

The Office of Readings
Great and Holy Friday

On the holy day of our Lord's passion, called "Good Friday, or "Holy and Great Friday, we celebrate an office of specially chosen psalms, ancient stichera (hymns), and readings from the Old Testament, the apostolic writings and the Gospels. The passion and death of our Lord is proclaimed in each of the four gospels. In the full liturgical office, the passion is actually read three times, in the evening at Good Friday Vespers, according to Matthew, at Matins, twelve gospels according to the Jerusalem stations, and in the Minor Hours of the day. In the present office, therefore, these texts are spread throughout the four offices of the day (the First, Third, Sixth and Ninth Hours), and are called, in the Slav tradition, the "Royal Hours," and in the Greek tradition, the "Great Hours." In tradition, as, for example, in some of the Studite typicons of Constantinople, we see that this office of psalms and readings was often celebrated together at one of the liturgical hours, usually the Third or Sixth Hour, which could be served on days other than the day of the passion itself. This arrangement, which is provided in this book, may better suit the pastoral needs of some communities, and help us to prepare by the word of God and our spiritual songs to worship Christ our Savior in our minds and hearts as we commemorate his life-giving passion and death.

The Very Reverend Archpriest David M. Petras
Byzantine Catholic Seminary, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
Great and Holy Week 2016

*The Office of Readings
Great and Holy Friday*

The Priest vests in a dark epitrachilion and phelonion, the deacon in a dark orarion and sticharion. The deacon incenses the church. The priest then stands before the altar, the deacon at the ambon. The Holy Doors remain closed until the litanies.

Deacon: Reverend Father, give the blessing!

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

Psalm tone

Response:



A - men.

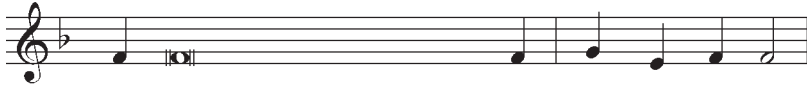
Glory to you, our God,
glory *to* you.

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. Lord have mer-cy. Lord have mer-cy.

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.

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



A - men.

Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mer - cy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mer - cy. *(sung twice)*

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

Call to Worship

Each time with a reverence:

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.

The deacon enters the altar.

Psalm 53 O God, save me by your name,
by your power, uphold *my* cause.
O God, hear my prayer;
listen to the words of *my* mouth.

For strangers have risen against me,
ruthless men seek my life.
They have no regard *for* God.

But I have God for my help.
The Lord upholds *my* life.

Let the evil recoil upon my foes;
you who are faithful, *destroy* them.

I shall sacrifice to you with willing heart
and praise your name for it *is* good:
for you have rescued me from all distress
and my eyes have seen the downfall of *my* foes.

Psalm 139 Rescue me, O Lord, from evil men;
from the violent keep *me* safe,
from those who plan evil in their hearts
and stir up strife *every* day;
who sharpen their tongue like an adder's,
with the poison of viper on *their* lips.

Lord, guard me from the hands of the wicked;
from the violent keep me safe;
they plan to make *me* stumble.
The proud have hidden a trap,
have spread out lines in a net,
set snares across *my* path.

I have said to the Lord: "You are my God."
Lord, hear the cry of my *appeal*!
Lord my God, my mighty help,
you shield my head in *the* battle.
Do not grant the wicked their desire
nor let their plots *succeed*.

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

Let coals of fire rain upon them.

Let them be flung in the abyss, no more *to* rise.

Let the slanderer not endure upon the earth.

Let evil hunt the violent man *to* death!

I know that the Lord will avenge the poor,

That he will do justice for *the* needy.

Truly the just will praise your name

the upright shall live in *your* presence.

Psalm 90

He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High
and abides in the shadow of the God of heaven.

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

It is he who will free you from the snare

of the fowler who seeks to *destroy* you;

He will conceal you with his pinions

and under his wings you will *find* refuge.

You will not fear the terror of the night

nor the arrow that flies *by* day,

Nor the plague that prowls in the darkness

nor the scourge that lays waste *at* noon.

A thousand may fall at your side,

ten thousand fall at *your* right,

you, it will never approach;

his faithfulness is buckler *and* shield.

Your eyes have only to look

to see how the wicked are *repaid*,

Upon you no evil shall fall,
 no plague approach where *you* dwell.
 For you has he commanded his angels,
 to keep you in all *your* ways.

Since he clings to me in love, I will free him;
protect him for he knows *my* name.
When he calls I shall answer: "I am with you,"
I will save him in distress and give *him* glory.

The deacon opens the Holy Doors and proceeds to the Ambon through the Northern door.
 Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit,
 now and ever and forever. Amen.

Third time, with melody:



Litany of Peace

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



Response: 1. Lord, have mer - cy.

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



Response: 2. Lord, have mer - cy.

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

Response: Lord, have mercy. (1)

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

Response: Lord, have mercy. (2)

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

Response: Lord, have mercy. (1)

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

Response: Lord, have mercy. (2)

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

Response: Lord, have mercy. (1)

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

Response: Lord, have mercy. (2)

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

Response: Lord, have mercy. (1)

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

Response: Lord, have mercy. (2)

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

Response: Lord, have mercy. (1)

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

Response: Lord, have mercy. (2)

Deacon: Commemorating our most holy, most pure, most blessed and
glorious Lady, the Theotokos and ever-Virgin Mary with all the
saints, let us commit ourselves and one another and our whole life
to Christ our God.



Response: To you, O Lord.

Priest:

O Lord God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, you grant the prayers and receive the petitions of your servants who cry to you night and day. Incline your ear and listen to the prayers of us sinners. Do not turn your face away from us, O Lord, and do not remember our past sins, because you know our nature and understand our weakness. O Lord, remember that we are dust, a spirit that passes and does not return, and by the power of your arm, fill our lives with mercy. Lead us in the path of your commandments, teach us to do your will, to speak of your mysteries and to study your law day and night. Command your angels to watch us in all our steps. Deliver us from the arrow that flies by day, from the plague that prowls in the darkness, from the scourge that lays waste at noon. Fill our mouths with praise and our lips with joy, that we may greet one another in psalms and hymns, and spiritual songs in grace, singing and making melody with all our hearts, that we might give thanks to the God of all, for you give life to all who place their hope in your mercy. For you are a good God and you love us all, and to you belongs glory, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and ever and forever.



A - men.

Response:

As the following Troparion and stichera are sung, the deacon censes the altar three times, then the icon screen and the people and gives the censer to the server. The priest gives the Gospel Book to the Deacon, who carries it in procession to the analogion in the middle of the Church. There the deacon censes the Gospel three times, and the priest and deacon return to the altar.

Troparion - (Tone 1)

When You asc - end - ed your Cross, O Christ,
You crushed the tyranny and power of the En - e - my;
it is neith - er an an - gel nor a hu - man,
but God himself who saves us: O Lord, glo - ry to You.

The musical notation is in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of four staves. The first staff contains the first line of the text. The second staff contains the second line. The third staff contains the third line. The fourth staff contains the fourth line and ends with a double bar line. The melody is written on a treble clef staff.

Cantor: - (Tone 6)

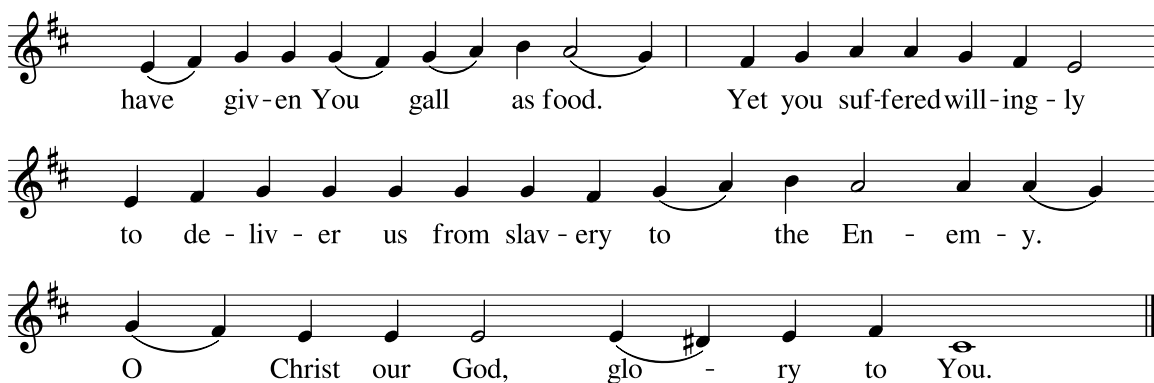
Glo - ry to the Fa - ther, and to the Son, and to the Ho - ly Spir - it.

The musical notation is in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of one staff. The melody is written on a treble clef staff.

Troparion - (Tone 6)

O Lord, the children of Israel have con - demned You to death,
You the Life of the world.
Those who crossed the Red Sea because of the staff of Mos - es,
have nailed You to the wood of the Cross;
those who tast - ed the hon - ey from the rock,

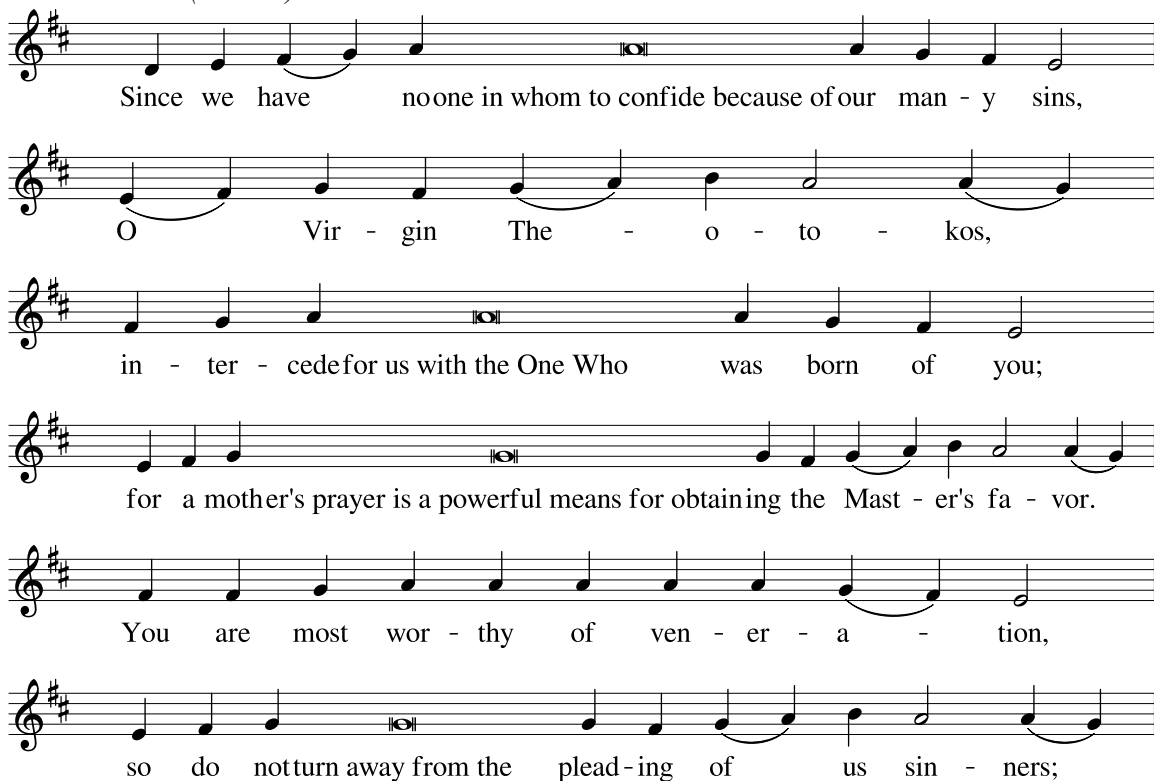
The musical notation is in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of five staves. The first staff contains the first line of the text. The second staff contains the second line. The third staff contains the third line. The fourth staff contains the fourth line. The fifth staff contains the fifth line and ends with a double bar line. The melody is written on a treble clef staff.

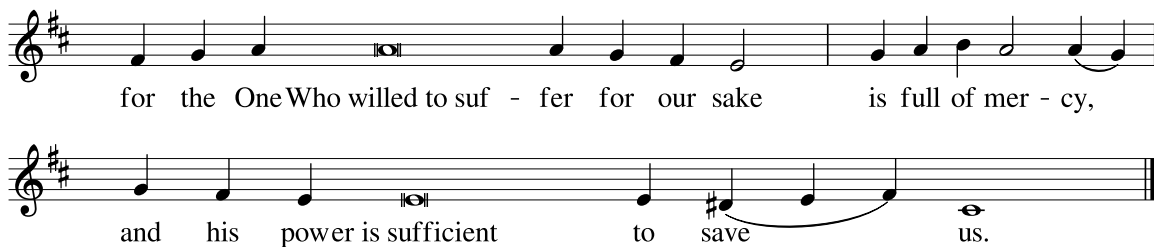


Cantor: - (Tone 6)

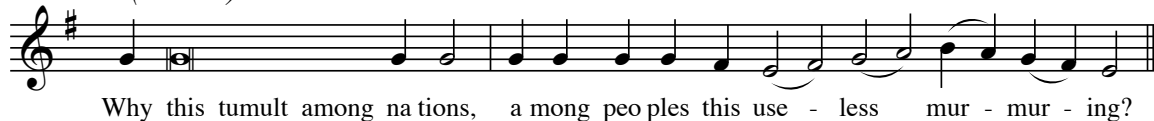


Theotokion - (Tone 6)

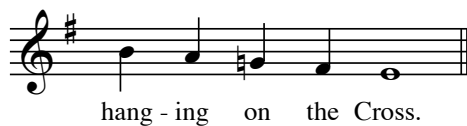
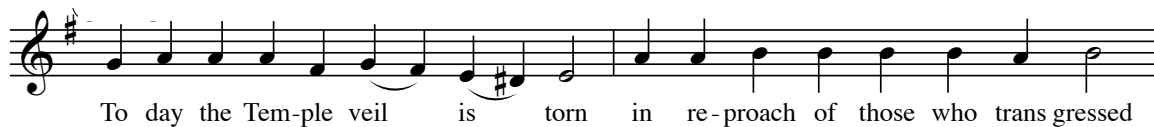




Cantor - (Tone 8)



Stichera of the First Hour - (Tone 8)



Cantor - (Tone 8)



All - (Tone 8)

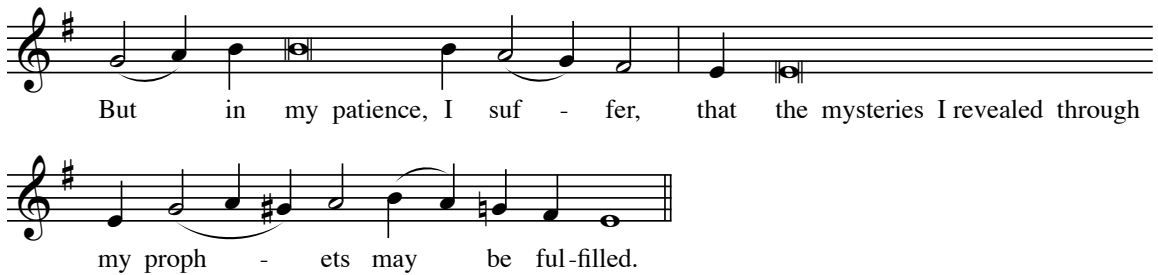
Like a sheep you have been led to the slaughter, O Christ our King,
and like an in - no - cent Lamb, you were nailed to the Cross by wicked
men for our sins, in your love for us all.

Cantor - (Tone 8)

Glo - ry to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spir-it. Now and ev - er and
for - ev - er. A - men.

Doxastikon

A - wait - ing patiently the transgressors of the Law to lay hold of you,
O Lord, you cried out: Al - though you smite the shep - herd
and scat - ter the twelve sheep, my dis - ci - ples,
yet I could call to my aid more than twelve legions of an - - - gels.

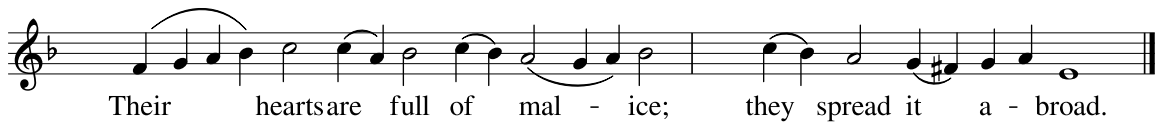


Deacon: Let us be attentive!

Priest: ✠ Peace be to all!

Deacon: Wisdom! Be attentive!

Prokeimenon - Tone 4



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

Deacon: Wisdom!

Lector: A reading from the Prophecy of Zechariah

Deacon: Let us be attentive!

Lector: [Zechariah 11:10-13]

Priest: Wisdom!

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

Priest: Let us be attentive!

Deacon: [Galatians 6:14-18]

Priest: Wisdom! Let us stand and listen to the Holy Gospel.

✠ Peace be to all!



Response: And to your spir - - it.

Priest: A reading from the Holy Gospel according to the Holy Apostle and Evangelist Matthew.



Response: Glo - ry to you, O Lord, glo - ry to you.

Priest: [Matthew 27:1-56]



Response: Glo - ry to you, O Lord, glo - ry to you.

During the stichera the deacon censes the Gospel Book three times.

Cantor - (Tone 8)



To my words give ear, O Lord, give heed to my groan - ing.

Stichera of the Third Hour - (Tone 8)



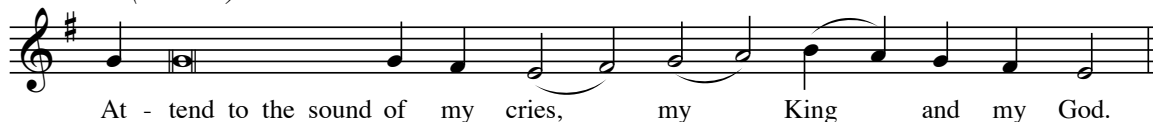
Be - cause he feared the Jews, O Lord, Pe - ter, your friend and companion,



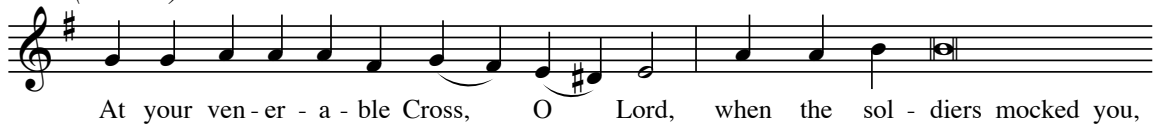
de - nied you, but mourned: Do not turn a - way from my tears; for I said



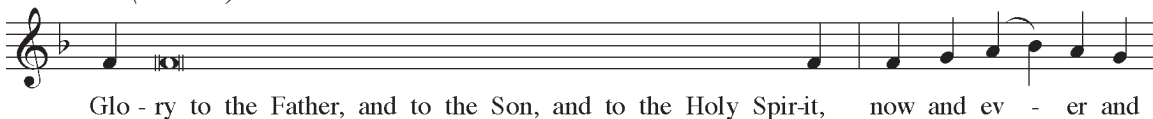
Cantor - (Tone 8)



All - (Tone 8)

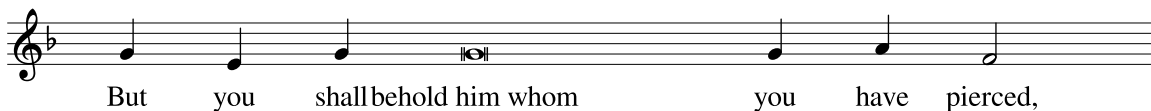
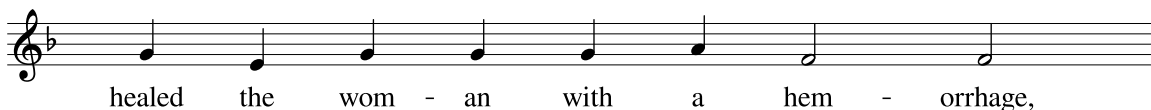
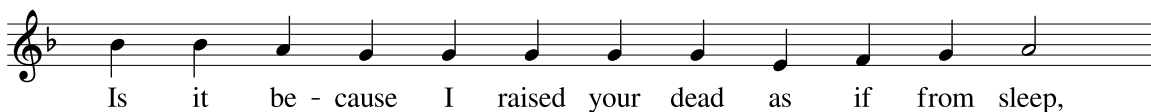
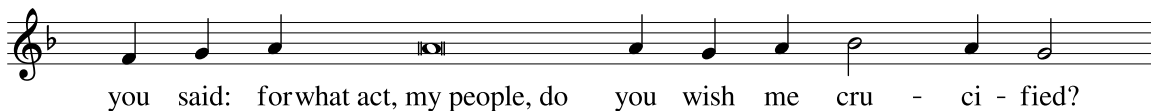
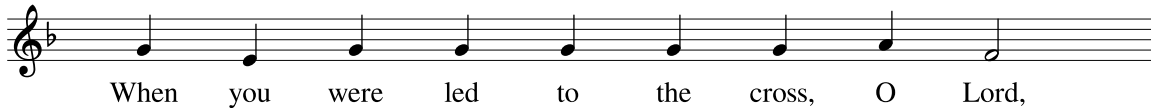


Cantor - (Tone 5)





Doxastikon

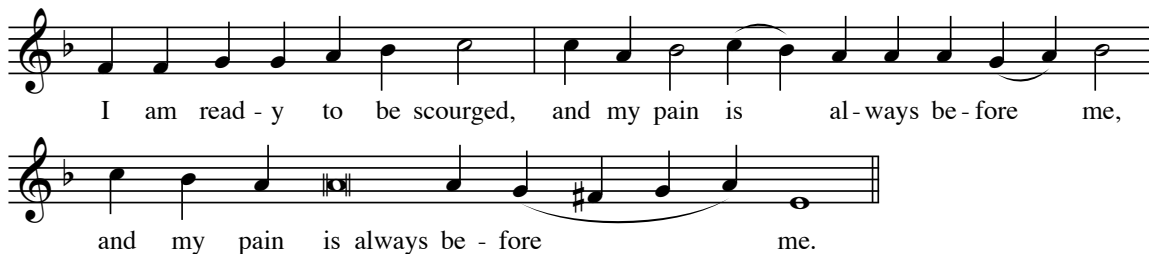


Deacon: Let us be attentive!

Priest: ✠ Peace be to all!

Deacon: Wisdom! Be attentive!

Prokeimenon - Tone 4



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

Deacon: Wisdom!

Lector: A reading from the Prophecy of Isaiah

Deacon: Let us be attentive!

Lector: [Isaiah 50:4-11]

Priest: Wisdom!

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

Priest: Let us be attentive!

Deacon: [Romans 5:6-10]

Priest: Wisdom! Let us stand and listen to the Holy Gospel.

✠ Peace be to all!



Response:

Priest: A reading from the Holy Gospel according to the Holy Apostle and Evangelist Mark.



Response: Glo - ry to you, O Lord, glo - ry to you.

Priest: [Mark 15:16-41]



Response: Glo - ry to you, O Lord, glo - ry to you.

During the stichera the deacon censes the Gospel Book three times.

Cantor - (Tone 8)



For food they gave me gall; in my thirst they gave me vin - e - gar to drink.

Stichera of the Sixth Hour - (Tone 8)



The Lord said to his peo - - - ple: What have I done to you and when



have I harmed you? Your blind I have given sight, your lep ers I have



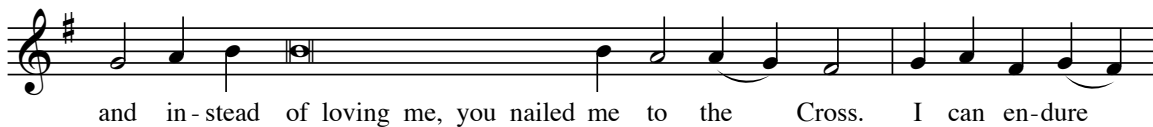
cleansed, and the man on his pal-let I have raised. O my peo-ple, what have I



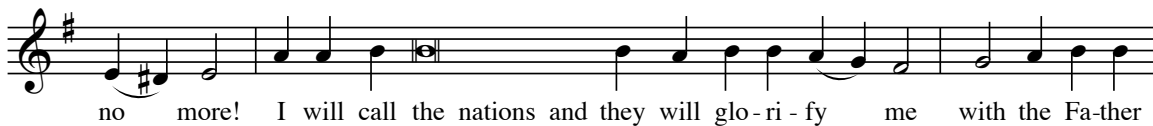
done for you, and what do you do in re-turn? In- stead of man-na,



you give me gall; and in place of water, you give vin - e - gar,



and in- stead of loving me, you nailed me to the Cross. I can en- dure



no more! I will call the nations and they will glo- ri- fy me with the Fa-ther



and the Spir - it, and I will grant them ev - er - last - ing life.

Cantor - (Tone 8)



Save me, O God, for the wa - ters have ris - en to my neck.

All - (Tone 8)



You Scribes and Pharisees who bind Is - ra - el with laws, tru - ly, my



dis - ci - ples cry out to you: Be - hold the Temple which you de - stroyed!



Be - hold the Lamb whom you cru - ci - fied! You de - liv - er



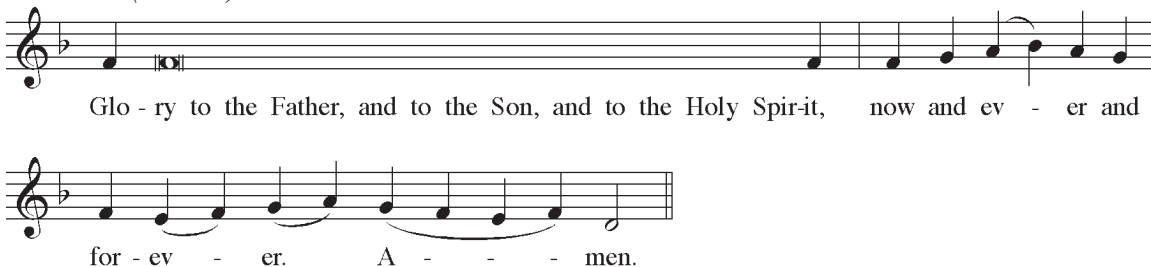
him to the grave, but he arose by his own pow - er. Do not err, my peo - ple;



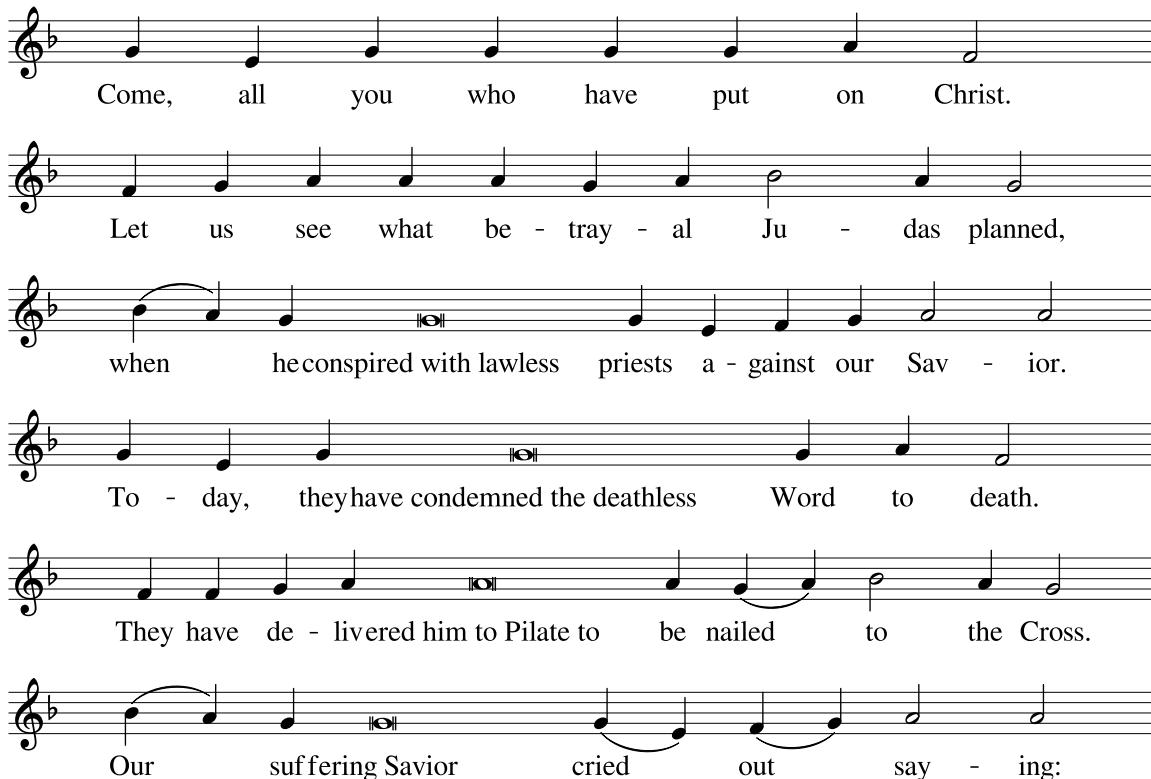
for it is he who saved you in the sea and nourished you in the wil- der - ness.



Cantor - (Tone 5)



Doxastikon



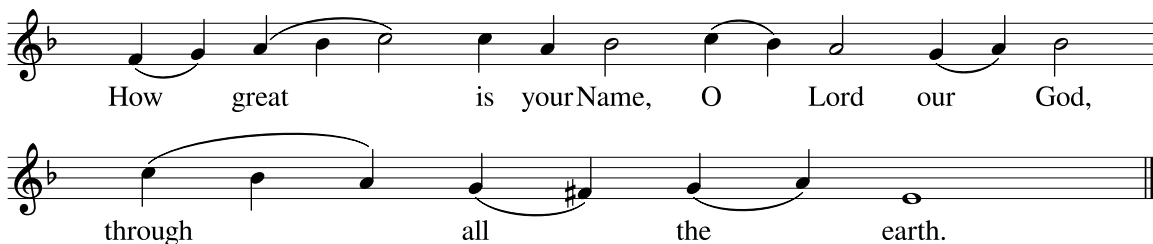


Deacon: Let us be attentive!

Priest: ✠ Peace be to all!

Deacon: Wisdom! Be attentive!

Prokeimenon - Tone 4



Verse: Your majesty is praised above the heavens.

Deacon: Wisdom!

Lector: A reading from the Prophecy of Isaiah

Deacon: Let us be attentive!

Lector: [Isaiah 52:13-54:1]

Priest: Wisdom!

Deacon: A reading from the Letter to the Hebrews.

Priest: Let us be attentive!

Deacon: [Hebrews 2:11-18]

Priest: Wisdom! Let us stand and listen to the Holy Gospel.
✠ Peace be to all!



Response: And to your spir - - it.

Priest: A reading from the Holy Gospel according to the Holy Apostle and Evangelist Luke.



Response: Glo - ry to you, O Lord, glo - ry to you.

Priest: [Luke 23:32-49]



Response: Glo - ry to you, O Lord, glo - ry to you.

The deacon censes the altar, the icon screen, the people and then the Gospel Book, the latter three times, as the stichera are sung.

Cantor - (Tone 7)



They divide my clothing among them. They cast lots for my robe.

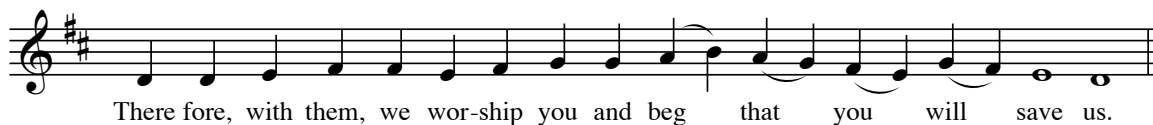
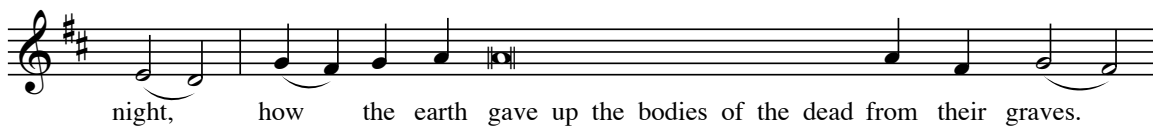
Stichera of the Ninth Hour - (Tone 7)



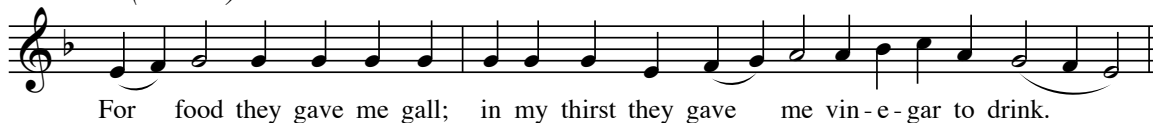
How ter - rifying to be-hold how the Mas - ter of heaven and earth was



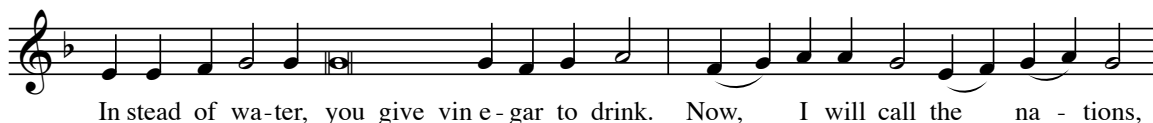
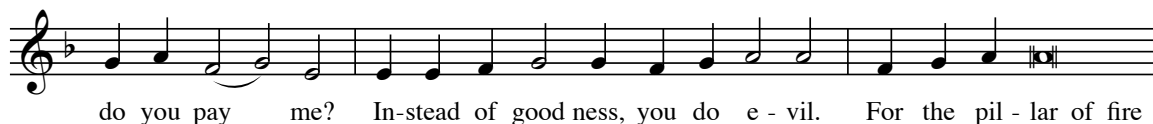
hung on the cross, how the sun was dark ened and the day was changed to



Cantor - (Tone 2)

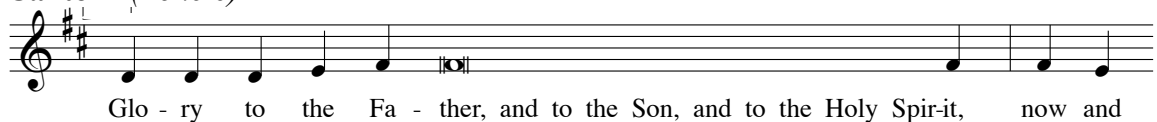


All - (Tone 2)

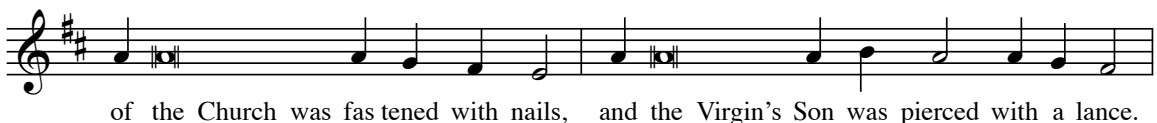
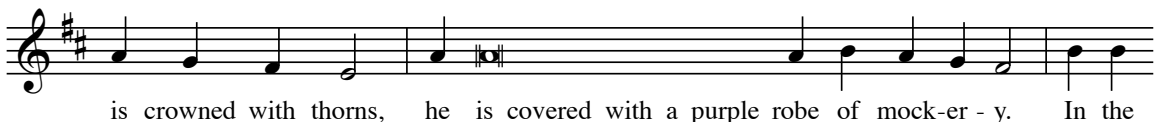


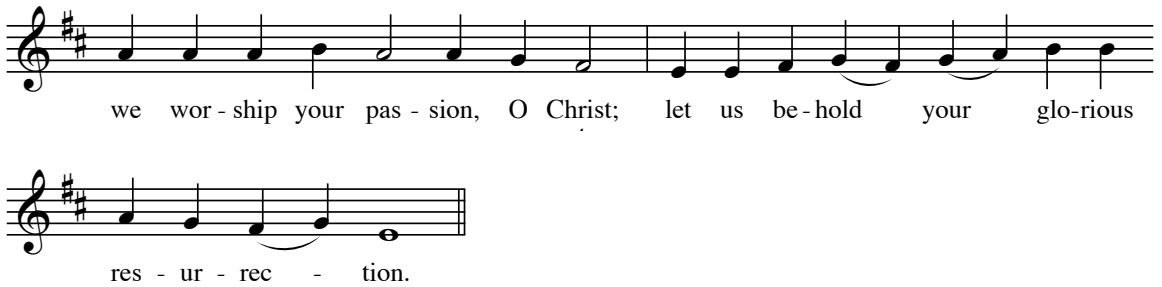


Cantor - (Tone 6)



Doxastikon - Tone 6



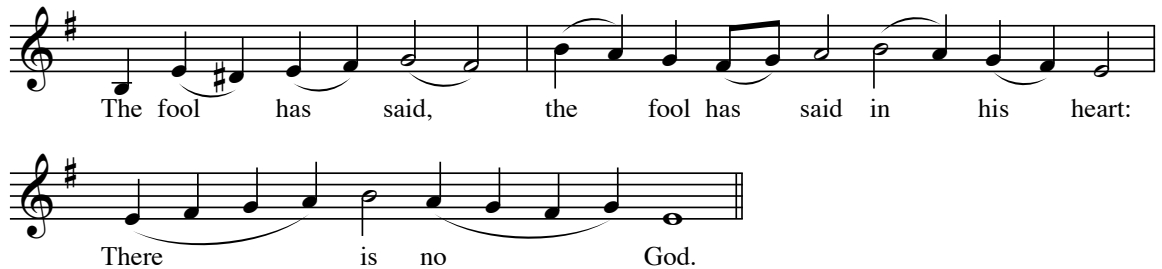


Deacon: Let us be attentive!

Priest: ✠ Peace be to all!

Deacon: Wisdom! Be attentive!

Prokeimenon - Tone 6



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

Deacon: Wisdom!

Lector: A reading from the Prophecy of Jeremiah

Deacon: Let us be attentive!

Lector: [Jeremiah 11:18-23; 12:1-5, 9-11, 14-15]

Priest: Wisdom!

Deacon: A reading from the Letter to the Hebrews.

Priest: Let us be attentive!

Deacon: [Hebrews 10:19-31]

Priest: Wisdom! Let us stand and listen to the Holy Gospel.

✠ Peace be to all!



Response: And to your spir - - it.

Priest: A reading from the Holy Gospel according to the Holy Apostle and Evangelist John.



Response: Glo - ry to you, O Lord, glo - ry to you.

Priest: [John 18:28-19:37]



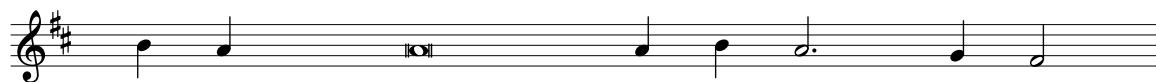
Response: Glo - ry to you, O Lord, glo - ry to you.

After the Gospel, the priest carries the Gospel book in procession to the Holy Table. The deacon precedes him, incensing. The Holy Doors remain open.

Kontakion - (Tone 8)



O come, and let us all praise Him cruci - fied for our sake,



just as did Mary when she beheld Him on the Cross and said:



Ev - en though You have suf - fered cru - ci - fix - ion,



All: Lord, have mercy. (*40 times*)

Lector or Priest: 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 right 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:

We kneel for the following litany. The deacon says this litany standing, at the ambon.

Deacon: Let us complete our *morning/evening* prayer to the Lord.



Response: have mer - cy.

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



Response:

2. Lord, have mer - cy.

Deacon:

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



Response:

3. Grant this, O Lord.

Deacon:

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



Response:

4. Grant this, O Lord.

Deacon:

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

Response:

Grant this, O Lord. (3)

Deacon:

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

Response:

Grant this, O Lord. (4)

Deacon:

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

Response:

Grant this, O Lord. (3)

Deacon:

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

Response:

Grant this, O Lord. (4)

Deacon: Commemorating our most holy, most pure, most blessed and glorious Lady, the Theotokos and ever-Virgin Mary with all the saints, let us commit ourselves and one another and our whole life to Christ our God.



Response: To you, O Lord.

Priest: O Lord our God, look down upon your creation from the heights of your holy dwelling-place, and keep in peace and goodness those who bow their necks under the yoke of the good Christ.

For blessed and glorified is your honorable and majestic name, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and ever and forever.



Response: A - men.

The deacon stands before the icon of Christ, and the priest proceeds to the ambon.

Priest: Let us go forth in peace.



Response: In the name of the Lord.

Deacon: Let us pray to the Lord.



Response: Lord have mer - - - cy.

At the Ambon, facing East, the priest prays:

Priest: O Lord Jesus Christ our God, Savior of the universe, you have made us worthy to reach this hour when, as God, you surrendered your divine soul as a ransom for the life of the world, and we will be saved from the tyranny of death and sin, as we serve you in newness of life. You have cleansed us from sin by your own blood when you cried out in a loud voice, "Father, into your hands I commend my spirit." Deliver us from every snare of the devil, grant compunction to our souls, and careful insight in our thoughts concerning your fearful and righteous judgment. Nail our bodies to fear of you, and put to death our earthly cares, that, rejecting all ungodliness and worldly desires, we may live in moderation, righteousness and reverence. Do not turn your face away from us, but stretch out your hand in help, raising us from our fall into sins. For you are our God, a God of mercy, salvation and freedom from sins. We give glory to you, together with your eternal Father, and you all-holy, good and life-creating Spirit, now and ever and forever.



Response:

A - men.

Deacon: Wisdom!

Response:



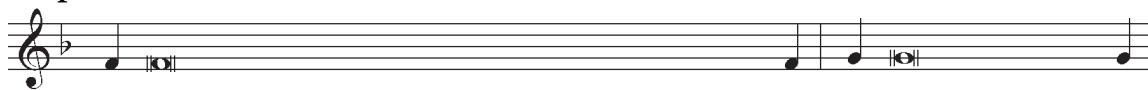
More honorable than the cheru-bim, and beyond compare more glorious than the seraphim,



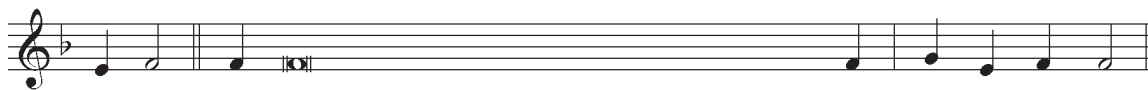
who, a virgin, gave birth to God the Word, you, truly the Theotokos, we mag-ni - fy.

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

Response:



Glo-ry to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spir-it; now and ever and for ev-er.



A-men. Lord, have mercy, Lord have mercy, Lord, have mer-cy. Give the bless-ing.

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



Response:

A - - - - - men.