

DAILY PRAYER RULE
OCTAVE OF THEOPHANY

The following prayers focus on the birth and baptism of Jesus Christ. The Feast of Theophany, an eight-day festivity, is a celebration of Jesus being revealed to us as God-in-the-flesh, the Savior of the world. At Theophany we recall our own baptism, the point at which we are placed on the path toward salvation. We live to proclaim who Jesus is, what he accomplished, and his promise to raise those who humbly serve him to eternal life.

What you will find below is a communal opportunity for the faithful of the Eastern Diocese to pray together, to unite our concerns as one, to build up the Body of Christ. All of these prayers are taken from the sacred tradition of the Armenian Church, most of them from the treasury of blessing we call the Zhamakeerk.

We urge all faithful to find ten minutes each day, preferably at a designated time and location, and read this prayer rule aloud from beginning to end. You can do this alone, with your family, or with a friend. It is also suggested to create a prayerful environment by setting up a Cross, khachkar, icon, candle, and incense.

Keep in mind, this prayer rule is a starting point, a daily prayer rule that should ideally create a habit of prayer, where praise, repentance, and reorienting ourselves toward God becomes a natural and regular part of our lives.

May the Lord hear our prayers and have mercy on us.

† Make the sign of the Cross

† Blessed is our Lord Jesus Christ.

Hands raised

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 debts as we forgive those who are indebted to us. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. † For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

Thumbs crossed

We believe in † the all-holy Trinity, in the Father, in the Son, and in the Holy Spirit: in the Annunciation of Gabriel, in the Nativity of Christ, in his Baptism, in his Passion, in his Crucifixion, in his three-day Burial, in his Resurrection, in his Ascension as God, in his Enthronement at the right hand of the Father, and in his awesome and glorious Second Coming. We confess and we believe.

† Holy God, Holy and mighty, Holy and immortal, you were revealed to us. Have mercy on us. (Repeat 3x)

Glorified and blessed ever holy Virgin Mary, Mother of God, Mother of Christ, present our supplications to your Son and our God to deliver us from tragedy and from all danger.

† Lord have mercy. Lord have mercy. Lord have mercy. (Prostrate)

† Lord have mercy. Lord have mercy. Lord have mercy. (Prostrate)

† Lord have mercy. Lord have mercy. Lord have mercy. (Prostrate)

† Lord have mercy. Lord have mercy. Lord have mercy. (Prostrate)

Let us pray to the Lord by virtue of the holy ascetics, who triumphed over evil, endured torment, and became worthy of the unfading and radiant, heavenly crowns. By their prayers and intercession may the Lord have mercy on us. Almighty Lord our God, raise us to life and have mercy on us.

On Saints' Days

O Christ, Bestower of the crown, you crown the saints, and you do the will of those who fear you, looking after your creatures with love and kindness. Hear us from your sanctuary in heaven, through the intercession of the holy Mother of God, and by the appeals of all your saints, especially Saint(s) (*names*), whom we commemorate today. Hear us, Lord, and have mercy on us.

Help us, Lord. Help us, God our Savior, for the sake of the great glory of your name. Lord, save us and pardon our sins for the sake of your holy name. As a fortress protecting those who take refuge therein, let † your holy and precious Cross shelter us, keeping in peace all of your people that look to you with hope. Save us from every visible and invisible enemy. Privilege us to give you thanks and to † glorify you, and the Father, and the Holy Spirit, now and always and unto the ages of ages. Amen.

PSALM 2

Why do the nations conspire, • and the peoples plot in vain?

The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, • against the Lord and his anointed, saying,

“Let us burst their bonds asunder, • and cast their cords from us.”

He who sits in the heavens laughs; • the Lord has them in derision.

Then he will speak to them in his wrath, • and terrify them in his fury, saying,

“I have set my king on Zion, • my holy hill.”

I will tell of the decree of the Lord: • He said to me, “You are my son, today I have begotten you.

Ask of me, and I will make the nations your heritage, • and the ends of the earth your possession.

You shall break them with a rod of iron, • and dash them in pieces like a potter’s vessel.”

Now therefore, O kings, be wise; • be warned, O rulers of the earth.

Serve the Lord with fear, with trembling kiss his feet, lest he be angry, • and you perish in the way; for his wrath is quickly kindled.

† Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit. • Now and always and unto the ages of ages. Amen.

A PRAYER FOR HEALING

God without beginning, Holy of holies, you sent your only-begotten Son to heal all of our physical and spiritual infirmities. Send your Holy Spirit and sanctify your servant (*name*) and liberate (*him/her*) from all sins. For you are merciful and compassionate, and we offer glory to † you, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, now and always and unto the ages of ages. Amen.

A READING FROM THE PROPHET EZEKIEL (36:23-28)

And I will vindicate the holiness of my great name, which has been profaned among the nations, and which you have profaned among them; and the nations will know that I am the Lord, says the Lord God, when through you I vindicate my holiness before their eyes. For I will take you from the nations, and gather you from all the countries, and bring you into your own land. I will sprinkle clean water upon you, and you shall be clean from all your uncleannesses, and from all your idols I will cleanse you. A new heart I will give you, and a new spirit I will put within you; and I will take out of your flesh the heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. And I will put my spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes and be careful to observe my ordinances. You shall dwell in the land which I gave to your fathers; and you shall be my people, and I will be your God.

PRAYER FOR THE OCTAVE OF THEOPHANY

Every knee bends in worship to your all-powerful and triumphant dominion, and your kingdom is glorified by all. Heed our worship and teach us to do what is right and true. For you are the God of peace. You abolished hostility and restored peace in heaven and on earth. You heralded to those near and far the new gifts of your goodness. Let us also be worthy of your magnificent grace, as you unite us with your true worshippers, [†] our Lord God and Savior Jesus Christ, who are praised with the Father and with the Holy Spirit, now and always and unto the ages of ages. Amen.

HYMN FOR THEOPHANY

Glory to God in the heights, peace on earth, and harmony among all people. Praise to you in the heights. Blessed are you, Lord our God. We praise you and we extol you. We declare you to be Lord and we fall down before you in worship. We glorify you. We thank you, Lord, for your great glory: Lord, King, heavenly holy One; God and Father almighty.

Lord and only begotten Son of the Father, Jesus Christ, and holy Son; Lord God, Lamb of God and Son of the Father, you assumed our humanity from the Virgin. You showed us mercy and you took away the sins of the world. Now heed our requests. O Holy One, enthroned at the Father's right hand of honor, have mercy on us. For you alone are holy. You alone are exalted. You alone are our Lord, Jesus Christ.

O Holy Spirit, you too are Lord; God in glory with the Father. Amen.

[†] Glory, honor and worship in the highest to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit. Now and always and unto the ages of ages. Amen.

Sun of Righteousness, today you were revealed to the human race. Becoming human, you sanctified the waters, giving us rebirth through baptism of the Holy Spirit.

A READING FROM THE LETTER OF ST. PAUL TO THE ROMANS (6:3-11)

Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life. For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. We know that our old self was crucified with him so that the sinful body might be destroyed, and we might no longer be enslaved to sin. For he who has died is freed from sin. But if we have died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with him. For we know that Christ being raised from the dead will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. The death he died he died to sin, once for all, but the life he lives he lives to God. So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

**KAROZ FOR THE HOLY NATIVITY AND BAPTISM
BY ST. GREGORY OF NAREK**

Treasure incorruptible, greatness concealed,
awe-inspiring, ineffable mystery that appeared on earth,
holy Bearer of God —
the unfathomable God the Word
whom you bore physically within you and gave birth to the Savior of the world,
lifting him up into your bosom to suckle,
the One who was revealed today for the rejoicing of the human race,
to deliver the first Adam from the former curses,
also to erase the seal of condemnation placed upon the foremother Eve
by giving birth to the Only-begotten Son.

— Please intercede Christ the King to come to our help; we plead.

You, the praised, precious gem, holy Bearer of God,
who bore in your womb God the Word
who is from the beginning, from eternity,
who in the likeness of our nature took body and suffered for our sake,
enduring the cross, being placed in a new tomb incorruptibly,
rising miraculously on the third day, with sun-like brightness,
adorning us, the newly-born from the baptismal font.

— Please intercede Christ the King to come to our help; we plead.

INTERCESSION OF ST. JOHN THE FORERUNNER AND BAPTIST

Heavenly Groom, O Lucid Light without Shadow, you came down from heaven to the loving embrace of your Bride, the Church. This, your Friend and Best Man, John, spoke to you.

- By his prayers, have mercy on us.

Beyond the four-faces' reach, and invisible to the Seraphim, O Holy of Holies and Lord of all, you came down into the Jordan, asking the Servant to cleanse you with water, to be washed of Adam's sin.

- By his prayers, have mercy on us.

The barren woman's Son testified that you are the Lamb of God, who takes away sin. You declared him to be the Most Righteous One, the Greatest One Born of Women, the Lamp of the Law. In hell he proclaimed your redemptive coming.

- By his prayers, have mercy on us.

O Mother of God, confessing, the Orthodox Church adores you; for while the many-eyed Cherubim and the fiery thrones and the six-winged Seraphim could not dare to look at the Incorruptible Lord, you bore him in your womb without seed like a handmaiden. And you gave birth to the God of all as a man—the one who took body from you, the ineffable Word—for the salvation of the world and life for our souls.

Most blessed holy Lady and ever-virgin Mary, Mother of God, intercede with the Lord for this sinner.

Keep us in peace, Christ our God, under the protective shelter of † your holy and precious Cross. Save us from enemies seen and unseen. Give us the privilege to give thanks and † glory to you, and the Father and the Holy Spirit, now and always and unto the ages of ages. Amen.

Good News to you and us!
Christ was born and revealed!
Blessed is the revelation of Christ!

All selections from the Book of Hours (Zhamakeerk) of the Armenian Church, and prayer for healing, translated by Bishop Daniel Findikyan, 2021. The creed from the Sacrament of Baptism of the Armenian Church. Scripture readings from the Revised Standard Version ® National Council of Churches of Christ in America. Excerpted karoz of St. Gregory of Narek, The Festal Works of St. Gregory of Narek, translated by Abraham Terian, Liturgical Press, 2016. Prayer Rule compiled by Dn. Eric Vozzy. Diocese of the Armenian Church of America (Eastern), 2021.