

An Akathist for the Repose of the Departed

This Akathist may be prayed together with a priest, or with a deacon or one of the lay faithful as leader. A priest begins:

Priest: Blessed is our God, always, now and ever and forever.

Response: Amen.

If someone other than a priest leads the service:

Leader: Through the prayers of our holy fathers, O Lord Jesus Christ our God, have mercy on us.

Response: Amen.

During the Paschal season, the priest or leader sings the Paschal troparion, Christ is risen from the dead, once, and those present sing it twice, then continue with Holy God below.

From Ascension Thursday to the eve of Pentecost, continue with Holy God below.

The usual beginning prayers and recited or chanted:

Glory to you, our God, glory to you.

Heavenly King, Comforter, Spirit of Truth,
everywhere present and filling all things,
Treasury of Blessings and Giver of Life,
come and dwell within us, cleanse us of all stain,
and save our souls, O gracious One.
Holy God, Holy and Mighty, Holy and Immortal,
have mercy on us. *(Three times)*

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit,
now and ever and forever. Amen.

Most Holy Trinity, have mercy on us;
Lord, cleanse us of our sins;
Master, forgive our transgressions;
Holy One, come to us and heal our infirmities
for your name's sake.

Lord, have mercy. *(Three times)*

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and forever. Amen.

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come; thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

If a priest leads the service:

Priest: For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and ever and forever.

Response: Amen.

If one not a priest leads the service:

Leader: Through the prayers of our holy fathers, O Lord Jesus Christ our God, have mercy on us.

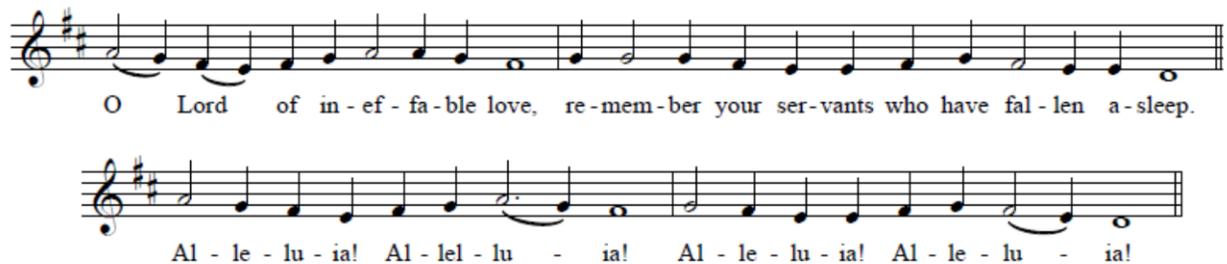
Response: Amen.

Lord, have mercy. *(12 times)*

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit,
now and ever and forever. Amen.

Now the Akathist is recited or chanted by the leader or a reader. The refrains (“O Lord of ineffable love, remember your servants who have fallen asleep!” and “Alleluia!”) may be recited or sung by all those present after each kontakion or ikos.

If desired the following melodies may be used:



O Lord of in - ef - fa - ble love, re - mem - ber your ser - vants who have fal - len a - sleep.

Al - le - lu - ia! Al - lel - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

Kontakion 1.

By your ineffable providence you prepared the world for eternal beatitude, you appointed to all the time and manner of their end: Forgive, O Lord, the sins of those who have died in past ages, and receive them into dwelling places of light and joy. Open your fatherly embrace to them in mercy, and hear us who celebrate their memory and sing: O Lord of ineffable love, remember your servants who have fallen asleep!

Ikos 1.

You saved fallen Adam and the whole human race from eternal perdition, O Good One. You sent your Son into the world, and by his Cross and Resurrection eternal life has dawned upon us. Trusting in your infinite compassion, we look for the incorruptible kingdom of your glory, we implore you to grant it to our departed ones, and we pray you: O Lord, gladden souls wearied by

the storms of life, that they may forget earthly sorrows and sighings. Hear them in your bosom, as a mother hears her children, and say to them: Your sins are forgiven. O Lord, receive them into your blessed, calm haven, open to them the palaces of angels and saints, that they may rejoice in your divine glory. O Lord of ineffable love, remember your servants who have fallen asleep!

Kontakion 2.

Enlightened by the illumination of the All-highest, Saint Macarius heard a voice from a pagan skull: When you pray for those suffering in Hades, then there is comfort for the heathen. O wondrous power of Christian prayer, by which even the nether regions are illumined! Both believers and unbelievers receive consolation when we cry for the whole world: Alleluia!

Ikos 2.

The words of Isaac the Syrian are recalled: The heart of the merciful offers prayers with tears every hour for people and animals and all creation, that they may be preserved and purified. Therefore, we also boldly ask of the Lord help for all the dead from the ages, crying: O Lord, send down to us the gift of flaming prayer for the dead; O Lord, remember all who have charged us, the unworthy, to pray for them, and disregard the sins they have forgotten; O Lord, have mercy on all who have been buried without prayer; O Lord, receive into your tabernacles all who in sorrow or joy have suddenly finished their course. O Lord of ineffable love, remember your servants who have fallen asleep!

Kontakion 3.

We are to blame for the calamities in the world, for the sufferings of dumb creatures and for the diseases and torments of blameless children, for through the human fall the beatitude and beauty of all creation have been marred. O Christ our God, greatest of innocent sufferers, you alone have power to forgive all. Forgive, then, all and everything, return to the world its former prosperity, that both the living and the dead may find peace, crying: Alleluia!

Ikos 3.

O Gentle Light, Redeemer of the world, you embrace the whole world with your love: behold, your cry from the Cross for your enemies is heard: Father, forgive them! And in the name of your all-forgiveness we dare to pray to our heavenly Father for the eternal repose of your enemies and ours: O Lord, forgive those who have shed innocent blood, those who have sown our path of life with sorrows, those who have built their success on the tears of their near and dear ones: O Lord, condemn not those who persecute us with slander and malice, repay with mercy those whom we have wronged or offended through ignorance, and let our prayer for them be holy through the sacrament of reconciliation. O Lord of ineffable love, remember your servants who have fallen asleep!

Kontakion 4.

O Lord, save those who have died in this fearful pandemic, and those who died in severe sufferings, those who were murdered, those buried alive, those who were drowned or burned, those who were torn by wild beasts, those who died of famine, cold or storms, or by falling from heights, and grant them your eternal joy for the sorrow of their end, that they may bless the time

of their suffering as a day of redemption, singing: Alleluia!

Ikos 4.

O Lord, through the compassion of your infinite love; recompense all who have been taken by the grave in the brightness of youth, or who have been pierced on earth with the thorny crown of suffering, all those who never saw earthly happiness. O Lord, reward those who died under the heavy burden of labor; O Lord, receive into the mansions of Paradise youths and maidens who have departed, and vouchsafe them rejoicing at the supper of your Son; O Lord, soften the grief of parents over the loss of children; O Lord, give rest to all who have no family, those who are alone, who have no one to pray from them, that their sins may vanish in the rays of your all-forgiveness. O Lord of ineffable love, remember your servants who have fallen asleep!

Kontakion 5.

As a last means to bring us to understanding and repentance, O Lord, you have given us death. In its threatening light earthly vanity is exposed, carnal passions and sufferings become subdued, unruly reason is humbled, eternal righteousness is revealed; therefore, inveterate sinners and atheists on their deathbed confess your eternal being and cry to your loving-kindness: Alleluia!

Ikos 5.

O Father of all consolation, you brighten with the sun, delight with fruits, and gladden with the beauty of the world both your friends and enemies. We believe that even beyond the grave your loving-kindness, which is merciful even to all rejected sinners, does not fail. We grieve for hardened and lawless blasphemers of holiness; O Lord, may your saving and good will be over them. Have compassion upon those wounded by pernicious unbelief, and who have not known you here on earth, that they may know and love you in heaven; O Lord, forgive those who have died without repentance, save those who have committed suicide in darkness of mind, that the flame of their impiety may be extinguished in the sea of your Grace. O Lord of ineffable love, remember your servants who have fallen asleep!

Kontakion 6.

Terrible is the darkness of a soul separated from God, the torments of conscience, the gnashing of teeth, the unquenchable fire and the undying worm. I tremble at such a fate and, as for myself, I pray: O you who suffer in Hades, may our song descend upon you as a refreshing dew: Alleluia!

Ikos 6.

Your light, O Christ our God, has shone upon those who sit in darkness and the shadow of death, and those in Hades, who are not mindful of you; having descended into the nethermost parts of the earth, you bring out into joy those who have been separated from you by sin, but who have not renounced you; O Lord, your children suffer, forgive them; for they have sinned against heaven and before you, immeasurably serious are their sins, but also infinite is your mercy. Visit the bitter destitution of souls far removed from you; O Lord, have mercy on those who hated the truth out of ignorance, let your love be to them not a burning fire, but the cool delight of Paradise. O Lord of ineffable love, remember your servants who have fallen asleep!

Kontakion 7.

Desiring to give a helping hand to the reposed, O Lord, open yourself to the living, appearing to them in mysterious visions, and inspiring them to prayer, that they who remember the departed may do good works and labors of faith for them, crying aloud: Alleluia!

Ikos 7.

The universal Church of Christ offers prayers every day for the reposed; every hour the sins of the world are washed away by the Most-pure Blood of the Divine Lamb; from death to life, and from earth to heaven the souls of the departed ascend through the power of prayers for them before God's altars. O Lord, may the intercession of the Church for these dead be a ladder to heaven; O Lord, have mercy on them through the prayers of the Most Holy Mother of God and all the saints. Pardon them for the sake of the faithful who cry to you day and night; O Lord, for the sake of innocent children have mercy on their parents, and by the mothers' tears redeem the sins of their children. O Lord, for the sake of the prayers of innocent sufferers, by the blood of martyrs, spare and have mercy on sinners. O Lord, receive our prayers and alms as a memorial of their virtues. O Lord of ineffable love, remember your servants who have fallen asleep!

Kontakion 8.

The whole world is a common sacred cemetery, in every place is the dust of our fathers and mothers, brothers and sisters. O Christ our God, you alone love us without change, forgive all that have died from the beginning until now, that they may sing with boundless love: Alleluia!

Ikos 8.

Behold the day comes as a fiery furnace, the great and terrible day of the Last Judgment, when human secrets will be laid bare, the books of conscience will be opened. Be reconciled to God! cries the Apostle Paul: Be reconciled before that terrible day. Help us, O Lord, to fill up with the tears of the living that which was lacking in the dead. O Lord, let the sound of the angel's trumpet be to them the good tidings of salvation, and grant to them joyful forgiveness at the hour of your judgment. O Lord, crown with glory those who suffered for you and cover the sins of the weak with your goodness. O Lord, who know all by name, remember those who have been saved in the monastic order; remember blessed pastors with their spiritual children. O Lord of ineffable love, remember your servants who have fallen asleep!

Kontakion 9.

Bless swiftly passing time: every hour, every moment brings eternity nearer to us. A new sorrow, a new gray hair are heralds of the world to come, they are witnesses of earthly corruption, they proclaim that all passes away, that the eternal kingdom draws near, where there are neither tears, nor sighing, but the joyful song: Alleluia!

Ikos 9.

As a tree loses its leaves little by little, so also our days with each year, decline into weakness. The festival of youth fades. The lamp of rejoicing is extinguished, the isolation of old age approaches, friends and family die. Where are the young merrymakers, joyful and happy? Silent are their tombs, but their souls are in your hand; their glances are felt from the world beyond the grave. O Lord, you are the Brightest Sun: illumine and warm the abodes of those who have fallen

asleep. O Lord, let the time of our bitter farewell pass forever, give us a joyful reunion in heaven. O Lord, cause that all may be one with you. O Lord, restore to the departed the purity of childhood and the genial spirit of youth, and let eternal life be to them a Paschal Festival. O Lord of ineffable love, remember your servants who have fallen asleep!

Kontakion 10.

Shedding silent tears at the graves of our relatives, we pray with hope, and with expectation we cry aloud: Tell us, O Lord, that you have forgiven their sins! Give our spirit a secret revelation concerning this, that we may sing: Alleluia!

Ikos 10.

Looking back, our eyes behold afar the whole path of life: from the first day until now, already a multitude of people who did good things for me have died. Rendering to them a debt of love, I cry: O Lord, grant heavenly glory to my parents and those nearest and dearest to me, who watched over my childhood cradle, who nurtured and brought me up; O Lord, glorify in the presence of the holy angels those who proclaimed the word of salvation to me, who taught me right and truth by the holy example of their lives; O Lord, delight with hidden manna those who ministered to me in difficult days. Reward and save all my helpers and benefactors. O Lord of ineffable love, remember your servants who have fallen asleep!

Kontakion 11.

O death, where is your sting, where is your former darkness and terror? Henceforth you are welcome, for you unite us inseparably with God. Great peace, you are the mystical sabbath. The Apostle cries: I have a desire to die and to be with Christ. Therefore, gazing upon death as on a gateway to life eternal, we cry: Alleluia!

Ikos 11.

The dead shall rise and those in the graves shall stand up, and those who are alive on earth shall be joyful, for they shall arise with spiritual bodies, radiantly glorified, incorrupt. Dry bones, hear the word of the Lord: I will bring upon you a spirit of life, I will cover you with skin; rise out of the ancient past, you who are redeemed by the Blood of the Son of God, restored to life by his death. Over you is the light of the Resurrection. O Lord, open now to them the depths of your perfections. You have shone upon them the light of the sun and moon, that they may see also the glory of the radiant choirs of angels. You have delighted them with the majesty of the rising and setting of the light of heaven; may they also see the unwaning light of your Divinity. O Lord of ineffable love, remember your servants who have fallen asleep!

Kontakion 12.

Flesh and blood shall not inherit the kingdom of God; however long we live in the flesh we are separated from Christ, but if we die we live for eternity. Our corruptible body must put on incorruption, so that in the light of the unwaning day we may sing: Alleluia!

Ikos 12.

We await the meeting with the Lord, we await the bright dawn of the Resurrection, we expect the raising of our near and dear ones from the tombs and the restoration of the dead to the most

reverent beauty of life. We triumph in the coming transfiguration of all creation and cry to our Creator: O Lord, you created the world for the triumph of joy and goodness, you have raised us up to holiness out of the depths of sin, grant the dead to reign in the midst of the new creation, that they may shine in heaven on the day of their glory. O Lord, let the Divine Lamb be to them the unwaning light. O Lord, grant us also to celebrate with them a Pasch incorruptible; unite the dead and the living in unending joy. O Lord of ineffable love, remember your servants who have fallen asleep!

Kontakion 13.

O most-compassionate and eternal Father, you desire that all be saved, you sent down your Son to those perishing and poured out your life-creating Spirit! Have mercy, forgive, and save our relatives and near and dear ones, (*names*), who have fallen asleep, and all from the ages who have finished their course, and through their intercession visit us, that together with them we may shout to you, O Savior God, the triumphal hymn: Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Ikos 1.

You saved fallen Adam and the whole human race from eternal perdition, O Good One. You sent your Son into the world, and by his Cross and Resurrection eternal life has dawned upon us. Trusting in your infinite compassion, we look for the incorruptible kingdom of your glory, we implore you to grant it to our departed ones, and we pray you: O Lord, gladden souls wearied by the storms of life, that they may forget earthly sorrows and sighings. Hear them in your bosom, as a mother hears her children, and say to them: Your sins are forgiven. O Lord, receive them into your blessed, calm haven, open to them the palaces of angels and saints, that they may rejoice in your divine glory. O Lord of ineffable love, remember your servants who have fallen asleep!

Kontakion 1.

By your ineffable providence you prepared the world for eternal beatitude, you appointed to all the time and manner of their end: Forgive, O Lord, the sins of those who have died in past ages, and receive them into dwelling places of light and joy. Open your fatherly embrace to them in mercy, and hear us who celebrate their memory and sing: O Lord of ineffable love, remember your servants who have fallen asleep!

Closing Prayer – *prayed by the priest if one is present, otherwise read simply by the leader.*

O God of spirits and of all flesh, you trampled upon death, and have overthrown the devil, and given life to your world! Now, O Lord, give rest to the souls of your departed servants: most holy pontiffs and patriarchs, most reverend metropolitans, archbishops and bishops, priests, and those who have served you in the Church and in the monastic orders; the founders of this holy church, our spiritual forefathers, fathers, brothers and sisters, here and everywhere laid to rest; officers and soldiers who have laid down their lives for faith and fatherland, the faithful slain in civil wars, those who have died in this pandemic, those who were drowned, burned, frozen to death, torn by wild beasts, those who finished the course of their lives without repentance and had no opportunity to be reconciled with the Church and with their enemies; those who took their own lives in madness of mind; for all who enjoined and asked us to pray for them; those who

were not given Christian burial; and for the servants of God (*names*), in a place of light, joy and peace where there is no pain, sorrow, nor mourning. Pardon every sin committed by them in word, deed, or thought, for you are a good God, and love us all, since there is no one who lives and does not sin. Your justice is eternal justice, and your word is truth.

For you, O Christ our God, are the resurrection, the life, and the repose of your departed servants, (*names*), and we give glory to you, with your eternal Father, and your all-holy, good, and life-creating Spirit, now and ever and forever.

Response: Amen.

*During the Paschal season, the priest or leader sings the Paschal troparion, **Christ is risen from the dead, once, and those present sing it twice more.***

If a priest leads the service:

Priest: Glory to you, O Christ God, our hope, glory to you.

Response: Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and forever. Amen. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Give the blessing.

Priest: May Christ our true God, [*if it is Sunday, add: risen from the dead,*] who rules over the living and the dead, place the souls of his departed servants in the abode of the just and grant them rest in the bosom of Abraham and number them among the just, and have mercy on us and save us through the prayers of his most pure Mother; and of our venerable and God-bearing fathers; and through the prayers of all the saints; for Christ is good and loves us all.

Response: Amen.

If someone other than a priest leads the service:

Leader: Through the prayers of our holy fathers, O Lord Jesus Christ our God, have mercy on us.

Response: Amen.