

OFFICE OF THE BURIAL OF JESUS CHRIST

The Office of the Burial of Christ is a meditation on the Saviour's entombment and his descent into Hades to save the souls of the just and open for them the gates of heaven. It is marked throughout with faith and hope, since the time Christ remained in the tomb is seen by Christians as a period of refreshing sleep after the sufferings of the Passion, and as a prelude to the victory of the Resurrection.

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. (3 times).

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

Psalm 3

O Lord, how many are my adversaries!

Many rise up against me!

Many are saying of me,

"There is no salvation for him in God."

But you, O Lord, are my shield;

my glory, you lift up my head!

When I call out to the Lord,

he answers me from his holy mountain.

When I lie down to sleep,

I wake again, for the Lord sustains me.

I fear not the myriads of people

arrayed against me on every side

Rise up, O Lord!

Save me, my God!

For you strike all my enemies on the cheek;

the teeth of the wicked you break.

Salvation is the Lord's!

Upon your people be your blessing!

When I lie down to sleep,

I wake again, for the Lord sustains me.

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

TROPAR

(Tone 2)

The noble Joseph took down

Your most pure body from the tree.

He wrapped it with a clean shroud

and, with aromatic spices, placed it in a new tomb.

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

When You went down to death, O Life Immortal,

You struck Hades dead with the blazing light of Your divinity.

When You raised the dead from the nether world,

all the powers of heaven cried out:

"O Giver of life Christ our God, glory be to You!"

Now and for ever and ever. Amen.

The angel stood by the tomb and said to the ointment-bearing women:

"Ointments are for the dead,
but Christ has proved Himself free from decay."

THE PRAISES

First Stasis

We praise You, O Christ the Giver of Life, who suffered and was buried for us yesterday and gloriously gave life to the dead.

Refrain: Happy are they whose way is blameless, who walk in the law of the Lord.

O Life, how can You die? How can You dwell in a tomb? Yet You destroy death's kingdom and raise the dead from Hades.

Refrain: They do no wrong, but walk in his ways.

We praise You, Jesus our King: we honor Your burial and Your sufferings, through which You have saved us from corruption.

Refrain: You have commanded that your precepts be diligently kept.

O Jesus, King of all, who have set to boundaries of the earth, You go this day to dwell in a narrow grave, raising up the dead from their tombs.

Refrain: I will give thanks with an upright heart, when I have learned your just ordinances.

O Christ, You who are Life were laid in a tomb: by your death you have destroyed death and have become a fountain of life for the world.

Refrain: In the way of your decrees I rejoice, as much as in all riches.

O Christ. You have gone down into the tomb, yet You were never parted from the Father's side, O marvelous wonder.

Refrain: Yes your decrees are my delight; they are counselors.

You were laid in a new tomb, O Christ, and have made new the nature of mortals, rising from the dead by Your divine power.

Refrain: I will run the way of your commands when you give me a docile heart.

O Christ, O Life, You experienced death and You delivered the mortals from death and to all You grant life today.

Refrain: So shall I have an answer for those who reproach me, for I trust in your words.

O Source of Life, how is it that we see Him dead? The angels, trembling, proclaim, "How is it possible for God to be covered in the grave?"

Refrain: So shall I have an answer for those who reproach me, for I trust in your words.

O Source of Life, how is it that we see Him dead? The angels, trembling, proclaim, "How is it possible for God to be covered in the grave?"

Refrain: Remember your word to your servant since you have given me hope.

I adore Your passion, I praise Your burial, I glorify Your might, O Lover of us all, because through them I have been delivered from my bodily passions.

Refrain: Indignation seizes me because of the wicked who forsake your law.

By Your own will, You showed Yourself dead in the grave, O Word of God, but You live and You restore Your people to life through Your Resurrection as you had foretold.

Refrain: I was prompt and did not hesitate in keeping your commands.

"O woe to me, Light of the World! O woe to me, my Light! Jesus, my beloved!" the Blessed Virgin, weeping bitterly, cried.

Refrain: Teach me wisdom and knowledge for in your commands I trust.

"O Word of God! Oh my joy! How will I endure Your burial? Today my heart is torn asunder," bemoans the Blessed Virgin.

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

O Word and God of all, in our hymns we praise You with the Father and Your Holy Spirit, and we glorify Your divine burial.

Now and for ever and ever. Amen.

We bless you, O pure Mother of God, and with faith we honor the three-day burial of your Son and our God.

We praise You, O Christ the Giver of Life, who suffered and was buried for us yesterday and gloriously gave life to the dead.

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

Second Stasis

O Life-bestowing Lord, it is right to magnify You. For your hands were painfully stretched out on the cross, and in this way You destroyed the power of death.

Refrain: Your hands have made me and fashioned me; give me discernment that I may learn your commands.

O Life-bestowing Lord, it is right to magnify You, for You have stretched out Your arms upon the Cross and have broken the power of the enemy.

Refrain: Those who fear you shall see me and be glad, because I hope in your word.

The earth trembled with fear, O Saviour Christ, and the sun hid itself, seeing You, the Light that knows no evening, sinking in Your body down into the tomb.

Refrain: Through all generations your truth endures; you have established the earth, and it stands firm.

Joseph hid You reverently in a new tomb, O Saviour, and lamenting sang to You a funeral hymn fitting for God.

Refrain: From every evil way I withhold my feet, that I may keep your words.

When You descended into the grave, O Creator of the world, the light of the sun expired and all creation shook as it announced that You are the Creator of all.

Refrain: How sweet to my palate are your promises, sweeter than honey to my mouth!

"Behold the disciple whom you loved and Your mother, O my child, and say at least one word of consolation," tearfully bemoaned the Blessed Mother.

Refrain: I resolve and swear to keep your just ordinances.

With Your body, You descended into the earth, O Inextinguishable Light, the sun could not witness this event, but darkened while it was still mid-day.

Refrain: The wicked have laid a snare for me, but from your precepts I have not strayed.

You slept for only a short time and replenished life to the dead and when You resurrected You also restored life to all the deceased, O Merciful One.

Refrain: My eyes strain after your salvation and your just promise.

Seeing You, O Christ, the invisible Light, hidden lifeless in the tomb, the sun trembled and darkened its light.

Refrain: For I love your command more than gold, however fine.

Great and fearful is the sight now before our eyes, O Saviour: for of His own will the Cause of life submits to death, that He may give life to all.

Refrain: I gasp with open mouth in my yearning for your commands.

Today with hymns we faithfully honor Your crucifixion and Your burial, O Christ, because we have been delivered from death by Your burial.

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

Eternal Father, Co-eternal Son, and Holy Spirit, save our people from oppression as a Merciful One.

Now and for ever and ever. Amen.

O virgin pure and undefiled, you have given birth to our Life, bring to an end the scandals of the Church and in your love grant her peace.

O Life-bestowing Lord, it is right to magnify You. For your hands were painfully stretched out on the cross, and in this way You destroyed the power of death.

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 You are holy, O our God, seated upon the throne of glory of the Cherubim, and we send up glory to You, and to your eternal Father, and to your all-holy, good and life-giving Spirit, now and for ever and ever.

People: Amen

Third Stasis

All generations, come to Your tomb, O Christ, singing a hymn of praise.

Refrain: Turn to me in pity as you turn to those who love your name. Taking You down from the Tree, Joseph of Arimathea lays you in a sepulcher.

Refrain: Steady my footsteps according to your promise, and let no iniquity rule over me.

Bringing You sweet spices, the Myrrh-bearers drew near, O my Christ.

Refrain: My eyes shed streams of tears because your law has not been kept.

O most blessed Joseph, bury the body of Christ, the Giver of Life.

Refrain: I call upon you; save me, and I will keep your decrees. Seeing You dead, the Blessed Virgin, as a Mother cried out: Refrain: Before dawn I come and cry out; I hope in your words. "O my most beloved Son, where has Your beauty disappeared?"

Refrain: Your compassion is great, O Lord; according to your ordinances give me life.

O Son of God, King of all, my God, my Creator, how could You endure such sufferings?

Refrain: I rejoice in your promise, as one who has found rich spoil.

I glorify Your great mercy, O my Son, for which You suffer so greatly.

Refrain: Let my supplication reach you; rescue me according to your promise.

To those who with love and fear revere Your suffering, grant forgiveness of their sins.

Refrain: My lips pour forth your praise, because you teach me your statutes.

O how terrifying and wondrous is this phenomenon, O Word of God!
How is it that the earth entombs You?

Refrain: May my tongue sing of your promise, for all your commands are just.

Joseph who carried You as a baby lives no more. Now another Joseph takes You into his arms and buries You in his grave.

Refrain: I have gone astray like a lost sheep; seek your servant, because your commands I do not forget.

Give peace to the Church and salvation to Your people by Your Resurrection.

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

O my God, O Trinity, Father, Son and Spirit, grant Your mercy to the world.

Now and for ever and ever. Amen.

Grant to us your servants to behold, O Virgin, the Resurrection of your Son.

All generations, come to Your tomb, O Christ, singing a hymn of praise.

Blessed are You, O Lord, teach me Your statutes.

The hosts of angels were amazed and dazzled when they beheld You, O Saviour, among the dead destroying the power of death, raising up Adam with You and releasing all the souls from Hades.

Blessed are You, O Lord, teach me Your statutes.

O Savior, the ointment-bearing women came to your grave with ointments, and they heard the angel say to them: Why are you

seeking the Living One among the dead? Indeed, He is God. He is risen from the dead.

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

O Virgin, you bore the Giver of Life. You redeemed Adam from his sin and granted joy to Eve instead of sadness. For He who is both God and Man was incarnate of you, and He has restored life to those who had strayed away from it.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, Glory to You, O God! *(3 times)*

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 You are the King of Peace, O Christ God, and we send up glory to You, and to your eternal Father, and to your all-holy, good and life-giving Spirit, now and for ever and ever.

People: Amen

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.

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

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

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.

CANON

Ode 1

The One, who at one time covered the oppressors with waves of the
ocean, now is Himself covered under the earth by the children
of the saved ones, and we, as children, sing to the Lord,
"Gloriously He was glorified!"

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 You are our God and we send up glory to You, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, now and for ever and ever.

People: Amen

Ode9

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

People: Do not weep over me, O Mother, as you see in the grave the Son whom you have conceived in your womb without seed. I will resurrect and be glorified and I, as God, will forever gloriously raise those who with faith and love 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 all the powers of heaven praise You, and we send up glory to You, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, now and for ever and ever.

People: Amen

People: Holy is the Lord our God. (3 times)

Psalm 148

May everything that breathes praise the Lord
Give praise to the Lord from the heavens;
Give praise to Him in the heights,
To You belongs praise, O God.
Give praise to Him, all you his angels
Give praise to Him, all you his powers.
To You belongs praise, O God!

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.

GREATER 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.

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, 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,

Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal,
have mercy on us.

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

Holy and immortal, have mercy on us.

Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal, have mercy on us

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

People: (Prokimen t.4) Arise, O Lord, and help us: and deliver us for the sake of Your Name.

verse: We have heard with our ears, O God, and our fathers have told us.

Priest: Wisdom!

Reader: A Reading from the Prophet Ezekiel

Priest: Let us be attentive!

Reader:

The hand of the Lord came upon me, and he led me out in the spirit of the Lord and set me in the center of the plain, which was now filled with bones. He made me walk among them in every direction so that I saw how many they were on the surface of the plain. How dry they were! He asked me: Son of man, can these bones come to life? "Lord God, " I answered, "you alone know that." Then he said to me: Prophecy over these bones, and say to them: Dry bones, hear the word of the Lord! Thus says the Lord God to these bones: See! I will bring spirit into you, that you may come to life. I will put sinews upon you, make flesh grow over you, cover you with skin, and put spirit in you so that you may come to life and know that I am the Lord. I prophesied as I had been told, and even as I was prophesying I heard a noise; it was the rattling as the bones came together, bone joining bone. I saw the sinews and the flesh come upon them, and the skin cover them, but there was no spirit in them. Then he said to me: Prophecy to the spirit, prophesy, son of man, and say to the spirit: Thus says the Lord God: From the four winds come, O Spirit, and breathe into these slain that they may come to life. I prophesied as he told me, and the spirit came into them; they came alive and stood upright, a vast army.

Then he said to me: Son of man, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They have been saying, "Our bones are dried up, our hope is lost, and we are cut off." Therefore, prophesy and say to them: Thus says the Lord God: O my people, I will open your graves and have you rise from them, and bring you back to the land of Israel. Then you shall know that I am the Lord, when I open your graves and have you rise from them, O my people! I will put my spirit in you that you may live, and I will settle you

upon the land; thus you shall know that I am the Lord. I have promised, and I will do it, says the Lord.

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

People: (Prokimen t.7) Arise, O lord, my God, may Your hand be raised and may it not forget your poor until the end.

verse: I will praise You, O Lord, with my whole heart: I will speak of all your marvelous works.

Priest: Wisdom!

Reader: A reading from the letter of St. Paul to the Corinthians

Priest: Let us be attentive.

Reader:

Brothers and Sisters: Do you not know that a little yeast has its effect all through the dough? Get rid of the old yeast to make of yourselves fresh dough, unleavened loaves, as it were; Christ our Passover has been sacrificed. Let us celebrate the feast not with the old yeast, that of corruption and wickedness, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth. Christ has delivered us from the power of the law's curse by himself becoming a curse for us, as it is written: "Accursed is anyone who hanged on a tree." This has happened so that through Christ Jesus the blessing bestowed on Abraham might descend on the Gentiles in Christ Jesus, thereby making it possible for us to receive the promised Spirit through faith.

Priest: Peace be with you. Wisdom. Let us be attentive!

People: Alleluia!

verse: Let God arise, and let His enemies be scattered, and let those who hate Him flee from His presence.

As smoke vanishes, let them vanish, as wax melts from the presence of fire.

So let sinners perish from the presence of God, but let the righteous rejoice.

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!

Insistent Litany

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

People: Lord, have mercy

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

People: Lord, have mercy.

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

People: Lord, have mercy. (3X)

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

People: Lord, have mercy. (3X)

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

People: Lord, have mercy. (3X)

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

People: Lord, have mercy. (3X)

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

People: Amen.

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) For it is You alone who have mercy and save us, and we glorify You, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and for ever and ever.

People: Amen.

DISMISSAL

Priest: Wisdom!

People: Give the Blessing

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

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

Priest: O most holy Mother of God, save us.

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

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

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

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

People: Amen.