

AKATHIST SERVICE OF PRAYER

**Commemorating the
Holy Martyrs Perpetua and Felicity,
Their Companions in Martyrdom,
And All the Saints of Africa**

**With Prayers for Reconciliation
and the Healing of Animosity**

Priest: Blessed is our God, always, now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

People: Amen. O Heavenly King, the Comforter, the Spirit of Truth, Who art everywhere and fillest all things; Treasury of blessings and Giver of life; come and abide in us, and cleanse us from every impurity; and save our souls, O Good One.

Reader: Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal, have mercy on us! Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal, have mercy on us! Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal, have mercy on us!

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages; Amen.

O Most-Holy Trinity, have mercy on us. Lord, cleanse us from our sins. Master, pardon our transgressions. Holy One, visit and heal our infirmities for Thy name's sake.

Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages; Amen.

People: Our Father, Who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy Kingdom come, Thy 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, of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages.

Reader: Amen.

Lord, have mercy. (12 times)

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages; Amen.

Come, let us worship God our King. Come, let us worship and fall down before Christ our King and our God. Come, let us worship and fall down before Christ Himself, our King and our God.

Reader: Psalm 50 (LXX)

Have mercy on me, O God, according to Thy steadfast love; according to Thy abundant mercy blot out my transgressions. Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin!

For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me. Against Thee, Thee only, have I sinned, and done that which is evil in Thy sight, so that Thou art justified in Thy sentence and blameless in Thy judgment.

Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, and in sin did my mother conceive me. Behold, Thou desirest truth in the inward being; Therefore teach me wisdom in my secret heart. Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow. Fill me with joy and gladness; let the bones which Thou hast broken rejoice. Hide Thy face from my sins, and blot out all my iniquities.

Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me. Cast me not away from Thy presence, and take not Thy Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of Thy salvation, and uphold me with a willing spirit. Then I will teach transgressors Thy ways, and sinners will return to Thee.

Deliver me from bloodguiltiness, O God, Thou God of my salvation, and my tongue will sing aloud of Thy deliverance. O Lord, open Thou my lips, and my mouth shall show forth Thy praise. For Thou hast no delight in sacrifice; were I to give a burnt offering, Thou wouldst not be pleased. The sacrifice acceptable to God is a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, Thou wilt not despise.

Do good to Zion in Thy good pleasure; rebuild the walls of Jerusalem, then wilt Thou delight in right sacrifices, in burnt offerings and whole burnt offerings; then bulls will be offered on Thy altar.

People: The Symbol of Faith (the Nicene-Constantinopolitan Creed)

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible;

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God, the only-begotten, begotten of the Father before all ages. Light of Light; true God of true God; begotten, not made; of one essence with the Father, by Whom all things were made; Who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven, and was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary, and became man. And He was crucified for us under Pontius Pilate, and suffered, and was buried. And the third day He rose again, according to the Scriptures; and ascended into heaven, and sits at the right hand of the Father; and He shall come again with glory to judge the living and the dead; Whose Kingdom shall have no end;

And in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the Giver of Life, Who proceeds from the Father; Who with the Father and the Son together is worshipped and glorified; Who spoke by the prophets;

In One Holy, Catholic, and Apostolic Church. I acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins. I look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

The Akathist to the Saints of Africa

Kontakion 1

Priest: When the Lord deemed it fitting, He called His Saints out of the African lands: Holy Perpetua, Felicity, Saturus, Saturninus, Revocatus and Secundulus, to witness to their faith through suffering death. Thus, we have as an inheritance the flourishing tree of Orthodoxy, for they shed their blood, watering the seedling.
Wherefore we cry aloud:

People: Rejoice, Holy Martyrs Perpetua, Felicity, and all the Saints of Africa.

Ikos 1 (Each Ikos is chanted by the Priest)

As a catechumen, O holy Perpetua, thou wast taken captive and while in prison thy father besought thee to denounce Christ. But boldly thou didst proclaim that thou couldst be called by no other name but Christian. Wherefore we marvel at thy conviction and cry aloud to thee:

People: Rejoice, thou who art a shining example to all catechumens!

Rejoice, thou who chose the heavenly over thine earthly father!

Rejoice, thou who refused to be called anything other than a Christian!

Rejoice, being freed from the bondage of sin through baptism while yet in prison!

Rejoice, for being informed by the Spirit thou prayed only for endurance of the flesh!

Rejoice, married matron mother of a son!

Rejoice, thou who wast tempted by womanly anxiety for thy suckling child!

Rejoice, thou who was ministered to by the holy deacons Tertius and Pomponius!

Rejoice, thou who didst commend thy son to the care of thy mother!

Rejoice, thou who didst comfort thy brother,
a catechumen in the faith!

Rejoice, thou who didst look upon the dungeon as a palace!

Rejoice, bold one asking the Lord whether thou wouldst die a martyr's death!

Rejoice, Holy Martyrs Perpetua, Felicity, and all the Saints of Africa!

Kontakion 2

Beholding a heavenly vision, holy Perpetua was informed of her martyrdom. She was found worthy to see with spiritual eyes the contest of salvation. And looking upon the bronze ladder she saw holy Saturus going ahead of her, calling after her to follow.

Wherefore we call to her: **ALLELUIA!**

People: Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Ikos 2

Contemplating the narrow ladder, holy Perpetua understood the struggle to enter paradise, for as a vile serpent the devil lies waiting to strike. Yet encouraged by her teacher she trod upon its head and ascended the ladder, her gaze fixed upward. Wherefore we cry to her:

People: Rejoice, thou who didst declare the serpent powerless in the name of the Lord!

Rejoice, thou who didst proclaim the way to life impossible for the negligent!

Rejoice, thou who didst follow the holy Saturus' example in death as in life!

Rejoice, thou who didst ascend and enter a vast garden!

Rejoice, thou who didst stand in the company of many clothed in white!

Rejoice, thou who wast greeted by the venerable Shepherd!

Rejoice, thou who wast given to eat food sweeter than honey!

Rejoice, thou who didst awake from thy vision at the word "Amen"!

Rejoice, holy Saturus who wast found worthy to ascend the ladder first!

Rejoice, O father who gave thyself up for the sake of the catechumens!

Rejoice, encourager of Perpetua to follow after thee in thine ascent!

Rejoice, you who confidently forsook all hope in this world!

Rejoice, Holy Martyrs Perpetua, Felicity, and all the Saints of Africa!

Kontakion 3

During their meal the martyrs were all called to the tribunal, and once there they all proclaimed themselves Christians. Refusing to offer sacrifice to the idols for the Emperor's prosperity, they left the procurator Hilarian baffled, who knew not how to chant: **ALLELUIA!**

People: Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Ikos 3

Ever faithful to the Lord the martyrs professed their faith before the procurator, and the crowd which had gathered. The sentence was read out against them, they were to be sent to the beasts. Cheerfully they returned to the dungeon, and thus we cry out:

People: Rejoice, holy contestants in the stadium of Carthage!
Rejoice, firm pillars of the Faith, convicted for the sake of Christ!
Rejoice, blessed Martyrs whose blood watered Orthodoxy!
Rejoice, Holy Perpetua whose father once again tempted thee!
Rejoice, thou who didst refuse to sacrifice even for the
 sake of thy child!
Rejoice, thou who didst sorrow for thy father in his
 ignorance of the Faith!
Rejoice thou who didst proclaim that nothing happens
 outside of God's providence!
Rejoice, thou who stood firm though confronted by the familial
 bonds of nature!
Rejoice, thou who trusted that God would provide for thy son!
Rejoice, thou whose child was miraculously weaned though still a
 small infant!
Rejoice, Band of Martyrs bound together by common love for Christ!
Rejoice, you who were led to the dungeon as though to a bridal
 chamber!
Rejoice, Holy Martyrs Perpetua, Felicity, and all the Saints of Africa!

Kontakion 4

Fervently praying Perpetua didst hear the name “Dinocrates”, who was her departed brother in the flesh. As she beheld in a dream, the little one was in a dark place and thirsty. But he was unable to drink of the fountain for the height was very great. Wherefore, she didst supplicate for him and we cry to her: **ALLELUIA!**

People: Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Ikos 4

Great was her joy when Perpetua saw yet another vision wherein Dinocrates was healed of his infirmities. He drank his fill from the fountain – for he was benefitted by her ardent prayers, wherefore we praise her thus:

People: Rejoice, thou who didst help thy brother though a gulf was fixed between you!

Rejoice, deliverer from the suffering torments of Hades!

Rejoice, thou who deemed it laudable to pray with tears for thy brother!

Rejoice, thou who spent thy days and nights praying to God!

Rejoice, Holy Martyr who supplicates for us on earth as thou did for thy brother!

Rejoice, little Dinocrates for thou was delivered by thy sister's prayers!

Rejoice, thou whose face was healed once diseased by ulcers!

Rejoice, thou who art now clothed in fine apparel!

Rejoice, all you in Hades, comforted by the prayers of the righteous!

Rejoice, O fountain for thy ledge was lowered!

Rejoice, O over-flowing water who dost satisfy those who drink of thee!

Rejoice, golden cup who dost provide nourishment for the thirsty!

Rejoice, Holy Martyrs Perpetua, Felicity, and all the Saints of Africa!

Kontakion 5

Having seen the joy of her brother, Perpetua rejoiced that he no longer was tormented. For where once was an ulcer there remained only a scar. And in drinking the water from the golden cup his thirst was quenched. He ran to play as children do, and we cry to her:

ALLELUIA!

People: Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Ikos 5

Influenced by the grace of the martyrs, Pudens the prison guard's heart was softened, and he began to magnify them. Thus being filled with mercy he permitted many to enter the dungeon so that all might be comforted. Wherefore they extolled the martyrs thus:

People: Rejoice, bold intercessors before the throne of God!
Rejoice, bright lamps burning in northern Africa!
Rejoice, for you patiently suffered in dark dungeons!
Rejoice, for you are now delivered into the light of Paradise!
Rejoice, perfect examples of Christian friendship!
Rejoice, salt of the earth and light of the world!
Rejoice, for you were condemned to death by the earthly emperor!
Rejoice, for you are now crowned with life by the Heavenly King!
Rejoice, contestants with unconquerable courage!
Rejoice, brave warriors setting out to do battle for Christ!
Rejoice, peaceful souls eagerly awaiting His embrace!
Rejoice, for from your bloodshed an abundance of life sprung forth!
Rejoice, Holy Martyrs Perpetua, Felicity, and all the Saints of Africa!

Kontakion 6

Just before the games, holy Perpetua beheld a vision of the upcoming day's spiritual contest: hearing a loud knock she opened the door to the deacon Pomponios, clad all in white. He besought her to follow him and with much effort they arrived at the arena, wherefore we cry: **ALLELUIA!**

People: Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Ikos 6

Knowing she was to contend with beasts, Perpetua marveled that none were sent out against her, but soon saw an Egyptian of ill-repute approach her as her opponent. Thus she was stripped and clothed with oil, while the Egyptian wallowed in dust. And so, encouraged by her vision, we cry out:

People: Rejoice, thou who didst not shrink back in fear of the Egyptian!

Rejoice, brave contender against the forces of evil!

Rejoice, thou who wast found worthy to have angels as thy helpers!

Rejoice, thou who was offered a branch of golden fruit if victorious!

Rejoice, Soldier of Christ combatting in the front lines!

Rejoice, fierce fighter who smote thine enemy while trotting on air!

Rejoice, champion who didst dash thine enemy to the ground!

Rejoice, thou who didst step on his head as though on a serpent!

Rejoice, victor over the enemy who hinders our ascent to heaven!

Rejoice, thou who didst receive thy prize from the master of the gladiators!

Rejoice, conqueror of him who leads us to the gate of death!

Rejoice, thou who didst understand that thine was the victory!

Rejoice, Holy Martyrs Perpetua, Felicity, and all the Saints of Africa!

Kontakion 7

Lifted into the air by angels, O holy Saturus, in thy vision thou and holy Perpetua were carried into the heavens. For contending well, you were granted the promise the Lord had given you. Wherefore with the angels we cry out to you: **ALLELUIA!**

People: Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Ikos 7

Marvelous trees with flowers of all kinds didst you pass by while being upborne by angels to venerate the Heavenly King. Trembling, they laid you down, and you entered, clothed in white raiment, and thus we cry out:

People: Rejoice, you who were carried by angels toward the East!

Rejoice, you who passed over the earth's edge!

Rejoice, blessed ones who didst overlook wondrous gardens!

Rejoice, marvelled at by angels more glorious than the rest!

Rejoice, witnesses to the beauty of the Heavenly Kingdom!

Rejoice, you who looked upon trees unknown to this earth!

Rejoice, spectators of leaves that sang without ceasing!

Rejoice, you who met your fellow martyred companions!
Rejoice, called upon by angels to go in and salute the Lord!
Rejoice, worthy ones clothed in white raiment!
Rejoice, observers of a palace with walls made of light!
Rejoice, hearers of the thrice-holy hymn chanted unto the Trinity!
Rejoice, Holy Martyrs Perpetua, Felicity, and all the Saints of Africa!

Kontakion 8

Noticing in that place a man sitting, having hair white like snow – yet youthful of countenance – you were borne up by angels to reverently kiss him. Whereupon he passed his hand over your faces and you offered the kiss of peace to the surrounding elders. And thus, together with them we cry to you: **ALLELUIA!**

People: Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Ikos 8

Optatus the bishop, and Aspasia the priest and teacher, stood on either side of the door from which you exited. Falling at your feet they supplicated the two of you to make peace between them. Wherefore you rose them up and embraced them with love. Marveling at your humility we cry to you:

People: Rejoice, holy ones worthy to see divine visions!
Rejoice, you who encountered spiritual parents in the heavenly garden!
Rejoice, you who kept company in heaven with those on earth!
Rejoice, you who didst receive humble bows in your honour!
Rejoice, you who didst humbly return the simple gesture!
Rejoice, peacemakers among your fellow Christians!
Rejoice, poor in spirit who won the Kingdom of Heaven!
Rejoice, mourners who are comforted eternally!
Rejoice, you who thirsted for righteousness and were satisfied!
Rejoice, meek ones who shall inherit the earth!
Rejoice, merciful ones who have obtained much mercy!
Rejoice, pure of heart, for you see God perpetually!
Rejoice, Holy Martyrs Perpetua, Felicity, and all the Saints of Africa!

Kontakion 9

Putting aside the dissensions between them, Optatus and Aspasius followed the instruction of the angels and took heed of the advice given them. Thus did the angels warn Optatus to correct his people so that they might not continue in their crooked ways. Wherefore we cry: **ALLELUIA!**

People: Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Ikos 9

Quivering at the thought that thou might be prohibited to contend, for thou wast with child, O holy Felicity, thou and those with thee didst pour out thy supplication to the Lord, that He might grant thee His favour. Immediately He didst hearken unto thy prayer and thou didst bring forth a daughter, wherefore we cry to thee:

People: Rejoice, thou who didst join in prayer with thy fellow martyrs!
Rejoice, slave in this life but servant of God eternally!
Rejoice, contestor for the grace of martyrdom!
Rejoice, fervent intercessor to God for His favour!
Rejoice, worthy one granted the grace of a safe and early labour!
Rejoice, thou who was not hindered by the ties of thy kindred!
Rejoice, thou who didst entrust thy babe to a fellow Christian!
Rejoice, thou who didst answer wisely in the face of insult!
Rejoice, wise counselor proclaiming the strength of Christ in
weakness!
Rejoice, sanctified one through the act of childbearing!
Rejoice, brave martyr who dost remember those in want of children!
Rejoice, thou who tasted of the felicity of dying for our Lord!
Rejoice, Holy Martyrs Perpetua, Felicity, and all the Saints of Africa!

Kontakion 10

Readily prepared to die a martyr's death, holy Secundulus wast called from this life while still in prison. For though his body knew not the sword, his soul suffered a martyrdom. Wherefore, in His

ineffable mercy, God preserved him from the beasts, and thus we cry to Him: **ALLELUIA!**

People: Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Ikos 10

Spectators having gathered to gawk at the martyrs, the holy Saturus didst prophetically rebuke them: “Remember our faces, for us you will see on the fearful Day of Judgment.” Wherefore, many departed astonished; and of those who heard, many were converted, and thus we proclaim:

People: Rejoice, Holy Martyrs whose martyrdom was recorded by the faithful!

Rejoice, you who were treated harshly by the fearful tribune!

Rejoice, holy ones persecuted out of fear of your escape!

Rejoice, bold Perpetua who didst scold the cruel soldier!

Rejoice, faithful ones who converted many while in prison!

Rejoice, workers of the vineyard who converted more by your common passion!

Rejoice, partakers of an Agape meal instead of common food!

Rejoice, you who communed of the feast of the Body and Blood of our Lord!

Rejoice, you who longed to be nourished by Christ instead of meat!

Rejoice, you who forewarned the spectators of the coming Judgment!

Rejoice, brave contestants prepared to fight on the birthday of Caesar!

Rejoice, Saints of the Lord eagerly awaiting your death in His name!

Rejoice, Holy Martyrs Perpetua, Felicity, and all the Saints of Africa!

Kontakion 11

The day of the games having dawned, the holy martyrs prepared for battle. Bravely entering the stadium, they were filled with joy as though in heaven. At the sight of Perpetua many cast down their

eyes. Felicity came to her second baptism – from blood to blood, from midwife to gladiator. Wherefore we cry out: **ALLELUIA!**

People: Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Ikos 11

Unable to convince the martyrs to put on the robes of idolaters, the tribune conceded that they should be brought forth as they were. Perpetua began to chant psalms; Revocatus, Saturninus, and Saturus mocked the senseless Hilarian, saying, “You judge us and God judges you,” and in this way displayed their bravery. Wherefore we cry to them:

People: Rejoice, holy men refusing to wear the dress of the priests of Saturn!

Rejoice, holy women refusing to wear the dress of the priestesses of Ceres!

Rejoice, you who refused to have anything to do with lifeless idols!

Rejoice, for by your boldness injustice didst yield to justice!

Rejoice, for you were scourged before the line of the gladiators!

Rejoice, you who rejoiced in your sufferings for the sake of Christ!

Rejoice, brave soldiers fighting in the trenches of a spiritual battle!

Rejoice, holy Perpetua, singing as though trampling on the head of the Egyptian!

Rejoice, holy Felicity, rejoicing that thou wast not left behind in prison!

Rejoice, holy Revocatus, who didst boldly glare at the gawking crowd!

Rejoice, holy Saturninus, who didst taunt the darkened Hilarian!

Rejoice, holy Saturus, who didst yearn only for the Heavenly Kingdom!

Rejoice, Holy Martyrs Perpetua, Felicity, and all the Saints of Africa!

Kontakion 12

Virtue being her first concern, the holy Perpetua bound up her disheveled hair, lest any should think she mourned her glory. With Felicity, she was brought out against the mad cow – placed there to mock their gender – and the crowd shuddered at the sight of milk running from the breasts of holy Felicity. Wherefore we cry to them: **ALLELUIA!**

People: Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Ikos 12

Wishing to wear the more glorious crown, holy Saturninus asked to go against all the beasts, while Revocatus faced the leopard and the bear. In one bite by the leopard holy Saturus was bathed in much blood, wherefore the crowd mockingly called out, “saved and washed”, but we cry out thus:

People: Rejoice, Holy Revocatus who was torn by a bear on a raised bridge!

Rejoice, Holy Saturninus who was granted thy desire to fight all beasts!

Rejoice, Holy Saturus who would die first as thou didst prophesy!

Rejoice, for the wild boar turned instead on its huntsman!

Rejoice, for the bear knew better than to attack a martyr!

Rejoice, Holy Martyrs, for you were covered in the blood of second baptism!

Rejoice, Holy Perpetua, being caught up in communion with the Lord while in the arena!

Rejoice, for thou wast more concerned for modesty than thy pain!

Rejoice, counselor of catechumens to keep the faith and love among them!

Rejoice, Holy Felicity who was stricken for Christ's sake by the fierce cow!

Rejoice, for thy fellow martyr Perpetua didst raise thee up!

Rejoice, fair maidens who did forsake the beauty of your youth for eternal life!

Rejoice, Holy Martyrs Perpetua, Felicity, and all the Saints of Africa!

Kontakion 13

True friendship did the holy Saturus extend to Pudens when he left him a token of his love – a ring soaked in the blood of his wound. Joining the rest, assembled to be slain by the sword, each died a martyr's death. Perpetua directed the hand of the gladiator to her throat, by this showing that the evil spirits feared her most of all. Wherefore, moved by their sacrifice, we cry: **ALLELUIA!**

People: Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

(Kontakion 13 is repeated 2 more times, with the triple “Alleluia”.)

Ikos 1 is repeated:

As a catechumen, O holy Perpetua, thou wast taken captive and while in prison thy father besought thee to denounce Christ. But boldly thou didst proclaim that thou couldst be called by no other name but Christian. Wherefore we marvel at thy conviction and cry aloud to thee:

People: Rejoice, thou who art a shining example to all catechumens!

Rejoice, thou who chose the heavenly over thine earthly father!

Rejoice, thou who refused to be called anything other than a Christian!

Rejoice, being freed from the bondage of sin through baptism while yet in prison!

Rejoice, for being informed by the Spirit thou prayed only for endurance of the flesh!

Rejoice, married matron mother of a son!

Rejoice, thou who wast tempted by womanly anxiety for thy suckling child!

Rejoice, thou who was ministered to by the holy deacons Tertius and Pomponius!

Rejoice, thou who didst commend thy son to the care of thy mother!

Rejoice, thou who didst comfort thy brother,
a catechumen in the faith!

Rejoice, thou who didst look upon the dungeon as a palace!

Rejoice, bold one asking the Lord whether thou wouldest die a
martyr's death!
Rejoice, Holy Martyrs Perpetua, Felicity, and all the Saints of Africa!

Kontakion 1 is repeated:

Priest: When the Lord deemed it fitting He called His Saints out of the African lands: Holy Perpetua, Felicity, Saturus, Saturninus, Revocatus and Secundulus, to witness to their faith through suffering death. Thus, we have as an inheritance the flourishing tree of Orthodoxy, for they shed their blood, watering the seedling.
Wherefore we cry aloud:

People: *Rejoice, Holy Martyrs Perpetua, Felicity, and all the Saints of Africa.*

The Augmented Litany

(Priest intones the prayers; People respond, “Lord, have mercy.”)

Let us say, with all our soul and with all our mind, let us say:

Lord, have mercy.

O Lord Almighty, the God of our fathers, we pray Thee, hearken and have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Have mercy on us, O God, according to Thy great mercy, we pray Thee, hearken and have mercy.

Lord, have mercy. (3x)

Again we pray for our Metropolitan Tikhon, for our Archbishop Michael, and for all our brethren in Christ.

Lord, have mercy. (3x)

Again we pray for this country, its President, for all civil authorities, and for the armed forces.

Lord, have mercy. (3x)

Again we pray for the blessed and ever-memorable holy Orthodox patriarchs, and for the blessed and ever-memorable founders of this holy house, and for all our fathers and brethren, the Orthodox departed this life before us, and all those departed this life before us in the hope of the Resurrection, [*the Priest may add names of departed persons here*], who here and in all the world lie asleep in the Lord.

Lord, have mercy. (3x)

Again we pray for mercy, life, peace, health, salvation, and visitation for the servants of God, the faithful of this holy community, [*the Priest may add names of living persons here*], and especially we pray for all of those here present, and for the pardon and remission of their sins.

Lord, have mercy. (3x)

Again we pray for those who bring offerings and do good works in this holy and all-venerable house, for those who labor and those who sing, and for all the people here present who await Thy great and rich mercy.

Lord, have mercy. (3x)

For Thou art a merciful God Who lovest mankind, and to Thee 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.

A Prayer, Kneeling, for Reconciliation in Times of Strife

Priest: Again and again, on bended knees, let us pray to the Lord God.

People [kneeling]: *Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.*

Priest: O Lord God, our Savior: With broken hearts we fall down before Thee; and we confess our sins and iniquities, by which we have provoked Thy deep compassion and have shut out Thy tender mercies. For we have departed from Thee, O Master, and have not kept Thy commandment of love. We have been struck with discord and hate; do withhold Thy mighty arm and do not visit us with Thy wrath.

Our only true enemy – death – has made enemies out of our neighbors, and we are afflicted. O God, great and wonderful, Thou hast conquered death and evil; Thou dost lift up them that are cast down and dost set aright them that have fallen into sin. Do Thou send down Thy heavenly power from on high, heal all the wounds of our souls, forgive our trespasses, purge hate from our hearts, and strengthen us in all virtue, that we might forgive one another.

O Lord, calm the agitation and discord in our land, banish from us all slander and conflict, murder, rage and bitter disputes, and burn out of our hearts all evil, that we may all love one another and abide as one in Thee, O Lord, our God, as Thou hast taught us.

Have mercy on us, O Lord, have mercy on us; for we have been humbled and are not worthy to lift up our eyes. Remember Thy mercies from of old. We pray Thee, through the intercessions of Thy Saints from the African Lands. Enlighten and strengthen those in authority to do good and act justly, and to walk humbly. Raise up a generation of men and women with wisdom, strength, and goodness of heart, and grant unto all of us a spirit of humility and love.

O Lord, we make haste unto Thee; do Thou teach us to do Thy will, for Thou art our God; for with Thee is the Fountain of Life; and in Thy light shall we see light. For Thou art a good God and the lover of mankind; and unto Thee we ascribe glory, to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; now and ever and unto ages of ages.

People: Amen. [All stand.]

Dismissal

Priest: Wisdom! Most Holy Theotokos, save us!

People: *More honorable than the Cherubim and more glorious beyond compare than the Seraphim, without defilement you gave birth to God the Word; true Theotokos, we magnify you!*

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

People: *Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages, Amen.*

Lord, have mercy. (3x)

[If the Bishop serves, "Master, bless!"

If a priest serves, "Father, bless!"]

Priest: May Christ our True God, through the prayers of His most-pure Mother, of the Holy, glorious, and all-laudable Apostles, of *[the commemorations of the day as the Priest wishes; the patron saint of the temple]*, of the Holy Martyrs of Africa, Perpetua, Felicity, and their martyred companions; of all the Saints who have shone forth in Africa and North America, and of all the Saints; have mercy on us and save us, for as much as He is good and loves mankind.

People: Amen.

[The greeting to the Bishop, when present, is sung:

"Eis Polla Eti, Despota!"]

[The priest may wish to intone "Memory Eternal" for the departed and "Many Years" for the living.]

~ Holy Martyrs Perpetua, Felicity, those martyred
with you, and all the Saints of Africa, pray unto God for us! ~