

## EVENING PRAYERS

[The Evening Prayers here are the shortened version of Evening Prayers for lay people “living in the world” as they appear in prayerbooks from *Chl’ib Duši, 1851*, and in America *Moj Molitvennik-My Prayerbook, 1941* to the *Byzantine Book of Prayer*, published by Byzantine Seminary Press, 1976. The Evening Prayers in full are given in *Velikij Sbornik, 1877* and the *Časoslov, Rome, 1962*. In that full form, it is evident that Evening Prayers are modeled after Vespers, the official evening prayer of the Church. Since none of us are an only child of God, the Church offers prayers for all sons and daughters adopted by God through holy baptism to pray united in one mind and heart and voice.]

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

Through the prayers of our holy fathers, O Lord Jesus Christ, our God, have mercy on us. Amen.

Glory to You, our God, glory to You!

Heavenly King, Comforter, Spirit of Truth, everywhere present and filling all things. Treasury of Blessings and Giver of Life, come and dwell within us, cleanse us of all stain, and save our souls, O gracious One.

+Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal, have mercy on us. (*Three times*).

+Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and forever. Amen.

Most holy Trinity, have mercy on us; Lord, cleanse us of our sins; Master, forgive our transgressions; Holy One come to us and heal our infirmities for your Name’s sake.

Lord, have mercy. (*Three times*).

+Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and forever. Amen.

**O**ur 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.

For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and ever, and forever. Amen.

### **Troparia of Repentance**

Have mercy on us, O Lord, have mercy on us: since we have no defense, we sinners offer this supplication to You, our Master, have mercy on us.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:

Lord, have mercy on us, for in You we place our hope, be not exceedingly angry with us nor mindful of our transgressions; but look upon us even now with mercy and deliver us from our enemies, for You are our God and we are Your people: we are all the work of Your hands, and we call upon Your name.

Now and ever, and forever. Amen.

### *Theotokion:*

Open to us the doors of mercy, O blessed Mother of God, that we, who place our trust in you may not perish, but that through you we be delivered from misfortune; for you are the salvation of all Christians.

### *Then:*

Lord, have mercy. *Twelve.*

*Then these prayers in order with understanding and contrition.*

**The First Prayer,  
of Saint Makarius the Great, to God the Father**

**O** eternal God and Ruler of all creation, You have allowed me to reach this hour. Forgive the sins I committed today by word, deed, or in thought. Purify me, O Lord, from every spiritual and physical stain. Grant me, Lord, to pass the sleep of this night in peace. Grant that I may rise from this lowly bed to glorify You by my deeds throughout my entire lifetime, and that I may be victorious over every spiritual and physical enemy. Deliver me, O Lord, from all vain thoughts and evil desires, for Yours, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, now and ever, and forever. Amen.

**The Second Prayer,  
to God the Son, by Saint Antiochus**

**O** Almighty Word of the Father, Jesus Christ, who alone are perfect: according to the greatness of your mercy, do not abandon me, your servant, but ever rest in my heart. O Jesus, Good Shepherd of Your sheep, deliver me from the attacks of the devil. Do not allow me to become the pray of Satan's evil intention, even though I have within me the seeds of eternal damnation. Instead, O Jesus Christ, Lord God, holy King who alone are worshipped, while I sleep protect me by Your Unwaning Light, the Holy Spirit, through Whom You sanctified Your disciples. O Lord, grant salvation to me, Your unworthy servant, as I lie in my bed. Enlighten my mind by the light of understanding of Your holy Gospel, my soul by the love of Your cross, my heart by the purity of Your teaching. Protect my body by Your sacred passion, my senses by Your humility, and awaken me in due time for Your glorification. For You, above all, are glorified with Your eternal Father, and Your most Holy Spirit, forever. Amen

### **The Third Prayer, to the Most Holy Spirit**

**O** Lord, heavenly King, Comforter, Spirit of Truth, have compassion and mercy on me, Your unworthy servant. Forgive me, unworthy as I am, and remit whatever sins I have committed today both through human frailty and through acting less than human. Forgive my voluntary and involuntary sins, those committed knowingly or through ignorance—which are from my youth and the knowledge of evil—and those which have arisen from arrogance and despondency. Forgive me if I have reproached or cursed someone in my anger, or if I have afflicted grief or have become angry for some reason. Forgive me if I have lied, or unsuitably slept, or turned away a poor person who came to me. Forgive me if I have caused grief for my brother or sister, or judged, or condemned someone. Forgive me if, while at prayer, my mind wandered on the glamorous things of this world, or if I thought about depraved things. Forgive me if I was guilty of acting foolishly, thought evil, or desired in my heart the property of another. Forgive me if I have said indecent things or laughed at the sin of my brother or sister without discerning my own sins, which are great in number. Forgive me if I have been neglectful in my prayers, or guilty of some evil action which I cannot now recall, for I have committed these sins and even much greater sins. Have mercy on me, Your dejected and unworthy servant, O my Master and Creator. Remit, pardon, and forgive me, for You are good and the Lover of mankind. May I, who am dissolute, sinful, and cursed, lie down in peace to sleep and rest, and I will adore, praise, and glorify Your most honorable name with the Father and His only-begotten Son, now and ever, and forever. Amen.

**Prayer to the Most Holy Mother of God  
by Saint Peter the Studite**

**O** good Mother of the good King, O most pure and blessed Mother of God, Mary, pour upon my suffering soul the mercy of your Son and our God. By your prayers guide me to do good deeds. Grant that I may spend the rest of my life without fault and attain paradise through you, O Virgin Mother of God; for you alone are pure and blessed.

**Prayer to the Holy Guardian Angel**

**O** Guardian Angel, protector of my soul and body, to your care I have been entrusted by Christ. Obtain for me the forgiveness of the sins committed by me this day. Protect me from the snares of my enemy that I may never more offend God by my sin. Pray for me, your sinful and unworthy servant, that through your help I may become worthy of the grace and mercy of the most Holy Trinity, and of the Mother of my Lord God, Jesus Christ, and of all the saints. Amen.

*Then,*

**The Kontakion of the Mother of God:**

We are yours, O Mother of God. Since you have delivered us from all tribulations, we give thanks to you by dedicating our songs of victory to you, O Saving Champion. In your invincible might, deliver us from all dangers that we may exclaim to you: Hail, full of grace!

*Then:*

O most glorious, ever-Virgin Mother of Christ, our God, offer up our prayers to your Son and our God, so that, through you, Mother of God, He may save our souls.

I place all my hope in you, Mother of God. Protect me under your patronage.

O Virgin Mother of God, do not turn away from me, a sinner, for I need your help and intercession. Have mercy on me, for my soul hopes in you.

*Then,*

### **The Prayer of Saint Joannicius**

The Father is my hope;  
the Son is my refuge;  
and the Holy Spirit is my protection.  
O Holy Trinity, glory to You!

*Then:*

It is truly proper to glorify you, O Theotokos, the ever blessed, immaculate, and the Mother of our God. More honorable than the cherubim, and beyond compare more glorious than the seraphim; who, a virgin, gave birth to God the Word, you, truly the Theotokos, we magnify.

+Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and forever. Amen.

May the Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, through the prayers of the most pure Mother of God, of the venerable and God-bearing fathers, and of all the saints, save me, a sinner. Amen.