

*The Office of Christian Burial
according to the
Byzantine Rite –
Parastas*




The following booklet was taken from the 1975 publication of our Byzantine funeral service. It follows the local customs by excluding parts not prescribed for parochial usage and for brevity. The purpose of this booklet is not intended to replace previous or subsequent promulgated material, but to provide music and continuity with our current translated pew books.

THE OFFICE OF CHRISTIAN BURIAL
Parastas

*The faithful **STAND** as the celebrant, concelebrants, and deacon proceed to the place where the Parastas will be served.*

Deacon: Reverend Father, give the blessing.

Celebrant: Blessed is our God, always, now and ever and forever.

Response: 
A - men.


BLESSING OF THE CASKET

Deacon: Let us pray to the Lord.

Response: 
Lord, have mer - cy.

Celebrant: O Master, Lord our God, through whose mercy the souls of the faithful repose, bless the casket of your servant N., and send your holy angel to protect it, so that the body which is placed in it may find a peaceful dwelling-place until its resurrection at your second coming; and may the soul, absolved of all sin, be made worthy of eternal joy in the heavenly choir with all your saints.

For you are the king of the world, and the savior of our souls, and we give glory to you, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, now and ever and forever.

Response: 
A - men.

Celebrant: This casket is blessed and sanctified by the sprinkling of this holy water, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Response:

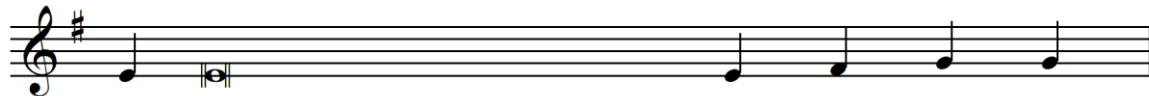


A - men.

3 times



Ho - ly God, Holy and Might-y, Ho - ly and Im-mor-tal, have mer-cy on us.



Glo - ry to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Ho - ly Spir - it,



now and ever and forev - er. A - men.



Lod, have mercy. Lord, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.



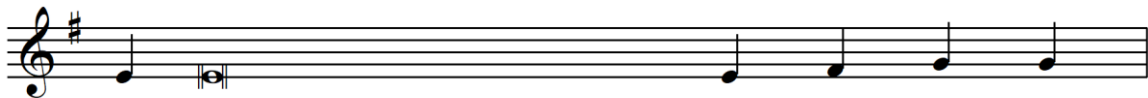
Most Holy Trinity, have mercy on us; Lord, cleanse us of our sins;



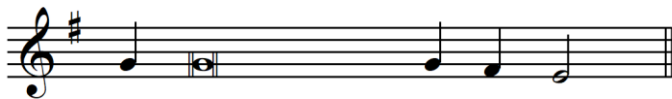
Mas - ter, forgive our trans - gres - sions; Ho - ly One, come to us and heal



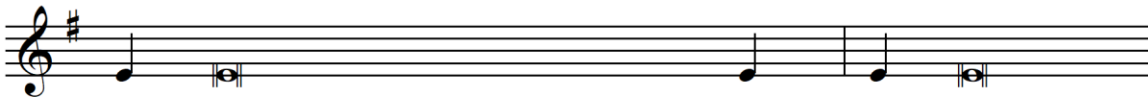
our infirmities for your name's sake.



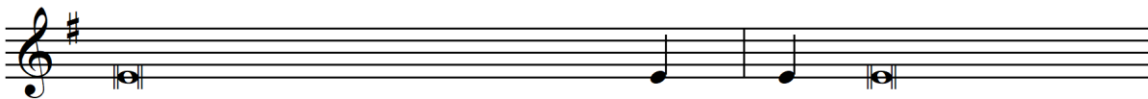
Glo - ry to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Ho - ly Spir - it,



now and ever and forev - er. A - men.



Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come;



thy will be done on earth as it is in heav - en. Give us this day our daily



bread; and forgive us our trespass - es as we forgive those who trespass



against us; and lead us not in-to temp-ta-tion, but deliver us from e - vil.

Celebrant: For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and ever and forever.

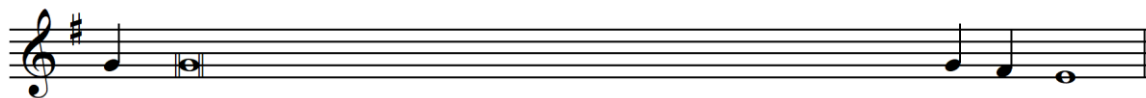


A - men.

For brevity, the following may be omitted:



Come, let us worship our King and God. Come, let us worship Christ our Kind and God.



Come, let us worship and bow before the only Lord Jesus Christ, the King and our God.

The faithful continue with Psalm 90

He will say to the Lord: My wall, my refuge.
my God in whom I trust!

He it is who will save you from the hunter's snare,
and from the deadly pestilence.

With his pinions he will overshadow you,
and beneath his wings you shall rest secure.

As a shield his truth shall cover you;
you shall not fear the terror of the night
nor the arrow that flies by day,

Nor the thing that lurks about in darkness,
nor the pestilence or demon of the noon.

Though a thousand may be falling at your side,
and ten thousand at your right,
no harm shall come to you.

But you with your eyes shall observe,
and see the retribution of the wicked.

Because you have said: O Lord, you are my hope;
and you have taken the Most High as your refuge,

no evil shall come close to you,
nor shall any scourge approach your dwelling.
For he will command the angels
to watch over all your ways;

in their hands they shall carry you
lest you stumble with your foot against a stone.

Upon the asp and viper you shall tread;
the lion and the dragon you shall trample.

Because he trusted in me, I will save him;
I will protect him, for he knew my name.

He will call on me, and I will save him;
I am with him at the time of distress;
I will deliver him and give him glory.

With length of days I will feed him,
and my salvation I will let him see.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit,
now and ever and forever. Amen.

Three times, with a bow each time:

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!
Glory to you, O God!

The faithful may SIT as the Litany begins:

Deacon: In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

Response: 
Lord, have mer - cy. (1)

For the servant[s] of God *N.*, and for *(his-her-their)* blessed repose, let us pray to the Lord.



If the service be for the deceased in general, the following petition replaces the previous:

For the souls of all who through the ages have departed in the true faith in the hope of resurrection and eternal life; for our departed fathers, brothers, and sisters; for the blessed founders and benefactors of this holy church [*or*: this holy place], let us pray to the Lord. (2)

That *(his-her-their)* every transgression committed deliberately or through human frailty be forgiven *(him-her-them)*, let us pray to the Lord. (1)

That *(he-she-they)* be numbered with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, let us pray to the Lord. (2)

That *(his-her-their)* soul[s] be committed to the region of the living, to the place of light where the all the Saints and the Just repose, let us pray to the Lord. (1)

That *(he-she-they)* stand uncondemned before the fearsome judgment-seat of Christ, let us pray to the Lord. (2)


That *(he-she-they)* inherit the eternal kingdom of heaven, let us pray to the Lord. (1)

That *(he-she-they)* share the constant joy prepared for the Saints from the beginning of time, let us pray to the Lord. (2)


That we be delivered from all affliction, wrath and need, let us pray to the Lord. (1)

Protect us, save us, have mercy on us, and preserve us, O God, by your grace. (2)

Commemorating our most holy, most pure, most blessed and glorious Lady, the Theotokos and Ever-Virgin Mary with all the saints, let us commit ourselves and one another and our whole life to Christ our God.

Response: 
To you, O Lord.

Celebrant: For you are the resurrection, the life, and the blessed repose of your departed servant[s] *N.*, O Christ our God, and we glorify you together with your eternal Father, and your all-holy, gracious and life-giving Spirit, now and ever and forever.

Response: 
A - men.

ALLELUIA

Deacon: 
Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

Response: 
Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

Deacon: Blessed are they whom you have chosen and received, O Lord.

Response: 
Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

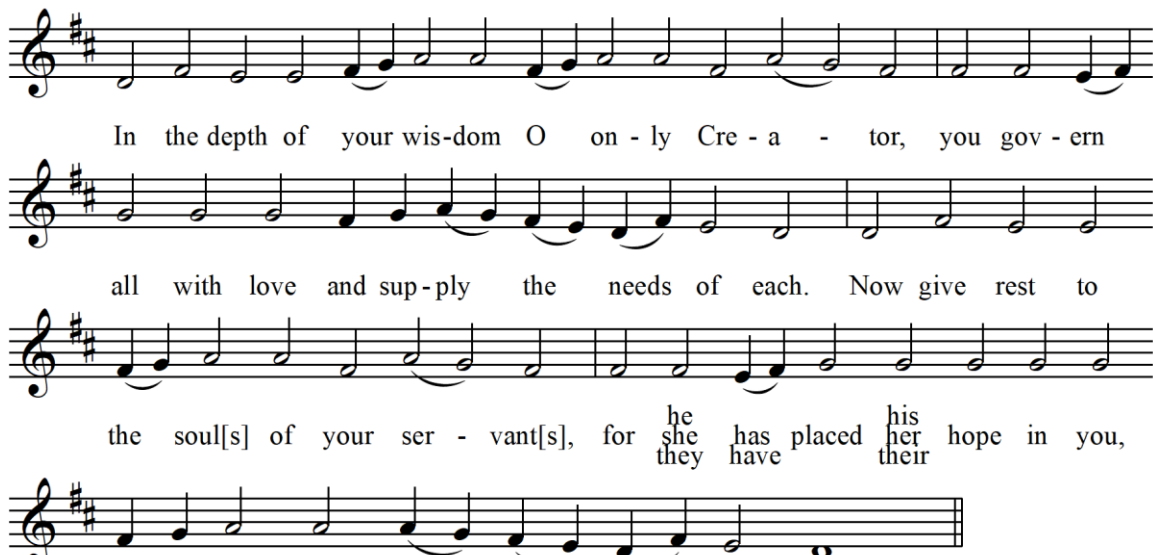
Deacon: They are remembered from generation to generation.

Response: 

Al-le-lu - ia! Al-le-lu - ia! Al-le-lu - ia!

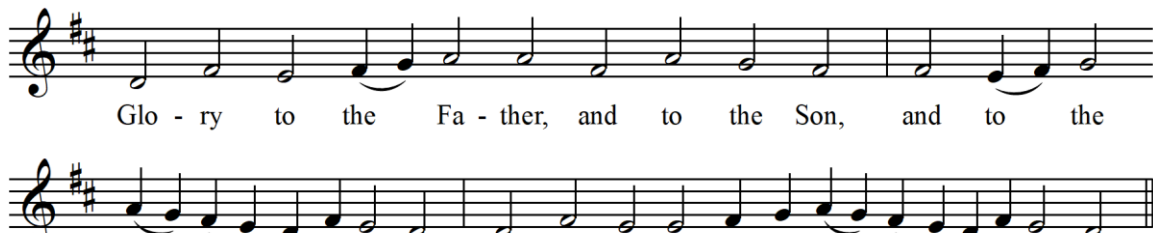
The faithful continue with the singing of the Troparia and Theotokion:

Resurrection Tone 8

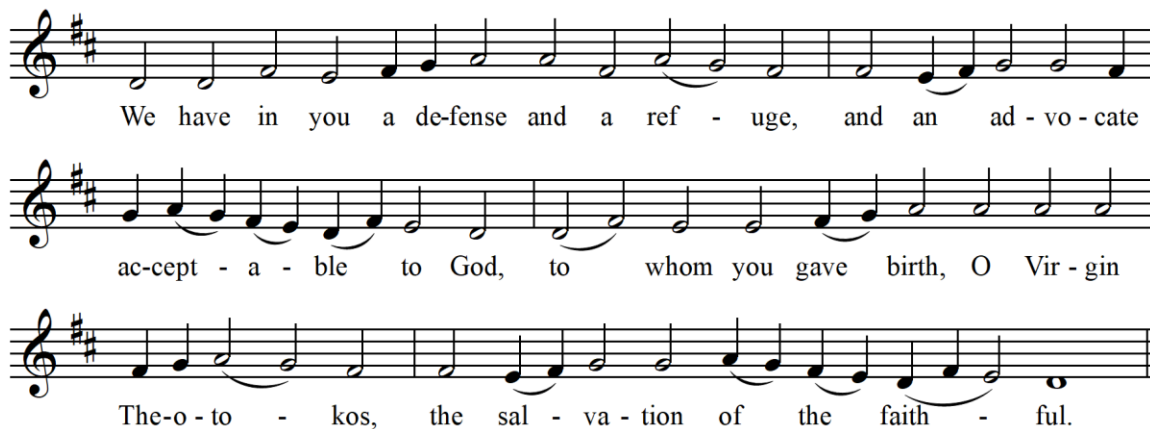


In the depth of your wis-dom O on - ly Cre - a - tor, you gov - ern
 all with love and sup-ply the needs of each. Now give rest to
 the soul[s] of your ser - vant[s], for ^{he} _{she} _{they} has ^{his} _{her} _{their} placed hope in you,
 our Cre - a - tor, Mak - er, and our God.

Cantor



Glo - ry to the Fa - ther, and to the Son, and to the
 Ho - ly Spir - it, now and ev - er and for-ev - er. A - men.

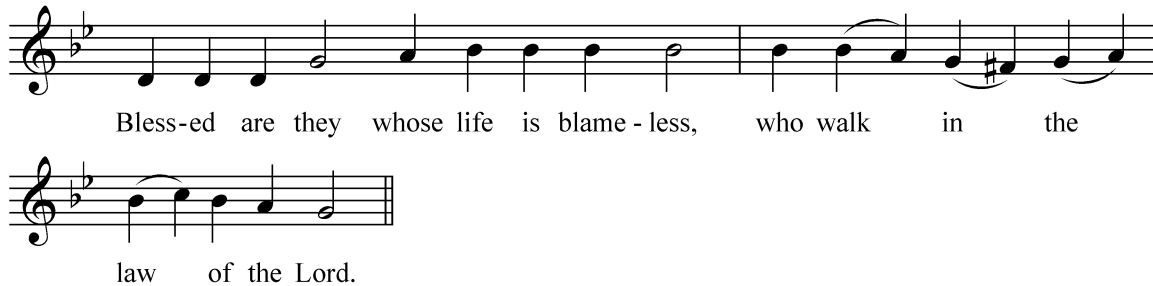


We have in you a de-fense and a ref - uge, and an ad - vo - cate
ac-cept - a - ble to God, to whom you gave birth, O Vir - gin
The-o - to - kos, the sal - va - tion of the faith - ful.

For the following stations, the celebrant sings the verses and the faithful sing the refrain.

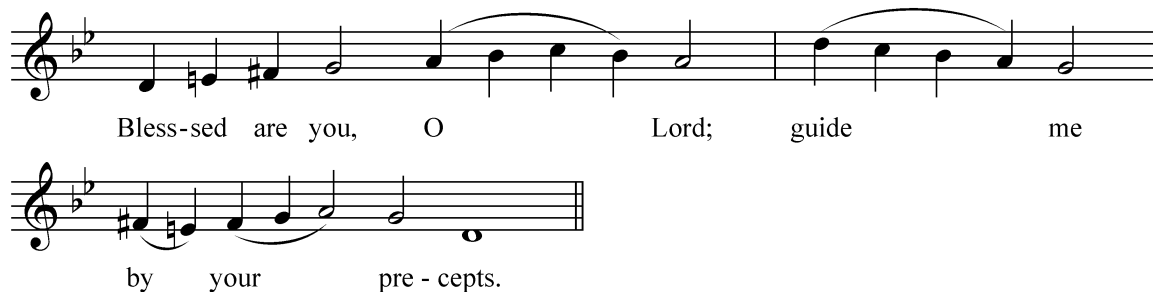
FIRST STATION

Verse:



Bless-ed are they whose life is blame - less, who walk in the
law of the Lord.

Refrain:



Bless-sed are you, O Lord; guide me
by your pre - cepts.

Verse:

Bless-ed are they who ob-serve your de-crees, O Lord, and who seek
you with all their heart.

Refrain: Blessed are you, O Lord; guide me by your precepts. (As above)

Verse:

The law of your mouth, O Lord, is more precious to me than thou - sands
in gold and sil - ver.

Refrain: Blessed are you, O Lord; guide me by your precepts. (As above)

Verse:

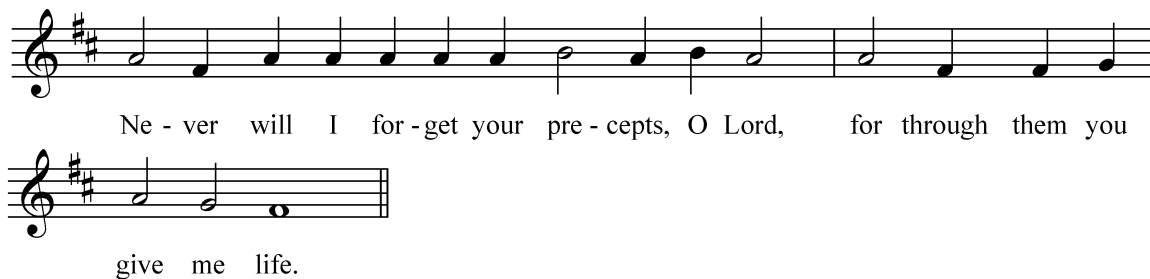
Your hands, O Lord, have made me and formed me.

Refrain: Blessed are you, O Lord; guide me by your precepts. (As above)

Verse:

Had not your law been my de - light, O Lord, I should have per - ished
in my af - flic - tion.

Refrain:



Ne - ver will I for - get your pre - cepts, O Lord, for through them you
give me life.

SECOND STATION

Verse:



I am yours, save me, O Lord.

Refrain:



O Sa - vior, save the soul[s] of your ser - vant[s].

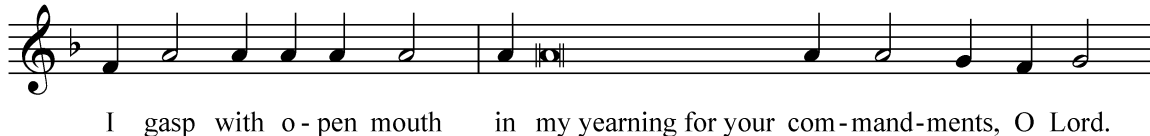
Verse:



Your word, O Lord, is a lamp to my feet, a light to my path.

Refrain: O Savior, save the soul[s] of your servant[s]. (As above)

Verse:



I gasp with o - pen mouth in my yearning for your com - mand - ments, O Lord.

Refrain: O Savior, save the soul[s] of your servant[s]. (As above)

Verse:



Turn to me in mercy, O Lord, as you turn to those who love, your name.

Refrain: O Savior, save the soul[s] of your servant[s]. (*As above*)

Verse:



Let my cry come before you, O Lord; give me understanding in keep-ing with your word.

Refrain: O Savior, save the soul[s] of your servant[s]. (*As above*)

Verse:



Let my soul live to praise you, O Lord, and may your pre-cepts help me.

Refrain:



I have gone a - stray like a lost sheep; seek your ser - vant,



be - cause I do not forget your com - mand - ments, O Lord.

*For the following HYMNS OF THE DECEASED, the celebrant sings the verse
and the faithful sing the hymns.*

Verse:



Bless - sed are you, O Lord; guide me by your pre - cepts.

For brevity, the following hymns may be omitted; however, the last four are always taken:

Hymn:



Hymn:



Grant rest, O God, to your ser - vant[s], and place ^{him} her in par - a-dise,
_{them}



where the choirs of Saints and Right - eous shine like stars. O Lord, give rest to your de -



part - ed ser - vant[s] and re - mit all ^{his} her trans - gres - sions.
_{their}

Verse: Blessed are You, O Lord; guide me by your precepts. (*As above*)

Hymn:



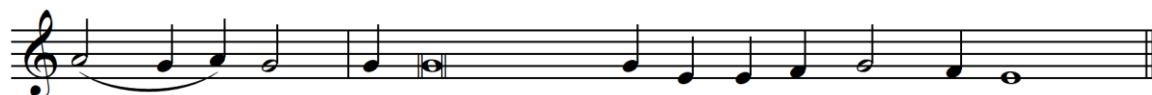
In the beginning you called me from noth - ing - ness and favored me with your



di - vine i - mage. Since I trans-gressed your com - mand - ments,



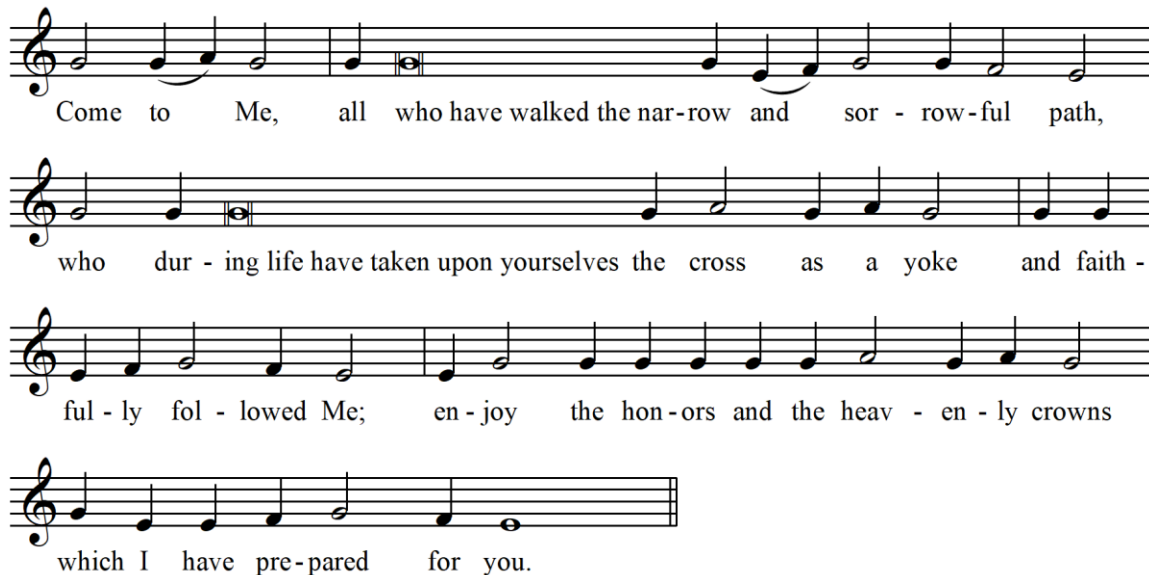
you returned me to the earth from which I was tak - en. Re-store me to your



like - ness, that my original beau-ty may be re - newed in me.

Verse: Blessed are You, O Lord; guide me by your precepts. (*As above*)

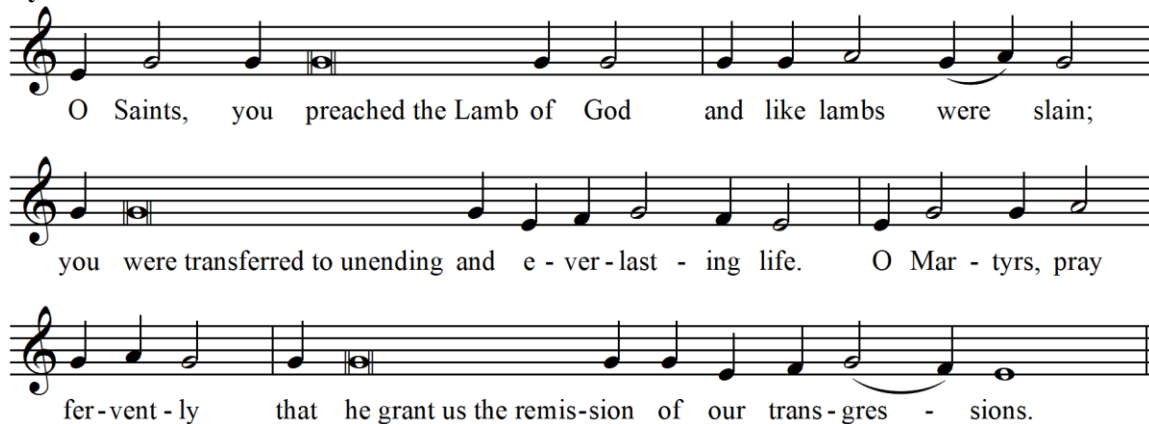
Hymn:



Come to Me, all who have walked the nar-row and sor-row-ful path,
who dur-ing life have taken upon yourselves the cross as a yoke and faith-
ful-ly fol-lowed Me; en-joy the hon-ors and the heav-en-ly crowns
which I have pre-pared for you.

Verse: Blessed are You, O Lord; guide me by your precepts. *(As above)*

Hymn:



O Saints, you preached the Lamb of God and like lambs were slain;
you were transferred to unending and e-ver-last-ing life. O Mar-tyrs, pray
fer-vent-ly that he grant us the remis-sion of our trans-gres-sions.

Verse: Blessed are You, O Lord; guide me by your precepts. *(As above)*

Hymn:



We praise with devotion the threefold radiance of the one Di - vi - ni - ty by sing -



ing a - loud: "Ho - ly are you eter - nal Fa - ther, co - eternal Son and di - vine Spir - it.



En - light - en us who faithfully serve you and deliver us from e - ter - nal - fire.

The faithful STAND for the conclusion of the Hymns of the Deceased.

Verse:



Glo - ry to the Fa - ther, and to the Son, and to the Ho - ly Spir - it,



now and e - ver and for - e - ver. A - men.

Hymn:



Re-joyce, O pure and bless - ed Mo - ther of God, for you gave birth to God



according to the flesh for the re - demp - tion of all. Through you



man-kind has found sal - va - tion. Through you, may we also find par a-dise,



O Bless - ed - one. Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!



Al - le - lu - ia! Glo-ry to you, O God!

SIDALEN

All

Resurrection Tone 5 (adapt.)



Our Sa - vior rest your ser - vant[s] with the just and place ^{him} her ^{them}



in your courts as it is writ - ten. O Sav - ior, you love man-kind

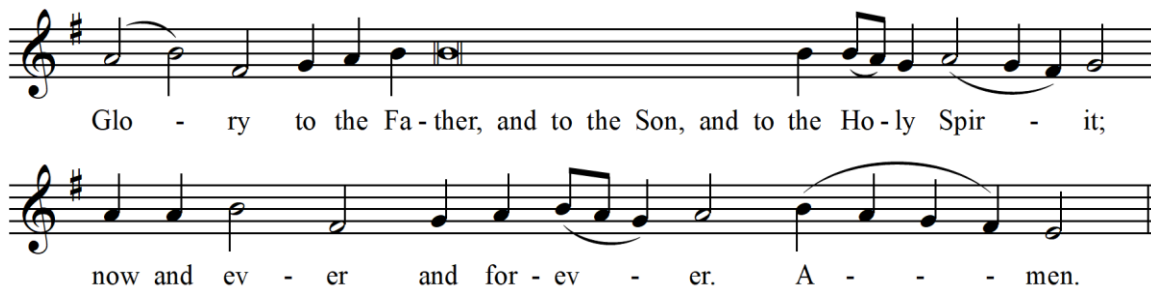


and are gra - cious; there - fore, re - mit all ^{his} her ^{their} voluntar-y and in -



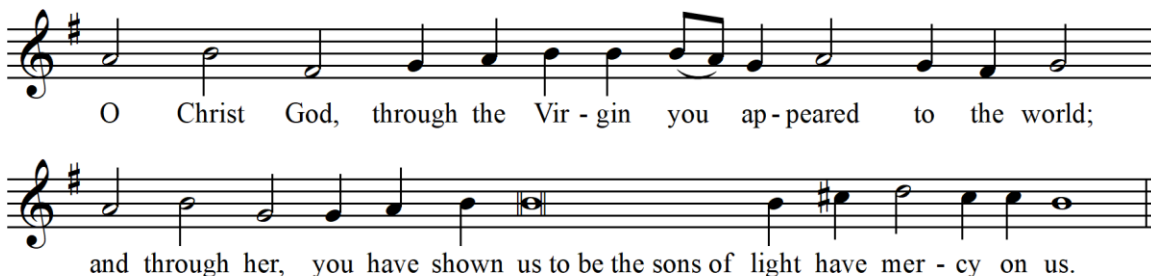
vol-un-tar-y sins and all those com-mit-ted know-ing-ly and un-know-ing - ly.

Cantor



Glo - ry to the Fa - ther, and to the Son, and to the Ho - ly Spir - it;
now and ev - er and for - ev - er. A - - - men.

All



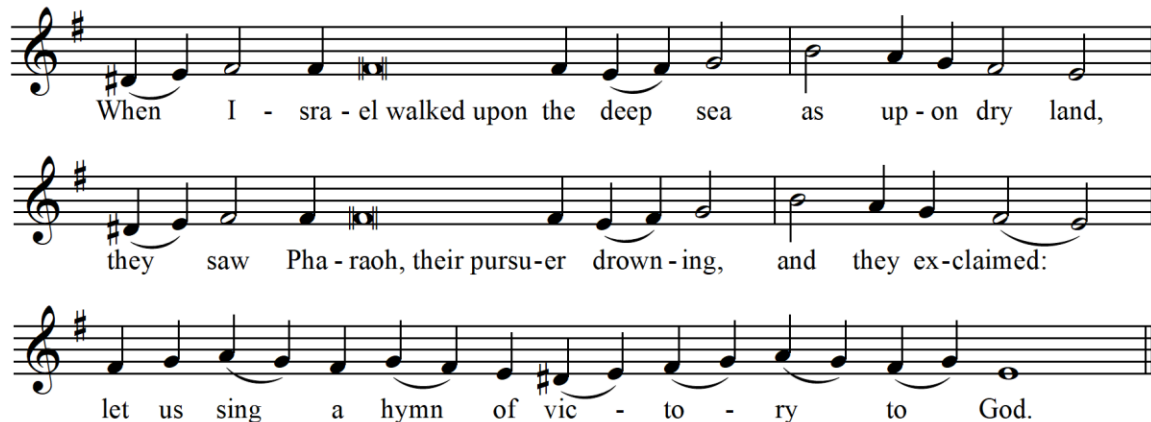
O Christ God, through the Vir - gin you ap - peared to the world;
and through her, you have shown us to be the sons of light have mer - cy on us.

*The faithful may SIT for the singing of the Irmos and Troparia of Ode One.
All of the verses are chanted by the celebrant.*

ODE ONE


Irmos:

“Jako po suchu pišeštvoval Izrail’ ...”

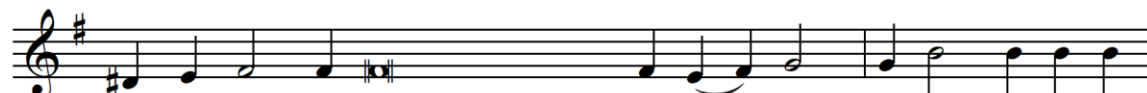


When I - sra - el walked upon the deep sea as up - on dry land,
they saw Pha - raoh, their pursu - er drown - ing, and they ex - claimed:
let us sing a hymn of vic - to - ry to God.

Verse:



O Lord, rest the soul[s] of your de - part - ed ser - vant[s].



The cour-age - ous Martys, in their heaven-ly man - sions, con-tin - u - al - ly

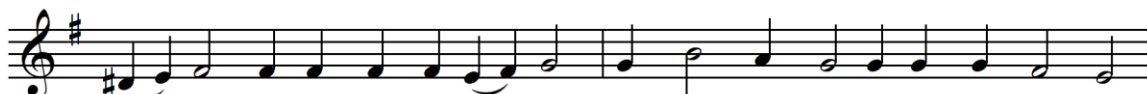


im-plore you, O Lord: Deem the faith - ful whom you have take-en from the earth




wor - thy to re-ceive your e - ter - nal bless - ings.


Verse: O Lord, rest the soul[s] of your departed servant[s]. (*As above*)



You, set - ting all things in or - der, have fash-ioned me, a com-plex crea-ture,

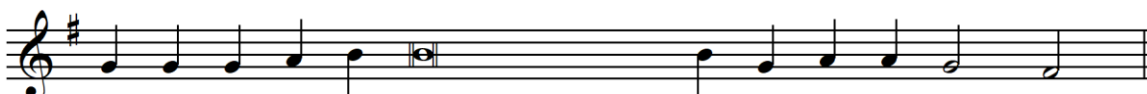


plac-ing me be - tween loftiness and low-li-ness. There-fore, O Sav - ior,



give rest to the soul[s] of your ser - vant[s].

Verse:



Glo - ry to the Fa - ther, and to the Son, and to the Ho - ly Spir - it.

In the be-gin - ning you made me an in-hab - i - tant and cust - o - di - an

of par - a - dise; but when I transgressed your command, you ban - ished me.

There - fore, O Sav - ior, give rest to the soul[s] of your

ser - vant[s].

Verse:

Now and ev - er and for - ev - er. A - men.

God first fash - ioned from a rib, Eve, the moth - er of us all.

Then from your most ho - ly womb, O Pure One, he took flesh

by which he de - stroyed the po - wer of death.

KONTAKION

Resurrection Tone 8

With the saints, O Christ, give rest to your ser - vant[s], where there is no pain,
sor-row, nor mourn - ing, but lfe ev - er-last - ing.

OIKOS

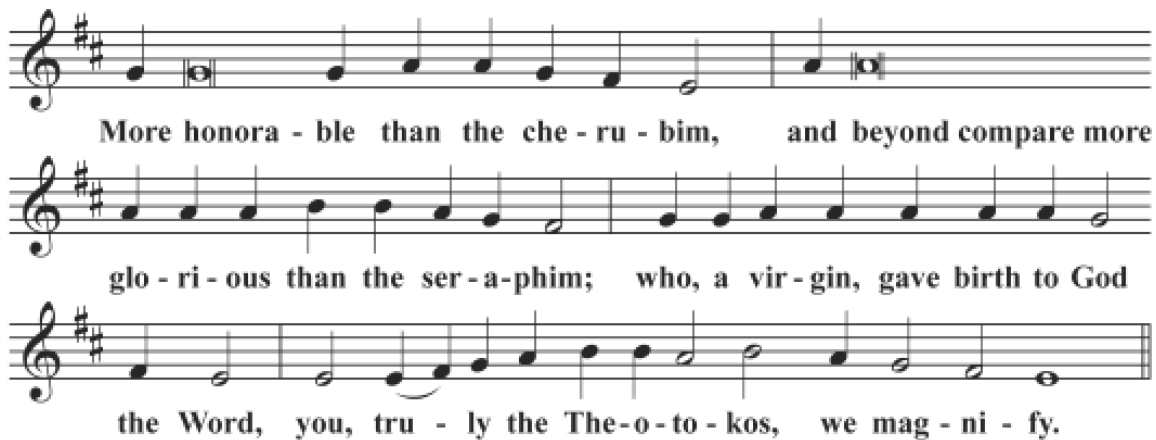
Celebrant: (*Recitando*) You alone, who created and fashioned man, are immortal; for we earthlings, being made from the earth, shall also return to the same earth, as you, my Maker, commanded, saying to me: “Because you are earth you shall also return into the earth,” where all mortals shall go, singing as our funeral hymn:

Response:

Al - le - lu - ia! Al - - - le - lu - - - ia!
Al - le - lu - - - ia!

After the Odes, the faithful may STAND and sing:

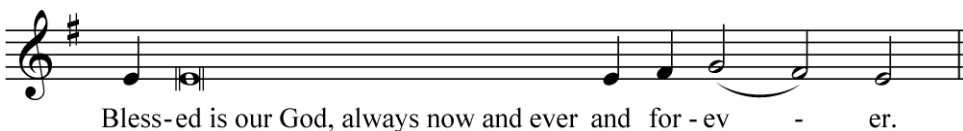
It is tru-ly prop-er to glo-ri-fy you, O The-o-to-kos,
the ever-blessed, immaculate, and the mo-ther of our God.



More honora - ble than the che - ru - bim, and beyond compare more
 glo - ri - ous than the ser - a - phim; who, a vir - gin, gave birth to God
 the Word, you, tru - ly the The - o - to - kos, we mag - ni - fy.

*A Panachida may now be sung;
 otherwise, the Parastas concludes with the Dismissal.*

PANACHIDA

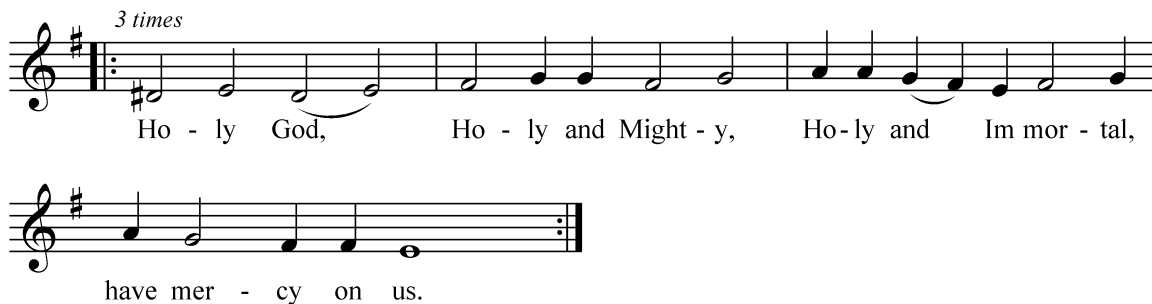
Celebrant: 

Bless-ed is our God, always now and ever and for - ev - er.

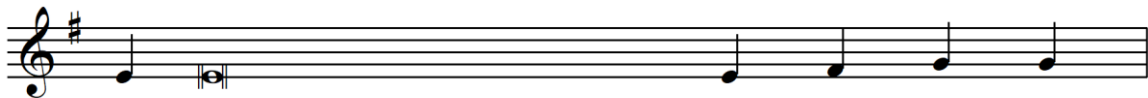
Response: 

A - men.

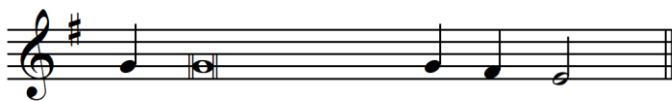
3 times



Ho - ly God, Ho - ly and Might - y, Ho - ly and Im mor - tal,
 have mer - cy on us.



Glo - ry to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Ho - ly Spir - it,



now and ever and forev - er. A - men.



Most Holy Trinity, have mercy on us; Lord, cleanse us of our sins;



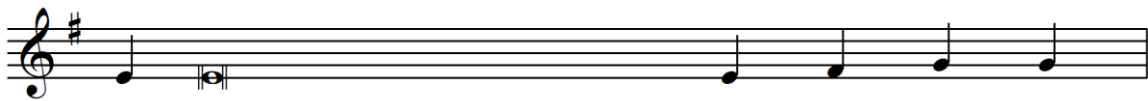
Mas - ter, forgive our trans - gres - sions; Ho - ly One, come to us and heal



our infirmities for your name's sake.



Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.



Glo - ry to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Ho - ly Spir - it,



now and ever and forev - er. A - men.

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come; thy will be done on earth as it is in heav-en. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespass-es as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not in-to temp-ta-tion, but deliver us from e-vil.

Celebrant: For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and ever and forever.

Response: A - men.

Troparia – Tone 4

With the souls of the just brought to per-fec-tion, give rest, O Sav-ior, to the soul[s] of your ser-vant[s], keep-ing ^{him} _{her} _{them} for the bless-ed life with you. for you love us all.



In your place of rest, O Lord, where all your saints re - pose, give



rest to the soul[s] of your ser - vant[s], for you a-lone love us all.



Glo - ry to the Fa-ther, and to the Son, and to the Ho-ly Spir - it.



You are the God who descend-ed in - to Ha - des and loosed the bonds of



those im-pris - oned there. Now, O Sav - ior, give rest to the soul[s] of your



ser - vant[s].



Now and ev - er and for - ev - er. A - men.

Vir - gin, u-niqu-ly pure and im-mac-u-late, with-out seed you gave birth
to God. In-ter-cede for the salvation of the soul[s] of your ser - vant[s].

Litany for the Deceased:

Deacon: Have mercy on us, O God, according to your great mercy, we pray you, hear and have mercy.

Response:

Lord, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.
Lord, have mer - cy.

Again we pray for the repose of the soul[s] of the departed servant[s] of God, *(Name/s)*, and that *(his-her-their)* every transgression, voluntary and involuntary be forgiven.

Response:

Lord, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.
Lord, have mer - cy.

May the Lord God commit *(his-her-their)* soul[s] to the place where the just repose.

Response:

Lord, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.

Lord, have mer - cy.

For the mercy of God, for the kingdom of heaven, and for the remission of (*his-her-their*) sins, let us beseech Christ, the immortal King and our God.

Response:

Grant this, O Lord.

Let us pray to the Lord.

Response:

Lord, have mer - cy.

The celebrant prays aloud:

Celebrant: O God of spirits and of all flesh, you trampled death and broke the power of the devil and granted life to your world. Now grant rest, O Lord, to the soul[s] of your departed servant[s] (*Name/s*), in a place of light, joy, and peace where there is no pain, sorrow, nor mourning. As a good and loving God, forgive every sin committed by (*him-her-them*) in word, deed, or thought, since there is no one who lives and does not sin. You alone are without sin; your justice is eternal justice; and your word is truth.

For you, O Christ our God, are the resurrection, the life, and the repose of your departed servant[s] (*Name/s*), and we give glory to you, with your eternal Father, and your all-holy, good, and life-creating Spirit, now and ever and forever.

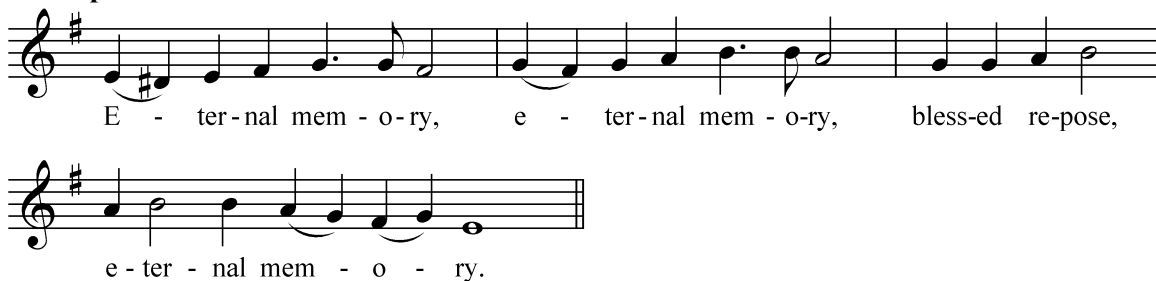
the just, and have mercy on us and save us through the prayers of his most pure Mother; and of the holy, glorious, and illustrious apostles; of our venerable and God-bearing fathers; and through the prayers of all the saints; for Christ is good and loves us all.

Response: 
A - men.

Intonation for the Deceased:

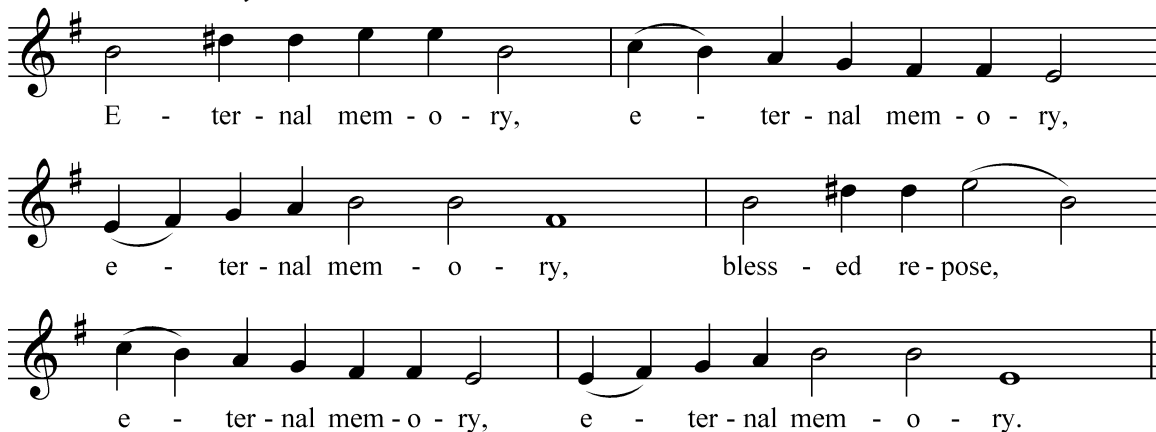
Celebrant: In blessed repose, grant, O Lord, eternal rest to your departed servant[s] (*Name/s*) and remember (*him-her-them*) forever.

Response:



E - ter - nal mem - o - ry, e - ter - nal mem - o - ry, bless - ed re - pose,
e - ter - nal mem - o - ry.

alternate melody



E - ter - nal mem - o - ry, e - ter - nal mem - o - ry,
e - ter - nal mem - o - ry, bless - ed re - pose,
e - ter - nal mem - o - ry, e - ter - nal mem - o - ry.



Patronage of the Mother of God

✠ CATHOLIC CHURCH ✠

Byzantine Ruthenian Rite

Eparchy of Passaic

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