

Special Hymns

Vespers: Oh Gladsome Light (Φῶς Ἰλαρόν, Fos ilaron)

Fos ilaron agias doxis athanatou Patros, ouraniou, agiou, makaros, lisou Christe. Elthontes epi tin Iliou dysin, idontes fos hesperinon, ymnoumen Patera, Yion, kai Hagion Pneuma, Theon. Axion se en pasi kairois ymneisthai fonais aisiais, Yie Theou, zoïn o didous· dio o kosmos se doxazei.

St. John Chrysostom (AD 347–407) called this an “ancient hymn.” It is sung at Vespers during the lighting of the lamps in the evening.

Liturgy: Apolytikion¹ of the Church (Holy Trinity³)

Oh blessed are You, oh Christ our God, Who by sending down the Holy Spirit upon them, made the fishermen wise, and through them illumined the world, and to You the universe was ever drawn, all glory to You oh Lord!

Evlogitos ei, Christe o Theos imon, o pansophous tous alie-is anatheixas, katapempas aftis to Pneuma to Agion, kai di' afton tēn ikoumenēn saginefsas· Philanthrope, doxa soi.

Paraklesis: Megalynarion² of the Church (Holy Trinity)

The All Holy Spirit has come down in the tongues of fire, to make all the Apostles wise. With their voice they preach abroad, in many other tongues, to magnify the most Divine Greatness that is yours, our God.

¹An **Apolytikion** (“dismissal”) is a hymn at the conclusion of the Vespers service and often repeated at various times during other services.

²A **Megalynarion** (“exaltation”) is a hymn in honor of the Theotokos or other saints, or a hymn specific to feast days, saints, or particular liturgical occasions.

³A hymn of Pentecost (highlighting the activity of the Holy Spirit within the Trinity) is therefore a **hymn of churches named after the Holy Trinity**.

The Lord's Prayer

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**¹ bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

Πάτερ ἡμῶν, ὁ ἐν τοῖς οὐρανοῖς· ἁγιασθήτω τὸ ὄνομά σου· ἐλθέτω ἡ βασιλεία σου· γενηθήτω τὸ θέλημά σου, ὡς ἐν οὐρανῷ καὶ ἐπὶ τῆς γῆς· τὸν ἄρτον ἡμῶν τὸν **ἐπιούσιον**¹ δός ἡμῖν σήμερον· καὶ ἄφες ἡμῖν τὰ ὀφειλήματα ἡμῶν, ὡς καὶ ἡμεῖς ἀφίεμεν τοῖς ὀφειλέταις ἡμῶν· καὶ μὴ εἰσενέγκῃς ἡμᾶς εἰς πειρασμόν, ἀλλὰ ῥύσαι ἡμᾶς ἀπὸ τοῦ πονηροῦ.

Pater imon o en tis ouranis, ayiasthito to onoma sou, eltheto i vasilia sou yenithito to thelima sou, os en ourano ke epi tis yis. Ton arton imon ton **epiouston**¹. Thos imin simeron, ke afes imin ta ofilimata imon, os ke imis afiemen tis ofiletas imon, ke mi isenenkis imas is pirasmon, ala rise imas apo tou ponirou.

¹Epiouston is a word unique to the Lord's Prayer (Matthew 6:11 and Luke 11:3). ἐπί (epi) means “on,” “over,” or “above,” and οὐσία (ousia) means “substance,” or “essence.” It means “supersubstantial” or “above matter,” a supernatural bread, not ‘daily’ bread (a bad western translation introduced in some Latin texts).

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Greek Alphabet

SMALL LETTER	CAPITAL LETTER	LETTER NAME	PRONUNCIATION GUIDE
α	Α	Alpha	a (as in "father")
β	Β	Beta	v (as in "vase")
γ	Γ	Gamma	g (as in "go") or y (before ε, ι)
δ	Δ	Delta	th (as in "this")
ε	Ε	Epsilon	e (as in "pet")
ζ	Ζ	Zeta	z (as in "zebra")
η	Η	Eta	i (as in "machine")
θ	Θ	Theta	th (as in "thin")
ι	Ι	Iota	i (as in "machine")
κ	Κ	Kappa	k (as in "kite")
λ	Λ	Lambda	l (as in "lamp")
μ	Μ	Mu	m (as in "man")
ν	Ν	Nu	n (as in "net")
ξ	Ξ	Xi	x (as in "axe")
ο	Ο	Omicron	o (as in "not")
π	Π	Pi	p (as in "pot")
ρ	Ρ	Rho	r (trilled, as in Spanish "perro")
σ, ς*	Σ	Sigma	s (as in "see")
τ	Τ	Tau	t (as in "top")
υ	Υ	Upsilon	i (as in "machine")
φ	Φ	Phi	f (as in "phone")
χ	Χ	Chi	ch (as in German "Bach")
ψ	Ψ	Psi	ps (as in "lapse")
ω	Ω	Omega	o (as in "tore")

* Final sigma, used at the end of the word, especially in icons.

Special Pronunciation Rules

- αι is like "e" in "pet".
- ει is like "ee" in "see".
- οι is like "ee" in "see".
- υι is like "ee" in "see".
- ου is like "oo" in "boot".
- ευ is like "ev" before voiced consonants (β, γ, δ, ζ, λ, μ, ν, ρ) and "ef" before voiceless consonants (θ, κ, ξ, π, σ, τ, φ, χ, ψ).
- αυ is like "av" before voiced consonants and "af" before voiceless consonants.
- **Gamma (γ)** before another gamma (γ), kappa (κ), xi (ξ), or chi (χ) is pronounced like "ng" in "sing".