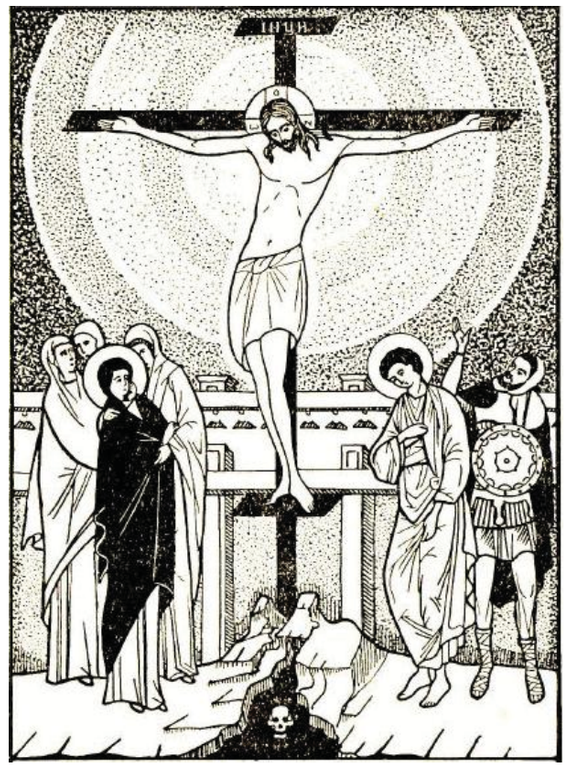
MATINS FOR HOLY AND GREAT FRIDAY

The Office of the Holy and Redeeming Sufferings of Our Lord Jesus Christ



Metropolitan Cantor Institute
Byzantine Catholic Seminary
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
March 2026

The service of Matins on Holy and Great Friday commemorates the day that our Lord, God and Savior Jesus Christ suffered and died for the life of the world. The focus of this service is a series of twelve readings from the holy Gospel, recounting the events of our Lord's betrayal, trial, sufferings, death, and burial.

The texts here are those of the Inter-Eparchial Liturgical Commission of the Byzantine Catholic Church *sui juris* of Pittsburgh. Where official translations and music have been promulgated by the Council of Hierarchs of the same Church, those have been used here.

This service includes a large number of hymns (antiphon, sessional hymns, and a canon), which the previous service book abbreviated for use in parishes. In general, we have followed that format for this service, in two cases choosing different antiphons to correspond to the Gospel accounts being read; the alternate antiphon texts were taken from the *Lenten Triodion* of the Sisters of Saint Basil the Great, Uniontown, Pennsylvania.

The music follows the prostopinije chant used in the Byzantine Catholic Church, and the melodic patterns established by the Inter-Eparchial Music Commission. Certain melodies traditionally transcribed from the L'viv *Irmologion* have also been used, along with a melody for Psalm 50 taken from the oral chant.

It is a long-standing tradition to ring the bells of the church at the end of each Gospel reading; this custom often fell into disuse due to the influence of the Latin custom of omitting all bell-ringing on the Friday of our Lord's passion and death. At the discretion of the pastor, the bells may be rung after each Gospel reading regardless of whether this service is celebrated on Thursday evening, or Friday morning.

Note that at Matins, the Gospel is read by the priest, even if a deacon is present.

Like the other publications of the Metropolitan Cantor Institute, this setting of the service of Matins for Holy and Great Friday is UNOFFICIAL and subject to change or revision by the Cantor Institute, the Inter-Eparchial Music Commission, or the Council of Hierarchs of the Byzantine Catholic Metropolitan Church *sui juris* of Pittsburgh. We hope that it provides spiritual benefit to all who use it.

The image on the cover is from the Ruthenian *Časoslov* (Rome, 1950).

SIXTH PRAYER:
We thank you, O Lord, God of our salvation, for you have done everything that is good for our lives, that we may look always to you, Savior and Benefactor of our souls. For you have given us rest in that part of the night which has passed, and now have raised us from our beds to worship your honored name. Therefore, O Lord, we pray: give us the grace and power to be found worthy to sing to you with understanding and to pray without ceasing and work for our own salvation in fear and trembling with the help of your Christ. O Lord, remember those who shout to you in the night. Hear them and have mercy on them and crush under their feet invisible and malicious enemies. For you are the King of peace and the Savior of our souls, and we give glory to you, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and ever and forever. Amen.

SEVENTH PRAYER:
God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, you have raised us from our beds and gathered us for this time of prayer. Give us grace that we may open our mouth in praise. Accept the thanksgiving we offer with all our strength. Teach us your commandments, for we do not know how to pray as we should, unless you guide us by your Holy Spirit. Therefore, we pray to you, that if until now we have sinned in any way, in word, deed, or thought, voluntarily or involuntarily, remit, pardon, and forgive us; for if you, O Lord, should mark our guilt, Lord, who would survive? But with you is found redemption. You alone are holy, a mighty helper, and the stronghold of our lives, and our hymns are for you always. May the might of your kingdom be blessed and glorified, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and ever and forever. Amen.

EIGHTH PRAYER:
Lord our God, you have shaken from us the sluggishness of sleep; you have gathered us by a holy calling to lift up our hands in the night, and to confess you for your just decrees. Receive our prayers, petitions, confessions, and night-time worship. Bestow on us, O Lord, a faith that cannot be confounded, a hope that does not waiver, and a love that does not pretend. Bless our comings and goings, our deeds, works, words, and thoughts. Grant that we may come to the beginning of the day praising, singing, and blessing the goodness of your ineffable kindness. For blessed is your all-holy name, and glorified is your kingdom, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and ever and forever. Amen.

NINTH PRAYER (Note: the Ninth Prayer may be said after Psalm 50)
Lord our God, you have given us forgiveness through repentance, and as a model of knowledge and confession of sins, you have revealed the repentance of the prophet David that led to pardon. Now, O Master, to us who have fallen into so many and so great sins: have mercy in your kindness, and in your compassion blot out our offenses, for against you have we sinned, O Lord, who alone know the hidden depths of our hearts, and who alone have the power to forgive sins. A pure heart you have created for us; a steadfast spirit you have put within us; and you have made known to us the joy of your salvation. Do not cast us away from your presence, but in your goodness and love for all, grant that we may offer a sacrifice of righteousness and oblation on your holy altars until our last breath. Through the mercies, kindness, and love of your only-begotten Son, with whom you are blessed, together with your all-holy, good, and life-creating Spirit, now and ever and forever.

The Prayers of Matins

These prayers are said by the celebrant during the initial psalm(s), unless they are prayed later in the service. If there is not sufficient time for these prayers during the psalmody, they may be prayed privately by the celebrant before the start of the service.

FIRST PRAYER:
(prayed aloud at the end of the Litany of Peace)

SECOND PRAYER:
From the night our soul rises to you, our God, for your commandments are a light upon the earth. Give us understanding that we may be perfected in righteousness and holiness in fear of you, for it is you whom we glorify as our true God. Turn your ear and hear us. O Lord, remember by name each one present and praying with us, and save them by your power. Bless your people and sanctify your inheritance. Grant peace to your world, to your churches, to the priests, to the government and to all your people. For sanctified and glorified is your most honored and magnificent name, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and ever and forever. Amen.

THIRD PRAYER:
From the night our soul rises to you, our God, for your commandments are a light. Teach us, O God, your righteousness, your commandments and your statutes. Enlighten the eyes of our minds, that we may not fall asleep in sin and die. Dispel all darkness from our hearts, favor us with the Sun of righteousness, and keep our life free from all harm by the seal of your Holy Spirit. Direct our steps in the way of peace. Grant that we may see the dawn and the whole day in joy, and that we may offer you our morning prayers. For yours is the might; and yours are the kingdom and the power and the glory, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and ever and forever. Amen..

FOURTH PRAYER:
Master and God, holy and incomprehensible, you said, let light shine out of darkness; you have given us rest in the sleep of night and have raised us to glorify and praise your goodness. We beg of your own compassion, accept us who now worship you and thank you with all our strength, and grant all that we ask for our salvation. Show us to be children of the light and of the day and heirs of your eternal good gifts. In the abundance of your mercy, O Lord, remember all your people, those here present and who pray with us and those traveling on land, sea, and air, in every place of your dominion, who pray for your loving-kindness and help, and grant your great mercy to all. Being saved in soul and body, may we always persevere, to glorify with confidence your magnificent and blessed name. For you are a merciful, kind, and loving God, and we give glory to you, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and ever and forever. Amen.

FIFTH PRAYER:
Treasury of good, ever-flowing fountain, Holy Father, Wonderworker, all-powerful and almighty, all worship you and we pray to you, calling upon your mercy and compassion, for help and support in our lowliness. O Lord, remember your servants praying to you. Let our morning prayer rise like incense before you. Let no one of us be put to shame, but keep us all safe through your compassion. O Lord, remember those who keep watch and sing of your glory, and that of your only-begotten Son and our God, and of your Holy Spirit. Be their help and support and accept their prayers upon your heavenly and spiritual altar. For you are our God, and we give glory to you, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and ever and forever. Amen.

Matins for Holy and Great Friday
The Office of the Holy and Redeeming Sufferings of our Lord, God, and Savior Jesus Christ

The faithful STAND as the celebrant, vested in a dark epitrachilion, incenses the holy table, icon screen, interior of the church, and the faithful, then the main icons of Christ and the Theotokos. The deacon precedes him with a lighted candle. The celebrant then stands before the holy doors, holding the censer. The deacon stands at his right and says:

Deacon: In the name of the Lord, Father, give the blessing.

While making the sign of the cross with the censer, the celebrant says:

Celebrant: Glory to the holy, consubstantial, life-creating and undivided Trinity, always, now and ever and forever.

Response: *Psalm tone:*



Glory to God in the highest,
and to people on earth, peace and ***good*** will. *(3 times)*

O Lord, open my lips,
and my mouth will declare ***your*** praise. *(2 times)*

The lector, holding a candle and standing in the middle of the church, reads the Six Psalms of Matins (Psalms 3, 37, 62 and 87, 102, 142) on a single note, while the faithful listen. (Only one psalm from each section is given here.) The celebrant goes in front of the holy doors and reads the prayers of Matins (see pp. 52-53). The deacon returns to the altar.

Psalm 37

Lector: O Lord, do not rebuke me in your anger;
do not punish me, Lord, in your rage.

Your arrows have sunk deep in me;
your hand has come down upon me.

Through your anger all my body is sick:
through my sin, there is no health in my limbs.

My guilt towers higher than my head;
it is a weight too heavy to bear.

My wounds are foul and festering,
the result of my own folly.

I am bowed and brought to my knees.
I go mourning all the day long.

All my frame burns with fever;
all my body is sick.

Spent and utterly crushed,
I cry aloud in anguish of heart.

O Lord, you know all my longing:
my groans are not hidden from you.

My heart throbs, my strength is spent;
the very light has gone from my eyes.

My friends avoid me like a leper;
those closest to me stand afar off.

Those who plot against my life lay snares;
those who seek my ruin speak of harm,
planning treachery all the day long.

But I am like the deaf who cannot hear,
like the dumb I cannot open my mouth.

I am like a man who hears nothing
in whose mouth is no defense.

I count on you, O Lord;
it is you, Lord God, who will answer.

I pray: “Do not let them mock me,
those who triumph if my foot should slip.”

For I am ready for scourging
and my pain is always before me.

Cross, so that when I see the depth of your Passion, * I would recognize the greatness of your majesty, * and sing to you, O Christ, the Giver of life: * Glory to you, for you save us through your Cross and Passion.

Cantor: Blessed are they who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

All creation trembles when it sees you crucified, O Christ: * the foundations of the earth shake with fear; * the stars lose their brightness; * the curtain of the Temple is torn in two; * the mountains tremble and the r ocks are split in two; * and we, the faithful, join our voice with the Good Thief as we cry out: * Remember us, O Lord, in your kingdom.

Cantor: Blessed are you when they insult you and persecute you, and utter every kind of evil against you falsely because of me.

Upon the cross, O Lord, * you tore up the handwriting against us; * and numbered among the dead, you bound up the Prince of Hades; * you delivered all of us from the bonds of death * through your Resurrection, whose light shines upon us. * Therefore, we cry out to you, O Lord and Lover of us all: * Remember us, O Lord, in your kingdom.

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

Raised upon the cross, * you broke the power of death * and wiped out the handwriting against us. * Grant us the repentence of the Good Thief, * and grant that your faithful servants * may join him and cry out to you, O Christ our God: * Remember us, O Lord, in your kingdom.

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

With one heart, O faithful, * let us glorify the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit; * let us call upon the three Persons of the one divinity, * the indivisible and consubstantial Trinity, * who saves us from the punishing fires.

Cantor: Now and ever and forever. Amen.

Your Mother gave birth to You in a virginal manner, O Lord; * and she remained a virgin after giving birth. * We offer her to you as our intercessor; through her prayers, grant the forgiveness of sin to those who unceasingly cry out to you: * Remember us, O Lord, in your kingdom.

Troparia on the Beatitudes

Although it is the custom to sing the Beatitudes "straight through" at the Divine Liturgy on Sundays and feasts, the Typikon actually prescribes that certain hymns be sung in alternation with the verses of the Beatitudes. For Holy and Great Friday, these hymns are particularly important, and so they are included here for those parishes which desire to make use of them. Music can be found on the MCI website.

Cantor: Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the land.

Adam was exiled from paradise because of the forbidden tree; * but through the Tree of the Cross, the thief now enters it; * for, by tasting its fruit, the former broke the commandment of the Creator; * the latter shared in your crucifixion, confessing your divinity. * Remember us, O Savior, in your kingdom.

Cantor: Blessed are they who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be satisfied.

The impious ones purchased the author of the Law from the disciple; * and they brought him as a criminal to judgment before Pilate, crying out: * Crucify the One who gave manna to our ancestors in the desert! * But we imitate the good thief and cry out in faith: * Remember us, O Savior, in your kingdom.

Cantor: Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy.

The unrighteous people revolted against God * and addressed Pilate in their madness: * Crucify, crucify Christ the innocent One! * Instead, free Barabbas! * But we imitate the wise thief and cry out with him: * Remember us, O Savior, in your kingdom.

Cantor: Blessed are the pure of heart, for they will see God.

A stream flows from your life-giving side, O Christ, * as the river of Eden, watering your Church, the mystical Paradise; * it divides, as in former times, into four Gospels * which give drink to the world and bring joy to all creation; * it brings the faith to the Gentiles * who learn to worship you in your kingdom.

Cantor: Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

You were crucified for my salvation, * and you poured forth the stream of forgiveness for me. * Your side was pierced and the stream of life gushed forth for me. * You were nailed to the

I confess that I am guilty
and my sin fills me with dismay.

My wanton enemies are numberless
and my lying foes are many.

They repay me evil for good
and attack me for seeking what is right.

O Lord, do not forsake me!
My God, do not stay afar off!

Make haste and come to my help,
O Lord, my God, my savior!

and again:
O Lord, do not forsake me!
My God, do not stay afar off!

Make haste and come to my help,
O Lord, my God, my savior!

Lector: Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit:
All: now and ever and forever. ***A***men.

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!
Glory to you, ***O*** God! *(three times, without bows)*

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

All: Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit:
Lector: now and ever and forever. ***A***men.

And the lector continues with the next section of psalmody.

Psalm 87

Lector: Lord my God, I call for help by day;
I cry at night before you.

Let my prayer come into your presence.
O turn your ear to my cry.

For my soul is filled with evils;
my life is on the brink of the grave.

I am reckoned as one in the tomb;
I have reached the end of my strength,

Like one alone among the dead,
like the slain lying in their graves;

like those you remember no more,
cut off, as they are, from your hand.

You have laid me in the depths of the tomb,
in places that are dark, in the depths.

Your anger weighs down upon me;
I am drowned beneath your waves.

You have taken away my friends
and made me hateful in their sight.

Imprisoned, I cannot escape;
my eyes are sunken with grief.

I call to you, Lord, all the day long;
to you I stretch out my hands.

Will you work your wonders for the dead?
Will the shades stand and praise you?

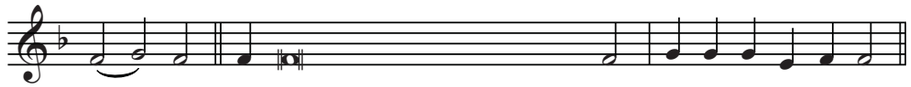
Will your love be told in the grave
or your faithfulness among the dead?

Will your wonders be known in the dark
or your justice in the land of oblivion?

As for me, Lord, I call to you for help;
in the morning my prayer comes before you.

Celebrant: Blessed is Christ our God, the One-Who-Is, always, now and ever and forever.

Response:



Celebrant: O most holy Theotokos, save us!

Response: More honorable than the Cherubim,
and beyond compare more glorious than the Seraphim
who, a virgin gave birth to God the Word,
you, truly the Theotokos, we mag***ni***fy.

Celebrant: Glory to you, O Christ God, our hope, glory to you!

Response: Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit,
now and ever and forever. ***A***men.
Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.
Give ***the*** blessing.

Celebrant: May Christ our true God, who for the salvation of the world suffered being spat upon, then suffered scourges, wounds, crucifixion and death, have mercy on us and save us through the prayers of his most pure Mother, of the holy, glorious and praiseworthy apostles, and of all the saints; for Christ is good and loves us all.

Response:



THE END OF MATINS FOR HOLY AND GREAT FRIDAY

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

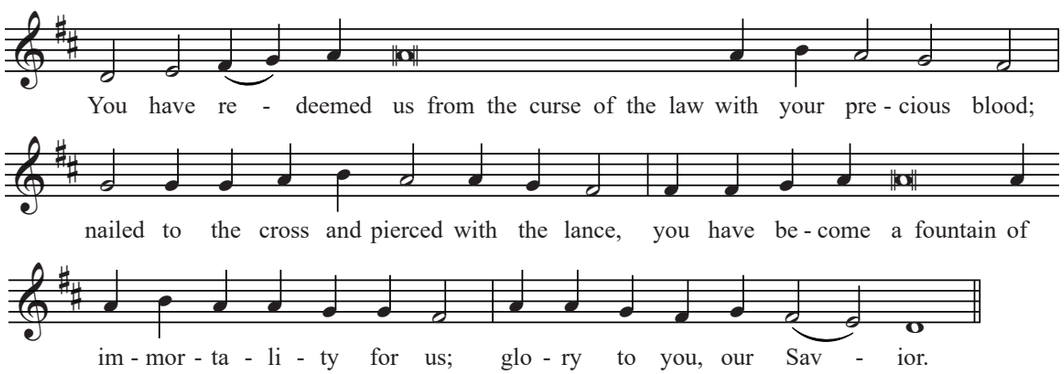
Glory to the Father and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit,
now and ever and forever. ***A***men.

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.

Celebrant: For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and ever and forever.

Response: Amen.

Troparion - *Tone 4*



DISMISSAL

Deacon: Wisdom!

Response:



Lord, why do you reject me?
Why do you hide your face?

Wretched, close to death from my youth,
I have borne your trials; I am numb.

Your fury has swept down upon me;
your terrors have utterly destroyed me.

They surround me all the day like a flood,
they assail me all together.

Friend and neighbor you have taken away:
my one companion is darkness.

and again:
Lord my God, I call for help by day;
I cry at night before you.

Let my prayer come into your presence.
O turn your ear to my cry.

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit:
now and ever and forever. ***A***men.

Each time with a bow:

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!
Glory to you, ***O*** God! *(twice)*

The third time, all sing with melody:



The deacon goes to the ambon to say the Litany of Peace. He and the celebrant bow to each other, and the celebrant returns to the altar. If there is no deacon, the celebrant intones the Litany before the holy doors.

The faithful may SIT for the Litany of Peace.

Litany of Peace

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

Response:



Deacon: For peace from on high and for the salvation of our souls, let us pray to the Lord.

Response:



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

Response: Lord, have mercy. (1)

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

Response: Lord, have mercy. (2)

Deacon: For our holy father *(Name)*, Pope of Rome, let us pray to the Lord.

Response: Lord, have mercy. (1)

Deacon: For our most reverend Metropolitan *(Name)*, for our God-loving Bishop *(Name)*, for the venerable presbyterate, the diaconate in Christ, and all the clergy and people, let us pray to the Lord.

Response: Lord, have mercy. (2)

Deacon: For our government and for all in the service of our country, let us pray to the Lord.

Response: Lord, have mercy. (1)

Deacon: For this city, for every city, community, and for the faithful living in them, let us pray to the Lord.

Response: Lord, have mercy. (2)

THE TWELFTH GOSPEL

Deacon: That we may be deemed worthy of hearing the holy Gospel, let us pray to the Lord, our God.

Response: Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. *(music on pp. 10-11)*

Deacon: Wisdom! Let us stand and listen to the holy Gospel.

Celebrant: Peace be to all!

Response: And to your spirit.

Celebrant: A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Response: Glory to your passion, O Lord, glory to your passion..

The celebrant reads the twelfth Gospel of the Passion (Matthew 27:62-66):
"At that time: on the day following the Day of Preparation..."

Response: Glory to your long-suffering, O Lord, glory to your long-suffering.

The celebrant closes the royal doors, removes the phelonion, and takes his place at the ambon for the concluding prayers. The faithful REMAIN STANDING.

It is good to give thanks to the Lord,
to to sing praises to your name, O ***Most*** High,
to proclaim your mercy in the morning
and your faithfulness throughout ***the*** night.

Holy God, Holy and Mighty, Holy and Immortal,
have mercy ***on*** us. *(3 times)*

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spïrit,
now and ever and forever. ***A***men.

Most Holy Trinity, have mercy on us; Lord, cleanse us of our sins;
Master, forgive our transgressions;
Holy One, come to us and heal our infirmities for ***your*** name's sake.



Deacon: For favorable weather, for an abundance of the fruits of the earth, and for peaceful times, let us pray to the Lord.

Response: Lord, have mercy. (1)

Deacon: For those who travel by sea, air, and land, for the sick, the suffering, the captive and for their salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

Response: Lord, have mercy. (2)

Deacon: That we be delivered from all affliction, wrath, and need, let us pray to the Lord.

Response: Lord, have mercy. (1)

Deacon: Protect us, save us, have mercy on us, and preserve us, O God, by your grace.

Response: Lord, have mercy. (2)

Deacon: Commemorating our most holy, most pure, most 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.

Response:

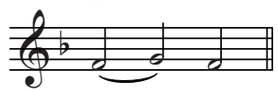


The faithful STAND.

Celebrant: We thank you, Lord our God, for you have raised us from our beds, and have put into our mouth a word of praise that we may worship and call upon your holy name. By your mercy which you always bestow upon our lives, we pray: now send forth your help to those who stand before the presence of your holy glory and await your rich mercy; grant that they may always serve you with fear and love, praising your inexpressible goodness.

For to you, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, is due all glory, honor, and worship, now and ever and forever.

Response:



ALLELUIA

"Alleluia" is sung to a special melody in Tone 8. The deacon remains at the ambon and chants the verses. If there is no deacon, the celebrant remains at the holy doors and chants the verses. The people repeat "Alleluia" after each verse.

Deacon, then All:

Tone 8 podoben: Se ženich hrjadet



Verse: At night my soul yearns for you, O God,
for your commandments are a light upon the earth. *Repeat Alleluia.*

Verse: Learn justice, inhabitants of the world. *Repeat Alleluia.*

Verse: Jealousy will seize an untaught people. *Repeat Alleluia.*

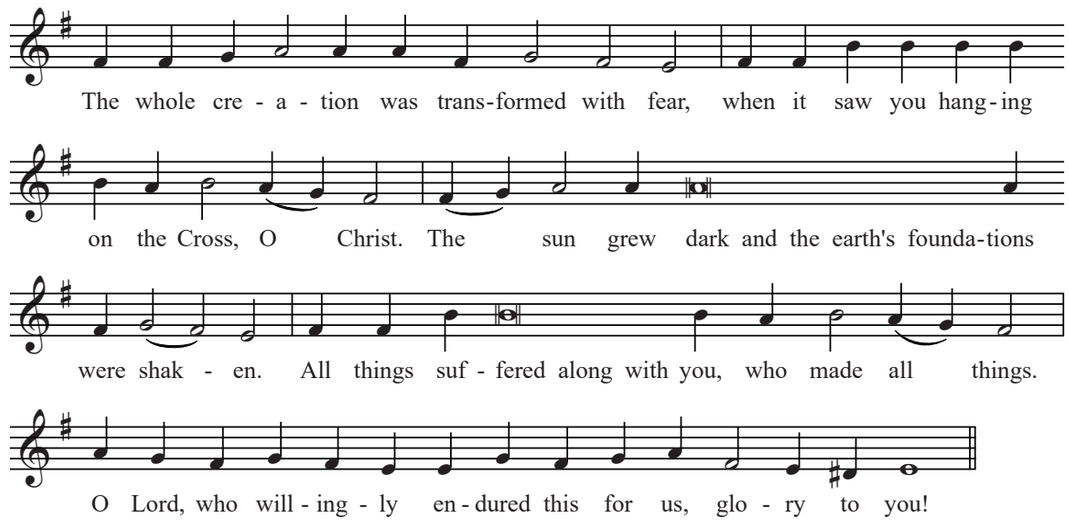
Verse: Bring evils upon them, O Lord, bring evils upon them,
the glorious ones of the earth. *Repeat Alleluia.*

While the following troparion is sung, the deacon (or celebrant, if there is no deacon) enters the sanctuary, and the celebrant vests in a dark phelonion. The deacon (or the celebrant, if there is no deacon) opens the holy doors.

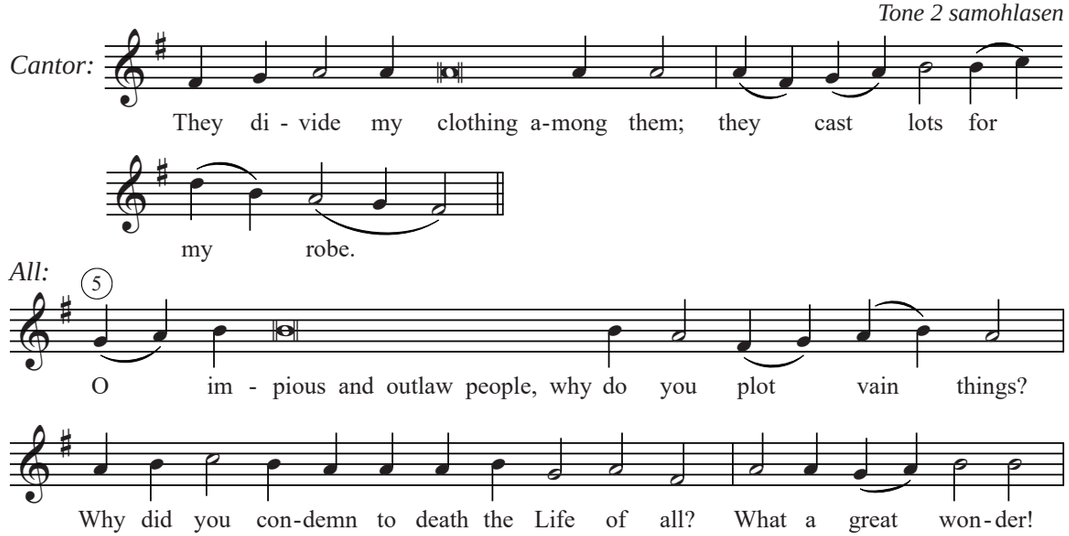
Response: Glory to your long-suffering, O Lord, glory to your long-suffering.

The celebrant closes the holy doors and goes behind the holy table during the singing of the aposticha.
The faithful may SIT while the hymns are sung.

Matins aposticha of Holy and Great Friday - *Tone 1 samohlasen*



Tone 2 samohlasen



Deacon: Bow your heads to the Lord.

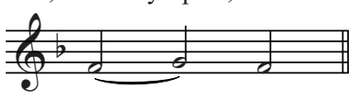
Response:



Celebrant: Holy Lord, you dwell on high and look upon the lowly, and with your all-seeing eye you watch over all creation. To you we bend our neck in spirit and body and we implore you, O Holy of Holies, stretch forth your invisible hand from your holy dwelling place and bless us all. If we have sinned, voluntarily or involuntarily, forgive us as a good and loving God, giving us earthly and heavenly gifts.

For you have mercy and save us, O our God, and we give glory to you, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and ever and forever.

Response:



THE ELEVENTH GOSPEL

Deacon: That we may be deemed worthy of hearing the holy Gospel, let us pray to the Lord, our God.

Response: Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. *(music on pp. 10-11)*

Deacon: Wisdom! Let us stand and listen to the holy Gospel.

Celebrant: Peace be to all!

Response: And to your spirit.

Celebrant: A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

Response: Glory to your passion, O Lord, glory to your passion..

The celebrant reads the eleventh Gospel of the Passion (John 19:38-42):

"At that time: Joseph of Arimathea, a disciple of Jesus..."

Troparion - *Tone 8 podoben: Se ženich hrjadet*

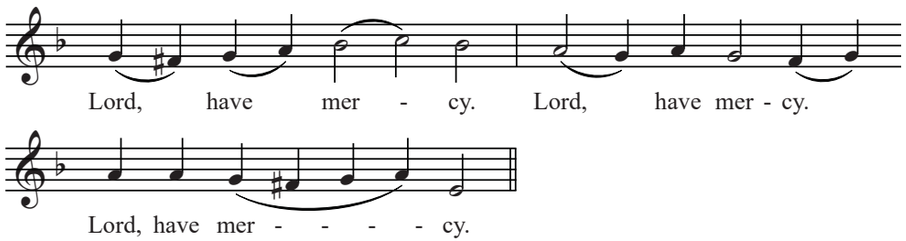


This troparion is sung three times.

THE FIRST GOSPEL

Deacon: That we may be deemed worthy of hearing the holy Gospel, let us pray to the Lord God.

Response:



Deacon: Wisdom! Let us stand and listen to the holy Gospel.

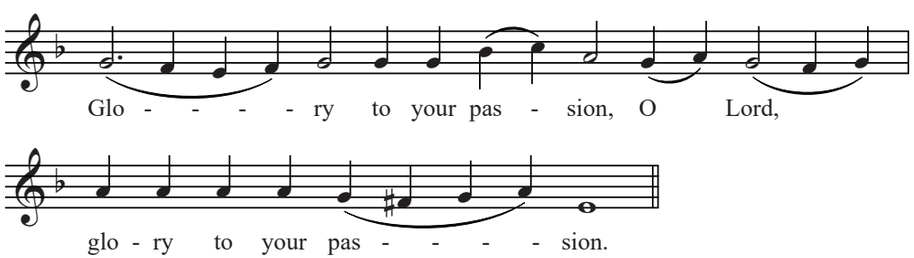
Celebrant: Peace be to all!

Response:



Celebrant: A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

Response:



The celebrant reads the first Gospel of the Passion (John 13:31 - 18:1):
"Once Judas had left, the Lord said to his disciples:..."

When the Gospel reading is concluded, the faithful sing:

Deacon: That we may spend the rest of our life in peace and repentance, let us beseech the Lord.

Response: Grant this, O Lord. (3)

Deacon: For a Christian, painless, unashamed, peaceful end of our life, and for a good account before the fearsome judgment-seat of Christ, let us beseech the Lord.

Response: Grant this, O Lord. (4)

Deacon: Commemorating our most holy, most pure, most 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.

Response:



Celebrant: We praise you, we sing to you, we bless you, and we thank you, God of our Fathers, for you have banished the dark of night and shown us once again the light of day. We beseech you, forgive our sins and accept our prayer in your great tenderness of heart because we take refuge in you, the merciful and all-powerful God. Shine in our hearts your true Sun of Justice. Enlighten our minds and guard all our senses, so that walking blamelessly in the path of your commandments as in daylight, we may reach eternal life, for in you is the source of life. Make us worthy to enjoy the unapproachable light.

For you are our God and we give glory to you, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and ever and forever.

Response:



Celebrant: Peace be to all!

Response:



Litany of Supplication

The deacon says the following litany at the ambon. If there is no deacon, the celebrant says this litany at the holy doors. The faithful may SIT for the litany.

Deacon: Let us complete our morning prayer to the Lord

Response:



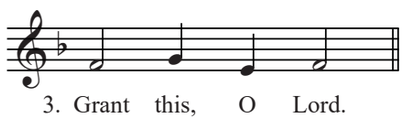
Deacon: Protect us, save us, have mercy on us, and preserve us, O God, by your grace.

Response:



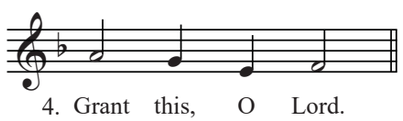
Deacon: That this whole day be perfect, holy, peaceful, and without sin, let us beseech the Lord.

Response:



Deacon: For an angel of peace, a faithful guide and guardian of our souls and bodies, let us beseech the Lord.

Response:



Deacon: For the pardon and remission of our sins and offenses, let us beseech the Lord.

Response: Grant this, O Lord. (3)

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

Response: Grant this, O Lord (4)

Response:

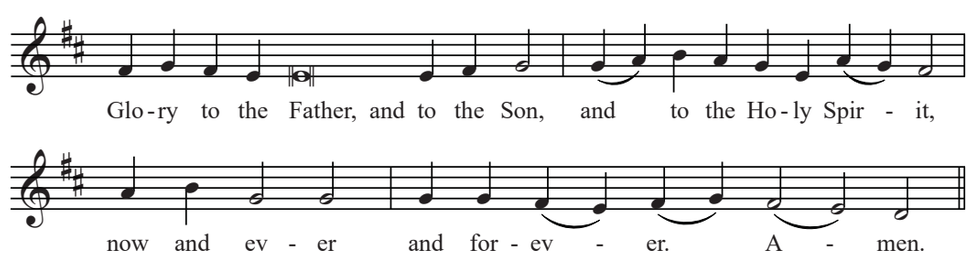


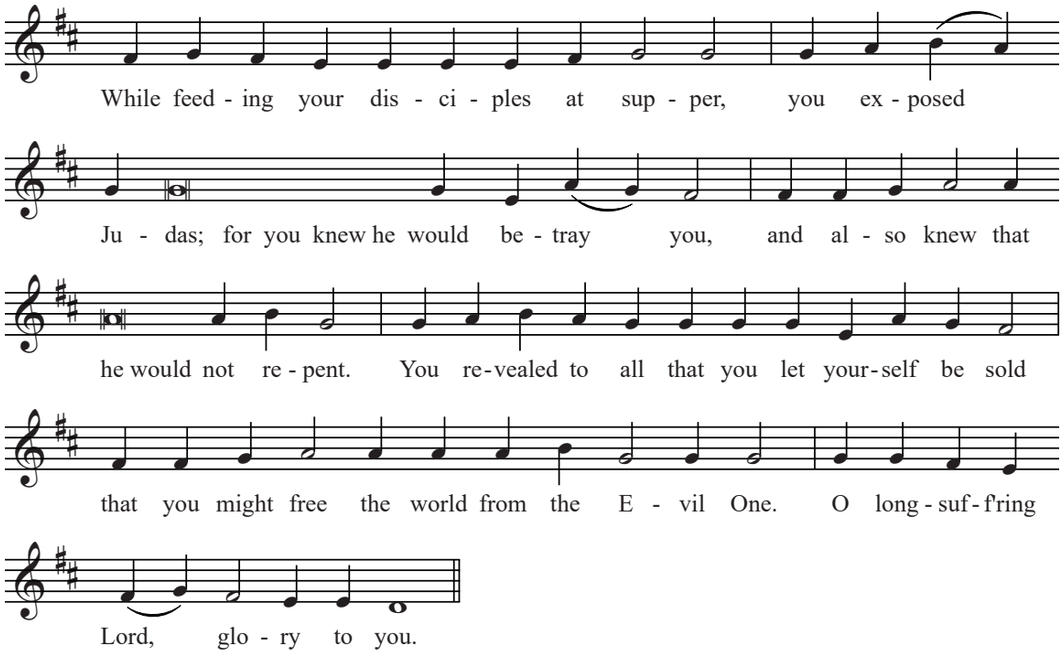
The Gospel is followed by three sets of hymns called Antiphons, and a sessional or "sitting" hymn. In this book, one antiphon verse has been selected for each Gospel. The faithful may SIT during the singing of the antiphons and sessional hymns. and STAND for each Gospel reading.

Antiphon 3, verse 2 - *Tone 2 samohlasen*



Sessional hymn - *Tone 7 troparion*





THE SECOND GOSPEL

Deacon: That we may be deemed worthy of hearing the holy Gospel, let us pray to the Lord God.

Response: Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. *(music on pp. 10-11)*

Deacon: Wisdom! Let us stand and listen to the holy Gospel.

Celebrant: Peace be to all!

Response: And to your spirit.

Celebrant: A reading from the holy Gospel according John.

Response: Glory to your passion, O Lord, glory to your passion..

For you alone are holy, you alone are Lord, Jesus Christ,
to the glory of God the Father. ***A***men.

I will bless you day after day,
and praise your name ***for***ever.
O Lord, you have been our refuge
from one generation to ***the*** next.
I said: Lord, have mercy on me,
heal my soul, for I have sinned ***a***gainst you.

O Lord, I have fled to you for refuge.
Teach me to do your will, for you, O Lord, are ***my*** God.
In you is the source of life and in your light we ***see*** light.
Extend your mercy to those ***who*** know You.

Make us worthy, O Lord,
to be kept sinless ***this*** morning.
Blessed are you, O Lord, the God of our Fathers,
and praiseworthy and glorious is your name forever. ***A***men.
May your mercy, O Lord, be upon us
who have placed our hope ***in*** you.

Blessed are you, O Lord,
teach me your ***com***mandments. *(reverence)*
Blessed are you, O Master,
make me understand your ***com***mandments. *(reverence)*
Blessed are you, O Holy One,
enlighten me with your ***com***mandments. *(reverence)*

O Lord, your mercy is forever;
despise not the work of ***your*** hands.
To you is due praise; to you is due a hymn;
to you is glory due,
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
now and ever and forever. ***A***men.

THE TENTH GOSPEL

Deacon: That we may be deemed worthy of hearing the holy Gospel, let us pray to the Lord God.

Response: Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. *(music on pp. 10-11)*

Deacon: Wisdom! Let us stand and listen to the holy Gospel.

Celebrant: Peace be to all!

Response: And to your spirit.

Celebrant: A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark.

Response: Glory to your passion, O Lord, glory to your passion..

The celebrant reads the tenth Gospel of the Passion (Mark 15:43-47):
"At that time: Joseph of Arimathea arrived..."

Response: Glory to your long-suffering, O Lord, glory to your long-suffering.

The faithful REMAIN STANDING.

The Lesser Doxology

Priest: Glory to you who show us the light!

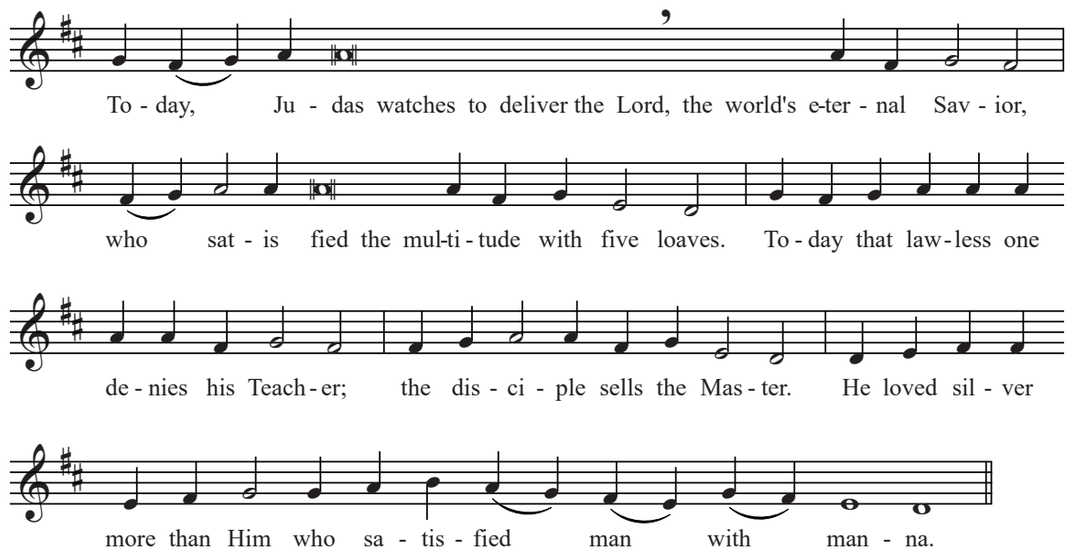
All: Glory to God in the highest
and to people on earth, peace and ***good*** will.
We praise you, we bless you, we worship you, we glorify you,
we thank you for your ***great*** glory.
Lord God, heavenly King, Father Almighty;
Lord, only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ, and Ho***ly*** Spirit.

Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,
You take away the sin of the world, have mercy ***on*** us.
You take away the sins of the world,
hear ***our*** prayer.
You are seated at the right hand of the Father,
have mercy ***on*** us.

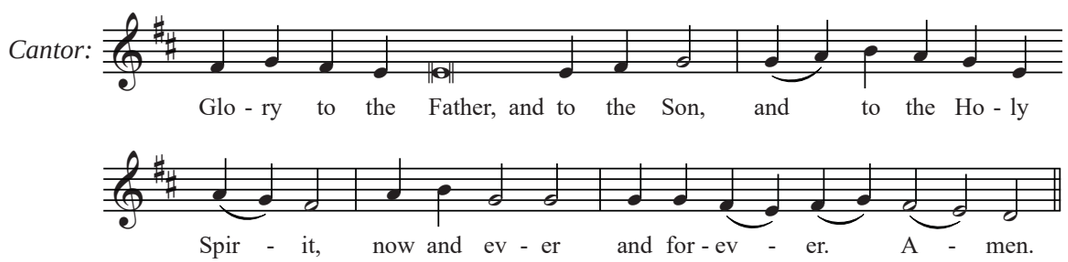
The celebrant reads the second Gospel of the Passion (John 18:1-28):
"At that time, Jesus went out with his disciples..."

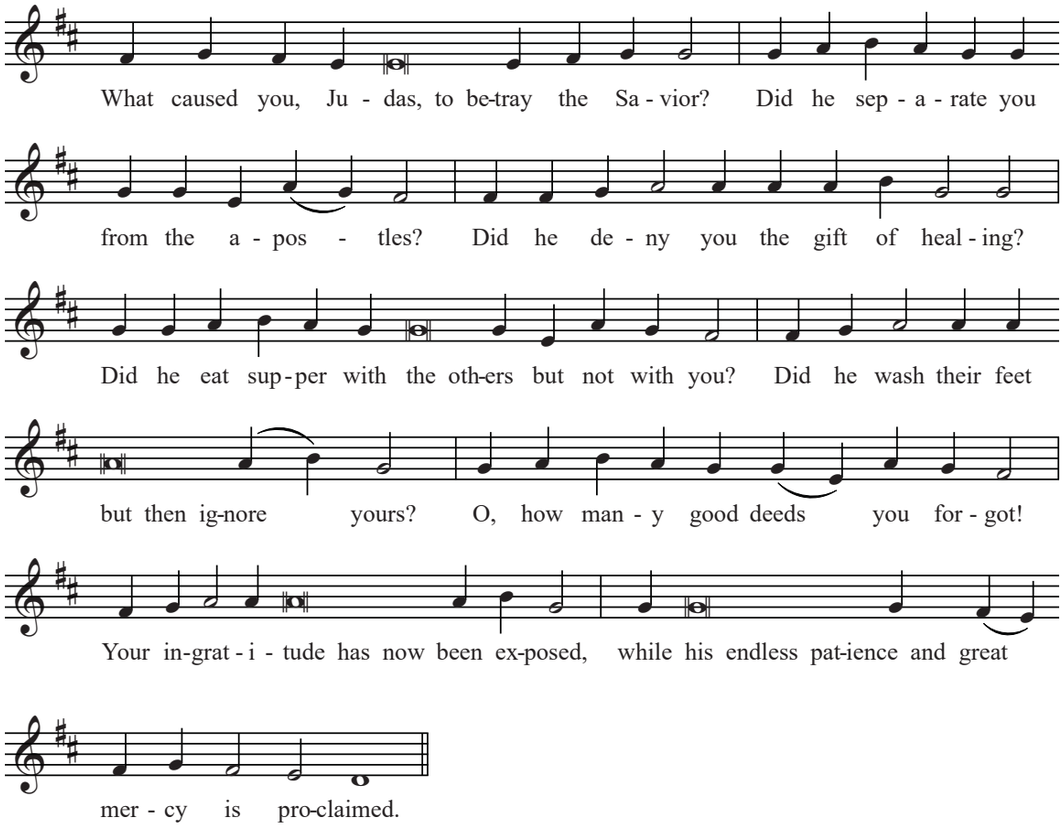
Response: Glory to your long-suffering, O Lord, glory to your long-suffering.

Antiphon 6, verse 1 - *Tone 7 samohlasen*



Sessional hymn - *Tone 7 troparion*



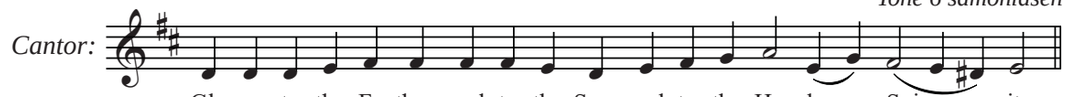


All repeat the sticheron, "The whole creation, O Christ, trembled..."

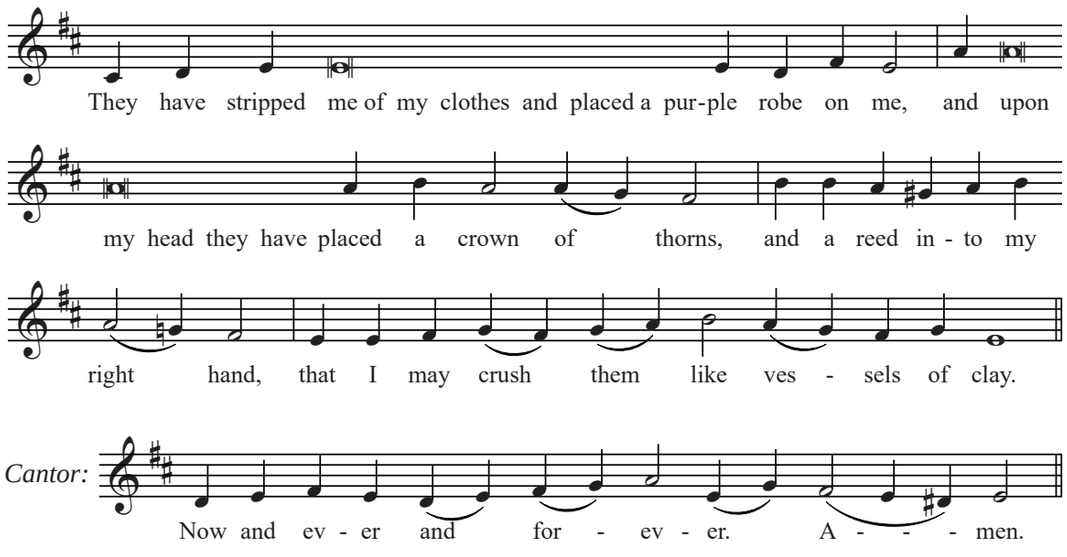
The faithful STAND.

Tone 6 samohlasen

Cantor:

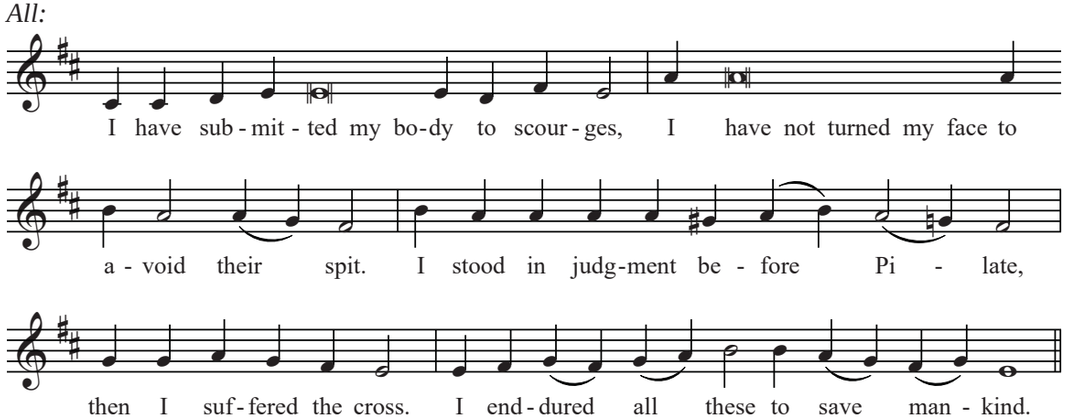


All:



Cantor:

All:



All: ② ①



Cantor: *(on 1)*

THE THIRD GOSPEL

Deacon: That we may be deemed worthy of hearing the holy Gospel, let us pray to the Lord God.

Response: Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. *(music on pp. 10-11)*

Deacon: Wisdom! Let us stand and listen to the holy Gospel.

Celebrant: Peace be to all!

Response: And to your spirit.

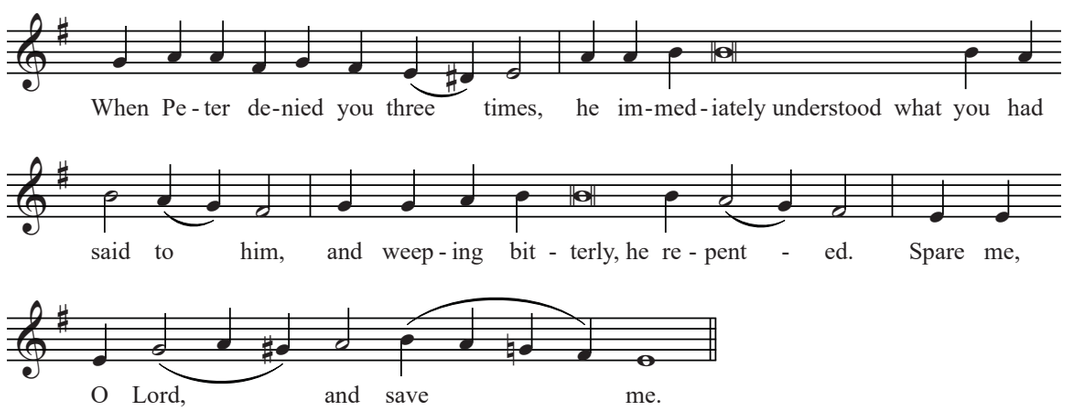
Celebrant: A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Response: Glory to your passion, O Lord, glory to your passion..

The celebrant reads the third Gospel of the Passion (Matthew 26:57-75):
"At that time: those who had apprehended Jesus..."

Response: Glory to your long-suffering, O Lord, glory to your long-suffering.

Antiphon 7, verse 2 - *Tone 8 samohlasen*



Sessional hymn - *Tone 8 troparion*





Stichera at the Praises for Holy and Great Friday - *Tone 3 samohlasen*



THE FOURTH GOSPEL

Deacon: That we may be deemed worthy of hearing the holy Gospel, let us pray to the Lord God.

Response: Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. *(music on pp. 10-11)*

Deacon: Wisdom! Let us stand and listen to the holy Gospel.

Celebrant: Peace be to all!

Response: And to your spirit.

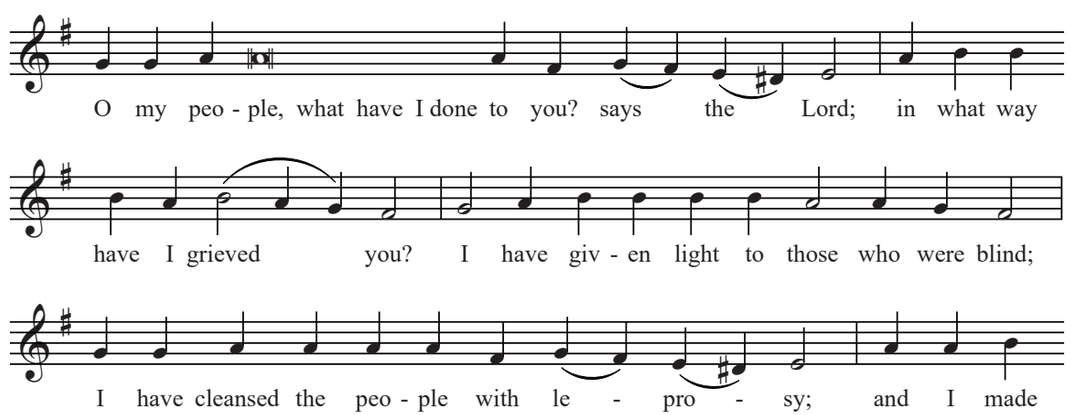
Celebrant: A reading from the holy Gospel according to John..

Response: Glory to your passion, O Lord, glory to your passion..

The celebrant reads the fourth Gospel of the Passion (John 18:28 - 19:16):
"At daybreak they brought Jesus from Caiaphas to the Preatorium..."

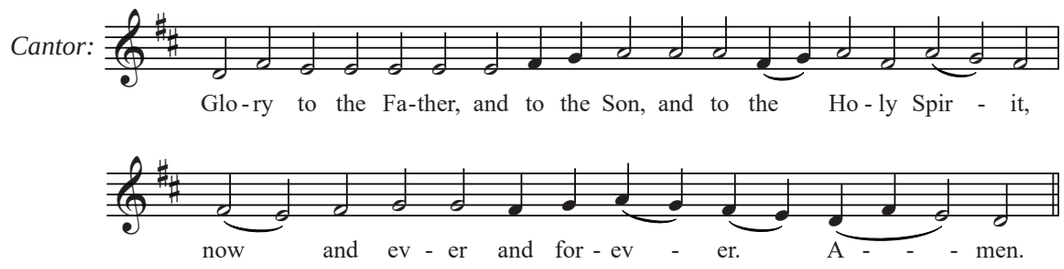
Response: Glory to your long-suffering, O Lord, glory to your long-suffering.

Antiphon 12, verse 1 - *Tone 8 samohlasen*





Sessional hymn - *Tone 8 troparion*



all earth's kings and peoples,
earth's princes ***and*** rulers.
young men and maidens,
old men together ***with*** children.

Let them praise the name of the Lord
for he alone is ***ex***alted.
The splendor of his name
reaches beyond heaven ***and*** earth.

He exalts the strength of his people.
He is the praise of all ***his*** saints,
of the sons of Israel,
of the people to whom he ***comes*** close.

Psalm 149

Sing to the Lord a new song of praise,
in the assembly of ***the*** faithful.
Let Israel rejoice in its Maker,
let Zion's sons exult in ***their*** king.

Let them praise his name with dancing
and make music with timbrel ***and*** harp.
For the Lord takes delight in his people.
He crowns the poor with ***sal***vation.

Let the faithful rejoice in glory,
shout for joy, and take ***their*** rest.
Let the praise of God be on their lips
and a two-edged sword in ***their*** hand,
to deal out vengeance to the nations
and punishment on all ***the*** peoples;

to bind their kings in chains
and their nobles in fetters ***of*** iron;
to carry out the sentence pre-ordained:
this honor is for all ***his*** faithful.

Psalm 150

Praise God in his holy place,
praise him in his migh***ty*** heavens.

Response: And to your spirit.

Celebrant: A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

Response: Glory to your passion, O Lord, glory to your passion..

The celebrant reads the ninth Gospel of the Passion (John 19:25-37):
"At that time: near the cross of Jesus there stood his mother..."

Response: Glory to your long-suffering, O Lord, glory to your long-suffering.

The faithful may SIT.

The Psalms of Praise (Psalms 148-150)

Psalm 148

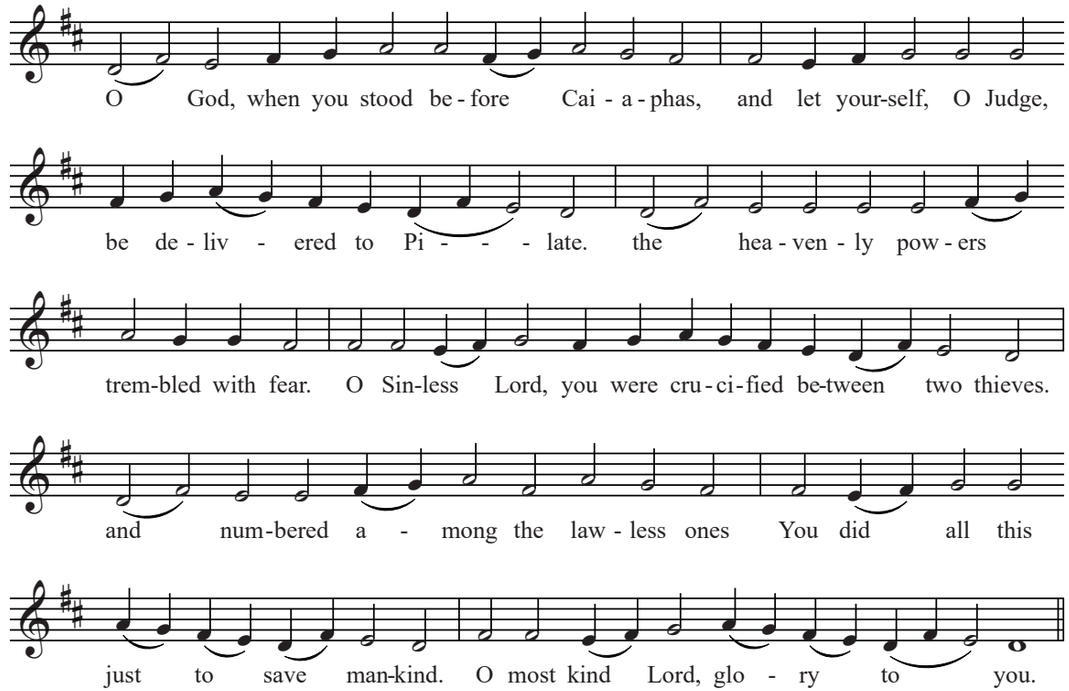
Praise the Lord from the heavens,
praise him in ***the*** highest.
Praise him, all his angels,
praise him, all ***his*** hosts.

Praise him, sun and moon,
praise him, shin***ing*** stars.
Praise him, highest heavens
and the waters above ***the*** heavens.

Let them praise the name of the Lord,
He spoke and they were made;
he commanded, and they were ***cre***ated.
He fixed them forever,
gave a law which shall not pass ***a***way.

Praise the Lord from the earth,
sea creatures and ***all*** oceans,
fire and hail, snow and mist,
stormy winds that obey ***his*** word;

all mountains and hills,
all fruit trees ***and*** cedars,
beasts, wild and tame,
reptiles and birds on ***the*** wing;



THE FIFTH GOSPEL

Deacon: That we may be deemed worthy of hearing the holy Gospel, let us pray to the Lord God.

Response: Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. *(music on pp. 10-11)*

Deacon: Wisdom! Let us stand and listen to the holy Gospel.

Celebrant: Peace be to all!

Response: And to your spirit.

Celebrant: A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

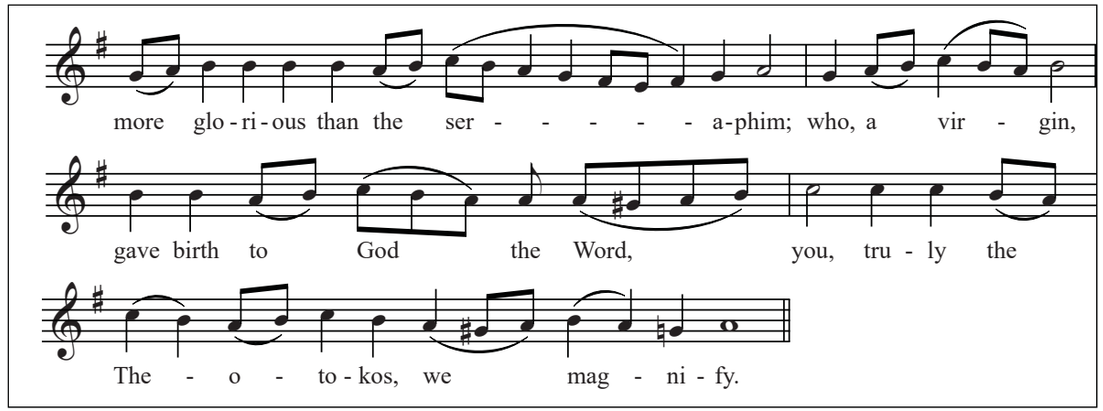
Response: Glory to your passion, O Lord, glory to your passion..

The celebrant reads the fifth Gospel of the Passion (Matthew 27:3-32):
"At that time Judas, who had handed Jesus over..."

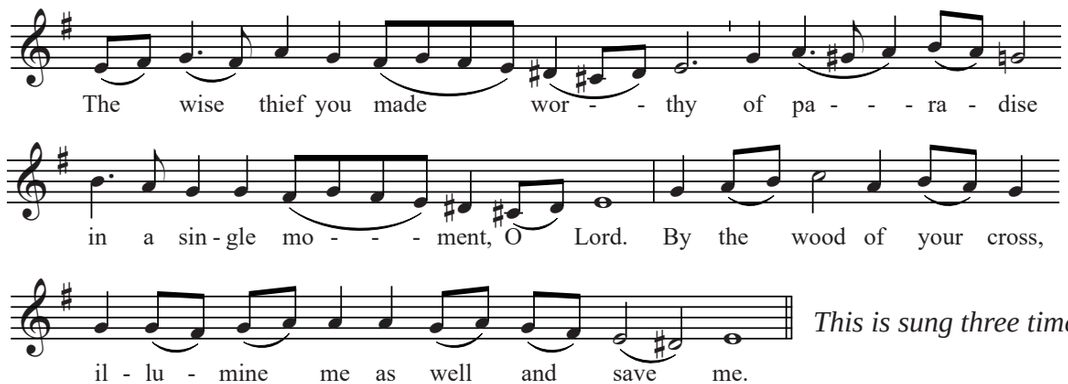
Response: Glory to your long-suffering, O Lord, glory to your long-suffering.

Antiphon 15, verse 1 - *Tone 6 samohlasen*





Hymn of Light - *recited, or sung to the following melody from the Kiev Caves monastery:*



This is sung three times

THE NINTH GOSPEL

Deacon: That we may be deemed worthy of hearing the holy Gospel, let us pray to the Lord God.

Response: Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. *(music on pp. 10-11)h*

Deacon: Wisdom! Let us stand and listen to the holy Gospel.

Celebrant: Peace be to all!



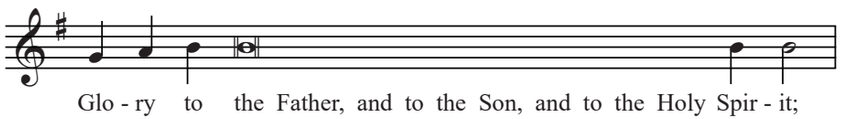
Refrain



The lawless company of the enemies of God, * the wicked band of murderers set themselves against you, O Christ; * and, as an evildoer, they led you to death; * You are the Creator of all, * and we extol you. *Refrain*

Ignoring the Law and the voice of the Prophets, * the impious ones pondered their vain thoughts; * and, as a sheep, they led you to the unjust sacrifice; * you are the Master of all, * and we extol you. *Refrain*

Wounded by their hatred which would soon turn against them, * the priests and scribes have delivered you to the Gentiles to be crucified; * you are the Giver of life, * and we extol you.



They surrounded you like a pack of dogs; * O my King, they struck you with the scepter of derision; * they questioned you and brought forth false witnesses; * but you saved us through your holy passion.

Katavasia - *Repeat the irmos, using either the simple melody at the bottom of page 31, or the following solemn melody:*





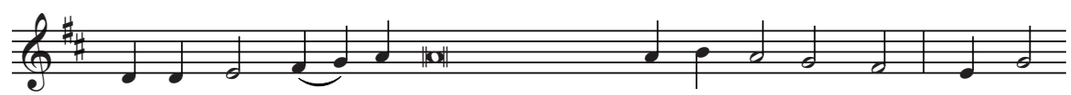


Sessional hymn - *Tone 4 troparion*

Cantor:











THE SIXTH GOSPEL

Deacon: That we may be deemed worthy of hearing the holy Gospel, let us pray to the Lord God.

Response: Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. *(music on pp. 10-11)*

Deacon: Wisdom! Let us stand and listen to the holy Gospel.

Celebrant: Peace be to all!

Response: And to your spirit.

Celebrant: A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark.

Response: Glory to your passion, O Lord, glory to your passion..

The celebrant reads the sixth Gospel of the Passion (Mark 15:16-32):
"At that time: the soldiers led Jesus away..."

Response: Glory to your long-suffering, O Lord, glory to your long-suffering.

The sixth Gospel is followed by the Beatitudes. The faithful may SIT for the Beatitudes.

Celebrant:



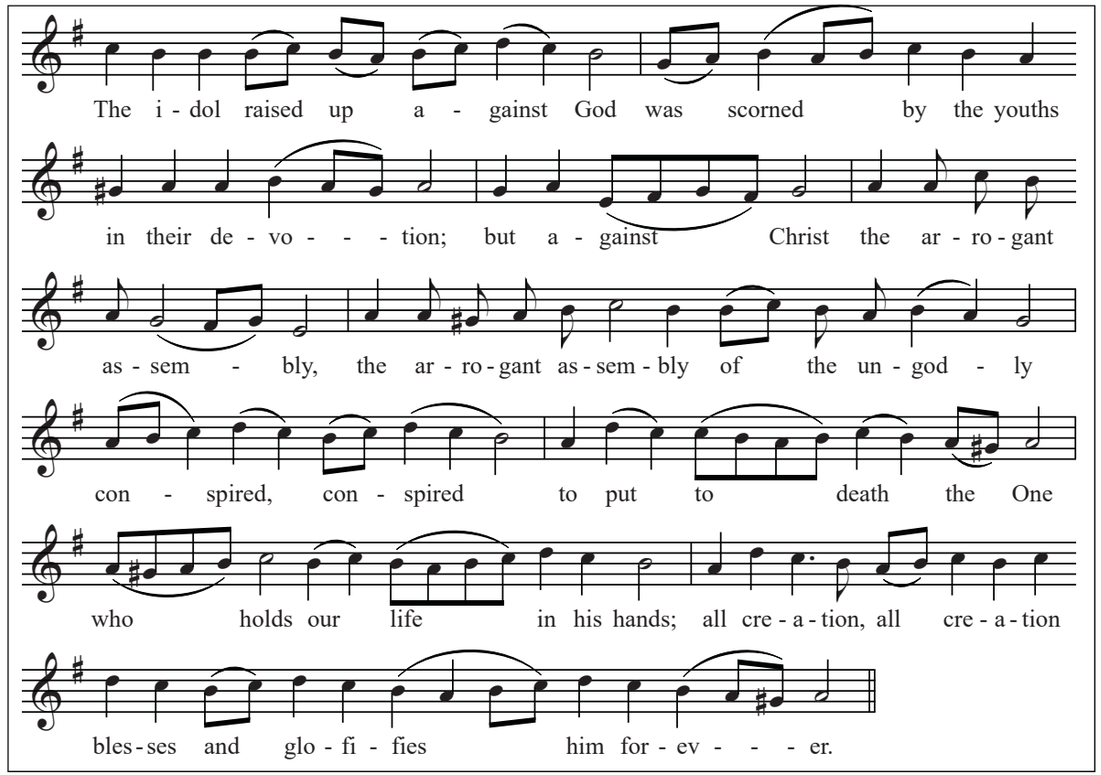
Response:



The celebrant sings each verse of the Beatitudes, and the faithful repeat the response ("Remember us, O Lord...") after each verse.

Celebrant:



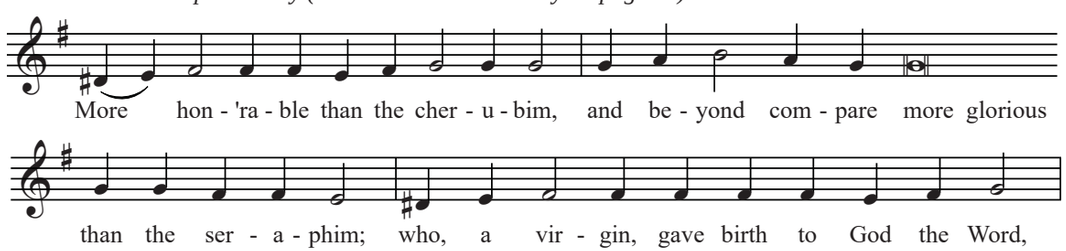


The deacon (or the celebrant, if there is no deacon) comes with the censer before the icon of the Mother of God on the icon screen. Incensing her icon, he intones:

Deacon: Let us greatly extol the Theotokos and the Mother of Light in hymns.

Ode 9

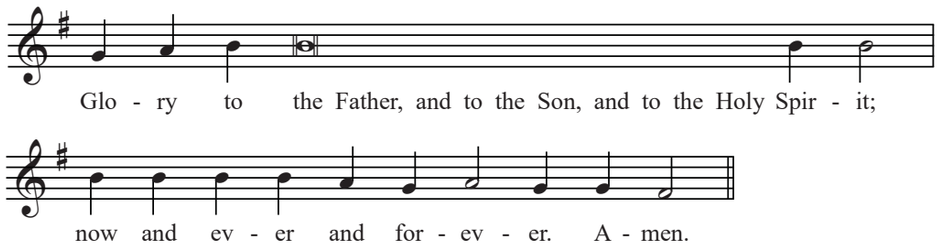
Irmos - *Tone 6 simple melody (or use the solemn melody on page 32)*



Shake off the sleep from your eyes, * Christ said to his disciples; keep watch and pray that you do not enter into temptation; * and you, Simon, more than all the rest, * for a heavier burden awaits those who are stronger; * O Peter, I am the One whom all creation blesses and glories forever.

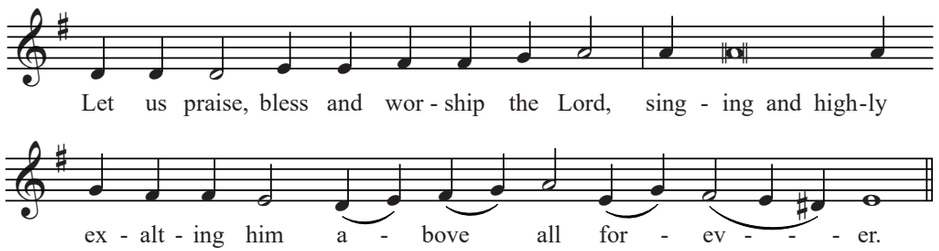
Peter cried out: O Master, I shall never speak against you; * I would die bravely, even though the others would deny you; * for neither flesh nor blood, * but your Father in heaven revealed to me * that you are truly the One whom all creation blesses and glorifies forever. *Refrain*

O Peter, you have not probed the depths of the wisdom and knowledge of God; * you have not understood the abyss of my judgments, said the Lord; * you are flesh, so do not boast; * for you shall deny three times * the One whom all creation blesses and glorifies forever.



You deny what the Lord has said, O Peter; * but a servant girl shall soon point you out; * at her approach, you shall be filled with fear. * But through your bitter tears, * you shall find forgiveness * from the One whom all creation blesses and glorifies forever.

Tone 6



Katavasia - *Repeat the irmos, using either the simple melody on page 29, or the solemn melody on the next page:*

And the same melody is used for the remaining verses:

Blessed are they who mourn * for they will be comforted.

At this point, additional hymns (the "troparia on the Beatitudes") may be sung if desired. See pages 50-51 at the end of this booklet.

Blessed are the meek * for they will inherit the land.

Blessed are they who hunger and thirst for righteousness * for they will be satisfied.

Blessed are the merciful * for they will be shown mercy.

Blessed are the pure of heart * for they will see God.

Blessed are the peacemakers * for they will be called children of God.

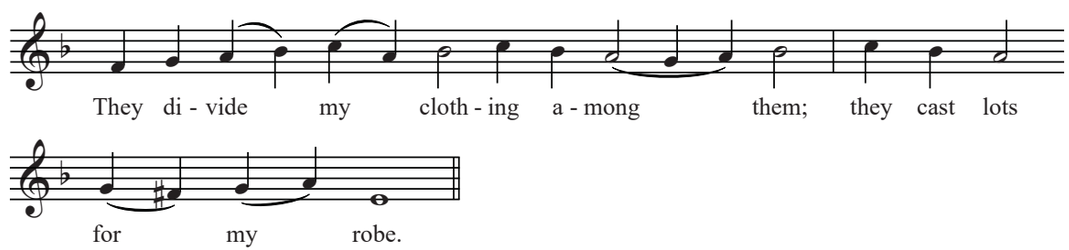
Blessed are they who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness * for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are you when they insult you and persecute you * and utter every kind of evil against you falsely because of me.

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

The faithful STAND.

Prokeimenon of Holy and Great Friday - *Tone 4*



Deacon (or Celebrant): My God, my God, hear me; why have you forsaken me?

THE SEVENTH GOSPEL

Deacon: That we may be deemed worthy of hearing the holy Gospel, let us pray to the Lord God.

Response: Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. *(music on pp. 10-11)*

Deacon: Wisdom! Let us stand and listen to the holy Gospel.

Celebrant: Peace be to all!

Response: And to your spirit.

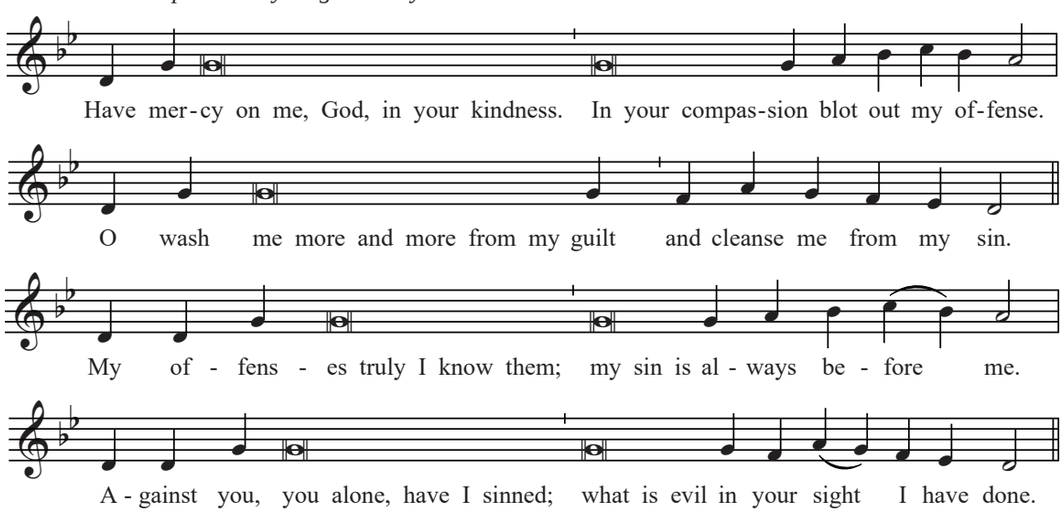
Celebrant: A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Response: Glory to your passion, O Lord, glory to your passion..

The celebrant reads the seventh Gospel of the Passion (Matthew 27:33-54):
"At that time: arriving at a site called Golgotha..."

Response: Glory to your long-suffering, O Lord, glory to your long-suffering.

Psalm 50 - *Carpatho-Rusyn vigil melody*



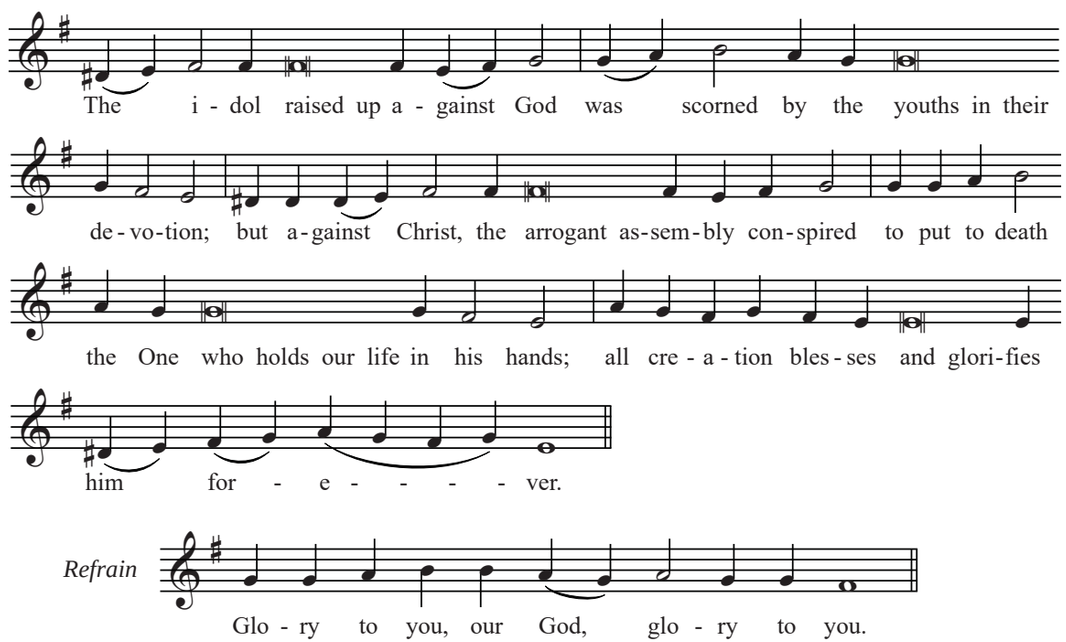


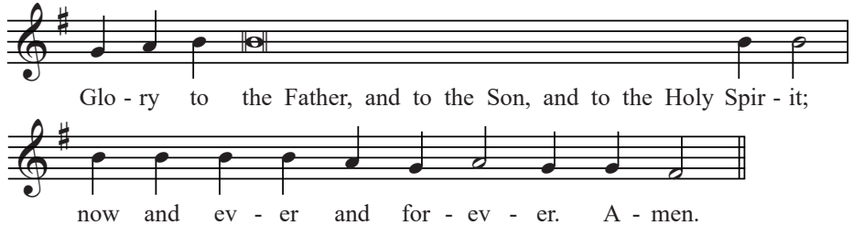
Ikos (recitando):

Seeing her Lamb being led to the slaugher, Mary, the ewe, followed him, supported in her great sorrow by other women. She cried out: Where do you go, my son? Why do you rush to finish this course? Are you, perhaps, hurrying to another wedding in Cana so that you can change water to wine for them? Shall I go with you, or shall I stay? Give me a word, O Word; do not pass me by in silence. You are my Son and my God who kept me free from all stain.

Ode 8

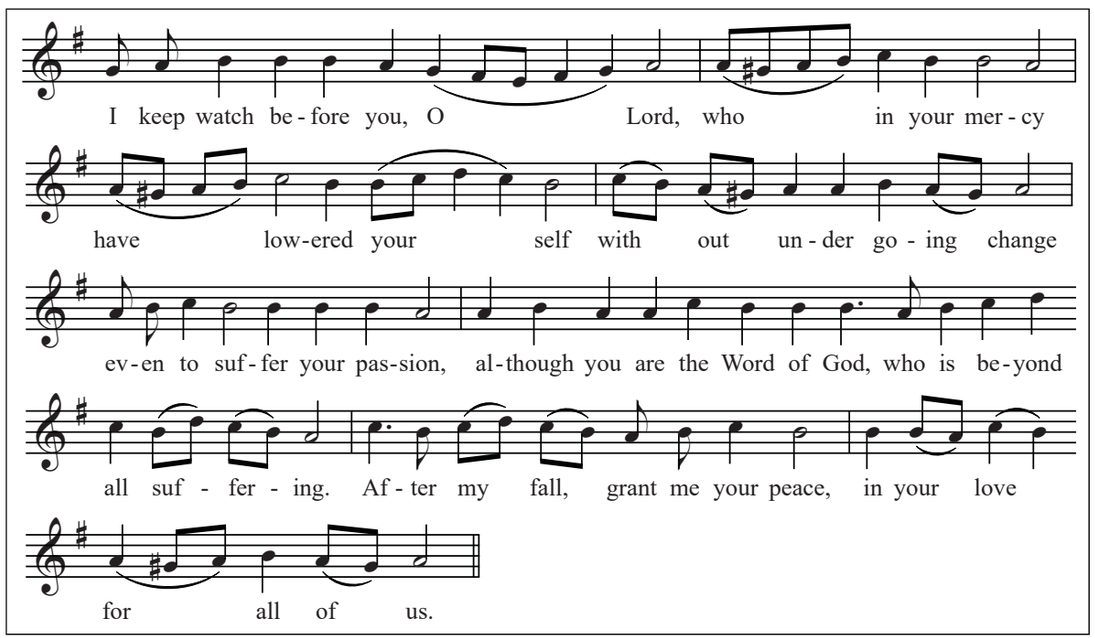
Irmos - *Tone 6 (either the simple melody here, or use the solemn melody on page 30)*



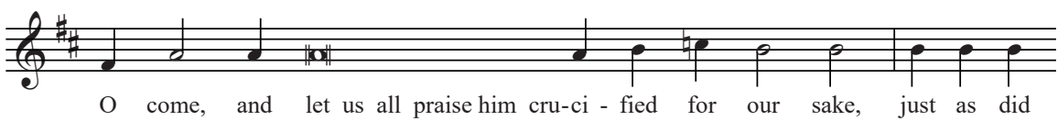


Do not be overcome with fear, O my friends, * for the hour has now come * when I shall be seized and put to death by the godless ones. * And after abandoning me, you shall all be scattered; * but I shall gather you together again * that you may proclaim my great love for mankind.

Katavasia - *Repeat the irmos, using either the simple melody on page 27, or the following solemn melody:*



Kontakion - *Tone 8*







THE EIGHTH GOSPEL

Deacon: That we may be deemed worthy of hearing the holy Gospel, let us pray to the Lord God.

Response: Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. *(music on pp. 10-11)*

Deacon: Wisdom! Let us stand and listen to the holy Gospel.

Celebrant: Peace be to all!

Response: And to your spirit.

Celebrant: A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke.

Response: Glory to your passion, O Lord, glory to your passion..

The celebrant reads the eighth Gospel of the Passion (Luke 23:32-49):
"At that time: two others who were criminals..."

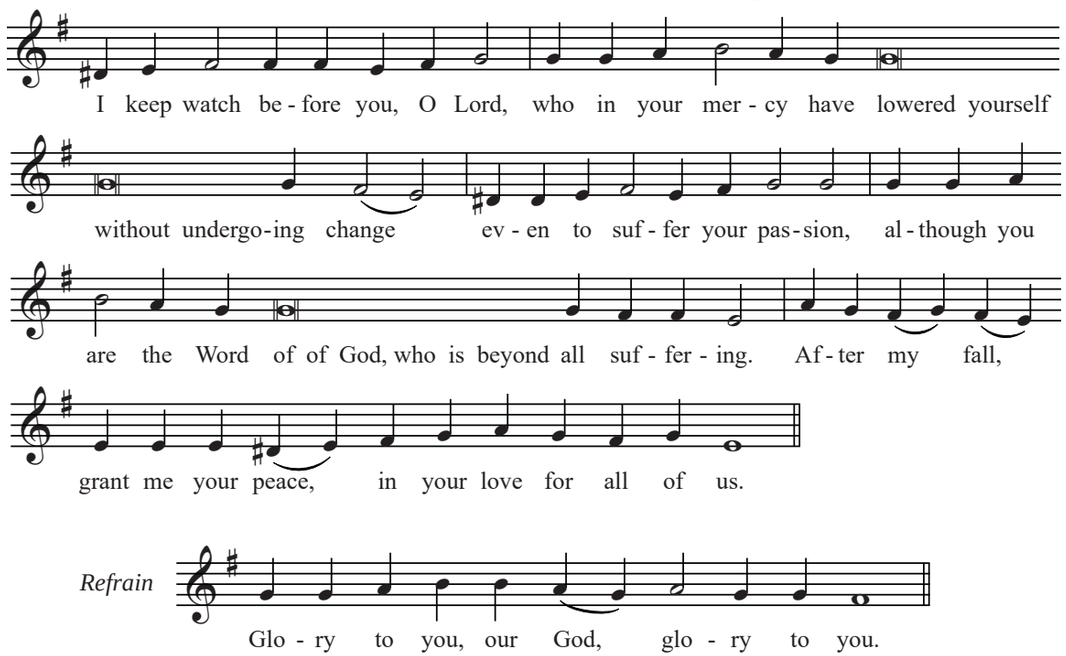
Response: Glory to your long-suffering, O Lord, glory to your long-suffering.

The faithful may SIT for the singing of the Canon.

The Canon of Holy and Great Friday

Ode 5

Irmos - *Tone 6 (either the simple melody here, or use the solemn melody on page 28)*



After you washed their feet, * your servants were purified by the communion of your divine mysteries, * and then went up from Zion to the Mount of Olives with You; * and they praised, O Lord, your love for mankind.