

HOLY SATURDAY MATINS --PRAISES --1st Stasis



In a grave they laid Thee, O my Life and my Christ;



and the ar — mies of the an — gels were sore a — mazed,



as they sang the praise of Thy sub — mis — sive



love love.

FIRST PART

- v. *Blessed art Thou, O Lord; teach me Thy statutes.
Blessed are those whose way is blameless, who walk in the law of the Lord!*

In a grave they laid Thee, / O my Life and my Christ; / and the armies of the
angels were sore amazed, / as they sang the praise of Thy submissive love.

- v. *Blessed are those who keep His testimonies, who seek Him
with their whole heart.*

How, O Life canst Thou die? / Or abide in a tomb? / For Thou dost destroy
the kingdom of death, O Lord, / and Thou raisest up the dead of Hades' realm.

- v. *Who also do no wrong, but walk in His ways.*

Now we magnify Thee, / O Lord Jesus our King; / and we venerate Thy Passion
and Burial, / whereby from corruption's depth are we redeemed.

- v. *O that my ways may be steadfast in keeping Thy statutes!*

In a tomb they laid Thee, / O my life and my Christ. / Yet, behold now, by
Thy death, death is now destroyed, / and Thou pourest forth life's streams
for all the world.

- v. *Then I shall not be put to shame, having my eyes fixed on
all Thy commandments.*

Thou, O Christ, wast numbered / with men of evil deeds / as one evil, and did
also deliver us / from the ancient schemer's evil works and deeds.

- v. *I will observe Thy statutes; O forsake me not utterly!*

Lo, how fair His beauty! / Never man was so fair! / Yet how doth He seem a dead
man bereft of form, / though all nature's beauty had Him as its source?

v. *Blessed art Thou, O Lord; teach me Thy statutes!*

O Christ Jesus, Savior, / in the tomb Thou wast laid; / yet Thou didst not
leave the bosom of Thy Father, Lord. / Lo, what strange and awesome
wonders we behold!

v. *Thou didst rebuke the insolent, and accursed ones who wander
from Thy commandments;*

Thou, O Master, camest / down to earth, as was meet, / to save Adam; and as Thou
didst not find him there, / Thou didst go down into Hades seeking him.

v. *Even though rulers sit plotting against me, Thy servant will
meditate on Thy statutes.*

By Thy death, O Savior, / Thou hast led back to life / Adam who of old,
by malice was caused to die; / Thou wast seen as the new Adam in the flesh.

v. *My soul cleaves to the dust; revive me according to Thy word!*

All the angels cried out / in amazement and awe; / How is it that the
Bestower of Life is dead? / How is it that God is closed up in a tomb?

v. *My soul melts away for sorrow; strengthen me according to Thy word!*

Though we see Thee as dead, / yet Thou livest as God / and dost give new life
to mortal men who had died / hence, my deadness hast Thou thereby put to death.

v. *Let Thy great mercy come to me, O Lord, Thy salvation according to Thy promise;*

Christ, the Judge, was brought to / an unjust judge for us; / and by him was

He condemned to an unjust death / which He suffered on the blest Wood of the Cross.

v. *This is my comfort in my affliction that Thy promise gives me life.*

O vindictive people, / murderous and corrupt, / come behold the linen shroud
of the risen Christ / and the face-cloth which have put you all to shame.

Godless men utterly deride me, but I do not turn away from Thy law.

O ye hills and valleys, / all ye mountains and dales, / and thou multitude
of mankind, weep and lament, / crying Woe! with me the Mother of our God.

v. *Though the cords of the wicked ensnare me, I do not forget Thy law.*

In the tomb didst Thou will / to be seen as one dead; / but Thou livest
and shall raise up all mortal men / by Thy Resurrection, as Thou hast foretold.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit;

Word of God, we hymn Thee, / God of all things art Thou, / with Thy Father
and Thy Spirit Most Holy praised; / and we glorify Thy burial divine.

Both now and ever, and unto the ages of ages. Amen.

All we call Thee blessed, / Theotokos most pure, / and with faithful hearts
we honor the burial / suffered three days by the Son Who is our God.