

THE ORDER FOR READER MATINS
WHEN WE ARE UNABLE TO ATTEND CHURCH

{Matins for Holy Saturday Celebrated on Good Friday Night}

FRIDAY, APRIL 17, 2020

THE SERVICE TAKES PLACE IN FRONT OF OUR ICON CORNER

EVERYONE: O, God cleanse me a sinner and have mercy on me! (3x)

READER: Through the Prayers of Our Holy Fathers, O Lord Jesus Christ Our God, Have Mercy on us.

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

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

O most Holy Trinity, have mercy on us. Lord, cleanse us from our sins. Master, pardon our transgressions. Holy One, visit and heal our infirmities, for Thy Name's sake.

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

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

EVERYONE: 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.

READER: Through the Prayers of Our Holy Fathers, O Lord Jesus Christ Our God, Have Mercy on us.

READER: Amen. Lord have mercy (12x)

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

THE PSALMS

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

O Lord, Thou shalt open my lips, and my mouth shall declare Thy praise. (2x)

Psalm 38

O Lord, rebuke me not in Thine anger, nor chasten me in Thy wrath. For Thine arrows are fastened in me, and Thou hast laid Thy hand heavily upon me. There is no healing in my flesh in the face of Thy wrath; and there is no peace in my bones in the face of my sins. For mine iniquities are risen higher than my head; as a heavy burden have they pressed heavily upon me. My bruises are become noisome and corrupt in the face of my folly. I have been wretched and utterly bowed down until the end; all the day long I went with downcast face. For my loins are filled with mockings, and there is no healing in my flesh. I am afflicted and humbled exceedingly, I have roared from the groaning of my heart. O Lord, before Thee is all my desire, and my groaning is not hid from Thee. My heart is troubled, my strength hath failed me; and the light of mine eyes, even this is not with me. My friends and my neighbors drew nigh over against me and stood, and my nearest of kin stood afar off. And they that sought after my soul used violence; and they that sought evils for me spake vain things, and craftinesses all the day long did they meditate. But as for me, like a deaf man I heard them not, and was as a speechless man that openeth not his mouth. And I became as a man that heareth not, and that hath in his mouth no reproofs. For in Thee have I hoped, O Lord; Thou wilt hearken unto me, O Lord my God. For I said: Let never mine enemies rejoice over me; yea, when my feet were shaken, those men spake boastful words against me. For I am ready for scourges, and my sorrow is continually before me. For I will declare mine iniquity, and I will take heed concerning my sin. But mine enemies live and are made stronger than I, and they that hated me unjustly are multiplied. They that render me evil for good slandered me, because I pursued goodness. Forsake me not, O Lord my God, depart not from me. Be attentive unto my help, O Lord of my salvation. Forsake me not, O Lord my God, depart not from me. Be attentive unto my help, O Lord of my salvation.

Psalm 63

O God, my God, unto Thee I rise early at dawn. My soul hath thirsted for Thee; how often hath my flesh longed after Thee in a land barren and untrodden and unwatered. So in the sanctuary have I appeared before Thee to see Thy power and Thy glory. For Thy mercy is better than lives; my lips shall praise Thee. So shall I bless Thee in my life, and in Thy name will I lift up my hands. As with marrow and fatness let my soul be filled, and with lips of rejoicing shall my mouth praise Thee. If I remembered Thee on my bed, at the dawn I meditated on Thee. For Thou art become my helper; in the shelter of Thy wings will I rejoice. My soul hath cleaved after Thee, Thy right hand hath been quick to help me. But as for these, in vain have they sought after my soul; they shall go into the nethermost parts of the earth, they shall be surrendered unto the edge of the sword; portions for foxes shall they be. But the king shall be glad in God, everyone shall be praised that sweareth by Him; for the mouth of them is stopped that speak unjust things.

At the dawn I meditated on Thee. For Thou art become my helper; in the shelter of Thy wings will I rejoice. My soul hath cleaved after Thee, Thy right hand hath been quick to help me.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, both now and ever, and unto the ages of ages. Amen. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia. Glory to Thee, O God. (3x)

THE GREAT LITANY is not said in the absence of a Priest or Deacon.
The reader continues:

READER: Lord have mercy (12x)

Through the Prayers of Our Holy Fathers, O Lord Jesus Christ Our God, Have Mercy on us.

EVERYONE: Amen.

READER: God is the Lord and has revealed Himself to us. Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord. O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good. His mercy endures forever.

CHOIR: *God is the Lord and has revealed Himself to us. Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.*

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

CHOIR: *God is the Lord and has revealed Himself to us. Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.*

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

CHOIR: *God is the Lord and has revealed Himself to us. Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.*

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

CHOIR: *God is the Lord and has revealed Himself to us. Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.*

CHOIR: The noble Joseph, when he had taken down Thy most pure body from the tree, wrapped it in fine linen and anointed it with spices and placed it in a new tomb.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. When Thou didst descend to death, O Life Immortal, Thou didst slay hell with the splendor of Thy Godhead, and when from the depths Thou didst raise the dead, all the powers of Heaven cried out: "O Giver of Life, Christ our God, glory to Thee!"

Now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen. The angel came to the myrrhbearing women at the tomb and said: "Myrrh is fitting for the dead, but Christ has shown Himself a stranger to corruption."

The First Stasis

Blessed art Thou, O Lord//Teach me Thy statutes.

READER: Blessed are those whose way is blameless, who walk in the law of the Lord. In the tomb they laid Thee, O Christ the Life. The angelic hosts were overcome with awe//and glorified Thy condescension

READER: Blessed are those who keep His testimonies, who seek Him with their whole heart. O Life, how can Thou die? How can Thou dwell in a tomb? Yet by Thy death Thou has destroyed the reign of death//and raised all the dead from Hell.

READER: For those who work wickedness have not walked in His ways. We magnify Thee O Jesus, our King. We worship Thy Passion and Thy burial//for, by them Thou has saved us from death

READER: Thou has commanded Thy precepts to be diligently kept. Earth's bounds Thou has measured O Jesus, King of all yet today Thou dwell in a narrow tomb//raising the dead from their graves.

READER: O That my ways may be steadfast in keeping Thy statutes O Messiah Jesus my King, the Lord of all, whom are Thou seeking in the depths of Hell/Has Thou come to free the race of mortal men?

READER: Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. O Word of God, we praise Thee the Lord of all the world, with Thy Father and Thy Holy Spirit//and we glorify Thy burial.

READER: Now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen. We bless you, O Virgin Birth-giver of God and with faithful hearts we praise the burial//endured by your Son and our God.

**THE LITTLE LITANY is not said in the
absence of a Priest or Deacon. The reader continues:**

READER: Lord have mercy (3x)
Through the Prayers of Our Holy Fathers, O Lord Jesus Christ Our God, Have Mercy on us.

CHOIR: Amen.

The Second Stasis

It is right to magnify Thee O Life-giving Lord. Thou hast stretched out Thy most pure arms upon the cross//and broken the Enemy's power.

READER: Thy hands have made and fashioned me; give me understanding that I may learn Thy commandments. It is right to magnify Thee O Creator of All We are freed from passion through Thy Passion//and delivered from corruption.

READER: Those who fear Thee shall see me and rejoice, because I have hoped in Thy word. The earth quaked with fear, O Christ the sun hid itself seeing Thee, the Light that knows no evening//sinking down into the tomb.

READER: I know, O Lord, that Thy judgments are right, and that in faithfulness Thou has afflicted me. Thou has slept in the tomb, O Christ a life-giving sleep by which Thou has wakened all the human race//from the heavy slumber of sin.

READER: Let Thy steadfast love be ready to comfort me, according to Thy promise to Thy servant“ Alone among women, O my Child I gave birth to Thee without pain. Now I cannot bear the grief I suffer.”//the Most Pure Mother cried.

READER: Let Thy mercy come to me that I may live, for Thy law is my delight The seraphim saw Thee, O Lord, lying dead on earth below united with Thy Father on high//and they shuddered and trembled with fear.

READER: Glory to the Father, and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit. O God without beginning Eternal Word and Spirit, help Thy people to prevail against the foe//as Thou are the Lover of Mankind

READER: Now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen. O Virgin, pure and undefiled you gave birth to our Life make the strife and scandals of the Church to cease//in your goodness, grant them peace.

THE LITTLE LITANY is not said in the absence of a Priest or Deacon. The reader continues:

READER: Lord have mercy (3x)
Through the Prayers of Our Holy Fathers, O Lord Jesus Christ Our God, Have Mercy on us.

CHOIR: Amen.

The Third Stasis

Every generation offers Thee its hymn of praise//at Thy burial, O my Christ.

READER: Look upon me, and be merciful to me, as is Thy good pleasure toward those who love Thy name. The Arimathean took Thee down from the tree//and laid Thee in a tomb.

READER: Order my steps according to Thy promise, and let no iniquity have dominion over me. The myrrhbearing women with foresight brought sweet spices//and drew near to Thee, O my Christ.

READER: Deliver me from the false accusation of men, that I may keep Thy precepts. Come, all creation sing a hymn to honor//the Creator's burial.

READER: Make Thy face to shine upon Thy servant, and teach me Thy statutes. Let us, with the myrrhbearers, anoint as dead the Living One//with the Myrrh of True Knowledge.

READER: My eyes shed streams of tears, because men do not keep Thy law. O Thrice-blessed Joseph, bury now the body//Of Christ the Giver of Life.

READER: Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. O God in Trinity Father, Son and Spirit//grant Thy mercy to the world.

READER: Now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen. Grant us, your servants to behold, O Virgin//the Resurrection of your Son!

CHOIR:

Blessed are Thou, O Lord! Teach me Thy statutes!

The assembly of angels was amazed beholding Thee among the dead! By destroying the power of death, O Savior, Thou didst raise Adam with Thyself and free all from hell!

Blessed are Thou, O Lord! Teach me Thy statutes!

In the tomb, the radiant angel cried to the myrrh-bearers, "Why do Thee women mingle myrrh with Their tears? Look at the tomb and understand! The Savior is risen from the dead!

Blessed are Thou, O Lord! Teach me Thy statutes!

Very early in the morning, the myrrh-bearers ran with sorrow to Thy tomb. But an angel came to them and said: "The time for sorrow has come to an end! Do not weep but announce the Resurrection to the Apostles!

Blessed are Thou, O Lord! Teach me Thy statutes!

The myrrh-bearers were sorrowful as they neared Thy tomb, but the angel said to them: "Why do Thee number the living among the dead? Since He is God, He is risen from the tomb!"

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

We worship the Father, and The Son, and the Holy Spirit, the Holy Trinity, one in essence. We cry with the seraphim: Holy, Holy, Holy, are Thou, O Lord!

Now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen:

Since Thee gave birth to the Giver of life, O Virgin, Thee delivered Adam from his sin! Thee gave joy to Eve instead of sadness! The God-Man Who was born of Thee has restored to life those who had fallen from it.

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Glory to Thee, O God. (3x)

PSALM 51

READER: Have mercy on me, O God, according to Thy great mercy; and according to the multitude of Thy compassions blot out my transgression. Wash me thoroughly from mine iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin. For I know mine iniquity, and my sin is ever before me. Against Thee only have I sinned and done this evil before Thee, that Thou mightest be justified in Thy words, and prevail when Thou art judged.

For behold, I was brought forth in iniquities, and in sins did my mother conceive me. For behold, Thou hast loved truth; the hidden and secret things of Thy wisdom hast Thou made manifest unto me. Thou shalt sprinkle me with hyssop, and I shall be made clean; Thou shalt wash me, and I shall be made whiter than snow. Thou shalt make me to hear joy and gladness; the bones that be humbled, they shall rejoice. Turn Thy face away from my sins, and blot out all mine iniquities. Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from Thy presence, and take not Thy Holy Spirit from me. Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation, and with Thy governing Spirit establish me. I shall teach transgressors Thy ways, and the ungodly shall turn back unto Thee. Deliver me from blood-guiltiness, O God, Thou God of my salvation; my tongue shall rejoice in Thy righteousness. O Lord, Thou shalt open my lips, and my mouth shall declare Thy praise. For Thou hast no delight in sacrifice; were I to give a brunt offering, Thou wouldst not be pleased. The sacrifice acceptable to God is a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, Thou will not despise. Do good to Zion in Thy good pleasure; rebuild the walls of Jerusalem, then wilt Thou delight in right sacrifices, in burnt offerings and whole brunt offerings; then bulls will be offered on Thy altar.

THE CANON OF HOLY SATURDAY

ODE ONE

Irmos (Choir)

Of old Thou didst bury the pursuing tyrant beneath the waves of the sea. Now the children of those who were saved, bury Thee beneath the earth. But with the maidens let us sing to the Lord, for gloriously has He been glorified.

READER: Glory to Thee, our God, Glory to Thee.

READER: Unto Thee I sing a hymn for the departed and a song of burial, O Lord my God, who by Thy burial hast opened for me the entrance to life and by Thy death hast put death and hell to death.

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

READER: Thou didst descend to the depths of the earth to fill all with Thy glory; for my person that is in Adam was not hidden from Thee, and when Thou wast buried, Thou didst renew me who am corrupt, O Lover of mankind.

ODE THREE **Irmos (Choir)**

Thou didst suspend the earth immovably upon the waters. Now creation beholds Thee suspended on Calvary. It quakes with great amazement and cries: "None is holy but Thee, O Lord."

READER: Glory to Thee, our God, Glory to Thee.

READER: By a multitude of visions Thou didst indicate the signs of Thy burial, O Master. But now, as God and Man, Thou didst make clear Thy hidden things even unto those in hell, who cry: "None is holy but Thee, O Lord."

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

READER: By Thy will a sealed tomb contained Thee, who cannot be contained; for by Thy divine accomplishments Thou hast made known Thy power unto those who sing: "None is holy but Thee, O Lord, who lovest mankind.

ODE FOUR
Irmos (Choir)

Forseeing Thy divine humiliation on the cross, Habakkuk cried out trembling: "Thou didst shatter the dominion of the mighty by joining those in hell as the almighty Lord."

READER: Glory to Thee, our God, Glory to Thee.

READER: Thou hast sanctified this, the seventh day, which of old Thou didst bless by rest from work; for Thou dost bring all things into being and renew them, O my Savior, while resting and reviving on the Sabbath.

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

READER: When hell encountered Thee, O Word, it was embittered. Seeing Thee as a mortal man deified, marked with wounds yet having almighty power, it cried out at Thy awesome appearance.

ODE FIVE
Irmos (Choir)

Isaiah saw the never-setting light of Thy compassionate manifestation to us as God, O Christ. Rising early from the night he cried out: "The dead shall arise. Those in the tombs shall awake. All those on earth shall greatly rejoice."

READER: Glory to Thee, our God, Glory to Thee.

READER: When Thou didst become earthly, O Creator, Thou didst renew those on earth, and the winding sheet and the grave revealed the mystery concerning Thee, O Word; for Joseph the noble counselor, fulfills the counsel of Him who begot Thee and who wondrously renews me in Thee.

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

READER: Thou didst come forth from a painless birth, O my Maker, and Thy side was pierced. By this hast Thou, the new Adam, accomplished the restoration of Eve. Thou didst fall into a sleep surpassing nature and renewing nature, and, as the all-powerful One, Thou didst raise up life from sleep and corruption.

ODE SIX

Irmos (Choir)

Jonah was caught but not held fast in the belly of the whale. He was a sign of Thee who hast suffered and accepted burial. Coming forth from the beast as from a bridal chamber, he called out to the guard" "By observing vanities and lies you have forsaken your own mercy."

READER: Glory to Thee, our God, Glory to Thee.

READER: Thou wast killed, O Word, but not separated from the flesh which Thou dost share with us; for even though the temple of the body was destroyed at the time of the passion, the person of Thy divinity and of Thy flesh was one, for in both dost Thou remain one Son, Word of God, God and Man.

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

READER: Hell rules the race of mortal men, but not eternally; for when Thou wast placed in the grave, O powerful One, Thou didst tear asunder the bars of death by Thy life-creating hand and didst proclaim true deliverance to those sleeping there from the ages, since Thou, O Savior, hast become the first-born of the dead.

READER: He who shut in the depths is beheld dead, wrapped in fine linen and spices. The immortal One is laid in a tomb as a mortal man. The women have come to anoint Him with myrrh, weeping bitterly and crying: "This is the most blessed Sabbath, on which Christ has fallen asleep to rise on the third day."

Oikos

He who holds all things together has been lifted up upon the cross, and all of creation weeps at seeing him hanging naked upon the wood. The sun hid its rays and the stars cast aside their splendor. The earth shook with great fear, the sea fled, and rocks were split asunder. Many

tombs were opened, and the bodies of holy men arose. Hell groaned below, and the Jews considered how to slander the resurrection of Christ, but the women cried:” This is the most blessed Sabbath, on which Christ has fallen asleep to rise on the third day!”

ODE SEVEN

Irmos (Choir)

**Inexpressible wonder! In the furnace Thou didst save the holy youths from the flame. Now Thou art placed in the grave as a lifeless corpse, for the salvation of us who sing”
“Blessed art Thou, O God, our Redeemer!”**

READER: Glory to Thee, our God, Glory to Thee.

READER: Hell was wounded in heart when it received Him whose side was pierced by a spear, and it groans, consumed by divine fire, unto salvation of us who sing: “Blessed art Thou, O God, our Redeemer!”

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

READER: In hell, in the tomb and in Eden, the divinity of Christ was one and undivided, with the Father and The Spirit, for the salvation of us who sing: “Blessed art Thou, O God, our Redeemer!”

ODE EIGHT

Irmos (Choir)

Be amazed, O Heavens! Be shaken, O foundations of the earth! Behold, He that dwells in the highest is numbered among the dead and sheltered in a lowly tomb. Bless Him, O youths! Praise Him, O priests! O people, exalt Him above all forever!

READER: Glory to Thee, our God, Glory to Thee.

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

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

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

ODE NINE
Irmos (Choir)

Do not lament me, O mother, seeing me in the tomb, The Son conceived in the womb without seed. For I shall arise and be glorified with eternal glory as God. I shall exalt all who magnify you in faith and in love.

READER: Glory to Thee, our God, Glory to Thee.

READER: "I escaped sufferings and was blessed beyond nature at Thy strange birth, O Son who art without beginning. But now, beholding Thee, my God, dead and without breath, I am sorely pierced by the sword of sorrow. But arise, that I may be magnified."

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

READER: "Let creation rejoice! Let all born on earth be glad! For hateful hell has been despoiled. Let the women with myrrh come to meet me; for I am redeeming Adam and Eve and all their descendants, and on the third day shall I arise!"

**THE LITTLE LITANY is not said in the
absence of a Priest or Deacon. The reader continues:**

READER: Lord have mercy (3x)
Through the Prayers of Our Holy Fathers, O Lord Jesus Christ Our God, Have Mercy on us.

CHOIR: Amen.

READER: Holy is the Lord our God.

CHOIR: Holy is the Lord our God.

READER: For Holy is the Lord our God.

CHOIR: Holy is the Lord our God.

READER: Over all people is our God.

CHOIR: Holy is the Lord our God.

THE PRAISES

Praise Him for His mighty deeds; praise Him according to His exceeding greatness! Praise Him with trumpet sound; praise Him with lute and harp! Praise Him with timbrel and dance; praise Him with strings and pipe!

Today a tomb holds Him who holds creation in the hollow of His hand. A stone covers Him who covered the heavens with glory. Life sleeps and Hell trembles Adam is set free from his bonds. Glory to Thy plan of salvation By it Thou hast fulfilled all things granting us an eternal Sabbath rest//Thy most holy resurrection from the dead!

Praise Him with sounding cymbals; praise Him with loud clashing cymbals! Let everything that breathes praise the Lord! Praise the Lord!

Come, let us see our Life lying in the tomb, to give life to those who lie dead in the tombs. Come, look today on the Son of Judah sleeping with Jacob the patriarch, let us cry to Him“ Thou hast stooped down; Thou hast crouched as a lion who dares rouse Thee up, O King?” But arise in Thine own pow’r
O Thou who didst willingly give Thyself for us//O Lord, glory to Thee!

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

The great Moses mystic’ly foreshadowed this day when he said;“ God blessed the seventh day This is the blessed Sabbath This is the day of rest on which the Only-begotten Son of God rested from all His works.

By suffering death to fulfill the plan of salvation He kept the Sabbath in the flesh by returning again to what He was, He has granted us eternal life through His resurrection//for He alone is Good and the Lover of Man.

Now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen. You are most blessed, O Virgin Theotokos for through the God and Man who was born of you, Hell has been captured and Adam recalled the curse has been annulled and Eve set free death has been slain, so we are given life blessed is Christ our God, whose good will it was//Glory to you!

READER: Glory to Thee Who hast shown forth the light.

THE SMALL DOXOLOGY

READER: Glory to God in the highest, and on earth, peace and good will among men. We praise Thee, we bless Thee, we worship Thee, we glorify Thee, we give thanks to Thee for Thy great glory. O Lord, heavenly King, God the Father Almighty; O Lord, the only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ; and O Holy Spirit. O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, that takest away the sin of the world; have mercy on us; Thou that takest away the sins of the world, receive our prayer; Thou that sittest at the right hand of the Father, have mercy on us. For Thou only art holy; Thou only art the Lord, O Jesus Christ, to the glory of God the Father. Amen. Every day will I bless Thee, and I will praise Thy Name forever, yea, forever and ever. Lord, thou hast been our refuge in generation and generation. I said: O Lord, have mercy on me, heal my soul, for I have sinned against Thee. O Lord, unto Thee have I fled for refuge, teach me to do Thy will, for Thou art my God. For in Thee is the fountain of life, in Thy light shall we see light. O continue Thy mercy unto them that know Thee. Vouchsafe, O Lord, to keep us this day without sin. Blessed art Thou, O Lord, the God of our Fathers, and praised and glorified is Thy name unto the ages. Amen. Let Thy mercy, O Lord, be upon us, according as we have hoped in Thee. Blessed art Thou, O Lord, teach me Thy statutes.. Blessed art Thou, O Master, give me understanding of Thy statutes. Blessed art Thou, O Holy One, enlighten me by Thy statutes. O Lord, Thy mercy endureth forever; disdain not the works of Thy hands. To Thee is due praise, to Thee is due a song, to Thee glory is due, to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto the ages of ages. Amen.

The Troparion of the Prophecy

Choir: O Christ, who hold fast the ends of the earth, / Thou have consented to be held fast in the tomb, / to deliver man from his fall into hell! / And, as immortal God, // Thou have given us life and immortality!

READER: The prokeimenon in the Fourth Tone: Arise, O God, and help us! Deliver us for Thy Name's sake!

Choir: Arise, O God, and help us! Deliver us for Thy Name's sake!

READER: We have heard with our ears, O God, our fathers have told us what deeds Thou didst perform in their days, the days of old.

Choir: Arise, O God, and help us! Deliver us for Thy Name's sake!

READER: Arise, O God, and help us!

Choir: Deliver us for Thy Name's sake!

READER: Wisdom!

READER: The reading is from the Prophet Ezekiel.

READER: Let us attend!

READER: Ezekiel 37:1-14)

In those days, the hand of the LORD was upon me, and he brought me out by the Spirit of the LORD, and set me down in the midst of the valley; it was full of bones. 2And he led me round among them; and behold, there were very many upon the valley; and lo, they were very dry. 3And he said to me, "Son of man, can these bones live?" And I answered, "O Lord GOD, thou knowest." 4Again he said to me, "Prophecy to these bones, and say to them, O dry bones, hear the word of the LORD. 5Thus says the Lord GOD to these bones: Behold, I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. 6And I will lay sinews upon you, and will cause flesh to come upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and you shall live; and you shall know that I am the LORD." 7So I prophesied as I was commanded; and as I prophesied, there was a noise, and behold, a rattling; and the bones came together, bone to its bone. 8And as I looked, there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them; but there was no breath in them. 9Then he said to me, "Prophecy to the breath, prophesy, son of man, and say to the breath, Thus says the Lord GOD: Come from the

four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live." 10So I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood upon their feet, an exceedingly great host. 11Then he said to me, "Son of man, these bones are the whole house of Israel. Behold, they say, 'Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are clean cut off.' 12Therefore prophesy, and say to them, Thus says the Lord GOD: Behold, I will open your graves, and raise you from your graves, O my people; and I will bring you home into the land of Israel. 13And you shall know that I am the LORD, when I open your graves, and raise you from your graves, O my people. 14And I will put my Spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you in your own land; then you shall know that I, the LORD, have spoken, and I have done it, says the LORD."

READER: Wisdom!

READER: The prokeimenon in the SeventhTone: Arise, O Lord my God, lift up Thy hand! Forget not Thy poor forever!

Choir: Arise, O Lord my God, lift up Thy hand! Forget not Thy poor forever!

READER: I will praise Thee, O Lord my God, with all my heart; I will make all Thy wonders known.

Choir: Arise, O Lord my God, lift up Thy hand! Forget not Thy poor forever!

READER: Arise, O Lord my God, lift up Thy hand!

Choir: Forget not Thy poor forever!

READER: Wisdom!

READER: The reading is from the First Epistle of the Holy Apostle Paul to the Corinthians.

READER: Let us attend!

READER: (1 Corinthians 5:6-8, Galatians 3:13-14).

Brethren, do you not know that a little leaven leavens the whole lump? 7Cleanse out the old leaven that you may be a new lump, as you really are unleavened. For Christ, our paschal lamb, has been sacrificed. 8Let us, therefore, celebrate the festival, not with the old leaven, the leaven of malice and evil, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and

truth. 13Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law, having become a curse for us -- for it is written, "Cursed be every one who hangs on a tree" --14that in Christ Jesus the blessing of Abraham might come upon the Gentiles, that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith.

READER: Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Choir: Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

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

Choir: Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

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

Choir: Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

READER: And that we may be accounted worthy of hearing the Holy Gospel, let us pray to the Lord God.

EVERYONE: Lord have mercy (3x)

READER: Let us listen to the Holy Gospel. The Reading is from the Holy Gospel according to Saint Matthew!

EVERYONE: Glory to Thee, O Lord, glory to Thee!

READER: Let us Attend!

On the next day, that is, after the day of Preparation, the chief priests and the Pharisees gathered before Pilate 63and said, "Sir, we remember how that impostor said, while he was still alive, `After three days I will rise again.' 64Therefore order the sepulchre to be made secure until the third day, lest his disciples go and steal him away, and tell the people, `He has risen from the dead,' and the last fraud will be worse than the first." 65Pilate said to them, "You have a guard of soldiers; go, make it as secure as you can." 66So they went and made the sepulchre secure by sealing the stone and setting a guard.

EVERYONE: Glory to Thee, O Lord, glory to Thee!

THE TRIPLE LITANY is not said in the absence of a Priest or Deacon. The reader continues:

READER: Lord have mercy (12x)

Through the Prayers of Our Holy Fathers, O Lord Jesus Christ Our God, Have Mercy on us.

CHOIR: Amen.

THE MORNING LITANY is not said in the absence of a Priest or Deacon. The reader continues:

READER: Lord have mercy (12x)

Through the Prayers of Our Holy Fathers, O Lord Jesus Christ Our God, Have Mercy on us.

CHOIR: Amen.

READER: More honorable than the Cherubim and more glorious beyond than the Seraphim, without defilement, You gave birth to God the Word, True Theotokos, we magnify You.

CHOIR: Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen. Lord have mercy. Lord have mercy. Lord have mercy. Lord Bless!

READER: Through the Prayers of our Holy Fathers, through the Prayers of the Most Holy Theotokos and Ever-Virgin Mary, by the Power of the Precious and Life-Creating Cross, through the protection of the Bodiless Powers of Heaven, through the prayers of Holy Glorious Prophet, Forerunner and Baptist John, through the prayers of the holy glorious and all-laudable Apostles, through the Prayers of all the North American Saints, through the prayers of _____ the patrons of this Holy Temple, of all those whom we commemorate today, of the holy and righteous Ancestors of God, Joachim and Anna, and of all the saints, O Lord Jesus Christ Our God, have mercy on us and save us.

(The faithful now come up and venerate the Precious Cross and Icons in our Icon Corner.)

READER: Through the Prayers of our Holy Fathers, O Lord Jesus Christ our God, have mercy on us and save us.

CHOIR: Amen. Lord have mercy. Lord have mercy. Lord have mercy.