

THE AGPYEA

1-What is the origin and meaning of the word Agpeya?

The word, *Agpeya*, is a Coptic (ancient Egyptian) word meaning “Book of Hours.” It is based on the Coptic root word, *ti agp*, which means “hour.”

The *Agpeya* is primarily used by the Coptic Orthodox Church. It contains prayers for seven different hours to be said throughout the day. The hours are chronologically laid out, each containing

- Each prayer is consists of the following:
- Lord's prayer
- Thanksgiving prayer
- Psalm 50
- Certain Psalms
- Holy Gospel
- Litanies
- Lord have **mercy** 41 times.....why?
- (39 lashes the Lord received and the Crown of thorns and the Spear in His side)
- Follwed by several prayers...then the conclusion of every hour.

Sources of the Agpyea

- What are the sources that the church used for the prayers of the Agpyea?
- The psalms...the Gospels..And the prayers of saints or holy fathers
- We see the prayers of the saints in the 3 or 6 prayers (litanies) in each hour, a benediction at the end of the hour and is appropriate with the hour event or prayers.

Arrangement of each hour:

- ▶ In every hour the Church reminds us of certain events that happened in the Lord's life, and constantly remind us of God's plan to redeem and save us.
- ▶ +*The "Matins (First Hour / Prime)*):
- ▶ Prayed at 6am. This prayer recalls the Resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ and our daily resurrection to begin a new life in Him and to accept the Lord as the true light in our lives, protect us, give us peace.





- ▶ +*The Terce(Third Hour):*

- ▶ Prayed at 9am..3 events..the descent of the Holy Spirit...the Lord's trial before Pontius Pilate...the Lord's ascension.

- ▶ +*The “sixth hour” or “Sext,:*

- ▶ Prayed at 12 pm” we commemorate the Lord's crucifixion and all the emotions associated with this event... also at this hour the Lord led the samiritan woman to repent

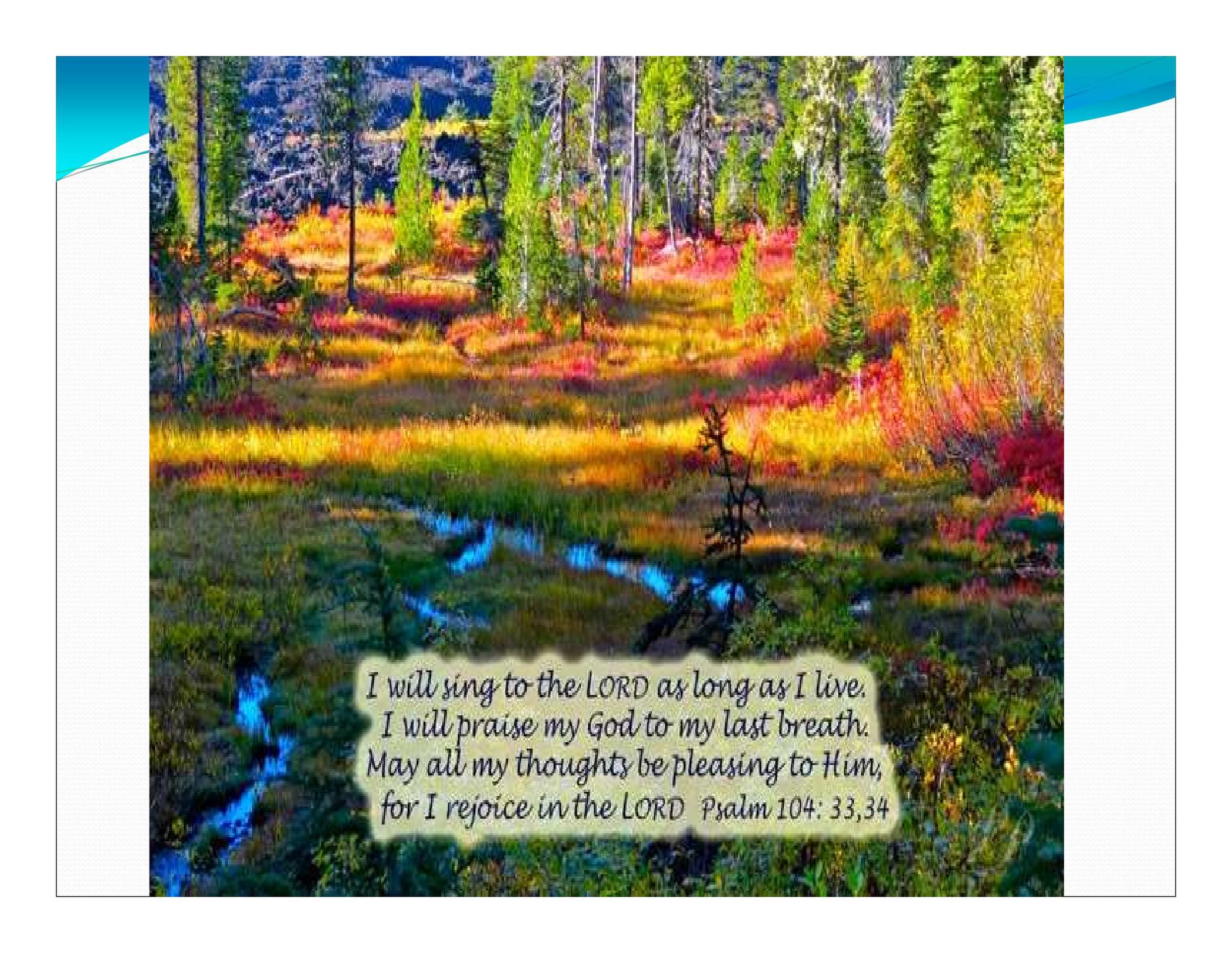


- ▶ *None (Ninth Hour):*

- ▶ Prayed at 3pm. This prayer recalls the death in the flesh of our Lord and the acceptance of the right hand thief in Paradise.

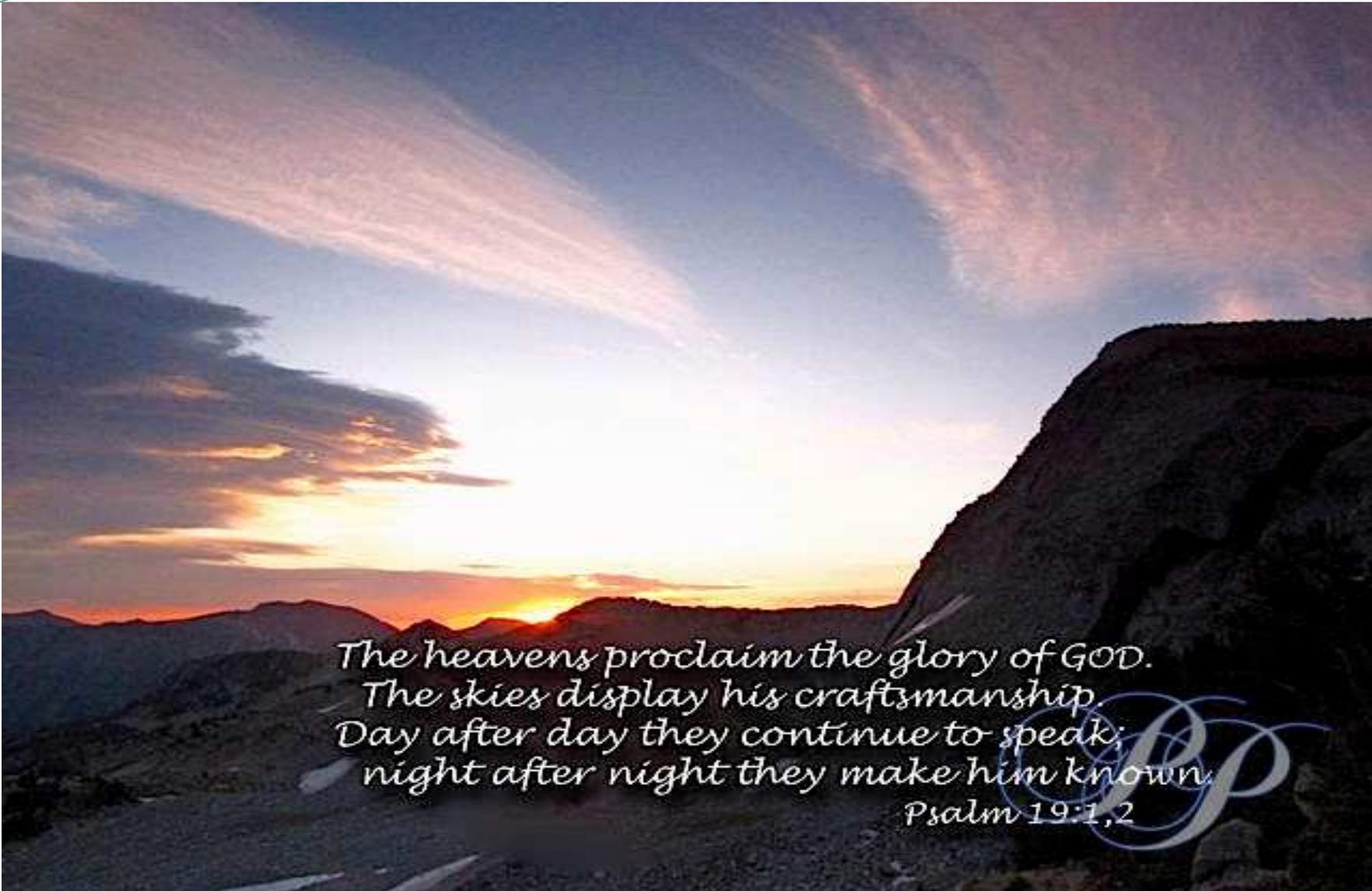
- ▶ *At the “eleventh hour” or “Vespers,”:*

- ▶ prayed at 6pm we remember those who came to the Lord at the end of the day: at the eleventh hour, and asking him to spend the night in peace, lord’s body was taken off the cross.

A vibrant autumn landscape featuring a stream in the foreground, surrounded by lush greenery and colorful foliage in shades of yellow, orange, and red. Tall evergreen trees are scattered throughout the scene, and the background shows a forested hillside under a clear sky. The image is framed by a white border with teal accents in the top corners.

*I will sing to the LORD as long as I live.
I will praise my God to my last breath.
May all my thoughts be pleasing to Him,
for I rejoice in the LORD Psalm 104: 33,34*

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- ▶ + *The Compline Prayer* (Twelfth Hour)
 - ▶ Prayed at 9pm. This prayer recalls the burial of the Body of our Lord watching for the end of our journey on earth...so it is good to repent before I go to sleep.
 - ▶ +*The Three Midnight Watches*:
 - ▶ Prayed at 12 am. This prayer recalls the second coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.



*The heavens proclaim the glory of GOD.
The skies display his craftsmanship.
Day after day they continue to speak;
night after night they make him known.*

Psalm 19:1,2

- +*(The Prayer of the Veil): Prayed only by the Monastics



- *When and where Do We Use the Agpeya ?:*

- In the church; In the Divine Liturgy: On Saturdays & Sundays and during non-fasting periods the church prays the 3rd and 6th hour prayer

- During periods of fasting (as wed. and fri.)

- the church also reads the 9th hour prayer.

- During Holy Lent and Jonah's fast or late liturgy:

- We add the Eleventh & Twelfth Hour

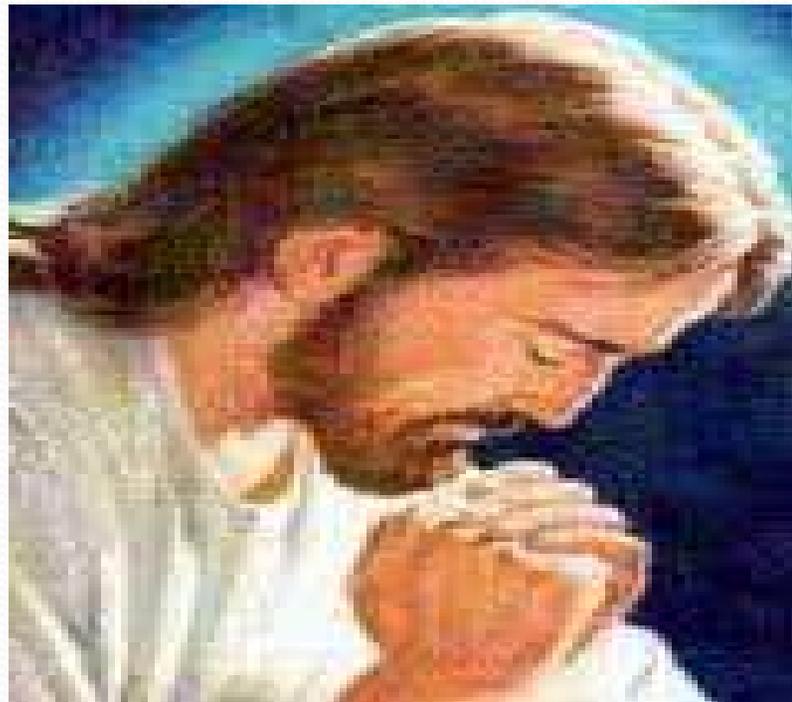
- is also prayed. (In the monasteries, they also pray the Prayer of the Veil.)



If any of the major or minor Lordly feasts or any of the Feasts of the Cross fall on a Wednesday, a Friday or during any of the fasts it is treated as though it is a Sunday, having the morning Liturgy and the reading of the Third and Sixth Hours only.

Where do we use agpyea

- 2-In your home, with your family and alone.
- 3-Everywhere you go



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- *Why did the church uses psalms in the Agpyea?*
 - 1- king David characters
 - 2-they are the work of God conveyed to David by the Holy Spirit "David being led by the Holy Spirit"(math.22:43)
 - 3-it contains thanksgiving..the language of angels and spiritual beings
 - 4- to contemplate to those who pray sincerely.

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- *Why do we need to pray with the Agpeya?*
 - *1-To prolong our stay in the presence of God: usually our prayers and talking to God are so short and the Agpeya helps to lengthen that time, This way, we could sanctify our time, purify our thoughts, and preserve ourselves from devilish trials.” Delight yourself also in the lord and he shall give you the desire of your heart” (Psalm 37:4)*

- ***2-It is the school of prayer and it contains all kinds of prayers:*** the Agpeya teaches us what to say in our prayers and to teaches us the appropriate way to speak to God. Also, our tongues and hearts become trained in conversing with Him.





- **3-It contains:** various feelings

- Thanksgiving to the Lord “O Lord my God, I will give thanks to You forever” (Psalm 30:12).

- ***Gives praise to the lord:***“Oh come, let us sing to the Lord! Let us shout joyfully to the Rock of our salvation. Let us come before His presence with thanksgiving; let us shout joyfully to Him with psalms” (Psalm 95:1, 2),



“Oh, sing to the Lord a new song! Sing to the Lord, all the earth. Sing to the Lord, bless His name; proclaim the good news of His salvation from day to day. Declare His glory among the nations, His wonders among all peoples”
(Psalm 96:1-3).

Contains repentance “O Lord, do not rebuke me in Your anger, nor chasten me in Your hot displeasure. Have mercy on me, O Lord, for I am weak” (Psalm 6:1- 2),

(psalm 110) in the 9th hr

Psalm 56 in the 6th hr, psalm 29 in the 3rd hr

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- *Contains the glorification* to the lord, psalm 18 in prime, psalm 23 in 3rd hr, psalm 95 (96) in 9th hr.
 - *Contains petitions to the Lord* for his forgiveness, love, support, protection.
“Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one’s life for his friends” (John 15:13, psalm 120 in 11th hr

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- **4) It organizes our thoughts**: no one should go directly in conversation without first saying hello, introduce yourself, show good manners, show humility in front of your supervisor, or teacher...the same is the Agpeya...so it calms me down before I start talking to the Lord. thus our God is the God of peace and order and not a God of confusion(1cor.14:13)
 - that is Why do we start with thanksgiving prayer.

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- **5) It unite all the members of the Church:**
Everybody prays with one spirit and one mind.
Consequently, the feeling of participation and holy fellowship pervades.
 - **6) *It contains details:*** who of us will be able to:
 - -give thanks to God as the Agpeya does “for He has sheltered us, helped us, preserved us, received us, defended us, had compassion upon us and brought us to this hour?!”

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- ***7-dialogue with God:***” hear me when I call, O God of my righteousness”(psalm 4:1)
 - **8-reminds us with the ANGELS;** the Agpeya reminds us of their presence, protection, guardianship , and guidance
 - **9-It reminds us with many great occasions happened :** who can remember these occasions without the Agpeya and no more than three hours pass, between one prayer and another, before we are ready to start praying again



9) *It contains doctrines and dogma; glorify the Holy Virgin St. Mary:* it contains St. Paul's epistle to Ephesians, it has the Creed to protect our faith, it has the prayer of "HOLY, HOLY, HOLY."

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- 11-“ It glorifies the *Holy Trinity*, it has the Gospel of St.Luke when Simon lived for 300 years to see the Virgin carrying the Son of God
 - , **We announce our belief in the Holy Trinity in several prayers:**
 - . we mention that “glory, honor, dominion and worship” are due to “You” (the Father) with Him (the Son) and “with the Holy Spirit, the life giving and consubstantial”

Did our model prayed all prayers?

Our Lord is our teacher who

- 1- rose early to pray..”now in the morning having risen a long while before daylight He went out and departed to a solitary place and there He prayed”(mark1:35)
- 2-He prayed at the 6th hour (luke 23:34)also the 9th hour(luke23:46)
- 3-He prayed a night (math.14:23)..midnight..in the garden of Gethsemane..He gave the parable of 10 virgins..

How can I pray with the Agpyea

1-have your own Agpyea..next to your bed

2-if you memorized the prayers still look at the word

3- sing the psalms

4- say it a little bit louder

5-read some study about these psalms or gospel, events

6- lift up the eyes..the hands..do matania..worship..cross

7-repeat the sweet name of God follow it up by the name
jesus christ.

8- consult your fr. Of confession...sit quiet before you pray.

How can I get benefits

- 9-Pray alone in your room if possible, if not let no one sees you
- 10-After prayer sit with God and talk to Him, say your own words after that
- 11-remember when you start you will be attacked by all thoughts and things, turn off your cell any distractions, and if you got attack to prevent you from prayers do not give up.