It is truly proper to glorify you, O Theotokos, * the ever-blessed, immaculate, and the mother of our God. * 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 magnify.

The Dismissal

If a priest leads the Royal Hours, they conclude as follows:

Priest: 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. Amen. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Give the blessing.

Priest: May Christ our true God, who for the salvation of the world endured spitting, scourges, wounds, the cross, and death, have mercy on us and save us through the prayers of his most pure Mother, and of the holy, glorious, and illustrious apostles, and of all the saints; for Christ is good and loves us all.

Response: Amen.

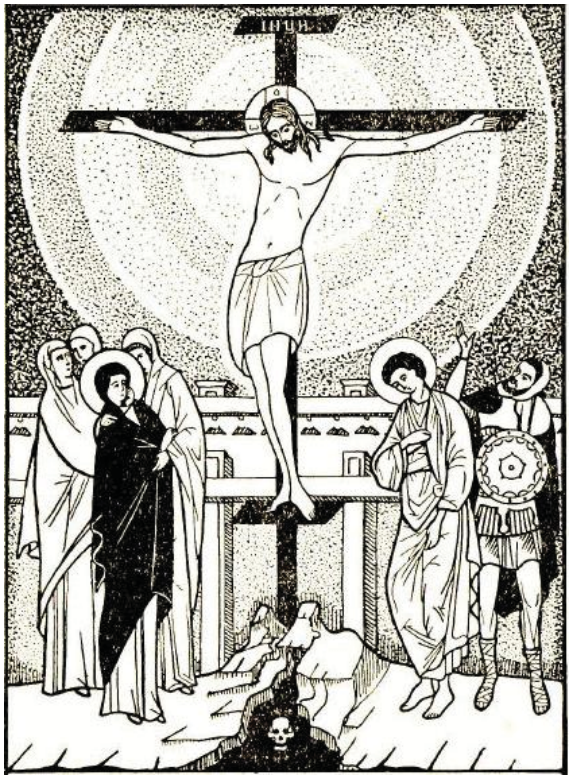
The priest and deacon return to the altar through the southern door.

If there is no priest, the Royal Hours conclude as follows:

Leader: Through the prayers of our holy fathers, O Lord Jesus Christ our God, have mercy on us.

Response: Amen.

The Office of the Royal Hours for Holy and Great Friday



Metropolitan Cantor Institute

Byzantine Catholic Archeparchy of Pittsburgh

April 2026

This booklet contains a translation of the Hours made by the Inter-Eparchial Liturgical Commission of the Byzantine Catholic Metropolitan Church in the United States, as part of its work on the services of Holy and Great Week, and is based on the Ruthenian edition of the Slavonic *Časoslov* (Rome, 1950).

Music can be found on the website of the Metropolitan Cantor Institute website at http://mci.archpitt.org.

This booklet was originally released in April 2019, and revised in 2026.

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

Then keep your tongue from evil
and your lips from speaking deceit.

Turn aside from evil and do good;
seek and strive after peace.

The Lord turns his face against the wicked
to destroy their remembrance from the earth.

The Lord turns his eyes to the just
and his ears to their appeal.

The just cried out and the Lord heard them,
and rescued them from all their distress.

The Lord is close to the broken-hearted;
those whose spirit is crushed he will save.

Many are the trials of the just,
but from them all the Lord will rescue them.

He will keep guard over all their bones,
not one of their bones shall be broken.

Evil brings death to the wicked;
those who hate the good are doomed.

The Lord ransoms the souls of his servants.
Those who hide in him shall not be condemned.

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

Psalm 33

I will bless the Lord at all times,
his praise always on my lips;

In the Lord my soul shall make its boast.
The humble shall hear and be glad.

Glorify the Lord with me.
Together let us praise his name.

I sought the Lord and he answered me;
from all my terrors he set me free.

Look towards him and be radiant;
let your faces not be abashed.

This poor man called, the Lord heard him
and rescued him from all his distress.

The angel of the Lord is encamped,
around those who revere him, to rescue them.

Taste and see that the Lord is good.
He is happy who seeks refuge in him.

Revere the Lord, you his saints.
They lack nothing, those who revere him.

Strong lions suffer want and go hungry
but those who seek the Lord lack no blessing.

Come, children, and hear me
that I may teach you the fear of the Lord.

Who is he who longs for life and many days,
to enjoy his prosperity?

Foreword

In the Byzantine tradition, Holy and Great Friday is a day of strict fasting. On this day a special form of the daytime Hours is celebrated, with additional hymns and readings.

These services are called the **Royal Hours**, and may be served together at some convenient time. (The Typikon prescribes that they be celebrated at 8 AM.)

In parish use, it may instead be opportune to celebrate them as follows:

- First Hour: 8 AM or noon
- Third Hour: 9 AM or 1 PM
- Sixth Hour: 12 noon or 2 PM
- Ninth Hour and Typika: 3 PM

If Matins is celebrated in the morning, then the Royal Hours should be held at some convenient time *after* Matins.

Celebrating the Royal Hours

This book assumes a celebration in church, with a priest and deacon. If there are concelebrating priests, the celebrant should lead the first hour. The third, sixth, and ninth hours may each be led by a concelebrating priest. The priest leading each hour proclaims the holy Gospel.

If no priest is present, then the Royal Hours may be led by a deacon or other person (marked below as “leader”). All parts proper to the priest and deacon are omitted. The Gospel book should be placed on an analogion in the middle of the church before the service begins, and the Gospel is read by the leader in a normal speaking voice, facing East (toward the sanctuary). Incense is not used.

If the Hours are celebrated separately, then each is preceded by the Beginning Prayers and ends with a dismissal.

THE OFFICE OF ROYAL HOURS
HOLY AND GREAT FRIDAY

In front of the tomb is an analogion placed so that the priest can read the holy gospel facing the faithful. The priest vests in dark epitrachilion and phelonion, and the deacon vests in the sticharion and orarion. The deacon opens the holy doors. The priest takes the holy gospel from the holy table and carries it in procession to the analogion, where he places it for the reading of the four Gospels. The deacon precedes him carrying a candle. Then, they remain before the tomb and the service is begun:

The Beginning Prayers

The following prayers are said at the beginning of each Hour, or of each group of Hours celebrated together.

If a priest leads the service:

Priest: Blessed is our God, always, now and ever and forever.

Response: Amen.

If other than a priest:

Leader: Through the prayers of our holy fathers, O Lord Jesus Christ our God, have mercy on us.

Response: Amen

Glory to you, our God, glory to you.

Heavenly King, Comforter, Spirit of Truth,
everywhere present and filling all things,
Treasury of Blessings and Giver of Life,
come and dwell within us, cleanse us of all stain,
and save our souls, O gracious One.

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

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

Most Holy Trinity, have mercy on us;
Lord, cleanse us of our sins;
Master, forgive our transgressions;

the right hand of the Father, and he is coming again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end. And in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the Creator of Life, who proceeds from the Father. Together with the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified; he spoke through the prophets. In one, holy, catholic, and apostolic Church. I profess one baptism for the remission of sins. I expect the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Remit, pardon, and forgive our transgressions, voluntary and involuntary, in deed and in word, with knowledge and in ignorance, in thought and in desire, by night and by day, forgive them all, O God, for you are good and love us all.

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.

If a priest leads the service:

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

Otherwise:

Leader: Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on us.

All: Amen.

Kontakion, Tone 8. Come, let us all praise him who was crucified for us; * for Mary looked upon him on the wood and said: * Although you suffer crucifixion, * you are still my Son and my God.

Lord, have mercy. *(40 times)*

Priest or Leader: Most holy Trinity, Consubstantial Power, Indivisible Kingdom, Cause of all good things, look favorably upon me, a sinner, at this present hour. Take away all the defilement of my mind and enlighten my understanding that I may always praise, glorify, and say: One is holy, one is Lord, Jesus Christ, to the glory of God the Father. Amen.

Blessed be the name of the Lord, now and forever. *(three times)*

Remember us, O Lord,
when you come in your kingdom.

Remember us, O Master,
when you come in your kingdom.

Remember us, O Holy One,
when you come in your kingdom.

The heavenly choir praises you and says,
Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of hosts;
heaven and earth are filled with your glory.

Look towards him and be radiant;
let your faces not be abashed.

The heavenly choir praises you and says,
Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of hosts;
heaven and earth are filled with your glory.

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

The choir of holy angels and archangels, with all the heavenly powers, praises you and says,
Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of hosts;
heaven and earth are filled with your glory.

Now and ever
and forever. Amen.

The Symbol of Faith

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible; and in one Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, the only-begotten, born of the Father before all ages. Light from light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, one in essence with the Father; through whom all things were made. For us and for our salvation, he came down from heaven and was incarnate from the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary, and became man. He was crucified for us under Pontius Pilate, and suffered and was buried. He rose on the third day according to the scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at

Holy One, come to us and heal our infirmities
for your name's sake.

Lord, have mercy. *(Three times)*

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

If a priest leads the service:

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

Otherwise:

Leader: Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on us.

All: Amen.

Now turn to the appropriate Hour:

First Hour	page 6
Third Hour	page 16
Sixth Hour	page 27
Ninth Hour	page 37

The First Hour

Come, let us worship our King and God. *(bow)*
Come, let us worship Christ our King and God. *(bow)*
Come, let us worship and bow before the only Lord Jesus Christ, the King and ***our*** God. *(bow)*

As the psalms are read, the celebrant performs a full incensation of the church in this order: the holy gospel on the analogion from four sides, then the holy table and the apsidal image, then, going through the holy doors, the front of the tomb, the icon screen, the interior of the church, (the concelebrating clergy), the faithful (from before the tomb), the major icons of our Lord and the Theotokos, and the front of the holy table. The deacon precedes the celebrant carrying a candle. The celebrant and deacon return to the sanctuary after the incensation.

Psalm 5

To my words give ear, O Lord,
give heed to my groaning.

Attend to the sound of my cries,
my King and my God.

It is you whom I invoke, O Lord.
In the morning you hear me.

In the morning I offer you my prayer,
watching and waiting.

You are no God who loves evil;
no sinner is your guest.

The boastful shall not stand their ground
before your face.

You hate all who do evil;
you destroy all who lie.

The deceitful and bloodthirsty man
the Lord detests.

Typika

The Beatitudes

In your kingdom, remember us, O Lord,
when you come in your kingdom.

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

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

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 will be great in heaven.

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

If a priest leads the service:

All: Give the blessing, Father, in the name of the Lord.

Priest: May God be merciful to us and bless us; may He cause His countenance to shine upon us, and have mercy on us.

Response: Amen.

Otherwise:

Leader: Through the prayers of our holy fathers, O Lord Jesus Christ our God, have mercy on us.

Response: Amen.

Priest or Leader: Master Lord Jesus Christ, our God, you patiently endured our sins and led us to this very hour at which you were hung upon the life-giving wood. You opened a way to paradise for the penitent thief and destroyed death by death. Now forgive the trespasses that we your servants have committed, unworthy sinners that we are. We have sinned indeed and transgressed your law. We are unworthy even to lift up our eyes to heaven, for we have abandoned the path of your righteousness and pursued the desires of our hearts.

But now we implore your immense goodness: Spare us, O Lord, in the multitude of your mercies, save us for the sake of your most holy name. Our days were spent in vanity; wrest us from the hands of our enemy and forgive our sins. Subdue in us the cravings of our flesh, so that, after putting off the old self, we may put on the new and live for you, our Master and Benefactor; and that, obeying your commandments, we may reach eternal repose in the place where all the blessed abide. For you are truly joy and delight to those who love you, O Christ our God, and we give glory to you, with your eternal Father, and your all-holy, good, and life-creating Spirit, now and ever and forever.

Response: Amen.

Continue with the Typika, if desired.

If the Typika are not celebrated, the service concludes with the dismissal on page 52.

But I through the greatness of your love will enter your house;
I will bow down before your holy temple in awe.

Lead me, O Lord, in your justice;
because of my enemies direct my way in your sight.

No truth can be found in their mouths,
their hearts are vanity,

their throats are gaping graves,
with their tongues they flatter.

Condemn them, O God;
let them fall in their designs.

Drive them out for their many offenses,
for they have defied you.

Let all those you protect be glad and rejoice forever
and you shall dwell in them.

They who love your name shall rejoice in you.
For you will bless the just, O Lord.

You crown us with favor
as with a shield.

Psalm 2

Why this tumult among nations,
among peoples this useless murmuring?

They arise, the kings of the earth,
princes plot against the Lord and his Anointed.

"Come, let us break their fetters,
come, let us cast off their yoke."

He who dwells in the heavens laughs;
the Lord is laughing them to scorn.

Then he will speak in his anger,

his rage will strike them with terror.

"It is I who have set up my king on Zion,
my holy mountain."

I will announce the decree of the Lord.
The Lord said to me: "You are my Son.
It is I who have begotten you this day.

Ask and I shall bequeath you the nations,
put the ends of the earth in your possession.

With a rod of iron you will break them,
shatter them like a potter's jar."

Now, O kings, understand,
take warning, rulers of the earth;

serve the Lord with awe
and, trembling, pay him your homage

lest he be angry and you perish;
for suddenly his anger will blaze.

Blessed are they
who put their trust in God.

Psalm 21

My God, my God, hear me; why have you forsaken me?
Far from my salvation are the words of my transgressions.

O my God, I call by day and you give no reply;
I call by night and I find no peace.

Yet you, O God, are holy,
enthroned on the praises of Israel.

In you our fathers put their trust;
they trusted and you set them free.

When they cried to you, they escaped.

The celebrant and deacon, leaving the sanctuary, come to the front of the tomb.

Kontakion, Tone 8. Come, let us all praise him who was crucified for us; * for Mary looked upon him on the wood and said: * Although you suffer crucifixion, * you are still my Son and my God.

Lord, have mercy. *(40 times)*

Priest or Leader: O good God, in all times and places you are worshiped and glorified both in heaven and on earth. You are long-suffering and generous in your mercy and compassion. You love the just and show mercy to the sinner, calling all to repentance through the promise of blessings to come. Deem, O Lord, at this very hour, to receive our supplications and to direct our lives in the path of your commandments. Sanctify our souls; purify our bodies; set aright our minds; cleanse our thoughts; deliver us from all affliction, trouble, and distress; surround us with your holy angels so that, guided and guarded in their camp, we may attain oneness of faith and the knowledge of your unspeakable glory. For you are blessed forever and ever**.**

Response: Amen.

Lord have mercy. *(Three times)*

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

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 magnify.

going through the holy doors. The deacon closes the holy doors, and the priest(s) may remove the phelonion.

Then the faithful chant the following verses (Daniel 3:34-35):

For your name's sake, do not deliver us up forever,
or make void your covenant.
Do not take away your mercy from us,
for the sake of Abraham, your beloved, Isaac your servant,
and Israel your holy one.

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

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

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.

Lord, have mercy. *(Three times)*

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

If a priest leads the service:

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

Otherwise:

Leader: Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on us.

All: Amen.

In you they trusted and never in vain.

But I am a worm and no man,
the butt of men, laughing-stock of the people.

All who see me deride me.
They curl their lips, they toss their heads.

"He trusted in the Lord, let him save him;
let him release him if this is his friend."

Yes, it was you who took me from the womb,
entrusted me to my mother's breast.

Upon you I was thrust from the womb,
from my mother's womb you are my God.

Do not leave me alone in my distress;
For affliction is near, there is none else to help.

Many bulls have surrounded me,
fierce bulls of Bashan close me in.

Against me they open wide their jaws,
like lions, rending and roaring.

Like water I am poured out,
disjointed are all my bones.

My heart has become like wax,
it is melted within my breast.

Parched as burnt clay is my throat,
my tongue cleaves to my jaws.

Many dogs have surrounded me,
a band of the wicked beset me.

They tear holes in my hands and my feet
and lay me in the dust of death.

I can count every one of my bones.

These people stare at me and gloat;

they divide my clothing among them,
they cast lots for my robe.

O Lord, do not leave me alone,
my strength, make haste to help me!

Rescue my soul from the sword,
my life from the grip of these dogs.

Save my life from the jaws of these lions,
my poor soul from the horns of these oxen.

I shall tell of your name to my brethren
and praise you in the middle of the church.
"You who fear the Lord give him praise;
all sons of Jacob, give him glory.
Revere him, Israel's sons.

For he has never despised
nor scorned the poverty of the poor.

From him he has not hidden his face,
but he heard the poor man when he cried."

You are my praise in the great assembly.
My vows I will pay before those who fear him.

The poor shall eat and shall have their fill.
They shall praise the Lord, those who seek him.
May their hearts live forever and ever!

All the earth shall remember and return to the Lord,
all families of the nations worship before him;

for the kingdom is the Lord's,
he is ruler of the nations.

Prokeimenon, Tone 6. The fool has said in his heart: "There is no God above."
Verse. Their deeds are corrupt, depraved; not a good man is left.

Deacon: Wisdom!

Lector: A reading from the Prophecy of Jeremiah.

Deacon: Let us be attentive!

Lector: *(reads Jeremiah 11:18-23; 12:1-5, 9-11, 14-15)*

Deacon: Wisdom!

Lector: A reading from the Letter to the Hebrews.

Deacon: Let us be attentive!

Lector: *(reads Hebrews 10:19-31)*

The priest who will read the Gospel and the deacon come to the analogion through the holy doors for the reading of the Gospel.

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

Priest: Peace be to all!

Response: And to your spirit.

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

Response: Glory to your passion, O Lord.

Deacon: Let us be attentive!

Priest: *(reads John 18:28 – 19:37)*

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

After the Gospel has been read, the priest takes the holy gospel from the analogion and, proceeding with the deacon, returns it to the holy table,

show forth your loving-kindness, O Merciful One. * Accept the intercession which the Theotokos makes in our behalf. * O our Savior, save a despairing people.

During the stichera, the priest incenses the holy table, the apsidal image, the iconostasis and the faithful. The deacon precedes holding a candle.

Stichera, Tone 7. How terrifying to see how the Creator of heaven and earth was hung on the cross; * how the sun was darkened and the day changed to night; * and how the earth gave up the bodies of the dead from their graves. * With them we worship you; save us.

They divide my clothing among them, they cast lots for my robe. For food they gave me gall; in my thirst they gave me vinegar to drink.

Tone 2. When the lawless ones nailed you, the Lord of glory, to the cross, * you cried out to them: * How have I caused you sorrow? How have I angered you? * And who, except me, saved you from distress? * And now with what do you repay me? * Instead of goodness, you do evil. * For the pillar of fire you nailed me to the cross. * For the clouds you dig a grave for me. * Instead of manna, you give me gall. Instead of water, you give vinegar to drink. * Now I will call the nations, * and they shall glorify me with the Father and the Holy Spirit.

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

Tone 6. Today he who hung the earth upon the waters * is hung upon a Tree, * The King of the Angels * is crowned with thorns. * He who wraps the heaven in clouds * is wrapped in mocking purple. * He who freed Adam in the Jordan * receives a slap on the face. * The Bridegroom of the Church is transfixed with nails. * The Son of the Virgin is pierced by a lance. * We bow to your passion, O Christ *(bow)*. * We bow to your passion, O Christ *(bow)*. * We bow to your passion, O Christ *(bow)*. * Show us also your glorious Resurrection.

Deacon: Let us be attentive!

Priest: Peace be to all!

Deacon: Wisdom! Be attentive!

They shall worship him, all the mighty of the earth;
before him shall bow all who go down to the dust.

And my soul shall live for him, my children serve him.
They shall tell of the Lord to generations yet to come,

declare his faithfulness to peoples yet unborn:
"These things the Lord has done."

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

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!
Glory to you, O God! *(3 times, with a bow each time)*

Lord, have mercy. *(3 times)*

Tone 1. Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.

Troparion, Tone 1. When you were crucified, O Christ,* the tyranny of the enemy was destroyed, * his power trampled underfoot; * for it was neither an angel nor a mortal, * but you, the Lord himself, who saved us. Glory to you!

Tone 1. Now and ever and forever. Amen.

Theotokion, Tone 1. What shall we call you, O full of grace? * A heaven, for you have borne the Sun of Justice? *A paradise, for you have brought forth the Flower of immortality? * A virgin, for you have remained undefiled? * A mother, holding in her holy arms the Son who is God of all? * Intercede with him for the salvation of our souls.

During the stichera, the deacon incenses the holy gospel from the four sides, the icon screen and the people, then returns to the sanctuary.

Stichera, Tone 8. Today the veil of the Temple is torn in two * as a reproof to the lawless; * and the sun hides its own rays, * as it sees the Master crucified

They divide my clothing among them, they cast lots for my robe. They arise, the kings of the earth, princes plot against the Lord and his Anointed.

Tone 8. Like a sheep you have been led to the slaughter, O Christ our King, * and like an innocent lamb you were nailed to the cross by wicked men * for our sins, O Lover of us all.

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

Tone 8. Patiently awaiting the transgressors of the Law * to lay hold of you, O Lord, * you cried out: Although you smite the Shepherd * and scatter the twelve sheep, my disciples, * yet I could call to my aid more than twelve legions of angels; * but in my patience, I suffer, * that the mysteries I revealed through my prophets may be fulfilled. * O Lord, glory to you.

Deacon: Let us be attentive!

Priest: Peace be to all!

Deacon: Wisdom! Be attentive!

Prokeimenon, Tone 4. His heart has gathered iniquity to himself.
Verse. Happy the man who considers the poor and the weak.

Deacon: Wisdom!

Lector: A reading from the Prophecy of Zechariah.

Deacon: Let us be attentive!

Lector: *(reads Zechariah 11:10-13)*

Deacon: Wisdom!

Lector: A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul the Apostle to the Galatians

Deacon: Let us be attentive!

Lector: *(reads Galatians 6:14-18)*

The celebrant and deacon come to the analogion through the holy doors for the reading of the gospel.

for your love to me has been great:
you have saved me from the depths of the grave.

The proud have risen against me; ruthless men seek my life;
to you they pay no heed.

But you, God of mercy and compassion,
slow to anger, O Lord,

abounding in love and truth,
turn and take pity on me.

O give your strength to your servant
and save your handmaid's child.

Show me the sign of your favor that my foes may see to their shame
that you console me and give me your help.

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

And then, three times with a bow each time:

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!
Glory to you, O God!

Lord, have mercy. *(3 times)*

Tone 8. Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.

Troparion, Tone 8. Seeing the Source of life hanging on the cross, the thief said: * If he who is crucified with us were not God incarnate, * the sun would not have hidden its rays, * nor would the shaken earth be trembling. * But you who bear all things, remember me, Lord, in your kingdom.

Tone 8. Now and ever and forever. Amen.

Theotokion, Tone 8. For the sake of all you were born of the Virgin, * and you endured the cross, O Good One. * You conquered death by death, and through your resurrection you revealed yourself as God. * Do not disdain those whom you have created with your own hands, * but

Truly the just will praise your name;
the upright shall live in your presence.

Psalm 85

Turn your ear, O Lord, and give answer
for I am poor and needy.

Preserve my life, for I am faithful;
save the servant who trusts in you.

You are my God, have mercy on me, Lord,
for I cry to you all the day long.

Give joy to your servant, O Lord,
for to you I lift up my soul.

O Lord, you are good and forgiving,
full of love to all who call.

Give heed, O Lord, to my prayer
and attend to the sound of my voice.

In the day of distress I will call
and surely you will reply.

Among the gods there is none like you, O Lord;
nor work to compare with yours.

All the nations shall come to adore you
and glorify your name, O Lord.

For you are great and do marvelous deeds,
you who alone are God.

Show me, Lord, your way so that I may walk in your truth.
Guide my heart to fear your name.

I will praise you, Lord my God, with all my heart
and glorify your name forever;

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

Priest: Peace be to all!

Response: And to your spirit.

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

Response: Glory to your passion, Lord.

Deacon: Let us be attentive!

Priest: *(reads Matthew 27:1-56)*

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

The celebrant and deacon return to the sanctuary. Then the faithful chant the following verses (Ps. 118:133-135, 70:8):

Guide my footsteps according to your promise,
and let no iniquity rule over me.
Redeem me from man's oppression and I shall keep your precepts.
Let your face shine on your servant and teach me your decrees.
My mouth is filled with your praise, O Lord,
that I may sing your glory all the day long.

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

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

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.

Lord, have mercy. *(Three times)*

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

If a priest leads the service:

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

Otherwise:

Leader: Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on us.

All: Amen.

The celebrant and deacon, leaving the sanctuary, come to the front of the tomb.

Kontakion, Tone 8. Come, let us all praise him who was crucified for us; * for Mary looked upon him on the wood and said: * Although you suffer crucifixion, * you are still my Son and my God.

Lord, have mercy. *(40 times)*

Priest or Leader: O good God, in all times and places you are worshiped and glorified both in heaven and on earth. You are long-suffering and generous in your mercy and compassion. You love the just and show mercy to the sinner, calling all to repentance through the promise of blessings to come. Deign, O Lord, at this very hour, to receive our supplications and to direct our lives in the path of your commandments. Sanctify our souls; purify our bodies; set aright our minds; cleanse our thoughts; deliver us from all affliction, trouble, and distress; surround us with your holy angels so that, guided and guarded in their camp, we may attain oneness of faith and the knowledge of your unspeakable glory. For you are blessed forever and ever.

Response: Amen.

Psalm 139

Rescue me, O Lord, from evil men;
from the violent keep me safe,

from those who plan evil in their hearts
and stir up strife every day;

who sharpen their tongue like an adder's,
with the poison of viper on their lips.

Lord, guard me from the hands of the wicked;
from the violent keep me safe;
they plan to make me stumble.

The proud have hidden a trap,
have spread out lines in a net,
set snares across my path.

I have said to the Lord: "You are my God."
Lord, hear the cry of my appeal!

Lord my God, my mighty help,
you shield my head in the battle.

Do not grant the wicked their desire
nor let their plots succeed.

Those surrounding me lift up their heads.
Let the malice of their speech overwhelm them.

Let coals of fire rain upon them.
Let them be flung in the abyss, no more to rise.

Let the slanderer not endure upon the earth.
Let evil hunt the violent man to death!

I know that the Lord will avenge the poor,
That he will do justice for the needy.

See how they gabble open-mouthed;
their lips are filled with insults.
"For who," they say, "will hear us?"

But you, Lord, will laugh them to scorn.
You make light of all the nations.

O my Strength, for you will I watch,
for you, O God, are my defender
and your mercy goes before me.

God will let me look upon my foes.
Do not kill them lest my people forget;

rout them by your power, lay them low.
It is you, O Lord, who are our shield.

For the sins of their mouths and their lips,
for the curses and lies that they speak
let them be caught in their pride.

Destroy them, Lord, in your anger.
Destroy them till they are no more.

Let the world know that you are the ruler
over Jacob and the ends of the earth.

Each evening they come back like dogs.
They howl and roam about the city;

they prowl in search of food,
they snarl till they have their fill.

As for me, I will sing of your strength
and each morning acclaim your love

for you have been my stronghold,
a refuge in the day of my distress.

O my Helper, to you I will sing praise,
for You, O God, are my defender and my mercy.

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. Amen.

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 magnify.

If a priest leads the service:

All: Give the blessing, Father, in the name of the Lord.

Priest: May God be merciful to us and bless us; may He cause His countenance to shine upon us, and have mercy on us.

Response: Amen.

Otherwise:

Leader: Through the prayers of our holy fathers, O Lord Jesus Christ our God, have mercy on us.

Response: Amen.

Priest or Leader: O Christ, you are the true light, who enlightens and sanctifies everyone coming into the world. Sign us with the light of your face, that, walking in it, we may see the light of your unapproachable glory. Direct our steps in the observance of your commands, through the prayers of your most pure Mother and of all your saints.

Response: Amen.

If the Third Hour does not follow immediately, the service concludes with the dismissal on page 52.

The Third Hour

Come, let us worship our King and God. *(bow)*
Come, let us worship Christ our King and God. *(bow)*
Come, let us worship and bow before the only Lord Jesus Christ,
the King and our God. *(bow)*

Psalm 40

Happy the man who considers the poor and the weak.
The Lord will save him in the day of evil,

will guard him, give him life, make him happy in the land
and will not give him up to the will of his foes.

The Lord will help him on his bed of pain,
he will bring him back from sickness to health.

As for me, I said: "Lord, have mercy on me,
heal my soul for I have sinned against you."

My foes are speaking evil against me.
"How long before he dies and his name be forgotten?"

One comes to visit me and speaks empty words;
his heart has gathered iniquity to himself;
he went out and spoke of it.

My enemies whisper together against me.
They all weigh up the evil which is on me.

"Some deadly thing has fastened upon him,
he will not rise again from where he lies."

Thus even my friend, in whom I trusted,
who ate my bread, has turned against me.

But you, O Lord, have mercy on me.
Let me rise once more and I shall repay them.

The Ninth Hour

Come, let us worship our King and God. *(bow)*
Come, let us worship Christ our King and God. *(bow)*
Come, let us worship and bow before the only Lord Jesus Christ,
the King and our God. *(bow)*

As the psalms are chanted, the celebrant performs a full incensation of the church in this order: the holy gospel book from all four sides; the holy table and the apsidal image; then, going through the holy doors, the icon screen, the interior of the church, any concelebrating clergy, the faithful, the major icons of our Lord and the Theotokos, and the front of the holy table. The deacon precedes the celebrant carrying a candle. The celebrant and deacon return to the sanctuary after the incensation.

Psalm 58

Rescue me, O God, from my foes;
protect me from those who attack me.

O rescue me from those who do evil
and save me from blood-thirsty men.

See, they lie in wait for my life;
powerful men band together against me.

For no offense, no sin of mine, Lord,
for no guilt of mine they rush to take their stand.

Awake, come to my aid and see!
Lord of hosts, you are Israel's God.

Rouse yourself and punish the nations;
show no mercy to evil traitors.

Each evening they come back like dogs.
They howl and roam about the city;

they prowl in search of food;
they snarl till they have their fill.

If a priest leads the service:

All: Give the blessing, Father, in the name of the Lord

Priest: May God be merciful to us and bless us; may He cause His countenance to shine upon us, and have mercy on us.

Response: Amen.

Otherwise:

Leader: Through the prayers of our holy fathers, O Lord Jesus Christ our God, have mercy on us.

Response: Amen.

Priest or Leader: God and Lord of Powers and Maker of all creation, through your compassion beyond our understanding, you sent down your only-begotten Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, for the salvation of our race. Through his honorable cross he canceled the debt of our sins and triumphed over the powers and masters of darkness.

Now, O loving Master, accept from us sinners these prayers of thanksgiving and petition, and preserve us from any deadly fall in the darkness and against every visible and invisible enemy who may seek our harm. Pierce our bodies with fear of you, and let not our souls fall into evil words or thoughts, but, instead, wound them with love for you so that, looking upon you at all times and guided by the light that emanates from you, we may contemplate the unapproachable eternal light. May we ever address our profession and thanksgiving to you, O eternal Father, to your only-begotten Son, and to your all-holy, good, and life-creating Spirit, now and ever and forever.

Response: Amen.

If the Ninth Hour does not follow immediately, the service concludes with the dismissal on page 52.

By this I shall know that you are my friend,
if my foes do not shout in triumph over me.

If you uphold me I shall be unharmed
and set in your presence forever more.

Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel
from age to age. Amen. Amen.

Psalm 68

Save me, O God,
for the waters have risen to my neck.

I have sunk into the mud of the deep
and there is no foothold.

I have entered the waters of the deep
and the waves overwhelm me.

I am wearied with all my crying,
my throat is parched.

My eyes are wasted away
from looking for my God.

More numerous than the hairs on my head
are those who hate me without cause.

Those who attack me with lies
are too much for my strength.

How can I restore
what I have never stolen?

O God, you know my sinful folly;
my sins you can see.

Let not those who hope in you be put to shame
through me, Lord of hosts:

let not those who seek you be dismayed
through me, God of Israel.

It is for you that I suffer taunts,
that shame covers my face,

that I have become a stranger to my brothers,
an alien to my own mother's sons.

I burn with zeal for your house
and taunts against you fall on me.

When I afflict my soul with fasting
they make it a taunt against me.

When I put on sackcloth in mourning
then they make me a byword,

the gossip of men at the gates,
the subject of drunkard's songs.

This is my prayer to you,
my pray for your favor.

In your great love, answer me, O God,
with your help that never fails;

rescue me from sinking in the mud,
save me from my foes.

Save me from the waters of the deep
lest the waves overwhelm me.

Do not let the deep engulf me
nor death close its mouth on me.

Lord, answer, for your love is kind;
in your compassion, turn towards me.

Do not hide your face from your servant;
answer me quickly for I am in distress.

If a priest leads the service:

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

Otherwise:

Leader: Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on us.

All: Amen.

The celebrant and deacon, leaving the sanctuary, come to the front of the tomb.

Kontakion, Tone 8. Come, let us all praise him who was crucified for us; * for Mary looked upon him on the wood and said: * Although you suffer crucifixion, * you are still my Son and my God.

Lord, have mercy. *(40 times)*

Priest or Leader: O good God, in all times and places you are worshiped and glorified both in heaven and on earth. You are long-suffering and generous in your mercy and compassion. You love the just and show mercy to the sinner, calling all to repentance through the promise of blessings to come. Deign, O Lord, at this very hour, to receive our supplications and to direct our lives in the path of your commandments. Sanctify our souls; purify our bodies; set aright our minds; cleanse our thoughts; deliver us from all affliction, trouble, and distress; surround us with your holy angels so that, guided and guarded in their camp, we may attain oneness of faith and the knowledge of your unspeakable glory. For you are blessed forever and ever**.**

Response: Amen.

Lord have mercy. *(Three times)*

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

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 magnify.

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

Response: Glory to your passion, O Lord.

Deacon: Let us be attentive!

Priest: *(reads Luke 23:32-49)*

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

The celebrant and deacon return to the sanctuary. Then the faithful chant the following verses (Ps. 78:8-9)

Let your compassion hasten to meet us;
we are left in the depths of distress.
O God our savior, come to our help.
Come for the sake of the glory of your name.
O Lord our God, forgive us our sins;
rescue us for the sake of your name.

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

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

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.

Lord, have mercy. *(Three times)*

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

Come close to my soul and redeem me;
ransom me pressed by my foes.

You know how they taunt and deride me;
my oppressors are all before you.

Taunts have broken my heart;
I have reached the end of my strength.

I looked in vain for compassion, for consolers;
not one could I find.

For my food they gave me gall;
in my thirst they gave me vinegar to drink.

Let their table be a snare to them
and their festive banquets a trap.

Let their eyes grow dim and blind;
let their limbs tremble and shake.

Pour out your anger upon them,
let the heat of your fury overtake them.

Let their camp be left desolate;
let no one dwell in their tents:

for they persecute one whom you struck;
they increase the pain of him you wounded.

Charge them with guilt upon guilt;
let them never be found just in your sight.

Blot them out from the book of the living;
do not enroll them among the just.

As for me in my poverty and pain,
let your help, O God, lift me up.

I will praise God's name with a song;
I will glorify him with thanksgiving.

A gift pleasing God more than oxen,
more than beasts prepared for sacrifice.

The poor when they see it will be glad
and God-seeking hearts will revive;

for the Lord listens to the needy
and does not spurn his servants in their chains.

Let the heavens and the earth give him praise,
the sea and all its living creatures.

For God will bring help to Zion
and rebuild the cities of Judah
and men shall dwell there in possession.

The sons of his servants shall inherit it;
those who love his name shall dwell there.

Psalm 50

Have mercy on me, O God, in your kindness.
In your compassion blot out my offense.

O wash me more and more from my guilt
and cleanse me from my sin.

My offenses truly I know them;
my sin is always before me.

Against you, you alone, have I sinned;
what is evil in your sight I have done.

That you may be justified when you give sentence
and be without reproach when you judge.

O see, in guilt I was born,
a sinner was I conceived.

Indeed you love truth in the heart;
then in the secret of my heart teach me wisdom.

Tone 5. Come all people who have put on Christ. * Let us see what betrayal Judas planned * when he conspired with lawless priests against our Savior. * Today, they have condemned the deathless one to death. * They have delivered him to Pilate to be nailed to the cross * at the place of the skull; * and our suffering Savior cried out saying: * Father, forgive them this sin, * and let the nations know my resurrection from the dead.

Deacon: Let us be attentive!

Priest: Peace be to all!

Deacon: Wisdom! Be attentive!

Prokeimenon, Tone 4. How great is your name, O Lord, our Lord, through all the earth!
Verse. Your majesty is praised above the heavens.

Deacon: Wisdom!

Lector: A reading from the Prophecy of Isaiah.

Deacon: Let us be attentive!

Lector: *(reads Isaiah 52:13 – 54:1*

Deacon: Wisdom!

Lector: A reading from the Letter to the Hebrews.

Deacon: Let us be attentive!

Lector: *(reads Hebrews 2:11-18)*

The priest who will read the Gospel and the deacon come to the analogion through the holy doors for the reading of the Gospel.

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

Priest: Peace be to all!

Response: And to your spirit.

Tone 2. Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.

Troparion, Tone 2. You have accomplished salvation in the middle of the earth, O Christ God, * and stretching out your pure hands upon the cross, * you gathered all nations who cry out to you: Glory to you, O Lord.

Tone 2. Now and ever and forever. Amen.

Theotokion, Tone 2. Since we have no one in whom to confide * because of our many sins, O Virgin Theotokos,* intercede for us with the one who was born of you; * for a mother's prayer is a powerful means for obtaining the Master's favor. * You are most worthy of veneration, * so do not turn away from the pleading of us sinners; * for the one who willed to suffer for our sake is full of mercy, * and his power is sufficient to save us.

During the stichera, the deacon incenses the holy gospel from the four sides, the icon screen and the people.

Stichera, Tone 8. Thus says the Lord: * My people, what have I done to you? * Or how have I wearied you? * To your blind I gave light, your lepers I cleansed, * a man lying on a bed I set upright. * My people, what have I done to you, * and how have you repaid me? * Instead of manna, gall; instead of water, vinegar; * instead of loving me, you have nailed me to a cross. * I can endure no more. * I will summon all the nations, * and they will glorify me, with the Father and the Spirit; * and to them I will give eternal life.

For food they gave me gall; in my thirst they gave me vinegar to drink. Save me, O God, for the waters have risen to my neck.

Tone 8. Lawgivers of Israel, Jews and Pharisees, * the choir of the Apostles cries out to you: * See a Temple, which you have destroyed; * see a Lamb, whom you have crucified and handed over to a tomb, * but by his own power he is risen. * Do not be deceived, O people of Judea, * for it is he who saved you in the sea * and fed you in the desert. * He himself is the life * and the light and the peace of the world.

Tone 5. Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and forever. Amen.

Sprinkle me with hyssop, then I shall be clean;
O wash me, I shall be whiter than snow.

Make me hear rejoicing and gladness,
that the bones you have crushed may thrill.

From my sins turn away your face
and blot out all my guilt.

A pure heart create for me, O God,
put a steadfast spirit within me.

Do not cast me away from your presence
nor deprive me of your Holy Spirit.

Give me again the joy of your help;
with a spirit of fervor sustain me;

That I may teach transgressors your ways
and sinners may return to you.

Deliver me from blood-guilt, O God, my saving God,
and my tongue shall ring out your goodness.

O Lord, open my lips,
and my mouth will declare your praise.

For in sacrifice you take no delight,
burnt offering from me you would refuse;

my sacrifice, a contrite spirit,
a contrite, humbled heart you will not spurn.

In your goodness, O Lord, show favor to Zion;
rebuild the walls of Jerusalem.

Then you will be pleased with lawful sacrifice,
burnt offerings wholly consumed;
then you will be offered young bulls on your altar.

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

And then, three times with a bow each time:

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!
Glory to you, O God!

Lord, have mercy. *(3 times)*

Tone 6. Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.

Troparion, Tone 6. O Lord, the Jews condemned you, the life of all, to death; * those who by a staff crossed the Red Sea on foot nailed you to a cross; * and those who sucked honey from a rock offered you gall.*But you endured willingly, that you might free us from the slavery of the foe. * O Christ God, glory to you!

Tone 6. Now and ever and forever. Amen.

Theotokion, Tone 6. O Theotokos, you are the true vine laden with the Fruit of life; * therefore, we implore you, O Lady, * to intercede together with the apostles and all the saints * that we may obtain mercy for our souls.

During the stichera, the deacon incenses the holy gospel from the four sides, the icon screen and the people.

Stichera, Tone 8. Because he feared the Jews, * Peter, your friend and companion, denied you, O Lord, * but lamented: Do not turn away from my tears; * for I said that I would be faithful, but was not, * O Compassionate One. * Therefore, accept repentance from us and have mercy on us.

For food they gave me gall; in my thirst they gave me vinegar to drink. They divide my clothing among them, they cast lots for my robe.

Tone 8. At your venerable cross, O Lord, * when the soldiers mocked you, hosts of angels were awed. * You adorned the earth with flowers, but now you wear the crown of slander. * You clothed the firmament with clouds, but now you wear the robe of mockery. *Through this mystery, your compassion is known, O Christ. * Great is your mercy. Glory to you!

Your eyes have only to look
to see how the wicked are repaid,

you who have said: “Lord, my refuge!”
and have made the Most High your dwelling.

Upon you no evil shall fall,
no plague approach where you dwell.

For you has he commanded his angels,
to keep you in all your ways.

They shall bear you upon their hands
lest you strike your foot against a stone.

On the lion and the viper you will tread
and trample the young lion and the dragon.

Since he clings to me in love, I will free him,
protect him, for he knows my name.

When he calls I shall answer: “I am with you,”
I will save him in distress and give him glory.

With length of days I will content him;
I shall let him see my saving power.

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

And then, three times with a bow each time:

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!
Glory to you, O God!

Lord, have mercy. *(3 times)*

Let them know that is your work,
that this is your doing, O Lord.

They may curse but you will bless.
Let my attackers be put to shame,
but let your servant rejoice.

Let my accusers be clothed with dishonor,
covered with shame as with a cloak.

Loud thanks to the Lord are on my lips.
I will praise him in the midst of the throng,

for he stands at the poor man's side
to save him from those who condemn him.

Psalm 90

The one who dwells in the shelter of the Most High
abides in the shadow of the God of heaven.

He says to the Lord: "You are my Protector, my Refuge,
my God in whom I trust."

It is he who will free you from the snare of the fowler
who seeks to destroy you.

He will conceal you with his pinions
and under his wings you will find refuge.

You will not fear the terror of the night
nor the arrow that flies by day,

nor the plague that prowls in the darkness
nor the scourge that lays waste at noon.

A thousand may fall at your side,
ten thousand fall at your right,

you, it will never approach;
his faithfulness is buckler and shield.

Tone 5. Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and forever. Amen.

Tone 5. When you were led to the cross, O Lord, you said: * For what act do you wish to kill me? * Is it because I raised your dead as from sleep, * healed the woman with a hemorrhage, * and showed mercy to the woman from Canaan? * For what act do you wish to kill me? * But you shall behold him whom you have pierced, O law-transgressors, * and come to know that he is the Christ.

Deacon: Let us be attentive!

Priest: Peace be to all!

Deacon: Wisdom! Be attentive!

Prokeimenon, Tone 4. For I am ready for scourging and my pain is always before me.
Verse. O Lord, do not rebuke me in your anger; do not punish me, Lord, in your rage.

Deacon: Wisdom!

Lector: A reading from the Prophecy of Isaiah.

Deacon: Let us be attentive!

Lector: *(reads Isaiah 50:4-11)*

Deacon: Wisdom!

Lector: A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul the Apostle to the Romans.

Deacon: Let us be attentive!

Lector: *(reads Romans 5:6-11)*

The priest who will read the Gospel and the deacon come to the analogion through the holy doors for the reading of the Gospel.

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

Priest: Peace be to all!

Response: And to your spirit.

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

Response: Glory to your passion, O Lord.

Deacon: Let us be attentive!

Priest: *(reads Mark 15:16-41)*

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

The priest and deacon return to the sanctuary. Then the faithful chant the following verses (Ps. 67:20-21):

May the Lord God be blessed;
may the Lord be blessed day after day.
The God of our salvation will prosper us;
this God of ours is a God who saves.

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

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

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.

Lord, have mercy. *(Three times)*

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit,
now and ever and forever. 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;

Let his father's guilt be remembered,
his mother's be retained.

Let it always stand before the Lord,
that their memory be cut off from the earth.

For he did not think of showing mercy
but pursued the poor and the needy,

hounding the wretched to death.
He loved cursing; let curses fall upon him.

He scorned blessing;
let blessing pass him by.

He put on cursing like his coat;
let it sink into his body like water;
let it sink like oil into his bones;

let it be like the clothes that cover him,
like a girdle he cannot take off!

Let the Lord thus repay my accusers,
all those who speak evil against me.

For your name's sake act in my defense;
in the goodness of your love be my rescuer.

For I am poor and needy
and my heart is pierced within me.

I fade like an evening shadow;
I am shaken off like a locust.

My knees are weak from fasting;
my body is thin and gaunt.

I have become an object of scorn,
all who see me toss their heads.
Help me, Lord my God;
save me because of your love.

I will proclaim that your name is good,
in the presence of your friends.

Psalm 108

O God whom I praise, do not be silent,
for the mouths of deceit and wickedness
are opened against me.

They speak to me with lying tongues;
they beset me with words of hate
and attack me without cause.

In return for my love they accuse me
while I pray for them.

They repay me evil for good,
hatred for love.

Appoint a wicked man as his judge;
let an accuser stand at his right.

When he is judged let him come out condemned;
let his prayer be considered as sin.

Let the days of his life be few;
let another man take his office.

Let his children be fatherless orphans
and his wife become a widow.

Let his children be wanderers and beggars
driven from the ruins of their home.

Let the creditor seize all his goods;
let strangers take the fruit of his work.

Let no one show him any mercy
nor pity his fatherless children.
Let all his sons be destroyed
and with them their name be blotted out.

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

If a priest leads the service:

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

Otherwise:

Leader: Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on us.

All: Amen.

The priest and deacon, leaving the sanctuary, come to the front of the tomb.

Kontakion, Tone 8. Come, let us all praise him who was crucified for us; * for Mary looked upon him on the wood and said: * Although you suffer crucifixion, * you are still my Son and my God.

Lord, have mercy. *(40 times)*

Priest or Leader: O good God, in all times and places you are worshiped and glorified both in heaven and on earth. You are long-suffering and generous in your mercy and compassion. You love the just and show mercy to the sinner, calling all to repentance through the promise of blessings to come. Deign, O Lord, at this very hour, to receive our supplications and to direct our lives in the path of your commandments. Sanctify our souls; purify our bodies; set aright our minds; cleanse our thoughts; deliver us from all affliction, trouble, and distress; surround us with your holy angels so that, guided and guarded in their camp, we may attain oneness of faith and the knowledge of your unspeakable glory. For you are blessed forever and ever**.**

Response: Amen.

Lord have mercy. *(Three times)*

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

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 magnify.

If a priest leads the service:

All: Give the blessing, Father, in the name of the Lord

Priest: May God be merciful to us and bless us; may He cause His countenance to shine upon us, and have mercy on us.

Response: Amen.

Otherwise:

Leader: Through the prayers of our holy fathers, O Lord Jesus Christ our God, have mercy on us.

Response: Amen.

Priest or Leader: Master and God: Almighty Father, only-begotten Son, Lord Jesus Christ, and Holy Spirit, one divinity and one might, have mercy on me, a sinner, and save me, your unworthy servant, according to the ways of your wisdom. For you are blessed forever and ever.

Response: Amen.

If the Sixth Hour does not follow immediately, the service concludes with the dismissal on page 52.

The Sixth Hour

Come, let us worship our King and God. *(bow)*
Come, let us worship Christ our King and God. *(bow)*
Come, let us worship and bow before the only Lord Jesus Christ, the King and our God. *(bow)*

Psalm 51

Why do you boast of your wickedness,
you champion of evil,

planning ruin all day long,
your tongue like a sharpened razor,
you master of deceit?

You love evil more than good,
lies more than truth.

You love the destructive word,
you tongue of deceit.

For this God will destroy you
and remove you forever.

He will snatch you from your tent
and uproot you from the land of the living.

The just shall see and fear.
They shall laugh and say:

"So this is the man who refused
to take God as a stronghold,

but trusted in the greatness of his wealth
and grew powerful by his crimes."

But I am like a growing olive tree in the house of God.
I trust in the goodness of God forever and ever.

I will thank you forevermore;
for this is your doing.