

# HYMNS FOR THE ORTHODOX LITURGY

## THE WISE THIEF

(EXAPOSTEILARION FOR THE MATINS OF HOLY FRIDAY)

The singing of the Exaposteilarion *The Wise Thief* is one of the most solemn moments in the Matins of Great and Holy Friday (the Service of the 12 Gospels). The Orthodox *Typikon* prescribes that it be sung three times, with "Glory to the Father . . ." after the first time, and "Now and ever . . ." after the second time. In the last two centuries a tradition arose in the Russian Church of singing at least one of the versions as a trio. (The singers should stand in the middle of the church in front of the Crucifix.)

The present edition brings together two settings for trio and a setting for chorus. The two trios are free compositions written in an intensely emotional style favored in St. Petersburg, Russia, at the turn of the twentieth century. The version for chorus is a harmonization of a Kievan Chant that expresses the emotional intensity of the text in a more subdued fashion.

The composer of the first trio, Aleksei Turenkov (1886-1958), produced only a small number of works for the Orthodox liturgy before the Russian Revolution of 1917; thereafter he turned his attention to secular and folk music. The Reverend Mikhail Lisitsyn (1871-1918 [1919?]) was a prominent scholar, music critic, and choral composer in St. Petersburg. No biographical information is available concerning the third composer, Staritsky.

The identical keys of the three settings make it possible to perform them in any combination and order. Turenkov's trio may be performed by male voices and Lisitsyn's -- by female voices. In Lisitsyn's setting all the tempo and dynamic markings are by the composer. The markings in Turenkov's and Staritsky's settings are editorial.

Set in English and edited by  
VLADIMIR MOROSAN

ALEKSEI TURENKOV  
(1886-1958)

1. With intensity. [♩ = 56]  
*mf*

Soprano 1  
Soprano 2

Alto

THE WISE THIEF DIDST THOU MAKE WOR - THY OF  
PAR - A DISE IN A SIN - GLE MO - MENT,  
O LORD; BY THE WOOD OF THY  
BY THE WOOD OF THY

CROSS IL - LU - MINE ME, IL - LU - MINE ME

CROSS IL - LU MINE ME, IL - LU MINE ME

AL - SO, AND SAVE ME, AND SAVE ME.

AL - SO, AND SAVE ME,

Soprano Alto

Tenor Bass

GLO-RY TO THE FA-THER, AND TO THE SON, AND TO THE HO-LY SPIR - IT.

2. Andante.

Rev. MIKHAIL LISITSYN, Op. 5 (1871-1918 [1919?])

Tenor 1 Tenor 2

Bass

THE WISE THIEF DIDST

THOU MAKE WOR - THY, WOR - THY OF PAR -

A - DISE IN A SIN - GLE MO - MENT,

O LORD; BY THE

(THY) WOOD OF THY CROSS IL - LU - MINE ME AL - SO,

AND SAVE ME.

Soprano  
Aalto

Tenor  
Bass

NOW AND EV - ER, AND UN - TO A - GES OF A - GES, A - MEN.

3. Slowly. ♩ = 56

*pp*

Soprano  
Alto

Tenor  
Bass

THE WISE THIEF DIDST THOU MAKE

*pp*

WOR - THY, DIDST THOU MAKE WOR - THY OF

PAR - A - DISE IN A SIN - GLE - MO - MENT, O

LORD; BY THE WOOD OF THY CROSS IL - LU - MINE ME

*p*

*pp*

(bring out bass)

AL - SO, AND SAVE ME, AND SAVE ME.