

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!

⑧ ⑦ ⑥ *Tone 1 samohlasen*

O what a won - der! The Source of Life It-self is placed in a tomb; the grave
be - comes a lad - der to heav - en. Re - joice, Gethsemane, holy chamber of the
The - o - to - kos. As for us, O faith - ful, let us cry out with Gabriel, the
prince of an - gels: Re - joice, O wo - man full of grace, the Lord is with you!
the Lord, who be-cause of you be-stows great mer - cy on our souls.

Cantor: Let your ears be attentive
(on 7) to the voice of my pleading. (*Repeat "O what a wonder..."*)

(on 6) 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..."*)

(on 5) My soul is waiting for the Lord. I count on his word.
My soul is longing for the Lord more than watchman for daybreak.

The musical score is written in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of seven staves of music. The first staff begins with a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp (F#), and a common time signature (C). The first three notes of the first staff are circled and numbered 5, 4, and 3 respectively. The lyrics are: "O La-dy, marvelous are your mys-ter-ies. You have be-come the throne of the Most High, and to-day are taken from earth to heav-en. Your glo-ry shines forth with the radiance of di-vine grace and sur-pass-es ev-'ry oth-er splen-dor. Rise up to the heavens, all you vir-gins, to- geth-er with the Mother of the King, and cry out: Re-joice, O wo-man full of grace, the Lord is with you! the Lord, who be-cause of you be-stows great mer-cy on our souls." The score ends with a double bar line and a key signature change to F major (no sharps or flats).

Cantor: Let the watchman count on daybreak,
(on 4) and Israel on the Lord. (*Repeat "O Lady, marv'lous are your mysteries..."*)

(on 3) Because with the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption,
Israel indeed he will redeem from all its iniquity. (*Repeat "O Lady..."*)

Cantor: Praise the Lord all the nations;
(on 2) acclaim him all you people.

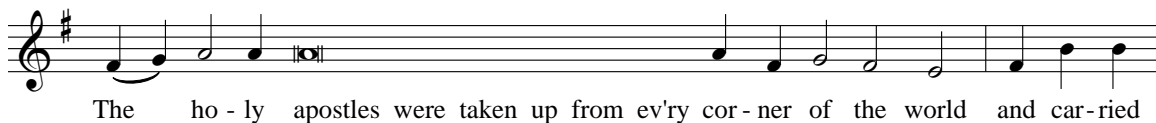


Be - hold, all the heav'n - ly hosts: the Do - min - ions, the Thrones and
Prin - ci - pal - i - ties, the Vir - tues, Powers, Cheru - bim, and Ser - a - phim,
sing a hymn of glory to your Dor - mi - tion. The en - tire hu - man race rejoices
at your glo - ry; and kings sing out to you, to - geth - er with the Angels
and Arch - an - gels: Re - joice, O wo - man 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
maj-es - ty, pro-fess - ing to the princes of heaven in a hushed voice: Lift up
your gates and receive with be-com - ing maj - es - ty, the Moth - er of the Light
that nev - er fades, be - cause, through her, sal - vation was made possible for our
hu - man race. She is the One up-on whom no one may gaze, and to whom

no one is able to render suf-fi-cient glo - ry, for the spe - cial honor that made
her sublime is beyond un - der - stand - - ing. There-fore, O most pure
The - o - to - kos, for - ev - er alive with your Son, the Source of Life,
do not cease to in - ter - cede with him that he may guard and save your people
from ev - 'ry trou - ble; for you are our in - ter - ces - sor. To you we
sing a hymn of glo - ry with loud and joyful voic-es
now and for ev - - er.

Hymn of the Evening, p. 12

Prokeimenon for the day of the week, pp 114-115

Readings: Genesis 28: 10 - 17 (EOT 304-305)
Ezekiel 43: 27 through 44: 4
Proverbs 9: 1 - 11

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

At the Litija

Tone 1 Bolhar

①

Be-cause the dis-ci-ples had been both the eye-wit-ness-es and serv-ants of
the Word, it was al-so fitting that they should wit-ness the fi-nal mys-ter-y,
the Dor-mi-tion of his moth-er ac-cord-ing to the flesh. They not on-ly saw
the Ascension of the Sav-ior from earth to heav-en, but they al-so were
wit-ness-es of the transla-tion of the Moth-er 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.

②

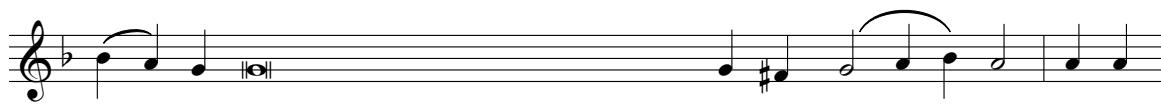
She is high - er than the heav - ens, more glo - rious than the
 Cher - u - bim, and more hon - 'ra - ble than all cre - a - tion.
 Her out - stand - ing pu - ri - ty be - came the dwell - ing
 place of the e - ter - nal God. To - day she places her all - pure soul in - to the
 hands of her Son. With her, the u - ni - verse is filled with joy,
 and the grace of salva - tion is giv - en to us.

The service continues with the Litany of the Litija, p 116.

Aposticha

①

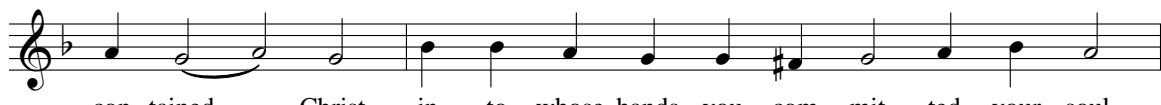
All you peo - ples of the earth sing together a hymn of glo - ry to the
 pure and most ho - ly Vir - gin from whom the Word of God came to us,




re - ceiv - ing flesh from her in a manner beyond un - der - stand - ing. Let us



cry out: Blessed are you a - mong wo - men, and bless - ed is your womb that



con - tained Christ, in - to whose hands you com - mit - ted your soul.



O pure Virgin, in - ter - cede with Christ God, that he may save our souls.

Cantor




Go up, Lord, to your rest, you and your ho - ly ark.

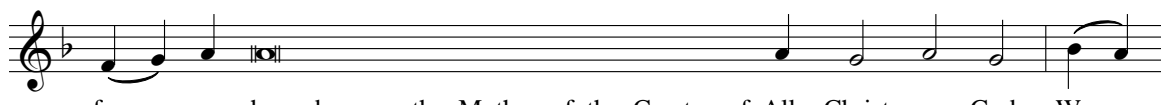
②




O pure and most ho - ly Vir - gin, the choirs of angels in heaven and the



assembly of peo - ple on earth sing the praises of your glori ous Dor - mi - tion;



for you have become the Mother of the Creator of All, Christ our God. We



beg you to inter - cede con - stant - ly for us; for, next to God, we have placed our

hope in you, O most glorious and ev-er Vir - gin The - o - to - kos.

Cantor

The Lord swore a true oath to Da-vid; he will not go back on his word.

③

With all the peo-ple of the earth, let us sing to Christ the hymn of praise that David

had sung of old. To - gether with her es-cort of vir - gins, with hap - piness and

rejoicing, she will be led to the King; for the fruit of Da - vid's seed,

the One through whom we have been led to God, has been lift - ted up to glory by

her Son and Mas - ter in a way that de - fies de - scrip - tion.

Since she is the The - o - to - kos. we sing to her a hymn of glory and cry out:

De - liv - er us from all harm and guard our souls from trib - u - la - tions.

We confess and proclaim that you are the The - o - to - - - kos.

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

Theotokion

O virgin The-o - to - kos, at the time you were carried up to the One born of

you, in a manner beyond un - der - stand - ing, James and Pe - ter were pres - ent;

James, the broth - er of the Lord and first bish - op, and Peter, the

honorable head of the a - pos - tles and prince of the - o - lo - gians.

The whole col - lege of the apos-tles was al - so there, all in one accord

pro-claim-ing things di - vine, and prais - ing the astound-ing mys - t'ry of Christ,

and with joy, O most glorious one, prepar-ing your bod - - - y,

source of life and the tem-ple of God. The most ho - ly an - gel - ic pow'rs

were rapt in wonder at the sight of this mir - a - cle, and they said to
 one an - oth - er: Lift up your gates to receive the Mother of the Creator of
 heav - en and earth. Come, let us sing hymns to her noble and ho - ly bod - y
 that has contained the invis - i - ble Lord. There - fore, we al - so cel - e - brate
 your feast; and, O wom - an worthy of all praise, we cry out: O glorious
 Lady, exalt the Chris - tian peo - ples and in - ter - cede with Christ God that
 he may save our souls.

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 giv - ing birth you preserved vir - gin - i - ty; and in your
fall - ing 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