

GOOD FRIDAY  
MIDDAY SERVICE AT HOME

*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. (*3 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. (*3 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.

*Response:* Amen.

Lord, have mercy. (*12 times*)

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

Come, let us worship our King and God.

Come, let us worship Christ, our King and God.

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

**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 shall thank you forevermore;  
for this is your doing.  
I shall 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 their 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 names be blotted out.  
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 pursed 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.  
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 shall 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 will say to the Lord,  
    “My wall, my refuge, my God in whom I will trust.”  
He it is who will save you from the hunter's snare,  
    and from the deadly pestilence.  
With his pinions, he will overshadow you,  
    and beneath his wings, you shall rest secure.  
As a shield, his truthfulness shall cover you:  
    you shall not fear the terror of the night,  
    nor the arrow that flies by day,  
Nor the thing that lurks about in darkness,  
    nor the pestilence and the demon of the noon.  
Though a thousand should fall at your side,  
and ten thousand at your right,  
    no harm will come to you.  
But you with your eyes shall observe,  
    and see the retribution of the wicked.  
Because you have said, “O Lord, you are my hope,”  
    and have made the Most High your refuge,  
No evil shall come close to you,  
    nor shall any scourge approach your dwelling.  
For he will command the angels  
    to watch over all your ways.  
In their hands, they will carry you  
    lest you stumble with your foot against a stone.  
Upon the asp and the viper you shall tread;  
    the lion and the serpent you shall trample.  
Because he hoped in me, I will save him;  
    I will protect him, for he knew my name.  
He will call on me, and I will answer him;  
    I am with him at the time of distress;  
    I will deliver him and give him glory.  
I will fill him with length of days,  
    and my salvation I will let him see.

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*)

### TROPARION

#### **Tone 2**

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

You have accomplished our salvation upon the earth, O Christ our God, and stretching out your pure hands upon the cross, you gathered all nations who cry out to you: Glory to you, O Lord.

### THEOTOKION

**Tone 2** *Now and ever, and forever. Amen.*

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 flesh for our sake is full of mercy, and his power is sufficient to save us.

### 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.

*v. 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, in your love for mankind.

*v. 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.

**Prokeimenon, Tone 4** [Psalm 40(41): 7.2]

His heart gathered lawlessness to itself.

*Verse:* Happy the man who considers the poor and the weak.

A Reading from the Prophecy of Zechariah [Zechariah 11:10-13]

Thus says the Lord: I took my staff Delight and snapped it in two, breaking my covenant which I had made with all peoples. So it was broken on that day. The merchants of the flock, who were watching me, understood that this was the word of the Lord. Then I said to them, If it seems good to you, give me my wages; but if not, withhold them. And they counted out my wages, thirty pieces of silver. Then the Lord said to me, Throw it in the treasury—the handsome price at

which they valued me. So I took the thirty pieces of silver and threw them into the treasury in the house of the Lord.

A Reading from the Letter of St. Paul the Apostle to the Galatians [*Galatians 6:14-18*]

Brothers and sisters: may I never boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, through which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world. For neither does circumcision mean anything, nor does uncircumcision, but only a new creation. Peace and mercy be to all who follow this rule and to the Israel of God. From now on, let no one make troubles for me; for I bear the marks of Jesus on my body. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit, brothers. Amen.

A Reading of the Holy Gospel according to the Holy Apostle and Evangelist Matthew.

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

At that time: When it was morning, all the chief priests and the elders of the people took counsel against Jesus to put him to death. They bound him, led him away, and handed him over to Pilate, the governor. Then Judas, his betrayer, seeing that Jesus had been condemned, deeply regretted what he had done. He returned the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and elders, saying, "I have sinned in betraying innocent blood." They said, "What is that to us? Look to it yourself." Flinging the money into the temple, he departed and went off and hanged himself. The chief priests gathered up the money, but said, "It is not lawful to deposit this in the temple treasury, for it is the price of blood." After consultation, they used it to buy the potter's field as a burial place for foreigners. That is why that field even today is called the Field of Blood. Then was fulfilled what had been said through Jeremiah the prophet, "And they took the thirty pieces of silver, the value of a man with a price on his head, a price set by some of the Israelites, and they paid it out for the potter's field just as the Lord had commanded me." Now Jesus stood before the governor, and he questioned him, "Are you the king of the Jews?" Jesus said, "You say so." And when he was accused by the chief priests and elders, he made no answer. Then Pilate said to him, "Do you not hear how many things they are testifying against you?" But he did not answer him one word, so that the governor was greatly amazed. Now on the occasion of the feast the governor was accustomed to release to the crowd one prisoner whom they wished. And at that time they had a notorious prisoner called Jesus Barabbas. So when they had assembled, Pilate said to them, "Which one do you want me to release to you, Jesus Barabbas, or Jesus called Messiah?" For he knew that it was out of envy that they had handed him over. While he was still seated on the bench, his wife sent him a message, "Have nothing to do with that righteous man. I suffered much in a dream today because of him." The chief priests and the elders persuaded the crowds to ask for Barabbas but to destroy Jesus. The governor said to them in reply, "Which of the two do you want me to release to you?" They answered, "Barabbas!" Pilate said to them, "Then what shall I do with Jesus called Messiah?" They all said, "Let him be crucified!" But he said, "Why? What evil has he done?" They only shouted the louder, "Let him be crucified!" When Pilate saw that he was not succeeding at all, but that a riot was breaking out instead, he took water and washed his hands in the sight of the crowd, saying, "I am innocent of this man's blood. Look to it yourselves." And the whole people said in reply, "His blood be upon us and upon our children."

Then he released Barabbas to them, but after he had Jesus scourged, he handed him over to be crucified. Then the soldiers of the governor took Jesus inside the praetorium and gathered the whole cohort around him. They stripped off his clothes and threw a scarlet military cloak about him. Weaving a crown out of thorns, they placed it on his head, and a reed in his right hand. And kneeling before him, they mocked him, saying, "Hail, King of the Jews!" They spat upon him and took the reed and kept striking him on the head. And when they had mocked him, they stripped him of the cloak, dressed him in his own clothes, and led him off to crucify him. As they were going out, they met a Cyrenian named Simon; this man they pressed into service to carry his cross. And when they came to a place called Golgotha, which means Place of the Skull, they gave Jesus wine to drink mixed with gall. But when he had tasted it, he refused to drink. After they had crucified him, they divided his garments by casting lots; then they sat down and kept watch over him there. And they placed over his head the written charge against him: This is Jesus, the King of the Jews. Two revolutionaries were crucified with him, one on his right and the other on his left. Those passing by reviled him, shaking their heads and saying, "You who would destroy the temple and rebuild it in three days, save yourself, if you are the Son of God, and come down from the cross!" Likewise the chief priests with the scribes and elders mocked him and said, "He saved others; he cannot save himself. So he is the king of Israel! Let him come down from the cross now, and we will believe in him. He trusted in God; let him deliver him now if he wants him. For he said, 'I am the Son of God.'" The revolutionaries who were crucified with him also kept abusing him in the same way. From noon onward, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. And about three o'clock Jesus cried out in a loud voice, "Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?" which means, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" Some of the bystanders who heard it said, "This one is calling for Elijah." Immediately one of them ran to get a sponge; he soaked it in wine, and putting it on a reed, gave it to him to drink. But the rest said, "Wait, let us see if Elijah comes to save him." But Jesus cried out again in a loud voice, and gave up his spirit. And behold, the veil of the sanctuary was torn in two from top to bottom. The earth quaked, rocks were split, tombs were opened, and the bodies of many saints who had fallen asleep were raised. And coming forth from their tombs after his resurrection, they entered the holy city and appeared to many. The centurion and the men with him who were keeping watch over Jesus feared greatly when they saw the earthquake and all that was happening, and they said, "Truly, this was the Son of God!" There were many women there, looking on from a distance, who had followed Jesus from Galilee, ministering to him. Among them were Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of James and Joseph, and the mother of the sons of Zebedee.

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

### STICHERA

**Tone 8** Because he feared the Jews, O Lord, Peter, your friend and companion, denied you, but mourned: 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.

*v. 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 most merciful Christ, glory to you.

*v. 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, O my people, do you wish me crucified? 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, O my people, do you desire my death? But you shall behold him whom you have pierced, O law-transgressors, and realize that he is the Christ.

**Prokeimenon, Tone 4** [Psalm 37(38): 18.2]

For I am on the point of falling 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.

A Reading from the Prophecy of Isaiah [Isaiah 50:4-11]

The Lord God has given me a well-trained tongue, that I might know how to answer the weary a word that will waken them. Morning after morning he wakens my ear to hear as disciples do; the Lord God opened my ear; I did not refuse, did not turn away. I gave my back to those who beat me, my cheeks to those who tore out my beard; my face I did not hide from insults and spitting. The Lord God is my help, therefore I am not disgraced; therefore I have set my face like flint, knowing that I shall not be put to shame. He who declares my innocence is near. Who will oppose me? Let us appear together. Who will dispute my right? Let them confront me. See, the Lord God is my help; who will declare me guilty? See, they will all wear out like a garment, consumed by moths. Who among you fears the Lord, heeds his servants voice? Whoever walk in darkness, without any light, yet trust in the name of the Lord and rely upon their God! All you who kindle flames and set flares alight, walk by the light of your own fire and by the flares you have burnt! This is your fate from my hand: you shall lie down in a place of torment

A Reading of the Letter of St. Paul the Apostle to the Romans [Romans 5:6-10]

Brothers and sisters: Christ, while we were still helpless, yet died at the appointed time for the ungodly. Indeed, only with difficulty does one die for a just person, though perhaps for a good person one might even find courage to die. But God proves his love for us in that while we were still sinners Christ died for us. How much more then, since we are now justified by his blood, will we be saved through him from the wrath. Indeed, if, while we were enemies, we were reconciled to God through the death of his Son, how much more, once reconciled, will we be saved by his life

A Reading of the Holy Gospel according to the Holy Apostle and Evangelist Mark.

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

At that time: The soldiers led Jesus away inside the palace, that is, the praetorium, and assembled the whole cohort. They clothed him in purple and, weaving a crown of thorns, placed it on him.

They began to salute him with, "Hail, King of the Jews!" and kept striking his head with a reed and spitting upon him. They knelt before him in homage. And when they had mocked him, they stripped him of the purple cloak, dressed him in his own clothes, and led him out to crucify him. They pressed into service a passer-by, Simon, a Cyrenian, who was coming in from the country, the father of Alexander and Rufus, to carry his cross. They brought him to the place of Golgotha, which is translated Place of the Skull. They gave him wine drugged with myrrh, but he did not take it. Then they crucified him and divided his garments by casting lots for them to see what each should take. It was nine o'clock in the morning when they crucified him. The inscription of the charge against him read, "The King of the Jews." With him they crucified two revolutionaries, one on his right and one on his left. And the scripture was fulfilled that says, 'And he was counted among the wicked,' Those passing by reviled him, shaking their heads and saying, "Aha! You who would destroy the temple and rebuild it in three days, save yourself by coming down from the cross." Likewise the chief priests, with the scribes, mocked him among themselves and said, "He saved others; he cannot save himself. Let the Messiah, the King of Israel, come down now from the cross that we may see and believe." Those who were crucified with him also kept abusing him. At noon darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. And at three o'clock Jesus cried out in a loud voice, "Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?" which is translated, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" Some of the bystanders who heard it said, "Look, he is calling Elijah." One of them ran, soaked a sponge with wine, put it on a reed, and gave it to him to drink, saying, "Wait, let us see if Elijah comes to take him down." Jesus gave a loud cry and breathed his last. The veil of the sanctuary was torn in two from top to bottom. When the centurion who stood facing him saw how he breathed his last he said, "Truly this man was the Son of God!" There were also women looking on from a distance. Among them were Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of the younger James and of Joses, and Salome. These women had followed him when he was in Galilee and ministered to him. There were also many other women who had come up with him to Jerusalem.

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

### 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.

*v. 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.

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

**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 on the cross. And our suffering Savior cried out saying: Father, forgive them this sin, and let the Gentiles know my resurrection from the dead.

**Prokeimenon, Tone 4** [Psalm 8: 2]  
How great is your name, O Lord our Lord, through all the earth!  
*Verse:* Your majesty is praised above the heavens.

A Reading from the Prophecy of Isaiah [Isaiah 52:13-54:1]

Thus says the Lord: See, my servant shall prosper, he shall be raised high and greatly exalted. Even as many were amazed at him - so marred were his features, beyond that of mortals, his appearance, beyond that of human beings - so shall he startle many nations, kings shall stand speechless; for those who have not been told shall see, those who have not heard shall ponder. Lord, who would believe what we have heard? To whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed? He grew up like a sapling before him, like a shoot from the parched earth; he had no majestic bearing to catch our eye, no beauty to draw us to him. He was spurned and avoided by men, a man of suffering, knowing pain, like one from whom you turn your face, spurned, and we held him in no esteem. Yet it was our sins that he bore, our sufferings he endured. We thought of him as stricken, struck down by God and afflicted, but he was pierced for our sins, crushed for our iniquity. He bore the punishment that makes us whole, by his wounds we were healed. We had all gone astray like sheep, all following our own way; but the Lord laid upon him the guilt of us all. Though harshly treated, he submitted and did not open his mouth; like a lamb led to slaughter and like a sheep without blemish, that is silent before shearers, he opened not his mouth. In his humiliation, judgment was taken against him. Who shall declare his generation? For he was cut off from the land of the living, struck for the sins of his people. He was given a grave among the wicked, a burial place with evildoers, though he had done no wrong, nor was deceit found in his mouth, .but it was the Lord's will to crush him with pain. By making his life as a reparation offering, he shall see his offspring, shall lengthen his days, and the Lord's will shall be accomplished through him. Because of his anguish he shall see the light; because of his knowledge he shall be content; my servant, the just one, shall justify the many, their iniquity he shall bear. Therefore I will give him his portion among the many, and he shall divide the spoils with the mighty, because he surrendered himself to death, was counted among the transgressors, bore the sins of many and interceded for the transgressors. Raise a glad cry, you barren one who never bore a child, break forth in jubilant song, you who have never been in labor, for more numerous are the children of the deserted wife than the children of her who has a husband.

A Reading from the Letter of St. Paul the Apostle to the Hebrews [Hebrews 2:11-18]

Beloved: He who consecrates and those who are being consecrated all have one origin. Therefore, he is not ashamed to call them brothers, saying :I will proclaim your name to my brothers, in the midst of the assembly I will praise you; and again: I will put my trust in him; and again: Behold, I and the children God has given me. Now since the children share in blood and

flesh, he likewise shared in them, that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, and free those who through fear of death had been subject to slavery all their life. Surely he did not help angels but rather the descendants of Abraham; therefore, he had to become like his brothers in every way, that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest before God to expiate the sins of the people. Because he himself was tested through what he suffered, he is able to help those who are being tested.

A Reading of the Holy Gospel according to the Holy Apostle and Evangelist Luke.

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

At that time: Now two others, both criminals, were led away with Jesus to be executed. When they came to the place called the Skull, they crucified him and the criminals there, one on his right, the other on his left. Then Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, they know not what they do." They divided his garments by casting lots. The people stood by and watched; the rulers, meanwhile, sneered at him and said, "He saved others, let him save himself if he is the chosen one, the Messiah of God." Even the soldiers jeered at him. As they approached to offer him wine they called out, "If you are King of the Jews, save yourself." Above him there was an inscription that read, "This is the King of the Jews." Now one of the criminals hanging there reviled Jesus, saying, "Are you not the Messiah? Save yourself and us." The other, however, rebuking him, said in reply, "Have you no fear of God, for you are subject to the same condemnation? And indeed, we have been condemned justly, for the sentence we received corresponds to our crimes, but this man has done nothing criminal." Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." He replied to him, "Amen, I say to you, today you will be with me in Paradise." It was now about noon and darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon because of an eclipse of the sun. Then the veil of the temple was torn down the middle. Jesus cried out in a loud voice, "Father, into your hands I commend my spirit"; and when he had said this he breathed his last. The centurion who witnessed what had happened glorified God and said, "This man was innocent beyond doubt." When all the people who had gathered for this spectacle saw what had happened, they returned home beating their breasts; but all his acquaintances stood at a distance, including the women who had followed him from Galilee and saw these events.

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

## STICHERA

**Tone 7** How terrifying to behold how the Maker of heaven and earth was hung on the cross; how the sun was darkened and the day changed to night, how the earth gave up the bodies of the dead from their graves. Therefore, we worship you and beg that you will save us.  
*v. 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, O Lord of glory, nailed you 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 water, you give vinegar to drink. Now I will call the Gentiles, and they shall glorify me and the Father and the Holy Spirit.

*v. 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. We bow to your passion, O Christ. We bow to your passion,

O Christ. Show us also your glorious Resurrection.

**Prokeimenon, Tone 6** [Psalm 13(14): 1.3]

The fool has said in his heart: "There is no God above."

*Verse:* There is not a good man left, no, not even one.

A Reading from the Prophecy of Jeremiah [Jeremiah 11:18-12:5. 9-11. 14-15]

I knew it because the Lord informed me: at that time you showed me their doings. Yet I was like a trusting lamb led to slaughter, not knowing that they were hatching plots against me: Let us destroy the tree in its vigor; let us cut him off from the land of the living, so that his name will no longer be remembered. But, you, Lord of hosts, just Judge, searcher of mind and heart, let me witness the vengeance you take on them, for to you I have entrusted my cause! Therefore, thus says the Lord concerning the men of Anathoth who seek your life and say, Do not prophesy in the name of the Lord; otherwise you shall die by our hand. Therefore, thus says the Lord of hosts: I am going to punish them. The young men shall die by the sword; their sons and daughters shall die by famine. None shall be spared among them, for I will bring disaster upon the men of Anathoth, the year of their punishment. You would be in the right, O Lord, if I should dispute with you; even so, I must lay out the case against you. Why does the way of the wicked prosper, why do all the treacherous live in contentment? You planted them; they have taken root, they flourish and bear fruit as well. You are upon their lips, but far from their thoughts. Lord, you know me, you see me, you have found that my heart is with you. Pick them out like sheep for the butcher, set them apart for the day of slaughter. How long must the land mourn, the grass of the whole countryside wither? Because of the wickedness of those who dwell in it beasts and birds disappear, for they say, God does not care about our future. Your feet run and grow weary. Come, gather together, all you wild animals, come and eat! Many shepherds have ravaged my vineyard, have trampled down my heritage; my delightful portion they have turned into a desert waste. They have made it a mournful waste. Thus says the Lord, against all my evil neighbors who plunder the heritage I gave my people Israel as their own: See, I will uproot them from their land; the house of Judah I will uproot in their midst. But after uprooting them, I will have compassion on them again and bring them back, each to their heritage, each to their land.

A Reading from the Letter of St. Paul the Apostle to the Hebrews [Hebrews 10:19-31]

Beloved: Since through the blood of Jesus we have confidence of entrance into the sanctuary by the new and living way he opened for us through the veil, that is, his flesh, and since we have a great priest over the house of God, let us approach with a sincere heart and in absolute trust, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed in pure water. Let us hold unwaveringly to our confession that gives us hope, for he who made the promise is trustworthy. We must consider how to rouse one another to love and good works. We should not stay away from our assembly, as is the custom of some, but encourage one another, and this all the more as you see the day drawing near.

If we sin deliberately after receiving knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains sacrifice for sins but a fearful prospect of judgment and a flaming fire that is going to consume the adversaries. Anyone who rejects the law of Moses is put to death without pity on the testimony of two or three witnesses. Do you not think that a much worse punishment is due the one who has contempt for the Son of God, considers unclean the covenant- blood by which he was consecrated, and insults the spirit of grace? We know the one who said: Vengeance is mine; I will repay, and again: The Lord will judge his people. It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.

A Reading of the Holy Gospel according to the Holy Apostle and Evangelist John (the Theologian).

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

At that time: they brought Jesus from Caiaphas to the praetorium. It was morning. And they themselves did not enter the praetorium, in order not to be defiled so that they could eat the Passover. So Pilate came out to them and said, "What charge do you bring against this man?" They answered and said to him, "If he were not a criminal, we would not have handed him over to you." At this, Pilate said to them, "Take him yourselves, and judge him according to your law." The Jews answered him, "We do not have the right to execute anyone," in order that the word of Jesus might be fulfilled that he said indicating the kind of death he would die. So Pilate went back into the praetorium and summoned Jesus and said to him, "Are you the King of the Jews?" Jesus answered, "Do you say this on your own or have others told you about me?" Pilate answered, "I am not a Jew, am I? Your own nation and the chief priests handed you over to me. What have you done?" Jesus answered, "My kingdom does not belong to this world. If my kingdom did belong to this world, my attendants would be fighting to keep me from being handed over to the Jews. But as it is, my kingdom is not here." So Pilate said to him, "Then you are a king?" Jesus answered, "You say I am a king. For this I was born and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone who belongs to the truth listens to my voice." Pilate said to him, "What is truth?" When he had said this, he again went out to the Jews and said to them, "I find no guilt in him. But you have a custom that I release one prisoner to you at Passover. Do you want me to release to you the King of the Jews?" They cried out again, "Not this one but Barabbas!" Now Barabbas was a revolutionary. Then Pilate took Jesus and had him scourged. And the soldiers wove a crown out of thorns and placed it on his head, and clothed him in a purple cloak, and they came to him and said, "Hail, King of the Jews!" And they struck him repeatedly. Once more Pilate went out and said to them, "Look, I am bringing him out to you, so

that you may know that I find no guilt in him.” So Jesus came out, wearing the crown of thorns and the purple cloak. And he said to them, “Behold, the man!” When the chief priests and the guards saw him they cried out, “Crucify him, crucify him!” Pilate said to them, “Take him yourselves and crucify him. I find no guilt in him.” The Jews answered, “We have a law, and according to that law he ought to die, because he made himself the Son of God.” Now when Pilate heard this statement, he became even more afraid, and went back into the praetorium and said to Jesus, “Where are you from?” Jesus did not answer him. So Pilate said to him, “Do you not speak to me? Do you not know that I have power to release you and I have power to crucify you?” Jesus answered him, “You would have no power over me if it had not been given to you from above. For this reason the one who handed me over to you has the greater sin.” Consequently, Pilate tried to release him; but the Jews cried out, “If you release him, you are not a Friend of Caesar. Everyone who makes himself a king opposes Caesar.” When Pilate heard these words he brought Jesus out and seated him on the judge’s bench in the place called Stone Pavement, in Hebrew, Gabbatha. It was preparation day for Passover, and it was about noon. And he said to the Jews, “Behold, your king!” They cried out, “Take him away, take him away! Crucify him!” Pilate said to them, “Shall I crucify your king?” The chief priests answered, “We have no king but Caesar.” Then he handed him over to them to be crucified. So they took Jesus, and carrying the cross himself he went out to what is called the Place of the Skull, in Hebrew, Golgotha. There they crucified him, and with him two others, one on either side, with Jesus in the middle. Pilate also had an inscription written and put on the cross. It read, “Jesus the Nazorean, the King of the Jews.” Now many of the Jews read this inscription, because the place where Jesus was crucified was near the city; and it was written in Hebrew, Latin, and Greek. So the chief priests of the Jews said to Pilate, “Do not write ‘The King of the Jews,’ but that he said, ‘I am the King of the Jews.’” Pilate answered, “What I have written, I have written.” When the soldiers had crucified Jesus, they took his clothes and divided them into four shares, a share for each soldier. They also took his tunic, but the tunic was seamless, woven in one piece from the top down. So they said to one another, “Let’s not tear it, but cast lots for it to see whose it will be,” in order that the passage of scripture might be fulfilled that says: “They divided my garments among them, and for my vesture they cast lots.” This is what the soldiers did. Standing by the cross of Jesus were his mother and his mother’s sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary of Magdala. When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple there whom he loved, he said to his mother, “Woman, behold, your son.” Then he said to the disciple, “Behold, your mother.” And from that hour the disciple took her into his home. After this, aware that everything was now finished, in order that the scripture might be fulfilled, Jesus said, “I thirst.” There was a vessel filled with common wine. So they put a sponge soaked in wine on a sprig of hyssop and put it up to his mouth. When Jesus had taken the wine, he said, “It is finished.” And bowing his head, he handed over the spirit. Now since it was preparation day, in order that the bodies might not remain on the cross on the sabbath, for the sabbath day of that week was a solemn one, the Jews asked Pilate that their legs be broken and they be taken down. So the soldiers came and broke the legs of the first and then of the other one who was crucified with Jesus. But when they came to Jesus and saw that he was already dead, they did not break his legs, but one soldier thrust his lance into his side, and immediately blood and water flowed out. An eyewitness has testified, and his testimony is true; he knows that he is speaking the truth, so that you also may come to believe. For this happened so that the scripture passage might be fulfilled: “Not a bone of it will be broken.” And again another passage says: “They will look upon him whom they have

pierced.”

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

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. (*3 times*)

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. (*3 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

*Response:* Amen.

## KONTAKION

### **Tone 8.**

Come, let us all praise him who was crucified for us; for Mary looked upon him on the Tree and said: ‘Though you endure the Cross, yet you are my Son and my God.’

Lord, have mercy. (*40 times*)

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. (*3 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.

*Response:* Amen.

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

God, Lord of Powers and Maker of the whole 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 Cross he canceled the debt of our sins and triumphed over the powers and masters of darkness. Now 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 longing 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 thanksgiving and worship to you, O eternal Father, and to your only-begotten Son, and to your all-holy, gracious, and life-giving Spirit, now and ever and forever.

*Response.* 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.

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