



THE BLESSED  
**HOLY WEEK**

PALM SUNDAY - BRIGHT SATURDAY

PASCHA PROGRAMME

SATURDAY



SUNDAY



MONDAY



TUESDAY



WEDNESDAY



THURSDAY



FRIDAY



SATURDAY



# THE STRUCTURE OF THE HOLY PASCHA

During Holy Week, the Church has a **morning pascha** and an **evening pascha** every day. From Monday, each pascha is arranged into **5 hours** (1st, 3rd, 6th, 9th, 11th). Good Friday has an additional 12th hour. Each hour contains the following:



## Prophecies

We read scripture from the Old Testament which foretold some of the events in the Holy Week, and how Christ was to be treated. We also read from the poetic books and some homilies (sermons) for wisdom and teaching.



## Thok Te Ti Gom

We sing this doxology 12 times. It is taken from the praise of the angels found in the book of Revelation.



## Psalm & Gospel

The psalm is sung in a sad melody as we remember our Lord's suffering for our sake. The gospel reading fulfills the prophecies found in the psalm and the Old Testament scripture we read.



## Exposition

A summary of the hour. Many churches read all the expositions together at the end of the 11th hour.



## Litanies

A collection of prayers for various blessings, followed by chanting Kyrie Eleison 12 times and special hymns.



## Final Blessing

The conclusion of the Pascha.

# PALM SUNDAY

Sunday Morning Pascha

## HOUR

## PROPHECIES

## GOSPEL

9

Jesus is the King of Israel who will come and save His people from the bondage of death. He will cleanse us of sin and iniquity.

"From the mouths of babies and nursing infants, You prepared praise because of Your enemies"  
(Psalms 8:3)

Jesus cleanses the temple of the merchants and money changers. He heals the blind and the lame.

The chief priests hear children praising Jesus, calling Him the Son of David. They rebuke Jesus and He reminds them of King David's prophecy (Psalms 8:3).

11

God will show His wrath upon the guilty and mercy upon those who revere Him.

Jesus tells the disciples that if they want to enter His kingdom then they must serve each other, as He Himself did not come to be served, but came to serve and give His life as a ransom for all.

# MONDAY EVE

Sunday Evening Pascha

| HOUR | PROPHECIES   | GOSPEL   |
|------|--|--|
| 1    | The lamenting and destruction of Jerusalem. God's wrath towards those who reject Him.                            | Jesus tells the disciples that whoever follows Him will not die but have eternal life. The Father glorifies Jesus and those around Him perceive His voice as thunder. Jesus implies how He is to die (lifted up from the earth = crucified). |
| 3    | Seek righteousness to be saved from God's wrath and the day of affliction.                                       | Jesus asks the disciples who the people believe Him to be. Peter proclaims that he believes Jesus to be the Christ, the Son of God. Jesus says that He must suffer, be rejected, die and rise again.   |
| 6    | Anything separated from God withers and dies. Mourn for those who reject the Lord for they will see destruction. | Jesus tells the disciples that He will be betrayed, condemned, mocked, spit on and killed.   |
| 9    | Evil corrupts and its destruction is everlasting. Weeping will not save you on the day of judgement.             | Jesus again says that he will suffer, die and rise again after 3 days. Peter tries to interfere but Jesus tells him off and tells Satan to go away for no one knows God's plan.  |
| 11   | Those who love evil and hate good will not escape judgement.   | Faith as small as a mustard seed can move mountains. Fasting and prayer cast out sin. The disciples are sorrowful that Jesus will die.   |

## Main Theme

Those who love evil and reject God will see destruction on the day of judgement. Christ prepares His disciples for His death.

# MONDAY

Monday Morning Pascha

| HOUR | PROPHECIES  | GOSPEL   |
|------|---|--|
| 1    | God created us in incorruption but our sin made us fall. He made us to be good but we chose to reject Him and became corrupted, like the vineyard Isaiah spoke about. The reverence of God is the crown of wisdom. Those who love God will be exalted in Him. | Jesus curses the fig tree that doesn't grow fruit. Later on, the same tree withers and dies. This is Jesus' way of warning us not to be like the fig tree, which has big leaves but no fruit. This also refers to how Adam and Eve covered their nakedness with fig leaves, trying to hide their corruption. |
| 3    | Despair comes to whoever listens to their own wisdom and not God's wisdom. They turn away from the goodness and light of God, choosing evil and darkness.   | The people took the house of God and turned it into a den of thieves. This is like the fig tree, the vineyard and the foolish people who we see perish in the prophecies.  |
| 6    | We see in Exodus how the Israelites betrayed God and worshipped idols. Moses prays for God's mercy. God gives them the Laws to help them be righteous.  | Jesus casts out those who defile the house of God.   |
| 9    | Adam and Eve sinned before God and were cast out of Eden, but God promised salvation. This is the first prophecy about Jesus in the Bible.  | The chief priests question Jesus' divine authority.  |
| 11   | The fear of God is the cornerstone of wisdom.   | Jesus preaches that whoever listens to the word of God will never perish. He proclaims to be God. The people try to stone Him.   |

## Main Theme

God, who made us to be good, is the only One who can save us from our own corruption. Fear of God is life-giving wisdom.

# TUESDAY EVE

Monday Evening Pascha

| HOUR | PROPHECIES   | GOSPEL  |
|------|--|---|
| 1    | Return to God and He will return to you.   | The gate of salvation is narrow, make it your goal to enter.  |
| 3    | God loves you. God sees through hypocrisy and will not accept defiled offerings. | Jesus is warned that Herod seeks to kill Him. Jesus says that he must die in Jerusalem but He will be perfected on the third day. He refers to Israel's history of persecuting its prophets. He expresses His love for His people despite this, wishing they would come to Him as a chick goes to its mother hen. |
| 6    | If you let evil in, it will destroy you.   | Keep watch and be prepared for the second coming.   |
| 9    | A child who relies on their own power and leaves their Father will perish.       | Jesus condemns the Pharisees for their hypocrisy and for killing the prophets who came before Him.  |
| 11   | God is the source of life and goodness. Seek Him and live.                       | Keep watch for no one knows when Judgement Day is coming. The chief priests plan to kill Jesus after the Passover feast.  |

## Main Theme

God wants our salvation. He wants us to return to Him.  
Keep watch for Judgement Day.

# TUESDAY

Tuesday Morning Pascha

| HOUR | PROPHECIES   | GOSPEL   |
|------|--|--|
| 1    | We are a special people, chosen by God and called to Him.  | We must believe that Jesus is the son of God to have life. As He is not of this world but of above, we as His children should not be worldly.                    |
| 3    | God is faithful to us, so we should be faithful to Him and obey Him. Those who seek God are attacked by temptations. Jerusalem killed all the prophets until only Elijah was left. Now only Jesus is left.   | As Jerusalem destroyed the prophets and broke God's covenant with them, Jesus says that Jerusalem too will be destroyed and not one stone will be left unturned. |
| 6    | Shame brings about sin but conviction brings salvation. Israel has forsaken its Master. The chosen nation of priests has become a nation of sinners.   | Jesus is the Light of the world. He is One with the Father.  |
| 9    | We read the story of Noah and his ark, remembering that God promised to save the righteous people from the sin of the world. Wisdom built a house with 7 pillars (= 7 sacraments). Isaiah and Daniel prophecy that Jesus is coming to save whoever waits on Him. | Jesus tells the disciples about His Second Coming and warns them about deceivers and false prophets. He tells them that He will come again from the East.        |
| 11   | God's commandments are life-giving.  | Parable of the Talents. Jesus tells the disciples about Judgement Day. He teaches them that whatever kindness they do for others, they also do for God.          |

## Main Theme

Be prepared for our Lord's Second Coming. Obey His commandments because they give you everlasting life.



# WEDNESDAY EVE

Tuesday Evening Pascha

| HOUR | PROPHECIES   | GOSPEL   |
|------|--|--|
| 1    | We are called to be pure and not mixed with other 'metals' (the sinful ways of the world).                             | The Parable of the Wedding Banquet. Judas is the man without a wedding garment.  |
| 3    | The Day of the Lord (=Judgement Day) will be darkness for those who rejected God and light for those who accepted Him. | Only the Father knows when Judgement Day is. So, always be prepared for it to come.  |
| 6    | Whoever follows evil ways cannot follow God into His Kingdom.  | The Parable of the Ten Virgins.  |
| 9    | Israel was chosen to be a fruitful vine but has failed.  | The Pharisees claim that they wouldn't have killed the prophets like previous generations did, but Jesus knows that they are about to kill Him, not just a prophet but the son of God!   |
| 11   | Wisdom is the most beautiful thing because whoever is wise will follow God.  | It was tradition to go up to the mountain to purify yourself before the Passover feast. The disciples wonder why Jesus did not go with them. The Pharisees commanded that whoever knows where Jesus is must report it to them. |

## Main Theme

Be wise and follow God into His Heavenly Kingdom. This is a choice you make every day.

# WEDNESDAY

Wednesday Morning Pascha

## HOUR

## PROPHECIES

## GOSPEL

1

The Israelites complain to Moses and demand water. God provides for them and is faithful despite their unfaithfulness. Solomon tells us to trust in God and not rely on our own understanding.

Caiaphas doesn't realise it, but he prophesied that Jesus would die for all, and that His death would reunite all the nations with God.

3

God leads the Israelites out of Egypt, towards the Red Sea. Sirach describes what a fool is. Solomon explains the importance of keeping God's commandments.

Satan enters Judas and he agrees to betray Jesus to the Pharisees.

6

God splits the Red Sea for the Israelites to cross over. Sirach explains the dangers that can come out of your mouth.

Jesus goes to stay with Martha, Mary and Lazarus at Bethany. Mary anoints Jesus' feet with fragrant oil.

9

Abraham makes sure that what God asked him to do will be fulfilled. He trusts in God's plan. The Israelites complain against God again. Solomon warns us not to follow after those who lead us away from God. Zechariah's prophecy that Jesus would be sold for 30 pieces of silver.

The Pharisees pay Judas 30 pieces of silver to betray Jesus.

11

Isaiah prophesies about our salvation through Jesus.

The Father glorifies Jesus and those around Him perceive His voice as thunder. Jesus implies how He is going to die. He says that whoever follows Him lives forever.

### Main Theme

God is always faithful to His promise to save us. We should be like Mary with the costly oil, not like Judas with the silver.

# THURSDAY EVE

Wednesday Evening Pascha

| HOUR | PROPHECIES   | GOSPEL  |
|------|--|---|
| 1    | Ezekiel's prophecy. Lawlessness builds a wall between us and God.  | Jesus tell us that He willingly accepts to die on the Cross for us, out of love for us.   |
| 3    | God tells Amos that He has given the Israelites blessings and He has tried to discipline them, but neither has gotten them to return to Him. | Mary anoints Jesus' feet with oil. Judas criticises her but Jesus praises her. Judas offers to betray Jesus to the Pharisees.   |
| 6    | God sent the people of Tyre many instructions, but they didn't listen to them or the prophets. So they will perish since they rejected God.  | The Pharisees hearts are hardened and their eyes blinded from Jesus' signs and wonders. They preferred the praise of men over the praise of God.  |
| 9    | God delivered the Israelites to the Promised Land, as He promised, but they still worshipped idols instead of Him.                           | Jesus preaches that He and the Father are One.  |
| 11   | God expresses His disappointment towards His people, who forsook Him and did not return to Him.  | Jesus preaches that He and the Father are One and that He came to save the world not judge it. He is the light of the world, whoever follows Him lives forever in light, whoever rejects Him dies to the darkness of being without Him. |

## Main Theme

God tries everything to save us and bring us to Him. So much so that He came to die for us. The Father and the Son are One.

# COVENANT THURSDAY

Thursday Morning Pascha

Covenant Thursday is a special Pascha in the Holy Week because of all the important events that happened on this day.



During the 1st Hour: We remember Judas' betrayal by doing a procession around the church in the opposite direction, symbolising how Judas turned away from Jesus and walked on the path of sin.



After the 9th Hour: There is the Lakkan (Blessing of the Water). During the Lakkan, we remember how our Lord washed the disciples' feet and pray that we too may be purified and washed of our sins. The priests bless everyone in the church with Holy Water, one by one, on their forehead, chin and wrists (and ankles for the men). We read many prophecies that present water as a symbol of healing, purifying, baptism and salvation.



Before the 11th Hour: We remember the institution of the Eucharist (Holy Communion) at our Lord's Last Supper by unveiling the altar and having a special liturgy.

# COVENANT THURSDAY

Thursday Morning Pascha

## HOUR

## PROPHECIES

## GOSPEL

1

When Moses formed the shape of the cross with his body, his enemies were defeated. When Moses threw the tree into the water, it turned from bitter to sweet. These are prophecies of the Cross of our Lord. Isaiah's prophecy tells us how to fast with your heart. Ezekiel's prophecy teaches us that each person is accountable for their sins, but God doesn't want the sinner to die but to turn back to Him so he can be saved. The Psalm is sung in a special sad tune as it prophecies that Jesus would not be betrayed by an enemy, but by someone who was His friend.

Jesus tells Peter and John to prepare for the Passover meal. He doesn't tell them where they will have the meal so Judas doesn't know where they are and can't alert the Pharisees until after the Last Supper (and therefore, the institution of the Eucharist!)

3

The Israelites again show us how stubborn they are in their sin. This shows us how necessary it was for Christ to come and die for us. Sirach's prophecies about Jesus in Jerusalem. Zechariah prophecies about Jesus' blood freeing us from sin's prison. David prophecies about Jesus repaying our lawlessness with His innocent blood in the Psalm.

Jesus tells the disciples to prepare for the Passover. He says that His time has come, signifying that He will be the true Passover lamb.

### Main Theme

God knows that we are stubborn in our sin. But He loves us so much that He shed His blood to save us from death.

# COVENANT THURSDAY

Thursday Morning Pascha (cont.)

## HOUR

## PROPHECIES

## GOSPEL

6

The prophecies urge us to repent. They show us how sin deceives us and leads us to death. The Psalm prophecies Judas' betrayal.

The disciples reach the house where they will have the Last Supper. This is the Upper Room. The Upper Room would later be where the apostles received the Holy Spirit in the Pentecost. It represents the very first Church. Jesus sent them to prepare this room, not just for one meal, but for a sacrament and a Church that would live on forever.

9

Abraham carries the wood for the burnt offering, just as Jesus carried His Cross. Abraham sacrifices His only son, just as the Father sacrificed His only Son. Isaiah prophesies about the salvation Jesus brings, and how we are called to spread the fruits of that salvation. Job expresses the struggle to be hopeful in God during struggle. The Psalm reminds us that God is our shepherd. These readings show us how salvation comes from sacrifice and hope comes from struggle.

Jesus tells the disciples to prepare for the Passover. He says that His time has come, signifying that He will be the true Passover lamb.

**Lakkan and Liturgy before 11th hour.**

11

Isaiah's first prophecy is a beautiful expression of the sacrifice our Lord would make for us. The 'Man' in Isaiah's second prophecy is Jesus.

Jesus reveals Judas as the one who will betray Him. He sends him off to commit his betrayal.

### Main Theme

Repent to prepare your heart as a house for the Lord.  
Salvation comes from sacrifice, hope comes from struggle.

# GOOD FRIDAY EVE

Thursday Evening Pascha

## HOUR

## PROPHECIES

## GOSPEL

1

God expresses His saddened love for His people, who are unwilling to know Him despite His love.

This is the only time in the whole year that the Church reads 4 consecutive gospels from the same author. In John 13-17, Jesus reveals many cornerstones of our faith - the Oneness of the Trinity, the Holy Spirit as our Guide and Comforter, the everlasting Heavenly Kingdom and the persistent work the Holy Trinity does to save us. We also read Jesus' prayer to the Father.

3

God shows us how His justice is perfect. He judges us according to our deeds but in perfect unity with His mercy and grace.

Jesus reveals to the disciples that the prophecy will be fulfilled tonight. They are the sheep that will be scattered when Jesus the Shepherd is taken away. Jesus tells Peter that he will deny Him before the rooster crows. Jesus tells the disciples to prepare themselves. They took swords, thinking this is what He meant. But what our Lord meant was to arm themselves with weapons and shields of the Spirit. This is made clear later on when Jesus tells them to put away their swords.

### Main Theme

Jesus is the glue that holds God's people together. Arm yourself with the Spirit so you don't deny & abandon the Lord.

# GOOD FRIDAY EVE

Thursday Evening Pascha (cont.)

| HOUR | PROPHECIES  | GOSPEL   |
|------|---|--|
| 6    | <p>Ezekiel talks about the fatal consequences of rejecting God. The Psalm sorrowfully expresses what our Lord would have felt after His followers abandoned Him.</p>  | <p>Jesus takes the disciples to the garden of Gethsemanee. He asks Peter, John and James to go pray with Him but they keep falling asleep. Jesus prays to the Father to let His will be done despite knowing that He is about to face much pain and suffering.</p>   |
| 9    | <p>The prophecies tell us how God chose Jerusalem as the place where our Lord was to be crucified because Israel defied God all throughout their history. Their history as the rejectors of God comes to this climax - that they rejected and crucified the Son of God in what should have been the holiest part of their land!</p> | <p>Judas arrives at Gethsemanee with the Pharisees and officers. The gospel of John in the 6th hour tells us that Jesus told the officers 'I am He' when they said they were seeking Jesus. When He did so, they all fell back at the mighty voice of the Lord. John includes this because he chose to write his gospel with an emphasis on the divinity and power of Jesus Christ. The other gospels tell us how Judas then betrayed our Lord with a kiss. Peter tries to defend Jesus and cuts off someone's ear with a sword but Jesus tells him to put it away. Our Lord is arrested in the garden of Gethsemanee.</p> |

## Main Theme

Sin is a slippery slope to walk on. Pray persistently to God in times of trouble. God accepted humiliation out of love for us.



# GOOD FRIDAY EVE

Thursday Evening Pascha

## HOUR



## PROPHECIES

God chose Israel as His sanctified nation. They were meant to follow Him and love Him but instead they persecuted Him. So the salvation that comes from Christ's death and resurrection will bring the whole world to Him, while Israel has chosen to forsake their God. Salvation will bring joy to those who accept Him and distress to those who reject Him.

## GOSPEL

Jesus is taken for His trial. Fake witnesses are brought to lie and condemn Him. Jesus prophesies that He will destroy the temple and rebuild it in 3 days. This refers to how He would die and rise again in 3 days. Jesus proclaims that He is the Son of God. Our Lord is mocked, hit and spat on. Peter follows Jesus from afar but he denies that he knows Him 3 times.

### Main Theme

Do not shut your eyes, ears and heart to what the Lord has called you for. God accepted humiliation out of love for us.

THE BLESSED PASCHA OF

**GOOD FRIDAY**



# GOOD FRIDAY

First Hour of Good Friday Pascha

## PROPHECIES

FIRST HOUR

### PROPHECY

### SUMMARY

Deuteronomy

Moses recounts the history of Israel's disobedience against God. He reminds them how many times they turned their backs on the same God Who saved them from captivity, starvation, disease and persecution countless times. Moses tells the people of Israel "you were disobedient to the Lord from the day He became known to you". Despite this, God is faithful to the covenant He made with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob (the fathers of Israel) but, as the prophecies say, Israel's stubbornness to sin will end with their destruction on Judgement Day.

Isaiah

Isaiah's prophecy expresses God's sorrow at the fact that His people have rejected Him. God mourns over the desolation of His chosen people. But the prophecy says that a seed (Jesus) would prevent them from utter destruction (death).

Isaiah

While the previous prophecy shows us God's sorrow, this prophecy shows us God's wrath. Saving and blessing His people hasn't worked, they still reject Him. In rejecting God, they reject the source of all goodness and love. They will be humbled on Judgement Day, when they see the full consequences of rejecting the Lord.

# GOOD FRIDAY

First Hour of Good Friday Pascha (cont.)

## PROPHECIES

FIRST HOUR

| PROPHECY   | SUMMARY  |
|--|--|
| Jeremiah   | Jeremiah prophesies about the Pharisees who are 'the shepherds that scatter His sheep' when they arrest our Lord. The prophecy also tells us about Jesus' victory as our Saviour.  |
| Isaiah   | A prophecy about the end of days.  |
| Wisdom of Solomon  | A very elaborate prophecy on how the Pharisees would treat Jesus Christ.   |
| Job  | Job preaches about God's dominance over all things, as He is the Pantocrator.  |
| Apocryphon of Jeremiah<br><i>(this is not in the Bible we read, but the Church includes it because of the powerful prophecy)</i> | Compare what Jeremiah prophesied and what Matthew told us happened in the gospel:<br><br>"they will take thirty pieces of silver, the price of Him that was valued, whom the children of Israel will sell, and will give that money for the potter's field"<br><br>"But the chief priests took the [30] silver pieces and said, "It is not lawful to put them into the treasury, because they are the price of blood." And they consulted together and bought with them the potter's field, to bury strangers in."<br><br>(Matthew 27:6-7) |

# GOOD FRIDAY

First Hour of Good Friday Pascha (cont.)

## PROPHECIES

FIRST HOUR

| PROPHECY | SUMMARY  |
|----------|--|
| Micah    | The people who condemned Jesus will have to answer for their wickedness.       |
| Micah    | Evil will cover the whole world but we find hope in the salvation of our Lord. |
| Psalms   | David prophecies about the false witnesses that would lie to condemn Jesus.    |

## GOSPEL

FIRST HOUR

Jesus is taken from Caiaphas to Pontius Pilate.

Jesus doesn't defend Himself.

Pilate finds out He is from Galilee and sends Him to Herod.

Herod mocks our Lord before sending Him back to Pilate.

Judas returns the money to the Pharisees and hangs himself.

The money is used to buy a potter's field, just as the prophecy said.

### Main Theme

The fulfillment of the Old Testament prophecies. Salvation is meant to bring hope, not the guilt that overcame Judas.

# GOOD FRIDAY

Third Hour of Good Friday Pascha

## PROPHECIES

THIRD HOUR

| PROPHECY | SUMMARY   |
|----------|---|
| Genesis  | Joseph's sons, Ephraim and Manasseh went to get their grandfather's blessing. Ephraim was on his left and Manasseh was on his right. It was custom for the firstborn son to be blessed with the right hand. But Jacob (a.k.a Israel) crossed his hands so that Ephraim, the younger son, would be blessed with his right. This is the first sign of the Cross in the Bible. |
| Isaiah   | Isaiah prophesies about the exact way our Lord was tortured.<br>"I gave My back to whips, [Mark 15:15] and My cheeks to blows; [John 19:3] and I turned not away My face from the shame of spitting. [Mark 15:19]"  |
| Isaiah   | More prophecies about how our Lord would be persecuted.   |
| Isaiah   | Prophecies about Judgement Day.   |
| Amos     | Prophecies about Judgement Day.   |
| Job      | The Lord gives and the Lord takes away.   |
| Psalms   | David prophesies about Jesus' suffering.  |

# GOOD FRIDAY

Third Hour of Good Friday Pascha (cont.)

## GOSPEL

THIRD HOUR

It was custom for a prisoner to be released for the Passover.

The people choose to free Barabbas and shout 'Crucify Him' for Jesus.

Pilate washes his hands of our Lord's death.

Our Lord is mocked and made to wear a robe and a crown of thorns.

# GOOD FRIDAY

Sixth Hour of Good Friday Pascha

## PROPHECIES

SIXTH HOUR

| PROPHECY | SUMMARY   |
|----------|---|
| Numbers  | The copper serpent on the pole that Moses uses to heal those bitten by serpents is a symbol of the Cross that heals us from death.  |
| Isaiah   | Isaiah's prophecy powerfully foresees our Lord as the sacrificial Lamb Who would take the sins of the world upon the Cross. It illustrates the crucifixion, burial and inheritance of salvation our Lord achieved for us. Our Lord is the innocent lamb that was killed for our redemption. |
| Isaiah   | Isaiah's poetic prophecy of the joy of our Lord's salvation and our hope in Him. For those who love God, the Day of His Second Coming is the fulfillment of this joy. But for those who reject Him, it is a dark Day of destruction.  |
| Amos     | Prophecies about Judgement Day.   |
| Psalms   | The collection of Psalms prophesy the exact things that happened to our Lord on the Cross.  |



# GOOD FRIDAY

## Sixth Hour of Good Friday Pascha (cont.)

The Church prays litanies and sings hymns in preparation of our Lord's crucifixion in the sixth hour.



The priest prays a series of special prayers. The Congregation responds.

Special hymns are sung in specific tunes.



*Omonogenis* (O Only Begotten Son) begins in a sombre tune while declaring the incarnation and crucifixion of our Lord. The tune picks up when the hymn talks about the hope of the resurrection. When we sing 'trampled down death', the tune suddenly becomes joyful.

The *Trisagion* (3 Holies) is sung twice in two different tunes. It asserts the divinity of Jesus and the power of the Holy Trinity.



The selection of Psalms is sung in a long, slow, sad tune. They prophesy the suffering our Lord would face in the sixth hour.

"They cast me out, the beloved, as a corpse to be despised (**Matthew 27:31**)/ And they nailed my flesh (**John 20:25**)/ Do not forsake me, O Lord, O my God.

They pierced my hands and my feet (**John 20:25**)/ I numbered all my bones/ They divided my garments among themselves (**John 19:23**)/ And for my clothing they cast lots (**John 19:24**)

They speak with their lips and shake their head/ Saying, "He hoped in the Lord, let Him rescue him/ Let Him save him since He delights in him (**Mark 15:29-32**)."

# GOOD FRIDAY

Sixth Hour of Good Friday Pascha (cont.)

## GOSPEL

SIXTH HOUR

Our Lord is mocked with a robe and a crown of thorns. He is beat and spat on. He is led out of Jerusalem to Golgotha.

At Golgotha, He is given a bitter drink instead of water. They give out His clothes and hang a plaque on the cross that says 'Jesus, King of the Jews'.

Two thieves are hung on crosses either side of our Lord.

Jesus asks the Father to forgive His condemners.

All the people mock Jesus, telling Him to save Himself if He is the Son of God, as He claimed.

The thief on the right asks Jesus to remember Him in His Kingdom. Jesus tells him that He will be with Him today in Paradise.

St. Mary, Mary (wife of Clopas), Mary Magdalene and St. John the Beloved stand at the foot of the cross. Jesus tells St. Mary and St. John to be mother and son.

Darkness covers the land from the sixth hour to the ninth hour.

**The church mimics the darkness that covered the earth by turning off all the lights.**

**We sing 'Remember Me' as the thief on the right did.**

**We sing the Trisagion to re-assert the divinity of our Lord Jesus Christ, despite the humiliation of the cross.**

**The priest prays litanies about the thief on the right.**

# GOOD FRIDAY

Ninth Hour of Good Friday Pascha

## PROPHECIES

NINTH HOUR

| PROPHECY  | SUMMARY  |
|-----------|--|
| Jeremiah  | Jeremiah prophesies about our Lord Who is the Lamb that will be led to the slaughter. This prophecy reveals that sin will not condemn the whole world to death, but that those who are righteous will be saved through the sacrifice of God. His blood is eternally shed for our sins. |
| Zechariah | Zechariah prophesies of the 'living water that will come out of Jerusalem'. This is the salvation that comes from our Lord's resurrection. Through it, He will become King of not only the Jews, but of the whole world.   |
| Zechariah | A prophecy about Judgement Day.  |
| Psalms    | The Psalm prophesies about how Jesus would be given gall and vinegar to drink (Matthew 27:34; 48).   |

## GOSPEL

NINTH HOUR

Jesus asks for a drink, knowing that He will be given vinegar. He did this so that all the prophecies concerning His crucifixion would be fulfilled.

Our Lord gives up His spirit to the Father and dies.

# GOOD FRIDAY

Eleventh Hour of Good Friday Pascha

## PROPHECIES

ELEVENTH HOUR

| PROPHECY  | SUMMARY  |
|-----------|--|
| Exodus    | Jesus is the fulfillment of the Passover Lamb.<br>(see 'why is Jesus called the Lamb?')  |
| Leviticus | God sent Moses many instructions about the feasts they should keep and how to offer sacrifices for the forgiveness of sins. Jesus became the 'whole burnt offering without blemish'. So we don't need to sacrifice things anymore, for the blood of the Lord is eternal and covers our sins forever. |
| Psalms    | The Psalm prophesies how Jesus would commit His spirit to the Father.  |

## GOSPEL

ELEVENTH HOUR

The world reacts to our Lord's death. The veil of the temple is torn in two, the earth shook and dead bodies rose from their graves.

The centurion guarding Jesus sees all this and declares that this must have been the Son of God.

The bodies on the crosses had to be taken down before the end of the day as the next day was the Sabbath (work was not allowed on the Sabbath). It was custom for the soldiers to break the bones of the ones hanging on the crosses to speed up their death.

Our Lord died on the cross before this, so His bones were not broken, as the prophecy said.

The soldier pierces our Lord's side. Water and blood pours out. This is a symbol of baptism (water) and salvation (blood). His Body is taken down.



## why is Jesus called the Lamb?

Before the death and resurrection of our Lord, the Jews would sacrifice animals on the altar for the atonement (forgiveness) of their sins. When Jesus came and died for us, He became the **ultimate sacrifice** Whose blood covered the sins of the whole world forever.

There were many symbols and prophecies in the Old Testament that foretold the coming of Jesus in the New Testament. One of these was the **Passover Lamb**.

In Exodus, God sent 10 plagues to Egypt in order to free the Israelites. To protect the the Israelites from the final plague of the death of the firstborn son, God instructed them to sacrifice a lamb and mark their doors with the lamb's blood. God had specific instructions concerning the condition of this lamb. These conditions weren't meaningless - they were to be fulfilled by Jesus Himself in the New Testament..

### EXODUS 12

1. A lamb without blemish.

Jesus Christ was without sin.

2. A male lamb.

Jesus Christ was incarnate as a male.

3. lamb under your care until the 14th day of the month.

Our Lord Jesus Christ entered Jerusalem on the 10th day of the month (Palm Sunday) and was arrested on the 14th day of the month (Covenant Thursday).

4. Slay the lamb in the evening.

Jesus was arrested in the evening. Our Lord also died on the Cross in the evening, on the 9th hour, and remained hanging on the Cross until the 11th hour.

5. Mark the blood of the lamb on the door frame and your children will be protected from death.

It was only through the blood of our Lord that we were to be saved from the bondage of death.

6. None of the lamb should be left until the morning.

Jesus Christ's body was not left on the Cross until morning.

7. No foreigner shall eat of the lamb.

Only baptised believers may partake of the Body and Blood of our Lord.

8. Do not break the bones of the lamb, but cook it whole.

None of our Lord's bones were broken on the Cross. It was custom to break the bones of those hanging on the Cross to speed up their death.

# GOOD FRIDAY

Twelfth Hour of Good Friday Pascha

The curtains of the altar are opened. White cloth covers the altar. The priests dress in liturgical garments. Incense, candles and icons are prepared for the procession. The Church prepares to celebrate the victory of the Cross.

## PROPHECIES

TWELFTH HOUR

### PROPHECY

### SUMMARY

Lamentations

We meditate on the suffering of our Lord and Saviour with Jeremiah's lamentations, which prophesied of Jesus' suffering for us.

Jonah

Like our Lord Jesus, Jonah was sacrificed (thrown off the boat) to save others. Jonah was in the belly of the big fish for three days, like our Lord was in the tomb for three days.

Psalms

This Psalm prepares us for the joy of the Resurrection. It poetically talks about how, though we may be cast into darkness, the salvation of our God lasts forever. Darkness cannot consume Him, Whose light endures forever. Death can have no dominance over the King Whose throne lasts forever.

## GOSPEL

TWELFTH HOUR

Joseph of Arimathea and Nicodemus bury our Lord in a new tomb and seal it with a large stone.

# GOOD FRIDAY

Twelfth Hour of Good Friday Pascha (cont.)



The whole church chants *Kyrie Eleison* (Lord Have Mercy) 100 times to the East, West, North and South. Then again 12 times to the East in the long paschal tune.



The procession goes around the altar 3 times, the whole church 3 times, then once again around the altar. We sing *Golgotha* - a beautiful hymn that describes our Lord's crucifixion.



We sing *Golgotha* (the burial hymn) while the priests reenact the burial of our Lord. The priests take an icon and wrap it in a white cloth. They place a cross on top and bury it all with flowers (usually roses) and fragrant oils, just as Jesus was. The *Prospherine* (a big white cloth) covers this all, representing the stone that sealed our Lord's tomb. Two candles are placed either side to represent the two angels who guarded the tomb.

NIGHT OF THE  
**APOCALYPSE**





# APOCALYPSE

Night of Good Friday - Dawn of Saturday

'Apocalypse' in Greek means 'revelation'. During this overnight vigil, we read the entire book of Revelation. We celebrate our Lord's descent to Hades and examine the prophecies concerning Judgement Day. Jesus descended into Hades after the cross to preach the good news of salvation to the souls waiting there. Before the Resurrection, Hades was the final resting place of all the departed. Now, our Lord breaks open the gates of Hades, so that our souls can journey to Heaven at the time of His Second Coming and be united with God forever.

## MIDNIGHT PRAISES

We travel through the Old Testament, picking up the praises that were lifted up by so many people all throughout Biblical history. God answered the prayers of all these people, saved them from death and brought them victory. They worship God with words of praise, always attributing their salvation to God's love, mercy and faithfulness.

Moses the Prophet  
Hannah the Mother of Samuel  
Habbakuk the Prophet  
Jonah the Prophet  
Hezekiah the King  
Isaiah the Prophet  
Manasseh the King  
Jeremiah the Prophet  
Baruch the Prophet  
Elijah the Prophet

David the Prophet & King  
Solomon the King  
Daniel the Prophet  
Azariah  
3 Young Men in the Fiery Furnace  
The Holy Virgin St. Mary  
Zachariah the Priest  
Simeon the Elder  
Susannah

# APOCALYPSE

Night of Good Friday - Dawn of Saturday

## MATINS

Bright Saturday is all about praise! The Church celebrates the wonderful gift of the Resurrection the Lord has granted us. The theme throughout this day is focussed on 'from death to life'. The tunes are joyful and full of victory as we give glory to God.

*Morning prayers, hymns and songs of praise.*

### PROPHECY

Isaiah

### SUMMARY

Follow the Lord's ways. Our thoughts and wisdom is as far away from God's mind as the earth is from heaven. God's will is always done, so if you surrender yourself to His will, you will always prosper and never fail.

Psalms

Our redemption comes from the Lord. Rejoice in all the wonderful things He does for you. His Name will be known among the whole world.

## GOSPEL

The Pharisees put guards at our Lord's tomb to make sure that the disciples don't take our Lord's body and claim that He is risen.

# APOCALYPSE

Night of Good Friday - Dawn of Saturday

## THIRD HOUR

### PROPHECY

Jeremiah

### SUMMARY

Don't let pride deafen you from God's voice. Give glory to God and walk in His ways so you may live.

Psalms

David prophesies about how our Lord broke open the gates of Hades so that we can be with Him forever after the Second Coming. God does not want any soul to be trapped in Hades.

## GOSPEL

We remember how Jesus preached to the disciples about life in Him. Jesus taught that whoever follows God, follows Him into eternal life. Whoever follows the world, follows it into death. God lives forever but the world will end.

He rewards each one according to their deeds.

***Lord have mercy (x41)***

# APOCALYPSE

Night of Good Friday - Dawn of Saturday

## SIXTH HOUR

### PROPHECY

Isaiah

### SUMMARY

Seek God, hear Him and walk with Him. He promises salvation to those who love Him and tried to be good.

Psalms

We ask the Lord to free us from the prison of death. He answers our prayers with salvation.

## GOSPEL

We remember the Sermon on the Mount. Our Lord Jesus Christ teaches us the values that we should uphold. He shows us how any struggle on earth will be rewarded in Heaven.

We are called to be the salt of the earth. We should reflect Christ in all and to all, spreading the joy of His salvation and His perfect love.

**Lord have mercy (x41)**

We read the whole Book of Revelation: the prophecy of our Lord's Second Coming, the Judgement Day, the end of this world and our entry into His Kingdom.



# APOCALYPSE

Night of Good Friday - Dawn of Saturday

## NINTH HOUR

| PROPHECY | SUMMARY  |
|----------|--|
| Isaiah   | Isaiah prophesies about how the people wouldn't believe that Jesus is the Lord. He also prophesies the cross.  |
| Jeremiah | God tells us that He is going to make a new covenant with us. This is the covenant Jesus preached about. He wanted the Law to be written on our hearts. The Pharisees rejected this idea because they were focussed on outward rituals, rather than the love behind the Law. |
| Psalms   | David prophesies about how the Pharisees would plot our Lord's death.  |

## GOSPEL

Jesus talks about Himself as the Judge. He is the One who will judge us at the end of days.

Jesus asserts that He and the Father are One, and that His will is also the Father's will.

**Lord have mercy (x41)**

**The Apocalypse Night ends with a special liturgy.**

THE HOLY LITURGY OF

# BRIGHT SATURDAY



# BRIGHT SATURDAY

Saturday Evening

## PSALM

David prophesies the glorious resurrection of our Lord from death and the salvation it brought the world.

## GOSPEL

Mary Magdalene, Salome and Mary mother of James go to Jesus' tomb to annoint His body (this was the Jewish custom).

An angel of the Lord tells them that Jesus has risen. He tells them to go tell Peter and the other disciples but they're in such shock that they don't.

Jesus appeared to Mary Magdalene before this but people did not believe her when she said that He had risen. Mary Magdalene was the first person our risen Lord appeared to.

## REENACTMENT of the RESURRECTION

**The priests enter the sanctuary. All the lights are turned off.**

**Two deacons chant: with the priests, declaring that our Lord is risen!**

**3 knocks are heard, and then the lights are turned on.**

**The procession begins.**



# BRIGHT SATURDAY

Saturday Evening



## PROCESSION

Icons, censers and candles follow the cross around the church 3 times as we sing *Resurrection hymns*.

## PSALM

Let us rejoice in this day of victory, glory and salvation that the Lord has made! Let us celebrate His triumph over death! Let us praise Him with all the Heavenly hosts!

## GOSPEL

Mary Magdalene goes to our Lord's tomb and sees that the stone has been rolled away.

Thinking that someone had stolen His Body, she ran to Peter and John, telling them that she doesn't know where He has been taken.

Peter and John run to the tomb. John gets there first but Peter goes in the tomb first and sees the linen Jesus was wrapped in lying there, and the cloth His head was covered with folded neatly. John then enters the tomb and believes that Jesus has risen.

Jesus appears to Mary Magdalene but she doesn't recognise Him at first. He tells her to go tell the disciples that He has risen.

CHRIST IS RISEN

**TRULY, HE IS RISEN**

