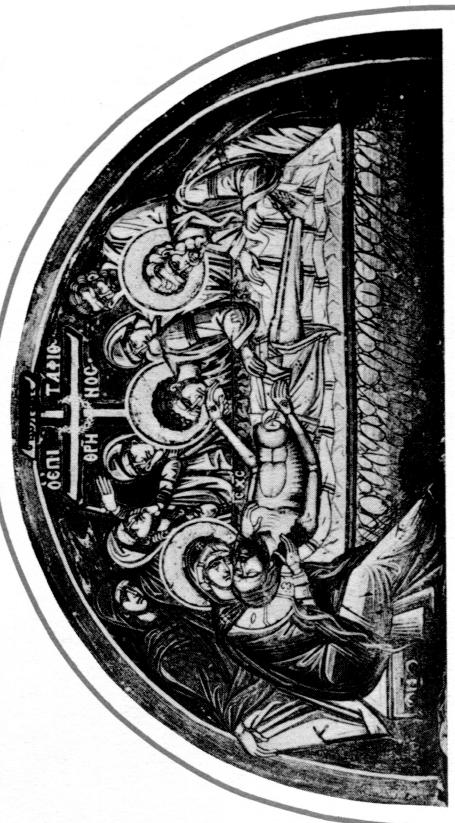




✠ THE FIRST STASIS ✠  
Plagal of First Tone



*Blessed art Thou, O Lord, teach me Thy statutes.  
Blessed are the blameless in the way, who walk in  
the law of the Lord.*

In a grave they laid Thee, / O my Life and my Christ; / and  
the armies of the angels were sore amazed, / as they sang the  
praise of Thy submissive love.

*Blessed are they that search out His testimonies;  
with their whole heart shall they seek after Him.*

How, O Life, canst Thou die? / Or abide in a grave? / For  
Thou dost destroy the kingdom of death, O Lord, / and Thou  
raisest up the dead of Hades' realm.

*For they that work iniquity have not walked in His ways.*

Now we magnify Thee, / O Lord Jesus, our King; / and we  
venerate Thy Passion and Burial, / whereby from corruption's  
bowels are we redeemed.

*Thou hast enjoined Thy commandments, that we  
should keep them most diligently.*

Thou Who didst establish / the earth's bounds dost now  
dwell / in a small grave, O my Jesus, Thou King of all, / Who  
dost call the dead to leave their graves and rise.

*Would that my ways were directed to keep Thy statutes.*

O my dear Christ Jesus, / King and Ruler of all, / why to  
them that dwelt in Hades didst Thou descend? / Was it not  
to set the race of mortals free?



✠ THE LAMENTATIONS AT THE TOMB ✠  
The Chapel of Saint John the Theologian  
The Monastery of Dionysiou

*Then shall I not be ashamed, when I look on all Thy commandments.*

Lo, the Sov'reign Ruler / of creation is dead / and is buried in a tomb never used before, / He that emptied all the graves of all their dead.

*I will confess Thee with uprightness of heart, when I have learned the judgments of Thy righteousness.*

In a grave they laid Thee, / O my Life and my Christ. / Yet, behold now, by Thy death, death is stricken down, / and Thou pourest forth life's streams for all the world.

*I will keep Thy statutes; do not utterly forsake me.*

Thou, O Christ, wast numbered / with men of evil deeds / as one evil, and didst also deliver us / from the ancient schemer's evil works and deeds.

*Wherewithal shall a young man correct his way?  
By keeping Thy words.*

Lo, how fair His beauty! / Never man was so fair! / Yet how doth He seem a dead man bereft of form, / though all nature's beauty had Him as its source.

*With my whole heart have I sought after Thee, cast me not away from Thy commandments.*

How could Hades, O Saviour, / bear Thy Presence divine, / and not rather be demolished in utter gloom, / blinded by the splendour of Thy dazzling light?

*In my heart have I hid Thy sayings that I might not sin against Thee.*

O my sweet Lord Jesus, / my Salvation, my Light: / How art Thou now hid within a dark sepulchre? / Lo, Thy burial surpasseth human speech.

*Blessed art Thou, O Lord, teach me Thy statutes.*

Angel-kind, O Master, / and the bodiless hosts / cannot understand the mystery, O my Christ, / of Thy burial ineffable and strange.

*With my lips have I declared all the judgments of Thy mouth.  
Lo, how strange these wonders, / deeds amazing and new; / for the Giver of my life is borne lifeless forth / by the hands of weeping Joseph to His rest.*

*In the way of Thy testimonies have I found delight,  
as much as in all riches.*

O Christ Jesus, Saviour, / in the grave Thou wast laid; / yet Thou didst not leave the bosom of Thy Father, Lord. / Lo, what strange and awesome wonders we behold!

*On Thy commandments will I ponder,  
and I will understand Thy ways.*

Unto all creation / wast Thou made known, O Christ, / as the true King of the firmament and the earth, / even though Thou wast enclosed in a small grave.

*On Thy statutes will I meditate; I will not forget Thy words.*

When, O Christ our Maker, / Thou wast laid in Thy tomb,/ the foundation stones of Hades with ruin shook, / and the graves of mortal men were opened wide.

*Give reward unto Thy servant,  
quicken me and I will keep Thy words.*

He that holdeth all things / in the grasp of His hand, / in the flesh is now held dead in the depths of earth, / thereby freeing all the dead from Hades' grasp.

*Unveil mine eyes, and I shall perceive wondrous  
things out of Thy law.*

Thou, my Life, O Saviour, / from corruption didst rise, / having died, and therefore dwelling among the dead, / and didst shatter the strong bolts of Hades' hold.

† THE LAMENTATIONS †

*I am a sojourner on the earth, hide not from me  
Thy commandments.*

As a lamp of light beneath a bushel is hid, / so now also in  
the earth is God's flesh concealed, / and doth drive away  
the gloom from Hades' realm.

*My soul hath longed to desire Thy judgments at all times.*

Nicodemus, Joseph / and the bodiless hosts / come together  
now to bear Thee, the Infinite, / in their arms into a narrow  
grave of stone.

*Thou hast rebuked the proud; cursed are they that  
decline from Thy commandments.*

By Thy willing death and / burial in the earth, / Fount of  
life, O Jesus, life didst Thou grant to me / who was dead in  
bitter and most grievous sins.

*Remove from me reproach and contempt, for after  
Thy testimonies have I sought.*

By Thy willing Passion, / all creation was changed; / for it  
knew Thee, O my Jesus and Word of God, / as its Saviour  
and Redeemer from all debts.

*For princes sat and they spake against me,  
but Thy servant pondered on Thy statutes.*

All-devouring Hades, / on receiving within / as a mortal Him  
that is the firm Rock of Life, / did spew forth the dead  
swallowed from ancient times.

*For Thy testimonies are my meditation,  
and Thy statutes are my counsellors.*

Thou, O Christ, wast buried / in a tomb newly made, / thus  
renewing the whole nature of mortal men, / by arising from  
the dead as God in truth.

*My soul hath cleaved unto the earth;  
quicken me according to Thy word.*

† FIRST STASIS †

Thou, O Master, camest / down to earth, as was meet, / to  
save Adam; and as Thou didst not find him there, / Thou  
didst go down into Hades seeking him.

*My ways have I declared, and Thou hast heard me;  
teach me Thy statutes.*

All the earth was troubled / and did tremble with fear, / and  
the morning star, O Word, hid its brilliant rays, / when they  
hid Thee in the earth, O Most Great Light.

*Make me to understand the way of Thy statutes,  
and I will ponder on Thy wondrous works.*

As a mortal, Saviour, / Thou didst willingly die; / but all  
mortal men that slept didst Thou raise, O God, / from their  
tombs and from the mighty depths of sin.

*My soul hath slumbered from despondency,  
strengthen me with Thy words.*

Thy pure Mother, weeping / bitter tears over Thee, / O my  
Jesus, O my Saviour, she cried to Thee, / O my Son, how  
can I lay Thee in the grave?

*Remove from me the way of unrighteousness,  
and with Thy law have mercy on me.*

Even as the seed of / wheat is hid in the bowels / of the earth,  
and thereby bringeth forth ears of grain, / thus hast Thou  
raised Adam's mortal sons, O Word.

*I have chosen the way of truth, and Thy judgments  
have I not forgotten.*

Saviour, Thou wast hidden / 'neath the earth like the sun, /  
and wast covered as with shrouds by the night of death; /  
but more radiantly do Thou arise, O Lord.

*I have cleaved to Thy testimonies, O Lord;  
put me not to shame.*

As the moon doth cover / the whole disc of the sun, / likewise, Saviour, art Thou now hidden by the grave, / Thou Who art in mortal flesh eclipsed by death.

*The way of Thy commandments have I run,  
when Thou didst enlarge my heart.*

O my Life, Christ Saviour, / having tasted of death, / Thou hast freed all mortal men from the bonds of death. / Wherefore now, Thou grantest life unto our race.

*Set before me for a law, O Lord, the way of Thy statutes,  
and I will seek after it continually.*

By Thy death, O Saviour, / Thou hast led back to life / Adam who of old, by malice was made to die; / Thou wast seen as the new Adam in the flesh.

*Give me understanding, and I will search out Thy law,  
and I will keep it with my whole heart.*

Seeing Thee, O Saviour, / lying dead for our sakes, / the noetic hosts of Heaven were sore amazed, / and their faces did they cover with their wings.

*Guide me in the path of Thy commandments,  
for I have desired it.*

In Thy death, O Logos, / Joseph taketh Thee down / from the Tree and doth now lay Thee in a new tomb; / but as God do Thou arise and save all men.

*Incline my heart unto Thy testimonies  
and not unto covetousness.*

Thou Who art the gladness / of the angels, O Lord, / art become the cause of sorrow and grief to them, / seeing Thee, dead in the flesh, bereft of breath.

*Turn away mine eyes that I may not see vanity,  
quicken Thou me in Thy way.*

When Thou wast once lifted / on the Tree, O our God, / Thou didst lift all living mortal men with Thyself, / and didst raise all them that lie beneath the earth.

*Establish for Thy servant Thine oracle  
unto fear of Thee.*

Like a lion, Saviour, / Thou didst sleep in the flesh; / and, though dead, Thou didst arise like a lion cub, / and didst cast away the weakness of the flesh.

*Remove my reproach which I have feared,  
for Thy judgments are good.*

Thou, O Lord, Who tookest / a rib from Adam's side / and didst fashion Eve, hast been pierced in Thine own side, / and didst thereby pour forth purifying streams.

*Behold, I have longed after Thy commandments;  
in Thy righteousness quicken me.*

Secretly, O Saviour, / was the lamb slain of old; / but as One forgiving, Thou wast slain openly, / purifying all creation by Thy death.

*Let Thy mercy come also upon me, O Lord,  
even Thy salvation according to Thy word.*

Truly, who can tell of / this most awesome new deed? / He that governeth creation accepteth now / pains of suffering, and dieth for our sakes.

*So shall I give an answer to them that reproach me,  
for I have hoped in Thy words.*

All the angels cried out / in amazement and awe: / How is it that the Bestower of life is dead? / How is it that God is closed up in a tomb?

*And take not utterly out of my mouth the word of truth,  
for in Thy judgments have I hoped.*

From Thy side, O Saviour, / which was pierced by the spear,  
 / Thou didst pour forth life for me who was cast from life,  
 and didst thereby grant me life with Thee, O Life.

*So shall I keep Thy law continually, for ever,  
 and unto the ages of ages.*

Stretched upon the blest Tree, / Thou, O Jesus, didst make /  
 all men one, and when Thy life-giving side was pierced, /  
 Thou didst shed forgiveness on the race of man.

*And I walked in spaciousness,  
 for after Thy commandments have I sought.*

Noble Joseph, Saviour, / is now stricken with awe, / and  
 doth nobly lay Thee in the earth as one dead; / by Thine  
 awe-inspiring form he is amazed.

*And I spake of Thy testimonies before kings,  
 and I was not ashamed.*

As one dead, O Jesus, / Thy good pleasure it was / to descend  
 beneath the earth and to lead again / from the earth to  
 Heaven those who fell therefrom.

*And I meditated on Thy commandments which I have greatly loved.*

Though, O sweetest Jesus, / Thou wast seen as one dead, /  
 yet alive, as God, Thou didst bring again from earth / unto  
 Heaven all of them that fell therefrom.

*I remembered Thy judgments of old, O Lord,*

*and was comforted.*

A sword flashed against Thee, / O Christ, Saviour and Lord, /  
 and the mighty one's cursed sword was then greatly dulled; /  
 yea, and even Eden's sword was put to flight.

*This hath comforted me in my humiliation,*

*for Thine oracle hath quickened me.*

And I lifted up my hands to Thy commandments which I have loved.  
 Though we see Thee as dead, / yet Thou livest as God, / and  
 dost give new life to mortal men who had died; / hence, my  
 deadness hast Thou thereby put to death.

*And I pondered on Thy statutes.*

*Despondency took hold upon me because of the sinners*

*who forsake Thy law.*

Thou that of Thine own will / didst descend 'neath the  
 earth, / and didst quicken mortal men that had died of  
 old, / in the Father's glory Thou didst lead them forth.

*Thy statutes were my songs in the place of my sojourning.*

For our sakes, One Person / of the Trinity came / and en-  
 dured a painful death in the flesh for all; / hence, the sun  
 doth tremble and the earth doth quake.

*O, how full that joy was! / O, how great that delight! / where-*

*with Thou didst fill all them that were held by Hades, / when  
 Thou shonest forth Thy light in those dark depths.*

*I remembered Thy name in the night, O Lord,  
 and I kept Thy law.*

Born of bitter water, / the descendants and sons / of the tribe  
of Judah laid Jesus in a pit, / though with manna He had fed  
and nourished them.

*This hath happened unto me because  
I sought after Thy statutes.*

Christ, the Judge, was brought to / an unjust judge for us;  
and by him was He condemned to an unjust death / which  
He suffered on the Wood of the blest Cross.

*Thou art my portion, O Lord;  
I said that I would keep Thy law.*

O blood-guilty people, / insolent Israel, / how could ye  
redeem Barabbas, that lawless thief, / and deliver up the  
Saviour to the Gross?

*I entreated Thy countenance with my whole heart:  
Have mercy on me according to Thy word.*

Thou that madest Adam / from the earth with Thy hand, /  
Thou becamest man by nature for his own sake, / and wast  
crucified for him of Thine own will.

*I have thought on Thy ways, and I have turned  
my feet back to Thy testimonies.*

Down to dreaded Hadès / Thou descendedst, O Word, / in  
obedience to Thy Father's will, O Lord, / and didst raise up  
all the race of mortal men.

*I made ready, and I was not troubled,  
that I might keep Thy commandments.*

Gone the Light the world knew! / Gone the Light that was  
mine! / O my Jesus, my Beloved and Desired One! / So the  
Virgin spake lamenting in her grief.

*The cords of sinners have entangled me,  
but Thy law have I not forgotten.*

*At midnight I arose to give thanks unto Thee for  
the judgments of Thy righteousness.*

Come, O foul disciple, / filled with murder and gall, / show  
thou unto me the cause of thy wickedness, / whereby thou  
didst prove a traitor to my Christ.

*I am a partaker with all them that fear Thee,  
and with them that keep Thy commandments.*

Feigning love for mankind, / for a price thou didst sell /  
Him that is the fragrant Myrrh, O remorseless one, / O most  
pestilent and utterly blind fool.

*The earth, O Lord, is full of Thy mercy;  
teach me Thy statutes.*

What price wast thou given / for the Heavenly Myrrh? / What  
didst thou gain in return for the Precious One? / O accursed  
satan, frenzy is thy lot.

*Thou hast dealt graciously with Thy servant, O Lord,  
according to Thy word.*

If thou didst love poor men, / and didst truly regret / the  
myrrh poured out from a soul as an offering, / how, for  
coins, couldst thou sell Him that dawning forth light?

*Goodness and discipline and knowledge teach Thou me,  
for in Thy commandments have I believed.*

Word and God eternal, / O my Joy and Delight, / how shall  
I endure Thy three-day entombment, Lord? / My maternal  
bowels are rent with grief for Thee.

*Before I was humbled, I transgressed;  
therefore Thy saying have I kept.*

“Who will give me water / and the wellspring of tears?” /  
So the Virgin wend to God cried with loud lament, / “that for  
my sweet Jesus I may rightly mourn.”

*Thou art good, O Lord, and in Thy goodness  
teach me Thy statutes.*

O ye hills and valleys, / all ye mountains and dales, / and  
thou multitude of mankind, weep and lament, / crying Woe!  
with me, the Mother of our God.

*Multipled against me hath been the unrighteousness of the proud;  
but as for me, with my whole heart will I search  
out Thy commandments.*

When shall I behold Thee, / O my Saviour and God, / the  
Eternal Light, my Joy and my heart’s Delight, / thus the  
Virgin cried out in her great distress.

*Curdled like milk is their heart; but as for me,  
in Thy law have I meditated.*

Though accepting cutting / as the Chief Cornerstone, / yet,  
O Saviour, as the Wellspring of endless life, / Thou dost pour  
forth living water for all men.

*It is good for me that Thou hast humbled me,  
that I might learn Thy statutes.*

As from one spring only / are we given to drink / of the two-  
fold river which gushed forth from Thy side, / and we reap  
the fruit of everlasting life.

*The law of Thy mouth is better to me than thousands  
of gold and silver.*

In the grave didst Thou will / to be seen as one dead; / but  
Thou livest and shalt raise up all mortal men / by Thy Resur-  
rection, as Thou hast foretold.

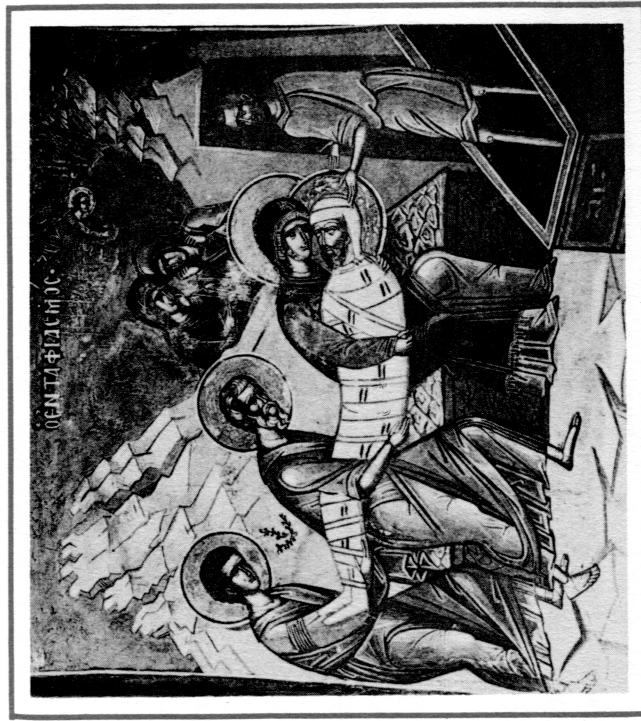
*Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.*

*Both now and ever, and unto the ages of ages. Amen.*

All we call thee blessed, / Theotokos most pure, / and with  
faithful hearts we honour the burial / suffered three days  
by thy Son Who is our God.

*(And again:)*

In a grave they laid Thee, / O my Life and my Christ; / and  
the armies of the angels were sore amazed, / as they sang the  
praise of Thy submissive love.



† THE ENTOMBMENT OF CHRIST †  
The Monastery of Dochiariou



**† THE SECOND STASIS †**

Plagal of First Tone

Right it is indeed, / Life-bestowing Lord, to magnify Thee; /  
for upon the Cross were Thy most pure hands outspread, /  
and the strength of our dread foe hast Thou destroyed.

*Thy hands have made me and fashioned me;  
give me understanding and I will learn Thy commandments.*

Right it is indeed, / Maker of all things, to magnify Thee; /  
for by Thy dear Passion have we all now attained / unto blest  
dispassion and deliverance.

*They that fear Thee shall see me and be glad,  
for on Thy words have I set my hope.*

Earth with trembling shook, / and the sun concealed his face  
with darkness; / for the light unwaning that hath shone forth  
from Thee, / with Thy Body sank to darkness and the grave.

*I have known, O Lord, that Thy judgments are righteousness,  
and with truth hast Thou humbled me.*

Thou hast slept, O Christ, / in the grave the sleep that is life-  
giving, / and hast raised up with Thyself the whole race of  
man / from the grievous and most heavy sleep of sin.

*Let now Thy mercy be my comfort,  
according to Thy saying unto Thy servant.*

Of all womankind, / I alone gave birth to Thee without  
pain, / said the most pure Virgin; Lo, now I must endure /  
pain unbearable at Thy great suffering.

*Let Thy compassions come upon me and I shall live,  
for Thy law is my meditation.*

All the seraphim / shuddered when they saw Thee, O my  
Saviour, / Who above art with the Father inseparable, /  
though Thou liest dead within the earth below.

*Let the proud be put to shame, for unjustly have they transgressed  
against me; but as for me, I will ponder on Thy commandments.*

Lo, the temple's veil / was once rent at Thy dread cruci-  
fixion / and the stars above in heaven did hide their light, /  
seeing Thee, the Sun, now hidden in the earth.

*Let those that fear Thee return unto me,  
and those that know Thy testimonies.*

By a word alone, / Thou didst form the earth in the begin-  
ning; / yet now as a dead man, Thou art hid in the earth /  
O ye heavens, shake with fear at this dread sight.

*Let my heart be blameless in Thy statutes,  
that I may not be put to shame.*

Thou, Who with Thy hand / didst create man, hast sunk in  
earth's bosom, / that by Thine almighty power and strength,  
O Sun, / Thou might'st raise the multitude of fallen men.

*My soul fainteth for Thy salvation;  
on Thy words have I set my hope.*

Come, let us now sing / sacred dirges to our Christ Who  
died, / as once the myrrh-bearing women did sing to Him, /  
that with them we all might hear the word: Rejoice!

*Mine eyes are grown dim with waiting for Thine oracle;  
they say: When wilt Thou comfort me?*

Truly, Thou, O Word, / art as myrrh most precious which  
is poured forth. / Wherefore, unto Thee, Who art the true  
Living God, / the myrrh-bearing women brought most  
precious myrrh.

*For I am become like a wine-skin in the frost,  
yet Thy statutes have I not forgotten.*

At Thy burial, / Thou, O Christ, didst shatter Hadēs kingdom. / Wherefore, by Thy death, hast Thou thus put death to death, / to redeem out of corruption those of earth.

*How many are the days of Thy servant?  
When wilt Thou execute judgment for  
me on them that persecute me?*

God's Wisdom, Who poured / streams of life upon all mortal nature, / pierceth to the very vitals of Hadēs' realms, / thereby quickening all those held in the grave.

*Transgressors have told me fables,  
but they are not like Thy law, O Lord.*

That I may renew / man's corrupted and subverted nature, / gladly in my flesh do I now take death on Me. / Wherefore, Mother, be not stricken with lament.

*All Thy commandments are truth.  
Without a cause have men persecuted me;  
do Thou help me.*

Setting 'neath the earth, / O Thou Sun of Righteousness, my Jesus, / Thou didst raise up all the dead as it were from sleep, / and didst drive away the gloomy dark of Hades.

*They well nigh made an end of me on the earth;  
but as for me, I forsook not Thy commandments.*

The life-giving Seed / of two natures on this day is planted / in the furrows of the earth watered by our tears; / but tomorrow It shall blossom forth with life.

*According to Thy mercy quicken me,  
and I will keep the testimonies of Thy mouth.*

Adam, who did fall / and is now raised, was terrified greatly / when God did walk in the Garden of Paradise, / but rejoiced when He came down to those in Hades.

*For ever, O Lord, Thy word abideth in heaven.*

She that gave Thee birth / poured libations of tears for Thee, Christ God, / when Thou, in the flesh, wast laid in a tomb of stone; / and she cried: Arise, O Christ, as Thou didst say.

*Unto generation and generation is Thy truth;  
Thou hast laid the foundation of the earth,  
and it abideth.*

Joseph laid Thee in / a new tomb secretly, O my Saviour, / chanting God-befitting dirges most piously, / which were mingled with the voices of lament.

*By Thine ordinance doth the day abide,  
for all things are Thy servants.*

Nailed upon the Cross, / Thou wast pierced, and thus Thy Mother saw Thee, / and was smitten with the nails of most bitter grief, / and her soul itself was pierced as with a sword.

*If Thy law had not been my meditation,  
then should I have perished in  
my humiliation.*

When Thy Mother saw / Thee, the Sweetness of all, being watered / with a bitter potion, she wept most bitterly / with a countenance besprinkled with warm tears.

*I will never forget Thy statutes,  
for in them hast Thou quickened me.*

I am rent with grief, / and my heart with woe is torn and broken, / as I see Thee slain unjustly, O Word of God. / So bewailing Him, His all-pure Mother cried.

*I am Thine, save me; for after Thy statutes have I sought.*

Ah, those eyes so sweet, / and thy lips, O Word, how shall I close them? / How shall I entomb Thee as doth befit the dead? / So cried Joseph, overcome with holy fear.

*Sinners have waited for me to destroy me;  
but Thy testimonies have I understood.*

Dirges at the tomb / did blest Joseph sing with Nicodemus, /  
chanting unto Christ, Who hath now been put to death; / and  
in song with them are joined the seraphim.

*Of all perfection have I seen the outcome;  
exceeding spacious is Thy commandment.*

Sun of Righteousness, / Thou dost set beneath the earth,  
O Saviour. / Hence, the Moon that gave Thee birth was  
eclipsed by grief; / for she suffered the bereavement of  
Thy light.

*O how I have loved Thy law, O Lord!  
the whole day long it is my meditation.*

When Hadēs beheld / Thee, the Life-giver, he greatly shud-  
dered; / for Thou didst despoil and rob him of all his wealth,/ and  
didst raise up all the dead from ages past.

*Above mine enemies hast Thou made me wise in Thy commandment,  
for it is mine for ever.*

Radiantly the Sun / shineth forth after the night is passed  
by; / and Thou, Logos, on arising after Thy death, / shalt as  
from a bridal chamber brightly shine.

*Above all that teach me have I gained understanding,  
for Thy testimonies are my meditation.*

When the earth received / Thee, O Fashioner, into her bosom,/ she  
was rent with fear, O Saviour, and quaked in fright, / and  
by these her quakings did she rouse the dead.

*Above mine elders have I received understanding,  
for after Thy commandments have I sought.*

Wrapping Thee, O Christ, / in myrrh oils in a manner un-  
wonted, / Nicodemus and the most noble Joseph cried: / Be  
thou terrified and quake with fear, O earth.

*From every way that is evil have I restrained my feet  
that I might keep Thy words.*

Lo, when Thou didst set, / the sun's light set with Thee, O  
Light-maker; / all creation was then seized in the bonds of  
fear, / and proclaimed Thee as the Maker of all things.

*From Thy judgments have I not declined,  
for Thou hast set a law for me.*

Stone that man hath hewn / doth conceal the Cornerstone of  
Promise; / and a mortal man doth hide God within a grave, /  
as if God were mortal: Shake with fear, O earth!

*How sweet to my palate are Thy sayings!  
more sweet than honey to my mouth.*

O my Son, behold / Thy well-loved disciple and Thy Mother; /  
let us, as aforetime, hear Thy sweet voice again. / So with  
plenteous tears His most pure Mother cried.

*From Thy commandments have I gained understanding;  
therefore have I hated every way of unrighteousness.*

Though the Jews, O Word, / nailed Thee to the Cross, Thou  
didst not slay them; / rather, as the blest Bestower of life, O  
Lord, / Thou didst even raise their dead from Hadēs' bonds.

*Thy law is a lamp unto my feet  
and a light unto my paths.*

In Thy suffering, / neither form, O Word, was Thine, nor  
beauty; / but when Thou didst rise up Thou didst illuminate /  
and shed beauty on all men with rays divine.

*I have sworn and resolved that I will keep the judgments  
of Thy righteousness.*

In the flesh didst Thou / set beneath the earth, Thou, the Un-  
wanning / Morning Star, and lo, the sun could not bear the  
sight, / and was darkened, even in the midst of day.

*I was humbled exceedingly; O Lord,  
quicken me according to Thy word.*

Both the sun and moon / were completely darkened, O my Saviour, / thus portraying servants faint and obedient, / who have clothed themselves in black from their great grief.

*The free-will offerings of my mouth be Thou now pleased to receive, O Lord, and teach me Thy judgments.*

The centurion / knew Thee as God even when they slew Thee. / How then, O my God, dare I touch Thee with my hands? / I do shudder. Thus the noble Joseph cried.

*My soul is in Thy hands continually, and Thy law have I not forgotten.*

Adam fell asleep, / and he brought forth from his side all men's death; / but by Thy repose and slumber, O Word of God, / from Thy side life hath poured forth for all the world.

*Sinners have set a snare for me, yet from Thy commandment have I not strayed.*

Sleeping not for long, / Thou didst quicken them that slept in death's bonds; / and when Thou wast risen, Thou madest to arise / them that slept from ages past, O Most Good One.

*I have inherited Thy testimonies for ever, for they are the rejoicing of my heart.*

O Life-giving Vine, / Thou wast taken from the earth, O Master, / yet the wine of our salvation hast Thou poured forth. / Yea, I glorify Thy Passion and Thy Cross.

*I have inclined my heart to perform Thy statutes for ever for a recompense.*

When the leaders of / all the angels saw Thee, blood-stained, naked, / and condemned to death by mortals, how could they bear / Thy vain crucifiers' daring insolence?

*Transgressors have I hated, but Thy law have I loved.*

O perverted race, / vagabondish Jews: The Temple's raising / was made known to you aforetime. For what cause, then, / do ye now condemn and scourge the Saviour, Christ?

*My helper and my protector art Thou; on Thy words have I set my hope.*

With mockery's robe / did ye clothe Him Who governeth all things / and hath filled the heavens with stars of splendid light, / and hath wondrously adorned and made the earth.

*Depart from me, ye evil-doers, and I will search out the commandments of my God.*

Like a pelican / with Thy side, O Word, by wounding riven, / hast Thou made Thy children that were once dead to live, / by besprinkling them with moisture rich with Life.

*Uphold me according to Thy saying and quicken me, and turn me not away in shame from mine expectation.*

Jesus of Navi\* / made the sun stop as he smote the heathen; / as for Thee, Lord, Thou didst darken and hide its rays, / when the prince of darkness fell before Thy might.

*Help me, and I shall be saved; and I will meditate on Thy statutes continually.*

O merciful Christ, / Thou remainest in the Father's bosom, / and wast well-pleased to become mortal man for us, / and didst go down unto Hades, O my God.

*Thou hast set at nought all that depart from Thy statutes, for unrighteous is their inward thought.*

He that hung the earth / in the midst of the waters was taken / and crucified, and laid without breath in the earth / which quaked grievously, unable to endure.

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\* Joshua, the son of Nun. In the Septuagint text, in the identity of his name with that of Our Saviour, the Fathers of the Church also saw in him a type and prefiguring of Christ.

*I have reckoned as transgressors all the sinners of the earth,  
therefore have I loved Thy testimonies.*

Woe is me, my Son! / wept the one who knew not wedlock,  
saying: / Lo, I see Thee now condemned to hang on the  
Cross, / Thee Whom I had hoped to see a mighty king.

*Nail down my flesh with the fear of Thee,  
for of Thy judgments am I afraid.*

Thus spake Gabriel / when, descending on wing, he brought  
tidings, / and of my Son Jesus he did say unto me / that His  
Kingdom shall endure forevermore.

*I have wrought judgment and righteousness;  
O give me not up to them that wrong me.*

Woe! The prophecy / of the elder Symeon findeth fulfill-  
ment; / for the sword whereof he spake hath now pierced  
my heart, / rending me with sorrow, O Emmanuel.

*Receive Thy servant unto good, let not the proud falsely accuse me.*

Surely, O ye Jews, / be ye put to shame, at least, by all them /  
that were raised from death by Him Who doth grant us life, /  
Whom ye sought to slay from malice and ill will.

*Mine eyes have failed with waiting for Thy salvation,  
and for the word of Thy righteousness.*

Seeing Thee, O Christ, / the Unwaning and Unseen Light,  
lying / hidden in a grave, without breath or comeliness, /  
the sun hid his face behind a veil of gloom.

*Deal with Thy servant according to Thy mercy,  
and teach me Thy statutes.*

Wailing bitter tears, / Word of God, Thy spotless Mother  
mourned Thee, / when she saw that Thou wast laid in a grave  
of stone, / O Ineffable and Everlasting God.

*I am Thy servant; give me understanding,  
and I shall know Thy testimonies.*

Witnessing Thy death, / Thy supremely undefiled Mother /  
cried with bitter grief, O Christ, and she said to Thee: / Tarry  
not among the dead, O Life of all.

*It is time for the Lord to act;  
for they have dispersed Thy law.*

Hadēs, that dread foe, / shook with terror when he looked  
upon Thee, / O Daystar of Glory, only Immortal Lord, /  
and he yielded up his captives then in haste.

*Therefore have I loved Thy commandments  
more than gold and topaz.*

Now do we behold / a most great and awful sight, O Saviour:  
/ Thou Who art the Cause of life, dost submit to death, /  
wishing to grant life to all mankind, O God.

*Therefore I directed myself according to all Thy commandments;*  
*every way that is unrighteous have I hated.*

Thou art pierced, O Lord, / in Thy side, and Thy hands are  
nailed also, / healing by Thy side our wound and the greedi-  
ness / and insatiety of our ancestors' hands.

*Wonderful are Thy testimonies; therefore hath  
my soul searched them out.*

Over Rachel's son, / ev'ry house lamented in days gone by; /  
now over the Virgin's Son all the choir of / blest disciples  
and His Mother weep with grief.

*The unfolding of Thy words will give light and  
understanding unto babes.*

Earthen hands now smite / Thee upon the cheek, O Christ  
my Saviour, / Thee Who by Thy hands hast formed man and  
fashioned him, / and hast crushed the grinding teeth of the  
vile beast.

*I opened my mouth and drew in my breath,  
for I longed for Thy commandments.*

With our hymns, O Christ, / we, Thy faithful people, now  
acclaim Thy / holy Crucifixion and Thy blest Burial; / for  
Thy Burial hath ransomed us from death.

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

O Eternal God, / Word co-unoriginate, and Spirit: / Establish  
Thou the faith and strength of the Orthodox / against heresy  
and error, O Good One.

*Both now and ever, and unto the ages of ages. Amen.*

Birthgiver of Life, / O most blameless and most holy Virgin:  
/ Quell every offence within our most Holy Church, / blessing  
us with peace forever, O Good Maid.

*(And again:)*

Right it is indeed, / Life-bestowing Lord, to magnify Thee; /  
for upon the Cross were Thy most pure hands outspread, /  
and the strength of our dread foe hast Thou destroyed.



### † THE THIRD STASIS †

Third Tone

Ev'ry generation / chanteth hymns of praise at / Thy burial,  
O Christ God.

*Look upon me and have mercy on me, according to the  
judgment of them that love Thy name.*

The Arimathaean, / took Thee from the Cross and / did lay  
Thee in a new grave.

*My steps do Thou direct according to Thy saying,  
and let no iniquity have dominion over me.*

Women, bringing spices, / came with loving forethought, /  
Thy due of myrrh to give Thee.

*Deliver me from the false accusation of men,  
and I will keep Thy commandments.*

Come, all things created, / let us sing a dirge-hymn / to  
honour our Creator.

*Make Thy face to shine upon Thy servant,  
and teach me Thy statutes.*

With myrrh and true knowledge, / let us, like the women, /  
anoint as dead the Living.

*Mine eyes have poured forth streams of waters,  
because I kept not Thy law.*

O thrice-blessed Joseph, / bury now the Body / of Christ the  
Life-bestower.

### † THE DESCENT FROM THE CROSS †

The Catholicos of the Great Lavra

*Righteous art Thou, O Lord, and upright are Thy judgments.*



Those He fed with manna / lifted heels of spurning / against  
their Benefactor.

*Thou hast ordained as Thy testimonies exceeding  
righteousness and truth.*

Those He fed with manna / bring the Saviour gall and /  
vinegar intermingled.

*My zeal for Thee hath made me to pine away,  
because mine enemies have forgotten Thy words.*

O, the utter folly, / brimming with Christ's murder, / of them  
that slew the prophets.

*Thine oracle is tried with fire to the uttermost,  
and Thy servant hath loved it.*

Taught the inner myst'ries, / he, the mindless servant, / be-  
trayed the Depth of Wisdom.

*I am young and accounted as nothing,  
yet Thy statutes have I not forgotten.*

He that sold his Saviour / sold himself as captive, / that  
crafty traitor, Judas.

*Thy righteousness is an everlasting righteousness,  
and Thy law is truth.*

As Solomon spake saying: / The mouth of lawless Jews is /  
a yawning pit and chasm.

*Tribulations and necessities have found me, Thy commandments  
are my meditation.*

In the crooked pathways / of the lawless Jews snares / and  
countless traps lay hidden.

*Thy testimonies are righteousness for ever;  
give me understanding and I shall live.*

Helped by Nicodemus, / Joseph doth entomb now / the Body  
of his Maker.

I have fed with manna / lifted heels of spurning / against  
their Benefactor.

Life-bestowing Saviour, / to Thy might be glory; / for Thou  
hast vanquished Haddēs.

*Thou hast ordained as Thy testimonies exceeding  
righteousness and truth.*

*I have cried unto Thee; save me,  
and I will keep Thy testimonies.*

When the most pure Virgin / saw Thee prone, O Logos, /  
a mother's dirge she sang Thee.

*I arose in the dead of night and I cried;  
on Thy words have I set my hope.  
Mine eyes woke before the morning  
that I might meditate on Thy sayings.*

O, my most sweet Springtime! / O, my Son beloved, /  
whither doth fade Thy beauty?

Songs of lamentation / poured from Thy pure Mother, /  
when Thou, O Word, wast slaughtered.

*Hear my voice, O Lord, according to Thy mercy;  
according to Thy judgment, quicken me.*

Women to anoint Him / with their myrrh, are come now /  
to Christ, Who is Divine Myrrh.

*They have drawn nigh that lawlessly persecute me,  
but from Thy law are they far removed.*

By Thy death, O Lord God, / death itself hast Thou slain /  
by Thy divine dominion.

*Near art Thou, O Lord, and all Thy ways are truth.*

Deceived is the deceiver; / deceived man is now ransomed, /  
my God, through Thy great wisdom.

*From the beginning I have known from Thy testimonies  
that Thou hast founded them for ever.*

The traitor was cast headlong / into the depths of Hadēs /  
and pit of vile corruption.

*Behold my humiliation and rescue me,  
for Thy law have I not forgotten.*

The ways of the thrice-wretched / and perverted Judas /  
are fraught with snares and pitfalls.

*Judge my cause and redeem me; for Thy word's sake quicken me.  
Son of God and Logos, / all Thy crucifiers, / O King of all,  
have perished.*

*Far from sinners is salvation, for they have not  
sought after Thy statutes.*

In the pit of death and / corruption, all blood-guilty / men  
shall be cast to perish.

*Thy compassions are many, O Lord;  
according to Thy judgment quicken me.*

Son of God, Almighty, / O my God and Maker, / whence  
came Thy will to suffer?

*Many are they that persecute me and afflict me;  
from Thy testimonies have I not declined.*

When the Heifer saw Thee / on the Cross suspended, / she  
cried out: O my Youngling!

*I beheld men acting foolishly and I pined away,  
because they kept not Thy sayings.*

Joseph and the blessed / disciple Nicodemus / tend the life-  
giving Body.

*Behold, how I have loved Thy commandments; O Lord,  
in Thy mercy, quicken me.*

Cries of woe the Maiden / wailed with fervent weeping; /  
for her heart was now pierced through.

*The beginning of Thy words is truth, and all the judgments  
of Thy righteousness endure for ever.*

Light more dear than seeing, / O, my most sweet Child, /  
how doth a tomb now hide Thee?

*Princes have persecuted me without a cause, and because  
of Thy words my heart hath been afraid.*

Lament not, O my Mother, / I endure the Passion / to set  
free Eve and Adam.

*I will rejoice in Thy sayings as one that findeth great spoil.*

O, my Son, I praise Thee / for Thy great compassion / which  
moved Thee thus to suffer.

*Unrighteousness have I hated and abhorred,  
but Thy law have I loved.*

Vinegar and gall wast / Thou given, thus anulling / the  
tasting of the banned fruit.

*Seven times a day have I praised Thee for the  
judgments of Thy righteousness.*

Thou Who led'st Thy people / with a cloud-like pillar / art  
now led to a scaffold.

*Much peace have they that love Thy law, and for them  
there is no stumbling-block.*

Lo, myrrh-bearing women / to Thy tomb, O Saviour, / are  
come, their myrrh to offer.

*I awaited Thy salvation, O Lord, and Thy  
commandments have I loved.*

Rise, O Lord of Mercy, / raising us up also / who languish  
deep in Hades.

*My soul hath kept Thy testimonies and hath  
loved them exceedingly.*

Rise, O Life-bestower, / cried out she that bare Thee, / even  
Thy weeping Mother.

*I have kept Thy commandments and Thy testimonies,  
for all my ways are before Thee, O Lord.*

Hasten, Word, to rise now / and release from sorrow / the  
spotless Maid that bare Thee.

*Let my supplication draw nigh before Thee, O Lord;  
according to Thine oracle give me understanding.*

All the hosts of Heaven / stood with fear, confounded, /  
beholding Thy dead Body.

*Let my petition come before Thee, O Lord;  
according to Thine oracle deliver me.*

To them that laud Thy Passion / with faith and love, O  
Saviour, / grant them their sins' forgiveness.

*My lips shall pour forth a hymn when Thou hast  
taught me Thy statutes.*

O sight most strange and awesome! / How doth earth conceal  
Thee, / O Word of God and Saviour?

*My tongue shall speak of Thy sayings, for all Thy  
commandments are righteousness.*

Once a Joseph bare Thee / into exile, Saviour; / another doth  
inter Thee.

*Let Thy hand be for saving me, for I have chosen  
Thy commandments.*

Weeping and lamenting, / Thy most holy Mother / doth  
mourn Thee, my slain Saviour.

*I have longed for Thy salvation, O Lord,  
and Thy law is my meditation.*

Minds must tremble seeing, / O Maker of creation, / Thy  
strange and dire entombment.

*My soul shall live and shall praise Thee,  
and Thy judgments will help me.*

Myrrh the women sprinkled, / bearing stores of spices, / to  
grace Thy tomb ere dawning. (3)

*I have gone astray like a sheep that is lost; O seek Thy servant,  
for I have not forgotten Thy commandments.*

Grant unto Thy Church peace, / by Thy Resurrection, /  
and to Thy flock salvation.

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

O Thou Triune Godhead, / Father, Son, and Spirit, / upon  
Thy world have mercy.

*Both now and ever, and unto the ages of ages. Amen.*

Grant that we who serve thee / may see the Resurrection /  
of thy Son, O blest Virgin.

*(And again:)*

Ev'ry generation / chanteth hymns of praise at / Thy burial,  
O Christ God.

