

# Akathist to the Theotokos Joy of All Who Sorrow



**For understanding the reasons why  
sorrow comes into our lives**

### **Kontakion 1**

To You, the champion leader, we Your servants dedicate a hymn of victory and thanksgiving, as ones who have been delivered from eternal death by the Grace of Christ our God Who was born of You and by Your maternal mediation before Him. As You did have invincible might, free us from all misfortunes and sorrowful circumstances who cry aloud:

*Rejoice, O Virgin Theotokos, full of Grace, Joy of all who sorrow!*

### **Ikos 1**

An archangel was sent from Heaven to declare unto the Theotokos: Rejoice, announcing the divine Incarnation of Christ, Who desired to be born of Her, the Joy of the whole world which was languishing in sorrow. Wherefore, heavy laden with sins, but having obtained the hope of salvation in You, we cry out to You with compunction:

Rejoice, goodwill of God toward sinners!

Rejoice, strong help for those who repent before the Lord God!

Rejoice, restoration of fallen Adam!

Rejoice, redemption of the tears of Eve!

Rejoice, You remove the stain of sin!

Rejoice, laver that washed the conscience clean!

Rejoice, You bore the Redeemer Who freely cleanses us of our transgressions!

Rejoice, all-wondrous reconciliation of all with God!

Rejoice, bridge that truly leads us from death to life!

Rejoice, You save the world from the flood of sin!

Rejoice, heavenly ladder by which the Lord descended to us!

Rejoice, cause of deification for all!

*Rejoice, O Virgin Theotokos, full of Grace, Joy of all who sorrow!*

### **Kontakion 2**

Beholding the streams of wonders which pour forth from Your holy icon, O most blessed Mother of God, in that You are the good helper of them that pray, the support of the oppressed, the hope of the hopeless, the consolation of them that grieve, the nourisher of the hungry, the raiment of the naked, the chastity of virgins,

the guide of strangers, the assistance of them that labor, the restoration of sight for the blind, the clear hearing of the deaf, and the healing of the sick, in You do we thankfully chant unto God: **Alleluia! (People sing Alleluia!)**

### **Ikos 2**

Seeking to understand the incomprehensible reason for the bitter sorrows that assail us, in need of consolation we flee to You, O Mother and Virgin. And in that You are good, teach us to see in them the merciful providence of Your good Son for the salvation of our souls and the cleansing of our many transgressions, that we may joyfully cry to You:

Rejoice, calm haven of the tempest.

Rejoice, sure confirmation of those in doubt.

Rejoice, only mother of loving-kindness!

Rejoice, ready helper of them in misfortunes and temptations!

Rejoice, You teach us to disdain the vain joys of this world!

Rejoice, You lead our minds from the world to that which transcends it!

Rejoice, You draw us from the love of things earthly to the heavenly love of God!

Rejoice, You grant us consolation and a life of Grace amid our very sorrows!

Rejoice, pledge of eternal blessings!

Rejoice, Mediatrix of everlasting joy!

Rejoice, O Virgin Theotokos, full of Grace, Joy of all who sorrow!

### **Kontakion 3**

With power from on high, You strengthen me, who am afflicted in body and soul, O good Lady, and vouchsafe me Your visitation and provident care, dispelling the gloom of despondency and sorrow which enfold me, that saved by You I may unceasingly cry out to God: **Alleluia! (People sing Alleluia!)**

### **Ikos 3**

O You that have an ineffable wealth of loving-kindness, that did stretch forth the hand of Your assistance unto all that sorrow, that cures infirmities and heals the passions: disdain not even me, O blessed Lady, as I lie upon the bed of mine affliction and cry unto You:

Rejoice, priceless treasury of mercy!

Rejoice, sole hope of the despairing!

Rejoice, healing of my body!

Rejoice, salvation of my soul!  
Rejoice, unfailing strength of the infirm!  
Rejoice, aid and strengthening of the disabled!  
Rejoice, You that quickly assuages the wrath of God by Your supplication!  
Rejoice, You that tame our passions by the power of Your prayers!  
Rejoice, sight for the blind and hearing for the deaf!  
Rejoice, feet for the lame, speech for the dumb!  
Rejoice, visitation of good cheer for the sick!  
Rejoice, for through You are Grace-filled healings granted to the infirm,  
according to the measure of their faith!

*Rejoice, O Virgin Theotokos, full of Grace, Joy of all who sorrow!*

#### **Kontakion 4**

A tempest of many misfortunes and temptations beset me, and no longer can I endure its raging's. But as You are the merciful mother of my Savior and God, lift up Your hands to Your Son, beseeching Him to regard the bitter sorrow of my heart and to raise me up from the abyss of despair, who cry to Him: **Alleluia!**

**(People sing Alleluia!)**

#### **Ikos 4**

O most holy Virgin and Mother, hearing the prophecy of the righteous Simeon: A sword shall pierce through Your own soul, You kept all these sayings in Your heart, understanding that the joy of a mother's heart over her children can be accompanied with much grief in this world. Wherefore, as one tried in everything and able to commiserate with a mother's sorrows, we cry to You:

Rejoice, You who bore the Savior Christ, the Joy of the world!  
Rejoice, You deliver the world from sorrows!  
Rejoice, You endured the blasphemies and slanders hurled at Your Son!  
Rejoice, You suffered together with Him through His suffering!  
Rejoice, consolation of the sorrows of mothers!  
Rejoice, gracious preservation of their children!  
Rejoice, speedy help amid misfortune.  
Rejoice, correction of the erring!  
Rejoice, nourishment of infants!  
Rejoice, guidance of the young!  
Rejoice, mother of the orphaned!

Rejoice, help of widows!

*Rejoice, O Virgin Theotokos, full of Grace, Joy of all who sorrow!*

### **Kontakion 5**

Beholding the divinely-flowing blood of Your Son poured forth upon the Cross of our salvation, as the handmaiden of the Lord You humbly subject Yourself to the will of the Father Who is in the heavens, You gave us an example of endurance and of patience, that amid the furnace of temptations and present misfortunes we may cry aloud to God: **Alleluia! (People sing Alleluia!)**

### **Ikos 5**

Beholding You crucified with Him in Your heart and standing with His beloved disciple by the Cross, Your Son and God did say: Woman, behold Your son, and to His disciple: Behold Your mother, thereby giving You as sons all that believe in Him. And having in You a good mother, placing all our hope in You amid our sorrow, as partakers of the sorrows and sufferings of Your Son, we cry to You:

Rejoice, mother of the Christian race!

Rejoice, You adopted us at the Cross of Your Son!

Rejoice, You united God with mankind!

Rejoice, You join the faithful to the Lord!

Rejoice, ewe that bore the Lamb that takes away the sin of the world!

Rejoice, cup that draws joy for us from the Fountain of immortality!

Rejoice, surety of the salvation of sinners!

Rejoice, search for the perishing!

Rejoice, unexpected joy of sinners!

Rejoice, raising up of all the fallen!

Rejoice, healer of all infirmities!

Rejoice, alleviation of every sorrow!

*Rejoice, O Virgin Theotokos, full of Grace, Joy of all who sorrow!*

### **Kontakion 6**

O Mother of God, all the ends of the earth proclaim Your mercies, for by Your sacred protection You shelter the whole Christian race for which You supplicated

Christ our Savior and delivered from all misfortune Your pious and God-fearing servants who faithfully cry out to God: **Alleluia! (People sing Alleluia!)**

### **Ikos 6**

Beholding the radiant Grace which shines forth from Your most wondrous icon, O Mother of God, falling down before it with tears, we beseech You: disperse the clouds of temptations which have come upon us, that we may cry out to You with joy:

Rejoice, You that bears the supplications of the faithful unto Your Son and God!

Rejoice, You Yourself pray for us at the throne of Your Son!

Rejoice, intercessor before God that saves the world from calamities!

Rejoice, help of the Christian race, given us by God!

Rejoice, tree of goodly shade, whereby many are sheltered!

Rejoice, tree bearing radiant fruit, whereby the faithful are nourished!

Rejoice, shelter of the world, more spacious than a cloud!

Rejoice, land of promise where flows milk and honey!

Rejoice, radiant cloud, unceasingly illuminating the faithful!

Rejoice, pillar of fire, guiding the elect to their heavenly inheritance!

Rejoice, field that yields an abundance of compassion!

Rejoice, bestower of every blessing!

***Rejoice, O Virgin Theotokos, full of Grace, Joy of all who sorrow!***

### **Kontakion 7**

Desiring to produce streams of wonders from Your icon, "The Joy of All Who Sorrow," You, O Lady, command the ailing Euphemia to have a moleben served before it, and having received healing, to proclaim to all the mercies bestowed through this icon, that the source of gracious healings be not hid from those in need. Wherefore, we do not hide Your good deeds, but thankfully glorifying God, we cry to Him: **Alleluia! (People sing Alleluia!)**

### **Ikos 7**

Your temple, in which we bow down before Your wonder-working icon, is shown to be a new pool of Siloam, surpassing the one of old, O Most-pure Lady; for health of body is given not once a year and only to the first-come, but You always heal every ailment and every disease of soul and body of them that hasten to You with faith and love. Wherefore we cry to You:

Rejoice, font wherein our sorrows are drowned!  
Rejoice, cup whereby we partake of joy and salvation!  
Rejoice, rock that gives drink to them that thirst for life!  
Rejoice, tree that did sweeten the salty waters of the sea of life!  
Rejoice, inexhaustible fountain of life-giving waters!  
Rejoice, laver that washes away the stain of sin!  
Rejoice, sweetening of our sorrows!  
Rejoice, assuagement of our sorrows!  
Rejoice, healing of our afflictions!  
Rejoice, deliverance from misfortune!  
Rejoice, trampling down of demons!  
Rejoice, humiliation of enemies!

*Rejoice, O Virgin Theotokos, full of Grace, Joy of all who sorrow!*

### **Kontakion 8**

Strangers and pilgrims are we upon this earth, in the words of the Apostle: enduring perils at the hands of enemies, perils at the hands of relatives, perils at the hands of false brethren, in much want and sorrow. And in that You are the good Directress, O Lady, grant us remission of our transgressions before the end, that we may unceasingly cry to God: **Alleluia! (People sing Alleluia!)**

### **Ikos 8**

Our whole life on earth is painful and filled with grief because of false accusations, reproaches, insults, and various other misfortunes and temptations, for the flesh is weak and our spirit fails. Therefore, to You do we flee, O Mother of God, falling down before Your all-pure icon. Fill our sorrowful hearts with joy and gladness, that we may cry to You:

Rejoice, guide that directs us to the heavenly fatherland!

Rejoice, queen of Heaven and earth Who did  
open unto us the gates of Paradise!  
Rejoice, merciful one that hast mercy upon us!  
Rejoice, steward that orders well our life!  
Rejoice, fleece bedewed, which Gideon did  
foresee!  
Rejoice, blessed womb which didst contain the  
uncontainable God of all!  
Rejoice, bush that burned and yet remained  
unconsumed!  
Rejoice, unassailable wall!  
Rejoice, life-giving fountain!  
Rejoice, never-fading bloom!  
Rejoice, softening of the hearts of the wicked!  
Rejoice, compunction of the good!

*Rejoice, O Virgin Theotokos, full of Grace, Joy of all who sorrow!*

### **Kontakion 9**

Every sweetness of life in this world partakes of sorrow: glory endures not, wealth passes, beauty and health fade away, and friends and neighbors are taken away by death. Wherefore, sweeten our sorrows, You are cause of every good thing, bestowing Your incorruptible joy upon us that cry out to God: **Alleluia!**  
**(People sing Alleluia!)**

### **Ikos 9**

The most eloquent orators know not with what words to console the sorrowful; but You Yourself do, O Lady, speak consolation to our hearts, dispersing the cloud of our sorrow and the gloom of despair with the rays of Your Grace, that we may cry out to You:

Rejoice, You have made glad all Christians have confidence in You!  
Rejoice, joy and tranquility of the world!  
Rejoice, bestower of divine goodness!  
Rejoice, hope of eternal blessings!  
Rejoice, ship of them that wish to be saved!  
Rejoice, harbor for the voyages of life!



Rejoice, faithful preserver of them that, after God, do trust in You!  
Rejoice, vesture of them that are stripped of boldness!  
Rejoice, preserver and confirmation for all!  
Rejoice, fortification and sacred refuge of all the faithful!  
Rejoice, help of them that faithfully pray to You!  
Rejoice, radiant knowledge of Grace!

*Rejoice, O Virgin Theotokos, full of Grace, Joy of all who sorrow!*

### **Kontakion 10**

Desiring to save the human race from eternal torment and unending sorrow, the Lord Who loves mankind dwelt in Your ever-virgin womb, and gave You, His own mother, to the perishing as a help, protection, and defense, that You might be the consolation of the grieving, the rejoicing of the sorrowful, the hope of the despairing, releasing them from eternal torment by Your intercession, and leading to heavenly gladness all that faithfully cry to Your Son and our God: **Alleluia!**  
**(People sing Alleluia!)**

### **Ikos 10**

You are the bulwark of virgins, O Virgin Theotokos, and of all that flee to Your protection. Wherefore do we beseech You: help, protect, and preserve from temptations, afflictions, and misfortunes all the orphans and helpless ones who cry out to You with love:

Rejoice, pillar of virginity!  
Rejoice, chosen vessel of purity and chastity!  
Rejoice, special crowning of them that by chastity make war upon the flesh!  
Rejoice, bestower of eternal rejoicing upon them that mourn profitably in monasticism!  
Rejoice, You quench the flame of the passions!  
Rejoice, You dispel the darkness of temptations!  
Rejoice, guide to chastity!  
Rejoice, rampart of purity!  
Rejoice, reformation of mankind!  
Rejoice, You by whom we are raised up from

the fall!

Rejoice, steadfast affirmation of the Faith!

Rejoice, pleasing incense of prayer!

*Rejoice, O Virgin Theotokos, full of Grace, Joy of all who sorrow!*

### **Kontakion 11**

We, Your servants, offer You a hymn of compunction, O Theotokos, for You are the all-powerful helper of our race. Assuage the pains of those who flee to You; appease the wrath of God which hath been justly aroused against us because of our sins; deliver us from every bitter pain and sorrow, who cry through You to God: **Alleluia! (People sing Alleluia!)**

### **Ikos 11**

O Lady, Your most honored icon, a light-bearing lamp lit by the ember of the Grace of God, hath appeared unto us for our sanctification and consolation. And we, honoring it with love and falling down before it with faith, cry out to You:

Rejoice, speedy deliverance from the righteous wrath of God that threatens us!

Rejoice, You that by Your mighty assistance did deliver us from all calamities!

Rejoice, You defend us from earthquake and flood!

Rejoice, You provide for us against hunger of body and soul!

Rejoice, You extinguish the fire by the dew of Your prayers!

Rejoice, You save us from deadly pestilence!

Rejoice, mighty helper in battles!

Rejoice, You defend us from the invasions of foreigners!

Rejoice, You preserve us from civil strife!

Rejoice, easy passage of them that sail upon the water!

Rejoice, good guide of them that travel!

Rejoice, liberation of captives!

*Rejoice, O Virgin Theotokos, full of Grace, Joy of all who sorrow!*

### **Kontakion 12**

Wishing to give a pledge of Grace to mankind, You reveal Your healing icon to us, O Mother of God, from which streams of wonders are poured forth for them that

approach with faith - infirmities are healed and sorrows assuaged. Wherefore do we cry in You to God: **Alleluia! (People sing Alleluia!)**

### **Ikos 12**

Lauding Your mercies and wonders, O Theotokos, we all praise You as our steadfast mediatrix, and we bow down with compunction before You that prays for us, and we implore: lift up Your hands to Your Son, that always in this life and after our death His mercy may continually be upon us that cry out to You:

Rejoice, our unashamed hope in life and after our repose!

Rejoice, You grant a peaceful end of this life to them that trust in You!

Rejoice, our hope and defense on the day of judgment!

Rejoice, supplication of the just Judge!

Rejoice, deliverance from everlasting Gehenna!

Rejoice, hope of eternal salvation!

Rejoice, key to the Kingdom of Christ!

Rejoice, portal of Paradise!

Rejoice, bridge leading to the heavens!

Rejoice, refuge and good intercessor for sinners!

Rejoice, joy of the angels!

Rejoice, glory and consolation of all the righteous!

*Rejoice, O Virgin Theotokos, full of Grace, Joy of all who sorrow!*

### **Kontakion 13**

**(To be read three times)**

O all-hymned, divinely favored Mother, You bore Christ the King, our God, to the joy of Heaven and earth: hearken unto the voice of Your sorrowing servants and having received this our small supplication, deliver us from every affliction, sorrow, and temptation; heal our infirmities, destroy vicious slanders, drive far from us every evil and enemy, and deliver from future torment them that cry in You: **Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! (People sing Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!)**

### **Ikos 1**

An archangel was sent from Heaven to declare unto the Theotokos:

Rejoice, announcing the divine Incarnation of Christ, Who desired to be born of Her, the Joy of the whole world which was languishing in sorrow. Wherefore,

heavy laden with sins, but having obtained the hope of salvation in You, we cry out to You with compunction:

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Rejoice, You save the world from the flood of sin!

Rejoice, heavenly ladder by which the Lord descended to us!

Rejoice, cause of deification for all!

***Rejoice, O Virgin Theotokos, full of Grace, Joy of all who sorrow!***

### **Kontakion 1**

To You, the champion leader, do we Your servants dedicate a hymn of victory and thanksgiving, as ones who have been delivered from eternal death by the Grace of Christ our God, Who was born of You and by Your maternal mediation before Him. As You have invincible might, free us from all misfortunes and sorrowful circumstances who cry aloud:

***Rejoice, O Virgin Theotokos, full of Grace, Joy of all who sorrow!***

### ***First Prayer***

O Lady most holy and Theotokos, You that are more exalted than the Cherubim and more honorable than the Seraphim, O divinely-chosen Maiden, Joy of all who sorrow; grant consolation even unto us that are sunk in sorrow, for apart from You we have no refuge or assistance. You alone are the Mediatrix of our joy and, in that You are the Mother of God and Mother of mercy, standing at the throne of the All-holy Trinity, You are able to help us, for none that flee to You departs ashamed.

Therefore, hearken now in the day of our sorrow unto us who fall down before Your icon and supplicate You with tears: drive away from us the sorrows and griefs that assail us in this temporal life, and by Your omnipotent intercession may we not be deprived of eternal and never-ending joy in the Kingdom of Your Son and our God. Amen.

### *Second Prayer*

O my most blessed Queen, O Theotokos my hope, guardian of orphans and intercessor for strangers, Joy of the sorrowful, Protectress of the oppressed; You behold my misfortune, You see my sorrow. Help me, for I am infirm; feed me, for I am a stranger. You know my offense: loose it, as You will, for I have none other help but You, nor any other intercessor save You, O Mother of God. Preserve and protect me unto the ages of ages. Amen.

### *Third Prayer*

O most holy Virgin, Mother of the Lord of the hosts on high, Queen of Heaven and earth, almighty intercessor of our city and country: receive this hymn of praise and thanksgiving from us, Your unworthy servants, and bear our prayers to the throne of God, Your Son, that He may be merciful towards our unrighteousness and extend His Grace to them that honor Your All-honorable name and bow down before Your wonder-working icon with faith and love. For we are not worthy to be pitied by Him. Wherefore we flee to You as our undoubted and speedy intercessor: hearken unto us that supplicate You. Overshadow us with Your almighty protection, and request of God Your Son: zeal and vigilance concerning souls, for our pastors, wisdom and strength, for civil authorities, justice and equity, for judges; knowledge and humility, for them that teach; love and concord between husbands and wives, obedience for children; patience for the oppressed; fear of God for the oppressors; strength of spirit for the sorrowful; moderation for the joyful; and for all of us: the spirit of understanding and piety, the spirit of mercy and meekness, the spirit of purity and righteousness. Yes, O most holy Lady, take pity on Your afflicted people: gather the dispersed, guide to the right path them that are astray, support the

aged, teach the young sober-mindedness, nourish the infants, and look down with the gaze of Your merciful assistance upon us all. Raise us up from the abyss of sin and open the eyes of our hearts to the vision of salvation. Take pity on us here and now - both in the land of our earthly sojourn and at the dread judgment of Your Son. Cause our fathers and brethren who have passed from this life in faith and repentance to abide in eternal life with the angels and all the saints, for You, O Lady, are the glory of them in Heaven and the hope of them upon the earth. After God, You are our hope and the helper of all that flee to You with faith. Therefore, to You we pray, and as to an all-powerful helper, to You we commend ourselves and each other and all our life, now and ever, and unto the ages of ages. Amen.

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Glorifying God Through His Light  
50 Hour Prayer Vigil

Orthodox Mission Church  
Serving Coolidge and Florence, AZ  
Prayer from Holy Trinity Monastery

Prepared, edited, and provided by the 50 Hour Prayer Committee  
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