

GREAT AND HOLY FRIDAY EVENING  
THE ENCOMIA (LAMENTATIONS)  
OF CHRIST



(SUNG IN ANTICIPATION OF SATURDAY MORNING)

SAINT PAUL'S GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH  
IRVINE, CA

Priest: Blessed is our God always, now and ever, and to the Ages of Ages.

Chanter: Amen.

Priest: Glory to You, our God, glory to You.

O Heavenly King, Comforter, the Spirit of Truth, Who are ever present, and filling all things, the Treasure of all Blessings and Giver of Life, come and dwell within us, and cleanse us from every blemish, and save our souls O Blessed One.

Reader: Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal, have mercy on us. (3 Times)

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

All-Holy Trinity, have mercy on us. Lord, pardon our sins, Master, forgive our iniquities; O Holy One visit and heal our infirmities for Your Name's sake. Lord, have mercy, Lord, have Mercy, Lord, have Mercy.

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

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

Priest: For Yours is the Kingdom, and the Power, and the Glory, of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy spirit, now and ever, and to the Ages of Ages.

Reader: Amen.

O Lord, save Your people, and bless Your inheritance, granting victory to the Faithful against the adversaries, and protecting Your common wealth by Your Cross.

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

O Christ our God, Who were of Your own will lifted up on the cross, grant Your mercies to Your new Commonwealth, named after You. In Your power gladden our faithful leaders, granting them victories against the adversaries. May they have Your alliance, as a weapon of peace, an invincible trophy.

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

O awesome and ever present protection, all-lauded Theotokos, of your goodness overlook not our supplications; Make firm the commonwealth of the Orthodox,

save those, whom you have called to govern, and grant them victory from on high, for you gave birth to God, the only blessed one.

*The choir responds to each petition with "Lord have Mercy."*

Deacon or Priest:

Have mercy on us, O God, according to Your great mercy; we pray to You, hear us and have mercy.

Again we pray for the devout and Orthodox Christians.

Again we pray for our Archbishop Gerasimos, and for all our Brotherhood in Christ.

Priest: For You are a Merciful and Loving God, and to You we ascribe glory; to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and to the Ages of Ages.

Chanter: Amen. In the Name of the Lord, Father, give the blessing.

Priest: Glory to the Holy, Consubstantial, Life-giving, and undivided Trinity always, now and ever, and to the Ages of Ages.

Reader: Amen.

### **The SIX PSALMS**

Reader: Glory to God in the Highest, and on earth peace, good will to all people. (3 Times)

O Lord, open my lips, and my mouth shall proclaim Your praise. (2 Times)

#### **PSALM 3**

Lord, how they have increased who trouble me! Many are they who rise up against me. Many are they who say to me, "There is no help for him in God." But you, O Lord, are a shield for me, my glory and the One who lifts up my head. I cried to the Lord with my voice, and He heard me from His Holy hill. I lay down and slept; I awoke, for the Lord sustained me. I will not be afraid of ten thousands of people who have set themselves against me all around. Arise, O Lord; save me, O my God! For you have struck all my enemies on the cheekbone; You have broken the teeth of the ungodly. Salvation belongs to the Lord. Your blessing is upon your people.

I lay down and slept; I awoke, for the Lord sustained me.

#### **PSALM 37**

O Lord, do not rebuke me in your wrath, nor chasten me not in Your hot displeasure! For Your arrows pierce me deeply, and Your hand presses me down. There is no soundness in my flesh because of Your anger, nor any health in my bones because of my sin. For my iniquities have gone over my head; like a heavy burden, they are too heavy for me. My wounds are foul and festering because of my foolishness.

I am troubled, I am bowed down greatly; I go mourning all the day long. For my loins are full of inflam-

mation, and there is no soundness in my flesh. I am feeble and severely broken; I groan because of the turmoil of heart. Lord, all my desire is before You; and my signing is not hidden from You. My heart pants, my strength fails me; as for the light of my eyes it also has gone from me. My loved ones and my friends stand aloof from my plague, and my relatives stand afar off. Those also who seek my life lay snares for me; those who seek my hurt speak of destruction, and plan deception all the day long. But I, like a deaf man, do not hear; and I am like a mute who does not open his mouth. Thus I am like a man who does not hear, and in whose mouth there is no response.

For in You, O Lord, I hope; You will hear, O Lord my God. For I said, "Hear me, lest they rejoice over me, lest, when my foot slips, they exalt themselves against me". For I am ready to fall, and my sorrow is continually before me. For I will declare my iniquity; I will be in anguish over my sin. But my enemies are vigorous and they are strong; And those who hate me wrongfully, have multiplied. Those also who render evil for good, they are my adversaries, because I follow what is good. Do not forsake me, O Lord; O my God, be not far from me! Make haste to help me, O Lord, my salvation!

Do not forsake me, O Lord; O my God, be not far from me! Make haste to help me, O Lord, my salvation!

### **PSALM 62 (63)**

O God, You are my God; Early will I seek You; my soul thirsts for You; my flesh longs for You in a dry and thirsty land where there is no water. So I have looked for You in the sanctuary, to see Your power and Your glory. Because Your lovingkindness is better than life, my lips shall praise You.

Thus I will bless You while I live; I will lift up my hands in Your name. My soul shall be satisfied as with marrow and fatness, and my mouth shall praise You with joyful lips. When I remember you on my bed I meditate on You in the night-watches. Because You have been my help, therefore in the shadow of Your wings I will rejoice. My soul follows close behind You; Your right hand upholds me. But those who seek my life, to destroy it, shall go into the lower parts of the earth. They shall fall by the sword; they shall be a portion for jackals. But the king shall rejoice in God; everyone who swears by Him shall glory; but the mouth of those who speak lies shall be stopped.

I meditate on you in the night-watches. Because You have been my help, therefore in the shadow of Your wings I will rejoice. My soul follows close behind You; Your right hand upholds me.

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

Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia. Glory to You, O God. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

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

### **PSALM 87 (88)**

O Lord, God of my salvation, I have cried out day and night before You. Let my prayer come before You; Incline Your ear to my cry. For my soul is full of troubles, and my life draws near to the grave. I am

counted with those who go down into the pit; I am like a man who has no strength, adrift among the dead, like the slain who lie in the grave, whom You remember no more, and who are cut off from Your hand. You have laid me in the lowest pit, in darkness, in the depths. Your wrath lies heavy upon me, and You have afflicted me with all your waves. You have put away all my acquaintances far from me; You have made me an abomination to them; I am shut up, and I cannot get out; my eye wastes away because of affliction.

Lord, I have called daily upon You; I have stretched out my hands to You. Will you work wonders for the dead? Shall the dead arise and praise You? Shall Your lovingkindness be declared in the grave? Or your faithfulness in a place of destruction? Shall your wonders be known in the dark? And Your righteousness in the land of forgetfulness? But to You I have cried out, O Lord and in the morning my prayer comes before You. Lord why do You cast off my soul? Why do You hide Your face from me? I have been afflicted and ready to die from my youth; I suffer your terrors; I am distraught. Your fierce wrath has gone over me; Your terrors have cut me off. They came around me all day long like water; They engulfed me altogether. Loved one and friend You have put far from me, and my acquaintances into darkness.

O Lord, God of my salvation, I have cried out day and night before You. Let my prayer come before You; incline Your ear to my cry.

### **PSALM 102 (103)**

Bless the Lord, O my soul; And all that is within me, bless His Holy name! Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all His benefits; Who forgives all your iniquities, Who heals all your diseases, Who redeems your life from destruction. Who crowns you with loving kindness and tender mercies. Who satisfies your mouth with good things, so that your youth is renewed, like the eagle's. The Lord executes righteousness and justice for all who are oppressed. He made known his ways to Moses, His acts to the children of Israel.

The Lord is merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in mercy. He will not always stride with us, nor will He keep His anger forever. He has not dealt with us according to our sins, nor punished us according to our iniquities.

For as the Heavens are high above the earth, so great is His mercy toward those who fear Him. As far as the east is from the west, so far He removed our transgressions from us. As a father pities his children, so the Lord pities those who fear Him. For He knows our frame; He remembers that we are dust.

As for man, his days are like grass; as a flower of the field so he flourishes; For the wind passes over it and it is gone, and its place remembers it no more. But the mercy of the Lord is everlasting to everlasting on those who fear Him, and His righteousness to children's children, to such as keep His covenant, and to those who remember His commandments to do them.

The Lord has established His throne in Heaven, and His Kingdom rules over all. Bless the Lord, you His angels, who excel in strength, who do His word, heeding the voice of His word. Bless the Lord, all You His hosts, you ministers of His, who do His pleasure. Bless the Lord, all His works, in all places of His dominion. Bless the Lord, O my soul!

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

**PSALM 142 (143)**

Hear my prayer, O Lord; give ear to my supplications! In Your faithfulness; answer me, and in Your righteousness. Do not enter into judgment with Your servant, for in Your sight no one living is righteous. For the enemy has persecuted my soul; he has crushed my life to the ground; he has made me dwell in darkness, like those who have long been dead. Therefore my spirit is overwhelmed within me; my heart within me is distressed. I remember the days of old; I meditate on all Your works; I muse on the works of Your hands I spread out my hands to You; my soul longs for You like a thirsty land.

Answer me speedily, O Lord; My spirit fails! Do not hide Your face from me, lest I be like those who go down into the pit. Cause me to hear Your lovingkindness in the morning, for in You do I trust; cause me to know the way in which I should walk, for I lift up my soul to You. Deliver me, O Lord from my enemies; in You I take shelter. Teach me to do Your will, for You are my God; Your Spirit is good. Lead me in the land of uprightness. Revive me, O Lord for Your name's sake! For Your righteousness' sake bring my soul out of trouble. In your mercy cut off my enemies, and destroy all those who afflict my soul; for I am your servant.

In your righteousness, O Lord, answer me. And enter not into judgment with your servant. (2 Times).

Your spirit is good. Lead me in the land of uprightness.

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

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia. Glory to You, O God. (3 Times)

Our hope O Lord, glory to You.

*(The Choir responds to each petition with "Lord, have mercy").*

Deacon:

In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

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

For the peace of the whole world, for the stability of the Holy Churches of God, and for the union of all, let us pray to the Lord.

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

For our Archbishop Gerasimos, the honorable Presbytery of the Diaconate in Christ, for all the Clergy and the Laity, let us pray to the Lord.

For the President of our Country, for those in Civil authority, for our Armed Forces, and for all the American Nation, let us pray to the Lord.

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

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

For those at sea, for those who travel by land or air, for the sick and the suffering, for captives and for their salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

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

Help us, save us, have mercy on us, and keep us, O God, by Your Grace.

Commemorating our most holy, pure most blessed, and glorious Lady, Theotokos, and Ever-Virgin Mary with all the Saints, let us commend ourselves, and one another, and all our life to Christ, our God.

Choir: To You, O Lord.

Priest: For to You, all glory, honor and worship is befitting; to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and to the Ages of Ages.

Choir: Amen.

### **2nd Tone**

Chanter: God is Lord and has appeared to us; blessed is the One, Who comes in the Name of the Lord (*4 Times*)

The noble Joseph taking down from the Cross Your spotless Body, enwrapped It in clean linen with aromas, and laid It for burial in a new Tomb.

### **2nd Tone**

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

When You, the Immortal Life, descended to Death, You struck Hades dead with the lightning of the Godhead; and when You raised up the dead from the abyss, all the powers of Heaven cried aloud; "O Life Giver Christ, our God, glory to You!"

*Now and ever and to the Ages of Ages. Amen.*

The Angel standing by the Tomb, cried out to the Myrrh-bearing women: "The Myrrh is fitting for the dead, but Christ has shown Himself a stranger to corruption."

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

Chanter: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: Help us, save us, have mercy upon us and protect us, O God, by Your Grace.

Commemorating our all holy, pure, blessed and glorious lady, the Theotokos and ever-virgin Mary, with all the Saints, let us commit ourselves and one another and our whole life to Christ our God.

Chanter: To You, O Lord

Priest: For Yours is the dominion, and Yours is the Kingdom and the power and the glory, of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and to the Ages of Ages.

Chanter: Amen.

*(The Faithful sit)*

**The Kathismata. 1st Tone.**

Chanter: Joseph asked Pilate for Your sacred Body. Anointing It with fragrant spices and with clean linen laid It in a new tomb. Whereupon the Myrrh-bearing women arriving at early dawn, cried out: "Show us, O Christ, as You foretold, Your Resurrection."

*Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; now and ever and to the Ages of Ages. Amen.*

The choirs of Angels were astonished, seeing the One, Who rests in the bosom of the Father, the Immortal One placed in the tomb, as dead; Whom the ranks of Angels encircle and glorify together with the dead in Hades, as Creator and Lord.

**Psalm 50**

*(Prayer of repentance)*

Reader: Have mercy upon me, O God, according to Your loving kindness; according to the multitude of Your tender mercies, blot out my transgressions. Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin. For I acknowledge my transgression and my sin is always before me. Against You, You only, have I sinned and done this evil in Your sight - that You may be found just when You speak and blameless when You judge. Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity and in sin my mother conceived me. Behold You desire truth in the inward part and in the hidden part You will make me to know wisdom.

Purge me with hyssop and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow. Make me hear joy and gladness, that the bones You have broken may rejoice. Hide Your face away from my sins and blot out all my iniquities. Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a steadfast 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 uphold me by Your generous Spirit. Then, I will teach transgressors Your ways and sinners shall be converted to You. Deliver me from the guilt of bloodshed, O God, the God of my salvation and my tongue shall sing aloud of Your righteousness. O Lord, open my lips and my mouth shall show forth Your praise. For You do not desire sacrifice, or else I would give it; You do not delight in burnt offering. The sacrifice of God, are a broken spirit, a broken and contrite heart. These, O God, you will not despise. Do good in Your good pleasure to Zion; build the walls of Jerusalem; then You shall be pleased with the sacrifices of righteousness, with burnt offering and whole burnt offering; then they shall offer bulls on Your Altar.

### **The CANON**

The 1st Ode. 2nd Plagal Tone. 6th Tone. The heirmos.

Chanter: The children of those, who were saved, buried under ground the God, Who made the pursuing tyrant of old disappear in the waves of the sea. As for us however, let us praise the Lord, as did the maidens; for gloriously He has been glorified

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

O Lord my God, I shall sing You a funeral hymn and a burial ode; for through Your Burial You opened for me the portals of life; and by death You have put Death and Hades to death.

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

The super-terrestrial and those of the nether world, beholding You my Saviour, on Your throne on High and in the grave below, were shaken with Your death; for You were seen in a manner, transcending the mind, as dead; You, the Source of Life.

*Now and ever to the Ages of Ages. Amen.*

You descended to the depths of the earth to fill all things with Your glory; for my person that is in Adam was not hidden from you; and being buried, You renewed me, from corruption, O Lover of mankind.

### **The KATAVASIA**

The children of those who were saved, buried under ground the God, Who made the pursuing tyrant of old disappear in the waves of the sea. As for us however, let us praise the Lord, as did the maidens; for gloriously He has been glorified.

### **The 3rd Ode**

Verily, creation, having beheld You suspended on Golgotha, Who suspended the

whole earth freely on the waters, was seized with great wonder. "There is none Holy, save You, O Lord."

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

You have revealed the symbols of Your Burial by many visions. But now, You have manifested Your secrets as God and Man, even to those in Hades, O Master. "There is none Holy, save You, O Lord."

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

You stretched out Your arms and united those who were divided of old. Restrained by the shroud and tomb, You loosed those held captive, who cry out: "There is none Holy, save You, O Lord."

*Now and ever and to the Ages of Ages. Amen.*

O uncontainable One, You were sealed in a tomb of Your own Will; and You made known Your Power through Your Divine actions to those who sing: "There is none Holy, save You, O Loving Lord."

### **The KATAVASIA**

Verily, creation having beheld You suspended on Golgotha, Who suspended the whole earth freely on the waters, was seized with great wonder. "There is none Holy, save You, O Lord."

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

Chanter: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: Help us, save us, have mercy upon us and protect us, O God, by Your Grace.

Commemorating our all holy, pure, blessed and glorious lady, the Theotokos and ever-virgin Mary, with all the Saints, let us commit ourselves and one another and our whole life to Christ our God.

Chanter: To You, O Lord

Priest: For You are our God and to You we ascribe glory; to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and to the Ages of Ages.

Chanter: Amen.

## **The KATHISMATA**

1st Tone.

Chanter: The soldiers guarding Your tomb, O Saviour, became like dead from the lightning of the appearing Angel, proclaiming Your Resurrection to the women. We glorify You, the Despoiler of corruption and to You we kneel, risen from the grave, our only God.

### **The 4th Ode.**

Foreseeing Your Divine self-emptying on the Cross, Habakkuk cried out in amazement: "You cut off the power of the mighty, O Good One, speaking to those in Hades as the Almighty."

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

You have sanctified the seventh day, which You blessed before You rested from Your labors; for You create everything and You renew them, observing the sabbath and restoring Yourself.

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

When Your soul was separated from the body, the bonds of both Hades and Death were shattered with greater strength by Your might, O Word of God.

*Now and ever and to the Ages of Ages. Amen.*

Hades in encountering You, O Word, was embittered, beholding a mortal deified; covered with bruises, yet all powerful. Wherefore, it shrank back at the awesome sight.

## **The KATAVASIA**

Foreseeing Your Divine self-emptying on the Cross, Habakkuk cried out in amazement: "You cut off the power of the mighty, O Good One, speaking to those in Hades as the Almighty."

### **The 5th Ode.**

Your loving manifestation made through Your compassion for us, was seen by Isaiah as an unwaning light; and rising early from the nightwatch, he cried aloud: "The dead shall rise and they who are in the tombs shall awake and all those on earth shall rejoice."

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

When You the Creator became earthly, You renewed those of the earth. The linen

and the tomb demonstrate the inherent mystery, O Word; for the honorable Councilor, fulfills Your Father's will, through Whom You renew me majestically.

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

You transform the mortal by death and the corrupt by burial; for as befits God, You have made incorruptible and immortal the nature You assumed; for Your body, O Master, did not see corruption, nor was Your soul abandoned as a stranger in Hades.

*Now and ever and to the Ages of Ages. Amen.*

You came from a Virgin who knew no travail; Your side, O my Creator, was pierced, by which You accomplished the re-creation of Eve, having Yourself become Adam. Supernaturally, You fell into a sleep and corruption, as the Almighty.

### **The KATAVASIA**

Your loving manifestation made through Your compassion for us, was seen by Isaiah as an unwaning light; and rising early from the nightwatch, he cried aloud: "The dead shall rise and they who are in the tombs shall awake and all those on earth shall rejoice."

### **The 6th Ode.**

Verily, Jonah the Prophet was caught, but not held in the belly of the whale. For being an impression of You, Who suffered and was given over to burial, he sprang forth from the whale as from a chamber and said to the watchmen: "Falsely, and in vain do you guard, O watchmen; for you have neglected your own mercy."

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

You were slain, O Word, but were not separated from the body, which You shared with us; for even though Your temple was destroyed during Your Passion, the Person of Your Divinity and humanity was still one; for in both You are One Son, the Word of God, God and Man.

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

The fall of Adam resulted in the death of Man, but not to God; for through the substance of Your earthly body suffered, Your Divinity remained passionless, transforming the corruptible into incorruption and showed it to be the fountain of Resurrection for immortal Life.

*Now and ever and to the Ages of Ages. Amen.*

Verily, Hades rules the race of mortals, but not forever; for You, O mighty One,

when placed in the tomb, demolished the bars of death with Your Life-giving Hand and preached to those, who slept there from the ages of old the true redemption, becoming O Saviour, the First-Born of the dead.

### **The KATAVASIA**

Verily, Jonah the Prophet was caught, but not held in the belly of the whale. For being an impression of You, Who suffered and was given over to burial, he sprang forth from the whale as from a chamber and said to the watchmen: "Falsely, and in vain do you guard, O watchmen; for you have neglected your own mercy."

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

Chanter: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: Help us, save us, have mercy upon us and protect us, O God, by Your Grace.

Commemorating our all holy, pure, blessed and glorious lady, the Theotokos and ever-virgin Mary, with all the Saints, let us commit ourselves and one another and our whole life to Christ our God.

Chanter: To You, O Lord

Priest: For You are the King of Peace and to You we ascribe glory; to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and to the Ages of Ages.

Chanter: Amen.

### **The KONTAKION** *(to be read, not chanted)*

Reader: He Who closed the abyss, is seen as dead; wrapped in linen and with myrrh, the Immortal One is placed in a tomb as dead. The women came to anoint Him, weeping bitterly and crying out, "Behold this the most blessed Sabbath, in which Christ having fallen asleep, will rise on the third day."

### **The OIKOS** *(to be read, not chanted)*

He Who sustains all things was raised on the Cross, and all creation mourns, seeing Him hanging naked on the Wood. The sun hid its rays and the stars cast off their gleam; the earth quaked with great fright and the sea fled; the rocks were split asunder; many graves were opened and the bodies of holy men arose. Hades groaned below and the Judeans plan to spread false rumors against the Resurrection of Christ, while the women cried out: "Behold, this the most blessed Sabbath, in which Christ having fallen asleep, will rise on the third day."

### **The SYNAXARION**

*(The Synaxarion of the day is read from the "Menaion" Book, followed by that of Great Friday from the "Triodion")*

On the Holy and Great Saturday, we celebrate the Burial of the Divine Body, of our Lord and God and Saviour Jesus Christ and His descent into Hades, through which our race was recalled from corruption, and was transplanted to eternal life.

In vain you watchmen guard the tomb. No grave can contain the source of Life

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

### **The 7th Ode.**

Chanter: Ineffable wonder! He who saved the righteous youths from the fire of the furnace, is placed in the grave a breathless corpse, for the salvation of us, who sing: "Blessed are You, O God, our deliverer."

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

Hades was pierced in the heart, having received the One pierced in His side and consumed by the force of divine fire, for the salvation of us, who sing: "Blessed are You, O God, our deliverer."

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

Blessed tomb! Having received in it the Creator as if sleeping, it was manifested to be a divine treasure of Life, for the salvation of us, who sing: "Blessed are You, O God, our deliverer."

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

The Life of all, in accordance with the law of the dead, submits to the tomb and shows it to be the fountain of Resurrection, for the salvation of us, who sing: "Blessed are You, O God, our deliverer."

*Now and ever and to the Ages of Ages. Amen.*

The Godhead of Christ was one with the Father and the Spirit, without separation in the tomb and in Eden, for the salvation of us, who sing: "Blessed are You, O God, our deliverer."

### **The KATAVASIA**

Ineffable wonder! He who saved the righteous youths from the fire of the furnace, is placed in the grave a breathless corpse, for the salvation of us, who sing: "Blessed are You, O God, our deliverer."

### **The 8th Ode.**

Be astonished, O Heaven and let the foundations of the earth quake; for lo! the One, Who dwells and lodges as a stranger in a humble tomb. O you youths bless Him; you priests praise Him; and you people, exalt Him to all the Ages.

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

The pure Temple has been dissolved, but He raised up with Him the fallen tabernacle; for the second Adam Who dwells in the Highest, descended unto the first Adam to the depths of Hades. O you youths, bless Him; you priests praise Him; and you people, exalt Him to all the Ages.

*We bless Father, Son and Holy Spirit, the Lord.*

The courage of the Disciples failed. But Joseph of Arimathea shows valor; for beholding the God of all, dead and naked, he asked for Him and arrayed Him crying out: "O you youths, bless Him; you priests praise Him; and you people, exalt Him to all the Ages."

*Now and ever and to the Ages of Ages. Amen.*

Oh! what new wonders! Oh! what goodness! Oh! what ineffable forbearance! For He that dwells in the Highest, is sealed under the earth of His own will and is slandered as a deceiver. O you youths, bless Him; you priests praise Him; and you people, exalt Him to all the Ages.

### **The KATAVASIA**

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

Be astonished, O Heaven and let the foundations of the earth quake; for lo! the One, Who dwells and lodges as a stranger in a humble tomb. O you youths bless Him; you priests praise Him; and you people, exalt Him to all the Ages.

*(The Faithful stand)*

Deacon: Let us honor and magnify in song, the Theotokos, the mother of Light

*(At this point the Deacon censes)*

### **The 9th Ode.**

Chanter: Lament not for Me, Mother, as You behold Me in the grave, Whom as a Son you conceived in your womb without seed. For I shall rise and be glorified and as God, I shall ceaselessly exalt in glory those, who in faith and yearning, magnify you.

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

My eternal Son, I was spared the travail at Your strange Birth and was marvelously blessed. And now, beholding You, my God, a breathless corpse, I am torn apart with the spear of bitter sorrow; but arise, that I may be magnified.

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

The earth, O Mother, covers Me of My own will, but the gate-keepers of Hades trembled seeing Me clothed in a blood-spattered robe of vengeance; for as God, I have struck down the enemies with the Cross, and I will rise again, and magnify you.

*Now and ever and to the Ages of Ages. Amen.*

Let all creation rejoice and all the earthborn be glad; for Hades, the enemy has been despoiled. Let the women meet me with myrrh; for I redeem Adam along with Eve, and all their descendants and will rise on the third day.

### **The KATAVASIA**

Lament not for Me, Mother, as You behold Me in the grave, Whom as a Son you conceived in your womb without seed. For I shall rise and be glorified and as God, I shall ceaselessly exalt in glory those, who in faith and yearning, magnify you.

*(The Faithful stand)*

*(The clergy with the acolytes and the choir assemble about the Epitaphios)*

*All the Faithful are asked to join in the Chants.*

## The 1st Stanza | 1st Plagal Tone

1. In a tomb they laid you  
who are life, O my Christ.  
The angelic host beheld  
with astonishment,  
glorifying your humility,  
O Lord.

*1. I Zoi en tafo  
katetethis Hriste,  
ke angelon stratiee exeplittondo,  
sigkatavasin thoxa zu se tin sin.*

1. Η ζωή εν τάφω  
κατετέθης, Χριστέ,  
και αγγέλων στρατιαί εξεπλήττοντο,  
συγκατάβασιν δοξάζουσαι την σήν.

2. How can Life itself die,  
or abide in a tomb?  
Yet death's kingdom is brought down  
by your death, O Lord,  
and you raise the dead who slept  
beneath the earth.

*2. I Zoi pos thniskis;  
pos ke tafo ikis  
tu thanatu to vasilion liis the,  
ke tu a thu tus nekrus exanistas.*

2. Η ζωή πως θνήσκεις  
πώς και τάφω οικείς;  
του θανάτου το βασιλείον λύεις δε  
και του Άδου τους νεκρούς  
εξανιστάς.

3. We now magnify you,  
O Lord Jesus, our King.  
We give honor to your suffering  
and to your tomb,  
for you save us from corruption  
by your death

*3. Megalinomen se,  
Iisu Vasilef,  
ke timomen tin tafin ke ta pathi su  
thi' on esosas imas ek tis fthoras.*

3. Μεγαλύνομέν σε,  
Ιησού Βασιλεύ,  
και τιμώνεν την ταφήν και τα  
πάθη σου,  
δι' ων έσωσας ημάς εκ της φθοράς.

4. You gave earth it's bound'ries,  
Jesus Christ, King of all,  
but today you are confined  
in a narrow tomb,  
and you raise up the departed  
from their graves

*4. metra yis o stisas,  
en smikro katikis,  
Iisu pamvasilef, tafo simeron,  
ek mnimaton tus thanondas a niston.*

4. Μέτρα γής ο στήσας,  
εν μικρώ κατοικείς,  
Ιησού Παμβασιλεύ, τάφω σήμερον,  
εκ μνημάτων τους θανόντας ανιστών.

5. O my Christ, O Jesus,  
King and Ruler of all,  
why have you gone forth to seek out  
the dead in hell,  
or to liberate our mortal  
race from death?

*5. Iisu Hriste mu,  
Vasilef tu pandos,  
ti ziton tis en to athi elilithas;  
i to yenos apolise ton vroton.*

5. Ιησού Χριστέ μου,  
Βασιλεύ του παντός,  
τι ζητών τοις εν τω άδη ελήλυθας;  
ή το γένος απολύσαι των βροτών.

6. All creation's Master  
now is seen lying dead;  
He is buried in a grave  
never used before,  
he who empties ev'ry grave of  
all the dead.

*6. O Thespotis pandon,  
kathorate nekros,  
ke en mnimati keno katatithete,  
o kenos ta mnimia ton nekron.*

6. Ο Δεσπότης πάντων  
καθοράται νεκρός,  
και εν μνήματι καινώ κατατίθεται,  
ο κενώσας τα μνημεία των νεκρών.

7. In a tomb they laid you  
who are Life, O my Christ.  
By your saving death you broke down  
the might of death  
and bestowed eternal life  
on all the world.

8. Numbered with those who are evil  
as if evil yourself,  
you O Christ, delivered us  
from the Evil One  
who deceived the human race  
long ago.

9. Jesus, my beloved  
saving Light of the world,  
with forbearance far beyond human  
word of thought  
you are hidden in the darkness  
of a grave.

10. What a wondrous mystery  
never seen till this day,  
for the one who give us life now lies  
cold in death,  
and by Joseph's hand is carried  
to the tomb.

11. When, O Christ our Maker,  
you were placed in a tomb,  
the foundations of hell's pow'r  
were forever crushed  
and the graves of those long dead were  
opened wide.

12. Your pure mother, Jesus,  
shed her tears over you.  
Mourning with a mother's love,  
loudly she exclaimed:  
"O My Son, how can I place you  
in a grave?"

7. *I Zoi en tafo  
katetethis Hriste,  
ke thanato su ton thanaton  
olesas  
ke epiyasas to kosmo tin zoin.*

8. *Meta ton kakuryon,  
os kakuryos, Hriste,  
eloyisthis thikeon imas apandas  
kakuryias tu arheu pternistu*

9. *Iisu gliki mi  
ke sotirion Fos,  
tafo pos en skotino  
katakekripse;  
o afatu ke arritu anohis.*

10. *O thavmaton xenon;  
o pragmaton kenon;  
o pnois mi horigos apnus ferete,  
kithevomenos hersi tu Iosif.*

11. *Su tethendos tafo  
plasturyeta Hriste,  
ta tu athu esalevthi themelia  
ke mnimia ineokhthi ton vroton.*

12. *Thakrirro-us thrinus,  
episeiagni,  
mitrikos o Iisu, epirrenusa,  
anevoa, pos kithevso se Ie.*

7. Η ζωή εν τάφω  
κατετέθης, Χριστέ,  
και θανάτω σου τον θάνατον ώλεσας  
και επήγασας τω κόσμω την ζωήν.

8. Μετά των κακούργων  
ως κακούργος, Χριστέ,  
ελογίσθης δικαίων ημάς άπαντας,  
κακουργίας του αρχαίου Πτερνιστού.

9. Ιησού, γλυκύ μοι  
και σωτήριον φως,  
τάφω πως εν σκοτεινώ  
κατακέκρυψαι;  
ω αφάτου και αρρήτου ανοχής!

10. Ω θαυμάτων ξένων!  
ώ πραγμάτων καινών!  
ο πνοής μοι χορηγός άπνους φέρεται,  
κηδεύόμενος χερσί του Ιωσήφ.

11. Σου τεθέντος τάφω,  
πλαστουργέτα Χριστέ,  
τα του Άδου εσαλεύθη θεμέλια,  
και μνημεία ηνεώχθη των βροτών.

12. Δακρυρρούς θρήνους  
επί σε η Αγνή  
μητρικώς, ω Ιησού, επιρραίνουσα,  
ανεβόα πως κηδεύσω σε, Υιέ;

13. Who has words to tell us  
of this deed strange and new,  
for the Maker and the Lord  
of the universe  
suffers willingly and dies  
for us today.

*13. Tis exipi tropon,  
frikton ondos kenon,  
o thespozon yar tis ktiseos sim-  
eron,  
pathos thehete ke thniski thi'  
I mas.*

13. Τις εξείποι τρόπον,  
φρικτόν! όντως καινόν;  
ο δεσπόζων γαρ της κτίσεως σήμεραν,  
πάθος δέχεται και θνήσκει δι' ημάς.

14. I adore your sufferings;  
I sing praise to your tomb,  
and I magnify your pow'r,  
Lover of mankind,  
for from death's corruption you  
have set me free.

*14. Proskino to pathos,  
animno tin tafin,  
megalino su to kratos Filanthrope,  
thi' on lelime pathon fthoropion.*

14. Προσκυνώ το πάθος,  
ανυμνώ την ταφήν  
μεγαλύνω σου το κράτος, φιλόανθρωπε,  
δι' ων λέλυμαι παθών φθοροποιών.

15. "Who will give me water,  
make my eyes flowing springs,  
so that I may rightly weep  
for my precious Son,"  
cried the virgin Bride of God  
with loud lament.

*15. Tis mi thosi ithor,  
ke thakrion piyas,  
I Theonimfos parthenos ekra-  
vyazen,  
ina klavso ton glikin mu Iisun.*

15. Τίς μοι δώσει ύδωρ  
και δακρύων πηγάς,  
η Θεόνυμφος Παρθένος εκραύγαζεν,  
ίνα κλαύσω τον γλυκύν μου Ιησούν;

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

16. Word of God, we praise you,  
God and Master of all,  
with your Father and your all Holy  
Spirit, Lord,  
and we glorify your burial divine.

*16. Animnumen Loge,  
se ton pandon Theon,  
to Patrike to Agio su Pnevmati,  
ke thoxazomen tin thian su taf-  
in.*

16. Ανυμνούμεν, Λόγε,  
σε των πάντων Θεόν,  
τω Πατρί και τω Αγίω σου Πνεύματι,  
και δοξάζομεν την θείαν σου ταφήν.

### Both now and ever and to the ages of ages. Amen.

17. Filled with faith, we bless you,  
Theotokos most pure,  
and give honor to your Son's three  
days in the tomb,  
for he is our God and Lord of  
all the world.

*17. Makarizomen se,  
Theotoke agni,  
ke timomen tin tafin tin triimer-  
on,  
tu Iu su ke Theu imon pistos.*

17. Μακαρίζομέν σε,  
Θεοτόκε Αγνή,  
και τιμώμεν την ταφήν την τριήμερον  
του Υιού σου και Θεού ημών πιστώς.

### We repeat the first verse

1. In a tomb they laid you  
who are life, O my Christ.  
The angelic host beheld  
with astonishment,  
glorifying your humility,  
O Lord.

*1. I Zoi en tafo  
katetethis Hriste,  
ke angelon stratiee exeplit-  
tondo,  
sigkatavasin thoxa zu se tin sin*

1. Η ζωή εν τάφω,  
κατετέθης, Χριστέ,  
και αγέλων στρατιαί εξεπλήττοντο,  
συγκατάβασιν δοξάζουσαι την σήν.

## The 2nd Stanza | 1st Plagal Tone

### Short Litany

1. It is truly right  
that we magnify you O life giver,  
for upon the cross  
    you stretched out your hands,  
and our adversary's power  
    you destroyed.

1. *Axion esti,  
megalinin se ton Zoothotin,  
ton en to stavro tas hiras  
    ektinanda,  
ke sintripsanda to kratos tu  
    ehthru.*

1. Αξιόν ἐστι  
μεγαλύνειν σε τον Ζωοδότην,  
τον εν τῷ Σταυρῷ χεῖρας  
εκτείναντα,  
και συντρίψαντα το κράτος του  
εχθροῦ.

2. It is truly right  
that we magnify you O Creator,  
you have set us free  
    by your passion,  
Lord, from the passions of corruption  
    and of death

2. *Axion esti,  
megalinin se ton pandon Ktistin;  
tis yar sis Hriste pathimasin  
    eshomen,  
tin apathian risthendes tis fihoras.*

2. Αξιόν ἐστι  
μεγαλύνειν σε τον πάντων  
Κτίστην.  
Τοις γαρ σοῖς, Χριστέ, παθήμασιν  
ἐσχομεν  
την ἀπάθειαν, ρυσθέντες της  
φθοράς.

3. Trembling seized the earth  
and the sun concealed its face, O savior,  
when, O Christ, the Light  
    which can never fade,  
you descended in your body  
    to a grave.

3. *Efrixen I yi,  
ke o ilios idon ekrivi,  
su tu anesperu fengus, Hriste,  
thinandos en tafo somatikos.*

3. Ἐφριξεν ἡ γῆ,  
γκαὶ ὁ ἥλιος, ἰδὼν ἐκρύβη,  
Σου του ανεσπέρου φεγγους,  
Χριστέ.  
δύναντος εν τάφῳ σωματικῶς.

4. Suffering, O Word,  
you had neither majesty nor beauty;  
rising in divine radiance,  
    O my Christ,  
you adorn the race of mortals  
    with your light.

4. *Kallos Loge prin,  
uthe ithos en to pashin eshes,  
all' exanastas iperelampsa,  
kallopisas tus vrotus thies avyes.*

4. Κάλλος, Λόγε, πριν,  
ουδὲ εἶδος εν τῷ πάσχειν ἐσches,  
αλλ' ἀξαναστάς υπερέλαμψας,  
καλλωπίσας τους βροτούς θείας  
αυγαῖς.

5. Sun and moon grew dark;  
as the faithful servants of their Maker  
they withheld their light, Savior  
    at your death,  
and they clothed themselves in  
    mourning's dark attire.

5. *Ilios omu  
ke selini skotisthendes Soter,  
thulous evnoundas ikonizon,  
I melenas amfienninde stolas.*

5. Ἥλιος ὀμού  
και σελήνη σκοτισθέντες, Σώτερ,  
δούλους ευνοοῦντας εἰκόνιζον,  
οἱ μελαίνας ἀμφιέννυνται στολάς.

6. Christ, unending Light,  
when the sun beheld you lying lifeless,  
hidden in the deep darkness of a grave  
it held back its brilliant rays and  
shook with fear.

7. Weeping bitter tears,  
Word of God, your blameless mother  
mourned you  
when she saw you dead,  
lying in a tomb  
the ineffable and everlasting God.

8. When she saw your death,  
your all-holy mother wept in anguish.  
Sorrowing, she called out to you, O  
Christ:  
"Do not tarry, Living One,  
among the dead."

9. Hades, our dread foe,  
seeing your arrival in death's kingdom,  
trembling at your brilliance,  
O death-less Sun,  
handed over all its prisoners to you.

10. With our hymns, O Christ,  
we your faithful people now sing  
praise  
to your crucifixion and to your tomb,  
for your burial has ransomed  
us from death

6. *Efrixen ithon,  
to aoraton fos se Hriste mu,  
mnimati kriptomemon, apnun te,  
ke eskotasen o ilios to fos.*

7. *Ekleee pikros  
o panamomos mitir su Loge,  
en to tafo se yar eorake  
ton afraston ke anarhon Theon.*

8. *Nekrosin tin sin,  
I panafthoros hriste su mitir,  
vlepusa pikros si efthengeto;  
mi vrathinis I zoi en tis nekris.*

9. *Athis o thinos,  
sinetromaxen otan se iethen,  
Ilie tis thoxis athanate,  
ke ethithu tous thesmius en  
sputhi.*

10. *Imnis su, Hriste,  
nin tin stavrosin ke tin tafin te,  
apandes pisti ekthiazomen,  
I thanatu litrothendes si tafi.*

6. Έφριξεν ιδών  
το άόρατον φως σε, Χριστέ μου,  
μνήματι κρυπτόμενον άπνουν τε  
και εσκότασεν ο Ήλιος το φως.

7. Έκλαιε πικρώς  
ο Πανάμωμος Μήτηρ σου, Λόγε  
εν τω τάφω Σε γαρ εώρακε  
τον άφραστον και άναρχον Θεόν.

8. Νέκρωσιν την σην  
η Πανάφθορος Χριστέ σου Μήτηρ  
βλέπουσα πικρώς σοι εφθέγγετο  
μη βραδύνης η ζωή εν τοις νεκροίς

9. Άδης ο δεινός  
συνετρόμαξεν, ότε Σε είδεν,  
Ήλιε της δόξης άθάνατε,  
και εδίδου τους δεσμίους εν  
σπουδή.

10. Ύμνοις σου, Χριστέ,  
νυν την σταύρωσιν και την ταφήν  
τε,  
άπαντες πιστοί εκθειάζομεν,  
οι θανάτου λυτρωθέντες ση ταφή.

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

11. O Eternal God,  
co-eternal Word and Holy Spirit,  
give your people strength in your  
goodness, Lord,  
and defend your holy Church from  
ev'ry foe.

11. *Anarhe Thee,  
sinaithie Loge ke Pnevma,  
skiptra ton anakton krateoson,  
kata polemion os agathos.*

11. Άναρχε Θεέ,  
συναΐδιε Λόγε και Πνεύμα,  
σκήπτρα των ανάκτων  
κραταΐωσον,  
κατά πολεμίωv, ως αγαθός.

**Both now and ever and to the ages of ages. Amen.**

12. Life was born from you,  
O most pure and blameless virgin mother.  
Make an end to all strife  
    within the Church;  
in your goodness bring her unity  
    and peace.

*12. Texasa Zoin,  
Panamomite agni Parthene,  
pavson Ekklesias ta skanthala,  
ke vravevson irinin, osagathi.*

12. Τέξασα ζωήν.  
Παναμώμητε αγνή Παρθένε,  
παύσον Εκκλησίας τα σκάνδαλα  
και βράβευσον ειρήνην ως αγαθή.

***We repeat the first verse:***

1. It is truly right  
that we magnify you O life giver,  
for upon the cross  
    you stretched out your hands,  
and our adversary's power  
    you destroyed.

*1. Axion esti,  
megalinin se ton Zoothotin,  
ton en to stavro tas hiras ek-  
    tinanda,  
ke sintripsanda to kratos tu  
    ehthru.*

1. Αξιον έστι  
μεγαλύνειν Σε τον Ζωοδότην,  
τον εν τω Σταυρώ τας χείρας  
εκτεινάντα  
και συντρίψαντα το κράτος του  
εχθρού.

***(Short Litany)***

**The 3rd Stanza | 3rd Tone**

1. Ev'ry generation  
offers at your burial,  
O my Christ, its praises.

*1. E yenee pase,  
imnon ti tafi su,  
prosferusi, Hriste mu.*

1. Αί γενεαί πάσαι  
ύμνον τη ταφή σου  
προσφέρουσι, Χριστέ μου.

2. Joseph son of Ramah,  
from the tree un-nails you,  
and in a tomb he lays you.

*2. Kathelon tu xilu,  
o Arimatheas  
en tafo se kithevi.*

2. Καθελών του ξύλου,  
ο Αριμαθείας  
εν τάφω σε κηδεύει.

3. Women with their spices,  
preparing to anoint you,  
approach your sacred body.

*3. Mirofori ilthon,  
mira si, Hriste mu,  
komizuse profronos.*

3. Μυροφόροι ήλθον  
μύρα σοι, Χριστέ μου,  
κομίζουσαι προφρόνως.

4. Let us, with all creation,  
come to our creator  
bringing hymns of tribute.

*4. Thevro pasa ktisis,  
imnus exothius,  
prosisomen to Ktisti.*

4. Δεύρο, πάσα κτίσις,  
ύμνους εξοδιους  
προσοίσωμεν τω Κτίστη.

5. Following the women,  
let us with understanding  
anoint as dead the Living.

5. *Os nekron ton zonda,  
sin miroforis pandes,  
mirisomen emfronos.*

5. Ως νεκρόν τον ζώντα,  
συν μυροφόροις πάντες,  
μυρίσωμεν εμφρόνως.

6. O Joseph greatly blessed,  
bury now the body  
of Christ, the world's Lifegiver.

6. *Iosif trismakar,  
kithefson to soma,  
Hristu tu Zoothotu.*

6. Ιωσήφ τρισμάκαρ,  
κήδευσον το σώμα,  
Χριστού του Ζωοδότου.

7. Those he fed with manna  
have raised their heel against him  
who was their benefactor.

7. *Us ethrepse to manna,  
ekinisan tin pternan,  
kata tu everyetu.*

7. Ούς έθρεψε το μάννα,  
εκίνησαν την πτέρναν  
κατά του ευεργέτου.

8. Behold the bitter folly:  
those who killed the prophets  
now murder God's anointed.

8. *O tis parafrasinis,  
ke tis Hristoktonias,  
tis ton profitoktonon.*

8. Ω της παραφροσύνης  
και της Χριστοκτονίας,  
της των Προφητοκτόνων.

9. Like a foolish servant,  
he who heard Christ's teaching  
betrays eternal Wisdom.

9. *Os afron ipiretis,  
prothethoken o mistis,  
tin avison so fias.*

9. Ως άφρων υπηρέτης  
προδέδωκεν ο μύστης  
την άβυσσον σοφίας.

10. Judas the betrayer  
sold the world's Redeemer  
and thus himself fell captive.

10. *Ton ristin o polisas,  
ehmalotos katesti,  
o tholios Iuthas.*

10. Τον ρύστην ο πωλήσας,  
αιχμάλωτος κατέστη,  
ο δόλιος Ιούδας.

11. Joined by Nicodemus,  
Joseph comes to honor  
the body of his Maker.

11. *Iosif kithevi,  
sin to Nikothimo,  
nekroprepos ton Ktistin.*

11. Ιωσήφ κηδεύει  
μετά του Νικοδήμου,  
νεκροπρεπώς τον Κτίστην.

12. Glory to your power,  
for you have conquered Hades,  
O Life-giving Savior.

12. *Zoothota Soter,  
thoxa su to krati,  
ton athin kathelondi.*

12. Ζωοδότα Σώτερ,  
δόξα σου τω κράτει,  
τον Άδην καθελόντι.

13. When your mother saw you,  
the Word of Life, now lifeless,  
she mourned like any mother:

13. *Iption orosa,  
I Panagnos se,  
Loge, mitroprepos ethrini.*

13. Ύπτιον ορώσα  
η Πάναγνός σε, Λόγε,  
μητροπρεπώς εθρήνη.

14. "O my sweetest Springtime,  
O my Child beloved,  
how has your beauty faded?"

14. *O gliki mu ear,  
glikitaton mu Teknon,  
pu ethi su to kallos.*

14. Ω γλυκύ μου έαρ,  
γλυκύτατόν μου τέκνον,  
που έδυ σου το κάλλος;

15. Women came with ointments,  
that they might anoint Christ  
who is divine Anointing.

*15. Yinea sin miris,  
ikusi mirise,  
Hriston to thion miron.*

15. Γύναια συν μύροις  
ήκουσι μυρίσαι  
Χριστόν το θεϊόν μύρον.

16. Son of God, Almighty,  
my God and my Creator,  
how could you choose this suffering?

*16. Ie Theu Pandanax,  
Thee mu Plasturyemu,  
pos pathos katethexo.*

16. Υιέ Θεού παντάναξ,  
Θεέ μου πλαστοουργέ μου,  
πώς πάθος κατεδέξω;

17. As her heart is pierced through,  
the holy maiden cries out  
through her fervent weeping:

*17. Anekrazen I kori,  
thermos thakrirrousa,  
ta splaghna kentumeni.*

17. Ανέκραζεν η Κόρη,  
θερμώς δακρυρρούσα,  
τα σπλάγγνα κεντουμένη.

18. "O Light who give my eyes light,  
O my Child beloved,  
how can a tomb now hide you?"

*18. O fos ton ofthalmon mu,  
glikitaton mu Teknon,  
pos tafo nin kalipti.*

18. Ω φως των οφθαλμών μου,  
γλυκύτατόν μου τέκνον,  
πως τάφω νύν καλύπτει;

19. "Weep no more, my mother;  
I endure this suffering  
to ransom Eve and Adam."

*19. Ton Atham ke Evan,  
elevtherose Miter,  
mithrini tafta pasho.*

19. Τον Αδάμ και Εύαν,  
ελευθερώσαι, Μήτηρ,  
μη θρήνει, ταύτα πάσχω.

20. "My Son, I give you glory  
for your great compassion  
which moved you so to suffer."

*20. Thoxazo su Ie mu,  
tin akran evsplaghnian,  
is harin tafta pashis.*

20. Δοξάζω σου, Υιέ μου,  
την άκραν ευσπλαγγνίαν,  
ης χάριν ταύτα πάσχεις.

21. Rise, O Lord of mercy,  
raising us up also  
from the depths of Hades.

*21. Anastithi Iktirmon,  
imas ek ton varathron,  
exaniston tu athu.*

21. Ανάστηθι, Οικτίρμον,  
ημάς εκ των βαράθρων  
εξανιστών του Αδου.

22. Now the pow'rs of heaven  
stand amazed and frightened  
as they behold you lifeless.

*22. Uranii thinamis,  
exestisan to fovo,  
nekron se kathorose.*

22. Ουράνιαι Δυνάμεις  
εξέστησαν τω φόβω,  
νεκρόν σε καθορώσαι.

23. Our minds are filled with wonder,  
Maker of creation,  
at your awesome burial.

*23. Fritisin I noes,  
tin xenin ke friktin su,  
tafin tu pandon ktistu.*

23. Φρίττουσιν οι νόες  
την ξένην και φρικτήν σου  
ταφήν του πάντων κτίστου.

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25. Grant peace unto you Church,  
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25. *Irini Ekklisia,  
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25. Ειρήνην Εκκλησία,  
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**Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit**

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26. *O trias Thee mu,  
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26. Ω Τριάς Θεέ μου,  
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**Both now and ever and to the ages of ages. Amen.**

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offers at your burial,  
O my Christ, its praises.

1. *E yenee pase,  
imnon ti tafi su,  
prosferusi, Hriste mu.*

1. Αι γενεαί πάσαι  
ύμνον τη ταφή Σου  
προσφέρουσι, Χριστέ μου.

*(The Faithful sit)*

## **The BENEDICTIONS**

### **1st Plagal Tone. 5th Tone**

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

The assembly of the Angels was amazed beholding You numbered among the dead, O Saviour, destroying the power of Death; with Yourself You raised up Adam, and freed everyone from Hades.

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

“Why do you, O women Disciples, compassionately mix myrrh with your tears?” the dazzling Angel, within the tomb, asked the Myrrh-bearers. “See the tomb for yourselves and rejoice, for the Saviour has risen from the Tomb.”

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

At daybreak, the myrrh-bearing Women hastened with lamenting to Your tomb; but the Angel drew near to them and said: “The time for lamentation is over. Weep not; but proclaim the Resurrection to the Apostles.”

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

The myrrh-bearing Women, having come with myrrh to Your Tomb, O Saviour, heard the Angel, speaking clearly to them: “Why do you number among the dead the One, Who lives? As God, He has risen from the Tomb.”

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

We worship the Father and His Son and the Holy Spirit, the Holy Trinity, One in essence, crying out with the Seraphim: “Holy, Holy, Holy are You, O Lord.”

*Now and ever, and to the Ages of Ages. Amen.*

Having given birth to the Life-Giver, O Virgin, you redeemed Adam from his sins and granted joy to Eve, replacing her sorrow. He, being God and Man, was incarnate from you, the Fountain of Life, leading them to it.

*Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Glory to You, O God (3 times)*

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

Chanter: Lord have mercy.

Deacon: Help us, save us, have mercy on us and protect us, O God, by Your Grace.

Commemorating our all holy, pure, blessed and glorious lady, the Theotokos and

ever-virgin Mary, with all the Saints, let us commit ourselves and one another and our whole life to Christ our God.

Chanter: To You, O Lord

Priest: For all the Powers of Heaven praise You and to You they ascribe glory; to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and to the Ages of Ages.

Chanter: Amen.

### **The EXAPOSTILARION**

#### **2nd Tone.**

Chanter: Holy is the Lord, our God. (*3 times*).

### **The AINOI (The PRAISES)**

#### **2nd Tone.**

Chanter: Let everything that has breath, praise the Lord. Praise the Lord from the Heavens; praise Him in the heights. To You, O God, praise is befitting.

Praise Him, all His Angels; praise Him all His Hosts, To You, O God, praise is befitting.

*To execute upon them the judgment that is written. This glory is to all His Saints.*

Today the grave holds Him Who holds creation in His Palm. A stone covers Him, Who covers the Heavens with virtue. Life sleeps and Hades trembles and Adam is set free from his bonds. Glory to Your dispensation, through which, when all things were accomplished, You presented to us an eternal Sabbath rest, granting us Your most Holy Resurrection from the dead.

*Praise Him for His sovereignty; praise Him in the multitude of His majesty.*

What is the sight, which is now beheld? What is the present rest? The King of the Ages having completed the dispensation with His Passion takes His Sabbath rest in the tomb, granting us a new Sabbath. To Him let us cry out: "Arise, O God and judge the earth, for You reign to the Ages, Who are boundless in Your great mercy."

*Praise Him in the sound of the trumpet; praise Him with the lyre and harp.*

Come, let us behold our Life, lying in the tomb, that He may give life to those, who lie in the graves. Come today, let us see Him of the lineage of Judah sleeping, prophetically crying out to Him: "Who shall raise You up, O King, Who falling back sleeps as a lion?" Bug of Your own will, rise up, Who willingly gave Yourself for us. O Lord, glory to You.

## 2nd Plagal Tone. (6th Tone)

Chanter: *Praise Him in cymbals and dances; praise Him with strings and pipe.*

Joseph asked for the Body of Jesus and placed It in his own new tomb; for He had to emerge from the grave as from a Bridal chamber. Glory to You, Who shattered the dominion of Death and opened the portals of Paradise to all mankind.

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

The great Moses mystically foreshadowed this day, saying: "And God blessed the seventh day." For this is the blessed Sabbath; it is the day of rest, in which the Only-Begotten Son of God rested from all His works and through the dispensation of death, in body He rested. And having returned to it again through the Resurrection, as the only Good and Merciful Lord, He granted to us Life Eternal.

*Now and ever and to the Ages of Ages. Amen.*

Most blessed are You, O Virgin, Theotokos; for through Him, Who was incarnate from You, Hades was made captive, Adam was recalled, the curse was annulled, Eve was set free, Death was put to death and we were endowed with Life. Therefore, with hymns we cry out: "Blessed are You, Christ our God, Who willed it so; glory to You."

*(The Faithful stand)*

### **The GREAT DOXOLOGY** *(to be sung)*

Glory to you who has shown us the light. Glory to God in the highest and peace on earth, good will among all. We sing out hymns of praise to you. We bless, we worship and glorify You, we give our thanks to You our God, for you magnificent glory. Lord, King, heavenly God, Father almighty, Lord, the only begotten Son, Jesus Christ and Holy Spirit. Lord God the Lamb of God, Son of the Father, who takes away the worldly sin, have mercy on us, You Who take away the sins of the world. You who are seated at the right hand of the Father, receive our prayer and have mercy on us. For you alone, are the Holy One, You alone are the Lord, Jesus Christ, to the glory of God, the Father. Amen. Every day I will bless You and praise Your Name, forever and to the ages of ages, Amen. Grant O Lord that on this day, we may be kept without sin. Blessed are You, O Lord, God of our Fathers, forever and ever Your Name be praise. Amen. Lord, let Your mercy come upon us, for we have placed all our hope in You. Blessed are You, O Lord, blessed Lord, teach me your commandments. (3). From generation to generation, O Lord You have been our refuge. I said "Lord, have mercy on me and heal my soul, for I have sinned against You." Lord unto you I have fled; teach me to do Your will, for You are my God. For with You is the source

of Light ,and in Your Light, we shall see Light. Extend Your loving kindness to those who know You. Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal, have mercy on us. (3) Glory to the Father and the Son, and the Holy Spirit, now and forever and to the ages of ages. Amen. Holy Immortal have mercy on us. Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal, have mercy on us.

### **PROCESSION with the EPITAPHIOS**

*(The Clergy, Acolytes and Choir leading the Epitaphios followed by the Congregation, proceed around the Church building 3 times, while the Choir chants: "Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal, have mercy on us." The procession pauses each time around to invoke petitions. Returning in the Church, the Epitaphios is taken into the Sanctuary and placed on the Holy Altar, after going around the Altar 3 times. The following hymns are sung:)*

Priest: Let us be attentive. Peace be to all. Wisdom!

### **2nd Tone.**

Chanter: When You, the Immortal Life descended to Death, it was then that You put Hades to death with the lightning of the Godhead; and when You raised up the dead from the infernal depths, all the Heavenly Powers cried aloud: "O Life-Giver, Christ our God, glory to You.

The Angel, standing by the Tomb cried out to the myrrh-bearing Women: "The Myrrh is fitting for the dead, but Christ has shown Himself a stranger to corruption."

The noble Joseph taking down from the Cross Your spotless Body, enwrapped It in clean linen with aromas, and laid It for burial in a new Tomb.

Reader: You, O Christ, Who holds the universe in Your Hands, condescended to be held in the Tomb, to redeem fallen mankind from Hades, thereby giving immortal life to us, as immortal God.

### **The PROPHECY**

Reader: *Arise, O Lord; help us and deliver us, for the glory of Your Name.*

*O God, we have heard with our ears and our fathers announced to us*

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

Deacon: Wisdom! Let us listen attentively.

Reader: The hand of the Lord was upon me and brought me out by the spirit of the Lord and

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

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

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

### **The EPISTLE Reading**

Deacon: Let us be attentive.

Reader: *Arise, O Lord, my God! Let Your Hand be lifted up; forget not Your poor until the end. O Lord, I will confess unto You, with my whole heart; I will relate all Your wonderful works.*

Deacon: Wisdom!

Reader: The reading is from the First Epistle of Saint Paul to the Corinthians (5:6-8 and Galatians 3:13-14)

Deacon: Let us listen attentively.

Reader: Brethren, do you not know that a little leaven leavens the whole lump? Therefore

purge out the old leaven, that you may be a new lump, since you truly are unleavened. For indeed Christ, our Passover, was sacrificed for us. Therefore let us keep the feast, not with the old leaven, nor with the leaven of malice and wickedness, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.

*(Galatians 3:13-14)* Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law, having become a curse for us; (for it is written, "Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree,") that the blessing of Abraham might come upon the Gentiles in Christ Jesus, that we might receive the promise of the spirit through faith.

Chanter: Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

Priest: Wisdom! Arise. Let us hear the Holy Gospel. Peace be unto all.

Chanter: And to your spirit.

Priest: The reading is taken from the Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew. Let us listen attentively.

Chanter: Glory to You, O Lord, glory to You.

Priest: On the next day, which followed the Day of Preparation, the chief priests and the Pharisees gathered together to Pilate, saying, "Sir, we remember, while He was still alive, how that deceiver said, 'After three days I will rise'. Therefore, command that the tomb be made secure until the third day, lest His disciples come by night and steal Him away and say to the people, 'He has risen from the dead.' So the last deception will be worse than the first.'" Pilate said to them, "You have a guard; go your way, make it secure as you know how." So they went and made the tomb secure, sealing the stone and setting the guard.

Chanter: Glory to You, O Lord, glory to You.

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

Chanter: Lord have mercy. *(3 times)*

Deacon: O Lord Almighty, God of our Fathers, we pray to You; hear us and have mercy.

Chanter: Lord have mercy. *(3 times)*

Deacon: Have mercy on us, O God, according to Your great mercy; we pray to You; hear us and have mercy.

Chanter: Lord have mercy. *(3 times)*

Deacon: Again, we pray for all devout and Orthodox Christians.

Chanter: Lord have mercy. *(3 times)*

Deacon: Again we pray for our Archbishop (*Name*) and our Bishop (*Name*).

Chanter: Lord have mercy. (*3 times*)

Deacon: Again, we pray for our Brethren; the Priests, Hieromonks, Deacons and Monks and all our Brotherhood in Christ.

Chanter: Lord have mercy. (*3 times*)

Deacon: Again, let us pray for the blessed memory and eternal rest of the founders of this Holy Church, and for all our Orthodox fathers and brethren who piously lie here and everywhere.

Chanter: May their memory be eternal

Deacon: Again, we pray for mercy, life, peace, health, salvation, protection, forgiveness and the remission of sins of the servants of God, the Parishioners, the Council, the Donors and Benefactors of this Holy Church.

Chanter: Lord have mercy. (*3 times*)

Deacon: Again, let us pray for those who bring fruits of the earth and for those who do good works in this Holy and Sacred Church; for those who serve and sing in it; and for those here present, who anticipate Your great and plenteous mercy.

Chanter: Lord have mercy. (*3 times*)

Priest: For You are a merciful and Loving God and to You we ascribe glory; to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and to the Ages of Ages.

Chanter: Amen.

Deacon: Let us complete our evening prayer to the Lord.

Chanter: Lord have mercy.

Deacon: Help us, save us, have mercy upon us and protect us O God, by Your Grace.

Chanter: Lord have mercy.

Deacon: For a perfect, holy, peaceful and sinless evening, let us ask the Lord.

Chanter: Grant this O Lord.

Deacon: For an Angel of peace, a faithful Guide, a guardian of our souls and bodies, let us ask the Lord.

Chanter: Grant this O Lord.

Deacon: For forgiveness and remission of our sins and transgressions, let us ask the Lord.

Chanter: Grant this O Lord.

Deacon: For all that is good and beneficial to our souls and for peace in the world, let us ask the Lord.

Chanter: Grant this O Lord.

Deacon: For the completion of our lives in peace and repentance, let us ask the Lord.

Chanter: Grant this O Lord.

Deacon: For a Christian end to our lives; peaceful, without shame and suffering and for a good account before the Awesome Judgment Seat of Christ, let us ask the Lord.

Chanter: Grant this O Lord.

Deacon: Commemorating our all holy, pure, blessed and glorious lady, the Theotokos and ever-virgin Mary, with all the saints, let us commit ourselves and one another and our whole life to Christ our God.

Chanter: To You, O Lord.

Priest: For You are a Merciful and Loving God and to You we ascribe Glory; to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and to the Ages of Ages.

Chanter: Amen.

Priest: Peace be to all.

Chanter: And to your spirit.

Deacon: Let us bow our heads to the Lord.

Chanter: To You, O Lord.

Priest: For it is Yours to show mercy and to save us, our God and to You we ascribe glory; to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and to the Ages of Ages.

Chanter: Amen.

### **The DISMISSAL**

Priest: Wisdom! The One, Who is Blessed, Christ our God, always, now and ever and unto the Ages of Ages.

Chanter: Amen.

Reader: Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and to the

Ages of Ages.

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

Father, give the blessing.

Priest: Glory to You, our God and our hope, Glory to You.

May Christ our true God, Who for us men and for our salvation voluntarily endured the awful Passion, the Cross, and the entombment, Christ our true God, through the intercessions of His All-pure and Holy Mother and of all the Saints, have mercy and save us, as a Good and Loving and Merciful God.

Through the prayers of our Holy Fathers, O Lord Jesus Christ, our God, have mercy on us and save us.

Chanter: Amen

*(After the service, the Faithful very reverently approach the Solea, upon which is a replica of the Holy Sepulchre and after making the sign of the Cross, they kiss the receive a flower from the Priest)*