

**T**hrough 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 6

#### *A prayer of faith in time of distress*

O Lord, do not rebuke me in Your anger,  
or discipline me in Your wrath.

Have mercy on me, O Lord, for I am weak.

O Lord, heal me, for my bones are troubled.

My soul is also greatly troubled,

while you, O Lord – how long?  
Turn, O Lord, and save my soul,  
save me for the sake of Your mercy.  
For in death there is no remembrance of You,  
in hell who can give You praise?  
I am worn out with my groaning,  
every night I flood my bed with tears,  
I drench my couch with my weeping.  
My eye is troubled because of my anger,  
I grow weak because of all my enemies.  
Depart from me, all you workers of evil,  
for the Lord has heard the voice of my weeping.  
The Lord has heard my supplication,  
the Lord has received my prayer.  
May all my enemies be ashamed and be troubled,  
may they turn back, and in a moment be put to shame.

*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.*

PRAYER FOR THE DEPARTED

*Remember especially the newly-departed Charles (Jasper) Dutkevitch, who fell asleep in the Lord yesterday.*

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.

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

**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

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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, 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 10:32-38*

<sup>32</sup> But recall those earlier days when, after you had been enlightened, you endured a hard struggle with sufferings, <sup>33</sup> sometimes being publicly exposed to abuse and persecution, and sometimes being partners with those so treated. <sup>34</sup> For you had compassion for those who were in prison, and you cheerfully accepted the plundering of your possessions, knowing that you yourselves possessed something better and more lasting. <sup>35</sup> Do not, therefore, abandon that confidence of yours; it brings a great reward. <sup>36</sup> For you need endurance, so that when you have done the will of God, you may receive what was promised. <sup>37</sup> For yet “in a very little while, He Who is coming will come and will not delay; <sup>38</sup> but My righteous One will live by faith. My soul takes no pleasure in anyone who shrinks back” (*Habakkuk 2:3-4*).

*Mark 2:14-17*

<sup>14</sup> As Jesus was walking along, He saw Levi son of Alphaeus sitting at the tax booth, and He said to him, “Follow Me.” And Levi got up and followed Him. <sup>15</sup> And as Jesus sat at dinner in Levi’s house, many tax collectors and sinners were also sitting with Jesus and His disciples – for there were many who followed Him. <sup>16</sup> When the scribes and the Pharisees saw that Jesus was eating with sinners and tax collectors, they said to His disciples, “Why does He eat with tax collectors and sinners?” <sup>17</sup> When Jesus heard this, He said to them, “Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. I have come to call not the righteous but sinners.”

SAINT OF THE DAY

*Saint Theophylactus, Bishop of Nicomedia*

Theophylactus lived at Constantinople in the eighth century during the time of the Iconoclast heresy. After the death of the iconoclast emperor Leo IV the Khazar (775-780), Emperor Constantine VI (780-797) ascended the throne. At the same time, the holy Patriarch Paul, not having the strength to continue guiding the flock in the face of iconoclasm, voluntarily resigned his office (784). Saint Tarasius was then chosen in his place. At that time,

he was an eminent imperial counselor. Under the supervision of the new Patriarch, the Seventh Ecumenical Council in 787 was convened to condemn the Iconoclast heresy. A relatively peaceful time began for the Church, and monasteries again began to fill with monks.

Theophylactus, a gifted disciple of Saint Tarasius, with the blessing of the Patriarch, went to a monastery on the coast of the Black Sea with Saint Michael. The zealous ascetics by their God-pleasing labors and intense prayer were granted the gift of wonderworking by God. During a drought, when the workers in the field were weakened by thirst, the saints prayed and an empty vessel became filled with enough water to last the entire day. After several years in the monastery, they were both consecrated as bishops by Patriarch Tarasius. Saint Michael was made Bishop of Synada, and Saint Theophylactus was made Bishop of Nicomedia.

Heading the Church of Nicomedia, Saint Theophylactus cared for the flock entrusted to him. He built churches, hospices, homes for wanderers, he generously distributed alms, was the guardian of orphans, widows and the sick, and personally attended those afflicted with leprosy, not hesitating to wash their wounds.

When the iconoclast Leo the Armenian (813-820) came to the imperial throne, the terrible heresy burst out with renewed strength.

But the iconoclast emperor was not able to influence Saint Nicephorus, the successor of Patriarch Tarasius, who with the other bishops vainly urged Leo not to destroy the peace of the Church. Saint Theophylactus was present at the negotiations of the emperor with the Patriarch. Denouncing the heretics, Saint Theophylactus predicted a speedy death for Leo the Armenian. For his bold prophecy the saint was sent into exile to the fortress Strobil (in Asia Minor). He languished for thirty years until his death, which took place around the year 845.

After the restoration of icon-veneration in the year 847 under the empress Saint Theodora and her son Michael, the holy relics of Saint Theophylactus were returned to Nicomedia.

TWO PRAYERS TO SAINT THEOPHYLACTUS

*Troparion*

As an unsleeping guardian of the Church,  
you were a refuter of godlessness.  
By defending and honoring the icon of Christ,  
you were made to endure exile and affliction.  
O righteous Father Theophylactus,  
entreat Christ our God to grant us His great mercy.

*Kontakion*

You were revealed as a beacon shining to the ends of the earth,  
O holy hierarch Theophylactus.  
You preached the Word, one in essence with the Father and the Spirit,  
enlightening the council of God-bearing fathers.  
You were revealed to be a favorite of the Trinity,  
standing before Him unceasingly pray for us all.

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.

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