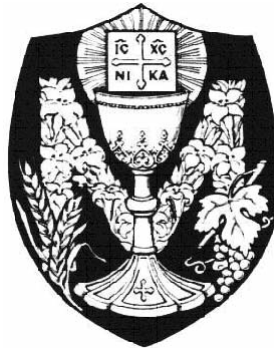


# СВЯТЕЄ СВЯТИМ Жінка Євхаристії



**Holy Things for the Holy  
Woman of the Eucharist**

**Стемфордська Єпархія  
Святоуспенська Проща Сестер Служебниць  
Пренепорочної Діви Марії  
Євхаристійний Марійський Конгрес  
Слоутсбург, Нью-Йорк  
13 - 15 серпня, 2004**



**Eparchy of Stamford  
Dormition Pilgrimage of Sisters Servants  
of Mary Immaculate  
Eucharistic Marian Congress  
Sloatsburg, New York  
August 13 - 15, 2004**

# Dormition of the Mother of God

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## DORMITION OF THE MOTHER OF GOD

### VESPERS

*Vespers with Nocturnal Vigil (Litiya):* The priest, vested in the epitachelion and phelonion (monks vest in the mantle), opens the holy doors. The deacon performs the incensing as usual, while the priest, during that time, stands before the altar. After the incensing, the deacon says in a low voice: **Master, give the blessing!** Then he leaves the sanctuary and stands before the holy doors, and exclaims: **Master, proceed!** [However, where it is customary, the holy doors are opened, the deacon exits through the northern door, stands before the holy doors, and exclaims: **Master, proceed!** Then he returns to the sanctuary, takes a candle and goes before the priest, who performs the incensing as prescribed. After the incensing, the deacon, returning to his place before the holy doors, says in a low voice: **Master, give the blessing!**]

*Then the priest at the altar intones:*

Glory be to the holy, consubstantial, life-giving and undivided Trinity, always, now and for ever and ever.

*Choir:* Amen.

Come, let us adore the King, our God.

Come, let us adore\* Christ, the King and our God.

Come, let us adore and bow down\* to the only Lord Jesus Christ, the King and our God.

*The priest closes the holy doors, takes off the phelonion, and, vested only in the epitachelion, departs through the northern door and stands before the holy doors, where he reads the Prayers of Light. The deacon remains in the sanctuary.*

### *Psalm 103*

Bless the Lord, O my soul!\* You are very great, O Lord, my God,  
Clothed in pomp and brilliance;\* arrayed with light as with a cloak.  
Stretching out the sky as a tent-cloth,\* covering Your lofty halls with water,  
You make the clouds Your conveyance;\* You surge on the wings of the wind.  
You make spirits Your messengers,\* and flaming fires Your attendants.  
You settle the earth on its firm foundation;\* it shall stand unmoved from age to age.  
The abyss covers it like a garment;\* waters stand over the mountains.  
At Your rebuke they will take flight;\* at the peal of Your thunder they will fear.  
They hurdle the hills and run down the dales,\* to the place You have chosen for them.  
You have set up a boundary not to be passed;\* they shall never return to cover the earth.

Down in the gullies You make springs to rise;\* water shall go down between the mountains.

They shall give drink to the beasts of the field;\* wild asses will seek them to quench their thirst.

The birds of the sky will abide by them;\* from among the rocks they will raise their song.

From Your lofty halls You refresh the mountains;\* the earth shall be fed with the fruit of Your works.

You make green pastures for the cattle,\* and food-plants for the service of all, So that bread may be brought forth from the earth,\* and wine that gladdens the heart of all;

So that oil may put a gleam upon his face;\* and that bread may strengthen the heart of all.

The trees of the plain will be satisfied,\* the cedars of Lebanon that He planted. The sparrows will build their nests in them;\* and the herons will call them their home.

To the deer belong high mountains,\* to rodents, the shelter of the rocks.

You have made the moon to mark the seasons;\* the sun knows the time of its setting.

You establish darkness, and it is night,\* wherein all the forest creatures prowl around.

Young lions roar for their prey,\* and call out to God for their meat.

As the sun rises, they will come together,\* and lay themselves down in their dens.

Man will go out to his labor,\* and work until eventide.

How great are Your works, O Lord!\* In wisdom You have wrought them all.

The earth is filled with Your creatures.\* Even the wide and open sea itself, Within it there are countless creeping things,\* living beings small and large.

Upon it there are ships a-sailing,\* and that great beast You made to have fun therein.

All of them look up to You,\* to give them their food in due time.

You provide and they gather up;\* You open Your hand and they are full.

You hide Your face and they cringe;\* You suspend their breath, and they die and return to their dust.

You send forth Your breath and they live;\* You renew the face of the earth.

May the Lord's glory endure forever;\* may the Lord rejoice in His works;

He looks upon the earth and makes it quake;\* He touches the mountains and they smoke.

I will sing to the Lord as long as I live;\* I will praise my God as long as I last.

Would that my thoughts be pleasing to Him:\* and I will rejoice in the Lord.  
May sinners vanish from the earth, and may the wicked be no more.\* Bless the  
Lord, O my soul!

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and for ever  
and ever. Amen.

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Glory be to You, O God (3x).

*As Psalm 103 is being recited, the priest quietly reads the Prayers of Light in front of  
the holy doors. Only one of the prayers may be read throughout the entire week  
according to the tone of the week.*

### **The Prayers of Light**

1. O Lord, compassionate and loving, long-suffering and most merciful, hear  
our prayer and listen to the voice of our supplication. Make a favorable  
covenant with us, guide us along Your ways that we may live in Your truth,  
gladden our hearts that we may fear Your holy name; for You are great and You  
perform wondrous deeds. You are the only God and none other is like You, O  
Lord. You are great in mercy and able, in Your power, to assist, support, and  
save all those who place their hope in Your holy name; and to You, Father, Son,  
and Holy Spirit, is due all glory, honor, and adoration, now and for ever and  
ever. Amen.

2. O Lord, in Your indignation do not rebuke us; in Your wrath do not chastise  
us; but deal with us according to Your loving-kindness. O Physician and Healer  
of our souls, guide us to the harbor of Your will; enlighten the eyes of our mind  
that we may know Your truth. Grant that the remainder of this day and all the  
days of our life may be peaceful and without sin, through the prayers of the  
holy Mother of God and through the prayers of all the saints; for Yours is the  
might, and Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory, Father, Son, and  
Holy Spirit, now and for ever and ever. Amen.

3. O Lord our God, be mindful of us sinners, Your unworthy servants, as we  
call upon Your holy name, and put us not to shame for having placed our hope  
in Your mercy. Graciously grant us, O Lord, all the means of salvation; make  
us worthy to love and fear You with all our heart and to accomplish Your will  
in all things. For You are a gracious Lord and You love mankind; and we give  
glory to You, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and for ever and ever. Amen.

4. O Lord, You are praised by the holy powers in hymns which are never silent,  
and in doxologies which never cease. Fill our mouths with Your praise that we  
may exalt Your holy name. Through the prayers of the holy Mother of God and  
the intercession of all Your saints, give us a part and an inheritance with those  
who fear You in truth and who keep Your commandments. For to You, Father,

Son, and Holy Spirit, is due all glory, honor, and adoration, now and for ever and ever. Amen.

5. Blessed are You, O Lord, almighty God. You know the mind of each person; You know what each needs even before they ask or are aware of it. Now, O King Who loves mankind and Who is gracious in everything, in Your great mercy allow us to call upon Your holy name with an unashamed conscience. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the Evil One; and in Your providence grant all that is beneficial to us. For to You, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, is due all glory, honor, and adoration, now and for ever and ever. Amen.

6. O Lord, O Lord, You hold all things together in Your spotless hands; You are long-suffering toward us all; You grieve at our wickedness. Remember Your compassion and mercy, and visit us in Your goodness. Grant that for the rest of this day we may escape from the manifold deceits of the Evil One; and keep our life free from every assault of the enemy, through the grace of Your all-holy Spirit. Grant this through the mercies and love for mankind of Your only-begotten Son with Whom You are blessed, together with Your all-holy, gracious, and life-giving Spirit, now and for ever and ever. Amen.

7. O great and wonderful God, You govern all things with Your indescribable goodness and rich providence. You have provided us with the goodness of this world and have assured us, through Your kindness, of attaining the promised kingdom. O Lord, through all the blessings already received this day, You have kept us away from evil; grant that we spend its remaining hours without blame before Your holy glory, and that we may sing Your praise, O You, the only gracious One Who loves mankind. For You are our God, and we give glory to You, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and for ever and ever. Amen.

8. O great and most high God, You alone are immortal and You dwell in a light which is unapproachable. You created all things in Your wisdom, dividing light from darkness, establishing the sun to govern the day and the moon and stars to rule the night. You have deemed us, poor sinners, worthy to reach this hour, to come into Your presence with our thanks, and to offer You our evening praise. O Lord Who loves mankind, let our prayers ascend to You as incense, and accept them as a sweet fragrance. Grant that this evening and the coming night may be spent in peace; clothe us with the armor of light; save us from the fears of the night and from things that lurk in darkness. Grant that the sleep You have given to refresh us from our fatigue may be free from every evil. Yes, O Lord and Giver of all good things, grant that, having found favor in Your sight, we may lie down to rest, remembering Your name throughout the night; and enlightened by the practice of Your commandments, may we rise in gladness of soul to praise Your goodness, offering prayers and supplications for our sins

and those of Your people. Look down upon us with mercy, through the intercession of the Mother of God; for You are gracious Lord Who loves mankind, and we glorify You, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and for ever and ever. Amen.

*After the recitation of the Psalm 103, the priest returns to the sanctuary and stands before the altar; the deacon departs through the northern door, stands before the holy doors, and intones the litany.*

### **Litany of Peace**

In peace let us pray to the Lord.

*Choir:* Lord, have mercy (*and after each petition*).

For the peace from on high and for the salvation of our souls, let us pray to the Lord.

For peace throughout the whole world, for the well-being of God's holy churches and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

For this holy church and for all who enter it with faith, reverence, and fear of God, let us pray to the Lord.

For our most holy universal Pontiff, *N.*, Pope of Rome, for our most blessed Patriarch, *N.*, our most reverend Metropolitan, *N.*, our God-loving Bishop, *N.*, the reverend priesthood, the diaconate in Christ, and all the clergy and the people, let us pray to the Lord.

For our nation under God, for our government, and for all the military, let us pray to the Lord.

For this city (*or* For this village, *or* For this holy monastery), for every city and country and for the faithful who live in them, let us pray to the Lord.

For favorable weather, for an abundance of the fruits of the earth, and for peaceful times, let us pray to the Lord.

For seafarers and travelers, for the sick and the suffering, for those held captive, and for their salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

That we may be delivered from all tribulation, wrath, and misfortune, let us pray to the Lord.

Help us, save us, have mercy and protect us, O God, by Your grace.

Remembering our most holy and immaculate, most blessed and glorious Lady, the Mother of God and ever-virgin Mary, together with all the saints, let us commend ourselves and one another and our whole life to Christ our God.

*Choir:* To You, O Lord.

*Priest:* For all glory, honor, and worship befit You, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, now and for ever and ever.

*Choir:* Amen.



*After the litany, the priest returns to the sanctuary and stands before the altar with the deacon at his right.*

### **Blessed Is the Man**

Blessed is the man - Alleluia\* - who has not walked in the counsel of the wicked. Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

For the Lord knows the way of the just,\* but the way of the wicked shall be lost. Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Serve the Lord with fear,\* exalt in Him with trembling. Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Blessed are those\* who trust in Him! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Arise, O Lord,\* save me, my God. Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Salvation is of the Lord!\* Upon Your people Your blessing. Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Now and for ever and ever. Amen. Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Glory be to You, O God! (3x).

*After the hymn: Blessed is the man..., the deacon says the small litany before the holy doors, and after the doxology he returns to the sanctuary.*

### **Small Litany**

Again and again in peace let us pray to the Lord.

Help us, save us, have mercy and protect us, O God, by Your grace.

Remembering our most holy and immaculate, most blessed and glorious Lady, the Mother of God and ever-virgin Mary together with all the saints, let us commend ourselves and one another and our whole life, to Christ our God.

*Priest:* For Yours is the might, and Yours are the kingdom and the power and the glory, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, now and for ever and ever.

### *Psalm 140*

*The deacon performs the incensing as prescribed by the typikon. The choir sings the first two verses of Psalm 140 according to the tone of the first stichera.*

O Lord, I have cried to You,\* hear me; hear me, O Lord!\* O Lord, I have cried to You, hear me,\* receive the voice of my prayer\* when I call upon You.\* Hear me, O Lord!

Let my prayer rise like incense before You,\* and the lifting up of my hands as an evening sacrifice.\* Hear me, O Lord!

Set a guard, O Lord, before my mouth\* and a portal around my lips.

Incline my heart away from evil dealings,\* from finding excuses for sinful deeds.

In company with those who work iniquity,\* let me not partake of what they choose.

May the just chasten me with justice and reprove me;\* may the oil of the wicked never touch my head.

Yet even then shall I pray for their welfare.\* Their rulers were swallowed near the rock.

My words will be heard,\* for they were sweet.

As a lump of clay broken on the ground,\* so their bones were strewn near the grave.

To You, Lord, O Lord, my eyes are lifted up.\* In You have I hoped; let not my soul be lost.

Keep me from the snare that was set for me,\* and from the stumbling-blocks of the wicked.

The wicked shall fall into their own nets,\* while I remain alone until I can escape.

#### *Psalm 141*

With my voice I cried to the Lord;\* with all my voice I implored the Lord.

Before Him I pour out my supplications;\* before Him I declare my distress.

When my breath was escaping me,\* then you knew my paths;

On the road upon which I was walking,\* they set up snares for me.

I looked to my right and observed\* there was no one friendly to me;

Even flight was denied me;\* there was no one to take care of my life.

I cried out to You, O Lord, and said:\* You are my hope, my share in the land of the living.

Listen to my supplication,\* for I am laid very low.

Deliver me from my oppressors;\* for they have overwhelmed me.

Lead my soul forth from prison\* that I may give thanks to Your name.

The just shall gather around me\* when You have been good to me.

#### *Psalm 129*

Out of the depths I cry to You, O Lord;\* O Lord, hear my voice!

Let Your ears be attentive\* to the voice of my prayer.

If You mark iniquities, O Lord, who can stand? But with You forgiveness is that You may be revered.

I have waited for You as You have commanded;\* my soul patiently relies on Your promise, for it has trusted in the Lord.

From the morning watch until night\* let Israel trust in the Lord.

*(Tone 1, Samopodoben):* O what a wonder!\* The Source of life is placed in a tomb;\* the grave becomes a ladder to heaven.\* Rejoice, Gethsemane, holy chamber of the Mother of God!\* As for us, O faithful, let us cry out with Gabriel, the prince of angels:\* Rejoice, O Woman Full of Grace, the Lord is with you,\* the Lord, Who because of you,\* bestows great mercy upon the world.

For with the Lord there is mercy and with Him there is plentiful redemption;\* and He shall redeem Israel from all its iniquities.

O Lady, marvelous are your mysteries.\* You have become the throne of the Most High,\* and today you are taken from earth to heaven.\* Your glory shines forth with the radiance of divine grace and surpasses every other splendor.\* Rise up to the heavens, all you virgins, together with the Mother of our King, and cry out:\* Rejoice, O Woman Full of Grace, the Lord is with you,\* the Lord, Who because of you,\* bestows great mercy upon the world.

### *Psalm 116*

Praise the Lord, all the nations;\* proclaim His glory, all you people.

*(Tone 2):* The most pure spouse,\* the Mother of the One in Whom the Father is well-pleased,\* she whom God had chosen to become the dwelling place of His natures\* that had been united without confusion,\* today delivers her most pure soul to her divine Creator.\* The angels welcome her in a divine manner,\* and the Mother of Life is now transferred to life.\* She is the lamp of the inaccessible brightness,\* the hope of our souls,\* and the salvation of believers.

Strong is the love of the Lord for us;\* eternally will His truth endure.

*(Tone 5):* Come, all you lovers of the feast,\* let us form choirs and fill the Church\* with our hymns in honor of the failing asleep of the ark of God.\* Today heaven indeed opens its bosom to receive the Mother of the One Whom the universe cannot contain.\* The earth gives back the Source of life and receives the blessing of the Lord.\* The choir of angels and apostles look with awe as they see the One\* who gave birth to the Prince of life now herself pass from life to life.\* Let us all bow together before her and say:\* O Lady, do not forget the children of your house\* who celebrate your holy dormition in faith.

**Gloria be: Now and for ever:** *(Tone 1):* The holy apostles were taken up from every corner of the world\* and carried upon clouds by the command of God.\*

They gathered around your pure body, O Source of life,\* and kissed it with reverence.\* As for the most sublime powers of heaven,\* they came with their own leader to escort and to pay their last respects\* to the most honorable body that had contained Life itself.\* Filled with awe, they marched together with the apostles in silent majesty,\* professing to the princes of heaven in a hushed voice:\* Lift up your gates and receive, with becoming majesty, the Mother of the Light that never fades,\* because, through her, salvation was made possible for our human race.\* She is the One upon whom no one may gaze,\* and to whom no one is able to render sufficient glory;\* for the special honor that made her sublime is beyond understanding.\* Therefore, O most pure Mother of God,\* forever alive with your Son, the Source of life, do not cease to intercede with Him\* that He may guard and save your people from every trouble;\* for you are our intercessor.\* To you we sing a hymn of glory with loud and joyful voices,\* now and forever.

### **The Entrance**

*At the Glory be..., the holy doors are opened. The priest, vested in the phelonion, and the deacon, holding the censer, proceed around the altar and exit through the northern door and stand before the holy doors.*

*Deacon (quietly):* Let us pray to the Lord.

*Priest (quietly):* O gracious King, You love mankind and bless all things. With contrite heart and humble spirit we pray to You, O Christ our true God: Bless our comings and our goings. For Your coming and ascension and dwelling among us are blessed, always, now and for ever and ever. Amen.

*Deacon:* Master, bless the holy entrance.

*Priest (blessing towards the East):* Blessed be the entrance of Your saints, always, now and for ever and ever.

*The deacon stands within the holy doors, makes a sign of the cross with the censer and intones:*

Wisdom! Stand aright.

*Choir:* O joyful Light! Light and holy Glory of the Father immortal, the heavenly, holy, the blessed One, O Jesus Christ! Now that we have reached the setting of the sun, and see the evening light, we sing to God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

It is fitting at all times to raise a song of praise in measured melody to You, O Son of God, the Giver of life. Behold, the universe sings Your glory.

*The deacon goes to the holy doors and intones:* Let us be attentive!

*Priest:* Peace be with all.

*Deacon:* Wisdom! Let us be attentive!

*The choir sings the prokimenon.*

*Ps. 92 (Tone 6)*

The Lord reigns,\* He is clothed in majesty.

*Verse:* Robed is the Lord and girt about with strength.

*Verse:* For He has made the world firm, which shall not be moved.

*Verse:* Holiness befits Your house, O Lord, for length of days.

*The priest goes behind the altar near the end of the prokimenon. Before the title of the reading, the deacon, standing at the holy doors and, facing the people, exclaims:*

**Wisdom!, then after intoning the title: Let us be attentive!**

*Lector:* A reading from the First Book of Kings.

At the order of Solomon, the elders of Israel and all the leaders of the tribes, the princes in the ancestral houses of the Israelites, came to King Solomon in Jerusalem to bring up the ark of the Lord's covenant from the City of David [which is Zion]. All the men of Israel assembled before King Solomon during the festival in the month of Ethanim (the seventh month). When all the elders of Israel had arrived, the priests took up the ark; they carried the ark of the LORD and the meeting tent with all the sacred vessels that were in the tent. (The priests and Levites carried them.) King Solomon and the entire community of Israel present for the occasion sacrificed before the ark sheep and oxen too many to number or count. The priests brought the ark of the covenant of the LORD to its place beneath the wings of the cherubim in the sanctuary, the holy of the holies of the temple. The cherubim had their wings spread out over the place of the ark, sheltering the ark and its poles from above. The poles were so long that their ends could be seen from that part of the holy place adjoining the sanctuary; however, they could not be seen beyond. (They have remained there to this day.) There was nothing in the ark but the two stone tablets which Moses had put there at Horeb, when the LORD made a covenant with the Israelites at their departure from the land of Egypt. When the priests left the holy place, the cloud filled the temple of the LORD so that the priests could no longer minister because of the cloud, since the LORD's glory had filled the temple of the LORD. (8: 1-11).

*After the reading the deacon says the litany before the open holy doors, while the priest stands at the altar.*

### **Litany**

Let us all say with our whole soul and our whole mind, let us say.

*Choir:* Lord, have mercy.

Almighty Lord, God of our Fathers, we pray You, hear us and have mercy.

*Choir:* Lord, have mercy.

Have mercy on us, O God, in the greatness of Your compassion, we pray You, hear us and have mercy.

*Choir:* Lord, have mercy (*3x after each petition*).

We also pray for our most holy universal Pontiff, *N.*, Pope of Rome; for our most blessed Patriarch, *N.*; our most reverend Metropolitan, *N.*; our God-loving Bishop, *N.*, for those who serve and have served in this holy church, for our spiritual fathers, and for all our brethren in Christ.

We also pray for our nation under God, for our government, and for all the military.

We also pray for the people here present who await Your great and bountiful mercies, for those who have been kind to us, and for all orthodox Christians.

*Priest:* For You are a merciful and loving God, and we give glory to You, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, now and for ever and ever.

*Choir:* Amen.

### **Deign, O Lord**

Deign, O Lord, \* to keep us this evening without sin.

Blessed are You, O Lord God of our Fathers,\* and praised and glorified is Your name forever. Amen.

Let Your mercy, O Lord, be upon us\* because we have set our hope in You.

Blessed are You, O Lord,\* teach me Your commandments.

Blessed are You, O Master,\* make me understand Your commandments.

Blessed are You, O Holy One,\* enlighten me with Your laws.

O Lord, Your mercy endures forever;\* do not despise the work of Your hands.

It is proper to praise You,\* and hymns belong to You.

Glory belongs to You,\* Father, Son and Holy Spirit,

Now and for ever\* and ever. Amen.

### **Litany**

Let us complete our evening prayer to the Lord.

*Choir:* Lord, have mercy.

Help and save, have mercy and protect us, O God, by Your grace.

*Choir:* Lord, have mercy.

That this whole evening may be perfect, holy, peaceful, and sinless, let us ask the Lord.

*Choir:* Grant this, O Lord (*after each petition*).

For an angel of peace, a faithful guide, a guardian of our souls and bodies, let us ask the Lord.

For the forgiveness and remission of our sins and offenses, let us ask the Lord. For all that is good and beneficial for our souls, and for peace for the world, let us ask the Lord.

That we may spend the rest of our lives in peace and repentance, let us ask the Lord.

For a Christian end to our lives, one that is painless, unashamed, and peaceful; and for a good defense at the awesome tribunal of Christ, let us ask the Lord. Remembering our most holy and immaculate, most blessed and glorious Lady, the Mother of God and ever-virgin Mary, together with all the saints, let us commend ourselves and one another and our whole life, to Christ our God.

*Choir:* To You, O Lord.

*Priest:* For You are a merciful, gracious and loving God, and we give glory to You, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, now and for ever and ever.

*Choir:* Amen.

*Priest:* Peace be with all.

*Choir:* And with Your spirit.

*Deacon:* Bow your heads to the Lord.

*Choir:* To You, O Lord.

*Priest (quietly):* O Lord our God, You lowered the heavens when You came down for the salvation of the human race. Now look upon Your servants and upon Your inheritance; for they have bowed their heads to You, the Judge, both awesome and loving. They do not await human help, but look for Your mercy and are ready to receive Your salvation. Guard them at all times, this evening and tonight, against all enemies, against the devil's assaults, against vain thoughts and evil dreams.

*Priest:* May the might of Your kingdom be blessed and exalted, Father Son, and Holy Spirit, now and for ever and ever.

*Choir:* Amen.

*After the litany, the choir sings the sticheras of litiya.*

*(Tone 1):* Because the disciples had been both the eye-witnesses and servants of the Word,\* it was also fitting that they should witness the final mystery, the dormition of his Mother according to the flesh.\* They not only saw the ascension of the Savior from earth to heaven,\* but they also were witnesses of the translation of the Mother who bore Him.\* They came to Zion to escort the Virgin, who surpasses the Cherubim,\* as she hastened in her journey to heaven.\* With them let us also bow low before the One\* who intercedes for our souls.

*(Tone 2):* She is higher than the heavens,\* more glorious than the Cherubim,\* and more honorable than all creation.\* Her outstanding purity became the

dwelling place of the eternal divinity.\* Today she places her all-pure soul into the hands of her Son.\* With her, the universe is filled with joy, and the grace of salvation is given to us.

*(Tone 3):* Come, all you ends of the earth,\* let us praise the blessed passing of the Mother of God.\* She delivers her sinless soul into the hands of her Son;\* through her holy dormition the world is given new life.\* With psalms and hymns and spiritual canticles,\* the whole world celebrates in joy\* together with the angels and apostles.

**Glory be: Now and for ever:** *(Tone 5):* O people, sing to the Mother of our God;\* for, on this day, she delivers her radiant soul\* into the most pure hands of the One Who took flesh of her without seed.\* In His presence she intercedes unceasingly\* that He grant peace and great mercy to the world.

### Prayers of Litiya

*The incensing is performed as usual; the priest with hand-cross, and the deacon with censer proceed to the narthex. When the choir has finished singing the sticheras, the deacon sings in a raised voice:*

Save Your people, O God, and bless Your inheritance. Visit Your world with Your mercy and generousities.\* Exalt the Christian peoples and send down upon us Your abundant mercy. Through the prayers of the most pure Lady, the Mother of God and ever-virgin Mary, whose feast of Dormition we solemnly celebrate;\* by the power of the precious and lifegiving Cross;\* through the protection of the honorable, heavenly incorporeal powers;\* of the honorable and glorious prophet, forerunner and baptizer, John;\* of the holy, glorious, and all-praiseworthy apostles;\* and of our fathers among the saints, the great ecumenical teachers and hierarchs: Basil the Great, Gregory the Theologian, and John Chrysostom; Athanasius and Cyril;\* of our father among the saints, Nicholas, archbishop, wonderworker of Myra in Lycia;\* of the holy Cyril and Methodius, teachers of the Slavs;\* of the holy and equal-to-the-apostles, Great Prince Volodymyr;\* of the holy hieromartyr Josaphat;\* of the holy, glorious and triumphant martyrs;\* of our venerable and God-bearing fathers Anthony and Theodosius of the Monastery of the Caves and other venerable and godly fathers;\* of the holy and righteous ancestors of God, Joachim and Anna;\* and of all the saints;\* we beseech You, O all-merciful Lord, hear us sinners praying to You, and have mercy.

*Choir:* Lord, have mercy (12x).

We also pray for our most holy universal Pontiff, *N.*, Pope of Rome; and for our most blessed Patriarch, *N.*; for our most reverend Metropolitan, *N.*; for our God-loving Bishop, *N.*; for our spiritual fathers, and for all our brethren in



Christ,\* and for every Christian soul that is afflicted and maltreated and in need of God's mercies and help;\* for the protection of this city (*or*: village) and for those who live here;\* for the welfare of God's holy churches;\* for the salvation and the assistance of our fathers and brothers who, with diligence and in the fear of the Lord, labor and serve;\* for the absent and those who journey;\* for the healing of those who are infirm;\* for the repose, alleviation, blessed memory, and remission of sins of all our orthodox fathers and brothers, who have departed from us and are buried here and in every place;\* for the deliverance of captives, for all brothers, who offer their services\* and for all who serve and have served in this holy church, let us say.

*Choir*: Kyrie, eleison (12x).

*Priest*: Hear us, O God our Savior, hope of all the ends of the earth and those far away at sea. In Your graciousness be merciful to us sinners, O Master. For You are a merciful and loving God, and we give glory to You, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and for ever and ever.

*Choir*: Amen.

*Priest*: Peace be with all.

*Choir*: And with your spirit.

*Deacon*: Bow your heads to the Lord.

*Choir*: To You, O Lord.

*Priest*: O most merciful Master, Lord Jesus Christ our God, through the prayers of our most pure Lady, the Mother of God, and ever-virgin Mary, whose feast of Dormition we solemnly celebrate, and of all the saints, make our prayer acceptable; grant us remission of our transgressions, cover us with the shadow of Your wings; drive far from us every foe and adversary. Make our life peaceful, O Lord; have mercy on us and on Your world, and save our souls for You are gracious and love mankind.

*Choir*: Amen.

*The priest goes to the tetrapod, and the choir sings the aposticha.*

(*Tone 4*): All you peoples of the earth\* sing together a hymn of glory\* to the pure and most holy Virgin from whom the Word of God came to us,\* receiving flesh from her in a manner beyond understanding.\* Let us cry out: Blessed are you among women,\* and blessed is your womb that contained Christ,\* into Whose hands you committed your soul.\* O pure Virgin, intercede with Christ God\* that He may save our souls!

**Glory be: Now and for ever:** O virgin Mother of God,\* at the time you were carried up to the One born of you\* in a manner beyond understanding,\* James and Peter were present;\* James, the brother of the Lord and first bishop,\* and Peter,

the honorable head of the apostles and prince of theologians.\* The whole college of apostles was also there,\* all in one accord proclaiming things divine,\* praising the astounding mystery of Christ,\* and with joy, preparing your body, O most glorious One,\* source of Life and the temple of God.\* The most holy angelic powers were rapt in wonder at the sight of this miracle,\* and they said to each other:\* Lift up your gates to receive the Mother of the Creator of heaven and earth.\* Come, let us all sing hymns to her noble and holy body that has contained the invisible Lord.\* Therefore, we also celebrate your feast;\* and, O woman worthy of all praise, we cry out:\* O glorious Lady, exalt the Christian peoples\* and intercede with Christ God that He may save our souls.

### **Canticle of Simeon**

Now You dismiss Your servant, O Lord,\* according to Your word, in peace;  
Because my eyes\* have seen Your salvation  
Which You prepared\* before the face of all peoples,  
A light to the revelation of the Gentiles,\* and the glory of Your people, Israel.  
*Holy God; Trinity most holy; Our Father; and the troparion of Dormition.*  
(*Tone 1*): O Mother of God, in giving birth You still preserved virginity,\* and in your falling-asleep you did not forsake the world.\* You are the Mother of Life and have been transferred to life,\* and through your prayers\* have delivered our souls from death.

*As the troparion is being sung, the deacon incenses the tetrapod on all four sides; then he intones:*

Let us pray to the Lord.

*Choir:* Lord, have mercy.

*Then priest says the prayer of the blessing of the loaves:*

O Lord Jesus Christ our God, You blessed the five loaves and fed the five thousand. Bless these loaves, this wheat, wine, and oil, and multiply them in this city (village, monastery) and in the whole world; and sanctify all the faithful who shall partake of them; for it is You, O Christ our God, Who bless and sanctify all things. And we glorify You with Your eternal Father and Your all-holy, gracious, and life-giving Spirit, now and forever and ever.

*Choir:* Amen. Blessed be the name of the Lord, now and for ever (3x).

### *Psalm 33*

I will bless the Lord at all times;\* His praise shall be constantly in my mouth.  
My soul shall glory in the Lord;\* let the meek hear and rejoice.  
Magnify the Lord with me,\* and let us exalt His name together.

I sought the Lord and He heard me,\* and delivered me from all my fears.  
Approach the Lord and be enlightened,\* and your face shall never be shamed.  
The poor cried out, and the Lord heard them\* and delivered them from all their afflictions.  
The angel of the Lord will set up camp around those who fear the Lord\* and save them.  
Taste and see how good the Lord is;\* blessed is the one who hopes in Him.  
Fear the Lord, all you His saints,\* for there is no privation for those who fear Him.  
The rich have become poor and hungry\* but those who seek the Lord shall not be deprived of any good.  
*Priest:* The blessing of the Lord be upon you through His grace and loving kindness, always, now and for ever and ever.  
*Choir:* Amen.

### **The Great Dismissal**

*Deacon:* Wisdom!  
*Choir:* Give the blessing.  
*Priest:* Blessed be Christ our God, always, now and for ever and ever.  
*Choir:* Amen. O God, strengthen the holy catholic faith, for ever and ever.  
*Priest:* O most holy Mother of God, save us.  
*Choir:* More honorable than the cherubim and by far more glorious than the seraphim; ever a virgin, you gave birth to God the Word, O true Mother of God, we magnify you.  
*Priest:* Glory be to You, O Christ our God, our hope, glory be to You.  
*Choir:* Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and for ever and ever. Amen. Lord, have mercy (3x). Give the blessing.  
*Priest:* Christ our true God, risen from the dead, through the prayers of His immaculate Mother, whose feast of Dormition we solemnly celebrate today; the holy, glorious, and all-praiseworthy apostles; and of all the saints, will have mercy and save us, for He is good and loves mankind.  
*Choir:* Amen.

## MATINS

*The priest vested in the epitrachelion opens the holy doors, incenses as usual, and then intones:*

Glory to the holy, consubstantial, life-giving and undivided Trinity, always, now and for ever and ever.

*Choir:* Amen

Glory to God in the highest, and to His people on earth, His peace and good will. (3x)

O Lord, You shall open my lips, and my mouth will declare Your praise. (2x)

### *Psalm 62*

O God, You are my God, for You I long;\* for You my soul is thirsting.

My body pines for You\* like a dry, weary land without water.

So I gaze on You in the sanctuary\* to see Your strength and Your glory.

For Your love is better than life,\* my lips will speak Your praise.

So I will bless You all my life;\* in Your name I will lift up my hands.

My soul shall be filled as with a banquet,\* my mouth shall praise You with joy.

On my bed I remember You.\* On You I muse throughout the night

For You have been my help;\* in the shadow of Your wings I rejoice.

My soul clings to You;\* Your right hand holds me fast.

Those who seek to destroy my life\* shall go down to the depths of the earth.

They shall be put into the power of the sword\* and left as the prey of the jackals.

But the king shall rejoice in God;\* all that swear by Him shall be blessed for the mouth of liars shall be silenced.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit:

Now and for ever, and ever. Amen.

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Glory be to You, O God! (3x)

*During the recitation of the psalm, the priest quietly says the following Prayers of Matins before the holy doors:*

### **Prayers of Matins**

1. We thank You, Lord our God, for You have wakened us from our sleep, and have filled our lips with praise that we might worship You and call upon your holy name. We beg of Your compassion that You have always shown towards us, hear us now and send help to those who stand before Your holy glory awaiting Your abundant mercy. O Lord, grant that those who serve You in fear and love may praise Your ineffable goodness. For to You is due all glory, honor, and worship, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and for ever and ever. Amen.

2. From the depths of night our soul longs for You, our God, for Your commandments are a light upon the earth. Give us understanding that we may be

perfected in righteousness and holiness in fear of You, for it is You Whom we glorify as our true God. Turn Your ear and hear us. O Lord, remember all those present and praying with us by their own name, and save them by Your might. Bless Your people and sanctify Your inheritance. Give peace to Your world, to Your churches, to the priests, and to all Your people. For blessed and glorified is Your most honored and sublime name, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and for ever and ever. Amen.

3. From the depths of night our soul longs for You, our God, for Your commandments are a light upon the earth. Teach us, O God, Your righteousness, Your statutes, and Your decrees. Enlighten the eyes of our minds, lest in sin we fall asleep until death. Cast out all darkness from our hearts, favor us with the Sun of Righteousness, and keep our lives from danger by the seal of Your Holy Spirit. Direct our steps along the road of peace. Grant that we may see the dawn and the whole day in joy, and that we may offer You our morning prayers. For Yours is the power, and Yours is the kingdom and the might and the glory, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and for ever and ever. Amen.

4. Lord God, holy and incomprehensible, You told the light to shine out of darkness; You have given us rest in the sleep of night; and You have raised us to glorify and praise Your goodness. We beg of Your mercy, accept us who now worship You and thank You with all our strength, and grant all that we ask for our salvation. Reveal us to be children of light and of the day, and heirs of Your eternal good gifts. In the abundance of Your mercy, Lord, remember all your people who invoke Your love for mankind and aid those here present and who pray with us and those traveling abroad in every place of Your kingdom, who are in need of Your loving kindness and help. Be greatly merciful to all, that we may persevere always in confidence, being saved in soul and body. We glorify Your magnificent and blessed name, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and for ever and ever. Amen.

5. Treasury of all good, ever-flowing spring, holy Father, Wonder-worker, all-powerful Ruler of all: we worship You and beg of Your mercy and compassion, help and support us in our lowliness. Lord, remember those who pray to You, and let our morning prayer rise like incense before You. Grant that no one of us may be put to shame, but surround us with Your mercy. Lord, remember those who keep watch and sing of Your glory, and that of Your only-begotten Son and our God, and of Your Holy Spirit. Be their help and support and accept their prayers upon Your heavenly, spiritual altar. For You are our God, and to You we give glory, to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and for ever and ever. Amen.

6. We give thanks to You, O Lord and God of our salvation. You have done

everything that is good for our lives, and we look always to You, Savior and Benefactor of our souls. For You have given us rest in that part of the night which has passed, and now have raised us from our sleep to worship Your honored name. Therefore, O Lord, we pray: give us the grace and strength to be found worthy to sing praise always, and to pray constantly, and to work for our own salvation in fear and trembling, with the help of Your Christ. O Lord, remember those who pray to You in the night. Hear them and have mercy on them and crush under their feet invisible and malicious enemies. For You are the King of Peace, and the Savior of our souls, and we give thanks to You, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and for ever and ever. Amen.

7. God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, You have raised us from our sleep and gathered us for this time of prayer. Give us grace that we may open our lips in praise. Accept the thanksgiving we offer with all our strength. Teach us Your decrees, for we do not know how to pray as we should, unless You guide us by Your Holy Spirit. Therefore, we pray, that if until now we have sinned in any way - in word, or deed, or thought, voluntarily or involuntarily - remit, pardon and forgive us; for if You, O Lord, were to look upon our guilt, Lord, who would survive? For with You is found redemption. You alone are holy and a helper and the stronghold of our lives, and our praise is for You forever. Blessed and glorified be the power of Your reign, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and for ever and ever. Amen.

8. Lord our God, You have shaken from us the laziness of sleep; You have called us to be holy, to lift up our hands in the night, and to glorify You for Your just decrees. Receive our prayers, our petitions, our confessions of faith, and our nighttime worship. Bestow on us, O Lord, an invincible faith, a confident hope, and a love without pretense. Bless our comings and our goings, our deeds and works, our words and desires. Grant that we may come to the beginning of the day praising, glorifying, and blessing the goodness of Your inexpressible generosity. For blessed is Your all-holy name, and glorified is Your kingdom, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and for ever and ever. Amen.

9. O Lord our God, You have given us forgiveness through repentance, and as a model of knowledge and confession of sins, You have revealed to us the repentance of the prophet David that led to pardon. Master, have mercy on us who have fallen into so many and so great sins. Have mercy in Your kindness, and in Your compassion blot out our offenses, for against You have we sinned, O Lord, Who know the hidden depths of our hearts, and Who alone have the power to forgive sins. A pure heart You have created for us; You have sustained us with a spirit of fervor and have given us the joy of Your help. Do not cast us away from Your presence, but in Your goodness and love for all, grant that we

may offer a sacrifice of righteousness and oblation on Your holy altar until our last breath. Through the mercies and goodness and love of Your only-begotten Son, with Whom You are blessed, together with Your good and life-creating Spirit, now and for ever and ever. Amen.

10. O God, our God, who have placed all spiritual and intellectual powers under Your will, we pray and beg You, accept these hymns of praise which we offer to You according to our ability together with all Your creatures. Give us in exchange the riches of Your goodness, for before You all beings in the heavens, or on earth and under the earth bend their knees, and everything that lives or that breathes gives praise to Your glory beyond reach, for You are the one true God, full of mercy. For all the heavenly powers praise You, and we give glory to You, to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and for ever and ever. Amen.

11. God of our ancestors, we praise You, we glorify You, we bless You, we thank You, for You have made the shadow of night pass and have shown us again the light of day. We beg You in Your goodness and in Your great mercy, cleanse our sins and hear our prayer, for we take refuge in You, O merciful and all-powerful God. Make the true Sun of Righteousness shine in our hearts, enlighten our minds, and watch over all our senses, that we may live decently like people of the daytime, so that walking in your commandments, we may come to eternal life, and may be made worthy of the enjoyment of Your light beyond reach, for You are the source of life. For You are a God of mercy and kindness and love, and we glorify You, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and for ever and ever. Amen.

*After the recitation of the psalm, the priest returns to the sanctuary and stands before the altar. The deacon leaves the sanctuary, goes in front of the holy doors, and says the litany.*

### **Litany of Peace**

In peace let us pray to the Lord.

*Choir:* Lord, have mercy (*and after each petition*).

For the peace from on high and for the salvation of our souls, let us pray to the Lord.

For peace throughout the whole world, for the well-being of God's holy churches and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

For this holy church and for all who enter it with faith, reverence, and fear of God, let us pray to the Lord.

For our most holy universal Pontiff, *N.*, Pope of Rome, for our most blessed Patriarch, *N.*, our most reverend Metropolitan, *N.*, our God-loving Bishop, *N.*,

the reverend priesthood, the diaconate in Christ, and all the clergy and the people, let us pray to the Lord.

For our nation under God, for our government, and for all the military, let us pray to the Lord.

For this city (*or* For this village, *or* For this holy monastery), for every city and country and for the faithful who live in them, let us pray to the Lord.

For favorable weather, for an abundance of the fruits of the earth, and for peaceful times, let us pray to the Lord.

For the seafarers and travelers, for the sick and the suffering, for those held captive, and for their salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

That we may be delivered from all tribulation, wrath, and misfortune, let us pray to the Lord.

Help us, save us, have mercy and protect us, O God, by Your grace.

Remembering our most holy and immaculate, most blessed and glorious Lady, the Mother of God and ever-virgin Mary, together with all the saints, let us commend ourselves and one another and our whole life to Christ our God.

*Choir:* To You, O Lord.

*Priest:* For all glory, honor, and worship befit You, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and for ever and ever.

*Choir:* Amen.

*The choir sings* God the Lord... (*Ps. 117*) *in the tone of the troparion:*

God the Lord has revealed Himself to us, blessed is He Who comes in the name of the Lord.

*Verse:* Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good; for His love endures forever.

*Verse:* They encircled me, compassed me about; in the Lord's name I crushed them.

*Verse:* I shall not die, I shall live and recount the deeds of the Lord.

*Verse:* The stone which the builders rejected has become the cornerstone. This is the work of the Lord, a marvel in our eyes.

*Then the troparion of Dormition:*

*(Tone 1):* O Mother of God, in giving birth You still preserved virginity;\* and in your falling-asleep you did not forsake the world.\* You are the Mother of Life and have been transferred to life,\* and through your prayers\* have delivered our souls from death.

*After the troparion, the choir sings the polyeleos (Ps. 134-135):*

### *Polyeleos*

Praise the name of the Lord, praise Him, servants of the Lord. Alleluia! (3x)



Who stand in the house of the Lord, in the courts of the house of our God.  
Alleluia! (3x)

Lord, Your name stands forever, unforgotten from age to age. Alleluia! (3x)  
From Zion may the Lord be blessed, He who dwells in Jerusalem. Alleluia! (3x)  
O give thanks to the Lord for He is good, for His love endures forever. Alleluia! (3x)  
Who fixed the earth firmly on the seas, for His love endures forever. Alleluia! (3x)  
He snatched us away from our foes, for His love endures forever. Alleluia! (3x)  
To the God of heaven give thanks, for His love endures forever. Alleluia! (3x)  
*After the Polyeleos, the priest, vested in the phelonion, opens the holy doors, sings the Exaltation, and incenses the altar, sanctuary, icons, the people, and the icon of the feast on the tetrapod.*

We extol you, O all-pure Mother of Christ our God, and we praise your all-glorious dormition.

*Verse:* Shout joyfully to the Lord all the earth; sing praise to His name; give to Him glorious praise!

*Verse:* Glorious things have been said about you, O City of God!

*Verse:* The Most High has sanctified His dwelling place.

*Verse:* Holiness is becoming to Your house, O Lord, unto length of days!

Glory be: Now and for ever:

### **Hosts of Angels**

*Verse before each troparion:* Blessed are You, O Lord, teach me Your commandments. The hosts of angels were amazed and dazzled\* when they beheld You, O Savior,\* among the dead destroying the power of Death,\* raising up Adam with You\* and releasing all the souls from Hades.

The radiant angel standing by the grave\* cried out to the ointment-bearing women:\* Why do you lament and mingle your tears with the spices?\* Look upon the grave and rejoice,\* for the Savior is risen from the dead.

The ointment-bearing women\* hastened very early to Your grave.\* But the angel stood by them and said:\* The time for lamenting is no more.\* Do not cry, but go\* and announce the Resurrection to the disciples.

O Savior, the ointment-bearing women\* came to Your grave with ointments,\* and they heard the angel say to them:\* Why are you seeking the Living One among the dead?\* Indeed, He is God.\* He is risen from the dead.

**Glory be:** We worship the Father and His Son and His Holy Spirit,\* the Holy Trinity, One in essence,\* and we cry out with the seraphim:\* Holy, holy, holy are You, O Lord.

**Now and for ever:** O Virgin, you bore the Giver of Life.\* You redeemed Adam

from his sin\* and granted joy to Eve instead of sadness.\* For He Who is both God and Man was incarnate of you,\* and He has restored life to those\* who had strayed away from it.

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Glory be to You, O God! (3x)

### **Gospel**

*Deacon:* Let us be attentive!

*Priest:* Peace be with all.

*Deacon:* Wisdom! Let us be attentive!

*The choir sings the prokimenon of the feast.*

#### **Prokimenon: Ps 44 (Tone 4)**

I will make your name remembered\* from generation to generation.

*Verse:* Listen, O daughter, give ear to my words!

*Deacon:* Let us pray to the Lord.

*Choir:* Lord, have mercy.

*Priest:* For You are holy, our God, and You dwell in the holy place, and to You we give glory, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and for ever and ever.

*Choir:* Amen.

Let everything that breathes\* give praise to the Lord.

*Verse:* Praise God in His holy place, praise Him in His mighty heavens.

*Deacon:* That we be deemed worthy of hearing the holy Gospel, let us pray to the Lord, our God.

*Choir:* Lord, have mercy. (3x)

*Deacon:* Wisdom! Let us stand and listen to a reading of the holy Gospel.

*Priest:* Peace be with all.

*Choir:* And with your spirit.

*Priest:* A reading of the holy Gospel according to Luke.

*Choir:* Glory be to You, O Lord, glory be to You!

*Deacon:* Let us be attentive!

*Gospel: Lk 1:39-49,56.*

During those days Mary set out and traveled to the hill country in haste to a town of Judah, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the infant leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth, filled with the holy Spirit, cried out in a loud voice and said, "Most blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And how does this happen to me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? For at the moment the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the infant in my womb

leaped for joy. Blessed are you who believed that what was spoken to you by the Lord would be fulfilled.” And Mary said: “My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord; my spirit rejoices in God my savior. For he has looked upon his handmaid's lowliness; behold, from now on will all ages call me blessed. The Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name. Mary remained with her about three months and then returned to her home.

*The priest alone reads the Gospel. After the reading, the priest closes the Gospel Book, kisses it, and places it upon the tetrapod. The choir reads the Hymn of Resurrection.*

### **Hymn of Resurrection**

Having beheld the Resurrection of Christ,\* let us adore the holy Lord Jesus\* Who alone is sinless.\* We bow to Your cross, O Christ,\* and we praise and glorify Your holy Resurrection.\* You are our God\* and besides You we recognize no other,\* and we invoke Your name.\* Come, all you faithful,\* and let us bow to the holy Resurrection of Christ,\* since, through the Cross joy has come to all the world.\* Ever praising the Lord,\* let us extol His Resurrection,\* since He, having endured the Crucifixion,\* has destroyed death by His death.

### *Psalm 50*

Have mercy on me, God, in Your kindness.\* In Your compassion blot out my offense.

O wash me more and more from my guilt\* and cleanse me from my sin.

My offenses truly I know them;\* my sin is always before me.

Against You, You alone, have I sinned;\* what is evil in Your sight I have done. That You may be justified when You give sentence\* and be without reproach when You judge.

O see, in guilt I was born,\* a sinner was I conceived.

Indeed, You love truth in the heart;\* then in the secret of my heart teach me wisdom.

O purify me, then I shall be clean;\* O wash me, I shall be whiter than snow.

Make me hear rejoicing and gladness,\* that the bones You have crushed may thrill. From my sins turn away Your face\* and blot out all my guilt.

A pure heart create for me, O God,\* put a steadfast spirit within me.

Do not cast me away from Your presence,\* nor deprive me of Your holy spirit.

Give me again the joy of Your help,\* with a spirit of fervor sustain me,

That I may teach transgressors Your ways\* and sinners may return to You.

O rescue me, God, my helper,\* and my tongue shall ring out Your goodness.

O Lord, open my lips\* and my mouth shall declare Your praise.

For in sacrifice You take no delight,\* burnt offering from me You would refuse.  
My sacrifice, a contrite spirit.\* A humbled, contrite heart You will not spurn.  
In Your goodness, show favor to Zion:\* rebuild the walls of Jerusalem.  
Then You will be pleased with lawful sacrifice, burnt offerings wholly consumed,\*  
Then You will be offered young bulls on Your altar.

*After Psalm 50, the following sticheras are sung:*

**Glory be: Now and for ever: (Tone 6):** Through the intercession of the holy Mother of God,\* O Merciful One,\* remit our many sins.

*Verse:* Have mercy on me, O God, in Your kindness.\* In Your compassion blot out my offenses.

O tabernacle all-pure,\* when the translation of your body took place,\* the apostles gathered around your bier with fear and trembling.\* They gazed upon you and were filled with awe.\* In tears, Peter cried out to you:\* O Virgin, I see you laid out as one dead,\* yet you gave birth to the Life of the universe.\* I am struck with amazement,\* for in you dwells the One Who shall be our joy in the life beyond.\* O pure Virgin, intercede unceasingly with your Son and God\* to save the Christian people.

*Deacon:* Save Your people, O God, and bless Your inheritance. Visit Your world with Your mercy and generosities.\* Exalt the Christian peoples and send down upon us Your abundant mercy. Through the prayers of the most pure Lady, the Mother of God and ever-virgin Mary; whose feast of Dormition we solemnly celebrate\* by the power of the precious and lifegiving Cross;\* through the protection of the honorable, heavenly incorporeal powers;\* of the honorable and glorious prophet, forerunner and baptizer, John;\* of the holy, glorious, and all-praiseworthy apostles;\* and of our fathers among the saints, the great ecumenical teachers and hierarchs: Basil the Great, Gregory the Theologian, and John Chrysostom; Athanasius and Cyril;\* of our father among the saints, Nicholas, archbishop, wonderworker of Myra in Lycia;\* of the holy Cyril and Methodius, teachers of the Slavs;\* of the holy and equal-to-the-apostles, Great Prince Volodymyr;\* of the holy hieromartyr Josaphat;\* of the holy, glorious and triumphant martyrs;\* of our venerable and God-bearing fathers Anthony and Theodosius of the Monastery of the Caves and other venerable and godly fathers;\* of the holy and righteous ancestors of God, Joachim and Anna;\* and of all the saints;\* we beseech You, O all-merciful Lord, hear us sinners praying to You, and have mercy.

*Choir:* Lord, have mercy (12x).

*Priest:* Through the mercies and goodness and love of Your only-begotten Son, with whom You are blessed, together with Your good and life-giving Spirit,

now and forever and ever.

*Choir:* Amen.

#### *Anointing with Oil*

*The priest with cross in hand, and the deacon with the oil blessed at litiya and the brush, stand at the right of the tetrapod. The priest anoints, in the form of a cross, the foreheads of the faithful, who come up to kiss the Gospel Book. After the completion of the anointing, they return to the sanctuary, and having closed the holy doors, the priest takes off the phelonion.*

#### **Canon - Ode 9**

*Deacon:* Let us greatly extol the Theotokos and the Mother of Light in Hymns.

*The choir sings the following hirmos with the verse:*

*Verse:* Seeing the dormition of the most pure One, the angels were filled with awe at how the Virgin went from earth to heaven.

*Hirmos (Tone 1):* In you, O pure Virgin, the laws of nature were overcome: in giving birth you remained a virgin, and in your death, heralded life. You remained a virgin after giving birth and remained alive after death, always saving your descendants, O Mother of God.

*Verse:* O Most Holy Mother of God, save us!

The heavenly choirs were astonished as they beheld their Master in Zion holding the soul of a woman in his hands. As a Son, it was fitting that He spoke to her who had given birth to Him without stain and said: Come and share the glory of your Son and God.

*Verse:* O Most Holy Mother of God, save us!

The assembly of apostles gathered around your body which had contained God. Beholding it with awe, they cried out with a clear voice: Save your people as you pass over to the heavenly mansions of your Son.

**Glory be: Now and for ever:** Accept from us, O Mother of the living God, our farewell hymn and encompass the Church with your light-bearing divine grace, and bestow upon your Christ-loving people peace, and upon us, who extol you, forgiveness and the salvation of our souls.

*Verse:* O my soul, extol the holy transference of the Mother of God from earth to heaven.

**Katabasia - Hirmos (Tone 4):** Let everyone on earth dance for joy in spirit. Let the heavenly ranks celebrate in honor of the sacred feast. O Mother of God, let them cry: Rejoice, ever-blessed Theotokos and ever-Virgin.

**Exapostilarion:** O holy apostles of Christ, gathered here from the ends of the universe, carry my body to the garden of Gethsemane and place it in the tomb. And You, my Son and my God, receive my breath and my spirit.

### *Sticheras at the Praises*

O praise Him with resounding cymbals praise Him with clashing of cymbals.\* Let everything that lives and that breathes give praise to the Lord.

*(Tone 4, Podoben - Jako dobl'a):* The heavens rejoice\* in your glorious dormition,\* and the angelic hosts are filled with joy;\* all the universe is exalting\* as they sing hymns of farewell to you,\* O Mother of the Master of the universe,\* O all-holy Virgin who did not know wedlock.\* You have delivered the human race\* from the condemnation of old.

**Glory be: Now and for ever:** *(Tone 6):* For your holy dormition,\* O Mother of God and Mother of Life,\* the clouds carried the apostles through the air.\* Those who had been scattered throughout the world\* were brought together in a single choir;\* and, burying your most pure body with respect,\* they sang the words of Gabriel:\* Rejoice, O Full of Grace, O unwedded Virgin;\* the Lord is with you!\* Intercede with your Son and our God to save our souls.

*Having opened the holy doors; the deacon stands at the right of the priest, who, vested in the phelonion, intones:*

Glory to You Who have shown us the light!

#### **The Great Doxology**

Glory to God in the highest,\* and to His people on earth, peace and good will. Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father,\* with the Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, and the Holy Spirit.

We praise You, we bless You, we worship You,\* we glorify You, we thank You for Your great glory.

Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,\* You take away the sin of the world, have mercy on us.

You take away the sins of the world,\* hear our prayer.

You are seated at the right hand of the Father,\* have mercy on us.

For You alone are holy, You alone are the Lord, Jesus Christ,\* for the glory of God the Father. Amen.

I will bless You day after day,\* and praise Your name forever.

Count us worthy, O Lord,\* of passing this day without sin.

Blessed are You, O Lord, God of our Fathers,\* and praised and glorified is Your name forever. Amen.

Let Your mercy, O Lord, be upon us\* because we have set our hope in You.

Blessed are You, O Lord,\* teach me Your commandments.

Blessed are You, O Master,\* make me understand Your commandments.

Blessed are You, O Holy One,\* enlighten me with Your laws.

O Lord, You have been our refuge\* from one generation to the next.

I said: Lord, have mercy on me,\* heal my soul, for I have sinned against You.  
O Lord, I have fled to You, teach me to do Your will,\* for You, O Lord, are my God.  
In You is the source of life\* and in Your light we see light.

Keep on loving those\* who know You.

Holy God, Holy and Mighty, Holy and Immortal, have mercy on us. (3x)

**Glory be: Now and for ever:** Holy and Immortal, have mercy on us.

Holy God, Holy and Mighty, Holy and Immortal, have mercy on us.

*The troparion of Dormition:*

*(Tone 1):* O Mother of God, in giving birth You still preserved virginity;\* and in your falling-asleep you did not forsake the world.\* You are the Mother of Life and have been transferred to life,\* and through your prayers\* have delivered our souls from death.

*As the troparion is being sung, the priest, together with the deacon who precedes him, takes the Gospel Book from the tetrapod into the sanctuary, and places it on the altar.*

*Then the deacon says the litany:*

Let us complete our morning prayer to the Lord.

*Choir:* Lord, have mercy.

Help us, save us, have mercy and protect us, O God, by Your grace.

*Choir:* Lord, have mercy.

That this whole day may be perfect, holy, peaceful, and sinless, let us ask the Lord.

*Choir:* Grant this, O Lord *(after each petition).*

For an angel of peace, a faithful guide, a guardian of our souls and bodies, let us ask the Lord.

For the forgiveness and remission of our sins and offenses, let us ask the Lord.

For all that is good and beneficial for our souls, and for peace for the world, let us ask the Lord.

That we may spend the rest of our life in peace and repentance, let us ask the Lord.

For a Christian end to our life, one that is painless, unashamed, and peaceful; and for a good defense at the awesome tribunal of Christ, let us ask the Lord.

Remembering our most holy and immaculate, most blessed and glorious Lady, the Mother of God and ever-virgin Mary, together with all the saints, let us commend ourselves and one another and our whole life, to Christ our God.

*Choir:* To You, O Lord.

*Priest:* For You are a merciful, gracious and loving God, and we give glory to You, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and for ever and ever.

*Choir:* Amen.

*Priest:* Peace be with all.

*Choir:* And with Your spirit.

*Deacon:* Bow your heads to the Lord.

*Choir:* To You, O Lord.

*Priest (quietly):* Holy Lord, You live on high and yet stoop to look down upon the earth, and with your divine eyes You see all creatures. Before You we bow down in spirit and body, and we pray You, O Holy of Holies, stretch forth Your invisible hand from Your holy dwelling and bless us. If we have sinned in any way, either deliberately or through human frailty, forgive us, for You are good; You give us earthly and heavenly blessings, and You alone love all.

*Exclamation:* For it is You alone Who have mercy and save us, and we glorify You, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and for ever and ever.

*Choir:* Amen

### **The Great Dismissal**

*Deacon:* Wisdom!

*Choir:* Give the blessing.

*Priest:* Blessed be Christ our God, always, now and for ever and ever.

*Choir:* Amen. O God, strengthen the holy catholic faith, for ever and ever.

*Priest:* O most holy Mother of God, save us.

*Choir:* More honorable than the cherubim and by far more glorious than the seraphim; ever a virgin, you gave birth to God the Word, O true Mother of God, we magnify you.

*Priest:* Glory be to You, O Christ our God, our hope, glory be to You.

*Choir:* Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and for ever and ever. Amen. Lord, have mercy (3x). Give the blessing.

*Priest:* Christ our true God, risen from the dead, through the prayers of His immaculate Mother, whose feast of Dormition we solemnly celebrate today; the holy, glorious, and all-praiseworthy apostles; and of all the saints, will have mercy and save us, for He is good and loves mankind.

*Choir:* Amen.



## LAMENTATIONS AT THE BIER OF THE MOTHER OF GOD

(on Saturday evening after Vespers)

*A table is placed before the Holy Shroud, and on it is placed the Gospel Book between two candles. Before this table, the priest, along with the concelebrating clergy, celebrates the service. Having incensed the Shroud and the people, the deacon begins:*

*Deacon:* Master, give the blessing.

*Priest:* Blessed be our God, always, now and for ever and ever.

*Choir:* Amen. *Holy God; Trinity most holy; Our Father; and the troparion of Dormition:*

*(Tone 1):* O Mother of God, in giving birth you still preserved virginity;\* and in your falling-asleep you did not forsake the world.\* You are the Mother of Life and have been transferred to life,\* and through your prayers\* have delivered our souls from death.

### First Station

*(Jerusalem Matins melody)*

1. In a grave they laid You, / O my Life and my Christ, / and now also the Mother of Life, / a strange sight both to angels and men.

*Verse:* Happy those whose way is blameless, who walk by the teaching of the Lord.

2. We magnify you, / O pure Theotokos, / and we honor your holy Dormition / as we bow before your venerable tomb.

*Verse:* Happy those who observe God's decrees, who seek the Lord with all their heart.

3. How, O Mary, can you die, / you who are the life of the faithful / and how can a tomb contain your body / which contained the One Who cannot be contained.

*Verse:* They do no wrong; they walk in God's ways.

4. Queen who gave birth to God, / the King of heaven, / you are now royally translated, O Pure One / to the kingdom of heaven.

*Verse:* You have given them the command to keep your precepts with care.

5. From the earth you were translated, / but you did not forsake the earth. / Now, all holy Theotokos, / liberate the whole world from the princes of this world.

*Verse:* May my ways be firm in the observance of your laws!

6. Gabriel was sent from God / to announce to you the good news / of your imminent departure from this life, / O pure and spotless heavenly Lady.

*Verse:* Then I will not be ashamed to ponder all your commands.

7. Receive, O Mother, / from your children our love / and these hymns and odes to bid you farewell / which we offer from the depth of our souls.

*Verse:* I will praise you with a sincere heart as I study your just edicts.

**8.** Do not leave us orphaned, O Mother, / as you go from earth to heaven / where you will be reunited / with your Son and your God.

*Verse:* I will keep your laws; do not leave me all alone.

**9.** Come with us, O Anna, / come and stand with us now, / lead us in the festive praises of Mary, / your own daughter, the Mother of God.

*Verse:* How can the young walk without fault? Only by keeping your words.

**10.** The God of glory, / your Son, O Pure One, / now admits you as His Mother with glory, / and enthrones you at His right hand.

*Verse:* With all my heart I seek you; do not let me stray from your commands.

**11.** The holy Apostles, / O pure Theotokos, / when they saw your all holy body / fell before it weeping reverently.

*Verse:* In my heart I treasure your promise, that I may not sin against you.

**12.** The gate enters the gate / and heaven enters heaven, / O ineffable and wondrous mystery! / Now the throne draws near to the throne of God.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

Word of God, we hymn You, / You are God of all things, / praised with Your Father and Your Most Holy Spirit, / and we glorify Your divine nature.

Now and for ever and ever. Amen.

Every generation / blesses you, O Theotokos, / ever-virgin and sovereign Lady, / and we glorify your Dormition.

*The deacon incenses the Shroud and the people, and then intones the Small Litany:*

Again and again in peace let us pray to the Lord.

*Choir:* Lord, have mercy.

Help and save, have mercy and protect us, O God, by Your grace.

*Choir:* Lord, have mercy.

Remembering our most holy and immaculate, most blessed and glorious Lady, the Mother of God and ever-virgin Mary, together with all the saints, let us commend ourselves and one another and our whole life to Christ our God.

*Choir:* To You, O Lord.

*Priest:* For blessed is Your name and glorified is Your kingdom, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, now and for ever and ever.

*Choir:* Amen.

### Second Station

**1.** Right it is indeed, / life-bestowing Lord, to magnify You / Who have glorified Your Mother / at the time of her life-bearing repose.

*Verse:* Your hands made me and fashioned me; give me insight to learn your commands.

2. Right it is indeed / to magnify you, O Theotokos, / for your divine and blameless soul / is entrusted to the hands of God.

*Verse:* Those who fear you rejoice to see me, because I hope in your word.

3. Shudder, O you heavens! / and, O earth, give ear to these words: / God descended once before for our sake, / He descends again today for His Mother.

*Verse:* I know, Lord, that your edicts are just; though you afflict me, you are faithful.

4. Though heaven receives / your undefiled body, O Lady, / yet grace has been poured out, / covering the face of the whole earth.

*Verse:* May your love comfort me in accord with your promise to your servant.

5. Now Joachim rejoices / seeing the great glory of his only child / who indeed bore a divine Child / truly inexplicable and inspired!

*Verse:* Show me compassion that I may live, for your teaching is my delight.

6. Gethsemane is blessed / for it gained your virginal and blessed tomb; / it has been greatly honored / as the royal bridal chamber.

*Verse:* Show me compassion that I may live, for your teaching is my delight.

7. Angels reverently attend / to your most pure sepulchre, O Pure One, / and a light from it shines forth, / a place lighted by the light of God.

*Verse:* Shame the proud for oppressing me unjustly, that I may study your precepts.

8. You left your pure cincture / and entrusted it to holy Thomas / as a witness of your translation / from the earth to God above.

*Verse:* Let those who fear you turn to me, those who acknowledge your decrees.

9. Mighty kings of the earth / and the wealthy among all earth's peoples / pray to you, O all holy Virgin / as a daughter of the King of heaven.

*Verse:* May I be wholehearted toward your laws, that I may not be put to shame.

10. The glorious city of the Lord / about which they spoke so gloriously / was translated from earth to heaven / and was led into the house of God.

*Verse:* My soul longs for your salvation; I put my hope in your word.

11. Mary, the only high Queen / of heaven above and of earth here below, / lead into your kingdom / those who glorify your holy Dormition.

*Verse:* My eyes long to see your promise. When will you comfort me?

12. Holy and ever-virgin Lady, / Mary, Theotokos, Queen and Mother, / take now your rest and sleep and rule / for ever and ever with God.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

O eternal God, / Word co-eternal and Spirit, / make firm the faith of the true-believers / against heresy and error, O Good One.

Now and for ever and ever. Amen.

Grant true life to the faithful, / O all-blameless and pure holy Virgin, / you who gave birth to Life itself / and who have now departed to Life.

*The deacon incenses the Shroud and the people, and then intones the Small Litany:*  
Again and again in peace let us pray to the Lord.

*Choir:* Lord, have mercy.

Help and save, have mercy and protect us, O God, by Your grace.

*Choir:* Lord, have mercy.

Remembering our most holy and immaculate, most blessed and glorious Lady, the Mother of God and ever-virgin Mary, together with all the saints, let us commend ourselves and one another and our whole life to Christ our God.

*Choir:* To You, O Lord.

*Priest:* For You are holy, O our God, and You sit upon the throne of the cherubim; and we give glory to You, together with Your eternal Father and Your all holy, good and life-giving Spirit, now and for ever and ever.

*Choir:* Amen.

### Third Station

1. Every generation / comes to your grave / bringing its dirge of praises, O Virgin.

*Verse:* Turn to me and be gracious, your edict for those who love your name.

2. All of creation / comes to the grave / bringing a farewell hymn to our Lady.

*Verse:* Steady my feet in accord with your promise; do not let iniquity lead me astray.

3. Christ's holy disciples, / tend to the body / of Mary, Mother of my God.

*Verse:* Free me from human oppression, that I may keep your precepts.

4. Orders of angels / and archangels / invisibly hymn her presence.

*Verse:* Let your face shine upon your servant; teach me your laws.

5. Pious women / with the Apostles / now give voice to their lamentations.

*Verse:* My eyes shed streams of tears because your teaching is not followed.

6. She who was at Cana / at the marriage / has been called with the Apostles.

*Verse:* You are righteous, Lord, and just are your edicts.

7. The Master descends / to Gethsemane / with countless hosts of heaven.

*Verse:* You have issued your decrees in justice and in surpassing faithfulness.

8. The choir of the disciples / seeing the Lord descend / in glory, greatly rejoices.

*Verse:* I am consumed with rage, because my foes forget Your words.

9. Let the earth leap for joy / as it beholds / our God descend from heaven.

*Verse:* Your servant loves your promise; it has been proved by fire.

10. Let us go out quickly / meeting the Lord Jesus / Who comes once more among us.

*Verse:* Though belittled and despised, I do not forget your precepts.

11. Let us be attentive, / God now speaks / with His most pure Mother.

*Verse:* Your justice is forever right, your teaching forever true.

12. Most sweet Mother, / come and rejoice with / your own most sweet Child, Jesus.

*Verse:* Though distress and anguish come upon me, your commands are my delight.

13. Behold, now your Son / comes to bring you / into His home in heaven.

*Verse:* Your decrees are forever just; give me discernment that I may live.

14. Come, My most lovely one, / and enjoy the beauty / of your own Son, your Maker.

*Verse:* I call with all my heart, O Lord; answer me that I may observe your laws.

15. Come indeed, My Mother, / come into divine joy / and enter into the kingdom.

*Verse:* I call to you to save me that I may keep your decrees.

16. What shall I bring You, / O my Son, the God-Man, / the Maiden cried to the Master.

*Verse:* I rise before dawn and cry out; I put my hope in your words.

17. What shall I bring You, / O my God in heaven, / but my soul and body.

*Verse:* My eyes greet the night watches as I meditate on your promise.

18. The Father I glorify, / to the Son I sing a hymn, / the Holy Spirit I worship.

*Verse:* Hear my voice in your love, O Lord; by your edict give me life.

19. Adam and Eve came out / to behold the glory / of their own Virgin offspring.

*Verse:* You are near, O Lord; reliable are all your commands.

20. Blessed be the parents / Joachim and Anna / who bore a daughter for the world.

*Verse:* I long for your salvation, Lord; your teaching is my delight.

21. Grant to your Church peace, / to your flock salvation / through your most holy Dormition.

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

O You Triune Godhead, / Father, Son and Spirit, / have mercy upon Your world.

Now and for ever and ever. Amen.

Make your servants worthy, / O most holy Virgin / to see your Son's kingdom.

*Deacon:* Wisdom!

*Choir:* More honorable than the cherubim and by far more glorious than the seraphim; ever a virgin, you gave birth to God the Word, O true Mother of God, we magnify you.

*Priest:* Glory be to You, O Christ our God, our hope, glory be to You.

*Choir:* Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and for ever and ever. Amen. Lord, have mercy (3x). Give the blessing.

*Priest:* Christ our true God, through the prayers of His immaculate Mother, whose feast of Dormition we solemnly celebrate today; the holy, glorious, and all-praiseworthy Apostles; and of all the saints, will have mercy and save us, for He is good and loves mankind.

*Choir:* Amen.

## Moleben to the Mother of God

*Deacon:* Master, give the blessing.

*Priest:* Blessed be our God, always, now and for ever and ever.

*Choir:* Amen. *Holy God; Trinity most holy; Our Father; and the troparion:*

*Troparion (Tone 4):* Let us, who are sinful and poor, come earnestly to the Mother of God, and let us prostrate ourselves before her in repentance crying out from the bottom of our hearts, “Lady, through your compassion help us, hasten to our aid, for we are perishing from the multitude of our sins; do not turn down your useless servants, for you are our only Protectress.

Glory be: Now and forever:

O Mother of God, although unworthy, we shall never cease to proclaim your power. Should you no longer intercede for us with your prayers, who would ever have delivered us from so numerous afflictions? Who would ever have preserved us free from them until this very day? Wherefore, O Lady, we shall never abandon you; O Blessed One, you always save your servants from all misfortunes.

*Deacon:* Let us be attentive!

*Priest:* Peace be with all.

*Deacon:* Wisdom! Let us be attentive!

*Prokimenon (Tone 4):* I shall remember your name throughout all generations.

*Verse:* Hearken, O daughter, and see, and incline your ear.

*Deacon:* Let us pray to the Lord.

*Choir:* Lord, have mercy.

*Priest:* For you are holy, our God, and you dwell in the holy place, and to you we give glory, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and for ever and ever.

*Choir:* Amen. *Then immediately according to the tone of the prokimenon:*

Let everything that breathes give praise to the Lord.

*Verse 1:* Praise God in his holy place.

*Verse 2:* Praise him in his mighty heavens.

*Deacon:* That we be deemed worthy of hearing the holy Gospel, let us pray to the Lord, our God.

*Choir:* Lord, have mercy (3)

*Deacon:* Wisdom! Stand aright! Let us listen to the holy Gospel.

*Priest:* Peace be with all.

*Choir:* And with your spirit.

*Priest:* A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke (1:39-49,56).

*Choir:* Glory be to you, O Lord, glory be to you.

*Deacon:* Let us be attentive!

*The priest himself reads the Gospel*

During those days Mary set out and traveled to the hill country in haste to a town of Judah, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the infant leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth, filled with the Holy Spirit, cried out in a loud voice and said, "Most blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And how does this happen to me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? For at the moment the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the infant in my womb leaped for joy. Blessed are you who believed that what was spoken to you by the Lord would be fulfilled.

And Mary said: "My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord; my spirit rejoices in God my savior. For he has looked upon his handmaid's lowliness; behold, from now on will all ages call me blessed. The Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name."

Mary remained with her about three months and then returned to her home.

*Choir:* Glory be to you, O Lord, glory be to you.

*Petitions*

Rejoice, O Most Holy Virgin Mary, ever-merciful Mother of God, and save all those who hope in you.

*Choir:* O Most Holy Mother of God, save us.

Rejoice, O Mother of Christ, our God, and save all those who hope in you.

Rejoice, O Mother of Eternal Love, and save all those who hope in you.

Rejoice, O Mother of God's grace, and save all those who hope in you.

Rejoice, O Virgin immaculately conceived, and save all those who hope in you.

Rejoice, O Virgin more radiant than the Cherubim, and save all those who hope in you.

Rejoice, O Virgin more glorious than the Seraphim, and save all those who hope in you.

Rejoice Mary, spotless Dove, and save all those who hope in you.

Rejoice Mary, fragrant Flower of innocence, and save all those who hope in you.

Rejoice Mary, benevolent Protectress of virgins, and save all those who hope in you.

Rejoice Mary, Protectress of the world, greater than the skies, and save all those who hope in you.

Rejoice Mary, intercessor with the Just Judge, and save all those who hope in you.

Rejoice, O Mary, consolation of the weeping, and save all those who hope in you.

Rejoice, O Mary, refuge of sinners, and save all those who hope in you.  
Rejoice, O Mary, mediatrix who did not forsake us upon the Assumption, and save all those who hope in you.  
Rejoice, O Mary, who alone are chaste and blessed, and save all those who hope in you.

### *Sticheras to the Mother of God*

*(Tone 2):* O Good One, you pray for all\* who with faith come to your powerful protection.\* O Mother of God, we guilty ones, burdened with numerous sins,\* in miseries and afflictions, have no other way of getting rid of them but through you.\* Hence we prostrate ourselves before you, crying out,\* “Save your servants from all calamities.”

*Verse:* I shall remember your name throughout all generations.

O Joy of all afflicted, and Patroness of all oppressed,\* Sustainer of the hungry and Consolation of wayfarers,\* Haven of the storm-tossed, Visitor of the sick,\* Protectress and Intercessor of the weak,\* Support of the aged, O Mother of God,\* you who are most pure, hasten, we pray you, to save your servants.

*Verse:* Harken, O daughter, and see, and incline your ear.

Rejoice, O Most pure Virgin.\* Rejoice, O honorable Scepter of Christ the King.\* Rejoice you, who have produced the Mystical Vine.\* Rejoice, O Gate of heaven and unburnable Bush.\* Rejoice, O Joy of all.\* Rejoice, O Salvation of the faithful.\* Rejoice, O Intercessor of all Christians and royal Refuge.

*(Tone 8):* Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and forever and ever. Amen.

Rejoice, O Glory of the universe.\* Rejoice, O Temple of the Lord.\* Rejoice, O Mountain overshadowed.\* Rejoice, O Refuge of all.\* Rejoice, O Golden Candelabrum.\* Rejoice, O Honorable Glory of Orthodox Christians.\* Rejoice, O Mary, Mother of Christ God.\* Rejoice, O Paradise.\* Rejoice, O Divine Altar.\* Rejoice, O Cloud.\* Rejoice, O Golden Urn.\* Rejoice, O Hope of all.

### *Litany*

*Deacon:* Have mercy on us, O God, in the greatness of Your compassion, we pray You, hear us and have mercy.

*Choir:* Lord, have mercy (3)

*Deacon:* We pray the Lord of the Harvest to call numerous workers to preach the Gospel of Christ, O Lord, hear us and have mercy.



*Choir:* Lord, have mercy (3)

*Priest:* Hear us, O God, our Savior, hope of all the ends of the earth and those far away at sea, land and air. In Your graciousness be merciful to us sinners, O Master. For You are a merciful God and You love humankind, and we glorify You, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and for ever and ever.

*Choir:* Amen.

*Deacon:* With our heads bowed in humility, let us pray to the Lord.

*Choir:* Lord, have mercy.

### *Prayer*

O my ever-gracious Queen, O Mother of God, my hope, refuge of orphans, defence of the harborless, joy of the afflicted, patroness of the harassed, you see my misery and my afflictions, help me because I am weak, lead me because I am a stranger in this valley of tears, for you know my misery. O help me to overcome it. For we have no other helper but you. We have no other defender, no other gracious consoler but you. O Mother of God, guard and protect me forever.

*Choir:* Amen.

*Deacon:* Wisdom.

*Choir:* More honorable than the cherubim and by far more glorious than the seraphim; ever a virgin, you gave birth to God the Word; O true Mother of God, we magnify you.

*Priest:* Glory be to you, O Christ our God, our hope, glory be to you.

*Choir:* Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and for ever and ever. Amen. Lord, have mercy. (3) Give the blessing.

*Priest:* Christ our true God, through the prayers of His immaculate Mother, and all the saints, will have mercy and save us, for He is good and loves mankind.

*Choir:* Amen.

## **Acathist for Dormition of the Mother of God**

*Deacon:* Master, give the blessing.

*Priest:* Blessed be our God, always, now and for ever and ever.

*Choir:* Amen. *Usual beginning.*

### **Kontakion 1**

We, the least of the Lord's servants, sing this victorious song to the invincible Lady on behalf of her Dormition. You, who have a sea of grace save us from every evil, for we cry out:

Rejoice, O Full of Grace, for you did not abandon us in your Dormition.

### **Ikos 1**

An angel, bearer of the good news, was sent to the Godbearer, the most pure Virgin, in order to announce the Lord's great mercy, that earthly burdens have ended, the joyful, long-awaited moment appeared, and the heavens are finally open; so he cried out, saying:

Rejoice, glorious Mother of life eternal,  
Rejoice, pure ever-Virgin, Queen of heaven,  
Rejoice, glorified Glory of the chosen,  
Rejoice, unyielding Throne of the Almighty,

Rejoice, for the moment of grace has begun,  
Rejoice, for time long-awaited has come,  
Rejoice, for the gates of heaven are open,  
Rejoice, everything is ready for your welcome,

Rejoice, for the choirs of heaven are waiting,  
Rejoice, for the Son makes haste to meet His Mother,  
Rejoice, O Full of Grace, the Lord is with you,  
Rejoice, O invincible, you will not be shaken.

Rejoice, O Full of Grace, for you did not abandon us in your Dormition.

### **Kontakion 2**

Seeing before her the brilliant angel of God, who brought her the most joyful news from her Son and Lord, the Immaculate One with gratitude cried out to the One born of her, Alleluia!

### **Ikos 2**

Amazed at the unfathomable mystery of your Dormition, O ever-Virgin, we glorify God's providence and wisdom of the Creator. And to you, Godbearer, we cry out:

Rejoice, O immaculate Mother of God eternal,  
Rejoice, illumined by divine mysteries,  
Rejoice, O pure Godbearer,  
Rejoice, for wondrous are your mysteries,

Rejoice for today the earth is clothed in majesty,  
Rejoice, for today the gates of heaven are lifted,  
Rejoice, Queen of the universe, ascending to your Son,  
Rejoice, O Pure One, exalted above the heavens,

Rejoice, holy Dwelling of unity without confusion,  
Rejoice, for you take abode today in the heavenly mansion,  
Rejoice, most quiet Rest of the Almighty,  
Rejoice, for you enter today into the rest of your Son and Lord,

Rejoice, O Full of Grace, for you did not abandon us in your Dormition.

### **Kontakion 3**

Through the power of the Almighty, the Apostles of Christ God congregated from all places for your glorious Dormition. Seeing your passage, O Mother of Life, to life eternal, they cried out to the Lord, Alleluia!

### **Ikos 3**

Thomas was late for your Dormition, O Full of Grace, that he might be a sure witness of the transfer of your holy body to heaven, O Godbearer. Coming to your tomb, he saw only your garment, and in exaltation he cried out:

Rejoice, Mother of the never-setting Sun,  
Rejoice, for in your Dormition life is strengthened,  
Rejoice, for the laws of nature are overcome in you,  
Rejoice, for your tomb is the ladder to heaven,

Rejoice, for with you we are raised to the heights,  
Rejoice for through you the world is shown mercy,  
Rejoice, for the earth is adorned with your glory,  
Rejoice, for your immortal Dormition is praised in heaven,

Rejoice, Salvation of the world granted by the Almighty,  
Rejoice, most beautiful Rose of Gethsemane,  
Rejoice, for angelic choirs escort you to heaven,  
Rejoice, O ever-Virgin, Queen of heaven,  
Rejoice, O Full of Grace, for you did not abandon us in your Dormition.

#### **Kontakion 4**

In a storm of passion, the godless Afton willed to desecrate your most pure body, but immediately he was blinded, miraculously his sacrilegious hands were cut off. After he repented, he was healed and professed you Mother of God, crying out to the Lord, Alleluia!

#### **Ikos 4**

Having heard the hymn of praise sung by angelic choirs at your burial, O Full of Grace, the most praiseworthy Apostles were astonished by this marvel, crying out:

Rejoice, O glorious most holy Lady,  
Rejoice, for your marvelous Dormition is the joy of angels,  
Rejoice, for thrones and principalities extol your Dormition,  
Rejoice, for cherubim and seraphim praise your transfer,  
Rejoice, for dominions and powers marvel at your passage,  
Rejoice, for the powers of heaven are amazed by your passover,  
Rejoice, for today you enter an eternal dwelling,  
Rejoice, for today you pass into heavenly joy,  
Rejoice, for your Son in His embrace caresses your pure soul,  
Rejoice, for life triumphs in your Dormition,  
Rejoice O most pure, glorified with your Son and God,  
Rejoice, for your immortal Dormition is the hope of all humanity,  
Rejoice, O Full of Grace, for you did not abandon us in your Dormition.

#### **Kontakion 5**

Your most glorious Dormition, O Godbearing Virgin, shines like a divine, guiding star for us, for we clearly see in it death conquered, and life eternal blossoming in you, O Full of Grace. With gratitude we cry out to your Son, Alleluia!

### **Ikos 5**

When we behold your wondrous Dormition, O glorious Mother of God, again and again we render glory to God. And to you, O Lady, we cry out:

Rejoice, O most pure Mother of the Father's fondness,

Rejoice, O brilliant Mirror of Light impregnable,

Rejoice, O holy Tabernacle of Life eternal,

Rejoice, O marvelous Salvation of the faithful,

Rejoice, majestic Mystery of God's Providence,

Rejoice, for in you, the mystery met with mystery,

Rejoice, for you bore a Child without seed,

Rejoice, for in your Dormition death did not bring corruption,

Rejoice, Change of the Almighty's power,

Rejoice, for the earth was illumined by your giving birth,

Rejoice, for with your passage, everything is made holy,

Rejoice, for with you, the universe rejoices,

Rejoice, O Full of Grace, for you did not abandon us in your Dormition.

### **Kontakion 6**

The prophecies have all been fulfilled through you, most blessed Lady, for you bore Christ the Lord, the Lover of mankind, Salvation of the human race. For this great mercy with deep gratitude we sing to God, Alleluia!

### **Ikos 6**

The most bright light of Christ illumined the universe. It shone forth from your most pure womb, O Godbearer. We praise the Creator unceasingly because of you, O our Joy, and to you we cry out:

Rejoice, O gracious Mother of the Light that never sets,

Rejoice, O blessed Womb, receptacle of the Christ God,

Rejoice, O Tabernacle of the Lord's Holy place,

Rejoice, Ark overshadowed by the wings of the cherubim,

Rejoice, O Mother of the Light of eternal Glory,

Rejoice, O royal Throne, established forever,

Rejoice, wonderfully praised in psalms,

Rejoice, glorified marvelously in songs,

Rejoice, for today the earth sings a farewell song to you,

Rejoice, for today the heavens sing a song for your ascension,  
Rejoice, O holy Dwelling of the Almighty,  
Rejoice, for in the arms of Christ you were brought to the heavenly mansion,  
Rejoice, O Full of Grace, for you did not abandon us in your Dormition.

#### **Kontakion 7**

Having a safe refuge in you, O most holy Protectress, we thank the Creator for you, O Immaculate One, singing Alleluia!

#### **Ikos 7**

The Creator showed us a new, marvelous creation, taking humanity from you, O Immaculate One. A new miracle was revealed in your glorious Dormition, O Lady. We solemnly observe your magnificent feast, and cry out:

Rejoice, most blessed Godbearer, Virgin pure,  
Rejoice, more glorious than the seraphim and cherubim,  
Rejoice, O most glorious Glory of the chosen,  
Rejoice, highest Glory of virginity,

Rejoice, Treasury of joy of Life eternal,  
Rejoice, Gladness of angelic choirs,  
Rejoice, Fulfillment of God's plan,  
Rejoice, Renewal of the sinful world,

Rejoice, our powerful Intercestress,  
Rejoice, you who pray for our souls,  
Rejoice, for with our hearts and lips we sing to you,  
Rejoice, for we glorify your most glorious Dormition,

Rejoice, O Full of Grace, for you did not abandon us in your Dormition.

#### **Kontakion 8**

Observing the wondrous Dormition of the most pure Mother of God, let us flee the world and direct our thoughts to heaven, for the Lady ever-Virgin implores there her Son on our behalf, singing Alleluia!

#### **Ikos 8**

You entered heaven yet did not abandon us, O Most Holy One. You always rescue us from distress and misfortune, for no one ever heard that you did not

come to the aid of all those who cry out:

Rejoice, Queen all immaculate,  
Rejoice, only Hope of sinners,  
Rejoice, Joy of our souls,  
Rejoice, Liberation from trouble and anxiety,

Rejoice, Redemption from sinful captivity,  
Rejoice, Deification of mortal men,  
Rejoice, our Refuge and Defense,  
Rejoice, our powerful Protection,

Rejoice, O Portal through which we enter heaven,  
Rejoice, our Reconciliation with God,  
Rejoice, Forgiveness of human sins,  
Rejoice, Depth of God's mercy,

Rejoice, O Full of Grace, for you did not abandon us in your Dormition.

### **Kontakion 9**

All angelic choirs sing a triumphal hymn extoling your glorious Dormition, O Mother of God. We join them with admiration, crying out to the Lord, Alleluia!

### **Ikos 9**

Even the best of speakers become as mute as fish, for they cannot fathom the wondrous mystery of your Dormition, O ever-Virgin. Observing, O Godbearer, your triumphal passage to life eternal, with faith we cry out:

Rejoice, Mother of Life and dwelling place of wisdom,  
Rejoice, Gladness of heavenly hosts,  
Rejoice, Queen of all, for you carried the King of kings,  
Rejoice, brought by the hands of Christ to heaven.

Rejoice, Rod of Aaron that blossoms without wilting,  
Rejoice, O marvelous Vine that fruits life,  
Rejoice, pure Lily that never wilts,  
Rejoice, untilled Field bringing forth golden kernels,

Rejoice, O Beauty of the heavenly Sion,  
Rejoice, Virgin most pure, clothed with the Sun,  
Rejoice, Mother of the Almighty, crowned with stars,

Rejoice, marvelously decorated with God's glory,  
Rejoice, O Full of Grace, for you did not abandon us in your Dormition.

### **Kontakion 10**

To bring salvation to the world, the Orient from on high came through you, O heavenly Ladder, and took on humanity and raised humanity to heaven. Therefore, gloriously celebrating your Dormition, O Godbearer, we sing to Christ, Alleluia!

### **Ikos 10**

You are our Protection, Wall impregnable, Protection of the people, God's Gift to us, O Godbearer Virgin. Under your patronage, to your mercy we come and cry out:

Rejoice, luminous Protection, given to us by God,  
Rejoice, glorious City of the Great King,  
Rejoice, unapproachable, immovable Wall,  
Rejoice, Protectress of sinful people,

Rejoice, our Refuge in trials and weaknesses,  
Rejoice, our Prayer brought forth to God,  
Rejoice, only Hope of those in despair,  
Rejoice, Annunciation of universal joy,

Rejoice, for your Dormition is hailed by angels,  
Rejoice, for humanity praises your most holy Dormition,  
Rejoice, faithfully with joy we cry out to you,  
Rejoice, we beg your refuge and protection,

Rejoice, O Full of Grace, for you did not abandon us in your Dormition.

### **Kontakion 11**

The most beautiful song cannot describe your Dormition, O ever-Virgin, in it the mystery of God is hidden from us and cannot be measured. Amazed by God's wisdom, which is manifested in you, we sing to the Lord, Alleluia!

### **Ikos 11**

The feast of your Dormition shines before us as a luminous lamp, O glorious



Mother. The earth rejoices being united in joy with the heavens, and we cry out:

Rejoice, shining Temple of God's wisdom,  
Rejoice, House of the Lord built by the Holy Spirit,  
Rejoice, bells ring with joy,  
Rejoice, for all creation sings your glory,

Rejoice, for we celebrate your Dormition everywhere,  
Rejoice, in churches, monasteries, and lavras named in its honor,  
Rejoice, Virgin glorified in the Lavra of Kyiv,  
Rejoice, all Pure One, praised in the Lavra of Pochaiv,

Rejoice, O Lady in the Lavra of Univ,  
Rejoice, in the miracles and healings,  
Rejoice, O Strengthening of the true faith,  
Rejoice, Protection of Christ's Church,

Rejoice, O Full of Grace, for you did not abandon us in your Dormition.

### **Kontakion 12**

Obtain for us graces from God, O Virgin Full of Grace, so that we may always and everywhere, with our lips and hearts sing to the Lord, Alleluia!

### **Ikos 12**

Joyfully praising your Dormition, O Mother of God, we proclaim our hope in you, for in your Dormition the joy of the Resurrection, the victory of truth, faith and hope shines forth, so we proclaim:

Rejoice, holy Mother of undying Love,  
Rejoice, O Victory of our King and God,  
Rejoice, for in your Dormition, death was scorned,  
Rejoice, for in your Dormition, life was strengthened,

Rejoice, for your Dormition is light of the Pascha of Christ,  
Rejoice, for your Dormition are the triumphant bells of Easter,  
Rejoice, for through you, Hades was shamed,  
Rejoice, for through you, the malevolent serpent was trampled,

Rejoice, for to you we sing a song of victory,  
Rejoice, in your honor we bow to the Creator,  
Rejoice, for we beg your prayers,

Rejoice, for through you, we shall obtain salvation,

Rejoice, O Full of Grace, for you did not abandon us in your Dormition.

### **Kontakion 13**

O Glorious Mother, who in your holy Dormition abandon not the world, accept this our supplication and deliver us from every harm and lead to life everlasting all who sing to the Lord, Alleluia!

### **Prayer**

Godbearer, Sovereign, Queen, Lady, Virgin Mary, Mother of our God! To you we come in haste, teach us to do the will of your Son and our Lord, that He free us and direct us to the knowledge of truth, and give us the Most Holy Spirit, lest the snares of the enemy ensnare us. No other help but you have we found from our youth, O glorious Godbearer. Although we often angered you, you did not despise us. We, miserable, became deaf to your mercy, have fallen into the pit of insanity, lost our minds, but today unceasingly we cry out to you: have mercy on us, O Lady, and raise us up from the abyss of sins. Stretch forth your hand to the fallen, strengthen the weak, cleanse the impure, save us lest we perish, that all sinners seeing your mercy toward us, unworthy as we are, might hasten under your Patronage and glorify your Son together with the Father and the Holy Spirit, now and for ever and ever. Amen.

*Deacon:* Wisdom!

*Choir:* More honorable than the cherubim and by far more glorious than the seraphim; ever a virgin, you gave birth to God the Word, O true Mother of God, we magnify you.

*Priest:* Glory be to You, O Christ our God, our hope, glory be to You.

*Choir:* Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and for ever and ever. Amen. Lord, have mercy (3x). Give the blessing.

*Priest:* Christ our true God, risen from the dead, through the prayers of His immaculate Mother, whose feast of Dormition we solemnly celebrate today; the holy, glorious, and all-praiseworthy apostles; and of all the saints, will have mercy and save us, for He is good and loves mankind.

*Choir:* Amen.

## Blessing of Water on the Feast of Dormition

*Deacon:* Master, give the blessing.

*Priest:* Blessed be our God, always, now and for ever and ever.

*Choir:* Amen. *Holy God; Trinity most holy; Our Father; and the troparion of Dormition:*

*(Tone 1):* O Mother of God, in giving birth you still preserved virginity;\* and in your falling-asleep you did not forsake the world.\* You are the Mother of Life and have been transferred to life,\* and through your prayers\* have delivered our souls from death.

*Deacon:* Let us pray to the Lord.

*Choir:* Lord, have mercy.

*The priest reads the prayer:* O God greatly-exalted, who does wonders which cannot be numbered, come now to your servants beseeching you, O Master, and send down your Holy Spirit and sanctify this water (*the priest blesses the water three times with his right hand*); grant your servants who shall receive, drink, and be sprinkled with it, release from passion, remission of sins, healing of infirmities, and freedom from every evil thing; grant them also the sanctification of their homes, the purification of all impurities, and the expelling of the diabolic snares; may every place and every kind of object that is sprinkled with it be blessed. For blessed and glorified is Your most honorable and sublime name, Father, Son, and the Holy Spirit, now and for ever and ever. Amen.

*The priest then immerses his finger (if there is no cross) into the water and traces the sign of the cross in it three times, saying each time:*

O Lord, Giver of life, send down your grace from heaven and bless this water; endow it with the power to wash every kind of stain.

*Choir:* Amen.

*Deacon:* Wisdom!

*Choir:* More honorable than the cherubim and by far more glorious than the seraphim; ever a virgin, you gave birth to God the Word, O true Mother of God, we magnify you.

*Priest:* Glory be to you, O Christ our God, our hope, glory be to you.

*Choir:* Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and for ever and ever. Amen. Lord, have mercy (3x). Give the blessing.

*Priest:* Christ our true God, through the prayers of his immaculate Mother, whose feast of Dormition we solemnly celebrate today; the holy, glorious, and all-praiseworthy apostles; and of all the saints, will have mercy and save us, for he is good and loves mankind.

*Choir:* Amen.

## Blessing of Flowers or Other Plants

*Deacon:* Master, give the blessing.

*Priest:* Blessed be our God, always, now and for ever and ever.

*Choir:* Amen. *Holy God; Trinity most holy; Our Father; and the troparion of Dormition:*

*(Tone 1):* O Mother of God, in giving birth you still preserved virginity;\* and in your falling-asleep you did not forsake the world.\* You are the Mother of Life and have been transferred to life,\* and through your prayers\* have delivered our souls from death.

*Deacon:* Let us pray to the Lord.

*Choir:* Lord, have mercy.

*The priest reads the prayer:* O almighty, eternal God, by your word alone you created out of nothing the heavens, earth, sea, and all things visible and invisible. You commanded that the earth give forth plants and trees for the needs of man and animal, each according to its need. In your infinite goodness you ordained that these plants serve not only as food for the animals but also as medicine for the sick body. We beseech you, bless these different plants and fruits and bestow upon them your blessing, and endow them with your power, so that they may serve man and animal alike as a defense against all sickness and all that is impure.

*Exclamation:* For You are our God, and we give glory to You, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and for ever and ever.

*Choir:* Amen.

*The priest then sprinkles the flowers with holy water, saying:*

These flowers are blessed and sanctified by the sprinkling of this holy water, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

*Deacon:* Wisdom!

*Choir:* More honorable than the cherubim and by far more glorious than the seraphim; ever a virgin, you gave birth to God the Word, O true Mother of God, we magnify you.

*Priest:* Glory be to you, O Christ our God, our hope, glory be to you.

*Choir:* Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and for ever and ever. Amen. Lord, have mercy (3x). Give the blessing.

*Priest:* Christ our true God, risen from the dead, through the prayers of his immaculate Mother, whose feast of Dormition we solemnly celebrate today; the holy, glorious, and all-praiseworthy apostles; and of all the saints, will have mercy and save us, for he is good and loves mankind.

*Choir:* Amen.

## Blessing of the Sick

*Deacon:* Master, give the blessing.

*Priest:* Blessed be our God, always, now and for ever and ever.

*Choir:* Amen. *Holy God; Trinity most holy; Our Father; and the troparion of Dormition:*

*(Tone 1):* O Mother of God, in giving birth you still preserved virginity,\* and in your falling-asleep you did not forsake the world.\* You are the Mother of Life and have been transferred to life,\* and through your prayers\* have delivered our souls from death.

*Deacon:* Let us pray to the Lord.

*Choir:* Lord, have mercy.

*The priest reads the prayer:* Holy Father, Physician of our soul and body, who sent your only-begotten Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, who heals every form of sickness and delivers from death, heal your servant *N.* from all physical and spiritual illness, restore his (her) health. For you are the source of all healing powers, our God, and we give glory to you with your only-begotten Son, and the Holy Spirit, now, and for ever and ever.

*The priest then anoints the forehead of the person in the form of the cross.*

*Choir:* Amen.

*Deacon:* Wisdom!

*Choir:* More honorable than the cherubim and by far more glorious than the seraphim; ever a virgin, you gave birth to God the Word, O true Mother of God, we magnify you.

*Priest:* Glory be to you, O Christ our God, our hope, glory be to you.

*Choir:* Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and for ever and ever. Amen. Lord, have mercy (3x). Give the blessing.

*Priest:* Christ our true God, risen from the dead, through the prayers of his immaculate Mother, whose feast of Dormition we solemnly celebrate today; the holy, glorious, and all-praiseworthy apostles; and of all the saints, will have mercy and save us, for he is good and loves mankind.

*Choir:* Amen.

## Blessing of the Religious Articles

*Deacon:* Master, give the blessing.

*Priest:* Blessed be our God, always, now and for ever and ever.

*Choir:* Amen. *Holy God; Trinity most holy; Our Father; and the troparion of Dormition:*

*(Tone 1):* O Mother of God, in giving birth you still preserved virginity,\* and in your falling-asleep you did not forsake the world.\* You are the Mother of Life and have been transferred to life,\* and through your prayers\* have delivered our souls from death.

*Deacon:* Let us pray to the Lord.

*Choir:* Lord, have mercy.

*The priest reads the prayer:* O Creator and Author of mankind, Giver of all spiritual graces and Bestower of eternal salvation, send down your Holy Spirit, with a blessing from above, upon this (*name of the object*), that strengthened by the power of the heavenly protection it may be efficacious even unto bodily salvation and aid to all who shall desire to make use of it.

*The priest then sprinkles with holy water, saying:*

This (*name of the object*) is blessed and sanctified by the sprinkling of this holy water in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

*Deacon:* Wisdom!

*Choir:* More honorable than the cherubim and by far more glorious than the seraphim; ever a virgin, you gave birth to God the Word, O true Mother of God, we magnify you.

*Priest:* Glory be to you, O Christ our God, our hope, glory be to you.

*Choir:* Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and for ever and ever. Amen. Lord, have mercy (3x). Give the blessing.

*Priest:* Christ our true God, risen from the dead, through the prayers of his immaculate Mother, whose feast of Dormition we solemnly celebrate today; the holy, glorious, and all-praiseworthy apostles; and of all the saints, will have mercy and save us, for he is good and loves mankind.

*Choir:* Amen.

## Blessing of the Pilgrims

*Deacon:* Master, give the blessing.

*Priest:* Blessed be our God, always, now and for ever and ever.

*Choir:* Amen. *Holy God; Trinity most holy; Our Father; and the troparion of Dormition:*

*(Tone 1):* O Mother of God, in giving birth you still preserved virginity,\* and in your falling-asleep you did not forsake the world.\* You are the Mother of Life and have been transferred to life,\* and through your prayers\* have delivered our souls from death.

*Deacon:* Let us pray to the Lord.

*Choir:* Lord, have mercy.

*The priest reads the prayer:* O Lord, Jesus Christ, the true and living Way, who journeyd into Egypt with your family, and who accompanied Luke and Cleopas to Emmaus; we humbly beseech you, all-holy Master, accompany with your grace your servants, assign to them as you did for your servant Tobias, a guardian angel, guiding, preserving and delivering them from every evil assault of enemies visible and invisible; bring them back in safety and peace; for it is you, who show your mercy to us and save us, and we give glory to you, together with your eternal Father and your all-holy, gracious, and life-giving Spirit, now, and for ever and ever.

*Choir:* Amen.

*Deacon:* Wisdom!

*Choir:* More honorable than the cherubim and by far more glorious than the seraphim; ever a virgin, you gave birth to God the Word, O true Mother of God, we magnify you.

*Priest:* Glory be to you, O Christ our God, our hope, glory be to you.

*Choir:* Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and for ever and ever. Amen. Lord, have mercy (3x). Give the blessing.

*Priest:* Christ our true God, risen from the dead, through the prayers of his immaculate Mother, whose feast of Dormition we solemnly celebrate today; the holy, glorious, and all-praiseworthy apostles; and of all the saints, will have mercy and save us, for he is good and loves mankind.

*Choir:* Amen.

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через щедру підтримку  
Союзу Українців Католиків «Провидіння» в Америці  
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This book was prepared by Father Bohdan Danylo  
and Deacon Volodymyr Sybirny.



