

# The Lamentations

## Third Stasis

Ev-ery gen-er-a-tion, O my christ, of-fers -

prais- - es at Thy bu-ri-al Look upon me, and

be merciful unto me, according to the judgement of

those that love Thy name.

⑧ [ V. My zeal has consumed me, because mine enemies have forgotten Thy words.

O the folly of those who killed the prophets and slew Christ!<sup>38</sup>

⑨ [ V. Thy word is tried in the fire to the uttermost: therefore has Thy servant loved it.

Like a foolish servant, the disciple has betrayed the Abyss of Wisdom.

⑩ [ V. I am young and despised: yet have I not forgotten Thy statutes.

Judas the traitor has sold his Deliverer and himself become a captive.

⑪ [ V. Thy righteousness is an everlasting righteousness, and Thy law is truth.

As Solomon said, the mouth of the transgressing Hebrews is a deep pit.<sup>39</sup>

⑫ [ V. Trouble and anguish have taken hold on me: yet Thy commandments are my study.

In the crooked paths of the transgressing Hebrews there are thorns and snares.<sup>40</sup>

⑬ [ V. The righteousness of Thy testimonies is everlasting: give me understanding, and I shall live.

Joseph and Nicodemus bury the Creator with the honours that befit the dead.

⑭ [ V. I cried with my whole heart; hear me, O Lord: I will seek Thy statutes.

Life-giver and Saviour, Thou hast destroyed hell: to Thy power be glory!

⑮ [ V. I cried unto Thee; save me, and I shall keep Thy testimonies. When she saw Thee lying dead, O Word, the all-pure Virgin wept with a mother's grief.

⑯ [ V. I rose up before it was dawn, and cried: I have hoped in Thy word.

'O my sweet springtime, O my sweetest Child, where has all Thy beauty gone?'

⑰ [ V. Mine eyes woke before the morning: that I might meditate in Thy words.

<sup>38</sup> Matt. 23: 31.

<sup>39</sup> Prov. 22: 14.

<sup>40</sup> Prov. 22: 5.



When Thou, O Word, wast dead, Thine all-pure Mother raised a lamentation for Thee.

18 [ V. Hear my voice according unto Thy loving-kindness, O Lord: quicken me according to Thy judgement.

19 [ The women came with myrrh to anoint Christ, the Myrrh of God. V. They draw nigh that persecute me unlawfully: they are far from Thy Law.

By dying, O my God, Thou puttest death to death through Thy divine power.

20 [ V. Thou art near, O Lord; and all Thy ways are truth. The deceiver is deceived, and those he misled are set free by Thy wisdom, O my God.

21 [ V. Concerning Thy testimonies, I have known of old that Thou hast founded them for ever.

The traitor was cast down to the depths of hell, and to the pit of destruction.

22 [ V. Behold my humiliation, and deliver me: for I have not forgotten Thy law.

Thorns and snares beset the path of Judas the foolish and the thrice-wretched.

23 [ V. Judge my cause, and deliver me: quicken me according to Thy word.

All that crucified Thee shall be destroyed together, O Word, Thou Son of God and King of all.

24 [ V. Salvation is far from the wicked: for they have not sought Thy statutes.

In the pit of destruction shall all the men of blood be destroyed together.

25 [ V. Many are Thy tender mercies, O Lord: quicken me according to Thy judgement.

O Son of God and King of all, my God and my Creator, how hast Thou accepted suffering?

26 [ V. Many are they that persecute and afflict me: yet have I not turned aside from Thy testimonies.

As the mother of a foal, the Virgin gazed on Thee in grief when she saw Thee hanging on the Tree.

27 [ V. I beheld the foolish and was grieved; because they kept not Thy words.

And Nicodemus bury the body that is the Source of life.



28 [ V. See how I have loved Thy commandments: quicken me, O Lord, in Thy mercy.

Pierced to the heart, the Virgin shed warm tears and cried aloud.

29 [ V. The beginning of Thy words is truth: and every one of Thy righteous judgements endures for ever.

'O Light of mine eyes, my sweetest Child, how art Thou hidden now in the sepulchre?'

30 [ V. Princes have persecuted me without a cause: but my heart stands in awe of Thy words.

'Weep not, O Mother, for I suffer this to set at liberty Adam and Eve.'

31 [ V. I will rejoice at Thy words, as one that finds great spoil.

'O my Son, I glorify Thy supreme compassion, that causes Thee to suffer so.'

32 [ V. I have hated and abhorred injustice: but Thy law have I loved. Thou hast drunk vinegar and gall, in Thy compassion, to loose us from the guilt of the forbidden fruit.

33 [ V. Seven times a day have I praised Thee because of the judgements of Thy righteousness.

Thou art nailed upon the Cross, who of old hast sheltered Thy people with a pillar of cloud.<sup>41</sup>

34 [ V. Great peace have they that love Thy law: and for them there is no stumbling-block.

The women bearing myrrh came, O Saviour, to Thy tomb and offered Thee sweet spices.

35 [ V. Lord, I have looked for Thy salvation, and loved Thy commandments.

Arise, O merciful Lord, and raise us from the depths of hell.

36 [ V. My soul has kept Thy testimonies: and loved them exceedingly.

'Arise, O Giver of Life', the Mother who bore Thee said with tears.

37 [ V. I have kept Thy commandments and Thy testimonies: for all my ways are before Thee, O Lord.

Make haste to arise, O Word, and take away the sorrow of Thy Virgin Mother.

38 [ V. Let my prayer draw near to Thee, O Lord; give me understanding according to Thy word.



All the powers of heaven were filled with fear and wonder when they saw Thee dead.

(39) [ V̇. Let my supplication come before Thee, O Lord: deliver me according to Thy word.

With love and fear we honour Thy Passion: grant us the forgiveness of our sins.

(40) [ V̇. Let my lips speak of Thy praise: for Thou hast taught me Thy statutes.

Strange and dreadful wonder! How art Thou now hidden in the earth, O Word of God?

(41) [ V̇. Let my tongue speak of Thy words: for all Thy commandments are righteousness.

Joseph once fled with Thee, O Saviour, and now another Joseph buries Thee.

(42) [ V̇. Let Thine hand be near to save me: for I have chosen Thy commandments.

Thine all-holy Mother weeps for Thee lamenting, O my Saviour, at Thy death.

(43) [ V̇. I have longed for Thy salvation, O Lord; and Thy law is my study.

The spiritual powers tremble at Thy strange and fearful burial, O Maker of all.

(44) [ V̇. My soul shall live, and it shall praise Thee: and Thy judgments shall help me.

Early in the morning the myrrh-bearers came to Thee and sprinkled myrrh upon Thy tomb.<sup>42</sup>

(45) [ V̇. I have gone astray like a lost sheep: seek Thy servant, for I have not forgotten Thy commandments.

By Thy Resurrection give peace to the Church and salvation to Thy people.

(46) [ Glory be to the Father. . . . Holy Spirit.

O my God in Trinity, Father, Son and Spirit, grant Thy mercy to the world.

(47) [ Both now. . . . ages of ages, Amen.

Theotokion

Grant to us thy servants to behold, O Virgin, the Resurrection of thy Son.

No repeat: trop.

<sup>42</sup> At this point in the Greek use, the priest sprinkles the Epitaphion with rose-