Vespers on the Afternoon of Great and Holy Friday
Aposticha, Tone 2, Automelon "When from the Tree..."
Optina Hermitage Chant

Reader: In the 2nd tone, the Original Melody, "When from the tree"

When from the Tree, Joseph of Arimathea took Thee down dead, Who art the Life of all, he wrapped Thee, O Christ, in pure linen with spices. Moved in his heart by love, with his lips he kissed thy most pure body;

Triodion text adapted from: "The Lenten Triodion", translated by Mother Mary and Archimandrite Kallistos Ware, Reprinted by Saint Tikhon's Seminary Press, 2002
Psalm text: "The Psalter according to the Seventy", Holy Transfiguration Monastery, Brookline, MS, 1986

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yet, drawing back in fear, he cried to Thee rejoicing:

'Glory to Thy self-abasement, O Thou Who lov⁠ est man-kind.'

Reader: The Lord is King,

He is clothed with majesty.

When Thou, the Redeemer of all,

wast laid for the sake of all in a new tomb,
hell was brought to scorn, and seeing Thee, drew back in fear.

The bars were opened and the gates were shattered,

the tombs were opened and the dead arose.

Then Adam in thanksgiving and rejoicing cried to Thee:

'Glory to Thy self-abasement, O Thou who lovest mankind.
Reader: For He hath established the world

Which shall not be shaken.

In the flesh, Thou was of Thine own will

enclosed within the tomb, yet in Thy divine nature

Thou dost remain uncircumscribed and limitless.

Thou hast shut up the treasury of hell, O Christ,
and emptied all his palaces. Thou hast honored this Sabbath

with Thy divine blessing, with Thy glory and Thy radiance.

Reader: Holiness becometh Thy house,

O Lord, unto length of days.

The powers of heaven beheld Thee, O Christ,

falsely accused by lawless men as a deceiver,
and they saw the stone before Thy tomb sealed by the hands which had pierced Thy most pure side; and they were filled with fear at Thine ineffable forbearance. Yet, rejoicing at our salvation, they cried aloud to Thee: 'Glory to Thy self-abasement, O Thou Who loveth mankind.'