

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**.

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**
un**corrupted** 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 un**approachable** 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.