



Akathist Hymn to Saint Cosmas and Saint Damian of Rome

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Kontakion 1

Hear us, O God, and grant us the ability to praise earnestly and to ask rightly as we sing this hymn from our bed of sickness and our prison of passions. Guide our thoughts and words with divine illumination, that we may fittingly supplicate the unmercenary physicians, Saint Cosmas and Saint Damian of Rome. In our helplessness we are truly humbled and, henceforth, we wholeheartedly cry out:

Deliver us, Saint Cosmas and Saint Damian, holy brothers and merciful healers of the afflicted.

Ikos 1

We suffer from bodily diseases and mental disorders, from physical disabilities and emotional disturbances, from impure desires and from demonic attacks. Help us, Saint Cosmas and Saint Damian, for we are in urgent need of your holy medicine and sacred ointment. With faith in the Almighty and Merciful God, and with hope in your medical aid from Heaven, we call upon you in this manner:

Deliver us, for you are brothers in flesh and in spirit.

Deliver us, for we are distraught in body and in mind.

Deliver us, for you are physicians by training and by the will of God.

Deliver us, for we are stricken by illness and by the stress of society.

Deliver us, for you are gifted with cures and prayers.

Deliver us, for we are perishing with maladies and sins.

Deliver us, Saint Cosmas and Saint Damian, holy brothers and merciful healers of the afflicted.

Kontakion 2

Saint Cosmas and Saint Damian, we do not seek magic but restoration of our strength and faculties to the glory of God. We do not pursue privileges but renewal of our vitality to work and pray. Therefore, we ask for your health-giving blessings upon our life and upon our loved ones, that everyone might rise from their weariness and say: Alleluia.

Ikos 2

The Apostle Paul has said, "If one part suffers, all the parts suffer with it; if one part is honored, all the parts share its joy." Saint Cosmas and Saint Damian, you fulfilled your calling as competent and God-loving physicians, combining medicine with prayer to the benefit of the

suffering and to the joy of all who witness of Jesus Christ. You have honored the Church by your charitable healings, and now we honor the holy brothers who continue to aid the infirm on earth:

Deliver us, that God may be glorified in Heaven and on earth.

Deliver us, in the Name of Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior.

Deliver us, that we may partake in fellowship and service.

Deliver us, in accordance with the divine gift bestowed upon you.

Deliver us, that those who ridicule Christ might believe in Him.

Deliver us, in your sacred bond of entrusted physicians to the infirm.

Deliver us, Saint Cosmas and Saint Damian, holy brothers and merciful healers of the afflicted.

Kontakion 3

In the purity of your love for God and compassion for mankind, you refused payment for your provision of medical treatment to the people. O blessed unmercenaries, not only did you heal the sick but you caused many to believe in Jesus Christ through your noble service. All those who received healing and those who observed with admiration, said: Alleluia.

Ikos 3

Our Lord Jesus Christ has said, "...whatever you did for one of these least brothers of Mine, you did for Me." We who are sick are among the least significant, debilitated and suffering, and we look to the Church, our greatest hospital, where we can get well in body and soul. Saint Cosmas and Saint Damian, we implore you to attend to us who cry out to you now, from our pallet of pain, with these words of praise:

Deliver us, holy men of the mystical medicine of prayer.

Deliver us, dedicated physicians to the pitiable and penniless.

Deliver us, unmercenary healers rich in the love of God.

Deliver us, generous assistants in the workings of Jesus Christ.

Deliver us, voluntary servants to the hobbled and diseased.

Deliver us, gracious intercessors for the anguished and tormented.

Deliver us, Saint Cosmas and Saint Damian, holy brothers and merciful healers of the afflicted.

Kontakion 4

Saint Cosmas and Saint Damian, in icons you are depicted as beardless young men. We may surmise that from your childhood you worshipped God and cared about others. You lived as a brotherly pair, without rivalry, and then worked together as a medical unit, without avarice. Sanctioned by the Sovereign God to give holy remedies to His people, you faithfully said: Alleluia.

Ikos 4

We beseech you, Saint Cosmas and Saint Damian, as our unfaltering physicians and holy brothers in Jesus Christ, to apply spiritual medicine and health-giving mercy to our infirmities. Release us from the hardship of our limitations and the sorrow of our sins. Though you accept no payment, we ask you to accept our sincere words:

Deliver us, for the sun rises on another day of duties.

Deliver us, for we have loved ones who depend upon us.

Deliver us, for the rapidly changing world waits for no one.

Deliver us, for we must be agile and robust to live on.

Deliver us, for the tasks of survival extend into the evening.

Deliver us, for we live and work in complicated times.

Deliver us, Saint Cosmas and Saint Damian, holy brothers and merciful healers of the afflicted.

Kontakion 5

Let us not forget the aged who, like children, often have no say in how the world treats them. Saint Cosmas and Saint Damian, we especially ask your protection over the frail and all those who reside in nursing homes. May they be treated with respect and dignity, as they prepare for Eternity and continue to say until the end of their journey on this earth: Alleluia.

Ikos 5

The Apostle Paul has said, "I will rather boast gladly of my weakness, in order that the power of Christ may dwell with me." If it be for our salvation and to the glory of God, then, like Paul, let us find God's grace sufficient to our health, welfare, and spirituality. O charitable brothers, Saint Cosmas and Saint Damian, we defer to your discernment and submit to the will of God in all things. Yet, it is meet that we lift up our voices in supplication:

Deliver us, that we may have eyes to read the Scriptures.

Deliver us, that we may have ears to hear divine songs.

Deliver us, that we may have hands to do a day's work.

Deliver us, that we may have legs to stand and walk.

Deliver us, that we may have feet to follow Jesus Christ.

Deliver us, that we may have hearts to care about one another.

Deliver us, Saint Cosmas and Saint Damian, holy brothers and merciful healers of the afflicted.

Kontakion 6

Saint Cosmas and Saint Damian, your works of mercy did not go unnoticed by other physicians. One of these men, whose practice consisted of pagan rituals and potions, became consumed with jealousy over your success. Nonetheless, you continued serving the people and pleasing God, always saying: Alleluia.

Ikos 6

The envious pagan physician foolishly attempted to exalt himself by ridding Rome of your services. He therefore murdered you, Saint Cosmas and Saint Damian, to the detriment of his soul and to the martyrdom of the holy brothers who lived in peace and did good works on earth. We, therefore, exalt you today with our heartfelt praises:

Deliver us, physicians who refused money from the people.

Deliver us, healers who proclaimed Christ to the pagans.

Deliver us, brothers who gave freely of their talents.

Deliver us, martyrs who sacrificed courageously of their lives.

Deliver us, saints who watch over us from Heaven.

Deliver us, victors who heal those who cry out from earth.

Deliver us, Saint Cosmas and Saint Damian, holy brothers and merciful healers of the afflicted.

Kontakion 7

Have mercy upon us, Saint Cosmas and Saint Damian, and shine your health-giving rays of light upon our bodies and into our souls. Enable us to glorify God with renewed strength and overflowing love, even as you glorified God on earth and continue to glorify Him from your mansion in Heaven. Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia.

Closing Verse

We worship God and we venerate His saints, always with gratitude for His wisdom and hope in His mercy.