

HYMNS FOR THE ORTHODOX LITURGY

THOU DIDST DESCEND

(KONTAKION OF PASCHA)

John Warren is the director of the choir at the Orthodox mission Church of the Annunciation in Santa Maria, California, and the present director of the Southern California Pan-Orthodox Choir. During the past seventeen years he has devoted much time to setting and arranging Orthodox hymns and chants in the English language.

Performance note: There are two different methods of singing Orthodox liturgical pieces in recitative style. According to the first method the speed of the pulse varies within the phrase, moving faster on repeated notes and slower in melodic passages. Consequently, the duration of a given note value changes, and the relationship of one note value to another is not strictly proportional. In the other method the pulse remains constant, and the relationship between note values is exact (e.g., a half-note is held exactly twice as long as a quarter-note).

In either system the strong and weak syllables form rhythmic groups, predominantly of two quarters and three quarters. To facilitate performance all three-quarter-note groups have been bracketed above the text in this edition. A half-bracket (\lrcorner) signifies that the syllable under it is a pick-up to a strong syllable.

JOHN WARREN
Harmonization of
Znamenny Chant
Tone 8

Rapidly and joyfully. ($\text{♩} = 80$)

Soprano
Alto

Tenor
Bass

THOU DIDST DE - SCEND IN - TO THE TOMB, O IM - MOR - TAL.

Detailed description: This system of musical notation is for the Soprano and Alto voices. It features two staves. The Soprano staff is in a soprano clef (C1) and the Alto staff is in an alto clef (C3). Both are in a key signature of one flat (Bb) and a common time signature (C). The lyrics are: "THOU DIDST DE - SCEND IN - TO THE TOMB, O IM - MOR - TAL." The notes are primarily quarter and eighth notes, with some half notes. There are brackets above the lyrics: a full bracket under "DE - SCEND IN - TO" and another full bracket under "IM - MOR - TAL". A half-bracket is placed under the word "O".

THOU DIDST DE - STROY THE POW - ER OF DEATH. IN

Detailed description: This system of musical notation continues the Soprano and Alto parts. It features two staves in the same key and time signature as the first system. The lyrics are: "THOU DIDST DE - STROY THE POW - ER OF DEATH. IN". The notes continue with quarter and eighth notes. A full bracket is placed under "DE - STROY THE" and another full bracket is placed under "ER OF DEATH". A half-bracket is placed under "IN".



VIC - TO - RY DIDST THOU A - RISE, O CHRIST - GOD, PRO -



- CLAIM - ING - "RE - JOICE" TO THE MYRRH - BEAR - ING WOM - EN,



GRANT - ING PEACE TO THINE A - POS - TLES, AND BE -



STOW - ING RES - UR - REC - TION ON - THE FALL - EN.