

SAINT ANDREW SERVICE BOOK

The Administration of the Sacraments
and Other Rites and Ceremonies
According to the Western Rite Usage
of the Antiochian Orthodox Christian
Archdiocese of North America



Second Print Edition, 1996
Electronic On-line, 1999

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The First Edition of the St. Andrew Service Book was approved for use by the Western Rite Congregations of the Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America in 1989. This, the Second Edition, improved in format and expanded in content, will be welcomed by the clergy and laity of our archdiocese who worship in a tradition as ancient as the Eastern.

We take this opportunity to commend and sincerely thank Archpriest Michael Keiser, the original compiler of the service book, as well as the Board of the Orthodox Christian Press, Archimandrite Michael Trigg, Fr. John Downing, and especially Mr. Karl Steinhoff, for their many hours of dedicated labor in preparing the revised edition.

We pray that the attentive use of these authorized liturgies and other rites and ceremonies by the Western rite clergy and laity of our beloved Archdiocese will be the cause of a spiritual and liturgical renewal within our church in North America.

+ Metropolitan PHILIP
Primate
Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese
of North America

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... the Disciples were called Christians first in Antioch ACTS 11:26

The Office for Ash Wednesday

Containing a Penitential Office and Blessing of Ashes

- *On the First Day of Lent, the following may be read immediately after the Litany; or it may be used separately. (But the Priest may omit all that follows to the antiphon, Hear us, O Lord.) The priest and people, kneeling, say this psalm together.*

Psalm 51. Miserere mei, Deus.

HAVE mercy upon me, O God, after Thy great goodness; * according to the multitude of Thy mercies do away mine offences.

Wash me thoroughly from my wickedness, * and cleanse me from my sin.

For I acknowledge my faults, * and my sin is ever before me.

Against Thee only have I sinned, and done this evil in Thy sight; * that Thou mightest be justified in Thy saying, and clear when Thou shalt judge.

Behold, I was shapen in wickedness, * and in sin hath my mother conceived me.

But lo, Thou requirest truth in the inward parts, * and shalt make me to understand wisdom secretly.

Thou shalt purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; * Thou shalt wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.

Thou shalt make me hear of joy and gladness, * that the bones which Thou hast broken may rejoice.

Turn Thy face from my sins, * and put out all my misdeeds.

Make me a clean heart, O God, * and renew a right spirit within me.

Cast me not away from Thy presence, * and take not Thy Holy Spirit from me.

O give me the comfort of Thy help again, * and stablish me with Thy free Spirit.

Then shall I teach Thy ways unto the wicked, * and

sinners shall be converted unto Thee.

Deliver me from blood-guiltiness, O God, Thou that art the God of my health; * and my tongue shall sing of Thy righteousness.

Thou shalt open my lips, O Lord, * and my mouth shall show Thy praise.

For Thou desirest no sacrifice, else would I give it Thee; * but Thou delightest not in burnt-offerings.

The sacrifice of God is a troubled spirit: * a broken and contrite heart, O God, shalt Thou not despise.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, * and to the Holy Ghost;

As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, * world without end. Amen.

- *If the Litany has already been said, pass at once to “O Lord, save Thy servants”, etc.*

Lord, have mercy upon us.

Christ, have mercy upon us.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

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. *Amen.*

O Lord, save Thy servants;

That put their trust in Thee.

Send unto them help from above.

And evermore mightily defend them.

Help us, O God our Saviour.

And for the glory of Thy Name deliver us; be merciful to us sinners, for Thy Name's sake.

O Lord, hear our prayer.

And let our cry come unto Thee.

Let us pray.

O LORD, we beseech Thee, mercifully hear our prayers, and spare all those who confess their sins unto Thee; that they, whose consciences by sin are accused, by Thy merciful pardon may be absolved; through Christ, our Lord. *Amen.*

O MOST mighty God, and merciful Father, who hast compassion upon all men, and who wouldest not the death of a sinner, but rather that he should turn from his sin, and be saved; Mercifully forgive us our trespasses; receive and comfort us, who are grieved and wearied with the burden of our sins. Thy property is always to have mercy; to Thee only it appertaineth to forgive sins. Spare us therefore, good Lord, spare Thy people, whom Thou hast redeemed; enter not into judgment with Thy servants; but so turn Thine anger from us, who meekly acknowledge our transgressions, and truly repent us of our faults, and so make haste to help us in this world, that we may ever live with Thee in the world to come; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. *Amen.*

- *Then shall all say together:*

TURN Thou us, O good Lord, and so shall we be turned. Be favourable, O Lord, Be favourable to Thy people, Who turn to Thee in weeping, fasting, and praying. For Thou art a merciful God, Full of compassion, long-suffering, and of great pity. Thou sparest when we deserve punishment, And in Thy wrath thinkest upon mercy. Spare Thy people, good Lord, spare them, And let not Thine heritage be brought to confusion. Hear us, O

Lord, for Thy mercy is great, And after the multitude of Thy mercies look upon us; Through the merits and mediation of Thy blessed Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

• *Then shall the priest say:*

O GOD, whose nature and property is ever to have mercy and to forgive; Receive our humble petitions; and though we be tied and bound with the chain of our sins, yet let the pitifulness of Thy great mercy loose us; for the honour of Jesus Christ, our Mediator and Advocate. *Amen.*

THE LORD bless us, and keep us. The LORD make His face to shine upon us, and be gracious unto us. The LORD lift up His countenance upon us, and give us peace, both now and evermore. *Amen.*

• *Then shall the priest go to the altar, and, standing at the epistle side, the following antiphon shall be read or sung:*

Hear us, O Lord, for Thy loving-kindness is comfortable; according to the multitude of Thy mercies, turn Thee unto us, O Lord.

Ps. 69. Save me, O God, for the waters are come in, * even unto my soul.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. *Amen.*

Hear us, O Lord, for Thy loving-kindness is comfortable; according to the multitude of Thy mercies, turn Thee unto us, O Lord.

• *Without turning to the people, the priest says:*

P. The Lord be with you.

R. And with thy spirit.

P. Let us pray.

ALMIGHTY and everlasting God, we beseech Thee to spare those who are penitent, and to be merciful to those who call upon Thee. Vouchsafe to send Thy holy Angel from heaven, to bless (+) and sanctify (+) these ashes, that they may be a wholesome medicine to all who devoutly call upon Thy Holy Name, whose consciences by sin are accused, and who bewail their sins in the sight of Thy divine compassion, humbly and earnestly imploring Thy bountiful loving-kindness. And grant that, by the calling on Thy most Holy Name, all who are sprinkled therewith for the remission of their sins may receive both healing of body and protection of soul. Through Christ, our Lord. *Amen.*

Let us pray.

O GOD, who desirest not the death of a sinner, but rather that he should turn from his sin and be saved: mercifully look upon the frailty of our mortal nature, and of Thy goodness vouchsafe to bless (+) these ashes now to be set upon our heads in token of humility and to obtain Thy pardon; that we, knowing we are but dust, and that for our unworthiness unto dust shall we return, may through Thy mercy be found meet to receive forgiveness of all our sins, and those good things which Thou hast promised to the penitent. Through Christ, our Lord. *Amen.*

Let us pray.

O GOD, who dost turn unto those who humble themselves, and acceptest those who offer atonement: incline Thy merciful ear to our prayers; and graciously pour forth upon the heads of Thy servants now to be sprinkled with these ashes the grace of Thy heavenly benediction. Fill them with the spirit of contrition, and grant that those things which they have faithfully asked may be

effectually obtained, that whatsoever Thou hast bestowed may remain constant and unchanged in us for ever. Through Christ, our Lord. *Amen.*

Let us pray.

ALMIGHTY and everlasting God, who didst bestow the healing of Thy pardon upon the people of Nineveh when they repented in sackcloth and ashes: grant that we, using their signs of penance, may likewise obtain the pardon which we humbly seek. Through Thy Son Jesus Christ our Lord, who with Thee, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, liveth and reigneth God, world without end. *Amen.*

- *Then the priest, after putting the incense into the thurible and blessing it, shall sprinkle the ashes with holy water three times, saying:*

Thou shalt purge me with hyssop, O Lord, and I shall be clean: Thou shalt wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.

- *Then he censes the ashes. The people come forward to kneel at the altar rail. Imposing ashes on the forehead of each penitent, the priest says:*

Remember, O man, that dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return.

- *After washing his hands, the priest, standing at the epistle corner, says:*

P. The Lord be with you.

R. And with thy spirit.

P. Let us pray.

GRANT us, O Lord, to begin with holy fasting this campaign of our Christian warfare: that as we do battle with spiritual wickedness, we may be defended by the aids of self-denial. Through Christ, our Lord. *Amen.*

- *Then shall follow the Divine Liturgy.*