



as God You made manifest the Resurrection. Turn not away from those You have made by Your hands. O Merciful One, show Your love to men and accept as our intercessor the Mother of God who gave birth to You. O our Savior, save a desperate people.

**SESSIONAL HYMNS** (*Tone 3*)

Christ is risen from the dead, the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep in death, the first-born of all creation, and the Maker of all created things. In Himself, He renewed the nature of our fallen race. And now, Death, you shall have no more dominion. The Lord of all has broken your power.

v. Arise, O Lord my God; lift up Your mighty hand, and never forget Your poor.

When in Your flesh, You tasted death, O Lord, bitter death was checked by Your Resurrection. You made man the victor over death, turning back the ancient curse. Glory to You, O Lord, the staff and protector of our lives!

v. Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and always and to the ages of ages. Amen.

At the magnificence of your virginity and your exceedingly splendid purity, Gabriel stood amazed and cried out to you, O Theotokos: "What praise may I offer you that is worthy of your beauty? By what name shall I call you? I am lost and bewildered! But I shall greet you as I was commanded: 'Hail! Hail, O full of grace!'"

**HYPACOI** (*Tone 3*)

A radiant angel, dazzling in beauty and sweet of voice, said to the ointment-bearing women: "Why are you seeking the Living One among the dead? He is risen and has left the tomb empty. Understand that the Immutable One has changed corruption into incorruption, and say to God: 'How awesome are Your works, O God, for You have saved the human race!'"

**KONDAKION OF THE DEPOSITION** (*Tone 2*)

O Mother of God, the cincture that encircled your body which had borne the Son of God is for us an object of glory, a treasure abundant in grace. You are the Mother of God, the only ever-virgin Mother!

**IKOS**

What mortal mouth could tell of your wonders on earth? What pure spirit could do so in Heaven? You gave birth to the unsounded Depth of compassion. Accept this chant from my barren lips and give me the grace of God to celebrate your holy cincture, O Lady; for the whole world exults in you, singing in company with all the angels of your unequalled wonders, O Mother of God, the only ever-virgin Mother!

**SYNAXARION**

On August 31, we commemorate the deposition of the honorable Cincture of the all-holy Mother of God in a sacred reliquary in her venerable temple at Chaleoprata. It was carried there from the diocese of Zela under the Emperor Justinian; and the memory of the miracle that occurred when the honorable cincture was touched to the Empress Zoe, wife of the Emperor Leo.

O Virgin, who were worthily crowned, I crown the end of the year with your cincture. The cincture of the Virgin was deposited, to the joy of all, on the thirty-first.

At the prayers of your spotless Mother, O Christ our God, have pity on us and save us. Amen.

**KONDAKION OF THE RESURRECTION** (*Tone 3*)

O Merciful One, today You rose from the tomb and delivered us from Hades! Today Adam rejoices and Eve exults! Prophets and priests exalt unceasingly the divine might of Your Kingdom!"

**IKOS**

Let heaven and earth dance with joy today and sing with one heart the praises of Christ our God who has raised from their tombs those who had been held as captives to death! Let the whole creation rejoice, offering the Creator and Redeemer of all hymns worthy of Him! For as the Giver of Life, He has today drawn up mortals with Him from Hades, carrying them up with Himself to heaven. He has crushed the arrogance of the enemy and shattered the gates of Hades by the divine might of His Kingdom!

**EXAPOSTILARIA** (*Tone 2*)

~O faithful, let us join the Disciples on that mountain in Galilee and behold Christ speaking to them: "I have received power over the things here below as well as those above on high!" Let us listen as He teaches them to baptize all nations in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, as He promises to be with His Disciples even until the end of time.

(*Tone 3*)

~He who has done great things for you, O all-pure one, has also granted honors to your robe and cincture as He bestowed it on your city as a talisman. As we now commemorate its deposition, we celebrate you with our whole heart in joy and happiness.

~O Lady, sovereign of the whole creation filled with radiant wisdom as the Mother of God: fill me with light, grace and the knowledge of God as I sing hymns in your honor!

**PRAISES** (*Tone 3*)

*Stichera of the Resurrection*

8. Come, all you people, and acknowledge the power of the wondrous mystery: for Christ our Savior, the Word who existed from the beginning, was crucified for our sins, willed to be buried in the tomb, then rose from the dead in order to save all creation! Let us bow down in worship before Him!

7. The guards narrated all Your wonders, Lord; but the assembly of the proud filled their hands with bribes, thinking thus to conceal Your Resurrection which the whole world glorifies: O Lord, have mercy on us!
6. The universe was filled with joy at the announcement of Your holy Resurrection! Coming to the tomb, Mary Magdalene found an angel seated on the stone. Clad in radiant robes, he said: "Why are you seeking the Living One among the dead? He is not here, for He has risen! As He said, He will go before you into Galilee!"
5. O Lord and Lover of Mankind, in Your light, we see Light, for You have risen from the dead, granting salvation to the human race. Therefore, the whole creation glorifies You! O only Sinless One, have mercy on us!

*Stichera of Anatolios the Patriarch*

4. O Lord, the myrrh-bearing women offered you their tears as a morning hymn of praise. Bearing aromatic spices, they came early to Your tomb to anoint Your spotless body. But the angel seated on the stone asked of them: "Why do you seek the Living One among the dead? Having trampled down death, He has risen as God, granting to the world great mercy!"

*For the Deposition (Tone 4)*

3. The Church of Christ has received your sacred Cincture as a resplendent diadem, O all-pure Mother of God. Today she is radiant with joy; she exults, O Lady, and sings mystically to you: "Hail, O diadem and crown of God! Hail, only glory of the assembly and my joy for all ages!"
2. Spotless queen, fortified wall, indestructible rampart and defense for your people and your city: you gave them your Cincture, a precious treasure, as a radiant protect-

ing wall, O divine Bride, to guard from all disaster the faithful who venerate it with zeal and fervor.

1. O spotless Virgin, today your temple has become an inexhaustible source of miracles. Rivers of grace flow in abundance from your holy reliquary and bring joy to the hearts of those who are filled with faith and love as they cry out to you in greeting: "You are truly our joy, our happiness, and our life!
- v. Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit,

*Doxastikon (Tone 1)*

On the mountain, the Lord appeared to His Disciples who had come there for His Ascension; and they bowed down in worship before Him. He revealed to them His power over all things, then sent them forth to all the nations under the sun to preach His Resurrection from the dead and His return from earth to heaven. He also promised to be with them always; and His word is truth, for He is Christ our God, the Savior of our souls.

- now and forever and to the ages of ages. Amen.

*Theotokion*

You are truly most blessed, O Virgin Mother of God: through the One who was incarnate of you, Hades was chained, Adam revived, the curse wiped out, Eve set free, Death put to death, and we ourselves were brought back to life. That is why we cry out in praise: "Blessed are You, O Christ our God, who find in this Your good pleasure: glory to You!"