

MIDNIGHT OFFICE FOR USE AT HOME

Through the prayers of our holy fathers, Lord Jesus Christ our God, have mercy on us!
Amen! Glory to Thee, O God, glory to Thee!

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 and heal our infirmities for Thy name's sake.

Lord, have mercy; Lord, have mercy; Lord, have mercy.

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

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.

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Here we may insert hymns from the Octoechos/Triodion

Then on weekdays, we may read the Seventeenth Kathisma (Psalm 118/119).

After the kathisma (if we read one), we say:

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.

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 and heal our infirmities for Thy name's sake.

Lord, have mercy; Lord, have mercy; Lord, have mercy.

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

Then these troparia in tone 8:

Behold, the Bridegroom cometh at midnight,
and blessed is the servant whom He shall find watchful,
but again unworthy is he whom He shall find slothful.
Beware, then, O my soul,
let by sleep thou be weighed down,
and be given over unto death and shut thyself out from the kingdom;
but awake crying: Holy, Holy, Holy art Thou, O God;
through the Theotokos, have mercy on us.

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

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While meditating on that fearful day, O my soul,
be watchful, kindling thy lamp, lighting it with oil,
for thou knowest not when the voice shall come unto thee,
saying: "Behold, the Bridegroom."
Beware then, O my soul, lest thou slumber and remain knocking without, like the five virgins

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

We pray thee, O Virgin Theotokos, thou impregnable wall,
bulwark of salvation,
frustrate the counsel of the adversary,
the sorrows of thy people change into joy,
recall thy world and strengthen the pious;
intercede for the peace of the world, O Theotokos,
for thou art our hope.

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 attain to the unity of the faith, and to 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.

Through the prayers of our holy fathers, Lord Jesus Christ have mercy on us. Amen.

During the Great Fast, (when the Alleluia is sung), the prayer of St. Ephrem of Syria is read now.

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*)

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

Then 12 bows to the waist while saying:

O God, cleanse Thou me a sinner and have mercy on me (12).

OR

O God, have mercy on me a sinner (3).

O God, cleanse Thou me a sinner and have mercy on me (3).

Thou hast created me, O Lord, have mercy on me (3).

Countless times have I sinned, O Lord, forgive me. (3)

Then repeat the prayer in full, and conclude with a prostration.

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The prayer of St. Mardarius

O Master, God, Father Almighty, Lord, Only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit, one Godhead, one Power: have mercy on me a sinner, and, by the judgements which Thou discernest, save me Thine unworthy servant, for blessed art thou unto ages of ages. Amen.

A Prayer of St. Basil the Great

Almighty Lord, the God of hosts and of all flesh, who livest in the heights, yet lookest down on the humble, proving the hearts and emotions, clearly foreknowing the secrets of men: Thou art the Light without beginning, in Whom there is no variation nor shadow of change. O Immortal King, accept the prayers which we now offer Thee from defiled lips. Free us from the sins we have committed in deed, word or thought, knowingly and unknowingly. Cleanse us from all defilement of flesh and spirit. Grant us to pass through the entire night of this present life with a watchful heart and a sober mind, awaiting the coming of the bright and manifest day of Thine only-begotten Son, our Lord, God and Savior Jesus Christ, when the Judge of all will come with glory to reward each according to his deeds. May we not be found fallen and lazy, but alert and roused to action, prepared to enter into His joy and the divine chamber of His glory, where the voice of those who feast is unceasing and indescribable is the delight of those who behold the inexpressible beauty of Thy countenance. For Thou art the true Light which enlightens and sanctifies all, and all creation hymns Thee unto ages of ages. Amen

Another Prayer of St. Basil

We bless Thee, most high God and Lord of mercies, Who ever doest great and unfathomable things for us – glorious and awesome things without number. Thou givest us sleep for the repose of our frailty, relieving the labors of our over-burdened flesh. We thank Thee for not destroying us in our lawlessness. Instead, Thou has shown Thy usual love for mankind, and raised us, as we lay in despair, to glorify Thy Reign. Therefore, we implore Thy boundless goodness: enlighten our thoughts and eyes, and awaken our minds from the heavy sleep of laziness. Open our lips and fill them with Thy praise, that we may unwaveringly hymn and confess Thee, the God glorified in all and by all, Father without beginning, with Thine only-begotten Son and Thine all-holy, and life-giving Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

A Prayer of St. Eustratius

Greatly will I magnify thee, O Lord, for Thou didst look upon my humility and didst not shut me up in the hands of the enemy, but thou hast saved my soul from necessities. And now, O Master, let thy hand shelter me, and let thy mercy come upon me, for my soul is disquieted and pained at its departure from this my wretched and foul body. May the evil counsel of the foe never meet and hinder it in the darkness because of the sins that in ignorance and with knowledge I have committed in this life. Be gracious unto me, O Mater, and let not my soul see the murky and dark vision of evil demons, but let it be received by thy radiant and shining angels. Give glory to thy holy name, and by thy power lead me to thy divine judgment seat. When I shall be judged, let not the hand of the prince of this world take me in order to drag me, a sinner, down into the depths of hell, but stand thou near me, and be unto me a Savior and Helper. Let these bodily torments be a joy unto thy servants. Have mercy, O Lord, on my soul made foul with the passions of this life, and receive it cleansed through repentance and confession, for blessed art thou unto ages of ages. Amen.

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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 120

I lifted up mine eyes unto the mountains, whence cometh my help. My help is from the Lord, who hath made heaven and earth. Let not my foot be given to wavering, nor He that keepeth thee slumber. Behold, He that keepeth Israel shall neither slumber nor sleep. The Lord shall keep thee; the Lord is thy shield upon thy right hand. By day the sun shall not smite thee, nor the moon by night. The Lord shall keep thee from all evil; the Lord shall keep thy soul. The Lord shall keep thy coming in and thy going out henceforth and forevermore.

Psalm 133

Behold now, bless the Lord, all ye servants of the Lord, that stand in the house of the Lord, in the courts of the house of our God. In the nights lift up your hands in the sanctuaries and bless ye the Lord. May the Lord bless thee out of Zion, He that made heaven and earth.

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

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 and heal our infirmities for Thy name's sake.

Lord, have mercy; Lord, have mercy; Lord, have mercy.

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

These Troparia for the Departed in Tone 2

O Lord, as thou art good, remember thy servants,
and pardon them in whatsoever they have sinned during their life,
for none is without sin,
but thou who art able to give rest to the departed.

Out of the depth of wisdom and with love of man
dost thou dispense all things,
and dost distribute to all that which is expedient, O only Artificer;
give rest, O Lord, to the souls of thy servants,
for they did put their hope in thee,
our Maker and our Fashioner and our God.

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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 servant(s),
where there is neither sickness nor sorrow,
and no more sighing, but life everlasting.

Now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen. *Theotokion*

We bless thee in every generation, O Virgin Theotokos,
for in thee the uncontained Christ was well-pleased to be contained.
Blessed are we also that have thee as a Protectress,
for day and night, thou dost intercede for us,
and the scepters of kings by thy supplications are strengthened.
Wherefore in hymning thee, we cry to thee:
Rejoice, O thou who art full of grace, the Lord is with thee.

Lord, have mercy (12).

And these prayers:

The Remembrancer

Remember, O Lord, our fathers and brethren who have fallen asleep in the hope of the resurrection unto life eternal, and all them that in piety and faith have completed their lives. Pardon every sin committed by them in word or deed or thought, and settle them in a place of light, in a place of verdure, in a place of repose, whence all sickness, sorrow, and sighing have fled away, where the light of thy face watcheth over and gladdeneth all thy Saints from the ages. Grant them and us thy kingdom and participation in thine endless and blessed life. For thou art the Resurrection, and the Life, and the Repose of thy servants who have fallen asleep, O Christ our God, and unto thee do we send up glory, together with thy Father, who is without beginning, and thine all-holy, and good, and life-creating Spirit, not and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

O most glorious ever-virgin Mother of Christ God, offer our prayers unto thy Son and our God, that He may, through thee, save our souls.

All my hope I place on thee, O Mother of God; keep me beneath thy shelter.

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

And these Troparia in tone 6:

Have mercy on us, O Lord, have mercy on us, for laying aside all excuse, we sinners offer unto Thee as to our Master, this supplication: have mercy on us.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.
O Lord, have mercy on us, for in Thee have put our hope. Do not be angry with us, neither remember our iniquities, but look down on us even now, since Thou art compassionate, and deliver us from our enemies; for Thou art our God and we are Thy people; we are all the works of Thy hands, and we call on Thy Name.

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Now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

O Blessed Theotokos, open the doors of compassion to us whose hope is in thee, that we may not perish but be delivered from adversities, through thee who art the salvation of the Christian people.

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

Lord, have mercy (3).

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