

Service of the Kneeling Prayers of Pentecost

The First Prayer is addressed to God the Father. He is the source of all life, including the life of the Trinity, thus all our prayers are directed to God our Father. Here in this opening prayer we recognize the ultimate gift of God's goodness to us and for our salvation – namely the incarnation of God, our Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God. It is always good and needful for us to remember in our own prayers Jesus Christ as greatest gift by God to us.

The Second Prayer is addressed to Jesus but emphasizes the role of the Holy Spirit in keeping us united to Jesus Christ and His commandments. As the Holy Spirit was there with the original apostles to comfort and support them, so also the Holy Spirit is active in our lives as the source of wisdom and understanding. We should never hesitate to ask the Lord to illumine and enlighten your life with the Holy Spirit.

The Third Prayer opens with theological statements about Jesus Christ. Theology is not just for theologians. The richness of our Orthodox hymns and prayers are the fullness of the Christian theology. The Church gives us these hymns and prayers so that all people, not just scholars and theologians can access and know the One true God. Through our reading, understanding, and acceptance of what God has done for us, why we call Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior, and why the Holy Spirit was sent to us, is critical to us becoming mature Christians who will not be shaken by society's changing values and controversies. The final section of this prayer is a beautiful meditation on death and the importance of praying for our loved ones who have gone ahead of us to eternity. Though we have memorial services in our church, it is always appropriate to remember our loved ones in our own private prayers.

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The Great Prokeimenon

Priest: What god is great as our God? You are God, Who alone works wonders.

Cantor: Verse: You have revealed Your power among the people.

What god is great as our God? You are God, Who alone works wonders.

Cantor: Verse: And I said, "Now I have begun to see. This is a change in the Most High's right hand."

What god is great as our God? You are God, Who alone works wonders.

Cantor: Verse: I remembered the deeds of the Lord, for I will recall Your wonders of old.

What god is great as our God? You are God, Who alone works wonders.

First Prayer

Priest: On bended knees, let us pray to the Lord.

Incomprehensible, unsurpassable Lord, you dwell in light unapproachable and you are the creator of everything that exists. You are the Father of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, who for us and for our salvation came from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit and of the virgin Mary.

At first You taught in words, but then showed us by deeds, when in enduring the saving Passion You gave to us Your humble, sinful and unworthy servants the example of how **to offer to you prayers by the bending of our knees and our hearts**. Hear us in your great mercy and love as we call upon you on this day of Pentecost, on which we remember how the Lord Jesus, after his ascension and sitting at your right hand, sent the Holy Spirit upon his holy disciples and apostles. They were filled with your inexhaustible grace and began speaking with other tongues and prophesying, proclaiming your greatness.

Hear us who pray to you, and remember us. Turn back the captivity of our souls and receive us as we return to you. We have sinned, yet we have been cast upon your mercy from our childhood. Our days have been spent in vanities and thus we have been deprived of every defense. Emboldened by your compassion, we call out: Remember not the sins of our youth and ignorance, and cleanse us of our secret sins. When our strength fails, do not forsake us. Help us to return to you before it's too late. Measure our sins according to your compassion, and look down upon all of us assembled here today. Visit us with your goodness. Deliver us from the power of the devil. Preserve our lives in your commandments. Gather us all into your Kingdom. Forgive those who hope in you. Purify us by your Holy Spirit, and destroy the traps set for us by the Enemy.

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Priest: Further we pray for mercy, life, peace, health, safekeeping, protection, pardon and remission of sins of the servants of God, all the devout and Orthodox Christians who dwell or sojourn in this city, the parishioners, parish council, contributors and benefactors of this holy church.

Cantor: Lord, have mercy. (3)

Priest: Further we pray for the blessed and ever-to-be-remembered founders of this holy church, and for our Orthodox forebears and brethren who have gone before us, and who are here or elsewhere have been laid to pious rest.

Cantor: Lord, have mercy. (3)

Priest: For You are a merciful and loving God, and to You we give glory: Father, Son and Holy Spirit, now and always and for ever and ever.

Second Prayer

Priest: Again on bended knees, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord Jesus, you gave your peace to us, and you are always present to us, giving us the gift of the Holy Spirit. You sent down this grace in a manner most clear upon your holy disciples and apostles, and opened their lips with tongues of fire. Through them and others, the nations of the world have received the knowledge of God and have heard the message, each in their own language. We have been enlightened by the light of the Spirit, and we have been freed from delusion and darkness. Through the distribution of tongues of fire, we have been taught to worship one God in Trinity.

You, O Christ, are the radiance of the Father and the exact image of his nature; you are the fountain of wisdom and grace. Open our lips and teach us how to pray. Order our lives and make known to each of us the way in which we should walk. May the Spirit of wisdom cover all my reasoning, and may my foolishness be overcome by the Spirit of understanding. Overshadow my deeds with the Spirit of reverence and the fear of God, and renew a right spirit within me. Establish my faltering mind with your guiding Spirit so that I may be guided every day by your good Spirit toward what is useful, to keep your commandments, and always to remember your fearful and glorious second coming.

You, Master, promised us that whatever we ask in your name shall be freely given to us by your Father, the eternal God. Therefore, we supplicate your goodness, that you guard us in your salvation, for you sinlessly became the merciful partaker of our nature, to become atonement for our sins. Sanctify us now by your saving power. Against you, you only, do we sin; but you alone we also adore. We know not how to worship a strange god, nor how to stretch our hands to any other god, O Master. May our prayer rise as incense in your blessed Kingdom.

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Cantor: Lord, grant that we may be kept this night without sin. Blessed are You, O Lord, God of our fathers. Praised and glorified is Your name throughout the ages. Amen.

Let Your mercy be upon us, Lord, even as we put our hope in You. Blessed are You, O Lord, teach me Your statutes. Blessed are You, Master, let me understand Your statutes. Blessed are You, O Holy One, enlighten me with Your statutes. Lord, Your mercy endures forever; do not spurn the work of Your hands. Praise befits You, worship befits You, glory befits You, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and forevermore. Amen.

Third Prayer

Priest: Yet again, on bended knee, let us pray to the Lord.

Cantor: Lord, have mercy.

O Christ, ever-flowing fountain of life, Creator coeternal with the Father, you fulfilled the whole dispensation of our salvation. You destroyed the bonds of death and the bolts of Hell and you trampled down the multitude of evil spirits. You offered yourself as a blameless victim, giving your immaculate body as a sinless sacrifice so that we may have eternal life. You descended into Death and broke down its bars, opening the way to the light for those who sat in darkness. You are the wisdom of the Father, the helper of the oppressed, the enlightener of those who sat in darkness and in the shadow of death.

You are the Lord of glory, the beloved Son of the Father, Light everlasting from Light everlasting, the Sun of righteousness. Hear us and give rest to the souls of the righteous who have preceded us in faith. You are the Maker of life and Master of the end of life. Quicken with the hope of resurrection those who have fallen asleep in faith. You are the Master of our coming into this world and our going out from it, and you are the giver of resurrection at your second coming. Because you shared in our flesh, you are a Helper to us in our need and temptation, and you will also judge us with no partiality. There is no death for your servants, O Lord, when we go forth from the body and come unto you, but a change from things most sorrowful unto things most blessed and sweet and joyous. Forgive us, O Sinless One, of all the things which we have committed in your sight and grant us a good and peaceful end as you prepare for us your Kingdom.

For You are the King of peace and Savior of our souls, and to You we offer up glory, to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and always and for ever and ever. Cantor: Amen.