**Service of Supplication (Moleben)**

**for Christian Unity**

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**Introduction**

*Welcome to this service of supplication for Christian unity. This Eastern Rite service incorporates the World Council of Churches service for the 2020 Week of Prayer for Christian Unity into the general moleben (or supplicatory service) format as served in Orthodox and Eastern Catholic churches.*

*The resources for this year’s Week of Prayer for Christian Unity have been prepared by different Christian Churches in Malta. The history of Christianity in this small island nation dates back to the time of the apostles. According to tradition, St Paul, the Apostle to the Gentiles, reached the shores of Malta in the year 60. The narrative describing this eventful and providential episode is conveyed to us in the final two chapters of the Acts of the Apostles.*

*This text signals the beginning of Christianity in Malta—a small country made up of two main inhabited islands, Malta and Gozo, as well as other islets—at the heart of the Mediterranean Sea, halfway between the southern tip of Sicily and Northern Africa. This biblical land lies at the crossroads of civilizations, cultures and religions.*

*Our prayers and reflections, today, and during this year’s Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, are centred on the hospitality shown by the islanders towards those who had just been shipwrecked: “They showed us unusual kindness” (cf. Acts 28:2). May the love and respect we show each other today as we pray for Christian unity be with us throughout the whole year.***Opening Prayers**

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

*Reader:* Amen.

Glory to Thee, our God, glory to Thee.

O Heavenly King, the Comforter, the Spirit of truth; who art everywhere and fillest all things; Treasury of blessings, and Giver of life; come and abide in us, and cleanse us from every impurity, and save our souls, O Good One.

Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal, have mercy on us. *(3 times)*

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. O Lord, cleanse us from our sins. O Master, pardon our transgressions. O Holy One, visit and heal our infirmities, for Thy name’s sake.

Lord, have mercy. *(3 times)*

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 the evil one.

*Presbyter:* 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.

*Reader:* Amen.

Lord, have mercy. *(12 times)*

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

Come, let us worship God our King.

Come, let us worship and fall down before Christ, our King and our God.

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

**Psalm 82**

*Reader:* Oh, give thanks to the Lord, for He is good! For His mercy endures forever. Let the redeemed of the Lord say so, whom He has redeemed from the hand of the enemy, and gathered out of the lands, from the east and from the west, from the north and from the south.

They wandered in the wilderness in a desolate way; they found no city to dwell in. Hungry and thirsty, their soul fainted in them. Then they cried out to the Lord in their trouble, and He delivered them out of their distresses. And He led them forth by the right way, that they might go to a city for a dwelling place.

Oh, that men would give thanks to the Lord for His goodness, and for His wonderful works to the children of men! For He satisfies the longing soul, and fills the hungry soul with goodness.

Those who sat in darkness and in the shadow of death, bound in affliction and irons—  
because they rebelled against the words of God,  
and despised the counsel of the Most High, therefore He brought down their heart with labour; they fell down, and there was none to help.

Then they cried out to the Lord in their trouble,  
and He saved them out of their distresses.  
He brought them out of darkness and the shadow of death, and broke their chains in pieces.

Oh, that men would give thanks to the Lord for His goodness, and for His wonderful works to the children of men! For He has broken the gates of bronze, and cut the bars of iron in two.

Fools, because of their transgression, and because of their iniquities, were afflicted. Their soul abhorred all manner of food, and they drew near to the gates of death. Then they cried out to the Lord in their trouble, and He saved them out of their distresses. He sent His word and healed them, and delivered them from their destructions.

Oh, that men would give thanks to the Lord for His goodness, and for His wonderful works to the children of men! Let them sacrifice the sacrifices of thanksgiving, and declare His works with rejoicing.

Those who go down to the sea in ships,  
who do business on great waters, they see the works of the Lord, and His wonders in the deep.  
For He commands and raises the stormy wind,  
which lifts up the waves of the sea.

They mount up to the heavens, they go down again to the depths; their soul melts because of trouble.  
They reel to and fro, and stagger like a drunken man, and are at their wits’ end. Then they cry out to the Lord in their trouble, and He brings them out of their distresses. He calms the storm,  
So that its waves are still. Then they are glad because they are quiet; so He guides them to their desired haven.

Oh, that men would give thanks to the Lord for His goodness, and for His wonderful works to the children of men! Let them exalt Him also in the assembly of the people, and praise Him in the company of the elders.

He turns rivers into a wilderness, and the watersprings into dry ground; a fruitful land into barrenness, for the wickedness of those who dwell in it. He turns a wilderness into pools of water, and dry land into watersprings. There He makes the hungry dwell, that they may establish a city for a dwelling place, and sow fields and plant vineyards, that they may yield a fruitful harvest. He also blesses them, and they multiply greatly; and He does not let their cattle decrease.

When they are diminished and brought low  
through oppression, affliction, and sorrow, He pours contempt on princes, and causes them to wander in the wilderness where there is no way; yet He sets the poor on high, far from affliction, and makes their families like a flock. The righteous see it and rejoice, and all iniquity stops its mouth.

Whoever is wise will observe these things, and they will understand the lovingkindness of the Lord.

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

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia. Glory to Thee, O God.  
*(3 times)*

**Great Litany**

*Presbyter:* In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

*People:* Lord, have mercy.

*Presbyter:* For the peace from above and for the salvation of our souls, let us pray to the Lord.

*People:* Lord, have mercy.

*Presbyter:* For the peace of the whole world, for the welfare of the holy churches of God, and for the union of all, let us pray to the Lord.

*People:* Lord, have mercy.

*Presbyter:* For this holy house and for those who enter with faith, reverence, and the fear of God, let us pray to the Lord.

*People:* Lord, have mercy.

*Presbyter:* For all bishops, for the honourable presbyterate, the diaconate in Christ, for all the clergy and the people, let us pray to the Lord.

*People:* Lord, have mercy.

*Presbyter:* For our sovereign lady, Queen Elizabeth, for this land and for all those in seats of authority, let us pray to the Lord.

*People:* Lord, have mercy.

*Presbyter:* For this city, for every city and country, and for the faithful dwelling in them, let us pray to the Lord.

*People:* Lord, have mercy.

*Presbyter:* For seasonable weather, for an abundance of the fruits of the earth, and for peaceful times, let us pray to the Lord.

*People:* Lord, have mercy.

*Presbyter:* For travellers by land, by sea, and by air; for the sick and the suffering; for captives and their salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

*People:* Lord, have mercy.

*Presbyter:* That we may be cleansed of our sins and transgressions which have dried up in us love for God and for our neighbour, and that it may be established by the power, action and grace of the most-holy Spirit, and rooted in all our hearts, earnestly let us pray to the Lord.

*People:* Lord, have mercy.

*Presbyter:* That there may be planted and rooted in us by the grace of the most-holy Spirit the new commandment of His New Testament: that we love one another, and not merely satisfy ourselves, but rather always strive for His glory and the building up of our neighbour, let us pray to the Lord.

*People:* Lord, have mercy.

*Presbyter:* That there may be uprooted in us hatred, envy, and jealousy, and all other passions, which destroy brotherly love, and that there may be planted unfeigned love, fervently let us pray to the Lord.

*People:* Lord, have mercy.

*Presbyter:* That there may be kindled in us the fervent love of God, and our neighbour, by the grace of His most-holy Spirit, and thus burn out to the very roots the passions of all our souls, and bodies, let us pray to the Lord.

*People:* Lord, have mercy.

*Presbyter:* That there may be uprooted in us the passion of self-love, and rooted instead the virtue of selfless love, by the power of His most-holy Spirit; with broken, and contrite hearts, let us pray to the Lord.

*People:* Lord, have mercy.

*Presbyter:* That we may not love the world, and that which is in the world; but rather, have true love for God, and for His glory, and that we may love that which is profitable, and for the salvation of our neighbour, so that we may ever gaze on the good things prepared in heaven; and that we may seek all these with all our souls, let us pray to the Lord.

*People:* Lord, have mercy.

*Presbyter:* That truly we may love, not just our friends, and brethren, but also our enemies; and do that which is good to those who hate us, with the power, action, and grace of His most-holy Spirit moving us, let us pray to the Lord.

*People:* Lord, have mercy.

*Presbyter:* That we may examine ourselves, condemn ourselves, and, ever looking upon our own transgressions, humble ourselves before God, and before everyone, never condemning our brothers or sisters, but loving them as our very selves, by the power, action, and grace of His most-holy Spirit, let us pray to the Lord.

*People:* Lord, have mercy.

*Presbyter:* That we may imitate the burning love of the Christians in ancient times, for God, and neighbour; and that we may be their heirs, and successors, not only in image, but in true action, by the power, action, and grace of the most-holy Spirit, let us pray to the Lord.

*People:* Lord, have mercy.

*Presbyter:* That He may keep us immovable in the Faith, in peace, and the unity of burning love, increasing in all virtues; and preserve us unharmed from all soul-corrupting passions, by the power, action, and grace of the most-holy Spirit, let us pray to the Lord.

*People:* Lord, have mercy.

*Presbyter:* For our deliverance from all affliction, wrath, danger, and necessity, let us pray to the Lord.

*People:* Lord, have mercy.

*Presbyter:* Help us, save us, have mercy on us, and keep us, O God, by Thy grace.

*People:* Lord, have mercy.

*Presbyter:* Commemorating our most holy, most pure, most blessed and glorious Lady Theotokos and ever-virgin Mary with all the saints, let us commend ourselves and each other, and all our life unto Christ our God.

*People:* To Thee, O Lord.

*Presbyter:* O Lord Jesus Christ, our God, who gavest a new commandment to Thy disciples, that they should love one another: accept this offering for the remission of all the sins of Thy servants. And by Thy Holy Spirit renew love for Thy goodness and for our neighbours, which has waxed cold in us. Establish this love with strength in our hearts, that, fulfilling Thy commandments, we seek not on earth our own ends, but that which is to Thy glory, the building up of our neighbour, and for salvation.

For Thou art a merciful and man-befriending God, and unto Thee we ascribe glory: to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto the ages of ages.

*People:* Amen.

**The Lord Is God *(Tone 4)***

*Presbyter:* In the fourth tone, The Lord is God and has revealed Himself to us. Blessed is He that comes in the name of the Lord. O give thanks to the Lord for He is good; His mercy endures forever.

*People:* The Lord is God and has revealed Himself to us. Blessed is He that comes in the name of the Lord.

*Presbyter:* All nations surrounded me, but in the name of the Lord I destroyed them.

*People:* The Lord is God and has revealed Himself to us. Blessed is He that comes in the name of the Lord.

*Presbyter:* I shall not die, but live; and recount the works of the Lord.

*People:* The Lord is God and has revealed Himself to us. Blessed is He that comes in the name of the Lord.

*Presbyter:* The stone which the builder rejected has become the cornerstone; this is the Lord’s doing, and it is wonderful in our eyes.

*People:* The Lord is God and has revealed Himself to us. Blessed is He that comes in the name of the Lord.

**Troparion and Kontakion *(Tone 4)***

*People:* Thou didst bind Thine apostles in the bond of love, O Christ, and hast firmly bound us, Thy faithful servants, to Thyself, that we may fulfil Thy commandments and have unfeigned love for one another, through the prayers of the Theotokos, O only Friend of man.

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

Kindle our hearts with the flames of love for Thee, O Christ God, that being inflamed by this, in heart, mind and soul, we may love Thee with all our strength, and our neighbour as ourselves,  
and that, keeping Thy commandments, we may glorify Thee, the Giver of all good.

**Prokeimenon & Apostolic Reading (Acts 27:18-28:10)**

*Presbyter:* Let us attend.

*Presbyter:* Peace be unto all.

*Reader:* And to thy spirit.

*Presbyter:* Wisdom.

*Reader:* The prokeimenon in the first tone: The Lord has delivered us from the mighty waves.

*People:* The Lord has delivered us from the mighty waves.

*Reader:* They cried to the Lord in their trouble, and He saved them from their distress.

*People:* The Lord has delivered us from the mighty waves.

*Reader:* The Lord has delivered us.

*People:* From the mighty waves.

*Presbyter:* Wisdom.

*Reader:* The reading from the Acts of the Holy Apostles.

*Presbyter:* Let us attend.

*Reader:* In those days, because we were exceedingly tempest-tossed, the next day they lightened the ship. On the third day we threw the ship’s tackle overboard with our own hands. Now when neither sun nor stars appeared for many days, and no small tempest beat on us, all hope that we would be saved was finally given up.

But after long abstinence from food, then Paul stood in the midst of them and said, “Men, you should have listened to me, and not have sailed from Crete and incurred this disaster and loss. And now I urge you to take heart, for there will be no loss of life among you, but only of the ship. For there stood by me this night an angel of the God to whom I belong and whom I serve, saying, ‘Do not be afraid, Paul; you must be brought before Caesar; and indeed God has granted you all those who sail with you.’ Therefore take heart, men, for I believe God that it will be just as it was told me. However, we must run aground on a certain island.”

Now when the fourteenth night had come, as we were driven up and down in the Adriatic Sea, about midnight the sailors sensed that they were drawing near some land. And they took soundings and found it to be twenty fathoms; and when they had gone a little farther, they took soundings again and found it to be fifteen fathoms. Then, fearing lest we should run aground on the rocks, they dropped four anchors from the stern, and prayed for day to come. And as the sailors were seeking to escape from the ship, when they had let down the skiff into the sea, under pretense of putting out anchors from the prow, Paul said to the centurion and the soldiers, “Unless these men stay in the ship, you cannot be saved.” Then the soldiers cut away the ropes of the skiff and let it fall off.

And as day was about to dawn, Paul implored them all to take food, saying, “Today is the fourteenth day you have waited and continued without food, and eaten nothing. **34**Therefore I urge you to take nourishment, for this is for your survival, since not a hair will fall from the head of any of you.” And when he had said these things, he took bread and gave thanks to God in the presence of them all; and when he had broken it he began to eat. Then they were all encouraged, and also took food themselves. And in all we were two hundred and seventy-six persons on the ship. So when they had eaten enough, they lightened the ship and threw out the wheat into the sea.

When it was day, they did not recognize the land; but they observed a bay with a beach, onto which they planned to run the ship if possible. And they let go the anchors and left them in the sea, meanwhile loosing the rudder ropes; and they hoisted the mainsail to the wind and made for shore. But striking a place where two seas met, they ran the ship aground; and the prow stuck fast and remained immovable, but the stern was being broken up by the violence of the waves.

And the soldiers’ plan was to kill the prisoners, lest any of them should swim away and escape. But the centurion, wanting to save Paul, kept them from their purpose, and commanded that those who could swim should jump overboard first and get to land, and the rest, some on boards and some on parts of the ship. And so it was that they all escaped safely to land.

Now when they had escaped, they then found out that the island was called Malta. And the natives showed us unusual kindness; for they kindled a fire and made us all welcome, because of the rain that was falling and because of the cold. But when Paul had gathered a bundle of sticks and laid them on the fire, a viper came out because of the heat, and fastened on his hand. **4**So when the natives saw the creature hanging from his hand, they said to one another, “No doubt this man is a murderer, whom, though he has escaped the sea, yet justice does not allow to live.” **5**But he shook off the creature into the fire and suffered no harm. **6**However, they were expecting that he would swell up or suddenly fall down dead. But after they had looked for a long time and saw no harm come to him, they changed their minds and said that he was a god.

In that region there was an estate of the leading citizen of the island, whose name was Publius, who received us and entertained us courteously for three days. And it happened that the father of Publius lay sick of a fever and dysentery. Paul went in to him and prayed, and he laid his hands on him and healed him. So when this was done, the rest of those on the island who had diseases also came and were healed. They also honored us in many ways; and when we departed, they provided such things as were necessary.

*Presbyter:* Peace be unto thee, reader.

*Reader:* And to thy spirit. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

*People:* Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

*Reader:* The Lord made the storm be still, and the waves of the sea were hushed.

*People:* Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

*Reader:* Then they were glad because they had quiet, and He brought them to their desired haven.

*People:* Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

**The Gospel (Mark 16:14-20)**

*Presbyter:* Let us pray to the Lord.

*People:* Lord, have mercy.

*Presbyter:* Illumine our hearts, O man-befriending Master, with the pure light of Thy divine knowledge. Open the eyes of our mind to the understanding of Thy gospel teaching. Implant also in us the fear of Thy blessed commandments, that trampling down all carnal desires, we may enter upon a spiritual manner of living, both thinking and doing such things as are well pleasing to Thee.

For Thou art the illumination of our souls and bodies, O Christ our God, and unto Thee we ascribe glory, together with Thy Father, who is from everlasting, and Thine all-holy, good, and life-creating Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages.

*People:* Amen.

*Presbyter:* Let every breath praise the Lord.

*People:* Let every breath praise the Lord.

*Presbyter:* Praise God in His sanctuary; praise Him in His mighty firmament.

*People:* Let every breath praise the Lord.

*Presbyter:* Let every breath.

*People:* Praise the Lord.

*Presbyter:* And that He will grant us the grace to hear His Holy Gospel, let us pray to the Lord God.

*People:* Lord, have mercy. *(3 times)*

*Presbyter:* Wisdom. Let us attend. Let us listen to the Holy Gospel.

*Presbyter:* Peace be unto all.

*People:* And to thy spirit.

*Presbyter:* The reading from the Holy Gospel according to Saint Mark.

*People:* Glory to Thee, O Lord, glory to Thee.

*Presbyter:* Let us attend. At that time, Jesus appeared to the eleven as they sat at the table; and He rebuked their unbelief and hardness of heart, because they did not believe those who had seen Him after He had risen. And He said to them, “Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned. And these signs will follow those who believe: In My name they will cast out demons; they will speak with new tongues; they will take up serpents; and if they drink anything deadly, it will by no means hurt them; they will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover.” So then, after the Lord had spoken to them, He was received up into heaven, and sat down at the right hand of God. And they went out and preached everywhere, the Lord working with them and confirming the word through the accompanying signs.

*People:* Glory to Thee, O Lord, glory to Thee.

*A homily follows the Gospel.*

**The Symbol of Faith**

*Presbyter:* Let us love one another, that with one mind we may confess:

*People:* Father, Son, and Holy Spirit: the Trinity one in essence, and undivided.

*Presbyter:* In wisdom, let us attend.

*The people sing:*

I believe in one God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God, the only-begotten, begotten of the Father before all ages. Light of Light; true God of true God; begotten not made; of one essence with the Father; by whom all things were made; who for us and for our salvation, came down from heaven, and was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary, and became man. And He was crucified for us under Pontius Pilate, and suffered, and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the scriptures, and ascended into heaven, and sits at the right hand of the Father; and He shall come again with glory to judge the living and the dead; whose kingdom shall have no end.

And in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the Giver of life, who proceeds from the Father; who with the Father and the Son together is worshipped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. In One Holy, Catholic and Apostolic Church. I acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins. I look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

**Litany of Fervent Supplication**

*During the following prayers, eight oars (or oar-shaped models) may be brought into the assembly by members of different communities. Each oar bears a single word: Reconciliation, Enlightenment, Hope, Trust, Strength, Hospitality, Conversion and Generosity. The presentation of an oar accompanies each of the petitions. After the oar has been held high, it is placed near or in a boat at the front.*

*Presbyter:* Have mercy on us, O God, according to Thy great goodness, we pray Thee, hear us and have mercy.

*People:* Lord, have mercy. *(3 times)*

*For reconciliation…*

*Presbyter:* Again we pray Thee, O gracious God, to heal the painful memories of the past which have wounded our churches and continue to keep us apart.

*People:* Lord, have mercy. *(3 times)*

*For enlightenment…*

*Presbyter:* Again we pray Thee, O gracious God, to teach us to fix our course on Christ, the True Light.

*People:* Lord, have mercy. *(3 times)*

*For hope…*

*Presbyter:* Again we pray Thee, O gracious God, to strengthen our confidence in Thy providence when we feel overwhelmed by the storms of life.

*People:* Lord, have mercy. *(3 times)*

*For trust…*

*Presbyter:* Again we pray Thee, O gracious God, to transform our many separations into harmony and our mistrust into mutual acceptance.

*People:* Lord, have mercy. *(3 times)*

*For strength…*

*Presbyter:* Again we pray Thee, O gracious God, to give us the courage to speak the truth with justice in love.

*People:* Lord, have mercy. *(3 times)*

*For hospitality…*

*Presbyter:* Again we pray Thee, O gracious God, to dismantle the barriers, visible and invisible, that prevent us from welcoming our sisters and brothers who are in peril or in need.

*People:* Lord, have mercy. *(3 times)*

*For conversion…*

*Presbyter:* Again we pray Thee, O gracious God, to change our hearts and the hearts of our Christian communities, that we may be agents of Thy healing.

*People:* Lord, have mercy. *(3 times)*

*For generosity…*

*Presbyter:* Again we pray Thee, O gracious God, to open our eyes to see the whole of creation as your gift, and our hands to share its fruit in solidarity.

*People:* Lord, have mercy. *(3 times)*

*Presbyter:* Hear our prayer, O Lord, for reconciliation, enlightenment, hope, trust, strength, hospitality, conversion, and generosity. For Thou art a merciful and loving 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 ages of ages.

*People:* Amen.

**Litany of Supplication and the Lord’s Prayer**

*Presbyter:* Let us complete our prayer unto the Lord.

*People:* Lord, have mercy.

*Presbyter:* Help us, save us, have mercy on us, and keep us, O God, by Thy grace.

*People:* Lord, have mercy.

*Presbyter:* That the whole evening may be perfect, holy, peaceful, and sinless, let us ask of the Lord.

*People:* Grant it, O Lord.

*Presbyter:* That we may be forgiven for past mistakes, mistrust and misdeeds between Christians from different Churches and traditions.

*People:* Grant it, O Lord.

*Presbyter:* That we may be forgiven for remaining in the darkness rather than seeking the path of Light; for thou, O Lord, art the only true Light.

*People:* Grant it, O Lord.

*Presbyter:* That we may be forgiven for our lack of faith and for our failure to be people of expectant hope and authentic charity.

*People:* Grant it, O Lord.

*Presbyter:* That we may be forgiven for having caused pain, hardship and anguish to others.

*People:* Grant it, O Lord.

*Presbyter:* That we may be forgiven for isolating ourselves and remaining indifferent, instead of showing hospitality to all, especially strangers and refugees.

*People:* Grant it, O Lord.

*Presbyter:* Having asked for the unity of the Faith, and the communion of the Holy Spirit, let us commend ourselves and each other, and all our life unto Christ our God.

*People:* To Thee, O Lord.

*Presbyter:* And make us worthy, O Master, that with boldness and without condemnation, bound not by chains but by the love of Christ that has been poured into our hearts, we may dare to call on Thee, the heavenly God, as Father, and to say:

*People:* 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.

*Presbyter:* 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.

*People:* Amen.

**Sharing of Peace**

*Presbyter:* Peace be unto all.

*People:* And to thy spirit.

*Presbyter:* The people of Malta welcomed Paul and his companions with unusual kindness. Let us greet each other and share the peace which is Christ’s gift to us: Christ is in our midst.

*People:* He is and ever shall be.

*The people may greet one another with the peace.*

**Commissioning**

*The presbyter or other leader says:*

We have come together as Christians, and therefore as fellow disciples. As we yearn for Christian unity, let us commit ourselves anew to work for this common goal.

*(Pause for silent prayer)*

May God the Father, who called us from darkness into light, make us true bearers of God’s light. May God the Son, who redeemed us by his precious blood, empower us to follow his example in serving others. May God the Holy Spirit, who is Lord and giver of life, strengthen us to endure the shipwrecks of life and reach the shores of salvation. May the Almighty and Merciful God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, bless and protect us now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

*People:* Amen.

**Dismissal**

*Presbyter:* Wisdom. Most holy Theotokos, save us.

*People:* More honourable than the cherubim, and more glorious beyond compare than the seraphim; without corruption thou gavest birth to God the Word; true Theotokos, we magnify thee.

*Presbyter:* Glory to Thee, O Christ, our God and our hope, glory to Thee.

*People:* 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 times)*

Father, bless.

*Presbyter:* May Christ our true God, through the prayers of His most pure Mother, of the holy, glorious and all-laudable apostles, of \_\_\_\_\_ *(saints of the day)*, of the holy and righteous ancestors of God, Joachim and Anna, and of all the saints: have mercy on us and save us, for He is good and the Friend of man.

*People:* Amen.