



ХРИСТОС ЧОЛОВІКОЛЮБЕЦЬ—CHRIST LOVER OF MANKIND

DEVOTION TO THE SACRED HEART OF JESUS

Both the Eastern and the Western Churches have a rich tradition of various devotions. Among the devotions in the Eastern Catholic Churches are the **Acathistos** (Praises to Our Lord or to the Blessed Mother Mary), **Molebens** (Prayer Services designed after the Divine Liturgy), **Vespers** and **Matins**, for Sundays, holy days and week days.

Devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus is one of the many pious devotions recommended by the Catholic Church. The primary purpose of this devotion is to worship the Divine Person of Jesus Christ who revealed His infinite love to mankind through various mysteries such as the Mystery of the Incarnation, the Mystery of Redemption, the Eucharist and the Church.

All the Mysteries of Christ are Mysteries of Love. The Mystery of Incarnation is essentially a mystery of love. St. John says, "that God so loved the world, that He gave His only-begotten Son that those who believe in Him may not perish, but may have everlasting life." (John 3:16) Already before the world began, the only-begotten Son of God had loved us with His everlasting love. St. Paul tells us, "that God loved us with so much love and He was generous with His mercy." (Ephesians 2:4)

The Mystery of the Redemption is also a work of Christ's infinite love. To understand how One Who is sinless could have agreed to expiate the sins of mankind; that He, the Judge of the living and the dead, should have consented to appear as a criminal before a human court, and to be nailed to a cross between two thieves, is certainly a mystery to all of us. Again St. Paul relates: "He has loved us beyond measure unto death, even to the death on the cross." (Philippians 2:8)

The Mystery of the Eucharist is another effect of Christ's infinite love. Because He loved us, Jesus willed to live in our midst by His Real Presence, to offer himself, that is, His Sacred Body and His Precious Blood, to us as food and drink. The human mind cannot understand how God-Man, the Lord of all Creation, could remain hidden under the appearance of a tiny Host. St. John explains: "Having loved his own who were in the world, He loved them unto the end." (John 13:1)

The Mystery of the Church unveils Christ's infinite love to mankind. Through His Church Christ willed to embrace all nations with His love. Before His Ascension to heaven, He said to the Apostles: "And know that I am with you always; yes, to the end of time." (Matthew 28:20) Devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus is the worship of this infinite love.

MOLEBEN TO CHRIST THE LOVER OF MANKIND

Priest: Blessed is our God, always, now and ever and forever.

People: Amen.

Priest: Glory be to you, our God, glory be to you.

People: O heavenly King, Comforter, Spirit of Truth, You are everywhere present and fill all things; Treasury of good things and Giver of life: Come and take up your abode in us, and cleanse us from every stain: and save our souls, O Gracious One!

†Holy God, Holy Mighty One, Holy Immortal One, have mercy on us (3).

†Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and always and forever. Amen.

Most Holy Trinity, have mercy on us. Lord, cleanse us from our sins. Master, forgive us our transgressions. Holy One, visit us and heal our infirmities for your Name's sake.

Lord, have mercy (3).

†Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now, always and forever. 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 yours is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now, always and forever.

People: Amen.

TROPAR TONE 4

The universe rejoices today, for upon the altar the Heart of the Savior is seen in a burning flame, calling all to the divine refuge where the afflictions of soul and body are relieved; wherefore, O Savior, call me too, overlooking my trespasses.

Glory be: Now and always:

HYMN OF PRAISE

We extol you O life-giving Christ, for you have deigned us to be partakers of the bounties of your love for mankind.

VERSES

What shall I return to the Lord for all He has given me?
My heart hoped in Him, and He has helped me.

A clean heart create in me, O God, and a steadfast spirit renew within me.

Glory be, now and ever . . .

Priest: Let us be attentive. Peace † be with all. Wisdom!
Let us be attentive!

PROKIMEN TONE 4

Praise God, all the earth. Sing to the glory of his name; glorify him with your praises.

VERSE

Let all the earth adore you and sing to you, let it sing to your name, O Most High.

Priest: Let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy!

Priest: For you, our God, are holy, and you dwell among the saints, and we glorify you, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and ever, and forever.

People: Amen. Let everything that breathes give praise to the Lord.

VERSE

Praise God in the holy places, praise him in the establishment of his power.

Priest: That we may become worthy of hearing the Holy Gospel, in peace let us pray to the Lord our God.

People: Lord, have mercy (3).

Priest: Wisdom! Arise! Let us listen to the Holy Gospel. Peace be † to all.

People: And to your spirit.

Priest: Reading of the holy Gospel according to St. Matt.

People: Glory be to you, O Lord, glory be to you.

Priest: Let us be attentive!

GOSPEL (Matthew 11, 27-30)

The Lord said to his disciples: everything has been entrusted to me by my Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father, just as no one knows the Father except the Son and those to whom the Son chooses to reveal him. Come to me, all of you who labour and are overburdened, and I will give you rest. Shoulder my yoke and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. Yes, my yoke is easy and my burden light.

People: Glory be to you, O Lord, glory be to you.

INVOCATIONS

Priest: Jesus, Son of the living God, who has revealed the bounties of your most Sacred Heart, have mercy and save those who praise you.

People: Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, have mercy on us.

Heart of Jesus, most resplendent beauty, have mercy and save those who praise you.

Heart of Jesus, invincible power, have mercy and save those who praise you.

Heart of Jesus, ineffable love, have mercy and save those who praise you.

Heart of Jesus, joy of my heart, have mercy and save those who praise you.

Heart of Jesus, help of those who labor, have mercy and save those who praise you.

Heart of Jesus, purity of virgins, have mercy and save those who praise you.

Heart of Jesus, cleanse my mind of vain thoughts, have mercy and save those who praise you.

Heart of Jesus, preserve my heart from evil passions, have mercy and save those who praise you.

Heart of Jesus, protector of my life, have mercy and save those who praise You.

Heart of Jesus, my hope in death, have mercy and save those who praise you.

Heart of Jesus, my consolation at your judgment, have mercy and save those who praise you.

Priest: Humbly bowing our heads and bending our knees, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy (3).

Priest: Lord, Jesus Christ, our God, grant that our hearts become altars of your love, that our lips proclaim your bountiful mercy, that our eyes constantly gaze into the wound of your most Sacred Heart, that our minds meditate upon your unfathomable perfections, that our memory guards the precious souvenirs of your mercy.

Lord, our God, let everything within us praise the ineffable love of your most Sacred Heart, for your name is blessed, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, now and always and forever.

People: Amen.

EKTENIA

Priest: Have mercy on us, O God, according to your great mercy; we pray you: hear us and have mercy.

People: Lord, have mercy (3).

Priest: Again we pray for our Ecumenical Pontiff (N.N.) Pope of Rome, for our Major Archbishop (N.N.) our Metropolitan-Archbishop (N.N.), our God-loving Bishop (N.N.) for all the clergy, deacons, religious orders, for our spiritual fathers, and for all our brothers in Christ.

People: Lord, have mercy (3).

Priest: Again we pray to you, our Lord and God, look down upon the sighs, tears and cries of those who are persecuted for their Catholic faith, and by the might of your goodness deliver them and have mercy on them.

People: Lord, have mercy (3).

Priest: Again we pray that our supplication and prayer may be heard, and that you have mercy upon your servants who adorn this holy church that their alms may be acceptable before the throne of your sovereignty, O Lord, hear us and have mercy.

People: Lord, have mercy (3).

Priest: Again we pray that the number of worshippers of your most Sacred Heart may be increased and that those who adore it may be blessed, O Lord, graciously hear us and have mercy.

People: Lord, have mercy (3).

Priest: Again we pray for the people here present, expecting from you great and abundant mercy, and for those who contribute to our support and for all Orthodox Christians.

People: Lord, have mercy (3).

Priest: Through the mercy and bounties and love for mankind of your only begotten Son, with whom you are blessed, together with your most holy, good and life-giving Spirit, now and always and forever.

People: Amen.

Priest: Wisdom!

People: More honorable than the Cherubim and incomparably more glorious than the Seraphim, bearing the Word of God without harm to your virginity, and being the true Mother of God, we glorify you.

Priest: Glory be to you, Christ God our hope, glory be to you.

People: †Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now, always and forever, amen. . . Lord have mercy (3), bless us.

Priest: May He who poured all his grace out of his Heart, Christ our true God, through the prayers of his most pure Mother, and our Venerable and God-bearing Fathers, and of all the Saints, have mercy upon us and save us, for He is good and loves mankind.

People: Amen.