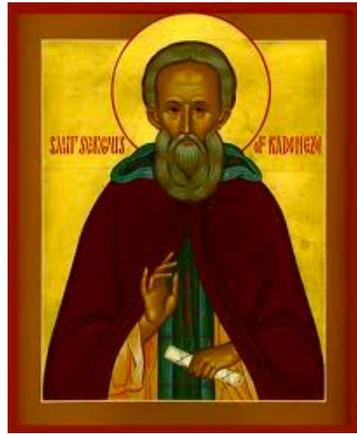


Sergius - Abbot of Holy Trinity, Moscow (1392)

Today we remember Sergius, a Russian monk of the fourteenth century who, even before his death in 1392, was regarded by the Russian people as their national saint.



Sergius left home around the age of twenty and built a hermit-age in the forest of Zagorsk just south of Moscow. He dedicated his little shelter — and his own life within its walls — to the Most Holy Trinity; here he learned to pray without ceasing, even while he helped out the peasants who lived nearby and showed hospitality to any strangers who passed by his hovel. In time word of his manner of life spread throughout the land, until contemporaries felt that his sanctity must be as great as the Russian forest itself. Disciples began to gather around him, and at first they lived in their own individual huts, each with a separate plot of ground for growing food. Sergius eventually brought them together to live as a community under one roof, but this reform caused some dissent and he went to live at another monastery. His exile was short, for the monks soon realized how great a loss they had inflicted on themselves and begged him to return.

With Sergius as its abbot, Zagorsk became the focus of a religious and national revival among the Russian people. Tartar overlords had oppressed them for over a century, and as they began to fight for their freedom they found new strength in the Orthodox faith. Sergius gave this movement his blessing, and his spiritual power upheld the Russian princes in their resolve to lead their people into battle against the Tartar horde and finally break its hold on Russia. Sergius spent his final years travelling, always on foot, from one prince to another in an effort to keep them united. His journeys ended where they had begun, in the monastery of the Holy Trinity at Zagorsk, on September 25, 1392.

Sergius Compline

Abbot of Holy Trinity, Moscow, Spiritual Teacher, 1392 (September 25)

The Lord has gone up with a shout!
Christ abides with us; his Spirit goes ahead of us.

Almighty God,
**Kindle in us the flame of your love
as you did in the heart of Sergius your servant.**
For your glory,
**make us shining lights and steady guides
for all those whom our lives touch.**
Lead us by your grace,
and overshadow us with your mercy,
that in all things we may obey your will
and at all times to know your presence;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

I thank GOD every chance I get;
my lungs fill up with his praise.
It is GOD who gives me life and breath;
if things aren't going well, hear this and rejoice:
GOD met me more than halfway,
he freed me from my anxious fears.
Look at him; give him your warmest smile.
Never hide your feelings from him.
When I was desperate, I called out,
and GOD got me out of a tight spot.
Open your mouth and taste,
open your eyes and see—how good GOD is.
Blessed are you who run to him. (Psalm 34:1-8)

Apostles Creed

Let us confess the faith of our baptism as we say,

I believe in God,

**The Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ,
his only Son, our Lord.**

**He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the Virgin Mary.**

**He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.**

He descended to the dead.

On the third day he rose again.

**He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again
to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting.**

Prayers

You draw us to yourself wherever we go. We ask that you would meet with us here this night...

You are the Good Shepherd, and you know what we need. We bring to you our burdens, fears, and challenges...

We lift up to you the people in our world and in our lives who are hurting and need your help...

As our Saviour taught us, let us pray.

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,**

**your kingdom come, your will be done
on earth as in heaven.**

Give us today our daily bread.

**Forgive us our sins,
as we forgive those who sin against us.**

**Save us from the time of trial,
and deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen**

Prayer of John Chrysostom

Almighty God,

**you have given us grace at this time with one accord
to make our common supplications unto you;
and you have promised through your well-beloved Son
that when two or three are gathered together in his Name
you will be in the midst of them:**

**Fulfill now, O Lord, our desires and petitions
as may be best for us; granting us in this world
knowledge of your truth, and in the age to come
life everlasting. Amen.**

Glory to God,

**whose power, working in us,
can do infinitely more
than we can ask or imagine.**

**Glory to God from generation to generation,
in the Church and in Christ Jesus,
forever and ever. Amen.**