

Pearls from the Vigil of the Feast of the Dormition of our Lady, the Theotokos

*The Reading is from the Book of Genesis.
(28:10-17)*

Jacob went out from Beersheba, and went towards Haran. And he lighted upon a certain place, and tarried there all night, because the sun was set; and he took of the stones of that place, and put them for his pillows, and lay down in that place to sleep. And he dreamed, and behold, a ladder set up on the earth, and the top of it reached to heaven, and behold, the angels of God ascending and descending on it. And behold, the Lord stood above it and said: I am the Lord God of Abraham thy father and the God of Isaac; be not afraid, the land whereon thou liest, to thee will I give it, and to thy seed; and thy seed shall be as dust of the earth, and thou shalt spread abroad to the west, and to the east, and to the north, and to the south; and in thee and thy seed shall all the families of the earth be blessed. And behold, I am with thee, and I will keep thee in all places whither thou goest, and will bring thee again into this land; for I will not leave thee, until I have done that which I have spoken to thee of. And Jacob awaked out of his sleep, and he said: Surely the Lord is in this place, and I knew it not. And he was afraid and said: How dreadful is this place! This is none other but the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven.

*The Reading is from the Book of the Prophet Ezekiel.
(43:27-44:1-4)*

Thus saith the Lord: Upon the eighth day and so forward, the priests shall make your burnt offerings upon the altar, and your peace offerings, and I will accept you, saith the Lord God. Then He brought me back the way of the gate of the outward sanctuary which looketh toward the east; and it was shut. Then said the Lord unto me: This gate shall be shut, it shall not be opened, and no man shall enter in by it; because the Lord, the God of Israel, shall enter in by it, therefore it shall be shut. As for the Prince, He shall sit on it to eat bread before the Lord; He shall enter by the way of the porch of that gate, and shall go out by the way of the same. Then brought He me the way of the north gate before the house, and I looked, and behold, the glory of the Lord filled the house of the Lord.

*The Reading is from the Book of Proverbs.
(9:1-11)*

Wisdom hath builded her house, and hath fixed seven pillars thereof, she hath killed her beasts, she hath mingled her wine, she hath also furnished her table. She hath sent forth her maidens. She crieth upon the highest places of the city; whoso is simple, let him turn in thither; as for them that want understanding, she saith unto them: Come, eat of my bread and drink of the wine which I have mingled. Forsake foolishness, and ye shall live, and go in search of understanding that ye may live, and improve understanding in knowledge. He that reproveth a scorner getteth to himself shame; and he that rebuketh a wicked man getteth himself a blot, for rebukes unto the wicked are as wounds to him. Reprove not a scorner, lest he hate thee; rebuke a wise man, and he will love thee. Give instructions to a wise man, and he will be yet wiser; teach a just man, and he will increase in learning. The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, and the knowledge of the holy is understanding. For understanding of the law proceedeth from a

good thought, for in this wise thy days shall be multiplied, and the years of thy life shall be increased.

*For the Entreaty.
First Tone.*

It was right that the eye-witnesses and ministers of the Word should behold the Dormition of His Mother according to the flesh, even the final mystery concerning her; that so they might behold not only the Ascension of the Saviour from the earth, but also that they might be witnesses of the translation of her that gave Him birth. Wherefore, assembled from all parts by divine power, they came to Sion, and sped on her way to Heaven the Virgin who is higher than the cherubim. Together with them we also worship her, for she intercedeth in behalf of our souls.

Second Tone. By Anatolius.

She who is higher than the Heavens and more glorious than the cherubim, and more honourable than all creation, she who by reason of her surpassing purity became the receptacle of the everlasting Essence, today commendeth her most pure soul into the hands of her Son. With her all things are filled with joy and she granteth great mercy unto us.

Same Tone. By John.

The all-blameless Bride and Mother of Him in Whom the Father was well-pleased, she who was foreordained by God to be the dwelling place of His unmingled union, today delivereth her immaculate soul to her Creator and God. The incorporeal powers receive her in a God-befitting manner, and she is translated unto life, even she who is truly the Mother of Life, the lamp of the unapproachable Light, the salvation of the faithful and hope of our souls.

Third Tone.

Come, all ye ends of the earth, let us bless the august Translation of the Mother of God; for she hath delivered her spotless soul into the hands of her Son. Wherefore the world, restored to life by her holy Dormition, doth radiantly celebrate with psalms and hymns and spiritual songs together with the angels and the apostles.

*Glory. Pl. of 1st Tone.
By Germanus.*

Come, O thou gathering of feast-lovers, come, let us form a choir. Come, let us crown the Church with songs, as the Ark of God goeth to her rest. For today Heaven doth spread open its arms as it receiveth the Mother of Him Who cannot be contained. And as the earth yieldeth up the Source of life, it is robed with blessing and majesty. The hosts of angels, forming one choir with the apostles, gaze in great fear at her who bare the Cause of life, now that she is translated from life to life. Let us all worship and beseech her: Forget not, O Lady, thy ties of kinship with those who faithfully celebrate thine all-holy dormition.

Both Now. Same Tone.

Sing, O ye people, sing unto the Mother of our God; for today she delivereth her soul, full of light, into the immaculate hands of Him Who was incarnate of her without seed. And she entreateth Him unceasingly that the world be granted peace and great mercy.