



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 69 (68 LXX)
Prayer for deliverance from persecution

Save me, O God,

for the waters flood my soul.
I sink in the deep mud,
where there is no foothold.
I have come into deep waters,
and the storm overwhelms me.
I am weary with my crying,
my throat is hoarse.
My eyes fail me from hoping in my God.
More in number than the hairs of my head
are those who hate me without a cause.
My enemies who persecute me unjustly have become strong.
Then I paid for things I did not steal.
O God, You know my foolishness,
and my transgressions are not hidden from You.
Do not let those who hope in You
be put to shame because of me, O Lord God of hosts.
Do not let those who seek You
feel ashamed because of me, O God of Israel.
For Your sake I have suffered reproach,
shame has covered my face.
I have become a stranger to my brothers,
a foreigner to my mother's children.
It is zeal for Your house that has consumed me,
the insults of those who insult You have fallen on me.
When I humbled my soul with fasting,
they insulted me for doing so.
When I made sackcloth my clothing,
I became a byword to them.
I am the subject of gossip
for those who sit in the gate,
and the drunkards make songs about me.
But as for me, my prayer is to You, O Lord.
It is the time of Your goodwill, O God,

in the abundance of Your mercy.
In the truth of Your salvation, hear me.
Save me from sinking in the mud,
that I may not be stuck in it.
Deliver me from my enemies
and from the deep waters.
Do not let the storm waters overwhelm me,
nor the deep swallow me up,
nor the Pit close its mouth over me.
Hear me, O Lord, for Your mercy is good,
in Your great compassion, look down upon me.
Do not turn Your face away from Your servant,
for I am in distress – make haste to hear me.
Draw near to my soul, redeem me,
set me free because of my enemies.
For You know the insults I receive,
and my shame and humiliation.
My enemies are all known to You.
My soul expected disgrace and trouble,
and I waited for someone to sympathize with me,
but no one was there,
and for comforters, but I found none.
They gave me gall for food,
and for my thirst they gave me vinegar to drink.
Let their table be a trap for them,
and a repayment and a stumbling block.
Let their eyes be darkened
so that they cannot see,
and bend their backs continually.
Pour out Your anger upon them,
and let Your raging wrath overtake them.
May their dwelling be a desolation,
let no one live in their tents.

For they persecute those whom You have struck down,
and they add to the pain of my wounds.
Add lawlessness to their lawlessness,
and do not let them enter in Your righteousness.
Let them be blotted out of the Book of the Living,
do not let them be enrolled among the righteous.
But I am poor and in pain,
and Your salvation, O God, upholds me.
I will praise the Name of God with a song,
I will magnify Him with thanksgiving.
And this will please the Lord
more than an ox or a bull with horns and hoofs.
Let the poor see this and be glad,
seek God, and your soul will live,
for the Lord hears the poor,
and does not despise His own that are in prison.
Let heaven and earth praise Him,
the sea and everything that moves in it,
for God will save Zion and rebuild the cities of Judah.
And His servants will live there and possess it,
the children of His servants will inherit it,
and those who love His Name will live in it.

Please continue praying for Irina Gozick.

Saturdays throughout the year are reserved for the commemoration of our departed family members, friends, and neighbors. It is especially so during Great Lent. Therefore, today pray for all of your departed loved ones.

O God of spirits and of all flesh, You have conquered death by Your own death, and destroyed the power of devil, and given life to Your world: Yourself, O Lord, give rest to the souls of Your departed servants, *[names]*, in a place of brightness, a place of refreshment, a place of repose, where all

sickness, sorrow, and sighing are no more. Forgive them every transgression which they have committed, whether by word or deed or thought, for You are a good God and love mankind. For there is no one who lives yet does not sin, for only You are sinless, Your righteousness is an everlasting righteousness, and Your word is truth. For You are the Resurrection, and the Life, and the Repose of Your servants, who are fallen asleep, O Christ 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.

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.

SATURDAY, APRIL 4
FIFTH WEEK OF GREAT LENT

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.

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,

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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

Hebrews 9:24-28

²⁴ For Christ did not enter a sanctuary made by human hands, a mere copy of the true one, but He entered into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God on our behalf. ²⁵ Nor was it to offer Himself again and again, as the high priest enters the Holy Place year after year with blood that is not his own; ²⁶ for then He would have had to suffer again and again since the foundation of the world. But as it is, Christ has appeared once for all at the end of the age to remove sin by the sacrifice of Himself. ²⁷ And just as it is appointed for mortals to die once, and after that the judgment, ²⁸ so Christ, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, will appear a second time, not to deal with sin, but to save those who are eagerly waiting for Him.

Mark 8:27-31

²⁷ Jesus went on with His disciples to the villages of Caesarea Philippi; and on the way He asked his disciples, “Who do people say that I am?” ²⁸ And they answered Him, “John the Baptist; and others, Elijah; and still others, one of the prophets.” ²⁹ He asked them, “But who do you say that I am?” Peter answered Him, “You are the Christ.” ³⁰ And He sternly ordered them not to tell anyone about Him. ³¹ Then Jesus began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again.

SAINT OF THE DAY

Priest-martyr Basil of Ancyra

Saint Basil was a presbyter in Ancyra, Galatia. Fighting against the Arian heresy (*which taught that Jesus Christ was created by God the Father*), he urged his flock to cling firmly to Orthodoxy. Because of this, Saint Basil was deposed from his priestly rank by a local Arian council, but a Council of 230 bishops in Palestine reinstated him.

Basil openly continued to preach and denounce the Arians. Therefore, he became the victim of persecution and was subjected to punishment as a man dangerous to the state. Two apostates, Elpidios and Pegasios, were ordered to turn Basil from Orthodoxy. However, the saint remained unshakable, and was again subjected to tortures.

When the emperor Julian the Apostate (361-363) arrived in the city of Ancyra, Basil bravely confessed Christ before him at the trial, and denounced the emperor for his apostasy. Julian ordered that strips of skin be cut from the saint's back. Basil endured the gruesome torture with great patience.

When they began to beat his shoulders and stomach with red-hot rods, he fell down upon the ground from the torments and cried out, "O Christ, my Light! O Jesus, my Hope! Quiet Haven from the stormy sea. I thank You, O Lord God of my fathers, that You have snatched my soul from the pit of hell and preserved Your Name in me unstained! Let me finish my life a victor and inherit eternal life according to the promise You gave my fathers. Now accept my soul in peace, remaining steadfast in this confession! For You are merciful and great is Your mercy, and You live and sojourn throughout all the ages. Amen."

Having made such prayer, and lacerated all over by the red-hot rods, the saint fell into a sweet slumber, giving up his soul into the hands of God. The Priest-martyr Basil died June 29, 362.

TWO PRAYERS TO SAINT BASIL

Troparion

Through the inspiration of the Holy Spirit
you worthily received the anointing of the priesthood, O Basil.
You offered your martyr's contest
as a royal sacrifice to the King of the Ages.
O righteous father, entreat Christ God to grant us His great mercy.

Kontakion

As a priest of the King of Glory,
you also became a holy warrior by your contest.

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You shamed the counsels of the lawless
and received the enjoyment of the heavenly Kingdom,
O blessed priest-martyr of Christ, Basil.

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.

