

AKATHIST HYMN

to the

MOTHER *of* GOD

Prepared for the use at
SAINT JOHN *the* BAPTIST
Russian Orthodox Church
Little Falls, NJ

PRIEST: Blessed is our God, always, now and ever and unto ages of ages.

READER: Amen.

Glory to You, O our God, glory to You.

O Heavenly King, the Comforter, the Spirit of Truth, everywhere present and filling 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 Your 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.

EVERYONE: 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 the Son and the Holy

Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages.

READER: Amen. 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.

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 45 (44 LXX)

My heart overflows with a good word,

I address my verses to the King,

my tongue is like the pen of a swift scribe.

You are more handsome than the sons of men,
grace is poured upon Your lips,

therefore God has blessed You forever.

Gird Your sword upon Your thigh,

O Mighty One, in Your glory and beauty.

And stretch Your bow, and prosper and reign

because of truth, humility, and righteousness,

and Your right hand will guide You wondrously.

Your arrows are sharp, O Mighty One,

in the heart of the King's enemies.

The peoples fall under You.

Your throne, O God, endures forever and ever,

Your royal scepter is a scepter of justice.

You love righteousness and hate lawlessness,

therefore God, Your God, has anointed You

with the oil of gladness beyond Your companions.
Your robes are all fragrant
with myrrh and aloes and cassia,
from the ivory palaces
stringed instruments gladden You.
Daughters of kings are in Your honor,
at Your right hand stands the queen
in gold-woven clothing,
and adorned with many colors.
Hear, O daughter, and behold,
and incline your ear,
and forget your people and your father's house.
For the King desires your beauty,
for He is your Lord.
And the daughters of Tyre
will worship Him with gifts,
the richest of the people
will request your presence.
All her glory as the King's daughter is within,
adorned and embroidered with golden robes.
The virgins behind her are brought to the King,
her companions are brought to You.
With joy and gladness, they are led along
as they enter the palace of the King.
In the place of your fathers,
sons will be born to you,
you will make them rulers in all the earth.
They will remember Your Name

from generation to generation,
therefore the peoples will praise You
forever and ever.

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

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, glory to You, O God. (3x)

KONTAKION 1

O victorious Leader of triumphant hosts. We, your servants, delivered from evil, sing our grateful thanks to you, O Theotokos. As you possess invincible power, set us free from every calamity, so that we may sing:

Rejoice, O unwedded Bride.

IKOS 1

An archangel was sent from heaven to say to the Theotokos, "Rejoice!" And beholding You, O Lord, taking bodily form at the sound of his bodiless voice, filled with amazement he stood still saying to her:

Rejoice, for through you joy will shine forth.

Rejoice, for through you the curse will vanish.

Rejoice, restoration of the fallen Adam.

Rejoice, redemption of the tears of Eve.

Rejoice, height inaccessible to human thoughts.

Rejoice, depth indiscernible even for the eyes of angels.

Rejoice, for you are the King's throne.

Rejoice, for you bear Him Who bears all.

Rejoice, star that causes the Sun to appear.

Rejoice, womb of the Divine Incarnation.

Rejoice, for through you the creation is renewed.

Rejoice, for through you the Creator becomes a newborn child.

Rejoice, O unwedded Bride.

KONTAKION 2

The holy Maiden, seeing herself in all her purity, said boldly to Gabriel, “Strange seem your words and hard for my soul to accept. How can you speak of a childbirth from a seedless conception?” And she sang: Alleluia.

IKOS 2

Seeking to know knowledge that cannot be known, the Virgin said to the ministering Angel, “Tell me, how can a Son be born from a pure womb?” Then he spoke to her in fear, singing:

Rejoice, initiate of God’s secret counsel.

Rejoice, faith in what must be guarded by silence.

Rejoice, beginning of Christ’s miracles.

Rejoice, crown and fulfillment of His teachings.

Rejoice, heavenly ladder by which God came down.

Rejoice, bridge that delivers us from earth to heaven.

Rejoice, wonder greatly renowned among the angels.

Rejoice, wound of demons bewailed afar.

Rejoice, for you inexpressibly gave birth to the Light.

Rejoice, for you revealed the mystery to no one.

Rejoice, for you surpass the knowledge of the wise.

Rejoice, for you illumine the minds of the faithful.

Rejoice, O unwedded Bride.

KONTAKION 3

Then the power of the Most High overshadowed the Virgin for conception, and made her fruitful womb as a fertile field for all who wish to reap the harvest of salvation, as they sing: Alleluia.

IKOS 3

Bearing God within her womb, the Virgin hastened to Elizabeth, whose unborn child at once recognized her greeting, rejoiced, and with leaps of joy as songs, sang to the Theotokos:

Rejoice, branch of the Unfading Sprout.

Rejoice, acquisition of Immortal Fruit.

Rejoice, laborer that labors for the Lover of mankind.

Rejoice, for you give birth to the Gardener Who cultivates our life.

Rejoice, earth yielding a rich harvest of compassion.

Rejoice, table bearing a wealth of forgiveness.

Rejoice, for through you the fields of Eden bloom

again.

Rejoice, for you prepare a haven for souls.
Rejoice, acceptable incense of intercession.
Rejoice, purification of all the world.
Rejoice, good will of God to mortals.
Rejoice, boldness of mortals before God.
Rejoice, O unwedded Bride.

KONTAKION 4

Having within a storm of doubting thoughts, prudent Joseph was troubled. For knowing you to be unwedded, he suspected a secret union, O blameless Virgin. But having learned that your conception was from the Holy Spirit, he said: Alleluia.

IKOS 4

The shepherds heard the angels glorify 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 they sang praises to her, saying:

Rejoice, Mother of the Lamb and Shepherd.
Rejoice, fold of spiritual sheep.
Rejoice, protection against invisible enemies.
Rejoice, key to the door of Paradise.
Rejoice, for heaven rejoices with earth.

Rejoice, for things on earth join choir with the heavens.

Rejoice, never-silent voice of the apostles.
Rejoice, invincible courage of the victorious

martyrs.

Rejoice, firm foundation of the faith.

Rejoice, shining revelation of grace.

Rejoice, for through you hell is stripped bare.

Rejoice, for through you we are clothed in glory.

Rejoice, O unwedded Bride.

KONTAKION 5

Having seen the divinely-moving star, the Magi followed its radiance. And keeping it before them as a beacon, they sought the mighty King, and reaching the Unreachable One, they rejoiced, singing to Him: Alleluia.

IKOS 5

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

Rejoice, Mother of the Unsetting Star.

Rejoice, bright dawn of the mystical Day.

Rejoice, for you have quenched the furnace of deception.

Rejoice, for you enlighten all who love the mystery of the Trinity.

Rejoice, for you have banished from his power the tyrant who hates mankind.

Rejoice, for you have showed us Christ the Lord Who loves mankind.

Rejoice, deliverance from the worship of the pagan idols.

Rejoice, liberation from the filth of sin.

Rejoice, for you have quenched the worship of fire.

Rejoice, for you rescue from the flames of the passion.

Rejoice, guide of the faithful to chastity.

Rejoice, joy of all generations.

Rejoice, O unwedded Bride.

KONTAKION 6

Having become God's messengers, the Magi returned to Babylon. Having fulfilled Your prophecy, and preaching You to everyone as the Savior, they left Herod as a babbler who did not know how to sing: Alleluia.

IKOS 6

By shining in Egypt the light of truth, You have dispelled the darkness of falsehood. For its idols fell, O Savior, unable to endure Your power, and those who were delivered from them sang to the Theotokos:

Rejoice, our restoration.

Rejoice, downfall of demons.

Rejoice, for you have trampled down the dominion of delusion.

Rejoice, for you have unmasked the fraud of the idols.

Rejoice, sea that drowned the Pharaoh of the

mind.

Rejoice, rock that refreshes those thirsting for life.

Rejoice, pillar of fire that guides those in darkness.

Rejoice, protection of the world, wider than the cloud in the wilderness.

Rejoice, sustenance replacing manna.

Rejoice, minister of holy joy.

Rejoice, promised land.

Rejoice, source of milk and honey.

Rejoice, O unwedded Bride.

KONTAKION 7

When Simeon was about to depart this age of delusion, You were brought to him as an Infant, but You were recognized by him as perfect God. Therefore, marveling at Your inexpressible wisdom, he sang: Alleluia.

IKOS 7

The Creator has revealed a new creation when He appeared to us, His creatures. For He sprang from a Virgin's womb, and kept it incorrupt as it was before, that seeing the miracle, we might sing her praises, saying:

Rejoice, flower of incorruptibility.

Rejoice, crown of chastity.

Rejoice, bright foreshadowing of the Resurrection glory.

Rejoice, mirror of the angles' life.

Rejoice, tree of shining fruit, by which the faithful are nourished.

Rejoice, tree of shady leaves by which many are sheltered.

Rejoice, for you carried in your womb the Redeemer of captives.

Rejoice, for you gave birth to the Guide of those astray.

Rejoice, supplication before the Righteous Judge.

Rejoice, forgiveness of many who have stumbled.

Rejoice, robe of boldness for the naked and hopeless.

Rejoice, love surpassing all desire.

Rejoice, O unwedded Bride.

KONTAKION 8

Having beheld this strange birth, let us estrange ourselves from the world, fixing our minds in heaven. For the Most High God appeared on earth as a humble man, because He wished to draw heavenward those who sing to Him: Alleluia.

IKOS 8

The Inexpressible Word was completely present among those here below, yet in no way 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 to her we sing:

Rejoice, container of the Uncontainable God.

Rejoice, gate of solemn mystery.

Rejoice, report doubtful to unbelievers.

Rejoice, undoubted boast of the faithful.

Rejoice, most holy chariot of Him Who sits upon the Cherubim.

Rejoice, most glorious temple of Him Who is above the Seraphim.

Rejoice, for you have united opposites.

Rejoice, for you have joined childbirth and virginity.

Rejoice, for through you sin has been absolved.

Rejoice, for through you Paradise is opened.

Rejoice, key to the Kingdom of Christ.

Rejoice, hope of eternal blessings.

Rejoice, O unwedded Bride.

KONTAKION 9

All the angels were amazed at the great work of Your Incarnation, for they saw the Unapproachable God as a man approachable by everyone, dwelling with us, and hearing from our lips: Alleluia.

IKOS 9

We see most eloquent orators mute as fish before you, O Theotokos, for they are at a loss to say how you remain a Virgin after giving birth. But we, marveling at this mystery, sing with faith:

Rejoice, receptacle of the wisdom of God.

Rejoice, treasury of His providence.

Rejoice, for you show philosophers lacking

wisdom.

Rejoice, for you expose the learned as irrational.
Rejoice, for the clever critics have become foolish.
Rejoice, for the writers of myths have faded away.
Rejoice, for you have rent the webs of the Athenians.

Rejoice, for you have filled the nets of the fishermen.

Rejoice, for you draw us from the depths of ignorance.

Rejoice, for you enlighten 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.

KONTAKION 10

Desiring to save the world, the Creator of all came to it according to His own promise. And as God, He is the Shepherd, yet for our sake He appeared to us as a man, for like calling to like, as God He hears: Alleluia.

IKOS 10

You are a protection to virgins and to all who flee to you, O Virgin Theotokos, for the Maker of heaven and earth has made you ready and adorned, O most pure one, dwelling in your womb, and teaching everyone to sing to you:

Rejoice, pillar of virginity.
Rejoice, gate of salvation.

Rejoice, beginning of the new and spiritual creation.

Rejoice, bestower of God's mercy.

Rejoice, for you have renewed those conceived in shame.

Rejoice, for you have given understanding to those robbed of their minds.

Rejoice, for you foiled the corrupter of our minds.

Rejoice, for you gave birth to the Sower of purity.

Rejoice, bridal chamber of a seedless marriage.

Rejoice, for you join in union the faithful to their Lord.

Rejoice, good nourisher of virgins.

Rejoice, adorer of holy souls as for marriage.

Rejoice, O unwedded Bride.

KONTAKION 11

No hymn can recount the multitude of Your many mercies. For though we offer to You, O Holy King, as many songs as the sand on the seashore, yet we do nothing worthy of the blessings You have given us, who sing to You: Alleluia.

IKOS 11

We behold the holy Virgin, a shining lamp appearing to those in darkness. For, kindling the Immaterial Fire, she guides all to divine knowledge, she illumines our minds with radiance, and we sing praises in her honor:

Rejoice, ray of the spiritual Sun.

Rejoice, radiance of the Unsetting Light.

Rejoice, lightning that enlightens our souls.

Rejoice, thunder that terrifies our enemies.

Rejoice, dawn that causes the brilliant Light.

Rejoice, spring that makes the River of many streams to flow.

Rejoice, for you prefigure the baptismal font.

Rejoice, for you blot out the stain of sin.

Rejoice, water washing the conscience clean.

Rejoice, cup that draws up joy.

Rejoice, sweet-smelling fragrance of Christ.

Rejoice, life of mystical gladness.

Rejoice, O unwedded Bride.

KONTAKION 12

When the Redeemer 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 record of our sins, He hears from everyone: Alleluia.

IKOS 12

While singing in honor to your Son, we all praise you as the living temple, O Theotokos. For the Lord Who holds all things in His hand, dwelt in your womb, and He sanctified and glorified you, teaching everyone to sing to you:

Rejoice, tabernacle of God the Word.

Rejoice, greater Holy of Holies.

Rejoice, ark gilded by the Spirit.

Rejoice, inexhaustible treasury of life.

Rejoice, precious crown of pious kings.

Rejoice, venerable boast of godly priests.

Rejoice, unshakable fortress of the Church.

Rejoice, unbreakable wall of the Kingdom.

Rejoice, for through you victories are obtained.

Rejoice, for through you our enemies fall down
powerless.

Rejoice, healing of my flesh.

Rejoice, salvation of my soul.

Rejoice, O unwedded Bride.

KONTAKION 13

This kontakion is repeated three times,

O most praised Mother, who gave birth to the Word,
the Holiest of Holies: accept now our offering, and
deliver us from every misfortune, and rescue from
the suffering to come, as we sing to you: Alleluia.

And again Ikos 1 and Kontakion 1

IKOS 1

An archangel was sent from heaven to say to the
Theotokos, “Rejoice!” And beholding You, O Lord,
taking bodily form at the sound of his bodiless voice,
filled with amazement he stood still saying to her:

Rejoice, for through you joy will shine forth.

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Rejoice, restoration of the fallen Adam.

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Rejoice, for you are the King's throne.

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Rejoice, O unwedded Bride.

KONTAKION 1

O victorious Leader of triumphant hosts. We, your servants, delivered from evil, sing our grateful thanks to you, O Theotokos. As you possess invincible power, set us free from every calamity, so that we may sing:

Rejoice, O unwedded Bride.

PRAYER *to the* MOST HOLY MOTHER of GOD

PRIEST: Let us pray to the most holy Mother of God.

PEOPLE: Most holy Theotokos, save us.

PRIEST: O most holy Queen, Lady Theotokos, our good helper, chosen from all generations and manifestly higher than all creation in heaven or on earth: accept these gifts of honor we offer to you alone. For because of you the Lord of Hosts is with us, and by you we have come to know the Son of God, and

through you we have been made worthy of His holy Body and most precious Blood. Blessed, therefore, are you in generations of generations, O blessed of God, brighter than the cherubim and more honorable than the seraphim.

And now, most holy Theotokos, hymned by all, do not cease in your prayers for us, your unworthy servants, that we may be delivered from every assault of the evil one and from every stumbling-block, and keep us unharmed from the devil's every poisonous scheme. By your prayers, keep us uncondemned to the very end, so that, saved by your protection and aid, we may, for the sake of all these blessings, send up glory, praise, thanksgiving, and worship to the one God in Trinity, the Maker of all, now and ever and unto ages of ages.

PEOPLE: Amen.

PRIEST: Through the prayers of our holy fathers and mother, O Lord Jesus Christ, have mercy on us.

PEOPLE: Amen.