PRAYERS FOR THE HUNT



Before beginning the day's hunt, the hunter should spend a moment in silence to ponder with due reverence the nature of hunting. And when at peace in heart and mind, begin with the following prayers.

✠ Through the prayers of our holy Fathers, O Lord Jesus Christ our God, have mercy on us and save us. Amen

✠ O Heavenly King, the Comforter, the Spirit of Truth, everywhere present and filling all things, Treasury of blessings and Giver of life: Come and abide in us, cleanse us from every stain, and save our souls, O Good One.

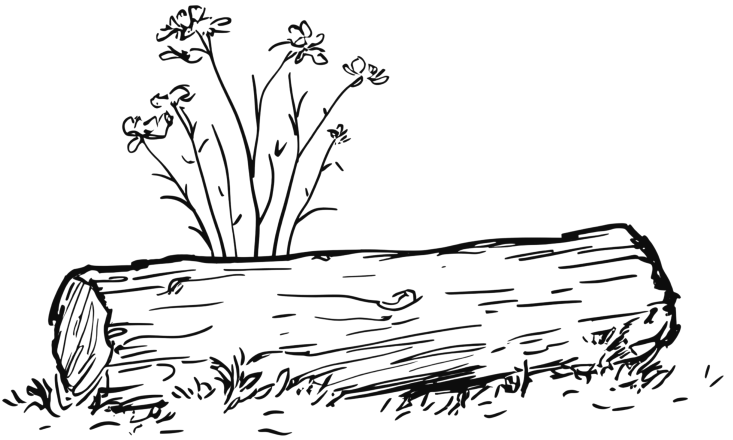
✠ Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal, have mercy on us. (thrice)

✠ Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

All-holy Trinity, have mercy on us.
O Lord, cleanse us from our sins.
Master, pardon our transgressions.
Holy One, visit and heal our infirmities, for thy Name's sake.

Lord, have mercy. (thrice)

✠ Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; now and ever, and unto the ages of ages. Amen.



The Lord's Prayer

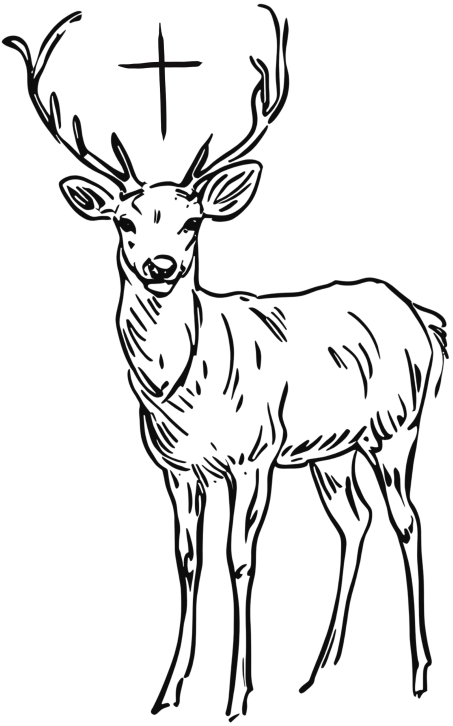
Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil:
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever.

Amen.

Venite (Psalm 95)

O COME, let us sing unto the Lord; let us heartily rejoice in the strength of our salvation.
Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving; and show ourselves glad in him with psalms.
For the LORD is a great GOD; and a great King above all gods.
In his hand are all the corners of the earth; and the strength of the hills is his also.
The sea is his, and he made it; and his hands prepared the dry land.
O come let us worship and fall down; and kneel before the LORD our Maker.
For he is the LORD our GOD; and we are the people of his pasture, and the sheep of his hand.
Today, if ye will hear his voice; harden not your hearts as in the provocation and as in the day of temptation in the wilderness.
When your fathers tempted me; proved me, and saw my works.
Forty years long was I grieved with this generation, and said; It is a people that do err in their hearts for they have not known my ways.
Unto whom I swear in my wrath; that they should not enter into my rest.

✠ Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; now and ever, and unto the ages of ages. Amen.



Prayer to Saint Eustace

O Holy Great Martyr Eustace, who beheld the cross between the antlers of the stag and turned to Jesus Christ, intercede for us as we hunt this day that he might also reveal himself to us. Ask our Lord to grant us in the wilderness safety, a steady hand, and a merciful heart toward all his creatures.

Amen.

At Beginning of Day

O LORD, watch over us as we enter your forest, and keep us safe from all bodily harm. Guard our footsteps on the trail, steady our hands, and grant us clear judgment as well as a calm heart. Protect us from accident, injury, or sudden danger and bring us back safely to our camp at the end of the day.

Amen.

At End of Day

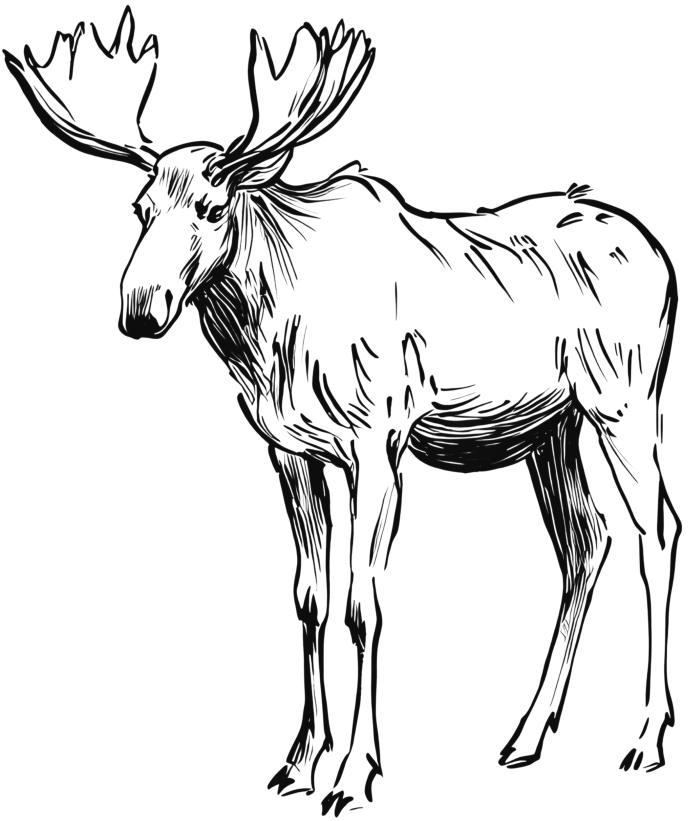
Most holy GOD, thank you for your blessing today. Whether the hunt brought success or quiet hours in the woods, we give you thanks for our safety and for the gift of your creation. Watch over us tonight as we camp or travel, and bless our time of fellowship and rest.

Amen.

Additional Prayers

Assistance in Tracking

O LORD, you know every path in the wood and the way of every creature. Guide my eyes and my feet as I follow the trail of this animal. Grant me clear sight, patience, and the wisdom to know when to press on and when to stop. Keep me safe, and if it is Your will, help me recover what has been given. Amen.



Thanksgiving for a Quick Death

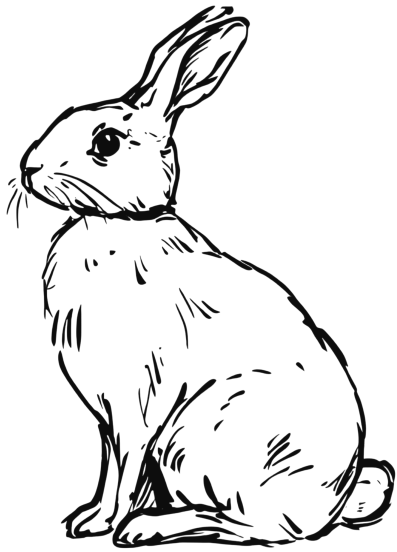
GLORY TO YOU, O GOD, for this animal and for its merciful end. I thank you for the food it will provide and that its suffering was short and its end peaceful. Help me to use it without waste. And, may its provision strengthen myself, my family and my friends in our service of you. Amen.

For Mercy

O Lord Jesus Christ our God, who even in death loves every sparrow, look down with compassion on this your creature whose end was bitter and prolonged. Whether it ran wounded and alone through the forest, or lay in pain beneath the open sky, let its suffering be ended and it receive it now into the quiet of your rest. Forgive me, O Lord, any carelessness or haste whereby its agony was lengthened. And, through the prayers of Mary the Theotokos, and of all the saints, have mercy upon this animal, O Christ, and upon us. Amen.

For an Iconographer

O Lord Jesus Christ, Maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible, who in the beginning did create the beasts of the field and has given them into the hand of man for meat and for service, look down, I beseech you, upon this your creature, whose life you have permitted to be taken.



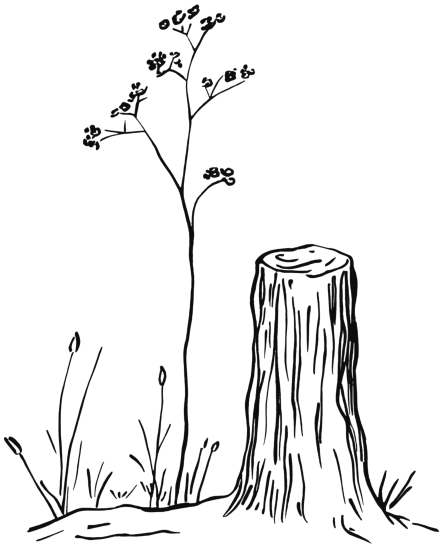
Grant, O Master, that nothing of it may perish through my carelessness or waste. Sanctify, I pray, its antlers, that being

burnt and ground into pigment, they may become paint. Bless also this hide, that it may be rendered into glue for the preparation of gesso and the gilding with gold. May what is taken today from the forest be offered to the church and the home in order that the faithful experience you, your mother, and all your saints throughout all the world.

This I ask through the intercession of Saint Luke, Saint Eustace, blessed Nathanael, and of all your saints. Amen.

The Grace

The grace ✠ of our LORD JESUS CHRIST, and the love of GOD, and the fellowship of the HOLY SPIRIT, be with us all evermore. Amen.





WILD ROSE ICONS