

The Midnight Office for Sundays

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.

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 lawlessness¹
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 iniquities²
and in sins my mother gave me birth.³

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.

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

² Lit. “lawlessnesses”.

³ As Slavonic.

Create in me a clean heart, O God,⁴
and renew a right spirit within me.

Do not cast me away from Your presence⁵
or take Your Holy Spirit from me.

Restore to me the joy of Your salvation
and strengthen me with Your ruling Spirit.⁶

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.⁷

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.

⁴ Ezek. 36:26-27 tallies with Ps. 50:10-12.

⁵ or “face”.

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

⁷ As Slavonic.

The Canon

And immediately we say the Canon to the Most Holy Trinity, of the occurring Tone (i.e., from the Octoechos).

Hymns to the Trinity

And after the Canon, we sing these Hymns to the Trinity. The Megalynaria found in the Greek Horologion differ somewhat from those in the Slavonic Horologion, which are presented here.

It is truly meet
to glorify You, God the Word,
before Whom the Cherubim quake and tremble,
and Whom the heavenly hosts doxologize;
the One Who arose on the third day from the tomb,
Christ the Giver of Life, in fear let us glorify.

Let us all in holy songs befitting God,
hymn the Father, and the Son, and the Divine Spirit,
the tri-personal Dominion,
One kingdom and Sovereignty.

You Whom all the earth-born hymn,
and the heavenly hosts doxologize,
are faithfully worshipped by all,
O Unity in essence, in Three persons.

O Lord of the Cherubim,
from whom the incomparable Seraphim received their beginning,
indivisible Trinity in Unity,
the very Godhead, we magnify You.

The unoriginate Father and God,
the co-unoriginate Word together with the Spirit, I worship;
the inseparable only-united Essence,
the Three-fold Unity let us honor in hymns.

Shine Your resplendent lightnings upon me,
O my God in Three Persons, the Creator of all;
and show me forth as the abode of Your unapproachable glory,
shining and light-bearing and unchanging.

Him before Whom the Cherubim quake and tremble,
and whom angelic hosts doxologize,
Who of the Virgin was ineffably incarnate,
Christ the Giver of Life, with fear let us glorify.

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!
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.

Hypakoe of the Tone

(from the Octoechos)

Lord, have mercy. (40x)

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.

(The following prayer is not found in the Greek Horologion.)

Prayer to the Holy Trinity

Priest: O omnipotent and life-creating Holy Trinity, the Origin of light, Who,
of Your goodness alone, brought into existence out of nothing all
creation, whether of this world or of the world above, providing for and
sustaining them; Who, after Your other ineffable benefits to them that
are born of earth, have also given us repentance, on account of our
bodily infirmities, even until death: Forsake not us wretched ones to die
in our evil deeds, neither to the prince of evil, to the envier, to be the
laughingstock of the destroyer; for You see, O Kind-hearted One, both
the extent of his slander and enmity, and the degree of our passions, and
weakness, and negligence. But we implore You that Your inexhaustible

goodness may be displayed upon us who, every day and every hour, anger You by violating the precious and life-giving commandments. Remit and pardon us all wherein we have sinned during our past life and even down to the present hour, in deed, or word, or in thought. And grant us to finish the remainder of our life in repentance, in contrition, and in the observance of Your holy precepts. If indeed, enticed by pleasure, we have sinned in various ways, or have been seduced by abominable desires and spent our time in useless and pernicious lusts; if, moved thereto by anger and irrational fury, we have offended one of our brethren; if, by our tongue we have bound ourselves in unavoidable, crooked, and strong snares; if, by any of our senses, or by all, voluntary or involuntary, knowingly of unknowingly, through beguilement or persuasion, we have foolishly stumbled; if, with evil and vain thoughts we have defiled our conscience; if, in some other way, we have sinned, overcome by evil chance or habit: Forgive us and remit all, O All-compassionate One, most good and plenteous in mercy; and grant us henceforth courage and strength, that we may fulfill Your good and pleasing and perfect will; that having, by the light of repentance, left the evil path of night and darkness, and walking honestly as in the day, we may appear cleansed, though unworthy, through Your love for mankind, hymning and magnifying You unto the ages.

People: Amen.

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).