

Encomia for the Dormition of the Most-holy Theotokos

FIRST STANZA

Mode pl. 1

1. In a tomb, O Pure one, you were truly interred,
as the woman who contained God within your womb
and ineffably gave birth to Him on earth.
2. Mary, as the Mother of the Giver of life,
how can you now die and dwell in a sepulcher,
since your Son has raised the dead out of decay?
3. He who set the measures of the earth, God the Word,
deigned to be contained, O Pure one, within your womb.
How do you now fit within a tiny tomb?
4. She who bore the Master, who is handsome and fair
more than any other man, is appearing wan,
now succumbing as she does to nature's laws.
5. Through you stripped was Hades, whereas we have been clothed
with the glory of the Lord, O All-holy one.
So how is it that you bow to nature's laws?
6. Sting of death was shattered, holy Lady, through you.
We are rid now of corruption. So how is it
that you die and are accounted with the dead?
7. You contained, O Mary, uncontainable God;
so we wonder how the field of Gethsemane
hides and covers you the holy shrine of God.
8. Bride of God, O Mary, who gave birth unto to Christ
as an infant here on earth so that He might save
man from death, you have gone down beneath the earth.
9. Nature and noetic multitudes are amazed
at the mystery of your inexpressible
and all-glorious entombment, Virgin Maid.

10. Oh, uncommon wonders! Oh, such things that are new!
She who gave birth to the One who gave breath to me
lies now breathless and is buried as one dead.
11. By divine decision, the Apostles are brought
unto you, O Virgin, lifted up on the clouds,
to inter your holy body in the grave.
12. The noetic armies in their multitudes run
with Apostles and the Saints to your funeral,
O immaculate, the Mother of our God.
13. Powers, Thrones, Dominions, Cherubim, Seraphim,
Principalities and Virtues together sing
and with rev'rence honor your falling asleep.
14. You have died succumbing to the law of all flesh,
even you who had defied nature's ordinance,
pure and Virgin Mother, in your giving birth.
15. The noetic orders, O immaculate Maid,
seeing you supine and dead, were beside themselves;
in astonishment they hid beneath their wings.
16. O pure Maid, the Angels singing heavenly hymns
praised in song your three-day funeral and burial,
and they magnified the glory that is yours.
17. Like another heaven did the all-holy town
of Gethsemane become when it had received
your all-spotless body, O all-blessed one.
18. Wherever the body of the Mother of God
has its dwelling, there the troops of the heavenly
and angelic powers rev'rently abide.
19. Wider than the heavens did the Son of our God
make your body, O immaculate Bride of God,
and your womb He truly made a divine throne.

20. Seeing dead and speechless you the Mother of Life,
the Disciples of the Word were beside themselves,
O pure Maiden, with astonishment and awe.
21. While a grave now covers your pure body, O Maid,
yet your Son has your divine soul in His embrace;
and He carries it resplendently aloft.
22. Though confined, O Mary, in the tiniest tomb,
yet by all creation you are acknowledged as
Queen of heaven and the earth, O Virgin pure.
23. Even though we see you as one dead in a tomb,
yet we know that you are clearly the Mother of
Jesus God the Word, and Bride of the Most High.
24. Even though we see you as a mortal entombed,
yet we know you and proclaim you the flower of
incorruption and the Mother of our God.
25. We the faithful know you to be truly the key
to Kingdom of our God, Ever-virgin Maid,
even though the tomb conceals you as one dead.
26. You became the portal of salvation for us,
and the author of our spiritual renaissance,
even if you now submit to natural death.
27. Now the tomb contains you as the jar, which of old
once contained heavenly manna, O Virgin pure,
and all-holy Lady, and the cause of Life.
28. Now the rod that blossomed the sweet bud, namely Christ,
has been buried in the earth in a sepulcher,
so that she might bear for us salvation's fruit.
29. Lady, as a symbol of the comfort you give
to those weeping, by the Valley of Weeping has
your immaculate pure body been interred.

30. O all-blameless Lady, your own body was laid
there where all the dead and the living will then be judged,
as a means to importune the Judge of all.
31. Among mortals truly you alone have shone forth
as a type of Resurrection, all-lauded one;
you alone appease the Lord for those who sin.
32. You became the throne of the Most High, O pure Maid;
now from earth you are transported to heaven's realm,
being translated to everlasting life.
33. When the congregation of Apostles arrived
at your funeral they cried out and beat their breasts,
and lamenting they did mourn their loss of you.
34. Having by your childbirth killed the enemy death,
to immortal dwellings you are transported now,
since you bowed to mortal nature's laws and died.
35. The angelic choirs in the heavens rejoiced
in receiving you, O pure one, as you were led
up from the earth into the heavenly abodes.
36. As of old you gave birth, passing reason and speech,
even so now you, O pure one, were translated
paradoxically to heaven from the earth.
37. Virgin, earth and heaven have been filled with delight;
for through you, who were most wondrously taken up
to the heights, they are united after all.
38. Now you stand beside God in the heights, being dressed
in the variegated graces, as David said,
as the Queen and as the Mother of our God.
39. You were paid a visit three days prior to death
from an Angel of the Lord, O all-blameless one;
he informed you of your transfer to the heights.

40. The Archangel who was sent from heaven to you
brings a palm branch unto you, O all-holy one,
as a symbol of your rising to the heights.
41. You were filled, O Pure one, with such infinite joy
on receiving from the Archangel Gabriel
the announcement of your transfer to the heights.
42. The trees of the mountain bow their branches to you,
O Immaculate, and thus do they honor you
as their Mistress, and they show you their respect.
43. Holy Maid, from heaven unto Zion for you
did the armies of the bodiless powers come
with all rev'rance, with their Master and your Son.
44. The fearsome Archangel amputated the hands
of the man who so audaciously dared to touch
you, O Lady, God's divine and living Ark.
45. Wailing lamentations, shedding tears over you,
all your women friends did mourn at your burial.
Your departure was unbearable for them.
46. As they did at that time, likewise fervently now
we implore you, O our Lady, abandon not
us your servants to be orphans as you part.
47. From the heavens beckon unto us here on earth
as we honor your Dormition, O Lady pure,
and send down infinite mercy from your Son.
48. Fountain of the graces, Spring of miracle cures,
we entreat you who possess mercy infinite,
never cease to show your tender love for us.
49. All the Prophets' sayings are fulfilled now in you,
O all-holy Virgin, Lady immaculate,
in your passing into never-ending life.

50. Even as your forebear Prophet David once said
in his Book of Psalms, O Lady immaculate,
you now stand beside the throne of God as Queen.
51. You, the tabernacle of the Logos of God
and His bridal room, indeed had to bodily
rise to mansions in the heavens there to dwell.
52. Thomas was not present, by divine plan indeed,
at your burial, so that we might also know
your Assumption, O Immaculate and Pure.
53. Piously he also wished to pay his respects
to your holy body, wholly immaculate,
but instead he found your grave empty indeed.
54. Come, O you believers, let us piously run
all together to our Mistress's funeral,
as she rises into heaven from the earth.
55. With the God-inspired men who quoted the Psalms,
let us reverently also sing funeral hymns
at the burial of her who is all pure.
56. You, O holy Maiden, as the table that held
expiation in abundance, are transferred now
to divine and holy dwellings of delight.
57. Now the golden lamp-stand, that before had received
the immaculate divine Light, is taken up
to the inner tabernacle of the Lord.
58. Now the holy ladder, which of old Jacob saw
in a dream, and by which came down the Most High God,
is exalted into heaven from the earth.
59. Now the bridge that carried those who died in the past,
due to Adam's disobedience, out of death
to immortal Life, is taken up on high.

60. We on earth join chorus with the heavenly minds,
and the Angels now consort with humanity,
as, O Virgin, you are taken up to God.
61. As the holy lantern of ineffable Light,
O pure Maiden, never cease from enlightening
from the heavens us your servants here on earth.
62. As a light and swift cloud, you have been lifted up
through the air to God, O Pure one; do ever rain
drops of your all-holy graces upon us.
63. In the calmest moorings of ineffable joy
are you moored now, Bride of God; therefore send your aid
to your servants who are storm-tossed on the earth.
64. In the Most High's dwellings, you, O pure Maiden, dwell;
guard and shelter from all trials this most divine
dwelling wherein God is magnified on earth.
65. Reinforce the scepters of the Orthodox Kings
and the horn of strength of your pious laity,
for you are the Lady of creation all.
66. As the navigators look into heaven's vault
for the North Star, which is fixed, so do all of us
gaze at you, O Maiden pure, for guiding light.
67. Pride and joy, O Lady, of devout priests are you,
and the bastion of the Church unassailable,
and the helper of ascetic monks and nuns.
68. We ever proclaim you to be Mother of God
and an all-pure Virgin, for we are Orthodox,
and, all-holy one, we glorify your might.
69. Now your tomb is gushing streams of graces divine,
and it also pours out healings and cures to all,
even though your body is no longer there.

70. We believers surely place our good hopes in you,
our unyielding intercessor before the Lord,
and a shelter unassailable and strong.
71. Pure one, make us worthy to be participants
in the kingdom of your Son, who is Christ our God.
Intercede with Him unceasingly for this.
72. For although we daily without thinking transgress
His commandments, and are thus disobedient,
even so never have we renounced His name.
73. Since you are the mother of the One who is good
and the lover of mankind, hence do good to us
as a good and loving mother that you are.

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

74. Logos, we extol You as the God over all
with the Father and Your all-holy Spirit too,
and we piously give glory unto You.

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

75. We beatify you, O pure Mother of God,
and we glorify your falling asleep today
and your rising into heaven from the earth.

In a tomb, O Pure one, you were truly interred,
as the woman who contained God within your womb
and ineffably gave birth to Him on earth.

SECOND STANZA

Mode pl. 1

1. Right it is indeed
that we magnify you who received God;
for you are the animate treasury
of the virtues and of every grace of God.
2. She who has contained
Him who holds the universe together
and is thus perceived as the house of God
is translated now to heaven, there to dwell.
3. You depart from us,
O all-venerable Virgin Mother;
even so your blessing and grace divine
have remained on us who piously believe.
4. Truly has your tomb,
virgin Maid, become for you a stairway
by which you ascended from earth below
to the joy and exultation that cease not.
5. Miracle indeed!
How, though husbandless, you nurse an infant,
how you have become now a lifeless corpse
yet without corruption, Mother of our God!
6. Mary, you indeed
raised a victory on mortal nature,
giving birth without seed to Christ; but now
giving in to mortal nature's law you die.
7. Stairway up to God
is your sepulcher, all-holy Virgin,
leading to the heights those who sing your praise
and who honor your Dormition on this day.
8. By your childbirth
all the earth, O Pure one, was illumined;

likewise now the atmosphere is sanctified,
O pure Maiden, by your heavenward ascent.

9. As we offer up
funeral hymns and songs to you, O Maiden,
as if fragrant spices for burial,
we entreat for expiation of sins.
10. O Immaculate,
this august house, in which lies your casket,
has become for us a reliable
sacred clinic for the body and the soul.
11. Here, wherein the hosts
of Apostles and the holy Angels
stood around your casket and sang to you,
holy Virgin, do we also stand today.
12. Now we bring to mind
the sublime and splendid ceremony,
which at your Dormition the company
of Apostles with the Angels then performed.
13. We, like they did then,
stand in wonderment of your Dormition,
and with fear and joy we are present now,
O Immaculate, at your most sacred tomb.
14. Fertile like the earth
is Gethsemane, that honored city,
for all people wishing to reap from it
their salvation, Virgin Mother, for all time.
15. Your tomb here below
and your Son's on high, O holy Virgin,
elevate the minds of believers all,
and they raise them up to heaven from the earth.
16. Like a pedestal,
does the Mount of Olives hold your tomb now.
Pure one, from above it was dignified
with the footprints of your Son as with a crown.

17. Virgin, it is clear
that without you as our mediatrix
we will be unable to walk aright
in the supernatural footsteps of your Son.
18. All-pure Maid, you are
the new tablet on which the divine Word
has been written. Pray that we be enrolled
in the book of Life, as we sing hymns to you.
19. Neither orators
nor the Angels have it in their power,
Virgin Mother, worthily to extol
you, the most respected Mother of our God.
20. He who by a nod
fixed the circle of the earth in the beginning,
made you into heaven when as a babe
He contained himself within your virgin womb.
21. From your womb your Son
willingly assumed the total Adam,
wishing to eradicate from our race
disobedience that in us was innate.
22. Shadow of the Law
has been terminated, Virgin Mother,
since you bore the Giver of that same Law,
who illumines us who piously believe.
23. Virgin pure, for you
in a most extraordinary manner
have the laws of nature been modified,
for your childbirth of God Emmanuel.
24. Only you appear
unto us as a life-bearing grapevine,
for you bore the ripe Bunch of grapes, your Son,
who makes glad the hearts of us who worship Him.
25. Moses saw of old
you, O Mary, as the bush that burned not

on Mt. Sinai, for you held in your womb
the divine fire and you also were not burned.

26. Daniel once saw you
as a mountain that had not been quarried
and from which uncut Christ, the Rock of life,
has been cut without the hand of man, O Maid.
27. You, O Bride of God,
have appeared as the noetic portal
of the divine orient that appeared
from on high to us the faithful here on earth.
28. Virgin, you gave birth
to the Light from Light for those in darkness
and the shadow, shining on all the earth;
and for those in error you became the Guide.
29. You have stayed the force
of corruption and of death, O Virgin,
in that without seed you gave birth to God,
the immortal Master and Giver of Life.
30. O most glorious
and pure Virgin, you preserved your body
and your soul unblemished before the Lord;
hence your beauty was indeed beloved of Christ.
31. You, O Maiden, are
a bright pillar that lights up the darkness
caused by sinful passions; you are a cloud
holding dew that brings refreshment in the heat.
32. Pure one, we know you
as a veritable thriving grapevine
bearing an abundance of tender love
and of grace for all who run to you in faith.
33. As a field indeed
that was never tilled, all-holy Virgin,
truly you have brought forth the Word of God
as the head of grain who nourishes our souls.

34. Virgin, you are called
by the faithful all, Luminous Morning,
bringing Christ the true Sun of Righteousness,
who dispels the gloom of ignorance from us.
35. Mary, O rejoice!
Through you joy into the world has shone forth,
and the curse against us has been removed,
in that you have borne the Savior here on earth.
36. Wonder most renowned
among Angels are you truly, Virgin,
and you are the wound most greatly bemoaned
by the demons, O pure Mother of our God.
37. Truly you became
like a fertile tree with fruit most luscious,
by which the believers are all sustained
as they pluck and eat its heavenly fruit.
38. Height, to which the thoughts
of humanity are hardly able
to ascend, are you, Maiden, and the depth,
which for Angels' eyes is hard to apprehend.
39. Virgin, only you
are the one God has specially chosen;
for that very reason for you alone
God has done great things, as you yourself once said.
40. You are beautiful,
and there is no spot on you, O Virgin.
This is what the Bridegroom, who fell in love
with your majesty and comeliness, cries out.
41. Virgin, there have been
many daughters who for God have acted
valiantly in times passed; but truly you
have surpassed them all and stand above them all.
42. Therefore, Lady pure,
we sing anthems to extol you glory,

melodies, the fruit of unworthy lips,
and we magnify the Lord, your only Son.

43. You had in your womb,
O Immaculate, the divine Wisdom
that pours out the streams of immortal Life;
therefore gush forth unto us life-giving streams.
44. O Immaculate,
with your Son we now participate in
life eternal and incorruptible;
hence we sing to you, O holy one, Rejoice!
45. Therefore we entreat,
as we bend to you the knees of our hearts,
Lady, do yourself likewise lend an ear
to the voices of your servants when we pray.
46. Even as through you,
O pure Maiden, the deceased are quickened,
likewise also quicken us who are dead
for committing many voluntary sins.
47. We commit our will
and volition and our expectation
and our soul and body and spirit too
and our whole life unto you, O Maiden pure.
48. Having confidence
in you, Lady, as our only refuge,
may we not fall short of our highest hopes,
rather may we all obtain your mighty aid.
49. Holy Maiden pure,
unto us send forth a mighty scepter,
for beneath your shelter we all have run,
and we earnestly take refuge in your care.
50. For, O Maiden pure,
we have no other protectress but you
who gave birth to Him who created us.
We present you as our advocate to Him.

51. Virgin, make us rich
with ideas of things good and noble,
for having transgressed the divine commands
we have mindlessly impoverished our souls.
52. Give light to the eyes
of our intellect, O Virgin Mary;
by your shining prayers guide us in the ways
of repentance, O all-holy Maiden pure.
53. Virgin Queen of all,
we your servants pray you make the Master
merciful to us, by your fervent prayers,
when He comes to judge all mortals on that Day.
54. Maiden, guide us straight
to the peaceful harbor of salvation;
we are tossed about on the sea of life
by the stormy winds of soul-destroying sins.
55. Water with the rain
of your mercies, Virgin Theotokos,
furrows of our souls, which are overrun
by the sinful passions as with thorny weeds.
56. Open up the door
of your mercy, O all-holy Maiden,
unto us who now call upon your name;
for you are the timely refuge for mankind.
57. Maid, instead of myrrh
do accept this period of fasting
that we keep to honor your Burial;
and the death of sinful passions give to us.
58. As your servants stand
by your sepulcher, all-holy Virgin,
graciously accept the melodious
odes they offer unto you as fragrant oils.
59. Pure one, we all know,
even if we offer odes in number

equal to the sands unto you, we do
nothing worthy of the gifts you give to us.

60. Every hymn and ode
is incapable of duly praising
your uncounted graces and all the gifts
we abundantly enjoy because of you.

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

61. To the Father, Son
and the holy Spirit we all send up
glory, honor worship most piously,
to the Trinity, all-holy and divine.

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

62. O believers all,
as the servants of the Theotokos,
let us sing her hymns that are Orthodox
and acceptable, extolling her today.

Right it is indeed
that we magnify you who received God;
for you are the animate treasury
of the virtues and of every grace of God.

THIRD STANZA

Mode 3

1. All generations offer,
O Virgin, hymns in honor
and praise of your entombment.
2. To death you have submitted,
O Virgin, who gave birth to
Him who dealt death to Hades.
3. In dying you went over
to the undying dwellings,
putting to death the foe death.
4. The hearts of all the pious
leap in exultation,
O Lady, at your funeral.
5. Earth is celebrating
while heaven dances, Lady,
as you are now uplifted.
6. You hasten to ascend now
into the heights, O Virgin,
being above the earthly.
7. O Virgin, you were transferred
to heaven, so that you might
behold your Son's great beauty.
8. You vivified the reaches
of the world, O Virgin,
by your divine Dormition.
9. Your sepulcher, O Virgin,
delivers us from passions,
and thus proclaims your glory.

10. Your sepulcher, O Virgin,
proclaims your true entombment
and also your translation.
11. We think that we are looking
at you, O Theotokos,
when we gaze at your body.
12. Standing in your temple,
we think that we are standing
in heaven, holy Virgin.
13. Pray to the Creator,
with the saints together,
O Virgin, and your parents.
14. Pray that He may count us
the Orthodox believers
worthy of joy forever.
15. Every nation's people,
O Virgin, call you Lady,
as they now venerate you.
16. And truly now, O Virgin,
every generation
forever calls you blessed.
17. Only those who killed Christ
in unbelief deny you
to be the Theotokos.
18. The other tongues and nations
surround your tomb, O Lady,
and faithfully extol you.
19. All of us entreat you
to grant us your protection,
O Virgin, and assistance.

20. No one who seeks refuge
in you, O Virgin Maiden,
departs from you embarrassed.
21. Imitating your Son
you grant requests, O Lady,
alike to saints and sinners.
22. For you want all people
to be saved, O Lady,
and to share your glory.
23. Maiden, we all know you
as one who loves all people,
for you are God's own Mother.
24. Who can truly tell of
your divine virtues,
O only Virgin Mother?
25. And who can list the blessings
that you give, O Lady,
so richly to all people?
26. Unto those who trust you,
both deceased and living,
You provide assistance.
27. You do whatever you wish,
for you can do all things
as Mother of the Most High.
28. Therefore, Maiden, guard us,
both deceased and living
who ever sing your praises.
29. Deliver us, O Virgin,
from the everlasting
fire of Gehenna.

30. You are the lone protectress
of poor and homeless people
and of orphans and widows.
31. And you are the sweetness
of Angels, Virgin Mary,
the joy of those in sorrow.
32. We all proclaim that you are
the shelter for us Christians,
indeed even our Mother.
33. By your intercessions,
raise us who have fallen
into the depths of evil.
34. Help us who revere you,
O virgin Maid, to follow
the footsteps of the Master.
35. While we are gripped in evils,
do not despise us, Virgin,
lest we utterly perish.
36. Knowingly and also
unconsciously we all sin,
offending you and your Son.
37. Nonetheless, we pray now
that you will not reject us,
O Virgin, from your presence.
38. Entreat your Son, O Lady,
that He will show compassion
on us when He will judge us.
39. For we know the power
of your intercession
upon your Son, O Maiden.

40. Many times you only
were able to appease Him
when we provoked His anger.
41. He honors you, His Mother,
and bends to your entreaties,
for you are due all glory.
42. As is right we also
with longing venerate you,
and sing hymns in your honor.
43. Through you, all-holy Maiden,
God the Logos truly
has recreated our race.
44. And through you He saves us,
who have taken refuge
in you, all-lauded Mary.
45. For you are God's chosen
instrument, O Virgin,
of humankind's salvation.
46. Therefore as you know best
do good to all your servants,
O Virgin Theotokos.
47. When burying your body,
with fragrant oils they sprinkled
your tomb, O holy Virgin.
48. Those present at your funeral
with fragrant oils and flowers
sprinkled your tomb, O Virgin.
49. Those present at your funeral
with fragrant oils sprinkled
your tomb, O Theotokos.

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

50. Father, Son and Spirit,
the Trinity, we pray You,
save us who adore You.

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

51. O all-holy Mother,
guard and shelter all those
who trust in you, O Lady.

All generations offer,
O Virgin, hymns in honor
and praise of your entombment.

All generations offer,
O Virgin, hymns in honor
and praise of your entombment.