



**The Akathist Hymn
in Preparation for the Nativity of our Lord**

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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.

Kondak 1

CHOIR / FAITHFUL: Today the Virgin is on her **way**, to the cave / where she will give birth to the Eternal Word of God in an ineffable **manner**. / Rejoice, therefore, O **Universe** / when you **here** this news, / and glorify with the angels and the **shepherds** Him who will appear as a **new child**, // being **God** from all **eternity**.

Ikos 1

PRIEST: The sacred sayings of the Prophets reach their fulfillment. See, a Virgin gives birth to God in the flesh in the city of Bethlehem within the Cave; let all creation be enriched, be glad and dance; the Master of all things is at hand to live among slaves, ransoming us, who are subject to corruption, from the power of the evil stranger, who sing:

CHOIR / FAITHFUL: Rejoice! Who from the beginning **was** the Word.

Rejoice! God with God, and **Father's** Word.

Rejoice! Through Whom all **things** were made.

Rejoice! In Whom is Life, the **Light** of all.

Rejoice! Light in **darkness**.

Rejoice! Gloom's **dispeller**.

Rejoice! Baptist's **sender**.

Rejoice! **Baptism's** goal.

Rejoice! In the **world**, but unknown.

Rejoice! Receiver of those who **receive** You.

Rejoice! **Power** of new birth.

Rejoice! Word made flesh among us **dwelling**.
Rejoice! **New Child**, being God from all **eternity**.

Kondak 2

PRIEST: Order stills chaos. The Abyss is no longer void. Darkness has fled away. The Word of God, Who once spoke from without, is now heard within. The command, “Let there be” has been heard in the woman who replied, “Let it be done. Creation has learned at last to be itself, to become the cave that now holds its Creator, Echoing the angels’ hymn: Alleluia!

CHOIR / FAITHFUL: Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

Ikos 2

PRIEST: Dead Adam arise; clothe yourself with praise. Eve lift up your voice and shake off your shame. See, the bruised heel walks toward Bethlehem. In the House of Bread she casts away the stones of grief, feasts on the Father’s Fish Who has crushed the serpent’s head. Do not cease your hymn, skin-clad dust, or the stones themselves will cry out:

CHOIR / FAITHFUL: Rejoice! Planter of the **Tree** of Life.
Rejoice! Nailed upon the **Tree** of Death.
Rejoice! Fruit most desired in all the **garden**.
Rejoice! Delight to the enclosed **heart**’s eyes.
Rejoice! Whose feet have walked with ours **in** the dusk.
Rejoice! Who comes searching out our **hidden** shame.
Rejoice! Enemy to cunning **envy**.
Rejoice! Friend to **peace**-filled love.
Rejoice! **Sewer** of our skins.
Rejoice! **Looser** of our sins!

Rejoice! Companion in our **exile**.
Rejoice! Welcome home through **Eden's** doors.
Rejoice! **New Child**, being God from all **eternity**.

Kondak 3

PRIEST: Abraham was called out from his father's house and from his own country; Now Joseph returns to the land of his line, to David's house. Sarah once laughed at the thought of pleasure; Mary now greets the sword of sorrow, forgetting anguish for the Child to be born, Magnifying the Lord and crying: Alleluia!

CHOIR / FAITHFUL: Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

Ikos 3

PRIEST: Yielding to Melchizedek, Abraham bows; the ancestor is greeted by the one without ancestors. The patriarch tithes his spoils; Salem's King offers bread and wine. Though we have a beginning we dare to cry to the One without beginning; though we have few treasures we dare to sing to the Giver of every good thing:

CHOIR / FAITHFUL: Rejoice! Who have called us out to a **new** land.

Rejoice! Who have made of us a great **nation**.

Rejoice! Faithful to **covenant**.

Rejoice! Judge of covenant **breakers**.

Rejoice! Counted among **Abraham's** seed.

Rejoice! Promiser and **promised** in One.

Rejoice! Hagar's **consolation**.

Rejoice! Ishmael's **protection**.

Rejoice! Whose providence draws **all** to Yourself.

Rejoice! Who raises sons of Abraham from the **stoniest** of hearts.

Rejoice! Whose blessings are more than the sands of the **seashore**.
Rejoice! The Host who makes Himself guest in the **heat** of our days.
Rejoice! **New Child**, being God from all **eternity**.

Kondak 4

PRIEST: The Magi, sons of Chaldea, are called out from their own country; shepherds are herded by angels through the cave's narrow gate. A manger offers bestial men celestial Food. Isaac is coming again to be offered by the God Who will Himself provide the Offering to those who sing: Alleluia!

CHOIR / FAITHFUL: Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

Ikos 4

PRIEST: Jacob hid in skins to win his father's blessing; the Word comes buried in the field of the flesh to restore us to our Father's house. Jacob's trickery won him lordship, the cunning of Jacob's offspring defeats the empty power of Death. Tell us, O bold Rebekah's daughter, who journeys towards Bethlehem, how to sing:

CHOIR / FAITHFUL: Rejoice! Field and field's **Fruit** in one.
Rejoice! Aroma filling the Father's **nostrils** with joy.
Rejoice! Fatness of the earth, plenty and **grain** and wine.
Rejoice! Blessing of those who **bless** You.
Rejoice! Curse of those who **curse** You.
Rejoice! Laborer for your **beloveds'** love.
Rejoice! Winner of false **Laban's** flocks.
Rejoice! Shepherd of **many** sheep.
Rejoice! Who marks us as we **wrestle**.
Rejoice! Whom Jacob would not let go without a **blessing**.
Rejoice! Father of the **Twelve** Tribes.

Rejoice! Lover of all **earth's** tribes.

Rejoice! **New** Child, being God from all **eternity**.

Kondak 5

PRIEST: Every service Joseph rendered his master, Pharaoh; now Caesar commands a new Joseph, wending to Bethlehem to obey. The lust of Potiphar's wife proved the virtue of the first; the second preserves the Virgin's honor intact. Finding freedom through virtue they sing: Alleluia!

CHOIR / FAITHFUL: Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

Ikos 5

PRIEST: Very meek, humblest of men, Moses made himself an earth to receive the seed of your Word. New Moses, humble born, manger fed: break open the earth of our hearts to the rain of your mercy, make our journey to Bethlehem an exodus from sin, opening our mouths wide to sing:

CHOIR / FAITHFUL: Rejoice! Fire that does **not** consume.

Rejoice! Name **beyond** all names.

Rejoice! Confidence of the **stammerer**.

Rejoice! Hardener of the **hardened** heart.

Rejoice! Pillar of **Cloud** by day.

Rejoice! Pillar of **Fire** by night.

Rejoice! **Lifter** of the sea.

Rejoice! Feeder of the **manna**.

Rejoice! Water **flowing** from the rock.

Rejoice! **Giver** of the Law.

Rejoice! Pourer of the **Spirit**.

Rejoice! Priest and **Sacrifice**.

Rejoice! **New Child**, being God from all **eternity**.

Kondak 6

PRIEST: Into the promised land within the cave, O Shepherds go and spy for us: see there the new Joshua spun from the scarlet blood of another, though virgin, Rahab. Bring back to us tidings of great joy, of Death falling fainthearted before those who sing: Alleluia!

CHOIR / FAITHFUL: Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

Ikos 6

PRIEST: Rightly judge, O tribes, for the Ark now journeys to tabernacle in a cave. Join with our Deborah's hymn, magnify the One who gave courage to Jael and dew to Gideon, strength to Samson, and to Ruth her steadfast love. Come down, O Ark, to your new Samuel, teaching us to chant:

CHOIR / FAITHFUL: Rejoice! Man of the drawn sword upon the **holy** ground.

Rejoice! Trumpet blast leveling the **walls** of sin.

Rejoice! **Sun**-stilling Word.

Rejoice! **Conquest** of the land.

Rejoice! Jordan's **source** and joy.

Rejoice! Only **just** Judge.

Rejoice! Who has dropped the **heavens**.

Rejoice! Cloud raining **water** on the land.

Rejoice! Avenger against the **Philistine**.

Rejoice! Breaker of every **Baal**.

Rejoice! Solace of **widows**.

Rejoice! New Boaz **wedding** Ruth.

Rejoice! **New Child**, being God from all **eternity**.

Kondak 7

PRIEST: Go to David's city, to see David's Lord born as his son. See his enemies like straw beneath his feet, see his friends the poor and humble, the stranger and the foreigner, the lowly raised up high, the mighty cast down, the hungry filled with good things, and heaven joining earth to proclaim: Alleluia!

CHOIR / FAITHFUL: Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

Ikos 7

PRIEST: In Bathsheba's son God wove wisdom from the strands of David's sin. Now a new Solomon will lie before the Ark, no longer the Ark's worshiper, but its Treasure and its Glory. Wisdom Himself comes to be born, woven not of tangled flesh but of Spirit and virgin awe, leading us to pray:

CHOIR / FAITHFUL: Rejoice! Before Whom **David** danced.

Rejoice! Cause of **sweet**-sung psalm.

Rejoice! Glory of the **Temple**.

Rejoice! Borne between the **cherubim**.

Rejoice! Wisdom **foolish** to the wise.

Rejoice! Kingship lowly to the **lordly**.

Rejoice! Bread on which the **princes** feast.

Rejoice! Cleansing **Blood** for priests.

Rejoice! Wealth beyond **measure**.

Rejoice! **Wonder** of the world.

Rejoice! For Whom **prophets** spoke.

Rejoice! To Whom kingly **praise** is due.

Rejoice! **New Child**, being God from all **eternity**.

Kondak 8

PRIEST: Not now to heaven does a chariot bear Elijah; but upon the earth the fiery Virgin journeys, unconsumed, to Bethlehem. The Spirit, no longer apportioned as once to Elisha, is poured out without measure upon all who sing: Alleluia!

CHOIR / FAITHFUL: Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia

Ikos 8

PRIEST: Into evil have I been taken captive, banished by sin. My heart's walls are broken down and my body's temple lies ruined. Where is Zerubbabel, David's son to obey the king's decree? Where is priestly Ezra to sacrifice for mercy's sake? Where is Nehemiah to mourn for me? He is here, emptied into flesh, self-exiled for love of the cast out who proclaim:

CHOIR / FAITHFUL: Rejoice! Yearned for by **B**abylon's streams.
Rejoice! Comfort of the **w**eeping.
Rejoice! Forsaken but never forsaking.
Rejoice! Faithful to a faithless **p**eople.
Rejoice! Nearby when we are **f**ar away.
Rejoice! Joy hidden within the **a**shes.
Rejoice! Secret food for **t**hose who fast.
Rejoice! Who hears the rending **o**f the robe.
Rejoice! Strength of the **r**emnant.
Rejoice! Hearth aflame for the **r**eturner.
Rejoice! Temple and temple-**b**uilder.
Rejoice! **R**estorer of the Law.
Rejoice! **N**ew Child, being God from all **e**ternity.

Kondak 9

PRIEST: Shall Judith now slay the tyrant death? See she comes, beautiful of face, prudent of heart, like Esther in majesty, steadfast like Ruth, the Virgin widow whose sword is her own Son who wields Himself for all who chant: Alleluia!

CHOIR / FAITHFUL: Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia

Ikos 9

PRIEST: Out of Isaiah's mouth the Lord decrees: "Understand you nations and submit, for God is with us!" Emmanuel is arriving, Jesse's rod is blossoming, the Virgin is bearing and all creation is rejoicing:

CHOIR / FAITHFUL: Rejoice! Child **born** for us.

Rejoice! Son **given** for us.

Rejoice! Whose shoulders bear the **Government**.

Rejoice! Angel of Great **Counsel**.

Rejoice! Wonderful **Counselor**.

Rejoice! **Mighty** God.

Rejoice! **Potentate**.

Rejoice! **Prince** of Peace.

Rejoice! Father of the **Age** to Come.

Rejoice! Upholder of the Throne from **Age** to Age.

Rejoice! Judge of the lowly with **justice**.

Rejoice! Little Child who **leads** us.

Rejoice! **New** Child, being God from all **eternity**.

Kondak 10

PRIEST: Not until this moment has Jeremiah's word been understood: this is our God, and there shall be no other, this is our God, who appeared upon earth, and lived among men. Lord, we give You glory

as we hymn: Alleluia!

CHOIR / FAITHFUL: Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia

Ikos 10

PRIEST: Human hand did not cut the stone that comes now to be born, and human help did not save the three youths in Babylon's fire. Teach us, Daniel, lead us young men, as we cry out to the Savior:

CHOIR / FAITHFUL: Rejoice! Lord God of our Fathers, **worthy** of all praise.

Rejoice! Just in **all** that you do.

Rejoice! **Heaven's** Lord.

Rejoice! **Angels'** King.

Rejoice! Maker of the **sun** and moon.

Rejoice! Creator of the stars of **heaven**.

Rejoice! Who send us fire and hail, **frost** and snow.

Rejoice! Glorified in winter cold and **summer** heat.

Rejoice! Source of springs, seas and **rivers**.

Rejoice! Who care for birds of the air, for beasts and **cattle**.

Rejoice! Son of Man for the **sons** of men.

Rejoice! Whose mercy endures **forever**.

Rejoice! **New** Child, being God from all **eternity**.

Kondak 11

PRIEST: Early is the rain that falls for our vindication, says Joel, foreshadowing the Spirit's overshadowing of the Virgin soil. O Hosea marry, Amos warn, Habakkuk look upon the vision, and let the whole company cry out with us: Alleluia!

CHOIR / FAITHFUL: Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia

Ikos 11

PRIEST: Rule us, protect us, hear our prayers, O Child not yet born, Ancient of Days. We have arisen to plead before the stony mountain; hear us O hills; open up the cave into which we might pour our cries to the one Micah sees in Bethlehem, and says:

CHOIR / FAITHFUL: Rejoice! Offshoot of the house of **Ephrata**.

Rejoice! Ruler of **Israel**.

Rejoice! Whose goings out are from **age** to age.

Rejoice! Who waits upon the woman to **give** birth.

Rejoice! Who awaits the return of your **brethren**.

Rejoice! Father of the sons of **Israel**.

Rejoice! **Feeder** of the flock.

Rejoice! **Majesty** of the Name.

Rejoice! **Gatherer** of the bruised.

Rejoice! Reigning from Mount **Zion**.

Rejoice! Who make small **Bethlehem** great.

Rejoice! Lord of Hosts, speaking in the **silent** cave.

Rejoice! **New** Child, being God from all **eternity**.

Kondak 12

PRIEST: Who speaks through unclean Barlaam's lips? The Holy Spirit proclaims Jacob's fair houses, and the shady groves of Israel, the gardens, the river to which shall come, following the star he saw, Barlaam's Magi heirs through whom we gentiles now sing: Alleluia!

CHOIR / FAITHFUL: Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia

Ikos 12

PRIEST: A day is coming, says Zechariah, when the Lord himself shall go forth and fight, shall stand upon the Mount of Olives before Jerusalem, and on that day shall He be proclaimed king over all the earth. That day now dawns and the little Child leads his army of shepherds and his hosts of angels to sing with us:

CHOIR / FAITHFUL: Rejoice! Who hurls the wealth of Tyre **into** the sea.

Rejoice! Encamped among the remnant of **Judah**.

Rejoice! Who calls the daughter of **Zion** to rejoice.

Rejoice! Riding triumphant **upon** the foal.

Rejoice! Who cuts off the chariot from **Ephraim**.

Rejoice! Whose colt turns back the warhorse from **Jerusalem**.

Rejoice! Your dominion is from **sea** to sea.

Rejoice! You rule from the River to the **ends** of the earth.

Rejoice! Blood of the **covenant**.

Rejoice! Freedom of captives from the **waterless** pit.

Rejoice! Whose grain makes the young men **flourish**.

Rejoice! Whose wine restores the **maidens**.

Rejoice! **New** Child, being God from all **eternity**.

Kondak 13

PRIEST: Your prophets stilled their voices after Malachi foresaw Elijah's sending. Now the great day, the awesome day is coming with Elijah's birth in John, whose baptizing will prepare the world to cry: Alleluia!(3X)

CHOIR / FAITHFUL: Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia

(This Kondak is repeated 3 times, followed by Ikos 1 and Kondak 1)

Ikos 1

PRIEST: The sacred sayings of the Prophets reach their fulfillment. See, a Virgin gives birth to God in the flesh in the city of Bethlehem within the Cave; let all creation be enriched, be glad and dance; the Master of all things is at hand to live among slaves, ransoming us, who are subject to corruption, from the power of the evil stranger, who sing:

CHOIR / FAITHFUL: Rejoice! Who from the beginning was the Word.

Rejoice! God with God, and **Father's** Word.

Rejoice! Through Whom all **things** were made.

Rejoice! In Whom is Life, the **Light** of all.

Rejoice! Light in **darkness**.

Rejoice! Gloom's **dispeller**.

Rejoice! Baptist's **sender**.

Rejoice! **Baptism's** goal.

Rejoice! In the **world**, but unknown.

Rejoice! Receiver of those who **receive** You.

Rejoice! **Power** of new birth.

Rejoice! Word made flesh among us **dwelling**.

Rejoice! **New** Child, being God from all **eternity**.

Kondak 1

CHOIR / FAITHFUL: Today the Virgin is on her **way**, to the cave / where she will give birth to the Eternal Word of God in an ineffable **manner**. / Rejoice, therefore, O **Universe** / when you **here** this news, / and glorify with the angels and the **shepherds** Him who will appear as a **new** child, // being **God** from all **eternity**.

PRIEST: Again and again on bended knees let us pray to Our Lord and

Savior Jesus Christ.

CHOIR/FAITHFUL: O Lord and Savior Jesus Christ have **Mercy** on us.

Prayer to Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ

PRIEST: Lord Jesus Christ, our Savior, Who comes to be born an infant in condescension to the sins of the human race, we confess that we have no gifts to offer You like the Magi and no place for You like the animals in the manger. We have done nothing to deserve Your goodness — nothing not tainted by pride — and we trust only in Your great mercy to make us worthy though unworthy of Your glorious Nativity. O King of kings, accept the gifts of our repentance and commitment that we may, in gratitude, worship You under the illumination of the star of Bethlehem. Forgive us and reconcile us with Your Holy Church that we may love one another as You have loved us. Amen.

CHOIR / FAITHFUL: Amen.

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]

***O Lord God and Savior Jesus Christ
Have Mercy on us!***