THE LITURGY OF HOLY BAPTISM

SAINT MARY’S COPTIC ORTHODOX CHURCH

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## THE ABSOLUTION OF THE WOMAN, IF SHE HAVE GIVEN BIRTH TO A MALE CHILD

(At the end of forty days)

The Prayer of Thanksgiving shall be said (see page 13), and the incense shall be offered.

CONGREGATION:

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| --- | --- |
| We worship Thee, O Christ, with Thy Good Father and the Holy Spirit, for Thou hast {come} and saved us. (Have mercy on us.) | Ten oo‑osht Emmok: O Pi Khristos: nem Pek Yot en Aghathos: nem pi Pnevma Eth‑owab: je {Ak ee} ak soti emmon. (Nai nan.) |

### HEBREWS 1:8-12

*A chapter from the Epistle of our teacher Paul to Titus. His blessing be upon us. Amen.*

But unto the Son he saith, Thy throne, O God, is for ever and ever: a sceptre of righteousness is the sceptre of thy kingdom. Thou hast loved righteousness, and hated iniquity; therefore God, even thy God, hath anointed thee with the oil of gladness above thy fellows. And, Thou, Lord, in the beginning hast laid the foundation of the earth; and the heavens are the works of thine hands: They shall perish; but thou remainest; and they all shall wax old as doth a garment; And as a vesture shalt thou fold them up, and they shall be changed: but thou art the same, and thy years shall not fail.

*The grace of God the Father be with you all. Amen.*

The Trisagion is chanted (see page 17) and the priest says the Prayer of the Gospel (see page 18).

### PSALM 32:1-2

*A Psalm of David.*

Blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered. Blessed is the man unto whom the LORD imputeth not iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no guile. *Alleluia.*

### LUKE 2:21-32

*A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Saint Luke. May his blessing be upon us all. Amen.*

And when eight days were accomplished for the circumcising of the child, his name was called JESUS, which was so named of the angel before he was conceived in the womb. And when the days of her purification according to the law of Moses were accomplished, they brought him to Jerusalem, to present him to the Lord; (As it is written in the law of the Lord, Every male that openeth the womb shall be called holy to the Lord;) And to offer a sacrifice according to that which is said in the law of the Lord, A pair of turtledoves, or two young pigeons. And, behold, there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Simeon; and the same man was just and devout, waiting for the consolation of Israel: and the Holy Ghost was upon him. And it was revealed unto him by the Holy Ghost, that he should not see death, before he had seen the Lord’s Christ. And he came by the Spirit into the temple: and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him after the custom of the law, Then took he him up in his arms, and blessed God, and said, Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace, according to thy word: For mine eyes have seen thy salvation, Which thou hast prepared before the face of all people; A light to lighten the Gentiles, and the glory of thy people Israel. *Glory be to God forever.*

The priest then says the Three Short Prayers, namely, the Peace, the Fathers and the Congregations. The Creed is then recited (see page 23), and the priest shall say the following prayer:

Lord God the Pantocrator, the Father of our Lord, God and Saviour Jesus Christ; the Treasure of Light, the Creator of the world, the chaser away of all diseases, Who reconciles all to the repentance of harmony; who hast adorned all by the law of Thy love, through the economy of Thy Word, the Only-begotten Son, when He came unto us in the flesh through the holy Mother of God and ever virgin, saint Mary, and the Holy Spirit, the healer and physician of our nature, our teacher in Thy true knowledge, that we might be saved through the preaching of Thine holy Gospels. For the sake of man whom Thou hast created and the working of the woman whom Thou hast brought out of him, to be a helper unto him, after the economy of canonical marriage, Thou hast blessed the fruit of the lawful offspring of the image of Thine image and Thy likeness. And hast enlarged the bounds of our nature by a succession of seed, unto the furnishing of the world and all that are therein, through all Thy saints and the seed of the kingdom of the heavens.

Therefore, O Lord, Thou hast cleansed our nature and hast delivered us through an inward personal reconciliation in mystical and real fellowship.

We ask and entreat Thee, O lover of mankind, to look upon Thine handmaid \_\_\_\_\_; may Thine Holy Spirit renew her inward parts; cleanse her from her impurities. May she be renewed in her body and her soul and her spirit; and absolve her from all accusations, and all her acts, unto a pardoning of all her transgressions. By the grace...

The people shall say, “Our Father Who art in heaven...”, and the priest shall say the Absolution of the son and the Blessing, and shall anoint the woman with oil.

## THE ABSOLUTION OF THE WOMAN, IF SHE HAVE GIVEN BIRTH TO A DAUGHTER

(At the end of fifty days)

The Prayer of Thanksgiving shall be said (see page 15), and the incense shall be offered.

CONGREGATION:

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| We worship Thee, O Christ, with Thy Good Father and the Holy Spirit, for Thou hast {come} and saved us. (Have mercy on us.) | Ten oo‑osht Emmok: O Pi Khristos: nem Pek Yot en Aghathos: nem pi Pnevma Eth‑owab: je {Ak ee} ak soti emmon. (Nai nan.) |

### 1 CORINTHIANS 7:12-15

*A chapter from the first Epistle of our teacher Paul to the Corinthians. His blessing be upon us. Amen.*

But to the rest speak I, not the Lord: If any brother hath a wife that believeth not, and she be pleased to dwell with him, let him not put her away. And the woman which hath an husband that believeth not, and if he be pleased to dwell with her, let her not leave him. For the unbelieving husband is sanctified by the wife, and the unbelieving wife is sanctified by the husband: else were your children unclean; but now are they holy. But if the unbelieving depart, let him depart. A brother or a sister is not under bondage in such cases: but God hath called us to peace.

*The grace of God the Father be with you all. Amen.*

The Trisagion is chanted (see page 19) and the priest says the Prayer of the Gospel (see page 20).

### PSALM 44:9

*A Psalm of David.*

The queen stood at Thy right hand arrayed in a vesture of inwoven gold, adorned in varied ways. *Alleluia.*

### LUKE 10:38-42

*A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Saint Luke. May his blessing be upon us all. Amen.*

Now it came to pass, as they went, that he entered into a certain village: and a certain woman named Martha received him into her house. And she had a sister called Mary, which also sat at Jesus’ feet, and heard his word. But Martha was cumbered about much serving, and came to him, and said, Lord, dost thou not care that my sister hath left me to serve alone? bid her therefore that she help me. And Jesus answered and said unto her, Martha, Martha, thou art careful and troubled about many things: But one thing is needful: and Mary hath chosen that good part, which shall not be taken away from her. *Glory be to God forever.*

The priest then says the Three Short Prayers, namely, the Peace, the Fathers and the Congregations. The Creed is then recited (see page 25), and the priest shall say the prayer printed above on page 2. The people shall say, “Our Father Who art in heaven...”, and the priest shall say the Absolution of the son and the Blessing, and shall anoint the woman with oil .

# THE ORDER OF HOLY BAPTISM

## A PRAYER OF ABSOLUTION OVER THE MOTHER OF THE CHILD

PRIEST:

O Master, Lord God the Pantocrator, creator of the ages, who commanded Thy servant Moses in the Law, and showed him the ordinance of the purification as concerning women who shall bear children, that they should be made to wait those few days which Thou hast appointed to them, and not touch any of Thine holy things, but did keep them apart that they should be saved.

So now also, O our Master, we ask and entreat Thy goodness for this, Thine handmaid who has kept Thy law and fulfilled Thy commandments. She desires to enter into Thine holy place, to worship before Thy temple, desiring to partake of Thy life-giving mysteries.

We ask and entreat Thee, O Good One and Lover of mankind, bless Thine handmaid and purify her, cleanse her from all defilement that is alien to Thy purity. May she be worthy of the communion of Thine holy mysteries, without falling into condemnation.

Likewise also, O Our Master, this little child who has been born of her, bless, purify, bring to full age and stature, that he/she may grow up according to Thine holy will. Establish him/her in Thine orthodox faith and Thy hope and Thy love, Through Thine Only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Through whom...

Then shall be said the Prayer for the Catechumens. (page 17)

DEACON:

Pray ye.

PRIEST:

O Master, Lord Jesus Christ, who bowed the heavens and came down to earth, whose word smites the rocks more mightily than swords, before whose face the waters were troubled and fled backwards. Heal these children (or this child) who come to be made catechumens. Show them (or him) the way in which it is meet for them to walk, instruct them in the grace of Thine Holy Spirit that they may abide in the imperishable gift of Thine Holy Spirit, and bestow upon them remission of their sins, and grant them by Thy grace that they may be healed from destroying sin, that they may be made worthy of the Holy Baptism of the new birth, in order that they may receive also the washing of the spotless Baptism of Thine Holy Spirit, that they may see with holy vision unto sure understanding, and may give glory to Thee, O God, for Thine is the glory with Thy good Father and the Holy Spirit, for ever. Amen.

## A PRAYER OVER THE OIL OF THE CATECHUMENS[[1]](#footnote-1)

Let the priest take the vessel of oil and say this prayer on it,

DEACON:

Pray ye.

PRIEST:

O Master, Lord God the Pantocrator, the Father of our Lord, God and Saviour Jesus Christ. We ask and entreat Thy goodness, O Lover of mankind, the One Only True God with Thine Only-begotten Son Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit, to look upon Thy creature, this oil, and make it to become for the casting out of demons and their magic and sorcery and all idolatry, and change it and manifest it as an oil for the anointing of catechumens, unto the making of the soul believing. In Christ Jesus our Lord. Through whom ...

## ANOTHER PRAYER OVER THE OIL

DEACON:

Pray ye.

PRIEST:

O Master, Lord God the Pantocrator, the Father of our Lord, God, and Saviour Jesus Christ, Thine Only-begotten Son and Logos, Who was crucified for as under Pontius Pilate, when he had made the good confession. We ask and entreat Thy goodness, O Lover of mankind, send Thine holy power upon this oil, make it to become oil of catechumens, availing against all workings of the adversary, and all witchcraft and all sorcery, and all idolatry, and for the overthrow of all evil things. Through Thine Only-begotten Son, our Lord, God and Saviour Jesus Christ. For Thine is the glory and the might, with Him and the Holy Spirit for ever. Amen.

Here shall the priest examine the condition of the children, whether there be earrings in their ears, or ornaments on their feet, or rings on their fingers or armlets, and shall order their removal. And he shall take the vessel of oil, and begin in order, the male children first, and then the female. Anoint his forehead, saying,

I anoint you \_\_\_\_\_, in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, One God, (with) oil of catechumens in the one, holy, catholic and apostolic church of God. Amen.

Anoint his breast and his hands and his back, saying,

May this oil bring to naught all assaults of the adversary. Amen.

DEACON:

Pray ye.

PRIEST:

Blessed art Thou O our Master, the Lord, the Pantocrator. Blessed is Thine Only-begotten Son Jesus Christ our Lord. Through whom Thou hast drawn all the nations out of darkness, unto the true and wonderful light, and from error and vanity of idols unto the knowledge of the truth.

DEACON:

Pray ye.

PRIEST:

These Thy servants hast Thou called by Thine holy and blessed Name. Write their names in Thy book, number them with Thy people and them that fear before Thee. Graciously grant them that they may grow in the faith, and remission of sins, preparing them to be a temple of Thine Holy Spirit, through Thine Only-begotten Son Jesus Christ our Lord. Through whom.

DEACON:

Let us entreat the Lord.

Let the priest enquire the name of those who are to be baptized, and pray over them, saying,

PRIEST:

Again let us ask God the Pantocrator, the Father of our Lord, God and Saviour Christ, for Thy servants who have given in their names, who have entered into the faith by Thy grace, that Thou make them worthy to attain the grace for which they have presented themselves, and that they may be cleansed from the sin that is in the world, and that they may be delivered from the slavery of corruption. For the authority of mercy is with Thee, O Pantocrator, the Lord our God.

DEACON:

Pray for them who have given in their names, that the Lord may make them worthy of Holy Baptism unto the remission of their sins.

PRIEST:

O Master, Lord God the Pantocrator, the Father of our Lord, God and Saviour Jesus Christ, We ask and entreat Thy goodness, O Lover of mankind, have mercy on Thy servants who have given in their names. Make them worthy of the grace for which they have presented themselves, that they may receive of Thine Holy Spirit, and may be filled with Thy divine power; that they be made like unto Thine Only-begotten Son, being one with Him, who is our Lord Jesus Christ. Grant them a purified mind and devout thoughts. And grant unto Thy servants that they may be preserved through the grace of Thine Holy Spirit, and lead them to the hope of Thine eternal benefits. Through Thine Only-begotten Son Jesus Christ our Lord. Through whom...

Let them kneel and let the deacon say, “Let us entreat the Lord.” And let the priest pray over them saying,

PRIEST:

Again let us ask with great fervour and entreat God the Pantocrator, the Father of our Lord, God and Saviour Jesus Christ, for his servants who have given in their names, that he open the ears of their heart, and kindle within them a light of knowledge, and persuade them to know the certainty of the words with which they have been instructed. Whose is the authority of mercy, the Pantocrator, the Lord our God.

DEACON:

Pray ye.

PRIEST:

O Master, Lord God the Pantocrator, the Father of our Lord, God and Saviour Jesus Christ, we ask and entreat Thy goodness, O Lover of mankind, that through the invocation of Thine Holy Name, all powers and all hostile and evil spirits may be cast out. Rebuke them and drive them out. For Thou hast called these Thy servants who come from darkness into light, from death to life, from error to the knowledge of the truth, from idolatry unto the knowledge of Thee the True God. Search the chambers of their hearts, Thou Who searched Jerusalem with a candle, let no evil sprit conceal himself within them. Grant them a saving purity, and bestow upon them eternal redemption. And beget them a second time by the washing of the new birth and remission of their sins; preparing them to be a temple of Thine Holy Spirit. Through Thine Only-begotten Son Jesus Christ our Lord. Through whom...

After this let the priest lay hands upon them, saying thus,

PRIEST:

In the name of the Only-begotten Son Jesus Christ, I purify and prepare beforehand this body. In the name of the Only-begotten Son Jesus Christ, may it be delivered from all demons and uncleanness. Let all darkness flee from this body, and let all unbelieving thoughts flee from this soul.

In the name of the Only-begotten Son Jesus Christ our Lord, you shall be purified, and be delivered from all demons for ever. Amen.

And then let him that is to be baptized be stripped. and let him look towards the West, with his right hand outstretched, and let him say thus as follows. But if he be a child, let his father or his mother or his sponsor[[2]](#footnote-2) say on his behalf thus,

I renounce you Satan, and all your unclean works, and all your wicked angels and all your evil demons, and all your power, and all your abominable service, and all your evil cunning and error, and all your host, and all your authority and all the rest of your impieties. I renounce you. I renounce you. I renounce you.

Then, let the priest breathe into the face of him that is to be baptized and say thrice,

Come out unclean spirit.

After this they shall be turned to the East, with both their hands uplifted, saying thus.

I profess Thee, O Christ my God, and all Thy saving laws, and all Thy quickening service, and all Thy life giving works. I believe in one God, God the Father the Pantocrator, and his Only-begotten Son Jesus Christ our Lord, and the Holy, life-giving Spirit, and the resurrection of the flesh, and the one only holy catholic and apostolic Church.

And you shall ask him thrice saying, Do you believe? And he shall say, I believe.

DEACON:

Let us entreat the Lord.

PRIEST:

O Master, Lord God the Pantocrator, the Father of our Lord, God and Saviour Jesus Christ, who hast created all things, Lord of heaven and earth, Who brought the knowledge of Thyself to them that dwell on earth through Thine Only-begotten Son our Lord Jesus Christ, Who has prepared the heavens for them through His calling, and has confirmed them in His power.

Confirm the profession of these Thy servants, let power dwell in them that they turn not back again to those things that they have left. Confirm their faith that nothing may separate them from Thee. And establish them upon the foundation of Thine apostolic faith, and call them into Thine holy light, and make them worthy of this great grace of Thine.

Strip them of their old condition, and renew their life. Fill them with the power of Thine Holy Spirit unto oneness and union with Thine Only-begotten Son; in order that they be no more natural sons, but sons of the truth, and become wise and faithful servants. Through Christ Jesus our Lord. Through whom...

The deacon says, “Bow down your heads unto the Lord.” And let them kneel and let the Priest Pray over them saying,

PRIEST:

O Master, our Saviour, beneficent Lover of mankind, to Thee alone is this mystery perfected. To Thee all knees bow, those in heaven and those on earth, and those which are beneath the earth, and all tongues confess Thee, saying, Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father, and Thy servants who have fled to Thee bowing their knees to Thee.

Wherefore we ask and entreat Thee, O Lover of mankind, search the chambers of their souls and enlighten the eyes of their understanding with the light of knowledge. All magic, all sorcery, all workings of Satan chase from them, all traces of idolatry and unbelief cast out of their heart. Prepare their souls for the reception of Thine Holy Spirit. And let them be worthy of the washing of the new birth, and of remission of sins. Preparing them to be a temple of Thine Holy Spirit, according to the good will of Thy Good Father and the Holy Spirit. Now, and forever ....

After this take the Hagielaion and anoint him that is to be baptized on his breast and his arms and over his heart behind, and between his two hands in the sign of the cross, saying,

PRIEST:

I anoint you \_\_\_\_\_ with the oil of gladness, availing against all workings of the adversary, unto your grafting into the sweet olive tree of the holy catholic Church of God. Amen.

The deacon says, “Amen.”

## A PRAYER OF THE LAYING ON OF HANDS ON THE CATECHUMENS

(after they are anointed with the Hagielaion)

DEACON:

Let us entreat the Lord.

PRIEST:

O Master, Lord God the Pantocrator, we call upon Thine holy and blessed Name, that Thou search out and chase away all apostate and hostile powers. We pray unto Thee, O our Master, through all Thy saints, search out the hearts of Thy servants who have presented themselves for the washing of Thy grace. If there be any guile of the devil hidden within them, disclose it and let it reveal itself, and chase it away from the souls and bodies of Thy servants who believe on Thine Holy Name, and give them newness of life. And make them worthy in stainlessness and purity to receive the light and the seal of Thy Christ, and the gift of Thine Holy and Co-essential Spirit, and that they may receive a robe of light, and be clothed with the garment of salvation, and the armour of faith which is invincible and un-conquerable of those who fight against us. May they be sheep of Thy flock, and sons of Thine heavenly bride-chamber, and heirs of Thine imperishable and eternal kingdom. In Christ Jesus our Lord. Through whom....

DEACON:

Pray ye.

PRIEST:

O Thou Who art, Master, Lord, God, who formed man after Thine image and Thy likeness, who has given unto us the privilege of everlasting life. And then, when he fell through sin, Thou hast not abandoned him, but hast ordained the salvation of the world through the incarnation of Thine Only-begotten Son, our Lord Jesus Christ.

On these, O Lord, who also are Thy creation have mercy, deliver them from the slavery of the enemy, receive them into Thy kingdom. Open the eyes of their heart, that they may be enlightened with the light of the gospel of Thy kingdom.

Let the angels of light accompany their life, to save them from the attacks of the adversary and from all evil assaults, and from the demon of the noonday, and from the arrow that flies by day, and from that which walks in darkness, and from phantoms of the night. Cast out of their heart every unclean spirit, the wicked spirit, even him that troubles their heart; the spirit of error and all evils; the spirit of avarice and of idolatry; the spirit of falsehood and all uncleanness which work after the teaching of the devil.

And make them sheep of the holy flock of Thy Christ, purified members of the catholic Church, purified vessels, sons of the light, heirs of Thy kingdom. That they may strive according to the commandments of Christ, and preserve the seal inviolate, and keep the garment unspotted, and may attain the blessedness of Thine elect. In Christ Jesus our Lord. Through whom...

## THE HALLOWING OF THE WATER OF BAPTISM

The priest shall enter into the baptistery, and take the unmixed oil, and pour it into the baptismal tank in the form of the cross, saying, “In the name of the Father, etc. Blessed, etc.” And he shall say this prayer secretly,

PRIEST:

Call Thy servants, O my Master, to Thine holy light. Make them worthy of this great grace of holy Baptism. Strip off from them the old man. Beget them again to life eternal. Fill them with the power of Thine Holy Spirit unto the knowledge of Thy Christ, that they may be no more natural sons, but sons of Thy kingdom. Through the goodwill of the grace of Thine Only-begotten Son Jesus Christ our Lord. Through whom....

After this the priest says the prayer of Thanksgiving, and offers the Incense. Then let the Pauline Epistle be read,

### THE PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

PRIEST:

Let us give thanks to the beneficent and merciful God, the Father of our Lord, God and Saviour, Jesus Christ. For He has covered us, helped us, guarded us, accepted us to Him, spared us, supported us, and has brought us to this hour.

Let us also ask Him, the Lord our God, the Pantocrator, to guard us in all peace this holy day and all the days of our life.

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| DEACON: |  |
| Pray. | Prosevexasté. |
| CONGREGATION: |  |
| Lord have mercy. | Kyrié eleison. |

PRIEST:

O Master, Lord, God the Pantocrator, the Father of our Lord, God and Saviour, Jesus Christ, we thank Thee for everything, concerning everything, and in everything. For Thou hast covered us, helped us, guarded us, accepted us to Thee, spared us, supported us, and hast brought us to this hour.

DEACON:

Pray that God have mercy and compassion on us, hear us, help us and accept the supplications and prayers of His saints, for that which is good, on our behalf, at all times, and forgive us our sins.

CONGREGATION:

Lord have mercy.

PRIEST:

Therefore, we ask and entreat Thy Goodness, O Lover of mankind, grant us to complete this holy day, and all the days of our life, in all peace with Thy fear.

All envy, all temptation, all the work of Satan, the counsel of wicked men and the rising up of enemies, hidden and manifest, take them away from us, and from all Thy people, and from this font, and from this holy place that is Thine.

But those things which are good and profitable do Thou provide for us, for it is Thou Who has given us the authority to tread on serpents and scorpions, and upon all the power of the enemy.

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, by the grace, compassion and love of mankind, of Thine Only Begotten Son, our Lord, God and Saviour, Jesus Christ. Through Whom the glory, the honour, the dominion, and the adoration are due unto Thee, with Him, and the Holy Spirit, the Giver of Life, Who is of One Essence with Thee, now, and at all times, and unto the age of all ages. Amen.

CONGREGATION:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| We worship Thee, O Christ, with Thy Good Father and the Holy Spirit, for Thou hast {come} and saved us. (Have mercy on us.) | Ten oo‑osht Emmok: O Pi Khristos: nem Pek Yot en Aghathos: nem pi Pnevma Eth‑owab: je {Ak ee} ak soti emmon. (Nai nan.) |

### TITUS 2:12 - 3:8

*A chapter from the Epistle of our teacher Paul to Titus. His blessing be upon us. Amen.*

For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world; Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ; Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works.

These things speak, and exhort, and rebuke with all authority. Let no man despise thee. Put them in mind to be subject to principalities and powers, to obey magistrates, to be ready to every good work, To speak evil of no man, to be no brawlers, but gentle, shewing all meekness unto all men. For we ourselves also were sometimes foolish, disobedient, deceived, serving divers lusts and pleasures, living in malice and envy, hateful, and hating one another. But after that the kindness and love of God our Saviour toward man appeared, Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost; Which he shed on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Saviour; That being justified by his grace, we should be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

*The grace of God the Father be with you all. Amen.*

The mystery of the Pauline shall be said, according to the custom, and the Catholic Epistle shall be read,

### I JOHN 5:5-13

*The Catholic Epistle from the Second Epistle of our teacher John. His blessing be upon us. Amen.*

Who is he that overcometh the world, but he that believeth that Jesus is the Son of God? This is he that came by water and blood, even Jesus Christ; not by water only, but by water and blood. And it is the Spirit that beareth witness, because the Spirit is truth. For there are three that bear record in heaven, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost: and these three are one. And there are three that bear witness in earth, the spirit, and the water, and the blood: and these three agree in one. If we receive the witness of men, the witness of God is greater: for this is the witness of God which he hath testified of his Son. He that believeth on the Son of God hath the witness in himself: he that believeth not God hath made him a liar; because he believeth not the record that God gave of his Son.

And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life. These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God. *Do not love the world, nor the things which are in the world. The world shall pass away and all its desires; but he who does the will of God shall abide forever. Amen.*

The mystery of the Catholic Epistle shall be said, according to the custom, followed by the Absolution of the Father, and the Praxis shall be read,

The congregation may now sing the Praxis response appropriate to the season, or the following ordinary response:

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| --- | --- |
| Hail to you, Mary, the fair dove, who has borne unto us God the Logos. | Shéré ne Maria: ti etchrompi ethnesos: thi et as misi nan: em Ef Nooti pi Logos. |

Whether or not the preceding is said, the congregation sings:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Blessed art Thou in truth, with Thy Good Father and the Holy Spirit, for Thou hast {come} and saved us. (Have mercy on us.) | Ek esmaro oot alithos: nem Pek Yot en Aghathos: nem pi Pnevma Eth owab: je {Ak ee} ak soti emmon. (Nai nan.) |

### ACTS8:26-39

*A chapter from the Acts of our fathers the pure Apostles, who were invested with the grace of the Holy Spirit. Their blessing be with us all. Amen.*

And the angel of the Lord spake unto Philip, saying, Arise, and go toward the south unto the way that goeth down from Jerusalem unto Gaza, which is desert. And he arose and went: and, behold, a man of Ethiopia, an eunuch of great authority under Candace queen of the Ethiopians, who had the charge of all her treasure, and had come to Jerusalem for to worship, Was returning, and sitting in his chariot read Esaias the prophet. Then the Spirit said unto Philip, Go near, and join thyself to this chariot. And Philip ran thither to him, and heard him read the prophet Esaias, and said, Understandest thou what thou readest? And he said, How can I, except some man should guide me? And he desired Philip that he would come up and sit with him.

The place of the scripture which he read was this, He was led as a sheep to the slaughter; and like a lamb dumb before his shearer, so opened he not his mouth: In his humiliation his judgment was taken away: and who shall declare his generation? for his life is taken from the earth. And the eunuch answered Philip, and said, I pray thee, of whom speaketh the prophet this? of himself, or of some other man?

Then Philip opened his mouth, and began at the same scripture, and preached unto him Jesus.

And as they went on their way, they came unto a certain water: and the eunuch said, See, here is water; what doth hinder me to be baptized? And Philip said, If thou believest with all thine heart, thou mayest. And he answered and said, I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God. And he commanded the chariot to stand still: and they went down both into the water, both Philip and the eunuch; and he baptized him. And when they were come up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord caught away Philip, that the eunuch saw him no more: and he went on his way rejoicing. *The word of the Lord abides in this church and in every church. Amen.*

### THE HYMN OF THE TRISAGION

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal, Who was born of the Virgin, have mercy upon us. | Agios O Thé‑os: Agios Ees‑shiros: Agios Athanatos: O ek Partheno gennethis: eleison imas. |
| Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal, Who was crucified for us, have mercy upon us. | Agios O Thé‑os: Agios Ees‑shiros: Agios Athanatos: O stavrothis di imas: eleison imas. |
| Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal, Who rose from the dead and ascended into the heavens, have mercy upon us. | Agios O Thé‑os: Agios Ees‑shiros: Agios Athanatos: O anastasis ek ton nekron: ke anelthon ees toos ooranoos: eleison imas. |
| Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, both now, and al­ways, and unto the ages of ages. Amen. O Holy Trinity, have mercy upon us. | Doxa Patri ke Eio: ke Agio Pnevmati: ke nyn ke a‑ee: ke ees toos é‑onas ton é‑onon: Amen: Agia Trias: eleison imas. |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| PRIEST: |  |
| Pray. | Eshlil. |
| DEACON: |  |
| Stand up for prayer. | Epi prosevki stathité. |
| PRIEST: |  |
| Peace be with all. | Irini pasi. |
| CONGREGATION: |  |
| And with your spirit. | Ke to pnevmati soo. |

### THE PRAYER FOR THE GOSPEL

PRIEST:

O Master, Lord, Jesus Christ our God, Who said to His saintly, honoured Disciples and holy Apostles, “Many prophets and righteous men have desired to see the things which you see, and have not seen them, and to hear the things which you hear, and have not heard them. But blessed are your eyes for they see, and your ears for they hear.”

May we be worthy to hear and to act [according to] Thine Holy Gospels, through the prayers of Thy saints.

DEACON:

Pray for the Holy Gospel.

CONGREGATION:

Lord have mercy.

PRIEST:

Remember also, O our Master, all those who have bidden us to remember them in our supplications and prayers which we offer up unto Thee, O Lord our God.

 Those who have already fallen asleep, repose them. Those who are sick, heal them.

For Thou art the life of us all, the salvation of us all, the hope of us all, the healing of us all, and the resurrection of us all; and to Thee we send up the glory, and the honour, and the adoration, together with Thy Good Father and the Holy Spirit, the Giver of Life, Who is of One Essence with Thee, now, and at all times, and unto the age of all ages. Amen.

### PSALM 31:1-2

*A Psalm of David.*

Blessed are they whose iniquities are forgiven: and whose sins are covered. Blessed is the man unto whom the Lord hath not imputed sin: and in whose mouth there is no guile. *Alleluia.*

### JOHN 2:1-21

*A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Saint John. His blessing be upon us all, Amen.*

There was a man of the Pharisees, named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews: The same came to Jesus by night, and said unto him, Rabbi, we know that thou art a teacher come from God: for no man can do these miracles that thou doest, except God be with him. Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God. Nicodemus saith unto him, How can a man be born when he is old? can he enter the second time into his mother's womb, and be born? Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again. The wind bloweth where it listeth, and thou hearest the sound thereof, but canst not tell whence it cometh, and whither it goeth: so is every one that is born of the Spirit. Nicodemus answered and said unto him, How can these things be? Jesus answered and said unto him, Art thou a master of Israel, and knowest not these things? Verily, verily, I say unto thee, We speak that we do know, and testify that we have seen; and ye receive not our witness. If I have told you earthly things, and ye believe not, how shall ye believe, if I tell you of heavenly things? And no man hath ascended up to heaven, but he that came down from heaven, even the Son of man which is in heaven. And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up: That whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have eternal life. For God so loved the world, that he gave his Only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved. He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the Only begotten Son of God. And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. For every one that doeth evil hateth the light, neither cometh to the light, lest his deeds should be reproved. But he that doeth truth cometh to the light, that his deeds may be made manifest, that they are wrought in God. *Glory be to God forever.*

PRIEST:

O long-suffering One, abounding in mercy, and true, receive our prayers and our supplications, receive our invocations and our confessions upon Thine holy and spotless heavenly altar. May we be worthy to hear Thine holy Gospels, and may we keep Thy commandments, and Thy truths, and Thine holy ordinances, and may we bear fruit in them, in an hundred-fold, and in sixty-fold and in thirty-fold.

The priest then says the Seven Long Prayers as follows, starting with the Prayers for the Sick, the Travellers, the Waters and the King (Ruler):

PRIEST:

We ask and entreat Thy Goodness, O Lover of mankind: remember, O Lord, the king (ruler) of our land, Thy servant.

DEACON:

Pray for our Christ-loving king.

Or he shall say,[[3]](#footnote-3)

DEACON:

Pray that Christ our God may give us mercy and compassion before the mighty sovereigns, and soften their hearts towards us, for that which is good at all times, and forgive us our sins.

CONGREGATION:

Lord have mercy.

PRIEST:

Keep him in peace, truth and strength. Subject under him all the barbarians, the nations who desire war against all our fertile (lands). Speak Thou to his heart concerning the peace of Thine One, Only, Holy, Catholic and Apostolic Church. Give him that he may think peacefully towards us and towards Thine Holy Name, that we too may lead a quiet and peaceable life, and may be found in all piety and all chastity in Thee.

CONGREGATION:

Lord have mercy.

The Prayers for the Departed and the Offerings are then said, followed by the Prayer for the Catechumens:

PRIEST:

We ask and entreat Thy Goodness, O Lover of mankind: remember, O Lord, Thy servants, the catechumens of Thy people.

DEACON:

Pray for the catechumens of our people, that the Lord may bless them and confirm them in the Orthodox Faith, to the last breath, and forgive us our sins.

CONGREGATION:

Lord have mercy.

PRIEST:

Have mercy on them; confirm them in the Faith in Thee. All traces of idolatry cast out of their heart. Thy law, Thy fear, Thy commandments, Thy truths, and Thine holy ordinances, establish in their heart. Grant them that they may know the certainty of the words with which they have been instructed. At the appointed time, may they be worthy of the washing of the new birth, unto forgiveness of their sins, preparing them to be a temple of Thine Holy Spirit. Through the grace *…*

DEACON:

Let us entreat the Lord.

PRIEST:

O God of the prophets and Lord of the Apostles, who hast proclaimed the coming of Thy Christ through Thine holy prophets from the beginning. Who sent John the prophet and forerunner before Him.

We ask and entreat Thee, O Lover of mankind, send Thine holy power that it may come upon this Baptism, and may give power to Thy servants and may prepare them that they may be able to receive the holy Baptism of the new birth, unto the remission of their sins and the hope of incorruption. Through Thine Only-begotten Son Jesus Christ our Lord. Through whom....

## A PRAYER OF LAYING ON OF HANDS

Thy servants, O Lord, who are serving Thee, entreating Thine Holy Name, and bowing down their heads to Thee, dwell in them O Lord; walk among them; aid them in every good deed; wake their heart from every vile earthly thought. Grant them to live and think pertaining to the living, and understand the things that are Thine Through Thine Only-begotten Son, our Lord, God and Saviour Jesus Christ, Through whom.....

CONGREGATION:

Saved! Amen.

The priest shall prostrate himself over the Baptismal font and say this invocation, secretly,

O merciful, compassionate, long suffering God, who. searchest the hearts and reins, and alone knows the secrets of men, for no deeds of men are unrevealed before Thee, but all are laid bare and laid open before Thee. O Thou Who knows all else of me, despise me not, nor turn Thy face away from me, but let all my transgressions flee away from me in this hour, O Thou who forgives the sins of men and leads them to repentance. Wash away the defilement of my soul and body, cleanse me perfectly by Thine invisible power, and Thy spiritual right hand, in order that I may not call others to seek absolution at my hands and give it them, namely, the faith which Thy great and unspeakable love of mankind has prepared, and I myself as a servant of sin remain reprobate.

Nay, O Master, alone without sin, the Only Good One and Lover of mankind, let not him that is humbled and ashamed be rejected, but be unto me a forgiver. Send down from Thine holy place on high Thy power. Strengthen me that I may fulfil the ministry of this great mystery which was first constituted in heaven.

May Christ take form in them that are to receive the baptism of the new birth through me, I, who myself receive of Him. Build them upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, and root them not up ever. Plant them in a planting of the truth in Thine one only catholic apostolic Church, that advancing in godliness, in every place, Thine Holy Name, glorious before all the ages, may be glorified, O Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Now...

After this the priest shall say the three great prayers namely, the Peace, the Fathers, the Congregations; then the Creed is recited,

### THE ORTHODOX CREED

We believe in One God: God the Father, the Pantocrator, Who created heaven and earth, and all things seen and unseen.

We believe in One Lord: Jesus Christ, the Only-Begotten Son of God, begotten of the Father before all ages. Light of Light; True God of True God; begotten, not created; of One Essence with the Father; by Whom all things were made; Who, for us men and for our salvation, came down from heaven, and was incarnate of the Holy Spirit, and of the Virgin Mary, and became man.

And He was crucified for us under Pontius Pilate; suffered and was buried; and the third day He rose from the dead, according to the Scriptures. Ascended into the heavens, He sits at the right hand of His Father; and He is coming again in His glory, to judge the living and the dead; Whose Kingdom shall have no end.

Yes, we believe in the Holy Spirit: the Lord, the Giver of Life, Who comes forth from the Father; Who, with the Father and the Son, is worshipped and glorified; Who spoke by the prophets.

And in One, Holy, Catholic and Apostolic Church, we confess One Baptism, for the remission of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the coming age. Amen.

Then the priest shall take the holy oil,[[4]](#footnote-4) and pour it in the Jordan (that is the font) three times in the form of the Cross, for the hallowing of the water, saying,

PRIEST:

In the Name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit: One God. Blessed be God the Father, the Pantocrator. Amen. Blessed be His Only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ our Lord Amen. Blessed be the Holy Spirit, the Paraclete. Amen.

DEACON:

Let us entreat the Lord.

PRIEST:

O Creator of the waters, Maker of all, we call upon Thine holy and eternal power, the Name which is above every name, of Thine Only-begotten Son Jesus Christ our Lord, who was crucified for us under Pontius Pilate. We pray Thee, O our Master, for Thy servants, change, transform, hallow them, give them power, that through this water and this oil, all adverse powers may be brought to nought, all evil spirits restrain, confound, and render helpless; all magic, all sorcery, all idolatry, all witchcraft bring to nought.

Here he shall breathe upon the water three times in the form of the cross, saying,

PRIEST:

Hallow this water and this oil that they may be for the washing of the new birth. Amen.

Unto eternal life. Amen.

A garment of incorruption. Amen.

A grace of Sonship. Amen.

A renewing of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

For it was Thine Only-begotten Son our Lord Jesus Christ, who went down into Jordan and purified it. He bare witness saying, except a man be born of water and spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God. Again he commanded his holy disciples and saintly apostles, saying, Go teach all the nations baptizing them (here he shall seal the water thrice with the cross)

In the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Receive us, O Mighty One, and save us, O Holy One. Thunder, O God the Father the Pantocrator, upon these waters, that through them and Thine Holy Spirit Thou mayest beget again in Thy divine power Thy servants who have presented themselves to Thee. Make them worthy of the remission of their sins and of the garment of incorruption. By the grace....

DEACON:

Pray for perfect peace, love, and the holy Apostolic kisses. Lord have mercy. Greet one another with a holy kiss.

The people shall sing this Aspasmos,

CONGREGATION:

Behold John the Baptist had witnessed saying, “I have baptized the Lord in the waters of the Jordan; And heard the voice of the Father saying, ‘This is my beloved Son, in Whom I am pleased.’” O our Lord Jesus Christ who was baptized in the river Jordan, cleanse us from all blemish, and forgive us our sins.

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| --- | --- | --- |
| Through the inter­cessions of the holy Mother of God, Mary, O Lord, grant us the forgiveness of our sins. | Hiten ni presvia: enté ti Thé‑otokos eth‑owab Maria: Ep Chois ari eh­mot nan: em pi ko-evol: enté nen novi. | Bi shafa’at Walid­atil Ilah el qiddisa Mariam, ya Rabb an’im lana bi maghfirat khata­yana. |
| Through the intercessions of the three holy luminaries, Michael, Gabriel and Raphael, O Lord, grant us the forgiveness of our sins. |  |  |
| Through the intercessions of the forerunner, the baptist, John the baptizer, O Lord, grant us the forgiveness of our sins. | Hiten ni presvia: enté pi prodromos em baptistis: Yo-annis pi Refti-oms: Ep Chois ari eh-mot nan: em pi ko-evol: enté nen novi. |  |
| We worship Thee, O Christ, with Thy Good Father and the Holy Spirit, for Thou hast {come} and saved us. | Ten oo‑osht Em­mok O Pi Khris­tos: nem Pek Yot en Aghathos: nem pi Pnevma Eth‑owab: je {Ak ee} ak soti emmon. | Nasgudu Lak ayyuhal Masih, ma’ Abika‑a Sale wa‑a Ruh el‑Qodos, li‑annaka {atayta} wa khallastana. |
| A mercy of peace, a sacrifice of praise. | Elé-os irinis thisia: é-ne sé-os. | Rahhmatus sa-laam, zabihatut tasbeeh. |

DEACON:

Offer in order. Stand ye. Look towards the east.

CONGREGATION:

A mercy of peace, a baptism of praise.

PRIEST:

The love of God the Father, and the grace of the Only-begotten Son, our Lord, God and Saviour Jesus Christ, and the communion and the gift of the Holy Spirit, be with you all.

CONGREGATION:

And with your spirit.

PRIEST:

Lift up your hearts.

CONGREGATION:

We have them with the Lord.

PRIEST:

Let us give thanks to the Lord.

CONGREGATION:

It is meet and right.

PRIEST:

Meet and right, Meet and right, Meet and right. We lift up our eyes unto Thee, O Lord, and the eyes of our souls look up to Thee O Lord our God. And we pray Thee O Lord the Pantocrator, God of our fathers, Who has created heaven and earth and all their adornments, Who has created the waters above the heaven, Who has established the earth upon the water, Who gathered the water into one gathering place, Who has bound the sea and confined the depths, and sealed them with His glorious and fearful Name, before Whose power all things fear and tremble. Thou, O our Master, hast establish the sea by Thy power, Thou hast broken the heads of the dragon in the waters.

DEACON:

You who are seated, stand.

PRIEST:

Thou didst divide the fountains and the torrents, and made a path through the waters. O God, the waters saw Thee and were afraid, and the depths were troubled. Thou looked upon the waters of the Red Sea, and through fear of Thee Thou made them to stand, and made Israel to pass over, and by Moses Thou hast baptized them all.

DEACON:

Look towards the east.

PRIEST:

Thou hast commanded the hard rock, and it did pour forth water for Thy people, and the bitter waters also Thou hast changed into sweet waters. Thou again through Joshua son of Naue hast turned back the streams of running water. For Thou art fearful, who can stand before Thy face? And the sacrifice of Elijah out of water Thou hast received with fire from heaven. Thou again O our Master, through Thy prophet Elisha hast manifested forth water giving birth to life, and Naaman the Syrian Thou hast cleansed by the waters of the Jordan. For Thou hast power over all things, and nothing is impossible with Thee.

CONGREGATION:

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| --- | --- | --- |
| Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord of Hosts, heaven and earth are full of Thine holy glory. | Agios Agios Agios: Kirios Saba-oth: epliris o ooranos: ke ee gee tis agias: Soo doxis. | Quddoos, Quddoos, Quddoos, Rabbu es-Saba-ot, as-samaa wal ardu mamlu-atani men magdikal aqdas. |

PRIEST:

Holy, Holy, O Lord, and Holy art Thou in every thing. Now also, O our Master, the Lord of the powers, and King of the heavenly orders, behold, O Thou Who sits upon the Cherubim, manifest Thyself and look upon this, Thy creature, this water, give unto it the grace of the Jordan and the power and the strength of heaven. And upon the coming down of Thine Holy Spirit upon it,

Grant it the blessing of the Jordan. Amen.

Give it power that it may become water of life. Amen.

Holy water. Amen.

Water that cleanses sins. Amen.

Water of the washing of the new birth. Amen.

Water of sonship. Amen.

Grant unto this water that there remain not in it, nor descend into it with him that shall be baptized therein any evil spirit, or any unclean spirit, or any spirit of the day, or any spirit of the noonday, or any spirit of the evening or any spirit of the night, or any spirit of the air, or any spirit of the deep, or any of the diabolical spirits which are beneath the earth, but rebuke them with Thy power which is mighty. Let them be crushed before the sign of Thy Cross and Thine Holy Name which we entreat, which is full of glory and fearsome towards them that are against us.

That those who shall be baptized therein may put off the old man that is corruptible according to the deceitful lusts, and put on the new man which is renewed once again after the image of Him that created him, and that the light of the Truth may shine within them through the Holy Spirit, and that they may gain eternal life and the blessed hope. And may stand before the judgment seat of Christ and receive the heavenly crown and the forgiveness of their sins.

May this oil and this water blessed, full of glory and purified *(here he shall sign the water with the cross thrice saying,)* In the Name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit.

The thanksgiving of all Thy people, and those who have brought to Thee Thy servants their children, to the glory and honour of Thine Holy Name, Receive them upon Thine holy rational altar in heaven through the service of Thine holy angels and archangels.

O Lord save Thy people, bless Thine inheritance, pasture them, and raise them up forever. Keep them in the upright faith all the days of their life, set them in the love that surpasses everything and the peace which surpasses all understanding. Through the intercessions and prayers of the holy and full of glory Mother of God Mary, and the holy baptizer John the Baptist, and my lords and fathers the Apostles, and all the saints who have pleased Thee since the beginning. By the grace...

CONGREGATION:

Our Father…

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| DEACON: |  |
| Bow your heads to the Lord. | Tas kefalas ymon to Kyrio eklinaté. |
| CONGREGATION: |  |
| Before Thee, O Lord. | Enopion Soo Kyrié. |
| DEACON: |  |
| Let us attend with the fear of God. (Amen.) | Proskhomen Thé‑o meta fovoo. (Amen.) |
| PRIEST: |  |
| Peace be with all. | Irini pasi. |
| CONGREGATION: |  |
| And with your spirit. | Ke to pnevmati soo. |

The priest says the three absolutions, then the deacon says,

DEACON:

Saved, Amen, and with your spirit, in the fear of God let us attend.

PRIEST:

One is the Holy Father, One is the Holy Son, One is the Holy Spirit. Amen.

CONGREGATION:

Amen.

Then let the priest take the holy Myron, and pour a very little of it in the font thrice in the form of the cross to hallow the water each time.

The first time,

Blessed be God, the Father the Pantocrator. Amen

The second time,

Blessed be His Only Begotten Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The third time,

Blessed be the Holy Spirit the Paraclete. Amen.

Then let him say the Alleluia and the proper verses of the psalms, and let him stir the water, saying,

PRIEST:

The voice of the Lord is upon the waters, the God of glory has thundered, the Lord is upon the many waters. *Alleluia.* (Ps. 28)

The voice of the Lord is mighty, the voice of the Lord is of great beauty. *Alleluia.* (Ps. 28)

Come unto Him that you may be enlightened and your faces shall not be ashamed. *Alleluia.* (Ps. 33)

Come my children, hearken unto me that I may teach you the fear of the Lord. Alleluia*.* (Ps. 33)

We went through fire and water and Thou hast brought us unto rest. Alleluia. (Ps. 65)

Thou shalt sprinkle me with Thine hyssop, and I shall be clean: Thou shalt wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow. Alleluia.

Turn Thy face away from my sins, and all my iniquities Thou shalt blot out. Alleluia. (Ps. 50)

A pure heart Thou shalt create in me, O God; and an upright spirit renew within me. Alleluia. (Ps. 50)

The Lord has chosen Zion, He has chosen it for a habitation for Himself. *Alleluia.* (Ps. 131)

Then he shall say,

Bless me, lo, metanoia, forgive me my fathers and my brethren, pray on my behalf.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, both now and always and to the age of ages. Amen.

Blessed be the Lord that enlightens every man that comes into the world. Now and at all times and unto the age of all ages. Amen.

And the deacon leads him that is to be baptized from the west and brings him to the east over against the Jordan (the font) to the left of the priest. And the priest asks him his name, and immerses him thrice, and at each immersion he raises him up and breathes in his face. At the first immersion he shall say,

I baptize you \_\_\_\_\_ in the name of the Father.

The second time,

I baptize you \_\_\_\_\_ in the name of the Son.

The third time,

I baptize you \_\_\_\_\_ in the name of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

The congregation sings Psalm 150:

Praise God, in all His saints.

Praise Him, in the firmament of His power.

Praise Him, for His mighty acts.

Praise Him, according to the multitudes of His greatness.

Praise Him, with the sound of the trumpet.

Praise Him, with psaltery and harp.

Praise Him, with timbrel and chorus.

Praise Him, with strings and organs.

Praise Him, with pleasant sounding cymbals.

Praise Him, upon the cymbals of joy.

Let everything that has breath praise the Name of the Lord our God. Alleluia.

 Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

Now, and forever, and to the ages of ages. Amen. Alleluia.

Alleluia. Glory be to Thee, our God.

Alleluia. Glory be to our God.

Alleluia. O Jesus Christ, the Son of God, hear us and have mercy upon us.

## THE SEALING WITH THE HOLY MYRON

(and that which follows after)

Then, you shall take the Holy Myron and pray over it saying,

O Lord who alone art mighty who works all wonders and nothing is impossible with Thee, rather by Thy will Thy power works in all things.

Grant the Holy Spirit in the pouring out of the Holy Myron. Let it be a life-giving seal and a confirmation to Thy servants. Through Thine Only-begotten Son Jesus Christ our Lord. Through Whom ....

And after this the priest shall begin to anoint the children with the holy unction in the sign of the cross, each one with six and thirty crosses.

First, he shall sign the crown of the head, and the nostrils, and the mouth, and the right ear and the right eye, and the left eye, and the left ear. Altogether eight signs. And shall say,

In the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. An unction of the grace of the Holy Spirit. *Amen.*

Second, he shall sign the heart, and the navel, and the back and the spine, four signs, altogether twelve signs. And he shall say,

An unction of the pledge of the kingdom of the heavens. *Amen.*

Third, he shall sign the right shoulder joint above and in the armpit, and the right elbow joint, and around it, and the joint of the right palm and on its back, six signs, altogether eighteen. And he shall say,

An unction of participation in eternal life and immortality. *Amen.*

Fourth, he shall sign the left shoulder joint above and in the armpit, and the left elbow joint, and around it, and the joint of the left palm and its back, six signs, altogether twenty four, And he shall say,

A holy unction of Christ our God, and a seal that shall not be loosed. *Amen.*

Fifth, he shall sign the right hip joint and the right thigh, and the right knee joint and around it, and the joint of the tendon of the right foot and above it, six signs, altogether thirty, And he shall say,

The perfection of the grace of the Holy Spirit, and the breastplate of the faith and the truth. *Amen.*

Sixth, he shall sign the left hip joint and the left thigh, and the left knee joint and around it, and the joint of the tendon of the left foot and above it, six signs, altogether thirty six, And he shall say,

I anoint you \_\_\_\_\_ with a holy oil, in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. *Amen.*

And when the signing of each of the children is finished, he shall lay his hand on him and say,

May you be blessed with the blessing of the heavenly and the blessing of the angels. May the Lord Jesus Christ bless you, and in His Name *(here he shall breath in the face of him that has been baptized and say,)*

Receive the Holy Spirit and be a purified vessel; through Jesus Christ our Lord, Whose is the glory, with His Good father and the Holy Spirit, now and at all times...

After this, he shall clothe him that has bean baptized with a white garment, and he shall say,

A garment of eternal life and incorruption. *Amen.*

 After he has finished the signing and breathing on all the children, he shall say over them this prayer,

DEACON:

Let us entreat the Lord.

PRIEST:

O Master, Lord, God the Pantocrator, Who alone art eternal, the Father of our Lord, God and Saviour, Jesus Christ. Who hast commanded that Thy servants should be born (again) through the washing of the new birth. Thou hast granted them the forgiveness of their sins and the garment of incorruption and the grace of the sonship.

Thou also now, O our Master, do send down upon them the grace of Thine Holy Spirit, the Parasclete. Make them partakers in eternal life and immortality, That even as Thine Only-begotten Son, our Lord, God and Saviour, Jesus Christ did promise, that if they are born once again through water and the Spirit, they may be able to enter into the kingdom of the heavens.

In the Name and the power and the grace of Thine Only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, Through Whom...

After he has clothed them with the rest of their clothing, he shall say this prayer over the crowns,

PRIEST:

O Lord, God, the Pantocrator, the Father of our lord, God and Saviour Jesus Christ, Who hast crowned Thine holy apostles and Thy prophets and martyrs who have pleased Thee with unfading crowns.

Thou also now, do bless these crowns which we have prepared to set upon Thy servants who have been reconciled by the holy Baptism, that they may be unto them,

Crowns of glory and honour. Amen.

Crowns of blessing and honour. Amen.

Crowns of virtue and righteousness. Amen.

Crowns of wisdom and understanding. Amen.

Strengthen them that they may fulfill Thine ordinances and Thy commandments, that they may attain to the good things of the kingdom of the heavens. In Christ Jesus our Lord, Through Whom...

The priest girds each one of them with a girdle in the form of a cross and sets the crown on the head of each one of them, and says,

PRIEST:

Set, O Master, Lord God upon Thy servants crowns from heaven. Amen.

Crowns of glory. Amen.

Crowns of faith invincible and unconquerable. Amen.

Crowns of confirmation. Amen.

Crowns of righteousness. Amen.

Grant Thy servants that they may be filled with the grace of Thine Holy Spirit. Though the compassion and love towards mankind of Thine Only-begotten Son Jesus Christ our Lord. Through Whom...

Then shall he say these verses,

With glory and honour crown him.

The Father blesses, The Son crowns,

The Holy Spirit sanctifies and perfects him.

Worthy, worthy, worthy, is \_\_\_\_\_ the Christian

Then shall the priest say these verses and the congregation shall answer saying, Worthy (thrice)

Receive the Holy Spirit, you who have received the holy Baptism.

Receive the Spirit of God, Who has filled you with His good pleasure.

Jesus Christ, the Son of God the Father has filled you with power and grace, O blessed child who had received holy Baptism.

Receive the Spirit the Paraclete, and the heavenly blessing, through the unction of the holy Myron, O blessed child.

Receive mercy, and hope and faith and grace through Christ, the Only-begotten, O blessed child.

Receive the Spirit of joy through the King of power, O blessed child.

Receive the Spirit of rejoicing through Emmanuel our God, and the seal that can not be loosed, O blessed child.

Receive the Spirit filled with glory through Christ the King of glory, O blessed child.

You have received grace and blessing through our Lord Jesus Christ, O blessed child

You have become a dwelling place of the Holy Spirit, O blessed child.

A crown of gold, a crown of silver, a crown of pearl.

And at the end of the setting on of the crowns, the congregation shall respond with this verse,

Unfading crowns, the Lord has set upon the baptized holy ones of Jesus Christ.

Blessed art Thou in truth, O my Lord Jesus Christ, with Thy Good Father and the Holy Spirit, for Thou hast been baptized and saved us.

After he has baptized all the children, he shall pour water over his hands in the Jordan, and shall wash the surroundings of the Jordan and the cross. Then let the priest say this prayer over the Jordan for the release of the water,

PRIEST:

O Master, Lord God the Pantocrator, the creator of all out of that which was not through Thy true wisdom. Thou art He Who has gathered the waters from the beginning into one gathering place. Thou hast ordained order over all created things according to the greatness of Thy power and Thine infinite understanding.

Thou, O our Master hast made this water pure through the grace of Thy Christ and the coming down upon it of Thine Holy Spirit. It became to Thy servants who have been baptized therein a washing unto the new birth and a renewal from the oldness of error; they have been enlightened by the light of Thy Godhead.

We pray and entreat Thee, O Good One and lover of mankind, to change this water to its former nature, that it may return to the earth one more time, as at all other time; And that Thou be to us too, a helper and a deliverer, that we may glorify Thee at all times, O Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

And unto Thee, we send up the glory, the honour and the worship, now and at all times and unto the age of all ages. Amen.

Then, after this, he shall let the water go, taking care that none of it be put to any use at all. He shall be very careful of this.

After this give them of the holy mysteries. Then lay hands on them saying:

Blessed art Thou, O Lord God the Pantocrator, the Father of our Lord, God and Saviour Jesus Christ, Who has made his servants worthy of the laver of the new birth, and the forgiveness of sins, and the garment of incorruption, and the honourable pledge of Thy kingdom which is full of glory.

We ask and entreat Thee, O Lover of mankind, make them worthy of the communion of the holy and the precious blood of Thy Christ, which Thou hast firmly granted unto them.

That they may live according to Thy commandments and keep Thy holy ordinances, and may be worthy of the blessedness of Thy saints and of the kingdom of the heavens. Through the grace...

You shall bless them saying:

May Thy servants, O Lord grow in Thy wisdom. Give them understanding in Thy fear. Bring them to maturity. Grant them the knowledge of the Truth. Keep them in the faith without blemish.

Through the intercessions of the lady of us all, the holy Theotokos St. Mary, and the fore-runner John the Baptist and all the choirs of the saints and the prophets and the apostles and the martyrs and the cross bearers. Amen.

## THE ORDER OF THE LOOSING OF THE GIRDLE OF THOSE WHO HAVE BEEN BAPTIZED

That is a prayer over them that have been baptized, after the laver, on the eighth day. A basin is set containing clean water, and around it are set lit candles. And the priest says the Prayer of Thanksgiving (see page 16) and offers Incense by the Mystery of the Pauline Epistle. And after this shall be recited, glory be ... and Our Father and psalm 50 according to custom, and then;

### I CORINTHIANS 10:1-4

*A chapter from the First Epistle of our teacher Paul to the Corinthians His blessing be upon us. Amen.*

Moreover, brethren, I would not that ye should be ignorant, how that all our fathers were under the cloud, and all passed through the sea; And were all baptized unto Moses in the cloud and in the sea; And did all eat the same spiritual meat; And did all drink the same spiritual drink: for they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them: and that Rock was Christ. *The grace of God the Father be with you all. Amen.*

Then shall be said the Trisagion (Page 17) and the Prayer of the Gospel (Page 18).

### PSALM 31:1-2

*A Psalm of David.*

Blessed are they whose transgressions are forgiven, and whose sin are covered. Blessed is the man unto whom the LORD has not imputed sin and in whose mouth there is no guile. *Alleluia*.

### MATTHEW 3:1-6

*A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Saint Matthew. His blessing be upon us all. Amen.*

In those days came John the Baptist, preaching in the wilderness of Judaea, And saying, Repent ye: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand. For this is he that was spoken of by the prophet Esaias, saying, The voice of one crying in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. And the same John had his raiment of camel’s hair, and a leathern girdle about his loins; and his meat was locusts and wild honey. Then went out to him Jerusalem, and all Judaea, and all the region round about Jordan, And were baptized of him in Jordan, confessing their sins. *Glory be to God forver.*

The response:

This is my beloved Son/ in Whom my soul is pleased, and He has done my will. Hear ye Him for He is the Life-giver.

Intercede on our behalf, O lady of us all ...

Then the priest shall say the Three prayers, the peace, the Fathers and the congregations, and the people shall recite the Creed (see page 26). Then the priest shall say this prayer (and if they go to another village, let it be read over them after communion of the holy mysteries, namely, after the prayer of the laying on of the hands:

O Master Lord our God, Giver of peace and blessing, to Whom alone belongs goodness and love of mankind. Who hast blessed us and sanctified us and enlightened us with the light of His Godhead. Who has made His servants worthy to receive the ineffable light from on high of Thy Christ Jesus our saviour.

Enlighten them with the light of the blessing, purify them, bless them, renew them by Thy grace, through the Baptism they have received in the power of Thy life-giving Holy Spirit, O Thou Who hast purified them from all defilement of the body and the soul.

Yea, O Holy Master, bless them with Thy blessing, confirm them in Thy orthodox faith unto the end. Bring them to maturity and manhood. May they be watched over by good angels forever.

Fill them with knowledge and all understanding. Preserve their life unto pleasing Thee. Bless them, O Master with Thy holy blessing and take away from their hearts the spirit of turbulence and every spirit of error. May their heart be enlightened by the light of Thy Lordship. Make them worth of eternal life and the kingdom of the heavens. In Christ Jesus our Lord. Through Whom ....

A Psali that is sung for those who have been baptized in the eighth day or the day of Baptism after crowning before the commandment, or after the communion and its two prayers:

Magnify the Lord with me,

And let us exalt his name together,

For the grace which has been received

By this blessed little one, \_\_\_\_\_

And let us proclaim openly

With a voice of rejoicing (saying)

Be glad and rejoice in the Lord,

O blessed child.

Jesus Christ give thee,

Constancy and fruit,

And peace be unto you

O little one, \_\_\_\_\_

Let us gather together, O our spiritual fathers,

And our orthodox brethren,

That we may sing in canticles and doxologies,

And spiritual words.

In the Catholic and Apostolic,

Orthodox Church,

For the divine joy which has come to this blessed son \_\_\_\_\_

Who is of pure Christian stock.

Who bath been crowned with an heavenly crown,

Of the grace of Holy Baptism,

Through Christ the Lord, Glory be to him,

Who was baptized in the river Jordan.

At the hand of the Baptist forerunner,

John the baptizer,

The priest the son of the priest,

The cousin of Emmanuel.

Hail to thee, O John,

Son of Zacharias,

Who was worthy to lay you hand,

On the head of our good Saviour.

You are higher than the patriarchs,

Honoured above all the prophets,

For our Saviour lauded thee,

With his holy mouth saying,

None hath arisen among them born of women

Who is like unto thee,

Nor greater than thee,

O John the Baptist.

Hail to him that has seen the heavens opened,

And didst hear the voice of the Father,

Crying out and saying,

This is my beloved Son in whom I am well pleased.

And the Son standing,

In the river Jordan,

And the Holy Spirit coming down,

On his head like a dove.

And thou didst say,

O John, concerning him,

Behold the Lamb of God,

Which shall take away the sin of the world.

Thou didst witness again of him saying,

This is he of whom I spake,

He that cometh after me is preferred before me,

For he was before me.

And the Lord Christ (to him be glory) bade us with his pure mouth to perfect all good. And then he bade his pure disciples, Go ye into all the world, and preach the Gospel to them, and baptize them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost; and every one that believeth and is baptized shall be saved. For this Baptism is derived from the Lord Christ, and our lords the pure Apostles handed it down in Holy Baptism, for by it is forgiveness of sins, and entry into the kingdom of heaven, for it is a key to the heavenly paradise. Let us laud therefore this child with joyful voice, saying,

Worthy, worthy, worthy, is *\_\_\_\_\_,* the Christian.

Rejoice therefore Christian brethren, in this divine grace of which your children have been deemed worthy, the grace of Holy Baptism; and their reception of the divine Mysteries, the Body and Blood of Christ the only-begotten Son, the creator of every creature, which he hath poured out for the race of Adam. And this grace hath come, which belongeth to Holy Baptism, and the partaking of the life-giving divine mysteries unto eternal life for the forgiveness of sins, and the divine seal, the pledge of eternity in the abodes of light.

So let us laud this beloved brother, saying thus,

Worthy (thrice)

Let us give praise then, with Moses the prophet saying, Praise the Lord for he is gloriously glorified. And let us sing with David the Singer in the psalm thus, Wherefore God, even thy God, had anointed thee with the oil of gladness above thy fellows. For the oil of gladness is the oil of Chrism, the oil of the divine seal. Receive then the Holy Spirit, ye who have received the divine grace which belongs to Holy Baptism. Receive the glorious crowns from Jesus Christ, the king of kings and Lord of lords: Receive the grace, of the Holy Spirit, the Comforter, the giver of purity. Receive the angelic crown and the earnest of the Spirit. And thou, O baptized one, hast received the pledge of the kingdom of heaven in truth, and hast become a vessel for the Holy Spirit.

So let us give praise saying thus,

Worthy (thrice)

Let us worship the Holy Trinity, and let us entreat the multitude of His goodness, that this blessed child may grow in goodness; and that he may grant him a profitable and prosperous age, and give him increase in days and raise him in works well pleasing to him. And that he may be promoted to the priestly orders. May He assemble in union the children of the Orthodox Church, in harmony and spiritual love, and that her children may grow with a growth that is good and well pleasing; that they may be like unto good fruitful, ever growing trees. May He incline the hearts of them that rule over us towards us. And that he bring to nought counsels of our adversaries, and everyone that meditates against us evil thoughts.

Through the intercessions of the Lady, the pure virgin Lady Mary, ‘the undefiled, and all the angels of light, and the holy John, who baptized in the river Jordan and the rest of the fathers and the prophets, and all that do the works of pleasing (to the Lord) and our lords the pure apostles, and all the martyrs and holy saints, now and always and for ever and ever. Amen.

Then shall the people say,

 Our Father which art in heaven...

And the priest shall say, the three absolutions

The deacon says,

Saved, Amen. And with thy spirit.

And the priest shall sign the water in the form of the holy Cross three times, and shall say,

One holy Father, one holy Son, one Holy Spirit. Amen (thrice)

The people shall sing Psalm 150 (see page 35).

Then they shall say, “John bare witness...” and shall finish it according to custom in a joyful tone. And he shall bath the child in the water, and his girdle, and his baptismal robe that is on his body. And the water should flow away into the sea or stream or into a holy place.

# VERSES OF VENERATION

(See the “Coptic Hymnal” for the full Veneration)

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| In the Name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit, the Holy and Co-Essential Trinity. | Khen ef Rän em ef Yot nem ep Shiri: nem pi Pnevma Eth-owab: ti Trias Eth-owab en Omoosios. |
| Worthy, worthy, worthy [is] Saint Mary the Virgin. | Axia: axia: axia: ti Agia Maria ti Parthenos. |
| Worthy, worthy, worthy [is] \_\_\_\_\_ the Christian. | Axios: axios: axios: \_\_\_\_\_ pi Khristainos. |

1. There are three oils used among the Copts, the oil of Catechumens, the Hagielaion or oil of gladness (or of exorcism), and the Chrism or Myron [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. In the absence of parents, a Godfather or Godmother is allowed to say the renunciation and the profession. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. The first response is for a Christian king, the second for a non-Christian king (or other ruler.) [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. The Hagielaion or oil of gladness. [↑](#footnote-ref-4)