

## THE PASSION OF JESUS

**Priest:** Glory to the holy, consubstantial, life-creating and undivided Trinity, always now and for ever and ever.

**People:** Amen.

Glory to God in the highest, and to his people on earth, his peace and good will. (3X)

O Lord, You shall open my lips, and my mouth will declare your praise. (2X)

### Psalm 103

Bless the Lord, O my soul;  
and all my being, bless his holy name.  
Bless the Lord, O my soul,  
and forget not all his benefits;  
He pardons all your iniquities,  
he heals all your ills.  
He redeems your life from destruction,  
he crowns you with kindness and compassion,  
He fills your lifetime with good;  
your youth is renewed like the eagle's.

The Lord secures justice  
and the rights of all the oppressed.  
He has made known his ways to Moses,  
and his deeds to the children of Israel.  
Merciful and gracious is the Lord,  
slow to anger and abounding in kindness.  
He will not always chide,  
nor does he keep his wrath forever.  
Not according to our sins does he deal with us,  
nor does he requite us according to our crimes.

For as the heavens are high above the earth,  
so surpassing is his kindness toward those who fear him.  
As far as the east is from the west,  
so far has he put our transgressions from us.  
As a father has compassion on his children,  
so the Lord has compassion on those who fear him.  
For he knows how we are formed;  
he remembers that we are dust.  
Man's days are like those of grass;  
like a flower of the field he blooms;  
The wind sweeps over him and he is gone,  
and his place knows him no more.  
But the kindness of the Lord is from eternity to eternity  
toward those who fear him,  
And his justice toward children's children  
among those who keep his covenant  
and remember to fulfill his precepts.

The Lord has established his throne in heaven,  
and his kingdom rules over all.  
Bless the Lord, all you his angels,  
you mighty in strength, who do his bidding,  
obeying his spoken word.  
Bless the Lord, all you his hosts,  
his ministers, who do his will.  
Bless the Lord, all his works,  
everywhere in his domain.  
Bless the Lord, O my soul!  
Everywhere in his domain.  
Bless the Lord, O my soul!

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

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia! Glory be to You, O God! *(three times)*

#### LITANY OF PEACE

*(Sit)*

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

**People:** Lord, have mercy.

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

**People:** Lord, have mercy.

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

**People:** Lord, have mercy.

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

**People:** Lord, have mercy.

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

**People:** Lord, have mercy.

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

**People:** Lord, have mercy.

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

**People:** Lord, have mercy.

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

**People:** Lord, have mercy.

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

**People:** Lord, have mercy.

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

**People:** Lord, have mercy.

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

**People:** Lord, have mercy.

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

**People:** Lord, have mercy.

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

**People:** To You, O Lord

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

**People:** Amen

**Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia. (4X)**

**Tropar (tone 8)**

The glorious disciples were illumined at the Supper during the washing of the feet, but ungodly Judas was darkened by the disease of avarice, and delivered You, the righteous Judge, to lawless judges. O lover of money, look upon him who for money's sake hanged himself. Flee from the greed which made him dare to do such things against his Master. O Lord, who are good towards all, glory to You.

### **THE FIRST GOSPEL**

**Priest:** And that we may be worthy to hear the Holy Gospel, let us pray to the Lord our God.

**People:** Lord, have mercy, *(three times)*

**Priest:** Wisdom! Stand aright! Let us listen to the holy Gospel. Peace be with all.

**People:** And with your spirit.

**Priest:** A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

**People:** Glory to Your Passion, O Lord!

**Priest: Let us be attentive! (John 13,31-18,1)**

Once Judas had left, Jesus said: "Now is the Son of Man glorified and God is glorified in him. If God has been glorified in him, God will, in turn, glorify him in himself, and will glorify him soon. My children, I am not to be with you much longer. You will look for me, but I say to you now what I once said to the Jews: 'Where I am going, you cannot come.' I give you a new commandment: Love one another. Such as my love has been for you, so must your love be for each other. This is how all will know you for my disciples: your love for one another."

"Lord," Simon Peter said to him, "Where do you mean to go?" Jesus answered: "I am going where you cannot follow me now; later on you shall come after me." "Lord," Peter said to him, "why can I not follow you now? I will lay down my life for you!" "You will lay down your life for me, will you?" Jesus answered. "I tell you truly, the cock will not crow before you have three times disowned me!"

"Do not let your hearts be troubled have faith in God and faith in me. In my Father's house there are many dwelling places; otherwise, how could I have told you that I was going to prepare a place for you? I am indeed going to prepare a place for you, and then I shall come back to take you with me, that where I am you also may be. You know the way that leads where I go." "Lord," said Thomas, "we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?" Jesus told him: "I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through me. If you really knew me, you would know my Father also. From this point on you know him; you have seen him." "Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'? Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words I speak are not spoken of myself; it is the Father who lives in me accomplishing his works. Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me, or else, believe because of the works I do. I solemnly assure you, the man who has faith in me will do the works I do, and greater far than these. Why? Because I go to the Father, and whatever you ask in my name I will do, so as to glorify the Father in the Son. Anything you ask me in my name I will do. If you love me and obey the commands I give you, I will ask the Father and he will give you another Paraclete - to be with you always: the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot accept, since it neither sees him nor recognizes him; but you can recognize him because he remains with you and will be within you. I will not leave you orphaned; I will come back to you. A little while now and the world will see me no more; but you see me as one who has life, and you will have life. On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. He who obeys the commandments he has from me is the man who loves me; and he who loves me will be loved by my Father. I too will love him and reveal myself to him."

Judas (not Judas Iscariot) said to him, "Lord, why is it that you will reveal yourself to us and not to the world?" Jesus answered: "Anyone who loves me will be true to my word, and my Father will love him; we will come to him and make our dwelling place with him. He who does not love me does not keep my words. Yet the word you hear is not mine; it comes from the Father who sent me. This much have I told you while I was still with you; the Paraclete, the Holy Spirit whom the Father will send in my name, will instruct you in everything, and remind you of all that I told you. 'Peace' is my farewell to you, my peace is my gift to you; I do not give it to you as the world gives peace. Do not be distressed or fearful. You have heard me say, 'I go away for a while, and I come back to you.' If you truly loved me you would rejoice to have me go to the Father, for the Father is greater than I. I tell you this now, before it takes place, so that when it takes place you may believe. I shall not go on speaking to you longer; the Prince of this world is at hand. He has no hold on me, but the world must know that I love the Father and do as the Father has commanded me. Come, then! Let us be on our way.

"I am the true vine and my Father is the vine grower. He prunes away every barren branch, but the fruitful ones he trims clean to increase their yield. You are clean already, thanks to the word I have spoken to you. Live on in me, as I do in you. No more than a branch can bear fruit of itself apart from the vine, can you bear fruit apart from me. I am the vine, you are the branches. He who lives in me and I in him, will produce abundantly, for apart from me you can do nothing. A man who does not live in me is like a withered, rejected branch, picked up to be thrown in the fire and burnt. If you live in me, and my words stay part of you, you may ask what you will - it will be done for you. My Father has been glorified in your bearing much fruit and becoming my disciples.

"As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you. Live on in my love. You will live in my love if you keep my commandments, even as I have kept my Father's commandments, and live in his love. All this I tell you that my joy may be yours and your joy may be complete. This is my commandment: love one another as I have loved you there is no greater love than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you. I no longer speak of you as slaves, for a slave does not know what his master is about. Instead, I call you friends, since I have made known to you all that I heard from my Father. It was not you who chose me, it was I who chose you to go forth and bear fruit. Your fruit must endure, so that all you ask the Father in my name he will give you. The command I give you is this, that you love one another."

"If you find that the world hates you, know it has hated me before you. If you belonged to the world, it would love you as its own; the reason it hates you is that you do not belong to the world. But I chose you out of the world. Remember what I told you: no slave is greater than his master. They will harry you as they harried me. They will respect your words as much as they respected mine. All this they will do to you because of my name, for they know nothing of him who sent me. If I had not come to them and spoken to them, they would not be guilty of sin; now, however, their sin cannot be excused. To hate me is to hate my Father. Had I not performed such works among them as no one has ever done before, they would not be guilty of sin; but as it is, they have seen, and they go on hating me and my Father. However, this only fulfills the text in their law: 'They hated me without cause.' When the Paraclete comes, the Spirit of truth who comes from the Father - and whom I myself will send from the Father - he will bear witness on my behalf. You must bear witness as well, for you have been with me from the beginning.

"I have told you all this to keep your faith from being shaken. Not only will they expel you from synagogues; a time will come when anyone who puts you to death will claim to be serving God! All this they will do [to you] because they knew neither the Father nor me. But I have told you these things that when their hour comes you may remember my telling you of them.

"I did not speak of this with you from the beginning because I was with you. Now that I go back to him who sent me, not one of you asks me, 'Where are you going!' Because I have had all this to say to you, you are overcome with grief. Yet I tell you the sober truth: It is much better for you that I go. If I fail to go, the Paraclete will never come to you, whereas if I go, I will send him to you. When he comes, he will prove the world wrong about sin, about justice, about condemnation. About sin - in that they refuse to believe in me; about justice - from the fact that I go to the Father and you can see me no more; about condemnation - for the prince of this world has been condemned. I have much more to tell you, but you cannot bear it now. When he comes, however, being the Spirit of truth he will guide you to all truth. He will not speak on his own, but will speak only what he hears, and will announce to you the things to come. In doing this he will give glory to me, because he will have received from me what he will announce to you. All that the Father has belongs to me. That is why I said that what he will announce to you he will have from me. Within a short time you will lose sight of me, but soon after that you shall see me again."

At this, some of his disciples asked one another: "What can he mean, 'Within a short time you will lose sight of me, but soon after that you will see me'? And did he not say that he is going back to the Father?" They kept asking: "What does he mean by this 'short time'? We do not know what he is talking about." Since Jesus was aware that they wanted to question him, he said: "You are asking one another about my saying, 'Within a short time you will lose sight of me, but soon after that you will see me.' I tell you truly: you will weep and mourn while the world rejoices; you will grieve for a time, but your grief will be turned into joy. When a woman is in labor she is sad that her time has come. When she has borne her child, she no longer remembers her pain for joy that a man has been born into the world. In the same way, you are sad for a time, but I shall see you again; then your hearts will rejoice with a joy no one can take from you. On that day you will have no questions to ask me. I give you my assurance, whatever you ask the Father, he will give you in my name. Until now you have not asked for anything in my name. Ask and you shall receive, that your joy may be full. I have spoken these things to you in veiled language. A time will come when I shall no longer do so, but shall tell you about the Father in plain speech. On that day you will ask in my name and I do not say that I will petition the father for you. The Father already loves you, because you have loved me and have believed that I came from God. I did indeed come from the Father; I came into the world. Now I am leaving the world to go to the Father." "At last you are speaking plainly," his

disciples exclaimed, "without talking in veiled language! We are convinced that you know everything. There is no need for anyone to ask you questions. We do indeed believe you came from God." Jesus answered them: "Do you really believe? An hour is coming - has indeed already come - when you will be scattered and each will go his way, leaving me quite alone. (Yet I can never be alone; the Father is with me.) I tell you all this that in me you may find peace. You will suffer in the world. But take courage! I have overcome the world."

After he had spoken these words, Jesus looked up to heaven and said: "Father, the hour has come! Give glory to your Son that your Son may give glory to you, inasmuch as you have given him authority over all mankind, that he may bestow eternal life on those you gave him (Eternal life is this: to know you, the only true God, and him whom you have sent, Jesus Christ.) I have given you glory on earth by finishing the work you gave me to do. Do you now, Father, give me glory at your side, a glory I had with you before the world began. I have made your name known to those you gave me out of the world. These men you gave me were yours; they have kept your word. Now they realize that all that you gave me comes from you. I entrusted to them the message you entrusted to me, and they received it. They have known that in truth I came from you, they have believed it was you who sent me."

"For these I pray - not for the world but for these you have given me, for they are really yours. (Just as all that belongs to me is yours, so all that belongs to you is mine.) It is in them that I have been glorified. I am in the world no more, but these are in the world as I come to you. O Father most holy, protect them with your name which you have given me that they may be one, even as we are one. As long as I was with them, I guarded them with your name which you gave me. I kept careful watch, and not one of them was lost, none but him who was destined to be lost - in fulfillment of Scripture. Now, however, I come to you; I say all this while I am still in the world, and the world has hated them for it; they do not belong to the world any more than I belong to the world. I do not ask you to take them out of the world, but to guard them from the evil one. They are not of the world, any more than I belong to the world. Consecrate them by means of truth - 'Your word is truth.' As you have sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world; I consecrate myself for their sakes now, that they may be consecrated in truth.

"I do not pray for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their word, that all may be one as you, Father, are in me, and I in you; I pray that they may be [one] in us, that the world may believe that you sent me. I have given them the glory you gave me that they may be one, as we are one - I living in them, you living in me - that their unity may be complete. So shall the world know that you sent me, and that you loved them as you loved me. Father, all those you gave me I would have in my company where I am, to see this glory of mine which is your gift to me, because of the love you bore me before the world began. Just Father, the world has not known you, but I have known you; and these men have known that you sent me. To them I have revealed your name, and I will continue to reveal it so that your love for me may live in them, and I may live in them."

After this discourse, Jesus went out from his disciples across the Kidron Valley. There was a garden there, and he and his disciples entered it.

**People:** Glory to Your long-suffering, O Lord!

### **Antiphon I - tone 8**

The rulers of the people took counsel together  
against the Lord and against His Anointed.

They laid a lawless accusation against Me.

O Lord forsake me not.

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

Keep Your servants safe from danger, O Mother of God,  
for after God we all flee to you for refuge,  
as an unconquerable rampart and protection.

### **Sessional Hymn., tone 7**

As You gave food to your disciples at the Supper,  
knowing the plot for Your betrayal,  
You have revealed Judas.  
You understood that he would not come to repentance,  
yet You desired to show to all that You were delivering Yourself of Your own will,  
to save the world from the enemy.  
O long-suffering Lord, glory to You.

### **THE SECOND GOSPEL**

**Priest:** And that we may be worthy to hear the Holy Gospel, let us pray to the Lord our God.

**People:** Lord, have mercy, (*three times*)

**Priest:** Wisdom! Stand aright! Let us listen to the holy Gospel. Peace be with all.

**People:** And with your spirit.

**Priest:** A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

**People:** Glory to Your Passion, O Lord!

**Priest:** Let us be attentive! (**John 18,1-28**)

After this discourse, Jesus went out from his disciples across the Kidron Valley. There was a garden there, and he had his disciples entered it. The place was familiar to Judas as well (the one who was to hand him over) because Jesus had often met there with his disciples. Judas took the cohort as well as guards supplied by the chief priests and the Pharisees, and came there with lanterns, torches and weapons. Jesus, aware of all that would happen to them, stepped forward and said to them, "Who is it you want?" "Jesus the Nazorean," they replied. "I am he," he answered. (Now Judas, the one who was to hand him over, was there with them.) As Jesus said to the, "I am he," they retreated slightly and fell to the ground. Jesus put the question to them again, "Who is it you want?" "Jesus the Nazorean," they repeated. "I have told you, I am he," Jesus said. "If I am the one you want, let these men go." (This was to fulfill what he had said, "I have not lost one of those you gave me.") Then Simon Peter, who had a sword, drew it and struck the slave of the high priest, severing his right ear. (The slave's name was Malchus.) At that Jesus said to Peter, "Put your sword back in its sheath. Am I not to drink the cup the Father has given me?" Then the soldiers of the cohort, their tribune, and the Jewish guards arrested Jesus and bound him. They led him first to Annas, the father-in-law of Caiaphas who was high priest that year. (It was Caiaphas who had proposed to the Jews the advantage of having one man die for the people.)

Simon Peter, in company with another disciple, kept following Jesus closely. This disciple, who was known to the high priest, stayed with Jesus as far as the high priest's courtyard, while Peter was left standing at the gate. The disciple known to the high priest came out and spoke to the woman at the gate, and then brought Peter in. This servant girl who kept the gate said to Peter. "Are you not one of this man's followers?" "Not I," he replied. Now the night was cold, and the servants and the guards who were standing around had made a charcoal fire to warm themselves by. Peter joined them and stood there warming himself.

The high priest questioned Jesus, first about his disciples, then about his teaching. Jesus answered by saying: "I have spoken publicly to any who would listen. I always taught in a synagogue or in the temple area where all the Jews come together. There was nothing secret about anything I said. Why do you question me? Question those who heard me when I spoke. It should be obvious that they will know what I said." At this reply, one of the guards who was standing nearby gave Jesus a sharp blow on the face. "Is that the way to answer the high priest?" he said. Jesus replied, "If I said anything wrong produce the evidence, but if I spoke the truth why hit me?" Annas next sent him, bound, to the high priest Caiaphas.

All through this, Simon Peter had been standing there warming himself. They said to him, "Are you not a disciple of his?" He denied it and said, "I am not!" But did I not see you with him in the garden?"

insisted on of the high priest's slaves - as it happened, a relative of the man whose ear Peter had severed. Peter denied it again. At that moment a cock began to crow. At daybreak they brought Jesus from Caiaphas to the praetorium. They did not enter the praetorium themselves, for they had to avoid ritual impurity if they were to eat the Passover supper.

**People:** Glory to Your long-suffering, O Lord!

#### **Antiphon 4 -tone 5**

Today Judas rejects the Master and accepts the devil:  
he is blinded by the passion of avarice  
and darkened he walks away from the light.  
For how could he see,  
he who sold the Light for thirty pieces of silver?  
But He who suffered for the world has shone upon us.  
To Him let us cry:  
O You who suffer with people and for their sakes,  
Glory to You.

#### **Sessional Hymn - tone 7**

What reason led you, Judas, to betray the Saviour?  
Did He expel you from the company of the apostles?  
Did He deprive you of the gift of healing?  
When you were at Supper with the others, did He drive you from the table?  
When He washed the other's feet, did He pass you by?  
How many are the blessings that you have forgotten! Now your ingratitude is manifested,  
but His measureless long-suffering and great mercy  
are proclaimed to all.

### **THE THIRD GOSPEL**

**Priest:** And that we may be worthy to hear the Holy Gospel, let us pray to the Lord our God.

**People:** Lord, have mercy, *(three times)*

**Priest:** Wisdom! Stand aright! Let us listen to the holy Gospel. Peace be with all.

**People:** And with your spirit.

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

**People:** Glory to Your Passion, O Lord!

**Priest:** Let us be attentive! **(Matthew 26,57-75)**

Those who had apprehended Jesus led him off to Caiaphas the high priest, where the scribes and elders were convened. Peter kept following him at a distance as far as the high priest's residence. Going inside, he sat down with the guards to see the outcome. The chief priests, with the whole Sanhedren, were busy trying to obtain false testimony against Jesus so that they might put him to death. They discovered none, despite the many false witnesses who took the stand. Finally two came forward who stated: "This man has declared, 'I can destroy God's sanctuary and rebuild it in three days.'" The high priest rose to his feet and addressed him: "Have you no answer to the testimony leveled against you?" But Jesus remained silent. The high priest then said to him: "I order you to tell us under oath before the living God whether you are the Messiah, the Son of God." Jesus answered: "It is you who say it. But I tell you this: Soon you will see the Son of Man seated at the right hand of the Power and coming on the clouds of heaven." At this the high priest tore his robes: "He has blasphemed! What further need have we of witnesses? Remember, you heard the blasphemy What is your verdict?" They answered, "He deserves death!" Then they began to spit



in his face and hit him. Others slapped him, saying: "Play the prophet for us, Messiah! Who struck you?"

Peter was sitting in the courtyard when one of the serving girls came over to him and said, "You too were with Jesus the Galilean." He denied it in front of everyone: "I do not know what you are talking about!" When he went out to the gate another girl saw him and said to those nearby, "This man was with Jesus the Nazorean." Again he denied it with an oath: "I do not know the man!" A little while later some bystanders came over to Peter and said, "You are certainly one of them! Even your accent gives you away!" At that he began cursing, and swore, "I do not even know the man!" Just then a cock began to crow, and Peter remembered the prediction Jesus had made: "Before the cock crows, you will deny me three times." He went out and began to weep bitterly.

**People:** Glory to Your long-suffering, O Lord!

### **Antiphon 7 - tone 8**

Allowing the impious to lay hold on You, O Lord,

You spoke with patience:

"Although you smite the shepherds and scatter abroad the twelve sheep, My disciples,  
yet I could call to my aid more than twelve legions of angels.

But is My patience I await, that the hidden secrets I made known to you through the prophets may be fulfilled."

O Lord, glory to You.

### **Sessional Hymn - tone 8**

How could Judas, who was once Your disciple,  
plot to betray You?

Impious slanderer, in his treachery he ate with You at supper,  
and then he went to the priests and said:

"What will you give me, and I will deliver to you Him  
who set the Law at naught and defiled the Sabbath?

O long-suffering Lord, glory to You.

## **THE FOURTH GOSPEL**

**Priest:** And that we may be worthy to hear the Holy Gospel, let us pray to the Lord our God.

**People:** Lord, have mercy, (*three times*)

**Priest:** Wisdom! Stand aright! Let us listen to the holy Gospel. Peace be with all.

**People:** And with your spirit.

**Priest:** A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

**People:** Glory to Your Passion, O Lord!

**Priest:** Let us be attentive! (**John 18,28-19,16**)

At day break they brought Jesus from Caiaphas to the praetorium. They did not enter the praetorium themselves, for they had to avoid ritual impurity if they were to eat the Passover supper. Pilate came out to them. "What accusation do you bring against this man?" he demanded. "If he were not a criminal," they retorted, "we would certainly not have handed him over to you." At this Pilate said, "Why do you not take him and pass judgment on him according to your law?" "We may not put anyone to death," the Jews answered. (This was to fulfill what Jesus had said indicating the sort of death he had to die.) Pilate went back into the praetorium and summoned Jesus. "Are you the King of the Jews?" he asked him. Jesus answered, "Are you saying this on your own, or have others been telling you about me?" "I am no Jew!" Pilate retorted. "It is your own people and the chief priests who have handed you over to me. What have you done?" Jesus answered: "My kingdom does not belong to this world. If my kingdom were of this world,

my subjects would be fighting to save me from being handed over to the Jews. As it is my kingdom is not here." At this Pilate said to him, "So, then, you are a king?" Jesus replied: "It is you who say I am a king. The reason I was born, the reason why I came into the world, is to testify to the truth. Anyone committed to the truth hears my voice." "Truth!" said Pilate. "What does that mean?" After this remark, Pilate went out again to the Jews and said to them: "Speaking for myself, I find no case against this man. Recall your custom whereby I release someone to you at Passover time. Do you want me to release to you the King of the Jews?" They shouted back, "We want Barabbas, not this one!" (Barabbas was an insurrectionist.)

Pilate's next move was to take Jesus and have him scourged. The soldiers then wove a crown of thorns and fixed it on his head, throwing around his shoulders a cloak of royal purple. Repeatedly they came up to him and said, "All hail, king of the Jew!", slapping his face as they did so.

Pilate went out a second time and said to the crowd: "Observe what I do, I am going to bring him out to you to make you realize that I find no case (against him)." When Jesus came out wearing the crown of thorns and the purple cloak, Pilate said to them, "Look at the man!" As soon as the chief priests and the temple guards saw him they shouted, "Crucify him! Crucify him!" Pilate said, "Take him and crucify him yourselves; I find no case against him." "We have our law," the Jews responded, "and according to that law he must die because he made himself God's Son." When Pilate heard this kind of talk, he was more afraid than ever.

Going back into the praetorium, he said to Jesus, "Where do you come from?" Jesus would not give him any answer. "Do you refuse to speak to me?" Pilate asked him. "Do you not know that I have the power to release you and the power to crucify you?" Jesus answered: "You would have no power over me whatever unless it were given you from above. That is why he who handed me over to you is guilty of the greater sin."

After this, Pilate was eager to release him, but the Jews shouted, "If you free this man you are no 'Friend of Caesar.' Anyone who makes himself a king becomes Caesar's rival." Pilate heard what they were saying, then brought Jesus outside and took a seat on a judge's bench at the place called the Stone Pavement - *Gabbatha* in Hebrew. (It was the Preparation Day for Passover, and the hour was about noon.) He said to the Jews, "Look at your king!" At this they shouted, "Away with him! Away with him! Crucify him!" "What!" Pilate exclaimed. "Shall I crucify your king?" The chief priests replied, "We have no king but Caesar." In the end, Pilate handed Jesus over to be crucified.

**People:** Glory to Your long-suffering, O Lord!

#### **Antiphon 10 - tone 6**

He who clothes himself in light as in a garment,  
stood naked at the judgment;  
on His cheek He accepted blows from the hands which He had formed.  
The impious people nailed to the Cross the Lord of Glory.  
At that time, the veil of the temple was torn  
and the sun was darkened, for it could not bear to see  
such outrage done to God, before whom all things tremble.  
Let us worship Him.

#### **Sessional Hymn - tone 8**

When You, O God stood before Caiaphas,  
when You, Judge of the universe delivered Yourself to the judgment of Pilate,  
then the powers of heaven quaked with fear.  
When You were raised upon the Cross between the two thieves,  
and though sinless you were numbered with the lawless,  
for the salvation of us all.  
O merciful Lord, glory to You.

## THE FIFTH GOSPEL

**Priest:** And that we may be worthy to hear the Holy Gospel, let us pray to the Lord our God.

**People:** Lord, have mercy, (*three times*)

**Priest:** Wisdom! Stand aright! Let us listen to the holy Gospel. Peace be with all.

**People:** And with your spirit.

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

**People:** Glory to Your Passion, O Lord!

**Priest:** Let us be attentive! (**Matthew 27,3-32**)

Then Judas, who had handed him over, seeing that Jesus had been condemned, began to regret his action deeply. He took the thirty pieces of silver back to the chief priests and elders and said, "I did wrong to deliver up an innocent man!" They retorted, "What is that to us? It is your affair!" So Judas flung the money into the temple and left. He went off and hanged himself. The chief priests picked up the silver, observing, "It is not right to deposit this in the temple treasury since it is blood money." After consultation, they used it to buy the potter's field as a cemetery for foreigners. That is why that field, even today, is called Blood Field. On that occasion, what was said through Jeremiah the prophet was fulfilled: "They took the thirty pieces of silver, the value of a man with a price on his head, a price set by the Israelites, and they paid it out for the potter's field just as the Lord had commanded me." Jesus was arraigned before the procurator, who questioned him: "Are you the king of the Jews?" Jesus responded, "As you say." Yet when he was accused by the chief priests and elders, he had made no reply. Then Pilate said to him, "Surely you hear how many charges they bring against you?" He did not answer him on a single count, much to the procurator's surprise.

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

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

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

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

**People:** Glory to Your long-suffering, O Lord!

**Antiphon 15 - tone 6**

You, who hung the Earth upon the waters  
today is hung upon the Cross.  
The King of the angels is arrayed in a crown of thorns.  
He who wraps the heavens in clouds is wrapped in the purple of mockery.  
He receives blows upon His face who in the Jordan purified Adam.  
The Bridegroom of the Church is transfixed with nails.  
The Son of the Virgin is pierced with a spear.  
We venerate Your Passion, O Christ.  
We venerate Your Passion, O Christ.  
We venerate Your Passion, O Christ.  
Show us also Your glorious Resurrection.

**Sessional Hymn - tone 4**

You have redeemed us, O Lord, from the curse of the Law with Your precious blood: Nailed to the Cross  
and pierced with the spear,  
You have poured forth immortality upon us all.  
O our Saviour, Glory be to You.

**THE SIXTH GOSPEL**

**Priest:** And that we may be worthy to hear the Holy Gospel, let us pray to the Lord our God.

**People:** Lord, have mercy, *(three times)*

**Priest:** Wisdom! Stand aright! Let us listen to the holy Gospel. Peace be with all.

**People:** And with your spirit.

**Priest:** A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark.

**People:** Glory to Your Passion, O Lord!

**Priest:** Let us be attentive! **(Mark 15,16-32)**

The soldiers now led Jesus away into the hall known as the praetorium; at the same time they assembled the whole cohort. They dressed him in royal purple, then wove a crown of thorns and put it on him and began to salute him, "All hail! King of the Jews!" Continually striking Jesus on the head with a reed and spitting at him, they genuflected before him and pretended to pay him homage. When they had finished mocking him, they stripped him of the purple, dressed him in his own clothes, and let him out to crucify him. A man named Simon of Cyrene, the father of Alexander and Rufus, was coming in from the fields, and they pressed him into service to carry the cross. When they brought Jesus to the site of Golgotha (which means "Skull Place"), they tried to give him wine drugged with myrrh, but he would not take it. Then they crucified him and divided up his garments by rolling dice for them to see what each should take. It was about nine in the morning when they crucified him. The inscription proclaiming his offense read, "THE KING OF THE JEWS." With him they crucified two insurgents, one at his right and one at his left. People going by kept insulting him tossing their heads and saying, "Ha, ha! So you were going to destroy the temple and rebuild it in three days! Save yourself now by coming down from that cross!: The chief priests and the scribes also joined in and jeered: "He saved others but he cannot save himself! Let the 'Messiah,' the 'king of Israel,' come down from that cross here and now so that we can see it and believe in him!"

**People:** Glory to Your long-suffering, O Lord!

## The Beatitudes

### Refrain: Remember us, O Lord, in Your kingdom.

Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are they who mourn, for they will be comforted.

Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the land.

Blessed are they who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be satisfied.

Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy.

Blessed are the pure of heart, for they will see God.

Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called sons of God.

Blessed are they who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are you when they insult you and persecute you and utter every kind of evil word against you  
falsely because of Me.

Rejoice and be glad for your reward will be great in heaven.

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

**People: (Prokimen, tone, 4)** They parted My garments among them, and cast lots upon My clothing.

verse: O God, My God look upon me: why have You forsaken Me?

## THE SEVENTH GOSPEL

**Priest:** And that we may be worthy to hear the Holy Gospel, let us pray to the Lord our God.

**People:** Lord, have mercy, (*three times*)

**Priest:** Wisdom! Stand aright! Let us listen to the holy Gospel. Peace be with all.

**People:** And with your spirit.

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

**People:** Glory to Your Passion, O Lord!

**Priest:** Let us be attentive! (Matthew 27,34-54)

They gave him a drink of wine flavored with gall, which he tasted but refused to drink. When they had crucified him, they divided his clothes among them by casting lots; then they sat down there and kept watch over him. Above his head they had put the charge against him in writing: "THIS IS JESUS, KING OF THE JEWS." Two insurgents were crucified along with him, one at his right and one at his left. People going by kept insulting him, tossing their heads and saying: "So you are the one who was going to destroy the temple and rebuild it in three days! Save yourself, why don't you? Come down off that cross if you are God's Son!" The chief priests, the scribes, and the elders also joined in the jeering: "He saved others but he cannot save himself! So he is the king of Israel! Let's see him come down from the cross and then we will believe in him. He relied on God; let God rescue him now if he wants to. After all, he claimed, 'I am God's Son.'" The insurgents who had been crucified with him kept taunting him in the same way.

From noon onward, there was darkness over the whole land until mid afternoon. Then toward mid afternoon Jesus cried out in a loud tone, "*Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani*" that is "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" This made some of the bystanders who heard it remark, "He is invoking Elijah!" Immediately one of them ran off and got a sponge. He soaked it in cheap wine, and sticking it on a reed, tried to make him drink. Meanwhile the rest said, "Leave him alone. Let's see whether Elijah comes to his rescue." Once again Jesus cried out in a loud voice, and then gave up his spirit. Suddenly the curtain of the sanctuary was torn in two from top to bottom. The earth quaked, boulders split, tombs opened. Many bodies of saints who had fallen asleep were raised. After Jesus' resurrection they came forth from their tombs and entered the holy city and appeared to many. The centurion and his men who were keeping watch over Jesus were terror-stricken at seeing the earthquake and all that was happening, and said, "Clearly this was the Son of God!"

People: Glory to Your long-suffering, O Lord!

**PSALM 50**

Have mercy on me, God, in your kindness.  
In your compassion blot out my offense.

O wash me more and more from my guilt  
and cleanse me from my sin.

My offenses truly I know them;  
my sin is always before me.

Against You, You alone, have I sinned;  
what is evil in your sight I have done.

That You may be justified when You give sentence  
and be without reproach when You judge.

O see, in guilt I was born,  
a sinner was I conceived.

Indeed, You love truth in the heart;  
then in the secret of my heart teach me wisdom.

O purify me, then I shall be clean;  
O wash me, I shall be whiter than snow.

Make me hear rejoicing and gladness,  
that the bones You have crushed may thrill.

From my sins turn away your face  
and blot out all my guilt.

A pure heart create for me, O God,  
put a steadfast spirit within me.

Do not cast me away from your presence,  
nor deprive me of your Holy Spirit.

Give me again the joy of your help;  
with a spirit of fervor sustain me.

That I may teach transgressors your ways  
and sinners may return to You.

O rescue me, God, my helper,  
and my tongue shall ring out your goodness.

O Lord, open my lips  
and my mouth shall declare your praise.

My sacrifice, a contrite spirit.  
A humbled, contrite heart You will not spurn.

For in sacrifice You take no delight,  
burnt offering from me You would refuse.

In your goodness, show favor to Zion:  
rebuild the walls of Jerusalem.

Then You will be pleased with lawful sacrifice,  
burnt offerings wholly consumed,  
then You will be offered young bulls on your altar.

### THE EIGHTH GOSPEL

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

**People:** Lord, have mercy, (*three times*)

**Priest:** Wisdom! Stand aright! Let us listen to the holy Gospel. Peace be with all.

**People:** And with your spirit.

**Priest:** A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke.

**People:** Glory to Your Passion, O Lord!

**Priest:** Let us be attentive! (**Luke 23,32-49**)

Two others who were criminals were led along with him to be crucified. When they came to Skull Place, as it was called they crucified him there and the criminals as well, one on his right and the other on his left. Jesus said, "Father, forgive them; they do not know what they are doing." They divided his garments, rolling dice for them. The People stood there watching, and the leaders kept jeering at him, saying, "He saved others; let him save himself if he is the Messiah of God, the chosen one." The soldiers also made fun of him, coming forward to offer him their sour wine and saying, "If you are the king of the Jews, save yourself." There was an inscription over his head: "THIS IS THE KING OF THE JEWS." One of the criminals hanging in crucifixion blasphemed him: "Aren't you the Messiah? Then save yourself and us." But the other one rebuked him: "Have you no fear of God, seeing you are under the same sentence? We deserve it, after all. We are only paying the price for what we've done, but this man has done nothing wrong." He then said, "Jesus, remember me when you enter upon your reign." And Jesus replied, "I assure you: this day you will be with me in paradise."

It was now around midday, and darkness came over the whole land until midafternoon with an eclipse of the sun. The curtain in the sanctuary was torn in two. Jesus uttered a loud cry and said, "Father, into your hands I commend my spirit." After he said this, he expired. The centurion, upon seeing what had happened, gave glory to God by saying, "Surely this was an innocent man." When the crowd which had assembled for this spectacle saw what had happened, they went home beating their breasts. All his friends and the women who had accompanied him from Galilee were standing at a distance watching everything.

**People:** Glory to Your long-suffering, O Lord!

### THE CANON

#### Irmos 5

Early in the morning, I rise to pray to You, Word of God. Because of Your mercy You emptied Yourself without change. Though incapable of suffering as God, You submitted to the Passion. Loving Lord, grant peace to me a sinner.

**Kondak - tone 4**

Come, all of us, let us sing the praises of the Lord Who was crucified for us. Mary saw Him upon the tree and said: "Even though You endure the cross, You are my Son and my God."

**Irmos 8**

The godly young men held in contempt the evil pillar that rivaled God. The insolent and lawless assembly plots empty things against the Christ. It seeks to kill Him Who holds life in the palm of His hand, All creation blesses and glorifies Him forever.

**Priest:** Let us magnify with Hymns the Mother of God and the Mother of Light.

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

**Small Litany**

**Priest:** Again and again in peace, let us pray to the Lord.

**People:** Lord, have mercy.

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

**People:** Lord, have mercy.

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

**People:** To You, O Lord

**Priest:** For Your name is blessed and Your kingdom glorified, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, now and for ever and ever.

**People:** Amen.

**Exapostilarion - tone 3**

O Lord, this very day You have deemed the Good Thief worthy of Paradise. By the Wood of the Cross enlighten me and save me.

**THE NINTH GOSPEL**

**Priest:** And that we may be worthy to hear the Holy Gospel, let us pray to the Lord our God.

**People:** Lord, have mercy, *(three times)*

**Priest:** Wisdom! Stand aright! Let us listen to the holy Gospel. Peace be with all.

**People:** And with your spirit.

**Priest:** A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

**People:** Glory to Your Passion, O Lord!

**Priest:** Let us be attentive! **(John 19,25-37)**

Near the cross of Jesus there stood his mother, his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clo-pas, and Mary Magdalene. Seeing his mother there with the disciple whom he loved, Jesus said to his mother,



"Woman, there is your son." In turn he said to the disciple, "There is your mother." From that hour onward, the disciple took her into his care. After that, Jesus realizing that everything was now finished, said to fulfill the Scripture, "I am thirsty." There was a jar there, full of common wine. They stuck a sponge soaked in this wine on some hyssop and raised it to his lips. When Jesus took the wine, he said, "Now it is finished." Then he bowed his head, and delivered over his spirit.

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

**People:** Glory to Your long-suffering, O Lord!

### **Psalm 148**

Praise the Lord from the heavens  
praise Him in the heights,  
Praise Him, all his angels,  
praise Him, all his host.

Praise Him, sun and moon,  
praise Him, shining stars.  
Praise Him, highest heavens  
and the waters above the heavens.

Let them praise the name of the Lord  
He commanded: they were made.  
He fixed them forever,  
gave a law which shall not pass away.

Praise the Lord from the earth,  
sea creatures and all oceans,  
fire and hail, snow and mist,  
stormy winds that obey his word;

all mountains and hills,  
all fruit trees and cedars,  
beasts, wild and tame,  
reptiles and birds on the wing;

all earth's kings and peoples,  
earth's princes and rulers;  
young men and maidens,  
old men together with children.

Let them praise the name of the Lord  
for He alone is exalted.  
The splendor of his name  
reaches beyond heaven and earth.

He exalts the strength of his people,  
He is the praise of all his saints,  
of the children of Israel,  
of the people to whom He comes close.

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

**(tone 6)**

I gave My back to scourging;  
and did not turn away My face from spitting;  
I stood before the judgment-seat of Pilate,  
and endured the Cross for the salvation of the world.

### THE TENTH GOSPEL

**Priest:** And that we may be worthy to hear the Holy Gospel, let us pray to the Lord our God.

**People:** Lord, have mercy, (*three times*)

**Priest:** Wisdom! Stand aright! Let us listen to the holy Gospel. Peace be with all.

**People:** And with your spirit.

**Priest:** A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark.

**People:** Glory to Your Passion, O Lord!

**Priest:** Let us be attentive! **(Mark 15,43-47)**

Joseph from Arimathea arrived - a distinguished member of the Sanhedrin. He was another who looked forward to the reign of God. He was bold enough to seek an audience with Pilate and urgently requested the body of Jesus. Pilate was surprised that Jesus should have died so soon. He summoned the centurion and inquired whether Jesus was already dead. Learning from him that he was dead, Pilate released the corpse to Joseph. Then, having bought a linen shroud, Joseph took him down, wrapped him in the linen, and laid him in a tomb which had been cut out of rock. Finally he rolled a stone across the entrance of the tomb. Meanwhile, Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of Jesus observed where he had been laid.

**People:** Glory to Your long-suffering, O Lord!

### LESSER DOXOLOGY

**Priest:** Glory to You who show us the light!

**People:**

Glory to God in the highest,  
and to his people on earth, peace and good will.

Lord God, heavenly King, Almighty God and Father,  
with the Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, and the Holy Spirit

We praise You, we bless You, we worship You,  
we glorify You, we thank You for your great glory.

Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,  
You take away the sin of the world, have mercy on us.

You take away the sins of the world, hear our prayer.

You are seated at the right hand of the Father,  
have mercy on us.

For You alone are holy, You alone are the Lord, Jesus Christ,  
for the glory of God the Father. Amen.

I will bless You day after day, and praise your name forever.  
O Lord, You have been our refuge  
From one generation to the next.

I said: Lord, have mercy on me  
heal my soul, for I have sinned against You.

O Lord, I have fled to You, teach me to do your will,  
for You, O Lord, are my God.

In You is the source of life  
and in your light we see light.

Keep on loving those who know You,  
count us worthy, O Lord, of passing this day without sin.

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

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

Blessed are You, O Lord,  
teach me your commandments.

Blessed are You, O Master,  
make me understand your commandments.

Blessed are You, O Holy One,  
enlighten me with your laws.

O Lord, your mercy endures forever.  
do not despise the work of your hands.

It is proper to praise You,  
and hymns belong to You.

Glory belongs to You, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,  
now and for ever and ever. Amen.

### **Litany of Supplication**

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

**People:** Lord, have mercy.

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

**People:** Lord, have mercy.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**People:** Amen.

(Stand)

**Priest:** Peace be with all.

**People:** And with Your spirit.

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

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

**Priest:** (silently) Holy Lord, You live on high and yet stoop to look down upon earth, and with your divine eyes You see all creatures. Before You we bow down in spirit and body, and we pray You, O Holy of holies,

stretch forth your invisible hand from your holy dwelling and bless us. If we have sinned in any way, either deliberately or through human frailty, forgive us, for You are good; You give us earthly and heavenly blessings, and You alone love all.

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

**People:** Amen.

### THE ELEVENTH GOSPEL

**Priest:** And that we may be worthy to hear the Holy Gospel, let us pray to the Lord our God.

**People:** Lord, have mercy, *(three times)*

**Priest:** Wisdom! Stand aright! Let us listen to the holy Gospel. Peace be with all.

**People:** And with your spirit.

**Priest:** A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

**People:** Glory to Your Passion, O Lord!

**Priest:** Let us be attentive! **(John 19,38-42)**

Afterward, Joseph of Arimathea, a disciple of Jesus (although a secret one for fear of the Jews), asked Pilate's permission to remove Jesus' body. Pilate granted it, so they came and took the body away. Nicodemus (the man who had first come to Jesus at night) likewise came, bringing a mixture of myrrh and aloes which weighed about a hundred pounds. They took Jesus' body, and in accordance with Jewish burial custom bound it up in wrappings of cloth with perfumed oils. In the place where he had been crucified there was a garden, and in the garden a new tomb in which no one had ever been buried. Because of the Jewish Preparation Day they buried Jesus there, for the tomb was close at hand.

**People:** Glory to Your long-suffering, O Lord!

### APOSTICHA - tone 1

The whole creation was changed by fear,  
when it saw You, O Christ, hanging on the Cross.

The sun was darkened and the foundations of the earth were shaken;  
all things suffered with the Creator of all.

Of Your own will You have endured this for our sakes:

O Lord, glory to You.

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

Amen.

### (tone 8)

Already the unjust judges have dipped their pens in ink,  
and Jesus is sentenced and condemned to the Cross;  
the creation suffers, seeing the Lord crucified.

O loving Master who in Your bodily nature have suffered for my sake, glory to You.

### THE TWELFTH GOSPEL

**Priest:** And that we may be worthy to hear the Holy Gospel, let us pray to the Lord our God.

**People:** Lord, have mercy, *(three times)*

**Priest:** Wisdom! Stand aright! Let us listen to the holy Gospel. Peace be with all.

**People:** And with your spirit.

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

**People:** Glory to Your Passion, O Lord!

**Priest:** Let us be attentive! (Matthew 27,62-66)

The next day, the one following the Day of Preparation, the chief priests and the Pharisees called at Pilate's residence. "Sir," they said, "we have recalled that that impostor while he was still alive made the claim, 'After three days I will rise.' You should issue an order having the tomb kept under surveillance until the third day. Otherwise his disciples may go and steal him and tell the people, "He has been raised from the dead!" This final imposture would be worse than the first." Pilate told them, "You have a guard. Go and secure the tomb as best you can." So they went and kept it under surveillance of the guard, after fixing a seal to the stone.

**People:** Glory to Your long-suffering, O Lord!

Holy God, Holy and Mighty, Holy and Immortal, have mercy on us. (3X)  
Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit,  
now and for ever and ever. Amen.

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

Lord, have mercy. (3 times)

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

Our Father, Who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us, and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

**Priest:** For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and for ever and ever.

**People:** Amen.

#### **TROPAR tone 4**

You have redeemed us, O Lord, from the curse of the Law with Your precious blood:  
Nailed to the Cross and pierced with the spear,  
You have poured forth immortality upon us all.  
O our Saviour, Glory be to You.

#### **Insistent Litany**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**People:** Amen.

### **DISMISSAL**

**Priest:** Wisdom!

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

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

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

**Priest:** May Christ our true God, who endured spitting and scourging and blows, the Cross and death, for us and for our salvation, by the prayers of his most pur Mother, of the holy, glorious, and illustrious apostles, of our venerable and God-bearing fathers, and by the prayers of all the saints, have mercy on us and save us, for He is gracious and He loves us all.

**People:** Amen.

You have suffered the Passion for us, O Christ Jesus, Son of God, have mercy on us.