

## **LITANY OF THE AFRICAN ORTHODOX CHURCH**

**Leader:** In the beginning God, you created the heavens and earth. And you created the form of the earth out of the void. You spoke the words and the light appeared and the darkness became night and the light day. The firmament divided and the seas and land were formed. You created all creatures great and small. You created us, your greatest creation, in your own image, and blew in to us the breath of life. And on our original parents and all your creations you said, "It was good." These are the generation of the heavens and of the earth when they were created in the day that you made O Lord.

**Response:** **Father, we thank you for our creation.**

**Hymn**            **671**    **Breath on me, Breath of God,  
Fill me with life anew,  
That I may love what Thou dost love,  
And do what Thou would'st do.**

**Leader:** Father, in your infinite wisdom you sent your Son, our Savior Jesus Christ to redeem us. Your Son in whom you were well pleased. Your Spirit was upon Him, because you anointed Him to preach the gospel to the poor; You sent Him to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, give recovery of sight to the blind, and to set at liberty them that are bruised. To preach the acceptable year of the Lord.

**Response:** **Father, we thank you for your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ.**

**Hymn**            **157**    **Come, Holy Ghost, our souls inspire,  
And lighten with celestial fire;  
Thou the anointing Spirit art,  
Who dost Thy sevenfold gifts impart.**

**Leader:** And Jesus said, "And I say also unto you, That you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build My church; and the gates of hell shall not succeed against it." We thank you for Peter, the rock; and the formation of your church as a source of refuge, fortitude, strength and power for we who struggle to follow in the steps of your beloved Son Jesus Christ and call ourselves Christians.

**Response:** **Father, we thank you for your Holy Church.**



**Hymn**            **215 The Church's one foundation**  
**Is Jesus Christ her Lord;**  
**She is His new creation**  
**By water and the Word:**  
**From Heav'n he came and sought her**  
**To be His holy Bride;**  
**With His own Blood He bought her,**  
**And for her life He died.**

**Leader:**        Lord, you commissioned Simon Peter, Andrew, James, John, Philip, Bartholomew, Thomas, Matthew, James, Thaddaeus, Simon the Canaanite and Judas Iscariot as your blessed apostles. You entrusted them with the responsibility of your Church. We praise you for our unbroken line of apostolic succession in which your word was passed down to us from one generation to the other. Remember with your blessing the apostles, martyrs and saints who fought to preserve your Holy Church throughout the ages.

**Response:**    **Father, we thank you for our unbroken line of apostolic succession**

**Hymn**            **437 For all the Saints who from their labours rest,**  
**Who Thee by faith before the world confess'd,**  
**Thy Name of Jesus, be for ever blest.**  
**Alleluia!**

**Leader:**        We pray for the soul of Archbishop Rene Vilate the consecrator of George Alexander McGuire. For his desire to have the dream of George Alexander McGuire come to reality. For following your plan for the children of Ethiopia, bless the soul of Archbishop Rene Vilate. We ask your blessing for the Syrian Church of Antioch, who provided the African Orthodox Church with it's Episcopate: bless all it's former clergy, members, and the Syrian Church of Antioch past, present and to come.

**Response:**    **Father, we thank you for the Syrian Church of Antioch and Archbishop Rene Vilate.**

**Hymn**            **693 Chosen to be soldiers**  
**In an alien land,**  
**Chosen, call'd, and faithful,**  
**Four our Captain's band;**  
**In the service royal**  
**Let us not grow cold;**

**Let us be right loyal,**  
**Noble, true, and bold.**  
**Master, Thou wilt keep us,**  
**By Thy grace divine,**  
**Always on the Lord's side.**  
**Saviour, always Thine.**

**Leader:**        Merciful Father we give you humble thanks, praise, and glory for the life, vision, courage and persistence of your chosen one George Alexander McGuire. We praise you for his creation, we magnify your name for implanting into him the vision of ecclesiastical freedom for your children of Ethiopia now strangers in foreign lands. We bless you for the vision of the African Orthodox Church given to George Alexander McGuire and for the realization of that vision. Thank you for his leadership and sainthood.

**Response:**    **Father, we thank you for our founder and first patriarch Saint George Alexander McGuire.**

**Hymn**            **254 Finding, following, keeping, struggling,**  
**Is He sure to bless?**  
**"Angels, Martyrs, Prophets, Virgins,**  
**Answer, Yes!"**

**Leader:**        Lord, just as you have given all things, not according to our will but of your desire, we are grateful for the precious legacy of the African Orthodox Church. Thank you for this church among your children of Ethiopia. From the beginning of the world through the prophet, apostles and martyrs and to our line of patriarchs we glorify your African Orthodox Church.

**Response:**    **Father, we thank you for the legacy of the African Orthodox Church.**

**Hymn**            **242 It is the house of prayer,**  
**Wherein Thine honour dwells;**  
**The joy of Thine abode**  
**All earthly joys excels.**

**Leader:**        Thank you Lord for the lives, struggles and sacrifices of all the faithful departed, who labored for the establishment, development and growth of the Holy African Orthodox Church. Rest eternal grant unto them O Lord; May light perpetual shine upon them; And may the forever rest in



peace. May they rest from their labors and through your gracious mercy find eternal rest and place of refreshment, of light, and of peace.

**Response:** Father, we thank you for all those who brought the African Orthodox Church thus far.

**Hymn** 438 Now with triumphal palms they stand  
Before the Throne on high,  
And serve the God they love amidst  
The glories of the sky.

**Leader:** For those of us who struggle beneath the cross of oppression and sin, grant us the strength to continue our struggle for the African Orthodox Church. Grant us the will to preserve against Satan and the foes of your Holy Church. Inspire us with the love and zeal for the African Orthodox Church that will enable us to continue the work begun by our founder George Alexander McGuire, the faithful founders and followers, the blessed apostles, martyrs and your blessed Son our Savior Jesus Christ. Grant us your grace to rededicate our lives to the African Orthodox Church it's struggles and survival.

**Response:** Father, we thank you for strength to continue the struggle of the African Orthodox Church.

**Hymn** 214 Lord of our life, and God of our salvation,  
Star of our night, and Hope of every nation,  
Hear and receive Thy Church's supplication,  
Lord God Almighty.

See round Thine ark the hungry billows curling;  
See how Thy foes their banners are unfurling;  
Lord, while their darts envenom'd they are hurling,  
Thou canst preserve us.

Lord, Thou canst help when earthly armour faileth,  
Lord, Thou canst save when deadly sin assaileth,  
Lord, o'er Thy Church nor death nor hell prevaieth;  
Grant us they peace, Lord.

Grant us They help till foes are backward driven,  
Grant them Thy Truth, that they may be forgiven,  
Grant peace on earth, and , after we have striven,  
Peace in Thy Heav'n.

**Leader:**

Lord, you blessed us with the vision of George Alexander McGuire and your called him to his reward before the dream was realized. We ask you blessings upon the leadership of the African Orthodox Church. Send down upon our Primate and Bishops the gifts necessary for leading your church to the greatness for which it was designed. Bless all clergy and lay ministers as they carry out their duties. Bless the African Orthodox Church of the past for our beginning; bless the African Orthodox Church of today in it's struggle to advance in it's mission; bless the African Orthodox Church of tomorrow which will come into the full glory and grace of God. Lord God of all power and might, the Alpha and Omega, bless the African Orthodox Church and defend her against all evils and perils within or without.

**Response:** Father we thank you for bringing us "from the darkness of evil and sin into the glorious light."

**Hymn** 745 Lift high the Cross, the love of Christ proclaim  
Till all the world adore His Sacred Name.

Come, brethren, follow where our Captain trod,  
Our King victorious, Christ the Son of God,  
Lift high the Cross.

Led on their way by this triumphant sign,  
The hosts of God in conquering ranks combine.  
Lift high the Cross.

So shall our song of triumph ever be,  
Praise to the Crucified for victory.  
Lift high the Cross.



