

Akathist to the Theotokos

Rescuer of the Perishing & Joy of All Who Sorrow

Kontakion 1

To thee, our mighty leader in battle, we thy servants offer hymns of victory and thanksgiving, for we have been delivered from eternal death through the grace of Christ our God Who was born of thee and through thy maternal intercession with Him. Since thou possesses power invincible, set us free from every peril and besetting sorrow, as we cry: Rejoice, Mother of God and Virgin full of grace, Rescuer of the perishing and Joy of all who sorrow.

Ikos 1

A prince of the angels was sent from heaven to say to the Mother of God: Rejoice, heralding the joy which would be born of her through the divine Incarnation of Christ, joy to the whole world lost in sorrow. Therefore, we also, who are weighed down by sins but in thee have received the hope of salvation, cry to thee tenderly:

Rejoice, good will of God towards sinners.
Rejoice, powerful advocate before the Lord God for the repentant.
Rejoice, raising of fallen Adam.
Rejoice, redemption of the tears of Eve.
Rejoice, remover of the stain of sins.
Rejoice, laver that washeth the conscience clean.
Rejoice, thou who gavest birth to the Deliverer Who freely cleanseth our iniquities.
Rejoice, all-wondrous reconciliation of all with God.
Rejoice, bridge that truly conveyest us from death to life.
Rejoice, thou that hast saved the world from the flood of sin.
Rejoice, heavenly ladder by which the Lord came down to us.
Rejoice, cause of deification for all.
Rejoice, Mother of God and Virgin full of grace, Rescuer of the perishing and Joy of all who sorrow.

Kontakion 2

Seeing the streams of miracles which pour from thy holy icon, O gracious Mother of God, since thou art the good helper of those who pray,

the defender of the offended, the hope of the hopeless, the consolation of the sad, the rescuer of the naked, the chastity of virgins, the guide of strangers, the help of laborers, the sight of the blind, the good hearing of the deaf and the healing of the sick, we cry out to God in gratitude for thee: Alleluia!

Ikos 2

Seeking to know that which cannot be known concerning the cruel afflictions which befall us, we flee to thee, O Mother and Virgin, needing consolation. As thou art good, teach us to recognize therein the merciful Providence of thy good Son for the salvation of our souls and for purification from our many sins, that we may joyfully cry to thee:

Rejoice, calm haven of the tempest-tossed.

Rejoice, sure support of doubters.

Rejoice, sole mother of mercy.

Rejoice, swift helper of those who are in misfortunes and trials.

Rejoice, thou who by means of afflictions dost purge our sins.

Rejoice, thou who by means of sadness dost cure our spiritual infirmities.

Rejoice, thou who teachest us to despise the vain joys of this world.

Rejoice, thou who upliftest our minds from this world to the otherworldly.

Rejoice, thou who drawest us from earthly love to heavenly, divine love.

Rejoice, thou who in the midst of our very sufferings grantest us consolation and grace-filled life.

Rejoice, promise of eternal blessings.

Rejoice, mediatrix of eternal joy.

Rejoice, Mother of God and Virgin full of grace, Rescuer of the perishing and Joy of all who sorrow.

Kontakion 3

With power from on high, O gracious Lady, strengthen me who am infirm in body and soul, and vouchsafe me thy visitation and care, dispelling the darkness of despondency and sorrow that besetteth me, that, being saved by thee, I may unceasingly cry to God: Alleluia!

Ikos 3

Having an unutterable wealth of loving-kindness, thou dost stretch forth a hand of help to all who sorrow, curing their illnesses and healing their passions. Despise not me also, O gracious Lady, as I lie on my bed of infirmity and cry to thee:

Rejoice, priceless treasure of mercy.

Rejoice, only hope of the desperate.

Rejoice, healing of my body.

Rejoice, salvation of my soul.

Rejoice, steadfast fortress of the infirm.

Rejoice, helper and strengthener of the ailing.

Rejoice, thou who by thine intercession dost speedily appease the wrath of God.

Rejoice, thou who by the power of thy prayers dost tame our passions.

Rejoice, sight of the blind, hearing of the deaf.

Rejoice, walk of the lame, speech of the mute.

Rejoice, hope-filled visitation of the sick.

Rejoice, for through thee grace-filled healings are bestowed upon all the infirm according to the measure of their faith.

Rejoice, Mother of God and Virgin full of grace, Rescuer of the perishing and Joy of all who sorrow.

Kontakion 4

A storm of many trials and tribulations doth beleaguer me, and I can no longer bear its assaults. As thou art the merciful Mother of my Savior and God, lift up thy hands in prayer to thy Son, that He may regard the dire affliction of my heart and lift me up from the depths of desperation, as I cry to Him: Alleluia!

Ikos 4

When thou heardest the prophecy of the righteous Simeon: Thine own soul a sword shall pierce, thou didst keep all these words in thy heart, O Most-Holy Virgin and Mother, understanding that the joy of a mother's heart in her children is mixed with many sorrows in this world.

Therefore, as to one tested in everything and able to share the suffering of a mother's sorrow, we cry to thee:

Rejoice, thou who gavest birth to Christ the Savior, the Joy of the world.

Rejoice, thou who deliverest the world from sorrows.

Rejoice, thou who didst endure calumny and slander against thy Son.

Rejoice, thou who didst partake of His sufferings.

Rejoice, consolation of sorrowing mothers.

Rejoice, grace-filled guardian of their children.

Rejoice, ready help for us in misfortunes.

Rejoice, correction of the erring.

Rejoice, nourishment of infants.

Rejoice, instruction of youths.

Rejoice, Mother of the orphaned.

Rejoice, champion of widows.

Rejoice, Mother of God and Virgin full of grace, Rescuer of the perishing and Joy of all who sorrow.

Kontakion 5

Seeing the divinely-flowing Blood of thy Son on the Cross, which was shed for our salvation, thou as a handmaid of the Lord didst humbly submit to the will of the Father Who is in heaven, thus giving us an example of patience and suffering in affliction, that we, when we are in the furnace of trials and woes, might cry humbly to God: Alleluia!

Ikos 5

When thy Son and God saw thee crucified with Him in heart and standing by the Cross with His beloved disciple, He said: Behold thy Mother; thus making all who believe in Him thy children. As partakers of the sorrow and suffering of thy Son, we have in thee a kind Mother, and in our affliction we place all our hope in thee, and we cry to thee:

Rejoice, Mother of the Christian people.

Rejoice, thou who didst adopt us at the Cross of thy Son.

Rejoice, thou who hast joined God with man.

Rejoice, thou who hast united the faithful to their Lord.

Rejoice, ewe that hast brought forth the Lamb of God Who taketh away the sins of the world.

Rejoice, cup that drawest up joy from the fountain of immortality.
Rejoice, surety of salvation for sinners.
Rejoice, search for the lost.
Rejoice, unexpected joy of sinners.
Rejoice, raising of the fallen.
Rejoice, healer of all diseases.
Rejoice, soothing of every care.
Rejoice, Mother of God and Virgin full of grace, Rescuer of the perishing and Joy of all who sorrow.

Kontakion 6

All the ends of the inhabited earth proclaim thy mercies, O Mother of God, since thou shelterest all Christian people under thy venerable protection; unceasingly dost thou pray to Christ the Savior for them, and thou deliverest from all evils thy well-pleasing and God-fearing servants, who with faith cry out to God: Alleluia!

Ikos 6

Radiant grace hath shone from thy most marvelous icon, O Mother of God. Falling down before it with tears, we beseech thee: Drive away the cloud of trials which have come upon us, that we may cry to thee joyfully:

Rejoice, thou who bringest the supplications of the faithful to thy Son and God.

Rejoice, thou who thyself intercedes for us at the throne of thy Son.

Rejoice, intercessor with God, who savest the world from disasters.

Rejoice, defender of the Christian people, given us by God.

Rejoice, wood of shady leaves, where many shelter.

Rejoice, tree of good fruit, on which the faithful feed.

Rejoice, protection of the world, broader than a cloud.

Rejoice, promised land, from which flow milk and honey.

Rejoice, bright cloud, unceasingly illuminating the faithful.

Rejoice, pillar of fire, guiding the elect to their heavenly inheritance.

Rejoice, field yielding an abundance of bounties.

Rejoice, bestower of every goodness.

Rejoice, Mother of God and Virgin full of grace, Rescuer of the perishing and Joy of all who sorrow.

Kontakion 7

Wishing to make known streams of miracles from thy icon, the Rescuer of the Perishing, O Lady, thou hast bidden those in sorrow and

ruin to perform prayer services before it, and, when they have received healing, to proclaim to all the mercies shown on account of this icon, that the source of grace-filled healings might not be concealed from those in need. Therefore, we also do not hide thy benefactions, but gratefully glorify God and cry to Him: Alleluia!

Ikos 7

A new pool of Siloam, greater than that of old, is revealed: thy temple, O Most-Pure Lady, in which we venerate thy wonder-working icon. For thou grantest bodily health not only once in the year and then only to those who enter first, but unceasingly thou curest all manner of sickness and all manner of disease, spiritual and physical, for those who with faith and love flee to thee; therefore we cry to thee:

Rejoice, pool into which all our afflictions are plunged.

Rejoice, cup, wherein we receive joy and salvation.

Rejoice, rock that hast given drink to those thirsting for life.

Rejoice, wood that makest sweet the salty waters of the sea of life.

Rejoice, inexhaustible fountain of life-creating water.

Rejoice, laver that washest away the filth of sin.

Rejoice, sweetening of our afflictions.

Rejoice, relief from our cares.

Rejoice, curing of our illnesses.

Rejoice, deliverance from calamities.

Rejoice, thou who dost trample down demons.

Rejoice, thou who puttest the enemy to shame.

Rejoice, Mother of God and Virgin full of grace, Rescuer of the perishing and Joy of all who sorrow.

Kontakion 8

Strangers and foreigners are we all on this earth, enduring perils from enemies, perils from our own countrymen and perils from false brethren, in many deprivations and afflictions, as the Apostle saith. Do thou, therefore, O Lady, as our good guide on our way, direct us to a calm

haven, and entreat thy Son that we be granted forgiveness of our sins before the end, that we may unceasingly cry to God: Alleluia!

Ikos 8

Our whole life on this earth is sickly and full of grief from slander, offences, reviling and other multifarious trials and woes. Our bodies are weak and our spirits are ailing. We flee to thee, therefore, O Mother of God, and we fall down before thy most pure icon. Fill our sorrowing hearts with joy and gladness, that we may cry to thee:

Rejoice, guide on our journey, who leadest us to our heavenly homeland.

Rejoice, Queen of heaven and earth, who openest to us the gates of paradise.

Rejoice, merciful Lady, who showest us mercy.

Rejoice, Mistress of God's house, who orderest our life aright.

Rejoice, dewy fleece, which Gideon saw of old.

Rejoice, blessed womb, which didst contain God Whom nothing can contain.

Rejoice, unburnt bush.

Rejoice, indestructible wall.

Rejoice, life-giving fountain.

Rejoice, unfading flower.

Rejoice, softening of wicked hearts.

Rejoice, tenderness of the good.

Rejoice, Mother of God and Virgin full of grace, Rescuer of the perishing and Joy of all who sorrow.

Kontakion 9

All of life's sweetness in this world hath its share of sadness. Fame is fleeting, riches run out, health and beauty wither away, friends and neighbors are taken away by death. But sweeten our sorrows, O cause of blessings, bestowing thine incorruptible joy upon us as we cry to God: Alleluia!

Ikos 9

Wordy orators are at a loss for words with which to comfort those who sorrow and are perishing, but do thou thyself, O Lady, speak comfort to our hearts, driving away the clouds of our grief and the darkness of our

despondency with rays of thy grace, that we may call to thee:

Rejoice, thou who hast rejoiced all Christians by hope in thee.

Rejoice, joy and pacification of the world.

Rejoice, bestower of grace divine.

Rejoice, hope of eternal blessings.

Rejoice, ship of all who would be saved.

Rejoice, harbor amidst life's voyages.

Rejoice, faithful guardian of those who after God trust in thee.

Rejoice, robe for those bereft of confidence.

Rejoice, protectress and confirmation of all.

Rejoice, fortification of all the faithful and their sacred refuge.

Rejoice, help of those who faithfully pray to thee.

Rejoice, radiant recognition of grace.

Rejoice, Mother of God and Virgin full of grace, Rescuer of the perishing and Joy of all who sorrow.

Kontakion 10

Wishing to save the human race from eternal torment and unremitting sorrow, the Lord Who loveth mankind made His dwelling in thy ever-virginal womb and gave thee, His Mother, to those who are perishing as their help, protection and defense, that thou mightest be the consolation of the sad, the rescuer of the perishing, the rejoicing of the sorrowful and the hope of the desperate, by thine intercession delivering us from everlasting punishment and leading to heavenly happiness all who faithfully cry to thy Son and our God: Alleluia!

Ikos 10

A wall art thou for virgins and for all who flee to thy protection, O Virgin Mother of God. Therefore, we beseech thee: Defend, protect, and preserve all who are perishing helplessly from temptations, oppression and woes, yet call upon thee with faith:

Rejoice, pillar of virginity.

Rejoice, chosen vessel of purity and chastity.

Rejoice, special crown of those who wage war against the flesh by chastity.

Rejoice, giver of eternal joy to those who follow the good sorrow of the monastic life.

Rejoice, thou who takest away the fire of the passions.

Rejoice, thou who dispellest the darkness of temptations.
Rejoice, instructress of chastity.
Rejoice, bulwark of purity.
Rejoice, uplifting of men.
Rejoice, thou by whom we have risen from our fall.
Rejoice, firm foundation of faith.
Rejoice, acceptable incense of intercession.
Rejoice, Mother of God and Virgin full of grace, Rescuer of the
perishing and Joy of all who sorrow.

Kontakion 11

Tenderest songs do we thy servants offer thee, O Mother of God, the
all-powerful defender of our people. Relieve the pains of my much-
sighing soul; appease the wrath of God which is justly aroused against us
because of our sins; and deliver us from every cruel affliction and pain, as
we cry to God of thee: Alleluia!

Ikos 11

Thy most pure icon, O Lady, hath appeared to us as a light-bearing
lamp, kindled by the coal of God's grace, for our sanctification and
consolation. Venerating it with love and falling down before it with faith,
we cry to thee:

Rejoice, thou who dost deliver us from all perils by thy powerful
mediation.
Rejoice, thou who dost defend us from earthquake and flood.
Rejoice, thou who dost satisfy our spiritual and physical hunger.
Rejoice, thou who dost extinguish fire with the dew of thy prayers.
Rejoice, thou who savest us from deadly calamity.
Rejoice, mighty helper in battle.
Rejoice, thou who shieldest us from foreign invasion.
Rejoice, thou who wardest off civil wars.
Rejoice, easy transport for them that sail the waters.
Rejoice, good guide of wayfarers.
Rejoice, liberation of captives.
Rejoice, swift deliverance from God's impending righteous wrath.
Rejoice, Mother of God and Virgin full of grace, Rescuer of the
perishing and Joy of all who sorrow.

Kontakion 12

When thou didst desire to give our people a pledge of grace, O Mother of God, thou didst reveal to us thy healing icon, from which streams of miracles are poured forth upon those who approach with faith; illnesses are cured and afflictions are alleviated. Therefore, we joyfully cry to God of thee: Alleluia!

Ikos 12

As we sing of thy mercies and miracles, O Mother of God, we all praise thee as our steadfast advocate, and with compunction we bow down before thee who prayest for us, and we ask: Lift up thy hands to thy Son, that His loving-kindness may be with us constantly and unfailingly both in this life and after our death as we call to thee:

Rejoice, our hope which cannot be put to shame, in this life and after our passing.

Rejoice, thou who grantest them who trust in thee a peaceful end of this life.

Rejoice, our hope and defense on judgment day.

Rejoice, pleader before the just Judge.

Rejoice, deliverance from eternal Gehenna.

Rejoice, hope of eternal salvation.

Rejoice, key of Christ's kingdom.

Rejoice, door of paradise.

Rejoice, bridge leading to heaven.

Rejoice, refuge of all repentant sinners and their gracious advocate.

Rejoice, joy of angels.

Rejoice, glory and consolation of all the just.

Rejoice, Mother of God and Virgin full of grace, Rescuer of the perishing and Joy of all who sorrow.

Kontakion 13

O all-hymned Mother, highly favored by God, who didst bear Christ our King and God to the joy of heaven and earth, hear the voice of thy servants who are sorrowful and perishing. Accept this our small supplication; deliver us from woes, afflictions and assaults; heal our illnesses; destroy wrongful slander; dispel from us all malice and enmity; and rescue from torment to come all those that cry of thee: Alleluia! (3x)

Ikos 1

A prince of the angels was sent from heaven to say to the Mother of God: Rejoice, heralding the joy which would be born of her through the divine Incarnation of Christ, joy to the whole world lost in sorrow. Therefore, we also, who are weighed down by sins but in thee have received the hope of salvation, cry to thee tenderly:

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Now, we pray before Her holy icon:

First Prayer

O Most-Holy Lady, Mother of God, higher than the cherubim and more honorable than the seraphim, Maiden chosen of God, Rescuer of the perishing and Joy of all who sorrow, grant consolation even to us who are in affliction and ruin. Beside thee we have no other refuge or help. Thou alone art the Mediatrix of our joy and art able to help us, as the Mother of God and Mother of mercy, who standest before the throne of the Most-Holy Trinity; for no one who doth flee to thee departeth in shame. Hear us also, therefore, as we now fall down before thine icon in the day of sadness and ruin and pray to thee with tears: Drive away from us the afflictions and woes which beset us in this temporal life; by thine all-powerful mediation obtain that we may not be deprived of eternal and unending joy in the kingdom of thy Son and our God, to Whom we offer glory, honor and worship, now and ever, and unto the ages of ages. Amen.

Second Prayer

My Queen most gracious, my hope, O Mother of God, refuge of orphans and intercessor for wanderers, Rescuer of the perishing and Joy of all who sorrow, protectress of the injured, thou seest mine affliction. Help me, for I am feeble; direct me for I am wandering. Thou knowest mine injury; loose me here, as thou wilt, since I have no other help but thee, no other intercessor or gracious comforter, only thee, O Mother of God, that thou mayest keep and protect me unto the ages of ages. Amen.