

Akathist to Jesus Christ

Leader of armies, who laid siege to Hell
And pulverized with his redeeming light,
The shadows of death's kingdom where we lay,
Praise you, sing praises, sing praises for your love,
Now, praising your holiness, I freely cry:

Jesus, Son of God, have mercy.

Fashioner of angels and Lord of their whirling host
Open once more my ear made numb to sound
And free the tongue immured from human noise
That you may enter in, and praise proceed
From heart to mind to heaven and then cry:

Jesus, wonder of wonders, angels silent stand,
Jesus, almighty power, ancestors set free,
Jesus, song of sweetness, patriarchs proclaimed,
Jesus, greatest glory, royalty of kings,
Jesus, deep desire, prophets' words fulfilled,
Jesus, praise of all praise, martyrdom endured,
Jesus, gladdest joy, prayerfulness assuaged,
Jesus, all compassionate, service rendered sweet,
Jesus, full of mercy, sacrifice made pure,
Jesus, ever tender, righteousness made glad.
Jesus, ever pure, integrity upheld,
Jesus, pre-eternal, sinner sanctified

Jesus, son of God, have mercy.

When Philip's in his darkness asked to see
The radiance of the father, you replied
"Have you not known me, being by my side?
For I am in the Father, He in me."
Enlightened by this darkness, now I cry

Jesus, god before time began,
Jesus, creator before there was a light,
Jesus, who suffered in omnipotence,
Jesus, most merciful savior of my soul,
Jesus, who guards me with your gentleness,
Jesus, show grace to me each time I fail,
Jesus, remove all wicked thoughts from in me,
Jesus, erase my unrighteous acts,
Jesus, my hope, henceforth do not forsake me,
Jesus, my help, turn me not away,
Jesus, my fashioner, remember what you made,
Jesus, my shepherd, keep me with your sheep.

Jesus, son of God, have mercy.

III

You clothed your apostles with the tongues of flame,
After you left them, in Jerusalem.
Me also, whose heart is naked and bereft,
Clothe with your spiritual fire and enflame
My burning tongue to answer and proclaim:

Alleluia

~~With infinite compassion you have called
The heart congealed with sin, the doubtful mind,
And all who are indifferent to Life
As publicans and sinners were of old.~~

You dined with sinners and with publicans,
With infinite compassion, now you call
Doubters, unbelievers, the cold of heart.
Come to my table, have fellowship with me,
Receive these fragrant words as precious myrrh:

Jesus, power almighty,
Jesus, mercy never-ending,
Jesus, radiance of joy,
Jesus, love beyond speech,
Jesus, son of the living God,
Jesus, have mercy on me, a sinner,
Jesus, hear me, inheritor of sin,
Jesus, wash my iniquity away,
Jesus, return me from the ways of folly,
Jesus, spread light where all is dark and dim,
Jesus, make clean what I have made impure,
Jesus, receive me, the prodigal child.

Jesus, Son of God, have mercy.

IV

By day a storm of worry makes me tremble,
Doubt's waves by night propel me down below
To endless infinitudes of nothingness.
When Peter saw you walk on the empty sea,
To offer him your saving hand, he said:

Alleluia

I sit quite useless by salvation's road
And cry: "O Son of David pity me."
Make me rise up, and open up the eyes
Of this my inner heart, and when they see
True light, true radiance will make me cry:

Jesus, creator of all that lofty is,
Jesus, redeemer of the lowliest soul,
Jesus, who makes the infinite obey,
Jesus, whose beauty is the unseen light,
Jesus, bring comfort to my tortured soul,
Jesus, bring radiance to my dark mind,
Jesus, bring gladness to sickened heart,
Jesus, bring health to body when it fails,
Jesus, be my savior and save me
Jesus, illuminate me with joy,
Jesus, preserve me from every evil power,
Jesus, save me because of who you are.

Jesus, Son of God, have mercy.

V

Because the law and prophets were completed
When you died on the cross, with human blood
And with a human body you fulfilled
God's plan to ~~smash-wreck~~ twist the serpent, also me
Break into holiness, that I might cry

Alleluia

Your people greeted you with palms of praise
When you first stepped inside the holy city,
Jerusalem, your triumph and your grave,
Your death gave birth to our eternal life.
Instead of boughs, we lift up palms of praise:

Seeing the creator in a simple man
Your people brought you palms of victory
Upon your entrance to Jerusalem.
A New Jerusalem you keep for us,
And so we praise your triumph when we cry:

Jesus, veritable God,
Jesus, son of David,
Jesus, almighty king,
Jesus, heavenly shepherd,
Jesus, lamb of peace,
Jesus, watch-tower of childhood,
Jesus, the guide of youth,
Jesus, hope of old age,
Jesus, my expectation at death,
Jesus, my eternal life,
Jesus, my sweetest joy at judgment day,
Jesus, desire of every atom in me.

Jesus, son of God, have mercy.

VI

A whisper in the desert was the word
Your prophets spoke, O Holy One of Israel.
For you took flesh, whom galaxies unnumbered
Cannot contain, in order to save man.
Healed by your wounds, and rendered whole, we chant:

Alleluia.

As shadows flee when light creeps in at dawn
So was the truth cast in relief for man
By your sweet inner light, and ignorance
Shattered, and idols, when to rescue us
Your power was revealed. Therefore we cry:

Jesus, the word before created being,
Jesus, incomprehensible mind,
Jesus, unrestrainable power,
Jesus, wisdom beyond all rule,
Jesus, divinity not to be captured,
Jesus, dominion world without end,
Jesus, kingdom none will ever conquer,
Jesus, sovereignty seated and secure,
Jesus, strength that is unceasing,
Jesus, authority safe and sound,
Jesus, creator, recreate me,
Jesus, save me, my savior.

Jesus, son of God, have mercy.

VII

As lambs go gently to be shorn and killed
You went in willing faith your cruel end
Thereby unlocking timeless mysteries.
As god you rose, ascending up in glory
To heaven, lift us also when we chant:

Alleluia

What was the sign of this our new creation?
That you were from a virgin given life,
Incarnate flesh that did not come from dust
But spirit did inform your human flesh.
So with our throats, and hearts and mind we cry:

Jesus, the uncontainable word,
Jesus, mind that cannot be known
Jesus, power beyond comprehension
Jesus, wisdom beyond space and time,
Jesus, godhead unportrayable,
Jesus, the kingdom of infinitude,
Jesus, dominion none can assail,
Jesus, lordship eternal, unbounded,
Jesus, strength that cannot be broken,
Jesus, truth that is everlasting,

Jesus, my creator, remake me,
Jesus, my savior, save me.

Jesus, son of God, have mercy.

VIII

Since God for us did take on human form,
Let us take on his holiness, and shun
The emptiness of life, and turn our thoughts
To riches above. This is the reason why
He came to earth, that we might rise, who cry

Alleluia

Here Jesus was, and there he yet remained.
Both fully man and, at the same time, god.
For love unlimited was by its own free will
Made mortal, so that by mortality
Death die forever. Made new, now let us sing:

Jesus, sweetness of heart,
Jesus, the body's strength,
Jesus, the spiritual light of the soul,
Jesus, the mind's illumination,
Jesus, joy of conscience,
Jesus, perfection of hope,
Jesus, remembrance everlasting,
Jesus, praise exalted and pure,
Jesus, my invisible glory,
Jesus, my desire, accept me,
Jesus, my shepherd, please come find me,
Jesus, save me, my savior.

Jesus, son of God, have mercy.

IX

In ranks unending hovering angels sing:
"Holy, Holy, Holy, glorious your name"
In form celestial, numberless as stars,
But we on earth, mere sinners made of clay,
Gather and chant aloud a single word:

Alleluia

Discourse itself grows silent as the deep
Before salvation and its mystery.
That you are God and man trips up the mind
That's cunning to search out, but silent faith
Accepts this mystery and cries aloud:

Jesus, God of gods,
Jesus, king of kings,

Jesus, lord of lords,
Jesus, judge of all,
Jesus, bring hope to those who despair,
Jesus, give comfort to those who mourn
Jesus, provide support to the needy,
Jesus, judge me not for my deeds,
Jesus, bathe my sins in your mercy,
Jesus, chase away my despair,
Jesus, fill my musings with your light,
Jesus, make me mindful of my end.

Jesus, son of God, have mercy.

X

About you glows the uncreated light
Invisible to us, we creatures who to sin
And death are dedicate. You to this death
Have come with your brightness, your effulgent name
Is radiant, and thus to you we cry

Alleluia

Shield us with angels, source of the age to come,
And from the darkness in our hearts preserve us,
As you healed lepers and the hearts of men
From filth and greed and all that dims the light
Help us to choose compunction, then proclaim:

Jesus, my my precious joy unfailing,
Jesus, my treasure ever secure,
Jesus, my food that ever fills me,
Jesus, my drink that slakes my throat,
Jesus, the poor man's garment,
Jesus, the widow's protector,
Jesus, defender of orphans,
Jesus, ever present help in trouble,
Jesus, companion on journeys,
Jesus, the guide of every sail,
Jesus, calm harbor from surge and torrent,
Jesus, raise me when I have fallen.

Jesus, son of God, have mercy.

XI

The Syro-Phoenician woman came,
To beg as a dog begs crumbs from master's table
You drove a demon from the stranger's child.
I too am troubled by unholy thoughts.
Answer me, son of David, when I cry.

Alleluia

Blinded by holiness, harrowed in his soul,
Saul stopped his persecution and became
Your friend at once. Speak softly to my heart,
Change this my journey that I might become
Attentive to your mysteries, and say:

Jesus, creator of galaxies,
Jesus, omnipotent God,
Jesus, commander of unseen angels,
Jesus, most glorious Lord,
Jesus, my guide who recreates me,
Jesus, my shepherd who leads me home,
Jesus, my master, my friend, my savior,
Jesus, the keeper of the book of life,
Jesus, enlighten my mind and body,
Jesus, preserve me from passion and sin,
Jesus, from empty thoughts protect me,
Jesus, secure me from evil desire.

Jesus, son of God, have mercy.

XII

Jesus, through grace, forgive my trespasses,
I stand before you as a penitent
As Peter stood in tears when he denied you.
Call me to be your friend, as you called Paul,
Who persecuted you, and hear me say:

Alleluia

We praise the glory of the incarnation.
With Thomas we say that you are Lord and God,
Who sits at the Father's right and shall again
Come judge the living and the dead in glory.
Grant that we sit beside you then, who cry

Jesus, lord of peace, bestow peace on me.
Jesus, flower of sweetness, grant me your fragrance.
Jesus, the warmth so longed for, warm me now.
Jesus, temple of glory, give me shelter.
Jesus, eternal garment, shield my body.
Jesus, pearl of great price, become my treasure.
Jesus, precious jewel, cast light upon me,
Jesus, sun of righteousness, shine on me,
Jesus, holy light, pour forth from in me,
Jesus, give grace unto both soul and body,
Jesus, defend me from the adversary,
Jesus, preserve me from torment everlasting.

Jesus, Son of God, have mercy.