

THE AKATHIST HYMN

خِدْمَةُ الْمَدِيحِ الَّذِي لَا يُجْلَسُ فِيهِ

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

People: Amen.

Priest: Glory to You, our God, glory to You.

O Heavenly King, Comforter and Spirit of truth, You Who are in all places and fill all things; the Treasury of blessings and the Giver of life: come to dwell in us, cleanse us from every stain, and save our souls, O gracious 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 to the ages of ages. Amen.

All-holy Trinity, have mercy on us. Lord, cleanse us from our sins. Master, pardon our iniquities. Holy One, visit and heal our infirmities for Your 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 to 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 evil.

Priest: For Yours 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 to the ages of ages.

Reader: Amen. Lord, have mercy. (Twelve times)

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

Come, let us worship and bow down before our King and our God.

Come, let us worship and bow down before Christ, our King and our God.

Come, let us worship and bow down before Christ Himself, our King, our Lord, and our God.

PSALM 50 (51)

Have mercy upon me, O God, according to Your lovingkindness; according to the multitude of Your tender mercies, blot out my transgressions. Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin. For I acknowledge my transgressions, and my sin is always before me. Against You, You only, have I sinned, and done this evil in Your sight – That You may be found just when You speak, and blameless when You judge. Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, and in sin my mother conceived me. Behold, You desire truth in the inward parts, and in the hidden part You will make me to know wisdom. Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow. Make me hear joy and gladness, that the bones You have broken may rejoice. Hide Your face from my sins, and blot out all my iniquities. Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me. Do not cast me away from Your presence, and do not take Your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of Your salvation, and uphold me by Your generous Spirit. Then I will teach transgressors Your ways, and sinners shall be converted to You. Deliver me from the guilt of bloodshed, O God, the God of my salvation, and my tongue shall sing aloud of Your righteousness. O Lord, open my lips, and my mouth shall show forth Your praise. For You do not desire sacrifice, or else I would give it; You do not delight in burnt offering. The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit, a broken and a contrite heart – these, O God, You will not despise. Do good in Your good pleasure to Zion; build the walls of Jerusalem. Then You shall be pleased with the sacrifices of righteousness, with burnt offering and whole burnt offering; then they shall offer bulls on Your altar.

PSALM 69 (70)

Make haste, O God, to deliver me! Make haste to help me, O Lord! Let them be ashamed and confounded who seek my life; let them be turned back and confused who desire my hurt. Let them be turned back because of their shame, who say, “Aha, aha!” Let all those who seek You rejoice and be glad in You; and let those who love Your salvation say continually, “Let God be magnified!” But I am poor and needy; make haste to me, O God! You are my help and my deliverer; O Lord, do not delay.

PSALM 142 (143)

Hear my prayer, O Lord, give ear to my supplications! In Your faithfulness answer me, and in Your righteousness. Do not enter into judgment with Your servant, for in Your sight no one living is righteous. For the enemy has persecuted my soul; he has crushed my life to the ground; he has made me dwell in darkness, like those who have long been dead. Therefore my spirit is overwhelmed within me; my heart within me is distressed. I remember the days of old; I meditate on all Your works; I muse on the work of Your hands. I spread out my hands to You; my soul longs for You like a thirsty land. Answer me speedily, O Lord; my spirit fails! Do not hide Your face from me, lest I be like those who go down into the pit. Cause me to hear Your lovingkindness in the morning, for in You do I trust; cause me to know the way in which I should walk, for I lift up my soul to You. Deliver me, O Lord, from my enemies; in You I take shelter. Teach me to do Your will, for You are my God; Your Spirit is good. Lead me in the land of uprightness. Revive me, O Lord, for Your Name’s sake! For Your righteousness’ sake bring my soul out of trouble. In Your mercy cut off my enemies, and destroy all those who afflict my soul; for I am Your servant.

THE SMALL DOXOLOGY

Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will towards men. We praise You; we bless You; we worship You; we glorify You; we give thanks to You for Your great glory. O Lord, heavenly King, God the 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 take away the sin of the world: Have mercy on us, You Who take away the sins of the world. Receive our prayer, You Who sit at the right hand of the Father; and have mercy on us. For You alone are holy; You alone are Lord, Jesus Christ, to the glory of God the Father. Amen. Every day will I bless You, and I will praise Your Name forever, yes, forever and ever. Lord, You have been our refuge from generation to generation. I said: O Lord, have mercy on me; heal my soul, for I have sinned against You. Lord, to You have I fled for refuge; teach me to do Your will, for You are my God. For in You is the fountain of life; in Your light shall we see light. O continue Your mercy to them that know You. Vouchsafe, O Lord, to keep us this night without sin. Blessed are You, O Lord, the God of our Fathers, and praised and glorified is Your Name to the ages. Amen. Let Your mercy, O Lord, be upon us, even as we have hoped in You. Blessed are You, O Lord, teach me Your statutes. Blessed are You, O Master, grant me understanding of Your commandments. Blessed are You, O Holy One, enlighten me by Your precepts. O Lord, Your mercy endures forever; disdain not the works of Your hands. To You is due praise, to You is due song, to You glory is due, to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, both now and ever and to ages of ages. Amen.

THE NICENE CREED

I believe in one God, Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible;

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Only-begotten Son of God, begotten of the Father before all ages; Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten not made; of one essence with the Father; through Him 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 for us under Pontius Pilate, and suffered and was buried;

And rose on the third day according to the Scriptures;

And ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father;

And will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead; and His kingdom will have no end;

And in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the Giver of life; Who proceeds from the Father; Who together with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified; Who spoke through the Prophets.

And in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church.

I confess one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

I look for the resurrection of the dead;

And the life of the age to come. Amen.

THEOTOKION

It is truly right to call you blessed, the Theotokos, the ever-blessed and all-immaculate, and Mother of our God. More honourable than the Cherubim, and beyond compare more glorious than the Seraphim, you who without corruption gave birth to God the Word, the very Theotokos, you do we magnify.

THE AKATHIST CANON

Of St. Joseph the Hymnographer

Fourth Tone

ODE ONE

I shall open my mouth to chant and with the Spirit shall I be filled, and words shall I now pour forth to the Mother and Queen; and I shall be seen in joyous jubilation, acclaiming exultantly all of her wondrous deeds.

O most holy Theotokos save us.

O Christ's book endowed with life and clearly sealed with the Spirit's grace, on seeing you, O pure one, the great Archangel cried out and exclaimed: Rejoice, O vessel of rejoicing, through whom our first mother's curse utterly is dispelled.

O most holy Theotokos save us.

Rejoice, Virgin Bride of God, for you are Adam's recovery; rejoice, O all-blameless one, you are the death-knell of Hades, and the only King's pure dwelling place and palace; rejoice, fiery throne of the only Omnipotent.

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

Rejoice, O only one who blossomed forth the unfading Rose; rejoice, for to you was born the Apple fragrant and sweet, for you are, O Maid, the only King's pure fragrance; rejoice, O unwedded one, ransom of all the world.

Both now and ever and to the ages of ages. Amen.

O treasure of purity, rejoice, for from our most grievous fall we rose once again through you; rejoice, O lily most sweet, filling faithful men with fragrance, O pure Lady: O incense of peerless scent, priceless and precious myrrh.

ODE THREE

Make steadfast, O holy Theotokos, O living and never-failing spring, all them that form a company and gather forth to praise your name; and by your grace divine, O Maid, deem them all worthy of glory's crowns.

O most holy Theotokos save us.

Rejoice, O untilled land that blossomed the Ear of Wheat sacred and divine; a living table are you, Maid, that held the very Bread of Life; rejoice, unfailing wellspring of the living Water, O Queen of all.

O most holy Theotokos save us.

O heifer that bore the blameless Calf for the faithful, to you we cry: Rejoice! Rejoice, most gracious mercy-seat and throne of Christ, the King of all; rejoice, O ewe that bore the Lamb of God that takes away men's sins.

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

Rejoice, radiant morn that has dawned, bringing forth Christ God, the spiritual Sun; rejoice, O dwelling of the Light; you did dispel the gloom of night, and did wholly annihilate the darksome ranks of the demons' hosts.

Both now and ever and to the ages of ages. Amen.

Rejoice, for you are alone the gateway and portal which God the Word traversed. O Lady, you did crush the bars and gates of Hades by your childbirth; rejoice, O holy entry of the saved, O praised and all-lauded one.

ODE FOUR

Seated in His holy glory on the Throne of Divinity, Jesus, God transcendent, comes on a light cloud as King of all; and He has saved by His pure and undefiled hand them that cry to Him: Glory, O Christ, to Your sovereign might.

O most holy Theotokos save us.

With the voice of song we cry out, O all-praised one, to you with faith: Rejoice, O butter mountain, curdled in the Spirit by grace divine; rejoice, O lampstand and urn of Manna from on high, which does sweeten all pious men's senses in godly wise.

O most holy Theotokos save us.

You, O undefiled Lady, are the mercy-seat of the world, and the ladder raising all men from the earth to the heights by grace. Rejoice, O bridge that does truly lead from death to Life all that praise your name, and cry, rejoice, to you, O Maid.

O most holy Theotokos save us.

Being higher than the heavens, in your womb you did hold the earth's Pillar and Foundation, and you did not suffer travail, O Maid. Rejoice, O seashell that dips in your own pure blood the blessed purple robe, dyed for the King of all heaven's hosts.

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

To the Lawgiver, O Lady, did you give birth in very truth; freely, O pure Virgin, He has blotted out our iniquities. O depth unknown to our minds and height ineffable, O unwedded Maid, we all, through you, have been deified.

Both now and ever and to the ages of ages. Amen.

For the world, O Maid, did you plait a pure Crown fashioned not by man; hence, with hymns we praise you, crying out: Rejoice, O blessed Virgin Maid! You are all mankind's sure rampart and firm citadel, and our battlement, and sacred shelter and safe retreat.

ODE FIVE

All creatures were so amazed at your divine and great glory, Maid, O pure Virgin, who has not known wedlock; for you did hold in your womb the God of all, and gave birth to the timeless Son, Who does grant salvation to all them that acclaim your name.

O most holy Theotokos save us.

Rejoice, O all-blameless one, for you did bring forth the Way of Life, saving all of mankind from the flood of sin and transgression; rejoice, O Bride of God, your fame and report inspire awe; for in you creation's Lord made His dwelling and place of rest.

O most holy Theotokos save us.

Rejoice, O most spotless Maid; you are our might and our battlement, and blessed sanctuary of God's glory, the death of Hades, and bridal chamber of light; rejoice, joy of all angelic hosts, and the speedy help of them that entreat you with faithful hearts.

O most holy Theotokos save us.

Rejoice, fiery chariot of God the Word, O Queen of all; for in you the Tree of Life was planted, even the Lord God, O living paradise; His sweetness does grant life to all men who partake of Him with faith, though corruption once ruled over them.

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

Made strong by your might, O Maid, to you we cry out most faithfully: Rejoice, O depth unmeasured and unfathomed; rejoice, O mountain whole and unhewn by man; rejoice, O city of the King; glorious and laudable things are most clearly told of you.

Both now and ever and to the ages of ages. Amen.

O most spacious tabernacle of the Word, O all-spotless one, you, Maid, are the shell with the divine Pearl; rejoice, O true reconciliation to God for all them that ever call you blessed, praising your all-wondrous name, O Theotokos and Bride of God.

ODE SIX

On this divine and most honoured feast of God's all-holy Mother, let all of godly mind now celebrate; come, let us faithful now clap our hands, and send up glory to the God Whom she has borne.

O most holy Theotokos save us.

O unstained chamber of God the Word, you are the cause of deification of all men, O spotless one; O echoing of the Prophets' words, rejoice, O blessed adornment of the Apostles' choir.

O most holy Theotokos save us.

From you there came down the holy Dew that quenched the burning flame of idolatry; for this, we cry to you: Rejoice, bedewed fleece foreseen of old in God's most awesome wonder revealed to Gideon.

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

Behold, we cry out, rejoice, to you; be the port and haven for all that sail upon the stormy sea of grievous sorrows and stumbling-blocks, and of deceits unnumbered laid by the enemy.

Both now and ever and to the ages of ages. Amen.

O cause of gladness, come fill our thoughts with gladness, that we all may cry out to you: Rejoice, unburning bush! Rejoice, O cloud wholly filled with light, ever protecting all them that keep the holy Faith.

ODE SEVEN

No created thing, but only the Creator would the godly-minded Youths adore and worship as God; but manfully trampling down threats of fire, they cried out: O supremely-praised and all-acclaimed One, blessed are You, O Lord God of our Fathers.

O most holy Theotokos save us.

In acclaiming you, we cry: Rejoice, O chariot of the noetic Sun! Rejoice, true vine that did bear the truly ripe Cluster of grapes dripping with the Wine that does gladden all the souls of them that glorify you most faithfully, O Virgin.

O most holy Theotokos save us.

To the Healer of all mankind have you given birth; rejoice, O Bride of God; you are the mystical rod from whom the unfading Rose blossomed and budded forth; and through you we men inherit life and, filled with joy, cry, rejoice, to you, O Lady.

O most holy Theotokos save us.

Rhetoricians' tongues cannot acclaim you worthily; above the Seraphim are you exalted, O Maid; for you, Lady, did bring forth Christ, the one King of all; Him do you entreat that we who adore you with faith be now rescued from all evil.

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

To the ends of earth your name is ever praised and blessed, and all men cry to you: Rejoice, O volume wherein the Word was inscribed by the Father's hand, O pure one. O Theotokos, pray Him that your servants be inscribed in the Book of Life, O famed one.

Both now and ever and to the ages of ages. Amen.

We, your servants, O Maid, entreat you, and do bow the knee of our hearts to you; incline your ear, O pure one, and save us who sink in affliction and suffering; and preserve your flock from every evil and assault of the foe, O Theotokos.

ODE EIGHT

Three guiltless Youths cast in the furnace were saved by the Offspring which the Theotokos bore, then in figure and in type, now in very truth and deed; and He has gathered all the world, which cries out in chant: You works of His, O sing the Lord's praises, and exalt Him greatly for ages and all ages.

O most holy Theotokos save us.

Your womb has received the Word and Master; you held within you Him Who does sustain all things. With your milk, O most pure Maid, you did feed and nourish Him Who, by a nod, does nourish all the world; to Him we chant: You works of His, O sing the Lord's praises, and exalt Him greatly for ages and all ages.

O most holy Theotokos save us.

Blessed Moses the prophet did perceive in the bush your most wondrous childbirth's awesome mystery; this too did the godly Youths once clearly depict of old, as they stood in the flaming fire and were not burned thereby, O undefiled and most holy Virgin; hence, we all exalt you to ages and all ages.

O most holy Theotokos save us.

We that by deceit were once stripped naked are clothed with blessed incorruption by your bringing forth; though we sat in sin's dark night, through you we have seen the light; for you, O Maiden full of grace, are an abode of the Light. For this, we chant and cry out your praises, and exalt you greatly for ages and all ages.

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

The dead are, through you, O Virgin, quickened, for you did give birth to Christ, the hypostatic Life; they that were bereft of speech, through you, are made eloquent; lepers are cleansed, all maladies are cast away from us; the multitude of aerial spirits suffer defeat, O salvation of all mortals.

Both now and ever and to the ages of ages. Amen.

O you who did bear the world's Salvation, through you are we raised from earth to the heavens' heights. Rejoice, O all blessed Maid, for you are the shelter and defence, the wall and rampart, O pure one, of them that cry in chant: You works of His, O sing the Lord's praises, and exalt Him greatly for ages and all ages.

ODE NINE

Let every earthborn man upleap in the spirit, and now hold his torch on high; and let all the bodiless noetic hosts now celebrate joyously the Theotokos' sublime and sacred festival, as they cry out: Rejoice, O all-blessed one, ever-virgin and pure Mother of our God.

O most holy Theotokos save us.

Rescue us, O Maid, from heathen assaults, temptations, and from every ill that, for the great multitude of sins, has come upon sinful mortal men; that, thus delivered, we your flock may cry, rejoice, to you; for the faithful all become partakers of joy unending through you, O all-blameless one.

O most holy Theotokos save us.

You have proved to be our light and our steadfastness; wherefore, we cry to you: Rejoice, O ever-shining star, you who did bring the great Sun into the world. Rejoice, for you did open Eden, which was closed to us, O pure Maiden. Rejoice, O fiery pillar that does lead all mortal men to the life on high.

O most holy Theotokos save us.

In the House of God, let all stand with reverence and let us all cry out: Rejoice, august Queen of the world! Rejoice, O Mary, sovereign Lady of us all! Rejoice, for you alone, O Maid, are good and free of stain among women. Rejoice, O vessel that received the unfailing, pure Myrrh that was poured on you.

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

O Ever-virgin Maid, rejoice, dove that brought forth Him Who is merciful. Rejoice, O boast of all the Saints, and crown of all them that strove in martyrdom. Rejoice, most sacred ornament of all the righteous ones, and adornment of all them that cry: Rejoice, the salvation of all us, your faithful flock.

Both now and ever and to the ages of ages. Amen.

Spare, O mighty God; forgive Your inheritance, and overlook our sins. To this end, You have, O Lord, the one who bore You seedlessly here on earth, and now entreats You Who has, for Your great mercy's sake and compassion, willed now to become a man and be clothed with a form that was not Your own.

KONTAKION

Plagal Fourth Tone

O Champion General, I your city now inscribe to you triumphant anthems as the tokens of my gratitude, being rescued from the terrors, O Theotokos. In as much as you have power unassailable, from all kinds of perils free me so that to you, I may cry aloud: Rejoice, O unwedded Bride.

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On the third week: The "Third Stasis" on page 44

On the fourth week: The "Fourth Stasis" on page 50

FIRST STASIS

Oikos

Priest: An Angel, and the most chief among them, was sent from heaven to cry: Rejoice, to the Theotokos.

People: O most holy Theotokos save us. (Thrice)

Priest: And beholding You, O Lord, taking bodily form, he stood in awe, and with his bodiless voice he cried aloud to her such things as these:

Rejoice, you through whom joy shall shine forth.

Rejoice, you through whom the curse shall be blotted out.

Rejoice, O restoration of fallen Adam.

Rejoice, O redemption of the tears of Eve.

Rejoice, height hard to climb for human thought.

Rejoice, depth hard to explore, even for the eyes of Angels.

Rejoice, for you are the throne of the King.

Rejoice, for you sustain the Sustainer of all.

Rejoice, star that causes the Sun to appear.

Rejoice, womb of the divine Incarnation.

Rejoice, you through whom creation is renewed.

Rejoice, you through whom the Creator becomes a babe.

Rejoice, O unwedded Bride.

People: Rejoice, O unwedded Bride.

Kontakion

Priest: Beholding herself in chastity, the holy one spoke boldly to Gabriel: The strangeness of your words seems hard for my soul to receive; for how do you speak of a seedless conception, crying aloud: Alleluia.

People: Alleluia.

Oikos

Priest: Seeking to know knowledge unknown, the Virgin cried to him who ministered to her: From a chaste womb how can a Son be born? Tell me! Then he spoke to her in fear, yet crying aloud thus:

Rejoice, O initiate of the ineffable counsel.
 Rejoice, O faith in that which demands silence.
 Rejoice, prelude of the miracles of Christ.
 Rejoice, pinnacle of His doctrines.
 Rejoice, heavenly ladder whereby God came down.
 Rejoice, bridge leading those of earth to heaven.
 Rejoice, marvel far-famed of Angels.
 Rejoice, much-bewailed wounding of demons.
 Rejoice, you who ineffably gave birth to the Light.
 Rejoice, you who revealed the mystery to none.
 Rejoice, you who soar over the knowledge of the wise.
 Rejoice, you who enlighten the minds of the faithful.
 Rejoice, O unwedded Bride.

People: Rejoice, O unwedded Bride.

Kontakion

Priest: The power of the Most High then overshadowed her who knew not wedlock, that she might conceive, and showed forth her fruitful womb as a sweet meadow to all who desire to reap salvation, while chanting: Alleluia.

People: Alleluia.

Oikos

Priest: Carrying God in her womb, the Virgin hastened to Elizabeth, whose unborn babe straightaway perceiving her salutation rejoiced; and with leaps as it were with songs, he cried out to the Theotokos:

Rejoice, vine bearing the unfading Bloom.

Rejoice, land yielding the untainted Fruit.

Rejoice, you who tend the man-befriending Husbandman.

Rejoice, you who blossom forth the Sower of our life.

Rejoice, field bearing a bounty of compassions.

Rejoice, table laden with an abundance of mercies.

Rejoice, for you revive the meadow of delight.

Rejoice, for you prepare a haven for souls.

Rejoice, acceptable incense of intercession.

Rejoice, oblation for all the world.

Rejoice, favour of God to mortals.

Rejoice, access of mortals to God.

Rejoice, O unwedded Bride.

People: Rejoice, O unwedded Bride.

Kontakion

Priest: Having a tempest of doubting thoughts within, the chaste Joseph was troubled; for he suspected a secret union as he beheld you unwed, O blameless one; but when he learned of your conception through the Holy Spirit, he cried: Alleluia.

People: Alleluia.

SECOND STASIS

Oikos

Priest: On hearing the Angels praising the incarnate presence of Christ, the shepherds hastened as to a Shepherd, and beholding Him as a spotless Lamb, pastured in Mary's womb, they hymned her, and said:

Rejoice, mother of the Lamb and Shepherd.

Rejoice, fold of the rational sheep.

Rejoice, bulwark against invisible foes.

Rejoice, opener of the gates of Paradise.

Rejoice, for the things of heaven rejoice with the earth.

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

Rejoice, never-silent voice of the Apostles.

Rejoice, never-conquered courage of the Martyrs.

Rejoice, firm support of the Faith.

Rejoice, shining token of grace.

Rejoice, you through whom Hades was laid bare.

Rejoice, you through whom we are clothed with glory.

Rejoice, O unwedded Bride.

People: Rejoice, O unwedded Bride.

Kontakion

Priest: Beholding the Godward-pointing Star, the Magi followed in its splendour; and holding it as a lantern, they sought thereby the mighty King. And as they approached the Unapproachable, they rejoiced and cried to Him: Alleluia.

People: Alleluia.

Oikos

Priest: The sons of the Chaldeans beheld in the hands of the Virgin Him Who by His hand fashioned man; and perceiving Him as Master, though He had taken the form of a servant, they hastened with gifts to do homage, and they cried out to her who is blessed:

Rejoice, mother of the never-setting Star.

Rejoice, dawn of the mystic Day.

Rejoice, you who quench the fiery furnace of error.

Rejoice, you who enlighten the initiates of the Trinity.

Rejoice, you who did cast down from power the inhuman tyrant.

Rejoice, you who did show forth Christ, the man-friending Lord.

Rejoice, you who redeem from the creeds of barbarism.

Rejoice, you who does rescue from the works of mire.

Rejoice, you who make the worship of fire to cease.

Rejoice, you who make the flame of the passions to be allayed.

Rejoice, guide of the faithful to chastity.

Rejoice, rejoicing of every generation.

Rejoice, O unwedded Bride.

People: Rejoice, O unwedded Bride.

Kontakion

Priest: God-bearing heralds did the Wise Men become, when they returned to Babylon; and fulfilling Your prophecy, they preached You to all as the Christ, and they left Herod as a trifler, who knew not how to chant: Alleluia.

People: Alleluia.

Oikos

Priest: Shining in Egypt the illumination of truth, You did dispel the darkness of falsehood; and unable to bear Your strength, O Saviour, her idols fell; and they that were set free therefrom cried to the Theotokos:

Rejoice, uplifting of men.

Rejoice, downfall of demons.

Rejoice, you who have trampled upon the delusion of error.

Rejoice, you who have censured the deceit of the idols.

Rejoice, sea which drowned the noetic Pharoah.

Rejoice, rock which refreshed those thirsty for Life.

Rejoice, pillar of fire, guiding those in darkness.

Rejoice, protection of the world, more spacious than a cloud.

Rejoice, sustenance, successor to manna.

Rejoice, minister of holy joy.

Rejoice, land of promise.

Rejoice, you from whom flow milk and honey.

Rejoice, O unwedded Bride.

People: Rejoice, O unwedded Bride.

Kontakion

Priest: When Symeon was near to departing from this age of deception, You were presented to him as a new-born Babe, but You were recognised by him as perfect God. Wherefore, he marvelled at Your ineffable wisdom, and cried out: Alleluia.

People: Alleluia.

THIRD STASIS

Oikos

Priest: New was the Creation which the Creator showed to us His creatures, when He sprang forth from the seedless womb; and He preserved it incorrupt, even as it was, that we, seeing this marvel, may praise her as we cry out:

Rejoice, flower of incorruption.

Rejoice, crown of continence.

Rejoice, you who flash forth the type of the Resurrection.

Rejoice, you who show forth the life of the Angels.

Rejoice, tree of goodly Fruit whereby the faithful are nourished.

Rejoice, wood of leafy branches whereby many are sheltered.

Rejoice, you who bear the Guide of those astray.

Rejoice, you who engender the Redeemer of captives.

Rejoice, supplication before the righteous Judge.

Rejoice, forgiveness for many transgressors.

Rejoice, robe of confidence for the naked.

Rejoice, tenderness vanquishing all desire.

Rejoice, O unwedded Bride.

People: Rejoice, O unwedded Bride.

Kontakion

Priest: Seeing a strange childbirth, let us estrange ourselves from the world by transporting our minds to heaven; to this end the Most High God appeared on earth a lowly man, that He might draw to the heights those who cry to Him: Alleluia.

People: Alleluia.

Oikos

Priest: Wholly present with those below was the Uncircumscribed Word, yet in no way absent from those above; for this was a divine condescension and not a mere change of place; and His birth was from a Virgin chosen of God, who heard such words as these:

Rejoice, closure of the Uncontained God.

Rejoice, portal of the solemn mystery.

Rejoice, doubtful rumour of the faithless.

Rejoice, undoubted boast of the faithful.

Rejoice, all-holy chariot of Him Who rides upon the Cherubim.

Rejoice, most choice dwelling-place of Him Who sits upon the Seraphim.

Rejoice, you who make things that differ to agree.

Rejoice, you who yoke together motherhood and virginity.

Rejoice, you through whom transgression is annulled.

Rejoice, you through whom Paradise is opened.

Rejoice, key of the Kingdom of Christ.

Rejoice, hope of eternal blessings.

Rejoice, O unwedded Bride.

People: Rejoice, O unwedded Bride.

Kontakion

Priest: All angel-kind was amazed by the great deed of Your Incarnation; for they saw the inaccessible God as Man accessible to all, dwelling among us and hearing from all: Alleluia.

People: Alleluia.

Oikos

Priest: Orators most eloquent do we behold mute as fish before you, O Theotokos; for they are at a loss to explain how you could remain a virgin and yet give birth. But as for us, marvelling at this mystery, we cry with faith:

Rejoice, vessel of the Wisdom of God.

Rejoice, treasury of His providence.

Rejoice, you who show philosophers to be fools.

Rejoice, you who prove logicians illogical.

Rejoice, for the subtle disputants are confounded.

Rejoice, for the inventors of myths are faded away.

Rejoice, you who does break the webs of the Athenians.

Rejoice, you who does fill the nets of the Fishermen.

Rejoice, you who does draw us from the depths of ignorance.

Rejoice, you who does enlighten many with knowledge.

Rejoice, raft for those who desire to be saved.

Rejoice, haven for those who fare on the sea of life.

Rejoice, O unwedded Bride.

People: Rejoice, O unwedded Bride.

Kontakion

Priest: Wishing to save the world, to this end did the Ruler of all come of His own will; and, though as God He is the Shepherd, for us He appeared as a Man, like us; for by this likeness He called those of like kind, yet as God He does hear: Alleluia.

People: Alleluia.

FOURTH STASIS

Oikos

Priest: A rampart are you for virgins and all that have recourse to you, O Theotokos and Virgin; for the Maker of heaven and earth prepared you, O immaculate one, and dwelt in your womb, and taught all to cry out to you:

Rejoice, pillar of virginity.

Rejoice, gate of salvation.

Rejoice, leader of spiritual restoration.

Rejoice, bestower of divine goodness.

Rejoice, for you did regenerate those conceived in shame.

Rejoice, for you did admonish those despoiled in mind.

Rejoice, you who does bring to nought the corrupter of hearts.

Rejoice, you who does give birth to the Sower of chastity.

Rejoice, bridal chamber of a seedless marriage.

Rejoice, you who does join the faithful to the Lord.

Rejoice, fair nursing-mother of virgins.

Rejoice, bridal escort of holy souls.

Rejoice, O unwedded Bride.

People: Rejoice, O unwedded Bride.

Kontakion

Priest: Defeated is every hymn that strives to pay homage to the multitude of Your many compassions; for even should we offer You, O holy King, odes of praise numberless as the sands, we should still have done nothing worthy of what You have given to us who cry to You: Alleluia.

People: Alleluia.

Oikos

Priest: As a brilliant beacon-light shining to those in darkness do we behold the holy Virgin; for she kindles the supernal Light and leads all to divine knowledge; she illumines our minds with radiance and is honoured by these our cries:

Rejoice, ray of the spiritual Sun.

Rejoice, beam of the innermost Splendour.

Rejoice, lightning, enlightening our souls.

Rejoice, thunder, striking down the enemy.

Rejoice, for you cause the many-starred Light to dawn.

Rejoice, for you cause the ever-flowing River to gush forth.

Rejoice, you who depict the image of the font.

Rejoice, you who wash away the stain of sin.

Rejoice, laver purifying conscience.

Rejoice, wine-bowl pouring forth joy.

Rejoice, sweet-scented fragrance of Christ.

Rejoice, life of mystic festival.

Rejoice, O unwedded Bride.

People: Rejoice, O unwedded Bride.

Kontakion

Priest: Wishing to bestow His grace, He Who forgives the ancient debts of all men came of His own will to dwell among those who had departed from His favour; and having rent asunder the handwriting against them, He hears from all: Alleluia.

People: Alleluia.

Oikos

Priest: While hymning your Offspring, we all praise you, O Theotokos, as a living temple; for the Lord, Who holds all things in His hand, dwelt in your womb, and He hallowed and glorified you, and taught all to cry to you:

Rejoice, tabernacle of God the Word.

Rejoice, holy one, holier than the Holies.

Rejoice, ark made golden by the Spirit.

Rejoice, inexhaustible treasury of Life.

Rejoice, precious diadem of godly kings.

Rejoice, venerable boast of faithful priests.

Rejoice, unshakable tower of the Church.

Rejoice, impregnable bulwark of the Kingdom.

Rejoice, you through whom trophies are raised up.

Rejoice, you through whom enemies are cast down.

Rejoice, healing of my flesh.

Rejoice, salvation of my soul.

Rejoice, O unwedded Bride.

People: Rejoice, O unwedded Bride.

Kontakion

Priest: O all-hymned Mother, who did bear the Word Who is more holy than all the Saints,

People: O most holy Theotokos save us (Thrice)

As you receive this our offering, rescue us all from every calamity, and deliver from future torment those who cry with one voice: Alleluia.

People: Alleluia.

KONTAKION

Plagal Fourth Tone

O Champion General, I your city now inscribe to you triumphant anthems as the tokens of my gratitude, being rescued from the terrors, O Theotokos. In as much as you have power unassailable, from all kinds of perils free me so that to you, I may cry aloud: Rejoice, O unwedded Bride.

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 to the ages of ages. Amen.

All-holy Trinity, have mercy on us. Lord, cleanse us from our sins. Master, pardon our iniquities. Holy One, visit and heal our infirmities for Your 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 to 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 evil.

Priest: For Yours 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 to the ages of ages.

Reader: Amen.

KONTAKION

First Week

- For St. Theodore the Soldier -

Having received the Faith of Christ in your heart as a breastplate, you did trample upon the enemy hosts, O much-suffering champion; and you have been crowned eternally with a heavenly crown, since you are invincible.

Second, Third and Fourth Weeks

If a major feast falls on a Saturday, we read its appointed Kontakion;
otherwise the following is read:

- For The Martyrs -

As first-fruits of our nature to the Planter of created things, the world presents the God-bearing martyred Saints in offering to You, O Lord. Through their earnest entreaties, keep Your Church in deep peace and divine tranquillity, through the pure Theotokos, O You Who are greatly merciful.

Reader: Lord, have mercy. (Forty times)

Have mercy on us and save us O Only-begotten Son of God, You Who at all times and at every hour, in heaven and on earth, are worshipped and glorified, O Christ God, Who are long-suffering, plenteous in mercy, most compassionate, Who loves the righteous and has mercy on sinners, Who calls all to salvation through the promise of good things to come: Receive, O Lord, our prayers at this hour, and guide our life toward Your commandments. Sanctify our souls, make chaste our bodies, correct our thoughts, purify our intentions, and deliver us from every sorrow, evil and pain. Compass us about with Your holy Angels, that, guided and guarded by their array, we may attain to the unity of faith and the knowledge of Your unapproachable glory; for blessed are You to the ages of ages. Amen.

Lord, have mercy. (Thrice)

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

More honourable than the Cherubim, and beyond compare more glorious than the Seraphim, you who without corruption gave birth to God the Word, the very Theotokos, you do we magnify.

Bless, Father, in the Name of the Lord.¹

Priest: May God have compassion upon us and bless us; and cause His face to shine upon us, and have mercy on us.

Reader: Amen.

Lord, have mercy. (Twelve times)

O most holy Theotokos save us.

¹ If a bishop is present, we say: 'Bless, holy Master, in the Name of the Lord.'

A PRAYER TO THE MOST HOLY THEOTOKOS

By the monk Paul, abbot of the Monastery of Evergetis

O spotless, undefiled, unstained, all-chaste and pure Lady, blameless Bride of God, you who by your glorious birth-giving have united the Word of God with man and linked our fallen nature with heavenly beings; you who are alone the hope of the hopeless, the helper of those attacked, the ready protection of those who hasten to you, and the refuge of all Christians; do not despise me a sinner, wholly defiled by evil thoughts, words and deeds, I who have become by slothful will a servant to life's pleasures. But being Mother of God, the Lover of mankind, have mercy in compassion, upon me, your sinful and prodigal servant. Accept this prayer which is offered to you from my impure lips, and, putting forth your maternal favour with your Son, our Lord and Master, beseech Him to open to me the wings of His love of mankind, His lovingkindness and goodness, to pass over my numberless transgressions, to lead me back to true repentance, to make me a keeper of His commandments and a tried doer thereof. And as you are gracious, compassionate and tender-hearted, be ever present with me in this life as my advocate and helper, to turn aside the evil assaults of my adversaries, to guide me to salvation, and at the departure of my wretched soul, encompass me, and drive from it all the dark forms of the evil ones; and in the dreadful Judgement Day deliver me from everlasting punishments and torments, revealing me as an inheritor of the unspeakable glory and an honour to your Son, our God, all which I may obtain, O holy Theotokos my Lady, through your mediation and help, by the grace, compassion and love for mankind of your Only-begotten Son, our Lord God and Saviour Jesus Christ, to whom is due, with the eternal Father, and all-holy, good, and life-giving Spirit, all honour, glory and worship, both now and ever and to the ages of ages. Amen.

A PRAYER TO OUR LORD & SAVIOUR JESUS CHRIST

By Antiochus, Monk of Pandektos

And now as we lay down to sleep, O Master, grant us repose both of body and of soul, and keep us from the dark sleep of sin and from the sensuous pleasure of the dark passions of the night. Still for us the assaults of passions; quench the fiery darts of the evil one which are thrown insidiously at us; calm the commotions of our flesh and put away all earthly and material thoughts as we sleep. And grant us, O God, a watchful mind, chaste thoughts, a sober heart, and a gentle sleep, free from all the phantasies of Satan. And raise us up again at the hour of prayer, established in Your commandments and holding steadfast within ourselves the remembrance of Your judgements. Give us the words of Your glorification, all night long, that we may praise, bless, and glorify Your most honourable and magnificent Name, O Father, Son and Holy Spirit, both now and ever and to the ages of ages. Amen.

Most glorious, Ever-virgin, blessed Theotokos, present our prayer to your Son and our God, and pray that through you He will save our souls.

My hope is the Father, my refuge the Son, my shelter the Holy Spirit. O Holy Trinity, glory be to You.

To you do I commit my every hope, O Mother of God; guard me under your shelter.

GOSPEL READING

For the First Week

Priest: That we may be accounted worthy to hear the holy Gospel, let us pray to the Lord our God.

People: Lord, have mercy. (Thrice)

Priest: Wisdom. Stand aright; let us hear the holy Gospel.

Peace be to you all.

People: And to your spirit.

Priest: The reading is from the Gospel according to the holy Apostle and Evangelist John (15:1-7).

People: Glory to You, O Lord. Glory to You.

Priest: Let us attend.

The Lord said to His disciples, "I am the True Vine, and my Father is the Vinedresser. Every branch of Mine that bears no fruit, He takes away, and every branch that does bear fruit He prunes, that it may bear more fruit. You are already made clean by the word which I have spoken to you. Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me. I am the Vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from Me you can do nothing. If a man does not abide in Me, he is cast forth as a branch and withers; and the branches are gathered, thrown into the fire and burned. If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, ask whatever you will, and it shall be done for you."

People: Glory to You, O Lord. Glory to You.

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

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

Lord, have mercy. (Thrice)

Bless, Father, in the Name of the Lord.

Priest: O Christ our true God, through the intercessions of Your most pure, all-blameless holy Mother, of the holy, glorious and all-praised Apostles, of our venerable and God-bearing Fathers; of Saint (Name) patron of this holy Church, of the holy and righteous ancestors of God, Joachim and Anna; of Saint (Name) whose memory we celebrate today and of all the Saints, have mercy on us and save us, for You are good and the Lover of mankind.

If concelebrating, start with "Bless, holy Fathers and..."

Forgive me the sinner, my brothers and sisters.

And the faithful answer with one voice:

People: God forgive you, holy Father.

The priest says the following petitions, and the people respond after each:

Refrain: Lord, have mercy.

- † Let us pray for the peace of the world.
- † For all devout and Orthodox Christians.
- † For our Father and Metropolitan (Name), and all our brethren in Christ.
- † For those who govern us, and for their support in every good work.
- † For our absent fathers and brethren.
- † For those who serve us and are merciful to us.
- † For those who love us and those who hate us.
- † For those who have requested our prayers, unworthy though we be.
- † For the deliverance of captives and their salvation.
- † For those who travel by land, by sea and by air.
- † For those who lie in sickness.
- † Let us pray also for abundance of the fruits of the earth.
- † For those who built this holy house of God, and all our departed Orthodox fathers and brethren, who lie here and in all places.

And have mercy on us and save us, for You are good and the Lover of mankind.

People: Amen.

AWED BY THE BEAUTY

Third Mode

Awed by the beauty of your virginity and the exceeding radiance of your purity, Gabriel cried out to you, O Theotokos: “What worthy hymn of praise can I offer to you? And what shall I name you? I am in doubt and stand in awe. Wherefore as commanded, I cry to you: Rejoice O Full of Grace.”

Priest: Through the prayers of our holy Fathers, O Lord Jesus Christ our God, have mercy on us and save us.

People: Amen.



DEPARTMENT OF LITURGICS
GREAT LENT 2023



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