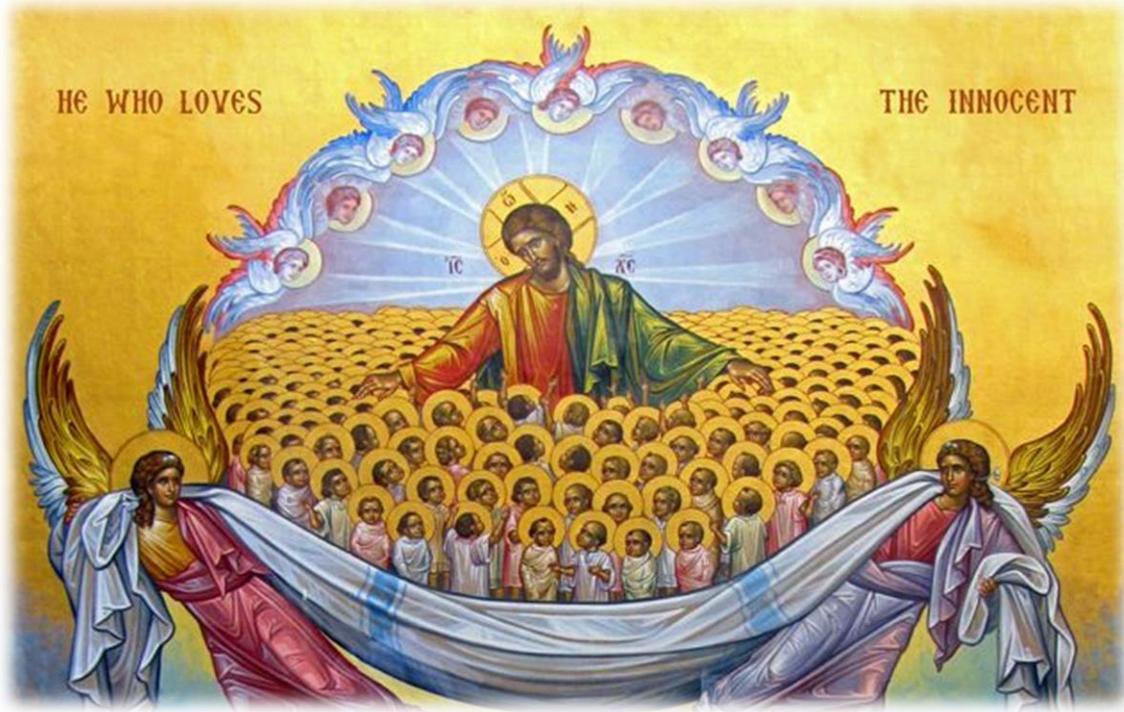


Moleben for an End to Abortion



Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ
He Who Loves the Innocent

Icon from Uncut Mountain Supply

Moleben for an End to Abortion

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

Singers: Amen.

Clergy: Glory to thee, our God, glory to thee.

Singers: O heavenly King,
the Comforter, the Spirit of Truth,
who art everywhere and fillest all things,
Treasury of blessings
and Giver of life:
Come and abide in us,
and cleanse us from all impurity, //
and save our souls, O Good One.

Reader: 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.

O most holy Trinity, have mercy on us. O Lord, cleanse us from our sins. O Master, pardon our iniquities. O Holy One, 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, now and ever, and unto the 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 the evil one.

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 the ages of ages.

Reader: Amen. Lord have mercy. (**12 times**)

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

O come, let us worship God our King.

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

O come, let us worship and fall down before Christ himself, our King and our God.

Psalm 138

O Lord, thou hast searched me and known me! Thou knowest my down-sitting and mine up-rising; thou discernest my thoughts from afar. Thou searchest out my path and my lying down, and art acquainted with all my ways. Even before a word is on my tongue, lo, O Lord, thou knowest it altogether. Thou dost beset me behind and before, and layest thy hand upon me. Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is high, I cannot attain it. Whither shall I go from thy Spirit? Or whither shall I flee from thy presence? If I ascend to heaven, thou art there! If I make my bed in Sheol, thou art there! If I take the wings of the morning and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea, even there thy hand shall lead me, and thy right hand shall hold me. If I say, "Let only darkness cover me, and the light about me be night," even the darkness is not dark to thee, the night is bright as the day; for darkness is as light with thee. For thou didst form my inward parts, thou didst knit me together in my mother's womb. I praise thee, for thou art fearful and wonderful. Wonderful are thy works! Thou knowest me right well; my frame was not hidden from thee, when I was being made in secret, intricately wrought in the depths of the earth. Thy eyes beheld my unformed substance; in thy book were written, every one of them, the days that were formed for me, when as yet there was none of them. How precious to me are thy thoughts, O God! How vast is the sum of them! If I would count them, they are more than the sand. When I awake, I am still with thee. O that thou wouldst slay the wicked, O God, and that men of blood would depart from me, men who maliciously defy thee, who lift themselves up against thee for evil! Do I not hate them that hate thee, O Lord? And do I not loathe them that rise up against thee? I hate them with perfect hatred; I count them my enemies. Search me, O God, and know my heart! Try me and know my thoughts! And see if there be any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting!

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

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia. Glory to thee, O God. (*Thrice*)

Deacon: In the fourth tone: The Lord is God and has revealed himself to us. Blessed is he that comes in the name of the Lord. O give thanks unto the Lord, for he is good, for his mercy endures forever.

Singers: The Lord is God and has revealed himself to us. Blessed is he that comes in the name of the Lord. *This is sung after each stichos.*

V. 2: Surrounding me they compassed me, and by the name of the Lord I warded them off.

V. 3: I shall not die, but live, and I shall tell of the works of the Lord.

V. 4: The stone which the builders rejected, the same is become the head of the corner.
This is the Lord's doing, and it is marvelous in our eyes.

Then the Choir sings the Troparia:

Of the Conception of the Forerunner Tone 4:

Make merry, O barren woman,
who before wast unable to bear a child.
For, lo! thou hast conceived the lamp of Sun,
who will enlighten all the world suffering from blindness.
Dance, O Zechariah,
crying out with boldness: ***
He who will be born is the prophet of the Most High.

Glory... Of the Holy Innocents Tone one

As acceptable victims and freshly picked flowers,
as divine first fruits and newborn lambs,
you were offered to Christ who was born as a Child,
O most pure children.
You mocked Herod's wickedness: ***
and now we beseech you, unceasingly pray for our souls.

Both now... Of the Conception of the Mother of God Tone Four

Today the bonds of barrenness are broken,
God has heard the prayers of Joachim and Ann.
He has promised them beyond all their hopes,
to bear the Maiden of God
by whom the uncircumscribed Word was born as mortal Man,
who commanded an angel to cry to her: ***
Rejoice, full of grace, the Lord is with thee!

[Psalm 50: *Have mercy on me, O God...*]

Canon¹

Ode One

Singers: Holy John the Baptist, pray to God for us!

Reader: Perceiving the Master borne in thy womb, O pure Mother of God, John, as his Forerunner, leapt for joy in his mother's womb.

Singers: Holy Innocents, pray to God for us!

Reader: Today the contest opens for the babes who are faithful to Christ our God, and they denounce the princes and authorities of the enemy, manfully reproving Herod's infantile rage.

Singers: Most Holy Theotokos, save us!

Reader: The temple of the divine Savior is contained and formed in her mother's womb. The ladder is set up that leads all men on high, whose conception we honor with faith.

Ode Three

Singers: Holy John the Baptist, pray to God for us!

Reader: The glorious Forerunner, who has shown the faithful the firm path of repentance, has, by divine counsel and beyond all hope, sprung forth in his mother's womb at the angel's command.

Singers: Holy Innocents, pray to God for us!

Reader: The infant athletes born at the time of Christ's incarnation have blinded the insane fury of Herod and have shown themselves as splendid eyes of the Church.

Singers: Most Holy Theotokos, save us!

Reader: Dispel all the barrenness of my fruitless mind, and show forth my soul to be fruitful with virtues, O holy Mother of God, thou help of the faithful.

Tone Six

Singers: Save thy servants from misfortunes, O Mother of God, for after God all of us hasten to thee as to our unshakeable wall and protection.

Look down with compassion, O all-hymned Theotokos, on the cruel affliction of my body, and heal the sickness of my soul.

[The litany, *Have mercy on us, O God...* see p. qqq]

Ode Four

Singers: Holy John the Baptist, pray to God for us!

¹ Troparia are taken from (a) the Canon for the Conception of the Holy Forerunner (Sep. 23); (b) the Canon for the Holy Innocents (Dec. 29); and (c) the Canon for the Conception of the All-holy Mother of God (Dec. 9).

Reader: O blessed Forerunner, with the ax of thy prayer cut down the thorns of my passions and remove the stumbling block of my evil thoughts; making my mind fertile by thy virtues.

Singers: Holy Innocents, pray to God for us!

Reader: The multitude of infants who suffered martyrdom for the God of all receive from him the reward of their suffering. And because of them Herod has been grievously put to shame.

Singers: Most Holy Theotokos, save us!

Reader: “Rejoice with me, all ye tribes of Israel,” cried Anna with joy, “for I have conceived in my womb a new heaven, from which Jesus, the Bestower of life, shall in time shine forth!”

Ode Five

Singers: Holy John the Baptist, pray to God for us!

Reader: “Blessed art thou among women, O thou who art full of the joy of God,” Elisabeth cried to thee when she recognized the one who would give birth without knowing man and who alone would remain incorrupt after giving birth.

Singers: Holy Innocents, pray to God for us!

Reader: Herod is stained with the blood of foul murder; for, seeking to slay God, the Master and King of all, with cruelty he rages in fury against the infants.

Singers: Most Holy Theotokos, save us!

Reader: Joachim, unable to endure the sight of creation bereft of godliness, prayed that Anna’s barrenness would end, and that she would conceive the Maiden to whom a Son would be given: the most exalted Lord who brings about the adoption of all as sons of the Father.

Ode Six

Singers: Holy John the Baptist, pray to God for us!

Reader: In the dark abode of the womb, the lamp of the Sun offered worship and leapt up, recognizing with joy the Sun concealed in the cloud of his Mother’s womb.

Singers: Holy Innocents, pray to God for us!

Reader: Rachel, weeping over her children, foretold of old the infants who received untimely slaughter for Christ. And so she turned away and would not be comforted.

Singers: Most Holy Theotokos, save us!

Reader: Waves of wicked thoughts, assaults of the passions, and the abyss of sins bestorm my wretched soul. Help me, O holy Lady!

Tone Six

Singers: Pray unto God for us, O holy Forerunner and Baptist John, for we diligently run to thee, the swift helper and defender of our souls.

Deacon: Let us attend. Wisdom. The Prokimenon in the fourth tone: Lo, children are a heritage of the Lord, the fruit of the womb a reward. (Ps. 126)

Singers: Lo, children are a heritage of the Lord, the fruit of the womb a reward.

Deacon: Except the Lord build the house, those who build it labor in vain.

Singers: Lo, children are a heritage of the Lord, the fruit of the womb a reward.

Deacon: Lo, children are a heritage of the Lord:

Singers: and the fruit of the womb a reward.

Deacon: And that we may be accounted worthy of hearing the holy Gospel, let us pray to the Lord God.

Singers: Lord, have mercy. *Thrice.*

Deacon: Wisdom! Stand upright! Let us hear the Holy Gospel.

Priest: Peace be unto all.

Singers: And to thy spirit.

Priest: The Reading is from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew. (§ 4; 2:13–23).

Singers: Glory to thee, O Lord, glory to thee.

Deacon: Let us attend.

Priest: When the wise men had departed, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, “Rise, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there till I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him.” And he rose and took the child and his mother by night, and departed to Egypt, and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet, “Out of Egypt have I called my son.” Then Herod, when he saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, was in a furious rage, and he sent and killed all the male children in Bethlehem and in all that region who were two years old or under, according to the time which he had ascertained from the wise men. Then was fulfilled what was spoken by the prophet Jeremiah: “A voice was heard in Ramah, wailing and loud lamentation, Rachel weeping for her children; she refused to be consoled, because they were no more.” But when Herod died, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt, saying, “Rise, take the child and his mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who sought the child’s life are dead.” And he rose and took the child and his mother, and went to the land of Israel. But when he heard that Archelaus reigned over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there, and being warned in a dream he withdrew to the district of Galilee. And he went and dwelt in a city called Nazareth, that what was spoken by the prophets might be fulfilled, “He shall be called a Nazarene.”

Singers: Glory to thee, O Lord, glory to thee.

Ode Seven

Singers: Holy John the Baptist, pray to God for us!

Reader: With leaps instead of words, the great Forerunner worshipped thee in the Virgin's womb, O Christ Jesus, while he himself was borne in the womb of Elisabeth. O God of our fathers, blessed art thou!

Singers: Holy Innocents, pray to God for us!

Reader: O Word of God, the innocent and undefiled victims who were slaughtered for thee beforehand cry out: Blessed art thou, O Lord God of our fathers!

Singers: Most Holy Theotokos, save us!

Reader: O Anna, a robe of royal purple is woven in thy womb, and God the King of all, who is clothed therein, appears unto men and lays low the enemies that war against us.

Ode Eight

Singers: Holy John the Baptist, pray to God for us!

Reader: Break apart the stoniness of my mind, O Forerunner, as of old thou didst loose the bonds of the barren; and cause me to increase the fruits of repentance and to live forever.

Singers: Holy Innocents, pray to God for us!

Reader: When thou wast born, O Christ, a multitude of innocents joined battle today with their blood, arming themselves mightily against Herod; and so we all cry out in song: Bless the Lord, all ye works of the Lord!

Singers: Most Holy Theotokos, save us!

Reader: Raise me up who lie in the abyss of evils, and vanquish the enemies now engaging me in battle. Though I am wounded by the pleasures of sin, do not disdain me, O good and pure Lady, but take pity and save me.

Ode Nine

Singers: Holy John the Baptist, pray to God for us!

Reader: Throwing wide the gates of the barren woman, the great and divine Forerunner of Christ takes up his abode within his mother's womb as within royal chambers, that he may go forth as a warrior, preparing the way for the King of all.

Singers: Holy Innocents, pray to God for us!

Reader: In Rama there is heard Rachel's bitter lamentation: her weeping, contrition, and cries of Alas! For vile Herod, the murderous enemy, has slain the children of Bethlehem.

Singers: Most Holy Theotokos, save us!

Reader: Dance, all people, and leap up: for the earth has been prepared which, though never ploughed, will produce the life-bearing Grain, eating of which those who magnify his goodness will hunger no longer.

Singers: It is truly meet to bless thee, O Theotokos, ever blessed and most pure and the Mother of our God. More honorable than the cherubim, and more glorious beyond com-

pare than the seraphim; without corruption thou gavest birth to God the Word: true Theotokos, we magnify thee!

The Augmented Litany

Deacon: Have mercy on us, O God, according to thy great mercy, we pray thee, hearken and have mercy.

Singers: Lord, have mercy. *Thrice.*

Deacon: Furthermore we pray for our (arch)bishop *N.*; and for all our brethren in Christ.

Singers: Lord, have mercy. *Thrice.*

Deacon: Furthermore we pray for this country, its president, for all civil authorities, and for the armed forces.

Singers: Lord, have mercy. *Thrice.*

Deacon: Furthermore we pray for mercy, life, peace, health, salvation, visitation, and furtherance in all blessed things for the servants of God, those who strive with diligence against the evil of abortion, and working for its end in our land, and for the pardon and remission of their sins.

Singers: Lord, have mercy. *Thrice.*

Deacon: Furthermore we pray for all unborn children who are being brought to death by the unjust judgment of men: that the Lord our God would soften the hearts of those who seek their violent destruction, rescuing them from slaughter, we diligently pray thee, O Lord, hearken and have mercy!

Singers: Lord, have mercy. *Thrice.*

Deacon: Furthermore we pray for mothers and fathers who are tempted by the world or the devil to expose their unborn children to the instruments of torture and death, that the voices of darkness may be silenced, that peace and acceptance may reign, and that new life may be welcomed and nurtured, we pray thee, O most merciful Lord, hearken quickly and have mercy!

Singers: Lord, have mercy. *Thrice.*

Deacon: Furthermore we pray for all women who have had abortions and for their families, that they may receive healing and grace, with assurance of thy boundless mercy and forgiveness, we pray thee, O compassionate Savior, hear us and have mercy!

Singers: Lord, have mercy. *Thrice.*

Deacon: Furthermore we pray for those who, by word or action, support and promote the great scourge of abortion in this land, that thou wouldst correct their thoughts, open their eyes, and soften their hearts, we pray thee, O Lord, hearken and have mercy!

Singers: Lord, have mercy. *Thrice.*

Deacon: Again we pray that the Lord God will hearken unto the voice of the supplication of us sinners and have mercy on us.

Singers: Lord, have mercy. *Thrice*

Priest: Hear us, O God our Savior, thou hope of all the ends of the earth and of those who are far off upon the sea; and be merciful, be merciful, O Master, regarding our sins, and have mercy on us. For thou art a merciful God who lovest mankind, and unto thee do we send up glory: to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages.

Singers: Amen.

Deacon: Again and again on bended knee let us pray to the Lord.

Singers: Lord, have mercy. *Thrice*

Priest: O Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, who art in the bosom of the Father, fountain of life and immortality, Light of Light, who camest into the world to enlighten it: thou wast pleased to be conceived in the womb of the Virgin Mary for the salvation of our souls by the power of thine all-Holy Spirit. O Master, who camest that we might have life more abundantly, we beseech thee to enlighten the minds and hearts of those who refuse to see that human life begins at conception and that the unborn in the womb are already adorned with thine image and likeness; grant us strength to guard, cherish, and protect the lives of all those who are unable to care for themselves. For thou, O Giver of life, dost bring each person from non-being into being, sealing each person with divine and infinite love. Be merciful, O Lord, to those who, through ignorance or willfulness, affront thy divine goodness and providence through the evil act of abortion. May they, with all of us, come to the life of thy Truth and glorify thee, the merciful Savior, together with thy Father who is without beginning, and thine All-holy, good, and life-giving Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages.

Singers: Amen.

The Dismissal

Deacon: Wisdom!

Priest: Most holy Theotokos, save us.

Singers: More honorable than the Cherubim, and more glorious beyond compare than the Seraphim; without corruption thou gavest birth to God the Word: true Theotokos, we magnify thee.

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

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

Priest: May Christ our true God, through the prayers of his most pure Mother; of the holy, glorious, and honorable Forerunner, Prophet, and Baptist of Christ John, of the holy fourteen thousand innocent Children slain in Bethlehem by Herod, of the holy and righteous Ancestors of God Joachim and Ann, and of all the saints, have mercy on us and save us, for he is good and loves mankind.

Singers: Amen.