

Prayers for Use During the Coronavirus Pandemic

Parishioners and others may wish to use some or all the following prayers privately during the current pandemic, or may take inspiration from them. They are recommendations only, not a prescriptive or exhaustive list.

For the sick

(From the Ancient Faith Prayer Book)

O Heavenly Father, physician of our souls and bodies, who have sent your only-begotten Son and our Lord Jesus Christ to heal every sickness and infirmity, visit and heal also your servant (*name*) from all sickness of soul and body through the grace of your Christ. Grant them patience in sickness, strength of body and spirit, and recovery of health. For you, O Lord, have taught us through your word to pray for each other, that we may be healed. Therefore, I pray, heal your servant (*name*) and grant them the gift of complete health. For you are the source of healing, and to you I give glory, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.

Prayer of a sick person

(From the Ancient Faith Prayer Book)

O Jesus Christ, my Lord and Saviour, you became man and died on the Cross for our salvation. You healed people of sickness and affliction through your love and compassion. Visit me, O Lord, and grant me strength to bear this sickness with which I am afflicted with patience, submission to your will and trust in your loving care. Bless the means used for my recovery and those who administer them. Let my sickness be for the benefit of my soul, and grant that I may live the rest of my life according to your will. For you are the source of life and healing, and to you I give praise and glory, now and forevermore. Amen.

During epidemics

(From the Moleben of Supplication, in the Great Book of Needs – this is the prayer read by Archimandrite Kyril at the end of the Divine Liturgy)

O Lord, our God, look down from your holy heaven on the supplication of us, your sinful and unworthy servants, who have angered your graciousness by our transgressions, and have provoked your deep compassion, and do not enter into judgement with your servants. But do turn aside your fearsome anger that has justly seized us, alleviate the threat of destruction, avert your terrible sword that, although invisible, cuts us grievously, and spare your poor and needy servants. Do not enclose with death the souls of us who have fallen down in repentance with tears and broken hearts before you, our kind-hearted, condescending and accommodating God. For yours it is to show mercy and to save, O our God, and to you we send up glory: to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and for ever, and to the ages of ages. Amen.

(From ode 6 of the canon of the same service)

Cleanse me, O Saviour, for many are my transgressions; and lead me up from the abyss of evil, I pray you, for I have cried out unto you. Hear me, O God of my salvation.

We are lying in the depths of sickness and the waves of destructive misfortunes overcome us. O Lord and Guide, extending a helping hand, save us now.

Prayer for deliverance from coronavirus

(Written by the Holy Synod of the Orthodox Church in America)

O God Almighty, Lord of heaven and earth, and of all creation, visible and invisible, in your ineffable goodness look down upon us, your people gathered in your holy name. Be our helper and defender in this day of affliction. You know our weakness. You hear our cry in repentance and contrition of heart. O Lord, who love mankind, deliver us from the impending threat of the coronavirus. Send your angel to watch over us and protect us. Grant health and recovery to those suffering from this virus. Guide the hands of physicians and preserve those who are healthy. Enable us to continue to serve our suffering brothers and sisters in peace, that together we may glorify your most honourable and majestic name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, now and ever and to the ages of ages. Amen.

To the Mother of God

(Sung by the choir during the distribution of the Antidoron)

Beneath your tender care we seek refuge, Virgin Bearer of God. Do not despise our prayers in time of trouble, but from danger deliver us, O only pure and blessed One.

Most holy Bearer of God, save us. *(Three times, with bows)*

For the Departed

(Kontakion of the Departed)

With the saints give rest, O Christ, to the soul(s) of your servant(s), where there is no toil, nor grief, nor sighing, but life everlasting.

(A Prayer from the Burial Service and the Pannikhida)

O God of spirits and all flesh, who trampled down death and crushed the devil, giving life to your world; do you, Lord, give rest to the soul(s) of your servant(s) *(NN)* who has *(have)* fallen asleep, in a place of light, a place of green pasture, a place of refreshment, whence pain, grief and sighing have fled away. Pardon, O God, as you are good and love mankind, every sin committed by him/her *(them)* in word or deed or thought, because there is none who will live and not sin, for you alone are without sin; your righteousness is an everlasting righteousness and your word is truth. For you are the resurrection, the

life and the repose of your servant(s) (*NN*) who has (have) fallen asleep, Christ our God, and to you we give glory together with your father who is without beginning, and your all-holy, good and life-giving Spirit, now and for ever, and to the ages of ages. Amen.