

# **Loving the Lord and being loyal to Him**

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I pray to the Lord for myself and for each one of you. God, give us the strength, so that in our service, the divine service, when we stand before thee, give us the strength and the grace to feel you in the heart of our hearts. Let this feeling be true, real and profound. Be the purpose of our lives and let us always feel you, the baby, laying in a manger, cooing like a dove, looking at the world with little but very deep eyes, full of love, looking at the inner me, for I also am a part of this world. I know that the words that you later said, "I want you to be where I am", you have said those words to me as well. I also know that laying in a manger you were already thinking about the crucifixion and the pain that I, as a human would cause you. And I know that you at that moment were forgiving me. Many times my sins were as if I was crucifying you and you always forgave me. You always said about me, "He sins because he knows not what he is doing". It was enough for me to take a step towards you and right away you asked the Most Holy Theotokos, your Holy Mother, "He is your child, take care of him!". I know that you always did this and you did it not being far away, but rather very close to me, in the heart of my heart, speaking to me from there. You are doing the same thing right now. Shouldn't I have enough prudence to once and for all move towards you and never step back, and again, and again, until the very last breath, so that finally, I may be home with you, in my homeland, with my Father, into my Father, in my Jesus Christ. Amen.

May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God the Father and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with all of you. Amen.