

Akathist to the Theotokos



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Choir: Amen. Preserve, O God, the Holy Orthodox faith and Orthodox Christians, unto ages of ages.

Priest: Most holy Theotokos, save us.

Choir: 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 you!

Priest: Glory to Thee, O Christ, our God, our 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. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Father (Master), bless.

Priest: May Christ, our true God, thru the prayers of His Most Pure Mother and any other saints as customary) and of all the Saints, have mercy on us and save us, in that He is gracious and loves mankind.

Choir: Amen.

CHOIR:

MOST HO - LY THE - O - TO - KOS SAVE US.

Priest: Our most gracious Queen, our hope, the Theotokos, who receives the orphaned and intercedes for the stranger; the joy of those in sorrow, protectress of the wronged, see our distress, see our affliction! Help us, for we are helpless. Feed us, for we are strangers and pilgrims. Thou knowest our offences; forgive them, and resolve them as Thou dost will. For we know no other help but Thee, no other intercessor, no gracious comforter, only Thee, O Theotokos to guard and protect us for ages of ages. Amen.

The Dismissal

Priest: Wisdom!

Choir: Father bless.

Priest: Christ our God, the Existing One, is blessed, now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

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

Choir: Amen. O Heavenly King, the Comforter, the Spirit of Truth, who art everywhere and fills all things, treasury of blessings and giver of life, come and abide in us and cleanse us from every impurity, and save our souls, O good one.

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

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 (3x)

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 evil

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.

Choir: Amen.

Priest: God is the Lord and has revealed himself to us. Blessed is He that comes in the name of the Lord! O give thanks to the Lord, for He is good, for His mer-

Tone 8 Obikhod

God is the Lord and has re-vealed Him-self to us.

Ble-sed is He that comes in the name of the Lord!

Priest: All nations surrounded me, but in the name of the Lord I withstood them.

memorable holy Orthodox patriarchs; and for the blessed and ever-memorable founders of this holy house; and for all our fathers and brothers, mothers, and sisters, the Orthodox departed this life before us, who here and in all the world lie asleep in the Lord.

Again we pray for mercy, life, peace, health, salvation, and visitation for the servants of God _____, and for the pardon and remission of their sins.

Again we pray for those who bring offerings and do good works in this holy and all-venerable house, for those who labor and those who sing; and for all the people here present, who await Thy great and rich mercy.

For Thou art a merciful God, and love mankind, and unto Thee we ascribe glory: to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages.

Choir: Amen.

Priest: Let us pray to the most holy Theotokos.

Rejoice, for through you the creator be-
comes a newborn child!

Rejoice; O unwedded bride!

The choir sings the Kontakion again (Tone 8)

O Victorious Leader of Triumphant Hosts! /
We thy servants, delivered from evil, / sing
our grateful thanks to thee, O Theotokos! /
As thou possess invincible might, set us free
from every calamity so that we may sing: //
Rejoice, O Unwedded Bride!

Litany of Fervent Supplication

Priest: Have mercy on us, O God, ac-
cording to Thy great goodness, we pray
Thee, hearken and have mercy.

Choir: Lord, have mercy. (3x)

Priest: Again we pray for our Metropolitan
_____, for our Bishop _____,
for priests, deacons, and all other cler-
gy; and for all our brethren in Christ.

Again we pray for the President of our coun-
try, for all civil authorities, and for the
armed forces.

Again we pray for the blessed and ever-

Choir: God is the Lord....

Priest: I shall not die, but I shall live and re-
count the deeds of the Lord

Choir: God is the Lord

Priest: The stone which the builders reject-
ed has become the head of the cor-
ner. This is the Lord's doing and it is
marvelous in our eyes.

*Then the choir sings the following Troparion and
Kontakion in Tone 8*

Tone 8 Obikhod

Tak - ing know - ledge of the se - cret com - mand, the bod - i - less Arch - ang - el
went with hast to Jo - seph's dwell - ing, and said to her that knew
not wed - lock: "He who in His self - a - base - ment bowed the hea - vens
and came down is housed whol - ly and un - changed in Thee.

I see Him take the form of a ser-vant in thy womb, and in won-der
cry to thee: Re-joice, O un-wed-ded bride!

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

Tone 8 Obikhod

O vic-tor-ious lead-er of tri-um-phant hosts we, your ser-vants,
de-liv-ered from e-vil sing our grate-ful thanks to thee, O The-o-to-kos.
As Thou dost pos-sess in-vin-ci-ble might set us free from e-very
ca-la-mi-ty so that we may sing Re-joice, O un-wed-ded bride!

Choir: Alleluia! (3x)

IKOS 1

Priest: A prince of the angels was sent from heaven to greet the Theotokos, saying: Rejoice! Rejoice! Rejoice. Seeing You, Lord, take bodily form at his bodiless word, he stood in awe and cried:

Rejoice, for through you joy will be rekindled;
Rejoice, for through you the curse will be quenched!

Rejoice, recall of fallen Adam;
Rejoice, deliverance of weeping Eve!

Rejoice, height unattainable to human rea-
son;

Rejoice, abyss unsearchable by angelic eyes!

Rejoice, for you are the throne of the king;
Rejoice, for you bear Him who upholds all things!

Rejoice, star giving rise to the sun;
Rejoice, womb giving flesh to God!

Rejoice, for through you creation is renewed;

Rejoice, greater holy place!
 Rejoice, ark made golden by the spirit;
 Rejoice, never-empty treasury of life!
 Rejoice, precious crown of faithful rulers;
 Rejoice, honored glory of Godly priests!
 Rejoice, unassailable fortress of the church;
 Rejoice, unconquered rampart of the king-
dom!
 Rejoice, for through you the standards of
 victory are raised on high;
 Rejoice, for through you our foes are cast
 down!
 Rejoice, the healing of my body;
 Rejoice, the salvation of my soul!
 Rejoice, O unwedded bride!

KONTAKION 13

Priest: Mother worthy of all praise, you
 gave birth to the word. He is the holiest,
 far above all saints! Accept this service
 of our offering; Deliver from all calamity
 and protect from coming punishment
 those who sing:

IKOS 1

Priest: A prince of the angels was sent
 from heaven to greet the Theotokos, say-
 ing: Rejoice! Rejoice! Rejoice! Seeing You,
 Lord, take bodily form at his bodiless word,
 he stood in awe and cried:

Re-joice, for through you joy will be re-kin - - - dled; Re-joice, for through
 you the curse will be quenched! Re-joice, re-call of fal-len A - - - dam;
 Re-joice, de-li-ver-ace of weep - - ing Eve! - Re-joice, height un-a -
 tain-a-ble to hu-man rea - - - son; Re-joice, a-byss un-search-a-ble by
 an-gel - - ic eyes! Re-joice, for you are the throne of the King;
 Re-joice, for you bear Him who up-holds - - all things! - - Re-joice, star

giv - ing rise to the sun; Re - joice, womb giv - ing flesh - - to God!
 Re - joice, for through you cre - a - tion is re - newed; Re - joice, for through
 you the cre - a - tor be - comes a new - - born child! - -
 Re - joice, O un - wed - ded bride!

KONTAKION 2

Priest: As she beheld herself in all her purity, the holy lady cried out with boldness to Gabriel: Strange are your words to me, and hard for my soul! How do you speak of childbirth from a conception that is seedless, crying:

Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - - ia

Rejoice, perfume of Christ's own fragrance;
 Rejoice, life of mystical feasting!
 Rejoice, O unwedded bride

KONTAKION 12

Priest: In his desire to grant release from the ancient debts, the redeemer of us all came of his own will to those who were exiles from his grace. He has torn up the writing of our sins, and from all he hears the song:

Choir: Alleluia! (3x)

IKOS 12

Priest: We sing in honor of your son, O Theotokos, and praise you as a living temple. for the Lord who holds all things in his hand made his dwelling in your womb. He sanctified you; he glorified you, teaching all men to sing to you:

Choir:

Rejoice, tabernacle of the Word of God;

IKOS 11

Priest: We see the holy virgin as a torch of living light, shining upon those in darkness. Kindling the immaterial fire, she guides us all to divine knowledge. as she illumines our mind with radiance, we sing these praises in her honor:

Choir:

Rejoice, ray of the spiritual sun;

Rejoice, radiance of the moon that never wanes!

Rejoice, lightning flash illumining our souls;

Rejoice, thunder that brings terror to our en-emies!

Rejoice, dawn before radiant splendor;

Rejoice, source of the river with many streams!

Rejoice, for you are Siloam prefiguring the font of baptism;

Rejoice, for you cleanse the stain of sin!

Rejoice, water washing clean the con-science;

Rejoice, chalice, where the wine of mighty joy is mixed!

IKOS 2

Priest: Desiring to know what is beyond knowledge, the Virgin cried to the ministering angel: Tell me, how can a child be born of my virginal womb? He answered in fear, crying:

Re-joyce in-i-ti-ate of God's se-cret coun - - sel; Re-joyce, be-lief in what must be guard-ed by si - - lence; Re-joyce, first of Christ's mir-- a-cles; Re-joyce, crown and ful-fill-ment of His tea - - - chings.-- Re-joyce hea-ven-ly lad-der by which God de-scen - - - ded; Re-joyce, bridge lead-ing us from earth to hea - - - ven; Re-joyce, great-ly glor-i-fied won-der of an - - - gels, Re-joyce, bi-ter-ly la-men-ted wound

of de - - - mons; - - Re-joyce, for you shall in - ef - fab - bly bring
 forth - - the light; Re-joyce, for you have re - vealed the mys - t'ry to none;
 Re-joyce, wis - dom sur - pas - sing the know - ledge of the wise: Re-joyce,
 dawn en - light - en - ing the minds of the faith - - - ful; - -
 Re - joice, O un - wed - ded bride!

*We've provided music for the first two ikos.
 The rest should be done with the same
 melody with movement indicated by the
 underlining in the text.*

Rejoice, provider of the mercy of God!
 Rejoice, for you give new birth to those con-
ceived in sin;
 Rejoice, for you give good counsel to those
 robbed of understanding!
 Rejoice, for you destroy the corruptor of hu-
man minds;
 Rejoice, for you give birth to the sower of pu-
rity!
 Rejoice, bridal chamber of a seedless union;
 Rejoice, union of the faithful to their Lord!
 Rejoice, nurse and mother of virgins;
 Rejoice, bridesmaid of holy souls!"
 Rejoice, O unwedded bride!

KONTAKION 11

Priest: Every hymn fails to tell the great-
 ness of your mercies! Were we to offer to
 you, holy king, songs as countless as the
 sands on the shore of the sea, we would
 do nothing worthy of the blessing you
 give us as we sing to you:

Choir: Alleluia! (3x)

Rejoice, ship of all seeking salvation;
Rejoice, harbor for life's travelers!
Rejoice, O unwedded bride!

KONTAKION 10

Priest: The maker of all things, in his desire to save the world, came to it of his own freely chosen deed. As God, he is our shepherd, yet for our sakes, he has appeared as a man, and calling like by like, as God he hears our cry to him:

Choir: Alleluia! (3x)

IKOS 10

Priest: You are a wall for virgins and all who run to you, undefiled Virgin Theotokos, for the Creator of heaven and earth prepared and adorned you, dwelling in your womb, and teaching all to sing to you:

Choir:

Rejoice, pillar of virginity;
Rejoice, gate of salvation!
Rejoice, beginning of the new and spiritual
creation

KONTAKION 3

Priest: Then the power of the most high Overshadowed the unwedded handmaiden so that she might conceive he made her fruitful womb a fertile field. For all who long to reap the harvest of salvation, crying:

Choir: Alleluia! (3x)

IKOS 3

Priest: Bearing God within her womb, the virgin hastened to Elizabeth, whose unborn child, knowing at once the salutation of the Theotokos, Rejoiced, and leaping up as if in song, cried out to her:

Choir:

Rejoice, vine bringing forth an unwithering
branch
Rejoice, orchard of pure fruit!
Rejoice, for you tend the husbandman, the
lover of mankind

Rejoice, for you bear the gardener who cultivates our life!

Rejoice, earth yielding a rich harvest of compassion;

Rejoice, table laden with abundant mercy!

Rejoice, for through you the fields of Eden flower once again

Rejoice, for you make ready a haven for our souls!

Rejoice, acceptable incense of intercessions

Rejoice, propitiation for the whole world!

Rejoice, loving-kindness of God to mortals;

Rejoice, freedom of mortals to approach God.

Rejoice, O unwedded bride!

KONTAKION 4

Priest: Tossed within by a storm of doubts, sober Joseph was greatly troubled. Knowing you, blameless virgin, as unwedded, he feared a stolen union but when he learned that your conceiving was of the holy spirit he cried:

For they are at a loss to explain how you remain virgin and yet gave birth to a child. But we, marveling at the mystery, cry aloud with faith:

Choir:

Rejoice, vessel of the wisdom of God;

Rejoice, treasury of His dispensation!

Rejoice, for you reveal the folly of philosophers;

Rejoice, for you show reasoning people to be irrational!

Rejoice, for through you cunning debaters are fooled;

Rejoice, for you have silenced the makers of myths!

Rejoice, for you have torn the tangled webs of Athenians;

Rejoice, for you have filled the nets of the fishermen!

Rejoice, for you draw us from the depths of ignorance;

Rejoice, for you illumine many with knowledge!

Rejoice, most holy chariot of Him who rides
upon the Cherubim;

Rejoice, favored dwelling of Him who is
above the Seraphim!

Rejoice, for you are the union of opposing
things;

Rejoice, for you joined childbirth to virginity!

Rejoice, for through you our sin is remitted;

Rejoice, for paradise is opened through you!

Rejoice, key of Christ's kingdom;

Rejoice, hope of eternal blessings!

Rejoice, O unwedded bride!

KONTAKION 9

Priest:: All the ranks of angels wondered
at the great work of your incarnation, for
they beheld God, the one whom no one
can approach dwelling in our midst as
man, approachable to all, and hearing
from the lips of all:

Choir: Alleluia! (3x)

IKOS 9

Priest: We see eloquent orators as dumb as
fish in your presence, O Theotokos

Choir: Alleluia! (3x)

IKOS 4

Priest: The shepherds heard the angels
glorify Christ's coming in the flesh. They
ran with haste to the shepherd, and be-
held him as a spotless lamb pastured at
Mary's breast. They sang praises to her,
saying:

Choir:

Rejoice, mother of the lamb and shepherd

Rejoice, fold of spiritual sheep!

Rejoice, protection against unseen enemies;

Rejoice, key to the gates of paradise!

Rejoice, for heaven exults with earth;

Rejoice, for earth dances with heaven!

Rejoice, never-silent boast of the Apostles;

Rejoice, invincible courage of the martyrs!

Rejoice, firm foundation of the faith

Rejoice, shining revelation of grace!

Rejoice, for through you, hell is stripped
bare;

Rejoice, for through you we are clothed in glory!

Rejoice, O unwedded bride!

KONTAKION 5

Priest: When they had seen the star pointing to God, the magi followed its light, keeping it before them as a beacon with its help they sought the almighty king, and reached the unattainable! They Rejoiced and cried out to him:

Choir: Alleluia! (3x)

IKOS 5

Priest: The children of the Chaldeans saw the Virgin holding in her hands Him who with His hands fashioned mankind. Though He had taken the form of a servant, yet they knew Him as their Master. In haste they knelt before Him with their gifts, and cried out to the blessed Virgin:

KONTAKION 8

Priest: As we see this strange birth, let us become strangers to the world and fix our minds in heaven, since it was for this that the most high God appeared on the earth in the form of man. It is his desire to raise up to heaven all who cry:

Choir: Alleluia! (3x)

IKOS 8

Priest: The uncircumscribed word was wholly present here below, yet in no way absent from the realm on high. God descended to earth, yet underwent no change of place. He was born of a virgin, overshadowed by divine power, and it is to her we sing:

Choir:

Rejoice, enclosure of the uncontainable God;

Rejoice, gate of the hallowed mystery!

Rejoice, tidings doubted by unbelievers;

Rejoice, undoubted glory of the faithful!

creatures. He came from a virgin's womb, preserving it inviolate as it was before, so that beholding this miracle, we might sing her praises, crying:

Choir:

Rejoice, flower of incorruption;

Rejoice, crown of chastity!

Rejoice, bright image of resurrected glory;

Rejoice, mirror of angelic life!

Rejoice, tree of glorious fruit feeding the faithful;

Rejoice, shadowing forest where many find shelter!

Rejoice, for you conceived a guide for the wanderers;

Rejoice, for you bore a deliverer for captives!

Rejoice, intercessor with the righteous judge;

Rejoice, forgiveness for many who have stumbled!

Rejoice, robe for the naked, forsaken by hope;

Rejoice, love surpassing all desire!

Rejoice, O unwedded bride

Choir:

Rejoice, mother of the never-setting star

Rejoice, bright dawn of the mystical day!

Rejoice, for you have quenched the furnace of deception

Rejoice, for you illumine all who love the mystery of the Trinity!

Rejoice, for you have cast down from his dominion the hater of mankind;

Rejoice, for you have revealed Christ the lord, the lover of mankind!

Rejoice, deliverance from the worship of pagan idols;

Rejoice, liberation from the filth of sin!

Rejoice, for you have quenched the worship of fire;

Rejoice, for you have released us from the flames of passion!

Rejoice, guide of the faithful to chastity

Rejoice, gladness of all generations!

Rejoice, O unwedded bride!

KONTAKION 6

Priest: The Magi returned to Babylon, now become God's messengers. They fulfilled the prophecy concerning you. Preaching you to all as Christ, they left Herod to his raving, not knowing how to sing:

Choir: Alleluia! (3x)

IKOS 6

Priest: Shining upon Egypt with the light of truth, you dispelled the darkness of falsehood for the idols of that land fell, unable to endure your power, O Savior, and all who were delivered from them sang to the Theotokos:

Choir:

Rejoice, restoration of the human race;

Rejoice, downfall of demons!

Rejoice, for you have trampled the delusion of error

Rejoice, for you have exposed the snares of idols!

Rejoice, sea drowning the spiritual pharaoh;
Rejoice, rock giving drink to all who thirst for life!

Rejoice, pillar of fire, guiding those in darkness;

Rejoice, protection of the earth, more spacious than the cloud in the wilderness!

Rejoice, food surpassing manna;

Rejoice, minister of holy delights!

Rejoice, O promised land;

Rejoice, source of milk and honey!

Rejoice, O unwedded bride!

KONTAKION 7

Priest: As Simeon drew near to the time of his departure from this world of error, he received you as an infant in his arms, yet knowing you to be perfect God! Struck with wonder at your boundless wisdom, he cried:

Choir: Alleluia! (3x)

IKOS 7

Priest: The creator has revealed a new creation, manifesting himself to us, his