

# AKATHIST HYMN TO ALMIGHTY GOD IN TIME OF TROUBLE



## KONTAKION I

O champion Leader and Lord, Thou joy and gladness of Thy servants! Wherever Thou art, all grief is set at nought; wherever Thou art not, all joy is in vain. Look down upon me, a sinner who am perishing in this misfortune, and with the revelation of Thy salvation visit me who cry out: O Lord, my Lord, my joy, grant that I may rejoice in Thy mercy!

## IKOS I

O Creator of the angels and Lord of hosts, for the sake of the salvation of fallen man Thou didst not disdain the Virgin's womb; and afterwards, O Word of God, didst endure spitting, mockery and a disgraceful death, in that Thou art good and the Lover of mankind. Mindful of this, I dare to approach Thee and to pray with tears:

O Lord, my Lord, my merciful Savior, save me who am perishing;

O Lord, my Lord, Who camest not to save the righteous, but sinners, deliver me from this temptation!

O Lord, my Lord, Who acceptest our infirmities and bearest our afflictions, send down Thy peace upon my troubled soul;

O Lord, my Lord, Who by Thy death hast abolished death, set at nought the wiles of the devil which are against me!

O Lord, my Lord, my joy, grant that I may rejoice in Thy mercy!

## KONTAKION II

Seeing the many manifestations of Thy love for mankind shown forth upon sinners before me, I also dare to lift up mine eyes to Thee Who dwellest in heaven. Have mercy upon me, O Lord, for I am weak. Deliver me from this bitter grief and account me worthy of chanting to Thee with joy and gladness: Alleluia!

## **IKOS II**

Thou didst create me a rational creature, O my Creator, but wretch that I am, I have allowed myself to become like unto irrational beasts and have likened myself to them, and have angered Thy goodness, O Savior. Wherefore, Thou hast justly afflicted me with this sorrow. This I acknowledge, and repenting I flee to Thee, praying thus:

O Lord, my Lord, Who preserved me in my youth, protect me from the enemies which assail me;

O Lord, my Lord, strengthening of my body in old age, strengthen me who am ailing in soul and body!

O Lord, my Lord, consolation of my soul, console me who am troubled;

O Lord, my Lord, my Guide, direct me to the path of salvation!

O Lord, my Lord, my joy, grant that I may rejoice in Thy mercy!

## **KONTAKION III**

O Lord Who art mighty in battle, come to the aid of mine afflicted soul, and be Thou my helper against enemies visible and invisible, for my father and my mother have forsaken me, and my friends and neighbors have stood far away from me. But be Thou, O Father of orphans and Judge of widows, the helper of me who am helpless but who chant to Thee: Alleluia!

### **IKOS III**

O Thou Who hast heaven for Thy throne and earth for Thy footstool, O Dread One Who takest away the spirit of princes, reject me not who am dust and ashes, yet who dares say to Thee Who art everywhere present and knowest all things:

- O Lord, my Lord, lift up Thy might and come to save me from the hands of the mighty who oppress me;
- O Lord, my Lord, Whom all fear and before Whom all tremble, take pity on me, for the darkness of death hath covered me because of my sins!
- O Lord, my Lord, Who clothest Thyself with light as with a garment, enlighten me who am benighted by the griefs of life;
- O Lord, my Lord, Who stretchest out the heavens as a tent, extend to me the shelter of Thy help!
- O Lord, my Lord, grant Thy peace to my lowly soul;
- O Lord, my Lord, my joy, grant that I may rejoice in Thy mercy!

### **KONTAKION IV**

Drowning in the tempest of this most turbulent life, I stretch out my hand to Thee, O Word of God. As Thou didst save drowning Peter, so also stretch forth to me Thy mighty hand, and deliver me from this misfortune, that with joy and thankful heart I may cry to Thee: Alleluia!

## **IKOS IV**

O Lord, I have heard Thy most sweet voice, for Thou didst say  
Call upon me in the day of thy tribulation, and I will rescue thee,  
and thou shalt glorify Me. And from the depths of my despair, I  
dare to approach Thee with boldness, saying:

- O Lord, my Lord, I have sinned against heaven and before  
Thee; accept me as Thou didst accept the prodigal son;  
O Lord, my Lord, Who didst justify the publican rather than  
the pharisee, enter not into judgment with Thy servant,  
for there is none living who is justified before Thee!  
O Lord, my Lord, Instructor of wisdom, instruct me Thy  
servant;  
O Lord, my Lord, Bestower of understanding, grant me  
understanding, that I may be able to escape the cunning  
wiles and wicked treachery of them that hate me!  
O Lord, my Lord, Who lookest down upon the humble,  
behold also my tribulation and my difficulty, and reveal  
Thy mercy to me;  
O Lord, my Lord, grant that I may rejoice in Thy mercy!

## **KONTAKION V**

Through the divinely flowing blood of Thy beloved Son Jesus  
Christ have we been reconciled to Thee, O heavenly Father; yet,  
lo! I have returned again to sin, like a dog to its vomit, for which  
cause Thou art justly chastising me with this grievous  
misfortune. But hearken unto me, O Lord my God, on this day  
of my grief; show forth Thy mercy and salvation upon me, and  
grant me ever to cry out to Thee amid chastisement: Alleluia!

## IKOS V

The prophet David, seeing the prophet Nathan denouncing him for what he had done, came to his senses and confessed his sin, and said: I have sinned before the Lord, and the Lord hearkened unto me, and took away mine offenses. But wretch that I am, I have sinned more than he, and have in no-wise acquired the fruit of repentance. Wherefore, these evil things have come upon me. But be merciful unto me who pray thus:

- O Lord, my Lord, strengthen me with power from on high, that I may not fall under the weight of this tribulation;
- O Lord, my Lord, Who mercifully regarded the tears of Hezekiah, look with the eye of Thy kindness also upon the shedding of my tears before Thee!
- O Lord, my Lord, Who hearkened unto the sighs of Mannasseh, hearken unto the sighing of my heart;
- O Lord, my Lord, Who dwellest in the highest and lookest down upon the lowly, look upon me a sinner!
- O Lord, my Lord, my joy, grant that I may rejoice in Thy mercy!

## KONTAKION VI

Thy Forerunner, the preacher of repentance, O Word of God, crieth repeatedly to my conscience, that I repent of my evil deeds. But, wretch that I am, I have paid him no heed. Wherefore, Thy righteous wrath hath overtaken me, for misfortunes and sorrows have befallen me, a sinner. But before Thou visitest me, O Lord God my Savior, grant me time, that I may lament my evil deeds and cry out to Thee: Alleluia!

## IKOS VI

O my Savior, amid my sorrow Thy comforting words have shone forth, which Thou didst utter, saying: Forgive, and it shall be forgiven you. And straightway escaping the snares of despair, with trust in Thy love for mankind I have fled to Thee, praying:

O Lord, my Lord, my consolation, comfort me who am grieved;

O Lord, my Lord, my helper, help me against them that rise up against me!

O Lord, my Lord, mine aid, help me for my soul hath grown weak because of this sorrow;

O Lord, my Lord, pre-eternal memory, grant that I may ever have Thy benefactions in mind and may never despair of Thy mercy!

O Lord, my Lord, my strength, strengthen me that without temerity I may ask help of Thee;

O Lord, my Lord, my joy, grant that I may rejoice in Thy mercy!

## KONTAKION VII

The infamous King Nebuchadnezzar, desiring to destroy the three children, once commanded that they be cast into the fiery furnace. But Thou, O heavenly Father, didst send Thine Angel, that He might cool the burning flame. And do Thou now also, O Lord, send consolation to Thy servant, and save me for the sake of Thy mercy. For even though I have sinned, yet have I not departed from Thee, and I worship Thee, the one true God, chanting: Alleluia!

## **IKOS VII**

Wondrously wast Thou glorified before Pharaoh and all his host, O God of Israel, for Thou didst not disdain the misery of Thy people, but hearkened to their cry. Wherefore, hearken also to my supplication and save me who cry to Thee thus:

- O Lord, my Lord, Who delivered Thy people out of the hands of their enemies, rescue me also from the hands of them that hate me;
- O Lord, my Lord, Who led Thy chosen ones out of the land of Egypt, lead my soul out of this sorrow!
- O Lord, my Lord, Who bringest warfare to nought, bring to nought the assaults of them that devise evils against me;
- O Lord, my Lord, Who drowned Pharaoh's chosen riders in the Red Sea, drown the multitude of my misdeeds in the sea of Thy lovingkindness!
- O Lord, my Lord, my joy, grant that I may rejoice in Thy mercy!

## **KONTAKION VIII**

I have made myself a stranger to Thy mercy, O heavenly Father; by mine evil deeds I have estranged myself from Thee and have enslaved myself to this vain world. Wherefore, I am aflame with grievous sorrow, I am drowning in the profound depths of despair. But as Thou art merciful and the Lover of mankind, accept me, who am perishing, and from this tribulation save me who cry out to Thee: Alleluia!

## **IKOS VIII**

Wholly polluted with the impurity of sin, plunged in the depths of evil, I lift up mine eyes unto Thee Who dwellest in heaven. Hearken unto my cry of lamentation:

- O Lord, my Lord, Who hast illumined the day with the light of the sun, illumine my soul which hath been benighted with the darkness of the vanities of this world;
- O Lord, my Lord, All-good Comforter, fill my sinful soul with divine consolation!
- O Lord, my Lord, by Whose word the heavens have been established, confirm me in the confession of Thy holy name;
- O Lord, my Lord, Who art upborne upon the cherubim and art hymned by the seraphim, accept from me, a sinner, this entreaty which I offer unto Thee!
- O Lord, my Lord, my joy, grant that I may rejoice in Thy mercy!

## **KONTAKION IX**

O source of all mercy and Bestower of understanding, O All-good Comforter, teach me to say worthy things in Thy presence, and with Thy divine consolation fill Thou my soul, which hath been darkened by the passions, and my mind, which is troubled by the grief of this world, that with gladness I may chant unto Thee: Alleluia!

## IKOS IX

The most eloquent of orators cannot recount the extent of Thy goodness and Thy love for mankind, O Son of God; for Thou didst humble Thyself even to take on the guise of a servant. Wherefore, do not reject even me who have committed sins without number, yet who stand before Thee with fear and pray thus:

- O Lord, my Lord, good Shepherd Who layest down Thy life for Thy sheep, deliver me, Thy lost sheep, from the jaws of the soul-destroying wolf which raveneth to devour me;
- O Lord, my Lord, Who for our sake wast mocked, slain and nailed to the Cross, keep me from the mockery of mine, enemies, visible and invisible, for the sake of Thy sufferings!
- O Lord, my Lord, Thou sinless One Who wast numbered among transgressors, rescue me from the hands of them that hate me;
- O Lord, my Lord, by Whose stripes all are healed, heal my heart which hath been afflicted with bitterness!
- O Lord, my Lord, my joy, grant that I may rejoice in Thy mercy!

## KONTAKION X

Wishing to save Israel Thy chosen from the oppression of Egypt, Thou didst call Moses Thy servant from the burning bush, and didst say to him: I have seen the affliction of my people in Egypt, and have hearkened to their cry. Wherefore look now upon mine affliction, O Lord, and heal the pangs of my heart, that I may cry to Thee in thanksgiving: Alleluia!

## **IKOS X**

O heavenly King, Comforter, Spirit of truth, show forth Thy lovingkindness upon me, Thy servant, and visit my soul which is plunged in grief and strengthen me who pray to Thee:

- O Lord, my Lord, Who taughtest Thine apostles to speak in different tongues, teach me the fear of Thee;
- O Lord, my Lord, Who filled the martyrs with boldness when they stood before the tribunals, grant me boldly to stand against sin, the world and the devil!
- O Lord, my Lord, holy Sanctifier of Thy faithful, hallow my soul, that it may be worthy to be called Thy habitation;
- O Lord, my Lord, Light and Bestower of light, illumine me who am benighted in the darkness of sorrow!
- O Lord, my Lord, Treasury of good things, do not deprive me of the gifts of Thy goodness!
- O Lord, my Lord, my joy, grant that I may rejoice in Thy mercy!

## **KONTAKION XI**

O All-good Master, do not disdain one who offereth most compunctionate hymnody unto Thee, and prayeth to Thee with contrite heart. Rather, turn Thy face away from my sins, but do not avert Thy countenance from Thy servant, for I am afflicted. Quickly hearken unto me who chant unto Thee: Alleluia!

## **IKOS XI**

O Christ God, true Light, illumine with the light of Thy grace my soul which hath been benighted by the passions, that with reverence I may pray to Thee, saying:

O Lord, my Lord, do not destroy me, wretch that I am, who am bereft of correction of life, yet dare to stand before Thee;

O Lord, my Lord, Fervor which createst life, warm me who am withering away amid this sorrow!

O Lord, my Lord, Splendor of the glory of the Father, shine the light of Thine aid upon me;

O Lord, my Lord, Who makest Thine angels spirits and Thy minsters a flame of fire, send Thine angel to keep me from all evil!

O Lord, my Lord, my joy, grant that I may rejoice in Thy mercy!

## **KONTAKION XII**

For the sake of Thy love for the human race, O heavenly Father, Thou didst send Thine only begotten Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, Who appeared on earth and dwelt among men; and afterwards, though He is sinless, He was numbered among transgressors and by His blood renewed our nature which had become corrupted by sin, and He taught the whole world to chant: Alleluia!

## IKOS XII

Hymning Thine ineffable love for mankind, O Christ God, in that for our salvation Thou didst will to endure the Cross and death, I confess also Thy just judgment, for in truth and justice Thou hast brought this sorrow upon me for the sake of my sins. But, O Thou Who camest not to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance, hearken unto me, who have sinned more than the most sinful of men, for I pray to Thee thus:

O Lord, my Lord, Lamb of God Who takest away the sins of the world, take from me the heavy burden of my sins;

O Lord, my Lord, Who like a lamb led to the slaughter opened not Thy mouth, teach me to endure the evils which befall me without murmuring!

O Lord, my Lord, Who rent asunder the handwriting of Adam, rend asunder the handwriting of my countless sins;

O Lord, my Lord, Who accepted the repentance of the thief, accept also the repentance of me a sinner!

O Lord, my Lord, Who raised up the dead, resurrect my soul which hath been mortified by sins;

O Lord, my Lord, upraising of the fallen, raise me up who have also fallen!

O Lord, my Lord, grant that I may rejoice in Thy mercy!

## KONTAKION XIII

O most loving and all-good Lord my God, Helper of the oppressed and hope of the hopeless: look Thou with the eye of Thy compassion upon mine affliction and sorrow, and for the sake of Thy mercy, save me who chant to Thee: Alleluia! Alleluia! *Thrice.*

## **IKOS I**

O Creator of the angels and Lord of hosts, for the sake of the salvation of fallen man Thou didst not disdain the Virgin's womb; and afterwards, O Word of God, didst endure spitting, mockery and a disgraceful death, in that Thou art good and the Lover of mankind. Mindful of this, I dare to approach Thee and to pray with tears:

O Lord, my Lord, my merciful Savior, save me who am perishing;

O Lord, my Lord, Who camest not to save the righteous, but sinners, deliver me from this temptation!

O Lord, my Lord, Who acceptest our infirmities and bearest our afflictions, send down Thy peace upon my troubled soul;

O Lord, my Lord, Who by Thy death hast abolished death, set at nought the wiles of the devil which are against me!

O Lord, my Lord, my joy, grant that I may rejoice in Thy mercy!

## **KONTAKION I**

O champion Leader and Lord, Thou joy and gladness of Thy servants! Wherever Thou art, all grief is set at nought; wherever Thou art not, all joy is in vain. Look down upon me, a sinner who am perishing in this misfortune, and with the revelation of Thy salvation visit me who cry out: O Lord, my Lord, my joy, grant that I may rejoice in Thy mercy!

## PRAYERS

### I

Save me, O Lord, for I am perishing! Behold, my ship is endangered by the battering of the waves of life and is nigh unto sinking! But as Thou art full of loving kindness and sympathetic to our weakness, do Thou with Thine almighty authority rebuke the turbulence of tribulations which threaten to inundate me and drag me down into the depths of evil. And let there be calm, for even the winds and the sea are obedient to Thee. Amen.

### II

Save me, O my Savior, according to Thy mercy, not according to my deeds. It is Thy wish that I be saved. Thou knowest how to accomplish my salvation. Wherefore, save me as Thou desirest, as Thou canst, as Thou knowest. Save me by the judgements which Thou knowest. I trust in Thee, my Lord, and entrust myself to Thy holy will. Deal with me as Thou wishest: if Thou desirest to have me in light, be Thou blessed; if Thou desirest to have me in darkness, be Thou likewise blessed. If Thou openest unto me the portals of Thy lovingkindness, be Thou blessed, O Lord, Who hast opened unto me in accordance with Thy righteousness. If Thou destroyest me not with mine iniquities, glory to Thy righteous judgment. Deal with me as Thou wishest. Amen.