

St. Innocent of Irkutsk Russian Orthodox Church  
Moscow Patriarchate  
Redford, MI

**Akathist to the Most Holy Mother of God  
Softener of Evil Hearts**

*All those who turn to this icon in prayer sense that with the softening of evil hearts comes an easing of spiritual and physical suffering. People come to realize that, when they pray for their enemies before this icon, their feelings of enmity are softened, and that strife and hatred leave, giving way to kindness.*

**Priest:** Blessed is our God, always, now and ever, and unto the ages of ages.

**Reader:** Amen.

Glory to Thee, our God, glory to Thee.

O Heavenly King, Comforter, Spirit of truth, Who art everywhere present and fillest all things, Treasury of good things and Giver of life, come and dwell in us, and cleanse us of all impurity, and save our souls, O Good One.

Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal, have mercy on us. **(thrice)**

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, both now and ever, and unto the ages of ages. Amen.

O Most Holy Trinity, have mercy on us. O Lord, blot out our sins. O Master, pardon our iniquities. O Holy One, visit and heal our infirmities for Thy name's sake.

Lord have mercy. **(thrice)**

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, both now and ever, and unto the 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 the evil one.

**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 the ages of ages.

**Reader:** Amen.

Lord have mercy. (12 times)

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, both now and ever, and unto the ages of ages. Amen.

**Reader:** O come, let us worship God our King.

O come, let us worship and fall down before Christ our King and God.

O come, let us worship and fall down before Christ Himself, our King and God.

### Psalm 50

Have mercy on me, O God, according to Thy great mercy; and according to the multitude of Thy compassions blot out my transgression. Wash me thoroughly from mine iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin. For I know mine iniquity, and my sin is ever before me. Against Thee only have I sinned and done this evil before Thee, that Thou mightest be justified in Thy words, and prevail when Thou art judged. For behold, I was conceived in iniquities, and in sins did my mother bear me. For behold, Thou hast loved truth; the hidden and secret things of Thy wisdom hast Thou made manifest unto me. Thou shalt sprinkle me with hyssop, and I shall be made clean; Thou shalt wash me, and I shall be made whiter than snow. Thou shalt make me to hear joy and gladness; the bones that be humbled, they shall rejoice. Turn Thy face away from my sins, and blot out all mine iniquities. Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from Thy presence, and take not Thy Holy Spirit from me. Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation, and with Thy governing Spirit establish me. I shall teach transgressors Thy ways, and the ungodly shall turn back unto Thee. Deliver me from blood-guiltiness, O God, Thou God of my salvation; my tongue shall rejoice in Thy righteousness. O Lord, Thou shalt open my lips, and my mouth shall declare Thy praise. For if Thou hadst desired sacrifice, I had given it; with whole-burnt offerings Thou shalt not be pleased. A sacrifice unto God is a broken spirit; a heart that is broken and humbled God will not despise. Do good, O Lord, in Thy good pleasure unto Zion, and let the walls of Jerusalem be builded. Then shalt Thou be pleased with a sacrifice of righteousness, with oblation and whole-burnt offerings. Then shall they offer bullocks upon Thine altar.

## **Kontakion I**

We cry out with heartfelt emotion to the chosen Virgin Mary, far nobler than all the daughters of the earth, Mother of the Son of God, Who gave salvation to the world: Look at our life which is filled with every sorrow and remember the sorrow and pain which thou didst suffer as one born on earth with us, and do with us according to thy merciful heart, that we may cry unto thee: Rejoice, much-sorrowing Mother of God, turn our sorrows into joy and soften the hearts of evil men!

## **Oikos I**

An angel announced the birth of the Saviour of the world to the shepherds in the Bethlehem and with the multitude of the heavenly hosts praised God, singing: "Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace, good will among men!" But thou, O Mother of God, having nowhere to lay thy head, since there was no room in the inn, gave birth to thy first-born Son in a cave and, wrapping Him in swaddling clothes, laid Him in a manger. Knowing the pain in thy heart, we cry out to thee:

Rejoice, for thou wast warmed by the breath of thine own beloved Son!  
Rejoice, for thou didst wrap the eternal Child in swaddling clothes!  
Rejoice, for thou didst nourish with thy milk the One who sustaineth the universe!  
Rejoice, for thou didst turn a cave into a heaven!  
Rejoice, for thou didst make thy throne upon the Cherubim!  
Rejoice, for thou didst remain a virgin both in giving birth and after birth!  
Rejoice, much-sorrowing Mother of God, turn our sorrows into joy and soften the hearts of evil men!

## **Kontakion II**

Seeing the eternal Child swaddled and lying in a manger, the shepherds of Bethlehem came to worship Him and to relate that which the Angels told them about the Child. But Mary kept all these things in her heart. And after eight days had passed Jesus was circumcised, according to the law of Israel, as a man. Hymning thy humility and patience, O Theotokos, we sing to the Good God Eternal: Alleluia!

## **Oikos II**

Having their understanding based on God and keeping the Law of the Lord, on the fortieth day when the days of purification were complete, His parents took Jesus to Jerusalem so that they could present Him before the Lord and offer sacrifice for Him according to the decree in the Law of the Lord. But we sing out to thee, O Theotokos, thus:

Rejoice, for thou didst take the Creator of the universe to the Temple in Jerusalem to fulfill the Law!  
Rejoice, for thou didst there meet the Elder Simeon with joy!  
Rejoice, thou only Pure and blessed one among women!  
Rejoice, for with humility Thou didst carry thy cross adorned with sorrows!  
Rejoice, for thou didst never disobey the will of God!  
Rejoice, for thou didst reveal thyself as a model of patience and humility!  
Rejoice, much-sorrowing Mother of God, turn our sorrows into joy and soften the hearts of evil men!

## **Kontakion III**

Thou wast strengthened with power from on high, O Mother of God, when thou didst hear the words of the Elder Simeon, when he said to thee: "Behold, this Child is destined to be the rise and fall of many in Israel. This is a sign which will be spoken against, and a sword will pierce thy very soul so that the thoughts of many may be revealed." And great sorrow entered the heart of the Theotokos, and with grief she cried out to God: Alleluia!

## **Oikos III**

Hastening to destroy the Child, Herod ordered the killing of all children in Bethlehem and its environs, from two years of age and under according to the time that he determined from the Magi. And behold, according to the command of God, the Elder Joseph was informed by an angel in a dream to flee with the Holy Family to Egypt and to remain there until the death of Herod. Therefore with compunction, we cry out to thee, O Theotokos:

Rejoice for thou didst bear the entire turmoil of exile!  
Rejoice for all the idols fell in the land of Egypt not being able to endure the power of thy Son!  
Rejoice for thou didst remain for seven years among the dishonorable pagans!  
Rejoice, for thou didst arrive in Nazareth with the first-born Youth and with thy betrothed!

Rejoice, for thou didst live with the Elder Joseph the carpenter in poverty!  
Rejoice, for thou didst spend all thy time in hard labors!  
Rejoice, much-sorrowing Mother of God, turn our sorrows into joy and soften our hearts and those of evil men!

#### **Kontakion IV**

A storm of sorrows whirled about the most pure Mother when they returned from Jerusalem, not finding the young man Jesus in the caravan. For this reason they returned to look for Him, and after three days they found Him in the Temple, sitting among the teachers listening to them and asking them questions. And His Mother asked Him, "Child, why hast Thou done this to us? Behold, Thy father and I suffered greatly looking for Thee." And Jesus answered them, " Why were ye looking for Me? Do ye not know about those things which My Father has entrusted unto Me?" And Thou, O Most Pure One, kept all these sayings in Thy heart, crying out to God: Alleluia!

#### **Oikos IV**

The Mother of God heard that Jesus traveled through all of Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the Gospel of the Kingdom and healing all kinds of illness and infirmity among the people. And His reputation spread through all of Syria and they brought Him every kind of illness and the suffering and those tormented by demons and the paralyzed and He healed them. But thou, O Mother of God, knowing the prophecy, sorrowed in thy heart, knowing that very soon the time would come when Thy Son would present Himself as a sacrifice for the sins of the world. For this reason we bless thee, much- sorrowing Mother of God, crying out:

Rejoice, for thou didst give thy Son to the service of the Jewish people!  
Rejoice, for thou didst sorrow in thy heart, but didst submit to the will of God!  
Rejoice, for thou didst save the world from the deluge of sin!  
Rejoice for thou didst crush the head of the ancient serpent!  
Rejoice, for thou didst offer thyself as a living sacrifice to God!  
Rejoice, O blessed one, the Lord is with Thee!  
Rejoice, much-sorrowing Mother of God, turn our sorrows into joy and soften the hearts of evil men!

#### **Kontakion V**

Preaching the Kingdom of God on earth, Jesus exposed the arrogance of the Pharisees who imagined themselves to be righteous. So when they heard His

parables they understood it was about themselves that He was speaking and they sought to arrest Him, but they feared the people who considered Him to be a prophet. Seeing all of this, the Mother of God sorrowed for her beloved Son and feared that they would kill Him, in affliction crying out: Alleluia!

### **Oikos V**

Some of the Jews, seeing the resurrection of Lazarus, went to the Pharisees and told them what Jesus had done. And Caiaphas, who was the high priest that year, said, "It will be better for us that one man die for the people, so that the whole nation would not perish." From that day on they took counsel about how they would kill Him. But we cry out to thee, O Most Pure One:

Rejoice, thou who gavest birth to the Saviour of the world!  
Rejoice, source of our salvation!  
Rejoice, for thou wast chosen from birth to be the Mother of our Saviour!  
Rejoice, Mother of God, destined for suffering!  
Rejoice, O blessed one, who dost preside as Queen of Heaven!  
Rejoice, O blessed one, thou who always prays for us!  
Rejoice, much-sorrowing Mother of God, turn our sorrows into joy and soften the hearts of evil men!

### **Kontakion VI**

Once a preacher of the Word of God, and now a traitor, Judas Iscariot, one of the twelve apostles, went to the high priest to betray his Teacher. They listened to him, were exceedingly pleased and promised to give him thirty pieces of silver. But thou, O Mother of God, didst sorrow for thy beloved Son, and didst cry out in grief to God: Alleluia!

### **Oikos VI**

Taking part in the Last Supper with the disciples at which the Teacher washed their feet, thereby revealing an example of humility, Christ said to them, "One of you will betray Me." But we, suffering with the Mother of God, cry out to Her:

Rejoice, Mother of God, languishing with the torture of thy heart!  
Rejoice, Thou who didst suffer all in this most sorrowful vale!  
Rejoice, Thou who didst find comfort in prayer!  
Rejoice, joy of all who sorrow!  
Rejoice, Thou who dost save us from the mire of sin!  
Rejoice, vessel filled with the grace of the Holy Spirit!

Rejoice, much-sorrowing Mother of God, turn our sorrows into joy and soften the hearts of evil men!

### **Kontakion VII**

Desiring to show His love for the human race, the Lord Jesus Christ at the Mystical Supper, blessed and broke bread, and gave it to His disciples and apostles, saying: "Take, eat, this is My Body." And taking the chalice and giving praise gave it to them saying: "All of you drink of this, this is My Blood of the New Covenant which is shed for many for the remission of sins." Thanking the compassionate God for His ineffable mercy to us, we sing to Him: Alleluia!

### **Oikos VII**

The Lord revealed a new sign of His mercy to His disciples when He promised to send them the Comforter, the Spirit of Truth, Who would descend from the Father and would witness concerning Him. But to thee, O Mother of God, sanctified again on the day of Pentecost by the Holy Spirit, we cry:

Rejoice, mansion of the Holy Spirit!  
Rejoice, brilliantly-illuminated bridal chamber!  
Rejoice, spacious dwelling place of God the Word!  
Rejoice, thou who didst open for us the gates of paradise by Thy giving of birth!  
Rejoice, thou who didst reveal the sign of divine mercy Himself to us!  
Rejoice, much-sorrowing Mother of God, turn our sorrows into joy and soften the hearts of evil men!

### **Kontakion VIII**

It is at once very strange and sorrowful for us to hear how Judas Iscariot betrayed his Teacher and Lord with a kiss. Then the crowd and the commander and the servants of the Jews arrested Jesus, and bound Him, and led Him first to the chief priest Ananias, and then to the high priest Caiaphas. But thou, O Mother of God, expecting the death sentence for thy beloved Son, cried out to God: Alleluia!

### **Oikos VIII**

All of the Jews led Jesus from Caiaphas to the Praetorium to Pilate, saying that He was a criminal. But Pilate, after questioning Him, told them that he could not find any fault at all in Him. But we cry out to thee with compunction, O Mother of God, who saw the slander of Thy Son:

Rejoice, thou whose heart was broken by woe !  
Rejoice, for thou didst shed tears for thy Son!  
Rejoice, thou who didst see thy beloved Child given over to trial!  
Rejoice, for thou didst suffer everything without complaint like a true  
handmaiden of the Lord!  
Rejoice, despite thy weeping and lamentation!  
Rejoice, O Queen of Heaven and earth, who dost accept the prayers of thy  
servants!  
Rejoice, much-sorrowing Mother of God, turn our sorrows into joy and soften the  
hearts of evil men!

### **Kontakion IX**

All generations bless thee, who art more honorable than the Cherubim and  
beyond compare more glorious than the Seraphim, our Lady and the Mother of  
our Redeemer, for thy birth-giving has brought joy to the whole world. But thou  
didst suffer the final great sorrow when thou saw thy beloved Son insulted,  
whipped, and sentenced to death. For this reason we present our heartfelt hymn  
to thee, O Most Pure One, singing to God Almighty: Alleluia!

### **Oikos IX**

Loquacious orators are not able to describe all of the suffering which Thou  
endured, our Saviour, such as when the soldiers placed a crown woven out of  
thorns on Thy head and dressed Thee in a purple robe, saying, "Hail, King of the  
Jews!" and slapped Thee across the face. But we, Mother of God, recognizing thy  
suffering, cry out to thee:

Rejoice, thou who didst behold thy Son slain for our sake!  
Rejoice, seeing Him dressed in purple and wearing a crown of thorns!  
Rejoice, seeing Him tortured, whom thou didst nourish with thy milk!  
Rejoice, thou who didst suffer His Passion together with Him!  
Rejoice, thou who didst watch all His disciples forsake Him!  
Rejoice, thou who didst see Him condemned by the judgement of the  
unrighteous!  
Rejoice, much-sorrowing Mother of God, turn our sorrows into joy and soften the  
hearts of evil men!

### **Kontakion X**

Wanting to save Jesus, Pilate said to the Jews, "We have a custom to release a  
prisoner on the feast of Passover. Do you want me to give you the King of the



Jews?" All of them shouted, saying, "Not Him, but Barabbas!" We praise the great mercy of the Heavenly Father, Who so loved the world, that He gave His only-begotten Son to death on the Cross in order to redeem us from eternal death, as we cry out to Him: Alleluia!

### **Oikos X**

Be a wall and a fortification unto us, O Lady, who are overburdened by sorrows and suffering. For thou thyself didst suffer hearing the Jews shouting, "Crucify, crucify Him!" Now hear us crying out unto thee:

Rejoice, Mother of mercy, who wipest away every tear from those who suffer cruelly! Rejoice, thou who grantest us tears of heartfelt compunction!

Rejoice, thou who savest lost sinners!

Rejoice, Protection of Christians that cannot be put to shame!

Rejoice, thou who savest us from our passions!

Rejoice, thou who grantest comfort to broken hearts!

Rejoice, much-sorrowing Mother of God, turn our sorrows into joy and soften the hearts of evil men!

### **Kontakion XI**

We offer a hymn of heartfelt sorrow to the Saviour of the world for His voluntary Passion and carrying His Cross to Golgotha to be crucified. Standing at Jesus' Cross are His Mother, Mary Cleopas, and Mary Magdalene. But Jesus, seeing His Mother and His disciple whom He loved standing there, said to His disciple, "Behold thy mother!" And from that time the disciple took her into his family. But thou, O Mother of God, seeing Thy Son and Lord on the Cross was devastated, and cried out to God on high: Alleluia!

### **Oikos XI**

"O my Son and Pre-eternal God, Fashioner of all creation! O Lord, how canst Thou endure the suffering on the Cross?" the pure Virgin cried, saying: "By Thy awesome birth, O my Son, I have been exalted above all mothers, but woe is me! Now when I see Thee, my womb burns within me." But we shed tears remembering thee, and cry out to thee:

Rejoice, thou who was deprived of joy and merriment!

Rejoice, thou who didst see the voluntary passion of thy Son on the Cross!

Rejoice, thou who didst see thy beloved Son sore wounded!

Rejoice, ewe lamb, seeing thy Son as a lamb being led to slaughter!

Rejoice, thou who didst see the Deliverer of the wounds of soul and body covered with wounds!  
Rejoice, thou who didst see thy Son rise from the dead!  
Rejoice, much-sorrowing Mother of God, turn our sorrows into joy and soften the hearts of evil men!

### **Kontakion XII**

O All merciful Saviour, grant us mercy, breathing out Thy Spirit on the Cross and tearing up the handwriting of our sins. "Behold, my good Light, my God, is extinguished on the Cross!" the Virgin in great anguish exclaimed. "O Joseph, hasten to Pilate, approach him and ask him to take thy Teacher down from the Cross." "Seeing Thy wounded Body, naked and without glory, on the Cross, O my Child, a sword has pierced my soul according to the prophecy of the Elder Simeon," said the Mother of God, singing: Alleluia!

### **Oikos XII**

Hymning Thy mercifulness, O Lover of mankind, we bow down to Thy generous mercy, O Master. The Most Pure one said, "Wishing to save Thy creature, thou hast given Thyself over to death." But by Thy resurrection, O Saviour, have mercy on all of us, while we address Thy most pure Mother:

Rejoice, thou who didst see the most good Lord dead and without breath!  
Rejoice, thou who didst kiss the body of thy beloved Son!  
Rejoice, thou who didst see thy Light as a naked and wounded corpse!  
Rejoice, thou who didst place the Light of the world in the tomb!  
Rejoice, thou who didst wrap His body in a new shroud!  
Rejoice, thou who beheld His Resurrection from the dead!  
Rejoice, much-sorrowing Mother of God, turn our sorrows into joy and soften the hearts of evil men!

### **Kontakion XIII**

*(Thrice)*

O All-hymned Mother, crushed by thy sorrow at the Cross of thy Son and God, accept our tears and expressions of sorrow and save from every sorrow, affliction, and eternal death, all those who hope in thine ineffable kindheartedness and cry out to God: Alleluia!

## Oikos I

An angel announced the birth of the Saviour of the world to the shepherds in the Bethlehem and with the multitude of the heavenly hosts praised God, singing: "Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace, good will among men!" But thou, O Mother of God, having nowhere to lay thy head, since there was no room in the inn, gave birth to thy first-born Son in a cave and, wrapping Him in swaddling clothes, laid Him in a manger. Knowing the pain in thy heart, we cry out to thee:

Rejoice, for thou wast warmed by the breath of thy own beloved Son!  
Rejoice, for thou didst wrap the eternal Child in swaddling clothes!  
Rejoice, for thou didst nourish with thy milk the One who sustaineth the universe!  
Rejoice, for thou didst turn a cave into a heaven!  
Rejoice, for thou didst make thy throne upon the Cherubim!  
Rejoice, for thou didst remain a virgin both in giving birth and after birth!  
Rejoice, much-sorrowing Mother of God, turn our sorrows into joy and soften the hearts of evil men!

## Kontakion I

We cry out with heartfelt emotion to the chosen Virgin Mary, far nobler than all the daughters of the earth, Mother of the Son of God, Who gave salvation to the world: Look at our life which is filled with every sorrow and remember the sorrow and pain which thou didst suffer as one born on earth with us, and do with us according to thy merciful heart, that we may cry unto thee: Rejoice, much-sorrowing Mother of God, turn our sorrows into joy and soften the hearts of evil men!

### Litany of Fervent Supplication

**Priest:** Have mercy upon us, O God, according to Thy great mercy, we pray Thee, hearken and have mercy.

**Choir:** Lord have mercy. (thrice)

**Priest:** Again we pray for our Great Lord and father, His Holiness Patriarch Kirill; for our lord the Most Reverend Bishop Matthew; and all our brethren in Christ.

**Choir:** Lord have mercy. (thrice)

**Priest:** Again we pray for mercy, life, peace, health, salvation, and visitation for the servants of God NN..., and for the pardon and remission of their sins.

**Choir:** Lord have mercy. (thrice)

**Priest:** Again we pray for this land, its authorities and armed forces; and for their salvation.

**Choir:** Lord have mercy. (thrice)

**Priest:** Again we pray to the Lord our God, that He may deliver His people from enemies both visible and invisible, and confirm in us oneness of mind, brotherly love, and piety

**Choir:** Lord have mercy. (thrice)

**Priest:** Again we pray for our brethren, the priests, the priestmonks, and all our brethren in Christ

**Choir:** Lord have mercy. (thrice)

**Priest:** Again we pray for the blessed and ever- memorable, holy Orthodox patriarchs; and pious kings and right-believing queens; and the founders of this holy temple, and for all our fathers and brethren gone to their rest before us, and the Orthodox here and everywhere laid to sleep.

**Choir:** Lord have mercy. (thrice)

**Priest:** Again we pray for mercy, life, peace, health, salvation, visitation, pardon and remission of the sins of the servants of God, the brethren of this holy temple.

**Choir:** Lord have mercy. (thrice)

**Priest:** Again we pray for them that bring offerings and do good works in this holy and all- venerable temple, for them that minister and them that chant; and for all the people here present, who await of Thee great and abundant mercy.

**Choir:** Lord have mercy. (thrice)

**Priest:** Again we pray that the Lord our God will preserve this city and this holy temple and every city and country from pestilence, famine, earthquake, flood, fire, the sword, the invasion of enemies, civil war, and sudden death, and that

our good God, Who loveth mankind, will be graciously favorable and easily entreated, and will turn away from us all the wrath stirred up against us, and deliver us from all His righteous chastisement which impendeth against us, and have mercy on us.

**Choir:** Lord have mercy. (thrice)

**Priest:** Again we pray that the Lord will listen to the prayers of us sinners, and have mercy on us

**Choir:** Lord have mercy. (thrice)

**Priest:** Hear us O God our Savior, the hope of all the ends of the earth and of those who are far off upon the sea, and show mercy, show mercy O Master, upon us sinners. For Thou art a merciful God and Thou lovest mankind, and unto Thee we ascribe glory: to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto the ages of ages.

**Choir:** Amen.

**Deacon:** Let us pray to the Lord.

**And the priest, with all heed and devoutness, readeth the following prayer, aloud:**

### **Prayer to the Most Holy Mother of God "The Softener of Evil Hearts"**

O much-sorrowing Mother of God, more highly exalted than all other maidens, according to thy purity and the multitude of thy suffering endured by thee on earth: Harken to our sighs and soften the hearts of evil men, and protect us under the shelter of thy mercy. For we know no other refuge and ardent intercessor apart from thee, but as thou hast great boldness before the One who was born of thee, help and save us by thy prayers, that without offence we may attain the Heavenly Kingdom where, with all the saints, we will sing the thrice-holy hymn to One God Almighty in the Trinity, always now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

**Priest:** Glory to Thee, O God our Benefactor, unto the ages of ages.

**Choir:** Amen.

**Hymn of St. Ambrose:**

We praise thee, O God; we acknowledge thee to be the Lord. All the earth doth worship thee, the Father everlasting. To thee all Angels cry aloud; the Heavens, and all the Powers therein. To thee Cherubim and Seraphim continually do cry, Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God of Sabaoth; heaven and earth are full of the Majesty of thy Glory. The glorious company of the apostles praise thee. The noble army of Martyrs praise thee. The holy Church throughout all the world doth acknowledge thee; the Father of an infinite Majesty; thine adorable, true, and only Son; also the Holy Spirit, the Comforter.

Thou art the King of Glory, O Christ. Thou art the everlasting Son of the Father. When thou tookest upon thee to deliver man, thou didst humble thyself to be born of a Virgin. When thou hadst overcome the sharpness of death, thou didst open the Kingdom of Heaven to all believers. Thou sittest at the right hand of God, in the glory of the Father. We believe that thou shalt come to be our Judge.

We therefore pray thee, help thy servants, whom thou hast redeemed with thy precious blood. Make them to be numbered with thy Saints, in glory everlasting. O Lord, save thy people, and bless thine heritage. Govern them, lift them up forever. Day by day we magnify thee; and we worship thy Name, ever, world without end. Vouchsafe, O Lord, to keep this day without sin. O Lord, have mercy upon us, have mercy upon us. O Lord, let thy mercy be upon us, as our trust is in thee. O Lord, in thee have I trusted; let me never be confounded.

**Priest:** Wisdom! Most holy Theotokos, save us.

**Choir:** More honorable than the Cherubim, and beyond compare more glorious than the Seraphim; who without corruption gavest birth to God the Word, the very Theotokos, thee do we magnify.

**Dismissal**

**Priest:** Glory to Thee, O Christ God our hope, glory to Thee.

**Choir:** Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, both now and ever, and unto the ages of ages. Amen.

Lord, have mercy. (**thrice**) Father, bless.

**Priest:** May Christ our true God, (**Who rose from the dead**), through the intercessions of his most pure Mother; of the holy glorious, all-laudable apostles, and of all the saints have mercy on us and save us, for He is good and He loves mankind. **Choir:** Amen.