



PRAYERS

in time of
sickness,
suffering,
dying
and death

The following prayers are taken from various sources within the Eastern Orthodox Christian tradition. They are concerned with issues related to sickness, suffering, dying and death.

Some of the prayers come from the liturgy and worship of the Church. Other prayers come from the various offices and services which the Church has appointed to be taken for specific needs. Still others come from the realm of private and/or informal prayer.

Our hope is that this collection of prayers will be a helpful resource to complement the Church's pastoral ministry to the sick, the dying and the bereaved faithful during times of distress and grief.

“The last enemy to be destroyed is death.”

— 1 Corinthians 15:26

O God of spirits and all flesh, You have trampled-down death, overthrown the devil and given life to Your world; give rest to the souls of Your departed servants in a place of brightness, a place of refreshment, a place of rest, where all sickness, sighing and sorrow have fled away. Pardon every transgression which they have committed, whether by word or deed or thought. For You are a good God Who loves mankind. There is none who will live and not sin. You only are without sin. Your righteousness is everlasting and Your word is truth. For You are the resurrection, the life and the repose of Your servants who have fallen asleep, O Christ our God, and unto You we send up glory, together with Your Father Who is everlasting, and Your all-holy, good and life-creating Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Prayer for Someone Who is Ill

Almighty Lord, Physician of souls and bodies, You humble and lift up, You reprimand and heal, visit *N.* with your mercy for she is suffering. Stretch forth Your arm which is so full of healing and health, and cure him/her, raising him/her from his/her bed and pain. Reprove the spirit of weakness which is in him/her and drive far from him/her pain, wounds, chills, fever and weakness. If he/she has sins or transgressions, loosen, remit and forgive them in Your love for mankind. O Lord, have compassion on Your creation, in Christ Jesus our Lord, with whom You are blessed, together with Your all holy, good and life-giving Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages. [1]

Prayer When Sickness Increases

O Lord Jesus Christ, our God and our Savior, for our sake You were born; and for our sake You were hungry and thirsty; for our sake You were mocked, scourged and crowned with thorns; for our sake You suffered and died on the cross, offering up Your divine life for our salvation: as You now grant Your servant *N.* to share in Your sufferings, grant him/her also to share in Your grace. May Your wounds heal the wounds of his/her sins. May Your precious Blood wash away the stains of his/her sins. May Your divine righteousness purge from him/her every iniquity. Look upon his/her faith in You, and the faith of us who pray, and do what is best for him/her according to Your mercy, rather than our merit. As sickness increases in him/her, so likewise increase in him/her Your power and strength. Let not his/her faith waver or his/her hope fail, or his /her love grow cold. Let not the fear of suffering and death cause him/her to cast away his/her hope in You, or to lose courage and the will to fight every sickness and sin. Let him/her rather look always to You even to the very end, and cry out, as You Yourself cried from the cross to God: "Into Your hands, Good Father, I commend My spirit." Bless him/her to enter Your everlasting Kingdom,

where all the saints continually shine with Your divine glory. For You have suffered that we might be healed, and have died that we might live, and we send up thanksgiving and praise to You, to the Father who sent You, and to Your most Holy Spirit, Who strengthens us to share Your passion, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen. [2]

Prayer for One Terminally Ill

O Almighty God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, we pray to You for Your servant N. whose sickness is bringing him/her to the end of his/her earthly life. You are the God whose only-begotten Son taught us that not even the smallest sparrow can fall without Your knowledge, and that You hold all creation in Your merciful arms. Look upon Your servant N. and allow this illness to be for the death only of those things which are the result of evil and sin. Let his/her thoughts be quieted with the peace and confidence of his/her final deliverance into the fullness of Your love. Keep his/her soul and body pure, and sanctify them during the time he/she remains among us, that on the last day he/she may be raised up with all Your saints to live with You in never-ending glory. For to You belong praise and worship, to the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen [2]

Prayer in Preparation for Death

O Lord, look upon me, Your creature, and the work of Your hands. Take away my fear, and send Your angel to comfort me with the strength of Your presence, even as You were comforted in Your agony. I commend everyone I love to Your providence and care, knowing that You will do more for them than I could ever desire. O Lord, You know my sins; have mercy on me, and in Your wealth of love and compassion for mankind, let heaven be opened to me. May I see the angels rejoicing over me, an unworthy sinner, as I am received into

Your Kingdom. I am not worthy of Your love for me, but I trust that You will not abandon me to the eternal death of hell. By the prayers of Mary, Your Mother, and of all the saints, may I be counted among those who behold the light of Your face. May I offer You the praise and worship which are my eternal life and joy. For You are my life and my resurrection, and Your arms will receive me in love, O Jesus, and I glorify You, with Your Father, Who is without beginning, and Your most holy, good, and life-creating Spirit, now and ever unto ages of ages. Amen. [2]

Prayer at the Departing of the Soul

O Lord and Master and Governor of all, Father of Our Lord Jesus Christ, who desirest not the death of a sinner, but rather that he may turn from his wickedness and live, willing that all men should be saved and come to the knowledge of the Truth, we pray Thee to loose the soul of Thy servant *N.* from every bond, and to free him/her from every unfulfilled pledge which he/she has given, granting him/her forgiveness of all his/her sins from his/her youth till now, known and unknown, in deed and word, both those which he/she has sincerely confessed, and those which he/she has concealed through forgetfulness or shame. For Thou alone loosest bonds and restorest the downtrodden, Thou art the hope of them that are in despair, mighty in forgiving the sins of every creature who puts his trust in Thee. O Lord, the Lover of mankind, bid him/her to be released from all the bonds of sin and the flesh. Receive in peace the soul of this Thy servant *N.* and give him/her rest in Thy eternal dwelling with all Thy Saints, by the grace of Thine only Son our Lord and God and Saviour, Jesus Christ, with Whom Thou are blessed together with Thine all-holy, gracious and lifegiving Spirit now and forever and unto ages of ages. Amen. [3]

Prayer after the Departing of the Soul

Remember, O Lord our God, this Thy servant our brother/sister *N.* who now stands before Thee in the faith and hope of life eternal. Release him from his/her sins, destroying his/her iniquity, pardoning, loosing and freeing him/her from all his/her transgressions, voluntary and involuntary. Save him/her from the eternal sufferings and fires of hell. Grant him/her to enjoy and to share in Thy eternal bliss which Thou hast prepared for all that love Thee: Though he/she has sinned, yet has he/she not rejected Thee, confessing Thee faithfully even in his/her last breath - the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit and believing in God glorified in the Holy Trinity, One in Three and Three in One, according to the Orthodox Faith. Be therefore merciful and grant him/her rest with all Thy Saints, for Thou art bountiful. No man who lives is without sin, and Thou alone are free from all stain, and Thy truth abides for ever. Thou are the one merciful and bountiful God who lovest mankind, and to Thee we ascribe glory, to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit now and forever and unto ages of ages. [3]

Prayer for the Departed

With the souls of the righteous dead, give rest, O Savior, to the soul of Thy servant *N.*, preserving him/her unto the life of blessedness which is with Thee, O Thou who lovest mankind. In the place of Thy rest, O Lord, where all Thy Saints repose, give rest also to the soul of Thy servant *N.* for Thou alone lovest mankind. Glory be to the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Thou art the God who descended into hell and loose the bonds of the captives. Do give rest also to the soul of Thy servant *N.* Both now and ever and unto ages of ages. O Virgin, alone pure and undefiled, who without seed didst bring forth God, pray that his/her soul may be saved. With the Saints give rest, O Christ, to the soul of Thy servant *N.* where there is neither sickness, nor sorrow, nor sighing, but life everlasting. Amen. [3]

Commendation of the Dead

God, who hast authority of life and death, God of the spirits and Master of all flesh, God who killest and makest alive, who brings down to the gates of Sheol and brings up, who creates the spirit of man within Him and takes to Thyself the souls of the saints and gives rest, who alters and changes and transforms Thy creatures, as is right and expedient, being Thyself alone incorruptible, unalterable and eternal, we beseech Thee for the repose and rest of this Thy servant (or this Thine handmaiden): Give rest to his/her soul, his/her spirit, in green places, in chambers of rest with Abraham and Isaac and Jacob and all Thy Saints; and raise up his/her body in the day which Thou hast ordained, according to Thy promises which cannot lie, that Thou mayest render to it also the heritage of which it is worthy in Thy holy pastures.

Remember not his transgressions and sins; and cause his going forth to be peaceable and blessed. Heal the griefs of those that pertain to him with the spirit of consolation, and grant unto us all a good end through the only begotten Jesus Christ, through whom to Thee is the glory and the strength in the Holy Spirit to the ages of ages. Amen. [4]

Kneeling Vespers: Pentecost The Third Prayer

O ever-flowing Fountain of life and light, creative power coeternal with the Father, Who hast most excellently fulfilled the whole dispensation of the salvation of mankind, Christ our God, Who didst burst the indestructible bonds of death and the bolts of Hell, and hast trampled down the multitude of evil spirits; Who didst offer Thyself as a blameless victim, giving Thine immaculate body as a sacrifice, unblemished and inviolate of all sin, and through that dread and indescribable act of sacrifice, bestowed eternal life upon us; Who didst descend into Hell and break down its eternal bars, showing forth the way up to those who sat in the lower world; Who with allurements of divine wisdom, didst entice the

author of evil, the dragon of the abyss, and with cords of gloom didst bind him in Hell and in unquenchable fire, and Thou didst confine him in outer darkness by Thine infinite might, Thou Who art the greatly glorified wisdom of the Father, didst manifest Thyself as a great Helper to the oppressed, and didst enlighten those that sat in darkness and in the shadow of death, Thou Lord of eternal glory and beloved Son of the Father most high, Light everlasting of Light everlasting, Sun of righteousness: Hearken to us who pray unto Thee, and give rest to the souls of Thy servants, our fathers and brethren, who have fallen asleep before us, and our other kinsmen after the flesh, and all Thine own who are in the faith, of whom we now make memorial, for in Thee is the power over all, and in Thine hand Thou holdest all the ends of the earth. Almighty Master, God of the fathers and Lord of mercies, Maker of the race of mortals and immortals, and of every nature of man, of that which is brought together and again put asunder, of life and of the end of life, of sojourning here and of translation there, Who dost measure the years of life and set the times of death, Who bringest down to Hell and raisest up, binding in infirmity and releasing unto power, dispensing present things according to need, and ordering those to come as is expedient, quickening with the hope of resurrection those that are smitten with the sting of death. Thyself, O Master of all, God our Savior, the hope of all the ends of the earth and of those that are far off upon the sea, who on this last and great and saving day of Pentecost, didst show forth to us the mystery of the Holy Trinity, consubstantial and coeternal, undivided and unmingled, and didst pour out the descent and presence of Thy Holy and life-creating Spirit in the form of tongues of fire, upon Thy Holy Apostles, appointing them to be the Evangelists of our pious faith, and showing them to be confessors and preachers of the true theology; Who also on this all-perfect and saving feast, dost deign to receive oblations and supplications for those bound in Hell, and grantest unto us the great hope that respite and comfort will be sent down from Thee to the departed from the grief that

doth bind them. Hearken to us, Thy humble and piteous ones who pray, and give rest to the souls of Thy servants who have fallen asleep before us, in a place of light, in a place of refreshment, in a place of repose, whence all sickness, sorrow, and sighing are fled away; and do Thou place their souls in the tabernacles of the righteous, and make them worthy of peace and repose. For the dead praise Thee not, neither do those in Hell dare to offer Thee confession, but we, the living, bless Thee, and supplicate Thee, and offer them propitiatory prayers and sacrifices for their souls.

O God, Who are great and eternal, holy and lovest man, Who hast vouchsafed us also to stand before Thine unapproachable glory, that we may hymn and praise Thy wonders, cleanse us, Thine unworthy servants and grant grace that with contrite heart and without presumption, we may offer Thee the thrice-holy glorification and thanksgiving for Thy great gifts, which Thou hast granted and dost ever grant us. Remember, O Lord, our infirmity, and destroy us not for our transgressions, but be merciful to our humility, that fleeing from the darkness of sin, we may walk in the day of righteousness, and, clothed with the armor of light, may persevere unassailed from every attack of the Evil One, so that with boldness we may glorify Thee in all things, the only true God and Lover of man. For Thine in truth is the great mystery, O Master and Maker of all, both the temporary dissolutions of Thy creatures and their restoration thereafter, and of eternal rest. We confess Thy grace in all things, in our coming into this world, and in our going forth therefrom, which things faithfully pledge unto us, through Thine un failing promise, our hopes of the resurrection and of life incorruptible, which we shall receive hereafter at Thy Second Coming. For Thou art both the Author of our resurrection and the impartial Judge of those that have lived, and the Lover of man, and the Master and Lord of recompense, who didst partake with us, on equal terms, of flesh and blood, through Thine extreme condescension, and of our irreproachable passions, wherein Thou didst willingly submit to temptation, since Thou dost possess tenderness and compassion, and

Thyself, having suffered temptation, art become for us who are tempted, the Helper which Thou Thyself hadst promised to be, and therefore Thou hast led us to Thy passionlessness. Accept, therefore, O Master, our prayers and supplications, and give rest to all the fathers and mothers and children, and brothers and sisters of each of us, and to any others of our kindred and of our people, and to every soul that hath gone to rest before in the hope of resurrection unto life eternal. Set their spirits and their names in the book of life, in the bosom of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, in the land of the living, in the kingdom of heaven, in a Paradise of bliss, leading all, by Thy radiant Angels, into Thy holy abode, raising up also with Thee our bodies in the day which hath been appointed according to Thy holy and unfailing promise. There is, therefore, O Lord, no death unto Thy servants when we go forth from the body and come unto Thee, our God, but a change from things most sorrowful unto things most beneficent and most sweet, and rest and joy. And, though we have sinned against Thee, be gracious unto us and unto them, for none is pure of stain in Thy sight, though his life be but for one day, except Thou alone, who didst reveal Thyself sinless on the earth, O Lord Jesus Christ, of whom we all hope to obtain mercy and the forgiveness of sins. Do Thou, therefore, as the good God who lovest man, remit, forgive, pardon them and us of our offenses, voluntary and involuntary, those done with knowledge or in ignorance, those manifest or unnoticed, those of deed, of thought, of word, those of all our acts and movements; and to those who have been taken from us give freedom and respite, and bless us who are here present, granting a good and peaceful ending to us and to all Thy people, and open to us Thy tender mercies and Thy love of man at Thy dread and fearful Coming again, and make us worthy of Thy kingdom.

For Thou art the repose of our souls and bodies, and to Thee do we send up glory, to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen [5]

Alternate Prayer for the Dying

O Lord Jesus Christ our God, for the sake of Your most holy wounds, hear our prayer and forgive all the transgressions of Your humble servant, N. At the moment of his/her death, accept into Your merciful bands his/her soul cleansed of all stains of sin, and place him/her with Your Saints in the resplendent light of Your kingdom. For You are our salvation and redemption, and we give glory to You, together with Your eternal Father, and Your all-holy, gracious, and life-giving Spirit, now and ever, and forever. Amen. [6]

Troparia of John of Damascus (from the Funeral Service)

What pleasure is there in our life that is not mixed with sorrow? What glory on earth that lasts? All are more fleeting than shadows, and more deceitful than a dream! In one moment death takes all away. But, You O Christ, in the light of Your face, in the beauty of Your holiness, give peace to our brother/sister You have chosen, for You are the Lover of Mankind.

What struggle my soul will have to sustain when its time will come to be separated from my body! What suffering I shall have to endure alone! No one will be at hand to have mercy on me. If I turn my eyes even to Angels, I will be pleading in vain. If I stretch out my hands to my fellow men, I will find no one to help. Beloved Brethren, let us then consider how short is our life and look up to Christ who alone grants mercy and peace.

All human things are vain since they cannot survive the grave. Will riches survive, or glory attend us beyond the tomb? No! When death approaches, all these vanish. Let us then cry out to Christ, our immortal King, that He may give rest to him/her who has departed from us, and place him/her in the joy of heaven.

Where are the affections of the world? Where are the vain dreams of delight? Where is gold or silver? Where is the multitude of servants and attendants? All is dust and ashes, or a shadow that passes away. Brethren, let us then pray to Christ our Immortal King and say: "O Lord, grant Your blessings to Your departed servant, and give rest to his/her soul in Your everlasting happiness of heaven."

Let us call to mind the words of the Prophet who said: "I am dust and ashes." Let us also look at the graves, and at the bones they contain. Is there a difference between king and beggar? Where is the rich and where the poor? Where is the just and where the sinner? O Lord our God, give rest to the soul of Your servant and number him/her among the just.

O Lord my God, You have endowed me with two elements - one visible and the other invisible. You have formed my body from clay, and breathed into me a soul from Your divine breath. O Christ our God, give rest to the soul of Your servant in the Kingdom of those who live forever in the company of the just.

In the beginning You made man in Your image and likeness. You placed him in paradise and gave him power over the whole creation. But he was deceived by the devil and transgressed Your command by tasting of the forbidden fruit. You sentenced him to return to that dust from which he had been taken, wherefore we pray to You, O our God, to grant peace and rest to the soul of Your departed servant.

I weep and lament when I consider death, and when I think of those who are laid in the grave. Where is now that moving beauty created in the likeness of God? Where is the glorious form? Oh, wonder, what happened that we are now delivered up to corruption? And how did death come into our life? God alone by His will and command has power to grant peace and rest to our souls.

O Christ, with the Saints grant rest to the soul of Your servant that he/she may repose in a place where there is no pain, no grief, no sighing but everlasting life.

Prayer at the Death of a Parent

O Lord, You heard Joseph grieving over the death of his father, Jacob, as he wept and kissed him. Your own Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, also knew the love of a mother, for as He suffered upon the cross, He beheld his Mother and the disciple whom He loved standing near her, and He said: Woman, behold your son. And to the disciple, He said: Behold your mother. Good Master, look down from heaven and see the pain and grief which have laid hold of my heart and soul today. Be merciful to me, Your servant, and receive the prayer which is offered to You by a child who has lost his (her) beloved father (mother). Forgive whatever sins he (she) has willingly or unwillingly committed, whether of word, deed or thought. Merciful Master, hear the grieving voice of one who has been taught by his (her) father (mother) to turn to You with true faith in times of need, and to raise my eyes and voice to You. Show Your mercy, O Lord, and grant rest to my father (mother), making him (her) a partaker of Your eternal blessings and granting him (her) a place at Your right hand, for blessed and glorified are You unto all ages. Amen. [1]

Prayer at the Death of a Spouse

Master, Lord, immaculate Creator of all, in Your love for mankind You created woman from Adam's rib, and blessed them, saying: Be fruitful, multiply and conquer the earth. You joined the two into one body and commanded that no man separate that which You had joined together. Look down from heaven, O compassionate Father, and behold the grief and pain which have fallen upon my heart and soul as I behold my separation today from the one soul of Your servant, O Lord, who You, O Lord, gave to be my husband (wife) and support in this life. Show Your loving kindness to me, O merciful Lord, at this hour which is so difficult for my soul to endure! Lord, Jesus Christ, comforter of those who mourn, the prophet Isaiah spoke of You, saying that You would come to heal those whose hearts were crushed. Be my comforter and hear me as I raise my voice to You with faith. I pray, O

gracious King, forgive whatever sins my husband (wife) has committed in this life; whether by word, deed or thought, knowingly or unknowingly, Receive the soul of Your servant, O Lord, in Your eternal heavenly kingdom, among the dwelling of the saints. At Your proper time, grant that my soul, which longs for that kingdom, may also dwell in that holy place where, once again, our souls shall meet and, together, offer glory and praise to Your all holy name: Of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen. [1]

Parents' Prayer at the Death of a Child

Master, Lord my gracious and merciful God, who long ago heard the grieving voice of Your servant Jacob as he wept for Joseph, saying: I shall go, mourning, into the grave next to my son. You yourself, O compassionate Lord, comforted David, the king and prophet as he said in his grief: Absalom! My son, Absalom! It would have been better for me to have died in your place, O my son, Absalom! Your divine Son and our Savior, in His mercy for the grief which a parent suffers, raised Jairus' daughter and the son of the widow from Nain; and in this same compassion and loving kindness, He healed the daughter of the Canaanite woman. O gracious and merciful Master and Lord, look down from heaven and behold the grief in my heart, the heart of a parent, as it sees its hope for life snatched away: The good and righteous life of my child through whom I had longed to praise the power, wisdom and goodness of Your holy name. But as I stand before the impenetrable mysteries which You alone understand, my mind turns to the fervent prayer which Your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, offered before the holy Passion, in the garden of Gethsamane, saying: Father, if it is Your will, take this cup from me! Like Him, I also bow my head before You today and cry out: Lord, let Your will be done! Like the righteous Job hearing of the death of his children long ago, I also cry out in humility and confess: The Lord gives, the Lord takes away; blessed be the name of the Lord. Though I am

torn by grief, yet my faith in You and Your ineffable mysteries remains unshaken as I now beseech Your mercy and compassion, Lord. Grant forgiveness, Lord, to his/her soul for whatever sins he/she may have committed in work, deed or thought; and bring him/her to that place of eternal blessedness, together with Your Holy Angels. At the time which You shall choose, grant that I too may join him/her, so that together we may sing of Your immeasurable glory. For You are the God of mercy and compassion and the Lover of mankind, and we offer glory, thanksgiving and worship to You: To the Father and the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen. [1]

Resurrectional Troparia and Kontakia

When the stone had been sealed by the Jews; while the soldiers were guarding Your most pure body; You arose on the third day, O Savior, granting life to the world. The powers of heaven therefore cried to You, O Giver of Life: GLORY TO YOUR RESURRECTION, O CHRIST! GLORY TO YOUR KINGDOM! GLORY TO YOUR SAVING PLAN, O LOVER OF MANKIND!

Sheol became afraid O Almighty Savior, seeing the miracle of Your Resurrection from the tomb! The dead arose! Creation, with Adam, beheld this and rejoiced with You! And the world, O my Savior, praises You forever!

Let the heavens rejoice! Let the earth be glad! For, the Lord has shown strength with His arm; He has trampled down death by death! He has become the first-born of the dead! He has delivered us from the depths of Sheol, and has granted the world great mercy!

When the women disciples of the Lord learned from the angel the joyous message of Your Resurrection, they cast away the ancestral curse and elatedly told the apostles: DEATH IS OVERTHROWN! CHRIST GOD IS RISEN, GRANTING THE WORLD GREAT MERCY!

You descended into Sheol, O my Savior, shattering its gates as Almighty; resurrecting the dead as Creator, and destroying the sting of death. You have delivered Adam from the curse, O Lover of Man, and we all cry out to You: O LORD, SAVE US!

The angelic powers were at Your tomb; the guards became as dead men. Mary stood by Your grave, seeking Your most pure body You captured Sheol, not being tempted by it. You came to the Virgin, granting life. O Lord, Who arose from the dead, Glory to You!

The dominion of death can no longer hold men captive, for Christ descended, shattering and destroying its powers! Sheol is bound, while the prophets rejoice and cry: THE SAVIOR HAS COME TO THOSE IN FAITH! ENTER, YOU FAITHFUL, INTO THE RESURRECTION!

By rising from the tomb, You rose the dead and resurrected Adam. Eve exults in Your Resurrection, and the world celebrates Your Rising from the dead, O Greatly Merciful One!
CHRIST IS RISEN FROM THE DEAD,
TRAMPLING-DOWN DEATH BY DEATH
AND BESTOWING LIFE UPON THOSE IN THE TOMBS!

You descended into the tomb, O Immortal, You destroyed the power of death! In victory You arose, O Christ God, proclaiming: REJOICE to the Myrrhbearing women, and bestowing resurrection on the fallen.

**The Paschal Canon:
Irmoi of St. John of Damascus,
based on the Biblical Odes
from the Service of Matins**

This is the day of resurrection.
Let us be illumined, O people.
Pascha. The Pascha of the Lord.
For from death to life,
And from earth to heaven
has Christ our God led us,
As we sing the song of victory.
(on the Song of Moses - Ex. 15:1-18)

Come, let us drink, not miraculous water
drawn forth from a barren stone,
But a new vintage
from the fount of incorruption,
springing from the tomb of Christ.
In Him we are established.
(on the Song of Hannah - 1 Sam. 2:1-10)

The inspired prophet Habakkuk
now stands with us in holy vigil.
He is like a shining angel
who cries with a piercing voice:
Today salvation has come to the world,
For Christ is risen as all-powerful.
(on the Song of Habakkuk - 3:2-19)

Let us arise at the rising of the sun
and bring to the Master
a hymn instead of myrrh,
And we shall see Christ,
the sun of righteousness
Who causes life to dawn for all.
(on the Song of Isaiah - 26:8-21)

You descended, O Christ,
to the depths of the earth.
You broke the everlasting bars
which had held death's captives,
And like Jonah from the whale
on the third day,
You arose from the grave.
(on the Song of Jonah - 2:1-9)

He Who saved the three young men
in the furnace
Became incarnate
and suffered as a mortal man.
Through His sufferings
He clothed what is mortal
in the robe of immortality.
He alone is blessed and most glorious:
The God of our fathers.
(on the Song of the Three Holy Youths,
vss. 3-22, 29-34)

This is the chosen and holy day,
First of sabbaths, king and lord of days,
The Feast of Feasts,
The Holy Day of Holy Days.
On this day we bless Christ
forevermore.
(on the Song of the Three Holy Youths,
vss. 35-66)

Shine! Shine, O New Jerusalem!
The glory of the Lord has shone on you.
Exult and be glad, O Zion.
Be radiant, O pure Theotokos,
In the resurrection of Your Son.
(on the Magnificat - Lk.1:46-55)

SCRIPTURE READINGS

appointed for the liturgy of death and burial

Monday;

Romans 14:6-9

John 5:17-24

For the Burial of Infants:

1 Corinthians 15:39-57

John 6:35-39

Tuesday:

1 Corinthians 15:39-59

John 5:24-30

For the Burial of the Laity:

1 Thessalonians 4:13-17

John 5: 24-30

Wednesday:

2 Corinthians 5:1-10

John 6:35-39

Thursday:

1 Corinthians 15:20-28

John 6:40-44

For the Burial of Priests:

1 Thessalonians 4:13-17

John 5:24-30

Romans 5:13-21

John 5:17-25

Friday:

1 Corinthians 15:47-57

John 6:48-54

1 Corinthians 5:1-11

John 6:35-39

1 Corinthians 15:20-28

Saturday:

1 Thessalonians 4:13-17

John 5: 24-30

John 6:40-44

Romans 14:6-9

John 6:48-54

Sources:

- 1) *Orthodox Prayer Book*, New Varatic Publishing, Holy Protection Orthodox Monastery, 1990.
- 2) *Prayers and Meditations for the Sick and the Suffering*, Department of Religious Education, Orthodox Church in America, Syosset, NY, 1983.
- 3) *A Manual of Eastern Orthodox Prayers*, The Fellowship of Ss. Alban and Sergius, London, 1945.
- 4) *Bishop Serapion's Prayerbook*, Archon Books, Hamden, CT, 1964.
- 5) *The Vespers of Pentecost*, Department of Religious Education, Orthodox Church in America, Syosset, NY, 1974.
- 6) *Euchologion*, Hamtramck, MI, 1986.
- 7) *Byzantine Daily Worship*, Alleluia Press, Allendale, NJ, 1969.
- 8) *The Divine Liturgy*, Russian Orthodox Greek Catholic Church of America, NY, 1967.

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