Great and Holy Saturday

Vespers

Served in the late morning or afternoon of Holy Saturday.

Through the prayers of our holy fathers, Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on us. Amen.

Glory to thee, our God, glory to thee.

O heavenly King, the Comforter, the Spirit of truth, who art everywhere present and fillest all things, Treasury of blessings and Giver of life: come and abide in us; and cleanse us from every impurity, and save our souls, O Good One.

Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal, have mercy on us. (thrice)

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

All-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. (thrice) Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages. 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 the evil one.

[Through the prayers of our holy fathers, Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on us.]

Amen.

Lord, have mercy. (Twelve times)
Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

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1 If a priest is present, he says the opening exclamation Blessed is our God....

2 If a priest is present, he says the exclamation For thine is the Kingdom....
Come, let us worship God our King.
Come, let us worship and fall down before Christ, our King and our God.
Come, let us worship and fall down before Christ himself, our King and our God.

**Psalm 103**

Bless the Lord, O my soul. O Lord my God, thou art greatly magnified; thou art clothed with praise and majesty: covering thyself with light as with a garment, spreading out the heaven as a curtain; who covers his upper chambers with waters, who makes the clouds his chariot, who walks on the wings of the winds, who makes his angels spirits and his ministers a flame of fire; who established the earth on its sure foundation: it shall not be moved for ever and ever. The abyss, like a garment, is his cloak; the waters shall stand upon the mountains. At thy rebuke they shall flee; at the voice of thy thunder they shall be afraid. The mountains rise up and the plains sink down unto the place where thou hast founded them. Thou hast set a bound which they shall not pass, neither shall they return to cover the earth. Thou sendest forth springs in the valleys; the waters shall flow between the mountains. They shall give drink to all the beasts of the field: the wild asses shall wait to quench their thirst. By them shall the birds of heaven dwell, they shall sing from amidst the rocks. He waters the mountains from his upper chambers; the earth shall be satisfied with the fruit of thy works. He makes grass to grow for the cattle, and green herb for the service of men, to bring forth bread out of the earth, and wine makes glad the heart of man; to make his face cheerful with oil, and bread strengthens man’s heart. The trees of the plain shall be satisfied, the cedars of Lebanon which thou hast planted. There the sparrows will build their nests, and the house of the heron is chief among them. The high mountains are for the deer, and the rock is a refuge for the hares. He made the moon for seasons: the sun knows its going down. Thou didst appoint darkness, and it was night; wherein all the beasts of the forest will prowl: young lions roaring for their prey to seek their food from God. The sun arose, and they were gathered together and shall lie down in their dens. Man shall go forth to his work and to his labor until the evening. How magnified are thy works, O Lord! In wisdom hast thou made them all; the earth is filled with thy creation: so is this great and wide sea, wherein are things creeping innumerable, living things, both small and great. There go the ships; there this dragon whom thou hast formed to play therein. All things wait upon thee to give them their food in due season. When thou givest to them, they will gather it; when thou openest thy hand, they shall all be filled with good. But when thou turnest away thy face, they shall be troubled: thou wilt take away their spirit, and they shall die and return to their dust. Thou shalt send forth thy Spirit, and they shall be created, and thou shalt renew the face of the earth. Let the glory of the Lord endure forever: the Lord shall rejoice in his works; who looks on the earth and makes it to tremble; who touches the mountains and they smoke. I will sing to the Lord while I live; I will sing praise to my God
while I have being. May my words be sweet unto him, and I will rejoice in the Lord. O that sinners would cease from the earth, and they that work iniquity, that they should be no more. Bless the Lord, O my soul.

**AND AGAIN:**
The sun knows its going down. Thou didst appoint darkness, and it was night. How magnified are thy works, O Lord! In wisdom hast thou made them all.

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

Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia. Glory to thee, O God. *(thrice)*

[Lord, have mercy. *(Twelve times)* Glory... now and ever...]

**PSALM 140**

In the first tone:
Lord, I call upon Thee, hear me.
Hear me, O Lord.

Lord, I call upon Thee, hear me. Receive the voice of my prayer, when I call upon Thee.
Hear me, O Lord.

Let my prayer arise in thy sight as incense, and let the lifting up of my hands be an evening sacrifice!
Hear me, O Lord!

The following verses are read, until the stichera begin:
Set a guard, O Lord, over my mouth, and a strong door about my lips.
Incline not my heart to words of evil, to make excuses for sins;
With men that work iniquity, and I shall never join with their elect.
A righteous man shall chasten me with mercy and reprove me, but let not the oil of the sinner anoint my head.
Since my prayer is even still for their good favor, their judges have been swallowed up near the rock.
They shall hear my words, for they were sweet: as a clod of earth has been crushed upon the earth, so have their bones been scattered near hell.
For mine eyes are toward thee, O Lord, Lord, I have hoped in thee; take not my soul away.
Keep me from the snare which they have set for me, and from the stumbling-blocks of them that work iniquity.
The sinners shall fall into their own net: I am alone until I pass by.

**PSALM 141**

I have cried to the Lord with my voice; with my voice have I made supplication to the Lord. I will pour out my supplication before him, I will declare before him my affliction.

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3 If a priest is present, he says the **GREAT LITANY.**
When my spirit was failing me, still thou knowest my paths. 
In this way wherein I was walking, they hid a snare for me. 
I looked on my right hand and beheld, that there was none that recognized me. 
Refuge failed me, and there is none that looks out for my soul. 
Icried to thee, O Lord, and said: Thou art my hope, my portion art thou in the land of the living. 
Attend to my supplication, for I am brought very low; deliver me from them that persecute me, 
for they have grown stronger than I. 
Bring my soul out of prison, that I may confess name. 
The righteous shall await me, until thou shalt reward me.

Psalm 129

(8) Out of the depths have I cried unto thee, O Lord:* Lord, hear my voice.

STICHERA OF THE OCTOECHOS, TONE 1
Accept our evening prayers, O holy Lord. Grant us remission of sins, for Thou alone hast manifested the Resurrection to the world.

(7) Let thine ears be attentive* to the voice of my supplication.
Encircle Sion and surround her, O people. Give glory in her to the One Who rose from the dead. For He is our God, Who has delivered us from our transgressions!

(6) If thou, Lord, wilt mark iniquities, O Lord, who shall stand? * For with thee is forgiveness.
Come, O people, let us hymn and fall down before Christ, glorifying His Resurrection from the dead; for He is our God, Who has delivered the world from the Enemy’s deceit!

(5) For thy Name’s sake have I waited for thee, O Lord: my soul has waited for thy word, * my soul has hoped in the Lord.
We have been freed from sufferings by thy suffering, O Christ. We have been delivered from corruption by thy Resurrection. O Lord, glory to thee!

(4) From the morning watch until night, from the morning watch * let Israel hope in the Lord.

STICHERA OF THE TRIODION, TONE 8
Today, Hell cries out groaning: “I should not have accepted the Man born of Mary. He came and destroyed my power. He shattered the gates of brass. As God, He raised the souls that I had held captive.” Glory to thy Cross and Resurrection, O Lord!

(3) For with the Lord there is mercy, and with him is plenteous redemption, * and he shall redeem Israel from all his iniquities.
Today, Hell cries out groaning... (repeat the same as above)
(2) **Praise the Lord, all ye nations:** * praise him all ye peoples.
Today, Hell cries out groaning: “My dominion has been shattered. I received a dead Man as one of the dead, but against Him I could not prevail. From eternity I had ruled the dead, but behold, He raises all. Because of Him do I perish.” Glory to thy Cross and Resurrection, O Lord!

(1) **For his mercy has prevailed over us,** * and the truth of the Lord endures for ever.
Today, Hell cries out groaning: “My power has been trampled down. The Shepherd is crucified and Adam is raised. I have been deprived of those whom I ruled. Those whom I swallowed in my strength I have given up. He Who was crucified has emptied the tombs. The power of death has been vanquished.” Glory to thy Cross and Resurrection, O Lord!

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

**Tone 6**
The great Moses mystically 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.**

**Theotokion – Dogmatikon, tone 1**
Let us praise the Virgin Mary, the gate of heaven, the glory of the world, the song of the angels, the beauty of the faithful. She was born of man, yet gave birth to God! She was revealed as the heaven, as the temple of the Godhead; she destroyed the wall of enmity; she commenced the peace; she opened the Kingdom. Since she is our foundation of faith, our defender is the Lord Whom she bore. Courage, courage, O people of God, for Christ will destroy our enemies since He is all powerful.

**THE EVENING THANKSGIVING HYMN**

O gladsome Light of the holy glory of the immortal Father – heavenly, holy, blessed Jesus Christ! Now that we have come to the setting of the sun and beheld the light of evening, we praise the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, God. For meet it is at all times to worship thee with voices of praise, O Son of God and Giver of life; therefore, all the world doth glorify thee.

**The prokeimenon in the sixth tone:**
The Lord is King: * he is robed in majesty. (Ps. 92)
Verse: The Lord is robed with strength and hath girt himself.
Verse: For he hath made the world so sure that it shall not be moved.
Verse: Holiness becometh thine house, O Lord, unto length of days.

1.

The reading from Genesis

( _Gen. 1:1-13_ )

In the beginning God made the heaven and the earth. But the earth was unseen and unformed, and darkness was over the deep, and the Spirit of God moved over the water. And God said, Let there be light, and there was light. And God saw the light, that it was good. And God divided between the light and the darkness. And God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning—one day. And God said, Let there be a firmament in the midst of the water, and let it be a division between water and water. And it was so. And God made the firmament, and God divided between the water which was under the firmament and the water which was over the firmament. And God called the firmament Heaven. And God saw that it was good. And there was evening and there was morning, the second day. And God said, Let the water which is under the heaven be gathered together in one place, and let the dry land be seen. And it was so. And the water which was under the heaven was gathered together in their places, and the dry land was seen. And God called the dry land Earth, and the gathering together of the waters he called Seas. And God saw that it was good. And God said, Let the earth bring forth the herb of grass, bearing seed according to its kind and according to its likeness, and the fruit tree yielding fruit, whose seed is in itself, according to its kind upon the earth. And it was so. And the earth brought forth the herb of grass, bearing seed according to its kind and according to its likeness, and the fruit tree yielding fruit, whose seed is in itself, according to its kind upon the earth. And God saw that it was good. And there was evening and there was morning, the third day.

2.

The reading from the Prophecy of Isaiah

( _Isaiah 60:1-16_ )

Shine, shine, O Jerusalem, for thy light is come, and the glory of the Lord is risen upon thee. Behold, darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness shall be upon the nations. And the Lord shall shine upon thee, and his glory shall be seen upon thee. And kings shall walk in thy light, and the nations in thy brightness. Lift up thine eyes round about, and see thy children gathered together. Behold, all thy sons have come from afar, and thy daughters shall be carried upon men’s shoulders. Then thou shalt see, and fear, and be astonished in
thy heart. For the wealth of the sea and of nations and peoples shall be turned back unto thee. And herds of camels shall come unto thee, and the camels of Midian and Ephah shall cover thee. All who are from Sheba shall come bearing gold, and shall bring frankincense and precious stones, and they shall proclaim the glad tidings of the salvation of the Lord. And all the sheep of Kedar shall be gathered together unto thee, and the rams of Nebaioth shall come unto thee, and acceptable sacrifices shall be offered upon my altar, and my house of prayer shall be glorified. Who are these that fly like clouds, and like doves with young? The islands have waited for me, and the ships of Tarshish among the first, to bring thy children from afar, and their silver and gold with them, for the sake of the holy Name of the Lord, and because the Holy One of Israel is glorified. And strangers shall build thy walls, and their kings shall submit unto thee. Because of my wrath I smote thee, and for mercy’s sake I loved thee. And thy gates shall be opened continually. They shall not be shut by day or by night, to bring unto thee the power of the Gentiles, and their kings led captive. For the nations and the kings that will not serve thee shall perish, and those nations shall be laid to waste in desolation. And the glory of Libanus shall come to thee, with the cypress, and pine, and cedar together, to glorify my holy place, and I will make the place of my feet glorious. And the sons of them that brought thee low and provoked thee, shall come to thee in fear. And thou shalt be called The City of the Lord, Sion of the Holy One of Israel. Because thou has been forsaken and hated, and there was no one to help, so I will make thee an eternal rejoicing, gladness from generation to generation. And thou shalt suck the milk of the Gentiles, and shalt eat the wealth of kings. And thou shalt know that I am the Lord that saves thee and delivers thee, the God of Israel.

3. The reading from Exodus  
(Exod. 12:1-11)

The Lord spoke to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt, saying, “This month shall be to you the beginning of months: it is the first among the months of the year to you. Speak to all the congregation of the children of Israel, saying, ‘On the tenth of this month let them take each man a lamb according to the houses of their families, every man a lamb for his household. And if they be few in a household, so that there are not enough for the lamb, he shall take with himself his neighbor that lives near him, according to the number of souls, according to what each can eat, the count shall be made for the lamb. It shall be for you a lamb unblemished, a male a year old; ye shall take it of the lambs and the kids. And it shall be kept by you till the fourteenth of this month, and all the multitude of the congregation of the children of Israel shall kill it toward evening. And they shall take of the blood, and shall put it on the two door-posts, and on the lintel, in the houses in which they shall eat
them. And they shall eat the flesh in this night roasted with fire, and they shall eat unleavened bread with bitter herbs. Ye shall not eat of it raw nor sodden in water, but only roasted with fire, the head with the feet and the inner parts. Nothing shall be left of it till the morning, and a bone of it ye shall not break; but that which is left of it till the morning ye shall burn with fire. And thus shall ye eat it: with your loins girded, and your sandals on your feet, and your staves in your hands, and ye shall eat it in haste. It is a passover to the Lord.”

4. The reading from the Prophecy of Jonah
( Jonah 1:1-4:11)

The word of the Lord came to Jonah the son of Amathi, saying, “Rise, and go to Nineveh, the great city, and preach in it; for the cry of its wickedness is come up to me.” But Jonah rose up to flee to Tarshish from the presence of the Lord. And he went down to Joppa, and found a ship going to Tarshish: and he paid his fare, and went up into it, to sail with them to Tarshish from the presence of the Lord. And the Lord raised up a wind on the sea; and there was a great storm on the sea, and the ship was in danger of being broken. And the sailors were alarmed, and cried every one to his god, and cast out the wares that were in the ship into the sea, that it might be lightened of them. But Jonah was gone down into the hold of the ship, and was asleep, and snored. And the shipmaster came to him, and said to him, “Why snorest thou? Arise, and call upon thy God, that God may save us, and we perish not.” And each man said to his neighbor, “Come, let us cast lots, and find out for whose sake this mischief is upon us. So they cast lots, and the lot fell upon Jonah.” And they said to him, “Tell us what is thine occupation, and whence comest thou, and of what country and what people art thou?” And he said to them, “I am a servant of the Lord; and I worship the Lord God of heaven, who made the sea, and the dry land.” Then the men feared exceedingly, and said to him, “What is this that thou hast done? For the men knew that he was fleeing from the face of the Lord, because he had told them.” And they said to him, “What shall we do to thee, that the sea may be calm to us? For the sea rose, and lifted its wave exceedingly.” And Jonah said to them, “Take me up, and cast me into the sea, and the sea shall be calm for you. For I know that for my sake this great tempest is upon you.” And the men tried hard to return to the land, and were not able; for the sea rose and grew more and more tempestuous against them. And they cried to the Lord, and said, “By no means, O Lord, let us not perish for the sake of this man's life, and bring not righteous blood upon us: for thou, Lord, hast done as thou hast willed.” So they took Jonah, and cast him out into the sea, and the sea ceased from its raging. And the men feared the Lord very greatly, and offered a sacrifice to the Lord, and made vows. Now the Lord had commanded a great
whale to swallow up Jonah, and Jonah was in the belly of the whale three days and three nights.

And Jonah prayed to the Lord his God out of the belly of the whale, and said: “In mine affliction I cried unto the Lord my God, and he heard me. Thou didst hear my voice and my cry from the belly of hell. Thou didst cast me into the depths of the heart of the sea, and the floods encompassed me. All thy billows and thy waves passed over me, and I said, ‘I am cast away from thine eyes; shall I indeed look again toward thy holy temple?’ Water was poured over me, even unto my soul; the uttermost abyss surrounded me; my head sank down to the clefts of the mountains; I went down into the earth, whose bars are held fast forever. But bring my life up out of corruption unto thee, O Lord my God. When my soul was fainting within me, I remembered the Lord. Yea, let my prayer come unto thee, unto thy holy temple. They that observe vanities and falsehoods have forsaken their own mercy. But as for me, I will sacrifice unto thee with the voice of praise and thanksgiving; all that I have vowed for my salvation will I pay unto thee, O Lord.” And the whale was commanded by the Lord, and it cast up Jonah on the dry land.

And the word of the Lord came to Jonah the second time, saying, “Rise, go to Nineveh, the great city, and preach in it according to the former preaching of which I spoke to thee.” And Jonah arose, and went to Nineveh, as the Lord had spoken. Now Nineveh was an exceeding great city, of about three days' journey. And Jonah began to enter into the city about a day's journey, and he proclaimed, and said, “Yet three days, and Nineveh shall be overthrown.” And the men of Nineveh believed God, and proclaimed a fast, and put on sackcloth, from the greatest of them to the least of them. And the word reached the king of Nineveh, and he arose from his throne, and took off his raiment from him, and put on sackcloth, and sat on ashes. And it was proclaimed and commanded in Nineveh by the king and by his great men, saying, “Let not men, or cattle, or oxen, or sheep, taste anything, nor feed, nor drink water.” So men and cattle were clothed with sackcloth, and cried earnestly to God; and they turned every one from their evil way, and from the iniquity that was in their hands, saying, “Who knows if God will repent, and turn from his fierce anger, and so we shall not perish?” And God saw their works, that they turned from their evil ways; and God repented of the evil which he had said he would do to them; and he did it not.

But Jonah was exceedingly grieved and confounded. And he prayed to the Lord, and said, “O Lord, were not these my words when I was yet in my land? therefore I made haste to flee to Tarshish; because I knew that thou art merciful and compassionate, longsuffering, and abundant in kindness, and repentest of evil. And now, Lord God, take my life from me; for it is better for me to die than to live.” And the Lord said to Jonah, “Art thou very much grieved?” And Jonah went out from the city, and sat over against the city; and he made for himself there a booth, and he sat under it, until he should perceive what would become of
the city. And the Lord God commanded a gourd, and it came up over the head of Jonah, to be a shadow over his head, to shade him from his calamities; and Jonah rejoiced with great joy for the gourd. And God commanded a worm the next morning, and it smote the gourd, and it withered away. And it came to pass at the rising of the sun, that God commanded a burning east wind; and the sun smote on the head of Jonah, and he fainted, and despaired of his life, and said, “It is better for me to die than to live.” And God said to Jonah, “Art thou very much grieved for the gourd?” And he said, “I am very much grieved, even unto death.” And the Lord said, “Thou hadst pity on the gourd, for which thou hast not suffered, neither didst thou rear it; which came up before night, and perished before the next night; and shall not I spare Nineveh, the great city, in which dwell more than one hundred and twenty thousand people, who do not know their right hand or their left hand; and also much cattle?”

5.
The reading from Joshua
(Joshua 5:10-15)
The children of Israel encamped in Gilgal, and kept the Passover on the fourteenth day of the month at evening, to the west of Jericho on the opposite side of the Jordan in the plain. And they ate of the grain of the land, unleavened and new. In this day the manna failed, after they had eaten of the grain of the land, and the children of Israel no longer had manna; and they took the fruits of the land of the Phoenicians in that year. And it came to pass when Joshua was in Jericho, that he looked up with his eyes and saw a man standing before him, and there was a drawn sword in his hand; and Joshua drew near and said to him, “Art thou for us or on the side of our enemies?” And he said to him, “I am now come, the chief captain of the host of the Lord.” And Joshua fell on his face upon the earth, and said to him, “Lord, what commandest thou thy servant?” And the captain of the Lord's host said to Joshua, “Loose thy shoe off thy feet, for the place whereon thou now standest is holy.”

6.
The reading from Exodus
(Exod. 13:20-15:1)
The children of Israel departed from Succoth, and encamped in Etham by the wilderness. And God led them, in the day by a pillar of cloud, to show them the way, and in the night by a pillar of fire. And the pillar of cloud failed not by day, nor the pillar of fire by night, before all the people. And the Lord spoke to Moses, saying, “Speak to the children of Israel, and let them turn and encamp before the village, between Migdol and the sea, opposite Baalzaphon; before them shalt thou encamp by the sea. And Pharaoh will say to his people,
‘As for these children of Israel, they are wandering in the land, for the wilderness has shut them in.’ And I will harden the heart of Pharaoh, and he shall pursue after them; and I will be glorified in Pharaoh, and in all his host, and all the Egyptians shall know that I am the Lord.” And they did so. And it was reported to the king of the Egyptians that the people had fled; and the heart of Pharaoh was turned, and that of his servants against the people; and they said, “What is this that we have done, to let the children of Israel go, so that they should not serve us?” So Pharaoh yoked his chariots, and led off all his people with himself, having also taken six hundred chosen chariots, and all the cavalry of the Egyptians, and rulers over all. And the Lord hardened the heart of Pharaoh king of Egypt, and of his servants, and he pursued after the children of Israel; and the children of Israel went forth with a high hand. And the Egyptians pursued after them, and found them encamped by the sea; and all the cavalry and the chariots of Pharaoh, and the horsemen, and his host were before the village, over against Baalzephon. And Pharaoh approached, and the children of Israel having looked up, beheld, and the Egyptians encamped behind them; and they were sore afraid, and the children of Israel cried to the Lord, and said to Moses, “Because there were no graves in the land of Egypt, hast thou brought us forth to slay us in the wilderness? What is this that thou hast done to us, having brought us out of Egypt? Is not this the word which we spoke to thee in Egypt, saying, ‘Let us alone that we may serve the Egyptians? For it is better for us to serve the Egyptians than to die in this wilderness.’” And Moses said to the people, “Be of good courage; stand and see the salvation which is from the Lord, which he will work for us this day; for as ye have seen the Egyptians today, ye shall see them again no more for ever. The Lord shall fight for you, and ye shall hold your peace.” And the Lord said to Moses, “Why criest thou to me? Speak to the children of Israel, and let them proceed. And do thou lift up thy rod, and stretch forth thy hand over the sea, and divide it, and let the children of Israel enter into the midst of the sea on the dry land. And behold, I will harden the heart of Pharaoh and of all the Egyptians, and they shall go in after them; and I will be glorified upon Pharaoh, and on all his host, and on his chariots and his horses. And all the Egyptians shall know that I am the Lord, when I am glorified upon Pharaoh and upon his chariots and his horses.” And the angel of God that went before the camp of the children of Israel removed and went behind, and the pillar of the cloud also removed from before them and stood behind them. And it went between the camp of the Egyptians and the camp of Israel, and stood; and there was darkness and blackness; and the night passed, and they came not near to one another during the whole night. And Moses stretched forth his hand over the sea, and the Lord carried back the sea with a strong south wind all the night, and made the sea dry, and the water was divided. And the children of Israel went into the midst of the sea on the dry land, and the water of it was a wall on the right hand and a wall on the left. And the Egyptians pursued them and went in after them, and every horse
of Pharaoh, and his chariots, and his horsemen, into the midst of the sea. And it came to pass in the morning watch that the Lord looked forth on the camp of the Egyptians through the pillar of fire and cloud, and troubled the camp of the Egyptians, and bound the axles of their chariots, and caused them to go with difficulty; and the Egyptians said, “Let us flee from the face of Israel, for the Lord fights for them against the Egyptians.” And the Lord said to Moses, “Stretch forth thy hand over the sea, and let the water be turned back to its place, and let it cover the Egyptians, both the chariots and the riders.” And Moses stretched forth his hand over the sea, and the water returned to its place toward day; and the Egyptians fled from the water, and the Lord shook off the Egyptians in the midst of the sea. And the water returned and covered the chariots and the riders, and all the forces of Pharaoh, who entered after them into the sea; and there remained not so much as one of them. But the children of Israel went along dry land in the midst of the sea, and the water was to them a wall on the right hand, and a wall on the left. So the Lord delivered Israel in that day from the hand of the Egyptians, and Israel saw the Egyptians dead by the shore of the sea. And Israel saw the mighty hand, the things which the Lord did to the Egyptians; and the people feared the Lord, and they believed God and Moses his servant.

Then sang Moses and the children of Israel this song to God, and spoke, saying:

**SONG OF MOSES**

Continue in a louder voice:
Let us sing to the Lord:    Refrain: For gloriously has he been glorified.

The horse and his rider he has thrown into the sea. Let us sing to the Lord:  
For gloriously has he been glorified.

He was to me a Helper and Protector for salvation. Let us sing to the Lord:  
For gloriously has he been glorified.

This is my God and I will glorify him; the God of my father, and I will exalt him. Let us sing to the Lord:  
For gloriously has he been glorified.

The Lord brings wars to naught, the Lord is his name. Pharaoh’s chariots and his host he cast into the sea. Let us sing to the Lord:  
For gloriously has he been glorified.
And the chosen mounted captains are sunk in the Red Sea. Let us sing to the Lord: 
**For gloriously has he been glorified.**

He covered them with the sea; they sank to the deep like a stone. Let us sing to the Lord:  
**For gloriously has he been glorified.**

Thy right hand, O Lord, has been glorified in power. Let us sing to the Lord:  
**For gloriously has he been glorified.**

Thy right hand, O Lord, has shattered the enemies, and in the greatness of thy glory hast thou broken the adversaries to pieces. Let us sing to the Lord:  
**For gloriously has he been glorified.**

Thou didst send forth thy wrath, it consumed them like stubble, and by the breath of thine anger the water parted asunder. Let us sing to the Lord:  
**For gloriously has he been glorified.**

The waters stood firm like a wall, the waves were firm in the midst of the sea. Let us sing to the Lord:  
**For gloriously has he been glorified.**

The enemy said: “I will pursue, I will overtake, I will divide the spoils, I will satisfy my soul, I will destroy with my sword, my hand shall have dominion.” Let us sing to the Lord:  
**For gloriously has he been glorified.**

Thou didst send forth thy wind and the sea covered them; they sank like lead in the mighty waters. Let us sing to the Lord:  
**For gloriously has he been glorified.**

Who is like thee among the gods, O Lord? Who is like thee – glorified in the holy place, marvelous in glories, doing wonders. Let us sing to the Lord:  
**For gloriously has he been glorified.**

Thou didst stretch out thy right hand; the earth swallowed them. In thy righteousness thou hast guided this thy people whom thou hast redeemed. Let us sing unto the Lord:  
**For gloriously has he been glorified.**

Who is like thee among the gods, O Lord? Who is like thee – glorified in the holy place, marvelous in glories, doing wonders. Let us sing to the Lord:  
**For gloriously has he been glorified.**

Thou didst stretch out thy right hand; the earth swallowed them. In thy righteousness thou hast guided this thy people whom thou hast redeemed. Let us sing unto the Lord:  
**For gloriously has he been glorified.**
In thy strength thou hast called them into thy holy habitation. The nations heard and were wroth; pangs took hold of them that dwelt among the Philistines. Let us sing unto the Lord: 
*For gloriously has he been glorified.*

Then the rulers of Edom, and the princes of the Moabites made haste; trembling took hold upon them, all the inhabitants of Canaan melted away. Let us sing unto the Lord: 
*For gloriously has he been glorified.*

Let fear and trembling fall upon them; by the greatness of thine arm, let them become as stone. Let us sing unto the Lord: 
*For gloriously has he been glorified.*

Until thy people pass over, O Lord, until this thy people pass over, whom thou hast purchased. Let us sing unto the Lord: 
*For gloriously has he been glorified.*

Bring them in and plant them in the mountain of thine inheritance, in thy prepared habitation, which thou, O Lord, hast acquired: the sanctuary, O Lord, which thy hands have prepared. Let us sing unto the Lord: 
*For gloriously has he been glorified.*

The Lord reigns forever, yea, forever and ever. For the horse of Pharaoh went in with the chariots and horsemen into the sea, and the Lord brought the water of the sea upon them. Let us sing unto the Lord: 
*For gloriously has he been glorified.*

But the sons of Israel walked on dry land in the midst of the sea. Let us sing unto the Lord: 
*For gloriously has he been glorified.*

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit. Let us sing unto the Lord: 
*For gloriously has he been glorified.*

Now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen. Let us sing unto the Lord: 
*For gloriously has he been glorified.*

And the Reader concludes: *For gloriously has he been glorified.*
7.
The reading from the Prophecy of Zephaniah⁴
(Zephaniah 3:8-15)
Thus saith the Lord, “Wait upon me until the day when I rise up for a witness: because my judgment shall be on the gatherings of the nations, to draw kings unto me, to pour out upon them all my fierce anger: for the whole earth shall be consumed with the fire of my jealousy. For then will I turn to the peoples a language for her generation, that all may call on the Name of the Lord, to serve him under one yoke. From the boundaries of the rivers of Ethiopia will I receive my dispersed ones; they shall offer sacrifices to me. In that day thou shalt not be ashamed of all thy ways, wherein thou hast transgressed against me: for then will I take away from thee thy disdainful pride, and thou shalt no more magnify thyself upon my holy mountain. And I will leave in thee a meek and lowly people; and the remnant of Israel shall fear the Name of the Lord, and shall do no iniquity, neither shall they speak vanity, neither shall a deceitful tongue be found in their mouth: for they shall feed, and lie down, and there shall be none to terrify them.” Rejoice, O daughter of Sion; cry aloud, O daughter of Jerusalem; rejoice and delight thyself with all thy heart, O daughter of Jerusalem. The Lord has taken away thine iniquities, he has redeemed thee from the hand of thine enemies. The Lord, the King of Israel, is in the midst of thee; thou shalt not see evil any more. At that time the Lord shall say to Jerusalem, “Be of good courage, Sion; let not thine hands be slack. The Lord thy God is in thee; the Mighty One shall save thee: he shall bring joy upon thee, and shall refresh thee with his love; and he shall rejoice over thee with delight as in a day of feasting. And I will gather thine afflicted ones. Alas! Who has taken up a reproach against her? Behold, I will work in thee for thy sake at that time,” saith the Lord, “and I will save her that was oppressed, and receive her that was rejected; and I will make them a praise, and honored in all the earth. And their enemies shall be ashamed at that time, when I shall deal well with you, and at the time when I shall receive you; for I will make you honored and a praise among all the nations of the earth, when I turn back your captivity before you,” saith the Lord.

8.
The reading from the Book of Kings
(1 Kings 17:8-24)
The word of the Lord came to Elijah, saying, “Arise, and go to Zarephtha of the Sidonian land. Behold, I have there commanded a widow to maintain thee.” And he arose and went

⁴ If the service is celebrated at home, and the number of readers is limited, the readings 7-14 may be omitted. In this case, after the Reading 6 (Exod. 13-15), proceed to the Reading 15 (Daniel 3).
to Zarephtha, and came to the gate of the city; and, behold, a widow was there gathering
sticks; and Elijah cried after her, and said to her, “Fetch me, I pray thee, a little water in a
vessel, that I may drink.” And she went to fetch it; and Elijah cried after her, and said, “Bring
me, I pray thee, a morsel of the bread that is in thy hand.” And the woman said, “As the
Lord thy God lives, I have not a cake, but only a handful of meal in the jar, and a little oil in
a cruse, and, behold, I am going to gather two sticks, and I shall go in and dress it for myself
and my children, and we shall eat it and die.” And Elijah said to her, “Be of good courage,
go in and do according to thy word; but make me thereof a little cake, and thou shalt bring
it out to me first, and thou shalt make some for thyself and thy children last. For thus saith
the Lord, ‘The jar of meal shall not fail, and the cruse of oil shall not diminish, until the day
that the Lord gives rain upon the earth.’” And the woman went and did so, and did eat, she,
and he, and her children. And the jar of meal failed not, and the cruse of oil was not
diminished, according to the word of the Lord which he spoke by the hand of Elijah. And
it came to pass afterward, that the son of the woman the mistress of the house was sick; and
his sickness was very severe, until there was no breath left in him. And she said to Elijah,
“What have I to do with thee, O man of God? Hast thou come to me to bring my sins to
remembrance, and to slay my son?” And Elijah said to the woman, “Give me thy son.” And
he took him out of her bosom, and took him up to the chamber in which he himself lodged,
and laid him on the bed. And Elijah cried aloud, and said, “Alas, O Lord, the witness of the
widow with whom I sojourn, thou hast wrought evil for her in slaying her son.” And he
breathed on the child thrice, and called on the Lord, and said, “O Lord my God, I pray thee,
let the soul of this child return to him.” And it was so, and the child cried out, and he
brought him down from the upper chamber into the house, and gave him to his mother;
and Elijah said, “See, thy son lives.” And the woman said to Elijah, “Behold, I know that
thou art a man of God, and the word of the Lord in thy mouth is true.”

9.

The reading from the Prophecy of Isaiah
(Isaiah 61:10-62:5)

My soul shall rejoice in the Lord, for he has clothed me with the garment of salvation; and
with the robe of gladness has he encompassed me; as a bridegroom he has set a crown on
me; and as a bride he has adorned me with arrayment. And as the earth puts forth her
flowers, and as a garden its seed, so shall the Lord God cause righteousness to spring forth,
and exultation before all nations. For Sion’s sake I will not hold my peace, and for Jerusalem’s sake I will not rest, until her righteousness go forth as light, and my salvation
burn as a torch. And the Gentiles shall see thy righteousness, and kings thy glory; and one
shall call thee by a new name, which the Lord shall name. And thou shalt be a crown of
beauty in the hand of the Lord, and a royal diadem in the hand of thy God. And thou shalt no more be called Forsaken; and thy land shall no more be called Desolate. For thou shalt be called My Pleasure, and thy land Inhabited; for the Lord has taken pleasure in thee, and thy land shall be inhabited. And as a young man marries a virgin, so shall thy sons marry thee; and it shall come to pass that as a bridegroom will rejoice over a bride, so will the Lord rejoice over thee.

10.

The reading from Genesis

(Gen. 22:1-18)

It came to pass after these things that God tempted Abraham, and said to him, “Abraham, Abraham”; and he said, “Behold, here I am.” And he said, “Take beloved son, Isaac, whom thou hast loved, and go into the high land, and offer him there for a whole-burnt offering on one of the mountains which I will tell thee of.” And Abraham rose up in the morning and saddled his ass, and he took with him two servants, and Isaac his son, and having split wood for a whole-burnt offering, he arose and departed, and came to the of which God had told him on the third day; and Abraham having lifted up his eyes, saw the place afar off. And Abraham said to his servants, “Sit ye here with the ass, and I and the lad will proceed thus far, and when we have worshiped we will return to you.” And Abraham took the wood of the whole-burnt offering, and laid it on Isaac his son, and he took into his hands both the fire and the knife, and the two went together. And Isaac said to Abraham his father, “Father.” And he said, “What is it, son?” And he said, “Behold the fire and the wood, where is the sheep for a whole-burnt offering?” And Abraham said, “God will provide himself a sheep for a whole-burnt offering, my son.” And both went together, and came to the place which God had told him of; and there Abraham built the altar, and laid the wood on it, and having bound the feet of Isaac his son together, he laid him on the altar upon the wood. And Abraham stretched forth his hand to take the knife to slay his son. And an angel of the Lord called him out of heaven, and said, “Abraham, Abraham.” And he said, “Behold, here I am.” And he said, “Lay not thy hand upon the child, neither do anything to him, for now I know that thou fearest God, and for my sake thou hast not spared thy beloved son.” And Abraham lifted up his eyes and looked, and behold, a ram caught by his horns in a plant of Sabec; and Abraham went and took the ram, and offered him up for a whole-burnt offering in the place of Isaac his son. And Abraham called the name of that place, “The Lord hath seen,” so that they say to this day, “In the mount the Lord was seen.” And an angel of the Lord called Abraham the second time out of heaven, saying, “I have sworn by myself,’ says the Lord, ‘because thou hast done this thing, and on my account hast not spared thy beloved son, surely blessing I will bless thee, and multiplying I will multiply thy seed as the
stars of heaven, and as the sand which is by the shore of the sea, and thy seed shall inherit
the cities of their enemies. And in thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed,
because thou hast hearkened to my voice.”

11.
The reading from the Prophecy of Isaiah
(Isaiah 61:1-9)
The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me; he has sent me to preach
glad tidings to the poor, to heal the broken in heart, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and
recovery of sight to the blind; to declare the acceptable year of the Lord, and the day of
recompense; to comfort all that mourn; that there should be given to them that mourn in
Sion glory instead of ashes, the oil of joy to the mourners, the garment of glory for the spirit
of despondency; and they shall be called generations of righteousness, the planting of the
Lord for glory. And they shall build the old wastes, they shall raise up those that were before
made desolate, and shall renew the desert cities, those that had been desolate for
generations. And strangers shall come and feed thy flocks, and foreigners shall be thy
ploughmen and vinedressers. But ye shall be called priests of the Lord, the ministers of
God; ye shall eat the strength of nations, and shall be admired because of their wealth. Thus
shall they inherit the land a second time, and everlasting joy shall be upon their head. For I
am the Lord: I love righteousness and hate robberies of injustice; and I will give their labor
to the just, and will make an everlasting covenant with them. And their seed shall be known
among the Gentiles, and their offspring in the midst of peoples; every one that sees them
shall take notice of them, that they are a seed blessed of God; and they shall greatly rejoice
in the Lord. My soul shall rejoice in the Lord, for he has clothed me with the garment of
salvation; and with the robe of gladness has he encompassed me; as a bridegroom he has
set a crown on me; and as a bride he has adorned me with arrayment.

12.
The reading from the Book of Kings
(2 Kings 4:8-37)
Now a day came, when Elisha passed over to Shunem, and there was a great lady there, and
she constrained him to eat bread; and it came to pass as often as he went into the city, that
he turned aside to eat there. And the woman said to her husband, “See now, I know that
this is a holy man of God who comes over to us continually. Let us now make for him an
upper chamber, a small place; and let us put a bed for him there, and a table, and a stool,
and a candlestick: and it shall come to pass that when he comes in to us, he shall turn in
there.” And a day came, and he went in there, and turned aside into the upper chamber,
and lay there. And he said to Gehazi his servant, “Call me this Shunammite.” And he called her, and she stood before him. And he said to him, “Say now to her, ‘Behold, thou hast taken all this trouble for us; what should I do for thee? Hast thou any request to make to the king, or to the captain of the host?’” And she said, “I dwell in the midst of my people.” And he said to Gehazi, “What must we do for her?” And Gehazi his servant said, “Indeed she has no son, and her husband is old.” And he called her, and she stood by the door. And Elisha said to her, “At this time next year, in the same season of life, thou shalt embrace a son.” And she said, “Nay, my lord, do not lie to thy servant.” And the woman conceived, and bore a son at that time next year, in the same season of life, as Elisha said to her. And the child grew; and it came to pass when he went out to his father to the reapers, that he said to his father, “My head, my head!” And his father said to a servant, “Carry him to his mother.” And he carried him to his mother, and he lay upon her knees till noon, and died. And she carried him up and laid him on the bed of the man of God; and she shut the door upon him, and went out. And she called her husband, and said, “Send now for me one of the young men, and one of the asses, and I will ride quickly to the man of God, and return.” And he said, “Why art thou going to him today? It is neither new moon, nor the Sabbath.” And she said, “It shall be well.” And she saddled the ass, and said to her servant, “Be quick, proceed; spare not on my account to ride, unless I shall tell thee. Go, and thou shalt proceed, and come to the man of God at Mount Carmel.” And she rode and came to the man of God at the mountain: and it came to pass when Elisha saw her coming, that he said to Gehazi his servant, “See now, that Shunammite comes. Now run to meet her, and thou shalt say, ‘Is it well with thee? Is it well with thy husband? Is it well with the child?’” And she said, “It is well.” And she came to Elisha to the mountain, and caught hold of his feet; and Gehazi drew near to thrust her away. And Elisha said, “Let her alone, for her soul is much grieved in her, and the Lord has hidden it from me, and has not told it to me.” And she said, “Did I ask my lord for a son? For did I not say, ‘Do not deal deceitfully with me?’” And Elisha said to Gehazi, “Gird up thy loins, and take my staff in thy hand, and go; if thou meet any man, thou shalt not salute him, and if a man salute thee thou shalt not answer him; and thou shalt lay my staff on the child’s face.” And the mother of the child said, “As the Lord lives and as thy soul lives, I will not leave thee.” And Elisha arose, and went after her. And Gehazi went on before her, and laid his staff on the child’s face; but there was neither voice nor any hearing. So he returned to meet him, and told him, saying, “The child has not awakened.” And Elisha went into the house, and beheld, the dead child was laid upon his bed. And Elisha went into the house, and shut the door upon the two of them, and prayed to the Lord. And he went up, and lay upon the child, and put his mouth upon his mouth, and his eyes upon his eyes, and his hands upon his hands; and bowed himself upon him, and the flesh of the child grew warm. And he returned, and walked up and down in
the house; and he went up, and bowed himself on the child seven times; and the child opened his eyes. And Elisha cried out to Gehazi, and said, “Call this Shunammite.” So he called her, and she came in to him, and Elisha said, “Take thy son.” And the woman went in, and fell at his feet, and bowed to the ground; and she took her son, and went out.

13.

The reading from the Prophecy of Isaiah
(Isaiah 63:11- 64:5)

Thus saith the Lord: Where is he that brought up from the earth the shepherd of the sheep? Where is he that put his Holy Spirit in them? Who led Moses with his right hand, the arm of his glory? He forced the water to separate from before him, to make himself an everlasting Name. He led them through the deep, as a horse through the wilderness, and they fainted not, and as cattle through a plain; the Spirit came down from the Lord, and guided them; thus thou ledest thy people, to make thyself a glorious Name. Turn from heaven, and look from thy holy habitation and from thy glory. Where is thy zeal and thy strength? Where is the abundance of thy mercy and of thy compassions, that thou hast withheld thyself from us? For thou art our Father; for though Abraham knew us not, and Israel did not acknowledge us, yet do thou, O Lord, our Father, deliver us. Thy Name has been upon us from the beginning. Why hast thou caused us to err, O Lord, from thy way? Why hast thou hardened our hearts, that we should not fear thee? Return for thy servants' sake, for the sake of the tribes of thine inheritance, that we may inherit a small part of thy holy mountain. We are become as at the beginning, when thou didst not rule over us, and thy Name was not called upon us. If thou wouldst open the heaven, trembling will take hold of thy mountains, and they shall melt, as wax melts before the fire; and fire shall burn up the enemies, and thy Name shall be manifest among the adversaries; at thy presence the nations shall be troubled, whenever thou shalt work gloriously; trembling from thee shall take hold of thy mountains. From of old we have not heard, neither have our eyes seen a God beside thee, and thy works which thou wilt perform to them that wait for mercy. For these blessings shall be for them that work righteousness, and they shall remember thy ways.

14.

The reading from the Prophecy of Jeremiah
(Jer. 38/31:31-34)

Thus saith the Lord, “Behold, the days come, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel, and with the house of Judah, not according to the covenant which I made with their fathers in the day when I took hold of their hand to bring them out of the land of
Egypt; for they abode not in my covenant, and I disregarded them,” saith the Lord. “For this is my covenant which I will make with the house of Israel; after those days,” saith the Lord. “I will surely put my laws into their mind, and write them on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. And no more shall each man teach his neighbor and each his brother, saying, ‘Know the Lord.’ For all shall know me, from the least of them to the greatest of them; for I will be merciful to their iniquities, and I will remember their sin no more.”

15.

The reading from the Prophecy of Daniel

(Daniel 3:1-23)

In the eighteenth year of his reign, Nebuchadnezzar the king made a golden image, its height was sixty cubits, its breadth six cubits; and he set it up in the plain of Dura, in the province of Babylon. And he sent forth to gather the governors, and the captains, and the heads of provinces, chiefs, and princes, and those who were in authority, and all the rulers of districts, to come to the dedication of the image. So the heads of provinces, the governors, the captains, the chiefs, the great princes, those who were in authority, and all the rulers of districts, were gathered to the dedication of the image which king Nebuchadnezzar had set up; and they stood before the image. Then a herald cried aloud, “To you it is commanded, ye peoples, tribes, and languages, at what hour ye shall hear the sound of the trumpet, and pipe, and harp, and sackbut, and psaltery, and every kind of music, ye shall fall down and worship the golden image which king Nebuchadnezzar has set up. And whosoever shall not fall down and worship, in the same hour he shall be cast into the burning fiery furnace.” And it came to pass when the nations heard the sound of the trumpet, and pipe, and harp, and sackbut, and psaltery, and every kind of music, ye shall fall down and worship the golden image which king Nebuchadnezzar has set up. And whosoever shall not fall down and worship, in the same hour he shall be cast into the burning fiery furnace.” And it came to pass when the nations heard the sound of the trumpet, and pipe, and harp, and sackbut, and psaltery, and all kinds of music, ye shall fall down and worship the golden image which king Nebuchadnezzar had set up. Then certain Chaldeans came near, and accused the Jews to the king, saying, “O king, live for ever. Thou, O king, has made a decree that every man who shall hear the sound of the trumpet, and pipe, and harp, and sackbut, and psaltery, and all kinds of music, shall not fall down and worship the golden image which thou hast set up. And whosoever shall not fall down and worship, in the same hour he shall be cast into the burning fiery furnace.” There are certain Jews whom thou has appointed over the affairs of the province of Babylon, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, who have not obeyed thy decree, O king. They serve not thy gods, and worship not the golden image which thou hast set up. Then Nebuchadnezzar in wrath and anger commanded to bring Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego; and they were brought before the king. And Nebuchadnezzar answered and said to them, “Is it true, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, that ye serve not my gods, and worship not the golden image which I have set up? Now then if ye be ready,
whensoever ye shall hear the sound of the trumpet, and pipe, and harp, and sackbut, and psaltery, and harmony, and every kind of music, to fall down and worship the golden image which I have made, well; but if ye worship not, in the same hour ye shall be cast into the burning fiery furnace; and who is the God that shall deliver you out of my hand?” Then answered Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego and said to king Nebuchadnezzar, “We have no need to answer thee concerning this matter. For our God whom we serve is in the heavens, able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and he will rescue us from thy hands, O king. But if not, be it known to thee, O king, that we will not serve thy gods, nor worship the image which thou hast set up.” Then Nebuchadnezzar was filled with wrath, and the form of his countenance was changed toward Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego; and he gave orders to heat the furnace sevenfold, until it should burn to the utmost. And he commanded mighty men to bind Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, and to cast them into the burning fiery furnace. Then those men were bound with their coats, and caps, and trousers, and were cast into the midst of the burning fiery furnace. Therefore the king’s word prevailed; and the furnace was made exceeding hot. Then these three men, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, fell bound into the midst of the burning furnace, and walked in the midst of the flame, singing praise to God, and blessing the Lord.

Then Azarias stood up and prayed thus, and opening his mouth in the midst of the fire, he said:

“Blessed art thou, O Lord God of our fathers: thy name is worthy to be praised and glorified for evermore: For thou art righteous in all the things that thou hast done to us: yea, true are all thy works, thy ways are right, and all thy judgments truth. In all the things that thou hast brought upon us, and upon the holy city of our fathers, even Jerusalem, thou hast executed true judgment: for according to truth and judgment didst thou bring all these things upon us because of our sins. For we have sinned and committed iniquity, departing from thee. In all things have we trespassed, and not obeyed thy commandments, nor kept them, neither done as thou hast commanded us, that it might go well with us. Wherefore all that thou hast brought upon us, and every thing that thou hast done to us, thou hast done in true judgment. And thou didst deliver us into the hands of lawless enemies, most hateful forsakers of God, and to an unjust king, and the most wicked in all the world. And now we cannot open our mouths, we are become a shame and reproach to thy servants; and to them that worship thee. Yet deliver us not up wholly, for thy name’s sake, neither disannul thou thy covenant: And cause not thy mercy to depart from us, for thy beloved Abraham’s sake, for thy servant Isaac’s sake, and for thy holy Israel’s sake; To whom thou hast spoken and promised, that thou wouldest multiply their seed as the stars of heaven, and as the sand that lieth upon the seashore. For we, O Lord, are become less than any nation, and be kept under this day in all the world because of our sins. Neither is there at
this time prince, or prophet, or leader, or burnt offering, or sacrifice, or oblation, or incense, or place to sacrifice before thee, and to find mercy. Nevertheless in a contrite heart and an humble spirit let us be accepted. Like as in the burnt offerings of rams and bullocks, and like as in ten thousands of fat lambs: so let our sacrifice be in thy sight this day, and grant that we may wholly go after thee: for they shall not be confounded that put their trust in thee. And now we follow thee with all our heart, we fear thee, and seek thy face. Put us not to shame: but deal with us after thy lovingkindness, and according to the multitude of thy mercies. Deliver us also according to thy marvellous works, and give glory to thy name, O Lord: and let all them that do thy servants hurt be ashamed; And let them be confounded in all their power and might, and let their strength be broken; And let them know that thou art God, the only God, and glorious over the whole world.”

And the king’s servants, that put them in, ceased not to make the oven hot with rosin, pitch, tow, and small wood; So that the flame streamed forth above the furnace forty and nine cubits. And it passed through, and burned those Chaldeans it found about the furnace. But the angel of the Lord came down into the oven together with Azarias and his fellows, and smote the flame of the fire out of the oven; And made the midst of the furnace as it had been a moist whistling wind, so that the fire touched them not at all, neither hurt nor troubled them. Then the three, as out of one mouth, praised, glorified, and blessed, God in the furnace, saying, 
Blessed art thou, O Lord God of our fathers: and to be praised and exalted above all for ever. And blessed is thy glorious and holy name: and to be praised and exalted above all for ever.
Blessed art thou in the temple of thine holy glory: and to be praised and glorified above all for ever.
Blessed art thou that beholdest the depths, and sittest upon the cherubims: and to be praised and exalted above all for ever.
Blessed art thou on the glorious throne of thy kingdom: and to be praised and glorified above all for ever.
Blessed art thou in the firmament of heaven: and above all to be praised and glorified for ever.

Continue with this refrain:
Praise the Lord, sing and exalt Him throughout all the ages.

SONG OF THREE YOUTHS

Bless the Lord, all ye works of the Lord:
Praise the Lord, sing and exalt Him throughout all the ages.
Bless the Lord, O angels of the Lord:
\textit{Praise the Lord, sing and exalt Him throughout all the ages.}

Bless the Lord, O ye heavens:
\textit{Praise the Lord, sing and exalt Him throughout all the ages.}

Bless the Lord, all waters above the heavens:
\textit{Praise the Lord, sing and exalt Him throughout all the ages.}

Bless the Lord, all hosts of the Lord:
\textit{Praise the Lord, sing and exalt Him throughout all the ages.}

Bless the Lord, O sun and moon:
\textit{Praise the Lord, sing and exalt Him throughout all the ages.}

Bless the Lord, O ye stars of heaven:
\textit{Praise the Lord, sing and exalt Him throughout all the ages.}

Bless the Lord, every shower and dew:
\textit{Praise the Lord, sing and exalt Him throughout all the ages.}

Bless the Lord, all winds:
\textit{Praise the Lord, sing and exalt Him throughout all the ages.}

Bless the Lord, O fire and heat:
\textit{Praise the Lord, sing and exalt Him throughout all the ages.}

Bless the Lord, winter cold and summer heat:
\textit{Praise the Lord, sing and exalt Him throughout all the ages.}

Bless the Lord, dews and snows:
\textit{Praise the Lord, sing and exalt Him throughout all the ages.}

Bless the Lord, nights and days:
\textit{Praise the Lord, sing and exalt Him throughout all the ages.}
Bless the Lord, light and darkness:

Prayse the Lord, sing and exalt Him throughout all the ages.

Bless the Lord, ice and cold:

Praise the Lord, sing and exalt Him throughout all the ages.

Bless the Lord, frosts and snows:

Praise the Lord, sing and exalt Him throughout all the ages.

Bless the Lord, lightning and clouds:

Praise the Lord, sing and exalt Him throughout all the ages.

Let the earth bless the Lord:

Prayse the Lord, sing and exalt Him throughout all the ages.

Bless the Lord, mountains and hills:

Praise the Lord, sing and exalt Him throughout all the ages.

Bless the Lord, all things that grow on the earth:

Praise the Lord, sing and exalt Him throughout all the ages.

Bless the Lord, ye springs:

Praise the Lord, sing and exalt Him throughout all the ages.

Bless the Lord, seas and rivers:

Praise the Lord, sing and exalt Him throughout all the ages.

Bless the Lord, ye whales and all creatures that move in the waters:

Praise the Lord, sing and exalt Him throughout all the ages.

Bless the Lord, all birds of the air:

Praise the Lord, sing and exalt Him throughout all the ages.

Bless the Lord, all beasts and cattle:

Praise the Lord, sing and exalt Him throughout all the ages.
Bless the Lord, ye sons of men:
Praise the Lord, sing and exalt Him throughout all the ages.

Bless the Lord, O Israel:
Praise the Lord, sing and exalt Him throughout all the ages.

Bless the Lord, ye priests of the Lord:
Praise the Lord, sing and exalt Him throughout all the ages.

Bless the Lord, ye servants of the Lord:
Praise the Lord, sing and exalt Him throughout all the ages.

Bless the Lord, spirits and souls of the righteous:
Praise the Lord, sing and exalt Him throughout all the ages.

Bless the Lord, ye who are holy and humble in heart:
Praise the Lord, sing and exalt Him throughout all the ages.

Bless the Lord, Ananiah, Azariah, and Mishael:
Praise the Lord, sing and exalt Him throughout all the ages.

Bless the Lord, ye apostles, prophets, and martyrs of the Lord:
Praise the Lord, sing and exalt Him throughout all the ages.

Let us bless the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, the Lord:
We praise the Lord, sing and exalt Him throughout all the ages.

Now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen:
Praise the Lord, sing and exalt Him throughout all the ages.

We praise, bless, and worship the Lord:
Singing and exalting Him throughout all the ages.

[Lord, have mercy. (Thrice) Glory... now and ever... ⁵]

⁵ If a priest is present, he says the SMALL LITANY with the exclamation: For holy art Thou, O our God...
As many as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ. Alleluia. (Thrice)
As many as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ. Alleluia.

EPISTLE & GOSPEL

The prokeimenon in the fifth tone:
Let all the earth worship thee and praise thee; let it praise thy name, O Most High.
Verse: Make a joyful noise to God, all the earth; sing of his Name, give glory to his praise.

The reading of the Epistle of the holy Apostle Paul to the Romans
(Rom. 6:3-11)
Brethren: all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life. For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. We know that our old self was crucified with him so that the sinful body might be destroyed, and we might no longer be enslaved to sin. For he who has died is freed from sin. But if we have died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with him. For we know that Christ being raised from the dead will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. The death he died he died to sin, once for all, but the life he lives he lives to God. So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

In the seventh tone:
Arise, O God, judge the earth, for to Thee belong all the nations!

Verse: God has taken His place in the divine council; in the midst of the gods He holds judgment.
Arise, O God, judge the earth, for to Thee belong all the nations!

Verse: How long will ye judge unjustly and accept the faces of sinners?
Arise, O God, judge the earth, for to Thee belong all the nations!
Verse: Give justice to the weak and the fatherless; maintain the right of the afflicted and the destitute.

Arise, O God, judge the earth, for to Thee belong all the nations!

Verse: Rescue the weak and the needy; deliver them from the hand of the sinner.

Arise, O God, judge the earth, for to Thee belong all the nations!

Verse: They have neither knowledge nor understanding; they walk about in darkness.

Arise, O God, judge the earth, for to Thee belong all the nations!

Verse: Let all the foundations of the earth be shaken! I say: “Ye are gods, sons of the Most High, all of you; nevertheless, ye shall die like men, and fall like any prince.”

Arise, O God, judge the earth, for to Thee belong all the nations!

Arise, O God, judge the earth:
For to Thee belong all the nations!

The reading of the Holy Gospel according to Matthew
(Matt. 28:1-20)

Glory to thee, O Lord, glory to thee!

After the sabbath, toward the dawn of the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the sepulchre. And behold, there was a great earthquake; for an angel of the Lord descended from heaven and came and rolled back the stone, and sat upon it. His appearance was like lightning, and his raiment white as snow. And for fear of him the guards trembled and became like dead men. But the angel said to the women, “Do not be afraid; for I know that you seek Jesus who was crucified. He is not here; for he has risen, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. Then go quickly and tell his disciples that he has risen from the dead, and behold, he is going before you to Galilee; there you will see him. Lo, I have told you.” So they departed quickly from the tomb with fear and great joy, and ran to tell his disciples. And behold, Jesus met them and said, “Hail!” And they came up and took hold of his feet and worshiped him. Then Jesus said to them, “Do not be afraid; go and tell my brethren to go to Galilee, and there they will see me.”

While they were going, behold, some of the guard went into the city and told the chief priests all that had taken place. And when they had assembled with the elders and taken counsel, they gave a sum of money to the soldiers and said, “Tell people, ‘His disciples came by night and stole him away while we were asleep.’ And if this comes to the
governor’s ears, we will satisfy him and keep you out of trouble.” So they took the money and did as they were directed; and this story has been spread among the Jews to this day.

Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. And when they saw him they worshiped him; but some doubted. And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, to the close of the age.”

**Glory to thee, O Lord, glory to thee!**

**VESPER S: CONCLUDING RITES**

[Lord, have mercy. (Forty times) Glory... now and ever...⁶]

**Vouchsafe, O Lord, to keep us this evening without sin.** Blessed art thou, O Lord, God of our fathers, and praised and glorified is thy Name forever. Amen.

**Let thy mercy, O Lord, be upon us, as we have set our hope on thee.** Blessed art thou, O Lord, teach me thy statutes. Blessed art thou, O Master, make me to understand thy statutes. Blessed art thou, O Holy One, enlighten me with thy statutes.

**Thy mercy, O Lord, endureth forever: despise not the works of thy hands.** To thee is due praise, to thee is due song, to thee is due 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. (Twelve times) Glory... now and ever...⁷]

**RESURRECTONAL APOTSTIHA**

**Tone 1**

**We have been freed from sufferings by thy suffering, O Christ.** We have been delivered from corruption by thy Resurrection. O Lord, glory to thee!

**Verse:** **The Lord is King; He is robed in majesty.**

Let creation rejoice, let the heavens be glad! Let the nations clap their hands with gladness, for Christ our Savior has nailed our sins to the Cross. Slaying death, he has given life. He has resurrected fallen Adam as the Lover of man.

**Verse:** **For he has established the world, so that it shall never be moved.**

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⁶ If a priest is present, he says the AUGMENTED LITANY.

⁷ If a priest is present, he says the LITANY OF SUPPLICATION and the PRAYER OF INCLINATION.
As King of heaven and earth, thou wast voluntarily crucified in thy love for man. Hell was angered when it met thee below. Adam rose seeing thee, the Creator, under the earth. O wonder! How has the Life of all tasted death? Thou didst enlighten the world which cries: O Lord, who didst rise from the dead, glory to thee!

Verse: Holiness befits thy house, O Lord, forevermore.
The myrrh-bearing women came with haste to thy tomb, bearing myrrh and lamenting. Not finding thy most pure body, they learned from the angel of the new and glorious wonder. They told the Apostles: “The Lord is risen, granting the world great mercy.”

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.
Behold, the prophecy of Isaiah hath been fulfilled, for a Virgin has given birth, and after giving birth has remained a Virgin as before. For God was born; therefore he began nature anew. O Mother of God, disdain not the supplications of thy servants, which are offered unto thee in thy temple; but as thou bearest the the Compassionate One in thine arms, have pity on thy servants, and beseech Him that our souls be saved.

THE CANTICLE OF SAINT SIMEON
Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant depart in peace, according to Thy word. For mine eyes have seen Thy salvation, which Thou hast prepared before the face of all people: a light to enlighten the Gentiles, and the glory of Thy people, Israel.

Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal, have mercy on us. (thrice)

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

All-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. (thrice) Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages. 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 the evil one.
Through the prayers of our holy fathers, Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on us.

Amen.

HOLY SATURDAY TROPARIA, Tone 2

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.”

DISMISSAL*

Confirm, O God, the holy Orthodox faith of Orthodox Christians, unto ages of ages.

More honorable than the cherubim and more glorious beyond compare than the seraphim; without corruption thou gavest birth to God the Word: true Theotokos, we magnify thee.

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. (Thrice) O Lord, bless!

O thou who rose from the dead, Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, through the prayers of thy most pure Mother and of all the saints, have mercy on us and save us, for thou art good and lovest mankind.

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* If a priest is present, the dismissal is said according to the form established in Hieratikon (vol. 1 & 2).