



**ORTHODOX
PRAYERS
OF OLD ENGLAND**

A Western Rite
Prayer-Book
for Orthodox Christians



Third Edition

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Psalms from 'The Psalter According to the Seventy,'
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HOUSE BLESSING

Annual Blessing: *Each individual & household should invite the Priest annually to bless the house, most commonly done on or near Theophany, January 6/19.*

Preparations: *Clear a place at the icon corner—or bring a clean table into the corner—so the Priest has room to arrange his book, censer, & so forth. Make sure the television & radio are off.*



When the Priest arrives, everyone in the house gets a blessing, & the Priest begins:

Peace be to this house! Peace be to this house! Peace be to this house!

AT THE ICON CORNER

∇ O Lord, let Thy Priests be clothed with righteousness.

℞ And Thy Saints shall rejoice. (Ps 131:10,18) *Priest: Let us pray.*

Almighty and merciful God, Who deignest to employ the ministry of Priests for serving and supplicating Thee, we beseech Thy boundless mercy that whomsoever we are about to visit Thou wouldst visit, that whatsoever we are about to bless Thou wouldst bless, and that at the entry of our lowliness there might be, by the prayers of Thy Saints, banishment for the demons, and the entrance of an Angel of peace. O Through Christ our Lord. **℞ Amen.**

Here the Priest usually blesses holy water (p. 92) & incense. Then he sings aloud:

∇ Our help is in the name of the Lord.

℞ Who hath made heaven and the earth. (Ps. 123:9)

∇ Blessed be the name of the Lord.

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

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

Be present to our supplications, and help us, O Lord, and illumine this home with the clear eyes of Thy loving-kindness. Let the freely-given blessing of Thy grace, we beseech Thee, descend upon those that dwell therein, that they who abide with healthfulness in these dwellings made by hands may themselves be Thy dwelling for ever. 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. **℞ Amen.**

The Priest sprinkles all the rooms with holy water, & censes them; we sing the refrain:

Choir: Thou shalt sprinkle me, O Lord, with hyssop, and I shall be cleansed. Thou shalt wash me, and I shall be made whiter than snow. (Ps. 50:9)

PSALM 50

Have mercy on me, O God ∇ according to Thy great mercy. *(refrain)*
And according to the multitude of Thy compassions ∇ blot out my transgression. *(refrain)*

Wash me thoroughly from mine iniquity ∇ and cleanse me from my sin. *(refrain)*

For I know mine iniquity ∇ and my sin is ever before me. *(refrain)*

Against Thee only have I sinned and done this evil before Thee ⁊ that
Thou mightest be justified in Thy words, and prevail when Thou
art judged. *(refrain)*

For behold, I was conceived in iniquities ⁊ and in sins did my mother
bear me. *(refrain)*

For behold, Thou hast loved truth ⁊ the hidden and secret things of
Thy wisdom hast Thou made manifest unto me. *(refrain)*

Thou shalt sprinkle me with hyssop, and I shall be made clean ⁊ Thou
shalt wash me, and I shall be made whiter than snow. *(refrain)*

Thou shalt make me to hear joy and gladness ⁊ the bones that be
humbled, they shall rejoice. *(refrain, etc.)*

Turn Thy face away from my sins ⁊ and blot out all mine iniquities.
Create in me a clean heart, O God ⁊ and renew a right spirit within
me. *etc.*

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

Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation ⁊ and with Thy governing
Spirit establish me.

I shall teach transgressors Thy ways ⁊ and the ungodly shall turn back
unto Thee.

Deliver me from blood-guiltiness, O God, Thou God of my salvation ⁊
my tongue shall rejoice in Thy righteousness.

O Lord, Thou shalt open my lips ⁊ and my mouth shall declare Thy
praise.

For if Thou hadst desired sacrifice, I had given it ⁊ with whole-burnt
offerings Thou shalt not be pleased.

A sacrifice unto God is a broken spirit ⁊ a heart that is broken and
humbled God will not despise.

Do good, O Lord, in Thy good pleasure unto Sion ⁊ and let the walls
of Jerusalem be builded.

Then shalt Thou be pleased with a sacrifice of righteousness, with
oblation and whole-burnt offerings ⁊ then shall they offer bullocks
upon Thine altar.

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. *(Last refrain. Note: if the house is small no refrains are sung.)*

Back at the icon corner, the Priest sings:

Ⲯ. Show us, O Lord, Thy mercy.

Ⲭ. And Thy salvation do Thou give unto us. (Ps. 84:7) *Priest:*

Let us pray. Harken unto us, O Holy Lord, Father almighty, everlasting God, and
vouchsafe to send Thy holy Angel from the heavens, who shall keep, cherish, protect,
visit, and defend all them that dwell in this habitation, O through Christ our Lord. Ⲭ. Amen.

Now the Priest goes through each of the rooms, saying prayers proper to each room:

PARLOUR OR LIVING ROOM

℣. Blessed is the man that hath understanding for the poor man and the pauper. ℞. In an evil day the Lord will deliver him. (Ps 40:1) *Priest:*

Let us pray. Almighty and merciful God, Who art the teacher of human hearts and master of the Angels, Thee we humbly beseech that Thou wouldst vouchsafe to be ever present to the hearts of those that frequent this place for the grace of salvation. Let the words of Thy servants be kindled in Thy fear and seasoned with salt, that when they who have come here have departed hence, they may, because of their example, proclaim the glory of Thy name. 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. **℞ Amen.**

FIREPLACE

℣. The words of the Lord are tried in the fire. ℞. Defender is He of all that hope in Him. (Ps. 17:34) *Priest: Let us pray.*

Almighty, everlasting God, Whose wisdom hath instructed man so that this house is free somewhat from cold by the nearness of fire, we beseech Thee that all who dwell or assemble herein may, in their heart, be free of the cold of faithlessness by the warmth of the Holy Spirit. O Through our Lord Jesus Christ Thy Son, Who liveth and reigneth with Thee in the unity of the same Holy Spirit, God through all the ages of ages. **℞ Amen.**

KITCHEN

℣. The Lord is my shepherd. ℞. And I shall not want. (Ps. 22:1) *Priest:*

Let us pray. O eternal God, before Whose sight the Angels stand, and by Whose command are all things governed, Who also neglectest not to provide the necessities of human weakness through Thy goodness: Thee we humbly implore that Thou wouldst anoint the habitation of this workplace with that blessing wherewith Thou madest sweet the bitter taste in the dried-up vessel by the hands of Prophet Eliseus. (4 Kg 2:19-22) And with the abundance of Thy blessing always overflowing here, let Thy servants render thanks to Thee that givest food to all flesh, and fillest every living thing with Thy favour. (Ps 144:16-17) O O Saviour of the world, Who livest and reignest with God the Father in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God through all the ages of ages. **℞ Amen.**

DINING HALL

℣. O fear the Lord, all ye His Saints. ℞. For there is no want to them that fear Him. (Ps 33:10) *Priest: Let us pray.*

Almighty and merciful God, Who nourishest Thy servants in this house with fleshly repast, at Thy blessing may they partake of food and drink with thanksgiving, and be worthy to share in the banquet at Thy heavenly table, rejoicing in the eternal joys of its glory. O Through Christ our Lord. **℞ Amen.**

BEDROOM

℣. Behold, He shall not slumber, nor shall He sleep. ℞. He that keepeth Israēl. (Ps 120:5) *Priest: Let us pray.*

Bless, O Lord, this sleeping-chamber of Thy servants, Who neither sleepest nor slumberest, Who keepeth Israel. Keep Thy servants resting in this house after labour from the illusions of satanic fantasies; let them, keeping watch, meditate on Thy commandments, and let them that slumber perceive Thee through their sleep, and here and in all places be

armed with the assistance of Thy defence. O Through Christ our Lord. *℞ Amen.*

OFFICE OR STUDY

℣ My mouth shall speak the praise of the Lord. ℞ And let all flesh bless His holy name. (Ps 144:23) *Priest: Let us pray.*

O Lord, be pleased to bless this scriptorium of Thy servants and all that abide therein, that whatsoever of the Divine Scriptures shall be read or written by them here they may grasp in their perception, and fulfill in their deeds. O Through Christ our Lord. *℞ Amen.*

WORKROOM

℣ But they that seek the Lord.

℞ Shall not be deprived of any good thing. (Ps 33:11) *Priest: Let us pray.*

Let the place of this workshop be sanctified, O Lord, and let every unclean spirit be chased from it by the power of our Lord Jesus Christ, and let health, charity, and joy be given to all who stay herein, Thy majesty protecting and keeping them, O almighty God, O Who livest and reignest in perfect Trinity through all the ages of ages. *℞ Amen.*

STORAGE ROOM OR BUILDING

℣ The Lord is righteous and hath loved righteousness. ℞ Upon uprightness hath His countenance looked. (Ps 10:9) *Priest: Let us pray.*

Almighty and merciful God, Who foreseeing with kindness the necessity of the human race hath conferred temporal supports on us: we humbly implore that Thou wouldst vouchsafe to bless this storage room of Thy servants, that what Thy mercy hath kindly bestowed here may not—on account of what we deserve—be lost. 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. *℞ Amen.*

The Priest sprinkles & censes the outside walls of the house, on all sides.

FRONT DOOR

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

Lord Jesus Christ, Who in entering the gates of Jerusalem didst sanctify its portals, and Who by the instrument of Thy Prophet hast told us, 'Praise the Lord, O Jerusalem; praise Thy God, O Sion, for He hath strengthened the bars of thy gates; He hath blessed thy sons within thee' (Ps. 147:1-2); we beseech Thee that Thou wouldst bring peace upon all the corners of this house, that with Thy Word running right swiftly therein (:4), He may fill them with the fatness of the wheat (:3); let the Holy Spirit defend them, that the enemy may never prevail to do them harm; but let all who abide or assemble in this house chant with voice, heart, and mouth alike, 'Great is our Lord Jesus Christ, and great is His strength; and of His understanding there is no measure.' (Ps. 146:6) O Who with God the Father, in the unity of the same Holy Spirit, liveth and reigneth, God through all the ages of ages. *℞ Amen.*

MIDST OF THE HOUSE

Bless, O Lord, God almighty, this place, that there may be in it health, purity, victory, strength, humility, goodness, and meekness, the fulfillment of the Law, and thanksgiving to God the O Father and Son and Holy Spirit, and may this blessing remain on this house and on those that dwell therein, both now and unto the ages of ages. *℞ Amen.*

