

The Dormition of our Most Holy Lady, Theotokos and Ever-Virgin Mary

Readings & Hymns



Troparion, Dormition - Tone 1

In giving birth, thou didst preserve thy virginity!
In falling asleep thou didst not forsake the world, O Theotokos!
Thou wast translated to life,
O Mother of Life, //
and by thy prayers thou didst deliver our souls from death!

Kontakion, Dormition - Tone 2

Neither the tomb, nor death,
 could hold the Theotokos,
 who is constant in prayer and our firm hope in her intercessions.
 For being the Mother of Life, she was translated to life //
 by the One who dwelt in her virginal womb!

READINGS AT DIVINE LITURGY

The Prokeimenon

Reader: The Prokeimenon in the 3rd tone: My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior. (*Dormition*) (*Lk 1: 46 - 47*)

All (choir): My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior.

Reader, verse: For He has regarded the low estate of His handmaiden, for behold, all generations will call me blessed. (*Lk 1: 48*)

All (choir): My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior.

Reader: My soul magnifies the Lord,

All (choir): and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior.

The Epistle

§ 240: *Philippians 2: 5 - 11 (Dormition)*

BRETHREN Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus,
 Who, being in the form of God,

did not consider it robbery to be equal with God,
 but made Himself of no reputation and took the form of a servant,
 and was made in the likeness of men.

And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself
 and became obedient unto death, even the death of the Cross.

Therefore God also hath highly exalted Him

and given Him a Name which is above every name,
 that at the Name of Jesus every knee should bow,

of things in heaven, and things on earth, and things under the earth,
 and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord,
 to the glory of God the Father.

The Alleluia

Reader: Alleluia in the 2nd tone.

All (choir): Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

Reader, verse: Arise, O Lord, and go to thy resting place, thou and the ark of thy holiness. (*Dormition*) (*Ps 131 [132]: 8*)

All (choir): Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

Reader, verse: The Lord swore to David a sure oath and will not change his mind.
(Ps 131 [132]: 11)

All (choir): Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

The Gospel

§ 54; Luke 10: 38 - 42; 11: 27 - 28 (*Dormition*)

AT THAT TIME JESUS entered into a certain village:

and a certain woman named Martha received him into her house.

³⁹ And she had a sister called Mary, which also sat at Jesus' feet,
and heard his word.

⁴⁰ But Martha was cumbered about much serving, and came to him, and said,
"Lord, dost thou not care that my sister hath left me to serve alone?
bid her therefore that she help me."

⁴¹ And Jesus answered and said unto her,

"Martha, Martha, thou art careful and troubled about many things:

⁴² But one thing is needful:

and Mary hath chosen that good part,
which shall not be taken away from her."

²⁷ And it came to pass, as he spake these things,

a certain woman of the company lifted up her voice, and said unto him,

"Blessed is the womb that bare thee, and the paps which thou hast sucked."

²⁸ But he said,

"Yea indeed, blessed are they that hear the word of God, and keep it."

Hymn to the Theotokos - Tone 1

Instead of "It is truly meet ..." we sing:

The limits of nature are overcome in thee, O Pure Virgin:
for birth giving remains virginal, and life is united to death;
a virgin after childbearing and alive after death,
thou dost ever save thine inheritance, O Theotokos.

Communion Hymn

I will receive the cup of salvation and call on the name of the Lord. (*Dormition*)

(Ps 115 [116]: 13) Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

Vespers 1st reading Genesis 28:10-17

Jacob left the well of the oath, and went toward Haran.

And he came to a certain place, and slept there that night,

because the sun had set. Taking one of the stones of the place,
he put it under his head and lay down in that place to sleep.

And he dreamed that there was a ladder set up on the earth,
 and the top of it reached to heaven;
 and behold, the angels of God were ascending and descending on it!
 And behold, the Lord stood above it and said, "I am the Lord, the God of
 Abraham thy father and the God of Isaac; the land on which thou liest
 I will give to thee and to thy descendants;
 and thy descendants shall be like the dust of the earth,
 and thou shalt spread abroad to the west and to the east
 and to the north and to the south; and by thee and your descendants
 shall all the families of the earth be blessed.
 Behold, I am with you and will keep you wherever you go,
 and will bring you back to this land; for I will not leave you
 until I have done that of which I have spoken to you."
 Then Jacob awoke from his sleep and said,
 "Surely the Lord is in this place; and I did not know it."
 And he was afraid, and said, "How awesome is this place!
 This is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven."

Vespers, 2nd reading [Ezekiel 43:72, 44:1](#)

Thus says the Lord: It shall be from the eighth day onward
 the priests shall offer upon the altar your burnt offerings
 and your peace offerings; and I will accept you, says the Adonai the Lord."
 Then he brought me back to the outer gate of the sanctuary,
 which faces east; and it was shut.
 And he said to me, "This gate shall remain shut; it shall not be opened,
 and no one shall enter by it; for the Lord, the God of Israel,
 has entered by it; therefore it shall remain shut.
 Only the prince may sit in it to eat bread before the Lord;
 he shall enter by way of the vestibule of the gate,
 and shall go out by the same way."
 Then he brought me by way of the north gate to the front of the temple;
 and I looked, and behold,
 the glory of the Lord filled the temple of the Lord.

Vespers, 3rd reading [Proverbs 9:1-11](#)

Wisdom has built her house,
 she has set up her seven pillars.
 She has slaughtered her beasts, she has mixed her wine,

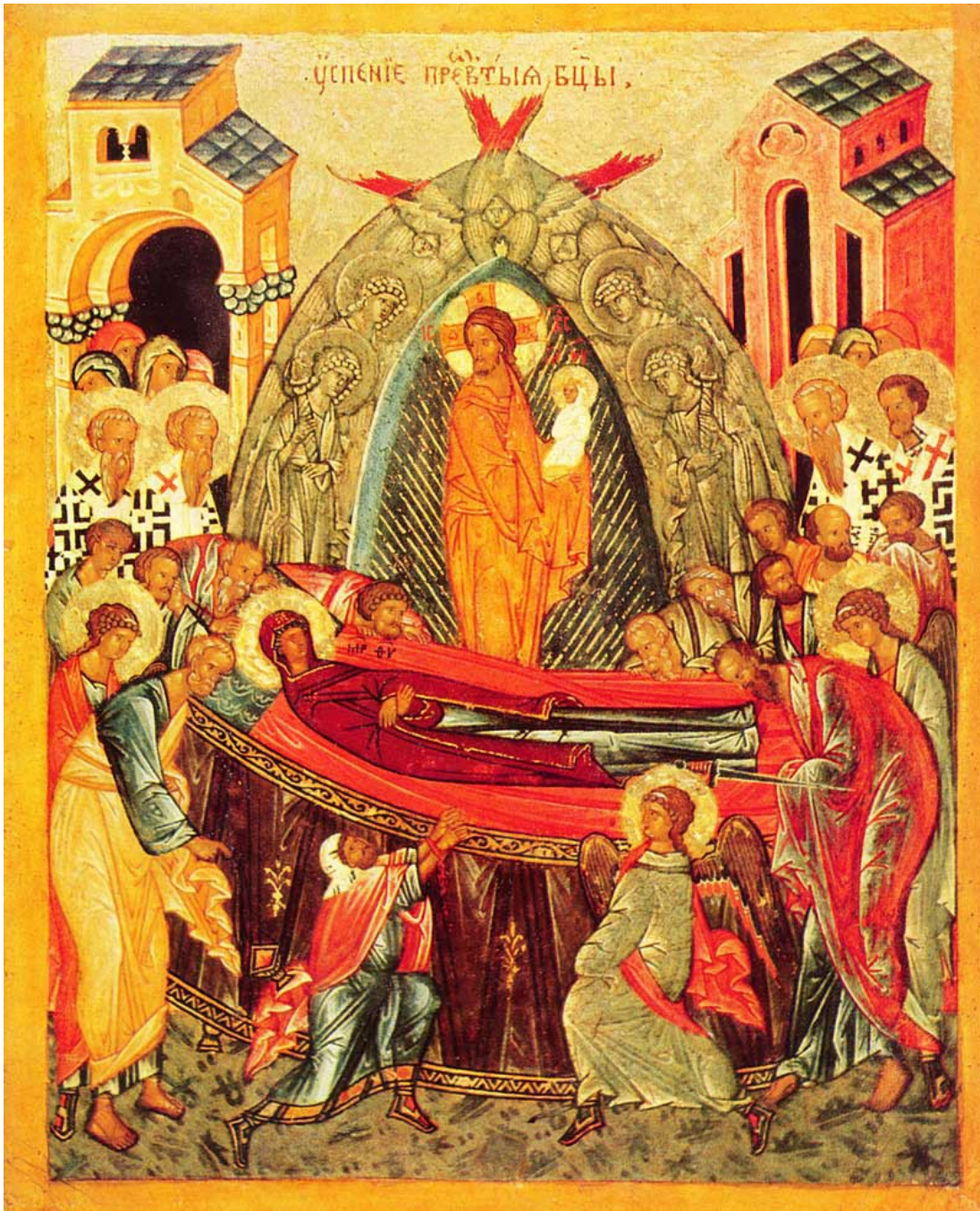
she has also set her table.
 She has sent out her maids to call
 from the highest places in the town,
 "Whoever is foolish, let him turn to me."
 To him who is without sense she says,
 "Come, eat of my bread
 and drink of the wine I have mixed.
 Abandon folly, and you will live;
 and seek understanding that you may have life,
 and set aright your understanding with knowledge.
 One who rebukes the impious will get blame for himself;
 for to the impious rebukes are blows.
 Do not rebuke the wicked, lest he hate you;
 reprove a wise man, and he will love you.
 Give instruction to a wise man, and he will be still wiser;
 teach a righteous man and he will increase in learning.
 The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom,
 and the counsel of saints is understanding.
 While to know the law is the part of a good mind.
 For by me your days will be multiplied,
 and years will be added to your life.

Matins Gospel

§ 4; Luke 1: 39 - 49, 56

AT THAT TIME MARY AROSE, and went into the hill country with haste,
 into a city of Juda;
⁴⁰ And entered into the house of Zacharias, and saluted Elisabeth.
⁴¹ And it came to pass, that, when Elisabeth heard the salutation of Mary, the
 babe leaped in her womb; and Elisabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit:
⁴² And she spake out with a loud voice, and said,
 "Blessed art thou among women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb.
⁴³ And whence is this to me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me?
⁴⁴ For, lo, as soon as the voice of thy salutation sounded in mine ears,
 the babe leaped in my womb for joy.
⁴⁵ And blessed is she that believed: for there shall be
 a performance of those things which were told her from the Lord."
⁴⁶ And Mary said, "My soul doth magnify the Lord,

- ⁴⁷ And my spirit has rejoiced in God my Savior.
⁴⁸ For he has regarded the low estate of his handmaiden:
for, behold, from henceforth all generations shall call me blessed.
⁴⁹ For he that is mighty hath done to me great things; and holy is his name."
⁵⁶ And Mary abode with her about three months,
and returned to her own house.



The Eight Tone Dogmatik of Dormition

From the Menaion, for the Dormition

Tone 1

By the royal command of God, the divinely inspired Apostles were caught up from over all the world into the clouds on high.

Tone 5

Reaching thine immaculate body, the source of Life, they saluted it with mighty honour.

Tone 2

The highest powers of heaven stood by with their own Master.

Tone 6

Seized with dread, they accompanied thine inviolate body that had held God, and they went on high before thee, crying, unseen, to the hierarchies above: 'Lo, the Queen of all, the Maid of God, is nigh.'

Tone 3

Open wide the gates and receive above the world the Mother of the everlasting Light.

Tone 7

For through her the salvation of all mankind has come. We have not the strength to look upon her, and are unable to render honours worthy of her.

Tone 4

For her excellence is past all understanding.

Tone 8

Therefore, O most pure Theotokos, who livest for ever with thy Son, the King who brings life, pray without ceasing that thy newborn people be guarded on every side and saved from all adverse assault: for we are under thy protection.

Tone 1

And we bless thee in beauty and light unto all ages.



Magnification of the Dormition

We magnify thee, O most pure Mother of Christ our God, and we glorify thy most glorious Dormition.

The Eclogarion

The Eclogaria or "Selected Psalms" are verses selected by Kyr Nicephorus Blemmydes (†1272) to be sung after the Polyeleos at Vigil, for the principal feasts. In our contemporary practice, Slavs & Romanians sing the Magnifications on the eclogaria and often sing only 2 - 4 verses. Here is the whole Eclogarion for Dormition.

Make a joyful noise to God, all the earth! 65 [66]:1a

Sing of his Name. 65 [66]:1b

Make a joyful noise before the King, the Lord! 97 [98]:6b

Give thanks to him, praise his name! 99 [100]:4c

In the city of the Lord of hosts, in the city of our God. 47 [48]:8b

His abode has been established in Salem, his dwelling place in Zion. 75 [76]:2

Glorious things are said of thee, O city of God. 86 [87]: 3

God has established her for ever. 47 [48]:8c

The Most High has hallowed his habitation. 45 [46]:5b

Holiness and majesty are in his sanctuary. *95 [96]:6b*

I will sing and make music in my glory. *107 [108]:1b*

I will receive the cup of salvation and call on the name of the Lord. *115:4 [116:13]*

In peace I will both lie down and sleep. *4:8a*

Return, O my soul, to thy rest; for the Lord has dealt bountifully with thee.
114 [116]:7

The righteous Lord has cut in pieces the necks of the sinners. *128 [129]:4*

Arise, O Lord, into thy resting place, thou, and the Ark of Thy holiness.
131 [132]:8

Holiness befits thy house, O Lord, forevermore! *92 [93]:5b*

I will remember thy name from generation to generation. *44 [45]:17a*

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit,
now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia. Glory to Thee, O God.

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia. Glory to Thee, O God.

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia. Glory to Thee, O God.

From the Meanion, for the Dormition,

Tone 1 *Samopodoben*

O marvellous wonder!

The source of life is laid in the tomb,
and the tomb itself becomes a ladder to heaven.

Make glad, O Gethsemane,
thou sacred abode of the Mother of God.

Come, O ye faithful, and with Gabriel to lead us let us cry:

‘Rejoice, thou who art full of grace:

the Lord is with thee,¹

granting the world through thee great mercy’.

Glorious are thy mysteries, O pure Lady.

Thou wast made the Throne of the Most High,
and today thou art translated from earth to heaven.

Thy glory is full of majesty, shining with grace in divine brightness.

O ye virgins, ascend on high with the Mother of the King.

Rejoice, thou who art full of grace:

the Lord is with thee, //

granting the world through thee great mercy.

1 Luke 1: 28.

Exapostilarion - Tone 3, Podoben "Heaven with Stars ..."

O ye apostles, assembled here from the ends of the earth, bury my body in Gethsemane: and Thou, O my Son and God, receive my spirit. *(3 times).*

