

**THE RITE OF HOLY ANOINTING FOR THE
PRESANCTIFIED LITURGY OF GREAT AND HOLY WEDNESDAY**
(SOLEMN FORM)

If there are concelebrating priests, each priest may say an additional prayer from the Office of Holy Oil for Anointing the Sick. Each prayer is preceded by:

Deacon: Let us pray to the Lord.

Response: Lord, have mercy.

Prayer of the second priest

Great and Most High God, worshipped by all creatures, you are the Fountain of Wisdom, truly the unsearchable Depth of Goodness and the boundless Sea of Compassion. Now loving Master, God of the eternal and wondrous, whom no human mind can comprehend, look upon and hear us, your unworthy servants and send down your gift of healing and forgiveness of sins wherever in your great name we bring this oil, and in the multitude of your mercies, heal them. Yes Lord, so easily entreated, alone merciful and loving, you repent over our evil deeds. You know that our minds are directed toward evil even from our youth. You do not desire the death of a sinner, but that he repent and live. For the salvation of sinners you became man; you remained God yet became a creature for the sake of your creatures. You said: I have not come to call the righteous to repentance, but sinners. You sought the lost sheep, diligently you searched for the lost coin, and having found it, you said: I will not reject anyone who comes to me. You did not despise the sinful woman who bathed your precious feet with her tears, but said: As often as you fall, arise and you will be saved. You also said: There will be such joy in heaven over one sinner who repents. Now compassionate Master, look down from the height of your holy dwelling place and overshadow us sinners and your unworthy servants with the grace of your Holy Spirit at this time. Dwell within your servant who are aware of their transgressions and who come to you in faith.

Having received your servants in your loving kindness, forgive them if they have sinned in word, deed, or thought. Cleanse and purify them from every sin, be always present to them, and protect them for the remaining years of their life; that walking in your commandments, they may no longer be a laughing-stock to the devil, and that your all-holy name may be glorified in them. For yours are mercy and salvation, O Christ God, and we give glory to you, with your eternal Father and your all-holy, good, and life-creating Spirit, now and ever and forever.

Response: Amen.

Prayer of the third priest

Almighty Master, Holy King, you chastise but do not put to death; you lift up the fallen and set upright those cast down; you alleviate our physical ills. We beseech you, our God, that you send down your mercy upon this oil and upon those who are to be anointed with it in your Name, that it be for them a healing of soul and body, for purification, and for the removal of every passion, every disease and infirmity, and every defilement of body and spirit. Yes, O Lord, send down your healing power from heaven, touch the body, quench the fever, ease the suffering, and drive out every lurking ailment. Be a physician to your servants. Raise them from the sick-bed, the bed of affliction, give them to your church whole and fully cured, well-pleasing to you and doing your will. For yours are mercy and salvation, O our God, and we give glory to you, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and ever and forever.

Response: Amen.

Prayer of the fourth priest

Good and loving Lord, compassionate and greatly merciful, abundant in mercy and rich in goodness, Father of mercies and God of all consolation, you empowered us through your holy apostles to heal the infirmities of the people with oil and prayer. Now prescribe this oil for the healing of those who are anointed with it, for relief from every disease and ailment, and deliverance from evil for those expecting salvation from you. Yes, Master Lord our God, we pray you, O all-powerful, to save us all. Only Healer of souls and bodies, sanctify us all. You heal every disease, heal also your servants; raise them from their sick bed through the mercy of your goodness; visit them in your mercy and compassion; drive away from them every illness and infirmity; that having been raised up by your mighty hand they may serve you with all thanksgiving; and that we also, sharing your ineffable love for us, now praise and glorify you; for you do deeds great and wondrous, extraordinary and glorious. For yours are mercy and salvation, O our God, and we give glory to you, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and ever and forever.

Response: Amen.

Prayer of the fifth priest

Lord, our God, you correct and again heal, you raise up the poor from the earth and the destitute from the dunghill. Father of the orphans, harbor of the storm-tossed, and healer of the sick, you easily bear our weaknesses and take on our sicknesses. Joyfully you show mercy. You pass over transgressions and take away injustice. You are quick to help and slow to anger. You breathed on your disciples and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven." You receive the repentance of sinners and have the power to forgive many and grievous sins. You grant healing to all those with infirmities and prolonged illnesses. You also called me your humble, sinful and unworthy servant, entangled in many sins and wallowing in passions and pleasures, into the holy and exalted rank of the priesthood. You called me to enter where the holy angels desire to go within the inner veil, into the Holy of Holies, and to hear the voice of the Lord God in the Gospel and to behold with my own eyes the vision of the holy anaphora, and to delight in the divine and sacred Liturgy. You made me worthy to celebrate your heavenly mysteries, to offer you gifts and sacrifices for our sins and for the people's failings, and to mediate for your rational sheep, that in the greatness of your ineffable love for us, you blot out their offenses. Now, all-good King, be attentive to my prayer in this hour and on this holy day, at every time and place and receive the voice of my prayer, and to your servants, give healing of infirmities of soul and body, forgiveness of sins and pardon of voluntary and involuntary transgressions, healing their incurable wounds, every sickness and all malady. Grant them spiritual healing, for you touched Peter's mother-in-law, and the fever left her, and she got up and served you. Now, Master to your servants, grant healing and release from every deathly pain, and remember your rich compassion and mercy. Remember that the human mind always inclines toward evil even from youth, and no one is found sinless upon the earth. For you alone are without sin; you came and saved the human race, and freed us from slavery to the enemy. For if you enter into judgment with your servants, no one will be found pure of sin, but every mouth will be silenced, having no defense, because all of our righteousness is as a filthy rag before you. Therefore, do not remember the sins of our youth, O Lord. For you are the hope of the hopeless and the repose of those who labor and are weighed down by sins, and to you we give glory, with your eternal Father, and your all-holy, good and life-creating Spirit, now and ever and forever.

Response: Amen.

This leaflet was prepared by the Metropolitan Cantor Institute for Holy Week 2026, based on the work of the Inter-Eparchial Liturgical Commission of the Byzantine Catholic Metropolitan Church of Pittsburgh.

