Office of the Praise of the Most Holy Theotokos
THE AKATHIST SERVICE TO OUR MOST-HOLY LADY, THEOTOKOS AND EVER-VIRGIN MARY

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

Priest:  Glory to You, our God, glory to You!

O Heavenly King, the comforter, the Spirit of Truth, who is everywhere and fills all things, Treasury of blessings and Giver of Life.  Come and abide in us, and cleanse from every im-pu-rit y, * and save our souls, O Good One!

Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Im-mor-tal, * have mer-cy on us!  (thrice)

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spi-rit. * Now and ever and unto ages of a-ges. Amen.

O Most Holy Trinity have mercy upon us, Lord cleanse us from our i-ni-quitoes, * O Holy One heal our infirmities, for Your name’s sake.

Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mer-cy. * Lord, have mer-cy.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spi-rit. * Now and ever and unto ages of a-ges. Amen.
Our Father, You are in heaven, hallowed be Your name. Your Kingdom come, Your 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 the evil one.

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 ever, and unto ages of ages.

Priest: Glory to the Holy, Consubstantial, Life-Creating and Undivided Trinity, now and ever and unto ages of ages.
Glory to God in the highest, * and on earth peace, good will to men (thrice).
O Lord, open my lips, * and my mouth shall show forth Your praise (twice)

THE SIX-PSALMS

Psalm 3

O Lord, how many are my foes! * Many are rising against me; many are saying of me, * there is no help for him in God.

But You, O Lord, are a shield about me, * my glory and the lifter of my head.

I cry aloud to the Lord * and He answers me from His holy hill.

I lie down and sleep, * I wake again, for the Lord sustains me.

I am not afraid of ten thousands of people * who have set themselves against me round about.

Arise, O Lord! Deliver me, O my God! For You smite all my enemies on the cheek,* You break the teeth of the wicked.

Deliverance belongs to the Lord; * Your blessings be upon Your people!

I lie down and sleep, * I wake again, for the Lord sustains me.

Psalm 37(38)

O Lord, rebuke me not in Your anger, * nor chasten me in Your wrath!

For Your arrows have sunk into me, * and Your hand has come down on me.

There is no soundness in my flesh because of Your indignation; * there is no health in my bones because of my sin.

For my iniquities have gone over my head; * they weigh like a burden too heavy for me.

My wounds grow foul and festering * because of my foolishness.

I am utterly bowed down and prostrate; * all the day I go about mourning.

For my loins are filled with burning, * and there is no soundness in my flesh.

I am utterly spent and crushed; * I groan because of the tumult of my heart.

Lord, all my longing is known to You, * my sighing is not hidden from You.

My heart throbs, my strength fails; * and the light of my eyes, it also has gone from me.

My friends and companions stand aloof from my plague, * and my kinsmen stand far off.

Those who seek my life lay their snares, those who seek my hurt speak of ruin, * and meditate treachery all the day long.

But I am like a deaf man, I do not hear, * like a dumb man who does not open his mouth.

Yea, I am like a man who does not hear, * and in whose mouth are no rebukes.

But for You, O Lord, do I wait; * it is You, O Lord my God, who will answer.

For I pray, “Only let them not rejoice over me, * who boast against me when my foot slips!”

For I am ready to fall, * and my pain is ever with me.

I confess my iniquity, * I am sorry for my sin.

Those who are my foes without cause are mighty, * and many are those who hate me wrongfully.

Those who render me evil for good are my adversaries * because I follow after good.

Do not forsake me, O Lord! * O my God be not far from me!

Make haste to help me, * O Lord, my salvation!

Make haste to help me, * O Lord, my salvation!
Psalm 62(63)

O God, You are my God, I seek You. *
My soul thirsts for You; *
my flesh fains for You, *
as in a dry and weary land where no wa-ter is.
So I have looked upon You in the sanctu-ry, *
beholding Your power and glo-ry.
Because Your steadfast love is better than life, *
my lips will praise You.
So I will bless You as long as I live; *
I will lift up my hands and call on Your Name.
My soul is feasted as with marrow and fat, *
and my mouth praises You with joy-ful lips,
when I think of You upon my bed, and meditate on You in the watches of the night; *
for You have been my help, and in the shadow of Your wings I sing for joy.
My soul clings to You, *
Your right hand up-holds me.

Psalm 87(88)

O Lord, my God, I call for help by day; *
I cry out in the night before You.
Let my prayer come be-fore You, *
incline Your ear to my cry!
For my soul is full of troubles and my life draws near to Sheol. *
I am reckoned among those who go down to the Pit;
I am a man who has no strength, *
like one forsaken among the dead, like the slain that lie in the grave,
like those whom You re-mem-ber no more, *
for they are cut off from Your hand.
You have put me in the depths of the Pit, *
in the regions dark and deep.
Your wrath lies heavy u pon me *
and You overwhelm me with all Your waves.
You have caused my companions to shun me; *
You have made me a thing of hor-ror to them.
I am shut in so that I can-not escape; *
my eyes grow dim through sor-row.
Every day I call upon You, O Lord; *
I spread out my hands to You.
Do You work wonders for the dead? *
Do the shades rise up to praise You?
Is Your steadfast love de-clared in the grave, *
or Your faithfulness in the place of destruction?
Are Your wonders known in the dark-ness, *
or Your saving help in the land of for-get-fulness?
But I, Lord, cry to You; *
in the morning my prayer comes be-fore You.
Lord, why do You cast me off? *
Why do You hide Your face from me?
Afflicted and close to death from my youth up, *
I suffer Your terrors; I am help-less.
Your wrath has swept o-ver me; *
Your dread assaults de-stroy me.
They surround me like a flood all day long; *
they close in upon me to-ge-ther.
You have caused lover and friend to shun me; *
my companions are in dark-ness.
O Lord, my God, I call for help by day, *
I cry out in the night before You.
Let my prayer come be-fore You,
incline Your ear to my cry!

Psalm 102(103)

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 His benefits,
Who forgives all your iniquity, * Who heals all your diseases,
Who redeems your life from the pit, * Who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy,
Who satisfies you with good as long as you live, * so that your youth is renewed like the eagle’s.
The Lord works vindication * and justice for all who are oppressed.
He made known His ways to Moses, * His acts to the people of Israel.
The Lord is merciful and gracious, * slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.
He will not always chide, * nor will He keep His anger forever.
He does not deal with us according to our sins, * nor requite us according to our iniquities.
For as the heavens are high above the earth, * so great is His steadfast love toward those who fear Him;
as far as the east is from the west, * so far does He remove our transgressions from us.
As a father pities his children, * so the Lord pities those who fear Him.
For He knows our frame; * He remembers that we are dust.
As for man, his days are like grass; * he flourishes like a flower of the field;
for the wind passes over it and it is gone, * and its place knows it no more.
But the steadfast love of the Lord * is from everlasting to everlasting upon those who fear Him,
and His righteousness to children’s children, * to those who keep His covenant and remember to do His commandments.
The Lord has established His throne in the heavens * and His kingdom rules over all.
Bless the Lord, O you His angels, * you mighty ones who do His word, hearkening to the voice of His word!
Bless the Lord, all His hosts, * His ministers that do His will!
Bless the Lord, all His works, * in all places of His dominion.
Bless the Lord, all His works. * In all places of His dominion.
Bless the Lord, * O my soul!
Psalm 142(143)

Hear my prayer, Lord; give ear to my supplications! *
In Your faithfulness answer me, in Your righteousness!
Enter not into judgment with Your servant; * for no man living is righteous before You.
For the enemy has pursued me; * he has crushed my life to the ground;
he has made me sit in darkness like those long dead.
Therefore my spirit faints within me; * my heart within me is appalled.
I remember the days of old, I meditate on all that You have done; *
I muse on what Your hands have wrought.
I stretch out my hands to You; * my soul thirsts for You like a parched land.
Make haste to answer me, O Lord! * My spirit fails!
Hide not Your face from me, * lest I be like those who go down to the Pit.
Let me hear in the morning of Your steadfast love, * for in You I put my trust.
Teach me the way I should go, * for to You I lift up my soul.
Deliver me, Lord, from my e-nemies! *
I have fled to You for re-fuge!
Teach me to do Your will, for You are my God. *
Let Your good Spirit lead me on a le-vel path.
For Your name’s sake, * Lord, pre-serve my life.
In Your righ-teousness * bring me out of trouble.
And in Your steadfast love cut off my enemies and destroy all my ad-versaries, *
for I am Your ser-vant.
In Your faithfulness an-sw er me, * in Your righ-teousness!

Enter not into judgment with Your ser-vant. *
In Your faithfulness answer me, in Your righ-teousness!

Enter not into judgment with Your ser-vant. *
Let Your good Spirit lead me on a le-vel path.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spi-rit. *
Now and ever and unto ages of a-ges. Amen.
Alleluia, alleluia, alle-lu-ia, * glory to You, O God (thrice)

THE GREAT LITANY

Deacon: In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

Deacon: For the peace from above and for the salvation of souls, let us pray to the Lord.
Deacon: For the peace of the whole world, for the welfare of the holy churches of God, and for the union of all, let us pray to the Lord.

Deacon: For this holy house and for those who enter with faith, reverence, and the fear of God, let us pray to the Lord.

Deacon: For his Beatitude our Metropolitan _______________, and for our God-loving Bishop, ________________, for the honorable priesthood, the diaconate in Christ, for all the clergy and the people, let us pray to the Lord.
Deacon: For the president of our country, for all civil authorities, and for the armed forces, let us pray to the Lord.

Deacon: For this city, for every city and country, and for the faithful dwelling in them, let us pray to the Lord.

Deacon: For seasonable weather, for abundance of the fruits of the earth, and for peaceful times, let us pray to the Lord.
Deacon: For travelers by land, by sea, and by air; for the sick and the suffering; for captives and their salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

Deacon: For our deliverance from all affliction, wrath, danger, and necessity, let us pray to the Lord.

Deacon: Help us, save us, have mercy on us, and keep us, O God, by Your grace.
Deacon: Commemorating our most holy, most pure, most blessed and glorious Lady Theotokos and ever virgin Mary, with all the saints, let us commend ourselves and each other, and all our life unto Christ our God.

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

If it is an Alleluia season, or the Great 40-day Fast, Alleluia is sung with verses from Isaiah 26:

**ALLELUIA (TONE 8)**

Deacon: By night my spirit rises early to You, O Lord, for your ordinances are a light upon the earth. My spirit seeks you very early in the morning, o God, for your commandments are a light on the earth.

Alleluia...

Deacon: Learn righteousness, inhabitants of the earth!

Alleluia...

Deacon: Jealousy shall seize an untaught nation.

Alleluia...

Deacon: Bring more evils upon them, Lord; bring more evils upon the glorious ones of the earth!

-OR-

During other parts of the year, “God is The Lord” is sung with verses from Psalm 117.

**GOD IS THE LORD (TONE 8)**

Deacon: God is the Lord, and has revealed Himself to us! Blessed is He Who comes in the Name of the Lord!
Deacon: O give thanks to the Lord, for He is good: for His steadfast love endures for ever.

God is the Lord…

Deacon: All nations surrounded me; in the Name of the Lord I cut them off.

God is the Lord…

Deacon: I shall not die but shall live and recount the deeds of the Lord.

God is the Lord…

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

God is the Lord…

TROPARION (TONE 8)

Deacon: O give thanks to the Lord, for He is good: for His steadfast love endures for ever.

God is the Lord…

Deacon: All nations surrounded me; in the Name of the Lord I cut them off.

God is the Lord…

Deacon: I shall not die but shall live and recount the deeds of the Lord.

God is the Lord…

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

God is the Lord…

TROPARION (TONE 8)
He — Who in His self- a - base - ment bowed the hea - vens and came — down,
is Housed whol - ly and un - changed in you. I — see Him take the form
of a ser - vant in your womb, and in won - der cry to You: Re - joice, O
He — Who in His self- a - base - ment bowed the hea - vens and came — down,
is Housed whol - ly and un - changed in you. I — see Him take the form
of a ser - vant in your womb, and in won - der cry to You: Re - joice, O
He — Who in His self- a - base - ment bowed the hea - vens and came — down,
is Housed whol - ly and un - changed in you. I — see Him take the form
of a ser - vant in your womb, and in won - der cry to You: Re - joice, O
He — Who in His self- a - base - ment bowed the hea - vens and came — down,
KATHISMATA (KATHISMA XVI)

Stasis I
Psalm 109(110)

The Lord said to my Lord,*
“Sit at My right hand, till I make Your enemies Your foot-stool.”
The Lord shall send the rod of Your strength out of Zi-on.*
Rule in the midst of Your e-nemies!
Your people shall be volunteers in the day of Your po-wer; *
In the beauties of holiness, from the womb of the morning, You have the dew of Your youth.
The Lord has sworn and will not relent,*
“You are a priest forever according to the order of Mel-chi-zedek.”
The Lord is at Your right hand; *
He shall execute kings in the day of His wrath.
He shall judge among the nations, He shall fill the places with dead bo-dies,*
He shall execute the heads of many coun-tries.
He shall drink of the brook by the way-side,*
Therefore He shall lift up the head.

Psalm 110(111)

Praise the Lord! I will praise the Lord with my whole heart,*
In the assembly of the upright and in the congre-ga-tion.
The works of the Lord are great,*

Studied by all who have plea-sure in them.
His work is honorable and glor-ious,*
And His righteousness endures for-e-ver.
He has made His wonderful works to be re-mem-bered; *
The Lord is gracious and full of com-pas-sion.
He has given food to those who fear Him,*
He will ever be mindful of His co-venant.
He has declared to His people the power of His works,*
In giving them the heritage of the na-tions.
The works of His hands are verity and jus-tice; *
All His pre-cepts are sure.
They stand fast forever and e-ver,*
And are done in truth and up-rightness.
He has sent redemption to His people; He has commanded His covenant for-e-ver: *
Holy and awesome is His name.
The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom;
A good understanding have all those who do His com-mand-ments.*
His praise endures for-e-ver.

Psalm (111)112

Praise the Lord! Blessed is the man who fears the Lord,*
Who delights greatly in His com-mand-ments.
His descendants will be mighty on earth,*
The generation of the upright will be blessed.
Wealth and riches will be in his house, *
And his righteousness endures forever.
Unto the upright there arises light in the darkness; *
He is gracious, and full of compassion, and righteous.
A good man deals graciously and lends; *
He will guide his affairs with discretion.
Surely he will never be shamed; *
The righteous will be in everlasting remembrance.
He will not be afraid of evil tidings; *
His heart is steadfast, trusting in the Lord.
His heart is established; *
He will not be afraid, until he sees his desire upon his enemies.
He has dispersed abroad, *
He has given to the poor;
His righteousness endures forever; *
His horn will be exalted with honor.
The things that are in the heavens and in the earth?
He raises the poor out of the dust, *
And lifts the needy out of the ash heap,
That He may seat him with princes—* With the princes of His people.
He grants the barren woman a home, *
Like a joyful mother of children. Praise the Lord!

Psalm 113(114)

When Israel went out of Egypt, *
The house of Jacob from a people of strange language,
Judah became His sanctuary, *
And Israel His dominion.
The sea saw it and fled; *
Jordan turned back.
The mountains skipped like rams, *
The little hills like lambs.
What ails you, O sea, that you fled? *
O Jordan, that you turned back?
O mountains, that you skipped like rams? *
O little hills, like lambs?
Tremble, O earth, at the presence of the Lord, *
At the presence of the God of Jacob,
Who turned the rock into a pool of water, *
The flint into a fountain of waters.

Psalm 114(115)

Not unto us, O Lord, not unto us, but to Your name give glory, *
Because of Your mercy, because of Your truth.
Why should the Gentiles say, *
“So where is their God?”
But our God is in heaven; *
He does whatever He pleases.
Their idols are sil-VER and gold, *
The work of men’s hands.
They have mouths, but they do not speak; *
Eyes they have, but they do not see;
They have ears, but they do not hear; *

Stasis II
Psalm 112(113)

Praise the Lord! Praise, O servants of the Lord, *
Praise the name of the Lord!
Blessed be the name of the Lord *
From this time forth and forevermore!
From the rising of the sun to its going down *
The Lord’s name is to be praised.
The Lord is high above all nations, *
His glory above the heavens.
Who is like the Lord our God, *
Who dwells on high,
Who humbles Himself to be-hold *
Noses they have, but they do not smell;  
They have hands, *  
But they do not handle;  
Feet they have, but they do not walk; *  
Nor do they mutter through their throats.  
Those who make them are like them; *  
So is everyone who trusts in them.

O Israel, trust in the Lord; *  
He is their help and their shield.

O house of Aaron, trust in the Lord; *  
He is their help and their shield.

You who fear the Lord, trust in the Lord; *  
He is their help and their shield.

The Lord has been mindful of us; *  
He will bless us;  
He will bless the house of Israel; *  
He will bless the house of Aaron.  
He will bless those who fear the Lord, *  
Both small and great.

May the Lord give you increase more and more, *  
You and your children.

May you be blessed by the Lord, *  
Who made heaven and earth.

The heaven, even the heavens, are the Lord’s; *  
But the earth He has given to the children of men.

The Lord preserves the simple; *  
I was brought low, and He saved me.

Return to your rest, O my soul, *  
For the Lord has dealt bountifully with you.

I will walk before the Lord *  
In the land of the living.

I believed, therefore I spoke, *  
“I am greatly afflicted.”  
I said in my haste, *  
“All men are liars.”

What shall I render to the Lord *  
For all His benefits toward me?

I will take up the cup of salvation, *  
And call upon the name of the Lord.

I will pay my vows to the Lord *  
Now in the presence of all His people.

Precious in the sight of the Lord *  
Is the death of His saints.

O Lord, truly I am Your servant; *  
I am Your servant, the son of Your maidservant;  
You have loosed my bonds.

I will offer to You the sacrifice of thanksgiving, *  
And will call upon the name of the Lord.

I will pay my vows to the Lord *  
Now in the presence of all His people,

In the courts of the Lord’s house, *  
In the midst of you, O Jerusalem. Praise the Lord!

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Stasis III  
Psalm 115(116)

I love the Lord, because He has heard my voice *  
And my supplications.

Because He has inclined His ear to me, *

Therefore I will call upon Him as long as I live.  
The pains of death surrounded me, and the pangs of Sheol laid hold of me; *  
I found trouble and sorrow.

Then I called upon the name of the Lord: *  
“O Lord, I implore You, de-li-ver my soul!”

Gracious is the Lord, and righteous; *  
Yes, our God is merciful.

The Lord preserves the simple; *  
I was brought low, and He saved me.

Return to your rest, O my soul, *  
For the Lord has dealt bountifully with you.

For You have delivered my soul from death, *  
My eyes from tears, And my feet from fal-ling.

I will walk be-fore the Lord *  
In the land of the li-ving.

I believed, therefore I spoke, *  
“I am greatly af-flic-ted.”

I said in my haste, *  
“All men are liars.”

What shall I render to the Lord *  
For all His benefits to-ward me?

I will take up the cup of sal-va-tion, *  
And call upon the name of the Lord.

I will pay my vows to the Lord *  
Now in the presence of all His people.

Precious in the sight of the Lord *  
Is the death of His saints.

O Lord, truly I am Your servant; *  
I am Your servant, the son of Your maidservant;  
You have loosed my bonds.

I will offer to You the sacrifice of thanksgiving, *  
And will call upon the name of the Lord.

I will pay my vows to the Lord *  
Now in the presence of all His people,

In the courts of the Lord’s house, *  
In the midst of you, O Jerusalem. Praise the Lord!
Psalm 116(117)

Praise the Lord, all you Gen-tiles! *
Laud Him, all you peoples!
For His merciful kindness is great toward us, * And the truth of the Lord endures forever. Praise the Lord!

Psalm 117(118)

Oh, give thanks to the Lord, for He is good! *
For His mercy endures for-ev-er.
Let Israel now say, *
“His mercy endures for-ev-er.”
Let the house of Aaron now say, *
“His mercy endures for-ev-er.”
Let those who fear the Lord now say, *
“His mercy endures for-ev-er.”
I called on the Lord in distress; *
The Lord answered me and set me in a broad place.
The Lord is on my side; I will not fear. *
What can man do to me?
The Lord is for me among those who help me; *
Therefore I shall see my desire on those who hate me.
It is better to trust in the Lord *
Than to put confidence in man.
It is better to trust in the Lord *
Than to put confidence in prin-ces.
All nations sur-round-ed me, *
But in the name of the Lord I will de-stroy them.
They surrounded me, Yes, they sur-round-ed me; *
But in the name of the Lord I will de-stroy them.
They surrounded me like bees; They were quenched like a fire of thorns; *
For in the name of the Lord I will de-stroy them.
You pushed me violently, that I might fall, *
But the Lord helped me.
The Lord is my strength and song, *
And He has become my sal-va-tion.
The voice of rejoicing and salvation is in the tents of the righ-teous; *
The right hand of the Lord does val-i-antly.
The right hand of the Lord is ex-alt-ed; *
The right hand of the Lord does val-i-antly.
I shall not die, but live, *
And declare the works of the Lord.
The Lord has chastened me se-verely, *
But He has not given me over to death.
Open to me the gates of righ-teousness; *
I will go through them, and I will praise the Lord.
This is the gate of the Lord, *
Through which the righteous shall en-ter.
I will praise You, for You have an-swered me, *
And have become my sal-va-tion.
The stone which the build-ers rejected *
Has become the chief cor-nerstone.
This was the Lord’s do-ing; *
It is marvelous in our eyes.
This is the day the Lord has made; *
We will rejoice and be glad in it.
Save now, I pray, O Lord; *
O Lord, I pray, send now pros-perity.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! *
We have blessed you from the house of the Lord.
God is the Lord, and He has given us light; *
Bind the sacrifice with cords to the horns of the altar.
You are my God, and I will praise You; *
You are my God, I will ex-alt You.
Oh, give thanks to the Lord, for He is good! *
For His mercy endures for-ev-er.
Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spi-rit. *
Now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.
Alleluia, alleluia, alle-lu-ia, * glory to You, O God (thrice)
Deacon: Again and again in peace, let us pray to the Lord.

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

Deacon: Commemorating our most holy, most pure, most blessed and glorious Lady Theotokos and ever virgin Mary, with all the saints, let us commend ourselves and each other, and all our life unto Christ our God.
Priest: For You are our God, and unto You do we ascribe glory, to the Father and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

KONTAKION (TONE 8)

O Victo - rious leader of triumphant hosts!

We, your ser - vants de - li - vered from e - vil sing our grate - ful thanks to
Rejoice, O unwedded Bride!

set us free from ev’ry calamity so that we may sing:

You, O Theotokos. As you possess invincible might,

Rejoice, O unwedded Bride!
Priest: A prince of the angels was sent from heaven, to say to the Theotokos, “Rejoice!” And seeing You, O Lord, take bodily form at the sound of his bodiless voice, filled with amazement, he stood still and cried aloud to her:
Rejoice, height to climb for the *thoughts* of men,
Rejoice, depth hard to scan even for the eyes of *angels*,
Rejoice, for you are the *throne* of the King,
Rejoice, for You hold him who up-holds 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 *new-born* child.

Rejoice, O unwedded Bride!
KONTAKION TWO

Priest: The Holy Maiden, seeing herself in all her purity, said boldly to Gabriel: * “Your words seem strange and hard for my soul to accept. From a conception without seed how do you speak of childbirth crying:

IKOS TWO

Priest: Seeking to know what passes knowledge, the Virgin said to the ministering Angel: * “from a maiden womb how can a Son be born? Tell me.” And, in fear, he answered her crying:

Rejoice, initiate of God’s secret coun-sel.
Rejoice, faith in that which must be guarded by si-lence.
Rejoice, beginning of Christ’s won-der.
Rejoice, crown and fulfillment of his teach-ings.
Rejoice, heavenly ladder by which God came down.
Rejoice, bridge leading men from earth to hea-ven.
Rejoice, marble greatly renowned among the an-gels.
Rejoice, wound bitterly lamented by the de-mons.
Rejoice, for ineffably You shall bear the light.
Rejoice, for you have revealed the mystery to none.
Rejoice, wisdom surpassing the knowledge of the wise.
Rejoice, dawn that illumines the minds of the faith-ful.
Re-joice, O unwedded Bride!

KONTAKION THREE

Priest: Then the power of the Most High overshadowed her that knew no wedlock, so that she might conceive; * and He made her fruitful womb as a fertile field for all who long to reap the harvest of salvation, singing:
IKOS THREE

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

* Rejoice, vine which springs a never with’-ring branch.
* Rejoice, orchard of pure fruit.
* Rejoice, for you tend the husbandman who loves mankind.
* Rejoice, for you have borne the gardener who culti-vates our life.
* Rejoice, earth yielding a rich harvest of com-pas-sion.
* Rejoice, table laden with mercy in a-bun-dance.
* Rejoice, for through you the fields of Eden flower again.
* Rejoice, for you make ready a haven for our souls.
* Rejoice, acceptable incense of inter-ces-sions.
* Rejoice, propitiation of the world.
* Rejoice, loving-kindness of God unto mor-tal man.
* Rejoice, freedom of approach for mortals unto God.
* Re-joyce, O unwedded Bride!

KONTAKION FOUR

Priest:  Tossed inwardly by a storm of doubts, prudent Joseph was troubled; * knowing you to be unwedded, O blameless Virgin, he feared a stolen union. But when he learned that your conceiving was from the Holy Spirit, he cried:

(The kontakion “Victorious leader...” and kathisma 17 can be sung here. “Victorious leader...” can be repeated after the little litany. For parish usage, it is not included.)

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

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

Deacon: Commemorating our most holy, most pure, most blessed and glorious Lady Theotokos and ever virgin Mary, with all the saints, let us commend ourselves and each other, and all our life unto Christ our God.
IKOS FOUR

Priest: The shepherds heard the angels glorify Christ’s coming in the flesh. Quickly they ran to the Shepherd, and beheld Him as a lamb without spot, that had been pastured in the womb of Mary; and they sang praises to her, saying:

Rejoice, mother of the lamb and shepherd.
Rejoice, fold of spiritual sheep.
Rejoice, protection against unseen enemies.
Rejoice, key to the door of paradise.
Rejoice, for heaven exults with earth.
Rejoice, for things on earth rejoice with the heavens.
Rejoice, never silent voice of the apostles.
Rejoice, unconquered courage of the victorious martyrs.
Rejoice, firm foundation of the faith.
Rejoice, shining revelation of grace.
Rejoice, for through you hell is stripped bare.
Rejoice, for through you we are clothed in glory.
Rejoice, O unwedded Bride!

KONTAKION FIVE

Priest: Seeing the star pointing to God, the Magi followed its radiance. Keeping it before them as a beacon, with its help they sought the mighty King; and attaining the Unattainable, they rejoiced, and cried to Him:
IKOS FIVE

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

Rejoice, mother of the star that never sets.
Rejoice, bright dawn of the mystical day.
Rejoice, for you have quenched the furnace of deception.
Rejoice, for you illumine all who love the mystery of the Trinity.
Rejoice, for you have cast down from his domain the tyrant that hates man.
Rejoice, for you have made known the Lord Christ who loves mankind.
Rejoice, deliverance from the worship of pagan idols.
Rejoice, liberation from the filth of sin.
Rejoice, for you have quenched the worship of fire.
Rejoice, for you have released us from the flames of passion.
Rejoice, guide of the faithful of chastity.
Rejoice, joy of all generations.
Rejoice, O unwedded Bride!

KONTAKION SIX

Priest: Becoming God’s messengers, the Magi returned to Babylon. Having fulfilled the prophecy concerning You, and preaching You to all as Christ, they left Herod to his raving, for he knew not how to sing:

Rejoice, restoration of men.
Rejoice, downfall of demons.
Rejoice, for you have trampled on the delusion of error.
Rejoice, for you have exposed the snares of the idols.
Rejoice, sea that has drowned the invisible pha-raoh.
Rejoice, rock that gives drink to all who thirst for life.
Rejoice, pillar of fire, guiding those in darkness.
Rejoice, protection of the world, wider than the cloud in the wil-der-ness.
Rejoice, food that takes the place of manna.
Rejoice, minister of holy joy.
Rejoice, promised land.
Rejoice, source of milk and honey.
Rejoice, O unwedded Bride!

KONTAKION SEVEN

Priest: As Simeon drew near to the time of his departure from this world of error, he received You as an infant in his arms, but he knew You to be perfect God; and, struck with wonder at your ineffable wisdom, he cried:

Priest: Through the mercy and compassion and love for mankind of Your only-begotten Son with whom You are blessed, together with Your all-holy, good, and life-creating Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

PSALM 50(51)

Have mercy on me, O God, according to Your great mercy; *
according to the multitude of Your compassions blot out my transgressions.
Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity *
and cleanse me from my sin!
For I know my transgressions *
and my sin is ever before me.

Against You, You only, have I sinned and done that which is evil in Your sight, *
so that You are justified in Your sentence and blameless in Your judgment.
Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity *
and in sins did my mother conceive me.
Behold, You desire truth: *
You have manifested to me the secret and hidden things of Your wisdom.
You will sprinkle me with hyssop and I shall be clean; *
You will wash me and I shall be made whi-ter than snow.
You will let me hear joy and glad-ness; *
the afflicted bones will re-joice.
Hide Your face from my sins *
and blot out all my i-ni-quities.
Create in me a clean heart, O God, *
and put a new and right spirit with-in me.
Cast me not away from Your pre-sence *
and take not Your Holy Spi-rit from me.
Restore to me the joy of Your sal-va-tion *
and establish me with Your directing spi-rit.
Then I will teach trans-gres-sors Your ways *
and ungodly men will turn to You.

Deliver me from bloodguiltiness, O God, the God of my sal-va-tion, *
and my tongue will declare Your de-liv’-rance with joy.
Lord, You will o- pen my lips *
and my mouth shall show forth Your praise.
For if You desired sacrifice, I would have gi-ven it; *
in whole burnt offerings, You will not be pleased.
Sacrifice to God is a broken spi-rit; *
a broken and humbled heart, God will not despise.
Do good, Lord, to Zion in Your good plea-sure; *
and let the walls of Jerusalem be built.
Then You will delight in a sacrifice of righ-teousness, *
in burnt offerings and whole burnt offerings; then calves will be offered on Your al-tar.

KANON ODE ONE (TONE 4)

\[\text{I will open my mouth filled with the Spirit, overflowing with words of praise for the Queen and Mother;}\]
\[\text{I will appear feasting radiant-ly,}
\text{with words of praise for the Queen and Mother;}\]
\[\text{I will appear feasting radiant-ly,}
\text{with words of praise for the Queen and Mother;}\]
Cantor: O pure Virgin, living book of Christ, sealed by the Spirit, beholding you the great Archangel said to you: *

“Rejoice, vessel of joy! Through you shall we be loosed from the curse of our first mother.”

Most Holy Theotokos, save us!

Cantor: 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 Al-migh-ty.

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spi-rit.

Cantor: Rejoice, for from you alone springs the unfading rose; rejoice, for you have borne the sweetly-smelling fruit! *

Rejoice, unwedded maiden; bouquet of the only king and preservation of the world!

Now and ever and unto ages of a-ges. Amen.

Cantor: Rejoice, lady, treasure-house of purity, raising us up from our fall; rejoice, lily whose sweet scent is known to all the faithful; * rejoice, fragrant incense and precious oil of myrrh!
Most Holy Theotokos, save us!
Cantor: From you, the field un-tilled, has grown the divine ear of corn. * Rejoice, living table that has held the Bread of Life; Rejoice, Lady, never failing spring of the living wa-ter.

Most Holy Theotokos, save us!
Cantor: Rejoice, Mother who has borne for the faithful the sacrificial Victim without blemish; Rejoice, Ewe that has brought forth the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of all the world. * Rejoice, mercy-seat, our fervent inter-ces-sor.

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spi-rit.
Cantor: Rejoice, radiant dawn alone bearing Christ the sun; rejoice, dwelling-place of the light. * You have dispersed the gloom, utterly destroying the demons of the dark-ness.
Now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Cantor: Rejoice, only gate through which the word alone has passed. Lady, by your childbearing, you have broken the bars and gates of hell. * Rejoice, bride of God, divine entry of the saved.

KONTAKION (TONE 8)

O Victorious leader of triumphant hosts!

We, your servants delivered from evil sing our grateful thanks to you, O Theotokos. As you possess invincible might,
IKOS SEVEN

Priest:  A new creation has the Creator revealed, manifesting Himself unto us His creatures.  From a Virgin’s womb He came, preserving it inviolate as it was before:  that, beholding the miracle, we might sing her praises, crying:

Rejoice, flower of incorrupted.
Rejoice, crown of chastity.
Rejoice, bright foreshadowing of the resurrection glory.
Rejoice, mirror of the angels life.
Rejoice, tree of glorious fruit on which the faithful feed.
Rejoice, wood of shady leaves where many shelter.
Rejoice, for you have conceived a guide for the wonderers.
Rejoice, for you have borne a deliverer from the captives.
Rejoice, intercessor with the righteous judge.
Rejoice, forgiveness for many who have stumbled.
Rejoice, robe for the naked bereft of hope.
Rejoice, love surpassing all desire.
Rejoice, O unwedded Bride!

KONTAKION EIGHT

Priest:  Seeing this strange birth, let us become strangers to the world, fixing our minds in heaven.  To this end has the Most High God appeared on earth as a lowly man, because He wishes to draw to heaven all who cry aloud to Him:
IKOS EIGHT

Priest: The Word uncircumscribed was wholly present here below, yet in no wise absent from the realm on high: God descended to earth yet underwent no change of place. He was born of a Virgin, overshadowed by divine power, and to her we sing:

Rejoice, enclosure of the God whom nothing can enclose.
Rejoice, gate of the hallowed mystery.
Rejoice, tidings doubted by unbelievers.
Rejoice, undoubted glory of the faithful.
Rejoice, most holy chariot of him who rides upon the cherubim.
Rejoice, best of all dwellings for him who is above 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 bles-sings.
Rejoice, O unwedded Bride!

KONTAKION NINE

Priest: All the ranks of angels marveled at the great work of Your Incarnation. For they saw God, whom none can approach, as a man approachable by all, dwelling in our midst, and hearing from our lips:
IKOS NINE

Priest: Eloquent orators we see dumb as the fishes in your presence, O Theotokos, for they are at a loss to say how you remain a Virgin and yet have power to bear a child. But we, marveling at the mystery, cry aloud in faith.

Rejoice, receiver of God’s wisdom.
Rejoice, treasury of his providence.
Rejoice, for you reveal lack of wisdom in lovers of wisdom.
Rejoice, for you prove devoid of reason those skilled in reason’s art.
Rejoice, for the cunning disputants are shown to be fools.
Rejoice, for the myth makers withered into silence.
Rejoice, for You have torn asunder the tangled webs of the Anti-nians.
Rejoice, for You have filled the nets of the fisherman.
Rejoice, for You draw men from the depths of ignorance.
Rejoice, for You illumine multitudes with knowledge.
Rejoice, ship of all who would be saved.
Rejoice, haven for the seafarers of life.
Rejoice, O unwedded Bride!

KONTAKION TEN

Priest: Wishing to save the world, the Fashioner of all things came to it of His own free choice. As God He is our Shepherd, yet as He appeared for our sake as a man like us; and calling like by means of like, as God He hears our cry:

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.
SESSIONAL HYMN (TONE 1)

The mighty leader of the angelic spirits came to the city of Nazareth. He proclaimed the incarnation of the King and Lord of ages to you—saying: Rejoice, Blessed Mary for you are the depth that...
Glo-ry to the Fa-ther and to the Son and to the Ho-ly Spi-rit,
now and e-ver and un-to a-ges of a-ges. A-men.

Repeat Sessional Hymn

KANON ODE FOUR

He who sits in glo-ry on the throne of di-vi-ni-ty,
Most Holy Theotokos, save us!

Cantor: With voices of song in faith we cry aloud to you, O Virgin worthy of all praise: * Rejoice, rich mountain flowing with the milk of the Spirit; Rejoice, candlestick and vessel of manna, sweet to the taste of the god-ly.

Most Holy Theotokos, save us!

Cantor: 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 your praises.

Most Holy Theotokos, save us!

Cantor: Rejoice, undefiled one, higher than the heavens, for without the pain of travail you held within your womb the foundation of the earth! * Rejoice, sea-shell, dying a robe of divine purple for the Lord of hosts, with your own blood.
Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

Cantor: Rejoice, lady, for in truth you bore the Lawgiver, Who freely washes clean the transgressions of all. * Unwedded maiden, the unsearchable depth and ineffable height, through you, we are made divine!

Now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Cantor: You wove a crown for the world not made by the hand of man, and we sing your praises, saying: * rejoice, virgin, the guardian of the human race, the fortress, stronghold, and sacred refuge!

KANON ODE FIVE

All creation was awed by your divine glory.

All creation was awed by your divine glory.

All creation was awed by your divine glory.

For you, O Virgin knew no wedlock yet bore in your womb the God of all;

For you, O Virgin knew no wedlock yet bore in your womb the God of all;

For you, O Virgin knew no wedlock yet bore in your womb the God of all;

you gave birth to the timeless Son, Who grants peace to those who exalt

you gave birth to the timeless Son, Who grants peace to those who exalt

you gave birth to the timeless Son, Who grants peace to those who exalt
Most Holy Theotokos, save us!
Cantor: From you was born the Way that leads to life. Rejoice all-blameless, who has 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.

Most Holy Theotokos, save us!
Cantor: 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, help of those who call on you with faith.

Most Holy Theotokos, save us!
Cantor: Rejoice, fiery chariot of the word; rejoice, lady, living paradise, holding in your midst the Lord, the Tree of Life! * His sweetness quickens all who eat with faith, although they were enslaved to corruption.

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.
Cantor: Strengthened by your might, we raise our cry to you with faith: rejoice, city of the king of all! Glorious things, worthy to be heard throughout the world, are plainly spoken of you. * Rejoice, mountain not cut by the hand of man; depth that none can fathom!

Now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.
Cantor: Rejoice, undefiled one, spacious tabernacle of the Word, shell from which the divine pearl has come! * Rejoice, Theotokos, full of wonders: in every age you reconcile with God all those who call you blessed!

ODE SIX

Let us clap our hands in gladness fulfilling this divine most solemn feast

Let us clap our hands in gladness fulfilling this divine most solemn feast

Let us clap our hands in gladness fulfilling this divine most solemn feast
Most Holy Theotokos, save us!

Cantor: O spotless bridal chamber of the Word, through you all can become god-like. * Rejoice, all-Undeified, the prophets song; Rejoice, the adornment of the A-po-stles.

Most Holy Theotokos, save us!

Cantor: From you has come the dew that quenched the flame of idolatry. * We therefore cry to you: Rejoice, O Virgin, fleece wet with dew that Gideon saw in pro-phecy.

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spi-rit.

Cantor: Behold, we cry: rejoice! To you: be our haven as we toss upon the deep, our refuge from the troubled waters of affliction and from all the snares of the enemy.

Now and ever and unto ages of a-ges. Amen.

Cantor: Give grace to our thoughts, cause of joy, that we may cry out to you: rejoice, bush unconsumed and cloud of light, that ever overshadows the faithful.

IKOS TEN

Priest: For virgins and all who flee to you, you are a wall, O Virgin Theotokos undeified; for the Creator of heaven and earth has made you ready and adorned you, dwelling in your womb, and teaching all to sing to her:

Rejoice, pillar of vir-gi-nity.
Rejoice, gate of sal-ra- tion.
Rejoice, beginning of the new and spiritual cre-a-tion.
Rejoice, provider of God’s mer-cy.
Rejoice, for you have given new birth to those con-cei-ved in shame.
Rejoice, for you have given good counsel to those robbed of under-stan-ding.
Rejoice, for you bring to naught the corrupter of man’s mind.
Rejoice, for you bring to birth the sower of pu-ri-ty.
Rejoice, bridal chamber of a marriage with-out seed.
Rejoice, for you join in union the faithful to their Lord.
Rejoice, fair nursing mother of vir-gins.
Rejoice, escort of ho-ly souls.
Re-joice, O unwedded Bride!

**KONTAKION ELEVEN**

*Priest:* No hymn can recount the multitude of your many mercies. For though we offer to You, O holy King, songs numberless as the sand on the seashore, yet we do nothing worthy of the blessings You have given us, who cry to you:

\[
\text{Al-le-lu-ia, Al-le-lu-ia, Al-le-lu-ia.} \\
\text{Al-le-lu-ia, Al-le-lu-ia, Al-le-lu-ia.} \\
\text{Al-le-lu-ia, Al-le-lu-ia, Al-le-lu-ia.}
\]

**IKOS ELEVEN**

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

Rejoice, beam of the spiritual sun.
Rejoice, ray of the moon that never wanes.
Rejoice, lightening flash that shines u pon souls.
Rejoice, thunder that brings terror to our e-ne-mies.
Rejoice, dawn that makes the manifold splendor to a-rise.
Rejoice, spring that makes the river with many springs to flow.
Rejoice, for you prefigure the bap-tis-mal font.
Rejoice, for you take away the filth of sin.
Rejoice, water washing clean the con-science.
Rejoice, cup wherein is mixed the wine of migh-ty joy.
Rejoice, scent of Christ’s frag-rance.
Rejoice, life of mystical feas-ting.
Re-joice, O unwedded Bride!

**KONTAKION TWELVE**

*Priest:* Wishing to release from all ancient debts, the Redeemer of all men came of His own will be those who were exiled from His grace; He has torn up the record of our sins, and from all He hears the cry:
IKOS TWELVE

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

* Rejoice, tabernacle of God the Word.
* Rejoice, greater Holy of Holy-lies.
* Rejoice, ark made golden by the Spirit.
* Rejoice, never empty treasure-house of life.
* Rejoice, precious crown of Or-thodox Kings.
* Rejoice, honored boast of God-ly priests.
* Rejoice, unshaken fortress of the Church.
* Rejoice, unconquered rampart of the king-dom.
* Rejoice, for through you the standards of victory are raised on high.
* Rejoice, for through you our enemies are cast down.
* Rejoice, healing of my bo-dy.
* Rejoice, salvation of my soul.
* Re-joice, O unwedded Bride!

KONTAKION THIRTEEN

Priest: O Mother worthy of all praise, who has borne the Word, the Holyest of all Holies; accept this our offering, deliver from every ill and from the punishment to come all those who cry aloud to you:
KANON ODE SEVEN

The godly youths worshipped the creator not the creature;

they trampled on the flames boldly singing in joy;

Bless’d are You and praised above all

O Lord God of our fathers.

* Most Holy Theotokos, save us!

Cantor: We sing your 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 you glory.

* Most Holy Theotokos, save us!

Cantor: Rejoice, Bride of God, who has given birth to the Healer of all; mystical staff that has blossomed with the unfading Flower. * Rejoice, lady for through you we are filled with joy and made inheritors of life.

* Most Holy Theotokos, save us!
Cantor: No tongue is capable of praising you worthily: you are exalted above the seraphim, O lady, for you have given birth to Christ the king. Entreat Him now to deliver from all harm those who venerate you in faith.

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.
Cantor: The ends of the earth praise you and call you blessed; they cry out to you with love: rejoice, pure virgin, scroll on which the word is written by the Father's hand. Pray to Him, Theotokos, to enroll your servants in the book of life, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Cantor: We your servants pray to you, Theotokos, and we bend the knees of our heart: incline your ear and save us, for we are drowning in affliction. Preserve your people from conquest by the enemy.

KANON ODE EIGHT

The Offspring of the Theotokos saved the godly youths in the flaming furnace.

He Who was then prefigured has since been born on earth.

And He gathers together all creation to sing:

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Most Holy Theotokos, save us!

Cantor: You received the Word within your womb, and you carried Him who carries all things. You fed milk to Him who by His will alone feeds all the inhabited earth; and to Him, pure Virgin, do we sing: * All works of the Lord, praise the Lord and exalt Him above all for-g-er.

Most Holy Theotokos, save us!

Cantor: Moses perceived in the burning bush the great mystery of your child bearing, O Virgin holy and inviolate; and the Children prefigured this most clearly as they stood in the midst of the fire and were not burned. * Therefore, we sing your praises for-g-er.

Most Holy Theotokos, save us!

Cantor: We who were stripped naked once through falsehood, have been clothed in the robe of incorruption by your childbearing. * and we who once sat in the darkness of transgression, have seen the light, maiden, dwelling-place of light. Therefore we sing your praises for-g-er.

Most Holy Theotokos, save us!

Cantor: The dead are brought to life through you, for you have borne Him Who is Himself the life. The dumb speak, lepers are cleansed and diseases driven out; * the ranks of the spirits of the air are conquered, virgin, the salvation of mortal men.

Let us bless the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, the Lord, now and ever and unto ages of a-g- es. Amen.
Cantor: You have borne salvation for the world, pure virgin, and through you we are raised from earth to heaven. Rejoice, all-blessed one, the protection and defense, the rampart and stronghold of those who sing: * all works of the Lord, bless the Lord, and exalt Him above all for-e-ver.!

CANTICLE OF MARY

Priest: The Theotokos and Mother of the Light, let us honor and magnify her in song!

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For He has regarded the low estate of His hand-maiden. * For behold, henceforth all generations will call me bles-sed.

More honorable than the Cherubim….

For He who is mighty has done great things for me, and holy is His name. * And His mercy is on those who fear Him from generation to generation.

More honorable than the Cherubim….

He has shown strength with His arm, * He has scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts.

More honorable than the Cherubim….

He has put down the mighty from their thrones, and exalted those of low degree; * He has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich He has sent emp-ty away.
More honorable than the Cherubim…

v. He has helped His servant Israel, in remembrance of His mercy, * as He spoke to our fathers, to Abraham and to his posterity forever.

* More honorable than the Cherubim…

KANON ODE NINE

Let every earth-born exalt, enligh-tened by the Spi-rit!

Let every earth-born exalt, enligh-tened by the Spi-rit!

Let every earth-born exalt, enligh-tened by the Spi-rit!

Let the order of the angelic hosts feast in joy,

Let the order of the angelic hosts feast in joy,

Let the order of the angelic hosts feast in joy,

hon-oring the sacred feast of the Mo-ther of God— sing— ing:

hon-oring the sacred feast of the Mo-ther of God— sing— ing:

hon-oring the sacred feast of the Mo-ther of God— sing— ing:
Most Holy Theotokos, save us!

Cantor: Enable us the faithful to cry to you: Rejoice, for through you, 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 sins.

Most Holy Theotokos, save us!

Cantor: You have made our light and confirmation, and so we cry to you: Rejoice, never-setting star that brought into the world the mighty Sun; * Rejoice, pure Virgin that opened the closed gate of Eden; Rejoice, pillar of fire, leading mankind to the life above.

Most Holy Theotokos, save us!

Cantor: Let us stand with reverence in the house of our God, and let us cry aloud: rejoice, queen of all the world; rejoice, Mary, sovereign over all of us! Rejoice, for you alone are blameless and fair among women; * rejoice, vessel which received the inexhaustible myrrh poured out upon you!

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

Cantor: Rejoice, ever-virgin; rejoice, dove that gave birth to the Lord of mercy. Rejoice, glory of all the saints and crown of martyrs; * rejoice, divine adornment of all the righteous: the salvation of the faithful.

Now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Cantor: Spare your inheritance, O God, overlooking all our sins. For standing before you in your sight as intercessor, O Christ, is the one who conceived You on earth without seed, * when in your great mercy You willed to be shaped in a form that was not Your own!

KATAVASIA: Let every earthborn....

Deacon: Again and again in peace, let us pray to the Lord.
Deacon: Help us, save us, have mercy on us, and keep us, O God, by Your grace.

Deacon: Commemorating our most holy, most pure, most blessed and glorious Lady Theotokos and ever virgin Mary, with all the saints, let us commend ourselves and each other, and all our life unto Christ our God.

Priest: For all the powers of heaven praise You, and unto You do we ascribe glory: to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages.
The eternal mystery is revealed to day
God from God, the Word becomes the
Son of Mary. Gabriel harolds the an
God from God, the Word becomes the
Son of Mary. Gabriel harolds the an
God from God, the Word becomes the
Son of Mary. Gabriel harolds the an
Rejoice, O Mother of the Lord!

PRAISES (TONE 4)

Let ev’ry breath praise the Lord. Praise the Lord in Heaven.
Praise Him — in the Highest. To You, O God, is due a song!

Praise Him — in the Highest. To You, O God, is due a song!

Praise Him — in the Highest. To You, O God, is due a song!

Praise Him — in the Highest. To You, O God, is due a song!

Praise Him all you angels of His. Praise Him all His hosts.

Praise Him all you angels of His. Praise Him all His hosts.

Praise Him all you angels of His. Praise Him all His hosts.

Praise God in His Sanctuary! Praise Him in His mighty firmament!
Gabriel, the Archangel, shall come to you openly, all blameless Virgin,

and shall cry to you;  
"Rejoice, deliverance from the curse, 
and rejoice, living cloud — of the sun.  
Receive Him Who has no body,
whose will it is to dwell within your womb!

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

now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

The Theotokos heard a voice she did not know, when the Archangel brought her glad tidings of the Annunciation; and, accepting his
salutation with faith, she conceived You, the pre-ter-nal God.

Therefore, in great rejoicing we also cry aloud to You:

O God, Who without change has taken flesh from her, grant peace to the world,
GREAT DOXOLOGY

Priest: Glory to You Who have shown us the light:

O Lord, heavenly King, 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 takes 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 God the Father have mercy on us.

For You only are holy, You only are the Lord, Jesus Christ, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

Every day will I give thanks to You and praise Your name forever and ever.

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

Blessed are You, O Lord, God of our fathers, and praised and glorified is Your name for ever. Amen.

Let Your merciful kindness, O Lord, be upon us as we put our trust in You.

Blessed are You, O Lord, teach me Your statutes; (thrice)

Lord, You have been our refuge from generation to generation.

I said, Lord, be merciful to me, heal my soul for I have sinned against You.

Lord, I flee to You, teach me to do Your will, for You are my God.
for with You is the well of life * and in Your light shall we see light;
O continue Your loving-kind-ness * to those who know You.
Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy im-mor-tal, * have mercy on us. (thrice)
Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spi-rit, * now and ever and unto ages of a-ges. Amen.
Holy Im-mor-tal, * have mercy on us.
Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy im-mor-tal, * have mercy on us.

TROPARION (TONE 8)

Taking knowledge of the secret command, The bodiless angel went with haste to Joseph’s dwelling and said to her who knew no wed-lock:
He — Who in His self- a- base- ment bowed the hea- vens and came — down,

is Housed whol- ly and un- changed in you. I — see Him take the form

of a ser- vant in your womb, and in won- der cry to You: Re- joice, O

He — Who in His self- a- base- ment bowed the hea- vens and came — down,

is Housed whol- ly and un- changed in you. I — see Him take the form

of a ser- vant in your womb, and in won- der cry to You: Re- joice, O

He — Who in His self- a- base- ment bowed the hea- vens and came — down,

is Housed whol- ly and un- changed in you. I — see Him take the form

of a ser- vant in your womb, and in won- der cry to You: Re- joice, O

is Housed whol- ly and un- changed in you. I — see Him take the form

of a ser- vant in your womb, and in won- der cry to You: Re- joice, O
Deacon: Let us complete our morning prayer unto the Lord.

Deacon: Help us, save us, have mercy on us, and keep us, O God, by Your grace.
Deacon: That the whole day may be perfect, holy, peaceful, and sinless, let us ask of the Lord.

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

Deacon: Pardon and remission of our sins and transgressions, let us ask of the Lord.
Deacon: All things that are good and profitable for our souls, and peace for the world, let us ask of the Lord.

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

Deacon: A Christian ending to our life, painless, blameless, and peaceful; and for a good defense before the dread judgment seat of Christ, let us ask of the Lord.
Deacon: Commemorating our most holy, most pure, most blessed and glorious Lady Theotokos and ever virgin Mary, with all the saints, let us commend ourselves and each other, and all our life unto Christ our God.

Priest: For You are the God of mercy and compassion and love for mankind, and unto You we ascribe glory, to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

Priest: Peace be unto all
Priest: O Holy Lord, dwelling in the highest, regarding the humble of heart, and beholding the creation with Your all-seeing eye, to You we have bowed the necks of our souls and body, entreating You, stretch forth Your invisible hand from Your holy dwelling place, and bless us all. Forgive us if we have sinned voluntarily or involuntarily; for You are a good God and love mankind, granting us Your earthly and heavenly good things. For Yours it is to show mercy and to save us, our God, and unto You we ascribe glory, to the Father and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages.

Deacon: Let us bow our heads unto the Lord

Priest: O Holy Lord, dwelling in the highest, regarding the humble of heart, and beholding the creation with Your all-seeing eye, to You we have bowed the necks of our souls and body, entreating You, stretch forth Your invisible hand from Your holy dwelling place, and bless us all. Forgive us if we have sinned voluntarily or involuntarily; for You are a good God and love mankind, granting us Your earthly and heavenly good things. For Yours it is to show mercy and to save us, our God, and unto You we ascribe glory, to the Father and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages.

DURING GREAT LENT (Outside Great Lent-Page 71)

LENTEN TROPARION (TONE 6)

Standing in the temple of your glory, we think that we are in heaven!

Standing in the temple of your glory, we think that we are in heaven!

Standing in the temple of your glory, we think that we are in heaven!
Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit,
now and e-ver and un-to a-ges of a-ges. A-men.

More hon’-ra-ble than the Che-ru-bim, and more glor-i-ous be-yond com-pare
than the Se-ra-phim; with-out corrup-tion you gave birth to God the Word.

then the Se-ra-phim; with-out corrup-tion you gave birth to God the Word.
Priest:  Christ our God, the Existing One, is blessed, now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

Heavenly King, preserve the Orthodox Christians, confirm the faith, pacify the nations, * give peace to the world, preserve this holy house and place our departed fathers and brethren in the mansions of the just. Accept us in repentance and con-fess-sion, * for You are good and the Lover of mankind. Amen.
THE PRAYER OF ST. EPHRAIM

Lord and master of my life, do not give me the spirit of sloth, despair, lust of power and idle talk. (prostration)

But give rather the spirit of chastity, humility, patience and love to your servant. (prostration)

Yes, lord and king, grant me to see my own transgressions and not to judge my brother, for blessed are you unto ages of ages. Amen. (prostration)

(After the prayer, make 12 solemn bows, saying silently: “God cleanse me a sinner and have mercy on me.” The prayer is then repeated with only one prostration at the end.)

OUTSIDE OF GREAT LENT

Deacon: Wisdom!

Priest: Christ our God, the Existing One, is blessed, now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

Amen.
Priest: Most holy Theotokos, save us!

More hon’rable than the Cherubim, and more glorious beyond compare

Pre-serve, O God, the Holy Ortho-doxx faith and Ortho-doxx Chris-tians unto ages of a-ages.

More hon’rable than the Cherubim, and more glorious beyond compare

More hon’rable than the Cherubim, and more glorious beyond compare
Priest: Glory to You, O Christ our God and our hope, glory to You!

Priest: True Theotokos, we magnify you.

Priest: Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit,

Priest: Than the Seraphim; without corruption you gave birth to God the Word.

Priest: Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit,

Priest: Than the Seraphim; without corruption you gave birth to God the Word.

Priest: True Theotokos, we magnify you.

Priest: Than the Seraphim; without corruption you gave birth to God the Word.

Priest: True Theotokos, we magnify you.
now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

Father, bless.
Priest: May Christ our True God through the prayers of His most pure Mother; of the holy, glorious and all-laudable apostles; of Saint ___________, of Saint __________, whom we commemorate today; of the holy and righteous Ancestors of God, Joachim and Anna; and of all the saints: have mercy on us and save us, for His good and loves mankind.
This setting of the Office of the Praise of the Most Holy Theotokos, commonly called the Akathist Hymn to the Theotokos, is placed within the matins service. This setting is, however, neither the full Akathist Hymn nor full matins. It does contain twelve of the Akathist Ikoī and all eight hirmoi for the kanon to the Theotokos, as well as the exapostilarion, great doxology, hexapslamoi, kathismata XVI, and the praises.

Normally this service is celebrated on the fifth Saturday of Great Lent. However, the ordinary season’s propers (not including the Paschal season) have been included.

I have arranged this Akathist to be used both by choir and congregation. To facilitate this I have arranged all the pieces according to Galacian Chant, except the kanon hirmoi. This chant tradition is most commonly found in the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Rite. I set the hirmoi to tone four irmosi melody of the Uhorski chant tradition of Carpatho-Rusyn Church. I had difficulty finding a Ukrainian irmologion; therefore, I took advantage of the close liturgical relationship of the Churches of L’viv and Uzhorod, and I happen to own a Carpatho-Rusyn Prostopinije. The hope is that parishes can use this setting as a congregational text so that all may together worship God and venerate the Theotokos.

The text I used comes from a variety of sources. The first text came from the Akathist Hymn used at Holy Transfiguration Orthodox Church in Livonia, Michigan and was compiled by Janet Damian. I changed and augmented the service with the liturgical texts from the Holy Myrrh-bearers Monastery.

Sloan Rolando
Sunday of the Forefathers, December 13, 1998

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