

AUGUST 23 leave-taking of the Dormition ("Falling Asleep") of our Most Holy Lady, Theotokos and Ever-Virgin Mary .

FIRST ANTIPHON

Make a joyful noise to God, all the earth! // sing of His name, give glory to His praise! (*Psalm 65/66:2*)
Through the prayers of the Mother of God, O Savior, save us!

Give thanks to the Lord and call upon His name! // make known His deeds among the nations! (*1 Chronicles 16:8*)
Through the prayers of the Mother of God, O Savior, save us!

In the city of the Lord of hosts; // in the city of our God! (*Psalm 47/48:8*)
Through the prayers of the Mother of God, O Savior, save us!

His sanctuary is in the city of peace, // and His dwelling in Sion! (*Psalm 75/76:2*)
Through the prayers of the Mother of God, O Savior, save us!

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.
Through the prayers of the Mother of God, O Savior, save us!

SECOND ANTIPHON

The Lord loves the gates of Sion // more than all the dwellings of Jacob! (*Psalm 86/87:2*) **O Son of God, Who are wondrous in Your saints, save us who sing to You: Alleluia!**

Glorious things are spoken of you, // O City of our God! (*Psalm 86/87:3*) **O Son of God, Who are wondrous in Your saints, save us who sing to You: Alleluia!**

God has established her forever! // We have thought upon Your mercy, O God, in the midst of Your people! (*Psalm 47/48:8-9*) **O Son of God, Who are wondrous in Your saints, save us who sing to You: Alleluia!**

The Most High has sanctified // His tabernacle! (*Psalm 45/46:4*) **O Son of God, Who are wondrous in Your saints, save us who sing to You: Alleluia!**

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.
Only-begotten Son and immortal Word of God, Who for our salvation didst will to be incarnate of the holy Theotokos and ever-virgin Mary, Who without change became man and wast crucified, O Christ our God, trampling down death by death, Who art one of the Holy Trinity, glorified with the Father and the Holy Spirit: save us!

THIRD ANTIPHON

O God, my heart is ready, my heart is ready! I will sing and give praise to Your glory! (*Psalm 107/108:1*)

Tone 1 In giving birth you preserved your virginity.

In falling asleep you did not forsake the world, O Theotokos.

You were translated to life, O Mother of Life, //

and by your prayers you deliver our souls from death.

What shall I render to the Lord for all His benefits toward me? (*Psalm 115/116:12*) In giving birth ...

TROPARIA

Tone 1 In giving birth you preserved your virginity. / In falling asleep you did not forsake the world, O Theotokos. / You were translated to life, O Mother of Life, // and by your prayers you deliver our souls from death.

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

KONTAKION

Tone 2 The Birthgiver of God, unsleeping in intercessions
and in protections, unwavering hope,
tomb and death did not rule;
for as Mother of Life //
He who dwelt in her ever-virgin womb moved her into life.

The Prokeimenon in the Third Tone: My soul magnifies the Lord / and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior. (Luke 1:46-47) v: For He has regarded the low estate of His handmaiden; for behold, henceforth all generations will call me blessed. (Luke 1:48)

THE READING FROM THE EPISTLE OF THE APOSTLE PAUL TO THE PHILIPPIANS (2:5-11)

Brethren: Let this be thought in yourselves which is also in Christ Jesus, who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men. And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross. Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Alleluia, Tone 2

v: Arise, O Lord, into Your resting place: You and the Ark of Your sanctification! (Ps 131/132:8)

v: The Lord swore to David a sure oath from which He will not turn back. (Ps 131/132:11)

THE HOLY GOSPEL ACCORDING TO LUKE (10:38-42; 11:27-28) Now it happened as they went that Jesus entered a certain village; and a certain woman named Martha welcomed Him into her house. And she had a sister called Mary, who also sat at Jesus' feet and heard His word. But Martha was distracted with much serving, and she approached Him and said, "Lord, do You not care that my sister has left me to serve alone? Therefore tell her to help me." And Jesus answered and said to her, "Martha, Martha, you are worried and troubled about many things. But one thing is needed, and Mary has chosen that good part, which will not be taken away from her." And it happened, as He spoke these things, that a certain woman from the crowd raised her voice and said to Him, "Blessed is the womb that bore You, and the breasts which nursed You!" But He said, "More than that, blessed are those who hear the word of God and keep it!"

INSTEAD OF "IT IS TRULY MEET TO BLESS YOU, O THEOTOKOS"

The angels, as they looked upon the Dormition of the Virgin, were struck with wonders, seeing how the Virgin went up from earth to heaven! The limits of nature are overcome in you, O Pure Virgin: for birthgiving remains virginal and life is united to death! A virgin after childbearing and alive after death! You ever save your inheritance, O Theotokos!

COMMUNION HYMN

I will receive the cup of salvation and call on the Name of the Lord. (Psalm 115:4) Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!