holds all things together has been lifted up upon the cross, and all of creation weeps at seeing Him hanging, naked, upon the wood. The sun hid its rays and the stars cast aside their splendor. The earth shook with great fear, the sea fled, and the rocks were split asunder. Many tombs were opened, and the bodies of holy men arose. Hell groaned below and the Jews considered how to slander the resurrection of Christ, but the women cried:

*The choir sings the Ikos refrain:*

**Choir:** “This is the most blessed Sabbath on which Christ has fallen asleep to rise on the third day.”

## ODE 7

*Glory to Thee, our God, glory to Thee!*

Hell was wounded in the heart when it received Him whose side was pierced by a spear, and it groans, consumed by divine fire, unto the salvation of us who sing: “Blessed art Thou, O God, our Redeemer!”

*Glory to Thee, our God, glory to Thee!*

Happy is the tomb! For having received the Creator as one asleep, it became a divine treasury of life, for the salvation of us who sing: “Blessed art Thou, O God, our Redeemer!”

*Glory to Thee, our God, glory to Thee!*

In accordance with the law of the dead, the Life of all accepts burial in the tomb, and the tomb becomes the source of resurrection, unto the salvation of us who sing: “Blessed art Thou, O God, our Redeemer!”

# Pascha

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*Nocturns*

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

## **ODE 8**

*Glory to Thee, our God, glory to Thee!*

The pure Temple has been destroyed, yet He raises with Himself the tabernacle that had fallen; for the second Adam, who dwells in the highest, has descended to the first Adam, even unto the lowest chambers of hell. Bless Him, O youths! Praise Him, O priests! O people, exalt Him above all forever!

*Glory to Thee, our God, glory to Thee!*

The courage of all the disciples failed, but Joseph of Arimathea showed valor; for seeing the God of all dead and naked, he sought Him and dressed Him for burial, crying: Bless Him, O youths! Praise Him, O priests! O people, exalt Him above all forever!

*Glory to Thee, our God, glory to Thee!*

What new wonders! What great goodness! What ineffable forbearance! For He that dwells in the highest is willingly sealed beneath the earth, and God is slandered as a deceiver. Bless Him, O youths! Praise Him, O priests! O people, exalt Him above all forever!

*Let us bless the Lord: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages, Amen.*

**ODE 9**

*Glory to Thee, our God, glory to Thee!*

“I escaped sufferings and was blessed beyond nature at Thy strange birth, O Son who art without beginning. But now, beholding Thee, my God, dead and without breath, I am sorely pierced by the sword of Sorrow. But arise, that I may be magnified.”

*Glory to Thee, our God, glory to Thee!*

“By my own will, the earth covers me, O my mother, but the gatekeepers of hell tremble at seeing me clothed in the bloodstained garments of vengeance; for when I have vanquished my enemies on the cross, I shall arise as God and magnify you.”

*Glory to Thee, our God, glory to Thee!*

“Let creation rejoice! Let all born on ear be glad! For hateful hell has been despoiled. Let the women with myrrh come to meet me; for I am redeeming Adam and Eve and all their descendants, and on the third day shall I arise!”

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

*(The Choir sings the Katavasia of ODE 9)*