

Great Friday Vespers: The Taking Down from the Cross

(Great Friday Afternoon)

Music from J. Sakellarides, English Translation by Fr. G. Papadeas

(Numbering corresponds to the Greek Holy Week Book. See www.newbyz.org/files/holy_week_book_sakellarides.pdf.)

Page numbers in the left margin refer to corresponding pages in Fr. Papadeas' Holy Week - Easter" book. (The Black Book)

At the start, intone the short responses such as "Lord, have mercy," "To You, O Lord,"
"Amen," etc. on the fundamental tone established by the priest.

LORD, I HAVE CRIED OUT

[p.340]

1st Tone.



Lord, I have cried out to you, hear me, hear me,



Lord, Lord, I have cried out to you, hear me. Give heed



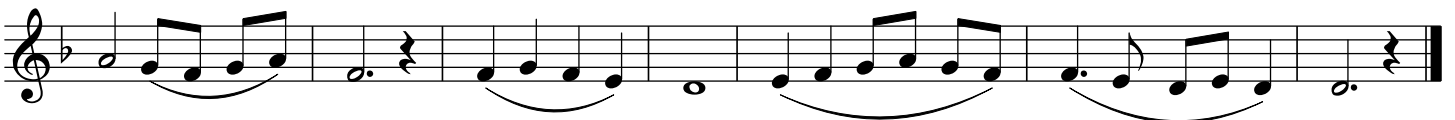
to the voice of my prayer, when I cry out to you,



hear me, Lord. Let my prayer rise up as in-



- cense be - fore you, and the lif-ting up of my hands as an eve-ning



sa - cri - fice. Hear me, hear me, Lord.

THE STICHERA

Intone on D: If you will mark the wrongs, O Lord, who will be able to stand? For there is mercy with You.
(Chant next page immediately.)

Sticheron 1. 1st Tone

[p.340]

142.

All cre - a - tion was changed by fear when it saw You O Christ
hang - ing on the Cross the sun was
dark - ened and the foun - da - tions of the
earth were shak - en All things suf-fered to - geth-
er with the Cre - a - tor of all things O
Lord who for us en - dured will - ing - ly glo-
ry to You

Intone on G: From the morning watch until night, from the morning watch, let Israel hope in the Lord.

Sticheron 2. 2nd Tone.

[p.341]

143.

G

An im - pi - ous and law - less peo - ple why do they
con - tem - plate in vain Why do they con - demn to death the Life of
all O won - drous mar - vel The Cre - a - tor of the
world is be - trayed in - to the hands of the law - less
and He who is mer - ci - ful is lift - ed up on the Cross
that He might bring free - dom to those bound in Ha - des
who cry out O Long - suf - fer - ing Lord
glo - ry to You

Intone on G: For with the Lord there is mercy; and with Him is plenteous redemption. And He shall redeem Israel from all his sins.

Sticheron 3. 2nd Tone.

[p.341]

144.

G

To-day the blame - less Vir - gin

saw You O Word of God hang - ing on

the Cross deep-ly mourn - ing with - in her-

- self and bit - ter - ly pierced in the heart she

Chromatic

groaned in ag - o - ny from the depth of her

G Soft Chromatic

soul Ex - haust-ed by beat - ing on her breast with

hair di - shev - eled she cried out

wail - ing Woe to me My di - vine Son

Woe to me Light of the world Why O

8 Lamb of God have You fa - ded from my eyes

8 Where-fore the le-gions of the heav - en - ly hosts were seized with

8 trem - bling cry - ing out O in-com-pre-

8 - hen-si - ble Lord glo - ry to You

Intone on G: Praise the Lord, all you nations; praise Him, all you peoples.

Sticheron 4. 2nd Tone.

[p.341]

145. G

8 See-ing You hang-ing on the Cross O Christ the God and Cre-

8 - a - tor of all whom as a Vir - gin she bore she cried

8 out bit - ter - ly O my Son

8 where has the beau - ty of Your form van - ished

8 I can - not bear to see you un - just - ly
 8 cru - ci - fied has - ten there - fore and rise up
 8 that I too may be - hold Your Res - ur - rec - tion from the
 8 dead on the third day

Intone on D: For His mercy is strengthened over us, and the truth of the Lord endures forever.

[p.342] **Sticheron 5. Plagal 2nd Tone.**

157. To - day the Mas - ter of cre - a - tion stands be - fore Pi - late, and the Cre - a - tor of
 all is giv - en up to the Cross, led a - way as a lamb of His own vo -
 - li - tion. He is trans - fixed with nails, His side is
 pierced, and His lips are touched with the sponge, Who had
 rained down man - na. The Re - deem - er of the world is smit - ten on the

cheek, and the Cre - a-tor of all is mocked by His own ser- vants. Oh, how
 great the Mas - ter's love! For His cru-ci - fi - ers He be-
 - sought His own Fa - ther, say - ing: "For - give them this sin, for the
 law - less know not what they un - just - ly are do - ing."

Intone on D: Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;

[p.342] *Sticheron 6. Plagal 2nd Tone.*

158. How could the law-less syn - a- gogue con - demn to death the King of
 all cre - a - tion, with - out shame, when He re - called the ben-e-
 - fits, which He had se - cured for them, say - ing: "My peo-ple,
 what have I done to you? Have I not filled Ju-
 - de - a with mar - vels? Have I not raised the dead, with
 but a word? Have I not healed all man-ner of sick - ness and in-

- fir - mi - ty? How then do you re - pay Me? How have you
 for - got - ten Me? In - stead of heal - ing, you in - flict un - to
 me wounds; *uni.* in - stead of life, death, by hang - ing on the
 Cross the Ben - e - fac - tor, as a mal - e - fac - tor; as law - less, the Law -
 - giv - er; as a crim - i - nal, the King of all." O for -
 - bear - ing Lord, glo - ry to You.

Intone on D: Now and ever, and to the Ages of Ages, Amen.

[p.342] *Sticheron 7. Plagal 2nd Tone.*

159. An awe - some and mar - vel - ous mys - ter - y to - day is com - ing to
 pass. The In - cor - po - re - al One is be - ing held; the One, free - ing Ad - am from the
 curse is bound; He Who tries the in - ner hearts and thoughts of man, is un -
 - just - ly tried; He Who sealed the a - byss is shut up in pris - on. He

stands be-fore Pi - late, be - fore Whom the Pow - ers of Heav - en stand with
 trem - bling. The Fash - ion - er is smit - ten by the hand of the fash - ioned;
 the Judge of the liv - ing and the dead is con - demned to the Cross; the De -
 - spoil - er of Ha - des is shut up in a Tomb; O for - bear - ing Lord, com - pas - sion - ate - ly en -
 dur - ing all things and sav - ing all from the curse, glo - ry to You.

O RESPLENDENT LIGHT

[p.343]

2nd Tone.

O Re - splen - dent Light of the ho - ly Glo - ry of the heav - en - ly, ho - ly, im -
 - mor - tal and bless - ed Fa - ther, O Je - sus Christ, Hav - ing come
 to the set - ting of the sun, and see - ing the light of eve - ning, we praise God, the Fa - ther,
 Son, and Ho - ly Spi - rit in One. It is fit - ting that at all times
 You should be praised by joy - ous voi - ces, O Son of God, Who
 gave Life. for which cause the world glor - i - fies You.

(The Scripture readings follow. Intone short responses. When the procession begins chant the Aposticha.)

THE APOSTICHA

[p.359] *Aposticha. 2nd Tone.*

160. When Jo-seph of Ar-i - ma - the - a took You, the Life of all, now dead,
down from the Cross, he bur-ied You in fine lin - en, af-ter a-noint-ing
You with myrrh. He yearned with de-sire, in heart and lips, to em-
brace Your pure Bod - y; but, hum-bly con - tained by awe, re-joic-
ing, he cried out to You: "Glo-ry to Your con-de - scen - sion, O Mer-ci-ful God!"

The Lord has reigned, and clothed Himself in comeliness. He has clothed and girded Himself with power.

When You, the Re - deem - er of all, were placed in a new Tomb for us all,
Ha-des, the re - spect-er of none, crouched when he saw You. The bars were
broken, the gates were shat-tered, the graves were o - pened, and the dead a-
rose. Then Ad - am, grate-ful-ly re - joic-ing, cried out to You: "Glo-ry to Your con-de-
scen - sion, O Mer-ci-ful God. For He has edified the Universe, which cannot be moved.

When You, O Christ, of Your own will, sub - mit - ted bod - i - ly to be closed in the tomb,
 be - ing by na - ture of the tri - une God - head, re - main - ing in - de - scrib - a - ble and
 lim - it - less, You closed down the cham - bers of death, and emp - tied the
 pal - ac - es of Ha - des. Then, You ren - dered this Sab - bath wor - thy of bless - ings and
 glo - ry, and of Your own splen - dor. Holiness becomes Your House, O Lord, forever. When the Heav - en - ly
 Pow - ers saw You, O Christ, false - ly slan - dered, by the law - less, as a de -
 - ceiv - er, and the stone of the tomb sealed by the hands of those, who pierced Your sa - cred
 Side, they shud - dered at Your in - ef - fa - ble for - bear - ance; yet, re - joic - ing for
 our sal - va - tion, they cried out to You: "Glo - ry to Your con - de - scen - sion, O Mer - ci - ful God."

DOXASTICON

[p.360] *Doxasticon. Plagal 1st Tone.*

161. Glo - ry to the Fa - ther, and to the Son, and to the Ho - ly Spir -
 - it; now and ev - er, and to the Ag - es of Ag - es.

Doxasticon. Plagal 1st Tone.

You Who clothed Your - self with light as a gar - ment, Jo - seph with
Nic - o - de - mus, brought down from the Cross, and see - ing You
dead, na - ked, and un - bur - ied, felt deep - ly a sym - pa - thet - ic la -
- ment, and in griev - ing said: Woe to me, sweet - est Je - sus! Whom, but a short
while a - go, when the sun be - held You hang - ing
on the Cross, en - shroud - ed it - self in dark - ness, and the
earth quaked in fear, and the veil of the Tem - ple was rent
a - sun - der. But lo, I now see, that You will - ing - ly un - der -
- went death for my sake. How then shall I ar - ray You for
bur - i - al, my God? Or how shall I wrap You in a shroud? And with what
hands can I touch Your sa - cred Bod - y? Or what dirg - es

shall I chant for Your fu-ner - al, O Mer - ci - ful
 One? I mag- ni - fy Your Pas - sion; I praise in hymn Your
 Bur - i - al, with Your Res - ur - rec - tion, cry - ing a - loud: Lord,
 glo - ry to You."

(Intone short responses.)

APOLYTIKIA

[p.361] *Apolytikia. 2nd Tone.*

The no - ble Jo - seph tak - ing down from the Cross Your spot - less
 Bod - y, en - wrapped It in clean lin - en with a - ro - mas, and
 laid It for bur - i - al in a new Tomb. The An - gel, stand - ing by the Tomb
 cried out to the Myrrh - bear - ing wom - en: "The Myrrh is fit - ting for the
 dead, but Christ has shown Him - self a stran - ger to cor - rup - tion."

(Intone short responses.)

END OF SERVICE