

The Akathist Hymn



The Little Compline

Priest: Blessed is our God always, now and forever and to the ages of ages.

Choir: Amen

Priest: Glory be to You, our God, glory be to You.

O Heavenly King, Comforter and Spirit of Truth, You that are in all places and fill all things, the Treasury of Blessings and the Giver of Life: come to dwell in us, cleanse us from every stain, and save our souls, O Gracious One.

Choir: Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal, have mercy on us.
(X 3)

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

All Holy Trinity, have mercy on us. Lord, cleanse us from our sins. Master pardon our transgressions. Holy God visit and heal our infirmities for your Name's sake.

Lord, have mercy. (X 3)

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and forever, and to the ages of ages. 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.

Priest: For Yours is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory: of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, now and forever, and to the ages of ages.

Choir: Amen

Lord, have mercy (X12)

Priest: Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and forever, and to the ages of ages. Amen

The following verse is then said, with a prostration after each sentence:

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

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

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

Psalm 50

Have mercy upon me, O God, according to your lovingkindness; according to the multitude of your tender mercies, blot out my transgressions. Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin. For I acknowledge my transgressions, and my sin is always before me. Against You, You only, have I sinned, and done this evil in Your sight that You may be found just when you speak, and blameless when you judge.

Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, and in sin my mother conceived me. Behold, You desire truth in the inward parts, and in the hidden part You will make me to know wisdom. Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; Wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow. Make me hear joy and gladness, that the bones You have broken may rejoice. Hide Your face from my sins and blot out all my iniquities.

Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me. Do not cast me away from Your presence, and do not take Your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of Your salvation and uphold me by Your generous Spirit. Then I will teach transgressors Your ways, and sinners shall be converted to You.

Deliver me from the guilt of bloodshed, O God, The God of my salvation, and my tongue shall sing aloud of Your righteousness. O Lord open my lips, and my mouth shall show forth Your praise. For You do not desire sacrifice, or else I would give it; You do not delight in burnt offering. The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit, a broken and a contrite heart these, O God, You will not despise.

Do good in Your good pleasure to Zion; Build the walls of Jerusalem. Then You shall be pleased with the sacrifices of righteousness, With burnt offering and whole burnt offering; Then they shall offer bulls on Your altar.

Psalm 69

Make haste, O God, to deliver me! Make haste to help me, O Lord! Let them be ashamed and confounded Who seek my life; Let them be turned back and confused Who desire my hurt. Let them be turned back because of their shame, Who say, "Aha, aha!" Let all those who seek You rejoice and be glad in You; And let those who love Your salvation say continually, "Let God be magnified!" But I am poor and needy; Make haste to me, O God! You are my help and my deliverer; O Lord, do not delay.

Psalm 142

Hear my prayer, O Lord, Give ear to my supplications! In Your faithfulness answer me, and in Your righteousness. Do not enter into judgment with Your servant, for in Your sight no one living is righteous. For the enemy has persecuted my soul; He has crushed my life to the ground; He has made me dwell in darkness, like those who have long been dead. Therefore, my spirit is overwhelmed within me; My heart within me is distressed.

I remember the days of old; I meditate on all Your works; I muse on the work of Your hands. I spread out my hands to You; My soul longs for You like a thirsty land. Answer me speedily, O Lord; My spirit fails! Do not hide Your face from me, lest I be like those who go down into the pit. Cause me to hear Your lovingkindness in the morning, for in You do I trust; Cause me to know the way in which I should walk, for I lift up my soul to You.

Deliver me, O Lord, from my enemies; In You I take shelter. Teach me to do Your will, for You are my God; Your Spirit is good. Lead me in the land of uprightness. Revive me, O Lord, for Your name's sake! For Your righteousness' sake bring my soul out of trouble. In Your mercy cut off my enemies and destroy all those who afflict my soul; For I am Your servant.

Doxology

Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, goodwill among men.

We praise You, we bless You, we worship You, we glorify You, we give thanks to You for Your great glory.

O Lord, King, heavenly God the Father almighty; O Lord the only begotten Son, Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit.

O Lord, God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, who take away the sin of the world: Have mercy on us, You that take away the sins of the world.

Receive our prayer, you that sit at the right hand of the Father; and have mercy on us.

For You alone are Holy, you alone are the Lord, Jesus Christ, to the Glory of God the Father. Amen.

Every day I will bless You, and I will praise Your Name forever and unto the ages of ages.

Lord, you have been our refuge from generation to generation. I said: O Lord have mercy on me, heal my soul, for I have sinned against You.

Lord, to You have I fled for refuge; teach me to do Your will, for You are my God.

For in You is the fountain of Life, in Your light we shall see light.

Continue Your mercy to those who know You.

Vouchsafe, O Lord, to keep us this night without sin.

Blessed are You, O Lord, the God of our Fathers, and praised and glorified is Your name to the ages. Amen.

Let Your mercy, O Lord, be upon us, even as we have hoped in You.

Blessed are You, O Lord, teach me Your statutes.

Blessed are You, O Master, make me to understand Your precepts.

Blessed are You, O Holy One, enlighten me with Your commandments.

Your mercy, O Lord, endures forever: Despise not the works of Your hands.

To You belongs worship, to You belongs praise, to You belongs glory, to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and forever, and to the ages of ages. Amen.

The Creed

I believe in one God, Father almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible. And in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only begotten Son of God, begotten from the Father before all ages, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten not made, of one essence with the Father, through Him all things were made.

Who for us men and for our salvation He came down from heaven and was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and became man. And was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate and suffered and was buried.

And rose on the third day, in accordance with the Scriptures, and ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

And will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and His kingdom will have no end.

And in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the Giver of life, Who proceeds from the Father, Who together with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified, Who spoke through the Prophets.

And in One, Holy, catholic, and apostolic Church. I confess one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. I look for the resurrection of the dead, And the life of the age to come. Amen.

Hymn to the Theotokos *(to be read)*

Choir: It is truly right to call you blessed, who gave birth to God, ever blessed and most pure, Mother of our God. Greater in honour than the Cherubim and beyond compare, more glorious than the Seraphim, without corruption you gave birth to God the Word; truly the Theotokos, we magnify you.

The Canon of the Akathist Hymn (Tone 4)

ODE ONE

I shall open my mouth to chant and with the Spirit shall I be filled, and words shall I now pour forth unto the Mother and Queen; and I shall be seen in joyous jubilation, acclaiming exultantly all of her wondrous deeds.

Most Holy Theotokos, save us.

O Christ's book endowed with life and clearly sealed with the Spirit's grace, on seeing you, O pure one, the great Archangel cried out and exclaimed: Rejoice, O vessel of rejoicing, through whom our first mother's curse utterly is dispelled.

Most Holy Theotokos, save us.

Rejoice, Virgin Bride of God, for you are Adam's recovery; rejoice, O all-blameless one, you are the death-knell of Hades, and the only King's pure dwelling place and palace; rejoice, fiery throne of the only Omnipotent.

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

Rejoice, O you only one who blossomed forth the unfading rose; rejoice, for to you was born the apple fragrant and sweet, for you are, O Maid, the only King's pure fragrance; rejoice, O unwedded one, ransom of all the world.

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

O treasure of purity, rejoice, for from our most grievous fall we rose once again through you; rejoice, O lily most sweet, filling faithful men with fragrance, O pure Lady: O incense of peerless scent, priceless and precious myrrh.

ODE THREE

Make steadfast, O holy Theotokos, you living and never-failing spring, all them that form a company and gather for to praise your name; and by your grace divine, O Maid, deem them all worthy of glory's crown.

Most Holy Theotokos, save us.

Rejoice, O you untilled land that blossomed the Ear of Wheat sacred and divine; a living table are you, Maid, that held the very Bread of Life; rejoice, unfailing wellspring of the living Water, O Queen of all.

Most Holy Theotokos, save us.

O Heifer that bore the blameless Calf for the faithful, to you we cry: Rejoice! Rejoice, most gracious mercy-seat and throne of Christ, the King of all; rejoice, O ewe that bore the Lamb of God that takes away men's sins.

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

Rejoice, radiant morn that has dawned, bringing forth Christ God, the Spiritual Sun; rejoice, O dwelling of the Light; you did dispel the gloom of night, and did wholly annihilate the darksome ranks of the demons' hosts.

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

Rejoice, for you are alone the gateway and portal which God the Word traversed. O Lady, you did crush the bars and gates of Hades by your childbirth; rejoice, O holy entry of the saved, O praised and all-lauded one.

ODE FOUR

Seated in His holy glory on the Throne of divinity, Jesus, God transcendent, comes on a light cloud as King of all; and He has saved by His pure and undefiled hand them that cry to Him: Glory, O Christ, to Your sovereign might.

Most Holy Theotokos, save us.

With the voice of song we cry out, O all-praised one, to you with faith: rejoice, O butter mountain, curdled in the Spirit by grace divine; rejoice, O lamp-stand and urn of Manna from on high, which does sweeten all pious men's senses in godly wise.

Most Holy Theotokos, save us.

You, O undefiled Lady, are the mercy-seat of the world, and the ladder raising all men from the earth to the heights by grace. Rejoice, O bridge that does truly lead from death to Life all that praise your name, and cry, Rejoice, unto you, O Maid.

Most Holy Theotokos, save us.

Being higher than the heavens, in your womb you did hold the earth's Pillar and Foundation, and you did not suffer travail, O Maid. Rejoice, O seashell that dips in your own pure blood the blest purple robe, dyed for the King of all Heaven's hosts.

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

To the Lawgiver, O Lady, did you give birth in very truth; freely, O pure Virgin, He has blotted out our iniquities. O depth unknown to our minds and height ineffable, O unwedded Maid, we all, through you, have been deified.

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

For the world, O Maid, did you plait a pure crown fashioned not by man; hence, with hymns we praise you, crying out: Rejoice, O blest Virgin Maid! You are all mankind's sure rampart and firm citadel, and our battlement, and sacred shelter and safe retreat.

ODE FIVE

All creatures were sore amazed at your divine and great glory, Maid, O pure Virgin, who has not known wedlock; for you did hold in your womb the God of all, and gave birth to the timeless Son, Who does grant salvation unto all them that acclaim your name.

Most Holy Theotokos, save us.

Rejoice, O all-blameless one, for you did bring forth the Way of Life, saving all mankind from the flood of sin and transgression; rejoice, O Bride of God, your fame and report inspire awe; for in you creation's Lord made His dwelling and place of rest.

Most Holy Theotokos, save us.

Rejoice, O most spotless Maid; you are our might and our battlement, and blest sanctuary of God's glory, the death of Hades, and bridal chamber of light; rejoice, joy of all angelic hosts, and the speedy help of them that entreat you with faithful hearts.

Most Holy Theotokos, save us.

Rejoice, fiery chariot of God the Word, O you Queen of all; for in you the Tree of Life was planted, even the Lord God, O living paradise; His sweetness does grant life to all men who partake of Him with faith though corruption once ruled over them.

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

Made strong by your might, O Maid, to you we cry out most faithfully: Rejoice, you depth unmeasured and unfathomed; rejoice, O mountain whole and unhewn by man; rejoice, O you city of the King; glorious and laudable things are most clearly told of you.

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

O most spacious tabernacle of the Word, O all-spotless one, you, Maid, are the shell with the divine Pearl; rejoice, O true reconciliation to God for all them that ever call you blest, praising your all-wondrous name, O Theotokos and Bride of God.

ODE SIX

On this divine and most honoured feast of God's all holy Mother let all of godly mind now celebrate; come, let us faithful now clap our hands, and send up glory unto the God Whom she has borne.

Most Holy Theotokos, save us.

O unstained chamber of God the Word, you are the cause of deification of all men, O spotless one; O echoing of the Prophet's words, rejoice, you blest adornment of the Apostles' choir.

Most Holy Theotokos, save us.

From you there came down the holy dew that quenched the burning flame of idolatry; for this, we cry to you: Rejoice, bedewed fleece foreseen of old in God's most awesome wonder revealed to Gideon.

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

Behold, we cry out, Rejoice, to you; be you the port and haven for all that sail upon the stormy sea of grievous sorrows and stumbling blocks, and of deceits unnumbered laid by the enemy.

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

O cause of gladness come fill our thoughts with gladness, that we all may cry out to you: Rejoice, unburning bush! Rejoice, O cloud wholly filled with light, ever protecting all them that keep the holy Faith.

ODE SEVEN

No created thing, but only the Creator would the godly minded Youths adore and worship as God; but manfully trampling down threats of fire, they cried out: O supremely praised and all-acclaimed One, blest are You, O You Lord God of our Fathers.

Most Holy Theotokos, save us.

In acclaiming you, we cry: Rejoice, O chariot of the noetic Sun! Rejoice, true vine that did bear the truly ripe Cluster of grapes dripping with the Wine that does gladden all the souls of them that glorify you most faithfully, O Virgin.

Most Holy Theotokos, save us.

To the Healer of all mankind have you given birth; rejoice, O Bride of God; you are the mystical rod from whom the unfading Rose blossomed and budded forth; and through you we men inherit life and, filled with joy, cry, Rejoice, to you, O Lady.

Most Holy Theotokos, save us.

Rhetoricians' tongues cannot acclaim you worthily; above the Seraphim are you exalted, O Maid; for you, Lady, did bring forth Christ, the one King of all; Him do you entreat that we who worship you with faith be now rescued from all evil.

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

To the ends of earth your name is ever praised and blest, and all men cry to you: Rejoice, O volume wherein the Word was inscribed by the Father's hand, O pure one. O Theotokos, pray Him that your servants be inscribed in the Book of Life, O famed one.

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

We, your slaves, O Maid, entreat you, and do bow the knee of our hearts to you; incline your ear, O pure one, and save us who sink in affliction and suffering; and preserve your flock from every evil and assault of the foe, O Theotokos.

ODE EIGHT

Three guiltless Youths cast in the furnace were saved by the Offspring which the Theotokos bore, then in figure and in type, now in very truth and deed; and He has gathered all the world, which cries out in chant: Ye works of His, O sing the Lord's praises, and exalt Him greatly for ages and all ages.

Most Holy Theotokos, save us.

Your womb has received the Word and Master; you held within you Him Who does sustain all things. With your milk, O most pure Maid, you did feed and nourish Him Who, by a nod, does nourish all the world; to Him we chant: Ye works of His, O sing the Lord's praises, and exalt Him greatly for ages and all ages.

Most Holy Theotokos, save us.

Blest Moses the prophet did perceive in the bush your most wondrous childbirth's awesome mystery; this too did the godly Youths once clearly depict of old, as they stood in the flaming fire and were not burned thereby, O undefiled and most holy Virgin, hence we all exalt you to ages and all ages.

Most Holy Theotokos, save us.

We that by deceit were once stripped naked are clothed with blest incorruption by your bringing forth; though we sat in sin's dark night, through you we have seen the light; for you, O Maiden full of grace, are an abode of the Light. For this, we chant and cry out your praises, and exalt you greatly for ages and all ages.

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

The dead are, through you, O Virgin, quickened, for you did give birth to Christ, the hypostatic Life; they that were bereft of speech, through you, are made eloquent; lepers are cleansed, all maladies are cast away from us; the multitude of aerial spirits suffers defeat, O salvation of all mortals.

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

O you who did bear the world's salvation, through you are we raised from earth to the Heavens' heights. Rejoice, O all blest Maid, for you are the shelter and defence, the wall and rampart, O pure one, of them that cry in chant: Ye works of His, O sing the Lord's praises, and exalt Him greatly for ages and all ages.

Priest: The Theotokos, and the Mother of the Light let us honour and magnify in song (weeks 1 – 4)

ODE NINE

Let every earth-born man up-leap in the spirit, and now hold his torch on high; and let all the bodiless, noetic hosts now celebrate joyously the Theotokos' sublime and sacred festival, as they cry out: Rejoice, O you all-blessed one, ever-virgin and pure Mother of our God.

Most Holy Theotokos, save us.

Rescue us, O Maid, from heathen assaults, temptations, and from every ill that, for the great multitude of sins, have come upon sinful mortal men; that, thus delivered, we your flock may cry, rejoice, to you; for the faithful all become partakers of joy unending through you, O all-blameless one.

Most Holy Theotokos, save us.

You have proved to be our light and our steadfastness; wherefore, we cry to you: Rejoice, O ever-shining star, you who did bring the great Sun into the world. Rejoice, for you did open Eden, which was closed to us, O pure Maiden. Rejoice, O fiery pillar that does lead all mortal men to the life on high.

Most Holy Theotokos, save us.

In the House of God, let all stand with reverence and let us all cry out: Rejoice, august Queen of the world! Rejoice, O Mary, sovereign Lady of us all! Rejoice, for you alone, O Maid, are good and free of stain among women. Rejoice, O vessel that received the unfailing, pure myrrh that was poured on you.

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

O ever-virgin Maid, rejoice, dove that brought forth Him Who is merciful. Rejoice, you boast of all the Saints, and crown of all them that strove in martyrdom. Rejoice, most sacred ornament of all the righteous ones, and adornment of all them that cry: Rejoice, the salvation of all us, your faithful flock.

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

Spare, O mighty God; forgive Your inheritance, and overlook our sins. To this end, You have, O Lord, the one that bore You seedlessly here on earth, and now entreat You Who has, for Your great mercy's sake and compassion, willed now to become a man and be clothed with a form that was not Your own.

KONTAKION OF THE AKATHIST HYMN

O Champion leader, to you I offer thanks of victory. O Theotokos you have delivered me from terror. And as you have invincible power, O Theotokos, you alone can set me free from all danger. Set me free and deliver me, that I may cry out to you: Rejoice O Bride without Bridegroom.

The stasis used for the Akathist Hymn are as follows:

First Week The first stasis, please go to page 21

Second Week The second stasis, please go to page 24

Third Week The third stasis, please go to page 27

Fourth Week The fourth stasis, please go to page 30

Fifth Week All four stasis are read in the fifth and final week

THE FIRST STASIS

(Chanted on the First Friday of Great Lent)

Priest: 1. A prince of the angels was sent from heaven to say to the Mother of God, Rejoice (*Thrice*)

Choir: O Most Holy Mother of God, save us. (x3)

Priest: And seeing You, O Lord, taking human form at the sound of his bodiless voice, he stood filled with amazement and cried aloud to her:

Rejoice, for through you joy shall shine forth.

Rejoice, for through you the curse shall cease.

Rejoice, recalling of fallen Adam.

Rejoice, deliverance of Eve from tears.

Rejoice, height hard to climb for the thoughts of men.

Rejoice, depth hard to scan even for the eyes of the angels.

Rejoice, for you are the throne of the King.

Rejoice, for you hold Him who upholds all.

Rejoice, star causing the Sun to shine.

Rejoice, womb of the Divine Incarnation.

Rejoice, for through you the creation is made new.

Rejoice, for through you the Creator becomes a newborn child.

Rejoice, O unwedded Bride.

Choir: Rejoice, O unwedded Bride.

Priest: 2. The Holy Maiden, seeing herself in all her purity, said boldly to Gabriel: "Your strange voice appears hard for my soul to accept. For how can you speak of birth-giving from conception without seed", crying: **Alleluia!**

Choir: Alleluia.

Priest: 3. The Virgin sought to know the unknowable and she cried to the servant: Tell me, how is it possible for a son to be born from a pure womb? He answered her with fear crying:

Rejoice, O keeper of the indescribable mystery.

Rejoice, O faith of those who need silence.

Rejoice, beginning of Christ's wonders.

Rejoice, head of His commandments.

Rejoice, heavenly ladder by which God came down.

Rejoice, bridge leading men from earth to heaven.

Rejoice, marvel greatly renowned among the angels.

Rejoice, wound bitterly lamented by the demons.

Rejoice, you who bore the ineffable light.

Rejoice, for you did not inform the mystery to anyone.

Rejoice, wisdom surpassing the knowledge of the wise.

Rejoice, you who illumines the minds of the faithful.

Rejoice, O unwedded Bride.

Choir: Rejoice, O unwedded Bride.

Priest: 4. Then the power of the Most High overshadowed her that knew not wedlock, so that she might conceive, and He made her womb as a fertile field for all who long to reap the harvest of salvation, singing: **Alleluia!**

Choir: Alleluia.

Priest: 5. Bearing God in her womb, the Virgin hastened towards Elizabeth. And at once when that one's babe heard the salutation of the Mother of God, he rejoiced; and leaping up as if in song, cried out to her:

Rejoice, vine which springs a never-withering branch.
Rejoice, O holder of an incorruptible fruit.
Rejoice, for you care for the Husbandman who loves mankind.
Rejoice, for you have borne the Gardener who cultivates our life.
Rejoice, earth yielding a rich harvest of compassions.
Rejoice, O table carrying the Treasure of forgiveness.
Rejoice, for you made the fields of Eden flower again.
Rejoice, for you prepare a haven for our souls.
Rejoice, acceptable incense of intercessions.
Rejoice, O forgiveness of the whole world.
Rejoice, O good-will of God among the dead.
Rejoice, you who are the favour of men before God.

Rejoice, O unwedded Bride.

Choir: Rejoice, O unwedded Bride.

Priest: 6. When Joseph the chaste saw you, unwed, O blameless one, he was perplexed and amazed because of his troubled thoughts, thinking that you have committed infidelity. But when he knew that your conception was from the Holy Spirit, he cried: **Alleluia!**

Choir: Alleluia.

End of the First Stasis

*(This ends the first stasis for the first Friday of Great Lent.
Please turn to page 34 to continue the Akathist Service)*

THE SECOND STASIS

(Chanted on the Second Friday of Great Lent)

Priest: 7. The shepherds heard the angels glorify Christ's coming in the flesh. Quickly they ran to the Shepherd, and beheld Him as an innocent lamb that has been pastured in the womb of Mary, and they sang praises to her, saying:

Rejoice, Mother of the Lamb and Shepherd.

Rejoice, fold of the sheep endowed with speech.

Rejoice, key to the door of Paradise.

Rejoice, for heaven exults with earth.

Rejoice, for things on earth exchange glad tidings with the heavens.

Rejoice, never-silent voice of the apostles.

Rejoice, unconquerable might of the strivers.

Rejoice, firm foundation of the faith.

Rejoice, shining revelation of grace.

Rejoice, for through you hades is stripped bare.

Rejoice, for through you we are clothed in glory.

Rejoice, O unwedded Bride.

Choir: Rejoice, O unwedded Bride.

Priest: 8. When the Magi saw a star guided by God, they followed its light as a lamp, searching with it for the mighty King. And when they approached the Unapproachable, rejoicing they shouted: **Alleluia!**

Choir: Alleluia.

Priest: 9. When the Chaldean youths saw in the hands of the Virgin Him who created man with His own hands, and knew that He was the Master, though He had taken on the

likeness of a servant, they hastened with presents to the service of the blessed one, shouting:

Rejoice, Mother of the never setting Star.

Rejoice, O mystical dawn of the day.

Rejoice, for you have quenched the furnace of error.

Rejoice, O beacon shining on those who seek to know the Trinity.

Rejoice, for you have expelled the inhuman usurper from his dominion.

Rejoice, O you who have revealed mankind-loving Christ.

Rejoice, you who have saved us from the doctrines of the barbarians.

Rejoice, O you who rescued us from the slough of works.

Rejoice, for you have quenched the worship of fire.

Rejoice, for you have rescued us from the fire of suffering.

Rejoice, guide of the faithful to chastity.

Rejoice, joy of all generations.

Rejoice, O unwedded Bride.

Choir: Rejoice, O unwedded Bride.

Priest: 10. When the Magi became God's messengers, they returned to Babylon, having fulfilled the inspiration and preached to all that You are the Christ. They left Herod to his raving, for he knew not how to sing: **Alleluia!**

Choir: Alleluia.

Priest: 11. When You shone upon Egypt with the light of truth, You dispelled the darkness of falsehood; for the idols of that land fell down, unable to endure Your power, O Saviour, and all who were delivered from them cried to the Mother of God:

Rejoice, restoration of mankind.
Rejoice, downfall of demons.
Rejoice, for you have trampled down every deceit.
Rejoice, for you have exposed the snares of idols.
Rejoice, sea that has drowned the pagan-minded Pharaoh.
Rejoice, rock that gives drink to all who thirst for life.
Rejoice, pillar of fire, guiding those in darkness.
Rejoice, O shelter of the world, wider than the clouds.
Rejoice, food that takes the place of manna.
Rejoice, servant of holy bliss.
Rejoice, promised land.
Rejoice, source of milk and honey.

Rejoice, O unwedded Bride.

Choir: Rejoice, O unwedded Bride.

Priest: 12. When Simeon was about to depart from this present life, deceiving age, You were delivered to him as a babe. But You were known of him as perfect God besides. Therefore, he was dazzled by Your ineffable wisdom, crying: **Alleluia!**

Choir: Alleluia.

End of the Second Stasis

*(This ends the second stasis for the second Friday of Great Lent.
Please turn to page 34 to continue the Akathist Service)*

THE THIRD STASIS

(Chanted on the Third Friday of Great Lent)

Priest: 13. When the Creator appeared He revealed us, through Himself, as a new creation, having branched from a seedless womb, preserving it as it had been without corruption; so that, having seen this miracle, we may praise her, saying:

Rejoice, flower of incorruption.

Rejoice, crown of abstinence.

Rejoice, you who reveal the conduct of angels.

Rejoice, tree of delectable fruit nourishing the faithful.

Rejoice, plant of shady leaves where many shelter.

Rejoice, for you have conceived a Guide for the erring.

Rejoice, for you have borne a Deliverer for the captives.

Rejoice, intercessor with the Righteous Judge.

Rejoice, forgiveness for many sinners.

Rejoice, robe of favour for the naked.

Rejoice, love surpassing all desire.

Rejoice, O unwedded Bride.

Choir: Rejoice, O unwedded Bride.

Priest: 14. Having beheld a strange Birth, let us be estranged from the world, and transport our minds to the heavens; for the most high God for this purpose appeared on earth as a meek Man, desiring to attract on high those who cry to Him:
Alleluia!

Choir: Alleluia.

Priest: 15. The boundless Word was wholly present here below, yet in no wise absent from the realm on high. This was divine condescension not a special translation. His birth was from a God-chosen Maiden, who listened to this saying:

Rejoice, city of God whom nothing can enclose.
Rejoice, gate of the hallowed mystery.
Rejoice, tidings doubted by unbelievers.
Rejoice, O pride of the faithful not spoiled by confusion.
Rejoice, most holy chariot of Him who rides on the
Cherubim.
Rejoice, most beautiful dwelling-place of Him who is on
the Seraphim.
Rejoice, for you bring opposites to harmony.
Rejoice, for you have joined in one childbirth and virginity.
Rejoice, for through you our sin is remitted.
Rejoice, for through you Paradise is opened.
Rejoice, key of Christ's Kingdom.
Rejoice, hope of eternal good things.

Rejoice, O unwedded Bride.

Choir: Rejoice, O unwedded Bride.

Priest: 16. All the angelic beings marveled at the great work of
Your incarnation; at beholding the Unapproachable
becoming Man approachable by all, walking among us,
and hearing from all: **Alleluia!**

Choir: Alleluia.

Priest: 17. We see eloquent orators becoming dumb as fishes in
your presence, for they are at loss to say how you remain
virgin and yet have power to bear a child. But we marveling
at the mystery, cry aloud with faith:

Rejoice, vessel of the wisdom of God.
Rejoice, treasury of His providence.
Rejoice, for you reveal the philosophers appear as
without philosophy.

Rejoice, for you exposed the teachers of dialectics as those who have nothing to say.

Rejoice, for the cunning disputants are shown to be fools.

Rejoice, for through you the myth-makers have withered into silence.

Rejoice, for you have torn asunder the tangled webs of the Athenians.

Rejoice, for you have filled the nets of the fishermen.

Rejoice, for you extricate men from the depths of ignorance.

Rejoice, for you illumine many with knowledge.

Rejoice, ship for those who prefer salvation.

Rejoice, haven for the seafarers of life.

Rejoice, O unwedded Bride.

Choir: Rejoice, O unwedded Bride.

Priest: 18. When the Adorner of all wished to save the world, He went to it called by Himself. And still being God and a Shepherd, He appeared to us as a Man, like us, calling the like by the like. And being God, He hears our cry: **Alleluia!**

Choir: Alleluia.

End of the Third Stasis

(This ends the third stasis for the third Friday of Great Lent.

Please turn to page 34 to continue the Akathist Service)

THE FOURTH STASIS

(Chanted on the Fourth Friday of Great Lent)

Priest: 19. You are, O Virgin Mother of God, a wall to virgins, and to all who hasten to you; for the Author of heaven and earth made you, O pure one, and dwelt in your womb, teaching all to cry to you:

Rejoice, pillar of Virginity.

Rejoice, gate of salvation.

Rejoice, beginning of the new and spiritual creation.

Rejoice, provider of God's mercy.

Rejoice, for you have given good counsel to those robbed of understanding.

Rejoice, for you bring to naught the corrupter of man's mind.

Rejoice, O Mother of Sower of purity.

Rejoice, bridal chamber of a marriage without seed.

Rejoice, for you reconcile the faithful to their Lord.

Rejoice, good instructor of virgins.

Rejoice, you who adorn the souls with bridal adornment.

Rejoice, O unwedded Bride.

Choir: Rejoice, O unwedded Bride.

Priest: 20. All praise falls short, O holy King, when it stretches towards the bounds of Your bountiful compassion; in that, if we offer You praise equaling the sands in number, we would have accomplished nothing comparable to what You have given us, who shout to You: **Alleluia!**

Choir: Alleluia.

Priest: 21. We see the Holy Virgin as a lamp of living light, shining on those in darkness. Kindling the immaterial Fire, she guides all to divine knowledge, and illumines our mind with radiance, as we sing these praises in her honour:

Rejoice, beam of the spiritual Sun.

Rejoice, ray of the light that never sets.

Rejoice, lightning-flash that shines upon our souls.

Rejoice, thunder that brings terror to our enemies.

Rejoice, O rising radiant light.

Rejoice, for you follow the swiftly flowing river.

Rejoice, for you prefigure the sign of the pool.

Rejoice, for you take away the filth of sin.

Rejoice, O bath which cleans the mind.

Rejoice, O cup in which joy is mixed.

Rejoice, scent of Christ's fragrance.

Rejoice, life of mystical banquet.

Rejoice, O unwedded Bride.

Choir: Rejoice, O unwedded Bride.

Priest: 22. When the Redeemer of all wished to grant release from ancient debts, He came of His own will to those who were exiled from His grace. He has torn up the record of our sins, and from all He hears the cry: **Alleluia!**

Choir: Alleluia.

Priest: 23. Since you are a living temple, O Mother of God, we all praise you, singing to your birth-giving; for God, who holds all in His hand, dwelt in your womb, sanctifying and glorifying you, and teaching all to hail you thus:

Rejoice, tabernacle of God the Word.
Rejoice, O Saint greater than all the saints.
Rejoice, ark gilded by the Holy Spirit.
Rejoice, endless treasure-house of life.
Rejoice, O honoured crown for the kings of true worship.
Rejoice, venerable pride of pious priests.
Rejoice, O unshakable tower of the Church.
Rejoice, O indestructible wall of the Kingdom.
Rejoice, you through whom victory is achieved.
Rejoice, you through whom the enemies fall.
Rejoice, O healing of my body.
Rejoice, O salvation of my soul.

Rejoice, O unwedded Bride.

Choir: Rejoice, O unwedded Bride.

Priest: 24. O all-praised, O Mother who gave birth to the Word,
more holy than all the saints:

Choir: O Most Holy Mother of God, save us (x3)

Priest: Accept this offering and deliver all from all afflictions. Save
from the impending punishment all those who cry to you:
Alleluia!

Choir: Alleluia.

End of the Fourth Stasis

*(This ends the fourth stasis for the fourth Friday of Great Lent.
Please turn to page 34 to continue the Akathist Service)*

(The first Ikos is repeated after the fourth stasis in the fifth and final week)

Priest: 1. A prince of the angels was sent from heaven to say to the Mother of God, Rejoice And seeing You, O Lord, taking human form at the sound of his bodiless voice, cried aloud to her:

Rejoice, for through you joy shall shine forth.

Rejoice, for through you the curse shall cease.

Rejoice, recalling of fallen Adam.

Rejoice, deliverance of Eve from tears.

Rejoice, height hard to climb for the thoughts of men.

Rejoice, depth hard to scan even for the eyes of the angels.

Rejoice, for you are the throne of the King.

Rejoice, for you hold Him who upholds all.

Rejoice, star causing the Sun to shine.

Rejoice, womb of the Divine Incarnation.

Rejoice, for through you the creation is made new.

Rejoice, for through you the Creator becomes a newborn child.

Rejoice, O unwedded Bride.

Choir: Rejoice, O unwedded Bride.

KONTAKION OF THE AKATHIST HYMN

O Champion leader, to you I offer thanks of victory. O Theotokos you have delivered me from terror. And as you have invincible power, O Theotokos, you alone can set me free from all danger. Set me free and deliver me, that I may cry out to you: Rejoice O Bride without Bridegroom.

People: Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal
Have mercy on us. (x3)

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit;
now and forever, and to the ages of ages. Amen.

All-holy Trinity, have mercy on us. Lord, cleanse us from
our sins. Master pardon our transgressions. Holy One, visit
and heal our infirmities for You Name's sake.

Lord, have mercy. (x3)

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit;
now and forever, and to the ages of ages. 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.

**Priest: For Yours is the kingdom, and the power, and the
glory: of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy
Spirit; now and forever, and to the ages of ages.**

Choir: Amen.

The following verse is to be read:

Choir: O Champion leader, to you I offer thanks of victory. O Theotokos you have delivered me from terror. And as you have invincible power, O Theotokos, you alone can set me free from all danger. Set me free and deliver me, that I may cry out to you: Rejoice O Bride without Bridegroom.

Choir: Lord, have mercy. (x40)

People: Have mercy on us and save us, O only begotten Son of God:

At all times and at every hour, You are worshipped and glorified in heaven and on earth, O Christ our God, long-suffering and most merciful and compassionate. You love the righteous and have mercy on sinners, calling all to salvation through the promise of good things to come. At this very hour receive our prayers, O Lord, and guide our life towards Your commandments. Sanctify our souls, purify our bodies, correct our thoughts, cleanse our intentions, and deliver us from every sorrow, evil and pain. Surround us with Your holy Angels, so that, guided and guarded by Your heavenly Host, we may attain to the unity of the faith, and to the knowledge of Your unapproachable glory. For You are blessed to the ages of ages. Amen.

Choir: Lord, have mercy. (x3)

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; now and forever, and to the ages of ages. Amen.

Greater in honour than the Cherubim and beyond compare, more glorious than the Seraphim, without corruption you gave birth to God the Word; truly the Theotokos, we magnify you.

Bless, Father, in the Name of the Lord.

Priest: May God be merciful to us, and bless us, and cause His face to shine upon us, and be merciful to us.

Choir: Amen.

Lord, have mercy. (x12)

O Most Holy Theotokos, save us.

Prayer of Supplication to the Theotokos

O all-pure, undefiled, incorrupt, all-chaste, all-blessed Lady, blameless Bride of God, who by your most glorious birth-giving, united the Word of God with man and linked our fallen nature with the heavenly. You are alone the hope of the hopeless, the helper of those attacked, the speedy defender of those who flee to you, and the refuge of all Christians. Do not despise me, I a sinner who is defiled by evil thoughts, words and deeds, and who became slave of life's pleasures. But being Mother of God, the lover of mankind, have mercy in compassion on me, your sinful and prodigal servant.

Accept this prayer which I offer to you from my impure lips, and exercising your maternal favour with your Son, our Lord and Master, intercede with Him to open to me the wings of His love of mankind, His loving-kindness, and bounty.

Beseech Him to disregard my countless transgressions and to lead me back to true repentance, and to make me a keeper and a faithful doer of His commandments. And as you are gracious, compassionate, and tender-hearted, be ever present with me in this life as my mediatrix and helper, to repel the assaults of my adversaries and to guide me to salvation, and at the hour of departure of my wretched soul, care for me and drive from it the dark form of evils; and in the dreadful Judgment Day deliver me from everlasting

punishments and torments, revealing me as an heir of the unspeakable glory of your Son and our God.

All which I shall obtain, O hoy Mother of God, my Lady, through your mediation and intercession. By the grace and compassion of your only begotten Son, our Lord God, and, Saviour Jesus Christ, to whom belong with His Eternal Father, and the all-holy, good and life-giving Spirit all honour, glory and worship now and forever, and to the ages of ages. Amen.

Prayer to our Lord Jesus Christ

And now as we lay down to sleep, O Master, grant us repose both of body and soul, and preserve us from the dark sleep of sin and from the sensuous pleasure of the dark passions of the night. Still the assaults of passions; quench the fiery darts of evil which are craftily directed against us; calm the commotions of our flesh and put away all earthly and material thoughts as we sleep. And grant us, O God, a watchful mind, pure thoughts, a sober heart, and a gentle sleep, free from all the fantasies of Satan.

Raise us up again at the hour of prayer, strengthened in your commandments, and holding steadfast within ourselves the remembrance of Your judgments. Give us the words of Your glorification, all night long, that we may praise, bless, and glorify Your most honorable and magnificent Name, O Father, Son, and Holy Spirit; now and forever, and to the ages of ages. Amen.

O most glorious, ever virgin and blessed Mother of God, entreat our prayer to your Son, our God, and implore Him to save our souls through You.

The Father is my hope; the Son is my refuge; the Holy Spirit is my shelter. O Holy Trinity, glory to You.

All my hope I place in you, O Mother of God; keep me under the wings of your care.

THE COMPLINE GOSPEL

(The following Gospel reading is read on first Friday of Great Lent only)

Deacon: **And that we may be accounted worthy to hear the Holy Gospel, let us pray to the Lord God.**

Choir: Lord, have mercy (x3)

Deacon: **Wisdom! Attend! Let us hear the Holy Gospel.**

Priest: Peace be to you all.

Choir: And to you spirit.

Priest: **The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to Saint John (15:1-7).**

Choir: Glory to You, O Lord, glory to You.

Priest: **Let us attend!**

Priest: The Lord said to His disciples: "I am the true vine, and My Father is the vinedresser. Every branch of mine that bears no fruit He takes away; and every branch that does bear fruit He prunes, that it may bear more fruit. You are already made clean by the word which I have spoken to you. Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me. I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit; for apart from Me you can do nothing. If a man does not abide in Me, he is cast forth as a branch and withers; and the branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, ask whatever you will, and it shall be done for you."

Choir: Glory to You, O Lord, glory to You.

THE DISMISSAL

Priest: Glory to You, O Christ our God and our hope, glory to You.

Choir: Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; now and forever, and to the ages of ages. Amen.

Lord, have mercy (x3).

Father bless in the name of the Lord.

Priest: O Christ our God, through the intercessions of our all-pure Lady, the ever-virgin Mary, Mother of God, of our venerable and God-bearing Fathers, of the holy and righteous ancestors of God, Joachim and Anna, of Saint N... Patron Saint of this Church, and of all Your Saints, have mercy on us and save us, forasmuch as You are good and the lover of mankind.

Choir: Amen.

(If there are clergy present)

Priest: Bless me, holy Fathers, and forgive me, I am a sinner

And turns towards the people saying:

Priest: Forgive me brothers and sisters, I am a sinner.

People: May God forgive you, holy Father and forgive us.

*The priest recites the following Ektenia, the people respond to each petition with: **Lord, have mercy***

Let us pray for the peace of the world.

For pious and Orthodox Christians.

For our Father Metropolitan (*Name*), and all our brethren in Christ.

For those who govern this country and our armed forces, that they may govern and serve in righteousness.

For our absent fathers and brethren.

For those who hate us, and those who love us.

For those who are kind to us and those who serve us.

For those who have asked us to pray for them, although we are unworthy.

For the deliverance of captives and their salvation.

For those who travel by sea, by land, and by air.

For those who lie in sick.

Let us pray also for abundance of the fruits of the earth.

For the founders of this Holy Church, and our parents, teachers, and all our fathers gone before us, the Orthodox, who here and everywhere lie asleep in the Lord, let us say for them

People: Lord, have mercy. (x3)

And have mercy on us and save us for You are a good God and love mankind.

Amen.

The faithful now come forward to venerate the icon of the Theotokos and receive a blessing from the priest, as the choir sings the following Troparion.

TROPARION (Tone Three)

Awed by the Beauty

Awed by the beauty of your virginity and the exceeding radiance of your purity, Gabriel cried out unto you, O Theotokos: “What worthy hymn of praise can I offer unto you? And what shall I name you? I am in doubt and stand in awe. Wherefore as commanded, I cry to you: Rejoice O Full of Grace.”

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

Choir: Amen.

