

ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN FUNERAL



·THE RES· URRECTION·



**A BRIEF INTRODUCTION TO THE
ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN
FUNERAL SERVICE**

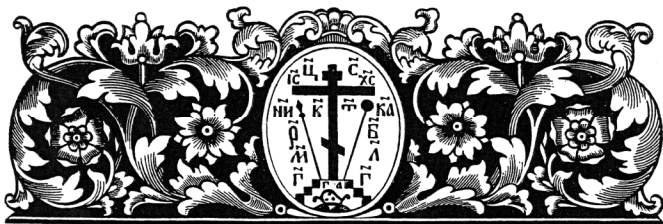
by Protopresbyter Alexander Schmemmann

Our God "is not the God of the dead, but the God of the living." (*Mark 12:27*) Our greatest joy is our belief in Christ's resurrection and the resurrection of all in Him. And the Church's constant prayer for the departed members is thus the affirmation that they are still alive in Christ, that we are all united in God's love, that, in the words of St Paul - "neither death, nor life...shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord." (*Romans 8:38*)

The Orthodox funeral service is a wonderful expression of this faith. Both its words and music convey to us the certitude that death is not the absurd end, which deprives life of its meaning and permeates everything with its poison of despair, but the passage into the "desired fatherland", the return to Him in whom is all joy, all peace, all fulfillment. Indeed it makes it [death] a movement toward Paradise.

This publication is approved for use in parishes of the Diocese of Philadelphia and Eastern Pennsylvania (OCA), with the blessing of His Eminence, Archbishop MARK.

April 2015



MEMORY ETERNAL

PRIEST: Grant rest eternal in blessed repose, O Lord, to Thy servant ____, who is fallen asleep, and make (*his, her*) memory to be eternal!

CHOIR: Memory Eternal! (3)

*And then during the *PASCHAL SEASON we also sing:*

CHOIR: Christ is Risen from the dead, trampling down death by death and upon those in the tombs bestowing life! (3)

PRIEST: May God beatify and give (*him, her*) rest, and be merciful unto us, forasmuch as He is good and loves mankind.

CHOIR: Amen.

PRIEST: May (*his, her*) soul dwell with the blessed.

LAST KISS

The faithful now offer their final respects to the newly departed, as the choir sings hymns. NOTE: the immediate family are the final ones to offer the "last kiss".

PROCESSION

The earthly remains of the newly departed are now sealed in the casket and it is solemnly processed to the hearse or directly to the place of burial. The procession is led by the clergy, followed by the casket and behind it the friends and relatives of the deceased.

CHOIR: Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal, have mercy on us! (*repeated*)

ORTHODOX FUNERAL SERVICE

*Please make every effort to preserve a sense of reverence for the deceased and the church building while in the Sanctuary. Please refrain from idle conversation, the use of electronic devices. **Cell phones should be placed on silence or vibrate.***

PRIEST: Blessed is our God, always, now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

CHOIR: Amen.* Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal, have mercy on us! (3)

* PASCHAL SEASON

PRIEST: (*Twice*) Christ is Risen from the dead, trampling down death by death and upon those in the tombs bestowing life!

PRIEST: (*Third Time*) Christ is Risen from the dead, trampling down *death by death (stop)*

CHOIR: ... and upon those in the tombs bestowing life!

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

Most Holy Trinity, have mercy on us. Lord, cleanse us from our sins. Master, pardon our transgressions. Holy One, visit and heal our infirmities, for Thy name's sake.

Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

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

PRIEST: For Thine is the Kingdom, and the power, and the glory: of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages.

READER: Amen. Lord, have mercy. (12)

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

Come, let us worship God, our King! Come, let us worship and fall down before Christ, our King and our God! Come, let us worship and fall down before Christ Himself, our King and our God!

PSALM 90 (91)

He that dwelleth in the help of the Most High shall abide in the shelter of the God of heaven. He shall say unto the Lord: Thou art my helper and my refuge. He is my God, and I will hope in Him. For He shall deliver thee from the snare of the hunters and from every troubling word. With His shoulders will He overshadow thee, and under His wings shalt thou have hope. With a shield will His truth encompass thee; thou shalt not be afraid for the terror by night, nor for the arrow that flieth by day, Nor for the thing that walketh in darkness, nor for the mishap an demon of noonday. A thousand shall fall at thy side, and ten thousand at thy right hand, but unto thee shall it not come nigh. Only with thine eyes shalt thou behold, and thou shalt see the reward of sinners. For Thou, O Lord, art my hope. Thou madest the Most High thy refuge; No evils shall come nigh thee, and no scourge shall draw nigh

DISMISSAL

DEACON: Wisdom!

PRIEST: Most holy Theotokos, save us!

CHOIR: **More honorable than the Cherubim, and more glorious beyond compare than the Seraphim, without defilement thou gavest birth to God the Word. True Theotokos, we magnify thee.**

PRIEST: Glory to Thee, O Christ our God, and our only sure hope, glory to Thee!*

*** PASCHAL SEASON**

CHOIR: **Christ is Risen from the dead, trampling down death by death and upon those in the tombs bestowing life!** (3)

CHOIR: **Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Father (Master), bless!**

PRIEST: May He Who arose from the dead, and has dominion both over the living and the dead, Christ our true God, through the prayers of His all-pure Mother; of the holy, glorious and all-laudable Apostles; of our holy and God-bearing Fathers; and of all the saints; establish the soul of His servant, ____, who has been taken from us, in the mansion of the righteous; give (*him, her*) rest in Abraham's bosom, and number (*him, her*) among the just; and have mercy on us, forasmuch as He is good and loves mankind.

CHOIR: Amen.

PRAYER OF ABSOLUTION

*The priest now administers the **Prayer of Absolution**, asking that God absolve all those things in which the person repented of prior to departing this life.*

DEACON: Let us pray to the Lord.

CHOIR: Lord, have mercy.

PRIEST: Our Lord Jesus Christ, by His divine grace, as also by the gift and power vouchsafed unto His holy Disciples and Apostles, that they should bind and loose the sins of men, for He said unto them: "Receive the Holy Spirit. Whosoever sins you remit, they are remitted; and whosoever sins you retain, they are retained. And whatsoever you shall bind or loose upon earth shall be bound or loosed also in heaven." By that same power, also, transmitted unto us from them, this my spiritual child, _____, is absolved, through me, unworthy though I be, from all things wherein, as mortal (*he, she*) has sinned against God, whether in word, or deed, or thought, and with all (*his, her*) senses, whether voluntarily or involuntarily; whether with knowledge or through ignorance. If (*he, she*) be under the ban or excommunication of a bishop, or of a priest, or has incurred the curse of (*his, her*) father or mother, or has fallen under (*his, her*) own curse, or has sinned by any oath, or has been bound, as man, by any sins whatsoever, but has repented therefore, with contrition of heart, (*he, she*) is now absolved from all those faults and bonds. May all those things which have proceeded from the weakness of (*his, her*) mortal nature be consigned to oblivion, and be remitted to (*him, her*). Through His loving kindness; through the prayers of our most holy, and blessed, and glorious Lady, the Theotokos and ever-virgin Mary; of the holy, glorious and all-laudable Apostles; and of all the Saints.

CHOIR: Amen.

unto thy dwelling. For He shall give His angels charge over thee, to keep thee in all thy ways. On their hands shall they bear thee up, lest at any time thou dash thy foot against a stone. Upon the asp and basilisk shalt thou tread, and thou shalt trample upon the lion and dragon. For he hath set his hope on Me, and I will deliver him; I will shelter him because he hath known My name. He shall cry unto Me, and I will hearken unto him. I am with him in affliction, and I will rescue him and glorify him. With length of days will I satisfy him, and I will show him My salvation.

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

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia. Glory to Thee, O God. (3)

PSALM 118 (119)

Stasis 1

PRIEST: Blessed are the undefiled in the way, who walk in the Law of the Lord.

CHOIR: Alleluia. (*refrain*)

PRIEST: Blessed are those who keep his testimonies, who seek him with their whole heart. (*refrain*)

For they that work iniquity have not walked in His ways.
(*refrain*)

Thou hast enjoined Thy commandments, that we should keep them most diligently. (*refrain*)

Would that my ways were directed to keep Thy statutes.
(*refrain*)

Then shall I not be ashamed, when I look on all Thy commandments. (*refrain*)

I will confess Thee with uprightness of heart, when I have learned the judgements of Thy righteousness. *(refrain)*

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. *(refrain)*

Now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen. *(refrain)*

LITTLE LITANY FOR THE DEPARTED

DEACON: Again and again, in peace let us pray to the Lord.

CHOIR: Lord, have mercy.

DEACON: Again we pray for the repose of the soul of the ever-memorable servant of God, _____ departed this life; and that *(he, she)* may be pardoned all *(his, her)* sins, both voluntary and involuntary.

CHOIR: Lord, have mercy.

DEACON: That the Lord God will establish *(his, her)* soul where the just repose.

CHOIR: Lord, have mercy.

DEACON: The mercies of God, the Kingdom of Heaven, and the remission of *(his, her)* sins, let us ask of Christ, the immortal King and God.

CHOIR: Grant it, O Lord.

DEACON: Let us pray to the Lord.

CHOIR: Lord, have mercy.

DEACON: That the Lord God will establish *(his, her)* soul where the just repose.

CHOIR: Lord, have mercy. *(3)*

DEACON: The mercies of God, the Kingdom of Heaven, and the remission of *(his, her)* sins, let us ask of Christ, the immortal King and God.

CHOIR: Grant it, O Lord.

DEACON: Let us pray to the Lord.

CHOIR: Lord, have mercy.

PRIEST: O God of spirits, and of all flesh, who has trampled down death and overthrown the Devil and given life to Thy world: Do Thou, the same Lord, give rest to the soul of Thy departed servant, _____ in a place of brightness, a place of refreshment, a place of repose, where all sickness, sighing, and sorrow have fled away. Pardon every transgression which *(he, she)* has committed, whether by word or deed or thought. For Thou art a good God who loves mankind; because there is no man who lives yet does not sin; for Thou only art without sin; Thy righteousness is to all eternity; and Thy word is truth.

For Thou art the resurrection, the life, and the repose of Thy servant, _____, who is fallen asleep, O Christ our God, and unto Thee we ascribe glory, together with Thy Father, Who is from everlasting, and Thine all-holy, good, and life-creating Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

CHOIR: Amen.

Turn page for the Prayer of Absolution

A homily may be given here.

DISMISSAL TROPARIA

CHOIR: With the souls of the righteous departed, give rest to the soul of Thy servant, O Savior; preserving it in the blessed life which is with Thee, Who lovest mankind.

In the place of Thy rest, O Lord, where all Thy saints repose, give rest also to the soul of Thy servant; for Thou only lovest mankind.

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

Thou art God Who descended into hell, and loosed the bonds of the captives; Thyself give rest also to the soul of Thy servant.

Now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

O Virgin, alone pure and blameless, who didst bear God without seed, intercede that the soul of thy servant may be saved.

LITANY OF FERVENT SUPPLICATION

DEACON: Have mercy on us, O God, according to Thy great mercy, we pray Thee, hear us and have mercy.

CHOIR: Lord, have mercy. (3)

DEACON: Again we pray for the repose of the soul of the servant of God, _____, departed this life; and that (*he, she*) may be pardoned all (*his, her*) sins, both voluntary and involuntary.

CHOIR: Lord, have mercy. (3)

PRIEST: O God of spirits, and of all flesh, who has trampled down death and overthrown the Devil and given life to Thy world: Do Thou, the same Lord, give rest to the soul of Thy departed servant, _____ in a place of brightness, a place of refreshment, a place of repose, where all sickness, sighing, and sorrow have fled away. Pardon every transgression which (*he, she*) has committed, whether by word or deed or thought. For Thou art a good God who loves mankind; because there is no man who lives yet does not sin; for Thou only art without sin; and Thy righteousness is to all eternity; and Thy word is truth.

For Thou art the resurrection, the life, and the repose of Thy servant, _____ who is fallen asleep, O Christ our God, and unto Thee we send up glory, together with Thy Father, Who is from everlasting, and Thine all-holy, good, and life-creating Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

CHOIR: Amen.

Stasis 2

PRIEST: Thy hands have made me and fashioned me; give me understanding and I will learn Thy commandments.

CHOIR: Have mercy upon Thy servant. (*refrain*)

PRIEST: I opened my mouth, and drew in my breath; for my delight was in Thy commandments. (*refrain*)

They that fear Thee shall see me and be glad, for on Thy words have I set my hope. (*refrain*)

I have known, O Lord, that Thy judgements are righteousness, and with truth hast Thou humbled me. (*refrain*)

Let now Thy mercy be my comfort, according to Thy saying unto Thy servant. (*refrain*)

Let Thy compassions come upon me and I shall live, for Thy law is my meditation. *(refrain)*

Let the proud be put to shame, for unjustly have they transgressed against me; but as for me, I will ponder on Thy commandments. *(refrain)*

Let those that fear Thee return unto me, and those that know Thy testimonies. *(refrain)*

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. *(refrain)*

Now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen. *(refrain)*

LITTLE LITANY FOR THE DEPARTED

DEACON: Again and again, in peace let us pray to the Lord.

CHOIR: Lord, have mercy.

DEACON: Again we pray for the repose of the soul of the ever-memorable servant of God, _____ departed this life; and that *(he, she)* may be pardoned all *(his, her)* sins, both voluntary and involuntary.

CHOIR: Lord, have mercy.

DEACON: That the Lord God will establish *(his, her)* soul where the just repose.

CHOIR: Lord, have mercy.

DEACON: The mercies of God, the Kingdom of Heaven, and the remission of *(his, her)* sins, let us ask of Christ, the immortal King and God.

READER: *(His/her)* memory is from generation to generation!

CHOIR: Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

GOSPEL

DEACON: Wisdom. Let us attend. Let us listen to the Holy Gospel.

PRIEST: Peace be unto all.

CHOIR: And with your spirit.

PRIEST: The reading from the Holy Gospel according to Saint John the Theologian. *(5:24-30)*

CHOIR: Glory to Thee, O Lord, glory to Thee.

DEACON: Let us attend!

PRIEST: The Lord said to the Jews who came to Him: Truly, truly, I say to you, he who hears my word and believes Him who sent me, has eternal life; he does not come into judgment, but has passed from death to life. Truly, truly, I say to you, the hour is coming, and now is, when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God, and those who hear will live. For as the Father has life in himself, so he has granted the Son also to have life in Himself, and has given Him authority to execute judgment, because He is the Son of man. Do not marvel at this; for the hour is coming when all who are in the tombs will hear His voice and come forth, those who have done good, to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil, to the resurrection of judgment. I can do nothing on My own authority; as I hear, I judge; and My judgment is just, because I seek not My own will but the will of Him who sent Me.

CHOIR: Glory to Thee, O Lord, glory to Thee.

READER: Blessed is the way in which you shall walk today, O soul...

CHOIR: ...for a place of rest is prepared for you.

DEACON: Wisdom!

READER: The reading from the First Epistle of the Holy Apostle Paul to the Thessalonians. (4:13-18)

DEACON: Let us attend!

READER: *Brethren*, we would not have you ignorant, concerning those who are asleep, that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have fallen asleep. For this we declare to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, shall not precede those who have fallen asleep. For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command, with the archangel's call, and with the sound of the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first; then we who are alive, who are left, shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air; and so we shall always be with the Lord.

PRIEST: Peace be to you, reader.

READER: And to your spirit. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

CHOIR: Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

READER: Blessed is (*he/she*) whom Thou hast chosen and taken, O Lord!

CHOIR: Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

CHOIR: Grant it, O Lord.

DEACON: Let us pray to the Lord.

CHOIR: Lord, have mercy.

PRIEST: O God of spirits, and of all flesh, who has trampled down death and overthrown the Devil and given life to Thy world: Do Thou, the same Lord, give rest to the soul of Thy departed servant, ____ in a place of brightness, a place of refreshment, a place of repose, where all sickness, sighing, and sorrow have fled away. Pardon every transgression which (*he, she*) has committed, whether by word or deed or thought. For Thou art a good God who loves mankind; because there is no man who lives yet does not sin; for Thou only art without sin; and Thy righteousness is to all eternity; and Thy word is truth.

For Thou art the resurrection, the life, and the repose of Thy servant, _____ who is fallen asleep, O Christ our God, and unto Thee we send up glory, together with Thy Father, Who is from everlasting, and Thine all-holy, good, and life-creating Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

CHOIR: Amen.

Stasis 3

PRIEST: Look upon me and have mercy on me, according to the judgment of them that love Thy name. (*refrain*)

CHOIR: Alleluia.

My steps do Thou direct according to Thy saying, and let no iniquity have dominion over me. (*refrain*)

Deliver me from the false accusation of men, and I will keep Thy commandments. (*refrain*)

Make Thy face to shine upon Thy servant, and teach me Thy statutes. *(refrain)*

Mine eyes have poured forth streams of waters, because I kept not Thy law. *(refrain)*

Righteous art Thou, O Lord, and upright are Thy judgements. Thou hast ordained as Thy testimonies exceeding righteousness and truth. *(refrain)*

My zeal for Thee hath made me to pine away, because mine enemies have forgotten Thy words. *(refrain)*

I have gone astray like a sheep that is lost; O seek Thy servant, for I have not forgotten Thy commandments. *(refrain)*

Then immediately...

REQUIEM HYMNS (EVLOGITARIA)

Tone 5 - Abbreviated

CHOIR: Blessed art Thou, O Lord, teach me Thy statutes. The choir of the saints have found the Fountain of Life and the Door of Paradise. May I also find the way through repentance. I am a lost sheep; call me, O Savior, and save me!

Blessed art Thou, O Lord, teach me Thy statutes. *

Ye holy martyrs who preached the Lamb of God, and like unto lambs were slain, and are translated into life unfading and everlasting; fervently we beseech ye Him to grant us remission of our debts. (Refrain, "Blessed art Thou, O Lord...")

Ye who have trod the narrow way of grief; all ye who in life have taken upon you the Cross as a yoke, and followed Me by faith; Draw near, enjoy ye the honors and celestial crown I have prepared for you. (Refrain)

Now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

PRIEST: How do you press milk in abundance from your breasts, O Virgin? How do you nourish the Nourisher of creation? This is known to Him who made the water to well forth from the rock, streams of water for a people that were thirsty, as it was written.

CHOIR: Remember us, O Lord, when Thou comest in Thy kingdom.

PROKEIMENON & EPISTLE

DEACON: Let us attend.

PRIEST: Peace be with you all.

READER: And with your spirit.

DEACON: Wisdom!

READER: The Prokeimenon in the Sixth Tone: Blessed is the way in which you shall walk today, O soul for a place of rest is prepared for you!

CHOIR: Blessed is the way in which you shall walk today, O soul for a place of rest is prepared for you!

READER: Unto Thee will I cry, O Lord, my strength: think no scorn of me: lest if Thou be silent to me, I become like one who goes down into the pit.

CHOIR: Blessed is the way in which you shall walk today, O soul for a place of rest is prepared for you!

Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called the children of God.

O Thou Who rulest over souls and bodies, in whose hand is our breath, the Consolation of the afflicted, in the land of the Just give rest unto Thy servant whom Thou hast taken from us.

Blessed are they who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

May Christ give you rest in the land of the living, and open unto you the gates of Paradise, and make you a citizen of His kingdom; and give you remission of those things wherein you in life have sinned, O you who love Christ.

Blessed are you when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely for my sake.

Let us go forth, and gaze into the tombs: man is naked bones, food for the worms, and stench; and we shall learn what are riches, and comeliness, and beauty, and strength.

Rejoice, and be exceedingly glad, for great is your reward in heaven.

Let us listen to what the Almighty cries: "Woe unto those who seek to behold the terrible day of the Lord! For lo, it is darkness, for all things shall be tried with fire."

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

Him Who has no beginning in birth of cause, the Father, I worship; Him Who is the Only-begotten Son, I glorify; and unto the Holy Spirit Who shines together with the Father and the Son, I sing praises.

I am the image of Thine ineffable glory, though I bear the brands of transgressions: Pity Thy creature, O Master, and purify me by Thy loving-kindness; grant unto me my desired Fatherland, making me again a citizen of Paradise. (Refrain)

O Thou who of old didst form me from nothingness, and didst honor me with Thine image divine, but by the transgression of Thy commandment hast returned me again unto the earth from which I was taken: Restore Thou me to that image, and to my former Beauty. (Refrain)

*** Give rest, O Lord to the soul of Thy servant, and establish (*him, her, them*) in Paradise. Where the choirs of the saints, and of the just, O Lord, shine like the stars of heaven, give rest to Thy servant who hath fallen asleep, overlooking all (*his, her, their*) transgressions.**

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

Devoutly let us praise the three-fold splendor of the One God-head, crying out: Holy art Thou, O Father, who art from everlasting, O Son, coeternal, and Spirit divine! Illumine us who serve Thee with faith, and deliver us from fire eternal.

Now, and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Rejoice O Pure One, who for the salvation of all didst bring forth God in the flesh; through whom the human race hath found salvation; through thee may we find Paradise, O Pure, most blessed Mother of God.

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, glory to Thee, O God. (3)

LITTLE LITANY FOR THE DEPARTED

DEACON: Again and again, in peace let us pray to the Lord.

CHOIR: Lord, have mercy.

DEACON: Again we pray for the repose of the soul of the ever-memorable servant of God, _____ departed this life; and that (*he, she*) may be pardoned all (*his, her*) sins, both voluntary and involuntary.

CHOIR: Lord, have mercy.

DEACON: That the Lord God will establish (*his, her*) soul where the just repose.

CHOIR: Lord, have mercy.

DEACON: The mercies of God, the Kingdom of Heaven, and the remission of (*his, her*) sins, let us ask of Christ, the immortal King and God.

CHOIR: Grant it, O Lord.

DEACON: Let us pray to the Lord.

CHOIR: Lord, have mercy.

PRIEST: O God of spirits, and of all flesh, who has trampled down death and overthrown the Devil and given life to Thy world: Do Thou, the same Lord, give rest to the soul of Thy departed servant, _____ in a place of brightness, a place of refreshment, a place of repose, where all sickness, sighing, and sorrow have fled away. Pardon every transgression which (*he, she*) has committed, whether by word or deed or thought. For Thou art a good God who loves mankind; because there is no man who lives yet does not sin; for Thou only art without sin; and Thy righteousness is to all eternity; and Thy word is truth.

For Thou art the resurrection, the life, and the repose of Thy servant, _____ who is fallen asleep, O Christ our God, and unto Thee we send up glory, together with Thy Father, Who is from everlasting, and Thine all-holy, good, and life-creating Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

CHOIR: Amen.

CHOIR: (*Tone 8*) I weep and I wail when I think upon death, and behold our beauty created in the likeness of God, lying in the tomb, disfigured, bereft of glory and form. O marvel! What is this mystery concerning us? Why have we been given over unto corruption? And why have we been wedded unto death? Truly as it is written by the command of God, who giveth the departed rest.

BEATITUDES - TONE 7

Matthew 5:1-12

CHOIR: Remember us, O Lord, when Thou comest in Thy kingdom.

Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven.

Blessed are they who mourn, for they shall be comforted.

Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.

Blessed are they that hunger and thirst for righteousness' sake, for they shall be filled.

Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy.

PRIEST: O Christ, Thou didst make the repentant thief to be a citizen of Paradise, because he cried to Thee on the Cross: "Remember Me". Make me, a sinner, also worthy of the same.

CHOIR: Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.

PRIEST: O Thou Who reignest over life, and death, in the courts of Thy saints grant rest unto (*him, her*) whom Thou hast removed from temporal things, and who cries unto Thee: "Remember me also, O Lord, when Thou comest in Thy kingdom."

IKOS

Thou only art immortal, Who hast created and fashioned man. For out of the earth were we mortals made, and unto the same earth shall we return again, as Thou didst command when Thou madest me, saying to me: "For dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return." Whither we mortals all shall go, making our funeral dirge the song: Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

PRIEST: Give rest, O Lord, to the soul of Thy servant who has fallen asleep.

CHOIR: Give rest, O Lord, to the soul of Thy servant who has fallen asleep.

PRIEST: Let us bless Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, the Lord.

CHOIR: Now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen

ODE 9

CHOIR: It is not possible for men to see God, upon Whom the ranks of angels dare not gaze. But through thee, O all-pure one, was the Word Incarnate revealed unto men: whom magnifying, together with the heavenly hosts, we call thee blessed.

IDIOMELE OF ST. JOHN OF DAMASCUS

Eight hymns according to the tones are prescribed. In our practice the first (Tone 1) and final hymn (Tone 8) are sung.

CHOIR: *(Tone 1)* What earthly sweetness remaineth unmixed with grief? What glory standeth immutable on earth? All things are but feeble shadows, all things are most deluding dreams: yet one moment only, and Death shall supplant them all. But in the light of thy countenance, O Christ, and in the sweetness of thy beauty, give rest unto him (her) whom thou hast chosen: forasmuch as thou lovest mankind.

KATHISMA HYMN

Tone 5

CHOIR: Give rest with the Just, O Savior, unto Thy servant(s), and establish (*him, her, them*) in Thy courts, as it is written. Disregarding as Thou art good (*his, her, their*) trespasses both voluntary and involuntary, and all things done with knowledge or in ignorance, O Thou who lovest mankind.

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

O Christ our God, who from a Virgin didst shine forth unto the world, through her making us sons of light, have mercy on us.

PSALM 50 ⁽⁵¹⁾

READER: Have mercy on me, O God, according to Thy great mercy; and according to the multitude of Thy compassions blot out my transgression. Wash me thoroughly from mine iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin. For I know mine iniquity, and my sin is ever before me. Against Thee only have I sinned and done this evil before Thee, that Thou mightest be justified in Thy words, and prevail when Thou art judged. For behold, I was conceived in iniquities, and in sins did my mother bear me. For behold, Thou hast loved truth; the hidden and secret things of Thy wisdom hast Thou made manifest unto me. Thou shalt sprinkle me with hyssop, and I shall be made clean; Thou shalt wash me, and I shall be made whiter than snow. Thou shalt make me to hear joy and gladness; the bones that be humbled, they shall rejoice. Turn Thy face away from my sins, and blot out all mine iniquities. Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from

Thy presence, and take not Thy Holy Spirit from me. Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation, and with Thy governing Spirit establish me. I shall teach transgressors Thy ways, and the ungodly shall turn back unto Thee. Deliver me from blood-guiltiness, O God, Thou God of my salvation; my tongue shall rejoice in Thy righteousness. O Lord, Thou shalt open my lips, and my mouth shall declare Thy praise. For if Thou hadst desired sacrifice, I had given it; with whole-burnt offerings Thou shalt not be pleased. A sacrifice unto God is a broken spirit; a heart that is broken and humbled God will not despise. Do good, O Lord, in Thy good pleasure unto Sion, and let the walls of Jerusalem be built. Then shalt Thou be pleased with a sacrifice of righteousness, with oblation and whole-burnt offerings. Then shall they offer bullocks upon Thine altar.

FUNERAL CANON

Abbreviated

ODE 1

CHOIR: When Israel passed on foot over the sea as if it were dry land, and beheld their pursuer, Pharaoh, drowning in the sea, they cried aloud unto God: "Let us sing a song of victory!"

PRIEST: Give rest, O Lord, to the soul of Thy servant who has fallen asleep.

CHOIR: Give rest, O Lord, to the soul of Thy servant who has fallen asleep.

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

CHOIR: Now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

ODE 3

CHOIR: There is none so holy as Thou, O Lord my God, Who hast exalted the power of Thy faithful, O Blessed One, and hast established us upon the rock of Thy confession.

PRIEST: Give rest, O Lord, to the soul of Thy servant who has fallen asleep.

CHOIR: Give rest, O Lord, to the soul of Thy servant who has fallen asleep.

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

CHOIR: Now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

ODE 6

CHOIR: Beholding the sea of life surging with the storm of temptations, and taking refuge in Thy calm haven I cry unto Thee: "Raise up my life from corruption, O greatly Merciful One!"

The choir immediately sings the Kontakion, as the clergy cense.

KONTAKION

CHOIR: With the Saints give rest, O Christ, to the souls of Thy servant, Where sickness and sorrow are no more, neither sighing, but life everlasting.