

Music for the Akathist Hymn of the Most-Holy Theotokos

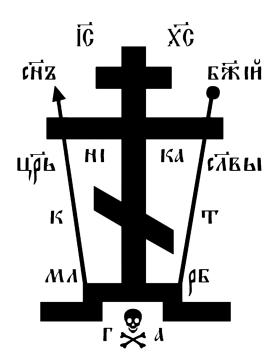
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Ο Οἶκος τὧν Άγίων Μυροφόρων

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Choral arrangements from
Music for the Order of Matins for the Saturday
of the Akathist Hymn of the Most Holy Theotokos
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Music for the Akathist Hymn of the Most-Holy Theotokos

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The Order of Matins

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

Reader: Amen.

Glory to Thee, our God, glory to Thee.

O Heavenly King

O Heavenly King, Comforter, Spirit of Truth, Who art everywhere present and fillest all things, Treasury of good things and Giver of life: Come and dwell in us, and cleanse us of all impurity, and save our souls, O Good One.

Trisagion

Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal, have mercy on us. (Thrice)

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

O Most Holy Trinity, have mercy on us. O Lord, blot out our sins. O Master, pardon our iniquities. O Holy One, visit and heal our infirmities for Thy name's sake.

Lord have mercy. (Thrice)

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

Our Father, Who art in the Heavens, 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 debts, as we forgive our debtors; 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, both now and ever and unto ages of ages.

Reader: Amen. Lord have mercy. (12 times)

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

O come, let us worship God our King.

O come, let us worship and fall down before Christ our King and God.

O come, let us worship and fall down before Christ Himself, our King and God.

Psalm 19

The Lord hear thee in the day of affliction; the name of the God of Jacob defend thee. Let Him send forth unto thee help from His sanctuary, and out of Sion let Him help thee. Let Him remember every sacrifice of thine, and thy whole-burnt offering let Him fatten. The Lord grant thee according to thy heart, and fulfil all thy purposes. We will rejoice in Thy salvation, and in the name of the Lord our God shall we be magnified. The Lord fulfil all thy requests. Now have I known that the Lord hath saved His anointed one; He will hearken unto him out of His holy heaven; in mighty deeds is the salvation of His right hand. Some trust in chariots, and some in horses, but we will call upon the name of the Lord our God. They have been fettered and have fallen, but we are risen and are set upright. O Lord, save the king, and hearken unto us in the day when we call upon Thee.

Psalm 20

O Lord, in Thy strength the king shall be glad, and in Thy salvation shall he rejoice exceedingly. The desire of his heart hast Thou granted unto him, and hast not denied him the requests of his lips. Thou wentest before him with the blessings of goodness, Thou hast set upon his head a crown of precious stone. He asked life of Thee, and Thou gavest him length of days unto ages of ages. Great is his glory in Thy salvation; glory and majesty shalt Thou lay upon him. For Thou shalt give him blessing for ever and ever, Thou shalt gladden him in joy

with Thy countenance. For the king hopeth in the Lord, and through the mercy of the Most High shall he not be shaken. Let Thy hand be found on all Thine enemies; let Thy right hand find all that hate Thee. For Thou wilt make them as an oven of fire in the time of Thy presence; the Lord in His wrath will trouble them sore-ly and fire shall devour them. Their fruit wilt Thou destroy from the earth, and their seed from the sons of men. For they have intended evil against Thee, they have devised counsels which they shall not be able to establish. For Thou shalt make them turn their backs; among those that are Thy remnant, Thou shalt make ready their countenance. Be Thou exalted, O Lord, in Thy strength; we will sing and chant of Thy mighty act.

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

Trisagion

Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal, have mercy on us. (Thrice)

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

O Most Holy Trinity, have mercy on us. O Lord, blot out our sins. O Master, pardon our iniquities. O Holy One, visit and heal our infirmities for Thy name's sake.

Lord have mercy. (Thrice)

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

Our Father, Who art in the Heavens, 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 debts, as we forgive our debtors; 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, both now and ever and unto ages of ages. *Reader:* Amen.

O Lord, save Thy people and bless Thine inheritance. Grant victory unto Orthodox Christians over their adversaries, and by the power of Thy Cross do Thou preserve Thy commonwealth.

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

O Thou Who wast lifted up willingly upon the Cross, bestow Thy mercies upon the new community named after Thee, O Christ God; gladden with Thy power the Orthodox Christians, granting them victory over enemies; may they have as Thy help the weapon of peace, the invincible trophy.

Both now and ever, and unto the ages of ages. Amen.

O awesome intercession that cannot be put to shame, O good one, disdain not our prayer; O all-hymned Theotokos, establish the commonwealth of the Orthodox, save the Orthodox Christians, and grant unto them victory from heaven, for thou didst bring forth God, O thou only blessed one.

Priest: Have mercy on us, O God, according to Thy great mercy, we pray Thee, hearken and have mercy.

Choir: Lord have mercy. (Thrice)

Priest: Again we pray for our Archbishop *Name*.

Choir: Lord have mercy. (*Thrice*)

Priest: Again we pray for all the brethren and for all Christians.

Choir: Lord, have mercy. (Thrice)

Priest: For a merciful God art Thou, and the Lover of mankind, and unto Thee do we send up

glory: to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto the ages of ages.

Choir: Amen.

In the name of the Lord, Father (Master), bless.

Priest: Glory to the holy, and consubstantial, and life-creating, and indivisible Trinity, always, now and ever, and unto the ages of ages.

Choir: Amen.

Six Psalms

Reader: Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will among men. (*Thrice*) O Lord, Thou shalt open my lips, and my mouth shall declare Thy praise. (*Twice*)

Psalm 3

O Lord, why are they multiplied that afflict me? Many rise up against me. Many say unto my soul: There is no salvation for him in his God. But Thou, O Lord, art my helper, my glory, and the lifter up of my head. I cried unto the Lord with my voice, and He heard me out of His holy mountain. I laid me down and slept; I awoke, for the Lord will help me. I will not be afraid of ten thousands of people that set themselves against me round about. Arise, O Lord, save me, O my God, for Thou hast smitten all who without cause are mine enemies; the teeth of sinners hast Thou broken. Salvation is of the Lord, and Thy blessing is upon Thy people.

I laid me down and slept; I awoke, for the Lord will help me.

Psalm 37

O Lord, rebuke me not in Thine anger, nor chasten me in Thy wrath. For Thine arrows are fastened in me, and Thou hast laid Thy hand heavily upon me. There is no healing in my flesh in the face of Thy wrath; and there is no peace in my bones in the face of my sins. For mine iniquities are risen higher than my head; as a heavy burden have they pressed heavily upon me. My bruises are become noisome and corrupt in the face of my folly. I have been wretched and utterly bowed down until the end; all the day long I went with downcast face. For my loins are filled with mockings, and there is no healing in my flesh. I am afflicted and humbled exceedingly, I have roared from the groaning of my heart. O Lord, before Thee is all my desire, and my groaning is not hid from Thee. My heart is troubled, my strength hath failed me; and the light of mine eyes, even this is not with me. My friends and my neighbors drew nigh over against me and stood, and my nearest of kin stood afar off. And they that sought after my soul used violence; and they that sought evils for me spake vain things, and craftinesses all the day long did they meditate. But as for me, like a deaf man I heard them not, and was as a speechless man that openeth not his mouth. And I became as a man that heareth not, and that hath in his mouth no reproofs. For in Thee have I hoped, O Lord; Thou wilt hearken unto me, O Lord my God. For I said: Let never mine enemies rejoice over me; yea, when my feet were shaken, those men spake boastful words against me. For I am ready for scourges, and my sorrow is continually before me. For I will declare mine iniquity, and I will take heed concerning my sin. But mine enemies live and are made stronger than I, and they that hated me unjustly are multiplied. They that render me evil for good slandered me, because I pursued goodness. Forsake me not, O Lord my God, depart not from me. Be attentive unto my help. O Lord of my salvation.

Forsake me not, O Lord my God, depart not from me. Be attentive unto my help, O Lord of my salvation.

Psalm 62

O God, my God, unto Thee I rise early at dawn. My soul hath thirsted for Thee; how often hath my flesh longed after Thee in a land barren and untrodden and unwatered. So in the

sanctuary have I appeared before Thee to see Thy power and Thy glory. For Thy mercy is better than lives; my lips shall praise Thee. So shall I bless Thee in my life, and in Thy name will I lift up my hands. As with marrow and fatness let my soul be filled, and with lips of rejoicing shall my mouth praise Thee. If I remembered Thee on my bed, at the dawn I meditated on Thee. For Thou art become my helper; in the shelter of Thy wings will I rejoice. My soul hath cleaved after Thee, Thy right hand hath been quick to help me. But as for these, in vain have they sought after my soul; they shall go into the nethermost parts of the earth, they shall be surrendered unto the edge of the sword; portions for foxes shall they be. But the king shall be glad in God, everyone shall be praised that sweareth by Him; for the mouth of them is stopped that speak unjust things.

At the dawn I meditated on Thee. For Thou art become my helper; in the shelter of Thy wings will I rejoice. My soul hath cleaved after Thee, Thy right hand hath been quick to help me.

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

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia. Glory to Thee, O God. (*Thrice, with the sign of the Cross, but without bows*)

Lord. have mercy. (Thrice)

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

Psalm 87

O Lord God of my salvation, by day have I cried and by night before Thee. Let my prayer come before Thee, bow down Thine ear unto my supplication. For filled with evils is my soul, and my life unto hades hath drawn nigh. I am counted with them that go down into the pit; I am become as a man without help, free among the dead. Like the bodies of the slain that sleep in the grave, whom Thou rememberest no more, and they are cut off from Thy hand. They laid me in the lowest pit, in darkness and in the shadow of death. Against me is Thine anger made strong, and all Thy billows hast Thou brought upon me. Thou hast removed my friends afar from me; they have made me an abomination unto themselves. I have been delivered up, and have not come forth; mine eyes are grown weak from poverty. I have cried unto Thee, O Lord, the whole day long; I have stretched out my hands unto Thee. Nay, for the dead wilt Thou work wonders? Or shall physicians raise them up that they may give thanks unto Thee? Nay, shall any in the grave tell of Thy mercy, and of Thy truth in that destruction? Nay, shall Thy wonders be known in that darkness, and Thy righteousness in that land that is forgotten? But as for me, unto Thee, O Lord, have I cried; and in the morning shall my prayer come before Thee. Wherefore, O Lord, dost Thou cast off my soul and turnest Thy face away from me? A poor man am I, and in troubles from my youth; yea, having been exalted, I was humbled and brought to distress. Thy furies have passed upon me, and Thy terrors have sorely troubled me. They came round about me like water, all the day long they compassed me about together. Thou hast removed afar from me friend and neighbor, and mine acquaintances because of my misery.

O Lord God of my salvation, by day have I cried and by night before Thee. Let my prayer come before Thee, bow down Thine ear unto my supplication.

Psalm 102

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 that He hath done for thee, Who is gracious unto all thine iniquities, Who healeth all thine infirmities, Who redeemeth thy life from corruption, Who

crowneth thee with mercy and compassion, Who fulfilleth thy desire with good things; thy youth shall be renewed as the eagle's. The Lord performeth deeds of mercy, and executeth judgment for all them that are wronged. He hath made His ways known unto Moses, unto the sons of Israel the things that He hath willed. Compassionate and merciful is the Lord, longsuffering and plenteous in mercy; not unto the end will He be angered, neither unto eternity will He be wroth. Not according to our iniquities hath He dealt with us, neither according to our sins hath He rewarded us. For according to the height of Heaven from the earth, the Lord hath made His mercy to prevail over them that fear Him. As far as the east is from the west, so far hath He removed our iniquities from us. Like as a father hath compassion upon his sons, so hath the Lord had compassion upon them that fear Him; for He knoweth whereof we are made, He hath remembered that we are dust. As for man, his days are as the grass; as a flower of the field, so shall he blossom forth. For when the wind is passed over it, then it shall be gone, and no longer will it know the place thereof. But the mercy of the Lord is from eternity, even unto eternity, upon them that fear Him. And His righteousness is upon sons of sons, upon them that keep His testament and remember His commandments to do them. The Lord in Heaven hath prepared His throne, and His kingdom ruleth over all. Bless the Lord, all ye His angels, mighty in strength, that perform His word, to hear the voice of His words. Bless the Lord, all ye His hosts, His ministers that do His will. Bless the Lord, all ye His works, in every place of His dominion. Bless the Lord, O my soul.

In every place of His dominion, bless the Lord, O my soul.

Psalm 142

O Lord, hear my prayer, give ear unto my supplication in Thy truth; hearken unto me in Thy righteousness. And enter not into judgment with Thy servant, for in Thy sight shall no man living be justified. For the enemy hath persecuted my soul; he hath humbled my life down to the earth. He hath sat me in darkness as those that have been long dead, and my spirit within me is become despondent; within me my heart is troubled. I remembered days of old, I meditated on all Thy works, I pondered on the creations of Thy hands. I stretched forth my hands unto Thee; my soul thirsteth after thee like a waterless land. Quickly hear me, O Lord; my spirit hath fainted away. Turn not Thy face away from me, lest I be like unto them that go down into the pit. Cause me to hear Thy mercy in the morning; for in Thee have I put my hope. Cause me to know, O Lord, the way wherein I should walk; for unto Thee have I lifted up my soul. Rescue me from mine enemies, O Lord; unto Thee have I fled for refuge. Teach me to do Thy will, for Thou art my God. Thy good Spirit shall lead me in the land of uprightness; for Thy name's sake, O Lord, shalt Thou quicken me. In Thy righteousness shalt Thou bring my soul out of affliction, and in Thy mercy shalt Thou utterly destroy mine enemies. And Thou shalt cut off all them that afflict my soul, for I am Thy servant.

Hearken unto me, O Lord, in Thy righteousness, and enter not into judgment with Thy servant. (Twice)

Thy good Spirit shall lead me in the land of uprightness.

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

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia. Glory to Thee, O God. (Thrice)

Great Litany

Deacon: In peace let us pray to the Lord.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: For the peace from above, and the salvation of our souls, let us pray to the Lord.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: For the peace of the whole world, the good estate of the holy churches of God, and the union of all, let us pray to the Lord.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: For this holy temple, and for them that with faith, reverence, and the fear of God enter herein, let us pray to the Lord.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: For our Archbishop *Name*; for the venerable priesthood, the deaconate in Christ, for all the clergy and the people, let us pray to the Lord.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: For this land, its authorities and armed forces, let us pray to the Lord.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: For the suffering Russian land and its Orthodox people both in the homeland and in the diaspora, and for their salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: That He may deliver His people from enemies visible and invisible, and confirm in us oneness of mind, brotherly love and piety, let us pray to the Lord.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: For this city, for every city and country, and the faithful that dwell therein, let us pray to the Lord.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: For seasonable weather, abundance of the fruits of the earth, and peaceful times, let us pray to the Lord.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: For travelers by sea, land, and air, for the sick, the suffering, the imprisoned, and for their salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: That we may be delivered from all tribulation, wrath, and necessity, let us pray to the Lord.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: Help us, save us, have mercy on us, and keep us, O God, by Thy grace.

Choir: Lord. have mercy.

Deacon: Calling to remembrance our most holy, most pure, most blessed, glorious Lady Theotokos and Ever-Virgin Mary with all the saints, let us commit ourselves and one another and all our life unto Christ our God.

Choir: To Thee. O Lord.

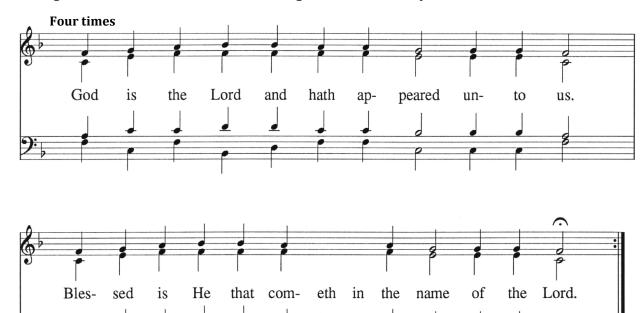
Priest: For unto Thee is due all glory, honour and worship: to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto the ages of ages.

Choir: Amen.

God is the Lord, in Tone VIII

Deacon: In the Eighth Tone: God is the Lord and hath appeared unto us. Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord.

O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good, for His mercy endureth forever.



Deacon: Surrounding me they compassed me, and by the name of the Lord I warded them off.

Choir: God is the Lord and hath appeared unto us. Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord.

Deacon: I shall not die, but live, and I shall tell of the works of the Lord.

Choir: God is the Lord and hath appeared unto us. Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord.

Deacon: The stone which the builders rejected, the same is become the head of the corner. This is the Lord's doing, and it is marvelous in our eyes.

Choir: God is the Lord and hath appeared unto us. Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord.

Troparion, Tone VIII

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 cry to thee:// Rejoice, Bride without bridegroom.' *Thrice*

Sixteenth Kathismata

Lord, have mercy. (Thrice)

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

Reader: Both now and ever, and unto the ages of ages. Amen.

Psalm 109

The Lord said unto my Lord: Sit Thou at My right hand, until I make Thine enemies the footstool of Thy feet. A sceptre of power shall the Lord send unto Thee out of Sion; rule Thou in the midst of Thine enemies. With Thee is dominion in the day of Thy power, in the splendour of Thy saints. From the womb before the morning star have I begotten Thee. The Lord hath sworn and will not repent: Thou art a priest for ever, after the order of Melchisedek. The Lord at Thy right hand hath broken kings in the day of His wrath. He shall judge among the nations, He shall fill them with dead bodies, He shall crush the heads of many upon the earth. He shall drink of the brook in the way; therefore shall He lift up His head.

Psalm 110

I will confess Thee, O Lord, with my whole heart, in the council of the upright and in the congregation. Great are the works of the Lord, sought out in all the things that He hath willed. Confession and majesty are His work, and His righteousness abideth unto ages of ages. He made a remembrance of His wondrous deeds; merciful and compassionate is the Lord; He hath given food to them that fear Him. He will be mindful for ever of His covenant; the power of His works hath He declared unto His people, that He may give them the inheritance of the nations; the works of His hands are truth and judgement. Faithful are all His commandments, confirmed unto ages of ages, made in truth and uprightness. He hath sent redemption unto His people, He hath enjoined His covenant for ever; holy and terrible is His name. The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom; and all they that foster this have a good understanding. His praise abideth unto ages of ages.

Psalm 111

Blessed is the man that feareth the Lord; in His commandments shall he greatly delight. His seed shall be mighty upon the earth; the generation of the upright shall be blessed. Glory and riches shall be in his house, and his righteousness abideth unto ages of ages. There hath risen up in darkness a light for the upright; he is merciful and compassionate and righteous. A good man is he that is compassionate and lendeth; he shall order his words with judgement, for he shall remain unshaken for ever. In everlasting remembrance shall the righteous be; he shall not be afraid of evil tidings. His heart is ready to hope in the Lord; his heart is established, he shall not be afraid, until he look down upon his enemies. He hath dispersed, he hath given to the poor, his righteousness abideth unto ages of ages; his horn shall be exalted with glory. The sinner shall see and be angered, he shall gnash with his teeth and melt away; the desire of the sinner shall perish.

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

Choir: Both now and ever, and unto the ages of ages. Amen.

Alleluia, alleluia. Glory to Thee, O God. (Thrice)

Lord have mercy. (Thrice)

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

Reader: Both now and ever, and unto the ages of ages. Amen.

Psalm 112

Praise the Lord, O ye servants, praise ye the name of the Lord. Blessed be the name of the Lord from henceforth and for evermore. From the rising of the sun unto the going down of the same, the name of the Lord is to be praised. High above all the nations is the Lord, above the heavens is His glory. Who is like unto the Lord our God? Who dwelleth on high and looketh down on things that are lowly, in heaven and on the earth, Who raiseth up the poor man from the earth, and from the dunghill lifteth up the pauper, that He may seat him with princes, with the princes of His people, Who maketh the barren woman to dwell in a house and be a mother rejoicing over children.

Psalm 113

When Israel went out of Egypt, and the house of Jacob from among a barbarous people, Judea became His sanctuary, Israel His dominion. The sea beheld and fled, Jordan turned back. The mountains skipped like rams, and the hills like lambs of flocks. What aileth thee, O sea, that thou fleddest? And thou Jordan, that thou didst turn back? Ye mountains, that ye skipped like rams, and ye hills like lambs of flocks? At the presence of the Lord the earth was shaken, at the presence of the God of Jacob, Who turneth the rock into pools of waters, and the precipice into fountains of waters. Not unto us, O Lord, not unto us, but unto Thy name give glory, for Thy mercy and Thy truth, lest haply the heathen say: Where is their God? But our God is in heaven and on earth; all things soever He hath willed, He hath done. The idols of the nations are of silver and gold, the works of the hands of men. They have a mouth, but shall not speak; eyes have they, and shall not see. Ears have they, and shall not hear; noses have they, and shall not smell. Hands they have, and shall not feel; feet have they, and shall not walk; they shall make no sound in their throat. Let those that make them become like unto them, and all that put their trust in them. The house of Israel hath hoped in the Lord; their helper and defender is He. The house of Aaron hath hoped in the Lord; their helper and defender is He. They that fear the Lord have hoped in the Lord; their helper and defender is He. The Lord being mindful of us, hath blessed us. He hath blessed the house of Israel, He hath blessed the house of Aaron. He hath blessed them that fear the Lord, the little with the great. The Lord grant you increase, to you and to your children. Ye are blessed of the Lord, Who made heaven and the earth. The heaven of heaven belongeth to the Lord, but the earth He gave unto the sons of men. Not the dead shall praise Thee, O Lord, nor any that go down to hades. But we the living will bless the Lord form henceforth and for evermore.

Psalm 114

I am filled with love, for the Lord will hear the voice of my supplication. For He hath inclined His ear unto me, and in my days will I call upon Him. The pangs of death have encompassed me, the perils of hades have found me. Tribulation and sorrow have I found, and I called upon the name of the Lord: O Lord, deliver my soul. Merciful is the Lord and righteous, and our God hath mercy. The Lord preserveth the infants; I was brought low and He saved me. Return, O my soul, unto thy rest, for the Lord hath dealt bountifully with thee. For He hath delivered my soul from death, mine eyes from tears, and my feet from sliding. I will be well-pleasing before the Lord in the land of the living.

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

Choir: Both now and ever, and unto the ages of ages. Amen.

Alleluia, alleluia. Glory to Thee, O God. (Thrice)

Lord have mercy. (Thrice)

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

Reader: Both now and ever, and unto the ages of ages. Amen.

Psalm 115

I believed wherefore I spake; I was humbled exceedingly. As for me, I said in mine ecstasy: Every man is a liar. What shall I render unto the Lord for all that He hath rendered unto me? I will take the cup of salvation, and I will call upon the name of the Lord. My vows unto the Lord will I pay in the presence of all His people. Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of His saints. O Lord, I am Thy servant; I am Thy servant and the son of Thy handmaid. Thou hast broken my bonds asunder. I will sacrifice a sacrifice of praise unto Thee, and I will call upon the name of the Lord. My vows unto the Lord will I pay in the presence of all His people, in the courts of the house of the Lord, in the midst of thee, O Jerusalem.

Psalm 116

O praise the Lord, all ye nations; praise Him, all ye peoples. For He hath made His mercy to prevail over us, and the truth of the Lord abideth for ever.

Psalm 117

O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good, for His mercy endureth for ever. Let the house of Israel now say that He is good, for His mercy endureth for ever. Let the house of Aaron now say that He is good, for His mercy endureth for ever. Let all that fear the Lord now say that He is good, for His mercy endureth for ever. Out of mine affliction I called upon the Lord, and He heard me and brought me into a broad place. The Lord is my helper, and I will not fear what man shall do unto me. The Lord is my helper, and I shall look down upon mine enemies. It is better to trust in the Lord than to trust in man. It is better to hope in the Lord than to hope in princes. All the nations compassed me round about, and by the name of the Lord I warded them off. Surrounding me they compassed me, and by the name of the Lord I warded them off. They compassed me about like unto bees around a honeycomb, and they burst into flame like a fire among the thorns, and by the name of the Lord I warded them off. I was pushed and overturned that I might fall, and the Lord was quick to help me. The Lord is my strength and my song, and He is become my salvation. The voice of rejoicing and salvation is in the tents of the righteous. The right hand of the Lord hath wrought strength, the right hand of the Lord hath exalted me, the right hand of the Lord hath wrought strength. I shall not die, but live, and I shall tell of the works of the Lord. With chastisement hath the Lord chastened me, but He hath not given me over unto death. Open unto me the gates of righteousness; I will enter therein and give thanks unto the Lord. This is the gate of the Lord, the righteous shall enter in thereat. I will give thanks unto Thee, for Thou hast heard me and art become my salvation. The stone which the builders rejected, the same is become the head of the corner. This is the Lord's doing, and it is marvelous in our eyes. This is the day which the Lord hath made; let us rejoice and be glad therein. O Lord, save now; O Lord, send now prosperity. Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord. We have blessed you out of the house of the Lord. God is the Lord, and hath appeared unto us. Ordain a feast with thick boughs, even unto the horns of the altar. Thou art my God, and I will confess Thee; Thou art my God, and I will exalt Thee. I will give thanks unto Thee, for Thou hast heard me, and Thou art become my salvation. O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good, for His mercy endureth for ever.

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

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia. Glory to Thee, O God. (Thrice)

Small Litany

Deacon: Again and again, in peace let us pray to the Lord.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: Help us, save us, have mercy on us, and keep us, O God, by Thy grace.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: Calling to remembrance our most holy, most pure, most blessed, glorious Lady Theotokos and Ever-Virgin Mary with all the saints, let us commit ourselves and one another and all our life unto Christ our God.

Choir: To Thee, O Lord.

Priest: For Thine is the dominion, and 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 the ages of ages.

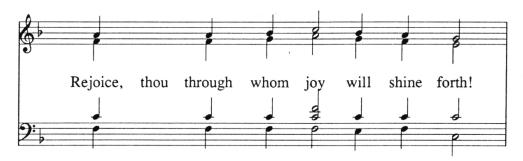
Choir: Amen.

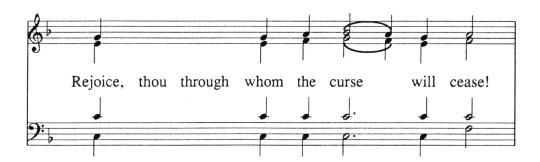
Kontakion, in Tone VIII

To Thee, the Champion Leader, we Thy servants dedicate/ a feast of victory and of thanksgiving/ as ones rescued out of sufferings, O Theotokos:/ but as Thou art one with might which is invincible,/ from all dangers that can be do Thou deliver us,// that we may cry to Thee: Rejoice, O Bride Unwedded!

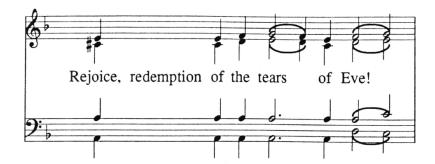
Ikos 1

Priest: 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, height inaccessible to human thoughts!

Rejoice, depth undiscernible even for the eyes of angels!

Rejoice, for Thou art the throne of the King!

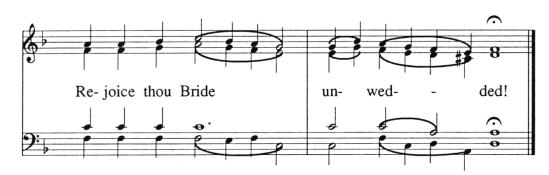
Rejoice, for Thou bearest Him Who beareth all!

Rejoice, star that causest 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! (Bow)



Kontakion 2

Priest: 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

Priest: 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!

Choir: 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, O Bride Unwedded!

Kontakion 3

Priest: 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

Priest: 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!

Choir: Rejoice, branch of an Unfading Sprout!

Rejoice, acquisition of Immortal Fruit!

Rejoice, labourer that labourest 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, O Bride Unwedded!

Kontakion 4

Priest: 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!



Kontakion, Tone VIII

To Thee, the Champion Leader, we Thy servants dedicate/ a feast of victory and of thanksgiving/ as ones rescued out of sufferings, O Theotokos:/ but as Thou art one with might which is invincible,/ from all dangers that can be do Thou deliver us,// that we may cry to Thee: Rejoice, O Bride Unwedded!

Seventeenth Kathismata

Choir: Lord, have mercy. (Thrice)

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

Psalm 118

Blessed are the blameless in the way, who walk in the law of the Lord. Blessed are they that search out His testimonies; with their whole heart shall they seek after Him. For they that work iniquity have not walked in His ways. Thou hast enjoined Thy commandments. that we should keep them most diligently. Would that my ways were directed to keep Thy statutes. Then shall I not be ashamed, when I look on all Thy commandments. I will confess Thee with uprightness of heart, when I have learned the judgements of Thy righteousness. I will keep thy statutes; do not utterly forsake me. Wherewithal shall a young man correct his way? By keeping Thy words. With my whole heart have I sought after Thee, cast me not away from Thy commandments. In my heart have I hid Thy sayings that I might not sin against Thee. Blessed art Thou, O Lord, teach me Thy statutes. With my lips have I declared all the judgements of Thy mouth. In the way of Thy testimonies have I found delight, as much as in all riches. On Thy commandments will I ponder, and I will understand Thy ways. On Thy statutes will I meditate; I will not forget Thy words. Give reward unto Thy servant, quicken me and I will keep Thy words. O unveil mine eyes, and I shall perceive wondrous things out of Thy law. I am a sojourner on the earth, hide not from me Thy commandments. My soul hath longed to desire Thy judgements at all times. Thou hast rebuked the proud; cursed are they that decline from Thy commandments. Remove from me reproach and contempt, for after Thy testimonies have I sought. For princes sat and they spake against me, but Thy servant pondered on Thy statutes. For Thy testimonies are my meditation, and Thy statutes are my counselors. My soul hath cleaved unto the earth; quicken me according to Thy word. My ways have I declared, and Thou hast heard me; teach me Thy statutes. Make me to understand the way of Thy statutes, and I will ponder on Thy wondrous works. My soul hath slumbered from despondency, strengthen me with Thy words. Remove from me the way of unrighteousness, and with Thy law have mercy on me. I have chosen the way of truth, and Thy judgements have I not forgotten. I have cleaved to Thy testimonies, O Lord; put me not to shame. The way of Thy commandments have I run, when Thou didst enlarge my heart. Set before me for a law, O Lord, the way of Thy statutes, and I will seek after it continually. Give me understanding, and I will search out Thy law, and I will keep it with my whole heart. Guide me in the path of Thy commandments, for I have desired it. Incline my heart unto Thy testimonies and not unto covetousness. Turn away mine eyes that I may not see vanity, quicken Thou me in Thy way. Establish for Thy servant Thine oracle unto fear of Thee. Remove my reproach which I have feared, for Thy judgements are good. Behold, I have longed after Thy commandments; in Thy righteousness quicken me. Let Thy mercy come also upon me, O Lord, even Thy salvation according to Thy word. So shall I give an answer to them that reproach me, for I have hoped in Thy words. And take not utterly out of my mouth the word of truth, for in Thy judgements have I hoped. So shall I keep Thy law continually, for ever, and unto the ages of ages. And I walked in spaciousness, for after Thy commandments have I sought. And I spake of Thy testimonies before kings, and I was not ashamed. And I meditated on Thy commandments which I have greatly loved. And I lifted up my hands to Thy commandments which I have loved, and I pondered on Thy statutes. Remember Thy words to Thy servant, wherein Thou hast made me to hope. This hath comforted me in my

humiliation, for Thine oracle hath quickened me. The proud have transgressed exceedingly, but from Thy law have I not declined. I remembered Thy judgements of old, O Lord, and was comforted. Despondency took hold upon me because of the sinners who forsake Thy law. Thy statutes were my songs in the place of my sojourning. I remembered Thy name in the night, O Lord, and I kept Thy law. This hath happened unto me because I sought after Thy statutes. Thou art my portion, O Lord; I said that I would keep Thy law. I entreated Thy countenance with my whole heart: Have mercy on me according to Thy word. I have thought on Thy ways, and I have turned my feet back to Thy testimonies. I made ready, and I was not troubled, that I might keep Thy commandments. The cords of sinners have entangled me, but Thy law have I not forgotten. At midnight I arose to give thanks unto Thee for the judgements of Thy righteousness. I am a partaker with all them that fear Thee, and with them that keep Thy commandments. The earth, O Lord, is full of Thy mercy; teach me Thy statutes. Thou hast dealt graciously with Thy servant, O Lord, according to Thy word. Goodness and discipline and knowledge teach Thou me, for in Thy commandments have I believed. Before I was humbled, I transgressed; therefore Thy saying have I kept. Thou art good, O Lord, and in Thy goodness teach me Thy statutes. Multiplied against me hath been the unrighteousness of the proud; but as for me, with my whole heart will I search out Thy commandments. Curdled like milk is their heart; but as for me, in Thy law have I meditated. It is good for me that Thou hast humbled me, that I might learn Thy statutes. The law of Thy mouth is better to me than thousands of gold and silver.

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

Choir: Both now and ever, and unto the ages of ages. Amen.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia. Glory to Thee, O God. (Thrice)

Lord have mercy. (Thrice)

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

Reader: Both now and ever, and unto the ages of ages. Amen.

Thy hands have made me and fashioned me; give me understanding and I will learn Thy commandments. They that fear Thee shall see me and be glad, for on Thy words have I set my hope. I have known, O Lord, that Thy judgements are righteousness, and with truth hast Thou humbled me. Let now Thy mercy be my comfort, according to Thy saying unto Thy servant. Let Thy compassions come upon me and I shall live, for Thy law is my meditation. Let the proud be put to shame, for unjustly have they transgressed against me; but as for me, I will ponder on Thy commandments. Let those that fear Thee return unto me, and those that know Thy testimonies. Let my heart be blameless in Thy statutes, that I may not be put to shame. My soul fainteth for Thy salvation; on Thy words have I set my hope. Mine eyes are grown dim with waiting for Thine oracle; they say: When wilt Thou comfort me? For I am become like a wine-skin in the frost; yet Thy statutes have I not forgotten. How many are the days of Thy servant? When wilt Thou execute judgement for me on them that persecute me? Transgressors have told me fables, but they are not like Thy law, O Lord. All Thy commandments are truth. Without a cause have men persecuted me; do Thou help me. They well nigh made an end of me on the earth; but as for me, I forsook not Thy commandments. According to Thy mercy quicken me, and I will keep the testimonies of Thy mouth. For ever, O Lord, Thy word abideth in heaven. Unto generation and generation is Thy truth; Thou hast laid the foundation of the earth, and it abideth. By Thine ordinance doth the day abide, for all things are Thy servants. If Thy law had not been my meditation, then should I have perished in my humiliation. I will never forget Thy statutes, for in them hast Thou quickened me.

I am Thine, save me; for after Thy statutes have I sought. Sinners have waited for me to

destroy me; but Thy testimonies have I understood. Of all perfection have I seen the outcome; exceeding spacious is Thy commandment. O how I have loved Thy law, O Lord! the whole day long it is my meditation. Above mine enemies hast Thou made me wise in Thy commandment, for it is mine for ever. Above all that teach me have I gained understanding, for Thy testimonies are my meditation. Above mine elders have I received understanding, for after Thy commandments have I sought. From every way that is evil have I restrained my feet that I might keep Thy words. From Thy judgements have I not declined, for Thou hast set a law for me. How sweet to my palate are Thy sayings! more sweet than honey to my mouth. From Thy commandments have I gained understanding; therefore have I hated every way of unrighteousness. Thy law is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my paths. I have sworn and resolved that I will keep the judgements of Thy righteousness. I was humbled exceedingly; O Lord, quicken me according to Thy word. The free-will offerings of my mouth be Thou now pleased to receive, O Lord, and teach me Thy judgements. My soul is in Thy hands continually. and Thy law have I not forgotten. Sinners have set a snare for me, yet from Thy commandment have I not strayed. I have inherited Thy testimonies for ever, for they are the rejoicing of my heart. I have inclined my heart to perform Thy statutes for ever for a recompense. Transgressors have I hated, but Thy law have I loved. My helper and my protector art Thou; on Thy words have I set my hope. Depart from me, ye evil-doers, and I will search out the commandments of my God. Uphold me according to Thy saying and quicken me, and turn me not away in shame from mine expectation. Help me, and I shall be saved; and I will meditate on Thy statutes continually. Thou hast set at nought all that depart from Thy statutes, for unrighteous is their inward thought. I have reckoned as transgressors all the sinners of the earth, therefore have I loved Thy testimonies. Nail down my flesh with the fear of Thee, for of Thy judgements am I afraid. I have wrought judgement and righteousness; O give me not up to them that wrong me. Receive Thy servant unto good, let not the proud falsely accuse me. Mine eyes have failed with waiting for Thy salvation, and for the word of Thy righteousness. Deal with Thy servant according to Thy mercy, and teach me Thy statutes. I am Thy servant; give me understanding, and I shall know Thy testimonies. It is time for the Lord to act; for they have dispersed Thy law. Therefore have I loved Thy commandments more than gold and topaz. Therefore I directed myself according to all Thy commandments; every way that is unrighteous have I hated. Wonderful are Thy testimonies: therefore hath my soul searched them out. The unfolding of Thy words will give light and understanding unto babes. I opened my mouth and drew in my breath, for I longed for Thy commandments.

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

Choir: Both now and ever, and unto the ages of ages. Amen.

Alleluia, alleluia. Glory to Thee, O God. (Thrice)

Lord have mercy. (Thrice)

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

Reader: Both now and ever, and unto the ages of ages. Amen.

Look upon me and have mercy on me, according to the judgement of them that love Thy name. My steps do Thou direct according to Thy saying, and let no iniquity have dominion over me. Deliver me from the false accusation of men, and I will keep Thy commandments. Make Thy face to shine upon Thy servant, and teach me Thy statutes. Mine eyes have poured forth streams of waters, because I kept not Thy law. Righteous art Thou, O Lord, and upright are Thy judgements. Thou hast ordained as Thy testimonies exceeding righteousness and truth. My zeal for Thee hath made me to pine away, because mine enemies have forgotten Thy words. Thine oracle is tried with fire to the uttermost, and Thy servant hath loved it. I

am young and accounted as nothing, yet Thy statutes have I not forgotten. Thy righteousness is an everlasting righteousness, and Thy law is truth. Tribulations and necessities have found me, Thy commandments are my meditation. Thy testimonies are righteousness for ever; give me understanding and I shall live. I have cried with my whole heart; hear me, O Lord, and I will seek after Thy statutes. I have cried unto Thee; save me, and I will keep Thy testimonies. I arose in the dead of night and I cried; on Thy words have I set my hope. Mine eyes woke before the morning that I might meditate on Thy sayings. Hear my voice, O Lord, according to Thy mercy; according to Thy judgement, quicken me. They have drawn nigh that lawlessly persecute me, but from Thy law are they far removed. Near art Thou, O Lord, and all Thy ways are truth. From the beginning I have known from Thy testimonies that Thou hast founded them for ever. Behold my humiliation and rescue me, for Thy law have I not forgotten. Judge my cause and redeem me; for Thy word's sake quicken me. Far from sinners is salvation, for they have not sought after Thy statutes. Thy compassions are many, O Lord; according to Thy judgement quicken me. Many are they that persecute me and afflict me; from Thy testimonies have I not declined. I beheld men acting foolishly and I pined away, because they kept not Thy sayings. Behold, how I have loved Thy commandments; O Lord, in Thy mercy, quicken me. The beginning of Thy words is truth, and all the judgements of Thy righteousness endure for ever. Princes have persecuted me without a cause, and because of Thy words my heart hath been afraid. I will rejoice in Thy sayings as one that findeth great spoil. Unrighteousness have I hated and abhorred, but Thy law have I loved. Seven times a day have I praised Thee for the judgements of Thy righteousness. Much peace have they that love Thy law, and for them there is no stumbling-block. I awaited Thy salvation, O Lord, and Thy commandments have I loved. My soul hath kept Thy testimonies and hath loved them exceedingly. I have kept Thy commandments and Thy testimonies, for all my ways are before Thee, O Lord. Let my supplication draw nigh before Thee, O Lord; according to Thine oracle give me understanding. Let my petition come before Thee, O Lord; according to Thine oracle deliver me. My lips shall pour forth a hymn when Thou hast taught me Thy statutes. My tongue shall speak of Thy sayings, for all Thy commandments are righteousness. Let Thy hand be for saving me, for I have chosen Thy commandments. I have longed for Thy salvation, O Lord, and Thy law is my meditation. My soul shall live and shall praise Thee, and Thy judgements will help me. I have gone astray like a sheep that is lost; O seek Thy servant, for I have not forgotten Thy commandments.

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

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia. Glory to Thee, O God. (Thrice)

Small Litany

Deacon: Again and again, in peace let us pray to the Lord.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

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Choir: To Thee, O Lord.

Priest: For a good God art Thou, and the Lover of mankind, and unto Thee do we send up glory: to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto the ages of ages.

Choir: Amen.

Kontakion, Tone VIII

To Thee, the Champion Leader, we Thy servants dedicate/ a feast of victory and of thanksgiving/ as ones rescued out of sufferings, O Theotokos:/ but as Thou art one with might which is invincible,/ from all dangers that can be do Thou deliver us,// that we may cry to Thee: Rejoice, O Bride Unwedded!

Akathist: Second Stasis

Ikos 4

Priest: 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:

Choir: 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, O Bride Unwedded!

Kontakion 5

Priest: 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

Priest: 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 rescues from the flame of the passions!

Rejoice, guide of the faithful to chastity!

Rejoice, gladness of all generations!

Rejoice, O Bride Unwedded!

Kontakion 6

Priest: 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 babbler who knew not how to sing: Alleluia!



Ikos 6

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

Choir: 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, O Bride Unwedded!

Kontakion 7

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



Kontakion, Tone VIII

To Thee, the Champion Leader, we Thy servants dedicate/ a feast of victory and of thanksgiving/ as ones rescued out of sufferings, O Theotokos:/ but as Thou art one with might which is invincible,/ from all dangers that can be do Thou deliver us,// that we may cry to Thee: Rejoice, O Bride Unwedded!

Lord have mercy. (Thrice)

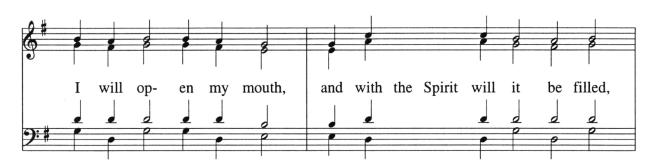
Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.

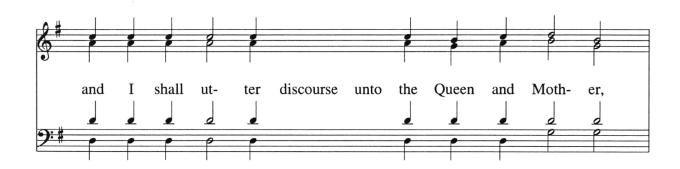
Reader: Both now and ever, and unto the ages of ages. Amen.

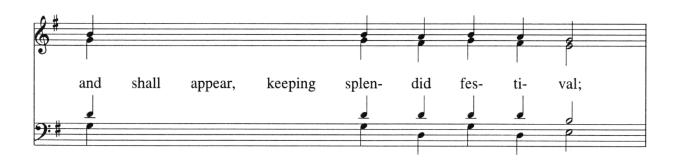
Psalm 50

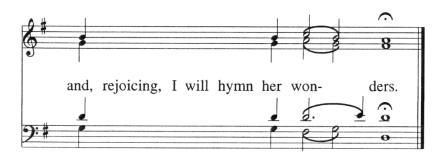
Have mercy on me, O God, according to Thy great mercy; and according to the multitude of Thy compassions blot out my transgression. Wash me thoroughly from mine iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin. For I know mine iniquity, and my sin is ever before me. Against Thee only have I sinned and done this evil before Thee, that Thou mightiest be justified in Thy words, and prevail when Thou art judged. For behold, I was conceived in iniquities, and in sins did my mother bear me. For behold, Thou hast loved truth; the hidden and secret things of Thy wisdom hast Thou made manifest unto me. Thou shalt sprinkle me with hyssop, and I shall be made clean; Thou shalt wash me, and I shall be made whiter than snow. Thou shalt make me to hear joy and gladness; the bones that be humbled, they shall rejoice. Turn Thy face away from my sins, and blot out all mine iniquities. Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from Thy presence, and take not Thy Holy Spirit from me. Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation, and with Thy governing Spirit establish me. I shall teach transgressors Thy ways, and the ungodly shall turn back unto Thee. Deliver me from blood-guiltiness, O God, Thou God of my salvation; my tongue shall rejoice in Thy righteousness. O Lord, Thou shalt open my lips, and my mouth shall declare Thy praise. For if Thou hadst desired sacrifice, I had given it; with whole-burnt offerings Thou shalt not be pleased. A sacrifice unto God is a broken spirit; a heart that is broken and humbled God will not despise. Do good, O Lord, in Thy good pleasure unto Sion, and let the walls of Jerusalem be builded. Then shalt Thou be pleased with a sacrifice of righteousness, with oblation and whole-burnt offerings. Then shall they offer bullocks upon Thine altar.

Ode I









Troparia

Refrain: O Most-Holy Theotokos, save us.

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

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

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

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 III



Troparia

Refrain: 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, neverfailing spring of the living water.

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.

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

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

Katavasia

Choir: O Theotokos,/ thou living and abundant fountain:/ In thy divine glory spiritually estab-lish those who hymn thee,/ and forming themselves into a choir;// and vouchsafe unto them crowns of glory.

Small Litany

Deacon: Again and again, in peace let us pray to the Lord.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: Help us, save us, have mercy on us, and keep us, O God, by Thy grace.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: Calling to remembrance our most holy, most pure, most blessed, glorious Lady Theotokos and Ever-Virgin Mary with all the saints, let us commit ourselves and one another and all our life unto Christ our God.

Choir: To Thee, O Lord.

Priest: For Thou art our God, and unto Thee do we send up glory: to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto the ages of ages.

Choir: Amen.

Kontakion, Tone VIII

To Thee, the Champion Leader, we Thy servants dedicate/ a feast of victory and of thanksgiving/ as ones rescued out of sufferings, O Theotokos:/ but as Thou art one with might which is invincible,/ from all dangers that can be do Thou deliver us,// that we may cry to Thee: Rejoice, O Bride Unwedded!

Akathist: Third Stasis

Ikos 7

Priest: 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!

Choir: 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 vanguish all desire!

Rejoice, O Bride Unwedded!

Kontakion 8

Priest: 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

Priest: 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:

Choir: 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, O Bride Unwedded!

Kontakion 9

Priest: 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

Priest: 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:

Choir: 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, O Bride Unwedded!

Kontakion 10

Priest: 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!



Kontakion, Tone VIII

To Thee, the Champion Leader, we Thy servants dedicate/ a feast of victory and of thanksgiving/ as ones rescued out of sufferings, O Theotokos:/ but as Thou art one with might which is invincible,/ from all dangers that can be do Thou deliver us,// that we may cry to Thee: Rejoice, O Bride Unwedded!

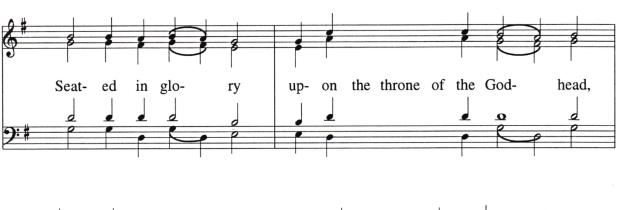
Sessional Hymn

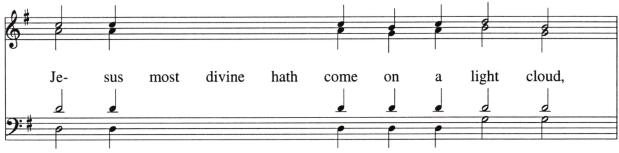
Reader: Coming to the city of Nazareth, the mighty leader of the spiritual angels proclaimed to thee, O Undefiled, the Incarnation of the King and Lord of the ages, saying unto thee: 'Rejoice, blessed Mary, depth unsearchable beyond all understanding, and restoration of all mortal men.'

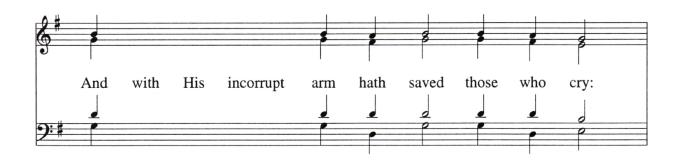
Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, both now and ever, and unto the ages of ages. Amen.

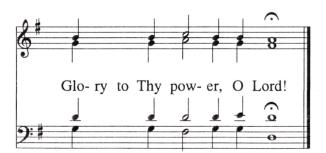
Coming to the city of Nazareth, the mighty leader of the spiritual angels proclaimed to thee, O Undefiled, the Incarnation of the King and Lord of the ages, saying unto thee: 'Rejoice, blessed Mary, depth unsearchable beyond all understanding, and restoration of all mortal men.'

Ode IV









Troparia

Refrain: O Most-Holy Theotokos, save us.

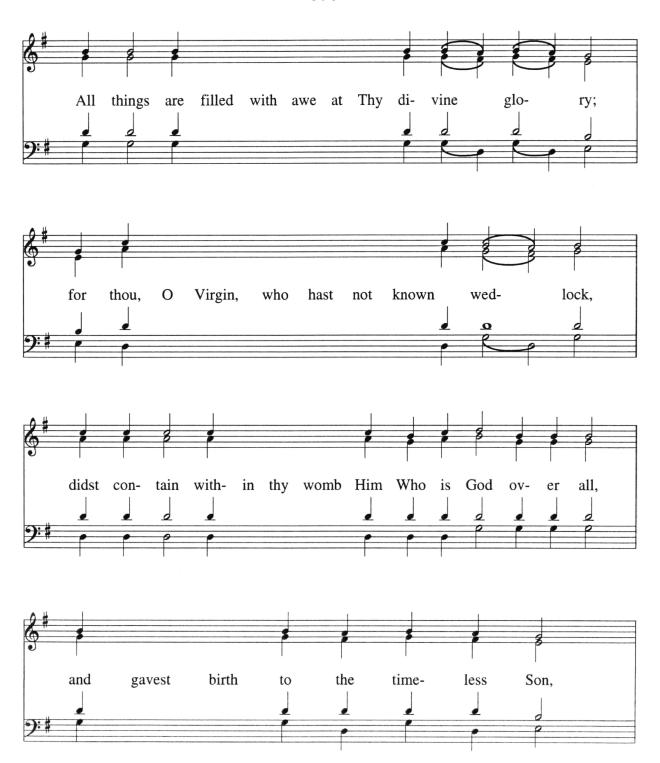
With voices of song in faith we cry aloud to thee, O Virgin worthy of all praise: Rejoice, rich mountain flowing with the milk of die Spirit; Rejoice, candlestick and vessel of manna, sweet to the taste of the godly.

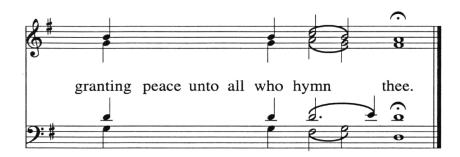
Rejoice, mercy-seat of the world, O lady undefiled; Rejoice, ladder raising all men from the earth by grace; Rejoice, bridge that in very truth has brought from death to life all those that sing thy praises.

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

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.

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.





Troparia

Refrain: 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.

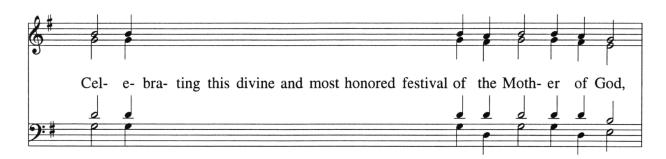
Rejoice, O Undefiled, the strength and fortress of mankind, sanctuary of the Glory; Rejoice, slayer of hell, bridal chamber full of light; Rejoice, joy of the angels; Rejoice, succour of those who call on thee with faith.

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.

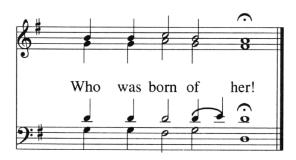
Strengthened by thy might, we raise our cry to thee with faith: Rejoice, city of the King of all! Glorious things, worthy to be heard throughout the world, are plainly spoken of thee. Rejoice, mountain not cut by hand of man, depth that none can fathom.

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 VI







Troparia

Refrain: O Most-Holy Theotokos, save us.

O spotless bridal chamber of the Word, through thee all can become godlike. Rejoice, All-Undefiled, the prophet's song; Rejoice, the adornment of the apostles.

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.

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.

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.

First Four-Canticled Canon

Refrain: Saints of God, pray for us.

Through their sufferings the martyrs became like chosen stones, which roll across the earth and overturn every building of the enemy; and they were made into temples of God.

Refrain: Saints of God, pray for us.

We pray to you, O martyrs who have completed the course of holiness: give us strength to run the race of the Fast, endued with glory through our perfect practice of the virtues.

Refrain: God is wonderful in His saints, the God of Israel.

For the Dead

O Lord, supreme in love, grant to Thy servants departed from this earth that they may be partakers in Thy Kingdom, at the holy intercessions of Thy divine martyrs, O Most Merciful.

Refrain: Most holy Theotokos, save us.

Theotokion

O Mother and Virgin, alone worthy of all glory, intercede with the most holy Word, that we who sing thy praises with faith may be granted remission of sins and a share in God's gifts of grace.

Another Four-Canticled Canon

Refrain: Saints of God, pray for us.

As we celebrate today the memory of die martyrs, let us with holy joy offer hymns of praise to the Lord.

Refrain: Saints of God, pray for us.

Not dismayed by sword and fire, O victorious martyrs, but made bold by your faith, ye filled the tyrants with fear and amazement.

Glory to the Father...

I praise Thee as Trinity in Persons and I worship Thee as Unity in Essence, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Both now...

Theotokion

Thou art the praise of angels and men, O Virgin, for thou hast borne Christ the Saviour of our souls.

Refrain: God is wonderful in His saints, the God of Israel.

Receiving life in exchange for death, O glorious martyrs of Christ our God, ye dwell in heaven with great joy.

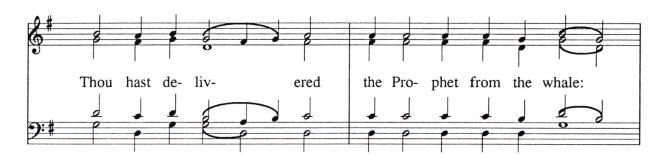
Refrain: Their souls shall dwell in prosperity.

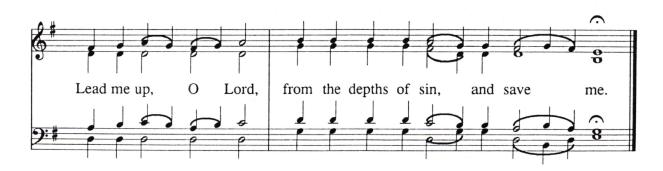
For the Dead

O Christ, the Lord of death and life, give rest with Thy saints to those who have departed from this world in faith.

Ode VI - Katavasia

Tone V





Small Litany

Deacon: Again and again, in peace let us pray to the Lord.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: Help us, save us, have mercy on us, and keep us, O God, by Thy grace.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: Calling to remembrance our most holy, most pure, most blessed, glorious Lady Theotokos and Ever-Virgin Mary with all the saints, let us commit ourselves and one another and all our life unto Christ our God.

Choir: To Thee, O Lord.

Priest: For Thou art the King of Peace, and the Saviour of our souls, and unto Thee do we send up glory: to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto the ages of ages.

Choir: Amen.

Kontakion, Tone VIII

To Thee, the Champion Leader, we Thy servants dedicate/ a feast of victory and of thanksgiving/ as ones rescued out of sufferings, O Theotokos:/ but as Thou art one with might which is invincible,/ from all dangers that can be do Thou deliver us,// that we may cry to Thee: Rejoice, O Bride Unwedded!

Akathist: Fourth Stasis

Ikos 10

Priest: 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:

Choir: 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, adorner of holy souls as for marriage!

Rejoice, O Bride Unwedded!

Kontakion 11

Priest: 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

Priest: 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 honoured by our shouting these things:

Choir: 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, O Bride Unwedded!

Kontakion 12

Priest: 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

Priest: 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:

Choir: Rejoice, tabernacle of God the Word!

Rejoice, saint greater than the saints!

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, O Bride Unwedded!

Kontakion 13

The following sequence with the Priest and the Choir on Kontakion 13 is done thrice. Priest: O all-praised Mother Who didst bear the Word, holiest of all the saints, accept now our offering, and deliver us from all misfortune, and rescue from the torment to come those that cry to Thee: Alleluia, alleluia!



Ikos 1

Priest: 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 causest the Sun to appear!

Rejoice, womb of the Divine Incarnation!

Rejoice, Thou through whom creation is renewed!

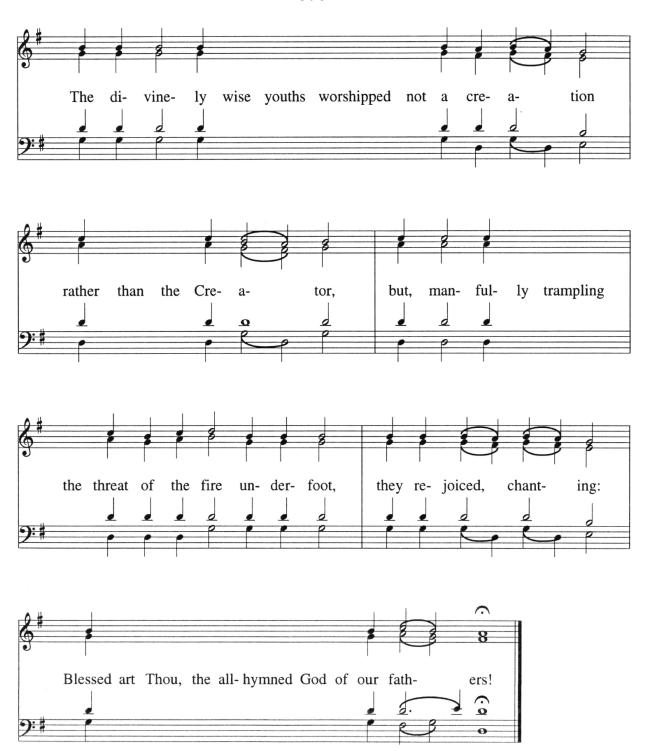
Rejoice, Thou through whom we worship the Creator! (Bow)

Rejoice, O Bride Unwedded!

Kontakion 1

To Thee, the Champion Leader, we Thy servants dedicate/ a feast of victory and of thanksgiving/ as ones rescued out of sufferings, O Theotokos:/ but as Thou art one with might which is invincible,/ from all dangers that can be do Thou deliver us,// that we may cry to Thee: Rejoice, O Bride Unwedded!

Ode VII



Troparia

Refrain: 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.

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.

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.

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 enrol thy servants in the Book of Life.

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.

First Four-Canticled Canon

Refrain: Saints of God, pray for us.

O Christ most merciful, the glorious company of Thy divine martyrs dwells now in Thy light that knows no evening. At their intercessions, grant to all of us enlightenment and cleansing from our sins.

Refrain: Saints of God, pray for us.

How beautiful is this season of abstinence that Thou hast given us, O Lord! As we pass through it, do Thou in Thy goodness take pity on our souls, at the prayers of Thy holy martyrs who loved the beauty of Thy sacred Passion.

Refrain: God is wonderful in His saints, the God of Israel.

For the Dead

O Master of life, bring to anchor in a safe harbour those Thy servants who have passed through the storm of this life with its many sorrows. May they cry aloud with all Thine elect: Blessed art Thou. O God of our fathers.

Refrain: Most holy Theotokos, save us.

Theotokion

O Ever-Virgin who hast borne the Giver of the Law, pray to Him that in this season He may uproot all wickedness from die hearts of those who seek to keep the holy Fast with zeal and strictness.

Second Four-Canticled Canon

Refrain: Saints of God, pray for us.

Blessed art Thou, O God, who hast given courage to the martyrs who suffered for Thy sake: for Thou art praised and glorified above all.

Refrain: Saints of God, pray for us.

Blessed art Thou, O God, who hast given to us Thy victorious martyrs as our intercessors in Thy presence: for Thou art praised and glorified above all.

Glory to the Father...

Blessed art Thou, O God, one by Nature yet made known in three Persons: for Thou art praised and glorified above all.

Both now...

Theotokion

Blessed art Thou, O God, who wast born without seed and hast kept Thy Mother ever a virgin: for Thou art praised and glorified above all.

Refrain: Through the saints that are on His earth, the Lord has made manifest His wonders.

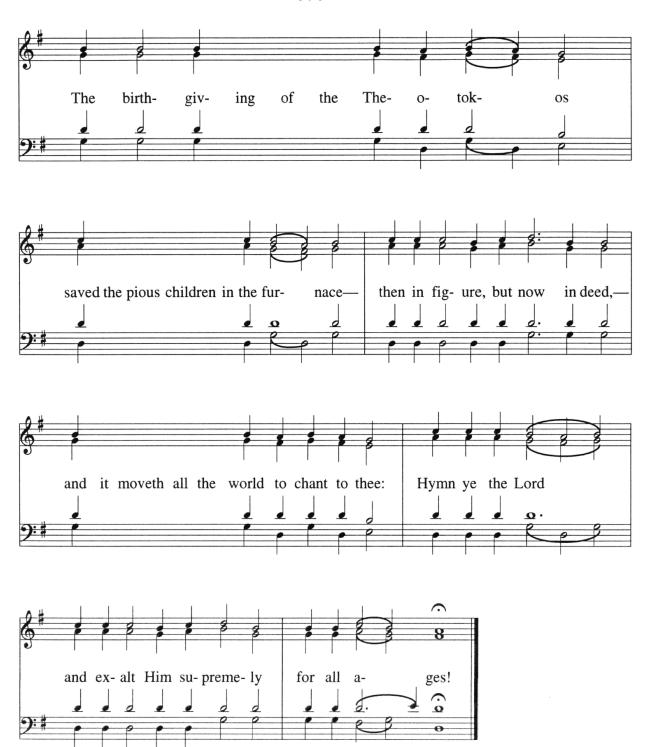
Blessed art Thou, O God, who hast tamed the wild beasts and quenched the fire to the glory of Thy saints: for Thou art praised and glorified above all.

Refrain: Blessed are they whom Thou hast chosen and taken to Thyself, O Lord.

For the Dead

Blessed art Thou, O God, who hast translated from death unto life without end all who in this world served and worshipped Thee with faith.

Ode VIII



Troparia

Refrain: 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.

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.

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.

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.

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 defence, 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.

First Four-Canticled Canon

Refrain: Saints of God, pray for us.

The powers of heaven marvelled at the victory of the holy martyrs. At their prayers, compassionate Master, bestow upon us the rich wonders of Thy mercy.

Refrain: Saints of God, pray for us.

O martyrs of the Lord, worthy of our wonder, in dew sent from God ye trampled down the fire. Through your fervent intercessions to the Master, deliver us from the fire of punishment.

Refrain: God is wonderful in Mis saints, the God of Israel.

For the Dead

O Word supreme in love, to the Orthodox departed from us grant heavenly life and holy radiance, at the prayers of the victorious martyrs.

Refrain: Most holy Theotokos, save us.

Theotokion

At die prayers of Thy Mother, O compassionate Lord, and of Thy holy martyrs and apostles, give light to our souls, that with rejoicing we may glorify Thee for ever.

Second Four-Canticled Canon

Refrain: Saints of God, pray for us.

Holy choirs of martyrs, remember us who sing your praises with love, exalting Christ above all for ever.

Refrain: Saints of God, pray for us.

Beheaded with the sword, the martyrs rejoiced, singing in praise of Christ and exalting Him above all for ever.

We bless Father, Son and Holy Spirit: the Lord.

In a strange manner the Trinity is divided, while yet remaining undivided as God. Him do we exalt above all for ever.

Both now...

Theotokion

A Virgin has borne a Child, for God has become man from her. Let all flesh sing His praises for ever.

Refrain: God is wonderful in His saints, the God of Israel.

The martyrs were made pillars of courage, triumphing over the fall of the devil; and they sing in praise of Christ for ever.

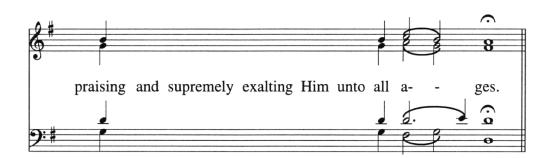
Refrain: Their souls shall dwell in prosperity.

For the Dead

Grant a place with Abraham, O Lord, to Thy servants who have gone to dwell with Thee in faith and hope.

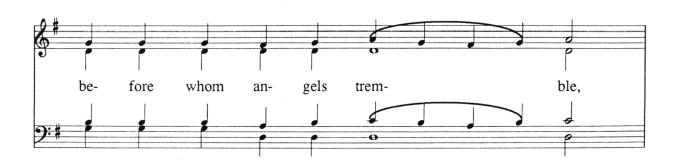
We Praise, We Bless

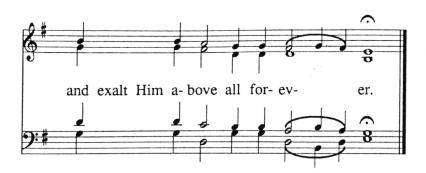




Ode VIII - Katavasia *Tone V*







Song of the Most Holy Theotokos

Deacon: The Theotokos and Mother of the Light let us magnify in song.

Choir: My soul doth magnify the Lord,/ and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour.

Refrain: More honourable than the Cherubim,/ and beyond compare more glorious than the Seraphim,/ who without corruption gavest birth to God the Word,// the very Theotokos, thee do we magnify.

For He hath looked upon the lowliness of His handmaiden;/ for behold, from henceforth all generations shall call me blessed. *Refrain*.

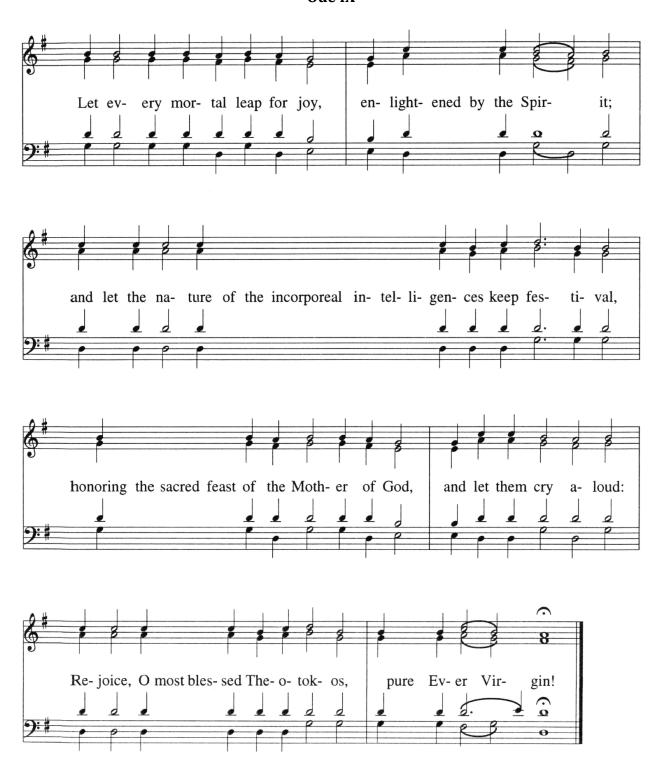
For the Mighty One hath done great things to me, and holy is His name;/ and His mercy is on them that fear Him unto generation and generation. *Refrain*.

He hath showed strength with His arm,/ and He hath scattered the proud in the imagination of their heart. *Refrain*.

He hath put down the mighty from their seat, and exalted them of low degree;/ He hath filled the hungry with good things, and the rich He hath sent empty away. *Refrain*.

He hath holpen His servant Israel in remembrance of His mercy,/ as He spake to our fathers, to Abraham and his seed forever. *Refrain*.

Ode IX



Troparia

Refrain: 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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

First Four-Canticled Canon

Refrain: Saints of God, pray for us.

Dawning as light, as the rising sun, the martyrs have illumined all the earth with the rays of the true faith and with the radiance of their miracles, and they have destroyed the darkness of pagan idolatry. At their prayers, O Lord, have mercy upon us.

Refrain: Saints of God, pray for us.

O invincible army of martyrs, strengthen all of us to fight the good fight and complete the course of the Fast, that performing acts of holiness we may with joy become partakers of life.

Refrain: God is wonderful in His saints, the God of Israel.

For the Dead

O Lord, may Thy love accompany those who have departed from us at Thy dread command. Surround them with Thy mercies and guide them to the dwellings that are made radiant with the light of Thy countenance.

Refrain: Most holy Theotokos, save us.

Theotokion

At the voice of the angel, O Theotokos, ineffably thou hast conceived the Angel of the Father's counsel. Accept then the voices of us thy servants and the prayers that we offer in this season of the Fast, and bring them before God as incense.

Second Four-Canticled Canon

Refrain: Saints of God, pray for us.

Celebrating a feast today in honour of the martyrs, O ye peoples, let us dance for joy, singing to Christ, who set the contest and gave them victory over their enemies: with our hymns we magnify Him.

Refrain: Saints of God, pray for us.

Torn with nails and cut in pieces with the sword, ye were united to Christ in love, O martyrs worthy of all praise. Now that ye rejoice in heaven, intercede for all of us.

Glory to the Father...

O honoured Trinity, consubstantial, without beginning, source of life, O undivided Unity, I sing Thy praises: Father unbegotten, Word and Son begotten, and Holy Spirit, save us all who glorify Thee.

Both now...

Theotokion

Beyond our understanding is thy childbearing, O Mother of God. For without a man thou hast conceived, and in virginity thou hast given birth; and the Child that thou hast borne is God. Him we magnify, O Virgin, and we call thee blessed.

Refrain: Through all the saints that are on His earth, the Lord has made manifest His wonders.

The noble army of the King and God of all, the martyrs, let us crown with songs, ye peoples: for openly they have defeated the demonic hosts. We sing their praises and we magnify the Master.

Refrain: Blessed are they whom Thou hast chosen and taken to Thyself, O Lord.

For the Dead

When Thou shalt raise for judgement all that Thou hast fashioned, have mercy on Thy faithful servants whom Thou now hast taken to Thyself, O Christ; forgive them all their sins in this life, and grant them rest with Thy saints for ever.

Ode IX - Katavasia *Tone V*



Small Litany

Deacon: Again and again, in peace let us pray to the Lord.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: Help us, save us, have mercy on us, and keep us, O God, by Thy grace.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: Calling to remembrance our most holy, most pure, most blessed, glorious Lady Theotokos and Ever-Virgin Mary with all the saints, let us commit ourselves and one another and all our life unto Christ our God.

Choir: To Thee, O Lord.

Priest: For all the Hosts of Heaven praise Thee, and unto Thee do we send up glory: to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto the ages of ages.

Choir: Amen.

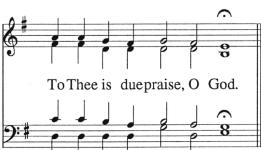
Exapostilarion

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.

Let Every Breath Praise the Lord

Reader: In the Fourth Tone: Let every breath praise the Lord.





Verses of the Psalms of Praise

Praise Him, O sun and moon; praise Him, all ye stars and light.

Praise Him, ye heavens of heavens, and thou water that art above the heavens.

Let them praise the name of the Lord; for He spake, and they came to be; He commanded, and they were created.

He established them for ever, yea, for ever and ever; He hath set an ordinance, and it shall not pass away.

Praise the Lord from the earth, ye dragons, and all ye abysses,

Fire, hail, snow, ice, blast of tempest, which perform His word,

The mountains and all the hills, fruitful trees, and all cedars,

The beasts and all the cattle, creeping things and winged birds,

Kings of the earth, and all peoples, princes and all the judges of the earth,

Young men and virgins, elders with the younger; let them praise the name of the Lord, for exalted is the name of Him alone.

His praise is above the earth and Heaven, and He shall exalt the horn of His people.

This is the hymn for all His saints, for the sons of Israel, and for the people that draw nigh unto Him.

Sing unto the Lord a new song; His praise is in the church of the saints.

Let Israel be glad in Him that made him, let the sons of Sion rejoice in their King.

Let them praise His name in the dance; with the timbrel and the psaltery let them chant unto Him.

For the Lord taketh pleasure in His people, and He shall exalt the meek with salvation.

The saints shall boast in glory, and they shall rejoice upon their beds.

The high praise of God shall be in their throat, and two-edged swords shall be in their hands,

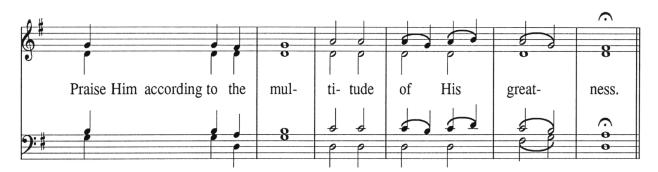
To do vengeance among the heathen, punishments among the peoples,

To bind their kings with fetters, and their nobles with manacles of iron.

To do among them the judgment that is written. This glory shall be to all His saints.

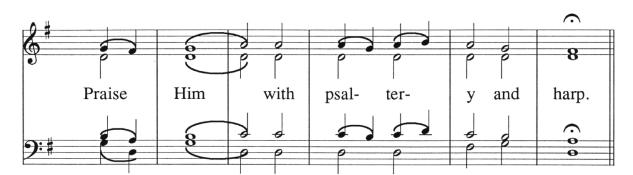
Praise ye God in His saints, praise Him in the firmament of His power.

Reader: Praise Him for His mighty acts.



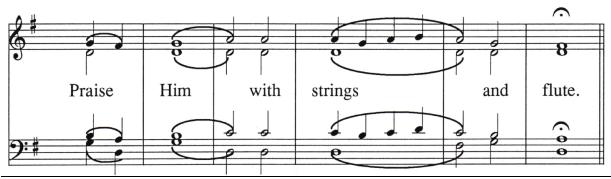
A mystery hidden, unknown to the angels,/ is entrusted to the Archangel Gabriel./ Coming now to thee, the dove alone stainless and pure,/ the restoration of mankind,/ he shall greet thee, O most Holy, with the salutation:/ 'Rejoice! Make ready to receive, through a word,// God the Word within thy womb.'

Reader: Praise Him with the sound of trumpet.



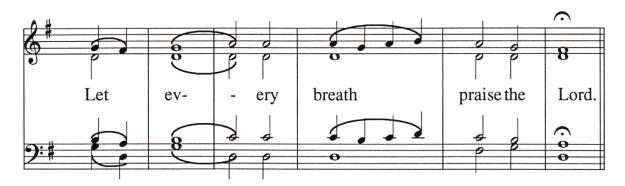
A mystery hidden, unknown to the angels,/ is entrusted to the Archangel Gabriel./ Coming now to thee, the dove alone stainless and pure,/ the restoration of mankind,/ he shall greet thee, O most Holy, with the salutation:/ 'Rejoice! Make ready to receive, through a word,// God the Word within thy womb.'

Reader: Praise Him with timbrel and dance.



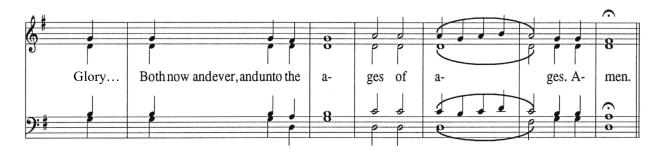
A pavilion full of light is prepared for Thee, O Master:/ the undefiled womb of the Child of God./ Come down and enter it, taking pity on Thy creatures,/ whom the avenging spirit in his envy has attacked and holds in bondage./ They have lost their former beauty,// and await Thy descent for their salvation.

Reader: Praise Him with tuneful cymbals, praise Him with cymbals of jubilation.



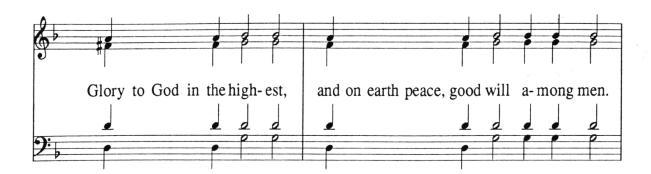
Gabriel the Archangel shall come to thee openly, all-blameless Virgin,/ and shall cry to thee:/ 'Rejoice, deliverance from the curse, and raising of the fallen;/ Rejoice, thou who alone wast chosen by God;/ Rejoice, living cloud of the Sun.// Receive Him that has no body, whose will it is to dwell within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

Reader: Glory, both now in the same Tone.



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 unto the world and to our souls great mercy.

Great Doxology



We praise Thee, we bless Thee, we worship Thee,/ we glorify Thee, we give thanks to Thee for Thy great glory./ O Lord, Heavenly King, God the Father Almighty;/ O Lord, the only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ; and O Holy Spirit./ O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,/ that takest away the sin of the world; have mercy on us;/ Thou that takest away the sins of the world, receive our prayer;/ Thou that sittest at the right hand of the Father, have mercy on us./ For Thou only art holy;/ Thou only art the Lord, O Jesus Christ, to the glory of God the Father. Amen.

Every day will I bless Thee, and I will praise Thy Name forever, yea, forever and ever.

Vouchsafe, O Lord, to keep us this day without sin./ Blessed art Thou, O Lord, the God of our fathers,/ and praised and glorified is Thy name unto the ages. Amen.

Let Thy mercy, O Lord, be upon us, according as we have hoped in Thee.

Blessed are Thou, O Lord, teach me Thy statutes. (Thrice)

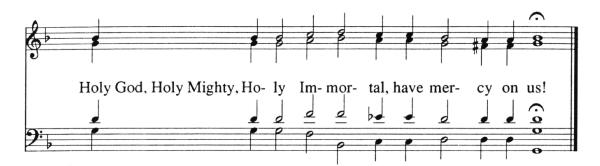
Lord, thou hast been our refuge in generation and generation./ I said: O Lord, have mercy on me, heal my soul, for I have sinned against Thee.

O Lord, unto Thee have I fled for refuge, teach me to do Thy will, for Thou art my God./ For in Thee is the fountain of life, in Thy light shall we see light./ O continue Thy mercy unto them that know Thee.

Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal, have mercy on us. (Thrice)

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

Holy Immortal have mercy on us.



Troparion, Tone VIII

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 cry to thee:// Rejoice, Bride without bridegroom.'

Augmented Litany

Deacon: Have mercy on us, O God, according to Thy great mercy, we pray Thee, hearken and have mercy.

Choir: Lord, have mercy. (Thrice)

Deacon: Again we pray for our Archbishop Name; and all our brethren in Christ.

Choir: Lord, have mercy. (Thrice)

Deacon: Again we pray for this land, its authorities and armed forces.

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

Deacon: Again we pray for the suffering Russian land and its Orthodox people both in the homeland and in the diaspora, and for their salvation.

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

Deacon: Again we pray to the Lord our God that He may deliver His people from enemies visible and invisible, and confirm in us oneness of mind, brotherly love and piety.

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

Deacon: Again we pray for our brethren, the priests, priestmonks, and all our brethren in Christ.

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

Deacon: Again we pray for the blessed and ever-memorable founders of this holy temple, and for all our fathers and brethren gone to their rest before us, and the Orthodox here and everywhere laid to rest.

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

Deacon: Again we pray for mercy, life, peace, health, salvation, visitation, pardon and remission of the sins of the servants of God, the brethren of this holy temple.

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

Deacon: Again we pray for them that bring offerings and do good works in this holy and all-venerable temple; for them that minister and them that chant, and for all the people here present, that await of Thee great and abundant mercy.

Choir: Lord, have mercy. (Thrice)

Priest (Bishop): For a merciful God art Thou, and the Lover of mankind, and unto Thee do we send up glory: to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto the ages of ages.

Choir: Amen.

Litany of Fervent Supplication

Deacon: Let us complete our morning prayer to the Lord.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: Help us, save us, have mercy on us, and keep us, O God, by Thy grace.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: That the whole day may be perfect, holy, peaceful, and sinless, let us ask of the Lord.

Choir: Grant this, O Lord.

Deacon: An angel of peace, a faithful guide, a guardian of our souls and bodies, let us ask of the Lord.

Choir: Grant this, O Lord.

Deacon: Pardon and remission of our sins and offences, let us ask of the Lord.

Choir: Grant this, O Lord.

Deacon: Things good and profitable for our souls, and peace for the world, let us ask of the Lord.

Choir: Grant this, O Lord.

Deacon: That we may complete the remaining time of our life in peace and repentance, let us ask of the Lord.

Choir: Grant this, O Lord.

Deacon: A Christian ending to our life, painless, blameless, peaceful, and a good defense before the dread judgment seat of Christ, let us ask.

Choir: Grant this, O Lord.

Deacon: Calling to remembrance our most holy, most pure, most blessed, glorious Lady Theotokos and Ever-Virgin Mary with all the saints, let us commit ourselves and one another and all our life unto Christ our God.

Choir: To Thee, O Lord.

Priest (Bishop): For Thou art a God of mercy, compassion, and love for mankind, and unto Thee do we send up glory: to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto the ages of ages.

Choir: Amen.

Priest (Bishop): Peace be unto all.

Choir: And to thy spirit.

Deacon: Let us bow our heads unto the Lord.

Choir: To Thee, O Lord.

Priest (Bishop): For Thine it is to show mercy and to save us, 0 our God, and unto Thee do we send up glory: to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, both now and ever, and unto the ages of ages.

Choir: Amen.

Deacon: Wisdom!

Choir: Father (Master), bless.

Priest (Bishop): He that is is blessed, Christ our God, always, now and ever, and unto the ages of ages.

Choir: Amen. Establish, O God, the holy Orthodox Faith of Orthodox Christians unto the ages of ages.

Priest (Bishop): O most holy Theotokos, save us.

Choir: More honourable than the Cherubim, and beyond compare more glorious than the Seraphim, who without corruption gavest birth to God the Word, the very Theotokos, thee do we magnify.

Priest (Bishop): Glory to Thee, O Christ God, our hope, glory to Thee.

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

Lord, have mercy. (Thrice)

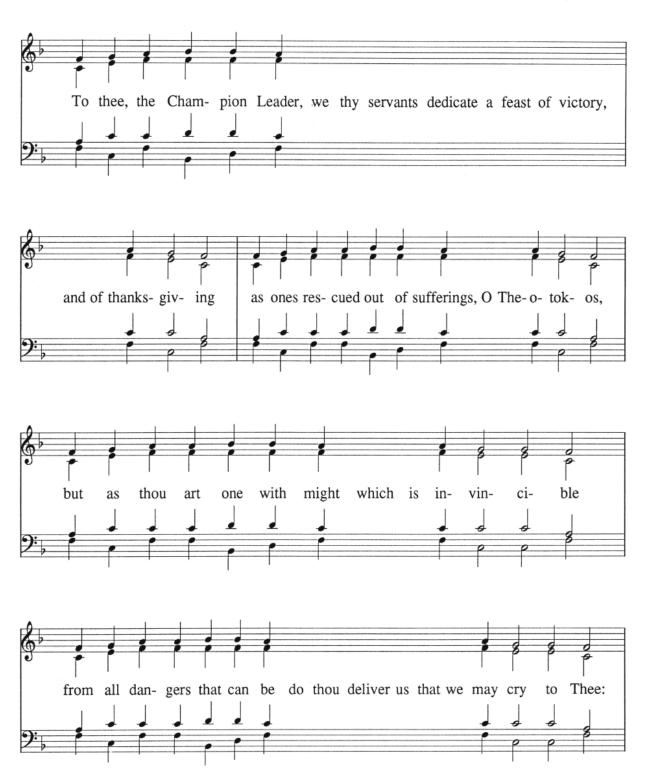
Father (Master), bless.

Priest (Bishop): May Christ our true God, through the intercessions of His most pure Mother; and Saint *Name (to whom the church is dedicated)*; and Saint *Name (of the day)*; of the holy and righteous ancestors of God, Joachim and Anna; and of all the saints: have mercy on us and save us, for He is good and the Lover of mankind.

Choir: Amen.

Appendix: Alternate Melodies for the Kontakion of the Feast To Thee the Champion Leader

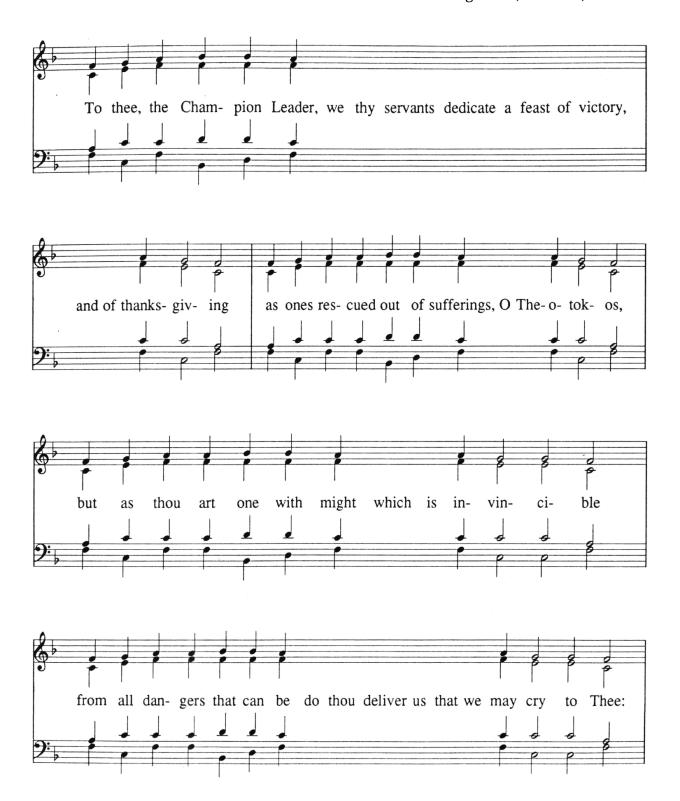
Obikhod, Tone VIII

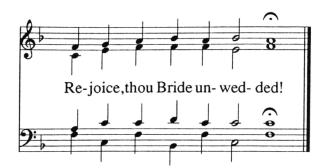




To Thee the Champion Leader

Alternate Arrangement, Obikhod, Tone VIII



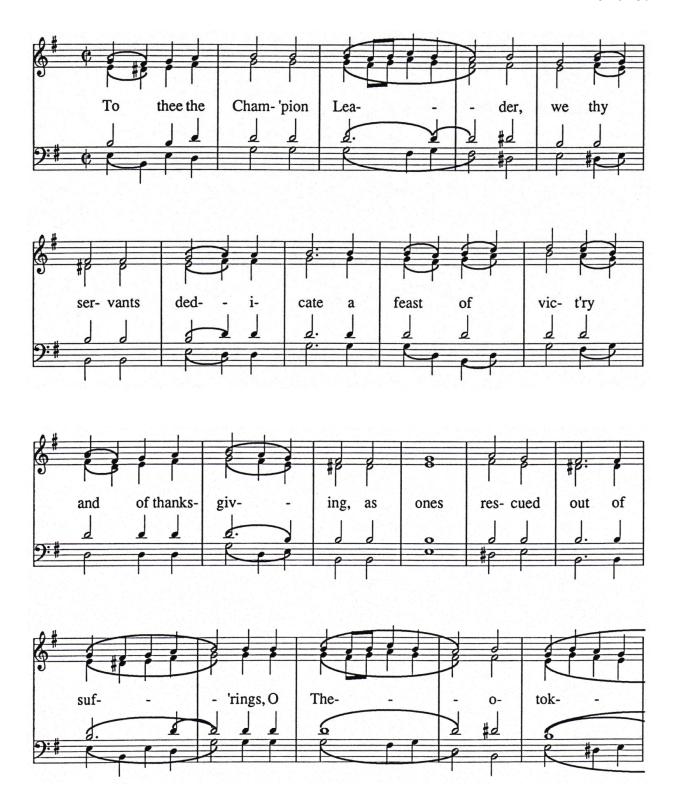


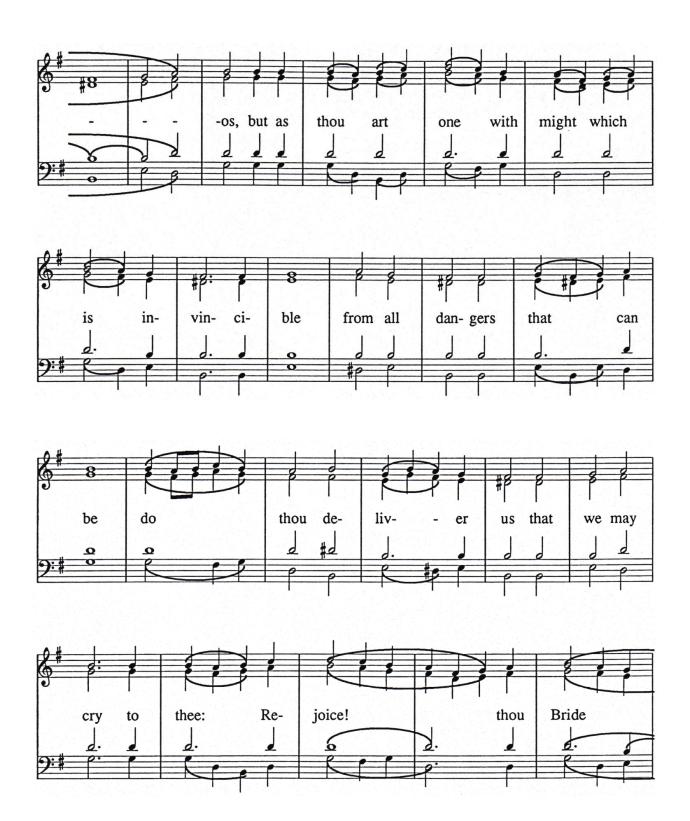
Ledkovsky

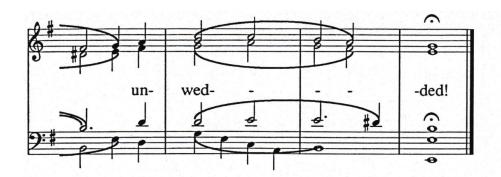




Allemanov







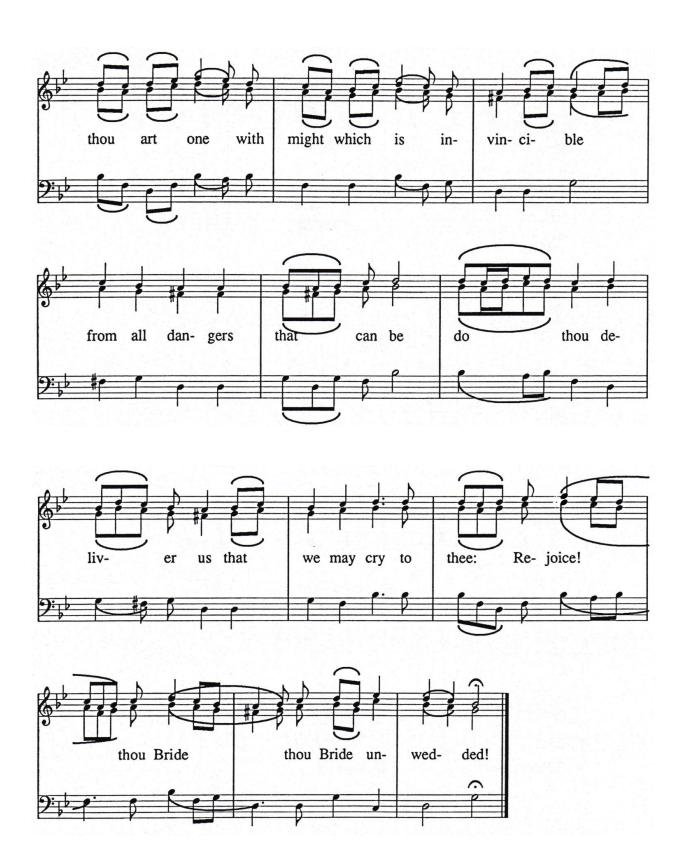
Ledkovsky: Allemanov Arrangement





Trio: Special Melody





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