

Akathist Hymn to the Theotokos, the Inexhaustible Cup



Icon of the Mother of God “the Inexhaustible Cup” Commemorated on May 5

The “Inexhaustible Cup” Icon of the Most Holy Theotokos was revealed in Russia in 1878. A retired soldier from Tula had spent his pension on alcohol, ruining his health. Though he was no longer able to walk, he continued to drink.

One night the holy Elder Barlaam of Serpukhov appeared to him in a dream and told him to go to the Serpukhov Monastery of the Entry of the Most Holy Mother of God into the Temple. “Have a Molieben served before her Icon ‘The Inexhaustible Cup.’” Since he had no money and could not walk, the man paid no attention to the dream. Then the Elder appeared a second and third time, speaking to him with increasing severity.

Crawling on all fours, the man reached the next village and stayed in the home of an old woman. She rubbed his legs, and he began to feel better. The next day, he resumed his journey with two canes, then with one, until he arrived at the monastery.

He described his dreams to the monks, but none of them had ever heard of “The Inexhaustible Cup” Icon. Finally, one of them remembered an icon on which a chalice was depicted.

On the back of the icon was an inscription, “The Inexhaustible Chalice.” After the Molieben, the peasant returned home restored to health, and cured of his alcoholism.

News of the miracle spread, and many alcoholics and their families came to pray before the Icon. Many of them came back to thank the Mother of God for answering their prayers. Every Sunday in the Serpukhov-Vyotsk monastery a Molieben with an Akathist is served before the Icon for those who are addicted to alcohol.

Akathist Hymn to the Theotokos, the Inexhaustible Cup

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

Reader: Amen. Glory to Thee O God. Glory to Thee.

O Heavenly King, the Comforter, the Spirit of Truth, Who art everywhere and fills all things. Treasury of blessings and giver of life, come and abide in us, and cleanse us from every impurity. And, save our souls, O Good One.

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

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 us from our sins. Master, pardon our transgressions. Holy One visit and heal our infirmities for Thy name's sake.

Lord, have mercy **(3)**.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages. 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 thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages.

Reader: Amen.

KONTAKION I

Choir/Faithful: A wonderful healing has been given to us through your holy icon, / O Sovereign Lady Theotokos. / By its appearance we have been delivered from spiritual and **physical** ills, / and from sorrowful **circumstances**. / We therefore offer our thankful **praise** to you, / O merciful Protectress whom we call “The Inex**haustible** Cup.” / Bend down your ear and kindly hear our **lamentation**. / Cast down your eye and graciously **see** our tears. / Give your healing to those that suffer from **drunkenness**, / so that we may call to **you** with faith: //Rejoice, Theotokos, the Inex**haustible** Cup who quenches our **spiritual** thirst.

IKOS I

Priest: Angelic powers and multitudes of saints continually glorify you, the Theotokos, the Queen of all, the intercessor for us sinful Christians wallowing in lawlessness and remaining in sin. It is for our consolation and salvation that you in your mercy gave to us your miraculous icon. Looking at it, as at the one and only star among a multitude of stars on a starlit night, we fall down before you and cry from the very depth of our heart:

Choir/Faithful: Rejoice, dwelling-place of the un**approachable** God.

Rejoice, our constant wonder in **goodness**.

Rejoice, for you make our sorrow wipe **away** our sins.

Rejoice, for you make our grief heal our **afflictions**.

Rejoice, through your miraculous icon, you give us your heavenly **mercy**.

Rejoice, through your intercession, you give peace to our **troubled** heart.

Rejoice, our wonderful reconciliation with God

Rejoice, Queen who opens the gates of **Paradise**.

Rejoice, Theotokos, the Inex**haustible** Cup who quenches our **spiritual** thirst.

KONTAKION II

Priest: Upon seeing the profound sorrow and grief of people possessed by the destructive ailment of drunkenness, and also seeing their true repentance, you have willed, most holy Lady, to show your mercy to the blessed city of Serpoukhov by the appearance of your miraculous icon, “The Inexhaustible Cup.” All that fall down before it with faith and a contrite heart will receive healing from this grievous illness, and thus may cry to God with adoration: Alleluia.

Choir/Faithful: Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

IKOS II

Priest: Having understood the meaning of the threefold apparition of Saint Varlaam, and his order to go to the city of Serpoukhov, the man possessed by the illness of alcoholism obeyed. There, in a monastery, he found your holy icon called “The Inexhaustible Cup.” Beholding such mercy bestowed upon us sinners, we cry out to you with veneration:

Choir/Faithful: Rejoice, through pious people, you show us

sinners the glory of your **marvelous** work.

Rejoice, by your wise guidance, you show us the way of **salvation**.

Rejoice, by your goodness, you attract us to yourself and teach us **purity**.

Rejoice, by bestowing upon us your rich blessings, you teach us **gratitude**.

Rejoice, by making us see hope beyond doubt, you give us **gladness of heart**.

Rejoice, by healing our infirmities, you renew our zeal for the **Kingdom**.

Rejoice, for you destroy our destructive **passions**.

Rejoice, for you help us in our good **intentions**.

Rejoice, Theotokos, the Inex**haustible** Cup who quenches our **spiritual** thirst.

KONTAKION III

Priest: The power of the Almighty and the grace of the Sovereign Mother of God strengthened a man suffering from alcoholism. In obedience to an order of the Theotokos, given to him by Saint Varlaam, he set out for the city of Serpoukhov, and this despite his paralyzed legs. Upon his arrival, he found the icon of the most pure Theotokos, and was healed from illness of the soul and of the body. Therefore, he fervently cried to God in thanksgiving: Alleluia.

Choir/Faithful: Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

IKOS III

Priest: You are an inexhaustible fountain, O Theotokos, a cup of heavenly gifts who always remains full. The people of the city of Serpoukhov, as well as all the Orthodox from every city and

village that come to your most wonderful icon, “The Inexhaustible Cup,” are thereby healed. For this cause, with grateful lips we call to you:

Choir/Faithful: Rejoice, vessel of holy water who dissolves our **sorrow**.

Rejoice, cup by whom we receive the joy of our **salvation**.

Rejoice, for you attend to our spiritual and **physical** ills.

Rejoice, for your prayers tame our **passions**.

Rejoice, for you give to each **according** to his needs.

Rejoice, for you give generously to **all** who repent.

Rejoice, for you have opened for us the treasury of your **compassion**.

Rejoice, for you show tender mercy to the **fallen** ones.

Rejoice, Theotokos, the Inex**haustible** Cup who quenches our **spiritual** thirst.

KONTAKION IV

Priest: People laden with passions and addictions, doubting of ever finding deliverance, come with repentance to your inexpressible mercy. Thus having been healed, with all their mind and soul they cry out in reverence to our Savior born of you: Alleluia.

Choir/Faithful: Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

IKOS IV

Priest: Upon seeing the sorrow and tears of parents, spouses and children whose family member is possessed by the passion of addiction, the Lord gave us your icon, O Theotokos. All that come to it receive consolation and spiritual joy. We therefore cry out to you with tears of gratitude:

Choir/Faithful: Rejoice, lamb, for you gave birth to the **Lamb** of God.

Rejoice, ladle who draws up joy from the source of immortality.

Rejoice, alleviation of the grief of sorrowing **mothers**.

Rejoice, abundant hope of the **hopeless**.

Rejoice, for you compassionately bestow joy upon **those** in grief.

Rejoice, for you graciously protect those that show you **reverence**.

Rejoice, for your helping hand is there for those that **seek** it.

Rejoice, for your heavenly protection shelters mortals **in** distress.

Rejoice, Theotokos, the Inex**haustible** Cup who quenches our **spiritual** thirst.

KONTAKION V

Priest: Most gracious Lady, you have shown your holy icon to be the star that leads to God. Beholding the icon and praying to you, we cry: O Theotokos, give healing to those that are suffering from drunkenness and any other illness of mind and body. Teach us all to praise your Son and our God, singing: Alleluia.

Choir/Faithful: Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

IKOS V

Priest: Mother of God, upon seeing the wonders granted to those that humbly venerate you, and the healings that pour forth from your icon that miraculously appeared in Serpoukhov, and also from those that were but copies of it, we rightfully cry out to you:

Choir/Faithful: Rejoice, for you protect the destitute that bow to you in supplication.

Rejoice, for you hear our **simple** prayers.

Rejoice, for you have blessed the city of **Serpoukhov**.

Rejoice, for you have revealed the glory of your miracles among

the people of **Moscow**.

Rejoice, strength and refuge of those that strive for **sobriety**.

Rejoice, almighty help to those that fight against the world, the flesh, Satan and **addictions**.

Rejoice, defender of those that lead a virtuous **life** in this world.

Rejoice, support of those that resist the lures of the **devil**.

Rejoice, Theotokos, the **Inexhaustible** Cup who quenches our **spiritual** thirst.

KONTAKION VI

Priest: Lady Theotokos, we proclaim your wonders that pour forth from your icon, “The Inexhaustible Cup.” With tears we pray to you: Save us all from the passion of drunkenness and from other addictions and sins. Teach us, O pure one, to abstain from all impurity, so that we may sing to God: Alleluia.

Choir/Faithful: Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

IKOS VI

Priest: In the light of the divine glory, you look at your Son, the Eternal God and Lord Jesus Christ, standing in the chalice as shown on your icon mysteriously called “The Inexhaustible Cup.” Hence, you graciously pour forth deliverance from drunkenness to those that run to you and bring this unceasing praise:

Choir/Faithful: Rejoice, for the angelic powers and the human race rejoice together **because** of you.

Rejoice, for your glory surpasses both human and **heavenly** praise.

Rejoice, for you have revealed to us the mystery of the Divine Eucharist by showing the image of your Son in the **chalice**.

Rejoice, for you show us the Lamb born of you, Who is always

eaten but **never** consumed.

Rejoice, for you fill our thirsty souls with water from the Fountain of **Immortality**.

Rejoice, through your maternal love, you receive the forlorn and **deserted**.

Rejoice, for you do not withhold your blessings even from the most **rejected** and despised.

Rejoice, by your compassion, you pull us all out of the pit of **perdition**.

Rejoice, Theotokos, the **Inexhaustible** Cup who quenches our **spiritual** thirst.

KONTAKION VII

Priest: A man wanted to thank you, O Theotokos, for healing him from alcoholism, and so he adorned your miraculous icon that is in Serpoukhov, singing to God from the depth of his heart: Alleluia.

Choir/Faithful: Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

IKOS VII

Priest: We see a new miracle from your holy icon, O Theotokos. The servant of God, Stephen, a victim of the disease of alcoholism, implored your maternal intercession and he has been granted a cure. In gratitude, he adorned your icon with rich gifts, falling down before it and calling to you with tears:

Choir/Faithful: Rejoice, life-giving fountain of **healing**.

Rejoice, heavenly cup of **divine** gifts.

Rejoice, river who carries **miracles**.

Rejoice, the sea into whom all our **passions** sink.

Rejoice, for you raise up those that fall under the weight of

drunkenness.

Rejoice, for you do not turn down gifts of **gratitude.**

Rejoice, for you hear the prayers of pious **people.**

Rejoice, for you grant us those of our petitions that are **good** for us.

Rejoice, Theotokos, the Inex**haustible** Cup who quenches our **spiritual** thirst.

KONTAKION VIII

Priest: It must be strange and incredible for unbelievers to hear that your icon, “The Inexhaustible Cup,” procures miracles. For those of us that believe in your words proclaimed about your first icon, “The grace of the One Who is born of me and my own blessings will always be with this icon,” this present icon also exudes your mercy. We therefore humbly venerate it, crying to God: Alleluia.

Choir/Faithful: Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

IKOS VIII

Priest: People suffering from alcoholism and addictions put all their hope in you, our Sovereign Lady. Mercifully bend down to our ills and our passions. Who but you, O Theotokos, can pull us out of the pit of perdition and of physical and spiritual misery? We bend our knees before you in prayer, and we cry out to you:

Choir/Faithful: Rejoice, for you do not reject the prayers of **those** that have sinned.

Rejoice, for you give your help to those that truly **ask** for it.

Rejoice, for you show the depth of your compassion for the **sinner.**

Rejoice, for you give courage to those that have **lost** all hope.

Rejoice, by your helping hand, you lift up those that suffer from **drunkenness**.

Rejoice, by your gift of grace, you console those that endure **suffering**.

Rejoice, by your motherly persistence, you nurse our physical and **emotional** ills.

Rejoice, by your merciful intercessions, you prepare our path to **salvation**.

Rejoice, Theotokos, the Inex**haustible** Cup who quenches our **spiritual** thirst.

KONTAKION IX

Priest: All the angels are amazed at your mercy, O Lord, for You have given sinful mankind a strong Protectress and helper. She tenderly looks down upon our weakness, heals those suffering from the bitter disease of drunkenness, and teaches the faithful to sing: Alleluia.

Choir/Faithful: Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

IKOS IX

Priest: The most exalted human mind cannot praise enough the appearance of your glorious icon, O Sovereign Lady. Nor can we sinners bring from our sinful lips a glorification worthy of our Protectress. Having seen countless miracles coming from your icon, we rejoice in our heart and spirit, and as is proper we proclaim:

Choir/Faithful: Rejoice, for you pour forth miracles from your holy **image**.

Rejoice, for you graciously deliver us from painful **conditions**.

Rejoice, for you put to shame those that **deny** you.

Rejoice, for you protect from every evil those that **run** to you.
Rejoice, for you fill our heart with love for your Son and **for**
yourself.

Rejoice, for you show us the narrow path of **repentance**.

Rejoice, for you help us to bring forth fruits from our **renewal**.

Rejoice, our only Mediatress before the **Just** Judge.

Rejoice, Theotokos, the Inex**haustible** Cup who quenches our
spiritual thirst.

KONTAKION X

Priest: Wishing to save all those that suffer from the disease of alcoholism and other addictions, you have shown us your wonderful icon, O Theotokos, so that all the suffering ones may come to your miraculous image. Then, after having obtained healing, they may gratefully cry out to God: Alleluia.

Choir/Faithful: Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

IKOS X

Priest: You are the wall and the shield, Lady Theotokos, for those that suffer from drunkenness, and also for all those that approach you with devotion and that piously venerate your holy icon. The Lord God gave us your icon to help us, and to heal us from destructive addictions. He thereby inspires us to sing to you:

Choir/Faithful: Rejoice, for you alleviate our sufferings and give hope to **those** that despair.

Rejoice, for you are the **healing** of our ills.

Rejoice, with your purity, you wipe away our **corruption**.

Rejoice, by your holiness, you **illumine** our gloom.

Rejoice, with your cloak of compassion, you clothe our mortal
body.

Rejoice, by your wonders, you **fortify** our prayers.

Rejoice, for you make us strong whereas **sin** made us weak.

Rejoice, for your radiance disperses the dark clouds of passion and desolation that **surround** us.

Rejoice, Theotokos, the Inex**haustible** Cup who quenches our **spiritual** thirst.

KONTAKION XI

Priest: Our pure Mother, do not despise our humble singing that we bring to you from the fullness of love and zeal, and do not turn away your face from those that suffer from drunkenness and desperation. Rather, help us, so that we also may be cleansed from every impurity and may rightly and justly sing to God: Alleluia.

Choir/Faithful: Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

IKOS XI

Priest: Most holy Lady, on your icon you are seen like a burning candle in rays of grace, surrounded by the assembly of saints and holy martyrs. Since you indicate to us the path of righteousness, we call on you and say:

Choir/Faithful: Rejoice, by the prayers of Saint Domnica, you save us from this world of **troubles** and desires.

Rejoice, by her pleading, you help us to overcome the **passions** of the flesh.

Rejoice, by the prayers of the holy martyr Varlaam, you fill our hearts with **pious** thoughts.

Rejoice, by his petitions, you illumine our **conscience**.

Rejoice, by the prayers of the holy martyr Paraskeva, you deliver those that suffer from **drunkenness**.

Rejoice, by her supplication, you call us to repentance and

watchfulness.

Rejoice, by the prayers of the holy martyr Antipas, you mellow the **bitter** heart.

Rejoice, by his righteous appeals, you save those that **call** on your name.

Rejoice, Theotokos, the Inex**haustible** Cup who quenches our **spiritual** thirst.

KONTAKIOIN XII

Priest: The grace that shines through your icon, “The Inexhaustible Cup,” calls to it all those that suffer. All the unfortunate, the widows and orphans, and especially those that are ill with the disease of alcoholism come to you. No one goes away empty-handed from your Inexhaustible Cup, O merciful Mother, but all are filled with divine gifts. After having received healing and help, they dutifully sing to you: Alleluia.

Choir/Faithful: Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

IKOS XII

Priest: Praising your wondrous work and great mercy that you bestow upon those that suffer from addictions, O compassionate Lady, we beg you: Save us sinners, have mercy upon us, show us the right path, and do not reject us for we seek your protection and call out to you:

Choir/Faithful: Rejoice, by the light of your wisdom, you direct us **to** your Son.

Rejoice, by your intercessions, you sustain us on the way to **sobriety**.

Rejoice, by the dew of your mercy, you deliver us from the passions of **alcohol** and drugs.

Rejoice, by your unceasing care, you heal us from all **addictions**.
Rejoice, for you are a speedy help to those that suffer from all
kinds of **dependency**.

Rejoice, for you support those that are even-**tempered**.

Rejoice, for you humble the **prideful**.

Rejoice, for you exalt the lowly and wish **salvation** to all.

Rejoice, Theotokos, the Inex**haustible** Cup who quenches our
spiritual thirst.

KONTAKION XIII

All-merciful Mother of our Lord and God, Jesus Christ, hear our
prayer and deliver us from all ills, physical and emotional.
Especially attend to your servants who suffer from this disease, so
that they may not perish, but might be saved and thus sing to God:
Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia.

Choir/Faithful: Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

*This kontakion is recited thrice; whereupon Ikos I and
Kontakion I are repeated.*

IKOS I

Priest: Angelic powers and multitudes of saints continually
glorify you, the Theotokos, the Queen of all, the intercessor for us
sinful Christians wallowing in lawlessness and remaining in sin.
It is for our consolation and salvation that you in your mercy gave
to us your miraculous icon. Looking at it, as at the one and only
star among a multitude of stars on a starlit night, we fall down
before you and cry from the very depth of our heart:

Choir/Faithful: Rejoice, dwelling-place of the un**approachable**
God.

Rejoice, our constant wonder in **goodness**.

Rejoice, for you make our sorrow wipe **away** our sins.

Rejoice, for you make our grief heal our **afflictions**.

Rejoice, through your miraculous icon, you give us your heavenly **mercy**.

Rejoice, through your intercession, you give peace to our **troubled** heart.

Rejoice, our wonderful **reconciliation** with God

Rejoice, Queen who opens the gates of **Paradise**.

Rejoice, Theotokos, the **Inexhaustible** Cup who quenches our **spiritual** thirst.

KONTAKION I

Choir/Faithful: A wonderful healing has been given to us through your holy **icon**, / O Sovereign Lady **Theotokos**. / By its appearance we have been delivered from spiritual and **physical** ills, / and from sorrowful **circumstances**. / We therefore offer our thankful **praise** to you, / O merciful Protectress whom we call “The **Inexhaustible** Cup.” / Bend down your ear and kindly hear our **lamentation**. / Cast down your eye and graciously **see** our tears. / Give your healing to those that suffer from **drunkenness**, / so that we may call to **you** with faith: //Rejoice, Theotokos, the **Inexhaustible** Cup who quenches our **spiritual** thirst.

Priest: Again and again on bended knees let us pray to the Most-holy Theotokos.

Choir/Faithful: Most-holy Theotokos pray to **God** for us.

Prayer to the Most-holy Theotokos

Priest: Hear our prayer, most holy Protectress, for you are patient with our impurities and charitable with your Cup of healing and hope which you pour forth upon those that venerate you. Those who struggle with addictions are acquainted with the false promises therein, and therefore with weeping beseech your compassion on this miserable state of being. Those who have husbands or wives, brothers or sisters, children or friends burdened with emotional problems, run to you for personal courage as well as to ask your intervention into the lives of loved ones. Have pity upon our twisted paths and heal us, O Theotokos, according to our need and faith and, most of all, according to your wonderful mercy. Let us find uncorrupted and unspoiled joy in your kindness, that we may worship your Son and our God with pure hearts, sober minds, and eternal gratitude.

Choir/Faithful: Amen.

The Litany

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

Choir/Faithful: Lord have mercy (3)

Priest: Again we pray for His Beatitude, Metropolitan _____, His (*Grace /Eminence*), (*Arch*) Bishop _____, for priests, deacons, and all other clergy; and for all our brethren in Christ.

Choir/Faithful: Lord have mercy (3)

Priest: Again we pray for the president of our country, for all civil authorities and for our armed forces everywhere.

Choir/Faithful: Lord have mercy (3)

Priest: 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/Faithful: Lord have mercy (3)

Priest: Furthermore, we pray for the people here present, awaiting from Thee great and bountiful mercies for all the brethren and for all Christians.

Choir/Faithful: Lord have mercy (3)

Priest: For Thou art a merciful God, and loves mankind, and unto Thee we ascribe glory: to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages.

Choir/Faithful: Amen.

Priest: Wisdom! Most Holy Theotokos, save us!

Choir/Faithful: More honorable than the Cherubim and more glorious beyond compare than the Seraphim! Without defilement you gave birth to God the Word; true Theotokos we magnify you.

Priest: Glory to Thee, O Christ our God and our hope, glory to Thee !

Choir/Faithful: 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 (3). Father bless.

Priest: [pronounces the dismissal and faithful venerate the Cross]

Most Holy Theotokos Save us!

Glory Be To God For All Things!