

AKATHIST TO THE MOST HOLY THEOTOKOS

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 deliver us, that we may cry to thee: Rejoice, O Unwedded Bride!

Ikos 1

An archangel was sent from Heaven to say to the Theotokos: Rejoice! And beholding Thee, O Lord, taking bodily form, he was amazed and stood crying to Her such things as these:

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 impenetrable even to angelic eyes.

Rejoice, O Unwedded Bride!

Kontakion 2

Beholding Herself in purity, the Holy Virgin said to Gabriel boldly: 'The strangeness of thy words seems difficult for My soul to accept, for thou speakest of conception from a seedless womb, crying: Alleluia!'

Ikos 2

Desiring to understand the incomprehensible knowledge, the Virgin cried to the minister of the mystery: 'How can a Son be born from a pure womb, tell Me?' And he spoke to Her with reverence thus:

Rejoice, initiate of the ineffable counsel of God; rejoice, faith of those who need silence.

Rejoice, beginning of Christ's miracles; rejoice, fulfillment of His divine statutes.

Rejoice, O Unwedded Bride!

Kontakion 3

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

Ikos 3

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:

Rejoice, branch of an Unfading Sprout; rejoice, acquisition of Immortal Fruit.

Rejoice, laborer that laborest for the Lover of mankind; rejoice, Thou Who givest birth to the Planter of our life.

Rejoice, O Unwedded Bride!

Kontakion 13

O all-praised Mother, who didst bear the Word, Holiest of all holy ones! Accept our present offering, and deliver us from all misfortunes, that we may sing to God: Alleluia!

PRAYER TO THE MOST HOLY THEOTOKOS

O most holy Sovereign Lady Theotokos! Higher art thou than all the angels and archangels, and more honourable than all creation, a helper of the wronged art thou, the hope of the hopeless, the salvation of sinners, the help and protection of all Christians. Save and have mercy, O Lady, upon us and defend us by thy precious omophorion, now and ever, and unto the ages of ages. Amen.