

THE OFFICE OF SMALL COMPLINE

Small Compline is used every evening after supper when there is no All-Night Vigil and when Great Compline is not appointed instead.

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

Reader: Amen. Glory to Thee, our God, glory to Thee.

O Heavenly King, the Comforter, the Spirit of truth, Who art everywhere and fillest 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.

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

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 Thy Name's sake.

Lord, have mercy. (*thrice*)

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

Our Father, Who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy Name; Thy Kingdom come; Thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

Priest: For Thine 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*)

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

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

Have mercy on me, O God, according to Thy great mercy; according to the multitude of Thy tender mercies, blot out my transgressions. Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin. For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me. Against Thee, Thee only, have I sinned, and done that which is evil in Thy sight, so that Thou art justified in Thy sentence and blameless in Thy judgment. Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, and in sins did my mother conceive me. Behold, Thou desirest truth in the inward being; therefore teach me wisdom in my secret heart. Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow. Fill me with joy and gladness; let the bones which Thou hast broken rejoice. Hide Thy face from my sins, and blot out all my iniquities. Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me. Cast me not away from Thy presence, and take not Thy Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of Thy salvation, and uphold me with a willing spirit. Then I will teach transgressors Thy ways, and sinners will return to Thee. Deliver me from blood-guiltiness, O God, Thou God of my salvation, and my tongue will sing aloud of Thy deliverance. O Lord, open Thou my lips, and my mouth shall show forth Thy praise. For Thou hast no delight in sacrifice; were I to give a burnt offering, Thou wouldst not be pleased. The sacrifice acceptable to God is a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, Thou wilt not despise. Do good to Zion in Thy good pleasure; rebuild the walls of Jerusalem, then wilt Thou delight in right sacrifices, in burnt offerings and whole burnt offerings; then bulls will be offered on Thine altar.

PSALM 69

Be pleased, O God, to deliver me! O Lord, make haste to help me! Let them be put to shame and confusion who seek my life. Let them be turned back and brought to dishonor who desire my hurt. Let them be appalled because of their shame who say, "Aha, Aha!" May all who seek Thee rejoice and be glad in Thee. May those who love Thy salvation say evermore, "God is great!" But I am poor and needy; hasten to me, O God! Thou art my help and my deliverer; O Lord, do not tarry!

PSALM 142

Hear my prayer, O Lord; give ear to my supplications. In Thy faithfulness answer me, in Thy righteousness. Enter not into judgment with Thy servant; for no man living is righteous before Thee. For the enemy has pursued me; he has crushed my life to the ground; he has made me sit in darkness like those long dead. Therefore my spirit faints within me; my heart within me is appalled. I remember the days of old, I meditate on all that Thou hast done; I muse on what Thy hands have

wrought. I stretch out my hands to Thee; my soul thirsts for Thee like a parched land. Make haste to answer me, O Lord. My spirit fails. Hide not Thy face from me, lest I be like those who go down to the Pit. Let me hear in the morning of Thy steadfast love, for in Thee I put my trust. Teach me the way I should go, for to Thee I lift up my soul. Deliver me, O Lord, from my enemies. I have fled to Thee for refuge. Teach me to do Thy will, for Thou art my God. Let Thy good spirit lead me on a level path. For Thy Name's sake, O Lord, preserve my life. In Thy righteousness bring me out of trouble. And in Thy steadfast love cut off my enemies, and destroy all my adversaries, for I am Thy servant.

THE LESSER DOXOLOGY

Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will towards men. We praise Thee, we bless Thee, we worship Thee, we glorify Thee, we give thanks to Thee for Thy great glory. O Lord, heavenly King, God the Father Almighty. O Lord, the Only-Begotten Son, Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit; O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, Who takest away the sin of the world, have mercy on us. Thou that takest away the sins of the world, receive our prayer. Thou that sittest at the right hand of the Father have mercy on us. For Thou alone art holy, Thou alone art Lord, Jesus Christ, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

Every night will I give thanks to Thee and praise Thy Name for ever and ever. Lord, Thou hast been our refuge from generation to generation. I said: Lord, have mercy on me, heal my soul, for I have sinned against Thee. Lord, I have fled unto Thee. Teach me to do Thy will, for Thou art my God. For with Thee is the fountain of life, and in Thy light shall we see light. O continue Thy mercy unto those who know Thee.

Vouchsafe, O Lord, to keep us this night without sin. Blessed art Thou, O Lord, God of our fathers, and praised and glorified is Thy Name forever. Amen. Let Thy mercy be upon us, O Lord, as we have set our hope on Thee. Blessed art Thou, O Lord, teach me Thy statutes. Blessed art Thou, O Master, make me to understand Thy commandments. Blessed art Thou, O Holy One, enlighten me with Thy precepts. Thy mercy, O Lord, endureth forever: despise not the works of Thy hands. To Thee belongeth worship, to Thee belongeth praise, to Thee belongeth glory: to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

THE SYMBOL OF FAITH

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

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God, the Only-Begotten, begotten of the Father before all 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.

In One, Holy, Catholic, and Apostolic Church. I acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins. I look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Here, one or more canons or akathists may be read, followed by:

It is truly meet to bless thee, O Theotokos, ever-blessed and most pure and the Mother of our God. More honorable than the Cherubim, and more glorious beyond compare than the Seraphim, without corruption thou gavest birth to God the Word: true Theotokos, we magnify thee.

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

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 Thy Name's sake.

Lord, have mercy. (*thrice*)

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

Our Father, Who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy Name; Thy Kingdom come; Thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

Priest: For Thine 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.

✠ Amen.

Then, on Sunday through Thursday nights, the troparia and kontakia of the day are sung, followed by "O God of our Fathers..." (see p. 8). The troparia for each weekday are presented here, pointed according to the Obikhod (L'vov/Bakhmetev) tones. On Friday nights, however, only the troparion "O Apostles, Martyrs, and Prophets...", and the troparia that follow, are sung (see p. 8). On Saturday nights, the troparion and kontakion of the Resurrection are sung in the appointed tone (the Resurrectional troparia and kontakia are not presented here).

ON SUNDAY NIGHT: THE BODILESS HOSTS

Tone 4 Troparion

O Commanders of the heavenly hosts,
we who are unworthy beseech you:
by your prayers encompass us beneath the wings of your immaterial glory,
and faithfully preserve us who fall down and cry out to you://
"Deliver us from all harm, for you are the Commanders of the Powers on high!"

Tone 2 Kontakion

Commanders of God's armies
and ministers of the divine glory,
princes of the bodiless angels
and guides of mankind;
ask for what is good for us, and for great mercy,//
O Supreme Commanders of the Bodiless Hosts.

ON MONDAY NIGHT: ST. JOHN THE FORERUNNER

Tone 2 Troparion

The memory of the righteous is celebrated with hymns of praise,
but the Lord's testimony is sufficient for thee, O Forerunner.
Thou wast shown in truth to be the most honorable of the Prophets,
for thou wast deemed worthy to baptize in the streams of the Jordan Him Whom
they foretold.
Therefore, having suffered for the truth with joy,
thou didst proclaim to those in hell God Who appeared in the flesh,
Who takes away the sin of the world//
and grants us great mercy.

Tone 2 Kontakion

O Prophet of God and Forerunner of Grace,
we have found thy head as a sacred rose.
Therefore we always receive healings from it, //
and, as in times past, now thou preaches repentance to the world.

ON TUESDAY NIGHT AND THURSDAY NIGHT: THE HOLY CROSS

Tone 1 Troparion

O Lord, save Thy people,
and bless Thine inheritance!
Grant victories to the Orthodox Christians
over their adversaries;
and by virtue of Thy Cross, //
preserve Thy habitation!

Tone 4 Kontakion

As Thou wast voluntarily raised upon the Cross for our sake,
grant mercy to those who are called by Thy Name, O Christ God;
make all Orthodox Christians glad by Thy power,
granting them victories over their adversaries //
by bestowing on them the invincible trophy, Thy weapon of peace!

ON WEDNESDAY NIGHT: THE HOLY APOSTLES AND ST. NICHOLAS

Tone 3 Troparion (*Apostles*)

O holy Apostles,
entreat the merciful God//
to grant our souls forgiveness of transgressions!

Tone 4 Troparion (*St. Nicholas*)

In truth thou wast revealed to thy flock as a rule of faith,
an image of humility and a teacher of abstinence;
thy humility exalted thee;
and thy poverty enriched thee.
O Hierarch Father Nicholas,
entreat Christ our God//
that our souls may be saved!

Tone 2 Kontakion (*Apostles*)

Today Christ the Rock glorified with highest honor
Peter, the rock of faith and leader of the apostles,
together with Paul and the company of the Twelve,
whose memory we celebrate with eagerness of faith,//
giving glory to the One Who gave glory to them.

Tone 3 Kontakion (*St. Nicholas*)

Thou didst appear as a priest in Myra, O Saint Nicholas,
fulfilling the Gospel of Christ, O venerable one;
thou didst lay down thy life for thy people
and didst rescue the innocent from death.//
Therefore, thou hast been blest as a great initiate of the grace of God.

On Sunday through Thursday nights, the reader continues:

O God of our fathers, Who at all times showest loving-kindness to us, take not Thy mercy away from us, but through the prayers of Thy saints guide our lives in peace.

As with fine porphyry and royal purple, Thy Church has been adorned with Thy martyrs' blood shed throughout all the world. She cries to Thee, O Christ God: "Send down Thy bounties on Thy people, grant peace to Thy habitation and great mercy to our souls!"

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

With the saints give rest, O Christ, to the souls of Thy servants, where there is neither sickness nor sorrow, and no more sighing, but life everlasting!

Now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Through the prayers of all the saints and of the Theotokos, grant us Thy peace, and have mercy on us, O Lord, for Thou alone art compassionate!

But on Friday nights, the reader instead reads:

O Apostles, Martyrs, and Prophets, Hierarchs, Holy Monks, and Righteous Ones, who completed well the fight and kept the faith, you have boldness before the Savior. We pray: "Intercede for us with Him, as He is good, that He may save our souls!"

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

With the saints give rest, O Christ, to the souls of Thy servants, where there is neither sickness nor sorrow, and no more sighing, but life everlasting!

Now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

The universe offers Thee the God-bearing Martyrs as the first fruits of creation, O Lord and Creator. By their prayers keep Thy Church, Thy habitation, in abiding peace through the Theotokos, O most Merciful One!

Then, regardless of the day of the week, the reader continues:

Lord, have mercy. *(40 times)*

Thou Who at every season and every hour, in Heaven and on earth, art worshipped and glorified, O Christ our God, long-suffering, merciful and compassionate; Who lovest the just and showest mercy upon the sinner; Who callest all men to salvation through the promise of blessings to come: O Lord, in this hour receive our supplications and direct our lives according to Thy commandments.

Sanctify our souls, hallow our bodies, correct our thoughts, cleanse our minds; deliver us from all tribulations, evil, and distress. Surround us with Thy holy Angels, that guided and guarded by their host, we may attain to the unity of the Faith, and to the knowledge of Thine unapproachable glory; for Thou art blessed unto ages of ages. Amen.

Lord, have mercy. (*thrice*)

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 thou gavest birth to God the Word: true Theotokos, we magnify thee.

In the Name of the Lord, Father, bless.

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

℞ Amen.¹ *Then the following:*

A PRAYER TO THE MOST HOLY THEOTOKOS by Paul, a monk of the Evergetis (Benefactress) Monastery

O spotless, undefiled, incorrupt, immaculate, and pure Virgin; Queen of heaven and Bride of God; who through thy most glorious birthgiving hast united God the Word to men, and hast joined the outcast nature of our race to heavenly things; who alone art the hope of the hopeless, the help of the embattled, the ready protector of those who flee unto thee, and the refuge of all Christians: do not abhor me, a wretched sinner, even though I have made myself altogether useless through shameful thoughts, words, and deeds, and through my laziness in understanding have become a slave to the pleasures of this life. Inasmuch as thou art the Mother of the God Who loves mankind, show thy loving-kindness toward me, a sinner and prodigal, and accept my prayer, though it be offered unto thee from defiled lips. And making use of thy boldness as a Mother, pray to thy Son, our Master and Lord, that He open even unto me the goodness and compassions of His heart and turn me to repentance, overlooking my countless transgressions and revealing me to be a skillful doer of His commandments. And since thou art full of mercy, loving-kindness, and tenderness, in this present life stand by me always; and as my fervent intercessor and helper, drive away the assaults of enemies and guide me

¹ *On Sunday nights in Great Lent, here the Prayer of St. Ephraim is said twice, with four prostrations and twelve bows.*

toward salvation. At the time of my exodus from this life, take care for my wretched soul and drive far from it the dark forms of evil demons; and on the fearful Day of Judgment, deliver me from eternal torments and show me to be an heir of the ineffable glory of thy Son and our God. May I obtain all this, my Lady, most holy Theotokos, through thy mediation and protection: through the grace and love for mankind of thine Only-begotten Son, our Lord and God and Savior Jesus Christ, to Whom is due all glory, honor, and worship, together with His Father Who is without beginning, and His all-holy, good, and life-giving Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

A PRAYER TO OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST by Saint Antiochus

And grant, O Master, when we go to sleep, repose of body and soul, and keep us from the gloomy slumber of sin and from every dark and passionate pleasure of the night. Calm the impulses of the passions; quench the flaming arrows of the evil one that are craftily loosed against us. Still the rebellions of our flesh and lull to sleep all our earthly and material reasonings. And grant us, O God, a watchful mind, chaste thoughts, a sober heart, and a tranquil sleep, free of every fantasy of Satan. Raise us up at the time of prayer confirmed in Thy commandments and with the memory of Thy judgments held firmly within us. Grant that we may offer Thee glory all through the night, and that we may sing and bless and glorify Thy most honorable and majestic Name: of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.²

Most glorious, ever-virgin Mother of Christ our God, present our prayer to thy Son and our God, that through thee He may save our souls.

THE PRAYER OF ST. JOANNICIUS

My hope is the Father. My refuge is the Son. My protection is the Holy Spirit. O Holy Trinity, glory to Thee.³

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

✠ 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 (*thrice*). Father, bless.

² *In some places, the Prayers before Sleep are said here, beginning with the troparia, “Have mercy on us, O Lord, have mercy on us...”*

³ *In some places, the prayer “All my hope I place in thee, O Mother of God...” is read here, followed by “All of creation rejoices in thee...”, the Prayer to the Guardian Angel, and “Rejoice, O Virgin Theotokos...”, sung thrice.*

Priest: May Christ our true God, through the prayers of His most pure Mother, of our venerable and God-bearing Fathers, and of all the saints, have mercy on us and save us, for He is good and loves mankind.

And immediately the priest, still facing the people, bows and says:

Bless, holy fathers and brethren, and forgive me a sinner all wherein I have sinned this day in deed, word, and thought, and by all my senses.

The people respond:

May God forgive and have mercy on thee, holy father. *And bowing, they say:* Bless me, holy father, and forgive all wherein I have sinned this day in deed, word, and thought, and by all my senses, and pray for me a sinner.

And the priest:

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

Then the priest, facing the holy doors, says this Litany:

Let us pray for our Metropolitan *N.*, for our Bishop [*or Archbishop*] *N.*, and for all our brethren in Christ: *℟:* Lord, have mercy.⁴

For this country, its President [*or the title of the highest civil authority*], for all civil authorities, and for the armed forces: *℟:*

For those who hate us and those who love us: *℟:*

For those who are kind to us and serve us: *℟:*

For those who have asked us to pray for them, unworthy though we be: *℟:*

For the deliverance of captives: *℟:*

For our absent fathers and brethren: *℟:*

For travelers by land, by sea, and by air: *℟:*

For those who are lying in sickness: *℟:*

Let us pray also for the abundance of the fruits of the earth: *℟:*

And for every Orthodox Christian soul: *℟:*

Let us bless God-fearing rulers, Orthodox bishops, the founders of this holy church [*or monastery*], and our parents and teachers, and all our fathers and brethren gone before us, the Orthodox who here and in all the world lie asleep in the Lord: *℟:*

⁴ *In practice, the choir continuously sings* Lord, have mercy *slowly and softly, while the priest reads through the petitions without interruption.*

Let us say also for ourselves: **℞** Lord, have mercy. (*thrice*)

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

℞ Amen.

THE END OF SMALL COMPLINE



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