

MATINS
FOR THE SATURDAY OF THE AKATHIST

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 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. 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. *(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 the evil one.

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. In the name of the Lord, Master, bless.

Priest: Glory to the holy, con-substantial, life-creating, and undivided Trinity, always, now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

Reader: Amen.

Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will towards man *(3x)*.

O Lord, open Thou my lips and my mouth shall show forth Thy praise *(2x)*.

THE SIX PSALMS

PSALM 3

O Lord, how many are my foes! Many are rising against me; many are saying of me, there is no help for him in God. But thou, O Lord, art a shield about me, my glory, and the lifter of my head. I cry aloud to the Lord, and he answers me from his holy hill. I lie down and sleep; I wake again, for the Lord sustains me. I am not afraid of ten thousands of people who have set themselves against me round about. Arise, O Lord! Deliver me, O my God! For thou dost smite all my enemies on the cheek, thou dost break the teeth of the wicked. Deliverance belongs to the Lord; thy blessing be upon thy people!

I lie down and sleep; I wake again, for the Lord sustains me.

PSALM 38

O Lord, rebuke me not in thy anger, nor chasten me in thy wrath! For thy arrows have sunk into me, and thy hand has come down on me. There is no soundness in my flesh because of thy indignation; there is no health in my bones because of my sin. For my iniquities have gone over my head; they weigh like a burden too heavy for me. My wounds grow foul and fester because of my foolishness, I am utterly bowed down and prostrate; all the day I go about mourning. For my loins are filled with burning, and there is no soundness in my flesh. I am utterly spent and crushed; I groan because of the tumult of my heart. Lord, all my longing is known to thee, my sighing is not hidden from thee. My heart throbs, my strength fails me; and the light of my eyes, it also has gone from me. My friends and companions stand aloof from my plague, and my kinsmen stand afar off. Those who seek my life lay their snares, those who seek my hurt speak of ruin, and meditate treachery all the day long. But I am like a deaf man, I do not hear, like a dumb man who does not open his mouth. Yea, I am like a man who does not hear, and in whose mouth are no rebukes. But for thee, O Lord, do I wait; it is thou, O Lord my God, who wilt answer. For I pray, "Only let them not rejoice over me, who boast against me when my foot slips!" For I am ready to fall, and my pain is ever with me. I confess my iniquity, I am sorry for my sin. Those who are my foes without cause are mighty, and many are those who hate me wrongfully. Those who render me evil for good are my adversaries because I follow after good. Do not forsake me, O Lord! O my God, be not far from me! Make haste to help me, O Lord, my salvation!

Do not forsake me, O Lord! O my God, be not far from me! Make haste to help me, O Lord, my salvation!

PSALM 63

O God, thou art my God, I seek thee, my soul thirsts for thee; my flesh faints for thee, as in a dry and weary land where no water is. So I have looked upon thee in the sanctuary, beholding thy power and glory. Because thy steadfast love is better than life, my lips will praise thee. So I will bless thee as long as I live; I will lift up my hands and call on thy name. My soul is feasted as with marrow and fat, and my mouth praises thee with joyful lips, when I think of thee upon my bed, and meditate on thee in the watches of the night; for thou hast been my help, and in the shadow of thy wings I sing for joy.

My soul clings to thee; thy right hand upholds me. But those who seek to destroy my life shall go down into the depths of the earth; they shall be given over to the power of the sword, they shall be prey for jackals. But the king shall rejoice in God; all who swear by him shall glory; for the mouths of liars will be stopped.

My soul clings to thee; thy right hand upholds me

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 Thee, O God! *(3x)*

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.

PSALM 88

O Lord, my God, I call for help by day; I cry out in the night before thee. Let my prayer come before thee, incline thy ear to my cry! For my soul is full of troubles, and my life draws near to Sheol. I am reckoned among those who go down to the Pit; I am a man who has no strength, like one forsaken among the dead, like the slain that lie in the grave, like those whom thou dost remember no more, for they are cut off from thy hand. Thou hast put me in the depths of the Pit, in the regions dark and deep. Thy wrath lies heavy upon me, and thou dost overwhelm me with all thy waves. Thou hast caused my companions to

shun me; thou hast made me a thing of horror to them. I am shut in so that I cannot escape; my eye grows dim through sorrow. Every day I call upon thee, O Lord; I spread out my hands to thee. Dost thou work wonders for the dead? Do the shades rise up to praise thee? Is thy steadfast love declared in the grave, or thy faithfulness in Abaddon? Are thy wonders known in the darkness, or thy saving help in the land of forgetfulness? But I, O Lord, cry to thee; in the morning my prayer comes before thee. O Lord, why dost thou cast me off? Why dost thou hide thy face from me? Afflicted and close to death from my youth up, I suffer thy terrors; I am helpless. Thy wrath has swept over me; thy dread assaults destroy me. They surround me like a flood all day long; they close in upon me together. Thou hast caused lover and friend to shun me; my companions are in darkness.

O Lord, my God, I call for help by day; I cry out in the night before thee. Let my prayer come before thee, incline thy ear to my cry!

PSALM 103

Bless the Lord, O my soul; and all that is within me, bless his holy name! Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits, who forgives all your iniquity, who heals all your diseases, who redeems your life from the Pit, who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy, who satisfies you with good as long as you live so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's. The Lord works vindication and justice for all who are oppressed. He made known his ways to Moses, his acts to the people of Israel. The Lord is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. He will not always chide, nor will he keep his anger forever. He does not deal with us according to our sins, nor requite us according to our iniquities. For as the heavens are high above the earth, so great is his steadfast love toward those who fear him; as far as the east is from the west, so far does he remove our transgressions from us. As a father pities his children, so the Lord pities those who fear him. For he knows our frame; he remembers that we are dust. As for man, his days are like grass; he flourishes like a flower of the field; for the wind passes over it, and it is gone, and its place knows it no more. But the steadfast love of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting upon those who fear him, and his righteousness to children's children, to those who keep his covenant and remember to do his commandments. The Lord has established his throne in the heavens, and his kingdom rules over all. Bless the Lord, O you his angels, you mighty ones who do his word, hearkening to the voice of his word! Bless the Lord, all his hosts, his ministers that do his will! Bless the Lord, all his works, in all places of his dominion. Bless the Lord, O my soul!

In all places of his dominion. Bless the Lord, O my soul!

PSALM 143

Hear my prayer, O Lord; give ear to my supplications! In thy faithfulness answer me, in thy righteousness! Enter not into judgment with thy servant; for no man living is righteous before thee. For the enemy has pursued me; he has crushed my life to the ground; he has made me sit in darkness like those long dead. Therefore my spirit faints within me; my heart within me is appalled. I remember the days of old, I meditate on all that thou hast done; I muse on what thy hands have wrought. I stretch out my hands to thee; my soul thirsts for thee like a parched land. Make haste to answer me, O Lord! My spirit fails! Hide not thy face from me, lest I be like those who go down to the Pit. Let me hear in the morning of thy steadfast love, for in thee I put my trust. Teach me the way I should go, for to thee I lift up my soul. Deliver me, O Lord, from my enemies! I have fled to thee for refuge! Teach me to do thy will, for thou art my God! Let thy good spirit lead me on a level path! For thy name's sake, O Lord, preserve my life! In thy righteousness bring me out of trouble! And in thy steadfast love cut off my enemies, and destroy all my adversaries, for I am thy servant.

In thy faithfulness answer me, in thy righteousness! Enter not into judgment with thy servant. In thy faithfulness answer me, in thy righteousness! Enter not into judgment with thy servant.

Let thy good spirit lead me on a level path!

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 Thee, O God! (3x)

THE GREAT LITANY

Priest: For unto Thee is due all glory, honor and worship to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit now and ever and unto ages of ages.

Choir: Amen.

and then:

Priest: In the Eighth Tone: God is the Lord and has revealed Himself to us. Blessed is He that comes in the name of the Lord! O give thanks to the Lord, for He is good; for His mercy endures forever!

Choir: God is the Lord and has revealed Himself to us. Blessed is He that comes in the name of the Lord!

Priest: All nations surrounded me, but in the name of the Lord I destroyed them!

Choir: God is the Lord and has revealed Himself to us. Blessed is He that comes in the name of the Lord!

Priest: I shall not die, but live, and recount the works of the Lord!

Choir: God is the Lord and has revealed Himself to us. Blessed is He that comes in the name of the Lord!

Priest: The Stone which the builders rejected has become the Lord's doing, and it is wonderful in our eyes!

Choir: God is the Lord and has revealed Himself to us. Blessed is He that comes in the name of the Lord!

TROPARION

When the bodiless Archangel understood the mysterious command, he came to the house of Joseph with haste and proclaimed to the unwed Maiden: "The One Who bowed the heavens by His condescension is contained wholly and without change within thee! As I behold Him in thy womb, taking the form of a servant, // in awe and wonder I cry out to thee: 'Rejoice, O Unwedded Bride!

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

KONTAKION

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!

(multiple times, if necessary, to complete the full censuring of the temple)

AKATHIST

Priest and Choir: The First Stasis: Ikos 1 – Kontakion 7 (*See Appendix page 18*)

KONTAKION

Choir: 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!»

PSALM 50

Reader: 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.

THE CANON

Ode 1

(Irmos) I will open my mouth, and it will be filled with the Spirit, I will utter a word to the Queen and Mother, I will be seen radiantly keeping festival, and with rejoicing I will sing of her wonders.

O Most Holy Theotokos, save us!

O pure Virgin, living book of Christ, sealed by the Spirit, be holding thee the great Archangel said to thee: «Rejoice, vessel of joy! Through thee shall we be loosed from the curse of our first mother.»

O Most Holy Theotokos, save us!

Rejoice, Virgin bride of God, estoration of Adam and death of hell; rejoice, O undefiled, the pavilion of the King of all; rejoice, fiery throne of the Almighty.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.

Rejoice, from whom alone there springs the unfading Rose; rejoice, for thou hast borne the sweetly-smelling Apple. Rejoice, Maiden Unwedded, posey of the only King and preservation of the world.

Now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Rejoice, Lady, treasure-house of purity, raising us from our fall; rejoice, lily whose sweet scent is known to all the faithful; rejoice, fragrant incense and precious oil of myrrh.

Ode 3

(Irmos) O Theotokos, living and abundant fountain, spiritually strengthen thy singers, the choirs assembled in thy divine glory, and grant them crowns of glory.

O Most Holy Theotokos, save us!

From thee, the field untilled, has grown the divine Ear of corn. Rejoice, living table that hast held the Bread of Life; rejoice, Lady, never-failing spring of the living water.

O Most Holy Theotokos, save us!

Rejoice, Mother who hast borne for the faithful the sacrificial Victim without blemish; rejoice, Ewe that hast brought forth the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of all the world. Rejoice, mercy-seat, our fervent intercessor.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.

Rejoice, radiant dawn who alone hearest Christ the Sun; rejoice, dwelling place of the Light. Thou hast dispersed the gloom and utterly destroyed the demons of the darkness.

Now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Rejoice, only gate through which the Word alone has passed. By thy birth giving, O Lady, thou hast broken the bars and gates of Hell. Rejoice, Bride of God, divine entry of the saved.

(Katavasia) O Theotokos, living and abundant fountain, spiritually strengthen thy singers, the choirs assembled in thy divine glory, and grant them crowns of glory.

Reader: Lord, have mercy. *(Thrice)*

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

KONTAKION

Choir: 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!»

Priest and Choir: The Third Stasis: Ikos 7 – Kontakion 10 *(See Appendix page 22)*

KONTAKION

Choir: 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!”

Sessional Hymn

Reader: Coming to the city of Nazareth, the mighty leader of the spiritual angels proclaimed to thee, O undefiled One, the Incarnation of the King and Lord of the ages, saying unto thee: 'Rejoice, blessed Mary, depth unsearchable beyond all understanding, and restoration of all mortal men.'

Ode 4

(Irmos) He Who sits in glory on the Throne of Divinity, Jesus, truly divine, came on a light cloud and saved with an incorrupt hand those cry aloud: 'Glory to Thy power, O Christ.'

O Most Holy Theotokos, save us!

With voices of song in faith we cry aloud to thee, O Virgin worthy of all praise: Rejoice, rich mountain flowing with the milk of the Spirit; rejoice, candlestick and vessel of manna, sweet to the taste of the godly.

O Most Holy Theotokos, save us!

Rejoice, mercy-seat of the world, O lady undefiled; rejoice, ladder raising all men from the earth by grace; rejoice, bridge that in very truth has brought from death to life all those that sing thy praises.

O Most Holy Theotokos, save us!

Rejoice, O Undefiled, higher than the heavens, who without birth-pangs hast held within thy womb the Foundation of the earth. Rejoice, sea-shell that with thy blood hast dyed a robe of divine purple for the Lord of Hosts.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.

Rejoice, - Lady that in truth hast borne the Lawgiver, who freely washes clean the transgressions of all. O Maiden who hast not known wedlock, depth unsearchable, height above all speech, through thee we are made godlike.

Now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Thou hast woven for the world a crown not made by hand of man, and we sing thy praises, saying: Rejoice to thee, O Virgin, the guardian of all men, fortress and stronghold and sacred refuge.

Ode 5

(Irmos) All things were amazed at thy divine glory, for thou, O Virgin, who knowest not wedlock, didst bear in thy womb the God over all, and thou gavest birth to the Eternal Son, granting peace to all who sings thy praises.

O Most Holy Theotokos, save us!

From thee was born the Way that leads to life. Rejoice, All-blameless, who hast saved the world from drowning in the flood of sin; rejoice, Bride of God, tidings fearful to tell and hear; rejoice, dwelling place of the Master of Creation.

O Most Holy Theotokos, save us!

Rejoice, O undefiled, the strength and fortress of mankind, sanctuary of the Glory; rejoice, slayer of hell, bridal chamber full of light; rejoice, joy of the angels; rejoice, succor of those who call on thee with faith.

O Most Holy Theotokos, save us!

Fiery chariot of the Word, rejoice, Lady, living Paradise, holding in thy midst the Lord, the Tree of Life. His sweetness quickens all who eat with faith, although they were enslaved to corruption.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.

Strengthened by thy might, we raise our cry to thee with faith: Rejoice, city of the King of all! Glorious things, worthy to be heard throughout the world, are plainly spoken of thee. Rejoice, mountain not cut by hand of man, depth that none can fathom.

Now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Rejoice, O undefiled, spacious tabernacle of the Word, shell from which has come the divine Pearl. Rejoice, Theotokos full of wonders, who dost reconcile with God all those in every age that call thee blessed.

Ode 6

(Irmos) Come, let us clap our hands, O divinely wise ones, celebrating this divine, all-precious Feast of the Mother of God, and let us glorify God Who was born of her.

O Most Holy Theotokos, save us!

O spotless bridal chamber of the Word, through thee all can become godlike. Rejoice, All-undefiled, the prophets' song; rejoice, the adornment of the apostles.

O Most Holy Theotokos, save us!

From thee has come the dew that quenched the flame of idolatry. We therefore cry to thee: Rejoice, O Virgin, fleece wet with dew that Gideon saw in prophecy.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.

See, we cry 'Rejoice!' to thee. Be thou our haven as we toss upon the deep, our refuge from the troubled waters of affliction and from all the snares of the enemy.

Now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

O cause of joy, endue our thoughts with grace that we may cry to thee: Rejoice, bush unconsumed, cloud of light that without ceasing overshadows the faithful.

(Katavasia) Come, let us clap our hands, O divinely wise ones, celebrating this divine, all-precious Feast of the Mother of God, and let us glorify God Who was born of her.

Reader: Lord, have mercy. *(Thrice)*

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

KONTAKION

(Very slowly for another full censuring of the temple)

Choir: 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!"

Priest and Choir: The Fourth Stasis: Ikos 10 – Kontakion 13 *(See Appendix page 24)*

KONTAKION

Choir: 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!»

Ode 7

(Irmos) The divinely-wise ones would not serve created things more than Him Who created them, but bravely trampled on the fiery threat. They rejoiced, singing: 'Blessed art Thou, O most-hymned Lord and God of our Fathers.'

O Most Holy Theotokos, save us!

We sing thy praises, crying: Rejoice! chariot of the spiritual Sun; true vine that has produced the ripe cluster of grapes, from which there flows a wine making glad the souls of the faithful, as they give thee glory.

O Most Holy Theotokos, save us!

Rejoice, Bride of God, who hast given birth to the Healer of all; mystical staff that has blossomed with the unfading Flower. Rejoice, Lady, for through thee we are filled with joy and made inheritors of life.

O Most Holy Theotokos, save us!

No tongue, however eloquent, has power to sing thy praises. Above the seraphim thou art exalted, O Lady, for thou hast given birth to Christ the King. Entreat Him now to deliver from all harm those that venerate thee in faith.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.

The ends of the earth praise thee and call thee blessed, and they cry to thee with love: Rejoice, pure Virgin, scroll on which the Word is written by the Father's hand. Pray to Him, O Theotokos, to enroll thy servants in the Book of Life.

Now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

We thy servants pray to thee, and bend the knee of our heart. Incline thine ear and save us, O Theotokos, for we are drowning in affliction; and preserve thy city from all conquest by the enemy.

Ode 8

(Irmos) The offspring of the Theotokos saved the God-fearing children in the furnace. He Who was then prefigured now is acting, and He raises up all the universe to sing: 'Praise the Lord, all ye works, highly exalt Him throughout all ages.'

O Most Holy Theotokos, save us!

Thou hast received the Word within thy womb, and thou hast carried Him who carries all things. Thou hast fed with milk Him who by His will alone feeds all the inhabited earth; and unto Him, pure Virgin, do we sing: O all ye works of the Lord, praise ye the Lord and exalt Him above all for ever.

O Most Holy Theotokos, save us!

Moses perceived in the burning bush the great mystery of thy childbearing, O Virgin holy and inviolate; and the Children prefigured this most clearly as they stood in the midst of the fire and were not burnt. Therefore do we sing thy praises for ever.

O Most Holy Theotokos, save us!

We who once through falsehood were stripped naked, have by thy childbearing been clothed in the robe of incorruption; and we who once sat in the darkness of transgression have seen the Light, O Maiden, dwelling- place of Light. Therefore do we sing thy praises for ever.

Let us bless the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit: the Lord!

Through thee the dead are brought to life, for thou hast borne Him who is Himself the Life; the dumb are made to speak, lepers are cleansed, diseases are driven out; the hosts of the spirits of the air are conquered, O Virgin, the salvation of mortal men.

Now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Thou hast borne salvation for the world, O pure Virgin, and through thee we are raised from earth to heaven. Rejoice, All-Blessed, protection and defense, rampart and stronghold of those who sing: O all ye works of the Lord, praise ye the Lord and exalt Him above all for ever.

Choir: We praise, bless, and worship the Lord, singing and exalting Him throughout all ages.

(Katavasia) The offspring of the Theotokos saved the God-fearing children in the furnace. He Who was then prefigured now is acting, and He raises up all the universe to sing: 'Praise the Lord, all ye works, highly exalt Him throughout all ages.'

Priest: The Theotokos and the Mother of the Light, let us magnify in song!

The Magnificat is sung

Ode 9

(Irmos) Let all the earth-born leap for joy, enlightened by the Spirit, and let the nature of the Bodiless Ones make festival; let them cry aloud: 'Rejoice, All-Blessed and Pure Theotokos, Ever-Virgin.'

O Most Holy Theotokos, save us!

Enable us the faithful to cry unto thee, Rejoice! For through thee, O Maiden, we have become partakers of everlasting joy. Deliver us from temptation, from capture by the enemy, and from every other ill that comes on sinful mortals because of the multitude of their transgressions.

O Most Holy Theotokos, save us!

Thou hast been made our light and confirmation, and so we cry to thee: Rejoice, never-setting star that bringest into the world the mighty Sun; rejoice, pure Virgin that hast opened the closed gate of Eden; rejoice, pillar of fire, leading mankind to the life above.

O Most Holy Theotokos, save us!

Let us stand with reverence in the house of our God, and let us cry aloud: Rejoice, Queen of the world; rejoice, Mary, sovereign over all of us; rejoice, thou who alone art blameless and fair among women; rejoice, vessel that hast received the Myrrh inexhaustible, emptied out upon thee.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.

Rejoice, Ever-Virgin; rejoice, dove that has given birth to the Lord of mercy; rejoice, glory of all the saints, crown of the martyrs; rejoice, divine adornment of all the righteous and salvation of us the faithful.

Now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Spare Thine inheritance, O God, and pass over all our sins. For as intercessor in Thy sight, O Christ, there stands before Thee she that on earth conceived Thee without seed, when in Thy great mercy Thou hast willed to be shaped in a form that was not Thine own.

(Katavasia) Let all the earth-born leap for joy, enlightened by the Spirit, and let the nature of the Bodiless Ones make festival; let them cry aloud: 'Rejoice, All-Blessed and Pure Theotokos, Ever-Virgin.'

Little Litany

EXAPOSTILARION

Reader: The mystery hidden from all ages is made known today. God from God, the Word becomes in His compassion Son of the Virgin Mary, and Gabriel proclaims the Gospel of Joy. With him let us all cry aloud: 'Rejoice, Mother of the Lord.'

THE PRAISES (LAUDS)

(In the Fourth Tone: Let every breath praise the Lord!)

Choir: Let every breath praise the Lord. Praise the Lord from the heavens. Praise Him in the highest. To Thee, O God, is due a song. Praise Him, all ye angels Hist Praise Him, all His hosts! To Thee, O God, is due a song.

Reader: (4) V. Praise Him for His mighty acts, praise Him according to the multitude of His greatness.

A mystery hidden, unknown to the angels, is entrusted to the Archangel Gabriel. Coming now to thee, the dove alone immaculate and pure, the restoration of mankind, he shall greet thee, O most Holy, with the salutation: 'Rejoice! Make ready to receive, through a word, God the Word within thy womb.'

(3) V. Praise Him with the sound of the trumpet, praise Him with psaltery and harp.

Repeat: 'A mystery hidden, unknown to the angels...'

*(2) V. Praise Him with timbrel and dance, * praise Him with strings and flute.*

A pavilion full of light is prepared for Thee, O Master: the undefiled womb of the Child of God. Come down and enter it, taking pity on thy creatures, whom the avenging spirit in his envy has attacked and holds in bondage. They have lost their former beauty, and await Thy descent for their salvation.

(1) V. Praise Him with tuneful cymbals, praise Him with cymbals of jubilation; let every breath praise the Lord!

Gabriel the Archangel shall come to thee openly, all-blameless Virgin, and shall cry to thee: 'Rejoice, deliverance from the curse, and raising of the fallen; Rejoice, thou who alone wast chosen by God; Rejoice, living cloud of the Sun. Receive Him that has no body, whose will it is to dwell within thy womb.'

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

Choir: The Theotokos heard a voice she knew not, when the Archangel brought her the glad tidings of the Annunciation; and, accepting his salutation with faith, she conceived Thee the pre-eternal god. Therefore in great rejoicing we also cry aloud to Thee: O God, who without change hast taken flesh from her, grant peace to the world and to our souls great mercy.

Priest: Glory to Thee, who hast shown us the Light!

Choir: The Great Doxology.

DISMISSAL TROPARIA

Choir: Taking knowledge of the secret command, the bodiless Archangel went with haste to Joseph's dwelling, and said to her that knew not wedlock: 'He who in His self-abasement bowed the heavens and came down, is housed wholly and unchanged in thee. I see Him take the form of a servant in thy womb, and in wonder gy to thee: Rejoice, O unwedded Bride'

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

Thou wast born of a Virgin for our sake, O Good One; Thou didst endure crucifixion and didst destroy death by death; as God Thou didst reveal the Resurrection. Despise not the work of Thy hands, but show forth Thy love for man, O merciful One, accept the prayers of Thy Mother, the Theotokos for us, and save Thy despairing le, O our Saviour!

The Litany of Fervent Supplication & the Morning Litany.

The Dismissal

APPENDIX

AKATHIST to our Most Holy Lady the Theotokos

Ikos 1

An archangel was sent from Heaven to say to the Theotokos: Rejoice! And beholding Thee, O Lord, taking bodily form, he was amazed and with his bodiless voice he stood crying to Her such things as these:

Rejoice, Thou through whom joy will shine forth:
Rejoice, Thou through whom the curse will cease!
Rejoice, recall of fallen Adam:
Rejoice, redemption of the tears of Eve!
Rejoice, height inaccessible to human thoughts:
Rejoice, depth undiscernible even for the eyes of angels!
Rejoice, for Thou art the throne of the King:
Rejoice, for Thou bearest Him Who beareth all!
Rejoice, star that causeth the Sun to appear:
Rejoice, womb of the Divine Incarnation!
Rejoice, Thou through whom creation is renewed:
Rejoice, Thou through whom we worship the Creator!
Rejoice, Thou Bride Unwedded!

Kontakion 2

Seeing herself to be chaste, the holy one said boldly to Gabriel: The marvel of thy speech is difficult for my soul to accept. How canst thou speak of a birth from a seedless conception? And She cried: Alleluia!

Ikos 2

Seeking to know knowledge that cannot be known, the Virgin cried to the ministering one: Tell me, how can a son be born from a chaste womb? Then he spake to Her in fear, only crying aloud thus:

Rejoice, initiate of God's ineffable will:
Rejoice, assurance of those who pray in silence!
Rejoice, beginning of Christ's miracles:
Rejoice, crown of His dogmas!
Rejoice, heavenly ladder by which God came down:
Rejoice, bridge that conveyest us from earth to Heaven!
Rejoice, wonder of angels sounded abroad:
Rejoice, wound of demons bewailed afar!
Rejoice, Thou Who ineffably gavest birth to the Light:
Rejoice, Thou Who didst reveal Thy secret to none!
Rejoice, Thou Who surpassest the knowledge of the wise:
Rejoice, Thou Who givest light to the minds of the faithful!
Rejoice, Thou Bride Unwedded!

Kontakion 3

The power of the Most High then overshadowed the Virgin for conception, and showed Her fruitful womb as a sweet meadow to all who wish to reap salvation, as they sing:
Alleluia!

Ikos 3

Having received God into Her womb, the Virgin hastened to Elizabeth whose unborn babe at once recognized Her embrace, rejoiced, and with leaps of joy as songs, cried to the Theotokos:

Rejoice, branch of an Unfading Sprout:
Rejoice, acquisition of Immortal Fruit!
Rejoice, laborer that laborest for the Lover of mankind:
Rejoice, Thou Who givest birth to the Planter of our life!
Rejoice, cornland yielding a rich crop of mercies:
Rejoice, table bearing a wealth of forgiveness!
Rejoice, Thou Who makest to bloom the garden of delight:
Rejoice, Thou Who preparest a haven for souls!
Rejoice, acceptable incense of intercession:
Rejoice, propitiation of all the world!

Rejoice, good will of God to mortals:
Rejoice, boldness of mortals before God!
Rejoice, Thou Bride Unwedded!

Kontakion 4

Having within a tempest of doubting thoughts, the chaste Joseph was troubled. For knowing Thee to have no husband, he suspected a secret union, O blameless one. But having learned that Thy conception was of the Holy Spirit, he said: Alleluia!

Ikos 4

While the angels were chanting, the shepherds heard of 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 singing to Her, they cried:

Rejoice, Mother of the Lamb and the Shepherd:
Rejoice, fold of rational sheep!
Rejoice, torment of invisible enemies:
Rejoice, opening of the gates of Paradise!
Rejoice, for the things of Heaven rejoice with the earth:
Rejoice, for the things of earth join chorus with the heavens!
Rejoice, never-silent mouth of the Apostles:
Rejoice, invincible courage of the passion-bearers!
Rejoice, firm support of faith:
Rejoice, radiant token of Grace!
Rejoice, Thou through whom hades was stripped bare:
Rejoice, Thou through whom we are clothed with glory!
Rejoice, Thou Bride Unwedded!

Kontakion 5

Having sighted the divinely-moving star, the Magi followed its radiance; and holding it as a lamp, by it they sought a powerful King; and having reached the Unreachable One, they rejoiced, shouting to Him: Alleluia!

Ikos 5

The sons of the Chaldees saw in the hands of the Virgin Him Who with His hand made man. And knowing Him to be the Master, even though He had taken the form of a servant, they hastened to serve Him with gifts, and to cry to Her Who is blessed:

Rejoice, Mother of the Unsetting Star:

Rejoice, dawn of the mystic day!

Rejoice, Thou Who didst extinguish the furnace of error:

Rejoice, Thou Who didst enlighten the initiates of the Trinity!

Rejoice, Thou Who didst banish from power the inhuman tyrant:

Rejoice, Thou Who didst show us Christ the Lord, the Lover of mankind!

Rejoice, Thou Who redeemest from pagan worship:

Rejoice, Thou Who dost drag us from the works of mire!

Rejoice, Thou Who didst quench the worship of fire:

Rejoice, Thou Who rescuest from the flame of the passions!

Rejoice, guide of the faithful to chastity:

Rejoice, gladness of all generations!

Rejoice, Thou Bride Unwedded!

Kontakion 6

Having become God-bearing heralds, the Magi returned to Babylon, having fulfilled Thy prophecy; and having preached Thee to all as the Christ, they left Herod as a babblers who knew not how to sing: Alleluia!

Ikos 6

By shining in Egypt the light of truth, Thou didst dispel the darkness of falsehood; for its idols fell, O Savior, unable to endure Thy strength; and those who were delivered from them cried to the Theotokos:

Rejoice, uplifting of men:

Rejoice, downfall of demons!

Rejoice, Thou who didst trample down the dominion of delusion:

Rejoice, Thou who didst unmask the fraud of idols!

Rejoice, sea that didst drown the Pharaoh of the mind:
Rejoice, rock that doth refresh those thirsting for life!
Rejoice, pillar of fire that guideth those in darkness:
Rejoice, shelter of the world broader than a cloud!
Rejoice, sustenance replacing manna:
Rejoice, minister of holy delight!
Rejoice, land of promise:
Rejoice, Thou from whom floweth milk and honey!
Rejoice, Thou Bride Unwedded!

Kontakion 7

When Symeon was about to depart this age of delusion, Thou wast brought as a Babe to him, but Thou wast recognized by him as perfect God also; wherefore, marveling at Thine ineffable wisdom, he cried: Alleluia!

Ikos 7

The Creator showed us a new creation when He appeared to us who came from Him. For He sprang from a seedless womb, and kept it incorrupt as it was, that seeing the miracle we might sing to Her, crying out:

Rejoice, flower of incorruptibility:
Rejoice, crown of continence!
Rejoice, Thou from whom shineth the Archetype of the Resurrection:
Rejoice, Thou Who revealest the life of the angels!
Rejoice, tree of shining fruit, whereby the faithful are nourished:
Rejoice, tree of goodly shade by which many are sheltered!
Rejoice, Thou that has carried in Thy womb the Redeemer of captives:
Rejoice, Thou that gavest birth to the Guide of those astray!
Rejoice, supplication before the Righteous Judge:
Rejoice, forgiveness of many sins!
Rejoice, robe of boldness for the naked:
Rejoice, love that doth vanquish all desire!
Rejoice, Thou Bride Unwedded!

Kontakion 8

Having beheld a strange nativity, let us estrange ourselves from the world and transport our minds to Heaven; for the Most High God appeared on earth as a lowly man, because He wished to draw to the heights them that cry to Him: Alleluia!

Ikos 8

Wholly present was the Inexpressible Word among those here below, yet in no way absent from those on high; for this was a divine condescension and not a change of place, and His birth was from a God-receiving Virgin Who heard these things:

Rejoice, container of the Uncontainable God:

Rejoice, door of solemn mystery!

Rejoice, report doubtful to unbelievers:

Rejoice, undoubted boast of the faithful!

Rejoice, all-holy chariot of Him Who sitteth upon the Cherubim:

Rejoice, all-glorious temple of Him Who is above the Seraphim!

Rejoice, Thou Who hast united opposites:

Rejoice, Thou Who hast joined virginity and motherhood!

Rejoice, Thou through whom transgression hath been absolved:

Rejoice, Thou through whom Paradise is opened!

Rejoice, key to the kingdom of Christ:

Rejoice, hope of eternal good things!

Rejoice, Thou Bride Unwedded!

Kontakion 9

All the angels were amazed at the great act of Thine incarnation; for they saw the Unapproachable God as a man approachable to all, abiding with us, and hearing from all: Alleluia!

Ikos 9

We see most eloquent orators mute as fish before Thee, O Theotokos; for they are at a loss to tell how Thou remainest a Virgin and could bear a child. But we, marveling at this mystery, cry out faithfully:

Rejoice, receptacle of the Wisdom of God:
Rejoice, treasury of His Providence!
Rejoice, Thou Who showest philosophers to be fools:
Rejoice, Thou Who exposest the learned as irrational!
Rejoice, for the clever critics have become foolish:
Rejoice, for the writers of myths have faded away!
Rejoice, Thou Who didst rend the webs of the Athenians:
Rejoice, Thou Who didst fill the nets of the fishermen!
Rejoice, Thou Who drawest us from the depths of ignorance:
Rejoice, Thou Who enlightenest many with knowledge!
Rejoice, ship for those who wish to be saved:
Rejoice, harbor for sailors on the sea of life!
Rejoice, Thou Bride Unwedded!

Kontakion 10

Desiring to save the world, He that is the Creator of all came to it according to His Own promise, and He that, as God, is the Shepherd, for our sake appeared unto us as a man; for like calling unto like, as God He heareth: Alleluia!
Then the Fourth Stasis:

Ikos 10

A bulwark art Thou to virgins, and to all that flee unto Thee, O Virgin Theotokos; for the Maker of Heaven and earth prepared Thee, O Most-pure one, dwelt in Thy womb, and taught all to call to Thee:

Rejoice, pillar of virginity:
Rejoice, gate of salvation!
Rejoice, leader of mental formation:
Rejoice, bestower of divine good!
Rejoice, for Thou didst renew those conceived in shame:
Rejoice, for Thou gavest wisdom to those robbed of their minds!
Rejoice, Thou Who didst foil the corrupter of minds:
Rejoice, Thou Who gavest birth to the Sower of purity!
Rejoice, bridechamber of a seedless marriage:

Rejoice, Thou Who dost wed the faithful to the Lord!
Rejoice, good nourisher of virgins:
Rejoice, adorer of holy souls as for marriage!
Rejoice, Thou Bride Unwedded!

Kontakion 11

Every hymn is defeated that trieth to encompass the multitude of Thy many compassions; for if we offer to Thee, O Holy King, songs equal in number to the sand, nothing have we done worthy of that which Thou hast given us who shout to Thee: Alleluia!

Ikos 11

We behold the holy Virgin, a shining lamp appearing to those in darkness; for, kindling the Immaterial Light, She guideth all to divine knowledge, She illumineth minds with radiance, and is honored by our shouting these things:

Rejoice, ray of the noetic Sun:
Rejoice, radiance of the Unsetting Light!
Rejoice, lightning that enlightenest our souls:
Rejoice, thunder that terrifiest our enemies!
Rejoice, for Thou didst cause the refulgent Light to dawn:
Rejoice, for Thou didst cause the river of many streams to gush forth!
Rejoice, Thou Who paintest the image of the font:
Rejoice, Thou Who blottest out the stain of sin!
Rejoice, laver that washest the conscience clean:
Rejoice, cup that drawest up joy!
Rejoice, aroma of the sweet fragrance of Christ:
Rejoice, life of mystical gladness!
Rejoice, Thou Bride Unwedded!

Kontakion 12

When the Absolver 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 handwriting of their sins, He heareth this from all: Alleluia!

Ikos 12

While singing to Thine Offspring, we all praise Thee as a living temple, O Theotokos; for the Lord Who holdeth all things in His hand dwelt in Thy womb, and He sanctified and glorified Thee, and taught all to cry to Thee:

Rejoice, tabernacle of God the Word:
Rejoice, Holy one, holier than the Holies!
Rejoice, ark gilded by the Spirit:
Rejoice, inexhaustible treasury of life!
Rejoice, precious diadem of pious kings:
Rejoice, venerable boast of reverent priests!
Rejoice, unshakable fortress of the Church:
Rejoice, inviolable wall of the kingdom!
Rejoice, Thou through whom victories are obtained:
Rejoice, Thou through whom foes fall prostrate!
Rejoice, healing of my flesh:
Rejoice, salvation of my soul!
Rejoice, Thou Bride Unwedded!

Kontakion 13

O all-praised Mother Who didst bear the Word, the Holiest of all Holies, accept now our offering, and deliver us from all misfortune, and rescue from the torment to come those who cry out to thee: Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! *(This Kontakion is repeated three times)*

An archangel was sent from Heaven to say to the Theotokos: Rejoice! And beholding Thee, O Lord, taking bodily form, he was amazed and with his bodiless voice he stood crying to Her such things as these:

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Rejoice, Thou through whom the curse will cease!
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Rejoice, redemption of the tears of Eve!
Rejoice, height inaccessible to human thoughts:
Rejoice, depth undiscernible even for the eyes of angels!

Rejoice, for Thou art the throne of the King:
Rejoice, for Thou bearest Him Who beareth all!
Rejoice, star that causeth the Sun to appear:
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