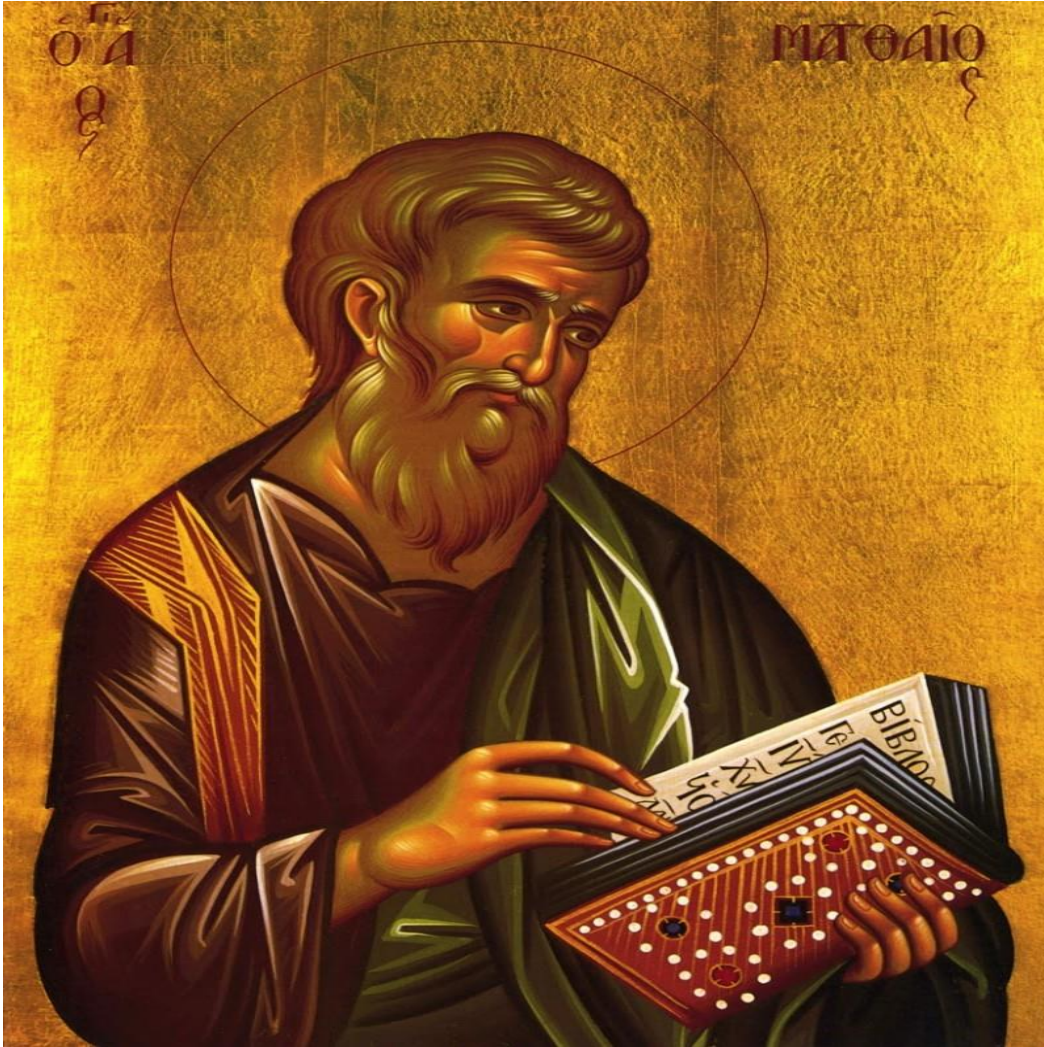


AKATHIST TO
THE HOLY APOSTLE AND
EVANGELIST MATTHEW



For preservation of peace and tranquility of heart
For those oppressed by demonic powers
For those oppressed by wicked men doing the demon's bidding

Kontakion 1

Of you, O great Apostle and Evangelist, the Holy Church chants today in Orthodox manner, inspired and nourished by the immortal words of your Gospel. And uplifted thereby in spirit, we cry out to you in thanksgiving:

Rejoice, O holy Matthew, who has given us the words of salvation!

Ikos 1

Having forsaken your customs and your home when summoned by the Lord, you labored tirelessly for Him as an Apostle, O Matthew, and described in writing His mighty works. Wherefore, with compunction we cry out to you:

Rejoice, O divinely wise disciple of the Lord, who recorded His descent from David the King!

Rejoice, you proclaimed His nativity in the flesh!

Rejoice, you bore witness concerning the ministry of His honorable Forerunner!

Rejoice, you described the Spirit, Who at His baptism in the Jordan descended on Him!

Rejoice, you recounted His forty day fast in the wilderness!

Rejoice, you told how He prevailed over Satan the tempter!

Rejoice, you described the summoning of His disciples!

Rejoice, you set forth the Beatitudes!

Rejoice, you faithfully recorded His parables and teachings!

Rejoice, you told of the manifold wondrous cures He wrought!

Rejoice, you bore witness that the power of the Lord rested upon His followers!

Rejoice, for Christ sent you forth as a sheep among wolves!

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Kontakion 2

O the transformation of your life and ways! For when the Savior called you to His ministry, O holy Matthew, you straightway rose up, forsaking your former greed and avarice, and followed after Him, to Whom we all cry out in praise: **Alleluia! (People sing Alleluia!)**

Ikos 2

Levying the taxes of brutal overlords upon your oppressed and downtrodden people, you corruptly enriched yourself by extortion and bribery; but when the Light of the World shone upon you, your soul was transfixed, and you rose to join the band of the Lord's disciples. Wherefore, in gladness we cry out to you such things as these:

Rejoice, for with the other disciples you were wise as a serpent and harmless as a dove!

Rejoice, for as the Lord foretold you were delivered up to the councils of men!

Rejoice, for they scourged you in their synagogues!

Rejoice, for you were brought before kings and governors for His sake!

Rejoice, for the Spirit of God the Father spoke within you!

Rejoice, you endured to the end!

Rejoice, for what Jesus told you in darkness you spoke in the light!

Rejoice, for you had no fear of those who destroy the body!

Rejoice, for you took up your cross and followed your Master!

Rejoice, for in losing your life for His sake you found it in paradise!

Rejoice, for having labored and been heavy laden, you received rest!

Rejoice, for you shouldered the easy yoke of the Lord!

Rejoice, O holy Matthew, who has given us the words of salvation!

Kontakion 3

You Orthodox Christians come and chant in jubilation to the Lord Who, when He visited the house of Matthew, His disciple, rebuked those who reproached Him for dining with sinners and tax collectors, saying: “I am come not to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance.” And ever mindful of our own sins and His infinite compassion, with compunction let us all cry out to Christ: **Alleluia! (People sing Alleluia!)**

Ikos 3

Most highly favored by Christ our God was Matthew, for the Lord deigned to number him among His twelve closest followers—with Peter and Andrew, James and John, Philip and Bartholomew, Thomas and Simon, Thaddaeus, James son of Alphaeus, and Judas the betrayer—and gave him power to cast out demons and to heal every sickness and disease. Wherefore, marveling at the power of the divine grace which abode within him, we cry

Rejoice, you went forth to minister to the lost sheep of the house of Israel!

Rejoice, you preached that the Kingdom of Heaven is at hand!

Rejoice, you by the power of God healed the sick!
Rejoice, you by His grace cleansed the lepers!
Rejoice, you by His name restored the dead to life!
Rejoice, you expelled unclean spirits from the possessed!
Rejoice, for as you freely received, you freely gave!
Rejoice, for with no provision save the Lord's command you set forth to do His will!
Rejoice, for as a true disciple you were like your Teacher!
Rejoice, for as a faithful servant you were like your Lord!
Rejoice, for through you has the Lord revealed to us, as to babes, what He has hidden from the wise and prudent!
Rejoice, for you came to know the Father, as the Son revealed Him to you!

Rejoice, O holy Matthew, who has given us the words of salvation!

Kontakion 4

All throughout Galilee and Judaea you followed your Master as He imparted to the people His immortal teachings, that they might live righteously and treat all men as brethren, and thus, by His grace and loving-kindness, might be brought to life everlasting. Wherefore, mindful of the hardships you endured in the service of the Lord, we chant unto Him: **Alleluia! (People sing Alleluia!)**

Ikos 4

You traversed the lands of Israel with the Savior, and lay up in your heart all that He said and did for the salvation of mankind, O holy Apostle; and you were with Him when He journeyed to Jerusalem, there to be arrested, scourged and mocked, brought to

trial, and condemned to die on the Cross. Wherefore, filled with awe by your account of the saving death and glorious resurrection of our Lord, we cry to you:

Rejoice, for the people who sat in darkness saw a great Light!
Rejoice, for Light sprang forth for those who languished in the shadow of death!

Rejoice, you did not hide the lamp of our Savior under a bushel!
Rejoice, for in your Gospel you set it forth like a candle upon a candle stand, to give light to all!

Rejoice, for your light has so shined before men that they have seen your good works!

Rejoice, for they glorify the Heavenly Father for you!

Rejoice, for you did and taught the commandments of the Lord!

Rejoice, for you are now called great in the Kingdom of Heaven!

Rejoice, for you truly loved your enemies!

Rejoice, for you blessed those who cursed you!

Rejoice, for you did well to those who hated you!

Rejoice, for you prayed for those who spitefully used you!

Rejoice, O holy Matthew, who has given us the words of salvation!

Kontakion 5

The Lord's disciples, among them the holy Matthew, in fear of the Jews concealed themselves in the Upper Room where Christ had performed the Eucharist; but in manner past understanding He appeared in their midst, even though the doors were locked, assuring them that He was not a specter, but the living God. Wherefore, giving thanks to the divine Logos for

assuming our humanity and deifying it, we cry unto Him: **Alleluia! (People sing Alleluia!)**

Ikos 5

Having opened your mind that you might understand the Scriptures, the Lord Jesus commanded you, O holy Matthew, and your fellow Apostles to go forth and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. And as He blessed you, He departed from you and ascended into Heaven, where He sits at the right hand of the unoriginate Father. Wherefore, we offer to you these praises:

Rejoice, for you asked, and it was given to you!

Rejoice, for seeking you found that for which you did search!

Rejoice, for you knocked and it was opened to you!

Rejoice, for what you desired that men do you taught them by your example!

Rejoice, for you entered in by the narrow gate which leads to life!

Rejoice, for you avoided the wide gate that leads to destruction!

Rejoice, for you took the hard way, which brought you to salvation!

Rejoice, for you spurned the broad path whose end is damnation!

Rejoice, for as a fertile tree planted by the Lord you yielded good fruit!

Rejoice, we know you by your fruits!

Rejoice, for as you did the will of the Heavenly Father you have entered into paradise!

Rejoice, for like the Son of Man you had nowhere to lay your head!

Rejoice, O holy Matthew, who has given us the words of salvation!

Kontakion 6

Eternal life and the things of the Kingdom the risen Savior taught you, O honorable Matthew, and his other followers during the forty days after His resurrection, before He ascended from the Mount of Olives and was concealed from His disciples by a cloud. But heeding His words, you tarried in Jerusalem with the rest until, as the Son had promised, the Father sent down upon them the Holy Spirit, to Whom we chant: **Alleluia!** **(People sing Alleluia!)**

Ikos 6

While waiting in the Upper Room, as you continued in prayer with the other followers of Christ, His All-Pure Mother, and His kinfolk, the feast of Pentecost arrived. Then a sound from Heaven, like a rushing, mighty wind, filled the chamber and tongues as of fire appeared and rested upon you all; and you were filled with the Holy Spirit, Who taught you every human tongue, that you might bear witness to the salvation wrought by God, even to the uttermost parts of the earth. Wherefore, in joy and gladness we say to you:

Rejoice, for like the sower in the parable you went forth to cast the Gospel of Christ like seed upon a fertile soil!

Rejoice, for your glad tidings fell like seed upon rich soil, and produced a bountiful harvest!

Rejoice, for your preaching was like a grain of mustard which grew into a plant of great height!

Rejoice, for your writings were like leaven which when added to the flour of humanity, increased the Church of Christ!

Rejoice, for you were like the merchant who when he found a pearl of great price, sold all he had and bought it!

Rejoice, for you laid up the teachings of the Lord in the treasury of your heart like costly pearls and jewels in a coffer!

Rejoice, for when the Lord calmed the raging sea, you and the others in the ship cried out: “Of the truth, You are the Son of God!”

Rejoice, for you embraced the confession of the holy Apostle Peter, who cried out: “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God!”

Rejoice, for obedient to the Savior you denied yourself and took up your cross and followed Him!

Rejoice, for in losing your life for His sake you saved it!

Rejoice, for you turned away from your former sinful ways!

Rejoice, for having become as a little child, you entered into the Kingdom of Heaven!

Rejoice, O holy Matthew, who has given us the words of salvation!

Kontakion 7

Perceiving the ignorance of men, and desiring that, for their instruction and edification, all might come to know of the Messiah and His great sacrifice for the redemption of men, inspired by the Holy Spirit you related in your Gospel the mighty works of the Lord our God, to Whom all Christians cry: **Alleluia! (People sing Alleluia!)**

Ikos 7

Perceiving the ignorance of men, and desiring that for their instruction and edification, all might come to know of the Messiah and His great sacrifice for the redemption of men, inspired by the Holy Spirit you related in your Gospel the mighty works of the Lord our God, to Whom all Christians cry:

Rejoice, for as you became like an innocent child, your angel ever beheld the countenance of God!

Rejoice, for through you the Son of Man saved those who were lost!

Rejoice, for whatsoever you bound on earth was bound in Heaven!

Rejoice, for whatsoever you loosed on earth was loosed in Heaven!

Rejoice, for you sold what you had, gave to the poor, and won treasure on high!

Rejoice, for by your words and writings you taught that what is not possible for men is possible with God!

Rejoice, for according to the Lord's saying, you shall be seated on a throne at the end of time!

Rejoice, for with the other Apostles you shall sit in judgment over the twelve tribes of Israel when He shall come in glory!

Rejoice, for as you did not exalt yourself among men you were not abased!

Rejoice, for as you humbled yourself before others, you were exalted!

Rejoice, for Christ foretold that you would be delivered up to be afflicted and slain!

Rejoice, for even amid tortures you preached the Gospel of the Kingdom to the gentiles!

Rejoice, O holy Matthew, who has given us the words of salvation!

Kontakion 8

Although you healed his wife and son, who were possessed by evil spirits, Fulvian, who ruled Ethiopia, grew angry in jealousy against you, O Matthew, for all the people followed you and were baptized. But of the soldiers he dispatched to arrest you some were covered with darkness and others were dazzled by divine light, casting away their weapons as they fled. Wherefore, to Christ, the Dispeller of darkness and Bestower of light, we cry: **Alleluia! (People sing Alleluia!)**

Ikos 8

Yet more wrathful Fulvian grew when his minions failed to carry out his will; and raging, he set forth with a multitude of servants, to arrest the holy one himself; but when he approached the man of God, he was struck blind, so that someone had to guide him; yet, merciful and compassionate, Matthew took pity on him and restored his sight. Wherefore, marveling at his loving-kindness, we cry to him:

Rejoice, for in your Gospel has the Lord's saying been fulfilled: "Heaven and earth shall pass away, but My words shall not!"

Rejoice, you are like the wise virgins who filled the lamp of your soul with the oil of good works!

Rejoice, you with the wedding guests entered into the marriage chamber of Christ, the Bridegroom!

Rejoice, you whose wedding vesture were dyed in the blood of your martyrdom!

Rejoice, for you increased the talents which the Savior entrusted to you!

Rejoice, for having been given grace from on high, you had the gifts of the Spirit in abundance!

Rejoice, for in that you were blessed by the Heavenly Father, you have inherited His Kingdom!

Rejoice, for with the righteous you have entered into life everlasting!

Rejoice, for with the rest of the Apostles you sat with Christ at the Last Supper!

Rejoice, for you received from His hand His Precious Body!

Rejoice, for you drained the cup of His precious Body!

Rejoice, for you have taught all nations that this Eucharist is a sacrifice made for many, for the remission of men's sins!

Rejoice, O holy Matthew, who has given us the words of salvation!

Kontakion 9

Fulvian regained his sight through the supplications of the holy Apostle, but the prince's malice against him in no way abated, and he brought the saint to the place of execution, where he committed him to the fire as a sorcerer; but though the flames rose up to a great height, and all thought that the Apostle must surely have perished, he was seen standing, alive and unharmed, in the midst of the ashes, praying and glorifying God, to Whom we all cry: **Alleluia! (People sing Alleluia!)**

Ikos 9

O the long suffering of the holy Apostle! For when the prince commanded that a second fire be kindled over the saint, and set

round about the pyre his idols of gold, praying for them to destroy Matthew, the flames of the fire reached out at the entreaty of the holy one, and surrounded the graven images, and they melted in the heat thereof. Wherefore, as you revealed to the pagans the impotence of their false gods, we cry to you:

Rejoice, for in Gethsemane Christ admonished you to watch and to pray!

Rejoice, for you recorded all that Christ said and endured, that the Scriptures might be fulfilled!

Rejoice, for though you fled with the others at His arrest, the Lord appeared to you also after His resurrection!

Rejoice, for Christ Who was crucified, died and was buried, gave you the power to bind and loose the sins of men!

Rejoice, for God sent His All-Holy Spirit upon you!

Rejoice, for you showed justice to the nations!

Rejoice, for you delivered countless souls from damnation!

Rejoice, for you cast out of men the demons who afflicted them!

Rejoice, for in papyrus and ink you contained the immaterial fire of the Word!

Rejoice, for with great labor you set forth the words of salvation!

Rejoice, O deft-handed scribe inspired from on high!

Rejoice, O you in binding your book bound the heretics!

Rejoice, O holy Matthew, who has given us the words of salvation!

Kontakion 10

Repenting sorely of his error, Fulvian sought to entice you from the ashes of the fire, that he might render honor to you; but,

using the words that the Lord uttered on the Cross, you cried out with a loud voice: “O Lord, into Your hands I commit my soul!” and thus, surrendered your life to Him. Wherefore, marveling at the glory you have attained among the choirs of saints and angels, we all cry out to God: **Alleluia! (People sing Alleluia!)**

Ikos 10

Still Fulvian was uncertain of the sanctity and power of the holy Evangelist, and he commanded that a coffin of iron be made ready and the precious body of the saint be sealed therein, and cast into the depths of the sea. But the Apostle appeared in a dream to Bishop Plato, his disciple, and commanded him to take up the sacred relics, which had miraculously floated to the shore of the sea in their iron coffin. Wherefore, to him do we address these hymns:

Rejoice, You for whom the Kingdom of Heaven was like a treasure!

Rejoice, O you shone forth like the sun in the realm of the Father!

Rejoice, O you like a fisherman cast your net into the sea of humanity!

Rejoice, O you therein gathered a great draught of men’s souls!

Rejoice, O you declared to all the glad tidings of the coming of the Messiah!

Rejoice, O you wrote down your Gospel that all men might understand!

Rejoice, for the words of our redemption proceed from your mouth!

Rejoice, for your teachings wash away the defilements of men!

Rejoice, for your doctrines are the foundation of our Faith!
Rejoice, for in your Scriptures you recorded what Christ said
and did!
Rejoice, for the Lord's miracles which you related are past
understanding!
Rejoice, for His parables recorded by you are full of edification!

**Rejoice, O holy Matthew, who has given us the words of
salvation!**

Kontakion 11

All the people, and with them their ruler, approached the sacred
body of the Evangelist with fear and trembling, loudly
proclaiming that Christ our God is the one true God, Who
brought His faithful servant through trials of fire and
water. Then Fulvian, full of remorse, fell down before the coffin
of the saint and besought his forgiveness, and were converted
and baptized, and given the new name Matthew, whereupon he
destroyed all the idols of that land, and taught his nation to sing
in worship to the Trinity: **Alleluia! (People sing Alleluia!)**

Ikos 11

The blessed Bishop Plato again received a vision of the holy
Matthew, wherein the saint foretold that hierarch's end and
ordered him to ordain the newly baptized Matthew and his son
as priest and deacon. And before the bishop's repose in three
years' time, again at the saint's command, Matthew was also
ordained to the episcopate, wherein he labored well in the
vineyard of Christ. Wherefore, the Apostle hears from us such
things as these:

Rejoice, O initiate of supernal mysteries divine!
Rejoice, you taught the people to praise the Lord!
Rejoice, you offered to Him the bloodless Sacrifice!
Rejoice, you united them with the Godhead through the All Pure
Body and Blood of Christ!
Rejoice, you converted the unbelieving to piety!
Rejoice, you, guided by the Spirit, brought all Ethiopia to the
Faith!
Rejoice, for the stream of your teachings was like the mighty
Nile!
Rejoice, for they have filled the whole world, like the flooding
of a great river!
Rejoice, for your words carry life to the dry and barren wastes of
our souls!
Rejoice, for enriched by the grace which is in your Gospel,
men's souls' blossom forth for their Creator!
Rejoice, for they bear fruit a hundredfold for the Heavenly
Husbandman!
Rejoice, for when they are harvested, they are laid up in the
granaries of Heaven!

**Rejoice, O holy Matthew, who has given us the words of
salvation!**

Kontakion 12

Throughout the rest of his life, guided by you from on high, O
Apostle of Christ, the holy Bishop Matthew strove to spread the
marvelous tidings of the coming of our Savior—His wondrous
advent, sublime teachings, miraculous works, salvific sufferings,
and glorious death and resurrection—and the Lord blessed his
apostolic labors, so that they bore fruit, and the holy Orthodox

Faith was established throughout that land, among all the people. Wherefore, we cry out to God: **Alleluia!**
(People sing Alleluia!)

Ikos 12

Having passed from this transitory life to that which is everlasting in Heaven, O saint of Christ, you watched over the Church of Ethiopia, which you founded by the grace of the All-Holy Spirit; and you likewise regard all faithful Orthodox Christians with your compassionate eye, healing their illnesses and heeding the entreaties they offer to you in time of tribulation and misfortune. Wherefore, you hear from us such praises as these:

Rejoice, O glorious Apostle chosen Apostle of Christ!
Rejoice, O marvelous healer of all manner of diseases!
Rejoice, O wondrous Apostle who in obedience to God forsook your native land!
Rejoice, O marvelous disciple of the Lord, made perfect by the power of the Spirit divine!
Rejoice, O you took yourself to a land beset by spiritual darkness!
Rejoice, O you brought light to a people that languished in the shadow of death!
Rejoice, for by you they were illumined with the uncreated Light of God!
Rejoice, for through you did they come into fellowship with Christ!
Rejoice, O you whom the Savior sent to bring His salvation to the ends of the earth!
Rejoice, O you declared His glory to the multitudes!

Rejoice, for in your apostolic labors you reaped a great harvest for your Master!

Rejoice, O you were a true and faithful steward of His inheritance!

Rejoice, O holy Matthew, who has given us the words of salvation!

Kontakion 13

(To be read three times)

Every true Christian is filled with joy and gladness on hearing the words which the All-holy Spirit of God inspired you to record, O holy Apostle and Evangelist Matthew; and moved to jubilation by the glad tidings of your Gospel, we all cry out in praise and thanksgiving unto the One God in three Persons: **Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! (People sing Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!)**

Kontakion 1

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Rejoice, O holy Matthew, who has given us the words of salvation!

Ikos 1

Having forsaken your customs and your home when summoned by the Lord, you labored tirelessly for Him as an Apostle, O

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Rejoice, O divinely wise disciple of the Lord, who recorded His descent from David the King!

Rejoice, you proclaimed His nativity in the flesh!

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Rejoice, you told of the manifold wondrous cures He wrought!

Rejoice, you bore witness that the power of the Lord rested upon His followers!

Rejoice, for Christ sent you forth as a sheep among wolves!

Rejoice, O holy Matthew, who has given us the words of salvation!

Prayer to the Holy Apostle and Evangelist Matthew

With compunction of heart let us all entreat the holy Apostle and Evangelist Matthew who, when called by the Lord to His service, cast away all covetousness and avarice and forsook all that he possessed, that he might sit at the Savior's feet and imbibe His ineffable teachings. And let us offer to him

supplications when we are beset by affliction and distress, crying out to him amid the pain of our souls and bodies. O holy one, look down from Heaven, and see how we are oppressed by the demonic powers and the wicked men who do their bidding, for they seek our death and damnation. Wherefore, come quickly to our aid as a mighty ally, repelling their crafty assaults and putting them utterly to flight, that preserved by you in peace and tranquility of heart, we all may adore the one true God Who is worshiped in Trinity: the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit, to Whom be glory, honor, and worship, now and for endless ages. **Amen.**

Glorifying God Through His Light
50 Hour Prayer Vigil

Orthodox Mission Church
Serving Coolidge and Florence, AZ
Prayer from Holy Trinity Monastery
Prepared, edited, and provided by the 50 Hour Prayer Committee
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