

TEXT: St Romanos the Melodist
Translated by Fr. Ephrem (Lash)

Kontakion

GREAT AND HOLY SATURDAY

Lesser Znamenny Chant
arr. D. Soloviov

The musical score is written for four voices: Soprano, Alto, Tenor, and Bass. It is in the key of D major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The lyrics are: "He who closed the abyss lies dead before our eyes; and wrapped in myrrh and fine linen the Immortal is laid as a mortal in a grave; while women came to anoint Him, weeping bitterly and crying out, 'This is the most blessed'". The score consists of five systems of staves, each with a vocal line and a piano accompaniment line. The piano accompaniment is a simple harmonic setting of the vocal line.

Soprano
Alto

Tenor
Bass

He who closed the abyss lies dead before our eyes;

and wrapped in myrrh and fine linen the Im -

mor - tal is laid as a mor - tal in a grave; while wom - en

came to a - noint Him, weep - ing bit - ter - ly and

cry - ing out, "This is the most bless - ed

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Sab - bath, on which Christ sleeps, but He will

rise a - gain on the third day."

Ikos

He who holds all things together was lifted up on the Cross,
and all creation lamented seeing him hanging naked on the tree;
the sun hid its rays, and the stars threw away their light;
the earth quaked with great fear, the sea fled, and the rocks were rent;
many graves were opened, and bodies of holy men were raised.
Hell below is groaning, and the Jews are considering how to discredit Christ's resurrection;
the women are crying out:

Refrain:

“This is the most bless - ed Sab - bath, on which Christ

sleeps, but He will rise a - gain on the third day."