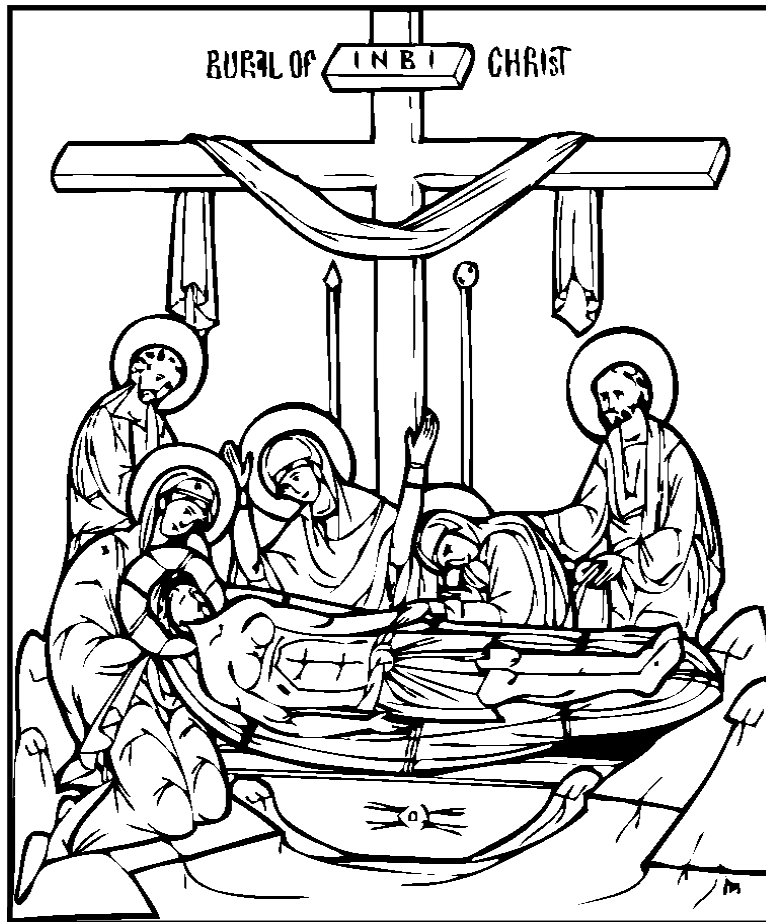


The Lamentations Before the Holy Sepulcher

From Holy Saturday Orthros





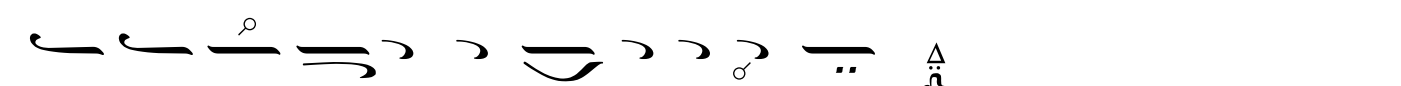
In Modern English




Byzantine Chant Melodies from Metropolitan Maximos

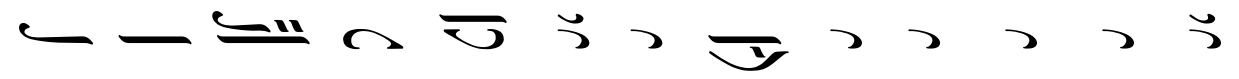

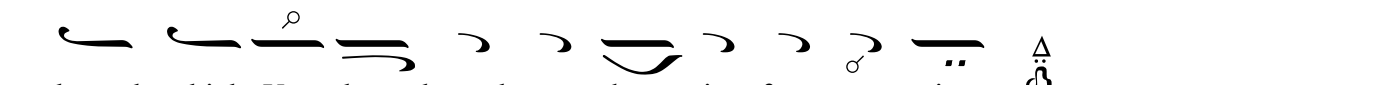
Translation by N. Takis, Edited by Metropolitan Maximos and John Michael Boyer




Dedicated to His Eminence Metropolitan Maximos of Pittsburgh

Tone pl. 1.

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


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

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

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


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 “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 “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 “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...

16 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...

17

You are known as ble - sed, The - o - to - ___ ___ ___ kos,

most pure. ^{ⲕⲓⲓ} With our faith - ful hearts we hon - ___ or the bu - ri - al

suf - fered three days by Your Son, Who is our God. ^ⲁ

1

In a grave they laid You, yet, O Christ ___ ___ ___ You

are Life, ^{ⲕⲓⲓ} and the ar - mies of the an - ___ gels be -

held a - mazed, giv - ing glo - ry that You chose to con - de -

scend. ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ^{ⲕⲓⲓ}

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.



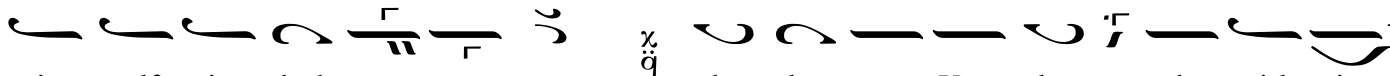



PRIEST: For blessed is Your name and glorified is Your Kingdom, of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, now and forever, and to the ages of ages.

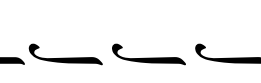





PEOPLE: Amen.

Tone pl. 1.

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...

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...

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.

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 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. א

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

have come, O Christ,_____ to slay _____ You. א

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

t'ries be - trayed the Depths_____ of Wis - dom. א

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

has sold him - self _____ as cap - tive. א

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

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

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

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

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?

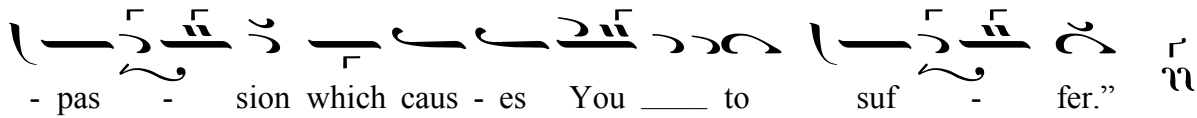
17 Be - hold - ing You sus - pend - ed up - on the tree, the

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

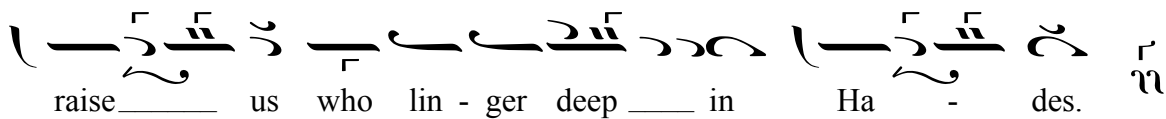
18 "My sweet - est Son, most pre - cious, the Light of my eyes

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

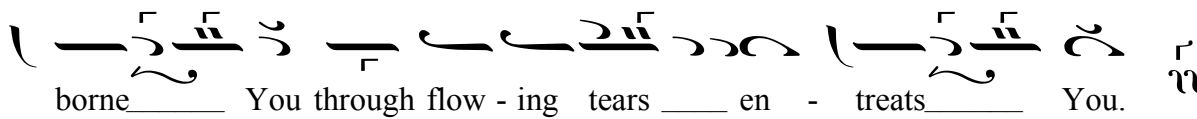
19 "My Son, I of - fer glo - ry for Your su - preme com -

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

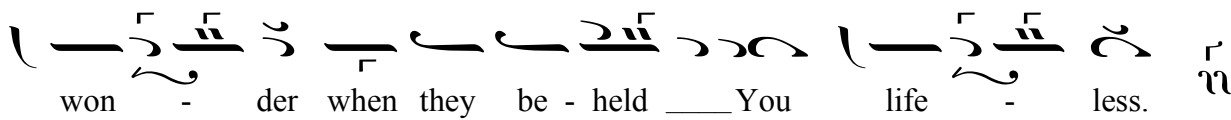
20 A - rise, O Lord of Mer - cy, and with You, al - so

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

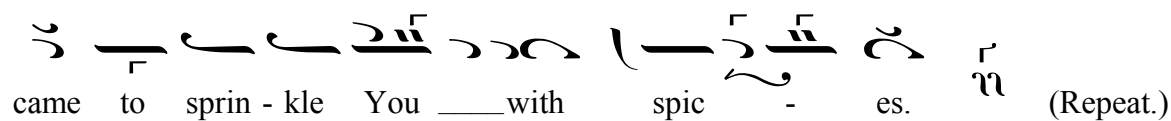
21 "A - rise, You Who be - stow Life!" the Moth - er who has

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

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

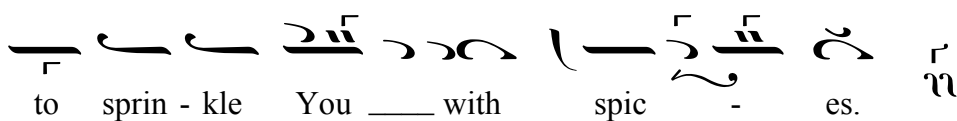
won - der when they be - held ___ You life - less. 

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.