

THE AKATHIST HYMN
LITTLE COMPLINE

PRIEST: Blessed is our God, now and always, and forever and ever.

PEOPLE: Amen.

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

Heavenly King, Comforter, the Spirit of truth, everywhere present and filling all things, Treasury of blessings and Giver of Life, come and dwell in us; cleanse us of every stain and save our souls, gracious One.

PEOPLE: Amen. Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal, have mercy on us. (3)

Glory to the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit, now and always, and forever and ever. Amen.

All Holy Trinity, have mercy on us. Lord, be gracious to us in our sins. Master, forgive our transgressions. Holy One, consider our weaknesses and heal them, for Your Name's sake.

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

Glory to the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit, now and always, and forever and ever. Amen.

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy Name. Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

PRIEST: For Yours is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit, now and always, and forever and ever.

PEOPLE: Amen.

READER: Lord, have mercy. (12)

READER: Come, let us worship God our King and bow down before Him.

Come, let us worship Christ God our King and bow down before Him.

Come, let us worship Christ, our King and our God, and bow down before Him.

PSALM 50 (51)

PEOPLE: Have mercy on me, O God, in the greatness of your love; in the abundance of your tender mercies, wipe out my offense. Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin, for I am well aware of my iniquity, and my sin is before me always. It is you alone I have offended: I have done what is evil in your sight. Wherefore you are justified in your charges and triumphant in your judgment. Behold, I was born in iniquities, and in sins my mother conceived me.

But you are the lover of truth: you have shown the hidden depths of your wisdom. Sprinkle me with hyssop, and I shall be pure, cleanse me, and I shall be whiter than snow; let me hear sounds of joy and feasting: the bones that were afflicted shall rejoice. Turn your face away from my offenses, and wipe off all my sins. A spotless heart create in me, O God! Renew a steadfast spirit in my breast. Cast me not away from your face; take not your blessed Spirit out of me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and let your guiding Spirit dwell in me. I will teach your ways to the sinner, and the wicked shall return to you. Deliver me from blood-guilt, O God, my saving God, and my tongue will joyfully sing your justice. O Lord, you will open my lips and my mouth shall declare your praise. Had you desired sacrifice, I would have

offered it, but you will not be satisfied with whole-burnt offerings. Sacrifice to God is a contrite spirit. A crushed and humbled heart God will not spurn. In your kindness, O Lord, be bountiful to Sion; may the walls of Jerusalem be restored. Then will you delight in proper oblation, in sacrifice and whole-burnt offerings. Then shall they offer calves upon your altar.

PSALM 69(70)

O God, come to my aid! O Lord, hasten to help me! Shame and disgrace upon those who seek my life. Let them be turned back and be disgraced who wish me evil! Let them retreat at once in shame who jeer at me, "Well done! Well done!"

But let all who seek you be glad and rejoice in you; And let those who love your salvation, O God, always say, "The Lord be exalted!"

As for me, I am wretched and poor: God help me. You are indeed my help and my deliverer, O Lord: tarry not.

PSALM 142 (143)

O Lord, hear my prayer; in your truthfulness, give

heed to my plea, and in your righteousness, answer me; And enter not into judgment with your servant, since of all the living, none is just in your sight. The enemy has hunted me down; he has crushed my life into the ground; he has forced me to live in darkness like those long dead. My spirit faints with grief, and within me, my heart is in despair I recalled the days of old, I meditated on all your deeds, I pondered the works of your hands. I stretched out my hand to you; like a parched land, my soul thirsts for you. Make haste to answer me, O Lord: my spirit has failed me. Turn not your face away from me, lest I be like those in the pit; grant that I may hear your steadfast love at dawn, for I have put my hope in you. O Lord, teach me the way I should go, for I have lifted up my soul to you. O Lord, deliver me from my enemies: it is to you that I have fled. Teach me to do your will, for you are my God. May your good Spirit lead me on a straight path, for the sake of your name, O Lord, you will keep me alive; in your righteousness, you will deliver me from affliction. And in your loving kindness, you will destroy my enemies, and bring to naught all those who oppress me, for I am your servant.

DOXOLOGY

Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will among men. We praise You, we bless You, we

worship You, we glorify You, we give thanks to You for the splendor of Your glory. Lord King, heavenly God, Father almighty; Lord, only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ and Holy Spirit. Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, You take away the sins of the world. Have mercy on us, You who take away the sins of the world. Accept our prayer, You who are enthroned at the right hand of the Father, and have mercy on us. For You alone are holy, You alone are Lord, Jesus Christ, to the glory of God the Father. Amen. Each day I will bless You and sing Your name forever, and to the ages of ages. Lord, You have been for us a refuge from generation to generation. I said, "Lord, have mercy on me; heal my soul, for I have sinned against You." Lord, in You I have taken shelter; teach me to do Your will, for You are my God. For in You is the wellspring of life, and in Your light we shall see light. Extend Your mercy to those who confess You. Lord, grant that we may be kept this day without sin. Blessed are You, O Lord, God of our fathers. Praised and glorified is Your name throughout the ages. Amen. Let Your mercy be upon us, Lord, even as we put our hope in You.

Blessed are You, O Lord, teach me Your statutes. Blessed are You O Master, grant that I may understand Your statutes. Blessed are You O Holy One, enlighten me with Your statutes. Everlasting is Your love, O Lord, turn not away from the work of

Your hands. Indeed praise, worship and glory are
Your due, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, now and
always, and forever and ever. Amen.

THE CONFESSION OF FAITH

PEOPLE: I believe in one God, the Father, the
Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth and of all things
visible and invisible.

And in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of
God, begotten of the Father before all ages: Light of
Light, true God of true God, begotten, not created, of
one essence with the Father, through whom all things
were made. Who for us and for our salvation He came
down from heaven and was incarnate of the Holy Spirit
and the Virgin Mary and became man.

He was crucified for us under Pontius Pilate, and
suffered and was buried.

And He rose on the third day, according to the
Scriptures; He ascended into heaven and is seated at
the right hand of the Father.

And He will come again with glory to judge the living
and the dead. His kingdom shall have no end.

And in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the Creator of Life,
who proceeds from the Father, Who together with the
Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, Who
spoke through the prophets.

In one holy, catholic, and apostolic Church.
I confess one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
I look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of
the age to come. Amen.

CHOIR: Upon receiving the secret command, the Archangel hastened to the house of Joseph and spoke to the ever-virginal One. He who condescended to bow the heavens is wholly contained, unchanged, in you. Seeing Him taking the form of a servant in your womb I am amazed and cry out to you. Hail, Ever-Virgin and Bride!

The Priest begins:



An Archangel was sent from heaven to greet the Theotokos saying, Hail! (3) And beholding You, O Lord, becoming incarnate at the sound of his bodiless voice, he stood in rapt amazement and cried out to her with these words:

**Hail, Through whom joy shall appear;
hail, Through whom the curse will disappear!
Hail, Restoration of the fallen Adam;
hail, Redemption of the tears of Eve!
Hail, Height too steep for man's thought to climb;
hail, Depth too difficult for angels to behold!
Hail, Who have become a King's throne;
hail, Who bear Him who bears all!**

**Hail, Star that reveals the Sun;
hail Womb of the divine Incarnation!
Hail, Through whom creation is renewed;
hail, Through whom the Creator becomes a
new born Babe!
Hail, Ever-Virgin and Bride!**

CHOIR: Hail, Ever-Virgin and Bride!

The Blessed One, beholding her own purity, boldly answered the angel. "Your voice presents a paradox, formidable for my mind to accept. How can you speak of a birth that is to come from a seedless conception? And why do you cry, Alleluia?"

CHOIR: Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Seeking to grasp the incomprehensible meaning, the Virgin asked of God's messenger, "How is it possible that a son be born from a virginal womb? Tell me! And he answered her with awe, crying out:

**Hail, Initiate of the ineffable will!
hail, Faith of silent prayer!**

**Hail, Prelude of the miracles of Christ;
hail, Culmination of His truths!
Hail, Heavenly Ladder by which God descended;
hail, Bridge leading earthly ones to
heaven!
Hail, Wonder, that ever thrills angels;
hail Wound, that ever hurts demons!**

**Hail, Who ineffably gave birth to Light;
hail, Mystery revealed to none!
Hail, Who surpass the wisdom of the wise;
hail, Who enlighten faithful minds!
Hail, Ever-Virgin and Bride!**

CHOIR: Hail, Ever-Virgin and Bride!



When the power of the Most High overshadowed the Virgin, her fruitful womb conceived, and she became a fertile meadow for all who wished to reap salvation, by singing: Alleluia!

CHOIR: Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!



Her womb enshrining God, the Virgin hastened to Elizabeth, whose unborn son rejoiced, quickly recognizing her greeting. Stirring and singing, he cried out to the Mother of God.

Hail, O Bud of the unwilting vine;

hail, O Land whose Fruit shall not perish!

Hail, For you tended Him who lovingly tenders mankind;

hail, O Gardener of the Gardener of Life!

Hail, O Earth that yielded bountiful compassion;

hail, O Table laden with abundant mercies.

Hail, For you have restored the meadows of Eden;

hail, For you have prepared a haven for souls.

Hail, Acceptable Incense of intercession;

hail, O Expiation of the whole universe!

Hail, O Favor of God to mortal men;

hail, O Boldness of mortals before God!

Hail, Ever-Virgin and Bride!

CHOIR: Hail, Ever-Virgin and Bride!



illed with inner thoughts of confusion, the wise Joseph was shaken; he beheld you as virginal, and now, O pure One, he suspected illicit love! But learning that your conception was of the Holy Spirit, he cried out: Alleluia!

CHOIR: Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

THE CANON
FIRST ODE

My mouth shall I open up, and by the Spirit shall it be filled; and words shall pour forth from me unto the Mother and Queen. Then shall I be seen in gladsome celebration, and joyfully I shall sing, praising her miracles.

Most holy Theotokos, save us.

Pure Maiden, beholding you, the great Archangel called out to you: “Hail, for in you is held all of our gladness and joy!” Living Book of Christ, the Spirit has confirmed you, for you have removed the curse wrought by the Mother, Eve.

Most holy Theotokos, save us.

Hail, Virgin Bride of God, the restoration of Adam's fall.
Hail, Maiden, all blameless One, who unto Hades brings
death, for our only God has made of you his palace. Hail,
the Almighty One makes of you His fiery Throne.

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

Hail Maiden; you alone have blossomed forth the
Unfading Rose. Hail, for to you was born the Apple
fragrant and sweet, for the King of all has found you
to be pleasing. Hail, never-wedded Bride, Ransom of
all the world.

Now and always, and forever and ever. Amen.

Hail, Treasure of Purity, we who are raised up
through you cry out. Most delicate Lily are you,
Maiden; sweet is your scent, filling all the faithful
with your gentle fragrance! O most precious Myrrh of
all, incense most redolent.

THIRD ODE

Make steadfast, O Holy Theotokos, our living and
never-failing Spring, the chorus that is gathered here
to sing your praise in one accord, and by the glory
God gave you, let them be worthy of glory's crowns.

Most holy Theotokos, save us.

From you, who are untilled Land, has come forth the wheat that is holy and divine. We hail you as the living Table, who has held the Bread of Life. You are a never-failing Spring of Living Water, to you we cry.

Most holy Theotokos, save us.

Hail, Mother, who has given birth to the Yearling, born free from any sin. Hail, you are the Mother of the Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of all creation. Hail, fervent intercessor of mercy.

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

Hail, Dawn most radiant, rejoice! None other but you did give birth to Christ the Sun! Hail, for in you resides the Light that has dispelled the gloom of night, and banished to oblivion the darkened ranks of demonic hosts.

Now and always, and forever and ever. Amen.

Hail, for you are the only Gate through which none but the Word of God has passed. Hail, Maiden, Holy Entrance of the Saved are you, and ever-praised, for you have by your giving birth torn down the gates

and the bolts of Hades.

KONTAKION

Mighty Defender and Commander, I, your city sing hymns of thanksgiving for the victory ascribed to you. From all terrors, have you rescued me, Theotokos. I entreat you, for your power is invincible from all dangers that may threaten me, deliver me, that I may cry to you: Hail to you, O unwedded bride!

THE SECOND SALUTATIONS



The shepherds upon hearing the angels singing hymns of praise for the coming of Christ in the flesh, hastened to Him as to a shepherd, they saw Him as a spotless Lamb that grazed in Mary's womb. They sang to her a hymn of praise and said:

**Hail, O Mother of Lamb and Shepherd;
hail, O fold of rational sheep!
Hail, O Protection against invisible foes;
hail, O Key to the gates of Paradise!
Hail, For the heavenly rejoice with the earthly;
hail, For the heavenly meet the earthly in song!
Hail, Never-silenced voice of the apostles!**

**hail, Undaunted might of martyrs!
Hail, O steadfast foundation of faith;
hail, O shining emblem of grace!
Hail, O you through whom Hades was laid bare;
hail, Through whom we were clothed in glory!
Hail, Ever-Virgin and Bride!**

CHOIR: Hail, Ever-Virgin and Bride!

Behold the guiding Star of God, the Magi followed its glittering light; and using it as a beacon, they found the Mighty King; and approaching the One beyond all reach, they rejoiced and cried out to Him: Alleluia!

CHOIR: Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

The children of Chaldea saw in the Virgin's hands the One whose hands had fashioned men; and acknowledging Him as Master, though He had taken a servant's form, they hastened to serve Him with their gifts, and cried out to the Blessed One:

Hail, O Mother of the Star unwaning;

hail, O Dawn of the mystical day!
Hail, Who quenched the flame of error;
hail, O Light of those who seek the Trinity!
Hail, Who dethroned humanity's tyrant;
hail, Who showed forth Christ as loving Lord!
Hail, Who delivered us from pagan worship;
hail, Who saved us from the mire of evil deeds!
Hail, Who brought an end to the cult of fire;
hail, Who dispelled the flames of passion!
Hail, Who guide the faithful to temperance;
hail, Delight of all generations!
Hail, Ever-Virgin and Bride!

CHOIR: Hail, Ever-Virgin and Bride!



The Magi, obeying Your command,
returned to Babylon and became God-
bearing heralds. To all they preached
You as the Christ, abandoning Herod who
ranted foolishly, not knowing how to sing:
Alleluia!

CHOIR: Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!



Illuminating Egypt with the light of truth, you dispelled the darkness of error. Unable to stand before your might, the idols fell, and those freed from them cried out to you, the Theotokos:

Hail, O Restoration of mankind;

hail, O Downfall of the demons!

Hail, Who crushed the error of deceit;

hail, Who exposed the guile of idols!

Hail, O Sea who drowned the reprehensible Pharaoh;

hail, O Rock that quenched the thirst of those thirsty for life!

Hail, O Pillar of fire that guided those in darkness;

hail, O Shelter of the world, broader than the clouds!

Hail, O Food that followed the Manna;

hail, O Handmaiden of holy delight!

Hail, O Land of the Promise;

hail, From whom flows milk and honey!

Hail, Ever-Virgin and Bride!

CHOIR: Hail, Ever-Virgin and Bride!



As Simeon was about to pass from this deceitful world, You were presented to him as an infant, but made Yourself known to him as perfect God. Whereupon, amazed at Your ineffable wisdom, he cried out: Alleluia!

CHOIR: Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

FOURTH ODE

Jesus, God above all others, has appeared on a cloud of light in His holy glory, seated on a throne of divinity. And He has given salvation by His spotless hands to those crying to Him: Glory, O Christ, to your mighty pow'r!

Most holy Theotokos, save us.

We in faith with voices lifted, singing praises to you, hail! Worthy of all praises! Mountain that is rich with the Spirit's grace! Hail to you, Maiden, the Lamp and Vessel that is filled with the manna so sweet that has delight for all pious men.

Most holy Theotokos, save us.

Mercy-Seat of all creation, hail pure Maiden, we cry to you. Hail to you, the Ladder raising everything on earth by your grace: Hail to the Bridge that has truly led the way from death into Life for all of mankind who sing your praises.

Most holy Theotokos, save us.

More exalted than the heavens, hail, pure Maiden, we cry to you, free from pain of childbirth, bearing the Foundation of all the earth. Hail to the Seashell that colored in your virgin blood the divine crimson robe worn by the King of angelic pow'rs.

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

Truly Maiden, you have brought forth Him who set down the law to all, freely granting sinners pardon from transgressions against the law. The Depth we never can fathom, and the Height beyond words! Hail, Bride Unwedded! We are made children of God through you.

Now and always, and forever and ever. Amen.

6. For the world's sake, have you woven a pure crown fashioned not by hands. With our hymns we praise you. Hail, O Virgin Bride, unto you we cry. You are

the fortification and defending wall, and the strength of men, the sacred refuge of all mankind.

FIFTH ODE

Creation beheld amazed to see you, ever-Virgin Bride, seated in the midst of holy glory, for in your

womb you have held the God of all; from you comes the everlasting Son, who bestows salvation unto all who sing praise to you.

Most holy Theotokos, save us.

All-pure Maiden, hail to you, who has brought forth the Way of Life, saving all of mankind from the torrent of our transgressions; Hail to the Bride of God, too awesome to speak of or to hear! Hail to you, a dwelling place of rest for the Master of all the world.

Most holy Theotokos, save us.

Hail, Maiden free from sin, the fortress and the strength of men! Brightest Chamber and delight of angels! A blessed temple to hold the Glory of God! Hail! You have put an end to death, and you are the source of help to the faithful who call to you.

Most holy Theotokos, save us.

Rejoice, Living Paradise, behold the very Tree of Life, who is God the Lord within you planted! His sweetness gives life to those partaking in faith, as bonds of corruption hold them fast. Hail, Fiery Chariot, for you carry forth God the Word.

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

Made firm by your power we cry out to you with faithful hearts, City of the King of all creation! Hail, O Mountain that is not hewn by man! Hail, O unfathomable Depth! Glorious and wonderful are all things clearly told of you.

Now and always, and forever and ever. Amen.

Hail, Purest Maiden, spacious Tabernacle of the Word; Seashell that has brought forth the Divine Pearl! Hail, Theotokos, most wondrous miracle who truly has reconciled with God all of those who call you blest at all times and in ev'ry age.

SIXTH ODE

O Godly minded, come clap your hands, and join in celebration of this most honored, sacred festival, and

let the Mother of God be praised, and let us sing the glory of God who is her Son.

Most holy Theotokos, save us.

Hail, Bridal Chamber that holds the Word, you are for all your people the source of godliness, All-Purest One! Hail, Maiden, Truth of the Prophets' words; the one who has adorned the Apostles with your grace.

Most holy Theotokos, save us.

From you has flowed forth the godly dew, extinguishing the flames of the adoration of the pagan gods. For this, O Virgin, we cry to you: Hail, dewy Fleece foretold by the Prophet Gideon.

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

We shout out Hail, crying out to you to be a port and haven for all who sail upon the stormy sea, engulfed by sorrows and stumbling blocks and by deceits unnumbered the enemy has set.

Now and always, and forever and ever. Amen.

From you come all joy and happiness; be gracious to our

hearts and our minds that we may cry aloud to you: Hail, burning Bush unconsumed by fire! You are the Cloud most brilliant, which shelters faithful men.

KONTAKION

Mighty Defender and Commander, I, your city sing hymns of thanksgiving for the victory ascribed to you. From all terrors, have you rescued me, Theotokos. I entreat you, for your power is invincible from all dangers that may threaten me, deliver me, that I may cry to you: Hail to you, O unwedded bride!

THE THIRD SALUTATIONS



He Creator revealed to us a new creation, created by Him. He blossomed from a womb that had received no seed, and left it as pure as before; that we, upon beholding this wonder, might praise her and cry out:

Hail, O Blossom of incorruption;

hail, O Crown of temperance!

Hail, Who shone forth as a Sign of resurrection;

hail, Who mirror the life of angels!

**Hail, Fruitful tree nourishing believers;
hail, Shady timber sheltering many!
Hail, Who bore the Guide for those lost;
hail, Source of life to the Redeemer of
captives!
Hail, Intercessor of the Righteous Judge;
hail, Forgiveness of many sinners!
Hail, O Vesture for those bereft of boldness;
hail, O Fondness that exceeds all yearning!
Hail, Ever-Virgin and Bride!**

CHOIR: Hail, Ever-Virgin and Bride!



**Now that we have witnessed this strange
birth, let us estrange ourselves from the
world and let our minds rise to heaven.
Indeed, God the most High appeared on earth as
humble man, for He desired to draw to heaven
those who cry out to Him: Alleluia!**

CHOIR: Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!



**While fully present among those below, the
indescribable Logos was never absent from
those above; for what transpired was a
divine condescension and transposition, and birth**

from a Virgin chosen by God, who heard these words:

Hail, O Confine of the unconfined God;

hail O Gate of the venerable mystery!

Hail, O Message unbelievable to the faithless;

hail, O Pride believable to the faithful!

Hail, O Sacred Chariot of the One upon the Cherubim;

hail, Perfect dwelling of the One upon the Seraphim!

Hail, Who reconciled opposites;

hail, Who combined maidenhood and motherhood!

Hail, Through whom transgression was annulled;

hail, Through whom Paradise was opened!

Hail, O Key to the Kingdom of Christ;

hail, O Hope of eternal bliss!

Hail, Ever-Virgin and Bride!

CHOIR: Hail, Ever-Virgin and Bride!



Your Incarnation and its magnitude astounded all the ranks of the angels; for they saw the One inaccessible as God become a Man, accessible to all, dwelling among us and hearing us all cry out: Alleluia!

CHOIR: Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!



O Mother of God, eloquent orators are beheld before you mute as fish, unable to voice how you came to give birth yet

remained a virgin; while we, marveling at this mystery, faithfully cry out to you:

Hail, O Vessel of God's wisdom;

hail, O Treasury of His providence!

Hail, Who proved philosophers foolish;

hail, Reproof of rhetoric's art!

Hail, Who made fools of dreaded disputants;

hail, Who withered the makers of myths!

Hail, Who sundered the Athenian's meshes;

hail, Who filled the fishermen's nets!

Hail, O Rescuer from the abyss of ignorance;

hail, O Lamp of knowledge to many!

Hail, O Ship for those who seek salvation;

hail, O Haven for the seafarers of life!

Hail, Ever-Virgin and Bride!

CHOIR: Hail, Ever-Virgin and Bride!



Wishing to save the world, the Creator of all came to us of His own will. Being at once our Shepherd and our God, He appeared among us as a man. And, appearing as we are, He called us to Himself, hearing us as God: Alleluia!

CHOIR: Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

SEVENTH ODE

Bravely trampling down the fiery flames, the godly-minded youths would not bow down before creations wrought by men, but steadfast, to God alone, Maker of all, they bowed, as with songs they hailed, "O Lord most praised, who is the God of our fathers, you are blessed.

Most holy Theotokos, save us.

With our voices raised in hymns of praise, we cry to you, hail to the Chariot that carries forth the living Sun. The true vine that bears the fruit: clusters of ripened grapes flowing sweet with wine and making glad the souls of those who in faith sing out your glory.

Most holy Theotokos, save us.

Bride of God, from you the Healer of mankind is born. Hail to the mystic Rod, we cry. The never-fading Rose has budded and blossomed forth. Mankind is filled with joy, crying out to you: "Hail, Our Lady, for through you, we are heirs of life eternal."

Most holy Theotokos, save us.

All the tongues of men cannot acclaim you worthily, Our Lady, who is raised yet higher than the Seraphim in bringing forth Christ the King; Ask Him for our sakes to deliver us from every harm that threatens us, who in faith bow down before you.

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

All the world, Pure Maiden, offers hymns of praise to you, and blessing you, cries out: Hail, Scroll containing the Word inscribed by the Father's Hand. Mother of God, we ask you implore your Son to enter in the Book of Life all the names of all your servants.

Now and always, and forever and ever. Amen.

With our hearts bowed down on bended knee, your servants come. Entreating you we pray: Incline your ear to our plea, and save us from sinking down, drowning in suffering, and preserve your flock; and, Theotokos, guard

your City from all foes that assault her.

EIGHTH ODE

The holy children cast into the furnace were saved, Theotokos, by the Child born of you. He, who was foreshadowed then, now upon the earth has come, and all creation gathers near that we may sing to Him. Let all His works now sing the Lord's praises, and exalt Him greatly from ages to all ages.

Most holy Theotokos, save us.

Pure Maiden, in your womb have you received Him, the Word, and have given birth to Him who bears all things. Nourished by your milk was He, who through you now feeds the world, by His own will, and unto Him does all creation cry: Let all His works now sing the Lord's praises, and exalt Him greatly from ages to all ages.

Most holy Theotokos, save us.

Moses in the burning bush perceived the great Mystery of a child being born of you, Holy Virgin undefiled. In a clear foreshadowing, the children standing in the flames were unconsumed by fire. For this we sing a hymn of your praises, and exalt you greatly from ages to all ages.

Most holy Theotokos, save us.

We, who by deceit were once stripped bare, wear the garment of incorruption by your giving birth. Seated in the dark of sin, we have come to see the light, for in you, Maiden full of grace, is the abode of Light! For this we sing a hymn of your praises, and exalt you greatly from ages to all ages.

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

Through you, are the dead brought back to life, for from you has been born the One Who is Himself the Life. Mute men now are given speech; lepers have been purified, all of the spirits that are lurking in the air depart, and all disease is cast off, defeated, for you are, O Virgin, humanity's salvation!

Now and always, and forever and ever. Amen.

Pure Maiden, who brought forth the world's salvation, through you we are raised from earth unto the heaven's heights. Ever-blessed Maiden, hail! Shelter and protecting veil, a wall and rampart you have been to those who sing to you. Let all His works now sing the Lord's praises, and exalt Him greatly from ages to all ages.

NINTH ODE

Let all men on earth in spirit leap up for joy, with festal torches lit. Let angelic ranks rejoice, and with due honor, celebrate this festival, and on this holy feast, sing praises to the Mother of God. Let them cry out, hail, O Maiden ever-blest! Theotokos, most pure, ever blest are you.

Most holy Theotokos, save us.

Save us from all harm, all evil and enemies which threaten mortal men, coming on the heels of sins too great to number which befall humanity. And let believers in their faithfulness cry Hail! to you, as partakers of the everlasting joy that through you is bestowed over all mankind.

Most holy Theotokos, save us.

You have come to us as our confirmation and our brightly shining light, wherefore unto You we call, "Hail, Purest Virgin," Hail, O Never-setting Star which to the world has given forth the greatest Sun of all. Fiery Pillar leading us to life above, who reopened the Garden of Eden's Gates!

Most holy Theotokos, save us.

Let us stand in awe as we in the Temple of the Lord cry out to you: Hail, O Queen of all the world, and hail, O Mary, Vessel of unending myrrh which has been poured forth into you, and so we cry out Hail! Our Lady, Purest and most

beautiful among women are you who have known no sin.

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

Hail, O Gentle Dove, for God the Compassionate has been brought forth from you. Ever-Virgin Maiden, Hail! The Crown of martyrs, Glory of the saints are you, and the divine adornment of all just and righteous men. We the faithful come before you crying out, hail, Salvation of all who believe in you.

Now and always, and forever and ever. Amen.

Overlook our sins! Forgive your inheritance, O God, and heed the prayer of her who has without seed on earth conceived You. She has come before You now to plead for us, O Christ, her Son, who has for mankind's sake in Your mercy chosen to become a man, and be clothed in a form other than Your own.

KONTAKION

Mighty Defender and Commander, I, your city sing hymns of thanksgiving for the victory ascribed to you. From all terrors, have you rescued me, Theotokos. I entreat you, for your power is invincible from all dangers that may threaten me, deliver me, that I may cry to you: Hail to you, O unwedded bride!

THE FOURTH SALUTATIONS

Virgin Mother of God, you are the fortress of virgins and of all those who turn to you; for the Maker of heaven and

earth created you, O pure One, and came to dwell in your womb, teaching us all to cry out to you:

Hail, O Pillar of virginity;

hail, O Gateway of salvation!

Hail, O Beginning of the beholdable new creation;

hail, O Bestower of God's bounties!

Hail, For you regenerated those born in shame;

hail, For you gave thought to the mindless!

Hail, Who abolished the corrupter of minds;

hail, Who bore the Sower of Chastity!

Hail, O Chamber of virginal wedlock;

hail, Who join the faithful to the Lord!

Hail, O beautiful Mother, nurturing virgins;

hail, O Bridesmaid of holy souls!

Hail, Ever-Virgin and Bride!

CHOIR: Hail, Ever-Virgin and Bride!



Holy King, all hymns fail to extol the multitude of Your mercies. Though we sing praises numerous as the grains of sand in the sea, they are unworthy of all You have given to those who cry out to You: Alleluia!

CHOIR: Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!



We behold the Holy Virgin as a luminous lamp, illuminating those who live in darkness. Having kindled the immaterial Light, she leads all to God's knowledge and enlightens their minds with light divine, worthily honored with these words:

**Hail, O Ray of the spiritual Sun;
hail, O Beam of unsetting light!
Hail, O Lightning that illumines souls;
hail, For you astound foes as Thunder!
Hail, For you bore the brilliant Light;
hail, For you surged the multi-coursed Stream!
Hail, Who depict the living Model of the Font;
hail, Who lifted the stain of sin!
Hail, O Water cleansing the conscience;**

**hail, O Cup brimming with joy!
Hail, O Scent of the fragrance of Christ;
hail, Life of the mystical banquet!
Hail, Ever-Virgin and Bride!**

CHOIR: Hail, Ever-Virgin and Bride!



W anting to grant release of all ancient debts, mankind's Redeemer willingly came to those who had spurned His grace; and revoking the debtor's ledger, He hears from all: Alleluia!

CHOIR: Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!



O Mother of God! Praising your Son we exalt you as a living temple; for He who dwelt within your womb, the Lord, who in His hands holds all, sanctified you, glorified you, and taught us all to sing to you:

**Hail, O Tabernacle of God the Logos;
hail, O Holiest of the ones who are holy!
Hail, O Ark guilded by the Spirit;**

hail, O inexhaustible treasure of life!
Hail, O precious crown of pious kings;
hail, O reverent pride of pious priests!
Hail, O unshakable tower of the Church;
hail, O impregnable wall of the kingdom!
Hail, Through whom the victory banners are unfurled;
hail, Through whom enemies are felled!
Hail, O Healing of my body;
Hail, O Salvation of my soul!
Hail, Ever-Virgin and Bride!

CHOIR: Hail, Ever-Virgin and Bride!



O Mother worthy of all praise, who gave birth to the Logos, the Holiest of the Holies (3), accept this present offering, delivering us from every calamity, and save from the punishment to come, those who cry out to you: Alleluia!

CHOIR: Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

n Archangel was sent from heaven to greet the Theotokos saying, Hail! (3) And beholding You, O Lord, becoming incarnate at the sound

of his bodiless voice, he stood in rapt amazement and cried out to her with these words:

Hail, Through whom joy shall appear;

hail, Through whom the curse will disappear!

Hail, Restoration of the fallen Adam;

hail, Redemption of the tears of Eve!

Hail, Height too steep for man's thought to climb;

hail, Depth too difficult for angels to behold!

Hail, Who have become a King's throne;

hail, Who bear Him who bears all!

Hail, Star that reveals the Sun;

hail Womb of the divine Incarnation!

Hail, Through whom creation is renewed;

hail, Through whom the Creator becomes a new born Babe!

Hail, Ever-Virgin and Bride!

CHOIR: Hail, Ever-Virgin and Bride!

KONTAKION

CHOIR: Mighty Defender and Commander, I, your city sing hymns of thanksgiving for the victory ascribed to you. From all terrors, have you rescued me, Theotokos. I entreat

you, for your power is invincible from all dangers that may threaten me, deliver me, that I may cry to you: Hail to you, O unwedded bride!

PEOPLE: Amen. Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal, have mercy on us. (3)

Glory to the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit, now and always, and forever and ever. Amen.

All Holy Trinity, have mercy on us. Lord, be gracious to us in our sins. Master, forgive our transgressions. Holy One, consider our weaknesses and heal them, for Your Name's sake.

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

Glory to the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit, now and always, and forever and ever. Amen.

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy Name. Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

PRIEST: For Yours is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit, now and always, and forever and ever.

KONTAKION (to be read)

READER: Mighty Defender and Commander, I, your city sing hymns of thanksgiving for the victory ascribed to you. From all terrors, have you rescued me, Theotokos. I entreat you, for your power is invincible from all dangers that may threaten me, deliver me, that I may cry to you: Hail to you, O unwedded bride!

PEOPLE: Amen.

READER: Lord, have mercy. (12)

PRIEST: O Christ, the God who is worshipped and glorified in heaven and on earth throughout all time and in every hour, the patient, the compassionate, the lover of the righteous, the merciful to the sinful, calling all to salvation and promising the blessings to come; Do You, the same Lord, accept at this time our supplications and guide us to live according to Your Commandments: sanctify our souls, cleanse our bodies, correct our thinking, purify our thoughts, and deliver us from every sorrow, evil and

distress. Protect us with Your Holy Angels so that guarded by their company, we may reach the unity of Faith and the knowledge of Your unapproachable glory: For You are blessed forever and ever. Amen.

READER: Lord, have mercy. (3)

Glory to the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit, now and always, and forever and ever. Amen.

More honored than the Cherubim, and more glorious beyond compare than the Seraphim, in purity you gave birth to God the Logos. Truly you are the Mother of God: you do we magnify.

READER: In the name of the Lord. Father give the Blessing

PRIEST: **May God be merciful to us and bless us; may He cause His face to shine upon us, and have mercy on us.**

**PRAYER
TO THE MOST HOLY THEOTOKOS**

READER: O Lady, Bride of God, immaculate, undefiled, innocent, inviolate, pure, who through your wondrous birth-giving bridged the fallen state of humankind with the heavenly:

O only hope of the hopeless and help of the oppressed, prompt protection of those who turn to you and refuge of all Christians: despise me not, a wretched sinner, who have wholly defiled myself with unclean thoughts, words, and deeds, and in my indifference have become a slave to the passions of life.

As Mother of the loving God, have mercy, have compassion on me a sinner and a prodigal; accept this prayer from my impure lips and by the privilege of your motherhood, beseech your Son, my Lord and my God, to open the depths of his loving kindness for me, overlook my countless sins, return me to repentance, and prove me a worthy worker of His commandments.

As merciful, compassionate and loving, as a fervent protector and help, always be with me in this life to turn away the assaults of my enemies and guide me to salvation.

At the hour of my death, embrace my wretched soul and keep it far from the dreadful sight of the wicked demons. On the awesome Day of Judgment, deliver me from eternal punishment and make me an heir of your Son's ineffable glory.

O my Lady, most holy Theotokos, by your intercessions and help, let this befall me; through the

grace and divine love for mankind of your Son, our Lord and God and Savior Jesus Christ.

To Him belong all glory honor and worship, and to his eternal Father, and His all-holy, good and life-giving Spirit, now and always and forever and ever. Amen.

**PRAYER TO OUR LORD,
GOD AND SAVIOUR JESUS CHRIST**

READER: O Master, now that we are about to lie down to sleep, grant us, repose of body and soul.

Preserve us against the dark slumber of sin and against all the dark impure pleasures of night; quiet the assaults of our passions, quell the fiery darts of Evil deceitfully cast against us; still the impulses of our flesh and lull all earthly and worldly thoughts within us.

Grant us, O Lord, a watchful mind, innocent thoughts, a sober heart, a gentle sleep free from evil dreams;
at the hour of prayer, awaken us strong in the practice of Your commandments and keeping the remembrance of Your decrees unbroken;
give us the grace to sing Your glory throughout the

night; to praise, bless and glorify Your all honorable and magnificent name, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, now and always and forever and ever. Amen.

READER: O most glorious, ever-virgin and blessed Theotokos, commend our prayers to your Son, our God, and by your intercessions entreat Him to save our souls.

READER: The Father is my hope, the Son is my refuge, the Holy Spirit is my protection: O Holy Trinity, glory to You!

READER: O Mother of God, all my hope I place in you, keep me under your protection.

DISMISSAL

PRIEST: Most merciful Master, Lord Jesus Christ, our God, through the intercessions of His most pure and holy Mother; through the power of the precious and life-giving Cross; the protection of the honorable, bodiless heavenly powers; the supplications of the honorable, glorious Prophet and Forerunner John the Baptist; the holy, glorious and praiseworthy Apostles; the holy,

glorious and victorious Martyrs; our venerable and God-bearing Fathers; the holy and righteous ancestors of the Lord, Joachim and Anna; of Saint (N.) whose memory we keep today, and of all the Saints, have mercy on us and save us, for He is good and loves humankind.

PRIEST: Let us pray for the peace of the world.

PEOPLE: Kyrie, eleison

PRIEST: For all pious and Orthodox Christians.

PEOPLE: Kyrie, eleison

PRIEST: For our Archbishop (N.) and all our brotherhood in Christ

PEOPLE: Kyrie, eleison

PRIEST: For our Country and for all our civic authorities.

PEOPLE: Kyrie, eleison

PRIEST: For our fathers and mothers, brothers

and sisters absent from among us.

PEOPLE: Kyrie, eleison

PRIEST: For those who have served and those who serve us.

PEOPLE: Kyrie, eleison.

PRIEST: For all who hate us and all who love us.

PEOPLE: Kyrie, eleison.

PRIEST: For all who ask us, unworthy though we be, to pray for them.

PEOPLE: Kyrie, eleison

PRIEST: For the release of captives.

PEOPLE: Kyrie, eleison.

PRIEST: For travelers by land, sea and air.

PEOPLE: Kyrie, eleison.

PRIEST: For all the sick and afflicted.

PEOPLE: Kyrie, eleison.

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

PEOPLE: Kyrie, eleison.

PRIEST: For our parents, brothers and sisters departed this life who now lay here in pious rest and for the Orthodox everywhere.

PEOPLE: Kyrie, eleison.

PRIEST: Let us also pray for ourselves. Kyrie, eleison, Kyrie, eleison, Kyrie, eleison.

CHOIR: Gabriel was rapt in amazement as he beheld your virginity and the splendor of your purity, O Mother of God, and he cried out to you: "By what name shall I call you? I am bewildered; I am lost! I shall greet you as I was commanded to do: 'Hail, O Woman full of grace!'"

PRIEST: Through the prayers of our holy Fathers,

Lord Jesus Christ our God, have mercy on us and save us.

PEOPLE: Amen.