COPTIC ORTHODOX PATRIARCHATE

HOROLOGION

THE BOOK OF THE HOURS

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# THE RAISING OF INCENSE

PRESBYTER:

The presbyter uncovers his head, stands at the door of the sanctuary, and says,

Have mercy on us, O God, the Father, the Pantocrator. All Holy Trinity, have mercy on us. O Lord, God of hosts, be with us, for we have no helper in our tribulations and afflictions, but You.

PEOPLE:

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 deay our daily bread[[1]](#footnote-1), 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; in Christ Jesus our Lord. For Thine is the Kingdom, the power and the glory, forever and ever. Amen

PRESBYTER:

Prostrating before the sanctuary door, he says,

We worship You, O Christ, with Your Good Father and the Holy Spirit, for You have [come / been born / been baptized / been crucified / risen] and saved us.

Prostrating before his fellow presbyters and the deacons, he says,

Bless me. Lo, the repentance. Forgive me.

PRESBYTER:

He greets his fellow presbyters by touching their hands, then returns and stands before the sanctuary door with contrition while spreading his hands. The deacon stands behind him and to his right with the cross in his hand.

Let us pray.

DEACON:

Stand up for prayer.

PRESBYTER:

Peace by with all.

PEOPLE:

And with your spirit.

## THE PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

PRESBYTER:

Let us give thanks to the beneficent and merciful God, the Father of our Lord, God and Savior, Jesus Christ. For He has covered us, helped us, guarded us, accepted us to Himself, spared us, supported us, and has brought us to this hour.

Let us also ask Him, the Lord our God, the Pantocrator, to guard us in all peace this holy day and all the days of our life.

DEACON:

Let us pray.

PEOPLE:

Lord have mercy.

PRESBYTER:

O Master, Lord, God the Pantocrator, the Father of our Lord, God and Savior, Jesus Christ, we thank You for everything, concerning everything, and in everything. For You have covered us, helped us, guarded us, accepted us to Yourself, spared us, supported us, and hast brought us to this hour.

DEACON:

Pray that God may have mercy and compassion on us, hear us, help us, and accept the supplications and prayers of His saints, for that which is good, on our behalf, at all times; and make us worthy to partake of the communion of His holy and blessed Mysteries, for the remission of our sins.

In the presence of a hierarch, add: And keep the life and standing of our honored father, the high priest, Pope Abba \_\_\_\_\_\_, and his partner in the apostolic liturgy, our father the [bishop/metropolitan], Abba \_\_\_\_\_;

PEOPLE:

Lord have mercy.

PRESBYTER:

Therefore, we ask and entreat Your Goodness, O Lover of mankind, grant us to complete this holy day and all the days of our life, in all peace with Your fear.

All envy, all temptation, all the work of Satan, the counsel of wicked men and the rising up of enemies, hidden and manifest, (signing himself) take them away from us, (signing the people) and from all Your people, and from this church, (signing the altar) and from this Your holy place.

But those things which are good and profitable do provide for us, for it is You Who have given us the authority to tread on serpents and scorpions, and upon all the power of the enemy.

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one, by the grace, compassion and love of mankind, of Your Only-Begotten Son, our Lord, God and Savior, Jesus Christ. Through Whom the glory, the honor, the dominion, and the worship are due unto You, with Him and the Holy Spirit, the Giver of Life, Who is of One Essence with You, now, and at all times, and unto the age of all ages. Amen.

The priest offers incense while the people sing,

## THE VERSES OF THE CYMBALS

On Sunday, Monday and Tuesday, start by:

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| --- |
| Oh come, let us worship  the Holy Trinity  —the Father and the Son  and the Holy Spirit— |
| We are the  Christian people  —for He is our  True God. |
| We put hope  in Saint Mary,  that God will have mercy upon us  through her intercessions. |

On all other days, start by:

|  |
| --- |
| We worship the Father  And the Son  and the Holy Spirit,  the Holy Trinity, one in essence. |
| Hail to the Church,  the house of the angels.  Hail to the Virgin,  who gave birth to our Savior. |

Then continue by:

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| --- |
| Hail to you, O Mary,  the fair dove,  who has borne for us  God the Logos. |
| Hail to you, O Mary,  with a holy hail.  Hail to you, O Mary,  the Mother of the Holy One. |
| Hail to Michael,  the great archangel.  Hail to Gabriel  Chosen to bear glad tidings. |
| Hail to the Cherubim.  Hail to the Seraphim.  Hail to all  the heavenly orders. |
| Hail to John,  the great fore‑runner.  Hail to the priest,  the kinsman of Immanuel. |
| Hail to my lords and fathers,  the Apostles.  Hail to the Dis­ciples  of our Lord Jesus Christ. |
| Hail to you, O martyr;  hail to the Evangelist.  Hail to the Apostle, Mark,  the Beholder of God. |
| Hail to Stephen,  the First Martyr.  Hail to the  blessed archdeacon. |
| Hail to you, O martyr.  Hail to the noble hero.  Hail to the prize-bearer,  George, my lord and prince. |
| Hail… Philopater Mercurius.  Hail… the saint, Abba Mina. |
| The wise virgin maiden,  the elect true lady,  the bride of Christ,  Saint \_\_\_. |
| Hail to our father Antony,  the Lamp of Monasticism.  Hail to our father Abba Paul,  the beloved of Christ. |
| Hail to my lords and fathers  who love their children,  Abba Pishoy and Abba Paul,  the beloved of Christ. |
| Blessed are you, in truth,  our saintly and righteous father,  Abba \_\_\_,  the beloved of Christ. |
| Hail to our holy father  the patriarch.  Hail to Athanasius the Apostolic,  the beloved of Christ. |
| Through the intercessions  of the Theotokos, Saint Mary,  O Lord, grant us  the forgiveness of our sins. |
| That we may praise You,  with Your Good Father  and the Holy Spirit,  for You [have come] and saved us. (Have mercy on us.) |

PRESBYTER:

Going up to the altar, he takes the incense box into his hand, and including his head towards his fellow presbyter(s), he says,

Bless.

CONCELEBRANT

May you bless.

PRESBYTER:

Turning to the altar and putting the incense box in its play, he lays his finger on it, saying,

*Signing it,* In the Name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, on God. *He puts the first spoonful of incense into the censer, saying,* Blessed be God the Father, the Pantocrator. Amen.

DEACON:

Amen.

PRESBYTER:

Making the sign of the cross again, he puts a second spoonful of incense into the censer, saying,

Blessed be His Only Begotten Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

DEACON:

Amen.

PRESBYTER:

Each fellow presbyter puts in a spoonful of incense a second time. Tthen, making the sign of the cross, the celebrant puts a thirs spoonful of incense into the censer, saying,

Blessed be the Holy Spirit, the Paraclete. (Amen.)

DEACON:

Amen.

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PRESBYTER:

When the people finish the Verses of the Cymbals,

Let us pray.

DEACON:

Stand up for prayer.

PRESBYTER:

Peace by with all.

PEOPLE:

And with your spirit.

On Saturdays, the Prayer for the Departed, on page 35, is said. Otherwise, the following prayers are said:

## THE PRAYER FOR THE SICK

PRIEST:

Again, let us ask God the Pantocrator, the Father of our Lord, God and Saviour, Jesus Christ. We ask and entreat Thy Goodness, O Lover of mankind, remember, O Lord, the sick of Thy people.

DEACON:

Pray for our fathers and our brethren who are sick with any sickness, whether in this place or in any place, that Christ our God may grant us, with them, health and healing, and forgive us our sins.

CONGREGATION:

Lord have mercy.

PRIEST:

Thou hast visited them with mercies and compassion, heal them. Take away from them and from us all sickness and all maladies; the spirit of sicknesses chase away.

Those who have long lain in sickness raise up and comfort. All them that are afflicted by unclean spirits, set them all free.

Those who are in prisons or dungeons, and those who are in exile or captivity, or those who are held in bitter bondage, O Lord, set them all free and have mercy upon them.

For Thou art He Who looses the bound and uplifts the fallen; the hope of those who are hopeless and the help of those who have no helper; the comfort of the faint hearted; the harbour of those in the storm.

All souls that are distressed or bound, give them mercy, O Lord; give them rest, give them coolness, give them grace, give them help, give them salvation, give them the forgiveness of their sins and their iniquities.

As for us also, O Lord, the maladies of our souls heal, and those of our bodies too, do Thou cure. O Thou, the True Physician of our souls and our bodies, the Bishop of all flesh, visit us with Thy salvation.

CONGREGATION:

Lord have mercy.

PRIEST:

By the grace, compassion and love of mankind, of Thine Only Begotten Son, our Lord, God and Saviour, Jesus Christ. Through Whom the glory, the honour, the dominion, and the adoration are due unto Thee, with Him, and the Holy Spirit, the Giver of Life, Who is of One Essence with Thee, now, and at all times, and unto the age of all ages. Amen.

## THE PRAYER FOR THE OBLATIONS

(On days other than Sundays or feast days, the Prayer for the Travellers, on page 9, is said instead of this.)

PRIEST:

We ask and entreat Thy Goodness, O Lover of mankind, remember, O Lord, the sacrifices, the oblations and the thanksgivings of those who have offered unto the honour and glory of Thine Holy Name.

DEACON:

Pray for those who have care for the sacrifices, oblations, first fruits, oil, incense, coverings, reading books and altar vessels, that Christ our God reward them in the heavenly Jerusalem, and forgive us our sins.

CONGREGATION:

Lord have mercy.

PRIEST:

Receive them upon Thine holy, rational, altar of heaven, for a savour of incense before Thy Greatness in the heavens, through the service of Thine holy angels and archangels.

As Thou hast received the offerings of the righteous Abel, the sacrifice of our father Abraham and the two mites of the widow, so also receive the thank offerings of Thy servants; those in abundance or those in scarcity, hidden or manifest.

Those who desire to offer to Thee but have none, and those who have offered these gifts to Thee this very day, give them the incorruptible instead of the corruptible, the heavenly instead of the earthly and the eternal instead of the temporal.

Their houses and their stores, fill them with every good thing. Surround them, O Lord, by the power of Thine holy angels and archangels.

As they have remembered Thine Holy Name on earth, remember them also, O Lord, in Thy kingdom, and in this age too, leave them not behind.

CONGREGATION:

Lord have mercy.

PRIEST:

By the grace, compassion and love of mankind, of Thine Only Begotten Son, our Lord, God and Saviour, Jesus Christ. Through Whom the glory, the honour, the dominion, and the adoration are due unto Thee, with Him, and the Holy Spirit, the Giver of Life, Who is of One Essence with Thee, now, and at all times, and unto the age of all ages. Amen.

The service continues with the Gloria, on page 10.

## THE PRAYER FOR THE TRAVELLERS

PRIEST:

We ask and entreat Thy Goodness, O Lover of mankind, remember, O Lord, our fathers and our brethren who are travelling.

DEACON:

Pray for our fathers and our brethren who are travelling, or those who intend to travel anywhere. Straighten all their ways, whether by sea, rivers, lakes, roads, or those who are travelling by any other means, that Christ our God may bring them back to their own homes in peace, and forgive us our sins.

CONGREGATION:

Lord have mercy.

PRIEST:

Or those who intend to travel anywhere. Straighten all their ways, whether by sea, rivers, lakes, roads, or those who are travelling by any other means, everyone anywhere. Lead them into a haven of calm, a haven of safety.

Graciously accompany them in their embarkation and be their companion in their travel. Bring them back to their own, rejoicing with joy and safe in security.

Be a partner in work with Thy servants in every good deed. As for us, O Lord, our sojourn in this life keep without harm, without storm and undisturbed unto the end.

CONGREGATION:

Lord have mercy.

PRIEST:

By the grace, compassion and love of mankind, of Thine Only Begotten Son, our Lord, God and Saviour, Jesus Christ. Through Whom the glory, the honour, the dominion, and the adoration are due unto Thee, with Him, and the Holy Spirit, the Giver of Life, Who is of One Essence with Thee, now, and at all times, and unto the age of all ages. Amen.

The priest offers incense while the congregation recites the following prayers:

## THE GLORIA

Let us praise with the angels, saying, "Glory to God in the highest, peace on earth and goodwill toward men." We praise Thee, we bless Thee, we serve Thee, we worship Thee, we confess to Thee, we glorify Thee, we give thanks to Thee for Thy great Glory, O Lord, Heavenly King, God the Father, the Pantocrator; O Lord, the Only Begotten Son, Jesus Christ; and the Holy Spirit.

O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, Who takes away the sin of the world, receive our prayer. Thou Who sits at the right hand of the Father, have mercy on us. For Thou only art Holy; Thou only art the Lord, O Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit, to the Glory of God the Father. Every day will I bless Thee, and I will praise Thy Name forever; yea, forever and ever. Amen.

From the night season my soul awakes early unto Thee, O my God, for Thy precepts are a light upon the earth. I continually pursue Thy ways for Thou hast become a help unto me. My voice shalt Thou hear in the morning. Early will I stand before Thee, and Thou shalt see me.

## THE TRISAGION

Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal, Who was born of the Virgin, have mercy on us.

Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal, Who was crucified for us, have mercy on us.

Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal, Who rose from the dead and ascended into the heavens, have mercy on us.

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

O Holy Trinity, have mercy on us. All Holy Trinity, have mercy on us. O Holy Trinity, have mercy on us.

O Lord, remit our sins. O Lord, pardon our iniquities. O Lord, forgive us our trespasses.

O Lord, visit the sick of Thy people, heal them for the sake of Thine Holy Name. Our fathers and our brethren who have fallen asleep, O Lord, repose their souls.

O Thou Who art sinless, Lord have mercy on us. O Thou Who art sinless, Lord help us and receive our supplications. For Thine is the glory, the dominion, and the triple holiness. Lord have mercy. Lord have mercy. Lord bless. Amen.

Our Father…

## HAIL TO YOU

Hail to you! We ask you, O saint full of glory, the ever virgin Mother of God, the Mother of Christ, offer our prayers unto your beloved Son, that He may forgive us our sins. Hail to the holy Virgin, who has brought forth unto us the True Light, Christ our God. Ask the Lord on our behalf, that He may have mercy on us and forgive us our sins.

O Virgin Mary, the holy Mother of God, the faithful advocate for all mankind, intercede on our behalf before Christ, Whom you have brought forth, that He may forgive us our sins.

Then the congregation sings:

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| --- | --- |
| Hail to you, O Virgin,/ The very and true queen./ Hail to the pride of our race,/ Who has borne to us Em­manuel. | Shéré ne O ti Parthenos: ti ooro emmi en alithini: shéré ep shooshoo enté pen genos: aré egfo nan en Emmanoo‑eel. |
| We ask you, remember us,/ O our faithful advocate,/ Before our Lord Jesus Christ,/ That He may for­give us our sins. | Ten ti ho ari pen mev‑ee: O ti eprostatis et enhot: nahren pen Chois Isos Pi Khristos: Entef ka nen novi nan evol. |

1. According to the Coptic and the Greek, “Our Bread of tomorrow, give us today.” [↑](#footnote-ref-1)