



Service of Matins

August 15

Dormition of the Theotokos.
Katavasias of Dormition.

Text in English

The Web site can be found at this address:

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Mode 1.

God is the Lord, and He revealed Himself to us. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Verse. Give thanks to the Lord and call upon His holy name.

Verse. All the nations surrounded me, but in the name of the Lord I defended myself against them.

Verse. This came about from the Lord, and it is wonderful in our eyes.

Apolytikion

In giving birth you retained your virginity, and in dormition you did not forsake the world, O Theotokos. You were translated unto life, being the Mother of Life. And thus by virtue of your intercessions you deliver our souls from death. (3)

PRIEST

In peace let us again pray to the Lord.

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

Remembering our most holy, pure, blessed, and glorious Lady, the Theotokos and ever-virgin Mary, with all the saints, let us commit ourselves and one another and our whole life to Christ our God.

CHOIR

To You, O Lord.

PRIEST

For yours is the dominion, the kingdom, the power, and the glory of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, now and forever and to the ages of ages.

CHOIR

Amen.

Kathisma I.**Mode 4. Joseph marveled.**

Shout, O David, and declare: * What is this present feast? * And he says: Today has Christ * unto the mansions above * translated her from whom He was born without seed * and whom I have extolled * in the Book of the Psalms * as daughter, child of God, * and as a virgin as well. * And for this reason do mothers and daughters * and brides of Christ now rejoice and say: * Rejoice, O Lady who were translated * unto the royal courts on high.

Glory. Both now. **Repeat..**

Kathisma II.**Mode 1. The soldiers keeping watch.**

The honorable choir of the wise Apostles * was wondrously convened, O august Theotokos, * to bury your immaculate, holy body with dignity. * And with them the hosts of Angels in admiration * and solemnity, with hymns extolled your Assumption, * which we celebrate faithfully.

Glory. Both now. **Repeat..**

Kathisma III.**Mode 3. Seeing how beautiful.**

In parturition¹ you conceived ungamically,² * and in dormition too, you died without decay. * A double wonder followed on the wonder, O Theotokos. * How did one who knew no man * nurse a babe while remaining chaste? * Or how was the Mother of God * buried emitting a fragrant scent? * And therefore with the Angel we cry to you: * Rejoice, O Maiden who are full of grace.

Glory. Both now. **Repeat..**

¹ Parturition = childbirth.

² Ungamically = nonsexually.

PRIEST / DEACON

Let us again in peace pray to the Lord.

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

Remembering our most holy, pure, blessed, and glorious Lady, the Theotokos and ever-virgin Mary, with all the saints, let us commit 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, of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, now and forever and to the ages of ages.

CHOIR

Amen.

Antiphon I. Mode 4e.

Since my youth have many passions waged war against me. O my Savior, nonetheless do help me and save me. (2)

You, the haters of Zion, be put to shame by the Lord, for like thatch in fire you will be completely dried up. (2)

Glory.

From the Holy Spirit every soul receives life, and through cleansing is lifted and brightened, in a hidden, sacred manner, by the trinal Monad.

Both now.

From the Holy Spirit do the streams of grace well forth; they irrigate everything created, so that life be engendered.

Prokeimenon

I will remember your name from generation to generation. (2)

Verse: Listen, O daughter, behold and in-

cline your ear, and forget your people and your father's house; for the King desired your beauty.

I will remember your name from generation and generation.

PRIEST / DEACON

Let us pray to the Lord.

CHOIR

Lord have mercy.

PRIEST

For you are holy, our God, who rest among the Saints, and to you we give glory, to the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, now and forever and to the ages of ages.

CHOIR

Amen.

Let everything that breathes praise the Lord. (3).

PRIEST / DEACON

Let us pray to the Lord, our God that we may be made worthy to hear the holy Gospel.

CHOIR

Lord have mercy. (3)

PRIEST / DEACON

Wisdom! Arise! Let us hear the Holy Gospel.

PRIEST

Peace be to you all.

CHOIR

And with your spirit.

PRIEST

The reading is from the Holy Gospel according to Luke.

DEACON

Let us be attentive!

CHOIR

Glory to you, O Lord, glory to you.

PRIEST

Luke 1:39-49, 56

In those days, Mary arose and went with haste into the hill country, to a city of Judah, and she entered the house of Zacharias and greeted Elizabeth. And when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, the babe leaped in her womb; and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and she exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! And why is this granted me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? For behold, when the voice of your greeting came to my ears, the babe in my womb leaped for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her from the Lord." And Mary said, "My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit has rejoiced in God my Savior, for He has regarded the humility of His handmaiden. For behold, henceforth all generations will call me blessed; for He who is mighty has done great things for me, and holy is His name." And Mary remained with her about three months, and returned to her home.

CHOIR

Glory to you, O Lord, glory to you.

READER**Psalm 50.**

Have mercy on me, O God, according to Your great mercy; and according to the abundance of Your compassion, blot out my transgression. Wash me thoroughly from my lawlessness and cleanse me from my sin. For I know my lawlessness, and my sin is always before me. Against You only have I sinned and done evil in Your sight; that You may be justified in Your words, and overcome when You

are judged. For behold, I was conceived in transgressions, and in sins my mother bore me. Behold, You love truth; You showed me the unknown and secret things of Your wisdom. You shall sprinkle me with hyssop, and I will be cleansed; You shall wash me, and I will be made whiter than snow. You shall make me hear joy and gladness; my bones that were humbled shall greatly rejoice. Turn Your face from my sins, and blot out all my transgressions. Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Do not cast me away from Your presence, and do not take Your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of Your salvation, and uphold me with Your guiding Spirit. I will teach transgressors Your ways, and the ungodly shall turn back to You. Deliver me from bloodguiltiness, O God, the God of my salvation, and my tongue shall greatly rejoice in Your righteousness. O Lord, You shall open my lips, and my mouth will declare Your praise. For if You desired sacrifice, I would give it; You will not be pleased with whole burnt offerings. A sacrifice to God is a broken spirit, a broken and humbled heart God will not despise. Do good, O Lord, in Your good pleasure to Zion, and let the walls of Jerusalem be built; then you will be pleased with a sacrifice of righteousness, with offerings and whole burnt offerings; then shall they offer young bulls on Your altar.

CHOIR**Mode 2g.**

Glory.

At the intercession of the Theotokos, O Lord of mercy, blot out my many offences.

Both now.

At the intercession of the Theotokos, O Lord of mercy, blot out my many offences.

Idiomelon. Mode pl. 2d.

Verse: Have mercy on me, O God, according to Your great mercy; and according to the abundance of Your compassion blot out my transgression.

When the translation of your immaculate body was being prepared, the Apostles, surrounding your bed, looked upon you fearfully. As they gazed at your body, they were overcome by awe; and Peter cried aloud to you tearfully: "O Virgin, I see you clearly lying here supine, the life of all, and I am struck with wonder. For in you did the delight of the life to come make His dwelling." Now we pray, O immaculate Lady: Fervently entreat your Son and God, to preserve your City invulnerable.

PRIEST / DEACON

O God, save your people and bless your inheritance. Look upon your world with mercy and compassion. Raise the Orthodox Christians in glory, and send down upon us your rich mercies, through the intercessions of our most pure Lady the Theotokos and ever-Virgin Mary, whose Dormition we are celebrating; the power of the precious and life-giving Cross; the protection of the honorable, bodiless Powers of heaven; the supplications of the honorable and glorious prophet, and forerunner John the Baptist; the holy, glorious, and praiseworthy Apostles; our Fathers among the Saints, the great hierarchs and ecumenical teachers, Basil the Great, Gregory the Theologian and John Chrysostom, Athanasios, Cyril, and John the Merciful, patriarchs of Alexandria; Nicholas, bishop of Myra, Spyridon, bishop of Trimythous, Nektarios of Pentapolis, the wonder workers; the holy, glorious great Martyrs George the Victorious, Demetrios the Myrobletes, Theodore the Teron, and Theodore the General, Menas the Wonderworker and Charalambos the Hieromartyr; the holy, glorious, and victorious martyrs; the glorious great Martyr and all-laudable Euphemia; [the holy and glorious Martyrs Thecla, Barbara, Anastasia, Katherine, Kyriakè, Fotenè, Marina, Paraskevè and Irene;] of our holy God-bearing Fathers; (*the patron saint of the church*); the holy and righteous ancestors of righteous ancestors of God Joachim and Anna; and of all your Saints; we beseech you, only merciful Lord, hear us sinners who pray to you and have mercy on us.

CHOIRS

Lord have mercy. (12)

PRIEST

Through the mercy, compassion, and love of mankind of your only begotten Son, with whom you are blessed, together with your all holy, good and life-giving Spirit, now and forever and to the ages of ages.

READER

Amen.

Kontakion.

The Theotokos, unsleeping in intercession and the immovable hope of protection, could not be retained by any tomb or death. For being Life's own Mother, she was transferred to life by Him *who dwelt in the ever-virgin womb*.

Ekos

Fortify my mind, O my Savior; for I am daring to extol Your immaculate Mother, the fortress of the world. Reinforce me with a tower of words, and shelter me in a castle of concepts; for You have promised to fulfill the requests of those who request with faith. Do, therefore, endow me with elocution,³ expression, and dauntless meditation; for every dose of illumination is sent down from You, O guiding Light, *who dwelt in the ever-virgin womb*.

Synaxarion

On the fifteenth of this month we commemorate the venerable Dormition and Translation of our supremely glorious Lady the Theotokos and Ever-virgin Mary.

By the holy intercessions of the Theotokos, O God, have mercy on us and save us, since You are good and the Friend of man.

³ Elocution = the art or a style of speaking.

CHOIR**Katavasiae****Ode i. Mode 1.**

Adorned with glory divine, O Virgin, *
is your most sacred and illustrious memorial,
* gathering the faithful all together joyfully
to sing * in processions led by Mariam, with
timbrels and dancing, * to your Only-
begotten Son. * For He has been greatly glo-
rified.

Ode iii.

O Wisdom of our God and His Power
that has created * and is sustaining the uni-
verse, * reinforce Your Church, O Christ, *
preserving her unshaken and unmoved. *
For You alone are holy, * O Lord, and You
repose in Your holy ones.

Ode iv.

Sayings of the Prophets and mysteries
* revealed Your incarnation from a Virgin
mystically, O Christ: * that Your light-
ning's brightness as light for Gentiles
would emanate. * The abyss calls out to
You with a voice of gladness: * To Your
power be glory, O Lover of man.

Ode v.

O Christ, I shall tell of Your virtues *
and of their beauty, divine and ineffable: *
As coeternal and hypostatic radiance * you
shone from glory eternal; and coming forth
* incarnate from the Virgin's womb, * You
have risen as a Sun * on those in darkness
and in the shadow of death.

Ode vi.

Briny and born of the deep, * the fire in
the maw of the whale * was a prefiguring
of Your three-daylong burial; * and of this
figure was Jonah the interpreter. * For, pre-
served unscathed as before he was swal-
lowed up, he cried out: * I shall sacrifice to

You with a voice of praise, O Lord.

Ode vii.

Counterposed against audacious ire *
and the furnace's fire, the love for God *
made the fire cool as dew, * while the ire it
derided, * counteracting in the midst * of
flames the musical organs with the three-
toned, rational, * God-inspired lyre— * the
three holy Servants chanting: Lord our God,
* You are glorified, O God * of our fathers,
You are blessed.

*We praise, and we bless, and we worship
the Lord.*

Ode viii.

Unto the Servants in the furnace, *
God's almighty Angel showed a flame *
burning the impious, but the saints * cooling
as with dew. * Into a life-welling fountain
He has made the Theotokos, * gushing de-
struction upon death, but life to those who
sing the hymn: * We who have been re-
deemed chant in praise of the only Creator,
* exalting Him supremely unto all the ages.

PRIEST / DEACON

Let us honor and magnify in song the
Theotokos and the Mother of light.

CHOIRS**Ode ix.****First Canon.****Mode 1. The Heirmos.**

*Now all generations call you blessed,
O only Theotokos.*

In you the laws of nature are defeated,*
O undefiled Virgin pure. * In virginity
childbirth was accomplished, and death in-
troduces life. * You, after bearing, are vir-
gin, and after dying are living. * Mother of
God, * ever save your inheritance.

Troparia

*Now all generations call you blessed,
O only Theotokos.*

Amazed were the angelic hosts of heaven * as they beheld their Lord himself * come to Zion receiving * with His own hands a woman's departing soul. * For He addressed as a son should * her who had stainlessly borne Him: * O gracious one, * come be glorified with your Son and God.

*Now all generations call you blessed,
O only Theotokos.*

The choir of Apostles wrapped in grave clothes * your body that had hosted God, * looking on with awe and reverence, * and addressed you in sweet and sonorous tones: * As you depart for the mansions * near to your Son now in heaven, * Mother of God, * ever save your inheritance.

Second Canon.**Mode 4. The Heirmos.**

*Angels at the Dormition of the Virgin
were struck with wonder as they saw
how the Virgin departed
from the earth into the heavens.*

All you born on earth, * with festival lamps in hand, in spirit leap for joy; * heavenly intelligences * of incorporeal Angels, celebrate * and honor thus the sacred feast of the Mother of God, * crying loudly: * O rejoice, all-blessed one, * ever-virgin and pure, who gave birth to God.

Troparia.

*Angels at the Dormition of the Virgin
were struck with wonder as they saw
how the Virgin departed
from the earth into the heavens.*

O believers all, * come, let us behold on Zion—that divine and rich * mountain of the living God—* the Theotokos, and

joyfully exalt. * For into the superior by far and more divine * Tabernacle and Holy of Holies on high, * as His Mother is Christ now translating her.

Glory to the Father...

*Angels at the Dormition of the Virgin
were struck with wonder as they saw
how the Virgin departed
from the earth into the heavens.*

O believers, come, * let us go unto the tomb of the Mother of God * and embrace it longingly, * and with sincerity touch it with our lips * and eyes and foreheads of our hearts, and we shall then obtain * from that ever-welling fountain the divine * gifts of healing that issue abundantly.

Both now and ever...

Now accept from us * this burial hymn, O Mother of the living God; * and with your most luminous * and holy grace overshadow us; and grant * success unto our rulers, peace unto your Christ-loving flock, * and forgiveness, and salvation of their souls * unto those who are chanting this hymn to you.

Katavasia. Mode 1.

*Now all generations call you blessed,
O only Theotokos.*

In you the laws of nature are defeated,* O undefiled Virgin pure. * In virginity childbirth was accomplished, and death introduces life. * You, after bearing, are virgin, and after dying are living. * Mother of God, * ever save your inheritance.

PRIEST / DEACON

Let us again in peace pray to the Lord.

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

Remembering our most holy, pure, blessed, and glorious Lady, the Theotokos and

ever-virgin Mary, with all the saints, let us commit ourselves and one another, and our whole life to Christ our God.

CHOIRS

To You, O Lord.

PRIEST

For all the powers of heaven praise you and give you glory, to the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, now and forever and to the ages of ages.

CHOIRS

Amen.

Exaposteilarion. Mode 3.

Apostles, you have assembled * today from earth's furthest reaches * here in this town of Gethsemane; * now, therefore, bury my body. * And You, my Son and my God, * receive my departing spirit. (3)

Lauds. Mode 4.

Let everything that breathes praise the Lord. Praise the Lord from the heavens, praise Him in the highest. It is fitting to sing a hymn to You, O God.

Praise Him, all you His angels; praise Him, all you His hosts. It is fitting to sing a hymn to You, O God.

Mode 4e. To a brave one.

Praise Him for His mighty acts, praise Him according to the abundance of His greatness.

In the splendid observance of * your Dormition is heaven glad, * and angelic regiments celebrate with joy; * and the inhabitants of the earth * are jubilant as they sing * funeral anthems unto you * as the Mother of Him who rules * over all the world, * O unwed, holy Virgin who delivered from the ancestral verdict * of condemnation the human race.

Praise Him with the sound of trumpet, praise Him with the harp and lyre.

In the splendid observance of * your Dormition is heaven glad, * and angelic regiments celebrate with joy; * and the inhabitants of the earth * are jubilant as they sing * funeral anthems unto you * as the Mother of Him who rules * over all the world, * O unwed, holy Virgin who delivered from the ancestral verdict * of condemnation the human race.

Praise Him with timbrel and dance, praise Him with strings and flute.

From the ends of the earth in haste * came together the prominent * Apostles to bury you, by divine command. * And when they saw you were taken up * from the earth into the heights, * full of joy they cried aloud * the salutation of Gabriel: * Rejoice, O chariot * of the Godhead; rejoice, the only woman who in childbirth united * the things of earth with the things on high.

Praise Him with resounding cymbals, praise Him with triumphant cymbals. Let everything that breathes praise the Lord.

You who gave birth to Life himself * have passed on to immortal life * by your most exalted Dormition on this day, * at which the Angels escorted you, * Powers, Principalities, * Prophets and Apostles too, * the entire created world; * while your Son and God * with His own undefiled hands accepted the all-blameless soul, O Virgin, * of you His Mother, the Bride of God.

Glory; both now. **Mode pl. 2.**

At your deathless Dormition, O Theotokos and Mother of Life, clouds caught the Apostles up into the air; and, from being dispersed throughout the world, they

were reunited before your immaculate body. And when they had buried you with dignity, they lifted up their voices and sang the words of Gabriel: “Rejoice, O unwedded and virgin Mother who are full of grace; the Lord is with you.” Along with them, entreat your Son and our God, for the salvation of our souls.

The Doxology follows immediately. Then the following:

Apolytikion. Mode 1.

In giving birth you retained your virginity, and in dormition you did not forsake the world, O Theotokos. You were translated unto life, being the Mother of Life. And thus by virtue of your intercessions you deliver our souls from death.

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