

Paschal Midnight Office

*After the reading of the Acts of the Holy Apostles, Paschal Midnight Office begins:
(page 7 of the OCA Paschal booklet)*

Priest: Blessed is our God, always, now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

Reader: Amen. Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal, have mercy on us! (3 times)

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, cleanse us from our sins.

O Master, pardon our transgressions.

O Holy One, visit and heal our infirmities for Thy Name's sake.

Lord, have mercy. (3 times)

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 heaven, 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 trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.

Priest: For Thine is the Kingdom, and the power, and the glory: of the Father, and
of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

Reader: Amen. Come, let us worship God our King.

Come, let us worship and fall down before Christ, our King and our God.

Come, let us worship and fall down before the very Christ, our King and our God.

Then the Reader chants: Psalm 50(51)

Paschal Midnight Office - The Canon - Heirmos 1

Tone 6

Lesser Znamenny Chant

Of old Thou didst bury 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.

Reader: Glory to Thee, our God, glory to Thee.

Unto Thee I sing a hymn for the departed and a song of burial, O Lord my God, Who by Thy burial opened for me the entrance to life and by Thy death has put death and Hades to death.

Glory to Thee, our God, glory to Thee.

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.

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

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 wast buried, Thou didst renew me who am corrupt, O Lover of mankind.

Choir: The Heirmos is repeated as the Katavasia at the end of each Ode.

Heirmos 3

Thou didst sus - pend the earth im - movably up - on the wa - ters.

Now cre - a - tion be - holds Thee sus - pend - ed on Cal - va - ry.

It quakes with great amazement and cries:

"None is holy but Thou, O Lord."

Reader: Glory to Thee, our God, glory to Thee.

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

Glory to Thee, our God, glory to Thee.

Thou hast stretched out Thy hands, O Saviour, 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 in holy but Thee, O Lord."

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

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."

Kathisma Hymn

Obikod

Tone 1

The sol - diers guarding Thy tomb, O Sav - iour, be - came as dead — men

The first system of the hymn consists of two staves. The upper staff is in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a common time signature. It contains a melody of quarter and eighth notes, with a fermata over the final measure. The lower staff is in bass clef with the same key signature and time signature, providing a simple harmonic accompaniment of quarter notes.

at the light - 'ning flash of the an - gel

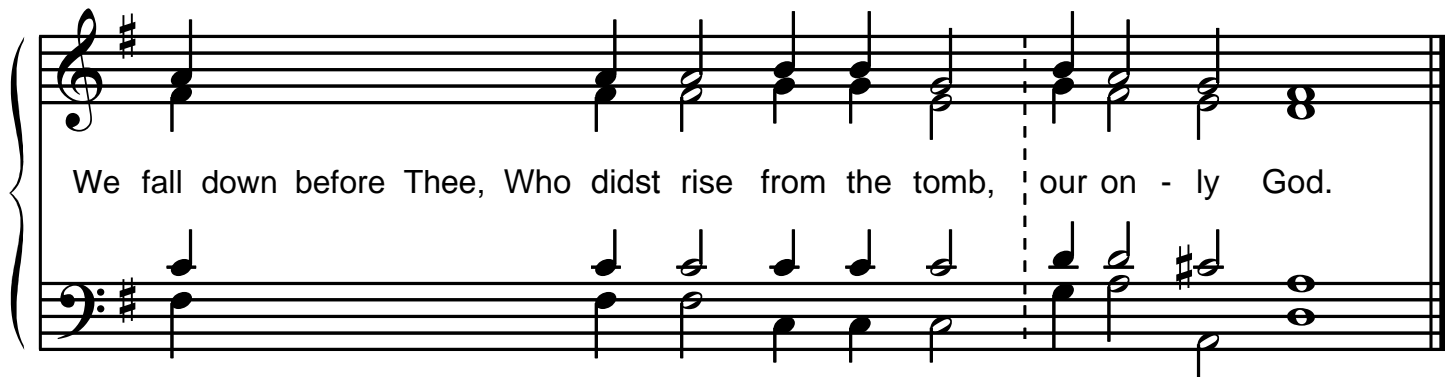
The second system continues the melody and accompaniment. The upper staff features a sequence of quarter notes, and the lower staff continues with quarter notes.

who appeared announcing Thy Re - sur - rec - tion to the wo - men.

The third system continues the melody and accompaniment. The upper staff features a sequence of quarter notes, and the lower staff continues with quarter notes.

We glo - ri - fy Thee, Who cleansest from cor - rup - tion.

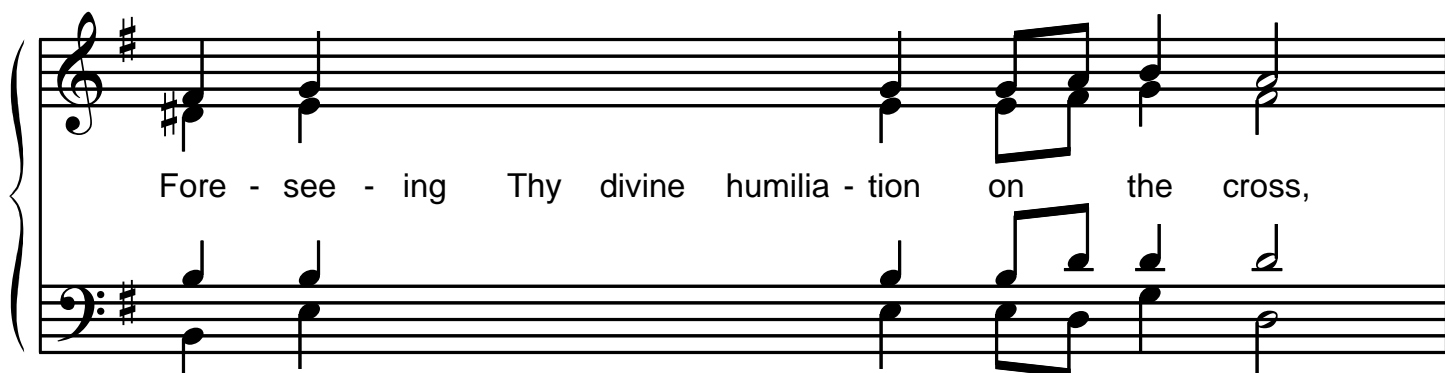
The fourth system concludes the hymn. The upper staff features a sequence of quarter notes, and the lower staff continues with quarter notes.



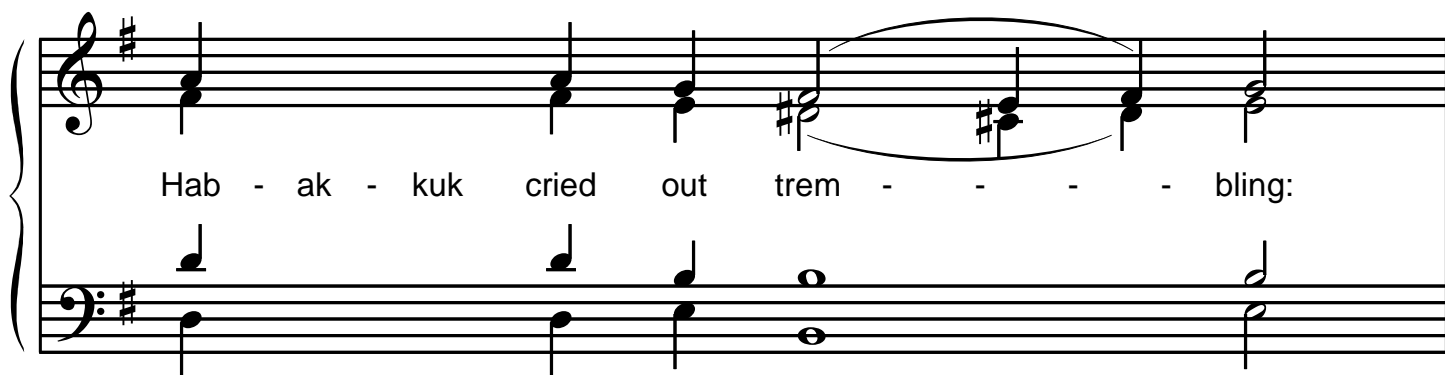
We fall down before Thee, Who didst rise from the tomb, our on - ly God.

Canon Tone 6

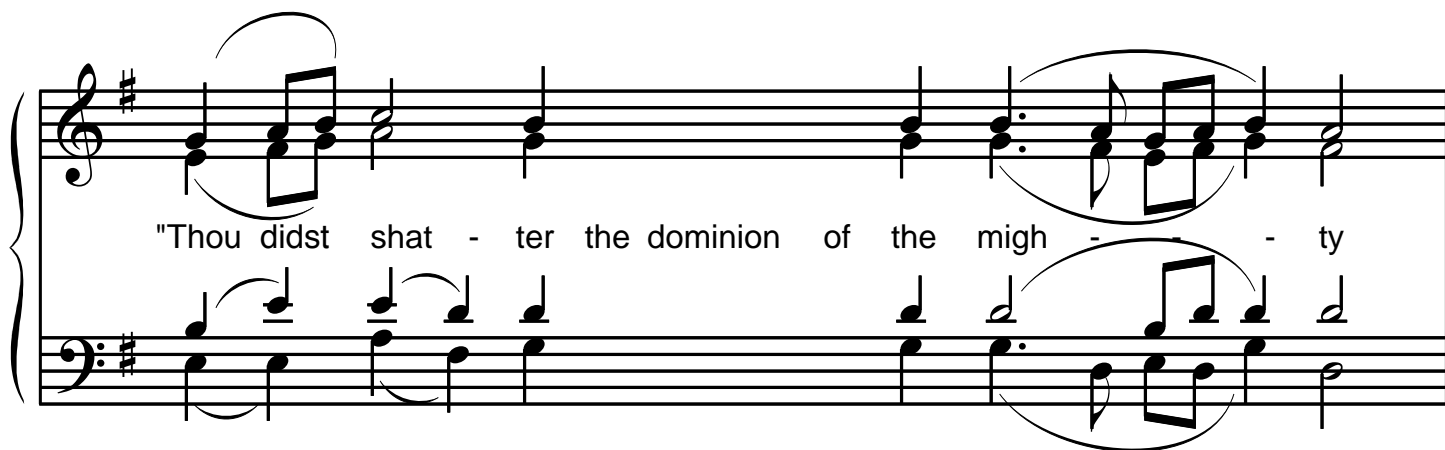
Heirmos 4



Fore - see - ing Thy divine humilia - tion on the cross,



Hab - ak - kuk cried out trem - - - - - bling:



"Thou didst shat - ter the dominion of the migh - - - - - ty

by joining those in Ha - des as the Al - migh - ty Lord.

Reader: Glory to Thee, our God, glory to Thee.

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 Saviour, while resting and reviving on the sabbath.

Glory to Thee, our God, glory to Thee.

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

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

When Hades 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 Thine awesome appearance.

Heirmos 5

I - sa - iah saw the nev - er - set - ting light

of Thy compassionate manifestation 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."

Reader: Glory to Thee, our God, glory to Thee.

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.

Glory to Thee, our God, glory to Thee.

Through death Thou dost transform what is mortal, and through burial Thou dost transform what is corruptible; for in a manner befitting God 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 Hades.

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

Thou didst come forth from a painless birth, O my Maker, and Thy side was pierced. By this hast 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 One, Thou didst raise up life from sleep and corruption.

Heirmos 6

Jonah was caught but not held fast in the bel - ly of the whale.

He was a sign of Thee Who hast suffered 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 observing vanities and lies thou hast

for - sa - ken thine own mer - - - - cy."

Reader: Glory to Thee, our God, glory to Thee.

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.

Glory to Thee, our God, glory to Thee.

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.

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

Hades 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 proclaimed true deliverance to those sleeping there from the ages, since Thou, O Saviour, hast become the first-born of the dead.

Canon Tone 6

Kontakion

He Who shut in the depths is be-held dead, wrapped in fine lin-en and

spic - es. The immortal One is laid in a tomb as a mor - tal man.

The wom-en have come to anoint Him with myrrh, weeping bitter-ly and cry - ing:

"This is the most bless - ed Sab - - - bath

on which Christ has fallen asleep to rise on the third_____ day."

The musical score consists of two staves. The upper staff is in treble clef with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). It features a series of chords: a triad of G3, Bb3, D4, followed by a triad of G3, Bb3, D4, then a triad of G3, Bb3, D4, and finally a whole note chord of G3, Bb3, D4. The lower staff is in bass clef with the same key signature. It features a series of notes: G2, Bb2, D3, followed by G2, Bb2, D3, then a whole note chord of G2, Bb2, D3, and finally a whole note chord of G2, Bb2, D3.

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 splendour. 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. Hades groaned below and the Jews considered how to slander the resurrection of Christ, but the women cried:

People:

"This is the most bless - ed Sab - - bath

The musical score consists of two staves. The upper staff is in treble clef with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). It features a series of chords: a triad of G3, Bb3, D4, followed by a triad of G3, Bb3, D4, then a triad of G3, Bb3, D4, and finally a whole note chord of G3, Bb3, D4. The lower staff is in bass clef with the same key signature. It features a series of notes: G2, Bb2, D3, followed by G2, Bb2, D3, then a whole note chord of G2, Bb2, D3, and finally a whole note chord of G2, Bb2, D3.

on which Christ has fallen asleep to rise on the third_____ day."

The musical score consists of two staves. The upper staff is in treble clef with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). It features a series of chords: a triad of G3, Bb3, D4, followed by a triad of G3, Bb3, D4, then a triad of G3, Bb3, D4, and finally a whole note chord of G3, Bb3, D4. The lower staff is in bass clef with the same key signature. It features a series of notes: G2, Bb2, D3, followed by G2, Bb2, D3, then a whole note chord of G2, Bb2, D3, and finally a whole note chord of G2, Bb2, D3.

Heirmos 7

In - ex - press - i - ble won - der! In the furnace 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:

"Blessed art Thou, O God, our Re - deem - - - er!"

Reader: Glory to Thee, our God, glory to Thee.

Hades 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 of us who sing: "Blessed art Thou, O God, our Redeemer!"

Glory to Thee, our God, glory to Thee.

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!"

Glory to Thee, our God, glory to Thee.

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!"

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

In Hades, 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!"

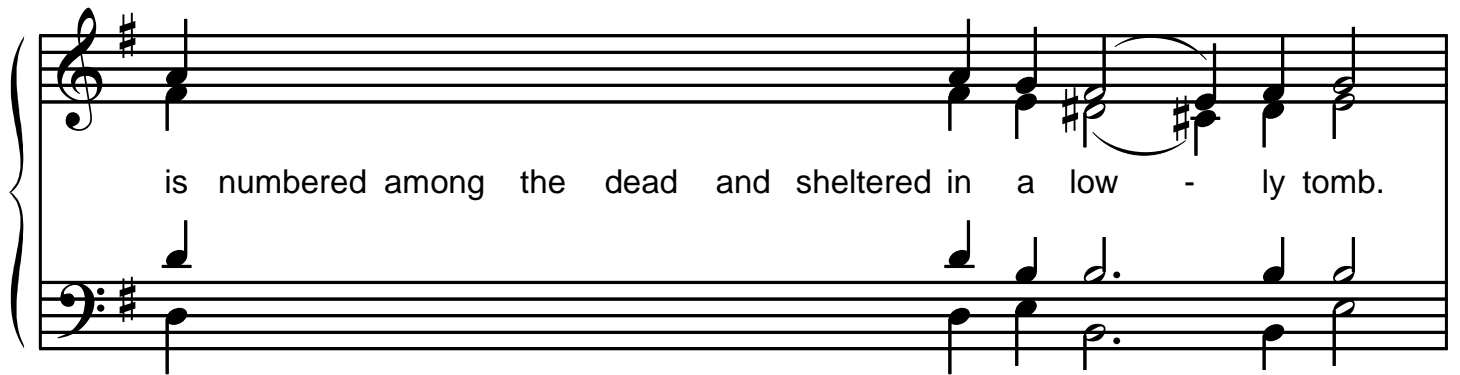
Heirmos 8

Be a-mazed, O heav - ens! Be sha-ken, O foun-da-tions of the earth!

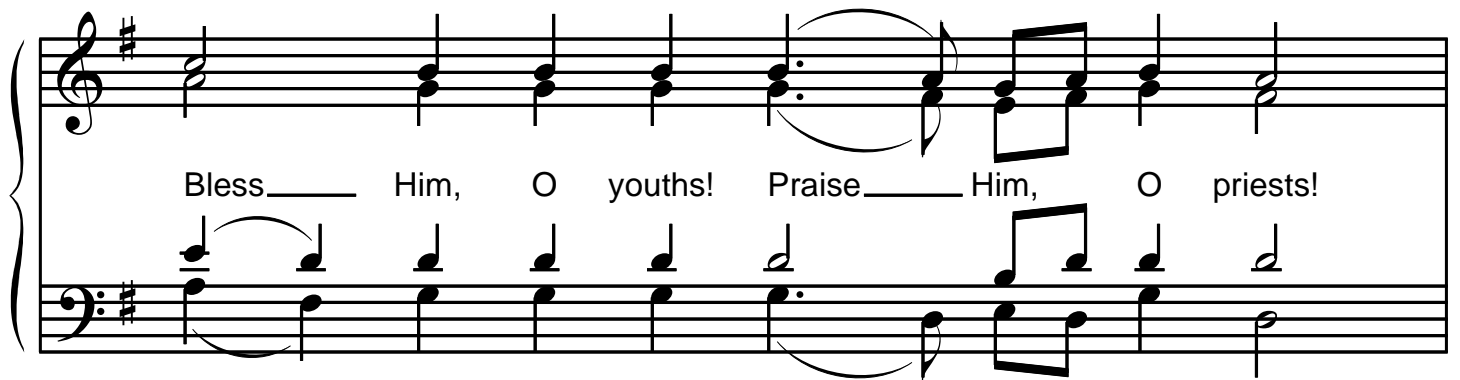
The musical score is written for piano and voice. It consists of two systems of music. The first system has a vocal line and a piano accompaniment. The vocal line begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The piano accompaniment begins with a bass clef and the same key signature. The second system continues the vocal line and piano accompaniment. The lyrics are: "Be a-mazed, O heav - ens! Be sha-ken, O foun-da-tions of the earth!"



Be - hold, He that dwells in the high - est



is numbered among the dead and sheltered in a low - ly tomb.



Bless Him, O youths! Praise Him, O priests!



O people, exalt Him a - bove all for - ev - er!

Reader: Glory to Thee, our God, glory to Thee.

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 Hades. Bless Him, O youths! Praise Him, O priests! O people, exalt Him above all forever!

Glory to Thee, our God, glory to Thee.

The courage of all the disciple failed, but Joseph of Arimathea showed valour; 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!

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

What new wonders! What great goodness! What ineffable forbearance! For He Who 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!

The image shows a musical score for piano accompaniment, consisting of two systems of music. Each system has a treble clef staff and a bass clef staff, both in the key of D major (indicated by two sharps). The first system contains the lyrics: "We praise, bless, and wor - ship the Lord,". The second system contains the lyrics: "singing and ex - al - ting Him through-out all a - - - ges." The music features a simple harmonic accompaniment with chords and moving lines in both hands. There are some decorative flourishes, such as a large oval shape around a group of notes in the treble staff of the first system.

Start more slowly

Heirmos 9

mp

Do not lament Me, O Moth - er, see - ing Me in the tomb,

f

the Son_ con-ceived in the womb with - out seed, for I shall a-rise

mf

and be glo - ri - fied with eter - nal glo - ry as God.

I shall exalt all who mag - ni - fy thee in faith — and in love.

Reader: Glory to Thee, our God, glory to Thee.

"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."

Glory to Thee, our God, glory to Thee.

"By my own will, the earth covers me, O Mother, but the gatekeepers of Hades 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 thee."

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

"Let creation rejoice! Let all born on earth be glad! For hateful Hades has been despoiled. Let the women with myrrh come to meet Me; for I am redeeming Adam and Eve and all their descendents, and on the third day I shall arise!"

Choir: Repeat Heirmos 9 as the Katavasia

Next pages----->>

Trisagion Prayers (also on page 19 in Paschal OCA booklet)

Resurrectional Troparion in Tone 2

then:

Conclusion of Midnight Office

All lights are then extinguished. Candles are distributed in preparation for Paschal Mattins which begins immediately.

Reader: Amen. Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal, have mercy on us! (3 times)

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, cleanse us from our sins.

O Master, pardon our transgressions.

O Holy One, visit and heal our infirmities for Thy Name's sake.

Lord, have mercy. (3 times)

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now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

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Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread,
and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.

Priest: For Thine is the Kingdom, and the power, and the glory: of the Father, and
of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

Resurrectional Troparion

Tone 2

Obikhod

When Thou didst descend to death, O Life Im - mor - - - tal,

The first system of musical notation consists of a grand staff with a treble clef on the upper staff and a bass clef on the lower staff. The key signature has one flat (B-flat). The melody is written in the treble clef, and the accompaniment is in the bass clef. The lyrics are placed between the two staves.

Thou didst slay Hades with the splendour of Thy God-head! And when from the depths Thou

The second system of musical notation continues the grand staff from the first system. It features a double bar line in the middle of the system, separating the two phrases of the text.

didst raise the dead, all the powers of hea - ven cried out:

The third system of musical notation continues the grand staff. It features a double bar line in the middle of the system, separating the two phrases of the text.

O Giver of Life! Christ our God _____ glo - ry to Thee!

The fourth system of musical notation is the final system of the piece. It features a double bar line at the end of the system, indicating the end of the troparion. The text ends with a long horizontal line under "God" and "glo - ry to Thee!".

Priest: Have mercy on us, O God, according to Thy great goodness, we pray Thee, hearken and have mercy.

People:

Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mer - cy.

The musical notation consists of two staves, a treble clef on the top and a bass clef on the bottom, both in a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The melody is written in the treble clef and the bass line in the bass clef. The lyrics are written below the treble staff. The music is in a simple, homophonic style, with the melody and bass line moving in parallel motion.

Priest: Again we pray that He will keep this city, and this holy church, and every city and country from wrath, famine, pestilence, earthquake, flood, fire, the sword, the invasion of enemies, and from civil war, and from sudden death; that our good God, Who loves mankind, may be gracious, favourable, and conciliatory, and turn away and dispel all the wrath stirred up against us, and all sickness, and may deliver us from His righteous chastisement which impends against us and have mercy on us.

People: Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

Priest: Hear us, O God our Saviour, the hope of all the ends of the earth, and of those who are far off upon the sea; and be gracious, be gracious, O Master, unto us sinners and have mercy on us. For Thou art a merciful God Who lovest mankind, and unto Thee we ascribe glory, to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

People: Amen.

Priest: Glory to Thee, O Christ, our God and our hope, glory to Thee.

People: 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. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.
Father, bless.

Priest: May Christ our true God, through the prayers of His most pure mother, of our venerable and God-bearing fathers, and of all the saints, have mercy on us and save us, for He is good and loves mankind.

People: Amen.