

SERVICE OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY

Blessed for use in the Archdiocese of Canada, of The Orthodox Church in America by Archbishop Seraphim of Ottawa and Canada, 2009

A Note to Our Visitors

Welcome to our community! We are honoured that you have joined us for worship at this time.

In commemoration of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, we will be serving a Molieben or Prayer of Supplication. This is a service offered for a wide variety of needs, the psalms, hymns, readings and prayers being adjusted for specific requirements. The service will last approximately 40 minutes.

Feel free to follow the service in this booklet. However, feel equally free to ignore the book and allow yourself to be immersed in the hymnography and beauty of the service. Indeed, the best way to experience Orthodox worship is simply to be present in it with all of our senses, even if we cannot anticipate every word. Unfamiliar words have been footnoted throughout this booklet.

Orthodox Christians generally stand in reverence and love before the face of God, but there are no prescriptions concerning sitting or standing. Please sit whenever you need to.

The Psalmist says, "Let my prayer arise in Your sight like incense." Orthodox worship takes this statement rather literally! If the incense is causing you discomfort, please step outside at any time for a breath of fresh air.

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

People: Amen.

Tone 6 "Lord I Call"

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.

Reader: 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 the ages of ages. Amen.

Most holy Trinity, have mercy on us!
Lord, cleanse us from our sins!
Master, pardon our iniquities!
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 the 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 are 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 the ages of ages.

Reader: 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 133

Behold, how good and pleasant it is when brothers dwell in unity! It is like the precious oil upon the head, running down upon the beard, upon the beard of Aaron, running down on the collar of his robes! It is like the dew of Hermon, which falls on the mountains of Zion! For there the Lord has commanded the blessing, life for evermore.

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

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, glory to You, O God. 3x

Great Litany

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

People: Lord, have mercy.

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

People: Lord, have mercy.

Priest: 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.

People: Lord, have mercy.

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

People: Lord, have mercy.

Priest: For His Beatitude, our Metropolitan _____, and for His Eminence our Archbishop_____, for the honourable priesthood, the diaconate in Christ, for all the clergy and the people, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Priest: For the government of our country, for all civil authorities and for those who serve in the armed forces, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Priest: For this city, for every city and country, and for the faithful dwelling in them, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Priest: For seasonable weather, for an abundance of the fruits of the earth, and for peaceful times, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Priest: For travelers by land, by sea, and by air; for the sick and the suffering; for captives and their salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Priest: That we may be cleansed of our sins and transgressions which have dried up in us love for Him and for our neighbour, and that it may be established by the power, action and grace of the Most-holy Spirit, and rooted in all our hearts, earnestly let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Priest: That there may be planted and rooted in us by the grace of the Most-holy Spirit the New Commandment of His New Testament: that we love one another, and not merely satisfy ourselves, but rather always strive for His glory and the building up of our neighbour, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Priest: That there may be uprooted in us hatred, envy, and jealousy, and all other passions, which destroy brotherly love, and that there may be planted unfeigned love, fervently let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Priest: That there may be kindled in us the fervent love of God, and our neighbour, by the grace of His Most-holy Spirit, and thus burn out to the very roots the passions of all our souls, and bodies, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Priest: That there may be uprooted in us the passions of self-love, and rooted instead the virtue of brotherly love, by the power of His Most-holy Spirit; with broken, and contrite hearts, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Priest: That we may not love the world, and that which is in the world; but rather, have true love for God, and for His glory, and that we may love that which is profitable, and for the salvation of our neighbour, so that we may ever gaze on the good things prepared in heaven; and that we may seek all these with all our souls, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Priest: That truly we may love, not just our friends, and brethren, but also our enemies; and do that which is good to those who hate us, with the power, action, and Grace of His Most-holy Spirit moving us, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Priest: That we may examine ourselves, condemn ourselves, and, ever looking upon our own transgressions, humble ourselves before God, and before everyone, never condemning our brother, but loving him as our very self, by the power, action, and Grace of His Most-holy Spirit, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Priest: That we may imitate the burning love of the Christians in ancient times, for God, and neighbour; and that we may be their heirs, and successors, not only in image, but in true action, by the power, action, and grace of the Most-holy Spirit, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Priest: That He may keep us immovable in the Faith, in peace, and the unity of burning love, increasing in all virtues; and preserve us unharmed from all soul-corrupting passions, by the power, action, and grace of the Most-holy Spirit, let us pray to the Lord.

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

People: Lord, have mercy.

Priest: Help us, save us, have mercy on us, and keep us, O God, by Your grace.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Priest: Commemorating our most holy, most pure, most blessed and glorious Lady Theotokos* and ever-virgin Mary with all the saints, let us commend ourselves and each other, and all our life unto Christ our God.

People: To You, O Lord.

Priest: O Lord Jesus Christ, our God, Who gave a New Commandment to Your disciples, that they should love one another: accept this offering for the remission of all the sins of Your servants. And by Your Holy Spirit renew love for Your goodness and for neighbour, which has waxed cold in us. Establish this love with strength in our hearts, that, fulfilling Your commandments, we seek not on earth our own ends, but that which is to Your glory, the building up of our neighbour, and for salvation. For You are a merciful God, and love mankind, and unto You we ascribe glory: to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto the ages of ages.

People: Amen.

God is the Lord

Priest: In the fourth tone: God is the Lord and has revealed Himself to us! Blessed is He that comes in the name of the Lord! O give thanks to the Lord for He is good; His mercy endures forever.

People: God is the Lord and has revealed Himself to us! Blessed is He that comes in the name of the Lord!

Priest: All nations surrounded me, but in the name of the Lord I destroyed them.

People: God is the Lord and has revealed Himself to us! Blessed is He that comes in the name of the Lord!

Priest: I shall not die, but live; and recount the works of the Lord.

People: God is the Lord and has revealed Himself to us! Blessed is He that comes in the name of the Lord!

* The term "Theotokos" (pronounced "They-oh-TOH-kos") means God-bearer (or, "one who bears God") and used by Orthodox Christians to refer to Mary, whom we confess gave birth to God the Word.

Priest: The stone which the builder rejected has become the cornerstone; this is the Lord's doing, and it is wonderful in our eyes.

People: God is the Lord and has revealed Himself to us! Blessed is He that comes in the name of the Lord!

Troparion * *Tone 4*

You bound Your Apostles in the bond of love, O Christ,
And have firmly bound us, Your faithful servants, to Yourself,
That we may fulfil Your commandments
And have unfeigned love for one another, //
Through the prayers of the Theotokos, O only Lover of Mankind.

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

Kontakion *Tone 4*

Kindle our hearts with the flames of love for You, O Christ God,
That being inflamed by this, in heart, mind and soul,
We may love You with all our strength,
And our neighbour as ourselves,
And that keeping Your commandments,
We may glorify You the Giver of all good.

Psalm 51

Reader: Have mercy on me, O God, according to Your steadfast love; according to Your abundant mercy 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 You, You only, have I sinned, and done that which is evil in Your sight, so that You are justified in Your sentence and blameless in Your judgment. Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, and in sin did my mother conceive me. Behold, You desire 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 You have broken rejoice. Hide Your 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 Your presence, and take not Your holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of Your salvation, and uphold me with a willing spirit. Then I will teach transgressors Your ways, and sinners will return to You. Deliver me from blood-guiltiness, O God, You God of my salvation, and my tongue will sing aloud of Your deliverance. O Lord, open my lips, and my mouth shall show forth Your

* A Troparion (troh-PAH-ree-on) and Kontakion (kon-TAH-kee-on) are both hymns sung to specific melodic patterns known as tones. There are eight tones used in Orthodox Church worship.

praise. For You have no delight in sacrifice; were I to give a burnt offering, You would not be pleased. The sacrifice acceptable to God is a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, You will not despise. Do good to Zion in Your good pleasure; rebuild the walls of Jerusalem, then will You delight in right sacrifices, in burnt offerings and whole burnt offerings; then bulls will be offered on Your altar.

People: Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit...

Kontakion, Tone 6

Deliver us from evil O merciful One
For we run to You in our afflictions.
O Lord Jesus Christ save our souls.

People: ... Now and ever and unto the ages of ages. Amen.

Theotokion, Tone 6

It is truly fitting 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 defilement you gave birth to God the Word:
True Theotokos, we magnify you.

The Old Testament Reading

Priest: Wisdom!

Reader: The reading is from the prophecy of Ezekiel.

Priest: Let us attend.

Reader: Thus says the Lord God: Behold, I am about to take the stick of Joseph (which is in the hand of Ephraim) and the tribes of Israel associated with him; and I will join with it the stick of Judah, and make them one stick, that they may be one in my hand. When the sticks on which you write are in your hand before their eyes, then say to them, Thus says the Lord God: Behold, I will take the people of Israel from the nations among which they have gone, and will gather them from all sides, and bring them to their own land; and I will make them one nation in the land, upon the mountains of Israel; and one king shall be king over them all; and they shall be no longer two nations, and no longer divided into two kingdoms. They shall not defile themselves any more with their idols and their detestable things, or with any of their transgressions; but I will save them from all the backslidings in which they have sinned, and will cleanse them; and they shall be my people, and I will be their God. "My servant David shall be king over them; and they shall all have one shepherd. They shall follow my ordinances and be careful to observe my statutes. They shall

dwell in the land where your fathers dwelt that I gave to my servant Jacob; they and their children and their children's children shall dwell there for ever; and David my servant shall be their prince for ever. I will make a covenant of peace with them; it shall be an everlasting covenant with them; and I will bless them and multiply them, and will set my sanctuary in the midst of them for evermore. My dwelling place shall be with them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. Then the nations will know that I the Lord sanctify Israel, when my sanctuary is in the midst of them for evermore."

The Epistle Reading

Priest: Let us attend! Peace be unto all!

Reader: And to your spirit.

Priest: Wisdom!

Reader: The Prokeimenon* in the 4th tone: Behold, how good and pleasant it is when brothers dwell in unity!

People: Behold, how good and pleasant it is when brothers dwell in unity!

Reader: It is like the precious oil upon the head, running down upon the beard, upon the beard of Aaron, running down on the collar of his robes!

People: Behold, how good and pleasant it is when brothers dwell in unity!

Reader: Behold, how good and pleasant it is...

People: ... when brothers dwell in unity!

Priest: Wisdom!

Reader: The reading from the Epistle of the Holy Apostle Paul to the Corinthians.

Priest: Let us attend.

Reader: Brethren, I appeal to you, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree and that there be no dissensions among you, but that you be united in the same mind and the same judgment. For it has been reported to me by Chloe's people that there is quarrelling among you, my brethren. What I mean is that each one of you

* A prokeimenon is a psalm verse sung as a refrain between the chanting of other verses from the same psalm.

says, "I belong to Paul," or "I belong to Apollos," or "I belong to Cephas," or "I belong to Christ." Is Christ divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul? I am thankful that I baptized none of you except Crispus and Gaius; lest any one should say that you were baptized in my name. (I did baptize also the household of Stephanas. Beyond that, I do not know whether I baptized any one else.) For Christ did not send me to baptize but to preach the gospel, and not with eloquent wisdom, lest the cross of Christ be emptied of its power. For the word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

Priest: Peace be unto you, Reader.

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

People: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

The Gospel Reading

Priest: Let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Priest: Illumine our hearts, O Master who love mankind, with the pure light of Your divine knowledge. Open the eyes of our mind to the understanding of Your gospel preaching. Implant also in us the fear of Your blessed commandments, that, trampling all carnal desires, we may enter upon a spiritual manner of living, both thinking and doing such things as are well-pleasing unto You ; for You are the enlightenment of our souls and bodies, O Christ our God, and unto You we ascribe glory, together with Your Father, who is from everlasting, and Your all-holy, good, and life-creating Spirit, now and ever and unto the ages of ages.

People: Amen.

Priest: Let everything that breathes praise the Lord!

People: Let everything that breathes praise the Lord!

Priest: Praise God in His sanctuary; praise Him in His mighty firmament!

People: Let everything that breathes praise the Lord!

Priest: Let everything that breathes...

People: ... praise the Lord!

Priest: And that He will grant us the grace to hear His Holy Gospel, let us pray to the Lord God.

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

Priest: Wisdom! Let us attend! Let us listen to the Holy Gospel.
Peace be unto all.

People: And to your spirit.

Priest: The reading from the Holy Gospel according to John the Theologian.

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

Priest: Let us attend.

At that time, Jesus looked up to heaven and said, "Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son so that the Son may glorify you, since you have given him authority over all people, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him. And this is eternal life, that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent. I glorified you on earth by finishing the work that you gave me to do. So now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had in your presence before the world existed.

"I have made your name known to those whom you gave me from the world. They were yours, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. Now they know that everything you have given me is from you; for the words that you gave to me I have given to them, and they have received them and know in truth that I came from you; and they have believed that you sent me. I am asking on their behalf; I am not asking on behalf of the world, but on behalf of those whom you gave me, because they are yours. All mine are yours, and yours are mine; and I have been glorified in them. And now I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one. While I was with them, I protected them in your name that you have given me. I guarded them, and not one of them was lost except the one destined to be lost, so that the scripture might be fulfilled. But now I am coming to you, and I speak these things in the world so that they may have my joy made complete in themselves. I have given them your word, and the world has hated them because they do not belong to the world, just as I do not belong to the world. I am not asking you to take them out of the world, but I ask you to protect them from the evil one. They do not belong to the world, just as I do not belong to the world. Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth. As you have sent

me into the world, so I have sent them into the world. And for their sakes I sanctify myself, so that they also may be sanctified in truth.

"I ask not only on behalf of these, but also on behalf of those who will believe in me through their word, that they may all be one. As you, Father, are in me and I am in you, may they also be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me. The glory that you have given me I have given them, so that they may be one, as we are one, I in them and you in me, that they may become completely one, so that the world may know that you have sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me. Father, I desire that those also, whom you have given me, may be with me where I am, to see my glory, which you have given me because you loved me before the foundation of the world.

"Righteous Father, the world does not know you, but I know you; and these know that you have sent me. I made your name known to them, and I will make it known, so that the love with which you have loved me may be in them, and I in them."

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

Hymn to the Theotokos

People: It is truly fitting 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.

Reader: 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 the ages of ages. Amen.

Most holy Trinity, have mercy on us!
Lord, cleanse us from our sins!
Master, pardon our iniquities!
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 the 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 are 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 the ages of ages.

People: Amen.

The Augmented Litany

Priest: Have mercy of us, O God, according to Your great goodness, we pray You, hear us and have mercy.

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

Priest: Again we pray that the Lord will listen to the prayers of us sinners, and have mercy on us.

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

Priest: O Lord, our God: In Your mercy, as You are good, look down upon the ground of our heart, in which love has dried up, cruelly over-grown with the thorns of hatred, self-love, and innumerable faults, and transgressions. And, as You are the Source of all good, fervently we entreat You: having released drops of the grace of Your Most-holy Spirit, richly bedew it, that it may bear fruit; and make it increase, out of burning love for You, the root of all virtues – the fear of You – as also vigilant solicitude for the salvation of our neighbour, and the uprooting of all passions, evils of various forms, and hypocrisy ; and, as the Lover of Man, quickly hearken, and have mercy.

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

Priest: O Master, Who gave a New Commandment to Your disciples, that they should love one another: renew this by the Grace of Your Most-holy Spirit acting in our souls, and hearts; that we will never become selfish, but always endeavour to please You, and to strive for the salvation of our neighbour, and to pay close attention to that which is beneficial. We pray You, the merciful Giver of all that is good: hearken, and mercifully have mercy.

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

Priest: You gave the first, and greatest commandment, that we should love You, our God, and Creator, with all our soul, with all our mind, and with all our strength ; and a second, like it, that we should love our neighbour as ourselves; and that on both of these, hang the Law, and the Prophets. Having taught us to fulfil these commandments indeed, convince all of us, by the Grace of Your Most-holy Spirit, that pleasing You, our Saviour, through the salvation of our neighbour, we may receive Your promised blessings; for, fervently falling down before You, our Master, and Saviour, we beseech You: quickly hearken, and mercifully have mercy.

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

Priest: That we may be perfected in Your love, Our God, constrain us, by the grace of Your Spirit, O Master, to have sincere love for our neighbour; for to suppose that we have love for You, but hate our brother, is a lie and to walk in darkness . Therefore, O Merciful One, that there be kindled in our souls, and hearts love for You, and for our brother, we pray You as You are merciful, quickly hearken and as You are compassionate, have mercy.

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

Priest: O All-compassionate Lord: by the Grace of Your Most-holy Spirit, establish in us Your love, that we may truly love – not only our brethren, and friends – but, according to Your divine command, our enemies as well, and do good to those who hate us, striving sincerely for their salvation; we pray You, O Well-spring of Good, and Abyss of Love for Man: quickly hearken and, as You are tender-hearted, have mercy.

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

Priest: O Lord Jesus Christ, our God, Who gave a New Commandment to Your disciples, that they should love one another: accept this offering for the remission of all the sins of Your servants. And by Your Holy Spirit renew love for Your goodness and for neighbour, which has waxed cold in us. Establish this love with strength in our hearts, that, fulfilling Your commandments, we seek not on earth our own ends, but that which is to Your glory, the building up of our neighbour, and for salvation.

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

People: Amen.

The Dismissal

Priest: Wisdom! Most holy Theotokos, save us!

People: 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.

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 unto the ages of ages. Amen. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Master, bless.

Priest: May Christ our true God, through the prayers of His most pure Mother...

(Monday) by the protection of the honourable bodiless powers of heaven ...

(Tuesday) of the honourable and glorious Prophet, Forerunner and Baptist John ...

(Wednesday and Friday) by the power of the precious and life-creating Cross ...

(Thursday) of our father among the saints, Nicholas the Wonderworker, Archbishop of Myra in Lycia...

of the holy, glorious and all-laudable apostles, through the prayers of our patron, St _____, of St. _____whom we remember today, 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.