

The Midnight Office for Weekdays and Saturday

See Note: ¹

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

Reader: Amen.

From Pentecost to Great and Holy Saturday:

Reader: Glory to You, our God; glory to You!

O Heavenly King, the Comforter, the Spirit of Truth, You are everywhere and fulfill all things. Treasury of Blessings and Giver of Life, come and abide in us and cleanse us from every impurity and save our souls, O Good One!

From Pascha to the Leave-taking of Pascha:

Priest: Christ is risen from the dead, trampling down death by death, and upon those in the tombs bestowing life! (2.5x)

People: ...and upon those in the tombs bestowing life!

From Ascension to the Leave-taking of Ascension:

Reader: You have ascended in glory, Christ God, granting joy to Your disciples by the promise of the Holy Spirit. Through the blessing, they were assured that You are the Son of God, the Redeemer of the world.

On the Saturday before Pentecost:

Reader: Only Creator, with wisdom profound, You mercifully order all things, and give that which is needed to all men: give rest, O Lord, to the souls of Your servants who have fallen asleep, for they have placed their trust in You, our Maker and Fashioner, and our God.

¹ In the Jordanville Horologion, the prayers found in the Morning prayers in the Russian Prayer Book are inserted at two points, but these are not found in other sources. They are not included here.

The Trisagion Prayers

Holy God! Holy Mighty! Holy Immortal! Have mercy on us. (3x)

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

O most-holy Trinity, have mercy on us!

O Lord, cleanse us from our sins!

O Master, pardon our transgressions!

O Holy One, visit and heal our infirmities, for Your name's sake!

Lord, have mercy. (3x)

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

All: Our Father, Who are in heaven, hallowed be 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 us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.

Priest: For Yours is the Kingdom, and the power, and the glory, of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages.

Reader: Amen.

Lord, have mercy. (12x)

All make three metanias while saying:

Come, let us worship God our King!

Come, let us worship and fall down before Christ, our King and our God!

Come, let us worship and fall down before Christ Himself, our King and our God!

Psalm 50 (51)

Have mercy on me, O God,
in Your great mercy,
and in Your abundant compassion
blot out my transgression.

Wash me thoroughly from my lawlessness²
and cleanse me from my sin.

For I know my sinfulness
and my sin is before me continually.

Against You only have I sinned
and done what is evil in Your sight,
that You may be justified in Your words
and win when You are judged.

For I was conceived in iniquities³
and in sins my mother gave me birth.⁴

But You love truth;
the hidden and secret things of Your wisdom
You have made known to me.

You will sprinkle me with hyssop and I shall be clean.
You will wash me
and I shall be whiter than snow.

Make me hear joy and gladness.
The bones that have been humbled will rejoice.

Turn Your face from my sins
and blot out all my iniquities.

² “Sin is lawlessness” (1 Jn. 3:4). The one summarizing law is Gal. 5:14.

³ Lit. “lawlessnesses”.

⁴ As Slavonic.

Create in me a clean heart, O God,⁵
and renew a right spirit within me.

Do not cast me away from Your presence⁶
or take Your Holy Spirit from me.

Restore to me the joy of Your salvation
and strengthen me with Your ruling Spirit.⁷

I will teach Your ways to the lawless,
and sinners will return to You.

Deliver me from bloodshed, O God,
O God of my salvation.
My tongue will rejoice in Your righteousness.⁸

O Lord, You will open my lips
and my mouth will declare Your praise.

For if You desired sacrifice,
I would have given it.
You take no delight in whole burnt offerings.

A sacrifice for God is a broken spirit;
a broken and humbled heart God will not despise.

Gladden Zion, O Lord, with Your goodwill,
and let the walls of Jerusalem be built.

Then You will delight in the sacrifice of righteousness,
in offering and whole burnt offerings.
Then they will offer young bulls on Your altar.

⁵ Ezek. 36:26-27 tallies with Ps. 50:10-12.

⁶ or “face”.

⁷ Gen. 1:26, 28 LXX, NAS; Ps. 8:7-10 LXX; Ps. 8:6 NAS; Rev. 5:10; Rom. 5:17.

⁸ As Slavonic.

The Kathisma

Here is read the appointed Kathisma. The Seventeenth Kathisma is read on weekdays. The Ninth Kathisma is read on Saturday.

Reader: [reads the first Stasis of the appointed Kathisma]

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

People: ...now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Glory to You, O God! (3x)

Lord, have mercy. (3x)

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

Reader: ...now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

[reads the second Stasis of the appointed Kathisma]

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

People: ...now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Glory to You, O God! (3x)

Lord, have mercy. (3x)

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

Reader: ...now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

[reads the third Stasis of the appointed Kathisma]

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

People: ...now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Glory to You, O God! (3x)

The Nicene Creed

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 ages. Light of light; true God of true 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 He was crucified 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 sits 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 in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the Giver of Life, Who proceeds from the Father; Who with the Father and the Son together is worshipped and glorified; Who spoke by the prophets.

And 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 world⁹ to come. Amen.

The Trisagion Prayers

Reader: Holy God! Holy Mighty! Holy Immortal! Have mercy on us. (3x)

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

O most-holy Trinity, have mercy on us!
O Lord, cleanse us from our sins!

⁹ Literally “age”.

O Master, pardon our transgressions!

O Holy One, visit and heal our infirmities, for Your name's sake!

Lord, have mercy. (3x)

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

All: Our Father, Who are in heaven, hallowed be 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 us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.

Priest: For Yours is the Kingdom, and the power, and the glory, of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages.

Reader: Amen.

Troparia

Weekdays

Tone 8

Behold, the Bridegroom comes at midnight, and blessed is the servant whom He shall find watching; but unworthy is he whom He shall find heedless. Beware, therefore, O my soul, lest You be weighed down with sleep, lest You be given up to death, and be shut out from the kingdom. But rouse yourself and cry: Holy, Holy, Holy are You, O God; through the Theotokos have

Saturdays

Tone 2

O You Who are by nature uncreated, the Creator of all, open our lips that we may sing Your praise, crying: Holy, Holy, Holy are You, O God; through the prayers of the Theotokos, have mercy on us.

mercy on us.

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

Meditate on that terrible day, O my soul, and watch, keeping Your lamp burning and filled with oil; for You know not when a voice shall come to You, saying: Behold the Bridegroom comes! Beware, therefore, my soul, lest You fall into slumber and be left outside, knocking, as were the five virgins; but wakefully watch, that You may come to meet Christ with good oil, and He shall open to You the divine chamber of His glory!

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

We implore You, the unassailable wall, confirmation of salvation, O Virgin Theotokos, to destroy the counsels of the enemies, to change the sorrows of Your people into joy, to protect Your city, to ensure victory for the pious, and to pray for the peace of the world; for You, O Theotokos, are our hope.

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

Imitating on earth the Hosts on high, we offer You, O Good One, the triumphant song: Holy, Holy, Holy are You, O God; through the prayers of the Theotokos, have mercy on us.

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

From bed and sleep have You raised me up, O Lord; enlighten my mind and heart, and open my lips that I may sing to You, O Holy Trinity: Holy, Holy, Holy are You, O God; through the prayers of the Theotokos, have mercy on us.

Lord, have mercy. (40x)

The Prayer of the Hours

At every season and every hour, in heaven and on earth, You are worshipped and glorified, O Christ our God, long-suffering, merciful, and compassionate; You love the just and show mercy on the sinner; You call all to salvation through the promise of blessings to come: O Lord, in this hour receive our supplications and direct our lives according to Your commandments. Sanctify our souls, hallow our bodies, correct our thoughts, cleanse our minds; deliver us from all tribulations, evil, and distress. Surround us with Your holy angels, that guided and guarded by them, we may attain to the unity of the faith and to the knowledge of Your unapproachable glory, for You are blessed unto ages of ages. Amen.

Lord, have mercy. (3x)

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

More honorable than the Cherubim, and more glorious beyond compare than the Seraphim: without corruption you gave birth to God the Word: True Theotokos, we magnify you.

In the name of the Lord, Father (*Master*), bless.

Priest: + May God be gracious to us and bless us, may He manifest His presence to us and have mercy on us.

Reader: Amen.

On weekdays in Great Lent, the first day of the Apostles fast, and the first day of the Nativity Fast (if it fall on a weekday):

The Prayer of Saint Ephraim

Priest: O Lord and Master of my life, do not permit me the spirit of laziness, despair, lust of power, and idle talk. (*All make a prostration.*)

But give, rather, the spirit of chastity, humility, patience and love to Your servant. (*All make a prostration.*)

O Lord and King, grant me to see my own transgressions and not to judge my brother, for blessed are You unto ages of ages. Amen. (*All make a prostration.*)

Then all make 12 lesser metanias, saying for each:

O God, cleanse me a sinner and have mercy on me.

The Prayer of Saint Ephraim is repeated, with one prostration at the end.

Reader: O Sovereign God, the Father Almighty, O Lord, the Only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ and You, O Holy Spirit, one Godhead, one Power: Have mercy on me a sinner, and by the judgments which You know, save me, Your unworthy servant; for blessed are You unto ages of ages.

People: Amen.

On Saturdays this prayer of St. Eustratius:

Reader: Most highly do I magnify You, O Lord, for You took notice of my lowliness and have not delivered me into the hands of my enemies, but relieved my soul from wants. And now, O Master, let Your hand shelter me and let Your mercy descend upon me, for my soul is distracted and pained at its departure from this my wretched and filthy body, lest the evil of the adversary overtake it and make it stumble into the darkness for the unknown and known sins amassed by me in this life. Be merciful unto me, O Master, and let not my soul see the dark countenances of evil spirits, but let it be received by bright and shining angels. Glorify Your holy name and by Your might set me before Your divine judgment seat. When I am being judged, do not allow the hand of the prince of this world to take hold of me to throw me, a sinner, into the depths of Hades, but stand by me and be unto me a savior and mediator, for these bodily torments gladden Your servants. Have mercy, O Lord, on my soul defiled through passions of this life and receive it

cleansed by penitence and confession, for blessed are You unto ages of ages.

People: Amen.

On Monday through Friday, from September 22 until Palm Sunday:

Reader: O Lord Almighty, God of hosts and of all flesh, Who dwell on high and look down on things that are lowly, Who search the heart and innermost being, and clearly foreknow the secrets of men; O unoriginate and everlasting Light, with Whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning: O Immortal King, receive our supplications which we, daring because of the multitude of Your compassions, offer You at the present time from defiled lips; and forgive us our sins, in deed, word, and thought, whether committed by us knowingly or in ignorance, and cleanse us from every defilement of flesh and spirit. And grant us to pass through the whole night of this present life with watchful heart and sober thought, ever expecting the coming of the bright and appointed day of Your Only-begotten Son, our Lord and God and Savior, Jesus Christ, whereupon the Judge of all shall come with glory to reward each according to his deeds. May we not be found fallen and idle, but watching, and upright in activity, ready to accompany Him into the joy and divine palace of His glory, where there is the ceaseless sound of those that keep festival, and the unspeakable delight of those that behold the ineffable beauty of Your countenance. For You are the true Light that enlightens and sanctifies all, and all creation hymns You unto ages of ages.

People: Amen.

Reader: We bless You, O Most High God and Lord of mercy, Who ever work in us things both great and inscrutable, both glorious and awesome, of which there is no measure; Who grant to us sleep for rest from our infirmities, and relaxation from the labors of our much-toiling flesh. We thank You that You have not destroyed us with our iniquities, but have shown Your loving-kindness to mankind as usual, and while we

were lying in despair upon our beds, You have raised us up that we might glorify Your dominion. Wherefore, we implore Your boundless goodness: Enlighten the eyes of our understanding and raise up our mind from the heavy sleep of indolence; open our mouth and fill it with Your praise, that we may be able to steadily hymn and confess You, Who are God glorified in all and by all, the unoriginate Father, with Your Only-begotten Son, and Your All-holy and good and life-creating Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

People: Amen.

Reader: Come, let us worship God our King!
Come, let us worship and fall down before Christ, our King and our God!
Come, let us worship and fall down before Christ Himself, our King and our God!

Three metanias.

Psalm 120 (121)

I lift up my eyes to the mountains.¹⁰
Where will my help come from?

My help comes from the Lord
Who made heaven and earth.

Do not let your foot slip,¹¹
and may He not doze who keeps you.

Behold, He who keeps Israel
will not doze or sleep.

¹⁰Zac. 4:6-7.

¹¹Jn. 14:27.

The Lord will keep you,
the Lord is your shelter at your right hand.

The sun will not burn you by day,
nor the moon by night.

The Lord will guard you from all evil,
the Lord will guard you soul.

The Lord will guard your coming in and your going out,
from now on and forever.

Psalm 133 (134)

Behold, now bless the Lord,
all you servants¹² of the Lord,
who stand in the house of the Lord,
in the courts of the house of our God.

In the nights, lift up you hands
to the Holy of Holies, and bless the Lord!

The Lord Who made heaven and earth
bless you out of Zion!

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

The Trisagion Prayers

Holy God! Holy Mighty! Holy Immortal! Have mercy on us. (3x)

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

¹²or “slaves”.

O most-holy Trinity, have mercy on us!
O Lord, cleanse us from our sins!
O Master, pardon our transgressions!
O Holy One, visit and heal our infirmities, for Your name's sake!

Lord, have mercy. (3x)

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

All: Our Father, Who are in heaven, hallowed be 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 us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.

Priest: For Yours is the Kingdom, and the power, and the glory, of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages.

Reader: Amen.

Troparia

Tone 2

Remember, O Lord, for You are good, Your servants and forgive them whatever sins they have committed in life; for none is sinless but You Who are able to give repose to them that are departed.

Only Creator, with wisdom profound, You mercifully order all things, and give that which is needed to all men: give rest, O Lord, to the souls of Your servants who have fallen asleep, for they have placed their trust in You, our Maker and Fashioner, and our God.

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

Kontakion

Give rest with the saints, O Christ,
to the souls of Your servants.

Grant them rest without suffering, sorrow, or sighing,
but where there is life everlasting.

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

Theotokion

In all generations we call you blessed, O Virgin Theotokos, for in you the uncontrollable Christ our God was pleased to be contained. We also are blessed, having You as our intercessor; for day and night you plead for us, and the scepters of kingdoms are strengthened by your intercessions. Wherefore in hymns we cry unto you; Rejoice! O you who are full of grace, the Lord is with you.

Lord, have mercy. (12x)

And this Prayer:

Remember, O Lord, our fathers and brethren who fell asleep in the hope of resurrection unto eternal life, and all those who ended this life in piety and faith, and pardon them every transgression which they have committed willfully or unwillingly, in word or deed or thought, and settle them in a place of brightness, a place of refreshment, a place of repose, where all suffering, sorrow, and sighing have fled away, and wherein from eternity the light of Your countenance shines and gladdens all Your saints. Grant to them and to us Your kingdom, and participation in Your ineffable blessings, and the enjoyment of Your endless and blessed life. For You are the life, and the resurrection, and the repose of Your departed servants, O Christ our God, and to You we send up glory, with Your unoriginate Father, and Your most holy and good and life-creating Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages.

People: Amen.

(See Appendix A)

Reader: Most glorious, Ever-Virgin, Mother of Christ God, present our prayer to Your Son and our God, that through You He may save our souls.

O Father, my hope; O Son, my refuge; O Holy Spirit, my protection; O Holy Trinity: Glory to You!

Dismissal

Priest: Glory to You, O Christ, our God and our hope, glory to You.

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

Lord, have mercy. (3x)

Father (*Master*), bless.

Priest: May Christ our true God, through the prayers of His most pure Mother; of St. (of the temple.....); and of all the saints: have mercy on us and save us for He is good and loves mankind.

People: Amen.

Then the Priest makes a bow (or a prostration) to the bishop/superior and to the brethren (sisters), saying:

Priest: Bless, [holy master and] holy fathers (*mothers*) and brethren, (*sisters*) and forgive me a sinner, all wherein I have sinned this day in deed, word, and thought, and by all my senses.

People: May God forgive and have mercy on You, holy father.

And they make a bow (or a prostration, depending on the Typikon), asking this forgiveness:

Bless me, holy father (*mother*), and forgive all wherein I have sinned this day in deed, word, and thought, and in all my senses, and pray for me a sinner.

Priest: Through His grace may God forgive and have mercy on us all.

Litany

Let us pray for [His Beatitude] Metropolitan _____, for [His Grace] our Bishop _____, for priests, deacons, and all other clergy, and for all our brethren in Christ.

People: Lord, have mercy. (*Quietly, slowly, and repeatedly, until the petitions are finished.*)

Priest: Let us pray for the President and all civil authorities of this country and for those serving in its Armed Forces.

For those who hate us and those who love us.

For those who are kind to us and those who serve us.

For those who have asked us unworthy ones to pray for them.

For those held captive or in prison.

For those who travel by land, by sea, and by air, and for their salvation.

For all who suffer from sickness and infirmity.

Let us pray also for favorable weather and for an abundance of the fruits of the earth.

And for every Orthodox Christian soul.

Let us pray for the blessed and ever-memorable holy Orthodox Patriarchs; for the blessed and ever memorable founders of this holy house (*or habitation*); for all our fathers and brethren, the Orthodox

departed this life before us, [especially _____ and all those] who here and in all the world lie asleep in the Lord.

Let us say also for ourselves:

People: Lord, have mercy. (3x)

Priest: Through the prayers of our holy fathers, O Lord Jesus Christ our God, have mercy on us.

People: Amen.

And we venerate the holy icons and receive a blessing from the Priest (superior) (bishop).

Appendix A

It should be known that on the holy mountain of Athos, after “Remember, O Lord...”, they say the following troparia:

Troparia

Tone 6

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.

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

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

O blessed Theotokos,
open the doors of compassion to us whose hope is in you,
that we may not perish
but be delivered from adversity through you,
who are the salvation of the Christian people.

Priest: Have mercy on us, O God, according to Your great mercy, we implore
You, hear us and have mercy.

People: Lord, have mercy (3x)

Priest: Again we pray that He will keep this city (*or countryside, or town, or village, or holy abode*) and every city and countryside from wrath, famine, pestilence, earthquake, flood, fire, the sword, foreign invasion or civil war, and from sudden death; that our good God, the Lover of mankind, will be gracious, favorable, and conciliatory, and turn away and dispel all the wrath stirred up against us, and all sickness, and may deliver us from His righteous chastisement which impends against us, and have mercy on us.

People: Lord, have mercy (40x)

Priest: Hear us, O God, our Savior, the hope of all the ends of the earth, and of those who are far off on the sea; and be gracious, be gracious, O Master, to us sinners and have mercy on us.

For You are a merciful God, the Lover of mankind, and to You we send up glory, to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages.

People: Amen.

After the, the order is resumed, and the Dismissal and the rest as given above.