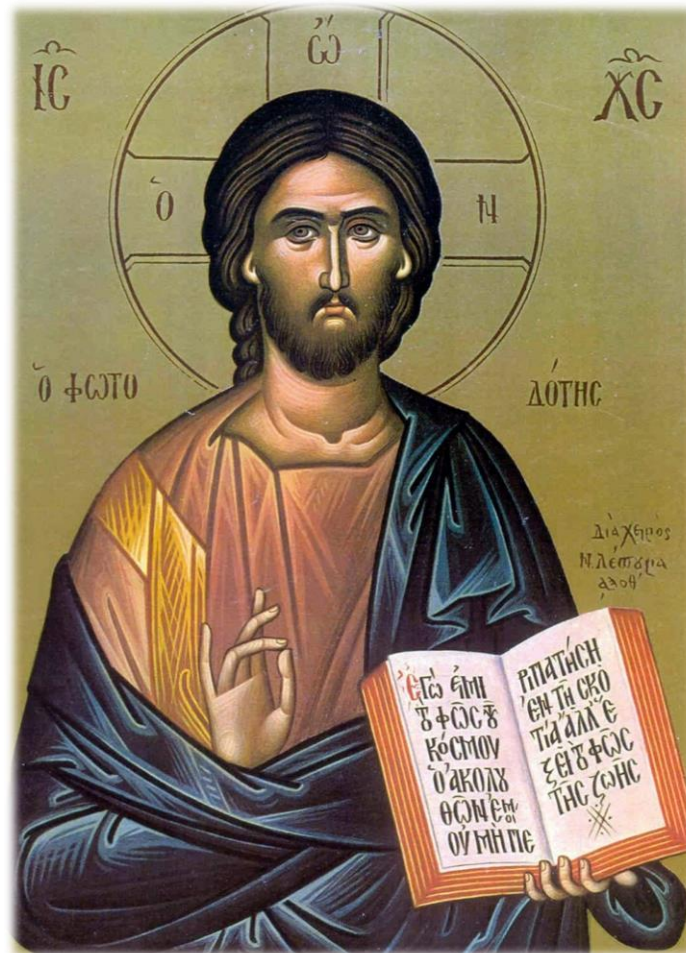


Akathist to Jesus Christ: For the repose of those who have departed



For Rest for Departed Orthodox Souls

Kontakion 1

Chosen Intercessor and High Priest, Who has laid down Your soul for the salvation of the sinful world and has given us authority to be children of God, and to dwell in the never-ending day of Your Kingdom, grant forgiveness and eternal joy to Your servant who has fallen asleep, for whom we cry to You in supplication: Jesus, All-merciful Judge, vouchsafe Your servant (handmaiden) (Name) the sweetness of Paradise.

Ikos 1

O holy Guardian Angel given by the Lord: Come pray for your servant, whom you accompanied, preserve, and direct on all the paths of life, and cry with us to the All-compassionate Savior:

Jesus, tear up the handwriting of the sins of Your servant (Name).

Jesus, heal the wounds of his (her) soul.

Jesus, grant that there not be bitter memories of him (her) on earth.

Jesus, for his (her) sake have mercy on those who were grieved and offended by him (her).

Jesus, cover his (her) imperfections with the radiant garment of Your redemption.

Jesus, gladden him (her) by Your loving-kindness.

Jesus, Ineffable, Great and Wondrous--reveal Yourself to him (her).

Jesus, All-merciful Judge, vouchsafe Your servant (Name) the sweetness of Paradise.

Kontakion 2

Like an inconsolable dove, the soul is borne aloft over the earthly vale, contemplating from the heights of divine reason the sins and temptations of its past life, and bitterly sorrowing over every irretrievable day which passed without benefit; but do You, O Master, have mercy on Your servant that he (she) may enter into Your rest, crying out: **Alleluia! (People sing Alleluia!)**

Ikos 2

Since You did suffer for all the world, since You did pour forth tears and the sweat of blood for the living and the dead--who, then, could restrain us from prayer for the departed one! Imitating You, Who did descend even unto hades, we pray for the salvation of Your servant:

Jesus, Giver of Life, illumine him (her) with Your light.

Jesus, may he (she) be only with You and the Father.

Jesus, Who calls all to Your vineyard, forget not to illumine him (her) by Your light.

Jesus, generous Bestower of eternal rewards, show him (her) to be a son of Your bridal chamber.

Jesus, return to his (her) soul the grace-filled powers of the first-created purity.

Jesus, may good deeds be multiplied in his (her) name.

Jesus, warm those left behind with Your mystical consolation.

**Jesus, All-merciful Judge, vouchsafe Your servant
(Name) the sweetness of Paradise.**

Kontakion 3

Bound with the bonds of the flesh, Your servant would fall into sin, but his (her) spirit pined for Your eternal truth and holiness. Now, when the weakness of the flesh is constrained by the corruption of the tomb, may his (her) soul be borne aloft higher than the sun to You, the All-holy, and may it sing a song of deliverance: **Alleluia! (People sing Alleluia!)**

Ikos 3

Your Apostle, in the cold night by the bonfire, denied You three times yet You saved him. You alone know the weakness of human nature: forgive also Your servant (Name) for the many ways he (she) often fell away from Your will:

Jesus, establish him (her) there, where there is no going astray.

Jesus, deliver him (her) from grievous torments of the conscience.

Jesus, may the memory of his (her) sins perish forever.

Jesus, remember not the temptations of his (her) youth.

Jesus, cleanse him (her) of secret transgressions.

Jesus, overshadow him (her) with the gladsome light of salvation.

Jesus, All-merciful Judge, vouchsafe Your servant (Name) the sweetness of Paradise.

Kontakion 4

The tempests of life have passed, earthly sufferings are ended, the enemies with their malice are powerless; but love is strong, delivering from eternal darkness and saving all, for whom with boldness raise a song to You: **Alleluia! (People sing Alleluia!)**

Ikos 4

You are merciful to us without measure. You are the only Deliverer; what shall we add to the greatness of Your saving love? But as Simon the Cyrenian helped You, the All-powerful, to bear Your Cross, so now it is pleasing to Your goodness to accomplish the salvation of our deceased:

Jesus, You commanded that we bear one another's burdens.

Jesus, You show mercy on us after death through the intercession of our close ones.

Jesus, union of love placed between those who have fallen asleep and those among the living.

Jesus, may the labors of those who loved him (her) serve for the salvation of Your servant (Name).

Jesus, hear his (her) heartfelt cry, offered up by our own lips.

Jesus, in our tears accept his (her) repentance.

**Jesus, All-merciful Judge, vouchsafe Your servant
(Name) the sweetness of Paradise.**

Kontakion 5

O God, may his (her) last sigh of contrition before death be accepted by You, as was the supplication of the wise Thief. He (She) breathed his (her) last on the cross of this life: grant him (her) to inherit Your promise, as You said to the Thief: *Verily I say to you, today you shall be with Me in paradise* where the throngs of repentant sinners joyfully sing: **Alleluia! (People sing Alleluia!)**

Ikos 5

O You were crucified and tormented for us. Stretch out Your hand from Your Cross and with the drops of Your poured-forth blood wipe away his (her) sins without a trace; and warm his (her) soul, now stripped bare and orphaned:

Jesus, You know his (her) life from birth and love him (her).

Jesus, You see him (her) from afar from the height of Your Cross.

Jesus, suffering painfully on the Cross, You stretched forth to embrace him (her) as he (she) came from afar.

Jesus, You cried out for his (her) forgiveness on blood-stained Golgotha.

Jesus, You, in grievous torments, meekly die for him (her).

Jesus, Who did suffer to be laid in the tomb, sanctify his (her) repose in the grave.

Jesus, Risen, raise up to the Father his (her) soul which was embittered by the world and saved by You.

**Jesus, All-merciful Judge, vouchsafe Your servant
(Name) the sweetness of Paradise.**

Kontakion 6

He (She) sleeps the eternal slumber of the grave, but his (her) soul is awake, awaiting You O Lord, thirsting for You, the Eternal Bridegroom. May Your words be fulfilled for the departed:
Whoever eats My Flesh and drinks My Blood has eternal life.
Grant him (her) to eat the mystical manna and to sing at Your throne: **Alleluia! (People sing Alleluia!)**

Ikos 6

Separated by death from all those close to it, the soul has flown afar off; those who knew him (her) grieve and You alone remain near. The barriers of the flesh are destroyed and You are revealed in the unapproachable greatness of the Godhead, awaiting an accounting:

Jesus, Love beyond all understanding, have mercy on
Your servant.

Jesus, when he (she) withdrew from You, he (she)
suffered greatly.

Jesus, forgive the unfaithfulness of his (her) heart.

Jesus, disappointed hopes in him (her) gave birth to
longing for You.

Jesus, remember the hours when his (her) soul
trembled with delight in You.

Jesus, grant to the departed unearthly joy and repose.

Jesus, O only faithful and unchanging One, receive him (her).

**Jesus, All-merciful Judge, vouchsafe Your servant
(Name) the sweetness of Paradise.**

Kontakion 7

We believe our parting will be brief. We bury you, as grain in a field, and you will spring forth in another land. Let the weeds of your sins die in the grave, but may good deeds shine forth there, where good seed brings forth incorrupt fruit, and where holy souls sing: **Alleluia! (People sing Alleluia!)**

Ikos 7

When the fate of the departed fades into oblivion, when his (her) image dims in the heart, and time obliterates, along with his (her) tomb, the fervency of prayer for him (her), then do not abandon him (her) but give delight to his (her) lonely soul:

Jesus, the warmth of Your love never ceases.

Jesus, Your goodwill is inexhaustible.

Jesus, in the never-silent supplications of the Church may his (her) sins be washed away by the offering of the Bloodless Sacrifice.

Jesus, through the intercession of all Your Saints, grant him (her) the grace of prayer for the living.

Jesus, in the days of our own trials, accept his (her) intercession for us.

**Jesus, All-merciful Judge, vouchsafe Your servant
(Name) the sweetness of Paradise.**

Kontakion 8

Let us pray with tears while the memory of the one who has fallen asleep is painfully fresh. Let us remember his (her) name, day and night, giving alms, feeding the hungry, and crying from the depths of our souls: **Alleluia! (People sing Alleluia!)**

Ikos 8

The Seer of Mysteries, John the Theologian, in contemplation beheld at the Throne of the Lamb of God a great multitude of people, clothed in white garments. These are they who came out of great sorrow. They joyfully serve God day and night, and God dwells with them, and torment will not touch them:

Jesus, number among them also Your servant (Name).

Jesus, he (she) suffered much and languished.

Jesus, all his (her) bitter hours and painful moments are known to You.

Jesus, on earth he (she) had sorrow and tribulation, grant him (her) joy in heaven.

Jesus, refresh him (her) from the fountains of living water.

Jesus, take away every tear from his (her) eyes.

Jesus, grant him (her) an abode where the sun of Your righteousness scorches not but rather gives life.

**Jesus, All-merciful Judge, vouchsafe Your servant
(Name) the sweetness of Paradise.**

Kontakion 9

When earthly sojourning is ended, how grace-filled is the passing to the world of the Spirit; what contemplation of new things, unknown to the earthly world, and of heavenly beauties. The soul returns to its fatherland, where the bright sun, the righteousness of God, enlightens those who sing: **Alleluia! (People sing Alleluia!)**

Ikos 9

If the reflection and trace of You make the faces of mortals' shine, then what can we say about You Yourself! If the fruits of Your hands are so wonderful, and if the earth, which reflects only a shadow of You, is full of unutterable majesty, then what can be said of Your unseen countenance! Reveal Your glory to Your servant (Name) who has fallen asleep:

Jesus, enhance his (her) hearing unto the perception of Your divinity.

Jesus, enhance his (her) hearing for heavenly wisdom.

Jesus, may his (her) joy be full.

Jesus, strengthen him (her) with the hope of meeting in the dwelling places of the blessed.

Jesus, grant that we may feel the grace-filled power of the prayer of the reposed.

**Jesus, All-merciful Judge, vouchsafe Your servant
(Name) the sweetness of Paradise.**

Kontakion 10

Our Father, accept this departed one into Your Kingdom, where there is neither sin nor evil, where Your holy Will is inviolate and Your grace-filled Name is hallowed among the hosts of most pure souls and blameless Angels, and where praise gives forth a sweet fragrance: **Alleluia! (People sing Alleluia!)**

Ikos 10

In that day, the Angels will set forth Your Throne, O Judge, and You will shine forth in the glory of Your Father, rendering due reward to each man. O look then mercifully on Your humble servant (Name) and say to him (her): "Come stand at My right hand":

Jesus, You are God and have authority to remit sins.

Jesus, forgive those transgressions of his (hers) which were forgotten or concealed because of shame.

Jesus, loose his (her) sins of weakness and ignorance.

Jesus, deliver him (her) from the unholy depths of the despair of hell.

Jesus, may he (she) inherit Your life-giving promise.

Jesus, count him (her) to be among the blessed of Your Father.

Jesus, grant him (her) endless blessedness unto the ages.

**Jesus, All-merciful Judge, vouchsafe Your servant
(Name) the sweetness of Paradise.**

Kontakion 11

O All-good Master, may the radiant gates of Paradise be opened to him (her) who has fallen asleep; and may he (she) be met with exultation by the assemblies of righteous and holy ones, and the multitude of his (her) close ones. May Your light-bearing Angels rejoice over him (her), and may he (she) see Your Ever-blessed Mother there, where victoriously there resounds: **Alleluia!**

(People sing Alleluia!)

Ikos 11

At Your breath flowers come to life, the river Nile is resurrected and a multitude of tiny creatures awakens. Your glance is brighter than the spring sky; and Your love, O Jesus, is warmer than the rays of the sun. You raised our mortal human flesh from the dust of the earth unto the blossoming of the eternal spring of incorruptible life. Do You then illumine also Your servant (Name) with the light of Your mercy:

Jesus, at Your right hand are goodwill and life.

Jesus, in Your gaze are light and love.

Jesus, deliver him (her) who has fallen asleep from eternal spiritual death.

Jesus, he (she) fell asleep in hope as did Nature before the cold winter.

Jesus, rouse him (her) when the thorns of the earth are clothed in the light of eternity.

Jesus, may nothing earthly cloud his (her) final rest.

Jesus, You are unchanging Gladness and the goal of our existence.

**Jesus, All-merciful Judge, vouchsafe Your servant
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Kontakion 12

O Christ! You are the Kingdom of Heaven; You are the land of the meek; You are the dwelling place of many. You are the drink which is completely new; You are the vesture and crown of the venerable ones. You are the couch of repose of the Saints. You are our Sweetest Jesus and to You is due praise: **Alleluia! (People sing Alleluia!)**

Ikos 12

Using the image of peaceful gardens of unearthly beauty and mansions bright as the sun, in the splendor of heavenly singing You have revealed to us the blessedness of those who love You:

Jesus, may Your servant enter into Your joy.

Jesus, clothe him (her) with the radiance of the glory of the Father.

Jesus, sanctify him (her) with the illumination of the Holy Spirit.

Jesus, may he (she) hear the ineffable song of the Cherubim.

Jesus, may he (she) ascend from glory to glory.

Jesus, may he (she) see You face to face.

**Jesus, All-merciful Judge, vouchsafe Your servant
(Name) the sweetness of Paradise.**

Kontakion 13

(To be read three times)

O Immortal Bridegroom, coming from Heaven with the Angels at the midnight of sin and unbelief to judge the whole world, open the doors of Your glorious bridal chamber to Your servant (Name), that amidst the countless hosts of saints he (she) may forever sing:

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! (People sing Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!)

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Glorifying God Through His Light
50 Hour Prayer Vigil

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