

**THE AKATHIST TO
THE ALL-HOLY THEOTOKOS
The Wonderworking Kursk Root Icon of our
Lady of the Sign**



**For the protection from all evil,
For strength,
For Your intercessions before Your Son and our God**

KONTAKION 1

To the champion leader and good directress, guides us to the Heavenly Kingdom, come, let us all bow down here have no continuing city, entreating her all-powerful aid, recalling the miracles that from times past till now have been wrought through her icon; and let us cry out with a loud voice:

Rejoice, O Mistress, You reveal signs of Your mercy to the world!

IKOS 1

The angels marveled, beholding You going before us in Your icon, as in a pillar of fire, in our great exodus from a land enslaved by the iniquitous, O Mistress. For it is not Moses, but You Yourself in we have as a guide in our sorrowful journey. Wherefore, we cry out to You in gratitude:

Rejoice, O blessed Directress!

Rejoice, Mother of the true Way!

Rejoice, You accompany us through the desert of this world!

Rejoice, You most gloriously vanquishes the noetic Amalek!

Rejoice, You gush forth torrents of Grace from Your icon!

Rejoice, You engrave the law of Your Son, Christ our God, on the tablets of our hearts!

Rejoice, gracious quenching of the heat of burning passions!

Rejoice, almighty strengthening of the disabled!

Rejoice, most peaceful sweetening of troubled hearts!

Rejoice, Divine comfort of wanderers and orphans!

Rejoice, You make us ready for the promised land!

Rejoice, You opened the gates of the Heavenly Jerusalem to us!

Rejoice, O Mistress, You reveal signs of Your mercy to the world!

KONTAKION 2

We have seen, we have continually beheld Your signs and wonders, O Mistress. And we confess Your mercy and conceal not Your benefactions, but cry out with a loud voice: **Alleluia! (People sing Alleluia!)**

IKOS 2

Who can comprehend the mind of God, and who can recount the mystery of His judgments? For He raises up and casts down, He humbles and exalts, He afflicts and heals. Who is privy to His counsel? Wherefore, He has humbled us also because of our sins, and cast down our Kingdom, scattering our children over all the face of the earth. To whom, then, shall we flee in our sorrow, to

whom shall we stretch forth our hands, if not to You, O all-good One? Therefore, with contrite hearts we cry to You:

Rejoice, You appease Your Son for us!

Rejoice, You allay the righteous wrath of God!

Rejoice, washing away of our transgressions!

Rejoice, intercessor for the forgiveness of the sinful!

Rejoice, You for us lights the unfailing beacon of hope!

Rejoice, You, in Your icon, go before us in our exodus and sojourn!

Rejoice, gather all the scattered together!

Rejoice, You cover all with Your splendid omophorion!

Rejoice, You put down schisms and revolts!

Rejoice, You set at naught the counsels of the ungodly!

Rejoice, You pilot those sail the sea of life!

Rejoice, You in Your care forsake none!

Rejoice, O Mistress, You reveal signs of Your mercy to the world!

KONTAKION 3

Mighty works are shown forth in You, and Grace is poured forth in abundance from Your precious icon, O most blessed Virgin, moving all to cry to You: **Alleluia!**
(People sing Alleluia!)

IKOS 3

In that You are possessed of ineffable loving-kindness, O most good One, You shine forth Your Grace where darkness grows thick and sorrows are multiplied.

Wherefore, You have not left us orphans, but in Your icon come to us paupers glorify Your condescension and cry thus:

Rejoice, sea of wonders!

Rejoice, abyss of mercy!

Rejoice, ever-flowing fount of Grace!

Rejoice, inexhaustible well of healings!

Rejoice, You transcended the bounds of nature!

Rejoice, You altered the laws of nature!

Rejoice, You turn our sorrow into joy!

Rejoice, You change our lamentation and groaning into spiritual gladness!

Rejoice, turn affliction and misfortune to our benefit!

Rejoice, You most gloriously lay low our foes!

Rejoice, You put to shame the expectation of the enemy!

Rejoice, You make glad those hymn You!

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to the world!***

KONTAKION 4

When the storm of temptations assails us, when sorrows and pain are visited upon us, when patience fails within us and our soul is troubled, let us run to the image of the all-pure Virgin and, pouring forth tears before her, cry out from our hearts: Stretching forth Your God-bearing hands to unto us, lead us up from the depths of evil, that with grateful lips we may cry: **Alleluia! (People sing Alleluia!)**

IKOS 4

Of old, the people of Russia heard report of the appearance of Your holy image amid the groves of Kursk and, making haste to it with zeal, they cried out in compunction: Why is this granted to us, that the Mother of our Lord has come to us? And beholding Your icon lying at the root of the tree, O Mistress, they took it up as a great treasure, and cried out to You, its prototype:

Rejoice, most radiant garden of paradise, which gave rise to the Tree of life!

Rejoice, Divine garden that produced the tree of the Church!

Rejoice, fragrant blossom who perfumes the world!

Rejoice, undefiled lily who adorns the universe!

Rejoice, fruitful vine that quenches the thirst of all with the wine of compunction!

Rejoice, sanctified branch that nourishes the human race with sweet fruit!

Rejoice, root of the dispensation of God!
Rejoice, summit and peak of our salvation!
Rejoice, You cut down our evil passions at the root!
Rejoice, You plant a garden of virtues!
Rejoice, You root good habits within us!
Rejoice, You grant us to share in the life of paradise!

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KONTAKION 5

Like unto a Divinely guided star, Your precious icon traversed the Russian land and its cities, O Lady. Kings reverently bowed down before it, queens adorned it with love, hierarchs greeted it with awe, and multitudes of the faithful, spiritually keeping festival, cried out: **Alleluia!** (People sing Alleluia!)

IKOS 5

Seeing the wicked plot of the godless to destroy Your icon confounded by You, O most pure Virgin, and recovering Your holy image unharmed by any destructive force, with fear and love monks and laity cried out to You such things as these:

Rejoice, impregnable fortress!
Rejoice, insuperable rampart!

Rejoice, You put to shame the plot of the cruel
atheists!
Rejoice, You rendered vain the expectation of the
enemy!
Rejoice, You stopped the mouths of blasphemers!
Rejoice, You preserved Your holy icon unharmed!
Rejoice, You protected it from the hands of evildoers!
Rejoice, You avert Your gaze from the vile deeds of
man!
Rejoice, You do not turn Your most pure face away
from us, wretched though we are!
Rejoice, You escaped the sinful hand of the devil!
Rejoice, You shine forth forgiveness upon the
penitent!
Rejoice, You open the doors of God's mercy by Your
meditation!

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KONTAKION 6

The entire world proclaims the mercies that pour forth from
Your icon, O Queen of all! For since in it You departed
from the land of Russia, there is no city or village wherein
Your might has not been made manifest. Wherefore, those
who have been saved by You from the midst of all the
nations cry out to God in thanks: **Alleluia!**
(People sing Alleluia!)

IKOS 6

Shine forth on us again the light of hope, O most pure Theotokos, in Your birth giving proclaimed the splendor of salvation to the world. Leave us not in the hands of the enemy forever, and quickly set at naught the counsels of the ungodly and cruel apostates. May the Russian land be Your home as of old; may piety flourish therein; may the holy monasteries and churches be richly adorned; and may the people, delivered from the cruel atheists, celebrate with gladness, glorifying Your aid and crying out to You:

Rejoice, You enlighten the world with Your love!

Rejoice, You received the adoption of the human race from the Divine lips of Your Son!

Rejoice, Mother of God and Mother of Christians!

Rejoice, banisher of afflictions and healer of wounds!

Rejoice, never-waning light of the imprisoned!

Rejoice, liberation of those in bondage, enlargement of their cells!

Rejoice, boldness of those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake!

Rejoice, endurance of those who suffer for the Faith!

Rejoice, crowning of martyrs!

Rejoice, dread retribution of tormentors!

Rejoice, You loose the bonds of those who are bound!

Rejoice, You free those who are captive in body and soul!

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KONTAKION 7

Desiring to admonish men who had forgotten Him, God, the righteous Judge, permitted great wars to be raised on the earth. And the nations were in upheaval; Kingdoms tottered and fell; death and terror roamed the face of the earth; and weeping and lamentation rent the air. Then all placed their hope on You, O Theotokos, fled earnestly to Your image and, awaiting salvation through You alone, cried out to God who had given You to the people as a helper: **Alleluia! (People sing Alleluia!)**

IKOS 7

New signs and wonders You showed through Your precious icon, O Mother of God, when the din of battle was heard. For though cities burned, the earth quaked, palaces were destroyed and locust filled the air, You preserved unharmed the church wherein Your image was kept, O Queen of all. And, beholding this miracle, all praying therein cried out to You with one voice:

Rejoice, mighty leader!

Rejoice, You upon whom all the people set their hope!

Rejoice, pillar and confirmation of the Church!

Rejoice, defense and protection of every holy place!

Rejoice, victory overcoming the world!

Rejoice, You save those bereft of hope!
Rejoice, You hearken well to fervent prayer!
Rejoice, help of the helpless and hope of the hopeless!
Rejoice, You trample satan beneath our feet!
Rejoice, You command fire and the elements!
Rejoice, You, through Your icon, fortify us!
Rejoice, You overshadow us with Your protection!

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KONTAKION 8

A strange and fearsome sign You made manifest; O most holy One. For when the house was destroyed, You kept intact the little room which You had earlier sanctified by the presence of Your icon, and preserved unharmed the aged woman and her son found shelter therein. Therefore, beholding and hearing of this, all were filled with fear and cried out in awe: **Alleluia! (People sing Alleluia!)**

IKOS 8

You embrace the world with Your Divine love, O Ever-virgin, visiting those near and far and traversing the earth in Your icon, which is ever-venerated. Wherefore, Your journey has been from the East even unto the West, that all might bow down before it without hindrance, and chant to You, its prototype, such things as these:

Rejoice, joy of all joys!
Rejoice, undrained cup of delight!
Rejoice, consolation of the present sorrowful age!
Rejoice, delight of the life to come!
Rejoice, You, for our sake, parted from those who
rejoice in Heaven!
Rejoice, You look down upon the earth that is filled
with much sorrow and misfortune!
Rejoice, You, with gracious step, enter unseen into our
homes together with Your icon!
Rejoice, You bring blessing and joy!
Rejoice, You hallow monastic cells through Your
image!
Rejoice, You adorn the rooms of the poor beyond the
palaces of kings!
Rejoice, You illumine the temples of God with Your
most holy countenance!
Rejoice, You invisibly dwell in the homes of those
who honor You!

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to the world!***

KONTAKION 9

Men of every age and rank hasten to You, O Mistress,
Divine Bride, for Your hands which held God are extended
to all; You enlighten and comfort all, and bounteously
bestow all good things upon everyone, O Queen of all.

Wherefore, rejoicing in You we cry to God: **Alleluia!**
(People sing Alleluia!)

IKOS 9

The most eloquent of orators fall silent and skilled rhetors fall mute, desiring to glorify You fittingly, O Mary Theotokos; for every mind is at a loss how to extol You as is meet. Yet if we be silent, the very stones will cry out. Wherefore, though unworthy, with lips of clay we dare to cry out to You:

Rejoice, fiery sword of the prophets!

Rejoice, proclamation of the apostles, fall not silent!

Rejoice, heartfelt song of the saints!

Rejoice, strength and boldness of confessors!

Rejoice, mystic discourse of those who keep silence!

Rejoice, golden mouth of orators and those who preach God!

Rejoice, exalted reward of those who struggle against the passions!

Rejoice, Divine ease of the righteous!

Rejoice, glory of mothers and boast of virginity!

Rejoice, rest of the aged and guide of the young!

Rejoice, daughter of mortal Adam and bearer of God!

Rejoice, You with ineffable glory shine near God!

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KONTAKION 10

Pray fervently that the world will be saved, O Theotokos, for it is in need of Your aid, the snares of the evil one being spread over all the face of the earth, the nations raging and storms of temptations rising up against the Church of God. Wherefore, as You once did in Cana of Galilee, speak a word to Your Son and God, that He transform the water of temptations and sorrows into the wine of compunction and divine gladness, that we may continually chant to Him:

Alleluia! (People sing Alleluia!)

IKOS 10

Be an invincible rampart for us, O immaculate One, withstanding the legions of enemies, visible and invisible, and fighting mightily for us who with love sing to You such things as these:

Rejoice, You stretch forth Your God-bearing hands unto God for us!

Rejoice, You trample malevolent spirits beneath our feet!

Rejoice, You put to shame the devious plots of the prince of darkness!

Rejoice, You by the Spirit of God scatter clouds of evil thoughts!

Rejoice, You drive despondency from us!

Rejoice, You still the mighty waves of life!

Rejoice, You rebuke storms of temptations!

Rejoice, You graciously pilot the tempest-tossed!
Rejoice, You deliver us from the depths of evil!
Rejoice, You mercifully extend Your hand to the
perishing!
Rejoice, You set our feet upon the path of salvation!
Rejoice, You strengthen our arms in battle!

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KONTAKION 11

Accept our hymns as Your Son did the widow's mite, O most holy One, and grant that we may ever offer them to You, guiding our life in the world and granting remission of sins; that, entering into the Heavenly mansions, we may cry out to God: **Alleluia! (People sing Alleluia!)**

IKOS 11

Your splendid omophorion You invisibly spread over all the earth, O most good One, dispelling the moonless night of impiety and illumining creation with splendor once more, that we may unceasingly cry out in joy:

Rejoice, You are truly arrayed in the sun!
Rejoice, You are crowned with a diadem of stars!
Rejoice, You are adorned with gold-fringed garments
of varied colors!

Rejoice, ineffable beauty!
Rejoice, splendor more radiant than the morning star!
Rejoice, fervor more beloved than the sun!
Rejoice, first ray of the age to come!
Rejoice, unwaning light of angels and men!
Rejoice, You drive away the dark demonic hordes!
Rejoice, You cast light into the darkness of unbelief!
Rejoice, You array us in the armor of light!
Rejoice, You, O holy One, are fragrant with the
blossoms of all the virtues!

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KONTAKION 12

We have received Grace upon Grace from Your icon, O most pure Theotokos. For none approach it with faith depart empty away, but each receive a gift from God according to his need, and is crowned with joy, crying to God: **Alleluia! (People sing Alleluia!)**

IKOS 12

We hymn You; we magnify You; we bow down before You, O all pure Lady, knowing not all the abundance of Your praises; and falling prostrate before Your precious image, in compunction we cry to You:

Rejoice, sweet wellspring of our souls!
Rejoice, radiant morning of our hearts!
Rejoice, incomprehensible height!
Rejoice, glory that fades not away!
Rejoice, bliss without end!
Rejoice, infinite goodness!
Rejoice, ineffable gladness!
Rejoice, You alone are truly blessed!
Rejoice, You have been exalted above all creation!
Rejoice, You help us in this life!
Rejoice, You meet the faithful at the hour of death!
Rejoice, for even at the Dread Judgment You shall
save those who hope in You!

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KONTAKION 13

(To be read three times)

O all-hymned Mother, Mother of all Christians, imitating
Your Son and God in Your love, You mercifully cry to us:
“Fear not, little flock! I am with You and no one is against
You!” Wherefore, falling down before You with love and
giving thanks with tears, we cry aloud: **Alleluia! Alleluia!
Alleluia! (People sing Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!)**

IKOS 1

The angels marveled, beholding You going before us in Your icon, as in a pillar of fire, in our great exodus from a land enslaved by the iniquitous, O Mistress. For it is not Moses, but You Yourself whom we have as a guide in our sorrowful journey. Wherefore, we cry out to You in gratitude:

Rejoice, O blessed Directress!

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Rejoice, Divine comfort of wanderers and orphans!

Rejoice, You make ready for us the promised land!

Rejoice, You opened the gates of the Heavenly Jerusalem to us!

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Prayer to the All-Holy Theotokos

O Theotokos, our most gracious Queen, our hope, haven for orphans and intercessor for strangers, joy of those sorrow, protection of the oppressed! You see our misfortune; You see our sorrow. Help us, for we are weak; guide us, for we are gone astray; feed us, for we are strangers. You know our offense: resolve it as You will, for we have none other help than You, none other intercessor, nor gracious comforter save You, O Mother of God, to preserve and protect us unto the ages of ages.
Amen.

**Glorifying God Through His Light
50 Hour Prayer Vigil**

**Orthodox Mission Church
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