



Acathist Hymn to the Blessed Virgin Mary

Blessed is our God, always now and ever and forever
R--Amen

Kondak

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

Rejoice O bride, and maiden ever pure!

Ikos I

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

Rejoice, O you through whom joy will shine forth!
Rejoice, O you through whom the curse will disappear!
Rejoice, O restoration of the fallen Adam!
Rejoice, O redemption of the tears of Eve!

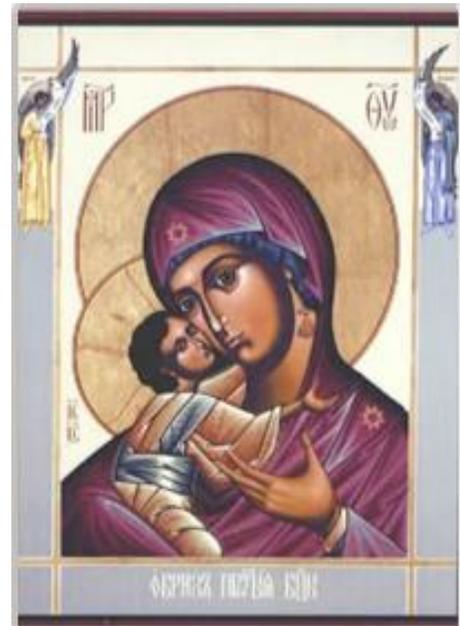
Rejoice, O peak above the reach of human thought!
Rejoice, O depth even beyond the sight of angels!
Rejoice, O you who have become a kingly throne!
Rejoice, O you who carry Him who carries all!

Rejoice, O star who manifest the sun!
Rejoice, O womb of the divine incarnation!
Rejoice, O you through whom creation is renewed!
Rejoice, O you through whom the creator becomes a babe!

Rejoice, O bride and maiden ever pure!

Kondak 1

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



Ikos 2

Trying to grasp the meaning of this mystery, the Virgin asked the Holy Messenger: “How is it possible that a son be born from a virginal womb, tell me?” He answered her with awe, crying out in these words:

Rejoice, O hidden sense of the ineffable plan!
Rejoice, O belief in silence that must be!
Rejoice, O forecast of the marvels of Christ!
Rejoice, O fountainhead of truths concerning Him!

Rejoice, O celestial ladder by whom God came down!
Rejoice, O bridge leading earthly ones to heaven!
Rejoice, O wonder, ever thrilling to the angels!
Rejoice, O wound ever hurting to the demons!

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

Rejoice, O bride and maiden ever pure!



Kondak 2

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

Ikos 3

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

Rejoice, O tendril whose bud shall not wilt;
Rejoice, O soil whose fruit shall not perish;
Rejoice, O tender of mankind's loving
tender
Rejoice, O gardener of the gardener of life;

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

Rejoice, acceptable incense of prayer;
Rejoice, expiation of the whole universe;
Rejoice, O you favour of God to mortal men;
Rejoice, O you trust of mortals before God.

Rejoice, O bride and maiden ever pure!



Kondak 3

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

Ikos 4

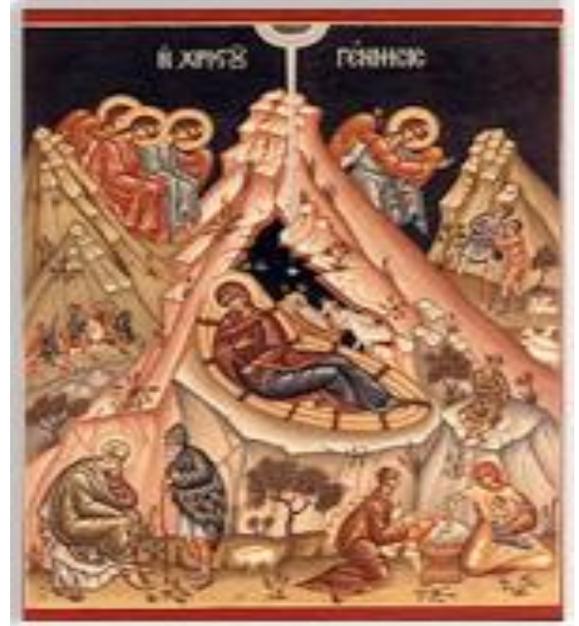
The shepherds heard the angel singing hymns of praise to the coming of Christ in the flesh. Running to Him as to a shepherd, they saw Him as a spotless lamb grazing at Mary's breast, they sang a hymn to her and said:

Rejoice, O mother of lamb and shepherd;
Rejoice, O fold of rational sheep;
Rejoice, O protection against unseen foes;
Rejoice, O key to the doors of paradise.

Rejoice for the heavenly rejoice with the earth;
Rejoice for the earthly meet the heavens in song;
Rejoice the unsilenced voice of apostles;
Rejoice the undaunted might of martyrs!

Rejoice O steadfast foundation of faith;
Rejoice O shining emblem of grace;
Rejoice O you through whom death was despoiled;
Rejoice O you through whom we were clothed with glory.

Rejoice O bride and maiden ever pure!



Kondak 4

When they saw the Star moved by God, Magi followed its glittering light. Using it as a beacon, they found through it the Mighty King; and reaching the One beyond all reach, they rejoiced and cried out to Him Alleluia: Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

Ikos 5

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

Rejoice O mother of the star without setting!
Rejoice O radiance of the mystical day!
Rejoice O you who quenched the flame of error;
Rejoice O light of those who search the trinity!

Rejoice O you who unthroned the enemy of men;
Rejoice O you who showed forth Christ the Lord the lover of mankind!
Rejoice O you who cleansed us from the stain of pagan worship;
Rejoice O you who saved us from the mire of evil deeds!

Rejoice O you who made cease the cult of fire;
Rejoice O you who dispelled the flames of passion!
Rejoice O you who guide the faithful toward wisdom;
Rejoice O you, delight of all the nations!

Rejoice O bride and maiden ever pure!

Kondak 5

The magi, become God bearing heralds, returned to Babylon, conforming to your command announcing You, the Christ to all and leaving Herod as fool who did not know how to sing Alleluia: Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.



Ikos 6

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

Rejoice O resurrection of mankind;
Rejoice O downfall of the demons!
Rejoice O you who crushed the error of
deceit;
Rejoice O you who exposed the fraud of
idols!

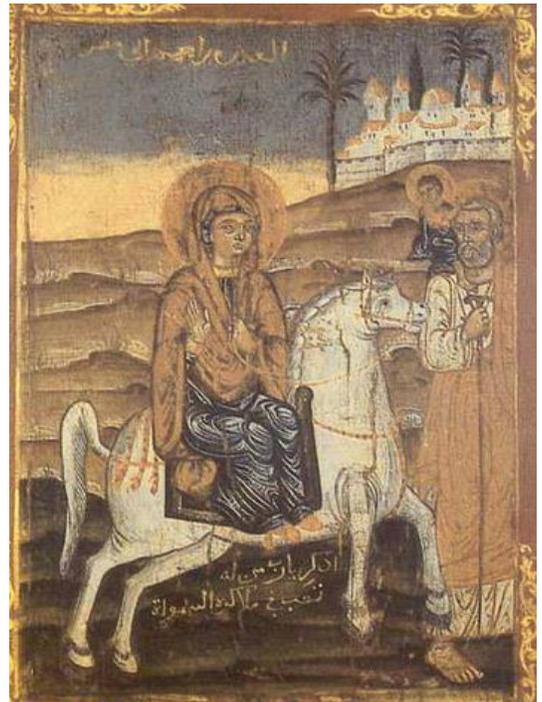
Rejoice O sea who drowned the symbolic
pharaoh;
Rejoice O rock who quenched those who
thirst for life!
Rejoice O pillar of fire who guided those in
darkness;
Rejoice O shelter of the world, wider than
the clouds!

Rejoice O food who took the place of manna;
Rejoice O handmaid of holy delight!
Rejoice O land of the promised good;
Rejoice O you who flow with milk and honey!

Rejoice O bride and maiden ever pure!

Kondak 6

As Simeon was about to leave the present deceitful world, you were
entrusted to him as an infant, but you made yourself know to him as the
perfect God. Wherefore he marveled at your wisdom beyond words, and
cried out to you Alleluia!: Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.



Ikos 7

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

Rejoice O blossom of incorruption;
Rejoice O crown of self mastery!
Rejoice O you who shone forth as a sign of resurrection;
Rejoice O you who displayed the life of angels!

Rejoice fruitful tree from whom believers feed;
Rejoice shady glen where many are sheltered!
Rejoice O you who have borne the guide of the lost;
Rejoice source of life to the captives' release!



Rejoice O you who unsettled even the just judge;
Rejoice indulgence of many who have fallen!
Rejoice O stole for those who lack freedom to speak;
Rejoice O tenderness who exceed all desire!

Rejoice O bride and maiden ever pure!

Kondak 7

Now that we have seen this strange birth, let us estrange ourselves from the world and turn our minds to heaven; indeed it is for this that the God most high appeared on earth as a lowly man, desiring to draw up to heaven those who cry out to Him Alleluia: Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

Ikos 8

While fully present amid those below, the uncircumscribed Word was in no way absent from those above: for what happened was a divine condescension, and not a moving from one place to another and it was a birth from a Virgin inspired by God, who heard these words:

Rejoice O space of the spaceless God;
Rejoice O gate of the sublime mystery!
Rejoice O message unsure to men
without faith;
Rejoice O glory most certain to those
who believe!

Rejoice O sacred chariot of the One
above the Cherubim;
Rejoice perfect dwelling of the One
above the Seraphim!
Rejoice O you who reconciled
opposites;
Rejoice O you who combined
maidenhood and motherhood!

Rejoice O you through whom
transgression was erased;
Rejoice O you through whom paradise was opened!
Rejoice O key to the kingdom of Christ;
Rejoice O hope for the ages of bliss!

Rejoice O bride and maiden ever pure!



Kondak 8

The whole order of the angels marveled at the great work of your becoming a man; for they saw the One inaccessible as God become a Man accessible to all, living with us and hearing all cry out Alleluia: Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

Ikos 9

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

Rejoice O container of God's wisdom;
Rejoice O treasury of His providence!
Rejoice O reproof of foolish philosophers;
Rejoice O confusion of speechless wise men;

Rejoice for you perplexed the inquisitive minds;
Rejoice for you dried up the inventors of myths!
Rejoice for you ripped the Athenians meshes;
Rejoice for you filled the fishermen's nets!

Rejoice O retriever from the abyss of ignorance;
Rejoice O lamplight of knowledge to many!
Rejoice O ship for those who seek salvation;
Rejoice O harbor for the sailors of life!

Rejoice O bride and maiden ever pure!



Kondak 9

Desiring to save the world the Creator of All came down to it of his own will. Being at the same time our Shepherd and our God, He appeared among us, a man like us. And so the like called upon the like, and as God He heard Alleluia: Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

Ikos 10

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

Rejoice O pillar of virginity;
Rejoice O gateway of salvation!
Rejoice O principle of the new creation;
Rejoice O dispenser of God's bounties!

Rejoice for you restored those born in shame;
Rejoice for you gave sense to those who had lost it!
Rejoice O you who stopped the corrupter of minds;
Rejoice O you who bore the sower of chastity!

Rejoice holy chamber of virginal wedlock;
Rejoice O you who join the faithful with God!
Rejoice O gracious foster mother of virgins;
Rejoice O bridesmaid of holy souls!

Rejoice O bride and maiden ever pure!



Kondak 10

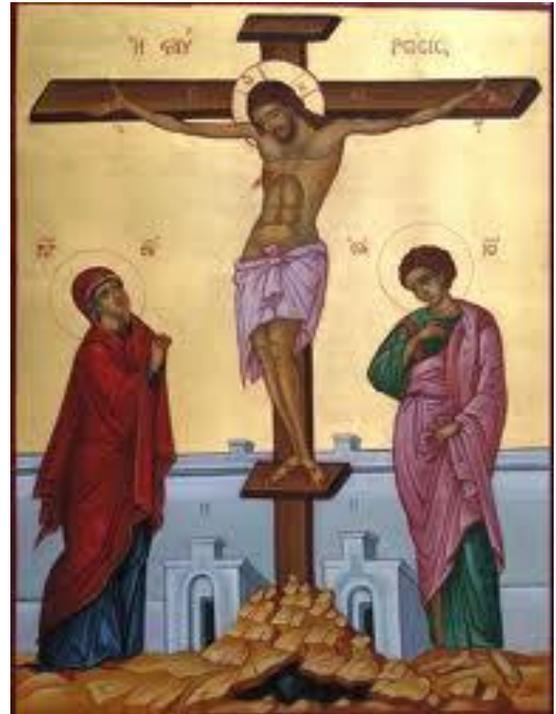
Every hymn falls short when it attempts to sing the multitude of your mercies: we could sing to You as many songs as there are grains of sand, O Holy King without ever doing anything worthy of what You have given to those who cry out to You Alleluia: Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

Ikos 11

We see the Holy Virgin as a brilliant luminary enlightening those who live in darkness: for having kindled the immaterial Light, she leads men to the knowledge of God and fills their minds with radiance so that she is worthily praised in these words:

Rejoice O beam of the mystical sun;
Rejoice O radiance of the Light without setting!
Rejoice lighting flash that brightens the souls;
Rejoice thunder clap that strikes down the foes!

Rejoice for you have raised the many lighted star;
Rejoice for you have opened the many coursed stream!
Rejoice O you who traced the living model of the pool;
Rejoice O you who erased the stain of sin!



Rejoice flowing water that cleanses the conscience;
Rejoice holy vessel overflowing with joy!
Rejoice of fragrance of the sweetness of Christ;
Rejoice O life of the mystical banquet!

Rejoice O bride and maiden ever pure

Kondak 11

Because He wished to grant release from all the ancient debts, the One who pays men's dues came down Himself to those who had spurned his grace; He tore up their obligations and heard from all of them this cry Alleluia: Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

Ikos 12

By singing praise to your maternity, we all exalt you as a spiritual temple, O Mother of God! For the One who dwelt within your womb, the Lord who holds all things in his hands, sanctified you, glorified you and taught all men to sing to you:

Rejoice O tabernacle of God the Word;
Rejoice Holy One, more holy than the saints!
Rejoice O ark that the spirit has gilded;
Rejoice inexhaustible treasure of life!

Rejoice precious crown of rightful authorities;
Rejoice sacred glory of reverent priests!
Rejoice unshakable tower of the Church;
Rejoice unbreachable wall of the kingdom!

Rejoice O you through whom the trophies are raised;
Rejoice O you through who the enemies are routed!
Rejoice O healing of my body;
Rejoice O salvation of my soul!

Rejoice O bride, and maiden ever pure!



Kondak 12

O Mother worthy of all praise: you have given birth to the Word, the Holiest of the Holy, **O Mother worthy of all praise:** Accept this present offering, deliver all men from every affliction, **O Mother worthy of all praise:** And save from the future punishment those who cry out to you Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

Kondak

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

Rejoice O Bride, and maiden ever pure!

