

I Confess With Faith

One of the most noble and saintly leaders of the Armenian Church, and a great literary figure in Armenian Ecclesiastical Literature is Nerses, surnamed Shnorhali, “The Graceful,” born in 1100 A.D. He was consecrated a bishop when he was thirty-five years old. In 1165 Nerses was elected to the office of Catholicos of All Armenians, (Nerses IV) and remained in office until his death in 1173. One of the most popular of his works is a prayer, consisting of twenty-four verses, beginning with the words, “I confess with faith”. It has been translated into 32 languages.

1. I confess with faith and worship You,

Father, Son and Holy Spirit,

Uncreated and immortal nature,

Creator of angels, men and all that exists.

Have mercy upon your creation,

And on me, a manifold sinner.

2. I confess with faith and worship You,

Indivisible Light, unified Holy Trinity and one Godhead,

Creator of light and dispeller of darkness,

Drive out the darkness of sin and ignorance from my soul,

And illuminate my mind at this hour, so that I may offer pleasing prayers to you,

And receive from you the fulfillment of my requests.

Have mercy upon your creation,

And on me, a manifold sinner.

3. Heavenly Father, true God,

Who sent your beloved Son to seek out the lost sheep.

I have sinned against heaven and before you.

Receive me as the prodigal son,

And clothe me with my former garment, of which I was deprived by sin.

Have mercy upon your creation,

And on me, a manifold sinner.

4. Son of God, true God,

Who descended from the bosom of the Father,

And took on flesh from the holy virgin Mary for our salvation,

Who was crucified, buried and rose from the dead,

And ascended with glory to the Father.

I have sinned against heaven and before you.

Remember me as you did the penitent thief when you come with your kingdom.

Have mercy upon your creation,

And on me, a manifold sinner.

5. Spirit of God, true God,

Who descended on the river Jordan and the Upper Room,

And enlightened me through the baptism of the holy font.

I have sinned against heaven and before you.

Cleanse me once more with your divine fire,

As the tongues of flame cleansed the Holy Apostles.

Have mercy upon your creation,

And on me, a manifold sinner.

6. Uncreated Nature, I have sinned against you

With my mind, soul and body,

Remember not my former sins, for the sake of your holy name.

Have mercy upon your creation,

And on me, a manifold sinner.

7. Seer of all, I have sinned against you

In thought, word and deed.

Erase the record of my transgressions,

And write my name in the book of life.

Have mercy upon your creation,

And on me, a manifold sinner.

8. Searcher of secrets, I have sinned against you

Willingly and unwillingly, knowingly and unknowingly,

Grant forgiveness to me who sins,

Since from my baptism of the holy font through today

I have sinned before your Divinity with my senses and all members of my body.

Have mercy upon your creation,

And on me, a manifold sinner.

9. All-provident Lord, place your holy awe as a guardian

On my eyes, so that I may not look askance,

And on my ears, to not take pleasure in hearing wicked words,

And on my mouth, to not speak falsehood,

And on my heart, to not think evil thoughts,

And on my hands, to not commit injustice,

And on my feet, to not walk on the paths of lawlessness.

Rather, guide my motions and movements

According to your commandments in all things.

Have mercy upon your creation,

And on me, a manifold sinner.

10. Christ, the living fire,

Tremble me with the fire of your love,

Which you dispersed over the earth.

That it may burn the impurities of my soul,

And cleanse my conscience and mind,

And purge the sins from my body,

And ignite the light of your knowledge in my heart.

Have mercy upon your creation,

And on me, a manifold sinner.

11. Jesus, wisdom of the Father, grant me the wisdom

To always think, speak and do that which is good in your sight.

Deliver me from evil thoughts, words and deeds.

Have mercy upon your creation,

And on me, a manifold sinner.

12. Benevolent Lord, Who wills all that is good,

Do not let me go astray by pursuing my own desires,

Rather guide me to always walk according to your benevolent and loving will.

Have mercy upon your creation,

And on me, a manifold sinner.

13. Heavenly King, grant me your kingdom

Which was promised to your loved ones,

And reinforce my heart to hate sin,

And to love only you, and to do your will.

Have mercy upon your creation,

And on me, a manifold sinner.

14. Provider of all creation, by the sign of your cross,

Keep my soul and my body from the bonds of sin,

From the temptation of demons,

And from unjust men,

And from all dangers of the soul and the body.

Have mercy upon your creation,

And on me, a manifold sinner.

15. Christ, Guardian of all,

May your right hand be upon me
Both day and night,
while at home and traveling,
While sleeping and awake,
So that I may never falter.
Have mercy upon your creation,
And on me, a manifold sinner.

16. My God, who opens your hand and fills all creation with your mercy.

I surrender myself to you.
Care and provide the necessities for my soul and body,
From this time forth for evermore.
Have mercy upon your creation,
And on me, a manifold sinner.

17. Finder of the lost,
Turn me from my evil ways to good ones,
And imprint on my soul the dreadful day of death,
the fear of hell and the love of your kingdom,
That I may repent my sins, and do that which is righteous.
Have mercy upon your creation,
And on me, a manifold sinner.

18. Fountainhead of immortality,
Cause my heart to pour out tears of repentance
Like those of Mary Magdalene,
That I may wash away my sins
Prior to departing from this world.
Have mercy upon your creation,
And on me, a manifold sinner.

19. Grantor of mercy,

Grant that I should approach you

With the true faith, with good works

And the communion of your holy body and blood,

Have mercy upon your creation,

And on me, a manifold sinner.

20. Benevolent Lord, entrust me to the care of the good angel,

To sweetly deliver my soul

And guard it to pass undisturbed through the wickedness of evil spirits

who dwell below the heavens.

Have mercy upon your creation,

And on me, a manifold sinner.

21. Christ the True Light, make my soul worthy

To see the light of your glory with joy on the day of my calling,

And to rest with the hope of good things in the house of the righteous,

Until the day of your great coming.

Have mercy upon your creation,

And on me, a manifold sinner.

22. Righteous Judge, when you come at the chosen hour

with the glory of the Father to judge the living and the dead,

Do not pass sentence on your servant.

Rather save me from the eternal fire,

And make me worthy to hear the blessed call of the righteous

to your heavenly kingdom.

Have mercy upon your creation,

And on me, a manifold sinner.

23. All-merciful Lord, have mercy on all who believe in you,

My family and others,
Those known to me and unknown, those living and those dead.
Grant also forgiveness to my enemies and those who hate me
for the wrongs they have committed against me
And turn them from the malice which they bear for me
to become worthy of your compassion.
Have mercy upon your creation,
And on me, a manifold sinner.

24. Glorious Lord, hear the appeals of your servant,
And fulfill my requests that are deemed good,
Through the intercession of the Holy Mother of God,
And John the Baptist, and Saint Stephen the Protomartyr,
And Saint Gregory our Illuminator,
And the Holy Apostles, Prophets, Doctors of the Church,
Martyrs, Patriarchs, Hermits, Virgins
And all your saints in heaven and on earth.
And to you, the indivisible Holy Trinity, is glory and worship, Forever and ever. Amen