

# Akathist to the Most Holy Theotokos

*Prepared for Personal or Small Group Use, in the Absence of a Priest*

*(The person or persons who are to pray the service gather before an Icon of the Most Holy Theotokos, the Every-Virgin Mary. They compose themselves, and then each make three bows before the icon, saying quietly to themselves with each bow, "O God, cleanse me a sinner, and have mercy on me." Then, the service begins, as follows.)*

**Reader:** In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**Reader:** Amen.

Glory to You, O God, Glory to You.

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. *(3 times)*

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. Lord have mercy. Lord have mercy.

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

**People:** 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.

**Reader:** Amen.

Lord have mercy. *(12 times)*

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

Come, let us worship God our King!

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

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

## ***(Psalm 50/51)***

Have mercy on me, O God, according to Your steadfast love; according to Your 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 You, You only, have I sinned, and done that which is evil in Your sight, so that You are justified in Your sentence and blameless in Your judgment.

Behold! I was brought forth in iniquity and in sin did my mother conceive me. Behold! You desire 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 You have broken rejoice. Hide Your 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 Your presence and take not Your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of Your salvation and uphold me with a willing Spirit. Then I will teach transgressors Your ways and sinners will return to You.

Deliver me from blood-guiltiness, O God, You God of my salvation, and my tongue will sing aloud of Your deliverance. O Lord, open my lips, and my mouth shall show forth Your praise. For You have no delight in sacrifice; were I to give a burnt offering, You would not be pleased. The sacrifice acceptable to God is a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, You will not despise.

Do good to Zion in Your good pleasure; rebuild the walls of Jerusalem. Then will You delight in right sacrifices, in burnt offerings and whole burnt offerings; then bulls will be offered on Your altar.

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 I** *(sung or chanted three times)*

#### **tone 8**

O VICTORIOUS LEADER OF TRIUMPHANT HOSTS,  
WE YOUR SERVANTS, DELIVERED FROM EVIL,  
SING OUR GRATEFUL THANKS TO YOU, O THEOTOKOS  
AS YOU POSSESS INVINCIBLE MIGHT, SET US FREE FROM EVERY CALAMITY, //  
SO THAT WE MAY SING: REJOICE, UNWEDDED BRIDE!

#### **IKOS I**

A prince of the angels was sent from heaven to greet the Theotokos, saying: Rejoice! Seeing You, Lord, take bodily form at his bodiless word, he stood in awe and cried:

REJOICE, FOR THROUGH YOU JOY WILL BE ENKINDLED;  
REJOICE, FOR THROUGH YOU THE CURSE WILL BE QUENCHED!  
REJOICE, RECALL OF FALLEN ADAM;  
REJOICE, DELIVERANCE OF WEEPING EVE!  
REJOICE, HEIGHT UNATTAINABLE TO HUMAN REASON;  
REJOICE, ABYSS UNSEARCHABLE BY ANGELIC EYES!  
REJOICE, FOR YOU ARE THE THRONE OF THE KING;  
REJOICE, FOR YOU BEAR HIM WHO UPHOLDS ALL THINGS!  
REJOICE, STAR GIVING RISE TO THE SUN;  
REJOICE, WOMB GIVING FLESH TO GOD!  
REJOICE, FOR THROUGH YOU CREATION IS RENEWED;  
REJOICE, FOR THROUGH YOU THE CREATOR BECOMES A NEWBORN CHILD!!!  
REJOICE, O UNWEDDED BRIDE!

#### **KONTAKION II**

AS SHE BEHELD HERSELF IN ALL HER PURITY,  
THE HOLY LADY CRIED OUT WITH BOLDNESS TO GABRIEL:  
STRANGE ARE YOUR WORDS TO ME, AND HARD FOR MY SOUL!  
HOW DO YOU SPEAK OF CHILDBIRTH FROM A CONCEPTION THAT IS  
SEEDLESS, //  
CRYING: ALLELUIA!

## IKOS II

Desiring to know what is beyond knowledge, the Virgin cried to the ministering angel: Tell me, how can a child be born of my virginal womb? He answered in fear, crying:

REJOICE, INITIATE OF GOD'S SECRET COUNSEL;  
REJOICE, BELIEF IN WHAT MUST BE GUARDED BY SILENCE!  
REJOICE, FIRST OF CHRIST'S MIRACLES;  
REJOICE, CROWN AND FULFILLMENT OF HIS TEACHINGS!  
REJOICE, HEAVENLY LADDER BY WHICH GOD DESCENDED;  
REJOICE, BRIDGE LEADING US FROM EARTH TO HEAVEN!  
REJOICE, GREATLY GLORIFIED WONDER OF ANGELS;  
REJOICE, BITTERLY LAMENTED WOUND OF DEMONS!  
REJOICE, FOR YOU SHALL INEFFABLY BRING FORTH THE LIGHT;  
REJOICE, FOR YOU HAVE REVEALED THE MYSTERY TO NONE!  
REJOICE, WISDOM SURPASSING THE KNOWLEDGE OF THE WISE;  
REJOICE, DAWN ENLIGHTENING THE MINDS OF THE FAITHFUL!//  
REJOICE, O UNWEDDED BRIDE!

## KONTAKION III

THEN THE POWER OF THE MOST HIGH  
OVERSHADOWED THE UNWEDDED HANDMAIDEN SO THAT SHE MIGHT  
CONCEIVE.  
HE MADE HER FRUITFUL WOMB A FERTILE FIELD//  
FOR ALL WHO LONG TO REAP THE HARVEST OF SALVATION,  
CRYING: ALLELUIA!

## IKOS III

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

REJOICE, VINE BRINGING FORTH AN UNWITHERING BRANCH;  
REJOICE, ORCHARD OF PURE FRUIT!  
REJOICE, FOR YOU TEND THE HUSBANDMAN, THE LOVER OF MANKIND;  
REJOICE, FOR YOU BEAR THE GARDENER WHO CULTIVATES OUR LIFE!  
REJOICE, EARTH YIELDING A RICH HARVEST OF COMPASSION;  
REJOICE, TABLE LADEN WITH ABUNDANT MERCY!  
REJOICE, FOR THROUGH YOU THE FIELDS OF EDEN FLOWER ONCE AGAIN;  
REJOICE, FOR YOU MAKE READY A HAVEN FOR OUR SOULS!  
REJOICE, ACCEPTABLE INCENSE OF INTERCESSIONS;  
REJOICE, PROPITIATION FOR THE WHOLE WORLD!  
REJOICE, LOVING-KINDNESS OF GOD TO MORTALS;  
REJOICE, FREEDOM OF MORTALS TO APPROACH GOD!//  
REJOICE, O UNWEDDED BRIDE!

## KONTAKION IV

TOSSED WITHIN BY A STORM OF DOUBTS,  
SOBER JOSEPH WAS GREATLY TROUBLED.  
KNOWING YOU, BLAMELESS VIRGIN, AS UNWEDDED,  
HE FEARED A STOLEN UNION.  
BUT WHEN HE LEARNED THAT YOUR CONCEIVING WAS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT, //  
HE CRIED: ALLELUIA!

## IKOS IV

The shepherds heard the angels glorify Christ's coming in the flesh.  
They ran with haste to the Shepherd, and beheld Him as a spotless lamb  
pastured at Mary's breast. They sang praises to her, saying:

REJOICE, MOTHER OF THE LAMB AND SHEPHERD;  
REJOICE, FOLD OF SPIRITUAL SHEEP!  
REJOICE, PROTECTION AGAINST UNSEEN ENEMIES;  
REJOICE, KEY TO THE GATES OF PARADISE!  
REJOICE, FOR HEAVEN EXULTS WITH EARTH;  
REJOICE, FOR EARTH DANCES WITH HEAVEN!  
REJOICE, NEVER-SILENT BOAST OF THE APOSTLES;  
REJOICE, INVINCIBLE COURAGE OF THE 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 V

WHEN THEY HAD SEEN THE STAR POINTING TO GOD,  
THE MAGI FOLLOWED ITS LIGHT, KEEPING IT BEFORE THEM AS A BEACON.  
WITH ITS HELP THEY SOUGHT THE ALMIGHTY KING,  
AND REACHED THE UNATTAINABLE! //  
THEY REJOICED AND CRIED OUT TO HIM: ALLELUIA!

## IKOS V

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

REJOICE, MOTHER OF THE NEVER-SETTING STAR;  
REJOICE, BRIGHT DAWN OF THE MYSTICAL DAY!  
REJOICE, FOR YOU HAVE QUENCHED THE FURNACE OF DECEPTION;  
REJOICE, FOR YOU ILLUMINE ALL WHO LOVE THE MYSTERY OF THE TRINITY!  
REJOICE, FOR YOU HAVE CAST DOWN FROM HIS DOMINION THE HATER OF MANKIND;  
REJOICE, FOR YOU HAVE REVEALED CHRIST THE LORD, THE LOVER OF MANKIND!  
REJOICE, DELIVERANCE FROM THE WORSHIP OF PAGAN IDOLS;

REJOICE, LIBERATION FROM THE FILTH OF SIN!  
REJOICE, FOR YOU HAVE QUENCHED THE WORSHIP OF FIRE;  
REJOICE, FOR YOU HAVE RELEASED US FROM THE FLAMES OF PASSION!  
REJOICE, GUIDE OF THE FAITHFUL TO CHASTITY;  
REJOICE, GLADNESS OF ALL GENERATIONS!!!  
REJOICE, O UNWEDDED BRIDE!

#### **KONTAKION VI**

THE MAGI RETURNED TO BABYLON, NOW BECOME GOD'S MESSENGERS.  
THEY FULFILLED THE PROPHECY CONCERNING YOU.  
PREACHING YOU TO ALL AS CHRIST, THEY LEFT HEROD TO HIS RAVING, //  
NOT KNOWING HOW TO SING: ALLELUIA!

#### **IKOS VI**

Shining upon Egypt with the light of truth, You dispelled the darkness  
of falsehood. For the idols of that land fell, unable to endure Your  
power, Savior, and all who were delivered from them sang to the  
Theotokos:

REJOICE, RESTORATION OF THE HUMAN RACE;  
REJOICE, DOWNFALL OF DEMONS!  
REJOICE, FOR YOU HAVE TRAMPLED THE DELUSION OF ERROR;  
REJOICE, FOR YOU HAVE EXPOSED THE SNARES OF IDOLS!  
REJOICE, SEA DROWNING THE SPIRITUAL PHARAOH;  
REJOICE, ROCK GIVING DRINK TO ALL WHO THIRST FOR LIFE!  
REJOICE, PILLAR OF FIRE, GUIDING THOSE IN DARKNESS;  
REJOICE, PROTECTION OF THE EARTH, MORE SPACIOUS THAN THE CLOUD IN THE WILDERNESS!  
REJOICE, FOOD SURPASSING MANNA;  
REJOICE, MINISTER OF HOLY DELIGHTS!  
REJOICE, O PROMISED LAND;  
REJOICE, SOURCE OF MILK AND HONEY!!!  
REJOICE, O UNWEDDED BRIDE!

#### **KONTAKION VII**

AS SIMEON DREW NEAR TO THE TIME OF HIS DEPARTURE FROM THIS WORLD OF ERROR,  
HE RECEIVED YOU AS AN INFANT IN HIS ARMS,  
YET KNOWING YOU TO BE PERFECT GOD!!!  
STRUCK WITH WONDER AT YOUR BOUNDLESS WISDOM, HE CRIED: ALLELUIA!

#### **IKOS VII**

The Creator has revealed a new creation, manifesting Himself to us,  
His creatures. He came from a Virgin's womb, preserving it inviolate  
as it was before, so that beholding this miracle, we might sing her  
praises, crying:

REJOICE, FLOWER OF INCORRUPTION;  
REJOICE, CROWN OF CHASTITY!

REJOICE, BRIGHT IMAGE OF RESURRECTION GLORY;  
REJOICE, MIRROR OF ANGELIC LIFE!  
REJOICE, TREE OF GLORIOUS FRUIT FEEDING THE FAITHFUL;  
REJOICE, SHADOWING FOREST WHERE MANY FIND SHELTER!  
REJOICE, FOR YOU CONCEIVED A GUIDE FOR THE WANDERERS;  
REJOICE, FOR YOU BORE A DELIVERER FOR CAPTIVES!  
REJOICE, INTERCESSOR WITH THE RIGHTEOUS JUDGE;  
REJOICE, FORGIVENESS FOR MANY WHO HAVE STUMBLER!  
REJOICE, ROBE FOR THE NAKED, FORSAKEN BY HOPE;  
REJOICE, LOVE SURPASSING ALL DESIRE!//  
REJOICE, O UNWEDDED BRIDE!

#### **KONTAKION VIII**

AS WE SEE THIS STRANGE BIRTH, LET US BECOME STRANGERS  
TO THE WORLD AND FIX OUR MINDS IN HEAVEN,  
SINCE IT WAS FOR THIS THAT THE MOST HIGH GOD  
APPEARED ON THE EARTH IN THE FORM OF MAN.//  
IT IS HIS DESIRE TO RAISE UP TO HEAVEN ALL WHO CRY: ALLELUIA!

#### **IKOS VIII**

The uncircumscribed Word was wholly present 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 it is to her we sing:

REJOICE, ENCLOSURE OF THE UNCONTAINABLE GOD;  
REJOICE, GATE OF THE HALLOWED MYSTERY!  
REJOICE, TIDINGS DOUBTED BY UNBELIEVERS;  
REJOICE, UNDOUBTED GLORY OF THE FAITHFUL!  
REJOICE, MOST HOLY CHARIOT OF HIM WHO RIDES UPON THE CHERUBIM;  
REJOICE, FAVORED DWELLING OF HIM WHO IS ABOVE THE SERAPHIM!  
REJOICE, FOR YOU ARE THE UNION OF OPPOSING THINGS;  
REJOICE, FOR YOU JOINED CHILDBIRTH TO VIRGINITY!  
REJOICE, FOR THROUGH YOU OUR SIN IS REMITTED;  
REJOICE, FOR PARADISE IS OPENED THROUGH YOU!  
REJOICE, KEY OF CHRIST'S KINGDOM;  
REJOICE, HOPE OF ETERNAL BLESSINGS!//  
REJOICE, O UNWEDDED BRIDE!

#### **KONTAKION IX**

ALL THE RANKS OF ANGELS WONDERED AT THE GREAT WORK OF YOUR INCARNATION,  
FOR THEY BEHELD GOD, THE ONE WHOM NO ONE CAN APPROACH  
DWELLING IN OUR MIDST AS MAN, APPROACHABLE TO ALL,//  
AND HEARING FROM THE LIPS OF ALL: ALLELUIA!

## IKOS IX

We see eloquent orators as dumb as fish in your presence, Theotokos, for they are at a loss to explain how you remain Virgin and yet gave birth to a child. But we, marvelling at the mystery, cry aloud with faith:

REJOICE, VESSEL OF THE WISDOM OF GOD;  
REJOICE, TREASURY OF HIS DISPENSATION!  
REJOICE, FOR YOU REVEAL THE FOLLY OF PHILOSOPHERS;  
REJOICE, FOR YOU SHOW REASONING PEOPLE TO BE IRRATIONAL!  
REJOICE, FOR THROUGH YOU CUNNING DEBATERS ARE FOOLED;  
REJOICE, FOR YOU HAVE SILENCED THE MAKERS OF MYTHS!  
REJOICE, FOR YOU HAVE TORN THE TANGLED WEBS OF ATHENIANS;  
REJOICE, FOR YOU HAVE FILLED THE NETS OF THE FISHERMEN!  
REJOICE, FOR YOU DRAW US FROM THE DEPTHS OF IGNORANCE;  
REJOICE, FOR YOU ILLUMINE MANY WITH KNOWLEDGE!  
REJOICE, SHIP OF ALL SEEKING SALVATION;  
REJOICE, HARBOR FOR LIFE'S TRAVELERS!//  
REJOICE, O UNWEDDED BRIDE!

## KONTAKION X

THE MAKER OF ALL THINGS, IN HIS DESIRE TO SAVE THE WORLD,  
CAME TO IT OF HIS OWN FREELY CHOSEN DEED.  
AS GOD, HE IS OUR SHEPHERD, YET FOR OUR SAKES, HE HAS APPEARED AS A MAN,//  
AND CALLING LIKE BY LIKE, AS GOD HE HEARS OUR CRY TO HIM: ALLELUIA!

## IKOS X

You are a wall for virgins and all who run to you, undefiled Virgin Theotokos, for the Creator of heaven and earth prepared and adorned you, dwelling in your womb, and teaching all to sing to you:

REJOICE, PILLAR OF VIRGINITY;  
REJOICE, GATE OF SALVATION!  
REJOICE, BEGINNING OF THE NEW AND SPIRITUAL CREATION;  
REJOICE, PROVIDER OF THE MERCY OF GOD!  
REJOICE, FOR YOU GIVE NEW BIRTH TO THOSE CONCEIVED IN SIN;  
REJOICE, FOR YOU GIVE GOOD COUNSEL TO THOSE ROBBED OF UNDERSTANDING!  
REJOICE, FOR YOU DESTROY THE CORRUPTOR OF HUMAN MINDS;  
REJOICE, FOR YOU GIVE BIRTH TO THE SOWER OF PURITY!  
REJOICE, BRIDAL CHAMBER OF A SEEDLESS UNION;  
REJOICE, UNION OF THE FAITHFUL TO THEIR LORD!  
REJOICE, NURSE AND MOTHER OF VIRGINS;  
REJOICE, BRIDESMAID OF HOLY SOULS!//  
REJOICE, O UNWEDDED BRIDE!

## KONTAKION XI

EVERY HYMN FAILS TO TELL THE GREATNESS OF YOUR MERCIES!  
WERE WE TO OFFER TO YOU, HOLY KING,  
SONGS AS COUNTLESS AS THE SANDS ON THE SHORE OF THE SEA,  
WE WOULD DO NOTHING WORTHY OF THE BLESSING YOU GIVE US//  
AS WE SING TO YOU: ALLELUIA!

## IKOS XI

We see the holy Virgin as a torch of living light, shining upon those in darkness. Kindling the immaterial fire, she guides us all to divine knowledge. As she illumines our mind with radiance, we sing these praises in her honor:

REJOICE, RAY OF THE SPIRITUAL SUN;  
REJOICE, RADIANCE OF THE MOON THAT NEVER WANES!  
REJOICE, LIGHTNING FLASH ILLUMINING OUR SOULS;  
REJOICE, THUNDER THAT BRINGS TERROR TO OUR ENEMIES!  
REJOICE, DAWN BEFORE RADIATING SPLENDOR;  
REJOICE, SOURCE OF THE RIVER WITH MANY STREAMS!  
REJOICE, FOR YOU ARE SILOAM PREFIGURING THE FONT OF BAPTISM;  
REJOICE, FOR YOU CLEANSE THE STAIN OF SIN!  
REJOICE, WATER WASHING CLEAN THE CONSCIENCE;  
REJOICE, CHALICE, WHERE THE WINE OF MIGHTY JOY IS MIXED!  
REJOICE, PERFUME OF CHRIST'S OWN FRAGRANCE;  
REJOICE, LIFE OF MYSTICAL FEASTING!!!  
REJOICE, O UNWEDDED BRIDE!

## KONTAKION XII

IN HIS DESIRE TO GRANT RELEASE FROM THE ANCIENT DEBTS,  
THE REDEEMER OF US ALL CAME OF HIS OWN WILL  
TO THOSE WHO WERE EXILES FROM HIS GRACE.  
HE HAS TORN UP THE WRITING OF OUR SINS, //  
AND FROM ALL HE HEARS THE SONG: ALLELUIA!

## IKOS XII

We sing in honor of your Son, Theotokos, and praise you as a living temple. For the Lord who holds all things in His hand made His dwelling in your womb. He sanctified you; He glorified you, teaching all men to sing to you:

REJOICE, TABERNACLE OF THE WORD OF GOD;  
REJOICE, GREATER HOLY PLACE!  
REJOICE, ARK MADE GOLDEN BY THE SPIRIT;  
REJOICE, NEVER-EMPTY TREASURY OF LIFE!  
REJOICE, PRECIOUS CROWN OF TRULY FAITHFUL RULERS;  
REJOICE, HONORED GLORY OF GODLY PRIESTS!  
REJOICE, UNASSAILABLE FORTRESS OF THE CHURCH;

REJOICE, UNCONQUERED RAMPART OF THE KINGDOM!  
REJOICE, FOR THROUGH YOU THE STANDARDS OF VICTORY ARE RAISED ON HIGH;  
REJOICE, FOR THROUGH YOU OUR FOES ARE CAST DOWN!  
REJOICE, THE HEALING OF MY BODY;  
REJOICE, THE SALVATION OF MY SOUL!//  
REJOICE, O UNWEDDED BRIDE!

**KONTAKION XIII** *(This kontakion is chanted three times)*

MOTHER WORTHY OF ALL PRAISE, YOU GAVE BIRTH TO THE WORD:  
HE IS THE HOLIEST, FAR ABOVE ALL SAINTS!  
ACCEPT THIS SERVICE OF OUR OFFERING;  
DELIVER FROM ALL CALAMITY AND PROTECT FROM COMING PUNISHMENT//  
THOSE WHO SING: ALLELUIA!

*(And again we sing or chant Ikos I and Kontakion I)*

**KONTAKION I**

**TONE 8**

O VICTORIOUS LEADER OF TRIUMPHANT HOSTS,  
WE YOUR SERVANTS, DELIVERED FROM EVIL,  
SING OUR GRATEFUL THANKS TO YOU, O THEOTOKOS  
AS YOU POSSESS INVINCIBLE MIGHT, SET US FREE FROM EVERY CALAMITY,//  
SO THAT WE MAY SING: REJOICE, UNWEDDED BRIDE!

**IKOS I**

A prince of the angels was sent from heaven to greet the Theotokos, saying: Rejoice! Seeing You, Lord, take bodily form at his bodiless word, he stood in awe and cried:

REJOICE, FOR THROUGH YOU JOY WILL BE ENKINDLED;  
REJOICE, FOR THROUGH YOU THE CURSE WILL BE QUENCHED!  
REJOICE, RECALL OF FALLEN ADAM;  
REJOICE, DELIVERANCE OF WEeping EVE!  
REJOICE, HEIGHT UNATTAINABLE TO HUMAN REASON;  
REJOICE, ABYSS UNSEARCHABLE BY ANGELIC EYES!  
REJOICE, FOR YOU ARE THE THRONE OF THE KING;  
REJOICE, FOR YOU BEAR HIM WHO UPHOLDS ALL THINGS!  
REJOICE, STAR GIVING RISE TO THE SUN;  
REJOICE, WOMB GIVING FLESH TO GOD!  
REJOICE, FOR THROUGH YOU CREATION IS RENEWED;  
REJOICE, FOR THROUGH YOU THE CREATOR BECOMES A NEWBORN CHILD!//  
REJOICE, O UNWEDDED BRIDE!

*(After we finish chanting the Akathist, we concluded as follows:)*

**Reader:** O Christ our God, who at all times and in every hour, in heaven and on earth, are worshipped and glorified; who are long-suffering, merciful and compassionate; who loves the just and shows mercy upon the sinner; who calls all to salvation through the promise of the good things to come; O Lord, in this hour receive our supplications, and direct our lives according to Your commandments. Sanctify our souls, purify our bodies,

correct our thoughts, cleanse our minds, deliver us from all tribulation, evil and distress. Surround us with Your holy Angels so that, guided and guarded by them, we may attain to the unity of the faith and to the full knowledge of Your unapproachable glory, for You are blessed unto ages of ages.

**Reader:** Amen.

**Reader:** Through the prayers of our holy fathers, O Lord Jesus Christ, our God, have mercy on us and save us.

**Reader:** Amen.

***(Hymn to the Theotokos)***

Beneath your compassion we take refuge, Theotokos. Do not despise our supplications in adversity, but deliver us from perils, only pure and only blessed one.

*(And all venerate the icon of the Theotokos and depart in peace.)*

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