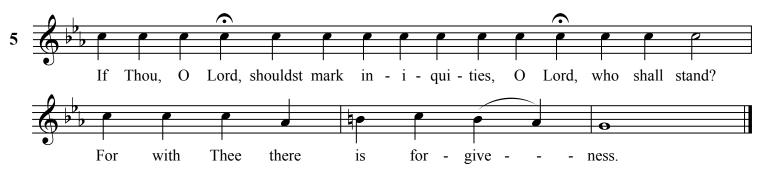
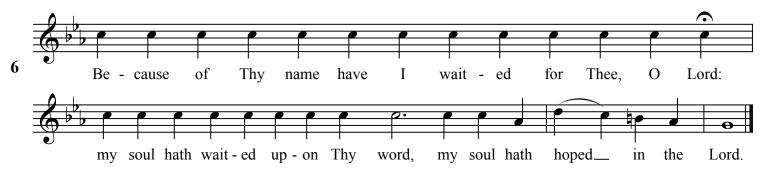
## Tone 2

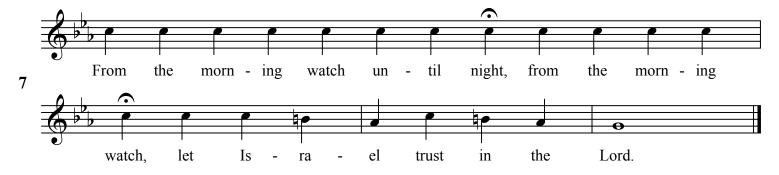
## Vesperal Divine Liturgy: Holy Thursday



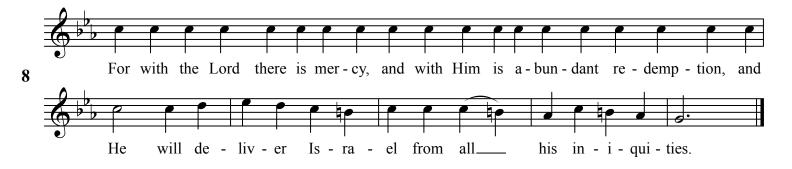
The Council of the Jews cometh together to deliver to Pilate the Author and Creator of all. Woe to their iniquity and infidelity! For Him that cometh to judge the living and the dead they prepare for judgment; the Healer of sufferings they make ready for suffering. Wherefore, O Long-Suffering Lord, great is Thy mercy; glory be to Thee!



The law-transgressing Judas, O Lord, who dipped his hand with Thee in the plate at supper, hath put forth his hand with iniquity to take silver; and he who calculated the price of the spice, did not shrink from selling Thee, O Priceless One. And he who put forth his feet for the Master to wash, deceitfully kissed Him to deliver Him to law-breakers. Verily, he hath been cast away with his thirty pieces of silver, without beholding thy third-day Resurrection, through which, have mercy upon us.



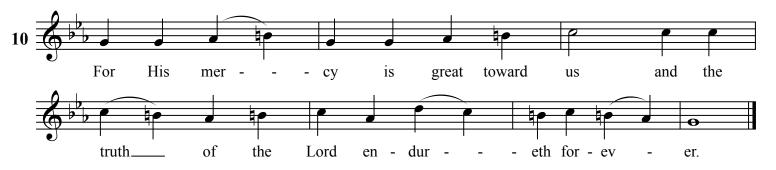
Judas the traitor, being deceitful, betrayed the Saviour Lord with a lying kiss; and he sold the Master of all like a slave to the transgressors of the law. But the Lamb of God followed like a sheep to the slaughter, who is the only Son of the most merciful Father.



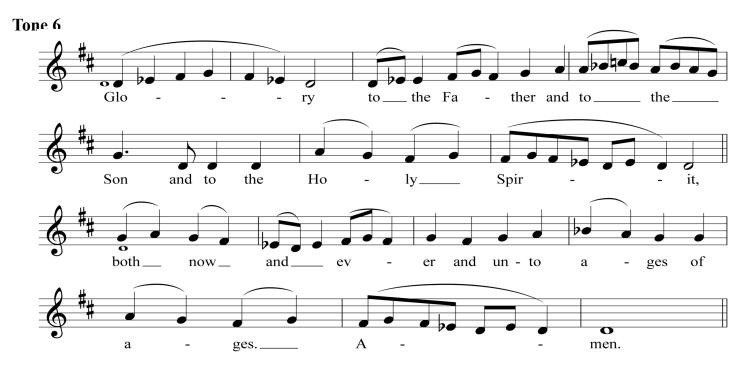
Judas, that deceitful and cunning slave, assassinator of the righteous One, hath been revealed through his works; for he followed the Master, and concealed within himself the Betrayal. He would say to himself, "I will surrender this One and gain the accumulated wealth." He sought to sell the spice and maliciously hold Jesus; he offered a kiss and surrendered Christ, Who, like a sheep, followed to slaughter, Who is alone compassionate and the lover of mankind.



Verily, the Lamb whom Isaiah preached cometh to voluntary slaughter, offering His back to scourges, and His cheeks to be slapped. Even his face He turned not from the shame of spitting, as He was condemned to die a horrible death. Yea, and the sinless One endureth all willingly that He may grant to all resurrection from the dead.



(Repeat first sticheron)



In truth, Judas is son of the vipers who ate the manna in the wilderness and murmured against the nourisher; for those ingrates, while food was still in their mouths, murmured against God. Similarly, this wicked one of false worship, while the heavenly bread was still in his mouth, conspired to deliver the Savor. Oh, what insatiate purpose; what beastly boldness! For he sold the nourisher and delivered to death the Master who loved him. Verily, this violator of the law is a son of those others, and with them became an inheritor of destruction. Wherefore, O Lord, deliver our souls from such inhumanity, Who art alone of ineffable longsuffering.