



## THE MYSTERY OF REPENTANCE

### Opening Prayers

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

People: **Amen. O Heavenly King, the Comforter, the Spirit of Truth, You are everywhere filling all things. Treasury of Blessings and Giver of Life: come and dwell in us, and cleanse us from every impurity, and save our souls, O Good One!**

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

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

**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 to the ages of ages. Amen.**

**All Holy Trinity have mercy on us; Lord, cleanse us from our sins; Master, pardon our transgressions; Holy One, 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 to the ages of ages. Amen.**

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be Your Name. Your Kingdom come. Your 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 the evil one.**

Priest: **For Yours is the Kingdom, the Power, and the Glory: of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, now and ever and to the ages of ages.**

People: **Amen.**

Prayers of Repentance

People: **Have mercy on us, O Lord, have mercy on us. For laying aside all excuse, we sinners offer to You, as to our Master, this supplication: Have mercy on us!**

**Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:**

**O Lord, have mercy on us, for in You we have put our trust. Do not be not angry with us, nor remember our iniquities, but look down on us even now, as You are compassionate, and deliver us from our enemies; for You are our God, and we are Your people, we are all the work of Your hands, and we call on Your Name.**

**Now, and ever, and to the ages of ages. Amen.**

**O Blessed Theotokos, open the doors of compassion to us whose hope is in you, that we may not perish, but be delivered from adversity through you. For you are the salvation of the Christian people.**

**Lord, have mercy (12x).**

Priest: **Let us pray to the Lord.**

People: **Lord, have mercy.**

Priest: **O God our Saviour, Who by Your Prophet, Nathan, granted to repentant David remission of his sins, and Who accepted the prayer of repentance of Manasseh: Out of Your usual love for mankind accept Your servants who repent of the sins they have committed, overlooking all that they have done, forgiving their unrighteousness, and passing by their transgressions. For You have said, O Lord: "I do not desire the death of a sinner, but that they turn from their way and live"; and to forgive sins even seventy times seven. For as Your majesty is incomparable, so too Your mercy is immeasurable; and if You should mark iniquities, who could stand? For You are the God of those who repent and to You we ascribe glory: to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and to the ages of ages.**

People: **Amen.**

The People begin to approach the priest, one by one, for private confession and then absolution. The priest and penitent say the following, while the Reader reads from the psalms.

**Priest:** Behold, Christ stands invisibly here receiving your confession. Do not be ashamed or afraid, and do not conceal anything from me. But doubting none of these things, tell all that you have done, so that you may receive forgiveness from Our Lord Jesus Christ. Behold His Icon is before us! I am only a witness, bearing testimony before Him of all things which you say to me. If you shall conceal anything from me, You shall have the greater sin. Take heed, therefore, that having come to the Physician, you depart unhealed. Lord have mercy, Lord have mercy, Lord have mercy.

**People:** **I have sinned, O Lord, forgive me. O God, be merciful to me a sinner. I, a sinner, confess to Almighty God, the Lord, One in the Holy Trinity, to the pure Virgin Mary the Theotokos, to all the Saints, and to you, Father, all my sins:** (Mention to God whatever sins are on your heart.) **For these and for all my other sins which I cannot now remember, whether voluntary or involuntary, I am heartily sorry and I sincerely repent, and I promise with the help of God to better my way of life; therefore I humbly ask you, Father, saving penance and absolution.**

The person now bows his/her head while the priest places his stole over their head and says:

**Priest:** O Lord God of the salvation of Your servants, merciful, compassionate and long-suffering; Who repents concerning our evil deeds, not desiring the death of a sinner, but that they turn from their way and live: Show mercy now on Your servant, **(Name)**, and grant to him/her an image of repentance, forgiveness of sins and deliverance, pardoning all his/her sins, whether voluntary or involuntary. Reconcile him/her and unite him/her to Your Holy Church, through Jesus Christ our Lord, to Whom, with You are due dominion and majesty, now and ever and to the ages of ages. Amen.

May God Who pardoned David through Nathan the Prophet when he confessed his sins, Peter who wept bitterly for his denial, the Harlot weeping at his feet, the Publican and the Prodigal, May God forgive you all things, through me a sinner, both in this world and the in the world to come, and set you uncondemned before His terrible Judgement Seat. Now having no further care for the sins which you have confessed, depart in peace. In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, now and ever,

and to the ages of ages. Amen.

When all have confessed, the reader concludes by saying:

**Reader: Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and to the ages of ages. Amen.**

**Lord, have mercy, Lord, have mercy, Lord, have mercy. Father, bless.**

**Priest: + The Blessing of the Lord be upon you through His grace and love for humankind always, now and ever and to the ages of ages.**

**People: Amen.**