

Friday, November 20
Evening Prayer
Orthodox Saints

Opening Sentence

I will bless the Lord who gives me counsel; my heart teaches me, night after night. I have set the Lord always before me; because he is at my right hand, I shall not fall. *Psalms 16:7,8*

Confession

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Most holy and merciful Father:

We confess to you and to one another,
and to the whole communion of saints
in heaven and on earth,
that we have sinned by our own fault
in thought, word, and deed;
by what we have done, and by what we have left undone.

We have not loved you with our whole heart, and mind, and strength. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We have not forgiven others, as we have been forgiven.

Have mercy on us, Lord.

We have been deaf to your call to serve, as Christ served us. We have not been true to the mind of Christ. We have grieved your Holy Spirit.

Have mercy on us, Lord.

We confess to you, Lord, all our past unfaithfulness: the pride, hypocrisy, and impatience of our lives,

We confess to you, Lord.

Our self-indulgent appetites and ways, and our exploitation of other people,

We confess to you, Lord.

Our anger at our own frustration, and our envy of those more fortunate than ourselves,

We confess to you, Lord.

Our intemperate love of worldly goods and comforts, and our dishonesty in daily life and work,

We confess to you, Lord.

Our negligence in prayer and worship, and our failure to commend the faith that is in us,

We confess to you, Lord.

Accept our repentance, Lord, for the wrongs we have done: for our blindness to human need and suffering, and our indifference to injustice and cruelty,

Accept our repentance, Lord.

For all false judgments, for uncharitable thoughts toward our neighbors, and for our prejudice and contempt toward those who differ from us,

Accept our repentance, Lord.

For our waste and pollution of your creation, and our lack of concern for those who come after us,

Accept our repentance, Lord.

Restore us, good Lord, and let your anger depart from us;

Favorably hear us, for your mercy is great.

Accomplish in us the work of your salvation,

That we may show forth your glory in the world.

By the cross and passion of your Son our Lord,

Bring us with all your saints to the joy of his resurrection.

Almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us all our sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen us in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep us in eternal life. Amen.

Invitatory

O God, make speed to save us.

O Lord, make haste to help us.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

O Gracious Light Phos hilaron

O gracious light,
pure brightness of the everliving Father in heaven,
O Jesus Christ, holy and blessed!
Now as we come to the setting of the sun,
and our eyes behold the vesper light,
we sing your praises, O God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
You are worthy at all times to be praised by happy voices,
O Son of God, O Giver of Life,
and to be glorified through all the worlds.

Psalm 107:1-32

Part I *Confitemini Domino*

1

Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good, *
and his mercy endures for ever.

2

Let all those whom the LORD has redeemed proclaim *
that he redeemed them from the hand of the foe.

3

He gathered them out of the lands; *
from the east and from the west,
from the north and from the south.

4

Some wandered in desert wastes; *
they found no way to a city where they might dwell.

5

They were hungry and thirsty; *
their spirits languished within them.

6

Then they cried to the LORD in their trouble, *
and he delivered them from their distress.

7

He put their feet on a straight path *
to go to a city where they might dwell.

8

Let them give thanks to the LORD for his mercy *
and the wonders he does for his children.

9

For he satisfies the thirsty *
and fills the hungry with good things.

10

Some sat in darkness and deep gloom, *
bound fast in misery and iron;

11

Because they rebelled against the words of God *
and despised the counsel of the Most High.

12

So he humbled their spirits with hard labor; *
they stumbled, and there was none to help.

13

Then they cried to the LORD in their trouble, *
and he delivered them from their distress.

14

He led them out of darkness and deep gloom *
and broke their bonds asunder.

15

Let them give thanks to the LORD for his mercy *
and the wonders he does for his children.

16

For he shatters the doors of bronze *
and breaks in two the iron bars.

17

Some were fools and took to rebellious ways; *
they were afflicted because of their sins.

18

They abhorred all manner of food *
and drew near to death's door.

19

Then they cried to the LORD in their trouble, *
and he delivered them from their distress.

20

He sent forth his word and healed them *
and saved them from the grave.

21

Let them give thanks to the LORD for his mercy *
and the wonders he does for his children.

22

Let them offer a sacrifice of thanksgiving *
and tell of his acts with shouts of joy.

23

Some went down to the sea in ships *
and plied their trade in deep waters;

24

They beheld the works of the LORD *
and his wonders in the deep.

25

Then he spoke, and a stormy wind arose, *
which tossed high the waves of the sea.

26

They mounted up to the heavens and fell back to the depths; *
their hearts melted because of their peril.

27

They reeled and staggered like drunkards *
and were at their wits' end.

28

Then they cried to the LORD in their trouble, *
and he delivered them from their distress.

29

He stilled the storm to a whisper *
and quieted the waves of the sea.

30

Then were they glad because of the calm, *
and he brought them to the harbor they were bound for.

31

Let them give thanks to the LORD for his mercy *
and the wonders he does for his children.

32

Let them exalt him in the congregation of the people *
and praise him in the council of the elders.

Gloria Patri

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

Gospel

Matthew 18:10-20 (NRSV)

10 "Take care that you do not despise one of these little ones; for, I tell you, in heaven their angels continually see the face of my Father in heaven. 12 What do you think? If a shepherd has a hundred sheep, and one of them has gone astray, does he not leave the ninety-nine on the mountains and go in search of the one that went astray? 13 And if he finds it, truly I tell you, he rejoices over it more than over the ninety-nine that never went astray. 14 So it is not the will of your Father in heaven that one of these little ones should be lost. 15 "If another member of the church sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If the member listens to you, you have regained that one. 16 But if you are not listened to, take one or two others along with you, so that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses. 17 If the member refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if the offender refuses to listen even to the church, let such a one be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector. 18 Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. 19 Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. 20 For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them."

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Canticle 15 The Song of Mary
Magnificat Luke 1:46-55

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,
my spirit rejoices in God my Savior; *
for he has looked with favor on his lowly servant.
From this day all generations will call me blessed: *
the Almighty has done great things for me,
and holy is his Name.
He has mercy on those who fear him *
in every generation.
He has shown the strength of his arm, *
he has scattered the proud in their conceit.
He has cast down the mighty from their thrones, *
and has lifted up the lowly.
He has filled the hungry with good things, *
and the rich he has sent away empty.
He has come to the help of his servant Israel, *
for he has remembered his promise of mercy,
The promise he made to our fathers, *
to Abraham and his children for ever.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

- Martyrdom of the Fifty Virgins and their Mother
 - Assembly of a Council at Rome to Decide on the time of Fasting of the Great Lent
-

On this day we commemorate the martyrdom of the fifty virgin nuns and their spiritual mother Sophia. These saints were from different countries. Divine love and ascetic life had brought them together and they lived in a convent for virgins in El-Raha. St. Sophia, the head nun, was filled with wisdom and grace. She raised them with spiritual upbringing until they became as angels on earth. They continually prayed, fasted and read the holy books and chronicles of the monks. Among these virgins were those who had dwelt in the convent for seventy years, and some were young.

When Emperor Julian the infidel heard that Sapor, the King of Persia, intended to fight him, he prepared his army and set out against Sapor. On his way to the City of El-Raha he passed by the convent and ordered his soldiers to rob it and kill everyone in it. The soldiers carried out the order and they cut the nuns into pieces with the swords.

The Lord took vengeance on this evil Emperor by having him stabbed by the spear of a knight at war. It was said that this knight was Saint Marcurius. The Emperor fell down from his horse and died. That was in the year 363 A.D. As for the nuns, they received the crown of martyrdom.

Also on this day we commemorate the assembly of a holy Council in Rome in the days of Victor, Pope of Rome and Abba Demetrius, Pope of Alexandria. That was to decide on the time of fasting of the Great Lent.

The Christians used to celebrate Epiphany, then they started a 40 day fasting on the following day. That was like the Lord Jesus Who fasted forty days and forty nights immediately after His baptism. The Christians then broke the fast on the twenty-second day of the Coptic month of Amshir. After some days they would fast the Passion week, then celebrate Easter.

When St. Demetrius was chosen Patriarch of Alexandria, God enlightened his mind with divine grace. He studied the Church books and interpreted most of them. He formulated the basis for calculating the days of the fast and the changeable feasts which we celebrate to the present time. He sent copies of these calculations to Abba Victor, Patriarch of Rome, Abba Maximus, Patriarch of Antioch, and Abba Agapius, Bishop of Jerusalem.

When Abba Victor received this message he appreciated it and he gathered fourteen of his learned bishops and many of the educated priests to examine it. They accepted it and spread it around their

provinces. Since then the fast of the Great Lent and the festival of Easter have been regulated till today in the Orthodox Churches.

Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only son, our Lord.
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the Virgin Mary.
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.
He descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again.
He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

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.

For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,

for ever and ever. Amen.

Suffrages A

Show us your mercy, O Lord;

And grant us your salvation.

Clothe your ministers with righteousness;

Let your people sing with joy.

Give peace, O Lord, in all the world;

For only in you can we live in safety.

Lord, keep this nation under your care;

And guide us in the way of justice and truth.

Let your way be known upon earth;

Your saving health among all nations.

Let not the needy, O Lord, be forgotten;

Nor the hope of the poor be taken away.

Create in us clean hearts, O God;

And sustain us with your Holy Spirit.

Collect of the Day: Pentecost, proper 28

Blessed Lord, who caused all holy Scriptures to be written for our learning: Grant us so to hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them, that we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life, which you have given us in our Savior Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

A Collect for Fridays

Lord Jesus Christ, by your death you took away the sting of death: Grant to us your servants so to follow in faith where you have led the way, that we may at length fall asleep peacefully in you and wake up in your likeness; for your tender mercies' sake. Amen.

For Mission

Almighty and everlasting God, by whose Spirit the whole body of your faithful people is governed and sanctified: Receive our supplications and prayers which we offer before you for all members of your holy Church, that in their vocation and ministry they may truly and devoutly serve you; through our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.

World Cycle of Prayer

We pray for the people of Senegal.

Senegal online

Ecumenical Cycle of Prayer

We pray for our sisters and brothers, members of the United Church of Christ.

The United Church of Christ

For Clergy and People

Almighty and everlasting God, from whom cometh every good and perfect gift: Send down upon our bishops, and other clergy, and upon the congregations committed to their charge, the healthful Spirit of thy grace; and, that they may truly please thee, pour upon them the continual dew of thy blessing. Grant this, O Lord, for the honor of our Advocate and Mediator, Jesus Christ. Amen.

For the Unity of the Church

O God the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, our only Savior, the Prince of Peace: Give us grace seriously to lay to heart the great dangers we are in by our unhappy divisions; take away all hatred and prejudice, and whatever else may hinder us from godly union and concord; that, as there is but one Body and one Spirit, one hope of our calling, one Lord, one Faith, one Baptism, one God and Father of us all, so we may be all of one heart and of one soul, united in one holy bond of truth and peace, of faith and charity, and may with one mind and one mouth glorify you; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

For Monastic Orders and Vocations

O Lord Jesus Christ, you became poor for our sake, that we might be made rich through your poverty: Guide and sanctify, we pray, those whom you call to follow you under the vows of poverty, chastity, and obedience, that by their prayer and service they may enrich your Church, and by their life and worship may glorify your Name; for you reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

A Prayer of Self-Dedication

Almighty and eternal God, so draw our hearts to you, so guide our minds, so fill our imaginations, so control our wills, that we may be wholly yours, utterly dedicated unto you; and then use us, we pray you, as you will, and always to your glory and the welfare of your people; through our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.

General Thanksgiving

Almighty God, Father of all mercies, we your unworthy servants give you humble thanks for all your goodness and loving-kindness to us and to all whom you have made. We bless you for our creation, preservation, and all the blessings of this life; but above all for your immeasurable love in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ; for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory. And, we pray, give us such an awareness of your mercies, that with truly thankful hearts we may show forth your praise, not only with our lips, but in our lives, by giving up our selves to your service, and by walking before you in holiness and righteousness all our days; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory throughout all ages. Amen.

A Prayer of St. Chrysostom

Almighty God, you have given us grace at this time with one accord to make our common supplication to you; and you have promised through your well-beloved Son that when two or three are gathered together in his Name you will be in the midst of them: Fulfill now, O Lord, our desires and petitions as may be best for us; granting us in this world knowledge of your truth, and in the age to come life everlasting. Amen.

Benediction

Let us bless the Lord. Alleluia. Alleluia.

Thanks be to God. Alleluia. Alleluia.

Glory to God whose power, working in us, can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine: Glory to him from generation to generation in the Church, and in Christ Jesus for ever and ever. Amen.

Ephesians 3:20,21

