

# **Moleben of Repentance**

*"Be ashamed when you sin, not when you repent."*

*St. John Chrysostom*

**St. John Chrysostom  
Byzantine Catholic Church  
Houston, Texas**

(stand)

**Priest:** Blessed is our God, always, now and ever and forever.

**All:** Amen. (At Ambon)

**All:** Glory to you, our God, glory to you. Heavenly King, Comforter, Spirit of Truth, everywhere present and filling all things, Treasury of Blessings and Giver of Life, come and dwell within us, cleanse us of all stain, and save our souls, O gracious One.

Holy God, Holy and Mighty, Holy and Immortal, have mercy on us. (Three times)

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and forever. Amen. Most Holy Trinity, have mercy on us; Lord, cleanse us of our sins; Master, forgive our transgressions; Holy One, come to us and heal our infirmities for your name's sake.

Lord, have mercy. (Three times). Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and forever. Amen.

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come; thy 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 the Kingdom, the power and the glory are Yours, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, now and for ever and ever.

**All:** Amen.

Lord, have mercy (Twelve Times)

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and forever. Amen.

+ Come, let us worship our King and God.

+ Come, let us worship Christ, our King and God.

+ Come, let us worship and bow before the only Lord Jesus Christ the King and our God.

### Psalm 50

Have mercy on me, God, in your kindness.  
In your compassion blot out my **offense**.

O wash me more and more from my guilt  
and cleanse me from **my** sin.

My offenses truly I know them;  
my sin is always **before** me.

Against you, you alone, have I sinned;  
what is evil in your sight I **have** done.

That you may be justified when you give sentence  
and be without reproach when **you** judge,

O see, in guilt I was born,  
a sinner was I **con**ceived.

Indeed, you love truth in the heart;  
then in the secret of my heart teach **me** wisdom.  
O purify me, then I shall be clean;  
O wash me, I shall be whiter **than** snow.

Make me hear rejoicing and gladness,  
that the bones you have crushed **may** thrill.

From my sins turn away your face  
and blot out all **my** guilt.

A pure heart create for me, O God;  
put a steadfast spirit **with**in me.

Do not cast me away from your presence,  
nor deprive me of your **holy** spirit.

Give me again the joy of your help;  
with a spirit of fervor **sustain** me,

that I may teach transgressors your ways  
and sinners may return **to** you.

All:

**Troparion - Tone 6 (adapt.):**

Have mer-cy on us, O Lord, have mer-cy on us: since we have no  
de-fense, we sin-ners offer this supplica-tion to you, our Mas-ter;  
have mer - cy on us.

**Cantor**




Glo-ry to the Fa-ther, and to the Son, and to the Ho-ly Spir-it.

**All:**


**Kontakion - Tone 6 Troparion (adapt.):**



Lord, have mer - cy on us, for in you we place our hope.



Be not ex - ceed - ing - ly an - gry with us, nor mind - ful of our



trans - gres - sions, but look up - on us even now with mer - cy,



and de - liv - er us from our en - e - mies. For you are our God



and we are your peo - ple: we all are the work of your hands,



and we call up - on your name.


**Cantor:**



Now and ev - er and for - ev - er. A - men.

All:

*Theotokion - Tone 6 Troparion (adapt.):*

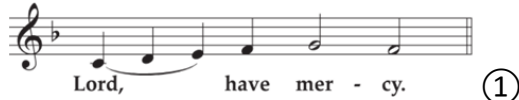


O-pen un - to us the doors of mer-cy, O blessed The-o - to-kos. Let us not  
per-ish who place our trust in you, but rath - er through you be de-liv-ered  
from mis-for-tune. For you are the sal-va-tion of all Chris - tians.

### LITANY

**Deacon:** In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

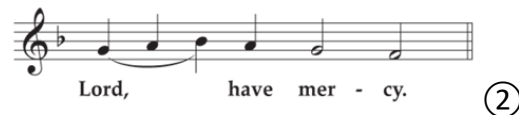
**Response:**



Lord, have mer - cy. ①

**Deacon:** For peace from on high, and for the salvation of our souls, let us prayer to the Lord.

**Response:**



Lord, have mer - cy. ②

For peace in the whole world, for the stability of the holy Churches of God, and for the union of all, let us pray to the Lord. ①

For this holy church and for all who enter it with faith, reverence, and fear of God, let us pray to the Lord. ②

For our holy father (Name), Pope of Rome, let us pray to the Lord. ①

For our most reverend Metropolitan (Name), for our God-loving Bishop (Name), for the venerable presbyterate, the diaconate in Christ, and all the clergy and people, let us pray to the Lord. ②

For our government and for all in the service of our country, let us pray to the Lord. ①

For this city [or: For this holy monastery], for every city, community, and for the faithful living in them, let us pray to the Lord. ②

For favorable weather, for an abundance of the fruits of the earth, and for peaceful times, let us pray to the Lord. ①

For those who travel by sea, air, and land, for the sick, the suffering, the captive and for their salvation, let us pray to the Lord. ②

For the remission of our sins, and the forgiveness of all our transgressions, voluntary and involuntary; let us pray to the Lord. ①

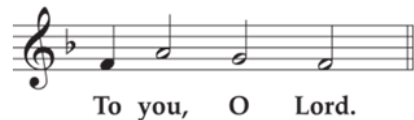
That the Lord may look upon us with mercy and protect us from the assaults of the enemy; let us pray to the Lord. ②

That we be delivered from all affliction, wrath, and need, let us pray to the Lord. ①

Protect us, save us, have mercy on us, and preserve us, O God, by your grace. ②

Commemorating our most holy, most pure, most blessed and glorious Lady, the Theotokos and Ever-Virgin Mary with all the saints, let us commit ourselves and one another and our whole life to Christ our God

**Response:**



**Priest:** For to you, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, is due all glory, honor, and worship, now and ever and forever.

**All:** Amen.

**Deacon:** Let us pray to the Lord.

**All:** Lord, have mercy.

**Priest:** O God, Who, through Your prophet Nathan granted remission of sins to the penitent David, and accepted the penitent prayer of Manasseh, do You Yourself, O loving Lord, accept us, Your servants, who lament over the transgressions which we have committed. Overlook all the evil that we have done. As Your greatness is incomparable, so is Your mercy immeasurable. You are the God of the penitent and to You do we send up glory, to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and ever.

**All:** Amen.

**Deacon:** Let us pray to the Lord.

**All:** Lord, have mercy.

**Priest:** O Lord Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God, Who takes away the sins of the world, have mercy on us, your useless and unprofitable servants. Forgive and pardon our sins and transgressions, which, in knowledge or in ignorance, we have committed in word, deed, or thought, in what we have done or in what we have failed to do. You are the salvation of our souls and we give glory to you, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, now and ever and forever.

**All:** Amen

**Deacon:** Let us pray to the Lord.

**All:** Lord, have mercy.

**Priest:** O good and loving Lord, Who do not return evil for evil, be pleased with us, Your servants, forgiving our sins according to Your great mercy. Overlook all our offenses and deliver us from everlasting torment. Through the ministry of your Church, heal, remit and deliver us from our sins. For You said to your Apostles, "If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven, if you hold them bound, they are held bound". You are the Divine Savior of mankind, and to You do we send up glory; to Your Eternal Father and Your All-Holy, Good and Life-creating Spirit, now and ever and forever.

**All:** Amen.

#### **GOSPEL READING**

**Priest:** Wisdom! Let us stand and listen to a reading from the Holy Gospel.

+Peace be to all.

**Response:** And to your spirit

**Priest:** A reading from the holy Gospel according to **[name]**

**Response:** Glory to you, O Lord, glory to you

**Priest:** Let us be attentive!

**When the Gospel reading is finished, the congregation responds:**

**Response:** Glory to you, O Lord, glory to you.

*Priest may offer a brief reflection*

#### **INSTRUCTION BY THE PRIEST**

*Behold, my spiritual sons and daughters, our Lord Jesus Christ invisibly stands here, ready to receive your confession. Do not, therefore, be ashamed or afraid, and do not conceal anything, but without hesitation, tell all that you have done, and you shall receive pardon from our Lord Jesus Christ. Behold, His holy icon is before you. I am but a witness (we are but witnesses), bearing testimony before Him of the things that you say. But, if you conceal anything, you shall have a greater sin. Take heed, therefore, lest having come to the Physician, you depart unhealed. Come, therefore, with faith and love and true sorrow and repentance, and leave purified and cleansed of all sin.*

**Deacon:** Bowing our heads and bending our knees, let us pray to the Lord. (kneel)

**All:** Lord, have mercy.

**Priest:** O Lord, our God, who are gracious, bountiful and long-suffering, concerning our evil deeds, and do not desire the death of a sinner, but rather that he should turn from his wickedness and live: show Your mercy now to Your servants who are about to confess their sins: grant them the grace of sincere repentance, the forgiveness of sins and deliverance from every evil, pardoning their every transgression, whether voluntary or involuntary. Reconcile and unite them to Your holy Church, through Jesus Christ, Our Lord, with whom you are blessed together Your all-Holy, Good and Life Creating Spirit, now and ever and forever.

**All:** Amen.

### EXAMINATION OF CONSCIENCE (hand out)

### HOLY MYSTERY OF CONFESSION (page 8)

*Priests go to assigned places. Individual confessions begin. Those having confessed return to places for prayer, scripture reading...until the dismissal.*

### DISMISSAL

**Deacon:** Wisdom!

**Response:** More honorable than the Cherubim and beyond compare more glorious than the Seraphim, who, a virgin, gave birth to God the Word; you, truly the Theotokos, we magnify.

**Priest:** Glory to you, O Christ God, our hope, glory to you

**Response:** Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and for ever and ever. Amen. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord have mercy. Give **the** blessing.

**Priest:** May Christ, our true God, through the prayers of His most pure Mother, of the holy, glorious and all-praiseworthy Apostles, of our venerable and God-bearing Fathers and of all the Saints, have mercy on us and save us for He is good and He loves us all.

**Response:**



## **HOLY MYSTERY OF CONFESSION**

*Make the sign of the Cross, saying:*

**Penitent:** *In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.*

*You continue by saying:*

*I confess to Almighty God, One in the Holy Trinity, to the Blessed Virgin Mary, the Theotokos, to all the Saints, and to you, Father, all my sins. The last time I was to confession was...and these are my sins.*

*When finished confessing, say: And these are all the sins that I can remember.*

*Now listen to any guidance that the priest may have for you, then, pray the following:*

**Penitent:** *For these and all my other sins which I cannot remember nor call to mind, I am sorry that I have offended God and have angered Him against me. I am sincerely repentant and promise, with the help of God, to better my life. For this I humbly ask of you, Father, salutary penance and absolution.*

*The priest gives you a penance. Placing his epitrichion upon your head, he says the following prayer for forgiveness.*

**Priest:** *O Lord our God, You bestowed the forgiveness of sins upon Peter, and the harlot because of her many tears, and You justified the Publican who recognized his faults. Accept also the confession of Your servant N., and in Your goodness forgive any sin, voluntary or involuntary, in word, deed or thought, for You alone have the power to forgive sins. You are a God of mercy, compassion, and loving-kindness, and we glorify You with your eternal Father and Your holy, good, and life-creating Spirit, now and ever, and forever.*

**Penitent:** *Amen*

*The priest removes his epitrichion and continues:*

*God, through Nathan the prophet, forgave David the evil deeds that he confessed. He forgave Peter his denial when he wept bitterly, and the sinful woman who shed tears on His feet. He forgave the Publican and the Prodigal. May this same God, through me, a sinner, forgive you N. both in this age and in the age to come, and may He make you stand without condemnation before His fearsome judgment seat. May He-Who-Is be blessed, now and ever, and forever.*

**Penitent:** *Amen*

*The priest concludes, saying one of the following:*

- *Go in peace and sin no more.*
- *As to what you have divulged, have no further care. Go in peace.*
- *My brother / sister, in regard to all that you have now confessed, you must now be on your guard. For we have received a second baptism, according to the Mystery of Christ. We must see to it that, with God's help, we make a good beginning. Above all, we must not deal lightly with these things; for fear that we become a cause of scorn to others, for this does not befit a Christian. May God, by His grace, help us to live honorably.*

*Return to your place to pray, read Scripture...until dismissal of the service.*