

AKATHIST HYMN

to the

MOTHER *of* GOD

NURTURER *of* CHILDREN

AKATHIST HYMN *to the* MOTHER of GOD
NURTURER of CHILDREN

Priest: Blessed is our God, always, now and ever and unto ages of ages.

Reader: Amen.

Glory to You, O our God, glory to You.

O Heavenly King, the Comforter, the Spirit of Truth, everywhere present and filling all things. Treasury of Blessings, and Giver of Life, come and abide in us, and cleanse us from every impurity, and save our souls, O Good One.

Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal, have mercy on us. (3x)

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

O Most Holy Trinity, have mercy on us. O Lord, cleanse us from our sins. O Master, pardon our transgressions. O Holy One, visit and heal our infirmities, for Your Name's sake.

Lord, have mercy. (3x)

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Everyone: 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

AKATHIST HYMN *to the* MOTHER of GOD
NURTURER of CHILDREN

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.

Priest: For Thine is the Kingdom, and the power and the glory, of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages.

Reader: Amen. Lord, have mercy. (3x)

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Come, let us worship God our King.

Come, let us worship and fall down before Christ, our King and our God.

Come, let us worship and fall down before Christ Himself, our King and our God.

PSALM 45 (44 LXX)

My heart overflows with a good word,

I address my verses to the King,

my tongue is like the pen of a swift scribe.

You are more handsome than the sons of men,

grace is poured upon Your lips,

therefore God has blessed You forever.

Gird Your sword on Your thigh, O Mighty One,

in Your glory and beauty.

AKATHIST HYMN *to the* MOTHER of GOD
NURTURER of CHILDREN

And stretch Your bow, and prosper, and reign
because of truth, humility, and righteousness,
and Your right hand will guide You wondrously.
Your arrows are sharp, O Mighty One,
– the peoples fall under You –
in the heart of the King’s enemies.
Your throne, O God, endures forever and ever.
Your royal scepter is a scepter of justice.
You love righteousness and hate lawlessness,
therefore God, Your God, has anointed You
with the oil of gladness beyond Your companions.
Your robes are all fragrant with myrrh and aloes
and cassia,
from the ivory palaces stringed instruments make
You glad.
Daughters of kings are among Your ladies of honor,
at Your right hand stands the queen in gold-woven
clothing,
and adorned with many colors.
Hear, O daughter, and behold, and incline your ear,
and forget your people and your father’s house,
for the King desires your beauty, for He is your Lord.
And the daughters of Tyre will worship Him with gifts,
the richest of the people will request your favor.
All her glory as the King’s daughter is within,

AKATHIST HYMN *to the* MOTHER of GOD
NURTURER of CHILDREN

adorned and embroidered with golden robes.
The virgins behind her are brought to the King,
her companions are brought to You.
With joy and gladness they are led along
as they enter the palace of the King.
In the place of your ancestors, sons will be born to you,
you will make them rulers in all the earth.
They will remember your name from generation to
generation,
therefore the peoples will praise You forever and ever.

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the
Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages.
Amen.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, glory to You, O God. (3x)

HYMN *to the* MOTHER of GOD

Steadfast Protectress of Christians, constant
Advocate before the Creator, do not despise the cry
of us sinners, but in your goodness come speedily
to help us who call on you in faith. Hasten to hear
our petition and to intercede for us, O Theotokos,
for you always protect those who honor you.

KONTAKION 1

O Champion Leader and Good Nurturer of the Christian race, we your servants, delivered from evil by your Son, sing our grateful thanks to you. But as you have invincible power, deliver our children from all dangers that with tears we may sing to you:

Raise our children, (*names*), worthy of the Kingdom of Heaven, and make them inheritors of eternal blessings.

IKOS 1

Intercede with your Son and our God, O most holy Virgin, that an angel from heaven be sent to our children, just as to you was sent the mighty protector, the Archangel Gabriel, and grant us to sing to you:

Raise our children to be earthly angels.

Raise our children to be heavenly people.

Raise our children to be your Son's servants.

Raise our children to cry out to you, "Rejoice, O Full of Grace, the Lord is with you!"

Raise our children, (*names*), O Lady, worthy of the Kingdom of Heaven, and make them inheritors of eternal blessings.

KONTAKION 2

As you hear our parental petition for our children, begging help from you alone, take them under your honorable and compassionate protection, that we may sing to God: Alleluia.

IKOS 2

Send our children understanding, that they may know how to serve your Son well. Fill their hearts with heavenly wisdom, and grant that they may love it alone and scorn the things of the world. And do not hinder our lips from singing:

Raise our children to be wise as serpents and as innocent as doves.

Raise our children to have knowledge of good, but not of sin.

Raise our children to be wise against the traps of the devil.

Raise our children to order their lives wisely, following the examples of the saints.

Raise our children, nourishing them with the milk of the hidden wisdom of God, that they may seek it all of their lives.

Raise our children, (*names*), O Lady, worthy of the Kingdom of Heaven, and make them inheritors of eternal blessings.

KONTAKION 3

May the power of the Most High overshadow our children through your unceasing intercession before your Son, and on account of this, having come to know your maternal compassion for all who run to God with faith, may they sing to God: Alleluia.

IKOS 3

Having received our children from God, we do not desire to behold them living in eternal agony, but rather to see them written in the Book of Life and made inheritors of eternal life. For your sake, O most pure Virgin, incline your ear to our supplication, as we sing to you:

Raise our children to flee eternal agony.

Raise our children to inherit eternal life.

Raise our children to pass the course of their life in repentance.

Raise our children to labor to acquire the grace of the Holy Spirit.

Raise our children to exert effort to attain the Kingdom of Heaven.

Raise our children to be written in the Book of Life.

AKATHIST HYMN *to the* MOTHER of GOD
NURTURER of CHILDREN

Raise our children, (*names*), O Lady, worthy of the Kingdom of Heaven, and make them inheritors of eternal blessings.

KONTAKION 4

Having within us a storm of doubting thoughts, and wanting to give our children to drink of eternal life, we weep. Thus, having remembered your rich mercies, we sing to your Son with hope and with a contrite heart: Alleluia.

IKOS 4

Having heard your voice, crying to your Son, “Preserve unto the ages in Your inheritance those whom You have given me,” we stretch out our hands and our hearts towards your loving-kindness, asking that you keep our children among your servants, and fulfill our petitions:

Raise our children in your most holy inheritance.

Raise our children with all the saints.

Raise our children to be your Son’s servants, fulfilling all His commandments.

Raise our children to travel on the narrow path of the commandments of your Son to the heavenly Jerusalem.

Raise our children to seek help from you.

Raise our children to inherit eternal life.

AKATHIST HYMN *to the* MOTHER of GOD
NURTURER of CHILDREN

Raise our children, (*names*), O Lady, worthy of the Kingdom of Heaven, and make them inheritors of eternal blessings.

KONTAKION 5

May the Morning Star, which is your Son, O most holy Virgin, shine with unfading light in the hearts of our children, that they may sing to God: Alleluia.

IKOS 5

Having seen our diligent supplication rising like incense to your glory, do not turn your face away from our children, even if they turn away from you, but all the more, hear the cry of our lips, singing to you:

Raise our children to be poor in spirit, that they may inherit the Kingdom of Heaven.

Raise our children to weep, that they may be comforted.

Raise our children to be meek, that they may inherit the earth.

Raise our children to hunger and thirst after righteousness, that they may be filled.

Raise our children to be merciful, that they may obtain mercy.

Raise our children to be pure in heart, that they may see God.

AKATHIST HYMN *to the* MOTHER of GOD
NURTURER of CHILDREN

Raise our children to be peacemakers, that they may be called the sons and daughters of God.

Raise our children, (*names*), O Lady, worthy of the Kingdom of Heaven, and make them inheritors of eternal blessings.

KONTAKION 6

We the faithful always proclaim you the defense of orphans, widows, and mothers, and of all your children, who pray and sing to you: Alleluia.

IKOS 6

With rays of grace teach our children, so that enlightened by you from on high they may see the path leading to eternal life and follow on it, nourished beneath by your most powerful protection in the Church of your Son, where there is unending light. For the sake of this, hear us, as we sing to you:

Raise our children to be the light of the world, that their light may shine before other people, and that seeing their good deeds, people will glorify their Father in Heaven.

Raise our children to be enlightened by your Son, that in His light they may see light and direct their steps towards Him.

AKATHIST HYMN *to the* MOTHER of GOD
NURTURER of CHILDREN

Raise our children always to turn the eyes of their heart to the Redeemer of all.

Raise our children to be guided to the habitation of the righteous by the Morning Star, which is your Son.

Raise our children to be humble and silent and to tremble before the Word of God.

Raise our children to love you and your Son not only with their minds but also with their hearts.

Raise our children, (*names*), O Lady, worthy of the Kingdom of Heaven, and make them inheritors of eternal blessings.

KONTAKION 7

Desiring for our children eternal salvation, with tears we stand before your most honorable icon, O Lady, that not disdaining our supplication, you will sing to your Son: Alleluia.

IKOS 7

By the wondrous and incomprehensible action of your Son, lead our children with your merciful hand beneath your gracious protection, that with sincerity we may sing to you:

Raise our children to seek first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness.

AKATHIST HYMN *to the* MOTHER of GOD
NURTURER of CHILDREN

Raise our children to walk the narrow path leading to eternal life.

Raise our children to do the will of your Son and God in every place.

Raise our children to long to inherit the Kingdom of Heaven.

Raise our children not to commit blasphemy against the Holy Spirit.

Raise our children to be numbered among your chosen ones.

Raise our children, (*names*), O Lady, worthy of the Kingdom of Heaven, and make them inheritors of eternal blessings.

KONTAKION 8

Where will our children, wandering in the dangerous and stormy valley of the world, receive joy and consolation, if not in you, O most pure Virgin? Travel with them and teach them the true path that they may sing to God: Alleluia.

IKOS 8

To everyone you are a merciful Mother, O Lady, and we desire that you become the Mother to our children. Thus we place our children in your hands and in humility we beg of you:

AKATHIST HYMN *to the* MOTHER of GOD
NURTURER of CHILDREN

Raise our children to be vigilant and prayerful that they may not fall into temptation.

Raise our children to be merciful so that their Father in Heaven will be merciful to them.

Raise our children in purity of childhood, for to children belongs the Kingdom of God.

Raise our children to be the least of all, that they may be great before God.

Raise our children to fulfill the Word of God, and to be partakers of the heavenly blessedness for which they came into existence.

Raise our children to have good hope in the Kingdom of Heaven.

Raise our children, (*names*), O Lady, worthy of the Kingdom of Heaven, and make them inheritors of eternal blessings.

KONTAKION 9

Fill the souls and hearts of our children with every good thing, driving away from them the spirit of ungodliness, giving to each of them as is needed from your compassion for all, that we may sing to God: Alleluia.

IKOS 9

Deliver our children from association with falsely-theorizing speakers, who speak lies about your

AKATHIST HYMN *to the* MOTHER of GOD
NURTURER of CHILDREN

most powerful intercession, and look upon us, as we faithfully sing to you:

Raise our children to withstand ungodly people.

Raise our children to stand firmly against God-hating teaching.

Raise our children to reject the deceitful teachings of the teachers of unbelief.

Raise our children not to accept the spirit of the sons of the adversary.

Raise our children to run from the world and the delusions of the world.

Raise our children to turn away from evil and do good.

Raise our children to love their enemies and to pray for them.

Raise our children, (*names*), O Lady, worthy of the Kingdom of Heaven, and make them inheritors of eternal blessings.

KONTAKION 10

Desiring to save the world, your Son came from heaven to call, not the righteous, but sinners to repentance. For the sake of this, pray to your Son that having been saved through you our children may call to God: Alleluia.

IKOS 10

Surround our children with indestructible walls, O Heavenly Queen, that under your blessed protection, they may accomplish many good works, and that with them we may sing to you:

Raise our children to be leaders in doing the will of your Son and our God.

Raise our children to hate sin and all transgression.

Raise our children to love good and all virtue.

Raise our children in blameless purity.

Raise our children to ascend the ladder of their lives every day.

Raise our children to turn their eyes to your motherly compassion in the midst of sorrows.

Raise our children to serve your Son in obedience and chastity.

Raise our children, (*names*), O Lady, worthy of the Kingdom of Heaven, and make them inheritors of eternal blessings.

KONTAKION 11

Make our children worthy to always hymn your unshakable intercession, and through your grace direct their lips to sing to God: Alleluia.

IKOS 11

O shining lamp from on high, make the lives of our children to burn, and their hearts to melt, day and night with love for your Son and you, and for their neighbors, and do not disdain us, as we sing to you:

Raise our children to love you with all their hearts and minds.

Raise our children always beholding the Cross and the suffering of your Son.

Raise our children to open their lips in the praise and glory of your blessings.

Raise our children to await the coming of your Son with tears.

Raise our children in watchful and continual prayer.

Raise our children to always stand before you with reverence.

Raise our children to bear good fruit.

Raise our children, (*names*), O Lady, worthy of the Kingdom of Heaven, and make them inheritors of eternal blessings.

KONTAKION 12

Fill the hearts of our children with the inexpressible grace of the Holy Spirit, so that they may love only your Son and God, and you, O most

AKATHIST HYMN *to the* MOTHER of GOD
NURTURER of CHILDREN

good one, that being inspired by you, we may sing to the King of all: Alleluia.

IKOS 12

Singing of your loving-kindness, we pray you, merciful nourisher of our children, do not cease to intercede for them with your Son, for we believe that all is possible for you, and fulfill our petitions:

Raise our children to be filled with the Holy Spirit.

Raise our children to be found on the right hand at the Great Judgment Seat of your Son.

Raise our children to live in a holy manner.

Raise our children to dwell securely on the path of faith by the grace of the Spirit of God.

Raise our children to always hunger and thirst for the overshadowing of the Holy Spirit.

Raise our children to be perfect as our Father in Heaven is perfect.

Raise our children, (*names*), O Lady, worthy of the Kingdom of Heaven, and make them inheritors of eternal blessings.

KONTAKION 13

This kontakion is repeated three times.

O most hymned Mother of our Sweetest Jesus: Accept this small hymn of supplication for our

AKATHIST HYMN *to the* MOTHER of GOD
NURTURER of CHILDREN

children as a sweet fragrance, and take them under your compassionate protection. Grant them to think, know, hear, say, and do only what brings them close to your Son and to you, and helps them to attain eternal salvation. And send them in this present life all that is profitable for the salvation of their souls that they may sing to God: Alleluia.

And again:

IKOS 1

Intercede with your Son and our God, O most holy Virgin, that an angel from heaven be sent to our children, just as to you was sent the mighty protector, the Archangel Gabriel, and grant us to sing to you:

Raise our children to be earthly angels.

Raise our children to be heavenly people.

Raise our children to be your Son's servants.

Raise our children to cry out to you, "Rejoice, O Full of Grace, the Lord is with you!"

Raise our children, (*names*), O Lady, worthy of the Kingdom of Heaven, and make them inheritors of eternal blessings.

KONTAKION 1

O Champion Leader and Good Nurturer of the Christian race, we your servants, delivered from evil by your Son, sing our grateful thanks to you. But as you have invincible power, deliver our children from all dangers that with tears we may sing to you:

Raise our children, (*names*), worthy of the Kingdom of Heaven, and make them inheritors of eternal blessings.

a PRAYER of PARENTS for THEIR CHILDREN

Priest: Let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

O Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, by the prayers of Your most pure Mother, hear us, Your unworthy servants, and govern in mercy our children. Have mercy on them and save them, for Your Name's sake.

O Lord, forgive them all their transgressions, voluntary and involuntary, that they may be perfected before You. Set them on the true path of Your commandments and enlighten their minds with Your Light for the salvation of their souls and the healing of their bodies.

AKATHIST HYMN *to the* MOTHER of GOD
NURTURER of CHILDREN

Bless them, O Lord, at home, at school, in their journeys, and in every place of Your dominion. Preserve and shelter them from flying bullets, arrows, the sword, poison and fire, from mortal wounds and sudden death. Guard them from all visible and invisible enemies, and from all danger, evil, and misfortune.

Heal them, O Lord, from all sickness, deliver them from every impurity, and lighten their spiritual sufferings. Grant them the grace of Your Holy Spirit and a long life. Grant them health and chastity in all piety and love, and to live in harmony with all their neighbors, near and far.

Multiply and strengthen them, O Lord, in mental ability and bodily strength given to them by You. Bless them to lead a pious life. And, if it is pleasing to You, grant them married life and honorable childbearing.

For Your Name's sake, O Lord, give us, Your sinful and unworthy servants, a parental blessing for our children and Your servants, both in this present time, morning, noon, and night, and also in Your eternal, almighty, and most powerful Kingdom. Amen.

ANOTHER PRAYER

O God, Maker of all creation, You have made us worthy to be parents, grandparents, godparents, uncles, and aunts, and through Your goodness You have bestowed children upon us. And so we dare to say: these children are Yours, for You have given them life, infused them with an immortal soul, and raised them to the true life through Baptism.

And in accordance with Your will You have adopted them and received them into the bosom of Your Church. Send down to us Your gracious help in raising our children, for the glory of Your Name. Bestow on us patience and strength to do Your will.

Teach us to plant in their hearts the root of true wisdom – the fear of God – that all their lives they may tremble at Your words. Open to them the understanding of Your Law. Until the end of their days let them act with the sense that You are everywhere present.

Plant in their hearts loathing for every transgression, that they may be pure in their designs. O Righteous Judge, do not punish our children for our sins, but sprinkle them with the dew of Your grace.

AKATHIST HYMN *to the* MOTHER of GOD
NURTURER of CHILDREN

O Heavenly Father, order the fate of our children according to Your blessings, do not deprive them in this life of their daily bread, send down to them in due time what is necessary for the acquisition of blessings in eternity.

Be merciful to them, when they sin before You. Do not look upon the sins of their youth and ignorance. Chastise them and have mercy on them, but do not turn Your face away from them. Do not turn Your face from them in the day of their tribulation, that they may not fall into temptations beyond their strength.

Cover them with Your mercy, that Your Angel may walk with them and preserve them. Do not abandon our children, O Lord, and give them what is profitable for salvation. Amen.

YET ANOTHER PRAYER

O Holy Immortal Father, from Whom all goodness and gentleness comes, penitently we pray You for the children whom You have given us to bear. Protect them in Your grace and holiness, that Your Name may be glorified in them.

Direct us by Your grace to raise them for the glory of Your Holy Name and the benefit of other

AKATHIST HYMN *to the* MOTHER of GOD
NURTURER of CHILDREN

people. Grant us the gift of patience necessary to do so. O Lord, enlighten the minds of our children with Your Wisdom to learn to love You in their souls and thoughts.

Instill in their hearts the fear and hatred of every sin, that they may be able to go the right way without sin. Adorn their souls with purity, goodness, humility, diligence, patience, and every virtue. Guard their lips from all slander and lies.

Bless our children, that they may progress in virtue and holiness, and grow under Your care into honest people. May their guardian angels be with them and protect them in their youth from misleading thoughts, from the evil and sinful temptations of this world, and from the traps of all unclean spirits.

And when our children sin before You, do not turn away Your face from them, but in Your great mercy be merciful to them, for You alone cleanse people from all sin. Reward our children with good things in this world and everything they need for salvation. Protect them from wrath, anger, misfortune, evil, and suffering all the days of their lives.

AKATHIST HYMN *to the* MOTHER of GOD
NURTURER of CHILDREN

O Good Lord, we pray You, grant us joy and happiness from our children. Keep us in righteousness and justice, that with Your children we may stand before You in the day of Your Great Judgment, and that without fear we may say, “Here we are, O Lord, with the children whom You have given us,” that together with them we may praise Your Most Holy Name, of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

PRAYER *to the* MOTHER of GOD

O most holy Lady Virgin Theotokos, save and preserve under your protection our children, all youths and infants, baptized and unnamed, and those in their mother’s wombs. Cover them with your maternal garment, preserve them in the fear of God and in obedience to their parents. Pray our Lord and your Son that He may give them what is beneficial for their salvation. We entrust them to your maternal care, for you are the protection of your servants.

PRAYER *to the* GUARDIAN ANGEL

O Holy Angel, Guardian of our children, keep under your protection our children from demonic

AKATHIST HYMN *to the* MOTHER of GOD
NURTURER of CHILDREN

arrows, and from the eyes of the seducer, and preserve their hearts in angelic purity. Amen.



PRAYERS *for* SPECIAL OCCASIONS

PRAYER *for* CHILDREN WHO HAVE DIFFICULTY LEARNING

O Lord Jesus Christ our God, Who dwelt in the hearts of the Twelve Apostles, and by the power of grace of Your Most Holy Spirit descended in the form of fiery tongues and opened their lips, so that they began speaking in many languages: Yourself, O Lord Jesus Christ our God, send down Your Holy Spirit on Your children, (*names*), and plant in their hearts the Holy Law which You, by Your most pure hand, inscribed on the tablets and gave to the Lawgiver Moses, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

PRAYER *for the* UNBORN INFANTS

Remember, O loving Lord, the souls of Your departed servants, infants who died accidentally in the wombs of their mothers from unknown causes, either from difficult birth, or from some carelessness and who, therefore, did not receive the mystery of Holy Baptism. Baptize them, O Lord, in

AKATHIST HYMN to the MOTHER of GOD
NURTURER of CHILDREN

the sea of Your compassions, and save them by Your inexpressible grace. Amen.



DISMISSAL

Priest: Wisdom. Most Holy Theotokos, save us.

Reader: More honorable than the Cherubim, and more glorious beyond compare than the Seraphim, without corruption you gave birth to God the Word, true Theotokos we magnify you.

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

Reader: Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Lord, have mercy. (3x) Father bless.

Priest: May Christ our true God, by the prayers of His most pure Mother; by the prayers of the holy Prophet, Forerunner, and Baptist John, the heavenly intercessor of our community; by the prayers of the holy and righteous Ancestors of God, Joachim and Anna; and by the prayers of all the saints, have mercy on us and save us, for He is good and loves mankind.

People: Amen.

