Matins of Great and Holy Friday

The Reading of the Twelve Gospels

Troparion: "Alleluia - When the Glorious Disciples..." (see pg. 208)

Before:

At The Gospels

Glory to Thy Passion, O Lord!

After:

Glory to Thy Long Suffering, O Lord!

Prokeimenon - Tone 4

They divided my garments among them,

and for my raiment they cast lots.

Kontakion - Tone 8

Come, let us sing praises

of Him who was crucified for us,

for Mary said when she beheld Him upon the Tree:

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Though thou dost endure the Cross,

Thou art my Son and my God.

Troparion - Tone 4

By Thy precious blood, Thou hast redeemed us

from the curse of the law. By being nailed

to the Cross and pierced by a spear,

Thou hast poured forth immortality for man.

O our Savior, glory to Thee!
At the Vespers of Great and Holy Friday

(At "Lord I Call" - Tone 1)

All creation was changed by fear

when it saw Thee hanging upon the Cross,

O Christ, The Sun was darkened

and the foundations of the earth were shaken.

All things suffered with the Creator of all.

O Lord Who didst willingly endure this for us,

glory to Thee!
Why do the Godless people plot in vain?

Why do they put to death the Life of all?

O wonder! The Creator is betrayed to lawless men!

The Lover of man is nailed to a Cross, that He may release the prisoners of hell who cry:

O long suffering Lord, glory to Thee!
Glorify to the Father, and to the Son,
and to the Holy Spirit,
now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

How does the lawless assembly
kill the King of creation
not remembering His gracious acts! He even called them
to remembrance saying:
what have I done to you, my people?

Have I not worked wonders in all of Judea?
Have I not raised the dead by a word?

Have I not healed all manner of sickness?

How do you now reward me? Why do you forget me?

For healing others, you wound me!

For raising the dead, you crucify me!

For being gracious, you call me a thief!

For giving the law, you call me lawless!

For being King of creation, you condemn me! O long-suffering Lord, glory to Thee!
Prokeimenon I: "They divided my garments..." (see pg. 212)

Prokeimenon II - Tone 4

Contend, O Lord, with those who contend with me.

Fight against those who fight against me!

Prokeimenon III: Epistle - Tone 6

Thou hast put me in the depths of the pit,
in the regions dark and deep.

Aposticha - Tone 2

When Joseph of Arimathea took Thee down from the Tree, the Life of all Who was dead.

He wrapped Thee in fine linen;

Anointed Thee with spices; with love in his heart he kissed Thine incorruptable body.
Though filled with fear he cried with joy;
glorify to Thy condescension,

O Lover of man!

The Lord is King! He is robed in majesty!

Hell shuddered when it beheld Thee,
the Redeemer of all Who was laid in a tomb.

Its bonds were broken; its gates were smashed
the tombs were opened; the dead arose.

Then Adam cried with joy and thanksgiving:
glorify to Thy condescension,

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

When Joseph together with Nicodemus,
had taken down from the tree, Thee, who dost clothe Thyself with light as with a garment,
and beheld Thee dead, naked, and unburied

That compassionate man was seized by weeping and lamented:
Woe, woe is me,

O my sweetest Jesus!

Having beheld Thee

but a while ago upon the Cross,

the sun hid itself in darkness.

And the earth trembled in fear.

The veil of the temple was rent in twain.

Lo, now I behold Thee,

Who for my sake voluntarily endured death.
How shall I bury Thee, O my God?

Or with what linen shall I wrap Thee?

With what hands shall I touch Thy most pure bodily?

Or what songs shall I sing at Thy departure, O Merciful One? I magnify Thy Passion!

In song I glorify Thy burial with the Resurrection, crying:

"O Lord, glory to Thee!"
The noble Joseph, when he had taken down Thy most pure Body from the tree, wrapped it in fine linen, and anointed it with spices and placed it in a new tomb.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit,
When Thou didst descend to death, O Life immortal,
Thou didst slay hell with the splendor of Thy Godhead!
And when from the depths Thou didst raise the dead, all the powers of heaven cried out: O Giver of Life, Christ our God, glory to Thee!
now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

The angel came to the myrrh-bearing women at the tomb and said: "Myrrh is meet for the dead, but Christ has shown Himself a stranger to corruption."

At the Matins of Great and Holy Saturday

"God is the Lord" - Tone 2 (see Volume I - pg. 116)
Troparia "The Noble Joseph" (pg. 223 above)

The Lamentations: from the First Stasis - Tone 5

1. Thou, O Christ the Life, wast laid in the tomb.

And armies of angels were amazed.

And they glorified Thy descension.
2. O Life how canst Thou die?
How canst Thou dwell in the tomb?
Thou dost break down the kingdom of death.
And hast raised up those who were dead in Hades.

3. We magnify Thee,
O Jesus our King.
And we honor Thy entombment and Passion,
through which Thou hast saved us from corruption.

4. Thou, O Jesus King of all,
Who didst set the measurements of the earth.
To-day dwellest in a narrow grave.

And dost raise the dead from the tombs.

O Jesus Christ,

the King of all,

why hast Thou come to seek out those who are dead in Hades?

Or to release the race of mortals?

The Master, of all

truly is seen dead,

and He is laid in a new tomb,

Who emptied the tombs of the dead.
7. Thou, O Christ, the Life,
wast laid in the tomb.
And by Thy death Thou didst destroy death
and shed life upon the world.

The Lamentations: from the Second Stasis - Tone 5

1. It is truly meet
to magnify Thee, the giver of life,
Thou Who didst extend Thine hands upon the Cross
and shatter the power of the enemy.
2. It is truly meet to magnify Thee, the Creator of all; for by Thy sufferings we are freed from suffering and delivered from corruption.

3. The Sun darkened his light and shuddered when he saw Thee, O Christ, the Unseen Light bereft of breath, and hidden in the grave.

4. When Thine all-Pure Mother beheld Thy death O Christ,
she cried out in bitterness:

"Tarry not, O Life, among the dead."

The fearful Hades trembled when it saw Thee,

O Immortal Sun of glory, and in haste gave up its captives.

We all the faithful, who were redeemed from death by the tomb,

exalt with hymns Thy crucifixion and Thy tomb, O Christ.
It is truly meet to magnify Thee, the giver of life, Thou who didst extend Thine hands upon the Cross and shatter the power of the enemy.

The Lamentations: from the Third Stasis - Tone 3

All generations offer adoration to Thy entombment, O Christ.

Joseph of Arimathea takes Thee down from the Tree and lays Thee in a tomb.
The myrrh-bearing women

with forethought prepared myrrh

and came to Thee, O Christ.

Hi ther let us come with all creation

and bring triumphal hymns

to our Creator.

Following the myrrh-bearers

let all of us with understanding

anoint as dead Him who lives.
Do thou, O thrice blessed Joseph

take charge of the body of Christ,

Thine all Holy Mother

weeps for Thee lamenting

at Thy death, O my Savior.

All generations

of offer adoration

to Thy entombment, O Christ.
The Evlogitaria - Tone 5: (see Volume I - pg. 163)

The Canon of Great and Holy Saturday - Tone 6

Ode I.

Of old Thou didst bury the pursuing tyrant beneath the waves of the sea. Now the children of those who were saved bury Thee beneath the earth.

But like the maidens, let us sing to the Lord, for gloriously has He been glorified.

Ode III.

Thou didst suspend the earth immovably before the waters. Now creation beholds Thee suspended on Calvary.

It quakes with great amazement and cries: "None is holy but Thee, O Lord."

Serbian Orthodox Church in the USA and Canada: Central Church Liturgical Music Committee (2005)
Kathisma Hymn - Tone 1

The soldiers guarding Thy Tomb, O Savior,
became as dead men at the lightning flash of the

angels who appeared announcing Thy Resurrection to the women.

We glorify Thee, Who cleansest from corruption.

We fall down before Thee, Who didst rise from the Tomb, our only God.

Ode IV (tone 6)

For seeing Thy divine humiliation on the Cross, Habakuk cried out trembling:

"Thou didst shatter the dominion of the mighty by joining those in hell as the Almighty Lord."

Serbian Orthodox Church in the USA and Canada: Central Church Liturgical Music Committee (2005)
I saw the never setting light of Thy compassionate manifestation to us as God, O Christ. Rising early from the night he cried out: 

"The dead shall arise. Those in the tombs shall awake. All those on the earth shall greatly rejoice.

Jonah was caught but not held fast in the belly of the whale. He was a sign of Thee Who hast suffered and accepted burial.

Coming forth from the beast as from a bridal chamber, he called out to the guard: "By observing your vanities and lies you have forsaken your own mercy."
Kontakion - Tone 6

He who shut in the depths is beheld dead,
wrapped in fine linen and spices.

The Immortal One is laid in a tomb as a mortal man.

The women have come to anoint Him with myrrh, weeping bitterly and crying: "This is the most blessed Sabbath on which Christ has fallen asleep to rise on the third day."

Ode VII. Inexpressible wonder! In the furnace Thou didst save the holy youths from the flame. Now Thou art placed in the grave as a lifeless corpse, for the salvation of us who sing:

"Blessed art Thou, O God, our Redeemer!"
Ode VIII.

Be amazed, O heavens! Be shaken, O foundations of the earth! Behold, He that dwells in the highest is numbered among the dead and sheltered in a lowly tomb.

Bless Him, O youths! Praise Him, O priests! O people, exalt Him above all forever ever!

Ode IX.

Do not lament me, O mother, seeing me in the tomb, the Son conceived in the womb without seed.

For I shall arise and be glorified with eternal glory as God. I shall exalt all who magnify you in faith and in love.

Serbian Orthodox Church in the USA and Canada: Central Church Liturgical Music Committee (2005)
The Praises - Tone 2

See Volume I - pg. 292 for the first two verses.

Praise God in His sanctuary!

Praise Him in His mighty firmament!

Today the grave holds Him who holds creation in His palm.

A stone covers Him who covers the heavens with virtue. Life sleeps and Hades trembles.

And Adam is set free from His bonds.

Glory to Thy dispensation,

Through which when all things were accomplished,

Thou hast presented us an eternal rest,

Even Thy most holy Resurrection from the dead.
Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

The great Moses mystically fore-shadowed this day saying:

"And God blessed the seventh day." This is the blessed Sabbath;

it is the day of rest, and on it the Only-begotten Son of God rested from all His works, and through the dispensation of death,
in the flesh He rested. On this day He returned again through the Resurrection, and as a righteous and merciful Lord bestowed on us eternal life.

Theotokion - Tone 2 (see Volume I - pg. 297)
Great Doxology - Tone 6 (see Volume I - pg. 338)
Troparia - "The Noble Joseph..." (see pg. 223)

Prokeimenon I - Tone 4

Arise, O Lord, and help us!
Deliver us for Thy Name's sake!

Prokeimenon II - Tone 7

Arise, O Lord my God,
and let Thy hand be lifted up!

Do not forget Thy poor until the end.

Serbian Orthodox Church in the USA and Canada: Central Church Liturgical Music Committee (2005)
At the Liturgy of Great and Holy Saturday

"Lord, I Call" - Tone 1 (see Volume I - pg. 5)

(Tone 8)

To day hell cries out groaning:

I should not have accepted the Man born of Mary.

He came and destroyed my power.

He shattered the gates of brass.

As God, He raised the souls that I had held captive.

Glory to Thy Cross and Resurrection, O Lord.

To day hell cries out groaning:

My dominion has been shattered.
I received a dead man as one of the dead, but against Him I could not prevail. From eternity I had ruled the dead, but behold, He raises all.

Because of Him I perish.

Glory to Thy Cross and Resurrection, O Lord.

Today hell cries out groaning:

My power has been trampled upon. The Shepherd is crucified and Adam is raised.

I have been deprived of those whom I ruled.

Those whom I swallowed in my strength

I have given up.
He who was crucified has emptied the tombs.
The power of death has been vanquished.

Glory to Thy Cross and Resurrection, O Lord.

"Glory...Now...The Great Moses" - Tone 6 (see pg. 239)

After the 6th Reading:
(Tone 5)
For gloriously has He been glorified.

After the 15th Reading:
(Tone 5)
Praise the Lord, and exalt Him forever!

Prokeimenon - Tone 5
Let all the earth worship Thee and praise Thee,
let us sing unto Thy name, O Most High!

After the Epistle Reading:
(Tone 7)
Arise, O God, judge the earth:
for to Thee belong all the nations!
Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silent
(In place of the Cherubic Hymn)

Let all mortal flesh keep silent, and in fear, in fear and trembling stand,
pon'dring nothing earthly minded,
pon'dring nothing, nothing earthly mind ed.
For the King of kings, and the Lord of lords,
comes to be slain, to be slain, for the King of kings and the Lord of lords,
comes to be slain,
and to give Himself as food to the faithful,

and to give Himself as food to the faithful.

After the Entrance..."Amen" then...

Before Him go the ranks of angels: all the principalities and powers; the many-eyed cherubim; and the six-winged seraphim, covering their faces, singing the hymn, singing the hymn: Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

I rms - "Do Not Lament Me..." - Tone 6 (see pg. 236)