

Romanos Melodos
Kontakion 27 On the Resurrection of Lazarus (II)

Christ, knowing the thought of all,
you asked to learn the tomb of Lazarus
and coming you woke him
being four days dead, all powerful, feeling pity in your compassion
for Mary's and Martha's tears.

1 Stopping the lamentation of Mary and Martha
the lord quickly changes,
waking their brother;
There was a marvel of marvels to be seen,
how the breathless suddenly was seen breathing.
For when the voice went down, he shook Hades'
fastenings of the gate and crushed the bars of death,
and raised up again the corpse four days dead, feeling pity in his compassion
for Mary's and Martha's tears.

2 Let us all run with love
to Bethany to see there
Christ weeping for his friend;
For as he wanted to ordain laws for all things,
he does everything in nature being double;
he suffers as the son of David, as the son of God
he ransoms the whole world from all the evil of the serpent,
and four day dead Lazarus he raises up, feeling pity in his compassion
for Mary's and Martha's tears.

3 The women by their faith
encompassed to Christ and God
announce in advance the death
of their brother, saying this:
"Hurry, come beforehand, always present among all;
For Lazarus, whom you love, is ill. If you stand over him,
death will sneak off and your friend will be ransomed from corruption,
and the Hebrews will see that you feel pity in your compassion
for Mary's and Martha's tears."

4 The creator of everything to his disciples
reported saying, "Brothers and comrades,
our friend has gone to sleep,"
mystically teaching them beforehand
that he knows all, being the creator of all.
"Let us go then, let us proceed and see the strange tomb,
and swiftly let us wipe off the lament of Mary and Martha;
for having raised Lazarus from the dead, I feel pity in my compassion
for Mary's and Martha's tears."

5 As soon as they heard his words,
the apostles all as with one voice
cried to the Lord,
"Sleep for men is for healing,
not at all for destruction.
At which he speaking freely replied, "He has died.
being away I am as a man, as God I know everything.
Now if truly we arrive beforehand, I shall raise up the corpse and I shall stop now
Mary's and Martha's tears."

6 Then all together arrived there,
There came to meet them and there cried out bitterly
Mary and her sister,
"Lord, where were you? Because he has gone
whom you loved, and now he is not here."
When they cried out these things, he wept a little
and asked, "Where is the tomb of my dear friend, whom now I am about
to ransom from the shackles of Hades, having pity in my compassion
for Mary's and Martha's tears."

7 Then standing by the tomb,
he who is in the lap of his own Father
as his son called out,
"You sent me to the world
so that I bring to life the dead.
I have come, therefore, both here to wake up Lazarus
and to show to the Jews that I am going to arise from the tomb
on the third day, the one bringing to life my friend four days dead, having pity now
for Mary's and Martha's tears."

8 And to end Martha's lament,
the savior of all addressing her
divinely then spoke,
"I am the light of the world
and resurrection of all the dead.
The one believing in me for ever will not die.
For to this end I have appeared to raise Adam and Adam's descendants,
and to wake up Lazarus four days dead, having pity in my compassion
for Mary's and Martha's tears."

9 Then having ordered with his nod,
Hades was shaken and the strength of Death
and the insolence of the diabolic one,
when he spoke to the four days dead man
from those beneath the earth waking this one,
seeing whom Abraham and all the just
shouted, "Now take courage, because the resurrection of all has come
to ransom from the bonds of death the one he loves, having pity in his compassion

for Mary's and Martha's tears."

10 Whom a little before he held as captive
below, Lazarus, Hades like one captured now
is seen being robbed of this one;
for when the king of the angels
came, the strength of the demons was destroyed,
and the serpent now drawing himself with his belly on the ground
stabbed in the chest with a wooden shaft is rendered as dead;
and Adam rejoices, seeing Christ having pity in his goodness
for Mary's and Martha's tears.

11 Coming up out from the tomb his friend
with the linen wrappings his eyes and his hands
bound together appears;
they release him who had been fettered
in their hearts with envy of slander
and with the ears like asps plugged up and for slaughter
most unjust readying their hands, so they might pour forth
innocent and just blood of the one who raised up corpses and stopped
Mary's and Martha's tears.

12 Having heard the words of children
pure from the heart and from holy lips,
they all were filled with distress
saying together, "Who is this man?"
O insanity and total want of sense.
Those who saw him raising from the dead one shortly before
being odorous, they do not recognize who woke him up and destroyed
with his voice the power of Hades and stopped, as compassionate in nature,
Mary's and Martha's tears.

13 Oh your ineffable compassion,
Jesus all-merciful; who came to me
for my sake, how did you consent,
how were you moderate getting upon an ass
and going first into the city of the god-killers,
whose dreadful lack of faith you saw before, you ordered
with their own hands to release the bindings of Lazarus, so they might see
him whom soon they wish to kill, not at all having pity on
Mary's and Martha's tears.

14 With palm branches they all came out
to meet, savior, your approach,
crying Hosanna to you.
Now we all the hymn
from pitiable mouths offer to you,
shaking the shoots of the soul, and we cry out,
"You who are among the highest save the world that you have made, Lord,

and wash away our sins, just as before you washed away
Mary's and Martha's tears."

15 The venerable church celebrates
the yearly festival calling faithfully
its children, lover of mankind,
with palm branches approaching
and spreading out garments of gladness,
so that you yourself with your disciples and friends
may set your feet upon them and deep peace for your slaves
you may decree and deliverance from oppression, as before you washed away
Mary's and Martha's tears.

16 Incline your ear, God of all,
and hear us beseeching, and from the bonds
of death snatch us away.
For our enemies forever encircling
seen and unseen threaten
to put us to death and take away our faith in future;
rise up, and quickly let them all perish and let them learn
that you are our God and you pity us, just as you pitied
Mary's and Martha's tears.

17 We who have been made dead by our sins
and living in the tomb from knowledge of evil,
let us imitate the sisters
of faithful Lazarus, calling to Christ
in weeping and in faith and in love,
"Save us, you who became man by your will,
and raise us up from the tomb of sins, sole immortal,
by the prayers of Lazarus your friend, whom you raised, wiping away, Lord,
Mary's and Martha's tears."

18 Let us all despise transient matter
and now go to meet Christ the savior
hastening to Bethany,
so that we may feast with him
and with his friend Lazarus and the apostles,
and by their entreaties be delivered from former evils;
being cleansed of all stain of thought, blamelessly we shall see
his divine resurrection which you offered to us, taking away
Adam's and Eve's tears.

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