



*Panikhida 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.

Reader: Amen. Lord, have mercy. (12x)

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

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 the Very Christ, our King and our God.

Psalm 90 (91)

He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High, who abides in the shadow of the Almighty, will say to the Lord, "My refuge and my fortress; my God, in whom I trust."

For he will deliver you from the snare of the fowler and from the deadly pestilence; he will cover you with his pinions, and under his wings you will find refuge; his faithfulness is a shield and buckler.

You will not fear the terror of the night, nor the arrow that flies by day, nor the pestilence that stalks in darkness, nor the destruction that wastes at noonday.

A thousand may fall at your side, ten thousand at your right hand; but it will not come near you. You will only look with your eyes and see the recompense of the wicked.

Because you have made the Lord your refuge, the Most

High your habitation, no evil shall befall you, no scourge come near your tent.

For he will give his angels charge of you to guard you in all your ways. On their hands they will bear you up, lest you dash your foot against a stone.

You will tread on the lion and the adder, the young lion and the serpent you will trample under foot.

Because he cleaves to me in love, I will deliver him; I will protect him, because he knows my name.

When he calls to me, I will answer him; I will be with him in trouble, I will rescue him and honor him. With long life I will satisfy him, and show him my salvation.

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

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia! Glory to You, O God! (3)

Priest: Let us pray to the Lord.

Choir: 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

Then, immediately "Alleluia" is sung (TONE 4):

Priest: Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia.

Blessed are they whom Thou hast chosen and taken, O Lord. (*Psalm 64:5*)

Choir: Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia.

Priest: Their memory is from generation to generation. (*Psalm 101:13*)

Choir: Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia.

Priest: Their souls shall abide amid good things. (*Psalm 24:13*)

Troparion (Tone 4)

Choir: 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....(Stichera 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.

O Theotokos,

You are the consolation of mourners,

You defend the weak.

O Pure Virgin

Calm the tempest-tossed,//

And protect all the faithful.

Psalm 50 (51)

Reader: Have mercy on me, O God, according to Your great mercy; and according to the multitude of Your compassion blot out my transgression. Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin. For I acknowledge my iniquity, and my sin is ever before me. Against You, You only, have I sinned, and done this evil in Your sight, that You may be found just when You speak, and blameless

when You judge. For behold, I was conceived in iniquity, and in sin my mother bore me.

For behold, You have loved truth: You have made known to me the secret things of Your wisdom. You shall sprinkle me with hyssop, and I shall be made clean: You shall wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow. Make me to hear joy and gladness, that bones which You have broken may rejoice. Turn Your face away from my sins, and blot out all my iniquities. Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me. Do not cast me away from Your presence, and do not take Your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of Your salvation: And establish me with Your governing Spirit.

I shall teach transgressors Your ways, and the ungodly shall turn back to You. Deliver me from bloodguiltiness, O God, the God of my salvation, my tongue shall rejoice in Your righteousness. O Lord, open my lips, and my mouth shall show forth Your praise. For if You had desired sacrifice, I would give it: You do not delight in burnt offering. A sacrifice to God is a broken spirit, God will not despise a broken and humbled heart.

Do good in Your good pleasure to Sion; and let the walls of Jerusalem be built. Then You shall be pleased with a sacrifice of righteousness., with oblation and whole burnt offerings. Then they shall offer bulls on Your altar.

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.

Troparion (Sedalen) (Tone 6)

Choir: In truth all things are vanity, and life is but a shadow and a dream, for vainly everyone born on earth troubles himself, as Scripture says. When we have acquired the world, then do we take up our abode in the grave, where kings and beggars, elders and infants are together. Therefore, O Christ God, give rest unto the infant(s) that has (have) been taken from us, as You are the Lover of Mankind.

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.

Kontakion (Tone 8)

Choir: With the Saints give rest, O Christ, to the soul(s) of Your servant(s), where sickness is no more, neither sorrow nor sighing, but life everlasting.

(Ikos) You only are immortal, Who has created and fashioned man. For out of the earth were we mortals made, and unto the earth shall we return again, as You did command when You made me, saying unto me: "For earth you are and unto the earth shall you return," whither we mortals all shall go, making as our funeral dirge the song: Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia.

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.

Choir: 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: Let us bless the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit, the Lord.

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 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 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.

Reader: Amen.

Troparia for the Departed (Tone 4)

With the souls of the righteous departed, give rest to the
soul(s) of Your servant(s), O Savior; preserving it (them) in
the blessed life which is with You, O Lover of Mankind.

In the place of Your rest, O Lord, where all Your saints
repose, give rest also to the soul(s) of Your servant(s); for
You only love mankind.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son and the Holy Spirit.
You are the God who descended into hell, and loosed the
bonds of the captives; Yourself give rest also to the soul(s)
of Your servant(s).

Now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen. O Virgin,
alone pure and blameless, who didst bear God without seed,
intercede that the soul of your servant(s) may be saved.

The Litany for the Departed

Priest: Have mercy on us, O God, according to Thy great mercy,
we beseech Thee, hearken and have mercy.

Choir: Lord, have mercy. (thrice)

Priest: Again we pray for the repose of this blessed child. And
that, according to his word, the Lord our God will
graciously vouchsafe unto him (her) His Heavenly
Kingdom.

Choir: Lord, have mercy. (thrice)

Priest: That the Lord God will establish his (her) soul where the
just repose.

Choir: Lord, have mercy. (thrice)

Priest: The mercies of God, the kingdom of heaven, and rest with

the saints for him (her) and for ourselves, let us entreat of Christ, our King Immortal, and our God.

Choir: Grant this, O Lord.

Priest: Let us pray to the Lord.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

Priest: 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 life begins at conception, and that even in the womb the unborn are already 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 as we 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.

The Dismissal

Priest: Wisdom.

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 He who rose from the dead, Christ our true God, through the prayers of His all-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.

Choir: Amen.

Priest: Grant rest eternal in blessed repose, O Lord, to Your infant who is fallen asleep, and make his (her) memory to be eternal.

Choir: Memory Eternal (or Christ is Risen...)

Compiled and adapted from the Infant Panikhida in the Great Book of Needs