

# Holieben In Supplication



For The Victims Of  
Abortion

## ***CONCERNING THIS BOOK***

Molieben (from Church Slavonic Mol'ba - Prayer, supplication) is a short liturgical service of the Orthodox Church usually centered on a particular need or occasion: the new year, a journey, an illness, an act of thanksgiving, etc. It may be addressed to Christ, the Mother of God, or to saints. Its general structure is that of Matins, and it can be served either by request of the faithful or by decision of the parish Priest.

The Church asks us to “pray without ceasing.” Prayer is the life of the Church and the life of each one of us, members of the Church. And because Christ came to redeem and to sanctify the totality of our life, no part of that life, no human need, no occasion is excluded from the Church’s prayer. The Molieben, thus, is the extension of the Church’s prayer, of Christ’s redeeming grace to all aspects and realities of our life. “...knock and it will be opened to you.” — we are called constantly to knock at the doors of God’s mercy and our faith assures us that God hears us and is with us.

The service contained herein is according to the traditional general outline for the Molieben and is arranged by the O.C.R.F., Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, U.S.A. Psalms are from **The Psalter**, published by Holy Transfiguration Monastery, Boston, MA., USA, used by permission. Other portions of text and music are used by permission of the Orthodox Church of America, Syosset, N.Y., USA.

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***The Order Of The  
OFFICE OF PRAYER AND SUPPLICATION  
FOR THE VICTIMS OF ABORTION  
Prayed To Our Lord And God And Savior Jesus Christ***

*(The Priest and Deacon take their places before the Icon of Christ placed in the center of the Temple or other suitable place. The Priest is vested in Riassa and Epitrachilion and the Deacon in Sticharion and Orarion.)*

**P** Blessed is our God always, both now and ever, and unto the ages of ages.

**R** Amen.

**Reader:** Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal, have mercy on us. Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal, have mercy on us. Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal, have mercy on us.

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

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. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: both now and ever, and unto the 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 debts as we forgive our debtors, and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.

**P** For Thine is the Kingdom, and the power, and the glory: of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, both now and ever, and unto the ages of ages.

**Reader:** 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 the very Christ, our King and our God.

*(The Reader then reads Psalm 142:)*

**L**ord, hear my prayer, give ear unto my supplication in Thy truth; hearken unto me in Thy righteousness.

**A**nd enter not into judgment with Thy servant, for in Thy sight shall no man living be justified.

**F**or the enemy hath persecuted my soul; he hath humbled my life down to the earth.

**H**e hath sat me in darkness as those that have been long dead, and my spirit within me is become despondent; within me my heart is troubled.

**I** remembered days of old, I meditated on all Thy works, I pondered on the creations of Thy hands.

**I** stretched forth my hands unto Thee; my soul thirsteth after Thee like a waterless land.

**Q**uickly hear me, O Lord; my spirit hath fainted away.

**T**urn not Thy face away from me, lest I be like unto them that go down into the pit.

**C**ause me to hear Thy mercy in the morning; for in Thee have I put my hope.

Cause me to know, O Lord, the way wherein I should walk; for unto Thee have I lifted up my soul.

**R**escue me from mine enemies, O Lord; unto Thee have I fled for refuge. Teach me to do Thy will, for Thou art my God.

**T**hy good Spirit shall lead me in the land of uprightness; for Thy name's sake, O Lord, shalt Thou quicken me.

**I**n Thy righteousness shalt Thou bring my soul out of affliction, and in Thy mercy shalt Thou utterly destroy mine enemies.

**A**nd Thou shalt cut off all them that afflict my soul, for I am Thy servant.

**G**lory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: both now and ever, and unto the ages of ages. Amen.

**A**lleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Glory to Thee, O God. Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Glory to Thee, O God. Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Glory to Thee, O God.

## ***THE GREAT LITANY***

**D** In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

**R** Lord, have mercy.

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

**R** Lord, have mercy.

**D** For the peace of the whole world, for the good estate of the holy churches of God, and for the union of all, let us pray to the Lord.

Ⲛ Lord, have mercy

Ⲙ For this *holy temple*, and for those who with faith, reverence, and the fear of God enter herein, let us pray to the Lord.

Ⲛ Lord, have mercy.

*(The following two petitions for the Orthodox Episcopate and the civil authorities are general petitions. Otherwise, the petitions commonly utilized by the officiating clergy to commemorate their ruling hierarchs and their civil government would more correctly be inserted here and substituted for those which appear below.)*

Ⲙ For the holy Orthodox Patriarchs and for all Orthodox Bishops; for the venerable Priesthood, the Diaconate in Christ; for all the clergy and the people, let us pray to the Lord.

Ⲛ Lord, have mercy.

Ⲙ For the American land, for our civil authorities, and for our armed forces, let us pray to the Lord.

Ⲛ Lord, have mercy.

Ⲙ For this city, for every city and country, and for the faithful who dwell therein, let us pray to the Lord.

Ⲛ Lord, have mercy.

Ⲙ For seasonable weather, for abundance of the fruits of the earth, and for peaceful times, let us pray to the Lord.

**R** Lord, have mercy.

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

**R** Lord, have mercy.

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

**R** Lord, have mercy.

**D** That He will not remember the transgressions of His people, but will turn away all His righteous wrath which He hath stirred up against us, let us pray to the Lord.

**R** Lord, have mercy.

**D** That He will bless the good intentions of His servants who strive to rescue His children from violent death, and allow them to begin successfully and to finish without obstacle, through the power and grace of the most Holy Spirit, let us pray to the Lord.

**R** Lord, have mercy.

**D** That He will guide the hands of His servants to complete their work successfully, let us pray to the Lord.

**R** Lord, have mercy.

**D** That He will bless His servants with the grace of the most Holy Spirit, and make their efforts well pleasing in His sight, let us pray to the Lord.

**R** Lord, have mercy.

**D** That He will assign a guardian angel to banish from this effort every enemy and obstacle, whether visible or invisible, let us pray to the Lord.

**R** Lord, have mercy.

**D** That this work may be ordered in wisdom and may end in perfection by the grace of the Holy Spirit, let us pray to the Lord.

**R** Lord, have mercy.

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

**R** Lord, have mercy.

**D** Calling to remembrance our most holy, most pure, most blessed and glorious Lady, the Birth-giver of God and ever-virgin Mary, with all the saints, let us commit ourselves and one another, and all our life unto Christ, our God.

**R** To Thee, O Lord.



**D** For unto Thee is due all glory, honor, and worship:  
to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit,  
both now and ever, and unto the ages of ages.

**R** Amen.

***GOD IS THE LORD (In The Second Tone)***

**D** God is the Lord and hath revealed Himself unto us!  
Blessed is He that cometh in the Name of the Lord. O  
give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good; for His mercy  
endureth forever.

**R** God is the Lord and hath revealed Himself unto us!  
Blessed is He that cometh in the Name of the Lord.

**D** All nations surrounded me, but in the Name of the Lord  
I destroyed them.

**R** God is the Lord and hath revealed Himself unto us!  
Blessed is He that cometh in the Name of the Lord.

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

**R** God is the Lord and hath revealed Himself unto us!  
Blessed is He that cometh in the Name of the Lord.

**D** The stone which the builders rejected hath become the chief cornerstone; this is the Lord's doing, and it is marvellous in our eyes.

**R** God is the Lord and hath revealed Himself unto us! Blessed is He that cometh in the Name of the Lord.

### *TROPARION (In Tone 2):*

**W**e bow before Thy most pure image, O Good One, begging Thee to forgive us our sins, O Christ our God. Thou willingly didst ascend the cross in the flesh, to free us from Satan's snare. For this we thank Thee, Lord, and we cry to Thee: Thou hast filled all things with joy, O Saviour, when Thou camest to save the world.

### *PSALM 50*

**Reader:** Have mercy on me, O God, according to Thy great mercy; and according to the multitude of Thy compassions blot out my transgression.

*W*ash me thoroughly from mine iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin. For I know mine iniquity, and my sin is ever before me.

*A*gainst Thee only have I sinned and done this evil before Thee, that Thou mightest be justified in Thy words, and prevail when Thou art judged.

*F*or behold, I was conceived in iniquities, and in sins did my mother bear me.

*F*or behold, Thou hast loved truth; the hidden and secret things of Thy wisdom hast Thou made manifest unto me.

*T*hou shalt sprinkle me with hyssop, and I shall be made clean; Thou shalt wash me, and I shall be made whiter than snow.

**T**hou shalt make me to hear joy and gladness; the bones that be humbled, they shall rejoice.

**T**urn Thy face away from my sins, and blot out all mine iniquities.

**C**reate in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.

**C**ast me not away from Thy presence, and take not Thy Holy Spirit from me.

**R**estore 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.

**D**eliver me from blood-guiltiness, 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.

**F**or if Thou hadst desired sacrifice, I had given it; with whole-burnt offerings Thou shalt not be pleased.

**A** sacrifice unto God is a broken spirit; a heart that is broken and humbled God will not despise.

**D**o good, O Lord, in Thy good pleasure unto Sion, and let the walls of Jerusalem be builded.

**T**hen shalt Thou be pleased with a sacrifice of righteousness, with oblation and whole-burnt offerings.

**T**hen shall they offer bullocks upon Thine altar.

*(The Canon may be sung here, followed by the Refrains. Or the Refrains alone are sung three times. The Deacon censes before the Icon during the Refrains:)*

**P** Glory to Thee, our God, glory to Thee!

**R** Glory to Thee, our God, glory to Thee!

**P** Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.

**R** Both now and ever, and unto the ages of ages. Amen.

*(The Priest and people sing the Refrains three times. The Third Ode of the Canon follows, and then the following hymn. If there is no Canon, the hymn follows the singing of the Refrains. The Deacon censes at the Icon during the Refrains.)*

**R** Deliver us from evil, O Merciful One, for we run to Thee in our afflictions. O Lord Jesus Christ, save our souls.

*(Following the hymn, the Priest and people repeat the Refrains three times as above. The Deacon censes before the icon.)*

## **LITANY**

**D** Let us say with our whole soul and with our whole mind, let us say:

**R** Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

**D** O Lord Almighty, the God of our fathers, we beseech Thee, hearken and have mercy.

**R** Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

**D** Have mercy on us, O God, according to Thy great mercy, we beseech Thee, hearken and have mercy.

**R** Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

*(The following is a general petition for the Orthodox Hierarchs, and should be modified as needed to reflect local usage.)*

**D** Again we pray for the holy Orthodox Patriarchs and for all Orthodox Bishops; for Priests, Deacons, and all other clergy, and for all our brotherhood in Christ.

**R** Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

**D** Again we pray for mercy, life, peace, health, salvation, and visitation for the servants of God who strive against the evil of abortion, and for the pardon and remission of their sins.

**R** Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

**D** Again we beg Thee, O Lord, to hear our prayer, and have mercy on Thy servants who strive to save the lives of Thine innocent children. In Thy grace and bounty, fulfill their petitions and forgive all their transgressions, whether voluntary or involuntary. Accept their sacrifice of praise upon Thine heavenly altar; protect them from every visible and invisible enemy; deliver them from all misery, sickness, and affliction; grant them health and length of days, we pray Thee, O Lord, hearken and have mercy.

**R** Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

*(For Children In Danger Of Death By Abortion)*

**D** Again we pray for the children of God condemned to death by the unjust judgement of men: that the Lord our God would soften the hearts of those who seek their violent destruction, and rescue those who are being led forth to the slaughter, we diligently pray Thee, O Lord, hearken and have mercy!

**R** Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

*(For Rescuers Who Have Been Imprisoned)*

**D** Again we pray for all who have fallen into the hands of the godless civil authority for the sake of God's children, and who languish in courts and prisons: that the Lord our God may look upon them with compassion; that He may comfort, strengthen and preserve them; and that He may deliver them speedily from bondage and oppression, let us all say: O Lord, hearken and have mercy.

**R** Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

**D** By Thine infinite power, O Lord our God, move to compassion and mercy the hearts of those who hold Thy servants in cruel captivity; restrain them from doing harm or permitting evil to befall Thy servants, but rather cause them to relent and to release them; free the captives whole and unharmed, O Lord, and bestow Thy

mercy upon them, let us all say: hearken quickly and graciously have mercy!

**R** Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

**D** Thy vile enemies, O Lord, have annihilated Thy children and defiled Thy churches, and have imprisoned Thy faithful servants. Look down from heaven, therefore, and behold, and forsake us not utterly, but quickly cleanse the land of Thy people of the wickedness of those who oppose Thee, with humble heart we entreat Thee, our God Who art mighty in strength and wondrous in wisdom: O Compassionate One, hearken and have mercy!

**R** Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

**D** Again we pray for all those here present, who await from Thee Thy great and abundant mercy.

**R** Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

**D** For Thou art a merciful God, and lovest mankind, and unto Thee do we send up glory: to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, both now and ever, and unto the ages of ages.

**R** Amen.

*(If the Canon is being sung, it continues now. After the Sixth Ode the Refrains are repeated. If the Canon is not sung, the Refrains alone are repeated by Priest and people as before, again three times. The Deacon censens as before.)*

**P** Glory to Thee, our God, glory to Thee!

**R** Glory to Thee, our God, glory to Thee!

**P** Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.

**R** Both now and ever, and unto the ages of ages. Amen.

*(The Priest and people sing the Refrains three times, and the Deacon censes. The Akathist Hymn may be sung at this time, if desired. At the completion of the Akathist, or following the Refrains if there is no Akathist:)*

## ***THE PROKEIMENON***

**D** Let us attend!

**P** Peace be unto all.

**D** Wisdom! Let us Attend! The Prokeimenon in the fourth tone: Lord, we will walk in the light of Thy countenance and exult in Thy Name forever.

**R** Lord, we will walk in the light of Thy countenance and exult in Thy Name forever.

**D** I will sing of Thy mercy, O Lord, forever; with my mouth I will proclaim Thy faithfulness to all generations.



**R** Lord, we will walk in the light of Thy countenance and exult in Thy Name forever.

**D** Lord, we will walk in the light of Thy countenance.

**R** And exult in Thy Name forever.

**D** Let us pray to the Lord.

**R** Lord, have mercy.

**D** For holy art Thou, O our God, who retest in the saints, and unto Thee do we send up glory: to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, both now and ever, and unto the ages of ages.

**R** Amen.

**D** Let everything that hath breath praise the Lord!

**R** Let everything that hath breath praise the Lord!

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

**R** Let everything that hath breath praise the Lord!

**D** Let everything that hath breath.

**R** Praise the Lord.

## *THE GOSPEL READING*

**D** And that we may be accounted worthy to hear the Holy Gospel, let us pray to the Lord, our God.

**R** Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

**D** Wisdom! Let us attend! Let us hear the Holy Gospel!

**P** Peace be unto all.

**R** And to thy spirit.

**P** The reading is from the Holy Gospel according to St. Luke.

**R** Glory to Thee, O Lord, Glory to Thee.

**D** Let us attend!

**P** AT THAT TIME, Jesus spoke also a parable to them, that we ought always to pray and not to faint, Saying: There was a judge in a certain city, who feared not God nor regarded man. And there was a certain widow in that city; and she came to him, saying: Avenge me of my adversary. And he would not for a long time. But afterwards he said within himself: Although I fear not God nor regard

man, Yet because this widow is troublesome to me, I will avenge her, lest continually coming she weary me. And the Lord said: Hear what the unjust judge saith. And will not God revenge his elect who cry to him day and night? And will he have patience in their regard? I say to you that he will quickly revenge them. But yet the Son of man, when he cometh, shall he find, think ye, faith on earth?

**R** Glory to Thee, O Lord, glory to Thee.

*(If the Canon is being sung, the Seventh, Eighth, and Ninth Odes are sung, along with the refrains as the Deacon censes. If the Canon is not being sung, the Refrains are repeated again three times by the Priest and people.)*

**P** Glory to Thee, our God, glory to Thee!

**R** Glory to Thee, our God, glory to Thee!

**P** Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.

**R** Both now and ever, and unto the ages of ages. Amen.

*(As the Deacon censes, the Priest and people sing the Refrains three times. And then all sing the Hymn to the Theotokos in Tone 6:)*

**I**t 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:

in virginity thou gavest birth to God the Word. True Theotokos, we magnify thee.

## Reader

Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal, have mercy on us. Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal, have mercy on us. Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal, have mercy on us.

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

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. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, both now and ever, and unto the 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 debts, as we forgive our debtors, and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.

**P** For Thine is the Kingdom, and the power, and the glory: of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, both now and ever, and unto the ages of ages.

**R** Amen.

## *THE AUGMENTED LITANY*

**D** Have mercy on us, O God, according to Thy great goodness, we beseech Thee, hearken and have mercy.

**R** Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

**D** Again we pray that the Lord our God will hear the voice of us sinners and protect His servants from all tribulation, wrath, danger, necessity, and from every ill of soul and body, and grant us health and length of days: we beseech Thee, O Lord, hearken and have mercy.

**R** Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

**D** Again we pray that the Lord our God will preserve this city, and this holy habitation, and every city and country from pestilence, famine, earthquake, flood, fire, the sword, the invasion of enemies, civil war, and sudden death, that our good God, who loveth mankind, will be graciously favorable and easy to be entreated, and will turn away from us all the wrath stirred up against us, and deliver us from all His righteous chastisement which impendeth against us, and have mercy on us.

**R** Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

**D** Again we pray that the Lord will hearken unto the prayers of us sinners, and have mercy on us.

**R** Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

**P** Hear us, O God our Saviour, the hope of all the ends of the earth and of those far off upon the sea, and show mercy, show mercy, O Master, upon us sinners. For Thou art a merciful God, and lovest mankind, and unto Thee do we send up glory: to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, both now and ever, and unto the ages of ages.

**R** Amen.

**D** Let us pray to the most holy Theotokos.


**R** Most holy Theotokos, save us!

**P** O Mother of God, our queen and our hope, the refuge of the abandoned and the intercessor for those who have gone astray; the joy of all who sorrow and the protectress of the needy; thou seest our poverty, our affliction and misery. Help us who are weak; feed us who are hungry; intercede for us with thy Son and our God, and may He deal with us as He pleaseth. For we have no other hope, no other intercessor, no other consolation except thee, O Virgin Theotokos. Protect us beneath thy veil, both now and ever, and unto the ages of ages.

**R** Amen.

 Let us pray to the Lord.

 Lord, have mercy.

 O most merciful, all gracious and compassionate Lord Jesus Christ our Savior, Son of God: we entreat Thee, most gracious Master: look with compassion upon Thy children who have been condemned to death by the unjust judgement of men. And as Thou hast promised to bestow the heavenly kingdom on those born of water and the Spirit, and who in blamelessness of life have been translated unto Thee; and Who said, “Suffer the little children to come unto me, for of such is the kingdom of heaven” – we humbly pray, according to Thine unfailing promise: grant the inheritance of Thy kingdom to the multitude of spotless infants who have been cruelly murdered in the abortuaries of this land; for Thou art the resurrection and the life and the repose of all Thy servants and of these innocents, O Christ our God.

Turn the hearts of those who seek to destroy Thy little ones. We beseech Thee to pour forth Thy healing grace upon them, that they may be con-

victed in their hearts and turn from their evil ways. Remember all of them that kill our children as on the altars of Moloch, and render not unto them according to their deeds, but according to Thy great mercy convert them: the unbelieving to true faith and piety, and the believing that they may turn from evil and do good.

O Holy Master, Almighty Father and pre-eternal God, Who alone madest and directest all things; Who risest up quickly against the evil of the impious ones; who, by providence, teacheth Thy people preservation of justice and the obliteration of evil on earth; Who condescendeth to raise up warriors for the protection of the people of God: we entreat Thee with compunction, that as Thou didst give David power to defeat Goliath, and as Thou didst condescend through Judas Maccabeus, to seize victory from the arrogant pagans who would not call on Thy Name; so, too, grant protection to us, Thy servants, against the enemies rising against us as we go forth to do spiritual battle against the evil one and those who do his will rather than Thine.




For Thou art a merciful God, and lovest mankind,  
and unto Thee do we send up glory: to the Father,  
and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, both now  
and ever, and unto the ages of ages.

 Amen.

### *THE DISMISSAL*

 Wisdom!

 Most holy Theotokos, save us.

 More honorable than the Cherubim, and more glorious  
beyond compare than the Seraphim. In virginity thou  
gavest birth to God the Word. True Theotokos, we  
magnify thee.

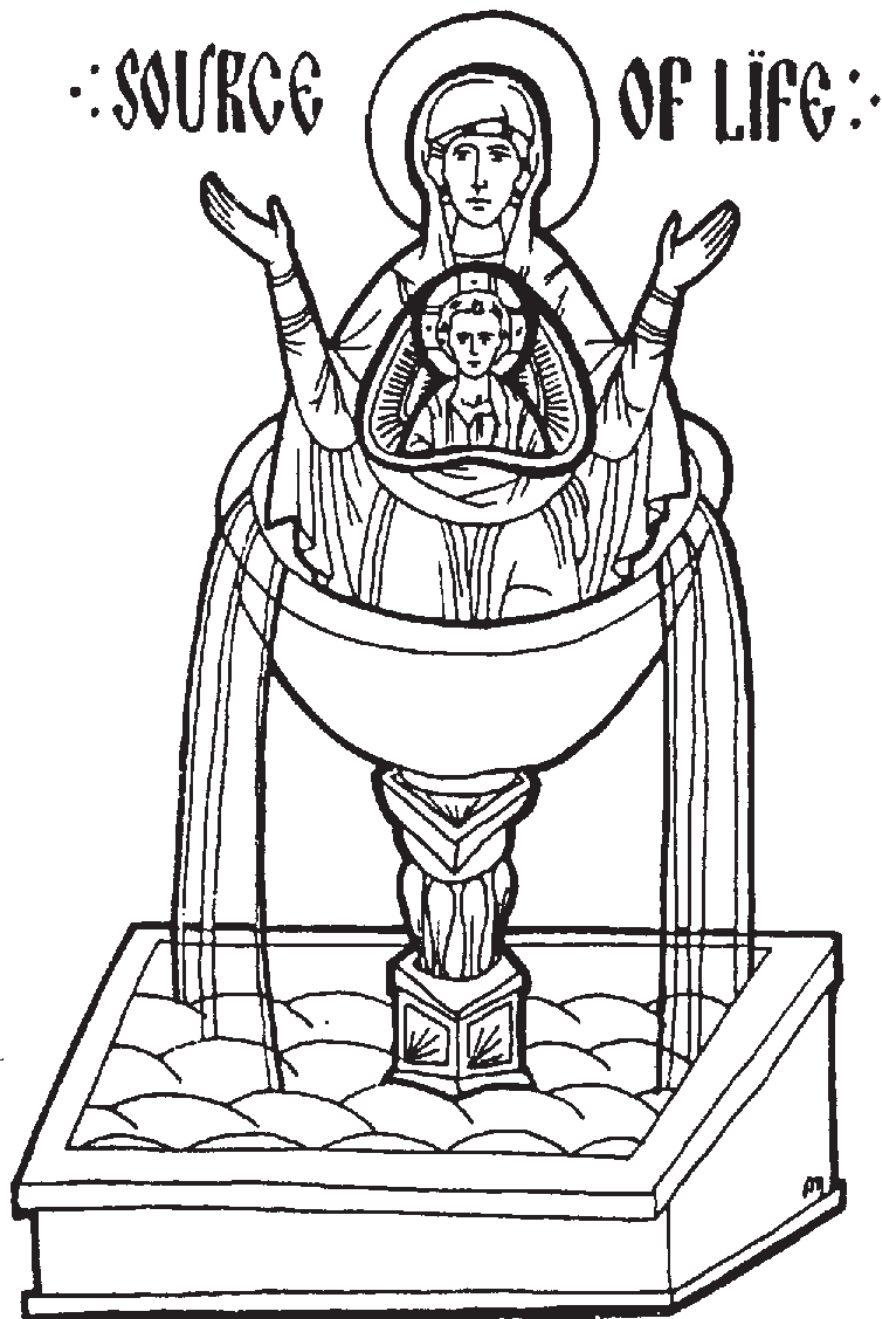
 Glory to Thee, O Christ, our God and our hope,  
glory to Thee.

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

Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Father,  
bless!

¶ May *(He Who rose again from the dead,)* Christ our true God, through the prayers of His holy, immaculate, and all blameless Mother, *(.....)*, and of all the saints, have mercy on us and save us.

¶ Amen.



## *The Icon explained*

Christ our God (bearing the title “O ON” which means “He Who Is” in Greek) is seen looking down from Heaven. His right hand is extended towards the family depicted just below Him, in the characteristic form of blessing. The father of the family is seen supporting and playing with his beloved children, and the mother is seen offering care and the necessities of life.

At the bottom left of the Icon the patience and long-suffering of the unmarried mother who chose to support her baby and suffer hardship or social shame rather than have it killed, is depicted as a mother, nursing her infant whilst bearing the weight of the Cross that she carries daily.

Below the Blessed family unit, we see a woman clothed in red, on her knees with hands raised in repentance and tears streaming from her eyes. She has undergone an abortion. In her lap rests the dismembered remains of her murdered baby. The woman is tearfully calling to our Lord for Mercy, as she has realised the grave error of her deed. She seeks healing in the Sacrament of Confession and repentance. Of course, this equally applies to the irresponsible and unloving father of the child as well.

In contrast to the repentant mother who yearns for mercy, above and to the right of her, is a series of women, who purposely and intently present their infants for slaughter for various worldly reasons; uncontrolled sensuality, hard-heartedness, superficiality and indifference. The children they carry are a nuisance and a bother, affecting their selfish and hedonistic way of life. The children are offered to a queen. She is given the title, “the new Herod”, who was responsible for the slaughter of thousands of infants at the time of the birth of Christ. This evil queen is Abortion. At her feet lay the dismembered bodies of countless innocents.

Above in Heaven, we see the Mother of God, the Ever-Virgin Mary, the Perfect Mother, who is seen nursing the Infant Christ. To Her left is our Father among the Saints, Saint Stylianos the protector and patron saint of children. The Mother of God, the Saints and all the Heavenly bodies grieve as they look down and see the holocaust below. The Angels weep at this indescribable calamity below.

Behind the evil queen can be seen her servant, the abortionist, murdering another child. Behind the abortionist is the master of the evil queen, the beast, the evil one, who gleefully watches as the mothers offer their children for slaughter, in the process losing their own souls to the beast.