



**Akathist to
Our Most Holy Lady Theotokos**

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

IKOS I

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

Choir/Faithful: Rejoice, Thou through whom **joy** will shine forth:
Rejoice, Thou through whom the **curse** will cease!

Rejoice, recall of fallen **Adam**:

Rejoice, redemption of the **tears** of Eve!

Rejoice, height inaccessible to **human** thoughts:

Rejoice, depth undiscernible even for the eyes of **angels**!

Rejoice, for Thou art the King's throne:

Rejoice, for Thou bearest Him Who **beareth** all!

Rejoice, star that causeth the **Sun** to appear:

Rejoice, womb of the Divine **Incarnation**!

Rejoice, Thou through whom **creation** is renewed:

Rejoice, Thou through whom we worship the **Creator**!

Rejoice, O Unwedded Bride, O Unwedded Bride!

KONTAKION II

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

Choir/Faithful: Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

IKOS II

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

Choir/Faithful: Rejoice, initiate of God's ineffable will:
Rejoice, assurance of those who pray in **silence!**
Rejoice, beginning of Christ's **miracles:**
Rejoice, crown of His **dogmas!**
Rejoice, heavenly ladder by which **God** came down:
Rejoice, bridge that conveyest us from earth to **heaven!**
Rejoice, wonder of angels **sounded** abroad:
Rejoice, wound of demons **bewailed** afar!
Rejoice, Thou Who ineffably gave **birth** to the Light:
Rejoice, Thou Who didst reveal Thy **secret** to none!
Rejoice, Thou Who surpassest the **knowledge** of the wise:
Rejoice, Thou Who givest light to the minds of the **faithful!**
Rejoice, O **Unwedded** Bride, O **Unwedded** Bride!

KONTAKION III

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

Choir/Faithful: Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

IKOS III

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

Choir/Faithful: Rejoice, branch of an **Unfading** Sprout:
Rejoice, acquisition of **Immortal** Fruit!
Rejoice, labourer that labourest for the **Lover** of mankind:
Rejoice, Thou Who givest birth to the **Planter** of our life!
Rejoice, cornland yielding a rich crop of **mercies**:
Rejoice, table bearing a wealth of **forgiveness**!
Rejoice, Thou Who makest to bloom the **garden** of delight:
Rejoice, Thou Who preparest a **haven** for souls!
Rejoice, acceptable incense of **intercession**:
Rejoice, propitiation of **all** the world!
Rejoice, good will of God to **mortals**:
Rejoice, boldness of **mortals** before God!
Rejoice, O **Unwedded** Bride, O **Unwedded** Bride!

KONTAKION IV

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

Choir/Faithful: Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

IKOS IV

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

Choir/Faithful: Rejoice, Mother of the Lamb and the **Shepherd**:
Rejoice, fold of **rational** sheep!
Rejoice, torment of invisible **enemies**:
Rejoice, opening of the gates of **Paradise**!
Rejoice, for the things of heaven **rejoice** with the earth:
Rejoice, for the things of earth join chorus with the **heavens**!

Rejoice, never-silent mouth of the **Apostles**:
Rejoice, invincible courage of the **passion-bearers**!
Rejoice, firm **support** of faith:
Rejoice, radiant **token** of Grace!
Rejoice, Thou through whom **hades** was stripped bare:
Rejoice, Thou through whom we are clothed with **glory**!
Rejoice, O **Unwedded** Bride, O **Unwedded** Bride!

KONTAKION V

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

Choir/Faithful: Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

IKOS V

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

Choir/Faithful: Rejoice, Mother of the **Unsetting** Star:
Rejoice, dawn of the **mystic** day!
Rejoice, Thou Who didst extinguish the furnace of **error**:
Rejoice, Thou Who didst enlighten the initiates of the **Trinity**!
Rejoice, Thou Who didst banish from power the inhuman **tyrant**:
Rejoice, Thou Who didst show us Christ the Lord, the **Lover** of
mankind!
Rejoice, Thou Who redeemest from pagan **worship**:
Rejoice, Thou Who dost drag us from the works of mire!
Rejoice, Thou Who didst quench the **worship** of fire:
Rejoice, Thou Who rescues from the flame of the **passions**!
Rejoice, guide of the faithful to **chastity**:

Rejoice, gladness of all generations!
Rejoice, O Unwedded Bride, O Unwedded Bride!

KONTAKION VI

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

Choir/Faithful: Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

IKOS VI

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

Choir/Faithful: Rejoice, uplifting of men:

Rejoice, downfall of **demons!**

Rejoice, Thou who didst trample down the dominion of **delusion:**

Rejoice, Thou who didst unmask the fraud of **idols!**

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

Rejoice, rock that doth refresh those **thirsting** for life!

Rejoice, pillar of fire that guides those in **darkness:**

Rejoice, shelter of the world **broader** than a cloud!

Rejoice, sustenance replacing **manna:**

Rejoice, minister of **holy** delight!

Rejoice, land of **promise:**

Rejoice, Thou from whom floweth milk and **honey!**

Rejoice, O Unwedded Bride, O Unwedded Bride!

KONTAKION VII

Priest: When Symeon was about to depart this age of delusion, Thou wast brought as a Babe to him, but Thou was recognized by him as

perfect God also; wherefore, marveling at Thine ineffable wisdom, he cried: Alleluia!

Choir/Faithful: Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

IKOS VII

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

Choir/Faithful: Rejoice, flower of incorruptibility:

Rejoice, crown of **cont**inence!

Rejoice, Thou from whom shineth the Archetype of the Resurrection:

Rejoice, Thou Who revealest the life of the **ang**els!

Rejoice, tree of shining fruit, whereby the faithful are **nour**ished:

Rejoice, tree of goodly shade by which many are **shel**tered!

Rejoice, Thou that has carried in Thy womb the Redeemer of **cap**tives:

Rejoice, Thou that gavest birth to the Guide of **tho**se astray!

Rejoice, supplication before the **Ri**ghteous Judge:

Rejoice, forgiveness of **man**y sins!

Rejoice, robe of boldness for the **na**ked:

Rejoice, love that doth vanquish **all** desire!

Rejoice, O Un**wed**ded Bride, O Un**wed**ded Bride!

KONTAKION VIII

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

Choir/Faithful: Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

IKOS VIII

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

Choir/Faithful: Rejoice, container of the Uncontainable God:

Rejoice, door of solemn **mystery!**

Rejoice, report doubtful to unbelievers:

Rejoice, undoubted boast of the **faithful!**

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

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

Rejoice, Thou Who hast united **opposites:**

Rejoice, Thou Who hast joined virginity and **motherhood!**

Rejoice, Thou through whom transgression hath **been** absolved:

Rejoice, Thou through whom Paradise is **opened!**

Rejoice, key to the **kingdom** of Christ:

Rejoice, hope of eternal **good** things!

Rejoice, O Unwedded Bride, O Unwedded Bride!

KONTAKION IX

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

Choir/Faithful: Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

IKOS IX

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

Choir/Faithful: Rejoice, receptacle of the **Wisdom** of God:

Rejoice, treasury of His **Providence!**

Rejoice, Thou Who showest philosophers to be fools:

Rejoice, Thou Who exposes the learned as **irrational**!
Rejoice, for the clever critics have become **foolish**:
Rejoice, for the writers of myths have **faded** away!
Rejoice, Thou Who didst rend the webs of the **Athenians**:
Rejoice, Thou Who didst fill the nets of the **fishermen**!
Rejoice, Thou Who drawest us from the depths of **ignorance**:
Rejoice, Thou Who enlightens many with **knowledge**!
Rejoice, ship for those who **wish** to be saved:
Rejoice, harbor for sailors on the **sea** of life!
Rejoice, O **Unwedded** Bride, O **Unwedded** Bride!

KONTAKION X

Priest: Desiring to save the world, He that is the Creator of all came to it according to His Own promise, and He that, as God, is the Shepherd, for our sake appeared unto us as a man; for like calling unto like, as God He hears: Alleluia!

Choir/Faithful: Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

IKOS X

Priest: A bulwark art Thou to virgins, and to all that flee unto Thee, O Virgin Theotokos; for the Maker of heaven and earth prepared Thee, O Most-pure one, dwelt in Thy womb, and taught all to call to Thee:

Choir/Faithful: Rejoice, pillar of **virginity**:
Rejoice, gate of **salvation**!
Rejoice, leader of **mental formation**:
Rejoice, bestower of **divine** good!
Rejoice, treasury of His **providence**!
Rejoice, Thou who showest **philosophers** to be fools!
Rejoice, for Thou didst renew those **conceived** in shame:
Rejoice, for Thou gavest wisdom to those **robbed** of their minds!
Rejoice, Thou Who didst foil the **corrupter** of minds:
Rejoice, Thou Who gavest birth to the Sower of **purity**!

Rejoice, bridechamber of a seedless **marriage**:
Rejoice, Thou Who dost wed the **faithful** to the Lord!
Rejoice, good nourisher of **virgins**:
Rejoice, adorer of holy souls as for **marriage**!
Rejoice, O **Unwedded** Bride, O **Unwedded** Bride!

KONTAKION XI

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

Choir/Faithful: Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

IKOS XI

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

Choir/Faithful: Rejoice, ray of the noetic Sun:
Rejoice, radiance of the **Unsetting** Light!
Rejoice, lightning that **enlightens** our souls:
Rejoice, thunder that terrifies our **enemies**!
Rejoice, for Thou didst cause the refulgent **Light** to dawn:
Rejoice, for Thou didst cause the river of many **streams** to gush forth!
Rejoice, Thou Who paints the **image** of the font:
Rejoice, Thou Who blottest out the **stain** of sin!
Rejoice, laver that washes the **conscience** clean:
Rejoice, cup that **draws** up joy!
Rejoice, aroma of the sweet **fragrance** of Christ:
Rejoice, life of mystical **gladness**!
Rejoice, O **Unwedded** Bride, O **Unwedded** Bride!

KONTAKIOIN XII

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

Choir/Faithful: Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

IKOS XII

Priest: While singing to Thine Offspring, we all praise Thee as a living temple, O Theotokos; for the Lord Who holds all things in His hand dwelt in Thy womb, and He sanctified and glorified Thee, and taught all to cry to Thee:

Choir/Faithful: Rejoice, tabernacle of **God** the Word:

Rejoice, saint **greater** than the saints!

Rejoice, ark gilded by the **Spirit**:

Rejoice, inexhaustible **treasury** of life!

Rejoice, precious diadem of **pious** kings:

Rejoice, venerable boast of **reverent** priests!

Rejoice, unshakable **fortress** of the Church:

Rejoice, inviolable wall of the **kingdom**!

Rejoice, Thou through whom **victories** are obtained:

Rejoice, Thou through whom foes fall **prostrate**!

Rejoice, **healing** of my flesh:

Rejoice, **salvation** of my soul!

Rejoice, O **Unwedded** Bride, O **Unwedded** Bride!

KONTAKION XII

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

Choir/Faithful: Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

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

IKOS I

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

Choir/Faithful: Rejoice, Thou through whom **joy** will shine forth:
Rejoice, Thou through whom the **curse** will cease!

Rejoice, recall of fallen **Adam**:

Rejoice, redemption of the **tears** of Eve!

Rejoice, height inaccessible to **human** thoughts:

Rejoice, depth undiscernible even for the eyes of **angels**!

Rejoice, for Thou art the King's throne:

Rejoice, for Thou bearest Him Who **beareth** all!

Rejoice, star that causeth the **Sun** to appear:

Rejoice, womb of the Divine **Incarnation**!

Rejoice, Thou through whom **creation** is renewed:

Rejoice, Thou through whom we worship the **Creator**!

Rejoice, O **Unwedded** Bride, O **Unwedded** Bride!

KONTAKION I

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

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

Choir/Faithful: Most Holy Theotokos **Save** us.

Prayer to the Most Holy Theotokos

Priest: O most holy Sovereign Lady Theotokos! Higher art thou than all the angels and archangels, and more honourable than all creation, a helper of the wronged art thou, the hope of the hopeless, an intercessor for the poor, the consolation of the sorrowful, a nourisher of the hungry, a robe for the naked, healing for the sick, the salvation of sinners, the help and protection of all Christians. O all-merciful Sovereign Lady Virgin Theotokos! Through thy mercy save and have mercy on the most holy Orthodox patriarchs, the most holy metropolitans, archbishops and bishops, and all the priestly and monastic orders, the military leaders, civic leaders, and Christ-loving armed forces, and well-wishers, and all Orthodox Christians do thou defend by thy precious omophorion, and entreat, O Lady, Christ our God Who was incarnate of thee without seed, that He gird us with His power from on high against our enemies, visible and invisible, O all-merciful Sovereign Lady Theotokos! Raise us up out of the depths of sin, and deliver us from famine, destruction, from earthquake and flood, from fire and the sword, from invasion of aliens and civil war, and from sudden death, and from noxious winds, and from death-bearing plagues, and from all evil. Grant, O Lady, peace and health to thy servants, all Orthodox Christians, and enlighten their minds, and the eyes of their hearts unto salvation; and vouchsafe unto us, thy sinful servants, the kingdom of thy Son, Christ our God; for blessed and most-glorified is His dominion, together with His unoriginate Father, and His Most-Holy and good and life-creating Spirit, now and ever, and unto the ages of ages. Amen.

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!