

Prayer Service



Mary the Helper of Mothers

The Albazinskaya Mother of God

Beginning Prayers

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

All: Amen.

Heavenly King, Comforter, Spirit of Truth, everywhere
present and filling all things, Treasury of blessings and Giver of
life, come, 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. *(3 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. *(3 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 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 Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory: Father, Son and Holy Spirit, now and ever and forever.

All: Amen.

Lord have mercy. *(3 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.

First Reading *(Gen 17:1-7, 18:1-15, 21:1-8)*

Deacon: Wisdom!

Reader: A reading from the book of Genesis.

Deacon: Let us be attentive!

Reader: In those days:

When Abram was ninety-nine years old the LORD appeared to Abram, and said to him, "I am God Almighty; walk before me, and be blameless. And I will make my covenant between me and you, and will multiply you exceedingly." Then Abram fell on his face; and God said to him, "Behold, my covenant is with you, and you shall be the father of a multitude of nations. No longer shall your name be Abram, but your name shall be Abraham; for I have made you the father of a multitude of nations. I will make you exceedingly fruitful; and I will make nations of you, and kings shall come forth from you. And I will establish my covenant between me and you and your

descendants after you throughout their generations for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your descendants after you. And I will give to you, and to your descendants after you, the land of your sojournings, all the land of Canaan, for an everlasting possession; and I will be their God."

And God said to Abraham, "As for Sarai your wife, you shall not call her name Sarai, but Sarah shall be her name. I will bless her, and moreover I will give you a son by her; I will bless her, and she shall be a mother of nations; kings of peoples shall come from her." Then Abraham fell on his face and laughed, and said to himself, "Shall a child be born to a man who is a hundred years old? Shall Sarah, who is ninety years old, bear a child?"

And the LORD appeared to him by the oaks of Mamre, as he sat at the door of his tent in the heat of the day. He lifted up his eyes and looked, and behold, three men stood in front of him. When he saw them, he ran from the tent door to meet them, and bowed himself to the earth and said, "My lord, if I have found favor in your sight, do not pass by your servant. Let a little water be brought, and wash your feet, and rest yourselves under the tree, while I fetch a morsel of bread, that you may refresh yourselves, and after that you may pass on -- since you have come to your servant." So they said, "Do as you have said."

And Abraham hastened into the tent to Sarah, and said, "Make ready quickly three measures of fine meal, knead it, and make cakes." And Abraham ran to the herd, and took a calf, tender and good, and gave it to the servant, who hastened to prepare it. Then he took curds, and milk, and the calf which he had prepared, and set it before them; and he stood by them under the tree while they ate.

They said to him, "Where is Sarah your wife?" And he said, "She is in the tent." The LORD said, "I will surely return to you in the spring, and Sarah your wife shall have a son." And Sarah was listening at the tent door behind him. Now Abraham



and Sarah were old, advanced in age; it had ceased to be with Sarah after the manner of women. So Sarah laughed to herself, saying, "After I have grown old, and my husband is old, shall I have pleasure?" The LORD said to Abraham, "Why did Sarah laugh, and say, 'Shall I indeed bear a child, now that I am old?' Is anything too hard for the LORD? At the appointed time I will return to you, in the spring, and Sarah shall have a son." But Sarah denied, saying, "I did not laugh"; for she was afraid. He said, "No, but you did laugh."

The LORD visited Sarah as he had said, and the LORD did to Sarah as he had promised. And Sarah conceived, and bore Abraham a son in his old age at the time of which God had spoken to him. Abraham called the name of his son who was born to him, whom Sarah bore him, Isaac. And Abraham circumcised his son Isaac when he was eight days old, as God had commanded him. Abraham was a hundred years old when his son Isaac was born to him. And Sarah said, "God has made laughter for me; everyone who hears will laugh over me." And she said, "Who would have said to Abraham that Sarah would suckle children? Yet I have borne him a son in his old age." And the child grew, and was weaned; and Abraham made a great feast on the day that Isaac was weaned.

First Prayers

Psalm 127

If the LORD does not build the house,
in vain do its builders labor.
If the LORD does not watch over the city,
in vain does the watchman keep vigil.
In vain is your earlier rising / your going later to rest,

You who toil for the bread you eat
When he pours out gifts on his beloved while they slumber.
Truly sons are a gift from the LORD,
A blessing, the fruit of the womb.
Indeed, the sons of youth
Are like arrows in the hand of a warrior
Happy is the man
who has filled his quiver with these arrows!
He will have no cause for shame when he speaks
When he disputes with his foes in the gateways.

Psalm 128

Blessed are those who fear the LORD, / and walk in his ways!
By the labor of your hands shall you eat
You will be happy and prosper.
Your wife like a fruitful vine / in the heart of your house;
Your children like shoots of the olive / around your table.
Indeed, thus shall be blessed / the man who fears the LORD.
May the LORD bless you from Zion!
May you see the prosperity of Jerusalem
all the days of your life!
May you see your children's children! / On Israel peace!

Second Reading (Gen 30:1-2, 22-24)

Deacon: Wisdom!
Reader: A reading from the book of Genesis.
Deacon: Let us be attentive!
Reader: In those days:



When Rachel saw that she bore Jacob no children, she envied her sister; and she said to Jacob, "Give me children, or I shall die!" Jacob's anger was kindled against Rachel, and he said, "Am I in the place of God, who has withheld from you the fruit of the womb?"

Then God remembered Rachel, and God hearkened to her and opened her womb. She conceived and bore a son, and said, "God has taken away my reproach"; and she called his name Joseph, saying, "May the LORD add to me another son!"

Second Prayer **Psalm 113**

Praise, O servants of the LORD, / praise the name of the LORD!
May the name of the LORD be blessed / now and for evermore.
From the rising of the sun to its setting
Praised be the name of the LORD!
High above all nations is the LORD,
above the heavens his glory.
Who is like the LORD our God,
who has risen on high to his throne,
Yet stoops from the heights to look down
To look down upon heaven and earth?
From the dust heap he lifts up the lowly
From the dung heap he raises the poor
To set them in the company of princes,
Yes, with the princes of his people.
To the childless wife he gives a home
And gladdens her heart with children.

Third Reading (*Ex 1:22-2:10*)

Deacon: Wisdom!
Reader: A reading from the book of Exodus.
Deacon: Let us be attentive!
Reader: In those days:



Then Pharaoh commanded all his people, "Every son that is born to the Hebrews you shall cast into the Nile, but you shall let every daughter live."

Now a man from the house of Levi went and took to wife a daughter of Levi. The woman conceived and bore a son; and when she saw that he was a goodly child, she hid him three months. And when she could hide him no longer she took for him a basket made of bulrushes, and daubed it with bitumen and pitch; and she put the child in it and placed it among the reeds at the river's brink. And his sister stood at a distance, to know what would be done to him.

Now the daughter of Pharaoh came down to bathe at the river, and her maidens walked beside the river; she saw the basket among the reeds and sent her maid to fetch it. When she opened it she saw the child; and lo, the babe was crying. She took pity on him and said, "This is one of the Hebrews' children."

Then his sister said to Pharaoh's daughter, "Shall I go and call you a nurse from the Hebrew women to nurse the child for you?" And Pharaoh's daughter said to her, "Go." So the girl went and called the child's mother. And Pharaoh's daughter said to her, "Take this child away, and nurse him for me, and I will give you your wages." So the woman took the child and nursed him. And the child grew, and she brought him to Pharaoh's daughter, and he became her son; and she named him Moses, for she said, "Because I drew him out of the water."

Third Prayer (*Ex 15:1-18*)

(Then Moses and the people of Israel sang this song to the LORD, saying):

I will sing to the LORD, for he has triumphed gloriously;
the horse and his rider he has thrown into the sea.

The LORD is my strength and my song,
and he has become my salvation;
this is my God, and I will praise him,
my father's God, and I will exalt him.

The LORD is a man of war / the LORD is his name.
Pharaoh's chariots and his host he cast into the sea;
and his picked officers are sunk in the Red Sea.

The floods cover them; / they sank in the depths like a stone.
Your right hand, O LORD, glorious in power,
your right hand, O LORD, shatters the enemy.

In the greatness of your majesty you overthrow your
adversaries / you send forth your fury,
it consumes them like stubble.

At the blast of your nostrils the waters piled up,
the floods stood up in a heap;
the deeps congealed in the heart of the sea.

The enemy said, 'I will pursue, I will overtake,
I will divide the spoil,
my desire shall have its fill of them.

I will draw my sword / my hand shall destroy them.'
You blew with your wind, the sea covered them;
they sank as lead in the mighty waters.

Who is like you, O LORD, among the gods?
Who is like you, majestic in holiness,
terrible in glorious deeds, doing wonders?

You stretched out your right hand / the earth swallowed them.

You led in your steadfast love the people whom you redeemed,
you guided them by your strength to your holy abode.
The peoples have heard; they tremble;
pangs have seized on the inhabitants of Philistia.
Now are the chiefs of Edom dismayed;
the leaders of Moab, trembling seizes them;
all the inhabitants of Canaan have melted away.
Terror and dread fall upon them;
because of the greatness of your arm,
they are as still as a stone,
Till your people, O LORD, pass by,
till the people pass by whom you hast purchased.
You will bring them in
and plant them on your own mountain,
The place, O LORD, which you made for your abode,
the sanctuary, LORD, which your hands have
established / The LORD will reign for ever and ever.

Fourth Reading (*Judges 13:1-24*)

Deacon: Wisdom!
Reader: A reading from the book of Judges.
Deacon: Let us be attentive!
Reader: In those days:

And the people of Israel again did what was evil in the sight of the LORD; and the LORD gave them into the hand of the Philistines for forty years. And there was a certain man of Zorah, of the tribe of the Danites, whose name was Manoah; and his wife was barren and had no children. And the angel of the LORD appeared to the woman and said to her, "Behold, you are barren and have no children; but you shall conceive and bear a son. Therefore, beware, and drink no wine or strong drink, and eat

nothing unclean, for lo, you shall conceive and bear a son. No razor shall come upon his head, for the boy shall be a Nazirite to God from birth; and he shall begin to deliver Israel from the hand of the Philistines."

Then the woman came and told her husband, "A man of God came to me, and his countenance was like the countenance of the angel of God, very terrible; I did not ask him whence he was, and he did not tell me his name; but he said to me, 'Behold, you shall conceive and bear a son; so then drink no wine or strong drink, and eat nothing unclean, for the boy shall be a Nazirite to God from birth to the day of his death.'"

Then Manoah entreated the LORD, and said, "O, LORD, I pray you, let the man of God whom you sent come again to us, and teach us what we are to do with the boy that will be born." And God listened to the voice of Manoah, and the angel of God came again to the woman as she sat in the field; but Manoah her husband was not with her. And the woman ran in haste and told her husband, "Behold, the man who came to me the other day has appeared to me." And Manoah arose and went after his wife, and came to the man and said to him, "Are you the man who spoke to this woman?" And he said, "I am." And Manoah said, "Now when your words come true, what is to be the boy's manner of life, and what is he to do?" And the angel of the LORD said to Manoah, "Of all that I said to the woman let her beware. She may not eat of anything that comes from the vine, neither let her drink wine or strong drink, or eat any unclean thing; all that I commanded her let her observe."

Manoah said to the angel of the LORD, "Pray, let us detain you, and prepare a kid for you." And the angel of the LORD said to Manoah, "If you detain me, I will not eat of your food; but if you make ready a burnt offering, then offer it to the LORD." For

Manoah did not know that he was the angel of the LORD. And Manoah said to the angel of the LORD, "What is your name, so that, when your words come true, we may honor you?" And the angel of the LORD said to him, "Why do you ask my name, seeing it is wonderful?" So Manoah took the kid with the cereal offering, and offered it upon the rock to the LORD, to him who works wonders. And when the flame went up toward heaven from the altar, the angel of the LORD ascended in the flame of the altar while Manoah and his wife looked on; and they fell on their faces to the ground. The angel of the LORD appeared no more to Manoah and to his wife.



Then Manoah knew that he was the angel of the LORD. And Manoah said to his wife, "We shall surely die, for we have seen God." But his wife said to him, "If the LORD had meant to kill us, he would not have accepted a burnt offering and a cereal offering at our hands, or shown us all these things, or now announced to us such things as these." And the woman bore a son, and called his name Samson; and the boy grew, and the LORD blessed him.

Fourth Prayer **Psalm 144**

Blessed be the LORD, my rock, / who trains my arms for battle
Who prepares my hands for war.
He is my rock and my fortress / my stronghold my savior,
My shield, my place of refuge,
He brings peoples under my rule.
LORD, what is man that you care for him,
or the son of man that you keep him in mind?
Man, who is merely a breath,

whose life fades like a shadow.
Lower your heavens and come down, O LORD!
Touch the mountains, wreath them in smoke!
Flash your lightnings and put them to flight.
Shoot your arrows and rout them!
Reach down from heaven and save me
Draw me out of the many waters,
from the hands of alien foes,
Whose mouths are filled with lies,
whose hands are raised in perjury.
To you, O God, I will sing a new song;
I will play on the ten-stringed lute
To you, who give kings their victory,
Who set your servant David free.
Let our sons flourish like saplings
Grown tall and strong from their youth
Our daughters graceful as columns
Adorned as though for a palace.
Let our barns be full to overflowing,
With crops of every kind.
Our sheep increasing by thousands
Myriads of sheep in our fields;
Our cattle heavy with young,
No ruined wall, no exile,
No sound of weeping in our streets
Happy the people with such blessings;
Happy the people whose God is the LORD!

Fifth Reading (*1 Samuel 1:1-20*)

Deacon: Wisdom!
Reader: A reading from the first book of Samuel.
Deacon: Let us be attentive!

Reader: In those days:

There was a certain man of Ramathaim-zophim of the hill country of Ephraim, whose name was Elkanah the son of Rodham, son of Elisha, son of Tohu, son of Zuph, an Ephraimite. He had two wives; the name of the one was Hannah, and the name of the other Penin'nah. And Penin'nah had children, but Hannah had no children.

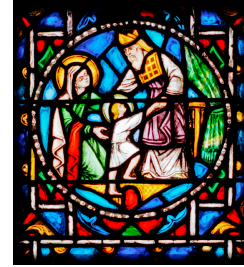
Now this man used to go up year by year from his city to worship and to sacrifice to the LORD of hosts at Shiloh, where the two sons of Eli, Hophni and Phinehas, were priests of the LORD. On the day when Elkanah sacrificed, he would give portions to Peninnah his wife and to all her sons and daughters; and, although he loved Hannah, he would give Hannah only one portion, because the LORD had closed her womb. And her rival used to provoke her sorely, to irritate her, because the LORD had closed her womb. So it went on year by year; as often as she went up to the house of the LORD, she used to provoke her. Therefore, Hannah wept and would not eat. And Elkanah, her husband, said to her, "Hannah, why do you weep? And why do you not eat? And why is your heart sad? Am I not more to you than ten sons?"

After they had eaten and drunk in Shiloh, Hannah rose. Now Eli the priest was sitting on the seat beside the doorpost of the temple of the LORD. She was deeply distressed and prayed to the LORD, and wept bitterly. And she vowed a vow and said, "O LORD of hosts, if you will indeed look on the affliction of your maidservant, and remember me, and not forget your maidservant, but will give to your maidservant a son, then I will give him to the LORD all the days of his life, and no razor shall touch his head."

As she continued praying before the LORD, Eli observed her mouth. Hannah was speaking in her heart; only her lips

moved, and her voice was not heard; therefore, Eli took her to be a drunken woman. And Eli said to her, "How long will you be drunken? Put away your wine from you." But Hannah answered, "No, my lord, I am a woman sorely troubled; I have drunk neither wine nor strong drink, but I have been pouring out my soul before the LORD. Do not regard your maidservant as a base woman, for all along I have been speaking out of my great anxiety and vexation."

Then Eli answered, "Go in peace, and the God of Israel grant your petition which you have made to him." And she said, "Let your maidservant find favor in your eyes." Then the woman went her way and ate, and her countenance was no longer sad. They rose early in the morning and worshiped before the LORD; then they



went back to their house at Ramah. And Elkanah knew Hannah his wife, and the LORD remembered her; and in due time Hannah conceived and bore a son, and she called his name Samuel, for she said, "I have asked him of the LORD."

And the man Elkanah and all his house went up to offer to the LORD the yearly sacrifice, and to pay his vow. But Hannah did not go up, for she said to her husband, "As soon as the child is weaned, I will bring him, that he may appear in the presence of the LORD, and abide there forever." Elkanah her husband said to her, "Do what seems best to you, wait until you have weaned him; only, may the LORD establish his word." So the woman remained and nursed her son, until she weaned him. And when she had weaned him, she took him up with her, along with a three-year-old bull, an ephah of flour, and a skin of wine; and she brought him to the house of the LORD at Shiloh; and the child was young. Then they slew the bull, and they brought the child to Eli. And she said, "Oh, my lord! As you live, my lord, I am

the woman who was standing here in your presence, praying to the LORD. For this child I prayed; and the LORD has granted me my petition which I made to him. Therefore, I have lent him to the LORD; as long as he lives, he is lent to the LORD." And they worshiped the LORD there.

Fifth Prayer (*1 Sam 2:1-10*)

(Hannah also prayed and said):

My heart exults in the LORD;
 my strength is exalted in the LORD.
My mouth derides my enemies,
 because I rejoice in your salvation.
There is none holy like the LORD,
 there is none besides you,
 there is no rock like our God.
Talk no more so very proudly,
 let not arrogance come from your mouth;
For the LORD is a God of knowledge,
 and by him actions are weighed.
The bows of the mighty are broken,
 but the feeble gird on strength.
Those who were full have hired themselves out for bread,
 but those who were hungry have ceased to hunger.
The barren has borne seven,
 but she who has many children is forlorn.
The LORD kills and brings to life;
 he brings down to Sheol and raises up.
The LORD makes poor and makes rich;
 he brings low, he also exalts.
He raises up the poor from the dust;
 he lifts the needy from the ash heap,
To make them sit with princes / and inherit a seat of honor.

For the pillars of the earth are the LORD'S,
and on them he has set the world.
He will guard the feet of his faithful ones;
but the wicked shall be cut off in darkness;
For not by might shall a man prevail.
The adversaries of the LORD shall be broken to pieces;
against them he will thunder in heaven.
The LORD will judge the ends of the earth;
he will give strength to his king,
and exalt the power of his anointed.

Sixth Reading (*Isaiah 7:10-15*)

Deacon: Wisdom!
Reader: A reading from the prophecy of Isaiah.
Deacon: Let us be attentive!
Reader: In those days:

Again the LORD spoke to Ahaz, "Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven." But Ahaz said, "I will not ask, and I will not put the LORD to the test." And he said, "Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary men, that you weary my God also?"



Therefore, the Lord himself will give you this sign: the virgin shall be with child, and bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel. He shall eat curds and honey when he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good.

Sixth Prayer (*Isaiah 9:1-6*)

But there will be no gloom / for her that was in anguish.
In the former time he brought into contempt
the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali,

But in the latter time he will make glorious / the way of the sea,
The land beyond the Jordan, / Galilee of the nations.
The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light;
 Those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness,
 on them has light shined.
You have multiplied the nation / you have increased its joy;
They rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest,
 as men rejoice when they divide the spoil.
For the yoke of his burden, and the staff for his shoulder,
 the rod of his oppressor,
 you have broken as on the day of Midian.
For every boot of the tramping warrior in battle tumult
 and every garment rolled in blood
 will be burned as fuel for the fire.
For to us a child is born, to us a son is given;
 and the government will be upon his shoulder,
And his name will be called
 "Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
 Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace."

Seventh Reading (*Jeremiah 1:4-10*)

Deacon: Wisdom!
Reader: A reading from the prophecy of Jeremiah.
Deacon: Let us be attentive!
Reader: In those days:



Now the word of the LORD came to me saying, "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born I consecrated you; I appointed you a prophet to the nations." Then I said, "Ah, Lord GOD! Behold, I do not know how to speak, for I am only a youth." But the LORD said to me, "Do not say, 'I am only a youth'; for to all to whom I send you you shall go, and whatever I command you you shall speak. Be not afraid of them, for I am with you to deliver you, says the LORD." Then the LORD put forth his hand and touched my mouth; and the LORD said to me, "Behold, I have put my words in your mouth. See, I have set you this day over nations and over kingdoms, to pluck up and to break down, to destroy and to overthrow, to build and to plant."

Seventh Prayer (*Jeremiah 17:5-14*)

Cursed is the man who trusts in man and makes flesh his arm,
whose heart turns away from the LORD.
He is like a shrub in the desert,
and shall not see any good come.
He shall dwell in the parched places of the wilderness,
in an uninhabited salt land.
Blessed is the man who trusts in the LORD,
whose trust is the LORD.
He is like a tree planted by water,
that sends out its roots by the stream,
and does not fear when heat comes,
for its leaves remain green,
and is not anxious in the year of drought,
for it does not cease to bear fruit.
The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately corrupt;
who can understand it?

I the LORD search the mind and try the heart,
to give to every man according to his ways,
according to the fruit of his doings.
Like the partridge that gathers a brood which she did not
hatch, / so is he who gets riches but not by right;
In the midst of his days they will leave him,
and at his end he will be a fool.
A glorious throne set on high from the beginning
is the place of our sanctuary.
O LORD, the hope of Israel,
all who forsake you shall be put to shame;
Those who turn away from you shall be written in the earth,
for they have forsaken the LORD, the fountain of living water.
Heal me, O LORD, and I shall be healed;
save me, and I shall be saved;
for you are my praise.

Eighth Reading (*Luke 1:5-25, 57-58*)

Deacon: Wisdom! Let us stand and listen to the
Holy Gospel
Priest: Peace be with all!
All: And with your spirit!
Priest: A reading from the Holy Gospel according
to St Luke
All: Glory to You, O Lord; glory to You!
Deacon: Let us be attentive:
Priest: At that time:

In the days of Herod, king of Judea, there was a priest named
Zechariah, of the division of Abi'jah; and he had a wife of the
daughters of Aaron, and her name was Elizabeth. And they were
both righteous before God, walking in all the commandments



and ordinances of the Lord blameless. But they had no child, because Elizabeth was barren, and both were advanced in years.

Now while he was serving as priest before God when his division was on duty, according to the custom of the priesthood, it fell to him by lot to enter the temple of the Lord and burn incense. And the whole multitude of the people were praying outside at the hour of incense. And there appeared to him an angel of the Lord standing on the right side of the altar of incense. And Zechariah was troubled when he saw him, and fear fell upon him. But the angel said to him, "Do not be afraid, Zechariah, for your prayer is heard, and your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you shall call his name John. And you will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth; for he will be great before the Lord, and he shall drink no wine nor strong drink, and he will be filled with the Holy Spirit, even from his mother's womb. And he will turn many of the sons of Israel to the Lord their God, and he will go before him in the spirit and power of Elijah, to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, to make ready for the Lord a people prepared."

And Zechariah said to the angel, "How shall I know this? For I am an old man, and my wife is advanced in years." And the angel answered him, "I am Gabriel, who stand in the presence of God; and I was sent to speak to you, and to bring you this good news. And behold, you will be silent and unable to speak until the day that these things come to pass, because you did not believe my words, which will be fulfilled in their time."

And the people were waiting for Zechariah, and they wondered at his delay in the temple. And when he came out, he could not speak to them, and they perceived that he had seen a vision in the temple; and he made signs to them and remained

dumb. And when his time of service was ended, he went to his home. After these days his wife Elizabeth conceived, and for five months she hid herself, saying, "Thus the Lord has done to me in the days when he looked on me, to take away my reproach among men."

In those days Mary arose and went with haste into the hill country, to a city of Judah, and she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. And when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, the babe leaped in her womb; and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and she exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! And why is this granted me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? For behold, when the voice of your greeting came to my ears, the babe in my womb leaped for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfilment of what was spoken to her from the Lord." And Mary remained with her about three months, and returned to her home.



Now the time came for Elizabeth to be delivered, and she gave birth to a son. And her neighbors and kinsfolk heard that the Lord had shown great mercy to her, and they rejoiced with her. And on the eighth day they came to circumcise the child; and they would have named him Zechariah after his father, but his mother said, "Not so; he shall be called John." And they said to her, "None of your kindred is called by this name." And they made signs to his father, inquiring what he would have him called. And he asked for a writing tablet, and wrote, "His name is John." And they all marveled. And immediately his mouth was opened and his tongue loosed, and he spoke, blessing God. And fear came on all their neighbors. And all these things were talked about through all the hill country of Judea; and all who heard them laid them up in their

hearts, saying, "What then will this child be?" For the hand of the Lord was with him.,

All: Glory to you, O Lord, glory to you!

Eighth Prayer (*Luke 1:68-79*)

(And his father Zechariah was filled with the Holy Spirit, and prophesied, saying):

Blessed be the Lord God of Israel,
 for he has come to his people and set them free.
and has raised up for us a might savior
 born of the house of his servant David.
Through his holy prophets he promised of old
 that he would save us from our enemies,
 from the hand of those who hate us.
He promised to show mercy to our fathers,
 and to remember his holy covenant,
This was the oath he swore to our father Abraham,
 To set us free from the hand of our enemies,
Free to worship him without fear,
 Holy and righteous in his sight
 All the days of our life.
And you, my child, will be called the prophet of the Most High;
 for you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways,
to give his people knowledge of salvation to his people
 by the forgiveness of their sins,
In the tender compassion of our God,
 The Dawn from on high will break upon us,
To shine on those in darkness and the shadow of death,
 and to guide our feet into the way of peace.

Ninth Reading (*Luke 1:26-38 & Matthew 1:18-25*)

Deacon: Wisdom! Let us stand and listen to the
Holy Gospel
Priest: Peace be with all!
All: And with your spirit!
Priest: A reading from the Holy Gospel according
to St Luke
All: Glory to You, O Lord; glory to You!
Deacon: Let us be attentive:
Priest: At that time:



In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David; and the virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Hail, full of grace, the Lord is with you!" But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and considered in her mind what sort of greeting this might be. And the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High; and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever; and of his kingdom there will be no end."

And Mary said to the angel, "How shall this be, since I have no husband?" And the angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore, the child to be born will be called holy, the Son of God. And behold, your kinswoman Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month

with her who was called barren. For with God nothing will be impossible." And Mary said, "Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word." And the angel departed from her.

Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child of the Holy Spirit; and her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. But as he considered this, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit; she will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." All this took place to fulfil what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: "Behold, a virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and his name shall be called Emmanuel" (which means, God with us). When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took his wife, but knew her not until she had borne a son; and he called his name Jesus.



All: Glory to you, O Lord, glory to you!

Ninth Prayer (*Luke 1:46-55*)

(And Mary said,)

My soul magnifies the Lord,

and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,

Because he has looked on the humility of his servant

from this day forward all generations shall call me
blessed.

Because he who is mighty has done great things for me,

and holy is his name.
And his love is from generation to generation
to those who fear him.
He has shown might in his arm,
he has scattered the proud in the conceit of their heart.
he has put down the mighty from their seat
and exalted the humble
he has filled the hungry with good things,
and the rich he has sent away empty.
He has received Israel his servant being mindful of his love,
as he spoke to our fathers,
to Abraham and to his seed forever.

Dismissal

Deacon: Wisdom!

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

Priest: Glory to You, O Christ our God, our hope, glory to
You!

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

Lord have mercy (*3 times*).
Give the blessing!

Priest: May Christ our true God (*on Sunday*: risen from
the dead), have mercy on us and save us through the prayers of
His most pure Mother, through the prayers of **Name** (*the*

patron of the Church) and of **Name** (*whose feast we keep this day*), and of all the saints; for Christ is good and loves mankind.

All: Amen.

Prayer to the Helper of Mothers

O Most Holy Mother of God and Ever Virgin Mary, you are a mystical garden in which grew the Tree of Eternal Life. You are the Gardener of the Gardener of Life, the Soil whose Fruit shall not perish, and the Key to Paradise. You are the Mother of both Lamb and Shepherd, the Protection against unseen enemies, more Spacious than the Heavens, the Trust of Mortals before God, and the Unfading Rose. When God so wills, the very order of nature is abolished. In a mysterious and miraculous manner, the Infinite and Eternal God took flesh from your most pure body and became man. You are the temple, the gate, the palace, and the throne of the King.

Most Holy Mother of God, we beg you to look with favor on our request. Ask your Divine Son to grant conception to your handmaid, and protect her throughout her term with health for both her and her child, and protect her and her child during birth from all danger and every visible and invisible enemy. Grant to her a godly child who is healthy in body, mind, and spirit, and who is virtuous in actions, and who is eager to please God in all things. Ask your Divine Son to grant to your handmaid the divine gifts of peace of mind, and serenity, and tranquility, and resignation to the will of God. Amen.