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READER'S GREAT VESPERS ON SATURDAY, AUGUST 23, 2026
(Eve of 12th Sunday after Pentecost)

The Apodosis (Leave-taking) of the Feast of Dormition

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 THREE

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 round 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, Lord, are mine eyes; in Thee have I put my trust, take not away my soul.
- Keep me from the snare which they have laid for me, and the traps of the workers of iniquity.
- Let the wicked fall into their own nets, whilst I alone escape.
- 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 man 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.

For the Resurrection in Tone Three

Verse 10. Bring my soul out of prison, that I may praise Thy Name.

O Christ Savior, the might of death hath verily broken down under Thy Cross; and the deceit of Diabolus hath ceased; and the race of man hath by faith escaped and been saved. Wherefore, praise is offered Thee perpetually.

Verse 9. The righteous shall wait for me until Thou recompense me.

The whole creation, O Lord God, hath been lighted by Thy glorified Resurrection; and paradise hath been opened withal. Wherefore, all creatures laud Thee and offer Thee praise perpetually.

Verse 8. Out of the depths have I cried to Thee, O Lord, Lord hear my voice.

I glorify the power of the Father, magnify the power of the Son, and praise the might of the Holy Spirit, one Godhead, indivisible, uncreated, consubstantial Trinity, reigning through all eternity.

Verse 7. Let Thine ears be attentive to the voice of my supplication.

Thy glorified Cross, O Christ, do we worship, and Thy Resurrection do we praise and glorify; for by Thy wounds we are all healed.

For the Dormition 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.

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;
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.

SATURDAY EVENING PROKEIMENON IN TONE SIX

Leader: The Evening Prokeimenon!

Choir: The Lord is King, and hath clothed Himself with majesty. (*twice*)

Verse: The Lord is clothed with strength and He hath girt Himself;

Choir: The Lord is King, and hath clothed Himself with majesty.

Verse: For He established the world which shall not be shaken

Choir: The Lord is King, and hath clothed Himself with majesty.

Verse: Holiness becometh Thy house, O Lord, unto length of days.

Choir: The Lord is King, and hath clothed Himself with majesty.

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.

APOSTICHA FOR THE RESURRECTION IN TONE THREE

O Christ, Who didst darken the sun with Thy Passion, and didst light all created things with the light of Thy Resurrection, and didst make them to rejoice, accept our evening praise, O Lover of mankind.

Verse 1. The Lord is King, and hath clothed Himself with majesty. The Lord is clothed with strength and He hath girt Himself.

Verily, Thy life-giving Resurrection hath lighted the whole universe, renewing Thy corrupt creation. Wherefore, in that Thou hast delivered us from the curse of Adam, we shout to Thee, O Lord Almighty, glory to Thee.

Verse 2. For He established the world which shall not be shaken.

O changeless God, Thou didst suffer in the changing body, and when creation could not bear to behold Thee suspended on the Cross, it trembled with fear, and sighed, praising Thy long-suffering. Then, descending to Hades, Thou didst arise on the third day, granting life to the world and Great Mercy.

Verse 3. Holiness becometh Thy house, O Lord, unto length of days.

Thou didst suffer death, O Christ, that Thou mightest deliver our race from death. Thou didst rise from the dead on the third day, and didst arouse with Thee those who know that Thou art true God, verily illuminating the world, O Lord. Wherefore, glory to Thee.

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.

RESURRECTIONAL APOLYTIKION IN TONE THREE

Let the heavens rejoice and the earth be glad, for the Lord hath done a mighty act with His own arm. He hath trampled down death by death, and become the first-born from the dead. He hath delivered us from the depths of Hades, granting the world the Great Mercy.

APOLYTIKION OF THE DORMITION¹ IN TONE ONE

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

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!

APOLYTIKION OF THE DORMITION IN TONE ONE

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

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!

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 Thou Who rose again from the dead, 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 Myrrh-Bearer and Equal to the Apostles Mary Magdalene, protector of this community; of the holy Martyr Lupus, servant of the Great-Martyr Demetrios; Hieromartyr Irenaios, bishop of Lyons; and Venerable Nicholas and Dionysios of Olympus, whose memory we celebrate today, 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.

¹ This is the translation commonly used at St. Mary Magdalene Church.