

## FIRST STASIS

### tone five

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

**1. Thou who art the Life wast laid in a tomb, O Christ; and the hosts of angels were amazed and glorified Thy self-abasement.**

Blessed are they that search out His testimonies, and seek Him with their whole heart.

**2. O Life, how canst Thou die? How canst Thou dwell in a tomb? Yet Thou dost destroy death's kingdom and raise the dead from hell.**

For they that work wickedness have not walked in His ways.

**3. We magnify Thee, Jesus our King: we honour Thy burial and Thy sufferings, whereby Thou hast saved us from corruption.**

Thou hast commanded us to keep Thy precepts diligently.

**4. O Jesus, King of all, who hast set measures to the earth, Thou dost go this day to dwell in a narrow grave, raising up the dead from their tombs.**

O that my ways were directed to keep Thy statutes!

**5. O Jesus, my Christ and King of all, why hast Thou come to those in hell? Is it to set free the race of mortal men?**

Then shall I not be ashamed, when I give heed unto all Thy commandments.

**6. The Master of all is seen lying dead, and in a new tomb He is laid, who empties the tombs of the dead.**

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

**7. Thou who art Life wast laid in a tomb, O Christ: by Thy death Thou hast destroyed death and art become a fountain of life for the world.**

I will keep Thy statutes: O forsake me not utterly.

**8. Numbered with the transgressors, O Christ, Thou dost free us all from**

**the guilt brought upon us of old by the deceiver.**

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

**9. Fairer in His beauty than all mortal men, He appears now as a corpse without form or comeliness, He who has made beautiful the nature of all things.**

With my whole heart have I sought Thee: O let me not wander from Thy commandments.

**10. How could hell endure Thy coming, O Saviour? Was it not shattered and struck blind by the dazzling radiance of Thy light?**

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Thy words have I hid in my heart, that I might not sin against Thee.

**11. O Jesus, my sweetness and light of salvation, how art Thou hidden in a dark tomb? O forbearance ineffable, beyond all words!**

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

**12. The spiritual powers and the angelic hosts are amazed, O Christ, at the mystery of Thy burial past utterance and speech.**

With my lips have I declared all the judgements of Thy mouth.

**13. O strange wonder, new to man! He who granted me the breath of life is carried lifeless in Joseph's hands to burial.**

I have rejoiced in the way of Thy testimonies, as much as in all riches.

**14. Thou hast gone down into the tomb, O Christ, yet wast Thou never parted from Thy Father's side. O marvellous wonder!**

I will meditate on Thy precepts, and I will understand Thy ways.

**15. Though Thou wast shut within the narrowest of sepulchers, O Jesus, all creation knew Thee as true King of heaven and earth.**

My study shall be in Thy statutes : I will not forget Thy words.

**16. When Thou wast laid in a tomb, O Christ the Creator, the foundations of hell were shaken and the graves of mortal men were opened.**

O reward Thy servant: give me life, and I shall keep Thy words.

**17. He who holds the earth in the hollow of His hand is held fast by the earth; put to death according to the flesh, He delivers the dead from the grasping hand of hell.**

Open Thou mine eyes, that I may behold the wondrous things of Thy law.

**18. O Saviour, my Life, dying Thou hast gone to dwell among the dead: yet Thou hast shattered the bars of hell and arisen from corruption.**

I am but a sojourner upon the earth: hide not Thy commandments from me.

**19. The flesh of God is hidden now beneath the earth, like a candle underneath a bushel, and it drives away the darkness in hell.**

My soul is consumed with the longing that it has for Thy judgements at all times.

**20. The multitude of the heavenly powers makes haste with Joseph and Nicodemus, and within a narrow sepulcher they enclose Thee whom nothing can contain.**

Thou hast rebuked the proud: and cursed are they that do err from Thy commandments.

**21. With Thine own consent slain and laid beneath the earth, O my Jesus, Fountain of Life, Thou hast brought me back to life when I was dead through bitter sin.**

Remove from me reproach and contempt; for I have sought Thy testimonies.

**22. The whole creation was altered by Thy Passion: for all things suffered with Thee, knowing, O Word, that Thou holdest all in unity.**

Princes also did sit and speak against me: but Thy servant did meditate on Thy statutes.

**23. All-devouring hell received within himself the Rock of Life, and cast forth all the dead that he had swallowed since the beginning of the world.**

Thy testimonies also are my study: and Thy statutes are my counsellors.

**24. Thou wast laid in a new tomb, O Christ, and hast made new the nature of mortal man, rising from the dead by Thy divine power.**

My soul has cleaved unto the dust: quicken Thou me according to Thy word.

**25. To earth hast Thou come down, O Master, to save Adam: and not finding him on earth, Thou hast descended into hell, seeking him there.**

I have declared my ways, and Thou heardest me: teach me Thy statutes.

**26. The whole earth quaked with fear, O Word, and the daystar hid its rays, when Thy great Light was hidden in the earth.**

Make me to understand the way of Thy precepts: so shall I talk of Thy wondrous works.

**27. Willingly Thou diest as a mortal man, O Saviour, but as God Thou dost raise up the dead from the grave and from the depths of sin.**

My soul is grown drowsy from heaviness: strengthen me with Thy words.

**28. Tears of lamentation the pure Virgin shed over Thee, Jesus, and with a mother's grief she cried: "How shall I bury Thee, my Son?"**

Remove from me the way of lying: and take pity on me with Thy law.

**29. Buried in the earth like a grain of wheat, Thou hast yielded a rich harvest, raising to life the mortal sons of Adam.**

I have chosen the way of truth: Thy judgements have I not forgotten.

**30. Now art Thou hidden like the setting sun beneath the earth and covered by the night of death: but, O Saviour, rise in brighter dawn.**

I have stuck unto Thy testimonies: O Lord, put me not to shame.

**31. As the moon hides the circle of the sun, O Saviour, now the grave has hidden Thee, bodily eclipsed in death.**

I have run the way of Thy commandments: for Thou hast enlarged my heart.

**32. Christ the Life, by tasting death, has delivered mortal men from death, and now gives life to all.**

Teach me, O Lord, the way of Thy statutes; and I shall seek it always.

**33. Adam was slain of old through envy, but by Thy dying Thou hast brought him back to life, O Saviour, revealed in the flesh as the new Adam.**

Give me understanding, and I shall seek Thy law; yea, I shall observe it with my whole heart.

**34. When the ranks of angels saw Thee, O Saviour, laid out dead for our sake, they were filled with wonder and veiled their faces with their wings.**

Make me to go in the path of Thy commandments; for therein do I delight.

**35. Taking Thee down dead from the Tree, O Word, Joseph now has laid Thee in a tomb: but rise up as God to save us all.**

Incline my heart unto Thy testimonies, and not to covetousness.

**36. Thou art the Joy of the angels, O Saviour, but now Thou art become the cause of their grief, as they see Thee in the flesh a lifeless corpse.**

Turn away mine eyes from beholding vanity, and quicken Thou me in Thy way.

**37. Uplifted on the Cross, Thou hast uplifted with Thyself all living men; and then descending beneath the earth, Thou raisest all that lie buried there.**

Stablish Thy word in Thy servant, that I may fear Thee.

**38. As a lion hast Thou fallen asleep in the flesh, O Saviour, and as a young lion hast Thou risen from the dead, putting off the old age of the flesh.**

Take away my reproach which I fear: for Thy judgements are good.

**39. O Thou who hast fashioned Eve from Adam's side, Thy side was pierced and from it flowed streams of cleansing.**

Behold, I have longed after Thy precepts: quicken me in Thy righteousness.

**40. Of old the lamb was sacrificed in secret; but Thou, longsuffering Saviour, wast sacrificed beneath the open sky and hast cleansed the whole creation.**

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

**41. Who can describe this strange and terrible thing? The Lord of Creation today accepts the Passion and dies for our sake.**

So shall I give an answer to them that reproach me: lor I trust in Thy word.

**42. "How do we see the Giver of Life now dead?" the angels cried in**

**amazement. “How is God enclosed within a tomb?”**

And take not the word of truth utterly out of my mouth; for I have hoped in Thy judgements.

**43. Pierced by a spear, O Saviour, from Thy side Thou pourest out life upon Eve, the mother of all the living, who banished me from life; and Thou quickenest me also with her.**

So shall I keep Thy law continually for ever and ever.

**44. Stretched out upon the Wood, Thou hast drawn mortal men to unity; pierced in Thy life-giving side, O Jesus, Thou art become a fountain of forgiveness unto all.**

And I walked at liberty: for I have sought Thy precepts.

**45. With fear and reverence noble Joseph lays Thee out for burial as a corpse, O Saviour, and he looks with wonder on Thy dread form.**

I spoke of Thy testimonies also before kings, and was not ashamed.

**46. Of Thine own will descending as one dead beneath the earth, O Jesus, Thou leadest up the fallen from earth to heaven.**

And my study was in Thy commandments, which I have loved exceedingly.

**47. Dead in outward appearance, yet alive as God, O Jesus, Thou leadest up the fallen from earth to heaven.**

My hands also have I lifted up unto Thy commandments, which I have loved.

**48. Dead in outward appearance, yet alive as God, Thou hast restored dead mortals to life and slain him that slew me.**

And I have meditated in Thy statutes.

**49. How great the joy, how full the gladness, that Thou hast brought to those in hell, shining as lightning in its gloomy depths.**

Remember Thy words unto Thy servant, in which Thou hast caused me to hope.

**50. I venerate Thy Passion, I sing the praises of Thy burial, and I magnify Thy power, O loving Lord: through them I am set free from corrupting**

passions.

This is my comfort in my affliction: for Thy word has quickened me.

**51. A sword was sharpened against Thee, O Christ: but the sword of the strong was blunted, and the sword that guards Eden was turned back.**

The proud have transgressed exceedingly: yet have I not turned aside from Thy law.

**52. The Ewe, seeing her Lamb slaughtered, was pierced with anguish: and she cried aloud in grief, calling the flock to lament with her.**

I remembered Thy judgements of old, O Lord ; and was comforted.

**53. Though Thou art buried in a grave, though Thou goest down to hell, O Saviour Christ, yet hast Thou emptied the graves and stripped hell naked.**

Discouragement has taken hold upon me, because of the wicked that forsake Thy law.

**54. Willingly, O Saviour, Thou hast gone down beneath the earth, and Thou hast restored the dead to life, leading them back to the glory of the Father.**

Thy statutes have been my songs in the house of my pilgrimage.

**55. One of the Trinity endures a shameful death in the flesh on our account; the sun trembles and the earth quakes.**

I have remembered Thy Name, O Lord, in the night, and have kept Thy law.

**56. Offspring from a bitter source, the children of the tribe of Judah have cast into a pit Jesus who fed them with manna.**

This has been my reward, because I sought Thy precepts.

**57. The Judge stood as one accused before the judgement-seat of Pilate, and He was condemned to an unjust death upon the wood of the Cross.**

Thou art my portion, O Lord: I have said that I would keep Thy law.

**58. O arrogant Israel, O people guilty of blood, why hast thou set free Barabbas but delivered the Saviour to be crucified?**

I entreated Thy favour with my whole heart: be merciful unto me according to Thy word.

**59. With Thy hand Thou hast fashioned Adam from the earth; and for his**

sake Thou hast become by nature man and wast of Thine own will crucified.  
I thought on Thy ways, and turned my feet unto Thy testimonies.

**60. In obedience to Thine own Father, O Word, Thou hast descended to dread hell and raised up the race of mortal men.**

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

**61. “Woe is me, Light of the world! Woe is me, my Light! Jesus, my heart’s desire!” cried the Virgin in her bitter grief.**

The cords of the wicked have entangled me: but I have not forgotten Thy law.

**62. O bloodthirsty people, jealous and vengeful! May the very grave-clothes and the napkin put you to shame at Christ’s Resurrection.**

At midnight I rose to give thanks unto Thee because of the judgements of Thy righteousness.

**63. Come, evil disciple, murderer of thy Lord, and show me the manner of thy wickedness, how thou hast become Christ’s betrayer.**

I am a companion of all them that fear Thee and keep Thy commandments.

**64. O blind fool, utterly wicked, implacable in hatred, thou dost make a pretence of love for men, yet thou hast sold for money the sweet Myrrh.**

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

**65. What price hast thou received for the heavenly Myrrh? What wast thou given in exchange for Him who is precious? Thou hast gained folly and madness, O accursed Satan.**

Thou hast dealt well with Thy servant, O Lord, according unto Thy word.

**66. If thou lovest the poor and dost grieve over the ointment emptied out in cleansing propitiation for a soul, how canst thou sell the Giver of Light for gold?**

Teach me goodness, discipline and knowledge: for I have believed in Thy commandments.

**67. “O my God and Word, my Joy, how shall I endure Thy three days in the**



**tomb? Now is my heart torn in pieces by a mother's grief."**

Before I was humbled I went astray: but now have I kept Thy word.

**68. "Who will give me water and springs of tears," cried the Virgin Bride of God, "that I may weep for my sweet Jesus?"**

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

**69. "O hills and valleys, the multitude of men, and all creation, weep and lament with me, the Mother of our God."**

The injustice of the proud is multiplied against me: but I will seek Thy commandments with my whole heart.

**70. "When shall I see Thee, Saviour, Light eternal, the joy and gladness of my heart?" cried the Virgin in her bitter grief.**

Their heart is curdled like milk; but my study has been in Thy law.

**71. Thy side was pierced, O Saviour, like the rock of flint in the wilderness; but Thou hast poured forth a stream of living water, for Thou art the Fount of Life.**

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

**72. Out of Thy side, as from a single source, there flows a double stream; and drinking from it we gain immortal life.**

The law of Thy mouth is better unto me than thousands of gold and silver pieces.

**73. Of Thine own will, O Word, Thou wast laid dead in the tomb: yet dost Thou live, my Saviour, and, as Thou hast foretold, Thou shalt raise up mortal men by Thy Resurrection.**

Glory be to the Father. . . .

**74. O Word and God of all, in our hymns we praise Thee with the Father and Thy Holy Spirit, and we glorify Thy divine burial.**

Both now. . .

*Theotokion*

**75. We bless thee, O pure Theotokos, and with faith we honour the three-day**

**burial of thy Son and our God.**

*And we repeat the first troparion:*

Thou who art Life wast laid in a tomb, O Christ, and the hosts of angels were amazed and glorified Thy self-abasement.

SECOND STASIS *TONE FIVE*

**1. It is right to magnify Thee, Giver of Life, who hast stretched out Thine arms upon the Cross and broken the power of the enemy.**

Thy hands have made me and fashioned me: give me understanding, and I shall learn Thy commandments.

**2. It is right to magnify Thee, Creator of all, for through Thy Passion we are freed from passions and corruption.**

They that fear Thee will be glad when they see me: because I have hoped in Thy words.

**3. The earth trembled with fear, O Saviour Christ, and the sun hid itself, seeing Thee, the Light that knows no evening, sinking in Thy body down into the tomb.**

I know, O Lord, that Thy judgements are right, and that with truth Thou hast humbled me.

**4. Thou hast slept, O Christ, a life-giving sleep in the tomb, and aroused mankind from the heavy slumber of sin.**

O let Thy merciful kindness be for my comfort, according to Thy word unto Thy servant.

**5. "Alone among women without pain I bore Thee, my Child', said the Holy Virgin. "But now at Thy Passion I suffer unbearable pain."**

Let Thy tender mercies come unto me, and I shall live: for Thy law is my study.

**6. The seraphim, O Saviour, beheld Thee on high, united inseparably with the Father, yet they saw Thee below lying dead in the tomb; and they trembled**

**with fear.**

Let the proud be ashamed, for they have transgressed against me unjustly: but I will meditate on Thy commandments.

**7. The veil of the temple is rent in twain at Thy Crucifixion, O Word, and the lights of heaven hide their radiance, when Thou, the Sun, art hidden beneath the earth.**

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

**8. He who at the beginning by His will alone set the earth upon its course, now descends dead beneath the earth. Tremble, O heaven, at this sight.**

Let my heart be blameless in Thy statutes: that I be not ashamed.

**9. O Thou who hast fashioned Adam with Thine own hand, Thou hast gone down beneath the earth, to raise up fallen men by Thine almighty power.**

My soul faints for Thy salvation: and I have hoped in Thy words.

**10. Come, and as the women bearing myrrh let us sing a holy lament to the dead Christ, that like them we too may hear Him say "Rejoice!"**

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Mine eyes have grown dim with waiting for Thy word; they say: when wilt Thou comfort me?

**11. Thou art in very truth, O Word, the myrrh that never fails: yet the women with their spices brought myrrh to Thee, the living God, to anoint Thee as a corpse.**

For I am become like a wineskin in the frost; yet have I not forgotten Thy statutes.

**12. Through Thy burial, O Christ, Thou dost destroy the palaces of hell: by Thy death Thou slayest death, and dost deliver from corruption the children of the earth.**

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

**13. Source of the river of life, the Wisdom of God descends into the tomb and**

**gives life to all those in the depths of hell.**

The transgressors told me idle tales, which are not after Thy law, O Lord.

**14. “To renew the broken nature of mortal men, willingly have I been wounded in the flesh by death. O Mother, do not strike thy breast in grief.”**

All Thy commandments are true: they persecute me wrongfully; help Thou me.

**15. O Morning Star of righteousness, Thou art gone down beneath the earth and hast raised up the dead as if from sleep, dispersing all the darkness of hell.**

They had almost made an end of me upon earth; but I forsook not Thy commandments.

**16. The life-giving Seed, twofold in nature, today is sown with tears in the furrows of the earth; but springing up He will bring joy to the world.**

Quicken me according to Thy mercy; so shall I keep the testimonies of Thy mouth.

**17. Adam was afraid when God walked in Paradise, but now he rejoices when God descends to hell. Then he fell, but now he is raised up.**

For ever, O Lord, Thy word endures in heaven.

**18. Seeing Thy body laid in the tomb, O Christ, Thy Mother brings Thee the offering of her tears, and she says: “Arise, my Child, as Thou hast foretold.”**

Thy truth also remains from one generation to another: Thou hast established the earth, and it abides.

**19. Joseph hid Thee reverently in a new tomb, O Saviour, and lamenting sang to Thee a funeral hymn fitting for God.**

The day continues according to Thine ordinance: for all things are Thy servants.

**20. Seeing Thee, O Word, pierced with nails upon the Cross, Thy Mother was wounded in her soul with the nails and arrows of bitter grief.**

Unless Thy law had been my study, I should have perished in my humiliation.

**21. Thy Mother saw Thee drink the bitter vinegar, O Sweetness of the world, and her cheeks were wet with bitter tears.**

I will never forget Thy precepts: for with them Thou hast quickened me.

**22. “I am grievously wounded and my heart is torn, O Word, as I behold Thee slain unjustly’, said the All-pure Virgin weeping.**

I am Thine, save me; for I have sought Thy precepts.

**23. “How shall I close Thy sweet eyes and Thy lips, O Word? And how shall I lay Thee out for burial as a corpse?” cried Joseph trembling.**

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

**24. Joseph and Nicodemus now sing hymns of burial to the dead Christ; and with them sing the seraphim.**

I have seen the outcome of all perfection: but Thy commandment is exceeding broad.

**25. O Saviour, Sun of Righteousness, Thou dost set beneath the earth: therefore the Moon, Thy Mother, is eclipsed in grief, seeing Thee no more.**

O how I have loved Thy law, O Lord! It is my meditation all the day.

**26. Hell trembled, O Saviour, when he saw Thee, the Giver of Life, despoiling him of his wealth and raising up the dead from every age.**

Thou through Thy commandment hast made me wiser than mine enemies: for it is mine for ever.

**27. After the night the sun shines out again in brightness; and after death do Thou, O Word, arise once more and shine in Thy glory, as a bridegroom coming from his chamber.**

I have more understanding than all my teachers: for Thy testimonies are my meditation.

**28. When she received Thee in her bosom, O Creator and Saviour, the earth shook in fear, and with her quaking she awoke the dead.**

I understand more than my elders, because I have sought Thy commandments.

**29. In a new and strange way Nicodemus and noble Joseph buried Thee with spices, and they cried aloud: “Tremble, all the earth!”**

I have restrained my feet from every evil way, that I might keep Thy words.

**30. Thou hast gone down beneath the earth, O Creator of light, and with Thee the sun’s light has also set; creation is seized with trembling and proclaims**

**Thee the Maker of all.**

I have not departed from Thy judgements: for Thou hast taught me.

**31. A stone hewn from the rock covers the Cornerstone; and a mortal man now buries God in the grave as one dead. Tremble, O earth!**

How sweet are Thy words unto my taste! yea, sweeter than honey to my mouth!

**32. “Behold the disciple whom Thou hast loved and Thine own Mother, O my sweetest Child, and do Thou speak to them,” cried the pure Virgin weeping.**

Through Thy commandments I have gained understanding: therefore have I hated every evil way.

**33. Since Thou art Life-giver, O Word, when stretched out upon the Cross, Thou hast not slain the Jews but raised their forefathers from the dead.**

Thy law is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.

**34. At Thy Passion, O Word, there was neither form nor beauty in Thee: but Thou hast risen in glory, and with Thy divine light Thou hast given beauty to mortal- men.**

I have sworn, and am steadfastly purposed, that I will keep the judgements of Thy righteousness.

**35. Day-star without evening, Thou hast gone down in the flesh neath the earth; and the sun grew dark at height of noon-day, for could not bear to look upon Thee.**

I have been very greatly humbled : quicken me, O Lord, according unto Thy word.

**36. The sun and moon grew dark together, O Saviour, like faithful servants clothed in black robes of mourning.**

Accept, I beseech Thee, the free-will offerings of my mouth, O Lord, and teach me Thy judgements.

**37. “The centurion knew Thee to be God, though Thou wast dead. How, then, my God, shall I touch Thee with my hands? I am afraid,” cried Joseph.**

My soul is continually in Thy hands: yet have I not forgotten Thy law.

**38. Adam slept, and from his side there came death; now Thou dost sleep, O Word of God, and from Thy side there flows a fountain of life for the world.**

Sinners have laid a snare for me: yet have I not gone astray from Thy commandments.<sup>1</sup>

**39. Thou hast slept a little while, and brought the dead to life; Thou hast arisen, O loving Lord, and raised up those that from the beginning of time had fallen asleep.**

Thy testimonies have I received as an heritage for ever: for they are the rejoicing of my heart.

**40. O life-giving Vine, Thou wast lifted up from the earth, yet hast Thou poured out the wine of salvation. I glorify Thy Passion and Thy Cross.**

I have inclined my heart to perform Thy statutes: for therein is an everlasting reward.

**41. When the chief captains of the heavenly hosts saw Thee, Saviour, stripped, bloodstained and condemned, how could they bear the boldness of Thy crucifiers?**

I have hated transgressors: but Thy law have I loved.

**42. Perverse and crooked people of the Hebrews, ye knew how the temple would be raised again: why then did ye condemn Christ?**

Thou art my helper and defender: I have hoped in Thy words.

**43. In a robe of mockery ye clothe Him who ordered all things, who adorned the heavens with stars and the earth with wonders.**

Depart from me, ye evildoers: for I will seek the commandments of my God.

**44. Wounded in Thy side, O Word, through the life-giving drops of Thy blood as the pelican Thou hast restored Thy dead children to life.**

Uphold me according unto Thy word, and give me life: and turn me not away in shame from mine expectation.

**45. Of old Joshua made the sun stand still, as he smote the heathen tribes; but Thou hast blotted out its light, whilst casting down the prince of darkness.**

Help me, and I shall be saved: and my study shall be ever in Thy statutes.

**46. Without leaving Thy Father's side, O merciful Christ, Thou hast consented in Thy love to become a mortal man, and Thou hast gone down to hell.**

Thou hast brought to nothing all them that depart from Thy statutes: for their inward thought is unrighteous.

**47. He who hung the earth upon the waters is hung upon the Cross. As a lifeless corpse He is laid in the earth, and it quakes in terror, unable to endure His presence.**

I have regarded all the wicked of the earth as transgressors: therefore I love Thy testimonies.

**48. "Woe is me, my Son!" laments the Virgin. "I see Thee now condemned upon the Cross, whom I had hoped to see enthroned as King."**

Nail my flesh with the fear of Thee: for I am afraid of Thy judgements.

**49. "Such were the tidings Gabriel brought me when he flew down from heaven: for he said that the Kingdom of my Son Jesus would be eternal."**

I have done judgement and justice: O give me not over unto mine oppressors.

**50. "Alas! the prophecy of Simeon has been fulfilled: for Thy sword has pierced my heart, Emmanuel."**

Be surety for Thy servant for good: let not the proud accuse me falsely.

**51. Be ashamed, O Jews, for the Life-giver raised your dead, yet ye slew Him out of envy.**

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

**52. Seeing Thee, my Christ, the Light invisible, hidden lifeless in the tomb, the sun trembled and darkened its light.**

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

**53. Thine all-blameless Mother wept bitterly, O Word, when she beheld**



**Thee in the grave, God ineffable and without beginning.**

I am Thy servant; give me understanding, that I may know Thy testimonies.

**54. Thine undefiled Mother, seeing Thy death, O Christ, cried to Thee in bitter sorrow: "Tarry not, O Life, among the dead."**

It is time for the Lord to act: for they have made void Thy law.

**55. Cruel hell trembled when he saw Thee, O immortal Sun of glory, and in haste he yielded up his prisoners.**

Therefore have I loved Thy commandments above gold or topaz.

**56. Great and fearful is the sight now before our eyes, O Saviour: for of His own will the Cause of life submits to death, that He may give life to all.**

Therefore I walked uprightly according unto all Thy commandments: and I hated every evil way.

**57. Thy side is pierced, O Master, and Thy hands are transfixes with nails; so Thou healest the wound of our first parents and the sinful greed of their hands.**

Thy testimonies are wonderful: therefore has my soul sought them.

**58. Once they wept in every house for Rachel's child; and now the company of Christ's disciples with His Mother lament for the Virgin's Son.**

The revelation of Thy words shall give light and understanding unto the simple.

**59. With their hands they struck Christ in the face, though He it was who formed man with His hand and crushed the teeth of the beast.**

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

**60. In our hymns, O Christ, with all the faithful we worship now Thy Crucifixion and Thy Sepulchre, for by Thy burial we are set free from death.**

Glory be to the Father. . . .

**61. O God without beginning, Word co-eternal, and Holy Spirit, in Thy love strengthen the power of our rulers against their enemies.**

Both now...

*Theotokion*

**62. O Virgin pure and undefiled, who hast given birth to our Life, bring to an end the scandals of the Church and in thy love grant her peace.**

*And we repeat the first troparion of the second stasis:*

It is right to magnify Thee, Giver of Life, who hast stretched Thine arms upon the Cross and broken the power of the enemy.

### THIRD STASIS TONE THREE

**1. Every generation, O my Christ, offers praises at Thy burial.**

Look Thou upon me, and be merciful unto me, according the judgement of those that love Thy Name.

**2. Taking Thee down from the Tree, Joseph of Arimathaea lay Thee in a sepulcher.**

Order my steps in Thy word: and let not any iniquity have dominion over me.

**3. Providently bringing Thee sweet spices, O my Christ, the Myrrh-bearers drew near.**

Deliver me from the false accusation of men: so will I keep Thy commandments.

**4. Come, and with the whole creation let us offer a funeral hymn to the Creator.**

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

**5. Understanding what we do, with the Myrrhbearers let us all anoint the Living as a corpse.**

Rivers of water have run down from mine eyes, because I kept not Thy law.

**6. O thrice-blessed Joseph, bury the body of Christ, the Giver of Life.**

Righteous art Thou, O Lord, and upright are Thy judgements.

**7. Those He fed with manna have lifted up their heel against their Benefactor.**

Thy testimonies that Thou hast commanded are righteous and very faithful.

**8. Those He fed with manna offer to the Saviour vinegar and gall.**

My zeal has consumed me, because mine enemies have forgotten Thy words.

**9. O the folly of those who killed the prophets and slew Christ!**

Thy word is tried in the fire to the uttermost: therefore has Thy servant loved it.

**10. Like a foolish servant, the disciple has betrayed the Abyss of Wisdom.**

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I am young and despised: yet have I not forgotten Thy statutes.

**11. Judas the traitor has sold his Deliverer and himself become a captive.**

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

**12. As Solomon said, the mouth of the transgressing Hebrews is a deep pit.**

Trouble and anguish have taken hold on me: yet Thy commandments are my study.

**13. In the crooked paths of the transgressing Hebrews there are thorns and snares.**

The righteousness of Thy testimonies is everlasting: give me understanding, and I shall live.

**14. Joseph and Nicodemus bury the Creator with the honours that befit the dead.**

I cried with my whole heart; hear me, O Lord: I will seek Thy statutes.

**15. Life-giver and Saviour, Thou hast destroyed hell: to Thy power be glory!**

I cried unto Thee; save me, and I shall keep Thy testimonies.

**16. When she saw Thee lying dead, O Word, the all-pure Virgin wept with a mother's grief.**

I rose up before it was dawn, and cried: I have hoped in Thy word.

**17. "O my sweet springtime, O my sweetest Child, where has all Thy beauty gone?"**

Mine eyes woke before the morning: that I might meditate in Thy words.

**18. When Thou, O Word, wast dead, Thine all-pure Mother raised a lamentation for Thee.**

Hear my voice according unto Thy loving-kindness, O Lord quicken me according to Thy judgement.

**19. The women came with myrrh to anoint Christ, the Myrrh of God.**

They draw nigh that persecute me unlawfully: they are far from Thy Law.

**20. By dying, O my God, Thou puttest death to death through Thy divine power.**

Thou art near, O Lord; and all Thy ways are truth.

**21. The deceiver is deceived, and those he misled are set free by Thy wisdom, O my God.**

Concerning Thy testimonies, I have known of old that Thou hast founded them for ever.

**22. The traitor was cast down to the depths of hell, and to the pit of destruction.**

Behold my humiliation, and deliver me: for I have not forgotten Thy law.

**23. Thorns and snares beset the path of Judas the foolish and the thrice-wretched.**

Judge my cause, and deliver me: quicken me according to Thy word.

**24. All that crucified Thee shall be destroyed together, O Word, Thou Son of God and King of all.**

Salvation is far from the wicked: for they have not sought Thy statutes.

**25. In the pit of destruction shall all the men of blood be destroyed together.**

Many are Thy tender mercies, O Lord: quicken me according to Thy judgement.

**26. O Son of God and King of all, my God and my Creator, how hast Thou accepted suffering?**

Many are they that persecute and afflict me: yet have I not turned aside from Thy testimonies.

**27. As the mother of a foal, the Virgin gazed on Thee in grief when she saw Thee hanging on the Tree.**

I beheld the foolish and was grieved; because they kept not Thy words.

**28. Joseph and Nicodemus bury the body that is the Source of life.**

See how I have loved Thy commandments: quicken me, O Lord, in Thy mercy.

**29. Pierced to the heart, the Virgin shed warm tears and cried aloud.**

The beginning of Thy words is truth: and every one of Thy righteous judgements endures for ever.

**30. “O Light of mine eyes, my sweetest Child, how art Thou hidden now in the sepulcher?”**

Princes have persecuted me without a cause: but my heart stands in awe of Thy words.

**31. “Weep not, O Mother, for I suffer this to set at liberty Adam and live.”**

I will rejoice at Thy words, as one that finds great spoil.

**32. “O my Son, I glorify Thy supreme compassion, that causes Thee to suffer so.”**

I have hated and abhorred injustice: but Thy law have I loved.

**33. Thou hast drunk vinegar and gall, in Thy compassion, to loose us from the guilt of the forbidden fruit.**

Seven times a day have I praised Thee because of the judgements of Thy righteousness.

**34. Thou art nailed upon the Cross, who of old hast sheltered Thy people with a pillar of cloud.**

Great peace have they that love Thy law: and for them there is no stumbling-block.

**35. The women bearing myrrh came, O Saviour, to Thy tomb and offered Thee sweet spices.**

Lord, I have looked for Thy salvation, and loved Thy commandments.

**36. Arise, O merciful Lord, and raise us from the depths of hell.**

My soul has kept Thy testimonies: and loved them exceedingly.

**37. “Arise, O Giver of Life’, the Mother who bore Thee said with tears.**

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

**38. Make haste to arise, O Word, and take away the sorrow of Thy Virgin Mother.**

Let my prayer draw near to Thee, O Lord; give me understanding according to Thy word.

**39. All the powers of heaven were filled with fear and wonder when they saw Thee dead.**

Let my supplication come before Thee, O Lord: deliver me according to Thy word.

**40. With love and fear we honour Thy Passion: grant us the forgiveness of our sins.**

Let my lips speak of Thy praise : for Thou hast taught me Thy statutes.

**41. Strange and dreadful wonder! How art Thou now hidden in the earth, O Word of God?**

Let my tongue speak of Thy words: for all Thy commandments are righteousness.

**42. Joseph once fled with Thee, O Saviour, and now another Joseph buries Thee.**

Let Thine hand be near to save me: for I have chosen Thy commandments.

**43. Thine all-holy Mother weeps for Thee lamenting, O my Saviour, at Thy death.**

I have longed for Thy salvation, O Lord; and Thy law is my study.

**44. The spiritual powers tremble at Thy strange and fearful burial, O Maker of all.**

My soul shall live, and it shall praise Thee: and Thy judgements shall help me.

**45. Early in the morning the myrrh-bearers came to Thee and sprinkled myrrh upon Thy tomb.**

I have gone astray like a lost sheep: seek Thy servant, for I have not forgotten Thy commandments.

**46. By Thy Resurrection give peace to the Church and salvation to Thy people.**

Glory be to the Father. . . .

**47. O my God in Trinity, Father, Son and Spirit, grant Thy mercy to the world.**

Both now. . . .

*Theotokion*

**48. Grant to us thy servants to behold, O Virgin, the Resurrection of thy Son.**

*At this point in the Greek use, the priest sprinkles the Epitaphion with rose-water.*