The Royal Hours of Great and Holy Friday

St. Symeon the New Theologian Orthodox Church
Birmingham, Alabama
The Royal Hours of Great and Holy Friday

First Hour

(The priest, vested in epitrachelion and phelonion, opens the curtain, and begins:)

Priest:  Blessed is our God always, now and ever, and unto ages of ages.
Reader:  Amen. Glory to Thee, our God, glory to Thee!
   O Heavenly King, the Comforter, the Spirit of Truth, Who art everywhere 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! (3x)
Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.
O Most-Holy Trinity, have mercy on us. O Lord, cleanse us from our sins. O Master, pardon our transgressions. O Holy One, visit and heal our infirmities for Thy Name’s sake.
Lord, have mercy. (3x)
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 debts as we forgive our debtors, and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.

Priest:  For Thine is the Kingdom, and the Power, and the Glory of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages.
Reader:  Amen. Lord, have mercy (12x)... Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

(The reader begins “Come, Let us Worship” and the Psalms on the following page:)}
(As the Psalms are chanted, the priest opens the Royal Doors, takes the Gospel and places it in the center of the Church, after which he makes a full censing of the Church, beginning by censing around the Gospel, and concluding by censing before it. The blagovestnik [largest church bell] is struck once at the beginning of the Hour.)

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 5

Unto my words, give ear, O Lord; hear my cry. Attend unto the voice of my supplication, O my King and my God; for unto Thee will I pray, O Lord. In the morning Thou shalt hear my voice. In the morning shall I stand before Thee, and Thou shalt look upon me; for not a God that willest iniquity art Thou. He that worketh evil shall not dwell near Thee, nor shall transgressors abide before Thine eyes. Thou hast hated all them that work iniquity; Thou shalt destroy all them that speak a lie. A man that is bloody and deceitful shall the Lord abhor. But as for me, in the multitude of Thy mercy shall I go into Thy house; I shall worship toward Thy holy temple in fear of Thee. O Lord, guide me in the way of Thy righteousness; because of mine enemies, make straight my way before Thee. For in their mouth there is no truth; their heart is vain. Their throat is an open sepulchre, with their tongues have they spoken deceitfully; judge them, O God. Let them fall down on account of their own devisings; according to the multitude of their ungodliness, cast them out, for they have embittered Thee, O Lord. And let all them be glad that hope in Thee; they shall ever rejoice, and Thou shalt dwell among them. And all shall glory in Thee that love Thy Name, for Thou shalt bless the righteous. O Lord, as with a shield of Thy good pleasure hast Thou crowned us.
Psalm 2

Why have the heathen raged, and the peoples meditated empty things? The kings of the earth were aroused, and the rulers were assembled together, against the Lord, and against His Christ. Let us break their bonds asunder, and let us cast away their yoke from us. He that dwelleth in the Heavens shall laugh them to scorn, and the Lord shall deride them. Then shall He speak unto them in His wrath, and in His anger shall He trouble them. But as for Me, I was established as king by Him, upon Sion His holy mountain, proclaiming the commandment of the Lord. The Lord said unto Me: Thou art My Son, this day have I begotten Thee. Ask of Me, and I will give Thee the nations for Thine inheritance, and the uttermost parts of the earth for Thy possession. Thou shalt herd them with a rod of iron; Thou shalt shatter them like a potter's vessels. And now, O ye kings, understand; be instructed, all ye that judge the earth. Serve ye the Lord with fear, and rejoice in Him with trembling. Lay hold of instruction, lest at any time the Lord be angry, and ye perish from the righteous way. When quickly His wrath be kindled, blessed are all that have put their trust in Him.

Psalm 21 (22)

O God, my God, attend to me; why hast Thou forsaken me? Far from my salvation are the words of my transgressions. My God, I will cry by day, and wilt Thou not hearken? and by night, and it shall not be unto folly for me. But as for Thee, Thou dwellest in the sanctuary, O Praise of Israel. In Thee have our fathers hoped; they hoped, and Thou didst deliver them. Unto Thee they cried, and were saved; in Thee they hoped, and were not brought to shame. But as for me, I am a worm, and not a man, a reproach of men, and the outcast of the people. All that look upon me have laughed me to scorn; they have spoken with their lips and have wagged their heads: He hoped in the Lord; let Him deliver him, let Him save him, for He
desireth him. For Thou art He that drewest me forth from the womb; my
hope from the breasts of my mother. On Thee was I cast from the womb;
from my mother's womb, Thou art my God. Depart not from me, for
tribulation is nigh, for there is none to help me. Many bullocks have
encircled me, fat bulls have surrounded me. They have opened their mouth
against me, as might a lion ravenous and roaring. I have been poured out
like water, and scattered are all my bones; my heart is become like wax
melting in the midst of my bowels. My strength is dried up like a
potsherd, and my tongue hath cleaved to my throat, and into the dust of
death hast Thou brought me down. For many dogs have encircled me,
the congregation of evil doers hath surrounded me; they have pierced my
hands and my feet. They have numbered all my bones, and they
themselves have looked and stared upon me. They have parted my
garments amongst themselves, and for my vesture have they cast lots.
But Thou, O Lord, remove not Thy help far from me; attend unto mine aid.
Rescue my soul from the sword, even this only-begotten one of mine
from the hand of the dog. Save me from the mouth of the lion, and my
lowliness from the horns of the unicorns. I will declare Thy Name unto
my brethren, in the midst of the church will I hymn Thee. Ye that fear the
Lord, praise Him; all ye that are of the seed of Jacob, glorify Him; let all
fear Him that are of the seed of Israel. For He hath not set at naught nor
abhorred the supplications of the pauper, nor hath He turned His face
from me; and when I cried unto Him, He hearkened unto me. From Thee is
my praise; in the great church will I confess Thee; my vows will I pay
before them that fear Thee. The poor shall eat and be filled, and they that
seek the Lord shall praise Him; their hearts shall live for ever and ever.
All the ends of the earth shall remember and shall turn unto the Lord, and
all the kindreds of the nations shall worship before Him. For the
kingdom is the Lord's and He Himself is sovereign of the nations. All they
that be fat upon the earth have eaten and worshipped; all they that go
down into the earth shall fall down before Him. Yea, my soul liveth for
Him, and my seed shall serve Him. The generation that cometh shall be
told of the Lord, and they shall proclaim His righteousness to a people that shall be born, which the Lord hath made.

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! (3x)
Lord, have mercy. (3x)
Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.

Troparion (Tone 1)

The tyrant has been destroyed by Thy crucifixion, O Christ! /
The might of the enemy has been trampled down! /
For neither an angel nor a man, /
but Thou Thyself hast saved us! ///
O Lord, glory to Thee!

Reader: Now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.
What shall we call thee, O Full of Grace? Heaven, for from thee shone forth the Sun of Righteousness; Paradise, for thou hast budded forth the Flower of Immortality; Virgin, for thou hast remained incorrupt; Pure Mother, for thou hast held in thine arms the Son, Who is God of all.
Beseech Him to save our souls!

Tone 8 (LIC)

Today the curtain of the temple is torn in two, /
to convict the transgressors, /
and even the sun hides his rays, ///
seeing the Master crucified!

VERSE: Why do the nations conspire, and the peoples plot in vain?
Choir (same tone):
(Same Tone)
Thou wast led as a sheep to the slaughter, O Christ our King, /
and as an innocent lamb, /
Thou wast nailed to the Cross by transgressors ///
because of our sins, O Lover of mankind!

VERSE: The kings of the earth were aroused, and the rulers were assembled together, against the Lord, and against His Christ!

Thou wast led...

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

While permitting transgressors to arrest Thee, /
thou didst cry out to them, O Lord: /
“Though you smite the Shepherd and scatter the twelve sheep, My Disciples, /
I am able to surround myself with more than thirty legions of Angels. / But I forbear, /
so that the secret and hidden things might be fulfilled, /
which were revealed to you by My Prophets.” ///
O Lord, glory to Thee!

VERSE: Now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

While permitting...

The Prokeimenon of the Prophecy is on the following page.
Priest: Wisdom!

Reader: The Prokeimenon of the Prophecy in the Fourth Tone (Psalm 41):
His heart gathered iniquity to itself, / He went out and spoke to the multitude.

VERSE: Blessed is he who considers the poor and needy, the Lord delivers him in the day of trouble.

Priest: Wisdom!

Reader: The reading from the prophecy of Zechariah (11:10-13).

Priest: Let us attend!

The prophecy reading begins on the following page.
And I shall take my staff Beauty, and I shall cast it away, to break my covenant which I made with all the people. And in that day they will be scattered about. And the Canaanites shall know the flock is kept safe, for this is the word of the Lord. And I shall say to them, “If it is fitting in your judgment, give me my payment, or refuse it.” And they established my wage at thirty pieces of silver. And the Lord said to me, “Drop them into the smelting furnace and see if it is proven, as in the same manner I was proven for their sake.” And I took the thirty pieces of silver and threw them into the smelting furnace in the house of the Lord.

Priest: Wisdom!
Priest: Let us attend!

Brethren, God forbid that I should glory, except in the Cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by Whom the world has been crucified unto me, and I unto the world. For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision availeth any thing, nor uncircumcision, but a new creation. And as many as walk according to this rule, peace be upon them, and mercy, and upon the Israel of God. From now on let no one trouble me, for I bear in my body the marks of the Lord Jesus. Brethren, the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit. Amen.

Priest: And that we may be accounted worthy to hear the Holy Gospel, let us pray to the Lord God!
Priest: Wisdom! Let us attend! Let us hear the Holy Gospel! Peace be unto all!

Priest: The reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew (27:1-56).

After the Gospel:

Reader:
Reader: My steps do Thou direct according to Thy saying, and let no iniquity have dominion over me. Deliver me from the false accusation of men, and I will keep Thy commandments. Make Thy face to shine upon Thy servant, and teach me Thy statutes. Let my mouth be filled with praise, that I may hymn Thy glory and Thy majesty all the day long.

Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal, have mercy on us! (3x)
Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

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

Lord, have mercy. (3x)
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 debts as we forgive our debtors, and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.

Priest: For Thine is the Kingdom, and the Power, and the Glory of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages.

Choir: Amen.

The choir continues to sing the Kontakion, in Tropar Tone 8, on the following page:
Kontakion (Tropar Tone 8)

Come, let us all sing the praises of Him Who was crucified for us, / for Mary said when she beheld Him upon the Tree, /// “Though Thou dost endure the Cross, Thou art my Son and my God!”

Reader: Lord, have mercy. (40x)
Thou, Who in every season and every hour, both in Heaven and on earth, art worshipped and glorified, O Christ our God, Who art longsuffering, most-merciful, and compassionate, Who loveth the just and showest mercy upon the sinner, Who calleth all men to salvation through the promise of blessings to come: O Lord, in this hour receive our supplication and direct our lives according to Thy commandments. Sanctify our souls, hallow our bodies, correct our thoughts, cleanse our minds, deliver us from all tribulation, evil and distress. Compass us about with Thy holy Angels, that guided and guarded by their host, we may attain to the unity of the faith, and to the knowledge of Thine unapproachable glory, for Thou art blessed unto ages of ages. Amen.

Lord, have mercy. (3x)
Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.
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!
In the Name of the Lord, Father, bless.

Priest: God be bountiful to us, and bless us and show us the light of His countenance, and be merciful unto us.

Reader:
Reader: Amen.
O Christ, the True Light Who enlightenest and sanctifiest every man who cometh into the world, let the Light of Thy Countenance shine upon us, that in it we may behold the unapproachable Light; and guide our footsteps aright to the keeping of Thy commandments; through the prayers of Thy Most-Pure Mother, and of all Thy Saints. Amen.

Third Hour

(As the Psalms are chanted, the priest censes around the Gospel, after which he censes the iconostas, and the people, concluding by censing before the Gospel. The blagovestnik [largest church bell] is struck three times at the beginning of the Hour.)

Reader: 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 34 (35)

Judge them, O Lord, that do me injustice; war against them that war against me. Take hold of weapon and shield, and arise unto my help. Draw out a sword, and shut the way against them that persecute me; say to my soul: I am thy salvation. Let them that seek my soul be shamed and confounded. Let them be turned back, and be utterly put to shame, they that devise evils against me. Let them become as dust before the face of the wind, an Angel of the Lord also afflicting them. Let their way become darkness and a sliding, an Angel of the Lord also pursuing them. For without cause have they secretly prepared for my destruction in their snare, without reason have they cast reproach on my soul. Let a snare come upon him, which he knoweth not; and let the trap, which he hath hidden, catch him, and into that same snare let him fall. But my soul shall rejoice in the Lord, it shall
delight in His salvation. All my bones shall say: Lord, O Lord, who is like unto Thee? Delivering the beggar from the hand of them that are stronger than he, yea, poor man and pauper from them that despoil him. Unjust witnesses rose up against me; things I knew not they asked me. They repaid me with evil things for good, and barrenness for my soul. But as for me, when they troubled me, I put on sackcloth. And I humbled my soul with fasting, and my prayer shall return to my bosom. As though it had been a neighbor, as though it had been our brother, so sought I to please; as one mourning and sad of countenance, so humbled I myself. Yet against me they rejoiced and gathered together; scourges were gathered together upon me, and I knew it not. They were rent asunder, yet not pricked at heart; they tempted me, they mocked me with mockery, they gnashed upon me with their teeth. O Lord, when wilt Thou look upon me? Deliver my soul from their evil doing, even this only-begotten one of mine from the lions. I will confess Thee in the great congregation; among a mighty people will I praise Thee. Let not them rejoice against me that unjustly are mine enemies, they that hate me without a cause, and wink with their eyes. For peaceably indeed they spake unto me, but in their wrath were they devising deceits. And they opened wide their mouth against me; they said: Well done, well done, our eyes have seen it. Thou hast seen it, O Lord; keep not silence. O Lord, depart not from me. Arise, O Lord, and be attentive unto my judgment, my God, and my Lord, unto my cause. Judge me, O Lord, according to Thy righteousness; O Lord my God, let them not rejoice against me. Let them not say in their hearts: Well done, well done, our soul. Let them not say: We have swallowed him up. Let them be shamed and confounded together who rejoice at my woes. Let them be clothed with shame and confusion who speak boastful words against me. Let them rejoice and be glad who desire the righteousness of my cause, and let them that desire the peace of Thy servant say continually: The Lord be magnified. And my tongue shall treat of Thy righteousness, and of Thy praise all the day long.
Psalm 108 (109)

O God, my praise do not pass over in silence; for the mouth of the sinner and the mouth of the deceitful man are opened against me. They have spoken against me with a deceitful tongue, and with words of hatred have they encompassed me, and they have warred against me without a cause. In return for my love, they have falsely accused me; but as for me, I gave myself to prayer. And they repaid me evil for good, and hatred for my love. Set Thou a sinner over him, and let the devil stand at his right hand. When he is judged, let him go forth condemned, and let his prayer become sin. Let his days be few, and his bishopric let another take. let his children be fatherless, and his wife a widow. Let his children be vagabonds without a dwelling-place, and let them beg; let them be cast out from their ruined dwellings. Let his creditor search out all his substance, and let strangers plunder all his labors. Let there be for him no helper, nor anyone to pity his fatherless children. Let his children be given over to utter destruction; in a single generation let his name be blotted out. Let the iniquity of his fathers be remembered before the Lord, and let not the sin of his mother be blotted out. Let them be before the Lord continually, and let the memory of them perish from off the earth, Because he remembered not to show mercy; and persecuted a man that was poor and a beggar, and one broken in heart, that he might slay him. And he loved cursing, and it shall come upon him; and he delighted not in blessing, and it shall be far from him. And he put on cursing like a garment, and it went in like water into his bowels, and like oil into his bones. Let it be for him like a garment wherewith he is clothed, and like a girdle wherewith continually he is girded. This is the dealing of the Lord with them that slander me, and with them that speak evil things against my soul. But Thou, O Lord, O Lord, deal Thou with me for Thy Name's sake; for Thy mercy is good. Deliver me, for a poor man am I and a pauper, and my heart is troubled within me. Like a shadow when it declineth am I taken away, I am shaken off as the locusts. My knees are grown weak through
fasting, and my flesh is changed for want of oil. And I am become a reproach unto them; they saw me and wagged their heads. Help me, O Lord my God, and save me according to Thy mercy. And let them know that this is Thy hand and that Thou, O Lord, hast wrought it. They will curse, and Thou wilt bless; let them that rise up against me be put to shame, but Thy servant shall be glad. Let them that slander me be clothed with confusion, and let them be covered with shame as with a mantle. I will greatly praise the Lord with my mouth, and in the midst of many will I praise Him. For He hath stood at the right hand of the poor, to save my soul from them that persecute me.

Psalm 50 (51)

Have mercy on me, O God, according to Thy great mercy; and according to the multitude of Thy compassions blot out my transgression. Wash me thoroughly from mine iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin. For I know mine iniquity, and my sin is ever before me. Against Thee only have I sinned and done this evil before Thee, that Thou mightest be justified in Thy words, and prevail when Thou art judged. For behold, I was conceived in iniquities, and in sins did my mother bear me. For behold, Thou hast loved truth; the hidden and secret things of Thy wisdom hast Thou made manifest unto me. Thou shalt sprinkle me with hyssop, and I shall be made clean; Thou shalt wash me, and I shall be made whiter than snow. Thou shalt make me to hear joy and gladness; the bones that be humbled, they shall rejoice. Turn Thy face away from my sins, and blot out all mine iniquities. Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me. Cast me not away from Thy presence, and take not Thy Holy Spirit from me. Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation, and with Thy governing Spirit establish me. I shall teach transgressors Thy ways, and the ungodly shall turn back unto Thee. Deliver me from blood-guiltiness, O God, Thou God of my salvation; my tongue shall
rejoice in Thy righteousness. O Lord, open Thou my lips, and my mouth shall show forth Thy praise. For if Thou hadst desired sacrifice, I had given it; with whole-burnt offerings Thou shalt not be pleased. A sacrifice unto God is a broken spirit; a heart that is broken and humbled God will not despise. Do good, O Lord, in Thy good pleasure unto Sion, and let the walls of Jerusalem be builded. Then shalt Thou be pleased with a sacrifice of righteousness, with oblation and whole-burnt offerings. Then shall they offer bullocks upon Thine altar.

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! (3x)
Lord, have mercy. (3x)
Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.

Troparion (Tone 6)

O Lord, the Life of all, /
the Jews delivered Thee over to death. /
Thou didst lead them through the Red Sea by Moses’ rod, /
yet they handed Thee over to be crucified. /
Thou didst feed them with honey from the rock, /
and they repaid Thee with gall and vinegar. /
But Thou didst willingly endure these things, /
to free us from bondage to the enemy! ///
O Christ God, glory to Thee!

Reader: Now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.
O Theotokos, thou art the true Vine that hast put forth the Fruit of Life! We pray thee, O Lady, intercede together with the Apostles and all the Saints, that mercy may be granted to our souls!

Choir (LIC Tone 8):
Tone 8 (LIC)

For fear of the Jews, O Lord, / 
Thy friend and companion Peter denied Thee. / 
In bitter grief, he cried aloud: / 
“O compassionate Master, / 
Turn not away in silence from my tears. / 
I said that I would keep faith, but have failed Thee.” ///
Accept also our repentance and have mercy on us, O Lord!

VERSE: Unto my words, give ear, O Lord; hear my cry!

Before Thy crucifixion, O Lord, / 
as the soldiers were mocking Thee, / 
the Angels hid their faces, unable to bear the sight, / 
for Thou Who didst adorn the earth with flowers / 
wast arrayed in a crown of thorns; / 
Thou Who hast wrapped the Heavens with clouds / 
wast clothed in a robe of mockery. / 
Yet all these things fulfilled Thy saving plan, / 
by which Thy compassion was revealed to us! ///
O Christ of great mercy, glory to Thee!

VERSE: Attend unto the voice of my supplication, O my King and my God!

Before Thy crucifixion...

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

Choir (LIC Tone 5):
When Thou wast raised upon the Cross, O Lord, / Thou didst cry out to the Jews: / “For what deeds do you crucify Me, O My people? / Is it because I made your paralytics walk? / Because I raised the dead as from sleep? / Because I healed the woman with the issue of blood, / and took pity on the woman of Canaan? / For what deeds do you seek to kill Me? / You shall look upon Him Whom you have pierced, /// upon your Messiah, O transgressors.”

VERSE: Now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

When Thou was raised...

Priest: Wisdom!

Reader: The Prokeimenon of the Prophecy in the Fourth Tone (Psalm 38):
I am ready for scourging, / and my pain is ever with me.

Znamenny Chant – A. Arkhangelsky

VERSE: O Lord, rebuke me not in Thine anger, nor chasten me in Thy wrath.

The prophecy reading begins on the following page.
Priest: Wisdom!

Reader: The reading from the prophecy of Isaiah (50:4-11).

Priest: Let us attend!

“The Lord gives Me the tongue of the learned, so as to know when to speak a word at a fitting time; and He causes My ear to listen each morning. The Lord’s instruction opens My ears, and I am not disobedient, nor do I contradict Him. I gave My back to whips, and My cheeks to blows; and I turned not away My face from the shame of spitting. The Lord became My helper; therefore, I was not disgraced. But I made My face like a solid rock and knew I would not be ashamed. For He Who pronounces Me righteous draws near. Who is he who judges Me? Let him oppose Me at the same time. Who is he who judges Me? Let him come near Me. Behold, the Lord will help Me. Who will harm Me? Behold, all of you will grow old like a garment, and old age will devour you, as a moth does a garment. Who among you fears the Lord? Let him listen to the voice of His Servant. You who walk in darkness and have no light, trust in the name of the Lord and rely upon God. Behold, all of you kindle a fire and feed a flame. Walk in the light of your fire and the flame you kindled. This happened to you for My sake, and you shall lie down in sorrow.

Priest: Wisdom!

Reader: The reading from the Epistle of the Holy Apostle Paul to the Romans (5:6-10).

Priest: Let us attend!

The Epistle reading begins on the following page.
Brethren, when we were still without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. For scarcely for a righteous man will one die; yet perhaps for a good man someone would even dare to die. But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Much more then, having now been justified by His Blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him. For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son; much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life. And not only that, but we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through Whom we have now received our reconciliation.

Priest: And that we may be accounted worthy to hear the Holy Gospel, let us pray to the Lord God!

Priest: Wisdom! Let us attend! Let us hear the Holy Gospel! Peace be unto all!

Priest: The reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Mark (15:16-41).

Choir:
Reader: Blesséd be the Lord God, blesséd be the Lord from day to day, and may the God of our salvation prosper us, for He is our God, the God of salvation!

Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal, have mercy on us! (3x)
Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.
O Most-Holy Trinity, have mercy on us. O Lord, cleanse us from our sins. O Master, pardon our transgressions. O Holy One, visit and heal our infirmities for Thy Name’s sake!
Lord, have mercy. (3x)
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 debts as we forgive our debtors, and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.

**Priest:** For Thine is the Kingdom, and the Power, and the Glory of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages.

**Choir:** Amen.

**Kontakion (Tropar Tone 8)**

Come, let us all sing the praises of Him Who was crucified for us, / for Mary said when she beheld Him upon the Tree, ///

“Though Thou dost endure the Cross, Thou art my Son and my God!”

**Reader:** Lord, have mercy. (40x)

Thou, Who in every season and every hour, both in Heaven and on earth, art worshipped and glorified, O Christ our God, Who art longsuffering, most-merciful, and compassionate, Who loveth the just and showeth mercy upon the sinner, Who callest all men to salvation through the promise of blessings to come: O Lord, in this hour receive our supplication and direct our lives according to Thy commandments. Sanctify our souls, hallow our bodies, correct our thoughts, cleanse our minds, deliver us from all tribulation, evil and distress. Compass us about with Thy holy Angels, that guided and guarded by their host, we may attain to the unity of the faith, and to the knowledge of Thine unapproachable glory, for Thou art blessed unto ages of ages. Amen.

Lord, have mercy. (3x)

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.
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!
In the Name of the Lord, Father, bless.

_Priest_: God be bountiful to us, and bless us and show us the light of His countenance, and be merciful unto us.

_Reader_: Amen.

O God the Master, Father Almighty, O Lord Jesus Christ, the Only-Begotten Son, and Thou, O Holy Spirit, one Godhead, one Power, have mercy upon me, a sinner, and according to Thy divine judgments save me, Thine unworthy servant, for Thou art blessed unto ages of ages. Amen.

**Sixth Hour**

_(As the Psalms are chanted, the priest censes around the Gospel, after which he censes the iconostas, and the people, concluding by censing before the Gospel. The blagovestnik [largest church bell] is struck six times at the beginning of the Hour.)_

_Reader_: 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 53 (54)**

O God, in Thy Name save me, and in Thy strength do Thou judge me. O God, hearken unto my prayer, give ear unto the words of my mouth. For strangers are risen up against me, and mighty men have sought after my soul and have not set God before themselves. For behold, God helpeth
me, and the Lord is the protector of my soul. He will bring evils upon mine enemies. Utterly destroy them by Thy truth. Willingly shall I sacrifice unto Thee; I will confess Thy Name, O Lord, for it is good. For out of every affliction hast Thou delivered me, and mine eye hath looked down upon mine enemies.

Psalm 139 (140)

Rescue me, O Lord, from the evil man; from the unjust man deliver me. Who have devised injustice in their heart; all the day long have they arrayed themselves for wars. They have whetted their tongue like that of a serpent; the venom of asps is under their lips. Keep me, O Lord, from the hand of the sinner; rescue me from unjust men who have devised to undermine my steps. The proud have hid a snare for me, and with cords have they spread a snare for my feet; stumbling-blocks near the paths have they set for me. I said unto the Lord: Thou art my God; give ear, O Lord, unto the voice of my supplication. Lord, O Lord, Thou strength of my salvation, Thou hast overshadowed my head in the day of battle. Because of my desire, O Lord, give me not up unto the sinner. They have taken counsel against me; forsake me not, lest they should be exalted. As for the head of those that encircle me, the mischief of their lips shall cover them. Coals shall fall upon them; in fire shalt Thou cast them down, and they shall not stand in afflictions. A babbling man shall not prosper on the earth; evils shall hunt an unjust man to his destruction. I know that the Lord will maintain the cause of the poor and the justice of the paupers. Surely the righteous shall confess Thy Name, and the upright shall dwell in Thy presence.
Psalm 90 (91)

He that dwelleth in the help of the Most High shall abide in the shelter of the God of Heaven. He shall say unto the Lord: Thou art my helper and my refuge. He is my God, and I will hope in Him. For He shall deliver thee from the snare of the hunters and from every troubling word. With His shoulders will He overshadow thee, and under His wings shalt thou have hope. With a shield will His truth encompass thee; thou shalt not be afraid for the terror by night, nor for the arrow that flieth by day, nor for the thing that walketh in darkness, nor for the mishap and demon of noonday. A thousand shall fall at thy side, and ten thousand at thy right hand, but unto thee shall it not come nigh. Only with thine eyes shalt thou behold, and thou shalt see the reward of sinners. For Thou, O Lord, art my hope. Thou madest the Most High thy refuge; No evils shall come nigh thee, and no scourge shall draw nigh unto thy dwelling. For He shall give His Angels charge over thee, to keep thee in all thy ways. On their hands shall they bear thee up, lest at any time thou dash thy foot against a stone. Upon the asp and basilisk shalt thou tread, and thou shalt trample upon the lion and dragon. For he hath set his hope on Me, and I will deliver him; I will shelter him because he hath known My Name. He shall cry unto Me, and I will hearken unto him. I am with him in affliction, and I will rescue him and glorify him. With length of days will I satisfy him, and I will show him My salvation.

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! (3x)
Lord, have mercy. (3x)
Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.

Choir (Tropar Tone 2):
**Troparion** (Tone 2)

Thou hast worked salvation in the midst of the earth, O Christ our God / by stretching out Thy most pure hands upon the Cross! / Gathering together all the nations, who cry: /// O Lord, glory to Thee!

*Reader:* Now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

We have no boldness because of the multitude of our sins, but entreat Him Who was born of thee, O Virgin Theotokos, for the prayer of a mother has great power to win the favor of the Master! Do not despise the supplications of sinners, O All-Pure One, for merciful and strong to save is He Who willed to suffer for us!

**Tone 8 (LIC)**

Thus says the Lord to the Jews: /
My people, what have I done to you, /
or how have I offended you? /
To your blind I gave sight, your lepers I cleansed, /
the paralytic I raised from his bed. /
My people, what have I done to you, /
and how have you repaid Me? /
Instead of manna, gall; instead of water, vinegar; /
instead of loving Me, you nail Me to the Cross. /
I can bear no more. /
I shall call the Gentiles Mine. /
They will glorify Me with the Father and the Spirit, ///
and I shall give them life eternal.

VERSE: They gave Me gall for food, and in My thirst they gave Me vinegar to drink.

*Choir (same tone):*
The choir of the Apostles cries out to you, / O law-givers of Israel, scribes and Pharisees: / “Behold the Temple which you destroyed! / Behold the Lamb Whom you crucified! / You delivered Him to the tomb, but by His own power He arose. / Do not be deceived, O Jews. / He it is that saved you in the sea and fed you in the wilderness. /// He is the Life, the Light, and the Peace of the world.”

VERSE: Save me, O God, for the waters are come in unto my soul!

The choir of the Apostles...

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

Tone 5

Come, O Christ-bearing people! / Let us see what the traitor Judas and the lawless priests / Have plotted against our Savior. / Today they made the deathless Word subject to death. / They delivered Him to Pilate / And crucified Him on Golgotha. / Suffering these things our Savior cried aloud and said: / “Father, forgive them this sin, /// That all nations may know My resurrection from the dead.”

VERSE: Now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Come, O Christ-bearing people...

Reader:
Priest: Wisdom!

Reader: The prokeimenon of the prophecy in the Fourth Tone (Psalm 8): O Lord, our Lord, / how wonderful is Thy Name in all the earth!

VERSE: Thy majesty is exalted above the heavens.

Priest: Wisdom!

Reader: The reading from the prophecy of Amos* (8:9-12).

Priest: Let us attend!

The prophecy reading begins on the following page.

*Although most modern service books prescribe the passage from Isaiah (52:13-54:1), older lectionaries call for the passage from Amos, which is the original selection for Great and Holy Friday’s Sixth Hour, with its prophecy of “the sun going down at noon.” The selection from Isaiah is the Prophecy of the Suffering Servant, which, although of crucial importance, is already prescribed for Vespers. Its presence here is a duplication.
“And it will come to pass in that day,” says the Lord God, “the sun will set at noon, and the light of day will grow dark over the land. And I shall turn your feasts into mourning and all your songs into lamentation. I shall place sackcloth on every waist and make every head bald. They shall be as one mourning a beloved one, and those with them as a day of grief. Behold, the days will come,” says the Lord, “that I shall send a famine across the land; not a famine of bread nor a thirst for water, but famine to hear the words of the Lord. The waters will be unsettled as far as the sea. And from the north to the east men will scurry about seeking to find the word of the Lord, but they will not find it.”

Priest: Wisdom!
Priest: Let us attend!

Brethren, both He that sanctifies and they who are being sanctified are all of one, for which reason He is not ashamed to call them brethren, saying: “I will declare Thy name unto My brethren, in the midst of the congregation will I sing praise unto Thee.” And again: “I will put My trust in Him.” And again: “Behold, I and the children which God hath given Me.” Inasmuch then as the children have partaken of the flesh and blood, He Himself likewise shared in the same, that through death He might destroy the power of death, that is, the devil, and release them, who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage. For indeed, He took not upon Himself the nature of Angels, but He took upon Himself the seed of Abraham. Therefore, in all things He had to be made like unto His brethren, that He might be a merciful and faithful High Priest in things pertaining to God, to make expiation for the sins of the people. For in that He Himself has suffered, being tempted, He is able to help those who are tempted.
Priest: And that we may be accounted worthy to hear the Holy Gospel, let us pray to the Lord God!

Lord, have mercy! Lord, have mercy! Lord, have mercy!

Priest: Wisdom! Let us attend! Let us hear the Holy Gospel! Peace be unto all!

And to thy spirit!


Glory to Thy Passion O Lord, O Lord!

~The Gospel is Read~

After the Gospel:
Reader: Let Thy tender mercies, O Lord, speedily go before us, for we have become exceedingly poor. Help us, O God of our salvation, for the glory of Thy Name: O Lord, deliver us and purge away our sins, for Thy Name’s sake!

Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal, have mercy on us! (3x)
Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.
O Most-Holy Trinity, have mercy on us. O Lord, cleanse us from our sins. O Master, pardon our transgressions. O Holy One, visit and heal our infirmities for Thy Name’s sake.
Lord, have mercy. (3x)
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 debts as we forgive our debtors, and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.

Priest: For Thine is the Kingdom, and the Power, and the Glory of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages.

Choir: Amen.
Kontakion (Tropar Tone 8)

Come, let us all sing the praises of Him Who was crucified for us, / for Mary said when she beheld Him upon the Tree, /// “Though Thou dost endure the Cross, Thou art my Son and my God!”

Reader: Lord, have mercy. (40x)
Thou, Who in every season and every hour, both in Heaven and on earth, art worshipped and glorified, O Christ our God, Who art longsuffering, most-merciful, and compassionate, Who lovest the just and showest mercy upon the sinner, Who callest all men to salvation through the promise of blessings to come: O Lord, in this hour receive our supplication and direct our lives according to Thy commandments. Sanctify our souls, hallow our bodies, correct our thoughts, cleanse our minds, deliver us from all tribulation, evil and distress. Compass us about with Thy holy Angels, that guided and guarded by their host, we may attain to the unity of the faith, and to the knowledge of Thine unapproachable glory, for Thou art blessed unto ages of ages. Amen.

Lord, have mercy. (3x)
Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

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!
In the Name of the Lord, Father, bless.

Priest: God be bountiful to us, and bless us and show us the light of His countenance, and be merciful unto us.

Reader:
Reader: Amen.
O God, the Lord of Hosts, and Author of all creation, Who in Thine ineffable tender mercy hast sent down Thine Only-Begotten Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, for the salvation of our kind, and through His Holy Cross hast torn up the handwriting of our sins and thereby triumphed over the princes and dominions of darkness; do Thou, O Master, Who lovest mankind, accept these prayers of thanksgiving and supplication even from us sinners, and deliver us from every deadly and dark transgression and from all the visible and invisible enemies that seek to do us harm. Nail our flesh with the fear of Thee, and let not our hearts incline to evil words or thoughts, but wound our souls with Thy love, that ever gazing upon Thee, guided by Thy light and beholding Thee, the Eternal Light that no man can approach, we may send up unceasing praises and thanks unto Thee, the Father without beginning, together with Thine Only-Begotten Son and Thy Most-Holy, Good, and Life-Giving Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

**Ninth Hour**

(As the Psalms are chanted, the priest makes a full censing of the Church, beginning by censing around the Gospel, and concluding by censing before it. The blagovestnik [largest church bell] is struck nine times at the beginning of the Hour.)

Reader: 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!

(The Reader begins the Psalms on the following page.)
Psalm 68 (69)

Save me, O God, for the waters are come in unto my soul. I am stuck fast in the mire of the deep, and there is no sure standing. I am come into the deeps of the sea, and a tempest hath overwhelmed me. I am grown weary with crying, my throat is become hoarse; from my hoping in my God, mine eyes have failed me. They that hate me without a cause are multiplied more than the hairs of my head. Mine enemies are grown strong, they that persecute me unjustly; then did I restore that which I took not away. O God, Thou knowest my foolishness, and my transgressions are not hid from Thee. Let not them that wait on Thee be ashamed for my sake, O Lord, Thou Lord of Hosts. Nor let them that seek after Thee be confounded for my sake, O God of Israel. Because for Thy sake I have borne reproach, shame hath covered my face. I am become a stranger unto my brethren, and an alien unto the sons of my mother. For the zeal of Thy house hath eaten me up, and the reproaches of them that reproach Thee are fallen on me. Yea, with fasting I covered my soul, and it was turned into a reproach for me. And I made sackcloth my clothing, and I became a proverb to them. And they prated against me, they that sit in the gates; and they made a song about me, they that drink wine. But as for me, with my prayer I cry unto Thee, O Lord; it is time for Thy good pleasure. O God, in the multitude of Thy mercy hearken unto me, in the truth of Thy salvation. Save me from the mire, that I be not stuck therein; let me be delivered from them that hate me and from the deeps of the waters. Let not the tempest of water overwhelm me, nor let the deep swallow me up, nor let the pit shut its mouth upon me. Hearken unto me, O Lord, for Thy mercy is good; according to the multitude of Thy compassions, look upon me. Turn not Thy countenance away from Thy servant, for I am afflicted; quickly hearken unto me. Attend unto my soul and deliver it; because of mine enemies, rescue me. For Thou knowest my reproach, my shame and my humiliation. Before Thee are all that afflict me; my soul hath awaited reproach and misery. And I waited for one that would grieve with me,
but there was no one; and for them that would comfort me, but I found none. And they gave me gall for my food, and for my thirst they gave me vinegar to drink. Let their table before them be for a snare, for a recompense and for a stumbling-block. Let their eyes be darkened that they may not see, and their back do Thou continually bow down. Pour out upon them Thy wrath, and let the fury of Thy wrath take hold upon them. Let their habitation be made desolate, and in their tents let there be none to dwell.

For they persecuted him whom Thou hast smitten, and to the pain of my wounds have they added. Add iniquity to their iniquity, and let them not enter into Thy righteousness. Let them be blotted out of the book of the living, and with the righteous let them not be written. Poor and in sorrow am I; may Thy salvation, O God, be quick to help me. I will praise the name of my God with an ode, I will magnify Him with praise. And this shall please God more than a young calf that hath horns and hooves. Let beggars behold it and be glad; seek after God, and your soul shall live. For the Lord hath hearkened unto the poor and hath not despised them that are fettered for His sake. Let the Heavens and the earth praise Him, the sea and all the creeping things therein. For God will save Sion, and the cities of Judea shall be builded; and they shall dwell therein and inherit it. And the seed of Thy servants shall possess it, and they that love Thy Name shall dwell therein.

Psalm 69 (70)

O God, be attentive unto helping me; O Lord, make haste to help me. Let them be shamed and confounded that seek after my soul. Let them be turned back and brought to shame that desire evils against me. Let them be turned back straightway in shame that say unto me: Well done! Well done! Let them be glad and rejoice in Thee all that seek after Thee, O God, and let them that love Thy salvation say continually: The Lord be magnified. But as for me, I am poor and needy; O God, come unto mine aid. My helper and my deliverer art Thou, O Lord; make no long tarrying.
Psalm 85 (86)

Bow down Thine ear, O Lord, and hearken unto me, for poor and needy am I. Preserve my soul, for I am holy; save Thy servant, O my God, that hopeth in Thee. Have mercy on me, O Lord, for unto Thee will I cry all the day long; make glad the soul of Thy servant, for unto Thee have I lifted up my soul. For Thou, O Lord, art good and gentle, and plenteous in mercy unto all them that call upon Thee. Give ear, O Lord, unto my prayer, and attend unto the voice of my supplication. In the day of mine affliction have I cried unto Thee, for Thou hast heard me. There is none like unto Thee among the gods, O Lord, nor are there any works like unto Thy works. All the nations whom Thou hast made shall come and shall worship before Thee, O Lord, and shall glorify Thy Name. For Thou art great and workest wonders; Thou alone art God. Guide me, O Lord, in Thy way, and I will walk in Thy truth; let my heart rejoice that I may fear Thy Name. I will confess Thee, O Lord my God, with all my heart, and I will glorify Thy Name for ever. For great is Thy mercy upon me, and Thou hast delivered my soul from the nethermost hades. O God, transgressors have risen up against me, and the assembly of the mighty hath sought after my soul, and they have not set Thee before them. But Thou, O Lord my God, art compassionate and merciful, long-suffering and plenteous in mercy, and true. Look upon me and have mercy upon me; give Thy strength unto Thy servant, and save the son of Thy handmaiden. Work in me a sign unto good, and let them that hate me behold and be put to shame; for Thou, O Lord, hast holpen me and comforted me.

And again:

Work in me a sign unto good, and let them that hate me behold and be put to shame; for Thou, O Lord, hast holpen me and comforted me.

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! (3x)
Lord, have mercy. (3x)
Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.

**Choir:**

Troparion (Tone 8)

When the thief beheld the Author of Life hanging upon the Cross, he said:

“If it were not God in the flesh crucified here with us, / the sun would not have hidden his rays nor would the earth have quaked and trembled, /// but remember me in Thy kingdom, O long-suffering Lord!”

**Reader:** Now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.
O Loving Lord, Who for our sakes wast born of a virgin and hast endured crucifixion, trampling down death by death and as God revealing the Resurrection: Despise not the works of Thy hands, but show Thy love for mankind, O Merciful One! Accept the prayers made on our behalf by her who gave Thee birth, and save Thy despairing people, O our Savior!

**Tone 7 (LIC)**

A strange wonder it was to see the Maker of Heaven and earth suspended on the Cross. /
The sun was darkened and the day was changed into night. /
The earth gave up the bodies of the dead from their graves. ///
With them we worship Thee: save us, O Lord!

VERSE: They divide My garments among them, and for My raiment they cast lots!

**Choir (LIC Tone 2):**
Tone 2 (LIC)

When transgressors nailed the King of Glory to the Cross, /
He cried out to them: /
“How have I caused you pain? /
Or in what have I angered you? /
Who before Me delivered you from affliction? /
And how have you now rewarded Me? /
By returning evil for good. /
For the pillar of fire you nail Me to the Cross. /
For the cloud you dig Me a grave. /
Instead of manna you bring Me gall. /
Instead of water you give Me vinegar to drink. /
Henceforth I shall call the Gentiles, ///
And they will glorify Me with the Father and the Holy Spirit.”

VERSE: They gave Me gall for food, and in My thirst they gave Me vinegar to drink!

When transgressors…

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

The choir begins SLOWLY AND SOLEMNLY to sing the hymn on the following page, in LIC Tone 6:
To-day He Who hung the earth upon the waters is hung on the tree.

The King of the Angels is decked with a crown of thorns. He Who
wraps the heavens in clouds is wrapped in the purple of mockery.

He Who freed Adam in the Jordan is slapped on the face. The Bride-
groom of the Church is affixed to the cross with nails. The Son of the

Virgin is pierced by a spear. We worship Thy Passion, O
Znamenny Chant – A. Arkhangelsky

Prostration

Priest: Wisdom!

Reader: The Prokeimenon of the Prophecy in the Sixth Tone (Psalm 14):
The fool says in his heart / “There is no God.”

VERSE: There is none that does good, no, not one.
Priest: Wisdom!


Priest: Let us attend!

O Lord, teach me, and I will know. Then I saw their purpose. For I did not know I was like an innocent lamb led to be sacrificed. They plotted an evil device against me, saying, “Come, let us put wood in his bread, and destroy him root and branch from the land of the living, so his name might not be remembered any longer.” But, O Lord, Thou Who judgest righteously, Who tests minds and hearts, let me see Thy vengeance on them, for I have revealed my righteous plea to Thee. Therefore thus says the Lord against the men of Anathoth, against those who seek my life, and who say, “Do not prophesy in the name of the Lord, lest you die by our hands” — “Behold, I will visit them. The young men shall die by the sword, and their sons and daughters shall die by famine. There shall be no remnant of them, for I will bring calamities on the inhabitants of Anathoth in the year of their visitation.” O Lord, Thou art righteous, that I may plead my case with Thee, to speak to Thee concerning judgments. Why does the way of the ungodly prosper, and all who deal treacherously flourish? Thou planted them, and they took root. They bear children and are fruitful. Thou art near in their mouth, but far from their mind. But Thou, O Lord, knowest me. Thou hast proven my heart before Thee. Set them apart for the day of slaughter. How long will the land mourn and the grass of the field wither, because of the vices of those who dwell in it? The cattle and the birds are destroyed, because they said, “God will not see our ways.” “Your feet run and grow weary. How then will you prepare yourself to run with the horses? You are confident when the land is peaceful, but what will you do when the Jordan floods the land? Is not My inheritance the cave of a hyena to Me, or a cave it walks around? Gather together all the wild beasts of the
field and let them come to devour her. Many shepherds destroyed My vineyard and defiled My portion. They turned My pleasant portion into an impassable desert. It was made a complete ruin. The whole land was utterly destroyed for My sake, because there was no man who took it to heart.” For thus says the Lord: “Concerning all the evil neighbors who touch My inheritance, which I divided to My people Israel—behold, I shall draw them away from their land and will cast out Judah from their midst. Then it shall come to pass, after I cast them out, that I will return them and have mercy on them. I will settle them, each in his inheritance and each in his land.

Priest: Wisdom!
Priest: Let us attend!

Brethren, having boldness to enter into the Holiest by the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way which He consecrated for us, through the veil, that is, His flesh, and having a High Priest over the house of God, let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering, for He that promised is faithful. And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the day approaching. For if we sin willfully after we have received the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins, but a certain fearful expectation of judgment, and fiery indignation which shall devour the adversaries. He that despised Moses’ law died without mercy on the testimony of two or three witnesses. Of how much worse punishment, do you suppose, will he be thought worthy who has trampled the Son of God
underfoot, counted the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified, an unholy thing, and insulted the Spirit of grace? For we know Him that has said, “Vengeance belongeth unto Me; I will repay, saith the Lord.” And again, “The Lord shall judge His people.” It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.

Priest: And that we may be accounted worthy to hear the Holy Gospel, let us pray to the Lord God!

Priest: Wisdom! Let us attend! Let us hear the Holy Gospel! Peace be unto all!

Priest: The reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. John the Theologian (18:28-19:37).
~The Gospel is Read~

After the Gospel:

Reader: For Thy holy Name’s sake, do not abandon us forever; do not annul
Thy covenant; do not take Thy mercy from us, for the sake of
Abraham Thy beloved, and Isaac Thy servant, and Israel Thy holy
one!

Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal, have mercy on us! (3x)
Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever
and unto ages of ages. Amen.
O Most-Holy Trinity, have mercy on us. O Lord, cleanse us from our sins. O
Master, pardon our transgressions. O Holy One, visit and heal our
infirmities for Thy Name’s sake.
Lord, have mercy. (3x)
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 debts as we forgive our debtors, and lead us
not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.

Priest: For Thine is the Kingdom, and the Power, and the Glory of the
Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto
ages of ages.

Choir:
Choir: Amen.

**Kontakion (Tropar Tone 8)**

Come, let us all sing the praises of Him Who was crucified for us, / for Mary said when she beheld Him upon the Tree, /// “Though Thou dost endure the Cross, Thou art my Son and my God!”

Reader: Lord, have mercy. (40x)
Thou, Who in every season and every hour, both in Heaven and on earth, art worshipped and glorified, O Christ our God, Who art longsuffering, most-merciful, and compassionate, Who lovest the just and showest mercy upon the sinner, Who calleth all men to salvation through the promise of blessings to come: O Lord, in this hour receive our supplication and direct our lives according to Thy commandments. Sanctify our souls, hallow our bodies, correct our thoughts, cleanse our minds, deliver us from all tribulation, evil and distress. Compass us about with Thy holy Angels, that guided and guarded by their host, we may attain to the unity of the faith, and to the knowledge of Thine unapproachable glory, for Thou art blessed unto ages of ages. Amen.

Lord, have mercy. (3x)
Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

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!

In the Name of the Lord, Father, bless.

**Priest:** God be bountiful to us, and bless us and show us the light of His countenance, and be merciful unto us.

Reader:
Reader: Amen.

O Master and Lord, Jesus Christ our God, Who art long-suffering towards our sins and hast brought us even unto this present hour, in which, hanging upon the life-giving Cross, Thou hast opened unto the good thief the way into Paradise, and destroyed death by death: be merciful to us, Thy humble and sinful and unworthy servants. For we have sinned and transgressed, and we are not worthy to lift up our eyes and look at the height of Heaven, since we have forsaken the path of Thy righteousness and have walked according to the desires of our own hearts. But we pray Thee of Thy boundless goodness, spare us, O Lord, according to the abundance of Thy mercy, and save us for Thy holy Name’s sake, for our days are consumed in vanity. Deliver us from the hand of the adversary, forgive us our sins, and kill the passions of the flesh, that putting off the old man, we may be clothed with the new, and may live for Thee, our Master and Protector; and that so, following Thine ordinances, we may attain to eternal rest, in the place where all the joyful dwell. For Thou, O Christ our God, art indeed the true joy and gladness of those that love Thee, and unto Thee we ascribe glory, together with Thy Father, Who is without beginning, and Thy Most-Holy, Good, and Life-Giving Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

The Typica is immediately read (on the following page):
The Typica
(The Beatitudes are read quickly, without singing.)

Reader 1: In Thy Kingdom, remember us, O Lord, when Thou comest in Thy Kingdom.

Reader 2: Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven.

Reader 1: Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.

Reader 2: Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.

Reader 1: Blessed are those who hunger and thirst after righteousness, for they shall be filled.

Reader 2: Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy.

Reader 1: Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.

Reader 2: Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called the sons of God.

Reader 1: Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, for theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven.

Reader 2: Blessed are you when men shall revile you and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely for my sake.

Reader 1: Rejoice and be exceedingly glad, for great is your reward in Heaven.

Reader 2: The Heavenly choir sings Thy praises, crying: Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord of Sabaoth! Heaven and earth are full of Thy glory!

Reader 1: Draw near to Him and be enlightened, and your faces shall not be ashamed.

Reader 2: The Heavenly choir sings Thy praises, crying: Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord of Sabaoth! Heaven and earth are full of Thy glory!

Reader 1: Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Reader 2: The choir of Angels and Archangels with all the host of Heaven sings Thy praises, crying: Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord of Sabaoth! Heaven and earth are full of Thy glory!

Then we all recite the Creed: 
The Creed

I believe in one God, the Father almighty, Maker of Heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible. And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God, the Only-Begotten, begotten of the Father before all ages. Light of Light; true God of true God; begotten, not made; of one essence with the Father, by Whom all things were made; Who for us men and for our salvation came down from Heaven, and was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary, and became man. And He was crucified for us under Pontius Pilate, and suffered, and was buried. And the third day He rose again, according to the Scriptures, and ascended into Heaven, and sits at the right hand of the Father; and He shall come again with glory to judge the living and the dead; Whose Kingdom shall have no end. And in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the Giver of Life, Who proceeds from the Father; Who with the Father and the Son together is worshipped and glorified; Who spoke by the prophets. In one Holy Catholic, and Apostolic Church. I acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins. I look for the resurrection of the dead, and the Life of the world to come. Amen.

Reader: Loose, remit, and pardon, O God, our sins both voluntary and involuntary, in thought, word, or deed, in knowledge or in ignorance, committed by day or by night, of the mind or of the intention: forgive them all, for Thou art good and lovest mankind.

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 debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.

Priest: For Thine is the Kingdom, and the Power, and the Glory, of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages.

Choir:
Choir: Amen.

Kontakion (Tropar Tone 8)

Come, let us all sing the praises of Him Who was crucified for us, / for Mary said when she beheld Him upon the Tree, ///
“Though Thou dost endure the Cross, Thou art my Son and my God!”

Reader: Lord, have mercy. (40)
O Most-Holy Trinity, Might one in Essence, Kingdom undivided, the Cause of all good, have mercy even on me, a sinner. Confirm and instruct my heart and take away from me every defilement. Enlighten my mind that I may ever glorify, praise, and adore Thee, saying: One is Holy, One is the Lord. Jesus Christ, to the glory of God the Father. Amen.

Choir: Blessed be the Name of the Lord, henceforth and forevermore. (3x)

Priest: Wisdom!

It is truly meet to bless thee, O Theotokos, //
ev-er bles-sed and most pure, and the Mo-ther of our God!

Priest: Most Holy Theotokos, save us!

STOP!!!
Tone 8, continued:

More honor-able than the Che-ru-bim, and more glo-ri-ous be-yond

Com-pare than the Ser-a-phim, with-out corrup-tion thou gav-est

Birth to God the Word:// true The-o-to-kos, we mag-ni-fy thee!

Priest: Glory to Thee, O Christ, our God and our Hope, glory to Thee!

Choir (on the following page):
DIFFERENT MUSIC!! (MINOR)
Arkhangelsky (minor):

Priest: May He Who endured spitting, and scourging, the Cross and death, for the salvation of the world, Christ our true God, through the prayers of His Most-Pure Mother; of the holy, glorious and all-laudable Apostles, of the holy and righteous ancestors of God, Joachim and Anna, and of all the Saints, have mercy on us and save us, for He is good and lovest mankind.

Choir: