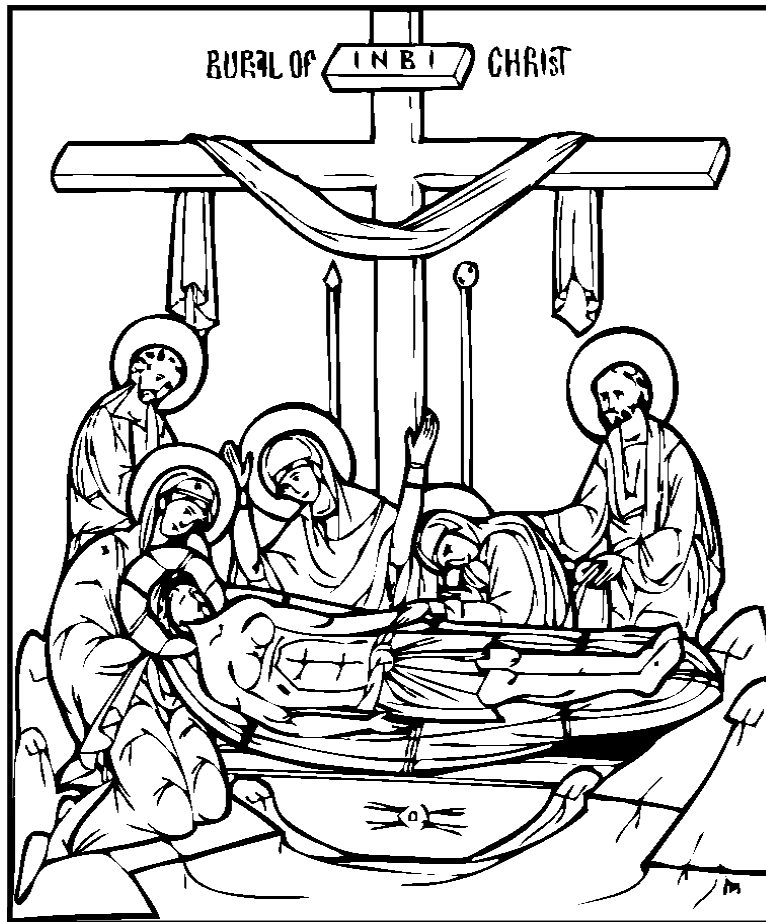


The Lamentations Before the Holy Sepulcher

From Holy Saturday Orthros




In Modern English

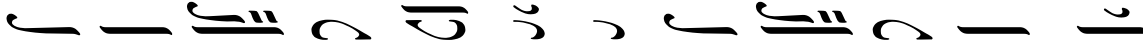




Byzantine Chant Melodies from Metropolitan Maximos






Translation by N. Takis, Edited by John Michael Boyer

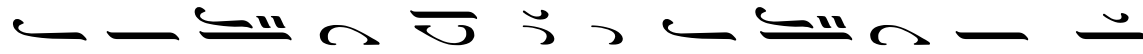




Dedicated to His Eminence Metropolitan Maximos of Pittsburgh

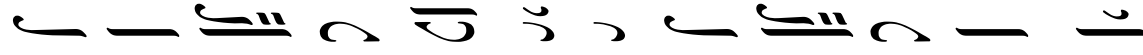




Tone pl. 1.

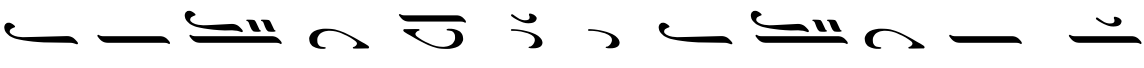
Pa. 

1  In a grave they laid You, yet, O Christ, You are Life, 
 and the ar - mies of the an - gels be - held a - mazed, giv - ing
 glo - ry that You chose to con - de - scend. 


2  How, O Life, do You die? How do You dwell en - tombed? 
 For You slashed through all the bonds — in the realm of death, and have
 raised the dead in Ha - des from their graves. 

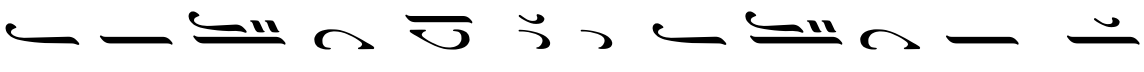
3  We, O Lord, ex - alt You, O Christ Je - sus, our King, 
 and we ven - e - rate Your Pas - sion and bur - i - al through which
 You have brought re - demp - tion from our sins. 

4  You have set the mea - sures of the earth, yet this day 
 in a nar - row tomb now dwell, — Je - sus, King of all, Who have
 raised those who were dead up from their tombs. 

5 O my own Christ Je - sus, You are King of all things. 

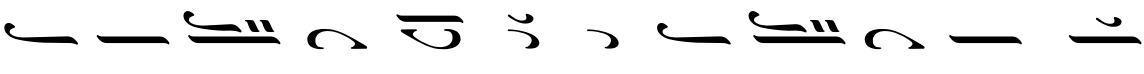
Why have You come down to Ha - des to seek the dead? Is it

not to set the race of mor-tals free? 


6 He Who is the Ma - ster of cre - a - tion ap - pears 


as a corpse and lies en - tombed— in a fresh-hewn grave, Though He

emp - tied ev' - ry grave-site of its dead. 


7 In a grave they laid You, yet, O Christ, You are Life. 

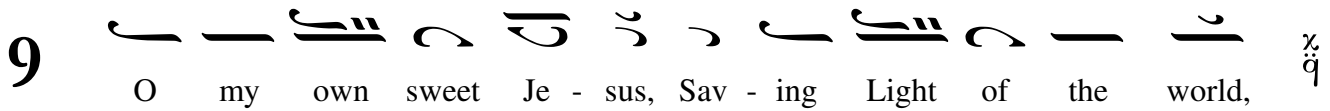
By Your death have you a - bol - ished the realm of death, and up-

-on the world have poured down streams of Life. 

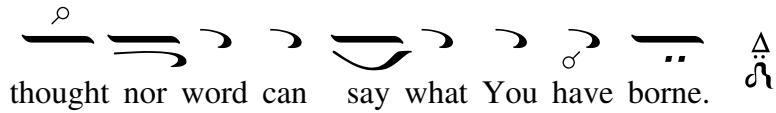
8 Fair - er in His beau - ty than all crea - tures on earth, 

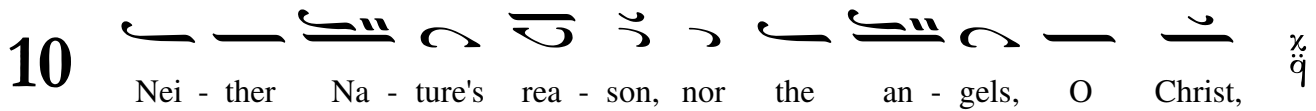
He is seen now ly - ing life - less, his beau - ty gone, yet all

beau - ty in cre - a - tion springs from Him. 

9 O my own sweet Je - sus, Sav - ing Light of the world, 

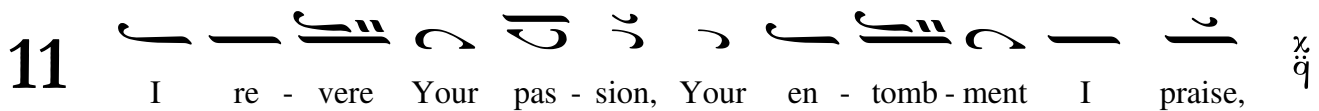
can the dark - ness of the grave — hide Your Light with - in? Nei - ther

thought nor word can say what You have borne. 

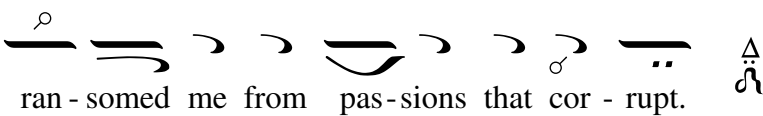
10 Nei - ther Na - ture's rea - son, nor the an - gels, O Christ, 

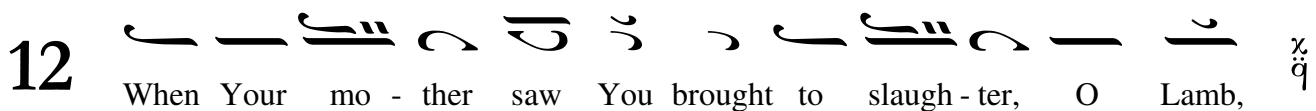
grasp the mys - te - ry en - fold - ing Your bu - ri - al, be - yond

all our un - der - stand - ing and all words. 

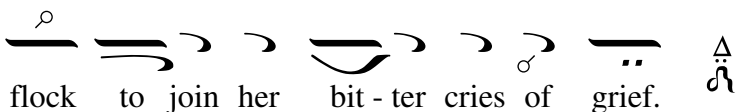
11 I re - vere Your pas - sion, Your en - tomb - ment I praise, 

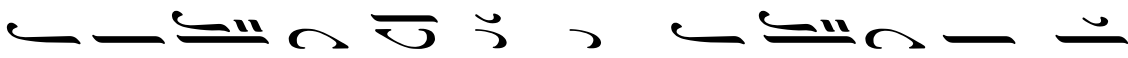
and I mag - ni - fy Your might, — Lov - ing Friend of man; they have


ran - somed me from pas - sions that cor - rupt. 


12 When Your mo - ther saw You brought to slaugh - ter, O Lamb, 

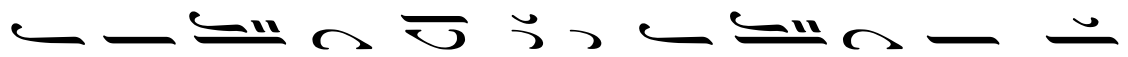
she was stabbed with pain - ful tor - ment; her an - guished sobs called the


flock to join her bit - ter cries of grief. 



13  x
q
 “Woe is me!” the Vir - gin mourned through heart-break - ing sobs.

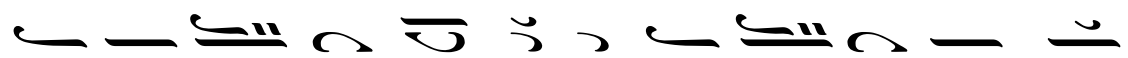

 “You are, Je - sus, my most pre - cious, be - lov - ed Son! Gone is

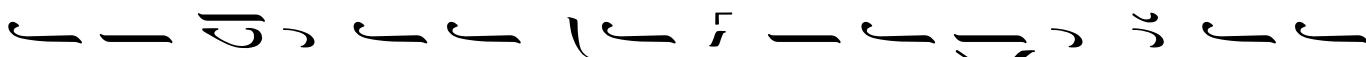

 my light, and the Light of all the world!” 



14  x
q
 “God and Word e - ter - nal, O my Glad - ness and Joy!

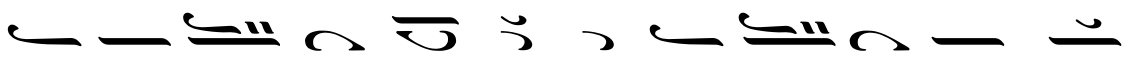

 How shall I en - dure Your three — days in - side the tomb when my



 heart is break - ing with a mo - ther's grief?” 

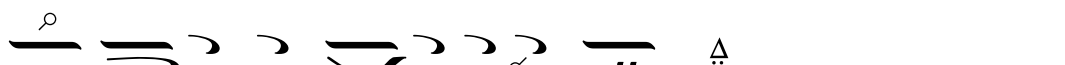

15  x
q
 “Who will give me wa - ter, and a foun - tain of tears,”



 cried the Vir - gin Bride of God — in her deep de - spair,” that in



 grief for my sweet Je - sus I might weep.”  Glory.(On Dhi.)


16  x
q
 We will sing Your prai - ses, Word and God of all things,



 with Your Fa - ther and Your Ho - ly Spi - rit You are praised, and we

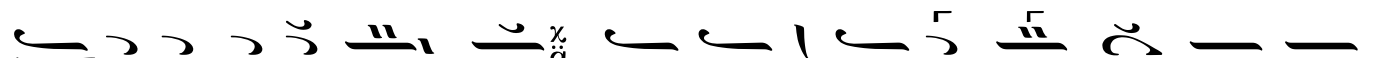

 glo - ri - fy Your bu - ri - al di - vine.  Both now.(On Dhi.)


17 You are known as bles - sed, The - o - to - kos, most pure. 


With our faith - ful hearts we hon - or the bu - ri - al suf - fered 

three days by Your Son, Who is our God. 

18 In a grave _____ they laid _____ You, yet, O 

Christ _____ You are Life, and the ar - mies of the 

an - gels _____ be - held _____ a - mazed, _____ giv - ing glo - ry _____ that You 

chose _____ to _____ con - de - scend. _____ 

PRIEST: Again and again in peace, let us pray to the Lord.

PEOPLE: Lord, have mercy.

PRIEST: Help us, save us, have mercy upon us, and protect us, O God, by Your Grace.

PEOPLE: Lord, have mercy.


PRIEST: Remembering our most holy, pure, blessed, and glorious Lady Theotokos, and ever-virgin Mary and all the saints, let us commit ourselves and one another and our whole life to Christ our God.



















PEOPLE: To You, O Lord.


PRIEST: For blessed is Your name and glorified is Your Kingdom, of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, now and forever, and to the ages of ages.

















PEOPLE: Amen.



Tone pl. 1.

















Pa. 


1                  



















Tru - ly it is right  that we mag - ni - fy You Who be-


               

















-stow_____ Life,  Who up - on the  Cross__ with Your out-spread Hands


               

















all the po - wer of the en - e - my have crushed. 


2                  



















Tru - ly it is right  that we mag - ni - fy You, our Cre-


               

















-a - tor;  through Your pain have we__ been re - leased from pain,


               

















and from all cor - rup - tion we have been set free. 


3                  



















All the earth did shake  and the sun con - cealed it - self in


               

















dark - ness  when they set Your bo - dy with - in the tomb,


               

















Christ, the Sa - vior and the ne - ver - set - ting Sun. 


4                  

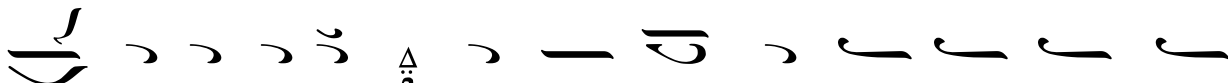

“Free from pain, my Child,  I, a - lone a - mong all wo - men,



               



bore_____ You.”  said Your mod - est Mo - ther with hum - ble voice.



               

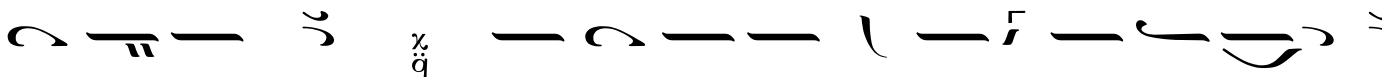

“Now Your pas - sion brings more pain than I can bear.” 



5  "Torn a - part am I,  and my womb, O Word, is wrenched with-



 in_____ me  as Your un - just slaugh - ter as - saults my eyes!"



 cried the Mo - ther to her Son through bit - ter tears. 



6  "Eyes that are so sweet,  and Your lips, O Word, how shall I



 close_____ them?"  Jo - seph cried ap - palled, _ tremb - ling in dis - may.



 "How shall I en - tomb You as be - fits the dead?" 



7  Fear - ful - ly the earth  took Your bo - dy in her bo - som,

 Sa - vior.  Hold - ing her Cre - a - tor, she quaked in fear,

 and a - wak - ened those who lay dead in their tombs. 

8  Stone that man has hewn  now con - ceals the Stone of Life's Foun-

 - da - tion;  mor - tal men en - tomb_ God as mor - tal man,


 caus - ing You, O earth, to trem - ble in dis - may. 


9 “Child of mine, be - hold Your be - lov'd di - sci - ple and Your
 mo - ther. Grant that I might hear Your sweet voice a - gain!”
 Your pure Mo - ther called thru' flow - ing tears to You.


10 Suf - fer - ing in pain, nei - ther form, had You, O Word, nor
 beau - ty, but by Your a - ri - sing, Your beau - ty shines,
 and Your ho - ly rays a - dorn all those on earth.


11 Sun and moon as one turned to dark - ness in their sor - row,
 Sa - vior, and like faith - ful ser - vants, they wore their grief,
 when they wrapt them - selves in black - ness like a shroud.


12 Struck with fear, the sun saw Your light in - vi - si - ble as
 You lay life - less and con - cealed in the grave, my Christ,
 and it shud - dered and re - lin - quished its own light.


13 Weep - ing bit - ter tears,  Your pure Mo - ther mourned to see You


life - less  ly - ing in the tomb, yet You are, O Word,


the in - ef - fa - ble and ev - er - last - ing God. 


14 Wit - ness to Your death,  through her bit - ter tears Your all - pure


Mo - ther  weep - ing, cried a - loud un - to You, O Christ:


“Do not lin - ger with the dead, for You are Life!” 


15 Sing - ing hymns, O Christ,  all the faith - ful now sound forth the



prai - ses  of Your cru - ci - fi - xion and bu - ri - al



for by Your en - tomb - ment we are freed from death.  Glory. *(On Dhi.)*

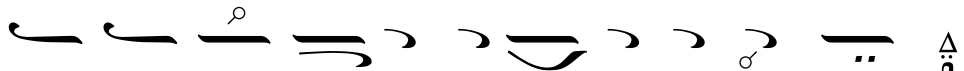

16 God be - yond all time,  with the Word and Spi - rit e - ver -


last - ing!  Strength - en eve - ry scep - ter, O right - eous Lord,

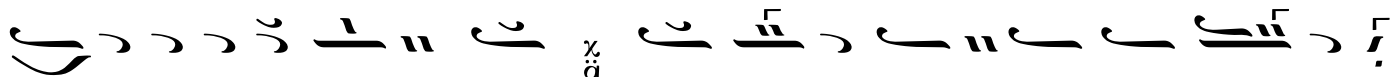

of the Or - tho - dox a - gainst our eve - ry foe!  Both now. *(On Dhi.)*

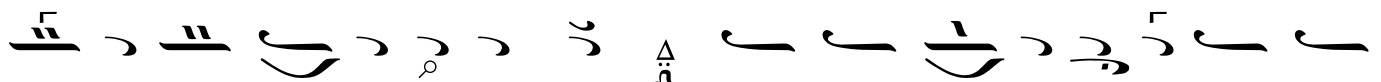

17  Life was born of You  who are ho - ly and most pure, O


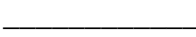
 Vir - gin.  Grant Your church pro - tec - tion from all dis - sent

 and re - ward us with the bles - sing of Your peace. 

18  Tru - ly it — is — right that we mag - ni - fy You

 Who — be - stow — Life,  Who up - on — the Cross —

 with — Your out - spread — Hands  all the po - wer — of the

 e - ne - my have crushed. 

PRIEST: Again and again in peace, let us pray to the Lord.

PEOPLE: Lord, have mercy.

PRIEST: Help us, save us, have mercy upon us, and protect us, O God, by Your Grace.

PEOPLE: Lord, have mercy.

PRIEST: Remembering our most holy, pure, blessed, and glorious Lady Theotokos, and ever-virgin Mary and all the saints, let us commit ourselves and one another and our whole life to Christ our God.

PEOPLE: To You, O Lord.

PRIEST: For Holy are You, O God, Who is seated on the throne of glory of the Cherubim, and to You we ascribe glory; together with Your eternal Father, and Your All-Holy, Good and Life-giving Spirit, now and forever, and to the ages of ages.

PEOPLE: Amen.

Tone 3.

Gha.

1 Ev' - ry gen - er - a - tion of - fers ad - o - ra - tion
 my Christ, at Your — en - tomb - ment.

2 The Ar - i - ma - the - an from the Cross has brought — You
 and in the tomb — has laid — You.

3 Anx - ious - ly the wom - en car - ry myrrh and spic - es,
 my Christ, to lay — be - fore You.

4 Come with all cre - a - tion, off - 'ring hymns of mourn - ing
 to hon - or our — Cre - a - tor.

5 As wom - en bear - ing myrrh — did, let us in our a -
 - ware - ness a - noint as dead — the Liv - ing.

6 Three - times bless - ed Jo - seph, you shall tend the Bod - y
 of Christ, Who has — be - stowed — Life.

7 Those He fed with man - na have raised their heels to spurn

Him from Whom all things are giv - en.

8 Ig - no-rance most fool - ish! Those who slew the proph - ets

have come, O Christ, to slay You.

9 As mind - less as a ser - vant, he who learn'd the mys -

t'ries be - trayed the Depths of Wis - dom.

10 He who sold the Sav - ior, Ju - das the Be - tray - er,

has sold him - self as cap - tive.

11 With help from Ni - co - de - mos, Jo - seph tends the Bod -

-y as does be - fit the Mas - ter.

12 You are my sweet - est Spring - time, My sweet - est Son, I

ask You, "Where has Your beau - ty fad - ed?"

13 When she be-held You life - less, O Word, Your all - pure

Moth - er cried out in la - men - ta - tion.

14 Death to Death You ren - der, through Your di - vine do - min-

ion. My God, by Your — own dy - ing.

15 Foiled is the De - ceiv - er; Re-deemed is the de - ceived —

one, my God, by Your — great wis - dom.

16 My God and my Cre - a - tor, the King of all, and

God's — Son, how have You borne — Your Pas - sion?

17 Be - hold - ing You sus - pend - ed up - on the tree, the

Moth - er cried to her Calf — in an - guish.

18 “My sweet - est Son, most pre - cious, the Light of my eyes

hid - den! How can a tomb — con - ceal — You?”

19 "My Son, I of - fer glo - ry for Your su - preme com -

- pas - sion which caus - es You — to suf - fer."

20 A - rise, O Lord of Mer - cy, and with You, al - so

raise — us who lin - ger deep — in Ha - des.

21 "A - rise, You Who be - stow Life!" the Moth - er who has

borne — You through flow - ing tears — en - treats — You.

22 The pow - ers of the Heav - ens stood up in fear and

won - der when they be - held — You life - less.

23a Ear - ly in the morn - ing the wom - en bear - ing myrrh —


came to sprin - kle You — with spic - es. (Repeat.)

(Final time:)


23b Ear - ly in the morn - ing the wom - en bear - ing myrrh — came

to sprin - kle You — with spic - es.


24 By Your Res - ur - rec - tion, up - on Your Church be - stow _____

life, and to Your flock, — sal - va - tion.  Glory. (On Ke.)

25 My God, Who are three Per - sons, the Fa - ther, Son, and


Spir - it, on all the world — have mer - cy.  Both now.

26 Deem your ser - vants wor - thy, O Vir - gin, to bear

wit - ness at your Son's Res - ur - rec - tion. 

27 Ev' - ry gen - er - a - tion _____

of - fers ad - o - ra - tion my Christ, — at Your _____

en - tomb -  ment. _____

PRIEST: Again and again in peace, let us pray to the Lord.

PEOPLE: Lord, have mercy.

PRIEST: Help us, save us, have mercy upon us, and protect us, O God, by Your Grace.

PEOPLE: Lord, have mercy.

PRIEST: Remembering our most holy, pure, blessed, and glorious Lady Theotokos, and ever-virgin Mary and all the saints, let us commit ourselves and one another and our whole life to Christ our God.

PEOPLE: To You, O Lord

PRIEST: For You are the King of Peace and the Savior of our souls, O Christ our God, and to You we ascribe glory; together with Your eternal Father, and Your All-Holy, Good and Life-giving Spirit, now and forever, and to the ages of ages.

PEOPLE: Amen.