

Akathist Hymn to the Virgin of Kazan



Our Lady of Kazan

According to tradition, the original icon of Our Lady of Kazan was brought to Russia from Constantinople in the 13th century. After the establishment of the Khanate of Kazan (c. 1438) the icon disappeared from the historical record for more than a century.

Metropolitan Hermogenes' chronicle, written at the request of Tsar Feodor in 1595, describes the recovery of the icon. According to this account, after a fire destroyed Kazan in 1579, the Virgin appeared to a 10-year-old girl, Matrona, revealing the location where the icon lay hidden. The girl told the archbishop about the dream but she was not taken seriously. However, on 8 July 1579, after two repetitions of the dream, the girl and her mother recovered the icon on their own, buried under a destroyed house where it had been hidden to save it from the Tatars.

Other churches were built in honour of the revelation of the Virgin of Kazan, and copies of the image were displayed at the Kazan Cathedral of Moscow (constructed in the early 17th century), at Yaroslavl, and at St. Petersburg.

Russian military commanders Dmitry Pozharsky (17th century) and Mikhail Kutuzov (19th century) credited

invocation of the Virgin Mary through the icon with helping the country to repel the Polish invasion of 1612, the Swedish invasion of 1709, and Napoleon's invasion of 1812. The Kazan icon achieved immense popularity, and there were nine or ten separate miracle-attributed copies of the icon around Russia.

On the night of June 29, 1904, the icon was stolen from the Kazan Convent of the Theotokos in Kazan where it had been kept for centuries (the building was later blown up by the communist authorities. Thieves apparently coveted the icon's gold frame, which was ornamented with many valuable jewels. Several years later, Russian police apprehended the thieves and recovered the frame. The thieves originally declared that the icon itself had been cut to pieces and burnt, although one of them eventually confessed that it was housed in a monastery in the wilds of Siberia. This one, however, was believed to be a fake, and the Russian police refused to investigate, using the logic that it would be very unlucky to venerate a fake icon as though it were authentic. The Orthodox Church interpreted the disappearance of the icon as a sign of tragedies that would plague Russia after the image of the Holy Protectress of Russia had been lost. Indeed, the Russian peasantry was wont to credit all the miseries of the Revolution of 1905, as well as Russia's defeat in the Russo-Japanese War of 1904-1905, to the desecration

of her image.

After the Russian Revolution of 1917, there was speculation that the original icon was in fact preserved in St. Petersburg. Reportedly, an icon of Our Lady of Kazan was used in processions around Leningrad fortifications during the Siege of Leningrad (1941-1944) during World War II.

Another theory proposed that the Bolsheviki had sold the image abroad, although the Russian Orthodox Church did not accept such theories. The history of the stolen icon between 1917 and 1953 is unknown. In 1953 Frederick Mitchell-Hedges purchased an icon from Arthur Hillman. Although the status of the icon as the original Kazan icon remained disputed, Cyril G.E. Bunt concluded "that it is the work of a great icon painter of the 16th century the pigments and the wood of the panel are perfectly preserved as exhaustive X-ray tests have proved, and have mellowed with age", suggesting that while it was a copy of the original icon, it was nevertheless the original icon carried by Pozharski in 1612. It was exhibited at the World Trade Fair in New York in 1964-1965. On 13 September 1965, members of the Blue Army of Our Lady of Fátima spent the night in veneration of the icon in the pavilion in New York. The Blue Army eventually bought the icon from Anna Mitchell-Hedges for US\$125,000 in January 1970, and the icon was enshrined in

Fátima, Portugal.

In 1993 the icon from Fátima was given to Pope John Paul II, who took it to the Vatican and had it installed in his study, where he venerated it for eleven years. In his own words, "it has found a home with me and has accompanied my daily service to the Church with its motherly gaze". John Paul II wished to visit Moscow or Kazan to personally return the icon to the Russian Orthodox Church. When the Moscow Patriarchate rejected this plan, the Pope presented the icon to the Russian Church unconditionally in August 2004. On August 26, 2004, it was exhibited for veneration on the altar of St. Peter's Basilica and then delivered to Moscow. On the next feast day of the holy icon, July 21, 2005, Patriarch Alexius II and Mintimer Shaymiev, the president of Tatarstan, placed it in the Annunciation Cathedral of the Kazan Kremlin.

The icon is enshrined in the Cathedral of the Elevation of the Holy Cross, part of the erstwhile Convent of the Theotokos (re-established as a monastery in 2005), on the site where the original icon of Our Lady of Kazan was found, and plans are underway to make the monastery's other buildings into an international pilgrimage centre.

Akathist Hymn the Virgin of Kazan

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 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.

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 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.

Reader: Amen.

KONTAKION I

Choir/Faithful: Our Lady of Kazan, most blessed and all-holy, / we venerate your glorious icon / which was brought to Russia from Constantinople in the thirteenth century. / You are our treasure, Virgin Mary, and where our treasure is our heart is. / Your wonderworking icon is a precious fortune, / a wealth of intercession for the Godly-minded who bow before you – as we do today, / amid the agonizing events of our own Time of Troubles. / In humility we therefore declare: // Rejoice, Virgin of Kazan, Protectress of the repentant and merciful.

IKOS I

Priest: We flee to you, Mother of God of Kazan, and beg you to save us from the Tatars of our time and from all enemies of the Holy Church. May their cruel yoke not be upon us, no matter the number of our sins which we now put behind us – for today we celebrate your icon and we turn to you in repentance. Receive us even as your Son, Jesus Christ, received the Penitent Woman who wept at His feet, that we may thrive in your fearlessness and bring you these praises:

Choir/Faithful: Rejoice, imperishable wealth of the persecuted.
Rejoice, enduring prosperity that cannot be plundered.
Rejoice, unrivaled treasure of true believers.
Rejoice, unshakable courage that will not be silenced.
Rejoice, cause of gladness even in the Time of Troubles.

Rejoice, cause of cheerfulness for the **clean** of heart.
Rejoice, reason for hope even in the **gloomiest** hour.
Rejoice, reason for confidence in the course of salvation.
Rejoice, conqueror of the anguish of **sinfulness**.
Rejoice, vanquisher of the agony of **time** and place.
Rejoice, **stronghold** of truth.
Rejoice, guardian of **righteousness**.
Rejoice, **Virgin** of Kazan, Protectress of the repentant and
merciful.

KONTAKION II

Priest: The centuries advance, holy Virgin of Kazan, yet your intercession is ageless and your blessings are perpetual. The city of Kazan was destroyed by fire in the sixteenth century, but your glorious icon was hidden and kept safe from the ravages of this world and from the corrosion of time's passing. Nothing and nobody can impede the intentions of the Mother of God, and we therefore implore you to preserve us from unfaithfulness during our Time of Troubles. In thanksgiving for your valor in spiritual battle, we say: Alleluia.

Choir/Faithful: Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

IKOS II

Priest: Your hidden icon was located through the visionary dreams of Matrona, a 10-year old girl, who said the icon was buried beneath the ashes of calamity – safe from the Tatars and all atrocities committed under the guise of justice and morality. Matrona and her mother dug up the icon from beneath a burned-down house, and its original beauty had been miraculously preserved. Blessed Virgin of Kazan, we entreat you to honor us also with your immaculate presence, that we may bring rightful

praises to you:

Choir/Faithful: Rejoice, for your icon was planted in a **fertile** place.

Rejoice, for your image then produced **new** fruit.

Rejoice, for your purity **remained** unspoiled.

Rejoice, for your triumph then touched **many** lives.

Rejoice, bulwark against the **destruction** of faith.

Rejoice, holiness above the cinders of **wrongdoers**.

Rejoice, blessed Virgin not hidden from the **virtuous**.

Rejoice, heavenly face not consumed by **horrible** fire.

Rejoice, strength of **sobriety**.

Rejoice, splendor of **sanctity**.

Rejoice, eagle of **liberation**.

Rejoice, lioness of **protection**.

Rejoice, **Virgin** of Kazan, Protectress of the repentant and **merciful**.

KONTAKION III

Priest: When young Matrona told the archbishop that she had dreamed about your icon, blessed Theotokos, the archbishop disregarded her. He did not believe the words of a little girl, nor did he believe in your protection of Christians or your miraculous ways. Help us, holy Mother of God of Kazan, to emulate the simple faith of a child. In like manner, we beseech you to intercede for our country and our cities that we may overcome carelessness and complacency, and thereby we may continually say: Alleluia.

Choir/Faithful: Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

IKOS III

Priest: After Matrona and her mother dug up the glorious icon, and the archbishop saw it with his own eyes, he then repented of his lack of faith. Christians, let us also repent as we look upon the icon of the Virgin of Kazan, and let us weep like the Penitent Woman who was forgiven much. Countrymen, let us again take upon ourselves the yoke of Christ, which many of us deserted under the weight of time and the struggles of the world, for Christ is gentle and meek. He has given us His own mother as an intercessor, and therefore it is fitting that we bring praises to her today:

Choir/Faithful: Rejoice, trustworthy Protectress of the repentant.
Rejoice, assured Benefactress of the merciful.
Rejoice, heavenly Patroness of God-loving cities.
Rejoice, stable Mediatress of spiritual warriors.
Rejoice, for you fear not, but the demons shudder.
Rejoice, for you err not, but the worldly plummet.
Rejoice, for you never sin, but the enemy burns.
Rejoice, for you never betray, but the ungodly divide.
Rejoice, for you uplift penitent men and women.
Rejoice, for you uphold faithful mothers and children.
Rejoice, for you inspire soldiers of Christ.
Rejoice, for you encourage bishops and priests.
Rejoice, **Virgin** of Kazan, Protectress of the repentant and merciful.

KONTAKION IV

Priest: Your glorious icon was taken to the Church of Saint Nicholas – by the archbishop himself, for such was the fruit of his repentance and the consequence of your victory over sin, O holy Virgin of Kazan. When the icon was placed in the church, you

immediately gave aid to a blind man. You opened his eyes and he beheld your pure beauty and your triumphant rescue, and he said: Alleluia.

Choir/Faithful: Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

IKOS IV

Priest: Blessed Mother of God of Kazan, your icon later journeyed to other people and churches, as well as copies of it which were also miraculous. Saint Sergius of Radonezh, who appeared in a vision to Saint Arsenius, encouraged the Muscovite people to pray to you in order to be saved from oppression and woes. We also pray to you, from our churches which still stand in this time of chaos and from the refuge of our homes, to be spared from conflict or to overcome all conflict with your holy aid. We beg you to visit us in our distress, that we may unceasingly bring praises to you:

Choir/Faithful: Rejoice, for you heal our **sicknesses** of soul.
Rejoice, for you cure our blindness to **holiness**.
Rejoice, for you beckon us to true **spirituality**.
Rejoice, for you call us to a **life** of prayer.
Rejoice, for you lead us to right **worship**.
Rejoice, for you show us the way to a **sacramental** life.
Rejoice, for you bless our homes with your **icons**.
Rejoice, for you hear our **supplications** in the night.
Rejoice, for you understand the troubles we **encounter**.
Rejoice, for you strengthen us to battle all **evil**.
Rejoice, for you bring us water in the **desert**.
Rejoice, for you give us shelter amid **world** wars.
Rejoice, **Virgin** of Kazan, Protectress of the repentant and **merciful**.

KONTAKION V

Priest: We see that you have always been a resolute support to those who walk on the straight path but inevitably incur the hardships of time and place. Most holy Theotokos, many of us are born into situations which are largely beyond our control and not to our advantage. Yet, you are attentive to our nakedness and you commiserate with our pain. You seek us out, even in our ignorance of your care, and you lead us to ultimate victory over all manifestations of misery. We flee to you now, for we recognize your radiance reaching out to us, and we say: Alleluia.

Choir/Faithful: Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

IKOS V

Priest: Be to our advantage, O Virgin of Kazan, be a defender of those who are born into sorrow and cast into troubles. Be for us the sanctuary we always wished for, our fortification against invasion of the soul and sabotage of spirituality, a gateway into the life of prayer and to the imitation of Christ our Lord. See us, even if we do not see you. Find us, that we may find you beneath the ashes of our grief and beyond all desolation. For this cause, we humbly offer you praises:

Choir/Faithful: Rejoice, **knower** of truth.

Rejoice, **revealer** of light.

Rejoice, **giver** of strength.

Rejoice, builder of **holiness**.

Rejoice, incorruptible **richness**.

Rejoice, indestructible **glory**.

Rejoice, untarnished **purity**.

Rejoice, unblemished **beauty**.

Rejoice, extinguisher of **wickedness**.

Rejoice, abolisher of **worldliness**.

Rejoice, **uprooter** of deceit.

Rejoice, exposor of **treachery**.

Rejoice, **Virgin** of Kazan, Protectress of the repentant and **merciful**.

KONTAKION VI

Priest: In this Time of Troubles, people are fraught with a myriad of forces which pretend to be beneficial to mankind and civilization. Money is preferred over mercy, progress is valued more than prayer, fantasy is a substitute for faith, and egotism is more attractive than goodness. Human psychology is thereby discolored and distorted – such that unwholesome agitators are considered heroes, and upright Christians are regarded as haters. All-holy Mother of God of Kazan, light our way forward through the tangled ropes of society, that we may always worship the True God and say: Alleluia.

Choir/Faithful: Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

IKOS VI

Priest: This should be a time of lamentation – for our own sins and for the crumbling of our country and cities, and for people all over the world who are crushed by ungodliness. Let us kneel like the Penitent Woman, filled with repentance, and then let us rise and confess Jesus Christ before the experts and authorities, the polished and cunning, the comfortable and gratified – and we shall be voices in the wilderness of the modern world. We begin now, by singing praises to the wonderful Virgin Mary who truly prospers those who love her:

Choir/Faithful: Rejoice, for you convert our agony into a garden

of **fragrant** flowers.

Rejoice, for you transform our misery into a meadow with **sparkling** brooks.

Rejoice, for you transfigure our woes into hope and **charity**.

Rejoice, for you change our distress into **peace** and prayer.

Rejoice, for we give thanks for your incomparable mediation.

Rejoice, for you unceasingly intercede though we **know** it not.

Rejoice, for the centuries pass by but you remain **constant**.

Rejoice, for worldly rulers fade away but you **endure** to the end.

Rejoice, that we may rejoice **because** of you.

Rejoice, that we may always **behold** you.

Rejoice, that every person may be **subject** to you.

Rejoice, that all the earth may bow **before** you.

Rejoice, **Virgin** of Kazan, Protectress of the repentant and **merciful**.

KONTAKION VII

Priest: Our Lady of Kazan, undefiled and undefeated, we repent of our sins: pride, vanity, greed, arrogance, betrayal, entitlement, resentment, slander, and every unholy thought and act. At the root of our unhappiness are unbelief and lack of faith, for we silently consent to the false reasoning of the worldly. Most holy Theotokos, preserve us from these negative influences and direct our eyes to your glorious icon, that we may keep your purity before us in all that we say and do. With trust in your guidance, we say: Alleluia.

Choir/Faithful: Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

IKOS VII

Priest: Let us not succumb to the critics of Christianity, or to the promoters of false progress, but rather study the Scriptures and

spurn every form of adultery and idolatry. Let us bow to God and not to the culprits of corruption. Blessed Virgin of Kazan, we implore you to heal our sicknesses and strengthen all Godly-minded relationships. May we be faithful to the Holy Church, as we offer grateful praises to you:

Choir/Faithful: Rejoice, hope of the repentant.

Rejoice, stability of the merciful.

Rejoice, model of steadfastness.

Rejoice, restoration of faith.

Rejoice, glory of purpose.

Rejoice, renewal of commitment.

Rejoice, defender of the righteous.

Rejoice, helper of the prayerful.

Rejoice, gatherer of worshippers.

Rejoice, healer of Christians.

Rejoice, reward of seekers.

Rejoice, fortitude of believers.

Rejoice, Virgin of Kazan, Protectress of the repentant and merciful.

KONTAKION VIII

Priest: One of your icons was stolen in the twentieth century, by thieves who coveted the gold and jewels which embellished it. This is the way of the fallen – to take forbidden fruits and to hinder others from a vision of Heaven. Yet, your riches exceed earthly materialism and your presence overpowers every misfortune. In this way, holy Mother of God of Kazan, we realize true prosperity and noble victory. Every Christian may therefore confidently say: Alleluia.

Choir/Faithful: Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

IKOS VIII

Priest: What became of the thieves? Did they live in worldly satisfaction? Did they repent like the good thief at the Cross of Christ? Let us concern ourselves with our own repentance, remembering the wise words of Saint Sergius, and beg for mercy upon ourselves and our country and cities. May we thrive on goodness and flee to Our Lady of Kazan with fitting praises:

Choir/Faithful: Rejoice, for your worth is beyond **silver** and **gold**.

Rejoice, for you are bedecked in **heavenly** array.

Rejoice, for in spite of theft, you minister to the **faithful** to this day.

Rejoice, for regardless of loss, you continue to aid the **righteous**.

Rejoice, for we enter church not to steal, but to venerate your **icons**.

Rejoice, for we wish not to inflict sadness, but to **spread** goodwill.

Rejoice, fruitful **replenishment**.

Rejoice, ready **nourishment**.

Rejoice, firm **alliance**.

Rejoice, loyal **companion**.

Rejoice, **constant** prayer.

Rejoice, perfect **wonderworker**.

Rejoice, **Virgin** of Kazan, Protectress of the repentant and **merciful**.

KONTAKION IX

Priest: In our Time of Troubles, we are surrounded by idolatry and besieged by ungodliness. We are afraid to wear a cross around our neck, afraid to pray over our food in public, afraid of being labeled intolerant or offensive, afraid of being accused of a hate crime. O holy Theotokos, please be quick — send us aid before

we perish under the malevolent armies marching toward us. Many are against us, and some are themselves misguided victims of indoctrination. Hear us who call upon you, as we pray for the mistaken and the deceived, that everyone may bow to you and say: Alleluia.

Choir/Faithful: Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

IKOS IX

Priest: There can be no real tolerance without Godly-minded perception, and herein we see through the strange camouflaged net of cultural and political manipulation. Let us not surrender our soul to propaganda, or exchange the Cross for a false theory, or leave the Church for a current trend — but let us repent like the Penitent Woman who acknowledged her sinfulness and placed her hope of salvation only in Jesus Christ. We beseech you, Mother of our Lord, to erase our fears that we may rightfully bring praises to you:

Choir/Faithful: Rejoice, for you soothe our anxiety.

Rejoice, for you teach us **what** is right.

Rejoice, for you ease our **trepidation**.

Rejoice, for you **guide** us to the light.

Rejoice, for righteousness withstands the **passing** of time.

Rejoice, for truth pierces every disguise of the **wicked**.

Rejoice, for you are resplendent with **bravery**.

Rejoice, for you do the will of the **True** God.

Rejoice, for you hasten to **those** who repent.

Rejoice, for you help those who **love** your Son.

Rejoice, for holiness sprouts from **good** roots.

Rejoice, for you sow to the glory of the **Sovereign** God.

Rejoice, **Virgin** of Kazan, Protectress of the repentant and

merciful.

KONTAKION X

Priest: Our Lady of Kazan, courageous and valiant, you fill us with mercy toward all seekers and the needy. We live in an era of father against daughter, student against school, official against citizen, insider against outsider, first against last – and all are troubled and some are merciless. This is the weakness of our time and the agony of our country, for we see people who are tossed by ill winds and who then clutch at false rescue. We implore you to liberate us, most holy Theotokos, from chaos and charlatans, so that we may shine forth in righteousness and say to everyone around us: Alleluia.

Choir/Faithful: Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

IKOS X

Priest: Your participation in life, O Virgin of Kazan, enters and transcends time and place – whether in a time of distress or a time of celebration, whether in a place of discord or a place of harmony – for the outward circumstances cannot obstruct the inward peace which you bestow upon Christians. In return for your gracious care, we offer you this humble gift of praise:

Choir/Faithful: Rejoice, correction of confusion.

Rejoice, happiness of believers.

Rejoice, power of obedience.

Rejoice, increase of wonders.

Rejoice, preservation of honor.

Rejoice, fulfillment of duty.

Rejoice, interior of serenity.

Rejoice, place of miracles.

Rejoice, preparation of saints.

Rejoice, contemplation of **Christians**.

Rejoice, **greatness** of faith.

Rejoice, **comfort** of hope.

Rejoice, **Virgin** of Kazan, Protectress of the repentant and **merciful**.

KONTAKION XI

Priest: Most blessed Virgin of Kazan, we do not force Christianity upon others, but there are some who would force other systems upon Christians. We are threatened by extremists and fanatics in the name of religion, and they lust after our conversion, captivity, or death. The Tatars of our time are relentless, but with faith in the Father Almighty and with your marvelous intercession, we continue to say: Alleluia.

Choir/Faithful: Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

IKOS XI

Priest: Save us, holy Mother of God of Kazan, for the opponents of the Church have already crossed our borders and infiltrated our cities. Have mercy, Theotokos pure and powerful, upon the faithful and the penitent, and preserve us from unimaginable woes. We bow to you, and we beseech your compassion upon ourselves and also our countrymen, as we earnestly offer praises:

Choir/Faithful: Rejoice, Lady Warrior who conquers with the **light** of truth.

Rejoice, Sovereign Queen who rules with the glory of **purity**.

Rejoice, capable Protectress who sees all who respect her holy **icons**.

Rejoice, worthy Mediatrix who knows where the **righteous** dwell.

Rejoice, for our prayers rise to Heaven from our Time of **Troubles**.

Rejoice, for our repentance pours out from a well of **sorrows**.

Rejoice, that we may be a **people** of God.

Rejoice, that we may be a land of **righteousness**.

Rejoice, that your intercession might produce fruit in our **nation**.

Rejoice, that your vigilance might bring safety to our **cities**.

Rejoice, that we may give praise for each day of civilized **relations**.

Rejoice, that we may thank you for every effort on behalf of **Christians**.

Rejoice, **Virgin** of Kazan, Protectress of the repentant and **merciful**.

KONTAKIOIN XII

Priest: Where did we go astray? Who bewitched us? When did we lose our First Love? How did we spiral downward into a morass of distraction, confusion, and neglect? Countrymen, do you not see the signs of an approaching storm? Christians, have you no understanding of the Penitent Woman? Oh, most blessed Virgin Mary, awaken us from our stupor and direct us to the precepts of the Church, so that we may say to one another: Alleluia.

Choir/Faithful: Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

IKOS XII

Priest: Holy Mother of God of Kazan, teach us to please God and only God. Lead us on the path of righteousness, that our light may shine before others and that every land might receive the True God – the God of love and mercy for all men and women. Guide

us to everlasting happiness, and to holiness which cannot be stolen or destroyed. For this reason, we offer you praises today and always:

Choir/Faithful: Rejoice, for nothing can prevail against the Church.

Rejoice, for nobody is able to usurp the **Kingdom**.

Rejoice, for we are not **of** this world.

Rejoice, for we are baptized **into** the Faith.

Rejoice, for your wondrous icons **encourage** us.

Rejoice, for your glorious beauty **invigorates** us.

Rejoice, for the gloom of ungodliness dissolves **under** the sun.

Rejoice, for the flowers of righteousness bloom **across** the land.

Rejoice, for we adore your Son and our **King**, Jesus Christ.

Rejoice, for we wish to do the will of the **Sovereign** God.

Rejoice, for your help is stronger than all **misfortune**.

Rejoice, for your aid upheld young Matrona and Saint **Sergius**.

Rejoice, **Virgin** of Kazan, Protectress of the repentant and **merciful**.

KONTAKION XIII

May our lamentation be turned into joy, since the Theotokos herself intercedes for our victory. May our Time of Troubles motivate us to seek true spirituality and a life of prayer, so that our only aim is obedience to God and fulfillment of His Commandments. Praise be to the blessed Virgin of Kazan, and glory be to God in the Highest, today and forevermore. Alleluia.

Choir/Faithful: Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

This kontakion is recited thrice; whereupon Ikos I and Kontakion I are repeated.

IKOS I

Priest: We flee to you, Mother of God of Kazan, and beg you to save us from the Tatars of our time and from all enemies of the Holy Church. May their cruel yoke not be upon us, no matter the number of our sins which we now put behind us – for today we celebrate your icon and we turn to you in repentance. Receive us even as your Son, Jesus Christ, received the Penitent Woman who wept at His feet, that we may thrive in your fearlessness and bring you these praises:

Choir/Faithful: Rejoice, imperishable wealth of the **persecuted**.
Rejoice, enduring prosperity that cannot be **plundered**.
Rejoice, unrivaled treasure of true **believers**.
Rejoice, unshakable courage that will not be **silenced**.
Rejoice, cause of gladness even in the Time of **Troubles**.
Rejoice, cause of cheerfulness for the **clean** of heart.
Rejoice, reason for hope even in the **gloomiest** hour.
Rejoice, reason for confidence in the course of **salvation**.
Rejoice, conqueror of the anguish of **sinfulness**.
Rejoice, vanquisher of the agony of **time** and place.
Rejoice, **stronghold** of truth.
Rejoice, guardian of **righteousness**.
Rejoice, **Virgin** of Kazan, Protectress of the repentant and **merciful**.

KONTAKION I

Choir/Faithful: Our Lady of Kazan, most blessed and all-holy,
/ we venerate your glorious **icon** / which was brought to Russia
from Constantinople in the thirteenth **century**. / You are our
treasure, Virgin Mary, and where our treasure is our **heart** is. /

Your wonderworking icon is a precious **fortune**, / a wealth of intercession for the Godly-minded who bow before you – as we **do** today, / amid the agonizing events of our own Time of **Troubles**. / In humility we **therefore** declare: // Rejoice, **Virgin** of Kazan, Protectress of the repentant and **merciful**.

Priest: Again and again on bended knees let us pray to the Most-holy Theotokos.

Choir/Faithful: Most-holy Theotokos pray to **God** for us.

Prayer to the Most-holy Theotokos

Priest: With heartfelt devotion, with deep repentance, and with mercy for one another, we pray to you, O Virgin of Kazan – our intercessor and a Protectress of Christians over centuries of war and crime. Save us from our own sins and from the sins of others, so that we may flourish because of you and become a grateful people of God.

Yet, if we must suffer – since our fallen condition is filled with suffering – then strengthen us in spiritual battle and make us worthy witnesses of the True Faith. We know that you watch over us, and that you will lead us to victory if only we heed your calling and the Commandments of God. Illuminate us, O Mother of God of Kazan, so that we may rejoice under all circumstances and praise you for your wondrous vigilance and unceasing mediation.

Choir/Faithful: Amen.

The Litany

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

Choir/Faithful: Lord have mercy (3)

Priest: Again we pray for His Beatitude, Metropolitan _____, His (*Grace /Eminence*), (*Arch*) Bishop _____, for priests, deacons, and all other clergy; and for all our brethren in Christ.

Choir/Faithful: Lord have mercy (3)

Priest: Again we pray for the president of our country, for all civil authorities and for our armed forces everywhere.

Choir/Faithful: Lord have mercy (3)

Priest: 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.

Choir/Faithful: Lord have mercy (3)

Priest: Furthermore, we pray for the people here present, awaiting from Thee great and bountiful mercies for all the brethren and for all Christians.

Choir/Faithful: Lord have mercy (3)

Priest: For Thou art a merciful God, and loves 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/Faithful: Amen.

Priest: Wisdom! Most Holy Theotokos, save us!

Choir/Faithful: 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 and our hope, glory to Thee !

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

Priest: [pronounces the dismissal and faithful venerate the Cross]

Most Holy Theotokos Save us!

Glory Be To God For All Things!