

THE BURIAL SERVICE

OVER AN INFANT

OR A YOUNG CHILD

1997/2016

# THE BURIAL SERVICE OVER AN INFANT OR A YOUNG CHILD

## **A** LITIYA AT THE TIME OF REPOSE

In Greek, the word for funeral is “kēdeia”, which means “care for”. Therefore, to serve a funeral truly means to take tender, loving care for someone who has newly reposed in Christ, and for those who are grieving. All the prayers and actions of an Orthodox Christian funeral service of prayers over the remains of someone who has reposed in Christ express this very meaning.

When an infant or a young child falls asleep in the Lord, we use the order for the Litiya or Trisagion for the Dead for a child, as follows. However, for older children (pre-adolescent), we use the order for the Litiya or Trisagion for the Dead as for adults.

*When an Orthodox child has ended this life, the priest is immediately summoned to be with the family (if he was not present at the reposing). Going to the place where the remains lie, he puts on the epitrahil and he puts incense into the censer. He censens the body of the newly-departed, and he censens all those standing round about, and the room ; and continuing to cense, he begins :*

**Presbyter :** Blessed is our God, always, now, and ever, and unto the ages of ages.

**Response :** Amen.

*We sing the Trisagion only :*

Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal, have mercy on us.  
*(three times) (three metanias)*

**Reader :** O most-holy Trinity, have mercy on us. O Lord, cleanse us from our sins. O Master, pardon our iniquities. O Holy One, visit and heal our infirmities for Your Name’s sake.

Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

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

Our Father, who are in the Heavens, hallowed be Your Name, Your Kingdom come, Your will be done, on earth as it is in Heaven ; give us today our daily bread, and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors ; and do not bring us to the test, but rescue us from the evil one.

**Presbyter :** For Yours are the Kingdom, and the power, and the glory, of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, now, and ever, and unto the ages of ages.

**Reader :** Amen.

**Tropar**

**Tone 4**

WITH THE SPIRITS OF THE RIGHTEOUS MADE PERFECT,  
GIVE REST TO THE SOUL OF YOUR SERVANT,  
O SAVIOUR,  
GUARDING HIM FOR THE BLESSED LIFE WHICH IS  
WITH YOU, O LOVER OF MAN.

*In the case of infants up to the age of two years, we make no petitions.  
Only the following is said :*

**Deacon :** Let us pray to the Lord.

**Response :** Lord, have mercy.

**Presbyter :** O Lord, You watch over children in the present life and in the  
(*censing*) world to come, because of their simplicity and innocence of  
mind, and You abundantly satisfy them with a place in  
Abraham's bosom, bringing them to live in radiantly shining  
places where the spirits of the righteous dwell. Receive in peace  
the soul of Your little servant n ; for You have Yourself said,  
“*Let the little children come to me, ... for of such is the Kingdom of  
Heaven*” ;  
for Yours only is the Kingdom of Heaven and to You we send up  
glory, together with the unoriginate Father, and the all-holy,  
and good, and life-giving Spirit, now, and ever, and unto the  
ages of ages.

**R :** Amen.

*If it be an older child, then the following Litany is prayed. The deacon,  
taking the censor and censing before the deceased child, begins :*

**Litany**

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

**Response :** Lord, have mercy.

**Deacon :** Again, we pray for the repose of this newly-departed blessed  
child n ; and that in accordance with His word, He will  
graciously grant to him (*her*) His heavenly Kingdom.

**R :** Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

**Deacon :** That the Lord God will establish his (*her*) soul where the  
righteous repose.

**R :** Lord, have mercy.

**Deacon :** The mercies of God, the Kingdom of Heaven, and rest with the  
saints, for him (*her*) and for ourselves, let us ask of Christ, our

immortal King and God.

**R :** Grant it, O Lord.

**Deacon :** Let us pray to the Lord.

**R :** Lord, have mercy.

**Presbyter :** O Lord Jesus Christ, You have promised to bestow the Kingdom of Heaven upon those who have been born of water and the Spirit, and who have passed over to You in purity of life, and You have said, “*Let the little children come to me, ... for of such is the Kingdom of Heaven*””. We humbly entreat You that You will give to Your servant, the blameless child *n*\_\_\_\_ now newly departed from us, the inheritance of Your Kingdom in accordance with Your unfailing promise. And grant that we may continue in innocence of life, and make a Christian ending of life, and attain to an abode in the heavenly mansions with all Your saints ;  
for You are the Resurrection and the Life and the Repose of all Your servants, and of Your servant, this child *n*\_\_\_\_ now newly taken from us, O Christ our God, and to You we send up glory, together with the unoriginate Father, and the all-holy, and good and life-giving Spirit, now, and ever, and unto the ages of ages.

**R :** Amen.

**Deacon :** Wisdom.

**Presbyter :** Most holy Theotokos, save us.

**R :** More honourable than the Cherubim, and more glorious beyond compare than the Seraphim, without corruption you gave birth to God the Word. True Theotokos, we magnify you.

**Presbyter :** Glory be to You, O Christ, our God and our hope, glory be to You.

**R :** Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit ; now, and ever, and unto the ages of ages. Amen.  
Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.  
Father (*Master*) bless.

**Presbyter :** May He who rose from the dead, who has power over the living and the dead, Christ our true God, through the prayers of His most pure Mother, of the holy, glorious, and all-laudable apostles, of our holy and God-bearing fathers, and of all the saints, establish in the mansions of the righteous the soul(s) of this (*these*) child(*ren*) *n*\_\_\_\_ who is (*are*) now newly taken from us. May He grant repose to him (*her/them*) in the bosom of Abraham and number him (*her/them*) amongst the righteous ; and may He have mercy on us, for He is good and the Lover of Man.

**R :** Amen.

*Or this dismissal :*

May He who rose from the dead, who has power over the living and the dead, Christ our true God, through the prayers of His most pure Mother, of the holy, glorious, and all-laudable apostles, of our holy and God-bearing fathers, of the holy and glorious forefathers Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, of the holy and righteous Lazarus of the four days, the Friend of Christ, and of all the saints, establish in the mansions of the righteous the soul of this newly-departed child *n* \_\_\_\_\_. May He grant repose to him (*her*) in the bosom of Abraham and number him (*her*) amongst the righteous ; and may He have mercy on us, for He is good and the Lover of Man.

**R :** Amen.

*It may be that "Memory Eternal" is intoned and sung.*

*As with others who have reposed, the child is washed, rubbed with oil, and dressed. For reference to the particular details about the manner of the preparation of the body, reference may be made to the service provided in the services of burial over Orthodox lay-persons who have fallen asleep. Afterwards, the Psalter is read until the time of departure, when the procession to the Temple is begun, with the Trisagion being sung as usual.*

**[THE END OF THE LITIYA]**



**B****THE FUNERAL SERVICE**

*When everything is prepared, and the time has come (it may be after another "litany" as previously provided), the presbyter gives the blessing, those present sing the Trisagion, and taking up the remains, they depart. The priest, preceded by acolytes bearing lamps (and the Cross), is followed by the deacon carrying the censer, and the family bearing the departed. When they arrive at the Temple, they set the remains in the midst (or narthex), and surround the coffin with four candle-sticks in Cross-form. Those present hold lighted tapers until after the reading of the Holy Gospel, when they are extinguished. The texts of this service include the plural, should some extraordinary event require this service of prayer for more than one person.*

*Depending on the blessing given, the Divine Liturgy may be served before or after the following service of prayer.*

*Then the presbyter stands at the head of the coffin. Facing the Altar, he takes the censer ; and censuring, he begins :*

**Presbyter :** Blessed is our God, always, now, and ever, and unto the ages of ages.

**Response :** Amen.

*We sing the Trisagion only :*

Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal, have mercy on us.  
*(three times) (three metanias)*

**Reader :** O most-holy Trinity, have mercy on us. O Lord, cleanse us from our sins. O Master, pardon our iniquities. O Holy One, visit and heal our infirmities for Your Name's sake.

Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

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

Our Father, who are in the Heavens, hallowed be Your name,  
Your Kingdom come, Your will be done, on earth as it is in  
Heaven ; give us today our daily bread, and forgive us our debts  
as we forgive our debtors ; and do not bring us to the test, but  
rescue us from the evil one.

**Presbyter :** For Yours are the Kingdom, and the power, and the glory, of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, now, and ever, and unto the ages of ages.

**Reader :** Amen.

Lord, have mercy. *(twelve times)*

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

O come, let us worship God our King ; come let us worship and fall down before Christ, our King and our God ; come let us worship and fall down before Christ Himself, our King and our God. (*three metanias*)

### Psalm 90

The one dwelling in the help of the Most High shall abide in the shelter of the God of Heaven. He shall say to the LORD : “You are my Support and my Refuge, O my God”. I shall hope on Him ; for He will rescue you from a snare of the hunters, and from a troubling word. With His shoulders He will overshadow you, and beneath His wings you shall hope. With a shield, His truth shall surround you. You shall not be frightened by a night fear, by an arrow flying by day, by anything walking about in darkness, by a calamity, or by a noon-day demon. A thousand shall fall at your side, and a myriad at your right-hand, but it shall not draw near you. Yet, with your eyes shall you observe and you shall see the requital of sinners ; for You, O LORD, You are my Hope ; you have made the Most High your Refuge. Bad things shall not come towards you, and a scourge shall not come near your tent ; for He will command His angels concerning you, that they watch over you closely in all your ways. Upon their hands they shall raise you up, lest you strike your foot against a stone. Upon the asp and the basilisk you shall tread ; you shall trample the lion and the dragon : “for he has hoped on Me, and I will rescue him. I will shelter him, for he has known My Name. He shall cry out to Me, and I will listen to him. I am with him in affliction : I will set him free, and I will glorify him. With length of days will I fill him up, and I will show him My salvation”.

### Alleluia

**Tone 8**

**Deacon :** In the eighth tone : Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia.

**Response :** Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia.

**Deacon :** Blessed is (*are*) he (*she/they*) whom You have chosen out and taken to Yourself, O Lord.

**R :** Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia.

**Deacon :** May his (*her/their*) their memory be from generation to generation.

**R :** Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia.

**Deacon :** May his (*her/their*) soul(s) dwell with the blessed.

**R :** Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia.

### Tropars

**Tone 8**

O ONLY CREATOR, WHO WITH WISDOM PROFOUND,  
MERCIFULLY ORDER ALL THINGS,  
AND GIVE THAT WHICH IS USEFUL TO ALL MANKIND,  
GIVE REST, O LORD, TO THE SOUL(S) OF YOUR  
SERVANT(S) WHO HAS (HAVE) FALLEN ASLEEP,  
FOR HE (SHE/THEY) HAS (HAVE) PLACED HIS (HER/THEIR)  
TRUST IN YOU, OUR MAKER AND FASHIONER AND  
OUR GOD.

GLORY BE TO THE FATHER, AND TO THE SON, AND TO THE  
HOLY SPIRIT,  
FOR HE (SHE/THEY) HAS (HAVE) PLACED HIS (HER/THEIR)  
TRUST IN YOU, OUR MAKER AND FASHIONER AND  
OUR GOD.

NOW, AND EVER, AND UNTO THE AGES OF AGES. AMEN.  
WE HAVE YOU AS A WALL AND A HAVEN,  
AND AN INTERCESSOR WELL-PLEASING UNTO GOD,  
WHOM YOU HAVE BORNE,  
O VIRGIN THEOTOKOS, THE SALVATION OF THE FAITHFUL.

**Reader :**

**Psalm 50**

Have mercy on me, O God, in accordance with Your great mercy, and in accordance with the multitude of Your compassions, blot out my transgression of the law. Wash me thoroughly from my lawlessness, and from my sin cleanse me ; for I know my lawlessness, and my sin is before my face continually. Against You alone have I sinned, and evil have I done before Your Face ; so that You may be shown to be righteous in Your words, and to be victorious when You are judged ; for behold, I was conceived in lawlessness, and in sins did my mother crave to conceive me ; for behold, You have loved truth ; the unseen and hidden things of Your wisdom have You shown me. You will sprinkle me with hyssop, and I shall be cleansed ; You will wash me, and I shall be made whiter than snow. You will make me hear exultation and gladness : my humbled bones shall exult. Turn Your Face away from my sins, and blot out all my lawless acts. Build a pure heart in me, O God, and renew an upright spirit in my inward parts. Cast me not away from Your Face, and take not Your Holy Spirit away from me. Render to me the exultation of Your salvation, and with Your guiding Spirit set me fast. I shall teach the lawless Your ways, and the impious shall turn about to You. Rescue me from blood, O God, O God of my salvation. My tongue shall exult in Your righteousness. O LORD, You will open my lips, and my mouth shall announce Your praise ; for if You had wished for a sacrifice, I would

have given it. With whole-burnt-offerings You will not be well-pleased. The sacrifice to God is a shattered spirit : a shattered and humbled heart, God will not reckon as nothing. Do good, O LORD, to Sion in Your good-pleasure, and let the walls of Jerusalem be built. Then You will be well-pleased with a sacrifice of righteousness : an offering and whole-burnt-offerings ; then they shall offer young bulls upon Your altar.

*Then we begin immediately the Canon for the Departed, for the child(ren) :*

### **Canon for the Departed**

**Tone 8**

**Ode I :** WHEN ISRAEL HAD PASSED THROUGH THE WATER  
AS THOUGH IT WERE DRY LAND,  
AND HAD ESCAPED FROM THE WICKEDNESS OF EGYPT,  
THEY CRIED ALOUD,  
“LET US SING PRAISES TO OUR DELIVERER AND OUR GOD”.

**Refrain :** Give rest, O Lord, to the child(*ren*) who has (*have*) fallen asleep.

**Reader :** O Word of God, You humbled Yourself by the assuming of flesh, and You were well-pleased to become a little child, yet You were not changed. Ordain that this (*these*) child(*ren*) whom You have accepted may be received into the bosom of Abraham, we beseech You.

**R :** Give rest, O Lord, to the child(*ren*) who has (*have*) fallen asleep.

Although You existed before the ages, You were seen as a little Child, and as You are good, You promised the Kingdom to the little children. Number in Your Kingdom the child(*ren*) who is (*are*) now present before You.

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

**\*** You have taken to Yourself this (*these*) spotless child(*ren*) before he (*she/they*) was (*were*) tempted by earthly sweetness, O Christ the Saviour. O Lover of Man, grant him (*her/them*) Your eternal good things.

**R.** Now, and ever, and unto the ages of ages. Amen.

You gave birth ineffably to the Wisdom and Word of the Father. Heal the cruel wound of my soul and soothe the sorrow of my

heart.

*However, if there be some blessed reason to do so, the tropars throughout the canon may be replaced by the following refrains :*

**Refrains :**

**Clergy :** Give rest, O Lord, to the child(*ren*) who has(*have*) fallen  
(*censing*) asleep.

**R :** Give rest, O Lord, to the child(*ren*) who has(*have*) fallen  
asleep.

**Clergy :** Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.

**R :** Now, and ever, and unto the ages of ages. Amen.

*The refrains are sometimes repeated.*

Irmos as Katabasia.

**Ode III :** O LORD, BUILDER OF THE VAULT OF HEAVEN  
AND FOUNDER OF THE CHURCH,  
YOU ARE OUR SUPREME DESIRE AND THE SUPPORT OF  
THE FAITHFUL.

CONFIRM ME IN LOVE OF YOU,  
WHO ALONE ARE THE LOVER OF MAN.

**R :** Give rest, O Lord, to the child(*ren*) who has (*have*) fallen asleep.

O all-perfect Word, You revealed Yourself on earth as the perfect child. You have translated to Yourself this (*these*) child(*ren*) at a very young age. Give him (*her/them*) rest with all the righteous who are well-pleasing to You, who alone are the Lover of Man.

**R :** Give rest, O Lord, to the child(*ren*) who has (*have*) fallen asleep.

O compassionate One, You have translated this (*these*) child(*ren*) at Your divine command. Reveal him (*her/them*), who had not tasted nor been enraptured by earthly sweet things, to be (*a*) partaker(s) of all heavenly good things.

**R :** Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.

O Lord, it has pleased You to take unto Yourself this (*these*) most pure child(*ren*). Make him (*her/them*) (*a*) partaker(s) of heavenly mansions and of radiant rest and of the holy choir of the saints.

**R :** Now, and ever, and unto the ages of ages. Amen.

O most-pure Lady, bereft of all things I run to your sole shelter.  
Help me, for I have heaped up a treasure of iniquity, and am  
filled with a poverty of virtues.

Irmos as Katabasia.

*In the case of infants up to the age of two years, we make no petitions.  
Only the following is said :*

**Deacon :** Let us pray to the Lord.

**Response :** Lord, have mercy.

**Presbyter :** O Lord, You watch over children in the present life and in the  
(*censing*) world to come, because of their simplicity and innocence of  
mind, and You abundantly satisfy them with a place in  
Abraham's bosom, bringing them to live in radiantly shining  
places where the spirits of the righteous dwell. Receive in peace  
the soul(s) of Your little servant(s) *n*\_\_\_\_ ; for You have Yourself  
said, "*Let the little children come to me, ... for of such is the  
Kingdom of Heaven*" ;  
for Yours only is the Kingdom of Heaven and to You we send up  
glory, together with the unoriginate Father, and the all-holy,  
good, and life-giving Spirit, now, and ever, and unto the ages of  
ages.

**R :** Amen.

*If it be an older child, then the following litany is prayed. The deacon,  
taking the censer and censing before the coffin, begins :*

### **Litany**

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

**Response :** Lord, have mercy.

**Deacon :** Again, we pray for the repose of this (*these*) newly-departed  
blessed child(*ren*) *n*\_\_\_\_ ; and that in accordance with His word,  
He will graciously grant to him (*her/them*) His heavenly  
Kingdom.

**R :** Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

**Deacon :** That the Lord God will establish his (*her/their*) soul(s) where the  
righteous repose.

**R :** Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

**Deacon :** The mercies of God, the Kingdom of Heaven, and rest with the  
saints, for him (*her/them*) and for ourselves, let us ask of Christ,  
our immortal King and God.

**R :** Grant it, O Lord.

**Deacon :** Let us pray to the Lord.

**R :** Lord, have mercy.

**Presbyter :** O Lord Jesus Christ, You have promised to bestow the Kingdom (censing) of Heaven upon those who have been born of water and the Spirit, and who have passed over to You in purity of life, and You have said, “*Let the little children come to me, ... for of such is the Kingdom of Heaven*”. We humbly entreat You that You will give to Your servant(s), the blameless child(ren) n now newly departed from us, the inheritance of Your Kingdom in accordance with Your unfailing promise. And grant that we may continue in innocence of life, and make a Christian ending of life, and attain to an abode in the heavenly mansions with all Your saints ;  
for You are the Resurrection and the Life and the Repose of all Your servants, and of Your servant(s), this (these) child(ren) n now newly taken from us, O Christ our God, and to You we send up glory, together with Your unoriginate Father, and Your all-holy, good and life-giving Spirit, now, and ever, and unto the ages of ages.

**R :** Amen.

\*

**Sessional Hymn** (*Kathisma Hymn*) (*Sedalen*)

**Tone 6**

TRULY, ALL THINGS ARE VANITY.  
LIFE IS BUT A SHADOW AND A DREAM.  
FOR IN VAIN DOES EVERYONE BORN ON EARTH TROUBLE  
HIMSELF, AS THE SCRIPTURES SAY.  
WHEN WE HAVE GAINED THE WORLD,  
WE TAKE UP OUR ABODE IN THE GRAVE,  
WHERE KINGS AND BEGGARS LIE DOWN TOGETHER.  
GIVE REST, THEREFORE, TO YOUR SERVANT(S) DEPARTED  
THIS LIFE, O CHRIST OUR GOD,  
FOR YOU LOVE MANKIND.

GLORY BE TO THE FATHER, AND TO THE SON, AND TO THE  
HOLY SPIRIT ; NOW, AND EVER, AND UNTO THE AGES OF  
AGES. AMEN.

O MOST HOLY THEOTOKOS,  
DO NOT FORSAKE ME ALL THE DAYS OF MY LIFE.  
DO NOT ENTRUST ME TO THE CARE OF MAN, BUT HELP ME  
YOURSELF,  
AND HAVE MERCY ON ME.

**Ode IV :** I HAVE HEARD THE MYSTERY OF YOUR DISPENSATION,

O LORD.  
I HAVE CONSIDERED YOUR WORKS,  
AND I HAVE GLORIFIED YOUR DIVINITY.

**R :** Give rest, O Lord, to the child(*ren*) who has (*have*) fallen asleep.

Let us not weep for the child(*ren*), but rather weep heavily for ourselves who always sin, that we may be delivered from Gehenna.

**R :** Give rest, O Lord, to the child(*ren*) who has (*have*) fallen asleep.

\* You have deprived the child(*ren*) of earthly delights, O Master. Grant him (*her/them*) Your heavenly good things, O righteous Judge.

**R :** Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.

O truly blessed child(*ren*), He who summoned you from earth shall make you (*a*) citizen(s) of Paradise, and He shall number you with the assembly of the saints.

**R :** Now, and ever, and unto the ages of ages. Amen.

Irmos as Katabasia.

**Ode V :** WHY HAVE YOU CAST ME AWAY FROM YOUR FACE,  
O NEVER-SETTING LIGHT ?  
WHY HAS THIS DEEP DARKNESS COVERED ME, AS ONE  
CONDEMNED ?  
BUT TURN ME AND GUIDE MY PATH TO THE LIGHT OF  
YOUR COMMANDMENTS, I PRAY YOU.

**R :** Give rest, O Lord, to the child(*ren*) who has (*have*) fallen asleep.

Like a tender shoot before it has blossomed, You have reaped the child(*ren*) by Your righteous judgement, O Lord, and planted him (*her/them*) upon the mountain of Your everlasting blessings, O Word.

**R :** Give rest, O Lord, to the child(*ren*) who has (*have*) fallen asleep.

The sword of death has come and cut you off like a young twig before you had tasted earthly joys, O blessed one(s). But behold, Christ opens to you the gates of Heaven and numbers

you with the chosen, for He is full of compassion.

**R :** Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.

\* The reposed child(*ren*) cries (*cry*) out, “Do not lament for me, for He has ordained nothing worthy of grief. Weep rather for yourselves who have always sinned, O kinsfolk and friends, that when you shall be tested, you not receive chastisement”.

**R :** Now, and ever, and unto the ages of ages. Amen.

I despair of myself when I look upon my many deeds. But when I think of you that beyond human understanding bore the Lord, I am refreshed with hope, O Mother of God, for we have you alone as our intercessor.

Irmos as Katabasia.

**Ode VI :** I POUR OUT MY PRAYER BEFORE THE LORD,  
AND MAKE MY SORROWS KNOWN TO HIM ;  
FOR MY SOUL HAS BEEN FILLED WITH EVIL, AND MY LIFE  
DRAWS NEAR TO HADĒS.  
AND LIKE JONAH, I PRAY, LEAD ME UP FROM CORRUPTION,  
O GOD.

**R :** Give rest, O Lord, to the child(*ren*) who has (*have*) fallen asleep.

As a Child, You were laid in a manger and You submitted Yourself to the embrace of the elder who had begotten children in his loins. Before this (*these*) child(*ren*) had grown to maturity, You took him (*her/they*) to Yourself. Therefore, with thanksgiving we glorify You.

**R :** Give rest, O Lord, to the child(*ren*) who has (*have*) fallen asleep.

O Word, You cried out to Your apostles, “*Let the little children come to Me*”, for to such as are like them in spirit is My Kingdom given. Grant Your light therefore to the child(*ren*) who has (*have*) passed over unto You.

**R :** Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.

You have deprived Your child(*ren*) of earthly good things, that You might reveal him (*her/they*) to be (*a*) partaker(s) of heavenly blessings, since he (*she/they*) had not transgressed Your divine

commandments. We glorify the immeasurable depth of Your providence, O Blessed One.

**R :** Now, and ever, and unto the ages of ages. Amen.

O Maiden, we have you as a wall of refuge, an all-perfect salvation for our souls, and an abiding-place in sorrow. In your light we shall ever rejoice O Lady. Save us from our griefs and woes.

Irmos as Katabasia.

*In the case of infants up to the age of two years, we make no petitions. Only the following is said :*

**Deacon :** Let us pray to the Lord.

**Response :** Lord, have mercy.

**Presbyter :** O Lord, You watch over children in the present life and in the (*censing*) world to come, because of their simplicity and innocence of mind, and You abundantly satisfy them with a place in Abraham's bosom, bringing them to live in radiantly shining places where the spirits of the righteous dwell. Receive in peace the soul(s) of Your little servant(s) n ; for You have Yourself said, "*Let the little children come to me, ... for of such is the Kingdom of Heaven*" ; for Yours only is the Kingdom of Heaven and to You we send up glory, together with the unoriginate Father, and the all-holy, good, and life-giving Spirit, now, and ever, and unto the ages of ages.

**R :** Amen.

*If it be an older child, then the following litany is prayed. The deacon, taking the censor and censing before the coffin, begins :*

### **Litany**

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

**Response :** Lord, have mercy.

**Deacon :** Again, we pray for the repose of this (*these*) newly-departed blessed child(*ren*) n ; and that in accordance with His word, He will graciously grant to him (*her/their*) His heavenly Kingdom.

**R :** Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

**Deacon :** That the Lord God will establish his (*her/their*) soul(s) where the righteous repose.

**R :** Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

**Deacon :** The mercies of God, the Kingdom of Heaven, and rest with the saints, for him (*her/them*) and for ourselves, let us ask of Christ, our immortal King and God.

**R :** Grant it, O Lord.

**Deacon :** Let us pray to the Lord.

**R :** Lord, have mercy.

**Presbyter :** O Lord Jesus Christ, You have promised to bestow the Kingdom of Heaven upon those who have been born of water and the Spirit, and who have passed over to You in purity of life, and You have said, “*Let the little children come to me, .... for of such is the Kingdom of Heaven*”. We humbly entreat You that You will give to Your servant(s), the blameless child(ren) n now newly departed from us, the inheritance of Your Kingdom in accordance with Your unfailing promise. And grant that we may continue in innocence of life, and make a Christian ending of life, and attain to an abode in the heavenly mansions with all Your saints ;  
for You are the Resurrection and the Life and the Repose of all Your servants, and of Your servant(s), this (*these*) child(ren) n now newly taken from us, O Christ our God, and to You we send up glory, together with Your unoriginate Father, and Your all-holy, good and life-giving Spirit, now, and ever, and unto the ages of ages.

**R :** Amen.

**Kontak**

**Tone 8**

*The deacon does a lesser censing, beginning at the coffin.*

WITH THE SAINTS GIVE REST,  
O CHRIST, TO THE SOUL(S) OF YOUR SERVANT(S),  
WHERE THERE IS NO MISERY NOR SORROW,  
AND NO SIGHING,  
BUT LIFE UNENDING.

**Ikos**

YOU ALONE ARE IMMORTAL,  
WHO HAVE CREATED AND FASHIONED MAN,  
FOR OUT OF THE EARTH WERE WE MORTALS MADE,  
AND UNTO THE EARTH SHALL WE RETURN AGAIN,  
AS YOU COMMANDED WHEN YOU MADE ME, SAYING TO ME,  
“EARTH YOU ARE, AND TO EARTH YOU SHALL RETURN”.  
THERE, WE MORTALS ALL SHALL GO,  
MAKING OUR LAMENTATION THE SONG,  
“ALLELUIA. ALLELUIA. ALLELUIA”.

\* *Then these Ikoses also :*

No-one suffers more than a mother ; no-one is more touched than a father ; for their loins are troubled when they send forth their children from this life. Great is the pity they have in their hearts for the sake of their children ; and yet more, when these are sweet of speech, as they call to remembrance their words with the song :

“ALLELUIA. ALLELUIA. ALLELUIA”.

Many times they beat their breasts before the grave and say, “O my son (*daughter*), sweetest child, do you not hear what your mother cries out to you ? Behold the womb that bore you. Why do you not speak as you used to speak to us ? But you are silent, and you do not say with us :

‘ALLELUIA. ALLELUIA. ALLELUIA’”.

O God, God who have summoned me (*us*), be now the consolation to my (*our*) household(s), for great affliction has fallen upon them. All gaze on me (*us*), having me (*us*) as their only-begotten one. But, O You that were born of a Virgin Mother, refresh the womb of my (*our*) mother(s), and bedew the heart of my father with this song :

“ALLELUIA. ALLELUIA. ALLELUIA”.

WITH THE SAINTS GIVE REST,  
O CHRIST, TO THE SOUL(S) OF YOUR SERVANT(S),  
WHERE THERE IS NO MISERY NOR SORROW,  
AND NO SIGHING,  
BUT LIFE UNENDING.

**Ode VII :** THE HEBREW CHILDREN IN THE FURNACE  
TROD BOLDLY ON THE FLAMES,  
AND THE FIRE WAS TRANSFORMED INTO DEW AS THEY  
CRIED OUT,  
“BLESSED ARE YOU, O LORD GOD, UNTO THE AGES”.

**R :** Give rest, O Lord, to the child(*ren*) who has (*have*) fallen asleep

Since You love mankind, inscribe Your child(*ren*) in the Book of the Redeemed, O compassionate One, that rejoicing, he (*she/they*) may cry aloud to the majesty of Your glory, “Blessed are You”.

**R :** Give rest, O Lord, to the child(*ren*) who has (*have*) fallen asleep.

O Word of God, enlighten Your child(*ren*) who in faith has (*have*) passed over to You in unripe age, O Word of God, and sing(s) to You, “Blessed are You O Lord God”.

**R :** Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.

\* O child(*ren*), your departure now is being shown as a cause of woe to those who love you, but truly it is to you a cause of joy and gladness, for you have inherited life unto the ages.

**R :** Now, and ever, and unto the ages of ages. Amen.

Behold, O Virgin, the afflictions which my many sins have brought upon me, and before I go from here give me refreshment by your maternal prayers, that God may have mercy on me.

Irmos as Katabasia.

**Ode VIII :** IN HIS RAGE THE CHALDEAN TYRANT  
ORDERED THE FURNACE TO BE HEATED SEVEN-FOLD,  
BUT SEEING THE PIOUS YOUTHS BEING SAVED BY AN  
EVEN GREATER MIGHT,  
HE SANG TO THE CREATOR AND REDEEMER :  
“YOU CHILDREN, BLESS, YOU PRIESTS SING HIS PRAISES.  
YOU PEOPLE, HIGHLY EXTOL HIM THROUGHOUT ALL AGES”.

**R :** Give rest, O Lord, to the child(*ren*) who has (*have*) fallen asleep.

O child(*ren*), may Christ, who became a Child for our sakes, establish you in Abraham’s bosom, in the mansions of rest, where there is the joy of those who feast always, and in the places of refreshment where is the water of life, as we cry out to Him unceasingly, “O Priests, sing His praises. O people, extol Him unto all ages”.

**R :** Give rest, O Lord, to the child(*ren*) who has (*have*) fallen asleep.

Truly your departure has become for us a beginning of all sorrows and ever-memorable tears ; for before you had tasted the pleasant things of this present life, you have departed the earth and the bosom of your parents. But Abraham’s bosom shall receive you, as you are but (*a*) child(*ren*) and have not

partaken of any stain.

**R :** Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.

As he (*she*) lies dead he (*she*) cries out invisibly, “Why do you mourn me (*us*) the child(*ren*) taken hence ? For unto children who have committed nothing worthy of tears is appointed the joy of all the righteous as they sing sweetly to Christ, ‘You priests, sing praises, you people, exalt Him throughout all ages’”.

**R :** Now, and ever, and unto the ages of ages. Amen.

Arise to my help, O Theotokos, and accept my prayers and deliver me from dread condemnation, from the rigorous searching-out, from outer darkness and from fire. Save me from the gnashing of teeth, the torments of demons, and from every distress, O hope of the hopeless and life of the despairing.

Irmos as Katabasia.

**Ode IX :** THE HEAVENS WERE AFRAID AND THE ENDS OF THE  
EARTH WERE AWED,  
FOR GOD HAS REVEALED HIMSELF TO MANKIND IN THE  
FLESH,  
AND YOUR WOMB BECAME MORE SPACIOUS THAN THE  
HEAVENS.  
THEREFORE, THE LEADERS OF MANKIND AND ANGELS  
MAGNIFY YOU AS THEOTOKOS.

**R :** Give rest, O Lord, to the child(*ren*) who has (*have*) fallen asleep.

O Christ, You became a little Child, without change of essence. Of Your own good will You united Yourself to the Cross, and looked with pity on the maternal sorrows of her who gave birth to You. Assuage the sorrows and grief of the faithful parents of the dead child(*ren*), that we may sing praises to Your majesty.

**R :** Give rest, O Lord, to the child(*ren*) who has (*have*) fallen asleep.

\* O King of all, You have sent from on high and taken this (*these*) blessed child(*ren*), like a pure little bird to its heavenly nest. You have saved this (*these*) soul(s) from many snares, and have united it (*them*) with the spirits of the righteous who delight in Your Kingdom, O Lord.

**R :** Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.

You have granted a heavenly abode unto children who have done nothing evil, O Word of God, for thus it seemed good in Your sight, O blessed One. Number with them also Your creature(s), the child(*ren*) who has (*have*) now come to You. Assuage the grief of his (*her/their*) parents since You are compassionate, and the Lover of Man.

**R :** Now, and ever, and unto the ages of ages. Amen.

With the eyes of my heart I gaze steadfastly upon you, who make maternal supplication to Him who was born of you, O all-blameless one. Quench the passions of my soul ; move me speedily to repentance, O Virgin, and illumine me with your light.

Irmos as Katabasia.

*In the case of infants up to the age of two years, we make no petitions. Only the following is said :*

**Deacon :** Let us pray to the Lord.

**Response :** Lord, have mercy.

**Presbyter :** O Lord, You watch over children in the present life and in the (*censing*) world to come, because of their simplicity and innocence of mind, and You abundantly satisfy them with a place in Abraham's bosom, bringing them to live in radiantly shining places where the spirits of the righteous dwell. Receive in peace the soul(s) of Your little servant(s) *n* \_\_\_ ; for You have Yourself said, "*Let the little children come to me, ... for of such is the Kingdom of Heaven*" ; for Yours only is the Kingdom of Heaven and to You we send up glory, together with the unoriginate Father, and the all-holy, good, and life-giving Spirit, now, and ever, and unto the ages of ages.

**R :** Amen.

*If it be an older child, then the following litany is prayed. The deacon taking the censer and censing before the coffin, begins :*

### **Litany**

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

**Response :** Lord, have mercy.

**Deacon :** Again, we pray for the repose of this (*these*) newly-departed blessed child(*ren*) n ; and that in accordance with His word, He will graciously grant to him (*her/them*) His heavenly Kingdom.

**R :** Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

**Deacon :** That the Lord God will establish his (*her/their*) soul(s) where the righteous repose.

**R :** Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

**Deacon :** The mercies of God, the Kingdom of Heaven, and rest with the saints, for him (*her/them*) and for ourselves, let us ask of Christ, our immortal King and God.

**R :** Grant it, O Lord.

**Deacon :** Let us pray to the Lord.

**R :** Lord, have mercy.

**Presbyter :** O Lord Jesus Christ, You have promised to bestow the Kingdom of Heaven upon those who have been born of water and the Spirit, and who have passed over to You in purity of life, and You have said, “*Let the little children come to me, .... for of such is the Kingdom of Heaven*”. We humbly entreat You that You will give to Your servant(s), the blameless child(*ren*) n now newly departed from us, the inheritance of Your Kingdom in accordance with Your unfailing promise. And grant that we may continue in innocence of life, and make a Christian ending of life, and attain to an abode in the heavenly mansions with all Your saints ;  
for You are the Resurrection and the Life and the Repose of all Your servants, and of Your servant, this (*these*) child(*ren*) n now newly taken from us, O Christ our God, and to You we send up glory, together with Your unoriginate Father, and Your all-holy, good and life-giving Spirit, now, and ever, and unto the ages of ages.

**R :** Amen.



### Hymn of Light

NOW, I AM AT REST.  
NOW, I HAVE FOUND PEACE.  
I HAVE ESCAPED CORRUPTION.  
I HAVE PASSED FROM DEATH TO LIFE.  
GLORY BE TO YOU, O LORD.

**Reader :** Man, his days are just like grass ; just as a flower of the field, so shall he flourish. (Psalm 102)

NOW, I AM AT REST.  
NOW, I HAVE FOUND PEACE.  
I HAVE ESCAPED CORRUPTION.  
I HAVE PASSED FROM DEATH TO LIFE.  
GLORY BE TO YOU, O LORD.

**Reader :** For breath has passed through him, and he shall not exist, and he shall recognise his place no longer. But the mercy of the LORD is from the age, and until the age, upon those fearing Him.

NOW, I AM AT REST.  
NOW, I HAVE FOUND PEACE.  
I HAVE ESCAPED CORRUPTION.  
I HAVE PASSED FROM DEATH TO LIFE.  
GLORY BE TO YOU, O LORD.

**Reader :** Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit ; now, and ever, and unto the ages of ages. Amen.

NOW I DWELL WITH THE VIRGIN THEOTOKOS.  
CHRIST, THE REDEEMER OF ALL MEN, WAS BORN OF HER.  
GLORY BE TO YOU, O LORD.



### Readings

**Deacon :** Let us pray to the Lord.

**R :** Lord, have mercy.

**Presbyter :** For You are holy, O Lord our God, and You rest in the saints, and to You we send up glory, to the Father, and to Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now, and ever and unto the ages of ages.

**R :** Amen.

**Deacon :** Let us attend.

**Presbyter :** Peace be unto all.

**R :** And with your spirit.

**Deacon :** Wisdom.

**Reader :** The Prokeimenon in the sixth tone :

Blessed is the way in which you shall walk today, O soul, for a place of rest is prepared for you.

**v :** Turn about to your Rest, O my soul, for the Lord has done good for you.

**Deacon :** Wisdom.

**Reader :** The reading from the First Epistle of the holy Apostle Paul to the Corinthians.

**Deacon :** Let us attend.  
**Reader :** Brethren, (*1 Corinthians 15:39-46*)  
**Presbyter :** Peace be to you, reader.  
**Reader :** And to your spirit. Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.  
**R :** Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia.  
**v :** Blessed is he (*she/they*) whom You have chosen out and taken to Yourself, O Lord.  
**v :** May his (*her/their*) soul(s) dwell with the blessed.  
**Deacon :** Wisdom. Let us attend. Let us listen to the Holy Gospel.  
**Presbyter :** Peace be to all.  
**R :** And to your spirit.  
**Presbyter :** The reading from the Holy Gospel according to Saint John.  
**R :** Glory be to You, O Lord, glory be to You.  
**Deacon :** Let us attend.  
**Presbyter :** The Lord said to the Jews who came to Him ....  
(*John 6:35-40*).  
**R :** Glory be to You, O Lord, glory be to You.

*These hymns of the Last Kiss are usually transferred to after the dismissal.*

### **The Last Kiss**

**Tone 8**

O MY CHILD, WHO WOULD NOT LAMENT YOUR MOURNFUL  
DEPARTURE FROM THIS LIFE ?  
AS AN INFANT YOU HAVE LEFT YOUR MOTHER'S ARMS.  
LIKE A FLEDGLING YOU NOW HAVE SWIFTLY FLOWN AWAY  
AND HAVE RETURNED TO THE CREATOR OF ALL.  
WHO WOULD NOT LAMENT, O MY CHILD,  
BEHOLDING YOUR ROSY FACE SO SOON FADED  
WHICH WAS BEFORE AS BEAUTIFUL AS THE CRIMSON  
LILY OF THE FIELD ?  
WHO WOULD NOT LAMENT, O MY CHILD  
AND TEARFULLY REGRET THE LOSS OF THE LOVELINESS  
AND BEAUTY OF YOUR PURE LIFE,  
FOR LIKE A SHIP THAT LEAVES NO WAKE BEHIND  
YOU HAVE SWIFTLY VANISHED FROM MY SIGHT.  
COME, MY FRIENDS, MY KINSFOLK, AND MY NEIGHBOURS,  
AND WITH ME GIVE THE KISS OF LAST FAREWELL  
TO HIM (*HER/THEM*) WHOM WE ARE COMMITTING TO THE  
GRAVE.

DEATH IS A RELEASE FOR CHILDREN,  
FOR THEY ARE FREE FROM THE EVILS OF LIFE  
AND HAVE ATTAINED REST AND HEAVENLY GLADNESS.

THEY REJOICE IN THE BOSOM OF ABRAHAM.  
REJOICING, THEY EXULT WITH THE DIVINE CHOIRS OF  
HOLY CHILDREN ;  
FOR IN PURITY THEY HAVE ESCAPED FROM THE  
CORRUPTION OF SIN.

**Tone 6**

GLORY BE TO THE FATHER, AND TO THE SON, AND TO THE  
HOLY SPIRIT.

PAIN CAME TO ADAM FIRST IN EDEN  
WHEN, DECEIVED BY THE SERPENT'S POISON, HE TASTED  
OF THE TREE.

BY THIS, UNIVERSAL DEATH WHICH DESTROYS MAN  
ENTERED THE WORLD.

BUT THEN THE MASTER CAME, DEPOSED THE SERPENT,  
AND GAVE US REST.

THEREFORE LET US CRY OUT TO HIM,  
SPARE AND GIVE REST WITH THE SAINTS  
TO HIM (*HER/THEM*) WHOM YOU HAVE CHOSEN, O SAVIOUR.

NOW, AND EVER, AND UNTO THE AGES OF AGES. AMEN.  
O VIRGIN THEOTOKOS,  
YOU ARE THE CONSOLATION OF THOSE WHO MOURN, AND  
DELIVERANCE TO THE WEAK.

SAVE OUR CITY AND ITS PEOPLE,  
FOR YOU ARE PEACE TO THOSE AT WAR ;  
YOU ARE A HAVEN TO THOSE TOSSED BY STORM ;  
YOU ARE THE ONLY DEFENDER OF THE FAITHFUL.



**Reader :** Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal, have mercy on us.  
(*three times*) (*three metanias*)

O most-holy Trinity, have mercy on us. O Lord, cleanse us from  
our sins. O Master, pardon our iniquities. O Holy One, visit  
and heal our infirmities for Your Name's sake.

Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.  
Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit ;  
now, and ever, and unto the ages of ages. Amen.

Our Father, who are in the Heavens, hallowed be Your name,  
Your Kingdom come, Your will be done, on earth as it is in  
Heaven ; give us today our daily bread, and forgive us our debts  
as we forgive our debtors ; and do not bring us to the test, but  
rescue us from the evil one.

**Presbyter :** For Yours are the Kingdom, and the power, and the glory, of the

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

**Reader :** Amen.

### **Tropar**

**Tone 4**

WITH THE SPIRITS OF THE RIGHTEOUS MADE PERFECT,  
GIVE REST TO THE SOUL(S) OF YOUR SERVANT(S),  
O SAVIOUR,  
GUARDING HIM (*HER/THEM*) FOR THE BLESSED LIFE  
WHICH IS WITH YOU, O LOVER OF MAN.



*In the case of infants up to the age of two years, we make no petitions.  
Only the following is said :*

**Deacon :** Let us pray to the Lord.

**Response :** Lord, have mercy.

**Presbyter :** O Lord, You watch over children in the present life and in the  
(*censing*) world to come, because of their simplicity and innocence of  
mind, and You abundantly satisfy them with a place in  
Abraham's bosom, bringing them to live in radiantly shining  
places where the spirits of the righteous dwell. Receive in peace  
the soul(s) of Your little servant(s) *n*\_\_\_\_ ; for You have Yourself  
said, "*Let the little children come to me, ... for of such is the  
Kingdom of Heaven*" ;  
for Yours only is the Kingdom of Heaven and to You we send up  
glory, together with the unoriginate Father, and the all-holy,  
good, and life-giving Spirit, now, and ever, and unto the ages of  
ages.

**R :** Amen.

*If it be an older child, then the following litany is prayed. The deacon  
taking the censor and censing before the coffin, begins :*

### **Litany**

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

**Response :** Lord, have mercy.

**Deacon :** Again, we pray for the repose of this (*these*) newly-departed  
blessed child(*ren*) *n*\_\_\_\_ ; and that in accordance with His word,  
He will graciously grant to him (*her/them*) His heavenly  
Kingdom.

**R :** Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

**Deacon :** That the Lord God will establish his (*her/their*) soul(s) where the righteous repose.

**R :** Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

**Deacon :** The mercies of God, the Kingdom of Heaven, and rest with the saints, for him (*her/them*) and for ourselves, let us ask of Christ, our immortal King and God.

**R :** Grant it, O Lord.

**Deacon :** Let us pray to the Lord.

**R :** Lord, have mercy.

**Presbyter :** O Lord Jesus Christ, You have promised to bestow the Kingdom of Heaven upon those who have been born of water and the Spirit, and who have passed over to You in purity of life, and You have said, “*Let the little children come to me, ... for of such is the Kingdom of Heaven*”. We humbly entreat You that You will give to Your servant(s), the blameless child(*ren*) n\_\_\_\_ now newly-departed from us, the inheritance of Your Kingdom in accordance with Your unfailing promise. And grant that we may continue in innocence of life, and make a Christian ending of life, and attain to an abode in the heavenly mansions with all Your saints ;  
for You are the Resurrection and the Life and the Repose of all Your servants, and of Your servant(s), this (*these*) child(*ren*) n\_\_\_\_ now newly taken from us, O Christ our God, and to You we send up glory, together with Your unoriginate Father, and Your all-holy, good and life-giving Spirit, now, and ever, and unto the ages of ages.

**R :** Amen.

**Deacon :** Wisdom.

**Presbyter :** Most Holy Theotokos, save us.

**R :** More honourable than the Cherubim, and more glorious beyond compare than the Seraphim, without corruption you gave birth to God the Word. True Theotokos, we magnify you.

**Presbyter :** Glory be to You, O Christ, our God and our hope, glory be to You.

**R :** Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit ; now, and ever, and unto the ages of ages. Amen.  
Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.  
Master (*Father*) bless.

**Presbyter :** May He who rose from the dead, who has power over the living and the dead, Christ our true God, through the prayers of His most pure Mother, of the holy, glorious, and all-laudable apostles, of our holy and God-bearing fathers, and of all the saints, establish in the mansions of the righteous the soul(s) of this (*these*) child(*ren*) n\_\_\_\_ who is (*are*) now newly taken from

us. May He grant repose to him (*her/them*) in the bosom of Abraham and number him (*her/them*) amongst the righteous ; and may He have mercy on us, for He is good and the Lover of Man.

**R :** Amen.

*Or this dismissal :*

**Presbyter :** May He who rose from the dead, who has power over the living and the dead, Christ our true God, through the prayers of His most pure Mother, of the holy, glorious, and all-laudable apostles, of our holy and God-bearing fathers, of the holy and glorious forefathers Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, of the holy and righteous Lazarus of the four days, the Friend of Christ, and of all the saints, establish in the mansions of the righteous the soul(s) of His newly-departed servant(s) *n*\_\_\_\_. May He grant repose to him (*her/them*) in the bosom of Abraham and number him (*her/them*) amongst the righteous ; and may He have mercy on us, for He is good and the Lover of Man.

**R :** Amen.

**Presbyter :** May your memory be eternal, O *n*\_\_\_\_, worthily-blessed and ever-memorable child(*ren*).

**R :** MEMORY ETERNAL. MEMORY ETERNAL. MEMORY ETERNAL.

*The presbyter says this prayer by the coffin :*

**Deacon :** Let us pray to the Lord.

**R :** Lord, have mercy.

**Presbyter :** O Lord, in this present life You guard little children, and in the life to come You have prepared a spacious place for them which is the bosom of Abraham, befitting their purity, a radiant abode of the angels where the souls of the righteous dwell. O Lord Jesus Christ, now receive the soul(s) of Your servant(s), the child(*ren*), *n*\_\_\_\_, in peace ; for You have said, “*Let the little children come to me, ... for of such is the Kingdom of Heaven*” ; for to You are due all glory, honour and worship, with the Father and the Holy Spirit, now, and ever, and unto the ages of ages.

**R :** Amen.

*Afterwards, they take up the remains of the departed and go to the grave, the clergy before, the deacon(s) with censer(s) before the departed, and the family and others following.*

*They sing the Trisagion as they depart :*

**R :** HOLY GOD, HOLY MIGHTY, HOLY IMMORTAL, HAVE MERCY ON US.

*Thus they sing, until they come to the grave.*

### **At the Grave**

*Having come to the grave, they continue thus to sing until all is in readiness. When everything is ready, then the reader continues straightaway :*

**Reader :** O most-holy Trinity, have mercy on us. O Lord, cleanse us from our sins. O Master, pardon our iniquities. O Holy One, visit and heal our infirmities for Your Name's sake.  
Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.  
Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit ; now, and ever, and unto the ages of ages. Amen.  
Our Father, who are in the heavens, hallowed be Your name, Your Kingdom come, Your will be done, on earth as it is in Heaven ; give us today our daily bread, and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors ; and do not bring us to the test, but rescue us from the evil one.

**Presbyter :** For Yours are the Kingdom, and the power, and the glory, of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, now, and ever, and unto the ages of ages.

**Reader :** Amen.

### **Tropar**

**Tone 4**

WITH THE SPIRITS OF THE RIGHTEOUS MADE PERFECT,  
GIVE REST TO THE SOUL(S) OF YOUR SERVANT(S),  
O SAVIOUR,  
GUARDING HIM (*HER/THEM*) FOR THE BLESSED LIFE  
WHICH IS WITH YOU, O LOVER OF MAN.



*In the case of infants up to the age of two years, we make no petitions.  
Only the following is said :*

**Deacon :** Let us pray to the Lord.

**Response :** Lord, have mercy.

**Presbyter :** O Lord, You watch over children in the present life and in the

(*censing*) world to come, because of their simplicity and innocence of mind, and You abundantly satisfy them with a place in Abraham's bosom, bringing them to live in radiantly shining places where the spirits of the righteous dwell. Receive in peace the soul(s) of Your little servant(s) n\_\_\_\_ ; for You have Yourself said, "*Let the little children come to me, ... for of such is the Kingdom of Heaven*" ; for Yours only is the Kingdom of Heaven and to You we send up glory, together with the unoriginate Father, and the all-holy, good, and life-giving Spirit, now, and ever, and unto the ages of ages.

**R :** Amen.

*If it be an older child, then the following litany is prayed. The deacon taking the censer and censing before the coffin, begins :*

**Litany**

**Deacon :** Again, and again, in peace let us pray to the Lord.  
**Response :** Lord, have mercy.  
**Deacon :** Again, we pray for the repose of this (*these*) newly-departed blessed child(*ren*) n\_\_\_\_ ; and that in accordance with His word, He will graciously grant to him (*her/their*) His heavenly Kingdom.  
**R :** Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.  
**Deacon :** That the Lord God will establish his (*her/their*) soul(s) where the righteous repose.  
**R :** Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.  
**Deacon :** The mercies of God, the Kingdom of Heaven, and rest with the saints, for him (*her/them*) and for ourselves, let us ask of Christ, our immortal King and God.  
**R :** Grant it, O Lord.  
**Deacon :** Let us pray to the Lord.  
**R :** Lord, have mercy.  
**Presbyter :** O Lord Jesus Christ, You have promised to bestow the Kingdom of Heaven upon those who have been born of water and the Spirit, and who have passed over to You in purity of life, and You have said, "*Let the little children come to me, ... for of such is the Kingdom of Heaven*". We humbly entreat You that You will give to Your servant(s), the blameless child(*ren*) n\_\_\_\_ now newly-departed from us, the inheritance of Your Kingdom in accordance with Your unfailing promise. And grant that we may continue in innocence of life, and make a Christian ending of life, and attain to an abode in the heavenly mansions with all Your saints ;

for You are the Resurrection and the Life and the Repose of all Your servants, and of Your servant(s), this *(these)* child(ren) n now newly taken from us, O Christ our God, and to You we send up glory, together with Your unoriginate Father, and Your all-holy, good and life-giving Spirit, now, and ever, and unto the ages of ages.

**R :** Amen.

**Presbyter :** May your memory be eternal, O n, worthily-blessed and ever-memorable child(ren).

**R :** MEMORY ETERNAL. MEMORY ETERNAL. MEMORY ETERNAL.

**Presbyter :** Through the prayers of our holy *brothers and sisters*, Lord Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and save us.

**R :** Amen.

*And when the body has been laid in the grave, the presbyter pours oil from the lamp, and/or oil remaining from anointing upon the body, saying :*

You will sprinkle me with hyssop, and I shall be cleansed ;  
You will wash me, and I shall be made whiter than snow.

*Then the presbyter puts the ashes from the censer into the grave, and he takes a shovelful of earth and pours it Cross-wise on the remains, saying :*

**Presbyter :** The earth belongs to the LORD, and its fulness :  
the world, and all those dwelling in it.

*The grave is filled in the usual way.  
Giving thanks to God, they depart.*

## AT THE DIVINE LITURGY

### Propers for Memorial Divine Liturgy

#### Tropar

**Tone 8**

O ONLY CREATOR, WHO WITH WISDOM PROFOUND,  
MERCIFULLY ORDER ALL THINGS,  
AND GIVE THAT WHICH IS USEFUL TO ALL MANKIND,  
GIVE REST, O LORD, TO THE SOUL(S) OF YOUR SERVANT(S)  
WHO HAS (*HAVE*) FALLEN ASLEEP,  
FOR HE (*SHE/THEY*) HAS (*HAVE*) PLACED HIS (*HER/THEIR*)  
TRUST IN YOU, OUR MAKER AND FASHIONER  
AND OUR GOD.

#### Kontak

**Tone 8**

WITH THE SAINTS GIVE REST, O CHRIST,  
TO THE SOUL(S) OF YOUR SERVANT(S),  
WHERE THERE IS NO MISERY NOR SORROW,  
AND NO SIGHING,  
BUT LIFE UNENDING.

#### Prokeimenon

**Tone 6**

MAY HIS (*HER/THEIR*) SOUL(S) DWELL ✠ WITH THE BLESSED.  
▼ : To You, O Lord, have I raised my soul.

#### Alleluia

▼ : Blessed is (*are*) he (*she/they*) whom You have chosen out  
and taken to Yourself, O Lord. May his (*her/their*)  
remembrance be from generation to generation.  
▼ : May his (*her/their*) soul(s) dwell with the blessed.

#### Epistle

1 Corinthians 15:47-57

#### Gospel

John 6:48-54

#### Communion Hymn

Blessed is (are) he (she/they) whom You have chosen out and taken to Yourself, O Lord. May his (her/their) remembrance be from generation to generation. May his (her/their) soul(s) dwell with the blessed. Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia.

*At the conclusion, usually in the context of a Trisagion for the Departed, they say the Parting Prayer with the dismissal ; they give the Last Kiss, and they depart to the grave.*

**[THE END OF THE LITURGY PROPERS]**

**[THE END OF THE BURIAL SERVICE OVER AN  
INFANT OR A YOUNG CHILD]**

t h e e n d

G L O R Y B E T O G O D



