



The Rite of Confession

After the usual beginning,

Lord, have mercy. (12) **Glory: Both now:** O come, let us worship God our King...
Psalm 50.

And the following hymns, Tone 6:

Have mercy on us, O Lord, have mercy on us, * for having no excuse for our transgressions, * we sinners do offer unto Thee, * as unto our Master, * this supplication: Have mercy on us.

Glory:

O Lord, have mercy on us, * for we have placed our hope in Thee. * Be not angered with us greatly, * neither do Thou remember our iniquities, * but look upon us even now in Thy kindheartedness, * and deliver us from our enemies, * for Thou art our God, and we, Thy people, * all being the works of Thy hands; * and upon Thy name do we call.

Both now:

Open unto us the gates of thy mercy, * O most blessed Theotokos; * may we not perish hoping in thee, * but be delivered from adversities through thee, * for thou art the salvation of the Christian race.

Lord, have mercy. (40) **Then the priest saith:** Let us pray to the Lord.

O God our Savior, who by Thy prophet Nathan didst grant unto repentant David pardon of his transgressions, and didst accept Manasses' prayer of penitence, do Thou, with Thy usual love for mankind, accept also Thy servant, N., who repenteth him (her) of the sins which he (she) hath committed, overlooking all that he (she) hath done, pardoning his (her) offenses, and passing by his (her) iniquities. For Thou hast said, O Lord: With desire have I desired not the death of the sinner, but rather that he should turn away from the wickedness which he hath committed and live; and that even unto seventy times seven,

sins ought to be forgiven. For Thy majesty is incomparable, and Thy mercy is illimitable; and if Thou shouldest mark iniquities, who shall stand? For Thou art the God of the penitent, and unto Thee do we send up glory, to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now, and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

The priest: Let us pray to the Lord.

O Lord, Jesus Christ, Son of the Living God, both shepherd and lamb Who takest away the sins of the world; Who didst remit the loan unto the two debtors, and didst vouchsafe unto the woman who was a sinner the remission of her sins: Do Thou, the same Lord, loose, remit, and forgive the sins, transgressions and iniquities whether voluntary or involuntary, whether of willfulness or of ignorance, which have been committed unto guilt and disobedience by these Thy servants. And if they, bearing flesh and dwelling in the world, in that they are men, have in any way been beguiled of the devil; if in word or in deed, whether knowingly or unknowingly, they have sinned, either contemning the word of a priest, or falling under his anathema, or have broken their oath: Do Thou, the same Master, in that Thou art good and cherishest not ill-will, graciously grant unto these Thy servants the word of absolution, remitting unto them their anathema and curse, according to Thy great mercy. Yea, O manbefriending Master and Lord, hear Thou us who make our petitions unto Thy goodness on behalf of these Thy servants, and disregard Thou all their errors, inasmuch as Thou art exceedingly merciful; and loose them from punishment eternal. For Thou hast said, O Master: Whatsoever ye shall bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatsoever ye shall loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven. For Thou alone art without sin, and unto Thee do we send up glory, to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Then the priest shall say to the penitent:

Behold, my child, Christ standeth here invisibly, and receiveth thy confession; wherefore, be not ashamed, neither be afraid, and conceal thou nothing from me, but tell me, without

justifying thyself, all things which thou hast done; and so shalt thou have pardon from our Jesus Christ. Lo, His holy image is before us, and I am but a witness, bearing testimony before Him of all things which thou dost say unto me. But if thou shalt conceal anything from me, thy sins shall be as doubled. Take heed, therefore, lest, having come to the physician, thou depart unhealed.

Then the person, when he hath made his confession, boweth his head, and the confessor reciteth the following prayer:

The priest: Let us pray to the Lord.

O Lord God of the salvation of Thy servants, gracious, bountiful, and long-suffering, Who repentest Thee concerning our evil deeds, and desirest not the death of the sinner, but rather that he should turn away from his wickedness and live; Show Thy mercy now upon Thy servant, N., and grant unto him (her) an image of repentance, forgiveness of sins, and deliverance, pardoning his (her) every transgression, whether voluntary or involuntary. Reconcile and unite him (her) unto Thy holy Church, through Jesus Christ our Lord, with Whom are due unto Thee dominion and majesty, now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

After this prayer, the priest pronounceth the absolution over the penitent, who kneeleth humbly, saying as follows, in completion of the holy Mystery of Confession:

May our Lord and God, Jesus Christ, through the grace and bounties of His love for mankind, forgive thee, my child, N., all thy transgressions. And I, His unworthy priest, through the power given unto me by Him, do forgive and absolve thee from all thy sins, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

And having finished the absolution, the priest maketh the sign of the Cross with his hand over the penitent.

Then: It is truly meet... Glory: Both now: And the benediction.

May Christ our true God, through the prayers of His most pure mother, of our most reverend and Godbearing fathers and of all the saints, have mercy on us and save us, for He is good, and the Friend of man.