

AKATHIST HYMN
to the
LIFE-BEARING TOMB
&
RESURRECTION
of our
LORD *and* SAVIOR
JESUS CHRIST

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

READER: Amen.

EVERYONE: Christ is risen from the dead, trampling down Death by death, and upon those in the tombs bestowing life. (3x)

READER: 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.

KONTAKION 1

To the Lord of heaven and earth and the Master of all, risen from the dead, we sing a hymn of victory. O Christ Eternal King, for You have risen from the tomb. Being delivered from everlasting corruption, we bring joyous acclamation to Your honorable tomb, singing:

Rejoice, life-bearing tomb from which Christ has risen.

IKOS 1

An Archangel came down from heaven to roll away the stone from Your tomb at Your Resurrection, O Christ God, and to announce Your rising to the myrrh-bearers, saying, "Go and tell His disciples that He is risen from the dead." And they, wondering at the strange word of the angel, sang to Your life-bearing tomb:

Rejoice, life-bearing tomb, in which Christ lay as dead and from which He rose on the third day.

Rejoice, for He rose from you and has granted us resurrection.

Rejoice, for as a bridegroom from the bridal chamber, so did Christ come out from you, leading hell captive.

Rejoice, for in His rising, the dead of all ages have risen.

Rejoice, for by you Peter the Chief Apostle has known the Resurrection.

Rejoice, for by Christ's lying within you all the earth, which was cursed, has been sanctified.

Rejoice, life-bearing tomb from which Christ has risen.

KONTAKION 2

When Mary Magdalene and the other Mary came to Your tomb to anoint Your body, O Christ God, they found an angel sitting on the stone, and he said to them, "Do not be afraid for I know that you seek the One Who was crucified. He is not here, but is risen as He said to you." When the women announced the Resurrection to the disciples, then they all sang as to the Creator and Master of all, the angels' hymn: Alleluia.

IKOS 2

Their thoughts storming within their minds, Your disciples, O Christ, did not know the Scriptures that it was fitting for You to rise from the dead. They did not believe the myrrh-bearers' joyous announcement of Your rising. But Peter ran to Your tomb and, stooping down, beheld the linen garments laid by themselves and the napkin which had been around Your divine head, and he rightly believed together with the other disciples. Therefore, rejoicing, he sang these praises to Your life-bearing tomb:

Rejoice, life-bearing tomb, for by you was wrought the salvation of all the world.

Rejoice, for you are venerated by all creation.

Rejoice, for coming to you from the North and from the Sea the faithful glorify Christ.

Rejoice, for from the West and from the East all magnify the Resurrection within you.

Rejoice, for by you the Sanhedrin was put to shame.

Rejoice, for you were couch and repose for the King of kings.

Rejoice, life-bearing tomb from which Christ has risen.

KONTAKION 3

The watchmen, that vain guard placed around Your tomb, O Christ God, heard the mighty earthquake and the angel proclaiming the good news of Your Resurrection to the myrrh-bearers. Shaking with fear they became as dead men. Yet, rushing headlong into the city, they told the high priest and the elders the things that had come to pass. In their great unrighteousness they thought to conceal Your Resurrection, but were not able, and instead taught everyone to sing: Alleluia.

IKOS 3

Joseph of Arimathea, who from fear of the Jews had secretly been Your disciple, O Christ, begged Your Divine Body from Pilate. Then, too, did Nicodemus come bearing a mixture of myrrh and aloes and anointed Your incorruptible Body. Having wrapped it in a winding sheet with spices, he laid You in the new tomb where no one had yet been placed but only You, O Lord – that by this You might sanctify the substance of the earth. And when they had learned of Your Resurrection from the dead, they shouted praises to Your life-bearing tomb:

Rejoice, life-bearing tomb, for the mysteries of salvation have been performed within you.

Rejoice, for by you the Resurrection has been made known to the entire world.

Rejoice, sure and certain knowledge of the Resurrection.

Rejoice, for by coming out from you, Christ has led captivity captive and brought human nature to God the Father.

Rejoice, although as man He was laid within you, as God He rose with glory.

Rejoice, for you held within yourself Him Who holds all creation.

Rejoice, life-bearing tomb from which Christ has risen.

KONTAKION 4

When the holy myrrh-bearers came to Your disciples, O Christ our God, announcing Your Resurrection, they were filled with gladness and departed for Galilee – to the mountain that You had commanded them. Upon seeing You, the very God in the flesh and not a spirit, they worshiped You, singing: Alleluia.

IKOS 4

This knowledge remained unknown among the Sanhedrin, who neither understood the prophecies nor sought to understand Your Resurrection, O Christ – how You could come out from Your tomb without breaking the seal. Therefore, they slander and jeer at Your rising, but we, marveling at this mystery, bring praises to Your life-bearing tomb and sing:

Rejoice, life-bearing tomb, for from you Christ has risen and raised up the dead.

Rejoice, for through you hell is known and stripped bare.

Rejoice, for the naked Adam is once again clothed in a divinely-woven garment.

Rejoice, for the earth which was polluted by Abel's blood, is sanctified again by Christ's blood abiding in you.

Rejoice, for when the angel had rolled away the stone from you, the myrrh-bearers came to know of Christ's Resurrection.

Rejoice, for when Christ had risen from you, the news of His Resurrection spread throughout all the world.

Rejoice, life-bearing tomb from which Christ has risen.

KONTAKION 5

On the eighth day after Your Resurrection, You, O Lord, came to Your disciples, although the doors were closed, and bestowed the gifts of the Holy Spirit upon them. You said to Your disciple Thomas, "Come here and touch Me," and he, at the touch, knew You as being truly risen and not a spirit. Together with the other disciples, he humbly cried out to You: Alleluia.

IKOS 5

We see the Sanhedrin, those falsely-wise orators, mute as fish and unable to speak about Your Resurrection, O Christ, and not understanding the prophecies – how it was right for You, the God of all, to rise from the dead. We who have been given life, however, stand with amazement at Your Resurrection and sing to Your life-bearing tomb:

Rejoice, life-bearing tomb, for Pilate's foolish watchmen were terrified when Christ came out from you.

Rejoice, for Christ has risen in truth, amazing all the disciples.

Rejoice, for He Who rose from you did not break the seal on the grave.

Rejoice, truly rich tomb, for you held within yourself Christ the Giver of Life bestowing life upon all.

Rejoice, for when Christ rose from you the heavens rejoiced.

Rejoice, for then the things of earth taught the Resurrection to all.

Rejoice, life-bearing tomb from which Christ has risen.

KONTAKION 6

After Your Resurrection, O Christ, You revealed Yourself to Your disciples at the sea of Tiberias and commanded them to cast the net on the right side of the ship. Your beloved disciple, recognizing You, O Lord, from the mighty catch of fish, said to Peter, "It is the Lord." As soon as they had come to the land, they saw a fire and fish and bread. Therefore, in the breaking of bread they knew You, and as to the risen God they sang: Alleluia.

IKOS 6

The women made their way to Your tomb early in the morning, O Christ our God, and though they did not find Your body, O Jesus, they did not discern Your rising. Immediately they saw an angel standing before them, who asked them, “Why do you seek the living among the dead? He is not here, but is risen.” And seeing Your Resurrection, with great gladness they cried out these praises to Your life-bearing tomb:

Rejoice, life-bearing tomb, for by Christ’s abiding within you hell was seized with great fear.

Rejoice, for then with trembling, hell gave up the dead which it had held down throughout the ages.

Rejoice, for by Christ’s rising we all are restored to newness of life.

Rejoice, for by Christ’s rising Thomas was taught to say, “My Lord and my God.”

Rejoice, for by Christ’s rising all creation has found joy.

Rejoice, too, O Joseph of Arimathea, for within your own garden you have acquired so great a treasure.

Rejoice, life-bearing tomb from which Christ has risen.

KONTAKION 7

The sun at Your Passion, O Christ, unable to bear the raging frenzy of the lawless people, hid its light

and the veil of the Temple was rent. When You were laid in the tomb, the earth was shaken as though wanting to swallow up the unlawful ones. But, You as God rose in glory and with Yourself raised up Adam, the father of us all. Therefore, to our truly risen God we sing: Alleluia.

IKOS 7

After Your Resurrection, O Christ, You revealed Yourself to Luke and Cleopas on the road to Emmaus. You accompanied them as they discussed together those things that had happened to You, the Master of all, and You were scorned by them as being but a stranger in Jerusalem. But as God You opened to them the prophecies concerning Yourself, and thus You were known by them in the breaking of bread. With great joy they turned back to Jerusalem and declared the good news of Your Resurrection and appearance to Your disciples. All together they worshipped and sang praises to Your life-bearing tomb:

Rejoice, life-bearing tomb, for you have received within yourself the heavenly Bread given as food for all.

Rejoice, for you were able to contain Christ as a sleeping King.

Rejoice, for heaven and earth were filled with good news when Christ rose from you.

Rejoice, for no longer are the unlawful able to slander the Resurrection of Christ.

Rejoice, for by you the high priest and the elders were brought to disgrace.

Rejoice, for through you the apostles' choir was filled with joy.

Rejoice, life-bearing tomb from which Christ has risen.

KONTAKION 8

People, together with all the angels, stand in wonder before Your great care for us, for as God You are inaccessible, and yet as an approachable man You are seen by all, for You were crucified and buried and then rose in glory. Therefore, we gratefully sing to You, our Creator and Master: Alleluia.

IKOS 8

In Your Resurrection, O Christ, You showed the new creation and, as in Your birth from the pure Virgin, You did not destroy the seal on the tomb. We honor Your Passion, we glorify Your Burial, and in faith we worship Your glorious Resurrection. In like manner, we offer hymns of thanksgiving to Your tomb, saying:

Rejoice, life-bearing tomb, for Christ is risen from you and has renewed all the world.

Rejoice, for the stone that was rolled away from you has shattered the gates and door-posts of hell.

Rejoice, for the Sun of the entire world has shone from you.

Rejoice, for when Christ lay within you, hell was shaken apart.

Rejoice, for hell has unwillingly given back alive those dead whom of old it seized.

Rejoice, lightning flash, which hid the divine pearl within yourself.

Rejoice, life-bearing tomb from which Christ has risen.

KONTAKION 9

The apostles, those God-bearing messengers of Your Resurrection, were sent out into the entire world and they preached You, the true God. They taught all the faithful to sing to You, our Creator and Master: Alleluia.

IKOS 9

After Your rising from the grave, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb while it was early and still dark, and saw the stone was taken away. She, therefore, went quickly to the disciples, saying, "They have taken away the Lord out of the tomb." Then Peter, that disciple of burning faith, ran with John to the tomb and looking inside saw the garments lying together. And gaining the knowledge of Your

Resurrection, O Christ, they began shouting praises to Your life-bearing tomb:

Rejoice, life-bearing tomb, for when Christ was shut within you He shone light upon hell.

Rejoice, for when the stone was removed from you the stony-hearted nations began to sing, “Christ is truly risen.”

Rejoice, for within you God passed three days asleep in the flesh.

Rejoice, for by His rising He has awakened those who throughout the ages have been asleep.

Rejoice, for by His coming out from you He has bestowed resurrection upon all.

Rejoice, for as a bright sun shining out from you He has enlightened all the world.

Rejoice, life-bearing tomb from which Christ has risen.

KONTAKION 10

The earth grew frightened and fell silent, seeing You, its Creator, lying in a small tomb, and hell, trembling with fear before Your power, gave up its dead, while the heavens prepared for You an ascent to the Father from Whom You were never separate. Therefore, redeemed by Your Cross, we sing to You: Alleluia.

IKOS 10

Mary Magdalene, with fervent faith in You, O Jesus Christ, came very early to Your tomb, O Savior, and was granted the vision of an angel telling her, “He is not here, but is risen.” Moreover, You Yourself appeared to her as God, therefore she was sent as an apostle, bearing good news to Your disciples about Your rising to the Father. Your disciples were filled with joy and together with the myrrh-bearers offered praises to Your life-bearing tomb, singing:

Rejoice, life-bearing tomb, for you are the opening of the gates of Paradise.

Rejoice, for of Him Who lay within you hell unwillingly speaks truly, saying, “It were better for me had I never seized the Son of Mary.”

Rejoice, for He Who rose from you has led hell captive and filled the heavenly Jerusalem.

Rejoice, for as one Who sleeps you have held within yourself the very Lamb, the Son of God.

Rejoice, for according to the prophecy, Christ slept within you and as a lion took His rest – and who has stirred Him up?

Rejoice, for from you He raised Himself by His own power.

Rejoice, life-bearing tomb from which Christ has risen.

KONTAKION 11

When the Savior stood before His disciples, granting them peace, He also gave them the power to forgive sins and to baptize in the Name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, and to preach His Resurrection from the dead. And, they went and taught all nations to sing to the risen God: Alleluia.

IKOS 11

After Your rising from the dead, O Christ, appearing to Your disciples You said to Simon Peter, “Simon, son of Jonah, do you love Me?” After his threefold affirmation of his love for You, You established him as the first leader of Your Church. All the faithful, having known You as the risen God, sang praises to Your life-bearing tomb:

Rejoice, life-bearing tomb, for by coming out from you, Christ has made us a path up to heaven.

Rejoice, for placed within you, Christ has raised up the dead of all the ages.

Rejoice, for to the resurrected ones He has given eternal life.

Rejoice, for the Cross and the Resurrection are glorified in you.

Rejoice, for by you the watchmen learned of the Resurrection.

Rejoice, for you are the source of divine knowledge.

Rejoice, life-bearing tomb from which Christ has risen.

KONTAKION 12

Glorifying Your Passion, O Christ, we honor Your divine providence for us and we worship Your Resurrection. Glorifying Your most glorious Ascension from earth to the heavenly Father, we pray: Do not take Your Holy Spirit away from us, so that we may all sing to You, our Creator and Master: Alleluia.

IKOS 12

You went to the Mount of Olives, O radiance of the Father, where a most bright cloud lifted You up, as Your disciples looked on, O Almighty God. Your angels said to Your apostles, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand gazing up into heaven? Him Whom you see taken up from you will come again in the flesh.” And they returned to Jerusalem with joy, praising You, the true God, offering praises to Your life-bearing tomb in which You were laid and on the third day rose:

Rejoice, life-bearing tomb, for Christ, the inexpressible Light, has shone from you and enlightened the entire world.

Rejoice, for the holy myrrh-bearers heard, “Rejoice,” when Christ rose from you.

Rejoice, for you have been the resting place of the King of kings and the Lord of lords.

Rejoice, for you have held the Sustainer of all creation.

Rejoice, for the wise Sanhedrin was made foolish by you in that they could not speak against the Resurrection.

Rejoice, for the apostles' choir has found joy through you.

Rejoice, life-bearing tomb from which Christ has risen.

KONTAKION 13

This kontakion is repeated three times.

O most holy and life-bearing tomb of Christ, the enrichment of the entire world. Standing before you as the bearer of life, we pray to Christ our God, Who lay within you and Who rose in glory on the third day: That He deliver His inheritance from famine, plague, earthquake, and flood, and from every mortal wound, and that He grant peace to Orthodox Christians and subdue under their feet those who strive against them. Thus may we all sing to Him, our Creator and Master: Alleluia. (3x)

And again Ikos 1 and Kontakion 1.

IKOS 1

An Archangel came down from heaven to roll away the stone from Your tomb at Your Resurrection, O Christ God, and to announce Your rising to the myrrh-bearers, saying, "Go and tell His disciples that He is risen

from the dead.” And they, wondering at the strange word of the angel, sang to Your life-bearing tomb:

Rejoice, life-bearing tomb, in which Christ lay as dead and from which He rose on the third day.

Rejoice, for He rose from you and has granted us resurrection.

Rejoice, for as a bridegroom from the bridal chamber, so did Christ come out from you, leading hell captive.

Rejoice, for in His rising, the dead of all ages have risen.

Rejoice, for by you Peter the Chief Apostle has known the Resurrection.

Rejoice, for by Christ’s lying within you all the earth, which was cursed, has been sanctified.

Rejoice, life-bearing tomb from which Christ has risen.

KONTAKION 1

To the Lord of heaven and earth and the Master of all, risen from the dead, we sing a hymn of victory. O Christ Eternal King, for You have risen from the tomb. Being delivered from everlasting corruption, we bring joyous acclamation to Your honorable tomb, singing:

Rejoice, life-bearing tomb from which Christ has risen.

PRAYER

PRIEST: Let us pray to the Lord.

EVERYONE: Lord, have mercy.

O Lord Jesus Christ, how can we sinners dare to approach Your life-bearing tomb as did Your faithful disciple, Mary Magdalene? For we do not awaken early to behold Your presence within our homes. How can we call You Lord, as did Thomas, who believed in Your sovereign divinity? For we do not seek to know You in the gladness of truth.

Help us, O Eternal Christ, to roll away the stone from our heart that we may rise with You and rejoice with the apostles and myrrh-bearers as they praise Your Resurrection. Let us love one another for You have loved us first. Grant us the wisdom and humility to sing with one mind, “Christ is risen.”

EVERYONE: Amen.

DISMISSAL

The angel cried to the Lady full of grace,
“Rejoice, O pure Virgin. Again I say, Rejoice.
Your Son is risen from His three days in the tomb.
With Himself He has raised all the dead.
Rejoice, all people.”

Shine, shine, O new Jerusalem!
The glory of the Lord has shone on you.

Exult now and be glad, O Zion.
Be radiant, O pure Theotokos,
in the resurrection of your Son.

EVERYONE: Christ is risen from the dead, trampling down death by death, and upon those in the tombs bestowing life. (3x)

PRIEST: May Christ our true God, by the prayers of his most pure Mother; by the prayers of the honorable and glorious Prophet, Forerunner, and Baptist John, the heavenly intercessor of our community; by the prayers of the holy and righteous ancestors of God, Joachim and Anna; and by the prayers of all the saints, have mercy on us and save us, for He is good and loves mankind.

EVERYONE: Amen.