



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

O Heavenly King, the Comforter, the Spirit of Truth, everywhere present and filling all things. Treasury of Blessings, and Giver of Life, come and abide in us, and cleanse us from every impurity, and save our souls, O Good One!

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.

O Most Holy Trinity, have mercy on us. O Lord, cleanse us from our sins. O Master, pardon our transgressions. O Holy One, visit and heal our infirmities, for Your Name's sake.

Lord, have mercy. (3x) 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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us, and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.

Lord, have mercy. (3x) 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 63 (62 LXX)
Joy in the fellowship of God

O God, my God,

I rise early to be with You,
my soul thirsts for You.
My flesh longs for You,
as in a dry, weary, and waterless land.
So I have appeared before You in the holy place,
beholding Your power and glory.
Because Your mercy is better than life,
my lips will praise You.
So I will bless You as long as I live,
I will lift up my hands and call on Your Name.
My soul is satisfied as with a rich feast,
and my mouth praises You with joyful lips.
When I remember You on my bed,
I meditate on You at daybreak.
For You are my helper,
and in the shelter of Your wings I rejoice.
My soul clings to You,
Your right hand upholds me.
But those who seek to destroy my soul
will go down into the depths of the earth,
they will be given over to the power of the sword,
they will be prey for jackals.
But the king will rejoice in God,
all who swear by Him will be praised,
for the mouths of liars will be stopped.

Please continue praying for Irina Gozick.

Today we will be praying the section called Aposticha from Matins of Wednesday in the Fifth Week of Great Lent.

Having forsaken the height of the virtues, O my soul, you have descended into the depths of sin, and fallen among evil thieves upon the road. And now you are covered with rotting sores, laying prostrate and helpless. But cry

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aloud to Christ your God, Who has been crucified and wounded of His own will for your sake, saying, “Take care of me, O Lord, and save me.”

Verse: We were filled in the morning with Your mercy, O Lord, and we rejoiced and were glad. In all our days, let us be glad for the days when You humbled us, for the years when we saw evils. And look upon Your servants, and upon Your works, and guide us.

In my misery I have been wounded by thieving thoughts and left half dead, O Lord. The company of the prophets have passed me by, beholding me as one almost dead, incurable by human hands. Therefore, in my grievous suffering, with humble heart I cry to You, “O Christ my God, in Your compassion, pour upon me Your great mercy.”

Verse: And let the brightness of the Lord our God be upon us, and the works of our hand guide aright upon us.

O invincible martyrs of Christ, you triumphed over falsehood by the power of the Cross, and received the grace of eternal life as your reward. You did not fear the threatening of the tyrants, and when you suffered torments you rejoiced. And now your blood has become for us the healing of our souls. Intercede for us, that we may be saved.

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

Upon seeing You hanging upon the Cross in the flesh, the most pure Virgin was wounded in her heart, and she cried aloud with tears, “O Word, where have You gone, O most beloved Jesus, my Son and my Lord? I am You Mother, do not leave me alone, O Christ.”

PRAYERS TO END THE PANDEMIC OF CORONAVIRUS

Let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mercy.

O God Almighty, Lord of heaven and earth, and of all creation visible and invisible: In Your inexpressible goodness, look down upon us, Your people gathered in Your Holy Name. Be our helper and defender in this day of affliction, for You know all our weaknesses and hear our cry in repentance and contrition of heart. O loving Lord, deliver us from the impending threat of the coronavirus. Send Your angel to watch over us and protect us. Grant health and recovery to those suffering from this virus.

Guide the hands of the physicians and heal Your servants through them. Grant wisdom to those who are working on the vaccine for this virus. And preserve those who are healthy. Enable us to continue to serve our suffering brothers and sisters in peace that together we may glorify Your most honorable and majestic Name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

O Lord Jesus Christ, in Your loving care, You traveled through towns and villages healing every disease and sickness, and at Your command, the sick were made well: Yourself now come to our aid, in the midst of the global spread of the coronavirus, and grant us to experience the miracle Your healing love.

Comfort the families of those who are sick or have died. May they regain their strength and health through quality medical care. And as they worry and grieve, defend them from illness and despair.

Heal us from our fear, which prevents nations from working together and neighbors from helping one another.

Guide the hands of the doctors and nurses and all medical professionals who seek to heal and help those affected and who put themselves at risk in the process. And impart Your wisdom on the researchers working on the vaccine for coronavirus.

Heal us from our pride, which can make us claim immunity to a disease that knows no boundaries. Instill the fear of You in the leaders of our nation and other nations of the world. Give them the foresight to act with charity and true concern for the well-being of the people they are meant to serve. Give them the wisdom to invest in long-term solutions that will help prepare for or prevent future outbreaks.

O Master and Lord, our Savior, Healer of all, stay by our side in this time of uncertainty and sorrow. Whether we are home or abroad, surrounded by many people suffering from this illness or only a few, stay with us as we patiently endure and mourn, persist and prepare.

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For You are a merciful and loving God, and to You we give glory, to the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

PRAYER FOR DOCTORS AND NURSES

O Lord Jesus Christ our God, Lover of mankind, Physician of our souls and bodies, You endured the pain of our infirmities, and by Your wounds we are healed. You gave sight to the man born blind and straightened the woman who was bent over for 18 years. You gave speech and sight to the mute man who was possessed by demons. You not only forgave the paralyzed man his sins, but healed him to walk. You restored the withered hand of a man in the synagogue and stopped the flow of blood of a woman who bled for 12 years. You raised Jairus' daughter back to life and resurrected Lazarus who was dead four days. You heal every infirmity under the sun: Yourself now, O Lord, grant Your grace to all the doctors, nurses, physicians, and researchers, who have labored and studied hour upon hour, to go into all the world, and also to heal by the talent You have given to each of them. Strengthen them by Your strength, that they may not fear evil or disease. Enlighten them to do no evil by the works of their hands, and preserve them and those they serve in peace. For You are our God, and to You we give glory together with Your Father, Who has no beginning, and Your Most Holy, Good, and Life-giving Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

DAILY SCRIPTURE READINGS

Genesis 17:1-9

17 ¹ When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the Lord appeared to Abram, and said to him, "I am God Almighty; walk before Me, and be blameless. ² And I will make My covenant between Me and you, and will make you exceedingly numerous." ³ Then Abram fell on his face; and God said to him, ⁴ "As for Me, this is My covenant with you: You shall be the ancestor of a multitude of nations. ⁵ No longer shall your name be Abram, but your name shall be Abraham; for I have made you the ancestor of a multitude of nations. ⁶ I will make you exceedingly fruitful; and I will make nations of you, and kings shall come from you. ⁷ I will establish My covenant between Me and you, and your offspring after you throughout their

generations, for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your offspring after you. ⁸ And I will give to you, and to your offspring after you, the land where you are now an alien, all the land of Canaan, for a perpetual holding; and I will be their God.” ⁹ God said to Abraham, “As for you, you shall keep My covenant, you and your offspring after you throughout their generations.”

Proverbs 15:20-16:9

- ²⁰ A wise child makes a glad father,
but the foolish despise their mothers.
- ²¹ Folly is a joy to one who has no sense,
but a person of understanding walks straight ahead.
- ²² Without counsel, plans go wrong,
but with many advisers they succeed.
- ²³ To make an apt answer is a joy to anyone,
and a word in season, how good it is!
- ²⁴ For the wise the path of life leads upward,
in order to avoid Sheol below.
- ²⁵ The Lord tears down the house of the proud,
but maintains the widow’s boundaries.
- ²⁶ Evil plans are an abomination to the Lord,
but gracious words are pure.
- ²⁷ Those who are greedy for unjust gain
make trouble for their households,
but those who hate bribes will live.
- ²⁸ The mind of the righteous ponders how to answer,
but the mouth of the wicked pours out evil.
- ²⁹ The Lord is far from the wicked,
but He hears the prayer of the righteous.
- ³⁰ The light of the eyes rejoices the heart,
and good news refreshes the body.
- ³¹ The ear that heeds wholesome admonition
will lodge among the wise.

³² Those who ignore instruction despise themselves,
but those who heed admonition gain understanding.

³³ The fear of the Lord is instruction in wisdom,
and humility goes before honor.

16 ¹ The plans of the mind belong to mortals,
but the answer of the tongue is from the Lord.

² All one's ways may be pure in one's own eyes,
but the Lord weighs the spirit.

³ Commit your work to the Lord,
and your plans will be established.

⁴ The Lord has made everything for its purpose,
even the wicked for the day of trouble.

⁵ All those who are arrogant are an abomination to the Lord;
be assured, they will not go unpunished.

⁶ By loyalty and faithfulness iniquity is atoned for,
and by the fear of the Lord one avoids evil.

⁷ When the ways of people please the Lord,
He causes even their enemies to be at peace with them.

⁸ Better is a little with righteousness
than large income with injustice.

⁹ The human mind plans the way,
but the Lord directs the steps.

SAINT OF THE DAY

Martyrs Chrysanthus and Daria, and those with them at Rome

Saint Chrysanthus came from a pagan family who had moved to Rome from Alexandria. He received a fine education, and among the books he read were those in which pagans discussed Christianity. The young man, however, wanted to read books written by Christians themselves. He finally managed to find a copy of the New Testament, which enlightened his rational soul.

Seeking someone to instruct him in the Holy Scriptures, he found a priest Carpophoros hiding from persecution, and received holy Baptism from him. After this, he began to preach the Gospel. Chrysanthus' father tried to turn his son from Christianity, and finally married him to Daria, a priestess of

Minerva.

Chrysanthus managed to convert his wife to Christ, and the young couple mutually agreed to lead celibate lives. After the death of the father, they began to live in separate houses. Chrysanthus converted several young men to Christ, and many pious women gathered around Saint Daria.

The people of Rome complained to the eparch Celerinus that Chrysanthus and Daria were preaching celibacy and attracting too many young men and women to monasticism. Chrysanthus was sent to the tribune Claudius for torture.

The torments, however, did not shake the bravery of the young martyr, since the power of God clearly aided him. Struck by this, the tribune Claudius himself came to believe in Christ and accepted holy Baptism together with his wife Hilaria, their sons Jason and Maurus, and all his household and soldiers. When news of this reached the emperor Numerian (283-284), he commanded them all to be executed.

The Martyr Claudius was drowned in the sea, and his sons and soldiers were beheaded. Christians buried the bodies of the holy martyrs in a nearby cave, and Hilaria constantly went there to pray. Once, they followed her and led her off for torture. The saint asked that they give her a few moments to pray, and as soon as she finished, she gave up her soul to God. A servant buried the saint in the cave beside her sons.

The torturers sent Daria to a brothel, where she was protected by a lion sent by God. A certain man who tried to defile the saint was knocked to the ground and pinned down by the lion, but the lion did not kill him. The martyr preached to them about Christ and set them to the path of salvation.

They threw Chrysanthus into a foul-smelling pit, into which all the filth of the city flowed. But a heavenly light shone on him, and the pit was filled with a sweet fragrance.

Then the emperor Numerian ordered Chrysanthus and Daria to be turned over to the executioners. After many cruel tortures, the martyrs were buried alive in the ground.

In a cave near the place of execution, Christians began to gather to honor the anniversary of the saints' martyrdom. They celebrated Church services

and partook of the Holy Mysteries. Learning of this, the pagan authorities sealed the entrance to the cave, and those within received the crown of martyrdom. Two of these martyrs are known by name: a priest Diodorus and a deacon Marianus.

TWO PRAYERS TO SAINT PATRICK

Troparion

Let us honor the like-minded pair of martyrs
Chrysanthus, scion of purity, and supremely modest Daria.
United in holiness of faith,
they shone forth as communicants of God the Word.
They fought lawfully for Him and now save those who sing,
“Glory to Him Who has strengthened you!
Glory to Him Who has crowned you!
Glory to Him Who through you grants healing to all!”

Kontakion

In the sweet fragrance of holiness, O Chrysanthus,
you drew Daria to saving knowledge.
Together in contest you routed the serpent,
the author of all evil,
and were worthily taken up to the heavenly realms.

CONCLUDING PRAYERS

It is truly meet to bless you, O Theotokos, ever-blessed and most pure, and the Mother of our God. More honorable than the Cherubim, and more glorious beyond compare than the Seraphim, without corruption you gave birth to God the Word. True Theotokos we magnify you.

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

