

THE SERVICE OF COMPLINE

ON WEEKDAYS OF LENT

Through the prayers of our holy Fathers, O Lord Jesus Christ our God, have mercy on us. Amen.

O come, let us worship and fall down before God our King.

O come, let us worship and fall down before Christ, our King and our God.

O come, let us worship and fall down before Christ himself, our King and our God.

PSALM 50

Have mercy on me, O God, according to thy great mercy; according to the multitude of thy compassions blot out my transgression. Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin. For I know my iniquity, and my sin is ever before me. Against thee only have I sinned, and done this evil before thee, that thou mightest be justified in thy words, and prevail when thou art judged. For behold, I was conceived in iniquities, and in sins did my mother bear me.

For behold, thou hast loved truth; the unclear and hidden things of thy wisdom hast thou made clear to me. Thou shalt sprinkle me with hyssop, and I shall be cleansed; thou shalt wash me, and I shall be made whiter than snow. Thou shalt make me to hear joy and gladness; the bones that have been humbled shall rejoice. Turn thy face away from my sins, and blot out all my iniquities. Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from thy presence, and take not thy Holy Spirit from me. Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation, and establish me with a governing Spirit.

I will teach transgressors thy ways, and the ungodly shall return to thee. Deliver me from blood-guiltiness, O God, thou God of my salvation, and my tongue shall rejoice in thy righteousness. O Lord, thou shalt open my lips, and my mouth shall declare thy praise. For if thou hadst desired sacrifice, I would have given it; thou wilt not be pleased with whole-burnt offerings. A sacrifice to God is a broken spirit: a broken and humble heart God will not despise.

Do good, O Lord, in thy good pleasure unto Zion and let the walls of Jerusalem be built up. Then shalt thou be pleased with a sacrifice of righteousness, with oblation and whole-burnt offerings; then shall they offer bullocks upon thine altar.

PSALM 69

O God, be attentive unto helping me; O Lord, make haste to help me. Let them be shamed and confounded that seek after my soul. Let them be turned back and brought to shame that desire evils against me. Let them be turned back straightway in shame that say unto me: Well done, well done! Let them be glad and rejoice in thee all that seek after thee, O God, and let them that love thy salvation say continually: The Lord be magnified. But as for me, I am poor and needy; O God, come unto mine aid. My helper and my deliverer art thou, O Lord; make no long tarrying.

PSALM 142

Hear my prayer, O Lord; give ear to my supplication in thy truth; answer me in thy righteousness. And enter not into judgment with thy servant, for in thy sight shall no man living be justified. For the enemy hath persecuted my soul; he hath humbled my life down to the ground. He hath sat me in darkness as those that have been long dead. And my spirit was despondent within me; my heart within me was troubled. I remembered the days of old; I meditated on all thy works; I pondered on the works of thy hands. I stretched forth my hands unto thee: my soul thirsteth after thee like a waterless land.

Hear me speedily, O Lord: my spirit hath failed. Turn not thy face from me, lest I be like unto them that go down into the pit. Cause me to hear thy mercy in the morning; for in thee have I put my hope. Cause me to know, O Lord, the way wherein I should walk; for unto thee have I lifted up my soul. Deliver me from my enemies, O Lord: unto thee have I fled for refuge. Teach me to do thy will, for thou art my God. Thy good Spirit shall lead me in the land of uprightness; thou shalt quicken me, O Lord, for thy name's sake. In thy righteousness shalt thou bring my soul out of affliction, and in thy mercy shalt thou cut off my enemies. And thou shalt destroy all them that afflict my soul, for I am thy servant.

THE LITTLE DOXOLOGY

Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will among men. We praise thee, we bless thee, we worship thee, we glorify thee; we give thanks unto thee for thy great glory. O Lord, heavenly King, God the Father Almighty; O Lord, the only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ; and the Holy Spirit. O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy on us, thou that takest away the sins of the world. Receive our prayer, thou that sittest at the right hand of the Father, and have mercy on us. For thou only art holy, thou only art the Lord, O Jesus Christ, to the glory of God the Father. Amen.

Every night will I bless thee, and I will praise thy name forever; yea, forever and ever. Lord, thou hast been our refuge in all generations. I said: Be merciful unto me; heal my soul, for I have sinned against thee. Lord, I have fled unto thee, teach me to do thy will, for thou art my God. For with thee is the fountain of life: in thy light shall we see light. O continue thy mercy unto them that know thee.

Vouchsafe, O Lord, to keep us this night without sin. Blessed art thou, O Lord, the God of our fathers, and praised and glorified is thy name forever. Amen.

Let thy mercy be upon us, O Lord, even as we have set our hope on thee. Blessed art thou, O Lord: teach me thy statutes. Blessed art thou, O Master: make me to understand thy statutes. Blessed art thou, O Holy One: enlighten me with thy statutes.

Thy mercy, O Lord, endureth forever. O despise not the works of thy hands. To thee belongeth worship, to thee belongeth praise, to thee belongeth glory: to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

THE SYMBOL OF FAITH

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the Son of God, the Only-begotten, begotten of the Father before all worlds: Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten not made; of one essence with the Father; by whom all things were made.

Who for us men, and for our salvation, came down from heaven, and was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary, and became man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate, and suffered and was buried.

And the third day he rose again, according to the Scriptures; and ascended into heaven, and sitteth at the right hand of the Father. And he shall come again with glory to judge the living and the dead; whose kingdom shall have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the Giver of Life; who proceedeth from the Father; who with the Father and the Son together is worshipped and glorified; who spoke by the Prophets.

And I believe in one Holy Catholic and Apostolic Church. I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins. I look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

A canon or an akathist may be read here before continuing with the megalynarion:

It is truly meet to bless thee, O Theotokos, who art ever blessed and all-blameless and the mother of our God. More honorable than the cherubim, and more glorious beyond compare than the seraphim, thou who without corruption gavest birth to God the Word, and art truly Theotokos: we magnify thee.

THE TRISAGION PRAYERS

Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal: have mercy on us. (*thrice*)

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;
both now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

All-holy Trinity, have mercy on us. Lord, cleanse us from our sins. Master, pardon our iniquities. Holy God, visit and heal our infirmities for thy Name's sake.

Lord, have mercy. (*thrice*)

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;
both now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

Through the prayers of our holy Fathers, O Lord Jesus Christ our God, have mercy on us. Amen.

O LORD OF HOSTS

Sixth Tone

Refrain: O Lord of hosts, be with us, for we have none other help in times of sorrow but thee. O Lord of hosts, have mercy on us.

V. Praise ye God in his saints, praise him in the firmament of his power. (*Ps. 150, v.1*)

R. O Lord of hosts, be with us . . .

V. Praise him for his mighty acts; praise him according to the multitude of his greatness. (*v.2*)

R. O Lord of hosts, be with us . . .

V. Praise him with the sound of the trumpet, praise him with the psaltery and harp. (*v.3*)

R. O Lord of hosts, be with us . . .

V. Praise him with timbrel and dance, praise him with strings and flute. (*v.4*)

R. O Lord of hosts, be with us . . .

V. Praise him with tuneful cymbals, praise him with cymbals of jubilation. Let every breath praise the Lord. (*vv.5-6*)

R. O Lord of hosts, be with us . . .

V. Praise ye God in his saints. Praise him in the firmament of his power. (*v.1*)

R. O Lord of hosts, be with us . . .

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.

Were not thy saints our intercessors, O Lord, and thy goodness pitying us, how could we have dared to praise thee, O Savior, whom the angels bless ceaselessly? Wherefore, O thou who knowest the secret things of the heart, spare our souls.

Both now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Greatly have mine iniquities multiplied, O Theotokos. Wherefore, I take refuge in thee, O pure one, seeking salvation. Visit my weak soul, and intercede with thy son our God to grant me forgiveness of the sins I have committed, O thou who alone art blessed.

Theotokia

O all-holy Lady Theotokos, forsake me not in the years of my life, O protection of mankind; but help me and have mercy on me.

In thee, O Mother of God, I place all my hope; keep me under thy protection.

Lord, have mercy. (*forty times*)

PRAYER OF THE HOURS

by Saint Basil the Great

Thou who, at all times and at every hour, both in heaven and on earth art worshipped and glorified, O Christ God, long-suffering, plenteous in mercy and compassion, who lovest the just and showest mercy to sinners, who callest all men to salvation through the promise of good things to come: Do thou, the same Lord, receive also our supplications at this present hour, and direct our lives according to thy commandments. Sanctify our souls; purify our bodies; set aright our minds; cleanse our thoughts; and deliver us from all calamity, wrath and distress. Compass us round about with thy holy angels; that, guided and guarded by their host, we may attain unto the unity of the faith, and unto the comprehension of thine ineffable glory. For blessed art thou unto ages of ages. Amen.

Lord, have mercy. (*thrice*)

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;
both now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

More honorable than the cherubim, and more glorious beyond compare than the seraphim, thou who without corruption gavest birth to God the Word, and art truly Theotokos: we magnify thee.

PRAYER OF SAINT EPHRAIM THE SYRIAN

O Lord and Master of my life, take from me the spirit of sloth, meddling, lust of power, and idle talk. (*prostration*)

But give rather the spirit of chastity, humility, patience, and love to thy servant. (*prostration*)

Yea, O Lord and King, grant me to see my own sins and not to judge my brother, for thou art blessed unto ages of ages. Amen. (*prostration*)

O God, be gracious unto me, a sinner. (*twelve times with metanias*)

O Lord and Master of my life, take from me the spirit of sloth, meddling, lust of power and idle talk. But give rather the spirit of chastity, humility, patience, and love to thy servant. Yea, O Lord and King, grant me to see my own sins and not to judge my brother, for thou art blessed unto ages of ages. Amen. (*prostration*)

Lord, have mercy. (*twelve times*)

Most holy Theotokos, save us.

A PRAYER TO THE MOST HOLY THEOTOKOS
by Paul, a Monk of the Evergetis Monastery

O Lady, Bride of God, spotless, blameless, pure, and immaculate Virgin, thou who without corruption, by thy glorious birth-giving, hast united God the Word to man and joined the fallen nature of our race to heavenly things; who alone art the hope of the hopeless, the help of those who are under attack; the ready help of those who flee unto thee and the refuge of all Christians: Despise me not, an accursed sinner, though I have rendered myself unworthy by my shameful thoughts, words and deeds, and through indolence have become a slave to the pleasures of life; but as the Mother of God, who lovest mankind, mercifully have compassion upon me, a sinner and a prodigal, and receive my prayer, though it be offered unto thee by unworthy lips; and using thy boldness as a mother, importune thy Son, our Lord and Master, that he may open to me also the tender compassions of his goodness so as to overlook my numberless transgressions and turn me to repentance and show me forth as a zealous doer of his commandments. And because thou art merciful, compassionate, and benevolent, be thou ever near me in this present life as an ardent help and protection, defending me from the assaults of adversaries and leading me to salvation. And at the time of my departure from this life, care for my miserable soul, and drive far from it the dark visions of evil demons; and in the awesome Day of Judgment, deliver me from eternal punishment, and present me as

an inheritor of the ineffable glory of thy Son, our God. May this be my lot, O Lady, most holy Theotokos, through thy mediation and help, through the grace and love toward mankind of thine only-begotten Son, our Lord, and God, and Savior, Jesus Christ, to whom are due all glory, honor, and worship, with his unoriginate Father, and his All-Holy, and good, and life-giving Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

A PRAYER OF TO OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST

by Antiochus, a Monk of Pandectis

And grant unto us, O Master, when we depart to sleep, repose of body and soul; and protect us from the murky sleep of sin and from all the dark pleasures of the night. Calm the impulses of passions, and quench the fiery darts of evil which are craftily thrown against us; check the turbulence of our flesh, and still all earthly and material thoughts. And grant us, O God, a prudent reason, a vigilant heart, a tranquil sleep free from all the fantasies of Satan. Raise us up again at the time of prayer strengthened in thy commandments, holding steadfastly within us the remembrance of thy judgments. Grant us grace to glorify thee all through the night that we may praise, and bless, and glorify thine all-honorable and majestic Name, of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

O most glorious, Ever-virgin and blessed Theotokos, present our prayer to thy Son our God, and intercede with him that through thee he may save our souls.

The Father is my Hope; the Son is my Refuge; the Holy Spirit is my Protection. O Holy Trinity: Glory to thee.

In thee, O Mother of God, I place all my hope; keep me under thy protection.

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;
both now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Lord, have mercy. (*thrice*)

O Christ, our true God, through the intercessions of thine all-immaculate and all-blameless holy mother; by the might of the

precious and life-giving Cross, protection of this holy community; of the holy and righteous ancestors of God, Joachim and Anna; and of all the saints: have mercy on us and save us, for thou art good and lovest mankind. Amen.

Forgive, remit, pardon, O God, our sins, both voluntary and involuntary, in deed and in word, in knowledge or in ignorance, committed by night or by day, in mind and in thought. Forgive us them all, for thou art good and lovest mankind. Amen.

Forgive, O Lord, those who hate us and those who oppress us. Act kindly toward those who themselves act kindly, and grant our brethren and all those who belong to us all the means of salvation and of eternal life. Visit those who are in infirmity, and grant them healing. Direct those who are at sea; be with those who are on land and in the air. Grant those who serve us and are merciful to us forgiveness of sins; and upon those who have asked for us to pray for them, have mercy according to thy Great Mercy. Remember, O Lord, those of our fathers and brethren who have fallen asleep before us. Grant them repose where the light of thy countenance shineth. Remember, O Lord, our brethren who are in captivity and deliver them from every adverse circumstance. Remember, O Lord, those who bear fruit and do good works in thy holy churches, and grant them all the means of salvation and of eternal life. Remember us also, thy sinful, wretched, and unworthy servants and lead us in the way of thy commandments, through the intercessions of thine all-immaculate mother, our Lady Theotokos and ever-virgin Mary and of all thy saints, for thou art blessed unto ages of ages. Amen.

Lord, have mercy. (*thrice*)

As we venerate the icon of the Theotokos, one of the following is chanted:

ON MONDAY AND WEDNESDAY

Theotokion. Second Tone. When he took thee

O good one, defend by thy mighty hand all those who in faith take refuge in thee; for we sinners, burdened by the multitude of sin, have no constant intercessor with God in dangers and sorrows save thee, O mother of the Most High God; wherefore we fall down before thee. Rescue thy servants from every calamity.

ON TUESDAY AND THURSDAY

Stavrotheotokion. First Tone. O all-lauded martyrs

As she beheld thee unjustly slain, O Christ, the Virgin lamenting cried to thee: O most sweet child, how dost that thou unjustly die? And how art thou suspended upon a tree, thou who suspended the whole earth over the waters? Wherefore, I beg thee not to leave me alone, thy mother and thy servant, O most merciful Benefactor.

Through the prayers of our holy Fathers, O Lord Jesus Christ our God, have mercy on us. Amen.



For those wishing to sing parts of this service, Bishop Basil's musical settings for Compline may be found at:

<http://www.dowama.org/sites/docs/Great%20Compline.PDF>