

LITTLE COMPLINE

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

NOTE: In the absence of a priest. Laymen begin with:

Through the prayers of our holy fathers, Lord Jesus Christ our God, have mercy on us!

Reader: Amen! O Heavenly King, Comforter, Spirit of Truth, who art everywhere present and fillest all things, Treasury of good things and Giver of life: Come and abide in us, and cleanse us from every stain, and save our souls, O Good One!

(From Pascha until Pentecost, "O Heavenly King" is not said; from Pascha to its Leavetaking, "Christ is risen" is said three times in its place.)

Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal, have mercy on us! (3x) Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

All-holy Trinity, have mercy on us. Lord, cleanse us from our sins. Master, pardon our transgressions. Holy One, look upon 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, 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 debts as we forgive our debtors, and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.

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

In the absence of a priest, a layman says does not say the exclamation but simply:

Reader: Amen.

Lord, have mercy. (12)

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

Come, let us worship God our King

Come, let us worship and fall down before Christ, our King and our God.

Come, let us worship and fall down before Christ Himself, our King and our God.

Psalm 50

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Reader: Have mercy on me, O God, according to thy great mercy, and according to the multitude of thy compassions, blot out my transgressions. Wash me yet more from my transgressions, and from my sin purify thou me. For I know my transgression, and my sin is continually before me. Against thee alone have I sinned, and have done evil before thee; that thou mightest be justified in thy words, and conquer when thou art judged. Behold, in transgressions was I conceived, and in sin did my mother bear me. Behold, thou hast loved truth; the hidden and secret things of thy wisdom hast thou revealed unto me. Thou shalt sprinkle me with hyssop, and I shall be cleansed; thou shalt wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow. Thou shalt make me hear joy and gladness; the bones that have been humbled shall rejoice. Turn away thy face from my sins, and blot out my transgressions. Create in me a clean heart, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from thy face, and take not thy Holy Spirit from me. Give me again the joy of thy salvation, and establish me with a princely spirit. Then will I teach transgressors thy ways, and the impious shall return unto thee. Deliver me from bloodguiltiness, O God, the God of my salvation; my tongue shall rejoice in thy righteousness. O Lord, open thou my lips, and my mouth shall declare thy praise. For if thou hadst desired sacrifice, I would have given it; with burnt-offerings thou wilt not be pleased. A sacrifice to God is a broken spirit; a broken and humbled heart God will not despise. Do good, O Lord, in thy goodwill unto Zion; and let the walls of Jerusalem be built. Then shalt thou be pleased with the sacrifice of righteousness, oblations, and burnt-offerings; then shall they lay bullocks upon thine altar.

Psalm 69

O God, attend to my help; O Lord, hasten to help me. Let them be ashamed and confounded that seek my soul. Let them be turned back and ashamed who wish me harm. Let them be turned back at once in shame that say to me, Well! Well! Let them rejoice and be glad in thee, all them that seek thee, O God. And let all those that love thy salvation continually say: The Lord be magnified! But I am poor and needy, O God, help me. My helper and deliverer art thou, O Lord, do not tarry.

Psalm 142

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O Lord, hearken unto my prayer; give heed to my supplication in thy truth, hearken unto me in thy righteousness, and enter not into judgment with thy servant, for before thee shall no man living be justified. For the enemy hath persecuted my soul; he hath humbled my life down to the earth. He hath made me sit in darkness like them that have been long dead. My spirit is dejected within me; within me my heart is disquieted. I have remembered ancient days; I meditated on all thy works; on the works of thy hands did I meditate. I stretched forth my hands unto thee, and my soul like a waterless land unto thee. Hearken unto me speedily, O Lord; my spirit hath vanished. Turn not away thy face from me, lest I become like them that go down into the pit. Make me to hear thy mercy in the morning, for in thee have I hoped. Make known to me the way, O Lord, wherein I should walk, for to thee have I lifted up my soul. Redeem me from mine enemies, O Lord; unto thee have I fled. Teach me to do thy will, for thou art my God. Thy good spirit shall guide me to the land of uprightness. For thy name's sake, O Lord, quicken me. In thy righteousness, thou shalt lead my soul out of tribulation, and in thy mercy thou shalt blot out mine enemies and shalt destroy all them that afflict my soul, for I am thy servant.

The Lesser Doxology

Glory to God in the highest, and on earth, peace, good will toward men. We praise thee; we bless thee; we worship thee; we glorify thee. We give thanks to thee for thy great glory, O Lord, Heavenly King, God the Father Almighty, O Lord, the only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit. O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, that takest away the sins of the world, have mercy on us. Thou that takest away the sins of the world, receive our prayers. Thou that sittest at the right hand of the Father, have mercy on us. For Thou only art holy, Thou only art the Lord, Thou only, O Jesus Christ, art most high in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

Every night will I bless thee and praise they name for ever, and unto ages of ages.

Lord, thou hast been our refuge from generation to generation; I said: Lord, have mercy on me; heal my soul, for I have sinned against thee. O Lord, I flee unto thee; teach me to do thy will for Thou art my God. For with thee is the fountain of life; in thy light shall we see light. O extend thy mercy unto them that know thee.

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Vouchsafe, O Lord, to keep us this night without sin. Blessed art Thou, O Lord God of our fathers, and praised and glorified be thy name forever. Amen. Let thy mercy be upon us, O Lord, as we have set our hope on thee.

Blessed art Thou, O Lord, teach me thy statutes. Blessed art Thou, O Master, make me to understand thy statutes. Blessed art Thou, O Holy One, enlighten me with thy statutes.

Thy mercy, O Lord, is forever; despise not the works of thy hands. To thee belongeth praise, to thee belongeth a hymn, 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

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 ages; Light of Light, true God of true God; begotten, not made; of one essence with the Father; by whom all things were made. Who for us men and our salvation came down from heaven, and was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary, and became 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 living and the dead; of His kingdom there shall be no end.

And in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the Giver of life, who proceedeth from the Father, who with the Father and the Son together is worshipped and glorified, who spake by the prophets.

In one holy, catholic, and apostolic Church; I confess one baptism for the forgiveness of sins; I look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the age to come. Amen.

NOTE: In churches, the appointed Compline Canon to the Theotokos is sung from the Octoechos at this point. When Compline is read privately, one or more canons and/or an Akathist Hymn is sung instead.

It is the tradition of the Russian Church that those preparing to receive the Holy Mysteries (the Eucharist) read at least three Canons and one Akathist Hymn the evening before. Some read the Canon of Preparation at this point.

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Whenever a Canon is sung, "Meet it is" which follows is sung to the same melody as the Irmos of the Canon. If there is no Canon, it is either read or sung to the 8th Tone.

Reader: Meet it is in truth 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 without compare than the Seraphim, who without corruption gavest birth to God the Word, verily Theotokos, we magnify thee.

Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal, have mercy on us! (3x) Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

All-holy Trinity, have mercy on us. Lord, cleanse us from our sins. Master, pardon our transgressions. Holy One, look upon 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, 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 debts as we forgive our debtors, and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.

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

If there is no priest, a layman omits the exclamation and simply says:

Reader: Amen.

Then the appointed troparia: Sunday through Thursday, we use the troparion of the day and of the parish as indicated below.

Sunday Night: the Bodiless Hosts, Troparion, tone 8

Supreme commanders of the heavenly armies, / we, the unworthy, do ever entreat you / that by your prayers ye surround us with the protection of the wings of your immaterial glory, / preserving us who earnestly fall down before you and cry aloud: // Deliver us from misfortunes, in that ye are the leaders of the hosts on high.

Monday Night: the Forerunner, Troparion, tone 2

The memory of the righteous is celebrated with hymns of praise, / but the Lord's testimony is sufficient for thee, O Forerunner; / for thou hast

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proved to be truly even more venerable than the prophets, / since thou wast granted to baptize in the running waters Him whom they proclaimed. / Wherefore, having contested for the truth, / thou didst rejoice to announce the good tidings even to those in Hades: // that God hath appeared in the flesh, taking away the sin of the world and granting us great mercy.

Tuesday Night: the Cross, Troparion, tone 1

O Lord, save Thy people / and bless Thine inheritance. / Grant victory to Orthodox Christians / over the enemy; / and by Thy Cross / preserve Thine estate.

Wednesday Night: the Apostles, Troparion, tone 3

O ye holy apostles / intercede with the merciful God / that He grant unto our souls / forgiveness of our transgressions.

and St. Nicholas, Troparion, tone 4

Thou wast revealed to thy flock as a rule of faith, / an image of humility and a teacher of abstinence, / because of thy lowliness, the heights were opened to thee, / because of thy poverty, riches were granted to thee. / O holy Hierarch, Father Nicholas, / intercede with Christ our God // that our souls be saved.

Thursday Night: the Cross, Troparion, tone 1

O Lord, save Thy people / and bless Thine inheritance. / Grant victory to Orthodox Christians / over the enemy; / and by Thy Cross / preserve Thine estate.

Then on Sunday through Thursday nights:

St. Maximus, Troparion, tone 3

By an outpouring of the Holy Spirit / thou didst pour forth Christ's sacred teachings, / thou didst expound with Divine authority / the self-emptying of God the Word / and wast radiant in thy confession of the True Faith: / O, Glorious Father Maximus / pray to Christ our God // to grant us His great mercy.

And then on Sunday through Thursday nights we continue:

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O God of our fathers, who ever dealest with us according to Thy compassion, take not Thy mercy from us, but through their prayers direct our lives in peace.

By the blood of Thy martyrs throughout all the world, Thy Church hath been beautified as with purple raiment and silk, and through them crieth out to Thee, O Christ God: Send down thy bountiful mercies upon Thy people, to Thy habitation grant peace, and to our souls great mercy.

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

With the saints give rest, O Christ, to the souls of Thy servants, where there is neither sickness, nor sorrow, but life everlasting.

Both now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

O Lord, through the prayers of all the Saints and the Theotokos, grant us Thy peace, and have mercy on us, for Thou alone art great in mercy.

*But on **Friday Nights**, we say instead: **Troparion, tone 2***

O Apostles, Martyrs, and Prophets, Hierarchs, Monastics, and Righteous Ones; ye that have accomplished a good labor and kept the Faith, that have boldness before the Saviour; O Good Ones, intercede for us, we pray, that our souls be saved.

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

Martyrs, Kontakion, tone 8

O Lord, the Planter of creation, / the world doth offer the God-bearing martyrs to Thee as the firstfruits of nature. / By their intercessions preserve Thy Church, Thy habitation, in profound peace, // through the Theotokos, O Greatly-merciful One.

*But on **Saturday Nights**, we sing the Troparion and Kontakion of the Resurrection instead in the tone of the week.*

Resurrectional Troparion, tone 1

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When the stone had been sealed by the Jews / and the soldiers were guarding Thine immaculate body, / Thou didst rise on the third day, O Savior, / granting life to the world. / The powers of heaven, therefore cried to Thee, O Giver of life: / Glory to the Resurrection, O Christ! / Glory to Thy Kingdom! / Glory to Thy dispensation, O only Lover of man.

Resurrectional Troparion, tone 2

When Thou, didst descend to death, O Life Immortal / Thou didst slay Hell with the lightning-flash of Thy Divinity, / and, when from the nether regions Thou didst raise the dead, / all the powers of Heaven cried out: / 'O Giver of life, Christ our God, glory to Thee!'

Resurrectional Troparion, Tone 3

Let those in Heaven rejoice, / let those on Earth be glad; / for the Lord hath wrought a mighty act with His arm. / He hath trampled down death by death; / He hath become the first-born of the dead. / From the womb of hell hath He delivered us, // and hath granted the world great mercy.

Resurrectional Troparion, tone 4

Having learned the radiant proclamation of the Resurrection from the Angel, / the women disciples of the Lord cast off the ancestral curse, / and, boasting, told the Apostles: / Death hath been despoiled, Christ God is risen, / granting the world great mercy.

Resurrectional Troparion, tone 5

Let us the faithful hymn and worship the Word / who with the Father and the Spirit hath no beginning, / and was born for our salvation of the Virgin; / for He was pleased to ascend the Cross in the flesh, / and to endure death / and to raise the dead / by His glorious Resurrection.

Resurrectional Troparion, tone 6

The angelic powers were at Thy tomb / and the guards became as dead men, / Mary stood by Thy grave, / seeking Thine immaculate body, / Thou didst despoil hell, not being tempted by it, / Thou didst go to meet the Virgin granting life, / O Lord, who didst rise from the dead, / glory to Thee.

Resurrectional Troparion, tone 7

By Thy Cross Thou didst destroy death. / To the thief Thou didst open Paradise. / For the myrrh-bearers Thou didst change their lamentation into joy. / And Thou didst command Thine Apostles, O Christ God, / to proclaim that Thou art risen, / granting unto the world great mercy.

Resurrectional Troparion, tone 8

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Thou didst descend from on high, O tenderhearted One. / Thou didst accept the three-day burial to free us from our passions. / O Lord, our life and resurrection, glory to Thee!

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

Resurrectional Kontakion, tone 1

Thou hast risen from the grave as God in glory / and Thou didst raise the world with Thee, / and human nature hymneth Thee as God, / and death hath vanished. / Adam exulteth, O Master, / and Eve, delivered from her bondage, now rejoiceth, crying: / Thou, O Christ, / art He who granteth to all the Resurrection!

Resurrectional Kontakion, tone 2

Thou didst rise from the grave, all-powerful Savior; / and Hades, seeing the wonder, was affrighted; / and the dead arose; and creation, beholding, rejoiceth with Thee; / and with Thee Adam also is glad; / and the world, O my Saviour, hymneth Thee forever.

Resurrectional Kontakion, Tone 3

Today Thou didst rise from the grave, O compassionate One, / and didst lead us away from the gates of death. / Today Adam exulteth, and Eve rejoiceth. / Together with the prophets and patriarchs // they unceasingly hymn the Divine might of Thine authority.

Resurrectional Kontakion, tone 4

My Saviour and Deliverer as God/ hath raised out of the grave the earth-born from their bonds / and He hath shattered the gates of hell / and as Master / He hath risen on the third day.

Resurrectional Kontakion, tone 5

Thou didst descend to Hades, O my Savior; / and, having shattered its gates as all-powerful; / Thou as Creator didst raise the dead with Thee; / and Thou didst destroy the sting of death, / and Adam hath been delivered from the curse, O Lover of Man. / Wherefore, we all cry: Save us, O Lord!

Resurrectional Kontakion, tone 6

With his life-originating palm, from the valleys of gloom, / the Life-giver Christ God hath raised all the dead. / He hath bestowed resurrection on the human race, / for He is the Savior of all, the Resurrection, and Life, and God of all.

Resurrectional Kontakion, tone 7

The dominion of death can no longer hold men captive, / for Christ descended, shattering and destroying its powers. / Hell is bound, while the prophets rejoice and

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cry: / the Savior hath come to those in faith. / Enter, ye faithful, into the Resurrection.

Resurrectional Kontakion, tone 8

Having risen from the tomb Thou didst waken the dead and raise Adam, / and Eve exulteth in Thy Resurrection, / and the ends of the world keep festival for Thy rising from the dead, O Most Merciful One.

Reader: Lord, have mercy. (40)

O Thou, who at all times and at every hour, both in heaven and on earth, art worshipped and glorified, O Christ God, long-suffering, great in mercy and goodness of heart, who lovest the righteous and hast mercy on sinners, who callest all men to salvation through the tidings of good things to come: do Thou, the same Lord, receive also our prayers at this hour; direct our lives in thy commandments, sanctify our souls, cleanse our bodies, direct our thoughts, cleanse our minds, and deliver us from every tribulation, wickedness, and affliction; encompass us by Thy holy angels, that guarded and guided by their host, we may become worthy of the unity of the faith, and of the understanding of Thine unapproachable glory, for blessed art thou unto ages of ages. Amen.

Lord, have mercy (3).

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

More honorable than the Cherubim and more glorious without compare than the Seraphim, who without corruption gavest birth to God the Word: verily, Theotokos, we magnify thee.

In the name of the Lord, Father bless.

Priest: Through the prayers of our Holy Fathers, Lord Jesus Christ our God, have mercy on us.

Reader: Amen.

During a fast when the Alleluia is sung, the prayer of St. Ephrem the Syrian is taken if it is not Friday or Saturday night:

Prayer of St. Ephrem

O Lord and Master of my life: the spirit of idleness, of despondency, of love of power, and of idle words, grant me not. (*prostration*)

But the spirit of continence, of humility, of patience, and of love, do Thou grant unto me Thy servant. (*prostration*)

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Yea, O Lord and King, grant me to perceive mine own offenses and not to judge my brother, for blessed art Thou unto ages of ages. Amen.
(prostration)

Prayer to the Most Holy Theotokos

by the Monk Paul

O spotless, undefiled, incorrupt, immaculate, pure Virgin, thou Bride of God and lady, who didst unite the Word of God with men through thy most marvellous birth-giving, and hast joined the apostate nature of our race with the heavenly, who art the sole hope of the hopeless, and the helper of them that are assailed, a ready succor of them that hasten unto thee, and the refuge of all Christians: abhor not me a sinner accursed, who have made myself wholly unprofitable through my base thoughts and words and deeds, and who through slothfulness of mind, have become a slave to the pleasures of life. But, in that thou art the mother of the God who loveth man, in thy love of man show mercy on me a sinner, and a prodigal, and accept my prayer, which is offered to thee with foul lips, and, exercising thy maternal boldness, implore thou thy Son, who is also our Master and our Lord, that He will open unto me also the man-loving depths of His goodness, and disregarding my numberless offenses, will turn me to repentance, and show me forth a proven doer of His commandments. And be thou ever present with me, in that thou art merciful, and pitiful, and full of loving goodness, for thou art a fervent Protectress and Helper, who in this present life repellst the assaults of the adversary, and leadest me to salvation, and at the hour of my departure, carest for my wretched soul, driving far from it the dark visions of evil demons; and in the fearful Judgment Day thou shalt deliver me from torment eternal, and shalt show me forth an heir of the unutterable glory of thy Son and our God, which I shall attain to, my Lady and most holy Theotokos, by thy mediation and succor, through the grace and love of man of thine only-begotten Son, to whom belongeth all glory, honor and worship, together with His Father who is without beginning, and His all-holy, and good, and life-creating Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

A Prayer to Our Lord Jesus Christ

by the Monk Antiochus

And grant us, O Master, as we go forth to sleep, repose both of body and soul, and keep us from the gloomy sleep of sin, and from every dark and nocturnal pleasure. Calm thou the impulses of passion; quench the fiery darts of the evil one, which are deceitfully hurled against us. Assuage the uprisings of our flesh. Still all our earthly and material purposes, and vouchsafe unto us, O God, a watchful mind, a chaste reason, a sober heart, a sleep light and rid of every satanic fantasy; and raise us up again at the hour of prayer, confirmed in Thy commandments, and holding firmly within us the memory of Thy judgments. Grant unto us a night-long praise, that we may hymn, and bless, and glorify Thine all-honorable and magnificent name, of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

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NOTE: In churches, Compline concludes at this point with brief prayers and a Litany. When read privately, Compline moves into Prayers Before Sleep, beginning with the Troparia: "Have mercy on us, O Lord, have mercy on us."

NOTE: If read at home with the family, it would be most appropriate to follow the monastic pattern of asking forgiveness of one another.

Head of family: Bless me, dear wife and children, and pardon me, a sinner, all wherein I have sinned this day, in deed, in word, in thought, and in all my senses.

Family members: May God pardon and have mercy on thee.

Family members, individually or together: Bless me/us and pardon me/us, dear husband/father, all wherein I/we have sinned this day, in deed, in thought, in word, and in all my/our senses.

Head of family: May God, through His grace, pardon and have mercy on us all.

Beneath Thy Compassion

Beneath thy compassion
we take refuge Virgin Theotokos.
Despise not our prayers
in our necessities;
but deliver us from harm,
O only pure, only blessed one.
Most Holy Theotokos, save us (3).

ABP. DMITRI'S TRANSLATION WAS PREDOMINATELY USED, SUPPLEMENTED BY SOME STANDARD OCA TROPARIA & KONTAKIA.