



**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.

*Hymns at "Lord, I call" from Vespers of Tuesday of the fourth week of Pascha*

*Verse:* If You will mark iniquities O Lord, Lord, who can stand? For with You there is forgiveness.

By Your most pure hand You fashioned mankind, O compassionate One, and came to heal the sick, O Christ. By Your word You raised up the paralytic by the Sheep's Pool. And cured the ailment of the blood-streaming woman. Upon the tormented daughter of the Canaanite woman, You were merciful, and the request of the centurion You did not disdain. For this we sing to You, "O Almighty Lord, glory to You."

*Verse:* For Your Name's sake I have waited patiently for You, O Lord. My soul has patiently waited for Your word, my soul has hoped in the Lord.

The paralytic, who was like an unburied dead man, saw You and cried aloud, "Have mercy on me, O Lord, for my bed has become my grave. Of what profit then is my life? I have no need for the Sheep's Pool, for when the waters are troubled there is none to lift and place me in it. But I come to You, O Source of healings, that together with all I may cry aloud, 'O Almighty Lord, glory to You.'"

*Verse:* 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 power and great mercy to the ends of the earth.”

### TODAY'S SCRIPTURE READINGS

#### *Acts 10:21-33*

<sup>21</sup> So Peter went down to the men and said, “I am the one you are looking for; what is the reason for your coming?” <sup>22</sup> They answered, “Cornelius, a centurion, an upright and God-fearing man, who is well spoken of by the whole Jewish nation, was directed by a holy angel to send for you to come to his house and to hear what you have to say.” <sup>23</sup> So Peter invited them in and gave them lodging.

The next day he got up and went with them, and some of the believers from Joppa accompanied him. <sup>24</sup> The following day they came to Caesarea. Cornelius was expecting them and had called together his relatives and close friends. <sup>25</sup> On Peter's arrival Cornelius met him, and falling at his feet, worshiped him. <sup>26</sup> But Peter made him get up, saying, “Stand up; I am only a mortal.” <sup>27</sup> And as he talked with him, he went in and found that many had assembled; <sup>28</sup> and he said to them, “You yourselves know that it is unlawful for a Jew to associate with or to visit a Gentile; but God has shown me that I should not call anyone profane or unclean. <sup>29</sup> So when I was sent for, I came without objection. Now may I ask why you sent for me?”

<sup>30</sup> Cornelius replied, “Four days ago at this very hour, at three o'clock, I was praying in my house when suddenly a man in dazzling clothes stood before me. <sup>31</sup> He said, ‘Cornelius, your prayer has been heard and your alms have been remembered before God. <sup>32</sup> Send therefore to Joppa and ask for Simon, who is called Peter; he is staying in the home of Simon, a tanner, by the sea.’ <sup>33</sup> Therefore I sent for you immediately, and you have been kind enough

to come. So now all of us are here in the presence of God to listen to all that the Lord has commanded you to say.”

*John 7:1-13*

7<sup>1</sup> After this Jesus went about in Galilee. He did not wish to go about in Judea because the Jews were looking for an opportunity to kill him. 2 Now the Jewish festival of Booths was near. 3 So his brothers said to him, “Leave here and go to Judea so that your disciples also may see the works you are doing; 4 for no one who wants to be widely known acts in secret. If you do these things, show yourself to the world.” 5 (For not even his brothers believed in him.) 6 Jesus said to them, “My time has not yet come, but your time is always here. 7 The world cannot hate you, but it hates me because I testify against it that its works are evil. 8 Go to the festival yourselves. I am not going to this festival, for my time has not yet fully come.” 9 After saying this, he remained in Galilee. 10 But after his brothers had gone to the festival, then he also went, not publicly but as it were in secret. 11 The Jews were looking for him at the festival and saying, “Where is he?” 12 And there was considerable complaining about him among the crowds. While some were saying, “He is a good man,” others were saying, “No, he is deceiving the crowd.” 13 Yet no one would speak openly about him for fear of the Jews.

**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

*Nine Martyrs at Cyzicus: Theognes, Rufus, Antipater, Theostichus, Artemas, Magnus, Theodotus, Thaumasius, and Philemon*

The city of Cyzicus is in Asia Minor on the coast of the Dardenelles (Hellespont). Christianity already began to spread there through the preaching of Saint Paul. During the persecutions by the pagans, some of the Christians fled the city, while others kept their faith in Christ in secret.

At the end of the third century Cyzicus was still basically a pagan city, although there was a Christian church there. The situation in the city distressed the Christians, who sought to uphold Christianity. The nine holy martyrs Thaumasius, Theognes, Rufus, Antipater, Theostichus, Artemas, Magnus, Theodotus, and Philemon were also from Cyzicus. They came from various places, and were of different ages: the young like Antipater, and the very old like Rufus. They came from various positions in society: some were soldiers, countryfolk, city people, and clergy. All of them declared their faith in Christ, and prayed for the spread of Christianity.

The saints boldly confessed Christ and fearlessly denounced the pagan impiety. They were arrested and brought to trial before the ruler of the city.

Over several days they were tortured, locked in prison and brought out again. They were promised their freedom if they renounced Christ. But the valiant martyrs of Christ continued to glorify the Lord. All nine martyrs were beheaded by the sword (somewhere around 286-299), and their bodies buried near the city.

In the year 324, when the Eastern half of the Roman Empire was ruled by Saint Constantine the Great, and the persecutions against Christians ended, the Christians of Cyzicus removed the incorrupt bodies of the martyrs from the ground and placed them in a church built in their honor.

Various miracles occurred from the holy relics: the sick were healed, and the mentally deranged were brought to their senses. The faith of Christ grew within the city through the intercession of the holy martyrs, and many of the pagans were converted to Christianity.

In Russia, not far from the city of Kazan, a monastery was built in honor of the Nine Martyrs of Cyzicus. It was built by the hierodeacon Stephen, who brought part of the relics of the saints with him from Palestine. This monastery was built in the hope that through their intercession and prayers people would be delivered from various infirmities and ills, particularly a fever which raged through Kazan in 1687.

Saint Demetrius of Rostov, who composed the service to the Nine Martyrs, writes, “through the intercession of these saints, abundant grace was given to dispel fevers and trembling sicknesses.” Saint Demetrius also described the sufferings of the holy martyrs and wrote a sermon for their Feast day.

#### TROPARION AND KONTAKION OF THE NINE HOLY MARTYRS

##### *Troparion*

Your holy nine martyrs of Cyzicus, O Lord, for their sufferings  
have received incorruptible crowns from You, our God.  
For strengthened by Your might,  
they overthrew tyrants and destroyed the powerless boldness of demons.  
Through their supplications save our souls.

*Kontakion*

Let us praise the nine-fold choir of martyrs:  
Renowned Theognes, and Antipater, Magnus and Theostichus,  
Artemas and Theodotus, Thaumasius, Philemon and Rufus,  
for they exude divine grace for us from the well-spring of life, our Savior!

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)

