

Akathist to the Child-Martyr Gabriel



Protector of Vulnerable Children

Kontakion I

O Gabriel, chosen child of Christ, we magnify the Lord who has glorified you, we praise you with love and hymn your blameless innocence and honored sufferings; for, foreordained from your mother's womb and united to a calling on high, as a pure nestling in the heavens, make entreaty for us, that we may cry to you:

Rejoice, O Gabriel, martyr of Christ and child most pure!

Ikos 1

As a child who had done nothing that was vile you were shown to be a radiant angel on earth, O Gabriel; wherefore, Christ taking you from the earth opened unto you the gates of heaven, numbering you among the elect, with whom you unceasingly praise the all-holy Trinity. Therefore, you hear us on earth chanting to you such things as these:

Rejoice, fragrant vessel of angelic purity.

Rejoice, all wondrous scion of your pious parents, Peter and
Anastasia.

Rejoice, adornment of children;

Rejoice, ornament of the innocent!

Rejoice, for your life was sinless;

Rejoice, for your death was precious in the sight of the Lord!

Rejoice, you who loving the cross of Christ in your childhood did
bear it.

Rejoice, you who have been vouchsafed to behold the inevitable
glory of God in heaven!

Rejoice, O Gabriel, martyr of Christ and child most pure.

Kontakion II

Seeing the constant rebellion of hard-hearted men against Him, Christ called you, a little child, O Gabriel, to be a right victorious warrior of heaven. Thus, with the streams of your most pure blood you cut down the ungodliness of those who fought against God and put them to shame, thus seeing the mighty works of God and the mighty works wrought in our church by you, we may majestically chant unto God who is glorified in Trinity: **Alleluia. (People sing Alleluia!)**

Ikos II

Possessed of a mind rendered sick by the slaying of Christ, your tormentor seized you by deception when your parents were away from the house for a little while, O Gabriel; and he took you away to the city of Bialystok, ravening to slake his thirst on your pure blood like a rabid beast. And when you did lie drained of blood and dead, the tormentors dragged your body out to a field of green wheat near the village, and like beasts cast you away. Wherefore, marveling at such a feat in your suffering, we cry to you:

Rejoice, meek victim of those who murdered in secret;
Rejoice, you endured terrible tortures!
Rejoice, you showed forth in yourself the sufferings of Christ;
Rejoice, you were sent by the Lord to reprove errors!
Rejoice, confirmation of the Faith;
Rejoice, inextinguishable beacon of the Church!
Rejoice, for you have been numbered among the choirs of the
martyrs;
Rejoice, by your torments the heavenly Father has been
glorified!

Rejoice, O Gabriel, martyr of Christ and child most pure!

Kontakion III

Stretched out upon the cross, yet strengthened by the power of the Most High, O most pure martyr, you found rest in the tabernacle of heaven, having rebuked those who bestially shed your blood and wounded their outrageous ungodliness. Rejoice, O you who with all the passion-bearers chant to God the hymn of victory: **Alleluia.**
(People sing Alleluia!)

Ikos III

Having the skies as a shelter and the green meadow as a bed of rest, O godly child, you laid three days without burial, unknown to all. Flocks of carrion fowl, and with them a multitude of ravenous dogs, surrounded your immaculate body, yet dared not touch it; for wise dogs stood guard over your body to fend off the birds of prey. And understanding this to be a sign from God, we say:

Rejoice, God loving child of Christ;
Rejoice, fulfillment of the wondrous design of God!
Rejoice, you whom the Son of God desired;
Rejoice, you shared in the ways of the holy and righteous!
Rejoice, pure fledgling who was taken into the nest of heaven;
Rejoice, tender shoot of the tree of paradise!
Rejoice, effulgence of heavenly splendors;
Rejoice, radiant star shining in the celestial firmament!

Rejoice, O Gabriel, martyr of Christ and child most pure!

Kontakion IV

A storm of agitation besets us, O, young passion-bearer, when we think upon your cruel death and gaze upon the supernatural miracle made manifest in you; for though a child in body, by your patience amid suffering you showed yourself to be a mature man. Wherefore, pondering in mind the struggle of your suffering, we chant unto Him Who gave you strength: **Alleluia. (People sing Alleluia!)**

Ikos IV

Hearing from the inhabitants of the village of Zverky that their child had been found, having lain dead for three days in an open field, your parents went and bewailing your untimely end, bore your precious body to the churchyard and buried it near the church of that same village, and with their fellow Orthodox Christians that were stricken with horror by the inhumane malefaction of the evildoers. And marveling at your patience, we praise your suffering and cry out with compunction:

Rejoice, tender branch which had no share in worldly pleasures;
Rejoice, you who were deprived of the good things of earth that
you might be shown to partake of those in heaven!
Rejoice, you were slain when at six years of age;
Rejoice, you who have made your abode in the eternal kingdom!
Rejoice, your untimely demise troubled the inmost parts of your
parents;
Rejoice, for their sorrow was transformed into great joy!
Rejoice, for you showed yourself to the Master as one righteous;
Rejoice, emulator of the sufferings of Christ!

Rejoice, O Gabriel, martyr of Christ and child most pure!

Kontakion V

In the world you were a divinely guided star resplendent in angelic purity, O Gabriel, blessed child; wherefore, you now shine in the heavens with everlasting glory among the choirs of the righteous, with whom we unceasingly cry out to Christ, the King of Glory: **Alleluia.**
(People sing Alleluia!)

Ikos V

Seeing the angelic purity of your heart, the meekness and innocence wherein you reposed as a martyr, O Gabriel, God glorified you among His saints; for He truly showed forth an all-glorious miracle: after 30 years your body was found to be incorrupt, disclosing a fountain of healings for all who have recourse to you with faith. Wherefore, accept from us this praise:

Rejoice, receptacle of grace;
Rejoice, you have filled us with the greatest joy in the
incorruption of your relics!
Rejoice, wellspring of wondrous healings;
Rejoice, for the Lord of hosts revealed wondrous things in you!
Rejoice, you who confounded the unbelief of the God-haters;
Rejoice, by your own blood have confirmed the right faith!
Rejoice, you have entered into the joy of your Lord;
Rejoice, our advocate before God!

Rejoice, O Gabriel, martyr of Christ and child most pure!

Kontakion VI

The Orthodox Church of Christ glorified the sufferings, wounds and torments endured by you for God, O martyr Gabriel, for the sake of which the Lord has wondrously glorified you and revealed your

incorrupt body to the land of Bialystok, that we might cry out with compunction: **Alleluia. (People sing Alleluia!)**

Ikos VI

A new miracle shown forth upon us, revealing the mystery of divine providence, when the church of Zverky perished in a fiery conflagration yet your holy relics, preserved in their shrine, were found to be intact. Marveling at this, with faith and a pure heart we exclaim unto you, O glorious martyr Gabriel:

Rejoice, you who fulfilled in yourself the word of God, that the Lord preserved the bones of the righteous;
Rejoice, you confirmed the word of Christ God, that not a hair on your head shall perish!
Rejoice, spiritual treasure making the faithful rich;
Rejoice, you gladden us with joyous trust in the promises of the Savior!
Rejoice, you are rightly beloved of the angels in heaven and man on earth;
Rejoice, you who move the Creator to mercy by your supplications!
Rejoice, you are chosen by God;
Rejoice, harp proclaiming the glory of the Author of creation!

Rejoice, O Gabriel, martyr of Christ and child most pure!

Kontakion VII

The Lord who loves mankind, desiring to reveal in you a model for the edification of men, O Gabriel, showed you to be a passion-bearer, halted the onslaughts of the blasphemers of God that we may emulate the virtues wherein you shine and may inherit the kingdom of heaven,

chanting unto God Who is wondrous in His providence: **Alleluia.**
(People sing Alleluia!)

Ikos VII

You were shown to be a new and all radiant lamp, not hidden under a bushel but set upon the lampstand of the Church of Christ and glorified by God, O holy Gabriel, dispersing the darkness and mightily vanquishing the adversaries of Christ, those who make war on God; wherefore, we chant to you in hymns:

Rejoice, you who endured many tribulations at the hands of
torturers,
Rejoice, you triumphed over their malice and wiles!
Rejoice, you teach us to preserve the right faith in the true God
Who is worshiped in the Trinity;
Rejoice, you direct our steps to the path of salvation!
Rejoice, you received a multitude of wounds for Christ God Who
was pierced;
Rejoice, for Him you are glorified in heaven!
Rejoice, honored glory of the Orthodox;
Rejoice, for through you the Lord has visited our land!

Rejoice, O Gabriel, martyr of Christ and child most pure!

Kontakion VIII

A strange and all-glorious sign of the good pleasure of God is in you apparent to all who have recourse to you, O Gabriel; for by the grace given you, you persevered from all perils those who petition you with faith, free them from tribulations, and fulfill their every request which is made with faith, teaching them to chant unto God who is Wondrous in His miracles: **Alleluia. (People sing Alleluia!)**

Ikos VIII

Covered with wounds, stabbed, cut and drained of your blood, O Gabriel, you surrendered your righteous soul into the hands of God, finding rest from your sufferings, having had no share in the evils of life and the griefs of earth. And pondering this righteous repose in God, with compunction we offer you these words:

Rejoice, you were innocent in your repose;
Rejoice, you whom the angels bore aloft to the bosom of
Abraham;
Rejoice, you with glory attained unto the mansions of paradise;
Rejoice, you are crowned by the Lord with the crowns of
immortality!
Rejoice, good follower of Christ God;
Rejoice, for the inheritance of your childhood is the kingdom of
heaven!
Rejoice, for your memory is most sweet to all the faithful;
Rejoice, for your commemoration shall be from generation to
generation!

Rejoice, O Gabriel, martyr of Christ and child most pure!

Kontakion IX

Every mortal is moved to pity on hearing of your tortures, O meek martyr, and honors your suffering; and the Orthodox Church glorifies your martyrdom and joins chorus in your holy name chanting joyously:
Alleluia. (People sing Alleluia!)

Ikos IX

The most eloquent of orators, who gazed with the eyes of carnal understanding upon the Creator's wisdom in designing the universe, are at a loss as to why innocent babes suffer; but, marveling at this mystery, O holy Gabriel, we exclaim to you, crying out:

Rejoice, for your sufferings are equal in honor to those of other righteous men;
Rejoice, for in the suffering of your body you were crucified with Him who suffered for us!
Rejoice, effulgence of the wisdom of the Creator;
Rejoice, divine Providence of those born on earth!
Rejoice, heavenly voice calling all to the struggle of salvation;
Rejoice, finger of God pointing to the heavens!
Rejoice, for you offer supplications for us to Christ the King;
Rejoice, for you make entreaty for us before the throne Most High.

Rejoice, O Gabriel, martyr of Christ and child most pure.

Kontakion X

Unto those who desire to be saved, you and your sufferings provide a model of virtue and how to walk the straight path of God. And as you delight now in the inevitable good things of heaven, be mindful of us who praise your sufferings here on earth and chant unto God: **Alleluia.**
(People sing Alleluia!)

Ikos X

Child Gabriel, you are an unbreakable rampart for all who languish in tribulations and perils and call upon you, for those who are sick, and for mothers who grieve over their children;

and you give comfort and consolation to them by your intercession.
Wherefore, for all the benefactions revealed to us through you, we cry
out in thanksgiving:

Rejoice, our mighty preserver;
Rejoice, our ardent helper!
Rejoice, heavenly protector of the young;
Rejoice, good healer of sick and ailing children!
Rejoice, speedy, consoler of mothers who seek surcease of sorrow
for their reposed offspring;
Rejoice, calmer of those troubled by adverse thoughts!
Rejoice, instiller of purity of soul;
Rejoice, favorite of God!

Rejoice, O Gabriel, martyr of Christ and child most pure!

Kontakion XI

The hymnody we offer you, O Gabriel, does not suffice to praise your
all-glorious struggles and suffering; yet seeing our earnest intent,
mercifully accept these hymns we offer, and free us from our sins and
perils, that with a pure heart we may cry out to our Creator: **Alleluia.**
(People sing Alleluia!)

Ikos XI

Illumined by the light of the grace of God from your mother's womb,
you did ascend, incorrupt, into the light of the three Hypostases, before
Whom do you intercede for our enlightenment. For this we pray, crying
out to you with compunction:

Rejoice, radiant being of the Three-sunned Light who gives life to
the world;
Rejoice, fervor of spirit morning our coldness!
Rejoice, lamp illumining our darkness;

Rejoice, flame and enkindling faith, hope and love within us!
Rejoice, good workfellow for those who seek your intercessions
before God;
Rejoice, for your supplication is able to accomplish much in His
sight!
Rejoice, ornament of the world on high;
Rejoice, boast of the world below!

Rejoice, O Gabriel, martyr of Christ and child most pure.

Kontakion XII

O Holy favorite of God, ask for us the divine grace which never fails, but ever heals, that it may teach us to emulate you in angelic purity and guilelessness, that you may direct our hearts toward fiery prayer and repentance, that you may preserve unharmed all who with love keep the commandments of Christ, that He may grant us a Christian end and vouchsafe us to behold the glory of God in the heavens, and to chant continually to the All-Holy Trinity: **Alleluia. (People sing Alleluia!)**

Ikos XII

We hymn your sufferings, O Gabriel, we glorify the guileless courage you showed forth in your young body, and we bless your memory; for in you was revealed the glory of Christ, the glory of the Orthodox Church. Wherefore we cry out to you with love:

Rejoice, pure sacrifice slain for the Master by us mortals;
Rejoice, you who glorified the Lord by your sufferings!
Rejoice, heir to eternal good things;
Rejoice, grapes of the vineyard of Christ!
Rejoice, our mighty ally against all enemies;
Rejoice, mediator of eternal glory for us!
Rejoice, right victorious warrior of Christ;

Rejoice, preeminent preserver of children!

Rejoice, O Gabriel, martyr of Christ and child most pure.

Kontakion XIII

(To be read three times)

O Innocent Gabriel, martyr of Christ, all wondrous model of childlike innocence and meekness! Accepting the unworthy hymnody of this little work, be for us a fervent advocate before the Lord, that we tempest tossed throughout our lives by lack of faith, by anger and hatred of our brethren, may in holy manner abide in faith, patience and love; and having passed our whole life, may we be delivered from eternal torment, and ever chant unto God: **Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!**
(People sing Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!)

Ikos 1

As a child who had done nothing that was vile you were shown to be a radiant angel on earth, O Gabriel; wherefore, Christ taking you from the earth opened unto you the gates of heaven, numbering you among the elect, with whom you unceasingly praise the all-holy Trinity. Therefore, hear us on earth chanting to you such things as these:

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Rejoice, all wondrous scion of your pious parents, Peter and
Anastasia.

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Rejoice, ornament of the innocent!

Rejoice, for your life was sinless;

Rejoice, for your death was precious in the sight of the Lord!

Rejoice, you who loving the cross of Christ in your childhood, did
bear it;

Rejoice, you who have been vouchsafed to behold the inevitable
glory of God in heaven.

Rejoice, O Gabriel, martyr of Christ and child most pure.

Kontakion I

O Gabriel, chosen child of Christ, we magnify the Lord who has glorified you, we praise you with love and hymn your blameless innocence and honored sufferings; for, foreordained from your mother's womb and united to a calling on high, as a pure nestling in the heavens, make entreaty for us, that we may cry to you:

Rejoice, O Gabriel, martyr of Christ and child most pure!

Prayer to the Holy Child martyr Gabriel

O Blessed Gabriel, preserver of childlike innocence, bearer of the martyr's courage, precious diamond of our land, the denouncer of ungodliness! Unto you we sinners flee in prayer, crushed by our sins and ashamed of our lack of faith; and we cry out to you with love: as you are a treasury of purity, disdain not our defiled state, and as a teacher of long-suffering despise not our lack of faith, but looking down from heaven upon these our weaknesses, by your supplication grant us the healing thereof, and teach us to emulate your faithfulness in Christ. For though we are unable to bear the cross of temptations and the endurance of evils without complaint, yet deprive us not of your prayerful aid, O favorite of God, but ask the Lord to grant us release and ease. Likewise, hearken unto mothers who pray for their children, and pray that the Lord grant health and salvation to their children. There's no heart so hard that it is not moved to pity on hearing of your tortures, O holy child, and even though we are unable to offer any other good deeds than some sign of compunction, yet having enlightened our minds and hearts with such a compunctionate thought, guide us by the grace of God to the correction of our life. Instill within us tireless zeal for the salvation of our soul and the glory of God; and help us to keep the memory of the hour of death continually before us. And when we fall into the sleep of death, by your intercession drive away from our souls the clamorings of the demons and thoughts of despair, and fill them with the hope of divine forgiveness, that we

may unceasingly glorify the lovingkindness of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit, and your mighty aid, unto the ages of ages. *Amen.*

Prayer for children,
by St. Nikolai Velimirovich

O all-plenteous Lord Jesus Christ, who was once even yourself a child and who used to love and bless children, have mercy upon the children of our time and save them, so that unbaptized children may be baptized and so the baptized children may be strengthened both in faith in You, who are Truth eternal and in their love for You Who are love ineffable.

Save, O Lord those children whom unbelieving parents corrupt with atheism and turn away from You their only Savior and salvation.

Save, O all-meeek Lord, all those children evil teachers, without God or soul, alienated from You, their Creator, and turn into a pack of dogs.

Save, O Lord also those children whose pure souls are defiled by all the immorality in the streets, in the theaters, and on television, save them from the impurity of the streets and theaters and from every other impurity

Save, O all merciful Lord also those children who are orphans and have fallen into the hands of cruel guardians or bad stepfathers or stepmothers, or those who are supposed to rear them but do not, save them from hearing blasphemous words and from seeing malicious deeds.

Save, O Son of God, the sons of men, whom the world tugs here and there into many physical trainings and occupations, without giving them any training in Your holy law or training and proper thoughts, in truth and mercy, and in all deeds of goodness and righteousness. Help the children of this age, O Almighty One, so that they may grow up and mature to divine citizenship and heavenly citizenship, for their eternal salvation and for Your glory and praise. *Amen.*

Please do not remove the Akathist from the church.

Glorifying God Through His Light

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