

THE LENTEN OFFICE OF THE NINTH HOUR

The present Office gives the order for a Lenten service only and should not be used outside of Great Lent.

Priest: Blessed is our God always, now and ever and unto ages of ages.

Reader: Amen. Glory to Thee, our God, glory to Thee.

O Heavenly King, the Comforter, the Spirit of truth, Who art everywhere and fillest all things; Treasury of blessings and Giver of life: come and abide in us and cleanse us from every impurity, and save our souls, O Good One.

Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal, have mercy on us. (*thrice*)

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

O Most Holy Trinity, have mercy on us. O Lord, cleanse us from our sins. O Master, pardon our transgressions. O Holy One, visit and heal our infirmities, for Thy Name's sake.

Lord, have mercy. (*thrice*)

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

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.

Priest: For Thine is the Kingdom, and the power, and the glory of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages.

Reader: Amen. Lord, have mercy. (*twelve times*)

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Come, let us worship God our King. Come, let us worship and fall down before Christ, our King and our God. Come, let us worship and fall down before Christ Himself, our King and our God.

PSALM 83

How lovely is Thy dwelling place, O Lord of hosts! My soul longs, yea, faints for the courts of the Lord; my heart and flesh sing for joy to the living God. Even the sparrow finds a home, and the swallow a nest for herself, where she may lay her young, at Thine altars, O Lord of hosts, my King and my God. Blessed are those who dwell in Thy house, ever singing Thy praise! Blessed are the men whose strength is in Thee, in whose heart are the highways to Zion. As they go through the valley of Baca they make it a place of springs; the early rain also covers it with pools. They go from strength to strength; the God of gods will be seen in Zion. O Lord God of hosts, hear my prayer; give ear, O God of Jacob! Behold our shield, O God; look upon the face of Thine anointed! For a day in Thy courts is better than a thousand elsewhere. I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God than dwell in the tents of wickedness. For the Lord God is a sun and shield; he bestows favor and honor. No good thing does the Lord withhold from those who walk uprightly. O Lord of hosts, blessed is the man who trusts in Thee!

PSALM 84

Lord, Thou wast favorable to Thy land; Thou didst restore the fortunes of Jacob. Thou didst forgive the iniquity of Thy people; Thou didst pardon all their sin. Thou didst withdraw all Thy wrath; Thou didst turn from Thy hot anger. Restore us again, O God of our salvation, and put away Thine indignation toward us! Wilt Thou be angry with us forever? Wilt Thou prolong Thine anger to all generations? Wilt Thou not revive us again, that Thy people may rejoice in Thee? Show us Thy steadfast love, O Lord, and grant us Thy salvation. Let me hear what God the Lord will speak, for He will speak peace to His people, to His saints, to those who turn to Him in their hearts. Surely His salvation is at hand for those who fear Him, that glory may dwell in our land. Steadfast love and faithfulness will meet; righteousness and peace will kiss each other. Faithfulness will spring up from the ground, and righteousness will look down from the sky. Yea, the Lord will give what is good, and our land will yield its increase. Righteousness will go before Him, and make His footsteps a way.

PSALM 85

Incline Thine ear, O Lord, and answer me, for I am poor and needy. Preserve my life, for I am godly; save Thy servant who trusts in Thee. Thou art my God; be gracious to me, O Lord, for to Thee do I cry all the day. Gladden the soul of Thy servant, for to Thee, O Lord, do I lift up my soul. For Thou, O Lord, art good and forgiving, abounding in steadfast love to all who call on Thee. Give ear, O Lord, to my prayer; hearken to my cry of supplication. In the day of my trouble I call on

Thee, for Thou dost answer me. There is none like Thee among the gods, O Lord, nor are there any works like Thine. All the nations Thou hast made shall come and bow down before Thee, O Lord, and shall glorify Thy Name. For Thou art great and doest wondrous things, Thou alone art God. Teach me Thy way, O Lord, that I may walk in Thy truth; unite my heart to fear Thy Name. I give thanks to Thee, O Lord my God, with my whole heart, and I will glorify Thy Name forever. For great is Thy steadfast love toward me; Thou hast delivered my soul from the depths of Sheol. O God, insolent men have risen up against me; a band of ruthless men seek my life, and they do not set Thee before them. But Thou, O Lord, art a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness. Turn to me and take pity on me; give Thy strength to Thy servant, and save the son of Thy handmaid. Show me a sign of Thy favor, that those who hate me may see and be put to shame because Thou, Lord, hast helped me and comforted me.

And again:

Show me a sign of Thy favor, that those who hate me may see and be put to shame because Thou, Lord, hast helped me and comforted me.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, glory to Thee, O God. (*thrice*)

Lord, have mercy. (*thrice*)

The reader continues with Glory... now and ever... *and the appointed* Kathisma, *with the customary threefold* Alleluia *after each stasis. After ending the Kathisma in the usual manner, he continues with* Lord, have mercy (*thrice*). *Then:*

TROPARION OF THE NINTH HOUR: Tone 8¹

Priest: O Thou Who at the ninth hour for our sake didst taste death in the flesh, put to death the pride of our flesh, O Christ our God, and save us.
(*prostration*)

℞. O Thou Who at the ninth hour for our sake didst taste death in the flesh, put to death the pride of our flesh, O Christ our God, and save us.

Let my petition come before Thee, O Lord; give me understanding, according to Thy word. (*prostration*)

¹ *On Cheesefare Wednesday and Friday, on the Thursday of the Great Canon, and on any day when the Polyeleos was sung at Matins, these troparia are simply read by the reader, without prostrations.*

℟ O Thou Who at the ninth hour for our sake didst taste death in the flesh, put to death the pride of our flesh, O Christ our God, and save us.

Let my supplication come before Thee, O Lord; deliver me, according to Thy word.
(prostration)

℟ O Thou Who at the ninth hour for our sake didst taste death in the flesh, put to death the pride of our flesh, O Christ our God, and save us.

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

Reader: Now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

O loving Lord, Who for our sakes wast born of a virgin, and hast endured crucifixion, trampling down death by death, and as God didst reveal the Resurrection: despise not the works of Thy hands, but show Thy love for mankind, O merciful One. Accept the prayers made on our behalf by her who gave Thee birth, and save Thy despairing people, O our Savior!

For Thy holy Name's sake, do not abandon us forever; do not annul Thy covenant; do not take Thy mercy from us, for the sake of Abraham Thy beloved, and Isaac Thy servant, and Israel Thy holy one.

Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal, have mercy on us. *(thrice)*

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

O Most Holy Trinity, have mercy on us. O Lord, cleanse us from our sins. O Master, pardon our transgressions. O Holy One, visit and heal our infirmities, for Thy Name's sake.

Lord, have mercy. *(thrice)*

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

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.

Priest: For Thine is the Kingdom, and the power, and the glory of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages.

℟ Amen.

The choir then sings the appointed Kontakia of the Horologion, in Tone 8 (troparion melody)²

When the Thief beheld the Author of life hanging upon the Cross, he cried out: “If Thou art not the incarnate God, Who art crucified here with us, then the sun would not have hid its rays, neither would the earth have shaken with trembling.//
But do Thou Who sufferest for all men, remember me, O Lord, when Thou comest in Thy Kingdom.”

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

In the midst of two thieves, Thy Cross was revealed as the balance-beam of righteousness; for while the one was led down to Hell by the burden of his blaspheming, the other was lightened of his sins, unto the knowledge of things divine.//
O Christ our God, glory to Thee.

now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen. (Theotokion)

When she who bore Thee beheld Thee, the Lamb and Shepherd and Savior of the world, hanging upon the Cross, she cried out weeping: “Though the world rejoices in its redemption, my being burns as I behold Thy crucifixion// which Thou sufferest for all men, O my Son and my God.

Lord, have mercy. *(forty times)*

Thou Who at every season and every hour, in Heaven and on earth, art worshipped and glorified, O Christ our God, long-suffering, merciful and compassionate; Who lovest the just and showest mercy upon the sinner; Who callest all men to salvation through the promise of blessings to come: O Lord, in this hour receive our supplications and direct our lives according to Thy commandments. Sanctify our souls, hallow our bodies, correct our thoughts, cleanse our minds; deliver us from all tribulations, evil, and distress. Surround us with Thy holy Angels, that guided and guarded by their host, we may attain to the unity of the Faith, and to the knowledge of Thine unapproachable glory; for Thou art blessed unto ages of ages. Amen.

² *If it is a Feast, or on the first four days of Holy Week, the appointed Kontakion of each day is sung.*

Lord, have mercy. (*thrice*)

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

More honorable than the Cherubim, and more glorious beyond compare than the Seraphim, without corruption thou gavest birth to God the Word: true Theotokos, we magnify thee.

In the Name of the Lord, Father, bless.

Priest: God be bountiful to us, and bless us and show us the light of His countenance, and be merciful unto us.

℞ Amen. *Then the following:*

THE PRAYER OF ST. EPHRAIM

Priest: O Lord and Master of my life, give me not a spirit of sloth, despair, lust of power, and idle talk. (*prostration*)

But give rather a spirit of chastity, humility, patience, and love to thy servant. (*prostration*)

Yea, O Lord and King, grant me to see my own transgressions, and not to judge my brother: for blessed art Thou unto ages of ages. Amen. (*prostration*)³

And immediately, the reader continues:

THE PRAYER OF ST. BASIL THE GREAT

O Master and Lord, Jesus Christ our God, Who art long-suffering towards our sins and hast brought us even unto this present hour, in which, hanging upon the life-giving Cross, Thou has opened unto the good thief the way into Paradise, and destroyed death by death: be merciful to us, Thy humble and sinful and unworthy servants. For we have sinned and transgressed, and we are not worthy to lift up our eyes and look at the height of heaven, since we have forsaken the path of Thy righteousness and have walked according to the desires of our own hearts. But we pray Thee of Thy boundless goodness, spare us, O Lord, according to the abundance of Thy mercy, and save us for Thy holy Name's sake, for our days are consumed in vanity. Deliver us from the hand of the adversary, forgive us our sins, and kill the passions of the flesh, that putting off the old man, we may be clothed

³ *If no other service is to follow, the reader says Holy God..., etc. After Our Father... and the exclamation, the reader says, Amen. Lord, have mercy (twelve times), followed by the Prayer of St. Basil the Great.*

with the new, and may live for Thee, our Master and Protector; and that so, following Thine ordinances, we may attain to the eternal rest, in the place where all the joyful dwell. For Thou, O Christ our God, art indeed the true joy and gladness of those that love Thee, and unto Thee we ascribe glory, together with Thy Father, Who is without beginning, and Thy most holy, good, and life-giving Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

And the Lenten Office of the Typica begins immediately.

THE END OF THE LENTEN OFFICE OF THE NINTH HOUR



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