THE LAMENTATIONS OF THE DORMITION OF THE THEOTOKOS

First Stasis

1. In a grave they laid you yet, O Christ, you are life and they now have laid the Mother of Life as well: both to angels and to men a sight most strange!

2. We exalt you greatly, Theotokos most pure, and we glorify your holy dormition now, as we bow before your honored precious tomb.

3. In your womb you held him who cannot be contained; you are life to all the faithful: how can you die, and your body be contained within a tomb?

4. You brought forth, Pure Maiden, God the heavenly King, and today in manner royal are carried forth to the Kingdom of the Heavens as a Queen.

5. Holy Theotokos, You have passed from this world, in departing not forsaking those left on earth, but delivering this world from every ill.

6. All the earth sings glory at your grave side, O Christ, with all reverence, O Master, we also praise the entombment of your Mother, ever Pure.

7. Overcome with wonder, are the angels in awe in beholding you, Pure Maiden, laid out as dead, for from you has Light beamed forth to all the world.

8. Maiden Pure and Spotless, and our Heavenly Queen, once again has God sent Gabriel down to earth with the joyful news that you have left this life.

9. Now the Bridegroom calls you, to rejoice, Bride of God. in a manner both divine and most beautiful in the Bridal Chamber, holy and divine.

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10. You, O Virgin, come now
to the throne seat of God
where the awesome unapproachable Light shines forth
from the Trinity, and lights where you repose.

11. From the earth departing,
You appeared before God.
You were not, O Theotokos, removed from God,
nor has God been parted from His mother’s heart.

12. Your most honored Body,
Theotokos, remained
uncorrupted by decay as you lay entombed
but it passed with you to heaven from the earth.

13. Your all-holy face shines
Purest Maiden, in death,
and your countenance appears now as Paradise,
breathing forth to all believers grace and life.

14. We your children offer
lamentations and love
unto you who are our Mother: accept our gift
which we offer from the deepness of our souls.

15. Look upon your children
who are gathered this day:
may your honored eyes be open that you behold
those who glorify with honor your repose.

16. To us grant your blessing
when you open your lips
O Most Holy Theotokos, departing now
at the ending of your time upon the earth.

17. Leave us not as orphans
when you leave us on earth,
for, O Mother, you are taken to heaven now,
to abide there with your Son and with your God.

18. Gathered ‘round your bedside,
we are calling to you,
our all-holy Virgin Mother, with fervent voice,
“Save the faithful and have mercy upon us!”

19. Mother Anna, join us
Come and stand in our midst!
Come and lead the celebration of this glad feast
of your holy daughter, Mother of our God!
20. Come and let us raise up praise and glory to God who has summoned to the Holy of Holies now one yet greater than the Holiest of Saints.

21. Filled with gladness, Heaven is receiving her Queen for the Mother of creation in glory comes and appears in glory, reigning with her God.

22. Now the God of Glory takes His mother to Him and the Son who has received you, O Purest One, has prepared for you a seat at His right Hand.

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

23. Now unto the Father and the Holy Spirit we with gladness sound forth hymns, Word and God of all, and we glorify your countenance divine.

Both now and ever, and unto the ages of ages. Amen.

24. Every generation comes to know you as blest, and your holy pure dormition we glorify Theotokos, ever-Virgin, Sovereign Queen!

(Repeat Verse One)

1. In a grave they laid you yet, O Christ, you are life and they now have laid the Mother of Life as well: both to angels and to men a sight most strange!

Second Stasis

1. Truly it is right that we magnify you who bestow life, just as your pure Mother you magnify for her life-creating falling into sleep.

2. Truly it is right that we magnify you, Theotokos, you took your divine and all-blameless soul and entrusted it into the Hands of God.
3. **Wonder** strange and **new**!
   For the **Door** now passes through the **Doorway**, **Heaven** enters **Heaven**! We stand in awe
   as the **Throne** of God **ascends** the Throne of **God**!

4. All angelic **hosts**
   stood and **marveled** when beholding **Christ** God,
   who is unapproachable now **approach**
   to give **honor** to His **mother** as a **Son**.

5. **Angels** shook with **fear**
   to **behold** their God again **descending**;
   with His mother’s **soul** carried in His **hands**, He **arose** again in **glory** most **divine**.

6. **Heaven** shall be **awed**, and the **earth** unto these words shall **hearken**;
   God above all **things**, who did once **come down**, for His mother’s sake a second time **descends**!

7. **Wisdom** now has **moved**
   from her **dwelling** place on earth to **heaven**. and has filled her **heavenly mansion there**
   with the **glory** that has **come** from God **above**.

8. **Virgin Bride of God**, who did not **descend** to us from **Heaven**, by her giving **birth** unto heaven’s **King**
   from this **world** unto the **heavens** now **ascends**

9. **Mankind** now may **pass**
   into **heaven** for the **Way** is **open**.
   Come therefore, all **Christians** who bear His **name**: Let us **rise** up with the **Mother** of our **God**.

10. **Down** into the **earth**
   You, the **Lord’s** unplanted land, **descended**, Out of you has **sprung** forth the **Grain** of **Life**, and unto the Land of **Heaven** you **arise**.

11. **Mother of the Light**!
   Now the **sun** which once beheld the **setting**
   of the Sun of **Righteousness** now **beholds**
   You, **O** **Virgin**, as the **setting** of the **moon**.

12. **Darkness** of the **tomb**
   now **conceals** the Lord’s light-bearing **Mountain**
   which once covered **Heaven** with **Virtue’s light**, but now **lies** beneath the **shadows** of its **shroud**.
13. Taken from the earth you arose to be with God in heaven. All the earth rejoices along with you and it glorifies, O Virgin, your repose.

14. Pure and incorrupt, now your body lies enclosed in Heaven while your grace, O Virgin, is pouring forth and illuminates the face of all the earth.

15. Filling up your days singing hymns to God with prayer and fasting You, O Virgin Maiden, await the time when you come before the Lord in your repose.

16. Faithful souls rejoice, and their faces are alight and shining, Our all-holy Lady, because of you, who, departing now from us, will join the Lord.

17. See before your tomb standing piously the true believers; hear the lamentations our voices raise unto you, who are the Author of our Life.

18. Early in the dawn we the faithful rise to sing your glory praising your dormition, with all our love, Sovereign Virgin Maiden, free from any sin.

19. Virgin Bride of God! When you enter into heaven’s kingdom, Grant that you remember the faithful here who now honor your dormition with our hymns.

20. As you once foretold, you are magnified now, most pure Virgin, by the very power which did create both the heavens and the earth and all therein.

21. Standing face to face where the Seraphim their faces cover, you behold the Trinity that is God one in essence, and which nothing can divide.

22. All the earth is glad and the heavens sing in celebration; angels raise their voices to join with men and as you ascend to heaven they rejoice!
Glory to the Father and the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

23. God beyond all time,
    with the Word and Spirit everlasting,
    in that You are God, merciful and good,
    let the clarion of Christians be extolled!

Both now and ever and unto the ages of ages. Amen.

24. Life was born of you,
    who are holy and most pure, O Virgin,
    as you now depart from this world to Life,
    grant true life to us who faithfully believe.

(Repeat Verse One)

1. Truly it is right
    that we magnify you who bestows life,
    just as your pure Mother you magnify
    for her life-creating falling into sleep.

Third Stasis

1. Every generation
    offers hymns, O Virgin,
    to honor your entombment.

2. Come with all creation
    to sing the hymns of parting
    as you are raised, O Virgin.

3. Disciples of my Lord Christ,
    arrive to tend the body
    of my God’s purest Mother.

4. Invisibly attending,
    the archangels and angels
    in ranks sing hymns to praise you.

5. The women high in honor
    along with the apostles
    are crying out and weeping.

6. O Virgin never-wedded,
    the Mother of the Most High,
    how shall we bear this passion?
7. The **time** of your **departing** holds **joy** for all creation, but **leaves** us **weeping**, **mournful**.

8. O **Mother**, do not **leave** us **behind** you now as **orphans**, without your **love** and **caring**.

9. Our **Light** are you, O **Virgin**, **how** then shall we **bear** this: no **more** to **see** your **sweet** eyes?

10. **Alas!** Your lips which **loved** God and ever spoke **about** Him have **now** been **bound** by silence.

11. “**We** shall not **abandon** the **Mother** of our **Teacher**!” the **Lord’s apostles** cried out.

12. On **up-borne** clouds, O **Virgin**, **again** we go before you unto the **gates** of **Heaven**.

13. The **holy** staff is **laid** down **inside** the tomb and **hidden** and **from** it **Life** has **blossomed**.

14. By **giving birth** she **raised** up the **dead** from their **entombment**, and **yet**, she **lies** **entombed** now.

15. “**Where, Virgin, are you going?**” her **loved** one and **defender** calls **out** as **Son** to **Mother**.

16. **You**, who are God’s **Mother** with **joyful** heart now **enter** into your **Son’s** **glad** **presence**.

17. **Called** with the **apostles** are **you** again **attending** the **wedding feast** at **Cana**?

18. Take **me**, your child, O **Virgin** **today** as you are **raised** up to **be** with your **divine** **Son**.
19. To Heaven you are taken, and with your Son are living: Let me be also taken.

20. Together in the Heavens, may we now stand in glory who at your cross in pain stood.

21. Gethsemane, be joyful! Great hosts endowed with reason descend now with the Master.

22. Be jubilant, be joyful, O Chorus of Disciples, Behold the Lord in glory!

23. Once more is God descending! Today let all creation beholding Him make merry.

24. Let us go forth, O people, in haste to greet the Lord, who is once again descending.

25. This day we may we all listen to God as He is speaking with His all-spotless Mother.

26. Come now, sweetest Mother, and enter with rejoicing your sweetest Son's glad presence.

27. Let your eyes behold now your Son who comes to take you unto His own, O Mother.

28. “I come to see the glory of my Mother shining before my Father's glory.”

29. “My God,” avows your Mother, “I glorify your mercy, and utter loving kindness.”

30. “I glorify you, kneeling bowed down, my Son, in worship of your majestic glory.”
31. Since You, who are the nearest to me, from earth have risen unto my Father draw near.

32. Enclosed are you, O Garden, in which we will discover The Tree of Life Unending.

33. Sealed are you, O Fountain, from which the streams of life pour most wondrously with sweetness.

34. “My lips shall sing the praises of your divine dominion My son and sovereign Godhead.”

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

35. My God, who are three persons, Father, Son, and Spirit, on all the world have mercy!

Both now and ever, and unto the ages of ages. Amen.

36. Deem your servants worthy to enter in the Kingdom that is your Son’s, O Virgin.

(Repeat Verse One)

1. Every generation offers hymns, O Virgin, to honor your entombment.

Translation by N. Takis.

This translation employs the exact metrical pattern of the original Greek text and can be applied to any of the traditional Byzantine melodies.

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This translation is dedicated to the nuns of the Dormition of the Holy Mother of God Monastery in Rives Junction, Michigan.