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GREAT & HOLY

FRIDAY

MATINS

*with the Passion Gospels*

*(served on Thursday evening)*

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## MATINS of GREAT & HOLY FRIDAY

### *with the Passion Gospels*

On Thursday evening, in anticipation of Matins of Holy Friday, we read the Twelve Gospels regarding the crucifixion of Christ. These readings provide instructions to Christ's disciples (including present-day disciples), and foreshadow the fulfillment of prophecies regarding Christ and the Cross. The twelve readings are often referred to as the '*Passion Gospels*,' as they relate to the suffering (passion) of Christ and to the fulfillment of Messianic prophecies. The readings allow us to be with Christ from His last conversation with His disciples to Him being laid in a tomb by Joseph and Nicodemus. It is important to note, however, that we are not just recollecting or recreating these events. By hearing the Gospels, by worshipping together, we *participate* in these events.

The past becomes the present. We don't just hear about what happened, we are present in those events.

The twelve Gospel readings, however, are only a part of Matins.

Another large part is composed of the liturgical hymnography. These hymns set the Gospel readings within the consciousness of the Church. The Gospel texts narrate the events, while the hymns give the response of the Church to the events. In other words, the hymns clarify and give deeper meaning and tell us how to properly understand the Gospel events.

This text is prepared for the use at  
SAINT JOHN *the* BAPTIST  
Russian Orthodox Church  
Little Falls, NJ

*The faithful STAND.*

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

*Reader:* Amen. Glory to You, our God, glory to You.

O Heavenly King, the Comforter, the Spirit of Truth, everywhere present and filling all things. Treasury of blessings, and Giver of Life, come and abide in us, and cleanse us from every impurity, and save our souls, O Good One.

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

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

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 Your Name's sake.

Lord, have mercy. (3x)

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

**EVERYONE:** Our Father, Who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy Name. Thy Kingdom come. Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily

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

*Priest:* For Thine is the Kingdom and the power and the glory, of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages.

*Reader:* Amen.

In the Name of the Lord, father, bless.

*The priest, standing before the holy doors:*

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

*Reader:* Amen.

*The faithful may SIT.*

*the SIX PSALMS*

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

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

PSALM 3

O Lord, why do those who afflict me  
keep multiplying?

Many rise up against me, many say to me,

“There is no salvation for you in your God.”  
But You, O Lord, are my protector, my glory,  
and the One Who lifts up my head.

I cried aloud to the Lord with my voice,  
and He heard me from His holy mountain.

I lay down and slept, I awoke again,  
for the Lord will protect me.

I will not be afraid of ten thousands of people  
who set themselves against me all around.

Arise, O Lord, and save me, O my God,  
for You have struck all, who for no reason,  
are my enemies,

You have broken the teeth of the wicked.

Salvation belongs to the Lord  
and Your blessing is on Your people.

PSALM 38 (37 LXX)

O Lord, do not rebuke me in Your anger,  
nor discipline me in Your wrath.

For Your arrows have sunk into me,  
and Your hand has come down on me.

There is no healing in my flesh  
because of Your wrath,  
there is no peace in my bones because of my sins.  
For my transgressions have gone over my head,  
like a heavy burden they weigh down on me.

My wounds grow foul and fester

because of my foolishness,  
I am troubled and completely bowed down,  
all day long I go around mourning.  
For my loins are filled with mockeries,  
and there is no healing in my flesh.  
I am utterly spent and humbled,  
I groan because of the tumult of my heart.  
O Lord, all my desire is known to You,  
my lamentation is not hidden from You.  
My heart is troubled, my strength fails me,  
even the light of my eyes is gone from me.  
My friends and neighbors come near  
and stand opposite of me,  
and my next of kin stand far off.  
Those who seek my soul use violence,  
those who seek to hurt me speak vanities,  
and contemplate treachery all day long.  
But I am like the deaf, I do not hear,  
and like the mute, I never open my mouth.  
I am like one who does not hear,  
and in whose mouth there is no answer.  
For in You, O Lord, I hope,  
You will hear me, O Lord my God.  
For I pray,  
“Do not let my enemies triumph over me,

those who boast against me when my foot slips.”  
For I am ready for torments,  
and my pain is always with me.  
I confess my transgressions, I am sorry for my sin.  
But my enemies are alive  
and grow stronger than me,  
and many are those who hate me unjustly.  
Those who repay me evil for good slander me,  
because I follow after righteousness,  
they cast my love away like a foul corpse.  
Do not forsake me, O Lord,  
O my God, do not depart from me,  
make haste to help me, O Lord, my salvation.

PSALM 63 (62 LXX)

O God, my God, at dawn I seek You,  
my soul thirsts for You, my flesh longs for You,  
as in a dry, weary, and waterless land.  
So I have appeared before You in the holy place,  
beholding Your power and glory.  
Because Your mercy is better than life,  
my lips will praise You.  
So I will bless You as long as I live,  
I will lift up my hands and call on Your Name.  
My soul is satisfied as with a rich feast,  
and my mouth praises You with joyful lips.  
When I remember You on my bed,

MATINS of GREAT & HOLY FRIDAY  
with the PASSION GOSPELS

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I meditate on You at daybreak.  
For You are my helper,  
and in the shelter of Your wings I rejoice.  
My soul clings to You,  
Your right hand upholds me.  
But those who seek to destroy my soul  
will go down into the depths of the earth,  
they will be given over to the power of the sword,  
they will be prey for jackals.  
But the king will rejoice in God,  
all who swear by Him will be praised,  
for the mouths of liars will be stopped.

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

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia. Glory to You, O God. (3x)  
Lord, have mercy. (3x)

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

PSALM 88 (87 LXX)

O Lord God of my salvation,  
I cry day and night before You.  
Let my prayer come before You,  
incline Your ear to my supplication.  
For my soul is full of troubles,  
and my life draws near to hell.

I am counted among those  
who go down to the pit,  
I am like those who have no help,  
like those forsaken among the dead,  
like the slain that lie in the grave,  
whom You remember no more,  
like those cut off from Your hand.  
They have put me in the depths of the pit,  
in the darkness and shadow of death.  
Your wrath lies heavy upon me,  
and You overwhelm me with all Your waves.  
You have removed my friends far from me,  
they made me an abomination among them.  
I am betrayed and cannot escape.  
My eyes grow weak from poverty,  
every day I call on You, O Lord,  
I spread out my hands to You.  
Do You work wonders for the dead?  
Or do physicians raise the dead  
to proclaim Your praise to You?  
Is Your mercy declared in the grave,  
or Your truth in the place of destruction?  
Are Your wonders known in the darkness,  
or Your saving help in the land of forgetfulness?  
But I, O Lord, cry out to You,

MATINS of GREAT & HOLY FRIDAY  
with the PASSION GOSPELS

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in the morning my prayer comes before You.  
O Lord, why do You reject my soul?  
Why do You turn Your face away from me?  
I am poor and troubled from my youth,  
and after being exalted  
I was humbled and brought into despair.  
Your wrath passed over me,  
Your terrors greatly troubled me.  
They surround me like a flood all day long,  
from all sides they close in on me.  
You removed far from me friends and neighbors,  
And anyone who knew me because of my misery.

PSALM 103 (102 LXX)

Bless the Lord, O my soul,  
and all that is within me, bless His Holy Name.  
Bless the Lord, O my soul,  
and do not forget all He has given:  
Who forgives all your transgressions,  
Who heals all your diseases,  
Who redeems your life from corruption,  
Who crowns you with mercy and compassion,  
Who satisfies your desire with blessings,  
so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.  
The Lord shows mercy and justice  
for all who are oppressed.  
He made known His ways to Moses,

and His will to the people of Israel.  
The Lord is merciful and compassionate,  
patient and abounding in mercy.  
He will not always reproach,  
nor will He keep His anger forever.  
He does not deal with us according to our sins,  
nor repay us according to our transgressions.  
For as the heavens extend over the earth,  
so the Lord extends His mercy  
over those who fear Him.  
As far as the east is from the west,  
so far He removes our sins from us.  
As a father has compassion for his children,  
so the Lord has compassion  
on those who fear Him.  
For He knows how we were made,  
He remembers that we are dust.  
As for man, his days are like grass,  
he flourishes like a flower of the field.  
Then the wind passes over it, and it is gone,  
and its place knows it no more.  
But the mercy of the Lord is for all eternity  
on those who fear Him,  
and His righteousness to children's children,  
to those who keep His covenant

and remember to do His commandments.  
The Lord has established His throne  
in the heavens,  
and His Kingdom rules over all.  
Bless the Lord, all you His angels,  
you mighty ones who do His bidding,  
obedient to the voice of His word.  
Bless the Lord, all you His hosts,  
His ministers that do His will.  
Bless the Lord, all His works,  
in every place of His dominion.  
Bless the Lord, O my soul.

PSALM 143 (142 LXX)

O Lord, hear my prayer,  
give ear to my supplication in Your truth,  
hear me in Your righteousness.  
Do not enter into judgment with Your servant,  
for no one living is righteous before You.  
For the enemy has persecuted my soul,  
he has humbled my life to the ground,  
making me sit in darkness like those long dead.  
And my spirit is in anguish within me,  
my heart is troubled within me.  
I remembered the days of old,  
I meditated on all Your works,  
I contemplated the works of Your hands.

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I stretch out my hands to You,  
my soul thirsts for You like a waterless land.  
Hear me quickly, O Lord,  
my spirit faints within me.  
Do not turn Your face away from me,  
lest I become like those who go down into the Pit.  
Let me hear of Your mercy in the morning,  
for I put my hope in You.  
Teach me, O Lord, the way I should walk,  
for to You I lift up my soul.  
Save me, O Lord, from my enemies,  
for to You I flee for refuge.  
Teach me to do Your will, for You are my God.  
Let Your good Spirit lead me on a level path.  
For Your Name's sake, O Lord, give life to me.  
In Your righteousness  
bring my soul out of affliction.  
In Your mercy destroy my enemies,  
and ruin all who afflict my soul,  
for I am Your servant.

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy  
Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia. Glory to You, O God. (3x)

*The faithful* STAND.

*the* GREAT LITANY

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

*Singers:* Lord, have mercy. (*after each petition*)

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

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.

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

For our Patriarch [*name*], for our Bishop (*or* Archbishop *or* Metropolitan) [*name*], for the honorable priesthood, the diaconate in Christ, for all the clergy and the people, let us pray to the Lord.

For this country, its president, for all civil authorities, and for the armed forces, let us pray to the Lord.

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

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

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.

That we may be delivered from all affliction, wrath, danger, and necessity, let us pray to the Lord.

Help us, save us, have mercy on us, and protect us, O God, by Your grace.

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

*Singers:* To You, O Lord.

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

*Singers:* Amen.

## ALLELUIA

*Priest:* Alleluia in the 8<sup>th</sup> tone: My spirit seeks You early from the night, O God, for Your commandments are a light on the earth (*Isaiah 26:9*).

*Singers:* Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia. (*after each verse*)

*Verse:* Learn righteousness, all who live upon the earth.

*Verse:* Anger will fall upon the people who have not corrected themselves.

*Verse:* Bring more evils on them, O Lord, bring more evils on the proud ones of the earth.

*the TROPARION*

*Singers: tone 8*

When the glorious disciples were enlightened  
at the washing of the feet before the supper,  
then the impious Judas was darkened,  
ailing with avarice,  
and to the lawless judges he betrays You,  
the Righteous Judge.  
Behold, O lover of money, this man,  
who because of money hanged himself.  
Flee from the greedy soul  
which dared such things against the Master.  
O Lord, Who are good towards all, glory to You.

*The twelve candles on the stand are lighted.*

*the FIRST GOSPEL READING*

*Priest:* And that we may be accounted worthy of hearing the holy Gospel, let us pray to the Lord our God.

*Singers:* Lord, have mercy. (3x)

*Priest:* Wisdom. Stand upright. Let us hear the holy Gospel. Peace be unto all.

*Singers:* And to your spirit.

*Priest:* The reading from the holy Gospel according to Saint John.

*Singers:* Glory to Your Passion, O Lord.

*Priest:* Let us attend.

THE LORD SAID TO HIS DISCIPLES, “Now the Son of Man has been glorified, and God has been glorified in Him. If God has been glorified in Him, God will also glorify Him in Himself and will glorify Him at once. Little children, I am with you only a little longer. You will look for Me, and as I said to the Jews so now I say to you, ‘Where I am going, you cannot come.’ I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.”

Simon Peter said to Him, “Lord, where are You going?” Jesus answered, “Where I am going, you cannot follow now, but later you will follow Me.” Peter said to Him, “Lord, why can I not follow You now? I will lay down my life for You.” Jesus answered, “Will you lay down your life for Me? Truly, truly I tell you, before the rooster crows, you will have denied Me three times.

“Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in

God, believe also in Me. In my Father's house there are many dwelling-places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to Myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. And you know the way to the place where I am going."

Thomas asked Him, "Lord, we do not know where You are going. How can we know the way?" Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me. If you know Me, you will know My Father also. From now on, you do know Him and have seen Him."

Philip said to Him, "Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied." Jesus said to him, "Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know Me? Whoever has seen Me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'? Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in Me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on My own, but the Father Who dwells in Me does His works. Believe Me that I am in the Father and the Father is in Me. But if you do not, then believe Me because of the works themselves. Truly, truly, I tell you, whoever believes in Me will also do

the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father. I will do whatever you ask in My Name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If in My Name you ask Me for anything, I will do it.

“If you love Me, keep My commandments. And I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Comforter, to be with you forever, the Spirit of truth. The world cannot receive Him because it neither sees Him nor knows Him. You know Him, because He abides with you, and He will be in you.

“I will not leave you orphans. I am coming to you. In a little while the world will no longer see Me, but you will see Me. Because I live, you also will live. On that day you will know that I am in My Father, and you in Me, and I in you. Whoever has My commandments and keeps them, that person loves Me. Whoever loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love them and reveal Myself to them.”

Judas (not Iscariot) said to Him, “Lord, how is it that You will reveal Yourself to us, and not to the world?” Jesus answered him, “Those who love Me will keep My word, and My Father will love them, and We will come to them and make our home with them. Whoever does not love Me does not keep My

words. And the word that you hear is not Mine, but is from the Father who sent Me.

“I have said these things to you while I am still with you. But the Comforter, the Holy Spirit, Whom the Father will send in My Name, will teach you everything, and remind you of all that I have said to you. Peace I leave with you, My peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid. You heard Me say to you, ‘I am going away, and I am coming to you.’ If you loved Me, you would rejoice that I am going to the Father, because the Father is greater than I. And now I have told you this before it happens, so that when it does happen, you may believe. I will no longer talk much with you, for the ruler of this world is coming. He has no power over Me, but I do as the Father has commanded Me, so that the world may know that I love the Father. Rise, let us be on our way.

“I am the true vine, and My Father is the vine-dresser. He removes every branch in Me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit He prunes to make it bear more fruit. You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. Abide in Me as I abide in you. Just as the branch

cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in Me. I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in Me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from Me you can do nothing. Whoever does not abide in Me is thrown away like a branch and withers. Such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, ask for whatever you desire, and it will be done for you. My Father is glorified in this: that you bear much fruit and become My disciples. As the Father has loved Me, so I have loved you. Abide in My love. If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love, just as I have kept My Father's commandments and abide in His love. I have said these things to you so that My joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete.

“This is My commandment: that you love one another as I have loved you. No one has greater love than this: that someone would lay down his life for his friends. You are My friends if you do what I command you. I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing. But I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard

from My Father. You did not choose Me, but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask Him in My Name. I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.

“If the world hates you, know that it has hated Me before it hated you. If you belonged to the world, the world would love you as its own. But you do not belong to the world, since I have chosen you out of the world; therefore, the world hates you. Remember the word that I said to you, ‘Servants are not greater than their master.’ If they persecuted Me, they will persecute you. If they kept My word, they will keep yours also. But they will do all these things to you on account of My Name, because they do not know Him Who sent Me. If I had not come and spoken to them, they would not have sin, but now they have no excuse for their sin. Whoever hates Me hates My Father also. If I had not done among them the works that no one else did, they would not have sin. But now they have seen and hated both Me and My Father. It was to fulfill the word that is written in their law, ‘They hated me without a cause.’

“When the Comforter comes, Whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth Who

proceeds from the Father, He will testify on My behalf. You also are to testify because you have been with Me from the beginning.

“I have said these things to you to keep you from stumbling. They will put you out of the synagogues. Indeed, an hour is coming when those who kill you will think that by doing so they are offering worship to God. And they will do this because they have not known the Father or Me. But I have said these things to you so that when their hour comes you may remember that I told you about them.

“I did not say these things to you from the beginning, because I was with you. But now I am going to Him Who sent Me, yet none of you is asking Me, ‘Where are You going?’ But because I have said these things to you, sorrow has filled your hearts. Nevertheless, I tell you the truth: it is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Comforter will not come to you. But if I go, I will send Him to you. And when He comes, He will convict the world about sin and righteousness and judgment: about sin, because they do not believe in Me; about righteousness, because I am going to the Father and you will see Me no longer; about judgment, because the ruler of this world has been judged.

“I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. When the Spirit of truth comes, He will guide you into all the truth. For He will not speak on His own, but will speak whatever He hears, and He will declare to you the things that are to come. He will glorify Me, because He will take what is Mine and declare it to you. All that the Father has is Mine. For this reason, I said that He will take what is Mine and declare it to you. A little while, and you will no longer see Me, and again a little while, and you will see Me.”

At this, some of His disciples said to one another, “What does He mean by saying to us, ‘A little while, and you will no longer see Me, and again a little while, and you will see Me,’ and ‘Because I am going to the Father?’” And so they kept asking, “What does He mean by this ‘a little while’? We do not know what He is talking about.” Jesus knew that they wanted to ask Him, so He said to them, “Are you discussing among yourselves what I meant when I said, ‘A little while, and you will no longer see Me, and again a little while, and you will see Me’? Truly, truly, I tell you, you will weep and mourn, but the world will rejoice. You will have pain, but your pain will turn into joy. When a woman is in labor, she has

pain, because her hour has come. But when her child is born, she no longer remembers the anguish because of the joy of having brought a human being into the world.

“So you have pain now, but I will see you again, and your hearts will rejoice, and no one will take your joy from you. On that day you will ask nothing of Me. Truly, truly, I tell you, if you ask anything of the Father in My Name, He will give it to you. Until now you have not asked for anything in My Name. Ask, and you will receive, so that your joy may be complete.

“I have said these things to you in figures of speech. The hour is coming when I will no longer speak to you in figures, but will tell you plainly of the Father. On that day you will ask in My Name. I do not say to you that I will ask the Father on your behalf, for the Father Himself loves you, because you have loved Me and have believed that I came from God. I came from the Father and have come into the world. Again, I am leaving the world and am going to the Father.”

His disciples said, “Behold, now You are speaking plainly, not in any figure of speech. Now we know that You know all things, and do not need to have

anyone question You. By this we believe that You came from God.” Jesus answered them, “Do you now believe? Behold, the hour is coming, indeed it has come, when you will be scattered, each one to his home, and you will leave Me alone. Yet I am not alone because the Father is with Me. I have said this to you, so that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will face persecution. But take courage, I have conquered the world.”

After Jesus had spoken these words, He looked up to heaven and said, “Father, the hour has come. Glorify Your Son so that the Son may glorify You, since You have given Him authority over all people, to give eternal life to all whom You have given Him. And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ Whom You have sent. I glorified You on earth by finishing the work that You gave Me to do. So now, Father, glorify Me in Your own presence with the glory that I had in Your presence before the world existed.

“I have made Your Name known to those whom You gave Me from the world. They were Yours, and You gave them to Me, and they have kept Your word. Now they know that everything You have given Me is from You. For the words that You gave to Me I

have given to them, and they have received them and know in truth that I came from You. And they have believed that You sent Me. I am asking on their behalf, I am not asking on behalf of the world, but on behalf of those whom You gave Me, because they are Yours. All Mine are Yours, and Yours are Mine, and I have been glorified in them. And now I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to You.

“Holy Father, protect them in Your Name that You have given Me, so that they may be one, as We are One. While I was with them, I protected them in Your Name that You have given Me. I guarded them, and not one of them was lost, except the son of destruction, so that the Scripture might be fulfilled. But now I am coming to You, and I speak these things in the world so that they may have My joy made complete in themselves. I have given them Your word, and the world has hated them because they do not belong to the world, just as I do not belong to the world. I am not asking You to take them out of the world, but I ask You to protect them from the evil one. They do not belong to the world, just as I do not belong to the world. Sanctify them in Your truth, Your word is truth. As You have sent Me into

the world, so I have sent them into the world. And for their sakes I sanctify Myself, so that they also may be sanctified in truth.

“I pray not only on behalf of these, but also on behalf of those who will believe in Me through their word, that they may all be one. As You, Father, are in Me and I am in You, may they also be in Us, so that the world may believe that You have sent Me. The glory that You have given Me I have given them, so that they may be one, as We are One, I in them and You in Me, that they may become completely one, so that the world may know that You have sent Me and have loved them even as You have loved Me. Father, I desire that those also, whom You have given Me, may be with Me where I am, to see My glory, which You have given Me because You loved Me before the foundation of the world. Righteous Father, the world does not know You, but I know You, and these know that You have sent Me. I made Your Name known to them, and I will make it known, so that the love with which You have loved Me may be in them, and I in them.”

After Jesus had spoken these words, He went out with His disciples across the Kidron valley to a place where there was a garden, which He and His

disciples entered. (*John 13:31-18:1*)

*Singers:* Glory to Your long-suffering, O Lord.

*The faithful may SIT.*

*the FIRST ANTIPHON*

*Reader:* The rulers of the people have assembled  
against the Lord and His Christ.  
A lawless charge is hurled against Me.  
Lord, O Lord, forsake Me not.

Let us offer our pure senses to Christ.  
As His friends, let us sacrifice  
our lives for His sake.  
Let us not be weighed down  
by earthly cares like Judas,  
but let us cry in the hidden chambers of our heart,  
“Our Father, Who art in heaven,  
deliver us from evil.”

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

*Singers: tone 8*

As a virgin you gave birth  
without knowing wedlock

and remained a virgin, O unwedded mother.  
O Mary Theotokos,  
pray to Christ our God to save us.

*the* SECOND ANTIPHON

*Reader:* Judas hastened to the lawless scribes  
and said, “What will you give me  
to betray Him to you?”  
Yet while they conspired against You,  
You invisibly stood in their midst.  
Spare our souls, for You know the hearts of all.

Let us serve God in acts of compassion  
like Mary at the supper.  
Let us not be possessed by avarice like Judas,  
so that we may always abide with Christ our God.

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

*Singers: tone 6*

Never cease to pray to Him  
Who loves mankind,  
Who was inexpressibly born of you, O Virgin,  
that He may save from dangers  
those who take refuge in you.

*the* THIRD ANTIPHON

*Reader:* Because of the raising of Lazarus,  
O Lord, Who love mankind,  
the Hebrew children cried “Hosanna” to You,  
but Judas the transgressor  
was unwilling to understand.

At Your supper, O Christ God,  
You announced to Your disciples,  
“One of you will betray Me.”  
But Judas the transgressor  
was unwilling to understand.  
When John asked You, O Lord,  
“Who is it that betrays You,”  
You revealed who it was  
by means of the morsel of bread,  
but Judas the transgressor  
was unwilling to understand.

For thirty pieces of silver  
and a treacherous kiss, O Lord,  
the Jews sought to kill You,  
but Judas the transgressor  
was unwilling to understand.

At the washing of their feet, O Christ God,  
You commanded Your disciples,  
“Do as you have seen Me do.”  
but Judas the transgressor  
was unwilling to understand.

“Keep watch and pray, lest you be tempted,”  
You said to Your disciples, O our God,  
but Judas the transgressor  
was unwilling to understand.

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

*Singers: tone 2*

O Theotokos,  
preserve your servants from dangers,  
for after God we all take refuge in you  
as an invincible bulwark and protector.

## KATHISMA HYMN

*Singers: tone 7*

When You were feeding  
Your disciples at the supper,  
You knew Judas’ intention to betray You,  
and You accused him of this

though recognizing him to be beyond correction.  
For You desired all to know  
that You were willingly betrayed  
to snatch the world from the grasp of the enemy.  
O long-suffering Lord, glory to You.

*The faithful STAND.*

*the SECOND GOSPEL READING*

*Priest:* And that we may be accounted worthy of hearing the holy Gospel, let us pray to the Lord our God.

*Singers:* Lord, have mercy. (3x)

*Priest:* Wisdom. Stand upright. Let us hear the holy Gospel. Peace be unto all.

*Singers:* And to your spirit.

*Priest:* The reading from the holy Gospel according to Saint John.

*Singers:* Glory to Your Passion, O Lord.

*Priest:* Let us attend.

IN THOSE DAYS, Jesus went out with his disciples across the Kidron valley to a place where there was a garden, which He and His disciples entered. Now Judas, who betrayed Him, also knew the place, because Jesus often met there with His disciples. So Judas brought a band of soldiers together with some

officers from the chief priests and the Pharisees, and they came there with lanterns and torches and weapons.

Then Jesus, knowing all that was to happen to Him, came forward and asked them, “Whom are you looking for?” They answered, “Jesus of Nazareth.” Jesus replied, “I am He.” Judas, who betrayed Him, was also standing with them. When Jesus said to them, “I am He,” they stepped back and fell to the ground. Again Jesus asked them, “Whom are you looking for?” And they said, “Jesus of Nazareth.” Jesus answered, “I told you that I am He. So if you are looking for Me, let these men go.” This was to fulfill the word that He had spoken, “I did not lose a single one of those whom You gave Me.” Then Simon Peter, who had a sword, drew it and struck the high priest’s slave, and cut off his right ear. The slave’s name was Malchus. Jesus said to Peter, “Put your sword back into its sheath. Am I not to drink the cup that the Father has given Me?”

So the soldiers, their officer, and the Jewish officers arrested Jesus and bound Him. First they took him to Annas, who was the father-in-law of Caiaphas, the high priest that year. Caiaphas was the one who had advised the Jews that it was better to have

one person die for the people.

Simon Peter and another disciple followed Jesus. Since that disciple was known to the high priest, he entered with Jesus into the courtyard of the high priest, but Peter was standing outside at the gate. So the other disciple, who was known to the high priest, went out, spoke to the woman who guarded the gate, and brought Peter in. The woman said to Peter, “Are you not also one of this Man’s disciples?” He said, “I am not.” Now the servants and the officers had made a charcoal fire because it was cold, and they were standing around it and warming themselves. Peter also was standing with them and warming himself.

Meanwhile, the high priest questioned Jesus about His disciples and about His teaching. Jesus answered, “I have spoken openly to the world, I have always taught in synagogues and in the Temple, where all the Jews come together. I have said nothing in secret. Why do you ask Me? Ask those who heard what I said to them, they know what I said.” When He had said this, one of the officers standing nearby struck Jesus on the face, saying, “Is that how You answer the high priest?” Jesus answered, “If I have spoken wrongly, testify to the wrong. But if I have spoken rightly, why do you strike Me?” Then

Annas sent Him bound to Caiaphas the high priest.

Now Simon Peter was standing and warming himself, and the people asked him, “Are you not also one of His disciples?” He denied it and said, “I am not.” One of the servants of the high priest, a relative of the man whose ear Peter had cut off, asked, “Did I not see you in the garden with Him?” Again Peter denied it, and at that moment the rooster crowed.

Then they took Jesus from Caiaphas to Pilate’s headquarters. It was early in the morning, and the Jews themselves did not enter the headquarters, so as to avoid ritual defilement and to be able to eat the Passover. (*John 18:1-28*)

*Singers:* Glory to Your long-suffering, O Lord.

*The faithful may SIT.*

### *the FOURTH ANTIPHON*

*Reader:* Today Judas forsakes the Master  
and takes the devil as his friend.  
He is blinded by the passion of avarice.  
Darkened, he falls from the light.  
He sold the Sun for thirty pieces of silver.  
How, then, is he able to see?  
But He Who suffers for the world

has risen as the dawn for us.  
To Him let us cry aloud,  
“O Lord, You suffered for us and with us,  
glory to You!”

Today Judas fakes piety  
and deprives himself of the gift of grace.  
The disciple becomes a betrayer.  
In a gesture of friendship, he conceals deceit.  
He foolishly prefers thirty pieces of silver  
to the Master’s love  
and becomes a guide for the lawless assembly.  
But let us glorify Christ, our salvation.

*tone 1*

As brothers in Christ,  
let us acquire brotherly love.  
Let us not lack sympathy for our neighbor.  
Lest we, like the unmerciful servant,  
be condemned on account of money,  
or like Judas gain nothing from our regrets.

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

*Singers: tone 1*

Everywhere glorious things  
are spoken of you,  
O Mary Theotokos, unwedded and most praised,  
For you conceived in the flesh the Maker of all.

*the FIFTH ANTIPHON*

*Reader:* The disciple agrees upon  
the price of the Master.  
He sells the Lord for thirty pieces of silver.  
With a treacherous kiss he betrays Him  
to death at the hands of lawless men.

Today the Creator of heaven and earth  
said to His disciples,  
“The hour has come  
and Judas rushes to betray Me.  
Let no one deny Me  
when he sees Me on the Cross  
between two thieves.  
For, as a Man I suffer,  
and as the Lover of man,  
I save those who believe in Me.”

MATINS of GREAT & HOLY FRIDAY  
with the PASSION GOSPELS

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

*Singers: tone 6*

O Virgin, who in the latter days  
wondrously conceived  
and gave birth your own Creator,  
save those who magnify you.

*the SIXTH ANTIPHON*

*Reader:* Today Judas looks for a way  
to betray the Lord,  
the Savior of the world before the ages,  
Who satisfied the multitude with five loaves.  
Today the transgressor denies the Teacher.  
Though a disciple, he betrays the Master.  
He sells for silver Him  
Who fed man with manna in the wilderness.

Today His people nail to the Cross  
the Lord Who divided the sea with a rod  
and led them in the wilderness.  
Today they pierce His side with a spear  
Who smote Egypt with plagues for their sake.  
They give Him gall to drink  
Who rained down manna upon them for food.

When You came to Your voluntary Passion, O Lord,  
You said to Your disciples,  
“If you lack the strength  
to keep watch with Me for a single hour,  
why did you promise to die for Me?  
See how Judas does not sleep,  
but hastens to betray Me to the transgressors.  
Arise and pray, lest anyone deny Me  
when he sees Me on the Cross.”  
O long-suffering Lord, glory to You!

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

*Singers: tone 7*

Rejoice, O Theotokos,  
you held in your womb Him  
Whom the heavens cannot hold.  
Rejoice, O Virgin whom the prophets proclaimed,  
from you Emmanuel has shone forth on us.  
Rejoice, O Mother of Christ our God.

## KATHISMA HYMN

*Singers: tone 7*

What caused you to betray the Savior, O Judas?

Did He expel you from the ranks of the apostles?  
Did He take from you the gift of healing?  
Did He send you from the table  
while taking supper with the others?  
Did He wash their feet and pass you by?  
How have you forgotten such good things?  
Your ingratitude is notorious,  
but His boundless long-suffering  
and great mercy are proclaimed to all.

*The faithful STAND.*

### *the THIRD GOSPEL READING*

*Priest:* And that we may be accounted worthy of hearing the holy Gospel, let us pray to the Lord our God.

*Singers:* Lord, have mercy. (3x)

*Priest:* Wisdom. Stand upright. Let us hear the holy Gospel. Peace be unto all.

*Singers:* And to your spirit.

*Priest:* The reading from the holy Gospel according to Saint Matthew.

*Singers:* Glory to Your Passion, O Lord.

*Priest:* Let us attend.

IN THOSE DAYS, the soldiers who had arrested Jesus took Him to Caiaphas the high priest, in whose

house the scribes and the elders had gathered. But Peter was following Jesus at a distance, to the courtyard of the high priest. And going inside, he sat with the guards in order to see how this would end. Now the chief priests and the whole council were looking for false testimony against Jesus so that they might put Him to death, but they found none, though many false witnesses came forward. At last, two came forward and said, "This man said, 'I am able to destroy the Temple of God and to build it in three days.'" The high priest stood up and said to Jesus, "Have You no answer? What is it that they testify against You?" But Jesus was silent. Then the high priest said to Him, "I put you under oath before the living God, tell us if You are the Messiah, the Son of God." Jesus said to him, "You have said so. But I tell you that from now on you will see the Son of Man seated at the right hand of Power and coming on the clouds of heaven."

Then the high priest tore his clothes and said, "He has spoken blasphemy! Why do we still need witnesses? You have now heard His blasphemy. What is your verdict?" They answered, "He deserves death." Then they spat in His face and struck Him. And some slapped Him, saying, "Prophecy to us, O

Christ! Who is it that struck You?"

Now Peter was sitting outside in the courtyard, a servant-girl came to him and said, "You also were with Jesus the Galilean." But he denied it before all of them, saying, "I do not know what you are talking about." When he went out to the porch, another servant-girl saw him, and she said to the bystanders, "This man was with Jesus of Nazareth." Again Peter denied it with an oath, "I do not know the Man." After a little while the bystanders came up and said to Peter, "Certainly you are also one of them, for your accent betrays you." Then he began to curse, and he swore an oath, "I do not know the Man!" At that moment the rooster crowed. Then Peter remembered what Jesus had said, "Before the rooster crows, you will deny Me three times." And he went out and wept bitterly. (*Matthew 26:57-75*)

*Singers:* Glory to Your long-suffering, O Lord.

*The faithful may SIT.*

*the SEVENTH ANTIPHON*

*Reader:* While permitting transgressors to arrest You,  
You cried out to them, O Lord,  
"Though you smite the Shepherd

and scatter the twelve sheep, My disciples,  
I am able to surround Myself  
with more than thirty legions of angels,  
but I forebear  
so that the secret and hidden things  
might be fulfilled,  
which were revealed to you by My prophets.”  
O Lord, glory to You!

Denying You for the third time,  
Peter at once recalled Your words to him,  
but he offered You tears of repentance,  
“O God, have mercy on me and save me!”

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

*Singers: tone 8*

Let us praise the holy Virgin,  
as the gate of salvation and fair paradise,  
as a cloud for the eternal light.  
To her let us all say, “Rejoice!”

### *the EIGHTH ANTIPHON*

*Reader:* O transgressors,  
what have you heard from our Savior?

Did He not explain the Law  
and the teachings of the prophets?  
Why then did you plan to deliver to Pilate  
the Word of God, the Redeemer of our souls?

“Let Him be crucified,”  
cried those who had always enjoyed  
His gracious gifts.  
Those who killed the Righteous,  
ask to receive a criminal  
instead of their Benefactor.  
But You, O Christ,  
endured their heedlessness in silence,  
desiring to suffer and to save us  
in Your love for mankind.

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

*Singers: tone 2*

We have no boldness  
because of the multitude of our sins,  
but entreat Him Who was born of you,  
O Virgin Theotokos,  
for the prayer of a mother has power  
to win the favor of the Master.

Do not despise the supplications of sinners,  
O most pure one,  
for merciful and strong to save is He  
Who willed to suffer for us.

*the* NINTH ANTIPHON

*Reader:* They weighed out the thirty pieces of silver,  
the price of Him on Whom a price had been set  
by the sons of Israel.  
Keep watch and pray  
that you might not enter into temptation.  
The spirit indeed is willing,  
but the flesh is weak, therefore keep watch.

They gave Me gall for food,  
for My thirst they gave Me vinegar to drink.  
But You, O Lord,  
raise Me up that I may requite them.

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

*Singers: tone 3*

We the Gentiles praise you,  
O pure Theotokos,  
for you gave birth to Christ our God,

Who through you freed mankind from the curse.

## KATHISMA HYMN

*Singers: tone 8*

How could Judas, who was once Your disciple,  
plan to betray You?  
That treacherous and unrighteous man  
deceitfully ate with You,  
and went to the priests and said,  
“What will you give me if I deliver to you  
Him Who abolished the Law  
and profaned the Sabbath?”  
O long-suffering Lord, glory to You!

## *the* FOURTH GOSPEL READING

*Priest:* And that we may be accounted worthy of hearing the holy Gospel, let us pray to the Lord our God.

*Singers:* Lord, have mercy. (3x)

*Priest:* Wisdom. Stand upright. Let us hear the holy Gospel. Peace be unto all.

*Singers:* And to your spirit.

*Priest:* The reading from the holy Gospel according to Saint John.

*Singers:* Glory to Your Passion, O Lord.

*Priest:* Let us attend.

IN THOSE DAYS, Jesus was taken from Caiaphas to Pilate's headquarters. It was early in the morning. They themselves did not enter the headquarters, so as to avoid ritual defilement and to be able to eat the Passover. So Pilate went out to them and said, "What accusation do you bring against this Man?" They answered, "If this Man were not a criminal, we would not have handed Him over to you." Pilate said to them, "Take Him yourselves and judge Him according to your Law." Then they replied, "We are not permitted to put anyone to death." This was to fulfill what Jesus had said when He indicated the kind of death He was to die.

Then Pilate entered the headquarters again, summoned Jesus, and asked Him, "Are You the King of the Jews?" Jesus answered, "Do you ask this on your own, or did others tell you about Me?" Pilate replied, "I am not a Jew, am I? Your own nation and the chief priests have handed You over to me. What have You done?" Jesus answered, "My Kingdom is not from this world. If My Kingdom were from this world, My followers would be fighting to keep Me from being handed over to the Jews. But as it is, My Kingdom is not from here." Pilate asked Him, "So You are a King?" Jesus answered, "You say that I am a King.

For this I was born, and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone who belongs to the truth listens to My voice.” Pilate asked Him, “What is truth?”

After he had said this, Pilate went out to the Jews again and told them, “I find no case against Him. But you have a custom that I release someone for you at the Passover. Do you want me to release for you the King of the Jews?” They shouted in reply, “Not this Man, but Barabbas!” Now Barabbas was an outlaw.

Then Pilate took Jesus and had Him flogged. And the soldiers wove a crown of thorns and put it on His head, and they dressed Him in a purple robe. They kept coming up to Him, saying, “Hail, King of the Jews!” and striking Him on the face. Pilate went out again and said to them, “Look, I am bringing Him out to you to let you know that I find no case against Him.” So Jesus came out, wearing the crown of thorns and the purple robe. Pilate said to them, “Behold, the Man!” When the chief priests and the officers saw Jesus, they shouted, “Crucify Him! Crucify Him!” Pilate said to them, “Take Him yourselves and crucify Him, I find no case against Him.” The Jews answered him, “We have a Law, and according to that Law He should die because He has claimed to

be the Son of God.”

Now when Pilate heard this, he was more afraid than ever. He entered his headquarters again and asked Jesus, “Where are You from?” But Jesus gave him no answer. Pilate therefore said to Him, “Do You refuse to speak to me? Do You not know that I have power to release You, and power to crucify You?” Jesus answered him, “You would have no power over Me unless it had been given you from above. Therefore, he who handed Me over to you is guilty of a greater sin.” From then on Pilate tried to release Him, but the Jews cried out, “If you release this Man, you are no friend of the emperor. Everyone who claims to be a king sets himself against the emperor.”

When Pilate heard these words, he brought Jesus outside and sat on the judgment seat at a place called “The Stone Pavement,” or in Hebrew, “Gabbatha.” Now it was the Day of Preparation for the Passover, and about noon. Pilate said to the crowd, “Behold, your King!” But they cried out, “Away with Him! Away with Him! Crucify Him!” Pilate asked them, “Shall I crucify your King?” The chief priests answered, “We have no king but the emperor.” Then he handed Jesus over to them to be crucified. And they took Jesus and led Him away. (*John 18:28-19:16*)

*Singers:* Glory to Your long-suffering, O Lord.

*The faithful may SIT.*

*the TENTH ANTIPHON*

*Reader:* He Who clothes Himself with light  
as with a garment,  
stood naked for trial.  
He was struck on the cheek  
by hands that He Himself had formed.  
A people that transgressed the Law,  
nailed the Lord of glory to the Cross.  
Then the curtain of the Temple was torn in two.  
Then the sun was darkened,  
unable to bear the sight of God outraged,  
before Whom all things tremble.  
Let us worship Him.

The disciple denied Him,  
but the thief cried out,  
“Remember me, O Lord, in Your Kingdom!”

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

*Singers: tone 6*

O Lord, Who for Your servants' sake  
willed to take flesh from the Virgin,  
grant peace to the world,  
that with one voice we may glorify You,  
Who love mankind.

*the ELEVENTH ANTIPHON*

*Reader:* In exchange for the good things  
that You had done for them  
a transgressing people condemned You  
to be crucified, O Christ,  
and gave You gall and vinegar to drink.  
But reward them  
according to their deeds, O Lord,  
for they did not understand Your great humility.

Not content to deliver You up, O Christ,  
a transgressing people wagged their heads,  
bringing You mockery and derision.  
But reward them  
according to their deeds, O Lord,  
for they plotted against You in vain.

Neither the shaking of the earth

nor the splitting of the rocks,  
neither the tearing of the Temple's curtain  
nor the resurrection of the dead,  
convinced a transgressing people.  
But reward them  
according to their deeds, O Lord,  
for they plotted against You in vain.

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

*Singers: tone 6*

We know that God took flesh from you,  
O Virgin Theotokos,  
the only pure and only blessed one.  
Therefore without ceasing  
we praise and magnify you.

### *the TWELFTH ANTIPHON*

*Reader:* Thus says the Lord to Israel,  
“My people, what have I done to you,  
or how have I offended you?  
To your blind, I gave sight, your lepers I cleansed,  
the paralytic I raised from his bed.  
My people, what have I done to you,  
and how have you repaid Me?”

Instead of manna – gall.  
Instead of water – vinegar.  
Instead of loving Me,  
you nailed Me to the Cross.  
I can bear no more.  
I shall call the Gentiles Mine.  
They will glorify Me  
with the Father and the Spirit,  
and I shall offer them life eternal.

Today the curtain of the Temple is torn in two,  
to convict the transgressors,  
and even the sun hides its rays,  
seeing the Master crucified.

The choir of the apostles cries out to you,  
O lawgivers of Israel, scribes and Pharisees,  
“Behold the Temple which you destroyed!  
Behold the Lamb Whom you crucified!  
You delivered Him to the tomb,  
but by His own power He arose.  
Do not be deceived, O Israel.  
It was He Who saved you in the sea  
and fed you in the wilderness.  
He is the Life, the Light,

and the Peace of the world.

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

*Singers: tone 8*

Rejoice, gate of the King of glory,  
through which the Most High alone has entered  
and again left sealed  
for the salvation of our souls.

## KATHISMA HYMN

*Singer: tone 8*

O God, You stood before Caiaphas.  
O Judge, You were given over to Pilate.  
Then the heavenly powers shook with fear.  
Though sinless, You were numbered  
among the transgressors,  
lifted up on the wood between two thieves  
in order to save mankind.  
O patient Lord, glory to You!

## *the* FIFTH GOSPEL READING

*Priest:* And that we may be accounted worthy of hearing the holy Gospel, let us pray to the Lord our God.

*Singers:* Lord, have mercy. (3x)

*Priest:* Wisdom. Stand upright. Let us hear the holy Gospel. Peace be unto all.

*Singers:* And to your spirit.

*Priest:* The reading from the holy Gospel according to Saint Matthew.

*Singers:* Glory to Your Passion, O Lord.

*Priest:* Let us attend.

IN THOSE DAYS, when Judas, His betrayer, saw that Jesus was condemned, he felt remorse and brought back the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and the elders, saying, “I have sinned by betraying innocent blood.” But they said, “What is that to us? See to it yourself.” Throwing down the pieces of silver in the Temple, he departed. And he went away and hanged himself. But the chief priests, taking the pieces of silver, said, “It is not lawful to put them into the treasury, since it is the price of blood.” After conferring together, they used the money to buy the potter’s field as a place to bury foreigners. For this reason, that field has been called “The Field of Blood” to this day. Then was fulfilled what had been spoken through the prophet Jeremiah, “And they took the thirty pieces of silver, the price of Him upon Whom a price had been set, on Whom some of the people of Israel had set a price, and they gave them for the potter’s field, as the

Lord commanded me” (*Jeremiah 32:6*).

Now Jesus stood before the governor, and the governor asked Him, “Are You the King of the Jews?” Jesus said, “You say so.” But when He was accused by the chief priests and elders, He did not answer. Then Pilate said to Him, “Do You not hear how many accusations they make against You?” But He gave him no answer, not even to a single charge, so that the governor was greatly amazed.

Now on the Feast, the governor had the custom to release one prisoner for the crowd, anyone whom they wanted. At that time they had a notorious prisoner, called Barabbas. So after they had gathered, Pilate said to them, “Whom do you want me to release for you, Barabbas or Jesus Who is called Christ?” For he realized that it was out of jealousy that they had arrested Jesus. While Pilate was sitting on the judgment seat, his wife sent word to him, “Have nothing to do with that innocent Man, for today I have suffered a great deal because of a dream about Him.”

Now the chief priests and the elders convinced the crowds to ask for Barabbas and to have Jesus killed. The governor again said to them, “Which of the two do you want me to release for you?” And they said, “Barabbas.” Pilate said to them, “Then

what should I do with Jesus Who is called Christ?" All of them said, "Let Him be crucified!" Then he asked, "Why, what evil has He done?" But they shouted all the more, "Let Him be crucified!"

So when Pilate saw that he could do nothing, but rather that a riot was beginning, he took some water and washed his hands before the crowd, saying, "I am innocent of this Man's blood. See to it yourselves." Then the people as a whole answered, "His blood be on us and on our children!" So Pilate released Barabbas for them, and after flogging Jesus, he handed Him over to be crucified.

Then the soldiers of the governor took Jesus into the governor's headquarters, and they gathered the whole cohort around Him. They stripped Him and put a scarlet robe on Him, and after twisting some thorns into a crown, they put it on His head. They put a reed in His right hand and knelt before Him and mocked Him, saying, "Hail, King of the Jews!" They spat on Him, and took the reed and struck Him on the head. After mocking Him, they stripped Him of the robe and put His own clothes on Him. Then they led Him away to crucify Him. As they went out, they came upon a man from Cyrene named Simon; they compelled this man to carry His cross. (*Matthew 27:3-32*)

*Singers:* Glory to Your long-suffering, O Lord.

*The faithful may SIT.*

*the* THIRTEENTH ANTIPHON

*Reader:* The crowd of Israelites, O Lord,  
asked Pilate to crucify You,  
and though they found no guilt in You,  
they freed Barabbas, who indeed was guilty.  
They condemned You, the righteous One,  
and made the charge of murder their inheritance.  
But give them their retribution, O Lord,  
for they plotted against You in vain.

To Christ, the wisdom and power of God,  
Who makes all things fear and tremble,  
Whom all tongues praise,  
the priests gave gall and slapped.  
Yet He consented to suffer all things,  
desiring to save us  
from our transgressions by His blood,  
for He loves mankind.

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

*Singers: tone 6*

O Theotokos,  
who by a word beyond all words  
have given birth to your own Creator,  
entreat Him to save our souls.

*the* FOURTEENTH ANTIPHON

*Reader:* The thief, whose hands  
were defiled with blood,  
You accepted as Your fellow traveler.  
With him number us also, O Lord,  
for You are good and love mankind.

The thief on the cross uttered a small cry,  
but he found great faith.  
In a moment he was saved  
and became the first to enter Paradise  
when its gates were opened.  
O Lord, Who accepted His repentance  
glory to You!

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

*Singers: tone 8*

Rejoice, for through an angel  
you received the joy of the world.  
Rejoice, for you gave birth  
to your Creator and Lord.  
Rejoice, for you were found worthy  
to become the Mother of Christ our God.

*the FIFTEENTH ANTIPHON*

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

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Let us not keep the feast like the Jews,  
for our Passover, Christ God,  
has been slain for us.

But let us cleanse ourselves of every defilement,  
and with sincerity, let us entreat Him,  
“Arise, O Lord, and save us,  
for You love mankind!”

Your Cross, O Lord,  
is life and resurrection for Your people.  
Trusting in it, we praise You,  
our crucified God.  
Have mercy on us.

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

*Singers: tone 6*

When she who conceived You, O Christ,  
saw You hanging on the Cross, she cried out,  
“What strange mystery do I behold, O my Son?  
O Giver of life, how did You die,  
nailed to the wood in the flesh?”

## KATHISMA HYMN

*Singers: tone 4*

By Your precious blood  
You have redeemed us from the curse of the Law.  
By being nailed to the Cross  
and pierced by a spear,  
You have poured out immortality for us.  
O our Savior, glory to You!

*The faithful STAND.*

### *the SIXTH GOSPEL READING*

*Priest:* And that we may be accounted worthy of hearing the holy Gospel, let us pray to the Lord our God.

*Singers:* Lord, have mercy. (3x)

*Priest:* Wisdom. Stand upright. Let us hear the holy Gospel. Peace be unto all.

*Singers:* And to your spirit.

*Priest:* The reading from the holy Gospel according to Saint Mark.

*Singers:* Glory to Your Passion, O Lord.

*Priest:* Let us attend.

IN THOSE DAYS, the soldiers led Jesus into the courtyard of the palace, that is, the governor's

headquarters, and they called together the whole cohort. And they clothed Him in a purple cloak, and after twisting some thorns into a crown, they put it on Him. And they began saluting Him, “Hail, King of the Jews!” They struck His head with a reed, spat upon Him, and knelt down in worship before Him. After mocking Him, they stripped Him of the purple cloak and put His own clothes on Him. Then they led Him out to crucify Him.

They compelled a passer-by, Simon of Cyrene, the father of Alexander and Rufus, who was coming in from the countryside, to carry the cross of Jesus. Then they brought Jesus to the place called Golgotha, which means “The Place of a Skull.” And they offered Him wine mixed with myrrh, but He did not take it. And they crucified Him, and divided His clothes among them, casting lots to decide what each should take.

It was nine o’clock in the morning when they crucified Jesus. The inscription of the charge against Him read, “The King of the Jews.” And with Him they crucified two outlaws, one on His right and one on His left. And the Scripture was fulfilled, which says, “He was numbered with the transgressors” (*Isaiah 53:12*). Those who passed by ridiculed Him,

shaking their heads and saying, “So! You Who would destroy the Temple and build it in three days, save Yourself, and come down from the cross!” In the same way the chief priests, along with the scribes, were also mocking Him among themselves and saying, “He saved others, yet He cannot save Himself. Let the Christ, the King of Israel, come down from the cross now, so that we may see and believe.” (*Mark 15:16-32*)

*Singers:* Glory to Your long-suffering, O Lord.

*The faithful may SIT.*

*the BEATITUDES*

*Singers: tone 4*

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

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

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

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

*Reader:* Through a tree Adam lost his home in Paradise, but through the tree of the Cross the thief

came there to dwell. By tasting of the fruit, the first broke the Creator's commandment, but he who was crucified with You confessed You, the hidden God. Remember us also, O Savior, in Your Kingdom.

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

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

*Singers:* Blessed are the merciful, for they will obtain mercy.

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

*Singers:* Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

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

*Singers:* Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called the sons of God.

*Reader:* You were crucified for my sake, in order to pour out forgiveness for me. Your side was pierced so that streams of life might flow for me. Your hands were transfixed by nails so that, convinced of the height of Your power by the depth of Your sufferings, I might cry out to You, O Christ, Giver of life, “Glory to Your Cross and to Your Passion, O Savior!”

*Singers:* Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, for theirs is the Kingdom of heaven.

*Reader:* When it beheld You crucified, O Christ, all creation trembled. The foundations of the earth shook for fear of Your power. The lights of heaven hid themselves, and the curtain of the Temple was torn in two. The mountains quaked, and the rocks were split, and with us the believing thief cried out to You,

O Savior, “Remember me in Your Kingdom!”

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

*Reader:* On the Cross You destroyed the legal bond against us, O Lord. You were reckoned with the dead and there bound the tyrant, delivering everyone from the bonds of death by Your Resurrection. By it we have been illumined, O Lord, Who love mankind, and we cry out to You, “Remember us also, O Savior, in Your Kingdom!”

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

*Reader:* You were lifted upon the Cross, O Lord. You destroyed the power of death, and as God You cancelled the legal bond against us. Grant the repentance of the thief also to us who worship You in faith, O only Lover of mankind, as we sing to You, O Christ our God, “Remember us also, O Savior, in Your Kingdom!”

*Singers:* Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

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

*Singers:* Now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

*Reader:* We offer to You as an intercessor, O Christ, Your Mother who gave birth to You in the flesh without seed, the true Virgin who after giving birth remained incorrupt. Through her intercessions, O Most Merciful Master, grant forgiveness of sins to us, as we unceasingly cry out, “Remember us also, O Savior, in Your Kingdom!”

### *the PROKEIMENON*

*Priest:* Let us attend. Wisdom.

*Reader:* The prokeimenon in the 4<sup>th</sup> tone: They divide My garments among them, and for My raiment they cast lots. (*Psalm 22:18*)

*Singers:* *repeat the same verse.*

*Reader:* My God, My God, look upon Me! Why have You forsaken Me? (*Psalm 22:1*)

*Reader:* They divided My garments among them,

*Singers:* repeat the first verse.

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

*Singers:* ...and for My raiment they cast lots.

*The faithful STAND.*

### *the SEVENTH GOSPEL READING*

*Priest:* And that we may be accounted worthy of hearing the holy Gospel, let us pray to the Lord our God.

*Singers:* Lord, have mercy. (3x)

*Priest:* Wisdom. Stand upright. Let us hear the holy Gospel. Peace be unto all.

*Singers:* And to your spirit.

*Priest:* The reading from the holy Gospel according to Saint Matthew.

*Singers:* Glory to Your Passion, O Lord.

*Priest:* Let us attend.

IN THOSE DAYS, the soldiers came to a place called Golgotha, which means “The Place of a Skull.” They offered Jesus sour wine to drink, mixed with gall, but when He tasted it, He would not drink it. And when they had crucified Him, they divided His clothes among themselves by casting lots, so that what had been spoken by the prophet might be fulfilled, “They divided My garments among them, and for My

clothing they cast lots” (*Psalm 22:18*). Then the soldiers sat down there and kept watch over Him. Over His head they put the charge against Him, which read, “This is Jesus, the King of the Jews.”

Then two outlaws were crucified with Him, one on His right and one on His left. Those who passed by mocked Him, shaking 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.” In the same way the chief priests also, along with the scribes and elders and Pharisees, were mocking Him, saying, “He saved others, yet He cannot save Himself. If He is the King of Israel, let Him come down from the Cross now, and we will believe in Him. He trusts in God, let God deliver Him now, if He wants to. For He said, ‘I am the Son of God.’” The outlaws who were crucified with Him also taunted Him in the same way.

From noon on, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. And about three o’clock Jesus cried with a loud voice, “Eli, Eli, lima sabachthani?” that is, “My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?” When some of the bystanders heard it, they said, “This man is calling for Elijah.” At once one of them ran and got a sponge, filled it

with sour wine, put it on a stick, and gave it to Jesus to drink. But the others said, “Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to save Him.”

Then Jesus cried again with a loud voice and yielded up His spirit. At that moment the curtain of the Temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. 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. After His resurrection they came out of the tombs and entered the holy city and appeared to many. Now when the centurion and those with him, who were keeping watch over Jesus, saw the earthquake and what took place, they were terrified and said, “Truly this man was the Son of God!” (*Matthew 27:33-54*)

*Singers:* Glory to Your long-suffering, O Lord.

*The faithful may SIT.*

## PSALM 51 (50 LXX)

Have mercy on me, O God, in Your great mercy,  
and in the abundance of Your compassion  
blot out my transgression.  
Wash me thoroughly from my lawlessness,  
and cleanse me from my sin.

For I know my transgression,  
and my sin is always before me.  
Against You alone I have sinned,  
and done evil before You,  
so that You are justified in Your words  
and victorious in Your judgment.  
For, behold, I was conceived in iniquities,  
and in sins my mother gave birth to me.  
For, behold, You love truth,  
You revealed to me the unknown  
and secret things of Your wisdom.  
Sprinkle me with hyssop, and I will be cleansed.  
Wash me, and I will be whiter than snow.  
Make me to hear joy and gladness,  
let the bones that You have humbled rejoice.  
Turn Your face away from my sins,  
and blot out all my transgressions.  
Create in me a clean heart, O God,  
and renew a right Spirit within me.  
Do not cast me away from Your presence,  
and do not take Your Holy Spirit from me.  
Restore to me the joy of Your salvation,  
and establish me with Your guiding Spirit.  
Then I will teach transgressors Your ways,  
and sinners will return to You.

Rescue me from bloodshed, O God,  
the God of my salvation,  
and my tongue will rejoice at Your righteousness.  
O Lord, open my lips,  
and my mouth will declare Your praise.  
For if You had desired sacrifice,  
I would have given it,  
You will not take pleasure  
in whole burnt offerings.  
The sacrifice to God is a broken spirit,  
a broken and humbled heart God will not despise.  
Do good, O Lord, to Zion, in Your good pleasure,  
and let the walls of Jerusalem be built up.  
Then You will be pleased  
with the sacrifice of righteousness,  
with offerings and whole burnt sacrifices,  
then bulls will be offered on Your altar.

### *the* EIGHTH GOSPEL READING

*Priest:* And that we may be accounted worthy of hearing the holy Gospel, let us pray to the Lord our God.

*Singers:* Lord, have mercy. (3x)

*Priest:* Wisdom. Stand upright. Let us hear the holy Gospel. Peace be unto all.

*Singers:* And to your spirit.

*Priest:* The reading from the holy Gospel according to Saint Luke.

*Singers:* Glory to Your Passion, O Lord.

*Priest:* Let us attend.

IN THOSE DAYS, there were with Jesus two criminals, who were led away to be put to death with Him. When they came to the place that is called The Skull, the soldiers crucified Jesus there with the criminals, one on His right and one on His left. Then Jesus said, “Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing.” And the soldiers cast lots to divide His garments. The people stood by, watching, but the rulers scoffed at Him, saying, “He saved others, let Him save Himself, if He is the Christ, the chosen One of God!” The soldiers also mocked Him, coming up and offering Him sour wine, and saying, “If You are the King of the Jews, save Yourself!” There was also an inscription over Him, “This is the King of the Jews.”

One of the criminals who was hanged there kept insulting Jesus and saying, “Are You not the Messiah? Save Yourself and us!” But the other criminal rebuked him, saying, “Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? And we indeed have been condemned justly, for we are getting what we deserve for our deeds, but this

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Man has done nothing wrong.” Then he said to Jesus, “Lord, remember me when You come in Your Kingdom.” Jesus replied, “Truly I tell you, today you will be with Me in Paradise.”

It was now about noon, and darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon, 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 Your hands I commend My spirit.” Having said this, He breathed His last. When the centurion saw what had taken place, he praised God and said, “Certainly, this was a righteous Man.” And when all the crowds who had gathered there for this spectacle saw what had taken place, they returned home, beating their breasts. But all those who knew Jesus, including the women who had followed Him from Galilee, stood at a distance, watching these things. *(Luke 23:32-49)*

*Singers:* Glory to Your long-suffering, O Lord.

*The faithful may SIT.*

HOLY FRIDAY *three-ode* CANON

ODE 5

*Irmos:* Early will I seek You, O Word of God,

Who without change emptied Yourself  
in Your compassion for the fallen man.

Who without suffering bowed down to suffering.  
Grant peace to me, O Lord Who love of mankind.

*Refrain:* Glory to You, O God, glory to You.

With their feet washed, and themselves purified  
by their participation in the Divine Mystery, Your  
servants, O Christ, now ascend from Zion to the great  
Mount of Olives, praising You, Who love mankind.

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

You said, “See that you are not alarmed, O  
friends. For the hour is now at hand for Me to be  
seized and slain at the hands of lawless men. All of  
you will be scattered, forsaking Me. But I will gather  
you to preach Me, Who mankind.”

## KONTAKION

*Singers: tone 8*

Come, let us all sing the praises  
of Him Who was crucified for us,  
for Mary said when she beheld Him upon the tree,  
“Though You endured the Cross,  
You are my Son and my God.”

## IKOS

*Reader:* Beholding her own Lamb led to the slaughter, Mary followed with the other women, in distress and crying out, “Where do You go, my Child? Why do You travel along so fast? Surely there is not another wedding in Cana to which You now hasten to change water into wine? Will I come with You, my Child, or will I wait for You? Give me a word, for You are the Word. Do not pass me by in silence, for You kept me pure, for You are my Son and my God.”

## ODE 8

*Irmos:* The godly Youths exposed  
a monument of godless wickedness,  
but the lawless assembly is enraged  
and takes vain counsel against Christ.  
They plan to kill Him  
Who holds life in the palm of His hand,  
Whom all creation blesses and glorifies  
throughout all ages.

*Refrain:* Glory to You, O God, glory to You.

“O My disciples, now shake off sleep from your eyelids,” said Christ. “Keep watch, in prayer, that you may not fall into temptation. And I speak particularly to Simon, since the test is greatest for the

strongest. O Peter, acknowledge Me, Whom all creation blesses and glorifies throughout all ages.”

*Refrain:* Glory to You, O God, glory to You.

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

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

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

*Refrain:* Now and ever and unto the ages of ages. Amen.

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

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

*The faithful* STAND.

ODE 9

*Irmos:* More honorable than the Cherubim,  
and more glorious beyond compare  
than the Seraphim,  
who without corruption  
gave birth to God the Word,  
true Theotokos, we magnify you.

*Refrain:* Glory to You, O God, glory to You.

A destructive band of God-forsaken and wicked  
murderers of God attacked You, O Christ, and  
dragged You away as an evildoer – the Creator of all,  
Whom we magnify.

*Refrain:* Glory to You, O God, glory to You.

Impious men, ignorant of the Law and studying  
the prophets to no avail, dragged You away as a  
sheep to be unjustly slaughtered – the Master of all,  
Whom we magnify.

*Refrain:* Glory to You, O God, glory to You.

The priests and scribes betrayed to the Gentiles  
the Life to be put to death, striking in their jealous  
wickedness Him Who by nature is the Giver of life,  
Whom we magnify.

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

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

*Everyone KNEELS.*

*the HYMN of LIGHT*

(EXAPOSTELARION)

*Singers: tone 8*

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

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

*Singers:* The wise thief You made worthy  
of paradise in a single moment, O Lord.  
By the wood of Your Cross  
enlighten me as well, and save me.

*The faithful STAND.*

*the* NINTH GOSPEL READING

*Priest:* And that we may be accounted worthy of hearing the holy Gospel, let us pray to the Lord our God.

*Singers:* Lord, have mercy. (3x)

*Priest:* Wisdom. Stand upright. Let us hear the holy Gospel. Peace be unto all.

*Singers:* And to your spirit.

*Priest:* The reading from the holy Gospel according to Saint John.

*Singers:* Glory to Your Passion, O Lord.

*Priest:* Let us attend.

IN THOSE DAYS, 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 beside her, 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 into his own home.

After this, when Jesus knew that all was now accomplished, He said, in order to fulfill the Scripture, "I am thirsty." A vessel full of sour wine was standing there, so the soldiers put a sponge full of the wine on a branch of hyssop and held it to His mouth. When Jesus had received the wine, He said, "It is finished."

Then He bowed His head and gave up His spirit.

Since it was the Day of Preparation, the Jews did not want the bodies left on the cross during the Sabbath, especially because that Sabbath was a great day. So they asked Pilate to have the legs of the crucified men broken and the bodies removed. Then the soldiers came and broke the legs of the first and of the other who had been crucified with Jesus. But when they came to Jesus and saw that He was already dead, they did not break His legs. Instead, one of the soldiers pierced His side with a spear, and immediately blood and water came out. And he who saw this has testified, so that you also may believe. His testimony is true, and he knows that he tells the truth. These things happened so that the Scripture might be fulfilled, “None of His bones shall be broken” (*Exodus 12:46*). And again another passage of Scripture says, “They will look on Him Whom they have pierced” (*Psalms 22:16*). (*John 19:25-37*)

*Singers:* Glory to Your long-suffering, O Lord.

*The faithful may SIT.*

*the* PRAISES

*Reader:* Let everything that has breath praise the Lord. Praise the Lord from the heavens, praise Him in the highest. Praise Him, all His angels. Praise Him, all His hosts. Praise Him, sun and moon. Praise Him, all you shining stars. Praise Him, you highest heavens and you waters above the heavens.

Let them praise the Name of the Lord. For He commanded and they were created. And He established them for ever and ever. He fixed their bounds which cannot be passed.

Praise the Lord from the earth, you sea monster and all deeps, fire and hail, snow and frost, stormy wind fulfilling His command. Mountains and all hills, fruit trees and all cedars. Beasts and all cattle, creeping things and flying birds. Kings of the earth and all peoples, princes and all rulers of the earth. Young men and maidens together, old men and children.

Let them praise the Name of the Lord, for His Name alone is exalted. His glory is above earth and heaven. He has raised up strength for His people, praise for all His saints, for the people of Israel who are near to Him. Praise the Lord. Sing to the Lord a new song, His praise in the assembly of the faithful. Let Israel be glad in his Maker, let the sons of Zion

rejoice in their King. Let them praise His Name with dancing, making melody to Him with timbrel and lyre. For the Lord takes pleasure in His people, He adorns the humble with victory.

Let the faithful exult in glory, let them sing for joy on their couches. Let the high praises of God be in their throats, and two-edged swords in their hands, to wreak vengeance on the nations and chastisement on the peoples, to bind their kings with chains and their nobles with fetters of iron, to execute on them the judgment written. This is the glory of all His faithful ones. Praise God in His sanctuary. Praise Him in His mighty firmament. Praise Him for His mighty deeds, praise Him according to His exceeding greatness. Praise Him with trumpet sound, praise Him with lute and harp. Praise Him with timbrel and dance. Praise Him with strings and pipe.

*Singers: tone 3*

Israel, My first-born son,  
has committed two evil deeds.  
He abandoned Me, the fountain of living water,  
and dug for himself a broken well.  
He crucified Me upon the wood  
and asked for Barabbas and released him.  
Heaven was amazed at this,

and the sun hid its rays.  
But you, O Israel, were not ashamed,  
but delivered Me to death.  
Forgive them, O Holy Father,  
for they know not what they do.

*Reader:* Praise Him with sounding cymbals. Praise Him with loud, clashing cymbals.

*Singers: tone 3*

Every member of Your holy flesh  
endured dishonor for us:  
Your head – the thorns, Your face – the spitting,  
Your cheeks – the striking, Your mouth –  
the taste of vinegar mingled with gall,  
Your ears – the impious blasphemies,  
Your back – the scourge, Your hand – the reed,  
Your whole body – extension upon the Cross,  
Your joints – the nails, Your side – the spear.  
By Your sufferings  
You have set us free from suffering.  
In Your love for us  
You stooped down to raise us up.  
O Almighty Savior, have mercy on us.

MATINS of GREAT & HOLY FRIDAY  
with the PASSION GOSPELS

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*Reader:* Let everything that has breath praise the Lord. Praise the Lord!

*Singers: tone 3*

Beholding You crucified, O Christ,  
the whole creation trembled.  
The foundations of the earth  
shook for fear of Your power,  
for by Your lifting up today  
the Hebrew race perished.  
The curtain of the Temple was torn in two.  
The tombs were opened  
and the dead arose from their graves.  
The centurion shuddered  
when he saw the wonder.  
Your mother stood by  
and cried out with motherly lamentation,  
“How will I not weep and beat my breast,  
seeing You naked and hanging  
upon the Cross as one condemned?”  
O Lord, crucified and buried  
and risen from the dead, glory to You.

*Reader:* Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

*Singers: tone 6*

They have stripped Me of My garments  
and clothed Me in scarlet robe.

They have set upon My head a crown of thorns  
and have given Me a reed in My right hand  
that I might dash them in pieces  
like a potter's vessel.

*Reader:* Now and ever and unto the ages of ages. Amen.

*Singers: tone 6*

I gave My back to scourgings.  
I did not turn My face from spittings.  
I stood before the judgment seat of Pilate,  
and endured the Cross,  
for the salvation of the world.

### *the TENTH GOSPEL READING*

*Priest:* And that we may be accounted worthy of hearing the holy Gospel, let us pray to the Lord our God.

*Singers:* Lord, have mercy. (3x)

*Priest:* Wisdom. Stand upright. Let us hear the holy Gospel. Peace be unto all.

*Singers:* And to your spirit.

*Priest:* The reading from the holy Gospel according to Saint Mark.

*Singers:* Glory to Your Passion, O Lord.

*Priest:* Let us attend.

IN THOSE DAYS, Joseph of Arimathea, a prominent member of the council, who was also himself waiting expectantly for the Kingdom of God, went boldly to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. Then Pilate wondered if Jesus was already dead, and calling the centurion, he asked him whether Jesus had been dead for some time. When Pilate learned from the centurion that Jesus was dead, he granted the body to Joseph. Then Joseph bought a linen cloth, and taking down the body of Jesus, wrapped Him in the linen cloth, and laid Him in a tomb that had been cut out of the rock. He then rolled a stone against the door of the tomb. Mary Magdalene and Mary, the mother of Joseph, saw where the body was laid. (*Mark 15:43-47*)

*Singers:* Glory to Your long-suffering, O Lord.

*The faithful may SIT.*

### *the LESSER DOXOLOGY*

*Reader:* Glory to You for showing us the light. Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will among people. We praise You. We bless You. We worship You. We glorify You and give thanks to You

for Your great glory.

O Lord, heavenly King, God the Father Almighty. O Lord, the Only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit. O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, Who take away the sin of the world, have mercy on us. As You take away the sins of the world, receive our prayer. As You sit on the right hand of God the Father, have mercy on us. For You alone are Holy, and You alone are the Lord, O Jesus Christ, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

I will give thanks to You every day and praise Your Name forever and ever.

Lord, You have been our refuge from generation to generation. I said, "Lord, have mercy on me, heal my soul, for I have sinned against You." Lord, I have fled to You for refuge, teach me to do Your will, for You are my God. For in You is the source of life, and in Your light we will see light. Continue Your mercy to those who know You.

Grant, O Lord, to keep us this day without sin. Blessed are You, O Lord, the God of our fathers, and praised and glorified is Your Name for ever. Amen.

Let Your mercy be upon us, O Lord, even as we have set our hope in You. Blessed are You, O Lord, teach me Your statutes. Blessed are You, O Master,

make me to understand Your commandments. Blessed are You, O Holy One, enlighten me with Your precepts.

Your mercy, O Lord, endures forever, do not despise the works of Your hands. To You is due praise, to You is due a song, to You is due glory, to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto the ages of ages. Amen.

### *the* LITANY of FERVENT SUPPLICATION

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

*Singers:* Lord, have mercy.

Help us, save us, have mercy on us, and protect us, O God, by Your grace.

*Singers:* Lord, have mercy.

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

*Singers:* Grant this, O Lord. (*after each petition*)

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

Forgiveness and remission of our sins and transgressions, let us ask of the Lord.

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

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

A Christian ending to our life, painless, blameless, and peaceful, and a good account before the Great Judgment Seat of Christ, let us ask.

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

*Singers:* To You, O Lord.

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

*Singers:* Amen.

*The faithful STAND.*

*the PRAYER of INCLINATION of the HEADS*

*Priest:* Peace be unto all.

*Singers:* And to your spirit.

*Priest:* Let us bow our heads unto the Lord.

*Singers:* To You, O Lord.

*Priest:* O Holy Lord, Who dwell on high and regard the humble of heart, and with Your all-seeing eye

behold all creation: to You we have bowed the neck of our soul and body, and we ask You, O Holy of holies: Stretch out Your invisible hand from Your holy dwelling-place, and bless us all. And if in any way we have sinned, whether voluntarily or involuntarily, forgive us, for You are a good and loving God, granting us Your earthly and heavenly blessings. For Yours it is to show mercy and to save us, O our God, and to You we give glory, to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages.

*Singers:* Amen.

### *the ELEVENTH GOSPEL READING*

*Priest:* And that we may be accounted worthy of hearing the holy Gospel, let us pray to the Lord our God.

*Singers:* Lord, have mercy. (3x)

*Priest:* Wisdom. Stand upright. Let us hear the holy Gospel. Peace be unto all.

*Singers:* And to your spirit.

*Priest:* The reading from the holy Gospel according to Saint John.

*Singers:* Glory to Your Passion, O Lord.

*Priest:* Let us attend.

IN THOSE DAYS, Joseph of Arimathea, who was a

disciple of Jesus, but secretly because of his fear of the Jews, asked Pilate to let him take away the body of Jesus. Pilate gave him permission, so Joseph came and removed His body. Nicodemus, who had early come to Jesus by night, also came, bringing a mixture of myrrh and aloes, weighing about a hundred pounds. They took the body of Jesus and wrapped it in linen cloths with the spices, according to the burial custom of the Jews. Now there was a garden in the place where Jesus was crucified, and in the garden there was a new tomb in which no one had ever been laid. And so, because it was the Jewish day of Preparation, and since the tomb was nearby, they laid Jesus there. (*John 19:38-42*)

*Singers:* Glory to Your long-suffering, O Lord.

*The faithful may SIT.*

## APOSTICHA

*Singers: tone 1*

All creation was changed by fear  
when it saw You hanging  
upon 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 willingly endured this for us,  
glory to You.

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

*Singers: tone 2*

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 You!”

*Reader:* They gave Me gall for food, and for My thirst  
they gave Me vinegar to drink.

*Singers: tone 2*

Today the blameless Virgin  
saw You 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 have You departed from my eyes,  
O Lamb of God?”  
Then the bodiless hosts were seized  
with trembling and cried,  
“O incomprehensible Lord, glory to You!”

*Reader:* God is our King before the ages, working  
salvation in the midst of the earth.

*Singers: tone 2*

When she, who gave birth to You without seed,  
saw You suspended upon the tree,  
O Christ, the Creator and God of all,  
she cried bitterly,  
“Where is the beauty of Your form, O my Son?  
I cannot bear to see You unjustly crucified.  
Hasten and arise that I too  
may see Your resurrection from the dead  
on the third day.

MATINS of GREAT & HOLY FRIDAY  
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*Reader:* Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

*Singers: tone 8*

When You ascended the Cross, O Lord,  
fear and trembling fell upon creation.  
Yet You forbade the earth  
to swallow up those who crucified You,  
and You commanded hell to send up its captives,  
for the regeneration of mortals.  
O Judge of the living and the dead,  
You have come to grant life, not death.  
O Lover of mankind, glory to You!

*Reader:* Now and ever and unto the ages of ages. Amen.

*Singers: tone 8*

Now the unjust judges dip the pen of judgment.  
Jesus is tried and sentenced to the Cross.  
All creation suffers as it beholds  
the Lord on the Cross.  
O good Lord, Who in Your human nature  
suffered for me, glory to You!

*The faithful STAND.*

## the TWELFTH GOSPEL READING

*Priest:* And that we may be accounted worthy of hearing the holy Gospel, let us pray to the Lord our God.

*Singers:* Lord, have mercy. (3x)

*Priest:* Wisdom. Stand upright. Let us hear the holy Gospel. Peace be unto all.

*Singers:* And to your spirit.

*Priest:* The reading from the holy Gospel according to Saint Matthew.

*Singers:* Glory to Your Passion, O Lord.

*Priest:* Let us attend.

THE NEXT DAY, that is, after the Day of Preparation, the chief priests and the Pharisees gathered before Pilate and said, “Lord, we remember what that impostor said while He was still alive, ‘After three days I will rise again.’ Therefore command the tomb to be made secure until the third day. Otherwise His disciples may come and steal Him away, and tell the people, ‘He is risen from the dead,’ and the last deception would 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 with the guard and made the tomb secure by sealing the stone and setting a watch. (*Matthew 27:62-66*)

*Singers:* Glory to Your long-suffering, O Lord.

*Reader:* It is good to give thanks to the Lord, and to chant to Your Name, O Most High, to proclaim Your mercy in the morning, and Your truth by night.

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

*Priest:* For Thine is the Kingdom and the power and the glory, of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages.

### *the TROPARION*

*Singers:* Amen. *tone 4*

By Your precious Blood,  
You have redeemed us from the curse of the Law.  
By being nailed to the Cross  
and pierced by a spear,  
You have poured out immortality for man.  
O our Savior, glory to You!

*the* AUGMENTED LITANY

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

*Singers:* Lord, have mercy. (3x) (*after each petition*)

Again we pray for our Patriarch [name], for our Bishop (*or* Archbishop *or* Metropolitan) [name], for priests, deacons, and all other clergy, and for all our brethren in Christ.

Again we pray for this country, its president, for all civil authorities, and for the armed forces.

Again we pray for the blessed and ever-memorable Orthodox bishops; and for the blessed and ever-memorable founders of this holy church; and for all our departed fathers and mothers, brothers and sisters; and for all Orthodox Christians departed this life before us, who here and everywhere lie asleep in the Lord.

Again we pray for mercy, life, peace, health, salvation, and visitation for the servants of God, [names], and for all the parishioners of our community, and for the forgiveness and remission of our sins.

Again we pray for those who bring offerings and do good works in this holy and all-venerable temple, for those who labor and those who sing, and for all the people here present, who await Your great and

rich mercy.

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

*Singers:* Amen.

### *the GREAT DISMISSAL*

*Priest:* Wisdom.

*Singers:* Father, bless.

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

*Singers:* Amen.

Preserve, O God, the holy Orthodox Faith and Orthodox Christians, unto ages of ages.

*Priest:* Most holy Theotokos, save us.

*Singers:* More honorable than the Cherubim, and more glorious beyond compare than the Seraphim, without corruption you gave birth to God the Word, true Theotokos, we magnify you.

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

*Singers:* Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the

Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Lord, have mercy. (3x) Father, bless.

*Priest:* May He Who endured spitting and scourging, the Cross and death, for the salvation of the world, Christ our true God, by the prayers of His most pure Mother; by the prayers of the holy, glorious, and most praised apostles; by the prayers of the holy and righteous ancestors of God, Joachim and Anna; and by the prayers of all the saints, have mercy on us and save us, for He is good and loves mankind.

*Singers:* Amen.

Our great lord and father Kirill, most holy Patriarch of Moscow and all Rus, and his grace, the most reverend Matthew, bishop of Sourozh. The pastor and parishioners of this holy temple, and all Orthodox Christians, O Lord, preserve them for many years.

SAINT JOHN *the* BAPTIST

*Russian Orthodox Church*

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