COPTIC ORTHODOX PATRIARCHATE

BOOK OF NEEDS

0.1 Edition

TBD

2018

# The Birth of a Child

## The Naming of the Child

## The Absolution of the Woman

### If she has given birth to a male child

At the end of forty days. The Prayer of Thanksgiving is said (see page 13), and incense is offered.

People:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| We worship You, O Christ, with Your Good Father and the Holy Spirit, for You have {come} and saved us. (Have mercy on us.) | Ten oo‑osht Emmok: O Pi Khristos: nem Pek Yot en Aghathos: nem pi Pnevma Eth‑owab: je {Ak ee} ak soti emmon. (Nai nan.) |

### Hebrews 1:8-12

A chapter from the Epistle of our teacher Paul to the Hebrews. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

But of the Son he says:

*Your throne, O God, is unto ages of ages.*

*The scepter of uprightness is the scepter of your Kingdom.*

*You have loved righteousness, and hated iniquity;*

*therefore God, your God, has anointed you with the oil of gladness above your companions.*

And:

*You, Lord, in the beginning, laid the foundation of the earth.*

*The heavens are the works of your hands.*

*They will perish, but you continue.*

*They all will grow old as a garment,*

*As a mantle, you will roll them up,*

*and they will be changed;*

*but you are the same.*

*Your years will not fail.*

The grace of God the Father be with you all. Amen.

The Trisagion is chanted (see page ##), and the presbyter prays the Prayer of the Goepsl (see page ##).

## The Absolution of the Woman

## The Absolution of the Mother before Making the Child a Catechumen

### If she has given birth to a male child

## The Making of a Catechumen

### A Prayer Over the Oil of the Catechumens

The presbyter takes the vessel of the oil of the catcehumens and prays over it:

Deacon:

Pray.

Presbyter:

O Master, Lord God the Pantocrator, the Father of our Lord, God and Saviour Jesus Christ. We ask and entreat Your goodness, O Lover of mankind, the One Only True God, with Your Only-begotten Son Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit, to look upon Your creature, this oil, and make it to become for the casting out of demons and their magic and sorcery and all idolatry, and change it and manifest it as an oil for the anointing of catechumens, unto the making of the soul believing. In Christ Jesus our Lord. Through whom...

### Another Prayer over the Oil of the Catechumens

Deacon:

Pray.

Presbyter:

O Master, Lord God the Pantocrator, the Father of our Lord, God, and Saviour Jesus Christ, Your Only-begotten Son and Logos, Who was crucified for as under Pontius Pilate, when he had made the good confession. We ask and entreat Your goodness, O Lover of mankind, send Your holy power upon this oil, make it to become oil of catechumens, availing against all workings of the adversary, and all witchcraft and all sorcery, and all idolatry, and for the overthrow of all evil things. Through Your Only-begotten Son, our Lord, God and Saviour Jesus Christ. For the glory and the might is Yours, with Him and the Holy Spirit for ever. Amen.

Here the priest examines the condition of the children, whether there be earrings in their ears, or ornaments on their feet, or rings on their fingers or armlets, and orders their removal. And he takes the vessel of oil, and begin in order, the male children first, and then the female, anoints his forehead, saying,

I anoint you \_\_\_\_\_, in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, One God, (with) oil of catechumens in the One, Holy, Catholic and Apostolic Church of God. Amen.

He anoints his breast and his hands and his back, saying,

May this oil bring to naught all assaults of the adversary. Amen.

Deacon:

Pray.

Presbyter:

You are blessed O our Master, the Lord, the Pantocrator. Your Only-begotten Son Jesus Christ our Lord is blessed, through whom You have drawn all the nations out of darkness, to the true and wonderful light, and from error and vanity of idols to the knowledge of the truth.

Deacon:

Pray.

Presbyter:

You have called these, Your servants, by Your holy and blessed Name. Write their names in Your book; number them with Your people and those who fear before You. Graciously grant them that they may grow in the faith, and remission of sins, preparing them to be a temple of Your Holy Spirit, through Your Only-begotten Son Jesus Christ our Lord. Through whom…

## Holy Baptism

### Preparation of the Candidates to be Baptism with the Oil of Gladness and the Laying on of Hands

Deacon:

Let us entreat the Lord.

Let the priest enquire the name of those who are to be baptized, and pray over them, saying,

Presbyter:

Again let us ask God the Pantocrator, the Father of our Lord, God and Saviour Christ, for Your servants who have given in their names, who have entered into the faith by Your grace, that You make them worthy to attain the grace for which they have presented themselves, and that they may be cleansed from the sin that is in the world, and that they may be delivered from the slavery of corruption. For the authority of mercy is with You, O Pantocrator, the Lord our God.

Deacon:

Pray for those who have given their names, that the Lord may make them worth of Holy Baptism unto the remission of their sins.

People:

Lord have mercy.

Presbyter:

O Master, Lord God the Pantocrator, the Father of our Lord, God and Saviour Jesus Christ, We ask and entreat Your goodness, O Lover of mankind, have mercy on Your servants who have given in their names. Make them worthy of the grace for which they have presented themselves, that they may receive of Your Holy Spirit, and may be filled with Your divine power; that they be made like Your Only-begotten Son, being one with Him, who is our Lord Jesus Christ. Grant them a purified mind and devout thoughts. And grant to Your servants that they may be preserved through the grace of Your Holy Spirit, and lead them to the hope of Your eternal benefits, through YOur Only-begotten Son Jesus Christ our Lord, through whom...

Let them kneel and let the presbyter pray over them:

Deacon:

Let us entreat the Lord.

Presbyter:

Again let us ask with great fervour and entreat God the Pantocrator, the Father of our Lord, God and Saviour Jesus Christ, for his servants who have given in their names, that he open the ears of their heart, and kindle within them a light of knowledge, and persuade them to know the certainty of the words with which they have been instructed. Whose is the authority of mercy, the Pantocrator, the Lord our God.

Deacon:

Pray.

Presbyter:

O Master, Lord God the Pantocrator, the Father of our Lord, God and Saviour Jesus Christ, we ask and entreat Your goodness, O Lover of mankind, that through the invocation of Your Holy Name, all powers and all hostile and evil spirits may be cast out. Rebuke them and drive them out. For You have called these, Your servants, who come from darkness into light, from death to life, from error to the knowledge of the truth, from idolatry unto the knowledge of You, the True God. Search the chambers of their hearts, O You Who searched Jerusalem with a candle; let no evil sprit conceal himself within them. Grant them a saving purity, and bestow upon them eternal redemption. And beget them a second time by the washing of the new birth and remission of their sins; preparing them to be a temple of Your Holy Spirit. Through Your Only-begotten Son Jesus Christ our Lord, through whom...

Let the presbyter lay his hands upon them, saying,

In the Name of the Only-begotten Son Jesus Christ, I purify and prepare beforehand this body. In the Name of the Only-begotten Son Jesus Christ, may it be delivered from all demons and uncleanness. Let all darkness flee from this body, and let all unbelieving thoughts flee from this soul.

In the Name of the Only-begotten Son Jesus Christ our Lord, you shall be purified, and be delivered from all demons forever. Amen.

Let him who is to be baptised be stripped, and let him look towards the West, with his right hand outstretched, and let him say thus as follows. But if he is a child, let his father or his mother or his sponsor[[1]](#footnote-1) say on his behalf:

Candidate:

I renounce you Satan, and all your unclean works, and all your wicked angels and all your evil demons, and all your power, and all your abominable service, and all your evil cunning and error, and your entire host, and all your authority and all the rest of your impieties. I renounce you. I renounce you. I renounce you.

Then, let the presbyter breathe into the face of him that is to be baptised, and say three times,

Presbyter:

Come out unclean spirit.

After this they are turned to the East, with both their hands uplifted, and say,

Candidate:

I profess You, O Christ my God, and all Your saving laws, and all Your quickening service, and all Your life giving works. I believe in one God, God the Father the Pantocrator, and his Only-begotten Son Jesus Christ our Lord, and the Holy, life-giving Spirit, and the resurrection of the flesh, and the One only Holy Catholic and Apostolic Church.

And he is asked and responds three times:

Presbyter:

Do you believe?

Candidate:

I belive!

Deacon:

Let us entreat the Lord.

Presbyter:

O Master, Lord God the Pantocrator, the Father of our Lord, God and Saviour Jesus Christ, Who has created all things, Lord of heaven and earth, Who brought the knowledge of Yourself to those who dwell on earth through Your Only-begotten Son our Lord Jesus Christ, Who has prepared the heavens for them through His calling, and has confirmed them in His power.

Confirm the profession of these, Your servants, let power dwell in them, that they do not turn back again to those things that they have left. Confirm their faith, that nothing may separate them from You. And establish them on the foundation of Your apostolic faith, and call them into Your holy light, and make them worthy of this great grace of Yours.

Strip them of their old condition, and renew their life. Fill them with the power of Your Holy Spirit to oneness and union with Your Only-begotten Son; in order that they be no more natural sons, but sons of the truth, and become wise and faithful servants, through Christ Jesus our Lord, through Whom...

Deacon:

Bow your heads to the Lord.

Presbyter:

O Master, our Saviour, beneficent Lover of mankind, to You alone is this mystery perfected. All knees bow to You, those in heaven and those on earth, and those that are beneath the earth, and all tongues confess You, saying, “Jesus Christ is Lord,” to the glory of God the Father, with Your servants who have fled to You, bowing their knees to You.

Therefore we ask and entreat You, O Lover of mankind, search the chambers of their souls and enlighten the eyes of their understanding with the light of knowledge. Case all magic, all sorcery, all workings of Satan from them, cast all traces of idolatry and unbelief out of their heart. Prepare their souls for the reception of Your Holy Spirit. And let them be worthy of the washing of the new birth, and of remission of sins, preparing them to be a temple of Thine Your Spirit, according to the good will of Your Good Father and the Holy Spirit, now, and forever…

After this take the Hagielaion and anoint him that is to be baptized on his breast and his arms and over his heart behind, and between his two hands in the sign of the cross, saying,

Presbyter:

I anoint you \_\_\_\_\_ with the oil of gladness, availing against all workings of the adversary, unto your grafting into the sweet olive tree of the Holy Catholic Church of God. Amen.

Deacon:

Amen.

After the candidate has been anointed with the Oil of Gladness, the presbyter lays his hands on him:

Deacon:

Let us entreat the Lord.

Presbyter:

O Master, Lord God the Pantocrator, we call upon Your holy and blessed Name, that You search out and chase away all apostate and hostile powers. We pray to You, O our Master, through all Your saints, search out the hearts of Your servants who have presented themselves for the washing of Your grace. If there is any guile of the devil hidden within them, disclose it and let it reveal itself, and chase it away from the souls and bodies of Your servants who believe on Your Holy Name, and give them newness of life. And make them worthy in stainlessness and purity to receive the light and the seal of Your Christ, and the gift of Your Holy and Coessential Spirit, and that they may receive a robe of light, and be clothed with the garment of salvation, and the armour of faith which is invincible and un-conquerable of those who fight against us. May they be sheep of Your flock, and sons of Your heavenly bride-chamberr and heirs of Your imperishable and eternal kingdom. In Christ Jesus our Lord, through whom…

Deacon:

Pray.

Presbyter:

O You Who ARE, Master, Lord, God, who formed man after Your image and Your likeness, who has given to us the privilege of everlasting life. And then, when he fell through sin, You have not abandoned him, but have ordained the salvation of the world through the Incarnation of Your Only-begotten Son, our Lord Jesus Christ.

Have mercy on these, O Lord, who are also Your creation, deliver them from the slavery of the enemy, receive them into Your kingdom. Open the eyes of their heart, that they may be enlightened with the light of the gospel of Your kingdom.

Let the angels of light accompany their life, to save them from the attacks of the adversary and from all evil assaults, and from the demon of the noonday, and from the arrow that flies by day, and from that which walks in darkness, and from phantoms of the night. Cast out of their heart every unclean spirit, the wicked spirit, even him that troubles their heart; the spirit of error and all evils; the spirit of avarice and of idolatry; the spirit of falsehood and all uncleanness which work after the teaching of the devil.

And make them sheep of the holy flock of Thy Christ, purified members of the catholic Church, purified vessels, sons of the light, heirs of Your Kingdom; that they may strive according to the commandments of Christ, and preserve the seal inviolate, and keep the garment unspotted, and may attain the blessedness of Your elect, in Christ Jesus our Lord, through whom…

### The Hallowing of the Waters of Baptism or the Liturgy of the Word

The priest enters into the baptistery, and take the unmixed oil, and pour it into the baptismal font in the form of the cross, saying, “In the name of the Father, etc. Blessed, etc.” And he says this prayer secretly,

Presbyter:

Call Your servants, O my Master, to Your holy light. Make them worthy of this great grace of holy Baptism. Strip off from them the old man. Beget them again to life eternal. Fill them with the power of Your Holy Spirit to the knowledge of Your Christ, that they may be no more natural sons, but sons of Your kingdom, through the goodwill of the grace of Your Only-begotten Son Jesus Christ our Lord, through whom....

After this the priest says the prayer of Thanksgiving, and offers the Incense. Then let the Pauline Epistle be read,

#### The Prayer of Thanksgiving

Presbyter:

Let us give thanks to the beneficent and merciful God, the Father of our Lord, God and Saviour, 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:

Pray.

People:

Lord have mercy.

Presbyter:

O Master, Lord, God the Pantocrator, the Father of our Lord, God and Saviour, 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 have brought us to this hour.

Deacon:

Pray that God have mercy and compassion on us, hear us, help us and accept the suppli-cations and prayers of His saints, for that which is good, on our behalf, at all times\*, and forgive us our sins.

\*In the presence of a bishop, add, “and keep the life and standing of our honoured father, the high priest, Pappa Abba \_\_\_\_\_, and his partner is this 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,

The presbyter bows his head towards the East, and crosses himself, saying,

take them away from us,

Then he turns towards the west from his right and crosses the people (If a bishop is present, he signs and says), saying,

and from all Your people, and from this font,

He then turns towards the East, making the sign of the cross over the altar, saying,

and from this, Your holy place.

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

And do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from evil, by the grace, compassion and love of mankind, of Your Only-Begotten Son, our Lord, God and Saviour, Jesus Christ, through Whom the glory, the honour, the dominion, and the adoration are due to 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.

People:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | We worship You, O Christ,  With Your Good Father,  And the Holy Spirit,  For You have {come} and saved us. | Ⲧⲉⲛⲟⲩⲱϣⲧ ⲙ̀ⲙⲟⲕ ⲱ̀ Ⲡⲓⲭ̀ⲣⲓⲥⲧⲟⲥ:  ⲛⲉⲙ Ⲡⲉⲕⲓⲱⲧ ⲛ̀ⲁ̀ⲅⲁⲑⲟⲥ:  ⲛⲉⲙ Ⲡⲓⲡ̀ⲛⲉⲩⲙⲁ ⲉⲑⲟⲩⲁⲃ:  ϫⲉ (\_\_\_\_\_) ⲁⲕⲥⲱϯ ⲙ̀ⲙⲟⲛ ⲛⲁⲓ ⲛⲁⲛ. |

#### Titus 2:12-3:8

A chapter from the Epistle of our teacher Paul to Titus. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

Truly, the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all. It has taught us that we should deny what is ungodly and worldly lusts, that we should live soberly, right-eously, and in a godly way in this present world; waiting for the blessed hope: the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ. He gave himself for us in order to redeem us from all iniquity and to purify for himself a people for his own possession, zealous for good works. Teach these things, exhort and reprove with all authority. Let no one despise you!

Remind the people to be in sub-missive to rulers and authorities, to be obedient and ready for every good work, not speaking evil of anyone and not contentious. They should also be gentle, showing great humility toward everyone. Indeed, we used to be foolish, disobedient, deceived, serving various lusts and pleasures, living in malice and envy, hateful, and hating one another. But when the kindness of God our Savior and his love toward mankind appeared, (not by works of righteousness, which we did ourselves, but according to his mercy), he saved us through the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit. Yes, God richly poured out this Spirit on us, through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that being justified by his grace, we become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

The grace of God the Father be with you all. Amen.

The mystery of the Pauline is said, according to the custom, and the Catholic Epistle is read,

#### 1 John 5:5-13

The Catholic Epistle from the First Epistle of our teacher John. His Blessing be upon us. Amen.

And who overcomes the world? Is it not the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God? This is the one who came by water and blood: Jesus Christ; not with water only, but with water and blood. It is the Spirit who testifies, because the Spirit is the truth. There are three who bear witness <in heaven: the Father, the Word, and the Holy Spirit; and these three are one. And there are three that testify on earth>: the Spirit, the water, and the blood; and the three agree as one. If we accept human testimony, God’s testimony is greater because this is God’s testimony concerning his [very] Son! Whoever believes in the Son of God has the testimony in himself, but whoever does not believe God has made God to be a liar, because such a person has not believed in the testimony that God has given concerning his Son. This is the testimony: God gave us eternal life, and this life is in his Son! Whoever has the Son has {the} life, but whoever who does not have God’s Son does not have {the} life.

I have written these things to you who believe in the Name of the Son of God, so that you may know that you have eternal life and continue to believe in the Name of the Son of God.

This is the boldness which we have toward him: if we ask anything according to his will, he listens to us!

Do not love the world, nor the things which are in the world. The world shall pass away and all its desires; but he who does the will of God shall abide forever. Amen.

The mystery of the Catholic Epistle is said, according to the custom, followed by the Absolution of the Father, and the Praxis is be read:

The people may now sing the Seasonal Praxis response, or the following ordinary response:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Rejoice O Mary, the fair dove, who has borne to us God the Logos. | Shéré ne Maria: ti etchrompi ethnesos: thi et as misi nan: em Ef Nooti pi Logos. |

Whether or not the preceding is said, the people sing:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| You are blessed in truth, with Your Good Father and the Holy Spirit, for You have {come} and saved us. (Have mercy on us.) | Ek esmaro oot alithos: nem Pek Yot en Aghathos: nem pi Pnevma Eth owab: je {Ak ee} ak soti emmon. (Nai nan.) |

#### Acts 8:26-39

A chapter from the Acts of our fathers the pure Apostles, who were invested with the grace of the Holy Spirit. Their blessing be with us all. Amen.

But an angel of the Lord spoke to Philip, saying, “Arise, and go toward the south, to the way that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza. This is a desert.”

So Philip arose and went; and behold, there was a man of Ethiopia, a eunuch of great authority under Candace, queen of the Ethiopians. He was in charge of all her treasure and had come to Jerusalem to worship. He was returning and sitting in his chariot, reading the prophet Isaias.

The Spirit said to Philip, “Go near, and join yourself to this chariot.”

Philip ran to the eunuch and heard him reading Isaias the prophet. He asked, “Do you understand what you are reading?”

The man replied, “How can I, unless someone explains it to me?” He then begged Philip to come up and sit with him. Now, the passage of the Scripture which he was reading was this:

He was led as a sheep to the slaughter.

As a lamb before his shearer is si-lent, so he does not open his mouth.

In his humiliation, his judgment was taken away.

Who will declare His generation?

For his life is taken from the earth.

The eunuch asked Philip, “Who is the prophet talking about? About himself, or about someone else?”

Then Philip opened his mouth, and beginning from this Scripture, he proclaimed {the Good News about} Jesus to this man. As they went on the way, they arrived to [a placed with] some water, and the eunuch said, “Behold, here is water! What is keeping me from being baptized?”

Philip said, ‘If you believe with all your heart, you may.’ The man answered, ‘I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God!’ He commanded the chariot to stand still, and both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away. The eunuch did not see him any more and went on his way rejoicing.

The word of the Lord abides in this church and in every church. Amen.

#### The Hymn of the Trisagion

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal, Who was born of the Virgin, have mercy upon us. | Agios O Thé‑os: Agios Ees‑shiros: Agios Athanatos: O ek Partheno gennethis: eleison imas. |
| Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal, Who was crucified for us, have mercy upon us. | Agios O Thé‑os: Agios Ees‑shiros: Agios Athanatos: O stavrothis di imas: eleison imas. |
| Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal, Who rose from the dead and ascended into the heavens, have mercy upon us. | Agios O Thé‑os: Agios Ees‑shiros: Agios Athanatos: O anastasis ek ton nekron: ke anelthon ees toos ooranoos: eleison imas. |
| 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 upon us. | Doxa Patri ke Eio: ke Agio Pnevmati: ke nyn ke a‑ee: ke ees toos é‑onas ton é‑onon: Amen: Agia Trias: eleison imas. |

#### The Prayer for the Gospel

Presbyter:

O Master, Lord, Jesus Christ our God, Who said to His saintly, honoured Disciples and holy Apostles, “Many prophets and righteous men have desired to see the things which you see, and have not seen them, and to hear the things which you hear, and have not heard them. But blessed are your eyes for they see, and your ears for they hear.”

May we be worthy to hear and to act [according to] Your Holy Gospels, through the prayers of Your saints.

Deacon:

Pray for the Holy Gospel.

People:

Lord have mercy.

Presbyter:

Remember also, O our Master, all those who have charged us to remember them in our supplications and prayers which we offer up to You, O Lord our God.

Repose those who have already fallen asleep. Heal those who are sick.

For You are the life of us all, the salvation of us all, the hope of us all, the healing of us all and the resurrection of us all, and to You we send up the glory, and the honour, and the adoration, together with Your Good Father 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.

#### Another Prayer for the Gospel

Presbyter:

O Master, Lord Jesus Christ our God, who sent His saintly, honoured Disciples and holy Apostles into all the world that they might preach the Gospel of Your Kingdom, and teach all nations Your true knowledge. We ask You, O our Master, open the ears of our hearts to hear Your Holy Gospels—

Deacon:

Pray for the Holy Gospel.

People:

Lord have mercy.

Presbyter:

—and open the senses of our souls. An may we be worthy to be not only hearers, but also to act according to Your holy commandments, through the good will of God, Your good Father, through whom You are blessed, with Him and the Holy Spirit, the Giver of Life, who is of one essence with You, now and at all times and to the age of all ages. Amen.

#### Psalm 31:1-2

Deacon:

A Psalm of David.

Blessed are they whose iniquities are forgiven,

and whose sins are covered.

Blessed is the man whose sin the Lord does not take into account.

Alleluia.

#### John 2:1-21

Reader:

Stand with the fear of God. Let us hear the Holy Gospel. Bless, O Lord, the reading of the Holy Gospel, according to St. John. Blessed be He Who comes in the Name of the Lord. Our Lord, God, Saviour, and King of us all, Jesus Christ, Son of the Living God, to Whom is glory forever.

Now, there was one of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. He came to Jesus by night, and said, “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God because no one can performs the signs which you accomplish unless God is with him.”

Jesus answered him, “Amen, amen, I tell you; unless one is born anew, he cannot see the Kingdom of God.”

Nicodemus asked him, “How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother’s womb, and be born [anew]?”

Jesus answered, “Amen, amen, I tell you; unless one is born of water and spirit, he cannot enter into the Kingdom of God! What is born of the flesh is flesh. What is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not marvel that I said to you, ‘You must be born anew.’ The wind blows where it wants to, and you hear its sound, but do not know where it comes from and where it is going. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.”

Nicodemus said, “How can these things be?”

Jesus replied and said, “You are the teacher of Israel and do not understand these things? Amen, amen, I tell you; we speak of what we know, and [we] bear witness to what we have seen, and you do not receive our testimony. If I told you earthly things and you do not believe, how will you believe if I tell you [about] heavenly things? No one has ascended into heaven, except for the one who came down out of heaven, the Son of Man. And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up, so that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. For God so loved the world that he gave his only-begotten Son, so that everyone who is believing in him should not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to judge the world, but so that the world should be saved through him. The one believing in him is not judged, but whoever does not believe has already been judged, because he has not believed in the Name of the only-begotten Son of God. This is the judgment: that the light has come into the world, and men loved the darkness rather than the light, because their deeds were evil. For everyone who practices evil hates the light and does not come to the light, for fear that his works would be exposed. But whoever practices the truth comes to the light, so that his works may be revealed as done in God.” Glory be to God forever.

As the Gospel concludes, the presbyter censes it three times, saying, “Praise is due to You from everyone with one voice, along with glory, honour, majesty, and worship, with Your good Father and the Holy Spirit, the Giver of Life, who is of one essence with You, now and at all times and to the age of all ages. Amen.

#### The Seven Long Prayers

Presbyter:

O long-suffering One, abounding in mercy, and true, receive our prayers and our supplications, receive our invocations and our confessions upon Thine holy and spotless heavenly altar. May we be worthy to hear Thine holy Gospels, and may we keep Thy commandments, and Thy truths, and Thine holy ordinances, and may we bear fruit in them, in an hundred-fold, and in sixty-fold and in thirty-fold.

##### The Prayer for the Sick

Presbyter:

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

People:

Lord have mercy.

Presbyter:

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

Raise up and comfort those who have long lain in sickness. Set free all those who are afflicted by unclean spirits.

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 on them.

For You are 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 for-giveness of their sins and their iniquities.

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

People:

Lord have mercy.

Presbyter:

By the grace, compassion and love of mankind, of Your Only Begotten Son, our Lord, God and Saviour, Jesus Christ. Through Whom the glory, the honour, the dominion, and the adoration are due to 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 Prayer for the Travellers

Presbyter:

We ask and entreat Your 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.

People:

Lord have mercy.

Presbyter:

—or those who intend to travel anywhere. Straighten all their ways, whether by sea, riv-ers, 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 Your servants in every good deed. As for us, O Lord, keep our sojourn in this life without harm, without storm and undisturbed unto the end.

People:

Lord have mercy.

Presbyter:

By the grace, compassion and love of mankind, of Your Only Begotten Son, our Lord, God and Saviour, Jesus Christ. Through Whom the glory, the honour, the dominion, and the adoration are due to 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 Prayer for the Seasons

From the 12th of Paoni (19th of June) to the 9th of Paopi (19th/20th of October), the following prayer is said:

Presbyter:

Graciously accord, O Lord: the waters of the river this year, bless them.

Deacon:

Pray for the rising of the waters of the rivers this year, that Christ our God may bless them and raise them according to their measure; that He may give joy to the face of the earth, sustain us, the sons of men, save the beasts, and forgive us our sins.

People:

Lord have mercy. Lord have mercy. Lord have mercy.

From the 10th of Paopi (20th/21st of October) to the 10th of Tobi (18th/19th of January), the following prayer is said instead:

Presbyter:

Graciously accord, O Lord: the seeds, the herbs and the plants of the field this year, bless them.

Deacon:

Pray for the seeds, the herbs and the plants of the field this year, that Christ our God may bless them to grow and multiply unto perfection with great fruit, have compassion on His creation which His hands have made, and forgive us our sins.

People:

Lord have mercy. Lord have mercy. Lord have mercy.

From the 11th of Tobi (19th/20th of January) to the 11th of Paoni (18th of June), the following prayer is said instead:

Presbyter:

Graciously accord, O Lord: the air of heaven and the fruits of the earth this year, bless them.

Deacon:

Pray for the air of heaven, the fruits of the earth, the trees, the vines, and for every fruit-bearing tree in all the world, that Christ our God may bless them, bring them to perfection in peace without harm, and forgive us our sins.

People:

Lord have mercy. Lord have mercy. Lord have mercy.

Or else the following combined prayer is used:

Presbyter:

Graciously accord, O Lord, the air of heaven, the fruits of the earth, the waters of the river, the seeds, the herbs, and the plants of the field this year, bless them.

Deacon:

Pray for the air of the heavens, the fruits fo the earth, the rising of the waters of the rivers, the seeds, the herbs, tand the plants of the fields, that Christ our God may bless them, have compassion on His creation which His hands have made, and forgive us ours sins.

People:

Lord have mercy. Lord have mercy. Lord have mercy.

##### The Prayer for the King

Presbyter:

We ask and entreat Your Goodness, O Lover of mankind: remember, O Lord, the king (queen, or ruler) of our land, Your servant.

Deacon:

Pray for our Christ-loving king.

Or, in the case of a non-Christian ruler: “Pray that Christ our God may give us mercy and compassion before the mighty sovereigns, and soften their hearts towards us, for that which is good at all times, and forgive us our sins.”

People:

Lord have mercy.

Presbyter:

Keep him in peace, truth and strength. Subject under him all the barbarians, the nations who desire war against all our fertile (lands). Speak Thou to his heart concerning the peace of Thine One, Only, Holy, Catholic and Apostolic Church. Give him that he may think peacefully towards us and towards Thine Holy Name, that we too may lead a quiet and peaceable life, and may be found in all piety and all chastity in Thee.

People:

Lord have mercy.

##### The Prayer for the Departed

Presbyter:

Again, let us ask God the Pantocrator, the Father of our Lord, God and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

We ask and entreat Your Goodness, O Lover of mankind, remember, O Lord, the souls of Your servants who have fallen asleep, our fathers and our brethren.

Deacon:

Pray for our fathers and brethren who have fallen asleep and reposed in the Faith of Christ since the beginning: our holy fathers the archbishops and our fathers the bishops; our fathers the protopresbyters and our fathers the presbyters, and our brethren the deacons; our fathers the monks; and our fathers the laymen; and for the full repose of the Christians, that Christ our God may repose all their souls in the Paradise of Joy; and we too, accord mercy to us, and forgive us our sins.

People:

Lord have mercy.

Presbyter:

Graciously, O Lord, repose all their souls in the bosom of our holy fathers Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.

Sustain them in a green pasture, by the water of rest, in the Paradise of Joy; the place out of which grief, sorrow and groaning have fled away, in the light of Your saints.

Raise up their bodies also, on the day that You have appointed, according to Your true promises, [which are] without lie. Grant them the good things of Your promises; that which an eye has not seen nor ear heard, neither have come upon the heart of man; the things which You, O God, have prepared for those who love Your Holy Name.

For there is no death for Your servants, but a change; and if any negligence or heedless-ness has overtaken them as men, since they were clothed in flesh and dwelt in this world, do, O God, as a Good One, and a Lover of mankind, graciously forgive them. For none is pure from blemish even though his life on earth is a single day.

As for those, O Lord, whose souls You have taken, repose them, and may they be worthy of the Kingdom of the heavens.

As for us all, grant us our Christian perfection that would be pleasing to You, and give them, and us, a share and an inheritance with all Your saints.

People:

Lord have mercy.

Presbyter:

By the grace, compassion and love of mankind, of Your Only Begotten Son, our Lord, God and Saviour, Jesus Christ. Through Whom the glory, the honour, the dominion, and the adoration are due to 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 Prayer for the Oblations

Presbyter:

We ask and entreat Your Goodness, O Lover of mankind, remember, O Lord, the sacri-fices, the oblations and the thanksgivings of those who have offered unto the honour and glory of Your Holy Name.

Deacon:

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

People:

Lord have mercy.

Presbyter:

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

As You have 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 Your servants; those in abundance or those in scarcity, hidden or manifest.

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

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

As they have remembered Your Holy Name on earth, remember them also, O Lord, in Your Kingdom, and in this age too, do not leave them behind.

People:

Lord have mercy.

Presbyter:

By the grace, compassion and love of mankind, of Your Only Begotten Son, our Lord, God and Saviour, Jesus Christ. Through Whom the glory, the honour, the dominion, and the adoration are due to 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 Prayer for the Catechumens

Presbyter:

We ask and entreat Your Goodness, O Lover of mankind: remember, O Lord, Your servants, the catechumens of Your people.

Deacon:

Pray for the catechumens of our people, that the Lord may bless them and confirm them in the Orthodox Faith to the last breath, and forgive us our sins.

People:

Lord have mercy.

Presbyter:

Have mercy on them; confirm them in the Faith in You. Cast out all traces of idolatry from their heart. Establish Your law, Your fear, Your commandments, Your statutes, and Your holy ordinances in their hearts. Grant them that they may know the certainty of the words with which they have been instructed. At the appointed time, may they be worthy of the washing of the new birth, to forgiveness of their sins, preparing them to be a temple of Your Holy Spirit, through the grace…

Deacon:

Let us entreat the Lord.

Presbyter:

O God of the prophets and Lord of the Apostles, who has proclaimed the coming of Your Christ through Your holy prophets from the beginning. Who sent John the prophet and forerunner before Him.

We ask and entreat You, O Lover of mankind, send Your holy power that it may come upon this Baptism, and may give power to Your servants and may prepare them that they may be able to receive the holy Baptism of the new birth, to the remission of their sins and the hope of incorruption, through Your Only-begotten Son Jesus Christ our Lord, through whom....

Presbyter:

Dwell in Your servants, O Lord, who are serving You, entreating Your Holy Name, and bowing down their heads to You; walk among them; aid them in every good deed; wake their heart from every vile earthly thought. Grant them to live and think pertaining to the living, and to understand the things that are Yours Through Your Only-begotten Son, our Lord, God and Saviour Jesus Christ, through whom…

People:

Saved! Amen.

The priest prostrates himself over the Baptismal font and say this invocation, secretly,

Presbyter:

O merciful, compassionate, long-suffering God, Who searches the hearts and reins, and Who alone knows the secrets of men—for no deeds of men are unrevealed before You, but all are laid bare and laid open before You. O You Who knows all else of me, do not despise me, nor turn Your face away from me, but let all my transgressions flee away from me in this hour, O You who forgives the sins of men and leads them to repentance. Wash away the defilement of my soul and body, cleanse me perfectly by Your invisible power, and by Your spiritual right hand, in order that I may not call others to seek absolution at my hands and give it them—namely, the faith which Your great and unspeakable love of mankind has prepared—and I myself as a servant of sin remain reprobate.

No, O Master, [Who is] alone without sin, the Only Good One and Lover of mankind, do not let him that is humbled and ashamed be rejected, but a forgiver to me. Send down Your power from Your holy place on high. Strengthen me that I may fulfil the ministry of this great Mystery, which was first constituted in heaven.

May Christ take form in them that are to receive the baptism of the new birth through me, I, who myself receive of Him. Build them upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, and do not ever root them up. Plant them in a planting of the truth in Your One only Catholic Apostolic Church, that advancing in godliness, in every place, Your Holy Name, glorious before all the ages, may be glorified, O Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Now...

#### The Three Long Prayers

Presbyter:

Pray.

Deacon:

Stand up for prayer.

Priest:

Peace be with all.

People:

And with your spirit.

##### The Prayer for Peace

Presbyter:

Again, let us ask God the Pantocrator, the Father of our Lord, God and Saviour, Jesus Christ. We ask and entreat Your Goodness, O Lover of mankind: remember, O Lord, the peace of Your One, Only, Holy, Catholic and Apostolic Church.

Deacon:

Pray for the peace of the One, Holy, Catholic and Apos-tolic, Orthodox Church of God.

People:

Lord have mercy.

Presbyter:

That which exists from one end of the world to the other. Bless all peoples and all flocks. Send down the peace that is from the heavens into our hearts; graciously grant to us even the peace of this life also. Adorn the king, the armies, the chiefs, the counselors, the multitudes, our neighbours, our coming in and our going out, with all peace.

O King of peace, grant us Your peace, for You have given us all things. Acquire us to Yourself, O God our Saviour, for we know none other but You; We utter Your Holy Name. May our souls live by Your Holy Spirit, and do not let the death which is by sin have dominion over us—we Your servants—nor over all Your people.

People:

Lord have mercy.

##### The Prayer for the Fathers

Presbyter:

Again, let us ask God the Pantocrator, the Father of our Lord, God and Saviour, Jesus Christ. We ask and entreat Your Goodness, O Lover of mankind: remember, O Lord, our patriarch, the honoured father, the high priest, Abba \_\_\_.

Deacon:

Pray for our high priest, Papa Abba \_\_\_—Pope and patriarch, and archbishop of the great city of Alexandria; and for our Orthodox bishops.

People:

Lord have mercy.

Presbyter:

In keeping, keep him to us for many years and peaceful times, fulfilling that holy high priesthood with which You hast entrusted him from Yourself, according to Your holy and blessed will; rightly dividing the word of truth, shepherding Your people in purity and righteousness, together with all the Orthodox bishops, the protopresbyters, the presbyters and the deacons, and all the fullness of Your One, Only, Holy, Catholic and Apostolic Church.

Grant them and us peace and safety in every place. Receiver their prayers, which they offer on our behalfc and on behalf of all Your people, as well as ours on their behalf, upon Your holy, heavenly and rational altar, as a sweet savour of incense.

Trample and humiliate all their enemies, visible and invisible, under their feet quickly. As for them, keep them in peace and righteousness in Your Holy Church.

People:

Lord have mercy.

##### The Prayer for the Congregation

Presbyter:

Again, let us ask God the Pantocrator, the Father of our Lord, God and Saviour, Jesus Christ. We ask and entreat Your Goodness, O Lover of mankind: remember, O Lord, our assemblies; bless them.

Deacon:

Pray for this holy church and for our assemblies.

People:

Lord have mercy.

Presbyter:

Grant that they may be to us without obstacle or hindrance, that we may hold them according to Your holy and blessed will. Grant to us houses of prayer, houses of purity, houses of blessing, O Lord, and to Your servants who will come after us forever. Uterly uproot the worship of idols from the world. Trample and humiliate Satan and all his evil powers under our feet quicly. Abolish all offences and their instigators. May all dissensions of corrupt heresies cease.

Humiliate the enemies of Your Holy Church, O Lord, now also as at all times. Strip their vanity; show them their weakness quickly. Bring their envy, their intrigues, their madness, their wickedness and their slander, which they commit against us to nought. O Lord, bring them all to no avail. Disperse their counsel, O God, Who dispersed the counsel of Ahithophel.

#### The Orthodox Creed

We believe in One God: God the Father, the Pantocrator, Who created heaven and earth, and all things seen and unseen.

We believe in One Lord: Jesus Christ, the Only-Begotten Son of God, begotten of the Father before all ages. Light of Light; True God of True God; begotten, not created; 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 of the Virgin Mary, and became man.

And He was crucified for us under Pontius Pilate; suffered and was buried; and the third day He rose from the dead, according to the Scriptures. Ascended into the heavens, He sits at the right hand of His Father; and He is coming again in His glory, to judge the living and the dead; Whose Kingdom shall have no end.

Yes, we believe in the Holy Spirit: the Lord, the Giver of Life, Who comes forth from the Father; Who, with the Father and the Son, is worshipped and glorified; Who spoke by the prophets.

And in One, Holy, Catholic and Apostolic Church, we confess One Baptism, for the remission of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the coming age. Amen.

### The Laying on of Hands or the Anaphora

Then the presbyter takes the holy oil (the oil of gladness), and pours it into the Jordan (that is, the font) three times in the form of the Cross, for the hallowing of the water, saying,

Presbyter:

In the Name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit: One God.

Blessed be God the Father, the Pantocrator. Amen.

Deacon:

Amen.

Presbyter:

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

Deacon:

Amen.

Presbyter:

Blessed be the Holy Spirit, the Paraclete. Amen.

Deacon:

Amen.

Let us entreat the Lord.

Presbyter:

O Creator of the waters, Maker of all, we call upon Your holy and eternal power, the Name that is above every name, of Your Only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who was crucified for us under Pontius Pilate. We ask You, O our Master, for Your servants, change, transform, hallow them, give them power, that through this water and this oil all adverse powers may be brought to nought; restrain, confound, and render helpless all evil spirits; bring to nought all magic, all sorcery, all idolatry, all witchcraft.

He breaths upon the water three times in the form of a cross, saying (as the people respond “Amen”):

Hallow this water and this oil that they may be for the washing of the new birth. Amen.

Unto eternal life. Amen.

A garment of incorruption. Amen.

A grace of Sonship. Amen.

A renewing of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

For it was Your Only-begotten Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, who went down into Jordan and purified it. He bore witness saying, “except a man be born of water and spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.” Again he commanded his holy disciples and saintly apostles, saying, Go teach all the nations baptising them.

Here he seals the water three times with the cross.

In the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Receive us, O Mighty One, and save us, O Holy One. Thunder, O God the Father the Pantocrator, upon these waters, that through them and Your Holy Spirit You mayt beget again in Your divine power Your servants who have presented themselves to You. Make them worthy of the remission of their sins and of the garment of incorruption, By the grace....

Deacon:

Pray for perfect peace, love, and the holy Apostolic kisses. Lord have mercy. Greet one another with a holy kiss.

#### The Aspasmos

People:

Look! John the Baptist had witnessed saying, “I have baptised the Lord in the waters of the Jordan, and heard the voice of the Father saying, ‘This is my beloved Son, in Whom I am pleased.’” O our Lord Jesus Christ who was baptized in the river Jordan, cleanse us from all blemish, and forgive us our sins.

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| --- |
| Through the inter­cessions  of the holy Theotokos, Mary,  O Lord, grant us the forgiveness of our sins. |
| Through the intercessions  of the three holy luminaries,  Michael, Gabriel and Raphael,  O Lord, grant us the forgiveness of our sins. |
| Through the intercessions  of the forerunner,  the baptist, John the baptizer,  O Lord, grant us the forgiveness of our sins. |
| We worship You, O Christ,  with Your Good Father  and the Holy Spirit,  for You have {come} and saved us. |

Deacon:

Offer in order. Stand. Look towards the east.

People:

A mercy of peace, a baptism of praise.

Presbyter:

The love of God the Father, and the grace of the Only-begotten Son, our Lord, God and Saviour Jesus Christ, and the communion and the gift of the Holy Spirit, be with you all.

People:

And with your spirit.

Presbyter:

Lift up your hearts.

People:

We have them with the Lord.

Presbyter:

Let us give thanks to the Lord.

People:

It is fitting and right.

Presbyter:

Fitting and right, fitting and right, fitting and right. We lift up our eyes to You, O Lord, and the eyes of our souls look up to You, O Lord our God. And we pray You, O Lord the Pantocrator, God of our fathers, Who has created heaven and earth and all their adornments, Who has created the waters above the heaven, Who has established the earth upon the water, Who gathered the water into one gathering place, Who has bound the sea and confined the depths, and sealed them with His glorious and fearful Name, before Whose power all things fear and tremble. You, O our Master, have establish the sea by Your power; You have broken the heads of the dragon in the waters.

Deacon:

You who are seated, stand.

Presbyter:

You divided the fountains and the torrents, and made a path through the waters. O God, the waters saw You and were afraid, and the depths were troubled. You looked upon the waters of the Red Sea, and through fear of You, You made them to stand, and made Israel to pass over, and by Moses You have baptised them all.

Deacon:

Look towards the east.

Presbyter:

You have commanded the hard rock, and it poured forth water for Your people, and You also changed the bitter waters into sweet waters. You again through Joshua son of Naue have turned back the streams of running water. For You are fearful; who can stand before Your face? And You have received the sacrifice of Elias out of water with fire from heaven. You again O our Master, through Your prophet Elisha have manifested forth water giving birth to life, and You have cleansed Naaman the Syrian by the waters of the Jordan. For You have power over all things, and nothing is impossible with You.

### The Sealing with Holy Myron (Chrism)

### The Releasing of the Water

## The Loosing of the Girdle of Those Who Have Been Baptised

1. In the absence of parents, a Godfather or Godmother is allowed to say the renunciation and the profession. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)