

**THE PRAISES  
OR THE SACRED ORDER OF THE HOLY BURIAL  
OF OUR MOST-HOLY SOVEREIGN LADY,  
THE THEOTOKOS AND EVER-VIRGIN MARY**

As sung on the 15<sup>th</sup> day of the month of August in the Lavra and on the 17<sup>th</sup> day of August in the Gethsemane Skete [in Jerusalem]. Translated from the Greek in 1846 by Professor Kholmogorov and approved by Bishop Philaret, Metropolitan of Moscow.

**GREAT VESPERS** is sung as is usual on the Feast of the Dormition.

**MATINS:**

Following the Six Psalms and the Great Litany, a decorated analogion is placed in the center of the church. After “God is the Lord...” (Tone 2), the Chief Celebrant comes out from the Altar bearing the Icon or Plashchanitsa [Winding Sheet] of the Dormition of the Most-holy Theotokos. Other Priests, in vestments, follow him and the Icon is placed on the analogion (the Plashchanitsa is placed in the tomb). The Chief Celebrant hands out candles to the brethren and blesses the Deacon and Servers to distribute candles to the people. The following Troparia from the Jerusalem Service are sung while the Chief Celebrant censes the Icon [or Plashchanitsa], the Altar [and the temple].

**Troparia, Tone 2:** (*Special Melody: “The noble Joseph....”*)

**THE DIVINE CHOIR OF NOBLE DISCIPLES, O HONORABLE ONE, WITH PURE TEARS, AS WITH FRAGRANT OINTMENTS, WASHED YOUR UNDEFILED BODY AND PLACED IT IN AN HONORABLE TOMB, BUT YOU WERE TRANSLATED IN THREE DAYS, O SOVEREIGN LADY, GRANTING TO THE WORLD DIVINE MERCY.**

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

**WHEN YOU DESCENDED TO DEATH, O IMMORTAL MOTHER OF LIFE, THEN HELL WAS AMAZED AND FILLED WITH UTTER TERROR, WHEN YOU WERE SEEN, O MARY, TRANSLATED FROM THE TOMB INTO HEAVEN, ALL THE HEAVENLY POWERS CRIED OUT: “O LIFE-BEARING MOTHER OF OUR LIFE, GLORY BE TO YOU!”**

Now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

**THE SONG WHICH I PROCLAIM IS BEFITTING THE SACRED DISCIPLES WHO CARRIED TO GETHSEMANE THE BODY OF THE MOTHER OF GOD. THEREFORE, CRY OUT TO THE TRUE MOTHER OF CHRIST, THE ONLY HANDMAIDEN OF GOD: “ARISE, O SOVEREIGN LADY, GRANTING TO ALL GREAT MERCY!”**

The Canonarch then reads, in Tone 5, “Blessed art Thou, O Lord; teach me Thy statutes.” And he reads the first verse of the 17<sup>th</sup> Kathisma. “Blessed are those whose way is blameless....”

**NOTE:** *Rubrics in other places of this Service indicate that two choirs are singing the various verses of the Praises antiphonally, with the Canonarch reading just the first verse of each Stasis (or division) of the 17<sup>th</sup> Kathisma,. In modern practice, this part of the Service should be read as at the Praises of the **Lamentations Service of Great and Holy Saturday**. That is, the Choir sings the verses of the 17<sup>th</sup> Kathisma and the Priest(s) chants the Troparia of the Praises.*

### **FIRST STASIS**

**Blessed art Thou, O Lord; teach me Thy Statutes.**

**Blessed are those whose way is blameless, who walk in the law of the Lord!**

- 1. THOU, O CHRIST, LIFE ITSELF, WAS LAID WITHIN THE TOMB AND NOW SO, THE MOTHER OF LIFE: A STRANGE SIGHT BOTH TO ANGELS AND MEN.**

**Blessed are those who search out His testimonies, they shall seek Him with their whole heart.**

- 2. WE MAGNIFY YOU, O PURE THEOTOKOS, AND WE HONOR YOUR HOLY DORMITION; AND WE BOW DOWN BEFORE YOUR HONORABLE TOMB.**

**For those who do no wrong have walked in his ways!**

- 3. HOW IS IT THAT YOU, THE LIFE OF ALL THE FAITHFUL, DIED, O MARY? HOW DOES THE TOMB CONTAIN IN YOUR BODY WHICH ONCE CONTAINED HIM WHO IS UNCONTAINED BY ALL?**

**Thou hast commanded Thy precepts to be kept diligently.**

- 4. YOU WHO GAVE BIRTH TO GOD, THE KING OF THE HEAVENS, ARE NOW ROYALLY TRANSLATED, O PURE ONE, TO THE HEAVENLY KINGDOM.**

**O that my ways may be steadfast in keeping Thy statutes!**

- 5. THOUGH YOU HAVE PASSED AWAY FROM THE EARTH, YET IN NO WAY HAVE YOU REMOVED YOURSELF FROM EARTH, O ALL-HOLY THEOTOKOS WHO DELIVER THE WHOLE WORLD FROM PERILS.**

**Then I shall not be put to shame when I look on all thy commandments.**

- 6. ALL THE EARTH GLORIFIES THY ENTOMBMENT, O CHRIST, AND HYMNS THE BURIAL OF THINE ALL-PURE MOTHER ALL-REVERENTLY, O MASTER.**

**I will praise Thee with an upright heart, when I learn Thy righteous ordinances.**

- 7. SEEING YOU LYING DEAD, WHO BEAMED FORTH LIFE UPON THE WORLD, THE ANGELS ARE STRUCK WITH AWE AND OVERCOME WITH WONDER.**

**I will observe Thy statutes; O forsake me not utterly!**

- 8. GABRIEL WAS SENT FROM GOD AGAIN AND BRINGS THE GLAD TIDINGS OF YOUR DEPARTURE, O MOST HEAVENLY, UNCORRUPT AND PURE ONE.**

**How can a young man correct his way? By guarding it according to Thy word.**

- 9. THE BRIDEGROOM NOW SUMMONS YOU, THE BRIDE OF GOD, INTO THE DIVINE BRIDAL-CHAMBER, ALWAYS TO REJOICE IN A DIVINELY-BEAUTIFUL MANNER.**

**With my whole heart have I sought Thee; cast me not away from Thy commandments!**

- 10. YOU HAVE COME TO THE THRONE OF GOD WHERE THE LIGHT OF THE TRINITY IS AWESOME AND UNAPPROACHABLE, O VIRGIN, AND TRULY YOU HAVE FOUND REPOSE.**

**I have hidden Thy word in my heart, that I might not sin against Thee.**

- 11. WHEN YOU DEPARTED THE EARTH, YOU APPEARED BEFORE GOD, O THEOTOKOS, AS YOU WERE IN NO WAY SEPARABLE FROM GOD, NOR HE FROM THE BOSOM OF HIS MOTHER.**

**Blessed art thou, O Lord, teach me Thy statutes!**

- 12. EVEN IN THE TOMB, O VIRGIN, YOUR HONORABLE BODY DID NOT SEE CORRUPTION, BUT YOU PASSED WITH YOUR BODY FROM EARTH TO HEAVEN.**

**With my lips have I declared all the ordinances of Thy mouth.**

**13. EVEN IN DEATH, O MOST-PURE ONE, YOUR ALL-HOLY COUNTENANCE APPEARS AS PARADISE AND BREATHES FORTH GRACE AND LIFE.**

**In the way of Thy testimonies I delight as much as in all riches.**

**14. ACCEPT FROM US YOUR CHILDREN, O MOTHER, OUR LOVE AND FUNERAL HYMN WHICH WE OFFER UP FROM THE DEPTHS OF OUR SOULS.**

**I will meditate on Thy precepts, I will understand Thy ways.**

**15. OPEN NOW YOUR HONORABLE EYES, O MOTHER, AND LOOK UPON YOUR ASSEMBLED CHILDREN WHO HONORABLY GLORIFY YOUR DORMITION.**

**I will study Thy statutes; I will not forget Thy word.**

**16. OPEN YOUR LIPS AND GRANT US A BLESSING, O MOST-HOLY THEOTOKOS WHO AT YOUR END HAVE DEPARTED FROM US.**

**Deal bountifully with Thy servant, give me life, and I shall observe Thy word.**

**17. DO NOT LEAVE US ORPHANS NOW, O MOTHER WHO, TAKEN FROM EARTH TO HEAVEN, SHALL ABIDE TOGETHER WITH YOUR SON AND GOD.**

**Open my eyes, that I may behold wondrous things out of Thy law.**

**18. SURROUNDING YOUR BED, O VIRGIN, WE CALL UPON YOU FERVENTLY: “HAVE MERCY, O ALL-HOLY ONE, AND SAVE ALL THE FAITHFUL!”**

**I am a sojourner on earth; hide not Thy commandments from me!**

**19. COME NOW, O ANNA, AND STAND WITH US, PRESIDING AT THE FEAST OF YOUR HOLY DAUGHTER, THE MOTHER OF GOD.**

**My soul has loved to desire Thy ordinances at all times.**

**20. COME, LET US GIVE GLORY AND PRAISE TO GOD WHO HAS CALLED INTO THE HOLY OF HOLIES HER WHO IS GREATER THAN THE HOLY OF HOLIES, FOR SHE HERSELF IS HOLY.**

**Thou hast rebuked the proud; cursed are those who wander from Thy commandments.**

**21. HEAVEN NOW RECEIVES MOST-GLORIOUSLY THE QUEEN OF THE UNIVERSE AND REJOICES, SEEING HER REIGN WITH GOD.**

Take away from me scorn and contempt, for I have sought Thy testimonies.

**22. YOUR SON, THE GOD OF GLORY, O PURE ONE, HAS RECEIVED YOU AS HIS MOTHER AND HAS SEATED YOU AT HIS RIGHT HAND.**

For princes sat and spoke against me, but Thy servant meditated on Thy statutes.

**23. CLOTHED AND ADORNED WITH GRACE, YOU NOW STAND BEFORE GOD AS QUEEN AND MOTHER OF GOD.**

For Thy testimonies are my instructors, Thy statutes are my counselors.

**24. THE ANGELS MINISTERED TO YOU UPON THE EARTH, O VIRGIN, AND IN THE HEAVENS THE ANGELS NOW STAND BEFORE YOU AS YOUR SERVANTS.**

My soul cleaves to the dust; revive me according to Thy word!

**25. HAVING NOW ASSEMBLED, THE ANGELIC HOSTS STAND IN FEAR, SEEING YOUR REPOSE, O HONORABLE SOVEREIGN-LADY.**

I told of my ways, and Thou didst hear me; teach me Thy statutes!

**26. EVEN NOW, STANDING WITH US IN SPIRIT, THE RATIONAL POWERS SING, GLORIFYING YOUR REPOSE.**

Make me understand the way of Thy precepts, and I will meditate on Thy wondrous works.

**27. THE DISCIPLES OF CHRIST CAME FROM THE ENDS OF THE EARTH TO MINISTER AT YOUR BURIAL, O SOVEREIGN-LADY, AND TO HYMN YOUR DORMITION, O PURE ONE.**

My soul has slept out of despair, strengthen me in Thy words!

**28. AS A SON, O VIRGIN, CHRIST GOD SENT HIS ANGELS AND THE DIVINE APOSTLES TO THE BURIAL OF HIS MOTHER.**

Put false ways far from me, and have mercy on me by Thy law.

**29. ALL THE SOULS OF THE HOLY FOREFATHERS, PROPHETS, AND RIGHTEOUS ONES HAVE COME DOWN TO OFFER UP THE FUNERAL HYMN.**

**I have chosen the way of truth, and have not forgotten Thy judgments.**

**30. ALL THE HOSTS OF HEAVEN AND EARTH GLORIFY YOU, O PURE THEOTOKOS WHO, EVEN NOW, LIVE AFTER YOUR REPOSE.**

**I have cleaved to Thy testimonies, O Lord; put me not to shame!**

**31. YOU LIVE EVEN AFTER DEATH, O LIFE-RECEIVING FOUNTAIN; YOU PASSED FROM LIFE TO LIFE AS ONE WHO GIVES BIRTH TO THE EVERLASTING LIFE.**

**I have run in the way of Thy commandments when Thou didst enlarge my heart.**

**32. THOUGH, LIKE US, YOU DIED, O VIRGIN, YOU APPEAR AS THE QUEEN OF ALL, FOR YOU CONCEIVED THE CREATOR OF ALL.**

**Teach me, O Lord, the way of Thy statutes, and I will seek it continually.**

**33. THOUGH YOU ARE ENCLOSED BY A SMALL TOMB, HEAVEN ITSELF IS OPENED TO YOU AND UPON HIS THRONE GOD RECEIVED YOU.**

**Give me understanding, and I will search out Thy law and observe it with my whole heart.**

**34. GOD, WHO WAS BEGOTTEN IN THE BOSOM OF THE FATHER, AND WHO ENTERED YOUR OWN BOSOM, O UNDEFILED ONE, RECEIVED YOU IN HIS EMBRACE, O PURE ONE.**

**Lead me in the path of Thy commandments, for I have desired it.**

**35. GOD WAS BURIED AND SO, TOO, THE MOTHER OF GOD; GOD WENT DOWN INTO THE NETHER REGIONS AND SO, TOO, THE MOTHER OF GOD.**

**Incline my heart to Thy testimonies, and not to gain!**

**36. YOU DID NOT ABANDON YOU SON UPON THE CROSS, O VIRGIN; THEREFORE HE HAS NOT ABANDONED YOU, FOR IN THE BODY HE NOW STANDS BEFORE YOU.**

**Turn my eyes from looking at vanities, and give me life in Thy way.**

**37. YOU GLORIFIED THE TOMB OF YOUR SON AS BEFITTED A MOTHER AND HE, O VIRGIN, DIVINELY MAGNIFIED YOUR HOLY DORMITION.**

**Confirm Thy word to Thy servant that he may fear Thee.**

**38. WHEN YOU WENT UP HIGHER THAN THE HEAVENS, ALL THE ANGELS OF GOD PRAISED YOU AND, FALLING DOWN, BOWED BEFORE YOU WITH HONOR.**

**Turn away the reproach which I dread; for Thy ordinances are good.**

**39. COMING TO THE THRONE OF THE ALL-HIGH GOD, LIKE A SLAVE YOU FELL DOWN IN WORSHIP AND STOOD, BEHOLDING GOD.**

**Behold, I have longed for Thy precepts; in Thy righteousness give me life!**

**40. O INEFFABLE JOY! O IMMEASURABLE HONOR! MARY REIGNS IN HEAVEN AND ON EARTH WITH JESUS, HER SON!**

**Let Thy steadfast love come to me, O Lord, Thy salvation according to Thy promise;**

**41. O VIRGIN THEOTOKOS, ALTHOUGH YOU HAVE LEFT THIS WORLD BEHIND, ABANDON NOT THOSE WHO DWELL ON EARTH, BUT PRESERVE THOSE WHO WORSHIP YOUR REPOSE.**

**Then shall I have an answer for those who taunt me, for I have trusted in Thy words.**

**42. LOOK DOWN, BEHOLD, AND SEE THE EARTH, O MOTHER, FROM THE HEAVENS WHERE YOU NOW ABIDE; BE COMPASSIONATE AND HAVE MERCY UPON THE WORLD, O GOOD AND GRACIOUS ONE!**

**And take not the word of truth utterly out of my mouth, for my hope is in Thy ordinances.**

**43. WHEN THE APOSTLES SAW YOUR MOST-HOLY BODY, O PURE THEOTOKOS, THEY BOWED DOWN WITH HONOR.**

**I will keep Thy law continually, for ever and ever;**

**44. ASSEMBLED IN CHOIR, THEY SANG FUNERAL PSALMS, HYMNS AND SONGS TO YOU, O PURE ONE, MARVELLING AT YOUR GLORY.**

**And I have walked at liberty, for I have sought Thy precepts.**

**45. ILLUMINED BY THE DIVINELY-BEAUTIFUL RADIANCE, O VIRGIN, THEY REJOICED AND IT SEEMED TO THEM THAT THEY BEHELD YOUR SON.**

**I spoke of Thy testimonies before kings, and was not ashamed.**

**46. “WITH WHAT HANDS WILL WE NOW TOUCH YOUR LIFE-GIVING BODY, O ALL-STAINLESS ONE, O PURE NOURISHER OF THE WORLD?” THEY EXCLAIMED.**

**And I meditated on Thy commandments, which I have greatly loved.**

**47. “WHAT WORDS SHALL WE NOW UTTER, O VIRGIN? WHAT HYMNS SHALL WE OFFER UP UNTO YOUR DORMITION, O MOST-LAUDABLE LADY?”**

**I raised my hands to Thy commandments, which I have loved, and I pondered Thy statutes.**

**48. YOU ARE PLEASING TO GOD IN NAME AND BEING, O VIRGIN MARY HOW IS IT THAT YOU, WHO DEIFIED THE NATURE OF MORTALS, COULD DIE?**

**Remember Thy words to Thy servant, in which Thou hast made me hope.**

**49. HOW WERE YOU, WHO INEFFABLY BORE HIM WHO GIVES BREATH TO ALL, SEEN WITHOUT BREATH? THIS IS A NEW AND UNPRECEDENTED WONDER, O VIRGIN!**

**This is my comfort in my humiliation, that Thy word gives me life.**

**50. HOW DID YOU WHO SURPASSED THE LAWS OF NATURE SUBMIT TO THE LAWS OF NATURE, O SOVEREIGN LADY, AND LIKE US TASTE OF DEATH?**

**The proud have greatly transgressed, but I have not turned away from Thy law.**

**51. HOW DID YOU, WHO BY YOUR BIRTH HALTED DEATH’S CRUEL ATTACK, SUBMIT TO DEATH’S INVASION, O VIRGIN?**

**I remembered Thy ordinances from of old, O Lord, and was comforted.**

**52. O FIRE-BEARING BUSH, HOW COULD DEATH'S TONGS GRASP YOU WHO BORE THE FIRE OF DIVINITY, O BRIDE OF GOD?**

Sorrow seized me because of the sinners who forsake Thy law.

**53. YOU DID NOT DIE TODAY, BUT HAVE TAKEN YOUR REPOSE, O VIRGIN, AND WHEN WALDING IN THE FLESH, YOU FOUND YOURSELF IN A BETTER AND UNENDING LIFE.**

Thy statutes have been my songs in the place of my pilgrimage.

**54. YOU, THE DIVINE ARK OF GOD'S COVENANT WITH US, HAVE SETTLED IN A WONDROUS TABERNACLE–THE HOUSE OF GOD**

I remembered Thy name in the night, O Lord, and kept Thy law.

**55. MARY THE HANDMAIDEN OF GOD–THE GOLDEN VESSEL IN WHICH THE HEAVENLY MANNA WAS PRESERVED–HAS BEEN TRANSLATED FROM EARTH TO HEAVEN.**

This has fallen to me, for having sought Thy precepts.

**56. THE WING OF GOD AND WORD, THE PURE BRIDE OF GOD, INEFFABLY ASCENDS UPON A HEAVENLY WING.**

Thou, Lord, art my portion; I said that I would keep Thy law.

**57. THE PRECIOUS PEARL OF THE GOSPELS IS NOW STORED WITHIN THE SECRET TREASURY OF GOD.**

I entreated Thy countenance with all my heart; have mercy on me according to Thy word.

**58. THIS VERY MYSTERY OF YOUR STANDING NOW BEFORE THE FACE OF GOD IS A FORM OF THE IMAGE OF THE VISION OF GOD INCARNATE.**

I have thought of Thy ways, and returned my feet to Thy testimonies.

**59. AS WE LOOK ON YOU, O VIRGIN, THE MOTHER OF GOD, WE THINK THAT WE SHALL SEE GOD FOREVER; HOW SHALL WE NOW BEAR THIS SEPARATION?**

I prepared myself calmly to keep Thy commandments.

**60. OUR SPIRIT FAILS AND GROWS WEAK WITHIN US AS WE SEE YOU WITHOUT BREATH, O BRIDE OF GOD WHO ACQUIRED THE SPIRIT OF GOD WHO TOOK UP HIS ABODE IN YOU.**

Though the cords of the sinners ensnared me, I did not forget Thy law.

**61. O THEOTOKOS VIRGIN, OUR JOY! O THEOTOKOS, WHO ARE OUR PREACHING! O THEOTOKOS, TO WHERE DO YOU NOW DEPART FROM US?**

At midnight I rose to praise Thee, because of Thy righteous ordinances.

**62. TO WHERE DO YOU GO, O VIRGIN? TO WHERE ARE YOU NOW TRANSLATED? YOU HAVE NOW TAKEN FLIGHT FAR HIGHER THAN THE HEAVENS, LEAVING YOUR FLEDGLINGS BEHIND ON EARTH.**

I am a companion of all who fear Thee, of those who keep Thy precepts.

**63. O DAVID, THE ANCESTOR OF GOD, COME NOW AND BE WITH US AT THE DEPARTURE OF THE MOTHER OF OUR GOD ON THIS WELL-NAMED FESTIVAL.**

The earth, O Lord, is full of Thy mercy; teach me Thy statutes!

**64. CALL OUT EVEN NOW TO THE ANGELS OF GOD: "OPEN WIDE THE GATES TO RECEIVE, IN A GODLY MANNER AND WITH BEAUTY, THE MOTHER OF GOD!"**

Thou hast dealt well with Thy servant, O Lord, according to Thy word.

**65. HIMSELF BEAUTIFUL IN GOODNESS, THE HEAVENLY KING HAS NOW DESIRED THE GOODNESS OF HIS MOTHER, AND HAS SUMMONED HER TO HEAVEN.**

Teach me goodness, discipline and knowledge, for I have believed in Thy commandments.

**66. THOUGH YOU RECEIVED BURIAL AS A MORTAL, O VIRGIN, THROUGH THE ALL-ACTIVE SPIRIT OF GOD YOU AROSE.**

Before I was afflicted I went astray; I have therefore kept Thy word.

**67. THOUGH PLACED IN A TOMB AND UNACCUSTOMED TO REMAIN THEREIN, THE GOD-PLEASING BODY ARISES BY THE POWER OF GOD.**

**Thou art good, O Lord; in Thy goodness, teach me Thy statutes.**

**68. O THEOTOKOS, THE HEAVENLY LADDER, YOUR BURIAL SERVED AS A LADDER TO YOU BY WHICH YOU ASCENDED TO GOD WHO ABIDES ABOVE.**

**The unrighteousness of the proud has multiplied against me, but with my whole heart I explore Thy commandments.**

**69. THE LIGHT-BEARING LAMP OF THE NEVER-SETTING LIGHT IS BUT BRIEFLY CONCEALED WITHIN THE EARTH AND THEN, IN BRILLIANCE, IS SET ON HIGH.**

**Their heart has curdled like milk, but I have meditated on Thy law.**

**70. THE EARTH THAT ONCE WAS CURSED BY GOD WAS NOW SANCTIFIED BY THE BURIAL OF OUR GOD AND IS NOW AGAIN MAKE HOLY BY YOUR BURIAL, O MOTHER.**

**It is good for me that Thou hast humbled me, that I might learn Thy statutes.**

**71. ONCE IN DAYS OF OLD THE FLESHLESS ONE–THE DEVIL–FELL MISERABLY FROM HEAVEN; NOW WONDROUSLY HIGHER THAN THE HEAVENS IS THE FLESH-BEARING VIRGIN MARY.**

**The law of Thy mouth is better to me than thousands of gold and silver.**

**72. SINCE YOU HAVE LEFT THIS EARTH BEHIND, O PURE ONE, YOUR MAGNIFICENCE AND GLORY HAVE APPEARED BEFORE THE VERY GLORY OF GOD.**

**Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:**

**73. WE HYMN THEE, O WORD, AS GOD OF ALL, WITH THE FATHER AND THY HOLY SPIRIT, AND WE GLORIFY THY DIVINE COUNTENANCE.**

**Now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.**

**74. ALL GENERATIONS BLESS YOU, O THEOTOKOS AND EVER-VIRGIN MARY SOVEREIGN LADY, AND WE GLORIFY YOUR DORMITION.**

[Again, the first verse is repeated.]

**THOU, O CHRIST, LIFE ITSELF, WAS LAID WITHIN THE TOMB AND NOW SO, THE MOTHER OF LIFE: A STRANGE SIGHT BOTH TO ANGELS AND MEN.**

Small Litany and the Exclamation: “For blessed is Thy name....”

**SECOND STASIS**

- 1. IT IS MEET TO MAGNIFY THEE, THE GIVER OF LIFE, WHO HAS GLORIFIED THE LIFEBEARING REPOSE OF THY PURE MOTHER.**

**Thy hands have made and fashioned me; give me understanding that I may learn Thy commandments.**

- 2. IT IS MEET TO MAGNIFY YOU, O THEOTOKOS WHO PLACED YOUR DIVINE AND ALL-STAINLESS SOUL INTO THE HANDS OF GOD.**

**Those who fear Thee shall see me and rejoice, because I have hoped in Thy word.**

- 3. O NEW WONDER! THE DOOR NOW PASSES THROUGH A DOOR, HEAVEN ENTERS HEAVEN, AND THE THRONE OF GOD ASCENDS TO THE THRONE OF GOD.**

**I have known, O Lord, that Thy judgments are right, and with truth hast Thou humbled me.**

- 4. ALL THE ANGELIC HOSTS STOOD AND MARVELLED TO SEE THE UNAPPROACHABLE CHRIST GOD APPROACHING HIS MOTHER TO RENDER HONOR TO HER.**

**Let Thy mercy be my comfort, according to Thy promise to Thy servant.**

- 5. WITH FEAR THEY TREMBLED TO SEE GOD DESCENDING ONCE AGAIN AND TAKING HER SOUL INTO HIS HANDS, ASCENDING IN DIVINE GLORY.**

**Let Thy compassions come to me, that I may live; for Thy law is my meditation.**

- 6. TREMBLE WITH FEAR, O HEAVEN; AND GIVE HEED UNTO THESE WORDS, O EARTH: GOD WHO IS ABOVE ALL DID ONCE DISCEND AND NOW FOR HIS MOTHER’S SAKE AGAIN A SECOND TIME COMES DOWN.**

**Let the proud be put to shame, for unjustly have they transgressed against me; as for me, I will meditate on Thy commandments.**

- 7. WISDOM, REMOVING HER DWELLING FROM EARTH TO HER HEAVENLY MANSION, HAS FILLED THAT DWELLING WITH GODLY GLORY.**

**Let those who fear Thee turn to me, even those who know Thy testimonies.**

- 8. NOT FROM HEAVEN DID THE VIRGIN BRIDE OF GOD COME DOWN, BUT TO THE HEAVENS SHE DID ASCEND, FOR SHE GAVE BIRTH TO THE HEAVENLY KING.**

**May my heart be blameless in Thy statutes, that I may not be put to shame.**

- 9. HEAVEN NOW BECOMES PASSABLE BY MAN: COME, ALL YOU CHRIST-BEARING PEOPLE, LET US ASCEND WITH THE MOTHER OF GOD.**

**My soul languishes for Thy salvation; I hope in Thy words.**

- 10. YOU WENT DOWN INTO THE EARTH, O UNTILLED EARTH OF THE LORD WHO BROUGHT FORTH THE GRAIN OF LIFE AND REACHED THE HEAVENLY LANDS.**

**My eyes fail with watching for Thy word, saying, “when wilt Thou comfort me?”**

- 11. THE SUN WHICH ONCE SAW IN TIME PAST THE SETTING OF THE SUN OF RIGHTEOUSNESS, NOW SEES THE SETTING OF THE MOON—THE VIRGIN AND MOTHER OF LIGHT.**

**For I have become like a wineskin in the frost, yet I have not forgotten Thy statutes.**

- 12. THE DARK GRAVE COVERS THE OVER-SHADOWED AND LIGHT-BEARING MOUNTAIN OF THE LORD WHICH HAS COVERED THE HEAVENS WITH VIRTURE.**

**How many are the days of Thy servant? When wilt thou Judge those who persecute me?**

- 13. THOUGH YOU HAVE BEEN TAKEN FROM EARTH TO THE HEAVENS, O VIRGIN, ALL THE EARTH REJOICES WITH YOU AND GLORIFIES YOUR REPOSE.**

**Transgressors have told me fables, but they are not like Thy law, O Lord.**

**14. THOUGH YOUR INCORRUPT BODY HAS BEEN ENCLOSED IN THE HEAVENS, O VIRGIN, YOUR GRACE POURS FORTH AND FILLS ALL THE FACE OF THE EARTH.**

**All Thy commandments are true; they persecuted me falsely; help me!**

**15. FILLING THOSE DAYS WITH HYMNS TO GOD, PRAYERS AND FASTING, YOU AWAITED YOUR REPOSE, O VIRGIN.**

**They have almost made an end of me on earth; but I have not forsaken Thy commandments.**

**16. THE SOULS OF THE FAITHFUL REJOICE, AND THEIR FACES SHINE WITH LIGHT BECAUSE OF YOU, O ALL-HOLY LADY, WHO DEPART TO THE LORD.**

**In Thy mercy give me life, that I may keep the testimonies of Thy mouth.**

**17. BEHOLD HOW WE BELIEVERS, STANDING PIOUSLY BEFORE YOUR TOMB, MAKE A BURIAL SONG TO YOU, THE ORIGIN OF OUR LIFE.**

**For ever, O Lord, Thy word abides in the heavens.**

**18. RISING EARLY, WE BELIEVERS NOW WITH LOVE SING YOUR GLORY, O SOVEREIGN LADY, SPOTLESS VIRGIN, AND WE GLORIFY YOUR REPOSE.**

**Thy truth is from generation to generation; Thou hast established the earth, and it stands fast.**

**19. IN THE HEAVENLY KINGDOM REMEMBER US WHO FAITHFULLY HYMN YOUR PASSING, O VIRGIN BRIDE OF GOD.**

**By Thy appointment this day stands; for all things are Thy servants.**

**20. NOW HAS THE POWERFUL MAKER OF HEAVEN AND EARTH MAGNIFIED YOU, O MOST-PURE VIRGIN, AS ONCE YOU FORETOLD.**

**If Thy law had not been my meditation, I should have perished in my humiliation.**

**21. NOW YOU STAND BEFORE THE TRI-HYPOSTATIC GODHEAD, GAZING FACE TO FACE WHERE THE SERAPHIM COVER THEIR FACES.**

**I will never forget Thy precepts; for by them Thou hast given me life.**

**22. HEAVEN NOW REJOICES WITH YOU AND WITH THE EARTH  
MAKES GLAD, O PURE ONE WHO DEPART TO HEAVEN.**

**I am Thine, save me; for I have sought Thy statutes.**

**23. AT THE GLORY OF HIS DAUGHTER, THE HANDMAIDEN OF GOD,  
JOACHIM NOW REJOICES, AT THE GLORY OF HER WHO IS TRULY  
INEFFABLE AND DIVINE.**

**Sinners laid in wait to destroy me; but I understood Thy testimonies.**

**24. GETHSEMANE WHICH RECEIVED THE BLESSED AND VIRGINAL  
TOMB IS BLESSED, REVERED AS A ROYAL BRIDAL CHAMBER.**

**I have seen a limit to all perfection, but Thy commandment is exceedingly broad.**

**25. COME, O BELIEVERS, TO THE HOLY TOMB OF THE LORD AND HIS  
ALL-HOLY MOTHER; LET US BOW DOWN WITH FEAR AND JOY.**

**Oh, how I have loved Thy law! It is my meditation all the day.**

**26. LET US EAGERLY GO UP TO JERUSALEM AND BEHOLD THE  
MYSTERIES OF GOD WHICH HAVE COME TO PASS FOR OUR  
SAKES.**

**Thy commandment makes me wiser than my enemies, for it is ever with me.**

**27. THE ANGELS, O PURE ONE, STAND GUARD IN DEEP DEVOTION  
ABOUT YOUR HONORABLE TOMB WHICH FLASHES WITH SACRED  
LIGHT LIKE LIGHTNING, FOR IT IS MADE BRIGHT BY THE LIGHT  
OF GOD.**

**I have more understanding than all my teachers, for Thy testimonies are my  
meditation.**

**28. AT YOUR ASCENSION INTO HEAVEN ALL THE AERIAL SPIRITS  
WERE OVERCOME WITH AWE AND FEAR, O PURE ONE, AND  
TREMBLED BEFORE YOUR POWER.**

**I understand more than the aged, for I keep Thy commandments.**

**29. SEEING THE LIGHT OF THE GLORY OF THE MOTHER OF GOD,  
SATAN, WHO FELL LIKE LIGHTNING FROM THE HEIGHTS INTO**

**HELL, TREMBLED, AND WEEPING AND GROANING CRIED ALOUD:  
“WHAT HAVE I TO DO WITH YOU, O MOTHER OF GOD?”**

**I held back my feet from every evil way, in order to keep Thy words.**

**30. O, THE RICH BOUNTIES OF CHRIST GOD! O, THE UMMEASURABLE DEPTHS OF HIS LOVE! FOR HE HAS FILLED THE FURTHERMOST LANDS OF THE EARTH WITH THE MOST-GLORIOUS REVELATION OF HIS MOTHER.**

**I have not turned aside from Thy ordinances, for Thou hast taught me the law.**

**31. CHRIST, FOR OUR SAKES, BEFORE WENT DOWN INTO HELL; NOW MARY THE VIRGIN HAS ASCENDED INTO HEAVEN TO OUR HELP AND JOY.**

**How sweet are Thy words to my taste, sweeter than honey to my mouth!**

**32. I GLORIFY, HONOR AND BOW DOWN TO THE DESCENT OF GOD AND YOUR ASCENT, O VIRGIN, FOR THESE ARE THE CAUSES OF MY ENTRY INTO LIFE.**

**Through Thy precepts I received understanding; therefore I have hated every false way.**

**33. YOU GAVE YOUR HONORABLE SASH TO THOMAS, O VIRGIN, IN WITNESS OF YOUR TRANSLATION IN THE FLESH TO GOD.**

**Thy word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.**

**34. SHOULD EVEN NOW THOMAS THE TWIN AGAIN HAVE ARRIVED NOT IN TIME; YET HE HAS BEEN GRANTED THE MYSTERIES THROUGH THE MOST-GLORIOUS RESURRECTION OF CHRIST.**

**I have sworn an oath and confirmed it, to observe Thy righteous ordinances.**

**35. O VANQUISHED AND OBSTINANT RACE OF JEWS! YOU GAVE THE SON OVER TO THE CROSS, AND NOW YOU RAISE YOUR HAND AGAINST THE MOTHER.**

**I am sorely humbled, give me life, O Lord, according to Thy word!**

**36. HOW DID YOU, O EVIL ONE, DARE TO TOUCH THE ARK OF THE ARK OF THE LIVING GOD? BUT THE JUDGMENT OF SEVERANCE WAS BROUGHT TO PASS.**

**Accept the free-will offerings of my lips, O Lord, and teach me Thy ordinances.**

**37. THE APOSTLES STOOD AROUND YOU, O PURE ONE, WHILE ON HIGH THE POWERS WENT OUT TO MEET YOU, FOR YOU ARE SOVEREIGN BOTH OF ANGELS AND OF MEN.**

**My soul is over Thy hand and I do not forget Thy law.**

**38. OFFERING UP A SACRED DIRGE FOR YOU, O VIRGIN, THEY CRIED ALOUD: “HOW SHALL WE COVER YOU WITH EARTH AS BEFITS THE DEAD, O DIVINE PALACE?”**

**The sinners laid a snare for me, but I did not stray from Thy precepts.**

**39. HOW SHALL WE GIVE YOU OVER TO THE GRAVE, O PURE ONE—RATIONAL PARADISE OF THE SON AND WORD, SURPASSING THOUGHT AND SPEECH?**

**Thy testimonies are my heritage for ever; yea, they are the joy of my heart.**

**40. COMFORTING THE PREACHERS OF GOD WITH DIVINE WORDS, YOU OVERCAME A HOST OF SORROWS BY SPEAKING TO THEM AS DOES A MOTHER, O MOTHER OF GOD.**

**I have inclined my heart to perform Thy statutes for ever, for a recompense.**

**41. O CHILDREN OF THE LORD AND OF MY SON, DO NOT TURN THE JOY OF MY DEPARTURE TO GOD INTO SORROW BY YOUR TEARS.**

**I have hated transgressors, but I have loved Thy law.**

**42. BEHOLD, I NOW DEPART ABOVE THE WORLD AS AN INTERCESSOR BEFORE GOD; I AM EVER WITH YOU IN THE WORLD WITH THE LORD, ACCORDING TO HIS WORD.**

**Thou art my helper and my supporter; I have hoped in Thy word.**

**43. WE YOUR SERVANTS, O PURE ONE, GREATLY FEAR TO TOUCH YOU ALL-HOLY AND GOD-RECEIVING BODY, THAT WE MAY BURY THE MOTHER OF LIFE.**

**Depart from me, you evil-doers, and I will explore the commandments of my God.**

**44. WHAT VESTURE, WHAT WINDING-SHEET AND SHROUDS, WHAT MYRRH AND OINTMENTS, AND WHAT BURIAL SONGS SHALL WE OFFER, O PURE VIRGIN?**

**Help me according to Thy word, and I shall live, and let me not be put to shame in my hope!**

**45. KINGS OF THE EARTH AND THE WEALTHY AMONG MEN PRAY BEFORE YOUR FACE, O VIRGIN-DAUGHTER OF THE HEAVENLY KING.**

**Hold me up, and I shall be saved, and shall meditate on Thy statutes continually!**

**46. GOD AS AN INFANT UPON EARTH RESTED UPON HIS MOTHER; NOW IN HEAVEN THE MOTHER RESTS AND TAKES UP HER ABODE IN GOD.**

**Thou dost spurn all who go astray from Thy statutes, for their thoughts are unrighteous.**

**47. NOW MARY REJOICES TO SEE UPON THE THRONE OF GOD THE DEIFIED ALL-SPOTLESS BODY OF THE LORD.**

**I have counted as transgressors all the sinners of the earth; therefore have I loved thy testimonies.**

**48. NOW, O VIRGIN, YOU HAVE HEARD THERE INEFFABLE SAYINGS, AND GOD HAS MADE KNOWN TO YOU THE HIDDEN AND SECRET THINGS OF HIS WISDOM.**

**Nail down my flesh for fear of Thee, for I am afraid of Thy judgments.**

**49. THE MOST GLORIOUS CITY OF THE LORD, OF WHICH MOST-GLORIOUS THINGS ARE SAID, IS TAKEN FROM THE EARTH AND LED INTO THE HOUSE OF GOD.**

**I have done what is just and right; do not leave me to my oppressors.**

**50. THE UNDEFILED AND VIRGINAL EARTH, FROM WHICH THE NEW ADAM WAS MADE–THE CREATOR OF ADAM THE FOREFATHER–IS TAKEN FROM THE EARTH.**

**Receive Thy servant for good; let not the proud slander me.**

**51. HEAVEN, NOW MOST-GLORIOUSLY RECEIVES THE HOLY CHARIOT OF GOD WITH COUNTLESS HOSTS AND CHOIRS OF ANGELS.**

**My eyes fail with watching for Thy salvation, and for the word of Thy righteousness.**

**52. TODAY IN NEW BEAUTY THE PURE AND ALL-HOLIEST TYPE IS TAKEN FROM THE EARTH TO WHERE THE PROTOTYPE ABIDES.**

Deal with Thy servant according to Thy mercy, and teach me Thy statutes.

**53. NOW GOD TRANSLATES INTO HEAVEN IN A MANNER BOTH BEAUTIFUL AND DIVINE THE WELL-MADE IMAGE OF GODLY FASHIONING–THE ALL-ABUNDANT BEAUTY OF THE EARTH.**

I am Thy servant; giving me understanding, and I shall know Thy testimonies.

**54. THE SECRET BOOK IN WHICH THE WORD OF GOD WAS WRITTEN, IS PLACED IN THE HAND OF GOD FOR THE WRITING OF HEAVENLY MYSTERIES.**

It is time for the Lord to act, for they have scattered Thy law.

**55. AS A DOVE WOUNDED BY LOVE, O VIRGIN, YOU FLEW ABOUT THE THRONE OF GOD, HAVING TAKEN THY FLIGHT FROM THE NEST WHICH IS UPON THE EARTH.**

Therefore I have loved Thy commandments above gold and topaz.

**56. O WONDROUS MARY, QUEEN OF HEAVEN AND EARTH, LEAD INTO THE KINGDOM THOSE WHO GLORIFY YOUR REPOSE.**

Therefore I directed my steps by all Thy commandments; and I hated every false way.

**57. SLEEP NOW, O PURE ONE, IN YOUR LIFE-GIVING REPOSE, AND AS YOU ARE GOOD, STILL THE SCANDALS OF THE CHURCH AND ESTABLISH IT.**

Thy testimonies are wonderful; therefore my soul explores them.

**58. NOW WE HYMN YOUR REPOSE AND ENTOMBMENT, O PURE ONE, AND ALL BLESS YOU IN FAITH, FOR BY YOUR BIRTH-GIVING HAVE WE BEEN REDEEMED FROM DEATH.**

The unfolding of Thy words gives light and understanding to the simple.

**59. THE APOSTLES, UPON SEEING YOU, THE HONORABLE, HOLY, AND GOD-RECEIVING COUCH, LYING ON A COUCH, CRIED OUT WITH LAMENTATION.**

**With open mouth I pant, because I long for Thy commandments.**

**60. RECLINE NOW, O HONORABLE AND EVER-VIRGINAL VIRGIN MARY; TAKE YOUR REST AND RULE WITH GOD UNTO AGES OF AGES.**

**Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:**

**61. O GOD WITHOUT BEGINNING, CO-ETERNAL WORD AND HOLY SPIRIT, EXALT THE HORN OF CHRISTIANS, FOR THOU ART ALL-MERCIFUL AND GOOD.**

**Now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.**

**62. GRANT TRUE LIFE TO ALL THE FAITHFUL, O ALL-SPOTLESS AND PURE VIRGIN WHO GAVE BIRTH TO LIFE ITSELF AND TO LIFE HAVE NOW DEPARTED.**

[Again, the first verse is repeated.]

**IT IS MEET TO MAGNIFY THEE, THE GIVER OF LIFE, WHO HAS GLORIFIED THE LIFEBEARING REPOSE OF THY PURE MOTHER.**

Small Litany and the Exclamation: “For holy art Thou...”

### **THIRD STASIS**

**Look on me and have mercy on me, according to the judgment of those who love Thy name.**

**1. ALL GENERATIONS OFFER A SONG UNTO YOUR BURIAL, O VIRGIN.**

**Direct my steps according to Thy word, and let no iniquity gain dominion over me.**

**2. COME, ALL CREATION, AND LET US OFFER SONGS OF DEPARTURE TO THE VIRGIN.**

**Deliver me from the false accusations of men an I will keep Thy commandments.**

**3. THE DISCIPLES OF MY CHRIST GIVE BURIAL TO THE BODY OF THE MOTHER OF MY GOD.**

**Make Thy face shine upon Thy servant, and teach me Thy statutes.**

**4. ATTENDING INVISIBLY, ANGELS AND ARCHANGELS SING PRAISES.**

**My eyes shed streams of tears, because I did not keep Thy law.**

**5. WEEPING, WITH THE APOSTLES THE HONORABLE WOMEN CRY OUT:**

**Righteous art Thou, O Lord, and right are Thy judgments.**

**6. O VIRGIN WHO KNEW NOT WEDLOCK AND THE MOTHER OF GOD ON HIGH, HOW SHALL WE BEAR THE PAIN?**

**Thou hast commanded righteousness and absolute truth to be Thy testimonies.**

**7. YOUR DEPARTURE TODAY WHICH IS JOY FOR ALL THE WORLD IS FOR US MOURNFUL WEEPING.**

**My zeal consumed me because my foes have forgotten Thy words.**

**8. LET US NOT BE LEFT ORPHANS FROM YOUR MOTHERLY LOVE AND CARE.**

**Thy word is well tried, and Thy servant has loved it.**

**9. O VIRGIN, OUR LIGHT, HOW SHALL WE BEAR NOT TO SEE YOUR EYES MOST SWEET?**

**I am young and despised, yet I have not forgotten Thy precepts.**

**10. O WOE, ALAS, HOW HAVE YOUR GOD-LOVING LIPS WHICH EVER SPOKE OF HIM BEEN BOUND BY SILENCE?**

**Thy righteousness is righteous forever, and Thy law is truth.**

**11. “WE SHALL NOT LEAVE THE MOTHER OF OUR TEACHER!” THE APOSTLES CRIED OUT.**

**Trouble and anguish have come upon me, but Thy commandments are my meditation.**

**12. ONCE AGAIN ON UPBORNE CLOUDS, O VIRGIN, WE SHALL GO BEFORE YOU TO THE GATES OF HEAVEN.**

**Thy testimonies are righteous forever; give me understanding and I shall live.**

**13. THE HOLY STAFF, PLACED WITHIN THE TOMB, BLOSSOMS FORTH LIFE.**

**With my whole heart have I cried; hear me, O Lord!**

**14. SHE WHO BY HER BIRTH-GIVING RAISED THE DEAD FROM THE GRAVES, IS HERSELF PLACED IN A GRAVE.**

**I have cried to Thee; save me, and I will observe Thy testimonies.**

**15. “TO WHERE DO YOU DEPART, O MOTHER!” THE FRIEND AND CHAMPION OF VIRGINITY CRIED, AS BEFITTED A SON.**

**I arose before dawn and cried; I have hoped in Thy words.**

**16. YOU WENT FORTH INTO THE JOY OF YOUR SON, O MOTHER OF GOD, AND YOU MADE GLAD AND REJOICED.**

**My eyes woke before the morning that I might meditate upon Thy words.**

**17. “ARE YOU CALLED AGAIN THIS DAY WITH THE APOSTLES TO THE WEDDING FEAST IN CANA?**

**Hear my voice in Thy mercy, O Lord; give me life according to Thy judgment.**

**18. TO YOUR DIVINE SON, O VIRGIN, TAKE UP TODAY ME YOUR CHILD.**

**They have drawn near who persecute me unlawfully; they have gone far from Thy law.**

**19. NOW TRANSLATE ME, O MOTHER, BY YOUR OWN TRANSLATION TO HIM WHO WAS BORN OF YOU,**

**But Thou art near, O Lord, and all Thy ways are true.**

**20. THAT IN HEAVEN WE MAY STAND IN GLORY TOGETHER AS WE STOOD BEFORE THE CROSS IN SUFFERING.”**

**Long have I known from Thy testimonies that Thou hast founded them forever.**

**21. THE MASTER DESCENDED WITH MYRIADS OF INTELLIGENCES: O GETHSEMANE, BE GLAD!**

**Look on my humiliation and deliver me, for I have not forgotten Thy Law.**

**22. BE GLAD, O CHOIR OF DISCIPLES, BEHOLDING THE LORD IN GLORY!**

**Judge my cause and redeem me; give me life according to Thy word!**

**23. LET THE WHOLE EARTH MAKE GLAD SEEING GOD DESCEND AGAIN TODAY.**

**Salvation is far from sinners, for they have not sought Thy statutes.**

**24. IN HASTE LET US GO OUT TO MEET THE LORD WHO DESCENDED ONCE AGAIN,**

**Many are Thy compassions, O Lord; give me life according to Thy judgment.**

**25. THAT WE ALL MAY HEAR GOD CONVERSING TODAY WITH HIS ALL-SPOTLESS MOTHER.**

**Many are the persecutors and my oppressors, but I have not swerved from Thy testimonies.**

**26. O SWEETEST MOTHER, COME REJOICING TO YOUR SWEETEST SON.**

**I saw men without understanding, and grieved, because they did not keep Thy words.**

**27. BEHOLD, YOUR SON HAS COME NOW TO TAKE YOU TO HIS OWN.**

**Behold how I have loved Thy commandments! Give me life, O Lord, according to Thy mercy.**

**28. "I HAVE COME," SAID HE, "THAT THE GLORY OF MY MOTHER MAY APPEAR BEFORE THE GLORY OF MY FATHER."**

**The beginning of Thy words is truth; and all the judgments of Thy righteousness endure for ever.**

**29. "THINE UTTER LOVING-KINDNESS I GLORIFY, O MY GOD," THE MOTHER SAID TO HER SON.**

**Princes have persecuted me without cause, and my heart stands in awe of Thy words.**

**30. I GLORIFY THEE, O MY SON, AND BOW DOWN BEFORE THE GLORY OF THY MAJESTY.**

**I will rejoice at Thy words like one who finds great spoil.**

**31. “SINCE YOU, WHO ARE CLOSEST TO ME, HAVE RISEN FROM THE EARTH, DRAW NIGH NOW TO MY FATHER.”**

**I have hated and abhorred falsehood, but I have loved Thy law.**

**32. YOU ARE A GARDEN ALL ENCLOSED IN WHICH THE TREE OF LIFE AND IMMORTALITY IS FOUND.**

**Seven times a day have I praised Thee for Thy righteous judgments.**

**33. YOU ARE A SEALED FOUNTAIN FROM WHICH STREAMS OF ALL-INEFFABLE SWEETNESS FLOWS.**

**Great peace have those who love Thy law; nothing can make them stumble.**

**34. O MY SON, I HYMN THE SOVEREIGNTY OF THY GODHEAD MOST DIVINE.**

**I have hoped for Thy salvation, O lord, and I have loved Thy commandments.**

**35. O MY SON, I HYMN THY CONDESCENSION AND LOVE FOR MANKIND.**

**My soul has kept Thy testimonies and loved them exceedingly.**

**36. COME AWAY, O MY BEAUTIFUL ONE, TO TAKE YOUR DELIGHT IN THE BEAUTY OF YOUR SON AND MAKER.**

**I keep Thy commandments and Thy testimonies, for all my ways lie before Thee, O Lord.**

**37. COME AWAY, O MY MOTHER, AND ENTER THE KINGDOM AND DIVINE JOY.**

**Let my supplication draw near and come before Thee, O Lord; give me understanding according to Thy word.**

**38. COME, O MARY, WHERE THE FATHER, SON AND HOLY SPIRIT ARE WORSHIPPED AS ONE.**

**Let my petition come before Thee, O Lord; deliver me according to Thy word.**

**39. WHAT SHALL I, AS A HANDMAID TO HER MASTER, GIVE TO THEE,  
O GOD-MAN, MY SON?**

**My lips will pour forth a hymn when Thou shalt have taught me Thy statutes.**

**40. INTO THE HEAVENS, O MY GOD, WHAT CAN I BRING THEE NOT,  
BUT MY SOUL AND BODY?**

**My tongue will sound Thy words.**

**41. I GLORIFY THE FATHER, I HYMN THEE, O MY SON, AND I  
WORSHIP THE SPIRIT.**

**For all Thy commandments are right.**

**42. GLORY TO YOU, O THEOTOKOS, GLORY TO YOUR BIRTHGIVING,  
AND TO YOUR DORMITION SHALL GLORY ALSO BE GIVEN.**

**Let Thy hand be ready to save me, for I have chosen Thy commandments.**

**43. BEHOLDING THE GLORY OF THE VIRGIN, ADAM AND EVE WERE  
STRUCK WITH WONDER.**

**I have longed for Thy salvation, O Lord, and Thy law is my meditation.**

**44. YOU ARE BLESSED, O JOACHIM AND ANNA, FOR YOU HAVE  
BORNE A DAUGHTER INTO THE WORLD!**

**My soul shall live and shall praise Thee, and Thy judgments will help me.**

**45. SHE WHO IS MOST-GLORIFIED HAS MADE HER ABODE IN THE  
HEIGHTS, FOR SHE IS THE MOTHER OF GOD.**

**I have gone astray like a lost sheep: seek Thy servant, for I have not forgotten Thy  
commandments.**

**46. BY YOUR REPOSE GRANT PEACE TO THE CHURCH AND  
SALVATION TO YOUR PEOPLE.**

**Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:**

**47. HAVE MERCY UPON THE WORLD, O TRINITY, MY GOD: FATHER,  
SON AND SPIRIT.**

**Now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.**

**48. GRANT TO YOUR SERVANTS, O VIRGIN, TO SEE THE KINGDOM OF YOUR SON.**

[Again the first verse is repeated]

**ALL GENERATIONS OFFER A SON UNTO YOUR BURIAL, O VIRGIN.**

Then immediately the **TROPARIA, Tone 5:** [During the singing of the Troparia, a full censuring of the church takes place.]

**You are blessed, O Sovereign Lady, with the Light of your Son enlighten me!**

**THE ASSEMBLY OF ANGELS WAS AMAZED SEENG YOU NUMBERED AMONG THE DEAD, O MOST-PURE ONE, FOR YOU GAVE YOUR SOUL INTO THE HANDS OF GOD AND DEPARTED WITH HIM, WITH DIVINE GLORY, INTO HEAVEN.**

**You are blessed, O Sovereign Lady, with the Light of your Son enlighten me!**

**“WHY DO YOU MINGLE JOY WITH TEARS, O PREACHERS OF GOD?” CRIED THE TWIN TO THE APOSTLES, WHEN HE ARRIVED, HAVING BEEN GIVEN UNDERSTANDING FROM ABOVE. “BEHOLD THE SASH AND UNDERSTAND THAT THE VIRGIN HAS RISEN FROM THE GRAVE!”**

**You are blessed, O Sovereign Lady, with the Light of your Son enlighten me!**

**THE DISCIPLE WHO BELIEVED NOT IN THE RESURRECTION OF YOUR SON, O SOVEREIGN LADY, NOW ASSURES THE OTHERS OF YOUR RISING, SAYING: “THE TIME OF LAMENTING HAS PASSED; DO NOT WEEP, BUT SPEAK OF THE VIRGIN’S RESURRECTION.”**

**You are blessed, O Sovereign Lady, with the Light of your Son enlighten me!**

**APPEARING TO THE GODBEARING DISCIPLES WHO, WEEPING, HAD GATHERED AT YOUR GRAVE, O VIRGIN, THOMAS SPOKE, SAYING: WHY DO YOU THINK THE LIVING AMONG THE DEAD? FOR SHE HAS RISEN AS SHE IS THE MOTHER OF GOD.”**

**Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:**

**WE WORSHIP THE FATHER, HIS SON, AND THE HOLY SPIRIT, THE TRINITY ONE IN ESSENCE, CRYING OUT WITH THE SERAPHIM: “HOLY, HOLY, HOLY ART THOU, O LORD!”**

**Now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.**

**O VIRGIN WHO BORE THE GIVER OF LIFE, YOU HAVE GONE UNTO LIFE THAT GROWS NOT OLD. YOU GAVE JOY IN PLACE OF SORROW TO THE DISCIPLES, O VIRGIN WHO ROSE FROM THE GRAVE, AS DID THE LORD, ON THE THIRD DAY.**

**ALLELUIA, ALLELUIA, ALLELUIA, GLORY TO THEE, O GOD. (Thrice)**

Small Litany and the Exclamation: “For all the heavenly powers praise Thee...” Then the **1<sup>st</sup> Antiphon of the 4<sup>th</sup> Tone, “From my youth...”** and the rest, as set forth for the Vigil. Following the singing of the Great Doxology, at “Holy God...” the Icon (or Plashchanitsa) is carried out and about in procession around the church, and is then returned to its place during the singing of the Troparion of the Feast. This is followed by the usual Litanies, Dismissal and the First Hour (during which the Kontakion of the Feast is sung in place of “O Victorious Leader of Triumphant Hosts...”