

Prayers for a woman on the fortieth day after childbirth

The mother stands in the vestibule of the Church holding the child. The priest, vested according to custom, goes to the vestibule and, standing before the mother and child, begins:

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

Reader: Amen.

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 to the 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 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 to the ages of ages.

People: Amen.

Priest: Let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Priest: O Lord God Almighty, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who by Your word have created all things, both men and animals, and have brought all things from nothingness into being, we pray and implore You: You have saved this Your servant, *(name)*, by Your will. Purify her, therefore, from all sin and from every uncleanness, as she now draws near to Your Holy Church; and make her worthy to partake uncondemned of Your Holy Mysteries. For You are a good God, who loves mankind, and unto You we ascribe glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

People: Amen.

(If the child is living, the Priest continues with the following prayers.)

Priest: And bless the child which has been born of her. Increase *(him/her)*, sanctify *(him/her)*, enlighten *(him/her)*, render *(him/her)* chaste, and endow *(him/her)* with good understanding. For you have brought *(him/her)* into being, and have shown *(him/her)* the physical light, and have appointed *(him/her)* to be made worthy in due time of the spiritual light, and that *(he/she)* may be numbered among Your chosen flock, through Your only-begotten Son with Whom also You are blessed, together with Your all-holy, good, and life-creating Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

People: Amen.

Priest: Peace be unto all.

People: And to your spirit.

Priest: Bow your heads to the Lord.

People: To You, O Lord.

Priest: O Lord, our God, Who came for the redemption of the human race, come also upon Your servant, *(name)*, and grant unto her entrance into the temple of Your glory through the prayers of Your honourable priest. Wash away her bodily uncleanness, and the stains of her soul, in the fulfilling of the forty days. Make her worthy of the communion of Your holy Body and Your Blood.

For sanctified and glorified is Your all-honourable and majestic name, of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages.

People: Amen.

Priest: Let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Priest: O Lord, our God, Who was brought on the fortieth day as an infant into the Temple according to the Law, by Mary the Unwedded Bride, Who was also Your holy Mother; and was borne in the arms of Simeon the Just. O Master all-powerful, bless also unto every good deed this infant which has been brought here, that *(he/she)* may present himself/herself unto You, the Creator of all men, and rear *(him/her)* well-pleasing to You in all things; and drive far from *(him/her)* every adverse power, through sealing with the sign of Your cross; for You preserve infants, O Lord. And grant that having been made worthy of holy baptism, *(he/she)* may receive the portion of the elect ones of Your kingdom, and be preserved, together with us, through the grace of the holy, and consubstantial, and undivided Trinity. For to You are due all glory, thanksgiving and worship, together with Your Father Who is from everlasting, and Your all-holy, and good, and life-creating Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages.

People: Amen.

Priest: Peace be with you all.

People: And with your spirit.

Priest: Bow your heads unto the Lord.

People: To You, O Lord.

Priest: O God the Father Almighty, Who by Your mighty-voiced Prophet Isaiah foretold to us the incarnation through a Virgin of Your only-begotten Son and our God; Who in these latter days, by Your good pleasure and the cooperation of the Holy Spirit, for the salvation of us men, and because of Your boundless compassion, graciously willed to become a babe by her; and according to the custom of Your holy Law suffered Yourself to be brought into Your holy Sanctuary, after the days of purification were fulfilled, being Yourself the true lawgiver; and

condescended to be borne in the arms of the righteous Simeon, of which mystery we have recognized the prototype, revealed by the coal in the tongs, foretold by the prophet; which thing, also, we faithful, by grace do imitate. O Lord, Who preserves children, bless this infant together with *(his/her)* parents and *(his/her)* sponsors; and grant that in due season *(he/she)* may be united through water and the Spirit of the new birth to Your holy flock of reason-endowed sheep, which is called by the name of Your Christ. For You are the one Who dwells on high, and Who looks down upon the humble of heart, and unto You do we ascribe glory, to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages.

People: Amen.

Reception into the Catechumenate

The Priest breathes on the face of the one being received three times, signs their forehead and breast three times and places his right hand on their head as he says the following Prayer:

Priest: Let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Priest: In your name, O Lord of truth, and in the Name of your Only-Begotten Son and of your Holy Spirit, I lay my hand on the head of Your servant (*name*), who has been found worthy to flee to Your holy Name and to take refuge under the shelter of Your wings. Remove far from (*him/her/them*), (*his/her/their*) former delusion, and fill (*him/her/them*) with faith, hope, and love which are in You, so that (*he/she/they*) may know that You alone are the true God, with Your Only-Begotten Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, and Your Holy Spirit. Enable (*him/her/them*) to walk in all Your commandments, and to fulfill those things which are well-pleasing to You, for if a man does these things, he will find life in them. Inscribe (*him/her/them*) in Your Book of Life and unite (*him/her/them*) to the flock of Your inheritance. And may Your holy Name be glorified in (*him/her/them*), together with that of Your beloved Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, and of Your life-creating Spirit. Let Your eyes remain ever fixed on (*him/her/them*) with mercy, and let Your ears attend to the voice of (*his/her/their*) supplication. Make (*him/her/them*) to rejoice in the works of (*his/her/their*) hands, and in all (*his/her/their*) generation, that (*he/she/they*) may render praises to You, always worshipping and glorifying Your great and exalted Name, all the days of (*his/her/their*) life. For all the powers of heaven sing praises to You, and Yours is the glory, of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

First Exorcism

Priest: Let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Priest: The Lord puts you under ban, O Devil, He Who came into the world and made His abode among men, so that He might overthrow your

tyranny and deliver men; Who also upon the Tree triumphed over the adverse powers, when the sun was darkened, the earth shaken, the graves opened and the bodies of Saints arose; the Lord Who by death abolished death and destroyed the one who had the power of death, that is you, the Devil. I charge you by God, Who revealed the tree of life and set in place the Cherubim and the flaming sword which turned this way and that to guard it: Be rebuked and withdraw! I charge you by the One who walked on the surface of the sea as on dry land and rebuked the tempest of the winds, the One whose gaze dries up the deeps and whose curse melts mountains. For it is He Who now commands you, through us: Be afraid, come out, withdraw from this creature and return no more. Do not hide in *(him/her)*, nor encounter *(him/her)*, nor influence *(him/her)* either by night or day, early or at noon. But go back to your own Tartarus until the great day of the judgement that has been prepared. Be afraid of God, Who is seated upon the Cherubim and looks upon the deeps; before Whom Angels, Archangels, Thrones, Dominions, Principalities, Authorities, Powers, the many-eyed Cherubim and the six-winged Seraphim tremble; before Whom heaven and earth, the sea and all that is in them tremble. Come out, and withdraw from the sealed and newly-enlisted soldier of Christ our God. For it is by Him that I charge you, the One Who walks on the wings of the winds, Who makes His Angels spirits and His ministers a flaming fire. Come out, and withdraw from this creature with all your power and your angels. For the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit has been glorified, now and for ever, and to the ages of ages.

People: Amen.

Second Exorcism

Priest: Let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Priest: It is God, the Holy One, Who is beyond understanding and unsearchable in all His works and in His strength, the One Who foreordained for you, O Devil, the penalty of eternal damnation, that through us, His unprofitable servants, orders you and every power that works with you, to depart from the one who has been newly sealed in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, our true God. I adjure you, most evil, unclean, foul, abominable and alien spirit, by the power of Jesus Christ, Who has all authority in heaven and on earth and Who said to the deaf and dumb demon, 'Come out of the man, and enter him no more!': Depart!

Acknowledge the futility of your power, which had no authority even over swine. Remember the One Who ordered you, in accordance with your own request, to enter the herd of swine. Fear God, at Whose command the earth was established upon the waters, Who created the heavens and fixed the mountains with a king post and the valleys with a cross-beam, placed sand as a boundary for the sea and made a safe path through wild water; Who touches the mountains and they smoke; Who wraps Himself in light as in a garment, stretching out the heavens like a tent cloth; Who covers His upper chambers with waters; Who established the earth on its foundations so that it will not be moved; Who summoned the water of the sea and poured it out upon the face of the earth. Come and depart from the one who is being made ready for holy Enlightenment. I adjure you by the saving Passion of our Lord Jesus Christ, by His precious Body and Blood and His dread Coming; for He will come, and He will not delay, to judge the whole earth and He will condemn you and the power that works with you to the Gehenna of fire, handing you over to the exterior darkness, where the worm is unsleeping and the fire is not quenched. For of Christ our God is the dominion, with the Father and the Holy Spirit, now and for ever, and to the ages of ages.

People: Amen.

Third Exorcism

Priest: Let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Priest: O Lord of Sabaoth, the God of Israel, Who heal every disease and every sickness, look upon Your servant, search out, seek and drive from *(him/her)* all the activities of the devil. Rebuke the unclean spirits and expel them, and cleanse the work of Your hands; and using Your swift force, crush Satan speedily under *(his/her)* feet and grant *(him/her)* victories against him and all his unclean spirits, so that, obtaining mercy from You, *(he/she)* may be found worthy of Your immortal and heavenly Mysteries and may give glory to You, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, now and for ever, and to the ages of ages.

People: Amen.

Priest: Let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Priest: O Lord and Master, Who created man according to Your image and likeness and gave him the power of eternal life; then, when he fell through sin, did not disdain him, but provided for the salvation of the world through the incarnation of Your Christ, do You Yourself receive also this creature of Yours, Whom You have redeemed from the slavery of the foe, into the heavenly Kingdom. Open the eyes of *(his/her)* mind so that the enlightenment of Your Gospel may dawn on *(him/her)*. Yoke to *(his/her)* life an Angel of light, to deliver *(him/her)* from every attack of the adversary, from evil encounter, from the demon of noonday, and from evil thoughts.

Then the Priest breathes gently in the form of a cross on the mouth, forehead and breast of the Catechumen, saying:

Expel from *(him/her)* every evil and unclean spirit which hides and makes its lair in *(his/her)* heart (**three times**). The spirit of deceit, the spirit of idolatry and of every covetousness; the spirit of falsehood and of every uncleanness which operates through the prompting of the devil. And make *(him/her)* a rational sheep of the flock of Your Christ, an honoured member of Your Church, a vessel made holy, a child of light and an heir of Your Kingdom. So that, having lived in accordance with Your commandments, preserving the seal undamaged and keeping *(his/her)* garment undefiled, *(he/she)* may attain to the blessedness of the Saints in Your Kingdom. By the grace and pity and love for mankind of Your Only-Begotten Son, with Whom You are blessed, together with Your all-holy, good and life-giving Spirit, now and for ever, and to the ages of ages.

People: Amen.

The sponsors with the child (or the one to be baptized if he/she is an adult) turn and face the West (ie. away from the altar), with their backs to the priest. The Priest then asks the following question three times:

Do you renounce Satan, and all his works, and all his angels, and all his service, and all his pride?

Catechumen or Godparent: I do renounce him.

And when he/she has said this three times, the Priest again asks the one to be baptized three times:

Have you renounced Satan?

Catechumen or Godparent: I have renounced him.

Then after three times:

Priest: Breathe and spit upon him.

The Priest turns the Catechumen to the East and says to him/her three times:

Priest: Do you unite yourself to Christ?

Catechumen or Godparent: I do unite myself to Christ.

And again the Priest asks three times:

Priest: Have you united yourself to Christ?

Catechumen or Godparent: I have united myself to Christ.

Priest: Do you believe in Him?

Catechumen or Godparent: I believe in Him as King and God.

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 Son of God, 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 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; He is coming again in glory to judge the living and the dead; Whose kingdom will 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 is worshipped and glorified; Who spoke through the Prophets. In one Holy, Catholic and Apostolic Church; I acknowledge one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins; I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

The Priest asks three times:

Priest: Have you united yourself to Christ?

Catechumen or Godparent: I have united myself to Christ.

Priest: Bow down before Him.

The catechumen/sponsor makes a prostration, saying:

I bow down before the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit, the Trinity one in essence and undivided.

Priest: Blessed is God Who desires that all men be saved and come to the knowledge of the truth, now and for ever, and to the ages of ages. Amen.

People: Amen.

Priest: Let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Priest: Master, Lord our God, call Your servant N. to Your holy Illumination and grant *(him/her)* the great grace of Your holy Baptism. Put off *(his/her)* old man and renew *(him/her)* unto eternal life and fill *(him/her)* with the power of Your Holy Spirit in the unity of Your Christ, that *(he/she)* may no longer be a child of the body, but a child of Your kingdom. Through the good will and grace of Your Only-begotten Son, with Whom You are blessed, together with Your all-holy, good and life-giving Spirit, now and for ever, and to the ages of ages.

People: Amen.

Service of Holy Baptism

The Priest leads the catechumen(s) into the nave. While all the candles are being lit he takes the censer, goes to the Font and censes it in a circle.

Priest: Blessed is the Kingdom of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and to the ages of ages.

People: Amen.

Priest: In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy. *(Repeat after each petition.)*

Priest: For the peace from on high and for the salvation of our souls, let us pray to the Lord.

For the peace of the whole world, for the welfare of the holy Churches of God, and for the union of all, let us pray to the Lord.

For this holy house, and for those who enter it with faith, reverence and the fear of God, let us pray to the Lord.

For our Metropolitan (N.), our Bishop (N.), for the honourable priesthood, for the diaconate in Christ, for all the clergy and people, let us pray to the Lord.

For the rulers of this country and for all civil authorities, let us pray to the Lord.

That this water may be sanctified by the power, operation and descent of the Holy Spirit, let us pray to the Lord.

That there may be sent down upon it the grace of redemption, the blessing of Jordan, let us pray to the Lord.

That there may come down upon this water the cleansing operation of the super-substantial Trinity, let us pray to the Lord.

That we may be illumined with the light of understanding and piety, and through the descent of the Holy Spirit, let us pray to the Lord.

That this water may prove to be a protection against every snare of enemies, both visible and invisible, let us pray to the Lord.

That the one who is baptized in it may be made worthy of the incorruptible Kingdom, let us pray to the Lord.

For the one who now draws near for holy Enlightenment and for *(his/her)* salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

That *(he/she)* may be shown to be a child of light and an heir of eternal blessings, let us pray to the Lord.

That *(he/she)* may be a member and partaker in the death and resurrection of Christ our God, let us pray to the Lord.

That *(he/she)* may preserve *(his/her)* baptismal garment and the pledge of the Holy Spirit pure and undefiled unto the dread Day of Christ our God, let us pray to the Lord.

That this water may become for *(him/her)* a laver of regeneration for the forgiveness of sins and a garment of incorruption, let us pray to the Lord.

That the Lord God would hearken to the voice of our supplication, let us pray to the Lord.

For our deliverance from all affliction, wrath, danger and necessity, let us pray to the Lord.

Help us, save us, have mercy on us, and keep us, O God, by your grace.

Commemorating our most holy, most pure, most blessed and glorious Lady, the Theotokos and Ever-Virgin Mary, with all the Saints, let us commend ourselves and each another and all our life unto Christ our God.

People: To you, O Lord.

Priest: O compassionate and merciful God, You test minds and hearts and alone know the secrets of mortals, for no deed is hidden from Your sight, but everything is naked and exposed to Your eyes. You know all about me; do not then despise me or turn Your face from me, but overlook my offences at this hour, You Who overlook the sins of mortals for their repentance. Wash away the filth of my body and the defilement of my soul by the power of Your invisible and spiritual right hand, lest, as I

proclaim freedom to others and grant it by the perfect faith of Your ineffable love for mankind, I myself, as a slave of sin, become unworthy of it. Yes, O Master, Who alone are good and full of love toward mankind, may I not be led astray, but from on high send power out to me and give me strength for Your great and heavenly Mystery which lies before me, and through my miserable person create the image of Your Christ in the one who is about to be reborn. Build *(him/her)* up on the foundation of Your Apostles and Prophets, and do not pull *(him/her)* down, but plant *(him/her)* as a plant of truth in Your holy Catholic and Apostolic Church, and do not pull *(him/her)* out. So that by *(his/her)* progressing in true religion, Your all-holy name, of Father, Son and Holy Spirit, may be glorified also through *(him/her)*, now and forever, and to the ages of ages.

People: Amen.

Priest: Let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Priest: Great are you, O Lord, and wonderful are your works; and no hymns suffice to declare Your wonders. *(x3)*

For as by Your will You brought the universe from non-existence into being, by Your might You uphold creation and by Your providence You direct the world. From four elements You composed the world, with four seasons You crowned the circle of the year. All the spiritual Powers tremble before You. The sun sings Your praise, the moon glorifies You, the stars entreat You, the light obeys You, the deeps tremble before You, the springs are Your servants. You stretched out the heaven like a curtain; You established the earth on the waters; You walled in the sea with sand; You poured out the air for breathing. Angelic Powers minister to You, the choirs of Archangels worship You, the many-eyed Cherubim and the six-winged Seraphim, as they stand and fly around You, veil themselves in fear of Your unapproachable glory. For You, God uncircumscribed, without beginning and ineffable, came upon earth taking the form of a slave, being found in the likeness of mortals. For through the compassion of Your mercy, Master, You could not endure to watch the human race being tyrannized by the devil, but You came and saved us. We confess Your grace, we proclaim Your mercy, we do not conceal Your benevolence. You set at liberty the generations of our nature, You sanctified a virgin womb by Your birth. All creation sang Your praise when You appeared. For You, our God, were seen on earth and lived among mortals. You also

sanctified the streams of Jordan by sending down to them from heaven Your all-holy Spirit, and You crushed the heads of the dragons that lurked there.

Therefore, O King, lover of mankind, be present now too, through the visitation of Your Holy Spirit, and sanctify this water. (x3)

Give it the grace of redemption, the blessing of Jordan. Make it a source of incorruption, a gift of sanctification, a deliverance from sins, a destruction of demons. Make it unapproachable by hostile powers and filled with angelic strength. Let those that conspire against Your creature flee from it, because I, Lord, have called upon Your Name, which is wondrous and glorious and fearful to adversaries.

And breathing on the water three times, with two fingers he makes the sign of the Cross in it three times and prays over it, saying each time:

Let all adverse powers be crushed beneath the sign and image of Your Cross (x3).

We pray you, Lord, let all airy and invisible spectres withdraw from us, and do not let a demon of darkness hide itself in this water, and do not let an evil spirit, bringing darkening of thoughts and disturbance of mind, go down into it with the one who is being baptized. But O Master of all things, declare this water to be water of redemption, water of sanctification, cleansing of flesh and spirit, untying of bonds, forgiveness of offences, enlightenment of soul, washing of rebirth, renewal of spirit, gift of adoption, garment of incorruption, source of life. For it was You, Lord, Who said, 'Wash and be made clean, and put away evils from your souls'. It is You Who have given us the grace of rebirth from on high through water and Spirit. Manifest Yourself, Lord, in this water, and grant that the one being baptized in it may be transformed for the putting off of the old self that is corrupted after the desires of deception, and may put on the new that is renewed after the image of the One Who created (*him/her*). So that, planted in the likeness of Your death through Baptism, (*he/she*) may also become a partaker in Your Resurrection, and having guarded the gift of the Holy Spirit and increased the deposit of grace, may receive the prize of (*his/her*) high calling and be numbered with the firstborn, whose names are inscribed in heaven, in You our God and Lord, Jesus Christ. For to You belong glory, might, honour and worship, together with Your Father Who is without beginning and Your all-holy, good, and life-giving Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

People: Amen.

Priest: Peace to all.

People: And to your spirit.

Deacon: Let us bow our heads to the Lord.

People: To you, O Lord.

The Priest breathes on the container of oil three times and signs the oil three times as it held by the Deacon [or, Godparent].

Deacon: Let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

The Priest says the following prayer quietly:

Master, Lord God of our fathers, Who sent out a dove to those in Noah's ark, with a branch of olive in its beak as sign of reconciliation and salvation from the flood, and through these things prefigured the Mystery of grace; Who have given the fruit of the olive for the completion of Your holy Mysteries; Who through it both filled those under the Law with the Holy Spirit, and make perfect those under grace; do You Yourself bless this olive oil also by the power, operation and descent of Your Holy Spirit, so that it may become an anointing of incorruption, a weapon of righteousness, renewal of soul and body, a driving away of every operation of the devil, for the removal of all evils from those who are anointed with it in faith, or who partake of it to Your glory and that of Your Only-Begotten Son and Your all-holy, good, and life-giving Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

People: Amen.

Deacon: Let us attend.

Priest: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

And he makes a Cross with the oil in the water.

People: *sing alleluia (x3).*

The Alleluia is intoned and sung three times (as before the Gospel).

Priest: Blessed is God, Who enlightens and sanctifies everyone who comes into the world, now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

People: Amen.

The one to be baptized is brought forward. The Priest takes some of the oil and makes the sign of the Cross on the forehead, breast and back of the candidate, saying:

Priest: The servant of God, ____, is anointed with the oil of gladness, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

As he signs their breast and back: For healing of soul and body.

On the ears: For the hearing of faith.

On the feet: For your feet to walk.

On the hands: Your hands made me and fashioned me.

And when the whole body has been anointed, the Priest baptizes the person, holding them upright and facing East, as he says:

Priest: The servant of God, ____, is baptized, in the name of the Father. Amen. *(immersion)* And of the Son. Amen. *(immersion)* And of the Holy Spirit. Amen. *(immersion)*

And as he clothes the newly baptized, the Priest says:

Priest: The servant of God, ____, is clothed with a garment of righteousness, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

At the giving of the Cross the priest says,

Priest: If anyone would be My disciple, let them deny themselves, take up their cross and follow Me.

Grant unto Me

The following is sung while the newly baptized is clothed.

Refrain: Grant unto me a robe of light, O most merciful, Christ our God,
Who does clothe Yourself with light as with a garment.

Reader: **Psalm 31**

Blessed is the one whose transgressions are forgiven and whose sin is covered. *(Refrain)*

Blessed is the one to whom the Lord imputes no iniquity and in whose spirit there is no deceit. *(Refrain)*

Because I kept silent my bones grew old from my crying out all day long. *(Refrain)*

Because night and day Your hand was heavy upon me; I was turned to wretchedness by a thorn's being fastened in me. *(Refrain)*

I acknowledged my sin and did not hide my iniquity. I said, 'Against myself I will admit my iniquity to the Lord', and You forgave the ungodliness of my heart. *(Refrain)*

For this every holy one will pray to You at a fitting moment. Except in a flood of many waters they will not come near him. *(Refrain)*

For You are my refuge from the affliction which surrounds me, my joy to deliver me from those who have surrounded me. *(Refrain)*

'I will make you understand and guide you in the way in which you should go. I will fix My eyes upon you. *(Refrain)*

Do not become like horse and mule, who have no understanding. With bit and bridle you must constrain their cheeks so that they do not come near you.' *(Refrain)*

Many are the scourges of the sinner, but mercy will surround the one who hopes in the Lord. *(Refrain)*

Rejoice in the Lord and be glad you righteous, and boast all you upright in heart. *(Refrain)*

Priest: Let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Priest: Blessed are You, Lord God Almighty, the source of blessings, the Sun of righteousness, Who have made the light of salvation shine for those in darkness through the appearing of Your Only-Begotten Son and our God, and have granted us, unworthy though are, the grace of blessed cleansing by holy Baptism, and divine sanctification by life-giving Anointing. And You have now been well-pleased to make Your newly-enlightened servant to be born again through water and Spirit, and have granted *(him/her)* forgiveness of sins both voluntary and involuntary. Do then, O Master, compassionate, and universal King, grant *(him/her)* also the Seal of the gift of Your holy, all-powerful and adorable Spirit and the Communion of the holy Body and precious Blood of Your Christ. Keep *(him/her)* in Your sanctification; confirm *(him/her)* in the Orthodox Faith; deliver *(him/her)* from the evil one and all his devices, and by Your saving fear guard *(his/her)* soul in purity and righteousness; so that being in every deed and word well-pleasing to You, *(he/she)* may become a child and heir of Your heavenly Kingdom.

Aloud:

For You are our God, Who has mercy and saves us, and to You we give glory: to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

People: Amen.

And after the Prayer, he anoints the newly baptized with the holy Myron, making a sign of the Cross on the forehead, the eyes, the nostrils, the mouth, the two ears, the breast, the hands and the feet, and saying each time:

Priest: The seal of the gift of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

People: Amen!

Then the Priest, having washed his hands, censes the Font, going round it in a circle, with the Godparent and the Newly-baptized following and standing opposite him, while we chant:

As many as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ. Alleluia.
(x3)

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen. Have put on Christ. Alleluia.

As many as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ. Alleluia.

The Epistle Reading

Priest: Let us attend. Peace to all.

Reader: And to your spirit.

Priest: Wisdom.

Reader: The Prokeimenon in the 3rd Tone: The Lord is my light and my Salvation; * whom shall I fear?

People: *sing the prokeimenon*

Reader: The Lord is the defender of my life, of whom shall I be afraid?

People: *sing the prokeimenon*

Reader: The Lord is my light and my Salvation...

People: ...whom shall I fear?

Priest: Wisdom.

Reader: The Reading from the Epistle of Paul to the Romans. [6:3-11]

Priest: Let us attend.

Reader:

Brethren, as many of us as were baptized into Christ were baptized into His death. We were buried then with Him through baptism to death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life. For if we have grown into union with Him through a death like His, we shall also be united with Him in the resurrection. For we know that our old self was crucified with Him, so that our sinful body might be done away with, that we might no longer be in slavery to sin. For one who has died has been justified from sin. If then we died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with Him. For we know that Christ, being raised from the dead, dies no more; death no longer lords it over Him. As to dying, He died once and for all; as

to living, He lives for God. Consequently, you also must consider yourselves dead to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Priest: Peace be to you, Reader.

Reader: And to your spirit. Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

People: *sing the alleluia.*

The Gospel

Deacon: Wisdom. Stand aright. Let us listen to the Holy Gospel.

Priest: Peace to all.

People: And to your spirit.

Priest: The Reading from the holy Gospel according to St. Matthew the Evangelist. [28:16-19]

People: Glory to You, O Lord, glory to You.

Deacon: Let us attend.

Priest:

At that time, the eleven Disciples journeyed to Galilee, to the mountain which Jesus had commanded them. And when they saw Him they worshipped Him; but some doubted. And Jesus drew near and said to them, 'All authority has been given to me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all the things that I have commanded you. And see, I am with you all days until the end of the age. Amen'.

People: Glory to You, Lord, glory to You.

The Litany of Supplication

Deacon: Have mercy on us, O God, according to Your great mercy, we pray you, hear and have mercy.

People: Lord, have mercy. (x3)

Deacon: Again we pray for mercy, life, peace, health, salvation and forgiveness of sins for the servant of God, the Sponsor N.

Deacon: Again we pray for the newly enlightened servant of God N.

Deacon: That *(he/she)* may be kept in the faith of a pure confession, in all godliness and in the fulfilling of the commandments of Christ all the days of *(his/her)* life.

Priest: For You, O God, are good and love mankind, and to You we give glory: to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

People: Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE ABLUTION

Priest: Master and Lord, Who have granted Your servant forgiveness of sins through holy Baptism, and given *(him/her)* the grace of a life of rebirth, be well pleased for the illumination of Your face to shine forever in *(his/her)* heart; keep the shield of *(his/her)* faith safe from attack by foes; preserve on *(him/her)* the garment of incorruption, which *(he/she)* has put on, undefiled and unstained; by Your grace keeping the spiritual seal unbroken in *(him/her)*, and being merciful to *(him/her)* and to us. For blessed and glorified is Your all-honoured and majestic Name, of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

People: Amen.

Deacon: Let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Priest: O Master, Lord our God, Who through the font grant heavenly radiance to those who are baptized, Who have given Your newly enlightened servant rebirth through water and Spirit, and granted *(him/her)*

forgiveness of sins both voluntary and involuntary, lay Your mighty hand on *(him/her)* and guard *(him/her)* by the power of Your loving kindness; preserve the pledge inviolate; and count *(him/her)* worthy of eternal life and Your good pleasure. Because You are our sanctification, and to You we send up glory: to the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

People: Amen.

Priest: Peace be to all.

People: And to your spirit.

Deacon: Let us bow our heads to the Lord.

People: To you, O Lord.

Priest: The one who has put You on, O Christ our God, has bowed *(his/her)* head to You with us. Guard *(him/her)* always to remain an invincible warrior against those that in vain bear enmity against *(him/her)* and us, and with Your incorruptible crown declare us all to be victors unto the end. Because Yours it is to have mercy and to save us, and to You we give glory, with Your Father Who is without beginning and Your all-holy, good and life-giving Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

People: Amen.

And he removes the holy chrism with water, saying:

Priest: You have been baptized. You have been justified. You have been illumined. You have been sanctified. You have been washed in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of God.

PRAYERS FOR THE TONSURE

Deacon: Let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Priest: O Master, Lord our God, Who honoured mortals with Your image, furnishing them with a rational soul and a comely body, so that the body

might serve the rational soul, You placed the head at the very top and in it You planted the majority of the senses, which do not interfere with one another, while You covered the head with hair so as not to be harmed by the changes of the weather, and You fitted all the limbs most suitably to each one, so that through them all they might give thanks to You, the master craftsman. O Master, Who through Your vessel of election, the Apostle Paul, ordered us to do all things to Your glory, bless Your servant N. who has come to make a first offering by the cutting of the hair of *(his/her)* head. Bless *(his/her)* Sponsor also and grant that they may always meditate on Your law and do what is well-pleasing to You. For You, O God, are merciful and love mankind, and to You we give glory: to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

People: Amen.

Priest: Peace be to all.

People: And to your spirit.

Deacon: Let us bow our heads to the Lord.

People: To you, O Lord.

Priest: O Lord our God, Who through Your loving kindness have sanctified from the fullness of the font those who believe in You, bless this child here present, and let Your blessing come down upon *(his/her)* head. As You blessed King David through Samuel the Prophet, bless too the head of Your servant N. through the hand of me, a sinner, visiting *(him/her)* with Your Holy Spirit, so that as *(he/she)* advances to mature years and to the grey hairs of old age, *(he/she)* may give glory to You and see the good things of Jerusalem all the days of *(his/her)* life. For to You belong all glory, honour and worship: to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

People: Amen.

And the Priest tonsures the newly-baptized in the form of a cross, saying;

Priest: The servant of God N. is tonsured, in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Deacon: Have mercy on us, O God, according to your great mercy, we pray you, hear and have mercy.

People: Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: Again we pray for mercy, life, peace, health, salvation, for the servants of God the Sponsor N. and the newly enlightened N.

People: Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

Priest: For You, O God, are merciful and love mankind, and to You we give glory: to the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

People: Amen.

The Dismissal

Priest: Glory to You, O 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 unto ages of ages. Amen. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Master, bless.

Priest: May He Who accepted to be baptized by John in the Jordan, Christ our true God, through the prayers of His all-pure and holy Mother, through the intercessions of the honoured, glorious Prophet, Forerunner and Baptist, John, of the holy, glorious and all-praised Apostles, of the holy and righteous forebears of God, Joachim and Anna, of Saint N. (*the Saint of the Newly-baptized*), of Saint N. (*to whom the Church is dedicated*), of Saint N., whose memory we keep today, and of all the Saints, have mercy on us and save us, for He is good and loves mankind.

People: Amen.

Note: *If it is not possible for the newly baptized to receive Holy Communion immediately after their Baptism, they should come, or be brought, to the Liturgy at the first opportunity. Accompanied by their God-parent they should come and be the first of the congregation to receive Communion.*