

NINTH HOUR

The priest, vested in a rason and epitachelion, stands before the royal doors and begins, Blessed be... . If no priest is present, the lector begins: Through the prayers of our holy fathers, Lord, Jesus Christ our God, have mercy on us.

Blessing

PRIEST: Blessed be our God, always, now and for ever and ever.

ALL: **Amen.**

During the Easter Season, instead of “Glory be” and “Heavenly King” we sing the Paschal Troparion: Christ is risen from the dead, trampling death by death, and to those in the tombs giving life. (3)

Beginning Prayers

A: Glory be to You, our God, glory be to You!

B: Heavenly King, Advocate, Spirit of Truth, Who are everywhere present and fill all things, Treasury of Blessings, Bestower of Life, come, and dwell within us; cleanse us of all that defiles us, and, O Good One, save our souls.

A: †Holy God, Holy and Mighty, Holy and Immortal, have mercy on us!

B: †Holy God, Holy and Mighty, Holy and Immortal, have mercy on us!

A: †Holy God, Holy and Mighty, Holy and Immortal, have mercy on us!

B: †Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit,

A: Now and for ever and ever. Amen.

B: Trinity most holy, have mercy on us. Cleanse us of our sins, O Lord; pardon our transgressions, O Master; look upon our weaknesses and heal them, O Holy One; for the sake of Your name.

A: Lord, have mercy. (3)

B: †Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit,

A: Now and for ever and ever. Amen.

ALL: **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.**

If no priest is present, the lector sings: Through the prayers of our holy fathers, Lord, Jesus Christ our God, have mercy on us. *All:* Amen.

PRIEST: For the kingdom, the power and the glory are Yours, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and for ever and ever.

ALL: Amen.

A: Lord, have mercy. (6)

B: Lord, have mercy. (6)

A: †Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit,

B: Now and for ever and ever. Amen.

Call to Worship

Psalm 94:6

A: †Come, let us bow in worship before the King, our God!

B: †Come, let us bow in worship before Christ, the King, our God!

A: †Come, let us bow in worship and fall down before the very Lord Jesus Christ,

ALL: Our King and God!

All three psalms may be chanted by the lector alone; or they may be sung antiphonally in two choirs.

Psalm 83

Love and longing for God's temple (Monday & Thursday)

A: How beloved are Your dwellings, O Lord of hosts;* my soul longs and pines for the courts of the Lord.

B: My heart and my flesh have rejoiced* in the living God.

A: Even the sparrow has found itself a house, and the dove a nest for herself,* where she will lay her young:

B: Your altars, O Lord of hosts,* my King and my God.

A: Blessed are those who dwell in Your house,* they will praise You for ever and ever.

B: Blessed is the man whose help is from You;* with Your help he was able to surmount his grief.

A: For the lawgiver will indeed give blessings;* they will go from strength to strength.* The God of gods will appear in Sion.

B: Hear my prayer, O Lord God of hosts;* give ear, O God of Jacob.

A: See, O God our shield;* and look on the face of Your anointed.

B: For one day in Your courts* is better than a thousand elsewhere.

- A: I have chosen to be cast aside in the house of my God,* rather than dwell in the tents of sinners.
- B: For the Lord loves mercy and truth.* God will give the grace and the glory.
- A: He will not deprive those who walk in innocence* of any good thing.
- B: O Lord God of hosts,* blessed is the man who hopes in You.

Psalm 84

The coming age of peace and justice (Tuesday & Friday)

- A: You have shown favour to Your land, O Lord,* You brought back the captives of Jacob.
- B: You have forgiven Your people their iniquities,* You have covered all their sins.
- A: You have made all Your anger cease,* You have turned from the anger of Your rage.
- B: Bring us back, O God of our salvation,* and turn Your rage from us.
- A: Will You be angry with us for ever? Will You prolong Your wrath from generation to generation?
- B: O God, when You bring us back You will revive us,* and Your people will rejoice in You.
- A: O Lord, show us Your mercy,* and grant us Your salvation.
- B: I shall hear what the Lord God will say within me,* for He will speak peace to His people,
- A: To His holy ones,* to those who turn their hearts back to Him.
- B: But His salvation is near those who fear Him,* that His glory may dwell in our land.
- A: Mercy and truth have met,* righteousness and peace have embraced.
- B: Truth has dawned from the earth,* and justice has leaned down from heaven.
- A: Indeed, the Lord will give goodness,* and our earth will yield its fruit.
- B: Justice will walk before Him,* and set His steps in the way.

Psalm 85

Loyalty in God's service (Wednesday, Saturday, Sunday)

- A: Incline Your ear, O Lord, and hear me,* for I am poor and needy.
- B: Guard my soul, for I am devoted to You,* O my God, save Your servant who hopes in You.
- A: Have mercy on me, Lord,* for I shall cry to You all the day;
- B: Give joy to the soul of Your servant,* for I have lifted up my soul to You.
- A: You, Lord, are good and gentle,* and full of mercy to all who call upon You.
- B: Give ear, O Lord, to my prayer;* be attentive to the sound of my plea.
- A: In the day of trouble I called to You,* for You have heard me.
- B: There is none like You among the gods,* none whose works are as Yours, O Lord.
- A: All the nations whom You made will come and bow before You,* and glorify Your name, O Lord.
- B: For You are great and do wondrous things;* You alone are God.
- A: Guide me, in Your way, O Lord,* and I shall walk in Your truth;
- B: Make my heart glad* to fear Your name.
- A: With my whole heart I shall give You thanks, O Lord, my God,* and I shall glorify Your name for ever.
- B: For Your mercy is great towards me,* and You have delivered my soul from the lowest part of Hades.
- A: O God, the lawless rose up against me, and a band of the powerful sought my soul;* they did not set You before them.
- B: But You, O Lord, are compassionate and kind,* long-suffering and full of mercy and truth.
- A: Look on me and have mercy on me;* give Your might to Your servant and save the son of Your maidservant.
- B: Show me a sign for good, and let those who hate me see it and be shamed;* for You, O Lord, have helped me and comforted me.

* * *

A: †Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit,
B: Now and for ever and ever. Amen.
A: †Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, glory be to You, O God.
B: †Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, glory be to You, O God.
A: †Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, glory be to You, O God.
B: Lord, have mercy. (3)

Troparia

LECTOR: †Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.
ALL: *The troparion for the saint/s of the day, or feast. If there are two troparia, the first is sung before the Glory be, the second, after.*
LECTOR: Now and for ever and ever. Amen.
ALL: **O Good One, You were born of a Virgin for our sake and endured crucifixion;* You despoiled death by death and as God revealed resurrection.* Do not despise those whom You fashioned with Your own hand;* show Your love for mankind, O Merciful One;* accept the Mother of God who bore You as she intercedes for us,* and save, O Saviour, a people in despair.**

Daniel 3:34-35

LECTOR: For Your holy name's sake do not utterly reject us, do not annul Your covenant, do not take Your mercy from us for the sake of Abraham, Your beloved, and for the sake of Isaac, Your servant, and Israel, Your holy one.

Trisagion Prayers

Antiphonally, or the lector alone:

A: †Holy God, Holy and Mighty, Holy and Immortal, have mercy on us!
B: †Holy God, Holy and Mighty, Holy and Immortal, have mercy on us!
A: †Holy God, Holy and Mighty, Holy and Immortal, have mercy on us!
B: †Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit,
A: Now and for ever and ever. Amen.
B: Trinity most holy, have mercy on us. Cleanse us of our sins, O Lord; pardon our transgressions, O Master; look upon our

weaknesses and heal them, O Holy One; for the sake of Your name.

A: Lord, have mercy. (3)

B: †Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit,

A: Now and for ever and ever. Amen.

ALL: **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.**

If no priest is present, the lector sings: Through the prayers of our holy fathers, Lord, Jesus Christ our God, have mercy on us. *All:* Amen.

PRIEST: For the kingdom, the power and the glory are Yours, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and for ever and ever.

ALL: **Amen.**

Kontakion

The kontakion for the saint/s, or the feast

Lord, have mercy (40)

A: Lord, have mercy. (10)

B: Lord, have mercy. (10)

A: Lord, have mercy. (10)

B: Lord, have mercy. (10)

Prayer of the Hours

If there is no priest, the lector chants the following prayer:

PRIEST: In every season and at every hour, in heaven and on earth You are worshipped and glorified, O good God, longsuffering, rich in mercy, loving the just and compassionate to sinners, calling all to salvation by the promise of blessings to come; now at this very hour, Lord accept our prayers, and direct our lives in the ways of Your commandments. Sanctify our souls, purify our bodies, correct our thoughts, and make our knowledge whole and sober. Deliver us from every distress, evil, and pain. Surround us with Your holy angels as with a rampart so that protected and guided by their host we may reach the unity of the faith and the

knowledge of Your unapproachable glory; for You are blessed for ever and ever. Amen.

Concluding Prayers

A: Lord, have mercy. (3)

B: †Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

A: Now and for ever and ever. Amen.

B: More honourable than the cherubim,* and by far more glorious than the seraphim,* ever a virgin, you gave birth to God the Word,* O true Mother of God, we magnify you.

If no priest is present, the lector sings: Through the prayers of our holy fathers, Lord Jesus Christ, our God, have mercy on us. *All:* Amen.

If a priest is present:

LECTOR: In the name of the Lord, father, give the blessing.

PRIEST: O God be gracious to us and bless us; make Your face to shine upon us and have mercy on us.

ALL: **Amen.**

Prayer of the Ninth Hour

If there is no priest, the lector chants the following prayer:

PRIEST: Master, Lord, Jesus Christ, our God, You have patiently endured our transgressions, and brought us to this hour in which hanging on the life-giving tree You showed the good Thief the way into Paradise and destroyed death by death. Have mercy also on us sinners, Your unworthy servants, for we have sinned and transgressed Your law and are not worthy to raise our eyes and look to the height of heaven; because we have abandoned the way of Your justice and walked in the willfulness of our hearts. But we implore Your unbounded goodness: spare us, O Lord, according to the multitude of Your mercy, and save us for Your holy name's sake, for our days have been wasted in vanity. Rescue us from the hand of our opponent, forgive us our sins, slay our carnal will, that having put off the old man, we may put on the new, and live for You, our Master and Benefactor; and that thus following Your precepts we may reach eternal rest,

where all who rejoice have their dwelling. For You indeed are the true joy and gladness of those who love You, Christ our God, and to You we give glory, together with Your Father Who has no beginning, and Your all-holy, good and life-giving Spirit, now and for ever and ever. Amen.

If the Vespers Service follows immediately after the Ninth Hour, we proceed directly to the Call to Worship on page 233.

If no priest is present:

ALL: †Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit,* now and for ever and ever. Amen.* Lord, have mercy. (3)* Give the blessing.

Easter Season: Christ is risen from the dead, trampling death by death;* and to those in the tombs giving life.* Lord, have mercy. (3)* Give the blessing.

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

ALL: Amen.

Dismissal

PRIEST: †Glory be to You, O Christ our God, our hope, glory be to You.

ALL: †Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit,* now and for ever and ever. Amen.* Lord, have mercy. (3)* Give the blessing.

Easter Season: Christ is risen from the dead, trampling death by death;* and to those in the tombs giving life.* Lord, have mercy. (3)* Give the blessing.

PRIEST: Christ our true God, through the prayers of His immaculate Mother, of our venerable and godly fathers; and of all the saints, will have mercy and save us, for He is good and loves mankind.

ALL: Amen.