

*Holy Week*  
**Great & Holy Saturday**

**Stichera at the Aposticha at Great Vespers**

Byzantine Tone 2  
The Original Melody

Adapted by Dn. John El Massih

1) When\_ he took Thee dead from off the Tree, thē A - ri - ma -  
- the - an pre - pared\_ Thee with fin - est lin - en and myrrh  
that he might give bur - i - al to Thee, the  
Life\_ of\_ all. Then, com - pelled\_ by his fer - vent love,  
he longed to em - brace\_ Thee and to press Thy  
spot - less Bod - y to his heart\_ and\_ lips.  
But his fear and rev - 'rence re - strained him,  
whilst with joy he cried to Thee: Glo - ry  
to Thy con - de - scen - sion, O Thou Friend of man.

## Holy Week - Great & Holy Saturday - Stichera at the Aposticha at Great Vespers - 2

Verse 1: The Lord is King, He is clothed with majesty; the Lord is clothed with strength and He hath girt Himself.

2) When Thou hadst been laid in the new tomb for the sake of  
all men, O Thou Who art the Re - deem - er of all,  
Ha - des the most lu - di - crous saw Thee and  
shook with fear; then de - stroyed were the bars there - of;  
the gates burst a - sun - der; sep - ul - chers were  
o - pened and the dead were roused from sleep;  
then was Ad - am filled with thanks - giv - ing,  
and with joy he cried to Thee: Glo - ry  
to Thy con - de - scen - sion, O Thou Friend of man.

Translation taken from *Holy Week*, copyright © 2017.

Music copyright © 2005 Holy Transfiguration Monastery, Brookline, MA, used with permission. All rights reserved.

*Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America, Rev. 0, 4/8/2022, CAH*

Holy Week - Great & Holy Saturday - Stichera at the Aposticha at Great Vespers - 3

Verse 2: For He established the world which shall not be shaken.



3) Thou hadst been bod - i - ly en - closed in a tomb as  
Thou hadst so willed it, Who in Thy na - ture as God  
dost a - bide un - cir - cum - scrib - a - ble and  
in - fi - nite, Thou didst close off the vaults of death,  
O Christ, and didst emp - ty all of Ha - des'  
dark do - min - ions, leav - ing noth - ing there.  
Then Thou al - so mad - est this Sab - bath  
wor - thy of di - vine ben - e - dic - tion  
and Thy glo - ry and far - shin - ing ra - di - ance.

Translation taken from *Holy Week*, copyright © 2017.

Music copyright © 2005 Holy Transfiguration Monastery, Brookline, MA, used with permission. All rights reserved.

*Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America, Rev. 0, 4/8/2022, CAH*

Holy Week - Great & Holy Saturday - Stichera at the Aposticha at Great Vespers - 4

Verse 3: Holiness becometh Thy house, O Lord, unto length of days.



4) When the hosts of Heav - en, O Christ God, saw Thee slan - dered  
as a de - ceiv - er by law - less men, then they quaked  
at Thine in - ex - press - i - ble long - suf - fring,  
as they saw that the hands that had late - ly pierced  
Thy spot - less di - vine side sealed the stone up -  
- on Thy tomb, and they were sore a - fraid.  
But re - joic - ing at our sal - va - tion,  
might - i - ly they cried to Thee: Glo - ry  
to Thy con - de - scen - sion, O Thou Friend of man.

Translation taken from *Holy Week*, copyright © 2017.

Music copyright © 2005 Holy Transfiguration Monastery, Brookline, MA, used with permission. All rights reserved.

*Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America, Rev. 0, 4/8/2022, CAH*