



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

Christ is risen from the dead, trampling down death by death, and upon those in the tombs bestowing life! (3x)

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 51 (50 LXX)  
*A prayer of repentance*

Have mercy on me, O God, in Your great mercy,  
and in the abundance of Your compassions  
blot out my transgressions.  
Wash me thoroughly from my lawlessness,  
and cleanse me from my sin.  
For I know my transgressions,  
and my sin is always before me.  
Against You alone have I sinned,  
and done evil before You,  
so that You are justified in Your words  
and victorious in Your judgment.  
For, behold, I was conceived in iniquity,  
and in sin my mother gave birth to me.  
For, behold, You love truth,  
You revealed to me the unknown  
and secret things of Your wisdom.  
Sprinkle me with hyssop, and I will be cleansed.  
Wash me, and I will be whiter than snow.  
Make me to hear joy and gladness,  
let the bones that You have humbled rejoice.  
Turn Your face away from my sins,  
and blot out all my transgressions.  
Create in me a clean heart, O God,  
and renew a right Spirit within me.  
Do not cast me away from Your presence,  
and do not take Your Holy Spirit from me.  
Restore to me the joy of Your salvation,  
and establish me with Your guiding Spirit.  
Then I will teach transgressors Your ways,  
and sinners will return to You.  
Rescue me from bloodshed, O God, the God of my salvation,  
and my tongue will rejoice at Your righteousness.

O Lord, open my lips, and my mouth will declare Your praise,  
for if You had desired sacrifice, I would have given it,  
You will not take pleasure in whole burnt offerings.  
The sacrifice to God is a broken spirit,  
a broken and humbled heart God will not despise.  
Do good, O Lord, to Zion, in Your good pleasure,  
and let the walls of Jerusalem be rebuilt.  
Then You will be pleased with the sacrifice of righteousness,  
with offerings and whole-burnt offerings,  
then bulls will be offered on Your altar.

*Aposticha from Matins of Monday of the fourth week of Pascha*

Beholding the power of Your signs and miracles, those who were paralyzed by their envy and mighty in their wickedness did not believe You to be the Son of God, and the Sovereign Lord of all things, Who by Your word completely healed the paralytic.

*Verse:* Of Your mercies, O Lord, I will sing forever. To generation and generation I will declare Your truth with my mouth.

The scribes, who kept the Sabbath, saw the man, who had been long paralyzed, strengthened on the Sabbath, and showing their souls to be weak with pride. Though blameless in the Law, they cried aloud, “It is not proper to heal on the Sabbath day.”

*Verse:* For You have said, “Mercy will be built up forever.” In the heavens Thy truth will be established.

Those who kept the Sabbath did not recognize You the Sabbath’s Lord, murmuring at the strengthening of the paralytic, which came about on the Sabbath. Therefore they cried aloud, saying, “It is not right to carry your bed on the Sabbath day.”

*Verse 5:* Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Jesus went up to Jerusalem to the Sheep’s Pool, which in Hebrew is called Bethesda, having five porches. In it lay a multitude of the sick, for an angel

of God went down each season and troubled the water, granting healing to those who drew near in faith. And the Lord, on seeing a man who had been there for many years, said to him, “Do you wish to be made whole?” And the sick man replied, “Sir, I have no one, when the water is troubled, to lift and place me into the pool. I have wasted all my substance on physicians and was not deemed worthy of mercy.” But the Physician of both souls and bodies said to him, “Take up your bed and walk, and proclaim My might and great mercy to the ends of the earth.”

*Verse:* It is good to give praise unto the Lord, and to chant unto Thy name, O Most High, to proclaim in the morning Thy mercy, and Thy truth by night.

### TODAY'S SCRIPTURE READINGS

#### *Acts 10:1-16*

10<sup>1</sup> In Caesarea there was a man named Cornelius, a centurion of the Italian Cohort, as it was called. <sup>2</sup> He was a devout man who feared God with all his household; he gave alms generously to the people and prayed constantly to God. <sup>3</sup> One afternoon at about three o'clock he had a vision in which he clearly saw an angel of God coming in and saying to him, “Cornelius.” <sup>4</sup> He stared at him in terror and said, “What is it, Lord?” He answered, “Your prayers and your alms have ascended as a memorial before God. <sup>5</sup> Now send men to Joppa for a certain Simon who is called Peter; <sup>6</sup> he is lodging with Simon, a tanner, whose house is by the seaside.” <sup>7</sup> When the angel who spoke to him had left, he called two of his slaves and a devout soldier from the ranks of those who served him, <sup>8</sup> and after telling them everything, he sent them to Joppa. <sup>9</sup> About noon the next day, as they were on their journey and approaching the city, Peter went up on the roof to pray. <sup>10</sup> He became hungry and wanted something to eat; and while it was being prepared, he fell into a trance. <sup>11</sup> He saw the heaven opened and something like a large sheet coming down, being lowered to the ground by its four corners. <sup>12</sup> In it were all kinds of four-footed creatures and reptiles and birds of the air. <sup>13</sup> Then he heard a voice saying, “Get up, Peter; kill and eat.” <sup>14</sup> But Peter said, “By no means, Lord; for I have never eaten anything that is profane or unclean.” <sup>15</sup> The voice said to him again, a second time, “What God has

made clean, you must not call profane.” <sup>16</sup> This happened three times, and the thing was suddenly taken up to heaven.

*John 6:56-69*

<sup>56</sup> Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood abide in me, and I in them. <sup>57</sup> Just as the living Father sent me, and I live because of the Father, so whoever eats me will live because of me. <sup>58</sup> This is the bread that came down from heaven, not like that which your ancestors ate, and they died. But the one who eats this bread will live forever.” <sup>59</sup> He said these things while he was teaching in the synagogue at Capernaum.

<sup>60</sup> When many of his disciples heard it, they said, “This teaching is difficult; who can accept it?” <sup>61</sup> But Jesus, being aware that his disciples were complaining about it, said to them, “Does this offend you? <sup>62</sup> Then what if you were to see the Son of Man ascending to where he was before? <sup>63</sup> It is the spirit that gives life; the flesh is useless. The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life. <sup>64</sup> But among you there are some who do not believe.” For Jesus knew from the first who were the ones that did not believe, and who was the one that would betray him. <sup>65</sup> And he said, “For this reason I have told you that no one can come to me unless it is granted by the Father.”

<sup>66</sup> Because of this many of his disciples turned back and no longer went about with him. <sup>67</sup> So Jesus asked the twelve, “Do you also wish to go away?” <sup>68</sup> Simon Peter answered him, “Lord, to whom can we go? You have the words of eternal life. <sup>69</sup> We have come to believe and know that you are the Christ, the Son of the Living God.”

**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.

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.

SAINT OF THE DAY

*Apostles Jason and Sosipater of the Seventy, the Virgin Kerkyra, and those with them*

The Apostle Jason was from Tarsus (Asia Minor). He was the first Christian in the city. The Apostle Sosipater was a native of Patra, Achaia. He is thought to be the same Sosipater mentioned in Acts 20:4. They both became disciples of Saint Paul, who even called them his kinsmen (*Romans 16:21*). Saint John Chrysostom (*Homily 32 on Romans*) says that this is the same Jason who is mentioned in Acts 17:5-9. Saint Jason was made bishop in his native city of Tarsus, and Saint Sosipater in Iconium. They traveled west preaching the Gospel, and in the year AD 63 they reached the island of

Kerkyra (Korfu) in the Ionian Sea near Greece.

There they built a church in the name of the Protomartyr Stephen and they baptized many. The governor of the island learned of this and locked them up in prison, where they met seven thieves: Saturninus, Iakischolus, Faustianus, Januarius, Marsalius, Euphrasius and Mammius. The Apostles converted them to Christ. For their confession of Christ, the seven prisoners died as martyrs in a cauldron of molten tar, wax and sulfur.

The prison guard, after witnessing their martyrdom, declared himself a Christian. For this they cut off his left hand, then both feet and finally his head. The governor ordered the Apostles Jason and Sosipater to be whipped and again locked up in prison.

When the daughter of the governor of Kerkyra (Korfu), the maiden Kerkyra, learned how Christians were suffering for Christ, she declared herself a Christian and gave away all her finery to the poor. The infuriated governor attempted to persuade his daughter to deny Christ, but Kerkyra stood firm against both persuasion and threats. Then the enraged father devised a terrible punishment for his daughter: he gave orders that she be placed in a prison cell with the robber and murderer Murinus, so that he might defile the betrothed of Christ.

But when the robber approached the door of the prison cell, a bear attacked him. Kerkyra heard the noise and she drove off the beast in the name of Christ. Then, by her prayers, she healed the wounds of Murinus. Then Kerkyra enlightened him with the faith of Christ, and Murinus declared himself a Christian and was executed.

The governor gave orders to burn down the prison, but the holy virgin remained alive. Then on her enraged father's order, she was suspended upon a tree, choked with bitter smoke and shot with arrows. After her death, the governor decided to execute all the Christians on the island of Kerkyra. The Martyrs Zeno, Eusebius, Neon and Vitalis, after being enlightened by Saints Jason and Sosipater, were burned alive.

The inhabitants of Kerkyra, escaping from the persecution, crossed to an adjoining island. The governor set sail with a detachment of soldiers, but was swallowed up by the waves. The governor succeeding him gave orders

to throw the Apostles Jason and Sosipater into a cauldron of boiling tar. When he beheld them unharmed, he cried out with tears, “O God of Jason and Sosipater, have mercy on me!”

Having been set free, the Apostles baptized the governor and gave him the name Sebastian. With his help, the Apostles Jason and Sosipater built several churches on the island, and increased the flock of Christ by their fervent preaching. They lived there until they reached old age.

**TROPARION AND KONTAKION OF SAINTS JASON AND SOSIPATER**

*Troparion*

O holy Apostles Jason and Sosipater,  
pray to the merciful God,  
that He may grant to our souls  
remission of our transgressions.

*Kontakion*

O Jason, source of healing,  
and Sosipater, glory of the martyrs of Christ.  
You were enlightened by the preaching of Paul,  
both becoming a great consolation  
to the world through your miracles.  
Thrice-holy and God-bearing Apostles  
and defenders of those who suffer,  
intercede with Christ God that He may save our souls.

**CONCLUDING PRAYERS**

The angel cried to the Lady full of grace,  
“Rejoice, O pure Virgin. Again I say, Rejoice.  
Your Son is risen from His three days in the tomb.  
With Himself He has raised all the dead.  
Rejoice, all people.”

Shine! Shine! O new Jerusalem!  
The glory of the Lord has shone on you.

Exult now and be glad, O Zion.  
Be radiant, O pure Theotokos,  
in the resurrection of your Son.

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

Christ is risen from the dead, trampling down death by death, and upon  
those in the tombs bestowing life! (3x)

