

# Funeral Service

**Priest:** Blessed is our Lord God, always; both now and ever, and to the ages of ages.

**Choir:** Amen.

## The First Stasis, in Tone 6

Ah, the blameless in the way. Alleluia. Blessed are You, O Lord, teach me Your statutes. Alleluia. My soul is worn with endless longing for Your judgments at all times. Alleluia. My soul has slumbered from sorrow; strengthen me with Your words. Alleluia. Incline my heart unto Your testimonies, and not unto covetousness. Alleluia. Despair took hold on me because of sinners that forsake Your Law. Alleluia. I am a partaker with all that fear You, and with them that keep Your commandments. Alleluia. Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, both now and ever, and to the ages of ages. Amen. Alleluia.

**Priest:** Have mercy on us, O God, according to Your great mercy; listen, and have mercy. Again we pray for the repose of the soul of the servant of God (*Name*), departed this life; and for the forgiveness of his (*her*), every transgression, voluntary; and involuntary. Let the Lord establish his (*her*), soul where the Just repose; the mercies of God, the Kingdom of the Heavens, and the remission of his (*her*), sins; let us ask of Christ our immortal King and our God. Let us pray to the Lord.

**Choir:** Lord have mercy.

**Priest:** For You are the Resurrection, the Life, and the Repose of Your servant (*Name*), O Christ our God; and to You do we send up glory, with Your Eternal Father, and Your All-Holy, Good and Life-creating Spirit, both now and ever, and to the ages of ages.

**Choir:** Amen.

## The Second Stasis, in Tone 5

Your hands have made and fashioned me; give me understanding, and I will learn Your commandments. Have mercy on me, O Lord. For I am become as a bottle in the frost; yet Your statutes have not forgotten. Have mercy on me, O Lord. I am Yours, O save me; for after Your statutes have I sought. Have mercy on me, O Lord. From Your judgments I have not declined, for You have set a Law for me. Have mercy on me, O Lord. I have inclined my heart to perform Your statutes, forever, in return for Your mercies. Have mercy on me, O Lord. It is time to serve the Lord; but they have violated Your law. Have mercy on me, O Lord.

Glory ... Both now ... Have mercy on me Lord.

**Priest:** Let us pray to the Lord. Lord have mercy.

**Priest:** For You are the Resurrection, the Life, and the repose of Your servant (*Name*), O Christ our God; and to You do we send up glory, with Your Eternal Father, and Your All-Holy, Good and Life-creating Spirit, both now and ever, and to the ages of ages. Amen.

## Third Stasis, in Tone 8

And have mercy upon me. Alleluia. Look upon me, and have mercy on me. According to the judgment of them that love Your Name. Alleluia. I am young and accounted as nothing. Your statutes have I not forgotten. Hear my voice, O Lord, according to Your mercy; According to Your judgments quicken me. Alleluia. Princes have persecuted me without a cause, and because of Your words my heart has been afraid. Alleluia.

My soul shall live, and shall praise You, And Your judgments will help me. Alleluia.

I have gone astray like a sheep that is lost. Seek Your servant, for I have not forgotten Your commandments.

**Priest:** Let us pray to the Lord. Lord have mercy. For You are the Resurrection and the Life and the Repose of Your servant (*Name*) O Christ our God; and to You do we send up glory, with Your Eternal Father, and Your All-Holy, Good and Life-creating Spirit, both now and ever, and to the ages of ages:

**Choir:** Amen.

### **Evlogetaria for the Dead**

Blessed are You, O Lord; teach me Your statutes.

The Choir of the Saints has found the Fountain of Life, and the Door of Paradise. May I also find the way through repentance: the sheep that was lost am I; call me up to You, O Saviour, and save me.

*If there are more than three priests, each repeats after each "Troparion ": "Let us pray to the Lord," followed by "For You are the Resurrection and the Life."*

Blessed are You, O Lord; teach me Your statutes.

You Who of old did fashion me out of nothingness, and with Your Image divine did honour me; but because of transgression of Your commandments did return me again to the earth where I was taken; lead me back to be refashioned into that ancient beauty of Your Likeness.

Blessed are You, O Lord; teach me Your statutes.

Image am I of Your unutterable glory, though I bear the scars of my stumbling. Have compassion on me, the work of Your hands, O Sovereign Lord, and cleanse me through Your loving-kindness; and the homeland of my heart's desire bestow on me by making me a citizen of Paradise.

Blessed are You, O Lord; teach me Your statutes.

Give rest, O God, unto Your servant, and appoint for him (*her*) a place in Paradise; where the choirs of the Saints, O Lord, and the just will shine forth like stars; to Your servant that is sleeping now do You give rest, overlooking all his (*her*) offenses.

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

The Triune Radiance of One Godhead with reverent song acclaiming let us cry; Holy are You, O Eternal Father, and Son also Eternal, and Spirit Divine; shine with Your light on us who with faith adore You; and from the fire eternal rescue us.

Both now and ever and to the ages of ages. Amen.

Hail, O Gracious Lady, that in the flesh bears God for salvation of all; and through whom the human race has found salvation: through You may we find Paradise, Theotokos, our Lady pure and blessed.

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia; Glory to You, O God.

### *Tone 8*

With the Saints give rest, O Christ, to the soul of servant where there is not pain, nor any sorrow, nor any sighing, but Life everlasting.

### **Composed by St. John of Damascus**

### *Tone 1*

Where is the pleasure in life which is unmixed with sorrow? Where the glory which on earth has stood firm and unchanged? All things are weaker than shadow, all more elusive than dreams; comes one fell stroke, and Death in turn, prevails over all these vanities. Wherefore in the Light, O Christ, of Your countenance, the sweetness of Your beauty, to him (*her*) whom You have chosen grant repose, for You are the Friend of Mankind.

### *Tone 2*

Like a blossom that wastes away, and like a dream that passes and is gone, so is every mortal into dust resolved; but again, when the trumpet sounds its call, as though at a quaking of the earth, all the dead shall arise and go forth to meet You, O Christ our God: on that day, O Lord, for him (*her*) whom You have withdrawn from among us appoint a place in the tents of Your Saints; yea, for the spirit of Your servant, O Christ.

### *Another in Tone 2*

Alas! What an agony the soul endures when from the body it is parting; how many are her tears for weeping, but there is none that will show compassion: unto the angels she turns with downcast eyes; useless are her supplications; and unto men she extends her imploring hands, but finds none to bring her rescue. Thus, my beloved brethren, let us all ponder well how brief is the span of our life; and peaceful rest for him (*her*) that now is gone, let us ask of Christ, and also His abundant mercy for our souls.

### *Tone 3*

Vanity are all the works and quests of man, and they have no being after death has come; our wealth is with us no longer. How can our glory go with us? For when death has come all these things are vanished clean away. Wherefore to Christ the Immortal King let us cry, "To him (*her*) that has departed grant repose where a home is prepared for all those whose hearts You have filled with gladness."

### *Tone 4*

Terror truly past compare is by the mystery of death inspired; now the soul and the body part, disjoined by resistless might, and their concord is broken; and the bond of nature which made them live and grow as one, now by the edict of God is rest in twain. Wherefore now we implore Your aid grant that Your servant now gone to rest where the just that are Yours abide, Life-bestower and Friend of Mankind.

### *Tone 4*

Where is now our affection for earthly things? Where is now the alluring pomp of transient questing? Where is now our gold, and our silver? Where is now the surging crowd of domestics, and their busy cries? All is dust, all is ashes, all is shadow. Wherefore draw near that we may cry to our immortal King, "Lord, Your everlasting blessings vouchsafe unto him (*her*) that now has gone away. bringing him (*her*) to repose in that blessedness which never grows old."

### *Tone 5*

I Called to mind the Prophet who shouted, "I am but earth and ash." And once again I looked with attention on the tombs, and I saw the bones therein which of flesh were naked; and I said, "Which indeed is he that is king? Or which is soldier? Which is the wealthy, which the needy? Which the righteous, or which the sinner?" But to Your servant, O Lord, grant that with the righteous he (*she*) may repose.

### *Tone 6*

My beginning and foundation was the form; bestowing Word of Your commandment; for it pleased You to make me by compounding visible and invisible nature into a living thing. Out of earth was my body formed and made, but a soul You gave me by the Divine and Life-creating in-breathing. Wherefore, O Christ, to Your servant in the land of the living, in the courts of the righteous, do You grant repose.

### *Tone 7*

Bring to his (*her*) rest, O our Savior, You giver of life, our brother (*sister*) whom You have withdrawn from this transient world, for he (*she*) lifts up his (*her*) voice to cry: "Glory to You."

### *Another in Tone 7*

When in Your own image and likeness You in the beginning did create and fashion man, You gave him a home in Paradise, and made him the chief of your creation. But by the devil's envy, alas, beguiled to eat the fruit forbidden, transgressor then of Your commandments he became; wherefore back to earth, from which he first was taken, You did sentence him to return again, O Lord, and to pray You to give him rest.

### *Tone 8*

Weep, and with tears lament when with understanding I think on death, and see how in the graves there sleeps the beauty which once for us was fashioned in the image of God, but now is shapeless, ignoble, and bare of all the graces. O how strange a thing; what is this mystery which concerns us humans? Why were we given up to decay? And why to death united in wedlock? Truly, as it is written, these things come to pass by ordinance of God, Who to him (*her*), now gone gives rest.

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

The death which You have endured, O Lord, is become the harbinger of deathlessness; if You had not been laid in Your tomb, then would not the gates of Paradise have been opened; wherefore to him (*her*), now gone from us give rest, for You are the Friend of Mankind.

Both now and ever and to the ages of ages. Amen.

Virgin chaste and holy, Gateway of the Word, Mother of our God, make supplication that his (*her*) soul find mercy.

## **Prokeimenon, Tone 3**

Blessed is the way wherein you walk today, for there is prepared for you a place of rest. (3)

Unto You, O Lord, will I cry.

## **The Epistle**

**Priest:** Wisdom!

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

**Priest:** Wisdom. 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 we shall always be with the Lord. Therefore comfort one another with these words.

**Priest:** Peace be to you who reads.

**Reader:** And with your spirit.

**Choir:** Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

## **The Holy Gospel**

**Priest:** Wisdom! Attend! Let us hear the Holy Gospel. Peace be to all.

**People:** And with your spirit.

**Priest:** The reading from the Holy Gospel of St. John. (John 5:24-30)

Let us attend.

**Choir:** Glory to You, O Lord, glory to You.

**Priest:** The Lord said to those Jews which had come 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 the 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 You, O Lord, glory to You.

**Priest:** Have mercy on us, O God, according to Your great mercy; we pray You listen and have mercy. Lord have mercy.

Again we pray for the repose of the soul of the servant of God (*Name*) departed this life; and for the forgiveness of him (*her*) every transgression, voluntary and involuntary. Lord have mercy.

Let the Lord God establish him (*her*) soul where the just repose; the mercies of God, the Kingdom of the Heavens, and remission of him (*her*) sins: let us ask of Christ our Immortal King and our God. Lord have mercy. Let us pray to the Lord.

**Choir:** Lord have mercy.

*The first-ranking priest approaches the deceased and says the following prayer in a loud voice; the other priests present simultaneously say the same prayer inaudibly.*

O God of all spirits and flesh, Who has trodden down death, destroying the power of the devil, bestowing life on Your world. to the soul of Your servant (*Name*) departed this life, do You Yourself, O Lord, give rest in a place of light, in a place of green pasture, in a place of refreshment, from where pain and sorrow and mourning are fled away. Every sin by him (*her*) committed in thought, word, or deed, do You as our good and loving God forgive, seeing that there is no man that shall live and sin not, for You alone are without sin: Your righteousness, and Your law is truth.

For You are the Resurrection, the Life, and the Repose of Your servant (*Name*), O Christ our God; and to You do we send up Glory, as to Your Eternal Father and Your All-Holy, Good, and Life-creating Spirit, both now and ever, and to the ages of ages. Amen.

**Priest:** Let us pray to the Lord. Lord have mercy.

*Each of the priests in turn blesses the deceased and says:*

For You are the Resurrection, the Life, and the Repose of Your servant (*Name*), O Christ our God; and to You do we send up Glory, as to Your Eternal Father and Your All-Holy, Good, and Life-creating Spirit, both now and ever and to the ages of ages. Amen.

*If the Funeral Service is presided over by a Bishop, he then says the following Prayer of Absolution.*

## **Prayers of Absolution**

*For the loosing from every curse and interdict, read for the deceased person by the Bishop.*

**Priest:** Let us pray to the Lord.

**Choir:** Lord have mercy.

**Priest:** O Lord our God, Who by Your unutterable wisdom have fashioned man out of the dust and transformed him into comeliness and beauty; and have adorned him, as a precious and heavenly creature, for doxology and magnificence of Your glory and Kingdom, in that You brought him into existence as a being fashioned according to Your image and likeness; and Who, when he had transgressed the commandment of Your ordinance, and kept it not, although he participated in Your image, gave command for this reason, as God of our fathers, to prevent evil from becoming immortal, decreeing that his composite and mixture, this bond which You made for joining body and soul unbreakably, should be sundered by Your divine Will, and be dissolved; so that the soul would

withdraw where it had required existence, and there abide until the general Resurrection; whereas the body would break up into the elements out of which it had first been compounded; for this reason we pray You, the beginning-less Father, and Your Only; Begotten Son, and Your All-Holy, Consubstantial and Life-creating Spirit, that endured not to see the work of Your fashioning swallowed up by destruction, but rather let the body indeed be dissolved into the elements, and let the soul be appointed a place in the Choir of the Just: Yea, O Lord our God, let Your Immeasurable mercy prevail, and Your man befriending love which is beyond compare; and if this servant has incurred the curse of father or mother, or a ban invoked upon himself (*herself*); or if he (*she*) has provoked any priest to bitter severity, and from him has incurred a ban unbreakable; or if he (*she*) has incurred a Bishop's very grievous interdict, but through thoughtlessness and needlessness has failed to obtain forgiveness; do You forgive him (*her*) through me, Your sinful and unworthy servant; and let his (*her*) body indeed dissolve into its elements, but his (*her*) soul do You appoint to dwell in the tents of the Saints. Yea, O Lord our God, Who to Your holy Disciples and Apostles gave this authority for granting remission of sins, and did say that whatsoever things they would bind and loose, those things would be bound and would be loosed; and Who through them in Your man befriending love has caused to be transmitted to us also, unworthy though we be, the same gift in equal measure; loose this Your servant (*Name*), now fallen asleep from sin of soul and body, and make him (*her*) to be now forgiven in this present world and in the world to come; through the intercessions of Your all-pure and Ever Virgin Mother, and of all the Saints. Amen.

### *Second Prayer of Absolution*

**Priest:** Let us pray to the Lord.

**Choir:** Lord have mercy.

**Priest:** Greatly merciful Sovereign Lord Jesus Christ our God, Who after Your holy, third-day resurrection from the dead gave to Your holy Disciples and Apostles the Keys of the Kingdom of Heaven, and also the authority of Your Grace both to bind and to loose the sins of men, so that bound in Heaven would be whatsoever things through them might be bound on earth, and likewise loosed in Heaven whatsoever things; through them might be loosed; and gave also that as their successors, we, Your deficient and unworthy servants, should have, by Your unutterable and man befriending love, this same exceedingly holy Gift and Grace from You, so that we in like manner should both bind and loose the things that happen to be done among Your people; Yourself, All-Good King, through me, Your humble and unprofitable servant, forgive this Your servant whatsoever mistakes as a human being he (*she*) has made in this present life: remit for him (*her*) whatsoever sins he (*she*) has committed in word, deed, and thought: and loose him (*her*) also from any ban which in any wise whatsoever has come upon him (*her*), whether he (*she*) himself (*herself*) out of recklessness or by some other fault has bound it upon himself (*herself*); or, by a Bishop or another, when, because of the envy and cooperation of the Evil One, he (*she*) stumbled into so grievous a state: be well pleased, as alone Good and greatly merciful, that his (*her*) soul be appointed a place with the Saints which from everlasting have been well pleasing to You, but that his (*her*) body be given to the nature which You have fashioned; for blessed and glorified are You to the ages. Amen.

### **Apolysis**

**Priest:** Glory to You, O Christ our God and our Hope; glory to You.

**Choir:** Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit both now and ever and to the ages of ages. Amen. Lord have mercy; Lord have mercy; Lord have mercy. Father, give the blessing.

**Priest:** May Christ our true God, Who rose from the dead, have mercy on us; He Who as Immortal King has authority over both the dead and the living. Through the intercessions of His spotless, pure, and holy

Mother; of His holy and just friend Lazaros, who lay in the grave four days; of the holy and glorious forefathers, Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob; may He give rest to our brother (*sister*), who has departed from us, and number him (*her*) among the just and holy, through His goodness and compassion, as our merciful God.

Everlasting be your memory, O our brother, who are worthy of blessedness and eternal memory. (3).

*For women:*

Everlasting be your memory, O our sister, who are worthy of blessedness and eternal memory. (3).

*And the Choir begins the Stikhera of the Last Kiss, singing as many as may be needed to fill up the time until all have said Farewell.*

*Tone 2*

Brethren, come, and let us a farewell kiss give to him (*her*) whom death has taken, and offer thanks to God. For he (*she*) has departed from the bosom of his (*her*) kin; and he (*she*) hastens to burial, no longer remembering vanity, nor yet the flesh which is often sore distressed. Where are now his (*her*) kindred and comrades? Now is come the hour of partings: let us pray to the Lord to bring him (*her*) to his (*her*) rest.

*Tone 2*

Brethren, what at this last moment means your distress of parting, your wailing? What means your funeral dirge? Come, and give a kiss to him (*her*) so lately with us: for consigned to the grave is he (*she*) with stone is he (*she*) to be covered. Darkness is his (*her*) dwelling place; he (*she*) with the dead is entombed. Come, all you his (*her*) kindred and comrades: now is come the hour of parting. Let us pray to the Lord to bring him (*her*) to his (*her*) rest.

*Theotokion*

Mother of the never setting Sun, Parent of our God, O preserve them that set their hope on you; intercede, we pray you, with our greatly gracious Lord, that repose may be granted him (*her*) that now is departed. In that habitation where repose the souls of the Just: and unto everlasting remembrance set him (*her*) in the courts of the Righteous, made all-blameless, as the heir of blessings divine.

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

Looking on me as I lie here prone before you, voiceless and unbreathing, mourn for me, everyone; brethren and friends, kindred, and you who knew me well; for but yesterday with you I was talking, and suddenly there came upon me the fearful hour of death: therefore come, all you that long for me, and kiss me with the last kiss of parting. For no longer shall I walk with you, nor talk with you henceforth: for to the Judge I go, where no person is valued for his (*her*) earthly station: Yea, slave and master together stand before Him, king and soldier, rich man and poor man, all accounted of equal rank: for each one, according to his (*her*) own deeds shall be glorified, or shall be put to shame. Therefore I beg you all, and implore you, to offer prayer unceasingly for me to Christ our God, that I be not assigned for my sins to the place of torment; but that He assign me to the place where there is Light of Life.

Both now and ever and to the ages of ages. Amen.

*Theotokion, Tone 6*



Through the prayers of her that gave You birth, O Christ, and the prayers of Your Forerunner, of Apostles, Prophets, Hierarchs, Ascetics, and of the Righteous, and of all the Saints, to Your sleeping servant do You grant repose.

**Priest:** Through the prayers of our Holy Fathers, Lord Jesus Christ, have mercy and save us.

**Choir:** Amen.

*If a Bishop is Presiding, he says:*

Through the prayers of our holy Fathers ...

**Priest:** Through the prayers of our holy Bishop. . .

*After the last farewell has been given we proceed to the grave, singing:*

I weep, and with tears lament . . .

## **The Burial**

*At the gravesite the Trisagion is sung. Then the Priest sprinkles the deceased in the form of the Cross with oil, saying:*

You shall sprinkle me with hyssop and I shall be clean. You shall wash me and I shall be whiter than snow.

*Then the priest sprinkles the deceased in the form of the Cross with earth, saying:*

The earth is the Lord's, and the fullness thereof; the world, and all that dwell therein. You are dust, and to dust you will return.

Through the prayers of our holy Fathers ...