



НА СВЕТИ И ВЕЛИКИ ПЕТАК
COMBINED SERVICES OF
GREAT AND HOLY FRIDAY

On Great and Holy Friday

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

READER: Amen. 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!
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. Amen.

O most-holy Trinity: have mercy on us. O Lord: cleanse us from our sins. O Master: pardon our transgressions. O Holy One: 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. 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 for-give us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.

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, **(twelve times)**
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 103

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, who hast stretched out the heavens like a tent, who hast laid the beams of Thy chambers on the waters, who makes the clouds Thy chariot, who rides on the wings of the wind, who makes the winds Thy messengers, fire and flame Thy ministers. Thou did set the earth on its foundations, so that it should never be shaken, Thou did 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 did appoint for them. Thou did set a bound which they should not pass so that they might not again cover the earth. Thou makes 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 waters the mountains; the earth is satisfied with the fruit of Thy work. Thou dost cause the grass to grow for the cattle, and plants for man to cultivate, 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 makes 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 did form to sport in it. These all look to Thee, to give them their food in due season. When Thou gives to them, they gather it up; when Thou opens Thy hand, they are filled with good things. When Thou hides Thy face, they are dismayed; when Thou takes away their breath, they die and return to their dust. When Thou sends forth Thy Spirit, they are created; and Thou renews 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 makes 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. Alleluia!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Glory to Thee, O God. Alleluia! Alleluia!
Alleluia! Glory to Thee, O God.**

The Great Litany

PRIEST: In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

PEOPLE: Lord, have mercy.

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

PEOPLE: Lord, have mercy.

PRIEST: For the peace of the whole world, for the welfare of the holy churches of God, and for the union of all, let us pray to the Lord.

PEOPLE: Lord, have mercy.

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

PEOPLE: Lord, have mercy.

PRIEST: For His Holiness, our Patriarch, _____ and for Our

Bishop _____, for the honorable priesthood, the diaconate in Christ, for all the clergy and the people, let us pray to the Lord.

PEOPLE: Lord, have mercy.

PRIEST: For the President of our country, for all civil authorities, and for our armed forces, let us pray to the Lord.

PEOPLE: Lord, have mercy.

PRIEST: For this city, for every city and country, and for the faithful dwelling in them, let us pray to the Lord.

PEOPLE: Lord, have mercy.

PRIEST: For seasonable weather, for abundance of the fruits of the earth, and for peaceful times, let us pray to the Lord.

PEOPLE: Lord, have mercy.

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

PEOPLE: Lord, have mercy.

PRIEST: For our deliverance from all affliction, wrath, danger, and necessity, let us pray to the Lord.

PEOPLE: Lord, have mercy.

PRIEST: Help us, save us, have mercy on us, and keep us, O God, by Thy grace.

PEOPLE: Lord, have mercy.

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

PEOPLE: To Thee, O Lord.

PRIEST: For unto Thee are due all glory, honor, and worship, to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

PEOPLE: Amen. 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!

Tone 1

VERSE 6: If Thou, O Lord, should mark iniquities, Lord, who could stand? But there is forgiveness with Thee.

All creation was changed by fear when it saw Thee hanging on the cross, O Christ! The sun was darkened, and the foundations of the earth were shaken. All things suffered with the Creator of all. O Lord, who did willingly endure this for us, glory to Thee!

VERSE 5: 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.

All creation was changed by fear when it saw Thee hanging on the cross, O Christ! The sun was darkened, and the foundations of the earth were shaken. All things suffered with the Creator of all. O Lord, who did willingly endure this for us, glory to Thee!

Tone 2

VERSE 4: From the morning watch until night, from the morning watch, let Israel hope on the Lord.

An impious and transgressing people Why do they imagine vain things? Why do they condemn to death the Life of all? O great wonder! The Creator of the world is betrayed into the hands of lawless men. He who loves mankind is lifted up upon the wood, that He might free those bound in hell, who cry: O long-suffering Lord, glory to Thee!

VERSE 3: For with the Lord there is mercy, with Him is plenteous redemption. He will deliver Israel from all His iniquities.

Today the blameless Virgin saw Thee suspended upon the cross, O Word. She mourned within herself and was sorely pierced in her heart. She groaned in agony from the depth of her soul. Exhausted from tearing her hair and cheeks and beating her breast, she cried out lamenting: "Woe is me, O my divine child! Woe is me, O light of the world! Why hast Thou departed from my eyes, O Lamb of God?" Then the bodiless hosts were seized with trembling and cried: "O Incomprehensible Lord, glory to Thee!"

VERSE 2: Praise the Lord, all nations! Praise Him all peoples!

When she who bore Thee without seed saw Thee suspended upon the Tree, O Christ, the Creator and God of all, she cried bitterly: "Where is the beauty of Thy form, O my Son? I cannot bear to see Thee unjustly crucified. Hasten and arise, that I too may see Thy resurrection from the dead on the third day!

**VERSE 1: For His mercy is confirmed on us,
and the truth of the Lord endures forever.**

Today the Master of creation stands before Pilate. Today the Creator of all is condemned to die on the cross. Of His own will, He is led as a lamb to the slaughter. He who fed His people with manna in the desert is transfixed with nails. His side is pierced, and a sponge of vinegar touches His lips. The Redeemer of the world is slapped on the face. The Maker of all is mocked by His own servants. How great is the Master's love for mankind! For those who crucified Him, He prayed to His Father saying: "Forgive them this sin, for they know not what they do."

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

See how the lawless assembly condemns the King of creation to death. They are not ashamed, even when He reminds them of His mighty works: "My people, what have I done to you? Have I not filled Judea with miracles? Have I not raised the dead by my word alone? Have I not healed every sickness and disease? How have you repaid me? Why have you abandoned me? In return for healing, you give me blows; In return for life, you put me to death. You hang your Benefactor on the cross, as an evildoer; Your Lawgiver, as a transgressor; The King of all, as one condemned." O long-suffering Lord, glory to Thee!

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

We see a strange and fearful mystery accomplished today. He whom none may touch is seized. He who looses Adam from the curse is bound. He who tries the hearts of men is unjustly brought to trial. He who closed the abyss is shut in prison. He before whom the hosts of heaven stand with trembling stands before Pilate. The

Creator is struck by the hand of His creature. He who comes to judge the living and the dead is condemned to the cross. The Conqueror of hell is enclosed in a tomb. O Thou, who hast endured all these things in Thy tender love, Thou hast saved all men from the curse, O longsuffering Lord, glory to Thee!

Procession with the Gospel

PRIEST: Wisdom! Let us attend!

PEOPLE: O Gladsome Light of the holy Glory of the Immortal Father, heavenly, holy, blessed Jesus Christ! Now that we have come to the setting of the sun and behold the light of evening, we praise God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit for meet it is at all times to worship Thee with voices of praise, O Son of God and Giver of Life. Therefore all the world doth glorify Thee!

PRIEST: Let us attend! Peace be unto all!

READER: And with thy Spirit!

PRIEST: Wisdom!

READER: The PROKIMENON in the 6th tone: They have thrown me into the lowest pit and into darkness and shadow of death

VERSE: O Lord God of my salvation I call for help by day: I cry out in the night before Thee!

PRIEST: Wisdom

READER: Reading of the first Epistle of St Paul to the Corinthians

PRIEST: Let us attend

READER: Brethren, the message of the Cross is foolishness to those, who are perishing, but it is the power of God to us, who are being saved. For the Scripture says: "I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and I will thwart the shrewdness of the shrewd." Where is the wise man? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? God has

made their worldly wisdom sound foolish. For, when God showed us his divine wisdom, men with their worldly wisdom failed to know God. Now, God has chosen to save the believers through the Gospel message, which sounds foolish to them. For the Jews are demanding miracles, and the Greeks are looking for philosophy.

But we are preaching a Messiah, who was crucified. This crucified Messiah is a stumbling- block to the Jews, and foolishness to the Gentiles, but he is the power and the wisdom of God to those Jews and Gentiles, who have received the heavenly call. For what is called divine foolishness is superior to human wisdom, and what is called divine weakness is stronger than human strength. For consider what God has done, when he called you, my brethren. According to worldly standards, very few of you were learned, influential, and well-born.

But God has chosen the simple men of this world to confound the learned. God has chosen the weak men of this world to confound the powerful. God has chosen the lowly, the despised, and the unimportant men to annihilate the important men of this world, so that no human creature might boast in his presence. Now, God is the source of your life, your wisdom, your consecration, and your redemption in Jesus Christ. Therefore, as the Scripture says: "If anyone wants to boast, let him boast in the Lord." So, when I came to you, my brethren, I did not proclaim to you the message of God in lofty eloquence and wisdom. For while I was among you, I did not claim to know anything except Jesus Christ, the crucified Messiah.

PRIEST: Peace be unto you

READER! Wisdom!

Alleluia Tone 1,

PEOPLE: Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia

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

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

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

PRIEST: Wisdom! Attend! Let us listen to the Holy Gospel! Peace be unto all!

PEOPLE: And to your spirit.

PRIEST: The reading from the Holy Gospel according to St.

Matthew. **PEOPLE:** Glory to Thy passion, O Lord.

PRIEST: Wisdom!

The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew 27:1-38;

Luke 23:39-43; Matthew 27:39-54; John 19:31-37; Matthew 27:55-61

At that time all the priests and the elders of the people took counsel together against Jesus in order to put him to death. And they bound him and led him away, and delivered him to Pontius Pilate the procurator. Then Judas, who betrayed him, when he saw he was condemned, repented and brought back the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and the elders, saying, "I have sinned in betraying innocent blood." But they said, "What is that to us? See to it yourself." And he flung the pieces of silver into the temple and left. And he went away and hanged himself with a halter. And the chief priests took the pieces of silver, and said, "It is not lawful to put them into the treasury, since it is the price of blood." And after they had consulted together, they bought with them the potter's field, as a burial place for strangers. For this reason that field has been called Haceldama, that is, the Field of Blood, even to this very day. (Then was fulfilled what was spoken through Jeremiah the prophet, saying, "And they took the thirty pieces of silver, the price of him who was priced, upon whom the children of Israel set a price; and they gave them for the potter's field, as the Lord directed me.")

Now Jesus stood before the procurator; and the procurator asked him, saying, "Are you the king of the Jews?" Jesus said to him, "You say it" And when he was accused by the chief priests and the elders, he made no answer. Then Pilate said to him, "Do you not hear how many charges they are bringing against you?" But he did not answer him a single word, so that the procurator was baffled.

Now at festival time the procurator used to release to the crowd a prisoner, whomever they would. Now he held at that time a

notorious prisoner called Barabbas. Therefore, when they had gathered together, Pilate asked, "Whom do you want me to release to you, Barabbas, or Jesus who is called Christ?" For he knew they had delivered him up out of envy.

Now, as he was sitting on the judgment-seat, his wife sent a messenger to him, saying, "Have nothing to do with that just man, for I have suffered many things in a dream today because of him."

But the chief priests and the elders persuaded the crowds to ask for Barabbas and to destroy Jesus. But the procurator addressed them and said to them, "Which of the two do you want me to release to you?" And they said, "Barabbas." Pilate asked them, "What then am I to do with Jesus who is called Christ?" They all said, "Let him be crucified!" The Procurator said to them, "Why, what evil has he done?" But they kept crying out the more, saying, "Let him be crucified!"

Now Pilate, seeing he was doing no good, but rather that a riot was breaking out, took water and washed his hands in sight of the crowd, saying, "I am innocent of the blood of this just man; see to it yourselves." And all the people answered and said, "His blood be on us and on our children!" Then he released to them Barabbas; but Jesus he had scourged and delivered to them to be crucified, and gathered together about him the whole cohort.

And they stripped Then the soldiers of the procurator took Jesus into the praetorium, him and put on him a scarlet cloak; and plaiting a crown of thorns, they put it upon his head, and a reed into his right hand; and bending the knee before him they mocked him, saying, "Hail, King of the Jews!" And they spat on him, and took the reed and kept striking him on the head. And when they had mocked him, they took the cloak off him and put his own clothes on him and led him away to crucify him.

Now as they went out, they found a man of Cyrene named Simon and they forced him to take up his cross. And they came to the place called Golgotha, that is, the Place of the Skull. And they gave him wine to drink mixed with gall; but when he had tasted it,

he would not drink. And after they had crucified him, they divided his garments, casting lots, to fulfill what was spoken through the prophet, "They divided my garments among them, and upon my vesture they cast lots." And sitting down they kept watch over him. And they put above his head the charge against him, written, "This is Jesus, the King of the Jews." Then two robbers were crucified with him, one on his right hand and the other on his left.

Now one of those bandits who were hanged was abusing him, saying, "If you are the Christ, save yourself and us!" But the other in answer rebuked him and said, "Do you not fear God, seeing that you are under the same sentence? And we indeed justly, for we are receiving what our deeds deserved; but this man has done nothing wrong." And he said to Jesus, "Lord, remember me when you come into your kingdom." And Jesus said to him, "Amen I say to you, this day you shall be with me in paradise."

Now the passers-by were jeering at him shaking their heads, and saying, "You who destroy the temple, and in three days build it up again, save yourself! If you are the Son of God, come down from the cross!" In like manner, the chief priests with the Scribes and the elders, mocking, said, "He saved others, himself he cannot save! If he is the King of Israel, let him come down now from the cross, and we will believe him. He trusted in God; let him deliver him now, if he wants him; for he said, 'I am the Son of God/' " And the robbers also, who were crucified with him, reproached him in the same way.

Now from the sixth hour there was darkness over the whole land until the ninth hour. But about the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, "Eli, Eli, lema sabakhthani?" that is, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" And some of the bystanders on hearing this said, "This man is calling Elijah." And immediately one of them ran and, taking a sponge, soaked it in common wine, put it on a reed, and offered it to him to drink. But the rest said, "Wait, let us see whether Elijah is coming to save him." But Jesus again cried out with a loud voice and gave up his spirit. And behold, the curtain of the temple was torn in two from top to

bottom; and the earth quaked, and rocks were split, and tombs were opened, and many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep arose; and coming out of the tombs after his resurrection, they came into the holy city, and appeared to many. Now when the centurion, and those who were with him keeping guard over Jesus, saw the earthquake and the things that were happening, they were very much afraid, and they said, "Truly he was the Son of God!"

The Jews therefore, since it was the Preparation Day (Friday), in order that the bodies might not remain upon the cross on the Sabbath (for that Sabbath was a solemn day), asked Pilate that their legs be broken, and that they be taken away. The soldiers therefore 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 he was already dead, they did not break his legs; but one of the soldiers opened his side with a lance, and immediately there came out blood and water. And the one who saw it has borne witness, and his witness is true; and he knows he tells the truth, that you also may believe. For these things came to pass that the Scripture might be fulfilled, "Not a bone of him shall you break." And again another Scripture says, "They shall look upon him whom they have pierced."

And many women were there, looking on from a distance, who had followed Jesus from Galilee, serving him. Among them were Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James and Joses, and the mother of the sons of Zebedee. Now when it was evening, there came a certain rich man of Arimathea, Joseph by name, who was himself a disciple of Jesus. He went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. Then Pilate ordered the body to be given up. And Joseph taking the body, wrapped it in a clean linen cloth and laid it in his new tomb, which he had hewn out of the rock. Then he rolled a large stone to the entrance of the tomb, and left. But Mary Magdalene and the other Mary were there, sitting opposite the tomb.

PEOPLE: Glory to Thy long-suffering, O Lord!

Augmented Litany

PRIEST: Let us say with all our soul and with all our mind, let us say.

PEOPLE: Lord, have mercy.

PRIEST: O Lord Almighty, the God of our Fathers, we pray thee: hearken and have mercy.

PEOPLE: Lord, have mercy.

PRIEST: Have mercy on us, O God, according to thy great goodness, we pray thee: hearken and have mercy.

PEOPLE: Lord, have mercy. Lord have mercy Lord have mercy.

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

PEOPLE: Lord, have mercy. Lord have mercy Lord have mercy.

PRIEST: Again we pray for our most holy Patriarch, for our most reverend bishop, and for priests, deacons, monastics and all other clergy, and for all our brethren in Christ.

PEOPLE: Lord, have mercy. Lord have mercy Lord have mercy.

PRIEST: Again we pray for the blessed ever-memorable and most holy Orthodox patriarchs, for the blessed founders of this holy church and for all our Orthodox fathers and brethren departed from this life before us, who here and in all the world lie asleep in the Lord.

PEOPLE: Lord, have mercy. Lord have mercy Lord have mercy.

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

PEOPLE: Lord, have mercy. Lord have mercy Lord have mercy.

PRIEST: Again we pray for those who bear fruit and do good works in this holy and all-venerable church; for those who serve and those who sing; and for all the people here present, who await thy great and rich mercy.

PEOPLE: Lord, have mercy. Lord have mercy Lord have mercy.

PRIEST: For thou art a merciful God and Lovest mankind, and unto thee we ascribe glory: to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

PEOPLE: Amen.

READER: Vouchsafe, O Lord, to keep us this night without sin. Blessed art Thou, O Lord God of our fathers, and praised and glorified be 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.

The Litany of Fervent Supplication

PRIEST: Let us complete our evening prayer unto the Lord.

PEOPLE: Lord, have mercy.

PRIEST: Help us, save us, have mercy upon us, and keep us, O God, by thy grace.

PEOPLE: Lord, have mercy.

PRIEST: That the whole evening may be perfect, holy, peaceful, and sinless, let us ask of the Lord.

PEOPLE: Grant this, O Lord.

PRIEST: An angel of peace, a faithful guide, a guardian of our souls and bodies, let us ask of the Lord.

PEOPLE: Grant this, O Lord.

PRIEST: Pardon and remission of our sins and transgressions, let us ask of the Lord.

PEOPLE: Grant this, O Lord.

PRIEST: All things good and profitable for our souls and peace for the world, let us ask of the Lord.

PEOPLE: Grant this, O Lord.

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

PEOPLE: Grant this, O Lord.

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

PEOPLE: Grant this, O Lord.

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

PEOPLE: To Thee O Lord.

PRIEST: For thou art a good God and lovest mankind, and unto thee we ascribe glory: to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: now and ever and unto ages of ages.

PEOPLE: Amen.

PRIEST: Peace be to all!

PEOPLE: And to thy spirit.

PRIEST: Let us bow our heads to the Lord.

PEOPLE: To Thee O Lord, **(extended)**

PRIEST: O Lord our God, who did bow the heavens and come down for the salvation of the human race, look upon Thy servants and upon Thine inheritance, for to Thee, the awesome judge who lovest mankind, have Thy servants bowed their heads and bent their necks; not expecting help from men, but hoping in Thy mercy and looking for Thy salvation. Protect them at all times, especially in this present evening and in the coming night, from every enemy, from every adverse work of the devil, from vain thoughts, and from evil imaginations.

Aloud: Blessed and most glorified be the majesty of Thy Kingdom: of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

PEOPLE: Amen.

The Aposticha Tone 2 special Melody)

PEOPLE: Joseph of Arimathea took Thee down from the tree, the Life of all, cold in death. Bathing Thee with sweet and costly myrrh, he gently covered Thee with finest linen and with sorrow and tender

love in his heart, he embraced Thy most pure Body. Trembling at this awesome sight, he cried out to Thee, O Christ: glory to Thy condescension, O Lover of man!

VERSE: The Lord is King! He is robed in majesty!

PEOPLE: When Thou, the Redeemer of all, wast placed in a tomb, all hell's powers quaked in fear. Its bars were broken, its gates were smashed! Its mighty reign was brought to an end, for the dead came forth alive from their tombs, casting off the bonds of their captivity. Adam was filled with joy! He gratefully cried out to Thee, O Christ: Glory to Thy condescension, O Lover of man!

VERSE: He has established the world so that it shall never be moved.

PEOPLE: In the flesh Thou wast willingly enclosed in the tomb, who art boundless and infinite in Thy divinity, Thou did close the chambers of death, O Christ. Thou hast emptied all the palaces of hell. Thou hast honored this Sabbath with Thy blessing, glory and splendor!

VERSE: Holiness befits Thy house, O Lord, forevermore.

PEOPLE: The powers of heaven shook with fear, when they saw Thine ineffable forbearance. They beheld Thee slandered by lawless men, mocked as a deceiver by transgressors. They beheld the stone that closed Thy tomb sealed by the same hands that pierced Thy side, but they knew that Thy death would be our life, and joyfully they cried out to Thee, O Christ: Glory to Thy condescension, O Lover of Man!

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

(Tone 5)

PEOPLE: Joseph together with Nicodemus took Thee down from the tree, who clothest Thyself with light as with a garment He gazed on Thy Body—dead, naked and unburied—and in grief and tender compassion he lamented: Woe is me, my sweetest Jesus! A short while ago, the sun beheld Thee hanging on the cross, and it hid itself in darkness. The earth quaked with fear at the sight. The veil of the

temple was torn in two. Lo, now I see Thee willingly submit to death for my sake. How shall I bury Thee, O my God? How can I wrap Thee in a shroud? How can I touch Thy most pure Body with my hands? What songs can I sing for Thy Exodus, O Compassionate One? I magnify Thy Passion. I glorify Thy burial and Thy holy Resurrection, crying: O Lord, glory to Thee!

PEOPLE: Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant depart in peace, according to Thy word, for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation, which Thou hast prepared before the face of all peoples: a light to enlighten the Gentiles, and to be the glory of Thy people Israel.

READER: 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. Amen. O most-holy Trinity: have mercy on us. O Lord: cleanse us from our sins. O Master: pardon our transgressions. O Holy One: 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. 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 for-give us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.

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 Troparion Tone 2

The noble Joseph, when he had taken down Thy most pure Body from the tree, wrapped it in fine linen, and anointed it with spices, and placed it in a new tomb.

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

The angel came to the myrrh-bearing women at the tomb and said: Myrrh is fitting for the dead, but Christ has shown Himself a stranger to corruption.

The First Stasis (Tone Five)

Blessed art Thou, O Lord! Teach me Thy Statutes!

**1. Blessed are those whose way is blameless,
Who walk in the law of the Lord.**

In a tomb they laid Thee, O Christ the Life. The angelic hosts were overcome with awe, and glorified Thy condescension.

**2. Blessed are those who keep His testimonies,
Who seek Him with their whole heart.**

O Life, how canst Thou die? How canst Thou dwell in a tomb? Yet by Thy death Thou hast destroyed the reign of death, and raised all the dead from hell.

3. For those who work wickedness have not walked in His ways.

We magnify Thee, O Jesus, our King. We worship Thy passion and Thy Burial, for by them, Thou hast saved us from death.

4. Thou hast commanded Thy precepts to be diligently kept.

Earth's bounds Thou hast measured, O Jesus, King of all, yet today Thou dwellest in a narrow tomb, raising the dead from their graves.

5. O that my ways may be steadfast in keeping Thy statutes!

O Messiah, Jesus, my King, the Lord of all, whom art Thou seeking in the depths of hell? Hast Thou come to free the race of mortal men?

6. Then I shall not be put to shame, having my eyes fixed on all Thy commandments.

Lo, the sovereign Ruler of creation is dead. Almighty God is laid in a new tomb, to empty the graves of all their dead.

7. I will praise Thee with an upright heart, when I learn Thy righteous ordinances.

In a tomb they laid Thee, O Christ the Life. By Thy Death Thou hast cast down the might of death and become the font of life for all the world.

8. I will observe Thy statutes; O forsake me not utterly.

Thou hast been numbered, among transgressors, O Christ. Thou hast justified us all, O Lamb of God, by freeing us from the devil's works.

**9. How can a young man keep his way pure?
By guarding it according to Thy word.**

Thou, O Lord, art fairer than all the sons of men. Thou hast filled creation with Thy beauty, how canst Thou lie before us dead this day?

**10. With my whole heart I seek Thee;
Let me not wander from Thy commandments.**

How could hell bear Thy coming and not shatter at once? Death is blinded by Thy splendor, O Lord. Its gloom is scattered by Thy dazzling light.

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

O Word of God, we praise Thee, the Lord of all the world, with Thy Father and Thy Holy Spirit, and we glorify Thy Burial.

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

We bless you, O Virgin Birth-giver of God. And with faithful hearts we praise the burial endured by your Son and our God. In a tomb they laid Thee, O Christ the Life. The angelic hosts were overcome with awe, and glorified Thy condescension.

The Second Stasis (Tone Five)

It is right to magnify Thee, O Life-giving Lord. Thou hast stretched out Thy most pure arms upon the cross, and broken the enemy's power.

**1. Thy hands have made and fashioned me; give me
Understanding that I may learn Thy commandments.**

It is right to magnify Thee, O Creator of all. We are freed from passion through Thy Passion, and delivered from corruption.

**2. Those who fear Thee shall see me and rejoice,
because I have hoped in Thy word.**

The earth quaked with fear, O Savior Christ; the sun hid itself, seeing Thee, the Light that knows no evening, sinking down into the tomb.

**3. I know, O Lord, that Thy judgments are right,
And that in faithfulness Thou hast afflicted me.**

Thou hast slept in the tomb, O Christ, a life-giving sleep, by which Thou hast wakened all the human race from the heavy slumber of sin.

**4. Let Thy steadfast love be ready to comfort me,
According to Thy promise to Thy servant.**

Alone among women, O my Child, I gave birth to Thee without pain. Now I cannot bear the grief I suffer," the Most Pure Mother cried.

**5. Let Thy mercy come to me that I may live,
for Thy law is my delight.**

The seraphim saw Thee, O Lord, lying dead on earth below, yet united with Thy Father on high; and they shuddered and trembled with fear.

**6. Let the godless be put to shame, because they have transgressed
against me unjustly; as for me, I will meditate on Thy precepts.**

The veil of the temple was torn at Thy crucifixion, and the lights of heaven hid their radiance, when Thou, the Sun, wast hidden in the earth.

**7. Let those who fear Thee turn to me,
That they might know Thy testimonies.**

By Thy nod alone, long ago, the earth was set on its course. Now Thou hast descended dead beneath the earth. Tremble, O heaven, at this sight.

**8. May my heart be blameless in Thy statutes,
That I may not be put to shame.**

Thou, who didst form man with Thy hand, hast gone down beneath the earth, and, O Sun, with Thine almighty right hand, Thou hast raised up fallen men.

9. My soul languishes for Thy salvation; I hope in Thy word.

Come, let us sing our lament to Christ, who dies for us, that we may be worthy, with the myrrh bearers, to hear His saving greeting: Rejoice!

**10. My eyes fail with watching for Thy promise;
I ask, "When wilt Thou comfort me?"**

Thou art in very truth, O Word, the Myrrh of incorruption. Therefore, to anoint Thee as the Living God, the women brought Thee precious myrrh.

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

O God without beginning, Eternal Word and Spirit, help Thy people to prevail against the foe, as Thou art the Lover of mankind.

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

O Virgin, pure and undefiled, You gave birth to our life: make the strife and scandals of the Church to cease; in your goodness, grant her peace.

It is right to magnify Thee, O Live-giving Lord, Thou hast stretched out Thy most pure arms upon the cross, and broken the enemy's power.

The Third Stasis (Tone Three)

Every generation offers Thee its hymn of praise at Thy burial, O my Christ.

**1. Look upon me, and be merciful to me,
As is Thy good pleasure toward those who love Thy name.**

The Arimathean took Thee down from the tree and laid Thee in a tomb.

**2. Order my steps according to Thy promise,
And let no iniquity have dominion over me.**

The myrrh-bearing women, with foresight brought sweet spices and drew near to Thee, O my Christ.

**3. Deliver me from the false accusation of men,
That I may keep Thy precepts.**

Come, all creation, sing a hymn to honor the Creator's Burial.

**4. Make Thy face to shine upon Thy servant,
And teach me Thy statutes.**

Let us, with the myrrh bearers, anoint as dead the Living One with the Myrrh of True Knowledge.

**5. My eyes shed streams of tears,
Because men do not keep Thy law.**

O thrice blessed Joseph, bury now the body of Christ the Giver of Life.

6. Righteous art Thou, O Lord, and right are Thy judgments.

Thou didst feed Thy people with manna in the desert, but they raised their heel against Thee.

**7. Thou hast appointed Thy testimonies
In righteousness and in all faithfulness.**

Thou didst feed the nations, filling them with bounty. They repay Thee with gall and vinegar.

8. My zeal consumes me, because my foes forget Thy words.

O the folly of those who killed the prophets! Now they slay the Messiah.

**9. Thy promise is well tried in the fire,
And Thy servant loves it.**

Judas the disciple, like a foolish servant, has betrayed the Abyss of Wisdom.

10. I am small and despised, yet I do not forget Thy precepts.

Judas the traitor has become a captive by selling His Deliverer.

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

O God in Trinity, Father, Son and Spirit, grant Thy mercy to the world.

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

Grant us, your servants, to behold, O Virgin, the Resurrection of your Son!

Every generation offers Thee its hymn of praise at Thy burial, O my Christ.

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

The angelic host was filled with awe, when it saw Thee among the dead. By destroying the power of death, O Savior, Thou didst raise Adam, and save all men from hell!

Blessed art Thou, O Lord, teach me Thy statutes

In the tomb, the radiant angel cried to the myrrh bearers: Why do you women mingle myrrh with your tears? Look at the tomb and understand! The Savior is risen from the dead!

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

Very early in the morning, the myrrh bearers ran with sorrow to Thy tomb, but an angel came to them and said: The time for sorrow has come to an end! Do not weep, but announce the resurrection to the apostles!

Blessed art Thou, O Lord, teach me Thy statutes

The myrrh bearers were sorrowful as they neared Thy tomb, but the angel said to them: Why do you number the living among the dead? Since He is God, He is risen from the tomb!

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

We worship the Father, and His Son, and the Holy Spirit: the Holy Trinity, one in essence! We cry with the seraphim:
Holy, Holy, Holy art Thou, O Lord!

Now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Since you gave birth to the Giver of Life, O Virgin, you delivered Adam from his sin! You gave joy to Eve instead of sadness! The God-man who was born of you has restored to life those who had fallen from it!

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia! Glory to Thee, O God!
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia! Glory to Thee, O God!
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia! Glory to Thee, O God!

PRIEST: Again and again in peace, let us pray to the Lord.

PEOPLE: Lord, have mercy..

PRIEST: Help us, save us, have mercy on us, and keep us, O God, by Thy grace.

PEOPLE: Lord, have mercy.

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

PEOPLE: To Thee, O Lord.

PRIEST: For Thou art the King of peace, O Christ our God, and to Thee we ascribe glory, together with Thine eternal Father, and Thy most holy, good and life-creating Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

PEOPLE: Amen.

The Praises Tone2

Let everything that breathes praise the Lord! Praise the Lord from the heavens! Praise Him in the highest! To Thee, O God, is due a song! Praise Him, all you angels of His! Praise Him, all His hosts! To Thee, O God, is due a song!

Praise Him for His mighty deeds;
Praise Him according to His exceeding greatness.

Today a tomb holds Him who holds creation in the hollow of His Hand. A stone covers Him who covered the heavens with glory. Life sleeps, and hell trembles. Adam is set free from his bonds. Glory to Thy plan of salvation! By it Thou hast fulfilled all things, granting us an eternal Sabbath rest: Thy most holy Resurrection from the dead!

Praise Him with trumpet sound; Praise Him with lute and harp.

What is this sight we behold? What is this present rest? The King of the ages keeps the Sabbath in the tomb; Through His Passion He has fulfilled the plan of salvation, granting us a new Sabbath rest To Him let us cry aloud: Arise, O God, and judge the earth, for Thou dost reign forever, and beyond measure is Thy great mercy.

**Praise Him with timbrel and dance;
Praise Him with strings and pipe.**

Come, let us see our Life lying in the tomb, to give life to those who lie dead in the tombs. Come, look today on the Son of Judah sleeping; with Jacob the patriarch let us cry to Him: "Thou hast stooped down; Thou hast couched as a lion; who dares rouse Thee up, O King?" But arise in Thine own power, O Thou who didst willingly give Thyself for us. O Lord, glory to Thee!

Praise Him with sounding cymbals; Praise Him with loud clashing cymbals. Let everything that breathes praise the Lord.

Tone 6

Joseph asked for the Body of Jesus and placed it in his own new tomb. It was fitting for the Lord to come forth from the grave as from a bridal chamber. Thou hast destroyed the dominion of death. Thou hast opened to men the gates of paradise. O Lord, glory to Thee!

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

The great Moses mystically foreshadowed this day, when he said: God blessed the seventh day. This is the Blessed Sabbath; this is the day of rest, on which the Only-Begotten Son of God rested from all His works. By suffering death to fulfill the plan of salvation, He kept the Sabbath in the flesh; by returning again to what He was, He has granted us eternal life through His resurrection, for He alone is good, and the Lover of man.

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

You are most blessed, O Virgin Theotokos! Through the God-man who took flesh from you, Hell has been captured and Adam recalled! **The** curse has been annulled, and Eve set free! Death has been slain, **so we** are given life! Blessed is Christ our God, whose good will it was! Glory to Thee!

The Great Doxology

(Here the people should be prepared for the procession)

PRIEST: Glory to Thee, who hast shone 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, that takest away the sins of the world, have mercy on us. Thou that takest away the sins of the world, receive our prayer. Thou that sittest at the right hand of the Father, have mercy on us. For Thou alone art holy, Thou alone art Lord, Jesus Christ, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

Every day will I bless Thee, and praise Thy name forever and ever.

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 Lord; teach me Thy statutes.

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

O 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! O 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. Continue Thy mercy unto those who know

Thee.

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

**Here begins the procession around the Church
and the people continue singing....**

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

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

(Upon entering the Church the Priest proclaims)

PRIEST: Wisdom! Let us attend!

And immediately is sung

The noble Joseph, when he had taken down Thy most pure Body from the tree, wrapped it in fine linen, and anointed it with spices, and placed it in a new tomb.

Tone 2

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

O Christ, who holds fast the ends of the earth, Thou hast consented to be held fast in the tomb, to deliver man from his fall into hell and as Immortal God Thou hast given us life and immortality!

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

You are most blessed, O Virgin Theotokos! Through the God- man who took flesh from you, Hell has been captured and Adam recalled! The curse has been annulled, and Eve set free! Death has been slain, so we are given life! Blessed is Christ our God, whose good will it was! Glory to Thee!

PRIEST: Wisdom!

READER: The Prokeimenon in the Fourth Tone.

Arise, O Lord, and help us! Deliver us for Thy Name's sake **VERSE:**
We have heard with our ears, O God, our fathers have told us what
deeds Thou didst perform in their days, in the days of old. **PRIEST:**
Wisdom!

READER: The reading from the Prophet Ezekiel. **(Ez 37:1-14)**

PRIEST: 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 knows." 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 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.¹'"

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."

PRIEST: Let us attend! Peace be with you all!

READER: And with thy spirit

PRIEST: Wisdom

READER: The PROKEIMENON tone 7: Arise, O Lord, my God, lift up thine hand; forget not the humble until the end.

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

PRIEST: Wisdom

READER: Reading of the first Epistle of St. Paul to the Corinthians

PRIEST: Let us attend

READER: Brethren, a little leaven can ferment the whole lump of dough. Therefore, clean out the old leaven, and try to become fresh unleavened dough. For Christ, our Paschal Lamb, has been sacrificed. Therefore, let us celebrate the festival, not with the old leaven, the leaven of malice and wickedness, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth. Christ redeemed us from the curse of the Law by becoming a curse for us. For the Scripture says: "Cursed be everyone, who hangs on a tree." Thus, the blessing of Abraham came upon the Gentiles in the name of Jesus Christ, and thus we have received the promise of the Holy Spirit through faith.

PRIEST: Peace be unto you reader

READER: And with your spirit Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia (**Quietly**)

PEOPLE: Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia (**Tone Five**)

VERSE: Let God arise! Let His enemies be scattered!

PEOPLE: Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia

VERSE: Let those who hate Him flee from before His face!

PEOPLE: Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia

VERSE As smoke vanishes, so let them vanish, as wax melts before the fire!

PEOPLE: Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia

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

PRIEST: Wisdom! Attend! Let us listen to the Holy Gospel! Peace be unto all!

PEOPLE: And to your spirit.

PRIEST: The reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew.

PEOPLE: Glory to Thee, O Lord! Glory to Thee!

(Matt. 27:62-66)

PRIEST: The next day, that is, after the day of Preparation, the chief priests and the Pharisees gathered before Pilate and said: "Sir, we remember how that imposter said, while He was still alive, 'After three days I will rise again.'¹ Therefore order the sepulcher to be made secure until after the third day, lest His disciples go and steal Him away, and tell the people, 'He has risen from the dead,' and the last fraud will be worse than the first." Pilate said to them, "You have a guard of soldiers; go make it as secure as you can." So they went and made the sepulcher secure by sealing the tomb with a stone and setting a guard.

PEOPLE: Glory to Thee, O Lord! Glory to Thee!

The Augmented Litany

PRIEST: Let us say with all our soul and with all our mind, let us say.

PEOPLE: Lord, have mercy.

PRIEST: O Lord Almighty, the God of our Fathers, we pray thee: hearken and have mercy.

PEOPLE: Lord, have mercy.

PRIEST: Have mercy on us, O God, according to thy great goodness,

we pray thee: hearken and have mercy.

PEOPLE: Lord, have mercy. Lord have mercy Lord have mercy.

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

PEOPLE: Lord, have mercy. Lord have mercy Lord have mercy.

PRIEST: Again we pray for our most holy Patriarch, for our most reverend bishop (or archbishop, metropolitan) , and for priests, deacons, monastics and all other clergy, and for all our brethren in Christ.

PEOPLE: Lord, have mercy. Lord have mercy Lord have mercy.

PRIEST: Again we pray for the blessed ever-memorable and most holy Orthodox patriarchs, for the blessed founders of this holy church and for all our Orthodox fathers and brethren departed from this life before us, who here and in all the world lie asleep in the Lord.

PEOPLE: Lord, have mercy. Lord have mercy Lord have mercy.

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

PEOPLE: Lord, have mercy. Lord have mercy Lord have mercy.

PRIEST: Again we pray for those who bear fruit and do good works in this holy and all-venerable church; for those who serve and those who sing; and for all the people here present, who await thy great and rich mercy.

PEOPLE: Lord, have mercy. Lord have mercy Lord have mercy.

PRIEST: For thou art a merciful God and Lovest mankind, and unto thee we ascribe glory: to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

The Litany of Fervent Supplication

PRIEST: Let us complete our evening prayer unto the Lord.

PEOPLE: Lord, have mercy.

PRIEST: Help us, save us, have mercy upon us, and keep us, O God, by thy grace.

PEOPLE: Lord, have mercy.

PRIEST: That the whole evening may be perfect, holy, peaceful, and sinless, let us ask of the Lord.

PEOPLE: Grant this, o Lord.

PRIEST: An angel of peace, a faithful guide, a guardian of our souls and bodies, let us ask of the Lord.

PEOPLE: Grant this, O Lord.

PRIEST: Pardon and remission of our sins and transgressions, let us ask of the Lord.

PEOPLE: Grant this, O Lord.

PRIEST: All things good and profitable for our souls and peace for the world, let us ask of the Lord.

PEOPLE: Grant this, O Lord.

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

PEOPLE: Grant this, O Lord.

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

PEOPLE: Grant this, O Lord.

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

PEOPLE: To Thee O Lord.

PRIEST: For thou art a good God and lovest mankind, and unto thee we ascribe glory: to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: now and ever and unto ages of ages.

PEOPLE: Amen.

PRIEST: Peace be unto all.

PEOPLE: And to your spirit.

PRIEST: Let us bow our heads unto the Lord.

PEOPLE: To Thee, O Lord. **(Extended)**

PRIEST: O holy Lord, who dwellest on high and lookest upon the humble, and who with Thine all-seeing eye lookest down upon all creation: unto Thee have we bowed the neck of our soul and body, and we pray Thee, O Holy of Holies, stretch forth Thine invisible hand from Thy holy dwelling place and bless us all. And if in any way we have sinned, either willingly or unwillingly, pardon us, inasmuch as Thou art good and lovest mankind, granting us Thy good things in this world and beyond this world.

Aloud: For Thine it is to have mercy on us and to save us, O our God, and unto Thee we ascribe glory, to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

PEOPLE: Amen.

PRIEST: Wisdom!

PEOPLE: Father, bless!

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

PEOPLE: Amen. Preserve, O God, the holy Orthodox faith and Orthodox Christians, unto ages of ages.

PRIEST: Most holy Theotokos, save us!

PEOPLE: More honorable than the cherubim, and more glorious beyond compare than the seraphim: without defilement you gave birth to God the Word. True Theotokos, we magnify you!

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, now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

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

PRIEST: May He Who endured fearful suffering, the life-creating Cross, and voluntary burial in the flesh on behalf of us men and for our salvation, Christ our true God, through the prayers of His most pure Mother; of the holy, glorious, and all-laudable Apostles, of the holy and righteous ancestors of God, Joachim and Anna, and of all the saints, have mercy on us and save us, for He is good and loves mankind.

PEOPLE: Amen.