

**MIDNIGHT PRAYER**  
**COMMEMORATES THE THREE PRAYERS**

**OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST**  
**IN GETHSEMANE**  
**DURING HIS AFFLICTION**  
**IN THE HOLY WEEK.**  
**IT STARTS AT MIDNIGHT**  
**OR AROUND DAWN.**

## MIDNIGHT PRAYER

*The worshiper prays the Introduction of Every Hour, page1.*

## THE FIRST SERVICE

*The worshiper prays this introductory litany of the first service:*

Arise, O you children of light,<sup>1</sup> let us praise the Lord of hosts that He may bestow upon us the salvation of our souls. As we stand before You Lord,<sup>2</sup> take away<sup>3</sup> from us the slumbers of slothfulness,<sup>4</sup> and grant us alertness so that we may learn how to stand before You with reverence, at the time of prayer, and send up to You the appropriate glorification so as to attain the forgiveness of our many sins.

**Thoxsasi Phila-nethropeh** (*Glory be to You, O lover of mankind.*)

## 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!

**Thoxsasi Phila-nethropeh** (*Glory be to You, O lover of mankind.*)

Let my cry come before You, O LORD; give me understanding according to Your word. Let my supplication come before You; deliver me according to Your word. My lips shall utter praise, for You teach me Your statutes. My tongue shall speak of Your word, for all Your commandments are righteousness. Let Your hand become my help, for I have chosen Your precepts. I long for Your salvation, O LORD, and Your law is my delight. Let my soul live, and it shall praise You; and let Your judgments help me. I have gone astray like a lost sheep; seek Your servant, for I do not forget Your commandments.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit now and forevermore. **Amen.**

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit now and forevermore. **Amen.**

Glory be to You, O lover of mankind, hail to Your mother, the virgin Mary, and all of Your saints. Glory be to the Holy Trinity, have mercy upon us.

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<sup>1</sup>Eph. (5:8)

<sup>2</sup>1 Kin. (17:15)

<sup>3</sup>Prov. (4:24)

<sup>4</sup>Laziness, negligence

Let God rise, and all of His enemies will scatter and those who despise His holy name will disperse before Him. As for Your people may they multiply through Your blessing to thousand thousand fold performing Your will. Open my lips, O God, and make my tongue praise You. **Amen Alleluia.**

*Then the worshiper says:*

The midnight prayer is offered to Christ, my King and my God, beseeching Him to forgive my sins.

<i>Psalm</i>	<i>page</i>	
3	10	Lord, how they have increased
6	12	O Lord, do not rebuke me
12	13	How long, O Lord?
69	54	Make haste, O God,
85	56	Bow down Your ear,
90	57	He who dwells
116	83	Oh, praise the Lord
117	83	Oh, give thanks to the Lord,

## **PSALM 118**

(1) Blessed are the undefiled in the way, who walk in the law of the LORD! Blessed are those who keep His testimonies, who seek Him with the whole heart! They also do no iniquity; they walk in His ways. You have commanded us to keep Your precepts diligently. Oh, that my ways were directed to keep Your statutes! Then I would not be ashamed, when I look into all Your commandments. I will praise You with uprightness of heart, when I learn Your righteous judgments. I will keep Your statutes; oh, do not forsake me utterly!

**Thoxsasi Phila-nethropeh** (*Glory be to You, O lover of mankind.*)

(2) How can a young man cleanse his way? By taking heed according to Your word. With my whole heart I have sought You; oh, let me not wander from Your commandments! Your word I have hidden in my heart, that I might not sin against You. Blessed are You, O LORD! Teach me Your statutes. With my lips I have declared all the judgments of Your mouth. I have rejoiced in the way of Your testimonies, as much as in all riches. I will meditate on Your precepts, and contemplate Your ways. I will delight myself in Your statutes; I will not forget Your word.

**Thoxsasi Phila-nethropeh** (*Glory be to You, O lover of mankind.*)

(3) Deal bountifully with Your servant, that I may live and keep Your word. Open my eyes, that I may see wondrous things from Your law. I am a stranger in the earth; do not hide Your commandments from me. My soul breaks with longing for Your judgments at all times. You rebuke the proud; the cursed, who stray from Your commandments. Remove from me reproach and contempt, for I have kept Your testimonies. Princes also sit and speak against me, but Your servant meditates on Your statutes. Your testimonies also are my delight and my counselors.

**Thoxsasi Phila-nethropeh** (*Glory be to You, O lover of mankind.*)

(4) My soul clings to the dust; revive me according to Your word. I have declared my ways, and You answered me; teach me Your statutes. Make me understand the way of Your precepts; so shall I meditate on Your wondrous works. My soul melts from heaviness; strengthen me according to Your word. Remove from me the way of lying, and grant me Your law graciously. I have chosen the way of truth; Your judgments I have laid before me. I cling to Your testimonies; O LORD, do not put me to shame! I will run in the way of Your commandments, for You shall enlarge my heart.

**Thoxsasi Phila-nethropeh** (*Glory be to You, O lover of mankind.*)

(5) Teach me, O LORD, the way of Your statutes, and I shall keep it to the end. Give me understanding, and I shall keep Your law; indeed, I shall observe it with my whole heart. Make me walk in the path of Your commandments, for I delight in it. Incline my heart to Your testimonies, and not to covetousness. Turn away my eyes from looking at worthless things, and revive me in Your way. Establish Your word to Your servant, who is devoted to fearing You. Turn away my reproach which I dread, for Your judgments are good. Behold, I long for Your precepts; revive me in Your righteousness.

**Thoxsasi Phila-nethropeh** (*Glory be to You, O lover of mankind.*)

(6) Let Your mercies come also to me, O LORD; Your salvation according to Your word. So shall I have an answer for him who reproaches me, for I trust in Your word. And take not the word of truth utterly out of my mouth, for I have hoped in Your ordinances. So shall I keep Your law continually, forever and ever. And I will walk at liberty, for I seek Your precepts. I will speak of Your testimonies also before kings, and will not be ashamed. And I will delight myself in Your commandments, which I love. My hands also I will lift up to Your commandments, which I love, and I will meditate on Your statutes.

**Thoxsasi Phila-nethropeh** (*Glory be to You, O lover of mankind.*)

(7) Remember the word to Your servant, upon which You have caused me to hope. This is my comfort in my affliction, for Your word has given me life. The proud have me in great derision, yet I do not turn aside from Your law. I remembered Your judgments of old, O LORD, and have comforted myself. Indignation has taken hold of me because of the wicked, who forsake Your law. Your statutes have been my songs in the house of my pilgrimage. I remember Your name in the night, O LORD, and I keep Your law. This has become mine, because I kept Your precepts.

**Thoxsasi Phila-nethropeh** (*Glory be to You, O lover of mankind.*)

(8) You are my portion, O LORD; I have said that I would keep Your words. I entreated Your favor with my whole heart; be merciful to me according to Your word. I thought about my ways, and turned my feet to Your testimonies. I made haste, and did not delay to keep Your commandments. The cords of the wicked have bound me, but I have not forgotten Your law. At midnight I will rise to give thanks to You, because of Your righteous

judgments. I am a companion of all those who fear You, and of those who keep Your precepts. The earth, O LORD, is full of Your mercy; teach me Your statutes.

**Thoxsasi Phila-nethropeh** (*Glory be to You, O lover of mankind.*)

(9) You have dealt well with Your servant, O LORD, according to Your word. Teach me good judgment and knowledge, for I believe Your commandments. Before I was afflicted I went astray, but now I keep Your word. You are good, and do good; teach me Your statutes. The proud have forged a lie against me, but I will keep Your precepts with my whole heart. Their heart is as fat as grease, but I delight in Your law. It is good for me that I have been afflicted, that I may learn Your statutes. The law of Your mouth is better to me than thousands of shekels of gold and silver.

**Thoxsasi Phila-nethropeh** (*Glory be to You, O lover of mankind.*)

(10) Your hands have made me and fashioned me; give me understanding, that I may learn Your commandments. Those who fear You will be glad when they see me, because I have hoped in Your word. I know, O LORD, that Your judgments are right, and that in faithfulness You have afflicted me. Let, I pray, Your merciful kindness be for my comfort, according to Your word to Your servant. Let Your tender mercies come to me, that I may live; for Your law is my delight. Let the proud be ashamed, for they treated me wrongfully with falsehood; but I will meditate on Your precepts. Let those who fear You turn to me, those who know Your testimonies. Let my heart be blameless regarding Your statutes, that I may not be ashamed.

**Thoxsasi Phila-nethropeh** (*Glory be to You, O lover of mankind.*)

(11) My soul faints for Your salvation, but I hope in Your word. My eyes fail from seeking Your word, saying, "When will You comfort me?" For I have become like a wineskin in smoke, yet I do not forget Your statutes. How many are the days of Your servant? When will You execute judgment on those who persecute me? The proud have dug pits for me, which is not according to Your law. All Your commandments are faithful; they persecute me wrongfully; help me! They almost made an end of me on earth, but I did not forsake Your precepts. Revive me according to Your lovingkindness, so that I may keep the testimony of Your mouth.

**Thoxsasi Phila-nethropeh** (*Glory be to You, O lover of mankind.*)

(12) Forever, O LORD, Your word is settled in heaven. Your faithfulness endures to all generations; You established the earth, and it abides. They continue this day according to Your ordinances, for all are Your servants. Unless Your law had been my delight, I would then have perished in my affliction. I will never forget Your precepts, for by them You have given me life. I am Yours, save me; for I have sought Your precepts. The wicked wait for me to destroy me, but I will consider Your testimonies. I have seen the consummation of all perfection, but Your commandment is exceedingly broad.

**Thoxsasi Phila-nethropeh** (*Glory be to You, O lover of mankind.*)

(13) Oh, how I love Your law! It is my meditation all the day. You, through Your commandments, make me wiser than my enemies; for they are ever with me. I have more understanding than all my teachers, for Your testimonies are my meditation. I understand more than the ancients, because I keep Your precepts. I have restrained my feet from every evil way, that I may keep Your word. I have not departed from Your judgments, for You Yourself have taught me. How sweet are Your words to my taste, sweeter than honey to my mouth! Through Your precepts I get understanding; therefore I hate every false way.

**Thoxsasi Phila-nethropeh** (*Glory be to You, O lover of mankind.*)

(14) Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path. I have sworn and confirmed that I will keep Your righteous judgments. I am afflicted very much; revive me, O LORD, according to Your word. Accept, I pray, the freewill offerings of my mouth, O LORD, and teach me Your judgments. My life is continually in my hand, yet I do not forget Your law. The wicked have laid a snare for me, yet I have not strayed from Your precepts. Your testimonies I have taken as a heritage forever, for they are the rejoicing of my heart. I have inclined my heart to perform Your statutes forever, to the very end.

**Thoxsasi Phila-nethropeh** (*Glory be to You, O lover of mankind.*)

(15) I hate the double-minded, but I love Your law. You are my hiding place and my shield; I hope in Your word. Depart from me, you evildoers, for I will keep the commandments of my God! Uphold me according to Your word, that I may live; and do not let me be ashamed of my hope. Hold me up, and I shall be safe, and I shall observe Your statutes continually. You reject all those who stray from Your statutes, for their deceit is falsehood. You put away all the wicked of the earth like dross; therefore I love Your testimonies. My flesh trembles for fear of You, and I am afraid of Your judgments.

**Thoxsasi Phila-nethropeh** (*Glory be to You, O lover of mankind.*)

(16) I have done justice and righteousness; do not leave me to my oppressors. Be surety for Your servant for good; do not let the proud oppress me. My eyes fail from seeking Your salvation and Your righteous word. Deal with Your servant according to Your mercy, and teach me Your statutes. I am Your servant; give me understanding, that I may know Your testimonies. It is time for You to act, O LORD, for they have regarded Your law as void. Therefore I love Your commandments more than gold, yes, than fine gold! Therefore all Your precepts concerning all things I consider to be right; I hate every false way.

**Thoxsasi Phila-nethropeh** (*Glory be to You, O lover of mankind.*)

(17) Your testimonies are wonderful; therefore my soul keeps them. The entrance of Your words gives light; it gives understanding to the simple. I opened my mouth and panted, for I longed for Your commandments. Look upon me and be merciful to me, as Your custom is toward those who love Your name. Direct my steps by Your word, and let no iniquity have dominion over me. Redeem me from the oppression of man, that I may keep Your precepts. Make Your face shine upon Your servant, and teach me Your statutes. Rivers of water run down from my eyes, because men do not keep Your law.

**Thoxsasi Phila-nethropeh** (*Glory be to You, O lover of mankind.*)

(18) Righteous are You, O LORD, and upright are Your judgments. Your testimonies, which You have commanded, are righteous and very faithful. My zeal has consumed me, because my enemies have forgotten Your words. Your word is very pure; therefore Your servant loves it. I am small and despised, yet I do not forget Your precepts. Your righteousness is an everlasting righteousness, and Your law is truth. Trouble and anguish have overtaken me, yet Your commandments are my delights. The righteousness of Your testimonies is everlasting; give me understanding, and I shall live.

**Thoxsasi Phila-nethropeh** (*Glory be to You, O lover of mankind.*)

(19) I cry out with my whole heart; hear me, O LORD! I will keep Your statutes. I cry out to You; save me, and I will keep Your testimonies. I rise before the dawning of the morning, and cry for help; I hope in Your word. My eyes are awake through the night watches, that I may meditate on Your word. Hear my voice according to Your lovingkindness; O LORD, revive me according to Your justice. They draw near who follow after wickedness; they are far from Your law. You are near, O LORD, and all Your commandments are truth. Concerning Your testimonies, I have known of old that You have founded them forever.

**Thoxsasi Phila-nethropeh** (*Glory be to You, O lover of mankind.*)

(20) Consider my affliction and deliver me, for I do not forget Your law. Plead my cause and redeem me; revive me according to Your word. Salvation is far from the wicked, for they do not seek Your statutes. Great are Your tender mercies, O LORD; revive me according to Your judgments. Many are my persecutors and my enemies, yet I do not turn from Your testimonies. I see the treacherous, and am disgusted, because they do not keep Your word. Consider how I love Your precepts; revive me, O LORD, according to Your lovingkindness. The entirety of Your word is truth, and every one of Your righteous judgments endures forever.

**Thoxsasi Phila-nethropeh** (*Glory be to You, O lover of mankind.*)

(21) Princes persecute me without a cause, but my heart stands in awe of Your word. I rejoice at Your word as one who finds great treasure. I hate and abhor lying, but I love Your law. Seven times a day I praise You, because of Your righteous judgments. Great peace have those who love Your law, and nothing causes them to stumble. LORD, I hope for Your salvation, and I do Your commandments. My soul keeps Your testimonies, and I love them exceedingly. I keep Your precepts and Your testimonies, for all my ways are before You.

**Thoxsasi Phila-nethropeh** (*Glory be to You, O lover of mankind.*)

(22) Let my cry come before You, O LORD; give me understanding according to Your word. Let my supplication come before You; deliver me according to Your word. My lips shall utter praise, for You teach me Your statutes. My tongue shall speak of Your word, for all Your commandments are righteousness. Let Your hand become my help, for I have chosen Your precepts. I long for Your salvation, O LORD, and Your law is my delight. Let my soul

live, and it shall praise You; and let Your judgments help me. I have gone astray like a lost sheep; seek Your servant, for I do not forget Your commandments. **Alleluia.**

**THE HOLY GOSPEL  
ACCORDING TO ST. MATTHEW  
(25:1-13)**

"Then the kingdom of heaven shall be likened to ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom. "Now five of them were wise, and five were foolish. "Those who were foolish took their lamps and took no oil with them, "but the wise took oil in their vessels with their lamps. "But while the bridegroom was delayed, they all slumbered and slept. "And at midnight a cry was heard: 'Behold, the bridegroom is coming; go out to meet him!' "Then all those virgins arose and trimmed their lamps. "And the foolish said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.' "But the wise answered, saying, 'No, lest there should not be enough for us and you; but go rather to those who sell, and buy for yourselves.' "And while they went to buy, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went in with him to the wedding; and the door was shut. "Afterward the other virgins came also, saying, 'Lord, Lord, open to us!' "But he answered and said, 'Assuredly, I say to you, I do not know you.' "Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour in which the Son of Man is coming.

**Glory be to God forever. Amen.**

**THE LITANY**

**(1)** Behold the Bridegroom is coming in the middle of the night.<sup>5</sup> Blessed is the servant whom He finds watchful,<sup>6</sup> but he whom shall be found slothful<sup>7</sup> shall be unworthy of going with Him. Therefore, take heed, O my soul, lest you may slumber<sup>8</sup> and hence be cast out of the kingdom of God.<sup>9</sup> Rather, stay awake and watchful, and cry out saying: Holy, Holy, Holy, are You O God, have mercy on us, for the sake of the Mother of God.

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

**(2)** O my soul, consider that awesome day (of judgment), wake up and be watchful, keep your lamp burning with the oil of rejoice; for you do not know at what time that crying voice will come upon you saying: "Behold, the Bridegroom has come!"<sup>10</sup>

Therefore, take heed my soul that you would not slumber<sup>11</sup> lest you would be kept outside knocking at the door in vain just as the five foolish virgins did.<sup>12</sup> But rather, watch and stay

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<sup>5</sup>Or at midnight; (Matt. 25:6)

<sup>6</sup>Awake; Luke (12:37)

<sup>7</sup>Drowsy, unwatchful, negligent, sluggish, lax, lazy

<sup>8</sup>Fall asleep, lie dormant; Matt. (25:5)

<sup>9</sup>Matt. (25:10,12)

<sup>10</sup>Matt. (25:6)



awake in prayer and supplication, in order to meet the Lord Christ with rich oil and that He grant you to partake in His glorious and truly divine wedding.<sup>13</sup>

**"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 holy virgin, Theotokos, the Mother of God, you are the rampant<sup>14</sup> of our salvation, and our impregnable<sup>15</sup> fortress that can not be vanquished;<sup>16</sup> abolish the conspiracies of our adversaries, and turn our sadness into joy. Fortify our city, defend our governors, and intercede for the peace of the world, for you are our hope,<sup>17</sup> O Mother of God.

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

*Then the worshiper prays:*

- O Heavenly King, ... page 46
- KYRIE ELEISON (Lord have mercy - 41 times)
- Holy Holy Holy page 28
- Our Father, who art in heaven... page 1

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<sup>11</sup>Fall asleep; Matt. (25:5)

<sup>12</sup>Matt. (25:10-13)

<sup>13</sup>Rev. (19:9)

<sup>14</sup>Fortress, protective barrier, wall of defense

<sup>15</sup>Invincible, unconquerable

<sup>16</sup>Conquered, overpowered, defeated...

<sup>17</sup>Meaning: our helper

## SECOND SERVICE

*The worshiper prays the Vespers prayer Psalms at full length, except Psalms 116 and 117, pp. 85 - 88.*

### THE HOLY GOSPEL ACCORDING TO ST. LUKE (7: 36-50)

Then one of the Pharisees asked Him to eat with him. And He went to the Pharisee's house, and sat down to eat. And behold, a woman in the city who was a sinner, when she knew that Jesus sat at the table in the Pharisee's house, brought an alabaster flask of fragrant oil, and stood at His feet behind Him weeping; and she began to wash His feet with her tears, and wiped them with the hair of her head; and she kissed His feet and anointed them with the fragrant oil. Now when the Pharisee who had invited Him saw this, he spoke to himself, saying, "This man, if He were a prophet, would know who and what manner of woman this is who is touching Him, for she is a sinner." And Jesus answered and said to him, "Simon, I have something to say to you." And he said, "Teacher, say it." "There was a certain creditor who had two debtors. One owed five hundred denarii, and the other fifty. "And when they had nothing with which to repay, he freely forgave them both. Tell Me, therefore, which of them will love him more?" Simon answered and said, "I suppose the one whom he forgave more." And He said to him, "You have rightly judged." Then He turned to the woman and said to Simon, "Do you see this woman? I entered your house; you gave Me no water for My feet, but she has washed My feet with her tears and wiped them with the hair of her head. "You gave Me no kiss, but this woman has not ceased to kiss My feet since the time I came in. "You did not anoint My head with oil, but this woman has anointed My feet with fragrant oil. "Therefore I say to you, her sins, which are many, are forgiven, for she loved much. But to whom little is forgiven, the same loves little." And He said to her, "Your sins are forgiven." And those who sat at the table with Him began to say to themselves, "Who is this who even forgives sins?" Then He said to the woman, "Your faith has saved you. Go in peace.

Glory be to God forever. Amen.

### THE LITANY

(1) Grant me, O Lord, fountains of plentiful tears, even as You had given, long ago, to the sinful woman.<sup>18</sup> Make me be worthy to wash (with my tears) Your feet which delivered<sup>19</sup> me from going astray<sup>20</sup> in the way of deception,<sup>21</sup> and to offer You sublime<sup>22</sup> fragrant oil,<sup>23</sup> and to attain<sup>24</sup> a pure life of repentance<sup>25</sup> so that I also may hear that voice which is full of joy, saying: "Your faith has saved you!"<sup>26</sup>

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<sup>18</sup>Luke (7:37,38)

<sup>19</sup>Rom. (9:21)

<sup>20</sup>Is. (53:6)

<sup>21</sup>Way of error; James (5:20)

<sup>22</sup>Excellent, supreme

<sup>23</sup>Luke (7:37)

<sup>24</sup>Obtain, gain; Thess. (5:9)

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

(2) When I consider the multitude of my evil deeds, and my heart reflects<sup>27</sup> on that awesome judgment, I tremble with fear, so I quickly take refuge in You, O God, the Lover on mankind; Hence, I beseech You, O Lord, not to turn Your face away from me; O You who are the only one without sin,<sup>28</sup> grant my poor soul a true godly fear and save me before the end of ages<sup>29</sup> come.

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

(3) The heavens venerate you,<sup>30</sup> O you full of grace, the ever virgin bride;<sup>31</sup> and we too glorify your incomprehensible<sup>32</sup> giving of birth to Christ,<sup>33</sup> O Theotokos, mother of mercy and salvation,<sup>34</sup> intercede on our behalf for the salvation of our souls.

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

*Then, the worshiper prays:*

- O Heavenly King, ... page 46
- KYRIE ELEISON (Lord have mercy - 41 times)
- Holy Holy Holy page 28
- Our Father, who art in heaven... page 1

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<sup>25</sup>Or through repentance

<sup>26</sup>Luke (7:50)

<sup>27</sup>Or remembers

<sup>28</sup>Heb. (4:15)

<sup>29</sup>Heb. (9:26) ; Matt. (28:20)

<sup>30</sup>Or 'call you blessed'; Luke (1:48)

<sup>31</sup>or the bride who was never married

<sup>32</sup>beyond comprehension and understanding

<sup>33</sup>i.e. the Nativity of Jesus Christ

<sup>34</sup>i.e. mother of Christ who brought forth salvation

## THIRD SERVICE

*The worshiper prays the Compline prayer Psalms at full length, pp. 95 - 101.*

### THE HOLY GOSPEL ACCORDING TO ST. LUKE (12: 32-46)

"Do not fear, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom. "Sell what you have and give alms; provide yourselves money bags which do not grow old, a treasure in the heavens that does not fail, where no thief approaches nor moth destroys. "For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. "Let your waist be girded and your lamps burning; "and you yourselves be like men who wait for their master, when he will return from the wedding, that when he comes and knocks they may open to him immediately. "Blessed are those servants whom the master, when he comes, will find watching. Assuredly, I say to you that he will gird himself and have them sit down to eat, and will come and serve them. "And if he should come in the second watch, or come in the third watch, and find them so, blessed are those servants. "But know this, that if the master of the house had known what hour the thief would come, he would have watched and not allowed his house to be broken into. "Therefore you also be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect." Then Peter said to Him, "Lord, do You speak this parable only to us, or to all people?" And the Lord said, "Who then is that faithful and wise steward, whom his master will make ruler over his household, to give them their portion of food in due season? "Blessed is that servant whom his master will find so doing when he comes. "Truly, I say to you that he will make him ruler over all that he has. "But if that servant says in his heart, 'My master is delaying his coming,' and begins to beat the menservants and maidservants, and to eat and drink and be drunk, "the master of that servant will come on a day when he is not looking for him, and at an hour when he is not aware; and will cut him in two and appoint him his portion with the unbelievers. **Glory be to God forever. Amen.**

### THE LITANY

**(1)** With a compassionate eye consider my weakness, O Lord; for very soon my life<sup>35</sup> will come to an end, and by my deeds I shall have no salvation.<sup>36</sup>

Therefore, I beseech You, O Lord, with a merciful eye looking my weakness, my affliction,<sup>37</sup> my poverty,<sup>38</sup> and my sojourning,<sup>39</sup> and deliver me.

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

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<sup>35</sup>on earth

<sup>36</sup>can not be justified; Rom. (3:20)

<sup>37</sup>Ps. (25:18); Ps. (119:153)

<sup>38</sup>poverty of the soul

<sup>39</sup>1 Pet. (1:17)

(2) Since the Judge is assuredly present<sup>40</sup> before me, therefore take heed, O my soul, be watchful and sober, and consider that awesome hour of judgment;<sup>41</sup> for there shall be no mercy in the Judgment, for those who have shown no mercy.<sup>42</sup>

Therefore, have compassion on me, O Savior, for You are indeed the Lover of mankind.

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

(3) You are the gate of Life,<sup>43</sup> O Theotokos, the honored Mother of God, rescue those who faithfully took refuge in you, from hardships and afflictions. We glorify the immaculate<sup>44</sup> Nativity<sup>45</sup> that you gave, (to our Lord Jesus Christ), who was incarnate for the salvation of our souls.

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

*Then the worshiper prays:*

- O Heavenly King, ... page 46
- KYRIE ELEISON (Lord have mercy - 41 times)
- Holy Holy Holy page 28
- Our Father, who art in heaven... page 1

*The priest reads the following Gospel:*

### THE HOLY GOSPEL ACCORDING TO ST. LUKE (2:29-32)

"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.**

*Then the worshiper prays:*

- Introduction to the Creed page 26
- The Creed page 27

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<sup>40</sup>James (5:9)

<sup>41</sup>Rev. (14:7) 2 Cor. (5:10)

<sup>42</sup>James (2:13)

<sup>43</sup>Ps. (118:20); Ezek. (44:2); John (14:6); Matt. (19:17)

<sup>44</sup>spotless, pure, virginal

<sup>45</sup>birth of Jesus Christ

- KYRIE ELEISON (Lord have mercy - 41 times)
- Holy Holy Holy page 28
- Our Father, who art in heaven... page 1

## **ABSOLUTION**

O Lord, Jesus Christ, Son of Our Eternal living God, enlighten our minds to understand Your life-giving words. Raise us up from the darkness of sin which ruins the soul and make us worthy of being steady in virtue. When You come to judge the world, grant us to hear Your joyful voice saying: "Come, you blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you since the foundation of the world." O Lord, grant unto us to attend at that hour without fear, anxiety or condemnation. Do not judge us according to our sins, for You alone, have lovingkindness, longsuffering and great mercy. May You accept these prayers through the intercession of our Lady, the Mother of God, St. Mary and all of Your saints. **Amen.**

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