



Life & Akathist to St. Demetrius the Myrrh- Streamer

The Life of St. Demetrius the Myrrh-gusher

The Great Martyr Demetrius the Myrrh-gusher of Thessalonica was the son of a Roman proconsul in Thessalonica. Three centuries had elapsed and Roman paganism, spiritually shattered and defeated by the multitude of martyrs and confessors of the Savior, intensified its persecutions. The parents of Saint Demetrius were secretly Christians, and he was baptized and raised in the Christian Faith in a secret church in his father's home.

By the time Demetrius had reached maturity and his father had died, the emperor Galerius Maximian had ascended the throne (305). Maximian, confident in Demetrius' education as well as his administrative and military abilities, appointed him to his father's position as proconsul of the Thessalonica district. The main tasks of this young commander were to defend the city from barbarians and to eradicate Christianity. The emperor's policy regarding Christians was expressed simply, "Put to death anyone who calls on the name of Christ." The emperor did not suspect that by appointing Demetrius he had provided a way for him to lead many people to Christ.

Accepting the appointment, Demetrius returned to Thessalonica and immediately confessed and glorified our

Lord Jesus Christ. Instead of persecuting and executing Christians, he began to teach the Christian Faith openly to the inhabitants of the city and to overthrow pagan customs and idolatry. The compiler of his Life, Saint Simeon Metaphrastes (November 9), says that because of his teaching zeal he became “a second Apostle Paul” for Thessalonica, particularly since “the Apostle to the Gentiles” once founded at this city the first community of believers (1 Thess. and 2 Thess.).

The Lord also destined Saint Demetrius to follow the holy Apostle Paul as a martyr. When Maximian learned that the newly-appointed proconsul was a Christian, and that he had converted many Roman subjects to Christianity, the rage of the emperor knew no bounds. Returning from a campaign in the Black Sea region, the emperor decided to lead his army through Thessalonica, determined to massacre the Christians.

Learning of this, Saint Demetrius ordered his faithful servant Lupus to distribute his wealth to the poor saying, “Distribute my earthly riches among them, for we shall seek heavenly riches for ourselves.” He began to pray and fast, preparing himself for martyrdom.

When the emperor came into the city, he summoned

Demetrius, who boldly confessed himself a Christian and denounced the falsehood and futility of Roman polytheism. Maximian gave orders to lock up the confessor in prison. An angel appeared to him, comforting and encouraging him.

Meanwhile the emperor amused himself by staging games in the circus. His champion was a German by the name of Lyaeos. He challenged Christians to wrestle with him on a platform built over the upturned spears of the victorious soldiers. A brave Christian named Nestor went to the prison to his advisor Demetrius and requested a blessing to fight the barbarian. With the blessing and prayers of Demetrius, Nestor prevailed over the fierce German and hurled him from the platform onto the spears of the soldiers, just as the murderous pagan would have done with the Christian. The enraged commander ordered the execution of the holy Martyr Nestor (October 27) and sent a guard to the prison to kill Saint Demetrius.

At dawn on October 26, 306 soldiers appeared in the saint's underground prison and ran him through with lances. His faithful servant, Saint Lupus, gathered up the blood-soaked garment of Saint Demetrius, and he took the imperial ring from his finger, a symbol of his high status, and dipped it in the blood. With the ring and other holy

things sanctified by the blood of Saint Demetrius, Saint Lupus began to heal the infirm. The emperor issued orders to arrest and kill him.

The body of the holy Great Martyr Demetrius was cast out for wild animals to devour, but the Christians took it and secretly buried it in the earth.

During the reign of Saint Constantine (306-337), a church was built over the grave of Saint Demetrius. A hundred years later, during the construction of a majestic new church on the old spot, the incorrupt relics of the holy martyr were uncovered. Since the seventh century a miraculous flow of fragrant myrrh has been found beneath the crypt of the Great Martyr Demetrius, so he is called “the Myrrh-gusher.”

Several times, those venerating the holy wonderworker tried to bring his holy relics, or a part of them, to Constantinople. Invariably, Saint Demetrius made it clear that he would not permit anyone to remove even a portion of his relics.

It is interesting that among the barbarians threatening the Romans, Slavs occupied an important place, in particular those settling upon the Thessalonian peninsula. Some even

believe that the parents of Saint Demetrius were of Slavic descent. While advancing towards the city, pagan Slavs were repeatedly turned away by the apparition of a threatening radiant youth, going around on the walls and inspiring terror in the enemy soldiers. Perhaps this is why the name of Saint Demetrius was particularly venerated among the Slavic nations after they were enlightened by the Gospel. On the other hand, the Greeks dismiss the notion of Saint Demetrius being a Slavic saint.

The very first pages of the Russian Primary Chronicle, as foreordained by God, is bound up with the name of the holy Great Martyr Demetrius of Thessalonica. The Chronicle relates that when Oleg the Wise threatened the Greeks at Constantinople (907), the Greeks became terrified and said, “This is not Oleg, but rather Saint Demetrius sent upon us from God.” Russian soldiers always believed that they were under the special protection of the holy Great Martyr Demetrius. Moreover, in the old Russian barracks the Great Martyr Demetrius was always depicted as Russian. Thus this image entered the soul of the Russian nation.

Church veneration of the holy Great Martyr Demetrius in Russia began shortly after the Baptism of Rus. Towards the beginning of the 1070s the Dimitriev monastery at

Kiev, known afterwards as the Mikhailov-Zlatoverkh monastery, was founded. The monastery was built by the son of Yaroslav the Wise, Great Prince Izyaslav, Demetrius in Baptism (+ 1078). The mosaic icon of Saint Demetrius of Thessalonica from the cathedral of the Dimitriev monastery has been preserved up to the present day, and is in the Tretyakov gallery.

In the years 1194-1197 the Great Prince of Vladimir, Vsevolod III the Great-Nest (Demetrius in Baptism) “built at his court a beautiful church of the holy martyr Demetrius, and adorned it wondrously with icons and frescoes.” The Dimitriev cathedral also reveals the embellishment of ancient Vladimir. The wonderworking icon of Saint Demetrius of Thessalonica from the cathedral iconostas is located even now in Moscow, at the Tretyakov gallery. It was painted on a piece of wood from the grave of the holy Great Martyr Demetrius, brought from Thessalonica to Vladimir in 1197.

One of the most precious depictions of the saint, a fresco on a column of the Vladimir Dormition cathedral, was painted by the holy Iconographer Andrew Rublev (July 4).

The family of Saint Alexander Nevsky (November 23) also venerated Saint Demetrius. Saint Alexander named his

eldest son in honor of the holy Great Martyr. His younger son, Prince Daniel of Moscow (March 4), built a temple dedicated to the holy Great Martyr Demetrius in the 1280s. This was the first stone church in the Moscow Kremlin. Later in 1326, under Ivan Kalita, it was taken down and the Dormition cathedral was built in its place.

The memory of Saint Demetrius of Thessalonica is historically associated in Rus with the military, patriotism and the defense of the country. This is apparent by the saint's depiction on icons as a soldier in plumed armor, with a spear and sword in hand. There is a scroll (in later depictions) on which is written the prayer of Saint Demetrius for the salvation of the people of Thessalonica, "Lord, do not permit the city or the people perish. If You save the city and the people, I shall be saved with them. If they perish, I also perish with them."

In the particular spiritual experience of the Russian Church, veneration of the holy Great Martyr Demetrius of Thessalonica is closely linked with the memory of the defense of the nation and Church by the Great Prince of Moscow, Demetrius of the Don (May 19). "An Account of the Life and Repose of the Great Prince Demetrius of the Don, Tsar of Russia," written in the year 1393, already regards the Great Prince as a saint, as also do other old

Russian histories. Great Prince Demetrius was a spiritual son and disciple of Saint Alexis, Metropolitan of Moscow (February 12), and a disciple and associate of other great figures of prayer in the Russian Land: Saint Sergius of Radonezh (September 25), Demetrius of Priluki (February 11), Saint Theodore of Rostov (November 28). The Account states:

He [Great Prince Demetrius] worried much about the churches of God, and he held the territory of the Russian land by his bravery: he conquered many enemies who had risen against us, and he protected his glorious city Moscow with wondrous walls. ...The land of Russia prospered during the years of his reign.

From the time of the building of the white-walled Kremlin (1366) by Great Prince Demetrius, Moscow was called “White-Stoned.”

By the prayers of his Heavenly patron, the holy warrior Demetrius of Thessalonica, Great Prince Demetrius, in addition to his brilliant military victories, also gained the further prominence of Russia. He repelled the onslaught of the Lithuanian armies of Olgerd, he routed the Tatar army of Begich at the River Vozha (1378), and he smashed the military might of all the Golden Horde at the Battle of

Kulikovo Field on September 8, 1380 (the Feast of the Nativity of the Most Holy Theotokos), set between the Rivers Don and Nepryadva. The Battle of Kulikovo, for which the nation calls him Demetrius of the Don, became the first Russian national deed, rallying the spiritual power of the Russian nation around Moscow. The “Zadonschina,” an inspiring historic poem written by the priest Sophronius of Ryazem (1381) is devoted to this event.

Prince Demetrius of the Don was greatly devoted to the holy Great Martyr Demetrius. In 1380, on the eve of the Battle of Kulikovo, he solemnly transferred from Vladimir to Moscow the most holy object in the Vladimir Dimitriev cathedral: the icon of the Great Martyr Demetrius of Thessalonica, painted on a board from the grave of the saint. A chapel dedicated to the Great Martyr Demetrius was built at Moscow’s Dormition Cathedral.

The Saint Demetrius Memorial Saturday was established for church-wide remembrance of the soldiers who fell in the Battle of Kulikovo. This memorial service was held for the first time at the Trinity-Saint Sergius monastery on October 20, 1380 by Saint Sergius of Radonezh, in the presence of Great Prince Demetrius of the Don. It is an annual remembrance of the heroes of the Battle of Kulikovo, among whom are the schemamonks Alexander

(Peresvet) and Andrew (Oslyab).

Saint Demetrius is regarded as a protector of the young, and is also invoked by those struggling with lustful temptations.

Akathist to St. Demetrius the Myrrh-Streamer

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: O faithful, let us praise with hymns and divine praises / the Myrrhstreamer, / who deposed the cruelty of the tyrant, / and conquered the audacity of **Lya**ios, / and preached Christ as God **clearly**, / and let us cry **out** to him: // Rejoice, O **Martyr Demetrios**.

IKOS I

Priest: Angels were astonished in heaven, beholding the godless rage of the tyrant, and as you were put to death by his decree, O Demetrios, we cry out to you thus:

Choir/Faithful: Rejoice, the sacred pinnacle of **martyrs**,
Rejoice, the joyous **radiance** of Saints.
Rejoice, for you were placed in a pit as **one** condemned,
Rejoice, for you ascended to Heaven as one without a **body**.
Rejoice, dweller in the ranks of the **Angels**,
Rejoice you who bore the tortures of the **tyrant**.
Rejoice, for you despised the wiles of the **enemies**,
Rejoice, for your soul now dwells in **Heaven**.
Rejoice, O **Martyr Demetrios**.

KONTAKION II

Priest: The divine Nestor, beholding himself in manliness, approached the king with boldness: “Your exceeding danger appears as an abomination to my soul. For I will put to death the

godless Lyaaios, crying out: Alleluia.

Choir/Faithful: Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

IKOS II

Priest: Having godly knowledge, O Demetrios the boast of martyrs, you said to the tyrant: “From soulless matter such as idols, how is possible to give birth to God? Speak to me.” To you O Martyr, the faithful who honor God cry out with fear:

Choir/Faithful: Rejoice, the most-radiant lamp of Thessaloniki,
Rejoice, for you overcame Lyaaios in **victory**.

Rejoice, you who pours forth divine myrrh **from** your grave,

Rejoice, you who bears divine **zeal** in your heart.

Rejoice, for your blood was a **purifying** bath,

Rejoice, for through you there is blotting **out** of sins.

Rejoice, you who deposed the delusion of the **idols**,

Rejoice, you who censured the mania of **tyrants**.

Rejoice, for you healed the passion of **hemorrhage**,

Rejoice, you who offered your **soul** from its depths.

Rejoice, for you delivered Marinon from **leprosy**,

Rejoice, for your beloved **Istron** you sent.

Rejoice, O **Martyr Demetrios**.

KONTAKION III

Priest: Power from heaven then strengthened Nestor to fight, and he took up arms against the utterly strong Lyaaios, and with swift hand, he struck him down as dead, and therefore cried out to the Savior, chanting: Alleluia.

Choir/Faithful: Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

IKOS III

Priest: Having the divine desire to obtain the body of Demetrios, the pious Emperor [Justinian] went., but as [St. Demetrios] did not desire this, fire came forth from his grave threatening death. And he said to him such words in fear:

Choir/Faithful: Rejoice, the unemptying river of **wonders**,
Rejoice, the irrevocable icon of **traumas**.

Rejoice, for you did not offer your Relic to him who **sought** it,

Rejoice, for you grant sanctification to those who **venerate** you.

Rejoice, for you summoned fire from your **divine** grave,

Rejoice, for you censured the mania of the **tyrant**.

Rejoice, for you deposed the worship of the **idols**,

Rejoice, for your body was **pierced** with spears.

Rejoice, for your blood was given as drink to the **godless**,

Rejoice, for you sanctified the whole world with your **body**.

Rejoice, O **Martyr Demetrios**.

KONTAKION IV

Priest: Having godless confusion and evil thoughts, the senseless king was enraged, beholding the Martyr not preaching the delusion of the idols. We, beholding the unjust slaughter of the Saint at his hands, cry out: Alleluia.

Choir/Faithful: Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

IKOS IV

Priest: The ends of the world heard of the murder of Demetrios at the hands of the senseless tyrant, and beholding him dead, they hastened to him, seeing the sacred wonders that he pours forth throughout the whole world, as they honor him, saying:

Choir/Faithful: Rejoice, he who traded the corruptible things
for the **heavenly**,
Rejoice he who deposed the counsels of the **evil** ones.
Rejoice, you who joined chorus with the bodiless **Angels**,
Rejoice, you who entered the land of the **greatly-suffering**
Saints.
Rejoice, you who serve together with the spotless **Cherubim**,
Rejoice, you who walk together with the pure **Seraphim**.
Rejoice, for you served the **Lord** of lords,
Rejoice, for you bore within the seat of **divine** thrones.
Rejoice, the most-fervent fellow servant with the **Angels**,
Rejoice, the most-wise fellow counselor with the **Archangels**.
Rejoice, the sacred adornment of the **Venerable**,
Rejoice, the radiant rejoicing of the **Martyrs**.
Rejoice, O **Martyr Demetrios**.

KONTAKION V

Priest: Perceiving Demetrios to be a God-bearer, the most fervent man hastened to be delivered through him from the terrible demon. And having touched his deliverance, he rejoiced in the Lord, crying out: Alleluia.

Choir/Faithful: Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

IKOS V

Priest: Leontios, the son of the Orthodox, formerly saw the unspeakable might of the Martyr, and desiring to come to him, he sought for Istron to hasten to pass by him with his robe, and cried out to him:

Choir/Faithful: Rejoice, he who **through** his robe

worked awesome **wonders**,
Rejoice, he who did not bear stains of **offenses**.
Rejoice, for your streams have **become** our own.
Rejoice, for you drove back the campaigns of **barbarians**,
Rejoice, for you dwell in the thrones of the **Martyrs**.
Rejoice, you who drove away the plague from Thessaloniki,
Rejoice, our sun which shines upon the **faithful**.
Rejoice, he who delivered from idol-**mania**,
Rejoice, he who delivers all from the bonds of **slavery**.
Rejoice, he who grants grace to all those who **approach** him,
Rejoice for you ever dwell with those who **praise** you.
Rejoice, O **Martyr Demetrios**.

KONTAKION VI

Priest: The deluded became preachers of corruption of souls, as they hastened through Thessaloniki, performing idolatry and preaching atheism everywhere, as the Martyr left the tyrant like a mule, as he said: Alleluia.

Choir/Faithful: Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

IKOS VI

Priest: The divine Nestor, shining together with the sacred Demetrios, drove away the darkness of error, for they anathematized the idols steadfastly, and cast them down, while the faithful who were saved cries out to those strugglers:

Choir/Faithful: Rejoice, O Demetrios, the **firm** support,
Rejoice, O Nestor, the **splendid** pride.
Rejoice, you who granted strength to **Nestor**,
Rejoice, you who granted corruption to **Lyaaios**.

Rejoice, you who firstly censured the blind **tyrant**,
Rejoice, you who secondly kept [St. Demetrios'] **example**.
Rejoice, he who received **death** by spears,
Rejoice, he who received incorruptible **life** through the sword.
Rejoice, he who was murdered in prison like a **convict**,
Rejoice, he who was preached throughout the world as one
immortal.
Rejoice, he who before death worked **awesome** deeds,
Rejoice, he who after death works **wonders**.
Rejoice, O **Martyr Demetrios**.

KONTAKION VII

Priest: The holy dyad of Martyrs then passed on from this world, as the sacred Martyrs had greatly endured lawless murder. Therefore, those who behold this are astonished, and cry out to the Lord: Alleluia.

Choir/Faithful: Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

IKOS VII

Priest: A new song was found, as we bitterly sing the funeral hymn to Demetrios, for he was slaughtered by a godless tyrant, and did not sacrifice to the idols. We therefore hymn him and fervently cry out:

Choir/Faithful: Rejoice, you who were placed **dead** in a grave,
Rejoice, you who ride throughout the world as **one** alive.
Rejoice, for your blood was shown to be a new **cleansing** bath,
Rejoice, for your soul is mixing with the **Angels**.
Rejoice, for you are hymned from the **ends** of the earth,
Rejoice for they draw forth from your **fragrant** myrrh.

Rejoice, lamp amidst the **M**artyrs,
Rejoice, ray of godly **g**rac^es.
Rejoice, you who were dyed with your **h**oly blood,
Rejoice, you who were sanctified in your divine **b**ody.
Rejoice, you who received **d**iamond crowns,
Rejoice, for you now dwell in the halls of the ever-**m**emorable.
Rejoice, O **M**artyr Demetrios.

KONTAKION VIII

Priest: Beholding a strange wonder, the idols were moved by the bravery of the martyrs. Therefore, he who now dwells on high gives bravery to those who dwell on the earth to take courage, and aim their arrows at the idols. To him we now cry out: Alleluia.

Choir/Faithful: Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

IKOS VIII

Priest: Having his mind wholly on things above without departing from earth, was the most-pure Martyr, for he clearly conquered the delusion of the idols, and preached Christ with boldness, hearing thus:

Choir/Faithful: Rejoice, for you were killed on behalf of
Christ your God,
Rejoice, for you desired the joyous things of **P**aradise.
Rejoice, for you traveled the upper road to **H**eaven,
Rejoice, for you inhabit the dwelling-**p**laces of the pure.
Rejoice, for you now travel with the **A**ngels,
Rejoice, for you have come to **d**well with the Saints.
Rejoice, for you preached your Christ like a holy **t**rump^et,

Rejoice, for you dwell in the spotless mansions of **Paradise**.
Rejoice, you who put forth myrrh from your godly **body**,
Rejoice, you who scoffed at the rubbish of the **godless**,
Rejoice, for you broke asunder the intrigues of **rulers**,
Rejoice, for you trampled upon the delusion of the **idols**.
Rejoice, O **Martyr Demetrios**.

KONTAKION IX

Priest: You received every grace from heaven, O Martyr Demetrios, and preached paradoxically that the inaccessible God became man, being the Son of God. Therefore, to Him let us cry: Alleluia.

Choir/Faithful: Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

IKOS IX

Priest: O Martyr Demetrios, you showed the many words of the orators of the tyrants to be foolish, for they were astonished at how you strongly condemned the delusion of the idols. We, being astonished at this paradox, cry out to you:

Choir/Faithful: Rejoice, the rose of **virginity**,
Rejoice, the pinnacle of **continence**.
Rejoice, you who lived purely **before** you were killed,
Rejoice, you who after you were killed were **led** towards God.
Rejoice, in whom the light of God was **planted**,
Rejoice, in whom the grace of the Trinity made its **dwelling**.
Rejoice, the length and breadth of the **pious**,
Rejoice, the sharp sword against the **faithless**.
Rejoice, you who shine with the **rays** of the sun,
Rejoice, you who drive away the mania of the **tyrant**.

Rejoice, tree bearing the fruits of many **graces**,
Rejoice, for you bore the shoots of many **victories**.
Rejoice, O **Martyr Demetrios**.

KONTAKION X

Priest: Saving the Orthodox from the delusion of the godless idols, you came straightaway, O Martyr, and you preached the Lord as perfect God to the deluded and idiotic tyrant, crying out to him: Alleluia.

Choir/Faithful: Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

IKOS X

Priest: You are the shelter of the Martyrs, O Champion and Martyr, and all those who take refuge in you, for you revealed the Maker of heaven and earth to all, and deposed the tyrant and the idols. We therefore cry out to you:

Choir/Faithful: Rejoice, the deliverance for those in **sickness**,
Rejoice the savior of the continuously **hemorrhaged**.
Rejoice, you who **sow** grace
among all those who **hymn** you,
Rejoice, for you are a pillar of **graces**.
Rejoice, divine power, the casting-down of **idols**.
Rejoice, pure dwelling-**place** of God,
Rejoice, chaste **type** of Christ.
Rejoice, for your blood became as a new **baptism**,
Rejoice, for your body **received** death.
Rejoice, bridge leading those who die from earth to **heaven**,
Rejoice, for you are a guide to the **faithful**.
Rejoice, O **Martyr Demetrios**.

KONTAKION XI

Priest: We your servants all offer funeral hymns at your grave, O Martyr, shedding tears and offering odes and psalms to you, for we are not at all worthy of what has been accomplished through, as befits your grave, but we cry out to the Savior: Alleluia.

Choir/Faithful: Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

IKOS XI

Priest: Your grave, O Martyr, has been shown to be light-bearing, shining forth with grace like light. For all those who approach are suddenly granted joy and health, while we who approach you cry out these praises:

Choir/Faithful: Rejoice, you who preserved your **Church** unharmed,

Rejoice, you who trampled upon the wiles of the **evil** one.

Rejoice, for you drove back the **nation** of the Slavs,

Rejoice, for you trampled upon the rule of the **idols**.

Rejoice, you who uprooted the pride of the **barbarians**,

Rejoice, you who cast out the conceit of the **tyrants**.

Rejoice, you who preserved your **city** unharmed,

Rejoice, you who shook up the delusion of the **godless** one.

Rejoice, you who punished Onesiphoros for his theft,

Rejoice you who uprooted the danger of the idols **from** the earth.

Rejoice, the sure consolation of those who take **refuge** in you,

Rejoice, the salvation of the souls of those who **approach** you.

Rejoice, O **Martyr Demetrios**.

KONTAKION XII

Priest: Bearing grace from above, O Demetrios, you drove out all the campaigns of the enemies. You preached Christ upon the heard as a steadfast hoplite of grace, and you cast down the idols, as you chant along with everyone: Alleluia.

Choir/Faithful: Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

IKOS XII

Priest: We hymn the wonder that you worked, O Martyr, as your city was preserved victorious, as you appeared as a god to the faithless, sending forth Angels speedily, saying: “Drive them far away from the city”, therefore we cry out:

Choir/Faithful: Rejoice, for at your will your **city** was saved,
Rejoice, for through your strength the enemy was **cast** down.
Rejoice, you who met **Achilleos** in your flight,
Rejoice, you who sent out **Nestor** with your strength.
Rejoice, you who drown **Lyaïos** in blood,
Rejoice, you who raged against the faithless in **spirit**.
Rejoice, you who strengthens your city through your **presence**,
Rejoice, for if you left her, your **city** would be lost.
Rejoice, you whose grave is beloved by **hymnologists**,
Rejoice, you who put to death falsehood **through** your might.
Rejoice, you who grants to us a sea of **graces**,
Rejoice, you who sows the mercy of your **myrrh** within all.
Rejoice, O **Martyr Demetrios**.

KONTAKION XIII

O pair of Martyrs, who preached Christ as the surpassing Word before all, receive these funeral hymn and odes, and deliver us from every danger, and the coming trial through your prayers,

those who cry out to the Lord: Alleluia.

Choir/Faithful: Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

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

IKOS I

Priest: Angels were astonished in heaven, beholding the godless rage of the tyrant, and as you were put to death by his decree, O Demetrios, we cry out to you thus:

Choir/Faithful: Rejoice, the sacred pinnacle of **m**artyrs,
Rejoice, the joyous **r**adiance of Saints.
Rejoice, for you were placed in a pit as **o**ne condemned,
Rejoice, for you ascended to Heaven as one without a **b**ody.
Rejoice, dweller in the ranks of the **A**ngels,
Rejoice you who bore the tortures of the **t**yrant.
Rejoice, for you despised the wiles of the **e**nemies,
Rejoice, for your soul now dwells in **H**eaven.
Rejoice, O **M**artyr Demetrios.

KONTAKION I

Choir/Faithful: O faithful, let us praise with hymns and divine **p**raises / the Myrrh**s**treamer, / who deposed the cruelty of the **t**yrant, / and conquered the audacity of **L**yaios, / and preached Christ as God **c**learly, / and let us cry **o**ut to him: // Rejoice, O **M**artyr Demetrios.

Priest: Again and again on bended knees let us pray to the Holy Greatmartyr Demetrios.

Choir/Faithful: Holy Greatmartyr Demetrios pray to **God** for us.

Prayer to the Holy Greatmartyr Demetrios

Priest: Martyr Saint Demetrios, believers all and your city faithfully depend on you for your ardent patronage, and they say to you: As you saved us before, many times, O Martyr, from disaster and calamity, likewise deliver us from impending evils and suffering; for Godly-minded as we are, we sincerely trust that you care for us. And pray to the Lord Christ to grant us the forgiveness of our sins, to cure diseases afflicting us, and to end our suffering

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 and Greatmartyr Demetrios pray to God for us!

Glory Be To God For All Things!