**AUGUST 15**

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

**"Lord I Call..." Tone 1[[1]](#footnote-1)**

Lord, I call upon Thee, hear me!

Hear me, O Lord!

Lord, I call upon Thee, hear me!

Receive the voice of my prayer,

when I call upon Thee!//

Hear me, O Lord!

Let my prayer arise

in Thy sight as incense,

and let the lifting up of my hands

be an evening sacrifice!//

Hear me, O Lord!

*v. (8) Out of the depths I cry to Thee, O Lord. Lord, hear my voice!*

**Tone 1** *Automelon (for the Feast)*

O the marvelous wonder!

The source of Life is laid in a grave,

and the tomb becomes a ladder to heaven.

Rejoice, Gethsemane, holy shrine of the Theotokos!

Let us, the faithful, cry out with Gabriel as our captain:

“Rejoice, O full of grace, the Lord is with thee,//

He that grants the world great mercy through thee!”

*v. (7) Let Thine ears be attentive to the voice of my supplications!*

(Repeat: “O the marvelous wonder!…”)

*v. (6) If Thou, O Lord, shouldest mark iniquities, Lord, who could stand? But there is forgiveness with Thee.*

(Repeat: “O the marvelous wonder!…”)

*v. (5) For Thy name’s sake have I waited for Thee, O Lord, my soul has waited for Thy word; my soul has hoped on the Lord.*

O the wonder of thy mysteries, pure Lady:

thou wast made the throne of the Most High,

and today thou hast passed from earth to heaven.

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

Virgins, be raised to the heights with the Mother of the King!

Rejoice, O full of grace, the Lord is with thee,//

He that grants the world great mercy through thee!

*v. (4) From the morning watch until night, from the morning watch, let Israel hope on the Lord!*

(Repeat: “O the wonder of thy mysteries…”)

*v. (3) For with the Lord there is mercy and with Him is plenteous redemption, and He will deliver Israel from all his iniquities.*

(Repeat: “O the wonder of thy mysteries…”)

*v. (2) Praise the Lord, all nations! Praise Him, all peoples!*

The Dominions and Thrones, the Rulers, Principalities and Powers,

the Cherubim and fearsome Seraphim, glorify thy falling asleep.

All those born of earth rejoice,

adorned with honor by thy divine glory.

Kings fall down and sing with the Archangels and Angels:

“Rejoice, O full of grace, the Lord is with thee,//

He that grants the world great mercy through thee!”

*v. (1) For His mercy is abundant towards us; and the truth of the Lord endureth forever.*

(Repeat: “The Dominions and Throne, the Rulers…”)

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

*now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.*

**Tone 1\***

By the divine command the God-bearing Apostles

were caught up by clouds from every place.

When they came to thine all-pure body, the source of Life,

they kissed it most reverently.

The highest Powers of heaven were also present with their Master,

and seized with awe they escorted the inviolate body,

the body that had received God in the flesh.

In a manner beyond this world they went before it and invisibly cried out

to the ranks above them:

“Behold, the Queen of all,

the Child of God, has come!

Lift up your gates, and in a manner beyond this world

receive the Mother of the everlasting Light,

for through her was accomplished the salvation of all the mortal race!

We cannot gaze upon her,

nor is it possible to render honor worthy of her,

for her excellence surpasses all understanding.”

Therefore, O immaculate Theotokos,

who livest forever with thy Son, the life-bearing King,

pray ceaselessly to Him to preserve the new people of God,

and to save them from every hostile assault,

for we have acquired thine intercession,//

and to the ages, in manifest splendor, we call thee blessed.

**Old Testament Readings**

**Genesis 28:10-17**

**Ezekiel 43:27-44:4**

**Proverbs 9:1-11**

*\* In traditional Orthodox chant, the sticheron sung at “Glory…now and ever…” on “Lord, I call” is separated into eight phrases so that the text can be sung using melodic patterns from all eight tones.*

Sticheron on the “Glory…now and ever” at “Lord, I call”:

*(Tone 1)*

By the divine command

the God-bearing Apostles were caught up by clouds from every place.

*(Tone 5)*

When they came to thine all-pure body, the source of Life, they kissed

it most reverently.

*(Tone 2)*

The highest Powers of heaven were also present with their Master,

*(Tone 6)*

and, seized with awe, they escorted the inviolate body,

the body that had received God in the flesh.

In a manner beyond this world they went before it and invisibly cried out

to the ranks above them:

“Behold, the Queen of all and Child of God has come!

*(Tone 3)*

Lift up your gates, and in a manner beyond this world receive the Mother

of the everlasting Light,

*(Tone 7)*

for through her was accomplished the salvation of all the mortal race!

We cannot gaze upon her,

nor is it possible to render honor worthy of her,

*(Tone 4)*

for her excellence surpasses all understanding.”

*(Tone 8)*

Therefore, O immaculate Theotokos, who livest forever with thy Son, the

life-bearing King,

pray ceaselessly to Him to preserve the new people of God,

and to save them from every hostile assault,

for we have acquired thine intercession,//

*(Tone 1)*

and to the ages, in manifest splendor, we call thee blessed.

**Litya**

**Tone 1**

It was right that the eye-witnesses and ministers of the Word

should see the Dormition of His Mother according to the flesh:

the final mystery concerning her;

so that they might be witnesses not only to the Ascension of the Savior,

but also to the translation of her who gave Him birth.

Assembled from all parts of the earth by divine power, they came to Zion,

and sent forth to heaven the Virgin, who is higher than the Cherubim.//

We also venerate her, for she prays for our souls.

**Tone 2** *(by Anatolius)*

She who is higher than the heavens

and more glorious than the Cherubim,

she who is held in greater honor than all creation,

she who by reason of her surpassing purity

became the vessel of the everlasting Essence,

today commends her most pure soul into the hands of her Son.//

With her all things are filled with joy, and she bestows great mercy on us.

**Tone 2** *(by John)*

The spotless Bride, the Mother of Him in Whom the Father was well pleased,

she who was preordained by God

to be the dwelling place of His union of two natures without confusion,

today delivers her blameless soul to her Creator and her God.

The spiritual powers receive her with the honors due to God,

and she who is truly the Mother of Life departs to life,

the lamp of the unapproachable Light//

the salvation of the faithful and hope of our souls.

**Tone 3** *(by Germanos)*

Come, all you ends of the earth,

let us praise the most holy translation of the Mother of God;

for she has placed her spotless soul

into the hands of her Son!

Therefore the world, restored to life by her holy Dormition,

in radiant joy celebrates this feast with psalms and hymns and spiritual songs//

together with the Angels and the Apostles.

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

**Tone 5** *(by Theophanes)*

Come, all who love to keep the feasts,

come, let us form a choir!

Come, let us crown the Church with songs, as the Ark of God goes to her rest!

For today heaven is opened wide,

as it receives the Mother of Him Who cannot be contained.

The earth, as it yields up the source of Life, is robed in blessing and majesty.

The hosts of Angels, present with the fellowship of the Apostles,

gaze in great fear at her who bore the Author of life,

now that she is translated from life to life.

Let us all venerate and implore her:

O Lady, forget not thy ties of kinship//

with those who keep in faith the feast of thy all-holy Dormition!

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

**Tone 5**

Sing, O people! Sing the praises of the Mother of our God;

for today she delivers her soul, full of light,

into the hands of Him Who became incarnate of her without seed.

And she entreats Him without ceasing//

to grant the earth peace and great mercy.

**Aposticha**

**Tone 4**

Come, O people,

let us sing the praises of the pure and most holy Virgin,

from whom the Word of the Father ineffably came forth in the flesh!

Let us cry aloud and say:

“Blessed art thou among women, and blessed is the womb that contained Christ!

Having delivered thy soul into His holy hands,//

O most pure one, entreat Him to save our souls!”

*v. Arise, O Lord, into Thy resting place: Thou and the Ark of Thy*

*sanctification!*  *(Ps 131/132:8)*

O pure and most holy Virgin,

the multitude of Angels in heaven and men on earth

extol thy venerable falling asleep and call it blessed,

for thou hast become the Mother of Christ, our God and Creator of all.

Never cease to intercede with Him on our behalf, we pray,

for next to God we have put our hope in thee,//

O greatly-honored, unwedded Theotokos!

*v. The Lord swore to David a sure oath from which He will not turn*

*back.*  *(Ps 131/132:11)*

Come, O peoples,

let us sing today to Christ our God a song of David!

As he says, “Virgins behind her shall be brought to the King.

They shall be brought with joy and gladness.”

For she, through whom we have been made godlike, is of the seed of David,

and gloriously and ineffably commends herself into the hands of her own

Son and Master.

Praising her as the Mother of God,

we cry out to her and say:

“Save us from all distress and deliver our souls from dangers,//

for we confess thee to be the Theotokos!”

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

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

**Tone 4**

At thy departing, O Virgin Theotokos,

to Him Who was ineffably born of thee,

James, the first bishop and brother of the Lord, was there,

and so was Peter, the most honored pinnacle of the theologians,

and the whole sacred choir of the Apostles.

In words of theology that showed forth heavenly things

they sang the praises of the divine and amazing mystery of the

dispensation of Christ,

and they rejoiced, O all-praised Virgin, as they buried thy body,

the source of Life, which had received God.

On high, the all-holy and most venerable angelic Powers,

in amazement at the wonder, bowed and said to one another:

“Lift up your gates, and receive her who bore the Creator of heaven and earth!”

So we too celebrate thy memory

and cry out to thee, all-praised Lady://

“Raise up the horn of Christians, and save our souls!”

**Tone 1** **Troparion**

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 dost deliver our souls from death.

*(sung once at Great Vespers, thrice at Vigil)*

***(at Matins)***

**Tone 1** **Troparion**

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 dost deliver our souls from death.

**Magnification**

We magnify thee, O most pure Mother of Christ our God,

and we praise thine all-glorious Dormition.

*v: Make a joyful noise unto the Lord, all the earth! (Ps 65/66:1)*

*v: Arise, O Lord, into Thy rest, Thou and the Ark of Thy sanctification!*

*(Ps 131/132:80)*

*v: 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! (thrice)*

**Tone 4 Prokeimenon**

I will remember Thy name / from generation to generation. *(Ps 44/45:18)*

*v: Hearken, O daughter, and see, and incline thine ear! (Ps 44/45:11)*

Let everything that breathes praise the Lord!

*v: Praise God in His sanctuary! Praise Him in His mighty firmament!*

**Matins Gospel**

Luke 1:39-49, 56

**Tone 6 Post-Gospel Stichera**

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

Through the prayers of the Theotokos,

O merciful One,//

blot out the multitude of my transgressions.

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

Through the prayers of the Theotokos,

O merciful One,//

blot out the multitude of my transgressions.

Have mercy on me, O God,

according to Thy great mercy,

according to Thy abundant mercy,//

blot out my transgressions!

When the Translation of thine immaculate body was being prepared,

the Apostles surrounded thy deathbed and looked on thee with trembling.

They gazed at thy body and were seized with awe,

while Peter cried out to thee with tears:

“O Virgin, I see thee, who art the life of all, lying here outstretched,

and I am struck with wonder;

for the Delight of the life to come made His dwelling in thee.

But fervently implore thy Son and God, O immaculate Lady,//

that thy people may be kept safe from harm!”

**Canon**

**Tone 1**

**Heirmos 1 (First Canon, by Kyr Cosmas)**

Clothed in the embroidered raiment of divine glory,

thy sacred and renowned memorial, O Virgin,

has brought all the faithful together for joy;

and led by Miriam, with dances and timbrels,

they sing to thine Only-begotten Son,

for He has been glorified.

**Tone 4**

**Heirmos 1 (Second Canon, by John of Damascus)**

I will open my mouth, and it will be filled with the Spirit,

and I will pour forth my words to the Queen and Mother.

I will be seen radiantly keeping feast

and will joyfully praise her falling asleep.

**Heirmos 3 (First Canon)**

O Christ, the Wisdom and the Power of God,

creating and sustaining all things,

establish the Church unshaken and unwavering;

for Thou alone art holy,

Who hast Thy resting place among the Saints!

**Heirmos 3 (Second Canon)**

As thou art a living and abundant spring,

establish, O Theotokos, those who sing thy praise,

forming a spiritual chorus;

and in thy divine glory

count them worthy of crowns of glory!

**Heirmos 4 (First Canon)**

The sayings and riddles of the Prophets

foreshadowed Thine incarnation from a Virgin, O Christ;

that the brightness of Thy lightning would come as a light for the nations;

and the deep gives forth its voice to Thee in joy:

“Glory to Thy power, O Lover of man!”

**Heirmos 4 (Second Canon)**

Perceiving the unsearchable divine counsel

concerning Thine incarnation from the Virgin, O Most High,

the Prophet Habakkuk cried:

“Glory to Thy Power, O Lord!”

**Heirmos 5 (First Canon)**

I will declare the divine and ineffable beauty of Thy virtues, O Christ;

for Thou didst shine forth from the eternal glory in Thine own person,

as co-eternal brightness;

and, for those in darkness and in shadow,

from a virgin womb, incarnate, Thou didst dawn as the sun.

**Heirmos 5 (Second Canon)**

All things were amazed at thy falling asleep,

for thou, O Virgin, who hast not known wedlock,

hast passed over from earth to the eternal mansions

and to the life without end,

bestowing salvation upon all who sing thy praises.

**Heirmos 6 (First Canon)**

The fire within the whale, the monster dwelling in the salt sea,

was a prefiguring of Thy three-day burial;

and Jonah became its interpreter,

for, saved and unharmed, as though he had never been swallowed, he

cried aloud:

“I will sacrifice to Thee with a voice of praise, O Lord.”

**Heirmos 6 (Second Canon)**

As we celebrate this sacred and solemn feast of the Mother of God,

let us come, clapping our hands,

O people of God,

giving glory to God Who was born of her!

**Tone 2** **Kontakion**

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.

**Heirmos 7 (First Canon)**

Fighting against cruel wrath and fire,

divine love quenched the fire with dew;

and it laughed the wrath to scorn,

making the three-stringed lyre of the holy Youths, inspired by God,

sing in the midst of the flame, in answer to the instruments of music:

“Blessed art Thou, most glorious God,

our God and the God of our fathers!”

**Heirmos 7 (Second Canon)**

The godly-minded Children

would not worship the creation rather than the Creator,

but bravely trampling on the threat of fire, they rejoiced and sang:

“Blessed art Thou and praised above all, O Lord God of our Fathers!”

**Heirmos 8 (First Canon)**

The all-powerful Angel of God revealed to the Youths

a flame that brings refreshment to the holy, but consumes the ungodly;

while he made the Theotokos a spring, and a source of life,

gushing forth destruction for death, but life for those who sing:

“We who have been delivered praise Him Who alone is Creator,

and highly exalt Him unto all ages.”

**Heirmos 8 (Second Canon)**

The Offspring of the Theotokos saved the innocent Youths in the furnace.

Then He was prefigured: now He is Himself at work,

and He gathers together the world as it sings:

“Praise the Lord, all His works,

and highly exalt Him unto all ages!”

**Heirmos 9 (First Canon)**

***Refrain:***The Angels, as they looked upon the Dormition of the Virgin,

were struck with wonder,

seeing how the Virgin went up from earth to heaven.

***Heirmos:*** The limits of nature are overcome in thee, O Pure Virgin:

for birthgiving remains virginal, and life is united to death;

a virgin after childbearing and alive after death,

thou dost ever save thine inheritance, O Theotokos.

**Heirmos 9 (Second Canon)**

***Refrain:***Magnify,O my soul,

the translation of the Mother of God from earth to heaven!

Let all mortals born on earth,

carrying torches, in spirit leap for joy;

and let the nature of the immaterial Minds keep festival

and honor the holy Translation of the Mother of God,

and let them cry:

“Rejoice, all-blessed one, pure Theotokos ever-Virgin!”

**Exapostilarion**

Apostles, who have assembled here

from the ends of the earth,

bury my body in Gethsemane,

and Thou, my Son and God,

receive my spirit! *(thrice)*

**The Praises Tone 4**

Let everything that breathes praise the Lord!

Praise the Lord from the heavens!

Praise Him in the highest!//

To Thee, O God, is due a song!

Praise Him, all you Angels of His!

Praise Him, all His hosts!//

To Thee, O God, is due a song!

*v: Praise Him for His mighty deeds; praise Him according to His exceeding greatness!*

**Tone 4** *(As one valiant)*

At thy glorious Dormition

the heavens rejoice, and the armies of Angels exult.

The whole earth is glad, addressing its funeral hymn to thee,

the Mother of the Master of all things,

all-holy Virgin who knewest not wedlock,//

who hast delivered the human race from the ancestral condemnation.

*v: Praise Him with trumpet sound; praise Him with lute and harp!*

(Repeat: “At thy glorious Dormition…”)

*v: Praise Him with timbrel and dance; praise Him with strings and pipe!*

At a divine command

the chief Apostles gathered from the ends of the earth to bury thee,

and when they saw thee being taken from the earth to heaven

they cried out with joy in Gabriel’s words:

“Rejoice, chariot of the whole Godhead!

Rejoice, for thou alone by thy childbearing//

hast joined together things on earth with those on high!”

*v: Praise Him with sounding cymbals; praise Him with loud clashing cymbals! Let everything that hath breath praise the Lord!*

O Virgin Mother, Bride of God,

who didst carry the Life within thy womb,

by thy revered falling asleep thou hast passed over to immortal life.

Angels, Rulers and Powers, Apostles, Prophets and all creation escorted thee,//

and thy Son received thy most pure soul in His immaculate hands.

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

*now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.*

**Tone 6**

At thy deathless falling asleep,

O Theotokos, Mother of Life,

clouds caught up the Apostles up into the air,

and though they were dispersed throughout the world,

they were brought into a single choir beside thy most pure body.

As they reverently buried thee they cried out, singing Gabriel’s words:

“Rejoice, O full of grace,

Virgin Mother without bridegroom,

the Lord is with thee!”

With them implore Him as thy Son and our God that our souls may be saved!

***(at the Divine Liturgy)***

**Tone 1** **Troparion**

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 dost deliver our souls from death.

**Tone 2** **Kontakion**

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.

**Tone 3** **Prokeimenon** *(Song of the Theotokos)*

My soul doth magnify the Lord, / and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Savior. *(Lk 1:46-47)*

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

**Epistle**

Philippians 2:5-11

**Tone 2**

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

*v: Arise, O Lord, into Thy resting place: Thou and the Ark of Thy*

*sanctification!*  *(Ps 131/132:8)*

*v: The Lord swore to David a sure oath from which He will not turn*

*back.*  *(Ps 131/132:11)*

**Gospel**

Luke 10:38-42; 11:27-28

***(Instead of “It is truly meet…,” we sing:)***

***Refrain:***The Angels, as they looked upon the Dormition of the Virgin,

were struck with wonder,

seeing how the Virgin went up from earth to heaven.

***Heirmos:*** The limits of nature are overcome in thee, O Pure Virgin:

for birthgiving 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. *(Ps* *115/116:13)*

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

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1. Music for the Feast of Dormition from the Department of Liturgical Music and Translations can be downloaded at [www.oca.org](http://www.oca.org). [↑](#footnote-ref-1)