

Akathist of the Protection of the Theotokos

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

People: Amen.
O Heavenly King,
the Comforter, the Spirit of Truth
Who art everywhere and fillest all things.
Treasury of Blessings,
and Giver of Life.
Come and abide in us,
and cleanse us from every impurity,
and save our souls, O Good One!

Reader: Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal, have mercy on us. (3x)

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

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

Lord, have mercy. (3x)

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

Choir: Amen.

God Is the Lord

Deacon: In the 4th tone: God is the Lord and has revealed Himself to us: Blessed is He that comes in the name of the Lord. O give thanks to the Lord for He is good; His mercy endures forever.

Choir: God is the Lord and has revealed Himself to us: Blessed is He that comes in the name of the Lord.

Deacon: All nations surrounded me, but in the Name of the Lord I destroyed them.

Choir: God is the Lord and has revealed Himself to us: Blessed is He that comes in the name of the Lord.

Deacon: I shall not die but live and recount the works of the Lord.

Choir: God is the Lord and has revealed Himself to us: Blessed is He that comes in the name of the Lord.

Deacon: The stone which the builders rejected has become the cornerstone; this is the Lord's doing, and it is wonderful in our eyes.

Choir: God is the Lord and has revealed Himself to us: Blessed is He that comes in the name of the Lord.

Troparion – Tone 4

Choir: Today the faithful celebrate the feast with joy,
illuminated by your coming, O Mother of God.
Beholding your pure image we fervently cry to you:
“Encompass us beneath the precious veil of your protection;
deliver us from every form of evil
by entreating Christ, your Son and our God
that He may save our souls.”

Kontakion 1

O Chosen by the pre-eternal God, Queen of heaven and earth higher than all creation, who long ago entered into the Church of Blachernae praying. We, offering you with thanksgiving and due veneration, flee with faith and compunction under your radiant shawl 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 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 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 one who contained God the Son.

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

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

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

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

Rejoice, to whom the six-winged seraphim ascribe praises.
Rejoice, whose most precious veil we thankfully venerate.
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!*

Ikos 2

O Virgin Theotokos, your defense of Orthodox people is unsurpassed by any, and for this reason our enemies underestimate the power of your prayer. Although, we, who are well aware of your all-mighty protection, cry to you with affection:

Rejoice, Most merciful Comforter of all the afflicted and heavy laden.
Rejoice, never sleeping Guide of all those who have strayed and gone blind.
Rejoice, by your supplication you swiftly appease the wrath of God rightly poured out on us.
Rejoice, by an all-powerful request you tame our evil passions.
Rejoice, soberer 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 Theotokos is it given that all of your petitions be fulfilled. Therefore the faithful of all ages glorify you and your Son, crying: *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: you 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, true protection of the pious.
Rejoice, vigilant Helper of courageous leaders.
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 who are held fast by a storm 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!*

Ikos 4

The Lord God heard Joshua, son of Nun, praying and He commanded the sun to stand still until he defeat the enemy. The Lord Jesus now 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, illumination from the Sun's mind and enlightening us with the never-setting light.

Rejoice, illumination of the whole earth by the brightness of your most pure soul.

Rejoice, gladness of the whole heavens by the purity of your body.

Rejoice, Protector and Provider of Christ's holy communities.

Rejoice, 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 one holds them up, always conquer the enemies of Christ and are an invincible shield for us who cry: *Alleluia!*

Ikos 5

The assemblies of saints when they had seen you in the air inside the church of Blachernae stretching your hands in prayer to your Son and God, sang a song to you 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, dispeller of the dark hordes of our passions and lusts.

Rejoice, you who hold in your hand without being consumed, the divine fire of Christ.

Rejoice, fair Crowner of chastity those who fight against the flesh.

Rejoice, unending converser with those who strive in fasting and silent prayer.
Rejoice, speedy comforter of those who fall from despair and sadness.
Rejoice, you who 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 Melodist, appeared as an unfailing proclaimer of your grace and mercy when he had received from you in a dream a paper scroll 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!*

Ikos 6

O Virgin, Maid of God, who has 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 knowledge of the truth those who cry to you:

Rejoice, birth-giver of Christ in the flesh, power of God and wisdom of God.
Rejoice, confounder of the foolish wisdom of this world.
Rejoice, preserver of our holy faith and teacher of Orthodox dogma.
Rejoice, exterminator of impious heresies and corrupting divisions.
Rejoice, protectress from secret and unforeseen difficulties.
Rejoice, humiliator of false seers and vain prophecy.
Rejoice, planter of good thoughts in our hearts in the hour of confusion.
Rejoice, diverter from perilous purposes and senseless needs.
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 judgement of God, yet all the more shall he be preserved for repentance by your mighty protection, crying: *Alleluia!*

Ikos 7

O Lord, Thou hast shown in Thine all-pure Mother Thy wonderful works when Her most marvelous veil was revealed. She held it in her hand and it shone more brightly than the rays of the sun. 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, veil not made by human hands spread over the whole world like a cloud.
Rejoice, you who hold in your hands the pre-eternal Archpastor, your Son, the Sign.
Rejoice, revealer of 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 amidst the darkness, showing us all the path of salvation.
Rejoice, visible strength of those seeking godliness.
Rejoice, secret Giver of understanding to the secret servants of God in this world.
Rejoice, granter of grace and protection to me who am stripped of all good works.
Rejoice, our Joy, protect us from every ill by your precious Veil.

Kontakion 8

When you appeared from heaven in the Church of Blachernae, angels sang your praises, apostles gave you glory, the choir of holy Bishops and monks and the band of holy women exalted you. The Forerunner with John the Divine venerated you, and the people present in the Church cried aloud with joy: *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 are prepared for us.

Rejoice, you who receive in your all-powerful arms those forsaken by the physicians.

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

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

Rejoice, wise redirectress on the stubborn path of sin and passion.

Rejoice, sweetener of our unrepentant hearts from cruelty to mercy.

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

Kontakion 9

The whole assembly of angels offers you praise, the true Mother of God and Defender of all who run to you. You know the righteous rejoice in your unfailing protection – it protects and delivers the poor – and you pray for all the faithful crying: *Alleluia!*

Ikos 9

The wordy orators, who became as dumb fish, are at a loss how to praise as is due the great feast of your all-precious protection: for all the things they said about you do not equal your mercy. And we, seeing your good works without number, cry with gladness:

Rejoice, guardian from the deadly plague in which all perish.

Rejoice, preserver of cities and villages from sudden earthquakes.

Rejoice, guide from flood and drowning with your strong arm.
Rejoice, deliverer from the kindling of fire by the dew of you prayers.
Rejoice, provider against hunger of soul and body with the Bread of life.
Rejoice, deterrer of blows of lightning and thunder from our heads.
Rejoice, savior from the attacks of strangers and secret murderers.
Rejoice, consoler of peace and love in family quarrels and the enmity of kinsmen.
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 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!*

Ikos 10

The all-pure Queen stood in prayer with the angels and spoke, "O King of heaven, accept all who pray to you, calling upon my name for help, that they do not go away from me empty and unheard." Hearing this great supplication, the assemblies of the saints cried in thanksgiving:

Rejoice, bestower of blessed fruits those who are pure in hand and heart.
Rejoice, helper and righteous rewarder for all those who honestly trade.
Rejoice, reprover before all deceitful nations.
Rejoice, unexpected helper of those in distress in their travels by land and water.
Rejoice, gladdener with the fruits of faith and the spirit 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, look not 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!*

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 inhuman 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 do not perish grievously without repentance, but accept us, O our protectress, in the eternal mansions, that, rejoicing we may cry to you: *Alleluia!*

Ikos 12

Singing the praises of your mighty protection, we praise you for you are to us 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, conqueror of all assaults and temptations that come from the world, the flesh and the devil.
Rejoice, unhopd for reconciliation of those who are at daggers drawn.
Rejoice, amendment without their knowledge of unrepentant sinners.
Rejoice, receiver of those despised and forsaken by all.
Rejoice, you who pluck from the pit of destruction those that indeed despair.
Rejoice, our Joy, protect us from every ill by your precious Veil.

Kontakion 13 [3 times]

O all-praised Mother, Most pure Lady, Virgin, Theotokos, to you do I lift up the eyes of my soul and body, to you do 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 you're your almighty protection, that I be saved from all assault and distress, and in the hour of my death, be by me, O all-blessed one, and deliver me from the torment prepared for me because of my sins, that, venerating you, I may ever cry: *Alleluia!*

Ikos 1 [Repeated]

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 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 one who contained God the Son.
Rejoice, chosen dwelling-place of God the all-holy Spirit.
Rejoice, never-ceasing wonder of the angelic hosts on high.
Rejoice, all-threatening terror of the dark forces of hell.
Rejoice, whom the many-eyed cherubim meet in the air.
Rejoice, to whom the six-winged seraphim ascribe praises.
Rejoice, whose most precious veil we thankfully venerate.
Rejoice, our Joy, protect us from every ill by your precious Veil.

Kontakion 1 [Repeated]

O Chosen by the pre-eternal God, Queen of heaven and earth higher than all creation, who long ago entered into the Church of Blachernae praying. We, offering you with thanksgiving and due veneration, flee with faith and compunction under your radiant shawl 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.

Priest: Let us pray to the most-holy Theotokos.

People: O most-holy Theotokos, save us!

Priest: O all-holy Virgin, Mother of the Lord of the hosts on high, Queen of heaven and earth and almighty Defender: 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 ikon. For we are not worthy to be forgiven by Him had you, O Lady, 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 you 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, boldness 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 when we are away, during our journey in this world and at the Last Judgement of your Son: and make our fathers, mothers, brothers and sisters 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 then pray to you and to you as our almighty Helper, do we commend ourselves and one another, now and forever and unto the ages of ages.

People: Amen.

Dismissal

Deacon: Wisdom!

Priest: Most Holy Theotokos, save us.

Choir: More honorable than the Cherubim, and more glorious beyond compare than the Seraphim, without defilement you gave birth to God the Word, true Theotokos we magnify you!

Priest: Glory to Thee, O Christ our God and our hope, glory to Thee!

Choir: Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages, Amen. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Father Bless.

Priest: May Christ our true God, through the prayers of his most pure Mother; of the Holy Glorious and all-laudable Apostles; of the holy and righteous Ancestors of God, Joachim and Anna; and of all the saints, have mercy on us and save us, for He is good and loves mankind.

Choir: Amen.