

the light of His countenance to shine upon us, and have mercy on us (*Psalm 67:1*).

*People:* Amen.

*The first reader stands before the icon of the Mother of God and says the:*

**PRAYER OF THE MONK PAUL  
TO THE MOST HOLY THOTOKOS**

O Lady, Bride of God, virginal, pure, blameless, without stain or disgrace, who through your giving birth to the Word of God brought together our fallen state and the things of heaven: you are the only hope of the hopeless, the helper of the oppressed, a ready protection of those who flee to you and refuge for all Christians. Do not despise me, a wretched sinner, having defiled myself with unclean thoughts, words and deeds, and in my slothfulness becoming a slave to the passions of life. As you are the Mother of God, who is the Lover of mankind, have mercy, and compassion on me a sinner and a prodigal. Accept this prayer from my impure lips and with your intimacy as a mother, beg your Son, my Lord and my God, to open to me the depths of His loving kindness, forgive my countless sins, convert me to true repentance, and enable me to do His commandments. Always be near me, for you are merciful, compassionate, and loving. In this present life, be with me as an intercessor, as a powerful help to turn away the assaults of my enemies and to guide me to salvation. At the hour of my death, be with me to embrace my poor soul and keep away the dreadful sight of the evil demons. On the fearful day of judgment, deliver me from eternal punishment and make me an heir of your Son's glory, through the grace and love for mankind of your Son, our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. To Him and to His eternal Father, and to His all-holy, good and life-

giving Spirit, we offer glory, honor, and adoration, now and forever and to the ages of ages.

*People:* Amen.

*The second reader stands in front of the icon of our Lord and says the:*

**PRAYER OF THE MONK ANTIOCHUS  
TO OUR LORD, GOD, AND SAVIOUR JESUS CHRIST**

Now that we are about to lie down to sleep, grant us, O Master, rest for our souls and bodies. Preserve us against the dark slumber of sin and against any impure pleasure of the night. Quiet the assaults of our passions, arrest the darts that the Evil One insidiously throws at us, still the turbulence of our flesh, and calm all earthly and worldly desires within us. Grant us, O Lord, a watchful mind, innocent thoughts, a sober heart, and a gentle sleep free from evil dreams. Raise us at the hour of prayer, strong in the practice of Your commandments and ever mindful of Your desires. Give us the grace to sing of Your glory throughout the night, to praise, bless, and glorify Your all-honorable and magnificent name, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and forever and to the ages of ages.

*People:* Amen.

*First Reader:*

O you most glorious, ever-virgin, and blessed Mother of God, commend our prayers to your Son, our God, and entreat Him to save our souls through your intercession.

*Second Reader:*

The Father is my hope, the Son my refuge, the Holy Spirit my protection: O All-Holy Trinity, glory to You!

*First Reader:*

In you do I place all my hope, O Mother of God. Keep me under your protection.

**The Gospel Reading**