Vespers propers, August 15

THE DORMITION OF THE MOTHER OF GOD AND EVER-VIRGIN MARY.

Tradition relates that the Mother of God died in Jerusalem, after a visit with all of Christ’s apostles. They carried her coffin to the Garden of Gethsemane where it was placed into a tomb. The apostle Thomas came late, and asked that the tomb might be opened so that he could reverence her body. When opened, the tomb was found empty except for the winding sheet.

Supplement for The Order of Vespers for Sundays after Pentecost, 2005

Psalm 140, Tone 1 (begins on page 24)

Bring my soul out of this prison
and then I shall praise your name.

Around me the just will assemble
because of your goodness to me.

Cantor: Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord;
(on 8) Lord, hear my voice!

Tone 1 samopodoben "O divnoje čudo"

Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord;
Lord, hear my voice!

O what a wonder! The Source of Life Itself
is placed in a tomb; the grave becomes a ladder to
heaven. Rejoice, Gethsemane, holy chamber
of the Theotokos. As for us, O faithful,
let us cry out with Gabriel, the prince of angels: Rejoice,
O woman full of grace, the Lord is with you! the Lord, who because of you bestows great mercy on our souls.

Cantor: Let your ears be attentive to the voice of my pleading. (Repeat "O what a wonder...")

(Repeat "O what a wonder...")

If you, O Lord, should mark our guilt, Lord, who would survive? But with you is found forgiveness: for this we revere you. (Repeat "O what a wonder...")

My soul is waiting for the Lord. I count on his word.

My soul is longing for the Lord more than watchman for daybreak.

O Lady, marvellous are your mysteries. You have become the throne of the Most High, and today are taken from earth to heaven. Your glory shines forth with the radiance of divine grace and surpasses every other splendour.

Rise up to the heavens, all you virgins, together with the Mother of the King, and cry out: Rejoice,
O woman full of grace, the Lord is with you! The Lord, who because of you bestows great mercy on our souls.

Cantor: Let the watchman count on daybreak, and Israel on the Lord. (Repeat "O Lady, marvellous are your mysteries...")

(Repeat "O Lady...")

Because with the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption, Israel indeed he will redeem from all its iniquity.

Praise the Lord all the nations; acclaim him all you people.

Behold, all the heavenly hosts: the Dominions,

the Thrones and Principalities, the Virtues, Powers, Cherubim,

and Seraphim, sing a hymn of glory to your Dormition.

The entire human race rejoices at your glory; and kings sing out to you, together with the Angels and Archangels: Rejoice, O woman full of grace,
the Lord is with you! the Lord, who be-cause of you be-stows great mer - cy on our souls.

Cantor: Strong is the love of the Lord for us;
(on 1) he is faithful forever. (Repeat "Behold, all the heav'nly hosts...")

Cantor: Glory...now and ever...

Theotokion - Tone 1 samohlasen

The ho - ly apostles were taken up from ev'ry cor-ner of the world and car-ried up-on clouds by the com-mand of God. They gath-ered around your pure bod-y, O Source of Life, and kissed it with rev - 'rence. As for the most sub-lime pow-ers of heav - en, they came with their own lead - er to es-cort and to pay their last respects to the most honor-a-ble bod - y that had con-tained Life it - self. Filled with awe, they marched together with the apostles in si - lent
majesty, professing to the princes of heaven in a hushed voice: Lift up your gates and receive with becoming majesty, the Mother of the Light that never fades, because, through her, salvation was made possible for our human race. She is the One upon whom no one may gaze, and to whom no one is able to render sufficient glory, for the special honor that made her sublime is beyond understanding. Therefore, O most pure Theotokos, forever alive with your Son, the Source of Life, do not cease to intercede with him that he may guard and save your people from every trouble; for you are our intercessor. To you we
sing a hymn of glory with loud and joyful voices

now and for ever.

Hymn of the Evening, p. 12
Prokeimenon for the day of the week, pp 114-115

Readings:  
Genesis 28: 10 - 17  
Ezekiel 43: 27 through 44: 4  
Proverbs 9: 1 - 11

The service continues with the Litany of Fervent Supplication, p.13

At the Litija

Because the disciples had been both the eye-witnesses and servants of
the Word, it was also fitting that they should witness the final mystery,
the Dormition of his mother according to the flesh. They not only saw
the Ascension of the Savior from earth to heaven, but they also were
witnesses of the translation of the Mother who bore him. They came to
Zi-on to escort the Virgin, who sur-pass-es the Cher-u-bim, as she hast-ened
in her jour-ney to heav-en. With them let us al-so bow low
be-fore the One who in-ter-cedes for our souls.

She is high-er than the heav-ens, more glo-rious than the
Cher-u-bim, and more hon-’ra-ble than all cre-a-tion.

Her out-stand-ing pu-ri-ty be-came the dwell-ing
place of the e-ter-nal God. To-day she places her all-pure soul in-to the
hands of her Son. With her, the u-ni-verse is filled with joy,
and the grace of salva-tion is giv-en to us.
All you peoples of the earth sing together a hymn of glory to the pure and most holy Virgin from whom the Word of God came to us, receiving flesh from her in a manner beyond understanding. Let us cry out: Blessed are you among women, and blessed is your womb that contained Christ, into whose hands you committed your soul.

O pure Virgin, intercede with Christ God, that he may save our souls.

Go up, Lord, to your rest, you and your holy ark.

O pure and most holy Virgin, the choirs of angels in heaven and the

The service continues with the Litany of the Litija, p 116.
assembly of people on earth sing the praises of your glorious Dormition;
for you have become the Mother of the Creator of All, Christ our God. We
beg you to intercede constantly for us; for, next to God, we have placed our
hope in you, O most glorious and ever Virgin Theotokos.

Cantor
The Lord swore a true oath to David; he will not go back on his word.

With all the people of the earth, let us sing to Christ the hymn of praise that David
had sung of old. Together with her escort of virgins, with happiness and
rejoicing, she will be led to the King; for the fruit of David's seed,
the One through whom we have been led to God, has been lifted up to glory by
her Son and Master in a way that defies description.

Since she is the Theotokos, we sing to her a hymn of glory and cry out:

Deliver us from all harm and guard our souls from tribulations.

We confess and proclaim that you are the Theotokos.

Cantor: Glory...now and ever...

Theotokion

O virgin Theotokos, at the time you were carried up to the One born of you, in a manner beyond understanding, James and Peter were present;

James, the brother of the Lord and first bishop, and Peter, the honorable head of the apostles and prince of theologians.

The whole college of the apostles was also there, all in one accord...
proclaiming things divine, and praising the astounding mystery of Christ,

and with joy, O most glorious one, preparing your body,

source of life and the temple of God. The most holy angelic pow'rs

were rapt in wonder at the sight of this miracle, and they said to

one another: Lift up your gates to receive the Mother of the Creator of

heaven and earth. Come, let us sing hymns to her noble and holy body

that has contained the invisible Lord. Therefore, we also celebrate

your feast; and, O woman worthy of all praise, we cry out: O glorious

Lady, exalt the Christian peoples and intercede with Christ God that
The service continues with the Prayer of the Holy Prophet Simeon, p. 19.

Troparia

Troparion of the Dormition - Tone 1
Sung once by the priest and twice by the faithful

O The-o-to-kos, in giving birth you preserved vir-gin-i-ty; and in your falling a-sleep you did not for-sake the world. You are the Moth-er of Life and have been trans-ferred to life, and through your pray'rs you de-liv-er our souls from death.

The service continues with the Blessing of Bread, p. 119