

Holy.Friday.Vespers.Lord I Call.Aposticha

People: *Tone 1*

All creation was changed by fear
When it saw You hanging upon the cross, O Christ.
The sun was darkened,
And the foundations of the earth were shaken.
All things suffered with the Creator of all ///
O Lord, Who endured this for us, glory to You.

Reader: *For Your name's sake I have patiently waited for You, O Lord.*

People:

All creation was changed by fear
When it saw You hanging upon the cross, O Christ.
The sun was darkened,
And the foundations of the earth were shaken.
All things suffered with the Creator of all ///
O Lord, Who endured this for us, glory to You.

Reader: *My soul has waited patiently for Your word, my soul has
hoped in the Lord. From the morning watch until night,
from the morning watch let Israel hope in the Lord.*

People: *Tone 2*

An impious and transgressing people
Why do they imagine vain things?
Why do they condemn to death the Life of all?
O great wonder!
The Creator of the world is betrayed into the hands of
lawless men
He Who loves mankind is lifted up upon the wood,
That He might free those bound in Hades, who cry ///
O Long-suffering Lord, glory to You!

Reader: *For with the Lord there is mercy, and with Him is
plenteous redemption; and He shall redeem Israel out of all
his iniquities.*

People:

Today the blameless Virgin
Saw You suspended upon the Cross, O Word.
She mourned within herself and was sorely pierced in her
heart.
She groaned in agony from the depth of her soul.
Exhausted from tearing her hair and cheeks and beating her
breast,
She cried out lamenting:
“Woe is me, my divine Child!
Woe is me, O Light of the world!
Why have You departed from my eyes, O Lamb of God?”
Then the bodiless hosts were seized with trembling and
cried///
“O incomprehensible Lord, glory to You!”

Reader: *O praise the Lord, all you nations; praise Him, all you
peoples.*

People:

When she who bore You without seed,
Saw You suspended upon the tree,
O Christ, the Creator and God of all,
She cried bitterly: “Where is the beauty of Your form, O my
Son?”
I cannot bear to see You unjustly crucified.
Hasten and arise///
That I too may see Your Resurrection from the dead on the
third day.

Reader: *For He has made His mercy to prevail over us, and the truth of the Lord abides forever.*

People: *Tone 6*

Today the Master of creation stands before Pilate
Today the Creator of all is condemned to die on the cross.
Of His own will, He is led as a lamb to the slaughter.
He Who fed His people with manna in the desert is
transfixed with nails.
His side is pierced, and a sponge of vinegar touches His lips.
The Redeemer of the world is slapped on the face.
The Maker of all is mocked by His own servants.
How great is the Master's love for mankind!
For those who crucified Him, He prayed to His Father
saying,///
"Forgive them this sin, for they know not what they do."

Reader: *Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit...*

People:

See how the lawless assembly condemns the King of creation
to death.
They are not ashamed, even when He reminds them of His
mighty works.
"My people, what have I done to you?
Have I not filled Judea with miracles?
Have I not raised the dead by My word alone?
Have I not healed every sickness and disease?
How have you repaid Me?
Why have you abandoned Me?
In return for healing, you give Me blows.
In return for life, you put Me to death.
You hang your Benefactor on the cross as an evil doer; (*over*)

Your lawgiver, as a transgressor;
The King of all, as one condemned." ///
O Long-suffering Lord, glory to You!

Reader: *Now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.*

People:

We see a strange and fearful mystery accomplished today.
He Whom none may touch is seized.
He Who loosed Adam from the curse is bound.
He Who tries the hearts of men is unjustly brought to trial.
He Who closed the abyss is shut in prison.
He before Whom the hosts of heaven stand with trembling
stands before Pilate.
The Creator is struck by the hand of His creature.
He Who comes to judge the living and the dead is
condemned to the cross.
The conqueror of Hades is enclosed in a tomb.
O You, Who have endured all these things in Your tender
love,
You have saved all men from the curse. ///
O Long-suffering Lord, glory to You!

The Entrance with the Gospel

Deacon: Let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Priest: *(prayer)*

People: Amen.

Priest: Blessed is the entrance of Your saints, always, now and ever and
unto ages of ages.

Deacon: Amen. Wisdom! Stand aright!

The Aposticha

Reader: *The Aposticha in the 2nd tone.*

People: *Tone 2*

Joseph of Arimathea took You down from the tree,
The Life of all, cold in death.

Bathing You with sweet and costly myrrh,

He gently covered You in finest linen

And with sorrow and tender love in his heart

He embraced Your most pure Body.

Trembling at this awesome sight

He cried out to You, O Christ: ///

“Glory to Your condescension, O Lover of man!”

Reader: *The Lord is King! He is robed in majesty!*

People:

When You, the Redeemer of all, were placed in a tomb,
All Hades’ powers quaked in fear.

Its bars were broken, its gates were smashed.

Its mighty reign was brought to an end,

For the dead came forth alive from their tombs,

Casting off the bonds of their captivity.

Adam was filled with joy!

He gratefully cried out to you, O Christ: ///

“Glory to Your condescension, O Lover of man!”

Reader: *He has established the world so that it shall never be moved.*

People:

In the flesh You were willingly enclosed in the tomb,
Who are boundless and infinite in Your divinity.
You closed the chambers of death, O Christ.
You have emptied all the palaces of Hades. ///
You have honoured this Sabbath with Your blessing, glory
and splendour.

Reader: *Holiness befits Your house, O Lord, forevermore.*

People:

The powers of heaven shook with fear,
When they saw Your ineffable forbearance.
They beheld You slandered by lawless men,
Mocked as a deceiver by transgressors.
They beheld the stone that closed Your tomb
Sealed by the same hands that pierced Your side,
But they knew that Your death would be our life,
And joyfully they cried out to You, O Christ, ///
“Glory to Your condescension, O Lover of man!”

Reader: *In the 5th tone: Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and
to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages.
Amen.*

People: *Tone 5*

Joseph together with Nicodemus
Took you down from the tree
Who clothe Yourself with light as with a garment.
He gazed on Your Body - dead, naked, and unburied,
And in grief and tender compassion he lamented:
“Woe is me, my sweetest Jesus!
A short while ago, the sun beheld You hanging on the cross
And it hid itself in darkness. (over)

The earth quaked in fear at the sight.
The veil of the temple was torn in two.
Lo, now I see You willingly submit to death for our sake.
How shall I bury You, O my God?
How can I wrap You in a shroud?
How can I touch Your most pure Body with my hands?
What songs can I sing for Your Exodus, O Compassionate
One?
I magnify Your Passion,
I glorify Your burial,
And your holy Resurrection, ///
Crying: O Lord, glory to you!"

St. Simeon's Prayer

People: *Tone 6*

Lord, now let your servant depart in peace
According to Your word,
For my eyes have seen Your salvation,
Which You have prepared before the face of all people:
A light to lighten the Gentiles, ///
And the glory of Your people, Israel.