

Your fearful second coming make me, the sinner, worthy to stand at the right hand of Your glory, through the intercessions of Your all-pure Mother and of all Your saints. Amen.

A PRAYER TO THE MOST HOLY THEOTOKOS

O all-holy Lady Theotokos, light of my darkened soul, my hope, my shelter, my refuge, my consolation and my joy: I thank you that you have accounted me worthy, although unworthy, to be a partaker of the immaculate Body and precious Blood of Your Son. But may you, who gave birth to the true Light, enlighten the spiritual eyes of my heart. O you who gave birth to the Fountain of immortality, enliven me who lie dead in sin. O compassionate, loving Mother of God the Word, have mercy on me, and grant me humility and contrition of heart, and humility in my thoughts and deliverance from the bondage of my vain imaginings. And account me worthy, even unto my last breath, to receive without condemnation the sanctification of the immaculate mysteries, unto the healing of both soul and body. And grant unto me tears of repentance and confession, that I may hymn you and glorify you all the days of my life, for you are blessed and glorified unto all ages. Amen.

THE HYMN OF SIMEON THE GOD-RECEIVER

Lord, Now may You let Your servant depart in peace, according to Your word. For my eyes have seen Your salvation, which You have prepared before the face of all people. a light to enlighten the Gentiles, and the glory of Your people Israel.

PRIEST: May Christ, our true God, Who rose from the dead,¹⁹ through the intercessions of His all-pure and all-blameless, holy Mother, by the might of the precious and life-giving Cross, by the protection of the honorable, bodiless powers of heaven, at the supplication of the honorable, glorious prophet, forerunner, and Baptist John, of the holy, glorious, and all-laudable apostles, of our father among the saints, John Chrysostom, archbishop of Constantinople (or Basil the Great, archbishop of Caesarea), of the holy, glorious, and victorious martyrs, of our venerable and Godbearing fathers, of (N., patron of the church), of the holy and righteous ancestors of God, Joachim and Anna, of (N., the saint of the day) whose memory we celebrate, and of all the saints, have mercy on us and save us, for He is good and loves mankind. Through the prayers of our holy fathers, Lord Jesus Christ, our God, have mercy on us and save us.

PEOPLE: Amen.

SIT

(Announcements)

(As people leave they usually come forward and “venerate” the Cross held by the priest or an Icon placed in front of the Church. Veneration means to show honor, usually in the Church by kissing the object. People also receive a piece of “blessed bread” which comes from the other loaves baked at the same time as that used for Communion. Visitors are welcome to take the “blessed bread.” If you are a visitor, you are welcome to join us at “Coffee Hour” for a cup of coffee or tea, a snack and a time to visit.)

¹⁹ On feast days and during their seasons, the characteristic phrase of the feast is inserted here.

Appendix

THANKSGIVING AFTER HOLY COMMUNION

GLORY TO YOU, O GOD, GLORY TO YOU, O GOD, GLORY TO YOU, O GOD.

AN ANONYMOUS PRAYER

I thank You, O Lord my God, that You have not rejected me, a sinner, but have granted me to become a communicant of Your holy things. I thank You that You have granted me, the unworthy, to partake of Your immaculate and heavenly gifts. But, O Master Who love mankind, Who did both die for us and rise again and did bestow upon us these Your dread and life-giving mysteries for the benefiting and sanctification of our souls and bodies: Grant that they may be for me also unto healing of soul and body, unto the averting of everything contrary to it, unto the enlightenment of the eyes of my heart, unto the peace of my spiritual powers, unto faith unashamed, unto love unfeigned, unto increase of wisdom, unto the fulfillment of Your commandments, unto growth in Your divine grace and the attainment of Your kingdom, that, preserved by them in Your holiness, I may ever remember Your grace and from now on live not unto myself, but unto You, our Master and Benefactor. And thus, when this life is ended in the hope of eternal life, I may attain unto everlasting rest, where the voice of those who keep festival is unceasing and the delight of those who behold the ineffable beauty of Your countenance is boundless; for You are the true Desire and unutterable Joy of those who love You, O Christ our God, and all creation hymns You forever. Amen.

A PRAYER OF SAINT BASIL THE GREAT

O Master, Christ our God, King of the ages and Maker of all things: I thank You for all the good things which You have bestowed upon me and for this partaking of Your all-pure and life-giving mysteries. Therefore I ask You, Who are good and love mankind: Keep me

under Your protection and in the shadow of Your wings; and grant unto me with a pure conscience and even unto my last breath to partake of Your holy things unto forgiveness of sins and unto life everlasting. For You are the Bread of life, the Fountain of holiness, the Giver of good things, and unto You we ascribe glory, together with the Father and the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

A PRAYER OF SAINT SIMEON THE TRANSLATOR

O You Who willingly give Your flesh to me as food, You Who are a fire consuming the unworthy: do not consume me, O my Creator, but rather pass through all my body parts, into all my joints, my veins, my heart. May You burn the thorns of all my transgressions. Cleanse my soul, and hallow You my thoughts. Make firm my knees and also my bones. Enlighten me as one my five senses. Establish me wholly in Your fear. Ever shelter me, guard and keep me from every soul-corrupting deed and word. Cleanse me, purify and control me. Adorn me, teach and enlighten me. Show me to be a dwelling-place of Your Spirit and in no way the dwelling-place of sin, that from me, Your habitation, through the entrance of Your communion, every evil deed and every passion may flee as from fire. As intercessors I bring to You all the sanctified, both the leaders of the bodiless powers, Your Forerunner and Your wise apostles and, besides these, Your all-holy and pure Mother. May You receive their prayers, O my Christ, Who are compassionate, and make Your servant to be a child of the light; for You alone, O good One, are the Sanctification and Splendor of our souls, and to You as God and Master, day by day, we all ascribe glory.

ANOTHER PRAYER

May Your holy Body, O Lord Jesus Christ our God, be unto me for life eternal, and Your precious Blood unto forgiveness of my sins. May this Eucharist be unto me for joy, health and gladness; and at