

Notes for “Home” Church - Reader Service - Holy Friday - 2020

Below are the prayers for families to pray in their homes on Holy Friday at Noon. Do not stress about doing everything “right.” The whole text can just be read aloud, but you can also sing any of the hymns you might know. For families with small children, for whom a long service would be difficult, feel free to abbreviate. For example you might read only one of the Psalms and only the Gospel in the Scripture Readings. Appoint one person to be the “Leader.” The Leader can appoint others to read some of the psalms, hymns, or readings. Light a candle before your Icons and begin.

Royal Hours for Holy Friday – Sixth Hour

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

ALL: Amen.

All the people say together the following prayers:

The Prayer to the Holy Spirit

Glory to You, our God. Glory to You.

O heavenly King, O Comforter, the Spirit of truth, Who are in all places and fill all things, the Treasury of good things and Giver of life: Come, and abide in us, and cleanse us from every stain, and save our souls, O good One.

The Trisagion Prayers

Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal: have mercy on us.

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Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal: have mercy on us.

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

All-holy Trinity, have mercy on us.

Lord, cleanse us from our sins.

Master, pardon our iniquities.

Holy God, visit and heal our infirmities for Your name’s sake.

Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

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 art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name; Thy kingdom come; Thy 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 evil.

For Thine 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. Amen.

Lord, have mercy. (12x)

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

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

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

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

Psalms for the Hour

Psalms 54 (LXX 53), 140 (LXX 139), 91 (LXX 90)

Psalm 54 (LXX 53)

Save me, O God, by Your name,
And vindicate me by Your strength.
Hear my prayer, O God;
Give ear to the words of my mouth.
For strangers have risen up against me,
And oppressors have sought after my life;
They have not set God before them.
Behold, God is my helper;
The Lord is with those who uphold my life.
He will repay my enemies for their evil.
Cut them off in Your truth.
I will freely sacrifice to You;
I will praise Your name, O LORD, for it is good.
For He has delivered me out of all trouble;
And my eye has seen its desire upon my enemies.

Psalm 140 (Lxx 139)

Deliver me, O Lord, from evil men;
Preserve me from violent men,
Who plan evil things in their hearts;
They continually gather together for war.
They sharpen their tongues like a serpent;
The poison of asps is under their lips.
Keep me, O Lord, from the hands of the wicked;
Preserve me from violent men,
Who have purposed to make my steps stumble.
The proud have hidden a snare for me, and cords;
They have spread a net by the wayside;
They have set traps for me.
I said to the Lord: "You are my God;
Hear the voice of my supplications, O Lord.
O God the Lord, the strength of my salvation,
You have covered my head in the day of battle.
Do not grant, O Lord, the desires of the wicked;
Do not further his wicked scheme,
Lest they be exalted.
"As for the head of those who surround me,
Let the evil of their lips cover them;
Let burning coals fall upon them;
Let them be cast into the fire,
Into deep pits, that they rise not up again.
Let not a slanderer be established in the earth;
Let evil hunt the violent man to overthrow him."
I know that the Lord will maintain
The cause of the afflicted,
And justice for the poor.
Surely the righteous shall give thanks to Your name;
The upright shall dwell in Your presence.

Psalm 91 (Lxx 90)

He who dwells in the secret place of the Most High
Shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty.
I will say of the LORD, "He is my refuge and my fortress;
My God, in Him I will trust."
Surely He shall deliver you from the snare of the fowler[1]
And from the perilous pestilence.
He shall cover you with His feathers,
And under His wings you shall take refuge;
His truth shall be your shield and buckler.
You shall not be afraid of the terror by night,
Nor of the arrow that flies by day,
Nor of the pestilence that walks in darkness,
Nor of the destruction that lays waste at noonday.
A thousand may fall at your side,
And ten thousand at your right hand;
But it shall not come near you.
Only with your eyes shall you look,
And see the reward of the wicked.
Because you have made the LORD, who is my refuge,
Even the Most High, your dwelling place,
No evil shall befall you,
Nor shall any plague come near your dwelling;
For He shall give His angels charge over you,
To keep you in all your ways.
In their hands they shall bear you up,
Lest you dash your foot against a stone.
You shall tread upon the lion and the cobra,
The young lion and the serpent you shall trample underfoot.
"Because he has set his love upon Me, therefore I will deliver him;
I will set him on high, because he has known My name.
He shall call upon Me, and I will answer him;
I will be with him in trouble;
I will deliver him and honor him.
With long life I will satisfy him,
And show him My salvation."

Psalm 55 (Lxx 54) - Wednesday

Give ear to my prayer, O God,
And do not hide Yourself from my supplication.
Attend to me, and hear me;
I am restless in my complaint, and moan noisily,
Because of the voice of the enemy,
Because of the oppression of the wicked;
For they bring down trouble upon me,
And in wrath they hate me.
My heart is severely pained within me,
And the terrors of death have fallen upon me.
Fearfulness and trembling have come upon me,
And horror has overwhelmed me.
So I said, "Oh, that I had wings like a dove!
I would fly away and be at rest.
Indeed, I would wander far off,
And remain in the wilderness.
I would hasten my escape
From the windy storm and tempest."
Destroy, O Lord, and divide their tongues,
For I have seen violence and strife in the city.
Day and night they go around it on its walls;
Iniquity and trouble are also in the midst of it.
Destruction is in its midst;
Oppression and deceit do not depart from its streets.
For it is not an enemy who reproaches me;
Then I could bear it.
Nor is it one who hates me who has exalted himself against me;
Then I could hide from him.
But it was you, a man my equal,
My companion and my acquaintance.
We took sweet counsel together,
And walked to the house of God in the throng.
Let death seize them;
Let them go down alive into hell,
For wickedness is in their dwellings and among them.

As for me, I will call upon God,
And the LORD shall save me.
Evening and morning and at noon
I will pray, and cry aloud,
And He shall hear my voice.
He has redeemed my soul in peace from the battle that was against me,
For there were many against me.
God will hear, and afflict them,
Even He who abides from of old.
Because they do not change,
Therefore they do not fear God.
He has put forth his hands against those who were at peace with him;
He has broken his covenant.
The words of his mouth were smoother than butter,
But war was in his heart;
His words were softer than oil,
Yet they were drawn swords.
Cast your burden on the LORD,
And He shall sustain you;
He shall never permit the righteous to be moved.
But You, O God, shall bring them down to the pit of destruction;
Bloodthirsty and deceitful men shall not live out half their days;
But I will trust in You.

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. (3x)

Lord, have mercy. (3x)]

Troparion of the Day – Tone 2

LEADER: Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit:

You, O Christ our God, have worked salvation in the midst of the earth. You have
stretched out Your most pure hands on the Cross gathering together all the nations
who cry out: O Lord, glory to You.

LEADER: Now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Theotokion - Tone 2

Seeing that we have no boldness, because of the multitude of our sins, O Virgin Theotokos, fervently entreat Him Who was born of you; for the prayer of a mother avails much to the good will of the Master. Despise not the supplications of sinners, O all-revered one; for merciful and mighty to save is He Who graciously suffered for us.

Special Verses for Holy Friday Sixth Hour

Read or sing the following hymns.

(Tone 8)

Thus says the Lord to the Jews:

“O My people, what have I done to you?

Or in what have I wearied you? *

I gave light to your blind and cleansed your lepers.

I raised up the man who lay upon his bed.

O My people, what have I done to you,

and how have you repaid Me? *

Instead of manna you have given Me gall.

Instead of water vinegar,

and instead of loving Me

you have nailed Me to the Cross. *

I can endure no more.

I shall call My Gentiles and they shall glorify Me

with the Father and the Spirit; *

and I shall bestow on them eternal life.”

They gave Me gall to eat, / and in My thirst they gave me vinegar to drink.

O lawgivers of Israel, you Jews and Pharisees,

the company of the apostles cries aloud to you:

“Behold, the Temple that you have destroyed; *

behold the Lamb that you have crucified.

You gave Him over to the tomb,

but by His own power He has risen again.

Do not be deceived, O Jews; *

for this is He Who saved you in the sea and fed you in the wilderness.”

He is the Life and Light *

and Peace of the world.

Save me, O God; / for the waters are come in, even unto my soul.

***Glory to the Father and to the Son / and to the Holy Spirit:
Now and ever / and unto ages of ages. Amen***

(Tone 5)

Come, Christ-bearing people, let us see what Judas the traitor
has plotted with the lawless priests against our Savior.

Today they judged the immortal Word guilty of death; *

they delivered Him to Pilate and crucified Him on Golgotha.

And as our Savior suffered these things,

He cried aloud saying:

“Father, forgive them this sin, *

that the Gentiles may know My Resurrection from the dead.”

Prokeimenon of the Prophecy: Tone 4

Read the following Psalm verses and Scripture readings.

O Lord, our Lord, how wonderful is Your name in all the earth.

Your majesty is lifted high above the heavens.

Scripture Readings

Isaiah 52:13 – 54:1

The reading from the Holy Prophet Isaiah. Let us attend.

Behold, My Servant shall deal prudently;

He shall be exalted and extolled and be very high.

Just as many were astonished at you,

So His visage was marred more than any man,

And His form more than the sons of men;

So shall He sprinkle many nations.

Kings shall shut their mouths at Him;

For what had not been told them they shall see,

And what they had not heard they shall consider.

Who has believed our report?

And to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed?

For He shall grow up before Him as a tender plant,

And as a root out of dry ground.

He has no form or comeliness;
And when we see Him,
There is no beauty that we should desire Him.
He is despised and rejected by men,
A Man of sorrows and acquainted with [j]grief.
And we hid, as it were, our faces from Him;
He was despised, and we did not esteem Him.
Surely He has borne our griefs
And carried our sorrows;
Yet we esteemed Him stricken,
Smitten by God, and afflicted.
But He was wounded for our transgressions,
He was bruised for our iniquities;
The chastisement for our peace was upon Him,
And by His stripes we are healed.
All we like sheep have gone astray;
We have turned, every one, to his own way;
And the Lord has laid on Him the iniquity of us all.
He was oppressed and He was afflicted,
Yet He opened not His mouth;
He was led as a lamb to the slaughter,
And as a sheep before its shearers is silent,
So He opened not His mouth.
He was taken from prison and from judgment,
And who will declare His generation?
For He was cut off from the land of the living;
For the transgressions of My people He was stricken.
And [t]they made His grave with the wicked—
But with the rich at His death,
Because He had done no violence,
Nor was any deceit in His mouth.
Yet it pleased the Lord to bruise Him;
He has put Him to grief.
When You make His soul an offering for sin,
He shall see His seed, He shall prolong His days,
And the pleasure of the Lord shall prosper in His hand.

He shall see the labor of His soul, and be satisfied.
By His knowledge My righteous Servant shall justify many,
For He shall bear their iniquities.
Therefore I will divide Him a portion with the great,
And He shall divide the spoil with the strong,
Because He poured out His soul unto death,
And He was numbered with the transgressors,
And He bore the sin of many,
And made intercession for the transgressors.
“Sing, O barren,
You who have not borne!
Break forth into singing, and cry aloud,
You who have not labored with child!
For more are the children of the desolate
Than the children of the married woman,” says the Lord.

Hebrews 2:11-18

The reading from the Epistle to the Hebrews. Let us attend.

Both He who sanctifies and those who are being sanctified are all of one, for which reason He is not ashamed to call them brethren, saying:

“I will declare Your name to My brethren;

In the midst of the assembly I will sing praise to You.”

And again:

“I will put My trust in Him.”

And again:

“Here am I and the children whom God has given Me.”

Inasmuch then as the children have partaken of flesh and blood, He Himself likewise shared in the same, that through death He might destroy him who had the power of death, that is, the devil, and release those who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage. For indeed He does not give aid to angels, but He does [c]give aid to the seed of Abraham. Therefore, in all things He had to be made like His brethren, that He might be a merciful and faithful High Priest in things pertaining to God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people. For in that He Himself has suffered, being tempted, He is able to aid those who are tempted.

Luke 23:32-49

The reading from the Gospel according to Saint Luke. Let us attend.

There were also two others, criminals, led with Him to be put to death. And when they had come to the place called Calvary, there they crucified Him, and the criminals, one on the right hand and the other on the left. Then Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they do."

And they divided His garments and cast lots. And the people stood looking on. But even the rulers with them sneered, saying, "He saved others; let Him save Himself if He is the Christ, the chosen of God."

The soldiers also mocked Him, coming and offering Him sour wine, and saying, "If You are the King of the Jews, save Yourself."

And an inscription also was written over Him in letters of Greek, Latin, and Hebrew: THIS IS THE KING OF THE JEWS.

Then one of the criminals who were hanged blasphemed Him, saying, "If You are the Christ, save Yourself and us."

But the other, answering, rebuked him, saying, "Do you not even fear God, seeing you are under the same condemnation? And we indeed justly, for we receive the due reward of our deeds; but this Man has done nothing wrong." Then he said to Jesus, "Lord, remember me when You come into Your kingdom."

And Jesus said to him, "Assuredly, I say to you, today you will be with Me in Paradise."

Now it was about the sixth hour, and there was darkness over all the earth until the ninth hour. Then the sun was [f]darkened, and the veil of the temple was torn in [g]two. And when Jesus had cried out with a loud voice, He said, "Father, 'into Your hands I commit My spirit.'" Having said this, He breathed His last.

So when the centurion saw what had happened, he glorified God, saying, "Certainly this was a righteous Man!"

And the whole crowd who came together to that sight, seeing what had been done, beat their breasts and returned. But all His acquaintances, and the women who followed Him from Galilee, stood at a distance, watching these things.

Psalm Verses for Sixth Hour

The following is said by all together:

Let Your mercy quickly go before us, O Lord, for we have become exceedingly poor. Help us, O God our Savior, for the sake of the glory of Your name; O Lord, deliver us, and be gracious toward our sins, for Your name's sake.

Kontakion of the Day

Come and let us sing all the praises of Him Who was crucified for us. For Mary said, when she beheld Him on the tree: "Though you suffer on the Cross, still You are my Son and God.

Forty-fold "Lord, have mercy"

PEOPLE: Lord, have mercy. (40x)

The Prayer of the Hours

LEADER: O Lord, Who at all times and at every hour, both in heaven and on earth, are worshipped and glorified, O Christ our God, long-suffering, abundant in mercy and compassion; Who love the just and show mercy to sinners; Who call all men to salvation through the promise of good things to come: Receive also our supplications at this present hour, and direct our lives according to Your commandments. Sanctify our souls; purify our bodies; set aright our minds; cleanse our thoughts; and deliver us from all disaster, wrath, and distress. Surround us with Your holy angels, that guided and guarded by their host we may attain to the unity of the faith and to the comprehension of Your inexpressible glory:

For blessed are You unto ages of ages.

ALL: Amen.

Lord, have mercy. (3x)

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

More honorable than the cherubim, and more glorious beyond compare than the seraphim, who without corruption gave birth to God the Word, and are truly Theotokos, we magnify you.

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

ALL: Amen.

The Concluding Prayer - Sixth Hour

LEADER: O God and Lord of hosts and Maker of all things created, Who through the tender-hearted compassion of Your incomparable mercy sent down Your only-begotten Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, for the salvation of our race, and by His precious Cross destroyed the handwriting of our sins and thereby triumphed over the origin and powers of darkness: O Lord, Who love mankind, receive also these thanksgivings and fervent prayers of us sinners. And deliver us from every harmful and gloomy transgression and from all enemies, both visible and invisible, who seek after us to destroy us. Nail our flesh with the fear of You, and incline not our hearts to words or thoughts of wickedness; but wound our souls with the love of You, that looking ever to You and guided by You in the light, beholding You, the Light inexpressible and everlasting, we may ascribe unto You ceaseless confession and thanksgiving: to the unoriginate Father, together with Your only-begotten Son, and Your all-holy, good, and life-giving Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

The Dismissal

LEADER: O Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God, Who endured fearful sufferings, the life-giving Cross, and voluntary burial in the flesh, on behalf of us men and for our salvation, through the intercessions of Your most-pure Mother, of the holy, glorious, and all-laudable Apostle and Evangelist John, and of all the saints, have mercy on us and save us, for You are a merciful God and love mankind.