

**Акафіст
до
Богородиці**



**Akathist
to the
Mother of God**

Hymnos Akathistos

If a priest is present, he commences as follows :

P: Blessed is our God at all times, now and always, and for ever and ever.

A: Amen.

If there is no priest, the congregation begins as follows:

A: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen (3x).

Through the prayers of our holy Fathers, Lord Jesus Christ, our God, have mercy on us.

Glory be to You, O God, glory be to You.

Heavenly King, Comforter, the Spirit of Truth, present in all places and filling all things, the treasury of blessings and the Giver of life: come and dwell in us, cleanse us of all stain and save our souls, O Good One!

Holy God, holy Mighty One, holy Immortal One, have mercy on us. (3x).

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

Now and always and for ever and ever. Amen.

O Trinity most holy, have mercy on us; cleanse us, O Lord, of our sins; O Master, pardon our transgressions. Holy One, look upon us and heal our infirmities for Your name's sake.

Lord, have mercy. (3x).

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

Now and always and for ever and ever. Amen.

Our Father, Who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth as it is in

heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us, and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

If a priest is present:

P: For Yours is the kingdom, the power and the glory, of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, now and always and for ever and ever.

A: Amen.

Kontakion 1

Queen of the Heavenly Host, Defender of our souls, we your servants offer to you songs of victory and thanksgiving, for you, O Mother of God, have delivered us from dangers. But as you have invincible power, free us from conflicts of all kinds that we may cry to you:

Joy to you, O Bride,* and Maiden ever-pure.

PART I

Ikos 1

An Archangel was sent from heaven to greet the Mother of God. And as he saw You taking bodily form, O Lord, he was amazed, and with his bodiless voice he cried out to her in these words:

Joy to you, through whom joy will shine forth!
Joy to you, through whom the curse will disappear!
Joy to you, O Restoration of the fallen Adam!
Joy to you, O Redemption of the tears of Eve!
Joy to you, O Peak above the reach of human thought!
Joy to you, O Depth even beyond the sight of angels!
Joy to you, who have become a kingly throne!
Joy to you, who carries Him who carries all!
Joy to you, O Star who manifest the Sun!
Joy to you, O Womb of the divine Incarnation!
Joy to you, through whom creation is renewed!
Joy to you, through whom the Creator becomes a Babe!
Joy to you, O Bride,* and Maiden ever-pure!

Kontakion 2

Knowing herself a virgin, the blessed one courageously answered Gabriel: "Your strange message seems hard for my soul 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, alleluia,* alleluia!

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:

Joy to you, O hidden Sense of the ineffable plan!

Joy to you, O Belief in silence that must be!

Joy to you, O Forecast of the marvels of Christ!

Joy to you, O Fountainhead of truths concerning Him!

Joy to you, celestial Ladder, by whom God came down!

Joy to you, O Bridge leading us from earth to heaven!

Joy to you, O Wonder, ever-thrilling to the angels!

Joy to you, O Wound, ever-hurting to the demons!

Joy to you, who gave birth to the Light ineffably!

Joy to you, who told none how it was done!

Joy to you, who surpass the wisdom of the wise!

Joy to you, who enlighten faithful minds!

Joy to you, O Bride,* and Maiden ever-pure.

Kontakion 3

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

Alleluia, alleluia,* alleluia!

Ikos 3

Carrying God in her womb, the Virgin ran to Elizabeth, whose unborn child recognized her embrace and rejoiced,

and with leaps of joy as songs, cried out to the Mother of God:

Joy to you, O Tendril whose bud shall not wilt!
Joy to you, whose fruit shall not perish!
Joy to you, who labours for Him whose labour is love!
Joy to you, for you gave birth to the Giver of Life!
Joy to you, O Earth who yielded abundant mercies!
Joy to you, O Table bearing a wealth of forgiveness!
Joy to you, who revives the pastures of delight!
Joy to you, for you have prepared a haven for the souls!
Joy to you, acceptable Incense of prayer!
Joy to you, Purification of the world!
Joy to you, O Favour of God to mortal men!
Joy to you, O Access of mortals to God!
Joy to you, O Bride,* and Maiden ever-pure!

Kontakion 4

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, alleluia,* alleluia!

PART II

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:

Joy to you, O Mother of Lamb and Shepherd!
Joy to you, O Fold of spiritual sheep!
Joy to you, O Defence against invisible enemies!
Joy to you, O Key to the gates of Paradise!
Joy to you, for the heavenly rejoice with the earth!
Joy to you, for the earthly meet the heavens in song!

Joy to you, never-silenced Voice of the apostles!
Joy to you, invincible Courage of the martyrs!
Joy to you, O steadfast Foundation of faith!
Joy to you, O shining Emblem of grace!
Joy to you, through whom hell was stripped bare!
Joy to you, through whom we are clothed with glory!
Joy to you, O Bride,* and Maiden ever-pure.

Kontakion 5

When they saw the Star moved by God, the Wise Men followed its glittering light; and using it as a beacon, they found through it the Mighty King; and reaching the one beyond all reach, they rejoiced and cried out to Him: Alleluia!

Alleluia, alleluia,* alleluia!

Ikos 5

The sons of Chaldea saw in the Virgin's hands the One whose hands had fashioned us all: and acknowledging Him as the Master, although He had taken the form of a servant, they hastened to honour Him with their gifts, and cried out to the blessed one:

Joy to you, O Mother of the never-setting Star!
Joy to you, O Dawn of the mystical Day!
Joy to you, who extinguished the flame of error!
Joy to you, O Light of those who search the Trinity!
Joy to you, who unthroned the enemy of man!
Joy to you, who showed forth Christ the Lord, the Lover
of mankind!
Joy to you, who redeems us from pagan worship!
Joy to you, who saves us from the mire of evil deeds!
Joy to you, who has stopped the worship of fire!
Joy to you, who dispelled the flames of passion!
Joy to you, Guide of the faithful to wisdom!
Joy to you, delight of all generations!
Joy to you, O Bride,* and Maiden ever-pure!

Kontakion 6

Having become God-bearing heralds, the wise men returned to Babylon. They fulfilled Your prophecy, announcing You the Christ to all, and leaving Herod as a fool who did not know how to sing: Alleluia!

Alleluia, alleluia,* alleluia!

PART III

Ikos 6

Illuminating Egypt with the light of truth, you cast away the darkness of error. For the idols, unable to stand Your might, fell down, and those who had been delivered from them cried out to the Mother of God:

Joy to you, O Resurrection of mankind!

Joy to you, O Downfall of demons!

Joy to you, who crushed the error of deceit!

Joy to you, who exposed the fraud of idols!

Joy to you, O Sea who drowned the symbolic Pharao!

Joy to you, O Rock that has refreshed those thirsting for life!

Joy to you, O Pillar of Fire who guided those in darkness!

Joy to you, O Shelter of the world, wider than the clouds!

Joy to you, O Food who took the place of Manna!

Joy to you, O Handmaid of holy delight!

Joy to you, O Land of promise!

Joy to you, from whom milk and honey flow forth!

Joy to you, O Bride,* and Maiden ever-pure!

Kontakion 7

When Simeon was about to depart this life of delusion, You were brought as a Babe to him. But he recognized You as also perfect God, and marvelling at your ineffable wisdom, he cried: Alleluia!

Alleluia, alleluia,* alleluia!

Ikos 7

The Creator showed us a new creation when He ap-

peared to us who came from Him. He came forth from a womb that had received no seed, and he left it intact as it had been, so that at the sight of this marvel, we would sing to her and cry out:

Joy to you, O Blossom of incorruption!

Joy to you, O Crown of continence!

Joy to you, flashing Symbol of the resurrection!

Joy to you, O Mirror of the life of the Angels!

Joy to you, Tree of glorious fruit by which the faithful are nourished!

Joy to you, shady Glen where many are sheltered!

Joy to you, who have borne the guide of the lost!

Joy to you, who gives birth to the Redeemer of captives!

Joy to you, O Pleader before the just Judge!

Joy to you, O Forgiveness of many sinners!

Joy to you, O Robe of Freedom for the naked!

Joy to you, O Love that exceeds all desire!

Joy to you, O Bride,* and Maiden ever-pure!

Kontakion 8

Now that we have seen this wondersome birth, let us leave this world behind and turn our thoughts to heaven: indeed, it is for this that the God most high appeared on earth as a lowly man, desiring to draw up to heaven those who cry out to Him: Alleluia!

Alleluia, alleluia,* alleluia!

Ikos 8

Wholly present was the infinite 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-possessed Virgin who heard these words:

Joy to you, O Space of the spaceless God!

Joy to you, O Gate of solemn mystery!

Joy to you, O Message unsure to those without faith!

Joy to you, O Glory most certain to those who believe!

Joy to you, all-holy Chariot of the One above

the Cherubim!
Joy to you, all-glorious dwelling of the One above the
Seraphim!

Joy to you, who have united opposites!
Joy to you, who have joined virginity and motherhood!

Joy to you, through whom sin has been absolved!

Joy to you, through whom paradise is opened!

Joy to you, O Key to the Kingdom of Christ!

Joy to you, O Hope of eternal blessings!

Joy to you, O Bride,* and Maiden ever-pure!

Kontakion 9

All the orders of Angels were amazed at the great act of
Your incarnation; for they saw the inaccessible God as a
man accessible to all, dwelling with us and hearing all cry
out: Alleluia.

Alleluia, alleluia,* alleluia.

PART IV

Ikos 9

O Mother of God, we see the best of speakers become as
mute as fish in your regard, for they could not explain how
you could give birth while remaining a virgin. As for us, we
marvel at the mystery and cry out to you with faith:

Joy to you, O Container of God's wisdom!

Joy to you, O Treasury of His providence!

Joy to you, who shows philosophers to be fools!

Joy to you, O Confusion of speechless wise men!

Joy to you, who perplexed the inquisitive minds!

Joy to you, for you dried up the inventors of myths!

Joy to you, who broke the webs of the Athenians!

Joy to you, who filled the fishermen's nets!

Joy to you, who draws us from the depths of ignorance!

Joy to you, who enlightens many with knowledge!

Joy to you, O Ship of those who wish to be saved!

Joy to you, O Harbour of the sailors of life!

Joy to you, O Bride,* and Maiden ever-pure!

Kontakion 10

Wishing to save the world, the Creator of All came down to it of His own will. And though as God He is our Shepherd, for our sake He appeared to us as a Man; And so the like called upon the like, and as God he heard: Alleluia!

Alleluia, alleluia,* alleluia!

Ikos 10

O Virgin Mother of God, you are the Bastion of virgins and of all those who have recourse to you. For the Maker of heaven and earth covered you with his shadow, O Pure One, and came to dwell in your womb, and taught us all to cry out to you:

Joy to you, O Pillar of virginity!

Joy to you, O Gate of salvation!

Joy to you, O Founder of spiritual reformation!

Joy to you, through whom divine goodness flows forth!

Joy to you, for you restored those born in shame!

Joy to you, who gave understanding to those robbed of their senses!

Joy to you, who stopped the corruptor of minds!

Joy to you, who gave birth to the sower of chastity!

Joy to you, O Bridechamber of a virgin marriage!

Joy to you, who weds the faithful to the Lord!

Joy to you, fair Mother of virgins!

Joy to you, O Bridesmaid of holy souls!

Joy to you, O Bride,* and Maiden ever-pure!

Kontakion 11

Every hymn falls short when it attempts to sing the multitude of Your mercies: we could sing to You as many songs as there are grains of sand, O Holy King, without ever doing anything worthy of what You have given to those who sing to You: Alleluia!

Alleluia, alleluia,* alleluia!

Ikos 11

We see the Holy Virgin as a flaming torch appearing to those in darkness. For having kindled the Immaterial Light, she leads all to divine knowledge and fills our minds with radiance, so that she is worthily praised in these words:

Joy to you, O Beam of the mystical Sun!
Joy to you, O Flash of unfading splendour!
Joy to you, Lightning-Flash that brightens our souls!
Joy to you, Thunder-Clap that strikes down our foes!
Joy to you, who raised the many-lighted Star!
Joy to you, for you caused the river of many-streams to
gush forth!
Joy to you, O living Image of the font!
Joy to you, Remover of the stain of sin!
Joy to you, Laver that washes the conscience clean!
Joy to you, holy Vessel overflowing with joy!
Joy to you, O Fragrance of the sweetness of Christ!
Joy to you, O Life of the mystical banquet!
Joy to you, O Bride,* and Maiden ever-pure!

Kontakion 12

When He Who forgives all humans their past debts wished to restore us to favour, of His own will He came to dwell among those who had fallen from His grace; and having torn up the record of their sins, He hears from all: Alleluia!

Alleluia, alleluia,* alleluia!

Ikos 12

While singing to your child, we all praise you as a living temple, O Mother of God. For the Lord Who holds all things in His hand dwelt in your womb, and he sanctified and glorified you and taught all to cry to you:

Joy to you, O Tabernacle of God the Word!

Joy to you, Holy One more holy than the saints!
Joy to you, Ark made golden by the Spirit!
Joy to you, inexhaustible Treasure of life!
Joy to you, precious Crown of rightful authorities!
Joy to you, sacred Glory of reverent priests!
Joy to you, unshakable Tower of the Church!
Joy to you, unbreachable Wall of the Kingdom!
Joy to you, through whom our victories are obtained!
Joy to you, before whom our enemies fall down!
Joy to you, O Healing of my body!
Joy to you, O Salvation of my soul!

Joy to you, O Bride,* and Maiden ever-pure!

CONCLUSION

Kontakion 13

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

Alleluia, alleluia,* alleluia!

Any of the following prayers to the Mother of God may now be spoken, according to the prayer intention. Any other prayer or intention may also be included.

General Intention

My most gracious Queen, my hope, Mother of God, shelter of orphans, and intercessor of travellers, strangers and pilgrims, joy of those in sorrow, protectress of the wronged, see my distress, see my affliction! Help me, for I am helpless. Feed me, for I am a stranger and pilgrim. You know my offence; pray for my forgiveness and resolve it as you will. For I know no other help but you, no other intercessor, no gracious consoler but you, O Mother of God, to guard and protect me throughout the ages. Amen.

For Holiness and Conversion

Under your tender compassion we run, O Mother of God, reject not our prayer in our trouble, but deliver us from harm, only pure, only blessed one! Grant us and all orthodox Christians growth in holiness and conversion from sin every moment of our lives, that we may learn humility and faith from your holy example, and bear the Word of God to all. Most glorious Ever-Virgin, Mother of Christ our God, present our prayer to your Son and our God and pray, that he may save our souls. Amen.

For Students

O good Mother of the good King, pour out the mercy of your Son and our God on my passionate soul. Guide and enlighten me in my studies and in good works for the glory of God by your prayers, so that I may pass the rest of my life without defilement, and find paradise through you, O Virgin Mother of God, who alone are pure and blessed. Amen.

If there is no priest:

Through the prayers of our holy fathers, Lord Jesus Christ, our God, have mercy on us!

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen. (3x).

P: Wisdom!

A: Give the blessing, Father!

P: Blessed are You, O Christ our God, at all times, now and always and for ever and ever.

A: Amen. O Christ God, make firm the holy orthodox faith in this church (*or:* our parish, *or:* this house, *or:* our family) for ever. Amen.

P: O Most Holy Mother of God, save us.

A: O You, higher in honour than the Cherubim, and more glorious beyond compare than the Seraphim. You gave birth

to God the Word in virginity. You are truly Mother of God: you do we exalt.

P: Glory to You, Christ God, our hope, glory to You!

A: Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and always and for ever and ever. Amen.

Lord, have mercy. (3x). Give the blessing, Father (*or*: Master). In the name of the Lord!

P: Christ our true God have mercy on us and save us through the prayers of His Mother all-pure, of His holy and glorious apostles worthy of all praise and of all His saints, for He is the Gracious One and loves mankind.

A: Amen.