

A SERVICE OF SUPPLICATION FOR AN END TO ABORTION

*Orthodox Prayers and Hymns
on the Sorrowful Anniversary of
the Roe v. Wade Supreme Court Decision
The March for Life – The National Mall*



Service of Supplication for an End to Abortion

The Metropolitan begins:

BLESSED IS OUR GOD, always, now and ever and unto ages of ages.
℟. Amen.

TONE SIX

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.

DEACON: The Lord is God and has revealed himself to us. Blessed is he that comes in the Name of the Lord. O give thanks unto the Lord for he is good; his mercy endures forever.

TONE ONE

CHOIR: The Lord is God and has revealed himself to us. * Blessed is he that comes in the Name of the Lord. (*And so after the following three verses.*)

DEACON: All nations surrounded me, but in the Name of the Lord I withstood them. ℟.

I shall not die, but I shall live, and recount the works of the Lord. ℟.

The stone which the builders refused is become the head stone of the corner. This is the Lord's doing and it is marvelous in our eyes. ℟.

And the choir sings these hymns:

TONE ONE

Of the Holy Innocents

As acceptable victims and freshly picked flowers, * as divine first-fruits and newborn lambs, * you were offered to Christ who was born as a Child, * O most pure children. * You mocked the wickedness of Herod: *** and now we beseech you, unceasingly pray for our souls.

Glory... Now and ever...

TONE FOUR

Of the Conception of the Mother of God

Today the bonds of barrenness are broken, * for God has heard the prayers of Joachim and Anna. * He has promised them beyond all their hopes, * to bear the Maiden of God * by whom the uncircumscribed Word was born as mortal Man, * who commanded an angel to cry to her: *** Rejoice, O full of grace, the Lord is with thee!

*And we sing an abbreviated Canon, with its refrains and troparia.**

ODE ONE

CHOIR: Holy John the Baptist, pray to God for us!

READER: Perceiving the Master borne in thy womb, O pure Mother of God, John, as his Forerunner, leapt for joy in his mother's womb.

CHOIR: Holy Innocents, pray to God for us!

READER: Today the contest opens for the babes who are faithful to Christ our God, and they denounce the princes and authorities of the enemy, manfully reproving Herod's infantile rage.

CHOIR: Most Holy Theotokos, save us!

READER: The temple of the divine Savior is contained and formed in her mother's womb. The ladder is set up that leads all men on high, whose conception we honor with faith.

ODE EIGHT

CHOIR: Holy John the Baptist, pray to God for us!

READER: Break apart the stoniness of my mind, O Forerunner, as of old thou didst loose the bonds of the barren; and cause me to increase the fruits of repentance and to live forever.

CHOIR: Holy Innocents, pray to God for us!

* Troparia are taken from (a) the Canon for the Conception of the Holy Forerunner (Sep. 23); (b) the Canon for the Holy Innocents (Dec. 29); and (c) the Canon for the Conception of the All-holy Mother of God (Dec. 9).

READER: When thou wast born, O Christ, a multitude of innocents joined battle today with their blood, arming themselves mightily against Herod; and so we all cry out in song: Bless the Lord, all ye works of the Lord!

CHOIR: Most Holy Theotokos, save us!

READER: Raise me up who lie in the abyss of evils, and vanquish the enemies now engaging me in battle. Though I am wounded by the pleasures of sin, do not disdain me, O good and pure Lady, but take pity and save me.

ODE NINE

CHOIR: Holy John the Baptist, pray to God for us!

READER: Throwing wide the gates of the barren woman, the great and divine Forerunner of Christ takes up his abode within his mother's womb as within royal chambers, that he may go forth as a warrior, preparing the way for the King of all.

CHOIR: Holy Innocents, pray to God for us!

READER: In Rama there is heard Rachel's bitter lamentation: her weeping, contrition, and cries of Alas! For vile Herod, the murderous enemy, has slain the children of Bethlehem.

CHOIR: Most Holy Theotokos, save us!

READER: Dance, all ye people, and leap up: for the earth has been prepared which, though never ploughed, will produce the life-bearing Grain, eating of which those who magnify his goodness will hunger no longer.

CHOIR: It is truly meet to bless thee, O Theotokos, ever blessed and most pure and the Mother of our God. 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!

AUGMENTED LITANY

DEACON: Have mercy on us, O God, according to thy great goodness, we pray thee, hearken and have mercy.

CHOIR: Lord, have mercy. (*Thrice. And so after the following petitions.*)

DEACON: Furthermore we pray for our Metropolitan Tikhon and for all our brethren in Christ. R̄.

Furthermore we pray for this country, its president, for all civil authorities, and for the armed forces. R̄.

Furthermore we pray for mercy, life, peace, health, salvation, visitation, and furtherance in all blessed things for all those who strive with diligence against the evil of abortion, and who work for its end in our land, and for the pardon and remission of their sins. R̄.

Furthermore we pray for all unborn children who are being brought to death by the unjust judgment of men: that the Lord our God would soften the hearts of those who seek their violent destruction, rescuing them from slaughter, we diligently pray thee, O Lord, hearken and have mercy! R̄.

Furthermore we pray for mothers and fathers who are tempted by the world or the devil to expose their unborn children to the instruments of torture and death, that the voices of darkness may be silenced, that peace and acceptance may reign, and that new life may be welcomed and nurtured, we pray thee, O most merciful Lord, hearken quickly and have mercy! R̄.

Furthermore we pray for all women who have had abortions and for their families, that they may receive healing and grace, with assurance of thy boundless mercy and forgiveness, we pray thee, O compassionate Savior, hear us and have mercy! R̄.

Furthermore we pray for those who, by word or action, support and promote the great scourge of abortion in this land, that thou wouldst correct their thoughts, open their eyes, and soften their hearts, we pray thee, O Lord, hearken and have mercy! R̄.

Again we pray that the Lord God will hearken unto the voice of the supplication of us sinners and have mercy on us. ℞.

MET.: Hear us, O God our Savior, thou hope of all the ends of the earth and of those who are far off upon the sea, and show mercy, show mercy, O Master, upon us sinners, and be merciful to us. For thou art a merciful God and lovest mankind, and unto thee do we send up glory, to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages.

CHOIR: Amen.

DEACON: Let us pray to the Lord.

CHOIR: Lord, have mercy.

The Metropolitan prays:

OLORD Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, who art in the bosom of the Father, fountain of life and immortality, Light of Light, who camest into the world to enlighten it: thou wast pleased to be conceived in the womb of the Virgin Mary for the salvation of our souls by the power of thine all-Holy Spirit. O Master, who camest that we might have life more abundantly, we beseech thee to enlighten the minds and hearts of those who refuse to acknowledge that human life begins at conception and that the unborn in the womb are already adorned with thine image and likeness; grant us strength to guard, cherish, and protect the lives of all those who are unable to care for themselves. For thou, O Giver of life, dost bring each person from non-being into being, sealing each person with divine and infinite love. Be merciful, O Lord, to those who, through ignorance or willfulness, affront thy divine goodness and providence through the evil act of abortion. May they, with all of us, come to the life of thy Truth and glorify thee, the merciful Savior, together with thy Father who is without beginning, and thine All-holy, good, and life-giving Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages.

DISMISSAL

DEACON: Wisdom!

MET.: Most holy Theotokos, save us!

CHOIR: More honorable than the Cherubim, and more glorious be-

yond compare than the Seraphim: without corruption thou gavest birth to God the word; true Theotokos, we magnify thee!

MET.: Glory to thee, O Christ, our God and our hope, glory to thee.

CHOIR: Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Lord, have mercy (*thrice*). Most blessed Master, bless.

And the Metropolitan gives the dismissal:

May he who deigned to be baptized by John in the Jordan for our salvation, Christ our true God, through the prayers of his most pure Mother; of the honorable and glorious Prophet, Forerunner, and Baptist John; of the holy, glorious, and all-laudable Apostles; of the holy Innocent Children slain by Herod; of the holy Blessed Xenia of St Petersburg; of the holy and righteous Ancestors of God, Joachim and Anna; and of all the saints, have mercy on us and save us, for he is good and loves mankind. *℟̄*. Amen.

We chant MEMORY ETERNAL for the repose of the souls of the infants slain by abortion.

And we chant MANY YEARS for all the participants in the March for Life.