

The Order of Confession

Adapted for children from *The Great Book Of Needs*
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THE ORDER OF CONFESSION

In preparation for Confession a Gospel book and a Cross are placed on an icon-stand.

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

Reader: Amen.

Priest: Glory to Thee, our God, glory to Thee.

And together they sing, in Tone 6:

All: O Heavenly King, / Comforter, Spirit of Truth, / Who art everywhere present / and fillest all things, / Treasury of good things / and Giver of Life, / come and dwell in us, / and cleanse us of all impurity, // and save our souls, O Good One.

Reader: Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal, have mercy on us. *(3 times)*

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. O Lord, cleanse away our sins, O Master, pardon our iniquities. O Holy One, visit and heal our infirmities, for Thy Name's sake.

Lord, have mercy. *(3 times)*

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, 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 debts as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.

Priest: 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 the ages of ages.

Reader:

Amen.

Lord, have mercy. (*12 times*)

O come let us worship God our King.

O come let us worship and fall down before Christ our King and our God.

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

Psalm 50

Have mercy on me, O God, according to Thy great mercy; and according to the multitude of Thy compassions blot out my transgression.

Wash me thoroughly from mine iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin.

For I know mine iniquity, and my sin is ever before me.

Against Thee only have I sinned and done this evil before Thee, that Thou mightest be justified in Thy words, and prevail when Thou art judged.

For behold, I was conceived in iniquities, and in sins did my mother bear me.

For behold, Thou hast loved truth; the hidden and secret things of Thy wisdom hast Thou made manifest unto me.

Thou shalt sprinkle me with hyssop, and I shall be made clean; Thou shalt wash me, and I shall be made whiter than snow.

Thou shalt make me to hear joy and gladness; the bones that be humbled, they shall rejoice.

Turn Thy face away from my sins, and blot out all mine iniquities.

Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.

Cast me not away from Thy presence, and take not Thy Holy Spirit from me.

Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation, and with Thy governing Spirit establish me.

I shall teach transgressors Thy ways, and the ungodly shall turn

back unto Thee.

Deliver me from blood-guiltiness, O God, Thou God of my salvation; my tongue shall rejoice in Thy righteousness.

O Lord, Thou shalt open my lips, and my mouth shall declare Thy praise.

For if Thou hadst desired sacrifice, I had given it; with whole-burnt offerings Thou shalt not be pleased.

A sacrifice unto God is a broken spirit; a heart that is broken and humbled God will not despise.

Do good, O Lord, in Thy good pleasure unto Sion, and let the walls of Jerusalem be builded.

Then shalt Thou be pleased with a sacrifice of righteousness, with oblation and whole-burnt offerings.

Then shall they offer bullocks upon Thine altar.

And then these Troparia are sung in Tone 6:

All: Have mercy on us, O Lord, have mercy on us; / for at a loss for any defense, / this prayer do we sinners offer Thee as Master; // have mercy on us.

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

Lord have mercy on us, for we have hoped in Thee, / be not angry with us greatly, neither remember our iniquities; / but look upon us now as Thou art compassionate, / and deliver us from our enemies, / for Thou art our God, and we, Thy people; // all are the works of Thy hands, and we call upon Thy name.

Both now and ever, and unto the ages of ages. Amen.

The door of compassion open unto us / O blessed Theotokos, / for hoping in thee, let us not perish; / through thee may we be delivered from adversities, // for thou art the salvation of the Christian race.

Reader: Lord, have mercy. *(40 times)*

The priest says:

Priest: Let us pray to the Lord.

All: Lord, have mercy.

Priest: O God, our Saviour, Who, by Thy prophet Nathan didst grant remission of his sins to the repentant David, and didst accept the penitent prayer of Manasseh: Do Thy Thyself, in Thy customary love for mankind, accept these, Thy servants here present, who repent of the sins they have committed, overlooking all that they have done, forgiving them unrighteousness, and passing by their transgressions. For Thou, O Lord, hast said: "I desire not the death of a sinner, but that he turn from his way and live"; and that sins shall be forgiven even unto seventy times seven. For as Thy majesty is incomparable, so is Thy mercy immeasurable. For if Thou shouldest mark iniquities, who should stand? For Thou are the God of them that repent and unto Thee do we send up glory: to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto the ages of ages.

All: Amen.

And another prayer:

Priest: Let us pray to the Lord.

All: Lord, have mercy.

Priest: O Lord Jesus Christ, Son of the Living God, the Shepherd, and the Lamb that takes away the sins of the world, Who gavest remittance unto the two debtors, and didst grant remission of her sins unto the harlot: Do Thou Thyself, O Master, loose, remit and pardon the sins, transgressions and iniquities, whether voluntary or involuntary, whether known or unknown, whether by mistake or in disobedience, which Thy servants have wrought, and whatsoever they have done, as children bearing flesh and living in the world, being beguiled by the devil. And if by word, or by deed, or in knowledge, or in ignorance they have sinned, do Thou Thyself, as Thou art good and gentle, O Master, be pleased that these Thy servants, be loosed by Thy word, forgiving them according to the greatness of Thy mercy. Yea, O Master and Lord, O Lover of mankind, hearken unto us who are entreating

Thy grace for these Thy servants; and, as the greatly-merciful One, overlook all their transgressions, and deliver them from eternal torment. For Thou hast said, O Master: "Whatsoever you shall bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatsoever you shall loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven". For Thou only art sinless, and unto Thee do we send up glory: to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto the ages of ages.

All: Amen.

After this, the Priest says to them:

Priest: Behold, Children, Christ invisibly stands here to hear your confession. Be not ashamed, neither be afraid, and hide nothing. Rather, fear not to tell all that you have done, so that you may receive forgiveness from our Lord Jesus Christ. Behold, his Icon is before us. And I am only the witness, that I may bear witness before Him of all that you tell me.

And first of all he shall question them concerning their faith, saying:

Priest: Tell me, Children: Do you believe that which has been transmitted and taught by the Holy Orthodox Church which was planted and nourished in the east, and which has spread from the east throughout the inhabited world and which abides even to this day undivided and unchanged?

And let them together sing the Symbol of Faith:

All: I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, Maker of Heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God, the Only-begotten, begotten of the Father before all ages; Light of Light: true God of true God; begotten, not made; 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 the Virgin Mary, and became man; And was crucified for us under Pontius Pilate, and suffered, and was buried; And arose again on the third day according to the Scriptures; And ascended into Heaven, and sitteth at the right hand of the Father; And shall come again, with glory, to judge both the living and the dead; Whose kingdom shall have no end.

And in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the Giver of Life; Who proceeds from the Father; Who with the Father and the Son together is worshipped and glorified; Who spake by the prophets.

In One, Holy, Catholic, and Apostolic Church. I confess one baptism for the remission of sins. I look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the age to come. Amen.

At this point each child in turn, standing before the Gospel book and the Cross, quietly confesses his or her sins. As each child confesses the others, standing at the kliros, read aloud the Prayers of Preparation for Holy Communion. After each child has confessed her or she kneels and the Priest says:

Priest: May our Lord and God, Jesus Christ, by the grace and compassion of His love for mankind, forgive you, child N., all your transgressions; and I, an unworthy priest, through His power given unto me, forgive you and absolve you from all your sins, in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

When all have confessed the Priest says:

Priest: Bow your heads.

Then they that have confessed bow their heads. And the Priest says this Prayer:

Priest: Let us pray to the Lord.

All: Lord, have mercy.

Priest: O Lord God of the salvation of Thy servants, Who art merciful, compassionate and long-suffering, Who repentest concerning our evil deeds, Who desirest not the death of a sinner, but that he

should turn from his way and live: Do Thou Thyself now be merciful unto Thy servants here present, and grant unto them an image of repentance, pardon and remission of sins, forgiving them every transgression, whether voluntary or involuntary. Reconcile and unite them to Thy Holy Church, through Jesus Christ our Lord, with Whom is due unto Thee power and majesty, now and ever, and unto the ages of ages. Amen.

Then the Priest says:

Priest: Wisdom! Most Holy Theotokos, save us!

All: More honourable than the Cherubim, / and beyond compare more glorious than the Seraphim, / who without corruption gavest birth to God the Word, // the very Theotokos, thee do we magnify.

Priest: Glory to Thee, O Christ, our God and our Hope, glory to Thee!

All: 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. *(3 times)*

Father, bless!

And the Dismissal.

All: Amen.