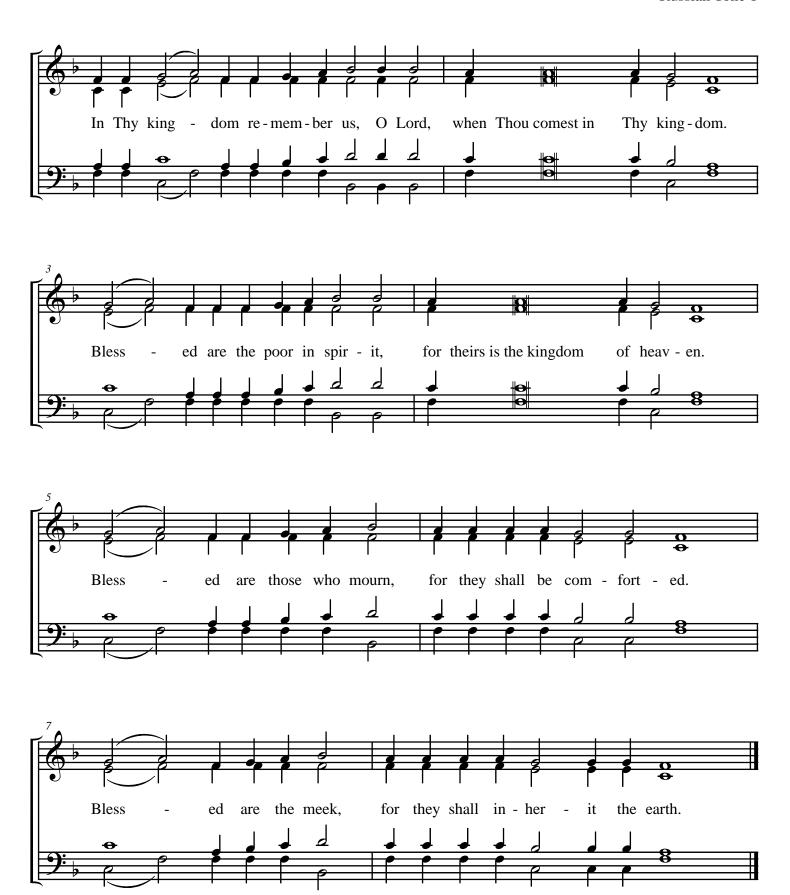
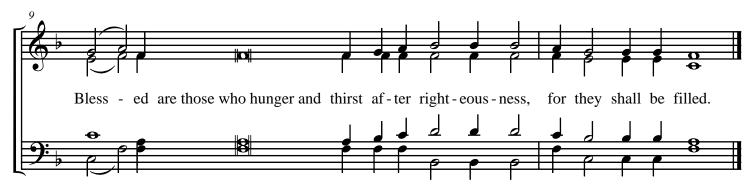
The Beatitudes

For the Passion Gospels service on Holy Thursday

Russian Tone 1



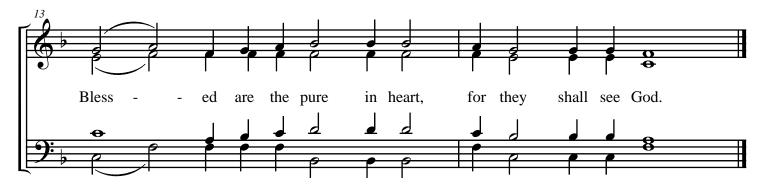
Because of a tree, Adam was estranged from paradise; and the thief, because of the tree of the Cross, abode in paradise; for the former, in tasting, disobeyed the commandment of the Creator; but the latter, who was crucified with Thee, confessed, admitting to Thee that Thou art a hidden God. Wherefore, O Saviour, remember him and us in Thy Kingdom.



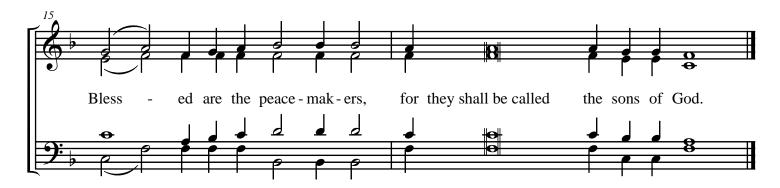
The law-transgressors verily did buy the Ordainer of the Law from a disciple. And as a law-breaker they brought Him before Pilate, crying out that He who gave them manna in the wilderness be crucified. But we, emulating the righteous thief, cry out in faith: "Remember him and us, O Savior, in Thy Kingdom."



The lawless and wicked assembly madly cried to Pilate, saying, "Crucify Christ the innocent;" pleading that Barabbas be rather released. But we cry in the voice of the grateful thief, "Remember him and us, O Savior, in Thy Kingdom."



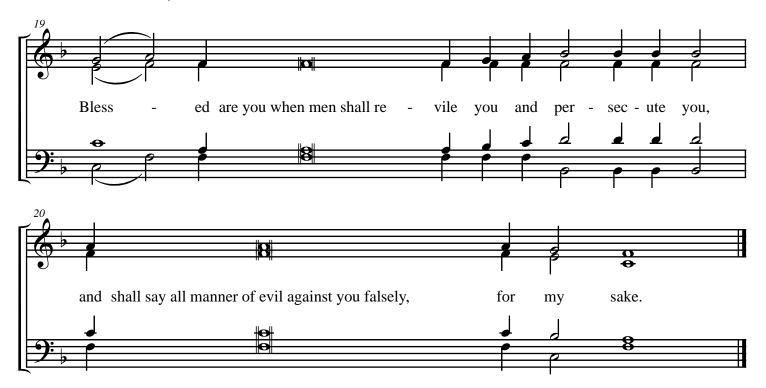
Thy life-bearing side, O Christ, overfloweth like a spring from Eden, watering Thy Church as a paradise endowed with speech; and thence divideth the glad tidings into four Gospels, as into four heads, watering the world, gladdening creation, and teaching the Gentiles to adore Thy Kingdom in faith.



Thou wast crucified, O Christ, for my sake, that Thou mightest pour forth salvation for me. And Thy side was pierced with a spear, that it might cause rivers of life to flow for me. Thou wast fastened with the nails; and so realizing the depth of Thy Passion and the height of Thy might, I will cry unto Thee, "Glory to Thy Passion and to Thy Crucifixion, O Life-Giving Savior."



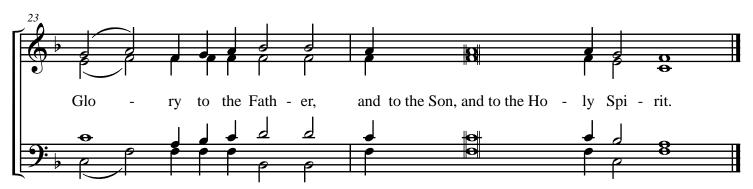
The whole Creation, O Christ, beholding Thy Crucifixion, trembled; the foundations of the earth were shaken for dread of Thy might; the two luminaries went into hiding; the veil of the Temple was rent; the mountains quaked; and the rocks burst asunder, as the believing thief cried with us unto Thee: "Savior, remember me."



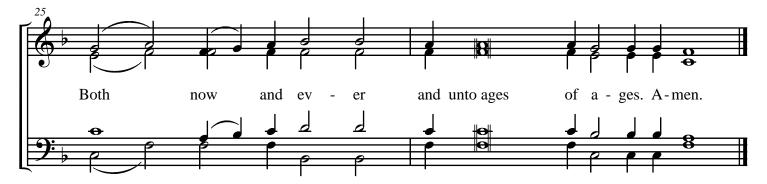
Thou hast torn with the spear, O Lord, the handwriting of ordinances that were against us, and Thou wast numbered among the dead, binding there the usurper, and delivering all from the bonds of death by Thy Resurrection, by which we have been enlightened. Wherefore, we cry to Thee, "O Lover of Mankind, remember us in Thy Kingdom."



O Lord, Who wast elevated on the Cross, and Who, being God, loosed the bonds of death and blotted out the handwriting of ordinances against us, grant us and the thief His repentance, O Thou Who art alone the Lover of Mankind, us who worship Thee in faith, O Christ our God, and who cry to Thee, "Remember him and us in Thy Kingdom."



Come, all ye believers, let us with one mind beseech, glorifying as is meet, the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, the one Godhead in three persons, permanent without confusion, simple, indivisible, and unapproachable, through whom we escape the fire of punishment.



We offer Thee for intercession, O most merciful Christ Lord, Thy Mother, the true Virgin: who, without seed, gave Thee birth in the body and remained without corruption after her birth-giving, that Thou mightest forgive the transgressions of those who cry to Thee constantly, "Remember him and us, O Savior, in Thy Kingdom."