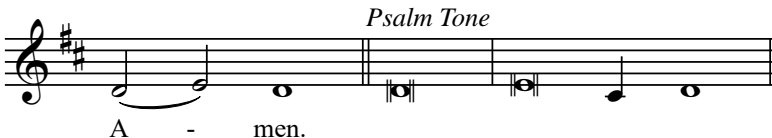


*The Akathist Hymn*  
*in honor of the Dormition of*  
*the Theotokos and Ever-Virgin Mary*

Metropolitan Cantor Institute of the  
Archeparchy of Pittsburgh  
Byzantine Catholic Seminary  
June 2018

# The Service of the Akathist Hymn for the Dormition of the Theotokos

**Priest:** Blessed is our God, always, now and ever and forever.

**Response:**  *Psalm Tone*  
A - men.

Glory to you, our God,  
glory *to* you.

Heavenly King, Comforter, Spirit of Truth,  
everywhere present and filling all things,  
Treasury of Blessings and Giver of Life,  
come and dwell within us,  
cleanse us of all stain,  
and save our souls, O *gracious* One.

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

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit,  
now and ever and forever. *Amen*.

Most Holy Trinity, have mercy on us;  
Lord, cleanse us of our sins;  
Master, forgive our transgressions;  
Holy One, come to us and heal our infirmities for *your* name's sake.

Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.  
Lord *have* mercy.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit,  
now and ever and forever. *Amen*.

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.  
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread,  
and forgive us our trespasses  
as we forgive those who trespass against us,  
and lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us *from* evil.


**Priest:** For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and ever and forever.

**Response:**   
A - men.

*Ordinarily, the faithful STAND throughout the entire service.  
The priest chants those portions for which only text is given,  
and the congregation sings the hymns and refrains.*

**Kontakion 1 (read):** To you, the Mother of God, and Queen chosen from among all generations, we, your servants, O Theotokos, offer reverent and devout praises as you ascend from earth to heaven. You have attained victory over death! Now deliver us from all deadly dangers, that we may exclaim to you:

*Chant refrain*



Re-joyce, re-joyce, O full of grace! You do not a-ban-don us in your dor-mi - tion!

**Ikos 1:** A Prince of Angels was sent to announce to the Theotokos the coming of her Son and God, and to tell her about her ascent to the heavenly world. He stood, solemn and resplendent, as he exclaimed to her:

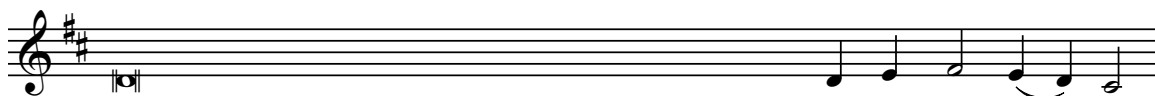
*melody of the Pochaiv Monastery*



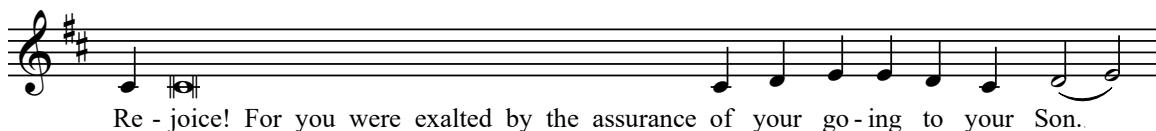
Re-joyce, O most joy-ful Mo-ther of the King! Re - joyce, O Queen of heaven, Mother



of the God and Lord of Hea-ven and earth! Re - joyce! For you were supremely



honored by the unsurpassed goodness of the coming to you of your Son and God.



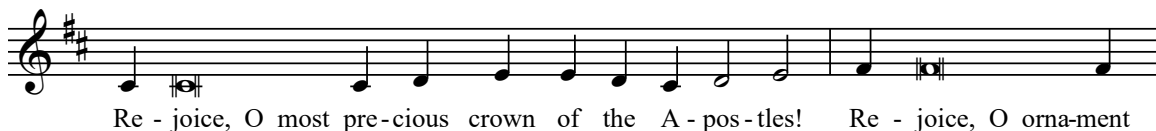
Re - joyce! For you were exalted by the assurance of your go - ing to your Son.



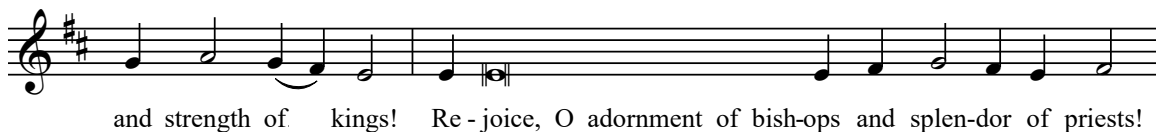
Re - joyce, O one chosen from all ge - ne - ra - tions by God! Re - joyce, O holy abode



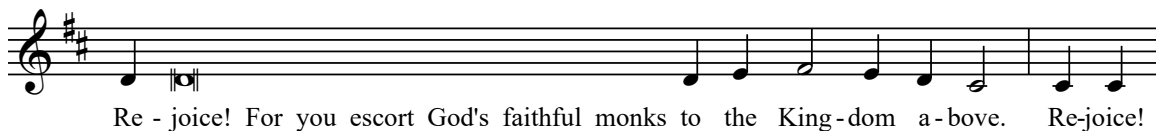
of the Word of God! Re - joyce, O fulfillment of the pro - phe - cies!



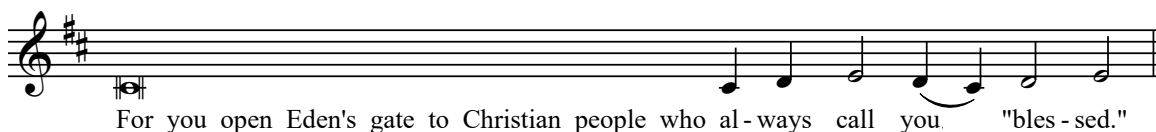
Re - joyce, O most pre - cious crown of the A - pos - tles! Re - joyce, O orna - ment



and strength of kings! Re - joyce, O adornment of bish - ops and splen - dor of priests!

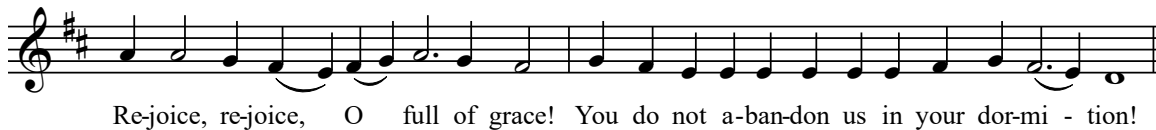


Re - joyce! For you escort God's faithful monks to the King - dom a - bove. Re - joyce!




For you open Eden's gate to Christian people who al - ways call you. "bles - sed."

*Chant refrain*



Re - joyce, re - joyce, O full of grace! You do not a - ban - don us in your dor - mi - tion!

**Kontakion 2 - Kontakion melody, Tone 8**



When the Hier - archs, the heav - enly Dionysius, the wonderful Hierotheus and



Tim-o - the - us, saw the A - pos - tles transported u - pon the clouds from the



ends of the earth to be pre - sent at your most ven - er - able Dormi - tion,  
*Refrain*

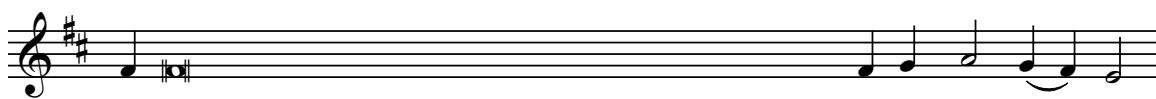


O Most Pure, they sang to God in gratitude for their priest - hood: Al - le - lu - ia,

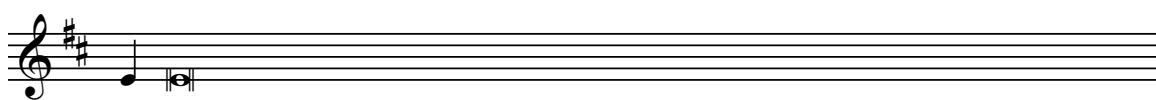


al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

**Ikos 2:** All heavenly spirits and the elder leaders of the Angels arrived with their King, Who took into His life-giving arms the soul of His Mother. Peter, fervent in faith, fearfully uttered many things, exclaiming:



Re - joi - ce, O Mother of the Creator of the Word, as you ascend to the world be - yond!



Re - joi - ce! For although more boundless than the heavens, you are being taken up to the



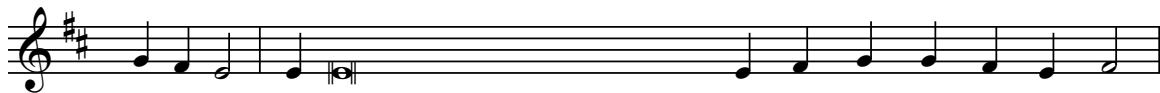
re - gions a - bove the heav - ens! Re - joi - ce! For you sanctified the fourfold elements



with your go - ing up. Re - joi - ce! For with your passage, you filled with joy



those in heav-en. Re-joyce! For you were received into heavenly Jerusalem as the Most



Beau-ti-ful. Re-joyce! For with great joy you en-tered the courts not made by hands.



Re - joyce! O Queen of the Cheru-bim and Se - ra - phim! Re - joyce! O Queen of



Arch-an-gels and An-gels! Re-joyce! O refuge and deliverance of the faith - ful!



Re - joyce! O help and protection of us, your in - her - i - tance! Re-joyce!



O intercessor to God for the en-tire Chris-tian world! Re - joyce! O most gracious



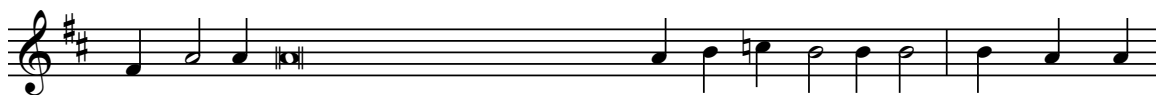
giv - er of boun - ti - ful bles-sings!

### *Chant refrain*



Re-joyce, re-joyce, O full of grace! You do not a-ban-don us in your dor-mi - tion!

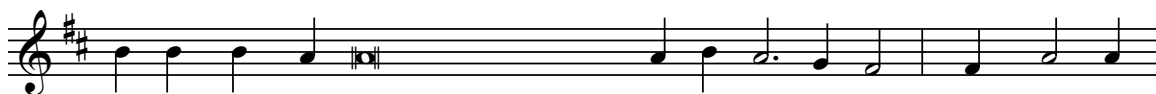
### Kontakion 3



The pow-er of the Most High transported Thom-as from In - di - a, and placed him



at her life-re-ceiving tomb; For God chose to do so since Thom-as was not pre-sent



at the most ven - erable Dormition of the The - o - to - kos. When Thom - as



bent over to see her dead bo - dy, he dis-cov - ered that her body was taken up to



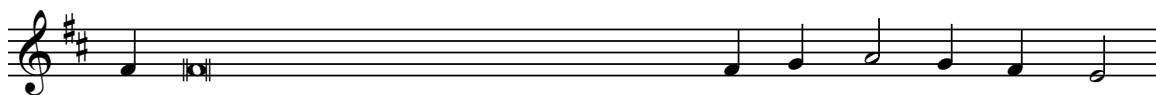
heav - en, and he be - lieved and ex-claimed: Al - le - lu - ia!

#### *Refrain*

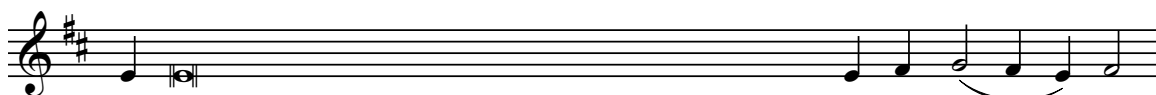


Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

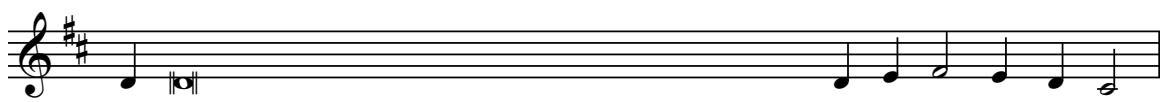
**Ikos 3:** The disciple understood that it was by divine providence that he was not present at the burial of the Theotokos; and, together with the others, he rejoiced that her Dormition was not unto death. Therefore he exclaimed to her:



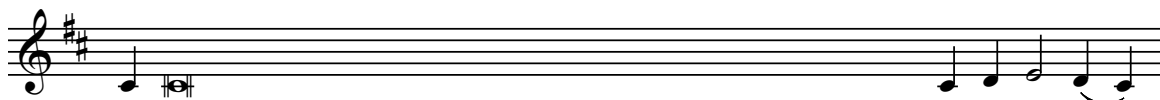
Re - joice! For you were taken up from the earth by the hand of your Son.



Re - joice! For you went up to the heavenly realm to rejoice in His glo - ry.



Re - joice! For you were accompanied by all angelic leaders in - to re - gions a - bove.



Re - joice! For you were borne by Cherubim into the celestial and su - per - ce - les - tial



world. Re - joice! For you are magnificently praised with songs at the heavenly gates



by the el - der hosts. Re - joice! For you are surrounded by all heavenly citizens,



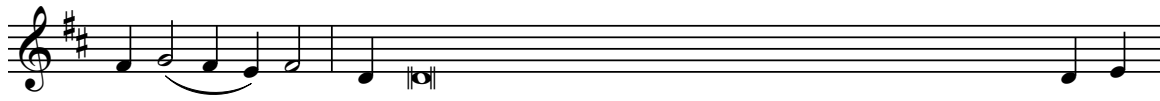
and are called bles - sed. Re - joice! O earthly heaven, exalted in - to the up - per



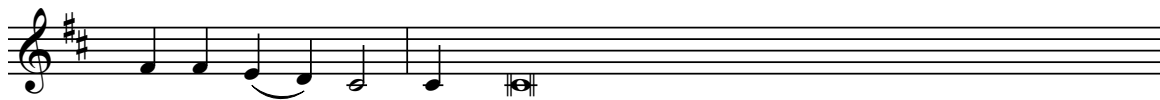
a - bode. Re - joice! O throne of the Lord, transferred from earth in - to the hea - ven - ly



kingdom. Re - joice! our help and strong de - fense! Re - joice! O guarantor of salvation



to sin - ners! Re - joice! O Queen of Christians; and after God, the hope of the



heav'n - ly king - dom! Re - joice! O Mother of Life; and after the Lord, our trustful



expecta-tion of life e - ter - nal!

*Chant refrain*

Re-joyce, re-joyce, O full of grace! You do not a-ban-don us in your dor-mi - tion!

**Kontakion 4**

Aph-tho - ni - us, a He-brew, was trou-bled by thoughts of un - be-lief; and as

he saw the God-bearing A-pos-tles most rev-erently carrying the body of the Theoto-kos

to the tomb, he rushed to o-ver-turn the bier. Sud-den-ly his eyes were blind - ed,

and his severed hands hung fastened to the bier. With faith he confessed the Theoto-kos

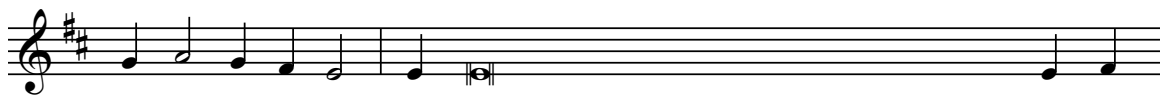
*Refrain*

and ex-claimed: Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

**Ikos 4:** The aspiring faithful and the eye-witnesses of the Word heard the angels sing celestial praises at the burial of the body of the Theotokos, which God received. They wanted to render God-pleasing respect, and hastened to sing in harmony:



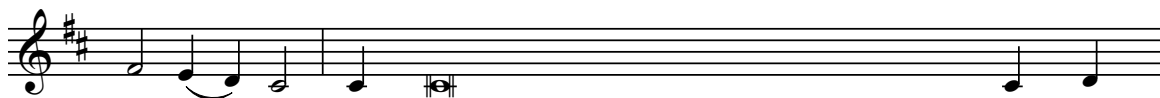
Re-joyce! For you received from Gabriel the messenger the news of your departure in-to



the king-dom a-bove. Re - joyce! For you received the reward of the most joy - ful



pa-ra - dise. Re-joyce! For you have enlightened the most honorable multitude of the



Che - ru - bim. Re - joyce! For you gladdened the most glorious host of the



Se - ra - phim. Re - joyce! For you were prefigured by the Pa - tri - archs.



Re - joyce! For you were foretold by the Pro - phets. Re - joyce! For you swiftly



punished the wicked arrogance of Aph - tho - ni - us. Re-joyce! For you



grant-ed him a cure. Re - joyce! For you turned his un - be - lief to faith.



Re-joyce! For you accepted his con-fes-sion of faith. Re-joyce! For you lead to heaven

those who love you and have faith in you. Re - joice! For you save those who  
call up-on your name with faith

*Chant refrain*

Re-joice, re-joice, O full of grace! You do not a-ban-don us in your dor-mi - tion!

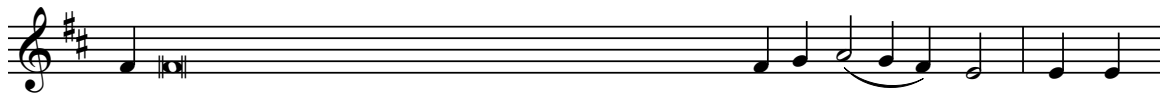
**Kontakion 5**

The ho - ly Apostles, like stars moved by God, were dis-persed throughout the world  
for the sake of the Gos - pel, and were caught up on clouds in - to the air  
to be pre - sent at the burial of the The - o - to - kos. They es-cort-ed her  
with songs and hymns, and to-ge-th-er with the bo-di-less an-gels, ex-claimed:

*Refrain*

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

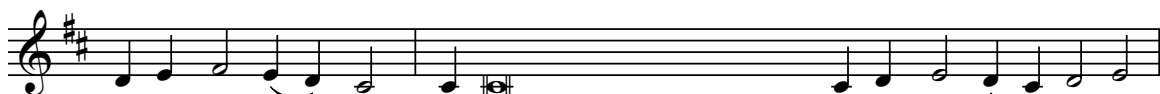
**Ikos 5:** When those who behold God saw their Master taking into His arms the soul of His mother, and knowing Him to be the Lord, they hastened to sing sacred hymns, blessing her with these words:



Re-joyce, O Queen! For you carried Him Who reigns o-ver all things. Re-joyce!



For you are being carried in the arms of your own Son. Re-joyce! O royal scepter



in the hand of Christ! Re-joyce! O branch of the Dove in the hand of No-ah!



Re - joyce! O staff of Aaron which sprouted in - cor - rup - tion! Re-joyce!



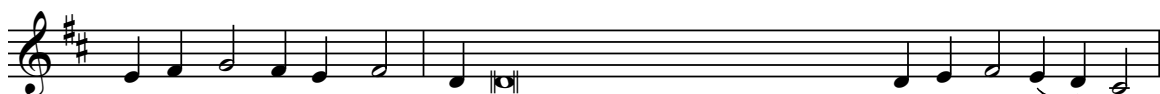
O unfading lily which blossomed im-mor-ta - li - ty! Re-joyce! O God-inspired flute



of your holy an-ces-tor, Da - vid! Re-joyce! O harp and most beau-ti - ful lyre!

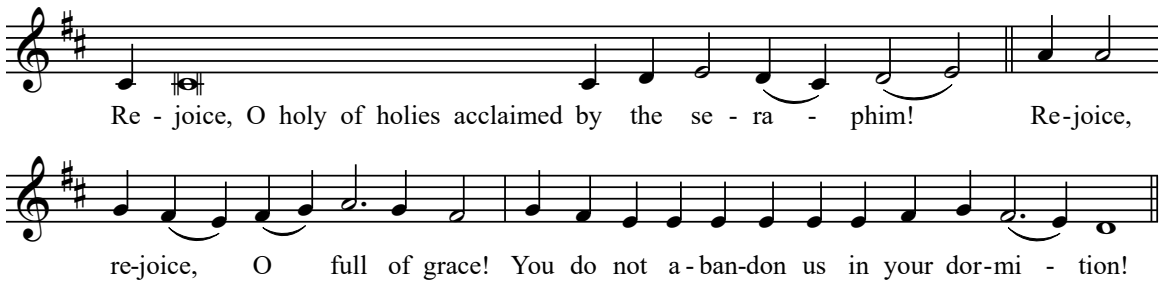


Re-joyce! O living ark in the sanctu-a-ry of the Lord! Re-joyce! O our life, risen to the



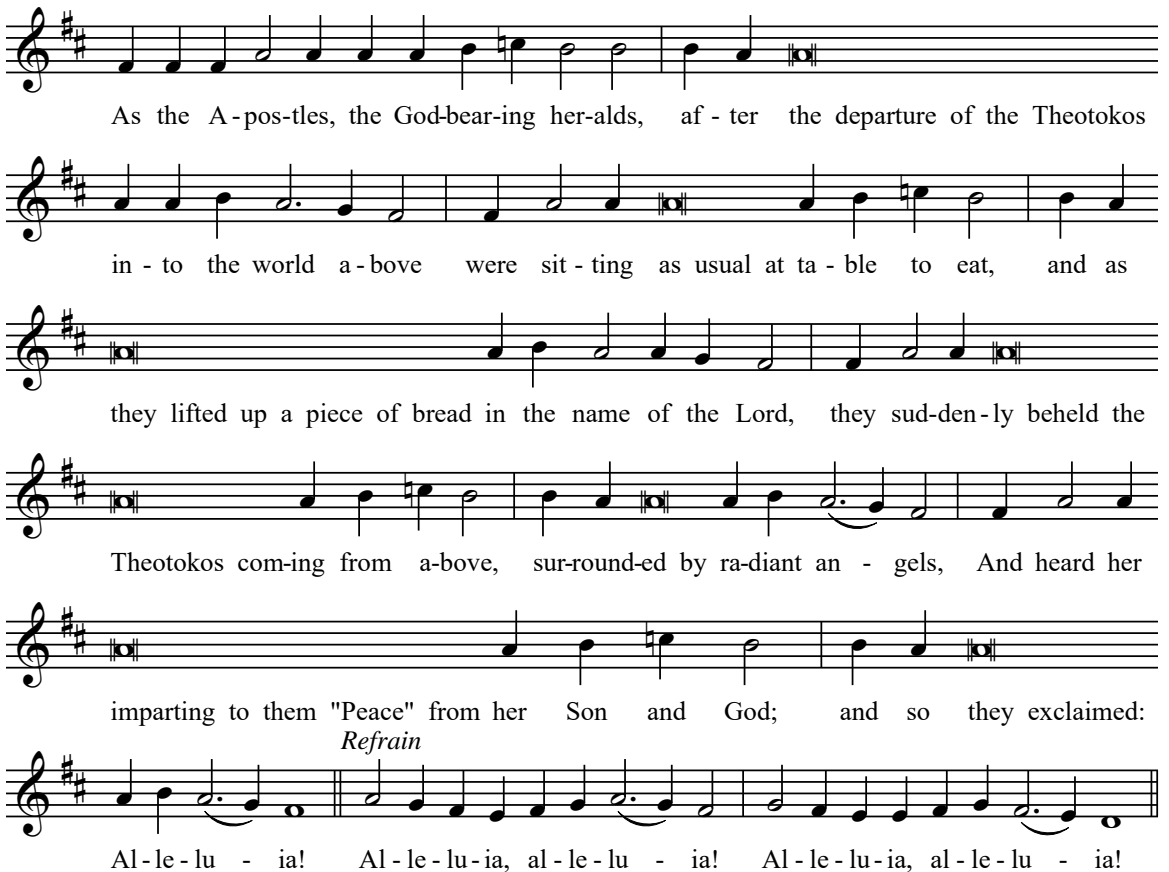
rest-ing-place of the Lord! Re-joyce, O tabernacle overshadowed by the che - ru - bim!

*Chant refrain*



Re - joice, O holy of holies acclaimed by the se - ra - phim! Re-joyce,  
re-joyce, O full of grace! You do not a-ban-don us in your dor-mi - tion!

**Kontakion 6**



As the A-pos-tles, the God-bear-ing her-alds, af - ter the departure of the Theotokos  
in - to the world a - bove were sit - ting as usual at ta - ble to eat, and as  
they lifted up a piece of bread in the name of the Lord, they sud-den-ly beheld the  
Theotokos com-ing from a - bove, sur-round-ed by ra-diant an - gels, And heard her  
imparting to them "Peace" from her Son and God; and so they exclaimed:  
*Refrain*  
Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

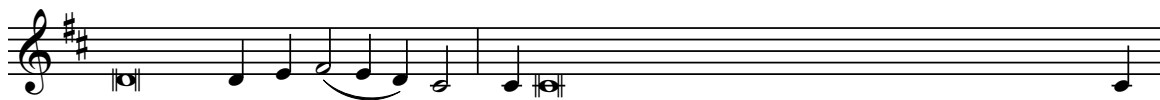
**Ikos 6:** Christ our God shone forth willingly as the Sun of Justice from your most pure womb, and through the Apostles enlightened the world by spreading the knowledge of God. And you, O Theotokos, He glorified from generation to generation. Therefore we call you blessed and cry out to you:



Re - joice, O ever-blessed by all genera-tions for a - - - ges! Re-joyce,



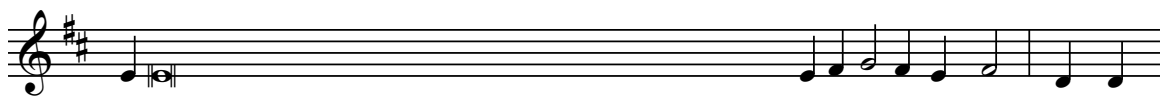
O merciful and compas-sion-ate one toward all! Re-joyce! For you fulfilled the promise



given to the Dis-ci - - ples. Re-joyce! For by the visitation from your Son and God,



you grant-ed them peace. Re-joyce, O most desired sweet wis-dom of the saints!



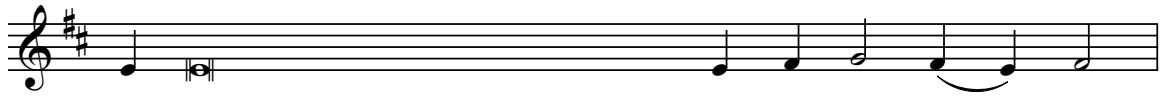
Re-joyce, O satisfying joy of the women and holy virgins de-di-cat-ed to God! Re-joyce!



For you move through the courts of the just in Pa-ra - - dise. Re-joyce! For you visit



all who are in hea-ven-ly glo-ry. Re - joice, O beginning of sal - va - tion for all!



Re - joice! For you are the fulfillment of the de-sire for all good things.



Re - joice, O Theotokos, Queen of those who reign as God-fear-ing kings! Re-joyce,

O ruler and sovereign of those who rule according to our Lord and Mas - ter!

*Chant refrain*

Re-joyce, re-joyce, O full of grace! You do not a-ban-don us in your dor-mi - tion!

**Kontakion 7**

O The - o - to - kos, you save all who desire, with faith, to visit your ho - ly tem - ple,

and you de - li - ver from all trials and dan - gers all those who give praise to you.

Grant our ci - vil au - tho - ri - ties who al - ways pro - claim you bles - sed the wis - dom

to rule just - ly and grant our petitions for sal - va - tion. We pray you for this

and praise God with Al - le - lu - ia!

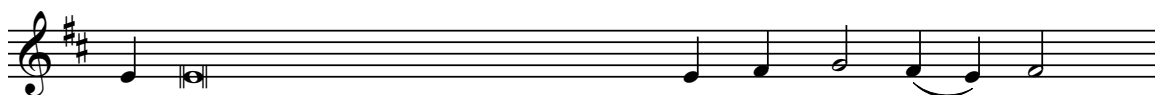
*Refrain*

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

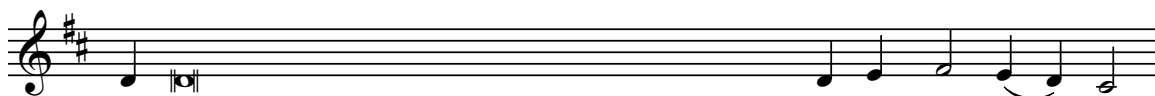
**Ikos 7:** The Creator of all things showed a new creature when He appeared to us through you. Out of concern for us, your kin, receive us in His presence as we devoutly honor your holy Dormition and cry out to you:



Re - joice, O one chosen to be the Theotokos from a - mong all those on earth!



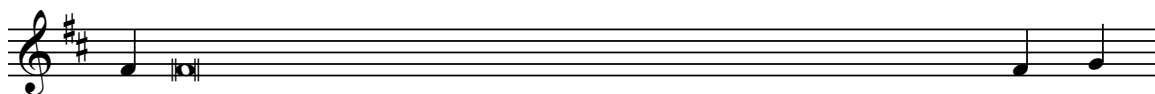
Re - joice! For you are above all those in hea-ven and those on earth!



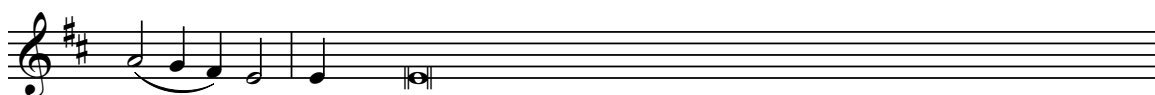
Re - joice! For you surpass the cherubim and the seraphim in the realm a - bove.



Re-joice! For you have gathered the Apostles, transporting them on clouds to your bur-ial.



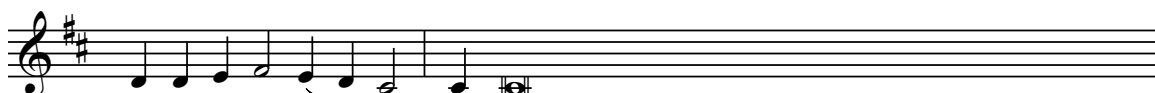
Re - joice! For after your burial you miraculously, by the power of God, al-so brought



Tho - mas. Re - joice! For through him you have convinced others that you were



transferred, with your bo-dy, to hea - ven. Re-joice! For you are adorned with the



beau-ty of all vir - tues. Re - joice! For you were rejoined with your Son, the fairest



of the sons of men. Re - joice! For you flourished in your risen body like the

palm tree. Re - joice! For you multiplied like a cedar in hea-ven-ly Le - ba - non.

Re - joice, O tree of life planted in the midst of the pa - ra - dise a - bove!

Re - joice, O spiritual ark raised up into the heights from the de-luge of death.

*Chant refrain*

Re-joyce, re-joyce, O full of grace! You do not a-ban-don us in your dor-mi - tion!

**Kontakion 8**

You dwell in the upper-most realm, O La-dy, re-splen-dent like a sun in the midst

of the high-est hea - vens. You were of incomprehensible beauty and in-eff-a-ble grace,

as you hum-bly ascended, uplifted by the hands of your Son and God. En-rap-tured,

you bowed to His life - giv - ing right hand. We ex - tol your Dormition with

*Refrain*

al - lel - u - ia! Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

**Ikos 8:** Assumed into heaven above, the Theotokos did not abandon us upon earth. Borne in the arms of her Son, she entered the inaccessible, radiant, and beautiful heavenly Jerusalem, surrounded by the Cherubim and all the heavenly hosts, where she heard them singing:

Re - joice! For your most holy soul resides in the all-ra-diant Zi - on a - above! Re-joice!

For your incorruptible body is in the same place and glori-fied to-get-her with your soul.

Re - joice! For you entered the unequaled city of the su-preme Sov-'reign Him-self.

Re - joice! For you were taken up into the most beautiful paradise of the hea-ven-ly

Gard'ner. Re-joice, O one transported into the city with founda-tions of gleam-ing stones!

Re-joice, for you were brought into the court guarded by members of the hea-ven-ly hosts.

Re - joice! For you were taken up into divine splen-dor a - bove the hea - vens.

Re - joice! For you were more honored than all the spi - ri - tual in - tel - lects.

Re - joice! For you offer to your Son and God the prayers of the faith - ful.

Re - joice! For you unceasingly pray for all at the throne of your Son and God.

Re - joice, O intercessor to God for the sal - va - tion of the world. Re-joyce,

O protectress, given by God to Chris - tian peo - ple. Re - joice,

*Chant refrain*

re-joyce, O full of grace! You do not a - ban - don us in your dor - mi - tion!

**Kontakion 9**

The whole an - gelic world extols you, O The - o - to - kos, and the hu - man race glorifies

you as the Mo - ther of God. We ho - nor your most precious Dor - mi - tion, O Queen.

It is through you that we on earth join those in the hea - vens

and har - mo - niously sing to God: Al - le - lu - ia!

*Refrain*

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

**Ikos 9:** We now see how the prophecies inspired by God are being fulfilled, O Theotokos: you have truly borne to us God in the flesh. Believing the mysterious message of the word of God, we exclaim:

Re - joice, O perfect culmination of the Law and the Pro - phets! Re-joyce,

O star of Jacob prophesied by Ba - laam! Re - joice, O couch of the great King,

spoken of by So - lo - mon! Re - joice, O dew-laden fleece of Joshu-a,

pre - fi-gured by Gi-deon! Re - joice, O burning yet unconsumed bush which Mo-ses

be-held! Re - joice, O holy mountain beheld by the man of de-sires! Re-joyce,

O ladder to hea-ven, fore-seen by Ja - cob! Re - joice, O gate not open to passage,

seen by E - ze-chi-el of old! Re - joice, O sun of the dwelling place of Christ,

announced by the Psalm - ist! Re - joice, O mystery foretold by the pro-phets

in ma - ny ways! Re - joice! For you brought to an end all utterances concerning

you made by the pro - phets! Re - joice! You accomplished all that the Divine

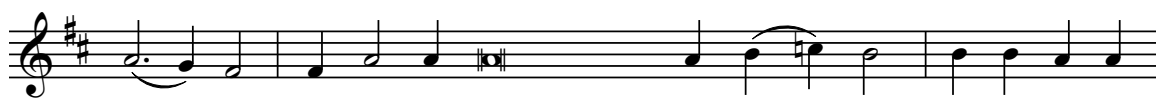
Providence planned for the sal - va - tion of the world!

*Chant refrain*

Re-joyce, re-joyce, O full of grace! You do not a-ban-don us in your dor-mi - tion!

**Kontakion 10**

When the Lord of All willed to save the world, He chose from all women for His



mo - ther; and af - ter He became man for our sake, He a - scen - ded



from where He de - scen - ded, To hea - ven, from earth, and He



took you with Him to dwell in e - ter - nal glo - ry And to share in the kingdom



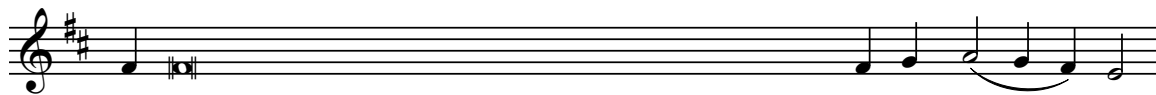
that has no end. There - fore, as God, He hears from all: Al - le - lu - ia!

*Refrain*

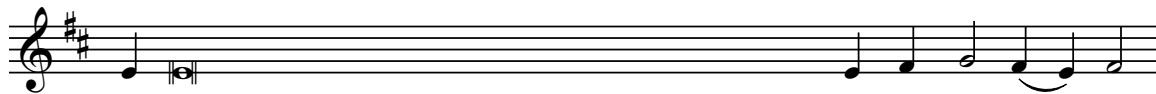


Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

**Ikos 10:** You are a stronghold to the faithful and a protection for all who flee to you, O Virgin and Theotokos; for the Creator of heaven and earth Who came from you according to the flesh, O Most Pure One, transferred you, body and soul, into heaven so that you may intercede for all in His very presence. And He taught all to proclaim to you:



Re - joyce, O city of the great King at the summit of the hea - ven - ly moun - tain!



Re - joyce, O stronghold and protection which hides not from us who run to it!



Re - joyce! For you help the faithful rulers a - gainst their e - ne - mies. Re - joyce!

For you defeat the invasions of the Ha-ga - renes. Re-joyce, O unshaken fortress

for our ho - ly faith! Re-joyce, O ruination of the regiments of the he - re - ties!

Re-joyce, O joy and peace of the world. Re-joyce! For you trampled the all-de-structive

hell. Re - joyce, O splendid crowning of those who in their chastity fight

a-against the flesh! Re - joyce, O proud glory of the exploits of the mar - tyrs!

Re-joyce! For you intercede for blessed repose of those who labor in the re-lig-ious

life. Re-joyce! For you grant everlasting joy to monks who live in sorrow for the sake

of God.

*Chant refrain*

Re-joyce, re-joyce, O full of grace! You do not a-ban-don us in your dor-mi - tion!

## Kontakion 11



No prai - ses of God - in - spired hymns suf - fice to glorify your most pre - cious



Dor - mi - tion, O La - dy all - ex - tolled, O Queen and Mo - ther of God!



But with all our heart we offer to you as the Mo - ther of All our hum - ble prayer



with the hea - ven - ly hosts. We sing to Him Who alone worthi - ly glo - ri - fies you.



We sing to Him: Al - le - lu - ia!

### *Refrain*



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

**Ikos 11:** You appeared to us upon earth as the Light-bearing lamp of the True Light, illuminating our souls, and leading to divine knowledge those who honor your all-venerable Dormition so that we may sing to you:



Re - joice, O unquenchable lamp of spi - ri - tu - al fire! Re - joice, O never - fading dawn



of the Daylight that knows no eve - ning! Re - joice, O moon, receiving light



from the of Jus - tice! Re - joice, O light shin - ing e - ven in dark - ness!

Re-joyce, O lamp placed upon the high-est of can-dle - sticks! Re-joyce, O fountain of

life, brought out of the tomb in - to light! Re - joice, O Mother of spiritual Light

that illumines the souls of the pi - ous! Re - joice, O Mother of the God of All

who com-forts the souls of the op-pressed! Re - joice! For you grant to those

placing their hope in you an una-shamed end of their lives. Rejoice! For at the tribunal

of your Son seated at the right hand, you arrange an inheritance for your servants

and the ser-vants of God. Re - joice, O most fortunate one! For we too are fortunate in

having you as our al - ly! Re - joice, O most blessed one from generation to

generation! For the Lord is with you, and through you, with us.

*Chant refrain*

Re-joyce, re-joyce, O full of grace! You do not a-ban-don us in your dor-mi - tion!

**Kontakion 12**

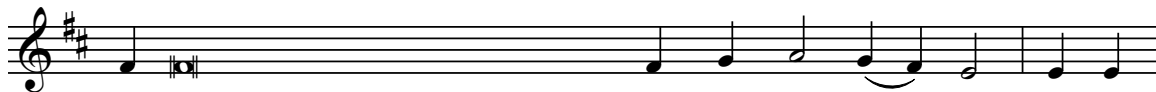
When the spi-rits on high be-held the grace of the hea-ven-ly throne grant-ed  
to the The-o-to-kos and that she is honored to sit at the right of her Son and God,  
the Thrones and Pow-ers ex-alt-ed her, the Prin-cipalities and Vir-tues  
sur-round-ed her; the Che-ru-bim, Seraphim, and Do-mi-na-tions,  
to-ge-ther with the Archan-gels and An-gels, bowed deep-ly be-fore her,  
ex-claim-ing: Al-le-lu-ia!

*Refrain*



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

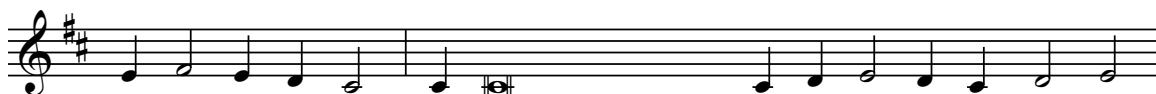
**Ikos 12:** Praising your all-venerable Dormition, we sing hymns to your going up to the heavenly realm, O Queen and Mother of God. Sanctify, glorify, and save all who lovingly sing to you:



Re - joice! For you cleansed the earth with your most pure foot - steps. Re-joyce!



For you sanctified the air by your going up to hea - ven. Re-joyce! For you entered



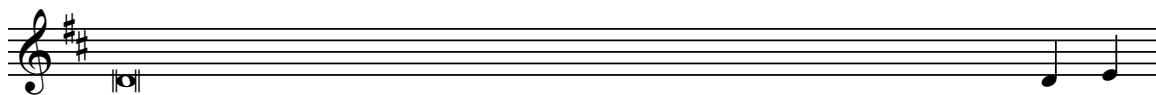
the hea - ven - ly realm. Re - joice! For you behold all in - ef - fa - ble beau - ties.



Re-joyce! For you are enthroned in glory together with your Son and God. Re-joyce!



For you reign eternally with your Son and God. Re - joice, O sheer beauty at the



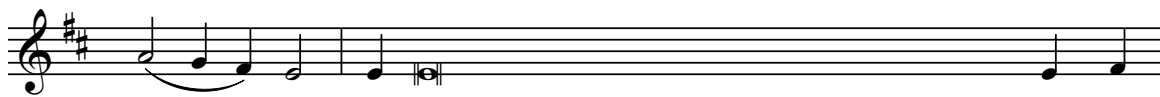
right hand of the Lord. For you shower beauty upon all on earth who praise you in



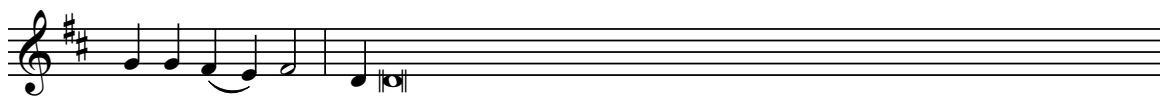
hea - ven. Re-joyce! For you gladdened all on earth with con-fi-dence in you.



Re - joice! O woman clothed in the Sun! You shine with grace and glory u-pon the



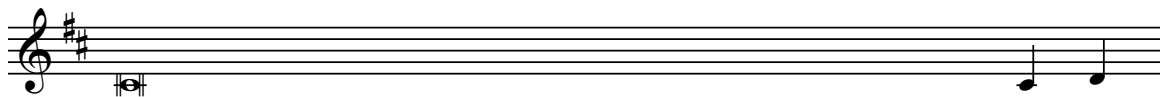
whole world. Re - joice! For you promised to protect and save all on earth who



call u-pon you. Re-joyce! For you are honored by Christian generations as the Mother



of God, and you are called the The-o - to - kos! Re - joice! For you are greatly



praised according the the orthodox faith by all pious people from the rising to the



set - ting of the sun.

*Chant refrain*



Re-joyce, re-joyce, O full of grace! You do not a-ban-don us in your dor-mi - tion!

**Kontakion 13**



O Wor-thy of All Praise, and Mo-ther of the King of earth and hea-ven, Christ our God,



as you live e-ven af-ter your death, rec-eive from us offerings at your all-ho-nored



Dor-mi - tion, and de - liv - er us in this life and at the hour of our death



from all trials, dan - gers, and pain, and make us wor - thy, O Queen, of the



hea - ven - ly king - dom as we ex - claim to you: Al - le - lu - ia!

*Refrain*



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

*Then, if desired, the first ikos (“A prince of angels was sent...”, page 3) and the first kontakion (“As soon as the angel had received his command...”, page 3) may be sung once more, in that order. Then the priest says the following*

### **PRAYER TO THE MOST HOLY THEOTOKOS**

O most holy Theotokos, Virgin, Lady, higher than the Angels and Archangels, more honored than all creation, the great wonder of angels, the lofty sermon of prophets, the most glorious boast of apostles, the special adornment of hierarchs, the strong support of martyrs, the saving precept of monastics, the inexhaustible abstinence of the fasters, the purity and glory of those in virginity, the peaceful gladness of mothers, the wisdom and learning of children, the nourisher of widows and orphans,

Garment of the naked, health of the ailing, deliverance of the imprisoned, calm of those that sail upon the sea, stormless haven of the tempest-tossed, untiring instructress of the erring, easy passage of the travelling, good repose of the laborers, quick defender of those in trouble, shelter and refuge of the wronged, hope of the despairing, help of the needy, inexhaustible wealth of the poor, everlasting comforter of the grieving, loving humility of the hated, salvation of sinners and re-acquisition to God, firm stronghold of the right-believing, unconquerable help and intercession:

Through you, O Lord, the Invisible became visible, and through you, O Lady, we your sinful servants offer petition: O most merciful and most wonderful Queen of noetic light, who gave birth to Christ the King, our God and Giver of Life to all, glorified by the celestial and praised by the earthly, mind of angels, luminous star, most holy one of the saints, queen of queens, mistress of all creation, divinely-majestic virgin, spotless bride, Palace of the Most Holy Spirit, fiery throne of the invisible King, heavenly ark, vessel of God the Word, fire-like chariot, resting place of the living God, ineffable source of the flesh of Christ, nest of the heavenly Eagle, divinely speaking turtledove, meek dove, gentle and kind, child-loving Mother and abyss of mercies, disperser of the cloud of the wrath of God, immeasurable depth, inexpressible mystery, incomprehensible miracle, church not-made-with-hands of the only King of all the ages, fragrant censer, honorable robe of purple, divinely-woven porphyry, animate paradise, branch from the life-bearing garden, most beautiful flower that has blossomed forth heavenly gladness for us, cluster of our salvation, chalice of the King of Heaven, in which is poured from the Holy Spirit the wine of inexpressible grace;

Intercessor of the Law, inception of the true faith of Christ, unshakable pillar, destruction of heretics, sword of the divine wrath against those inimical to God, intimidation of demons, victory of those in warfare, true preserver of all Christians and known salvation of all the world!

O all merciful Lady, Virgin Theotokos, hearken unto us who pray to you; manifest your mercy upon your people; pray to Your Son to deliver us from all evil and to preserve our city and every city and monastery and country of the faithful and of the reverent people who flee to you and call upon your name, from every assault, destruction, famine, earthquake, flood, fire, and sword, invasion of enemies and civil war, from every illness and difficulty;

Let neither wounds, nor privation, nor plague, nor any righteous wrath of God humiliate your servants, but keep us and save us, O Sovereign Lady, and by your prayers grant to us healthful, seasonable weather at the time of fruitful harvest; relieve, restore, and have mercy, O most merciful Lady, most praised Theotokos, upon those in every trouble and need.

Remember your servants and do not disdain our tears and sighs, and renew us with the goodness of your mercy, that we who find in you a helper may be gratefully comforted. Be compassionate, O Lady most pure, our hope, towards your infirm people; gather the dispersed, set upon the right path those who have strayed and bring back those who have fallen away from the faith of our fathers, support the aged, admonish the young, nurture the children; glorify them who glorify you, and especially keep the Church of your Son and preserve it for length of days.

Save and have mercy, O Lady, upon our most reverend metropolitan archbishop, and upon all bishops, priests, and deacons, and all the clerical orders of the Church and all right-believing people who reverence and pray before your precious icon. Look down upon us all with the gaze of your merciful intercession; raise us up from the depths of sin and enlighten the eyes of our hearts with the vision of salvation; be merciful to us here, and plead for us at the awesome judgment of your Son, when your servants have departed this life in piety unto eternal life, and number them with the angels and archangels and all the saints, that they may stand at the right hand of your Son and God; and through your prayers vouchsafe all orthodox Christians to live with Christ and to enjoy the gladness of the angels in the heavenly mansions.

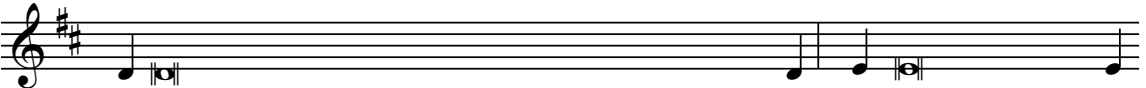
For you, O Lady, are the glory of the heavenly and the hope of the earthly; you are the hope and protection of all who flee to you and ask your holy help; you are our fervent pleader before your Son and our God: for your maternal prayers are powerful to entreat the Master, and through your intercession we dare to approach, even though we are unworthy, the throne of Grace of His most holy and life-creating Mysteries. Wherefore, beholding your all honorable icon, and seeing the God who holds all things, held in your hands, we sinners rejoice, falling down in contrition, and we kiss it in love, expecting, O Lady, through your prayers which are pleasing to God, to enter into everlasting, heavenly life and to stand without shame of the Day of Judgment at the right hand of your Son and our God, glorifying Him together with His Unoriginate Father, and the Most Holy, Good, Life-Creating and Consubstantial Spirit, now and ever and forever.

All:   
A - men.

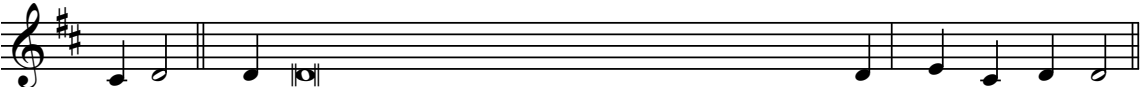
### Dismissal

**Priest:** Glory to you, O Christ God, our hope; glory to you!

**Response:**



Glo-ry to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; now and ever and forev-er.



A-men. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Give the bless-ing.

**Priest:** May Christ our true God, [risen from the dead,] have mercy on us and save us through the prayers of his most pure Mother and of the holy, glorious, and illustrious apostles, [through the prayers of St. (*Name*,) whom we commemorate today,] and of all the saints; for Christ is good and loves us all.

**Response:**   
A - - - - - men.