MATINS FOR GREAT AND HOLY FRIDAY
The Office of the Holy and Redeeming Sufferings of Our Lord Jesus Christ

for celebration without a priest

Metropolitan Cantor Institute
Byzantine Catholic Seminary
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
March 2020
The service of Matins on Great and Holy Friday commemorates the day that our Lord, God and Savior Jesus Christ suffered and died for the life of the world. The focus of this service is a series of twelve readings from the Holy Gospel, recounting the events of our Lord’s betrayal, trial, sufferings, death, and burial.

The text here is primarily taken from the booklet for Matins of Great and Holy Friday, prepared by Monsignor William Levkulic, a priest of the Byzantine Catholic Archeparchy of Pittsburgh, and published in 1976 by the Byzantine Seminary Press. Where later, official translations have been published by the Byzantine Catholic Metropolitan Church *sui juris* of Pittsburgh, they have been used here.

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

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

As this version of the service has been prepared for use during the coronavirus epidemic of 2020, celebration without a priest is assumed. The Gospel is read in a normal speaking voice. All texts notated for singing may be read or recited instead.

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

The image on the cover is from the Ruthenian Časoslov (Rome, 1950).
Matins for Great and Holy Friday
The Office of the Holy and Redeeming Sufferings
of our Lord, God, and Savior Jesus Christ

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

Psalm tone:

Response:

A - - - men.

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

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

Psalm 37

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

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

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

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

My wounds are foul and festering,
the result of my own folly.
I am bowed and brought to my knees. 
I go mourning all the day long.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

For I am on the point of falling 
and my pain is always before me.
I confess that I am guilty and my sin fills me with dismay.

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

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

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

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

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

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

_Lector:_ Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit: now and ever and forever. _Amen._

_All:_ Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Glory to you, _O God!_ (three times, without bows)

Lord, have mercy. Lord have mercy.

_Lector:_ Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit: now and ever and forever. _Amen._

_All:_ And the lector continues with the next section of psalmody.

_Psalm 87_

_Lector:_ Lord my God, I call for help by day; I cry at night before you.
Let my prayer come into your presence.  
O turn your ear to my cry.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

As for me, Lord, I call to you for help;  
in the morning my prayer comes before you.
Lord, why do you reject me?
Why do you hide your face?

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Each time with a bow:
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!
Glory to you, O God! (twice)

The third time, with melody:

Lord, have mercy. (12 times)

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit,
now and ever and forever. Amen.
“Alleluia” is sung to a special melody in Tone 8. All those present repeat “Alleluia” after each verse.

Leader, then All:

Verse: My spirit yearns for you in the night, yes, my spirit within me keeps vigil for you. Repeat Alleluia.

Verse: When your judgment dawns upon the earth, the world's inhabitants learn justice. Repeat Alleluia.

Verse: Let them be shamed when they see your zeal for your people, let the fire prepared for your enemies consume them. Repeat Alleluia.

Verse: You have increased the nation, O Lord, increased the nation to your own glory. Repeat Alleluia.

Troparion - Tone 8 podoben: Se ženich hrjadet

While the illustrious disciples were enlightened as their feet were washed at the supper, the ungodly Judas darkened by a sick love of silver, betrayed you, the just
Judge, to lawless judgments. See how a money-hungry man hanged himself because of it, and flee the greedy soul who would do such things to the teacher. O Lord, so good to everyone, glory to you.

THE FIRST GOSPEL

One of those present reads the first Gospel of the Passion (John 13:31 - 18:1):

“One of you will betray me.” But the lawless Judas did not want to understand.

Antiphon 3, verse 2 - Tone 2 samohlasen
Glo-ry to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Ho-ly Spir-it,
now and ev-er and for-ev-er. A-men.

While feed-ing your dis-ci-ples at sup-per, you ex-posed
Ju-das; for you knew he would be-tray you, and al-so knew that
he would not re-pent. You re-vealed to all that you let your-self be sold
that you might free the world from the E- vil One. O long-suf-fring
Lord, glo-ry to you.
THE SECOND GOSPEL

One of those present reads the second Gospel of the Passion (John 18:1-28):
“At that time, Jesus went out with his disciples...”

Antiphon 6, verse 1 - Tone 7 samohlasen

To day, Judas watches to deliver the Lord, the world's eternal Savior,
who satisfied the multitude with five loaves. To day that law-less one
de-nies his Teacher; the disciple sells the Master. He loved silver
more than Him who satisfied man with manna.

Sessional hymn - Tone 7 troparion

Cantor:

Glo-ry to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Ho-ly
Spir-it, now and ev-er and for-ev-er. A-men.
What caused you, Judas, to betray the Savior? Did he separate you from the apostles? Did he deny you the gift of healing?

Did he eat supper with the others but not with you? Did he wash their feet but then ignore yours? O, how many good deeds you forgot!

Your ingratitude has now been exposed, while his endless patience and great mercy is proclaimed.
THE THIRD GOSPEL

One of those present reads the third Gospel of the Passion (Matthew 26:57-75):
“At that time: those who had apprehended Jesus...”

Antiphon 7, verse 2 - Tone 8 samohlasen

When Peter denied you three times, he immediately understood what you had said to him, and weeping bitterly, he repented. Spare me, O Lord, and save me.

Sessional hymn - Tone 8 troparion

Cantor:

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

O, how Judas, who was once your disciple, conspired with others
to betray you. In deceit he supped with you;

for he had an unjust and evil plan. He went
to the priests and said to them, How much will you give me if

I deliver Him? For he profanes the Sab-bath and

breaks the law. O long-suffering Lord, glory to you.
THE FOURTH GOSPEL

One of those present reads the fourth Gospel of the Passion (John 18:28 - 19:16):
“At daybreak they brought Jesus from Caiaphas to the Preatorium...”

Antiphon 12, verse 1 - Tone 8 samohlasen

O my people, what have I done to you? says the Lord; in what way have I grieved you? I have given light to those who were blind; I have cleansed the people with leprosy; and I made the paralyzed man rise from his pallet. O my people, what have I done to you? And what do you give me in return? For the manna, you give me gall, and vinegar for water from the rock; for my love you nail me to the cross. You shall no longer be my chosen
people; I shall call the Gentiles to glorify me, together with the Father
and the Spirit, and I shall give them life eternal.

Sessional hymn - Tone 8 troparion

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

O God, when you stood before Caiaphas, and let your self, O Judge,
be delivered to Pilate. The heavenly powers
trembled with fear. O Sinless Lord, you were crucified between two thieves.

and numbered among the lawless ones. You did all this
just to save mankind. O most kind Lord, glory to you.
Today, the Lord who raised the dry land from the waters is raised upon the cross. A crown of thorns is placed upon the head of the King of Angels. He clothed the sky with clouds; now today he is clothed in a purple robe. In the Jordan he freed Adam; now today he is slapped in the face. The bride-groom of the Church is fastened with nails; the Son of the Virgin is pierced with a spear. We worship your passion, O Christ.
We worship your passion, O Christ. We worship your passion, O Christ. Let us now behold your glorious Resurrection.

Sessional hymn - Tone 4 troparion

Cantor:

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

You redeemed us from the curse of the law by your precious blood when you were nailed to the cross and pierced with a spear. Immortality poured forth for all mankind. O our Savior, glory to you.
THE SIXTH GOSPEL

One of those present reads the sixth Gospel of the Passion (Mark 15:16-32):

“At that time: the soldiers led Jesus away...”

The sixth Gospel is followed by the Beatitudes.

Leader:

Response:

When you come in your kingdom:

Re-member us, O Lord, when you come in your kingdom.

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

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

Leader:

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 is great in heaven.

*The faithful STAND.*

**Prokeimenon of Great and Holy Friday - Tone 4**

They di - vide my cloth - ing a - mong them; they cast lots for my robe.

*Verse:* My God, my God, hear me; why have you forsaken me?
Have mercy on me, 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. O purify me, 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. O rescue me, God, my helper, and my tongue shall ring out your good-ness. 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 humbled, contrite 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.

THE EIGHTH GOSPEL

One of those present reads the eighth Gospel of the Passion (Luke 23:32-49):
“At that time: two others who were criminals...”

The Canon of Great and Holy Friday

Ode 5

I keep watch before you, O Lord, who in your mercy have lowered yourself without undergoing change even to suffer your passion, although you are the Word of of God, who is beyond all suffering. After my fall,
grant me your peace, in your love for all of us.

Refrain

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

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

Katavasia - Repeat the irmos, using either the simple melody on page 27, or the following solemn melody:
O come, and let us all praise him crucified for our sake, just as did Mary when she beheld him on the cross and said: Even though you have suffered crucifixion, you are still my son and still my God.

Ikos (recitando):

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

Ode 8

Irmos - Tone 6 simple melody (or use the solemn melody on page 30)

The idol raised up against God was scorned by the youths in their devotion; but against Christ, the arrogant assembly conspired to put to death the One who holds our life in his hands; all creation blesses and glorifies him forever.
Glo - ry to you, our God, glo - ry to you.

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

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

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

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

Let us praise, bless and wor - ship the Lord, sing - ing and high - ly ex - alt - ing him a - bove all for - ev - er. Amen.
The idol raised up against God was scorned by the youths in their devotion; but against Christ the arrogant assembly, the arrogant assembly of the ungodly conspired, conspired to put to death the One who holds our life in his hands; all creation, all creation blesses and glorifies him forever.

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

Ode 9

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

More honorable than the cherubim, and beyond compare more glorious than the seraphim; who, a virgin, gave birth to God the Word,
The lawless company of the enemies of God, * the wicked band of murderers set themselves against you, O Christ; * and, as an evildoer, they led you to death; * You are the Creator of all, * and we extol you.  

Refrain

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

Refrain

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

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

Katavasia - Repeat the irmos, using either the simple melody at the bottom of page 31, or the following solemn melody:
more glo-ri-ous than the ser - - - a-phim; who, a vir - gin,
gave birth to God the Word, you, tru - ly the
The - o - to - kos, we mag - ni - fy.

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

The wise thief you made wor - thy of pa - ra - dise
in a sin - gle mo - - - ment, O Lord. By the wood of your cross,
il - lu - mine me as well and save me.

THE NINTH GOSPEL

One of those present reads the ninth Gospel of the Passion (John 19:25-37):
“At that time: near the cross of Jesus there stood his mother...”

The Psalms of Praise (Psalms 148-150)

Psalm 148
Praise the Lord from the heavens,
praise him in the heights.
Praise him, all his angels,
praise him, all his host.
Praise him, sun and moon,
   praise him, shining stars.
Praise him, highest heavens
   and the waters above the heavens.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Psalm 149

Sing to the Lord a new song of praise,
   in the assembly of the faithful.
Let Israel rejoice in its Maker,
   let Zion's sons exult in their king.
Let them praise his name with dancing
and make music with timbrel and harp.
For the Lord takes delight in his people.
He crowns the poor with salvation.

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

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

Psalm 150  Praise God in his holy place,
praise him in his mighty heavens.

Stichera "at the praises" for Great and Holy Friday - Tone 3 samohlasen

Cantor: 

Praise him for his powerful deeds, praise his surpassing greatness.

All: 

My first-born son, Israel has done double evil, rejecting me, the

Fountain of living water; and then he dug himself a contaminated
well by crucifying me and choosing Barabbas to be set free. Heaven was horrified with this; the sun hid its rays. Yet you, O Israel, did not feel shame, but delivered me to death.

O Holy Father, forgive them, for they know not what they have done.

O praise him with sound of trumpet, praise him with lute and harp.

O Savior, every member of your holy body endured humiliation for our sake: your head with thorns, your face with spit, your cheeks with blows, your mouth with vinegar and gall, your ears with blasphemies from the unfaithful, your back with scourges, your hands and feet
with nails, your side with a spear. All this you suffered to save us
from suffering. Through your love of mankind, you came down to
raise us. O almighty Savior, have mercy on us.

Cantor: (on 2)
Praise him with timbrel and dance, praise him with strings
and pipes.

All: 

The whole creation, O Christ, trembled when they saw you on the cross,
the foundations of the earth shook in dread of your might; and the
veil of the temple was torn in two, graves were opened and the dead arose
from their tombs, and the centurion was frightened by this miracle.

Your Mother, as mothers will, stood by weeping and wailing. She said:
How can I not wail and strike my breast, when I see you naked and condemned to a cross? O Lord, crucified, buried, and risen from the dead, glory to you.

Cantor: O praise him with resounding cymbals, praise him with clashing of cymbals. Let ev'rything that lives and that breathes give praise to the Lord.

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

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

All: They have stripped me of my clothes and placed a purple robe on me, and upon my head they have placed a crown of thorns, and a reed into my right hand, that I may crush them like vessels of clay.
Now and ev-er and for-ev-er. Al-men.

Cantor:

I have sub-mit-ted my bo-dy to scour-ges, I have not turned my face to a-void their spit. I stood in judg-ment be-fore Pi-late,

then I suf-fered the cross. I end-ured all these to save man-kind.

THE TENTH GOSPEL

One of those present reads the tenth Gospel of the Passion (Mark 15:43-47):
“At that time: Joseph of Arimathea arrived…”

The Small Doxology

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

Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,
You take away the sin of the world, have mercy on us.
You take away the sins of the world,
hear our prayer.
You are seated at the right hand of the Father,
have mercy on us.
For you alone are holy, you alone are Lord, Jesus Christ, to the glory of God the Father. Amen.

I will bless you day after day, and praise your name forever.

O Lord, you have been our refuge from one generation to the next.

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

O Lord, I have fled to you for refuge.

Teach me to do your will, for you, O Lord, are my God.

In you is the source of life and in your light we see light.

Extend your mercy to those who know You.

Make us worthy, O Lord, to be kept sinless this morning.

Blessed are you, O Lord, the God of our Fathers, and praiseworthy and glorious is your name forever. Amen.

May your mercy, O Lord, be upon us who have placed our hope in you.

Blessed are you, O Lord, teach me your commandments. (reverence)

Blessed are you, O Master, make me understand your commandments. (reverence)

Blessed are you, O Holy One, enlighten me with your commandments. (reverence)

O Lord, your mercy is forever; despise not the work of your hands.

To you is due praise; to you is due a hymn; to you is glory due, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and ever and forever. Amen.
The whole creation was transformed with fear, when it saw you hanging on the Cross, O Christ. The sun grew dark and the earth's foundations were shaken. All things suffered along with you, who made all things.

O Lord, who willingly endured this for us, glory to you!

Matins aposticha of Great and Holy Friday - Tone 1 samohlasen

In place of the Litany of Supplication:

Lord, have mercy. (12 times)

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

THE ELEVENTH GOSPEL

One of those present reads the eleventh Gospel of the Passion (John 19:38-42):
“At that time: Joseph of Arimathea, a disciple of Jesus...”
O impious and outlaw people, why do you plot vain things?

Why did you condemn to death the Life of all? What a great wonder!

The Creator of the world is betrayed into lawless hands and the Lover of us all is lifted up on the wood, so that he might save Hades' captives,

who cry out: O long-suffering Lord, glory to you.

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

O Lord, when you ascended the cross, fear and trembling seized every one Yet, you forbade the earth to swallow those who crucified you;
and to re-store the or-der of man-kind, you com-mand-ed the Abyss to re-lease
its cap-tives. For you came to give life and not death, O Judge of the
liv-ing and the dead Glo-ry to you, O Lo-ver of us all.

THE TWELFTH GOSPEL

One of those present reads the twelfth Gospel of the Passion (Matthew 27:62-66):
“At that time: on the day following the Day of Preparation...”

All: It is good to give thanks to the Lord,
to make music to your name, O Most High,
to proclaim your love in the morning
and your truth in the watches of the night.

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

Glory to the Father and to the Son, and to the Holy 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 evil. Amen.

Troparion - Tone 4

You have redeemed us from the curse of the law with your precious blood; nailed to the cross and pierced with the lance, you have become a fountain of immortality for us; glory to you, our Savior.

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

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.

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

Response: Amen.

THE END OF MATINS FOR GREAT AND HOLY FRIDAY