

Priest's Private Prayers

(with Appendix)

Before Mass:

Stretch forth thy hand, O God, from thy dwelling place on high, and strengthen me (us) for thine appointed service; that standing un-condemned before thy dread altar, I (we) may fulfill the sacred and un-bloody rite; for thine is the power and the glory unto endless ages of ages. Amen

Before thy throne, O God, stand the six-winged seraphim and the many-eyed cherubim: they fall on their faces and unto Thee, Alleluia!, do they cry: Grant, O Lord, that being made thankful and acknowledging Thee as the giver of all good gifts, we too may sing in thy kingdom: Grant this, O ever-blessed Trinity, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto endless ages of ages. Amen.

O Lord, most precious Lamb of God, most tender priest of man; who feedest thine own with the bread which cometh down from heaven, in whose hands is a cup and the wine is red: We pray Thee with this food and drink so to satisfy our hunger, that we hunger yet more and our thirst that it never be quenched: who with the Father and the Holy Spirit livest and reignest, one God, in glory everlasting. Amen. *(Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom)*

Mercifully hear us, O Father, as we plead the sacrifice of thy Son Jesus Christ; and grant that the feebleness of our intention may be made perfect through that intention whereby He offered Himself upon the altar of the Cross, both Priest and Victim, who liveth and reigneth with Thee and the Holy Ghost, ever one God, world without end. Amen.

O God, who hast suffered the Heart of thy well-beloved Son to be wounded for our sins, and in that same Heart hast bestowed upon us the abundant riches of thy love: grant that the devout homage of our hearts which we render unto Him may be deemed a recompense acceptable in thy sight; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. *(Collect for the Feast of the Sacred Heart)*

Before Proclaiming the Gospel: (Celebrant at Low Mass; Deacon at High Mass)

Cleanse my lips, O Lord, as Thou didst cleanse the lips of the prophet Isaiah with a live coal, that with faith, hope, and charity I may proclaim thy Holy Gospel. In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. Amen.

Blessing of the Deacon before the Gospel (High Mass):

May the Lord be in thy heart and upon thy lips that thou mayest worthily proclaim his Holy Gospel. In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. Amen.

At the Blessing of Incense:

Be thou blessed by Him in whose honor thou art to be burnt, In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. Amen.

The Blessing of Incense at the Offertory:

By the intercession of Blessed Michael the Archangel, who stands at the right hand of the altar of incense and of all the elect, be thou blessed by Almighty God and accepted as a sweet smelling savor in His presence; In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. Amen.

At the Offering of the Bread and Wine:

Blessed art Thou Lord, God of all creation, through thy goodness we have this bread to offer, which earth hath given and human hands have made! It will become for us the Body of Christ.

Blessed art Thou Lord, God of all creation, through thy goodness we have this wine to offer, fruit of the wine and the work of human hands! It will become for us the Blood of Christ.

(In some places, “our Spiritual Food” and “our Spiritual Drink” are used in place of “the Body of Christ” and “the Blood of Christ” in the Roman manner. This has always struck me as rather namby-pamby.)

At the Lavabo:

Fully mindful of my sins and offenses, O God, do I offer Thee this sacrifice: and I pray that it may be to me and to many remission of sins, amendment of life, and growth in the grace of thy Holy Spirit, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

I will wash my hands in innocence and call upon the Name of the Lord. O Lord, I pray thee, hear the voice of my supplication.

During the Censing of the Gifts and Altar:

Let my prayer be set forth in thy sight as the incense and let the lifting up of my hands be an evening sacrifice. Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost, as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Let my prayer be set forth

After the Gifts have been prepared:

Come Thou Almighty God, Thou Sanctifier, and bless this sacrifice now made ready for thy Holy Name. Amen.

At the Elevation:

Sanctus Deus! Sanctus Fortis! Sanctus Immortalis! Eleison ymas!

Or

My Lord and my God!

The Embolism:

Deliver us, we beseech Thee, O Lord, from all evils, past, present, and to come and at the intercession of the ever-blessed and glorious Virgin Mary, the Mother of God, the holy Apostles, Peter and Paul, Andrew and all saints, vouchsafe to grant peace safely in our time; that we, being holpen by the succour of thy mercy, may be delivered from all disquietude of heart: through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

At the Commixture:

May this mingling and consecration of the Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ be unto us who receive it and approach unto everlasting life. Amen.

At the Priest's Communion:

O taste and see how gracious the Lord is!

I will receive the Bread of Heaven and call upon the Name of the Lord. The Body of our Lord Jesus Christ keep me in eternal life.

I will receive the cup of Salvation and call upon the Name of the Lord. The Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ keep me in eternal life.

At the *Ecce*:

The Gifts of God for the People of God! Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you and feed on Him in your hearts with faith and thanksgiving.

Behold the Lamb of God! Behold Him who taketh away the sins of the world!

Happy are they who are called to his supper.

Or

O taste and see how gracious the Lord is.

The following may be added:

Lord I am not worthy that Thou shouldst come under my roof, but speak the word only and my soul shall be healed.

After Mass:

Thanks be to God who giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ!

Blessed be Christ Jesus! Blessed be he on his throne in Glory, and in the Most Holy Sacrament of the Altar, and in the hearts, minds, and lives of his faithful people. Amen

The mystery of thy dispensation, O Christ our God, hath been accomplished, as far as in us lies. We have performed the memory of thy death; we have seen the type of thy resurrection; we have been filled with thine endless life; we have tasted thy heavenly delights: of which, we pray Thee, make us more worthy hereafter. Through the grace of God the Father and of the Holy and life-giving Spirit, let us depart in peace. Amen.

(Liturgy of St. Basil)

Holy Father, we thank Thee for the gift of thy dear Son.

Praised be Thou, Lord Jesus, who hast refreshed us with the bread of life, and granted us to drink of the brook in the way. May we go in the strength of this meat unto the mount of God.

Blessed Spirit, give us grateful hearts that we may live in thankfulness and praise.

Thanks be to God for his unspeakable gift. Amen

(Liturgy of St. Basil)

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**Appendix:
Additional and Exotic**

Before Mass:

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, who hast given thy Son our Savior Jesus Christ not only to die for us, but also to be our spiritual food and sustenance in the most comfortable Sacrament of the Altar; Grant that we may celebrate the memorial of his death with reverence and godly fear, and offer the sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving with holiness and joy, to the benefit of thy Church and the honor of thy name, through the same Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Accept us this day, O Son of God, as partakers of thy mystic feast; for we will not speak of thy Mystery to thine enemies, nor as Judas will be greet thee with a betrayer's kiss, but as the thief will we confess thee and pray: Lord, remember me when thou comest into thy kingdom: for thine is the power and the glory now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen

Lord, this is thy feast,
prepared by thy longing,
spread at thy command,
attended at thine invitation,
blessed by thine own word,
distributed by thine own hand,
the undying memorial of thy sacrifice on the Cross,
the full gift of everlasting love,
and its perpetuation till the end of time.

Lord, this is the Bread of Heaven,
Bread of life, that whoso, eateth, shall never hunger
more.
And this the Cup of pardon, healing, gladness, strength,
that, whoso drinketh, thirsteth not again.

So may we come, O Lord, to thy table.
Lord Jesus, come to us. Amen.

Vouchsafe unto us, O Lord God, that we may stand before thee in purity and holiness, and may serve thee with knowledge and fear in the beauty of spiritual order; who art Lord and Creator, and to whom all worship is due from all creatures, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen

(*Liturgy of Syrian Jacobites*)

Holy, most high and terrible Lord God, though that art present in all things; do thou thyself make us holy, and bring us to thy precious altar with a good conscience. Cleanse our hearts from all defilements, and count us worthy of these awful Mysteries. Drive away from us all evil feelings and hallow our heart and mind that we may perform the worship of this Holy Sacrifice in thy fear; seeking the favor of thy countenance though all things; for thou art he who blessest and hallowest. Amen.

(*Liturgy of St. Mark*)

O Lord Jesus, who hast deigned to open to the Church, thy spouse, the unspeakable delights and riches of the sanctuary of thy Heart; Grant that we, thy servants, may be worthy to be enriched, nourished, and refreshed with the heavenly

graces springing from that sweetest source; who livest and reignest with the Father and the Holy Ghost, one God, world without end. Amen.

Almighty and Everlasting God, behold we approach the Sacrament of the Passion of thy only-begotten Son, our Lord Jesus Christ.

As sick, we come to the physician of life;

As unclean, to the fountain of mercy;

As blind, to the light of eternal splendor;

As needy, to the Lord of heaven and earth.

We pray thee, of thine infinite mercy to heal our sickness, to wash our foulness, to lighten our darkness, and to enrich our poverty; that receiving the Body and Blood of thy dear Son, we may be incorporated into his mystical Body, and ever be reckoned among his members; who with thee and the Holy Spirit liveth and reigneth, one God, world without end. Amen

O Lord Jesus Christ, living and quickening source of eternal life, infinite treasure of Divinity, thou are our supreme and only Salvation; We beseech thy most loving Heart to pour into our souls and preserve therein that Divine Charity which burned so ardently within thy Sacred Breast. May it penetrate the whole of our being and be diffused over every sense of our bodies and every faculty of our souls, for thy eternal honor and glory; who livest and reignest with the Father and the Holy Ghost, world without end. Amen.

O Lord our God, whose might is ineffable, whose glory inconceivable, whose mercy infinite and whose love toward mankind is beyond telling; Look down in thy tender compassion upon us and upon this holy temple, and deal with according to the riches of thy mercy. Grant, O Master, that what we eat and drink at thy table may be to us a foretaste of the heavenly Banquet in thy Kingdom; who with the Father and the Holy Spirit liveth and reigneth, one God, now and forever. Amen

(*Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom*)

Let us pray with faith to our Lord, God, and Savior, Jesus Christ, that at this hour of sacrifice and prayer we may be found acceptable to him. May he listen to the voice of our hearts and receive our requests, forgive us our sins, and ever have mercy upon us. May our needs and petitions be ever in the sight of his Sovereign Majesty, and may he strengthen us in the unity of the faith and in the justification of good works. May he bestow upon us the grace of his mercy, pity us, and save us. Amen.

(*Armenian Liturgy*)

Heavenly King, Paraclete, Spirit of Truth, who art present in all places and fillest all things; Treasury of Good and Master of Life; Come and dwell within us, cleanse us from all stain, and save our souls. Amen.

(*Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom*)

O God, who by the blood of thy dear Son hast consecrated unto us a new and living way into thy Holy of Holies; Grant unto us, we pray thee, the assurance of thy mercy and sanctify us by thy heavenly grace; that we, drawing near to thee with pure

heart and undefiled conscience, may duly celebrate these Holy Mysteries and offer to thee a Sacrifice in Righteousness; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

(Liturgy of St. James)

After Mass:

We give thanks to thee, Lord, who lovest mankind, benefactor of our souls and bodies, for that thou hast vouchsafed this day to feed us with thy heavenly and immortal Mysteries. Guide our path aright; establish us in thy fear; guard our life; make sure our steps; and bring us at last to thy Kingdom; where with the Father and the Holy Spirit, thou livest and reigneth, one God, in glory Everlasting. Amen.

O Lord Jesus Christ, who dost wonderfully refresh thy Church with thy precious Body and Blood; pour out upon it thy quickening Spirit, that, having been nourished by thee on earth by partaking of the Divine Mysteries, we may attain to life with thee in heaven; where with the Father and the Holy Spirit thou livest and reigneth, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

We give thanks to thee, O Lord our God, for the participation in thy pure and heavenly Mysteries, given to us for the welfare, sanctification and healing of our souls and bodies. And grant, we pray thee, that the communion of the Body and Blood of Christ may be for us unto faith which cannot be put to confusion, unto love unfeigned, unto increase of wisdom, unto the fulfilling of thy commandments and the turning aside of every adversary; for thou art gracious, O Lover of souls, and to thee we give glory, now and forever. Amen.

(Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom)