

THE AKATHIST SERVICE  
IN HONOR OF  
THE MOST-HOLY THEOTOKOS AND EVER-VIRGIN MARY

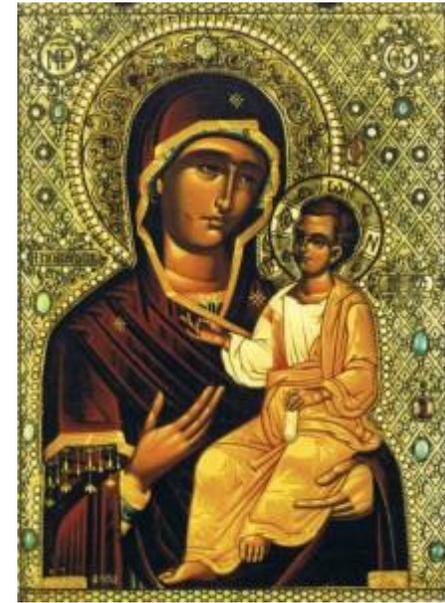
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The Akathist Hymn is a profound, devotional poem, which sings the praises of the Holy Mother and Ever-Virgin Mary. It is one of the most beloved services in the Orthodox Church. It was composed in the imperial city of Constantinople, "the city of the Virgin," by St. Romanos the Melodist, who reposed in the year 556. The Akathist Hymn has proven so popular in the liturgical life of the Church that many other hymns have been written following its format. These include Akathists to Our Lord Jesus Christ, to the Cross, and to many Saints.

The Akathist hymn consists of praises directed to the Mother of God, beginning with the salutation of the Archangel Gabriel: "Rejoice." As the hymn is chanted all of the events related to our Lord's Incarnation pass before us for our contemplation. The Archangel Gabriel marvels at the Divine self-emptying and the renewal of creation which will occur when Christ comes to dwell in the Virgin's womb. The unborn John the Baptist prophetically rejoices. The shepherds recognize Christ as a blameless Lamb, and rejoice that in the Virgin "the things of earth join chorus with the heavens." The pagan Magi following the light of the star, praise Her for revealing the light of the world.

The word "akathistos" means "not sitting," i.e., standing; normally all participants stand while it is being prayed. The hymn is comprised of 24 stanzas, arranged in an acrostic following the Greek alphabet. The stanzas alternate between long and short. Each short stanza is written in prose and ends with the singing of "Alleluia." Each longer stanza ends with the refrain: "Rejoice, O Bride Unwedded."

The first part of the hymn is about the Annunciation to the Virgin Mary by the Angel. It describes Mary's surprise at the news, her visit to her mother and Joseph's doubts as to her innocence. The second part is about the birth of Christ, the worship of the Shepherds and Magi, the flight to Egypt and the visit to Saint Simeon in the Temple. In the third part the hymn directs our attention to the renewal of the world by Christ's coming, and the amazement of the Angels and the wise men at the sight of the Incarnation of God's Son. The fourth and the last part is once more a lyric and rhetorical appraisal of Virgin Mary, whom the poet adorns with the most beautiful of adjectives asking her to accept his poetical offering and to intercede for the salvation of human race from the earthly sin.



**Troparion to The Most-Holy Theotokos and Ever-Virgin Mary**

"To Thee, the Champion Leader, we Thy servants dedicate a feast of victory and of thanksgiving as ones rescued out of sufferings, O Theotokos: but as Thou art one with might which is invincible, from all dangers that can be do Thou deliver us, that we may cry to Thee: Rejoice, O Unwedded Bride!

**\*THE SERVICE TAKES PLACE IN FRONT  
OF OUR ICON CORNERS\***

**EVERYONE:** O, God cleanse me a sinner and have mercy on me! (3x)

**READER: Through the Prayers of Our Holy Fathers, O Lord Jesus Christ Our God, Have Mercy on us.**

*READER:* Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal, have mercy on us. (3 times)

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

O most Holy Trinity, have mercy on us. Lord, cleanse from our sins. Master, pardon our transgressions. Holy One, visit and heal our infirmities, for Thy Name's sake.

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

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

**EVERYONE:** 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.

**READER: Through the Prayers of Our Holy Fathers, O Lord Jesus Christ Our God, Have Mercy on us.**

*READER:* Amen. Lord have mercy (12x)

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen. Come, let us worship God, Our King! Come, let us worship and fall down before Christ, Our King and our God! Come, let us worship and fall down before Christ Himself, our King and our God! Come, Let us worship and fall down before Him!

{Followed by the reading of Psalm 118}

Oh, give thanks to the LORD, for *He is* good! For His mercy *endures* forever. Let Israel now say, "His mercy *endures* forever." Let the house of Aaron now say, "His mercy

*endures* forever.” Let those who fear the LORD now say, “His mercy *endures* forever.” 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 princes. All nations surrounded me, But in the name of the LORD I will destroy them. They surrounded me, Yes, they surrounded me; But in the name of the LORD I will destroy them. They surrounded me like bees; They were quenched like a fire of thorns; For in the name of the LORD I will destroy 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 salvation. The voice of rejoicing and salvation *Is* in the tents of the righteous; The right hand of the LORD does valiantly. The right hand of the LORD is exalted; The right hand of the LORD does valiantly. I shall not die, but live, And declare the works of the LORD. The LORD has chastened me severely, But He has not given me over to death. Open to me the gates of righteousness; I will go through them, *And I*

will praise the LORD. This is the gate of the LORD, Through which the righteous shall enter. I will praise You, For You have answered me, And have become my salvation. The stone *which* the builders rejected Has become the chief cornerstone. This was the LORD’s doing; *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 prosperity. 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 exalt You. Oh, give thanks to the LORD, for *He is* good! For His mercy *endures* forever.

**READER:** GLORY TO THE FATHER, AND TO THE SON, AND TO THE HOLY SPIRIT, NOW AND EVER AND UNTO AGES OF AGES. AMEN.

ALLELUIA, ALLELUIA, ALLELUIA, GLORY TO THEE O GOD! (3x)

{THE AKATHIST HYMN IS NOW SUNG}

**Kontakion 1:** (8<sup>th</sup> Tone)

**CHOIR:**

To Thee, the Champion Leader, we Thy servants dedicate a feast of victory and of thanksgiving as ones rescued out of sufferings, O Theotokos: but as Thou art one with might which is invincible, from all dangers that can be do Thou deliver us, that we may cry to Thee: Rejoice, O Unwedded Bride!

**Ekos 1**

**READER:** An archangel was sent from heaven to say to the Theotokos: Rejoice! And beholding Thee, O Lord, taking bodily form, he was amazed and with his bodiless voice he stood crying to her such things as these:

**CHOIR:**

Rejoice, Thou through whom joy will shine forth:  
Rejoice, Thou through whom the curse will cease!  
Rejoice, recall of fallen Adam:  
Rejoice, redemption of the tears of Eve!  
Rejoice, height inaccessible to human thoughts:  
Rejoice, depth undiscernible even for the eyes of angels!

Rejoice, for Thou art the throne of the King:  
Rejoice, for Thou bearest Him Who beareth all!  
Rejoice, star that causeth the Sun to appear:  
Rejoice, womb of the Divine Incarnation!  
Rejoice, Thou through whom creation is renewed:  
Rejoice, Thou through whom we worship the Creator!  
Rejoice, O Bride Unwedded!

**Kontakion 2**

**READER:** Seeing herself to be chaste, the holy one said boldly to Gabriel: The marvel of thy speech is difficult for my soul to accept. How canst thou speak of a birth from a seedless conception? And She cried: Alleluia!

**CHOIR:** Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

**Ekos 2:**

**READER:** Seeking to know knowledge that cannot be known, the Virgin cried to the ministering one: Tell me, how can a son be born from a chaste womb? Then he spake to Her in fear, only crying aloud thus:

**CHOIR:**

Rejoice, initiate of God's ineffable will:  
Rejoice, assurance of those who pray in silence!  
Rejoice, beginning of Christ's miracles:  
Rejoice, crown of His dogmas!  
Rejoice, heavenly ladder by which God came down:  
Rejoice, bridge that conveyest us from earth to Heaven!  
Rejoice, wonder of angels sounded abroad:  
Rejoice, wound of demons bewailed afar!  
Rejoice, Thou Who ineffably gavest birth to the Light:  
Rejoice, Thou Who didst reveal Thy secret to none!  
Rejoice, Thou Who surpassest the knowledge of the wise:  
Rejoice, Thou Who givest light to the minds of the faithful!  
Rejoice, O Bride Unwedded!

**Kontakion 3:**

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

**CHOIR:** Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

**Ekos 3:**

**READER:** Having received God into Her womb, the Virgin hastened to Elizabeth whose unborn babe at once recognized Her embrace, rejoiced, and with leaps of joy as songs, cried to the Theotokos:

**CHOIR:**

Rejoice, branch of an Unfading Sprout:  
Rejoice, acquisition of Immortal Fruit!  
Rejoice, labourer that labourest for the Lover of mankind:  
Rejoice, Thou Who givest birth to the Planter of our life!  
Rejoice, cornland yielding a rich crop of mercies:  
Rejoice, table bearing a wealth of forgiveness!  
Rejoice, Thou Who makest to bloom the garden of delight:  
Rejoice, Thou Who preparest a haven for souls!  
Rejoice, acceptable incense of intercession:  
Rejoice, propitiation of all the world!  
Rejoice, good will of God to mortals:  
Rejoice, boldness of mortals before God!  
Rejoice, O Bride Unwedded!

**Kontakion 4:**

**READER:** Having within a tempest of doubting thoughts, the chaste Joseph was troubled. For knowing Thee to have

no husband, he suspected a secret union, O blameless one.  
But having learned that Thy conception was of the Holy  
Spirit, he said: Alleluia!

**CHOIR:** Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

#### Ekos 4:

**READER:** While the angels were chanting, the shepherds  
heard of Christ's coming in the flesh, and having run to the  
Shepherd, they beheld Him as a blameless Lamb that had  
been pastured in Mary's womb, and singing to Her, they  
cried:

**CHOIR:**

Rejoice, Mother of the Lamb and the Shepherd:

Rejoice, fold of rational sheep!

Rejoice, torment of invisible enemies:

Rejoice, opening of the gates of Paradise!

Rejoice, for the things of Heaven rejoice with the earth:

Rejoice, for the things of earth join chorus with the heavens!

Rejoice, never-silent mouth of the Apostles:

Rejoice, invincible courage of the passion-bearers!

Rejoice, firm support of faith:

Rejoice, radiant token of Grace!

Rejoice, Thou through whom hades was stripped bare:

Rejoice, Thou through whom we are clothed with glory!

Rejoice, O Bride Unwedded!

#### Kontakion 5:

**READER:** Having sighted the divinely-moving star, the  
Magi followed its radiance; and holding it as a lamp, by it  
they sought a powerful King; and having reached the  
Unreachable One, they rejoiced, shouting to Him: Alleluia!

**CHOIR:** Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

#### Ekos 5:

**READER:** The sons of the Chaldees saw in the hands of the  
Virgin Him Who with His hand made man. And knowing  
Him to be the Master, even though He had taken the form of  
a servant, they hastened to serve Him with gifts, and to cry  
to Her Who is blessed:

**CHOIR:**

Rejoice, Mother of the Unsetting Star:

Rejoice, dawn of the mystic day!

Rejoice, Thou Who didst extinguish the furnace of error:

Rejoice, Thou Who didst enlighten the initiates of the Trinity!

Rejoice, Thou Who didst banish from power the inhuman tyrant:

Rejoice, Thou Who didst show us Christ the Lord, the Lover of mankind!

Rejoice, Thou Who redeemest from pagan worship:

Rejoice, Thou Who dost drag us from the works of mire!

Rejoice, Thou Who didst quench the worship of fire:

Rejoice, Thou Who rescues from the flame of the passions!

Rejoice, guide of the faithful to chastity:

Rejoice, gladness of all generations!

Rejoice, O Bride Unwedded!

**Kontakion 6:**

**READER:** Having become God-bearing heralds, the Magi returned to Babylon, having fulfilled Thy prophecy; and having preached Thee to all as the Christ, they left Herod as a babbling who knew not how to sing: Alleluia!

**CHOIR:** Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

**Ekos 6:**

**READER:** By shining in Egypt the light of truth, Thou didst dispel the darkness of falsehood; for its idols fell, O Saviour, unable to endure Thy strength; and those who were delivered from them cried to the Theotokos:

**CHOIR:**

Rejoice, uplifting of men:

Rejoice, downfall of demons!

Rejoice, Thou who didst trample down the dominion of delusion:

Rejoice, Thou who didst unmask the fraud of idols!

Rejoice, sea that didst drown the Pharaoh of the mind:

Rejoice, rock that doth refresh those thirsting for life!

Rejoice, pillar of fire that guideth those in darkness:

Rejoice, shelter of the world broader than a cloud!

Rejoice, sustenance replacing manna:

Rejoice, minister of holy delight!

Rejoice, land of promise:

Rejoice, Thou from whom floweth milk and honey!

Rejoice, O Bride Unwedded!

### **Kontakion 7:**

**READER:** When Symeon was about to depart this age of delusion, Thou wast brought as a Babe to him, but Thou was recognized by him as perfect God also; wherefore, marveling at Thine ineffable wisdom, he cried: Alleluia!

**CHOIR:** Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

### **Ekos 7:**

**READER:** The Creator showed us a new creation when He appeared to us who came from Him. For He sprang from a seedless womb, and kept it incorrupt as it was, that seeing the miracle we might sing to Her, crying out:

**CHOIR:**

Rejoice, flower of incorruptibility:

Rejoice, crown of continence!

Rejoice, Thou from whom shineth the Archetype of the Resurrection:

Rejoice, Thou Who revealest the life of the angels!

Rejoice, tree of shining fruit, whereby the faithful are nourished:

Rejoice, tree of goodly shade by which many are sheltered!

Rejoice, Thou that has carried in Thy womb the Redeemer of captives:

Rejoice, Thou that gavest birth to the Guide of those astray!

Rejoice, supplication before the Righteous Judge:

Rejoice, forgiveness of many sins!

Rejoice, robe of boldness for the naked:

Rejoice, love that doth vanquish all desire!

Rejoice, O Bride Unwedded!

### **Kontakion 8:**

**READER:** Having beheld a strange nativity, let us estrange ourselves from the world and transport our minds to Heaven; for the Most High God appeared on earth as a lowly man, because He wished to draw to the heights them that cry to Him: Alleluia!

**CHOIR:** Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

### **Ekos 8:**

**READER:** Wholly present was the Inexpressible Word among those here below, yet in no way absent from those on high; for this was a divine condescension and not a change

of place, and His birth was from a God-receiving Virgin

Who heard these things:

**CHOIR:**

Rejoice, container of the Uncontainable God:

Rejoice, door of solemn mystery!

Rejoice, report doubtful to unbelievers:

Rejoice, undoubted boast of the faithful!

Rejoice, all-holy chariot of Him Who sitteth upon the Cherubim:

Rejoice, all-glorious temple of Him Who is above the Seraphim!

Rejoice, Thou Who hast united opposites:

Rejoice, Thou Who hast joined virginity and motherhood!

Rejoice, Thou through whom transgression hath been absolved:

Rejoice, Thou through whom Paradise is opened!

Rejoice, key to the kingdom of Christ:

Rejoice, hope of eternal good things!

Rejoice, O Bride Unwedded!

**Kontakion 9:**

**READER:** All the angels were amazed at the great act of Thine incarnation; for they saw the Unapproachable God as

a man approachable to all, abiding with us, and hearing from all: Alleluia!

**CHOIR:** Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

**Ekos 9:**

**READER:** We see most eloquent orators mute as fish before Thee, O Theotokos; for they are at a loss to tell how Thou remainest a Virgin and could bear a child. But we, marveling at this mystery, cry out faithfully:

**CHOIR:**

Rejoice, receptacle of the Wisdom of God:

Rejoice, treasury of His Providence!

Rejoice, Thou Who showest philosophers to be fools:

Rejoice, Thou Who exposest the learned as irrational!

Rejoice, for the clever critics have become foolish:

Rejoice, for the writers of myths have faded away!

Rejoice, Thou Who didst rend the webs of the Athenians:

Rejoice, Thou Who didst fill the nets of the fishermen!

Rejoice, Thou Who drawest us from the depths of ignorance:

Rejoice, Thou Who enlightenest many with knowledge!

Rejoice, ship for those who wish to be saved:

Rejoice, harbor for sailors on the sea of life!

Rejoice, O Bride Unwedded!

**Kontakion 10:**

**READER:** Desiring to save the world, He that is the Creator of all came to it according to His Own promise, and He that, as God, is the Shepherd, for our sake appeared unto us as a man; for like calling unto like, as God He heareth: Alleluia!

**CHOIR:** Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

**Ekos 10:**

**READER:** A bulwark art Thou to virgins, and to all that flee unto Thee, O Virgin Theotokos; for the Maker of Heaven and earth prepared Thee, O Most-pure one, dwelt in Thy womb, and taught all to call to Thee:

**CHOIR:**

Rejoice, pillar of virginity:

Rejoice, gate of salvation!

Rejoice, leader of mental formation:

Rejoice, bestower of divine good!

Rejoice, for Thou didst renew those conceived in shame:

Rejoice, for Thou gavest wisdom to those robbed of their minds!

Rejoice, Thou Who didst foil the corrupter of minds:

Rejoice, Thou Who gavest birth to the Sower of purity!

Rejoice, bridechamber of a seedless marriage:

Rejoice, Thou Who dost wed the faithful to the Lord!

Rejoice, good nourisher of virgins:

Rejoice, adorer of holy souls as for marriage!

Rejoice, O Bride Unwedded!

**Kontakion 11:**

**READER:** Every hymn is defeated that trieth to encompass the multitude of Thy many compassions; for if we offer to Thee, O Holy King, songs equal in number to the sand, nothing have we done worthy of that which Thou hast given us who shout to Thee: Alleluia!

**CHOIR:** Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

**Ekos 11:**

**READER:** We behold the holy Virgin, a shining lamp appearing to those in darkness; for, kindling the Immaterial Light, She guideth all to divine knowledge, She illumineth minds with radiance, and is honoured by our shouting these things:

**CHOIR:**

Rejoice, ray of the noetic Sun:

Rejoice, radiance of the Unsetting Light!

Rejoice, lightning that enlightenest our souls:

Rejoice, thunder that terrifiest our enemies!

Rejoice, for Thou didst cause the refulgent Light to dawn:

Rejoice, for Thou didst cause the river of many streams to gush forth!

Rejoice, Thou Who paintest the image of the font:

Rejoice, Thou Who blottest out the stain of sin!

Rejoice, laver that washest the conscience clean:

Rejoice, cup that drawest up joy!

Rejoice, aroma of the sweet fragrance of Christ:

Rejoice, life of mystical gladness!

Rejoice, O Bride Unwedded!

**Kontakion 12:**

**READER:** When the Absolver of all mankind desired to blot out ancient debts, of His Own will He came to dwell among those who had fallen from His Grace; and having torn up the handwriting of their sins, He heareth this from all:

Alleluia!

**CHOIR:** Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

**Ekos 12:**

**READER:** While singing to Thine Offspring, we all praise Thee as a living temple, O Theotokos; for the Lord Who holdeth all things in His hand dwelt in Thy womb, and He sanctified and glorified Thee, and taught all to cry to Thee:

**CHOIR:**

Rejoice, tabernacle of God the Word:

Rejoice, saint greater than the saints!

Rejoice, ark gilded by the Spirit:

Rejoice, inexhaustible treasury of life!

Rejoice, precious diadem of pious kings:

Rejoice, venerable boast of reverent priests!

Rejoice, unshakable fortress of the Church:

Rejoice, inviolable wall of the kingdom!

Rejoice, Thou through whom victories are obtained:

Rejoice, Thou through whom foes fall prostrate!

Rejoice, healing of my flesh:

Rejoice, salvation of my soul!

Rejoice, O Bride Unwedded!

**Kontakion 13:** *(This Kontakion is sung 3 x.)*

**READER:** O all-praised Mother Who didst bear the Word, holiest of all the saints, accept now our offering, and deliver us from all misfortune, and rescue from the torment to come those that cry to Thee: Alleluia!

**CHOIR:** Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

**Ekos 1**

**READER:** An archangel was sent from heaven to say to the Theotokos: Rejoice! And beholding Thee, O Lord, taking bodily form, he was amazed and with his bodiless voice he stood crying to her such things as these:

**CHOIR:**

Rejoice, Thou through whom joy will shine forth:  
Rejoice, Thou through whom the curse will cease!  
Rejoice, recall of fallen Adam:  
Rejoice, redemption of the tears of Eve!  
Rejoice, height inaccessible to human thoughts:  
Rejoice, depth undiscernible even for the eyes of angels!  
Rejoice, for Thou art the throne of the King:  
Rejoice, for Thou bearest Him Who beareth all!

Rejoice, star that causeth the Sun to appear:

Rejoice, womb of the Divine Incarnation!

Rejoice, Thou through whom creation is renewed:

Rejoice, Thou through whom we worship the Creator!

Rejoice, O Bride Unwedded!

**Kontakion 1:** (8<sup>th</sup> Tone)

**CHOIR:**

To Thee, the Champion Leader, we Thy servants dedicate a feast of victory and of thanksgiving as ones rescued out of sufferings, O Theotokos: but as Thou art one with might which is invincible, from all dangers that can be do Thou deliver us, that we may cry to Thee: Rejoice, O Unwedded Bride!

**Litany Of Fervent Supplication**

**READER:** Have mercy on us, O God, according to Thy great goodness, we pray Thee, hearken and have mercy.

**Choir:** Lord, have mercy (3x)

**READER:** Again we pray for His Beatitude Metropolitan TIKHON and for His Eminence Archbishop MICHAEL, and for all our brethren in Christ.

**Choir:** Lord, have mercy. (3x)

**READER:** Again we pray for the President of our country for all civil authorities, and for our armed forces everywhere.

**Choir:** Lord, have mercy. (3x)

**READER:** Again we pray for mercy, life, peace, health, salvation, and visitation for the servants of God \_\_\_\_\_, and for the pardon and remission of their sins.

**Choir:** Lord, have mercy. (3x)

**READER:** Furthermore we pray to Thee, O Lord our God, that the voice of our petition and prayer be heard. Have mercy upon Thy servants \_\_\_\_\_ in Thy grace and goodness, and fulfill all their supplications, and pardon them their transgressions both voluntary and involuntary; that their petitions and alms be acceptable before Thy Holy Throne and protect them from all visible and invisible enemies, from all attacks, misfortune and sorrow, and save them from illness, and grant them health and length of days: we pray Thee, O Lord, hearken and have mercy.

**Choir:** Lord, have mercy. (3x)

**READER:** Look down, O Master, Lover of mankind, with Thy merciful eye upon Thy servants \_\_\_\_\_ and hearken to our prayers offered in faith, for Thou Thyself hast said: What things so ever you desire, when you pray, believe that you will receive them, and you shall have them,

and again: Ask, and it shall be given you.

Therefore, though unworthy, but trusting upon Thy mercy, we ask: Grant Thy grace, to Thy servants \_\_\_\_\_ and fulfill all their good desires, preserve them in peace and tranquility, in health and length of days, all their life, we pray Thee, hearken quickly and graciously have mercy.

**Choir:** Lord, have mercy. (3x)

**READER:** Again we pray for those who bring offerings and do good works in this holy and all venerable house for those who labor and for those who sing, and for all the people here present, who await Thy great and rich mercy.

**Choir:** Lord, have mercy. (3x)

**READER: Through the Prayers of Our Holy Fathers, O Lord Jesus Christ Our God, Have Mercy on us.**

**Choir:** Amen.

**READER: AGAIN AND AGAIN ON BENDED KNEES, LET US PRAY TO THE MOST-HOLY THEOTOKOS AND EVER-VIRGIN MARY!**

**Choir: O, MOST-HOLY THEOTOKOS, PRAY UNTO GOD FOR US!**

**READER:**

O All-Gracious, most wondrous Mother of God, Queen of All! We are not worthy that Thou shouldst enter under our roof! But as Thou art the lovingly compassionate Mother of the merciful God, say the word that our souls may be healed and our weakened bodies strengthened. For Thou hast unconquerable might, and all Thy speech hath power, O Queen of All! Do Thou gain the victory for us and do Thou supplicate for us - that we may glorify Thy most glorious name, always, now and ever, and unto endless ages. Amen.

O Most-Pure Mother of God, O Queen of All! Hearken unto our much-afflicted sighing before Thy miraculous Icon, brought to Russia from the land of Athos. Look upon Thy Servants of God, \_\_\_\_\_, suffering from unhealed ailments, who fall down before Thy holy image with faith! As a bird covers its nestlings with its wings, so do Thou now, who art ever present, cover us with Thy greatly healing omophorion. In that place where Hope be.

There where bitter sorrows overcome us, there will Patience and Rest be revealed. Where the torment of despair dwells in the soul, there will shine the ineffable Light of Divinity! Console the fainthearted, strengthen the weak, bestow softening and enlightenment upon embittered hearts. Heal Thine ailing people, O All-merciful Queen! Bless the minds and hands of our physicians, that they might serve as instruments of the All-powerful Physician, Christ our Saviour. We pray before Thine Icon, that Thou mightest truly live with us, O Sovereign Lady! Stretch out Thy hands, filled with healing and cures, O Joy of the sorrowful, Consolation in afflictions, that having speedily received miraculous help, we may glorify the Life-creating and

Undivided Trinity, the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, unto the ages of ages. Amen.

### **PRAYER TO THE MOST HOLY THEOTOKOS ON HER FEAST OF THE PROTECTION**

O all-holy Virgin, Mother of the Lord of the hosts on high, Queen of heaven and earth and almighty Defender of our country, accept from us Your unworthy servants this song of praise and thanksgiving and bring our prayer up to the throne of Your Son and God, that He be merciful towards our unrighteousness, and extend His grace to those who honor Your name and venerate with faith and love Your Heavenly Protection. For we are not worthy to be forgiven by Him hadst You, O Lady, not made Him merciful towards us, for all things from Him are possible to You. Therefore we run to You as You are our swift and undoubted Protector. Hear us who pray to You: overshadow us with Your almighty veil and ask from Your Son and God, Our Lord Jesus Christ, zeal and vigilance, wisdom and strength, understanding and humility, love and concord, obedience and patience for Thy Servants of God \_\_\_\_\_, and for all of us the spirit of understanding and godliness, the spirit of mercy and meekness, the spirit of chastity and truth. Yea, O all-Holy Lady Theotokos and Ever-Virgin Mary, be merciful towards Your feeble people: gather together the dispersed, guide on the right way those that have gone astray, uphold old age, make the young pure, bring up the children and look down upon all of us with the care of Your merciful protection. Raise us from the depth of sin and enlighten the eyes of our hearts to see salvation. Be merciful to us both here and yonder, during our wandering in the land of this earth and at the Last Judgment of Your Son: and make our

fathers, mothers, brothers, sisters, sons, daughters, husbands, wives, friends, and kinsfolk who have departed this life live the eternal life with the angels and all the saints. For You O Lady, art the glory of those in heaven and the trust of those on earth. After God, You art the hope and Defender of all who flee to Thee with faith. We then pray to You as our almighty Helper, and intercessor before the Throne of God.

O our most blessed Lady Theotokos and Ever-Virgin Mary, our all-holy hope, Receiver of orphans and Defender of the strangers, Helper of those in poverty, Protector of the sick, behold my distress, behold my affliction. On all sides are we held by temptation, and there is none to defend us except You. Help us then as we are weak, feed us as we are pilgrims, guide us as we have strayed, heal and save us as we lie without hope. For we have no other help, nor advocate nor comforter, except You, O Mother of all the afflicted and heavy laden. Look down then upon sinner lying in sickness, and protect us with Your all-holy Veil, that we be delivered from all the ills surrounding us and may ever praise You All-Holy Name now and forever and unto the ages of ages. Amen.

**READER: O LORD JESUS CHRIST, SON OF GOD, HAVE MERCY ON US!**

**CHOIR: O LORD JESUS CHRIST, SON OF GOD, HAVE MERCY ON US!**

**READER: O, MOST HOLY THEOTOKOS, SAVE US!**

**CHOIR: O, MOST HOLY THEOTOKOS, SAVE US!**

**READER: GLORY TO THE FATHER AND TO THE SON AND TO THE HOLY SPIRIT!**

**CHOIR: NOW AND EVER AND UNTO AGES OF AGES. AMEN.**

**Beneath your compassion, We take refuge, O Theotokos. Despise not our prayer in time of trouble, but rescue us from dangers. O, only pure only blessed one. Most, Holy Theotokos, save us! Most Holy Theotokos, save us! Most Holy Theotokos, save us!**

*CHOIR:* Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen. Lord have mercy. Lord have mercy. Lord have mercy. Lord Bless!

**READER:** Through the Prayers of our Holy Fathers, through the Prayers of the Most Holy Theotokos and Ever-Virgin Mary, by the Power of the Precious and Life-Creating Cross, through the protection of the Bodiless Powers of Heaven, through the prayers of Holy Glorious Prophet,

Forerunner and Baptist John, through the prayers of the  
holy glorious and all-laudable Apostles, through the Prayers  
of all the North American Saints, through the prayers of  
\_\_\_\_\_ the patron of this Holy Temple,  
Hieromartyr Simeon, Bishop in Persia, and those with him:  
Martyrs Abdechalias and Ananias – Presbyters, Usthazanes,  
Fusicus (Pusicius), Ascitrea, Azades the Eunuch, and many  
others we celebrate today, of the holy and righteous  
Ancestors of God, Joachim and Anna, and of all the saints, O  
Lord Jesus Christ Our God, have mercy on us and save us.

**CHOIR: Amen.**

*(The faithful now come up and venerate the Precious Cross and Icons in our Icon Corner.)*

**READER: Through the Prayers of our Holy Fathers, O Lord  
Jesus Christ our God, have mercy on us and save us.**

**CHOIR: Amen. Lord have mercy. Lord have mercy. Lord have mercy.**