

Canon for the Soul of a Deceased Person



*To be said at any time, but in particular on Saturdays.
Arranged for home use with no priest present.*

*Text is written so as to be said on behalf of an individual but can easily
be changed for multiple people.*

Community of Saint Silouan and All Saints of Britain & Ireland

Canon for the Soul of a Deceased Person

The Seven Bow Beginning:

O God, be merciful to me, a sinner. *Bow*

O God, cleanse me, a sinner, and have mercy on me. *Bow*

Thou hast created me, O Lord, have mercy on me. *Bow*

I have sinned immeasurably, O Lord, forgive me. *Bow*

My most holy Lady Theotokos, save me, a sinner. *Bow*

O Angel, my holy Guardian, protect me from all evil. *Bow*

(N of Patron Saint), pray to God for me. *Bow*

Then: Through the prayers of our holy fathers, O Lord Jesus Christ, our God, have mercy on us. Amen.

Glory to Thee, our God, glory to Thee.

O Heavenly King, Comforter, Spirit of Truth. Who art everywhere present and fillest all things; treasury of blessings and Giver of Life: come and abide in us, cleanse us from all impurity, and of Thy goodness save our souls.

+ Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal. Have mercy on us (Thrice)

+ 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 (Thrice)

+ Glory... Now and ever... 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 the evil one. 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: Amen.

Troparia (Tone IV)

With the souls of the righteous that have finished their course, give rest, O Saviour, to the soul of Thy servant (handmaiden), keeping it in the blessed life which is with Thee, O Lover of mankind.

In the place of Thy rest, O Lord, where all Thy saints repose, give rest also to the soul of Thy servant (handmaiden), for Thou alone art the Lover of mankind.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit;

Thou art the God Who descended into hell and loosed the chains of the captives; do Thou Thyself give rest also to the soul of Thy servant (handmaiden).

Both now, and forever, and unto the ages of ages. Amen

O only pure and immaculate Virgin, who without seed gavest birth unto God, pray that his (her) soul be saved.

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Lord have mercy (*twelve times*)

+ Glory... Now and ever... Amen.

O Come, let us worship God our King; *Bow*

O Come, let us worship and fall down before Christ our King and God; *Bow*

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

Psalm 90 (91)

He that dwelleth in the help of the Most High shall abide in the shelter of the God of heaven. He shall say unto the Lord: Thou art my helper and my refuge. He is my God, and I will hope in Him. For He shall deliver thee from the snare of the hunter and from every mutinous word. With His wings will He overshadow thee, and under His feathers shalt thou have hope. With a shield will His truth encompass thee; thou shalt not be afraid for the terror by night, nor for the arrow that flieth by day, nor for the thing that walketh in darkness, for sickness, or the demon of noonday.

A thousand shall fall at thy side, and ten thousand at thy right hand, but unto thee shall it not come nigh. Only with thine eyes shalt thou behold, and thou shalt see the reward of sinners. For Thou, O Lord, art my hope. Thou madest the Most High thy refuge; no evils shall come nigh thee, and no plague shall draw nigh unto thy dwelling. For He shall give His angels charge over thee, to keep thee in all thy ways. On

their hands shall they bear thee up, lest at any time thou dash thy foot against a stone.

Upon the asp and basilisk shalt thou tread, and thou shalt trample upon the lion and dragon. For he hath set his hope on Me, and I will deliver him; I will shelter him because he hath known My name. He shall cry unto Me, and I will hearken unto him; yea I am with him in affliction, and I will rescue him and glorify him. With length of days will I satisfy him, and I will show him My salvation.

Then the Canon:

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**CANON FOR THE SOUL
Of a Deceased Person
Song 1. Tone 8.**

Eirmos: When Israel walked on foot in the sea as on dry land, on seeing their pursuer Pharaoh drowned, they cried: Let us sing to God a song of victory.

Give rest, O Lord, to the soul of Thy servant (handmaiden)!

Troparia: Open my lips and give me words, O Savior; I beseech Thee Who art merciful on behalf of Thy departed servant (handmaiden) **N.**, that Thou wouldest grant rest to his (her) soul, O Master.

Give rest, O Lord, to the soul of Thy servant (handmaiden)!

O Saviour Who wast dead in the flesh and didst lie in the grave with the dead, grant rest to the soul of Thy servant (handmaiden) in a place of verdure, as Thou art merciful.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:

Hear the voice of my supplication, O Triune God, and establish in Abraham's bosom the soul of him (her) who hath reposed, O Deliverer.

Now and ever, and to the ages of ages. Amen.

Theotokion: Most pure Mother of God, beseech thy Son, Whom thou didst conceive without having known a man, to grant rest to His servant (handmaiden) who hath fallen asleep.

Song 3.

Eirmos: Fashioner of the firmament of heaven's orb and Founder of the Church, O Lord, do Thou confirm me in Thy love, for Thou art the Summit of desires and Strengthening of the faithful, O only Lover of mankind.

Give rest, O Lord, to the soul of Thy servant (handmaiden)!

Troparia: In a place of verdure, in a place of repose, where the choirs of the saints make glad, give rest to the soul of Thy departed servant (handmaiden), O Christ Who Alone art merciful.

Give rest, O Lord, to the soul of Thy servant (handmaiden)!

Where the choir of the saints are, there do Thou establish, O Master, the soul of him (her) who hath faithfully served Thee with all his (her) heart and hath borne Thy yoke upon his (her) shoulders, for Thou alone art the Master of life and death.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:

Almighty heavenly Father, Only-Begotten Son, and Holy Spirit Who proceedest, regard not the offenses of the deceased, but in the church of the firstborn cause him (her) to glorify Thee together with all who have pleased Thee.

Now and ever, and to the ages of ages. Amen.

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Theotokion: Forasmuch as thou art the holy Mother of the most holy Lord, O Lady Mary, beseech Him, together with all the saints, to grant rest to the soul of His servant (handmaiden) N. in the heavenly mansions.

Lord, have mercy. (Thrice).

Sedalion, tone 5:

Grant rest with the righteous, O Saviour, to Thy servant (handmaiden) and make him (her) to dwell in Thy courts, as it is written. As Thou art good, regard not all his (her) offenses, voluntary and involuntary, knowingly or unknowingly committed, O Lover of mankind.

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

Theotokion: O Thou Who didst shine forth upon the world from a Virgin, and through her didst show us to be sons of light: O Christ God, have mercy on us.

Song 4.

Eirmos: I have heard, O Lord, the mystery of Thy dispensation; I have beheld Thy works and glorified Thy Divinity.

Give rest, O Lord, to the soul of Thy servant (handmaiden)!

Troparia: When Thou hadst descended into the nethermost depths, O Christ, Thou didst raise up all the dead: Grant rest also to him (her) who hath passed away from us, O generous Saviour.

Give rest, O Lord, to the soul of Thy servant (handmaiden)!

None is without sin save Thee alone, O Master; wherefore, remitting the sins of the deceased, settle him (her) in paradise.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:

Hear, O Holy Trinity, the suppliant voices offered Thee in church on behalf of the departed. Upon a soul darkened by vain attachments do Thou shed Thy light which is of divine origin.

Now and ever, and to the ages of ages. Amen.

Theotokion: Without seed of man thou didst give birth, O Virgin most pure, unto Him Who, being both perfect God and perfect Man, taketh away our sins. Entreat Him, O Lady, to grant rest to thy departed servant (handmaiden).

Song 5.

Eirmos: Enlighten us with Thy command, O Lord, and by Thy lofty arm grant us Thy peace, O only Lover of mankind.

Give rest, O Lord, to the soul of Thy servant (handmaiden)!

Troparia: O Christ our God, Who hast power over life and death, grant rest unto him (her) who hath been translated from among us: For Thou, O Saviour, art the Repose and the Life of all.

Give rest, O Lord, to the soul of Thy servant (handmaiden)!

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Having placed his (her) hope in Thee, O Saviour, the deceased hath departed from among us. Do Thou, O Lord, be gracious unto him (her), as God abundant in mercy.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:

O Master praised by thrice-holy hymns, illumine us who pray to Thee to receive heavenly peace. And in supernal abodes establish Thou the soul which hath departed from things temporal in the hope of things eternal.

Now and ever, and to the ages of ages. Amen.

Theotokion: Most pure Virgin Lady, implore thy Son to deliver the deceased from the state of those on His left hand: For Thou art the Mother of our Saviour and God.

Song 6.

Eirmos: I pour forth my prayer unto the Lord, and unto Him do I declare my sorrow; for my soul is filled with woes, and my life hath drawn nigh unto hades. Yet like Jonah I implore: Raise me up from corruption, my God.

Give rest, O Lord, to the soul of Thy servant (handmaiden)!

Troparia: Thou didst overthrow hell, O Master Christ, and didst raise them that were dead for ages. And now, O God, in the bosom of Abraham settle him (her) who hath departed from us; forgive his (her) transgressions, as Thou art compassionate.

Give rest, O Lord, to the soul of Thy servant (handmaiden)!

“I broke the commandment which Thou gavest me, O Christ, and became mortal; but do Thou, O God, Who didst descend into the grave and raise souls sleeping for ages, raise me not unto torment but unto repose, O Master,” the deceased crieth with us to Thee, O most merciful One.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:

We beseech Thee, unoriginate Father, Son and Holy Spirit: Cast not into the depths of hell the soul, oppressed by the evil of this wicked world, which hath come to Thee, the Creator, O God our Saviour.

Now and ever, and to the ages of ages. Amen.

Most pure Virgin, entreat Christ our God, Who came down from heaven to thee like dew upon the fleece, to grant unto **N.**, who hath departed from us, repose in heaven with all the saints.

Lord, have mercy. (Thrice).

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

Kontakion (Tone VIII): With the saints give rest, O Christ, to the soul of Thy servant (handmaiden), where there is neither sickness, nor sorrow, nor sighing, but life everlasting.

Ikos: Thou from the beginning art alone immortal, Who hast created and fashioned man; but we corruptible men were formed from the earth, and unto the same earth shall we return, as Thou hast commanded when, having created me,

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Thou didst also say to me: “Dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return,” whither all we corruptible men depart, as we make our graveside lamentation and sing the angelic hymn: Alleluia.

Song 7.

Eirmos: Having come from Judaea to Babylon of old, the youths firm in faith trampled upon the furnace flames as they said: O God of our fathers, blessed art Thou.

Give rest, O Lord, to the soul of Thy servant (handmaiden)!

Troparia: O Master, Christ our God, when Thou wilt come to judge the world, spare the soul of Thy departed servant (handmaiden) who Thou hast taken from us as he (she) crieth to Thee in faith: O God of our fathers, blessed art Thou.

Give rest, O Lord, to the soul of Thy servant (handmaiden)!

In the sweetness of paradise, where the souls of the just who served Thee rejoice, number with them, O Christ, the soul of Thy servant (handmaiden), who crieth to Thee in faith: O God of our fathers, blessed art Thou.

Glory to the Father, and to the Sore, and to the Holy Spirit:

O Thou Who didst save the three Hebrew children in the fire, and Who art hymned in three Persons, deliver from eternal fire the deceased who hath sung to Thee in faith: O God of our fathers, blessed art Thou.

Now and ever, and to the ages of ages. Amen.

Theotokion: O Virgin who gavest birth to the Master, Christ, the God of all, deliver from the power of darkness and the prince of the air the soul of him (her) who hath reposed in the faith, singing: O God of our fathers, blessed art Thou.

Song 8.

Eirmos: The Chaldean tyrant heated the furnace sevenfold times seven for the pious youths, but, seeing them saved by a higher Power, he cried: Ye children, bless; ye priests, sing hymns; ye people, exalt Him unto the ages.

Give rest, O Lord, to the soul of Thy servant (handmaiden)!

Troparia: He (she) who hath finished his (her) life and fled to Thee, O Lord, now crieth: Remit my transgressions, O Saviour Christ, and when Thou wilt come to judge all, comdemn not me who cry to Thee: Ye children, bless; ye priests, sing hymns; ye people, exalt Him unto the ages.

Give rest, O Lord, to the soul of Thy servant (handmaiden)!

O Master, in the place of Thy righteous establish the soul of him (her) who hath borne-though not always-Thy yoke and Thy burden which is light, and who hath sung to Thee, O Saviour Christ: Ye children, bless; ye priests, sing hymns; ye people, exalt Him unto the ages..

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:

O Holy Trinity without beginning, God the Father and Son and Holy Spirit, number among the choir of the saints the soul of Thy departed servant (handmaiden); deliver him

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(her) from eternal fire, that he may praise Thee, crying Ye children, bless; ye priests, sing hymns, ye people, exalt Him unto the ages.

Now and ever, and to the ages of ages. Amen.

Theotokion: O Holy Trinity without beginning, God the Father and Son and Holy Spirit, number among the choir of the saints the soul of Thy departed servant (handmaiden); deliver him (her) from eternal fire, that he may praise Thee, crying Ye children, bless; ye priests, sing hymns, ye people, exalt Him unto the ages.

Song 9.

Eirmos: Heaven was amazed and the ends of the earth were struck with fear when God appeared to men in the flesh. Thy womb was more spacious than the heavens; wherefore, O Mother of God, the leaders of angels and men magnify thee.

Give rest, O Lord, to the soul of Thy servant (handmaiden)!

Troparia: O Christ, my God and Saviour, Thou didst take on Adam's sin and didst taste of death, that Thou mightest free men therefrom, O Merciful One; wherefore, we implore Thee: Grant rest to the deceased in Thy holy courts, as Thou alone art most good and compassionate.

Give rest, O Lord, to the soul of Thy servant (handmaiden)!

There is none among men that hath not sinned, save Thee, O God, Who takest away the sins of the whole world; wherefore, having cleansed Thy servant (handmaiden) from transgressions, do Thou establish him (her) in Thee, O Merciful One: For Thou art the Life and Repose, the Light and the Gladness of all who have pleased Thee, O Good One.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:

All nature marveled before Thee, O Christ: That the only-begotten Son of the unoriginate Father by the operation of the Holy Spirit took flesh from the Virgin and was made Man, desirous of quickening all; wherefore, grant rest with the righteous to him (her) who hath been translated from among us, as Thou art the Lover of mankind.

Now and ever, and to the ages of ages. Amen.

Theotokion: O most pure one, we call thee the bride of the King of angels, Who is the invisible God, and Mother of the Son Who was incarnate of thee, and Abode of the Holy Spirit; we who magnify thee with love have thee as helper and intercessor for thy departed servant (handmaiden).

Hymn to the Mother of God: It is truly meet to bless thee, who didst bring forth God; ever-blessed and most pure and the Mother of our God: More honourable than the Cherubim, and incomparably more glorious than the Seraphim, thou who without corruption didst bring forth God the Word, and art indeed Mother of God, thee do we magnify.

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Troparia (Tone VI): O Christ, Who alone art the Creator of life and a truly unfathomable Abyss of goodness, Do Thou now vouchsafe Thy Kingdom unto Thy servant (handmaiden), **N.**, who hath now departed, for Thou alone hast immortality and an abundance of compassion.

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

Theotokion: O Lady, who gavest birth unto Jesus Christ, the Source of life and Redeemer of the world, Him do thou entreat, that He vouchsafe everlasting life unto thy servant (handmaiden), **N.**, who hath now departed, for thou alone art the most renowned helper of Christians.

Lord have mercy (*twelve times*)

Prayer after the Canon

Remember, O Lord our God, Thy servant (handmaiden), who hath departed in the faith and hope of eternal life, our brother (sister), **N.**, and, as Thou art good and lovest mankind, pardon his (her) sins and consume his (her) unrighteousness; release, remit and forgive all his (her) sins, voluntary and involuntary. Deliver him (her) from eternal torment and from the fire of Gehenna, and grant unto him (her) participation and enjoyment of Thine eternal blessings, prepared for them that love Thee. For if (s)he sinned, yet (s)he did not renounce Thee and believed undoubtingly in Thee as God: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,

glorified in Trinity, and confessed the Unity in Trinity and the Trinity in Unity in Orthodox fashion, even until his (her) last breath. Therefore, be merciful unto him (her), and impute his (her) faith in Thee instead of deeds and, as One gracious, grant unto him (her) rest with Thy saints. For there is no man who liveth and sinneth not, and Thou, alone, art without sin, and Thy righteousness is righteousness forever. For Thou alone art a God of mercy and compassion, and unto Thee do we ascribe glory: to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; now, and ever, and unto the ages of ages. Amen.

To the Mother of God: More honourable than the Cherubim, and incomparably more glorious than the Seraphim, thou who without corruption didst bring forth God the Word, and art indeed Mother of God, thee do we magnify.

+ 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 (*thrice*) Master, bless.

Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, through the prayers of Thy most pure Mother, of our holy and God-bearing fathers, of (*NN. of Patron or family Saints*), and of all the saints, have mercy and grant rest to the soul of Thy servant (handmaiden) **N.** unto endless ages, for Thou art good and lovest mankind. Amen.

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Then: In a blessed falling asleep, grant, O Lord, eternal rest unto Thy departed servant (handmaiden), **N.**, and make his (her) memory eternal.

Then all sing or chant Memory Eternal! (*thrice*).

