

Holy Friday Morning

THE ROYAL HOURS

Composed by St. Cyril of Alexandria

First Hour

DEACON: Bless, master.

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

PEOPLE: Amen.

PRIEST: Glory to thee, our God, glory to thee.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come; thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily¹ bread. And forgive us our

¹Or, "living".

trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.²

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

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

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

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

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

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

And Reader the following Psalms:

Psalm 5

²Or the evil one.

Give ear to my words, O Lord,
give heed to my cry.
Listen to the voice of my supplication.
O my King and my God,
for to thee I pray.
O Lord, in the morning thou hearest my voice;
in the morning, I stand before thee and I look up.

For thou art not a God who desires wickedness;
sinners cannot dwell with thee.
The boastful will not stand before thine eyes;
thou hatest all evildoers.
thou destroyest those who speak lies.
The Lord detests the bloodthirsty and deceitful.

But I, through the abundance of thy mercy,
will enter thy house.
I will bow down toward thy Holy Temple,
in reverence of thee.
Lead me, O Lord, in thy righteousness
because of my enemies;
make my way straight before thee.

For there is no truth in their mouth;
their heart is arrogant;

their throat is an open grave;
they have spoken deceit with their tongues.
Judge them, O God,
let them fall by their own counsels;
cast them out
for the greatness of their iniquity,
for they have rebelled against thee.

But let all who put their trust in thee rejoice,
let them ever sing for joy,
for you will dwell among them,
that those who love thy name may exult in thee.
For thou blessest the righteous, O Lord;
thou coverest them with favor as with a shield.

Psalm 2

Why did the nations rage,
and the people plot in vain?
The kings of the earth set themselves,
and the rulers assembled together,
against the Lord and his Christ, saying:
“Let us break their bonds asunder,
and cast their yoke from us.”

He who dwells in heaven laughs,

the Lord holds them in derision.

Then he will speak to them in his wrath,
and terrify them in his fury, saying:

“I have been made king by him on Zion,
his holy mountain.”

I will tell of the decree of the Lord:

The Lord said to me: “Thou art my Son;
today I have begotten thee.

Ask of me, and I will make the nations
thine inheritance,

and the ends of the earth thy possession.

Thou shalt rule them with a rod of iron,
and dash them in pieces like a potter’s vessel.”

Now, therefore, O kings be wise;
be instructed, O rulers of the earth.

Serve the Lord with fear,
and with trembling.

Accept correction, or he will be angry,
and thou wilt perish from the way of the righteous,
for his wrath is suddenly kindled.

Blessed are all those who put their trust in him.

Psalm 22 <21>

My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?

Why art thou so far from helping me, from the words of my groaning?

O my God, I cry by day, but thou dost not answer; and by night, but there is no relief for me.

Yet thou art holy, enthroned in the praises of Israel.

Our ancestors trusted in thee;

they trusted, and thou delivered them.

They cried unto thee, and were delivered;

they trusted in thee, and were not put to shame.

But I am a worm and not man,

scorned by others and despised by the people.

All those who see me ridicule me;

they make faces at me, they shake their head saying,

“He trusted in the Lord, let him rescue him;

let him deliver him, since he delights in him!”

But it was thou who tookest me out of the womb;

thou art my hope on my mother’s breasts.

I was cast on thee from birth.

From my mother’s womb thou hast been my God.

Be not far from me, for trouble is near;

For there is none to help.

Many bulls have surrounded me;

strong bulls of Bashan have encircled me.

They open wide at me their mouths,

like a raging and roaring lion.

I am poured out like water, and all my bones are out of joint;
my heart is like wax; it has melted within me.
My strength is dried up like a potsherd,
and my tongue clings to my jaws;
thou hast brought me to the dust of death.
For dogs have surrounded me;
a company of evildoers has enclosed me.
They pierced my hands and my feet; I can count all my bones.
They look and stare at me.
They divide my clothes among them,
and for my clothing they cast lots.
But thou, O Lord, do not be far from me;
O my Strength, come quickly to help me!
Deliver my soul from the sword,
my precious life from the power of the dog.
Save me from the lion's mouth
and from the horns of the wild oxen!
Thou hast rescued me.
I will declare thy name to my brethren;
in the midst of the assembly I will praise thee.
He who fears the Lord, shall praise him!
All the offspring of Jacob, glorify him
and stand in awe of him, all the offspring of Israel!
For he has not despised nor abhorred
the affliction of the afflicted;

nor has he hidden his face from him;
but when he cried to him, he heard.
My praise shall be of thee in the great assembly;
I will pay my vows before those who fear him.
The poor shall eat and be satisfied;
those who seek him will praise the Lord.

Let your heart live forever!

All the ends of the world shall remember and turn to the Lord,
and all the families of the nations shall worship before thee.
For dominion belongs to the Lord, and he rules over the
nations.

All the prosperous of the earth shall eat and worship;
all those who go down to sleep in the earth shall bow before
him,
and I shall live for him.

Posterity will serve him.

It will be recounted of the Lord to the next generation,
they will come and declare his righteousness
to a people yet to be born, whom the Lord has made.

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

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

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

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

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

Troparion

Tone One

CHOIR: When thou wast crucified, O Christ, the tyrant was destroyed, and the power of the enemy was trampled underfoot. For it was not an angel nor a man that saved us, but thou thyself, O Lord: glory to thee.

Now and ever and unto ages of ages, Amen.

Theotokion

What should we call thee, O full of grace? Heaven? For thou hast made the Sun of Righteousness shine forth. Paradise? For thou hast borne the flower of immortality. Virgin? For thou hast remained inviolate. Pure Mother? For thou hast held in thy holy embrace a Son, the God of all. Pray to him for the salvation of our souls.

Then we sing the following stichera:

Idiomela

Tone Eight

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

Why did the nations rage, and the people plot in vain?³

Same Tone

O Christ our King, like a lamb thou wast led to the slaughter,⁴ and like an innocent sheep thou wast nailed to the Cross by the transgressors of the Law for our sins, 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.

³(Psalm 2:1).

⁴(Isa. 53:7).

Enduring the arrest of the transgressors of the Law, O Lord, thou hast cried aloud: Although you have struck the Shepherd⁵ and scattered the twelve sheep of the flock, my disciples, yet I can send more than twelve legions of angels.⁶ But in my patience, I forbear the suffering so that the hidden secrets made known to you through my prophets may be fulfilled. O Lord, glory to thee.

The Prophecy

Prokeimenon of the Prophecy (Psalm 40):

Tone Four

READER: He stored up iniquity in his heart, then he went out and spread it.

Blessed are those who help the poor and needy.⁷

The reading from the Prophecy of Zechariah.

DEACON: Wisdom. Let us attend.

Zechariah 11:10-13

⁵ Zech. 13:7.

⁶(Matt. 26:53).

⁷(Psalm 41<40>:1).

READER: This what the Lord says: And I took my favorite staff and cut it in two, so that I might annul the covenant that I had made with all the peoples. So it was annulled on that day. Thus the sheep merchants, who were watching me, knew that it was the word of the Lord. Then I said to them, "If it seems right to you, give me my wages; and if not, keep them." So they weighed out for my wages thirty shekels of silver. And the Lord said to me: "Throw it to the treasury," that lordly price at which I was valued by them. So I took the thirty shekels of silver and threw them into the treasury in the house of the Lord, in accordance with the order of the Lord.

The Epistle

READER: The reading from Saint Paul's Letter to the Galatians.

Galatians 6:14-18

DEACON: Wisdom. Let us attend.

READER: Brethren, May I never boast of anything except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world. For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision is anything, but a new creation is everything. And for those who will follow this rule, peace and mercy be upon them, and upon the Israel of God.

From now on let no one make trouble for me, for I bear in my body the marks of the Lord Jesus. Brethren, the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit. Amen.

PRIEST: Peace be to you who has read.

PEOPLE: Alleluia. *(3 times)*

The Gospel

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

The priest blesses the people saying:

PRIEST: Peace be to all.

PEOPLE: And to thy spirit.

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

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

DEACON: Let us attend.

Matthew 27:1-56

At that time, when morning came, all the chief priests and the elders of the people took counsel against Jesus to put him to death; and they bound him and led him away and delivered him to Pontius Pilate the governor.

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

Now Jesus stood before the governor; and the governor asked him, "Are you the King of the Jews?" Jesus said, "You have said so." But when he was accused by the chief priests and

elders, he made no answer. Then Pilate said to him, "Do you not hear how many things they testify against you?" But he gave him no answer, not even to a single charge; so that the governor wondered greatly.

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

So when Pilate saw that he was gaining nothing, but rather that a riot was beginning, he took water and washed his hands before the crowd saying, "I am innocent of this

righteous man's blood; see to it yourselves." And all the people answered "His blood be on us and on our children!" Then Pilate release for them Barab'bas, and having scourged Jesus, delivered him to be crucified.

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

As they went out, they came upon a man of Cyrene, Simon by name; this man they compelled to carry the cross of Jesus. And when they came to a place called Golgotha (which means the place of a skull), they offered him wine mingled with gall to drink; but when he tasted it, he would not drink it.

And when they had crucified him, they divided his garment among them by casting lots, that what was spoken by the prophet might be fulfilled: "They parted my garments among them, and for my clothing they cast lots." Then they sat down

and kept watch over him there. And over his head they put the charge against him, which read, “This is Jesus the King of the Jews.”

Then two robbers were crucified with him, one on the right and one on the left. And those who passed by derided him, wagging their heads and saying, “You who would destroy the temple and build it in three days, save yourself, If you are the Son of God, come down from the cross.” So also the chief priests, with the scribes and elders, mocked him saying, “He saved others; he cannot save himself. If he is the King of Israel, let him come down now from the cross, and we will believe in him. He trusts in God; let God deliver him now, if he desires him; for he said, ‘I am the Son of God.’” And the robbers who were crucified with him also reviled him in the same way.

Now from the sixth hour there was darkness over all the land until the ninth hour. And about the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice, “Eli, Eli, la’ma sabach-tha’ni?” that is, “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?” And some of the bystanders hearing it said, “This man is calling Elijah.” And one of them at once ran and took a sponge, filled it with vinegar and put it on a reed and gave it to him to drink. But

the others said, “Wait, let’s see whether Elijah will come to save him.”

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

There were also many women there, looking on from afar, who had followed Jesus from Galilee, ministering to him among whom were Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James and Joses, and the mother of the sons of Zeb’edee.

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

Then the reader says:

READER: Keep my steps ready according to thy word, and never let any iniquity have dominion over me.

Deliver me from the oppression of men, that I may keep thy Commandments.

Make thy face shine upon thy servant, and teach me thy statutes.⁸

Let my mouth be filled with thy praise, O Lord, that I may sing thy glory and majesty all day long.⁹

Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal, have mercy on us. (*low bow*)

Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal, have mercy on us. (*low bow*)

Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal, have mercy on us. (*low bow*)

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

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

⁸(Psalm 119 <118>:133-135).

⁹(Psalm 71<70>:8).

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

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

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy
kingdom come; thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily¹⁰ 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.¹¹

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

PEOPLE: Amen.

Then,

Kontakion
Tone Eight

¹⁰Or, “living”.

¹¹Or “the evil one.”

CHOIR: Come let us all sing the praises of him who was crucified for us. For, Mary said, when she saw him on the Cross: Though thou endurest the Cross, yet thou art my Son and God.

READER: Lord, have mercy. *(forty times)*

Thou who art at all times and at every hour in heaven and earth worshiped and glorified, O Christ our God, most patient, most merciful, and most compassionate; thou lovest the just and the righteous, and hast mercy on sinners, thou callest all to repentance and salvation through the promise of the good things to come: receive, O Lord, our prayers at this hour, and guide our life to thy commandments. Sanctify our souls, purify our bodies, direct our thoughts, clarify our intentions, and deliver us from all distress, evil and sorrow. Surround us with thy holy angels, so that guided and guarded by their host, we may attain to the unity of the faith and the full knowledge of thine unapproachable glory. For blessed art thou unto ages of ages, Amen.

Lord, have mercy. *(Three times)*

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

More honorable than the Cherubim and more glorious beyond compare than the Seraphim, thou who without corruption¹² gavest birth to God the Word and art truly Theotokos, we magnify thee.

Bless, father, in the name of the Lord.

PRIEST: May God be gracious to us and bless us. And make his face to shine upon us,¹³ and have mercy on us.

Then the priest says the following prayer:

O Christ, the true Light, thou dost enlighten and sanctify every one who comes into the world. Let the light of thy countenance be branded on us, so that in it we may see the unapproachable light. Keep our steps ready to do thy commandments, through the intercessions of thy most pure Mother and of all thy saints.

PEOPLE: Amen.

Third Hour

¹²Or remaining virgin, you gave birth...etc.,

¹³(Ps. 67(66):1).

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

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

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

And Reader the following Psalms:

Psalm 35<34>

Judge, O Lord, those who contend with me; fight against those who fight against me. Take hold of shield and buckler and stand up for my help. Draw out the spear and stop those who pursue me. Say to my soul, "I am thy salvation." Let those be put to shame and to dishonor who seek after my life; let them be turned back and brought to confusion who devise evil against me. Let them be like chaff before the wind, and let the angel of the Lord chase them. Let their way be dark and slippery, and let the angel of the Lord pursue them. Without cause have they hidden their net for me in a pit, which they have dug vainly for my life. Let a snare they do not expect come upon them, and let their net that they have hidden catch them; into that very pit let them fall. And my soul shall be joyful in the Lord; it shall rejoice in his salvation. All my

bones shall say, "Lord, who is like thee, delivering the poor from those too strong for him, Yea, the poor and the needy from those who despoil them?" Fierce witnesses rise up; they ask me things that I do not know. They reward me evil for good, to the sorrow of my soul. But as for me, when they were sick, my clothing was sackcloth; I afflicted myself with fasting; and I prayed with head bowed on my bosom. As though I grieved for a friend or a brother, I bowed down heavily, as one who mourns for a mother. But in my adversity they rejoiced and gathered together; attackers gathered against me, and I did not know it. They tore at me without ceasing. The ungodly mocked more and more, gnashing at me with their teeth. O Lord, when wilt thou look on me? Rescue me from their destructions, my precious life from the lions. I will give thee thanks in the great assembly; I will praise thee among many people. Do not let them rejoice over me, or those who hate me without cause wink at me. For they do not speak peace, but they devise deceitful matters. They also opened their mouths wide against me, and said, "Aha, aha! Our eyes have seen it." This thou hast seen, O Lord; keep not silence.

O Lord, do not be far from me. Bestir thyself and awake to my defense and to my cause, O my God and my Lord. Vindicate me, O Lord my God, according to thy righteousness; and let

them not rejoice over me. Do not let them say in their hearts, “Aha, we have our heart’s desire!” Do not let them say, “We have swallowed him up.” Let them be ashamed and brought to mutual confusion who rejoice at my hurt; let them be clothed with shame and dishonor who exalt themselves against me. Let them shout for joy and be glad who favor my righteous cause; and let them say continually, “Let the Lord be magnified, who has pleasure in the prosperity of his servant.” And my tongue will speak of thy righteousness and of thy praise all the day long.

Psalm 109<108>

Do not be silent, O God of my praise! For the mouth of the wicked and the mouth of the deceitful have opened against me; they have spoken against me with a lying tongue. They have also surrounded me with words of hatred and fought against me without a cause. In return for my love they accuse me, even while I give myself to prayer. Thus, they have rewarded me evil for good, and hatred for my love. Set a wicked man against him, and let an accuser stand at his right hand. When he is tried, let him be found guilty, and let his prayer be counted as sin. Let his days be few, and let another take his position. Let his children be orphans, and his wife a widow. Let his children continually be vagabonds, and beg; let

them be driven out from their desolate places. Let the creditor seize all that he has, and let strangers plunder his labor. Let there be none to extend mercy to him, nor let there be any to favor his orphaned children. Let his posterity be cut off, and in the generation following let their name be blotted out. Let the iniquity of his father be remembered before the Lord, and let not the sin of his mother be blotted out. Let them be continually before the Lord, so that he may cut off the memory of them from the earth; because he did not remember to show mercy, but persecuted the poor and needy, so that he might even slay the broken in heart. As he loved cursing, so let it come to him; as he did not delight in blessing, so let it be far from him. As he clothed himself with cursing as with his garment, so let it enter his body like water and like oil into his bones. Let it be to him like the garment that covers him and for a belt with which he girds himself continually. Let this be the Lord's reward to my accusers and to those who speak evil against my person. But thou, O God the Lord, dealest with me for thy name's sake; because thy mercy is good, deliver me. For I am poor and needy, and my heart is pierced within me. I am gone like a shadow at evening; I am shaken off like a locust. My knees are weak through fasting, and my flesh has become fragile. I also have become a scorn to them; when they look at me, they shake their heads. Help me, O Lord my God! Oh, save me according

to thy mercy, that they may know that this is thy hand; that thou, Lord, hast done it! Let them curse, but thou dost bless; when they arise, let them be put to shame, but let thy servant rejoice. Let my accusers be clothed with shame, and let them cover themselves with their own disgrace as with a mantle. I will greatly praise the Lord with my mouth; Yea, I will praise him in the midst of the throng. For he stands at the right hand of the poor, to save them from those who condemn them to death.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Troparion

Tone Six

CHOIR: O Lord, the Life of all, the Jews condemned thee to death; they nailed thee to the Cross even though thou hast led them on dry land through the Red Sea with Moses' staff. Thou hast nursed them with honey from the crag,¹⁴ yet they gave thee sour wine. But thou hast willingly endured these things, to set us free from the bondage of the enemy. O Christ our God, glory to thee.

Now and ever and unto ages of ages, Amen.

Theotokion

O Lady Theotokos, thou art the true vine that has borne the fruit of life. We implore thee to intercede with the apostles and all the saints, that mercy may be granted to our souls.

Then, we sing the following stichera:

Tone Eight

O Lord, out of fear of the Jews, thy friend and companion Peter denied thee and wept bitterly crying aloud: O compassionate Master, do not spurn my tears, for I said I would keep faith, and I have not kept it. Accept also our repentance and have mercy on us.

Give ear to my words, O Lord; give heed to my sighing.¹⁵

¹⁴(Deut. 32:13).

¹⁵(Psalm 5:2).

Tone Eight

O Lord, when the soldiers mocked thee before thy crucifixion, the heavenly hosts were struck with wonder. For they arrayed with a crown of shame the one who has adorned the earth with flowers. They clothed in a robe of mockery him who has wrapped the firmament with clouds. Thus, in thy providence, O Christ, thou hast made known thy compassion and great mercy. Glory to thee.

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

Tone Five

O Lord, when thou wast led to be Crucified, thou didst cry: What have I done that you crucify me, O Jews? Is it because I made your paralytics to walk, or because I raised the dead as from sleep? Is it because I healed the woman who had been suffering from hemorrhages, or because I had mercy on the Canaanite woman: For which of these deeds do you wish to kill me, O Jews? But, O transgressors of the Law, you will look on Christ whom you have pierced.¹⁶

The Prophecy

Prokimenon of the Prophecy (Psalm 38<37>):

¹⁶(Zech. 12:10; John 19:37).

Tone Four

READER: I am ready for scourging: and my pain is ever with me.

O Lord, rebuke me not in thine anger: or discipline me in thy wrath.

The reading from the Prophecy of Isaiah.

Isaiah 50:4-11

DEACON: Wisdom! Let us attend!

READER: The Lord God has given me the tongue of a teacher that I should know how to sustain the weary with a word. He awakens me morning by morning, he awakens my ear to hear as a learner. The Lord God has opened my ear; and I was not rebellious, nor did I turn away. I gave my back to those who struck me and my cheeks to those who pulled out the beard; I did not hide my face from insult and spitting. 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 put to shame. He is near who vindicates me; who will contend with me? Let us stand together. Who is my adversary? Let him come near me. Surely the Lord God will help me; who will declare me guilty? Indeed they will all grow old like a garment; the moth will eat them up. 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. Look, all you who kindle a fire, who encircle yourselves with sparks: Walk in the flame of your fire and in the sparks you have kindled. This you shall have from my hand: You shall lie down in torment.

The Epistle

READER: The reading from Saint Paul's Letter to the Romans.

Romans 5:6-10

DEACON: Wisdom! Let us attend!

Brethren, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. Rarely will anyone die for a righteous person; yet perhaps for a good person someone would even dare to die. But God shows his own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Much more then, having now been made righteous by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him. For if when we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of his Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by his life.

PRIEST: Peace be to you who has read.

PEOPLE: Alleluia. *(Three times)*

The Gospel

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

The priest blesses the people saying:

PRIEST: Peace be to all.

PEOPLE: And to thy spirit.

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

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

DEACON: Let us attend.

Mark 15:16-41

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

stripped him of the purple cloak and put his own clothes on him. And they led him out to crucify him.

And they compelled a passer-by, Simon of Cyrene, who was coming in from the country, the father of Alexander and Rufus, to carry the cross of Jesus. And they brought Jesus to the place called Gol'gotha (which means the place of a skull). And they offered him wine mingled with myrrh; but he did not take it. And they crucified him and divided his garments among them, casting lots for them to decide what each should take. And it was the third hour when they crucified him. And the inscription of the charge against him read, "The King of the Jews." And with him they crucified two robbers, one on his right and one on his left. And the Scripture was fulfilled which says: "He was reckoned with the transgressors." And those who passed by derided him, wagging their heads and saying, "Aha! You who would destroy the temple and build it in three days, save yourself and come down from the cross!" So also the chief priest mocked him to one another with the scribes saying, "He saved others; he cannot save himself. Let the Christ, the King of Israel, come down now from the cross that we may see and believe." Those who were crucified with him also reviled him.

And when the sixth hour had come, there was dark over the whole land until the ninth hour. And at the ninth hour Jesus

cried with a loud voice, “E’lo-i, E’lo-i, la’ma sabactha’ni?” Which means, “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?” And some of the bystanders hearing it said, “Behold, he is calling Elijah.” And one ran and, filling a sponge full of vinegar, put it on a reed and gave it to him to drink saying, “Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to take him down.” And Jesus uttered a loud cry and gave up the spirit. And the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. And when the centurion who stood facing him saw that in this way he cried out and gave up the spirit, he said, “Truly, this man was the Son of God!”

There were also women looking on from afar, among whom were Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James the younger and of Joses, and Salo’me, who, when he was in Galilee, followed him and ministered to him; and there were also many other women who came up with him to Jerusalem.

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

Then the reader says:

READER: Blessed be the Lord God; blessed be the Lord from day to day; and may the God of our salvation bear us up, for he is our God, the God of salvation.¹⁷

¹⁷(Psalm 68<67>: 20-21).

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come; thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily¹⁸ bread. And forgive us our

¹⁸Or, "living".

trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.¹⁹

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

PEOPLE: Amen.

Then,

The Kontakion

Tone Eight

CHOIR: Come, let us all sing the praises him who was crucified for us. Mary saw him on the Cross and said: Though thou endurest the Cross, yet thou art my Son and God.

READER: Lord, have mercy. *(forty times)*

Thou who art at all times and at every hour in heaven and earth worshiped and glorified, O Christ our God, most patient, most merciful, and most compassionate; thou lovest the just and the righteous, and hast mercy on sinners, thou callest all to repentance and salvation through the promise of the good things to come: receive, O Lord, our prayers at this hour, and

¹⁹Or the evil one.

guide our life to thy commandments. Sanctify our souls, purify our bodies, direct our thoughts, clarify our intentions, and deliver us from all distress, evil and sorrow. Surround us with thy holy angels, so that guided and guarded by their host, we may attain to the unity of the faith and the full knowledge of thine unapproachable glory. For blessed art thou unto ages of ages, Amen.

Lord, have mercy. (*Three times*)

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

More honorable than the Cherubim and more glorious beyond compare than the Seraphim, thou who without corruption²⁰, gavest birth to God the Word and art truly Theotokos, we magnify thee.

Bless, father, in the name of the Lord.

PRIEST: May God be gracious to us and bless us. And make his face to shine upon us,²¹ and have mercy on us.

²⁰Or remaining virgin, you gave birth...etc.,

²¹(Ps. 67<66>:1).

Then the priest says the following prayer:

O God the Master, Father Almighty, O Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son, O Holy Spirit, one divinity, one Power, have mercy on me a sinner, and by the judgements known to thee, save me thine unworthy servant: for thou art blessed unto ages of ages.

PEOPLE: Amen.

Sixth Hour

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

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

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

And Reader the following Psalms:

Psalm 54<53>

Save me, O God, by thy name, and vindicate me by thy strength. Hear my prayer, O God; give ear to the words of my mouth. For strangers have risen up against me, and oppressors have sought after my life. They have not set God before them. For surely God is my helper; the Lord is the

upholder of my life. He will repay my enemies for their evil. Cut them off in thy truth. I will freely sacrifice to thee; I will praise thy name, O Lord, for it is good. For he has delivered me out from every trouble; and my eye has looked down on my enemies.

Psalm 140 <139>

Deliver me, O Lord, from evildoers. Preserve me from those who are violent, who plan evil things in their hearts; they continually stir up wars. They make their tongues sharp like a serpent; the venom of vipers is under their lips. Keep me, O Lord, from the hands of the wicked. Preserve me from violent men, who have planned to make my steps stumble. The arrogant have hidden a snare for me, and cords as a net; along the road they have set traps for me. I said to the Lord: Thou art my God; hear the voice of my supplications, O Lord. O God the Lord, the strength of my salvation, thou hast covered my head in the day of battle. Grant not, O Lord, the desires of the wicked; further not his evil plot. Those who surround me lift up their heads. Let the evil of their lips overwhelm them; let burning coals fall upon them; let them be cast into the fire, into deep pits that they rise not up again. Let not a slanderer be established in the land; let evil hunt down the violent. I know that the Lord will maintain the cause of the needy and justice for the poor. Surely the righteous

shall give thanks to thy name; the upright shall dwell in thy presence.

Psalm 91<90>

He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High will abide under the shadow of the Almighty; he will say to the Lord, “He is my refuge and my fortress; my God, in him I will trust.” Surely he shall deliver you from the hunter’s snare and from the deadly pestilence. He shall cover you with his feathers and under his wings you shall take refuge; his truth shall be your shield and buckler. You shall not be afraid of the terror by night, nor of the arrow that flies by day, nor of the pestilence that stalks in darkness, nor of the destruction that wastes at noonday. A thousand may fall at your side, and ten thousand at your right hand; but it shall not come near you. Only with your eyes shall thou look and see the punishment of the wicked. Because you have made the Lord your refuge, the Most High your dwelling place, no evil shall befall you, nor shall any scourge come near your tent; For he shall give his angels charge over you, to keep you in all your ways. In their hands shall they bear you up so that you will not dash your foot against a stone. You shall tread upon the lion and the adder, the young lion and the serpent you shall trample underfoot. Because he has set his love upon me, therefore I will deliver him; I will set him on high because he has known my name. He shall call upon me,

and I will answer him; I will be with him in trouble; I will rescue him and honor him. With long life I will satisfy him and show him my salvation.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Troparion

Tone Two

CHOIR: O Christ our God, thou hast worked salvation in the earth;²² thou hast stretched out thy most pure hands on the Cross and gathered all the nations together as they cry: O Lord, glory to thee.

Now and ever and unto ages of ages, Amen.

²²(Ps 74<73>:12).

Theotokion

As there is no boldness in us toward God, for the multitude of our sins, implore the Son who was born of thee, O virgin Theotokos; for the prayer of the Mother has great power to win the Master's favor. O most venerable one, turn not away from the prayers of sinners; for he who took upon himself to suffer for our sins is merciful and able to save us.

Then we sing the following stichera:

Tone Eight

This is what the Lord says to the Jews: O my people, what have I done to you? In what have I wearied you?²³ I gave light to your blind; I raised up the man who was paralyzed. O my people, what have I done to you? And how have you repaid me? Instead of manna you have given me gall, instead of water vinegar; instead of loving me you nailed me on the Cross. I can endure no more. I will call my gentiles, and they will glorify me with the Father and the Spirit, and I will grant them eternal life.”

They gave me gall for food and for my thirst they gave me vinegar to drink.²⁴

²³(Micah 6:3).

²⁴(Psalm 69<68>:21).

O lawgivers of Israel, Jews and Pharisees, the company of the apostles cries aloud to you: Here is the temple that you have destroyed, here is the Lamb you have crucified. You delivered him to the tomb, but by his own authority he has risen. O Jews, do not deceive yourselves. For this is he who saved you in the sea and fed you in the wilderness. He is the life and light and peace of the world.

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

Tone Five

Come, Christ-bearing people, let us see what the betrayer Judas has plotted with the law-breaking priests against our Savior. Today, they made the immortal Word guilty of death: they delivered him to Pilate and crucified him on Golgotha. And as our Savior suffered these things, he cried aloud saying: “Father, forgive them this sin, so that the Gentiles may know my Resurrection from the dead.”

The Prophecy

Prokeimenon of the Prophecy (Psalm 8).

Tone Four

READER: Our Sovereign Lord, how majestic is thy name in all the earth! For thy majesty is lifted high above the heavens.²⁵

²⁵(Ps. 8:1).

The reading from the Prophecy of Isaiah.

Isaiah 52:13-54:1.

DEACON: Wisdom! Let us attend!

READER: This is what the Lord says: “See my servant will prosper; he shall be exalted and extolled and be very high. Just as many were astonished at thee, so his visage was marred beyond human semblance, and his form more than the children of men, so he will startle many nations. Kings will shut their mouths at him; for what had not been told them they will see, and what they had not heard they will consider. Who has believed our report? And to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed? He will 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. He is despised and rejected by others, a Man of sorrows and acquainted with grief. And we hid, as it were, our faces from him; he was despised, and we held him as one of no account. Surely he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted. 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. 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. 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 did not open his mouth. And by a perversion of justice he was taken away. 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. 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. Yet it pleased the Lord to bruise him; he has put him to grief. When you make his soul an offering for sin, he will see his offspring, he will prolong his days, and the pleasure of the Lord will prosper in his hand. He will see the labor of his soul and be satisfied. By his knowledge, my righteous servant will make many righteous, for he will bear their iniquities. Therefore, I will allot him a portion with the great, and he will divide the spoil with the strong because he poured out his soul to death. He was numbered with the transgressors, and he bore the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors. Sing, O barren one, who has not borne! Break forth into singing and cry aloud, thou who has not labored with child! For more are the children of the desolate than the children of the married woman.”

The Epistle

The reading from Saint Paul's Letter to the Hebrews.

Hebrews 2:11-18

DEACON: Wisdom! Let us attend!

READER: Brethren, he who sanctifies and those who are sanctified are all of one; for this reason, Jesus is not ashamed to call them brethren saying: "I will declare your name to my brethren; in the midst of the congregation I will sing praise to you." And again: "I will put my trust in him." And again: "Here am I and the children whom God has given me."

Since, therefore, the children share flesh and blood, he himself likewise shared in the same things, so that through death he might destroy him who had the power of death, that is, the devil, and release those who through fear of death were all their lifetime held in slavery. For indeed, he did not come to help the angels, but to help the descendants of Abraham. Therefore, in all things he had to be made like his brethren, so that he might be a merciful and faithful High Priest in things pertaining to God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people. For in that he himself was tested by what he suffered, he is able to help those who are tested.

PRIEST: Peace be to you who has read.

PEOPLE: Alleluia. *(Three times)*

The Gospel

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

The priest blesses the people saying:

PRIEST: Peace be to all.

PEOPLE: And to thy spirit.

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

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

DEACON: Let us attend.

Luke 23:32-49

At that time, two others also, who were criminals, were led away to be put to death with Jesus. And when they came to the place which is called The Skull, there they crucified him and the criminals, one on the right and one on the left. And Jesus said, "Father, forgive them; for they know not what they

do.” And they cast lots to divide his garments. And the people who stood by watching and the rulers scoffed at him saying, “He saved others; let him save himself, if he is the Christ, the Chosen of God!” The soldiers also mocked him, coming up and offering him vinegar and saying, “If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!” There was also an inscription over him, in letters of Greek and Latin and Hebrew, “This is the King of the Jews.” One of the criminals who were hanged railed at him saying, “If you are the Christ, save yourself and us.” But the other rebuked him saying, “Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? And we indeed justly; for we are receiving the due reward of our deeds; but this man has done nothing wrong.” And he said to Jesus, “Lord, remember me when you come into thy kingdom.” And Jesus said to him, “Truly, I say to you, today you will with me in Paradise.”

It was now about the sixth hour, and there was darkness over the whole land until the ninth hour, while the sun’s light failed; and the curtain of the temple was torn in two. Then Jesus, crying with a loud voice, said, “Father, into thy hands I commit my spirit!” And having said this, he gave up the spirit. Now when the centurion saw what had taken place, he glorified God and said, “Certainly, this was a righteous man.” And all the multitudes who assembled to see the sight, when

they saw what had taken place, returned beating their breasts. And his acquaintances and the women who had followed him from Galilee stood at a distance and saw these things.

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

Then the reader says:

READER: O Lord, let thy compassion come speedily to meet us, for we are brought very low. Help us, O God of our salvation, for the glory of thy Name: O Lord, deliver us and forgive our sins, for thy Name's sake.²⁶

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

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

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

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

²⁶(Psalm 79<78>: 8-9).

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

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

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

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come; thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily²⁷ 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.²⁸

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

PEOPLE: Amen.

Then,
Kontakion

²⁷Or, "living".

²⁸Or the evil one.

Tone Eight

CHOIR: Come, let us all sing the praises of him who was crucified for us. For, Mary said, when she saw him on the Tree: Though thou endurest the Cross, yet thou art my Son and God.

READER: Lord, have mercy. (*forty times*)

Thou who art at all times and at every hour in heaven and earth worshiped and glorified, O Christ our God, most patient, most merciful, and most compassionate; thou lovest the just and the righteous, and hast mercy on sinners, thou callest all to repentance and salvation through the promise of the good things to come: receive, O Lord, our prayers at this hour, and guide our life to thy commandments. Sanctify our souls, purify our bodies, direct our thoughts, clarify our intentions, and deliver us from all distress, evil and sorrow. Surround us with thy holy angels, so that guided and guarded by their host, we may attain to the unity of the faith and the full knowledge of thine unapproachable glory. For blessed art thou unto ages of ages, Amen.

Lord, have mercy. (*Three times*)

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

More honorable than the Cherubim and more glorious
beyond compare than the Seraphim, thou who without
corruption²⁹, gavest birth to God the Word and art truly
Theotokos, we magnify thee.

Bless, father, in the name of the Lord.

PRIEST: May God be gracious to us and bless us. And make his
face to shine upon us,³⁰ and have mercy on us.

Then the priest says the following prayer:

O God, Lord of Hosts and Author of all creation, in thine
inexpressible compassion thou hast sent down thine only
begotten Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, for the salvation of our
race. By his Precious Cross thou hast torn up the record of our
sins, and thereby thou didst triumph over the princes and
dominions of darkness.

O Master, lover of mankind, accept these prayers of
thanksgiving and supplication even from us sinners, and

²⁹Or remaining virgin, you gave birth...etc.,

³⁰(Ps. 67(66):1).

deliver us from every dark and deadly transgression and from all the visible and invisible enemies that seek to harm us.

Nail our flesh with the fear of thee; and do not let our hearts incline to evil words or thoughts; but pierce our souls with thy love so that ever looking at thee, we will be guided by thy light; and beholding thee, the eternal and unapproachable Light, we may give unceasing praises and thanksgiving to thee, the Father without beginning, together with the only-begotten Son and thy most holy, good and life-giving Spirit: now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

PEOPLE: Amen.

Ninth Hour

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

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

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

And Reader the following Psalms:

Psalm 69<68>

Save me, O God! For the waters have come up to my soul. I sink in deep mire where there is no foothold; I have come into deep waters, where the floods overflow me. I am weary with my crying; my throat is dry; my eyes grow dim while I wait for my God. Those who hate me without a cause are more than the hairs of my head; they are mighty who would destroy me, my enemies who accuse me falsely; though I have stolen nothing, I still must restore it. O God, thou knowest my foolishness, and my sins are not hidden from thee. Do not let those who wait for thee, O Lord God of hosts, be dishonored because of me; do not let those who seek thee be confounded because of me, O God of Israel. It is for thy sake I have borne reproach; shame has covered my face. I have become a stranger to my kindred and an alien to my mother's children;

Zeal for thy house has eaten me up, and the insults of those who insult thee have fallen on me. When I humbled my soul with fasting, they insulted me for doing so. I also made sackcloth my garment; I became a byword to them. Those who sit in the gate speak against me, and I am the song of the drunkards.

But as for me, my prayer is unto thee, O Lord, in the acceptable time; O God, in the multitude of thy mercy, hear

me in the truth of thy salvation. Deliver me out of the mire and let me not sink; let me be delivered from those who hate me and out of the deep waters. Do not let the floodwater overflow me, or the deep swallow me up; or the pit shut its mouth on me. Hear me, O Lord, for thy mercy is good; turn to me according to the multitude of thy mercies. And do not hide thy face from thy servant, for I am in distress; hear me speedily. Draw near to my soul, and redeem it; deliver me because of my enemies. Thou knowest the insults I received and my shame and dishonor; my adversaries are all known to thee. Insults have broken my heart so that I am in despair; I looked for someone to take pity, but there was none, and for comforters, but I found none. They also gave me gall for my food and for my thirst they gave me vinegar to drink. Let their table become a snare before them, a trap for their allies. Let their eyes be darkened so that they do not see, and make their loins shake continually. Pour out thine indignation upon them, and let thy wrathful anger take hold of them. Let their dwelling place be desolate; let no one live in their tents. For they persecute those whom thou hast struck down, and talk of the grief of those whom thou hast wounded. Add iniquity to their iniquity and let them not come into thy righteousness. Let them be blotted out of the book of the living and not be enrolled among the righteous. But I am lowly and sorrowful; let thy salvation, O God, protect me. I will praise the name of

God with a song and will magnify him with thanksgiving. This also will please the Lord better than an ox or bull with horns and hooves. The humble will see this and be glad; and you who seek God, your hearts shall live. For the Lord hears the poor and does not despise his prisoners. Let heaven and earth praise him, the seas and everything that moves in them. For God will save Zion and build the cities of Judah, that they may dwell there and possess it. Also, the descendants of his servants will inherit it, and those who love his name will live in it.

Psalm 70 <69>

Make haste, O God, to deliver me! Make haste to help me, O Lord! Let them be put to shame and confusion who seek my life; let them be turned back and brought to dishonor who desire to hurt me. Let them be turned back because of their shame who say, "Aha, aha!" Let all those who seek thee rejoice and be glad in thee; and let those who love thy salvation say continually, "Let God be magnified!" But I am poor and needy; make haste to me, O God! Thou art my help and my deliverer; O Lord, do not delay.

Psalm 86 <85>

Incline thine ear, O Lord, and answer me, for I am poor and needy. Protect my soul, for I am faithful; O God, save thy

servant whose hope in thee; be merciful to me, O Lord, for unto thee do I cry all the day long. Comfort the soul of thy servant, for unto thee, O Lord, I lift up my soul. For thou, O Lord, art good, gracious, and abundant in mercy to all those who call on thee. Give ear, O Lord, to my prayer, and attend the voice of my supplication. In the day of my trouble I call upon thee, for thou answerest my cry. Among the gods there is none like thee, O Lord; nor are there any works like thee. All nations which thou hast made will come and worship before thee, O Lord, and give glory to thy name. For thou art great and do wondrous things; thou alone art God. Lead me in thy way, O Lord, and I will walk in thy truth. Let my heart rejoice that I may fear thy name. I will praise thee, O Lord my God, with all my heart. And I will glorify thy name forever, for great is thy mercy toward me. Thou hast delivered my soul from the depths of Hades. O God, transgressors have risen up against me; a band of violent people who have not set thee before them have sought my life. But thou, O Lord God, art merciful and gracious, long-suffering, and abundant in mercy and truth. Look down on me, and have mercy upon me! Give strength to thy servant, and save the child of thy handmaiden. Show me a sign of thy goodness that those who hate me may see it and be put to shame because thou, O Lord, hast helped me and comforted 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. (three times).

Lord, have mercy. (*Three times*)

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

Troparion

Tone Eight

CHOIR: When the thief saw the Author of life hanging upon the Cross he said: If the one who is crucified with us were not the incarnate God, the sun's light would not have failed, nor would the earth have quaked and trembled. But, all long-suffering Lord, remember me in thy kingdom.

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

Theotokion

Born of a virgin for our sake and enduring crucifixion, O Good One, thou didst despoil death by death and as God reveal the resurrection. Do not turn away from those whom thou hast

created by thine own hand. O merciful One, show forth thy love for mankind; accept on our behalf the intercessions of her who gave thee birth, the Theotokos, and save, O Savior, a despairing people.

Then we sing the following stichera:

Tone Seven

Strange wonder! How the sun's light failed and the day was changed again to night, and the earth gave up the bodies of the dead from their tombs when the Creator of heaven and earth was seen hanging upon the Cross. With them we fall down before thee: O save us.

They divided my clothes among them, and for my clothing they cast lots.³¹

Tone Two

³¹(Psalm 22<21>:18).

O Lord of glory,³² when the transgressors of Law nailed thee to the Cross, thou didst cry aloud unto them: How have I grieved you? Or in what have I wearied you?³³ Who delivered you from tribulation except me? How do you now repay me? You have given me evil for good: in return for the pillar of fire, you have nailed me to the Cross; in return for the cloud, you have dug a grave for me. Instead of manna, you have given me gall; instead of water, you have given me vinegar to drink. Wherefore, I will call the Gentiles, and they will glorify me with the Father and the Holy Spirit.

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

(Priest goes out front and kneels before the Cross of Christ and the congregation kneels as well.)

Tone Six

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

The King of Angels is arrayed with a crown of thorns.³⁴

³²(1 Cor. 2:8).

³³(Mic. 6:3).

³⁴(Jn.19:2).

He who dressed the heavens with clouds,³⁵ is dressed with a false purple.³⁶

He who in the Jordan set Adam free, receives slaps.

The bridegroom of the Church is transfixed with nails.

The Son of the Virgin is pierced with a spear.

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

Show us thy glorious Resurrection.

Prokimenon of the Prophecy (Psalm 14<13>:1):

Tone Six

READER: The fool says in his heart, there is no God. There is no one that does good, no, not one.

The reading from the Prophecy of Jeremiah.

Jeremiah 11:18-23

DEACON: Wisdom! Let us attend!

³⁵(Ps. 147<146>:8).

³⁶(Jn. 19:2).

READER: It was the Lord who made it known to me, and I knew; for thou didst show me their evil deeds. But I was like a gentle lamb brought to the slaughter; and I did not know that they had devised schemes against me saying, "Let us destroy the tree with its fruit, and let us cut him off from the land of the living that his name may be remembered no more." But thou, O Lord of hosts, who judgest righteously, testing the mind and the heart, let me see thy retribution on them, for unto thee I have revealed my cause. Therefore, this is what the Lord says about the people of Anathoth who seek your life saying, "you will not prophesy in the name of the Lord, or you will die by our hand; therefore, this is what the Lord of hosts says: Behold, I will punish them. The young people will die by the sword; their sons and their daughters will die by famine, and there will be no remnant of them, for I will bring disaster on the people of Anathoth, the year of their punishment.

Jeremiah 12:1-5

Righteous art thou, O Lord, when I plead with thee; yet let me talk with thee about thy judgments. Why does the way of the wicked prosper? Why do all who are treacherous thrive? Thou hast planted them, yea, they have taken root; they grow, yea, they bear fruit. Thou art near to their mouth, but far from their mind. But thou, O Lord, know me; thou hast seen me and thou hast tested my heart toward thee. Pull them out like

sheep for the slaughter and prepare them for the day of slaughter. How long will the land mourn and the herbs of every field wither? The beasts and birds are consumed for the wickedness of those who dwell there because they said, “He will not see our ways.” If you have raced with the foot-runners, and they have wearied thee, then how can you compete with horses?

Jeremiah 12:9-11

Go, assemble all the beasts of the field, Bring them to devour! Many shepherds have destroyed my vineyard, they have trodden my portion underfoot; they have made my pleasant portion a desolate wilderness. They have made it desolate; desolate, it mourns to me;

Jeremiah 12:14-15

This is what the Lord says: “Against all my evil neighbors who touch the heritage which I have given my people Israel to inherit; behold, I will pluck them out of their land and pluck out the house of Judah from among them.” Then it shall be, after I have plucked them out, that I will return and have compassion on them and bring them back, everyone to his heritage and everyone to his land.

The Epistle

The reading from Saint Paul's Letter to the Hebrews.

Hebrews 10:19-31

DEACON: Wisdom! Let us attend!

READER: Brethren, since we have boldness to enter the Holiest by the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way which he consecrated for us, through the curtain, that is, his flesh, and since we have a High Priest over the house of God, let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. Let us hold fast to the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful. And let us consider how to provoke one another to love and good deeds, not forsaking meeting together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and all the more as you see the DAY approaching. For if we sin willfully after we have received the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins, but a certain awesome expectation of judgment and fiery indignation which will devour the adversaries. Anyone who has rejected Moses' law dies without mercy on the testimony of two or three witnesses. Of how much worse punishment, do you suppose, will he be thought worthy who has trampled the Son of God underfoot, profaned the blood of the covenant by which he was

sanctified, and insulted the Spirit of grace? For we know the One who said, “‘Vengeance is mine, I will repay,’ says the Lord.” And again, “The Lord will judge his people.” It is an awesome thing to fall into the hands of the living God.

PRIEST: Peace be to you who has read.

PEOPLE: Alleluia. *(Three times)*

The Gospel

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

The priest blesses the people saying:

PRIEST: Peace be to all.

PEOPLE: And to thy spirit.

DEACON: The reading is from the holy Gospel according to Saint John.

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

DEACON: Let us attend.

John 19:23-37

At that time, when they had crucified Jesus, the soldier took his garments and made four parts, one for each soldier, also his tunic. But the tunic was seamless, woven from top to bottom; so they said to one another, "Let us not tear it, but cast lots for it to see whose it shall be." This was to fulfil the scripture, "They parted my garment among them, and for my clothing they cast lots." So the soldiers did this. But standing by the cross of Jesus were his mother, and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing near, he said to his mother, "Woman, behold your son!" Then he said to the disciple, "Behold, your mother!" And from that hour the disciple took her to his own.

After this Jesus, knowing that all was now finished said (to fulfil the scripture), "I thirst." A bowl full of vinegar stood there; so they put a sponge full of the vinegar on hyssop and held it to his mouth. When Jesus had received the vinegar, he said, "It is finished"; and he bowed his head and gave up the spirit. Since it was the day of Preparation, in order to prevent the bodies from remaining on the cross on the Sabbath (for that Sabbath was a high day), the Jews asked Pilate that their legs might be broken and that they might be taken away. So the soldiers came and broke the legs of the first, and of the other who had been crucified with him; but when they came

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

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

Then the reader says:

READER: For the sake of thy holy name; abandon us not for ever; withdraw not thy covenant, and withhold not thy mercy from us, for the sake of Abraham thy beloved, and for the sake of Isaac, thy servant, and of Israel, thy holy one.³⁷

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

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

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

³⁷(Song of the Three Children, verses 11-12).

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

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

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

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy
kingdom come; thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily³⁸ 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.³⁹

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

PEOPLE: Amen.

³⁸Or, "living".

³⁹Or the evil one.

Then,

The Kontakion

Tone Eight

CHOIR: Come, let us all sing the praises of him who was crucified for us. For Mary said, when she saw him on the Cross: Though thou endurest the Cross, yet thou art my Son and God.

READER: Lord, Have Mercy. (*Forty times*)

Thou who art at all times and at every hour in heaven and earth worshiped and glorified, O Christ our God, most patient, most merciful, and most compassionate; thou lovest the just and the righteous and hast mercy on sinners, thou callest all to repentance and salvation through the promise of the good things to come: receive, O Lord, our prayers at this hour, and guide our life to thy commandments. Sanctify our souls, purify our bodies, direct our thoughts, clarify our intentions, and deliver us from all distress, evil and sorrow. Surround us with thy holy angels, so that guided and guarded by their host, we may attain to the unity of the faith and the full knowledge of thine unapproachable glory. For blessed art thou unto ages of ages, Amen.

Lord, have mercy. (*Three times*)

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

More honorable than the Cherubim and more glorious beyond compare than the Seraphim, thou who without corruption⁴⁰, gavest birth to God the Word and art truly Theotokos, we magnify thee.

Bless, father, in the name of the Lord.

PRIEST: May God be gracious to us and bless us. And make his face to shine upon us,⁴¹ and have mercy on us.

Then the priest says the following prayer:

O Master, Lord Jesus Christ, thou hast patiently endured our sins, and hast led us even to the present hour, at which, as thou hung upon the life-giving tree, thou opened a way into paradise for the repentant thief, and by death destroyed death. Forgive us sinners, thine unworthy servants; for we have sinned and transgressed thy Law, and we are unworthy even to lift up our eyes to gaze on the heights of heaven, for

⁴⁰Or remaining virgin, you gave birth...etc.,

⁴¹(Ps. 67(66):1).

we have abandoned the path of thy righteousness, and have conducted our lives after the desires of our own hearts.

But we implore thy boundless goodness: Keep us, O Lord, from doing evil, according to the multitude of thy mercies, and save us, for the sake of thy most Holy Name; for our days have passed by in futility. Rescue us from the hand of the enemy, forgive our sins, and subdue in us our fleshly way of thinking, that putting off our old humanity, we may put on the new and may live with thee, our Master and Guardian; and that following thy commandments, we may reach eternal rest in the dwelling place of all those who rejoice. For thou art truly the joy and delight of those who love thee, O Christ our God, and unto thee we give glory, together with thy Father, who has no beginning, and thine all-holy, good and life-giving Spirit: now and ever and unto ages of ages.

PEOPLE: Amen.

The Typika

PEOPLE: In thy Kingdom remember us, O Lord, when thou comest into thy Kingdom.⁴²

And the Beatitudes, at the end of which we say:

⁴²(Lk.23:42).

Remember us, O Lord, when thou comest into thy Kingdom.

Matthew 5:3-12

“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.

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

Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy.

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

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

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

Blessed are you when they revile and persecute you, and say all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account.

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

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

Remember us, O Lord, when thou comest into thy Kingdom.

Remember us, O Master, when thou comest into thy Kingdom.

Remember us, O Holy One, when thou comest into thy Kingdom.

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

The heavenly choir and the Archangels and all the Heavenly Powers sing thy praises saying: Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord Sabaoth⁴³! Heaven and earth are filled with thy glory⁴⁴:

Now and ever and unto ages of ages, Amen.

⁴³(Rom. 9:29).

⁴⁴(Is. 6:3).

The Creed

PEOPLE: I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible; And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God, the Only-begotten, Begotten of the Father before all worlds, Light of Light, Very God of Very God, begotten, not made; of one essence with the Father, by whom all things were made: Who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven, and was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary, and was made⁴⁵ man; And was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate, and suffered and was buried; And the third day he rose, according to the Scriptures; And ascended into heaven, and sits at the right hand of the Father; And he shall come again with glory to judge the living and the dead, whose kingdom shall have no end. And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, and Giver of Life, who proceeds from the Father, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the Prophets; And I believe in One Holy Catholic and Apostolic Church. I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins. I look for the Resurrection of the dead, and the Life of the world to come. Amen.

Then,

⁴⁵or, “became man”

Forgive, remit, and pardon, O God, our sins both voluntary and involuntary, in deed and in word, in knowledge and in ignorance, committed by night or by day, in intention and in thought: forgive us them all, for thou art good and the lover of mankind.

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 daily⁴⁶ 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.⁴⁷

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

PEOPLE: Amen.

The Kontakion

CHOIR: Come, let us all the sing the praises of him who was crucified for us, for Mary saw thee on the Tree and said: Even though thou endured the Cross, thou art my Son and my God.

⁴⁶Or, "living".

⁴⁷Or the evil one.

The Dismissal

DEACON: Wisdom!

PEOPLE: Father, bless.

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

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

PRIEST: O most holy Theotokos, save us!

PEOPLE: More honorable than the Cherubim and more glorious beyond compare than the Seraphim, thou who without corruption⁴⁸, gavest birth to God the Word and art truly Theotokos, we magnify thee.

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

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

⁴⁸Or remaining virgin...etc.,

have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Father, bless.

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

Then facing the icon of Christ, the priest says:

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

PEOPLE: Amen.

