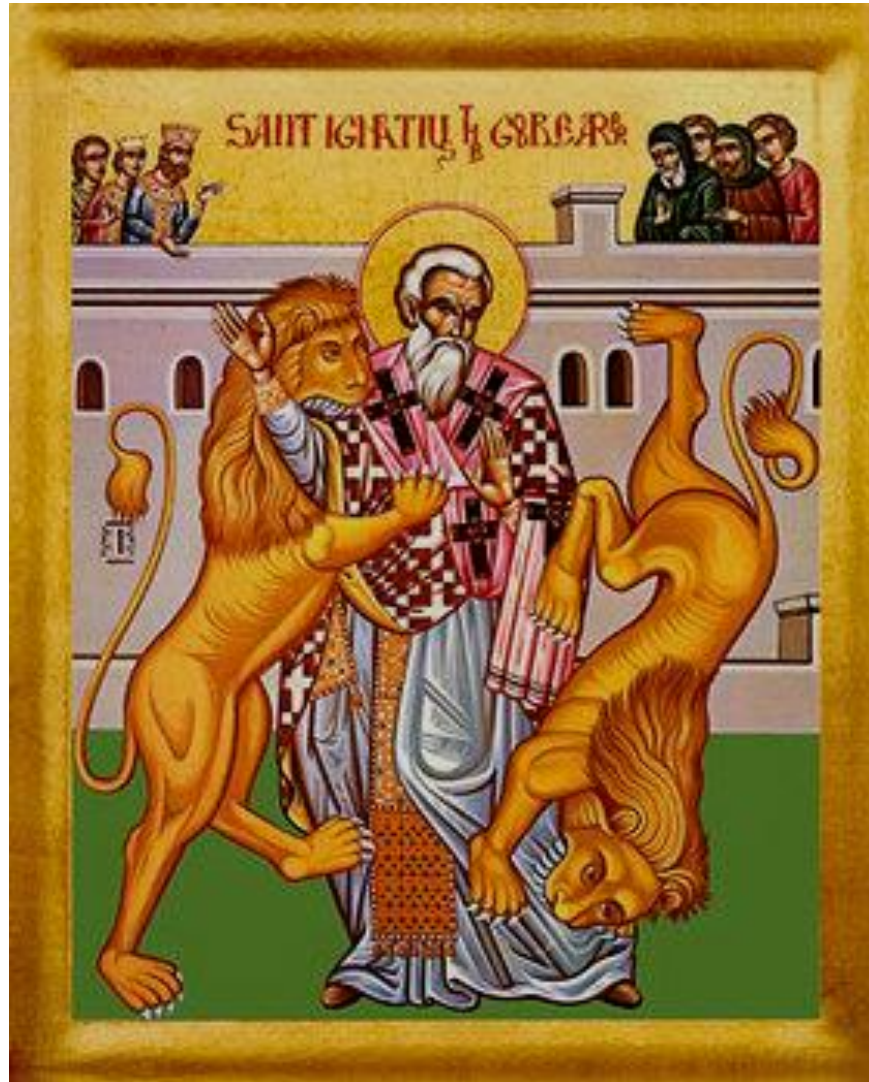


THE AKATHIST TO
THE HOLY HIEROMARTYR IGNATIUS THE
GOD-BEARER,
BISHOP OF ANTIOCH



For intercession before the Lord
For help for all Orthodox Christians from all tribulations

Kontakion 1

O holy hierarch Ignatius, chosen passion-bearer, elect of Christ, to you we offer hymns of praise. As you stand with the angels before the throne of the Most High, never cease to pray for us who earnestly cry out to you:

Rejoice, O God-bearing Ignatius, great and all-glorious athlete!

Ikos 1

You became like the angels when the Lord, taking you in His all-pure arms, set you in the midst of His disciples and, laying His hand upon your head, said to them: “Except you be converted, and become as little children, you shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven.” Wherefore, bending our knees, we cry out to you:

Rejoice, you God did bear!

Rejoice, for you had God continually in your heart!

Rejoice, good and faithful servant!

Rejoice, man of divine desires!

Rejoice, for from your youth you loved Christ with all your heart!

Rejoice, for you committed yourself wholly to Him!

Rejoice, O God-bearing Ignatius, great and all-glorious athlete!

Kontakion 2

Seeing the pious life of the holy John the Theologian, your teacher, you greatly desired to serve the Lord with him, preaching the Holy Gospel to those who sat in darkness and the shadow of death, and teaching them to chant to the one true God: **Alleluia! (People sing Alleluia!)**

Ikos 2

Perceiving in the Spirit that the angels in heaven glorify God, the Creator of heaven and earth, in the Holy Trinity, crying one to another: “Holy, Holy, Holy is the Lord of Sabaoth!” in the Church on earth you established the practice of chanting also. Wherefore, with compunction we cry out to you:

Rejoice, pillar and foundation of the Church of God!

Rejoice, beacon of Orthodoxy!

Rejoice, for you were a bishop of the Church where the name Christian was first uttered!

Rejoice, for you were vouchsafed to receive ordination from the preeminent apostles!

Rejoice, for you were accounted worthy to behold the angels of heaven glorifying God!

Rejoice, for now you glorify the Lord in the company of the angels!

Rejoice, O God-bearing Ignatius, great and all-glorious athlete!

Kontakion 3

The power of the most High strengthened you, O holy Ignatius, when, standing before the Emperor Trajan, you were undaunted by his threats, but manfully confessed Christ to be the true God, putting the ungodliness of the heathens to shame, and taught the faithful to chant to God:
Alleluia! (People sing Alleluia!)

Ikos 3

Having received from the Lord the grace to enlighten the people of God, you guided them to divine knowledge by your words, and even more by your manner of life, being for them a model of love, spirit, faith, purity and humility. Wherefore, we chant to you:

Rejoice, for you bore the name of God before kings and infidels!

Rejoice, for you shepherded well your flock!

Rejoice, you by humility acquired exalted things!

Rejoice, you by poverty obtained riches!

Rejoice, preserver of the traditions of the apostles!

Rejoice, faithful guardian and wise builder of the Church of God!

Rejoice, O God-bearing Ignatius, great and all-glorious athlete!

Kontakion 4

A tempest of malice raging in his heart, Trajan summoned you before him and wrathfully demanded: “Are you the God-bearer? Wherefore do you pervert my people?” And to him you replied: “I am the God-bearer, but I am not perverting your people, but saving them!” Who does not bless this, your confession of the Faith? And we, magnifying you, chant to God: **Alleluia! (People sing Alleluia!)**

Ikos 4

Hearing your confession, the faithful people glorified God; but Trajan, gnashing his teeth, again demanded: “Why are you called God-bearer?” And you said: “For I bear my God in my heart.” Wherefore, we chant to you:

Rejoice, faithful warrior of the King of heaven!

Rejoice, invincible champion of the faith!

Rejoice, good shepherd!

Rejoice, advocate for our souls!

Rejoice, for, enlightened by the divine Spirit, with pastoral boldness you put the savagery of the tyrant to shame!

Rejoice, for, guiding the flock of Christ, you illumined many with the light of knowledge divine!

Rejoice, O God-bearing Ignatius, great and all-glorious athlete!

Kontakion 5

Considering all the beauties of the world to be as dung that you might acquire Christ, O Ignatius, you cried: “Who shall separate me from the love of God? Tribulation is sweet to me; the bonds I bear for Him Whom I desire are pleasant; persecutions are dearer to me than my homeland, and pangs are more delightful to me than health of body!” And we, honoring your glorious memory, cry out to God: **Alleluia!** **(People sing Alleluia!)**

Ikos 5

Seeing you to be an invincible confessor of the Faith of Christ, the ungodly Trajan condemned you to death; but you cried out, rejoicing: “For me it is more pleasant to die than to live! Christ, and to die for Him, is gain! Unto Him do I go; Him do I love; Him do I hope to receive!”
Wherefore, O holy Ignatius, we bless you:

Rejoice, you whose desire it was to depart and be with Christ!

Rejoice, pure sacrifice to God!

Rejoice, imitator of the sufferings of Christ!

Rejoice, for you were crucified with Christ!

Rejoice, for you shed your blood for Christ!

Rejoice, for by your blood you adorned your hierarchal vesture!

Rejoice, O God-bearing Ignatius, great and all-glorious athlete!

Kontakion 6

You were shown to be a preacher of patience, O God-bearing Ignatius, when you joyfully listened to the sentence condemning you to be rent asunder by wild beasts. And blessing your steadfast and undaunted confession of the Faith, and marveling at the great grace residing in you, we chant to God the angelic hymn: **Alleluia! (People sing Alleluia!)**

Ikos 6

You shone forth like the sun in the beauty of your soul, O favorite of God, when the soldiers loaded you down with chains; for you accepted this new torment as vesture of salvation and raiment of joy, and proceeded to your suffering in Rome as to a wedding feast. Wherefore, we chant to you:

Rejoice, glory of the Church of Antioch!

Rejoice, beauty and ornament of the divinely-wise fathers!

Rejoice, harp of the Holy Spirit!

Rejoice, invincible soldier of Christ!

Rejoice, you cast down the pride of Trajan!

Rejoice, for you put the devil to shame!

Rejoice, O God-bearing Ignatius, great and all-glorious athlete!

Kontakion 7

When you were about to depart from Antioch, O holy hierarch of Christ, you earnestly beseeched the Lord not to abandon your flock. Then the people wept and lamented seeing you led forth to death; but, blessing them, you chanted to God: **Alleluia! (People sing Alleluia!)**

Ikos 7

God, Who is wondrous in His saints, comforted you, O holy Ignatius, when, escorted to Rome by ten soldiers, in Smyrna you met the holy Polycarp, a righteous man. And conversing with him, you rejoiced in God your Savior. Wherefore, we bless you:

Rejoice, for you kept faith in Christ!

Rejoice, for you possessed unshakable hope!

Rejoice, for you glorified the name of Christ throughout the world!

Rejoice, for a crown of righteousness was prepared for you!

Rejoice, faithful minister of the Lord!

Rejoice, lamp of God, burning and shedding light!

Rejoice, O God-bearing Ignatius, great and all-glorious athlete!

Kontakion 8

Strange and wondrous was your journey to Rome, the place of your martyrdom, for soldiers of the tyrant led you, but the people of God, with their bishops and priests, greeting you as a divine angel and, hearkening to your words with delight, chanted to God: **Alleluia! (People sing Alleluia!)**

Ikos 8

Traveling to Rome to suffer, as one whose desire it was to depart this life and be with Christ you joyfully chanted: “I am the grain of God. Let me be ground by the teeth of wild beasts, and I will be shown to be bread pure for God!” Wherefore, marveling at your endurance, and glorifying God’s dispensation for you, we chant:

Rejoice, model of courage and endurance!

Rejoice, unshakable rule of faith and piety!

Rejoice, invincible confessor of Christ!

Rejoice, for you feared not fire, or sword, or the teeth of roaring lions!

Rejoice, for by your patience you gladdened the angels of God!

Rejoice, for by your courage you glorified the name of Christians!

Rejoice, O God-bearing Ignatius, great and all-glorious athlete!

Kontakion 9

Having committed yourself wholly to God, you feared, unable to bear the sight of your sufferings, the faithful might prevent you from undergoing them. Wherefore, in a letter you beseeched them: “O beloved, help me to be crucified with Christ, to suffer and to die for Him that I may reign and live with Him forever, chanting to God:

Alleluia! (People sing Alleluia!)

Ikos 9

Even the most eloquent of orators are unable to hymn your sufferings as is meet; wherefore, though it is better for us to love silence, yet, overcome by love for you, in our hearts’ want we cry to you:

Rejoice, for you have brought many to Christ!

Rejoice, for by your epistles you have made clear the way to salvation!

Rejoice, for you have given those thirsty for salvation the waters of piety to drink!

Rejoice, for with the light of divine knowledge you have enlightened those blind in the eyes of their souls!

Rejoice, for you have spurred those paralyzed by sin to the path of salvation!

Rejoice, for you have comforted those weeping and sorrowful!

Rejoice, O God-bearing Ignatius, great and all-glorious athlete!

Kontakion 10

Desiring to save your soul, O holy Ignatius, you set it aflame with seraphic love for God. “O brethren,” you begged the Christians, “wish me death, for it will lead me to Christ. The wild beasts are for me a source of joy; fire is dew to me. I hasten to die, that I may live with Christ!” Wherefore, you made your abode in the mansions of heaven, where with the angels you chant to God: **Alleluia!** (People sing Alleluia!)

Ikos 10

The King of heaven, the good Comforter, the Spirit of truth, set you to shepherd the Church of Christ, to rightly divine the word of the Truth, to teach the faithful people, and to rebuke the adverse. Wherefore, we cry out to you:

Rejoice, teacher of piety!

Rejoice, denouncer of impiety!

Rejoice, you laid down your life for your sheep!

Rejoice. You acquired the crown of martyrdom!

Rejoice, you in your life prayed unceasingly for Christians!

Rejoice, you even after death pray for us!

Rejoice, O God-bearing Ignatius, great and all-glorious athlete!

Kontakion 11

Hymning the Lord and praying to Him without ceasing, O holy Ignatius, you taught the people entrusted to you to do likewise: “Pray unceasingly, that your meekness may be known to all. Abide in fraternal love, lest for us, and believe in Him. He is Life everlasting. And he who believes in Him, even though he dies, yet shall he live.”

And we, glorifying God Who has given us such an instructor, cry out to Him: **Alleluia! (People sing Alleluia!)**

Ikos 11

Like the sun you bravely traversed the earth from the east to the west, passing from the earth to Christ without setting, and enlightening the world with your doctrine. Wherefore, we cry out to you:

Rejoice, favorite of Christ!

Rejoice, martyr and pastor!

Rejoice, speedy helper amid misfortunes!

Rejoice, defender of those persecuted for righteousness!

Rejoice, physician of the infirm!

Rejoice, protection and aid for those who have recourse to you with faith!

Rejoice, O God-bearing Ignatius, great and all-glorious athlete!

Kontakion 12

Great grace and rich mercy have you received from Christ our God to pray for all who call upon you with faith. Wherefore, we entreat you: By your intercession before the Lord help us to preserve in our heart undoubting faith, immutable hope and unfeigned love for God and neighbor, that, fighting the good fight, we may chant to our Savior: **Alleluia! (People sing Alleluia!)**

Ikos 12

Hymning your struggles, we honor your sufferings, we praise your courage, we bless your holy end, and we earnestly beseech you: Hear us who cry out to you:

Rejoice, you finished the course of your life in glory!
Rejoice, you with your own blood sealed the truth of the doctrine of Christ!
Rejoice, you received from Christ the crown of righteousness prepared for all who love His appearing!
Rejoice. You made your abode amid the splendors of the saints!
Rejoice, for you join chorus with the archangels!
Rejoice, for you delight to gaze upon God face to face!

Rejoice, O God-bearing Ignatius, great and all-glorious athlete!

Kontakion 13

(To be read three times)

O much-suffering and all-wondrous martyr, Ignatius the God-bearer! Accept from us, the unworthy, this meager hymnody of praise, and entreat God to preserve and defend us with His grace against all evil in this life, and not to forsake us at the hour of our death, but to count us worthy to inherit the kingdom of heaven after our end and to chant to Him everlastingly: **Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**
(People sing Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!)

Ikos 1

You became like the angels when the Lord, taking you in His all-pure arms, set you in the midst of His disciples and, laying His hand upon your head, said to them: “Except you be converted, and become as little children, you shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven.” Wherefore, bending our knees, we cry out to you:

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Rejoice, for you committed yourself wholly to Him!

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O holy hierarch Ignatius, chosen passion-bearer, elect of Christ, to you we offer hymns of praise. As you stand with the angels before the throne of the Most High, never cease to pray for us who earnestly cry out to you:

Rejoice, O God-bearing Ignatius, great and all-glorious athlete!

Prayer to the Holy Hieromartyr Ignatius the God-Bearer

O great and holy hierarch Ignatius, the God-bearer! Before you, do we fall down and to you, do we pray: Look upon us sinners who have recourse to you, and beseech the Lord, that He forgive us all our offenses. As you laid down your life for the Faith in martyrdom, grant that we also may find the courage to imitate you in all things. Nothing in this life was able to separate you from your love for the Lord, neither false promises, nor threats, nor menaces, nor tortures themselves—and you stood with joy before the wild beasts, condemned to a cruel death, and like an angel soared aloft to the mansions of your heavenly Father. Wherefore, your prayer counts for much with the Lord. O holy favorite of God, be an intercessor for us before our Savior. By your holy prayers to God Almighty help all Orthodox Christians, that He deliver us from famine, earthquake, hail, drought and deadly plagues, and that He grant us health and salvation. Be for us a speedy aid amid every tribulation, and even more, show yourself to be for us a defender and mediator at the hour of our death; and entreat the Lord, that all of us who now pray fervently to you may, after a Christian end, be vouchsafed to receive the kingdom of heaven, where with you all the saints glorify the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Glorifying God Through His Light
50 Hour Prayer Vigil

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