

THE HOLY HOURS VOLUME III

THE SEVEN LITANIES

You can substitute the cross (+) in the prayers with the following statements:

+ Your servants

+ All Your servants who are in pain, distress, hardship, disease, sorrow, fearfulness, uncertainty, temptation, lust, catastrophe, oppression, and persecution.

+ All those on whose behalf we are now gathered before Your Holy Glory, asking in supplication for them Your aid, Your mercies, and Your compassion, that You may grant them their requests according to the richness of Your generosity.

+ All Your people who are believing in Your name, all Your servants and all those whom You sent to us to speak to them of the Word of eternal life for the salvation of their souls and the inheritance of the kingdom of heaven.

+ All those whose names we mentioned today, and those whom we have not. Those who are in our minds and those who are not. Those who asked us to mention their names and those who have not.

THE FIRST LITANY

O Master, the Lord and God, glorified by all the universe. Devisor of all heavenly and earthly creations through His mercy. One in essence. Triune in hypostasis and virtues. Out of Your goodness, we ask and seek You O Lord, who is compassionate toward Your believers. Lover of mankind, whom You created in Your image and likeness, we ask and entreat of Your mercies that are countless. You are He who is the foster and aide of the forefathers, the prophets and the messengers. As You were with Your obedient servants, Your prophets and Your chosen apostles, and all the righteous, the martyrs and the saints throughout the generations; so, You are with all the Christians to the end of all generations. You are He who relieved them of their sadness and succored them in their labors and all of their struggles. Likewise now, with Your merciful eyes and Your great forgiveness look upon Your servants (+) and deliver them from their afflictions and their pains. Relieve their sorrows and all their grief. Rescue them from every adversity, and every predicament and deliver them from the hands of the unjust, the evil people, those who intend to harm them, and from all strange nations. From the perverted people and from their enemies, their oppressors, their humiliators, and all those rising against them. Abolish their wicked intentions. Save all Your believers, and grant Your peace to Your holy and apostolic church; through the intercessions of the ever Virgin, the Theotokos, Saint Mary, all the angels, apostles, martyrs, and all the saints, forever and ever. Amen.

THE SECOND LITANY

O Lord, as You have rescued Israel, Your people at that time from the slavery of the Pharaoh, and the oppression of the Egyptians through the hands of the archprophet Moses, likewise rescue Your servants (+). Save them from all of their sorrows. Repeal their sufferings now O Lord. Rescue them from their afflictions and comfort them in their hardships. Protect their souls and bodies. Cover their vices, and sustain them in all their conduct. Turn their sorrows into joy and heal their pains. Put away from them the flames of the awful lusts. As You extinguished the flames of the Babylonian furnace from Your holy servants Annanias, Azarias, and Messaeel; the three righteous lads. And You have sent them the angel of mercy Michael, and rescued them from those flames. Likewise, extinguish from all Your people, the fiery rage of their enemies, their persecutors, their oppressors and their adversaries. Disperse their enviousness and their plots. Heal their sufferings and all diseases of their bodies, souls and spirits, both hidden and manifest. Turn away from them the evil of all the unjust. Turn away from them the commotion of their agitations. Dismiss their evils, abolish their conspiracies, and weaken their indignation. Abolish their powers and disperse their intentions. Look with the sight of Your compassion upon them, and upon all those in distress among Your people who believe in You. And with Your Godly mercies, bestow calmness and assurance upon Your holy apostolic church; through the intercessions of the ever Virgin, the Theotokos, Saint Mary, all the angels, apostles, martyrs, and all the saints, forever and ever. Amen.

THE THIRD LITANY

O Lord, as You saved Your prophet Daniel from the mouths of wild lions, and transformed their wild nature into a tame one, likewise now close the mouths of the oppressors of Your servants (+) and of all their persecutors, their enemies, all those who intend them malice and seek to harm them, from all nations near or far. Abolish their powers and abate their confrontations. Dissolve their plots and their wicked deeds, and reveal in them the strength of Your guardianship and the joy of Your glorious and mighty salvation. Heal them from their pains and afflictions. Rescue them from their sorrows. Pledge them and all the weary of Your people, with peace and assurance. O Lord, You have accepted Ezekiel's weeping, Manasseh's repentance and Elijah's prayer. Likewise accept our weeping, repentance and prayers, we the lowly and sinners, asking on behalf of Your servants. O Lord, loosen their bindings and release them from their captivity. Grant them rescue from the hands of their enemies, and deliver them to all their aims that are good. Protect them from the victory of their opponents, the sinners, the vile, and all the unjust. You are the hope of the hopeless and the help of the helpless. Let Your Godly mercy save them and save all those among Your believers who are suffering from hardships. Lift up the horn of Your holy apostolic church in Your care; through the intercessions of the ever Virgin, the Theotokos, Saint Mary, all the angels, apostles, martyrs, and all the saints, forever and ever. Amen.

THE FOURTH LITANY

O Lord, as You accepted the pleas of the people of Ninevah and rescued them from great hardships and afflictions through the hands of Your prophet Jonah, son of Amittai; and You accepted his pleas from the bowels of the whale, and rescued him from it in peace and good health, accept unto You the pleas of Your servants who are crying out to You. Accept my plea, I the sinner and the lowly, on behalf of Your servants (+). May You look unto them with the sight of Your compassion upon their meekness and humbleness, their suffering and their discouragement, their fear, their agitation, their restlessness, their disturbance, the victory of their enemies and their might and aggravation upon them. Send them the angel of aide and peace, bearing them the joy, the support, the aide, the strength, the triumph and the victory. Remove from them all their sadness and uplift them from their hardships and comfort their broken hearts. Guide their thoughts. "There is none equal to You in the time of hardships." Lift up the horn of all Christians. Look upon all those who are in distress, and difficulty. Open the doors of Your holy and apostolic church. Sustain it in Your true peace; through the intercessions of the ever Virgin, the Theotokos, Saint Mary, all the angels, apostles, martyrs, and all the saints, forever and ever. Amen.

THE FIFTH LITANY

O Lord, as You accepted Noah and Jeremiah Your prophets; the tears of David, son of Jesse, the labors of Elijah, the pleas of Hezekiah, the incense of Zakaria, and the patience of Job the righteous, through their temptations and difficulties, also now lend Your ear and accept the supplication of Your servants unto You, and listen to their pleas. Answer our prayers and supplications on behalf of Your servants (+), and on behalf of all the sick with all diseases and pains at all times, and in every place, to raise them from their sufferings. Heal them from their various pains and hardships. Save them all from their afflictions and spare them from the injustice of their adversities. Loosen the ties of their persecutors. Open the doors of Your acceptance to them and shine upon them with the light of Your guidance. May their thoughts and minds be enlightened. Keep away from them all that they have no power over. O Lord, do not dismiss Your face from Your people, and do not distance Your mercy away from them; visit them and attend to them. O Lord, pour Your compassion upon them and attend to their needs. Lord, heal their pains and deliver them from their agitations. Support and aide them, and fulfill their healing. Lord, wash away their blemishes and forgive them their sins. Lord, fulfill their needs and ease their difficulties. O Lord, if their sins have increased and their vices have multiplied, then guide them with the power of Your mercy and await their return, that You may accept their repentance, better their aim, and accept their pleas. You who do not desire the death of a sinner, but rather he may repent and retreat from disobedience. For all the blessing, the benevolence, and the aide are from Your grace. Lord, fulfill Your perfect will for all Your believers and all those who are sad among Your rational sheep. Pull them away from the midst of the waves of strangling temptations. Visit them with Your Godly mercy. Those who are in bondage among Your people — who believe in

You — release them from their captivity and watch over Your holy and apostolic church with Your Godly care. Through the intercessions of the ever Virgin, the Theotokos, Saint Mary, all the angels, apostles, martyrs, and all the saints, forever and ever. Amen.

THE SIXTH LITANY

O Lord, the Benefactor and Compassionate who is glorified by all the powers, all the orders, and all the heavenly hosts. O Christ our God, our shelter, our aide, our hope and our life-victory. You have accepted Peter's tears unto You, and granted him the absolution and retaining of sins on earth and in heaven, to him and to all the chosen pure apostles and the preaching disciples — the righteous, and their successors, the upright archpriests. O Lord, You accepted the toil of all the confessors, all the martyrs, all the saints, all righteous worshippers, and all the ascetics from the beginning to the end. Likewise, Lord fulfill to Your servants (+), those and all who knock upon the doors of Your rich mercies. Accept their supplications and prayers and answer their requests as they are awaiting Your mercies. Fulfill Your true will for them. May Your watchfulness, that is invisible, last upon them and absolve them their trespasses and guilts. O Lord, forgive them their sins and iniquities. Rescue them from the seas of temptations and tribulations. Uplift them from the depths of humiliation, sorrow, and disaster. Overcome them with Your mercies and compassion. O Lord, grant them to be near You, strengthen their ways, guide them to virtuous deeds. If they become neglectful and diverge from them, return them through Your just power and attract them to it. Lord, do not depose Your attentiveness from Your servants whose names we mentioned. For watchfulness makes the lost and the incapable better, as grace and delight are from You; and blessing shall come to fullness in the weak and in the desolate. The power of healing shall be revealed in those plagued with diseases and those who are troubled. O Lord, lead Your servants and all those who await drops of Your heavenly mercy out of the dew of Your goodness, those who are sustained with Your goodness, blessing, and Godly care, to Your holy and apostolic church. Fulfill in them Your holy and righteous will, that they may glorify You with Your people with the spiritual hymns and Davidian praises. Saying: "Blessed be the Lord, who has not given us as a prey to their teeth. Our soul has escaped as a bird from the snare of the fowlers; the snare is broken and we have escaped. Our help is in the name of the Lord, who made heaven and earth." To whom is due all glory, all blessing, all power, and all worship, through the intercessions of the ever Virgin, the Theotokos, Saint Mary, all the angels, apostles, martyrs, and all the saints, forever and ever. Amen.

THE SEVENTH LITANY

How do we renew the plea and petition, and the offering of supplications according to the possibility and the will, before Your fearful glory and Your praise that is inexpressible? That You grant Your servants (+) the rescue and comfort from hardships. Those who are seeking Your pardon and mercy, with the salvation, perfect their aims and let them see their hopes in Your goodness fulfilled. Deliver them from the depths of hardships, sorrows, distresses and fatigue. O Lord, grant them an exit from hardships to joy, and from distress to delight and relief. Perfect their well-being and their healing. Abolish all morbidity and murmur, and dissolve the causes of offenses and catastrophes. Disparage all harm and the roots of all agony, pain, and suffering that plague them, hidden or manifest. All those who are in hardship, catastrophe, sorrow, disaster, distress, tribulation, captivity, danger, shame, disgrace, misery, fear, and persecution, perfect their well-being and their healing. In all cities, villages and nations of the Christian faith, and the people who are adorned by the baptism, protect them with Your angels of light. Shelter Your holy people, the holy and apostolic church, in all the provinces of St. Mark's see. Through Your mercy and compassion, and the abundance of Your goodness and tenderness, forgive us our sins. Pardon our trespasses, those done knowingly or unknowingly, in daylight or at night time. Untie from us the devil's shackles and save us from his wicked deceptions. Protect us with Your army of angels of light. Through the intercessions of the ever Virgin, the Theotokos, Saint Mary, all the angels, apostles, martyrs, and all the saints, forever and ever. Amen.