



Through 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 hymns from Vespers of Tuesday of the fifth week of Pascha

You annulled the sentence of the tree of disobedience, O Savior, by being nailed willingly to the Tree of the Cross. And by descending into hell, O Mighty One, as God You rent asunder the bonds of death. Therefore, we worship Your Resurrection from the dead, while crying out in gladness, “O Almighty Lord, glory to You.”

Verse: To You I have lifted up my eyes, for You dwell in heaven. Behold, as the eyes of servants look to the hands of their masters, as the eyes of the handmaid look to the hands of her mistress, so do our eyes look to the Lord our God, until He has mercy on us.

What man who is storm-tossed and hastens to this blessed haven is not saved? Who, falling down in affliction and entreaty at the infirmary of healing, is not healed? O Creator of all things and Physician of the ailing, O Lord, before I utterly perish, save me.

Verse: Have mercy on us, O Lord, have mercy on us, for greatly are we filled with abasement. Greatly has our soul been filled with it.

You accept the patient endurance of the holy martyrs, accept also this hymnody from us, O Lover of mankind. And by their prayers, grant us great mercy.

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

At Mid-feast we glorify Him Who has wrought salvation in the midst of

the earth. In the midst of two thieves Life hung upon a Tree. He was silent to the one who blasphemed, but to the other who believed, He cried aloud saying, "Today you will be with Me in Paradise." Having descended into the grave, He despoiled hell, and arose on the third day, saving our souls.

TODAY'S SCRIPTURE READINGS

Acts 12:25-13:12

²⁵ Then after completing their mission Barnabas and Saul returned to Jerusalem and brought with them John, whose other name was Mark.

13¹ Now in the church at Antioch there were prophets and teachers: Barnabas, Simeon who was called Niger, Lucius of Cyrene, Manaen a member of the court of Herod the ruler, and Saul.² While they were worshiping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, "Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them."³ Then after fasting and praying they laid their hands on them and sent them off.

⁴ So, being sent out by the Holy Spirit, they went down to Seleucia; and from there they sailed to Cyprus.⁵ When they arrived at Salamis, they proclaimed the word of God in the synagogues of the Jews. And they had John also to assist them.⁶ When they had gone through the whole island as far as Paphos, they met a certain magician, a Jewish false prophet, named Bar-Jesus.⁷ He was with the proconsul, Sergius Paulus, an intelligent man, who summoned Barnabas and Saul and wanted to hear the word of God.⁸ But the magician Elymas (for that is the translation of his name) opposed them and tried to turn the proconsul away from the faith.⁹ But Saul, also known as Paul, filled with the Holy Spirit, looked intently at him¹⁰ and said, "You son of the devil, you enemy of all righteousness, full of all deceit and villainy, will you not stop making crooked the straight paths of the Lord?"¹¹ And now listen—the hand of the Lord is against you, and you will be blind for a while, unable to see the sun." Immediately mist and darkness came over him, and he went about groping for someone to lead him by the hand.¹² When the proconsul saw what had happened, he believed, for he was astonished at the teaching about the Lord.

John 8:51-59

⁵¹ Very truly, I tell you, whoever keeps my word will never see death.” ⁵² The Jews said to him, “Now we know that you have a demon. Abraham died, and so did the prophets; yet you say, ‘Whoever keeps my word will never taste death.’” ⁵³ Are you greater than our father Abraham, who died? The prophets also died. Who do you claim to be?” ⁵⁴ Jesus answered, “If I glorify myself, my glory is nothing. It is my Father who glorifies me, he of whom you say, ‘He is our God,’” ⁵⁵ though you do not know him. But I know him; if I would say that I do not know him, I would be a liar like you. But I do know him and I keep his word. ⁵⁶ Your ancestor Abraham rejoiced that he would see my day; he saw it and was glad.” ⁵⁷ Then the Jews said to him, “You are not yet fifty years old, and have you seen Abraham?” ⁵⁸ Jesus said to them, “Very truly, I tell you, before Abraham was, I am.” ⁵⁹ So they picked up stones to throw at him, but Jesus hid himself and went out of the temple.

PRAYERS DURING 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

Righteous Job the Long-Suffering

The righteous Job (whose name means “persecuted”), God’s faithful servant, was the perfect image of every virtue. The son of Zarah and Bossorha (*Job 42*), Job was a fifth-generation descendent of Abraham. He was a truthful, righteous, patient and pious man who abstained from every evil thing. Job was very rich and blessed by God in all things, as was no other son of Ausis (his country, which lay between Idoumea and Arabia). However, divine condescension permitted him to be tested.

Job lost his children, his wealth, his glory, and every consolation all at once. His entire body became a terrible wound covered with boils. Yet he remained steadfast and patient in the face of his misfortune for seven years, always giving thanks to God.

Later, God restored his former prosperity, and he had twice as much as before. Job lived for 170 years after his misfortune, completing his earthly life in 1350 B.C. at the age of 240.

Job’s explanations are among the most poetic writings in the Old Testament book which bears his name. It is one of the most edifying portions of Holy Scripture. Job teaches us that we endure life’s adversities patiently and with trust in God. As Saint Anthony the Great says, “Without temptations, it is impossible for the faithful to be saved.”

The Orthodox Church reads the book of Job, the first of the seven wisdom books of the Old Testament, during Holy Week, drawing a parallel between Job and Christ as righteous men who suffered through no fault of

their own. God allowed Satan to afflict Job so that his faithfulness would be proven. Christ, the only sinless one, suffered voluntarily for our sins. The Septuagint text of Job 42:17 says that Job “will rise again with those whom the Lord raises up.” This passage is read on Great and Holy Friday, when the composite Gospel at Vespers speaks of the tombs being opened at the moment the Savior died on the Cross, and the bodies of the saints were raised, and they appeared to many after Christ’s Resurrection (*Matthew 27:52*)

TROPARION AND KONTAKION OF SAINT JOB

Troparion

As an indestructible pillar of courage,
you repulsed the attacks of Belial and remained unmoved in temptation.
Therefore, O wise Job,
the Church praises you as a model of endurance and an example of virtue,
and she is made radiant by your great deeds.

Kontakion

You were true and just, pious, blameless and holy,
O glorious servant of God.
You enlightened the world by your perseverance, O much-afflicted Job.
Therefore, we all honor and praise your divinely-wise memory.

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.

Through 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)

