



# *Saint Mary Church / Saint George Church*

*Palos Heights, IL*

*Cicero, IL*



*Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America*

## **JOINT PRAYER SERVICE – 05/26/2020**

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

**CHOIR:** Amen.

**PRIEST:** Christ is risen from the dead, trampling down death by death; and upon those in the tombs, bestowing life!

**CHOIR:** Christ is risen from the dead, trampling down death by death; and upon those in the tombs, bestowing life! (2)

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

All-holy Trinity, have mercy on us. Lord, cleanse us from our sins. Master, pardon our iniquities. Holy God, visit and heal our infirmities for thy Name's sake.

Lord, have mercy. (3)

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

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.

**CHOIR:** Amen.

## LITANY

**PRIEST:** Have mercy on us, O God, according to thy great mercy, we pray to thee, hear us, and have mercy.

**CHOIR:** Lord, have mercy. (3)

**PRIEST:** Again we pray for all pious and Orthodox Christians.

**CHOIR:** Lord, have mercy. (3)

**PRIEST:** Again we pray for our Father and Metropolitan JOSEPH, our Bishop ANTHONY, and all our brotherhood in Christ.

**CHOIR:** Lord, have mercy. (3)

**PRIEST:** Again we pray for every Christian soul, afflicted and weary, in need of God's mercies and help; for the protection of our families; for the peace and stability of the whole world; for the good estate of the holy churches of God; for the salvation and help and protection of those who with diligence and fear of God labor and serve; for the healing of those who lie in infirmity, and for all who await the mercies of God.

**CHOIR:** Lord, have mercy. (3)

**PRIEST:** Again we pray for mercy, life, peace, health, salvation, visitation, pardon and forgiveness of sins for the servants of God, all those suffering from the effects of the Coronavirus, all first responders, healthcare workers, and essential workers, and all those working on a cure, that the Lord will be merciful unto them.

**CHOIR:** Lord, have mercy. (3)

**PRIEST:** Again we pray for the blessed and ever-memorable founders of our holy churches and for the departed servants of God, especially those departed this life due to the Coronavirus, and all our fathers and brethren, the Orthodox departed this life before us, who here and in all the world lie asleep in the Lord.

**CHOIR:** Lord, have mercy. (3)

**PRIEST:** Again we pray that He may keep our holy churches and this city and every city and countryside from wrath, famine, sickness, plague, earthquake, flood, fire, the sword, foreign invasion, civil war and sudden death; that our good God, who loveth mankind, will be gracious, favorable and conciliatory and turn away and

dispel all the wrath stirred up against us and all sickness, and may deliver us from his righteous chastisement which impendeth against us, and have mercy upon us.

**CHOIR:** Lord, have mercy. (3)

**PRIEST:** Again we pray that the Lord our God may hearken unto the voice of the supplication of us sinners, and have mercy upon us.

**CHOIR:** Lord, have mercy. (3)

**PRIEST:** Hear us, O God our Savior, the Hope of all the ends of the earth and of those who are far off upon the sea; and be gracious, be gracious, O Master, upon our sins, and have mercy upon us.

For thou art a merciful God and lovest mankind, and unto thee do we ascribe glory, to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages.

**CHOIR:** Amen.

### PRAYER DURING AN EPIDEMIC

**PRIEST:** Let us pray to the Lord.

**CHOIR:** Lord, have mercy.

**PRIEST:** O Almighty Lord, Christ our God, you are long-suffering, full of mercy and compassion, quick to reconcile, the only friend of mankind, good and beyond good, and all-powerful. You brought us into being out of nothing, you honored us with your divine image, and placed us in paradise. And when, through our disobedience, we fell and transgressed your word, you did not cast us aside, but through your great love for mankind visited us in many ways. You gave us your law to guide us, and your angels to protect us, but we did not honor your gifts, and showed ourselves unworthy of your love. But the depth of our sins cannot compare to the height of your compassion, and so you took to yourself our own nature, renewing and recreating it in yourself, in a manner beyond understanding. You united the whole of our human nature with the whole of your divinity, and through your flesh you sanctified our flesh, through your soul you sanctified our soul, and by your suffering and death you freed us from our sufferings and death, granting us eternal life.

We nonetheless continued to transgress your commandments, following the impulses of our own will, desires, and passions, committing every manner of sin each and every day of our lives. We passed our days in vanity, we all went astray, we caused your great and holy Name to be mocked and blasphemed among unbelievers.

Because of this, and through your just judgment, you have allowed us to be afflicted by disease, sickness, plague, confusion, fear, and doubts, so that through these things you might draw us back to you, who alone loves mankind. Thus the sword of this pandemic has fallen upon us, surrounding us on all sides, threatening to destroy us like another flood, mercilessly sweeping away many to death. We have been struck a terrible blow, and now it is as if we were all lying on a common bed of sickness, separated from family and friends, not knowing if we shall live or die, and thus we have already become like those counted among the dead.

Today fathers and mothers, and children and grandchildren, are all crowded into one house; groups of sons, groups of daughters, and cousins and relatives. But tomorrow we may find ourselves without spouses, childless, bereft of our loved ones, as if we had lost our own limbs, the members of our own body, all our hope gone in the blinking of an eye.

We are besides ourselves, O Lord, with the scale of the unspeakable catastrophe that has overtaken us. We are overwhelmed by doubt, filled with inexplicable fear and dread, as the shadow of death falls upon us, and we do not know what to do. Each one of us imagines that he bears the mark of the disease, from which we have no shelter or place of refuge. And what is worse, we are unable to lift our eyes to heaven, or to open our mouths to pray to you as we should, for we have been wounded in our conscience and in our hearts. We have no good deeds to bring before you, and our lack of faith fills us with shame, and thus we are unworthy to ask for your help, unworthy to ask for your protection. All we can do is fall down before you with our broken and humbled hearts, and cry out to you, the only good God, saying: You are just, O Lord, and just are your judgments in all your dealings with us. You have not dealt with us according to our sins, nor have you requited us according to our transgressions. Indeed, even this affliction is not unjust, and not apart from your love for mankind, for it is in no way equal to the measure of our transgressions.

On account of our many sins, O Lord, we have no boldness to draw near to you, or to beseech your goodness, for you are a just Judge. Yet the greatness of your mercy and love, and the magnitude of your compassion, demand that we turn to you, O Merciful Lord, and dare to seek for you, who is beyond our worthiness. Therefore, O good God and Lord of Mercy, we ask for the gift of your peace. Halt the sharp edge of the sword of the illness that is pointed at us. Do not judge us in your anger; let us not be lost forever, for the sake of your holy Name, do not take away your mercy

from us. Open up the depths of your compassion and pour them out on the multitude of our sins. It is against you alone, O Lord, that we have sinned, but it is you alone that we worship. Apart from you, we know no other God. It is before you alone that we stand with broken and humbled hearts, and with tears we cry out to you: Lord have mercy! Receive, O loving God, the disturbance within our bodies and the pain in our hearts, just as you received the tears of Hezekiah, delivering him from death.

For it was you who said, I do not desire the death of a sinner, but that he should turn and live, and so be merciful to us, turn away your wrath, and do not be angry with us forever. See, O Lord, what we have suffered; how we have been diminished. Remember, O Lord, that the only plague to touch the hearts of the unfeeling Egyptians was the loss of their first born, for we are without comfort, inconsolable, and it is to you that we turn, the all-powerful God who has the power to do all things, and it is from you alone that we seek help, refuge, and deliverance from the epidemic that surrounds us, for you are blessed unto the ages of ages.

**CHOIR:** Amen.

### DISMISSAL

**PRIEST:** Glory to thee, O Christ our God and our hope, glory to thee.

**CHOIR:** 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. (3)

Bless, Father, in the Name of the Lord.

**PRIEST:** May Christ our true God, through the intercessions of His all-immaculate and all-blameless holy Mother, the Theotokos and Ever-Virgin Mary, and of the Holy Great-Martyr George, the patrons and protectors of our holy churches, and of all the Saints, have mercy upon us and save us, forasmuch as He is good and loveth mankind.

**PRIEST:** Christ is risen from the dead, trampling down death by death; and upon those in the tombs...

**CHOIR:** ...bestowing life!