

## **AN AKATHIST TO THE HOLY AND RIGHTEOUS JOSEPH THE BETROTHED OF THE ALL-HOLY VIRGIN MARY**

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

Choir: Amen.

Priest: Glory to Thee, O God, glory to Thee.

O heavenly King, the Comforter, Spirit of Truth, Who art in all places, and fillest all things, Treasury of good things, and Giver of life, come, and dwell in us, and cleanse us from every stain; and save our souls, O good One.

People: Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal: have mercy on us. (THRICE)

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

All-holy Trinity, have mercy on us. Lord, cleanse us from our sins. Master, pardon our iniquities. Holy God, visit and heal our infirmities for Thy Name's sake.

Lord, have mercy. (THRICE)

*Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; both now and ever, and unto ages of ages. 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.

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

Choir: Amen.

Lord, have mercy. (*twelve times*)

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

- *A metania is made after each verse below.*

Choir: Come, let us worship and fall down before 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 50

Have mercy on me, O God, according to Thy Great Mercy; and according to the multitude of Thy compassions blot out my transgression. Wash me thoroughly from mine iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin. For I know mine iniquity, and my sin is ever before me. Against Thee only have I sinned and done this evil before Thee, that Thou mightest be justified in Thy words, and prevail when Thou art judged. For behold, I was conceived in iniquities, and in sins did my mother bear me. For behold, Thou hast loved truth; the hidden and secret things of Thy wisdom hast Thou made manifest unto me. Thou shalt sprinkle me with hyssop, and I shall be made clean; Thou shalt wash me, and I shall be made whiter than snow. Thou shalt make me to hear

joy and gladness; the bones that be humbled, they shall rejoice. Turn Thy face away from my sins, and blot out all mine iniquities. Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from Thy presence, and take not Thy Holy Spirit from me. Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation, and with Thy governing Spirit establish me. I shall teach transgressors Thy ways, and the ungodly shall turn back unto Thee. Deliver me from blood-guiltiness, O God, Thou God of my salvation; my tongue shall rejoice in Thy righteousness. O Lord, Thou shalt open my lips, and my mouth shall declare Thy praise. For if Thou hadst desired sacrifice, I had given it; with whole-burnt offerings Thou shalt not be pleased. A sacrifice unto God is a broken spirit; a heart that is broken and humbled God will not despise. Do good, O Lord, in Thy good pleasure unto Zion, and let the walls of Jerusalem be built up. Then shalt Thou be pleased with a sacrifice of righteousness, with oblation and whole-burnt offerings. Then shall they offer bullocks upon Thine altar.

### THE NICENE-CONSTANTINOPOLITAN CREED

People: I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible. And in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the Son of God, the Only-begotten, Begotten of the Father before all worlds, Light of Light, Very God of Very God, Begotten, not made; of one essence with the Father, by Whom all things were made: Who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven, and was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary, and became man. And was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate, and suffered and was buried. And on the third day He rose again, according to the Scriptures. And ascended into heaven, and sitteth at the right hand of the Father. And He shall come again with glory to judge the living and the dead, Whose Kingdom shall have no end. And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, and Giver of Life, Who proceedeth from the Father, Who with the Father and the Son together is worshipped and glorified, Who spake by the Prophets. And I believe in One Holy Catholic and Apostolic Church. I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins. I look for the Resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

- *Standing before an icon of St. Joseph the Betrothed (if none, of our Lord Jesus Christ), the priest begins the Akathist hymn. He censes the icon nine times at the conclusion of each kontakion and oikos.*

### **KONTAKION 1**

Priest: O righteous Joseph, chosen protector of the most holy Virgin Mary, instructor and nurturer of the God-man! Glorifying thy service to the ineffable mystery of the incarnation of God the Word, we dedicate hymns of praise to thee. Standing now before the throne of Christ our God, and possessed of great boldness before Him, pray for us who cry out thee: Rejoice, O righteous Joseph, ready helper and intercessor for our souls!

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

### **OIKOS 1**

Priest: Preserving the mystery of the birth of God the Word by the all-immaculate Virgin, which is incomprehensible even to the angels, from the slander of men and the wiles of the devil, God chose thee, O righteous Joseph, a lowly carpenter, to be protector and witness to the virginity of

the all-holy Mary. Wherefore, glorifying thee as a chosen initiate of the mysteries of God, we cry to thee:

- ❖ Rejoice, honored scion of the root of Jesse!
- ❖ Rejoice, thou who wast adorned within with royal majesty!
- ❖ Rejoice, thou who by lack of earthly things didst acquire spiritual wealth!
- ❖ Rejoice, thou who through obscurity didst obtain everlasting glory!
- ❖ Rejoice, thou who art far more glorious than kings!
- ❖ Rejoice, thou who art more righteous than the patriarchs and forefathers!
- ❖ Rejoice, O righteous Joseph, ready helper and intercessor for our souls!

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

### **KONTAKION 2**

Priest: Beholding the Virgin Mary, who had grown to maturity in the Temple, Zachariah the High Priest cried out to the Lord: "Show forth 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!

Choir: Alleluia!

### **OIKOS 2**

Priest: Thy righteousness is known to all the ends of the earth, O holy Joseph, for thou wast vouchsafed the incomparable honor to be the betrothed of the most blessed Virgin, from whom Christ God came forth without the aid of man; for thou wast chosen for this because of thy steadfast faith, purity, humility and excellence in all the virtues. Wherefore, we cry to thee:

- ❖ Rejoice, O righteous one, betrothed of the most pure one!
- ❖ Rejoice, O man of faith, who didst take under thy roof the holy Virgin Mary who, through faith, was made the throne of God!
- ❖ Rejoice, thou who wast humble of spirit!
- ❖ Rejoice, thou who wast simple of heart!
- ❖ Rejoice, thou who wast adorned exceedingly with the virtues!
- ❖ Rejoice, O holy one who didst minister unto the most holy!
- ❖ Rejoice, O righteous Joseph, ready helper and intercessor for our souls!

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

### **KONTAKION 3**

Priest: At that time the power of the Most High overshadowed her who knew not wedlock, so that she conceived; but Joseph knew not the wondrous mystery, that when he was instructed by God Himself, he would cry out to Him: Alleluia!

Choir: Alleluia!

### OIKOS 3

Beholding the Virgin whose womb contained God, Joseph was troubled, knowing that she was not wed and suspecting that she had indulged in illicit love. And as he was a just man, he wished to put her away secretly, leaving the judgment unto Him Who knoweth all things and Who hath taught us to cry to Him:

- ❖ Rejoice, zealot of chastity!
- ❖ Rejoice, O Israelite, in whom there is no guile!
- ❖ Rejoice, thou who art good of heart!
- ❖ Rejoice, thou who art meek of demeanor!
- ❖ Rejoice, thou who didst place all thy trust in God!
- ❖ Rejoice, thou who dost entrust thyself and others to His providence!
- ❖ Rejoice, O righteous Joseph, ready helper and intercessor for our souls!

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

### KONTAKION 4

Priest: Stilling the tempest of the chaste Joseph's doubting thoughts, 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: "Thou shalt call His name Jesus, for He shall save His people from their sins." And to Him do we all cry: Alleluia!

Choir: Alleluia!

### OIKOS 4

Priest: Having heard in the Scriptures of the Lord Who said: "Behold, a Virgin shall conceive, and bear a Son, Emmanuel," thou didst believe what was told thee by the angel, O righteous Joseph; and thou didst take Mary into thine own house like a sealed book, wherein the Word was inscribed by the finger of the Father, and like a servant didst wait upon her with awe and zeal. Wherefore, we cry to thee:

- ❖ Rejoice, for thou didst set thy heart to understand the law of God!
- ❖ Rejoice, for thou didst open thy mind to receive the mysteries of God!
- ❖ Rejoice, for ahead of all men thou wast vouchsafed to know the great mystery of piety: that God hath appeared upon earth!
- ❖ Rejoice, for thou didst perceive His coming to be for the salvation of men from their sins!
- ❖ Rejoice, for without doubting thou didst believe what was revealed to thee!
- ❖ Rejoice, for thy faith was accounted unto thee as righteousness!
- ❖ Rejoice, O righteous Joseph, ready helper and intercessor for our souls!

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

### KONTAKION 5

Priest: Taking the divinely chosen maiden into thy home, O blessed Joseph, thou didst love her as thy betrothed, didst honor her as the most holy Virgin and Mother of the Savior of the world,

and didst minister unto her with awe and reverence, striving with all thy soul to keep all that was written in the Law and the prophets; and with Mary thou didst cry out to God: Alleluia!

Choir: Alleluia!

### **OIKOS 5**

Priest: Beholding in the manger of Bethlehem the Star that shone forth from Jacob, thou wast first to adore the Newborn. And when heaven offered Him a star, the angels hymnody, the shepherds their witness and the Magi worship and gifts, thou, O righteous Joseph didst offer thy whole self as a gift to the Lord, dedicating thy life, care and labors to His service. Wherefore, we cry to thee:

- ❖ Rejoice, thou who before all others didst behold the descent to earth of the never-setting Sun of righteousness!
- ❖ Rejoice, first witness and servant on earth of the incarnate Son of God, Who was begotten of the Father before the ages!
- ❖ Rejoice, earthly carpenter who wast vouchsafed to be called the father of the heavenly Architect!
- ❖ Rejoice, protector and guardian of the Infant Whom the ranks of angels serve with fear!
- ❖ Rejoice, reverent servant of the Mother of God the Word!
- ❖ Rejoice, O righteous Joseph, ready helper and intercessor for our souls!

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

### **KONTAKION 6**

Priest: Him Who was foretold by the law and the prophets didst thou circumcise as a male child on the eighth day; and thou gavest 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 revelation to all peoples, O Joseph; whereby having astonished the angels, gladdened men, terrified the demons and rendered the whole world fragrant as with sweet-smelling myrrh, thou didst cry out to God: Alleluia!

Choir: Alleluia!

### **OIKOS 6**

Priest: He Who in the Infant Jesus shone forth upon thee, as prophesied by Symeon, the light of revelation to the gentiles 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, that thy faith and patience might be revealed to all. Wherefore, we cry to thee as to one steadfast in patience and unshaken in faith:

- ❖ Rejoice, for like gold in the crucible wast thou continually purified by trials!
- ❖ Rejoice, thou who wast humble in joy and forbearing amid sorrows!
- ❖ Rejoice, thou who wast ever faithful to the mysteries entrusted to thee!
- ❖ Rejoice, thou who wast guided by faith as by a star in the dark ways of life!
- ❖ Rejoice, thou who didst trust in God as an anchor amid the tempest of life's voyage!
- ❖ Rejoice, O righteous Joseph, ready helper and intercessor for our souls!

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

### **KONTAKION 7**

Priest: Desiring to save from the malice of Herod Him Who had come to save the world, O wondrous Joseph, thou didst not question the angel who commanded thee to flee into Egypt, saying: "Could He Who saveth 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, thou didst straightway betake thyself to Egypt with Mary and the Babe, joyously crying out to God: Alleluia!

Choir: Alleluia!

### **OIKOS 7**

Priest: In Egypt thou wast shown to be a new Joseph, greater than the patriarch of old who saved the people of Egypt from famine; for thou didst save from death the Savior of the world, and didst offer unto the people of Egypt, who were starving amid the famine of godlessness, the Bread of Life; and thou didst sow the seed of eternal life, whence a wondrous harvest sprang forth in the deserts of Egypt. Therefore, we cry to thee:

- ❖ Rejoice, thou who with joy didst endure sorrows and labors for Christ's sake along the way!
- ❖ Rejoice, guardian of the Infant Jesus, Who once guided Israel in the wilderness with a pillar of fire and of cloud!
- ❖ Rejoice, nourisher of Him Who fed His people with manna!
- ❖ Rejoice, thou who didst bear in thine arms the Creator and Sustainer of all creation!
- ❖ Rejoice, thou that didst save from the malice of Herod Him Who once saved the people of God from bitter bondage to Pharaoh!
- ❖ Rejoice, thou who didst show forth for Egypt the grace of adoption instead of slavery!
- ❖ Rejoice, O righteous Joseph, ready helper and intercessor for our souls!

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

### **KONTAKION 8**

Priest: Having beheld the awesome 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 men and the Light of the gentiles; and the sword that pierced the heart of her who gave Him birth, as Symeon said, thou didst recognize Him as true God and true man, and didst therefore cry to Him: Alleluia!

Choir: Alleluia!

### **OIKOS 8**

Priest: Having dedicated thyself entirely to God Who called forth His Son out of Egypt by His angel, thou didst follow His command and madest thine abode with Jesus and His Mother in Nazareth, that what was spoken by the prophet concerning Him might be fulfilled: "He shall be called a Nazarene." Wherefore, we cry out to thee as a faithful servant of God:

- ❖ Rejoice, thou who didst work in harmony with the will of God!
- ❖ Rejoice, thou who didst take part in the divine economy!
- ❖ Rejoice, thou who dost ever converse with the angels!
- ❖ Rejoice, thou who on earth wast dedicated to the profundity of the mysteries of heaven!
- ❖ Rejoice, thou who didst hearken to the prophets' prophecies concerning Jesus!
- ❖ Rejoice, thou who didst reverently keep all these in the depths of thine heart!
- ❖ Rejoice, O righteous Joseph, ready helper and intercessor for our souls!

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

### **KONTAKION 9**

Priest: Every generation of heaven, earth and the nethermost parts of the earth, doth bow down at the name of Jesus; and to thee, O wondrous Joseph, was the Child Jesus obedient as to His father. Wherefore, marveling at the Lord's great condescension toward thee, we cry out to Him: Alleluia!

Choir: Alleluia!

### **OIKOS 9**

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

- ❖ 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, doth bestow existence upon all creatures and taketh thought for all the world, visible and invisible!
- ❖ Rejoice, for on earth thou wast vouchsafed to behold the Son of God face to face, to hold Him in thine arms, and to kiss Him!
- ❖ Rejoice, for even after thy departure unto the heavenly mansions thou dost 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!

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

### **KONTAKION 10**

Priest: Thou art able save all who have recourse to thine intercession and aid, O blessed Joseph. For how can He Who was subject to thee in all things on earth not hearken to thee in all things as thou now standest before Him in heaven, crying aloud with the angelic choirs: Alleluia?

Choir: Alleluia!

### OIKOS 10

Priest: Thou art a mighty rampart for all who have recourse to thine intercession, O righteous Joseph; wherefore, disdain us not who flee to thine assistance, and who, amid storms of the temptations, misfortunes and the sorrows of life, cry aloud to thee:

- ❖ Rejoice, our ready helper amid perils 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 sustaineth all by the word of His power!
- ❖ Rejoice, thou who dost deliver us from spiritual famine and from every tribulation!
- ❖ Rejoice, O righteous Joseph, ready helper and intercessor for our souls!

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

### KONTAKION 11

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

Choir: Alleluia!

### OIKOS 11

Priest: In the Temple, thou didst behold the twelve-year old Child Jesus, the light-bestowing Lamp that hath 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 ministry in accordance with the design of the heavenly Father. Wherefore, we cry to thee:

- ❖ Rejoice, faithful keeper of the law of thy fathers!
- ❖ Rejoice, for, being zealous in keeping the law, thou didst also lead the Child Jesus to the house of the heavenly Father!
- ❖ Rejoice, for when the Child Jesus remained in Jerusalem, like a father thou didst grieve with His Mother, thinking that He was with friends!
- ❖ Rejoice, for thou didst seek Him amongst friends and relatives and, not finding Him, didst return to Jerusalem where, after three days, thou didst discover Him in the temple, sitting amongst the teachers, listening to them and questioning them!
- ❖ Rejoice, for thou didst hear the revelation of mysteries when the Child Jesus said: “Know ye not that I must be about My Father’s business?”
- ❖ Rejoice, thou who didst behold and wast 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!

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



### **KONTAKION 12**

Priest: Seeing the Child Jesus increase in favor with God and man, and in stature of body and wisdom, thou didst lay up all these things in thy 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!

Choir: Alleluia!

### **OIKOS 12**

Priest: Hymning thy labors and struggles, we also glorify thy blessed repose; for in the arms of God the Word and His Mother thou didst sweetly rest from thy labors, O righteous Joseph, having undoubting belief in blessed eternity. Wherefore, we cry out to thee:

- ❖ Rejoice, thou who wast faithful in a great task!
- ❖ Rejoice, thou who wast therefore accounted worthy of the greatest honor by God!
- ❖ Rejoice, thou who on earth wast wed to the glory and adornment of Heaven!
- ❖ Rejoice, thou who wast permitted to depart in peace unto the age to come by the Father of the age to come!
- ❖ Rejoice, thou who didst proclaim the great joy to David!
- ❖ Rejoice, thou who didst bear to all in hades the tidings that Christ was come to free and save the human race!
- ❖ Rejoice, O righteous Joseph, ready helper and intercessor for our souls!

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

- *Kontakion 13 and "Alleluia" are said thrice.*

### **KONTAKION 13**

Priest: O holy and righteous Joseph! Accept this, our meager supplication, and through thy mighty mediation before Christ God 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 who cry to Him: Alleluia!

Choir: Alleluia!

### **KONTAKION 1**

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Priest: Preserving the mystery of the birth of God the Word by the all-immaculate Virgin, which is incomprehensible even to the angels, from the slander of men and the wiles of the devil, God chose thee, O righteous Joseph, a lowly carpenter, to be protector and witness to the virginity of

the all-holy Mary. Wherefore, glorifying thee as a chosen initiate of the mysteries of God, we cry to thee:

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

#### THEOTOKION (Plain Reading)

It is truly meet to bless thee, O Theotokos, who art ever-blessed and all-blameless, and the mother of our God. More honorable than the Cherubim, and more glorious beyond compare than the Seraphim. Thou who without corruption bearest God the Word; and art truly Theotokos: we magnify thee.

#### A PRAYER TO HOLY AND RIGHTEOUS JOSEPH

Priest: O holy and righteous Joseph! While yet on earth, thou didst have boldness before the Son of God Who was well pleased to call thee His father, in that thou wast the betrothed of His Mother, and to be obedient unto thee. We believe that as thou dwellest now in the heavenly mansions with the choirs of the righteous, thou art hearkened to in all that thou dost request of our God and Savior. Wherefore, fleeing to thy protection and defense, we beg and humbly entreat thee: as thou thyself wast delivered from a storm of doubting thoughts, so also deliver us who are tempest-tossed by the waves of confusion and passions. As thou didst shield the all-immaculate Virgin from the slanders of men, so shield us from all virulent calumny. As thou didst keep the incarnate Lord from all harm and affliction, so also with thy defense preserve His Orthodox Church and all of us from all tribulation and harm. Thou knowest, O saint of God, that even the Son of God had bodily needs in the days of His incarnation, and thou didst attend unto them; wherefore, we beseech thee: tend thou to our temporal needs through thine intercession, granting us every good thing which is needful in this life. Especially do we entreat thee to intercede that we may receive remission of our sins from Him Who was called thy Son, the only-begotten Son of God, our Lord Jesus Christ, and that we may be worthy to inherit the kingdom of heaven, that, abiding with thee in the heavenly mansions, we may ever glorify the One God in three Persons—the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit—now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

Choir: Amen.

#### THE TRISAGION PRAYERS

People: Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal: have mercy on us. (THRICE)  
*Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; both now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.*

All-holy Trinity, have mercy on us. Lord, cleanse us from our sins. Master, pardon our iniquities. Holy God, visit and heal our infirmities for Thy Name's sake.

Lord, have mercy. (THRICE)

*Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; both now and ever, and unto ages of ages. 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.

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

Choir: Amen.

#### THE SMALL DISMISSAL

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

Choir: Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; both now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen. Lord, have mercy (*thrice*). Father, bless.

Priest: May He Who was born in a cave and lay in a manger for our salvation, (and rose from the dead,) Christ our true God, through the intercessions of His all-immaculate and all-blameless holy Mother; *at the supplication of Saint N., the patron and protector of this holy community*; of the holy and righteous ancestors of God, Joachim and Anna; of the holy and righteous Joseph the Betrothed, David the Prophet and King, and James the Brother of God, whose memory we celebrate, and of all the saints: have mercy on us and save us, forasmuch as He is good and loveth mankind.

Priest: Through the prayers of our holy fathers, Lord Jesus Christ our God, have mercy upon us and save us.

Choir: Amen.

#### END NOTES

This service is translated from the Church Slavonic by the reader Isaac E. Lambertsen, from **Akathist Hymn to the Holy & Righteous Joseph, the Betrothed of the All-holy Virgin Mary** (St. Petersburg: Synodal Press, 1871), pp. 3-38. Revised translation copyright © 2013. All rights reserved by the translator.

Joseph the Betrothed is commemorated on the Sunday after the Nativity of Christ. However, if the Nativity falls on a Sunday, St. Joseph is commemorated on Monday, December 26.