

The Service of Little Compline

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

People:



A - men.

Priest: Glory to Thee, our God, glory to Thee.

O Heavenly King, O Comforter, Spirit of Truth, who art in all places and fillest all things, treasury of blessings and giver of life: come and dwell in us and cleanse us of every stain and save our souls, O Gracious Lord.

People: Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal: have mercy on us.
Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal: have mercy on us.
Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal: have mercy on us.

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

All-holy Trinity, have mercy on us.
Lord, cleanse us from our sins.
Master, pardon our iniquities.
Holy God, visit and heal our infirmities for Thy 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:
Both now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

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

Priest: For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory: of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit: now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

People: Amen.

Chanter: Lord, have mercy. (*Twelve times*)

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

O come, let us worship and fall down before God our King.
O come, let us worship and fall down before Christ, our King and our God.
O come, let us worship and fall down before the Very Christ, our King and our God.

Psalm 51 (*Septuagint 50*)

People: Have mercy on me, O God, according to Thy great mercy:
According to the multitude of thy tender mercies, blot out mine iniquity.
Wash me thoroughly from mine iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin.
For I acknowledge mine iniquity: and my sin is ever before me.
Against Thee, Thee only, have I sinned, and done evil in Thy sight:
That Thou mightest be justified in Thy words, and prevail when Thou art judged.
For behold, I was shapen in iniquity; and in sin did my mother conceive me.
For behold, Thou hast loved truth:
The Unclear and hidden things of Thy wisdom Thou hast made clear to me.
Thou shalt sprinkle me with hyssop, and I shall be clean:
Thou shalt wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.
Thou shalt make me to hear joy and gladness:
The bones which Thou hast broken shall rejoice.
Turn away Thy face from my sins, and blot out all my iniquities.
Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me.
Cast me not away from Thy presence; and take not Thy Holy Spirit from me.
Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation; and steady me with a guiding spirit.
Then will I teach transgressors Thy ways; and the impious shall be converted unto Thee.
Deliver me from blood-guiltiness, O God, Thou God of my salvation:
And my tongue shall sing aloud of Thy righteousness.
O Lord, open Thou my lips; and my mouth shall declare Thy praise.
For hadst Thou desired sacrifice, I would have given it thee:
Thou delightest not in burnt offering.
Sacrifices to God are a contrite spirit:
A contrite and humble heart, O God, Thou wilt not despise.
Do good, O Lord, in Thy good will unto Zion: that the walls of Jerusalem may be built up.
Then shalt Thou be pleased with the sacrifice of righteousness
With burnt offering and whole burnt offerings:
Then shall they offer bullocks upon Thine altar.

Psalm 70 (*69*)

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

Psalm 143 (142)

Reader: Hear my prayer, O Lord, give ear to my supplications:
In thy faithfulness answer me, and in thy righteousness.
And enter not into judgment with thy servant:
For in thy sight shall no man living be justified.
For the enemy hath persecuted my soul; he hath smitten my life down to the ground;
He hath made me to dwell in darkness, as those that have been long dead.
Therefore is my spirit overwhelmed within me; my heart within me is desolate.
I remember the days of old; I meditate on all thy works;
I muse on the work of thy hands.
I stretch forth my hands unto thee: my soul thirsteth after thee, as a thirsty land.
Hear me speedily, O Lord: my spirit faileth:
Hide not thy face from me, lest I be like unto them that go down into the pit.
Cause me to hear thy lovingkindness in the morning; for in thee do I trust:
Cause me to know the way wherein I should walk; for I lift up my soul unto thee.
Deliver me, O Lord, from mine enemies: I flee unto thee to hide me.
Teach me to do thy will; for thou art my God:
Thy spirit is good; lead me in the land of uprightness.
Quicken me, O Lord, for thy name's sake:
For thy righteousness' sake bring my soul out of trouble.
And of thy mercy cut off mine enemies, and destroy all them that afflict my soul:
For I am thy servant.

The Little Doxology

Men: Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will among men.

Women: We praise Thee, we bless Thee, we worship Thee;
we glorify Thee, we give thanks to Thee for Thy great glory.

Men: O Lord, Heavenly King, God the Father Almighty;
O Lord, the Only-Begotten Son, Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit.

Women: O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, that takest away the sin of the world;
have mercy on us, Thou that takest away the sins of the world.

Men: Receive our prayer, O Thou that sittest at the right hand of the Father,
and have mercy on us.

Women: For Thou only art holy, Thou only art the Lord, O Jesus Christ;
to the glory of God the Father. Amen.

Men: Every night will I bless Thee, and I will praise Thy name forever, and forever and ever.

Women: Lord, Thou hast been our refuge in all generations.
I said, Be merciful unto me; heal my soul, for I have sinned against Thee.

Men: Lord, I have fled unto Thee: teach me to do Thy will, for Thou art my God.

Women: For with Thee is the fountain of life: in Thy light shall we see light.

Men: O continue Thy lovingkindness unto them that know Thee.

Women: Vouchsafe, O Lord, to keep us this night without sin.

Men: Blessed art Thou, O Lord, God of our Fathers,
and praised and glorified is Thy name forever. Amen.

Women: Let Thy mercy, O Lord, be upon us, even as we have set our hope on Thee.

Men: Blessed art Thou, O Lord; teach me Thy statutes.

Women: Blessed art Thou, O Master; make me to understand Thy commandments.

Men: Blessed art Thou, O Holy One; enlighten me with Thy precepts.

Women: Thy mercy, O Lord, endureth forever: O despise not the works of Thy hands.

People: To Thee belongeth worship, to Thee belongeth praise, to Thee belongeth glory:
to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:
now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

The Creed

People: I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth,
and of all things visible and invisible;
And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God,
the Only Begotten, Begotten of the Father before all worlds,
Light of Light, Very God of Very God, Begotten, not made;
of one essence with the Father, by whom all things were made.
Who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven,
and was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary, and was made man;
And was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate, and suffered and was buried;
And the third day he rose again, according to the Scriptures;
And ascended into heaven, and sitteth at the right hand of the Father;
And He shall come again with glory to judge the quick and the dead,
Whose kingdom shall have no end.

People: And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, and Giver of Life,
Who proceedeth from the Father,
Who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified,
Who spake by the prophets;
And I believe in One Holy Catholic and Apostolic Church.
I acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins.
I look for the resurrection of the dead,
And the life of the world to come.
Amen.

Megalynarion

(sung before the Akathist Canon and after the Canon of St. Lazarus)

Chanters: It is truly meet to bless thee, O Theotokos, who art ever-blessed and all-blameless,
and the mother of our God. More honorable than the Cherubim, and more glorious
beyond compare than the Seraphim, thou who without stain barest God the Word,
and art truly Theotokos: we magnify thee.

Apolytikion

(sung three times, after the Megalynarion, at the Akathist of the Fifth Week)

Chanters: With mystic apprehension of the divine commandment, the Bodiless Angel quickly
appeared in the dwelling place of Joseph and said to the unwed Maiden: Lo, He who
in His Descent did bow the heavens is housed unchanged and whole in thee; as I
behold Him in thy womb taking on the form of a servant, I marvel and cry out unto
thee: Hail, O Bride without bridegroom!

The appointed Canon begins here.

The Trisagion Prayers

People: Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal: have mercy on us.
Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal: have mercy on us.
Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal: have mercy on us.

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

All-holy Trinity, have mercy on us.
Lord, cleanse us from our sins.
Master, pardon our iniquities.
Holy God, visit and heal our infirmities for Thy 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:
Both now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

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

Priest: For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory: of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit: now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

People: 

A - men.

The Kontakion or Apolytikion of the service is now read.

Chanter: Lord, have mercy. (*Forty times*)

Reader: Thou Who, at all times and in every hour, both in heaven and on earth, art worshiped and glorified, O Christ God, long-suffering, plenteous in mercy and compassion, Who lovest the just and showest mercy to sinners; Who callest all men to salvation through the promise of good things to come: Do Thou, the same Lord, receive also our supplications at this present hour, and direct our lives according to Thy commandments. Sanctify our souls, purify our bodies, set aright our minds, cleanse our thoughts; and deliver us from all calamity, wrath and distress. Compass us round about with thy holy angels, that guided and guarded by their host, we may attain unto the unity of the faith and unto the comprehension of Thine ineffable glory, for blessed art Thou unto ages of ages.

People: Amen.

Chanter: Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

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

More honorable than the Cherubim, and more glorious beyond compare than the Seraphim, thou who without stain bearest God the Word and art truly Theotokos, we magnify thee.

Bless, Father, in the name of the Lord.

Priest: May God have compassion upon us and bless us; may He show the light of His countenance upon us, and be merciful unto us.

People: 

A - men.

Chanter: Lord, have mercy. (*Twelve times*)

Most Holy Theotokos, save us.

The appointed man and woman move to stand in front of the icons of Christ and the Theotokos.

Woman: O Lady, Bride of God, spotless, blameless, pure and immaculate Virgin, thou who without corruption, by thy glorious birth-giving, hast united God the Word to man and joined the fallen nature of our race to heavenly things; who alone art the hope of the hopeless, the help of those who do battle; the ready help of those who flee unto thee and the refuge of all Christians: Despise me not, an accursed sinner, though I have rendered myself unworthy by my shameful thoughts, words and deeds, and through indolence have become a slave to the pleasures of life; but as the Mother of the God Who lovest mankind, mercifully have compassion upon me, a sinner and a prodigal, and receive my prayer, though it be offered unto thee by unworthy lips; and using thy boldness as a mother, importune thy Son, our Lord and Master, that he may open to me also the tender compassions of his goodness so as to overlook my numberless transgressions and turn me to repentance and show me forth as a zealous doer of his commandments. And because thou art merciful, compassionate and benevolent, be thou ever near me in this present life as an ardent help and protection, defending me from the assaults of adversaries and leading me to salvation. And at the time of my departure from this life, care for my miserable soul, and drive far from it the dark visions of evil demons; and in the fearful day of judgement, deliver me from eternal punishment, and present me as an inheritor of the ineffable glory of thy Son, our God. May this be my lot, O Lady, most holy Theotokos, through thy mediation and help, through the grace and love toward mankind of thine only-begotten Son, our Lord and God and Savior Jesus Christ, to whom are due all glory, honour and worship, with His unoriginate Father and His all-holy and good and life-giving Spirit: now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

People: Amen.

Man: And grant unto us, O Master, when we depart to sleep, repose of body and soul; and protect us from the murky sleep of sin and from all the dark pleasures of the night. Calm the impulses of passions, and quench the fiery darts of evil which are craftily thrown against us; check the turbulence of our flesh, and still all earthly and material thoughts. And grant us, O God, a watchful mind, a prudent reason, a vigilant heart, a tranquil sleep free from all the fantasies of Satan. Raise us up again at the time of prayer strengthened in thy commandments, holding steadfastly within us the remembrance of thy judgements. Grant us grace to glorify Thee all through the night, that we may praise and bless and glorify Thine 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: O most glorious, ever-virgin, blessed Theotokos, present our prayer to thy Son our God, and intercede with Him that through thee He may save our souls.

The Father is my hope; the Son is my refuge; the Holy Spirit is my protection.
O Holy Trinity, glory to Thee.

In thee, O Mother of God, I place all my hope; keep me under thy protection.

O holy angel who accompanieth my wretched soul and lowly life, forsake me not, and depart not from me because of my extravagance and wickedness. Give not access to the evil demon to rule with his might this mortal body of mine, but hold me by my wretched, feeble hand; lead me in the path of salvation. Yea, O holy angel of God, guardian and protector of my wretched soul and body, forgive me all wherewith I have heretofore saddened thee all the days of my life. And though this day I have sinned, be thou my shelter this night. Keep me from all the wiles of the enemy, that I may not anger God with any sin. Intercede with the Lord for me, that He may confirm me in His fear and show me forth as a worthy servant of His goodness.

People: Amen.

The Dismissal

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

Chanter: Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:
Both now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.
Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.
Father, bless.

Priest: May Christ our true God, through the intercessions of His all-immaculate and blameless holy Mother; of the holy and righteous ancestors of God, Joachim and Anna, of the saints whose memory we keep this day, and of all Thy Saints, have mercy upon us and save us, forasmuch as He is good and loveth mankind.

The Priest turns toward the altar and makes three metanias, saying each time:

Priest: O God be gracious unto me, a sinner, and have mercy on me.


The Priest turns toward the people and bows, saying:

Priest: Forgive me, a sinner.

People: God forgive thee, Holy Father.

The Ektenia

Priest: Let us pray for the peace of the world:

People:  *(Repeated after each petition)*
Lord, have mer - - - cy.

Priest: And for pious and Orthodox Christians:

And for our Metropolitan Philip, and our Bishop Thomas, and all our brotherhood in Christ:

And for the civil authorities of this land:

And for the welfare of our armed forces:

And for our fathers and brethren absent from among us:

And for those who hate us and those who love us:

And for those who are kind to us and minister unto us:

And for those who have requested our prayers, unworthy though we be:

And for the deliverance of captives:

And for travelers by land and sea and air:

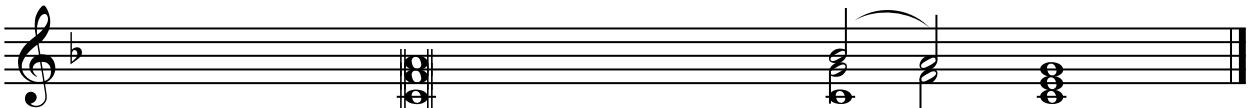
And for those who lie in sickness:

And let us pray also for abundance of the fruits of the earth:

And for the soul of every Orthodox Christian:

Let us bless God-fearing leaders, Orthodox bishops, the founders of this holy church and our parents and teachers, and all our fathers and brethren gone before us, the Orthodox who here and everywhere lie asleep in the Lord:

Let us also say for ourselves:

People: 
Lord have mercy, Lord, have mercy, Lord, have mer - cy.

As the faithful come forward to reverence the icon of the Theotokos, receive the blessing of the priest and kiss his right hand, an appropriate hymn is chanted.

For the Akathist service, the dismissal hymn is as follows:

Chanter: Awed by the beauty of thy Virginity, and the exceeding splendor of thy Purity, Gabriel stood amazed, and cried to thee, O Mother of God: What praise shall I offer thee that is worthy of thy beauty? What shall I call thee? I am lost and bewildered. But I shall greet thee as I was commanded: Hail, thou that art full of grace!

After all have received a blessing, the Priest says:

Priest: Through the prayers of our holy fathers, Lord Jesus Christ our God, have mercy upon us and save us.

People: 
A - men.