

Vespers propers: August 15

THE DORMITION OF THE MOTHER OF GOD AND EVER- VIRGIN MARY. Tradition relates that the Mother of God died in Jerusalem, after a visit with all of Christ's apostles. They carried her coffin to the Garden of Gethsemane where it was placed into a tomb. The apostle Thomas came late, and asked that the tomb might be opened so that he could reverence her body. When opened, the tomb was found empty except for the winding sheet.

Supplement for The Order of Vespers for Sundays after Pentecost, 2005

Psalm 140, Tone 1 (begins on page 24)

Bring my soul out of this prison
and then I shall praise *your* name.

Around me the just will assemble
because of your goodness *to* me.

Cantor: Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord;
(on 8) Lord, hear my voice!

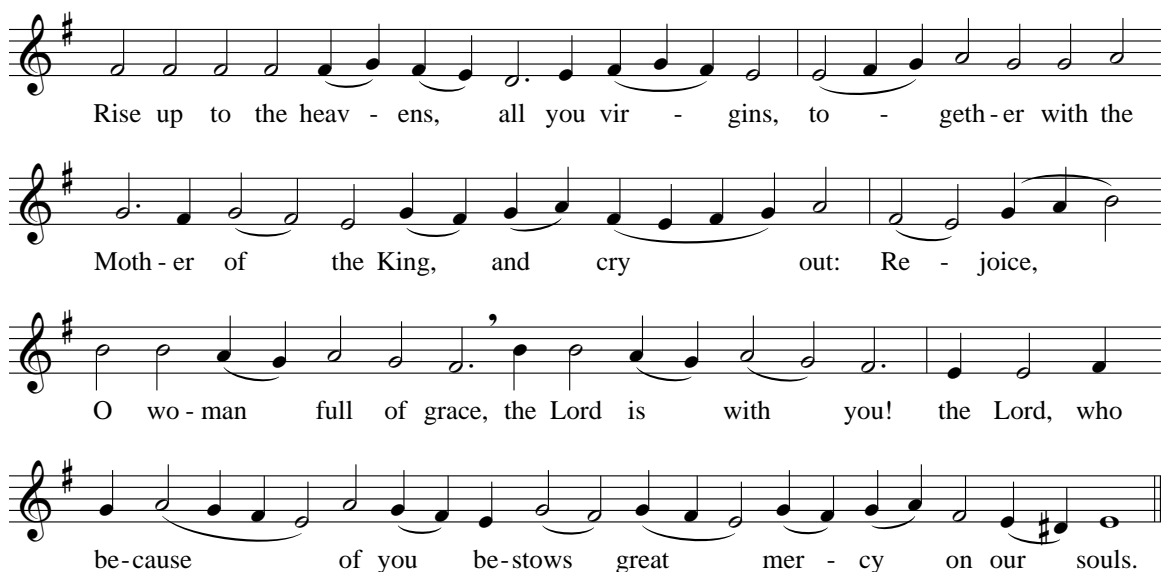
Tone 1 Samopodoben "O divnoje^v cudo"

O what a won - - - der! The Source of Life It - self
is placed in a tomb; the grave be - comes a lad - der to
heav - en. Re-joyce, Geth - se - ma - ne, ho - ly cham-ber
of the The - o - to - kos. As for us, O faith - ful,

let us cry out with Ga - bri-el, the prince of an-gels: Re - joice,
 O wo - man full of grace, the Lord is with you! the Lord, who
 be-cause of you be-stows great mer - cy on our souls.

- Cantor:** Let your ears be attentive
 (on 7) to the voice of my pleading. (*Repeat "O what a wonder..."*)
- (on 6) If you, O Lord, should mark our guilt, Lord, who would survive?
 But with you is found forgiveness: for this we revere you. (*Repeat "O what a wonder..."*)
- (on 5) Because with the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption,
 Israel indeed he will redeem from all its iniquity.

O La - dy, mar - v'lous are your mys - ter - ies. You have be - come
 the throne of the Most High, and to-day are tak - en from earth to
 heav - en. Your glo-ry shines forth with the ra - diance of di-vine grace
 and sur - pass - es ev - 'ry oth - er splen - - - - dor.

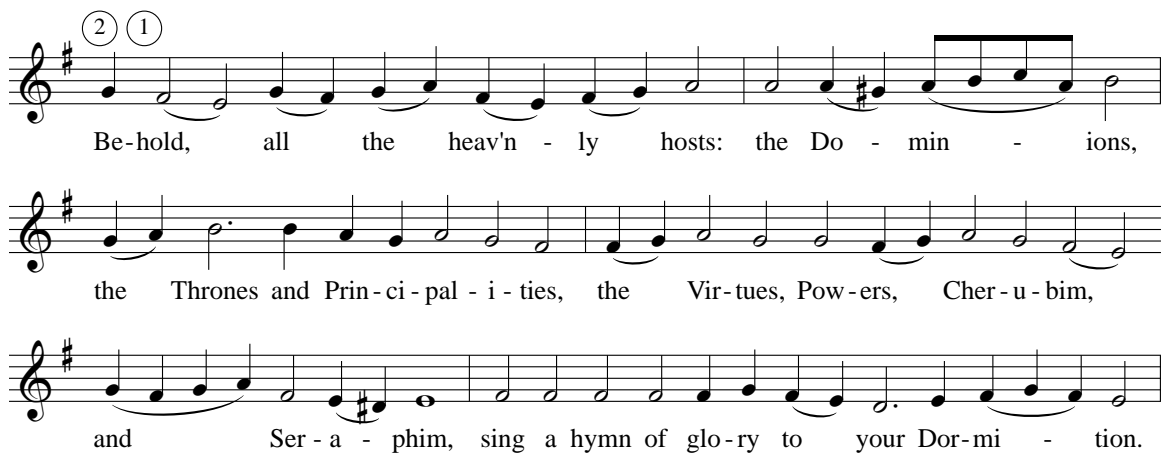


Rise up to the heav - ens, all you vir - gins, to - geth - er with the
 Moth - er of the King, and cry out: Re - joice,
 O wo - man full of grace, the Lord is with you! the Lord, who
 be - cause of you be - stows great mer - cy on our souls.

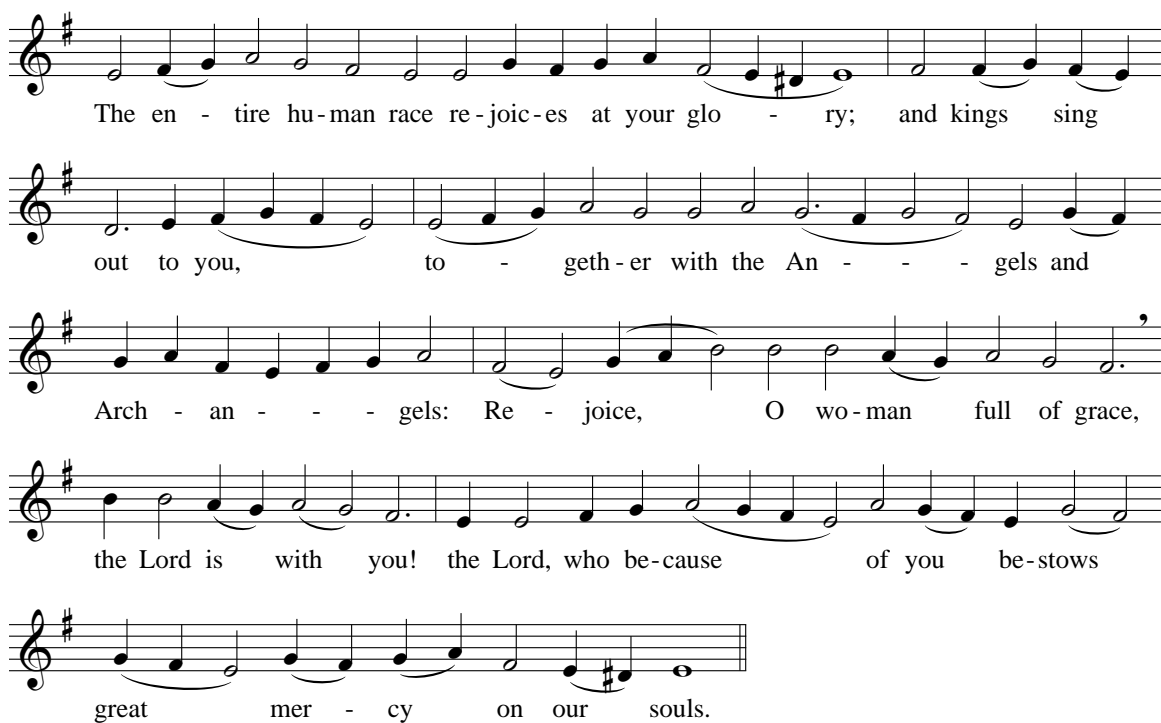
Cantor: Let the watchman count on daybreak,
 (on 4) and Israel on the Lord. (*Repeat "O Lady, marv'lous are your mysteries..."*)

(on 3) Because with the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption,
 Israel indeed he will redeem from all its iniquity. (*Repeat "O Lady..."*)

(on 2) Praise the Lord all the nations;
 acclaim him all you people.



Be - hold, all the heav'n - ly hosts: the Do - min - ions,
 the Thrones and Prin - ci - pal - i - ties, the Vir - tues, Pow - ers, Cher - u - bim,
 and Ser - a - phim, sing a hymn of glo - ry to your Dor - mi - tion.

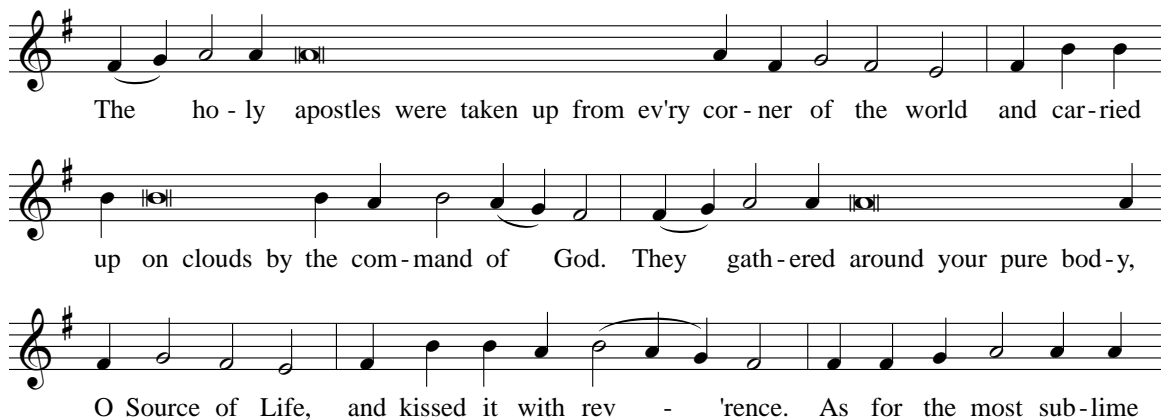


The en - tire hu-man race re-joic-es at your glo - ry; and kings sing
 out to you, to - geth-er with the An - - - gels and
 Arch - an - - - gels: Re - joice, O wo-man full of grace,
 the Lord is with you! the Lord, who be-cause of you be-stows
 great mer - cy on our souls.

Cantor: Strong is the love of the Lord for us;
 (on 1) he is faithful forever. (*Repeat "Behold, all the heav'nly hosts..."*)

Cantor: Glory...now and ever...

Theotokion - Tone 1 Samohlasen



The ho - ly apostles were taken up from ev'ry cor - ner of the world and car-ried
 up on clouds by the com-mand of God. They gath-ered around your pure bod-y,
 O Source of Life, and kissed it with rev - 'rence. As for the most sub-lime

pow-ers of heav - en, they came with their own lead - er to es-cort
 and to pay their last respects to the most honor-a-ble bod - y that had con-tained
 Life it - self. Filled with awe, they marched together with the apostles in si - lent
 maj-es - ty, pro-fess - ing to the princes of heaven in a hushed voice: Lift up
 your gates and receive with be-com - ing maj - es - ty, the Moth - er of the Light
 that nev - er fades, be - cause, through her, sal - vation was made possible for our
 hu - man race. She is the One up-on whom no one may gaze, and to whom
 no one is able to render suf-fi - cient glo - ry, for the spe - cial honor that made
 her sublime is beyond un - der - stand - ing. There-fore, O most pure

The - o - to - kos, for - ev - er alive with your Son, the Source of Life,
do not cease to in - ter - cede with him that he may guard and save your people
from ev - 'ry trou - ble; for you are our in - ter - ces - sor. To you we
sing a hymn of glo - ry with loud and joyful voic - es
now and for ev - - - er.

Hymn of the Evening, p. 12
Prokeimenon for the day of the week, pp 114-115

Readings: Genesis 28: 10 - 17
Ezekiel 43: 27 through 44: 4
Proverbs 9: 1 - 11

The service continues with the Litany of Fervent Supplication, p.13

At the Litija

Tone 1 Bolhar

①
Be-cause the dis-ci-ples had been both the eye-wit-ness-es and serv - ants of
the Word, it was al - so fitting that they should wit-ness the fi - nal mys-ter-y,

the Dor-mi-tion of his moth-er ac-cord - ing to the flesh. They not on-ly saw

the Ascension of the Sav-ior from earth to heav - en, but they al - so were

wit-ness-es of the translation of the Moth - er who bore him. They came to

Zi - on to escort the Virgin, who sur-pass - es the Cher - u - bim, as she hast-ened

in her jour - ney to heav - en. With them let us al - so bow low

be - fore the One who in - ter-cedes for our souls.

②

Tone 2 Bolhar

She is high - er than the heav - ens, more glo - rious than the

Cher - u - bim, and more hon - 'ra - ble than all cre - a - tion.

Her out - stand-ing pu - ri - ty be - came the dwell - ing place

of the eter-nal Di-vin - i - ty. To - day she places her all-pure soul in-to the
hands of her Son. With her, the u - ni-verse is filled with joy,
and the grace of salva - tion is giv - en to us.

③

The most pure Spouse, the Moth-er of the One in whom the Fa - ther
is well - pleased, she whom God had cho - sen to be - come
the dwell-ing-place of his na - tures that had been u - nit - ed with-out
con - fu - sion, to - day de - liv - ers her most pure soul to her di - vine
Cre - a - - - tor. The an - gels wel-come her in a di - vine
man - ner, and the Moth - er of Life is now trans - ferred to life.

She is the lamp of the inaccessible brightness, the
 hope of souls and the salvation of believers.

Tone 3 samohlasen

4
 Come, all you ends of the earth, let us praise the blessed passing of the
 Theotokos. She delivers her sinless soul into the hands of her Son;
 through her holy Dormition the world is given new life. With psalms
 and hymns and spiritual canticles, the whole world celebrates in joy
 together with the apostles and angels.

Cantor: Glory...

Doxastikon - Tone 5 Bolhar

Come, all you lovers of the feast, let us form choirs and

fill the Church with our hymns in hon - or of the fall - ing a - sleep

of the Ark of God, To - day heav - en in - deed o - pens its bos - om

to re - ceive the Moth - er of the One whom the u - ni - verse can - not con - tain.

The earth gives back the Source of Life and re - ceives the bles - sing

of the Lord, The choir of an - gels and a - pos - tles look with awe

as they see the one who gave birth to the Prince of Life now, her - self,

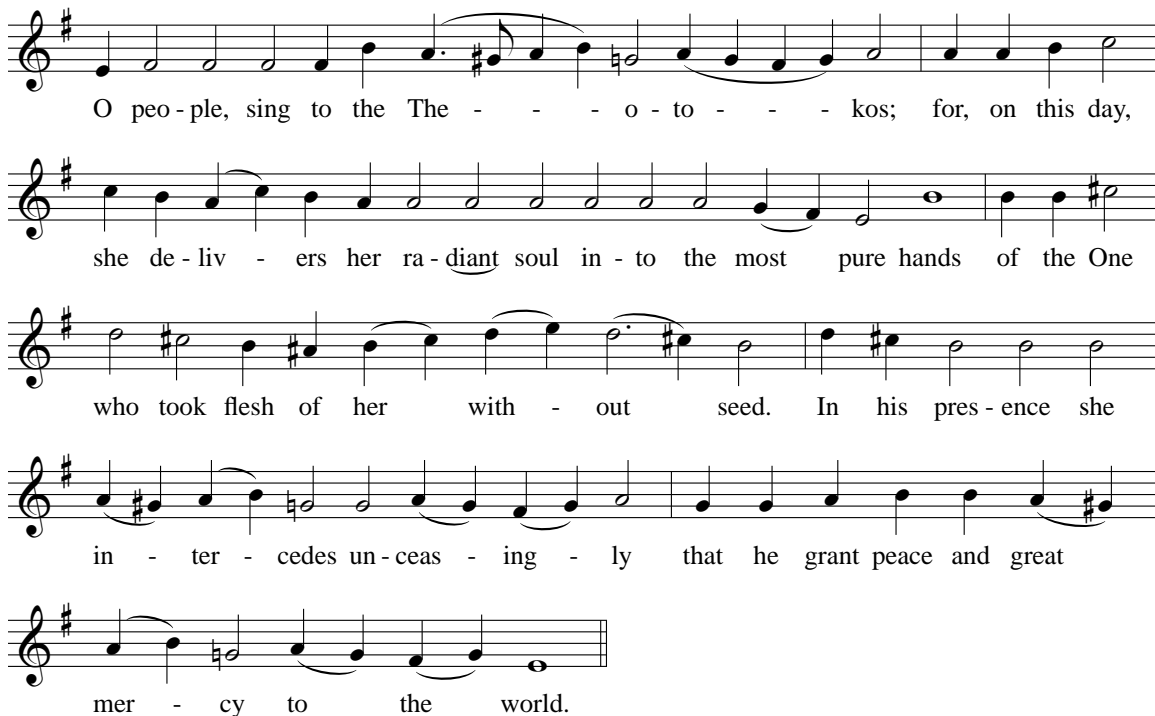
pass from life to life. Let us all bow be - fore

her and say: O La - dy, do not for - get the chil - dren of your house

who cel - ebrate your holy Dor - mi - - - tion in faith.

Cantor: Now and ever...

Theotokion



O peo-ple, sing to the The - - - o - to - - - kos; for, on this day,
she de - liv - ers her ra - diant soul in - to the most pure hands of the One
who took flesh of her with - out seed. In his pres - ence she
in - ter - cedes un - ceas - ing - ly that he grant peace and great
mer - cy to the world.

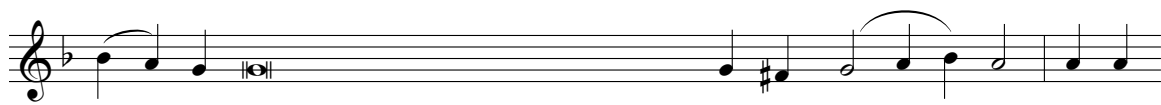
The service continues with the Litany of the Litija, p 116.

Aposticha



① All you peo-ple of the earth sing together a hymn of glo - ry to the
pure and most ho - ly Vir - gin from whom the Word of God came to us,

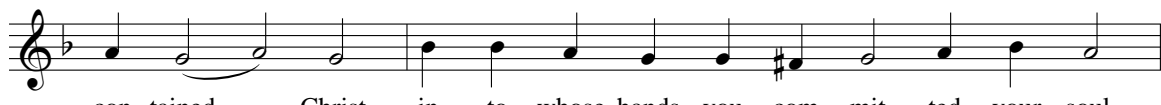
Tone 4




re - ceiv - ing flesh from her in a manner beyond un - der - stand - ing. Let us



cry out: Blessed are you a - mong wo - men, and bless - ed is your womb that



con - tained Christ, in - to whose hands you com - mit - ted your soul.



O pure Virgin, in - ter - cede with Christ God, that he may save our souls.

Cantor




Go up, Lord, to your rest, you and your ho - ly ark.

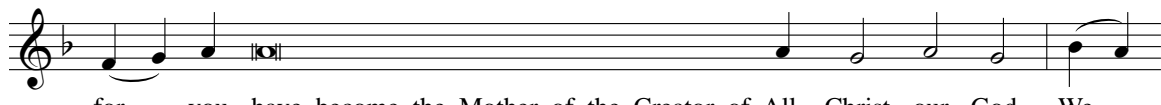
②



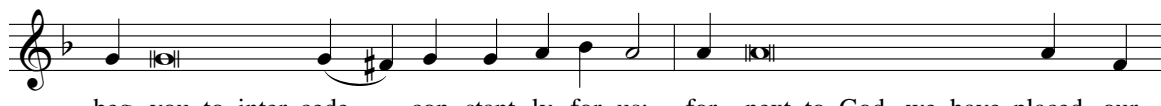
O pure and most ho - ly Vir - gin, the choirs of angels in heaven and the



assembly of peo - ple on earth sing the praises of your glori ous Dor - mi - tion;



for you have become the Mother of the Creator of All, Christ our God. We



beg you to inter - cede con - stant - ly for us; for, next to God, we have placed our

hope in you, O most glorious and ev-er Vir - gin The - o - to - kos.

Cantor

The Lord swore a true oath to Da-vid; he will not go back on his word.

③

With all the peo-ple of the earth, let us sing to Christ the hymn of praise that David

had sung of old. To - gether with her es-cort of vir - gins, with hap - piness and

rejoicing, she will be led to the King; for the fruit of Da - vid's seed,

the One through whom we have been led to God, has been lift - ted up to glory by

her Son and Mas - ter in a way that de - fies de - scrip - tion.

Since she is the The - o - to - kos. we sing to her a hymn of glory and cry out:

De - liv - er us from all harm and guard our souls from trib - u - la - tions.

We confess and proclaim that you are the The - o - to - - - kos.

Cantor: Glory...now and ever...

O virgin The-o - to - kos, at the time you were carried up to the One born of

you, in a manner beyond un - der - stand - ing, James and Pe - ter were pres - ent;

James, the broth - er of the Lord and first bish - op, and Peter, the

honorable head of the a - pos - tles and prince of the - o - lo - gians.

The whole col - lege of the apos - tles was al - so there, all in one accord

pro - claim - ing things di - vine, and prais - ing the astound - ing mys - t'ry of Christ,

and with joy, O most glorious one, prepar - ing your bod - - - y,

source of life and the tem - ple of God. The most ho - ly an - gel - ic pow'rs

were rapt in wonder at the sight of this mir - a - cle, and they said to
 one an - oth - er: Lift up your gates to receive the Mother of the Creator of
 heav - en and earth. Come, let us sing hymns to her noble and ho - ly bod - y
 that has contained the invis - i - ble Lord. There - fore, we al - so cel - e - brate
 your feast; and, O wom - an worthy of all praise, we cry out: O glorious
 Lady, exalt the Chris - tian peo - ples and in - ter - cede with Christ God that
 he may save our souls.

The service continues with the Prayer of the Holy Prophet Simeon, p. 19.

Troparion - Tone 1 *Sung three times*



O The - o - to - kos, in giv ing birth you preserved vir - gin - i - ty; and in your
fall - ing a - sleep you did not for - sake the world. You are the Moth - er of Life
and have been trans - ferred to life, and through your pray'rs
you de - liv - er our souls from death.

The service continues with the Blessing of Bread, p. 119