

COMPLINE

TWELFTH HOUR (6:00 P.M.)

COMMEMORATES THE LAYING DOWN

OF THE BODY OF JESUS CHRIST

IN THE TOMB.

THIS HOUR REMINDS US ALSO

OF DEATH AND JUDGMENT,

SINCE SLEEP IS THE LAST HOUR

OF MAN'S DAY.

COMPLINE

(TWELFTH HOUR PRAYER)

The worshiper prays the Introduction of Every Hour, page1.

Then, the worshiper says:

The Compline prayer of this blessed day is offered to Christ my King and God, beseeching Him to forgive my sins.

PSALM 129

Out of the depths I have cried to You, O Lord; Lord, hear my voice! Let Your ears be attentive to the voice of my supplications. If You, Lord, should mark iniquities, O Lord, who could stand? But there is forgiveness with You, that You may be feared. I wait for the Lord, my soul waits, and in His word I do hope. My soul waits for the Lord more than those who watch for the morning; I say, more than those who watch for the morning. O Israel, hope in the Lord; for with the Lord there is mercy, and with Him is abundant redemption. And He shall redeem Israel from all his iniquities. **Alleluia.**

PSALM 130

Lord, my heart is not haughty, nor my eyes lofty. Neither do I concern myself with great matters, nor with things too profound for me. Surely I have calmed and quieted my soul, like a weaned child with his mother; like a weaned child is my soul within me. O Israel, hope in the Lord from this time forth and forever. **Alleluia.**

PSALM 131

Lord, remember David and all his afflictions; how he swore to the Lord, and vowed to the mighty God of Jacob: "Surely I will not go into the chamber of my house, or go up to the comfort of my bed; I will not give sleep to my eyes or slumber to my eyelids, until I find a place for the Lord, a dwelling place for the Mighty God of Jacob." Behold, we heard of it in Ephrathah; we found it in the fields of the woods. Let us go into His tabernacle; let us worship at His footstool.

Arise, O Lord, to Your resting place, You and the ark of Your strength. Let Your priests be clothed with righteousness, and let Your saints shout for joy. For Your servant David's sake, do not turn away the face of Your Anointed. The Lord has sworn in truth to David; He will not turn from it: "I will set upon your throne the fruit of your body. If your sons will keep My covenant and My testimony which I shall teach them, their sons also shall sit upon your throne

forevermore." For the Lord has chosen Zion; He has desired it for His habitation: "This is My resting place forever; here I will dwell, for I have desired it. I will abundantly bless her provision; I will satisfy her poor with bread. I will also clothe her priests with salvation, and her saints shall shout aloud for joy. There I will make the horn of David grow; I will prepare a lamp for My Anointed. His enemies I will clothe with shame, but upon Himself His crown shall flourish." **Alleluia.**

PSALM 132

Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity! It is like the precious oil upon the head, running down on the beard, the beard of Aaron, running down on the edge of his garments. It is like the dew of Hermon, descending upon the mountains of Zion; for there the Lord commanded the blessing; life forevermore. **Alleluia.**

PSALM 133

Behold, bless the Lord, all you servants of the Lord, who by night stand in the house of the Lord! Lift up your hands in the sanctuary, and bless the Lord. The Lord who made heaven and earth bless you from Zion! **Alleluia.**

PSALM 136

By the rivers of Babylon, there we sat down, yea, we wept when we remembered Zion. We hung our harps upon the willows in the midst of it. For there those who carried us away captive required of us a song, and those who plundered us required of us mirth, saying, "Sing us one of the songs of Zion!"

How shall we sing the Lord's song in a foreign land? If I forget you, O Jerusalem, let my right hand forget her skill! If I do not remember you, let my tongue cling to the roof of my mouth; if I do not exalt Jerusalem above my chief joy.

Remember, O Lord, against the sons of Edom the day of Jerusalem, who said, "Raze it, raze it, to its very foundation!" O daughter of Babylon, who are to be destroyed, happy shall he be who repays you as you have served us! Happy shall he be who takes and dashes your little ones against the rock. **Alleluia.**

PSALM 137

I will praise You with my whole heart; before the gods I will sing praises to You. I will worship toward Your holy temple, and praise Your name for Your lovingkindness and Your truth; for You have magnified Your word above all Your name. In the day when I cried out, You answered me, and made me bold with strength in my soul.

All the kings of the earth shall praise You, O Lord, when they hear the words of Your mouth. Yes, they shall sing of the ways of the Lord, for great is the glory of the Lord. Though the Lord is on high, yet He regards the lowly; but the proud He knows from afar. Though I walk in the midst of trouble, You will revive me; You will stretch out Your hand against the wrath of my enemies, and Your right hand will save me. The Lord will perfect that which concerns me; Your mercy, O Lord, endures forever; do not forsake the works of Your hands. **Alleluia.**

PSALM 140

Lord, I cry out to You; make haste to me! Give ear to my voice when I cry out to You. Let my prayer be set before You as incense, the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice. Set a guard, O Lord, over my mouth; keep watch over the door of my lips. Do not incline my heart to any evil thing, to practice wicked works with men who work iniquity; and do not let me eat of their delicacies.

Let the righteous strike me; it shall be a kindness. And let him reprove me; it shall be as excellent oil; let my head not refuse it. For still my prayer is against the deeds of the wicked. Their judges are overthrown by the sides of the cliff, and they hear my words, for they are sweet. Our bones are scattered at the mouth of the grave, as when one plows and breaks up the earth. But my eyes are upon You, O God the Lord; in You I take refuge; do not leave my soul destitute. Keep me from the snares which they have laid for me, and from the traps of the workers of iniquity. Let the wicked fall into their own nets, while I escape safely. **Alleluia.**

PSALM 141

I cry out to the Lord with my voice; with my voice to the Lord I make my supplication. I pour out my complaint before Him; I declare before Him my trouble. When my spirit was overwhelmed within me, then You knew my path. In the way in which I walk they have secretly set a snare for me. Look on my right hand and see, for there is no one who acknowledges me; refuge has failed me; no one cares for my soul. I cried out to You, O Lord: I said, "You are my refuge, my portion in the land of the living. Attend to my cry, for I am brought very low; deliver me from my persecutors, for they are stronger than I. Bring my soul out of prison, that I may praise Your name; the righteous shall surround me, for You shall deal bountifully with me." **Alleluia.**

PSALM 145

Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord, O my soul! While I live I will praise the Lord; I will sing praises to my God while I have my being.

Do not put your trust in princes, nor in a son of man, in whom there is no help. His spirit departs, he returns to his earth; in that very day his plans perish.

Happy is he who has the God of Jacob for his help, whose hope is in the Lord his God, who made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them; who keeps truth forever, who executes justice for the oppressed, who gives food to the hungry. The Lord gives freedom to the prisoners. The Lord opens the eyes of the blind; the Lord raises those who are bowed down; the Lord loves the righteous. The Lord watches over the strangers; He relieves the fatherless and widow; but the way of the wicked He turns upside down. The Lord shall reign forever; your God, O Zion, to all generations. Praise the Lord! **Alleluia.**

PSALM 146

Praise the Lord! For it is good to sing praises to our God; for it is pleasant, and praise is beautiful. The Lord builds up Jerusalem; He gathers together the outcasts of Israel. He heals the broken-hearted and binds up their wounds. He counts the number of the stars; He calls them all by name. Great is our Lord, and mighty in power; His understanding is infinite. The Lord lifts up the humble; He casts the wicked down to the ground.

Sing to the Lord with thanksgiving; sing praises on the harp to our God, who covers the heavens with clouds, who prepares rain for the earth, who makes grass to grow on the mountains. He gives to the beast its food, and to the young ravens that cry. He does not delight in the strength of the horse; He takes no pleasure in the legs of a man. The Lord takes pleasure in those who fear Him, in those who hope in His mercy. **Alleluia.**

PSALM 147

Praise the Lord, O Jerusalem! Praise your God, O Zion! For He has strengthened the bars of your gates; He has blessed your children within you. He makes peace in your borders, and fills you with the finest wheat. He sends out His command to the earth; His word runs very swiftly. He gives snow like wool; He scatters the frost like ashes; He casts out His hail like morsels; who can stand before His cold? He sends out His word and melts them; He causes His wind to blow, and the waters flow. He declares His word to Jacob, His statutes and His judgments to Israel. He has not dealt thus with any nation; and as for His judgments, they have not known them. Praise the Lord! **Alleluia.**

**THE HOLY GOSPEL
ACCORDING TO ST. LUKE (2:25-32)**

And behold, there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon, and this man was just and devout, waiting for the Consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. And it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Christ. So he came by the Spirit into the temple. And when the parents brought in the Child Jesus, to do for Him according to the custom of the law, he took Him up in his arms and blessed God and said: "Lord, now You are letting Your servant depart in peace, according to Your word; for my eyes have seen Your salvation which You have prepared before the face of all peoples, a light to bring revelation to the Gentiles, and the glory of Your people Israel."

Glory be to God forever. Amen.

THE LITANY

(1) Behold, I am about to stand before the just and righteous Judge, terrified and trembling because of my numerous sins, for a life wasted in worldly pleasures deserves condemnation! So repent therefore, my soul, as long as you dwell on this earth! For the dust in the grave¹ cannot offer any praise and among the dead no one can remember nor can anyone in Hades give thanks.²

Therefore, arise my soul from the slumber³ of your laziness and implore the Savior in repentance, saying: "O God have mercy on me and save me."

"Thoxa Patri Kai Eiyoi Kai Agio Epnevmati." (*Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.*)

(2) Were this life on earth everlasting, and this world ever-existing, you would have had an excuse, O my soul. But now if your wicked deeds and repulsive evils were to be exposed before the righteous Judge,⁴ what answer would you be giving, while you are lying on the bed of sins and negligent of disciplining your body?!⁵

O Christ our God, before Your awesome seat of judgment⁶ I am terrified, and before Your counsel of judgment I am dreadful,⁷ and from the radiant light of Your divinity I tremble; for I am a wretched⁸ and defiled person who lies in bed careless of the ways of my life!⁹ Yet, I take

¹denoting death without repentance, and thus with no salvation, but eternal condemnation.

²Ps. (6:5)

³lazy sleep.

⁴2 Tim. (4:8); Heb. (12:23)

⁵1 Cor. (9:27)

⁶2 Cor. (5:10)

⁷Rev. (6:15-17)

⁸Rom. (7:24)

example of the tax collector's penance, beating my chest and saying: "O God be merciful to me, a sinner!"¹⁰

"Ke-nin Kai A-ee Kai Istos E-onaston E-onon. Amen." (*Now and forever and unto the ages of all ages, Amen.*)

(3) O pure Virgin, overshadow your servant speedily with your help, keep the waves of evil thoughts away from me, and raise my ailing¹¹ soul to pray and watch, for it has gone into deep slumber; for you are a capable and compassionate helper, the Mother of the Fountain of Life,¹² my King and my God, Jesus Christ my hope!

FIRST ABSOLUTION

Graciously, O Lord, keep us from sin this night. Blessed are You, O Lord¹³ the God of our fathers and indeed You are exceedingly blessed! And Your holy name is full of glory forevermore.¹⁴ **Amen.**

Let Your mercy, O Lord, be upon us, just as our hope is set on You;¹⁵ for the eyes of all look expectantly to You, for You give them their food in due season.¹⁶ Hear us, O God our Savior, for You are the hope of everyone. And You, O Lord, shall keep us and preserve us from this generation and forever.¹⁷ **Amen.**

Blessed are You, O Lord, teach me¹⁸ Your justice.

Blessed are You, O Lord, make me understand¹⁹ Your laws.

Blessed are You, O Lord, lead me in Your righteousness.²⁰

O Lord, Your mercy is everlasting and endures forever. The creation of Your own hands, O Lord, do not reject, for You are my refuge from generation to generation.

I asked the Lord, saying: "Lord have mercy on me and save my soul, for I have sinned against You. Deliver me, O Lord, for in You I take shelter!"²¹ Teach me to do Your will, for You are my

⁹Prov. (19:16)

¹⁰Luke (18:13)

¹¹frail, sick, feeble, vulnerable, ill ...

¹²Ps. (36:9)

¹³Ps. (119:12)

¹⁴Ps. (86:12)

¹⁵Ps. (33:22)

¹⁶Ps. (145:15)

¹⁷Ps. (12:7)

¹⁸Ps. (119:26,33)

¹⁹Ps. (119:27,34)

²⁰Ps. (5:8)

²¹Ps. (143:9)

God,²² with You is the fountain of life,²³ and in Your light we see light. Let Your lovingkindness continue to those who know You, and Your righteousness to the upright in heart.²⁴ You are worthy to receive all blessing and praise and glory,²⁵ O Father together with Your Son and Your Holy Spirit, who is and who was (since the beginning)²⁶ and who is to come,²⁷ the eternal and ever existing God. **Amen.**

It is good to give thanks to the Lord, and to sing praises to Your name, O Most High; to declare Your lovingkindness in the morning and Your faithfulness every night!²⁸

Then, the worshiper prays:

- The Trisagion page 25
- Introduction to the Creed page 26
- The Creed page 27
- KYRIE ELEISON (Lord have mercy - 41 times)
- Holy Holy Holy page 28
- Our Father, who art in heaven... page 1

SECOND ABSOLUTION

O Lord, all the sins we have committed against You in this day, whether in deed or in word²⁹ or in thought or through any of our senses, please do forgive and pardon us, for the sake of Your Holy name, O Good Lord, Lover of mankind.

Grant us a peaceful night and a sleep free of all worry and anxiety. Send us the guardian angel to protect us from all evil and from every affliction and temptation of the enemy. Through the grace and compassion and the love-of-mankind, of Your Only-Begotten Son, our Lord, God and Savior Jesus Christ, who is worthy to receive all glory and honor and power,³⁰ which are also due to You, O Father, and the Holy Spirit, the Life-Giver, who is of one essence with You, now and forever and till the end of all ages. **Amen.**

Then the worshiper prays the Concluding Prayer of Every Hour, page 30.

²²Ps. (143:10)

²³Ps. (36:9)

²⁴Ps. (36:10)

²⁵Rev. (5:12)

²⁶John (1:1)

²⁷Rev. (1:4)

²⁸Ps. (92:1,2)

²⁹Col. (3:17)

³⁰Rev. (5:12)

