

WE INTERRUPT THIS CHOIR PRACTICE FOR...



A TABLEAU

Akathist Tableau for the Dormition

*Tableau by Sylvia Dorham
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During the 19th Century (that's the 1800s), it was popular entertainment to act out a scene from a famous story. Participants would dress in costumes, design sets and scenery, and even play music to accompany the scene.

The audience would already be familiar with the story, and would enjoy the new and creative ways their friends and family presented the scene. For instance, a tableau might show the moment when Moses parts the water of the Red Sea with his staff, or maybe Joshua as the wall came down at Jericho.

This month, we celebrate the Dormition of the Theotokos. We know the story of how she fell asleep in the Lord and was taken up into heaven, where she lives today with her son, Jesus, and all the Saints. Your job is to take a few (or all) the lines from this Akathist and act them out, taking care to create a beautiful background for these descriptions of the Theotokos.

Here, an Akathist is a praise poem, with lines that are often an acrostic in alphabetical order, describing the virtues a person possesses.

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You'll see that these lines describe the character traits of Jesus' mother, the Theotokos, the God-bearer. Each line starts with a letter of the alphabet, in order.

Be sure to take a picture of your tableau and send it to ByziKids. We'll publish it in an upcoming issue!

Based on the English Alphabet, this alliterative poem in praise of the Theotokos can be acted out in a series of tableaus – *motionless scenes*.

All orders of Angels are Amazed at the
unapproachable God among us
Bridge to heaven by Birthing holy Baby. Bringer of
salvation to our souls
Container of the uncontainable, she Conceived
Christ in Chastity
Downfall of demons, Dawn of the new Day, our
Defender
Excellent dwelling place of God, Example of
angels' life, Elizabeth Exclaims
Flourishing Flower of purity, Fruit which Feeds
the Faithful their salvation
Garden of virtue, Giver of divine Goodness,
Guardian of virgins and faithful
Higher than the Holy of Holies and the
Heavenly Host, Healer
Inviting Intercessor
Joins heaven to earth with Joy
Key to Christ's Kingdom
Living temple of the Lord, Lamb's mother,
Lightning that illumines our souls
Mother of God and our Mother, heavenly
Manna, Meets Magi
Noah's ark, in which believers are saved
Opens the doors of paradise, Overshadowed by
the power of God



Pillar of salvation, Panagia, Prays to God for us
Quiet when accused
Ray of light from the mystical sun, Renewal of
creation, Red Sea destroying evil

Safe harbor for Sailors of Sea of life, Safety of
God's Sheep

Trampler of lies, Theotokos, Thunder that
strikes down our enemies

Unsilenced preaching of the Apostoles,
Unfailing courage of the Martyrs

Uplifter of Men, Unwedded bride, Unites
faithful to the Lord,

Unshakeable tower of the Church, Undeceived
Virgin pure, Vessel of God's Wisdom, Venerated
by unborn Baptist

Wisdom personified, Womb held immaterial
light, Word's Mother

Xenophile, lover of all peoples

Youth's nurturer and guide to purity

Zion's daughter, Zealous in service of God's
people

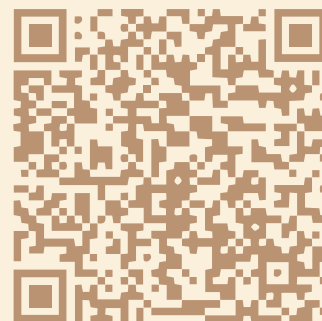
Feel free to make copies of this script for use in
school, parish, or home settings.



A FEAST DAY EXTRA FROM BYZIMOM.COM

Tradition tells us that when the Apostles opened the tomb of the Virgin Mary so that Thomas, the late-comer, could pay his last respects, they were greeted with the scent of the abundant flower bouquets that were left in place of her earthly body after it had been taken up to heaven.

To commemorate this event, why not throw a floral-themed Dormition Tea Party! It's a perfect way to celebrate the Feast after Divine Liturgy! Make Hibiscus tea, Lily, Rose, and Sunflower Sandwiches, Floral Pasta Salad and Daisy Cupcakes for dessert! Visit the website for recipes and photos:



-Written by Lynne Wardach

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