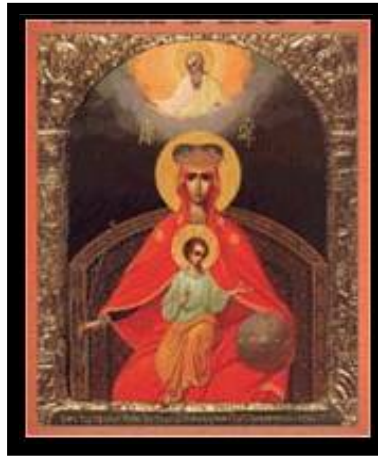


THE TALE OF THE FIVE PRAYERS



From the times of the Apostles, Christians of all ages, when entering upon a task, began it with prayer, and the end of it they also hallowed with prayerful thanksgiving to the Lord, in whom we live and move and have our being. Let us do the same, beloved reader.

Not having the gift of effectual prayer, let us recall and commit to memory what once was offered to the Lord by the grace of the Holy Spirit out of the inspired heart of the great Russian man of prayer, our father among the Saints, Dimitri, Metropolitan of Rostov & Yaroslav.

I am sure that for you, as for me, in offering to your attention "The Tale of the Five Prayers" the work of the great Bishop, it will be both welcome and useful, especially in the view of the wonderful promises which it contains. So hear this tale, my beloved reader.

You will not blame me for offering you in this Tale something new - it is not mine, and not new, but only fundamentally and completely forgotten, forgive me that I have disturbed the dust of ages: but this dust is holy ...

One of the holy fathers, standing in prayer and being in ecstasy, heard the voice of our Lord Jesus Christ speaking to the Immaculate and Holy Mother of God, His Mother, saying to her: "Tell me, My Mother, which were the greatest of your sufferings, when you lived in the world, which you suffered for My sake?

"The Immaculate One replied: "My Son and God, five times I have endured my greatest suffering for you: First, when I heard from the Prophet Simeon that you were to be killed; Second, when I looked for you in Jerusalem, and did not see you for three days; Third, when I heard that you were seized and bound by the Jews; Fourth, when I saw you on the Cross crucified between the robbers; Fifth, when I saw you placed in the Tomb."

THE PROMISE

The Lord said to her: "'I tell you. My Mother, whoever reads every day each of your sufferings with My prayer, i.e. 'Our Father,' for the first suffering I will give the knowledge of his sins and sorrow for them; for the second, I will give the forgiveness of all his sins; for the third, I will

restore to him the virtues lost through sin; for the fourth, I will refresh him at death with my Divine Body and Blood; for the fifth, I will appear to him Myself at his death, and receive his soul into eternal life.' 'Amen.'"

FIRST PRAYER



At the beginning of the five prayers:

Glory to You, Christ my God, that You have not destroyed me a sinner, with my sins, but even till now have borne -with my sin.

Bow

Vouchsafe, O Lord, to keep me this day without sin. Grant, O Lord, that I may not anger You, my Creator, in thought, word or deed, but that all my actions, counsels and thoughts may be to the glory of Your Holy Name.

Bow

God be merciful to me, a sinner, throughout my whole life. In my passing and after death, forsake me not.

Bow

Falling low on the earth, say:

Lord, Jesus Christ, Son of God, accept me, dead in mind and soul, accept me, a sinful prodigal, impure in soul and body. Take from me all shameless enmity and resistance, and turn not Your Face from me, O Lord, nor say: I know not who you are. But hear the voice of my prayer: save me, for You have a wealth of compassion and desire not the death of a sinner. I will never leave You nor depart from You, my Creator, till You hear me and give me forgiveness of all my sins, through the prayers of Your Most Pure Mother, the intercession of the honourable Bodiless Powers of Heaven, of my holy and glorious Guardian Angel, of Your Forerunner and Prophet, the Baptist John, of the God-speaking Apostles, of the holy and victorious Martyrs, of our Reverend and God-fearing Fathers, and all Your Saints, have mercy and save me, a sinner.

O Heavenly King, O Comforter,...

Holy God, Holy Mighty,...

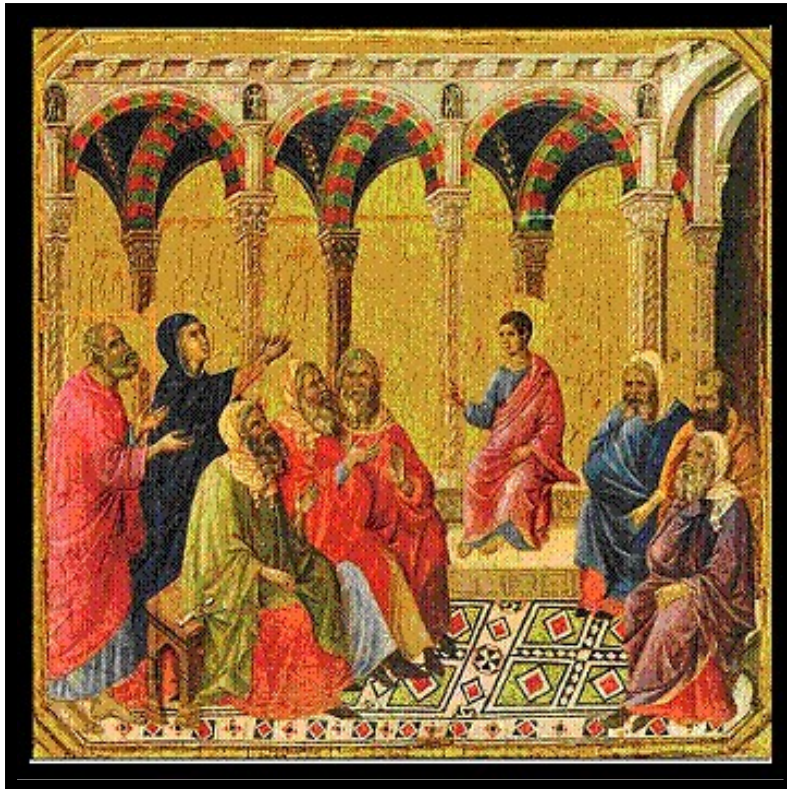
Our Father...

Virgin Mother of God, rejoice, Mary full of grace; the Lord is with you. Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb, for you have borne the Saviour of our souls.*

O merciful Mother, Virgin Mary, I your sinful and unprofitable servant, remembering your suffering on hearing from the Prophet Simeon of the merciless murder of your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, offer You this prayer and the Angelic Salutation. Accept it in honor and memory of your suffering. Pray your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, to grant me the knowledge of my sins and sorrow for them.

Bow

SECOND PRAYER



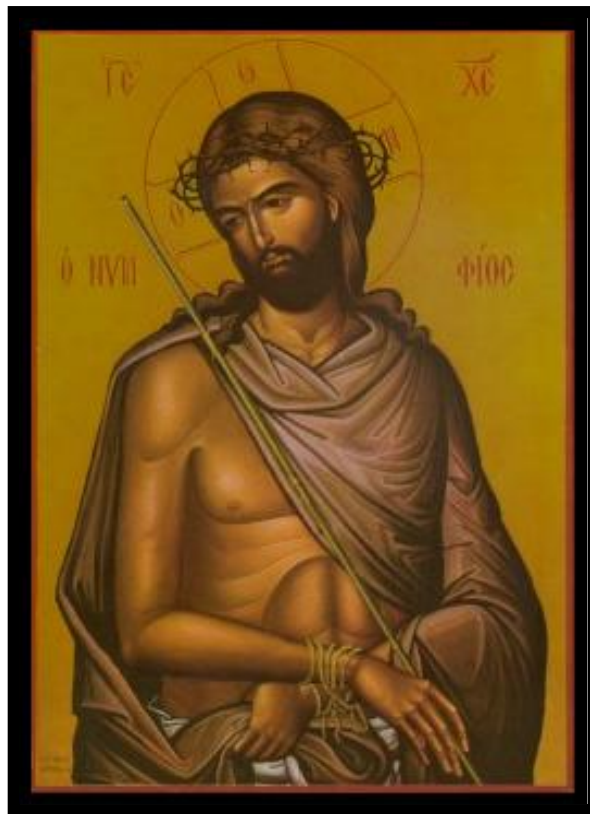
Our Father ...

Virgin Mother ...

O Divinely-blessed and Immaculate Maiden, Mother and Virgin, accept from me, your sinful and unprofitable servant, this prayer and the Angelic Salutation, in honor and memory of your suffering when you lost your Son our Lord Jesus Christ, in the Temple, and for three days did not see Him. Pray and beg of Him the forgiveness and remission of all my sins, O only Blessed One.

Bow

THIRD PRAYER



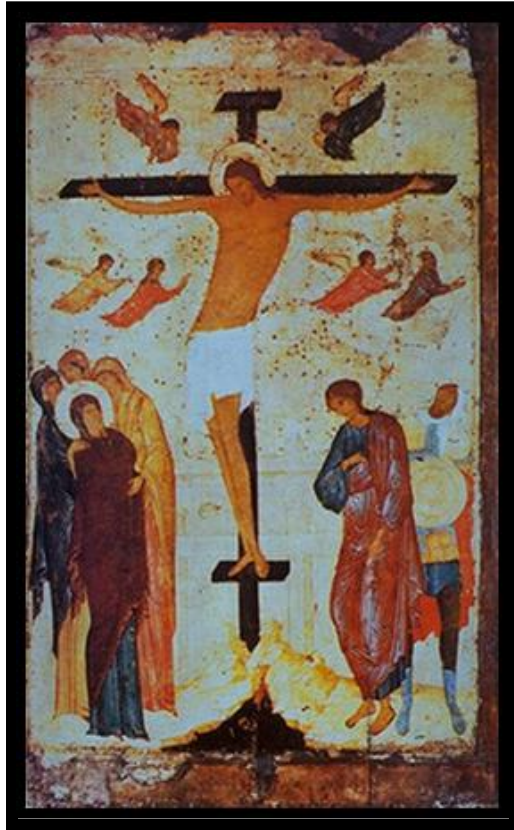
Our Father ...

Virgin Mother ...

O Mother of Light, most blessed Virgin Mother of God, accept from me, your sinful and unprofitable servant, this prayer and the Angelic Salutation, in honor and memory of your suffering on hearing that your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, had been seized and bound. Pray Him to restore to me the virtues lost through sin, that I may magnify you, O Most Pure One, forever.

Bow

FOURTH PRAYER



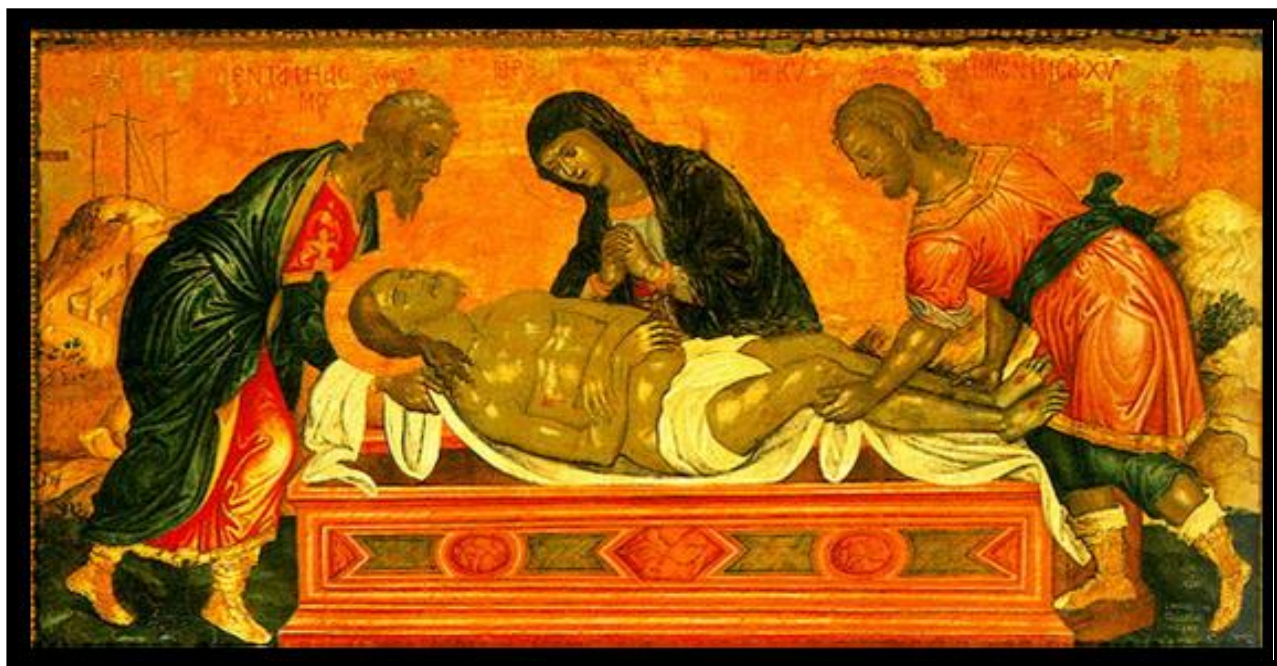
Our Father ...

Virgin Mother ...

O Fountain of Mercy, Virgin Mother of God, accept from me, your sinful and unprofitable servant, this prayer and the Angelic Salutation, in honor and memory of your suffering when you saw your GOD, our Lord Jesus Christ, on the Cross between the robbers. Pray Him, O Lady, to grant me the gift of His mercy in the hour of my death, and to refresh me with His Divine Body and Blood, that I may glorify you, my Defender, forever.

Bow

FIFTH PRAYER



Our Father ...

Virgin Mother ...

O my Hope, Most Pure Virgin, Mother of God, accept from me, your sinful and unprofitable servant, this prayer and the Angelic Salutation, in honor and memory of your suffering when you saw your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, placed in the Tomb. Pray Him, O Lady, to appear to me in the hour of my death, and to receive my soul into eternal life. Amen.

Bow

*After this vision of the Holy Father, the below prayers were added by St. Dimitri of Rostov.