



AKATHIST TO SAINTS PETER AND PAUL

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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: The Lord Who said of Himself: I am the good **Shepherd**, / said unto you, O first-enthroned **Peter**: / If you love Me, **feed** My sheep. / And He Who said: I am Jesus, said of you, O preeminent **Apostle Paul**: / He is a chosen vessel **unto** Me, / to bear My name before the **gentiles**. / And likewise to all your colleagues, His **apostles**, He said: / As My Father has sent Me, even so **send** I you; / go, and teach all **nations**. / And, receiving such grace from your good Chief **Shepherd**, / as the foremost shepherds and teachers of **all** the world, / from all misfortunes **preserve** us / on the pasture of salvation, / that we may cry **out** to you: // Rejoice, O holy first-enthroned **Peter** and Paul, with all the holy **apostles**!

IKOS I

Priest: Blessed are you, Simon, son of Jonas! said Christ, the Son of the living God, unto you, O right glorious Apostle Peter. How then can we worthily call you blessed who has been called blessed by God Himself? Yet drawn faithfully, by a debt of love alone, we cry out to you thus:

Choir/Faithful: Rejoice, first among the apostles, foundation of the **holy Church**;
Rejoice, mighty pillar and ground of the **Orthodox Faith**!
Rejoice, ardent lover of the **teaching** of Christ;

Rejoice, first-seated among the council of the **apostles!**
Rejoice, good gate-keeper of the kingdom of **heaven;**
Rejoice, renowned physician for them that **repent** of their
sins!
Rejoice, you who spurned the vanity of the world and loved
the **spiritual** life;
Rejoice, you who forsook corruptible nets and fished the
whole world with **incorruptible** ones!
Rejoice with Peter, O Paul, for you both shone forth like two
great **beacons;**
Rejoice, you who like a pair of steeds were harnessed by God
to His chariot of noetic light!
Rejoice, all holy apostles, beholders of God, for you are the
light of **all** the world;
Rejoice, for through you the Faith which saves us has shone
forth from Christ in **every** place!
Rejoice, O holy first-enthroned **Peter** and Paul, with all the
holy **apostles!**

KONTAKION II

Priest: O teacher of the gentiles, who received your title wondrously from on high, you believed when Jesus said unto you: Saul, why do you persecute Me Who cannot be touched by unbelief? Yet believe henceforth; for, lo contrary audacity darkens you, but I have chosen you to be a witness to My judgments before the rulers, the nations and the children of Israel. And you, O Apostle Paul, called such things by God, did cry out: Alleluia!

Choir/Faithful: Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

IKOS II

Priest: Hearing a voice from heaven, O Saul, you were thereafter unable to see; for you had adversely persecuted the Inaccessible One and did receive blindness of your eyes in return for your zeal for the law; but, guided to the font, you attained unto divine baptism, where, having been immersed with faith, the sight of your bodily and spiritual eyes was restored. Wherefore, mindful of your miraculous calling, we cry out to you:

Choir/Faithful: Rejoice, O apostles called by God, sent forth to preach to all the **nations**;
Rejoice, chosen vessel which pours forth the sweetness of the Faith of Christ **upon** all men!
Rejoice, beholder of the divine Light which **illumines** from on high;
Rejoice, you who more than others were enlightened by grace after the shadow of the **Old Covenant**!
Rejoice, you who on earth conversed with the Lord Jesus Who **appeared** to you;
Rejoice, you who with His strength dared to denounce them that were adamant in their **unbelief**!
Rejoice, you who have enlightened the whole world with your divinely wise **writings**;
Rejoice, you who, following Christ, labored more than others for the **salvation** of man!
Rejoice with Paul, O Peter, for you overshadow the holy Church as the two cherubim **did** the ark;
Rejoice, you who stand before the throne of the Most High like two **seraphim**!
Rejoice, all you holy apostles, for you are like the heavens which proclaim the **glory** of God;

Rejoice, for you are the stars which crown the Church, the **Bride** of Christ!

Rejoice, O holy first-enthroned **Peter** and Paul, with all the holy **apostles**!

KONTAKION III

Priest: You were struck with horror, O holy Apostle Peter, beholding the sheet descending from on high, filled with all manner of living creatures, moreover with unclean beasts, wherein was set forth a parable of God's love for man, signifying that it is not fitting to reject them that from all the nations desire to believe in Christ Jesus. And understanding this mystery, you cried out to God: Alleluia!

Choir/Faithful: Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

IKOS III

Priest: Nothing that is vile or unclean has ever passed my lips! you said, O most blessed Apostle Peter. But divine Providence answered you with a voice from heaven, saying: What God has cleansed, that do you not revile, calling it unclean; for the Savior came not to call the righteous, but sinners, to repentance! And we, knowing what was revealed to you, cry out:

Choir/Faithful: Rejoice, O apostle, who mercifully opens the kingdom of **heaven**;

Rejoice, you who not only watches over men, but over the affairs of all the **nations**!

Rejoice, you who with love covers the **multitude** of our sins;
Rejoice, you who perfects our meager repentance with your **mercy**!

Rejoice, speedy helper for them that call upon you amid
spiritual tribulations;
Rejoice, you who by your supplication raises up those dead
of **body** and soul!
Rejoice, you who strengthenes with the Holy Spirit the
faithful who hearken **unto** your word;
Rejoice, you who wounds the unbelieving with your words,
as **with** darts!
Rejoice with Peter, O Paul, in that you are as the two eyes of
the Church, endued with **divine** sight;
Rejoice, ever-vigilant guides watching over the new **Israel**!
Rejoice, all you holy apostles, for you are as a guard upon the
walls of **Jerusalem**;
Rejoice, O our instructors, who keep watch over the souls of
Christians!
Rejoice, O holy first-enthroned **Peter** and Paul, with all the
holy **apostles**!

KONTAKION IV

Priest: To the Jews living in Damascus you began to preach,
O apostle Paul, enlightened of God, that they might believe
in Christ Jesus the Son of God; and they were astonished at
how one who before had persecuted them that believed in the
name of Christ had - O, the wonder! - himself been
transformed into a believer! Wherefore, they took counsel
together to slay you; but knowing their intent and the
hardness of their hearts, you left them in the blindness of their
unbelief and, let down over the wall in a basket by the
faithful, you cried out to God: Alleluia!

Choir/Faithful: Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

IKOS IV

Priest: With great zeal, O holy Paul, you preached to turn away from the prescriptions of the old law and circumcision and to make haste to the font of divine baptism, proclaiming this not only to the Jews, but also to the gentiles whose most loving teacher you were. Wherefore, we exclaim unto you thus:

Choir/Faithful: Rejoice, preacher sent by God to announce repentance unto **s**inners;

Rejoice, teacher of piety with thunderous voice, denouncer of **u**ngodliness!

Rejoice, merciful inviter of them among the gentiles that are astray, you hasten to the **F**aith of Christ;

Rejoice, true guide to the **s**traight path!

Rejoice, ship which keeps the faithful from **d**rowning in sin;

Rejoice, helmsman who guides us to the haven of the **p**leasing of God!

Rejoice, quickly interceding comforter of the **s**orrowful;

Rejoice, healer who accepts no recompense for curing ailments of **b**ody and soul!

Rejoice with Paul, O Peter, for you are like two wings furnished unto the Church by Christ, the great **E**agle;

Rejoice, for you are like two wings given to her, the dove, by the Holy **S**pirit!

Rejoice, all you holy apostles, who are whole as doves and through hope have been furnished with wings like **e**agles;

Rejoice, for where Christ was in the body, there were you gathered **t**ogether!

Rejoice, O holy first-enthroned **P**eter and Paul, with all the holy **a**postles!

KONTAKION V

Priest: Sweating from your earthly labors and providing for yourself by fishing, O holy Apostle Peter, you were called to be an apostle and believed in Christ Who nurtures abundantly, Who fed a thousand people with five loaves; and you followed Him, laboring for food which perishes not, but abides unto everlasting life; and you cried out to Him as God: Alleluia!

Choir/Faithful: Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

IKOS V

Priest: Forbidden by the chief priests and elders of the Jews to teach the name of the Lord Jesus, O blessed Apostle Peter, arming yourself with steadfast faith, you answered: We ought to obey God rather than man! And having endured imprisonment and stripes for this, you departed from the presence of the council, rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer shame for the name of the Lord. Wherefore, we also offer to you exclamations of joy, saying:

Choir/Faithful: Rejoice, you who put the council of the Jews to shame by the writings of the prophets concerning Christ;

Rejoice, you who tore asunder the false threats of the Pharisees and Sadducees like a **spider's** web!

Rejoice, you who worked many miracles through the grace of the Holy **Spirit**;

Rejoice, you who granted sight to the blind and the ability to **walk** to the lame!

Rejoice, you who by your shadow raised the sick from their **beds** of pain;

Rejoice, you who healed them that suffered from many unclean **spirits**!

Rejoice, you who summoned fishermen to a **wondrous** catch;
Rejoice, you who draws the unbelieving to faith as if they were **voiceless** fish!

Rejoice with Peter, O Paul, for you are like two breasts of the Church, the Bride of Christ, our **Mother**;

Rejoice, for you are like two grapes of the vine, which nourish us and **make** us glad!

Rejoice, all you holy apostles, for you are branches of Christ, the **true** Vine;

Rejoice, for you are good husbandmen of the **vineyard** of Christ!

Rejoice, O holy first-enthroned **Peter** and Paul, with all the holy **apostles**!

KONTAKION VI

Priest: An Israelite of the tribe of Benjamin, a Pharisee according to the law, a persecutor of the Church of God in your zeal, you called yourself, O holy Apostle Paul, not hiding your former hot temper against them that believed in Christ Jesus; but as you greatly persecuted the Church of God and strove to destroy it, so now, gloriously adorned by you, and made steadfast in might by your mellifluous teachings, it cries unto God: Alleluia!

Choir/Faithful: Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

IKOS VI

Priest: Who shall separate us from the love of God? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or like things? you said, O Apostle Paul, preacher of the Word beloved of God,

bringing all to the love of Christ Who sincerely believe in Him, that with boldness and thanksgiving we may endure tribulation for God's sake. Wherefore, we lovingly exclaim to you these things:

Choir/Faithful: Rejoice, you who were a zealot for the **law** named Saul;

Rejoice, lover of Christ, named Paul, **perfected** in grace!

Rejoice, light of divine knowledge, illumining them that are in the darkness of **unbelief**;

Rejoice, star guiding them that languish in the depths of **iniquity**!

Rejoice, you who betroths the souls of the faithful to Christ and summons them to the heavenly bridal **chamber**;

Rejoice, you who endured many tribulations and have made others also steadfast to **endure** them!

Rejoice, you into whose hands God placed mighty **powers**;

Rejoice, you whose sweat-soaked kerchief **healed** the sick!

Rejoice with Paul, O Peter, for you are like the two pillars which uphold the Church of the heavenly **Solomon**;

Rejoice, you who, like two lilies on its pillars, adorn the **sanctuary** of God!

Rejoice, all you holy apostles, for like flowers do you impart fragrance to **all** the world;

Rejoice, you who through your fragrance dispel the stench of all **iniquity**!

Rejoice, O holy first-enthroned **Peter** and Paul, with all the holy **apostles**!

KONTAKION VII

Priest: On your arrival in Lydda, O blessed Apostle Peter, you amazed the people living there when by the name of

Jesus Christ you raised up Aeneas, who had lain abed, sick of the palsy, for eight years, and caused him to walk; in Joppa you likewise, by your supplication, returned to life the dead Tabitha; and, summoned to Caesaria, you enlightened with divine baptism Cornelius the centurion with all in his household. Wherefore, we all straightway cry aloud to God in unity of soul: Alleluia!

Choir/Faithful: Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

IKOS VII

Priest: Simon Magus thought to acquire the grace of the Holy Spirit with silver; but you, O blessed Apostle Peter, condemned him to inherit damnation with his silver and sternly forbid both the avaricious practice of simony and the theft of sacred things. Wherefore, we exclaim unto you thus:

Choir/Faithful: Rejoice, you who enriched the Church of Christ with the grace of the **Spirit**;

Rejoice, you who forbid the reception of recompense for holy things **in** the Church!

Rejoice, you by whom avarice was cut off, as the root of all evils, through the grace of the **Spirit**;

Rejoice, you by whom covetousness is cast away by sanctity as a type of **idolatry**!

Rejoice, you who lead a hard life for the **sake** of Christ;

Rejoice, you who fulfilled well the commandment of Christ: you cannot serve God and **Mammon**!

Rejoice, you who sternly punished the sacrilege of **Ananias** with death;

Rejoice, you who likewise committed Sapphira, who was guilty of that sin, to the same **punishment**!

Rejoice with Peter, O Paul, for you are like two olive trees
which pour forth **mercy**;
Rejoice, for you are like two lamps radiating **wisdom**!
Rejoice, all you holy apostles, as tender **olive** shoots;
Rejoice, for because of you all is like a fruitful olive tree in
the **house** of God!
Rejoice, O holy first-enthroned **Peter** and Paul, with all the
holy **apostles**!

KONTAKION VIII

Priest: Having attained unto the third heaven because of your sanctity of body and soul and been enriched with ineffable benefactions, you descended from there, O divinely blessed Apostle Paul, and astonished all, filling those of the Jews and of the gentiles who believed in Christ with your teachings of the knowledge of God. And together with them, all we, the faithful, who have a share of your heavenly teaching, cry out to God: Alleluia!

Choir/Faithful: Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

IKOS VIII

Priest: A model for the faithful, you joyfully endured many stripes, beatings and stonings of your body for the sake of sweet Jesus, O Apostle Paul, called by God, manifestly indicating that it is the part of them that believe in Christ Jesus to undergo all manner of tribulations thankfully, for His sake. Wherefore, we also cry out to you, using such exclamations as these:

Choir/Faithful: Rejoice, you who joyfully bore the wounds of the Lord on your **body**;

Rejoice, adamant firm of body and soul, who mightily
endured all manner of tribulation!
Rejoice, insuperable confessor of Christ before the nations
and their **rulers**;
Rejoice, teacher invincible in the face of the Israelite
teachers of the law!
Rejoice, luminous star which shone forth from the third
heaven;
Rejoice, greatly fruitful branch which buds forth from
paradise, full of **spiritual** food!
Rejoice, you who by your teaching have illumined all the
earth as with an **unwaning** light;
Rejoice, you who fed the faithful throughout the world with
the produce of your works as with most **comely** fruits!
Rejoice with Paul, O Peter, for you are as two trees in the
midst of the **garden** of the Church;
Rejoice, you who put forth the fruit of life and good
understanding!
Rejoice, all you holy apostles, who are like noetic palm trees
and **cedars**;
Rejoice, you who have been transplanted to heaven as the
garden of the heavenly **Father**!
Rejoice, O holy first-enthroned **Peter** and Paul, with all the
holy **apostles**!

KONTAKION IX

Priest: You were possessed of an all-embracing concern for
all who came to the Faith of Christ, O blessed Apostle Peter,
that their heart and soul become one. Wherefore, you
appointed for their needs a minister, the chaste Stephen, and
six other deacons; and you yourself, together with the rest of
the apostles, dedicated yourself to prayer and the preaching

of the Word, instructing all the faithful, who cried out with oneness of mind to God: Alleluia!

Choir/Faithful: Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

IKOS IX

Priest: Aflame with zeal for your Lord, you cut off the ear of Malchus, for he seemed to you as one disinclined to heed the writings of the prophets concerning Jesus Christ. But, reprov'd for such audacity by your Teacher, O blessed Apostle Peter, you thankfully bore His reproach and all its contrary results. Wherefore, mindful of your zeal, we cry aloud to you thus:

Choir/Faithful: Rejoice, you who surpassed the rest of the disciples in your **zeal** for Christ;

Rejoice, manful sword-bearer of Christ in the **garden!**

Rejoice, you who followed Christ, Who was being led to His suffering, even to the house of **Caiaphas**;

Rejoice, you who were prepared for prison and death for the **sake** of your Lord!

Rejoice, you who with bitter lamentation healed your weakness in denying your **Master**;

Rejoice, you who after the Lord's resurrection were summoned to your former **dignity!**

Rejoice, you who have provided a model of repentance for the rest of us **sinner**s;

Rejoice, you who vowed to forgive the weakness of the penitent many times **over!**

Rejoice with Peter, O Paul, for you are like the tables of the **law** of the Lord;

Rejoice, teachers of love for God and **neighbor!**

Rejoice, all you holy apostles, who perfectly kept all the **commandments** of the Lord;

Rejoice, you who left all and followed after Christ, and found **all** in Him!

Rejoice, O holy first-enthroned **Peter** and Paul, with all the holy **apostles**!

KONTAKION X

Priest: Great testimony you produced from the sayings of the prophets concerning Christ in the face of the leaders of the Jews, and before the Procurator Festus and King Agrippa, O Apostle Paul, who was called of God, and all were utterly set at naught; for many of the Jews quoted books to you in their frenzy, and you were answered by both Festus and Agrippa falsely, and were condemned to be sent to Rome. But, enduring everything with thanksgiving, you cried out with the faithful to God: Alleluia!

Choir/Faithful: Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

IKOS X

Priest: O Apostle Paul, who was led to proclaim the life-creating Trinity in the third heaven, most elect vessel of the great mysteries of God: declaring the good news before the gentiles, the judges and rulers, you promised salvation unto them that desire to believe in Christ Jesus and receive holy baptism in the name of the Trinity. Wherefore, all we the faithful, being of good hope concerning that salvation, cry out to you thus:

Choir/Faithful: Rejoice, mystagogue of great understanding of the **revelation** of the Lord;

Rejoice, confessor of the one God in three **Persons**!

Rejoice, you who proclaimed Christ to be the one Foundation
of the **faithful**;
Rejoice, you who have made all the pious steadfast in that
confession!
Rejoice, you who endured raging reproaches from the
unbelieving **Festus**;
Rejoice, you who uttered words of truth and chastity in his
presence!
Rejoice, you who most clearly recounted your heavenly
vision to King **Agrippa**;
Rejoice, you who manifestly denounced his error which is
not consonant with the **Faith** of Christ!
Rejoice, O Paul, with Peter, for you are like two silver
trumpets of **Moses**;
Rejoice, you who call those of earth and beneath the earth to
battle against **evil!**
Rejoice, all you holy apostles, who have suffered cruelly as
valiant **warriors** of Christ;
Rejoice, you who have vanquished the kingdoms of the earth
by faith and have received **heavenly things!**
Rejoice, O holy first-enthroned **Peter** and Paul, with all the
holy **apostles!**

KONTAKION XI

Priest: Having slain Iakovos, the brother of John, Herod went on to seize you as well, O divinely blessed Apostle Peter; and he placed you under heavy guard in prison to await execution. Yet while fervent prayer was being offered up by the Church for your deliverance, the angel of the Lord loosed your bonds and led you through the gates, which opened of themselves, and you thought that you were beholding a dream. But when the angel departed, you came to your senses

and truly realized that you had been freed; and you cried out to God in thanksgiving: Alleluia!

Choir/Faithful: Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

IKOS XI

Priest: That which had been asked by Philip: Lord, show us the Father! you came to know, O blessed Apostle Peter, on Mount Tabor, whereon, beholding the all-glorious transformation of the countenance of the transfigured Lord, you heard the voice of God the Father say of Him from heaven: This is My beloved Son, in Whom I am well pleased; hear Him! And we cry out to you who was counted worthy of such a revelation:

Choir/Faithful: Rejoice, reliable witness of the transfiguration of Christ;

Rejoice, renowned one who heard the divine voice of the Father from **heaven!**

Rejoice, you who beheld the countenance of the Son of God **illuminated** like the sun;

Rejoice, you who most splendidly received the overshadowing of the Holy **Spirit** in the cloud!

Rejoice, you to whom the most exalted mystery was disclosed upon the **mountain;**

Rejoice, you to whom the majestic glory of the all-holy Trinity was made **manifest!**

Rejoice, you who heard that the departure of Christ was to take place in **Jerusalem;**

Rejoice, you who, following Christ, accomplished your departure on a **cross** in Rome!

Rejoice with Peter, O Paul, for you are two noetic mountains

like Tabor and **Hermon**;
Rejoice, you who from the east and the west revealed the
promised land in **heaven**!
Rejoice, all you holy apostles, like the mountains of **Sion**;
Rejoice, you who let the sweetness of salvation fall **upon** us!
Rejoice, you holy first-enthroned **Peter** and Paul, with all the
holy **apostles**!

KONTAKION XII

Priest: We hymn you who stand on equal footing with the
cherubim, O most blessed Apostle Paul, who was enlightened
by divine wisdom in the third heaven; for, hearing ineffable
words there which it is not lawful for a man to utter, you
traveled the whole world therewith, teaching all to believe in
the crucified Christ, the Son of God, and to chant unceasingly
unto Him as the true God: Alleluia!

Choir/Faithful: Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

IKOS XII

Priest: Full of the great revelation of divine mysteries, O
chosen vessel of Jesus, all-wise Apostle Paul, you diligently
bore forth the name of God Who has appeared in the flesh
and saves them that believe in Him; and having converted
many of the gentiles and fought the good fight, in the city of
Rome you finished your course most gloriously for the name
of your Lord, and then received therein a crown of
righteousness. Wherefore, we cry out to you thus:

Choir/Faithful: Rejoice, great lover of the name of Jesus,
who suffered **greatly** for Him;
Rejoice, you who bore witness before those of heaven, of

earth and beneath the earth, concerning His name!
Rejoice, for you bore witness well concerning the Lord in
Jerusalem;
Rejoice, you who thus was commanded by Him to bear
witness **also** in Rome!
Rejoice, you who denounced the Emperor Nero and
converted his consort to the **Christian** Faith;
Rejoice, you who in the same Rome bowed your head
beneath the sword, executed with Peter, who was
crucified head **downward**!
Rejoice, for at the severing of your honored head milk
flowed forth;
Rejoice, for this great wonder drew many **soldiers** to the
Faith!
Rejoice with Paul, O Peter, for you are like two rivers of
living water gushing forth from the wellspring of the
Holy **Spirit**;
Rejoice, you who were shown forth by the confluence of the
two rivers named Jor and **Dan**!
Rejoice, all you holy apostles, like torrents of rivers which
gladden the city of the **Church** of God;
Rejoice, for you are like streams of sweetness which give all
the faithful to drink from the cup of **salvation**!
Rejoice, O holy first-enthroned **Peter** and Paul, with all the
holy **apostles**!

KONTAKION XIII

O most glorious and laudable disciples of Christ, Peter and Paul, first-enthroned and equally enthroned holy Apostles, who have enlightened all the universe with the holy Faith and will come with Christ to judge the whole world! Your proper dignity is not on earth, but is the glory and praise rendered in

heaven. Accepting now our unworthy entreaty, by your worthy supplications preserve us from all misfortunes, and beseech Christ, the just Judge, to be merciful to us at the last judgment, that, saved by your mediation, we may chant unto God our Savior: Alleluia.

Choir/Faithful: Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

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

IKOS I

Priest: Blessed are you, Simon, son of Jonas! said Christ, the Son of the living God, unto you, O right glorious Apostle Peter. How then can we worthily call you blessed who has been called blessed by God Himself? Yet drawn faithfully, by a debt of love alone, we cry out to you thus:

Choir/Faithful: Rejoice, first among the apostles, foundation of the **holy** Church;
Rejoice, mighty pillar and ground of the **Orthodox** Faith!
Rejoice, ardent lover of the **teaching** of Christ;
Rejoice, first-seated among the council of the **apostles**!
Rejoice, good gate-keeper of the kingdom of **heaven**;
Rejoice, renowned physician for them that **repent** of their sins!
Rejoice, you who spurned the vanity of the world and loved the **spiritual** life;
Rejoice, you who forsook corruptible nets and fished the whole world with **incorruptible** ones!
Rejoice with Peter, O Paul, for you both shone forth like two great **beacons**;

Rejoice, O you who like a pair of steeds were harnessed by
God to His chariot of noetic light!

Rejoice, all you holy apostles, beholders of God, for you are
the light of **all** the world;

Rejoice, for through you the Faith which saves us has shone
forth from Christ in **every** place!

Rejoice, O holy first-enthroned **Peter** and Paul, with all the
holy **apostles**!

KONTAKION I

Choir/Faithful: The Lord Who said of Himself: I am the
good **Shepherd**, / said unto you, O first-enthroned **Peter**: / If
you love Me, **feed** My sheep. / And He Who said: I am Jesus,
said of you, O preeminent **Apostle** Paul: / He is a chosen
vessel **unto** Me, / to bear My name before the **gentiles**. / And
likewise to all your colleagues, His **apostles**, He said: / As
My Father has sent Me, even so **send** I you; / go, and teach
all **nations**. / And you, receiving such grace from your good
Chief **Shepherd**, / as the foremost shepherds and teachers of
all the world, / from all misfortunes **preserve** us / on the
pasture of salvation, / that we may cry **out** to you: // Rejoice,
O holy first-enthroned **Peter** and Paul, with all the holy
apostles!

Priest: Again and again on bended knees let us pray to the
Holy Apostles Peter and Paul

Choir/Faithful: Holy Apostles **Peter** and Paul pray to **God**
for us.

Prayer to the Holy Apostles Peter and Paul

Priest: O most glorious Apostles Peter and Paul, who laid down your lives for Christ and beautified His pasture with your blood! Hearken unto the prayers and sighs of your children which are now offered up with contrite heart. For, lo, we have darkened ourselves with iniquities, and for this cause have we been covered with misfortunes as with showers; and we have become exceeding poor in the oil of a good life, and we cannot fend off the ravening wolves which boldly strive to lay hands on the inheritance of God. O you mighty ones! bear our infirmities and separate yourselves not from us in spirit, that we not depart utterly from the love of God; but with your mighty assistance defend us, that the Lord have mercy on us all for the sake of your prayers, that He rend asunder the handwriting of our countless sins, and that He vouchsafe us with all the saints the blessed kingdom and the wedding feast of His Lamb, to Whom be honor and glory, thanksgiving and worship, unto the ages of ages.

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]

Holy Apostles Peter and Paul pray to God for us!

Glory Be To God For All Things!