August 14th
Forefeast of the Dormition of the Theotokos

Stichera at "O Lord, I have cried"

Byzantine Mode 4
Special Melody: As one valiant

Adapted by Fr. John El Massih

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1) Let the cymbals resound today, let us cry out with songs of joy and begin a feast for departure from this life; and let us brightly and joyously sing funereal songs and hymns.

For the Mother of our God, the all-golden and holy ark, doth prepare herself now to pass from the earth unto the heights, being translated to a God-like and life-renewing resplendence.

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2) Come, assemble most wondrously from the ends of the earth today, O ye chosen band of Apostles, for, behold, the living city of God the Lord of all hasteth gloriously to be taken up on high, to that kingdom most great of all, that she might rejoice with her Son. Wherefore, at her holy burial, with one mind, sing her dirges with the celestial angelic hosts.
3) O assembly of sacred priests, kings and princes of godly mind, and ye ranks of virgins, anticipate the feast; and all ye people, come gather and send up grave-side dirges now.

For the Sov’reign Queen of all on the morrow shall end this life and commit her soul to the hands of her Son, and shall be wonderfully translated to a dwelling that shall abide for eternity.