



*Burial Service for a Stillborn or  
Miscarried Infant*

Blessed for use in the Diocese of New York and New Jersey of the Orthodox Church in America by His Grace, The Right Reverend MICHAEL, Bishop of New York and the Diocese of New York and New Jersey. September 2012.

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

*Reader:* Amen. Glory to You, our God; glory to You!

O Heavenly King, The Comforter, the Spirit of Truth, You are everywhere and fill all things. Treasury of blessings and Giver of Life. Come and abide in us, and cleanse us from every impurity, and save our souls, O Good One.

### **The Trisagion Prayers**

Holy God! Holy Mighty! Holy Immortal! Have mercy on us. (3x)

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

O most-holy Trinity, have mercy on us!

O Lord, cleanse us from our sins!

O Master, pardon our transgressions!

O Holy One, visit and heal our infirmities, for Your name's sake!

Lord, have mercy. (3x)

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

Our Father, Who are 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 evil.

*Priest:* For Yours is the Kingdom, and the power, and the glory, of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages.

*Priest:* Let us pray to the Lord. (Lord, have mercy.)

*Priest:* O Lord, You have spoken through Your Prophet Isaiah saying, "For behold I create new heavens and a new earth; and the former things shall not be remembered or come to mind. But be glad and rejoice forever in that which I create; for behold, I create Jerusalem a rejoicing and her people a joy. No more shall there be in it an infant that lives but a few days."

O Lord our God, on that Day when You create the new heavens and a new earth, there will be no need to gather to mourn the loss of a child. On this day, we come with sadness to seek Your comfort. We mourn the loss of this child, (Name), known to the mother who carried him / her, to the father who generated him / her, and to us in our hopes and dreams.

O Lord our God, You have spoken through Your Prophet Jeremiah saying, "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you."

Blessed are You, God of compassion and consolation. You know the name and age of each person — even from our mother's womb. Accept the sorrow of us who are grieved by the loss of this baby. You know the desires of our hearts. Help us to have confidence in Your sustaining presence, this moment and in future days.

Through the prayers of all the Saints and the Theotokos,

grant us Your peace, O Lord, and have mercy on us, for You alone are compassionate and unto You do we send up glory, to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages.

*Choir:* Amen

### **The Great Litany**

*Priest:* In peace let us pray to the Lord.

*Choir:* Lord, have mercy. (*Refrain*)

*Priest:* For the peace from above and for the salvation of our souls, let us pray to the Lord.

*Priest:* For the peace of the whole world, for the welfare of the holy churches of God, and for the union of all, let us pray to the Lord.

*Priest:* For this holy house and for those who enter it with faith, reverence, and the fear of God, let us pray to the Lord.

*Priest:* For His Beatitude, our Metropolitan \_\_\_\_\_; for His Eminence / His Grace, our (Arch)Bishop \_\_\_\_\_; for the honorable priesthood, the diaconate in Christ, for all the clergy and the people, let us pray to the Lord.

*Priest:* For the President and all civil authorities of this country, and for those serving in its Armed Forces, let us pray to the Lord.

*Priest:* For this city, for every city and country, and for the faithful dwelling in them, let us pray to the Lord.

*Priest:* For seasonable weather, for an abundance of the fruits of the earth, and for peaceful times, let us pray to the Lord.

*Priest:* For the servants of God, all who have gathered here for prayer, for healing and strength, with all of their family and friends, let us pray to the Lord.

*Priest:* That the Lord God will be merciful to them, forgiving every sin and transgression, voluntary and involuntary, let us pray to the Lord.

*Priest:* That from the goodness of His heart, He will have mercy on His servants, and will pardon every sin committed from their youth to this present hour, granting healing to their afflicted bodies and souls, let us pray to the Lord.

*Priest:* That the Lord God will not turn His face away from His suffering servants, but will receive the prayers which we now offer for them, let us pray to the Lord.

*Priest:* That He will heal every illness and grief by the visitation of the Holy Spirit, let us pray to the Lord.

*Priest:* That He will quickly deliver the handmaiden of God (Mother's Name), from every pain and affliction, raising her from weakness and infirmity by the almighty word of God, let us pray to the Lord.

*Priest:* That the merciful Lord will hear the cries of us His unworthy servants as He heard the cries of the Canaanite woman and will heal and console His suffering servants, let us pray to the Lord.

*Priest:* That He will receive the infant, (Name), whom by His ineffable providence, He has taken from His mother's womb and will save him/her forever in life everlasting, let us pray to the Lord.

*Priest:* For our deliverance from all affliction, wrath, danger, and necessity, let us pray to the Lord.

*Priest:* Help us, save us, have mercy on us, and keep us, O God, by Your grace.

*Priest:* Commemorating our most holy, pure, most blessed and glorious Lady, the Theotokos and ever-virgin Mary with all the saints, let us commend ourselves and each other, and all our life unto Christ our God.

*Choir:* To You, O Lord.

*Priest:* O Lord our God, Your power is incomparable. Your glory is incomprehensible. Your mercy is immeasurable. Your love for mankind is inexpressible. Look down upon us and upon this holy house with compassion, O Master, and impart the riches of Your mercy and Your compassion unto us and unto those who pray with us,

For unto You are due all glory, honor, and worship: to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages.

*Choir:* Amen.

### **God is the Lord**

*Priest:* (Tone 4) God is the Lord, and has revealed Himself to us. Blessed is he that comes in the name of the Lord.

O give thanks to the Lord, for He is good; for His mercy endures forever!

*People:* God is the Lord, and has revealed Himself to us. Blessed is he that comes in the name of the Lord.

*Priest:* All nations surrounded me; but in the name of the Lord I destroyed them.

*People:* God is the Lord, and has revealed Himself to us. Blessed is he that comes in the name of the Lord.

*Priest:* I shall not die, but I shall live, and recount the deeds of the Lord.

*People:* God is the Lord, and has revealed Himself to us. Blessed is he that comes in the name of the Lord.

*Priest:* The stone which the builders rejected has become the head of the corner. This is the Lord's doing and it is marvelous in our eyes.

*People:* God is the Lord, and has revealed Himself to us. Blessed is he that comes in the name of the Lord.

### **Troparion (Tone 4)**

People: Troparion (Tone 4)

O Lord and Leader of the heavenly hosts,

You are the joy and gladness of Your servants.

Wherever You are, all sorrow is consumed.

Wherever You are not, all joy is in vain.



Look upon us sinners consumed with grief;

Reveal Your salvation to us and visit us who cry to You://

Grant that we may rejoice in Your mercy, O Lord, our Lord  
and our joy.

Glory.... [Tone 6]

Tasting of the fruit of the tree

Was painful for Adam in Eden of old,

For the serpent belched forth his poison.

By this action universal death entered  
and devoured humanity.

But when the Master came,

He subdued the dragon and gave us rest.

Let us cry aloud to Him://

“Spare, O Savior, and give rest among the saints to this  
little child.”

Now and ever...Amen. [Tone 6]

O Theotokos,

You are the consolation of mourners,

You defend the weak.

O Pure Virgin

Calm the tempest-tossed, //

And protect all the faithful.

### Canon – Ode 1 (Tone 8)

*Choir:* Crossing the water as though it were dry land escaping from Egypt and all its miseries, the Israelite raised his voice and cried aloud: "To our Redeemer and our God, now let us sing Your praise!"

*Priest:* Give rest to the soul of Your beloved infant, O Lord.

*Choir:* Give rest to the soul of Your beloved infant, O Lord.

*Priest:* O Word of God, You humbled Yourself and were pleased to become a babe for our sake; grant that this child whom You have accepted may forever enjoy heavenly bliss with the angels.

*Choir:* Give rest to the soul of Your beloved infant, O Lord.

*Priest:* Becoming Yourself a little child, O Lord, You did promise to children the Kingdom of Heaven: number therein this child whom You have taken.

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

*Choir:* Now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

*Priest:* O you who ineffably did bear the Wisdom and Word of the Father, heal the cruel wound of my soul, and appease the affliction of my heart.

### Ode 3

*Choir:* O Lord, You constructed the high vault of heaven and the Church has You as its builder; now establish me in Your love. You are the pinnacle of love and foundation of all who believe in You, O only Lover of mankind.

*Priest:* Give rest to the soul of Your beloved infant, O Lord.

*Choir:* Give rest to the soul of Your beloved infant, O Lord.

*Priest:* We pray You, O Good One: grant that this child, whom You have translated before he/she has tasted of life on this earth, may be a partaker of Your heavenly blessings.

*Choir:* Give rest to the soul of Your beloved infant, O Lord.

*Priest:* O Savior, You have translated to Yourself this child whose stature was not yet fulfilled; grant him/her rest with all the

just who are well-pleasing to You.

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

*Choir:* Now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

*Priest:* Deprived of all things, O most-pure Sovereign Lady, I flee unto your sole protection. Help me, for I have heaped up the riches of many sins, and am filled completely with poverty of virtues.

### **First Litany of Fervent Supplication**

*Priest:* Have mercy on us, O God, according to Your great goodness, we pray You, hear us and have mercy.

*Choir:* Lord, have mercy. (3x)

*Priest:* Again we pray for all Orthodox Christians, for all who are suffering for Christ, for all who are in sickness and sorrow, distress and affliction, for all who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, and for their salvation: We pray You, Lord, hear us and have mercy.

*Choir:* Lord, have mercy. (3x)

*Priest:* Again we pray for mercy, life, peace, health, salvation, visitation and forgiveness of sins for the servants of God, all who have gathered here for prayer, with their family and friends and all the weeping and grieving who are looking for the consolation of Christ, we pray You, Lord, hear us and have mercy.

*Choir:* Lord, have mercy. (3x)

*Priest:* Again we pray that You, O Lord our God will receive the prayers of us Your unworthy servants, offered in faith and gratitude for Your great love for man, and will send us comfort and strength in our sadness, we pray You, Lord, hear us and have mercy.

*Choir:* Lord, have mercy. (3x)

*Priest:* O healer of souls and bodies, with broken and repentant hearts, we fall down before You; heal Your servants, from every weakness and infirmity. Grant them, with all their family and friends, to bear what You have seen fit to place upon them, and receive into Your kingdom the infant (Name) whom You have taken from us, we pray You, hear us and have mercy.

*Choir:* Lord, have mercy. (3x)

*Priest:* For You are a merciful God, and love mankind, and unto You we ascribe glory: to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages.

*Choir:* Amen.

## Ode 6

*Choir:* I pour out to the Lord my supplication and I shall declare to Him my affliction, for see, my soul has been filled with evil, and now my life has been drawn very close to hell. Like Jonah I appeal to you: "O my God, bring me up from corruption!"

*Priest:* Give rest to the soul of Your beloved infant, O Lord.

*Choir:* Give rest to the soul of Your beloved infant, O Lord.

*Priest:* We ask the Lord who summoned you from this earthly life, O blessed child, to make you a citizen of Paradise and number you with the choir of the saints.

*Choir:* Give rest to the soul of Your beloved infant, O Lord.

*Priest:* O Lover of mankind, inscribe this child in the book of the redeemed, so that, rejoicing, we may hymn Your glory and say: You are blessed, O Lord.

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

*Choir:* Now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

*Priest:* We have you as a wall of refuge, an all-perfect salvation for our souls, and a spacious place in sorrows, O Maiden; and we will ever rejoice in your light, O Sovereign Lady. Also, save us now from sufferings and misfortunes.

## Ode 9

*Choir:* Heaven was afraid and the ends of the earth were amazed, for God revealed Himself unto men in the flesh, and your womb became more spacious than the heavens. Therefore, the leaders of men and of Angels magnify you as the Theotokos.

*Priest:* Give rest to the soul of Your Beloved infant, O Lord.

*Priest:* Your departure from this earthly life is a cause of grief and sorrow for your parents and all who love you, O little child; but in truth you have been raised by the Lord out of every earthly care and sorrow. We bow before the inscrutable mercy and providence of God exceeding our understanding, trusting as did Job, ‘though He slay me yet shall I love him’, and knowing that in Jesus, God has comprehended and born our suffering in every way in order that all might be healed and brought to life again

*Choir:* Give rest to the soul of Your Beloved infant, O Lord.

*Priest:* O Savior and Master of our life; comfort the faithful parents of this departed child with the knowledge that to innocent children, who have done no deeds worthy of tears, are granted the righteousness, peace and joy of Your kingdom.

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

*Choir:* Now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

*Priest:* With the eye of my heart I ever look unto you who make maternal prayer unto Him that was born of you. For I cry out unto you, O all-pure one: quench the passions of my soul, rouse me up early to repentance, O Maiden, and illumine me with your light.

## **The Prokeimenon (tone 4)**

*Priest:* Let us attend.

*Priest:* Peace be unto all.

*Priest:* Wisdom!

*Reader:* The Prokeimenon in the Fourth Tone.

Lord, we will walk in the light of Your countenance and exult in Your name forever.

*Choir:* Lord, we will walk in the light of Your countenance and exult in Your name forever.

*Reader:* I will sing of Your mercy, O Lord, forever; with my mouth I will proclaim Your faithfulness to all generations.

*Choir:* Lord, we will walk in the light of Your countenance and exult in Your name forever.

*Reader:* Lord, we will walk in the light of Your countenance...

*Choir:* ...and exult in Your name forever.

## **The Epistle Reading**

*Priest:* Wisdom!

*Reader:* The reading from the Second Epistle of the Holy Apostle Paul to the Corinthians.

*Priest:* Let us attend!



## *2 Corinthians 4:7-18*

**Reader:** Brethren, We have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellence of the power may be of God and not of us. We are hard pressed on every side, yet not crushed; we are perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed -- always carrying about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus, that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our body. For we who live are always delivered to death for Jesus' sake, that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our mortal flesh. So then death is working in us, but life in you. And since we have the same spirit of faith, according to what is written, "I believed and therefore I spoke," we also believe and therefore speak, knowing that He who raised up the Lord Jesus will also raise us up with Jesus, and will present us with you. For all things are for your sakes, that grace, having spread through the many, may cause thanksgiving to abound to the glory of God. Therefore we do not lose heart. Even though our outward man is perishing, yet the inward man is being renewed day by day. For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, is working for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory, while we do not look at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen. For the things which are seen are temporary, but the things which are not seen are eternal.

*Priest:* Peace be unto you, reader.

*Reader:* And to your spirit. Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

*Choir:* Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

*Reader:* The Lord is near to the brokenhearted, and saves the crushed in spirit.

*Choir:* Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

*Reader:* Many are the afflictions of the righteous, but the Lord delivers him out of them all.

*Choir:* Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

### **The Gospel**

*Priest:* And that we may be accounted worthy of hearing the Holy Gospel, let us pray to the Lord God.

*Choir:* Lord, have mercy. (3x)

*Priest:* Wisdom! Let us attend! Let us listen to the Holy Gospel.

*Priest:* Peace be unto all.

*Choir:* And to your spirit.

*Priest:* The reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. John the Theologian.

*Choir:* Glory to You, O Lord, Glory to You.

*Priest:* Let us attend.

*John 14:1-14*

**Priest:** At that time, Jesus spoke to his disciples saying, "Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me. In My Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also. And where I go you know, and the way you know." Thomas said to Him, "Lord, we do not know where You are going, and how can we know the way?" Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me. If you had known Me, you would have known My Father also; and from now on you know Him and have seen Him." Philip said to Him, "Lord, show us the Father, and it is sufficient for us." Jesus said to him, "Have I been with you so long, and yet you have not known Me, Philip? He who has seen Me has seen the Father; so how can you say, 'Show us the Father'? Do you not believe that I am in the Father, and the Father in Me? The words that I speak to you I do not speak on My own authority; but the Father who dwells in Me does the works. Believe Me that I am in the Father and the Father in Me, or else believe Me for the sake of the works themselves. Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do he will do also; and greater works than these he will do, because I go to My Father. And whatever you ask in My name, that I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If you ask anything in My name, I will do it."

**Choir:** Glory to You, O Lord, Glory to You.

## **The Hymn to the Theotokos**

It is truly meet to bless you, O Theotokos, ever-blessed and most pure, and the mother of our God. More honorable than the Cherubim, and more glorious beyond compare than the Seraphim: without defilement you gave birth to God the Word: True Theotokos, we magnify you.

## **The Trisagion Prayers**

*Reader:* Holy God! Holy Mighty! Holy Immortal! Have mercy on us. (3x)

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

O most-holy Trinity, have mercy on us!

O Lord, cleanse us from our sins!

O Master, pardon our transgressions!

O Holy One, visit and heal our infirmities, for Your name's sake!

Lord, have mercy. (3x)

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

Our Father, Who art 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 evil.

*Priest:* For Yours is the Kingdom, and the power, and the glory, of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages.

*Reader:* Amen.

*Priest:* Let us pray to the Lord. (Lord, have mercy.)

O Lord Jesus Christ, the only begotten Son, You dwell in the bosom of the Father; True God, source of life and immortality, Light of Light, You have come into the world to enlighten it; You were pleased to be conceived in the womb of the Virgin Mary for the salvation of our souls by the power of Your All Holy Spirit; O Master, You have come that we might have life more abundantly. You have taught us that from the moment they are conceived in their mother's womb the unborn are adorned with Your image and likeness. You are the Bestower of Life, bringing each person from non-existence into being; sealing each person with divine and infinite love. Be merciful, O Lord, to all of us gathered here to commemorate this child (Name). For we glorify You, the Giver of Life, together with Your Father, and Your All Holy and Life-giving Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages.

*Choir:* Amen.

### **Second Litany of Fervent Supplication**

*Priest:* Have mercy on us, O God, according to Your great goodness, we pray You, hear us and have mercy.

*Choir:* Lord, have mercy. (3x)

*Priest:* Again we pray for all Orthodox Christians, for all who are suffering for Christ, for all who are in sickness and sorrow, distress and affliction, for all who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, and for their salvation: We pray You, Lord, hear us and have mercy.

*Choir:* Lord, have mercy. (3x)

*Priest:* Again we pray for mercy, life, peace, health, salvation, visitation and forgiveness of sins for the servants of God who have gathered here for prayer, and with their family and friends and all the weeping and grieving who are looking for the consolation of Christ, we pray You, Lord, hear us and have mercy.

*Choir:* Lord, have mercy. (3x)

*Priest:* Again we pray that the Lord God will receive the prayers of His unworthy servants, offered in faith and gratitude for His great love for man, and will send us comfort and strength in our sadness, we pray You, Lord, hear us and have mercy.

*Choir:* Lord, have mercy. (3x)

*Priest:* O healer of souls and bodies, with broken and repentant hearts, we fall down before You, heal Your servants, *[names of parents,]* from every weakness and infirmity. Grant them, with all their family and friends, to bear what You have seen fit to place upon them, and receive into Your kingdom the infant (Name) whom You have taken from us, we pray You, hear us and have mercy.

*Choir:* Lord, have mercy. (3x)

*Priest:* Again and again, on bended knee, let us pray to the Lord!  
*[Priests and people kneel.]*

*Choir:* Lord, have mercy! (3x)

*Priest:* O merciful Lord, falling down before Your great and inscrutable providence which is both merciful and just, we confess our weakness and infirmity, not knowing what to ask of You. For You alone know what are our true needs. You love us more than we ourselves know how to love; help us to see our true needs, which are concealed from us. We dare not ask either a cross or consolation. We can only wait on You. Our hearts are open to You. Visit and help us. Cast us down and raise us up. We worship in silence Your holy will and Your inscrutable ways. We offer ourselves to You in sacrifice. We put all our trust in You. We have no desire but to fulfill Your holy will. We believe; help our unbelief. Let not our faith fail, nor our hope weaken, nor our love grow cold. Wipe away our tears of sorrow. Heal our weakness and infirmity. Forgive our transgressions, voluntary and involuntary. Receive the infant (Name) into Your kingdom and have mercy on us.

Through the mercy and compassion and love for mankind of Your only begotten Son with Whom You are blessed, together with Your all-holy, good and life-creating Spirit, always, now and ever and unto ages of ages.

*Choir:* Amen.

## The Dismissal

*Priest:* Wisdom.

*Choir:* Father, bless.

*Priest:* Christ our God, The Existing One, is blessed, always, now and ever and unto ages of ages.

*Choir:* Amen.

Confirm, O God, the holy Orthodox faith and Orthodox Christians unto ages of ages.

*Priest:* Most holy Theotokos, save us.

*Choir:* More honorable than the Cherubim, and more glorious beyond compare than the Seraphim: without corruption you gave birth to God the Word: True Theotokos, we magnify you.

*Priest:* Glory to You, O Christ, our God and our hope, glory to You.

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

Lord, have mercy. (3x)

Father, bless.



*Priest:* May Christ our true God, through the prayers of His most pure Mother; of the holy, glorious, and all-laudable Apostles; of St. (the patron of the non-baptized infant), of St. (of the day), whom we commemorate today; of the holy and righteous ancestors of God, Joachim and Anna; and of all the saints: have mercy on us and save us for He is good and loves mankind.

*Choir:* Amen.

*Priest:* O Lord Jesus Christ our God, who accepts the blood of Your martyrs, as a true and holy Baptism, and who accepted as Baptism the blood of the Holy Innocents slain by Herod, so also accept now the blood of the innocent child (Name) as Baptism into eternal life. Baptize him/her, O Lord, in the sea of Your generosity and save him/her by Your ineffable grace. O Lord, You guard children in this life and prepare for those taken from us, in their innocence, radiant places in the heavenly mansions: the same Master, Christ our God, receive in peace the soul of Your servant, the child, (Name), for You have said, “Let the children come to me, and do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of heaven”; and to You is due all glory, honor and worship, together with the Father and the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Memory Eternal (or Christ is Risen...)

+ + +

At graveside:

May the angels guide you into Paradise;

May the martyrs come to you and welcome you this day

And lead you to the Holy City — the New and Eternal Jerusalem.

(Taken as a refrain to the verses of Pss. 23, 91 or 68)

Christ is Risen...