

CHRISTMAS GREAT COMPLINE

With Apósticha when Christmas Eve is not on a Saturday or Sunday

Priest: Blessed is our God, always, now and for evermore, *Amen*.

Triságion Prayers

First Psalter Reading

Come, let us worship and bow down before God, our King.

Come, let us worship and bow down before Christ, our King and our God.

Come, let us worship and bow down to Christ Himself, our King and God.

Psalm 4

O God of my justice, when I called to you, you heard me.

You have made space for me in distress;
pity me and listen to my prayer.

³ O sons of men, how long will you be heavy in heart?

Why do you love delusion and seek falsehood?

⁴ Understand that the Lord has glorified his holy one;

the Lord will listen to me when I cry to him.

⁵ Be angry, but do not sin;

be sorry on your beds for what you say in your hearts.

⁶ Offer a just sacrifice

and hope in the Lord.

⁷ Many say, "Who will show us anything good?"

O Lord, the light of your face has been signed on us.

⁸ You have made my heart joyful;

they have been filled with the fruit of their wheat, wine and oil.

⁹ I will lie down at once and sleep in peace,

for you alone, O Lord, have made me live in hope.

Psalm 6

O Lord, do not rebuke me in your fury

or discipline me in your anger.

³ O Lord, have mercy on me, for I am weak;

O Lord, heal me, for my bones are troubled.

⁴ My soul is greatly disturbed;

O Lord, how long?

⁵ O Lord, turn and rescue my soul;

save me for the sake of your mercy,
⁶ for there is no one who remembers you in death;
will anyone acknowledge you in Hades?
⁷ I am worn out from my groaning;
I flood my bed every night
and drench my couch with tears.
⁸ My eye is troubled with fury;
I have grown old among all my enemies.
⁹ All you lawless, leave me,
for the Lord has heard the voice of my weeping.
¹⁰ The Lord has heard my plea;
the Lord has received my prayer.
¹¹ Let all my enemies be greatly shamed and troubled;
let them be turned back quickly and greatly dishonoured.

Psalm 12

How long, O Lord?
Will you forget me for ever?
How long will you turn your face from me?
³ How long must I muse within my soul
and be upset in my heart by day and night?
How long will my enemy be exalted over me?
⁴ O Lord my God, look at me and listen to me;
enlighten my eyes in case I sleep in death,
⁵ *and* in case my enemy says, “I have prevailed against him”;
those who trouble me will rejoice if I am shaken.
⁶ But I have hoped in your mercy;
my heart will rejoice in your salvation.
^{6c} I will sing to the Lord, my Benefactor,
and make music to the name of the Most High Lord.

Glory: Both now: Alleluia X3
Lord have mercy X3 Glory: Both now:

Psalm 24

O Lord, I have raised my soul to you;
O my God, I have trusted in you.
^{2c} Let me never be shamed
or my enemies mock me.

³ Let none of those who wait for you be disgraced,
 but let those who are lawless without a cause be shamed.

⁴ O Lord, make your ways known to me
 and teach me your paths.

⁵ Guide me in your truth and teach me,
 for you are God my Saviour.

^{5c} I have waited for you all through the day
 ^{7c} for the sake of your goodness.

⁶ O Lord, remember your pity and mercy,
 for they are from eternity.

⁷ Do not remember my youthful sins *or* my ignorant *faults*;
 O Lord, remember me in your mercy

⁸ The Lord is good and upright,
 therefore he will set up a law for sinners on the way.

⁹ He will guide the gentle in judgement;
 and teach the kind his ways.

¹⁰ All the Lord's ways are mercy and truth
 for those who seek his covenant and testimonies.

¹¹ O Lord, for your name's sake be merciful to my sin,
 for it is great.

¹² Who is the person that fears the Lord?
 He will set up a law for him in the way that he has chosen.

¹³ His soul will live among the good
 and his seed inherit the earth.

¹⁴ The Lord is the strength of those who fear him
 and his covenant will be shown them.

¹⁵ My eyes are always on the Lord,
 for he will pluck my feet from the snare.

¹⁶ Look at me and have mercy on me,
 for I am alone and needy.

¹⁷ The distress of my heart has been increased;
 lead me away from my anguish.

¹⁸ See my lowliness and toil;
 forgive all my sins.

¹⁹ See my enemies, for they have been increased;
 they have loathed me with an unjust hatred.

²⁰ Guard my soul and rescue me;
 do not let me be shamed, for I have hoped in you.

²¹ The innocent and upright have joined me,

for I waited for you, O Lord.
²² O God, rescue Israel
from all his distress.

Psalm 30

O Lord, I have hoped in you,
never let me be shamed;
free me in your justice and rescue me.
³ Bend your ear to me;
hurry to rescue me;
^{3b} Become my defending God
and a house of refuge to save me,
⁴ for you are my strength and refuge;
you will guide and support me for your name's sake.
⁵ You will free me from this net which they have hidden for me,
for you, O Lord, are my defender.
⁶ I will entrust my spirit into your hands;
O Lord God of truth, you have freed me.
⁷ You have hated those who keep vain images,
but I have hoped in the Lord.
⁸ I will rejoice and be glad in your mercy,
for you have seen my lowliness;
you have saved my soul from captivity.
⁹ You have not confined me in enemies' hands,
but set my feet in a broad place.
¹⁰ O Lord, have mercy on me, for I am distressed;
my eye is troubled with anger, as also my soul and stomach,
¹¹ for my life has failed with grief
and my years with groaning.
^{11c} My strength has grown weak with poverty
and my bones were troubled.
¹² I became a reproach among all my enemies,
a great *scorn* to my neighbours and a fright to my friends;
those who saw me outside fled from me.
¹³ I was hidden from the mind like someone dead;
I have become like a broken vessel,
for I have heard the blame of many who live around.
^{14b} When they gathered against me,
they plotted to take away my life,

but I, O Lord, have hoped in you.
^{15b} I said, "You are my God;
my fate is in your hands.
^{16b} "Free me from the hands of my enemies
and from those who pursue me.
¹⁷ "Make your face shine on your servant
and save me in your mercy.
¹⁸ "O Lord, do let me not be shamed,
for I have cried to you."
^{18b} Let the ungodly be disgraced
and brought down to Hades.
¹⁹ Let the lying lips be dumb
which proudly and scornfully plan disorder against the just.
²⁰ O Lord, how great is the abundance of your kindness
which you have kept for those who fear you!
^{20c} You have accomplished this
for those who hope in you before human sons.
²¹ You will hide them from rioters in the refuge of your presence
and shelter them in *the* tabernacle from slanderous tongues.
²² Blessed is the Lord,
for he has made his mercy amazing in a strong city.
²³ I said in my alarm,
"I have been banished from the sight of your eyes."
^{23c} Therefore you listened to the voice of my plea
when I cried to you.
²⁴ All you holy ones, love the Lord, for the Lord seeks truth
and repays those who act with great pride.
²⁵ All who hope in the Lord, be brave
and let your heart be strengthened.

Psalm 90

Whoever settles with *the* help of the Most High
will stay under the shelter of the God of heaven.
² He will say to the Lord, "You are my support and refuge,
my God and I will hope in him,"
³ for he will free you from the hunters' snare
and from a troubling word.
⁴ He will overshadow you with his back
and you will hope under his wings;

his truth will surround you *like* a shield.
5 You will not fear night-time terror,
 or an arrow that flies by day,
6 a deed that stalks in darkness,
 or a mishap or midday demon.
7 A thousand will fall at your side
 and ten thousand at your right hand,
 but it will not approach you.
8 You will only look with your eyes
 and see the repayment of sinners;
 for you, O Lord, are my hope.
9 You have made the Most High your refuge,
 evil will not approach you
 or any plague come near your home,
11 for he will command his angels about you,
 to guard you in all your ways.
12 They will lift you with their hands
 in case you strike your foot against a stone.
13 You will tread on adder and cobra;
 you will trample on lion and dragon.
14 "Because he hoped in me, I will free him;
 I will shelter him because he knew my name.
15 "He will cry to me and I will listen to him;
 I am with him in distress,
 I will rescue him and glorify him.
16 "I will satisfy him with length of days
 and show him my salvation."

Glory: Both now: Alleluia X3
Lord have mercy X3 Glory: Both now:

Isaiah 8 & 9

- 1: God is with us! O Nations, understand and submit,
 for God is with us.
- 2: Pay attention, even to the ends of the earth,
 for God is with us.
- 3: O mighty people, submit.
 If you again rise if might, you will be overcome again,
 for God is with us.

- 4: If any people plot together, the Lord will destroy them,
for God is with us.
- 5: And the word which you speak will not remain in you,
for God is with us.
- 6: For we do not fear your terror, neither are we troubled,
for God is with us.
- 7: But the Lord our God is the one to whom we will ascribe holiness
and we will fear him,
for God is with us.
- 8: And if I place my trust in him he will be my sanctification,
for God is with us.
- 9: I will place my hope in him and I will be saved through him,
for God is with us.
- 10: The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light,
for God is with us.
- 11: Those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness,
on them has light shined,
for God is with us.
- 12: And those who live in the land of the shadow of death,
on them has the light shone,
for God is with us.
- 13: For to us a child is born, to us a son is given,
for God is with us.
- 14: The government will be on his shoulder,
for God is with us.
- 15: There will be no end of his peace,
for God is with us.
And his name will be called great the great Council of the Angels, *for
God is with us.*
- 16: Wonderful Counsellor,
for God is with us.
- 17: Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace,
for God is with us.
- 18: God is with us! O Nations, understand and submit,
for God is with us.
- 19: Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit,
for God is with us.
- 20: Both now and ever, and to the ages of ages, Amen,
for God is with us.

21: God is with us! O Nations, understand and submit,
for God is with us.

The Creed

I believe in one God, Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible. And in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten from the Father before all ages, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten not made, consubstantial with the Father, through him all things were made. For our sake and for our salvation he came down from heaven, and was incarnate from the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary, and became man. He was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate, and suffered and was buried; he rose again on the third day, in accordance with the scriptures, and ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He is coming again in glory to judge both the living and the dead., and his kingdom will have no end. And in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the Giver of Life, who proceeds from the Father, who together with the Father and the Son, is worshipped and together glorified, who spoke through the prophets. In one holy, Catholic and Apostolic Church. I confess one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. I await the resurrection of the dead and the life of the age to come. Amen

Triságion Prayers

Apolytikion

Tone 4

O Christ our God, your nativity has illuminated the world with the light of wisdom. For by it, O Sun of Justice, those who worshipped the stars were taught by a star to worship you and to know you as the Dawn from above. O Lord, glory to you!

Second Psalter Reading

Come, let us worship and bow down before God, our King.
Come, let us worship and bow down before Christ, our King and our God.
Come, let us worship and bow down to Christ Himself, our King and God.

Psalm 50

O God, have mercy on me in your abundant mercy
and wipe out my offence through your great pity.

⁴ Wash me thoroughly from my lawless act

and cleanse me from my sin,
5 for I know my lawlessness
and my sin is always before me.
6 I have sinned against you alone
and done what is evil before you
6b so that you might be right in your words
and overcome when you are judged,
7 for see, I was conceived in lawlessness
and my mother desired me in sin,
8 for see, you have loved truth
and shown me the mysteries and secrets of your wisdom.
9 You will sprinkle me with hyssop and I will be clean;
you will wash me and I will become whiter than snow.
10 You will make me hear about joy and gladness;
humbled bones will rejoice.
11 Turn your face from my sins
and wipe out all my lawlessness.
12 O God, make a pure heart within me
and renew an upright spirit within me.
13 Do not banish me from your presence
or remove your Holy Spirit from me.
14 Restore your saving joy to me
and strengthen me with your directing Spirit.
15 I will teach the lawless your ways
and the ungodly will return to you.
16 O God, God of my salvation, free me from bloodshed,
then my tongue will rejoice in your justice.
17 O Lord, you will open my lips
and my mouth will announce your praise,
18 for if you had wanted sacrifice, I would have given it;
you will not be pleased with burnt offerings.
19 Sacrifice for God is a broken spirit;
God will not despise a broken and humbled heart.
20 O Lord, be good to Zion in your pleasure
and let the walls of Jerusalem be built,
21 then you will be pleased with a just sacrifice,
with an offering and burnt sacrifices;
then they will offer calves on your altar.

Psalm 101

O Lord, listen to my prayer
and let my cry come to you.
3 Do not turn your face from me;
bend your ear to me on the day of my distress
4 Quickly listen to me on the day when I call to you,
for my days have vanished like smoke
and my bones have burnt like firewood.
5 I have been struck down like grass and my heart is withered,
for I have forgotten to eat my bread.
6 My bone has clung to my flesh
because of the sound of my groaning.
7 I have become like a pelican in the desert
and like an owl in a ruined house.
8 I have watched
and become like a lone sparrow on a roof.
9 All through the day my enemies have taunted me;
those who had praised me swore against me,
10 for I have eaten ashes like bread
and mingled my drink with tears in your anger and fury,
for after raising me, you have broken me.
12 My days have faded like a shadow
and I have become withered like grass,
13 but you, O Lord, remain for ever
and your remembrance *is* from generation to generation.
14 You rise *and* are merciful to Zion;
it is time to pity her, for the moment has come,
15 for your servants delight in her stones
and will pity her dust.
16 O Lord, the nations will fear your name
and all the kings of the earth your glory,
17 for the Lord will build up Zion
and appear in his glory.
18 He has regarded the prayer of the humble
and not despised their plea.
19 Let this be written for another generation
and a people yet to be born will praise the Lord,
20 for he has looked down from his holy height;
the Lord from heaven has watched the earth,

²¹ to listen to the groaning of the prisoners
and to free the sons of the slain,
²² so that they may proclaim the Lord's name in Zion
and his praise in Jerusalem,
²³ when the peoples have been brought together
and kings *summoned* to serve the Lord.
²⁴ He answered him in the way of his strength,
"Tell me the shortness of my days.
²⁵ "Do not take me away in the midst of my days;
your years *are* from generation to generation."
²⁶ O Lord, you laid the foundation of the earth in the beginning
and the heavens are your handiwork.
²⁷ They will perish, but you will continue;
they will all grow old like a garment.
^{27b} You will fold them like a cloak
and they will be changed,
²⁸ but you are the same
and your years will not fail.
²⁹ The sons of your servants will have homes
and their seed will prosper for ever.

Prayer of Manasseh

O almighty Lord, God of our forefathers,
of Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and their just seed,
you made heaven and earth with all their order.
³ You have bound the sea with your command, confined the deep
and sealed it with your awesome and glorious name.
⁴ Everything shudders and trembles before your power,
for the majesty of your glory cannot be endured.
⁵ The fury of your threat against sinners is overwhelming.
yet your promised mercy is immeasurable and inscrutable,
⁷ for you are the most high Lord,
compassionate, patient, abundant in mercy
and relent over human evil.
⁸ Therefore, O Lord God of the just,
you have not ordered repentance for the upright,
for Abraham, Isaac and Jacob who have not sinned against you,
^{8d} but have appointed repentance for me, the sinner,
for I have sinned beyond the sands of the sea.

^{9b} O Lord, my lawless deeds have increased and multiplied.
and I am unworthy to look up and see the height of heaven
because of my innumerable unjust deeds.
¹⁰ I am *so* weighed down with a great iron chain,
that I have been rejected because of my sins and have no relief,
^{10c} for I have provoked your fury
and done what is evil before you,
by setting up abominations and increasing offences.
¹¹ And now I bend the knee of my heart,
as I plead with you for your kindness.
¹² I have sinned, O Lord, I have sinned,
and truly know my lawless deeds.
¹³ I earnestly implore you, “Forgive me!
O Lord, forgive me!”
^{13c} Do not destroy me in my lawless deeds,
or always be angry with me or store evil for me.
^{13e} Do not condemn me to the depths of the earth,
for you, O Lord, *are* the God of those who repent.
¹⁴ You will show me your goodness me,
for I am unworthy, but you will save me in your great mercy.
¹⁵ I will praise you constantly all the days of my life,
for all the host of heaven praises you
and the glory is yours for ever. Amen.

Triságion Prayers

Kontákion

Tone 3

Today the Virgin gives birth to the transcendent Being and the earth offers
a cave to the unapproachable *Lord*. Angels with shepherds glorify him.
The wise men travel with the star, because for our sake the eternal God
was born as a little Child.

Third Psalter Reading

Come, let us worship and bow down before God, our King.
Come, let us worship and bow down before Christ, our King and our God.
Come, let us worship and bow down to Christ Himself, our King and God.

Psalm 69

O God, approach to help me;
O Lord, hurry to assist me.
³ Let those who seek my soul
be shamed and despised.
^{3c} Let those who wish me evil
be turned back and humbled.
⁴ Let those who say to me, "Aha! Aha!"
be turned back suddenly with shame.
⁵ O God, let those who seek you
rejoice and be glad in you;
^{5c} those who love your salvation always say,
"The Lord is great!"
⁶ I am needy and poor;
O God, help me.
^{6c} You are my helper and rescuer;
O Lord, do not delay.

Psalm 142

O Lord, listen to my prayer,
note my plea in your truth
and listen to me in your justice.
² Do not enter not into judgement with your servant,
for no one living will be justified in your sight,
³ for the enemy has pursued my soul;
he has humbled my life to the ground
and placed me in darkness like those long dead.
⁴ My spirit within me has become weary
and my heart within me is troubled.
⁵ I remembered days of old,
mused on all your works
and thought about the works of your hands.
⁶ I stretched out my hands to you;
my soul was like a waterless land for you.
⁷ O Lord, quickly listen to me,
my spirit has fainted.
^{7b} Do not turn your face from me,
in case I become like those who go down to a pit.
⁸ Make me listen to your mercy in the morning,
for I have hoped in you.

- ^{8c} O Lord, teach me the way that I should walk,
for I have raised my soul to you.
- ⁹ O Lord, rescue me from my enemies,
for I have fled to you for refuge.
- ¹⁰ Teach me to do your will, for you are my God;
your good Spirit will guide me on level ground.
- ¹¹ O Lord, you will give me life for your name's sake
and bring my soul out of distress in your justice.
- ¹² You will destroy my enemies in your mercy
and cut off all who trouble my soul, for I am your servant.

Small Doxology

- O Lord our God, glory belongs to you
and we send up glory to you,
to the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit,
both now and ever and to ages of ages. Amen.
- ² Glory to God in the highest!
Peace on earth and goodwill to men!
- ³ We praise you, we bless you, we worship you,
we glorify you, we thank you for your great glory,
- ⁴ O Lord King, heavenly God, almighty Father,
O Lord, only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ,
and you, O Holy Spirit!
- ⁵ O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,
you take away the sin of the world;
have mercy on us,
for you take away the sin of the world.
- ⁶ Receive our prayer,
for you sit on the right of the Father,
and have mercy on us.
- ⁷ For only you are holy, only you are Lord,
O Jesus Christ, to the glory of God the Father. Amen.
- ⁸ I will bless you every day
and always praise your name for ever and ever. Ps 144.2
- ⁹ O Lord, you have been our refuge
from generation to generation. Ps 89.1
- I said, "O Lord, have mercy on me;
heal my soul, for I have sinned against you." Ps 40.5
- ¹⁰ O Lord, I have fled to you;

teach me to do your will, for you are my God. Ps 142.9b
11 For with you is the source of life
and in your light we will see light. Ps 35.10
12 Stretch out your mercy
to those who know you. Ps 35.11
13 O Lord, allow us this night
to be guarded from sin.
14 Blessed are you, O Lord God of our fathers!
Praised and glorified be your name for ever. Amen. Daniel 3
15 O Lord, let your mercy *be* on us,
for we have hoped in you. Ps 32.22
16 Blessed are you, O Lord!
Teach me your statutes. Ps 118.12
17 Blessed are you, O Master!
Make me understand your statutes.
18 Blessed are you, O Holy *One*!
Enlighten me with your statutes.
19 O Lord, your mercy *lasts* for ever;
do not overlook the work of your hands. Ps 137.8
20 To you belongs worship, to you belongs praise,
to you belongs glory,
to the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit,
both now and ever and to ages of ages. Amen.

Lití

Tone 5

The Wise Men, *who were* kings of Persia, know that you, the heavenly King, were truly born on earth. They came to Bethlehem, guided by the light of a star, and offered their chosen gifts of gold, incense and myrrh. They fell before you and worshipped you, for they saw you, O timeless *Lord*, when you lay as a baby in the cave.

Apósticha

Tone 2

A great and marvellous wonder has come to pass today. A Virgin bears a child and her womb suffers no corruption. The Word is made flesh, yet does not cease to live with the Father. Angels and shepherds give glory and, together with them, we cry aloud, “Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace to men of goodwill!”

Tone 3

S1: The Lord said to my Lord, "Sit on my right
until I make your enemies a stool for your feet." Ps 109

Today the Virgin gives birth to the Maker of all. Eden offers a cave *and* a star discloses Christ the Sun to those in darkness. Wise Men, enlightened by faith, worship with gifts *and* shepherds see the wonder. Angels sing praises and say, "Glory to God in the highest!"

S2: I have fathered you from the womb before the Morning Star. 109
When the Lord Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judah, Wise Men came from the east *and* worshipped the God who was made man. They eagerly opened their treasures *and* offered him precious gifts, refined gold, as though to the King of the ages, incense, as though to the God of all, myrrh which they offered to the Immortal, as though to *Lord* who was three days dead. All nations, come and worship the one who was born to save our souls.

Glory: Tone 4

O Jerusalem, rejoice! All who love Zion, celebrate! Today the ancient bond of Adam's condemnation is loosed. Paradise is opened to us and the serpent is laid low. In time past he deceived the woman in Paradise, but now he sees a woman become Mother of the Creator. O the depth of the riches of the wisdom and knowledge of God! The sinful vessel which brought death on all flesh has become the first fruits of salvation for all the world through the Theotokos. For from her the all-perfect God is born a Child and sets the seal on her virginity through his birth. He looses the bonds of sin through his swaddling clothes. He heals Eve's pangs in travail through becoming a Child. Therefore let all creation sing and dance for joy, for Christ has come to restore it and to save our souls.

Both now: Tone 4

O Christ, you have come to live in a cave and the manger received you; the shepherds and Wise Men worshipped you. Then the preaching of the prophets was fulfilled and the angelic powers were amazed. They cried aloud and said, "Glory to your condescension, only Lover of the human race!"

Apolytikion

Tone 4

O Christ our God, your nativity has illuminated the world with the light of wisdom. For by it, O Sun of Justice, those who worshipped the stars were taught by a star to worship you and to know you as the Dawn from above. O Lord, glory to you! *X3*

Dismissal