

Vespers for Great and Holy Friday

STAND

PRIEST: Blessed is our God, always, now and ever, and forever.

RESPONSE: Amen.

-† Come, let us adore the King, our God.

-† Come, let us adore Christ, the King, our God.

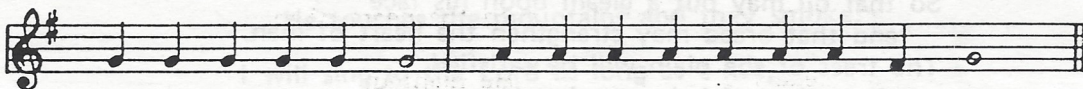
-† Come, let us adore and bow down to the only
Lord Jesus Christ, the King and our God.

STAND

SIT

PSALM 103

Praise of God's Creation



Bless the Lord, O my soul. You are ver - y great, O Lord, my God.

Bless the Lord, O my soul!

You are very great, O Lord, my God!

-Clothed in pomp and brilliance,
arrayed with light as with a cloak.

Stretching out the sky as a tent-cloth,
covering Your lofty halls with water.

-You make the clouds Your conveyance,
You surge on the wings of the wind.

You make spirits Your messengers
and flaming fires Your attendants.

-You settle the earth on its firm foundation:
it shall stand unmoved from age to age.

The abyss covers it like a garment;
waters stand over the mountains.

-At Your rebuke, they will take to flight,
at the peal of Your thunder they will fear.

They hurdle the hills and run down the dales
to the place You have chosen for them.
—You have set up a boundary not to be passed:
they shall never return to cover the earth.

Down in the gullies, You make springs to rise:
waters shall go down between the mountains.
—They shall give drink to the beasts of the field;
wild asses will seek them to quench their thirst.

The birds of the sky will abide by them:
from among the rocks they will raise their song.
—From Your lofty halls You refresh the mountains;
the earth shall be fed with the fruit of Your works.

You make green pastures for the cattle
and food-plants for the service of man,
—So that bread may be brought forth from the earth
and wine that gladdens the heart of man.

So that oil may put a gleam upon his face
and that bread may strengthen the heart of man.
—The trees of the plain will be satisfied,
the cedars of Lebanon that He planted.

The sparrows will build their nests in them
and the herons will call them their home.
—To the deer belong high mountains,
to rodents, the shelter of the rocks.

You have made the moon to mark the seasons
the sun knows the time of its setting.
—You establish darkness and it is night
wherein the forest creatures prowl around.

Young lions roar for their prey
and call out to God for their meat.
—As the sun rises, they will come together
and lay themselves down in their dens.

Man will go out to his labor
and work until eventide.
—How great are Your works, O Lord!
In wisdom You have wrought them all:
the earth is filled with Your creatures.

Even the wide and open sea itself:
within it there are countless creeping things,
living beings small and large.
—Upon it there are ships a-sailing
and that great beast You made to have fun.

All of them look up to You
to give them their food in due time.
—You provide and they gather up;
You open Your hand and they are full.

You hide Your face and they cringe,
You suspend their breath and they die
and return to their dust
—You send forth Your breath and they live:
You renew the face of the earth!

May the Lord's glory endure forever,
may the Lord rejoice in His works.
—He looks upon the earth and makes it quake,
He touches the mountains and they smoke.

I will sing to the Lord as long as I live,
I will praise my God as long as I last.
—Would that my thoughts be pleasing to Him
and I will rejoice in the Lord.

May the sinners vanish from the earth
and may the wicked be no more.
—Bless the Lord,
O my soul!

The sun knows the time of its setting.
You establish darkness and it is night.
—How great are Your works, O Lord!
In wisdom You have wrought them all.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit,
now and ever, and forever. Amen.
—Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!
Glory be to You, O God. *(3 times with a bow each time)*

LITANY OF PEACE

The priest remains before the closed royal doors.

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

R. Lord, have mercy. *(and after each following petition)*

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

For peace in the whole world, for the well-being of the holy
Churches of God and for the union of all, let us pray to the Lord.

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

For our holy ecumenical Pontiff, N., the Pope of Rome,
for our most reverend Archbishop and Metropolitan, N., for our
God-loving Bishop N., for the venerable priesthood, the diaconate
in Christ, and all the clergy and the people, let us pray to the Lord.

For our civil authorities and all in the service of our country,
let us pray to the Lord.

For this city, for every city and countryside, and for those
living within them in faith, let us pray to the Lord.

For seasonable weather, for an abundance of the fruits of
the earth, and for peaceful times, let us pray to the Lord.

For the safety of those who travel by sea, air, and land,
and for the salvation of the sick, the suffering, and the captive,
let us pray to the Lord.

That we be delivered from all affliction, wrath, and need,
let us pray to the Lord.

Protect us, save us, have mercy on us, and preserve us, O God,
by Your grace.

Remembering our most holy, most pure, most blessed and
glorious Lady, the Mother of God and ever-virgin Mary with all
the Saints, let us commend ourselves and one another, and our
whole life to Christ, our God.

R. To You, O Lord.

For to You, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, is due all glory,
honor, and worship, now and ever, and forever.

R. Amen.

PSALM 140

(STAND until the priest incenses you. Then you may sit.)

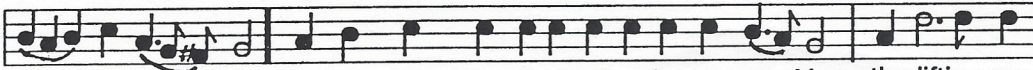
Tone 1



O Lord I have cried to You, hear me. Hear me, O Lord. O Lord, I have



cried to You, hear me. Receive the voice of my prayer, when I call up-on You.



Hear me, O Lord. Let my prayer be directed as incense to You, the lifting up



of my hands, as an eve-ning sac--ri--fice. Hear me, O Lord!

Tone 1

Hymns of Vespers



If You, O Lord mark in-i-quities, Lord who can stand? But with You is for-give-ness.



All crea-a-tion was trans-formed with fear, when it be-held You hanging on the



cross, O Christ. The sun was dark-ened and the foun-da-tions of the earth trem-bled.



All cre-a-tion suf-fered with the One, Who cre-a-ted all things. O Lord, Who suf-fered



for us; Glo---ry be to You!

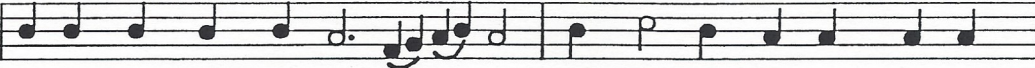
Tone 2



For Your Name's sake, O Lord, I have waited for You. My soul has waited for



Your word. My soul has hoped in the Lord. Why do evil and iniquitous people



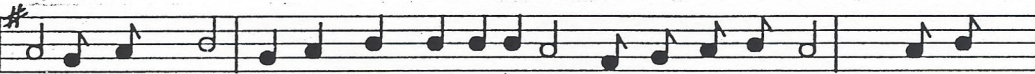
concern themselves with what is in vain? Why have they condemned to death



the Life of All? O, What a great wonder! The Creator of the world is handed over



to the law-less ones, and He, Who loves mankind, is raised up --pon the Cross,



that He might free the en-slaved of the Abyss who are cry-ing out: " O Long-

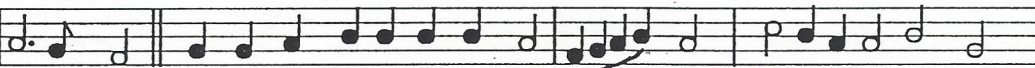


suffering Lord, glo---ry be to You!"

Same Tone



From the watch of dawn until the night, from the watch of dawn let Is-ra----el long



for the Lord. The all-pure Virgin seeing You, O Word, lifted upon the cross



to--day, la--mented as a mo-ther. Her heart was bursting with sorrow, and moaning



from the depths of her soul, her ap--pear--ance deep-ly scarred with grief,



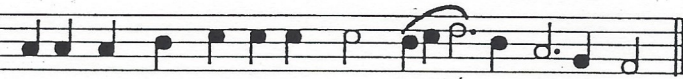
she cried out so mourn--ful-ly: "O Divine Child, how great is my sor--row!



O Light of the World, O Lamb of God, why have You passed from my sight?"



Seeing all this, the heavenly hosts were struck with fear, and they cried out:



"O In-com-pre-hen-si-ble Lord, Glo-----ry be to You!"

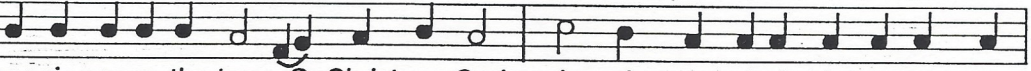
Same Tone



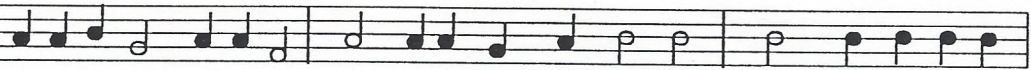
For with the Lord there is mercy, and with Him abundant redemption; and it is He



Who will redeem Is-ra--el from all their in--i--qui--ties. As she be-held You



hanging upon the tree, O Christ our God, she, who gave virgin-birth to You, the



Cre-a-tor and God of All, cried out in such great sor-row: "Where has the beauty

of Your appearance gone, O my Son? I can-not en-dure the sight of this un-just
 cru-ci-fix-tion! Hur-ry and a--rise, so that I may also see Your resurrection from
 from the dead, on the third day."

Tone 6

Praise the Lord all you nations, glo---ri--fy Him, all you peo-----ples.
 Today the Master of Creation stands be-fore Pi-late, and the Cre--a-tor of All is
 con-demned to the cross. As a lamb, He is willingly led and fas-tened with nails.
 His side is pierced, and He Who rained manna on the earth, is given drink from a
 sponge. The Savior of the World is struck on the cheek, and the Cre-a-tor of All
 is mocked by His own ser--vants. He begs His Father for those who cru-ci-fy Him



say---ing: "Father for-give them this sin, because the lawless ones know not what

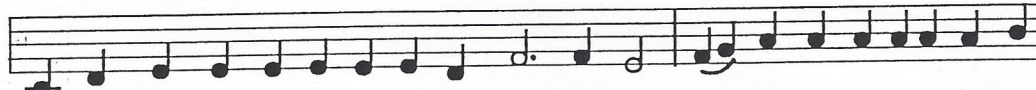


in-jus-tice they do." How great is the Mas-ter's love for all man-kind!

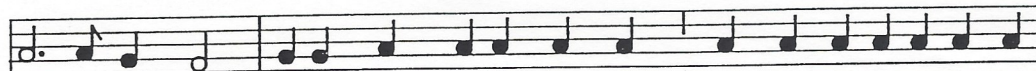
Same Tone



For mighty is His love for us and the truth of the Lord en-dures for---e---ver.



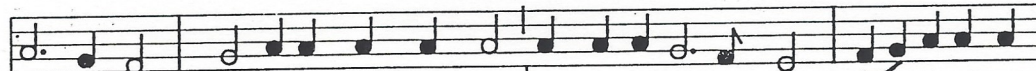
O how could the lawless council con-demn to death the King of Creation with-out



be--ing a--shamed at the thought of His good works, which He recounted to them



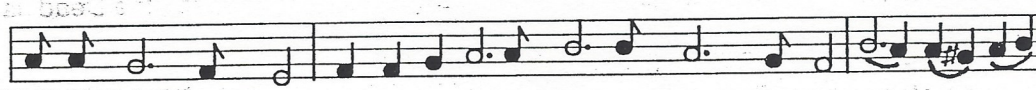
say--ing: " O My people what have I done to you? Have I not filled Ju-de--a with



mir--a--cles? Have I not raised the dead with just a sin--gle word? Have I not cured



illnesses and suf--fer--ings? And what do you give Me in re--turn? Why have you



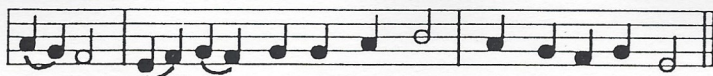
not re--mem--bered Me? For all my healing you have wound-ed Me; For life you



gave Me death. You hang Me, Your benefactor, on a tree as a crim--in--al.



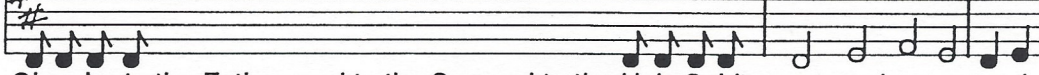
You treat Me, the Giver-of-the-Law, as a law--brea--ker. You con-demn the King



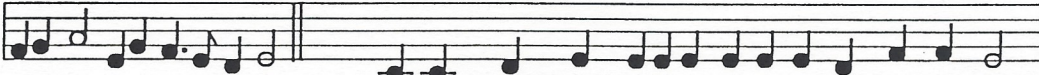
of All." O Long--suf-fer-ing Lord, Glo--ry be to You!

STAND

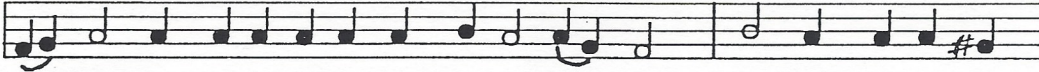
Same Tone



Glory be to the Father, and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ev-er and



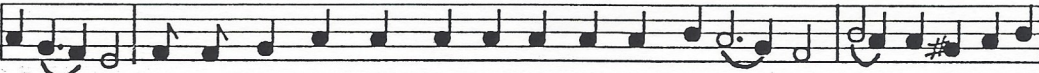
for--ev---er, A-----men. An awe--some and glorious mystery oc-curs to-day,



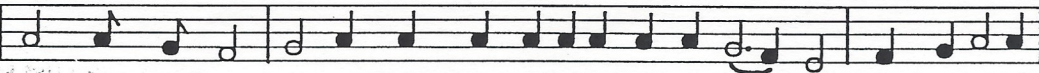
the One Who-cannot-be contained is now re---strained. He, Who freed A-dam



from the curse is bound; the Searcher-of-Hearts-and-Souls is questioned



un-just-ly. He Who confined the deep is now confined to pri---son. In front of Pi-late



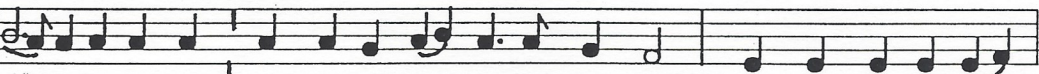
now stands the One be-fore Whom the heavenly powers trem--ble. The Cre-a-tor



is struck by the hand of a crea--ture. The Judge of the Liv-ing and the Dead is



now con-demned to the cross. He Who conquered Hell, is sealed in a tomb.



O innocent Lord, Who gra-cious-ly suffered all things, and saved all man-kind



from the curse, Glo--ry be to You!

ENTRANCE FOR VESPERS

(While the people sing the "Glory be..." the priest makes the entrance with the Holy Gospel and the incense.)

Priest: Wisdom! Be attentive!

HYMN OF THE EVENING

O Joy-ful Light! Light and Ho - ly Glo - ry of the Fa - ther Im -
mor - tal, the Hea - ven - ly, Ho - ly, the Bless - ed One; O Je -
sus Christ. Now that we have reached the set - ting of the sun and see
the eve - ning light, we sing to God, Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly
Spir - it. It is fit - ting at all times to raise a song of praise
in meas - ured mel - o - dy to You, O Son of God, the Gi - ver of
Life. Be - hold, the u - ni - verse sings Your glo - ry.

The musical score is written on a single staff in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of eight lines of music. The first line begins with a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp (F#), and a common time signature (C). The melody is primarily composed of quarter and eighth notes, with some rests. A triplet of eighth notes is marked with a '3' above it in the first line. The lyrics are printed below the notes, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across multiple notes. The piece concludes with a double bar line and repeat dots.

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

PROKIMENON Tone 4



They di-vide my gar-ments a-mong them-selves, and for my clothing they cast lots.



And for my cloth-ing they cast lots.

VERSE: My God, my God, hear me.
Why have you forsaken me?

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Priest: Wisdom!

Reader: A reading from the Prophecy of Isaiah.

Priest: Let us be attentive. *(The people may sit during the reading.)*

Reader: Thus says the Lord:

See, my servant shall prosper,
he shall be raised high and greatly exalted.
Even as many were amazed at him—
so marred was his look beyond that of man,
and his appearance beyond that of mortals—
So shall he startle many nations,
because of him kings shall stand speechless;
For those who have not been told shall see,
those who have not heard shall ponder it.
Who would believe what we have heard?
To whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed?
He grew up like a sapling before him,
like a shoot from the parched earth;
There was in him no stately bearing to make us look at him,
nor appearance that would attract us to him.
He was spurned and avoided by men,

One of those from whom men hide their faces,
spurned, and we held him in no esteem.
Yet it was our infirmities that he bore,
our suffering that he endured,
While we thought of him as stricken,
as one smitten by God and afflicted.
But he was pierced for our offenses,
crushed for our sins,
Upon him was the chastisement that makes us whole,
by his stripes we were healed.
We had all gone astray like sheep,
each following his own way;

But the Lord laid upon him the guilt of us all.
Though he was harshly treated,
he submitted and opened not his mouth;
Like a lamb led to the slaughter or a sheep before the shearers,
he was silent and opened not his mouth.
Oppressed and condemned, he was taken away,
and who would have thought any more of his destiny?
When he was cut off from the land of the living,
and smitten for the sin of his people,
A grave was assigned him among the wicked
and a burial place with evildoers,
Though he had done no wrong
nor spoken any falsehood.

But the Lord was pleased to crush him in infirmity.
If he gives his life as an offering for sin,
he shall see his descendants in a long life,
and the will of the Lord shall be accomplished through him.

Because of his affliction
he shall see the light in fullness of days;
Through his suffering, my servant shall justify many,
and their guilt he shall bear.

Therefore I will give him his portion among the great,
and he shall divide the spoils with the mighty,

Because he surrendered himself to death
and was counted among the wicked;

And he shall take away the sins of many,
and win pardon for their offenses.

Raise a glad cry, you barren one who did not bear,
break forth in jubilant song, you who were not in labor,
For more numerous are the children of the deserted wife
than the children of her who has a husband,
says the Lord.

STAND

PROKIMENON - Tone 6

STAND

The priest intones from behind the altar:

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

Priest: Voňmim! Mir † vs'im! Premu-
drosť voňmim!

Response:

You have plunged me in - to the bot - tom of the pit, in - to the
dark - - ness and the sha - dow of death, in - to the
dark - ness and the sha - dow of death. VERSE: O Lord, God of my
salvation, by day and by night I cry out to You. (repeat the Prokimenon)

SIT

EPISTLE

SIT

The priest intones from behind the altar:

Priest: Wisdom!

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

Priest: Let us be attentive!

Reader: (reads 1st Cor. 1: 18 through 2: 2)

Brethren:

The message of the cross is complete absurdity to those who are headed for ruin, but to us who are experiencing salvation it is the power of God. Scripture

says, "I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and thwart the cleverness of the clever." Where is the wise man to be found? Where is the scribe? Where is

the master of worldly argument? Has not God turned the wisdom of this world into folly? Since in God's wisdom the world did not come to know him through "wisdom", it pleased God to save those who believe through the absurdity of the preaching of the gospel. Yes, Jews demand "signs" and Greeks look for "wisdom," but we preach Christ crucified—a stumbling block to Jews, and an absurdity to Gentiles; but to those who are called, Jews and Greeks alike, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. For God's folly is wiser than men, and his weakness more powerful than men.

Brothers, you are among those called. Consider your situation. Not many of you are wise, as men account wisdom; not many are influential; and surely not many are well-born. God chose those

whom the world considers absurd to shame the wise; he singled out the weak of this world to shame the strong. He chose the world's lowborn and despised, those who count for nothing, to reduce to nothing those who were something; so that mankind can do no boasting before God. God it is who has given you life in Christ Jesus. He has made him our wisdom and also our justice, our sanctification, and our redemption. This is just as you find it written, "Let him who would boast, boast in the Lord."

As for myself, brothers, when I came to you I did not come proclaiming God's testimony with any particular eloquence or "wisdom." No, I determined that while I was with you I would speak of nothing but Jesus Christ and him crucified.

At the completion of the reading, the priest blesses the reader, and the people sing the Alleluia with verses. The priest meanwhile incenses in the customary manner before the reading of the Holy Gospel.

ALLELUIA - Tone 1

Priest: Peace † be to you! Wisdom! Be attentive!

Response:

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Save me, O God,
for the waters threaten my life. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!