

Great Saturday

At Matins

The Great Doxology. And the priest is vested fully in priestly vestments, and entereth with the Holy Gospel. And after the Trisagion, the priest saith: Let us attend. Peace be unto all. Wisdom! And the chanters sing the troparion, in Tone 2: The noble Joseph,* taking down Thy most pure Body from the Tree * wrapped it in clean linen with sweet spices,* and he laid it in a new tomb.

And we say the Troparion of the Prophecy, Tone 2:

O Christ, Who holdest fast the ends of the earth,* Thou hast accepted to be held fast within the tomb,* to deliver man from his fall into hades;* and as immortal God * Thou hast conferred upon us immortality and life.

Glory: And as immortal God * Thou hast conferred upon us immortality and life.

Both now: Repeat entirely.

Prokimenon, Tone 4: Arise, O Lord, help us,* and redeem us for Thy name's sake.

Verse: O God, with our ears have we heard, for our fathers have told us.

The Reading is from the Prophecy of Ezekiel (37:1-14)

Whe hand of the Lord came upon me, and the Lord brought me forth by the Spirit, and set me in the midst of the plain, and it was full of human bones. And He led me round about them every way: and, behold, there were very many on the face of the plain, very dry. And He said to me, "Son of man, will these bones live?" and I said, "O Lord God, Thou knowest this." And He said to me, "Prophecy upon these bones, and thou shalt say to them, 'Ye dry bones, hear the word of the Lord. Thus saith Adonai the Lord to these bones; "Behold, I will bring upon you the breath of life: and I will lay sinews upon you, and will bring up flesh upon you, and will spread skin upon you, and will put My Spirit into you, and ye shall live; and ye shall know that I am the Lord.'"" So I prophesied as the Lord commanded me: and it came to pass while I was prophesying, that, behold there was an earthquake, and the bones approached, bone to bone, each one to his joint. And I looked, and behold, sinews and flesh grew upon them, and skin came upon them. And He said to me, "Prophecy to the wind, prophesy, son of man, and say to the wind, 'Thus saith Adonai the Lord; "Come from the four winds, and breathe upon these dead men, and let them live.'"" So I prophesied as He commanded me, and the breath entered into them, and they lived, and stood upon their feet, a very great assembly. And the Lord spake to me, saying, "Son of man, these bones are the whole house of Israel: and they say, 'Our bones are become dry, our hope hath perished, we are quite spent.' Therefore prophesy and say, 'Thus saith Adonai the Lord; "Behold, I will open your tombs, and will bring you up out of your tombs, and will bring you into the land of Israel. And ye shall know that I am the Lord, when I have opened your graves, that I may bring up My people from their graves. And I will put My Spirit within you, and ye shall live, and I will place you upon your own land: and ye shall know that I am the Lord; I have spoken, and will do it, saith Adonai the Lord.'""

Great Saturday

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Prokimenon, Tone 7: Arise, O Lord my God, let Thy hand be lifted high;* forget not Thy paupers to the end.

Verse: I will confess Thee, O Lord with my whole heart, I will tell of all Thy wonders.

The Reading is from the Epistle of the Holy Apostle Paul to the Corinthians (§133 & §206)

Brethren, know ye not that a little leaven leaveneth the whole lump? Purge out therefore the old leaven, that ye may be a new lump, as ye are unleavened. For even Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us: Therefore, let us keep the feast, not with old leaven, neither with the leaven of malice and wickedness; but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth... Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the Law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, "Cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree:" that the blessing of Abraham might come on the Gentiles through Jesus Christ; that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith.

Alleluia, Tone 5:

Let God arise, and let His enemies be scattered, and let them that hate Him flee before His face.

Verse: As smoke vanisheth, so let them vanish; as wax melteth before the fire.

Verse: So let sinners perish at the presence of God, and let the righteous be glad.