



**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.

*Praises from Matins of Saturday of the third week of Pascha*

*Verse 1:* Praise Him for His mighty acts, praise Him according to the multitude of His greatness.

Everything that has breath and every creature glorifies You, O Lord, for through Your Cross You have destroyed death and thus shown the multitude of peoples Your Resurrection from the dead, for You alone love mankind.

*Verse 2:* Praise Him with the sound of the trumpet. Praise Him with the psaltery and harp.

Let the Israelites tell how the soldiers lost the King they were guarding. Why then did the stone not guard the Rock of life? Either let them give up the one who was buried or worship Him as risen, exclaiming together with us, “Glory to the multitude of Your mercies, O Savior, glory to Thee!”

*Verse 3:* Praise Him with timbrel and dance. Praise Him with strings and flute.

Rejoice O people and be glad. For an angel sat upon the grave stone and has given us good tidings saying, “Christ is risen from the dead and has filled the universe with sweet fragrance. Rejoice O people and be glad!”

*Verse 4:* Praise Him with tuneful cymbals, praise Him with cymbals of jubilation. Let every breath praise the Lord.

Before Your conception, O Lord, an angel brought the greeting “Rejoice!” to the one full of grace. At Your Resurrection an angel rolled away the stone from Your glorious grave. The one revealed the signs of joy instead of sorrow; the other instead of death has proclaimed to us the Master, and giver of life. Therefore we sing to You, “O Benefactor of all mankind, Lord, glory to You!”

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

Mary Magdalene and the other Mary came to the tomb, seeking the Lord. And they beheld an angel like lightning sitting upon the stone, and saying to them, “Why do you seek the Living among the dead? He is risen as He said. You will find Him in Galilee.” Therefore let us sing to Him, “O Lord, You arose from the dead, glory to You.”

#### TODAY'S SCRIPTURE READINGS

##### *Acts 9:20-31*

<sup>20</sup> and immediately he began to proclaim Jesus in the synagogues, saying, “He is the Son of God.” <sup>21</sup> All who heard him were amazed and said, “Is not this the man who made havoc in Jerusalem among those who invoked this name? And has he not come here for the purpose of bringing them bound before the chief priests?” <sup>22</sup> Saul became increasingly more powerful and confounded the Jews who lived in Damascus by proving that Jesus was the Christ. <sup>23</sup> After some time had passed, the Jews plotted to kill him, <sup>24</sup> but their plot became known to Saul. They were watching the gates day and night so that they might kill him; <sup>25</sup> but his disciples took him by night and let him down through an opening in the wall, lowering him in a basket. <sup>26</sup> When he had come to Jerusalem, he attempted to join the disciples; and they were all afraid of him, for they did not believe that he was a disciple. <sup>27</sup> But Barnabas took him, brought him to the apostles, and described for them how on the road he had seen the Lord, who had spoken to him, and how in Damascus he had spoken boldly in the name of Jesus. <sup>28</sup> So he went in and out among them in Jerusalem, speaking boldly in the name of the Lord. <sup>29</sup> He spoke and argued with the Hellenists; but they were attempting to kill him. <sup>30</sup> When the believers learned of it, they

brought him down to Caesarea and sent him off to Tarsus. <sup>31</sup> Meanwhile the church throughout Judea, Galilee, and Samaria had peace and was built up. Living in the fear of the Lord and in the comfort of the Holy Spirit, it increased in numbers.

*John 15:17-16:2*

<sup>17</sup> I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another. <sup>18</sup> “If the world hates you, be aware that it hated me before it hated you. <sup>19</sup> If you belonged to the world, the world would love you as its own. Because you do not belong to the world, but I have chosen you out of the world—therefore the world hates you. <sup>20</sup> Remember the word that I said to you, ‘Servants are not greater than their master.’ If they persecuted me, they will persecute you; if they kept my word, they will keep yours also. <sup>21</sup> But they will do all these things to you on account of my name, because they do not know him who sent me. <sup>22</sup> If I had not come and spoken to them, they would not have sin; but now they have no excuse for their sin. <sup>23</sup> Whoever hates me hates my Father also. <sup>24</sup> If I had not done among them the works that no one else did, they would not have sin. But now they have seen and hated both me and my Father. <sup>25</sup> It was to fulfill the word that is written in their law, ‘They hated me without a cause.’ <sup>26</sup> “When the Advocate comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who comes from the Father, he will testify on my behalf. <sup>27</sup> You also are to testify because you have been with me from the beginning. **16** <sup>1</sup> “I have said these things to you to keep you from stumbling. <sup>2</sup> They will put you out of the synagogues. Indeed, an hour is coming when those who kill you will think that by doing so they are offering worship to 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

*Bishop-martyr Basil, Bishop of Amasea*

Saint Basil, Bishop of Amasea, lived at the beginning of the fourth century in the Pontine city of Amasea. He encouraged and comforted the Christians suffering persecution by the pagans. During this time the Eastern part of the Roman Empire was ruled by Licinius (311-324), the brother-in-law of the holy emperor Constantine the Great. Licinius deceitfully signed Saint Constantine's Edict of Milan (313), which granted religious toleration to Christians, but he hated them and continued to persecute them.

Saint Basil sheltered a young woman for whom Licinius burned with lustful passion. For this the saint was arrested. At the trial saint Basil

resolutely refused the suggestion of the emperor to become a pagan high-priest, and therefore he was sentenced to death by beheading. The relics of saint Basil were transferred to Amasea and buried in the church built by him.

TROPARION AND KONTAKION OF SAINT BASIL

*Troparion*

As a minister of the King of glory, you withstood the lawless king,  
O blessed and glorious Bishop-martyr Basil.  
When you were beheaded,  
you entered the heavenly mansions rejoicing.  
Pray that those who celebrate your memory  
may be found worthy of like reward.

*Kontakion*

By defying the emperor's decree  
you were granted the Kingdom of heaven.  
Remember us who faithfully celebrate your memory while you rejoice.

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)

