

# **THE HARROWING OF HELL**

## **A SERVICE FOR GOOD FRIDAY EVENING OR HOLY SATURDAY MORNING**

### **Antiphon**

For our sake Christ was obedient, accepting even death, death on a cross.

### **Opening Prayer**

Almighty God,  
look with mercy on your family,  
for whom our Lord Jesus Christ was willing to be betrayed  
and to be given over to the hands of sinners,  
and to suffer death on the cross;  
who now lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, forever and ever.  
Amen.

### **Readings**

Lamentations 3

Psalm 69

1 Peter 3:13-4:6

John 5:19-29

### **Hymn**

Today Hades cried out groaning:  
"Would that I had not received the One born of Mary;  
for He came upon me and loosed my power.  
He shattered the gates of brass;  
the souls, which I held captive from of old,  
as God He raised up."  
Glory, O Lord, to Your Cross and Your Resurrection.

Today Hades cried out groaning:  
"My authority is dissolved;  
I received a mortal, as one of the mortals;  
but this One, I am powerless to contain;  
and with Him I lose all those, over which, I had ruled.  
For long ages I had held the dead, but behold,  
He raises up all."  
Glory, O Lord, to Your Cross and Your Resurrection.

Today Hades cried out groaning:  
"My power had been trampled down;  
the Shepherd has been crucified, and Adam He has raised up.  
I have been deprived of those, over whom I ruled;  
and all those, I had the power to swallow, I have disgorged.

He, who was crucified has cleared the tombs.  
The dominion of death is no more.”  
Glory, O Lord, to Your Cross and Your Resurrection.

*Adapted from the Greek Orthodox Holy Week & Easter Services Book*

## **INTERCESSIONS**

### **A Litany for Good Friday and Holy Saturday**

*Specific intercessions may be inserted as appropriate.*

**Response:** By the merits of your Son's passion and death, hear us, Lord.

We pray for unity in your Church. **(R.)**

We pray that your people may be sanctified by your Spirit. **(R.)**

We pray for an increase of faith and understanding among your people. **(R.)**

We pray that those who do not yet believe in Christ may be enlightened with your glory. **(R.)**

We pray that those who do not know you may be led to the fullness of your redemption. **(R.)**

We pray that the marks of your love in creation may be revealed to those who deny them. **(R.)**

We pray that you will guide the minds and hearts of those who govern the nations. **(R.)**

We pray for the forgiveness of sinners. **(R.)**

We pray for consolation to all who are troubled. **(R.)**

We pray for healing to all who are sick. **(R.)**

We pray for mercy to those who have died. **(R.)**

We pray for the resurrection of the dead. **(R.)**

## **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

Our Father...

## **CLOSING PRAYER**

O Lord Jesus Christ, Son of the living God,  
set, we pray,  
your passion, cross and death between your divine judgement and our souls,  
now and in the hour of our death.  
Grant mercy and grace to the living,  
rest to the departed,  
to your Church peace and concord,  
and to us sinners forgiveness,  
and everlasting life and glory;  
for, with the Father and the Holy Spirit,  
you are alive and reign,  
God, now and for ever.  
Amen.