

The Midnight Office



As a Reader's Service

Reader: Through the prayers of our holy fathers, Lord Jesus Christ, our God, have mercy on us. Amen.

Glory to Thee, our God, glory to Thee!

O Heavenly King, Comforter, Spirit of Truth, Who art everywhere present and fillest all things, Treasury of good things, and Giver of life: come and abide in us, and cleanse us from every impurity, and save our souls, O Good One!

Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal, have mercy on us. (**x3**)

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

O Most-Holy Trinity, have mercy on us; O Lord, blot out our sins; O Master, pardon our iniquities; O Holy One, visit and heal our infirmities for Thy Name's sake.

Lord, have mercy. (**x3**)

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

Our Father, Who art in the heavens, hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.

Through the prayers of our holy fathers, Lord Jesus Christ, our God, have mercy on us. Amen.

Lord, have mercy. (**x12**)

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

O come let us worship God our King.

O come let us worship and fall down before Christ our King and God.

O come let us worship and fall down before Christ Himself, our King and God.

Psalm 50

Reader: Have mercy on me, O God, according to Thy great mercy; and according to the multitude of Thy compassions blot out my transgression. Wash me thoroughly from mine iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin. For I know mine iniquity, and my sin is ever before me. Against Thee only have I sinned and done this evil before Thee, that Thou mightest be justified in Thy words, and prevail when Thou art judged.

For behold, I was conceived in iniquities, and in sins did my mother bear me. For behold, Thou hast loved truth; the hidden and secret things of Thy wisdom hast Thou made manifest unto me.

Thou shalt sprinkle me with hyssop, and I shall be made clean; Thou shalt wash me, and I shall be made whiter than snow. Thou shalt make me to hear joy and gladness; the bones that be humbled, they shall rejoice. Turn Thy face away from my sins, and blot out all mine iniquities.

Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from Thy presence, and take not Thy Holy Spirit from me. Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation, and with Thy governing Spirit establish me. I shall teach transgressors Thy ways, and the ungodly shall turn back unto Thee. Deliver me from blood-guiltiness, O God, Thou God of my salvation; my tongue shall rejoice in Thy righteousness.

O Lord, Thou shalt open my lips, and my mouth shall declare Thy praise. For if Thou hadst desired sacrifice, I had given it; with whole-burnt offerings Thou shalt not be pleased. A sacrifice unto God is a broken spirit; a heart that is broken and humbled God will not despise.

Do good, O Lord, in Thy pleasure unto Zion, and let the walls of Jerusalem be builded. Then shalt Thou be pleased with a sacrifice of righteousness, with oblation and whole-burnt offerings. Then shall they offer bullocks upon Thine altar.

The Kanon - Ode 1

Pitch: B F# D# B

Lesser Znamenny Chant, Tone 6

Of old Thou didst bu - ry the pur - su - ing ty - - rant
be - neath the waves of the sea. Now the child - ren of
those who were saved bu - ry Thee be - neath the earth.
But like the maid - ens, let us sing to the Lord,
for glo - rious - ly has He been glo - - ri - fied.

Rdr#1: Glory to Thee, our God, glory to Thee!

Rdr#2: Unto Thee I sing a hymn for the departed and a song of burial, o Lord my God, who by Thy burial hast opened for me the entrance to life and by Thy death hast put death and hell to death.

Rdr#1: Glory to Thee, our God, glory to Thee!

Rdr#2: Beholding Thee upon the throne on high and in the grave below, the things of heaven and the things beneath the earth trembled at Thy death; for in a manner past understanding wast Thou, the very source of life seen dead.

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

Rdr#2: Thou didst descend to the depths of the earth to fill all with Thy glory; for my person that is in Adam was not hidden from thee, and when Thou was buried, Thou didst renew me who am corrupt, O Lover of mankind.

(Repeat “*Of old Thou didst bury...*”)

The Kanon - Ode 3

Pitch: B G E

Lesser Znamenny Chant, Tone 6

Thou didst sus - pend the earth im - mov - ab - ly up - on
the wa - - ters. Now cre - a - tion be - holds
Thee sus - pend - ed on Cal - va - ry. It quakes with
great a - maze - ment and cries: "None is ho - ly but
Thee, O Lord."

Rdr#1: Glory to Thee, our God, glory to Thee!

Rdr#2: By a multitude of visions Thou didst indicate the signs of Thy burial, O Master. But now, as God and man, Thou dost make clear Thy hidden things even unto those in hell, who cry: "None is holy but Thee, O Lord."

Rdr#1: Glory to Thee, our God, glory to Thee!

Rdr#2: Thou hast stretched out Thy hands, O Savior, and united what before had been divided; and by clothing Thyself in a winding sheet Thou hast saved even those held captive by the tomb, who cry: "None is holy but Thee, O Lord."

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

Rdr#2: By Thy will a sealed tomb contained Thee, who cannot be contained; for by Thy divine accomplishments Thou hast made known Thy power unto those who sing: "None is holy but Thee, O Lord who lovest mankind."

(Repeat "*Thou didst suspend the earth...*")

Kathisma Hymn

Tone 1

Pitch: (E) C B \flat G C

Obikhod

N. Bakhmetev

The sol - diers guard-ing Thy tomb, O Sav - ior be - came as
dead men at the light - ning flash of the an - gel who
ap-peared an-nounc-ing Thy re-sur-rec - tion to the wo - men.

We glo - ri-fy Thee, Who cleans-est from corrup-tion; we fall down
be-fore Thee, Who didst rise from the tomb; our on - ly God.

(After *Kathisma Hymn*, turn page for *Ode 4*)

The Kanon - Ode 4

Pitch: B F# D# B

Lesser Znamenny Chant, Tone 6

Fore - see - ing Thy di - vine hu - mil - i - a - tion on the cross,

Hab - ak - kuk cried out trem - bling: "Thou didst

shat - ter the dom - in - ion of the migh - ty

by join - ing those in hell as the al - migh - ty Lord."

Rdr#1: Glory to Thee, our God, glory to Thee!

Rdr#2: Thou hast sanctified this, the seventh day , which of old THou didst bless by rest from work; for Thou dost bring all things into being and renew them, O my Savior, while resting and reviving on the sabbath.

Rdr#1: Glory to Thee, our God, glory to Thee!

Rdr#2: By the overwhelming strength of Thy divine nature Thou didst win the victory, O Word; for Thy soul was parted from the flesh, sundering by Thy might the bonds of hell and death.

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

Rdr#2: When hell encountered Thee, O Word, it was embittered. Seeing Thee as a mortal man deified, marked with wounds yet having almighty power, it cried out at Thy awesome appearance.

(Repeat “*Foreseeing Thy divine humiliation...*”)

The Kanon - Ode 5

Pitch: B F# D# B

Lesser Znamenny Chant, Tone 6



I - sa - iah saw the nev - er - set - ting light of Thy
com - pas - sion - ate ma - ni - fes - ta - tion to us as God,
O Christ. Ris - ing ear - ly from the night he cried out:
"The dead shall a - rise. Those in the tombs shall
a - wake. All those on earth shall great - ly re - joice."

Rdr#1: Glory to Thee, our God, glory to Thee!

Rdr#2: When Thou didst become earthly, O Creator, Thou didst renew those born on earth, and the winding sheet and the grave revealed the mystery concerning Thee, O word; for Joseph the noble counsellor, fulfills the counsel of Him who begot Thee and who wondrously renews me in Thee.

Rdr#1: Glory to Thee, our God, glory to Thee!

Rdr#2: Through death thou dost transform what is mortal, and through burial Thou dost transform what is corruptible; for in a manner befitting Gdd Thou dost make incorrupt and immortal the nature which Thou hast assumed, since Thy flesh did not see corruption and in a wondrous manner Thy soul was not abandoned in hell.

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

Rdr#2: Thou didst come forth from a painless birth, O my Maker, and Thy side was pierced. By this has Thou, the new Adam, accomplished the restoration of Eve. Thou didst fall into a sleep surpassing nature and renewing nature, and as the all-powerful On, Thou didst raise up life from sleep and corruption.

(Repeat “*Isaiah saw the never-setting light...*”)

The Kanon - Ode 6

Pitch: B G E

Lesser Znamenny Chant, Tone 6

Jo-nah was caught but not held fast in the bel-ly
of the whale. He was a sign of Thee
who hast suf-fered and ac-cept-ed bur-i-al.
Com-ing forth from the beast as from a brid-al
cham-ber, he called out to the guard:

"By ob - serv - ing van - i - ties and lies you have for - sak - en
 your own mer - - cy."

Rdr#1: Glory to Thee, our God, glory to Thee!

Rdr#2: Thou wast killed, O Word but not separated from the flesh which Thou dost share with us; for even though the temple of Thy body was destroyed at the time of the passion, the person of Thy divinity and of Thy flesh was one, for in both dost Thou remain one Son, Word of God, God and man.

Rdr#1: Glory to Thee, our God, glory to Thee!

Rdr#2: The fall of Adam resulted in the death of man, not God; for even though the earthly substance of Thy flesh suffered, Thy divinity remained passionless. In Thyself Thou hast transformed the corruptible to incorruption, and by Thy resurrection Thou hast revealed a fountain of incorruptible life.

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

Rdr#2: He rules the race of mortal men, but not eternally; for when Thou wast placed in the grave, O powerful One, Thou didst tear asunder the bars of death by Thy life-creating hand and didst proclaim true deliverance to those sleeping there from the ages, since Thou, O Savior, hast become the first-born of the dead.

(Repeat “*Jonah was caught but not held fast...*”)

Kontakion

Tone 6

Pitch: D B G

Lesser Znamenny Chant

D. Soloviev

He who shut in the depths is be - held dead, wrapped
in fine lin - en and spic - - es. The Im - mor - tal
One is laid in a tomb as a mor - tal man.
The wom - en have come to a - noint Him with
myrrh, weep - ing bit - ter - ly and cry - - ing:

"This is the most bless - ed sab - bath, on which
 Christ has fal - len a - sleep to rise on the third day."

Ikos

Reader: He who holds all things together has been lifted up upon the cross, and all of creation weeps at seeing Him hanging, naked, upon the wood. The sun hid its rays and the stars cast aside their splendor. The earth shook with great fear, the sea fled, and the rocks were split asunder. Many tombs were opened, and the bodies of holy men arose. Hell groaned below, and the Jews considered how to slander the resurrection of Christ, but the women cried:

CHOIR: (Ikos Ending)

"This is the most bless - ed sab - bath, on which
 Christ has fal - len a - sleep to rise on the third day."

The Kanon - Ode 7

Pitch: B F# D# B

Lesser Znamenny Chant, Tone 6

In - ex - press - i - ble won - der! In the furn - ace

Thou didst save the ho - ly youths from the flame.

Now Thou art placed in the grave as a life - less

corpse, for the sal - va - tion of us who sing:

"Bless - ed art Thou, O God, our re - deem - - er!"

Rdr#1: Glory to Thee, our God, glory to Thee!

Rdr#2: Hell was wounded in heart when it received Him whose side was pierced by a spear, and it groans, consumed by divine fire, unto the salvation for us who sing: “Blessed art Thou, O God, our Redeemer!”

Rdr#1: Glory to Thee, our God, glory to Thee!

Rdr#2: Happy is the tomb! For having received the Creator as one asleep, it became a divine treasury of life, for the salvation of us who sing: “Blessed art Thou, O God, our Redeemer!”

Rdr#1: Glory to Thee, our God, glory to Thee!

Rdr#2: In accordance with the law of the dead, the Life of all accepts burial in the tomb, and the tomb becomes the source of resurrection, unto the salvation of us who sing: “Blessed art Thou, O God, our Redeemer!”

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

Rdr#2: In hell, in the tomb and in Eden, the divinity of Christ was one and undivided, with the Father and the Spirit, for the salvation of us who sing: “Blessed art Thou, O God, our Redeemer!”

(Repeat “Inexpressible wonder!...”)

The Kanon - Ode 8

Pitch: B F# D# B

Lesser Znamenny Chant, Tone 6

Be a-mazed, O heav-ens! Be shak-en, O foun-da-tions of
the earth! Be-hold, He that dwells in the high-est
is num-bered a-mong the dead and shel-tered in a
low-ly tomb. Bless Him, O youths! Praise Him, O priests!
O peo-ple, ex-alt him a-bove all for-ev-er.

Rdr#1: Glory to Thee, our God, glory to Thee!

Rdr#2: The pure Temple has been destroyed, yet He raises with Himself the tabernacle that had fallen; for the second Adam, who dwells in the highest, has descended to the first Adam, even unto the lowest chambers of hell. Bless Him, O youths! Praise him, O priests! O people, exalt Him above all forever!

Rdr#1: Glory to Thee, our God, glory to Thee!

Rdr#2: The courage of all the disciples failed, but Joseph of Arimathea showed valor; for seeing the God of all dead and naked, he sought Him and dressed Him for burial, crying: Bless Him, O youths! Praise him, O priests! O people, exalt Him above all forever!

Rdr#1: We bless the Lord: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Rdr#2: What new wonders! What great goodness! What ineffable forbearance! For He that dwells in the highest is willingly sealed beneath the earth, and God is slandered as a deceiver. Bless Him, O youths! Praise him, O priests! O people, exalt Him above all forever!

Pitch: D B G

We praise, bless, and wor - ship the Lord, sing - ing and
ex - alt - ing Him through - out all a - ges.

(Repeat “Be amazed, O heavens!...”)

The Kanon - Ode 9

Pitch: B G E

Lesser Znamenny Chant, Tone 6

Do not la-men-t me, O Moth - er, see-ing Me in the tomb.

The Son con-ceived in the womb with-out seed, for I

shall a-rise and be glo - ri-fied with e-ter-nal glo - ry

as God. I shall ex - alt all who mag - ni - fy you

in faith and in love.

Rdr#1: Glory to Thee, our God, glory to Thee!

Rdr#2: “I escaped sufferings and was blessed beyond nature at Thy strange birth, O Son who art without beginning. But now, beholding Thee, my God, dead and without breath, I am sorely pierced by the sword of sorrow. But arise, that I may be magnified.”

Rdr#1: Glory to Thee, our God, glory to Thee!

Rdr#2: “By my own will, the earth covers me, O mother, but the gatekeepers of hell tremble at seeing me clothed in the blood-stained garments of vengeance; for when I have vanquished my enemies on the cross, I shall arise as God and magnify you.”

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

Rdr#2: “Let creation rejoice! Let all born on earth be glad! For hateful hell has been despoiled. Let the women with myrrh come to meet me; for I am redeeming Adam and Eve and all their descendants, and on the third day shall I arise!”

(Repeat “*Do not lament Me, O Mother,...*”)

Trisagion

Reader: Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal, have mercy on us. (**x3**)

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

O Most-Holy Trinity, have mercy on us; O Lord, blot out our sins; O Master, pardon our iniquities; O Holy One, visit and heal our infirmities for Thy Name's sake.

Lord, have mercy. (**x3**)

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

Our Father, Who art in the heavens, hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.

Through the prayers of our holy fathers, Lord Jesus Christ, our God, have mercy on us. Amen.

Resurrectional Troparion

Tone 2

Pitch: C G E C

Obikhod

N. Bakmetev

The musical score consists of four staves of music, each with a treble clef and a bass clef, separated by vertical bar lines. The music is in common time, indicated by a 'C' at the beginning of the first staff. The notes are represented by black dots on the staff lines, with stems extending either up or down. The lyrics are written below the staves, aligned with the notes. The music is divided into four sections by vertical bar lines, each starting with a forte dynamic (a large black dot). The first section ends with a fermata over the final note of the line. The second section begins with a forte dynamic. The third section ends with a fermata over the final note of the line. The fourth section begins with a forte dynamic.

When Thou didst de-scent to death, O Life Im-mor - tal,
Thou didst slay hell with the splen-dor of Thy God - head!
And when from the depths Thou didst raise the dead,
all the pow - ers of hea - ven cried out: O giv - er
of life, Christ our God, glo - ry to Thee!

Reader: Lord, have mercy. (**x40**)

Lesser Dismissal

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

Lord, have mercy. (**x3**)

O Christ, bless!

Reader: O Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, for the sake of the prayers of Thy most pure Mother, our holy and God-bearing fathers, and all the saints, have mercy on us and save us, for Thou art good and the Lover of mankind.

Choir: Amen.