

## THE FUNERAL AND BURIAL:

### 34.

#### THE OFFICE FOR THE BURIAL OF A LAYMAN

The particulars concerning the preparation of the deceased for burial may be found in the section "Preparation of the Body for Burial" preceding the Funeral Offices.

*When an Orthodox Believer has died, his/her relatives immediately send for the Priest, who, having come to the house in which the remains of him/her that has fallen asleep lie and having put on his Epitrachelion and put incense in the censer, censures the body of the deceased and them that stand about; and he begins, as usual:*

Blessed is our God, always, now and ever, and unto the ages of ages.

*And they that are standing about begin:*

[Amen.] Holy God.... Glory ... O Most-holy Trinity.... Glory ... Lord, have mercy ... Our Father ... For Thine is the Kingdom.

Amen and Holy God ... is sung, but the rest is said by the Reader, as usual.

*And immediately they sing these Troparia, TONE 4:*

With the souls of the righteous departed, give rest to the soul of Thy servant, O Savior, preserving it in the blessed life which is with Thee, O Lover of Mankind.

In the place of Thy rest, O Lord, where all Thy Saints repose, give rest also to the soul of Thy servant, for Thou only art the Lover of Mankind.

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

Thou art God Who descended into [Hell] and loosed the bonds of the captives; do Thou Thyself give rest also to the soul of Thy servant.

Now and ever, and unto the ages of ages. Amen.

O Virgin, who only art pure and undefiled, who didst bear God without seed: Do thou pray that his (*her*) soul may be saved.

*Then the Deacon says the Litany:*

Have mercy on us, O God, according to Thy great mercy, we pray Thee, hearken and have mercy.

They that are standing about sing the responses.

*Singers:* Lord, have mercy. (*thrice—after each*)

Again we pray for the repose of the soul of the servant of God, *N.*, departed this life; and that he (*she*) may be pardoned all his (*her*) transgressions, both voluntary and involuntary.

That the Lord God will establish his (*her*) soul where the just repose.

The mercies of God, the Kingdom of Heaven, and the remission of his (*her*) sins, let us entreat of Christ, the Immortal King and our God.

*Singers:* Grant it, O Lord.

*Deacon:* Let us pray to the Lord.

*Singers:* Lord, have mercy.

*The Priest says this Prayer (secretly):*

O God of spirits and of all flesh, Who hast trampled down death and overthrown the devil, and given life unto Thy world: Do Thou Thyself, O Lord, give rest unto the soul of Thy departed servant, *N.*, in a place of brightness, in a place of green pasture, in a place of repose, whence sickness, sorrow and sighing have fled away. As Thou art a good God and the Lover of Mankind, do Thou pardon every transgression that he (*she*) has committed, whether by word or deed or thought, for there is no man that lives yet does not sin. For Thou only art without sin; Thy righteousness is righteousness forever, and Thy word is truth.

*And the Exclamation:*

For Thou art the Resurrection, and the Life, and the Repose of Thy servant, *N.*, who has fallen asleep, O Christ, our God, and unto Thee do we send up glory, together with Thy Father Who is without beginning, and Thy Most-holy, Good, and Lifegiving Spirit, now and ever, and unto the ages of ages.

*Singers:* Amen.

*Deacon:* Wisdom.

*Singers:* More honorable than the Cherubim and, more glorious beyond compare than the Seraphim. Without defilement thou gavest birth to God the Word. True Theotokos, we magnify thee.

*Priest:* Glory to Thee, O Christ God, our Hope, glory to Thee.

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

Lord, have mercy. (*thrice*)

Father, bless.

*And the Priest makes this Dismissal.*

May He Who rose from the dead, Christ our True God, by the prayers of His most-pure Mother; of the holy glorious and all-praised Apostles; of our venerable and Godbearing Fathers; and of all the Saints, establish the soul of His servant, *N.*, who has been taken away from us, in the abodes of the Righteous, and give him (*her*) rest in the bosom of Abraham and number him (*her*) with the Righteous; and that He will have mercy on us, as He is Good and the Lover of Mankind.

*Singers:* Amen.

*And if all things are now ready for the departure, the Priest begins again: Blessed is our God ..., and we begin to sing, Holy God ..., with fear and all compunction. And taking up the remains of him/her that has fallen asleep, we go forth unto the temple, preceded by the Priest(s) with candles, and the Deacon with the censer. And when they have come unto the temple, the remains are placed in the porch (or in the temple, as is the custom in Russia).*

If, however, the Priest does not take part in the bringing of the deceased from the home (or where the remains may be) to the temple, then the beginning of the Burial is appointed according to the following model: Having opened the curtain of the Holy Doors, the Priest goes out to the deceased, gives lit candles to the people, and, having censed around the coffin, begins, as usual, Blessed is our God.... Then the Trisagion is sung, followed by Psalm 90(1).

*And they begin with Psalm 90(1), which is said by the Reader:*

*Psalm 90(1)*

He that dwells in the help of the Most High shall abide in the shelter of the God of Heaven. He shall say unto the Lord: Thou art my Protector and my Refuge; He is my God, and I will hope in Him. For He shall deliver thee from the snare of the fowler and from the troubling word. With His shoulders He will overshadow thee, and under His wings shalt thou trust; with a shield will His truth encompass thee.

Thou shalt not fear the terror of the night, nor the arrow that flies by day, nor that which walks about in the darkness, nor calamity and the demon of noonday. A thousand shall fall at thy side, and ten thousand at thy right hand, but it shall not come nigh unto thee. Only with thine eyes shalt thou behold and see the reward of sinners.

For Thou, O Lord, art my hope; Thou hast made the Most High Thy refuge. No evil shall come unto thee, and no wound shall come nigh unto thy body; for He shall give His angels charge over thee, to keep thee in all thy ways. On their hands shall they bear thee up, lest thou dash thy foot against a stone. Upon the asp and the basilisk shalt thou tread, and thou shalt trample underfoot the lion and the dragon.

For he has set his hope on Me, and I will deliver him; I will shelter him, because he has known My name. He shall cry unto Me, and I will hear Him; I am with him in affliction; I will rescue him and glorify him. With length of days will I satisfy him, and I will show him My salvation.

*And the first Stasis of the "Undefiled" is sung in TONE 6. And at the end of each verse we sing: Alleluia.*

### **First Stasis (Psalm 118(9))**

Blessed are the undefiled in the way, who walk in the Law of the Lord.

Blessed are they that search out His testimonies; with their whole heart shall they seek after Him.

For they that work no iniquity have walked in His ways.

Thou hast commanded them to keep Thy precepts diligently;

O that my ways were directed to keep Thy statutes.

Then shall I not be ashamed when I look upon all Thy commandments.

I will give praise unto Thee with uprightness of heart when I shall have learned the judgments of Thy righteousness.

I will keep Thy statutes; O forsake me not utterly.

With what words shall a young man correct his way? By keeping Thy words.

With my whole heart have I sought after Thee; cast me not away from Thy commandments.

In my heart have I hid Thy words, that I might not sin against Thee.

Blessed art Thou, O Lord, teach me Thy statutes.

With my lips have I declared all the judgments of Thy mouth.

In the way of Thy testimonies have I found delight, as much as in all riches.

I will ponder Thy commandments, and I will understand Thy ways.

I will meditate on Thy statutes; I will not forget Thy words.

Render a recompense unto Thy servant; give me life, and I shall keep Thy words.

Open mine eyes and I shall perceive wondrous things out of Thy law.

I am a sojourner on the earth; hide not Thy commandments from me.

My soul has longed exceedingly for Thy judgments at all times.

Thou hast rebuked the proud; they are cursed that turn aside from Thy commandments.

Remove from me reproach and contempt, for after Thy testimonies have I sought.

For princes sat and spoke against me, but Thy servant meditated on Thy statutes.

For Thy testimonies are mine instruction, and Thy statutes are my counselor.

My soul has cleaved to the earth; give me life according to Thy word.

My ways have I declared and Thou hast heard me; teach me Thy statutes.

Make me to understand the way of Thy statutes and I will meditate on Thy wondrous works.

My soul has slumbered from despondency; strengthen me with Thy words.

Remove from me the way of unrighteousness, and with Thy law have mercy on me.

I have chosen the way of truth, and I have not forgotten Thy judgments.

I have cleaved to Thy testimonies, O Lord; put me not to shame.

In the path of Thy commandments have I run, when Thou didst enlarge my heart.

Set before me a law, O Lord, the way of Thy statutes, and I will seek after it continually.

Give me understanding and I will search out Thy law, and I will keep it with my whole heart.

Guide me on the path of Thy commandments, for I have desired it.

Incline my heart unto Thy testimonies and not unto covetousness.

Turn away mine eyes that I not see vanity; give me life in Thy way.

Establish Thine oracle for Thy servant unto the fear of Thee.

Take away my reproach which I have feared, for Thy judgments are good.

Behold, I have longed for Thy commandments; in Thy righteousness give me life.

Let Thy mercy also come upon me, O Lord, Thy salvation according to Thy word.

So shall I give an answer to them that reproach me, for I have hoped in Thy words.

And take not the word of truth utterly out of my mouth, for in Thy judgments have I hoped.

So shall I keep Thy law continually, for ever, even unto the ages of ages.

So also have I walked in spaciousness, for I have sought after Thy commandments.

And I spoke of Thy testimonies before kings, and I was not put to shame.

And I meditated on Thy commandments which I have loved exceedingly.

And I lifted up my hands to Thy commandments which I have loved, and I pondered Thy statutes.

Remember Thy words to Thy servant, wherein Thou hast given me hope.

This has comforted me in my humiliation, for Thy word has given me life.

The proud have transgressed the law exceedingly, but I have not turned away from Thy law.

I remembered Thy judgments from of old, O Lord, and was comforted.

Despair took hold of me because of the sinners who have forsaken Thy law.

Thy statutes were songs for me in the place of my sojourning.

I remembered Thy name in the night, O Lord, and I kept Thy law.

This has happened to me, for I have sought after Thy statutes.

Thou art my portion, O Lord; I said that I would keep Thy law.

I entreated Thee with my whole heart; have mercy on me according to Thy word.

I have considered Thy ways, and I have turned back my feet to Thy testimonies.

I prepared myself, and I was not troubled, that I might keep Thy commandments.

The cords of sinners have ensnared me, but Thy law I have not forgotten.

At midnight I arose to give praise unto Thee for the judgments of Thy righteousness.

I am a companion of all them that fear Thee, of them that keep Thy commandments.

The earth, O Lord, is full of Thy mercy; teach me Thy statutes.

Thou hast dealt well with Thy servant, O Lord, according to Thy word.

Goodness and discipline and knowledge do Thou teach me, for in Thy commandments have I believed.

Before I was humbled I transgressed; therefore have I kept Thy word.

Thou art good, O Lord, and in Thy goodness teach me Thy statutes.

The unrighteousness of the proud have been multiplied against me; but as for me, with my whole heart will I search out Thy commandments.

Their heart is curdled like milk; but as for me, on Thy law have I meditated.

It is good for me that Thou hast humbled me, that I might learn Thy statutes.

The law of Thy mouth is better to me than thousands of gold and silver pieces.

Glory.... Alleluia.

Now and ever.... Alleluia.

Then the Deacon says the Little Litany for the Departed:

Again and again in peace let us pray to the Lord.

*Choir:* Lord, have mercy. (*thrice—after each*)

Again we pray for the repose of the soul of the servant of God, *N.*, departed this life; and that he (*she*) may be pardoned all his (*her*) transgressions, both voluntary and involuntary.

That the Lord God will establish his (*her*) soul where the just repose.

The mercies of God, the Kingdom of Heaven, and the remission of his (*her*) sins, let us entreat of Christ, the Immortal King and our God.

*Choir:* Grant it, O Lord.

*Deacon:* Let us pray to the Lord.

*Choir:* Lord, have mercy.

*The Priest says this Prayer (secretly):*

O God of spirits and of all flesh, Who hast trampled down death and overthrown the devil, and given life unto Thy world: Do Thou Thyself, O Lord, give rest unto the soul of Thy departed servant, *N.*, in a place of brightness, in a place of green pasture, in a place of repose, whence sickness, sorrow and sighing have fled away. As Thou art a good God and the Lover of Mankind, do Thou pardon every transgression that he (*she*) has committed, whether by word or deed or thought, for there is no man that lives yet does not sin. For Thou only art without sin; Thy righteousness is righteousness forever, and Thy word is truth.

*And the Exclamation:*

For Thou art the Resurrection, and the Life, and the Repose of Thy servant, *N.*, who has fallen asleep, O Christ, our God, and unto Thee do we send up glory, together with Thy Father Who is without beginning, and Thy Most-holy, Good, and Lifegiving Spirit, now and ever, and unto the ages of ages.

*Choir:* Amen.

*And after this they begin the second Stasis in TONE 5. in which also, at the ending of a verse, we say:* Have mercy upon Thy servant.

### **Second Stasis (Psalm 118(9))**

Thy hands have made me and fashioned me; give me understanding and I will learn Thy commandments.

They that fear Thee shall see me and be glad, for on Thy words have I set my hope.

I have known, O Lord, that Thy judgments are righteousness, and with truth Thou hast humbled me.

Let Thy mercy comfort me according to Thy word to Thy servant.

Let Thy tender mercies come upon me and I shall live, for Thy law is my meditation.

Let the proud be put to shame, for unjustly have they transgressed against me; but as for me, I will meditate on Thy commandments.

Let those that fear Thee return unto me, and those that know Thy testimonies.

Let my heart be blameless in Thy statutes, that I may not be put to shame.

My soul languishes for Thy salvation; on Thy words have I set my hope.

Mine eyes have failed waiting for Thy word, saying: When wilt Thou comfort me?



For I have become like a wineskin in the frost; yet Thy statutes I have not forgotten.

How many are the days of Thy servant? When wilt Thou execute judgment for me on them that persecute me?

Transgressors have told me fables, but they are not like Thy law, O Lord.

All Thy commandments are truth. Unrighteously have men persecuted me.

Do Thou help me.

They have almost made an end of me on earth; but as for me, I have not forsaken Thy commandments.

According to Thy mercy give me life, and I will keep the testimonies of Thy mouth.

Forever, O Lord, Thy word abides in heaven.

From generation to generation is Thy truth; Thou hast established the foundations of the earth and it stands fast.

By Thine ordinance the day abides, for all things are Thy servants.

If Thy law had not been my meditation, then I should have perished in my humiliation.

I will never forget Thy statutes, for in them hast Thou given me life.

I am Thine, save me, for I have sought after Thy statutes.

Sinners have awaited me to destroy me; but Thy testimonies have I understood.

I have seen a limit to all perfection, but exceedingly broad is Thy commandment.

O how I have loved Thy law, O Lord! All the day long it is my meditation.

More than mine enemies hast Thou made me wise in Thy commandments, for it is mine forever.

More than all that have taught me, have I gained understanding, for Thy testimonies are my meditation.

More than the aged have I understood, for I have sought after Thy commandments.

From every evil way have I restrained my feet, that I might keep Thy words.

From Thy judgments have I not turned aside, for Thou hast set a law for me.

How sweet to my throat are Thy words; sweeter than honey to my mouth.

From Thy commandments have I gained understanding; therefore have I hated every way of unrighteousness.

Thy law is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my paths.

I have sworn and resolved to keep the judgments of Thy righteousness.

I have been humbled exceedingly; O Lord, give me life according to Thy words.

With the free will offerings of my mouth be pleased, O Lord, and teach me Thy judgments.

My soul is in Thy hands continually; and Thy law have I not forgotten.

Sinners have laid a snare for me, yet from Thy commandments have I not strayed.

I have inherited Thy testimonies forever, for they are the joy of my heart.

I have inclined my heart to perform Thy statutes for ever for a recompense.

Transgressors have I hated, but Thy law have I loved.

My Helper and my Defender art Thou; on Thy words have I set my hope.

Turn away from me, you evil-doers, and I will search out the commandments of my God.

Uphold me according to Thy word and I shall live, and let me not be put to shame in mine expectation.

Help me, and I shall be saved; and I will meditate on Thy statutes continually.

Thou hast humbled all them that stray from Thy statutes, for unrighteous is their intention.

I have reckoned all the sinners of the earth as transgressors; therefore have I loved Thy statutes.

Nail my flesh with the fear of Thee; for of Thy judgments am I afraid.

I have wrought judgment and righteousness; give me not up to them that oppress me.

Receive Thy servant for good; let not the proud slander me.

Mine eyes have failed waiting for Thy salvation, and for the words of Thy righteousness.

Deal with Thy servant according to Thy mercy and teach me Thy statutes.

I am Thy servant; give me understanding, and I shall know Thy testimonies.

It is time for the Lord to act; for they have laid waste to Thy law.

Therefore have I loved Thy commandments, more than gold and topaz.

Therefore have I directed myself according to all Thy commandments; every way of unrighteousness have I hated.

Wonderful are Thy testimonies; therefore has my soul searched them out.

The revelation of Thy words shall give light and understanding even to infants.

I opened my mouth and drew breath, for I longed for Thy commandments.

Glory.... Have mercy upon Thy servant.

Now and ever.... Have mercy upon Thy servant.

Then the Deacon says the Little Litany for the Departed, as before. And the Priest says the Prayer, O God of spirits ..., and the Exclamation, For Thou art the Resurrection....

*And after this they begin the third Stasis in **TONE 3**, in which also, at the ending of a verse, we say: Alleluia.*

### **Third Stasis (Psalm 118(9))**

Look upon me and have mercy on me, according to the judgment of them that love Thy name.

Order my steps according to Thy word, and let no iniquity have dominion over me.

Deliver me from the false accusation of men, and I will keep Thy commandments.

Make Thy face to shine upon Thy servant, and teach me Thy statutes.

Mine eyes have poured forth streams of waters because I have not kept Thy law.

Righteous art Thou, O Lord, and upright are Thy judgments.

Thou hast commanded as Thy testimonies exceeding righteousness and truth.

Zeal for Thee has consumed me, because mine enemies have forgotten Thy word.

White hot is Thy word, and Thy servant loves it.

I am young and despised, yet Thy statutes have I not forgotten.

Thy righteousness is righteousness forever, and Thy law is truth.

Tribulations and necessities have found me, Thy commandments are my meditation.

Thy testimonies are righteousness forever; give me understanding and I shall live.

I have cried with my whole heart; hear me, O Lord, and I will seek after Thy statutes.

I have cried unto Thee; save me, and I will keep Thy testimonies.

I arose before the dawn and I cried out; on Thy words have I set my hope.

Mine eyes awoke before the morning that I might meditate on Thy words.

Hear my voice, O Lord, according to Thy mercy; according to Thy judgment give me life.

They have drawn near that lawlessly persecute me; they are far from Thy law.

But Thou art near, O Lord, and all Thy ways are truth.

Long have I known from Thy testimonies that Thou hast founded them for ever.

Consider my humiliation and deliver me, for I have not forgotten Thy law.

Judge my case and redeem me; for the sake of Thy word give me life.

Far from sinners is salvation, for they have not sought after Thy statutes.

Thy loving kindnesses are many, O Lord; according to Thy judgment give me life.

Many are they that persecute me and afflict me, but from Thy testimonies have I not turned aside.

I considered them that act foolishly and I wasted away, because they had not kept Thy words.

Behold, how I have loved Thy commandments. O Lord, according to Thy mercy give me life.

The beginning of Thy words is truth, and all the judgments of Thy righteousness endure forever.

Princes have persecuted me without a cause, and because of Thy words my heart has been afraid.

I will rejoice in Thy words as one that finds much spoil.

Unrighteousness have I hated and despised, but Thy law have I loved.

Seven times a day have I praised Thee for the judgments of Thy righteousness.

Much peace have they that love Thy law, and for them there is no stumbling block.

I have awaited Thy salvation, O Lord, and Thy commandments have I loved.

My soul has kept Thy testimonies and loved them exceedingly.

I have kept Thy commandments and Thy testimonies, for all my ways are before Thee, O Lord.

Let my supplication draw near before Thee, O Lord; according to Thy word give me understanding.

Let my petition come before Thee, O Lord; according to Thy word deliver me.

My lips shall bring forth a hymn when Thou shalt teach me Thy statutes.

My tongue shall proclaim Thy word, for all Thy commandments are righteousness.

Let Thy hand be ready to save me, for I have chosen Thy commandments.

I have longed for Thy salvation, O Lord, and Thy law is my meditation.

My soul shall live and it shall praise Thee, and Thy judgments shall help me.

I have gone astray like a sheep that is lost; seek Thy servant, for Thy commandments have I not forgotten.

*And immediately* after the end of the third Stasis (but without “Glory” and “Now and ever”), **TONE 5**:

*Refrain:* Blessed art Thou, O Lord; teach me Thy statutes.

The choir of Saints has found the Fountain of Life and the Door of Paradise; may I also find the way through repentance. I am the lost sheep: Call me back, O Savior, and save me.

*Refrain:* Blessed art Thou, O Lord; teach me Thy statutes.

O you Saints that preached the Lamb of God, and like lambs were slain, who have been translated unto life unaging and everlasting: Fervently entreat Him, O Martyrs, that He may grant us the forgiveness of sins.

*Refrain:* Blessed art Thou, O Lord; teach me Thy statutes.

All you that in this life have trod the narrow way of grief, having taken up the Cross as a yoke and followed Me in faith: Come, delight in the honors and heavenly crowns that I have prepared for you.

*Refrain:* Blessed art Thou, O Lord; teach me Thy statutes.

I am an image of Thine ineffable glory, though I bear the wounds of sin. Take pity on Thy creature, O Master, and cleanse me by Thy loving-kindness. And grant me the desired fatherland, making me again a citizen of Paradise.

*Refrain:* Blessed art Thou, O Lord; teach me Thy statutes.

O Thou Who of old didst fashion me out of nothingness and didst honor me with Thine Image divine, but when I transgressed Thy commandment, didst return me again unto the earth whence I was taken: Raise me up according to Thy Likeness, that I may be restored to my former beauty.

*Refrain:* Blessed art Thou, O Lord; teach me Thy statutes.

Give rest, O God, to Thy servant and establish him (*her*) in Paradise, where the choirs of the Saints and the Righteous shine like the stars, O Lord. Give rest to Thy servant who has fallen asleep, overlooking all his (*her*) transgressions.

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

*(To the Holy Trinity)* The threefold radiance of the one Godhead let us piously hymn, crying out: Holy art Thou, O Father Who hast no beginning, Co-unoriginate Son and Divine Spirit. Illumine us who serve Thee in faith, and snatch us from the fire eternal.

Now and ever, and unto the ages of ages. Amen.

*(Theotokion)* Rejoice, O pure One, who gavest birth to God in the flesh for the salvation of all, *and* through whom mankind has found salvation. Through thee may we find Paradise, O Theotokos pure and blessed.

Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia. Glory to Thee, O God. (*thrice*)

Then the Deacon says the Little Litany for the Departed, as before. And the Priest says the Prayer, O God of spirits ..., and the Exclamation, For Thou art the Resurrection....

*And after the Exclamation, we sing the present Troparia, TONE 5:*

Give rest with the Righteous unto Thy servant, O our Savior, and settle him (*her*) in Thy courts, as it is written, overlooking, as Thou art good, his (*her*) transgressions, voluntary or involuntary, and every *sin* committed in knowledge or in ignorance, O Lover of Mankind.

Glory....

And every *sin* committed in knowledge or in ignorance, O Lover of Mankind.

Now and ever ... (*Theotokion*):

O Christ God Who from a Virgin didst shine forth unto the world, and through her didst show *us* sons of light, have mercy on us.

*Then Psalm 50(1):*

*Psalm 50(1)*

Have mercy on me, O God, according to Thy great mercy; and according to the multitude of Thy tender mercies blot out my transgression. Wash me thoroughly from mine iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin. For I know mine iniquity, and my sin is before me continually. Against Thee only have I sinned and done this evil in Thy sight; that Thou mightest be justified in Thy words and victorious when Thou art judged. For behold, I was conceived in iniquities, and in sins did my mother bear me. For behold, Thou hast loved truth; the hidden and secret things of Thy wisdom hast Thou revealed unto me.

Thou shalt sprinkle me with hyssop, and I shall be made clean; Thou shalt wash me, and I shall be made whiter than snow. Thou shalt make me to hear joy and gladness; my humbled bones shall rejoice. Turn Thy face away from my sins, and blot out all mine iniquities. Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from Thy presence, and take not Thy Holy Spirit from me. Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation, and with Thy governing Spirit establish me. I shall teach transgressors Thy ways, and the ungodly shall turn back unto Thee.

Deliver me from bloodguiltiness, O God, Thou God of my salvation; my tongue shall rejoice in Thy righteousness. O Lord, Thou shalt open my lips, and my mouth shall declare Thy praise. For if Thou hadst desired sacrifice, I would have given it; with whole burnt-offerings Thou shalt not be pleased. A sacrifice unto God is a broken spirit; a broken and humbled heart God will not despise. Do good, O Lord, in Thy good pleasure unto Sion, and let the walls of Jerusalem be built. Then shalt Thou be pleased with a sacrifice of righteousness, with oblation and whole burnt-offerings. Then shall they offer young bulls upon Thine altar.

*Then the Canon for the Departed is sung, the Acrostic of which is:* Unto him that has departed I will sing the sixth song (the composition of *Theophanes*), **TONE 6:**

**ODE 1**

**Irmos:** *When Israel passed on foot through the deep, as if on dry land, upon seeing Pharaoh their pursuer drowned, they cried aloud: Let us sing unto God a song of victory.*

According to custom the following *refrain* is sung:

*Refrain:* Give rest, O Lord, unto the soul of Thy servant who has fallen asleep.

In the heavenly chambers the noble Martyrs ever entreat Thee, O Christ: “The faithful whom Thou hast translated from earth do Thou count worthy to receive eternal good things.”

*Refrain:* Give rest, O Lord, unto the soul of Thy servant who has fallen asleep.

Having adorned all things, Thou didst fashion me a living being, consisting of humanity, placed between lowliness and majesty. Therefore, give rest unto the soul of Thy servant, O Savior.

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

In the beginning Thou didst establish me as an inhabitant and husbandman of Paradise. But, having transgressed Thy commandment, Thou didst cast me out. Therefore, give rest unto the soul of Thy servant, O Savior.

Now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

He Who, at first, from a rib didst fashion Eve, our first mother, from thy most-pure womb didst clothe Himself in flesh, by which the power of death was destroyed, O pure One.

### ODE 3

**Irmos:** *There is none so holy as Thou, O Lord my God, Who hast exalted the horn of Thy faithful, O Good One, and hast established us upon the rock of Thy confession.*

*Refrain:* Give rest, O Lord, unto the soul of Thy servant who has fallen asleep.

Thy Martyrs, having suffered according to the law, O Giver of Life, and having been adorned by Thee with crowns of victory, fervently mediate eternal redemption for the faithful one who has departed this life.

*Refrain:* Give rest, O Lord, unto the soul of Thy servant who has fallen asleep.



At first having instructed me, the prodigal, with many signs and wonders, finally, as Thou art compassionate, Thou Thyself didst empty Thyself. And having found me whom Thou didst seek, Thou also hast saved me.

Glory....

Do Thou, O Good One, count him (*her*) that has departed unto Thee from the transitory streams of corruption, worthy to abide, with joy, in the eternal habitations, being justified by faith and Grace.

Now and ever...

There is none that is undefiled save thee, O most-pure Mother of God, for thou alone hast conceived in thy womb the True God Who is from everlasting, and Who hath broken the power of death.

Then the Deacon says the Little Litany for the Departed, as before. And the Priest says the Prayer, O God of spirits ..., and the Exclamation, For Thou art the Resurrection....

Then *the Sedalen*, **TONE 6:**

In truth all things are vanity, and life is but a shadow and a dream, for vainly everyone born on earth troubles himself, as Scripture says. When we have acquired the world, then do we take up our abode in the grave, where kings and beggars are together. Therefore, O Christ God, give rest unto Thy servant, as Thou art the Lover of Mankind.

Glory ... now and ever ... (*Theotokion*):

O all-holy Theotokos, forsake me not in my lifetime, entrust me not to human protection. But do thyself defend me and have mercy on me.

#### **ODE 4**

***Irmos:*** *Christ is my power, my God and my Lord, the precious Church sings in a manner befitting God, crying out with a pure mind, keeping festival in the Lord.*

***Refrain:*** Give rest, O Lord, unto the soul of Thy servant who has fallen asleep.

Revealing *unto them* knowledge of a greater Wisdom and the blessedness of *Thy* most-perfect gifts, O Master, Thou hast numbered the ranks of Martyrs with the Angels.

***Refrain:*** Give rest, O Lord, unto the soul of Thy servant who has fallen asleep.

Deem worthy to receive Thy most-precious glory him (*her*) that has been translated unto Thee, O Christ, where is the abode of them that make glad, and the pure voice of rejoicing.

Glory....

By Thy divine might do Thou accept him (*her*) that is crying out, whom Thou hast taken from the earth, making him (*her*) a child of the Light, and purifying him (*her*) from the gloom of sin, O Greatly-merciful One.

Now and ever...

O most-pure Chalice, undefiled Temple, all-holy Ark, virginal Place of sanctification: the Master hast chosen thee, the comeliness of Jacob.

### ODE 5

***Irmos:*** *With Thy divine light, O Good One, illumine with love, I pray Thee, the souls of them that rise early in the morning unto Thee, that they may know Thee, O Word of God, as the True God, Who calleth us out from the darkness of sin.*

*Refrain:* Give rest, O Lord, unto the soul of Thy servant who has fallen asleep.

As a sacred whole-offering, and as the first-fruits of the human race, the Martyrs were presented unto God Who hath glorified them. And they ever mediate salvation for us.

*Refrain:* Give rest, O Lord, unto the soul of Thy servant who has fallen asleep.

Count worthy of residence in Heaven and distribution of gifts, O Lord, Thy faithful servant who has fallen asleep before us, granting him (*her*) remission of sins.

Glory....

O Compassionate One, Who alone art by nature the Lover of Mankind, Who, in truth, art an unfathomable abyss of goodness: Do Thou deem worthy of Thy Kingdom him (*her*) that has departed this life, O Only Immortal One.

Now and ever...

He Who was born of thee to the world, O Sovereign Lady, hath become the Stronghold, the Song and the Salvation of the perishing, delivering from the gates of hades them that, with faith, call thee “blessed.”

## ODE 6

**Irmos:** *Beholding the sea of life surging with the storm of temptations, and running to Thy calm haven I cry unto Thee: Raise up my life from corruption, O Greatly-merciful One.*

*Refrain:* Give rest, O Lord, unto the soul of Thy servant who has fallen asleep.

O Good One Who wast nailed to the Cross, Thou hast gathered unto Thyself the ranks of Martyrs who imitated Thy sufferings. Therefore, we entreat Thee: Grant rest unto him (*her*) that now has been taken unto Thee.

*Refrain:* Give rest, O Lord, unto the soul of Thy servant who has fallen asleep.

In the dread day when Thou shalt come in Thine ineffable glory upon the clouds to judge the whole world, be Thou well-pleased, O Redeemer, that Thy faithful servant whom Thou hast received from the earth may meet thee with brightness.

Glory....

As Thou art the Fountain of Life, O Master, Who bringest out *to freedom* Thy servants who were bound, having struggled in a godly manner, do Thou settle in the delights of Paradise Thy servant who has departed unto Thee in faith.

Now and ever...

Having transgressed the divine commandment of God, we were returned to the earth. But, for thy sake, O Virgin, we have been lifted up from earth to Heaven, having shaken off the corruption of death.

Then the Deacon says the Little Litany for the Departed, as before. And the Priest says the Prayer, O God of spirits ..., and the Exclamation, For Thou art the Resurrection....

Then *the Kontakion*, **TONE 8:**

With the Saints give rest, O Christ, to the soul of Thy servant, where sickness is no more, neither sorrow nor sighing, but life everlasting.

*(Ikos)* Thou only art immortal, Who hast created and fashioned man. For out of the earth were we [mortals] made, and unto the earth shall we return again, as Thou didst command when Thou madest me, saying unto me: "For earth thou art and unto the earth shalt thou return,"

whither we [mortals] all shall go, making as our funeral dirge the song:  
Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia.

*And again:*

With the Saints give rest, O Christ, to the soul of Thy servant, where  
sickness is no more, neither sorrow nor sighing, but life everlasting.

### ODE 7

***Irmos:*** *An Angel made the furnace sprinkle dew on the Holy Youths, but the command of God consuming the Chaldeans prevailed upon the tyrant to cry out: Blessed art Thou, O God of our fathers.*

*Refrain:* Give rest, O Lord, unto the soul of Thy servant who has fallen  
asleep.

Redeemed by Thy Blood from the first transgression, and sprinkled by  
their own blood, the Martyrs manifestly imitated Thy sacrifice: Blessed  
art Thou, O God of our fathers.

*Refrain:* Give rest, O Lord, unto the soul of Thy servant who has fallen  
asleep.

Thou hast put to death arrogant death, O Life-originating Word. Do  
Thou receive him that has fallen asleep with faith in Thee, O Christ,  
singing and chanting: Blessed art Thou, O God of our fathers.

Glory....

Having given life unto me, a man, by Thy divine breath, O Master Who  
hast Thine origin in God, count him that has departed this life worthy to  
hymn Thee, O Savior: Blessed art Thou, O God of our fathers.

Now and ever...

Being higher than all creation, O most-undefiled One, thou hast  
conceived God Who hath smashed the gates of death and crushed its  
might. Therefore, O pure One, we the faithful hymn thee as Mother of  
God.

### ODE 8

***Irmos:*** *From the flame Thou didst sprinkle dew upon the Godly Ones, and didst burn the sacrifice of a righteous man with water. For Thou doest all that Thou wilt, O Christ. Thee do we highly exalt unto all the ages.*

*Refrain:* Give rest, O Lord, unto the soul of Thy servant who has fallen asleep.

Manifesting mighty feats, O passion-bearing Martyrs of Christ, you were adorned with crowns of victory, crying out unto Christ: We highly exalt Thee, O Christ, unto the ages.

*Refrain:* Give rest, O Lord, unto the soul of Thy servant who has fallen asleep.

As Thou art deeply-compassionate, do Thou accept with tranquillity and grant rest unto the faithful that have departed this life in sanctity, and have been taken unto Thee, the Master, highly exalting Thee unto all the ages.

Glory....

Be Thou well-pleased, O Savior, to settle now in the land of the meek them that have fallen asleep before us, being justified by grace and their faith in Thee, highly exalting Thee unto all the ages.

Now and ever...

We all call thee “blessed”, O all-blessed One, for, in truth, thou gavest birth unto the blessed Word Who became flesh for our sakes, Whom we highly exalt unto all the ages.

## ODE 9

***Irmos:*** *It is not possible for men to see God, upon Whom the ranks of Angels dare not gaze. But through thee, O All-pure One, didst the Word Incarnate reveal Himself unto men, Whom magnifying together with the Heavenly Hosts, we call thee blessed.*

*Refrain:* Give rest, O Lord, unto the soul of Thy servant who has fallen asleep.

Hope fortified the ranks of Martyrs, and, with strength, carried them as on wings toward Thy love, by this, truly prefiguring the future unshakeable repose, of which do Thou count worthy, O Good One, the faithful one that has been taken.

*Refrain:* Give rest, O Lord, unto the soul of Thy servant who has fallen asleep.

Be Thou well-pleased, O Christ, to apportion Thy bright and divine radiance unto him (*her*) that has departed in faith, as Thou only art

merciful, granting him (*her*) rest in the bosom of Abraham, and counting him (*her*) worthy of eternal blessedness.

Glory....

As Thou art good and deeply-compassionate by nature, Who desirest mercy and art an abyss of deep compassion, do Thou establish where Thy radiance shines, O Savior, him (*her*) whom Thou hast translated from this place of misery and the shadow of death.

Now and ever...

We know thee, O pure One, as the holy Tabernacle, the Ark, and the Tablet of law and grace. For forgiveness is granted for thy sake unto them that are justified by the Blood of Him that became incarnate from thy womb, O all-undefiled One.

Then the Deacon says the Little Litany for the Departed, as before. And the Priest says the Prayer, O God of spirits ..., and the Exclamation, For Thou art the Resurrection....

*We begin the idiomela of John the Monk:*

**(TONE 1)** What sweetness of life abides unaccompanied with grief? What glory stands unchanged upon earth? All things are but most-feeble shadows; all things are but most-deluding dreams. Yet a moment and death takes all these things. But in the light of Thy countenance, O Christ, and in the sweetness of Thy beauty, as the Lover of Mankind give rest unto him (*her*) whom Thou hast chosen.

**(TONE 2)** Woe is me! What manner of struggle has the soul when it is parted from the body? Alas, how much, then, does it weep, and there is none to have mercy on it! It lifts up its eyes unto the Angels; of no effect does it pray. It stretches out its hands unto men; it finds none to help. Therefore, my beloved brethren, meditating on our brief life, let us entreat rest from Christ for him (*her*) that has departed, and for our souls great mercy.

**(TONE 3)** All human things are vanity which remain not after death. Riches abide not, neither does glory accompany *us* on the way. For when death has come, all these things vanish. Therefore, let us cry out unto the Immortal Christ: Give rest unto him (*her*) that has been taken from us, where is the abode of all them that rejoice.

**(TONE 4)** Where is worldly inclination? Where is temporary dreaming? Where are the gold and silver? Where is the multitude of servants and their clamor? All dust, all ashes, all shadows! But, come, let us cry out

unto the Immortal King: O Lord, count worthy of Thine eternal good things him (*her*) that has been taken from us, giving him (*her*) rest in Thy blessedness that grows not old.

**(TONE 5)** I remembered the Prophet who cried out: “I am earth and ashes.” And again I looked into the graves and beheld the bones laid bare. And I said, “Who then is the king or the warrior, the rich man or the poor man, the righteous or the sinner?” Yet give rest with the Righteous, O Lord, unto Thy servant.

**(TONE 6)** To me Thy life-effecting command was origin and substance, for having willed to fashion me a living creature out of invisible and visible nature, Thou didst create my body from the earth, and gavest me a soul by Thy divine and lifegiving breath. Therefore, give rest unto Thy servant, O Christ, in the land of the living and in the habitations of the Righteous.

**(TONE 7)** In the beginning having made man according to Thine Image and Likeness, Thou didst set him in Paradise to reign over Thy creation. But having been deceived by the envy of the devil, he partook of the food, becoming a transgressor of Thy commandments. Therefore, Thou didst condemn him, O Lord, to return again unto the earth from which he was taken, and to entreat repose.

**(TONE 8)** I weep and I wail, when I consider death and behold our beauty, fashioned according to the Image of God, lying in the graves disfigured, bereft of glory, not having form. O wonder! What is this mystery concerning us? How have we been given over to corruption? How have we been wedded unto death? In truth, as it is written, by the command of God Who givest rest unto him (*her*) that has been taken hence.

*The Beatitudes, TONE 6:*

In Thy Kingdom remember us, O Lord, when Thou comest into thy Kingdom.

Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven.

Blessed are they that mourn, for they shall be comforted.

Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.

Blessed are they that hunger and thirst after righteousness, for they shall be filled.

Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy.

O Christ, Who, in anticipation, madest the Thief who cried out unto Thee on the Cross, "Remember me," a citizen of Paradise because of his repentance, count me who am unworthy, worthy also *of this*.

Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.

O Thou Who rulest over life and death, give rest in the courts of the Saints him (*her*) whom Thou hast taken from temporal things; and remember me, when Thou comest into Thy Kingdom.

Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called the sons of God.

O Thou Who rulest over souls and bodies, in Whose hands is our breath, O Consolation of them that are afflicted: Give rest in the land of the Righteous unto Thy servant whom Thou hast taken.

Blessed are they that are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven.

May Christ give thee rest in the land of the living and open unto thee the gates of Paradise, and declare thee a citizen of the Kingdom. And may He grant thee forgiveness for those things wherein thou hast sinned in life, O thou who lovest Christ.

Blessed are you when men shall revile you and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely for My sake.

Let us go forth and gaze into the graves, for man is naked bones, food for the worms, and stench. And let us learn what riches are, and comeliness, strength and beauty.

Rejoice and be exceedingly glad, for great is your reward in Heaven.

Let us give ear unto what the Almighty saith: Woe unto them that seek to behold the terrible day of the Lord! For it is darkness; for all things shall be tried with fire.

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

I bow down in worship unto Him that hath no beginning, birth or procession, the Father Who begat; I glorify the Son that is begotten; I hymn the Holy Spirit Who shines together with the Father and the Son.

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

How didst thou spill out milk from thy breasts, O Virgin? How didst thou nourish the Nourisher of Creation? He knoweth Who didst spill out water from the rock; streams of water for a thirsting people, as it was written.



*Then the Deacon says:*

Let us attend

*Priest:* Peace be unto all.

*Reader:* And to your spirit

*Deacon:* Wisdom.

*Reader:* The Prokeimenon in the Sixth Tone:

(Prokeimenon, **TONE 6:**)

Blessed is the way in which thou shalt walk today, O soul; for a place of rest is prepared for thee.

*Choir:* Blessed is the way in which thou shalt walk today, O soul; for a place of rest is prepared for thee.

*Reader:* **Vs.** Unto Thee, O Lord, will I cry, O my God. (27:1)

*Choir:* Blessed is the way in which thou shalt walk today, O soul; for a place of rest is prepared for thee.

*Reader:* Blessed is the way in which thou shalt walk today, O soul.

*Choir:* For a place of rest is prepared for thee.

*Deacon:* Wisdom.

*Reader:* The Reading from the First Epistle of the Holy Apostle Paul to the Thessalonians.

*Deacon:* Let us attend.

*The Reader reads the Lesson from the **Apostol:***

**The First Epistle to the Thessalonians** (*Pericope 270—1 Thess. 4:13–17*):

*Brethren, I would not have you to be ignorant concerning those who are asleep, that you sorrow not, even as others who have no hope. For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so will God bring with Him those also who die in Jesus. For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord: that we who are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord, shall not precede those who have died. For the Lord Himself, with a shout of command, with the voice of the Archangel and with the trumpet of God, shall come down from Heaven; and the dead in Christ shall rise first. Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together*

with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so shall we ever be with the Lord.

*Priest:* Peace be unto you.

*Reader:* And to your spirit.

*Deacon:* Wisdom.

*Reader:* Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia.

(Alleluia, **TONE 6**)

*Choir:* Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia.

*Reader:* **Vs.** Blessed is he whom Thou hast chosen and taken, *O Lord. (64:5)*

*Choir:* Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia.

*Deacon:* Wisdom. Let us attend. Let us listen to the Holy Gospel.

*Priest:* Peace be unto all.

*Choir:* And to your spirit.

*Priest:* The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to *Saint John.*

*Choir:* Glory to Thee, O Lord, glory to Thee.

*Deacon:* Let us attend.

*The Priest reads the Gospel:*

**The Gospel according to John** (*Pericope 16—John 5:24–30*):

*The Lord said to the Jews that came unto Him:* “Verily, verily I say unto you, he that hears My Word and believes in Him that sent Me, has eternal life and shall not come into condemnation, but passes from death unto life. Verily, verily I say unto you, the hour is coming and now is, when the dead shall hear the voice of the Son of God; and they that hear shall live. For as the Father has life in Himself, so has He given to the Son to have life in Himself, and has given Him authority to execute judgment also, because He is the Son of Man. Marvel not at this; for the hour is coming in which all that are in the graves shall hear the voice of the Son of God and shall come forth—they that have done good unto the resurrection of life, and they that have done evil unto the resurrection of damnation. I can of Mine own Self do nothing. As I hear, I judge; and My judgment is just, for I seek not Mine own will, but the will of the Father Who has sent Me.”

*Choir:* Glory to Thee, O our God, glory to Thee.

And *the Deacon* says this Litany.

Have mercy on us, O God, according to Thy great mercy, we pray Thee, hearken and have mercy.

*Choir:* Lord, have mercy. (*thrice—after each*)

Again we pray for the repose of the soul of the servant of God, *N.*, departed this life; and that he (*she*) may be pardoned all his (*her*) transgressions, both voluntary and involuntary.

That the Lord God will establish his (*her*) soul where the just repose.

The mercies of God, the Kingdom of Heaven, and the remission of his (*her*) sins, let us entreat of Christ, the Immortal King and our God.

*Choir:* Grant it, O Lord.

*Deacon:* Let us pray to the Lord.

*Choir:* Lord, have mercy.

*And when this is finished, the First Priest (or the Bishop, if one be present) shall say the Prayer, O God of spirits ..., as he stands near the deceased (and in like manner all the Priests that may be present).*

*[But, let it be known that, whenever the Deacon says the Litany, each of the Priests, according to rank, says in a low voice (i.e., secretly) this Prayer while standing near the deceased and then the Exclamation, For Thou art the Resurrection.... But, as mentioned above, at this point the Prayer, O God of spirits ..., is said by the First Priest (or Bishop) in a loud voice.]*

*And after the Exclamation, the last kiss is given. And we sing the following Stikhera, TONE 2, according to the Special Melody: When Joseph of Arimathaea ...:*

Come, brethren, let us give the last kiss unto the dead, giving thanks unto God. For he (*she*) has vanished from among his (*her*) kinsmen and hastens to the grave. For him (*her*) there is no anxiety concerning vain things and the much-suffering flesh. Where now are his (*her*) kinsmen and his (*her*) friends? Behold, we are parted. Let us pray unto the Lord that He will give him (*her*) rest.

What, O brethren, is this parting? What is this weeping, what is this lament at the present hour? Come, therefore, let us kiss him (*her*) that was with us but a little while; for he (*she*) is given unto the grave, he (*she*) is covered with a stone, he (*she*) abides in darkness, he (*she*) is buried with the dead, and now is parted from all his (*her*) kinsmen and friends. Let us pray unto the Lord that He will give him (*her*) rest.

Now is life's evil triumph of vanities destroyed. For the soul has vanished from its dwelling place, the clay is ashen, the vessel is shattered, it is voiceless, has no feeling, is dead and motionless. Committing him (*her*) unto the grave, let us pray unto the Lord that He will give him (*her*) rest unto the ages.

With what can we compare our life? In very truth unto a flower, smoke and the morning dew. Come, therefore, let us gaze openly at the graves. Where is the beauty of the body, where is its youth? Where are the eyes and the fleshly form? All are consumed like the grass, all have been destroyed. Come, let us fall down before Christ with tears.

Great is the weeping and lamentation, great is the groaning and agony at the parting of the soul. Hades and destruction *await*. This transitory life is a fleeting shadow and an illusive dream; and the toil of earthly life an unseemly fantasy. Let us flee far away from every worldly sin, that we may inherit heavenly things.

As we look upon him (*her*) that lies dead before us, let us all accept the image of our final hour. For he (*she*) vanishes like smoke from the earth, is withered like a flower, is cut down like grass, is wrapped in sackcloth and concealed in the earth. As we leave him (*her*) hidden from sight, let us pray unto Christ that He will give him (*her*) rest unto the ages.

Come, you descendants of Adam, let us look upon him (*her*) that is laid low in the earth, all the comeliness according to our Image stripped away, dissolved in the grave by decay, consumed by worms in darkness, and concealed by the earth. As we leave him (*her*) hidden from sight, let us pray unto Christ that He will give him (*her*) rest unto the ages.

When the soul is about to be carried away from the body with violence by dread Angels, it forgets all kinsmen and acquaintances and is troubled concerning standing before the tribunal that is to come, that shall pass judgment upon vain things and much-toiling flesh. Then, entreating the Judge, let us all pray that the Lord will forgive him (*her*) the things that he (*she*) has done.

Come, brethren, let us look into the grave upon the dust and ashes from which we were formed. Where do we go now? What have we become? Who is poor, or who is rich? Who is the master, and who is the freeman? Are not all dust? The beauty of the countenance is gone, and death has withered up all the bloom of youth.

In truth vanity and corruption, all the things of life, are illusions and inglorious. For we all shall pass away, we all shall die, kings and princes, judges and rulers, rich and poor, and all of mankind. For now, they who once were alive, are cast into the grave. Let us pray that the Lord will give them rest.

Now all the bodily organs seem to be idle which, such a short time ago were active; all are useless, dead, unconscious. For the eyes are closed, the feet are bound, the hands lie helpless, and with them the ears; the tongue is closed in silence, committed to the grave. In truth all human things are vanity.

Save them that put their trust in thee, O Mother of the Sun that setteth not, O Begetter of God. With thy prayers entreat the Most-good God, we pray, that He will give rest unto him (*her*) that now has been taken away, where the souls of the Righteous repose. Show him (*her*) to be an heir of divine good things, in the courts of the Righteous, unto memory eternal, O all-undefiled One.

Glory ... (**TONE 6**):

Beholding me voiceless and deprived of breath, weep for me, O brethren and friends, kinsmen and acquaintances. For yesterday I conversed with you, and suddenly the dread hour of death came upon me. But come, all you that love me, and kiss me with the last kiss. For no more will I walk with you or converse with you. For I depart unto the Judge with Whom there is no respect of persons. For slave and master stand together before *Him*, king and warrior, rich and poor, in equal worthiness; for each, according to his deeds, is glorified or put to shame. But I beg and entreat you all, that you pray without ceasing unto Christ God for me, that I not be brought down unto the place of torment according to my sins, but that He will appoint me to the place where is the light of life.

Now and ever ... (*Theotokion*—**SAME TONE**):

By the prayers of her that gave Thee birth, O Christ, and of Thy Forerunner, of the Apostles, Prophets, Hierarchs, Venerable Ones and the Righteous, and of all the Saints, give rest unto Thy servant who has fallen asleep.

*Then, the Trisagion. After Our Father ... , Priest: For Thine is the Kingdom.... Choir: Amen. Then the Troparia, With the souls of the righteous departed ... , and the rest. Then the Deacon says the Litany, Have mercy on us, O God ... , while the First Priest says (secretly) the Prayer, O God of spirits ... and the Exclamation, For Thou art the resurrection.... And after the Exclamation, Glory ... now and ever ... , and the Dismissal:*

Although not printed in the **Trebnik**, the order for the Dismissal is, as follows:

*The Deacon says:*

Wisdom.

*Choir:* More honorable than the Cherubim and, more glorious beyond compare than the Seraphim. Without defilement thou gavest birth to God the Word. True Theotokos, we magnify thee.

*Priest:* Glory to Thee, O Christ God, our Hope, glory to Thee.

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

Lord, have mercy. (*thrice*)

Father, bless.

*And the Priest makes the Dismissal.*

May He Who rose from the dead, Christ our True God, by the prayers of His most-pure Mother; of the holy glorious and all-praised Apostles; of our venerable and Godbearing Fathers; and of all the Saints, establish the soul of His servant, *N.*, who has been taken away from us, in the abodes of the Righteous, and give him (*her*) rest in the bosom of Abraham and number him (*her*) with the Righteous; and that He will have mercy on us, as He is Good and the Lover of Mankind.

*Choir:* Amen.

*Then the Bishop (or the First Priest) himself says this thrice:*

May thy memory be eternal, O our worthily-blessed and ever-memorable brother (*sister*).

*And the Choir sings thrice:* Memory Eternal.

*And immediately the Bishop, if one be present, or the Priest, reads aloud the Parting Prayer:*

May the Lord Jesus Christ, our God, Who gavest a divine command unto His holy Disciples and Apostles, that they should bind and loose them that had fallen into sin, and, again, that we, having received this from them, should, likewise, grant remission, forgive thee, spiritual child, that which thou hast done in the present age, whether voluntary or involuntary, now and ever, and unto the ages of ages. Amen.

Now, however, instead of this short *Parting Prayer*, it is customary to read the following, more extensive *Prayer of Absolution*. Being printed separately, when the Bishop or Priest has finished reading it, he lays it in the hand of the deceased.

### **PRAYER OF ABSOLUTION**

May our Lord Jesus Christ, by His divine grace, and also by the gift and power given unto His holy Disciples and Apostles, that they should bind and loose the sins of men (For He said unto them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. Whosoever's sins you remit, they are remitted unto them; and whosoever's sins you retain, they are retained" (*John 20:22-23*)). "*And whatsoever you shall bind or loose on earth shall*

be bound *or loosed* in Heaven” (*Matt. 18:18*.) and which also has been handed down to us from them as their successors, absolve this my spiritual child, *N.*, through me who am unworthy, from all things wherein, as a human, he (*she*) has sinned against God, whether by word or by deed, whether by thought and with all his (*her*) senses, whether voluntarily or involuntarily, whether by knowledge or in ignorance. And if he (*she*) be under the ban or excommunication of a Bishop or of a Priest; or if he (*she*) has brought upon himself (*herself*) the curse of his (*her*) father or mother; or has fallen under his (*her*) own curse; or has transgressed by any oath; or has been bound, as a human, by any sins whatsoever, but has repented of these with a contrite heart, may He absolve him (*her*) also from all these faults and bonds. And may all those things that proceed from the infirmity of *human* nature be given over unto oblivion and may He forgive him (*her*) everything, for the sake of His Love for Mankind, through the prayers of our most-holy and most-blessed Sovereign Lady, the Theotokos and ever-Virgin Mary, of the holy, glorious and all-praised Apostles, and of all the Saints. Amen.

*And so, taking up the remains, we go forth to the grave, followed by all the people, and preceded by the Priest(s) (and Bishop, if there be), and singing, Holy God.... Glory.... O Most-holy Trinity.... Glory.... Lord, have mercy.... Our Father ..., and the rest. And they lay the remains in the grave. And the Bishop (or the Priest), taking a shovelful of dirt, casts it crosswise upon the remains, saying:*

The earth is the Lord’s, and the fulness thereof, the world and all that dwell therein.

*And after this he pours oil from the shrine-lamp over the remains, or scatters ashes out of the censer over them. And so they fill the grave in the usual way, while the Troparia, With the souls of the righteous departed ..., and the rest are sung. And the Dismissal is said by the Bishop or the Priest.*