

A Moleben sung in time of devastating epidemic and death-bearing pestilence.

Abbreviated, for use when no priest is present.

<http://www.orthodox.net/trebnic/moleben-pestilence-reader.html>

<http://www.orthodox.net/trebnic/moleben-pestilence-reader.pdf>

<http://www.orthodox.net/trebnic/moleben-pestilence-reader.doc>

The Priest begins:

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...; *and the Reader chants the Trisagion. After Our Father...*,

Priest: **For Thine is the Kingdom....**

Reader: Amen. Lord, have mercy. *(12 times)*

Glory... now and ever... Come, let us worship...

Psalm 90

He that dwells 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 Protector and my Refuge; He is my God, and I will hope in Him. For He shall deliver thee from the snare of the fowler and from the troubling word. With His shoulders He will overshadow thee, and under His wings shalt

thou trust; with a shield will His truth encompass thee. Thou shalt not fear the terror of the night, nor the arrow that flies by day, nor that which walks about in the darkness, nor calamity and the demon of noonday. A thousand shall fall at thy side, and ten thousand at thy right hand, but it shall not come nigh unto thee. Only with thine eyes shalt thou behold and see the reward of sinners. For Thou, O Lord, art my hope; Thou hast made the Most High Thy refuge. No evil shall come unto thee, and no wound shall come nigh unto thy body; 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 thou dash thy foot against a stone. Upon the asp and the basilisk shalt thou tread, and thou shalt trample underfoot the lion and the dragon. For he has set his hope on Me, and I will deliver him; I will shelter him, because he has known My name. He shall cry unto Me, and I will hear Him; I am with him in affliction; I will rescue him and glorify him. With length of days will I satisfy him, and I will show him My salvation.

Glory... now and ever.... Alleluia.... (thrice)

Then the Troparion (TONE 2):

In Thy wrath, O God, remember Thy compassions, for we are dust and ashes, whose breath, when it departs, shall not return, and rebuke us not in Thine anger that we not be utterly destroyed. But spare our souls, as Thou only art merciful. ***(twice)***

Glory... now and ever... (Theotokion):

(TONE 4) O zealous Protectress, Mother of the Lord Most High, Thou dost pray to thy Son, Christ our God, for all, and thou workest salvation for all who have recourse to thy mighty protection. Protect all of us, O Lady, Queen and Sovereign, who are in misfortune and sorrows, burdened with many sins and in afflictions, and who are standing before thee, praying to thee tearfully with compunctionate spirits and contrite hearts before thy most-pure Image. For, without wavering, we have set our hope on thee, the Deliverer of all evil. Grant what is profitable to all and save all of us, O Theotokos Virgin, for thou art the divine Protection of thy servants.

Psalm 50

Have mercy on me, O God, according to Thy great mercy; and according to the multitude of Thy tender mercies blot out my transgression. Wash me thoroughly from mine iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin. For I know mine iniquity, and my sin is before me continually. Against Thee only have I sinned and done this evil in Thy sight; that Thou mightest be justified in Thy words and victorious when Thou art judged. For behold, I was conceived in iniquities, and in sins did my mother bear me. For behold, Thou hast loved truth; the hidden and secret things of Thy wisdom hast Thou revealed unto me. Thou shalt sprinkle me with hyssop, and I shall be made clean; Thou shalt wash me, and I shall be made whiter than snow. Thou shalt make me to hear joy and gladness; my humbled bones shall rejoice. Turn Thy face away from my sins, and blot out all mine iniquities. Create in me a clean heart, O God, and

renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from Thy presence, and take not Thy Holy Spirit from me. Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation, and with Thy governing Spirit establish me. I shall teach transgressors Thy ways, and the ungodly shall turn back unto Thee. Deliver me from bloodguiltiness, O God, Thou God of my salvation; my tongue shall rejoice in Thy righteousness. O Lord, Thou shalt open my lips, and my mouth shall declare Thy praise. For if Thou hadst desired sacrifice, I would have given it; with whole burnt-offerings Thou shalt not be pleased. A sacrifice unto God is a broken spirit; a broken and humbled heart God will not despise. Do good, O Lord, in Thy good pleasure unto Sion, and let the walls of Jerusalem be built. Then shalt Thou be pleased with a sacrifice of righteousness, with oblation and whole burnt-offerings. Then shall they offer young bulls upon Thine altar.

And after the Psalm, we begin the Canon to the Most-holy, Consubstantial, Lifegiving and Undivided Trinity (TONE 8):

ODE 1

Irmos: The staff of Moses working wonders in days of old, marking the sea in cross-wise form, struck and divided it, and drowned Pharaoh driving his chariot, while it saved fugitive Israel who passed by on foot, singing a song unto God.

O Most-holy Trinity, our God, glory to Thee.

O All-acting, of One Essence, Co-enthroned, Equal-in-power and Thrice-radiant Glory, Incomprehensible Father, Son and Holy Spirit: Free Thy servants from grievous sickness, that we may glorify Thee with thanksgiving.

O Most-holy Trinity, our God, glory to Thee.

The storm of sins hast cast me into the depths of infirmities and frequent sickness tosses me, the wretched one, as a tempest. O Holy Trinity, Might Equal-in-power, having loving-kindness, save me who am grievously wasted.

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

From the sins that have seized us, O Undivided Trinity, deliver us, Thy servants, extinguishing with the dew of Thy mercy the fever of my grievous sickness, and grant health that we may glorify Thee in an Orthodox manner.

Now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

(Theotokion) Having borne in thy womb the Deliverer, All-acting One and Lord Who didst bear our infirmities, O All-pure One, entreat Him, therefore, that He deliver thy servants from grievous infirmities, O only Helper of Mankind.

ODE 3

Irmos: O Lord, Creator of the vault of Heaven, and Builder of the Church: Do Thou establish me in the love of Thee, O Summit of desire, O Confirmation of the Faithful, O only Lover of Mankind.

O Most-holy Trinity, our God, glory to Thee.

The Heavenly Intelligences and the Angelic Ranks, the Thrones, Principalities, Powers and Dominions entreat Thee, the Good One and Savior: Free Thy servants from destructive illness.

O Most-holy Trinity, our God, glory to Thee.

That Thou mightest show the depths of Thy love for mankind on all, O Almighty Master, do Thou free Thy servants from death-bearing illness and grievous sickness, O Only Longsuffering One.

Glory....

As you stand before God, O ministering Spirits, Angels and Archangels, entreat Him that He appease sickness, disperse sorrows, and deliver from death-bearing wounds.

Now and ever...

(Theotokion) Christ God Who wast born of thee, showed Thee a healing Fountain and an abyss of good things, O undefiled Maiden. Therefore, deliver thou thy servants who are drowning in a storm of sickness.

At the conclusion of the Third Ode:

Lord, have mercy. ***(thrice)***

The following is sung (SPECIAL MELODY):

Deliver Thy servants from misfortunes, O Greatly-Merciful One, for, with heartfelt fervor, we hasten

unto Thee, the merciful Deliverer, the Master of all, God glorified in the Trinity.

Then the Sedalen, TONE 2:

Reject not utterly Thy people that have sinned, O Master, neither turn away Thy mercies and compassions from us. But as Thou art an abyss of compassion and a gulf of loving kindness, accept our prayers and deliver us from the misfortunes and necessities that have been laid upon us, for Thou only art condescending.

ODE 4

Irmos: Thou art my strength, O Lord, Thou also art my power, Thou art my God, Thou art my joy, Who without leaving the bosom of the Father, also visited our poverty. Therefore, with the Prophet Habakkuk I cry out unto Thee: Glory to Thy power, O Lover of Mankind.

O Most-holy Trinity, our God, glory to Thee.

Truly now the shadow of death has come around us and we draw near unto the gates of Hades. But do Thou, O Savior Who art mighty, having

raised us up, reveal Thy mercies, saving us who have cried out with undoubting faith: Glory to Thy power, O Lover of Mankind.

O Most-holy Trinity, our God, glory to Thee.

O mystics of Christ and Apostles, you Eyewitnesses and Preachers who have received the gift of healing, and who are spiritual physicians: Entreating Jesus, the Master, Deliverer and Lord, lead me up from necessity, and from the sickness that has seized me.

Glory....

The storm of sins now has overtaken us, waves of sickness overcome us, and frequent illness is destroying us; for afflictions and disease have found us the wretched ones. O Apostles of the Lord, by your prayers bestow a helping hand.

Now and ever... (Theotokion):

All of us who are suffering grievous sicknesses and frequent blows fall down before thee, O Pure Virgin. With thy mighty protection, save us all. Show compassion, O Bride of God; deliver us from pestilence and grievous infirmities, and heal our illnesses, O Sovereign Lady.

ODE 5

Irmos: Why hast Thou cast me from Thy face, O Never-setting Light? And why hast the alien darkness covered me, the wretched one? But turn me back, I pray Thee, and guide my paths unto the light of Thy commandments.

O Most-holy Trinity, our God, glory to Thee.

With your sweet prayers having drowned the sea of delusion, O sacred Prophets, now transform all the bitterness of the present devastating sickness into the sweetness of divine strength.

O Most-holy Trinity, our God, glory to Thee.

As the compassionate God, show compassion on all of us by Thy mercy, through the prayers of Thy Holy Martyrs.

Glory....

As in ancient times, at Thy command, Thou didst raise up the dead son of the widow, O Word, having delivered Thy servants from grievous sickness as Thou only art good and merciful, do Thou grant us life, O only Lover of Mankind.

Now and ever... (Theotokion):

With great wrath the storm of life has overtaken me in the night, and the darkness of sickness has covered me, O Virgin. But do thou shine upon me the light of refreshment, O most-pure One, and guide me to the light of strength.

ODE 6

Irmos: Do Thou cleanse me, O Savior, for many are my transgressions, and lead me up from the abyss of evil, I pray Thee, for I have cried out unto Thee. And do Thou hear me, O God of my salvation.

O Most-holy Trinity, our God, glory to Thee.

We are lying in the depths of the sea of sickness, and the waves of destructive misfortunes overcome us. O Lord and Guide, extending a helping hand, do Thou save us now.

O Most-holy Trinity, our God, glory to Thee.

As in ancient times, with a divine gesture, Thou didst draw up the Paralytic from the infirmity of sickness, the bed of afflictions and weighty illness, showing compassion, do Thou grant health, O Greatly-merciful One.

Glory....

The ranks of Prophets, an assembly of Apostles, and a regiment of Martyrs now entreat Thee, O Only Greatly-merciful One, on behalf of Thy people: O Good One, have compassion on them.

Now and ever...

(Theotokion) O Mary, pure Treasury of virginity: Do thou thyself cleanse us, and deliver us from the infirmities, afflictions and sicknesses that have now seized us, that, with faith, we may glorify thee. `

Then: Deliver Thy servants... as after the 3rd Ode.

Kontakion, TONE 6:

The torments of Hades have encompassed us, and the darkness of death covers us, and as wax before the fire, our days melt before the face of Thine anger, O Lord. But as Thou art compassionate, remember mercy in Thy wrath, and spare Thy people, that

being alive, in repentance we may glorify Thee as the only Lover of Mankind.

Reader: The Reading from the Epistle of the Holy Apostle Paul to the Hebrews.

The Epistle to the Hebrews (Pericope 331 from center—Heb. 12:6–13):

Brethren, whom the Lord loves He chastens, and scourges every son whom He receives. If you endure chastening, God deals with you as with sons; for what son is he whom the father chastens not? But if you be without chastisement, whereof all are partakers, then you are illegitimate children and not sons. Furthermore, we have had fathers of our flesh who corrected us, and we were not put to shame. Shall we not far rather be in subjection unto the Father of Spirits, and live? For they chastened us for a few days as it pleased them, but He for our profit, that we might be partakers of His holiness. For no chastening for the present seems to be joyous, but grievous; nevertheless, afterward it yields the peaceable fruit of righteousness unto them that are exercised thereby. Therefore, lift up the hands which hang down and the feeble knees, and make straight paths for your feet, lest that which is lame be turned out of the way, but let it rather be healed.

The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to Saint Luke.

The Gospel according to Luke (Pericope 16—Luke 4:38–44):

At that time, Jesus entered into Simon's house. And Simon's wife's mother was taken with a great fever, and they entreated Him for her. And standing over her, He rebuked the fever, and it left her. And immediately having arisen, she ministered unto them. Now when the sun was setting, all those who had any sick with diverse diseases brought them unto Him; and He laid His hands on every one of them, and healed them. And demons also came out of many, crying out and saying, "Thou art Christ, the Son of God!" And He, rebuking them, suffered them not to speak; for they knew that He was Christ. And when it was day, He departed and went into a desert place. And the people sought Him and came unto Him and would have held Him, that He should not depart from them. But He said unto them, "I must preach the Kingdom of God to other cities also, for therefore am I sent." And He preached in the synagogues of Galilee.

Choir: Glory to Thee, O our God, glory to Thee.

And the rest of the Canon.

ODE 7

Irmos: In days of old the fire in Babylon was put to shame at the descent of God. Therefore, the Children dancing with joyful feet in the furnace, as in a flowery meadow, sang: Blessed art Thou, O God of our fathers.

O Most-holy Trinity, our God, glory to Thee.

The furnace of boundless sickness bums me, and the wasting flame of fever consumes me, the most shameless one, unceasingly. But with the dew of Thy mercy, O Savior, refresh me who am crying out: Blessed is the God of our fathers.

O Most-holy Trinity, our God, glory to Thee.

O Prophets, Apostles, assembly of Martyrs, and divine Disciples: By your prayers appease the sicknesses of us who are afflicted, and grant health unto us who are crying out: Blessed is the God of our fathers.

Glory....

Having resurrected Lazarus with a word, now having raised us up from grievous infirmities as from the grave, give us life, O Lord, that we may sing a song of thanksgiving: Blessed is the God of our fathers.

Now and ever...

(Theotokion) As thou art compassionate and the Mother of the All-compassionate One, showing loving kindness, do thou deliver thy people who are calling upon thy mercies, O Virgin, and crying out: Blessed is the God of our fathers.

ODE 8

Irmos: The Chaldean tyrant in his rage caused the furnace to be heated seven-fold for the Pious Ones. But, having seen them saved by a better Power, he cried out unto the Creator and Deliverer: You Children, bless, you Priests, sing praises, you people, highly exalt Him unto all the ages.

O Most-holy Trinity, our God, glory to Thee.

With painful groans, from the bed of our sickness and from wasting infirmities, we cry out unto Thee, the Lover of Mankind, and now looking with sincere eyes, we entreat health: Do Thou visit us, O Savior, and lift us up to sing: O you people, highly exalt Him unto all the ages.

O Most-holy Trinity, our God, glory to Thee.

O Thou Who mercifully didst clothe Thyself in our weakness and didst deign to compare Thyself to man: By the prayers of Thy Venerable Ones, do Thou save us who are in despair, and raise us from the grave of despondency to sing: O you children bless, O you priests sing, O you people highly exalt Him unto all the ages.

Glory....

As the Establisher of human nature, and the Dispenser of healings, having a depth of compassion and an abyss of loving-kindness, O Longsuffering One, with Thy visitation do Thou visit Thy people in their devastating sickness, and give them life that they may sing: O you priests bless, O you people highly exalt Him unto all the ages.

Now and ever...

(Theotokion) O All-undefiled One, mighty Help and powerful Assistance, O Hope of the despairing: Do thou visit thy servants who are suffering painfully; lighten the weight of bitter sickness; drive away the pains of wasting necessity; and save thy servants, O Virgin Theotokos.

ODE 9

Irmos: Heaven was struck with awe and the ends of the earth were amazed, for God didst reveal Himself in the flesh unto men, and thy womb became more spacious than the heavens. Therefore, the commanders of men and angels magnify thee, the Theotokos.

O Most-holy Trinity, our God, glory to Thee.

O Immortal One Who hast wrought great wonders without number: As Thou art merciful, do Thou show Thy mercy on Thy servants, O God, and free us now from the sickness that has seized us, through the prayers of her that gave Thee birth and the ranks of Thy Martyrs.

O Most-holy Trinity, our God, glory to Thee.

Through the prayers of Thine Angels, Archangels, Prophets, Apostles, Martyrs, Venerable Ones, Hierarchs and Hieromartyrs, do Thou turn the weeping of Thy servants into joy, O Almighty One; heal the sickness, lighten the pain and grant us health.

Glory....

I beseech Thee the Physician of souls and bodies, and the Lord rich in mercies: Do Thou heal my many passions, and the pains that have taken me and afflicted me, as Thou art good and alone art the Benefactor; and save us who are magnifying Thee with a pure faith.

Now and ever...

(Theotokion) O Virgin Theotokos, who gave birth to the Compassionate and Merciful One, the Master, Creator and Lord: Do thou show thy customary compassion on me, and deliver me from the grievous

sickness that is wasting my soul, and grant me health, that I may magnify thee unceasingly.

And, immediately:

It is truly meet to bless thee, O Theotokos, ever-blessed and most-pure and the Mother of our God. More honorable than the Cherubim, and more glorious, beyond compare, than the Seraphim: Without defilement thou gavest birth to God the Word. True Theotokos, we magnify thee.

Then the Trisagion. O Most-holy Trinity.... Our Father....

Priest: **For Thine is the Kingdom....**

Choir: Amen.

Then these petitions:

We have sinned and we have transgressed, and therefore Thy righteous anger has visited us, O Lord, our God; and the darkness of death has encompassed us and we have drawn nigh unto the gates of Hades. But, with compunction, we cry out unto Thee, our God, in our infirmities: Spare, O spare Thy people, and destroy us not utterly, humbly we pray Thee, hearken and have mercy.

O Lord Who rulest by life and by death: Do Thou not enclose the souls of Thy servants in death, but turn aside from wrath and forsake anger, for our days vanish like smoke, and our strength has wasted away, and we are perishing utterly because of our sins. Be Thou merciful unto Thy servants who are repenting with tears, we pray Thee, hearken and have mercy.

Remember that we are flesh, O Lord, whose breath, when it departs, shall not return, and mercifully turn aside Thy wrath that has justly taken hold of us, by which, as with a sword, Thou hast grievously visited us. Do Thou set aright the pain and appease the wounds that suddenly are destroying us. For the dead do not praise Thee, neither all them that have descended into Hades. But we, the living, praise Thee, and, groaning with pain in our hearts, we pray Thee, hearken and have mercy.

More than all others we have sinned against Thee and we have transgressed, O Master, and if we have not acquired repentance, instead of repentance accept our offering. And having set Thyself to mercy, as Thou art almighty, free Thy servants from death-bearing sickness and grievous afflictions, groaning in pain we pray Thee, quickly hearken and have mercy.

Remember not the transgressions and unrighteousness of Thy people, and enter not into judgment with Thy servants, neither incline with wrath because of Thy servants. If Thou markest iniquities, O Lord, who can stand? For we are dust and ashes, and our substance is as nothing

before Thee. But as Thou art compassionate and the Lover of Mankind, show loving kindness and do not destroy us in Thine anger on account of our transgressions, we pray Thee, O Most-good God, hearken and have mercy.

O Thou Who desirest not the death of sinners, but that they turn back and live, as the Fountain of Life, give life unto us who are worthy of death by Thy righteous judgment. For Thou art God, Who rulest by life and by death. Destroy us not in the wrath of Thy threatening, with great lamentation in the affliction of our hearts, and with tears, we pray Thee, hearken and have mercy.

Look down with mercy upon the affliction of Thy people, O Lord, and, showing loving-kindness, with Thine outstretched arm, do Thou command the Angel that is destroying us, as once in the time of David Thou didst give command, that it is enough and stay his hand, that he not destroy us utterly. For we also, confessing unto Thee in repentance, as did David, cry out: We have sinned and we have transgressed, and none of us are worthy of Thy tender mercy. But as Thou art compassionate, do Thou Thyself, Who alone art being entreated because of Thy loving-kindness, show Thine ancient mercy, and spare the people and the sheep of Thy pasture, we pray Thee, quickly hearken and have mercy.

Having inclined the knees, with all attention and humbleness of heart, say this Prayer aloud:

O Lord, our God, look down from Thy Holy Heaven on the supplication of us, Thy sinful and unworthy servants, who have angered Thy graciousness by our transgressions, and have provoked Thy deep compassion, and enter not into judgment with Thy servants. But do Thou turn aside Thy fearsome anger that justly has seized us, appease the destructive threatening, avert Thy terrible sword that, although invisible, is cutting us grievously, and spare Thy poor and needy servants. Enclose not with death the souls of us who have fallen down in repentance with broken hearts and tears before Thee, our kindhearted, condescending and accommodating God. For Thine it is to show mercy and to save, O our God, and unto Thee do we send up glory: to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto the ages of ages.

More honorable than the Cherubim and, more glorious beyond compare than the Seraphim. Without defilement thou gavest birth to God the Word. True Theotokos, we magnify thee.

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

Lord, have mercy. *(thrice)*

O Lord, bless.

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

<http://www.orthodox.net/trebnic/moleben-pestilence-reader.pdf>

<http://www.orthodox.net/trebnic/moleben-pestilence-reader.doc>