

## Matins of Great and Holy Saturday

*The priest, vested in epitrachelion, opens the curtain, takes the censer and begins:*

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

Reader: Amen.

*While the following prayers are being read, the priest censers the altar, the sanctuary, and the people.*

Reader: Glory to You, O God, glory to You!

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

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

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

Most Holy Trinity, have mercy on us. O Lord, wash away our sins, O Master, pardon our transgressions. O Holy One, visit and heal our infirmities, for Your Name's sake.

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

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

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 the evil one.

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

Reader: Amen. In the name of Lord: Master, bless.

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

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

O Lord, open my lips and mouth shall show forth Your praise. (2x)

### **Matins Psalms**

Reader: *(Ps. 3, 38, 63) (Read from the Matins book)*

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

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Glory to You, O God!

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Glory to You, O God!

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Glory to You, O God!

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

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

*(Ps. 88, 103, 143)*

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

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Glory to You, O God!

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Glory to You, O God!

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Glory to You, O God!

## The Great Litany

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

People: Lord, have mercy.

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

People: Lord, have mercy.

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

People: Lord, have mercy.

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

People: Lord, have mercy.

Priest: For His Beatitude, our Metropolitan\_\_\_\_\_, and for His Grace our Bishop\_\_\_\_\_, for the honourable priesthood, the diaconate in Christ, for all the clergy and the people, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

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

People: Lord, have mercy.

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

People: Lord, have mercy.

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

People: Lord, have mercy.

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

People: Lord, have mercy.

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

People: Lord, have mercy.

Priest: Help us, save us, have mercy on us, and keep us, O God, by Your grace.

People: Lord, have mercy.

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

People: To You, O Lord.

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

People: Amen.

### **God is the Lord**

Deacon: In the 2<sup>nd</sup> tone: God is the Lord and has revealed Himself to us; blessed is He that comes in the name of the Lord!  
O give thanks to the Lord, for He is good, for His mercy endures forever.

People:

Deacon: All nations surrounded me, but in the name of the Lord I withstood them.

People: **God is the Lord...**

Deacon: I shall not die, but I shall live and recount the deeds of the Lord.

People: **God is the Lord...**

Deacon: The stone which the builders rejected has become the head of the corner. This is the Lord's doing and it is marvelous in our eyes!

People: **God is the Lord...**

*(As the Troparia are sung, the priest censens the entire church, beginning by censening around the Winding-Sheet, and concluding by censening before it.)*

### **Troparia (Tone 2)**

People: The noble Joseph

When he had taken down Your most pure body from the tree  
Wrapped it in fine linen  
And anointed it with spices//  
And placed it in a new tomb.

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

When You descended to death, O Life Immortal  
You slew Hades with the splendour of Your Godhead  
And when from the depths You raised the dead  
All the powers of heaven cried out//  
O Giver of Life, Christ our God, glory to You.

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

The angel came to the myrrh-bearing women at the tomb and  
said,  
“Myrrh is meet for the dead//  
But Christ has shown Himself a stranger to corruption.”

### **The Praises**

*(The troparia are sung [by a cantor] between the verses of Psalm 119 [read by a reader] in three sections of stases.)*

### **The First Stasis**

### **The Little Litany or Matins Prayer**

**Priest:** Let us pray to the Lord.

**People:** Lord, have mercy.

**Priest:** ...For blessed is Your Name, and glorified is Your Kingdom, of the Father, of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages.

**People:** Amen.

### **The Second Stasis**

*(As the second stasis begins, the priest censes the Winding-Sheet from four sides, the iconostasis, and the people.)*

### **The Little Litany or Matins Prayer**

**Priest:** Let us pray to the Lord.

**People:** Lord, have mercy.

**Priest:** For You are holy, O God, Who rest upon the glorious throne of the cherubim, and to You, we ascribe glory, together with Your Eternal Father, and Your most holy, good and life-creating Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages.

**People:** Amen.

### **The Third Stasis**

*(As the third stasis begins, the priest once more censes the Winding-Sheet, the iconostasis, and the people.)*

Kathisma Hymn

People: (Lord I Call, Tone 1)

Joseph begged Your holy Body from Pilate;  
He anointed it with sweet-smelling spices;  
He wrapped it in clean linen and laid it in his own new tomb.  
And early in the morning the myrrh-bearing women cried out:  
"as You have foretold, O Christ,///  
show us the resurrection!"

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

"As You have foretold, O Christ,///  
Show us the resurrection!"

Now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

The choirs of angels are filled with awe,  
Seeing Him who rests in the Father's bosom  
Laid in the tomb as dead,  
Though He is immortal.  
The ranks of angels surround Him;  
Together with the dead in hell,///  
They glorify Him as Creator and Lord!

**Psalm 51**

Reader: Have mercy on me, O God, according to Your steadfast love; according to Your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions. Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin. For I know my transgressions and my sin is ever before me. Against You, You only, have I sinned, and done that which is evil in your sight, so the You are justified in Your sentence and blameless in Your judgement. Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, and in sin did my mother conceive me. Behold, You desire truth in the inward being: therefore teach me wisdom in my secret heart. Purge me with hyssop and I shall be clean, wash me and I shall be whiter than snow. Fill me with joy and gladness; let the bones with which You have broken rejoice. Hide Your face from my sins, and blot out my iniquities. Create within me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me. Cast me not away from Your presence, and take not Your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of Your salvation, and uphold me with a willing spirit. Then I will teach transgressors Your ways, and sinners will return to You. Deliver me from blood-guiltiness, O



God, You God of my salvation, and my tongue will sing aloud of Your deliverance. O Lord, open my lips, and my mouth shall show forth Your praise. For You have no delight in sacrifice; were I to give a burnt offering, you would not be pleased. The sacrifice acceptable to God is a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, You will not despise. Do good to Zion in Your good pleasure; rebuild the walls of Jerusalem, then will You delight in right sacrifices, in burnt offerings and whole burnt offerings; then bulls will be offered on Your altar.

## **The Canon**

(Ode 1)

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

Unto You I sing a hymn for the departed and a song of burial, O Lord my God, Who by Your burial opened for me the entrance to life and by Your death has put death and Hades to death.

Glory to You, our God, glory to You.

Beholding You upon the throne on high and in the grave below, the things of heaven and the things beneath the earth trembled at Your death; for in a manner past understanding were You, the very source of life, seen dead.

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

You descended to the depths of the earth to fill all with Your glory; for my person that is in Adam was not hidden from You, and when You were buried, You renewed me who am corrupt, O Lover of mankind.

(Ode 3)

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

By a multitude of visions You indicated the signs of Your burial, O Master. But now, as God and man, You make clear Your hidden things even unto those in Hades, who cry: “None is holy but You, O Lord.”

Glory to You, our God, glory to You.

You stretched out Your hands, O Saviour, and united what before had been divided; and by clothing Yourself in a winding-sheet You have saved even those held captive by the tomb, who cry, “None in holy but You, O Lord.”

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

By Your will a sealed tomb contained You, who cannot be contained; for by Your divine accomplishments You have made known Your power unto those who sing, “None is holy but You, O Lord Who love mankind.”

(Kathisma hymn, Ode 4)

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

You have sanctified this, the seventh day, which of old You did bless by rest from work; for You brought all things into being and renewed them, O Saviour, while resting and reviving on the sabbath.

Glory to You, our God, glory to You.

By the overwhelming strength of Your divine nature You won the victory, O Word; for Your soul was parted for the flesh, sundering by Your might the bonds of Hades and death.

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

When Hades encountered You, O Word, it was embittered. Seeing You as a mortal man deified, marked with wounds yet having almighty power, it cried out at Your awesome appearance.

(Ode 5)

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

When You became earthly, O Creator, You renewed those born on earth, and the winding-sheet and the grave revealed the mystery concerning You, O Word; for Joseph the noble counsellor, fulfills the counsel of Him Who begot You and Who wondrously renews me in You.

Glory to You, our God, glory to You.

Through death You transformed what is mortal, and through burial You transformed what is corruptible; for in a manner befitting God You made incorrupt and immortal the nature which You assumed, since Your flesh did not see corruption and in a wondrous manner Your soul was not abandoned in Hades.

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

You came forth from a painless birth, O my Maker, and Your side was pierced. By this have You, the new Adam, accomplished the restoration of Eve. You fell into a sleep surpassing nature and renewing nature, and, as the all-powerful One, You rose up life from sleep and corruption.

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

You were killed, O Word, but not separated from the flesh which You shared with us; for even though the temple of Your body was destroyed at the time of the passion, the person of Your divinity and of Your flesh was one, for in both You remained one Son, Word of God, God and man.

Glory to You, our God, glory to You.

The fall of Adam resulted in the death of man, not God; for even though the earthly substance of Your flesh suffered, Your divinity remained passionless. In Yourself You transformed the corruptible to incorruption, and by Your resurrection You revealed a fountain of incorruptible life.

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

Hell rules the race of mortal men, but not eternally; for when You were placed in the grave, O powerful One, You tore asunder the bars of death by Your life-creating hand and proclaimed true deliverance to those sleeping there from the ages, since You, O Saviour, have become the first-born of the dead.

## Ikos

Reader: He Who holds all things together has been lifted up upon the cross, and all of creation weeps at seeing Him hanging, naked, upon the wood. The sun hid its rays and the stars cast aside their splendour. The earth shook with great fear, the sea fled, and the rocks were split asunder. Many tombs were opened, and the bodies of holy men arose. Hades groaned below and the Jews considered how to slander the resurrection of Christ, but the women cried:

People: "This is the most blessed sabbath on which Christ has fallen asleep to rise on the third day." (*see Kontakion for music*)

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

Hades was wounded in heart when it received Him Whose side was pierced by a spear, and it groans, consumed by divine fire, unto the salvation of us who sing: "Blessed are You, O God, our Redeemer!"

Glory to You, our God, glory to You.

Happy is the tomb! For having received the Creator as one sleep, it became a divine treasury of life, for the salvation of us who sing: "Blessed are You, O God, our Redeemer!"

Glory to You, our God, glory to You.

In accordance with the law of the dead, the Life of all accepts burial in the tomb, and the tomb becomes the source of resurrection, unto the salvation of us who sing, "Blessed are You, O God, our Redeemer!"

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

In Hades, in the tomb and in Eden, the divinity of Christ was one and undivided, with the Father and the Spirit, for the salvation of us who sing, "Blessed are You, O God, our Redeemer!"



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

The pure Temple has been destroyed, yet He raises with Himself the tabernacle that had fallen; for the second Adam, who dwells in the highest, has descended to the first Adam, even unto the lowest chambers of Hades. Bless Him, O youths! Praise Him, O priests! O people, exalt Him above all forever!

Glory to You, our God, glory to You.

The courage of all the disciple failed, but Joseph of Arimathea showed valour; for seeing the God of all dead and naked, he sought Him and dressed Him for burial, crying: Bless Him, O youths! Praise Him, O priests! O people, exalt Him above all forever!

We bless the Lord: Father, Son and Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

What new wonders! What great goodness! What ineffable forbearance! For He Who dwells in the highest is willingly sealed beneath the earth, and God is slandered as a deceiver. Bless Him, O youths! Praise Him, O priests! O people, exalt Him above all forever!

(We praise, bless and worship)  
(Ode 9)

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

“I escaped sufferings and was blessed beyond nature at Your strange birth, O Son Who is without beginning. But now, beholding You, my God, dead and without breath, I am sorely pierced by the sword of sorrow. But arise, that I may be magnified.”

Glory to You, our God, glory to You.

“By my own will, the earth covers me, O Mother, but the gatekeepers of Hades tremble at seeing Me clothed in the blood-stained garments of vengeance; for when I have vanquished My enemies on the Cross, I shall arise as God and magnify you.”

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

“Let creation rejoice! Let all born on earth be glad! For hateful Hades has been despoiled. Let the women with myrrh come to meet Me; for I am redeeming Adam and Eve and all their descendents, and on the third day I shall arise!”

### **The Little Litany or Matins Prayer**

Priest: Let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Priest: ...For all the powers of heaven praise You and unto You we ascribe glory; to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

People: Amen.

*(Tone 2)*

Priest: Holy is the Lord, our God!

People: Holy is the Lord, our God!

Priest: For holy is the Lord, our God!

People: Holy is the Lord, our God!

Priest: Over all the people is our God!

People: Holy is the Lord, our God!

### **The Praises**

*(During the Praises, the priest vests in full vestments.)*

(music)

*Reader: Praise the Lord for His mighty deeds; praise Him according to His exceeding greatness.*

**People:** (Tone 2)

Today a tomb holds Him Who holds creation in the hollow of His hand.

A stone covers Him Who covered the heavens in glory.

Life sleeps and Hades trembles.

Adam is set free from his bonds.

Glory to Your plan of salvation!

By it You have fulfilled all things,

Granting us an eternal Sabbath rest:///

Your most holy Resurrection from the dead!

*Reader: Praise Him with trumpet sound, praise Him with lute and harp!*

**People:**

What is this sight we behold?

What is this present rest?

The King of the ages keeps the Sabbath in the tomb;

Through His Passion He has fulfilled the plan of salvation,

Granting us a new Sabbath rest.

To Him let us cry aloud:

“Arise, O God, judge the earth,

For You reign forever,:///

And beyond measure is Your great mercy.”

*Reader: Praise Him with timbrel and dance; praise Him with strings and pipe!*

**People:**

Come, let us see our Life lying in the tomb,  
To give life to those who lie dead in the tombs.  
Come, look today on the Son of Judah sleeping;  
With Jacob the patriarch let us cry to Him:  
“You have stooped down; You have crouched as a lion;  
Who dares awaken You, O King?”  
But arise in Your own power,  
O You Who willingly gave Yourself for us.///  
O Lord, glory to You.

*Reader: In the 6<sup>th</sup> tone: Praise Him with sounding cymbals; praise Him with loud clashing cymbals! Let everything that has breath praise the Lord! Praise the Lord!*

**People:** (Tone 6)

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

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

**People:**

The great Moses mystically foreshadowed this day,  
saying,  
“God blessed the seventh day.”  
This is the Blessed Sabbath; (over)

This is the day of rest,  
On which the Only-Begotten Son of God rested from all  
His works.

By suffering death to fulfill the plan of salvation,  
He kept the Sabbath in the flesh;

By returning again to what He was;  
He has granted us eternal life through His  
resurrection,///

For He alone is good, and the Lover of man.

*Reader: In the 2<sup>nd</sup> tone: Now and ever and unto ages of ages.  
Amen.*

*(During the following verse, the priest takes his place in  
front of the Shroud.)*

**People:** *(Tone 2)*

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

## **The Great Doxology**

*(During the singing of the Great Doxology, the priest goes three times around the Shroud, censing it from the four sides.)*

Priest: Glory to You, who has shone us the light!

*As the processional Trisagion is sung, the priest takes the Book of the Gospels, and four laymen take the Winding-Sheet and hold it above his head. They go in procession around the outside of the church, while the people continue to sing the Trisagion. The Cross with the processional candles leads the procession, followed by the choir, the deacon or server with the incense, then the Winding-Sheet, and all the members of the congregation holding lighted candles. When the procession returns to the interior of the church, they carry the Winding-Sheet to the Holy Doors, and the priest exclaims:*

Wisdom! Let us attend!

*As the choir sings the troparion the Shroud is returned to its place in the center of the church, the Book of the Gospels on it, and the priest censens around it once.*

(Bulgarian Noble Joseph)



Priest: Wisdom!

Reader: The Troparion of the Prophecy in the Second tone.

People: O Christ, who holds fast the ends of the earth,  
You consented to be held fast in the tomb,  
to deliver man from his fall into hell,  
and, as Immortal God,///  
You gave us life and immortality!

Reader: The Prokeimenon in the 4<sup>th</sup> tone:  
Arise, O Lord, and help us! / Deliver us for Your Name's sake.

*verse:* We have heard with our ears, O God, our fathers have told us what  
deeds You performed in their days, in the days of old.

Priest: Wisdom!

Reader: The reading is from the Prophet Ezekiel.

Priest: Let us attend!

Reader: (*Ezekiel 37:1-14*)

Priest: Wisdom!

Reader: The Prokeimenon in the 7<sup>th</sup> tone: Arise, O Lord, my God, and let  
Your hand be lifted up! / Do not forget Your poor forever!

*verse:* I will praise You, O Lord my God, with all my heart; I will make all  
Your wonders known!

Priest: Wisdom!

Reader: The reading from the First Epistle of holy apostle Paul to the  
Corinthians.

Priest: Let us attend.

Reader: (*I Cor. 5:6-8, Gal. 3:13-14*)

Reader: In the 5<sup>th</sup> tone: Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

*verses:* Let God arise! Let His enemies be scattered! Let those who hate Him flee from before His face!

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

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

*The priest reads the Gospel from in front of the Shroud.*

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

People: And to your spirit.

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

People: Glory to You, O Lord! Glory to You!

Priest: *Matthew 27:62-66*

People: Glory to You, O Lord! Glory to You!

*Remaining in his place before the Shroud, the priest says the two litanies and the dismissal of Matins.*

### **The Augmented Litany**

Priest: Have mercy on us, O God, according to Your great goodness, we pray You, hearken and have mercy.

People: Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

Priest: Again we pray for His Beatitude, our Metropolitan\_\_\_\_\_, and for His Grace our Bishop\_\_\_\_\_, for the honourable priesthood, the diaconate in Christ, for all the clergy and the people.

People: Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

Priest: Again we pray for the government of our country, for all civil authorities and for the armed forces.

People: Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

Priest: Again we pray for the blessed and ever-memorable founders of this holy house; and for all of our fathers, mothers, brothers and sisters, the Orthodox departed before us, who here and in all the world lie asleep in the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

Priest: Again we pray for life, peace, health, salvation and visitation, pardon and remission of sins, for all the brethren of this holy house.

People: Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

Priest: Again we pray for those who bring offerings and do good works in this holy and all-venerable house; for those who labour and those who sing; and for all the people here present, who await You great and rich mercy.

People: Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

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

People: Amen.

### **The Litany of Fervent Supplication**

Priest: Let us complete our morning prayer unto the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

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

People: Lord, have mercy.

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

People: Grant it, O Lord.

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

People: Grant it, O Lord.

Priest: Pardon and remission of our sins and transgression, let us ask of the Lord.

People: Grant it, O Lord.

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

People: Grant it, O Lord.

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

People: Grant it, O Lord.

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

People: Grant it, O Lord.

Priest: Commemorating our most holy, most pure, most blessed and glorious Lady Theotokos and ever-virgin Mary with all the saints, let

us commend ourselves and each other and all our life unto Christ our God.

People: To You, O Lord.

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

People: Amen.

Priest: Peace be unto all.

People: And to your spirit.

Priest: Let us bow our heads to the Lord.

People: To You, O Lord.

Priest: O holy Lord, who dwell on high and look down upon the humble, and who with Your all-seeing eye look down upon all creation: unto You have we bowed the neck of our soul and body, and we pray You, O Holy of Holies, stretch forth Your invisible hand from your holy dwelling place and bless us all. And if in any way we have sinned, either willingly or unwillingly, pardon us, inasmuch as You are good and love mankind, granting us Your good things in this world and beyond this world.

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

People: Amen.

## The Dismissal

**Priest:** Wisdom!

**People:** Master, bless.

**Priest:** Christ our God, the "I am", is blessed always, now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

**People:** Amen. Preserve, O God, the Holy Orthodox Faith and Orthodox Christians, unto ages of ages.

**Priest:** Most holy Theotokos, save us!

**People:** More honourable than the Cherubim and more glorious than the Seraphim: without defilement you gave birth to God the Word, True Theotokos, we magnify you!

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

**People:** Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Master, bless.

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

**People:** Amen.

*During the veneration of shroud we sing the following:*

*Tone 5*

Come, let us bless Joseph of eternal memory,  
Who came by night to Pilate  
And begged for the Life of all:  
“Give me this Stranger,  
Who from His youth has been received as a stranger in this world.  
Give me this Stranger,  
Who has no place to lay His head:  
Give me this Stranger  
Whom an evil disciple betrayed to death.  
Give me this Stranger,  
The refuge of the poor and wearry.  
Give me this Stranger,  
Whom His Mother saw hanging upon the cross,  
And, with a Mother’s sorrow cried, weeping:  
‘Woe is me, O my Child,  
Light of my eyes and Beloved of my bosom,  
For what Simeon foretold in the temple now has come to pass:  
A sword has pierced my heart;  
But change my grief to gladness by Your resurrection.’”  
We worship Your Passion, O Christ!  
We worship Your Passion, O Christ!  
We worship Your Passion, O Christ!///  
And Your Holy Resurrection.