

# **Akathist Hymn To Holy Great Martyr Catherine of Alexandria**



**For unmarried women,  
For overcoming the lust of our flesh, our passionate  
attachment to the world and the wiles of the evil spirit**

## **Kontakion I**

With songs of praise let us hymn Catherine, the bride of Christ, the virgin martyr chosen from the imperial house and crowned in Heaven; for she is the most glorious vanquisher of the tyrant, the most wise instructor of philosophers, and a guide to Christ for many. As you have boldness before the Lord, O great martyr Catherine, mercifully incline Him to the right needful petitions of those who cry out to you:

**Rejoice, O Catherine, most wise bride of Christ!**

## **Ikos I**

Having preserved a purity equal to that of the Angels, O Holy virgin Catherine, you hasten to the Choirs of the Angels, and with the Angels you have been accounted worthy of divine illumination; and while chanting with them a hymn to the Trinity in the Heavens, listen to us on earth, who chant these things:

Rejoice, you from infancy was set aside as a vessel of grace by the election of God the Father,

Rejoice, you through the wondrous economy of God were instructed in the understanding of the greatness and glory of Christ the Son of God!

Rejoice, wondrous sign of the foreknowledge of God, which was made manifest in you;

Rejoice, for when the Holy Spirit called you, you earnestly went to His sanctity!

Rejoice, you were illumined by the light of pious faith;

Rejoice, you were reborn in the Holy font!

Rejoice, honored dwelling-place of the sanctity of the Spirit;

Rejoice, fulfillment of the sufferings of Christ!

Rejoice, you on earth washed your garments in the Blood of the Lamb;

Rejoice, you joined with the chorus with the Holy virgins in Heaven!

Rejoice, most radiant star, shining with the glory of miracles in the firmament of the Church;

Rejoice, you are like a dove, resplendent with meekness in the blessed kingdom of Christ!

**Rejoice, O Catherine, most wise bride of Christ!**

## **Kontakion II**

Seeing herself found worthy to receive a vision, the blessed Catherine went to the Holy elder who before had entrusted the icon of the Mother of God to her; and she recounted to him how Christ, Who had appeared to her with His all-Holy Mother, had hid His face from her, calling her foolish, poor and of mean birth, until such time as she forsook the infamy of idolatry. And hearing this, the venerable one instructed her in the mysteries of the Faith and baptized her; and in the renewal

of the Spirit, she chanted to God in thanksgiving: **Alleluia!**  
(**People sing Alleluia!**)

## **Ikos II**

Having acquired in her spiritual rebirth a good intellect, true nobility and imperishable riches, the Holy Catherine was shown to be worthy of Christ the Heavenly Bridegroom, appearing again to her, loved her and betrothed her to Himself with the ring He gave her; and recognizing the magnitude of God's good pleasure, she was so stricken with love for Him that she no longer pondered earthly things, but thought unceasingly of her Beloved. Having been accounted worthy of such grace, listen to us who chant to you:

Rejoice, for in the natural wisdom given you, you looked to God for spiritual gifts which transcend nature;

Rejoice, for you make foolish the wisdom, glory and riches of the world!

Rejoice, for you did not wish to take to you a bridegroom from among the men of the world;

Rejoice, you, who in a vision, were betrothed by the Lord Christ Himself as His unblemished bride!

Rejoice, for you have the all-pure Mother of God herself as guarantor for you and mediator with God the Son of God;

Rejoice, for you truly received from Christ a most marvelous ring for your right hand, as a token of your betrothal to your Heavenly Bridegroom!

Rejoice, for having been transformed by a wondrous transformation, you put aside all thought of worldly things; Rejoice, for you diligently pursue the fragrance of the myrrh of Christ!

Rejoice, good lover of the immortal Bridegroom; Rejoice, receptacle of the fragrance of the Most High! Rejoice, olive tree planted in the house of God; Rejoice, cedar of Lebanon growing to a great height!

**Rejoice, O Catherine, most wise bride of Christ!**

### **Kontakion III**

The power of the Most High then gave to the Holy Catherine the boldness fearlessly to denounce the impious Emperor Maximinus for offering sacrifices unto idols; and he was struck mute for many hours, unable to deny her words; and she chanted unto God in thanksgiving: **Alleluia! (People sing Alleluia!)**

### **Ikos III**

Possessed of wisdom imparted to her from on high, when the impious Emperor set her before himself the Holy Catherine confessed herself to be an emperor's daughter, and one who had mastered well the sciences of philosophy and rhetoric; and furthermore, as an open rejection of the worship of idols, she

declared herself to be the bride of Christ. Mindful therefore of your bold confession, we offer up to you such things as these:

Rejoice, bee who escaped by flight the reek of idolatry;  
Rejoice, dove, you strove earnestly to preserve the purity of your soul and body!

Rejoice, you, having strained your whole mind to comprehend the mysteries of salvation in the Lord Christ, were enriched with spiritual treasures;

Rejoice, for, exceeding zealous for the glory of Christ your Heavenly Bridegroom, you strove in every way to lure erring people into the net of the Faith of Christ! Rejoice, for, guided by the mighty arm of Christ, you escaped the tempest of idolatry

Rejoice, for, directed by the divine commandments of the Master and afire with love for Him, you earnestly ran to the struggles that awaited you!

Rejoice, for invested with divine help, you courageously make your stand before the godless tribunal;

Rejoice, for by your mighty boldness you discouraged the tyrannical emperor himself!

Rejoice, fortress of faith erected by Christ to set unbelief at nothing;

Rejoice, most radiant morning-star, heralding the dawn of salvation for those who through you came to believe on Christ!

Rejoice, athlete, you overcame the ruler of this world as a beacon overcomes darkness;

Rejoice, sanctified wall of the fold, guarding the sheep of Christ against the ravening's of the noetic wolf!

**Rejoice, O Catherine, most wise bride of Christ!**

### **Kontakion IV**

Stirring up a tempest of wrath against the Holy virgin, the emperor said to her: "Speak no evil to me against our gods!" But the Holy Catherine replied: "If you desire to shake the darkness of delusion from the eyes of your soul, understand that your gods are evil, and accept the true God whose name, when merely uttered, or whose Cross, when traced in the air, drives away and destroys your gods. If you command, I shall disclose to you the Truth, chanting unto God: **Alleluia!**  
**(People sing Alleluia!)**

### **Ikos IV**

Hearing your wise and generous reply concerning the Faith of Christ, and fearing that he be outsmarted by you, O most splendid maiden, the impious Emperor assembled wise men, fifty in number, from the far-flung regions of his realm, to argue with you. But strengthened and assured of victory by the Archangel Michael, you rejoiced greatly and resolutely entered into debate with them. Wherefore, accept from us this praise: Rejoice, for you were informed by the archangel concerning your victorious triumph over your opponents;

Rejoice, for, possessed of divine knowledge from Heaven,  
you boldly and courageously put to shame the proponents  
of knowledge falsely so called!

Rejoice, for with a purified heart you received the grace of  
the Spirit of truth;

Rejoice, for having made yourself steadfast by your manner  
of life and constant reasoning, you trampled the falsehoods  
of the noetic foe underfoot!

Rejoice, melodious organ of the Spirit; Rejoice,  
revealer of the mind of Christ!

Rejoice, you acquired the cherubim's knowledge of God;  
Rejoice, you were inflamed with the seraphim's love for  
God!

Rejoice, most wise of the wise;

Rejoice, you who sharpened the sword of the Spirit against  
unbelief!

Rejoice, dispeller of impiety; Rejoice,  
instructor of the faithful!

**Rejoice, O Catherine, most wise bride of Christ!**

### **Kontakion V**

You were like a Divinely radiant star, O Catherine, having by  
your wise words prevailed in argument over the fifty  
rhetoricians and guided them to the Christian path that leads to  
Christ God, the Sun of righteousness, Who shone forth from the



Virgin; but, condemned for Christ's sake to immolation and accompanied on their way by your prayers, they joyously entered the fire, chanting: **Alleluia! (People sing Alleluia!)**

### **Ikos V**

Seeing his edicts spurned and his exhortations ignored, the emperor turned to deceit, that he might seduce you with blandishments, O blessed Catherine, promising to give you half of his kingdom. But, preferring the Faith to earthly treasures, and loving Christ your Bridegroom more than an earthly kingdom, and the vesture of martyrdom more than royal purple, you rejected his vain words. Wherefore, we offer up to you these praises:

Rejoice, O virgin you denounced falsehood;  
Rejoice, you trampled the perfidious serpent underfoot!  
Rejoice, for you turned the pernicious doctrine of the infidels into a weapon for their destruction;  
Rejoice, for, having stripped the gods they worshipped of their veneration, you held them up to mockery!  
Rejoice, for the fifty-member council of those who boasted themselves to be wise you wisely set at naught;  
Rejoice, for you unmasked the foolishness of their earthly wisdom before the whole multitude!  
Rejoice, clarion of the Spirit, emitting the sound of true theology;

Rejoice, good confession of the Faith! Rejoice,  
splendor of the light of the Gospel; Rejoice,  
keeper of eternal laws!

Rejoice, you ascended the mountain of divine vision;  
Rejoice, for the light of Christ having illumined those who  
disputed with you with faith, receive them unto salvation!

**Rejoice, O Catherine, most wise bride of Christ!**

### **Kontakion VI**

Zealous to imitate the preachers and God-bearing apostles, you  
boldly proclaim Christ the true God in the tyrant's presence, and  
throughout your floggings and imprisonment you did chant to  
Him: **Alleluia! (People sing Alleluia!)**

### **Ikos VI**

He Who shone the effulgence of true knowledge into your heart  
drove away the gloom of tribulations and did not leave you to  
starve, sending food to you by means of a dove; neither did He  
permit you to be afflicted by your pangs, for in prison He visited  
you Himself, giving you strength and promising you many  
crowns. And you were strengthened all the more by Him, O you  
who are patient of heart, and the Empress Augusta, the General  
Porphyrius and the soldiers who came to you, you converted to  
the light of the Christian Faith, teaching them to chant these  
things to you:

Rejoice, chalice of love divine;  
Rejoice, for, imitating Christ, you willingly go forth to  
suffer!  
Rejoice, hard adamant;  
Rejoice, all-honorable source of ineffable miracles!  
Rejoice, you eliminated the enemy by your endurance;  
Rejoice, you bear the wounds of the Lord upon your body!  
Rejoice, the Empress Augusta and those who accompanied  
her showed the way to the feat of martyrdom; Rejoice, for  
you were a light amid the darkness! Rejoice, for the Lord  
Himself, the Light of the world, revealed Himself to you  
when you were in prison; Rejoice, speedy liberator from  
the bonds of sin! Rejoice, swift healer of the sick; Rejoice,  
aid of our salvation!

**Rejoice, O Catherine, most wise bride of Christ!**

### **Kontakion VII**

The godless Emperor, wishing to lure you into idolatrous  
worship abominable to God, again set snares for you, O all-wise  
one, seeking to distract you by falsely praising your beauty; but  
you call beauty a transient thing and one that quickly pass, and  
confessing Christ to be the living and true God you did chant  
unto Him: **Alleluia! (People sing Alleluia!)**

## Ikos VII

The emperor displayed his wrath and inhumanity anew when he commanded the governor to break your pure, virginal and holy body upon the wheel; but by the wondrous hand of the Angel, you were straightway loosed without having sustained any harm, the wheel suddenly broke apart and in its breaking many unbelievers were slain. Seeing this, the emperor was stricken with terror, and the multitude of the people who were there present cried aloud: "Great is the God of the Christians!" And marveling at this, we cry out to you:

Rejoice, for having embraced the immaterial life, you bravely surrendered the beauty of your body to be laid waste;

Rejoice, for on your body you caused the radiance of God to blossom forth!

Rejoice, for you gave your unblemished body over to grievous torments out of love for your Creator;

Rejoice, for in the strength of that love you were shown to be victorious, unbowed by fear or the cruelty of torture!

Rejoice, for in divinely wise manner you preferred to receive grievous beatings on your body, for the sake of the superiority of spiritual comeliness;

Rejoice, for through the wounds you suffered for Christ's sake you desired to be adorned in vesture of truly royal purple!

Rejoice, for you prevailed over the sly words and temptations of the tyrant;

Rejoice, for you cut down the cruel one's hopes of  
weakening the strength of your resolve!  
Rejoice, O martyr, sight precious and marvelous to the  
Angels;  
Rejoice, glory of companies of athletes!  
Rejoice, splendid victory over the foe; Rejoice,  
fear of the infidels!

**Rejoice, O Catherine, most wise bride of Christ!**

### **Kontakion VIII**

Beholding the strange renunciation of glory and the suffering for  
Christ of the empress, the general and his soldiers, let us take  
ourselves far away from the world and the flesh, and soar aloft  
to the knowledge of God. For He is the beauty, the glory and  
crown of us who sing: **Alleluia! (People sing Alleluia!)**

### **Ikos VIII**

Jesus became for you your whole delight and desire, O Holy  
Catherine; for you sweetly endured the bitter torment for His  
sake, and trampled underfoot the scepter offered you, preferring  
the recompense that is to come. Wherefore, accept from us these  
praises:

Rejoice, for through your divinely wise teachings the  
empress, believing, made haste to piety;

Rejoice, for having endured the painful tearing away of her breasts and decapitation by the sword, through you she was manifestly deemed worthy of the everlasting kingdom of Heaven!

Rejoice, most radiant moon, driving away the gloom of unbelief from those who walk by night;

Rejoice, you illumined the companies of soldiers, benighted by idolatry, with your virtues as with the rays of the sun!

Rejoice, dove of the comely Bridegroom that sang in the wilderness of this world below;

Rejoice, you gladdened the Master of the Heavenly hosts with the sweet song of your confession!

Rejoice, you perfumed the garments of Christ with sweet fragrance;

Rejoice, you sought Him, Who was begotten before the everlasting hills like a hart upon the mountains of spices!

Rejoice, for you sailed easily and swiftly over the tumult of the sea of this world;

Rejoice, for you arrived at the calm haven of ever-blessed life!

Rejoice, for by the salvation of those who were close to you, sent great and divers' riches before you unto Christ;

Rejoice, for you undertook the struggle of suffering out of love for Christ!

**Rejoice, O Catherine, most wise bride of Christ!**

## **Kontakion IX**

Every Angelic being was gladdened with joy, beholding you, O most glorious Catherine, victorious over the dark prince of this world; and it welcomed you into the Heavens as a triumphant commander preceded by a company of martyrs, and chanted hymns of victory, crying aloud to God: **Alleluia!**  
**(People sing Alleluia!)**

## **Ikos IX**

The lips of the most eloquent of orators were stopped, for they were unable to oppose your words, and in silence they rendered honor to your gifts. And although we are weak, yet do we dare to open our lips in your praise, offering to you this hymn:

Rejoice, melodious instrument of the Holy Spirit;  
Rejoice, you acquired the mind of Christ!  
Rejoice, ray of ineffable splendor; Rejoice, you  
made plain divine dogmas!  
Rejoice, adornment and confirmation of the city of  
Alexandria;  
Rejoice, beauty and boast of Mount Sinai!  
Rejoice, you imitated the zeal of Elijah;  
Rejoice, you by the purity of your soul and body revealed  
the unburnt bush!  
Rejoice, you in purity loved Him Who is pure; Rejoice,  
O most glorious one who release those held captive by  
the dark foe!

Rejoice, you are resplendent with the comeliness of virginity and perfumed martyrdom with the graces; Rejoice, boast of martyrs and teacher of piety!

**Rejoice, O Catherine, most wise bride of Christ!**

### **Kontakion X**

Desiring to save your soul, you disdained your body, O Catherine, and having given the tyrant your consent to be beheaded, you joyously departed, chanting to Christ God, your immortal Bridegroom: **Alleluia! (People sing Alleluia!)**

### **Ikos X**

A firm and unassailable bulwark you showed to the women who accompanied you and with lamentation called you hard-hearted and indifferent to yourself, O bride of Christ, for you did not spare your tender life in the bloom of its youth, in that you spurned the earthly kingdom and goods offered you. But you forbade their unprofitable wailing and vain words, hastening all the more swiftly to unite yourself to your Beloved through death; and for His sake you heard such things as these cried aloud:

Rejoice, you gladly bowed your head beneath the sword for the sake of Christ, the Head of the Church;



Rejoice, you with patience brought to a goodly end the course of your struggle!

Rejoice, you were not dissuaded from the path of the confession of Christ by tribulation, wounds or the sword; Rejoice, you preserved the flame of love unquenched amid the streams of your blood!

Rejoice, good virgin maiden, for you magnificently adorned yourself with most sacred sufferings;

Rejoice, for as was meet you entered into the Heavenly bridal chamber of Christ!

Rejoice, most radiant maiden, for having loved the One you desired, you followed after Him, completing a most difficult course;

Rejoice, for by your blood you manifestly cried out to Christ your Bridegroom: 'I flee to the fragrance of your noetic myrrh which has flowed forth, O my Bridegroom!'

Rejoice, for you retired to splendid mansions, arrayed in bridal vesture, holding a virgin's lamp in your right hand, and your decapitated head in your left;

Rejoice, for your divinely wise prayer was acceptable to God; for those who call upon your name with faith does the Master save from temptations, granting them good health and delivering them from afflictions of soul and body!

Rejoice, adornment of martyrs; Rejoice, mighty refuge of Christians!

**Rejoice, O Catherine, most wise bride of Christ!**

## **Kontakion XI**

We have dared to offer you hymnody of praise, and if it be that discourse fails, the mind is at a loss what to say; yet your most wise discourse, which rescued many from ignorance and the infamy of idolatry, moves us to chant to God, Who rendered your mighty deeds wondrous: **Alleluia! (People sing Alleluia!)**

## **Ikos XI**

Beholding you to be a luminous candle extinguished by decapitation, yet set up radiant upon a Heavenly candlestick before the throne of the Holy Trinity, the Holy Angels worshipped Him Who lives forever; and having received a command from the Master, they buried your virginal body on Mount Sinai, that, as you yourself desired, so as not to be seen by the enemies of the Lord. And we joyously send up this hymn to you:

Rejoice, sun-like virgin who ascended to the Heavens in spirit;

Rejoice, you attained unto the Heavenly Zion!

Rejoice, crown of beauty in the hand of the Lord; Rejoice, cup drawing forth joy from the abundance of the house of God!

Rejoice, you drew nigh in spirit to the everlasting tabernacle not fashioned by the hands of men; Rejoice, for

in your incorrupt body you rest on the mountain of the law,  
where the movement of the God of Sinai had been seen!  
Rejoice, O virgin who has followed in the train of the  
ruling Virgin Queen who is arrayed in vesture of unwoven  
gold, adorned in varied colors;  
Rejoice, for through you is the Mother of Life worthily  
hymned in the midst of timbrel-playing maidens!  
Rejoice, for on you shines the majesty of Christ God;  
Rejoice, intercessor before the eternal throne!  
Rejoice, you from the temple of the universe watches over  
those who pray to you;  
Rejoice, incense of prayers, offered up on our behalf, being  
well-pleasing to the Master!

**Rejoice, O Catherine, most wise bride of Christ!**

### **Kontakion XII**

Grace has been given you by God to guide men to the  
knowledge of His truth which is hidden in mystery, and to grant  
requests which are profitable. Wherefore, we entreat you with  
compunction, O wise virgin: illumine the eyes of our minds and  
set forth for us a passable way to Heaven, that with you we may  
hymn the one Source of wisdom, now and for all ages, chanting:  
**Alleluia! (People sing Alleluia!)**

## **Ikos XII**

Hymning the mighty struggles of your martyrdom, we praise you as an animate vessel of the salvation of men; for through your knowledge, God, refuting the wisdom of the wise of this age, called the wise orators into the Holy people, the people of the renewal, for they were to suffer for Christ. Wherefore, good virgin, draw us also who are benighted into the light of Christ, that we may cry out to you:

Rejoice, mirror of the wisdom of God;

Rejoice, you have been arrayed with the power of the Most High!

Rejoice, athlete anointed with the oil of gladness;

Rejoice, commander who sent forth the company of God to eternal greatness!

Rejoice, you entered into the splendor of the saints;

Rejoice, you stand in the choir of fiery servants before Him Who dwells in light unapproachable!

Rejoice, you with your voice increase the thunder of the thrice-Holy hymn;

Rejoice, you taste of the ineffable sweetness of the good things of paradise!

Rejoice, for praise and joy are above your head; Rejoice, for everlasting glory illumines you!

Rejoice, you have been crowned with the crown of the kingdom of Heaven by the Godhead in Three Hypostases; Rejoice, mediatrix of grace and endless glory for us!

**Rejoice, O Catherine, most wise bride of Christ!**

### **Kontakion XIII**

(To be read three times)

Holy Great Martyr Catherine! Receiving this hymn of praise, never cease to pray to the Lord in our behalf, that He deliver us from our enemies, visible and invisible; and by your right acceptable mediation vouchsafe us the everlasting kingdom, that with you we may chant unto God: **Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!** (People sing Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!)

### **Ikos I**

Having preserved a purity equal to that of the Angels, O Holy virgin Catherine, you hasten to the Choirs of the Angels, and with the Angels you have been accounted worthy of divine illumination; and while chanting with them a hymn to the Trinity in the Heavens, listen to us on earth, who chant these things:

Rejoice, you from infancy was set aside as a vessel of grace by the election of God the Father,

Rejoice, you through the wondrous economy of God were instructed in the understanding of the greatness and glory of Christ the Son of God!

Rejoice, wondrous sign of the foreknowledge of God, which was made manifest in you;

Rejoice, for when the Holy Spirit called you, you earnestly went to His sanctity!

Rejoice, you were illumined by the light of pious faith;

Rejoice, you were reborn in the Holy font!

Rejoice, honored dwelling-place of the sanctity of the Spirit;

Rejoice, fulfillment of the sufferings of Christ!

Rejoice, you on earth washed your garments in the Blood of the Lamb;

Rejoice, you joined with the chorus with the Holy virgins in Heaven!

Rejoice, most radiant star, shining with the glory of miracles in the firmament of the Church;

Rejoice, you are like a dove, resplendent with meekness in the blessed kingdom of Christ!

### **Kontakion I**

With songs of praise let us hymn Catherine, the bride of Christ, the virgin martyr chosen from the imperial house and crowned in Heaven; for she is the most glorious vanquisher of the tyrant, the most wise instructor of philosophers, and a guide to Christ for many. As you have boldness before the Lord, O great martyr

Catherine, mercifully incline Him to the right needful petitions of those who cry out to you:

**Rejoice, O Catherine, most wise bride of Christ!**

## **Prayers to the Holy Great Martyr Catherine**

### **Prayer 1**

O Holy Catherine, virgin and martyr, true bride of Christ! We beseech you as one who received a special grace whereby sweetest Jesus, your Bridegroom, appeared to you, that having put to shame the tyrant's deceits by your wisdom and vanquished the fifty rhetoricians, giving them Heavenly doctrine to partake and leading them to the light of the true Faith, you might likewise ask for us that same wisdom of God, that we also, having rent asunder all the snares of the tyrant of Hades, and spurned the temptations of the world and the flesh, may show ourselves to be worthy of divine glory, may be made vessels for the spread of our Holy Orthodox Faith, and that in the tabernacle of Heaven, we may with you, praise and glorify our Lord and Master Jesus Christ, with the Father and the Holy Spirit, unto all ages. Amen.

## Prayer 2

Holy Great Martyr Catherine, chosen vessel of purity, pillar of Orthodoxy, our intercessor of good cheer, struggler for the law, saint who sleeps on the Holy mountain! Because you have revealed to Christians, they should ever pray to you, we earnestly entreat you: looking down from on high, listen to our supplication, mercifully regard the misfortunes of us sinners, visit the gloom of our minds, cause us to think of Heavenly things and not of those of earth. By your intercessions help us overcome the lusts of our flesh, our passionate attachment to the world and the wiles of the evil spirits who with malice wage war against us; that by your intercession we may be shown to be free of their malicious assaults in the days of this life and from their aerial interrogations after our departure. O all-wise virgin, grant us all that we ask which is profitable, for you can ask many things of your beloved Bridegroom, Christ our God. We know that the prayer of a righteous man avails much when it works with the goodness of the merciful God, to you belongs all glory, honor and thanksgiving, unto the ages of ages. **Amen.**



Glorifying God Through His Light  
50 Hour Prayer Vigil

Orthodox Mission Church  
Serving Coolidge/Florence, AZ  
Prayer taken from Uncut Mountain Supplies  
Prepared, edited, and provided by  
50 Hour Prayer Committee  
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