



**ORTHODOX
PRAYERS
OF OLD ENGLAND**

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



Third Edition

Copyright 1999 St. Hilarion Press

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,'
permission of Holy Transfiguration Monastery

F

F

PRESANCTIFIED MASS



Done frequently during Lent, after the Ninth Hour & before Vespers

Officium

The choir sings the variable Officium chant; the clergy enter the chancel & say softly:

Soft prayers during the singing:

Kyrieleyson. Xristeleyson. Kyrieleyson. Our Father... (p. 1)

☩ And lead us not into temptation. ☩ But deliver us from evil. *Ps 117:1*:—

☩ O confess to the Lord, for He is good. ☩ For His mercy endureth for ever. *Priest:*

I confess to God, to blessed Mary, to all the Saints, and to you: that I have sinned exceedingly in thought, word and deed, through my fault. I beseech Holy Mary, all the Saints of God, and you, to pray for me.

Ministers: May almighty God have mercy on thee, forgive thee all thy sins, deliver thee from all evil, preserve and strengthen thee in good, and bring thee to eternal life. Amen. I confess to God, to blessed Mary, to all the Saints, and to thee: that I have sinned exceedingly in thought, word and deed, through my fault. I beseech Holy Mary, all the Saints of God, and thee, to pray for me.

Priest: May almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins, deliver you from all evil, preserve and strengthen you in good, and bring you to eternal life. ☩ Amen. ☩ May the almighty and merciful Lord grant you (pardon) and remission of all your sins, space for true repentance and amendment of life, and the grace and consolation of the Holy Spirit. ☩ Amen. (a Bishop says, instead of 'pardon,' 'absolution')

☩ Our help is in the name of the Lord. ☩ Who hath made heaven and the earth.

☩ Blessed be the name of the Lord. ☩ From henceforth and for evermore. Let us pray.

Recieve the kiss of peace and love, that ye may be fit to perform the Divine services at the most holy Altar.

Let us pray. Take away from us all our iniquities, we beseech Thee, O Lord, that we may be worthy to enter with pure minds into the Holy of Holies, through Christ our Lord. Amen. (cf. *Osēe 14:3*). I stand before the sight of Thy Divine majesty, O most merciful Father, O God, though I am not worthy, and I humbly entreat Thine unspeakable mercy: that Thou Who hast granted me to perform the ministry of the priestly office wouldst make me well-pleasing to Thee for ever, and worthy to celebrate so tremendous a Mystery. In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

CENSING

Server: Benedicite. *Priest:* Dóminus. May this incense be blessed by Him in Whose honour it shall be burnt, in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

KYRIELEYSON

Choir 1: Kyrieléyson. ⇌ Choir 2: Kyrieléyson. Choir 1: Kyrieléyson.

Choir 2: Xristeléyson. Choir 1: Xristeléyson. Choir 2: Xristeléyson.

Choir 1: Kyrieléyson. Choir 2: Kyrieléyson. Both Choirs: Kyrieléyson.

The Hymn of Angels is usually not sung at Presanctifieds.

℣. The Lord be with you. (a Bishop says, “Peace be to you”)

℟. And with thy spirit.

Let us pray.

COLLECTS

Usually there are seven Collects. We bow our heads during them. Then:

Priest: ... God, through all the ages of ages. ℟. Amen.

APOSTLE OR LESSON

The appointed Scripture is sung.

GRADUALE / ALLELUYA / SEQUENCE / TRACT

Wine and water are poured into the chalice, and the altar cloths are spread. The Gospel book on the altar is censed.

Priest: May the Lord be in (thy) heart and upon (thy) mouth to declare the Holy Gospel of God. In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Deacon, softly: O Lord, give me in my mouth a speech right and resonant, that I may proclaim the words of Thy Gospel with proficiency.

GOSPEL

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

℣. The continuation of the Holy Gospel, according to N.

℟. Glory O be to Thee, O Lord. (*He sings the appointed Gospel*)

The Symbol of Faith is usually not sung at Presanctifieds.

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

OFFERENDA

The choir sings the Offerenda chant (varies).

Soft prayers during the singing:

Receive, O Holy Trinity, this oblation which I, an unworthy sinner, offer in Thine honour, and that of blessed Mary Ever-Virgin, and of all Thy Saints, for my sins and offences: for the salvation of the living, and the repose of all the faithful departed. + In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, may this new sacrifice be acceptable to almighty God. — *The Priest veils the Gifts:*

Forgive me, O Lord, for although it is my duty to pray, although I take up Thy holy name with mine impure lips, and confess the hidden sins of mine impure deeds, I have no words before Thee which are without transgression. For Thou knowest already the wounds of my conscience, Thou knowest already the concealments of my thoughts, and Thou only knowest mine impurities. Have mercy on me, O Lord, have mercy on me! Forgive the one performing Thy Mystery, and do not judge me unworthy of Thy mercy, whom Thou permittest to pray for others, and in whom is found a single testimony of good works: that Thou dost not forbid me to return to Thy service, rich at least in economia, O Saviour of the world, Who with the Father & the Holy Spirit livest and reignest, God through all ages of ages. Amen.

CENSING

Server: Benedícite. *Priest:* Dóminus. May this incense be blessed by Him in Whose honour it shall be burnt, in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Let my prayer be set forth unto Thee, O Lord, as incense in Thy sight, the lifting up of my hands as an evening sacrifice. Set, O Lord, a watch before my mouth, and a door of enclosure round about my lips. Incline not my heart unto words of evil, to make excuse with excuses in sins. (Ps. 140:2-4) ...

Cleanse me, O Lord, from all defilement of mind and body, that being cleansed I may be able to accomplish the holy work of the Lord.

In the spirit of humility and with a contrite heart may we be accepted of Thee, O Lord, and may our Sacrifice be in such wise in Thy sight, that it may be accepted by Thee this day, and pleasing unto Thee, O Lord my God. (cf. Dan. 3:39-40)

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

The Priest turns to the people & says softly:

Brothers and sisters, pray for me, that my and your Sacrifice may together be acceptable unto the Lord our God.

Priest & people bow to one another.

People, softly: **May the grace of the Holy Spirit illuminate thy heart and thy lips, and may the Lord rightly accept this Sacrifice of praise from thy hands, for our sins and offences.** *Priest, softly:* Amen. *Aloud:* **Let us pray.**

OVER THE GIFTS

Usually there are seven Over the Gifts. We bow our heads during them. Then:

...through all the ages of ages. R̄. Amen.

∇ The Lord be with you. (Ruth 2:4) R̄. And with thy spirit. (2 Tim. 4:22)

∇ Lift up your hearts. (Lam. 3:41) R̄. We have them unto the Lord.

∇ Let us give thanks unto the Lord our God. (cf. Col. 1:3, 1 Thess. 1:2)

R̄. It is meet and just.

PREFACE

It is truly meet and just, right and availing to salvation, that we should always and in all places give thanks to Thee, O Holy Lord, Father almighty, everlasting God... *(the appointed Preface is sung, ending:)* ... saying:

SANCTUS

Holy, O Holy, Holy Lord God of Sábaoth. Heaven and earth are full of Thy glory. Osánna in the highest. O Blessed is He that cometh in the name of the Lord. Osánna in the highest.

Sanctus, O Sanctus, Sanctus Dóminus Deus Sábaoth. Pleni sunt caeli et terra glória Tua. Osánna in excélsis. O Benedictus qui venit in nómine Dómini. Osánna in excélsis. (Is. 6:3, Mt. 21:9)

Priest, softly: We worship Thee, O Christ, and we bless Thee, for by Thy Holy Cross Thou hast redeemed the world. *Then he sings, just as for every Liturgy:*

Let us pray. Instructed by saving precepts, and guided by Divine institution, we presume to say:

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, & forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors, & lead us not into temptation. *℟.* But deliver us from evil. *Priest: Amen.*

Priest: Deliver us, we beseech Thee, O Lord, from all evils, past, present, and to come, and by the intercession of the blessed and glorious and Ever-Virgin Mary, Mother of God, and of Thy chosen Archangels Michael, Gabriel, and Raphael, and of blessed John the Baptist Thy Forerunner, and of Thy blessed Apostles Peter and Paul, and of Andrew, N. and N.,

The Deacon names today's Saints.

Priest: ... with all the Saints, mercifully grant peace in our days, that through the assistance of Thy mercy we may be always free from sin and secure from all disturbance, through the same Jesus Christ Thy Son our Lord, O Who liveth and reigneth with Thee in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, through all the ages of ages. *℟.* Amen.

BISHOP'S BLESSING

Deacon: O Prince of the Church, shepherd to the sheep, may it please thee to bless the people entrusted to thy care. *(to the people:)* With meekness and with charity, bow down yourselves for a blessing. *℟.* Thanks be to God. *The Bishop sings the proper blessings over the people; each time we answer: Amen.*

Priest: The peace of the Lord be always with you. *℟.* And with thy spirit.

AGNUS DEI

English:

Chanter: O O Lamb of God,
All: That takest away the sins of
the world: have mercy upon us.
Chanter: O O Lamb of God,
All: That takest away the sins of
the world: have mercy upon us.
Chanter: O O Lamb of God,
All: That takest away the sins of
the world: have mercy upon us.

Latin:

Chanter: O Agnus Dei,
All: Qui tollis peccata
mundi: miserere nobis.
Chanter: O Agnus Dei,
All: Qui tollis peccata
mundi: miserere nobis.
Chanter: O Agnus Dei,
All: Qui tollis peccata
mundi: miserere nobis.

Soft Prayers

May this most holy mingling of the Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ be to me and to all receiving It health of mind and body, and a salutary preparation for being made worthy of eternal life & laying hold of it, through the same Christ our Lord. ☩ Amen.

Prayers for Peace

O Lord Jesus Christ, Who didst say to Thine Apostles, “My peace I give unto you, peace I leave with you,” (Jn. 14:27) look not upon my sins, but upon the faith of Thy Church, and by Thy will vouchsafe to pacify, to protect, and to unite it, Who with the Father and the Holy Spirit livest and reignest, God through all the ages of ages. ☩ Amen.

O Holy Lord, Father almighty, everlasting God, grant us so worthily to receive this most holy Body and Blood of Thy Son our Lord Jesus Christ, that by this we may deserve to receive the remission of all our sins, and to be filled with Thy Holy Spirit, and to possess Thy peace. For Thou alone art God, and there is none other beside Thee, Whose glorious kingdom abideth unto the ages of ages. ☩ Amen.

KISS OF PEACE

The Priest kisses the clergy, saying:

Peace be to thee and to the Church of God. ☩ And with thy spirit.

The pax icon is brought out by a server & the people reverence & kiss it.

PRAYERS BEFORE COMMUNION

The choir sings the following & then the appointed Communion antiphon.

Choir refrain: This is My Body, which is given for you; this is the chalice, the new testament in My Blood, saith the Lord. This do ye, as often as ye shall receive, for a commemoration of Me, etc. (Lk. 22:19-20; 1 Cor. 11:25)

Soft prayers before Communion

O God the Father, fount and source of all good, Who, led by loving-kindness, didst will Thine Only-Begotten to descend to the lowest world and to take on flesh for us, which I, unworthy, here hold in my hands, I worship Thee, I glorify Thee, I praise Thee with the whole intention of my mind and heart, and I pray that Thou wilt not forsake us, Thy servants, but wilt forgive our sins so that we may be able to serve Thee, the only living and true God, with a pure heart and a chaste body. Through the same Christ our Lord. ☩ Amen.

O Lord Jesus Christ, Son of the living God, Who, according to the will of the Father, hast by Thy death, through the co-operation of the Holy Spirit, given life to the world: deliver me by this Thy most sacred Body and Blood from all mine iniquities, and from all evils, and make me always to obey Thy commandments, and never suffer me to be separated from Thee for ever, O Saviour of the world, Who with God the Father and the same Holy Spirit livest and reignest, God through all the ages of ages. ☩ Amen.

Let not the Holy Mystery of Thy Body and Blood, O Lord Jesus Christ, which I (though unworthy) receive, be to me for judgment and condemnation, but through Thy mercy may It be for the salvation of my body and soul. ☩ Amen.

COMMUNION OF THE CLERGY

Hail for evermore, most holy Flesh of Christ! Hail for evermore, heavenly Drink, to me before all and above all the highest sweetness! May the Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ be to me, a sinner, an everlasting remedy unto eternal life, in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

CONFESSION OF SINS

People: I confess to God, to blessed Mary, to all the Saints, and to thee, that I have sinned exceedingly in thought, word and deed, through my fault. I beseech Holy Mary, all the Saints of God, & thee, to pray for me.

Priest: May almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins, deliver you from all evil, preserve and strengthen you in good, and bring you to eternal life. *℟:* Amen.

Priest: May the almighty and merciful Lord grant you pardon* and remission of all your sins, space for true repentance and amendment of life, and the grace and consolation of the Holy Spirit. *℟:* Amen.

* a Bishop says, "absolution and remission"

COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

Note: The choir sings the appointed antiphon, & the people are communed with the holy spoon. Approach the chalice as usual, but tilt your head farther backwards. In some places, the Priest will drop the Holy Communion from the spoon into your mouth; otherwise, press your lips firmly around the spoon as it is drawn out of your mouth.

PRAYERS OF THANKS

I give Thee thanks, O Holy Lord, Father almighty, everlasting God, Who hast refreshed me with the most holy Body and Blood of Thy Son our Lord Jesus Christ, and I pray Thee that this Holy Mystery of our salvation which I, an unworthy sinner, have received, may not fall to my judgment, nor to condemnation, according to my deserts, but to the advancement of my body and soul unto life eternal, according to Thy mercy. *℟:* Amen.

What we have taken with our mouth may we receive with a pure mind, O Lord, and from a temporal gift may It become for us the medicine of immortality. 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. *℟:* Amen. May this Communion, O Lord, purge us from guilt and make us to be partakers of the heavenly remedy. 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. *℟:* Amen. Blessed be thou by thy Son, O Lady, for through thee we have partaken of the Fruit of life. Let us bow down before the sign of the Cross, through which we have received the holy mystery of salvation.

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

POST-COMMUNION PRAYERS

Usually there are seven of these prayers; we bow our heads during them. Then:

Priest: ...God through all the ages of ages. *℟:* Amen.

PRAYER OF BOWED HEADS

Priest: Let us pray. Deacon: Bow down your heads before God.

We bow deeply; at the prayer's doxology we rise & cross ourselves:

Priest: ...God through all the ages of ages. *℟:* Amen.

Priest: The Lord be with you. *℟:* And with thy spirit.

DISMISSAL

At Presanctifieds the dismissal is almost always:

Deacon: Let us bless the Lord. R̄. Thanks be to God.

Priest, softly: Let the performance of my homage be pleasing to Thee, O Holy Trinity, and grant that this Sacrifice which I, though unworthy, have offered up in the sight of Thy majesty, may be acceptable to Thee, and through Thy mercy be a propitiation for me and for all those for whom I have offered it. Who livest and reignest, God through all the ages of ages. Amen. In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

The next Hour is begun here—usually Vespers.

BISHOP'S BLESSING

∿ **Our help is in the name of the Lord.**
 R̄ **Who hath made heaven and the earth.***
 ∿ **Blessed be the name of the Lord.**
 R̄ **From henceforth and for evermore.****
 ∿ **The Lord be with you.**
 R̄ **And with thy spirit.**

Bishop: Let us pray.

May the blessing of God, the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, come down upon you, & remain for ever. R̄. Amen.

* Ps. 120:3 ** Ps. 112:3

ARCHBISHOP'S BLESSING

Deacon:

Bow down yourselves for a blessing.

People: Thanks be to God.

We bow, & over us the Hierarch sings his blessings, each one ending: Amen.

BLESSING OF BREAD

Note: The blessing of bread may be deferred until after Vespers.

Server: Benedicite (Bless). *Priest:* Dóminus (The Lord [bless]).

∿ **Blessed be the name of the Lord.**

R̄ **From henceforth and for evermore.** (Ps. 112:3)

∿ **Let us bless the Lord. R̄. Thanks be to God.**

∿ **The Lord be with you. R̄. And with thy spirit. Priest: Let us pray.**

Bless, O Lord, this creature of bread, as Thou didst bless the five loaves in the wilderness, that all who partake of it may receive health of both body & soul, in the name of the Father & of the Son & of the Holy Spirit. R̄. Amen.

We queue up to take blessed bread, kissing the Priest's hand as we receive the bread.



Thanksgiving

Note: Instead of the usual thanksgiving prayers, Vespers is sung (see p. 33). The Priest, however, says the thanksgiving prayers softly as he unvests.