

AN ORDER OF EVENING PRAYER

from the Service of Compline

For a family or an individual.

In advance, ensure a quiet and peaceful atmosphere.

Stand before icons of Our Lord and the Virgin Mary.

(note: icon of our Lord to your right, the Theotokos to your left)

Prepare two prayer lists: those living and those departed.

A candle may be lighted.

Glory to You, our God! Glory to You!

O Heavenly King, the Comforter, the Spirit of Truth; everywhere present and filling 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! (3x)

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

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

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

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 Your name. Your Kingdom come. Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Yours is the Kingdom, and the power, and the glory: of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages. 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 70

Hasten, O God, to save me; O LORD, come quickly to help me. May those who seek my life be put to shame and confusion; may all who desire my ruin be turned back in disgrace. May those who say to me, "Aha! Aha!" turn back because of their shame. But may all who seek you rejoice and be glad in you; may those who love your salvation

always say, "Let God be exalted!" Yet I am poor and needy; come quickly to me, O God. You are my help and my deliverer; O LORD, do not delay.

Psalm 31

In you, O LORD, I have taken refuge; let me never be put to shame; deliver me in your righteousness. Turn your ear to me, come quickly to my rescue; be my rock of refuge, a strong fortress to save me. Since you are my rock and my fortress, for the sake of your name lead and guide me. Free me from the trap that is set for me, for you are my refuge. Into your hands I commit my spirit; redeem me, O LORD, the God of truth. I hate those who cling to worthless idols; I trust in the LORD. I will be glad and rejoice in your love, for you saw my affliction and knew the anguish of my soul. You have not handed me over to the enemy but have set my feet in a spacious place. Be merciful to me, O LORD, for I am in distress; my eyes grow weak with sorrow, my soul and my body with grief. My life is consumed by anguish and my years by groaning; my strength fails because of my affliction, and my bones grow weak. Because of all my enemies, I am the utter contempt of my neighbors; I am a dread to my friends-- those who see me on the street flee from me. I am forgotten by them as though I were dead; I have become like broken pottery. For I hear the slander of many; there is terror on every side; they conspire against me and plot to take my life. But I trust in you, O LORD; I say, "You are my God." My times are in your hands; deliver me from my enemies and from those who pursue me. Let your face shine on your servant; save me in your unfailing love. Let me not be put to shame, O LORD, for I have cried out to you; but let the wicked be put to shame and lie silent in the grave. Let their lying lips be silenced, for with pride and contempt they speak arrogantly against the righteous. How great is your goodness, which you have stored up for those who fear you, which you bestow in the sight of men on those who take refuge in you. In the shelter of your presence you hide them from the intrigues of men; in your dwelling you keep them safe from accusing tongues. Praise be to the LORD, for he showed his wonderful love to me when I was in a besieged city. In my alarm I said, "I am cut off from your sight!" Yet you heard my cry for mercy when I called to you for help. Love the LORD, all his saints! The LORD preserves the faithful, but the proud he pays back in full. Be strong and take heart, all you who hope in the LORD.

The day has passed; I thank You, O Lord! Grant me, I pray, that this evening and this night I will not fall into sin, and save me, O Savior.

O Master, grant that this evening and this night I may be without deceit, and save me, O Savior.

O Holy One, grant that this evening and this night I may be assailed by no temptation, and save me, O Savior.

Intercessions

O all-holy Lady, Theotokos (Birth-Giver of God), and ever-virgin Mary, pray for us sinners! *(the sign of the cross is made with a small bow from the waist)*

O Hosts of Angels and Archangels, and all the bodiless powers of heaven, pray for us sinners! *(the sign of the cross is made with a small bow from the waist)*

O holy John -- Prophet, Forerunner and Baptizer of our Lord -- pray for us sinners! *(the sign of the cross is made with a small bow from the waist)*

O holy and glorious Apostles, Prophets, Martyrs all Saints of our Lord, pray for us sinners! *(the sign of the cross is made with a small bow from the waist)*

All of you, our righteous and holy Fathers and Mothers, Pastors and Ecumenical Teachers, pray for us sinners! *(the sign of the cross is made with a small bow from the waist)*

O invincible and divine power of the honorable and life-giving Cross, do not forsake us sinners! *(the sign of the cross is made with a small bow from the waist)*

O God, cleanse me a sinner! *(the sign of the cross is made with a small bow from the waist)*

O God, cleanse me a sinner! *(the sign of the cross is made with a small bow from the waist)*

O God, cleanse me a sinner, and have mercy on me! *(the sign of the cross is made with a small bow from the waist)*

Prayer before the icon of the Theotokos

O Virgin, pure, spotless, incorrupt, undefiled, and all-pure; O Bride of God and Sovereign Lady, who united the Word of God with humanity through your most glorious birth-giving and has set free the sinful nature of our race that it might be yoked to that which is heavenly. You are the sole hope of the hopeless, the helper of those who are assailed, a speedy defender of those who flee to you and the refuge of all Christians. Do not despise me, a sinner polluted by shameful thoughts, words, and deeds. Look upon me as one who has, through laziness of soul and mind, become a slave of sin and the worldly cares of life. But, since you are the Mother of the God who loves mankind, mercifully have compassion on me -- a sinner and a prodigal. Accept my prayer offered from impure lips. And exercising your maternal boldness, intercede with your Son and our God - our Master and Lord - that He will open to me the compassionate loving-kindness of His goodness and disregard my sinfulness while turning me to repentance. Pray that He will show me to be a well-skilled doer of His commandments. And be ever present with me; for you are a fervent intercessor and helper who, in this present life, repels the assaults of adversaries while leading me to salvation and, at the hour of death, cares diligently for my soul. May I be delivered

from eternal judgement and be manifested as an heir of the glorious kingdom of your Son and our God. All of which I shall obtain, O Lady and Theotokos, by your help; through the mercy and love toward mankind of your only-begotten Son – our Lord, God, and Savior, Jesus Christ – to whom is due all glory, honor and worship, together with His Father from everlasting, and His all-holy, good, and life-giving Holy Spirit, now and forever. Amen.

Prayer before the icon of our Lord

And grant to me, O Master, as I prepare for sleep, repose both of body and soul. Preserve me from the gloomy slumber of sin, and from every dark and impure temptation. Calm the impulses of carnal desires and quench the fiery darts of the Evil One craftily directed against me. Ease the rebellions of my flesh. Still my earthly and material anxieties. And grant to me, O Lord, a watchful mind, a pure reasoning, a sober heart and sleep free from every vision of evil. Raise me up again in the morning, strengthened in Your precepts and holding steadfastly within me the memory of Your commandments. Grant that through this night I may sing praises to You, and that I may hymn, bless, and glorify Your all-holy and majestic name – Lord Jesus Christ – together with the Father and the Holy Spirit.

A final Prayer before the icon of the Theotokos

O exceedingly glorious, ever-virgin Mother of Christ our God, bear our petitions unto Your Son and our God, and implore Him to save our souls.

For the Bishops of the Orthodox Church, priests, deacons, monastics and all of the faithful, let us say: Lord, have mercy.

For the good estate and strengthening of the Holy Orthodox Church in our land and everywhere, let us say: Lord, have mercy.

For civil authorities, those who serve in the government and in the armed forces, let us say: Lord, have mercy.

For those who love us and those who hate us, let us say: Lord, have mercy.

For those who are kind to us and help us, let us say: Lord, have mercy.

For those who have asked us to pray for them, although we are unworthy, let us say: Lord, have mercy.

For our departed fathers, mothers, loved ones and friends who lie asleep in the Lord, especially (*names*), that they may be granted rest eternal in blessed repose, let us say: Lord, have mercy.

For peace, health, assistance, and furtherance in all good things for the servants of God (*names*), and for their salvation, let us say: Lord, have mercy.

For those who are in sickness, suffering or affliction of body, mind or spirit, let us say: Lord, have mercy.

For peaceful times and the abundance of the fruits of the earth, let us say: Lord, have mercy.

Also, I pray unto God for my salvation and say: Lord, have mercy!

Forgive, O Lord, those who hate us and those who have wronged us. Do well unto those who do well. Grant those things leading unto salvation and eternal life. Visit the afflicted and the sick with Your healing of soul and body. Guide those who travel. Remember in Your loving-kindness those who have asked us to pray for them. Remember our departed brethren. Remember those who suffer persecution for the faith. Remember those who labor and offer gifts in Your holy churches. Remember those in need of material or spiritual blessings. Grant them, and all of us, the petitions that lead unto salvation. Remember me also, O Lord, Your humble and unworthy servant. Illumine my mind with the light of Your wisdom, and guide me in the way of Your commandments. Through the prayers of the Theotokos and ever-virgin Mary; through the prayers of Saint _____ (*the name of the saint whose name you bear in baptism*); and through the prayers of all Your saints, for You are blessed unto ages of ages. Amen.