



“GLORY TO GOD FOR ALL THINGS”

An Akathist Service Thanking God for
GRACE, CREATION AND ALL GOOD GIFTS

This Akathist, also called the "Akathist of Thanksgiving," was composed by Protopresbyter Gregory Petrov shortly before his death in a soviet prison camp in 1940.

The title "Glory to God for All Things" is taken from the words of Saint John Chrysostom as he was dying in exile.

It is a song of praise amidst the most terrible sufferings.

This modified version of the service has been adapted from the "Season of Creation" celebration organized by the Eparchial Human and Environmental Development Program of the Ukrainian Catholic Eparchy of Saskatoon. Used with permission.

The original text of the Akathist can be found at <http://saintjonah.org/services/thanksgiving.htm>.

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GLOSSARY

AKATHIST

An extended hymn modelled on the Order of Matins and dedicated to Our Lord, the Mother of God or one of the Saints. Unlike Matins, it does not have a series of psalms, called a “kathisma” (in Greek the word means “sitting down,” because, for the chanting of these psalms, sitting was permitted). The word “a-kathist” means “no kathisma” and, therefore, “not sitting.” Thus, the Akathist service is taken standing up.

ODE

A song of praise. The most common are the Scriptural Canticles (e.g., Magnificat). In the Akathist, it is comprised of the single stanza kontakion, several ikoi (pl. of ikos) and a refrain.

KONTAKION

A hymn which recalls the subject of the day’s feast, often an extended homily. The word itself refers to the Greek word “kontax” which is the short pole around which a scroll was wrapped. The original kontakia (pl.) were so long that they could not be held in hand but needed to be wound around a pole. In modern usage, the kontakion is itself a single stanza.

IKOS

The word derives from the Greek word for “house” and it refers to the stanzas of the more ancient, lengthy kontakion.

Priest: *Blessed be our God always, now and forever.*

OR

Leader: *By the prayers of our holy Fathers and Mothers, Lord Jesus Christ, have mercy on us.*

All: Amen.

Priest/Leader: *Glory be to You, our God, glory be to You!*

All: Heavenly King, Advocate, Spirit of Truth, Who are everywhere present and fill all things, Treasury of Blessings, Bestower of Life, come and dwell within us; cleanse us of all that defiles us, and, O Good One, save our souls.

Priest/Leader: *Holy God, Holy and Mighty, Holy and Immortal, have mercy on us.*

All: Holy God, Holy and Mighty, Holy and Immortal, have mercy on us.

Priest/Leader: *Holy God, Holy and Mighty, Holy and Immortal, have mercy on us.*

All: Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, ...

Priest/Leader: *... now and for ever and ever. Amen.*

All: Trinity most holy, have mercy on us. Cleanse us of our sins, O Lord; pardon our transgressions, O Master; look upon our weaknesses and heal them, O Holy One; for the sake of Your name.

Priest/Leader: *Lord, have mercy (3x).*

All: Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, ...

Priest/Leader: *... now and for ever and ever. Amen.*

All: 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.

Priest: *For the kingdom, the power and the glory are Yours, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and for ever and ever.*

OR

Leader: *By the prayers of our holy Fathers and Mothers, Lord Jesus Christ, have mercy on us.*

All: Amen.

Priest/Leader: *Lord, have mercy (6x).*₄

All: Lord, have mercy (6x)

Priest/Leader: *Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, ...*

All: ... now and for ever and ever. Amen.

Priest/Leader: *Come, let us bow in worship before the King, our God.*

All: Come, let us bow in worship before Christ, the King, our God.

Priest/Leader: *Come, let us bow in worship and fall down before the very Lord, Jesus Christ,*

All: ... our King and God.

ODE 1

Kontakion 1

(the first kontakion is a solemn proclamation of the theme and may be sung in Tone 8)

All: Everlasting King, Your will for our salvation is full of power. Your right arm controls the whole course of human life. We give You thanks for all Your mercies, seen and unseen: For eternal life, for the heavenly joys of the Kingdom which is to be. Grant mercy to us who sing Your praises, both now and in the time to come:

Glory to You, O God, from age to age.

Ikos 1

Priest/Leader: *I was born a weak, defenseless child, but Your angel spread his wings over my cradle to defend me. From birth until now, Your love has illumined my path, and has wondrously guided me towards the light of eternity. From birth until now the generous gifts of Your Providence have been marvelously showered upon me. I give You thanks, with all who have come to know You, who call upon Your Name:*

All: Glory to You for calling me into being.
Glory to You for showing me the beauty of the universe.
Glory to You for spreading out before me heaven and earth.
Glory to You for Your eternity in this fleeting world.

Glory to You for Your mercies, seen and unseen.
Glory to You through every sigh of my sorrow.
Glory to You for every step of my life's journey.
Glory to You for every moment of glory.

Glory to You, O God, from age to age.

ODE 2

Kontakion 2

Priest/Leader: *O Lord, how lovely it is to be Your guest in this earthly home. Breeze full of scents – mountains reaching to the skies – waters like a boundless mirror, reflecting the sun's golden rays and the sweeping clouds. All nature murmurs mysteriously, breathing depths of Your tenderness. Birds and beasts of the forest bear the imprint of Your love. Blessed are you, mother earth, in your fleeting loveliness, which wakens our yearning for happiness that will last forever in the land where, amid beauty that grows not old, rings out the cry: Alleluia!*

All: Alleluia! (3x)

Ikos 2

Priest/Leader: *You have brought me into life as if into an enchanted paradise. We have seen the sky like a chalice of deepest blue, where in the azure heights the birds are singing. We have listened to the soothing murmur of the forest and the melodious music of the streams. We have tasted fruit of fine flavour and the sweet-scented honey. We can live very well on your earth. It is a pleasure to be your guest in this land. And so, we bring these hymns to You:*

All: Glory to You for the feast-day of life.

Glory to You for the perfume of lilies and roses.

Glory to You for each different taste of berry and fruit.

Glory to You for the sparkling silver of early morning dew.

Glory to You for the joy of dawn's awakening.

Glory to You for the new life each day brings.

Glory to You for the signs of Your presence.

Glory to You for the joy of living in Your love.

Glory to You, O God, from age to age.

ODE 3

Kontakion 3

Priest/Leader: *It is the Holy Spirit Who makes us find joy in each flower – the exquisite scent, the delicate colour – the beauty of the Most High in the tiniest of things. Glory and honour to the Spirit, the Giver of Life, Who covers the fields with their carpet of flowers, crowns the harvest with gold, and gives to us the joy of gazing at it with our eyes. O be joyful and sing to Him: Alleluia!*

All: Alleluia! (3x)

Ikos 3

Priest/Leader: *How glorious You are in the springtime, when every creature awakens to new life and joyfully sings Your praises with a thousand tongues! You are the source of life, the destroyer of death. By the light of the moon, nightingales sing, and the valleys and hills lie like wedding-garments, white as snow.*

All the earth is Your promised bride awaiting her spotless Husband. If the grass of the field is like this, how gloriously shall we be transfigured in the Second Coming, after the Resurrection! How splendid our bodies, how spotless our souls! To You we offer this thanksgiving:

All: Glory to You for the warmth and tenderness of the world of nature.

Glory to You for the depths of Your wisdom.

Glory to You for the guidance of Your invisible hand.

Glory to You for the innumerable creatures around us.

Glory to You for making Yourself known in every human creature.

Glory to You for welcoming the impulse of our heart's love.

Glory to You for the love of parents, for the faithfulness of friends.

Glory to You for transforming our lives for loving service to all.

Glory to You, O God, from age to age.

ODE 4

Kontakion 4

Priest/Leader: *How filled with sweetness are those whose thoughts dwell on You: how life-giving Your holy Word. To speak with You is more soothing than anointing with oil, sweeter than the honeycomb. To pray to You lifts the spirit, refreshes the soul. Where You are not, there is only emptiness; hearts are smitten with sadness; nature, and life itself, becomes sorrowful. Where You are, the soul is filled with abundance, and its song resounds like a torrent of life: Alleluia!*

All: Alleluia! (3x)

Ikos 4

Priest/Leader: *When the sun is setting, when quietness falls, like the peace of eternal sleep, and the silence of the spent day reigns, then in the splendor of its declining rays, filtering through the clouds, I see Your dwelling-place. Fiery and purple, gold and blue, they speak prophet-like of the ineffable beauty of Your presence and call to us in their majesty. We turn to You, our Creator, with songs of praise:*

All: Glory to You at the hushed hour of nightfall.

Glory to You, covering the earth with peace.

Glory to You for the last ray of the sun as it sets.

Glory to You for sleep's repose that restores us.

Glory to You for Your goodness, even in time of darkness.

Glory to You for the prayers offered by a trembling soul.

Glory to You for what You reveal to me whether I am awake or asleep.

Glory to You for the pledge of the glorious last day which has no evening.

Glory to You, O God, from age to age.

ODE 5

Kontakion 5

Priest/Leader: *In the wondrous blending of sounds, it is Your call we hear. In the harmony of many voices, in the sublime beauty of music, in the glory of the works of great composers, You lead us to the threshold of paradise to come, and to the choirs of angels. All true beauty has the power to draw the soul towards you and make it sing in ecstasy: Alleluia!*

All: Alleluia! (3x)

Ikos 5

Priest/Leader: *The breath of Your Holy Spirit inspires artists, poets, scientists. The power of Your supreme knowledge makes them prophets and interpreters of Your laws, who reveal the depths of Your creative wisdom. Their works speak unwittingly of You. How great are You in Your creation! How great are You in the hearts and minds of those who compose these hymns of praise to You:*

All: Glory to You, showing Your unsurpassable power in the laws of the universe.

Glory to You, for all nature is filled with Your laws.

Glory to You for what You have revealed to us in Your mercy.

Glory to You for what you have hidden from us in Your wisdom.

Glory to You for the inventiveness of the human mind.

Glory to You for the dignity of human labour.

Glory to You for the tongues of fire that bring inspiration.

Glory to You for the creative power You give to all Your people.

Glory to You, O God, from age to age.

ODE 6

Kontakion 6

Priest/Leader: *How near You are in the day of sickness. You Yourself visit the sick. You Yourself bend over the beds of those who suffer; their hearts speak to You. In the throes of sorrow and suffering, You bring peace; You bring unexpected consolation. You are the Comforter. You are the Love which watches over and heals us. To You we sing the song: Alleluia!*

All: Alleluia! (3x)

Ikos 6

Priest/Leader: *When in my childhood I called upon You consciously for the first time, You heard my prayer; You filled my heart with the blessing of peace. At that moment I knew Your goodness, knew how blessed are those who turn to You. I started to call upon You, night and day, and even now, I call upon Your Name:*

All: Glory to You, satisfying my desires with good things.
Glory to You, watching over me day and night.
Glory to You for the forgiveness of sins.
Glory to You, curing affliction and emptiness with the healing flow of time.

Glory to You; no loss is irreparable in You, giver of eternal life to all.

Glory to You making immortal all that is lofty and good.

Glory to You, promising us the longed-for meeting with our loved ones who have died.

Glory to You for our unquenchable thirst for communion with God.

Glory to You, O God, from age to age.

ODE 7

Kontakion 7

Priest/Leader: *How often have I seen the reflection of Your glory in the faces of the dead. How resplendent they once were with beauty and heavenly joy; how ethereal, how translucent their faces; how triumphant over suffering and death, their felicity and peace. Even in the silence they were calling upon You. In the hour of my death, enlighten my soul, too, that it may cry out to You: Alleluia!*

All: Alleluia! (3x)

Ikos 7

Priest/Leader: *Life-giving and merciful Trinity, receive my thanksgiving for all Your goodness. Make us worthy of Your blessings, so that, when we have brought to fruit the talents You have entrusted to us, we may enter into the joy of our Lord, forever exulting in the shout of victory: Alleluia!*

All: Glory to You for loving us with love so deep and steadfast, and never-failing.

Glory to You, blessing us with light, and with the host of angels and saints.

Glory to You for the hope of immortality.

Glory to You for enlightening us with the clarity of eternal life.

Glory to You, Father All-Holy, promising us a share in Your Kingdom.

Glory to You, Divine Word, transfiguring the universe with the glory of God

Glory to You, Holy Spirit, Life-giving Sun of the world to come.

Glory to You for all things, holy and most merciful Trinity.

Glory to You, O God, from age to age.

REPEAT ODE 1

Ikos 1

Priest/Leader: *I was born a weak, defenseless child, but Your angel spread his wings over my cradle to defend me. From birth until now, Your love has illumined my path, and has wondrously guided me towards the light of eternity. From birth until now the generous gifts of Your Providence have been marvelously showered upon me. I give You thanks, with all who have come to know You, who call upon Your Name:*

All: Glory to You for calling me into being.
Glory to You for showing me the beauty of the universe.
Glory to You for spreading out before me heaven and earth.
Glory to You for Your eternity in this fleeting world.

Glory to You for Your mercies, seen and unseen.
Glory to You through every sigh of my sorrow.
Glory to You for every step of my life's journey.
Glory to You for every moment of glory.

Glory to You, O God, from age to age.

Kontakion 1 (this may be taken in Tone 8)

All: Everlasting King, Your will for our salvation is full of power.
Your right arm controls the whole course of human life.
We give You thanks for all Your mercies, seen and unseen:
For eternal life, for the heavenly joys of the Kingdom which is to be.
Grant mercy to us who sing Your praises, both now and in the time to come.

Glory to You, O God, from age to age.

Prayer to the God and Creator of all

All: What sort of praise can I give You? I have never heard the song of the cherubim, a joy reserved for the spirits above. But I know the praises that nature sings to You. In winter, I have beheld how silently in the moonlight the whole earth offers You prayer, clad in its white mantle of snow, sparkling like diamonds. I have seen how the rising sun rejoices in You, how the song of the birds is a chorus of praise to You. I have heard the mysterious murmurings of the forests about You, and the winds singing Your praise as they stir the waters. I have understood how the choirs of stars proclaim Your glory as they move forever in the depths of infinite space. What is my poor worship? All nature obeys You, I do not. Yet while I live, I see Your love, I long to thank You, to pray to You, and call upon Your Name: God and Creator of all, one in the Holy Trinity, always, now and forever and ever. Amen.

Priest/Leader: *Wisdom!*

All: More honourable than the cherubim and by far more glorious than the seraphim; ever a virgin, you gave birth to God the Word, O true Mother of God, we magnify you.

Priest/Leader: *Glory be to you, O Christ God, our hope, glory to you.*

All: Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and forever and ever. Amen. Lord, have mercy (x3). Give the blessing.

Priest: *May Christ, our true God, through the prayers of His immaculate Mother, the intercessions of the holy, glorious and all praiseworthy Apostles, 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 humankind.*

OR

Leader: *Through the prayers of His immaculate Mother, the intercessions of the holy, glorious and all praiseworthy Apostles, of the holy and righteous Ancestors of God, Joachim and Anna, and by the prayers of all the Saints, Christ our true God will have mercy on us and save us for He is good and loves humankind.*

All: Amen.

