

REVISED March 2019

Small Compline & **AKATHIST**



*Divided in 4 parts for
the Fridays of Great Lent*

*Abridged and adapted for use at
The Diocese of Eastern Pennsylvania*

For the deliverance of captives.

For those traveling, by land, sea, and 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 temple.

For our family and friends departed this life before us, and for all 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.**

Priest: May Christ our True God, through the intercessions of our all-holy Lady the Theotokos and Ever-virgin Mary, and of all the saints, have mercy on us and save us, for 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: *(Bowing to the priest)* May God forgive and have mercy on you. Father forgive all wherein I have sinned this day - in deed, word, and thought, and all my senses.

Priest: *(Bowing again to the faithful)* Through His grace, may God forgive and have mercy on us all!

Then we continue with the final litany (non-Lenten)

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

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

Note: Often sung continuously, as the following petitions are offered

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.

Brief Introduction to the Akathist Hymn

The Akathist Hymn is a profound, devotional poem or chant, which sings the praises of the Holy Mother and Ever-Virgin Mary (Theotokos). It is chanted in all Orthodox Churches throughout the world during the five Fridays in the Great Lent, and constitutes a very concrete spiritual preparation for the Holy Week and Easter Services.

Devotional Hymns to the Theotokos are as ancient as the first Christian Church. The Byzantine Empire from its very inception at Constantinople during the fourth century, closely allied itself to the Virgin Mary and always looked for Her protection and intercessions. This we see from the Prayer Services to the Theotokos between the fifth and eighth centuries, and the reference to Constantinople as the 'Queen City'.

The Akathist Hymn, which in its present form was added to by many Ecclesiastical Hymnographers, existed for most part even before it was formally accepted by the Church in 626 AD.

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

O Most 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

 ur 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: 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.

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: (*Non-Lenten melody*) **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!**

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 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 thine only begotten Son, our Lord and God and Savior, Jesus Christ, to Whom is due all glory, honor and worship, together with His Unoriginate Father, and His Most Holy and good and life creating Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

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. 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!


The priest enters the Altar and censes the church and the people during the reading of the Psalms

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

 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

tribulation 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.

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.

*The priest exits the Altar and takes
his place before the Royal Doors*

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: Through the prayers of our holy fathers, Lord Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and save us!

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

Reader: Amen. O Apostles, Martyrs, Prophets, Hierarchs, Monastics, and Righteous Ones; ye that have accomplished a good labor and kept the faith, that have boldness before the Saviour; O good ones, intercede for us, we pray, that our souls be saved.

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.

To Thee, O Lord, the Planter of creation, the world doth offer the God-bearing martyrs, as the first-fruits of nature. By their intercessions preserve Thy Church, Thy commonwealth, in profound peace, through the Theotokos, O Greatly-merciful One.


Lord have mercy. (40)

Prayer of the Hours

 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 longsuffering and of great goodness; Who lovest the just and showest mercy on the sinner. Who callest all to salvation through 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

and needy; O God, come unto mine aid. My helper and my deliverer art Thou, O Lord; make no long tarrying.

Psalm 142

 Lord, hear my prayer, give ear unto my supplication in Thy truth; hearken unto me in Thy righteousness. And enter not into judgment 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 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.

Small 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 statutes! Blessed art Thou, O Holy One, enlighten me with Thy statutes! 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.

Kontakion

(Tone 8)

Victorious Leader of Triumphant Hosts! We, your servants, delivered from evil, sing our grateful thanks to you, O Theotokos! As you possess invincible might, set us free from every calamity So that we may sing to you: Rejoice, O unwedded Bride

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.

O 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.

Ikos 12

Priest: Yet while we sing to Him Whom you bore, we all hymn you, O Theotokos, as a living temple; for the Lord, Who holds all things in His hand, by dwelling within you, hallowed and glorified you, and taught all to cry out unto you:

Rejoice, tabernacle of God, and of the Word;

Rejoice, holiest of all the holy ones.

Rejoice, ark made golden by the Spirit;

Rejoice, inexhaustible treasury of life.

Rejoice, precious diadem of pious rulers;

Rejoice, venerable boast of reverent priests.

Rejoice, steady tower of the Church;

Rejoice, impregnable wall of the realm.

Rejoice, you through whom trophies are set up;

Rejoice, you through whom enemies are cast down.

Rejoice, healing of my body;

Rejoice, salvation of my soul.

Rejoice, O Bride without bridegroom!

Kontakion 13

Priest: Zealously you are praised, O Mother who bore the most holy Word of all the Saints; as you receive this present offering, deliver us from every calamity, and deliver from all wrath to come those who cry out unto you: Alleluia!

Choir: Alleluia. (3)

*This concludes the fourth stasis.
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Everyone recites the Creed together

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 arose 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.

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 thou gavest birth to God the Word, true Theotokos, we magnify thee.

Canon of the Theotokos

Tone 4 - Odes sung by choir, verses chanted by a reader(s)

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.

Reader: *Most-holy Theotokos, save us!*

When the great Archangel saw you, O immaculate one, the living book of Christ, sealed by the Spirit, he cried unto you: Rejoice, vessel of gladness, through whom the curse of our first-mother is loosed.

Most-holy Theotokos, save us!

Rejoice, virgin bride of God, uplifter of Adam and death-knell of Hades; Rejoice, O all-blameless one, palace of the only King; Rejoice, fiery throne of the Almighty.

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

Rejoice, O you from whom alone didst blossom the Unwithering Rose; Rejoice, who didst bear the fragrant Apple; Rejoice, immaculate maiden, fragrance of the King of All and salvation of the world.

Now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Ikos 11

Priest: Verily we behold the holy Virgin as a light-giving beacon, shining for those in darkness: for by kindling the supernal Light, she guides us all to divine knowledge; illumining our minds with radiance, she is honored by this our cry:

Rejoice, ray of the living Sun;

Rejoice, flash of unfading splendor.

Rejoice, lightning-flash, shining upon our souls;

Rejoice, you who with thunder strike down our enemies.

Rejoice, for you caused the many-starred light to dawn;

Rejoice, for you caused the richly-flowing river to gush forth.

Rejoice, you whose life describes the type of the baptismal font;

Rejoice, you who took away the stain of sin.

Rejoice, laver that purifies conscience;

Rejoice, mixing bowl for the mingling of joy.

Rejoice, fragrance of the sweetness of Christ;

Rejoice, life of mystic festival.

Rejoice, O Bride without bridegroom!

Kontakion 12

Priest: When He Who pays the ancient debts of all men was minded to give grace, He came of His own will to dwell among those who had departed from His grace; and when He tore asunder the written charge against them. He heard from all in this wise: Alleluia!

Choir: **Alleluia.** (3)

Ikos 10

Priest: You, O Virgin Theotokos, are a protecting wall to virgins and to all who run to you; for the Maker of Heaven and earth prepared you, O pure maiden, and dwelt in your womb, and taught all to sing out unto you:

Rejoice, pillar of virginity;

Rejoice, gate of salvation.

Rejoice, source of spiritual reformation;

Rejoice, leader of divine goodness.

Rejoice, for you regenerated those conceived in sin;

Rejoice, for you remind those who were mindless.

Rejoice, you who annuled the corruption of hearts;

Rejoice, who bore the Sower of Chastity.

Rejoice, bridal chamber of a virgin marriage;

Rejoice, you who joins the faithful to the Lord.

Rejoice, fair nursing-mother of virgins;

Rejoice, bridesmaid of holy souls.

Rejoice, O Bride without bridegroom!

Kontakion 11

Priest: Unworthy is every hymn that seeks to encompass the multitude of Thy many mercies; for if we should offer to Thee hymns of praise as numberless as the sands, O Holy King, we should still have done nothing worthy of that which Thou hast given to us who cry out unto Thee: Alleluia!

Choir: Alleluia. (3)

Rejoice, treasure-house of purity, through which we rose up from our fall; Rejoice, Lady, sweet-scented lily perfuming the faithful, thou fragrant incense and most precious myrrh.

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!

As a clear and untilled field, you made the Divine Ear of Grain to sprout; Rejoice, living table that held the Bread of Life; Rejoice, unfailing fountain of Living Water.

Most-holy Theotokos, save us!

Rejoice, O mystic heifer that bore the Spotless Calf; Rejoice, ewe-lamb who didst conceive the Lamb of God that taketh away the sins of the whole world; Rejoice, fervent intercessor.

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

Rejoice, O radiant dawn, which alone bore Christ the Sun, the dwelling-place of Light; Rejoice, you who dispelled the darkness and reduced to naught the demons of gloom.

Now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Rejoice, only gate, through which the Word alone passed; Rejoice, Lady, for by you birth-giving the bars and gates of Hades were burst asunder; Rejoice, most worthy of all praise, divine entry for the saved.

Ode 4

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

Most-holy Theotokos, save us!

In hymns of faith, O all-praised one, we cry out unto you: Rejoice, mountain fertile with the fullness of the Spirit; Rejoice, lamp of light and vase of manna, to the senses of the reverent most sweet.

Most-holy Theotokos, save us!

Rejoice, O immaculate Lady, mercy-seat of the world; Rejoice, ladder which raised all from earth to grace; Rejoice, bridge which truly leads from death to life all who sing your praises.

Most-holy Theotokos, save us!

Rejoice, O immaculate one, higher than the heavens, who without pain carried within you the Foundation of the Earth. Rejoice, O seashell that dipped in your blood the divine purple for the King of the Powers of Heaven.

Ikos 9

Priest: Ready-voiced orators we see become voiceless as fish before you, O Theotokos, and unable to say how you could give birth and yet remain a virgin; but we, marveling at this mystery, cry out in faith:

Rejoice, vessel of the Wisdom of God;

Rejoice, treasury of His foreknowledge.

Rejoice, you who shows the learned to be fools;

Rejoice, you who proves logicians illogical.

Rejoice, for the subtle disputants are made fools;

Rejoice, for the makers of myths are made to fade away.

Rejoice, you who dispersed the word-webs of the Athenians;

Rejoice, you who filled the nets of the fishermen.

Rejoice, you who draws us up from the depths of ignorance;

Rejoice, you who enlightens many with knowledge.

Rejoice, raft for those who wish to be saved;

Rejoice, haven for those who swim in the sea of life.

Rejoice, O Bride without bridegroom!

Kontakion 10

Priest: Salvation for the world the Architect of all desired, and to this end by His own will He came; as God from everlasting He is our shepherd, yet as man He appeared among us for our sake, and although called like by like, still as God He hears: Alleluia!

Choir: Alleluia. (3)

This concludes the third stasis.

Turn to Page - 33 “O Victorious Leader...”

Ikos 8

Priest: Present and complete with those below, and in no wise absent from those above was the Uncircum-scribed Word; for there took place indeed a divine Descent and not a simple change of place; and the Birth was from a God-chosen Virgin, who heard such words as these:

Rejoice, resting-place of the uncontained God;

Rejoice, door of hallowed Mystery.

Rejoice, doubtful rumor of the faithless;

Rejoice, undoubted boast of the faithful.

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

Rejoice, all-excellent chair of Him Who sits upon the Seraphim.

Rejoice, you who makes things that differ to agree;

Rejoice, you who joins together virginity and motherhood.

Rejoice, you through whom transgression is annulled;

Rejoice, you through whom Paradise was opened.

Rejoice, key of the Kingdom of Christ;

Rejoice, hope of eternal good things.

Rejoice, O Bride without bridegroom!

Kontakion 9

Priest: Choirs of Angels were amazed at Thy great work of Incarnation; for they saw the inaccessible God as man accessible to all, dwelling among us and hearing from us all: Alleluia!

Choir: Alleluia. (3)

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

Rejoice, Lady, who truly bore the Lawgiver that freely blotted out the transgressions of all; O unimaginable depth, O height ineffable, O maiden unwedded, through whom we are become divine.

Now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

With hymns we praise you, who wove for the world a crown not woven by hands, and we cry aloud: Rejoice, O Virgin, fortress of all mankind, and rampart, and strength, and refuge divine.

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, O all-blameless one, who bore the Way of Life and saved the world from the deluge of sin; Rejoice, bride of God, of great report and mighty fame; Rejoice, dwelling-place of the Master of Creation.

Most-holy Theotokos, save us!

Rejoice, O immaculate one, stronghold and fortress of mankind, and place of hallowed glory, death-knell of Hades, bridal-chamber full of light; Rejoice, joy of the angels; Rejoice, help of those who faithfully pray unto thee.

Most-holy Theotokos, save us!

Rejoice, O Lady, fiery chariot of the Word; living paradise having the Lord, the Tree of Life, in your midst; His sweetness gives to those who partake in faith, even though they be subject to corruption.

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

Strengthened by your might, faithfully we cry unto you: Rejoice, city of the King of All, great in glory and repute, of whom all these were clearly spoken; O mount unhewn and depth beyond all measure.

Now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

O spacious tabernacle of the Word, Rejoice! O immaculate one, the seashell which proffered the Divine Pearl; Rejoice! O all-wondrous one, the reconciliation to God, O Theotokos, of all who forever bless you.

Ikos 7

Priest: New was the creation which the Creator showed to us His creatures, when He appeared blossoming from a virgin womb; and He preserved her just as she was, in purity, so that we, beholding this marvel, might cry aloud and sing:

Rejoice, flower of incorruption;

Rejoice, crown of chastity.

Rejoice, you who flashes out the type of the Resurrection;

Rejoice, mirror of the life of the Angels.

Rejoice, tree of goodly fruit, from which the faithful are nourished;

Rejoice, goodly shade-tree, beneath which many are sheltered.

Rejoice, you who bears the Guide of those who stray abroad;

Rejoice, you who engenders the Redeemer of captives.

Rejoice, intercession before the Righteous Judge;

Rejoice, forgiveness for many who stumble.

Rejoice, robe of the naked of liberty;

Rejoice, selfless love that vanquisheth all mean desires.

Rejoice, O Bride without bridegroom!

Kontakion 8

Priest: Our minds are brought over into heaven when we behold this strange birth-giving, so let us be estranged from the world; for this cause indeed did the Most High God appear on earth as humble man, that He might raise on high those who cry out unto Him: Alleluia!

Choir: Alleluia. (3)

Ikos 6

Priest: Lighting in Egypt the lamp of truth, Thou didst cast out the darkness of untruth; for their idols, O Savior, could not bear Thy strength, and fell down; and those of them who were set free cried out to the Theotokos:

Rejoice, uplifter of mankind;

Rejoice, downfall of demons.

Rejoice, you who tramples upon the wanderings of error;

Rejoice, you who refutes the frauds of idols.

Rejoice, sea which drowned the mystic Pharaoh;

Rejoice, rock which refreshed those athirst for Life.

Rejoice, fiery pillar, guiding those in darkness;

Rejoice, shelter of the world, broader than a cloud.

Rejoice, sustenance in place of manna;

Rejoice, minister of holy joy.

Rejoice, land of promise;

Rejoice, you from whom flow honey and milk.

Rejoice, O Bride without bridegroom!

Kontakion 7

Priest: Most near his transit from this deceitful world was Simeon when Thou wast presented to him as a newborn babe, but Thou wast discerned by him as perfect God; wherefore overcome by Thine ineffable wisdom he cried out: Alleluia!

Choir: Alleluia. (3)

This concludes the second stasis.

Turn to Page - 33 "O Victorious Leader..."

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!

Immaculate bridal-chamber of the Word, and aid to the sanctification of us all, Rejoice! O all-pure maiden, whom the Prophets proclaimed; Rejoice, the ornament of the Apostles!

Most-holy Theotokos, save us!

From you the dew was distilled that quenched the flame of polytheism; wherefore, we cry out unto you, O Virgin: Rejoice, O dewy fleece which Gideon foresaw.

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

Behold, we cry out unto you: Rejoice! Be our haven and our port when we voyage on the sea of tribulations and through the snares of the adversary.

Now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

O cause of joy, favor us with reason to cry out unto you: Rejoice, bush that burns yet unconsumed, the light-filled cloud which unceasingly shelters the faithful.

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!

To you we sing a hymn and cry: Rejoice! Chariot of the mystic sun, true vine that produced the ripe cluster of grapes, dripping wine to gladden the souls of those who with faith do glorify you.

Most-holy Theotokos, save us!

Rejoice, O Bride of God, who bore the Healer of Mankind; the mystic staff from which blossomed the Unfading Flower; Rejoice, O sovereign Lady, through whom we are filled with joy, and inherit life.

Most-holy Theotokos, save us!

The tongue of eloquence has not power to sing your praises, O sovereign Lady, for you were exalted above the Seraphim when you bore Christ the King; now implore Him to deliver from all harm those who faithfully reverence you.

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

Ikos 5

Priest: In the Virgin's hand the sons of the Chaldees saw Him Whose hand had made man; and knowing Him as Master, even though He had taken on Himself the form of a servant, they hastened with their gifts to worship, and cried out to her who is blessed:

Rejoice, Mother of the unsetting Star;

Rejoice, terror of the mystic Day.

Rejoice, you who quenches the fiery furnace of error;

Rejoice, you who enlightens the initiates of the Trinity.

Rejoice, you who cast out the inhuman tyrant of old;

Rejoice, you who shows forth Christ the Lord Who loveth mankind.

Rejoice, you who redeems from barbarous superstitions;

Rejoice, you who rescues us from works unclean.

Rejoice, you who causes the worship of fire to cease;

Rejoice, you who allays the flame of suffering.

Rejoice, guide of the wisdom of the faithful;

Rejoice, joy of all generations.

Rejoice, O Bride without bridegroom!

Kontakion 6

Priest: King's messengers did the Magi become, when they returned to Babylon; they fulfilled Thy bidding and preached Thee to all as the Christ, and they left Herod as a trifler who knew not how to sing: Alleluia!

Choir: Alleluia. (3)

Ikos 4

Priest: Gloriously the Angels hymned the incarnate Presence of Christ, and the shepherds heard; and running as to a Shepherd, they beheld Him as an unspotted Lamb, being nurtured at Mary's breast, and her they hymned and said:

*Rejoice, Mother of the Lamb and of the Shepherd;
Rejoice, fold of reason-endowed sheep.
Rejoice, bulwark against foes invisible;
Rejoice, opener of the Gates of Paradise.
Rejoice, for that which all the Heavens and earth Rejoice;
Rejoice, for all the earth dances in joy together with the Heavens.
Rejoice, never-silent voice of the Apostles;
Rejoice, invincible courage of those who strive.
Rejoice, firm foundation 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 Bride without bridegroom!*

Kontakion 5

Priest: High in the heavens the Magi beheld the Godward-pointing star, and they followed its rays; using it as a beacon, they sought the mighty King, and as they approached the Unapproachable, they rejoiced and cried out unto Him: Alleluia!

Choir: Alleluia. (3)

The ends of the earth do praise and bless you, and cry out unto you: Rejoice, pure Maiden, scroll on which the finger of God did inscribe His Word; implore now Him, O Theotokos, to write down your servants in the Book of Life.

Now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

We your servants bend the knee of our hearts and implore you, O pure Maiden: incline your ear and save us, who are engulfed in tribulations; and guard your city, O Theotokos, from every assault of the enemies.

Ode 8

The Offspring of the Theotokos saved the God-fearing children in the furnace. Then it was prefigured, 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!

You received the Word within you, O pure Maiden, and bore Him Who bears all things; you nourished Him with milk, Who by His nod sustains all the universe; to Him we sing: All ye works, praise the Lord, and magnify Him unto all ages.

Most-holy Theotokos, save us!

Moses perceived in the burning bush the great mystery of your birth-giving, O chaste and holy Virgin; the children prefigured this most clearly when they stood in the midst of the flame and were unburned; wherefore, we praise you unto all ages.

Most-holy Theotokos, save us!

We, who of old were made naked by deceit, have been clothed in a garment of incorruption by your conception; and we who were sitting in the darkness of transgressions have come to see the light, O Maiden who art the dwelling-place of Light: wherefore, we praise you unto all ages.

Let us bless Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, the Lord.

Through you the dead are made to live, for you bore the Life Essential; those who before were speechless now find useful eloquence, lepers are cleansed, diseases are driven away, and the multitude of aerial spirits are vanquished, O Virgin, salvation of mortals.

Now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

We Rejoice in you, O all-blessed one, who brought forth salvation for the world, through which we have been raised from earth to heights above; O pure Maiden, you are the shelter and stronghold, bulwark and fortress of all who sing: O earth, announce good tidings of great joy; O heavens praise the glory of God!

Choir: O earth, announce good tidings of great joy; O heavens praise the glory of God!

Ikos 3

Priest: Enshrining God in her womb, the Virgin hastened unto Elizabeth; whose unborn babe at once perceived her Salutation, and rejoiced; and with stirrings as if with voices cried out to the Theotokos:

Rejoice, branch of unfading growth;

Rejoice, possessor of untouched fruit.

Rejoice, you who labors for Him Whose labor is love;

Rejoice, you who tends Him Who tends our life.

Rejoice, field with compassions harvest rich;

Rejoice, table with abundance of mercies spread.

Rejoice, you who revives the green meadows of joy;

Rejoice, you who makes ready a safe haven for souls.

Rejoice, you who accepted incense offering of intercessions;

Rejoice, oblation of all the world.

Rejoice, goodwill of God towards men;

Rejoice, access of mortals to God.

Rejoice, O Bride without bridegroom!

Kontakion 4

Priest: Floods of doubtful thoughts troubled the wise Joseph within, and he feared a furtive love as he beheld you unwed, O Blameless One; but when he learned that your conception was of the Holy Spirit, he said: Alleluia!

Choir: Alleluia. (3)

This concludes the first stasis.

Turn to Page - 33 "O Victorious Leader..."

Ikos 2

Priest: Craving to know knowledge unknowable, the Virgin cried out unto him who ministered unto her: From a maiden body, how may a Son be born; tell thou me! To her he spake in fear, and thus only cried aloud:

Rejoice, the initiate of the ineffable counsel;

Rejoice, O faith of those who pray in silence.

Rejoice, beginning of the miracles of Christ;

Rejoice, crown of His decrees.

Rejoice, heavenly ladder, by which God came down;

Rejoice, bridge that leadest us from earth to Heaven.

Rejoice, much-talked of wonder of angels;

Rejoice, much-lamented destroyer of demons.

Rejoice, you who ineffably bore the Light;

Rejoice, you who told none how it was done.

Rejoice, you who over-soarest the knowledge of the wise;

Rejoice, you who enlightenest the minds of the faithful.

Rejoice, O Bride without bridegroom!

Kontakion 3

Priest: Divine power from on high then overshadowed the maiden, that she might conceive, and showed forth her fruitful womb as a fertile field to all who desire to reap salvation, as they sing: Alleluia!

Choir: Alleluia. (3)

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!

Through you, O Maiden, have we faithful become partakers of joy, so that we may further cry out unto you: Rejoice! Deliver us from perpetual temptation, from barbaric attack, and from all the multitude of evils which we mortals suffer for the number of our sins.

Most-holy Theotokos, save us!

You appeared to enlighten us and be our confirmation, wherefore we cry aloud to you: Rejoice, O unsetting star which introduced into the world the mighty Sun; Rejoice, pure maiden, who opened up fast-closed Eden; Rejoice, fiery pillar, which leads man's nature to the life above.

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, you who alone is blameless among women, and beautiful; Rejoice, O Vessel, who received into yourself the myrrh which was never before outpoured.

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

Rejoice, O Ever-virgin, dove who didst bring forth Him Who is merciful. Rejoice, boast of all the righteous saints and crown of those who strive. Rejoice, ornament divine of all the just, and of us the faithful, our salvation as well.


Now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Spare, O God, Thine inheritance, and overlook now all our sins. For as intercessor in Thy sight, O Christ, there stands before Thee she that on earth conceived Thee without seed, when in Thy Great Mercy Thou hadst willed to be shaped in a form that was not Thine own.

The choir repeats "Let everyone born on earth leap for joy..."

Kontakion

(Tone 8)

 **Victorious Leader of Triumphant Hosts! We, your servants, delivered from evil, sing our grateful thanks to you, O Theotokos! As you possess invincible might, set us free from every calamity So that we may sing to you: Rejoice, O unwedded Bride!**

When the Choir has concluded the Kontakion, the Priest begins the Stasis of the Akathist Hymn designated for that evening.

Week 1: pp. 21-23 (Hymns 1 - 4)

Week 2: pp. 24-26 (Hymns 4 - 7)

Week 3: pp. 27-29 (Hymns 7 - 10)

Week 4: pp. 30-32 (Hymns 10 - 13)

Ikos 1

Priest: An angel chieftain was sent from heaven to say "Rejoice!" unto the Theotokos. And beholding Thee, O Lord, taking bodily form, he stood rapt in wonder, and with bodiless voice cried aloud to her in this wise:

Rejoice, you through whom joy shall shine forth;

Rejoice, through whom the curse shall be destroyed.

Rejoice, restoration of fallen Adam;

Rejoice, redemption of the tears of Eve.

Rejoice, height untrodden by human minds;

Rejoice, depth hard to scan, even for angels' eyes.

Rejoice, a kingly throne;

Rejoice, you who holds the Upholder of all.

Rejoice, star that showed the Sun;

Rejoice, womb of the Divine Incarnation.

Rejoice, you through whom Creation is renewed;

Rejoice, you through whom the Creator becomes a babe.

Rejoice, O Bride without bridegroom!

Kontakion 2

Priest: Boldly spake the holy maiden unto Gabriel, conscious of her chastity: To my soul thy strange message seems hard to grasp; how speakest thou of a virgin conception, crying aloud: Alleluia!

Choir: Alleluia. (3)