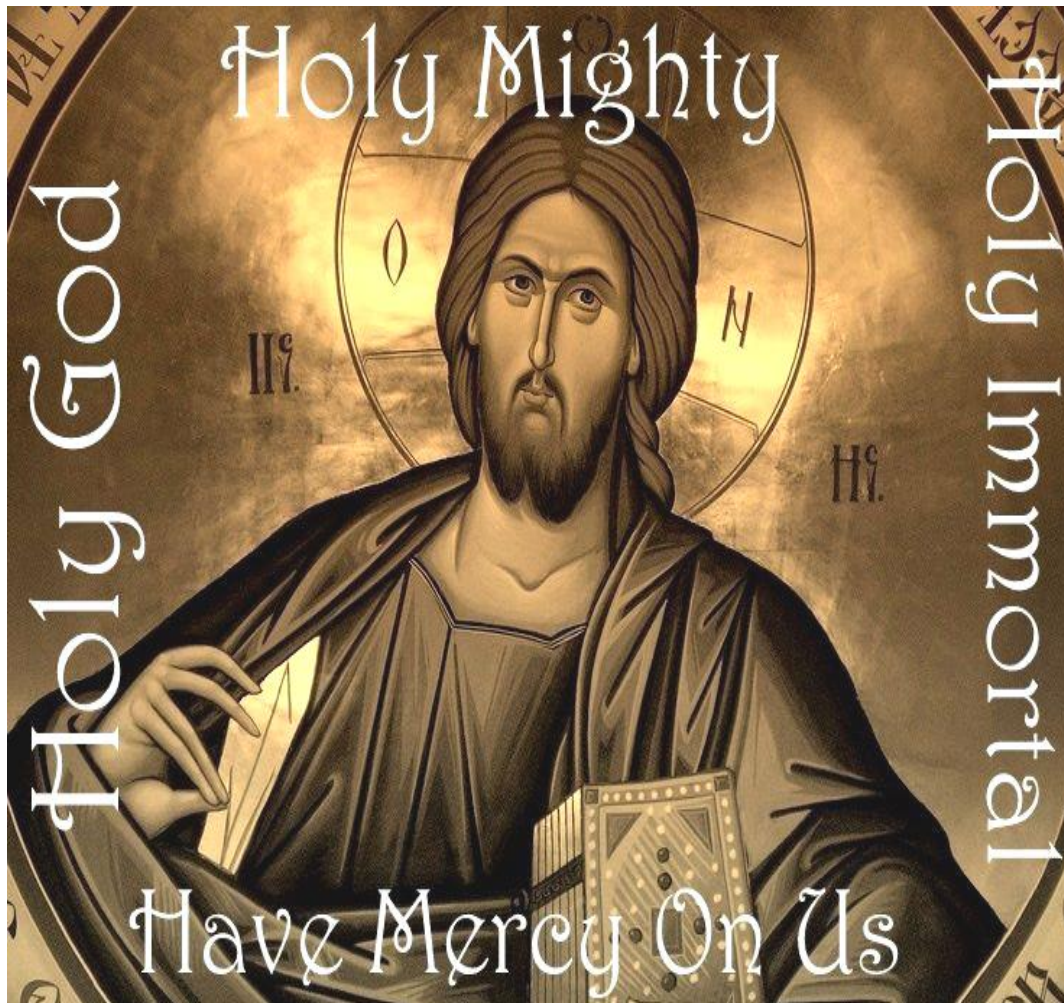


Akathist Hymn of Intercessory Prayer



**For all who pray to Christ
in submission to His holy will**

Kontakion 1

O Most Merciful God, I have heard Your Son and my King declare, “This is the work of God that you believe in Him Whom He sent.” Therefore, I comply with that merciful intervention into the lives of all men, women, and children, with this offering of intercessory prayer. May the Lord Jesus Christ, Who was sent to save us, be known in every place and glorified in all churches, homes, and nations, and may all the people say:

Glory to You, Most Merciful God Who hears every prayer.

Ikos 1

Though I am chief among sinners, I pray resolutely for the Holy Church which Christ Himself established. Christ was crucified to redeem mankind from the wages of sin and to procure everlasting life. Thus it is good for Christians to uphold one another and to uplift the entire world with the rising of prayers to Heaven. Dear God, let my words be heard today, for I bow before You in all humility:

Bless those who cherish their Baptism.

Bless all who worship in spirit and truth.

Bless everyone who recites the Nicene Creed.

Bless each person who accepts Jesus as Lord and King.

Bless Christians who follow the apostolic tradition.

Bless disciples who study the patristic teachings.

Bless believers who receive Holy Communion joyously.

Bless devotees who read the Holy Bible seriously.

Bless seekers who come and see the Holy Church.

Bless strangers who are drawn to the Holy Cross.

Bless the flock, that the blood of the martyrs be never forgotten.

Bless the priests, that false doctrine be never accommodated.

Glory to You, Most Merciful God Who hears every prayer.

Kontakion 2

There were followers of Christ who stopped following Him, who parted ways when His teachings seemed too deep for their mind or too hard on their lifestyle. Therefore, I pray for myself, that I will not crucify Christ anew, but that I may be pure of heart, right in thought, and faithful in service. Heavenly Father, direct my steps according to Your will, bless my day and all those around me, that everyone may cheerfully say: **Alleluia!** (People sing Alleluia!)

Ikos 2

To celebrate the holy feast days is to abide in Christ. May His life be my life, and may His Mother be my Mother, and His people my people, and His Way the only way of life I know. There is no other reason to awake in the morning except that You, the true and only God, be magnified among Your people. Oh, God, grant that my neighbor may hear and see Your mercy, as I have received Your mercy, and let me arise to that purpose:

Bless us to be living temples of divinity on the Feast of the Nativity of the Theotokos.

Bless us to give our entire being to Christ on the Feast of the Exaltation of the Cross.

Bless us with nurture for body and soul on the Feast of the Entrance of the Theotokos to the Temple.

Bless us with peace on earth and goodwill toward men on the Feast of the Nativity of Christ.

Bless us with sacred life and clean hearts on the Feast of the Epiphany of Christ.

Bless us with meditation and wisdom on the Feast of the Meeting of Christ in the Temple.

Bless us with salvation and gratitude on the Feast of the Annunciation to the Theotokos.

Bless us with love and fruitfulness on the Feast of the Transfiguration of Christ.

Bless us to anticipate the joys of Heaven on the Feast of the Dormition of the Theotokos.

Bless us to carry palms of victory on the Feast of the Entrance of Christ into Jerusalem.

Bless us to proclaim “Christ is Risen” on the Feast of the Resurrection: Holy Pascha, the Feast of Feasts.

Bless us to bear true witness of the living Christ on the Feast of the Ascension of Christ.

Bless us with wholeness and fulfillment, with fellowship and eternity on the Feast of Pentecost.

Glory to You, Most Merciful God Who hears every prayer.

Kontakion 3

We know that Christ was raised in a pious family, and that a child’s first interactions in life should be with a tender mother and a gentle father. Christ was sent to mankind by You, His loving Father in Heaven,

“For God so loved the world that He gave His Only-Begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.” May all families know Your love, Holy God: all fathers and mothers and children, and may every home be a domestic church and say: **Alleluia! (People sing Alleluia!)**

Ikos 3

O Most Merciful God, every child is born into a fallen world of problems and troubles, and some are born into families of severe mistreatment and horrendous sins. Hear my prayer for all families in distress: that the offenders will cease their harmful behavior that the victimized will recover from their wounds, that a Good Samaritan will intervene, that appropriate care will be obtained, and that the star of Bethlehem will shine on each family unit in a holy bond of love. For this I pray:

Have mercy on the violated and traumatized, that their lives will be made whole and their faith strong.

Have mercy on the wrongdoers, that all darkness will be removed from their hearts and disturbance from their minds.

Have mercy on broken families, that the generational cycle of dysfunction will be transformed into stability and piety.

Have mercy on families in conflict, that all matters will be resolved with merciful consideration and ardent prayers.

Have mercy on fathers working hard to be providers, that they will also be leaders in worship and in practice of the virtues.

Have mercy on mothers caring for children and relatives, that they will see the image of God in each individual.

Have mercy on mothers working outside the home, that each day will produce bountiful fruit.

Have mercy on grandparents raising grandchildren, that they will be revitalized for their loving labor.

Have mercy on the child looking after her siblings, that she relies on Jesus for affirmation and encouragement.

Have mercy on the teenager trying to form his identity that he looks to the saints and humanitarians as examples.

Have mercy on families who give of their resources to charity, that Christ Himself is honored as the recipient.

Have mercy on families who think of others at Christmastime, that they are blessed a hundredfold for their unselfishness.

Glory to You, Most Merciful God Who hears every prayer.

Kontakion 4

We see also that Christ lived among other men, sharing His ministry with His disciples and holding all things in common. Not only did He gather together the apostles, but He taught the multitudes and provided them with loaves and fish. Then, there were times when He went into solitude for the purpose of prayer. All this was done in obedience to You, the Father Who sent Him into the world for the purpose of saving mankind, that all may partake of eternal life. Thus we have the roots of the monastic life of obedience, prayer, and hospitality. All the monks and nuns therefore say: **Alleluia! (People sing Alleluia!)**

Ikos 4

It is right to live for You, O God my Creator and my Designer, and I thank you for the different paths of marriage and monasticism, and for the consecrated single life within Your plan of salvation. It is good to dedicate oneself to prayer,

as the Apostle Paul emphasized, and to focus on You only and depend on You completely for the fulfillment of all needs. I ask for Your blessings on the development and sustainment of holy monasteries, sketes, and hermitages, and on all who live in deserts and caves and who pray constantly. Strengthen me to pray this hour for those who pray unceasingly for Church and world:

Have mercy on monks and nuns, that they may pray without distraction and overcome all temptation.

Have mercy on novices, that they may follow a rule of prayer with joyfulness and leave behind all worldliness.

Have mercy on abbots and abbesses, that they will show humility and kindness to everyone who enters the gates of prayer.

Have mercy on bishops, that they will remember their beginnings and sacrifice themselves for the flock.

Have mercy on each monastery, that it functions as one being in heart and mind.

Have mercy on the chapel, that it radiates pure worship and withstands the changing times.

Have mercy on all monks, that they may carry their cross as well as one another's burdens.

Have mercy on all nuns, that they may see themselves in others and rejoice in one another's progress.

Have mercy on all who live a life of prayer, that they will conquer impure passions and desires.

Have mercy on all who dedicate themselves to service, that they will embody virtue and holiness.

Have mercy on those who visit monasteries, that they will find a place of peace and nurture.

Have mercy on those who contribute to the upkeep, that they will be granted a mansion in the Kingdom of Heaven.

Glory to You, Most Merciful God Who hears every prayer.

Kontakion 5

The Apostle Paul said, “And so, from the day we heard of it, we have not ceased to pray for you, asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, to lead a life worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to Him, bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God.” In like manner, unworthy though I am, I pray for every citizen of this nation and all nations, for every Christian and all seekers of truth and doers of good, that all peoples throughout the earth may say: **Alleluia! (People sing Alleluia!)**

Ikos 5

O Most Merciful God, we live under governments and in communities. Hear my prayer for the leaders of this nation and for civil servants, that freedom and order are maintained and that each citizen has equal opportunity for education and jobs. May all people be protected from harm. Dear God, I beseech You to provide everyone with food and shelter, with Bibles and churches, even as You have given me, a sinner,

the basic necessities and the desire to worship You. On behalf of every race and culture, I pray:

Save our officials from corrupt influences.

Save our nation from homeland terrorism.

Save our neighborhoods from criminal activity.

Save our schools from deadly attacks.

Save allied nations from destruction and overthrow.

Save underdeveloped nations from poverty and illiteracy.

Save governments that uphold legitimate laws and reasonable rules.

Save individuals who disobey inhumane orders and cruel customs.

Save the brave who risk their lives to protect civilization.

Save the dedicated who bring safety to our towns and cities.

Save all institutions that promote the welfare of the people.

Save all organizations that support truth and moral values.

Glory to You, Most Merciful God Who hears every prayer.

Kontakion 6

Throughout the ages, Christians have been persecuted for their faith. It started with Jesus Christ Himself Who was cruelly beaten and crucified with criminals. Saint John the Baptist and Forerunner was beheaded because he spoke truth. The Archdeacon Stephen was stoned to death because he served the Church. All the Apostles but John were martyred for preaching the Gospel. The Apostle Paul endured everything and was finally killed for his holy works.

These men lived and died for Christ, that they might say to everyone around them and to us: **Alleluia! (People sing Alleluia!)**

Ikos 6

Today, all over the world, there are people being persecuted because they confess that Jesus is Lord and King. I pray that the faithful will receive Heavenly crowns for their martyrdom and plentiful recompense for their sufferings. May we all live sacrificially and die voluntarily as a royal priesthood, serving the Church according to Your will, and bringing forth intercessory prayers for all our brothers and sisters in Christ:

Save all who are excluded because of their beliefs, and graciously include them in the Kingdom of Heaven.

Save those who are alone in their prayers, and grant them solace in the glorious company of All Saints.

Save Christian minorities who worship in hostile lands that they fear not and trust in every word of Christ.

Save congregations whose churches are burned to the ground, that they arise from the ashes of grief and live for Christ.

Save clergy preaching the Gospel despite intimidation, and fortify them to be voices in the wilderness of modernity.

Save two or three gathered in the Name of Christ, and console them in preparation for the hour of death.

Save employees who are scorned due to their ethics that they will not stray but continue in the Commandments.

Save students who are ridiculed for their wholesomeness, that they will not succumb but thrive in righteousness.

Save Christians imprisoned unjustly by the ungodly, and open the doors to the splendor of eternal life.

Save families worshipping in church together, and spare them from internal division and external coercion.

Save the only disciple in the town that he may abide in Christ.

Save the last believer in the city that she may pray for the world.

Glory to You, Most Merciful God Who hears every prayer.

Kontakion 7

It is good to pray always, O God my Rock and my Shield, and so I trust that my words are pleasing to You and that my concerns are within the realm of holiness. With that in mind, I continue to pray for the desperate, for those who flee one country and cross over into another for safety and survival. The world is laden with increasing numbers of refugees and displaced persons who have only the things they can carry and whatever money they have saved from better times. Some have died on their journey, but thousands more say with hope:

Alleluia! (People sing Alleluia!)

Ikos 7

Be a Rock to the homeless and a Shield to the defenseless, Holy God, for You are plentiful and invincible. You bring down the proud and raise up the lowly. You transform wretchedness into abundance, defilement into beauty, defeat into victory, shame into honor, barrenness into fruitfulness, misery into joy, heartbreak into zeal, loneliness into unity, fear into courage, and waywardness into purity.

This You do through Your Only-Begotten Son, Jesus Christ, and for those who believe in Him and for whomever You please according to Your sovereign discretion:

Deliver the upright from wars and uprisings.
Deliver all civilians from raids and torture.
Deliver women and children from kidnappings and slavery.
Deliver all men from beheadings and burnings.
Deliver peoples from oppressive governments.
Deliver nations from terrorist infiltration.
Deliver displaced persons from pain and disease.
Deliver refugees from hunger and thirst.
Deliver the unemployed from all lack.
Deliver the uneducated from all deficiency.
Deliver hospitals from bombings.
Deliver schools from wreckage.

Glory to You, Most Merciful God Who hears every prayer.

Kontakion 8

O Most Merciful God, forgive my sins, for I believe in Christ Who was sent into the world for us sinners. He said, "I am the Resurrection and the Life; he who believes in Me, though he die, yet he shall live, and whoever lives and believes in Me shall never die." Let me die to sin that I may live in Christ. And when my body ceases to breathe, grant me eternal life where there is no longer misery and suffering. May the afflicted believe in the Resurrection and rise up from their beds of disease and pain, even as I have been given another day to see and to walk, and may everyone thankfully say: **Alleluia! (People sing Alleluia!)**

Ikos 8

Let us live, Dear God, and let us live fully and fruitfully. Let us live the only life worth living: a life in Christ and in service according to Your divine will for us. We live much of our lives in a gradual process of physical decline, and some are stricken with severe disease and permanent disability. For these I pray that they will be resurrected even now, in mind and heart, in fitness and health, with sight and mobility, with dexterity and agility, and in every way profitable to their salvation and to the Holy Church. May Your authority and mercy be known: Deliver the homebound from isolation, that they may behold Christ in others and appreciate every day of life.

Deliver the hospitalized into wellbeing that they may return to their duties and rejoice every morning at the rising sun.

Deliver sick children from the sapping of their vitality that they spring forward into a future of productivity.

Deliver ailing seniors into renewal of their enthusiasm, that they find ways to contribute to others.

Deliver those in rehabilitation centers, that they gain back their strength and show compassion to the still suffering.

Deliver those in nursing homes, that they guard against the devil and surrender not to temptation in their final hours.

Deliver the disabled who are slow and awkward, that they may be quick in mercy and fervent in worship.

Deliver the downcast who are introverted and reclusive, that they may be confident to approach the saints in prayer.

Deliver everyone who suffers bodily pain, that they may plant new seeds in the garden of virtues.

Deliver everyone burdened by any malady, that they may be refreshed to live fruitfully until the end.

Deliver Your servants and heal them of all afflictions,
according to Your superb wisdom and wondrous mercy.
Deliver Your faithful and cure them of all diseases,
according to Your boundless love and splendid might.

Glory to You, Most Merciful God Who hears every prayer.

Kontakion 9

Many people suffer from emotional disorders. Some wreak havoc on others and some bear their torment quietly. Some are unaware of the impact they have on others, causing distress in school and the workplace. They are made worse when others overreact with outrage rather than intervene with helpfulness. Some parents feel overwhelmed with a violent or headstrong child. I pray for the mother who is afraid of her own son, that she will get the help they both need. I pray that families and neighbors will courageously work together for the safety of all, and say: **Alleluia! (People sing Alleluia!)**

Ikos 9

Who among us has not been overwrought from time to time?
Who does not have peculiarities and failings? Let me not cast the first stone, Heavenly Father, but enable me to do unto others as I would have them do unto me. Let me view everyone from a Christian perspective of non-judgment, yet without condoning inappropriate behaviors and without allowing harm to others. Let me be of use to those who need help, in addition to professional counseling, in combination with supportive services, and especially to those who have nobody else to pray for them:

Have mercy on those whose thoughts are distorted, and straighten their path toward sanity and spirituality.

Have mercy on those whose lifestyles are chaotic, and channel their mood toward constancy and Godly-mindedness.

Have mercy on the depressed, and give them purpose and meaning in life and hope in Your divine plan of salvation.

Have mercy on the anxious, and grant them comfort and safety in life and trust in the peace of Your Kingdom.

Have mercy on children of unstable parents, and provide them with relatives, teachers, and clergy who will show the way.

Have mercy on children being abused, and send them intervention and all the blessings of abundant life.

Have mercy on perpetrators of despicable wrongs, and purge their disposition for the sake of all humanity.

Have mercy on performers of compulsive behaviors, and unlock their thoughts to truth and their soul to faith.

Have mercy on those with poor interpersonal boundaries, and center them in the love of Christ as His disciples.

Have mercy on those with poor impulse control, and give them the mind of Christ and respect for all persons and things.

Have mercy on alcoholics and drug addicts, and offer them the mystical medicine of communion with Christ our Savior.

Have mercy on people with personality defects, and immerse them in the Beatitudes for an understanding of life.

Glory to You, Most Merciful God Who hears every prayer.

Kontakion 10

The Apostle Paul said, “Pray at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints...”

Therefore, in agreement with the holy Apostle, whom You called forth to preach Your word and whom You found pleasing in Your sight, I ask for forgiveness of sins and for Your blessing on my prayers. May I live in obedience to Your Commandments, as a part of the whole and a member of the Body of Christ, and to this I say: **Alleluia! (People sing Alleluia!)**

Ikos 10

With all alertness and perseverance, I pray for all those who travel and commute by land, sea, and air. We live in era fraught with widespread hazards and dangers, and the moment we leave our homes we are vulnerable to harm. Yet, we must go to work and to the store, we take business trips and vacations, and we have to drive cars and use public transportation. Within all these duties and activities, we need Your protection, Holy God, that we may accomplish Your will each day:

Have mercy on those who go to work, and guard them from accidents.

Have mercy on those who go shopping, and keep them from mishap.

Have mercy on children in school buses, and look after their security.

Have mercy on patients in ambulances, and watch over their safety.

Have mercy on those in cars, and defend them from snipers and hijackers.

Have mercy on those in airplanes, and preserve them from terrorists.

Have mercy on people on trains, and secure them from all malicious deeds.

Have mercy on people on foot, and shield them from all vicious acts.

Have mercy on those responsible for transporting others.

Have mercy on those entrusted to repair means of transport.

Have mercy on those with schedules and appointments.

Have mercy on those under stormy conditions.

Glory to You, Most Merciful God Who hears every prayer.

Kontakion 11

It is essential to trust in You, O God my Fountain and my Fortress, and to realize that You are the cause of all goodness and the reason for all contentment. Teach me to worship You only and not to idolize any person or group. Teach me not to exalt any lifestyle or material thing above You. May I properly use all necessities and appreciate all enjoyments. May everyone be filled with whatever is favorable to the life which You have bestowed on them, that all may say: **Alleluia! (People sing Alleluia!)**

Ikos 11

O Most Merciful God, we live in fallenness and we are subject not only to the malevolence of the misuse of free will but also to damages from the elements. We must adapt daily to wind and storms, to sunshine or snow, to harvest and food quantity, to rainfall and water supply, and to the forces of fires, hurricanes, tornadoes, and earthquakes. I implore Your great mercy on mankind's need for food and shelter, for the benefits of agriculture, and for protection from nature's devastation: Save our dwellings from fire and smoke.

Save our communities from floods and mudslides.
Save every orchard from drought and frost.
Save every crop from insects and disease.
Save the oceans from toxic spills.
Save the rivers from contamination.
Save families and businesses from total loss and ruin.
Save churches and schools from turning into shambles.
Save towns and cities from fierce storms.
Save farms and ranches from raging tempests.
Save human life from sudden death.
Save mankind from massive disasters.

Glory to You, Most Merciful God Who hears every prayer.

Kontakion 12

Let me be a true worshipper, Dear God, the kind of worshipper of whom Christ spoke when He said, "But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshippers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father is seeking such to worship Him." We cannot seek You unless You first seek us and call us into

Your Kingdom. May everyone answer that call, under all circumstances, and never forsake truth and never lead others astray. In our world today, with its malcontents and agitators, its radicals and extremists, I pray that all Christians will endure and say: **Alleluia! (People sing Alleluia!)**

Ikos 12

There are those who would destroy us, and not only us Christians but anyone who stands in the way of their lust for political dominance and religious supremacy. Have mercy on us, Holy God, for terrorism has spread throughout all civilization. The fanatics are determined to demolish buildings and slaughter people. They are without mercy, but we have recourse to You, the Most Merciful God and the only God Whom we worship. Therefore, I pray for the welfare of the whole human race and for the sanctity of life:

Save the planet from nuclear devastation, that all creation may thrive.

Save the earth from global barbarism, that all people may be free.

Save Christians from despondency, that they may excel in faith.

Save civilians from demoralization, that they may flourish in truth.

Save boys from becoming child soldiers, that they may grow up morally.

Save girls from becoming child brides, that they may mature normally.

Save young men and women from being duped by terrorist propaganda, and show them that Jesus is Lord and King.

Save impressionable young people from false promises,
and reveal to them the glad news of salvation.
Save our nation from lethargy, and inspire everyone to live
righteously.
Save our society from depravity, and teach everyone to be
holy examples.
Save and restore lands conquered by extremists.
Save and renew peoples crushed by fanatics.

Glory to You, Most Merciful God Who hears every prayer.

Kontakion 13
(To be read three times.)

May my prayer be acceptable, Heavenly Father, and may my
sins not cloud my love of neighbors and enemies. Hear me, for I
am myself in need of intercession, and I beseech Your
correction and guidance. I thank You for all those who have ever
prayed for me, and I beg all Your holy saints in Heaven to lead
me on the narrow path. In this way, I shall likewise pray for the
welfare and growth of all Christians and for the salvation and
enlightenment of all people, that everyone may say in unity:
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! (People sing Alleluia! Alleluia!
Alleluia!)

Ikos 1

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Kontakion 1

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Glory to You, Most Merciful God Who hears every prayer

A Prayer

O Most Merciful God, save Your creation and bless Your people, for You have called us to worship You in spirit and truth, and you sent Your Only-Begotten Son to us for our salvation. Jesus Christ, our Lord and King, was crucified and resurrected that we might have life and have it more abundantly. Therefore, let us be fruitful, each of us in our own way and as You see fit. Place us in the circumstances and provide us with the conditions that make fruitfulness possible. Yet, we know that all things are possible to those who love You and do Your will.

Transform our attitudes, Holy God, that we may always gaze into Heaven from wherever our dwellings and whatever our situations. We are beset with problems and troubles in this world, and we are afflicted as well with our own weaknesses and inconstancy. Forgive us our sins, Heavenly Father, and keep us in Your wondrous care, that we may rely on You only and worship You now and eternally. Have mercy, for we rise up in the morning and praise You, we live each day to please You, and we retire at night in Your compassion. Make us worthy, Dear God, of Your Heavenly Kingdom which is not of this world. **Amen.**

Glorifying God Through His Light
50 Hour Prayer Vigil
Orthodox Mission Church
Serving Coolidge/Florence, AZ.
Prayer written by Natalia J. Garland
Prayer edited and provided by
50 Hour Prayer Committee

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