

## GOOD FRIDAY VESPERS

**(Stand)**

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

**People:** Amen.

Glory be to You our God, glory be to You!

O Heavenly King, Comforter, Spirit of Truth, You are everywhere present and fill 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 Lord.

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

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

O Most Holy Trinity, have mercy on us; O Lord, cleanse us of our sins; O Master, forgive us our transgressions; O Holy One, come a to us and heal our infirmities for Your name's sake.

Lord, have mercy. (3 times)

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and for ever and ever. 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 for ever and ever.

**People:** Amen

Lord, have mercy. (12 times)

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and for

ever and ever. Amen.

Come, let us adore the King our God.

Come, let us adore Christ, the King and our God.

Come, let us adore and bow down to the only Lord Jesus Christ,  
the King and our God.

(Sit)

### **PSALM 103**

Bless the Lord, O my soul!

You are very great, O Lord, my God;

clothed in pomp and brilliance;  
arrayed with light as with a cloak.

Stretching out the sky as a tent-cloth,  
covering Your lofty halls with water,

You make the clouds Your conveyance;  
You surge on the wings of the wind.

You make spirits Your messengers,  
and flaming fires Your attendants.

You settle the earth on its firm foundation;  
it shall stand unmoved from age to age.

The abyss covers it like a garment;  
Waters stand over the mountains.

At Your rebuke they will take flight;  
at the peal of Your thunder they will fear.

They hurdle the hills and run down the dales,  
to the place You have chosen for them.

You have set up a boundary not to be passed;  
they shall never return to cover the earth.

Down in the gullies You make springs to rise;  
water shall go down between the mountains.  
They shall give drink to the beasts of the field;  
wild asses will seek them to quench their thirst.

The birds of the sky will abide by them;  
From among the rocks they will raise their song.

From Your lofty halls You refresh the mountains;  
the earth shall be fed with the fruit of Your works.

You make green pastures for the cattle,  
and food plants for the service of all,

so that bread may be brought forth from the earth,  
and wine that gladdens the heart of all;

So that oil may put a gleam upon his face;  
and that bread may strengthen the heart of all.

The trees of the plain will be satisfied,  
the cedars of Lebanon that he planted.

The sparrows will build their nests in them;  
and the herons will call them their home.

To the deer belong high mountains,  
to rodents, the shelter of the rocks.

You have made the moon to mark these seasons;  
the sun knows the time of its setting.

You establish darkness, and it is night,  
wherein the forest creatures prowl around.

Young lions roar for their prey,  
and call out to God for their meat.

As the sun rises, they will come together,  
and lay themselves down in their dens.

Man will go out to his labor,  
and work until eventide.

How great are Your works, O Lord!  
In wisdom You have wrought them all.

(Stand)

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

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Glory be to You O God! (3x)

(Sit)

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

**People:** Lord, have mercy.

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

**People:** Lord, have mercy.

**Priest:** For peace throughout the world, for the well-being of God's holy churches and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

**People:** Lord, have mercy.

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

**People:** Lord, have mercy.

**Priest:** For our most holy Pontiff, (N), Pope of Rome, let us pray to the Lord.

**People:** Lord, have mercy.

**Priest:** For our most blessed Major Archbishop (N), our most reverend Metropolitan, (N), our God-loving Bishop, (N), the reverend priesthood, the diaconate in Christ, and all the clergy and the people, let us pray to the Lord.

**People:** Lord, have mercy.

**Priest:** For our nation under God, for our government, and for all the military, let us pray to the Lord.

**People:** Lord, have mercy.

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

**People:** Lord, have mercy.

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

**People:** Lord, have mercy.

**Priest:** For the seafarers and travelers, for the sick and the suffering, for those held captive, and for their salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

**People:** Lord, have mercy.

**Priest:** That we may be delivered from all tribulation, wrath, and misfortune, let us pray to the Lord.

**People:** Lord, have mercy.

**Priest:** Help and save, have mercy and protect us, O God, by your grace.

**People:** Lord, have mercy.

**Priest:** Remembering our most holy and immaculate, most blessed and glorious Lady, the Mother of God and ever-virgin Mary, together with all the saints, let us commend ourselves and one another and our whole life to Christ

our God.

**People:** To You, O Lord

**Priest:** (Silently) Lord, our God, Whose power is beyond comparison, Whose glory is beyond comprehension, Whose mercy is beyond measure, and Whose love for us all is beyond expression, in the kindness of your heart, O Master, look upon us and upon this holy church, and bestow on us and on those praying with us, the riches of Your mercy and compassion.

(Aloud)

For all glory, honor, and worship befit You, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, now and for ever and ever.

**People:** Amen

**O LORD, I HAVE CRIED  
PSALM 140**

***(Priest incenses)(tone 1)***

(Stand)

O Lord, I have cried to You, hear me; Hear me, O Lord!

O Lord, I have cried to You, hear me; Receive the voice of my prayer

When I call upon You. Hear me, O Lord!

Let my prayer rise like incense before You; And the lifting of my hands

As an evening sacrifice Hear me, O Lord!

(Sit)

Set a guard, O Lord before my mouth

and a portal around my lips.

Incline my heart away from evil dealings,

from finding excuses for sinful deeds.

In company with those who work iniquity,

Let me not partake of what they choose.

May the just chasten me with justice and reprove me.

May the oil of the wicked never touch my head.

Yet even then shall I pray for their welfare.

Their rulers were swallowed near the rock.  
My words will be heard, for they were sweet.  
As a lump of clay broken on the ground  
so their bones were strewn near the grave.

To You, O Lord, my eyes are lifted up.  
In You have I hoped; let not my soul be lost.

Keep me from the snare that was set for me,  
and from the stumbling blocks of the wicked.  
The wicked shall fall into their own nets,  
while I remain alone until I can escape.

### **PSALM 141**

With my voice I cried to the Lord;  
with all my voice I implored the Lord.

Before Him I pour out my supplications;  
Before Him I declare my distress.  
When my breath was escaping me,  
then you knew my paths;

On the road upon which I was walking,  
they set up snares for me.  
I looked to my right and observed  
there was no one to take care of my life.  
I cried out to You, O Lord, and said:  
You are my hope, my share in the land of the living.

Listen to my supplication,  
for I am laid very low.  
Deliver me from my oppressors;  
for they have overwhelmed me.

Lead my soul forth from prison  
that I may give thanks to Your name.  
The just shall gather around me  
when You have been good to me.

## PSALM129

Out of the depths I cry to You,  
O Lord; O Lord, hear my voice!  
Let your ears be attentive  
to the voice of my prayer.

If You mark iniquities, O Lord, who can stand?  
But with You forgiveness is that You may be revered.

## STICHERA

*I have waited for You as You have commanded; my soul patiently relies on  
Your promise, For it has trusted in the Lord.*

(Tone 1)

All creation was transformed with fear,  
when it saw You hanging on the cross, O Christ!  
The sun was darkened, and the foundations of the earth were shaken:  
all things suffered with the Maker of all.  
O Lord, who willingly suffered for us, glory to You!

*From the morning watch until night let Israel trust in the Lord.*

(Tone 2)

O wicked and lawless people! Why have you plotted in vain?  
Why have you condemned to death the Life of all?  
O great wonder! For the Maker of the world is given over to the hands of  
lawless men, and the Lover of us all  
is lifted up on the Tree, that He might free those bound in hell who cry: "O  
Long-suffering Lord, glory to You!"

*For with the Lord there is mercy, and with Him there is plentiful  
redemption; He shall redeem Israel from all its iniquities.*

Today as she saw You lifted up on the Cross, O Word,  
the spotless Virgin, weeping with a mother's tender love, was bitterly  
pierced in her heart;  
and as she mournfully groaned from the depths of her soul, rending her face



with her hair,  
she painfully cried out: Woe is me, O my divine Child! Woe is me, O Light  
of the world!  
Why have you gone from my eyes, O Lamb of God?  
And therefore, the bodiless Hosts were seized with trembling, saying: "O  
incomprehensible Lord, glory to You!

*Praise the Lord, all the nations; proclaim His glory, all you people.*

When she saw the Maker and God of all - You, O Christ  
- hanging on the Tree,  
The One who gave You birth without seed cried out bitterly;  
"Son of mine, where has the beauty of your form departed?  
I cannot endure seeing You unjustly crucified.  
So, quickly arise, that I, too may see your third-day  
Resurrection from the dead!"

*Strong is the love of the Lord for us; eternally will His truth endure.*

(tone 6)

Today the Master of Creation stands before Pilate;  
today the Maker of all things is given up to the Cross,  
and of His own will He is led as a lamb to the slaughter.  
He who sent manna in the wilderness is transfixed with nails;  
His side is pierced, and a sponge with vinegar touches His lips.  
The Deliverer of the world is struck on the face,  
and the Creator of all is mocked by His own servants.  
For those who crucified Him, He prayed to His Father, saying:  
"Forgive them this sin, for in their wickedness  
they know not what they do."  
"How great is the Master's love for us all!"

(Stand)

*Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit,  
now and for ever and ever. Amen.*

(tone 6)

Today a terrible and glorious mystery is seen enacted: the Inapprehensible

One is laid hold of,  
the One who loosed Adam from the curse is bound,  
the One who tries hearts and inner reaches is unjustly tried, the One who  
confined the deep is confined in prison,  
the One before whom the heavenly Powers stand with trembling, stands  
before Pilate,  
the Creator is struck by the hand of his creature,  
the One who judges the living and the dead is judged on the Tree,  
the Destroyer of hell is sealed in a Tomb.  
O gentle Lord! who mercifully endured all this,  
saving everyone from the curse:  
glory to You!

***(Entrance with the Gospel)***

**Priest:** Wisdom! Stand aright!

**HYMN OF THE EVENING**

O Joyful Light! Light and Holy Glory of the Father Immortal,  
the heavenly, holy the Blessed One, O Jesus Christ!  
Now that we have reached the setting of the sun, and see the evening light,  
we sing to God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. It is fitting at all times to  
raise a song of praise in measured melody to You, O Son of God, the Giver  
of Life. Behold, the universe sings Your glory.

**Priest:** Let us be attentive! Peace be with all. Wisdom! Let us be attentive!

Prokimen (tone 4)

**People:** They divided my garments among themselves,  
and for my clothing they casted lots.

**verse:** O God, my God, look upon me: why have You forsaken me?

**Priest:** Wisdom!

**Reader:** A reading from the prophecy of Isaiah! (52 13-54:1)

**Priest:** Let us be attentive!

***(Sit)***

**Reader:** Thus says the Lord: See, my servant shall prosper, he shall be

raised high and greatly exalted. Even as many were amazed at him - so marred was his look beyond that of man, and his appearance beyond that of mortals - so shall he startle many nations, because of him kings shall stand speechless; for those who have not been told shall see, those who have not heard shall ponder it.

Who would believe what we have heard? To whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed? He grew up like a sapling before him, like a shoot from the parched earth; there was in him no stately bearing to make us look at him, nor appearance that would attract us to him. He was spumed and avoided by men, a man of suffering, accustomed to infirmity, one of those from whom men hide their faces, spumed, and we held him in no esteem.

Yet it was our infinities that he bore, our sufferings that he endured, while we thought of him as stricken, as one smitten by God and afflicted. But he was pierced for our offenses, crushed for our sins, upon him was the chastisement that makes us whole, by his stripes we were healed. We had all gone astray like sheep, each following his own way; but the Lord laid upon him the guilt of us all.

Though he was harshly treated, he submitted and opened not his mouth; like a lamb led to the slaughter or a sheep before the shearers, he was silent and opened not his mouth. Oppressed and condemned, he was taken away, and who would have thought any more of his destiny? When he was cut off from the land of the living, and smitten for the sin of his people, a grave was assigned him among the wicked and a burial place with evildoers, though he had done no wrong nor spoken any falsehood. But the Lord was pleased to crush him in infirmity.

If he gives his life as an offering for sin, he shall see his descendants in a long life, and the will of the Lord shall be accomplished through him. Because of his affliction he shall see the light in fullness of days; through his suffering, my servant shall justify many, and their guilt he shall bear. Therefore I will give him his portion among the great, and he shall divide the spoils with the mighty, because he surrendered himself to death and was counted among the wicked; and he shall take away the sins of many, and win pardon for their offenses.

Raise a glad cry, you barren one who did not bear, break forth in jubilant song, you who were not in labor, for more numerous are the children of the deserted wife than the children of her who has a

husband, says the Lord.

**(stand)**

**Priest:** Let us be attentive! Peace be with all. Wisdom! Let us be attentive!

**Prokimen (tone 6)**

**People:** They have placed me in the bottom of the pit,  
in regions dark and in the shadow of death.

**verse: O** Lord, God of my salvation, I have cried out before You in the day and at night.

**Priest:** Wisdom!

**Reader: A** reading from the first epistle of the holy Apostle Paul to the Corinthians (I Cor. 1:18-2:2)

**Priest:** Let us be attentive!

**(Sit)**

**Reader:** Brothers and Sisters: The message of the cross is complete absurdity to those who are headed for ruin, but to us who are experiencing salvation it is the power of God. Scripture says, "I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and thwart the cleverness of the clever." Where is the wise man to be found? Where is the scribe? Where is the master of worldly argument? Has not God turned the wisdom of this world into folly? Since in God's wisdom the world did not come to know him through "wisdom", it pleased God to save those who believe through the absurdity of the preaching of the gospel. Yes, Jews demand "signs" and Greeks look for "wisdom", But we preach Christ crucified – a stumbling block to Jews, and an absurdity to Gentiles, but to those who are called, Jews and Greeks alike. Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. For God's folly is wiser than men, and his weakness more powerful than men.

Brethren, you are among those called. Consider your situation. Not many of you are wise, as men account wisdom; not many are influential: and surely not many are well-born. God chose those whom

they world considers absurd to shame the wise; he singled out the weak of this world to shame the strong. He chose the world's lowborn and despised, those who count for nothing, to reduce to nothing those who were something; so that mankind can do no boasting before God. God it is who has given you life in Christ Jesus. He has made him our wisdom and also our justice, our sanctification, and our redemption. This is just as you find it written, "let him who would boast, boast in the Lord." As for myself, brethren, when I came to you I did not come proclaiming God's testimony with any particular eloquence or "wisdom". No, I determined that while I was with you I would speak of nothing but Jesus Christ and him crucified.

**Priest:** A reading of the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

**People:** Glory to your Passion, O Lord.

**Priest:** Let us be attentive.

At daybreak all the chief priests and the elders of the people took formal action against Jesus to put him to death. They bound him and led him away to be handed over to the procurator Pilate.

Then Judas, who had handed Jesus over, seeing that Jesus had been condemned, began to regret his action deeply. He took the thirty pieces of silver back to the chief priests and elders and said, "I did wrong to deliver up an innocent man!" They retorted, "What is that to us? It is your affair!" So Judas flung the money into the temple and left. He went off and handed himself. The chief priests picked up the silver, observing, "It is not right to deposit this in the temple treasury since it is blood money." After consultation, they used it to buy the potter's field as a cemetery for foreigners. That is why that field, even today, is called Blood Field. On that occasion, what was said through Jeremiah the prophet was fulfilled: "They took the thirty pieces of silver, the value of a man with a price on his head, a price set by the Israelites, and they paid it out for the potter's field just as the Lord had commanded me."

Jesus was arraigned before the procurator, who questioned him: "Are you the king of the Jews?" Jesus responded, "As you say." Yet when he was accused by the chief priests and elders, he had made no reply. The Pilate said to him, "Surely you

hear how many charges they bring against you?" He did not answer Pilate on a single count, much to the procurator's surprise.

Now on the occasion of a festival the procurator was accustomed to release one prisoner, whom the crowd would designate. They had at the time a notorious prisoner named Barabbas. Since they were already assembled, Pilate said to them, "which one do you wish me to release for you, Barabbas or Jesus the so-called Messiah?" Pilate knew, of course, that it was out of jealousy that they had handed Jesus over.

While Pilate was still presiding on the bench, his wife sent him a message: "Do not interfere in the case of that holy man. I had a dream about him today which has greatly upset me.

Meanwhile the chief priests and elders convinced the crowds that they should ask for Barabbas and have Jesus put to death. So when the procurator asked them, "Which one do you wish me to release for you? They said, "Barabbas." Pilate said to them, "Then what am I to do with Jesus, the so-called Messiah?" "Crucify him!" they all cried. He said, "Why, what crime has he committed?" But they only shouted the louder, "Crucify him?" Pilate finally realized that he was making no impression and that a riot was breaking out instead. He called for water and washed his hands in front of the crowd, declaring as he did so, "I am innocent of the blood of this just man. The responsibility is yours." The whole people said in reply, "Let his blood be on us and on our children." At that, Pilate released Barabbas to them. Jesus, however, he first had scourged; then he handed him over to be crucified.

The procurator's soldiers took Jesus inside the praetorium and collected the whole cohort around him. They stripped off his clothes and wrapped him in a scarlet military cloak. Weaving a crown out of thorns they fixed it on his head, and stuck a reed in his right hand. Then they began to mock him by dropping to their knees before him, saying, "All hail, king of the Jews!" They also spat at him. Afterward they took the reed and kept striking him on the head. Finally, when they had finished making a fool of him, they stripped him of the cloak, dressed him in his own clothes, and led him off to crucifixion.

On their way out they met a Cyrenian named Simon. This man they pressed into service to carry the cross. Upon arriving at a site called Golgotha (a name which means Skull Place), the soldiers gave Jesus a drink of wine flavored with gall, which Jesus tasted but refused to drink.

When they had crucified him, they divided his clothes among them by casting lots; then they sat down there and kept watch over him. Above his head they had put the charge against him in writing: "THIS IS JESUS, KING OF THE JEWS." Two insurgents were crucified along with him, one at his right and one at his left.

One of the criminals hanging in crucifixion blasphemed Jesus: "Aren't you the Messiah? Then save yourself and us." But the other one rebuked the first: "Have you no fear of God, seeing you are under the same sentence? We deserve it, after all. We are only paying the price for what we've done, but this man has done nothing wrong." He then said, "Jesus, remember me when you enter upon your reign." And Jesus replied, "I assure you: this day you will be with me in paradise."

People going by kept insulting Jesus, tossing their heads and saying: "So you are the one who was going to destroy the temple and rebuild it in three days! Save yourself, why don't you? Come down off that cross if you are God's Son!" The chief priests, the scribes, and the elders also joined in the jeering: "He saved others but he cannot save himself. So he is the king of Israel Let's see him come down from that cross and then we will believe in him. He relied on God; let God rescue him now if he wants to. After all, he claimed, 'I am God's Son.'" The insurgents who had been crucified with him kept taunting him in the same way.

From noon onward, there was darkness over the whole land until midafternoon. Then toward midafternoon Jesus cried out in a loud tone, "Eli, Eli, lema sabachtihani?", that is, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" This made some of the bystanders who heard it remark, "He is invoking Elijah! Immediately one of them ran off and got a sponge. He soaked it in cheap wine, and sticking in on a reed, tried to make Jesus drink. Meanwhile the rest said, "Leave him alone. Let's see whether Elijah comes to his rescue. Once again Jesus cried out in a loud voice, then gave up his spirit.

Suddenly the curtain of the sanctuary was torn in two from top to bottom. The earth quaked, boulders split, tombs opened. Many bodies of saints who had fallen asleep were raised. After Jesus' resurrection they came forth from their tombs and entered the holy city and appeared to many. The centurion and his men who were keeping watch over Jesus were terror-stricken at seeing the earthquake and all that was happening, and said, "Clearly this was the

Son of God!"

Since it was the Preparation Day the Jews did not want to have the bodies left on the cross during the Sabbath, for that Sabbath was a solemn feast day. They asked Pilate that the legs be broken and the bodies be taken away. Accordingly, the soldiers came and broke the legs of the men crucified with Jesus, first of the one, then of the other. When they came to Jesus and saw that he was already dead, they did not break his legs. One of the soldiers thrust a lance into his side, and immediately blood and water flowed out. This testimony has been given by an eyewitness, and his testimony is true. He tells what he knows is true, so that you may believe. These events took place for the fulfillment of Scripture: "Break none of his bones." There is still another Scripture passage which says: "They shall look on him whom they have pierced."

Many women were present looking on from a distance. They had followed Jesus from Galilee to attend to his needs. Among them were Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James and Joseph, and the mother of Zebedee's sons.

When evening fell, a wealthy man from Arimathea arrived, Joseph by name. He was another of Jesus' disciples, and had gone to request the body of Jesus. Thereupon Pilate issued an order for its release. Taking the body, Joseph wrapped it in a fresh linen and placed it in his own new tomb which had been hewn from a formation of rock. Then he rolled a huge stone across the entrance of the tomb and went away. But Mary Magdalene and the other Mary remained sitting there, facing the tomb.

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

### **INSISTENT EKTEKIA**

(Sit)

**Priest:** Let us all say with our whole soul and our whole mind, let us say.

**People:** Lord, have mercy

**Priest:** Almighty Lord, God of our Fathers, we pray You, hear us and have mercy.



**People:** Lord, have mercy.

**Priest:** Have mercy on us, O God, in the greatness of Your compassion, we pray You, hear us and have mercy.

**People:** Lord, have mercy. (3X)

**Priest:** We also pray for our most holy universal Pontiff, (N.), Pope of Rome; for our most blessed Major Archbishop (N.), our most reverend Metropolitan, (N.), our God-loving Bishop, (N.), for those who serve and have served in this holy church, for our spiritual fathers, and for all our brothers and sisters in Christ.

**People:** Lord, have mercy.(3X)

**Priest:** We also pray for our nation under God, for our government, and for all the military.

**People:** Lord, have mercy.(3X)

**Priest:** We also pray for the people here present who await Your great and bountiful mercies, for those who have been kind to us, and for all orthodox Christians.

**People:** Lord, have mercy. (3X)

**Priest:** For You are a merciful and loving God, and we give glory to You, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and for ever and ever.

**People:** Amen.

(Stand)

### **HYMN OF GLORIFICATION**

O Lord, keep us this evening without sin.

Blessed are You, O Lord God of our Fathers, and praised and glorified is Your name forever. Amen.

Let Your mercy, O Lord, be upon us because we have set our hope in You.

Blessed are You, O Lord, teach me Your commandments.  
Blessed are You, O Master, make me understand Your commandments.  
Blessed are You, O Holy One, enlighten me with Your laws.  
O Lord, Your mercy endures forever; do not despise the work of Your hands.

It is proper to praise You, and hymns belong to You.  
Glory belongs to You, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,  
Now and forever and ever. Amen.

### **Litany of Supplication**

(Sit)

**Priest:** Let us complete our evening prayer to the Lord.

**People:** Lord, have mercy.

**Priest:** Help and save, have mercy and protect us, O God, by Your grace.

**People:** Lord, have mercy.

**Priest:** That this whole evening may be perfect, holy, peaceful, and sinless, let us ask the Lord.

**People:** Grant this, O Lord

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

**People:** Grant this, O Lord.

**Priest:** For the forgiveness and remission of our sins and offenses, let us ask the Lord.

**People:** Grant this, O Lord.

**Priest:** For all that is good and beneficial for our souls and for peace for the world, Let us ask the Lord.

**People:** Grant this, O Lord.

**Priest:** That we may spend the rest of our lives in peace and repentance, let us ask the Lord.

**People:** Grant this, O Lord.

**Priest:** For a Christian end to our lives, one that is painless, unashamed, and peaceful; and for a good defense at the awesome tribunal of Christ, let us ask the Lord.

**People:** Grant this, O Lord.

**Priest:** Remembering our most holy and immaculate, most blessed and glorious Lady, the Mother of God and ever-virgin Mary, together with all the saints, let us commend ourselves and one another and our whole life to Christ our God.

**People:** To You, O Lord.

**Priest:** For You, O God, are gracious and You love us all, and we glorify You, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and for ever and ever.

**People:** Amen.

(Stand)

**Priest:** Peace be with all.

**People:** And with Your spirit.

**Priest:** Bow your heads to the Lord.

**People:** To You, O Lord.

**Priest:** (silently) O Lord our God, You lowered the heavens when You came down for the salvation of the human race. Now look upon Your servants and upon Your inheritance; for they have bowed their heads to You, the Judge, both awesome and loving. They do not await human help, but look for Your mercy and are ready to receive Your salvation. Guard them at all times,

this evening and tonight, against all enemies, against the devil's assaults, against vain thoughts and evil dreams.

(aloud) May the might of Your kingdom be blessed and exalted, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and for ever and ever.

**People:** Amen.

### APOSTICHA

#### *(Procession with the Holy Shroud.)*

Tone 2:

When the Arimathean took You down from the Tree a dead man You,  
O Christ, the Life of all!

He wrapped You with balm in a linen shroud,  
and was lovingly moved to kiss your incorruptible body with his heart and lips.  
But restrained by fear, he cried out to You, rejoicing: "Glory to your  
condescension, O Lover of us all."

**verse:** The Lord reigns, He is clothed in majesty

When You, the Redeemer of all, were laid in a new tomb for the sake of all,  
hell, always mocking, saw You and was terrified:  
its bonds were broken, its gates demolished, the graves were opened,  
the dead arose!

Then Adam, thankfully rejoicing, cried out to You:  
"Glory to Your condescension, O Lover of us all."

**verse:** For He has made the world firm, which shall not be moved.

When You, O Christ, were willingly locked in the tomb in the flesh  
You who remain infinite and boundless because of the nature of your  
Godhead,  
You locked up the storehouse of death and emptied all the kingdom of  
hell.  
Then did You count the Sabbath worthy of divine blessing and glory,  
worthy of your radiance!

**verse:** Holiness befits Your house, O Lord, for length of days.

When the heavenly Powers saw You, O Christ, slandered by a deceiver sent  
by lawless men,  
and the stone of your tomb being sealed by the hands which pierced your  
incorruptible side,  
they were terrified by your inexpressible long suffering! But rejoicing for  
our salvation, they cried out:  
"Glory to Your condescension, O Lover of us all."

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

(Tone 5)

When Joseph with Nicodemus took You, who are clothed with light as with  
a robe,

down from the Tree and saw You dead, naked, and unburied,  
a tender-hearted weeping took hold of him, and lamenting he said:

"Woe is me, my sweetest Jesus!

When the sun saw You hanging on the cross just a while ago,  
it shrouded itself in darkness,

and the earth quaked with fear,  
and the veil in the Temple was tom.

But behold! I now see You who willingly accepted death for my sake:

How can I bury You, my God?

or with what shroud can I wrap You?

with what hands can I touch your incorruptible body?

or what dirges can I sing for your funeral, O Generous One?

I will extol your passion!

I will sing the glory of your burial and resurrection, crying:

"Glory to You, O Lord!"

*(The Holy Shroud is placed in the Tomb and incensed.)*

#### **HYMN OF SIMEON**

Now You shall dismiss Your servant, O Lord, according to Your word, in  
peace; because my eyes have seen Your salvation which You prepared  
before the face of all peoples, a light to the revelation of the Gentiles,  
and the glory of Your people, Israel.

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

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

O Most Holy Trinity, have mercy on us; O Lord, cleanse us of our sins; O Master, forgive us our transgressions; O Holy One, come a to us and heal our infirmities for Your name's sake.

Lord, have mercy. (3 times)

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

O Most Holy Trinity, have mercy on us; O Lord, cleanse us of our sins;  
O Master, forgive us our transgressions; O Holy One, come a to us and  
heal our infirmities for Your name's sake.

Lord, have mercy. (3x)

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit,  
now and for ever and ever. 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 for ever and ever.

**People:** Amen.

**Priest:** The noble Joseph took down  
Your most pure body from the tree.  
He wrapped it with a clean shroud  
and. with aromatic spices, placed it in a new tomb. **(Prostration)**

**People:** The noble Joseph took down  
Your most pure body from the tree.  
He wrapped it with a clean shroud  
and, with aromatic spices, placed it in a new tomb. **(Prostration)**

**Priest:** The noble Joseph took down  
Your most pure body from the tree.

**People:** He wrapped it with a clean shroud  
And with aromatic spices, placed it in a new tomb. **(Prostration)**

### DISMISSAL

**Priest:** Wisdom!

**People:** Give the blessing!

**Priest:** Blessed is the One Who Is, blessed is Christ our God, always, now  
and forever and ever.

**People:** Amen. O God strengthen the true faith, forever and ever.

**Priest:** O most holy Mother of God, save us!

**People:** More honorable than the cherubim and by far more glorious  
than the seraphim; ever a virgin, you gave birth to God the Word, O true  
Mother of God, we magnify you.

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

**People:** Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and  
for ever and ever. Amen. Lord, have mercy. (3X) Give the blessing.

**Priest:** May Christ our true God, who for us and for our salvation willed to  
endure the terrible Passion, and the life-creating Cross, and the voluntary  
burial in the flesh, by the prayers of his most pure Mother, of the holy,  
glorious, and illustrious apostles, of our venerable and God-bearing  
fathers, and by the prayers of all the saints, have mercy on us and save us, for

He is gracious and He loves us all.

**People:** Amen.

**Priest:** The noble Joseph took down  
Your most pure body from the tree.  
He wrapped it with a clean shroud  
and, with aromatic spices, placed it in a new tomb.

***(Prostration)***

**People:** The noble Joseph took down  
Your most pure body from the tree.  
He wrapped it with a clean shroud  
and, with aromatic spices, placed it in a new tomb.

***(Prostration)***

**Priest:** The noble Joseph took down  
Your most pure body from the tree.

**People:** He wrapped it with a clean shroud  
and, with aromatic spices, placed it in a new tomb.

***(Prostration)***