

The Order for a Moleben As a Reader Service to St Alban

Senior Reader: Through the prayers of our holy Fathers, O Lord Jesus Christ our God, have mercy on us.

Reader: Amen. Glory to Thee, our God, glory to Thee.

O Heavenly King, Comforter, Spirit of Truth, Who art everywhere present and fillest all things, Treasury of good things and Giver of life: Come and dwell in us, and cleanse us of all impurity, and save our souls, O Good One.

Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal, have mercy on us. (Thrice)

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

O Most Holy Trinity, have mercy on us. O Lord, blot out our sins. O Master, pardon our iniquities. O Holy One, visit and heal our infirmities for Thy name's sake.

Lord, have mercy. (*Thrice*)

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

Our Father, Who art in the Heavens, hallowed be Thy Name. Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in Heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.

Senior Reader: O Lord, Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on us.

Reader: Amen.

Lord, have mercy. (*12 times*)

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

O come, let us worship God our King.

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

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

Psalm 142

O Lord, hear my prayer, give ear unto my supplication in Thy truth; hearken unto me in Thy righteousness. And enter not into judgment with Thy servant, for in Thy sight shall no man living be justified. For the enemy hath persecuted my soul; he hath humbled my life down to the earth. He hath sat me in darkness as those that have been long dead, and my spirit within me is become despondent; within me my heart is

troubled. I remembered days of old, I meditated on all Thy works, I pondered on the creations of Thy hands. I stretched forth my hands unto Thee; my soul thirsteth after Thee like a waterless land. Quickly hear me, O Lord; my spirit hath fainted away. Turn not Thy face away from me, lest I be like unto them that go down into the pit. Cause me to hear Thy mercy in the morning; for in Thee have I put my hope. Cause me to know, O Lord, the way wherein I should walk; for unto Thee have I lifted up my soul. Rescue me from mine enemies, O Lord; unto Thee have I fled for refuge. Teach me to do Thy will, for Thou art my God. Thy good Spirit shall lead me in the land of uprightness; for Thy name's sake, O Lord, shalt Thou quicken me. In Thy righteousness shalt Thou bring my soul out of affliction, and in Thy mercy shalt Thou utterly destroy mine enemies. And Thou shalt cut off all them that afflict my soul, for I am Thy servant.

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

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia. Glory to Thee, O God. *Thrice.*

Choir: God is the Lord, and hath appeared unto us. Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord.

Reader: *Stichos 1:* O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good, for His mercy endureth forever.

Choir: God is the Lord, and hath appeared unto us. Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord.

Stichos 2: Surrounding me they compassed me, and by the name of the Lord I warded them off.

Choir: God is the Lord, and hath appeared unto us. Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord.

Stichos 3: I shall not die, but live, and I shall tell of the works of the Lord.

Choir: God is the Lord, and hath appeared unto us. Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord.

Stichos 4: The stone which the builders rejected, the same is become the head of the corner. This is the Lord's doing, and it is marvelous in our eyes.

Choir: God is the Lord, and hath appeared unto us. Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord.

Troparion & Theotikon

In his struggle your holy martyr Alban, Gained the crown of life, O Christ our God. For strengthened by you and in purity of heart, He spoke boldly before the judges of this world, offering up his head to you, the Judge of all!

Repeat

Choir: Glory...Both now...

Thy pure Mother who knew not wedlock, O Christ, beholding thee hanging, dead, upon the Cross, said, weeping maternally: "How hath the iniquitous and thankless council of the Jews, who enjoyed Thy many and great gifts, rewarded Thee, O my Son? I hymn Thy divine condescension!"

Psalm 50

Have mercy on me, O God, according to Thy great mercy; and according to the multitude of Thy compassions blot out my transgression. Wash me thoroughly from mine iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin. For I know mine iniquity, and my sin is ever before me. Against Thee only have I sinned and done this evil before Thee, that Thou mightest be justified in Thy words, and prevail when Thou art judged. For behold, I was conceived in iniquities, and in sins did my mother bear me. For behold, Thou hast loved truth; the hidden and secret things of Thy wisdom hast Thou made manifest unto me. Thou shalt sprinkle me with hyssop, and I shall be made clean; Thou shalt wash me, and I shall be made whiter than snow. Thou shalt make me to hear joy and gladness; the bones that be humbled, they shall rejoice. Turn Thy face away from my sins, and blot out all mine iniquities. Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from Thy presence, and take not Thy Holy Spirit from me. Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation, and with Thy governing Spirit establish me. I shall teach transgressors Thy ways, and the ungodly shall turn back unto Thee. Deliver me from blood-guiltiness, O God, Thou God of my salvation; my tongue shall rejoice in Thy righteousness. O Lord, Thou shalt open my lips, and my mouth shall declare Thy praise. For if Thou hadst desired sacrifice, I had given it; with whole-burnt offerings Thou shalt not be pleased. A sacrifice unto God is a broken spirit; a heart that is broken and humbled God will not despise. Do good, O Lord, in Thy good pleasure unto Zion, and let the walls of Jerusalem be builded. Then shalt Thou be pleased with a sacrifice of righteousness, with oblation and whole-burnt offerings. Then shall they offer bullocks upon Thine altar.

Senior Reader: O Lord, Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on us.

Choir: Amen.

Ode I

Irmos: O Lord Who didst fashion an all-glorious path for the people in the sea, make

Thou the journey to heaven passable for us, that we may sing a new song unto Thee.

Choir: Holy Great Martyr Alban, pray to God for us!

Send me grace from on high to purify my sinful mind, O Christ, that with boldness and without condemnation I may hymn Thy great martyr Alban, the invincible.

Choir:: Holy Great Martyr Alban, pray to God for us!

A great and undaunted witness to Thy truth was Alban, O God; for though he had not received holy baptism, yet so great was his zeal for the Faith that he gladly shed his blood for Thee.

Choir: Holy Great Martyr Alban, pray to God for us!

Verulamium and the parts thereof were sanctified by thy martyrdom, O Alban; for within its walls thou didst confess the true God and wast sentenced to death; and beyond it thou wast beheaded.

Choir: Glory to etc

Theotokion: Even after giving birth thou hast remained ever-virgin, O all-pure and most immaculate Mother of God; wherefore, thou prayest in purity for thy sinful servants.

Choir: Both now and...

Irmos: O Lord Who didst fashion an all-glorious path for the people in the sea, make Thou the journey to heaven passable for us, that we may sing a new song unto Thee.

Choir: Pray to God for us, O holy St Alban, for we fervently flee unto thee, the speedy helper and intercessor for our souls.

Ode III

Irmos: The bow of the mighty is become weak, and the strengthless have girded themselves with power; wherefore, my heart hath been established in the Lord.

Choir: Holy Great Martyr Alban, pray to God for us!

All-joyously didst thou endure scourging for the sake of Christ, when thou didst spurn the worship of graven images, defying the unjust demand of the tyrant, O holy one.

Choir: Holy Great Martyr Alban, pray to God for us!

Like Moses, who parted the Red Sea, so didst thou divide the rushing River Ver, which impeded thy path to martyrdom, O Alban, filling the people with amazement.

Choir: Holy Great Martyr Alban, pray to God for us!

Bowing thy head before the executioner's sword, thou didst surrender thy pure soul into the hands of Christ Jesus, Who hath caused it to dwell in paradise.

Choir: Glory to etc

Theotokion: In psalms, hymns and spiritual songs we lift up our voices in praise of thee,
who alone among women gavest birth unto the Unapproachable One, O Virgin Mother of God.

Choir: Both now and...

Irmos: The bow of the mighty is become weak, and the strengthless have girded themselves with power; wherefore, my heart hath been established in the Lord.

Choir: Pray to God for us, O holy St Alban, for we fervently flee unto thee, the speedy helper and intercessor for our souls.

Glory....Both now.....

Sessional hymn, in Tone III:

(Spec. Mel.: "Awed by the beauty of thy virginity ...)

Awed by the mighty works wrought through thee by the Almighty, O Alban, we sinners earnestly entreat thine aid: Look down from on high, O holy martyr, and deliver us from those who would destroy us, body and soul. Beseech the Master of all, that He take pity on us and save us, in that He loveth mankind.

Ode IV

Irmos: What criest thou, O Prophet Habbakuk? What hast thou seen which filleth thee with awe? Beholding God come forth from Thæman, I was afraid!

Choir: Holy Great Martyr Alban, pray to God for us!

O thy steadfastness of soul, which withstood the threats of the tyrant, O martyr, and gave thee the strength to confess the one true God in the face of the idolaters!

Choir: Holy Great Martyr Alban, pray to God for us!

Never cease to offer supplications before the all-holy Trinity, O wondrous one, that our manifold offences may be mercifully remitted and our grievous sins forgiven.

Choir: Holy Great Martyr Alban, pray to God for us!

Before the dread throne, amid the ranks of the angels and saints, dost thou stand, mediating with Christ for the people of thy native land and all Christians.

Choir: Glory to etc

Theotokion: Ye six-winged seraphim and many-eyed cherubim, stand in awe of the Maiden who is full of grace, for she is higher than you in honour.

Choir: Both now....

Irmos: What criest thou, O Prophet Habbakuk? What hast thou seen which filleth thee with awe? Beholding God come forth from Thæman, I was afraid!

Choir: Pray to God for us, O holy St Alban, for we fervently flee unto thee, the speedy helper and intercessor for our souls.

Ode V

Irmos: O Lord Who by divine knowledge didst bring the ends of the earth into the light out of the night of ignorance, enlighten me with the dawning of Thy love for mankind.

Choir: Holy Great Martyr Alban, pray to God for us!

Though a man of substance and property, yet through martyrdom thou didst exchange all earthly things for the pearl of great price, the holy Christian Faith, O Alban.

Choir: Holy Great Martyr Alban, pray to God for us!

Holmhurst Hill, whereon thou didst seal thy witness, was drenched with thy blood when, beheaded by the sword, thou gayest thy pure soul into the hands of Christ, O martyr.

Choir: Holy Great Martyr Alban, pray to God for us!

Yea, thy glory hath truly shone forth, undimmed, through all the ages, O blessed Alban; and, guided by thy light, we hasten to the mansions of heaven, where thou dwellest in

splendour.

Choir: Glory to the etc

Theotokion: Pure and all-immaculate art thou, O Maiden, and replete with the grace of God; wherefore, thou standest with honour at the right hand of thy Son and our God.

Choir: Both now and...

Irmos: O Lord Who by divine knowledge didst bring the ends of the earth into the light out of the night of ignorance, enlighten me with the dawning of Thy love for mankind.

Choir: Pray to God for us, O holy St Alban, for we fervently flee unto thee, the speedy helper and intercessor for our souls.

Ode VI

Irmos: Mine iniquities have gone over my head, weighing down upon me like a heavy burden, and they drag me down into the depths of despondency; but before I sink, save me, O Lord!

Choir: Holy Great Martyr Alban, pray to God for us!

Ravaged and destroyed were thy sacred relics and their shrine, O Alban, when ungodly blasphemers descended upon thy church like wolves upon a sheepfold; yet despite their predations thy grace hath never ceased to shine forth.

Choir: Holy Great Martyr Alban, pray to God for us!

Against the vile heresy of Pelagius did the holy hierarch Germanus do battle in Britain, and therein he found thee a mighty ally; for which cause he took with him to Gaul a portion of thy precious and holy relics.

Choir: Holy Great Martyr Alban, pray to God for us!

"Yesterday, in my ignorance of the true God, I was as one sitting in darkness and the shadow of death; but today, when I lay down my life for Him, I shall dwell in paradise, filled with His effulgent glory!" Alban cried out.

Choir: Holy Great Martyr Alban, pray to God for us!

"Everlasting life is the portion of those who cleave unto the God of the Christians; wherefore, put away thine unbelief from thee and believe on Him, that it may go well with thee in the life to come," the martyr exclaimed to the tyrant.

Choir: Glory to the etc

Theotokion: Retribution from God awaiteth the accursed Nestorius, O all-pure Mistress, and all who revile thee and teach others to hold thee in contempt; for thou, O all-blessed one, dost bid all generations to call thee blessed.

Choir: Both now etc

Irmos: Mine iniquities have gone over my head, weighing down upon me like a heavy burden, and they drag me down into the depths of despondency; but before I sink, save me, O Lord!

Choir: Pray to God for us, O holy St Alban, for we fervently flee unto thee, the speedy helper and intercessor for our souls.

Glory....Both now.....

Kontakion, in Tone II:

(Spec. Mel.: "Seeking the highest ..." -)

Thy pure Mother who knew not wedlock, O Christ, beholding thee hanging, dead, upon the Cross, said, weeping maternally: "How hath the iniquitous and thankless council of the Jews, who enjoyed Thy many and great gifts, rewarded Thee, O my Son? I hymn Thy divine condescension!"

Ikos:

Heeding well the words of the Saviour to His disciples, thou didst not fear him who could slay thy body, for he was unable to kill thy soul. For this cause, what was taught thee in the darkness by the Christian priest, whose life thou didst save, thou didst proclaim in the light; and what thine ear took in of his pure teaching, thou didst declare openly before the tribunal. Wherefore, having laid down thy life for the Lord, thou makest earnest entreaty on behalf of our souls.

Prokeimenon:

(in Tone VII)

Reader: The righteous man shall be glad in the Lord, and shall hope in Him.

Choir: The righteous man shall be glad in the Lord, and shall hope in Him.

Reader: Harken, O God, unto my prayer, when I make supplication unto Thee.

Choir: The righteous man shall be glad in the Lord, and shall hope in Him

Reader: The righteous man shall be glad in the Lord

Choir: And shall hope in him.

Then, after the Prokimenon:

Senior Reader: O Lord, Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on us.

Choir: Amen.

Reader: Let every breath praise the Lord.

Choir: Let every breath praise the Lord.

Reader: Praise ye God in His saints, praise Him in the firmament of His power.

Choir: Let every breath praise the Lord.

Reader: Let every breath Choir: praise the Lord.

Senior Reader: The reading is from the Holy Gospel according to Saint John

Choir: Glory to Thee, O Lord, Glory to Thee.

The Gospel is then read in a normal voice.

Gospel According to John, §52 (Jn. 15:17-16:2).

The Lord said to His disciples: "These things I command you, that ye love one another . If the world hate you, ye know that it hated Me before it hated you. If ye were of t h e world, the world would love its own; but because ye are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hateth you. Remember the word that I said unto you, The servant is not greater than his lord. If they have persecuted Me, they will also persecute you; if they have kept My saying, they will keep yours also. But all these things will they do unto you for My name's sake, because they know not Him Who sent Me. If I had not come and spoken unto them, they had not had sin; but now they have no cloak for their sin. He who hateth Me hateth My Father also. If I had not done among them the works which none other man did, they had not had sin: but now have they both seen and hated both Me and My Father. But this cometh to pass, that the word might be fulfilled that is written in their law, They hated Me without a cause. But when the Comforter is come, Whom I will send unto you from the Father , even the Spirit of truth, Who proceedeth from the Father , He shall testify of Me: and ye also shall bear witness, because ye have been with Me from the beginning. These things have I spoken unto you, that ye should not b e offended. They shall put you out of the synagogues: yea, the time cometh, that whosoever killeth you will think that he doeth God service."

Choir: Glory to Thee, O Lord, Glory to Thee.

Ode VII

Irmos: O Lord, make us emulators of Thy three children, opposing sin and trampling the fire of the passions underfoot, and chanting: Blessed art Thou, O God of our fathers!

Choir: Holy Great Martyr Alban, pray to God for us!

Succour and aid do thou send down upon us from on high, O blessed martyr, for we

know thee to be a fervent advocate for those who chant: Blessed art Thou, O God of our fathers!

Choir: Holy Great Martyr Alban, pray to God for us!

On Holmhurst Hill thou didst pause, athirst; and when thou didst pray to God a spring of water gushed forth at His behest, for which thou didst cry: Blessed art Thou, O God of our fathers!

Choir: Holy Great Martyr Alban, pray to God for us!

Gildas the pious and the venerable Bede have reverently related thy life and martyrdom, O Alban, that, giving thanks for thee, we may chant: Blessed art Thou, O God of our fathers!

Choir: Glory to the Father etc

Theotokion: O how manifold are thy mighty works, O Virgin Mother of God! What tongue can fittingly describe their magnitude? And who can number them? Yea, they transcend all understanding!

Choir: Both now and etc

Irmos: O Lord, make us emulators of Thy three children, opposing sin and trampling the fire of the passions underfoot, and chanting: Blessed art Thou, O God of our fathers!

Choir: Pray to God for us, O holy St Alban, for we fervently flee unto thee, the speedy helper and intercessor for our souls.

Ode VIII

Irmos: Becoming vanquishers of the tyrant and the flame by Thy grace, taking exceeding care to keep Thy commandments, the children cried out: Bless the Lord, all ye works of the Lord!

Choir: Holy Great Martyr Alban, pray to God for us!

Divine grace shineth forth with radiance from thy precious relics and sacred shrine, O wondrous martyr, whereby we all are illumined who cry: Bless the Lord, all ye works of the Lord!

Choir: Holy Great Martyr Alban, pray to God for us!

Let every Christian soul give thanks unto God, Who is wondrous in His saints, for He hath given Alban to us as an earnest suppliant for all who cry: Bless the Lord, all ye

works of the Lord!

Choir: Glory to etc...

Yielding pacifieth great offences, saith Solomon the wise; wherefore, thou didst reject the madness of idolatry. crying out with the faithful: Bless the Lord, all ye works of the Lord!

Choir: Both now and....

Theotokion: A stranger wast thou to the pangs of parturition, O most immaculate Mother, for, passing forth from thy womb, Christ kept thee from all pain and preserved thy virginity intact.

Irmos: Becoming vanquishers of the tyrant and the flame by Thy grace, taking exceeding care to keep Thy commandments, the children cried out: Bless the Lord, all ye works of the Lord!

Ode IX

Irmos: Let the assemblies of the heretics fall silent, for they do not confess thee to be the true Mother of God; but the prophets proclaimed thee from on high to be the Mother of God and the mediatrix of our race. Wherefore, we magnify thee, O Virgin.

Choir: Holy Great Martyr Alban, pray to God for us!

Light from on high shineth forth upon us through thee, O most pious Alban, dispelling the darkness of polytheism and the gloom of heresy, that we may tread the path of righteousness without faltering and attain the heavenly Sion.

Choir: Holy Great Martyr Alban, pray to God for us!

Britain rejoiceth greatly in thy memory, O invincible martyr Alban, and bendeth its knee in gratitude for the many benefactions thou hast wrought for it, setting at nought the evil machinations of the devil and his minions.

Choir: Holy Great Martyr Alban, pray to God for us!

All Christendom is glad and danceth for joy, reverently celebrating thy memorial with prayers, hymns and godly feasts, O martyr of Christ; for, having thee as a champion and mediator, it magnifieth thee exceedingly.

Choir: Glory to the Father etc

Theotikon: It is truly meet to bless thee, the Mother of God, ever-blessed and most blameless, and Mother of Our God. More honorable than the Cherubim, and beyond compare more glorious than the Seraphim, who without corruption gavest birth to God the Word, the very Mother of God, thee do we magnify.

Choir: Both now etc

Irmos: Let the assemblies of the heretics fall silent, for they do not confess thee to be the true Mother of God; but the prophets proclaimed thee from on high to be the Mother of God and the mediatrix of our race. Wherefore, we magnify thee, O Virgin

Pray unto God for this Parish, O Holy Saint Alban, well pleasing to God: for we turn to you, who are a speedy helper and intercessor for our souls.

O Saint Albani and all the Saints, who have pleased God with your lives: pray to Christ Our Lord with us that the Lord Our God would hearken unto the voice of our supplication and prayer and have mercy on His Servant(s) **N**.

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That through His Grace and Compassion, Our God would fulfill all **his/her/their** petitions and pardon **him/her/them** all their transgressions voluntary and involuntary; let **his/her/their** prayers and alms be acceptable before the throne of His Dominion, and protect **him/her/them** from enemies visible and invisible, from every temptation, harm and sorrow, and deliver **him/her/them** from ailments, and grant **him/her/them** health and length of day;

Let us all say, O Lord hearken and have mercy.

People: Lord, have mercy, Lord, have mercy, Lord, have mercy.

That Thou might look down, O Master, Lover of mankind with Thy merciful eye, upon Thy Parish of St Alban here in Luton and hearken unto our supplication which is offered with faith, for Thou Thyself hast said: "All things whatsoever ye shall ask in prayer, believe that ye shall receive and it shall be done unto you", and again "Ask and it shall be given you" Therefore we, though we be unworthy, yet hoping in Thy Mercy ask: Bestow Thy Kindness upon Thy Parish and in particular on our priest Stephen, and fulfil our good desires, particularly in terms of growth both in grace and knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ and by adding to the Church such as should be saved. Deign to bless us with a priest and a deacon to serve this community, free of other responsibilities, and add to the number of priests in our diocese to serve all those who live within its boundaries and desire to be saved, preserve us O Lord, all our days peacefully and calmly in health and length of days;

Let us all say: O Lord hearken and have mercy:

People: Lord, have mercy, Lord, have mercy, Lord, have mercy

Then:

Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal, have mercy on us. (Thrice)

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

O Most Holy Trinity, have mercy on us. O Lord, blot out our sins. O Master, pardon our iniquities. O Holy One, visit and heal our infirmities for Thy name's sake.

Lord, have mercy. (*Thrice*)

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

Our Father, Who art in the Heavens, hallowed be Thy Name. Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in Heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one

Senior Reader: O Lord, Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on us.

Reader: Amen.

Troparion & Theotikon

In his struggle your holy martyr Alban, Gained the crown of life, O Christ our God. For strengthened by you and in purity of heart, He spoke boldly before the judges of this world, offering up his head to you, the Judge of all!

Choir: Glory...Both now...

Thy pure Mother who knew not wedlock, O Christ, beholding thee hanging, dead, upon the Cross, said, weeping maternally: "How hath the iniquitous and thankless council of the Jews, who enjoyed Thy many and great gifts, rewarded Thee, O my Son? I hymn Thy divine condescension!"

Choir: Lord, have mercy. 40x.

Senior Reader: Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, both now

and ever, and unto the ages of ages. Amen.

Choir: More honorable than the Cherubim, and beyond compare more glorious than the Seraphim; who without corruption gavest birth to God the Word, the very Mother of God, thee do we magnify.

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

Lord, have mercy. (*Thrice*)

O Lord, Bless.

Senior Reader (*Facing the East, rather than facing the people*): O Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, for the sake of the prayers of Thy most pure Mother, of our holy and God-bearing fathers, of Alban, the Patron of this Parish, of _____ (*saints of the day*), of all the Saints of these Ancient Islands of Ours, and of all the saints, have mercy on us and save us, for Thou art good and the Lover of mankind.

Choir: Amen.