

A PRAYER SERVICE FOR THE BEGINNING OF INSTRUCTION OF CHILDREN



Deacon: Bless, master.

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

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

Heavenly King, Comforter, Spirit of truth, Who are everywhere present and fill all things, Treasury of blessings and Giver of life, come and abide in us, and cleanse us of 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 the ages of ages. Amen.

Most Holy Trinity, have mercy on us. Lord, cleanse us from our sins. Master, pardon our iniquities. Holy One, visit and heal our infirmities for Your 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 are in Heaven, hallowed be Your Name. Your Kingdom come, Your 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 the Evil One.

Priest: For Yours 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. (12 times)

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

Reader: Come, let us worship God our King.

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

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

Psalm 33(4)

I will bless the Lord at all times; His praise shall continually be in my mouth. In the Lord shall my soul be praised; let the meek hear and be glad. Magnify the Lord with me, and let us exalt His name together. I sought the Lord, and He heard me, and delivered me from all my troubles. Draw close to Him, and be enlightened, and your faces shall not be put to shame. This poor man cried, and the Lord heard him, and saved him out of all his troubles. The angel of the Lord will encamp around them that fear Him, and will deliver them. Taste and see that the Lord is good; blessed is the man that hopes in Him. Fear the Lord, all you His saints; for there is no want for them that fear Him. The rich have become poor and have

hungered; but they that seek the Lord shall lack no good thing. Come, children, listen to me; I will teach you the fear of the Lord. Who is the man that desires life, who loves to see days that are good? Keep your tongue from evil, and thy lips that they not speak deceit. Turn away from evil, and do good; seek peace, and pursue it. The eyes of the Lord are upon the righteous, and His ears unto their supplication. The face of the Lord is against them that do evil, to cut off the remembrance of them from the earth. The righteous cried, and the Lord heard them, and He delivered them out of all their troubles. The Lord is near to them that are broken in heart, and will save them that are humble in spirit. Many are the afflictions of the righteous, and out of them all shall the Lord deliver them. The Lord keeps all of their bones; not one of them shall be broken. The death of sinners is cruel, and they that hate the righteous shall do wrong. The Lord will redeem the soul of His servants, and none of them shall do wrong that hope in Him.

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 You, O God. (thrice)

GREAT LITANY

Deacon: In peace let us pray to the Lord.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: For the peace from above, and the salvation of our souls, let us pray to the Lord.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: For the peace of the whole world, the good estate of the holy churches of God, and the union of all, let us pray to the Lord.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: For this holy temple, and for them that with faith, reverence, and the fear of God enter herein, let us pray to the Lord.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: For His Grace our Bishop Irinej, for the venerable priesthood, the diaconate in Christ, for all the clergy and people, let us pray to the Lord.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: For this land, its civil authorities and armed forces; for our Orthodox Christian Serbian faithful in the homeland and abroad, and for their salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: That He may deliver His people from enemies visible and invisible, and confirm in us oneness of mind, brotherly love, and piety, let us pray to the Lord.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: For this city, (or, this holy habitation), every city and country and the faithful that dwell therein, let us pray to the Lord.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: For seasonable weather, abundance of the fruits of the earth, and peaceful times, let us pray to the Lord.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: For travelers by sea, land, and air; for the sick, the suffering; the imprisoned and for their salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: That He will send down upon these children the spirit of wisdom and understanding, and will open their minds and lips, and enlighten their hearts, unto the receiving of precepts of good instruction, let us pray to the Lord.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: That He will plant in their hearts the beginning of wisdom, His divine fear, and by this expel from their hearts the storms of youth, and enlighten their minds that they may turn from evil and do that which is good, let us pray to the Lord.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: That He will open their minds to receive, and to understand, and to remember all good and soul-profitting instruction, let us pray to the Lord.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: That He will grant unto them the Wisdom from on High, and plant it in their hearts, that it will teach them what is well-pleasing before Him, let us pray to the Lord.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: That He will prosper them in wisdom and stature, to the glory of God, let us pray to the Lord.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: That they may have a wise and virtuous life, and prosperity in the Orthodox Faith, and may be a joy and consolation to their parents, and the strengthening of our Holy Orthodox Church, let us pray to the Lord.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: That they and we may be delivered from all tribulation, wrath, and necessity, let us pray to the Lord.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: Help us, save us, have mercy on us, and keep us, O God, by Your grace.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: Calling to remembrance our most holy, most pure, most blessed, glorious Lady Theotokos and Ever Virgin Mary, with all the Saints, let us commend ourselves and each another, and all our life unto Christ our God.

Choir: To You, O Lord.

Priest: For unto You is due all glory, honor, and worship: to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: now and ever, and unto the ages of ages.

Then, "God is the Lord", Tone 4

Deacon: God is the Lord and has revealed Himself to us. Blessed is he that comes in the name of the Lord.

Reader: Verse (before the choir chants the first time):

Give thanks unto the Lord for He is good, for His mercy endures forever.

Choir: God is the Lord and has revealed Himself to us. Blessed is he that comes in the name of the Lord.

Reader: Surrounding me they compassed me, and by the name of the Lord I warded them off.

Choir: God is the Lord and has revealed Himself to us. Blessed is he that comes in the name of the Lord.

Reader: I shall not die but live, and I shall tell of the works of the Lord.

Choir: God is the Lord and has revealed Himself to us. Blessed is he that comes in the Name of the Lord.

Reader: The stone which the builders rejected, the same is become the head of the corner. This is the Lord's doing, and it is marvelous in our eyes.

Choir: God is the Lord and has revealed Himself to us. Blessed is he that comes in the Name of the Lord.

TROPARIA

Tone 6: As You have come into the midst of Your Disciples, Savior, granting them peace, so come unto us and save us. Your Holy Spirit revealed the unlettered Disciples as teachers, Christ God; and by the most eloquent harmony of tongues He brought deception to nothingness, as He is all-powerful.

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

Tone 8: Blessed are You, Christ our God, Who have revealed the fishermen as most wise by sending down upon them the Holy Spirit; through them You have drawn the world into Your net. Lover of humankind, glory to You!

Both now and ever, and unto the ages of ages. Amen.

Tone 6: Protection of Christians that cannot be put to shame, unchanging mediation before the Creator, despise not the voice of sinners; but be quick, good one, to help us who in faith call upon you; make haste to intercession and quick to make supplication, Theotokos, who ever protect those that honor you.

EPISTLE

Deacon: Let us attend.

Priest: Peace be unto all.

Reader: And to your spirit.

Deacon: Wisdom

Reader: The Prokimenon in the Fourth Tone:

Out of the mouths of babes and infants / have You perfected praise.

Verse: My heart shall delight in your salvation.

Deacon: Wisdom.

Reader: The Reading from the Epistle of the Holy Apostle Paul to the Ephesians.

Deacon: Let us attend.

Epistle to the Ephesians (Pericopes 218 and 223—Eph. 1:16-19; 3:18-21):

Brethren, I cease not to give thanks for you, making mention of you in my prayers, that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him, the eyes

of your understanding being enlightened, that you may know what is the hope of His calling, and what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, and what is the exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe, according to the working of His mighty power: that you may be able to know the love of Christ which surpasses knowledge, that you might be filled with all the fullness of God. Now unto Him that is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us, unto Him be glory in the Church by Christ Jesus throughout all generations and in all ages of ages. Amen.

Priest: Peace be unto You, Reader.

Reader: And to your spirit.

Deacon: Wisdom.

Reader: The Alleluia in the Fourth Tone: Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia.

Choir: Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia.

GOSPEL

Deacon: And that we may be accounted worthy of hearing the Holy Gospel, let us pray to the Lord God.

Choir: Lord, have mercy. (*thrice*)

Deacon: Wisdom, stand aright! Let us hear the Holy Gospel.

Priest: Peace be unto all.

Choir: And to your spirit.

Priest: The reading is from the Holy Gospel according to Saint Mark.

Choir: Glory to You, Lord, glory to You.

Priest: Let us attend.

The Gospel according to Mark (Pericope 44—Mark 10:13-16):

At that time they brought young children unto Jesus, that He should touch them. And His disciples rebuked those that brought them. But when Jesus saw it, He was much displeased, and said unto them "Allow the little children to come unto Me, and do not forbid them, for of such is the Kingdom of God. Truly, I say unto you, whosoever does not receive the Kingdom of God as a little child shall not enter therein." And He took them up in His arms, put His hands on them, and blessed them.

Choir: Glory to You, O Lord, glory to You.

LITANY OF FERVENT SUPPLICATION

Deacon: Have mercy upon us, O God, according to Your great mercy, we pray You, hear us and have mercy.

Choir: Lord have mercy. (thrice)

Deacon: Again we pray for our Bishop Irinej, and all our brethren in Christ.

Choir: Lord have mercy. (thrice)

Deacon: Again we pray for all pious and Orthodox Christians, and for a prosperous and peaceful life in all godliness and honesty.

Choir: Lord have mercy. (thrice)

Deacon: Again we pray unto the Lord our God, that He will look mercifully upon these children and youths, and will send down into their hearts, their minds, and their lips the spirit of wisdom, and of understanding and piety, and the fear of Him; and that He will illumine them with the light of His knowledge, and will grant unto them power and strength, that they may quickly apprehend and speedily accustom themselves to the instruction in His Divine Law, and to all good and profitable teaching, Furthermore, that He will prosper them in wisdom and understanding, and in all good works to the glory of His most holy Name, and will grant unto them health and make them long-lived, unto the building up and glory of His Church, let us all say: Lord, hear us and have mercy.

Choir: Lord have mercy. (thrice)

Priest: Hear us, God our Savior, the hope of all the ends of the earth, and of those who are most distanced; and show mercy, show mercy, Master, upon us sinners, and be merciful unto us. For You are a merciful God who loves humankind, and unto You we ascribe glory, to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

Choir: Amen.

Deacon: Again and again on bended knee, let us pray to the Lord.

The Priest turns toward parishioners reads this prayer:

Priest: Lord our God and Creator, Who have honored us with Your Image; Who have taught Your elect, so that those who take heed to Your teachings are astonished; Who reveal wisdom to infants; Who have instructed Solomon and all them that have sought Your wisdom: Do You open the hearts, minds and lips of these Your servants, that they may receive the power of Your law, and, with success, come to know the useful teachings which shall be taught them, to the glory of Your most holy Name, to the profit and building up of Your Holy Church, and that they may understand Your good and perfect will. Deliver them from every snare of the Enemy; preserve them in Orthodoxy and the Faith, and in all godliness and purity all the days of their life, that they may advance in understanding, and in the fulfilling of Your commandments, that, being thus prepared, they may glorify Your most holy Name, and become heirs of Your Kingdom.

For You are God, mighty in mercy, and gracious in strength; and unto You is due all glory, honor and worship: to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto the ages of ages.

Choir: Amen.

Deacon: Wisdom!

Priest: Most holy Theotokos, save us.

Choir: More honorable than the Cherubim, and more glorious beyond compare than the Seraphim; without defilement you gave birth to God the Word, true Theotokos, we magnify you.

DISMISSAL

Priest: Glory to You, Christ God our hope, glory to You.

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

Lord, have mercy. (thrice) Father, bless.

DISMISSAL

Priest: May (He who rose from the Dead) Christ our true God, through the prayers of His most pure Mother; of the holy, glorious and all-laudable Apostles; of our father among the saints, Sava of Serbia, patron of our schools; and of all the saints: have mercy on us and save us, for He is good and loves humankind.

Choir: Amen.

Priest: Through the prayers of our holy fathers, Lord Jesus Christ our God have mercy upon us and save us.

Choir: Amen.

Deacon: To our pupils and students, their instructors and parents: grant, Lord, a peaceful and prosperous life, health, salvation, visitation and furtherance in all good things and preserve them for many years.

Choir: God grant you many years! (thrice)

At the conclusion, all school children and youth, together with their instructors step forward to venerate the cross and be sprinkled with Holy Water.