



ACATHISTOS HYMN TO THE MOTHER OF GOD

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KONDAK

To You powerful Ruler, in honour of victory. We, freed from danger, sing this song of thanks to you Mother of God. Since You have unconquerable power, free us from all danger that we may sing to You:

REJOICE, O BRIDE AND MAIDEN EVER PURE!

IKOS 1

An archangel was sent from heaven to greet the Mother of God, and as he saw you assuming a body at the sound of his bodiless voice, O Lord, he stood rapt in amazement and cried out to her in these words:

Rejoice, O you through whom joy will shine forth;
Rejoice, O you through whom the curse will disappear!
Rejoice, O Restoration of the fallen Adam;
Rejoice, O Redemption of the tears of Eve!

Rejoice, O Peak above the reach of human thought;
Rejoice, O Depth even beyond the sight of angels!
Rejoice, O you who have become a kingly Throne;
Rejoice, O you who carry Him who carries all!

Rejoice, O Star who manifests the Sun;
Rejoice, O Womb of the divine incarnation!
Rejoice, O you through whom creation is renewed;
Rejoice, O you through whom the Creator becomes a Babe!

REJOICE, O BRIDE AND MAIDEN EVER PURE!

KONDAK 1

Knowing that she was a virgin, the blessed one courageously answered the angel: “Your surprising words seem hard for my mind to accept; how can you speak of a birth that is to come from a conception without seed? And why do you cry, Alleluia?”

Alleluia (3)

IKOS 2

Trying to grasp the meaning of this mystery, the Virgin asked the holy messenger: “How is it possible that a son be born from a virginal womb? Tell me.” And he answered her with awe, crying out in these words:

Rejoice, O hidden Sense of the ineffable Plan!
Rejoice, O Belief in Silence that must be!
Rejoice, O Forecast of the marvels of Christ;
Rejoice, O Fountainhead of the truths concerning Him!

Rejoice, celestial Ladder by whom God came down;
Rejoice, O Bridge leading earthly ones to heaven!
Rejoice, O Wonder, ever-thrilling to the angels;
Rejoice, O Wound, ever-hurting to the demons!

Rejoice, O you who gave birth to the Light ineffably;
Rejoice, O you who told no one how it was done!
Rejoice, O you who surpass the wisdom of the wise;
Rejoice, O you who enlighten faithful minds!

REJOICE, O BRIDE AND MAIDEN EVER PURE!

KONDAK 2

When the power of the Most High overshadowed the one who had never known the nuptial bed, her fruitful womb conceived, and she became for all a delicious field, for those who wished to reap salvation by singing: Alleluia!

Alleluia (3)

IKOS 3

Pregnant with God, the Virgin hastened to Elizabeth, and her unborn child rejoiced, immediately knowing her embrace. Bouncing and singing, he cried out to the Mother of God:

Rejoice, O Tendril whose Bud shall not wilt;
Rejoice, O Soil whose Fruit shall not perish!
Rejoice, O Tender of mankind's loving Tender;
Rejoice, O Gardener of the Gardener of Life!

Rejoice, O Earth who yielded abundant mercies;
Rejoice, O Table full-laden with appeasement.
Rejoice, for you have greened anew the pastures of delight;
Rejoice, for you have prepared a haven for souls.

Rejoice, acceptable Incense of prayer;
Rejoice, Expiation of the whole universe!
Rejoice, O you Favour of God to mortal men;
Rejoice, O you Trust of mortals before God!

REJOICE, O BRIDE AND MAIDEN EVER PURE!

KONDAK 3

Filled with a storm of contradictory thoughts, the wise Joseph was greatly disturbed. Until then, he had seen you a virgin, and now he suspected you of secret guilt, all-blameless one! Learning that your conception was of the Holy Spirit, he cried out: Alleluia!

Alleluia (3)

IKOS 4

The shepherds heard the angels singing hymns of praise to the coming of Christ in the flesh. And running to Him as to a shepherd, they saw him as a spotless Lamb grazing at Mary's breast. They sang a hymn to her and said:

Rejoice, O Mother of Lamb and Shepherd;
Rejoice, O Fold of rational sheep!
Rejoice, O Protection against unseen foes;
Rejoice, O Key to the doors of paradise!

Rejoice, for the heavenly rejoice with the earthly;
Rejoice, for the earthly meet the heavenly in song!
Rejoice, the unsilenced Voice of apostles;
Rejoice, the undaunted Might of martyrs!

Rejoice, O steadfast Foundation of faith;
Rejoice, O shining Emblem of grace!
Rejoice, O you through whom death was despoiled;
Rejoice, O you through whom we were clothed with glory!

REJOICE, O BRIDE AND MAIDEN EVER PURE!

KONDAK 4

When they saw God's wondrous Star, the Magi followed its glittering light as they would a beacon, in search of a mighty King. And having found Him, they drew near the unapproachable One, rejoicing and exclaiming: Alleluia!

Alleluia (3)

IKOS 5

When the sons of Chaldea beheld in the hands of the Virgin, Him, the Creator, who had fashioned mankind by His own Hand, they recognized in Him their Master, even though He had come as a tiny Babe. And so they hastened to honour Him with gifts and to greet the most-blessed of all women:

Rejoice, O Mother of the never-setting Star!
Rejoice, O Dawn of the Mystic day!
Rejoice, O you who quenched the furnace of error,
Rejoice, O you who guard the disciples of the Holy Trinity!

Rejoice, for you banished from power the merciless tyrant!
Rejoice, for you made manifest Christ the Lord, the Lover of Humanity,
Rejoice, for you have delivered us from pagan worship!
Rejoice, for you freed us from unclean deeds.

Rejoice, O you who suppressed the worship of fire!
Rejoice, O you who quench the flames of the passions!
Rejoice, O Guide of the faithful towards wisdom!
Rejoice, O Joy of all generations!

REJOICE, O BRIDE AND MAIDEN EVER PURE!

KONDAK 5

Having fulfilled Your prophecy, O Lord, the Magi returned to Babylon as God-bearing heralds. They preached to all and witnessed to You as the Christ, leaving Herod behind as a fool, who could not sing: Alleluia!

Alleluia (3)

IKOS 6

Illuminating Egypt with the light of Truth, O Saviour You dispelled the darkness of sin and seduction. The idols of that land fell down, unable to withstand Your power and all who were delivered from them greeted the Mother of God:

Rejoice, elation of humankind!
Rejoice, downfall of the demons!
Rejoice, for you crushed the power of deceit!
Rejoice, for you exposed the fraud of idols!

Rejoice, O sea who drowned the Pharaoh of duplicity!
Rejoice, O Rock who have given drink to those who thirst for life!
Rejoice, Pillar of fire, guiding those in darkness!
Rejoice, Protection of the world, broader than the clouds!

Rejoice, O Successor to manna!
Rejoice, O Servant of the Banquet Divine!
Rejoice, O Promised Land!
Rejoice, Land of milk and honey!

REJOICE, O BRIDE AND MAIDEN EVER PURE!

KONDAK 6

When Simeon was soon to leave this deceitful world, You were brought to him as a Child. Taking You into his arms he recognized You as the true God, and marveling at Your ineffable wisdom, he cried out:
Alleluia!

Alleluia (3)

IKOS 7

The Creator revealed a new creation when He came down to us, His creation. He came forth from a womb that had received no seed, preserving it intact as it was before, so that seeing this miracle we might sing to the Mother of God:

Rejoice, O Flower of incorruption!
Rejoice, O Garland of purity!
Rejoice, O you, who shine as a sign of the Resurrection!
Rejoice, O you, who reveal the life of the angels!

Rejoice, Tree of good fruit from which the faithful feed!
Rejoice, shady Glen where many find shelter!
Rejoice, for you gave birth to the Saviour of the captives!
Rejoice, for you gave birth to the Guide for the lost!

Rejoice, Intercessor before the Just Judge!
Rejoice, Forgiveness of many sins!
Rejoice, Hope of the hopeless!
Rejoice, Tenderness beyond all expectations!

REJOICE, O BRIDE AND MAIDEN EVER PURE!

KONDAK 7

Seeing this miraculous birth, let us become strangers to the world and fix our minds on Heaven. Indeed, it is for this reason that the God Most-High appeared on earth: e became a humble man, desiring to draw up to heaven all those who cry out to Him: Alleluia!

Alleluia (3)

IKOS 8

The Word unfathomed was wholly present here below, yet in no way absent from the realm on high. For this was a Divine Descent and not a change of place. His birth was from a Virgin who received God, as she heard these words:

Rejoice, Vessel of the uncontainable God!
Rejoice, Gate of Solemn Mystery!
Rejoice, Unheard Message for unbelievers!
Rejoice, highest Praise of the faithful!

Rejoice, most holy chariot of Him who rides upon the Cherubim!
Rejoice, most glorious Dwelling of the One above the Seraphim!
Rejoice, O you who reconciled opposites!
Rejoice, O you who united virginity and motherhood!

Rejoice, O you through whom sin was absolved!
Rejoice, O you through whom paradise was opened!
Rejoice, Key to the Kingdom of Christ!
Rejoice, Hope of eternal blessing!

REJOICE, O BRIDE AND MAIDEN EVER PURE!

KONDAK 8

All the angelic hosts were amazed at Your Incarnation, for they saw God, Whom no one can approach, as a man, become approachable by all. He came to dwell among us and He heard the cry: Alleluia!

Alleluia (3)

IKOS 9

The best of speakers become mute as fish before you, O Mother of God, for they are at a loss to say how you remained a virgin and yet were able to bear a child. As for us, while marveling at this mystery, we cry out to you with faith:

Rejoice, Vessel of the Wisdom of God!
Rejoice, Treasury of His Providence!
Rejoice, Reproof of foolish philosophers!
Rejoice, for the eloquent become speechless before you!

Rejoice, for the clever have made fools of themselves!
Rejoice, for the myth-makers have been silenced!
Rejoice, for you dispelled the Athenian snares!
Rejoice, for you filled the nets of the fishermen!

Rejoice, O you, who draw us from the depths of ignorance!
Rejoice, O Lamplight of understanding to many!
Rejoice, O Ship, for all who seek salvation!
Rejoice, O Harbour, in the voyage of life!

REJOICE, O BRIDE AND MAIDEN EVER PURE!

KONDAK 9

Wishing to save the world, the Creator of all came to us as He had promised. Being our God and our Shepherd, out of love for us He took flesh and appeared to all. As man - he called out to all mankind; and as God - he heard from us: Alleluia!

Alleluia (3)

IKOS 10

O Virgin, Mother of God, you are the strength of virgins and of all those who take refuge in you. For the Creator of heaven and earth gave you to be our Protectress, O Pure One. He dwelt in your womb and taught all to cry out to you:

Rejoice, Pillar of virginity!
Rejoice, Gate of salvation!
Rejoice, Leader of spiritual renewal!
Rejoice, Bestower of God's grace!

Rejoice, for you restore those born in sin!
Rejoice, for you counsel those lost in their understanding!
Rejoice, for you stopped the corrupter of hearts!
Rejoice, for you gave birth to the Sower of Chastity!

Rejoice, bridal Chamber of virginal wedlock!
Rejoice, O you who join the faithful with God!
Rejoice, gracious Mother of virgins!
Rejoice, Bridal escort of Holy souls!

REJOICE, O BRIDE AND MAIDEN EVER PURE!

KONDAK 10

The greatest song of praise cannot compare with the multitude of Your mercies, O Holy King! We could sing to You as many songs as there are grains of sand, and yet do nothing worthy of what You have given to us, who cry out to You: Alleluia!

Alleluia (3)

IKOS 11

We see the holy Virgin as a light-bearing lamp, appearing to those who live in darkness. For she is the one who kindled the immaterial Light, and now, she leads all mankind to the knowledge of God. She fills our minds with radiance and is worthy of being praised in these words:

Rejoice, Ray of the Mystical Sun!
Rejoice, Radiance, unfading in splendour!
Rejoice, Lightning-flash that enlightens our souls!
Rejoice, Thunder-clap, that strikes down all foes!

Rejoice, for you caused the many-starred Light to dawn,
Rejoice, for you caused the ever-flowing River to spring,
Rejoice, Icon of the baptismal font,
Rejoice, for you wash away the stain of sin!

Rejoice, flowing water, that cleanses the conscience!
Rejoice, holy Vessel, overflowing with joy!
Rejoice, Fragrance of the sweetness of Christ!
Rejoice, Life of the Mystical Banquet!

REJOICE, O BRIDE AND MAIDEN EVER PURE!

KONDAK 11

The Lord, who settles all debts, desired to make right the ancient debts by means of grace. He came of His own will to those who had fallen from His grace and He tore up the record of their wrong-doings. From all He hears: Alleluia!

Alleluia (3)

IKOS 12

As we sing of Your childbirth, we praise you as the living Temple, O Mother of God. For the Lord, Who holds all things in His Hand made His dwelling in Your womb. He hallowed and He glorified You, teaching all to sing to You:

Rejoice, O Tabernacle of God the Word!
Rejoice, O Holy One, greater than the Holies!
Rejoice, O Ark, made golden by the Spirit!
Rejoice, O inexhaustible Treasury of life!

Rejoice, precious Crown of pious Kings!
Rejoice, sacred glory of reverent priests!
Rejoice, invincible tower of the Church!
Rejoice, indestructible Wall of the kingdom!

Rejoice, O you, through whom Victory is assured!
Rejoice, O you, through whom enemies are cast down!
Rejoice, O Healing of my body!
Rejoice, O Salvation of my soul!

REJOICE, O BRIDE AND MAIDEN EVER PURE!

KONDAK 12

O Mother worthy of all praise: you who have given birth to the Word, / the Holiest of the Holy, * accept this present offering, deliver us from all affliction, * and save from the future punishment those who cry out to you: / Alleluia!

KONDAK

To You powerful Ruler, in honour of victory. We, freed from danger, sing this song of thanks to you Mother of God. Since You have unconquerable power, free us from all danger that we may sing to You:

REJOICE, O BRIDE AND MAIDEN EVER PURE!

Prayer to the Mother of God

All: O Most Holy Sovereign Lady and Mother of God, powerful to all good, receive from your unworthy servants this praiseworthy hymn, which is due to you alone, for you have been chosen from among the human race and are higher than all celestial and earthly creatures. For through you, our Almighty Lord has dwelt among us; through you, we have come to know the Son of God and are honoured to have his Most Holy Body and Most Precious Blood. Thus you are blessed among all generations.

You are higher in honour than the Cherubim and beyond compare more glorious than the Seraphim. O most-honourable and most holy Mother of God, do not cease to pray for us today, your unworthy servants, so that we may be protected against the guile of the evil one; from his greediness; and that we be delivered unharmed from his deadly temptations.

Protect us with your prayer until the end of our life and before the eternal judgment; that we, being saved by your help and intercession, might give glory, praise, thanksgiving and honour for all, to the Holy Trinity, One God and Creator of all creatures, now and always and forever. Amen.

Dismissal

Priest: Wisdom!

All: Higher in honour than the Cherubim* and beyond compare more glorious than the Seraphim.* Who a virgin, gave birth to God the Word,* you truly are the Mother of God and we magnify you!

Priest: Glory be to You, O Christ God, Our Hope, glory be to You!

All: †Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now, and forever and ever. Amen. Lord, have mercy (3). Give the blessing!

Priest: May Christ our True God, through the prayers of his most pure Mother and all the Saints, will have mercy on us and save us, for He is good and He loves all of us!

All: Amen.

Rejoice Virgin Mary

Rejoice Virgin Mary, Full of Grace!
O Theotokos, the Lord is with you!
Blessed are you among women!
and blessed is the fruit of your womb:
For you have given birth,
to the Saviour of our souls (2)