

OPENING PRAYERS

Priests: † Blessed be our God, always, now and forever and ever ...

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

Response: Amen.

From Easter to Ascension

Christ is Risen from the dead, trampling death by death,
and, to the those in the tombs, giving life.

Three times

Then begin at “**Holy God...**” (*see below*)

From Ascension to Pentecost

Begin immediately with “**Holy God...**” (*see below*)

A: Glory be to You, our God, *glory* be to You.

B: 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.

A: † **Holy God**, Holy and Mighty, Holy and Immortal, have *mercy* on us.

B: † Holy God, Holy and Mighty, Holy and Immortal, have *mercy* on us.

A: † Holy God, Holy and Mighty, Holy and Immortal, have *mercy* on us.

B: † Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy *Spirit*.

A: Now and forever and *ever*. Amen.

B: 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.

A: Lord, have mercy; Lord, have mercy; Lord, have *mercy*.

B: † Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy *Spirit*.

A: Now and forever and *ever*. Amen.

B: 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*.

Priests: For the kingdom, the power and the glory are Yours, † Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and forever and ever...

Others: † Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on us...

Response: Amen.

A: Lord, have mercy. (*six times*) **B:** Lord, have mercy. (*six times*)

A: † Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy *Spirit*,

B: Now and forever and *ever*. Amen.

A: † Come, let us bow in worship before our *King*, and God.

B: † Come, let us bow in worship before Christ, our *King* and God.

A: † Come, let us bow in worship and fall down before the very Lord, Jesus Christ, our *King* and God.

Psalm 50

Have mercy on me O God, according to Your great mercy: according to the fullness of Your compassion blot out my offense. Wash me thoroughly from my wickedness: and cleanse me from my sin. For I acknowledge my wickedness: and my sin is ever before me. Against You only have I sinned and done what is evil in Your sight: that You may be justified in Your words, and win when You are judged. For see, in wickedness I was conceived: and in sin my mother bore me. For see, You have loved truth: You have shown me the hidden and secret things of Your wisdom. You will sprinkle me with hyssop and I shall be cleansed: You will wash me, and I shall be made whiter than snow. You will make me hear of joy and gladness: the bones which have been humbled will rejoice. Turn away Your face from my sins: and blot out all my iniquities. Create a clean heart in me, O God: and renew a right Spirit within me. Do not cast me out from Your presence: and do not take Your Holy Spirit from me. Give me back the joy of Your salvation: and establish me with Your sovereign Spirit. I will teach transgressors Your ways: and sinners will turn to You again. O God, the God of my salvation, deliver me from bloodshed: and my tongue will rejoice at Your righteousness. O Lord, You will open my lips: and my mouth will proclaim Your praise. For if You had wanted a sacrifice, I would have given it: You will not take pleasure in burnt offerings. A sacrifice to God is a broken spirit: a broken and a humbled heart God will not despise. Do good to Zion, Lord, in Your good pleasure; and let the walls of Jerusalem be rebuilt. Then You will be well pleased with a sacrifice of righteousness, oblation and whole burnt offerings. Then they will offer calves upon Your altar.

Symbol of Faith

I believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is seen and unseen. I believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father. Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, one in being with the Father. Through Him all things were made. For us men and for our salvation He came down from heaven: by the power of the Holy Spirit, He was born of the Virgin Mary, and became man. For our sake He was crucified under Pontius Pilate; He suffered, died, and was buried. On the third day He rose again in fulfillment of the Scriptures: He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and His kingdom will have no end. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father. With the Father and the Son He is worshiped and glorified. He has spoken through the Prophets. I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church. I acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. I look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

AKATHYST HYMN To St. Joseph the Betrothed

KONTAKION

O righteous Joseph! Chosen protector of the Most-Holy Virgin, Mary, and instructor and nurturer of the God-Man: glorifying your service to the ineffable mystery of the Incarnation of God the Word, we dedicate hymns of praise to you. Standing now before the throne of Christ our God, and having great boldness before Him, pray for us that cry out to you:

Rejoice! O righteous Joseph, ready helper and intercessor for our souls!

FIRST IKOS

Preserving the mystery of the birth of God the Word by the all-Pure Virgin, which is inaccessible even to the angels, from the slander of people and the craft of the devil, God chose you, O righteous Joseph, a lowly carpenter, to be the protector and witness of the virginity of the all-Holy Mary. Therefore, glorifying you as a chosen initiate of the mysteries of God, we cry out to you:

Rejoice! Honored offshoot of the root of Jesse!

Rejoice! You who were adorned within with royal majesty!

Rejoice! By lack of earthly things, you acquired spiritual wealth!

Rejoice! Through obscurity you obtained everlasting glory!

Rejoice! You who are far more glorious than kings!

Rejoice! You who are more righteous than the patriarchs and forefathers!

Rejoice! O righteous Joseph, ready helper and intercessor for our souls!

SECOND KONTAKION

Beholding the Virgin Mary who had grown to maturity in the Temple, Zachariah the High Priest cried out to the Lord: Show me a man worthy to be betrothed to the Virgin, O Lord! And when the rod of Joseph blossomed forth, committing the Virgin to him, he cried aloud to God: ALLELUIA!

**When the Akathist Hymn is celebrated publicly
the people then respond:**

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

SECOND IKOS

Your righteousness is known to all the ends of the earth, O holy Joseph! You were accorded the incomparable honor of being betrothed to the most blessed Virgin. From her Christ God came forth without the aid of man. You were chosen for this because of your steadfast faith, purity, humility and excellence in all the virtues. Therefore, we cry out to you:

Rejoice! O righteous One: betrothed of the most-Pure one!

Rejoice! O man of faith: taking under your roof the holy Virgin, Mary, who, through faith
was made the throne of God!

Rejoice! You who are humble of spirit!

Rejoice! You who are simple of heart!

Rejoice! You who are exceedingly adorned with virtues!

Rejoice! O holy one, who ministered unto the most holy!

Rejoice! O righteous Joseph, ready helper and intercessor for our souls!

THIRD KONTAKION

When the power of the Most High overshadowed her who knew not wedlock, so that she might conceive, Joseph did not know of this wondrous mystery, so that instructed by God Himself, he might cry out to Him: ALLELUIA.

THIRD IKOS

Joseph, beholding the Virgin whose womb contained God, was troubled, knowing that she was not wed and suspecting that she had indulged in illicit love. But being just, he wished to put her away secretly, leaving the judgment unto Him Who knows all things and Who has taught us to cry out to Him:

Rejoice! Zealot of chastity!
Rejoice! O Israelite in whom there is no guile!
Rejoice! You who are good of heart!
Rejoice! You who are meek of demeanor!
Rejoice! You who place all your trust in God!
Rejoice! You who entrust yourself and others to His providence!
Rejoice! O righteous Joseph, ready helper and intercessor for our souls!

FOURTH KONTAKION

Subduing the tempest of the chaste Joseph's thoughts of doubt, the angel disclosed to him the mystery of the birth of the Son of God, the Savior of the world, from the unwed Mary; for he said: And you shall call His name Jesus, for he shall save his people from their sins. And to Him do we all cry: ALLELUIA!

FOURTH IKOS

Having heard in the Scriptures of the Lord Who said: Behold, a Virgin shall conceive, and bear a Son, Emmanuel, you did believe what was told to you by the angel, O righteous Joseph; and like a sealed book, wherein the Word was inscribed by the finger of the Father, you took Mary into your own house, and like a servant you waited upon her with fear and zeal. Therefore, we cry to you:

Rejoice! For you set your heart to understand the law of God!
Rejoice! For you opened your mind to receive the mysteries of God!
Rejoice! For before all men you were vouchsafed to know the great mystery of piety that
God has appeared upon earth!
Rejoice! For you perceived His coming to be for the salvation of men from their sins!
Rejoice! For without doubting you believed what was revealed to you!
Rejoice! For your faith was accounted onto you as righteousness!
Rejoice! O righteous Joseph, ready helper and intercessor for our souls!

FIFTH KONTAKION

Taking the divinely chosen maiden into your home, O blessed Joseph, you loved her as your betrothed, you honored her as the most-holy Virgin and Mother of the Savior of the world, and you ministered to her with fear and reverence, striving with all your soul to keep all that was written in the Law and the Prophets; and with Mary you cried out to God: ALLELUIA!

FIFTH IKOS

Beholding in the manger of Bethlehem the Star that shone forth from Jacob, you first worshipped the Newborn; and when heaven offered Him a star, the angels hymnody, the shepherds testimony and the Magi worship and gifts, you, O righteous Joseph, offered your whole self as a gift to the Lord, dedicating your life, cares and labors to His service. Therefore, we cry to you:

Rejoice! You who before all others beheld the descent to earth of the unsetting Sun of
Righteousness!

Rejoice! First witness and servant on earth of the incarnate Son of God, Who was born of
the Father before all ages!

Rejoice! Earthly carpenter who was vouchsafed to be called the father of the heavenly
Architect!

Rejoice! Protector and guardian of the Infant to Whom the ranks of angels minister with
fear!

Rejoice! Reverent servant of the Mother of God, the Word!

Rejoice! O righteous Joseph, ready helper and intercessor for our souls!

SIXTH KONTAKION

Him Who was foretold by the Law and the Prophets you did circumcise on the eighth day, as a man; and you gave Him the name Jesus, which was preserved in the Counsel of the Trinity, like a precious pearl brought forth from the treasuries of Heaven for the revelation of all people, O Joseph; whereby having astonished the angels, made us glad, terrified the demons and rendered the whole world fragrant as with sweet-smelling myrrh, you cried out to God: ALLELUIA!

SIXTH IKOS

He Who in the Infant Jesus shone forth upon you, as prophesied by Simeon, the light of the gentiles' revelation and the glory of the people Israel, was straightway covered by a cloud of tribulation, O righteous Joseph, for the nation was in turmoil, Herod raged seeking the life of the Infant, and it was foretold that a sword would pierce the heart of His Mother, in order that your faith and patience may be made manifest unto all. Therefore, we cry to you as to one steadfast in patience and unshaken in faith:

Rejoice! For like gold in the furnace, you were unceasingly purified by trials!

Rejoice! You were humble in joy and patient in the midst of sorrows!

Rejoice! You were ever faithful to the mysteries entrusted to you!

Rejoice! You were guided by faith as by a star in the dark ways of life!

Rejoice! You had hope in God as an anchor amid the tempest of life's voyage!

Rejoice! O righteous Joseph, ready helper and intercessor for our souls!

SEVENTH KONTAKION

Desiring to save from the malice of Herod, Him that had come to save the world, O wondrous Joseph, you did not question the angel that commanded you to flee into Egypt, by saying: "Could He that saves others not save Himself"? But being a man of faith, like a new Abraham, ever ready for obedience, giving no thought to the rigors of the journey, nor considering the time of return, you did straightway take yourself to Egypt with Mary and the Babe, joyously crying out to God: ALLELUIA!

SEVENTH IKOS

In Egypt you were shown to be a new Joseph, greater than the patriarch of old, who saved the people of Egypt from famine; for you saved from death the Savior of the world and offered unto the people of Egypt, who were starving amidst the famine of godlessness, the Bread of Life; and you sowed the seed of eternal life, whence a wondrous harvest¹ sprang forth in the deserts of Egypt. Therefore we cry to you:

Rejoice! You joyfully endured sorrows and labors on the way, for Christ's sake!
Rejoice! O guardian of the infant Jesus who once guided Israel in the wilderness with the pillar of fire and a cloud!
Rejoice! Nourisher of Him that sustained His people with manna!
Rejoice! You who bore in your arms the Creator and Sustainer of all creation!
Rejoice! You who did save from the malice of Herod Him that once saved the people of God from the bitter bondage to Pharaoh!
Rejoice! You who showed forth for Egypt the grace of adoption instead of slavery!
Rejoice! O righteous Joseph, ready helper and intercessor for our souls!

EIGHTH KONTAKION

Having beheld the fearsome wonder: that in Jesus, God was born in the flesh, as was foretold, and laid in a manger as a babe; the Virgin Mother; the angels giving glory and the circumcision; the coming of the Magi from the East to worship Him with gifts; the flight from Herod's madness into Egypt; the salvation of all and the Light of the Gentiles; and the sword in the heart of her that gave Him birth, as Simeon said, -- you knew Him to be true God and true Man, and therefore you cried out to him: ALLELUIA!

EIGHTH IKOS

Having dedicated yourself entirely to God Who called forth His son from Egypt through His angel, you followed His command and made your abode with Jesus and His Mother in Nazareth, that it

might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophet concerning Him: He shall be called a Nazarene. Therefore, we cry out to you as a faithful servant of God:

Rejoice! You who worked in harmony with the will of God!
Rejoice! You who took part in the divine economy!
Rejoice! You who ever converse with the angels!
Rejoice! You who were dedicated on earth to the depths of the mysteries of Heaven!
Rejoice! You who listened to the prophets' prophecies concerning Jesus!
Rejoice! You who reverently kept all these in the depths of your heart!
Rejoice! O righteous Joseph, ready helper and intercessor for our souls!

NINTH KONTAKION

Every generation of Heaven, earth and the parts beneath the earth bow down at the name of Jesus; and to you, O wondrous Joseph, was the Child Jesus obedient as to His father. But we, marveling at the Lord's great condescension toward you, cry out to Him: ALLELUIA!

NINTH IKOS

The most eloquent of orators are at a loss as to how to praise you fittingly, O righteous Joseph. The Mother of God, the Queen of Heaven and the earth, called you her lord; the incarnate Son of God called you father, and your home on earth was a habitation of heavenly sanctity, for therein dwelt the King of Heaven and of earth. Therefore, we humbly cry out to you:

Rejoice! Chosen of God, who preserved the tabernacle of heavenly sanctity!
Rejoice! Wondrous carpenter, in whose home the Creator of Heaven and earth made His abode!
Rejoice! Nourisher and guardian of the Child Jesus, Who, as God bestowed existence upon all creatures and takes thought for all the world, visible and invisible!
Rejoice! For on earth you were accounted worthy to behold the Son of God face-to-face, to hold Him in your arms and to kiss Him!
Rejoice! For even after your departure into the heavenly mansions you continually bless the King of glory and glorify Him with the Father and the Holy Spirit, in the light of his countenance!
Rejoice! O righteous Joseph, ready helper and intercessor for our souls!

TENTH KONTAKION

You can save all that have recourse to your intercession and aid, O blessed Joseph, for how can He Who was subject to you in all things on earth not listen to you in all things as you now stand before Him in Heaven, crying aloud with the angelic choirs: ALLELUIA!

TENTH IKOS

You are a mighty rampart for all who have recourse to your intercession, O righteous Joseph; therefore, do not disdain even us who flee to your assistance, and, amidst the storms of temptations, misfortunes and sorrows of life, cry aloud to you:

Rejoice! Our ready helper amid dangers and want!
Rejoice! Mighty intercessor for us before God.
Rejoice! Our steadfast hope amid the tempest of turmoil and doubt!
Rejoice! Speedy deliverance from the slanders of men!
Rejoice! Nourisher of Him, Who sustains all by the word of His power!
Rejoice! You who deliver us from spiritual famine and from every tribulation!
Rejoice! O righteous Joseph, ready helper and intercessor for our souls!

ELEVENTH KONTAKION

A most compunctionate hymn do we offer unto you, O divinely wise Joseph; and we entreat you: as you did keep the Lord Christ Himself from all harm and affliction, so by your mediation before Him do you preserve His Holy Church from every assault by enemies, visible and invisible; protect our native lands from all sedition, that, leading a peaceful and tranquil life, we may cry out to God: ALLELUIA!

ELEVENTH IKOS

In the Temple did you behold the twelve-year old Child Jesus, the light-bestowing Beacon which has appeared to those in the darkness of ignorance, granting the light of true knowledge unto the teachers of the Law of God, and revealing the mystery of His great service in accordance with the design of the heavenly Father. Therefore, we cry out to you:

Rejoice! Faithful keeper of the Law of your fathers!
Rejoice! For, being zealous in keeping the Law, you did also lead the Child Jesus to the house of the heavenly Father!
Rejoice! For when the Child Jesus remained in Jerusalem, paternally you did grieve with His Mother, thinking that He was with friends.
Rejoice! You did seek Him among friends and relatives and, not finding Him, did return to Jerusalem where, after three days, you did discover Him in the Temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and questioning them!
Rejoice! For you did hear the revelation of mysteries when the Child Jesus said: Did you not know that I must be about My Father's business?

Rejoice! You that beheld and were witness that Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and man!

Rejoice! O righteous Joseph, ready helper and intercessor for our souls!

TWELFTH KONTAKION

Seeing the Child Jesus increase in favor with God and man, and in stature of body and wisdom, you did lay up all these things in your heart, like a faithful servant keeping secret the treasure entrusted to him, until the day when all believers began to cry to Him as God and Savior of the world: ALLELUIA!

TWELFTH IKOS

Hymning your labors and struggles, we also glorify your blessed repose; for in the arms of God the Word and His Mother you did sweetly rest from your labors, O righteous Joseph, having undoubting belief in blessed eternity. Therefore, we cry out to you:

Rejoice! You that were faithful in a great task!

Rejoice! You that were therefore accounted worthy of the greatest honor by God!

Rejoice! You that on earth were wed to the glory and beauty of Heaven!

Rejoice! You that were permitted to depart in peace unto the age to come by the Father of the age to come!

Rejoice! You that did proclaim the great joy to David!

Rejoice! You that did bear to all in Hades the tidings that Christ was come to free and save the human race!

Rejoice! O righteous Joseph, you ready helper and intercessor for our souls!

THIRTEENTH KONTAKION

O holy and righteous Joseph! Accept this, our small supplication, and through your mighty mediation before Christ God, do you entreat Him to make us by His grace firm and steadfast in the orthodox faith, zealous and undaunted in the keeping of His commandments, and that He grant all that is profitable for our temporal and eternal life to us that cry out to Him: ALLELUIA!

FIRST IKOS

Preserving the mystery of the birth of God the Word by the all-Pure Virgin, which is inaccessible even to the angels, from the slander of people and the craft of the devil, God chose you, O

righteous Joseph, a lowly carpenter, to be the protector and witness of the virginity of the all-Holy Mary. Therefore, glorifying you as a chosen initiate of the mysteries of God, we cry out to you:

Rejoice! Honored offshoot of the root of Jesse!
Rejoice! You who were adorned within with royal majesty!
Rejoice! By lack of earthly things, you acquired spiritual wealth!
Rejoice! Through obscurity you obtained everlasting glory!
Rejoice! You who are far more glorious than kings!
Rejoice! You who are more righteous than the patriarchs and forefathers!
Rejoice! O righteous Joseph, ready helper and intercessor for our souls!

HYMN TO THE MOST HOLY THEOTOKOS

It is truly right to bless you, O God-bearing one, as the ever blessed and immaculate Mother of our God. More honorable 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.

PRAYER TO ST. JOSEPH

O holy and righteous Joseph! While yet on earth, you did have boldness before the Son of God, Who was well pleased to call you His father, in that you were the betrothed of His Mother, and Who was well pleased to be obedient to you. We believe that as you do dwell now in the heavenly mansions with the choirs of the righteous, you are listened to, in all that you do request from our God and Savior. Therefore, fleeing to your protection and defense, we beg and humbly entreat you: as you, yourself, were delivered from a storm of doubting thoughts, so also deliver us that are tempest-tossed by the waves of confusion and passions; as you did shield the all-Pure Virgin from the slanders of men, so shield us from all kinds of vehement calumny; as you did keep the incarnate Lord from all harm and affliction, so also by your defense preserve His Church and all of us from all affliction and harm. You know, O Saint of God, that even the Son of God had bodily needs in the days of His incarnation, and you did attend to them. Therefore, we beseech you: tend, yourself, to our temporal needs through your intercession, granting us every good thing, which is needful in this life (for the sake of life of the age to come). Especially, do we entreat you to intercede that we may receive remission of our sins from Him Who was called your Son, the only-begotten Son of God, our Lord Jesus Christ, and be worthy of inheriting the Kingdom of Heaven, so that, abiding with you in the heavenly mansions, we may ever glorify the One God in three Persons: the † Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, now and for ever, and unto the ages of ages.

Response: Amen.

TRISAGION PRAYERS

A: † Holy God, Holy and Mighty, Holy and Immortal, have *mercy* on us.

B: † Holy God, Holy and Mighty, Holy and Immortal, have *mercy* on us.

A: † Holy God, Holy and Mighty, Holy and Immortal, have *mercy* on us.

B: † Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy *Spirit*.

A: Now and forever and *ever*. Amen.

B: 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.

A: Lord, have mercy; Lord, have mercy; Lord, have *mercy*.

B: † Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy *Spirit*.

A: Now and forever and *ever*. Amen.

B: 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*.

Priests: For the kingdom, the power and the glory are Yours, † Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and forever and ever...

Others: † Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on us...

Response: Amen.

TROPARION TO ST. JOSEPH

Tone 8

O righteous Joseph! Chosen protector of the Most-Holy Virgin, Mary, * and instructor and nurturer of the God-Man: * glorifying your service to the ineffable mystery of the Incarnation of God the Word, * we dedicate hymns of praise to you. * Standing now before the throne of Christ our God, * and having great boldness before Him, * pray for us that cry out to you: ** Rejoice! O righteous Joseph, ready helper and intercessor for our souls!

DISMISSAL

Public Celebration

If a priest is present: † Glory be to You, O Christ our God, our Hope, Glory be to You.

Others: † Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and forever and ever, Amen. Lord, have mercy (*three times*).

If a priest is present:
Father, give the blessing.

If there is no priest:
O Lord, bless.

Priest: † Christ our true God, through the prayers of His immaculate Mother, of our venerable and God-bearing fathers, and of all the saints, will have mercy and save us, for He is good and loves mankind...

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

Response: Amen.

Private Recitation

† Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and forever and ever. Amen. Lord, have mercy (*three times*). O Lord, bless.

Priest: † Christ our true God, through the prayers of His immaculate Mother, of our venerable and God-bearing fathers, and of all the saints, will have mercy and save us, for He is good and loves mankind...

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

Response: Amen.