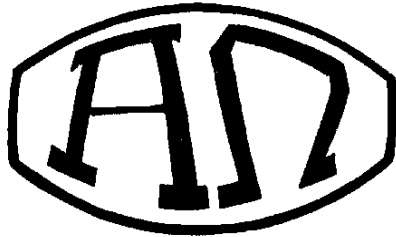


AKATHIST HYMN TO THE MOTHER OF GOD

FRIDAY OF THE 5TH WEEK OF
GREAT LENT



Diocese of Philadelphia and Eastern Pennsylvania
www.DOEPA.org

Adapted for use in the Diocese of Philadelphia and Eastern Pennsylvania

For those traveling, by land, sea, through the air.
For the sick and the suffering.
Let us pray for the abundance of the fruits of the earth.
Let us pray for every Orthodox Christian soul.

Let us pray for our government, Orthodox hierarchs, and
the founders of this holy house.

For our fathers, mothers, brothers, sisters, and friends de-
parted this life before us, and for all the Orthodox
Christians here and everywhere laid to rest.

PRIEST: And, let us also say for ourselves!

CHOIR: Lord, have mercy. (3)

PRIEST: Through the prayers of our holy fathers, O Lord
Jesus Christ our God, have mercy on us!

CHOIR: Amen.



All my hope I place in thee, O Mother of God: keep me under thy protection.

PRIEST: Glory to Thee O Christ Our God and our only sure hope, glory to Thee!

CHOIR: Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen. Lord have mercy. (3) Father bless!

PRIEST: May Christ our true God, through the prayers of His Most pure Mother. Of saint(s) _____ who we commemorate today, and of all the saints, have mercy on us and save us for as much as He is good and loves mankind!

CHOIR: Amen.

PRIEST: (*Bowing to the faithful*) Forgive me a sinner, if I have offended any of you.

PEOPLE: May God forgive and have mercy on you. (*And they make a bow, asking his forgiveness*)

PRIEST: Let us pray for his Beatitude, the Most Blessed Metropolitan _____, and for His Grace (*Eminence*), our Bishop (*Archbishop*) _____ and all our brethren in Christ.

CHOIR: Lord, have mercy. *Repeated after each petition*

For the president of our country, our civil authorities and for our armed forces serving everywhere.

For those who love us and those who hate us.

For those who have asked us to pray for them, in our unworthiness.

For the deliverance of those falsely imprisoned.

THE AKATHIST HYMN is one of the most well-loved services of devotion in the Orthodox Church. Although there is some debate concerning the particulars of its authorship, many scholars agree with the pious tradition which states that the Akathist was composed in the imperial city of Constantinople, "the city of the Virgin," by St. Romanos the Melodist, who reposed in the year 556.

The word "*akathistos*" literally means "not sitting," or plainly put - standing; normally all participants stand while it is being prayed. The hymn is comprised of 24 stanzas, alternating long and short. Each short stanza (kontakion) ends with the singing of "*Alleluia*." Each longer stanza (ikos) ends with the refrain: "*Rejoice, O Bride Unwedded*."

The majority of the hymn is made up of praises directed to the Mother of God, always beginning with the salutation of the Archangel Gabriel: "Rejoice." In each of them, one after the other, all the events related to our Lord's incarnation pass before us for our contemplation. The Archangel Gabriel (Ikos 1) marvels at the Divine self-emptying and the renewal of creation which will occur when Christ comes to dwell in the Virgin's womb. The unborn John the Baptist (Ikos 3) prophetically rejoices. The shepherds (Ikos 4) recognize Christ as a blameless Lamb, and rejoice that in the Virgin "the things of earth join chorus with the heavens." The pagan Magi, (Kontakion 5) following the light of the star, praise Her for revealing the light of the world.

As the hymn progresses, various individuals and groups encounter Christ and His Mother. Each has his own need; each his own desire or expectation, and each finds his or her own particular spiritual need satisfied and fulfilled in Our Lord and in the Mother of God.

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

READER: Amen. Glory to Thee, O God, glory to Thee! 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, cleanse us from every impurity, and save our souls, O Good One.

Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal, have mercy on us. (3)

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

Most Holy Trinity, have mercy on us. Lord, cleanse us from our sins. Master, pardon our transgressions. Holy One, visit and heal our infirmities for Thy name's sake

Lord have mercy. (3)

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, 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 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 ages of ages.

time of my departure taking care of my miserable soul, and driving far away from it the dark countenances of the evil demons; lastly, at the dreadful day of judgment delivering me from torment eternal and showing me to be an heir of the ineffable glory of thy Son and our God; all of which may I attain, O my Sovereign Lady, most holy Theotokos, in virtue of thy intercessions and protection, through the grace and love to mankind of thy only begotten Son, our Lord and God and Savior, Jesus Christ, to Whom is due all glory, honor and worship, together with His Un-originate Father, and His Most Holy and good and life creating Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

A prayer to our Lord Jesus Christ, by Antiochus the Monk

PRIEST: And grant unto us, O Master, in the coming sleep, rest for body and soul, and preserve us from the gloomy slumber of sin, and from every dark and nocturnal sensuality. Subdue the impulses of passions, extinguish the fiery darts of the evil one that are cunningly hurled against us, assuage the rebellions of our flesh, and every earthly and fleshy subtlety of ours lull to sleep. And grant unto us, O God, a watchful mind, chaste thought, a sober heart, a sleep gentle and free from every satanic illusion. Raise us up at the time of prayer firmly grounded in Thy judgments. All the night long grant us a doxology, that we may hymn and bless and glorify Thy most honorable and majestic name: of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto the ages of ages.

READER: Amen. Most glorious, Ever-Virgin, Mother of Christ God, present our prayer to thy Son and our God, that through thee, He may save our souls.

My hope is the Father, my refuge is the Son, my protection is the Holy Spirit: O Holy Trinity, glory to Thee.

More honorable than the Cherubim, and more glorious beyond compare than the Seraphim. Without defilement thou gavest birth to God the word, true Theotokos, we magnify thee! In the name of the Lord, Father bless!

PRIEST: God be bountiful to us and bless us, show the light of Thy countenance upon us and have mercy on us.

The Supplicatory Prayer to the Most Holy Theotokos

READER: Amen. O undefiled, untainted, uncorrupted, most pure, chaste Virgin, Bride of God and Sovereign Lady, who didst unite the Word of God to mankind through thy most glorious birth giving, and hast linked the apostate nature of our race with the heavenly; who art the only hope of the hopeless, and the helper of the struggling, the ever-ready protection of them that hasten unto thee, and the refuge of all Christians: Do not shrink with loathing from me a sinner, defiled, who with polluted thoughts, words, and deeds have made myself utterly unprofitable, and through slothfulness of mind have become a slave to the pleasures of life. But as the Mother of God who loves mankind, show thy love for mankind and mercifully have compassion upon me a sinner and prodigal, and accept my supplications, which are offered to thee out of my defiled mouth; and making use of thy motherly boldness, entreat thy Son and our Master and Lord that He may be pleased to open for me the depths of His loving kindness and graciousness to mankind, and disregarding my numberless offenses, will turn me back to repentance, and show me to be a tried worker of His precepts. And be ever present unto me as one merciful, compassionate and well disposed; in the present life be a fervent intercessor and helper, repelling the assaults of adversaries and guiding me to salvation and at the

READER: Amen. Lord have mercy. (12)

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

Come let us worship 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 Sion, and let the walls of Jerusalem be builded. Then shalt Thou be pleased with a sacrifice of righteousness, with oblation and whole-burnt offerings. Then shall they offer bullocks upon Thine altar.

PSALM 69

O God, be attentive unto helping me; O Lord, make haste to help me. Let them be shamed and confounded that seek after my soul. Let them be turned back and brought to shame that desire evils against me. Let them be turned back straightway in shame that say unto me: Well done! Well done! Let them be glad and rejoice in Thee all that seek after Thee, O God, and let them that love Thy salvation say continually: The Lord be magnified. But as for me, I am poor and needy; O God, come unto mine aid. My helper and my deliverer art Thou, O Lord; make no long tarrying.

PSALM 142

O Lord, hear my prayer, give ear unto my supplication in Thy truth; hearken unto me in Thy righteousness. And enter not into judgement with Thy servant, for in Thy sight shall no man living be justified. For the enemy hath persecuted my soul; he hath humbled my life down to the earth. He hath sat me in darkness as those that have been long dead, and my spirit within me is become despondent; within me my heart is troubled. I remembered days of old, I meditated on all Thy works, I pondered on the creations of Thy hands. I

all the world. She cries to Thee O Christ God. Send down Thy bounties on Thy people. Grant peace to Thy habitation and great mercy for our souls.

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

With the saints, give rest, O Christ, to the souls of Thy servants, where there is neither sickness, nor sorrow, nor sighing, but life everlasting.

Now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

O Holy Apostles and all the saints, pray to the merciful Lord to grant us forgiveness of our transgressions.

Lord have mercy! (40)

PRAYER OF THE HOURS

O Thou who at every season and every hour in heaven and on earth art worshipped and glorified, O Christ our God. Who art merciful and compassionate long-suffering and of great goodness; Who lovest the just and shows mercy on the sinner. Who callest all to salvation to the promise of blessings to come. O Lord, in this hour receive our supplication and direct our lives according to Thy commandments. Sanctify our souls, hallow our bodies, correct our thoughts, cleanse our minds deliver us from all tribulation both evil and distress. Encompass us about with Thy holy angels that guided and guarded by them we may attain to the unity of the faith and to the knowledge of Thine unapproachable glory for Thou art blessed unto the ages of ages. Amen.

*The priest exits the Altar and takes his place
before the closed Royal Doors, as the reader continues...*

Lord have mercy. (3)

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

Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal, have mercy on us. (3)

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

Most Holy Trinity, have mercy on us. Lord, cleanse us from our sins. Master, pardon our transgressions. Holy One, visit and heal our infirmities for Thy name's sake.

Lord have mercy. (3)

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, 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 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 ages of ages.

READER: Amen.

TROPARION

O Apostles, Martyrs, and Prophets, Venerable and Righteous Ones; those that have accomplished a good labor and kept the Faith, that have boldness before the Savior; O Good Ones, intercede for us, we pray, that our souls be saved.

As with fine porphyry and royal purple, Thy Church has been adorned with Thy martyr's bloodshed throughout

stretched forth my hands unto Thee; my soul thirsteth after Thee like a waterless land. Quickly hear me, O Lord; my spirit hath fainted away. Turn not Thy face away from me, lest I be like unto them that go down into the pit. Cause me to hear Thy mercy in the morning; for in Thee have I put my hope. Cause me to know, O Lord, the way wherein I should walk; for unto Thee have I lifted up my soul. Rescue me from mine enemies, O Lord; unto Thee have I fled for refuge. Teach me to do Thy will, for Thou art my God. Thy good Spirit shall lead me in the land of uprightness; for Thy name's sake, O Lord, shalt Thou quicken me. In Thy righteousness shalt Thou bring my soul out of affliction, and in Thy mercy shalt Thou utterly destroy mine enemies. And Thou shalt cut off all them that afflict my soul, for I am Thy servant.

LESSER DOXOLOGY

Glory to God in the Highest and on earth peace good will towards men. We praise Thee we bless Thee, we give thanks to Thee for Thy great glory. O Lord, heavenly King, God, Father almighty! O Lord, the only begotten Son Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit! O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, who takest away the sin of the world, have mercy on us. Thou who takest away the sin of the world, accept our prayer. Thou who sittest at the right hand of the Father, have mercy on us. For Thou alone art holy, Thou alone art the Lord, Jesus Christ, in the glory of God the Father. Amen. Every day I will bless Thee and praise Thy name for ever and ever, unto ages of ages! Vouchsafe, O Lord to keep us this night without sin. Blessed art Thou, O Lord, God of our fathers, and praised and glorified is Thy name forever. Amen. Let Thy mercy, O Lord, be upon us as we have set our hope on Thee. Blessed

art Thou, O Lord, teach me Thy statutes! Blessed art Thou, O Master, grant me understanding of Thy commandments! Blessed art Thou, O Holy One, enlighten me with Thy precepts. Thy mercy O, Lord, endures forever, do not despise the work of Thy hands. To Thee is due praise, unto Thee is due a song, unto Thee is due glory: to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen

THE CREED

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 ages; Light of Light, true God of true 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 He was crucified for us under Pontus Pilate, and suffered and was buried; And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures; And ascended into Heaven, and sits 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 in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the Giver of life; Who proceeds from the Father, Who with the Father and the Son together is worshipped and glorified; Who spoke by the prophets; 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.

Here we begin to sing akathist hymn

IKOS 1

PRIEST: An archangel was sent from Heaven to say to the Theotokos: Rejoice! And beholding thee, O Lord, taking bodily form, he was amazed and with his bodiless voice he stood crying to Her such things as these:

Rejoice, thou through whom joy will shine forth:

Rejoice, thou through whom the curse will cease!

Rejoice, recall of fallen Adam:

Rejoice, redemption of the tears of Eve!

Rejoice, height inaccessible to human thoughts:

Rejoice, depth undiscernible even for the eyes of angels!

Rejoice, for thou art the throne of the King:

Rejoice, for thou bearest Him Who beareth all!

Rejoice, star that causeth the Sun to appear:

Rejoice, womb of the Divine Incarnation!

Rejoice, thou through whom creation is renewed:

Rejoice, thou through whom we worship the Creator!

Rejoice, O Bride Unwedded!

KONTAKION 1

CHOIR: To thee, the Champion Leader, we thy servants dedicate a feast of victory and of thanksgiving as ones rescued out of sufferings, O Theotokos: but as thou art one with might which is invincible, from all dangers that can be do thou deliver us, that we may cry to thee: **Rejoice, O Unwedded Bride!**

READER: 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 compare than the Seraphim. Without defilement you gave birth to God the Word, true Theotokos, we magnify thee.

IKOS 12

PRIEST: While singing to thine Offspring, we all praise thee as a living temple, O Theotokos; for the Lord Who holdeth all things in His hand dwelt in thy womb, and He sanctified and glorified thee, and taught all to cry to thee:

Rejoice, tabernacle of God the Word:
Rejoice, saint greater than the saints!
Rejoice, ark gilded by the Spirit:
Rejoice, inexhaustible treasury of life!
Rejoice, precious diadem of pious kings:
Rejoice, venerable boast of reverent priests!
Rejoice, unshakable fortress of the Church:
Rejoice, inviolable wall of the kingdom!
Rejoice, thou through whom victories are obtained:
Rejoice, thou through whom foes fall prostrate!
Rejoice, healing of my flesh:
Rejoice, salvation of my soul!
Rejoice, O Bride Unwedded!

KONTAKION 13

(This Kontakion is repeated three times)

PRIEST: O all-praised Mother who didst bear the Word, holiest of all the saints, accept now our offering, and deliver us from all misfortune, and rescue from the torment to come those that cry to thee: Alleluia!

CHOIR: Alleluia (3)

Then we chant Ikos 1 and sing Kontakion 1

The First Stasis

KONTAKION 1

CHOIR: To thee, the Champion Leader, we thy servants dedicate a feast of victory and of thanksgiving as ones rescued out of sufferings, O Theotokos: but as thou art one with might which is invincible, from all dangers that can be do thou deliver us, that we may cry to thee: Rejoice, O Unwedded Bride!

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Rejoice, for thou art the throne of the King:
Rejoice, for thou bearest Him Who beareth all!
Rejoice, star that causeth the Sun to appear:
Rejoice, womb of the Divine Incarnation!
Rejoice, thou through whom creation is renewed:
Rejoice, thou through whom we worship the Creator!
Rejoice, O Bride Unwedded!

KONTAKION 2

PRIEST: Seeing herself to be chaste, the holy one said boldly to Gabriel: The marvel of thy speech is difficult for my soul to accept. How canst thou speak of a birth from a seedless conception? And she cried: Alleluia!

CHOIR: Alleluia (3)

IKOS 2

PRIEST: Seeking to know knowledge that cannot be known, the Virgin cried to the ministering one: Tell me, how can a son be born from a chaste womb? Then he spake to her in fear, only crying aloud thus:

Rejoice, initiate of God's ineffable will:

Rejoice, assurance of those who pray in silence!

Rejoice, beginning of Christ's miracles:

Rejoice, crown of His dogmas!

Rejoice, heavenly ladder by which God came down:

Rejoice, bridge that conveyest us from earth to Heaven!

Rejoice, wonder of angels sounded abroad:

Rejoice, wound of demons bewailed afar!

Rejoice, thou who ineffably gavest birth to the Light:

Rejoice, thou who didst reveal thy secret to none!

Rejoice, thou who surpassest the knowledge of the wise:

Rejoice, thou who givest light to the minds of the faithful!

Rejoice, O Bride Unwedded!

CHOIR: Alleluia (3)

IKOS 11

PRIEST: We behold the holy Virgin, a shining lamp appearing to those in darkness; for, kindling the Immaterial Light, she guideth all to divine knowledge, she illumineth minds with radiance, and is honored by our shouting these things:

Rejoice, ray of the noetic Sun:

Rejoice, radiance of the Unsetting Light!

Rejoice, lightning that enlightenest our souls:

Rejoice, thunder that terrifiest our enemies!

Rejoice, for thou didst cause the refulgent Light to dawn:

Rejoice, for thou didst cause the river of many streams to gush forth!

Rejoice, thou who paintest the image of the font:

Rejoice, thou Who blottest out the stain of sin!

Rejoice, laver that washest the conscience clean:

Rejoice, cup that drawest up joy!

Rejoice, aroma of the sweet fragrance of Christ:

Rejoice, life of mystical gladness!

Rejoice, O Bride Unwedded!

KONTAKION 12

PRIEST: When the Absolver of all mankind desired to blot out ancient debts, of His Own will He came to dwell among those who had fallen from His Grace; and having torn up the handwriting of their sins, He heareth this from all: Alleluia!

CHOIR: Alleluia (3)

IKOS 10

PRIEST: A bulwark art thou to virgins, and to all that flee unto thee, O Virgin Theotokos; for the Maker of Heaven and earth prepared thee, O Most-pure one, dwelt in thy womb, and taught all to call to thee:

Rejoice, pillar of virginity:

Rejoice, gate of salvation!

Rejoice, leader of mental formation:

Rejoice, bestower of divine good!

Rejoice, for thou didst renew those conceived in shame:

Rejoice, for thou gavest wisdom to those robbed of their minds!

Rejoice, thou who didst foil the corrupter of minds:

Rejoice, thou who gavest birth to the Sower of purity!

Rejoice, bride-chamber of a seedless marriage:

Rejoice, thou who dost wed the faithful to the Lord!

Rejoice, good nourisher of virgins:

Rejoice, adorer of holy souls as for marriage!

Rejoice, O Bride Unwedded!

KONTAKION 11

PRIEST: Every hymn is defeated that trieth to encompass the multitude of Thy many compassions; for if we offer to Thee, O Holy King, songs equal in number to the sand, nothing have we done worthy of that which Thou hast given us who shout to Thee: Alleluia!

KONTAKION 3

PRIEST: The power of the Most High then overshadowed the Virgin for conception, and showed her fruitful womb as a sweet meadow to all who wish to reap salvation, as they sing: Alleluia!

CHOIR: Alleluia (3)

IKOS 3

PRIEST: Having received God into her womb, the Virgin hastened to Elizabeth whose unborn babe at once recognized her embrace, rejoiced, and with leaps of joy as songs, cried to the Theotokos:

Rejoice, branch of an Unfading Sprout:

Rejoice, acquisition of Immortal Fruit!

Rejoice, laborer that laborest for the Lover of mankind:

Rejoice, thou who givest birth to the Planter of our life!

Rejoice, cornland yielding a rich crop of mercies:

Rejoice, table bearing a wealth of forgiveness!

Rejoice, thou who makest to bloom the garden of delight:

Rejoice, thou who preparest a haven for souls!

Rejoice, acceptable incense of intercession:

Rejoice, propitiation of all the world!

Rejoice, good will of God to mortals:

Rejoice, boldness of mortals before God!

Rejoice, O Bride Unwedded!

Then the choir begins the First Ode of the Canon:

CANON TO THE THEOTOKOS

Ode 1: I shall open my mouth, and the Spirit will inspire it, and I shall utter the words of my song to the Queen and Mother: I shall be seen keeping feast with radiance and joyfully singing her wonders.

Refrain: Most holy Theotokos, save us.

Beholding thee, the living book of Christ, sealed by the Spirit, the great archangel exclaimed to thee, O pure one: Rejoice, vessel of joy, through which the curse of the first mother is annulled.

Most holy Theotokos, save us.

Rejoice, Virgin bride of God, restoration of Adam and death of hell. Rejoice, all-immaculate one, palace of the King of all. Rejoice, fiery throne of the Almighty.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.

Rejoice, O thou who alone hast blossomed forth the unfading Rose. Rejoice, for thou hast borne the fragrant Apple. Rejoice, Maiden unwedded, the pure fragrance of the only King, and preservation of the world.

Both now and ever, and unto the ages of ages. Amen.

Rejoice, treasure-house of purity, by which we have risen from our fall. Rejoice, sweet-smelling lily which perfumeth the faithful, fragrant incense and most precious myrrh.

Thou dove that hast borne the Merciful One, rejoice, ever-virgin! Rejoice, glory of all the saints. Rejoice, crown of martyrs. Rejoice, divine adornment of all the righteous and salvation of us the faithful.

Both now, and ever, and unto the ages of ages. Amen.

Spare Thine inheritance, O God, and pass over all our sins now, for as intercessor in Thy sight, O Christ, Thou hast her that on earth gave birth to Thee without seed, when in Thy great mercy Thou didst will to take the form of man.

Then the Choir chants the Kontakion:

(Tone 8)

To Thee, the Champion Leader, we Thy servants dedicate a feast of victory and of thanksgiving as ones rescued out of sufferings, O Theotokos: but as Thou art one with might which is invincible, from all dangers that can be do Thou deliver us, that we may cry to Thee: Rejoice, Thou Bride Unwedded!

Then the Fourth Stasis:

Ode 9: Let everyone born on earth leap for joy, enlightened by the Spirit, let the nature of the bodiless powers celebrate, honoring the holy feast of the Mother of God, and let them cry aloud: "Rejoice, All-Blessed Theotokos, pure ever Virgin.

Most holy Theotokos, save us.

Let us, the faithful, call to thee: Rejoice! Through thee, O Maiden, we have become partakers of everlasting joy. Save us from temptations, from barbarian captivity, and from every other injury that befalleth sinful men because of the multitude of their transgressions.

Most holy Theotokos, save us.

Thou hast appeared as our enlightenment and confirmation; wherefore, we cry to thee: Rejoice, never-setting star that bringest into the world the great Sun. Rejoice, pure Virgin that didst open the closed Eden. Rejoice, pillar of fire, leading mankind to a higher life.

Most holy Theotokos, save us.

Let us stand with reverence in the house of our God, and let us cry aloud: Rejoice, Mistress of the world. Rejoice, Mary, Lady of us all. Rejoice, thou who alone art immaculate and fair among women. Rejoice, vessel that receivedst the inexhaustible myrrh poured out on thee.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.

Ode 3: In your Divine glory O Theotokos, living and abundant fountain, spiritually strengthen your singers assembled in chorus, and grant them crowns of glory.

Most holy Theotokos, save us.

From thee, the untilled field, hath grown the divine Ear of grain. Rejoice, living table that hath held the Bread of Life. Rejoice, O Lady, never-failing spring of the Living Water.

Most holy Theotokos, save us.

O Heifer that barest the unblemished Calf for the faithful, rejoice, Ewe that hast brought forth the lamb of God Who taketh away the sins of all the world. Rejoice, ardent mercy-seat.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.

Rejoice brightest dawn, who alone barest Christ the Sun. Rejoice, dwelling-place of Light, who hast dispersed darkness and utterly driven away the gloomy demons.

Both now, and ever, and unto the ages of ages. Amen.

Rejoice, only door through which the Word alone hath passed. By thy birthgiving, O Lady, thou hast broken the bars and gates of hell. Rejoice, Bride of God, divine entry of the saved.

Then the Choir chants the Kontakion:

(Tone 8)

To Thee, the Champion Leader, we Thy servants dedicate a feast of victory and of thanksgiving as ones rescued out of sufferings, O Theotokos: but as Thou art one with might which is invincible, from all dangers that can be do Thou deliver us, that we may cry to Thee: Rejoice, Thou Bride Unwedded!

The Second Stasis

KONTAKION 4

PRIEST: Having within a tempest of doubting thoughts, the chaste Joseph was troubled. For knowing thee to have no husband, he suspected a secret union, O blameless one. But having learned that thy conception was of the Holy Spirit, he said: Alleluia!

CHOIR: Alleluia (3)

IKOS 4

PRIEST: While the angels were chanting, the shepherds heard of Christ's coming in the flesh, and having run to the Shepherd, they beheld Him as a blameless Lamb that had been pastured in Mary's womb, and singing to her, they cried:

Rejoice, Mother of the Lamb and the Shepherd:

Rejoice, fold of rational sheep!

Rejoice, torment of invisible enemies:

Rejoice, opening of the gates of Paradise!

Rejoice, for the things of Heaven rejoice with the earth:

tery of thy childbearing, while the youths clearly prefigured it as they stood in the midst of the fire and were not burnt, O Virgin pure and inviolate. Therefore do we hymn thee and supremely exalt thee unto the ages.

Most holy Theotokos, save us.

We who once through falsehood were stripped naked, have by thy childbearing been clothed in the robe of incorruption; and we who once sat in the darkness of sin have seen the light, O Maiden, dwelling-place of Light. Therefore do we hymn thee and supremely exalt thee unto the ages.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.

Through thee the dead are brought to life, for thou hast borne the Hypostatic Life. They who once were mute are now made to speak well; lepers are cleansed, diseases are driven out, the hosts of the spirits of the air are conquered, O Virgin, the salvation of men.

Both now, and ever, and unto the ages of ages. Amen.

Thou didst bear the salvation of the world, O pure one, and through thee we were lifted from earth to heaven. Rejoice, all-blessed, protection and strength, rampart and fortress of those who sing: O all ye works of the Lord, praise ye the Lord and supremely exalt Him unto the ages.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.

The ends of the earth praise thee and call thee blessed, and they cry to thee with love: Rejoice, pure scroll, upon which the Word was written by the finger of the Father. Do thou beseech Him to inscribe thy servants in the book of life, O Theotokos.

Both now, and ever, and unto the ages of ages. Amen.

We thy servants pray to thee and bend the knees of our hearts: Incline thine ear, O pure one; save thy servants who are always sinking, and preserve thy city from every enemy captivity, O Theotokos.

Ode 8: The Offspring of the Theotokos saved the God-fearing children in the furnace. Then it was pre-figured, but now it is at work! All the world is lifted up to sing: "Praise the Lord, all you works, and exalt Him throughout all ages!"

Most holy Theotokos, save us.

Within thy womb thou hast received the Word; thou hast carried Him who carrieth all; O pure one, thou hast fed with milk Him Who by His beck feedeth the whole world. To Him we sing: Sing to the Lord, all ye His works, and supremely exalt Him unto the ages.

Most holy Theotokos, save us.

Moses perceived in the burning bush the great mys-

Rejoice, for the things of earth join chorus with the heavens!

Rejoice, never-silent mouth of the Apostles:

Rejoice, invincible courage of the passion-bearers!

Rejoice, firm support of faith:

Rejoice, radiant token of Grace!

Rejoice, thou through whom hades was stripped bare:

Rejoice, thou through whom we are clothed with glory!

Rejoice, O Bride Unwedded!

KONTAKION 5

PRIEST: Having sighted the divinely-moving star, the Magi followed its radiance; and holding it as a lamp, by it they sought a powerful King; and having reached the Unreachable One, they rejoiced, shouting to Him: Alleluia!

CHOIR: Alleluia (3)

IKOS 5

PRIEST: The sons of the Chaldea saw in the hands of the Virgin Him Who with His hand made man. And knowing Him to be the Master, even though He had taken the form of a servant, they hastened to serve Him with gifts, and to cry to her who is blessed:

Rejoice, mother of the Unsetting Star:

Rejoice, dawn of the mystic day!

Rejoice, thou who didst extinguish the furnace of error:

Rejoice, thou who didst enlighten the initiates of
the Trinity!
Rejoice, thou who didst banish from power the in
human tyrant:
Rejoice, thou who didst show us Christ the Lord, the
Lover of mankind!
Rejoice, thou who redeemest from pagan worship:
Rejoice, thou who dost drag us from the works of
mire!
Rejoice, thou who didst quench the worship of fire:
Rejoice, thou who rescuest from the flame of the
passions!
Rejoice, guide of the faithful to chastity:
Rejoice, gladness of all generations!
Rejoice, O Bride Unwedded!

KONTAKION 6

PRIEST: Having become God-bearing heralds, the Magi
returned to Babylon, having fulfilled Thy prophecy; and
having preached Thee to all as the Christ, they left Herod
as a babbler who knew not how to sing: Alleluia!

CHOIR: Alleluia (3)

IKOS 6

PRIEST: By shining in Egypt the light of truth, Thou
didst dispel the darkness of falsehood; for its idols
fell, O Saviour, unable to endure Thy strength; and
those who were delivered from them cried to the
Theotokos:

promise, and He that, as God, is the Shepherd, for
our sake appeared unto us as a man; for like calling
unto like, as God He heareth: Alleluia!

CHOIR: Alleluia (3)

*Then the Choir begins the Seventh Ode of the
Canon:*

Ode 7: The holy children would not serve created
things more than the Creator, but trampling bravely
on the threatening fire, they rejoiced crying out:
blessed art Thou and praised above all, O Lord God of
our fathers!

Most holy Theotokos, save us.

We sing of thee, saying aloud: Rejoice, chariot of the
noetic Sun; true vine, that hast produced ripe
grapes, from which floweth a wine making glad the
souls of them that in faith glorify thee.

Most holy Theotokos, save us.

Rejoice, Bride of God, who gavest birth to the
Healer of all; mystical staff, that didst blossom with
the unfading Flower. Rejoice, O Lady, through
whom we are filled with joy and inherit life.

Most holy Theotokos, save us.

No tongue, however eloquent, hath power to sing
thy praises, O Lady; for above the seraphim art thou
exalted, who gavest birth to Christ the King, Whom
do thou beseech to deliver from all harm those that
venerate thee in faith.

IKOS 9

PRIEST: We see most eloquent orators mute as fish before thee, O Theotokos; for they are at a loss to tell how thou remainest a Virgin and could bear a child. But we, marveling at this mystery, cry out faithfully:

Rejoice, receptacle of the Wisdom of God:

Rejoice, treasury of His Providence!

Rejoice, thou who showest philosophers to be fools:

Rejoice, thou Who exposest the learned as irrational!

Rejoice, for the clever critics have become foolish:

Rejoice, for the writers of myths have faded away!

Rejoice, thou Who didst rend the webs of the Athenians:

Rejoice, thou Who didst fill the nets of the fishermen!

Rejoice, thou who drawest us from the depths of ignorance:

Rejoice, thou who enlightenest many with knowledge!

Rejoice, ship for those who wish to be saved:

Rejoice, harbor for sailors on the sea of life!

Rejoice, O Bride Unwedded!

KONTAKION 10

PRIEST: Desiring to save the world, He that is the Creator of all came to it according to His Own

Rejoice, uplifting of men:

Rejoice, downfall of demons!

Rejoice, thou who didst trample down the dominion of delusion:

Rejoice, thou who didst unmask the fraud of idols!

Rejoice, sea that didst drown the Pharaoh of the mind:

Rejoice, rock that doth refresh those thirsting for life!

Rejoice, pillar of fire that guideth those in darkness:

Rejoice, shelter of the world broader than a cloud!

Rejoice, sustenance replacing manna:

Rejoice, minister of holy delight!

Rejoice, land of promise:

Rejoice, thou from whom floweth milk and honey!

Rejoice, O Bride Unwedded!

KONTAKION 7

PRIEST: When Symeon was about to depart this age of delusion, thou wast brought as a Babe to him, but thou was recognized by him as perfect God also; wherefore, marveling at thine ineffable wisdom, he cried: Alleluia!

CHOIR: Alleluia (3)

Then the Choir begins the Fourth Ode of the Canon:

Ode 4: He who sits in glory on the throne of the God-head, Jesus truly Divine, came on a light cloud, and save with an incorrupt hand those who cry aloud: "Glory to Thy power, O Christ!"

Most holy Theotokos, save us.

With voices of song in faith we cry aloud to thee, who art worthy of all praise: Rejoice, butter mountain, mountain curdled by the Spirit. Rejoice, candlestick and vessel of manna, which sweeteneth the senses of all the pious.

Most holy Theotokos, save us.

Rejoice, mercy-seat of the world, most pure Lady. Rejoice, ladder raising all men from the earth by grace. Rejoice, bridge that in very truth hast led from death to life all those that hymn thee.

Most holy Theotokos, save us.

Rejoice, most pure one, higher than the heavens, who didst painlessly carry within thy womb the Fountain of the earth. Rejoice, sea-shell that with thy blood didst dye a divine purple robe for the King of Hosts.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.

Rejoice, Lady who in truth didst give birth to the lawgiver, Who freely washed clean the iniquities of all. O Maiden who hast not known wedlock, unfathomable depth, unutterable height, by whom we have been deified.

IKOS 8

PRIEST: Wholly present was the Inexpressible Word among those here below, yet in no way absent from those on high; for this was a divine condescension and not a change of place, and His birth was from a God-receiving Virgin Who heard these things:

Rejoice, container of the Uncontainable God:

Rejoice, door of solemn mystery!

Rejoice, report doubtful to unbelievers:

Rejoice, undoubted boast of the faithful!

Rejoice, all-holy chariot of Him Who sitteth upon the Cherubim:

Rejoice, all-glorious temple of Him Who is above the Seraphim!

Rejoice, thou who hast united opposites:

Rejoice, thou who hast joined virginity and motherhood!

Rejoice, thou through whom transgression hath been absolved:

Rejoice, thou through whom Paradise is opened!

Rejoice, key to the kingdom of Christ:

Rejoice, hope of eternal good things!

Rejoice, O Bride Unwedded!

KONTAKION 9

PRIEST: All the angels were amazed at the great act of Thine incarnation; for they saw the Unapproachable God as a man approachable to all, abiding with us, and hearing from all: Alleluia!

CHOIR: Alleluia (3)

Rejoice, flower of incorruptibility:
Rejoice, crown of continence!
Rejoice, thou from whom shineth the Archetype
of the Resurrection:
Rejoice, thou Who revealest the life of the
angels!
Rejoice, tree of shining fruit, whereby the
faithful are nourished:
Rejoice, tree of goodly shade by which many are
sheltered!
Rejoice, thou that has carried in thy womb the
Redeemer of captives:
Rejoice, thou that gavest birth to the Guide of
those astray!
Rejoice, supplication before the Righteous Judge:
Rejoice, forgiveness of many sins!
Rejoice, robe of boldness for the naked:
Rejoice, love that doth vanquish all desire!
Rejoice, O Bride Unwedded!

KONTAKION 8

PRIEST: Having beheld a strange nativity, let us
estrangle ourselves from the world and transport
our minds to Heaven; for the Most High God
appeared on earth as a lowly man, because He
wished to draw to the heights them that cry to Him:
Alleluia!

CHOIR: Alleluia (3)

*Both now, and ever, and unto the ages of
ages. Amen.*

Praising thee who hast woven for the world a Crown
not made by hand of man, we cry to thee: Rejoice,
O Virgin, the guardian of all men, fortress and
stronghold and sacred refuge.

Ode 5: All the world was amazed at you Divine glory,
for you, O Virgin who knew no wedlock, bore in your
womb the God over all, and gave birth to the Eternal
Son, granting peace to all who sing your praises.

Most holy Theotokos, save us.

Rejoice, most immaculate one, who gavest birth to
the Way of life, and who savedst the world from the
flood of sin. Rejoice, Bride of God, tidings fearful to
tell and hear. Rejoice, dwelling-place of the Master
of all creation.

Most holy Theotokos, save us.

Rejoice, most pure one, the strength and fortress of
men, sanctuary of glory, the death of hell, all-
radiant bridal chamber. Rejoice, joy of angels. Re-
joice, helper of them that pray to thee with faith.

Most holy Theotokos, save us.

Rejoice, O Lady, fiery chariot of the Word, living
paradise, having in thy midst the Tree of Life, the
Lord of Life, Whose sweetness vivifieth all who par-
take of Him with faith, though they have been sub-
ject to corruption.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.

Strengthened by thy might, we raise our cry to thee with faith: Rejoice, city of the King of all, of which things glorious and worthy to be heard were clearly spoken. Rejoice, unhewn mountain, unfathomed depth.

Both now, and ever, and unto the ages of ages. Amen.

Rejoice, most pure one, spacious tabernacle of the Word, shell which produced the divine Pearl. Rejoice, all-wondrous Theotokos, who dost reconcile with God all who ever call thee blessed.

Ode 6: Come, let us clap our hands, O wise in God, celebrating this Divine and all-honored feast of the Mother of God, and let us glorify God who was born of her!

Most holy Theotokos, save us.

O undefiled bridal chamber of the Word, cause of deification for all, rejoice, all honorable preaching of the prophet; rejoice, adornment of the apostles.

Most holy Theotokos, save us.

From thee hath come the Dew that quenched the flame of idolatry; therefore, we cry to thee: Rejoice, living fleece wet with dew, which Gideon saw of old, O Virgin.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.

Behold, to thee, O Virgin, we cry: Rejoice! Be thou the port and a haven for all that sail upon the troubled waters of affliction, amidst all the snares of the enemy.

Both now, and ever, and unto the ages of ages. Amen.

Thou cause of joy, endue our thoughts with grace, that we may cry to thee: Rejoice, unconsumed bush, cloud of light that unceasingly overshadowest the faithful.

Then the Choir chants the Kontakion:

(Tone 8)

To Thee, the Champion Leader, we Thy servants dedicate a feast of victory and of thanksgiving as ones rescued out of sufferings, O Theotokos: but as Thou art one with might which is invincible, from all dangers that can be do Thou deliver us, that we may cry to Thee: Rejoice, Thou Bride Unwedded!

Then the Third Stasis

IKOS 7

PRIEST: The Creator showed us a new creation when He appeared to us who came from Him. For He sprang from a seedless womb, and kept it incorrupt as it was, that seeing the miracle we might sing to her, crying out: