

PREFACE

In the Orthodox-Catholic tradition, "it is a holy and pious thought...to pray for the dead." (2 Maccabees 12:45.44) The most intense prayer for those departed is at the funeral rite itself. We have lost the presence of our loved one in this world, but our faith is that we are never completely separated from those who have died in faith, as Christ taught: "I am the resurrection and the life; whoever believes in me, even if he dies, will live." (John 11:25)

We trust in God, and we respect his judgment, but our prayer is our expression of love for our brother or sister in faith, and we offer prayer to God for them, knowing that he will hear our prayer and take account of our love, which surpasses the boundaries between life and death, between time and eternity, between presence and absence. St. Paul taught, "For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor present things, nor future things, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord." (Romans 8:38-39) We pray for a perfect rest for those departed, and that God "remember them forever." Our prayers tell us that there is no one without sin. By this we do not mean grievous sin that would turn us away from God, but the sins of human weakness and imperfection that afflict all of us. To come into God's presence means the cleansing of all sin, and it is this for which we pray.

The Parastas Service is an act of charity, a continuation of our supplication at the funeral itself, combining both the vigil prayers and the morning prayers that we offer for the repose of the departed and their full forgiveness of all sin. The Catechism of the Catholic Church quotes our Holy Father John Chrysostom, "Let us help and commemorate them. If Job's sons were purified by their father's sacrifice, why would we doubt that our offerings for the dead bring them some consolation? Let us not hesitate to help those who have died and to offer our prayers for them." (Homily on 1 Corinthians 41, 5 in § 1032) The Orthodox Bishop Kallistos (Ware) adds, "...Christians here on earth pray for one another and ask for one another's prayers, so they pray also for the faithful departed and ask the faithful departed to pray for them. Death cannot sever the bond of mutual love which links the members of the Church together." (The Orthodox Church, p. 258)

ETERNAL MEMORY – The Byzantine Parastas concludes with the singing of the hymn for the departed, "Eternal Memory!" Sometimes this is misinterpreted to mean the memories we keep of the beloved, which are themselves mortal. What it does mean is that we continue to exist in God's mind, the Creator and Sustainer of all being. Only his "memory" is eternal, and only in his memory do we truly and really find life.

PARASTAS

STAND

The priest vests in the epitrachilion and phelonion. The deacon, having received the blessing from the celebrant, vests in the sticharion and orarion. Dark vestments are worn unless it is a post-festive time during which the vestments appropriate to the feast are worn.

The celebrant, concelebrants, and deacon proceed to the place where the Parastas will be served, and the deacon (or the celebrant, if there is no deacon) incenses.

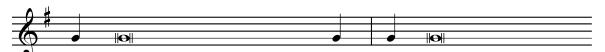
Deacon: Reverend Father [or: Most Reverend (Arch)Bishop], give the blessing!

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

Response:

A - men.

The faithful immediately continue with the following:



Come, let us worship our King and God. Come, let us worship Christ,



our King and God. Come, let us worship and bow before the only



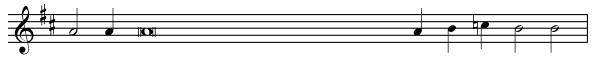
Lord Jesus Christ, the King and our God.

PSALM 90 Tone 8 Kontakion









Glo-ry to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Ho-ly Spir-it,



Then three times, with a bow each time:





LITANY

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



Deacon: For the servant[s] of God (Name/s) and for (his-her-their) blessed repose, let us pray to the Lord.



Whenever a general commemoration of the departed is made, the following replaces the previous petition:

Deacon: For the souls of all who have departed throughout the ages in the true

faith and in the hope of resurrection and eternal life; for our departed fathers, brothers, and sisters; for the blessed founders and benefactors of

this holy church [or: this holy monastery], let us pray to the Lord. ②

Deacon: That (his-her-their) every transgression, voluntary and involuntary, be

forgiven, let us pray to the Lord. ①

Deacon: That (he-she-they) be numbered with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, let us

pray to the Lord. ②

Deacon: That (his-her-their) soul[s] be committed to the region of the living, to the

place of light where all the saints and the just repose, let us pray to the

Lord. ①

Deacon: That (he-she-they) may stand uncondemned before the fearsome

judgment-seat of Christ, let us pray to the Lord. ②

Deacon: That (he-she-they) may inherit the eternal kingdom of heaven, let us pray

to the Lord. ①

Deacon: That (he-she-they) share the constant joy prepared for the saints from the

beginning of time, let us pray to the Lord. ②

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

Lord. ①

Deacon: Protect us, save us, have mercy on us, and preserve us, O God, by your

grace. ②

Deacon: Commemorating our most holy, most pure, most blessed and glorious

Lady, the Theotokos and Ever-Virgin Mary with all the saints, let us

commit ourselves and one another and our whole life to Christ our God.

Response:



Celebrant:

O God of spirits and of all flesh, you trampled death and broke the power of the devil and granted life to your world. Now grant rest, O Lord, to the soul[s] of your departed servant[s] (Name/s), in a place of light, joy, and peace where there is no pain, sorrow, nor mourning. As a good and loving God, forgive every sin committed by (him-her-them) in word, deed, or thought, since there is no one who lives and does not sin. You alone are without sin; your justice is eternal justice; and your word is truth.

For you, O Christ our God, are the resurrection, the life, and the repose of your departed servant[s] (Name/s), and we give glory to you, with your eternal Father, and your all-holy, good, and life-creating Spirit, now and ever and forever.

Response:



ALLELUIA Tone 8 Troparion (Psalm 64:5; Sirach 39:9)

The following Alleluia and verses are chanted by the deacon (or by the celebrant, if there is no deacon) and the faithful respond as indicated.

Deacon:



Response:



Deacon:



Bles-sed are they whom you have cho-sen and re-ceived, O Lord.

Response:



Deacon:



They are re-mem-bered from ge-ne-ra-tion to ge-ne-ra - tion.

Response:

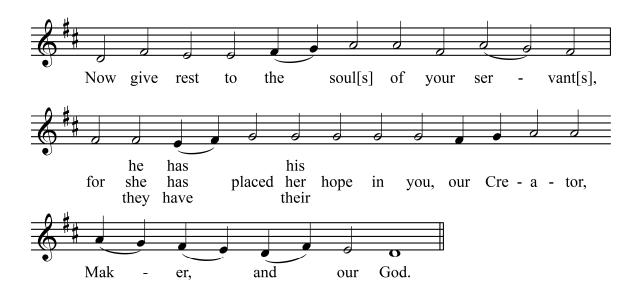


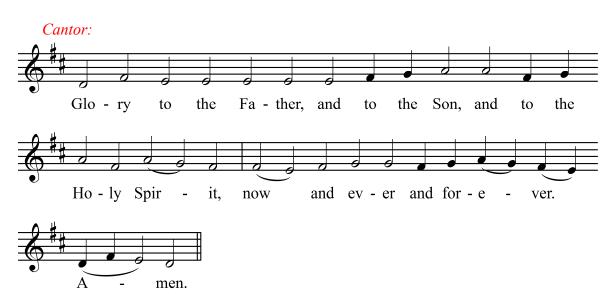
During the Troparion and Theotokion, the deacon incenses.



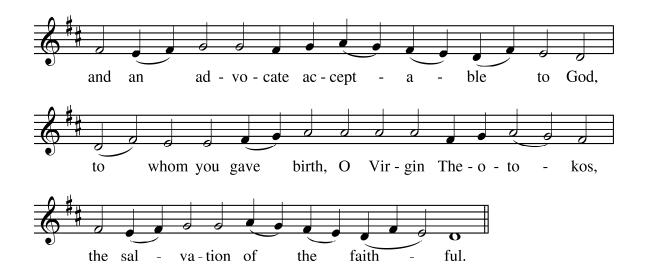


you gov-ern all with love and sup-ply the needs of each.







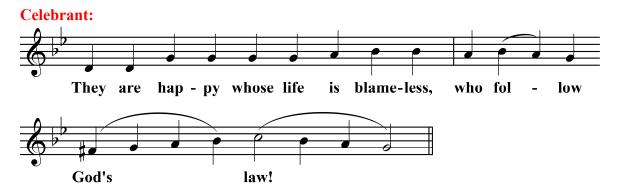


FIRST STATION

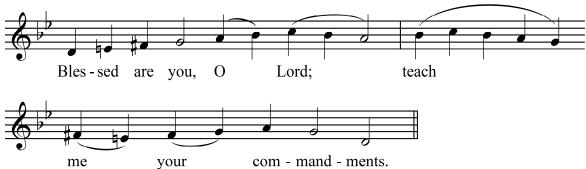
SIT

Select verses from the 17th Kathisma (Psalm 118:1,2,72,73,92,93), with refrain.

The following psalm verses are chanted by the celebrant or one priest, and the faithful respond as indicated after each verse.

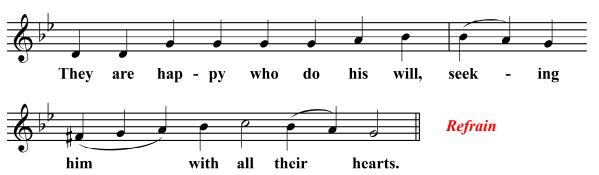


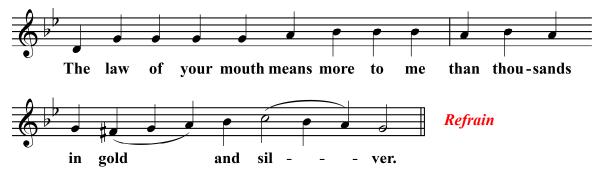
Response:



The same refrain is sung after each of the next three verses.

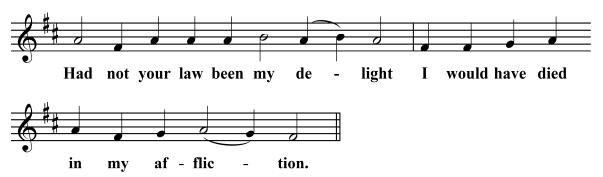
Celebrant:



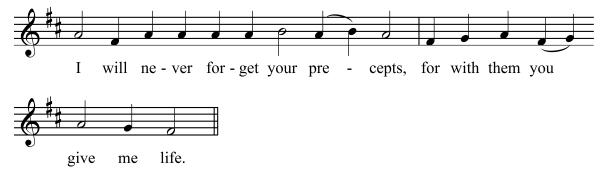




Celebrant:



Response:





SECOND STATION

Select verses from the 17th Kathisma (Psalm 118:94,105,131,132,169,175,176), with refrain.

The following psalm verses are chanted by the celebrant or one priest, and the faithful respond as indicated after each verse.

Celebrant:



Response:



The same refrain is sung after each of the next four verses.

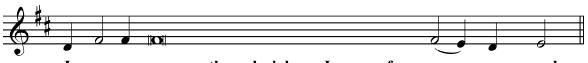
Celebrant:



Your word is a lamp for my steps and a light for my path.

Refrain

Celebrant:



I op-en my mouth and sigh as I yearn for your com-mands.

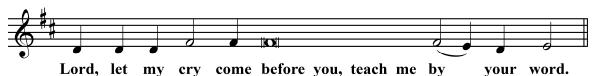
Refrain



Turn to me in mercy as you turn to those who love your name.

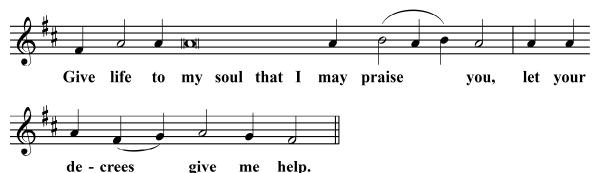
Refrain

Celebrant:



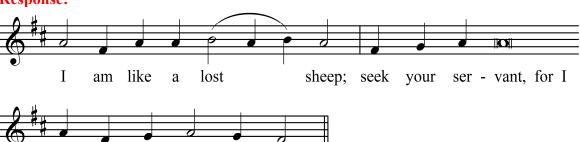
Refrain

Celebrant:



me

Response:



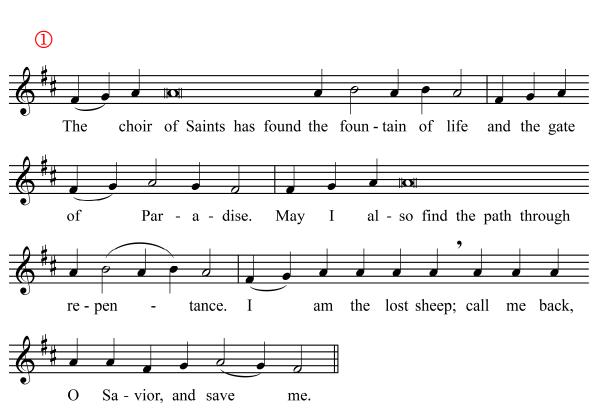
re - mem - ber your com-mands.

EVLOGITARIA OF THE DECEASED

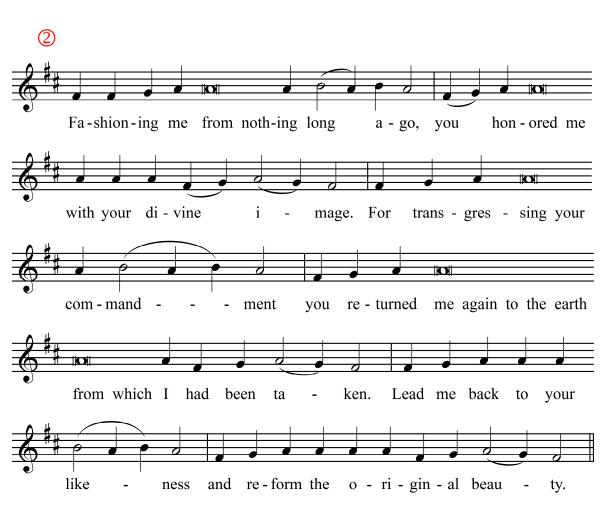
Tone 5 Samopodoben

All of the verses preceding the following hymns are chanted by the celebrant or one priest, and the faithful sing the hymn in response.

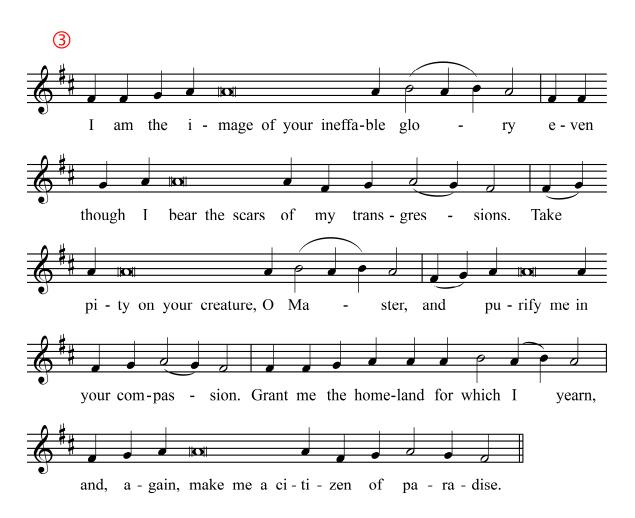




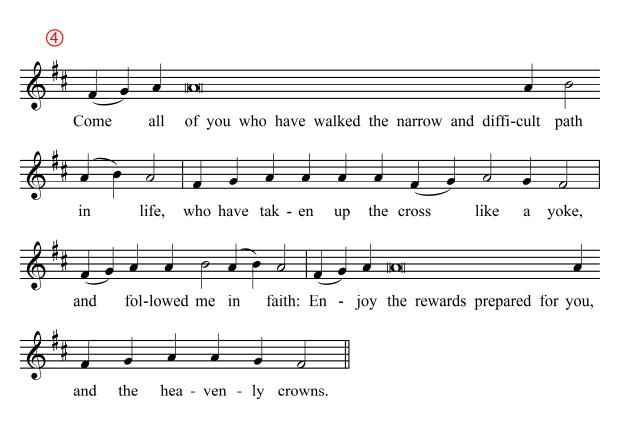




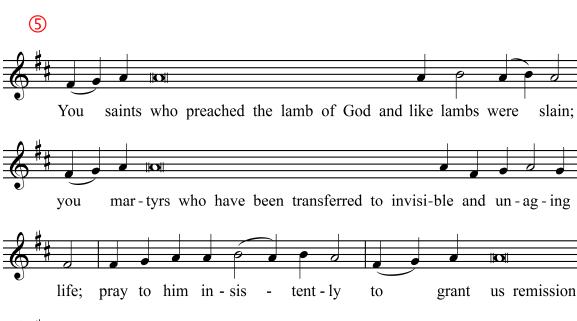






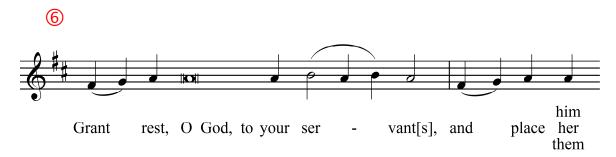


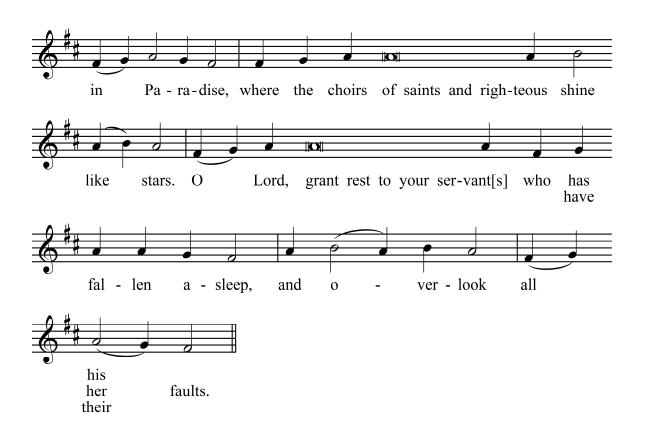




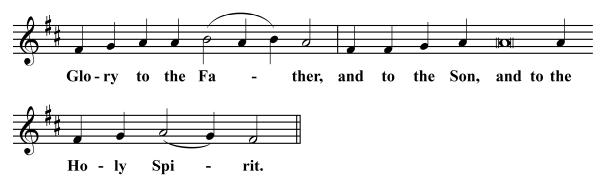


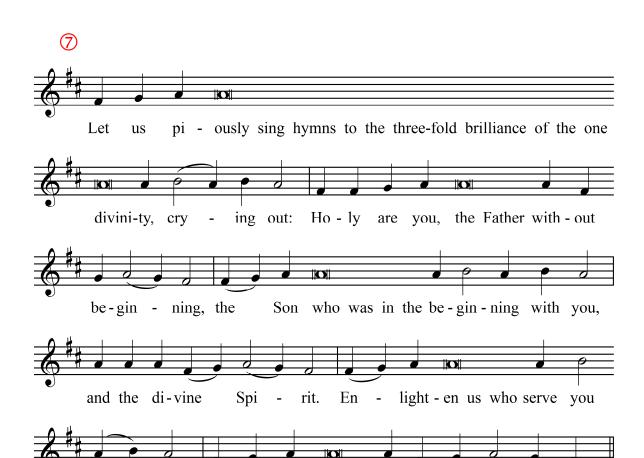






STAND





with

faith,

and

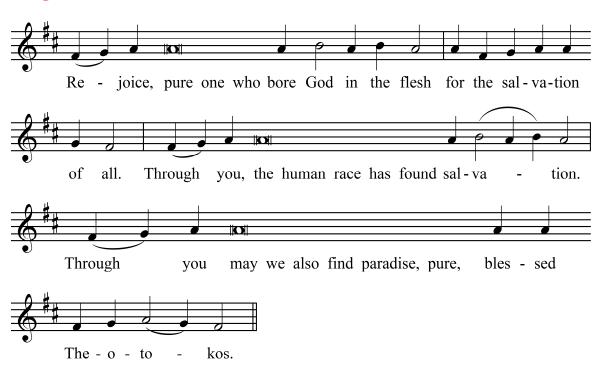


snatch us out of the

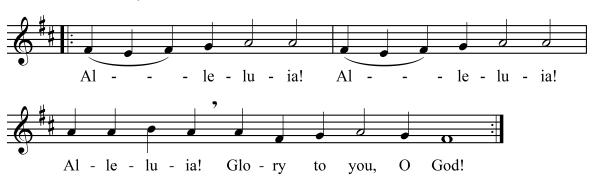
fire.

e - ter - nal

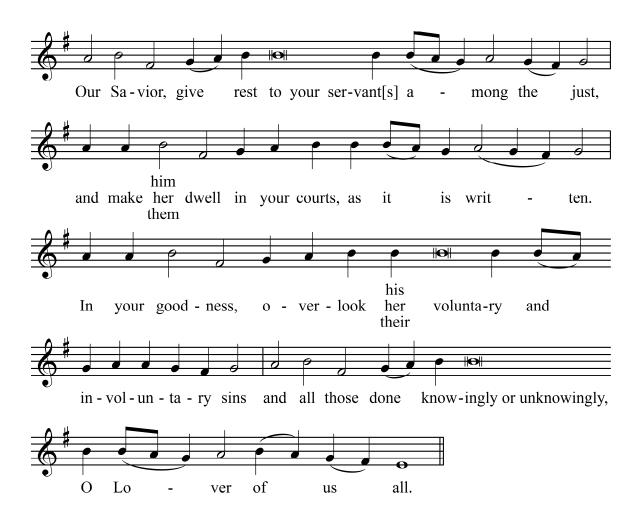




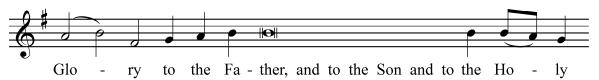
Then three times, with a bow each time:

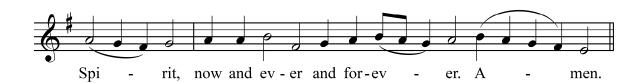


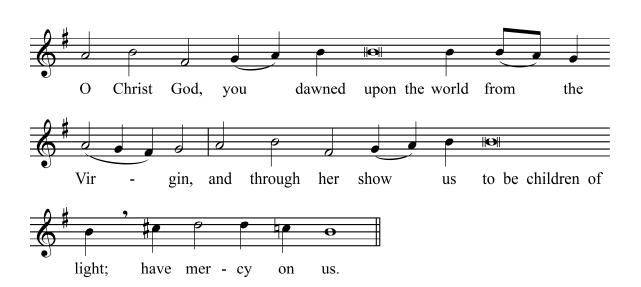
SESSIONAL HYMNS Tone 5 Troparion (adapt.)



Cantor:







PSALM 50

Have mercy on me, O God, in your kindness.
In your compassion blot out my *of* fense.
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 **be**fore 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. Sprinkle me with hyssop, 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 *with* in me. Do not cast me away from your presence nor deprive me of your Ho*ly* Spirit.

Give me again the joy of your help; with a spirit of fervor *sus*tain me, that I may teach transgressors your ways and sinners may return *to* you.

Deliver me from blood-guilt, O God, my saving God, and my tongue shall ring out *your* goodness. O Lord, open my lips, and my mouth will declare *your* praise.

For in sacrifice you take no delight, burnt offering from me you would *re*fuse, my sacrifice, a contrite spirit, a contrite, humbled heart you will *not* spurn.

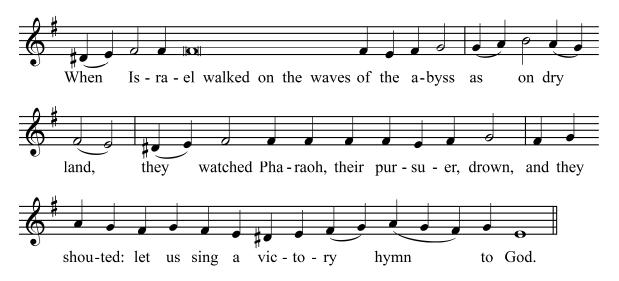
In your goodness, O Lord, show favor to Zion; rebuild the walls of *Jer*usalem.

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

CANON - ODE ONE

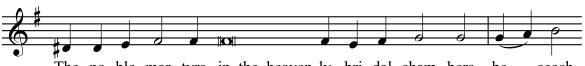
The Irmos and Troparia for Ode One of the Canon are now chanted by the faithful in Tone 6 Irmos ("Jáko po súchu pišéštvovav Izrail'..."). All of the verses are chanted by the celebrant or one priest.

Irmos:

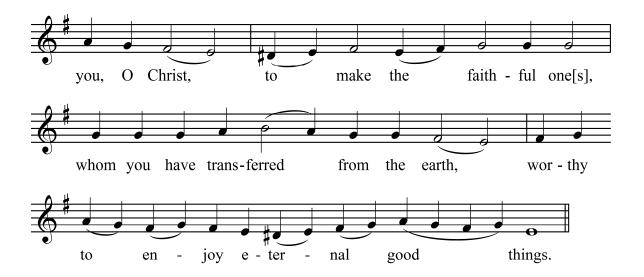


Celebrant:

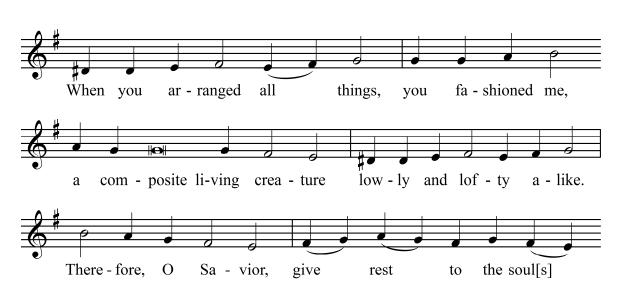


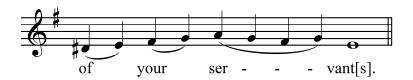


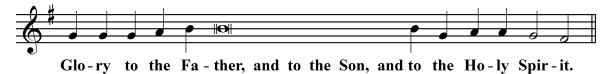
The no-ble mar-tyrs in the heaven-ly bri-dal cham-bers be - seech

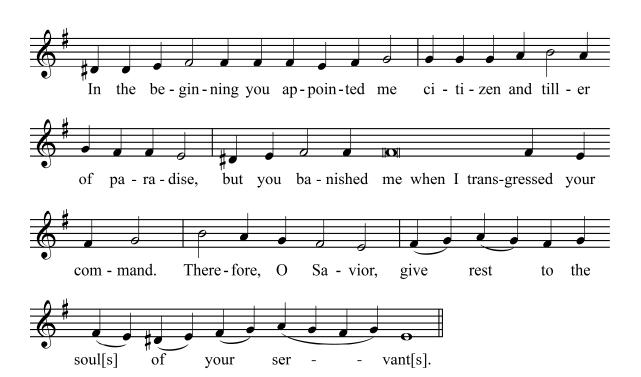




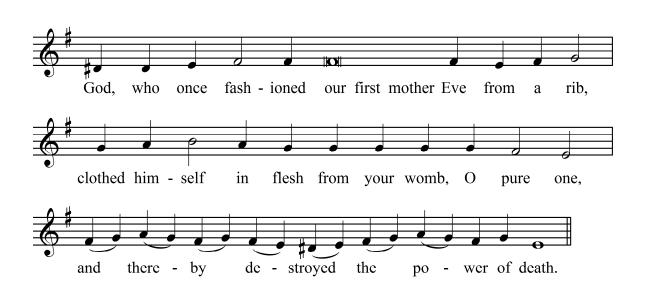




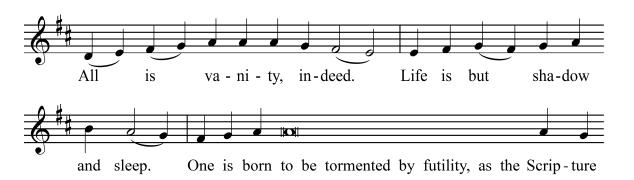


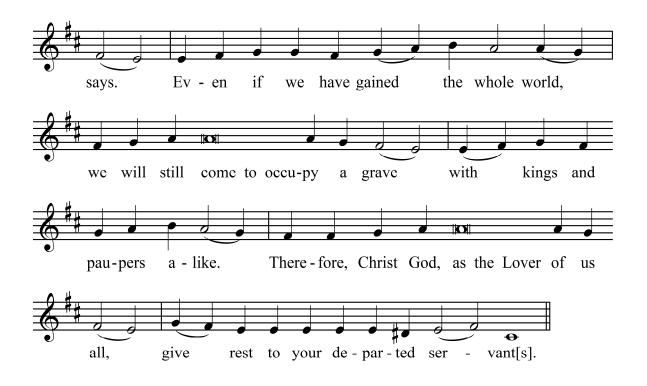




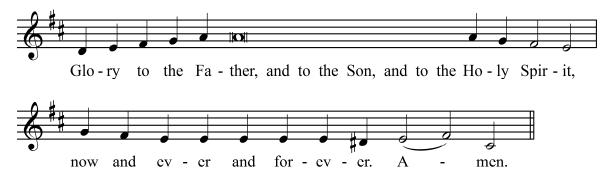


SESSIONAL HYMNS Tone 6 Troparion

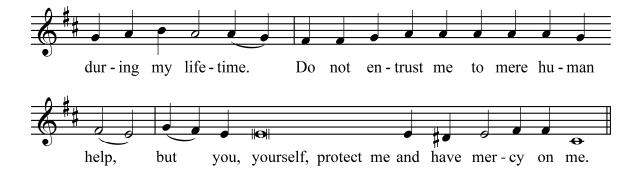


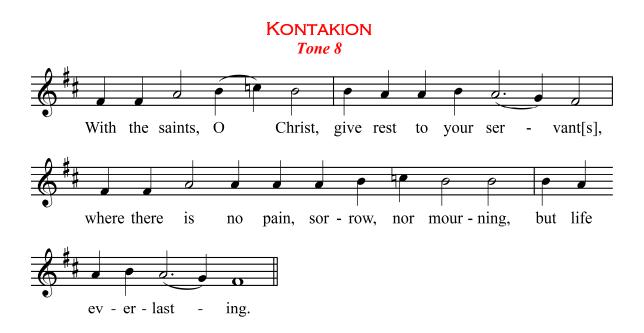


Cantor:





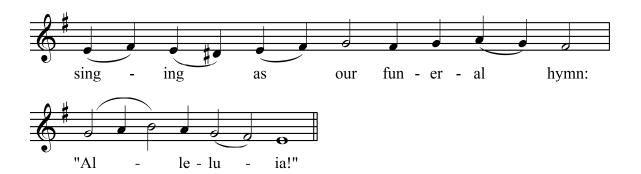




IKOS

Cantor: (recitando, except for the special melody for the concluding phrase)

You alone are immortal, Creator and Maker of humanity. We mortals were formed out of earth and we will return to the same earth, as you, my maker, commanded when you said to me, "You are dust and shall return to dust," where all mortals will go,



Response:

Alleluia – Tone 6:





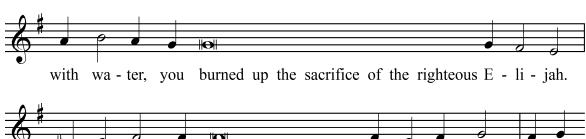
CANON - ODE EIGHT

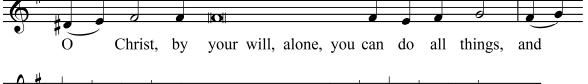
The Irmos and Troparia for Ode Eight of the Canon are now chanted by the faithful in Tone 6 Irmos ("Jáko po súchu pišéštvovav Izrail'..."). All of the verses are chanted by the celebrant or one priest.

Irmos:



You made dew well up from the flames for the Ho-ly Youths and,



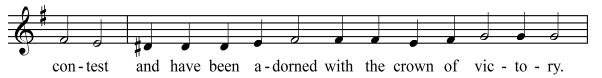








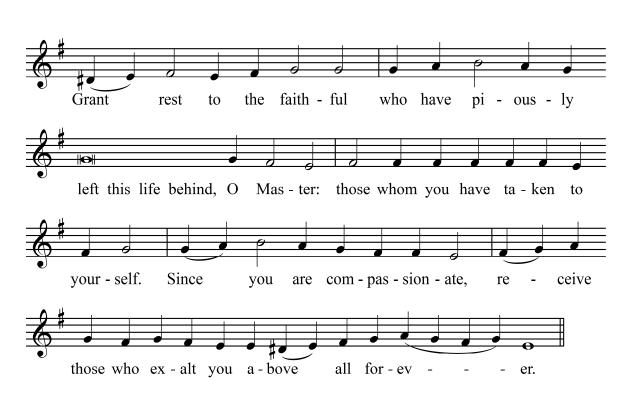
O vic-tor-ious mar-tyrs of Christ, you en-gaged stead-fast-ly in the





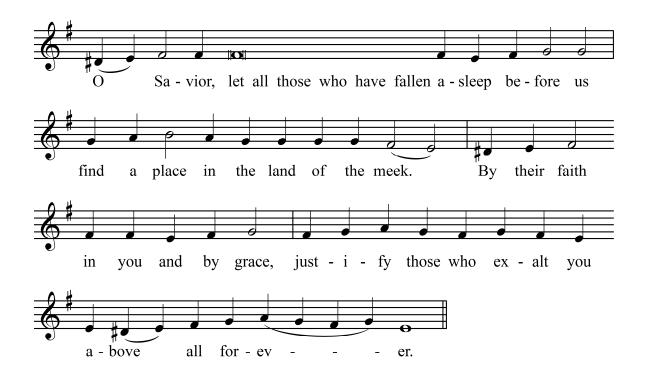
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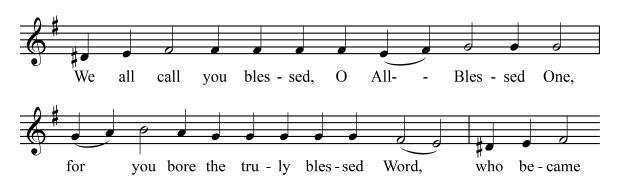


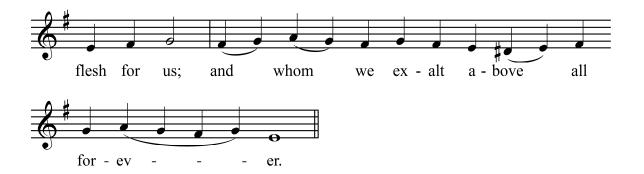


Glo-ry to the Fa-ther, and to the Son, and to the Ho-ly Spir-it.





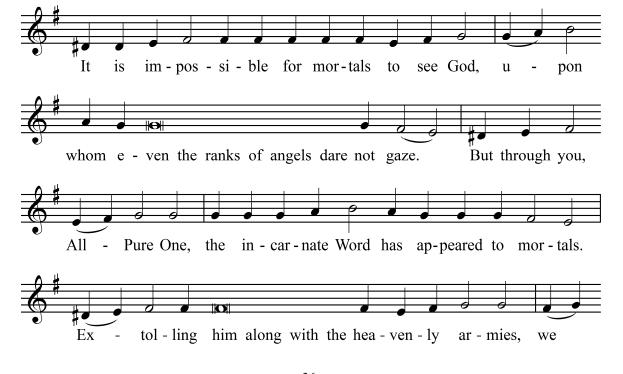




CANON - ODE NINE

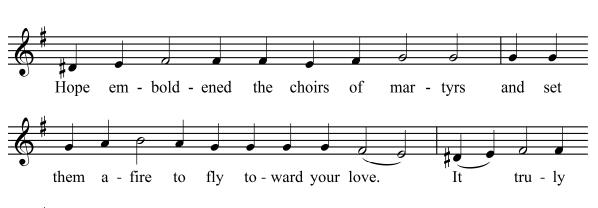
The Irmos and Troparia for Ode Nine of the Canon are now chanted by the faithful in Tone 6 Irmos ("Jáko po súchu pišéštvovav Izrail'..."). All of the verses are chanted by the celebrant or one priest.

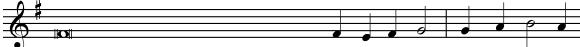
Irmos:



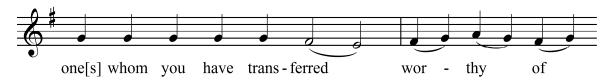




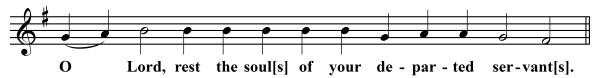


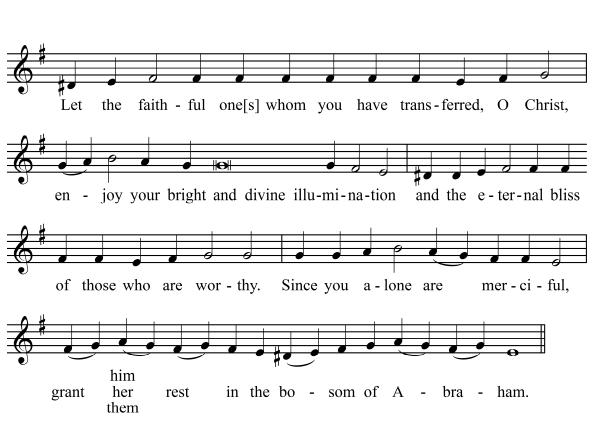


foreshadowed for them the future un-shake-a-ble rest. Make the faith-ful

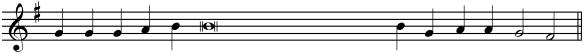




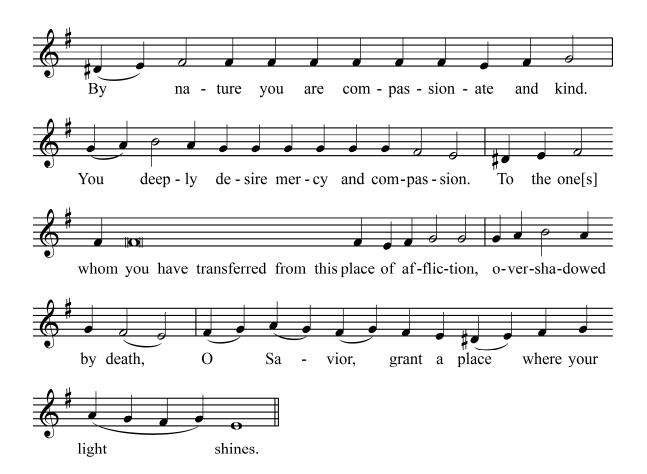




Celebrant:

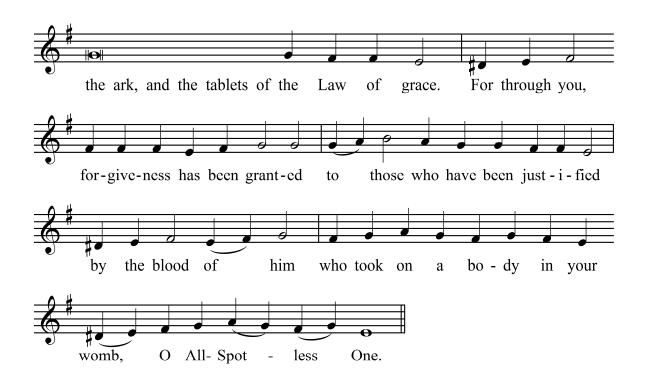


Glo-ry to the Fa-ther, and to the Son, and to the Ho-ly Spir-it.

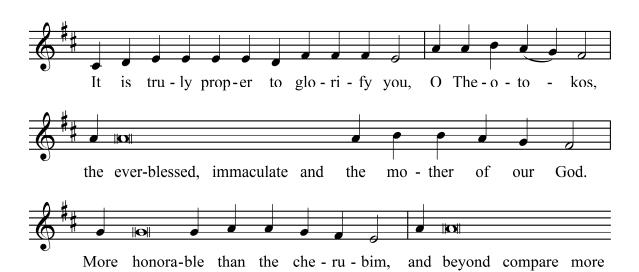


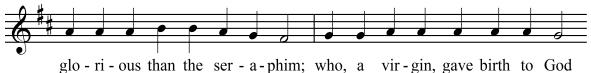


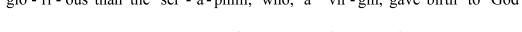








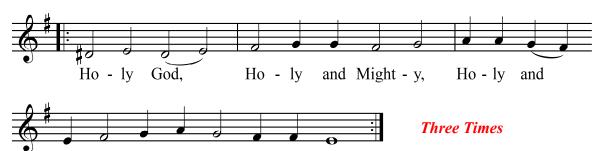




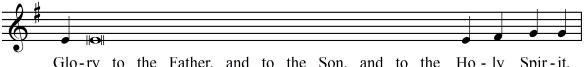
the Word, ly the The - o - to - kos, we mag - ni - fy. you tru

PANACHIDA

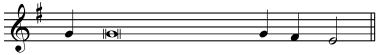
The faithful continue with the following customary beginning prayers:



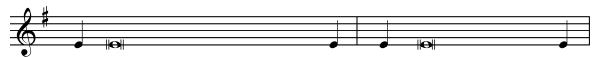
Im - mor - tal, have mer - cy on us.



Glo-ry to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Ho-ly



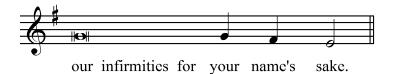
and ever and forev-er. A - men. now



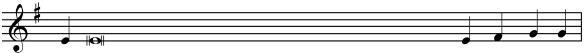
Most Holy Trinity, have mercy on us; Lord, cleanse us of our sins;



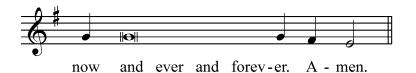
Mas-ter, forgive our trans-gres-sions; Ho-ly One, come to us and heal







Glo-ry to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Ho-ly Spir-it,

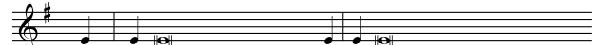




Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come;



thy will be done on earth as it is in heav-en. Give us this day our daily



bread; and forgive us our trespass-es as we forgive those who trespass



against us; and lead us not in-to temp-ta-tion, but deliver us from e-vil.

Celebrant: For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, Father, Son, and

Holy Spirit, now and ever and forever.

Response:

A - men.

TROPARIA Tone 4

The deacon incenses the faithful as they sing the following hymns:



With the souls of the just brought to per-fec - tion, give rest, O



Sav - ior, to the soul[s] of your ser - vant[s], keep - ing him her them









Cantor:



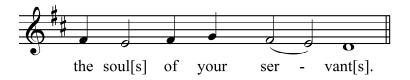
Glo-ry to the Fa-ther, and to the Son, and to the Ho-ly Spir - it.



You are the God who descended in - to Ha - des and loosed



the bonds of those im-pris-oned there. Now, O Sav-ior, give rest to



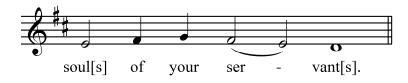
Cantor:





2##

you gave birth to God. In - ter - cede for the salvation of the





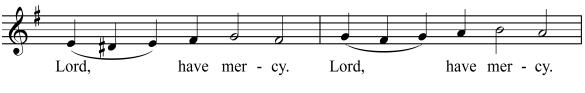
LITANY FOR THE DECEASED

The deacon incenses while intoning the following litany for the deceased:

Deacon: Have mercy on us, O God, according to your great mercy, we pray you,

hear and have mercy.

Response:





Deacon: Again we pray for the repose of the soul[s] of the departed servant[s] of

God, (Name/s), and that (his-her-their) every transgression, voluntary and

involuntary, be forgiven.

Response: Lord, have mercy. (Three times, as above)

Deacon: May the Lord God commit (his-her-their) soul[s] to the place where the

just repose.

Response: Lord, have mercy. (Three times, as above)

Deacon: For the mercy of God, for the kingdom of heaven, and for the remission of

(his-her-their) sins, let us beseech Christ, the immortal King and our God.

Response:

Grant this, O Lord.

Deacon: Let us pray to the Lord.

Response:

Lord, have mer - cy.

The celebrant prays aloud:

Celebrant:

O God of spirits and of all flesh, you trampled death and broke the power of the devil and granted life to your world. Now grant rest, O Lord, to the soul[s] of your departed servant[s] (Name/s), in a place of light, joy, and peace where there is no pain, sorrow, nor mourning. As a good and loving God, forgive every sin committed by (him-her-them) in word, deed, or thought, since there is no one who lives and does not sin. You alone are without sin; your justice is eternal justice; and your word is truth.

For you, O Christ our God, are the resurrection, the life, and the repose of your departed servant[s] *(Name/s)*, and we give glory to you, with your eternal Father, and your all-holy, good, and life-creating Spirit, now and ever and forever.

Response:



HOMILY

A homily may be offered at this time, during which the faithful may sit.

If there is no homily, the faithful should remain standing and continue with the Dismissal prayers on the following page.

DISMISSAL

Deacon: Wisdom!

Response:



More honorable than the cheru-bim, and beyond compare more glorious



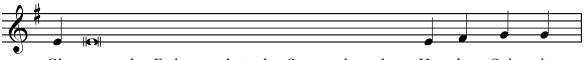
than the ser-a-phim; who, a virgin, gave birth to God the Word,



you, truly the Theotokos, we mag-ni-fy.

Celebrant: Glory to you, O Christ God, our hope, glory to you.

Response:



Glo-ry to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Ho-ly Spir-it,



now and ever and forev-er. A-men. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.



Lord, have mer-ey. Most Reverend (Arch) Bishop, Give the bless-ing.

Facing the faithful, the celebrant intones the Prayer of Dismissal:

Celebrant:

May Christ our true God, [throughout Pascha, add: risen from the dead,] who rules over the living and the dead, place the soul[s] of his departed servant[s] in the abode of the just and grant (him-her-them) rest in the bosom of Abraham and number (him-her-them) among the just, and have mercy on us and save us through the prayers of his most pure Mother; and of our venerable and God-bearing fathers; and through the prayers of all the saints; for Christ is good and loves us all.

Response:



Celebrant: In blessed repose, grant, O Lord, eternal rest to your departed servant[s] (Name/s) and remember (him-her-them) forever.

Response:

