

# Vespers for the Dormition of our Most Holy Lady, the Theotokos and Ever-Virgin Mary, sung on 14<sup>th</sup> August 2023

**“LORD, I CALL ...”**

**Tone 1**

[\[Music on Website / Sheet\]](#)

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!

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

**Tone 1**

Oh, the marvellous 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!”

*Let Thine ears be attentive to the voice of my supplications!*

**Repeat:** Oh, the marvellous wonder ...

*If Thou, O Lord, shouldst mark iniquities, Lord, who could stand? But there is forgiveness with Thee.*

**Repeat:** Oh, the marvellous wonder ...

*For Thy Name's sake I wait for Thee, O Lord. My soul has waited for Thy word; my soul has hoped on the Lord.*

Oh, 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 splendour, 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!

*From the morning watch until night, from the morning watch, let Israel hope on the Lord!*

**Repeat:** Oh, the wonder of thy mysteries ...

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

**Repeat:** Oh, the wonder of thy mysteries ...

*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 honour 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!”

*For His mercy is confirmed on us, and the truth of the Lord endures forever.*

**Repeat:** The Dominions and Thrones ...

*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 honour 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 splendour, we call thee blessed.

### **THE EVENING PROKEIMENON**

**Reader:** The Lord will hearken unto me when I cry unto Him.

**Choir:** The Lord will hearken unto me when I cry unto Him.

**Reader:** When I called upon Thee, O God of my righteousness, Thou didst hearken unto me.

**Choir:** The Lord will hearken unto me when I cry unto Him.

**Reader:** The Lord will hearken unto me

**Choir:** when I cry unto Him.

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### **OLD TESTAMENT READINGS**

**Reader:** The Reading from the Book of Genesis.

**Reader:** Now Jacob went out from Beer-sheba, and went toward Haran. So he came to a certain place and stayed there all night, because the sun had set. Then he took one of the stones of that place and put it at his head, and he lay down in that place to sleep. Then he dreamed, and behold, a ladder was set up on the earth, and its top reached to heaven; and there the angels of God were ascending and

descending on it. So behold, the Lord stood above it and said, "I am the Lord God of Abraham your father and the God of Isaac. Do not fear, the land on which you lie I will give to you and your seed. Also, your seed shall be as the dust of the earth; you shall spread abroad to the west and the east, to the north and the south; and in you and in your seed all the tribes of the earth shall be blessed. Behold, I am with you and will keep you wherever you go, and will bring you back to this land; for I will not leave you until I have done what I have spoken to you." Then Jacob awoke from his sleep and said, "The Lord is in this place, and I did not know it." So he was afraid and said, "How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven." [Genesis 28:10-17]

**Reader:** The Reading from the Prophecy of Ezekiel.

**Reader:** Thus says the Lord: "When they have completed these days, then from the eighth day onward the priests shall offer upon the altar your burnt offerings and your peace offerings; and I will accept you, says the Lord God." Then he brought me back to the outer gate of the sanctuary, which faces east; and it was shut. And the Lord said to me, "This gate shall remain shut; it shall not be opened, and no one shall enter by it; for the Lord, the God of Israel, shall enter by it; therefore it shall remain shut. Only the prince shall sit in it to eat bread before the Lord; he shall enter by way of the vestibule of the gate, and shall go out by the same way." Then he brought me by way of the north gate to the front of the temple; and I looked, and behold, the glory of the Lord filled the house of the Lord. [Ezekiel 43:27-44:4]

**Reader:** The reading from the Proverbs of Solomon.

**Reader:** Wisdom has built her house, she has set up her seven pillars. She has slaughtered her beasts, she has mixed her wine, she has also set her table. She has sent out her servants to call from the highest places in the town, "Whoever is simple, let him turn in here!" To him who is without sense she says, "Come, eat of my bread and drink of the wine I have mixed. Leave simpleness, that you may reign forever; seek wisdom, and live; and improve understanding by knowledge. He who corrects a scoffer gets himself abuse, and he who reproves a wicked man incurs injury. Do not reprove a scoffer, or he will hate you; reprove a wise man, and he will love you. Give instruction to a wise man, and he will be still wiser; teach a righteous man and he will increase in learning. The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, and the counsel of saints is understanding. For to know the law is the character of a sound mind. For by me your days will be multiplied, and years will be added to your life." [Proverbs 9:1-11]

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## APOSTICHA

### Tone 4

[[Music on Website / Sheet](#)]

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 rest, Thou and the Ark of Thy sanctification!*

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.*

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!"

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#### **TROPARION**

##### **Tone 1**

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.

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

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.

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

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.

[[Music on Website / Sheet](#)]