

The First Stasis (abbr.) (Psalm 119:1-72)

In the Typikon each of the three stases begins with a brief verse and its refrain. For example, in Stasis I the text is: "Blessed are those whose way is blameless: Alleluia." In Byzantine and other chant traditions, a solo chanter intones this introduction in the appropriate mode followed by the text and refrain in full melody. This helps the singers remember the text and melody of the refrain.

In the musical tradition presented here, this introduction is omitted. In this common practice, the priests will chant the verses of the psalm (17th Kathisma) in groups of two or three verses and the singers will respond with the refrain "Alleluia."

The 17th Kathisma is sung at the Burial Service in imitation of the Lamentations sung at the Burial of the Savior, celebrated on Holy Friday evening.

Priest: Blessed are those whose way is blameless, who walk in the law of the Lord. Blessed are those who keep His testimonies, who seek Him with their whole heart, who also do no wrong, but walk in His ways!
(Ps. 119:1-3)

Choir: Alleluia.

Al - le - lu - ia.

Priest: Thou hast commanded Thy precepts to be kept diligently. O that my ways may be steadfast in keeping Thy statutes! Then I shall not be put to shame, having my eyes fixed on all Thy commandments. (v. 4-6)

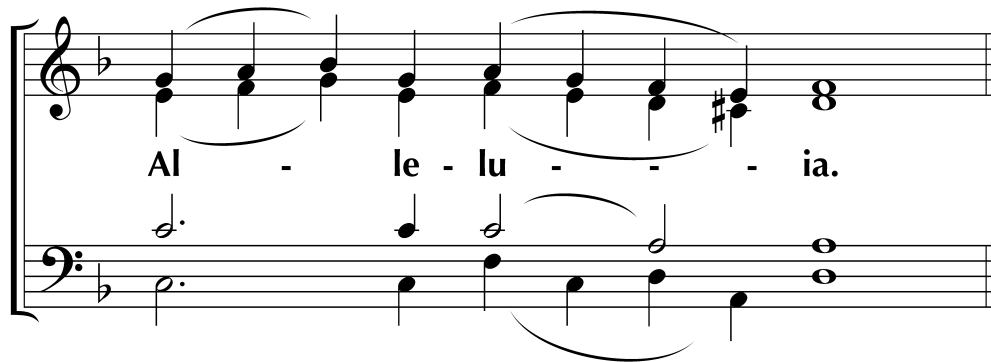
Choir: Alleluia.

Priest: I will praise Thee with an upright heart, when I learn Thy righteous ordinances. I will observe Thy statutes; O forsake me not utterly! How can a young man keep his way pure? By guarding it according to Thy word. (v. 7-9)

Choir: Alleluia

Priest: With my whole heart I seek Thee; let me not wander from Thy commandments! I have laid up Thy word in my heart, that I might not sin against Thee. (v. 10-11)

Choir: *Alleluia.*



Priest: Blessed art Thou, O Lord; teach me Thy statutes! With my lips I declare all the ordinances of Thy mouth. In the way of Thy testimonies I delight as much as in all riches. (v. 12-14)

Choir: *Alleluia.*

Priest: Deal bountifully with Thy servant, that I may live and observe Thy word. Open my eyes, that I may behold wondrous things out of Thy law. (v. 17-18)

Choir: *Alleluia.*

Priest: I am a sojourner on earth; hide not Thy commandments from me! My soul is consumed with longing for Thy ordinances at all times. (v. 19-20)

Choir: *Alleluia.*

Priest: Thy testimonies are my delight; they are my counselors. My soul cleaves to the dust; revive me according to Thy word! When I told of my ways, Thou didst answer me; teach me Thy statutes! (v. 24-26)

Choir: *Alleluia.*

Priest: Make me understand the way of Thy precepts, and I will meditate on Thy wondrous works. My soul melts away for sorrow; strengthen me according to Thy word! Put false ways far from me; and graciously teach me Thy law! (v. 27-29)

Choir: *Alleluia.*

Al - le - lu - ia.

Priest: I have chosen the way of faithfulness, I set Thy ordinances before me. I cleave to Thy testimonies, O Lord; let me not be put to shame! I will run in the way of Thy commandments when Thou enlargest my understanding! (v. 30-32)

Choir: *Alleluia.*

Priest: Teach me, O Lord the way of Thy statutes; and I will keep it to the end. Give me understanding, that I may keep Thy law and observe it with my whole heart. Lead me in the path of Thy commandments, for I delight in it. (v. 33-35)

Choir: *Alleluia.*

Priest: Turn away the reproach which I dread; for Thy ordinances are good. Behold, I long for Thy precepts; in Thy righteousness give me life! (v. 39-40).

Choir: *Alleluia.*

Priest: Let Thy steadfast love come to me, O Lord, Thy salvation according to Thy promise; then shall I have an answer for those who taunt me, for I trust in Thy word. (v. 41-42)

Choir: *Alleluia.*

Priest: Remember Thy word to Thy servant, in which Thou hast made me hope. This is my comfort in my affliction that Thy promise gives me life. (v. 49-50)

Choir: *Alleluia.*

Al - le - lu - ia.

Priest: I remember Thy name in the night, O Lord, and keep Thy law. This blessing has fallen to me, that I have kept Thy precepts. The Lord is my portion; I promise to keep Thy words. (v. 55-57)

Choir: *Alleluia.*

Priest: Though the cords of the wicked ensnare me, I do not forget Thy law. At midnight I rise to praise Thee, because of Thy righteous ordinances. I am a companion of all who fear Thee, of those who keep Thy precepts. (v. 61-63)

Choir: *Alleluia.*

Priest: It is good for me that I was afflicted, that I might learn thy statutes. The law of Thy mouth is better to me than thousands of gold and silver pieces. (v. 71-72)

Choir: *Alleluia.*

Priest: Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.

Choir: *Alleluia.*

Priest: Now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Choir: *Alleluia.*

Little Litany

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

Choir: *Lord, have mercy.*

Lord, — have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.

Grant it, O Lord. Lord, have mer - cy. A - men.

Deacon: Again we pray for the repose of the servant of God, _____, departed this life; and that he may be pardoned all his sins, both voluntary and involuntary.

Choir: *Lord, have mercy.*

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

Choir: *Lord, have mercy.*

Deacon: The mercies of God, the Kingdom of Heaven, and the remission of his sins, let us ask of Christ, the immortal King and God.

Choir: *Grant it, O Lord.*

Deacon: Let us pray to the Lord.

Choir: *Lord, have mercy.*

Priest: O God of spirits, and of all flesh, Who hast trampled down death by death and overthrown the Devil, and given life to Thy world: do Thou, the same Lord, give rest to the soul of Thy departed servant, _____, in a place of brightness, a place of refreshment, a place of repose, where all sickness, sighing, and sorrow have fled away. Pardon every transgression which he has committed, whether by word or deed or thought. For Thou art a good God and lovest mankind; because there is no man who lives yet does not sin; for Thou only art without sin; Thy righteousness is to all eternity; and Thy word is truth.

For Thou art the resurrection, the life, and the repose of Thy servant, _____, who is fallen asleep, O Christ our God, and unto Thee we ascribe glory, together with Thy Father, Who is from everlasting, and Thine all-holy, good, and life-creating Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

Choir: *Amen.*

The Second Stasis (abbr.)

(Psalm 119:73-131)

Priest: Thy hands have made and fashioned me; give me understanding that I may learn Thy commandments. (v. 73)

Choir: *Have mercy upon Thy servant.*

Have - mer - cy up - on Thy ser - vant.

Priest: Those who fear Thee shall see me and rejoice, because I have hoped in Thy word. I know, O Lord, that Thy judgments are right, and that in faithfulness Thou hast afflicted me. (v. 74-75)

Choir: *Have mercy upon Thy servant.*

Priest: Let Thy steadfast love be ready to comfort me according to Thy promise to Thy servant. Let Thy mercy come to me, that I may live; for Thy law is my delight. (v. 76-77)

Choir: *Have mercy upon Thy servant.*

Priest: My soul languishes for Thy salvation; I hope in Thy word. My eyes fail with watching for Thy promise; I ask, "When wilt Thou comfort me?" For I have become like a wineskin in the smoke, yet I have not forgotten Thy statutes. (v. 80-83)

Choir: *Have mercy upon Thy servant.*

Priest: They have almost made an end of me on earth; but I have not forsaken Thy precepts. In Thy steadfast love spare my life, that I may keep the testimonies of Thy mouth. (v. 87-88)

Choir: *Have mercy upon Thy servant.*

Priest: If Thy law had not been my delight, I should have perished in my affliction. I will never forget Thy precepts; for by them Thou hast given me life. I am Thine, save me; for I have sought Thy precepts.
(v. 92-94)

Choir: *Have mercy upon Thy servant.*

Have - mer - cy up - on Thy ser - vant.

Priest: Oh, how I love Thy law! It is my meditation all the day. Thy commandment makes me wiser than my enemies, for it is ever with me. I have more understanding than all my teachers, for Thy testimonies are my meditation. (v. 97-99)

Choir: *Have mercy upon Thy servant.*

Priest: How sweet are Thy words to my taste, sweeter than honey to my mouth! Through Thy precepts I get understanding; therefore I hate every false way. Thy word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.
(v. 103-105)

Choir: *Have mercy upon Thy servant.*

Priest: I have sworn an oath and confirmed it, to observe Thy righteous ordinances. I am sorely afflicted; give me life, O Lord, according to Thy word! Accept my offerings of praise, O Lord, and teach me Thy ordinances. (v. 106-108)

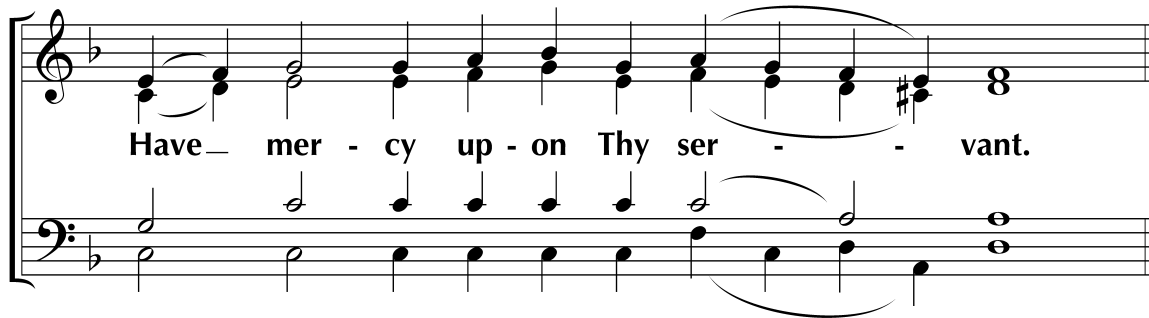
Choir: *Have mercy upon Thy servant.*

Priest: The wicked have laid a snare for me, but I do not stray from Thy precepts. Thy testimonies are my heritage forever; yea, they are the joy of my heart. (v. 110-111)

Choir: *Have mercy upon Thy servant.*

Priest: Uphold me according to Thy promise, that I may live, and let me not be put to shame in my hope! Hold me up, that I may be safe and have regard for Thy statutes continually! (v. 116-117)

Choir: *Have mercy upon Thy servant.*



Priest: I have done what is just and right; do not leave me to my oppressors. Be surety for Thy servant for good; let not the godless oppress me. My eyes fail with watching for Thy salvation, and for the fulfillment of Thy righteous promise. (v. 121-123)

Choir: *Have mercy upon Thy servant.*

Priest: Deal with Thy servant according to Thy steadfast love, and teach me Thy statutes. I am Thy servant; give me understanding, that I may know Thy testimonies! (v. 124-125)

Choir: *Have mercy upon Thy servant.*

Priest: Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.

Choir: *Have mercy upon Thy servant.*

Priest: Now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Choir: *Have mercy upon Thy servant.*

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Deacon: The mercies of God, the Kingdom of Heaven, and the remission of his sins, let us ask of Christ, the immortal King and God.

Choir: *Grant it, O Lord.*

Deacon: Let us pray to the Lord.

Choir: *Lord, have mercy.*

Priest: O God of spirits, and of all flesh, Who hast trampled down death by death and overthrown the Devil, and given life to Thy world: do Thou, the same Lord, give rest to the soul of Thy departed servant, _____, in a place of brightness, a place of refreshment, a place of repose, where all sickness, sighing, and sorrow have fled away. Pardon every transgression which he has committed, whether by word or deed or thought. For Thou art a good God and lovest mankind; because there is no man who lives yet does not sin; for Thou only art without sin; Thy righteousness is to all eternity; and Thy word is truth.

For Thou art the resurrection, the life, and the repose of Thy servant, _____, who is fallen asleep, O Christ our God, and unto Thee we ascribe glory, together with Thy Father, Who is from everlasting, and Thine all-holy, good, and life-creating Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

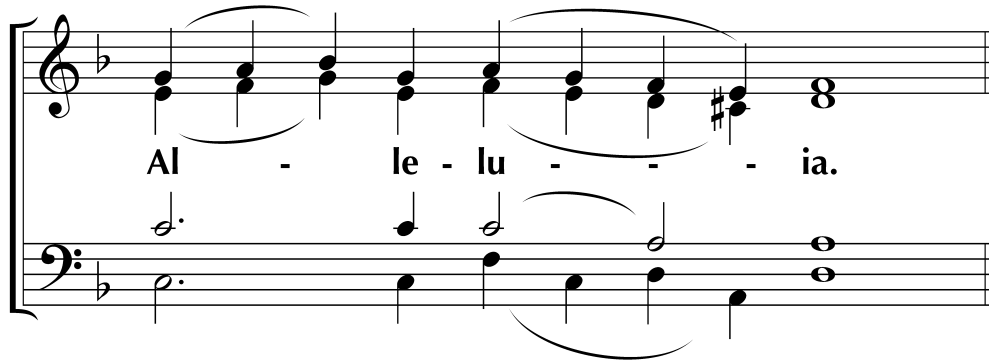
Choir: *Amen.*

The Third Stasis (abbr.)

(Psalm 119:132-176)

Priest: Turn to me and be gracious to me, as is Thy wont toward those who love Thy name. Keep steady my steps according to Thy promise, and let no iniquity get dominion over me. (v. 132-133)

Choir: *Alleluia.*



Priest: Redeem me from man's oppression, that I may keep Thy precepts. Make Thy face shine upon Thy servant, and teach me Thy statutes. My eyes shed streams of tears, because men do not keep Thy law. (v. 134-136)

Choir: *Alleluia.*

Priest: Thy promise is well tried, and Thy servant loves it. I am small and despised, yet I do not forget Thy precepts. Thy righteousness is righteous forever, and Thy law is true. (v. 140-142)

Choir: *Alleluia.*

Priest: Trouble and anguish have come upon me, but Thy commandments are my delight. Thy testimonies are righteous forever; give me understanding that I may live. (v. 143-144)

Choir: *Alleluia.*

Priest: With my whole heart I cry; answer me, O Lord! I will keep Thy statutes. I cry to Thee; save me, that I may observe Thy testimonies. I rise before dawn and cry for help; I hope in Thy words. (v. 145-147)

Choir: *Alleluia.*

Al - le - lu - ia.

Priest: My eyes are awake before the watches of the night, that I may meditate upon Thy promise. Hear my voice in Thy steadfast love; O Lord, in Thy justice preserve my life. (v. 148-149)

Choir: *Alleluia.*

Priest: But Thou art near, O Lord, and all Thy commandments are true. Long have I known from Thy testimonies that Thou hast founded them forever. Look on my affliction and deliver me, for I do not forget Thy law. (v. 151-153)

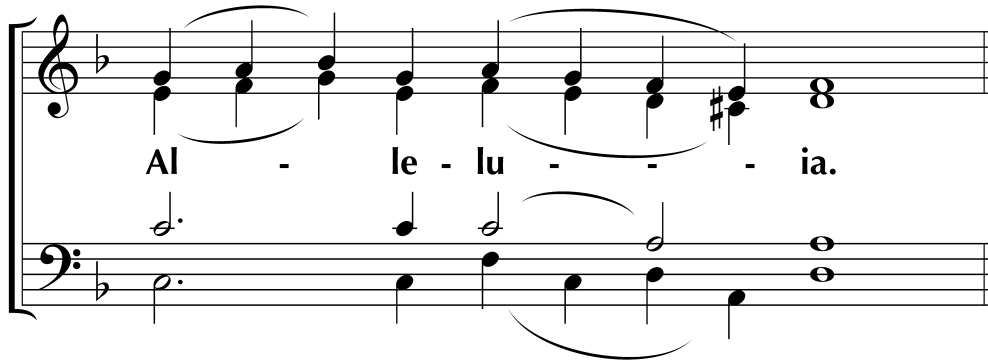
Choir: *Alleluia.*

Priest: Plead my cause and redeem me; give me life according to Thy promise! Salvation is far from the wicked, for they do not seek Thy statutes. Great is Thy mercy, O Lord; give me life according to Thy justice. (v. 154-156)

Choir: *Alleluia.*

Priest: Consider how I love Thy precepts! Preserve my life according to Thy steadfast love. The sum of Thy word is truth; and every one of Thy righteous ordinances endures forever. I rejoice at Thy word like one who finds great spoil. (v. 159-160, 162)

Choir: *Alleluia.*



Priest: I hope for Thy salvation, O Lord, and I do Thy commandments. My soul keeps Thy testimonies; I love them exceedingly. I keep Thy precepts and testimonies, for all my ways are before Thee. (v. 166-168)

Choir: *Alleluia.*

Priest: Let my cry come before Thee, O Lord; give me understanding according to Thy word! Let my supplication come before Thee; deliver me according to Thy word. (v. 169-170)

Choir: *Alleluia.*

Priest: I long for Thy salvation, O Lord, and Thy law is my delight. Let me live, that I may praise Thee, and let Thy ordinances help me. I have gone astray like a lost sheep; seek Thy servant, for I do not forget Thy commandments. (v. 174-176)

Choir: *Alleluia.*

*Immediately following the last verse of the Third Stasis,
the choir chants the Evlogitaria of the Departed with the refrain:
"Blessed art Thou, O Lord, teach me Thy statutes!"*