

THE AKATHIST HYMN

ADAPTED READER'S SERVICE

Through the prayers of our holy fathers, O Lord Jesus Christ our God, have mercy on us. Amen. Glory to thee, our God, glory to thee.

O Heavenly King, the Comforter, the Spirit of truth, who art everywhere and fillest 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. (3x)

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. O Lord, cleanse us from our sins. O Master, pardon our transgressions. O Holy One, visit and heal our infirmities, for thy Name's sake.

Lord, have mercy. (3x)

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

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name; thy kingdom come; thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

Through the prayers of our holy fathers, O Lord Jesus Christ our God, have mercy on us.

Lord, have mercy. (12x)

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



Come, let us worship God our King. Come, let us worship and fall down before Christ, our King and our God. Come, let us worship and fall down before Christ Himself, our King and our God.

Psalm 50

Have mercy on me, O God, according to thy steadfast love; according to thy abundant mercy blot out my transgressions. Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin. For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me. Against thee, thee only, have I sinned, and done that which is evil in thy sight, so that thou art justified in thy sentence and blameless in thy judgment. Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, and in sin did my mother conceive me. Behold, thou desirest truth in the inward being; therefore teach me wisdom in my secret heart. Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow. Fill me with joy and gladness; let the bones which thou hast broken rejoice. Hide thy face from my sins, and blot out all my iniquities. Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me. Cast me not away from thy presence, and take not thy holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of thy salvation, and uphold me with a willing spirit. Then I will teach transgressors thy ways, and sinners will return to thee. Deliver me from bloodguiltiness, O God, thou God of my salvation, and my tongue will sing aloud of thy deliverance. O Lord, open thou my lips, and my mouth shall show forth thy praise. For thou hast no delight in sacrifice; were I to give a burnt offering, thou wouldst not be pleased. The sacrifice acceptable to God is a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, thou wilt not despise. Do good to Zion in thy good pleasure; rebuild the walls of Jerusalem, then wilt thou delight in right sacrifices, in burnt offerings and whole burnt offerings; then bulls will be offered on thy altar.



Then we begin the Akathist Hymn

Kontakion 1 – Tone 8

O Victorious Leader of triumphant hosts! We thy servants, delivered from evil, sing our grateful thanks to thee, O Theotokos! As thou possessest invincible might, set us free from every calamity so that we may sing: rejoice, O Unwedded Bride!

Ikos 1

A Prince of the Angels was sent from Heaven to say to the Theotokos, Rejoice! A Prince of the Angels was sent from Heaven to say to the Theotokos, Rejoice! A Prince of the Angels was sent from Heaven to say to the Theotokos, Rejoice! And seeing Thee, O Lord, take bodily form at the sound of his bodiless voice, filled with amazement he stood still and cried aloud to her:

Rejoice! For through thee joy shall shine forth:
Rejoice! For through thee the curse shall cease.
Rejoice! Recalling of fallen Adam:
Rejoice! Deliverance from the tears of Eve.
Rejoice! Height hard to climb for the thoughts of men:
Rejoice! Depth hard to scan even for the eyes of angels.
Rejoice! For thou art the Throne of the King:
Rejoice! For thou holdest Him Who upholds all.
Rejoice! Star causing the sun to shine:
Rejoice! Womb of the Divine Incarnation.
Rejoice! For through thee the creation is made new:
Rejoice! For through thee the Creator becomes a newborn child.
Rejoice! O Unwedded Bride!

Kontakion 2

The Holy Maiden, seeing herself in all Her purity, said boldly unto Gabriel: "Strange seem thy words and hard for my soul to accept. From a conception without seed how dost thou speak of childbirth, crying: Alleluia!"

Ikos 2

Seeking to know what passes knowledge, the Virgin said to the ministering Angel: "From a maiden womb how can a Son be born? Tell me." And to her in fear he answered, crying:

Rejoice! Initiate of God's secret Counsel:
Rejoice! Faith in that which must be guarded by silence.
Rejoice! Beginning of Christ's wonders:
Rejoice! Crown and Fulfillment of His teachings.
Rejoice! Heavenly Ladder by which God came down:
Rejoice! Bridge leading men from earth to heaven.
Rejoice! Marvel greatly renowned among the angels.
Rejoice! Wound bitterly lamented by the demons.
Rejoice! For ineffably thou shalt bear the Light:
Rejoice! For thou hast revealed the Mystery to none.
Rejoice! Wisdom surpassing the knowledge of the wise:
Rejoice! Dawn that illumines the minds of the faithful.
Rejoice! O Unwedded Bride!

Kontakion 3

Then the power of the Most High overshadowed her that knew not wedlock, that she might conceive: and He made her fruitful womb as a fertile field for all who long to reap the harvest of salvation, singing: Alleluia!

Ikos 3

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

Rejoice! Vine whence springs a never-withering Branch:
Rejoice! Orchard of pure Fruit.
Rejoice! For thou tendest the Husbandman Who loves mankind:
Rejoice! For thou hast borne the Gardener Who cultivates our life.
Rejoice! Earth yielding a rich Harvest of compassion:
Rejoice! Table laden with mercy in abundance.
Rejoice! For through thee the fields of Eden flower again:
Rejoice! For thou makest ready a haven for our souls.
Rejoice! Acceptable Incense of intercession:
Rejoice! Propitiation for the whole world.
Rejoice! Loving-kindness of God unto mortal man:
Rejoice! Freedom of approach for mortals unto God.
Rejoice! O Unwedded Bride!

Kontakion 4

Tossed inwardly by a storm of doubts, prudent Joseph was troubled: knowing thee to be unwedded, O blameless Virgin, he feared a stolen union. But when he learned that thy conceiving was from the Holy Spirit, he said: Alleluia!

Kontakion 1 - Tone 8

O Victorious Leader of triumphant hosts! We thy servants, delivered from evil, sing our grateful thanks to thee, O Theotokos! As thou possessest invincible might, set us free from every calamity so that we may sing: rejoice, O Unwedded Bride!

Ikos 4

The shepherds heard the Angels glorify Christ's coming in the flesh. Quickly they ran to the Shepherd, and beheld Him as a Lamb without spot, that had been pastured in the womb of Mary; and they sang praises to her, saying:

Rejoice! Mother of the Lamb and Shepherd:
Rejoice! Fold of spiritual sheep.
Rejoice! Protection against unseen enemies:
Rejoice! Key to the door of Paradise.
Rejoice! For heaven exults with earth:
Rejoice! For things on earth rejoice with the heavens.
Rejoice! Never-silent Voice of the apostles:
Rejoice! Unconquered Courage of the victorious martyrs.
Rejoice! Firm Foundation of the Faith:
Rejoice! Shining Revelation of grace.
Rejoice! For through thee hell is stripped bare:
Rejoice! For through thee we are clothed in glory.
Rejoice! O Unwedded Bride!

Kontakion 5

Seeing the star pointing to God, the Magi followed its radiance. Keeping it before them as a beacon, with its help they sought the mighty King; and attaining the Unattainable, they rejoiced and cried to Him: Alleluia!

Ikos 5

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

Rejoice! Mother of the star that never sets:
Rejoice! Bright dawn of the mystical day.
Rejoice! For thou hast quenched the furnace of deception:
Rejoice! For thou dost illumine all who love the Mystery of the Trinity.
Rejoice! For thou hast cast down from his dominion the tyrant that hates man:
Rejoice! For thou hast made known the Lord Christ who loves mankind.
Rejoice! Deliverance from the worship of pagan idols:
Rejoice! Liberation from the filth of sin.
Rejoice! For thou hast quenched the worship of fire:
Rejoice! For thou hast released us from the flames of passion.
Rejoice! Guide of the faithful to chastity:
Rejoice! Joy of all generations.
Rejoice! O Unwedded Bride!

Kontakion 6

Becoming God's messengers, the Magi returned to Babylon. Having fulfilled the prophecy concerning Thee, and preaching Thee to all as Christ, they left Herod to his raving, for he knew not how to sing: Alleluia!

Ikos 6

Shining upon Egypt with the light of truth, Thou hast dispelled the darkness of falsehood; for the idols of that land fell down, unable to endure Thy power, O Savior, and all who were delivered from them cried unto the Theotokos:

Rejoice! Restoration of men:
Rejoice! Downfall of demons.
Rejoice! For thou hast trampled on the delusion of error:
Rejoice! For thou hast exposed the snares of the idols.
Rejoice! Sea that has drowned the invisible pharaoh:
Rejoice! Rock that gives drink to all who thirst for life.
Rejoice! Pillar of fire guiding those in darkness:

Rejoice! Protection of the world, wider than the cloud in the wilderness.
Rejoice! Food that takes the place of manna:
Rejoice! Minister of holy joy.
Rejoice! Promised land:
Rejoice! Source of milk and honey.
Rejoice! O Unwedded Bride!

Kontakion 7

As Simeon drew near to the time of his departure from this world of error, he received Thee as an infant in his arms, but he knew Thee to be perfect God; and, struck with wonder at Thine ineffable wisdom, he cried: Alleluia!

Kontakion - Tone 8

O Victorious Leader of triumphant hosts! We thy servants, delivered from evil, sing our grateful thanks to thee, O Theotokos! As thou possessest invincible might, set us free from every calamity so that we may sing: rejoice, O Unwedded Bride!

Ikos 7

A new creation has the Creator revealed, manifesting Himself unto us His creatures. From a Virgin's womb He came, preserving it inviolate as it was before: that, beholding the miracle, we might sing her praises, crying:

Rejoice! Flower of incorruption:
Rejoice! Crown of chastity.
Rejoice! Bright foreshadowing of the resurrection glory:
Rejoice! Mirror of the angels' life.
Rejoice! Tree of glorious fruit on which the faithful feed:
Rejoice! Wood of shady leaves where many shelter.
Rejoice! For thou hast conceived a Guide for the wanderers:
Rejoice! For thou hast born a Deliverer for the captives.
Rejoice! Intercessor with the Righteous Judge:
Rejoice! Forgiveness for many who have stumbled.
Rejoice! Robe for the naked and bereft of hope:
Rejoice! Love surpassing all desire.
Rejoice! O Unwedded Bride!

Kontakion 8

Seeing this strange birth, let us become strangers to the world, fixing our minds in Heaven. To this end has the most high God appeared on earth as a lowly man, because He wishes to draw heavenward all who cry aloud to Him: Alleluia!

Ikos 8

The Word uncircumscribed was wholly present here below, yet in no wise absent from the realm on high: God descended to earth, yet underwent no change of place. He was born of a Virgin, overshadowed by divine Power, and unto Her we sing:

Rejoice! Enclosure of the God Whom nothing can enclose:
Rejoice! Gate of the hallowed mystery.
Rejoice! Tidings doubted by unbelievers:
Rejoice! Undoubted Glory of the faithful.
Rejoice! Most holy Chariot of Him Who rides upon the Cherubim:
Rejoice! Best of all Dwellings for Him Who is above the Seraphim.
Rejoice! For thou bringest opposites to harmony:
Rejoice! For thou hast joined in one childbirth and virginity.
Rejoice! For through thee our sin is remitted:
Rejoice! For through thee Paradise is opened.
Rejoice! Key of Christ's Kingdom:
Rejoice! Hope of eternal blessings.
Rejoice! O Unwedded Bride!

Kontakion 9

All the ranks of Angels marveled at the great work of Thine Incarnation. For they saw God, Whom none can approach, as a man approachable by all, dwelling in our midst, and hearing from our lips: Alleluia!

Ikos 9

Eloquent orators we see dumb as the fishes in thy presence, O Theotokos, for they are at a loss to say how thou remainest Virgin and yet hast power to bear a child. But we, marveling at the mystery, cry aloud with faith:

Rejoice! Casket of God's Wisdom:
Rejoice! Treasury of His Providence.

Rejoice! For thou revealest lack of wisdom in the lovers of wisdom:
Rejoice! For thou provest devoid of reason those skilled in reason's art.
Rejoice! For the cunning disputants are shown to be fools:
Rejoice! For the myth-makers have withered into silence.
Rejoice! For thou hast torn asunder the tangled webs of the Athenians:
Rejoice! For thou hast filled the nets of the fishermen.
Rejoice! For thou dost draw men from the depths of ignorance:
Rejoice! For thou dost illumine multitudes with knowledge.
Rejoice! Ship of all who would be saved.
Rejoice! Haven for the seafarers of life.
Rejoice! O Unwedded Bride!

Kontakion 10

Wishing to save the world, the Fashioner of all things came to it of His own free choice. As God He is our Shepherd, yet has He appeared for our sake as a man like us; and calling like by means of like, as God He hears our cry: Alleluia!

Kontakion - Tone 8

O Victorious Leader of triumphant hosts! We thy servants, delivered from evil, sing our grateful thanks to thee, O Theotokos! As thou possessest invincible might, set us free from every calamity so that we may sing: rejoice, O Unwedded Bride!

Ikos 10

For virgins and for all who flee thee thou art a Wall, O Virgin Theotokos undefiled: for the Creator of Heaven and earth has made thee ready and adorned thee, dwelling in thy womb, and teaching all to sing to thee:

Rejoice! Pillar of virginity:
Rejoice! Gate of salvation.
Rejoice! Beginning of the new and spiritual creation:
Rejoice! Provider of God's mercy.
Rejoice! For thou hast given new birth to those conceived in shame:
Rejoice! For thou hast given good council to those robbed of understanding.
Rejoice! For thou bringest to naught the corrupter of man's mind:
Rejoice! For thou bringest to birth the sower of purity.

Rejoice! Bridal chamber of a marriage without seed:
Rejoice! For thou joinest in union the faithful to their Lord.
Rejoice! Fair nursing-mother of virgins:
Rejoice! Bridal escort of holy souls.
Rejoice! O Unwedded Bride!

Kontakion 11

No hymn can recount the multitude of Thy many mercies. For though we offer unto Thee, O holy King, songs numberless as the sand upon the seashore, yet we do nothing worthy of the blessings Thou hast given us, who cry unto Thee: Alleluia!

Ikos 11

We see the Holy Virgin as a Lamp of living Light, shining upon those in darkness. Kindling the immaterial Fire, she guides all men to divine knowledge; she illumines our mind with radiance, and we sing these praises in her honor:

Rejoice! Beam of the spiritual Sun:
Rejoice! Ray of the Moon that never wanes.
Rejoice! Lightning-flash that shines upon our souls:
Rejoice! Thunder that brings terror to our enemies.
Rejoice! Dawn that maketh the manifold Splendor to arise:
Rejoice! Spring that maketh the River with many streams to flow.
Rejoice! For thou dost prefigure the baptismal font:
Rejoice! For thou takest away the filth of sin.
Rejoice! Water washing clean the conscience:
Rejoice! Cup wherein is mixed the wine of mighty joy.
Rejoice! Scent of Christ's fragrance:
Rejoice! Life of mystical feasting.
Rejoice! O Unwedded Bride!

Kontakion 12

Wishing to grant release from ancient debts, the Redeemer of all men came of His own will to those who were exiled from His grace; He has torn up the record of our sins, and from all He hears the cry: Alleluia!

Ikos 12

We all sing in honor of thy Son, O Theotokos, and praise thee as a living Temple. For the Lord Who holds all things in His hand made His dwelling in thy womb; He hallowed and He glorified thee, teaching all to cry to thee:

Rejoice! Tabernacle of God the Word:
Rejoice! Greater Holy of Holies.
Rejoice! Ark made golden by the Spirit:
Rejoice! Never-empty Treasure-house of life.
Rejoice! Precious Crown of Orthodox Kings:
Rejoice! Honored Boast of Godly Priests.
Rejoice! Unshaken fortress of the Church:
Rejoice! Unconquered Rampart of the Kingdom.
Rejoice! For through thee the standards of victory are raised on high:
Rejoice! For through thee our enemies are cast down.
Rejoice! Healing of my body:
Rejoice! Salvation of my soul.
Rejoice! O Unwedded Bride!

Kontakion 13

O Mother worthy of all praise, who hast borne the Word, the Holiest of all Holies:

O Mother worthy of all praise, who hast borne the Word, the Holiest of all Holies:

O Mother worthy of all praise, who hast borne the Word, the Holiest of all Holies:
accepting this our offering, deliver from every ill and from the punishment to come all those who cry aloud to thee: Alleluia!

Then the first ikos is read again:

A Prince of the Angels was sent from Heaven to say to the Theotokos, Rejoice! And seeing Thee, O Lord, take bodily form at the sound of his bodiless voice, filled with amazement he stood still and cried aloud to her:

Rejoice! For through thee joy shall shine forth:
Rejoice! For through thee the curse shall cease.
Rejoice! Recalling of fallen Adam:
Rejoice! Deliverance from the tears of Eve.
Rejoice! Height hard to climb for the thoughts of men:
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Kontakion - Tone 8

O Victorious Leader of triumphant hosts! We thy servants, delivered from evil, sing our grateful thanks to thee, O Theotokos! As thou possessest invincible might, set us free from every calamity so that we may sing: rejoice, O Unwedded Bride!

It is truly meet to bless thee, O Theotokos, ever-blessed and most pure and the Mother of our God. More honorable than the Cherubim, and more glorious beyond compare than the Seraphim: without corruption thou gavest birth to God the Word: true Theotokos, we magnify thee.

Through the prayers of our holy fathers, O Lord Jesus Christ our God, have mercy on us.
Amen.

