

Childbirth

Prayer for a Woman in Hard Labor

O Lord God Almighty, the Creator of all things and the Giver of knowledge to mankind, Who did fashion the body of man from the earth, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and granted him Your blessing, that he might increase and multiply by means of the birth of children: We ask You now, who love mankind, to bless this Your handmaiden, *N*, who is with child, granting her help and comfort at this trying time; Ease her labor, and bring her to safe delivery. Yea, O Lord, open the treasury of Your mercies, and Your compassion unto her, and let her give birth to a fruitful vine, to be a cause of joy to her all the days of her life; For blessed are You, and Your Only-begotten Son, and Your all-holy, good and life-creating Spirit, one God, world without end. *Amen.*

Prayers for a Woman After Childbirth

O Master, Lord Almighty, Who heals every sickness and every weakness: Heal now Your handmaiden, *N*, who has given birth, and raise her from the bed on which she lies. For, according to the words of the Prophet David, in sins were we conceived, and all are defiled before You. Preserve her and this child which she has borne. Cover her with the shelter of Your wings from this day until her last, through the intercessions of the Blessed Virgin Mary and of all the Saints, for blessed are You for ever and ever. *Amen.*

O Master, Lord our God, Who were born of the holy Mother of God and ever-virgin Mary; Who, as an infant, were laid in a manger and, as a Child, were held up to be seen: So now, have mercy on this, Your handmaiden, who has given birth to this child. Forgive all her transgression, both voluntary and involuntary, and protect her from every oppression of the devil. Preserve the child she has borne from every spell, from every cruel thing, from every storm of adversity, from evil spirits, whether of the day or of the night. Keep this woman under Your mighty hand and grant her a speedy recovery. Cleanse her of every sin, and heal her sufferings. Grant her health and strength of soul and body, and encompass her with bright and radiant angels; and preserve her from every approach of invisible spirits. Yea, O Lord, preserve her from sickness and infirmity, from jealousy and envy, and from the evil eye. Have mercy on her and the newborn child, according to Your great mercy. Cleanse her bodily afflictions. By Your quick mercy lead her to recovery in her body. Grant that the infant which has been born of her may worship in the earthly Temple which You have prepared for the glorification of Your Holy Name. For to You are due all glory, honor, and worship: to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, one God, world without end. *Amen.*

O Lord, our God, Who were well-pleased to come down from the heavens, and to be born of the holy Mother of God and Ever-Virgin Mary, for the salvation of us sinners, Who knows the frailty of human nature: According to the multitude of Your compassions, forgive the sins of Your handmaiden, *N*, who has borne a child. For You have said, O Lord, “Be fruitful, and multiply; fill the earth and have dominion over it.”

Therefore, we, Your servants, beseech You, and trusting in Your ever-patient love for mankind, with fear do we cry out to the Kingdom of Your holy Name: Look down from heaven and behold the feebleness of us who are condemned, and be gracious to Your handmaiden, *N*, and to all the household into which this child has been born, and to all who have touched her, and to all here present, granting forgiveness since You are a Good God and the Lover of Mankind; for You alone have the power to forgive sins; through the prayers of the Most-holy Mother of God, and of all Your Saints. *Amen.*

Prayer at the Naming of a Child

The Priest makes the sign of the Cross upon the forehead, lips and breast of the infant as indicated while praying:

O Lord our God, we entreat You, and we supplicate You, that the light of Your countenance be signed on this, Your servant, *N*, and that the Cross of Your Only-begotten Son be signed in *his* heart and understanding, so that *he* may flee from the vanity of the world and from every evil snare of the enemy, and may follow after Your commandments. And grant, O Lord, that Your holy Name may remain unrejected by *him*, and that, in due time, *he* may be joined to Your Holy Church, and that *he* may be perfected by the dread Mysteries of Your Christ, so that, having lived according to Your commandments, and having preserved the seal unbroken, *he* may receive the blessedness of the elect in Your kingdom: By the grace and love for mankind of Your Only-begotten Son, with Whom You are blessed, together with Your Most-holy, Good and Life-creating Spirit, one God, world without end. *Amen.*

May He Who deigned to be carried in the arms of the righteous Simeon for our salvation, Christ our true God, through the prayers of His most pure Mother, of Saint *N*, whose name has been given, and of all the saints, have mercy on us and save us, for He is good and He Loves mankind.

Prayer for a Woman After a Miscarriage

O Master, Lord our God, Who were born of the holy Mother of God and Ever-Virgin Mary, Who, as an infant, were laid in a manger: So now, according to Your great mercy, have mercy on this, Your handmaiden *N*, whose child has died. Forgive all her transgressions, both voluntary and involuntary, and protect her from every oppression of the devil. Cleanse her of every sin, and heal her sufferings. Grant her health and strength of soul and body, and encompass her with bright and radiant angels. Preserve her from every approach of invisible spirits. Yea, O Lord, preserve her from sickness and infirmity. Cleanse her bodily afflictions and inward travail. By Your quick mercy lead her to recovery. And with trembling we cry out and say, "Look down from the Heavens and behold our helplessness." And, according to Your great mercy, as the Good God and the Lover of Mankind, have mercy on her, through the prayers of Your most-pure Mother, and of all the Saints. For to You are due all glory, honor, and worship: to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, one God, world without end. *Amen.*

Prayer for a Woman 20 Days After Childbirth

O Lord our God, the true Bread of our Life, who have cleansed and regenerated us through Your incarnate dispensation, and have commanded us, Your unworthy servants, to bless and to sanctify those who approach Your holy Name: O Lord our God, purify also Your handmaiden, *N*, through the purification of twenty days, and bless her and guard her and the infant to which she has given birth, and the leaven of her hands and all the works of her hands, that she may, without hindrance, nurture all in her house according to Your holy Will, that we may glorify and worship Your infinite goodness in the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit, one God, world without end. *Amen.*

Adoption

O Lord our God, Who by Your beloved Child, our Lord Jesus Christ, called us children of God through adoption and the grace of Your omnipotent and Holy Spirit, and said, "I will be to him a Father, and he shall be to me a Son": Do You, the Same King, Who loves mankind, look down from Your holy dwelling place upon these Your servants and unite their natures, which You have begotten separated one from another according to the flesh, through Your Holy Spirit, into father and son; confirm them in Your love; bind them through Your benediction; bless them to Your glory; strengthen them in Your faith, preserving them always, and do not renounce them for what proceeds from out of their lips. Be the mediator for their promises, that their love which they have confessed to You be not torn asunder even to the end of their lives, and be kept

sincerely, alive in You our only living and true God, and grant them to be heirs of Your kingdom: For unto You are due all glory, honor and worship, to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, one God, world without end. *Amen.*

O Master and Lord, Who are the Maker of all creatures, Who by the first Adam made the bonds of kinship according to the natural flesh, and through Christ Jesus, Your beloved Son and our God, by grace showed us also as Your kindred: These Your servants bow their heads unto You, Who alone know all things even before they happen, and ask of You a blessing, and that in You they may receive that for which they hope, the bond, inscribed in each other, of father and son; and that, living worthily in You in adoption to sonship they may keep themselves in due constancy, that as in all things, so in this may be glorified Your Name, of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, one God, world without end. *Amen.*

The father receives his *son*, and says:
Today you are my *son*, this day I have begotten you.

The father raises *him* up and they kiss each other.

Baptism

O Lord God Almighty, the Author of all creation, visible and invisible, Who made the heavens, the earth, and the sea, and all that is in them; Who gathered the waters together in one gathering; Who shut up the Abyss and sealed it by Your terrible and glorious Name; Who raised up the waters above the heavens: You have fixed the earth above the waters;

You have established the sea by Your power; You have crushed the heads of the dragons in the waters. Therefore, who shall oppose You? O Lord, look down on this Your creature, and this water, and give it the grace of redemption, the blessing of Jordan. Make it the fountain of incorruption, the gift of sanctification, the remission of sins, the remedy of infirmities; the final destruction of demons, unassailable by hostile powers, filled with angelic might, that they who plot against Your creature may flee from *him*. For I have called upon Your Name, O Lord, which is wonderful, and glorious, and awesome even to adversaries.

The Priest pours oil into the water in the form of the Cross and immerses (or pours or sprinkles if immersion isn't possible), saying [if there is any doubt as to whether baptism has been previously administered]:

The servant of God, *N*, [if not already baptized] is baptized in the Name of the Father. *Amen*.

And of the Son. *Amen*.

And of the Holy Spirit. *Amen*.

The Priest vests *him* and anoints *him* with Holy Chrism, saying:
The Seal of the Gift of the Holy Spirit. *Amen*.

As many as have been baptized into Christ, have put on Christ. Alleluia. (3X)

May He Who deigned to be baptized by John in the Jordan for our salvation, Christ our true God, through the prayers of His most pure Mother; of the holy, glorious, and all-laudable Apostles; of the holy and righteous ancestors of God, Joachim and Anna, and of all the saints: have mercy on us and save us for He is good and loves mankind.

Reception of a Convert

O Lord God Almighty, Who alone are holy, and rest in the Saints; Who because of Your great and immeasurable love toward mankind, do always offer unto those who have sinned many pathways to repentance, and show unto those who have wandered from the truth the right way unto knowledge of You, the only true God, who are glorified and adored in the Trinity, that not one of them should perish, but that all may be saved, and come to the understanding of the truth: We thank You, we glorify and magnify You, for You have kindled in the heart of this, Your reason-endowed creature, *N*, the light of knowledge of Your truth, and have granted *him* to have recourse unto Your Holy Apostolic Orthodox Catholic Church.

Illumine *his* heart, O Master, we humbly ask You, with the perfect light of the grace of Your Holy Spirit unto the enlightening of *his* mind in the truth of Your Holy Gospel. Grant that *he* may sincerely, irrevocably and without hypocrisy unite *himself* to Your Holy Catholic Church, and truly accept and confess the Orthodox Catholic faith. Number *him* with Your chosen flock, and unite *him* to Your Holy Church. Make *him* a vessel of honor, and the temple of Your Holy Spirit; that, being ever nourished and guided by the Same, *he* may keep Your saving commandments; and that doing Your gracious, acceptable and perfect will, *he* may be granted to receive Your heavenly good things, together with all those who are well-pleasing to You: For You are the God of mercy and compassion and love toward mankind, and will that all men should be saved, and to You we send up glory, to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, one God, world without end. *Amen.*

The Priest hears the general confession of the convert and then pronounces the Absolution:

May God, Who pardoned David through Nathan the Prophet when he confessed his sins, Who pardoned Peter who wept bitterly for his denial, the Harlot who wept at His feet, the Publican and the Prodigal, forgive you all things, through me a sinner, both in this world and in the world to come, and set you uncondemned before His terrible Judgment Seat. And I, your unworthy priest, do conjoin you to the unity of the faithful, and the body of Christ's Church and do communicate you with the Divine Mysteries of the Church: In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. *Amen.*

If the convert has not received the Sacrament of Chrismation, the Priest anoints *him* on the forehead with Holy Chrism, saying:
The Seal of the Gift of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

The Priest immediately administers the Holy Mysteries.

Visitation of the Sick

Peace be to this house, and to all who dwell in it.

Do not remember our iniquities, Lord, nor the sins of our parents.

Let us pray.

Lord, have mercy upon us.
Christ, have mercy upon us.
Lord, have mercy upon us.

Our Father Who is in heaven, holy is Your Name.
Your Kingdom come, Your will be done, on earth as it
is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And
forgive our sins, as we forgive those who sin against
us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us
from evil. *Amen.*

O Lord, save Your servant;
Who puts his trust in You.
Send *him* help from Your holy place;
And evermore mightily defend him.
Let the enemy have no advantage over *him*;
Nor the wicked approach to hurt him.
Be unto *him*, O Lord, a strong tower;
From the face of his enemy.
O Lord, hear our prayer.
And let our cry come unto You.

O Lord, look down from heaven: Behold, visit, and
relieve this Your servant. Look upon *him* with the eyes
of Your mercy: Give *him* comfort and sure confidence
in You, defend *him* in all danger, and keep *him* in
perpetual peace and safety; through Jesus Christ our
Lord. *Amen.*

One or more of the following Antiphons and Collects is said.

Domine, quid multiplicati? Psalm 3

I called upon the Lord with my voice and He heard me
out of His holy hill.
*I called upon the Lord with my voice and He heard
me out of His holy hill.*

I laid down and slept, and rose up again; for the Lord sustained me.

I called upon the Lord with my voice and He heard me out of His holy hill.

I called upon the Lord with my voice:
And He heard me out of His holy hill.

Hear us, Almighty and most merciful God and Savior:
Extend Your accustomed goodness to this Your servant who is grieved with sickness. Visit him, O Lord, with Your loving mercy, and so restore him to his former health: that he may give thanks to You in Your holy Church; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Judica me, Deus Psalm 43

I will go unto the altar of God; Unto the God of my joy and gladness.

I will go unto the altar of God; Unto the God of my joy and gladness.

O put your trust in God; for I will yet give Him thanks, which is the help of my countenance, and my God.

I will go unto the altar of God; Unto the God of my joy and gladness.

I will go unto the altar of God;
Unto the God of my joy and gladness.

Sanctify, we beseech You, O Lord, the sickness of this Your servant: that the sense of his weakness may add strength to his faith, and seriousness to his repentance; and grant that he may dwell with You in life everlasting; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Voce mea ad Dominum Psalm 77

I have considered the days of old; And the years that are past.

I have considered the days of old; And the years that are past.

I call to remembrance my song, and in the night I commune with my own heart, and search out my spirit.
I have considered the days of old; And the years that are past.

I have considered the days of old;
And the years that are past.

Hear, O Lord, we beseech You, these our prayers, as we call upon You on behalf of this, Your servant; and bestow upon *him* the help of Your merciful consolation; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Confitebor tibi Psalm 138

Though I walk in the midst of trouble; Yet shall You refresh me.

Though I walk in the midst of trouble; Yet shall You refresh me.

You shall stretch forth Your hand on the furiousness of my enemies, and Your right hand shall save me.
Though I walk in the midst of trouble; Yet shall You refresh me.

Though I walk in the midst of trouble;
Yet shall You refresh me.

O God, the strength of the weak and the comfort of sufferers: Mercifully accept our prayers, and grant to Your servant the help of Your power; that his sickness may be turned into health, and our sorrow into joy; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Benedic, anima mea Psalm 103

The Lord saves Your life from destruction; And crowns You with mercy and loving-kindness.

The Lord saves Your life from destruction; And crowns You with mercy and loving-kindness.

Praise the Lord, O my soul; and all that is within me, praise His holy Name.

The Lord saves Your life from destruction; And crowns You with mercy and loving-kindness.

The Lord saves Your life from destruction;
And crowns You with mercy and loving-kindness.

Accept, we beseech You, merciful Lord, the devout praise of Your humble servant and grant him an abiding sense of Your loving-kindness; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Priest may substitute all or parts of Psalms 20, 27, 42, 91, 121, or 146 for any of those above.

O Savior of the world, Who has redeemed us by Your Cross and precious Blood: Save us and help us, we humbly beseech You, O Lord.

The Priest may discuss the meaning of sickness and the spiritual opportunity it affords with the sick person.

The Priest may inquire about the sick person's acceptance of the Christian Faith and whether *he* truly repents of his sins and is in charity with all the world, encouraging *him* to forgive all who have offended *him*, ask those *he* has hurt or offended for forgiveness, and make amends to the uttermost of *his* power.

If the sick person confesses *his* sins, after hearing *his* confession, the Priest assures *him* of God's mercy and forgiveness:

O Most merciful God, Who, according to the multitude of Your mercies, puts away the sins of those who truly repent, that You remember them no more: Open Your eye of mercy upon this Your servant, who most earnestly desires pardon and forgiveness. Renew in *him*, most loving Father, whatever has been decayed by the fraud and malice of the devil, or by *his* own carnal will and frailness: Preserve and continue this sick member in the unity of the Church; Consider *his* contrition, accept *his* tears, assuage *his* pain, as shall seem to You most expedient for *him*. And, since *he* puts *his* full trust only in Your mercy, do not impute *his* former sins to *him*, but strengthen *him* with Your blessed Spirit; and, when You are pleased to receive *him* hence, receive *him* into Your favor; through the merits of Your most dearly beloved Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Almighty Lord, Who is a most strong tower to all those who put their trust in Him, to Whom all things in heaven, on earth, and under the earth, bow and obey: Be now and evermore your defense and bring you to the realization that there is no other Name under heaven in Whom and through Whom you may receive health and salvation—only the Name of our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

The Priest adds any other prayers which he believes appropriate to the occasion, concluding with:

Unto God's gracious mercy and protection we commit you. The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you. The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace, both now and evermore. *Amen.*

Confession

If the penitent is mortally ill and death is imminent, the Priest only says the Prayer of Absolution.

Have mercy on us, O Lord, have mercy on us; for, laying aside all excuse, we sinners offer to You, as to our Master, this supplication: Have mercy on us.

O Lord, have mercy on us, for in You have we put our trust. Do not be angry with us, nor remember our iniquities, but look down on us even now, since You are compassionate, and deliver us from our enemies. For You are our God, and we are Your people: We are all the work of Your hands, and we call upon Your Name.

The Priest hears the confession, gives penance, and then prays: O Lord God, the salvation of Your servants, merciful, compassionate, and long-suffering; Who forgives our evil deeds, not desiring the death of a sinner, but that he turn from his way and live: Show mercy, now, on Your servant, *N*, and grant to *him* an image of repentance, forgiveness of sins and deliverance, pardoning all *his* sins, whether voluntary or involuntary. Reconcile *him* and unite *him* to Your Holy Church, through Jesus Christ our Lord, to Whom, with You, are due all dominion and majesty, now and ever, world without end. *Amen.*

The Priest absolves the penitent, signing *him* with the Cross:
May our Lord and God Jesus Christ, through the grace
and bounties of his love towards mankind, forgive you
all your transgressions; and I, an unworthy priest,
through the power given to me by Him, do forgive and
absolve you from all your sins: In the Name of the
Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. *Amen.*

Communion of the Sick

If the sick person is not otherwise able to receive the Sacrament,
the Priest may soften a Particle with a little wine.

O Master, Lord Jesus Christ, our Savior, Who alone
has the power to forgive sins as the Good God and
Lover of Mankind: Overlook all the sins of Your servant,
N, whether committed in knowledge or in ignorance,
and grant *him* without condemnation to receive Your
Most-holy Mysteries, neither for judgment nor for
condemnation, but for the cleansing of soul and body,
and for the inheritance of Your Kingdom, as You are
his help, a firm wall and bulwark against the Adversary,
and for the cleansing of *his* sins. For You are a merciful
God and the Lover of Mankind, and to You we send up
glory: to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy
Spirit, one God, world without end. *Amen.*

O Lord, I know that I am not worthy that You should
come under my roof, in the house of my soul, for it is
entirely desolate and fallen into ruin, and You will not
find in me a place worthy to lay Your head. But, as
You desire to abide with me, I have come to You,
trusting in You alone. Enter into me and cleanse me
from all bodily and spiritual filth. Be to me a Helper
and Defender, and grant me to stand at Your right

hand, through the prayers and supplications of our Most-pure sovereign Lady and Blessed Virgin Mary, and of all the Saints who have been well-pleasing to You throughout the ages. For You are blessed for ever and ever. *Amen.*

Priest and People together:
Almighty God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, Maker of all things, Judge of all men: We acknowledge and bewail our manifold sins and wickedness which we from time to time most grievously have committed by thought, word, and deed against Your Divine Majesty, provoking most justly Your wrath and indignation against us. We do earnestly repent and are heartily sorry for these our misdoings. The remembrance of them is grievous to us: the burden of them is intolerable. Have mercy upon us. Have mercy upon us, most merciful Father, for Your Son our Lord Jesus Christ's sake. Forgive us all that is past and grant that we may ever hereafter serve and please You in newness of life, to the honor and glory of Your Name. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

O Lord our God, Who remitted the sins of Peter and the Harlot through their prayers, and justified the Publican who acknowledged his own transgressions: Accept the confession of Your servant, *N*, and as You are good, overlook *his* sins, whether voluntary or involuntary, by word, or by deed, or by thought, by which *he* has sinned against You. For You alone have the power to remit sins, as You are a merciful and compassionate God, and to You we send up glory: to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, one God, world without end. *Amen.*

May our Lord and God Jesus Christ, through the grace and bounties of His love towards mankind, forgive you

all your transgressions; and I, an unworthy priest,
through the power given to me by Him, do forgive and
X absolve you from all your sins: In the Name of the
Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. *Amen.*

We do not presume to come to this Your Table trusting
in our own righteousness, merciful Lord, but in Your
manifold and great mercies. We are not worthy so
much as to gather up the crumbs under Your Table.
But You are the same Lord Whose nature is always to
have mercy. Grant us therefore, gracious Lord, to eat
the Flesh of Your dear Son Jesus Christ and to drink
His Blood: that our sinful bodies may be made clean
by His Body, our souls washed by His most precious
Blood, and we may evermore live in Him and He in us.
Amen.

The Priest communicates the People, saying:
The Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, which
was given and shed for you, keep your body and soul
in everlasting life.

Almighty and everliving God, we thank You for feeding
us with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and
Blood of Your Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and for
assuring us in these holy Mysteries of Your favor and
goodness towards us and that we are living members of
the Body of your Son, the blessed company of all faithful
people, and are also heirs through hope of Your eternal
Kingdom by the merits of His most precious death and
passion. Assist us with Your grace, Heavenly Father:
that we may continue in that holy fellowship and do the
good works that You have prepared for us. Through
Jesus Christ our Lord, to Whom, with You and the Holy
Spirit, are all honor and glory, world without end. *Amen.*

Anointing of the Sick

If death is imminent, the Priest may say only the Prayer for the Sanctification of Oil ("O Lord, Who heals ..."), the Prayer of Anointing ("O holy Father, Physician of souls and bodies ..."), and the Dismissal ("May Christ our true God ...").

O Christ, Who alone hastens to defend: Manifest Your speedy visitation from on high upon Your sick servant, *N.* Deliver *him* from *his* infirmities and cruel pain. Raise *him* up again: that *he* may sing praises to You and unceasingly glorify You, Who alone loves mankind.

Bless this oil, O Lord: that it may be sanctified by the power, operation, and descent of the Holy Spirit. Bless and visit the *servant* of God, *N.*: that the grace of the Holy Spirit may come upon *him*, delivering *him* from all affliction, wrath, danger and distress.

After pouring wine and olive oil into a vessel:
O Lord, Who heals the disorders of our souls and bodies, through Your mercies and compassion: As the same Lord, sanctify this oil, O Master, that it may be a means of cure for those anointed with it, for relief from all passions, defilement of flesh and spirit, and every evil; that in this may be glorified Your most holy Name, of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, one God, world without end. *Amen.*

A reading from the General Epistle of St. James.

Take, my brethren, the prophets, who have spoken in the Name of the Lord, for an example of suffering affliction, and of patience. Behold, we count them happy which endure. You have heard of the patience

of Job, and have seen the end of the Lord; that the Lord is very pitiful, and of tender mercy. Is any among you afflicted? let him pray. Is any merry? let him sing psalms. Is any sick among you? let him call for the elders of the Church; and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the Name of the Lord: And the prayer of faith shall save the sick, and the Lord shall raise him up; and if he have committed sins, they shall be forgiven him. Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that you may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much. *Jas 5:10-11; 13-16.*

A reading from the Gospel According to St. Matthew.

When He had called His twelve disciples to Him, He gave them power against unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal all manner of sickness and disease. These twelve Jesus sent forth, and commanded them, saying, "Do not go into the way of the Gentiles, and do not enter into any city of the Samaritans: But go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. And as you go, preach, saying, 'The kingdom of heaven is at hand.' Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out devils: freely you have received, freely give." *Mt 10:1; 5-8.*

Have mercy on us, O God: According to Your great goodness, we implore You, hear us and have mercy. Again we pray for the *servant* of God, *N*: for mercy, life, peace, salvation, visitation, and the pardon and remission of *his* sins. For You are a merciful God and You love mankind, and to You we send up glory: to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, one God, world without end. *Amen.*

O Holy of Holies, eternal and without beginning, Who sent down Your Only-begotten Son to heal every sickness and every wound of our souls and bodies: Send down Your Holy Spirit and sanctify this Oil and cause it to be, for Your servant, *N*, who is about to be anointed, perfect remission of *his* sins, and for inheritance of the Kingdom of Heaven. For it is Yours to be merciful and to save us, O our God, and to You we send up glory, together with Your Only-begotten Son, and Your All-holy, and Good, and Life-creating Spirit, one God, world without end. *Amen.*

The Priest dips a cotton wand into the Holy Oil and anoints the sick person with the sign of the Cross on the forehead, nostrils, cheeks, lips, breast, and both sides of the hands, praying:
O holy Father, Physician of souls and bodies, Who sent Your Only-begotten Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, to heal every sickness and to deliver from death:
Heal, also, Your servant, *N*, from the infirmities of body and soul which hinder *him* and make *him* live, by the grace of Your Christ. For You are the Fountain of healing, O our God, and to You we send up glory, together with Your Only-begotten Son, and Your Holy Spirit, one in essence, world without end. *Amen.*

The Priest lays his hand on the head of the sick person, praying:
O holy King, Deeply-compassionate and Greatly-merciful Lord Jesus Christ, Son and Word of the living God, Who does not desire the death of a sinner, but that he should turn from his way and live: I do not lay my sinful hand on the head of Your servant, *N*, who has come to You in iniquities and asks of You, through me, remission of *his* sins but, through Your strong and mighty hand, I implore and entreat Your merciful compassion and love for mankind, which does not wish

to remember evil, O God our Savior, Who by Your prophet Nathan granted remission of sins to the penitent David and accepted Manasseh's prayer of repentance. As the same Lord, receive also with Your compassionate and forgiving love towards mankind, Your servant, *N*, who repents of *his* own sins, overlooking *his* transgressions. For You are our God, Who has commanded us to forgive, even to seventy times seven, those who fall into sin. For as is Your majesty, so also is Your mercy: and to You are due all glory, honor and worship, world without end. *Amen.*

May Christ our true God, through the prayers of His Most-pure Mother; by the power of the precious and life-creating Cross; of the holy glorious and all-praised Apostle James, the first Bishop of Jerusalem and brother of God; and of all the Saints; save us and have mercy on us, for He is good and He loves mankind.

Prayers for the Sick

For a Sick Person

O Father of mercies and God of all comfort, our only help in time of need: We humbly beseech You to behold, visit, and relieve Your sick servant *N* for whom our prayers are desired. Look upon *him* with the eyes of Thy mercy, comfort *him* with a sense of Your goodness, preserve *him* from the temptations of the enemy, and give *him* patience under *his* affliction. In Your good time, restore *him* to health and enable *him* to lead the remainder of *his* life in Your fear and to Your glory, and grant that finally *he* may dwell with You in life everlasting. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Almighty Master, Physician of our souls and bodies,
Who makes humble and raises up, Who chastens and
again heals: Visit with Your mercy our ailing brother,
N. Stretch forth Your arm that is full of health and
healing, and heal *him*, raising *him* up from *his* bed
and infirmity. Restraine the spirit of weakness, cast off
from *him* every soreness, every ailment, every wound,
every fever and seizure. And if *he* has iniquities or
transgressions, loose remit and forgive them for the
sake of Your love towards mankind. Yea, O Lord, pity
Your creature, through Christ Jesus our Lord, with
Whom You are blessed, and Your all-holy, good, and
life-creating Spirit, one God, world without end. Amen.

Almighty Master, Holy King, Who chastens and yet
slays not; Who raises up those who fall, and restores
those who are cast down; Who relieves the bodily
afflictions of men: We ask You, our God, visit with Your
mercy Your ailing servant, *N.* Forgive *him* every
transgression, whether voluntary or involuntary. Yea, O
Lord, send down from heaven Your healing power:
Touch the body; quench the fever; soothe the suffering,
and banish every hidden ailment. Be the physician of
Your servant, *N.* Raise *him* up from the bed of ailment
and from his couch of vexation whole and perfectly
restored, granting *him*, through Your Church, to be well-
pleasing unto You, and to do Your will, For Yours it is to
show mercy and to save us, O our God, and to You we
send up glory, to the Father, and to the Son, and to the
Holy Spirit, one God, world without end. Amen.

O Lord our God, Who by Your word alone healed
chronic and temporal diseases; Who also cured the
kinswoman of Peter of fever; Who chastens with pity
and heals according to Your goodness, and can put

aside every malady and infirmity: Now, also, relieve Your servant, *N*, and cure *him* of the infirmity with which *he* is grieved, and lift him up from *his* bed of affliction, sending upon *him* Your mercy; and grant *him* health and complete cure; For You are the Physician of our souls and bodies, and to You we send up glory, to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, one God, world without end. *Amen.*

For Those in Mental Darkness

O Heavenly Father: we beseech You to have mercy on all Your children who are living in mental darkness. Restore them to strength of mind and cheerfulness of spirit; Grant them health and peace. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

After an Attempted Suicide

Almighty God, the Creator and Redeemer of mankind, Who give us our life in this world that we may prepare for the life to come, Who have delivered Your servant, *N*, from blood-guiltiness: Have pity, we ask You, upon *him*, who would rashly have thrown away Your gift, and as You have in mercy defeated *his* designs, so grant to *him* time and grace for repentance. Graciously look upon *him* and in Your compassion forgive *him* what *he* has done amiss through the malice of the Enemy. Restore *him* by Your grace, strengthen *him* with Your might, and bring forth from *his* heart tears of sorrow, that *he* may weep for *his* sins committed against You and, by Your mercy, obtain pardon for them: For You are the God of the penitent, and to You we send up glory, to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, one God, world without end. *Amen.*

After an Accident or Injury

O Lord God our Savior, Who rule over all, Who are the Physician and Helper in sickness, the Deliverer from pain, Who stretched out Your hand to save Your Apostle Peter, when sinking in the water: Mercifully grant Your help and healing to this Your servant, *N*, who has fallen into affliction and has suffered grievous injury of body, and grant that *he*, calling upon You in faith, may be restored by Your loving-kindness. Yea, O long-suffering Lord, show Your compassion and mercy upon *him*: that *he* may glorify Your divine power and bless Your holy Name, of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, one God, word without end. *Amen.*

For a Person Sick with Fever

O Lord Jesus Christ our God, Who are a River of Water in a dry place and the Shadow of a great Rock in a weary land, Who at the prayer of Your Apostle Peter rebuked the fever of his mother-in-law: Hear, we implore You, our supplication for this Your servant, *N*, unto the remission of *his* sins. And inasmuch as You are compassionate grant *him* ease and refreshment, and refuge with You from the heat and pain of *his* illness. Quench with Your omnipotent right hand the fire possessing *him*, alleviate the pain, and mercifully raise *him* up from *his* bed of sickness; For You are a merciful God, Who loves mankind, and to You we send up glory, to the Father, and to the son, and to the Holy Spirit, one God, world without end. *Amen.*

For a Sick Child

O Lord Jesus Christ, Who came into this world as a little child, and Who, though Very God, was subject to Your earthly parents: Grant that this Your child, *N*, may bear what has been given *him*, and readily obey those You have set over *him*. Look mercifully, we ask You, upon *him*, and in Your great love grant *him* relief from *his* pain. Yea, O Lord, Son of God: Send Your holy Angel from heaven to guard, cherish, protect, visit and defend this Your child, *N*, sick in *his* tender age. Stretch forth Your holy right hand upon *him*: that, restored to the vigor of health, *he* may attain to fullness of years, and serve You faithfully and gratefully all *his* life and become an heir of Your Kingdom. For You are the Physician of our souls and bodies, O Christ our God, and to You we send up glory, to the Father, and. to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, one God, world without end. *Amen.*
Heavenly Father, watch with us, we pray, *N*, for whom our prayers are offered and grant that *he* may be restored to that perfect health which it is Yours alone to give. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

For a Person About to Undergo an Operation

Almighty God, our heavenly Father: We beseech You graciously to comfort Your servant in *his* suffering and bless the means utilized for *his* cure. Fill *his* heart with confidence: that, though *he* may be afraid sometimes, *he* may put *his* trust in You. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

O Lord Jesus Christ our God, Who patiently endured the scourging and wounding of Your sacred Body, that You might save the souls and bodies of Your

people: Look graciously upon the suffering body of this Your servant, *N*, and strengthen *him* to bear patiently whatever You shall see fit to give *him*. Bless the means employed for working out *his* cure and grant that *he* may so endure *his* sufferings in the flesh that the wounding of *his* body may avail for the correcting and salvation of *his* soul: For Yours it is to show mercy and to save us, O Christ our God, and to You we send up glory, with Your unoriginate Father, and Your all-holy, good and life-creating Spirit, one God, world without end. Amen.

Of a Surgeon before an Operation

Almighty God, our help and refuge, fountain of wisdom, tower of strength, Who knows that I can do nothing without Your guidance and help: Assist me, I pray. Direct me to Your Divine wisdom and power: that I may accomplish this operation and all other procedures that I undertake, faithfully and diligently, according to Your will; that they may be beneficial and to the glory of Your holy Name. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

When Sickness Increases

O Lord Jesus Christ our Savior, for our sake You were born, for our sake You hungered and thirsted, for our sake You suffered, and gave Your life over to death: As Your servant, *N*, shares in Your sufferings, grant that *he* may also share in Your grace. May Your precious Blood wash away the stains of *his* sins. May Your righteousness cleanse away *his* unrighteousness. Look rather upon *his* faith in You than upon *his* works when *he* stands before You as Judge. As sickness increases on *him*, so increase unto *him* Your plenteous

grace. Let not *his* faith waver, nor *his* hope fail, nor *his* love wax cold; Let not the dread of death cause *him* to cast away *his* trust in You or to place it anywhere but in You but, looking steadfastly unto You to the last, let *him* say, “Into Your hands, O Lord, I commend my spirit,” and so enter into Your everlasting Kingdom, of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, one God, world without end. *Amen.*

For Healing in the Church

Almighty God, Who inspired Your servant, St. Luke the Physician, to set forth the love and healing power of Your Son in the Gospel: Manifest the same power and love in Your Church, healing our bodies and our souls that we may glorify the same Your Son Jesus Christ our Lord, Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, world without end. *Amen.*

Prayers for the Dying

For a Terminally Ill Person

O Almighty God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, we pray to You for Your servant, *N*, whose sickness is bringing *him* to the end of *his* earthly life. You are the God Whose only-begotten Son taught us that not even the smallest sparrow can fall without Your knowledge, and that You hold all creation in Your merciful arms. Look upon Your servant, *N*, and allow this illness to be for the death only of those things which are the result of evil and sin. Let *his* thoughts be quieted with the peace and confidence of *his* final deliverance into the fullness of Your love. Keep *his* soul and body pure, and sanctify them

during the time *he* remains among us, that on the last day *he* may be raised up with all Your saints to live with You in never-ending glory. For to You belong praise and worship, to the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, one God, world without end. *Amen.*

For a Person Preparing to Die

O Lord, look upon *N*, Your creature and the work of Your hands. Take away *his* fear and send Your angel to comfort *him* with the strength of Your presence, even as You were comforted in Your agony. *He* commends everyone *he* loves to Your providence and care, knowing that You will do more for them than *he* could ever desire. O Lord, You know *his* sins: Have mercy on *him* and in Your wealth of love and compassion for mankind, let heaven be opened to *him*. May *he* see the angels rejoicing over *him*, an unworthy sinner, as *he* is received into Your Kingdom. *He* is not worthy of Your love for *him*, but *he* trusts that You will not abandon *him* to the eternal death of hell. By the prayers of Mary, Your Mother, and of all the saints, may *he* be counted among those who behold the light of Your face. May *he* offer You the praise and worship which are *his* eternal life and joy. For You are *his* life and *his* resurrection, and Your arms will receive *him* in love, O Jesus, and *he* glorifies You, with Your Father, Who is without beginning, and Your most holy, good, and life-creating Spirit, one God, world without end. *Amen.*

For a Person Condemned to Death

Most merciful, all-bountiful, all-good Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, our Savior: Who graciously deigned, because of Your love toward sinful man, to accept

condemnation unto death, to be crucified for the sake of our salvation, and upon the Cross gave up Your righteous Spirit into the hands of God the Father: We ask You, most gracious Master, look also with Your compassion upon this Your servant condemned to death by the judgment of men. Remit *his* mortal fault, inspire in *him* true repentance, that *he* may, if even in this hour before death, also confess You, *his* God and Savior, as once did the wise thief, and be granted mercy from You. Yea, O Lord long-suffering and of many mercies, do not condemn by Your just judgment this condemned sinner *N*, pardon *his* transgressions. Deliver *him*, by this penalty of death, from death ever-lasting prepared for unrepentant sinners, that *he* may glorify You with all the sinners who have repented and been justified through You, because You alone are sinless and unto You are due all glory, honor and worship, together with Your unoriginate Father, and the all-holy and life-creating Spirit: one God, world without end. *Amen.*

For a Dying Person

O Lord Jesus Christ our God, for the sake of Your most holy wounds, hear our prayer and forgive all the transgressions of Your humble servant, *N*. At the moment of *his* death, accept into Your merciful hands *his* soul cleansed of all stains of sin and place *him* with Your Saints in the resplendent light of Your Kingdom. For You are our salvation and redemption, and we give glory to You, together with Your eternal Father, and Your all-holy, gracious, and life-giving Spirit, one God, world without end. *Amen.*

Absolution of a Dying Person

May our Lord and God Jesus Christ, through the grace and bounties of his love towards mankind, forgive you, *N*, all the transgressions of your whole life; And I, an unworthy priest, implore Him, that You be forgiven and absolved in this world and in that to come: In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. *Amen.*

At the Departure of the Soul from the Body

O Master and Lord Almighty, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, Who wills that all men should be saved and come to the knowledge of the truth; Who desires not the death of a sinner, but that he should turn from his way and live: We implore You, absolve the soul of Your servant, *N*, from every bond, and free *him* from every curse. Remit *his* transgressions, both in knowledge and in ignorance, both of deed and of word, which *he* has committed from *his* youth up, and has sincerely confessed or concealed, either through forgetfulness or through shame. For You alone loose bonds and restore the contrite, and are the hope of the despairing, and can remit the sins of every man who puts his trust in You. Yea, O Lord who love mankind, command that *he* be released from the bonds of the flesh and of sin. Receive in peace the soul of this Your servant, *N*, and give it rest in that place where all Your Saints dwell, through the grace of Your Only-begotten Son, our Lord God and Savior Jesus Christ, with Whom You are blessed, and Your all-holy, good and life-creating Spirit, one God, world without end. *Amen.*

O Master, our Lord God Almighty, Who wills that all men should be saved and come to the knowledge of the truth; Who desires not the death of a sinner, but that he should return and be saved: We ask You and entreat You, absolve the soul of Your servant, *N*, from every bond, free it from every curse. For You loose those who are bound, and restore those who are cast down, and are the Hope of the hopeless. Wherefore, O Master, command that the soul of Your servant, *N*, be set free in peace, to rest in Your eternal habitations with all Your Saints. Through Your Only-begotten Son, with Whom You are blessed, and Your all-holy, good and life-creating Spirit, one God, world without end. *Amen.*

O Lord our God, in Your ineffable wisdom You have created man, fashioning him out of the dust and adoring him with comeliness and goodness, as an honorable and heavenly acquisition, to the praise and magnificence of Your glory and kingdom, that You might bring him into Your image and likeness; yet because he transgressed the command of Your statute, having accepted the image but not preserving it, and because also, that evil be not eternal, You have ordained, through Your love for mankind, dissolution of the same; and as God of our Fathers, through Your Divine Will, You have severed and dissolved this destructible bond, that the body should be dissolved into the elements of which it was fashioned, and that the soul should be translated to that place from whence it was taken, even until the general Resurrection. Therefore we ask You, the Father unoriginate and immortal, and Your Only-begotten Son, and Your All-holy Spirit, that You will loose Your servant, *N*, from the body unto repose; entreating also forgiveness by Your ineffable goodness if *he* in any way, whether in knowledge or in

ignorance, has offended You, or is under the ban of a priest, or has embittered *his* parents, or has broken a vow, or has fallen into any evil doing through the malice of the Devil: Yea, O Master, Lord our God, hear me, a sinner and Your unworthy servant in this hour, and loose Your *servant*, *N*, from this intolerable sickness and the bitter impotency which holds *him*, and give *him* rest where the souls of the righteous dwell: For You are the repose of our souls and bodies, and to You we send up glory, to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, one God, world without end. *Amen.*

Depart, O Christian soul, out of this world: In the Name of God the Father Almighty, Who created you; In the Name of Jesus Christ, Who redeemed you; In the Name of the Holy Spirit, Who sanctified you; May you rest this day in peace, in the Paradise of God.

After the Departure of the Soul from the Body

Into Your hands, O merciful Savior, we commend the soul of Your *servant*, now departed from *his* body. Acknowledge, we humbly beseech You, a sheep of Your own fold, a lamb of Your own flock, a sinner of Your own redeeming. Receive *him* into the arms of Your mercy, into the blessed rest of everlasting peace, and into the glorious company of the saints in light. *Amen.*

Remember, O Lord our God, Your servant our *brother*, *N*, deceased in the faith and hope of life everlasting. Inasmuch as You are good and love mankind: Loose, remit, and forgive *his* every voluntary and involuntary transgression, releasing the sins and destroying the unrighteousness. Deliver *him* from eternal torment and

the fires of Gehenna. Grant *him* to enjoy and partake of Your eternal bliss prepared for those who love You: for *he* has sinned, yet *he* has not rejected You, and has believed without misgiving in the Name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, God glorified in the Trinity, and has confessed, even to *his* last breath, unity in Trinity and Trinity in unity. Be therefore merciful unto *him* and, since You are bountiful, give *him* rest with all Your Saints: for there is no one who lives and does not sin, but You alone are without sin, and Your righteousness endures forever, and You are the only God of mercy, and bounty and love for mankind, and to You we send up glory, to the Father, and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, one God, world without end. *Amen.*

If the Litany for the Dead (before the Committal at the end of the Burial Service) is said or sung, it is concluded with:

May the Lord Jesus Christ, our God, Who gave His divine commandments to His holy Disciples and Apostles, that they should bind and loose the sins of the fallen, and we, in turn, who have received authority to do the same, forgive you, *N*, whatever transgressions you have committed in life, voluntary or involuntary, world without end. *Amen.*

Priest and People, slowly and quietly:

May God beatify and give *him* rest, and be merciful to us, for He is good and loves mankind.

If the Litany for a Dead Child (before the Committal at the end of the Burial Service) is said or sung, it is concluded with:

O Lord, Who guards children in this life and in the world to come has prepared for them the amplitude of Abraham's bosom and, because of their purity, radiant angelic abodes wherein the spirits of the Righteous

dwell: Receive in peace the soul of Your servant, *N*. For You have said, "Let the children come unto me, for of such is the Kingdom of Heaven": For unto You are due all glory, honor and worship, with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, world without end. *Amen*.

Prayers for the Dead

For a Person Who Has Died

Give rest with the souls of the righteous departed, O Savior, to the soul of Your servant, *N*, preserving *him* to the life of blessedness which is with You, Who loves mankind. In the place of Your rest, O Lord, where all Your Saints repose, give rest also to the soul of Your servant, *N*, for You alone love mankind.

Glory be to the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit:

You are the God Who descended into hell and loosed the bonds of the captives. Do You Yourself now also give rest to the soul of Your servant, *N*.

Now and ever and unto ages of ages.

O Virgin, alone pure and undefiled, who without seed brought forth God: Pray that *his* soul may be saved.

Give rest, O Christ, to the soul of Your servant, *N*, with the Saints, where there is neither sickness, nor sorrow, nor sighing, but life everlasting. *Amen*.

For a Child Whose Parent Has Died

O Lord, You heard Joseph grieving over the death of his father, Jacob, as he wept and kissed him. Your own Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, also knew the love of a mother, for as He suffered upon the cross, He beheld His Mother and the Disciple whom He loved standing near her, and He said: "Woman, behold your son." And to the Disciple, He said: "Behold your mother." Good Master, look down from heaven and see the pain and grief which have laid hold of N's heart and soul today. Be merciful to *him*, Your servant, and receive this prayer which is offered to You for a child who has lost *his* beloved *father*. Forgive whatever sins *he* has willingly or unwillingly committed, whether of word, deed, or thought. Merciful Master, hear the grieving voice of one who has been taught by *his father* to turn to You with true faith in times of need, and to raise *his* eyes and voice to You. Show Your mercy, O Lord, and grant rest to *his father*, making *him* a partaker of Your eternal blessings and granting *him* a place at Your right hand, for blessed and glorified are You now and ever, world without end. *Amen*.

For a Surviving Spouse

Master, Lord, immaculate Creator of all: In Your love for mankind You created woman from Adam's rib, and blessed them, saying: "Be fruitful, multiply and conquer the earth." You joined the two into one body and commanded that no man separate that which You had joined together. Look down from heaven, O compassionate Father, and behold the grief and pain which have fallen upon N's heart and soul as *he*

beholds *his* separation today from the one soul of Your servant, O Lord, who You, O Lord, gave to be *his wife* and support in this life. Show Your loving kindness to *him*, O merciful Lord, at this hour which is so difficult for *his* soul to endure! Lord Jesus Christ, comforter of those who mourn: the prophet Isaiah spoke of You, saying that You would come to heal those whose hearts were crushed. Be *his* comforter and hear *him* as *he* raises *his* voice to You with faith. O gracious King, forgive whatever sins *his wife* has committed in this life, whether by word, deed or thought, knowingly or unknowingly. Receive the soul of Your servant, O Lord, in Your eternal heavenly kingdom, among the dwelling of the saints. At Your proper time, grant that *his* soul, which longs for that kingdom, may also dwell in that holy place where, once again, their souls shall meet and, together, offer glory and praise to Your all-holy Name: Of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, one God, world without end. *Amen.*

For Parents Whose Child Has Died

Master, Lord, gracious and merciful God: You long ago heard the grieving voice of Your servant Jacob as he wept for Joseph, saying “I shall go, mourning, into the grave next to my son.” You Yourself, O compassionate Lord, comforted David, the king and prophet as he said in his grief, “Absalom! My son, Absalom! It would have been better for me to have died in your place, O my son, Absalom!” Your Divine Son and our Savior, in His mercy for the grief which a parent suffers, raised Jairus’ daughter and the son of the widow from Nain and, in this same compassion and loving kindness, He healed the daughter of the

Canaanite woman. O gracious and merciful Master and Lord: Look down from heaven and behold the grief in the hearts of *these* parents as they see *their* hope for life snatched away, the good and righteous life of *their* child through whom *they* had longed to praise the power, wisdom, and goodness of Your holy Name. But as *they* stand before the impenetrable mysteries which You alone understand, they turn to the fervent prayer which Your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, offered before the holy Passion, in the garden of Gethsemane, saying “Father, if it is Your will, take this cup from me!” Like Him, *they* also bow *their* heads before You today and cry out: “Lord, let Your will be done!” Like the righteous Job hearing of the death of his children long ago, *they* also cry out in humility and confess: “The Lord gives, the Lord takes away; Blessed be the Name of the Lord.” Though *they* are torn by grief, yet *their* faith in You and Your ineffable mysteries remains unshaken as *they* now beseech Your mercy and compassion, Lord. Grant forgiveness, Lord, to *his* soul for whatever sins *he* may have committed in word, deed or thought, and bring *him* to that place of eternal blessedness, together with Your Holy Angels. At the time which You shall choose, grant that they too may join *him*, so that together *they* may sing of Your immeasurable glory. For You are the God of mercy and compassion and the Lover of mankind, and we offer glory, thanksgiving and worship to You: the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit, one God, world without end. Amen.

For the Faithful Departed

O God of spirits and of all flesh, Who has trampled death and made the devil powerless, and has given life to Your world: Give rest to the soul of Your departed servants who have fallen asleep in a place of brightness, a place of refreshment, a place of repose, where all suffering, sorrow, and sighing have fled away. Since You are a good and loving God, pardon every transgression which they have committed, whether by word, or deed or thought, for there is no one who lives yet does not sin, for only You are without sin: Your righteousness is eternal and Your word is truth. For You are the resurrection, the life, and the repose of Your servants who have fallen asleep, O Christ our God, and to You we send up glory, together with Your Father, Who is without beginning, and Your most holy, good, and life-creating Spirit, one God, world without end. *Amen.*

Kneeling Vespers: Pentecost Third Prayer

O ever-flowing Fountain of life and light, creative power coeternal with the Father, Who most excellently fulfilled the whole dispensation of the salvation of mankind, Christ our God, Who burst the indestructible bonds of death and the bolts of Hell, and trampled down the multitude of evil spirits; Who offered Yourself as a blameless victim, giving Your immaculate Body as a sacrifice, unblemished and inviolate of all sin, and through that dread and indescribable act of sacrifice, bestowed eternal life upon us; Who descended into Hell and broke down its eternal bars, showing the way up to those who sat in the lower world; Who, with allurements of divine wisdom, enticed the author of evil, the dragon of

the abyss and, with cords of gloom, bound him in Hell and in unquenchable fire and confined him in outer darkness by Your infinite might; Who manifested as the greatly glorified wisdom of the Father, great Helper of the oppressed and enlightener of those in darkness and the shadow of death; Lord of eternal glory and beloved Son of the Father most high, Light everlasting of Light everlasting, Sun of righteousness: Listen to us who pray to You, and give rest to the souls of Your servants and handmaidens, our fathers and mothers, brothers and sisters, our other kinsmen after the flesh, and all Your own in the faith who have fallen asleep before us, of whom we now make memorial, for in You is the power over all, and in Your hand You hold all the ends of the earth. Almighty Master, God of the fathers and Lord of mercies, Maker of the race of mortals and immortals, and of every nature of man, of that which is brought together and again put asunder, of life and of the end of life, of sojourning here and of translation there, Who measures the years of life and sets the times of death, Who brings down to Hell and raises up, binding in infirmity and releasing to power, dispensing present things according to need and ordering those to come as is expedient, quickening with the hope of resurrection those smitten with the sting of death. O Master of all, God our Savior, the hope of all the ends of the earth and of those that are far off upon the sea; Who on the great and saving day of Pentecost showed us the mystery of the Holy Trinity, consubstantial and coeternal, undivided and unmingled, and poured out the descent and presence of Your Holy and life-creating Spirit in the form of tongues of fire, upon Your Holy Apostles, appointing them to be the Evangelists of our pious faith and showing them to be confessors and preachers of the true theology; Who also deigns to receive oblations and supplications for those

bound in Hell, and grants to us the great hope that respite and comfort will be sent down from Thee to the departed from the grief that doth bind them. Listen to us, Your humble and piteous servants and handmaidens, and give rest to the souls of those who have fallen asleep before us, in a place of light, in a place of refreshment, in a place of repose, where all sickness, sorrow, and sighing have fled away. Place their souls in the tabernacles of the righteous and make them worthy of peace and repose, for the dead do not praise You and those in Hell dare not offer You confession, but we, the living, bless You, and supplicate You, offering to You propitiatory prayers and sacrifices for their souls.

O God, Who are great and eternal, holy and the Lover of mankind: Who has vouchsafed us also to stand before Your unapproachable glory, that we may hymn and praise Your wonders: Cleanse us, Your unworthy servants and handmaidens, granting grace that, with contrite hearts and without presumption, we may offer You the thrice-holy glorification and thanksgiving for Your great gifts, which You have granted and ever grant us. Remember, O Lord, our infirmity, and do not destroy us for our transgressions, but be merciful to our humility: that, fleeing from the darkness of sin, we may walk in the day of righteousness and, clothed with the armor of light, may persevere unassailed from every attack of the Evil One; that, with boldness, we may glorify You in all things, the only true God and Lover of mankind; For Yours is the great mystery, O Master and Maker of all, both the temporary dissolutions of Your creatures and their restoration thereafter, and of eternal rest. We confess Your grace in all things, in our coming into this world, and in our going out from it: Faithfully pledge Your grace to us through Your unfailing promise, our hope of

resurrection and life incorruptible, which we shall receive at Your Second Coming; For You are the Author of our resurrection and impartial Judge of those who have lived, the Lover of mankind and the Master and Lord of recompense; Who partook with us, on equal terms, of flesh and blood through Your extreme condescension, and of our irreproachable passions, willingly submitting Yourself to temptation. Since You possess tenderness and compassion, and Yourself, having suffered temptation, are for us, who are tempted, the Helper which You have promised to be and, therefore, have led us to Your passionlessness: Accept, therefore, O Master, our prayers and supplications, and give rest to all our fathers and mothers, our children, brothers and sisters, all our kinsmen and our people, and to every soul that has gone to rest in the hope of resurrection to eternal life. Set their spirits and their names in the Book of Life, in the bosom of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, in the land of the living, in the Kingdom of Heaven, in a Paradise of bliss, leading all, by Your radiant Angels, into Your holy home, raising up also with You our bodies on the day which has been appointed according to Your holy and unfailing promise. There is, therefore, O Lord, no death for Your servants and handmaidens when they go forth from the body and come to You, our God, but a change from things most sorrowful to things most beneficent and sweet, and rest and joy. And, although we have sinned against You, be gracious to us and to them, for none is pure of stain in Your sight, even if his life is only one day, except You alone, Who revealed Yourself sinless on the earth, O Lord Jesus Christ, through Whom we all hope to obtain mercy and the forgiveness of sins. Therefore, as the good God Who loves mankind: Remit, forgive, and pardon them and us of our offenses, voluntary and involuntary, done with knowledge and in ignorance,

manifest and unnoticed, those of deed, thought, or word, of all our acts and movements; Give freedom and respite to those who have been taken from us; and bless those who are here present, granting them and all Your people a good and peaceful ending to us, opening to us Your tender mercies and Your love of mankind at Your dread and fearful Second Coming, making us worthy of Your Kingdom.

For You are the repose of our souls and bodies, and to You we send up glory, to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, one God, world without end. *Amen.*

Resurrectional Troparia and Kontakia

When the stone had been sealed by the Jews; while the soldiers were guarding Your most pure body; You arose on the third day, O Savior, granting life to the world. The powers of heaven therefore cried to You, O Giver of Life: “Glory to Your Resurrection, O Christ! Glory to Your Kingdom! Glory to Your Saving Plan, O Lover of mankind!”

Sheol became afraid O Almighty Savior, seeing the miracle of Your Resurrection from the tomb! The dead arose! Creation, with Adam, beheld this and rejoiced with You! And the world, O my Savior, praises You forever!

Let the heavens rejoice! Let the earth be glad! For, the Lord has shown strength with His arm; He has trampled down death by death! He has become the first-born of the dead! He has delivered us from the depths of Sheol, and has granted the world great mercy!

When the women Disciples of the Lord learned from the angel the joyous message of Your Resurrection, they cast away the ancestral curse and elatedly told the apostles: "Death is overthrown! Christ God is risen, granting the world great mercy!"

You descended into Sheol, O my Savior, shattering its gates as Almighty; resurrecting the dead as Creator, and destroying the sting of death. You have delivered Adam from the curse, O Lover of Man, and we all cry out to You: "O Lord, save us!"

The angelic powers were at Your tomb; the guards became as dead men. Mary stood by Your grave, seeking Your most pure body. You captured Sheol, not being tempted by it. You came to the Virgin, granting life. O Lord, Who arose from the dead, Glory to You!

The dominion of death can no longer hold men captive, for Christ descended, shattering and destroying its powers! Sheol is bound, while the prophets rejoice and cry: "The Savior has come to those in faith! Enter, you faithful, into the Resurrection!"

By rising from the tomb, You rose the dead and resurrected Adam. Eve exults in Your Resurrection and the world celebrates Your Rising from the dead, O Greatly Merciful One!

Christ is risen from the dead, trampling-down death by death and bestowing life upon those in the tombs!

You descended into the tomb, O Immortal, You destroyed the power of death! In victory You arose, O Christ God, proclaiming: "Rejoice" to the Myrrhbearing women, and bestowing resurrection on the fallen.