



International Interfaith Reading Group

Eastern Christianity in Interfaith Contexts

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The Origins of the First Anti-Jewish Good Friday Hymns

1. *When you were led to the crucifixion, you cried, O Lord: "For what deed do you seek to crucify me, O you Jews? Is it because I made your paralyzed walk, because I raised the dead as though from sleep? I healed her who had an issue of blood, and I took pity on the woman of Canaan; for what deed do you seek to kill me, O you Jews." But O' transgressors, you shall look upon Christ whom now you pierce.*¹
2. *Thus says the Lord to the Jews: "O my people, what have I done unto you? Or wherein have I wearied you? I gave light to the blind and cleansed your lepers, I raised up the man who lay upon his bed. O my people, what have I done unto you, and how have you repaid me? Instead*

¹ Sixth *Idiomele* (in the Greek sequencing). *The Lenten Triodion*, trans. by Mother Mary and Kallistos Ware (South Canaan, PA: St. Tikhon's Seminary Press, 1994), 604.

of manna you have given me gall, instead of water vinegar; instead of loving me, you have nailed me to the cross. I can endure no more. I shall call my Gentiles and they shall honor me with the Father and the Spirit and I shall bestow on them eternal life.²

3. When the transgressors nailed You, O Lord of glory, to the Cross

You cried aloud to them: "How have I grieved you? Or where have I angered you?

Before me, who delivered you from tribulation? And how do you now repay me?

You have given me evil for good:

In return for the pillar of fire, you have nailed me to the Cross;

In return for the cloud, you have dug a grave for me.

Instead of manna, you have given me gall;

Instead of water, you have given me vinegar to drink.

Henceforth I will call the Gentiles, and they will glorify me with the Father and Holy Spirit.

4. Today he who hung the earth upon the waters is hung upon the Cross.

He who is King of the angels is arrayed in a crown of thorns.

He who wraps the heaven in clouds is wrapped in the purple of mockery.

He who in Jordan set Adam free receives blows upon his face.

The bridegroom of the Church is transfixed with nails.

The Son of the Virgin is pierced with a spear.

We venerate your passion, O Christ.

Show us also your glorious resurrection.³

² Seventh *Idiomele* (in the modern sequencing). *The Lenten Triodion*, trans. by Mother Mary and Kallistos Ware (South Canaan, PA: St. Tikhon's Seminary Press, 1994), 606.

³ Twelfth *Idiomele* (in the Greek sequencing). *The Lenten Triodion*, trans. by Mother Mary and Kallistos Ware (South Canaan, PA: St. Tikhon's Seminary Press, 1994), 609.