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READER'S GREAT VESPERS ON FRIDAY, AUGUST 14, 2026

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

Leader: Through the prayers of our holy fathers, Lord Jesus Christ our God, have mercy on us, and save us.

Reader: Amen.

Glory to Thee, our God. Glory to Thee!

O heavenly King, Comforter, the Spirit of truth, who art everywhere present and fillest all things, the Treasury of good things and Giver of life: Come, and abide in us, and cleanse us from every stain, and save our souls, O good One.

THE TRISAGION PRAYERS

People: Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal: have mercy on us. (*Thrice*)

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

All-holy Trinity, have mercy on us. Lord, cleanse us from our sins. Master, pardon our iniquities. Holy One, visit and heal our infirmities for thy Name's sake.

Lord, have mercy. (*Thrice*)

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

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name; thy kingdom come; thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.

Leader: O Lord, Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on us.

All: Amen.

Reader: Lord, have mercy. (*12 times*)

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

O come, let us worship and fall down before God our King.

O come, let us worship and fall down before Christ, our King and our God.

O come, let us worship and fall down before the Very Christ, our King and our God.

PSALM 103

Reader: Bless the Lord, O my soul; O Lord my God, Thou hast been magnified exceedingly. Confession and majesty hast Thou put on, Who coverest Thyself with light as with a garment, Who stretchest out the heaven as it were a curtain; Who supporteth His chambers in the waters, Who appointeth the clouds for His ascent, Who walketh upon the wings of the winds, Who maketh His angels spirits, and His ministers a flame of fire, Who establisheth the earth in the sureness thereof; it shall not be turned back for ever and ever. The abyss like a garment is His

mantle; upon the mountains shall the waters stand. At Thy rebuke they will flee, at the voice of Thy thunder shall they be afraid. The mountains rise up and the plains sink down, unto the place where Thou hast established them. Thou appointedst a bound that they shall not pass, neither return to cover the earth. He sendeth forth springs in the valleys; between the mountains will the waters run. They shall give drink to all the beasts of the field; the wild asses will wait to quench their thirst. Beside them will the birds of the heaven lodge, from the midst of the rocks will they give voice. He watereth the mountains from His chambers; the earth shall be satisfied with the fruit of Thy works. He causeth the grass to grow for the cattle, and green herb for the service of men, To bring forth bread out of the earth; and wine maketh glad the heart of man. To make his face cheerful with oil; and bread strengtheneth man's heart. The trees of the plain shall be satisfied, the cedars of Lebanon, which Thou hast planted. There will the sparrows make their nests; the house of the heron is chief among them. The high mountains are a refuge for the harts, and so is the rock for the hares. He hath made the moon for seasons; the sun knoweth his going down. Thou appointedst the darkness, and there was the night, wherein all the beasts of the forest will go abroad. Young lions roaring after their prey, and seeking their food from God. The sun ariseth, and they are gathered together, and they lay them down in their dens. But man shall go forth unto his work, and to his labour until the evening. How magnified are Thy works, O Lord! In wisdom hast Thou made them all; the earth is filled with Thy creation. So is this great and spacious sea, therein are things creeping innumerable, small living creatures with the great. There go the ships; there this dragon, whom Thou hast made to play therein. All things wait on Thee, to give them their food in due season; when Thou givest it them, they will gather it. When Thou openest Thy hand, all things shall be filled with goodness; when Thou turnest away Thy face, they shall be troubled. Thou wilt take their spirit, and they shall cease; and unto their dust shall they return. Thou wilt send forth Thy Spirit, and they shall be created; and Thou shalt renew the face of the earth. Let the glory of the Lord be unto the ages; the Lord will rejoice in His works. Who looketh on the earth and maketh it tremble, Who toucheth the mountains and they smoke. I will sing unto the Lord throughout my life, I will chant to my God for as long as I have my being. May my words be sweet unto Him, and I will rejoice in the Lord. O that sinners would cease from the earth, and they that work iniquity, that they should be no more. Bless the Lord, O my soul. The sun knoweth his going down. Thou appointedst the darkness, and there was the night. How magnified are Thy works, O Lord! In wisdom hast Thou made them all.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; both now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

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

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia: Glory to Thee, O God our Hope, O Lord, glory be to Thee.

THE LITANY OF PEACE REPLACEMENT

Choir: Lord, have mercy. (*12 times*)

Senior Reader: Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, Both now and ever and unto ages of ages.

Choir: Amen.

FIRST STASIS OF FIRST KATHISMA

Psalms 1

Reader: Blessed is the man that hath not walked in the counsel of the ungodly, nor stood in the way of sinners, nor sat in the seat of the pestilent. But his will is rather in the law of the Lord, and

in His law will he meditate day and night. And he shall be like the tree which is planted by the streams of the waters, which shall bring forth its fruit in its season; and its leaf shall not fall, and all things whatsoever he may do shall prosper. Not so are the ungodly, not so; but rather they are like the chaff which the wind doth hurl away from the face of the earth. For this reason shall the ungodly not stand up in judgement, nor sinners in the council of the righteous. For the Lord knoweth the way of the righteous, and the way of the ungodly shall perish.

Psalm 2

Why have the heathen raged, and the peoples meditated empty things? The kings of the earth were aroused, and the rulers were assembled together, against the Lord, and against His Christ. Let us break their bonds asunder, and let us cast away their yoke from us. He that dwelleth in the heavens shall laugh them to scorn, and the Lord shall deride them. Then shall He speak unto them in His wrath, and in His anger shall He trouble them. But as for Me, I was established as king by Him, upon Sion His holy mountain, proclaiming the commandment of the Lord. The Lord said unto Me: Thou art My Son, this day have I begotten Thee. Ask of Me, and I will give Thee the nations for Thine inheritance, and the uttermost parts of the earth for Thy possession. Thou shalt herd them with a rod of iron; Thou shalt shatter them like a potter's vessels. And now, O ye kings, understand; be instructed, all ye that judge the earth. Serve ye the Lord with fear, and rejoice in Him with trembling. Lay hold of instruction, lest at any time the Lord be angry, and ye perish from the righteous way. When quickly His wrath be kindled, blessed are all that have put their trust in Him.

Psalm 3

O Lord, why are they multiplied that afflict me? Many rise up against me. Many say unto my soul: There is no salvation for him in his God. But Thou, O Lord, art my helper, my glory, and the lifter up of my head. I cried unto the Lord with my voice, and He heard me out of His holy mountain. I laid me down and slept; I awoke, for the Lord will help me. I will not be afraid of ten thousands of people that set themselves against me round about. Arise, O Lord, save me, O my God, for Thou hast smitten all who without cause are mine enemies; the teeth of sinners hast Thou broken. Salvation is of the Lord, and Thy blessing is upon Thy people.

Stasis

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; both now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

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

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia: Glory to Thee, O God our Hope, O Lord, glory be to Thee.

“O LORD, I HAVE CRIED” IN TONE ONE

Choir: O Lord, I have cried out unto Thee, hear Thou me; hear Thou me, O Lord. O Lord, I have cried out unto Thee, hear Thou me. Give ear to the voice of my supplication when I cry out unto Thee: hear Thou me, O Lord.

Choir: Let my prayer be set forth before Thee as the incense, and the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice; hear Thou me, O Lord.

- Set a watch, O Lord, before my mouth and a protecting door about my lips.
- Incline not my heart to evil words, to make excuses in sins.
- With men that work iniquity; and I will not communicate with the choicest of them.
- The just man shall correct me in mercy, and shall reprove me; but let not the oil of the sinner anoint my head.

- For my prayer also shall still be against the things with which they are well pleased; their judges falling upon the rock have been swallowed up.
- They shall hear my words for they are sweet; as when the thickness of the earth is broken upon the ground, their bones are scattered by the side of Hell.
- But to Thee, O Lord, are my eyes; in Thee have I put my trust; take not away my soul.
- Keep me from the snare(s) which they have laid for me, and the traps of the workers of iniquity.
- Let the wicked fall into their own nets, while I alone escape.

Psalm 141

- I cried unto the Lord with my voice; with my voice unto the Lord did I make my supplication.
- I poured out my supplication before Him; I showed before Him my trouble.
- When my spirit was overwhelmed within me, then Thou knewest my path.
- In the way wherein I walked have they secretly laid a snare for me.
- I looked on my right hand and beheld, but there was no one that would know me.
- Refuge failed me; no one cared for my soul.
- I cried unto Thee, O Lord; I said, Thou art my refuge and my portion in the land of the living.
- Attend unto my cry, for I am brought very low.
- Deliver me from my persecutors; for they are stronger than I.
- Bring my soul out of prison, that I may praise Thy Name.
- The righteous shall wait for me until Thou recompense me.

Psalm 129

- Out of the depths have I cried to Thee, O Lord, Lord hear my voice.
- Let Thine ears be attentive to the voice of my supplication.

In Tone One (***The original melody***)

Verse 6. If Thou, O Lord, shouldest mark iniquities, O Lord, who shall stand? For with Thee there is forgiveness.

O strange wonder, great and marvelous! * For the fount of life is * laid within a sepulcher; * a ladder to Heaven's heights doth the small grave become. * Be glad, O Gethsemane, * the sanctuary of her that gave birth to God. * Ye faithful, let us cry out, * possessing as our commander great Gabriel: * Maiden Full of Grace, rejoice thou, * with thee is the Lord our God, * Who abundantly granteth * His Great Mercy to the world through thee.

Verse 5. Because of Thy Name have I waited for Thee, O Lord; my soul hath waited upon Thy word, my soul hath hoped in the Lord.

O strange wonder, great and marvelous! * For the fount of life is * laid within a sepulcher; * a ladder to Heaven's heights doth the small grave become. * Be glad, O Gethsemane, * the sanctuary of her that gave birth to God. * Ye faithful, let us cry out, * possessing as our commander great Gabriel: * Maiden Full of Grace, rejoice thou, * with thee is the Lord our God, * Who abundantly granteth * His Great Mercy to the world through thee.

Verse 4. From the morning watch until night, from the morning watch let Israel trust in the Lord. Who can tell thy myst'ries, O pure one! * Thou art known, O Lady, * as the throne of the Most High, * and thou hast removed from earth to Heaven on this day. * Majestically and sublime, * thy glory beameth with graces divinely-bright. * Ye virgins, be lifted up * unto the height with

the Mother of Christ the King. * Maiden Full of Grace, rejoice thou, * with thee is the Lord our God, * Who abundantly granteth * His Great Mercy to the world through thee.

Verse 3. For with the Lord there is mercy and with Him is abundant redemption, and He will deliver Israel from all his iniquities.

Who can tell thy myst'ries, O pure one! * Thou art known, O Lady, * as the throne of the Most High, * and thou hast removed from earth to Heaven on this day. * Majestically and sublime, * thy glory beameth with graces divinely-bright. * Ye virgins, be lifted up * unto the height with the Mother of Christ the King. * Maiden Full of Grace, rejoice thou, * with thee is the Lord our God, * Who abundantly granteth * His Great Mercy to the world through thee.

Psalm 116

Verse 2. Praise the Lord, all ye nations; praise Him, all ye people.

Thy Dormition is now glorified * by dominions, powers, * principalities and thrones, * authorities, cherubim and the dread seraphim; * the earthborn are filled with joy, * adorned with thy divine glory and majesty; * and kings worship, falling down * with all the angels and archangels, and they sing: * Maiden Full of Grace, rejoice thou, * with thee is the Lord our God, * Who abundantly granteth * His Great Mercy to the world through thee.

Verse 1. For His mercy is great toward us, and the truth of the Lord endureth forever.

Thy Dormition is now glorified * by dominions, powers, * principalities and thrones, * authorities, cherubim and the dread seraphim; * the earthborn are filled with joy, * adorned with thy divine glory and majesty; * and kings worship, falling down * with all the angels and archangels, and they sing: * Maiden Full of Grace, rejoice thou, * with thee is the Lord our God, * Who abundantly granteth * His Great Mercy to the world through thee.

DOXASTICON FOR THE DORMITION IN ALL EIGHT TONES

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

Tone One: Verily, the God-mantled Apostles were caught up on all sides, ascending the clouds by a divine sign.

Tone Five: And they came up to thy most pure, life-originating resting-place to kiss it reverently.

Tone Two: As for the most sublime heavenly powers, they came with their own chief.

Tone Six: To escort, enwrapped in awe, thine all-honored, God-receiving body, they went before in a super-earthly manner, shouting invisibly to the heavenly ranks: Behold the Queen of all, the divine Maiden, has come.

Tone Three: Lift up the gates and receive super-earthly-wise the Mother of everlasting Light.

Tone Seven: For through her hath salvation come to the whole human race. And she is the one on whom it is impossible to gaze, and whom we never can honor sufficiently.

Tone Four: For the honor through which she became sublime transcendeth all understanding.

Tone Eight: Wherefore, O undefiled Theotokos, everlasting with thy life-bearing Son, intercede with Him unceasingly that He may preserve and save thy new people from every hostile assault; for we have taken thee unto us as our helper.

Tone One: Therefore, do we magnify thee with voices of joy unto all ages.

THE HYMN OF THANKSGIVING AT THE LIGHTING OF THE LAMPS

Choir: Gladsome light of the Holy glory that shines from the immortal Father in Heaven, the Holy, the Blessed, O Jesus Christ! Lo now that we come to sunset, now that we see the evening

light, we sing the praise of Father, Son and Holy Spirit, One God. Worthy art Thou to be praised at all times with voices meet for holy song. Son of God, Thou Giver of Life, wherefore the world glorifieth thee.

FRIDAY EVENING PROKEIMENON IN TONE SEVEN

Leader: The Evening Prokeimenon!

Choir: O God, Thou art my Helper; Thy mercy shall go before me. (*twice*)

Verse: Rescue me from mine enemies, O God, and from them that rise up against me redeem me.

Choir: O God, Thou art my Helper; Thy mercy shall go before me.

THE PARAMIA

First Passage

Reader: The Reading is from the Book of Genesis (28:10-17).

Jacob went out from the well of the oath (Beersheba), and went toward Haran. And he came upon a certain place, and slept there, because the sun was set; and he took of the stones of that place, and put them for his pillows, and lay down in that place to sleep. And he dreamed, and behold, a ladder set up on the earth, and the top of it reached to Heaven, and behold, the Angels of God ascending and descending on it. And behold, the Lord stood above it and said: I am the God of Abraham thy father and the God of Isaac, fear not; the land whereon thou liest, to thee will I give it, and to thy seed; and thy seed shall be as the sand of the earth, and it shall spread abroad to the sea, and to the south, and to the north, and to the east; and in thee and thy seed shall all the tribes of the earth be blessed. And behold, I am with thee, and I will keep thee in all places whither thou goest, and will bring thee again into this land; for I will not forsake thee, until I have done all that which I have spoken to thee of. And Jacob awaked out of his sleep, and he said: The Lord is in this place, and I knew it not. And he was afraid and said: How dreadful is this place! This is none other but the house of God, and this is the gate of Heaven.

The Second Passage

Reader: The Reading is from the Prophecy of Ezekiel (43:27-44:4).

Upon the eighth day and so forward, the priests shall make your whole-burnt offerings upon the altar, and your peace offerings, and I will accept you, saith the Lord. Then He brought me back by the way of the outer gate of the sanctuary, which looketh toward the east; and it was shut. And the Lord said unto me: This gate shall be shut, it shall not be opened, and no man shall enter in by it; because the Lord, the God of Israel, shall enter in by it, and it shall be shut. For this Prince shall sit on it to eat bread before the Lord; He shall enter by the way of the porch of that gate, and shall come forth by the way of the same. And He brought me by the way of the north gate before the house, and I looked, and behold, the house of the Lord was full of glory.

The Third Passage

Reader: The Reading is from the Book of Proverbs (9:1-11).

Wisdom hath builded herself a house, and hath established seven pillars. She hath killed her beasts; she hath mingled her wine; she hath also prepared her table. She hath sent forth her servants, making invitation to a feast with a loud proclamation, and saying: Whoso is foolish, let him turn aside to me; as for them that want understanding, she saith: Come, eat of my bread and drink of the wine which I have mingled for you. Forsake foolishness, and ye shall live, and go in search of understanding that ye may live, and achieve understanding in knowledge. He that reproveth evil men getteth to himself shame; and he that rebuketh an ungodly man shall himself be blamed, for rebukes unto the ungodly are as wounds to him. Reprove not evil men, lest they hate thee;

rebuke a wise man, and he will love thee. Give occasion to a wise man, and he will become yet wiser; teach a just man, and he will receive more 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 property of a good mind, for in this wise thou shalt live long, and years of life shall be added to thee.

AUGMENTED EKTENIA REPLACEMENT

Reader: Lord have mercy (40 times)

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; both now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

THE EVENING PRAYER

People: Vouchsafe, O Lord, to keep us this evening without sin. Blessed art Thou, O Lord, the God of our fathers, and praised and glorified is Thy Name forever. Amen. Let Thy mercy be upon us, O Lord, even as we have set our hope on Thee. Blessed art Thou, O Lord; teach me Thy statutes. Blessed art Thou, O Master; make me to understand Thy statutes. Blessed art Thou, O Holy One; enlighten me with Thy statutes. Thy mercy, O Lord, endureth forever. O despise not the works of Thy hands. To Thee belongeth worship, to Thee belongeth praise, to Thee belongeth glory: to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

LITANY OF SUPPLICATION (& THE PEACE) REPLACEMENT

Reader: Lord have mercy (12 times)

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; both now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

THE APOSTICHA FOR THE DORMITION IN TONE FOUR

Come ye people, let us praise the all-holy, undefiled Virgin, from whom did issue incarnate, in an ineffable manner, the Word of the Father, crying, and saying, Blessed art thou among women, and blessed is thy womb which did contain Christ. Placing thy soul between His holy hands, intercede thou with Him, O undefiled one, to save our souls.

Verse 1. Arise, O Lord, into Thy resting place: Thou and the ark which Thou hast sanctified.

O most holy and undefiled Virgin, the multitudes of angels in heaven and men on earth do bless thine all-honored falling-asleep; for thou didst become a Mother to Christ God, the Creator of all. Thee do we supplicate that thou mayest continue interceding with Him for our sakes, who place our hope, after God, on thee, O all-praised, unwedded Theotokos.

Verse 2. The Lord hath sworn in truth unto David: He will not turn from it.

Let us, O peoples, sing to Christ God today with the song of David who saith, The virgins that follow her shall be brought before the king, with gladness and rejoicing; for she who is of the seed of David, through whom we have been deified, hath been translated at the hands of her Son and Master with surpassing glory. Wherefore, save us who do confess that thou art the Theotokos from every tribulation, and deliver our souls from danger.

DOXASTICON FOR THE DORMITION IN TONE FOUR

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

When thou wast translated to Him Who was born of thee in an inexplicable way, O virgin Theotokos, there were present James, the brother of the Lord and first of the Chief Priests, and Peter,

the honored head and leader of theologians, with the rest of the divine rank of the Apostles, clearly uttering divine words, praising the amazing divine mystery, the mystery of the dispensation of Christ God, and with joy preparing thy body which was the God-receiving originator of life, O most glorified one, while the most holy and honored angels looked from on high, struck with astonishment and surprise, and saying to one another: Lift ye your gates and receive ye the mother of the Maker of heaven and earth. Let us laud with songs of praise her sanctified, noble body which contained the Lord, invisible to us. Therefore we, too, celebrate thy memory, O all-praised one, crying: Exalt the state of Christians and save our souls.

THE HYMN OF ST. SIMEON THE GOD-RECEIVER

Leader: Lord, now lettest thou Thy servant depart in peace, according to Thy word; for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation, which Thou hast prepared before the face of all people, a light to lighten the Gentiles and the glory of Thy people Israel.

THE TRISAGION PRAYERS

People: Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal: have mercy on us. (*Thrice*)

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

All-holy Trinity, have mercy on us. Lord, cleanse us from our sins. Master, pardon our iniquities. Holy One, visit and heal our infirmities for thy Name's sake.

Lord, have mercy. (*Thrice*)

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

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name; thy kingdom come; thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.

Leader: O Lord, Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on us.

All: Amen.

APOLYTIKION OF THE DORMITION IN TONE ONE

In giving birth thou didst preserve virginity and in thy Dormition, thou didst not forsake the world, O Theotokos! For thou was translated unto life, for thou art the Mother of Life. By thine intercessions deliver our souls from death! (*thrice without "Glory...", "Both now..."*)

THE DISMISSAL

Choir: Preserve, O God, the holy Orthodox faith and all Orthodox Christians, unto ages of ages. Amen.

More honorable than the Cherubim, and more glorious beyond compare than the Seraphim, thou who without corruption bearest God the Word and art truly Theotokos: we magnify thee.

The Leader bows toward the icon of Christ on the iconostasis, saying:

Leader: Glory to thee, O Christ our God and our Hope, glory to thee.

All: Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, both now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. O Lord, bless.

Leader: O Christ our true God, through the intercessions of his all-immaculate and all-blameless holy Mother —whose Dormition and translation into the heavens we now celebrate; of our venerable and God-bearing fathers; of the Holy Equal to the Apostles and Myrrh-Bearer Mary Magdalene, protector of this community; and of all the saints: have mercy on us, and save us, for Thou art good and lovest mankind.

Then, facing the icon of Christ, on the iconostasis, the Leader says:

Leader: Through the prayers of our holy fathers, Lord Jesus Christ our God, have mercy on us, and save us.

All: Amen.