



**ORTHODOX
PRAYERS
OF OLD ENGLAND**

**A Western Rite
Prayer-Book
for Orthodox Christians**



Third Edition

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HOLY SYNOD OF MILAN
The Autonomous Orthodox Metropolia
of Western Europe & The Americas

ISBN 0-923864-17-2

Psalms from 'The Psalter According to the Seventy,'
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PRIESTLY VISIT TO A MOTHER NEWLY DELIVERED



PSALM 40

Blessed is the man that hath understanding for the poor man and the pauper ∴ in an evil day the Lord will deliver him.
 May the Lord keep him, and make him to live, and make him blessed upon the earth ∴ and never surrender him into the hands of his enemies.
 May the Lord help him on his bed of pain ∴ the whole of his confinement in his sickness hast Thou turned to the better.
 I said: O Lord, have mercy on me ∴ heal my soul, for I have sinned against Thee.
 Mine enemies have spoken evil things against me ∴ When shall he die, and when shall his name perish?
 And though he came in to see me, his heart spake vanity ∴ he gathered iniquity unto himself.
 He went forth ∴ and spake in a like manner.
 All mine enemies whispered against me ∴ against me they devised evils for me.
 An unjust word they set against me ∴ Can it be that he that sleepeth shall rise up again?
 Yea, even the man of my peace in whom I hoped, who ate of my bread ∴ hath magnified the lifting of heels against me.
 But Thou, O Lord, be merciful unto me ∴ and raise me up, and I will requite them.
 By this I know that Thou hast delighted in me ∴ because mine enemy shall not rejoice over me.
 And because of mine innocence Thou hast helped me ∴ and hast established me before Thee for ever.
 Blessed is the Lord God of Israëġ ∴ from everlasting to everlasting; so be it; so be it.
 O Glory be to the Father and to the Son ∴ and to the Holy Spirit.
 As it was in the beginning, and now and always ∴ and unto the ages of ages. Amen.

PSALM 66

God be gracious unto us and bless us ∴ and cause His face to shine upon us, and have mercy on us,
 That we may know upon the earth Thy way ∴ among all the nations Thy salvation.

Let the peoples give Thee praise, O God ⁊ let all the peoples praise Thee.

Let the nations be glad and rejoice, for Thou shalt judge peoples with uprightness ⁊ and nations shalt Thou guide upon the earth.

Let the peoples give Thee praise, O God, let all the peoples praise Thee ⁊ the earth hath yielded her fruit.

Let God, our God, bless us; let God bless us ⁊ and let all the ends of the earth fear Him.

○ Glory be... | As it was...

PSALM 127

Blessed are all they that fear the Lord ⁊ that walk in His ways. Thou shalt eat the fruit of thy labours ⁊ blessed art thou, and well shall it be with thee.

Thy wife shall be as a fruitful vine ⁊ on the sides of thy house,

Thy sons like young olive trees ⁊ round about thy table.

Behold, so shall the man be blessed ⁊ that feareth the Lord.

The Lord bless thee out of Sion ⁊ and mayest thou see the good things of Jerusalem all the days of thy life.

And mayest thou see thy children's children ⁊ peace be upon Israël.

○ Glory be... | As it was... *Choir:*

Kyrieléyson. Xristeléyson. Kyrieléyson. Priest: Our Father... (softly till:)

∿ **And lead us not into temptation. R. But deliver us from evil.**

∿ **Save Thy handmaiden. R. O my God, that hopeth in Thee. (Ps. 85:3)**

∿ **May the Lord help her on her bed of pain.**

R. **The whole of her confinement in her sickness hast Thou turned to the better. (Ps. 40:4)**

∿ **Send her help, O Lord, from Thy sanctuary.**

R. **And out of Sion help her. (Ps. 19:3)**

∿ **The Lord be with you.**

R. **And with thy spirit. Priest: Let us pray. Collect:**

O God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, O God of all mercy, Who hast dominion over life and death, Who art the Physician of our souls, mercifully look down from Thy prepared habitation upon this Thy handmaiden N., who is detained by adverse health, and visit her with Thy heavenly visitation, as through Thine only-begotten Son Thou wert pleased to visit the mother-in-law of Peter, and Thy handmaiden Sara. Raise her up from the bed of her labour, that being safe and unharmed she may render Thee thanksgiving in Thy Church. O Through our Lord Jesus Christ Thy Son, Who liveth and reigneth with Thee in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God through all the ages of ages. R. **Amen.**

May it please Thee, O Lord, to bless and sanctify this handmaiden with heavenly blessing, in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. R. **Amen.**



BLESSING OF NEW MOTHERS

THE CHURCHING



Notes: This service is called “purification” in that the mother follows the example of the Mother of God, who was purified according to the old Law (Luke 2:22-39). However, Christian mothers do not sin in giving birth, nor does it defile them at all.

The new mother stands at the church door between two matrons, wearing a white veil and holding a lit candle. From the chancel the Priest goes to the west doors to meet her, the choir meanwhile singing:

PSALM 120

I have lifted up mine eyes to the mountains ∴ from whence cometh my help.

My help cometh from the Lord ∴ Who hath made heaven and the earth.

Give not thy foot unto moving ∴ and may He not slumber that keepeth thee.

Behold, He shall not slumber nor shall He sleep ∴ He that keepeth Israël.

The Lord shall keep thee ∴ the Lord is thy shelter at thy right hand.

The sun shall not burn thee by day ∴ nor the moon by night.

The Lord shall keep thee from all evil ∴ the Lord shall guard thy soul.

The Lord shall keep thy coming in and thy going out ∴ from henceforth and for evermore.

PSALM 24

Unto Thee, O Lord, have I lifted up my soul ∴ O my God, in Thee have I trusted; let me never be put to shame.

Nor let mine enemies laugh me to scorn ∴ yea, let none that wait on Thee be put to shame.

Let them be ashamed which are lawless ∴ without a cause.

Make Thy ways, O Lord, known unto me ∴ and teach me Thy paths.

Lead me in Thy truth and teach me ∴ for Thou art God my Saviour; for on Thee have I waited all the day long.

Remember thy compassions, O Lord ∴ and Thy mercies, for they are from everlasting.

The sins of my youth ∴ and mine ignorances remember not.

According to Thy mercy remember Thou me ∴ for the sake of Thy goodness, O Lord.

Good and upright is the Lord ∴ therefore will He set a law for them that sin in the way.

**He will guide the meek in judgment ⁊ He will teach the meek His ways.
All the ways of the Lord are mercy and truth, unto them that seek
after His covenant ⁊ and His testimonies.**

**For the sake of Thy name, O Lord ⁊ be gracious unto my sin, for it is
great.**

**Who is the man that feareth the Lord? ⁊ He will set him a law in the
way which He hath chosen.**

**His soul shall dwell among good things ⁊ and his seed shall inherit the
earth.**

**The Lord is the strength of them that fear Him ⁊ and His covenant
shall be manifested unto them.**

**Mine eyes are ever toward the Lord ⁊ for He it is that will draw my
feet out of the snare.**

**Look upon me, and have mercy on me ⁊ for I am one only-begotten
and poor.**

**The afflictions of my heart are multiplied ⁊ bring me out from my
necessities.**

Behold my lowliness and my toil ⁊ and forgive all my sins.

**Look upon mine enemies, for they are multiplied ⁊ and with an unjust
hatred have they hated me.**

**Keep my soul and rescue me ⁊ let me not be put to shame, for I have
hoped in Thee.**

**The innocent and the upright have cleaved unto me ⁊ for I waited on
Thee, O Lord.**

Redeem Israël, O God ⁊ out of all his afflictions.

○ Glory be to the Father and to the Son ⁊ and to the Holy Spirit.

**As it was in the beginning, and now and always ⁊ and unto the ages of
ages. Amen. *Choir:***

Kyrieléyson. Xristeléyson. Kyrieléyson. *Priest: Our Father... (softly, till:)*

∿ And lead us not into temptation. ∴ But deliver us from evil.

∿ Be unto her, O Lord, a tower of strength.

∴ Against the face of the enemy. (Ps. 60:4) (then, Ps. 85:3:)

∿ O Lord, save Thy handmaiden. ∴ O my God, that hopeth in Thee.

∿ Send forth unto her, O Lord, help from Thy sanctuary.

∴ And out of Sion help her. (Ps. 19:3)

∿ O Lord, hear my prayer. ∴ And let my cry come unto Thee. (Ps. 101:1)

∿ The Lord be with you. ∴ And with Thy spirit. *Priest: Let us pray.*

○ almighty, everlasting God, Who hast delivered this Thy handmaiden N. from the danger of giving birth: make her loyal to Thee in Thy service, that having finished her temporal course with fidelity, she may attain unto the life of quietness, resting beneath the wings of Thy mercy without ceasing. ○ Through Christ our Lord. ∴ **Amen.**

The Priest sprinkles her with holy water.

Entrance into the Church

Enter into the temple of the living God, and pray to the Virgin Mary's Son—Who gave thee the fruitfulness of giving birth to a child—that He may impart to thee eternal life, and that thou mayest live unto ages of ages. *℟. Amen.*

PSALM 66

God be gracious unto us and bless us *∴* and cause His face to shine upon us, and have mercy on us,
That we may know upon the earth Thy way *∴* among all the nations
Thy salvation.

Let the peoples give Thee praise, O God *∴* let all the peoples praise Thee.

Let the nations be glad and rejoice, for Thou shalt judge peoples with uprightness *∴* and nations shalt Thou guide upon the earth.

Let the peoples give Thee praise, O God, let all the peoples praise Thee *∴* the earth hath yielded her fruit.

Let God, our God, bless us; let God bless us *∴* and let all the ends of the earth fear Him.

PSALM 127

Blessed are all they that fear the Lord *∴* that walk in His ways.
Thou shalt eat the fruit of thy labours *∴* blessed art thou, and well shall it be with thee.

Thy wife shall be as a fruitful vine *∴* on the sides of thy house,

Thy sons like young olive trees *∴* round about thy table.

Behold, so shall the man be blessed *∴* that feareth the Lord.

The Lord bless thee out of Sion *∴* and mayest thou see the good things of Jerusalem all the days of thy life.

And mayest thou see thy children's children *∴* peace be upon Israël.

O Glory be to the Father and to the Son *∴* and to the Holy Spirit.

As it was in the beginning, and now and always *∴* and unto the ages of ages. *Amen. Choir:*

Kyrieléyson. Xristeléyson. Kyrieléyson. Priest: Our Father... (softly, till:)

℣. And lead us not into temptation. ℟. But deliver us from evil.

*℣. O Lord, save Thy handmaiden. ℟. O my God, that hopeth in Thee.**

℣. Send forth unto her, O Lord, help from Thy sanctuary.

℟. And out of Sion help her. (Ps. 19:3)

℣. Be unto her, O Lord, a tower of strength.

℟. Against the face of the enemy. (Ps. 60:4)

℣. O Lord, hear my prayer. ℟. And let my cry come unto Thee. (Ps. 101:1)

℣. The Lord be with you. ℟. And with thy spirit.

Priest: Let us pray.

* Ps. 85:3

O almighty, everlasting God, we humbly pray to Thy majesty, that even as Thine only-begotten Son was presented in the temple in the substance of our flesh, so also, after death hath come upon this woman who is purified after her childing, Thou wouldst make her to be presented before Thee with mercy. O Through Christ our Lord. *℞ Amen.*

END OF LITURGY

After blessing bread, the Priest walks to the mother, gives her the first portion, & says:

May the blessing of almighty God, the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit, come down upon thee, and remain for ever.

She says, “Amen,” and kisses his hand.



HOLY BAPTISM

Godparents: A godparent (sponsor) of the same gender as the baptizand is chosen—(s)he must be a practising Orthodox Christian. The godparent is responsible for the baptized’s growth in godliness, chastity and charity.

Naming and Study: The candidate for Baptism receives a name which is of a Saint of the Church. He is first made a catechumen, as shown below, and—unless he is an infant—begins a thorough instruction in the Orthodox Faith.

Order of the Catechumenate

The candidates arriving at church, an acolyte records their names. When the Priest has come to doors of the church, outside the nave, the baptizands are summoned:

Acolyte: Let the candidates for Holy Baptism, N. & N., draw near.

The males assemble on the right or south side, the females on the left or north.

FOR CONVERTS FROM PAGANISM / SHAMANISM

Receive the sign of the Cross both upon thy forehead and upon thy heart. Take up the Faith of heavenly commandments. So conduct thyself that thou mayest be able now to become the temple of God. Having entered into the Church of God, be glad and confess that thou hast escaped the snares of death. Loathe the idols. Spit on the graven images. Worship God, the O Father almighty, and Jesus Christ His Son, Who liveth with the Father and the Holy Spirit, throughout all ages of ages. Amen.

℣. The Lord be with you. ℞. And with thy spirit. Priest: Let us pray.

Intreat Thee, O Holy Lord, Father almighty, everlasting God, that Thou wouldst command the way of truth and knowledge of Thee to be revealed to this Thy (servant) N., who wandereth dubious and uncertain in the dark night of this age: so that once the eyes of (his) heart have been opened (he) may know Thee, the one God, the Father in the Son, and the Son in the Father, with the Holy Spirit, and may be counted worthy to partake of the fruit of this confession both here and in the age hereafter. O Through the same our Lord Jesus Christ Thy Son, Who liveth and reigneth with Thee in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God through all the ages of ages. *℞ Amen.*