FUNERAL SERVICE
OF THE
ORTHODOX CHURCH
ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX TRADITION

MUSIC OF THE
BYZANTINE AND RUSSIAN TRADITIONS

COMPILED BY MICHAEL G. FARROW, PH.D.
Preface

The music in this booklet has been chosen to correspond to the Funeral Service of the Orthodox Church as published in the Service Book of the Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America. The musical pieces included here were selected because they reflect the Byzantine and Russian musical traditions of the Antiochian Archdiocese. While most of the service is to be sung by the choir (or chanted by the chanter), there are a few places where the hymns may be read by the reader. In any case, you are encouraged, above all, to follow the guidelines, rubrics, and direction of your Metropolitan Archbishop, your Diocesan bishop and/or parish priest as to what is to be sung or read.

Initially compiled by Michael G. Farrow, 1988
Revised in 2008
The Funeral Service

The Funeral Service may be held at the house, or in the Church, or at a funeral parlor, or at the grave.

Priest: Blessed is our God always: now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

Reader: Whoso dwelleth under the defense of the Most High, shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty. I will say unto the Lord, Thou art my hope, and my stronghold; my God, in him will I trust. For he shall deliver thee from the snare of the hunter, and from the noisome pestilence. He shall defend thee under his wings, and thou shalt be safe under his feathers; his faithfulness and truth shall be thy shield and buckler. Thou shalt not be afraid for any terror by night, nor for the arrow that flieth by day; for the pestilence that walketh in darkness, nor for the sickness that destroyeth in the noon-day. A thousand shall fall beside thee, and ten thousand at thy right hand; but it shall not come nigh thee. Yea, with thine eyes shalt thou behold, and see the reward of the ungodly. For thou, Lord, art my hope; thou hast set thine house of defense very high. There shall no evil happen unto thee, neither shall any plague come nigh thy dwelling. For he shall give his angels charge over thee, to keep thee in all thy ways. They shall bear thee in their hands, that thou hurt not thy foot against a stone. Thou shalt go upon the lion and adder: the young lion and the dragon shalt thou tread under thy feet. Because he hath set his love upon me, therefore will I deliver him; I will set him up, because he hath known my Name. He shall call upon me, and I will hear him; yea, I am with him in trouble; I will deliver him, and bring him to honour. With long life will I satisfy him, and show him my salvation.
Bless-ed art thou, O Lord: teach me thy stat-u-tes.

The Choir of the Saints have found the Foun-tain of Life

and the Door of Par-a-dise. May I also find the right way through re-pent-ance.

I am a lost sheep. Call me, O Saviour, and save me.

Bless-ed art thou, O Lord: teach me thy stat-u-tes.
O thou who of old didst create me from nothingness, and didst honor me with thine image divine, but because I transgressed thy commandments hast returned me again unto the earth from which I was taken: Bring me back to that likeness, to be reshaped in that pristine beauty. Blessed art thou, O Lord: teach me thy statutes.
I am an image of thy glory ineffable, though I bear the brands of transgressions: Show thy compassions upon thy creature, O Master, and purify me by thy loving-kindness; and grant unto me the home-country of my heart’s desire, making me again a citizen of Paradise. Blessed art thou, O Lord: teach me thy statutes.
Ye holy Martyrs, who preached the Lamb of God, and like unto lambs were slain,
and are translated into life eternal, which groweth not old;
pray ye unto Him that he will grant us remission of our sins.
Blessed art thou, O Lord: teach me thy statutes.
Give rest, O Lord, to the soul of thy servant, and establish him in Paradise;
where the Choirs of the Saints, and of the Just, shine like the stars of heaven; Give rest to thy servant who hath fallen asleep,

regarding not all the charges against him.

Blessed art thou, O Lord: teach me thy statutes.

Ye who have trod the narrow way most sad;
all ye who, in life, have taken upon you the Cross as a yoke,

and have followed me through faith, draw near:

Enjoy ye the honors and the crowns which I have prepared for you.

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit:

Devoutly do we hymn the triple Splendor of the one God-head, crying aloud:

Rev. 2, 8/24/08
Holy art thou, O Father, who art from ever-lasting; O Son, Co-e-ter-nal; and Spirit di-vine! Il-lu-mine us who with faith do wor-ship thee; and res-cue us from fire e-ter-nal.

Both now and ever and unto ages of a-ges. A-men. Hail, O Ho-ly One,

who for the sal-va-tion of all men didst bring forth God in the flesh;
through whom the race of men hath found salvation; through Thee have we found Paradise, O Theotokos, O pure and blessed One.

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Glory to thee, O God.

Third Time

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Glory to thee, O God.
Litany

(The Priest [or Deacon], standing at his place to the head of the casket, censes the Departed while intoning the following petitions:)

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

Choir:  Lord, have mercy.  Lord, have mercy.  Lord, have mercy.

Priest:  Again we pray for the repose of the soul of the servant of God, N., departed this life; and that Thou wilt pardon his every transgression, both voluntary and involuntary.

Choir:  Lord, have mercy.  Lord, have mercy.  Lord, have mercy.

Priest:  That the Lord God will establish his soul where the just repose.

Choir:  Lord, have mercy.  Lord, have mercy.  Lord, have mercy.

Priest:  The mercies of God, the kingdom of heaven and remission of his sins, let us ask of Christ, our Immortal King and our God.

Choir:  Grant this, O Lord.

Priest:  For Thou art the Resurrection, and the Life, and the Repose of Thy departed servant, N., O Christ our God, and unto Thee we ascribe glory, together with Thy Father who is from everlasting, and Thine all-holy, and good, and life-giving Spirit: now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

Choir:  Amen.

Threefold Lord Have Mercy #1

Byzantine chant - Tone 4  Antiochian melody

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

Grant this, O Lord.  Amen.
Threefold Lord Have Mercy #2

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

Grant this, O Lord. Amen.
Give rest with the Just, O our Saviour, unto thy servant,
and make him to dwell in thy courts, as it is written,
over-look-ing, as thou art good, his sins both voluntary
and involuntarily, and all things done with knowledge
or in ignorance, O Thou who lov-est man-kind.
Glory to the Fa - ther and to the Son and to the Ho-ly Spir - it.

And all things done with knowl-edge or in ign - nor - ance,


O Christ our God, who from the Vir - gin didst dawn forth up - on the world,
through Her making us children of the light,

have mercy upon us.

There is none holy like unto thee, O Lord my God,

who hast exalted the horn of the faithful, O Good One,

and hast established them upon the rock of thy confession.
Truly, all things are vanity, and life is but a shadow and a dream.

For in vain doth every one born of earth disquiet himself, as saith the Scripture. When we have acquired the world, then do we take up our dwelling in the grave, where kings and beggars are the same. Wherefore, O Christ our God,
give rest to thy servant departed this life;

for as much as thou lovest mankind.

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit:

both now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

O All-holy The-o-to-kos, forsake me not during the years of my life,
nor make me dependent upon human protection:

But do thou defend me and have mercy upon me.

As I behold the sea of life surging high with the tempest of temptations,

I set my course toward thy tranquil haven and cry aloud to thee:

lead thou my life forth from corruption, O Most Merciful One.

Russian Tone 6
Ode 6 - Heirmos

Funeral Service - 17
Rev. 1, 4/1/08
With the Saints give rest, O Christ, to the soul of thy servant, where there is neither sickness, nor sorrow, and no more sighing, but life everlasting. Thou alone art immortal, who hast created and fashioned man. For out of the earth were we mortals made, and unto the same earth shall we return again.
as thou didst command when thou didst fashion me, saying unto me:

Earth thou art, and unto the earth shalt thou return.

Whither also all we mortals wend our way,

making of our funeral dirge the song:

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!
It is not possible that men should see God, upon whom the
orders of the angels dare not gaze. But through thee, O
All-immaculate One, was the Word Incarnate made
visible to mortal men: and magnifying Him together
with the heavenly hosts, we call Thee blessed.
Litany

(The Priest or Deacon, standing at his place to the head of the casket, censes the Departed while intoning the following petitions:)

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

Choir: Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

Priest: Again we pray for the repose of the soul of the servant of God, N., departed this life; and that Thou wilt pardon his every transgression, both voluntary and involuntary.

Choir: Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

Priest: That the Lord God will establish his soul where the just repose.

Choir: Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

Priest: The mercies of God, the kingdom of heaven and remission of his sins, let us ask of Christ, our Immortal King and our God.

Choir: Grant this, O Lord.

Priest: For Thou art the Resurrection, and the Life, and the Repose of Thy departed servant, N., O Christ our God, and unto Thee we ascribe glory, together with Thy Father who is from everlasting, and Thine all-holy, and good, and life-giving Spirit: now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

Threefold Lord Have Mercy #1

Byzantine chant - Tone 4

Antiochian melody

Grant this, O Lord. Amen.
Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

Grant this, O Lord. Amen.
While it is appointed that the following troparia (Idiomela), by St. John of Damascus, are to be chanted (stichiraric style), it is customary that the first seven are simply read by the Reader.

**Tone I.** What earthly sweetness remaineth unmixed with grief? What glory standeth immutable on earth? All things are but feeble shadows, all things are most deluding dreams: yet one moment only, and Death shall supplant them all. But in the light of thy countenance, O Christ, and in the sweetness of thy beauty, give rest unto him whom thou hast chosen: forasmuch as thou lovest mankind.

**Tone II.** Woe is me! What manner of ordeal doth the soul endure when it is parted from the body! Woe is me! How many then are its tears, and there is none to show compassion! Turning its eyes to the angels, it supplicates in vain; stretching out its hands to men, it findeth none to succour. Wherefore, my beloved brethren, meditating on the brevity of our life, let us beseech of Christ rest for him who hath departed hence; and for our souls great mercy.

**Tone III.** All mortal things are vanity and exist not after death. Riches endure not, neither doth glory accompany on the way: for when death cometh, all these things vanish utterly. Wherefore let us cry unto Christ the Immortal King: Give rest, in the dwelling-place of all those who rejoice to him who is departed from among us.

**Tone IV.** Where is the desire for the world? Where is the display of transient mortals? Where are the gold and the silver? Where is the multitude of household servants and their clamour? All are dust, all are ashes, all are shadows. But come, let us cry aloud unto the deathless King: O Lord, of thine eternal good things account him worthy who hath departed from among us, giving unto him rest in thy blessedness which growth not old.

**Tone V.** I called to mind the Prophet, as he cried: I am earth, and ashes; and I looked again into the graves and beheld the bones laid bare, and I said: Who then is the king or the warrior, the rich man or the needy, the upright or the sinner? Yet, O Lord, give rest unto thy servant with the righteous.

**Tone VI.** Thy creating command was my origin and my foundation: for it was thy pleasure to fashion me out of nature visible and invisible, a living creature. From the earth thou didst shape my body, and didst give me a soul by thy divine and quickening breath. Wherefore, O Christ, give rest to thy servant in the land of the living, in the habitation of the Just.

**Tone VII.** When in the beginning, thou didst create man after thine own image and likeness, thou didst set him in Paradise to reign over thy creatures. But when, beguiled by the malice of the Devil, he tasted of the food, he became a transgressor of thy commandment. For which cause, O Lord, thou didst condemn him to return again unto the earth whence he was taken, and to entreat repose.
I weep and I wail when I think upon death, and because weep and wail when I think up-on death, and because

hold our beauty, fashioned after the image of God,

lying in the tomb disfigured, dishonored, be-

reft of form. O marvel! What is this mystery which doth befall us?
Why have we been given over unto corruption, and why have we been wedded unto death?

Truly, as it is written, by the command of God, who giveth the departed rest.

*Alternate ending on next page*
Truly, as it is written, by the command of God, who gave...
Beatitudes

In Thy kingdom re-member us, O Lord, when thou comest in Thy kingdom.

1. Blessed are the poor in spir-it, for theirs is the king-dom of heav-en.

2. Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be com-fort-ed.

3. Blessed are the meek, for they shall in-her-it the earth.
Blessed are those who hunger and thirst after righteousness,
for they shall be filled.
Blessed are the merciful,
for they shall obtain mercy.

(Note: The following stichera may either be read, or chanted straight on an E to match the chord and tone of the choir.)

A citizen of Paradise, O Christ, thou didst make of the Thief, who, because of his repentance upon the cross, cried unto thee: Remember me! Make thou me, a sinner, worthy also of the same.

Blessed are the pure in heart,
for they shall see God.

O thou who reignest over life and death, in the courts of thy Saints grant rest unto him whom thou hast removed from temporal things, and who crieth unto thee: Remember me also, O Lord, when thou comest in thy kingdom.
Bless-ed are the peace - mak - ers, for they shall be called the sons of God.

Bless-ed are those who are per - se - cut - ed for right - eous - ness' sake,

for theirs is the king - dom of heav - en.

May Christ give thee rest in the land of the living, and open unto thee the gates of Paradise, and make thee a citizen of his kingdom; and give thee remission of those things wherein thou in life hast sinned, O thou who loveth Christ.
Blessed are you when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you, falsely, for my sake.

Rejoice and be exceeding glad, for great is your reward in heaven.

Let us go forth, and gaze into the tombs: man is naked bones, food for the worms, and stench; and we shall learn what are riches, and comeliness, and beauty, and strength.

Let us hearken unto what the Almighty crieth: Woe unto those who seek to behold the terrible day of the Lord! For lo, it is darkness: for all things shall be tried with fire.
Him who hath no beginning in birth or cause, the Father, I worship; Him who is the Only-begotten Son, I glorify; and unto the Holy Spirit who shineth together with the Father and the Son, I sing praises.

How dost thou press milk in abundance from thy breasts, O Virgin? How dost thou nourish the Nourisher of creation? He knoweth it who made the water to well forth from the rock; streams of water for a people that were athirst, as it was written.
**Verse: Blessed is he whom Thou hast chosen and taken, O Lord.**

*(Then the Choir repeats the Alleluia.)*

**Verse: Unto thee will I cry, O Lord my God.**

*(Then the Prokeimenon is chanted for the third and final time.)*

**Al - le - lu - ia!**

*(Then the Choir repeats the Alleluia.)*

**Verse: Blessed is he whom Thou hast chosen and taken, O Lord.**

*(Then the Choir repeats the Alleluia.)*

**And to thy spir - it.**

**(Then the Choir repeats the Alleluia.)*

**Glo - ry to thee, O Lord, glo - ry to thee.**

*(Then the Choir repeats the Alleluia.)*

**Rev. 2, 8/24/08**
Litany
(The Priest [or Deacon], standing at his place to the head of the casket, censes the Departed while intoning the following petitions:)

Priest: Have mercy on us, O God, according to thy great goodness, we pray thee: hearken and have mercy.

Choir: Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

Priest: Again we pray for the repose of the soul of the servant of God, N., departed this life; and that Thou wilt pardon his every transgression, both voluntary and involuntary.

Choir: Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

Priest: That the Lord God will establish his soul where the just repose. The mercies of God, the kingdom of heaven and remission of his sins, let us ask of Christ, our Immortal King and our God.

Choir: Grant this, O Lord.

The Prayer of Absolution

Priest: Let us pray to the Lord. Choir: Lord, have mercy.

1. Byzantine chant - Tone 4

Antiochian melody

Lord, have mer-cy. Lord, have mer-cy. Lord, have mer-cy. Grant this, O Lord.

2. Traditional Russian melody

Grant this, O Lord. Lord, have mer-cy.

Rev. 2, 8/24/08
Priest: Our Lord Jesus Christ, by his divine grace, as also by the gift and power vouchsafed unto his holy Disciples and Apostles, that they should bind and loose the sins of men: (For he said unto them: Receive ye the Holy Spirit: Whossoever sins ye remit, they are remitted; and whossoever sins ye retain they are retained. And whatsoever ye shall bind or loose upon earth shall be bound or loosed also in heaven.) By that same power, also transmitted unto us from them, this my spiritual child, N., is absolved, through me, unworthy though I be, from all things wherein, as mortal, he hath sinned against God, whether in word, or deed, or thought, and with all his senses, whether voluntary or involuntary; whether with knowledge or through ignorance.

If he be under the ban or excommunication of a Bishop, or of a Priest; or hath sinned by any oath; or hath been bound, as man, by any sins whatsoever, but hath repented him thereof, with contrition of heart: he is now absolved from all those faults and bonds. May all those things which have proceeded from the weakness of his mortal nature be consigned to oblivion, and be remitted unto him: Through His loving-kindness; through the prayers of our most holy, and blessed, and glorious Lady Theotokos and ever-virgin Mary; of the holy, glorious, and all-laudable Apostles, and of all the Saints.

*After the Amen, the eulogy/homily is preached. Then, the Priest continues with* Glory to Thee, O Christ our God ... glory to Thee.
Priest: May He who rose again from the dead, Christ our true God: through the intercessions of his all-immaculate and all-blameless holy Mother; of the holy, glorious, and all-laudable Apostles, of our venerable and God-bearing Fathers, and of all the Saints, establish in the mansions of the righteous the soul of his servant, N., who hath been taken from us, and number him among the Just; and have mercy upon us, forasmuch as He is good and loveth mankind.

Memory Eternal

Priest: Through the prayers...

* As an alternative, the sopranos may sing the alto part an octave higher (smaller notes), with the altos then singing the soprano part.
Memory Eternal
(Chant versions)

2.
Byzantine chant - Tone 6

Traditional Antiochian melody

May (his) mem-o-ry_____ be e-ter-nal.

Third time:

May (her) mem-o-ry_____ be e-ter-nal. A-men.

ARABIC:

1. Lee-ya-kun thi-kru- (hu)_____ mu-a-ba-dan.
2. Fa-Lee-ya-kun (hum)

Third time:


3.
Byzantine chant - Tone 3

Traditional Greek melody

Memory Eternal

May (his) mem-o-ry_____ be e-ter-nal. A-men.
Moderately slow

I weep and I wail when I think upon death,

and behold our beauty, fashioned after the image of God,

lying in the tomb disfigured, dishonored, bereft of form,

O marvel! What is this myst'ry which doth befall us?

Music taken from www.podoben.com
and adapted to fit the Antiochian Archdiocese text

Rev. 1, 7/7/08
Why have we been given over unto corruption,

and why have we been wedded unto death?

Truly as it is written, by the command of God,

who giveth the departed rest.