

170 Let my supplication come before thee; deliver me according to thy word.  
171 My lips will pour forth praise that thou dost teach me thy statutes.

21. "Arise, You Who bestow Life!"  
the **Mother** who has **borne** You  
through **flowing tears** entreats You.

172 My tongue will sing of thy word, for all thy commandments are right.  
173 Let thy hand be ready to help me, for I have chosen thy precepts.

22. The **powers** of the **Heavens**  
stood **up** in fear and **wonder**  
when **they beheld** You **lifeless**.

174 I long for thy salvation, O LORD, and thy law is my delight.

23. **Early** in the **morning**  
**women** bearing **myrrh** came  
to **sprinkle** You with **spices**. (3 times)

175 Let me live, that I may praise thee, and let thy ordinances help me.

24. **By** Your Resurrection  
grant **peace** upon Your **churches**  
and to Your **flock** salvation.

176 I have gone astray like a lost sheep; seek thy servant, for I do not forget thy commandments.

25. My **God**, Who are three **Persons**,  
**Father**, **Son**, and **Spirit**,  
on **all** the **world** have **mercy**.

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

26. **Deem** your servants **worthy**,  
O **Virgin**, to bear **witness**  
at **your** Son's **Resurrection**.

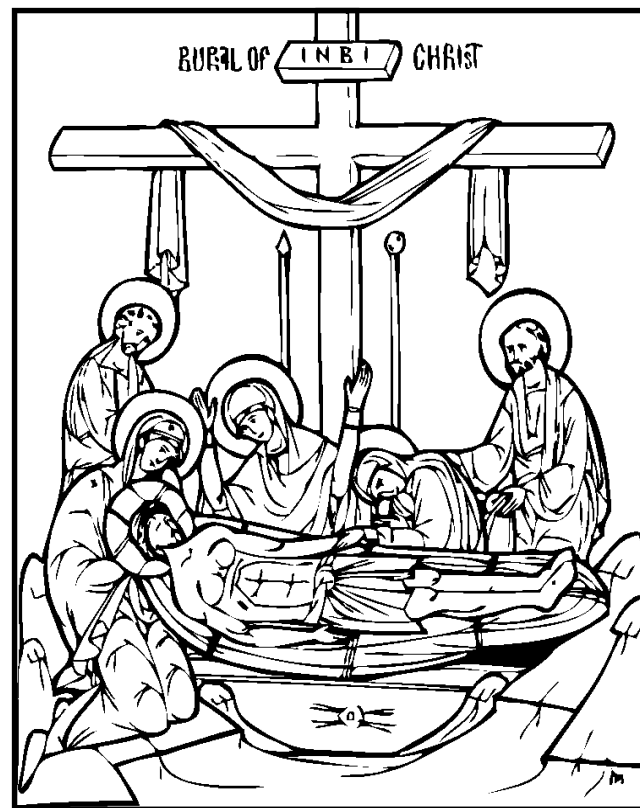
1. **Every** generation  
**offers** adoration,  
my **Christ**, at **Your** entombment.

*The translation has been arranged to match the Greek text in number of syllables and location of accented syllables. Therefore, they should work equally well with any musical arrangement.*

**NEW BYZANTIUM PUBLICATIONS — [www.newbyz.org](http://www.newbyz.org)**

# The Lamentations Before the Holy Sepulcher

From Holy Saturday Orthros



English Translation by N. Takis

*Dedicated to His Eminence Metropolitan Maximos of Pittsburgh*

**THE LAMENTATIONS  
of Holy Saturday Orthros**

**KATHISMA 17  
Psalm 119 (118)**

**FIRST STASIS**

Plagal First Tone

*Blessed art Thou, O Lord: teach me Thy statutes.*

*1 Blessed are those whose way is blameless, who walk in the law of the LORD! 2 Blessed are those who keep his testimonies, who seek him with their whole heart, 3 who also do no wrong, but walk in his ways!*

1. In a **grave** they **laid** You,  
yet, O **Christ**, You are **Life**,  
and the **armies** of the **angels beheld** amazed,  
giving **glory** that You **chose** to **condescend**.

*4 Thou hast commanded thy precepts to be kept diligently. 5 O that my ways may be steadfast in keeping thy statutes! 6 Then I shall not be put to shame, having my eyes fixed on all thy commandments.*

2. How, O **Life**, do **You** die?  
How do **You** live **entombed**,  
for you **slashed** through all the **bonds** in the **realm** of death,  
and have **raised** the dead in **Hades** from their **graves**?

*7 I will praise thee with an upright heart, when I learn thy righteous ordinances. 8 I will observe thy statutes; O forsake me not utterly! 9 How can a young man keep his way pure? By guarding it according to thy word.*

3. We, O **Lord**, **exalt** You,  
O Christ **Jesus**, our **King**,  
and we **venerate** Your **Passion** and **burial**  
through which **You** have brought **redemption** from our **sins**.

*10 With my whole heart I seek thee; let me not wander from thy commandments! 11 I have laid up thy word in my heart, that I might not sin against thee. 12 Blessed be thou, O LORD; teach me thy statutes!*

14. **Death** to Death You **render**,  
through **Your** divine dominion,  
My **God**, by **Your** own **dying**.

*158 I look at the faithless with disgust, because they do not keep thy commands. 159 Consider how I love thy precepts! Preserve my life according to thy steadfast love.*

15. **Foiled** is the **Deceiver**;  
**Redeemed** is the **deceived** one,  
my **God**, by **Your** great **wisdom**.

*160 The sum of thy word is truth; and every one of thy righteous ordinances endures for ever. 161 Princes persecute me without cause, but my heart stands in awe of thy words.*

16. My **God** and my **Creator**,  
the **King** of all, and **God's** **Son**,  
how **have** You **borne** Your **Passion**?

*162 I rejoice at thy word like one who finds great spoil. 163 I hate and abhor falsehood, but I love thy law.*

17. **Beholding** You **suspended**  
**upon** the tree, the **Mother**  
cried **to** her **Calf** in **anguish**.

*164 Seven times a day I praise thee for thy righteous ordinances. 165 Great peace have those who love thy law; nothing can make them stumble.*

18. "My **sweetest** **Son**, most **precious**,  
the **Light** of mine eyes **hidden**!  
How **can** a **tomb** **conceal** You?"

*166 I hope for thy salvation, O LORD, and I do thy commandments. 167 My soul keeps thy testimonies; I love them exceedingly.*

19. "My **Son**, I offer **glory**  
for **Your** supreme **compassion**  
which **causes** **You** to **suffer**."

*168 I keep thy precepts and testimonies, for all my ways are before thee. 169 Let my cry come before thee, O LORD; give me understanding according to thy word!*

20. **Arise**, O Lord of **Mercy**,  
and **with** You, also **raise** us  
who **linger** **deep** in **Hades**.

144 Thy testimonies are righteous for ever; give me understanding that I may live. 145 With my whole heart I cry; answer me, O LORD! I will keep thy statutes.

8. **Ignorance most foolish!**  
**They** who slew the **prophets**  
have **come**, O **Christ**, to **slay** You.

146 I cry to thee; save me, that I may observe thy testimonies.

147 I rise before dawn and cry for help; I hope in thy words.

9. **Mindless as a servant,**  
**he** who learned the **myst'ries**  
**betrayed** the **Depths** of **Wisdom**.

148 My eyes are awake before the watches of the night, that I may meditate upon thy promise. 149 Hear my voice in thy steadfast love; O LORD, in thy justice preserve my life.

10. **He** who sold the **Savior**,  
**Judas** the **Betrayer**,  
has **sold** himself as **captive**.

150 They draw near who persecute me with evil purpose; they are far from thy law. 151 But thou art near, O LORD, and all thy commandments are true.

11. With **help** from **Nicodemus**,  
**Joseph** tends the **Body**  
as **does** befit the **Master**.

152 Long have I known from thy testimonies that thou hast founded them for ever. 153 Look on my affliction and deliver me, for I do not forget thy law.

12. You **are** my sweetest **Springtime**,  
My **sweetest** Son, I **ask** You,  
"Where **has** Your **beauty** **faded**?"

154 Plead my cause and redeem me; give me life according to thy promise!

155 Salvation is far from the wicked, for they do not seek thy statutes.

13. When **she** beheld You **lifeless**,  
O **Word**, Your all-pure **Mother**  
cried **out** in **lamentation**.

156 Great is thy mercy, O LORD; give me life according to thy justice.

157 Many are my persecutors and my adversaries, but I do not swerve from thy testimonies.

4. You have **set** the **measures**  
of the **earth**, yet this **day**  
in a **narrow** tomb now **dwell**, Jesus, **King** of all,  
Who have **raised** those who were **dead** up from their **tombs**.

13 With my lips I declare all the ordinances of thy mouth. 14 In the way of thy testimonies I delight as much as in all riches. 15 I will meditate on thy precepts, and fix my eyes on thy ways.

5. O my **own** Christ **Jesus**,  
You are **King** of the **world**.  
Why have **You** come down to **Hades** to **seek** the dead?  
Is it **not** to set the **race** of mortals **free**?

16 I will delight in thy statutes; I will not forget thy word. 17 Deal bountifully with thy servant, that I may live and observe thy word. 18 Open my eyes, that I may behold wondrous things out of thy law.

6. He Who **is** the **Master**  
of creation **appears**  
as a **corpse** and lies **entombed** in a **fresh-hewn** grave,  
though He **emptied** every **gravesite** of its **dead**.

19 I am a sojourner on earth; hide not thy commandments from me! 20 My soul is consumed with longing for thy ordinances at all times. 21 Thou dost rebuke the insolent, accursed ones, who wander from thy commandments;

7. In a **grave** they **laid** You,  
yet, O **Christ**, You are **Life**.  
By Your **death** You have **abolished** the **realm** of death,  
and **upon** the world have **poured** down streams of **Life**.

22 take away from me their scorn and contempt, for I have kept thy testimonies. 23 Even though princes sit plotting against me, thy servant will meditate on thy statutes. 24 Thy testimonies are my delight, they are my counselors.

8. Fairer **in** His **beauty**,  
than all **creatures** on **earth**,  
He is **seen** now lying **lifeless**, His **beauty** gone,  
yet all **beauty** in creation springs from **Him**.

25 My soul cleaves to the dust; revive me according to thy word!  
26 When I told of my ways, thou didst answer me; teach me thy statutes!  
27 Make me understand the way of thy precepts, and I will meditate on thy wondrous works.

9. O my **own** sweet **Jesus**,  
Saving **Light** of the **world**,  
can the **darkness** of the **grave** hide Your **Light** within?  
Neither **thought** nor word can **say** what You have **borne**.

28 My soul melts away for sorrow; strengthen me according to thy word!  
29 Put false ways far from me; and graciously teach me thy law!  
30 I have chosen the way of faithfulness, I set thy ordinances before me.

10. Neither **Nature's** **reason**,  
nor the **angels**, O **Christ**,  
grasp the **mystery** enfolding Your **burial**,  
beyond **all** our **understanding** and all **words**.

31 I cleave to thy testimonies, O LORD; let me not be put to shame!  
32 I will run in the way of thy commandments when thou enlargest my understanding!  
33 Teach me, O LORD, the way of thy statutes; and I will keep it to the end.

11. Although **you** were **hidden**  
in the **depths** of a **tomb**,  
in the **bosom** of the **Father** you **still** remained,  
a true **wonder** and great **miracle**, O **Christ**.

34 Give me understanding, that I may keep thy law and observe it with my whole heart.  
35 Lead me in the path of thy commandments, for I delight in it.  
36 Incline my heart to thy testimonies, and not to gain!

12. All creation **knew** well  
that you, **Jesus**, in **truth**,  
are the **King** of all the **heavens** and **all** the **earth**,  
though you **now** are hidden in a narrow **tomb**.

37 Turn my eyes from looking at vanities; and give me life in thy ways.  
38 Confirm to thy servant thy promise, which is for those who fear thee.  
39 Turn away the reproach which I dread; for thy ordinances are good.

## THIRD STASIS

### Third Tone

1. **Every** generation  
**offers** adoration,  
my **Christ**, at **Your** entombment.

132 Turn to me and be gracious to me, as is thy wont toward those who love thy name.  
133 Keep steady my steps according to thy promise, and let no iniquity get dominion over me.

2. **The** Arimathean  
**from** the Cross has **brought** You  
and **in** the **tomb** has **laid** You.

134 Redeem me from man's oppression, that I may keep thy precepts.  
135 Make thy face shine upon thy servant, and teach me thy statutes.

3. **Anxiously** the **women**  
**carry** myrrh and **spices**,  
my **Christ**, to **lay** before You.

136 My eyes shed streams of tears, because men do not keep thy law.  
137 Righteous art thou, O LORD, and right are thy judgments.

4. **Come** with all creation,  
and **offer** hymns of **mourning**  
to **honor** our Creator.

138 Thou hast appointed thy testimonies in righteousness and in all faithfulness.  
139 My zeal consumes me, because my foes forget thy words.

5. As **women** bearing **myrrh** did,  
let **us** in our **awareness**  
**anoint** as **dead** the **Living**.

140 Thy promise is well tried, and thy servant loves it.  
141 I am small and despised, yet I do not forget thy precepts.

6. **Three**-times blessed **Joseph**,  
**you** shall tend the **Body**  
of **Christ**, Who **has** bestowed **Life**.

142 Thy righteousness is righteous for ever, and thy law is true.  
143 Trouble and anguish have come upon me, but thy commandments are my delight.

7. **Those** He fed with **manna**  
have **raised** their heels to **spurn** Him  
from **Whom** all **things** are **given**.

20. **Weeping bitter tears,**  
Your pure **Mother** mourned to see You **lifeless**  
**lying** in the **tomb**, yet You **are**, O Word,  
the **ineffable** and **everlasting God**.

*126 It is time for the LORD to act, for thy law has been broken.  
127 Therefore I love thy commandments above gold, above fine gold.*

21. **Witness to Your death,**  
through her **bitter tears** Your all-pure **Mother**  
**weeping**, cried **aloud** unto **You**, O Christ:  
“Do not **linger** with the **dead**, for You are **Life!**”

*128 Therefore I direct my steps by all thy precepts; I hate every false  
way. 129 Thy testimonies are wonderful; therefore my soul keeps them.*

22. **Singing hymns. O Christ,**  
all the **faithful** now sound forth the **praises**  
**of** Your crucifixion and **burial**  
for by **You** entombment **we** are freed from **death**.

*130 The unfolding of thy words gives light; it imparts understanding to the  
simple. 131 With open mouth I pant, because I long for thy commandments.*

23. **God** beyond all **time**,  
with the **Word** and Spirit **everlasting!**  
**strengthen** every **scepter**, O **righteous** Lord,  
of the **Orthodox** **against** our every **foe!**

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

24. **Life** was born of **you**  
who are **holy** and most pure, O **Virgin**.  
**Grant** your church **protection** from all **dissent**  
and **reward** us with the **blessing** of your **peace**.

1. **Truly** it is **right**  
that we **magnify** You Who **bestow** Life,  
**Who** upon the **Cross** with Your **outspread** Hands  
have **defeated** all the **power** of the **foe**.

13. O my **Life** and **Savior**,  
you **descended** in **death**,  
where You **walked** among the **dead**, and then **You** arose  
from **corruption**, and you **crushed** the bars of **hell**.

*40 Behold, I long for thy precepts; in thy righteousness give me life!  
41 Let thy steadfast love come to me, O LORD, thy salvation according to thy  
promise; 42 then shall I have an answer for those who taunt me, for I trust  
in thy word.*

14. You came **down**, O **Master**,  
to save **Adam** from **sin**,  
but not **finding** him on **earth**, You **descended** then  
to the **depths** of Hades **searching** for him **there**.

*43 And take not the word of truth utterly out of my mouth, for my hope is in thy  
ordinances. 44 I will keep thy law continually, for ever and ever; 45 and I shall  
walk at liberty, for I have sought thy precepts.*

15. As the **setting sun** hides  
‘neath the **Earth** in the **night**,  
You, O **Savior**, are **concealed** by the **night** of death.  
Rise **again** and shine more **brightly** than the **dawn**.

*46 I will also speak of thy testimonies before kings, and shall not be put to  
shame; 47 for I find my delight in thy commandments, which I love. 48 I  
revere thy commandments, which I love, and I will meditate on thy statutes.*

16. As the **sun’s** bright **circle**  
is **eclipsed** by the **moon**,  
You, O **Savior**, have been **hidden** inside the **grave**  
and your **Body** is **eclipsed** now by the **tomb**.

*49 Remember thy word to thy servant, in which thou hast made me hope.  
50 This is my comfort in my affliction that thy promise gives me life.  
51 Godless men utterly deride me, but I do not turn away from thy law.*

17. You, the **joy** of **angels**,  
are the **cause** of their **grief**,  
as they **look** upon You, **Savior**, dead in the **flesh**,  
and in **sorrow** they **behold** a lifeless **corpse**.

52 *When I think of thy ordinances from of old, I take comfort, O LORD.*  
53 *Hot indignation seizes me because of the wicked, who forsake thy law.*  
54 *Thy statutes have been my songs in the house of my pilgrimage.*

18. Joy **beyond all measure**  
and **abounding delight**,  
You brought **down** to those in **Hades** when You **arose**,  
shining **forth** as lightning in its gloomy **depths**.

55 *I remember thy name in the night, O LORD, and keep thy law.*  
56 *This blessing has fallen to me, that I have kept thy precepts.*  
57 *The LORD is my portion; I promise to keep thy words.*

19. I **revere** Your **passion**,  
Your **entombment** I **praise**,  
and I **magnify** Your **might**, Loving **Friend** of man;  
they have **ransomed** me from **passions** that **corrupt**.

58 *I entreat thy favor with all my heart; be gracious to me according to thy promise.* 59 *When I think of thy ways, I turn my feet to thy testimonies;*  
60 *I hasten and do not delay to keep thy commandments.*

20. When Your **mother** **saw** you  
brought to **slaughter**, O **Lamb**,  
she was **stabbed** with painful **torment**; her **anguished** sobs  
called the **flock** to join her **bitter** cries of **grief**.

61 *Though the cords of the wicked ensnare me, I do not forget thy law.*  
62 *At midnight I rise to praise thee, because of thy righteous ordinances.*  
63 *I am a companion of all who fear thee, of those who keep thy precepts.*

21. “Woe is **me!**” the **Virgin**  
mourned through **heart-breaking** **sobs**.  
“You are, **Jesus**, my most **precious**, **beloved** Son!  
Gone is **my** light, and the **Light** of all the **world!**”

64 *The earth, O LORD, is full of thy steadfast love; teach me thy statutes.*  
65 *Thou hast dealt well with thy servant, O LORD, according to thy word.*  
66 *Teach me good judgment and knowledge, for I believe in thy commandments.*

15. **Suffering in pain**,  
You, O **Word**, had neither form nor **beauty**,  
**but** by Your **arising**, Your **beauty** shines,  
and Your **holy** rays **adorn** all those on **earth**.

115 *Depart from me, you evildoers, that I may keep the commandments of my God.* 116 *Uphold me according to thy promise, that I may live, and let me not be put to shame in my hope!* 117 *Hold me up, that I may be safe and have regard for thy statutes continually!*

16 **Sun** and moon as **one**  
turned to **darkness** in their sorrow, **Savior**,  
**and** like faithful **servants**, they **wore** their grief,  
when they **wrapped** themselves in **blackness** like a **shroud**.

118 *Thou dost spurn all who go astray from thy statutes; yea, their cunning is in vain.* 119 *All the wicked of the earth thou dost count as dross; therefore I love thy testimonies.*

17. **Never-setting Star**,  
You **descended** in the flesh **below** ground,  
**and** the Sun grew **dark** at the **height** of noon,  
for it **could** not bear to **separate** from **You**.

120 *My flesh trembles for fear of thee, and I am afraid of thy judgments.*  
121 *I have done what is just and right; do not leave me to my oppressors.*

18. **Sleeping** just a **while**,  
to the **dead**, O loving Lord, you **brought** life,  
**and** by Your **arising**, You **also** raised  
those **asleep** from the **beginning** of all **time**.

122 *Be surety for thy servant for good; let not the godless oppress me.*  
123 *My eyes fail with watching for thy salvation, and for the fulfilment of thy righteous promise.*

19. **Struck** with fear, the **sun**  
saw Your **light** invisible as **You** lay  
**lifeless** and **concealed** in the **grave**, my Christ,  
and it **shuddered** and **relinquished** its own **light**.

124 *Deal with thy servant according to thy steadfast love, and teach me thy statutes.* 125 *I am thy servant; give me understanding, that I may know thy testimonies!*

10. **Sun of Righteousness,**  
You have **set** below the earth, O **Savior,**  
**while** the moon, Your **Mother, eclipsed** by grief,  
mourns that **never** shall she **look** on you **again.**

*100 I understand more than the aged, for I keep thy precepts. 101 I hold back my feet from every evil way, in order to keep thy word. 102 I do not turn aside from thy ordinances, for thou hast taught me.*

11. **Following the night,**  
like a **bridegroom** coming from a **chamber,**  
**once** again the **Sun** blazes **forth** its light.  
Now **arise,** O Word, in **glory** after **death.**

*103 How sweet are thy words to my taste, sweeter than honey to my mouth! 104 Through thy precepts I get understanding; therefore I hate every false way. 105 Thy word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.*

12. **Fearfully the earth**  
took Your **body** in her bosom, **Savior.**  
**Holding** her Creator, she **quaked** in fear,  
and **awakened** those who **lay** dead in their **tombs.**

*106 I have sworn an oath and confirmed it, to observe thy righteous ordinances. 107 I am sorely afflicted; give me life, O LORD, according to thy word! 108 Accept my offerings of praise, O LORD, and teach me thy ordinances.*

13. **Stone** that man has **hewn**  
now **conceals** the Stone of Life's Foundation;  
**mortal** men **entomb** God as **mortal** man,  
causing **you,** O earth, to **tremble** in **dismay.**

*109 I hold my life in my hand continually, but I do not forget thy law. 110 The wicked have laid a snare for me, but I do not stray from thy precepts. 111 Thy testimonies are my heritage for ever; yea, they are the joy of my heart.*

14. "**Child** of mine, **behold**  
Your **belov'd** disciple and Your **mother.**"  
"**Grant** that I might **hear** Your sweet **voice** again!"  
Your pure **Mother** called through **flowing** tears to **You.**

*112 I incline my heart to perform thy statutes for ever, to the end. 113 I hate double-minded men, but I love thy law. 114 Thou art my hiding place and my shield; I hope in thy word.*

22. "God and **Word** eternal,  
O my **Gladness** and **Joy!**  
How shall I endure Your **three** days **inside** the tomb  
when my **heart** is breaking **with** a mother's **grief?"**

*67 Before I was afflicted I went astray; but now I keep thy word. 68 Thou art good and doest good; teach me thy statutes. 69 The godless besmear me with lies, but with my whole heart I keep thy precepts;*

23. "Who will **give** me **water,**  
and a **fountain** of **tears,"**  
cried the **Virgin** Bride of **God** in her **deep** despair,  
"that in **grief** for my sweet **Jesus** I might **weep?"**

*70 their heart is gross like fat, but I delight in thy law. 71 It is good for me that I was afflicted, that I might learn thy statutes. 72 The law of thy mouth is better to me than thousands of gold and silver pieces.*

24. We will **sing** Your **praises,**  
Word and **God** of all **things,**  
with Your **Father** and Your **Holy** Spirit You are **praised,**  
and we **glorify** Your **burial** **divine.**

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

25. You are **known** as **blessed,**  
Theotokos, most **pure.**  
With our **faithful** hearts we **honor** the **burial**  
suffered **three** days by your **Son,** Who is our **God.**

1. In a **grave** they **laid** You,  
yet, O **Christ.** You are **Life,**  
and the **armies** of the **angels** **beheld** amazed,  
giving **glory** that You **chose** to **condescend.**

## SECOND STASIS

1. **Truly it is right**  
that we **magnify** You Who **bestow** Life,  
**Who** upon the **Cross** with Your **outspread** Hands  
have **defeated** all the **power** of the **foe**.

*73 Thy hands have made and fashioned me; give me understanding that I may learn thy commandments. 74 Those who fear thee shall see me and rejoice, because I have hoped in thy word. 75 I know, O LORD, that thy judgments are right, and that in faithfulness thou hast afflicted me.*

2. **Truly it is right**  
that we **magnify** You, our Creator;  
**through** Your pain have **we** been **released** from pain,  
and from **all** corruption **we** have been set **free**.

*76 Let thy steadfast love be ready to comfort me according to thy promise to thy servant. 77 Let thy mercy come to me, that I may live; for thy law is my delight. 78 Let the godless be put to shame, because they have subverted me with guile; as for me, I will meditate on thy precepts.*

3. **All the earth did shake**  
and the **sun** concealed itself in **darkness**  
**when** they set Your **body** into the tomb,  
Christ, the **Savior** and the **never-setting Sun**.

*79 Let those who fear thee turn to me, that they may know thy testimonies. 80 May my heart be blameless in thy statutes, that I may not be put to shame! 81 My soul languishes for thy salvation; I hope in thy word.*

4. **You** have slept, O **Christ**,  
in the **tomb** a slumber that **revives** life,  
**by** this sleep **arousing** humanity,  
waking **mankind** from the **heavy** sleep of **sin**.

*82 My eyes fail with watching for thy promise; I ask, "When wilt thou comfort me?" 83 For I have become like a wineskin in the smoke, yet I have not forgotten thy statutes. 84 How long must thy servant endure? When wilt thou judge those who persecute me?*

5. **"Free** from pain, my **Child**,  
I, **alone** among all women, **bore** you."  
**said** Your modest **Mother** with **humble** voice.  
"Now Your **passion** brings more **pain** than I can **bear**."

*85 Godless men have dug pitfalls for me, men who do not conform to thy law. 86 All thy commandments are sure; they persecute me with falsehood; help me! 87 They have almost made an end of me on earth; but I have not forsaken thy precepts.*

6. **Women** bearing **myrrh**  
brought their **spices** to anoint your **Body**,  
**yet** You are the **true**, never-fading **Myrrh**  
and are **verily**, O **Lord**, the living **God**.

*88 In thy steadfast love spare my life, that I may keep the testimonies of thy mouth. 89 For ever, O LORD, thy word is firmly fixed in the heavens. 90 Thy faithfulness endures to all generations; thou hast established the earth, and it stands fast.*

7. **Star** of Righteousness,  
You have **gone** beneath the earth and **raised up**  
**as** though from their **slumber**, those **who** lay dead,  
and the **gloomy** dark of **Hades** you **dispersed**.

*91 By thy appointment they stand this day; for all things are thy servants. 92 If thy law had not been my delight, I should have perished in my affliction. 93 I will never forget thy precepts; for by them thou hast given me life.*

8. **"Torn** apart am I,  
and my **womb**, O **Word**, is wrenched within me  
**as** Your unjust **slaughter** **assaults** my eyes,"  
cried the **Mother** to her **Son** through bitter **tears**.

*94 I am thine, save me; for I have sought thy precepts. 95 The wicked lie in wait to destroy me; but I consider thy testimonies. 96 I have seen a limit to all perfection, but thy commandment is exceedingly broad.*

9. **"Eyes** that are so **sweet**,  
and Your **lips**, O **Word**, how shall I **close** them?"  
**Joseph** cried **appalled**, trembling in **dismay**.  
"How shall I entomb You **as** befits the **dead**?"

*97 Oh, how I love thy law! It is my meditation all the day. 98 Thy commandment makes me wiser than my enemies, for it is ever with me. 99 I have more understanding than all my teachers, for thy testimonies are my meditation.*