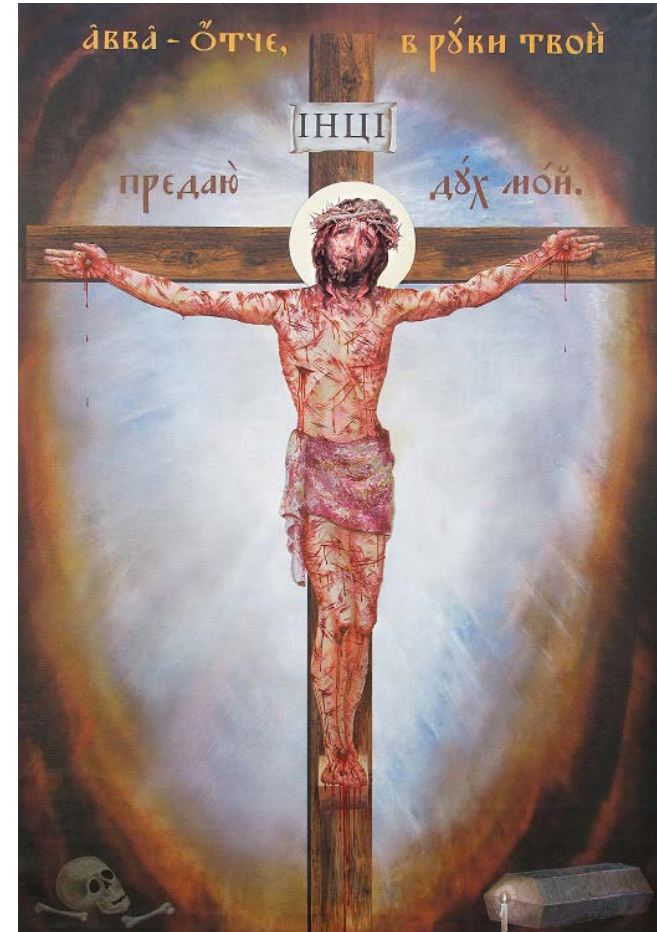


**A call for mission in Russia
(Part 2)**

**Death and Resurrection of Christ
(prayer)**



BESTOWING A BLESSING FOR PRAYERS,

+ ELIJAH

PATRIARCH OF THE BYZANTINE CATHOLIC PATRIARCHATE

Important: Try to observe the prayer programme for three months without exception.

This programme is a means of preparing the way for the Spirit of Christ, for metanoia – i.e. a change of mind from mere human reasoning to the wisdom of God as well as from human life practice to true discipleship. The point is that Orthodox priests need to obtain spiritual power. And they will obtain it through personal experience if they persevere on the way of building the priestly community and hence building a true community in their parishes on the principles of the apostles' doctrine and prayer. This will lead to a spiritual awakening in the parishes and the believers themselves will carry out a mission – evangelization and teaching. The priest will thus truly exercise the office of an apostle and prophet in practice. And then biblical ministries can be restored in the Church: “...to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ.” (see Eph 4:8-14)

Notice:

The celebration of Sunday is the foundation for spiritual resurrection of the Church and nation. Moreover, it is necessary at the present time to carry out a mission within Russia. Formal believers need to wake up through internal mission and then continue themselves to carry out a mission in their neighbourhood. Therefore, they need to gather together for prayer in small groups once or twice a week and to share experience of their successful or unsuccessful mission. They shall thus learn how to make mission more and more effective. It is necessary for everyone to devote at least two hours a week to personal mission, which means to witness to someone about the meaning of life, about the need of salvation, about the Lord Jesus.

Point 4

Reading of the texts for Sunday sermon, time for reflection on the passage from Scripture and sharing of inspirations in a form of prayer or interpretation.

Point 5

Analysis of or reflection on the word of life which is repeated every fortnight in prayer stops (one can also read the reflection on the website: http://vkpatriarhat.org.ua/en/?category_name=reflection-on-the-word-of-god). In the second week (of the period of two weeks) the priests shall share testimonies – how God spoke to them when they repeated the Bible verse 7 times a day.

Point 6

If there are more than 5 priests in the community, they can divide into two groups. One of them kneels and they all realize the truth that where two or three are gathered together in the name of Christ, Jesus is there in the midst of them. The person kneeling tells Jesus about his problems and the others pray for him in spirit, in unity with him; they can lay their hands on him and pray to Jesus for him. Finally, they say in faith that Jesus hears our prayers and the person kneeling thanks Jesus for hearing his prayer. God answers our prayers either immediately, giving us what we asked Him for, or sometimes we have to ask Him for a long time, again and again; for instance, St Monica prayed for the conversion of St Augustine for many years. Or God gives us something better than we asked for; so no prayer is fruitless.

Saint Basil says: The first thing is to find a place in seclusion (Rules of St Basil). So it is necessary to create such conditions in which the programme would not be disturbed by anything. The house can be somewhere in a village or town but the main thing is to provide a programme without any disturbing visits or influences. It would be appropriate to turn off mobile phones.

It would be good to prepare Monday supper for 17:00 (some hot soup and simple food) and Tuesday lunch for 13:00. As for Tuesday breakfast, it can be simple – bread and tea prepared by an appointed person.

Note: Use free time for confession.

A call for mission in Russia

(Part 2)

We hereby present a concrete programme of preparation of priests for internal mission in Russia:

Priests shall lead a semi-monastic way of life. Saint Basil emphasized: “*Woe to him who is alone when he falls, for he has no one to help him up.*” (Ecc 4:10) From Sunday evening to Tuesday noon it is necessary to create the conditions of spiritual desert – that means to seclude yourself from your family and daily worries and to devote time to prayer and God’s Word in fellowship. The model presented here has been practised by a community of seven bishops for several years and it has proved its worth.

The order of spiritual desert:

Sunday evening:

- 20:00-21:00 one hour of prayer according to God’s Word – apparitions of the risen Jesus
- 21:00 all priests send a blessing to their parishes and to the Russian nation – to the four cardinal points
- 21:00-21:05 the sixth prayer stop during the day (see explanation pt.1)
- 21:05-21:30 songs of praise to Jesus Christ
- 21:30-22:30 time for individual or group talks
- 22:30 the seventh prayer stop and night’s rest

Monday:

Fast day until 17:00

- 5:40 getting up
- 5:55 the first prayer stop in common
- 6:00-6:30 matins
- 6:30-7:30 prayer according to God’s Word – three apparitions of the risen Jesus
- (about 15 minutes) short reflection – testimony after prayer
- During a short break you can drink some water with sugar or honey or weak tea
- 8:00-9:00 prayer according to God’s Word – the receiving of the Holy Spirit
- 9:00-9:05 the second prayer stop in common
- testimonies and spiritual talks (about half an hour)
- 9:30-10:00 free time

- 10:00-11:00 prayer according to God's Word – apparitions of the risen Jesus
- 11:00-11:30 reflection
- 11:35 prayer – the first word from the cross
- 11:55-12:00 the third prayer stop
- 12:00-13:00 prayer – the second, third and fourth word from the cross
- 13:00-14:55 free time, rest
- 14:55-15:00 the fourth prayer stop
- 15:00-16:00 prayer – the fifth, sixth and seventh word from the cross
- 16:00-16:20 testimony after prayer
- 16:20-17:00 watching a video lecture on the fundamental Christian truths (see explanation pt.2)
- 17:00-17:30 supper
- 17:30-18:00 fellowship (see explanation pt.3)
- 18:00-18:05 the fifth prayer stop
- 18:05-20:00 fellowship (continuation)
- 20:00-21:00 prophetic prayer acc. Ezek 37
- 21:00 blessing to the four cardinal points and the sixth prayer stop
- 21:05-21:30 vespers and the seventh prayer stop
- 22:00 night's rest

Tuesday:

- 5:40 getting up
- 5:55-6:00 the first prayer stop
- 6:00-6:30 matins
- 6:30-7:30 liturgy
- 7:30-8:00 breakfast
- 8:00-9:00 prayer – the truths of the Holy Spirit
- 9:00-9:05 the second prayer stop
- 9:05-9:15 testimony after prayer
- 9:30-10:00 prayer of unity and power acc. Mk 11:23
- 10:15-11:30 preparation for Sunday sermon (see explanation pt.4)
- 11:40-12:00 reflection on the word of life (see explanation pt.5)
- 12:00-12:05 the third prayer stop
- 12:05-13:00 prayer for one another (see explanation pt.6)
- 13:00 lunch and end

Explanation:

The material for the spiritual programme can be found on <http://vkpatriarhat.org.ua/en/?p=11421>. Print it as a brochure and use it at the prayer meetings (one and a half days).

witnesses would prepare a booklet with a concrete word of life and its interpretation. However, this would be no so-called academic interpretation in the spirit of atheistic historical-critical theology (HCT) but practical application of the word in one's life which must lead to personal experience of each and every believer.

After two weeks' time each of the believers should share his experience with others within a small community, how the Holy Spirit spoke to them and clarified the word. These most fundamental verses from the Scripture lead the soul above all to purification and deliverance from the slavery of self-deceit, lies and various dependences. This is, in essence, the embodiment (incarnation) of God's Word through the obedience of faith and the greatest example after Jesus is His Holy Mother. In Her the Word became flesh through the obedience of faith (Lk 1:45).

The concluding sentence of the whole prayer "*From this moment I do everything...*" is an intention to do everything in the following three hours of the day in the name of the Triune God.

Point 2

You can gradually watch all [retreat lectures](#) and [other lectures](#); after the lectures you can continue with [video letters](#).

Point 3

One person must moderate the discussion so that topical issues are dealt with. The priests first tell about problems which they find necessary to be discussed. They write out a list of problems and the leader begins with the ones of primary importance. Then a discussion follows. One of the members prepares a short list of topical problems in the Church, mainly concerning the issue of heresies, amoral laws, juvenile justice, occultism, events of the past week in Russia or elsewhere in the world which have an impact on believers and society. The priests are advised on how to respond to the problems properly. Priests need to learn to discuss problems and to draw conclusions wisely so that it is helpful for necessary edification and does not lead to disagreement or a quarrel. The prophetic word is spoken for edification, exhortation and comfort (see 1Cor 14:3). The priests then use this experience in their parishes, in mission and in communication with young people, students and the intelligentsia seeking the truth.

will need most in the hour of death. In essence, it is only a repeated emphasis on the name of Jesus accompanied with a spiritual look upon His five wounds. *“Whoever calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.”* (Acts 2:21) This name is Jesus, or Aramaic Jehoshua. This short part of prayer is the first step – a confession that Jesus is my Saviour.

The second step expresses that Jesus is my Lord. The Israelites remembered several times a day (see Deut 6:9f) the first and greatest commandment beginning with a call: *“Shema, Israel, you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength.”* What helped them to remember it was an inscription on the doorposts of the house, a bracelet and a headband. *(If one prays alone, in place of Israel one puts one’s own name. If the prayer is said in a community, all say together “Shema, Israel” – which means “Hear, o soldier of God!”)* What does true love for God rest in? Jesus expresses it by a condition: *“...whoever loses his soul for My sake and the Gospel’s...”* (Mk 8:35; cf. Lk 14:33). This practically means that one stops before God in faith, gives Him all troubles and fears and wholly trusts in God’s almightiness and God’s love. It is a practical preparation for a happy moment of death expressed in Jesus’ words: *“Father, into Your hands I commit My spirit.”* (Lk 23:46) Simply, this prayer is radical, complete commitment to God. If the greatest commandment is to love God, it is necessary that every Christian should know what it is, have concrete experience of it and try at least seven times a day to actualize not only perfect contrition but also perfect love.

The third step is the repeating of one verse from the Holy Scripture. The Christian repeats this verse 7×3=21 times a day for a period of two weeks. The seventh day, as the Bible says, is holy. In Christianity it is tied up with the Resurrection of Christ and the Descent of the Holy Spirit. The Scripture also speaks about a rhythm of seven years ending with the Sabbatical year. This rhythm of seven years is also applied in the repeating of God’s Word. Over this period of time the believer learns and embodies 182 verses. After seven years he returns to the initial verses and continues in the same way. It is a rhythm resembling the liturgical cycle with the difference that God’s Word will not be repeated every three but every seven years. The leader of the community of believers must first analyze the particular verse, give an authentic interpretation of it and reveal its true essence and personal impact, i.e. how it may be embodied in one’s life. It is necessary that the Church has a prophetic centre – the faithful servant who gives food at the proper time (cf. Mt 24:45). This centre of true Christ’s

Note: The leader shall determine the order in which members of the community will take turns in reading aloud during the contemplation of the truths of Resurrection and Golgotha. Furthermore, the leader is responsible for the order of the day to be kept.

Sunday evening:

20:00-21:00 one hour of prayer according to God’s Word – apparitions of the risen Jesus

21:00 all priests send a blessing to their parishes and to the Russian nation – to the four cardinal points

Emmaus

a) Reflection on God’s Word

What feelings and thoughts filled the hearts of the disciples when they left Jerusalem and on the road to Emmaus were joined by Jesus, whom, however, they did not recognize? Jesus first asked them: *“What kind of conversation is this that you have with one another as you walk and are sad?”* Then the one whose name was Cleopas answered and said to Him: *“Are You the only stranger in Jerusalem, and have You not known the things which happened there in these days?”* And He asked: *“What things?”* So they said to Him: *“The things concerning Jesus of Nazareth, who was a Prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, and how the chief priests and our rulers delivered Him to be condemned to death... But we were hoping that it was He who was going to redeem Israel.”* Then the disciples told Him about the women having seen a vision of angels who said that He was alive. And Jesus said to them: *“O foolish ones, and slow of heart to believe in all that the prophets have spoken! Ought not the Christ to have suffered these things and to enter into His glory?”* And beginning at Moses and all the Prophets, He expounded to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning Himself. Their hearts burnt within them while He opened the Scriptures to them. Short after, their eyes were opened and they recognized Him in the breaking of bread, but He vanished from their sight.

Jesus, open our eyes too, that we may recognize You in Your brethren (see Mt 25:40). Your brother is the one who has received You, bears witness to You and is persecuted therefor by those who persecute You. Grant to me, O Lord Jesus, that I may see You today in Your brother who is praying with me.



b) Recitation of God's Word (5 min): We all repeat: *“Then their eyes were opened and they recognized Jesus.”* (Lk 24:31)



c) Prayer according to God's Word (5 min): We all say together: *“Ye-ho-shu-aa-aa-aa”**, and one of us adds: “You are here. Now I recognize You both in me and my brother!”



d) Song (5 min): Jesus opens my heart and my mind for His word.
Song: *“Jesus, name above all names”*

Je-sus, name a-bove all names, beau-ti-ful Saviour, glo-ri-ous Lord. Em-ma-nu-el-
 God is with us. Blessed Re-de-mer. Liv-ing Word. You are the Prince of peace.
 Al-migh-ty God. Won-der-ful Counsel - lor. Fa-ther of e-ter-ni-ty. And Your king-dom
 will have no end. All the power has been placed in Your hands.

Jesus appears to more than five hundred brethren in Galilee

a) Reflection on God's Word

“Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. And when they saw Him, they worshipped Him, but some doubted. And Jesus came and said to them: ‘All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to Me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you.’” (Mt 28:16-19)

“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:

* How to call on the name of God with a living faith? When breathing out, pronounce the syllable “Ye” and realize the presence of God the Father; when breathing out the second time, pronounce the syllable “ho” and realize the presence of God the Son; third time “shu” – realize the presence of God the Holy Spirit. Finally breathe out “aa” without producing a sound. Then after taking a breath, breathe out “aa” again. And then try to personally experience the given truth the third time again.

After many prayers and prayerful quests for actualization of the Church tradition at the present time we propose the following proven way of prayer. It is a prayer 7 times a day: when getting up, at 9:00 a.m., 12:00, 3:00 p.m., 6:00 p.m., 9:00 p.m. and when lying down.

How are we to pray and why?

+ *In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.*

“Ephphatha!” (Be opened!) *“I am self-willed. I am a hedonist. I am a critic.”*
“Maran atha!” (Come, O Lord!) *“Jesus, Jesus, Jesus, have mercy on me!”* (5×)

“Shema” (Hear), *“(name), love God! Jesus, my God, I love You with all my heart, with all my soul and with all my strength. Now I lose my soul for Your sake and the Gospel’s.”*

Word of life: (a verse from the Holy Scripture for 14 days; repeated 3×)

“From this moment I do everything + in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.” (3×)

Why to stop seven times? The number 7 is symbolic but it is good to take it practically. God's Word says that a righteous man sins seven times a day. He sins above all by self-will, i.e. he does not stop, is not in God's presence and acts only according to his feelings and reason which is not always in accord with God's will.

Besides self-will every man sins by hedonism, i.e. laziness, indulgence in pleasures, overindulgence in eating, drinking or leisure, dependences – alcohol, drugs, impurity. Another manifestation of sin is automatic criticism against people and God. Every man in his corrupted nature is self-willed, a hedonist and a critic. It is painful for him to admit and be conscious of this reality. Especially in the particular cases. The basic relationship with God is founded on repentance. It means to admit one's guilt before God and to ask for and receive His forgiveness. This all is expressed in the short prayer beginning with the sign of the cross, the word ‘ephphatha’ – be opened, and the confession: *“I am self-willed, I am a hedonist, I am a critic.”* And then one turns to the Saviour with the words: *“Maran atha – Come, O Lord!”* (1Cor 16:22) and calls upon the holy name of Jesus in whom is our salvation. It is good to stand in spirit under Christ's cross and perceive His five wounds from which Jesus' blood flows for the forgiveness of my sins.

Three times repeating the name of Jesus, one intensifies the prayer for forgiveness. This short prayer is a prayer of perfect contrition which one

(lake) of fire!! Be it done in the name of Yehoshua!"

All utter slowly and with faith *Ye-ho-shu-aa-aa-aa*.

One says: ***"I say to you, mountain of demons of lies and evil, your third part be thrown into the sea (lake) of fire!! Be it done in the name of Yehoshua!"***

All utter with faith *Ye-ho-shu-aa-aa-aa*. Amen!

Through your breath and your hands, the power of God threw the invisible mountain of demons of lies and evil into the sea of fire. Persevere in faith during the song.

5) Triumphant song

Shine, Je-sus, shine, fill this land with the Fa-ther's glo-ry;
Flow, ri-ver, flow, flood the na-tions with grace and mer-cy;
blaze, Spi-rit, blaze, set our hearts on fire. let there be light.
send forth your word, Lord, and

10:15-11:30 preparation for Sunday sermon (see explanation pt.4)

11:40-12:00 reflection on the word of life (see explanation pt.5)

12:00-12:05 the third prayer stop

12:05-13:00 prayer for one another (see explanation pt.6)

13:00 lunch and end

Explanations

Point 1

Seven prayer stops during the day

God's Word says: *"Seven times a day..."* (Psa 119:164). Both the Old and the New-Testament Tradition present a daily prayer rhythm. This rhythm was kept by St. Paul and the Apostles. Similarly, St. Basil emphasized the need for prayer stops during the day in the life of every Christian. Unfortunately, nowadays Christians do not have the daily rhythm of contact with God.

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." (Mk 16:16-18)

And Jesus said: *"And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."* (Mt 28:20) Jesus was with the apostles, and He is with us too, but we also must be with Him. Jesus is the same yesterday, today, and forever (Heb 13:8). His promise is true today as well but the condition is to preach the Gospel in power and to be ready even to lay down one's life for its sake and for the sake of Christ.

The first miracle – the healing of a crippled man (Acts 3:6): Peter and John witnessed to that miracle before the chief priests: *"It is by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified but whom God raised from the dead, that this man stands before you healed."* (Acts 4:10-12)

Tabitha was raised to life through the faith of the Apostle Peter (Acts 9:36f) and a young man named Eutychus was raised to life through the faith of the Apostle Paul (Acts 20:7f).

God worked unusual miracles by the hands of Paul, so that even handkerchiefs or aprons that had touched his skin were carried away to the sick, and their diseases left them and the evil spirits came out of them." (Acts 19:10-12)

Peter testified for Jesus in the house of Cornelius: *"God raised Him... we ate and drank with Him after He rose from the dead."* (Acts 10:40f)

The Apostle Paul writes: *"If you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved."* (Rom 10:9)

About 20 years after Christ's resurrection, Paul witnessed to the Corinthians: *"Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, was buried, and rose again the third day according to the Scriptures. He appeared to Cephas, then to the Twelve. Then He appeared to more than five hundred brethren (in Galilee) at one time, most of whom are still alive."* (1Cor 15:1-6)



b) Recitation of God's Word (5 min): We all repeat: ***"Christ appeared to more than five hundred brethren in Galilee at one time."***



c) Prayer according to God's Word (5 min): We all repeat: ***"Ye-ho-shu-aa-aa-aa"*** and one adds: ***"May we carry out a mission in the same power as the apostles and martyrs!"***



d) Song (5 min): “O Lord, this is You who have found me”

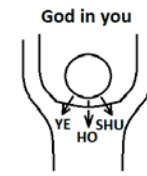
Jesus appears to the apostles

(Note: We reflect on the last two biblical truths alternately – one Sunday we reflect on “The Apparition to the Apostles” and the other Sunday “The Apparition to Thomas”.)

a) Reflection on God’s Word

On Sunday evening ten apostles are assembled in a house behind locked doors. Numerous questionings rise in their hearts. John is calmest. Seeing the empty tomb, he believed in Christ’s resurrection which the Lord had foretold several times. Even Peter looks different than in the morning. He has already told his brethren about the Lord having appeared to him. He himself does not want to speak much about it; however, this fact spreads among the disciples in a trice and soon it is the talk of Jerusalem. It is evening and the apostles are still talking of all these things which have happened – how Jesus appeared to Mary Magdalene and how the other women met Him. Besides, they recall some of Jesus’ words which He said in the last few days concerning the things that were to be accomplished in Him. Suddenly they hear somebody knocking at the door. They open and see two breathless disciples who left Jerusalem only a few hours ago. These unexpected arrivals, both talking at once, announce to the apostles that they have seen the Lord – whereupon the apostles say to them: “The Lord is risen indeed and has appeared to Simon!” The apostles are delighted that the two disciples have met Jesus. They are on the point of asking them about all the particulars when suddenly they see a radiant figure standing in the midst of them. Jesus is standing there, and as they are terrified and

4) Prayer of unity and power

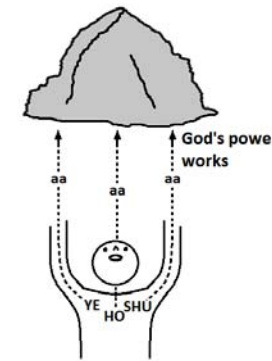


YE – HO – SHU – AA
Take a breath and, breathing out, utter: “YE” and realize the presence of the Triune God (the Father) in you.
Take a breath the second time and, breathing out, utter: “HO” and realize the presence of God (the Son) in you.

Take a breath the third time and, breathing out, utter: “SHU” and realize the presence of God (the Holy Spirit) in you.

Take a breath the fourth time and, breathing out the lengthened vowel “AA”, perceive that God’s power comes out from your inward through your breath and through your hands, and the mountain is lifted up... Perceive the same when you breathe out the lengthened vowel “aa” the fifth and the sixth time.

The mountain is lifted up by the power of God, not by you. You just cooperate by faith and “do not doubt in your heart”. (Mk 11:23)



One says by authority of God: **“By the power of the name of God, I say to you, mountain of demons of lies and evil over Russia, be lifted up 100 kilometres high!!!”**

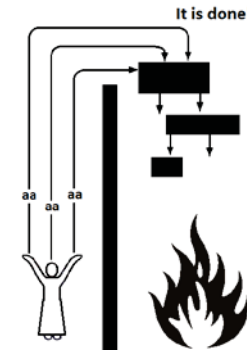
All utter slowly and in faith the name of God: *Ye-ho-shu-aa-aa-aa*

One says: **“By the power of the name of God, I say to you, mountain of demons of lies and evil over Russia, be lifted up 1000 kilometres high!”**

All utter in faith: *Ye-ho-shu-aa-aa-aa*

One says: **“By the power of the name of God, I say to you, mountain of demons of lies and evil over Russia, be lifted up 100.000 kilometres high!”**

All utter in faith: *Ye-ho-shu-aa-aa-aa. Amen!*



One says: **“I say to you, mountain of demons of lies and evil, your first part be thrown into the sea (lake) of fire!! Be it done in the name of Yehoshua!”**

All utter with faith the name *Ye-ho-shu-aa-aa-aa*. (God’s power comes out through your hands and through your breath, when you breathe out the lengthened vowel *aa* three times, and God’s power is doing it.)


One says: **“I say to you, mountain of demons of lies and evil, your second part be thrown into the sea**

b) Repeat the name of God “*Ye-ho-shu-aa-aa-aa*” and abide in the thought: “*I love You with a new heart*” (realize that Jesus died for you). (All repeat together *Ye-ho-shu-aa-aa-aa* three times.)

c) One says: Repeat the name of God “*Ye-ho-shu-aa-aa-aa*” and abide in the thought: “*I lose my soul for Your sake*” (realize concrete dependence of your soul on people, things, opinions – “I lose it now”). (All repeat together *Ye-ho-shu-aa-aa-aa* three times.)

d) One says: Repeat the name of God “*Ye-ho-shu-aa-aa-aa*” and abide in the thought: “*I love You with all my strength*”. (All repeat together *Ye-ho-shu-aa-aa-aa* three times.)

3) The mystery of Baptism

 a) One says: “*I renounce the devil, all his pride and all forms of impurity, occultism and paganism.*”
All answer: “Amen, amen, amen!”


b) One says: “*Do you not know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death?*” (Rom 6:3) Experience spiritually the death of Christ as well as your death through four words from the cross.


One says the words of Christ: “*I thirst.*” (All repeat together *Ye-ho-shu-aa-aa-aa* three times.)

One says the words of Christ: “*Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani.*” (All repeat together *Ye-ho-shu-aa-aa-aa* three times.)

One says the words of Christ: “*It is finished.*” (All repeat together *Ye-ho-shu-aa-aa-aa* three times.)


One says the words of Christ: “*Father, into Your hands I commit My spirit.*” (All repeat together *Ye-ho-shu-aa-aa-aa* three times.)


 c) One says: “*We were raised with Him in baptism.*” (Col 2:12) Repeat the name of God “*Ye-ho-shu-aa-aa-aa*” and abide in the words of God “*raised with Him*”! (All repeat together *Ye-ho-shu-aa-aa-aa* three times.)

 d) One says: “*I was baptized in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit...*”
Repeat the name of God “*Ye-ho-shu-aa-aa-aa*” and realize the presence of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit in you. (All repeat together *Ye-ho-shu-aa-aa-aa* three times.)


frightened, supposing that they are seeing a spirit, He says to them: “*Peace to you! Why are you troubled? And why do doubts arise in your hearts? Behold My hands and My feet, that it is I Myself. Touch Me and see, for a spirit does not have flesh and bones as you see I have.*” When He had said this, He showed them His hands and His feet. And to give them a safe proof, He took a piece of a broiled fish and ate in their presence. The fishbones were left there even after Jesus had parted from them.

Jesus told the disciples to go and preach repentance and remission of sins in His name to all nations. The disciples look at the glorious Lord and begin to understand the essence of salvation in Jesus Christ, who died and rose again for our sake.

 b) **Recitation of God’s Word** (5 min): We all repeat: “*Behold My hands – it is I Myself. Touch Me and see!*” (Lk 24:39)

 c) **Prayer according to God’s Word** (5 min): We realize: where two or three are gathered together in Jesus’ name, Jesus is there in the midst of them, though we cannot see Him.

We all say together: “*Jesus*”, and one of us adds “It is You Yourself. I touch You now.”

 d) **Song** (5 min): I personally experience, along with the apostles, the meeting with Jesus who is now present here! Song: “*Jesus, Jesus*”



CG C F C Am Em F C G C
Je - sus, Je - sus, o Je-sus, Je-sus, Je - sus.

Jesus appears to Thomas

a) Reflection on God’s Word

On the Sunday of Christ’s resurrection Thomas struggled with doubts more than the other apostles. He was not a witness of Jesus’ first apparition to the disciples that evening. When he returns to their company, they tell him this joyful news: “*We have seen the Lord!*” But Thomas does not share their joy. The news that Jesus appeared in his absence touches him painfully and cannot help to relieve the sadness and unbelief which have filled his heart. He says to them: “*Unless I see in His hands the print of the nails, and put my finger into the print of the nails, and put my hand into His side, I will not believe.*” His conditions sound implacable. After eight days the disciples are again inside, and Thomas with them. And suddenly Jesus comes

just as a week ago. The doors are shut again and Jesus stands in their midst. Then He turns directly to Thomas and repeats almost word for word what Thomas said a week ago, not believing that Jesus could be alive. Jesus knows exactly Thomas' requirements and now shows him His glorified wounds and says: *“Reach your hand here, and put it into My side. Do not be unbelieving, but believing.”* Thomas approaches Jesus and falls on his knees before Him. He becomes aware of his stubbornness, unwillingness to believe God and his brothers, and also his pride connected with this unbelief. Jesus looks at him with love and suddenly he understands that the cause of his sadness was the sin of pride, that he was simply unwilling to bow to God. But now he confesses with all his heart: *“My Lord and my God!”* Jesus says to him: *“Thomas, because you have seen Me, you have believed. Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.”*

Jesus wants me too not to abide in darkness or sadness, for, in fact, I am often like Thomas. In many situations I do not believe Jesus, I do not believe in the power of His resurrection, nor His almightiness. However, through repentance I have to come out of my unbelief and in faith to meet the glorified, risen Jesus, my Lord and my God.



b) Recitation of God's Word (5 min): We all repeat: **“Reach your hand here, and put it into My side.”** (Jn 20:27)



c) Prayer according to God's Word (5 min): We all say together: **“Jesus”**, and one of us adds: **“Forgive me my unbelief! Now I confess: My Lord and my God!”**



d) Song (5 min): Now I personally experience that Jesus is my Lord and my God. Song: *“Emmanuel”* (which means, God – Jesus – with us)

G C D G Em Am D G

 Em-ma-nu-el, Em-ma-nu-el, God is with us, Em-ma-nu-el.

 (I make a bow)

G C D G Em Am D G

 God is re-vealed, in His Son to us, God is with us, Em-ma-nu-el.

 (I make a bow)

Prayer of unity and power

1) Perfect contrition (5 minutes)



(position – kneeling)

a) One person says: **“I am self-willed.”** “A self-willed person does not seek the will of God in crucial situations, does not rely on God and breaks the laws of God.” Think of a particular case of your self-will and repeat quietly: *“I am self-willed, I am self-willed...”* (1 minute)

b) One says: **“Hedonism may be physical – indulgence in eating, drinking, impure feelings, alcohol, drug abuse. Mental hedonism – addiction to television, rock music, internet, human praise...”** Think of at least one concrete manifestation of your hedonism and repeat quietly: *“I am a hedonist, I am a hedonist...”* (1 minute)

c) One says: **Criticism:** “Think of a particular situation when you rebelled against God or criticized your neighbours in thoughts or by words, when you regarded yourself higher than all.” Repeat quietly: *“I am a critic...”* (1 minute)

At the end one says: **“The wages of sin is death. Jesus died for me and my sins.”**

[Explanation: The name of Jesus comes from the Hebrew name Yehoshua, which means: The Lord is salvation. This is the name of God, a holy name, and the Word of God says that “whoever calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved” (Rom 10:13). In this name the sick were healed and demons cast out (Mk 16:17; Acts 3:16; Acts 4:10). In this prayer of “unity and power”, pronounce slowly and quietly “Ye-ho-shu-” and then breathe out the lengthened vowel “aa” three times. This helps to abide in God and His Word at the present moment (cf. Jn 15:7)]



Look in spirit at the cross of Christ, at His five wounds, and repeat 5 times *“Ye-ho-shu-aa-aa-aa”*.

2) Love God

How to love God? How to lose your soul for the sake of Christ? It means to be ready even to lay down your life for the sake of Jesus and His Gospel like the apostles and martyrs. Now stand by the cross near the Mother of Jesus and in your spirit realize that you are crucified with Christ. (All repeat together *Ye-ho-shu-aa-aa-aa* three times.)



One says:

a) **“Now God performs transplantation of a new heart through the words of Jesus: ‘Behold, your Mother!’ Receive her like the disciple by the cross.”** Repeat the holy name of God and abide in the thought: “I receive Your Mother”. (All repeat together *Ye-ho-shu-aa-aa-aa* three times.)

4: Turn to the **north**, prophesy to the Spirit again and say: “Ko amar Adonai Yahweh Elohim!” (3 times)

Come, O Spirit of God, from the fourth wind from the northern border and breathe on the whole Russian nation in power, that it may live! (All repeat together: YE-HO-SHU-AA-AA-AA three times.)

The Word of God is now fully true: “And as I prophesied as I was commanded, the Spirit came into them, and they lived, and stood upon their feet, an exceedingly great army.” (Ezek 37:10)

A song of thanksgiving and praise at the end (*Sanctus, Sanctus...* or others)

San - ctus! San - ctus! San ----- ctus! San -- ctus! San - ctus! San ----- ctus! Ho-
san - na! Ho - san --- na! Ho - san - na! Ho-san ---- na! Ho - san - na! Ho-san --- na!

21:00 blessing to the four cardinal points and the sixth prayer stop

21:05-21:30 vespers and the seventh prayer stop

22:00 night's rest

Tuesday:

5:40 getting up

5:55-6:00 the first prayer stop

6:00-6:30 matins

6:30-7:30 liturgy

7:30-8:00 breakfast

8:00-9:00 prayer – the truths of the Holy Spirit

9:00-9:05 the second prayer stop

9:05-9:15 testimony after prayer

9:30-10:00 prayer of unity and power acc. Mk 11:23

21:00-21:05 the sixth prayer stop during the day (see explanation pt.1)

21:05-21:30 songs of praise to Jesus Christ

21:30-22:30 time for individual or group talks

22:30 the seventh prayer stop and night's rest

Monday:

5:40 getting up

5:55 the first prayer stop in common

6:00-6:30 matins

6:30-7:30 prayer according to God's Word – three apparitions of the risen Jesus

Angels appear to the women

a) Reflection on God's Word

On Sunday, very early in the morning, while it is still dark, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary come to the garden where Jesus was buried. Near the tomb they are suddenly frightened by a great earthquake. Here an angel of the Lord appears to them. They see him descend from heaven, come and roll back the large stone from the door of the tomb and sit on it. Perplexed, the women look at the angel's face. His countenance is like lightning, and his clothing as white as snow shining in the sun. Even the soldiers guarding Jesus' tomb are witnesses of this glaring appearance. But now they are lying on the ground like dead men, shaking for fear of the angel's presence. Likewise the women are frightened, yet they look at the angel with hope.

Now the angel says to them: “Do not be afraid, for I know that you seek Jesus who was crucified. He is not here; for He is risen, as He said.” (Mt 28:5-7)

After them, some other women come to the tomb, bringing spices and fragrant oils. They enter the tomb and do not find the body of the Lord Jesus. But what they see is two men in shining garments. The men say to them: “Why do you seek the living among the dead? He is not here, but is risen...” (Lk 24:5-6)

I, too, often seek the living among the dead, when I am in the spirit of unbelief, self-pity or other deceit. But Jesus is not there, in that spirit. Through repentance I need to break with this spirit so that I may meet the living Jesus.



b) Recitation of God’s Word (5 min): We all repeat: *“Why do you seek the living among the dead? He is not here; He is risen.”*

c) Prayer according to God’s Word (5 min): We all say together: *“Jesus”*, and one of us adds: *“You are risen! You are God!”*

d) Song (5 min): I personally experience the joyful news brought by the angel: *“Jesus is risen!”* Song: *“Jesus our Lord is alive”*.

Jesus appears to Mary Magdalene

a) Reflection on God’s Word

Christ appeared first to Mary Magdalene. She was a witness of the moment when early in the morning the angel rolled away the stone and announced that Jesus was not in the tomb, for He was risen. She brought word to His disciples but afterwards ran back to the tomb, where she met with the apparition of angels for the second time. The angel said to her: *“Why are you weeping?”* She answered: *“Because they have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid Him.”* When she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, and did not know that it was Jesus. Jesus said to her: *“Why are you weeping? Whom are you seeking?”* Supposing Him to be the gardener, she said to Him: *“Sir, if You have carried Him away, tell me where You have laid Him.”*

She did not know Jesus until He opened her eyes and called her by name. Only then she cried out: *“Rabboni!”*, which means: *“Teacher!”*

Jesus had delivered Mary Magdalene from demons and forgiven her all her sins. Jesus asks you too: *“Whom are you seeking?”* Your pleasure, sin? You will not find happiness in it. Are you seeking Jesus? Are you seeking His face in prayer? Where is Jesus? He answers: *“I am with you always, all the days of your life.”* (cf. Mt 28:20)

the witnesses of Christ (Acts 1:8), the Spirit of the apostles and martyrs. Repeat the holy name 3 times with faith and, breathing out the lengthened vowel “aa”, call on God with all your heart: *“Grant, O Lord, to the Russian people the Spirit in fullness!”* (All repeat together: *YE-HO-SHU-AA-AA-AA* three times.)

L.: Lord God, now You give Your Spirit in fullness. I receive Him on behalf of the Russian nation. (All repeat together: *YE-HO-SHU-AA-AA-AA* three times.)

L.: Lord Jesus Christ, thank You for baptizing the Russian nation with Your Spirit now. (All repeat together: *YE-HO-SHU-AA-AA-AA* three times.)

L.: As I prophesied, the sinews and the flesh came upon the bones, and the skin covered them over. Finish the whole prophecy as you were commanded.

[Explanation for the prophesying to follow: Turn to the east and prophesy to the Spirit, calling Him to come to you from the east. Pronounce the first three syllables of the name of God “Ye-ho-shu” and realize that the Spirit of God is coming to you from the east. Breathing out the lengthened vowel “aa”, realize that He fills both you and the place where you and others pray. When you breathe out “aa” the second and third time, the Spirit of God, through your breath and lifted hands, returns to the east and works in reviving power. The same happens when you turn to the other three cardinal points.]

1: Turn to the **east**. Prophesy to the Spirit and say: *“Ko amar Adonai Yahweh Elohim!”* (3 times)

Come, O Spirit of God, from the first wind from the eastern border and breathe on the whole Russian nation in power, that it may live! (All repeat together: *YE-HO-SHU-AA-AA-AA* three times.)

2: Turn to the **south**, prophesy to the Spirit again and say: *“Ko amar Adonai Yahweh Elohim!”* (3 times)

Come, O Spirit of God, from the second wind from the southern border and breathe on the whole Russian nation in power, that it may live! (All repeat together: *YE-HO-SHU-AA-AA-AA* three times.)

3: Turn to the **west**, prophesy to the Spirit again and say: *“Ko amar Adonai Yahweh Elohim!”* (3 times)

Come, O Spirit of God, from the third wind from the western border and breathe on the whole Russian nation in power, that it may live! (All repeat together: *YE-HO-SHU-AA-AA-AA* three times.)

L.: I can see sinews on the bones. People begin to be conscious of their sins and start to repent and pray. Many come to understand that the precious Blood of Christ was shed on the cross for the forgiveness of their sins. Repeat the name of God 3 times with faith and when breathing out long “aa”, give thanks. Give thanks that God is doing it. (All repeat together: *YE-HO-SHU-AA-AA-AA* three times.)

L.: Continue to prophesy! Pronounce 3 times: “**Ko amar Adonai Yahweh Elohim!**”

And continue: “*I, the Lord, will bring flesh upon you – the commandments of God!*”

L.: Call on behalf of the entire Russian nation: “Bring, O Lord...” (All repeat together: *YE-HO-SHU-AA-AA-AA* three times.)

L.: Holy God, now You bring flesh – the commandments of God – upon the Russian nation. Call with all your heart on behalf of the whole nation: “I receive, I receive strength – Your commandments.” (All repeat together: *YE-HO-SHU-AA-AA-AA* three times.)

L.: I see people changing their lifestyle according to God’s commandments. Repeat the holy name 3 times and when breathing out long “aa”, give thanks with all your heart. (All repeat together: *YE-HO-SHU-AA-AA-AA* three times.)

L.: Continue to prophesy: Pronounce 3 times authoritatively: “**Ko amar Adonai Yahweh Elohim!**”

And continue: “*I will cover you, Russian people, with skin through celebration of the seventh day – the Resurrection Day – in fellowship.*” (Acts 2:42)

L.: Implore the Lord: “Cover, O Lord...” (All repeat together: *YE-HO-SHU-AA-AA-AA* three times.)

L.: You, O Lord God, cover the people with skin: celebration of the seventh day in living communities. “I receive...” by faith on behalf of the whole nation. (All repeat together: *YE-HO-SHU-AA-AA-AA* three times.)

L.: I see that skin covered the revived body. People begin to celebrate Sunday. Living communities begin to arise all over the nation like in the early Church. Thank God with all your heart that He promised and fulfilled it. (All repeat together: *YE-HO-SHU-AA-AA-AA* three times.)

L.: But I see that there is something that these people raised from spiritual death still lack. They do not yet have the fullness of the Spirit like



b) Recitation of God’s Word (5 min): We all repeat: “*Jesus said: ‘Why are you weeping? Whom are you seeking?’*” (Jn 20:15)



c) Prayer according to God’s Word (5 min): Realize from what specific dependence Jesus has delivered you: alcoholism, impurity, fear, careerism...

We all say together: “***Rabboni***”, and one of us adds: “I am seeking You! You have delivered me from sinful dependence!”



d) Song (5 min): I personally experience that Jesus is here and that He is calling me by name. I sing the song: “*Jesus, the sweetest name of all...*”, and bow low to the ground. I thank Jesus for delivering me from my dependence.

The image shows two staves of musical notation in 4/4 time. The first staff has a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The notes are: C4, D4, E4, F4, G4, A4, Bb4, C5. The lyrics below are: "Je - sus You're the sweet-est name of all, Je - sus, You al-ways hear me when I call." The second staff has a treble clef and a key signature of one flat. The notes are: A4, Bb4, C5, D5, E5, F5, G5, A5. The lyrics below are: "Je - sus You lift me up each time I fall, You're the sweetest, the sweet-est name of all." Above the first staff are the chords: C, Dm, G, C. Above the second staff are the chords: Am, Dm, G, C.

(I make a bow)

The risen Jesus appears to the women

a) Reflection on God’s Word

The women who brought fragrant oils were witnesses to an empty tomb. Thereafter they saw two young men (cf. Mt 27:52-53) who said to them that Jesus had been risen from the dead, and sent them to go and tell His disciples. Yet their words seemed to the apostles like idle tales (cf. Lk 24:9-11).

The women returned to the tomb and when they were leaving, Jesus Himself met them, saying: “*Rejoice!*” The women came and held Him by the feet, and worshipped Him. Then Jesus said to them: “*Fear not!*” (Mt 28:9-10)

The devil and his people use a number of psychological methods to intimidate those who want to live with Jesus and witness to Him.

Jesus is true God. He overcame sin and death. The women worship Him – the only true God. Jesus encourages them: “*Fear not!*”

Whom or what do I worship? Money? Material things? Career? False philosophies? Modern psychologies? Public opinion? Unclean spirit? Sin or pagan practices? Whom or what do I fear? Ridicule? Psychological pressures? People? Jesus now says even to you: “*Fear not!*”



b) Recitation of God’s Word (5 min): I live out the encounter of women with Jesus, and now also my encounter with Him.

We all repeat: **“Jesus appeared to the women and said: ‘Fear not!’”**



c) Prayer according to God’s Word (5 min): I realize that I need to change my way of thinking. What do I fear in particular? Now I give my fear to Jesus and confess that in this very thing I trust in Him.

We all say together: **“Jesus”**, and one of us adds: **“I don’t fear, I trust in You.”**



d) Song (5 min): I personally experience that the risen Jesus is here now. During the song **“Adoramus Te Domine”** (We adore You, O Lord) I bow to Him. I thank Jesus for helping me at any time in the past.

D A Hm G A D

O, A-do-ra-mus Te Do-mi - ne! (I make a bow)

(about 15 minutes) short reflection – testimony after prayer

During a short break you can drink some water with sugar or honey or weak tea

8:00-9:00 prayer according to God’s Word – the receiving of the Holy Spirit

Baptism with the Holy Spirit

a) Reflection on God’s Word

Jesus said: **“You shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me.”** (Acts 1:8) The condition for receiving the Holy Spirit is repentance: **“Repent... and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is to you ... and to all who are afar off...”** (Acts 2:38-39)

It is necessary, through continual repentance, to receive the Holy Spirit again and again! It means to get out of the darkness of sin into God’s light, out of lie into the truth, out of death into life! Standing into light always involves self-denial. Every time we repent, i.e. enter God’s presence and here confess our sin and belief in the power of Jesus’ blood, the Holy Spirit comes and gives us the light and strength to know and do the will of God! **“The Holy Spirit makes intercession for us with groanings**

of God and when breathing out, confess: **“Russia will be raised from death!”** (All repeat together: **YE-HO-SHU-AA-AA-AA** three times.)

L.: You confessed the faith in God’s almighty power. **“Through your obedience of faith, God wants to raise to life the Russian nation. Realize that the Triune God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, whom you received in Baptism, is present in you.”**

Imagine that you are a spiritual transmitter which is connected through common Baptism to the Russian nation and its souls. The Lord God now says to you: **“Prophecy, son of man! Say to these bones in My authority: Dry bones of the Russian nation, hear the word of the Lord!”** **“Ko amar Adonai Yahweh Elohim!”**, which means: **“Thus says the Lord God!”** (All repeat together: **“Ko amar Adonai Yahweh Elohim!”** three times.)

L.: **“I, the Lord, will give you Spirit, and you, the Russian people, shall live through repentance.”**

L.: Repeat 3 times the name of God *Yehoshua*, and call with your heart: **“Give, O Lord...”** (All repeat together: **YE-HO-SHU-AA-AA-AA** three times.)

L.: Lord God, You are now giving Your Spirit, and now I receive it on behalf of all Russia. Repeat the holy name 3 times and when breathing out long, perceive that the Spirit of God comes upon you and upon the Russian nation as an illuminating rain of light. **“I receive, I receive.”** (All repeat together: **YE-HO-SHU-AA-AA-AA** three times.)

L.: The reviving process starts. I can hear a great noise; I can see bones coming together, bone to bone. The nation becomes aware of its sound moral and spiritual roots which it received in Baptism 1,000 years ago through St Vladimir. Repeat the name of God 3 times with faith and when breathing out long, give thanks. Give thanks for the spirit of repentance. (All repeat together: **YE-HO-SHU-AA-AA-AA** three times.)

L.: Continue to prophesy! Pronounce 3 times in authority: **“Ko amar Adonai Yahweh Elohim!”**

L.: And continue: **“I, the Lord God, will put sinews on you – the spirit of prayer!”**

L.: Call with your heart: **“Put, O Lord...”** (All repeat together: **YE-HO-SHU-AA-AA-AA** three times.)

L.: Lord God, now You give the spirit of prayer – sinews. Repeat with faith on behalf of all: “I receive, I receive...” (All repeat together: **YE-HO-SHU-AA-AA-AA** three times.)

Do you receive the fullness of the Holy Spirit like the apostles on the day of Pentecost?

Answer: Yes, I do.

Do you renounce all forms of occultism, divination, magic and spiritualism as well as all superstitions?

Answer: Yes, I do.

Do you renounce sympathy for paganism?

Answer: Yes, I do.

Do you renounce the devil, and all his works, and all his pride?

Answer: Yes, I do.

In Baptism you were buried into Christ's death and received the new life of the risen Christ. The Most Holy Trinity dwells in you. Do you want to renew the essence of your baptism, i.e. unity with Christ crucified and risen?

Answer: Yes, I do.

During the Babylonian captivity, God granted to the prophet a vision of the resurrection of his nation. Now He wants to work through you and your obedience of faith!

Part 2

Lector (L.): The hand of the Lord came upon me and brought me out in the Spirit, and set me down in the midst of the valley; and it was full of bones. And He said to me: "*Son of man, these bones are the whole house of Israel – a spiritually dead nation! Then He caused me to pass by them all around, and there were very many bones; and indeed they were very dry.*"

And He said to me: "*Son of man, can these bones live?*" So I answered: "*O Lord GOD, You know (that by Your power they can).*" (Ezek 37:1-3)

Look in spirit at the sky of stars and realize that God created those millions of stars. Repeat 3 times the holy name of God *Yehoshua* and, breathing out the lengthened vowel "aa", confess your faith: "Lord, You created heaven and earth!" (All repeat together: *YE-HO-SHU-AA-AA-AA* three times.)

L.: Jesus Christ rose from the dead by the almighty power of God! Pronounce 3 times the name of God and when breathing out the lengthened vowel "aa", confess: "Jesus, You rose from the dead on the third day." (All repeat together: *YE-HO-SHU-AA-AA-AA* three times.)

L.: I believe that God's power that created the universe raised Christ from death and will raise spiritually dead Russia too! Repeat 3 times the name

which cannot be uttered." (Rom 8:26) If we receive the Holy Spirit in fullness, the spirit of the world must retreat from our soul!

That we may be witnesses to Christ, we need to receive the power of the Holy Spirit. Without this power we will be no witnesses but traitors. Why? Because in us is a poisoned root – nature corrupted by sin, which easily believes lies and, on the other hand, questions the truth. This pressure of darkness and sin is in us, and therefore we need God's power in order not to deny Christ but, on the contrary, to witness to Him and to be ready even to sacrifice our lives for His sake. We need to receive the power of the Holy Spirit so as to be witnesses to Christ.



b) Recitation of God's Word (5 min): We all repeat: "***You shall receive the power of the Holy Spirit and you shall be witnesses to Me.***" (cf. Acts 1:8)



c) Prayer according to God's Word (5 min): We all say together: "***Jesus***", and one of us adds: "I receive the power of the Holy Spirit to be a witness to You."



d) Song (5 min): I personally experience how the Holy Spirit descended on the apostles, and in this moment I receive Him with faith and in fullness.

Hymn "*Veni Creator Spiritus*" (one can continue with prayer with tongues; cf. Acts 2:4).

The image shows two staves of musical notation for the hymn "Veni Creator Spiritus". The first staff has a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The melody is written on a five-line staff. Above the staff, the lyrics are written in a smaller font: "Ve-ni, Cre - a - tor Spi-ri-tus, men-tes tu - o - rum vi - si - ta,". The second staff continues the melody and lyrics: "im-ple su - per - na gra-ti-a quae tu cre - a - sti pe-cto-ra. A - men." Above the second staff, the lyrics are written in a smaller font. The musical notation includes various notes, rests, and bar lines. Above the first staff, the chords C, Dm, F, and G are indicated. Above the second staff, the chords F, Dm, F, C, G, C, F, and C are indicated. The piece ends with a double bar line and the instruction "D.C. al.Fine".

Baptism with fire

a) Reflection on God's Word

Jesus said: "*I came to cast fire on the earth, and how I wish it were already kindled!*" (Lk 12:49-50) What fire is it? The fire of pure divine love – agape – which burns with a longing for God and for salvation of the immortal souls. The Scripture says about Jesus: "*He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.*" (Mt 3:11) This purifying fire, which is also connected with the Holy Spirit, burns up already here on earth the slag of our egoism and sinful dependences. Let it also purify our mind, will, heart, emotions, memories, images and plans... Let it guide us into all the truth.

There appeared tongues as of fire over the apostles. Jesus Himself cast this fire on the earth, and He wants it to burn. Then He adds that He has not come to give false peace on earth, but rather division. This is because many will proudly refuse God's kingdom and put up a stiff resistance even to members of their own families.

This fire causes spiritual pain but at the same time it purifies the soul!

It is the will of God that this fire be cast and kindled. The enemies of Christ try to quench it. But I want it to burn! Let it burn in me! It is burning!



b) Recitation of God's Word (5 min): We all repeat: **"Jesus said: 'I cast fire on the earth, and how I want it to burn!'"** (cf. Lk 12:49-50)



c) Prayer according to God's Word (5 min): Invisible fire is now burning up in me the power of sin.

We all say together: **"Jesus"**, and one of us adds: **"I also want it to burn in me now!"**



d) Song (5 min): I personally experience this truth and through faith I perceive the reality: **"It is burning!"** Invisible fire is now burning up in me the power of sin. Singing **"Love of Christ, come now"** (see explanation text on the following page).

The musical score is written on three staves in 4/4 time. The melody is on the top staff, and the lyrics are written below it. Chords are indicated above the notes. The lyrics are: "Love of Christ come now, like a migh-ty o - cean. Flow through us with mer-cy and grace, Love of Christ, come now".

The gift of prophecy

a) Reflection on God's Word

In the Epistle to the Corinthians we read: *"Pursue love, and desire spiritual gifts, but especially that you may prophesy."* (1Cor 14:1-3) The Apostle Paul further explains: *"He who prophesies speaks edification and exhortation and comfort to men."* So the point of prophecy is not some divination, but edification, exhortation and comfort.

I am a slave to nicotine, alcohol, human praise, I persuaded my wife to have an abortion, I am addicted to rock and metal music, I am a slave to television. I stole and cheated, I deeply hurt others by telling lies, I was unfaithful to my wife, I blasphemed. God's Word says: *"Do not be deceived. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites, nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit the kingdom of God. And such were some of you. But you were washed, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus and by the Spirit of our God."* (1Cor 6:9-11)

"The wages of sin is death." Jesus died for you and for your sins. The name "Jesus" is a Graecised form of the Hebrew name **"Yehoshua"**. **It is the holy name of God** and the Word of God says about it: *"Whoever calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved."* (Rom 10:13)

Now look in spirit at the cross of Christ, at His five wounds, and repeat quietly the name "Yehoshua" 5 times with faith! (YE-HO-SHU-AA-AA-AA).

Now it is true about you: *"The Blood of Jesus cleanses from all sin."* (1Jn 1:7)

What is the greatest commandment? You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul and with all your strength, and your neighbour as yourself. (cf. Mk 12:30-33)

Question: Do you want to love God, which means to give Him the first place in your life?

Answer: Yes, I do.

Question: To love your neighbour as yourself means to wish his temporal and eternal good, the same as you wish for yourself. Do you want it?

Answer: Yes, I do.

Do you receive the Lord Jesus as your personal Saviour and Lord?

Answer: Yes, I do.

Do you receive the Mother of Jesus as your own, in the same way as the disciple by the cross received her?

Answer: Yes, I do.

* How to call on the name of God with a living faith? When breathing out, pronounce the syllable "Ye" and realize the presence of God the Father; when breathing out the second time, pronounce the syllable "ho" and realize the presence of God the Son; third time "shu" – realize the presence of God the Holy Spirit. Finally breathe out "aa" without producing a sound. Then after taking a breath, breathe out "aa" again. And then try to personally experience the given truth the third time again.

Prophetic prayer for the resurrection of Russia

(At several meetings, at least at the beginning, half an hour can be devoted to explanation of this prayer and handing on of the experience.)

Part 1

Before beginning this prayer, confess your sins before God and before yourself:

I am an egoist. When someone admonishes me for whatever error, I take offence. I avoid sound self-criticism. I criticize and condemn others; however, what I condemn I do myself. Whenever I do something good, it just increases my feeling of superiority. I see the speck in my neighbour's eye, but I cannot see the log in my own eye. I am lazy to seek the truth and to endure suffering for its sake. I am a coward who betrayed the truth and my own conscience many times and, moreover, I set a bad example to many. I take offence, revenge, I am not willing to forgive others. I neglected parental duties in the upbringing of my children.

I do not read the Bible and the lives of saints, and I am not familiar with them. **I do not bear in mind the ultimate reality, which is death, God's judgment and eternity!** God spoke to me through many events, and I am still deaf and blind – I have faced mortal danger several times at work, on the road. I poke into much useless information, but I do not seek to understand the meaning of life and eternity at all. Like a number in a herd I let myself be manipulated by the mass media which deform rather than form man. I admit neither the poisoned root nor fruit of rock music behind which is the spirit of cynicism, drugs, sexual licentiousness and satanic voodoo.

I do not want to go outside the herd, and so I am not willing to fight for truth and moral values. I am interested in all kinds of philosophies or psychologies, but I do not seek the true psychology and philosophy of the Gospel which is vital in life.

Regarding the First Commandment, I read occult books that dispose to paganism behind which is the spirit of lies. I was interested in yoga, sympathized with reincarnation and other delusions. I also practised martial arts; however, I do not fight a true fight against evil in myself.

(A sin against the First Commandment is divination, magic, spiritualism and various hidden practices connected with them such as zodiac, horoscopes, "services" of fortune-tellers or extrasensory individuals, acupuncture and homoeopathic remedies...

Today every converted Christian has to desire most the gift of prophecy. Why? Because the common source as of the Scripture so of the gift of prophecy is the same Holy Spirit! The Spirit of truth!

However, nowadays the Holy Scripture is being interpreted by heretical theologians through the spectacles of the so-called historical-critical method (HCT). Behind this method is a "pseudogift" of antiprophecy and the spirit of lie.

The fruit of the Spirit of truth is eternal life. The fruit of the spirit of lie is eternal death.

The model for interpreting the Holy Scripture is given by the Apostle Peter in his sermon on the day of Pentecost. (First he reacts to what has happened: The apostles are filled with the Holy Spirit, which is outwardly made manifest in their speaking with new tongues and prophesying. Peter cites the prophet Joel 3:1-5: "*And on My menservants and on My maidservants I will pour out My Spirit in those days; and they shall prophesy.*" (Acts 2:18) And immediately afterward he proceeds to the essence, and that is Jesus Christ and His redemptive death and resurrection. He shows that the truth of resurrection is encompassed in Psalm 16:8-11: "*For You will not leave my soul in Hades, nor will You allow Your Holy One to see corruption.*" (Acts 2:27) Peter says: "*The prophet David does not speak here about himself; he speaks about the resurrection of the Christ.*" Then he cites Psalm 110:1: "*The Lord said to my Lord: 'Sit at My right hand.'*" And he adds: "*Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly that God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ.*" (Acts 2:36)) What was the fruit of this prophetic sermon? "*They were cut to the heart, and said: 'What shall we do?'*" Then Peter said to them: "*Repent ... and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.*"

Jesus Himself explained the Scripture in like manner to the disciples at Emmaus. The fruit was that their eyes were opened and their hearts burnt (cf. Lk 24:31-32). The evangelists, the apostle Paul and the other apostles interpret the Scripture in the same way. We also are to interpret the Scripture in this way – that means, not in the spirit of atheistic HCT but in the Holy Spirit, in the spirit of prophecy!

To prophesy means to apply the letter of the Holy Scripture to a particular situation. A prime example of antiprophecy is the modern historic-critical theology. Every priest is obliged to renounce this spirit of HCT and to pray for the gift of prophecy. In fact even every genuine believer should pray for this gift of prophecy. The Scripture says: "*Ask, and it will be given to you.*" (Mt 7:7)



b) Recitation of God’s Word (5 min): We all repeat: *“Desire spiritual gifts, but especially that you may prophesy.”* (1Cor 14:1)



c) Prayer according to God’s Word (5 min): We all say together: *“Jesus”*, and one of us adds: *“Now I receive the gift of prophecy!”*



d) Song (5 min): I personally experience this truth; I remain in thankfulness to God: *“Thank You for the gift of prophecy.”* Song: *“Glory, glory, hallelujah”*

Two staves of musical notation in G major, 4/4 time. The first staff has chords G, C, and G above it. The lyrics are: "Glo-ry, glo-ry, ha-le - lu-jah, glo-ry, glo-ry, ha-le - lu-jah,". The second staff has chords G, D, and G above it. The lyrics are: "glo - ry, glo-ry, ha-le - lu - jah, Je-sus is my Lord!"

Explanation for singing in tongues (in “Baptism with fire”): One person sings the tune of the song *“Love of Christ, come now”*, all sing this song twice together slowly and the third time only one person sings the basic melody quietly and the others begin to improvise melodies but in spirit they realize that they are now before God, abiding in a personal relationship to Him and praising Him no longer by words but by singing. It is good to imagine, for instance, that I am standing before Christ – He removed all my sins with His blood and now I give Him thanks, or I can imagine the moment of my death when I enter into the light of Christ’s presence – He has forgiven me all my sins and saved me by His death. It is a prayer in the Spirit; at that moment *“the Spirit intercedes for us with groans that words cannot express”* (see Rom 8:26). And if you feel like uttering some strange words, you can freely include them in the melody and be aware that God’s Spirit is really present and works.

In the third part of the prayer to the Holy Spirit, when you repeat the words: *“Now I receive the gift of prophecy”*, think of particular situations which you know you will face that day or the following week. You need the Holy Spirit to give you the light and wisdom, and now in these 5 minutes ask Him and in the next 5 minutes give thanks to Him in a song. So you actually pray for concrete situations.

Jesus died not the usual crucifixion death by suffocation but of cardiac rupture (rupture of heart) due to shock and constriction of the heart by fluid in the pericardium. When the Roman soldier approached Jesus’ cross, to make sure that Jesus was really dead he thrust a spear into His right side. When the spear was pulled out, there was a sudden flow of blood and water – as the apostle John describes. This was the blood from the pericardium separated into clot and serum. Thick blood flowed freely only under its own weight.

Jesus’ death was the hardest psychical and spiritual battle on our planet and at the same time in all universe. At that moment the power of sin, the demonic power, was broken.

Jesus expressed both His and our life programme in the words of the prayer Our Father: *“Father, Your will be done!”*

The Apostle asks: *“Or do you not know that as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death?”* (Rom 6:3) Baptism has a character of a covenant. Jesus gave His life for you – that was a “YES” for you on His part. Your “yes” is conditioned by knowledge of the essence of baptism and by readiness to die to yourself.



b) Recitation of God’s Word (5 min): I realize the dying and death of Jesus. We all repeat: *“Father, into Your hands I commit My spirit.”*



c) Prayer according to God’s Word (5 min): This is the will of the Heavenly Father, that I may be saved (cf. Jn 6:40). We all say together: *“Father”*, and one of us adds: *“Your will be done!”* (Mt 6:10)



d) Prayer of the heart (5 min): We call: *“Aaaa... baa”*. In this calling I commit my spirit together with Jesus’ spirit into the arms of the Father and accept whatever time and way of my death.

16:00-16:20 testimony after prayer

16:20-17:00 watching a video lecture on the fundamental Christian truths (see explanation pt.2)

17:00-17:30 supper

17:30-18:00 fellowship (see explanation pt.3)

18:00-18:05 the fifth prayer stop

18:05-20:00 fellowship (continuation)

20:00-21:00 prophetic prayer acc. Ezek 37

and sin has been broken! Where? In one place only, and that is Christ's death. If I enter it through faith, this death works in me (cf. 2Cor 4:11).

Each one of us will go through physical dying and physical death; therefore, every day we are to enter Christ's death through faith, particularly when in some way we deviate from the line of God's will or God's Commandments.



b) Recitation of God's Word (5 min): I perceive the suffering of Christ: loss of blood, unbearable thirst, painful cramps, breathing by supreme effort. We all repeat: "***Jesus said: 'It is finished!'***"



c) Prayer according to God's Word (5 min): We all say together: "***Father***", and one of us adds: "***It is finished! The devil and sin was overcome!***"



d) Prayer of the heart (5 min): We call: "***Ye-ho-shu-aa-aa-aa***". In this calling I witness to the whole world: "***My salvation was finished in Jesus!***"

7th word from the cross: "*Father (Abba), into Your hands I commit My spirit.*" (Lk 23:46)

a) Reflection on God's Word:

"It was now about the sixth hour, and there was darkness over the whole land until the ninth hour, while the sun's light failed. And the curtain of the temple was torn in two. Then Jesus, calling out with a loud voice, said: 'Father, into Your hands I commit My spirit!' And having said this He breathed His last." (Lk 23:44-46)

"... the earth was shaken, and the rocks were rent... When the centurion and those who were with him, keeping watch over Jesus, saw the earthquake and what took place, they were filled with awe and said: 'Truly this was the Son of God!'" (Mt 27:51.54)

Streams of blood, which is still darker, are flowing down the deadly pale Jesus' face. The cheeks covered in wounds elongate. The lips are blue and contracted. His head is sinking onto His breast, the heart stops beating. Jesus knows that He is on the threshold of death. With His last surge of strength He presses His feet against the nail, takes a deep breath and cries out with a loud voice: "***Father, into Your hands I commit My spirit!***" His hands, first clenched, now open and the arms droop. The knees are bent and rotate laterally. The head declines on breast lifelessly. The Lord Jesus breathes His last. It is three o'clock in the afternoon.

9:00-9:05 *the second prayer stop in common*

testimonies and spiritual talks (about half an hour)

9:30-10:00 *free time*

10:00-11:00 *prayer according to God's Word – apparitions of the risen Jesus*

Jesus appears to Peter by the tomb

a) Reflection on God's Word

What feelings and thoughts filled Peter's heart when on Friday, before the rooster crowed, he publicly denied Jesus three times – cursing and swearing that he did not know Him, that he had nothing to do with Him?! Fear and, moreover, remorse for his betrayal of his Lord tormented his soul. The other apostles likewise are in deep sorrow and fear.

And now on Sunday morning Mary Magdalene comes running, hurriedly knocks at the door and cries: "***The tomb is empty!***" Shortly afterwards the other women, too, come running and announce the same.

Peter and John resolve that they will go themselves and find out what the truth is. They run to the tomb. Peter goes in... "***Then the other disciple went in also; and he saw and believed. For as yet they did not know the Scripture, that He must rise again from the dead. Then the disciples went away again to their own homes.***" (Jn 20:2-10) But Mary stood outside by the tomb weeping... Soon after, she met Jesus Himself. "***Mary Magdalene came and told the disciples: 'I have seen the Lord.'***" (Jn 20:18) Not long after, the other women came who also told the apostles that they had seen the Lord, that they held Him by the feet and worshipped Him (see Mt 28:9-10).

Peter runs to the tomb again. Here suddenly, he meets the risen Lord! What is this meeting like? The words by which he denied Jesus three times keep running round in his mind! The look into Jesus' face penetrates his whole being. The feeling of guilt, contrition and love fill Peter's heart. Words fail him. He only manages to make a gesture of painful confession: "***Lord, I denied You!***" But Jesus' look of love fills Peter's heart with deep peace again. When he comes back to the apostles, touched by the meeting he just says shortly: "***The Lord is risen indeed. He has appeared to me.***"



b) Recitation of God's Word (5 min): I live out Peter's encounter with Jesus.

We all repeat: "***The Lord is risen indeed, and has appeared to Simon.***" (Lk 24:33-34)



c) Prayer according to God's Word (5 min): I realize my concrete sins or betrayals. We all say together: "**Jesus**", and one of us adds: "I betrayed You, I denied You."



d) Song (5 min): I repent of concrete betrayals or denials of Jesus. I realize that He is here, knows me and loves me. We sing: "*Yehoshua*".

Ye-ho-shu-a, Ye-ho-shu-a, Ye-ho-shu-a, Ye-ho-shu-a, Ye-ho-shu-a, Ye-ho-shu-a, Ye-ho-shu-a, Ye-ho-shu-a.

Jesus appears to Peter by the Lake of Gennesaret

a) Reflection on God's Word

Obedying Jesus' command, the disciples return to Galilee. Peter along with the other apostles go fishing. It is possibly the first night after Saturday. They toil all night and catch nothing. When the morning comes, Jesus stands on the shore. At His word they cast the net and catch a great number of fish.

When they have eaten breakfast, Jesus looks with love at Peter. Peter thinks of his sin again. He remembers Jesus' painful look in the high priest's courtyard, when he denied Him three times that night.

And now he hears Jesus' question: "*Simon, son of Jonah, do you love Me?*" Peter is happy that he can confess again his love to his Saviour before the others, and he says to Jesus: "*Yes, Lord, You know that I love You.*" Jesus asks Peter three times and Peter answers Him three times with a sincere confession. Jesus sees Peter's sincerity and confirms his office of the first among brethren and shepherd of Jesus' flock. He also speaks of Peter's martyr's death which he will suffer for the sake of Jesus. Divine love – agape – is tied up with Jesus' cross.



b) Recitation of God's Word (5 min): We all repeat: "**Jesus asked: 'Simon, son of Jonah, do you love Me?'**" (Jn 21:15-19)



c) Prayer according to God's Word (5 min): Realize that Jesus hears you. To say "*I love You*" means "*I am ready to die for You!*" An example is a soldier or martyrs. A soldier takes the oath of alle-



b) Recitation of God's Word (5 min): I realize relentless, intense pain produced by the cramps and suffocation of the crucified Jesus. We all repeat: "**Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?**"



c) Prayer according to God's Word (5 min): We all say together: "**Eloi, Eloi**", and one of us adds: "Deliver us from evil."



d) Prayer of the heart (5 min): In unity with Jesus we call: "**Eee-loo-iii**", and pray in thought: "*Deliver me from the curse of idolatry.*"

6th word from the cross: "*It is finished!*" (Jn 19:30)

a) Reflection on God's Word:

"*When Jesus had received the sour wine, He said: 'It is finished!'*" (Jn 19:30)

Jesus' arms become fatigued, they are losing strength. Great waves of cramps sweep through the muscles, knotting them in deep, relentless, throbbing pain. The muscles of the chest are paralyzed and unable to act –cycles of suffocation and agony begin. Jesus fights to get even one short breath. He feels a deep crushing pain in the chest. The pericardium, the sac surrounding the heart, slowly fills with serum and begins to compress the heart whereby it restricts its movements. The heart beats irregularly. The loss of blood and burning thirst have reached a critical level; the compressed heart is struggling to pump heavy, thick, sluggish blood to the tissues, and the tortured lungs are making a frantic effort to inhale at least small gulps of air. Jesus can feel the chill of death creeping into His limbs. With one last surge of strength, He once again presses His torn feet against the nail, straightens His legs and takes a deeper breath. His word is heard: "*It is finished!*"

From the moment when Jesus dying on the cross cried out: "*It is finished!*", not only the earth began to shake (cf. Mt 27:51), but also the hell shook in its foundations, because by the sacrifice of the Lamb the enemy of humanity was deprived of his right to human souls as well as of the record of debt (cf. Col 2:14). At the same time the power of death was destroyed (cf. 2Tim 1:10).

By His death He destroyed him who has power over death, i.e. satan. Once one starts to call on the name of Jesus against the principalities of hell, they are defeated. Therefore they have to draw back as soon as they meet with the full force of Jesus' name.

Jesus has finished His work! There is nothing to add. One is just to receive and realize in one's life this Jesus' perfect work. The power of evil

Jesus is dying on the cross. His body is covered in wounds and bruises, the skin is wet with cold, clammy sweat. He cannot find any position which would allow Him at least some relief. The nails in the wrists are putting pressure on the large median nerve, and the severely damaged nerve causes excruciating pain. As He pushes Himself upward to avoid this stretching torment, He places His full weight on the nail through His feet. Again there is searing agony as the nail tears through the nerves between the bones of his feet. Every movement is followed with new bleeding. As the arms fatigue, great waves of cramps sweep over the muscles, knotting them in deep, relentless, throbbing pain. The cramps squeeze the nerve endings in the muscles. Air can hardly be drawn into the lungs and cannot be exhaled. Jesus fights to raise Himself in order to get even one short breath. Finally, the carbon dioxide level increases in the lungs and in the blood stream, and the cramps partially subside. Spasmodically, He is able to push Himself upward to exhale and bring in life-giving oxygen again. He suffers hours of limitless pain, cycles of twisting, joint-rending cramps. With every movement up and down His lacerated back scrapes against the rough timbers of the cross. The temperature rises; every stroke of His head against the crossbar presses the thorns deeper in His scalp and reopens the wounds. Growing darkness on Golgotha is just a faint picture of inner darkness and hopelessness which Jesus is now tasting. In this moment He takes on Himself and tastes the very nature of sin along with its consequences. He, the Lamb of God, experiences the depths of abandonment of the soul by God, the essence of eternal condemnation in hell. Demonic powers were given power to physically and psychically torment the Son of God and eventually to kill Him.

There are sins of the flesh and sins of the soul which are directed against the First Commandment. It is, in essence, **unbelief and idolatry**. By means of various forms of magic, divination and pagan philosophies man turns to false spirituality. It is a false regard for pagan religions and their gods – demons.

An example: faith in reincarnation, faith in superstitions, in spells, divination, pendulum, wax casting, horoscopes, dream books; occult medicine: homoeopathy, acupuncture, hypnosis; reiki, yoga, transcendental and oriental meditations tied up with martial arts, relaxation, psychologies and massages. The fruit is SPIRITUAL PRIDE WHICH REJECTS TRUE GOD THE SAVIOUR AND IS THE CAUSE OF ETERNAL PERDITION. Through unbelief and idolatry the devil casts the souls into perdition. In the prayer Our Father we therefore ask God the Father: Deliver us from the evil one – the devil.

giance and is ready even to lay down his life on the battlefield, and so is a martyr for Christ.

We all say together: **“Jesus”**, and one of us adds: “You know everything; You know that I love You.”



d) Song (5 min): I personally experience that Jesus is here now, calls me by name (John, son of Andrew) and asks me: *“Do you love Me?”* We sing: *“All I give You, O my Jesus”*, and bow low.

(I make a bow)

Jesus' Ascension

a) Reflection on God's Word

After His resurrection, Jesus *he appeared to more than five hundred brethren...* (see 1Cor 15:5-6). On the 40th day He ascended into heaven from the mount called Olivet, and a cloud received Him out of their sight. *“And while they looked steadfastly toward heaven as He went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel, who also said: ‘Men of Galilee, why do you stand gazing up into heaven? This same Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will so come in like manner as you saw Him go into heaven.’”* (Acts 1:10-11)

The Word of God testifies: *“He raised us up with Him (Jesus), and made us sit with Him in the heavenly places.”* (Eph 2:6) *“I go to prepare a place for you in heaven.”* (cf. Jn 14:2) We have a place reserved in heaven; heaven is our home. If somebody made us a gift of a beautiful house surrounded by picturesque nature, we would wish to see this house.

I realize that I have a place prepared in heaven. I do not want to lose it.



b) Recitation of God's Word (5 min): We all repeat: **“On the fortieth day Jesus was taken up into heaven.”** (Acts 1:11)



c) Prayer according to God's Word (5 min): One of us says Jesus' words: “I prepared a place for you in heaven”, and we all say together: **“Thank You, Jesus”**.



d) Song (5 min): I realize that I have a place prepared in heaven. I enter this place already now in my spirit. Song: “*Glory to the Lord*”

G C G Am D G
 Glo-ry, glo-ry, glo-ry to the Lord, He is ri-sen, He re-deemed my soul,
 G C D G
 beau-ti-ful heav-en o-pened for me, calls me: Come and see!

11:00-11:30 reflection

11:35 prayer – the first word from the cross

1st word from the cross: “Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they do!” (Lk 23:34)

a) Reflection on God’s Word:

“There were also two others, criminals, led with Him to be put to death. And when they had come to the place called Calvary, there they crucified Him, and the criminals, one on the right hand and the other on the left. Then Jesus said: ‘Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they do!’” (Lk 23:32-34)

“When they had come to the place called Calvary, there they crucified Him...”

Death by crucifixion was the most cruel and disgraceful punishment possible. When they had arrived at the site, Simon of Cyrene was ordered to place the cross he had carried on the ground. Jesus was quickly thrown backward, with His shoulders against the wood. The soldier – executioner – felt for the depression at the front of the wrist and drove a heavy, square wrought-iron nail through it and deep into the wood. The nail cut through the skin and went through the place where the nerve runs which controls much of the function and sensation from the hand. The pain caused by piercing the wrist in this place is excruciating. The veins were torn through and the wound was bleeding profusely. The following blows from the hammer nailed the hand to the wood of the cross. The other hand and both feet were nailed to the cross in this way. In these terrible pains, summoning all His strength, Jesus uttered the words: “Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they do.”

Jesus prays for those who are crucifying Him! Who are they? The soldiers? Their governors whom they must obey? The Church hierarchy

However, far greater than the physical thirst was the inner thirst. Jesus perceives how the sin is accomplishing destruction, blunting millions of souls and leading them to spiritual apathy and laziness so that they neglect their eternal salvation. Jesus’ spiritual thirst is expressed in the pleads of the Our Father: “Father, hallowed be Your name! Your kingdom come!”

Jesus, You now thirst in me and I thirst along with You after my liberation from a concrete form of slavery of my corrupted nature.

All that has been given to us through baptism, i.e. through death and resurrection in Christ, must be actualized through faith. What has so far been natural for us was a constant rebellion against God and people. However, I have to live by faith, every day to give thanks for everything, even if I do not understand it, and to give all my problems to God with confidence. But I do not do so. I seek help somewhere else (with healers, diviners). And it is a great sin. I do not love God with all my heart. If I did love Him, I would not have time or space for sin. So because my soul is not filled with true love for Jesus, I am enslaved by lusts and pride! Lord Jesus, I thirst, I call not only with my voice but with all my heart: “Hallowed be Your name in my soul! Your kingdom come into my heart!”



b) Recitation of God’s Word (5 min): I realize Jesus’ excruciating pain during the cruel flogging as well as His thirst caused by the loss of blood. We all repeat: “*That the Scripture might be fulfilled, Jesus said: ‘I thirst!’*” (Jn 19:28).



c) Prayer according to God’s Word (5 min): We all say together: “*Father*”, and one of us adds: “Hallowed be Your name in my soul!”



d) Prayer of the heart (5 min): We call: “*Aaaa...baa*”. Now, along with Jesus, I thirst: “*Your kingdom come into my heart!*”

13:00-14:55 free time, rest

14:55-15:00 the fourth prayer stop

15:00-16:00 prayer – the fifth, sixth and seventh word from the cross


5th word from the cross: “Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?” (Mk 15:34) (My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?)

a) Reflection on God’s Word:


“At the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice: ‘Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?’ which means, ‘My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?’” (Mk 15:34)

tween God and a disciple standing by the cross and receiving through faith the mother of Jesus into himself (Gr.: eis ta idia).

The new heart has two features: radical opposition to Satan and absolute dependence on God. The new heart is a new spiritual centre. We also have to receive this heart through faith.

 **b) Recitation of God's Word** (5 min): I realize my communion with Jesus through a ray of light coming out of His eyes into my eyes. We all repeat: **“Jesus said to the disciple and now says even to me: ‘Behold, your mother!’”**

 **c) Prayer according to God's Word** (5 min): We say with faith: **“Jesus”**, and one of us adds: **“Now and here I receive Your mother.”**

 **d) Prayer of the heart** (5 min): We call: **“Ye-ho-shu-aa-aa-aa”**. God Himself is now performing the spiritual transplantation. He is giving me a new heart. I receive it by faith.

4th word from the cross: “I thirst!” (Jn 19:28)

a) Reflection on God's Word:

“After this, Jesus, knowing that all things were now accomplished, that the Scripture might be fulfilled, said: ‘I thirst!’ A vessel full of sour wine was standing there; and they filled a sponge with sour wine, put it on hyssop, and put it to His mouth.” (Jn 19:28-29)


Jesus is hanging on the cross. He thirsts. Cruel flogging has lacerated His holy body and He has lost a lot of blood. The whip consisted of three braided leather thongs with metal balls. The flogging first caused deep contusions, then the whips cut through the skin, and as the blows continued, they cut deeper and deeper tearing out muscles even to the bones. Two executioners were scourging Jesus with full force. The heavy whip was brought down across the back, arms and legs, first on the back of Jesus' body but then also on its front. The soldiers spared no part of the body, not even head and face. The skin of the back was hanging in long ribbons, and the entire area was an unrecognizable mass of torn, bleeding tissue. When Jesus was near death, the flogging was finally stopped. The half-dead Jesus was then untied and allowed to slump to the stone pavement, wet with His own blood. Sudden copious loss of blood caused rapid heart rate, fainting and an extremely strong thirst. The immense pain caused by the open wounds and the strong thirst tormented the Lord Jesus even during His way of the cross. He feels an even more burning thirst on the cross now. His lips are dry, chapped, His tongue has stick to jaws.


who resolved that Jesus had to die? These all, indeed, but besides them all those, too, who sin. So my sin, too, nailed Jesus to the cross. *“Out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies.” (Mt 15:19)*


The sin is like a cover over mankind, veiling all nations, and penetrates every human heart. All the world and all mankind is like a concentration camp surrounded by barbed wire, and the murderer and tyrant – Satan – keeps people in darkness. His servants continually inject seductive lies like narcotic drugs into human souls, so that these souls may not see the truth and be delivered. They remain in blindness and therefore do not know what is sin and what is God's love.

“Father, forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.” To this petition from the prayer Our Father Jesus adds: *“But if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.” (Mt 6:15)*

The whole problem with our forgiveness lies in the fact that we need to be aware of our great debt in relation to God. Then we will easily forgive our neighbours!

 **b) Recitation of God's Word** (5 min): I realize the terrible torture of crucifixion: the piercing of Jesus' hands and feet; I hear the hammer hitting the iron nails. We all repeat: **“Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they do!” (Lk 23:34)**

 **c) Prayer according to God's Word** (5 min): We all say together: **“Father”**, and one of us adds each time aloud on behalf of both himself and others: **“Forgive me my trespasses”**. I recall at least one of my sins.

 **d) Prayer of the heart** (5 min): We call: **“Aaaa...baa”**. Consciously before God I forgive all who offended or hurt me. (*Abba* is an Aramaic term for *Father* expressing warm affection and filial confidence.)

11:55-12:00 the third prayer stop

12:00-13:00 prayer – the second, third and fourth word from the cross

2nd word from the cross: “Amen, I say to you, today you will be with Me in Paradise.” (Lk 23:43)

a) Reflection on God's Word:

“One of the criminals who were hanged blasphemed Him, saying: ‘If You are the Christ, save Yourself and us.’ But the other, answering, rebuked him, saying: ‘Do you not even fear God, seeing you are under the same con-

demnation? And we indeed justly, for we receive the due reward of our deeds; but this Man has done nothing wrong.’ Then he said to Jesus: ‘Jesus, remember me when You come into Your kingdom.’ And Jesus said to him: ‘Amen, I say to you, today you will be with Me in Paradise.’” (Lk 23:39-43)

“Jesus...”, the criminal fastens his eyes on Jesus’ tortured face wet with blood: a wound caused by a stroke of a stick across the nose and the right cheek, grazes on the eyelids and eyebrows, a swelling on the cheek, nosebleed, bruises and puncture wounds caused by thorns. The wounds on His hands and feet are bleeding. The criminal hears the mockery and blasphemy by the soldiers as well as by the other criminal hanging on the cross. He can hear the blasphemy by the arrogant hierarchy. He, however, aware of his own sin, looks into Jesus’ eyes, believes in Him and utters with faith: “Jesus, remember me when You come into Your kingdom.” He thus confesses before all that Jesus is really the Son of God who forgives sins and makes us partakers of the kingdom of God. It is a glorious and public confession of Jesus before His enemies taunting Him.

Jesus says to him: “Amen, I say to you, today you will be with Me in Paradise.” Jesus took his sins on Himself and saved him. Jesus takes away sins at all times from the souls of those who confess that they are sinners and call with faith on the name of Jesus – Aramaic Yehoshua (God is salvation). His Mother, the Apostles and all others called Him by this name.

Three crosses were seen on Golgotha. Jesus, the only righteous man, was dying on the middle one. The rest of mankind will be dying either as the impenitent criminal, without Jesus, or as the penitent one. But I should not wait just for the moment of my physical death; I have to begin today to die to sin by admitting and condemning it and by believing in the power of the Lamb who takes away the sin of the world!

We all are sinners, but what has the main say is whether we have done what was done by the penitent criminal: received Jesus and believed in Him.



b) Recitation of God’s Word (5 min): I look into the tortured face of Jesus. We all repeat: **“For my sins I am condemned to death. Jesus, remember me.”**



c) Prayer according to God’s Word (5 min): We all say together: **“Jesus, I believe in You”**, and one of us adds: **“Amen, I say to you: Today you will be with Me in Paradise.”** (Lk 23:43)



d) Prayer of the heart (5 min): We call: **“Ye-ho-shu-aa-aa-aa”**. Now I realize: **“You, Jesus, have now forgiven me all my sins.”**

3rd word from the cross: **“Behold, your mother!”** (Jn 19:26)

a) Reflection on God’s Word:

“Now there stood by the cross of Jesus His mother... When Jesus therefore saw His mother, and the disciple whom He loved standing by, He said to His mother: ‘Woman, behold, your son!’ Then He said to the disciple: ‘Behold, your mother!’ And from that hour the disciple received her into himself.” (Jn 19:25-27)

“Now there stood by the cross of Jesus His mother...” She sees Him crucified, tortured, His whole body covered in wounds. The crown of thorns in particular causes Him excruciating pain. Pressed into His head, the sharp thorns pierce the scalp and cause copious bleeding. She saw Him fall down on His face several times under the burden of the cross, the falls leaving sore bruises on His knees. When she met Him there, carrying His cross, it was just a split second, and now she is standing here. Jesus sees her again. He is looking at her – Mary is standing here in perfect spiritual unity, crucified together with Him. Standing beside her is the disciple John. When Jesus saw him, He said to His mother: “Woman, behold, your son.” The disciple cannot fully understand how deeply the mystery of his new birth is being accomplished. He is looking at Jesus, for whom he has forsaken all, and Jesus’ word penetrates the innermost of his heart. Here, into his heart, he spiritually receives the mother of Jesus, who has now become his mother too.

The dying Jesus addresses His mother by the word “woman”. Why? Because she is that woman of whom God was speaking in Eden, when He said to the serpent: **“I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed.”** (Gen 3:15)

Jesus’ testament only refers to him who is a disciple. And who is a disciple? The one who has forsaken all that he had for the sake of Jesus. **“Whoever of you does not forsake all that he has cannot be My disciple.”** (Lk 14:33) To be a disciple of Christ does not mean to get rid of all material things, social obligations etc. It means to give Jesus the first place in our life and to subordinate our relations to people and things to His will. The disciple by the cross accepted Jesus’ last will; He received Mary as his mother.

At this moment the promise from the Old Testament is being fulfilled: **“I will give you a new heart.”** (Ezek 36:26) Mary is this new heart given by God Himself. The Heavenly Father performs this spiritual transplantation. He gave us His word through the prophet Ezekiel: **“I will give you a new heart.”** And through His Son, in the hour of His redemptive death, this promise is fulfilled. This moment has a character of a covenant be-