

Service Of Supplication

For the Conversion of Those Who Have
Departed into Error

To be sung on the Sunday of Orthodoxy
and on other needful occasions

The Most Holy Governing Synod, by decision to print the Service of Supplication for the Conversion of Those Who Have Departed into Error, to be sung on the Sunday of Orthodoxy and on other needful occasions, has decreed that this service of supplication be served in monastery, city, and village churches on the first Sunday of Great Lent, and has blessed missionaries to sing it:

1. when they are sent to conduct discussions with schismatics and sectarians,
2. when they unite to the Orthodox Church converts to the way of truth, and
3. Before opening regional and diocesan missionary conferences, and on other like occasions.

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After the end of the Liturgy, the clergy come out of the Altar, and making three bows, begin thus:

The Deacon saith: Bless, Master.

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

People: Amen.

And they chant: O Heavenly King ...

Reader: Trisagion. Our Father; Lord, have mercy, *12 times.* O come, let us worship...

Psalm 74

We will confess Thee, O God, we will confess Thee, and we will call upon Thy Name. I will tell of all Thy wonders. When I am given the appointed time, I will judge uprightly. The earth is melted and all that dwell therein; it is I that made steadfast the pillars thereof. I said to transgressors: Do not transgress; and to the sinners: Lift not up the horn. Lift not up your horn on high, and speak not unrighteousness against God. For judgement cometh not from the byways, nor from the west, nor from the desert mountains; for God is judge. This man He humbleth, and another He exalteth; for in the hand of the Lord there is a brimming cup of unmingled wine. And He hath inclined it from side to side, but the dregs thereof were not fully emptied out; all the sinners of the earth shall drink of them. But as for me, I will rejoice for ever; I will chant unto the God of Jacob. And all the horns of the sinners will I break, but the horn of the righteous man shall be exalted.

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Glory; Both now.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia. Glory to Thee, O God. *thrice.*

The Deacon readeth the usual ectenia:

Deacon: In peace let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

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

People: Lord, have mercy.

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

People: Lord, have mercy.

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

People: Lord, have mercy.

The following petition differs according to local church usage.

Deacon: For our great lord and father, His Holiness Patriarch Kyrill, for our lord the Very Most Reverend Metropolitan Hilarion, First Hierarch of the Russian Church Abroad, for our lord the Most Reverend Archbishop Alypy, for our lord the Most Reverend Bishop Peter, for the venerable

priesthood, the diaconate in Christ, for all the clergy and people let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

The following two petitions are according to the usage of the Russian Orthodox Church outside of Russia

Deacon: For the much suffering Russian Land and its Orthodox people both in the homeland and in the diaspora, and for their salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

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

People: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: For this land, its authorities, and Armed Forces, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: For this city, for every city and country and the faithful that dwell therein, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

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

People: Lord, have mercy.

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

People: Lord, have mercy.

Then we insert the following petitions:

Deacon: That with a merciful eye He may look upon His holy Church, and preserve her unharmed and invincible against heresies and superstitions, and fence her about with His peace, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: That He may quiet her quarrels, and by the power of the Holy Spirit convert to knowledge of the truth all those who have departed from it, and number them with His chosen flock, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: That He may enlighten with the light of His divine understanding the thoughts darkened by unbelief, and that He may strengthen His faithful, and keep them unshaken in the right faith, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

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

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People: Lord, have mercy.

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

People: 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 commit ourselves and one another, and
all our life unto Christ our God.

People: To Thee O Lord.

Exclamation:

Priest: For unto Thee 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.

People: Amen.

Deacon: In the 4th Tone: God is the Lord and hath appeared unto
us. Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord.

Stichos (before the choir chants the first time): O give thanks
unto the Lord for He is good, for His mercy endureth forever.

People: God is the Lord ...

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

People: God is the Lord ...

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

People: God is the Lord ...

Stichos: 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.

People: God is the Lord ...

Troparion:

We, Thine unworthy servants, O Lord, / grateful for Thy great benefits which Thou hast showed unto us, / glorifying Thee do praise, bless, give thanks, sing, and magnify Thy loving-kindness, / and with a servant's love do cry aloud unto Thee: // O our Benefactor and our Savior, glory to Thee.

Glory. Tone 3.

O Master, Who hast freely vouchsafed / Thy benefits and gifts unto Thine unprofitable servants, / fervently hastening unto Thee, / we offer unto Thee thanksgiving according to our strength, / and glorifying Thee as our Benefactor and our Creator, we cry aloud: // Glory to Thee, O God most bountiful.

Both now. Tone 4.

Like as the splendor of the firmament above, Thou hast showed forth the lower, / the beauty of the holy habitation of Thy glory, O Lord; / establish it unto the ages of ages, / and receive our prayers

unceasingly brought therein to Thee by the Theotokos, // O Life and Resurrection of all.

Deacon: Wisdom.

Priest: Peace be unto all.

Reader: And to thy spirit.

Deacon: Wisdom, let us attend.

Reader: Prokeimenon, Tone 4: They that are planted in the house of the Lord, in the courts of our God they shall blossom forth (Ps 91:12).

Verse: The righteous man shall be glad in the Lord, and shall hope in Him (Ps 63:11).

Reader:

Epistle of St. Paul to the Romans (Sec 121; 16:17-20)

BRETHREN, I beseech you, mark them which cause divisions and offences contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned; and avoid them. For they that are such serve not our Lord Jesus Christ, but their own belly; and by good words and fair speeches deceive the hearts of the simple. For your obedience is come abroad unto all men. I am glad therefore on your behalf: but yet I would have you wise unto that which is good, and simple concerning evil. And the God of peace shall bruise Satan under your feet shortly. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you. Amen.

Priest:

The Gospel according to St. Matthew (Sec 75; 18:10-18)

Take heed that ye despise not one of these little ones; for I say unto you, That in heaven their angels do always behold the face of my Father which is in heaven. For the Son of man is come to save that which was lost. How think ye? if a man have an hundred sheep, and one of them be gone astray, doth he not leave the ninety and nine, and goeth into the mountains, and seeketh that which is gone astray? And if so be that he find it, verily I say unto you, he rejoiceth more of that sheep, than of the ninety and nine which went not astray. Even so it is not the will of your Father which is in heaven, that one of these little ones should perish. Moreover if thy brother shall trespass against thee, go and tell him his fault between thee and him alone: if he shall hear thee, thou hast gained thy brother. But if he will not hear thee, then take with thee one or two more, that in the mouth of two or three witnesses every word may be established. And if he shall neglect to hear them, tell it unto the church: but if he neglect to hear the church, let him be unto thee as an heathen man and a publican. Verily I say unto you, whatsoever ye shall bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever ye shall loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.

Ectenia

Deacon: Have mercy upon us, O God, according to Thy great mercy, we pray Thee, hearken and have mercy.

People: Lord, have mercy. (*Thrice*)

The following petition differs according to local usage.

Deacon: Again we pray for our great lord and father, His Holiness Patriarch Kyrill, for our lord the Very Most Reverend Metropolitan Hilarion, First Hierarch of the Russian Church Abroad, for our lord the Most Reverend Archbishop Alypy,

for our lord the Most Reverend Bishop Peter and for our all brethren in Christ.

People: Lord, have mercy. *(Thrice)*

Then we insert the following petitions:

Deacon: Thou that desirest not the death of sinners, but awaitest their conversion and repentance, convert all those who have apostatized to Thy holy Church, we pray Thee, O merciful Lord, hearken and have mercy.

People: Lord, have mercy. *(Thrice)*

Deacon: Thou that hast created this world for Thy glory, work that those who oppose Thy word be converted, and glorify Thee our God with true faith and piety together with all the faithful, we pray Thee, all-powerful Creator, hearken and have mercy.

People: Lord, have mercy. *(Thrice)*

Deacon: Thou that hast given us Thy commandment, to love Thee our God, and our neighbor, work that hatreds, enmities, offences, revenge, oath-breaking, and all other iniquities cease, and that true love should reign in our hearts, we pray Thee, our Savior, hearken and mercifully have mercy.

People: Lord, have mercy. *(Thrice)*

Exclamation:

Priest: Hearken unto us, O God, our Savior the hope of all the ends of the earth and of those far off upon the sea, and show

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mercy, show mercy O Master, upon us sinners. 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 the ages of ages.

People: Amen.

Deacon: Let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Priest:

O MOST HIGH GOD, Master and Maker of every creature, that fillest all things with Thy majesty, and upholdest them by Thy might! To Thee our all-gifted Lord do we, who are unworthy, bring thanks, for Thou turnest not away from us on account of our iniquities, but all the more Thou goest before us with Thy compassions. Thou didst send Thine Only-Begotten Son for our deliverance, and didst preach the good tidings of Thine immeasurable condescension to the race of man: for with desire dost Thou desire and await, that we should turn to Thee and be saved: condescending to the weakness of our nature Thou dost strengthen us by the all-powerful grace of Thy Holy Spirit, and comfortest us with the saving faith and perfect hope of eternal blessings, and guiding Thine elect unto the Sion above, Thou dost keep us as the apple of Thine eye. We confess, O Lord, Thy great and invincible love for mankind and loving kindness.

But seeing the feeble impulses of many, fervently we pray Thee, O all-good Lord: look upon Thy Church and see, that although we have received Thy saving Gospel with gladness, nevertheless the tares of vanity and passions have made it bear little fruit in some, and in others no fruit, and through the multiplication of iniquities some by heresies, others by schism, in opposing the truth of Thy

Gospel, apostatize from Thine inheritance, reject Thy grace, and subject themselves to the judgement of Thy most-holy Word. O Most compassionate and all-powerful, be not angry to the end, O Lord! Be merciful, Thy Church prayeth Thee, setting before Thee the author and finisher of our salvation, Jesus Christ, be merciful to us, strengthen us in Thy right faith by Thy might, and unto those that are deceived do Thou enlighten the eyes of their reason by Thy divine light, that they may understand Thy truth: soften their bitterness and open their hearing, that they may know Thy voice and turn to Thee our Savior.

Correct, O Lord, the corruptions of others and the life not in accordance with Christian piety: make us all to live holy and undefiled, and so let the saving faith take root in our hearts and remain ever fruitful. Turn not Thy face away from us, O Lord, give us the joy of Thy salvation: and grant, O Lord, to the pastors of Thy Church holy zeal, and dissolve their cares for the salvation and conversion of them that are deceived, with the spirit of Thy Gospel: That all being thus guided, we may attain to where there is the perfection of faith, the fulfillment of hope, and true love: and there with the choirs of the most pure heavenly hosts may we glorify Thee our Lord, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, unto the ages of ages.

People: Amen.

And the usual dismissal.

Concerning the Moleban:

The *Moleban* (from Church Slavonic Mol'ba - Prayer, supplication) is a short liturgical service usually centered on a particular need or occasion: the new year, a journey, an illness, an act of thanksgiving, etc. It may be addressed to Christ, the Mother of God, or to saints. Its general structure is that of Matins, and it can be served either by request of the faithful or by decision of the parish Priest.

The Church asks us to "pray without ceasing" - Prayer is the life of the Church and the life of each one of us, members of the Church. And because Christ came to redeem and to sanctify the totality of our life, no part of that life, no human need, no occasion is excluded from the Church's prayer. The Moleben, thus, is the extension of the Church's prayer, of Christ's redeeming grace to all aspects and realities of our life. "...knock and it will be opened to you." --we are called constantly to knock at the doors of God's mercy and our faith assures us that God hears us and is with us.

Taken from explanatory material in the Oklahoma Christians for life "OFFICE OF PRAYER AND SUPPLICATION FOR THE VICTIMS OF ABORTION" Oklahoma City, Oklahoma U.S.A. COPYRIGHT - 1992 - O.C.R.F. (405) 787-6313

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