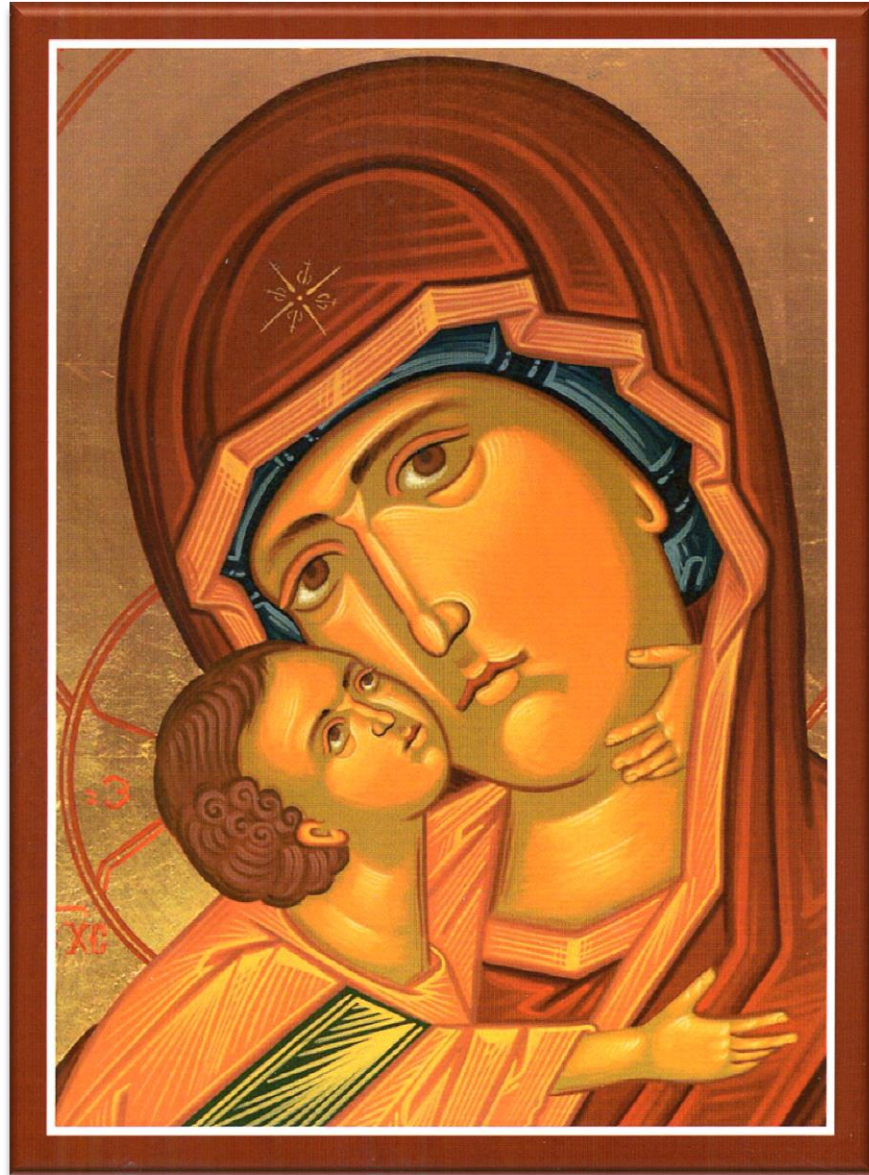


Akathist for the  
Protection of the Theotokos



For the protection of the Theotokos  
during times of trouble

## Kontakion 1

O Chosen by the pre-eternal God, Queen of heaven and earth higher than all creation, who have in days past entered, praying, into the Church of the Blachernae we offer to You thanksgiving and veneration, we flee with faith and compunction under Your shining vestment for we lie in darkness. And You who have invincible power set us free from every affliction that we may cry to You:

**Rejoice, our Joy, protect us from every ill by Your precious Veil.**

### Ikos I

Archangels and angels with John the Forerunner, John the Divine and the choir of all the saints were present with You, their Queen, in the Church of the Blachernae and hearing Your moving supplication for all the world, they cried out with wonder as follows:

Rejoice, O pre-eternal good will of God  
the Father Who has no beginning of days.

Rejoice, timeless and most pure who contained God the Son.

Rejoice, You are the chosen dwelling-place of God, the all-  
Holy Spirit.

Rejoice, You, never-ceasing wonder of the angelic hosts on  
high.

Rejoice, You all-threatening terror of the dark forces of hell.

Rejoice, You whom the many-eyed cherubim meet in the air.

Rejoice, You to whom the six-winged seraphim ascribe praises.

Rejoice, we born on earth thankfully venerate your  
most precious veil.

**Rejoice, our Joy, protect us from every ill by Your precious Veil.**

## **Kontakion 2**

Saint Andrew with Epiphanius having seen You inside the Church praying to God in the air for all Christians, acknowledged You to be the Mother of Christ our God Who ascended into heaven and falling to the ground they joyfully venerated Your all-precious veil, crying: **Alleluia!**  
**(People sing Alleluia!)**

## **Ikos 2**

You, O Theotokos Virgin are knowledge unknowable in defense of Orthodox people. Therefore, our enemies do not know how strong is the prayer of the Mother of God: while we are well aware of Your all-mighty protection cry to You with tender feeling:

Rejoice, Most merciful Comforter of all the afflicted and heavy  
Rejoice, never sleeping Guide of all those who have strayed and gone blind.

Rejoice, You by Your supplications swiftly appease the wrath of God rightly poured out on us.

Rejoice, You by an all-powerful prayer tame our evil passions.

Rejoice, strong waker of sleeping consciences.

Rejoice, easy overcomer of sinful practices.

Rejoice, You for whose sake hell groans and the spirits of evil tremble.

Rejoice, You for whose sake the gates of paradise are opened to all.

**Rejoice, our Joy, protect us from every ill by Your precious Veil.**

## **Kontakion 3**

Power from on high overshadows those who run for refuge with faith and reverence to Your precious protection: for to You alone, O all holy and all pure only Mother of God is it given that every petition of Yours be fulfilled. Therefore, the faithful of all ages glorify You and Your Son, crying: **Alleluia! (People sing Alleluia!)**

### **Ikos 3**

O Lady, having a never-failing wealth of mercy, You stretch the hand of help to all the ends of the earth: and give healing to the sick, relief to the suffering, sight to the blind, and to all everything that is expedient for them as they cry aloud in thanksgiving:

Rejoice, indestructible fortress and bulwark  
of Orthodox kingdoms.

Rejoice, principle adornment of holy churches and  
altars.

Rejoice, truest guard of holy monasteries.

Rejoice, vigilant Helper of stout-hearted city governors.

Rejoice, unconquerable Leader of Christian  
captains and armies.

Rejoice, holy mirror of justice for judges  
who take no bribes.

Rejoice, perfect knowledge for teachers  
and those who bring up children.

Rejoice, Blessing of pious homes and families.

**Rejoice, our Joy, protect us from every ill by Your precious Veil.**

### **Kontakion 4**

O Lady, You help us hold fast by the storms of many afflictions: for You stand before the altar of the Lord, lifting Your hands and praying that the Lord of Glory look down on our unworthy prayer and hearken to the

petitions of those who call upon Your holy Name crying to Your Son:  
**Alleluia! (People sing Alleluia!)**

#### **Ikos 4**

The Lord God heard Joshua, son of Nun, praying and He commanded the sun to stand still until he defeated the enemy. The Lord Jesus hears Your supplication, O chosen dwelling of the Holy Spirit. Therefore, we sinners, putting our trust in Your protection, make bold to say to You, Mother of God:

Rejoice, You are lit by the Sun of the mind and who enlightens us with the light that never sets.

Rejoice, You have illumined the whole earth by the brightness of Your most pure soul.

Rejoice, You have made glad the whole heavens by the purity of Your body.

Rejoice, Protector and Provider of the holy monasteries of Christ.

Rejoice, You are the strength and understanding of the pastors of the Church.

Rejoice, Guide of God-fearing monks and nuns.

Rejoice, untroubled rest of the pious aged.

Rejoice, secret gladness of pure virgins and widows.

**Rejoice, our Joy, protect us from every ill by Your precious Veil.**

#### **Kontakion 5**

When Moses, who saw God, lifted his arms while the battle with Amalek raged, Israel overcame and when he let his hands fall, Amalek was victorious and strengthened by those who hold up his arms, Israel defeated the enemy: and You, O Mother of God, having raised Your hands in supplication, even though no man holds them up, always conquer the enemies of Christ and are an invincible shield for us who cry: **Alleluia! (People sing Alleluia!)**

## **Ikos 5**

The assemblies of saints when they had seen You in the air inside the church of the Blachernae stretching Your hands in prayer to Your Son and God, sang a song to You, a song in thanksgiving with the archangels and angels: while we, our hands fortified by You made stronger than the arms of Moses, cry aloud with compunction:

Rejoice, You whose love and mercy towards us alone hold up Your hands for us.

Rejoice, You before Whom our enemies, visible and invisible, cannot stand.

Rejoice, You drive away the dark hordes of our passions and lusts.

Rejoice, You hold in Your hand without being consumed The divine fire of Christ and who sets us our coldness aflame.

Rejoice, You crown with a fair crown of chastity those who fight against the flesh.

Rejoice, You perpetual Converser with those who strive in fasting and silent prayer.

Rejoice, You speedy Comforter of those who fall into despair and sadness.

Rejoice, by grace provide us with humility and patience.

**Rejoice, our Joy, protect us from every ill by Your precious Veil.**

## **Kontakion 6**

Saint Roman the Melodion, appeared as an unfailing proclaimer of Your grace and mercy when he had received from You in a dream a paper roll to swallow: for thereby made wise, he began to sing with skill in Your honor and to write praises for the saints, calling out with faith: **Alleluia!** (People sing Alleluia!)

## **Ikos 6**

O Virgin, Maid of God, who have shone forth the Dawn from the true Sun of Righteousness, enlightening all with the wisdom of Your God and Son and who leads all to the knowledge of the truth, those who cry to You:

Rejoice, You have given birth to Christ in the flesh, Power of God and wisdom of God.

Rejoice, You have confounded the foolish wisdom of this world, and have guided those blinded by it on the way of truth.

Rejoice, Preserver of our holy faith and teacher of Orthodox dogma.

Rejoice, Uprooter of impious heresies and corrupting divisions.

Rejoice, You know well the secret and unforeseen difficulties and tell those whom it is proper about them.

Rejoice, you put to shame false seers and vain divining.

Rejoice, You in the hour of perplexity put a good thought in our hearts.

Rejoice, You turn us from perilous purposes and senseless desires.

**Rejoice, our Joy, protect us from every ill by Your precious Veil.**

### **Kontakion 7**

The all-seeing, long-suffering Lord, wishing to manifest the unsearchable deep of His mercies and love for mankind, chose You alone to be His Mother, and made You into an invincible defense for His people: that even though one of them appear worthy of condemnation by the righteous judgment of God, yet all the more shall he be preserved for repentance by Your mighty protection, crying: **Alleluia! (People sing Alleluia!)**

### **Ikos 7**

O Lord, You have shown in Your all-pure Mother, how wonderful are Your works when Her most marvelous veil was revealed in Her hand shining brighter than the rays of the sun and with it, She protected the people in the Church of Blachernae: for hearing of such a sign of Her defense, held by fear and joy, all say:

Rejoice, your veil, not made by hand of man, is spread over the whole world like a cloud.

Rejoice, You hold in Your hands the banner of Your Son, the pre-eternal Bishop.

Rejoice, You have thereby made manifest a new mercy and new grace in the Orthodox Church.

Rejoice, pillar of cloud who protects all of us in the world from temptations and scandals.

Rejoice, pillar of fire amid the darkness, showing us all the path of salvation.

Rejoice, visible strength manifested to strivers for godliness.

Rejoice, secret Giver of understanding to the secret servants of God in this world.

Rejoice, do not leave me without Your grace and protection, who am stripped of all good works.

**Rejoice, our Joy, protect us from every ill by Your precious Veil.**

### **Kontakion 8**

Angels sang Your praises when You appeared in the Church of the Blachernae and apostles gave You glory. The choir of holy Bishops and monks and the band of holy women extolled You, the Forerunner with John the Divine venerated You, and the people present in the Church cried aloud with joy: **Alleluia! (People sing Alleluia!)**

### **Ikos 8**

The Lord Who reigns over all things above and below, when He had seen You, His Mother, standing in the Church and praying with tender feeling to Him, said: Ask, O my Mother, because I shall never turn from You but will fulfill all Your petitions and teach all to sing to You in thanksgiving:

Rejoice, Ark of the law in which is kept the sanctification of all



mankind.

Rejoice, all-holy Jar in which the bread of eternal life is preserved for those who hunger for righteousness.

Rejoice, all-golden Vessel in which the flesh and blood of the divine Lamb is prepared for us.

Rejoice, You receive in Your all-powerful arms those forsaken by the physicians.

Rejoice, You raise from their bed of sickness those crippled in body but not in spirit and faith.

Rejoice, You give a new and better understanding to those who are perishing from infirmity of mind.

Rejoice, You wisely trip us up on the stubborn path of sin and passion.

Rejoice, You turn to mercy the cruelty of our unrepentant hearts.

**Rejoice, our Joy, protect us from every ill by Your precious Veil.**

### **Kontakion 9**

All the nature of the angels offers hymns of praise to You, the true Mother of God and helper of all who have recourse unto You. Knowing that with Your unbreakable protection You make glad the righteous, help the sinners, and deliver the unfortunate and who prays for all the faithful, who cry: **Alleluia! (People sing Alleluia!)**

### **Ikos 9**

Like mute fish, the most eloquent of orators are at a loss how to praise the great feast of you most honored protection as is meet: for all the things said by them about You do not suffice to number Your mercies alone. And we, seeing Your good works without number, cry with gladness:

Rejoice, You guard us from the deadly plague in which all perish.

Rejoice, You preserve cities and villages from sudden earthquakes.

Rejoice, You lead us out with Your strong arm from flood and drowning.

Rejoice, You by the dew of Your prayers deliver us from the kindling of fire.

Rejoice, You provide against hunger of soul and body by the Bread of life.

Rejoice, You lead away the blows of lightning and thunder from our heads.

Rejoice, You save us from the attacks of strangers and Secret murderers.

Rejoice, You guard us with peace and love against family quarrels and the enmities of those of our own blood.

**Rejoice, our Joy, protect us from every ill by Your precious Veil.**

### **Kontakion 10**

Wishing to save mankind from the error of the enemy, the Lord Who loves mankind gave us on earth You His Mother to be our help, protection and defense, for You to be the Comforter of those that sorrow, the Joy of the afflicted, the Defender of the injured, and to raise all from the depth of sin, singing: **Alleluia! (People sing Alleluia!)**

### **Ikos 10**

"O King of heaven," spoke the all-pure Queen in prayer as She stood with the angels, " You accept every man praying to You and calling upon my name for help, that he may not go away from my face empty and unheard." Hearing this most good supplication, the assemblies of the saints cried in thanksgiving:

Rejoice, You who crowns with blessed fruits the husbandmen pure in hand and heart.

Rejoice, Succor and righteous Rewarder for all those who honestly trade.

Rejoice, Reprover before all nations of those who do not keep their oaths and whose gains are unjust.

Rejoice, unexpected Helper of those in distress in their travels by land and water.

Rejoice, You who make glad with the fruits of faith and the spirit those childless couples.

Rejoice, unseen Tutor of motherless orphans.

Rejoice, strong Defender of those in captivity and exile.

Rejoice, ever-watchful Guardian of those sitting in bonds and prison.

**Rejoice, our Joy, protect us from every ill by Your precious Veil.**

### **Kontakion 11**

Hearing a most moving song and attending to Your prayer for us, we beg You, O Virgin Theotokos, do not look away from the voices of Your servants for we run to You in assaults and affliction and in our distress, we pour out our tears before You, crying: **Alleluia! (People sing Alleluia!)**

### **Ikos 11**

Seeing You in the air inside the Blachernae Church burning in prayer as a candle aflame with light, I gave voice together with a multitude of people there present: how can this be that the Mother of my Lord has come to me? And Saint Andrew with Epiphanius prayed warmly to you, crying:

Rejoice, abundant Giver of all spiritual and bodily gifts.

Rejoice, true Advocate of sinners who have started to repent.

Rejoice, perpetual Champion of those fighting with enemy passions and intents.

Rejoice, invisible Tamer of cruel and bestial masters.

Rejoice, secret Rest and Consolation of humble and suffering servants.

Rejoice, most longed-for Fulfiller of blessed marriages.  
Rejoice, swift and painless relief of mothers in childbirth.  
Rejoice, our only Help in the hour of death.

**Rejoice, our Joy, protect us from every ill by Your precious Veil.**

### **Kontakion 12**

Ask Your Son to give us divine grace; stretch towards us a helping hand; ward off from us every enemy and adversary and give our lives peace that we parish not grievously without repentance, but accept us, O our Protector, in the eternal mansions, that, rejoicing we may cry to You: **Alleluia! (People sing Alleluia!)**

### **Ikos 12**

Singing the praises of Your mighty protection, we praise You for You are to us all our firm Advocate and we venerate You who pray for us: for we believe and we trust that You will beg of Your Son and God eternal and temporal good things for all who cry thus to You with love:

Rejoice, strong Defense of the whole inhabited earth.  
Rejoice, sanctification of all the earthly and heavenly elements.  
Rejoice, Blessing of all the seasons of the year.  
Rejoice, You Conqueror of all assaults and temptations that come from the world, the flesh and the devil.  
Rejoice, unexpected hope for Reconciliation of those who are at daggers drawn.  
Rejoice, Amendment without their knowledge of unrepentant sinners.  
Rejoice, You do not turn away those despised and forsaken by all.  
Rejoice, You pluck from the pit of destruction those that indeed despair.

**Rejoice, our Joy, protect us from every ill by Your precious Veil.**

### **Kontakion 13**

**(To Be Read three times)**

O all-praised Mother, Most pure Lady, Virgin, Theotokos, to You I lift up the eyes of my soul and body, to You I stretch forth my hands grown feeble and I cry from the depth of my heart: look down on the faith and humility of my soul; shelter me with Your almighty protection, that I will be saved from all assaults and distress, and in the hour of my death, be by me, O You all-blessed, and deliver me from the torment prepared for me because of my sins, that, venerating You, I may ever cry: **Alleluia!**

**Alleluia! Alleluia! (People sing Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!)**

### **Ikos 1**

Archangels and angels with John the Forerunner, John the Divine and the choir of all the saints, were present with You, their Queen, in the Church of the Blachernae and hearing Your moving supplication for all the world, they cried out with wonder as follows:

Rejoice, O pre-eternal good will of God the Father, Who has no beginning of days.

Rejoice, timeless and most pure, who contained God the Son.

Rejoice, You chosen dwelling-place of God the all-holy Spirit.

Rejoice, You never-ceasing wonder of the angelic hosts on high.

Rejoice, You all-threatening terror of the dark forces of hell.

Rejoice, You whom the many-eyed cherubim meet in the air.

Rejoice, You to whom the six-winged seraphim ascribe praises.

Rejoice, You whose most precious veil we born on earth thankfully venerate.

**Rejoice, our Joy, protect us from every ill by Your precious Veil.**

## **Kontakion 1**

O Chosen by the pre-eternal God, Queen of heaven and earth higher than all creation, who have in days past entered praying into the Church of the Blachernae we, offering You with thanksgiving due veneration, flee with faith and compunction under Your shining vestment for we lie in darkness. And You who have invincible power set us free from every affliction that we may cry to You:

**Rejoice, our Joy, protect us from every ill by Your precious Veil.**

## **First Prayer**

O all-holy Virgin, Mother of the Lord of the hosts on high, You, Queen of heaven and earth and almighty Defender of our country, accept from us Your unworthy servants this song of praise and thanksgiving and bring our prayer up to the throne of Your God and Son, that He be merciful towards our unrighteousness, and extend His grace to those who honor Your name and venerate with faith and love Your wonder-working icon. For we are not worthy to be forgiven by Him have You. If You O Lady, had not made Him merciful towards us, for all things from Him are possible to You. Therefore, we run to You as You are our swift and undoubted Protector. Hear us who pray to You: overshadow us with Your almighty veil and ask from Your God and Son zeal and vigilance for our shepherds, wisdom and strength for the souls of those who govern our cities, righteousness and impartiality for our judges, understanding and humility for our leaders, love and concord for the married, obedience for our children, patience for those who have been offended, the fear of God for those that offend, stout heartedness for the afflicted, restraint for those that rejoice, and for all of us the spirit of understanding and godliness, the spirit of mercy and meekness, the spirit of chastity and truth. Yea, O all-holy Lady, be merciful towards Your feeble people: gather together the dispersed, guide on the right way those that have gone astray, uphold old age, make the young pure, bring up the children and look down upon all of us with the care of Your merciful protection. Raise us from the depth of sin and

enlighten the eyes of our hearts to see salvation. Be merciful to us both here and yonder, during our wandering in the land of this earth and at the Last Judgment of Your Son: and make our fathers and brothers who have departed this life live the eternal life with the angels and all the saints. For You, O Lady, are the glory of those in heaven and the trust of those on earth. After God, You are the hope and Defender of all who flee to You with faith. We pray to You as our almighty Helper, we commend ourselves and one another, now and forever and unto the ages of ages. **Amen.**

### **Second Prayer**

O my most blessed Queen, my all-holy hope, Receiver of orphans and Defender of the strangers, Helper of those in poverty, Protector of the sick, behold my distress, behold my affliction. On all sides I am held by temptation, and there is none to defend me. Help me then as I am weak, feed me as I am a pilgrim, guide me as I have strayed, heal and save me as I lie without hope. For I have no other help, nor advocate nor comforter, save You, O Mother of all the afflicted and heavy laden. Look down on me, a sinner lying in sickness, and protect me with Your all-holy Veil, that I be delivered from all the ills surrounding me and may ever praise Your Name that all men sing. **Amen.**

Glorifying God Through His Light  
50 Hour Prayer Vigil

Orthodox Mission Church  
Serving Coolidge and Florence, AZ

Prayer from

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