



*Service of Prayer
for a Miscarried or Stillborn Child*

*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.*

*This is a general prayer which can be said at the time of loss or anytime thereafter, but especially when the priest is called to attend to a miscarriage or stillbirth. In cases of stillbirth and miscarriages where there are remains to be buried, the **Prayer Service for the Burial of a Stillborn Infant** may be performed.*

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

People: Amen.

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.

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. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

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.

People: Amen.

Priest: Let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord have mercy

Priest: *O Lord, Our God, the Author of Life and Our Hope of resurrection, Who permitted Yourself to be mysteriously contained in the womb of Your Mother the Theotokos and Ever-virgin Mary, and who was born of her, In Your great mercy, be merciful to this Your handmaiden (Name), who has had a miscarriage of the child conceived in her, and forgive her transgressions, voluntary or involuntary, committed in knowledge or in ignorance. And protect her from every snare of the Devil, cleanse her of corruption, and bring comfort to her in her suffering, and grant her, O Loving Lord, health and strength of body and soul. Guard her with a shining Angel from all assaults of the unseen demons; yes, Lord, and from every illness and malady, and deliver her from all the different troubles that may afflict her womb; from all despondency and inward torment. Send a radiant angel to guard her from every assault of sickness and weakness.*

You who accept the innocence of infancy in Your Kingdom, comfort the mind of Your servant and bring her peace. Purify her from bodily uncleanness and the various troubles within her womb, and by Your great mercy restore her in her humbled body, and raise her up as you raised Eve from the grave. For in sin were we all conceived and in iniquity were we brought forth. Therefore, with fear we cry and say: Look down from heaven and behold our weakness; strengthen your handmaiden (Name) who has miscarried the child conceived in her, And, according to Your great mercy, as the Good God and the Lover of Mankind, have mercy on her and forgive her in all things that have encompassed her and have come in contact with her, Forgive all her transgressions and have mercy on her and bless her, through the prayers of Your Most-pure Mother and of all the Saints.

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

People: Amen.

Priest: Let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Priest: O Lord, You have spoken through the 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. I will rejoice in Jerusalem, and be glad in my people; no more shall be heard in it the sound of weeping and the cry of distress. No more shall there be in it an infant that lives but a few days..."
[Is 65:17-19, 20a]

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. But 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.

For you are a good God, and the Lover of Mankind, 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.

People: Amen

Priest: Let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Priest: O Lord, you have spoken through the prophet Jeremiah saying, "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you" [Jer 1:5]. Blessed are You, God of compassion and consolation. You know the name and age of each person — even from their 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.

People: Amen

The Great Litany

Priest: In peace let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Priest: For the servants of God, (Name(s)), with all of her/their family and friends, who have suffered the death of a child during pregnancy, that they may not despair in their pain, 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.

People: 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 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.

People: Amen.

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 our true needs are. 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.

People: Amen.

The Dismissal

Priest: Wisdom!

People: Father, bless.

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

People: Amen.

Priest: Most holy Theotokos, save us.

People: 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.

People: 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.

People: 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.

(If there is the body of a deceased child, the Priest then blesses the body with holy water.)

People: Amen.

Memory Eternal (or Christ is Risen...)