

THE NINTH HOUR

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

Reader: Amen. Glory to You, our God, Glory to You!

O Heavenly King, the Comforter, the Spirit of Truth, Who are everywhere and fill 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!
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Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal, have mercy on us!

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

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

Lord, have mercy. 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.

All: 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 the evil one.

Priest: For Yours is the Kingdom, and the Power, and the Glory: of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages.

Reader: Amen. Lord, have mercy (*12 times*). 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 83

How lovely are Your dwellings, O Lord of hosts; my soul longs and faints for the courts of the Lord. My heart and my flesh have rejoiced in the living God. For the sparrow has found itself a house, and the dove a nest for herself, where she may place her young. Your altars, O Lord of hosts, my King and my God. Blessed are those who dwell in Your house, they will praise You forever and ever. Blessed is the man whose help is from You; he has placed ascents in his heart, to the valley of weeping, to the place he has set. For the Lawgiver will give blessings; they will go from strength to strength, the God of gods will appear in Zion. O Lord God of hosts, hear my prayer; give ear, O God of Jacob. O God our shield, see and look on the face of Your anointed One. For one day in Your courts is far better than thousands elsewhere. I have chosen to be cast aside in the house of my God, rather than to dwell in the tents of sinners. O Lord God of hosts, blessed the man who hopes in You.

Psalm 84

You have been well pleased with Your land, O Lord, You have turned away the captivity of Jacob. You have forgiven Your people their iniquities, You have covered all their sins. You have made all Your anger cease, You have turned away from the anger of Your rage. Turn us back again, O God of our salvation, and turn away Your rage from us. Will You be angry with us forever? Or will You prolong Your wrath from generation to generation? O God, when You have turned us back You will make us live, and Your people will rejoice in You. O Lord, show us Your mercy, and grant us Your salvation. I shall hear what the Lord will say in me; for He will speak peace to His people, to His holy ones, to those who turn their hearts back to Him. But His salvation is near those who fear Him, that glory may dwell in our land. Mercy and truth have met, justice and peace have kissed. Truth has dawned from the earth, and righteousness has leaned down from heaven. For the Lord will give goodness, and our earth will give its fruit. Justice will walk before Him, and set His steps in the way.

Psalm 85

Incline Your ear, O Lord, and hear me, for I am poor and needy. Guard my soul, for I am holy; O my God, save Your servant who hopes in You. Have mercy on me, Lord, for I shall cry to You all the day; give joy to the soul of Your servant, for I have lifted up my soul to You. For You, Lord, are good and gentle, and full of mercy to all who call on You. Give ear, O Lord, to my prayer; and attend to the voice of my supplication. In the day of my trouble I called to You, for You have heard me. There is none like You among the gods, O Lord; none whose works are as Yours. All the nations whom You made will come and worship before You, O Lord, and call upon Your name. For You are great and do wondrous things; You alone are God. Guide me, Lord, in Your way, and I shall walk in Your truth; make my heart glad to fear Your name. I shall give You thanks, O Lord, my God, with my whole heart; and I shall glorify Your name forever. For Your mercy is great towards me, and You have delivered my soul from the lowest pit. O God, the lawless rose up against me, and an assembly of mighty ones sought my soul, and did not set You before them. And You, Lord, are pitying and merciful, long-suffering and full of mercy and true. Look on me and have mercy on me; give Your might to Your servant and save the son of Your maidservant. Make for me a sign for good, and let those who hate me see it and be ashamed; for You, Lord, have helped me and comforted me.

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

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, glory to You, O Lord. (x3)

Lord, have mercy (x3).

Troparion

Priest: Christ God, at the ninth hour You tasted death in the flesh for our sakes, slay our carnal will and save us.

Reader: Christ God, at the ninth hour You tasted death in the flesh for our sakes, slay our carnal will and save us. (*metaneia*)

Priest: May my supplication come into Your presence, O Lord, according to Your word, give me understanding.

Reader: Christ God, at the ninth hour You tasted death in the flesh for our sakes, slay our carnal will and save us. (*metaneia*)

Priest: Let my petition come into Your presence, O Lord, according to Your word save me.

Reader: Christ God, at the ninth hour You tasted death in the flesh for our sakes, slay our carnal will and save us. (*metaneia*) Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Theotokion

Reader: O Good One, You were born of a Virgin for our sakes and endured crucifixion; You despoiled death by death and as God revealed resurrection, do not despise those whom You fashioned with Your own hand; show Your love for mankind, O Merciful One; accept the Mother of God who bore You, as she intercedes for us, and save your despairing people, O Saviour.

For Your holy name's sake do not finally reject us, do not annul Your covenant, do not take Your mercy from us for the sake of Abraham, Your beloved, and for the sake of Isaac, Your servant, and Israel, Your holy one.

Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal, have mercy on us!
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Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal, have mercy on us!

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

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

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

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All: 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 the evil one.

Priest: For Yours is the Kingdom, and the Power, and the Glory: of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages.

Reader: Amen. Lord, have mercy (*12 times*). Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Troparia

The Thief seeing the Prince of Life hanging on the Cross, said: "If He Who is crucified with us were not God incarnate, the sun would not have hidden its rays, nor would the shaken earth be quaking. But You Who bear all things, Remember me, Lord, in Your kingdom."

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

Between two thieves Your Cross became the scales of justice: the one was dragged down to Hades by the weight of his blasphemy, but the other lightened of his faults was raised to the knowledge of the things of God. O Christ our God, glory to You.

Now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Seeing the Lamb and Shepherd and Saviour of the world on the Cross, she who bore Him said weeping: "The world rejoices, for it receives redemption; but my inward parts burn as I see Your crucifixion, which You endure for all mankind, O my Son and my God."

Lord, have mercy (*x40*).

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

More honourable than the Cherubim, and more glorious beyond compare than the Seraphim, without corruption you gave birth to God the Word, true Theotokos, we magnify you. In the name of the Lord, Master¹, bless.

Priest: May the Lord God have mercy on us and save us.

Reader: Amen.

Prayer of St Ephrem (if Lent)

All: O Lord and Master of my life, take from me the spirit of sloth, despair, lust of power, and idle talk. (*prostration*)

But give rather the spirit of chastity, humility, patience, and love to Your servant. (*prostration*)

Yes, O Lord and King! Grant me to see my own transgressions and not to judge my brother, for blessed are You unto ages of ages. (*prostration, 12 metaneias*)

We repeat the entire prayer once with no prostrations, and once complete make a final prostration.

Reader: Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal, have mercy on us!
Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal, have mercy on us!
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¹ It is customary in some parishes to say "Father, bless."

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Reader: Amen. Lord, have mercy (*12 times*). Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen. In the name of the Lord, Master, bless.

Priest: May the Lord God have mercy on us and save us.

Reader: Amen.

THE TYPICA

The Beatitudes [Matthew 5:3-12]

Reader: In Your kingdom remember us, O Lord, when You come in Your kingdom. Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted. Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth. Blessed are they who hunger and thirst after righteousness, for they shall be filled. Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy. Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God. Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called the children of God. Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are you when men shall revile you and persecute you and say all manner of evil against you falsely for my sake. Rejoice and be glad, for great is your reward in heaven.

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

All: Remember us, O Lord, when You come in Your kingdom. (*metaneia*)
Remember us, O Master, when You come in Your kingdom. (*met.*)
Remember us, O Holy One, when You come in Your kingdom. (*met.*)

Reader: The heavenly choir hymns You and says: Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord of Sabaoth, heaven and earth are full of Your glory. Come to Him and be enlightened, and your faces shall not be ashamed. The heavenly choir hymns You and says: Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord of Sabaoth, heaven and earth are full of Your glory.

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

The choir of holy Angels and Archangels with all the heavenly powers hymns You and says: Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord of Sabaoth, heaven and earth are full of Your glory.

Now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

All: 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 only-begotten, begotten from the Father before all ages. Light of Light, true God of true God, begotten not made, of one essence with the Father; through Whom all things were made; Who for our sake 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 He rose again on the third day, according to the Scriptures, and ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father; and He shall come again in glory to judge the living and the dead; and His kingdom shall have no end. And in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the Giver of life, Who proceeds from the Father, Who together with Father and Son is worshipped and glorified; Who spoke through 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 age to come. Amen.

Reader: Remit, forgive, pardon, O God, our offences, willing and unwilling, in deed and in word, in knowledge and in ignorance, of the day and of the night, in mind and in thought; pardon them all, as You are good and love mankind.

All: 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 the evil one.

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Reader: Amen.

Kontakia (*sung or read*)

Tone 7: You were transfigured on the mount, O Christ God, / and Your disciples beheld Your glory, as far as they could bear it; / so that when they would behold You crucified, / they might understand that Your suffering was voluntary, / and proclaim to the world // that You are truly the radiance of the Father.

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

Tone 4: As You were voluntarily crucified for our sake, / grant mercy to those who are called by Your name. / Make all Orthodox Christians glad by your power, / granting them victories over their adversaries // by bestowing on them the invincible trophy: Your weapon of peace.

Now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

(Of the Temple:) Tone 8: O most favoured by God, you confer on me the healing of your grace from your inexhaustible Spring, / therefore, since you gave birth incomprehensibly to the Word, / I implore you, therefore to refresh me with the dew of your grace that I may cry to you: // Rejoice, O Water of salvation!

Reader: Lord, have mercy (*x40*).

O Christ our God, Who at every time and at every hour, in heaven and on earth are worshipped and glorified, Who are long-suffering, great in mercy, great in compassion, Who love the just and are merciful to sinners, calling all to salvation by the promise of the blessings to come; O Lord, accept our entreaties at this hour, and direct our lives to Your commandments. Sanctify our souls, purify our bodies, correct our thoughts, cleanse our minds, and deliver us from every distress, evil, and pain. Encompass us about with Your holy Angels, that guided and guarded by them we may reach the unity of the faith and the knowledge of Your unapproachable glory; for You are blessed unto ages of ages. Amen.

Lord, have mercy (*x3*).

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More honourable than the Cherubim, and more glorious beyond compare than the Seraphim, without corruption you gave birth to God the Word, true Theotokos, we magnify you. In the name of the Lord, Master², bless.

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Reader: Amen. Lord, have mercy (*x12*).

Prayer of Saint Basil the Great

Priest: O Master, Lord Jesus Christ, our God, Who have long endured our transgressions, and brought us to this hour in which hanging on the life-giving tree You showed the good Thief the way into Paradise and destroyed death by death, have mercy also on us sinners and Your unworthy servants. For we have sinned and transgressed and are not worthy to raise our eyes and look on the height of heaven; because we have abandoned the way of Your justice and walked in the will of our hearts. But we implore Your unbounded goodness: spare us, O Lord, according to the multitude of Your mercy, and save us for Your holy name's sake, for our days have been wasted in vanity. Rescue us from the hand of our opponent, forgive us our sins, slay our carnal will, that we, having put off the old man, may put on the new, and live for You, our Master and benefactor; and that thus following Your precepts we may reach eternal rest, where those who rejoice have their dwelling. For You are the true joy and gladness of those who love You, Christ our God, and to You we give glory, together with Your Father Who has no beginning, and Your all-holy, good and life-creating Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages.

People: Amen.

Priest: All-holy Trinity, consubstantial Might, indivisible Kingship, Cause of all blessings, be favourable even to me a sinner; strengthen and give understanding to my heart and rid me of every defilement; enlighten my mind, that I may ever glorify, praise, worship and say: One is Holy, one is Lord, Jesus Christ, to the glory of God the Father. Amen.

Reader: It is truly meet to bless you, O Theotokos, ever-blessed and most pure and the Mother of our God. More honourable than the Cherubim and more glorious beyond compare than the Seraphim, without corruption you gave birth to God the Word. True Theotokos, we magnify you. In the name of the Lord, Master, bless.

Priest: May the Lord God have mercy on us and save us.

Reader: Amen.

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

People: Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and to the ages of ages. Amen. Lord, have mercy (x3). Master, bless.

Priest: May He Who hung on the tree, Christ our true God, through the prayers of His most pure Mother, of the holy, glorious and all-laudable apostles, of the holy and righteous ancestors of God, Joachim and Anna and of all the saints: have mercy on us and save us, for He is good and loves mankind.

People: Amen.