

Orthodox Prayers e

“Prayer is a great weapon, a rich treasure, a wealth that is never exhausted, an undisturbed refuge, a cause of tranquility, the root of a multitude of blessings, and their source.” —St. John Chrysostom

The Lords Prayer

**Our Father, Who art in heaven,
Hallowed be Thy name.
Thy kingdom come,
Thy will be done,
On earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread,
And forgive us our debts,
as we forgive our debtors;
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from the evil one. Amen**

The Creed:

I believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible. And in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only begotten Son of God, begotten of the Father before all ages. Light of Light, true God of true God, begotten, not created, of one essence with the Father, through whom all things were made. For us and for our salvation, He came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and became man. He was crucified for us under Pontius Pilate, and He suffered and was buried. On the third day He rose according to the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead. His Kingdom will have no end. And in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the Giver of Life, who proceeds from the Father, who together with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who spoke through the prophets. In one, holy, catholic, and apostolic Church. I acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. I expect the resurrection of the dead. And the life of the age to come. Amen.

Church Fathers Quotes on Prayer:

When mind and heart are united in prayer and the soul is wholly concentrated in a single desire for God, then the heart grows warm and the light of Christ begins to shine and fills the inward man with peace and joy. We should thank the Lord for everything and give ourselves

up to His will; we should also offer Him all our thoughts and words, and strive to make everything serve only His good pleasure. - St. Seraphim of Sarov

Prayer is a great weapon, a rich treasure, a wealth that is never exhausted, an undisturbed refuge, a cause of tranquility, the root of a multitude of blessings and their source. - St. John Chrysostom

Prayer is a conversation directly with God, being always with God, having one's soul united with Him and one's mind inseparable. A person becomes one with the angels and unites with them in perpetual praise and longing for God. - St. Symeon of Thessaloni

The Jesus Prayer:

Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on me, a sinner. (Repeat this prayer as many times as possible everyday)

Prayer to Your Patron Saint:

(Name), Holy Mother of God and all the saints, who have pleased God in Your lives; pray to Christ my Lord that I might live this day in peace love and humility. Pray unto God for me, O Holy Saint (Name), well-pleasing to God: for I turn to you, who are a speedy helper and intercessor for my soul.

Prayer to Your Guardian Angel:

O Angel of Christ, holy guardian and protector of my soul and body, forgive me of everything I have done to offend you every day, and protect me from all influence and temptation of the evil one. May I never offend God by my sin. Pray for me to the Lord, that He may make me worthy of the grace of the All-holy Trinity, and of the Most Blessed Theotokos, and of all the Saints. Amen.

A Prayer of the All-Holy Trinity

The Father is my hope; the Son is my refuge; the Holy Spirit is my protector. O All-holy Trinity, glory to thee.

Prayer on Entering a Church

I will come into thy house in the multitude of thy mercy: and in thy fear I will worship toward thy holy temple. Lead me, O Lord, in thy righteousness because of mine enemies; make thy way straight before me, that with a clear mind I may glorify thee forever, One Divine Power worshipped in three persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen.

Prayer upon Leaving a Church:

Lord, now let Your servant depart in peace, according to Your word; for my eyes have seen Your salvation, which You have prepared in the presence of all people; a light to enlighten the Gentiles, and the glory of Your people Israel.

Prayer at the Icon of Christ:

We reverence Your spotless icon, O gracious Lord, and ask forgiveness of our transgressions, O Christ our God. Because of Your own good will You ascended the Cross in the flesh, that You might deliver those who You had created from the bondage of the enemy. We cry aloud unto You: You have filled all things with joy, O our Savior, for You came to save the world. Amen.

Prayer at the Icon of the Theotokos:

Tenderness springs forth from you, O Theotokos, make us worthy of compassion. Look upon sinful people, reveal your power for ever as we hope in you and cry aloud: Hail! as did the Archangel Gabriel, Chief Captain of the Bodiless Powers. Amen.

Prayer Before Any Task:

Lord Jesus Christ, my God, You have said, "Apart from me You can do nothing." In faith I embrace Your words, Lord, and I entreat Your goodness. Help me to carry out the work I am about to begin, and to bring it to completion. To You I give glory, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen. Almighty God, our Help and Refuge, who knows that we can do nothing right without Your guidance and help; direct me by Your wisdom and power, that I may accomplish this task and, whatever I do according to Your divine will, so that it may be beneficial to me and others and to the glory of Your holy Name. Amen. My Lord and Savior, You became man and labored with Your hands until the time of Your ministry. Bless me as I begin this work. Help me to bring it to completion. Lord, enlighten my mind and strengthen my body, that I may accomplish my task according to Your will. Guide me to bring about works of goodness to Your service and glory. Amen.

Prayer After Any Task:

Thank You, Lord, for Your strength and guidance in my work. You are the fulfillment of all good things. Fill also my soul with joy and gladness, that I may praise You always. Amen.

Prayer Toward the Unknown:

O Lord, You who steadied the hand of Peter as he began to sink on the stormy sea, if you are with me, no one is against me. Grant to me the shield of faith and the mighty armor of the Holy Spirit to protect me and guide me to do Your will. The future I put into Your hands, O Lord, and I follow You to a life in Christ. Amen

Prayer for Repentance:

God, my good and loving Lord, I acknowledge all the sins which I have committed every day in my life, whether in thought, word or deed. I ask for forgiveness from the depths of my heart for offending You and others and repent of my old ways. Help me by Your grace to change, to sin no more and to walk in the way of righteousness and to praise and glorify Your Name, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen. O Lord my God, I confess that I have sinned against You in thought, word and deed. I have also omitted to do what Your holy law requires of me. But now with repentance and contrition I turn again to Your love and mercy. I entreat You to forgive me all my transgressions and to cleanse me from all my sins. Lord, fill my heart with the light of Your truth. Strengthen my will by Your grace. Teach me both to desire and to do only what pleases You. Amen.

Prayer Before Travel:

Lord Jesus Christ my God, be my Companion, guide and protector during my journey. Keep me from all danger, misfortune and temptation. By Your divine power grant me a peaceful and successful journey and safe arrival. In You I place my hope and trust and You I praise, honor and glorify, together with Your Father and Holy Spirit now and forever and ever. Amen. Lord Jesus, You traveled with the two disciples after the resurrection and set their hearts on fire with Your grace. Travel also with me and gladden my heart with Your presence. I know, Lord, that I am a pilgrim on this earth, seeking the citizenship which is in heaven. During my journey surround me with Your holy angels and keep me safe from seen and unseen dangers. Grant that I may carry out my plans and fulfill my expectations according to Your will. Help me to see the beauty of creation and to comprehend the wonder of Your truth in all things. For You are the way, the truth and the life, and to You I give thanks, praise and glory forever. Amen

Prayer for Love:

Christ my God, set my heart on fire with love in You, that in its flame I may love You with all my heart, with all my mind, and with all my soul and with all my strength, and my neighbor as myself, so that by keeping Your commandments I may glorify You the Giver of every good and perfect gift. Amen.

Prayer for Acceptance of God's Will:

Lord, I do not know what to ask of You. You know better than me what my needs are. You love more than I know how to love. Help me to see clearly my real needs which I do not see. I open my heart to You. Examine and reveal to me my faults and sins. I put all trust in You. I have no other desire than to fulfill Your will. Teach me how to pray. Pray in me. Amen.

Prayer Before Studying the Bible:

Master who loves us, shine Your eternal light in our hearts that we may better know you. Help us to fully understand Your gospel message. Instill in us respect for Your holy commandments, that by overcoming our worldly desires we might live a spiritual life of thoughts and deeds which pleases You. We ask this of You, O Christ our god, for You are the light of our souls and bodies and You we glorify with Your eternal Father and Your all-holy good and life-giving Spirit now and forever. Amen. Shine within my heart, loving Master, the pure light of Your divine knowledge, and open the eyes of my mind that I may understand Your teachings. Instill in me also reverence for Your blessed commandments, so that having conquered sinful desires I may pursue a spiritual way of life, thinking and doing all those things that are pleasing to You. For You, Christ my God, are my light, and to You I give glory together with Your Father and Your Holy Spirit, now and forever. Amen.

Prayer Before Receiving Communion:

***Prayer of St. John Chrysostom:* Lord, Jesus Christ my God, forgive the faults and sins which I, Your unworthy servant have committed from my youth to this day and hour, whether knowingly or in ignorance, whether by words, deeds, intentions or thoughts and whether by habit or through any of my senses. By the prayers of Your pure and Virgin Mother, make me worthy without condemnation to receive Your precious, immortal and life-giving Mysteries for**

the forgiveness of sins and eternal life. May the Eucharist sanctify, enlighten, strengthen and heal my soul and body and thus destroy my evil thoughts, intentions and prejudices. For Yours, Christ our God, is the Kingdom, the power, the glory, the honor and worship with the Father and the Holy Spirit, now and forever and ever. Amen.

Prayer Right Before Communion:

I believe and confess, Lord, that You are truly the Christ, the Son of the living God, who came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am the first. I also believe that this is truly Your pure Body and that this is truly Your precious Blood. Therefore, I pray to You, have mercy upon me, and forgive my transgressions, voluntary and involuntary, in word and deed, known and unknown. And make me worthy without condemnation to partake of Your pure Mysteries for the forgiveness of sins and for eternal life. Amen How shall I, who am unworthy, enter into the splendor of Your saints? If I dare to enter into the bridal chamber, my clothing will accuse me, since it is not a wedding garment; and being bound up, I shall be cast out by the angels. In Your love, Lord, cleanse my soul and save me. Loving Master, Lord Jesus Christ, my God, let not these holy Gifts be to my condemnation because of my unworthiness, but for the cleansing and sanctification of soul and body and the pledge of the future life and kingdom. It is good for me to cling to God and to place in Him the hope of my salvation. Receive me today, Son of God, as a partaker of Your mystical Supper. I will not reveal Your mystery to Your adversaries. Nor will I give You a kiss as did Judas. But as the thief I confess to You: Lord, remember me in Your Kingdom.

Prayer After Receiving Communion:

Lord Jesus Christ, my God, now that I have received Your holy Body and Blood, grant me forgiveness of my sins and life everlasting. I thank You, loving Master, benefactor of my soul, that on this day You have again made me worthy of Your heavenly and immortal mysteries. Direct my way on the right path. Establish me firmly in Your fear. Guard my life. And make my endeavors safe, through the prayers of the glorious Theotokos and ever-virgin Mary and of all Your Saints. Amen. Lord Jesus Christ my God, let Your sacred Body be unto me for eternal life and Your precious Blood for forgiveness of sins. Let this Eucharist be unto me for joy, health and gladness. And in Your awesome Second Coming make me, a sinner, worthy to stand at the right hand of Your glory; through the intercessions of Your pure Mother and of all Your Saints. Amen.

Prayer of the Married

My bountiful God, I beseech Thee, listen to my humble prayer, that I may ever feel that the married state is holy and that I must keep it holy. Grant Thy grace that I may never sin against the faithfulness and love of this marriage. Foster between us the spirit of understanding and of peace, that no strife, quarrel or misunderstanding, may arise between us. Grant us health and our daily bread, whereby we may serve Thee more. Amen.

Annunciation of the Theotokos - March 25- a Trebnic Prayer

To thee, the most pure Mother of God, I, unworthy though I be, fall down, and pray:

See, O Queen, how I sin without ceasing and provoke thy Son and my God to wrath.

And oft, though I repent, I am found to be false before God, and I repent with trembling, lest the Lord strike me down; but soon after, I fall back into the same misdeeds.

Knowing these things, O my Lady, Most Holy Theotokos, wherefore shalt thou not take

pity upon me, wherefore not strengthen me, and for what cause not grant me always to do those things that are good?

For thou knowest, O Lady, that I have naught but hate for mine evil deeds, and with all my mind love the law of my God.

But I wit not, Lady most pure, why I do those things that I hate, and trespass against what I love.

But permit not, O Most Holy One, for my will to be done, for it is not becoming;

but let there be done in me will of thy Son and my God, so that He may save me, and bring me to understanding, and grant me the Grace of the Holy Spirit, so that henceforth I might cease to do the works of wickedness, and live the rest of mine appointed time according to the

mandates of the Son, our Lord Jesus Christ,

to Whom belongeth all glory, honour, worship and majesty, together with His Father Who is without beginning, and His All-Holy, and Good, and Life-creating Spirit, now and ever, and from ages of ages.

Amen.

(Polny Sbornik Molitv, pp.27-28)

Annunciation of the Theotokos - March 25- a Prayer

O Lord God Almighty, Who wast pleased that Thine Only-begotten Son be incarnate of a woman that had not known marriage, and be made man for our salvation, and Who didst send Thine Angel Gabriel to the holy Virgin Mary with the good tidings of His conception, for that Thou hadst determined from before all ages that she should be the instrument of so great a Mystery!

By her prayers, and those of all Thy Saints, announce to our souls the good tidings of forgiveness of sins, through Thy Grace, and joy that shall never be taken away; bespeak peace unto Thy people;

make known to us the path by which we shall be well-pleasing unto Thy goodness, and set our feet on the way to Thy heavenly Kingdom.

Through the mercies and love for mankind of Thy Son, our Lord and master, with Whom Thou art blessed, together with Thine All-holy, and Good, and Life-creating Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

Amen.

Prayer to Great Martyr Barbara

Dec 4 (306 AD)

Holy, glorious and all-laudable Great-Martyr of Christ, Barbara!

Gathered here *[in thy Divine church; or-- before the shrine of thy relics]*, before thy holy icon, and lovingly venerating therein the suffering of thy martyrdom, and in them, Christ Himself -- the First of Passion-bearers and

their Judge, Who granted thee not only to believe on Him, but also to suffer for Him;

praising thee in hymns, we entreat thee as a known intercessor for our yearning: pray with us and for us unto God, that He in His loving-kindness mercifully hearken unto us, who entreat His goodness, and deprive us not of all those things we ask that are needful unto our salvation and sustenance;

granting us a Christian ending to our life, painless, blameless, peaceful, in the Communion of His Divine Mysteries; and unto all those in every place and every grief and adverse circumstance who seek His love for mankind and help, may He bestow His great mercy, that, aided by the Grace of God and thy warm intercession, and kept in well-being of soul and body, we may glorify the God of Israel Who is wondrous in His Saints, and is never distant from us with His help: now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

Amen.

Prayer to Great Martyr Catherine

Nov. 24 (Nov 25 in Greek Cal)

O holy Great-Martyr Catherine, chosen vessel of purity, pillar of Orthodoxy, trusted intercessor on our behalf, who hast thyself revealed to us just cause for entreating thee, thou Saint, resting on a holy Mount!

We beseech thee: bending down from above, hearken unto the voice of our supplication; look upon the misfortunes of thy servants; enlighten the darkness of our minds; dispose our thoughts towards the higher things, and not those of earth.

Aid us by thy prayers to overcome the wants of the flesh, the attachments of the world and the wiles of evil spirits, which war bitterly against us: so that, by thine intercessions, we may during the days of our life be free of their hostile onslaught, and after our departure, from their tortures in the air.

O, most wise virgin! Grant us all our petitions which are unto profit: for thou canst ask much of thy beloved Bridegroom, Christ our God.

We know that the prayer of the righteous availeth much, aided by the loving kindness of a Merciful God: to Whom be glory, honor and thanksgiving, always, now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

Amen.

Prayer to St. Innocent, First bishop of Irkutsk

Nov 26 and Feb 9

Saint of God, good pastor, faithful worker in the vineyard of Christ, Hierarch and Father, Innocent!

Look down upon this city and its people,

and pray to Christ our God to keep thy flock safe from the wolves that would destroy it:

may He send down His Holy Spirit to make us walk wisely before Him in all devotion and purity all the days of our life:

so that, glorifying His all-holy name day and night,

we may be found worthy to be heirs also of life eternal,

and may praise the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

Amen.

Prayer to St John Chrysostom

Commemorated Nov. 13 and Jan. 27

O great Hierarch John Chrysostom!

Thou hast received many and various gifts from the Lord, and, as a good and faithful servant, hast shown good increase of all the talants given to thee: for this cause thou wast truly a teacher of the universe, for every age and calling learneth from thee. Thou art a model of obedience for children, a luminary of chastity for the young, an teacher of industry to grown men, an instructor of forgiveness to the aged, a rule of abstinence for monastics, a leader inspired by God for those at prayer, an enlightener of the mind for those who seek wisdom, an inexhaustible source of the living Word for well-spoken orators, a star of mercy for the charitable, a model of wise rule for those in authority, an inspiration to boldness for those zealous in the truth, a teacher of patience for those persecuted for truth's sake: thou art become all to all, so that in any way thou mightest save some. But above all these, thou hast sought after love, which is the bond of perfection, and by that as by Divine power thou hast united all these gifts into one in thyself; and the same love, which reconciles the divided, thou hast preached unto all the faithful in expounding the words of the Apostles.

As for us sinners, each having our own gifts, we lack the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace; we are vain, provoking one another, envying one another: therefore our divided gifts come not unto peace and salvation, but rather unto enmity and to our judgment. For this cause we fall down before thee, O hierarch of God, in the grip of dissensions, and in contrition of heart we ask: By thy prayers, drive away from our hearts all pride and envy that divide us, so that in many members there may be one churchly Body, and so that according to the word of thy Prayer we may love one another and in one accord confess the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, the Trinity One in Essence and Undivided: now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

Amen.

Prayers at the beginning of the Holy Forty Day Fast

The priest, vested in epitrachilion, readeth these prayers in church over his parishioners with all compunction, on the first Monday of the Great Fast, or on another day of the first week of the Fast, after Matins or after the Hours .

Priest:

Let us pray to the Lord!

People:

Lord, have mercy!

And the priest readeth the following prayer:

O God, Thou hope of all the ends of the earth and of them that be far out upon the sea, Who hast prescribed these days of fasting through the Law, the prophets and the evangelists: vouchsafe all [of us] to pass the course of the Fast in purity, to preserve the Faith inviolate, and to keep Thy commandments all the days of our lives. Command Thou an angel of peace to guard our goings out and our comings in unto every good work, that, being obedient and pleasing [unto Thee] with him, we may receive the perfect communion of Thine all pure Mysteries. Accept, O Master, the prostrations and fasting of Thy servants, granting to them and all of us blessing of soul, in Christ Jesus our Lord, with Whom Thou art blessed, with Thine all holy, good and life-creating Spirit, now and

ever, and unto the ages of ages.

People:

Amen.

Priest:

Let us pray to the Lord!

People: Lord

, have mercy!

And the priest readeth the following prayer:

Blessed art Thou, O Lord Almighty, God of our fathers, of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, Who hast created heaven and earth, the sea and all that is therein,

Who hast appointed unto man repentance for salvation, and Who regardest not their iniquities, Who accepted the tears of Thy servant, the Prophet David, and accorded him remission of sins when he repented;

and Who didst accept the prayer of Manasseh who was bound with iron bonds and confessed to Thee in repentance, and didst remit his sins;

Who didst save the harlot who perceived Thy mercy, received the spies [of the children of Israel], and sent them on their way in peace:

hearken now unto the entreaty of me, Thine unworthy servant, and regard not all the offenses of these Thy servants who flee to Thee in repentance, and grant them contrition of heart and remorse for the sins whereby they have angered Thee, their Creator, which are able to cleanse them of their sins.

Grant them Thy grace, that, awakened and sustained thereby, they may bring to mind their evil deeds and truly confess them all, in the fear of Thee, to their spiritual father, the judge appointed by Thee.

And in accordance with Thy promise, vouchsafe them in contrite and humble heart to accuse themselves as guilty, to repent, and to desire for themselves complete forgiveness thereof and the remission thereof by Thy loving kindness through their spiritual father, Thy judge.

For Thou didst say: Whatsoever ye shall loose on earth shall be loosed in the heavens.

Yea, O Master, Lord Jesus Christ our God, accept Thy servants who are repenting of their sins, known and unknown, voluntary and involuntary, and who have determined to confess them, in accordance with Thy command;

and having mercifully received them through Thy power and grace, strengthen them, that they may none of them return to their sin and to the wicked and unseemly acts whereunto they have fallen,

but raise them up and help them out of the snares and all the evil wiles of the devil, that, unhindered, they may serve Thee in sanctity and righteousness all the days of their life.

For Thou art our God Who hast come into the world, not to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance, and Who commanded us to forgive seventy times seven the offenses of them that fall into sin.

Therefore, as Thou didst not condemn the woman caught in adultery whom the

Pharisees brought before Thee to test Thee, but mercifully said: Go, and sin no more; so condemn not these, but have mercy on them in Thy love for mankind.

And as in Thy mercy Thou didst take pity on that other harlot who wept, and laved Thy feet with her tears and wiped them with the hairs of her head, grant these Thy servants freely to weep tears fervent in true repentance.

Make steadfast their mind and heart, that they may know Thee, the one true Son of God Who takest away the sins of the world.

Accept them as Thou didst accept Peter who had denied Thee but returned in repentance and with bitter tears;

stretch forth Thy right hand and receive them as Thou didst receive him when he was drowning in the sea, and strengthen them against the devil who warreth against them.

Cleanse their souls and bodies of evil defilement.

For Thou Thyself didst say, O good Lord, that they that are well need not a physician, but they that are sick; and

Thou didst come not to save them that are already saved, but them that are perishing.

Grant, therefore, O Lord Jesus Christ our God, that these Thy servants may complete this holy fast now beginning, untainted, may therein fulfill Thy commandments, may be earnest in prayers and be well-pleasing unto Thee by all the virtues all the days of their life,

that they may be vouchsafed a pure conscience to partake uncondemned of Thy divine Body and of Thy life-creating Blood shed for the whole world unto the remission of sins, and that they may vanquish and put to shame the devil that warreth against them.

For Thou, O God, art the God of the penitent, Who desirest not the death of the sinner, but that he repent and live.

For Thou dost not desire, O Master, that the work of Thy hands perish, neither art Thou pleased at the destruction of man; but Thou wilt have all men to be saved and to come unto the knowledge of the truth.

Wherefore, do Thou not now turn Thy countenance away from these Thy servants, but grant them truly to turn away from their sins unto Thee and to be delivered from all evil deeds.

And vouchsafe us all to reach the end [of the fast] in peace, full of good works, and to worship Thy saving passion and Thy holy resurrection, and at the end of our lives to receive with all that have been well-pleasing unto Thee eternal joys in Thee, our God and Savior.

For Thou art the God of mercies and compassions and love for mankind, and to

Thee do we ascribe glory, with Thine unoriginate Father, and Thine all-holy, good and life-creating Spirit, now and ever, and unto the ages of ages.

People: Amen

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Thereafter, he blesseth them with his right hand, saying:

The blessing of the Lord be upon you, through His grace and compassions and love for mankind, always, now and ever, and unto the ages of ages.

People: Amen

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Service Of Supplication

For the Conversion of Those Who Have Departed into Error

To be sung on the Sunday of Orthodoxy and on other needful occasions

The Most Holy Governing Synod, by decision to print the Service of Supplication for the Conversion of Those Who Have Departed into Error, to be sung on the Sunday of Orthodoxy and on other needful occasions, has decreed that this service of supplication be served in monastery, city, and village churches on the first Sunday of Great Lent, and has blessed missionaries to sing it:

- 1. when they are sent to conduct discussions with schismatics and sectarians,***
- 2. when they unite to the Orthodox Church converts to the way of truth, and***
- 3. Before opening regional and diocesan missionary conferences, and on other like occasions.***

St. Petersburg Synodal Typographia 1902. By blessing of the Most Holy Governing Synod

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After the end of the Liturgy, the clergy come out of the Altar, and making three bows, begin thus:

The Deacon saith: Bless, Master.

Priest: Blessed is our God always, now and ever, and unto the ages of ages.

People: Amen.

And they chant: O Heavenly King ...

Reader: Trisagion. Our Father; Lord, have mercy, *12 times*. O come, let us worship...

Psalm 74

We will confess Thee, O God, we will confess Thee, and we will call upon Thy Name. I will tell of all Thy wonders. When I am given the appointed time, I will judge uprightly. The earth is melted and all that dwell therein; it is I that made

steadfast the pillars thereof. I said to transgressors: Do not transgress; and to the sinners: Lift not up the horn. Lift not up your horn on high, and speak not unrighteousness against God. For judgement cometh not from the byways, nor from the west, nor from the desert mountains; for God is judge. This man He humbleth, and another He exalteth; for in the hand of the Lord there is a brimming cup of unmingled wine. And He hath inclined it from side to side, but the dregs thereof were not fully emptied out; all the sinners of the earth shall drink of them. But as for me, I will rejoice for ever; I will chant unto the God of Jacob. And all the horns of the sinners will I break, but the horn of the righteous man shall be exalted.

Glory; Both now.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia. Glory to Thee, O God. *thrice.*

The Deacon readeth the usual ectenia:

Deacon: In peace let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: For the peace from above, and for the salvation of our souls, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: For the peace of the whole world; for the good estate of the holy churches of God, and for the union of all, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: For this holy temple, and for them that with faith, reverence, and fear of God enter herein, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

The following petition differs according to local church usage.

Deacon: For our great lord and father, His Holiness Patriarch Kyrill, for our lord the Very Most Reverend Metropolitan Hilarion, First Hierarch of the Russian Church Abroad, for our lord the Most Reverend Archbishop

Alypy, for our lord the Most Reverend Bishop Peter, for the venerable priesthood, the deaconate in Christ, for all the clergy and people let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

The following two petitions are according to the usage of the Russian Orthodox Church outside of Russia

Deacon: For the much suffering Russian Land and its Orthodox people both in the homeland and in the diaspora, and for their salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: That He may deliver His people from enemies both visible and invisible, and confirm in us oneness of mind, brotherly love, and piety, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: For this land, its authorities, and Armed Forces, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: For this city, for every city and country and the faithful that dwell therein, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: For seasonable weather, abundance of the fruits of the earth, and peaceful times, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: For travelers by sea, land, and air; for the sick, the suffering; the imprisoned and their salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Then we insert the following petitions:

Deacon: That with a merciful eye He may look upon His holy Church, and preserve her unharmed and invincible against heresies and superstitions, and fence her about with His peace, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: That He may quiet her quarrels, and by the power of the Holy Spirit convert to knowledge of the truth all those who have departed from it, and number them with His chosen flock, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: That He may enlighten with the light of His divine understanding the thoughts darkened by unbelief, and that He may strengthen His faithful, and keep them unshaken in the right faith, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: That we may be delivered from all tribulation, wrath, and necessity, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: Help us; save us; have mercy on us; and keep us, O God, by Thy grace.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: Calling to remembrance our most holy, most pure, most blessed, glorious Lady Theotokos and ever-virgin Mary, with all the Saints, let us

commit ourselves and one another, and all our life unto Christ our God.

People: To Thee O Lord.

Exclamation:

Priest: For unto Thee is due all glory, honor, and worship: to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: now and ever, and unto the ages of ages.

People: Amen.

Deacon: In the 4th Tone: God is the Lord and hath appeared unto us. Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord.

***Stichos (before the choir chants the first time):* O give thanks unto the Lord for He is good, for His mercy endureth forever.**

People: God is the Lord ...

***Stichos:* Surrounding me they compassed me, and by the name of the Lord I warded them off.**

People: God is the Lord ...

***Stichos:* I shall not die but live, and I shall tell of all the works of the Lord.**

People: God is the Lord ...

***Stichos:* The stone which the builders rejected, the same is become the head of the corner. This is the Lord's doing, and it is marvelous in our eyes.**

People: God is the Lord ...

Troparion:

We, Thine unworthy servants, O Lord, / grateful for Thy great benefits which Thou hast showed unto us, / glorifying Thee do praise, bless, give thanks, sing, and magnify Thy loving-kindness, / and with a servant's love do cry aloud unto Thee: // O our Benefactor and our Savior, glory to Thee.

Glory. Tone 3.

O Master, Who hast freely vouchsafed / Thy benefits and gifts unto Thine unprofitable servants, / fervently hastening unto Thee, / we offer unto Thee thanksgiving according to our strength, / and glorifying Thee as our Benefactor and our Creator, we cry aloud: // Glory to Thee, O God most bountiful.

Both now. Tone 4.

Like as the splendor of the firmament above, Thou hast showed forth the lower, / the beauty of the holy habitation of Thy glory, O Lord; / establish it unto the ages of ages, / and receive our prayers unceasingly brought therein to Thee by the Theotokos, // O Life and Resurrection of all.

Deacon: Wisdom.

Priest: Peace be unto all.

Reader: And to thy spirit.

Deacon: Wisdom, let us attend.

Reader: Prokeimenon, Tone 4: They that are planted in the house of the Lord, in the courts of our God they shall blossom forth (Ps 91:12).

Verse: The righteous man shall be glad in the Lord, and shall hope in Him (Ps 63:11).

Reader:

Epistle of St. Paul to the Romans (Sec 121; 16:17-20)

BRETHREN, I beseech you, mark them which cause divisions and offences contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned; and avoid them. For they that are such serve not our Lord Jesus Christ, but their own belly; and by good words and fair speeches deceive the hearts of the simple. For your obedience is come abroad unto all men. I am glad therefore on your behalf: but yet I would have you wise unto that which is good, and simple concerning evil. And the God of peace shall bruise Satan under your feet shortly. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you. Amen.

Priest:

The Gospel according to St. Matthew (Sec 75; 18:10-18)

Take heed that ye despise not one of these little ones; for I say unto you, That in heaven their angels do always behold the face of my Father which is in heaven. For the Son of man is come to save that which was lost. How think ye? if a man have an hundred sheep, and one of them be gone astray, doth he not leave the ninety and nine, and goeth into the mountains, and seeketh that which is gone astray? And if so be that he find it, verily I say unto you, he rejoiceth more of that sheep, than of the ninety and nine which went not astray. Even so it is not the will of your Father which is in heaven, that one of these little ones should perish. Moreover if thy brother shall trespass against thee, go and tell him his fault between thee and him alone: if he shall hear thee, thou hast gained thy brother. But if he will not hear thee, then take with thee one or two more, that in the mouth of two or three witnesses every word may be established. And if he shall neglect to hear them, tell it unto the church: but if he neglect to hear the church, let him be unto thee as an heathen man and a publican. Verily I say unto you, whatsoever ye shall bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever ye shall loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.

Ectenia

Deacon: Have mercy upon us, O God, according to Thy great mercy, we pray Thee, hearken and have mercy.

People: Lord, have mercy. *(Thrice)*

The following petition differs according to local usage.

Deacon: Again we pray for our great lord and father, His Holiness Patriarch Kyrill, for our lord the Very Most Reverend Metropolitan Hilarion, First Hierarchy of the Russian Church Abroad, for our lord the Most Reverend Archbishop Alypy, for our lord the Most Reverend Bishop Peter and for our all brethren in Christ.

People: Lord, have mercy. *(Thrice)*

Then we insert the following petitions:

Deacon: Thou that desirest not the death of sinners, but awaitest their conversion and repentance, convert all those who have apostatized to Thy holy Church, we pray Thee, O merciful Lord, hearken and have mercy.

People: Lord, have mercy. *(Thrice)*

Deacon: Thou that hast created this world for Thy glory, work that those who oppose Thy word be converted, and glorify Thee our God with true faith and piety together with all the faithful, we pray Thee, all-powerful Creator, hearken and have mercy.

People: Lord, have mercy. *(Thrice)*

Deacon: Thou that hast given us Thy commandment, to love Thee our God, and our neighbor, work that hatreds, enmities, offences, revenge, oath-breaking, and all other iniquities cease, and that true love should reign in our hearts, we pray Thee, our Savior, hearken and mercifully have mercy.

People: Lord, have mercy. *(Thrice)*

Exclamation:

Priest: Hearken unto us, O God, our Savior the hope of all the ends of the earth and of those far off upon the sea, and show mercy, show mercy O Master, upon us sinners. For Thou art a merciful God, and lovest mankind, and unto Thee do we send up glory: to the Father, and to the Son, and to the

Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto the ages of ages.

People: Amen.

Deacon: Let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Priest:

O MOST HIGH GOD, Master and Maker of every creature, that fillest all things with Thy majesty, and upholdest them by Thy might! To Thee our all-gifted Lord do we, who are unworthy, bring thanks, for Thou turnest not away from us on account of our iniquities, but all the more Thou goest before us with Thy compassions. Thou didst send Thine Only-Begotten Son for our deliverance, and didst preach the good tidings of Thine immeasurable condescension to the race of man: for with desire dost Thou desire and await, that we should turn to Thee and be saved: condescending to the weakness of our nature Thou dost strengthen us by the all-powerful grace of Thy Holy Spirit, and comfortest us with the saving faith and perfect hope of eternal blessings, and guiding Thine elect unto the Sion above, Thou dost keep us as the apple of Thine eye. We confess, O Lord, Thy great and invincible love for mankind and loving kindness.

But seeing the feeble impulses of many, fervently we pray Thee, O all-good Lord: look upon Thy Church and see, that although we have received Thy saving Gospel with gladness, nevertheless the tares of vanity and passions have made it bear little fruit in some, and in others no fruit, and through the multiplication of iniquities some by heresies, others by schism, in opposing the truth of Thy Gospel, apostatize from Thine inheritance, reject Thy grace, and subject themselves to the judgement of Thy most-holy Word. O Most compassionate and all-powerful, be not angry to the end, O Lord! Be merciful, Thy Church prayeth Thee, setting before Thee the author and finisher of our salvation, Jesus Christ, be merciful to us, strengthen us in Thy right faith by Thy might, and unto those that are deceived do Thou enlighten the eyes of their reason by Thy divine light, that they may understand Thy truth: soften their bitterness and open their hearing, that they may know Thy voice and turn to Thee our Savior.

Correct, O Lord, the corruptions of others and the life not in accordance with Christian piety: make us all to live holy and undefiled, and so let the saving faith

take root in our hearts and remain ever fruitful. Turn not Thy face away from us, O Lord, give us the joy of Thy salvation: and grant, O Lord, to the pastors of Thy Church holy zeal, and dissolve their cares for the salvation and conversion of them that are deceived, with the spirit of Thy Gospel: That all being thus guided, we may attain to where there is the perfection of faith, the fulfillment of hope, and true love: and there with the choirs of the most pure heavenly hosts may we glorify Thee our Lord, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, unto the ages of ages.

People: Amen.

And the usual dismissal.

Concerning the Moleban:

The *Moleban* (from Church Slavonic Mol'ba - Prayer, supplication) is a short liturgical service usually centered on a particular need or occasion: the new year, a journey, an illness, an act of thanksgiving, etc. It may be addressed to Christ, the Mother of God, or to saints. Its general structure is that of Matins, and it can be served either by request of the faithful or by decision of the parish Priest.

The Church asks us to "pray without ceasing" - Prayer is the life of the Church and the life of each one of us, members of the Church. And because Christ came to redeem and to sanctify the totality of our life, no part of that life, no human need, no occasion is excluded from the Church's prayer. The Moleben, thus, is the extension of the Church's prayer, of Christ's redeeming grace to all aspects and realities of our life. "...knock and it will be opened to you." --we are called constantly to knock at the doors of God's mercy and our faith assures us that God hears us and is with us.

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