

Monday, October 26
Evening Prayer
Orthodox Saints

Opening Sentence

Let my prayer be set forth in your sight as incense, the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice.
Psalm 141:2

Confession

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you 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; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name. Amen.

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 44 *Deus, auribus*

1

We have heard with our ears, O God,
our forefathers have told us, *
the deeds you did in their days,
in the days of old.

2

How with your hand you drove the peoples out
and planted our forefathers in the land; *
how you destroyed nations and made your people flourish.

3

For they did not take the land by their sword,
nor did their arm win the victory for them; *
but your right hand, your arm, and the light of your countenance,
because you favored them.

4

You are my King and my God; *
you command victories for Jacob.

5

Through you we pushed back our adversaries; *
through your Name we trampled on those who rose up against us.

6

For I do not rely on my bow, *
and my sword does not give me the victory.

7

Surely, you gave us victory over our adversaries *
and put those who hate us to shame.

8

Every day we gloried in God, *
and we will praise your Name for ever.

9

Nevertheless, you have rejected and humbled us *
and do not go forth with our armies.

10

You have made us fall back before our adversary, *
and our enemies have plundered us.

11

You have made us like sheep to be eaten *
and have scattered us among the nations.

12

You are selling your people for a trifle *

and are making no profit on the sale of them.

13

You have made us the scorn of our neighbors, *
a mockery and derision to those around us.

14

You have made us a byword among the nations, *
a laughing-stock among the peoples.

15

My humiliation is daily before me, *
and shame has covered my face;

16

Because of the taunts of the mockers and blasphemers, *
because of the enemy and avenger.

17

All this has come upon us; *
yet we have not forgotten you,
nor have we betrayed your covenant.

18

Our heart never turned back, *
nor did our footsteps stray from your path;

19

Though you thrust us down into a place of misery, *
and covered us over with deep darkness.

20

If we have forgotten the Name of our God, *
or stretched out our hands to some strange god,

21

Will not God find it out? *
for he knows the secrets of the heart.

22

Indeed, for your sake we are killed all the day long; *
we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter.

23

Awake, O Lord! why are you sleeping? *
Arise! do not reject us for ever.

24

Why have you hidden your face *
and forgotten our affliction and oppression?

25

We sink down into the dust; *
our body cleaves to the ground.

26

Rise up, and help us, *

and save us, for the sake of your steadfast love.

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 12:43-50 (NRSV)

43 "When the unclean spirit has gone out of a person, it wanders through waterless regions looking for a resting place, but it finds none. 44 Then it says, 'I will return to my house from which I came.' When it comes, it finds it empty, swept, and put in order. 45 Then it goes and brings along seven other spirits more evil than itself, and they enter and live there; and the last state of that person is worse than the first. So will it be also with this evil generation." 46 While he was still speaking to the crowds, his mother and his brothers were standing outside, wanting to speak to him. 47 Someone told him, "Look, your mother and your brothers are standing outside, wanting to speak to you." 48 But to the one who had told him this, Jesus replied, "Who is my mother, and who are my brothers?" 49 And pointing to his disciples, he said, "Here are my mother and my brothers! 50 For whoever does the will of my Father in heaven is my brother and sister and mother."

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 St. Bandlaeman the Physician
- GreatMartyr Demetrios of Solunea (Thessalonika) (+c.306)
- Monk Theophil of Pechersk, Archbishop of Novgorod, in the Farther Caves (+1482)
- Monk Athanasias of Mydicea (+c.814)
- Monk Dimitrii of Basarbovsk, Bulgaria (+1685)
- Monk Dimitrii of Tsilibinsk (XIV)

Martyrdom of St. Bandlaeman the Physician

On this day in the year 405 A.D. St. Bandlaeman was martyred. He was from the City of Nicomedia; his father worshipped idols, but his mother was a Christian. They educated him well and taught him the profession of medicine. He met a priest whose name was Armolas who taught him the true faith of the Lord Jesus and baptized him.

He reached a high level of virtuous life. God wrought great wonders through him. Once, a blind man went to him for treatment. He made the sign of the Cross over his eyes in the name the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit and his eyes were healed and he regained his vision completely. When the King heard the news of the healing, he had the blind man brought to him and asked him to explain how his eyes were healed. He told him that St. Bandlaeman healed them by laying his hands on them and by saying, "In the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit". The man confessed before the King that he was a Christian, but straightaway the King had his neck cut off.

The King ordered that St. Bandlaeman be brought to him and asked him about his belief. He confessed that he was a Christian. He tried to seduce him by all means and promised him many things, but he would not change his confession. Then the King threatened to inflict different kinds of tortures upon him, but he did not move. The King inflicted several tortures upon him on different days, sometimes beating and suspending him and many times casting him into the sea or into the fire. The Lord Jesus appeared to him in the form of Armolas the priest who baptized him and strengthened him, and walked with him as if He was sharing with him every punishment which befell him.

After that the King ordered his head to be cut off. When he went to the place of execution, he prayed to the Lord Jesus and supplicated Him. He then heard a voice from heaven announcing to him the heavenly joy which had been prepared for him. The soldiers also heard this voice and immediately believed. They

went forth to the King and confessed their faith in the Lord Christ. The King ordered his men to cut off their necks too, and they all received the crown of martyrdom.

The Holy GreatMartyr Demetrios of Soluneia was the son of a Roman proconsul in Thessalonika (the present day Salonika, which in the Slavonic is termed Solun' [anglicised as Soluneia]). Three centuries had then already elapsed, and Roman paganism -- spiritually shattered and defeated by the multitude of martyrs and confessors of the Crucified Saviour -- intensified its persecutions. Both the father and mother of saint Demetrios were clandestine Christians. In a secret house-church at the home of the proconsul, the child was baptised and raised in the Christian faith. When the father died, and the child had reached the age of maturity, the emperor Galerius Maximian -- having ascended the throne in the year 305 -- summoned him, and confident in his education and military-administrative abilities, appointed him to the position of his father as proconsul of the Thessalonika district. The chief task expected of this young commander consisted in the defence of the city from barbarians, and in the extermination of Christianity. It is interesting, that among the barbarians threatening the Romans our ancestral Slavs occupied an important place, in particular by intentionally settling upon the Thessalonikan peninsula. There exists even the opinion that the parents of Saint Demetrios were of Slavic descent. In regard to Christians the will of the emperor was expressed simply: "Put to death anyone who calls on the name of the Crucified". The emperor did not suspect in appointing Demetrios, how wide a swath of confessors acts he had opened up for the clandestine ascetic.

Accepting the appointment, Demetrios returned to Thessalonika and in front of everyone immediately confessed and glorified our Lord Jesus Christ. Instead of persecuting and executing Christians, he openly began to teach the inhabitants of the city the Christian faith and to extirpate pagan customs and idol-worship. The compiler of his life, Metaphrastes, says that in his teaching zeal he became for Thessalonika "a second Apostle Paul," particularly since "the Apostle to the Gentiles" once founded at this city the first community of believers (1 Thes, 2 Thes). The Lord also destined Saint Demetrios to follow the holy Apostle Paul to a death by martyrdom.

When Maximian learned, that the proconsul newly appointed by him was a Christian, and that he had converted to Christianity many Roman subjects who were influenced by his example, the rage of the emperor know no bounds. Returning from a campaign in the Black Sea region, the emperor decided to lead his army through Thessalonika, filled with the desire to make a massacre of the Soluneia Christians.

Learning of this, Saint Demetrios opportunely ordered his faithful servant Luppas to distribute his wealth to the poor with the words: "Give away the earthly riches amongst them, for we shalt seek for ourselves heavenly riches". And he gave himself over to prayer and fasting, preparing himself for the accepting of a martyr's crown.

When the emperor came into the city, he summoned Demetrios, who boldly confessed himself a Christian and denounced the falsehood and futility of Roman polytheism. Maximian gave orders to lock

up the confessor in prison, and an Angel came to him in confinement, comforting and encouraging him for the act. The emperor meanwhile concerned himself with a foul gladiators spectacle, esteeming as his beloved champion a German by the name of Leo, who made a challenge for a Christian to struggle with him on the platform over the spears of the victorious soldiers. A brave youth from the Soluneia Christians, Nestor by name, went to the prison to his advisor Demetrios and requested to be given the blessing for single-combat with the barbarian. With the blessing of Demetrios and through his prayers, Nestor prevailed over the fierce German and hurled him from the dais-platform onto the spears of the soldiers, just as the murderous pagan would have done with the Christian. The enraged commander gave orders to immediately execute the holy Martyr Nestor (commemorated 27 October) and dispatched a guard to the prison -- to run through with spears the one who had blessed this deed, Saint Demetrios.

At dawn on 26 October 306 soldiers appeared in the underground prison of the holy saint and ran him through with spears. His faithful servant, Saint Luppos, gathered up on a towel the bless of Saint Demetrios, and he took from his finger the imperial ring -- a symbol of his high status -- and likewise dipped it also in the blood. With the ring and other holy things sanctified by the blood of Saint Demetrios, Saint Luppos began to heal the infirm. The emperor gave orders to arrest and kill him.

The body of the holy GreatMartyr Demetrios was cast out for devouring by wild animals, but the Soluneia Christians took it and secretly committed it to earth. During the reign of holy Equal-to-the-Apostles Constantine (306-337), a church was erected over the grave of Saint Demetrios. An hundred years later, during the construction of a majestic new church on the old spot, the incorrupt relics of the holy martyr were uncovered. From the time of the VII Century beneath the crypt of the GreatMartyr Demetrios was found a miraculous flowing of fragrant myrh, in regard to which the GreatMartyr Demetrios receives the church title "Myrh-flowing." Several times those venerating the Soluneia wonderworker made attempts at a transfer of his holy relics, or part of them, to Constantinople. But invariably Saint Demetrios secretly made apparent his will to remain the protector and defender of the people of Thessalonika.

Advancing towards the city, pagan Slavs were repeatedly turned by the apparition of a threatening radiant youth, going the round of the walls and inspiring terror in the enemy soldiers. It is therefore perhaps why the name of Saint Demetrios is particularly venerated among the Slavic nations after their enlightenment by the light of the Gospel truth. On the other hand, Greeks regard Saint Demetrios in terms of being a Slavic saint merely an arbitrary preference.

The very first pages of the Russian Primary Chronicle, as foreordained by God, is bound up with the name of the holy GreatMartyr Demetrios of Soluneia. Oleg the Wise threatened the Greeks at Constantinople (907), as the Chronicle relates: "The Greeks became terrified and said: this is not Oleg, but rather Saint Demetrios sent upon us from God." Russian soldiers always believed that they were under the special protection of the holy GreatMartyr Demetrios. Moreover, in the old Russian barracks the GreatMartyr Demetrios was always depicted as Russian by descent -- thus this image fused with the soul of the Russian nation.

Church veneration of the holy GreatMartyr Demetrios in Russia began with the time shortly after the Baptism of Rus'. Towards the beginning of the decade of the 70's of the XI Century belongs the founding of the Dimitriev monastery at Kiev, known afterwards as the Mikhailov-Zlatoverkh monastery. The monastery was built by the son of Yaroslav the Wise -- GreatPrince Izyaslav, baptised Dimitrii (+1078). The mosaic icon of Saint Demetrios of Solunea from the cathedral of the Dimitriev monastery has been preserved up to the present day, and is located in the State Tret'yakov gallery. In the years 1194-1197 the GreatPrince of Vladimir, Vsevolod III Bol'shoe Gnezdo [Great-Nest] -- baptised Dimitrii -- "built at his court a beautiful church of the holy martyr Dimitrii, and adorned it wondrously with icons and writing" (i.e., frescoes). The Dimitriev cathedral also reveals for the present the embellishment of ancient Vladimir. The wonderworking icon of Saint Demetrios of Solunea from the cathedral iconostas is located even now in Moscow, at the Tret'yakov gallery. It was written upon a plank of wood from the grave of the holy GreatMartyr Demetrios, brought in 1197 from Solunea to Vladimir. One of the most precious depictions of the saint -- a fresco on a column of the Vladimir Usenie cathedral, is from the brush of the Sainted Iconographer Andrei Rublev.

The veneration of Saint Demetrios continued also in the family of Saint Alexander Nevsky (commemorated 23 November). Saint Alexander named his eldest son in honour of the holy greatmartyr. And his younger son, holy Nobleborn Prince Daniel of Moscow (+1303, commemorated 4 March), raised up at Moscow a temple in the name of the holy GreatMartyr Demetrios in the 1280's, which was the first stone church in the Moscow Kremlin. Later on in 1326, under Ivan Kalita, it was taken down and in its place was erected the Usenie [Dormition] cathedral.

The memory of Saint Demetrios of Solunea from of old was bound up in Rus' with the military, patriotism and the defense of the Fatherland. The saint is depicted on icons in the guise of a soldier in plumed armour, with a spear and sword in hand. On a scroll (in later depictions) is written also a prayer, with which Saint Demetrios turned to God about the salvation of the people of Solunea: "Lord, let not the city nor the people perish. If Thou do save the city and the people -- with them I shalt be saved, if they perish -- I too perish with them".

In the spiritual experience of the Russian Church, veneration of the holy GreatMartyr Demetrios of Solunea is closely bound up with the memory of the defense the Native-Land and Church by the GreatPrince of Moscow, Dimitrii Donskoi (+1389). "An Account of the Life and Repose Great Prince Dimitrii Ivanovich, Tsar of Russia", written in the year 1393, already regards the GreatPrince as a saint, as also do other old Russian histories. GreatPrince Dimitrii was a spiritual son and pupil of the Sainted Metropolitan of Moscow Alexei (+1378, commemorated 12 February), and a disciple and associating also with other great figures of prayer in the Russian Land -- the Monk Sergei Radonezh (+1392, commemorated 25 September, Dimitrii of Prilutsk (+ 1392, commemorated 11 February), Sainted Theodore of Rostov (+ 1394, commemorated 28 November). GreatPrince Dimitrii "about the churches of God he worried much, and the territory of the Russian land he held by his bravery: many the enemy risen against us he conquered, and his glorious city Moscow he protected with wondrous walls." From the time of the building of the white-walled Kremlin (1366) by GreatPrince Dimitrii, Moscow was called "Belokamenna" ["White-Stoned"]. "The land of Russia prospered during the years of his reign" -- testifies the "Account."

By the prayers of his Heavenly patron the holy warrior Demetrios of Soluneia, GreatPrince Dimitrii gained besides his brilliant military victories also the preordained further prominence of Russia: he repelled the onslaught against Russia by the Lithuanian armies of Ol'gerd (1368, 1373), he routed at the River Vozha the Tatar army of Begich (1378), and he smashed the military might of all the Golden Horde at the Battle of Kulikovo Pole [Kulikovo Field] (8 September 1380, on the day of celebration of the Nativity of the MostHoly Mother of God), set between the Rivers Don and Nepryadva. The Kulikovo Battle, for which the nation calls him Dimitrii Donskoi, became the first all-Russian national deed, rallying round Moscow the spiritual power of the Russian nation. To this auspicious event of Russian history is dedicated the "Zadonschina," an inspiring historic poem, written by the priest Sophronii of Ryazem (1381).

Prince Dimitrii Donskoi was greatly devoted to the holy GreatMartyr Demetrios. In 1380, on the eve of the Kulikovo Battle, he solemnly transferred from Vladimir to Moscow the most holy effect of the Vladimir Dimitriev cathedral -- the icon of the GreatMartyr Demetrios of Soluneia, written on the plank from the grave of the saint. At the Moscow Uspenie Cathedral was built a chapel in the name of the GreatMartyr Demetrios. In memory of the soldiers, fallen in the Kulikovo Battle, was established for all-church remembrance the Demetrios Parental-Ancestors Saturday. The first time this panikhida was held was at the Trinity-Sergiev monastery on 20 October 1380 by the Monk Sergei, Hegumen of Radonezh, in the presence of GreatPrince Dimitrii Donskoi. From that time it is served annually with a solemn remembrance of the heroes of the Kulikovo Battle, in which number are the Schema-monks Alexander (Peresvet) and Andrei (Oslyab).

Sainted Theophil, Archbishop of Novgorod, was chosen by lot after the death of the Sainted-Hierarch Jona (+1471, commemorate 5 November) and was elevated to the dignity of Archbishop of Novgorod on 15 December 1472 at Moscow. Until his elevation to the dignity of archbishop, he pursued asceticism in the vestry of the Otensk monastery. An harsh destiny was allotted the saint in the guidance of the Novgorod flock: the "posadnitsa" [mayoress] Martha Boretskaya and her adherents stirred up and agitated the people against the GreatPrince of Moscow, Ivan III; and the monk Pimen, a Boretskaya partisan, roused in the flock enmity against the archbishop. Some of the Novgorod populace were inclined to go over to the side of Lithuania, and unfaithful to the Moscow principality, they were prepared to go into apostasy. Saint Theophil stopped the rebellious Novgorodians: "Do not betray Orthodoxy nor become a flock of apostates; I go back to my humble cell, from whence ye drew me out to the shame of rebellion." This letter of disavowal of the saint is preserved, written in 1479. But the short-sighted people did not heed the words of the pastor: between Moscow and Novgorod was ignited a fratricidal war. The defeated Novgorodians were compelled to beg for mercy, and many of them owed their life to the intercession of the saint. In 1480 Saint Theophil was dispatched by Ivan III to imprisonment in the Moscow Chudov monastery and "he sat there a full three years, and died there". By tradition, when Saint Theophil lay sick at the Chudov monastery, there appeared to him in a dream the Novgorod Saint Nyphont (+1156, commemorated 8 April) -- buried in the Caves of the Monk Antonii of Pechersk, and the saint reminded him about a promise to venerate the Pechersk wonderworkers. And by

this tradition, the holy archbishop set off to Kiev and just approached the Dniepr as his sickness increased, and he received a revelation that although he would not reach the caves alive, his body would rest in them. This was fulfilled.

His memory is celebrated also with the Sobor [Assemblage] of the Farther Caves on 28 August and on the 2nd Sunday of Great Lent, with the General Sobor of the Kievo-Pechersk Fathers.

The Monk Athanasias of Mydicea by love for the monastic life secretly left his parental home, but was forcibly returned by his father. But after a certain while Athanasias with the consent of his father entered the Mydicea monastery in Bythnia. He was a companion of the Monk Nikita (commemorated 3 April) and he died about the year 814. On his grave grew up a cypress tree, from which by the grace of God, occurred healings.

The Monk Dimitrii of Basarbovsk pursued asceticism in the wilderness, in Bulgaria, near the city of Ruschuk. He died in 1685. On 8 July 1779 his relics were transferred to Bucharest.

The Monk Dimitrii (XIV Century), founder of the Archangel Tsilibinsk wilderness monastery in Vologda diocese, was a beloved disciple of Sainted Stefan of Perm (+1396, commemorated 26 April). The monk built for the newly-converted a church in honour of the Archistratigos Michael. Beneath this temple he dug out a cave and for a long time lived there in solitude.

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 25

Almighty and everlasting God, increase in us the gifts of faith, hope, and charity; and, that we may obtain what you promise, make us love what you command; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

A Collect for Peace

Most holy God, the source of all good desires, all right judgments, and all just works: Give to us, your servants, that peace which the world cannot give, so that our minds may be fixed on the doing of your will, and that we, being delivered from the fear of all enemies, may live in peace and quietness; through the mercies of Christ Jesus our Savior. *Amen.*

For Mission

O God, you have made of one blood all the peoples of the earth, and sent your blessed Son to preach peace to those who are far off and to those who are near: Grant that people everywhere may seek after you and find you; bring the nations into your fold; pour out your Spirit upon all flesh, and hasten the coming of your kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

World Cycle of Prayer

We pray for the people of Niger.

All Africa: Niger

Ecumenical Cycle of Prayer

We pray for our sisters and brothers, members of the Christian Methodist Episcopal Church.

The Christian Methodist Episcopal Church

For the Right Use of God's Gifts

Almighty God, whose loving hand has given us all that we possess: Grant us grace that we may honor you with our substance, and, remembering the account which we must one day give, may be faithful stewards of your bounty, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

For Knowledge of God's Creation

Almighty and everlasting God, you made the universe with all its marvelous order, its atoms, worlds, and galaxies, and the infinite complexity of living creatures: Grant that, as we probe the mysteries of your creation, we may come to know you more truly, and more surely fulfill our role in your eternal purpose; in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

For the Care of Children

Almighty God, heavenly Father, you have blessed us with the joy and care of children: Give us calm strength and patient wisdom as we bring them up, that we may teach them to love whatever is just and true and good, following the example of our Savior Jesus Christ. 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.

May the God of hope fill us with all joy and peace in believing through the power of the Holy Spirit.
Amen. *Romans 15:13*