

# The Service of the Akathist Hymn

*Served on the fifth Friday in Lent*

---

*[If a priest is serving]*

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

*[If there is no priest]*

**Deacon or Senior Reader:** Through the prayers of our holy Fathers, Lord Jesus Christ our God, have mercy on us.

---

**Reader:** Amen.

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 Sion, 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.

*Psalm 69.*

O God, be attentive unto helping me; O Lord, make haste to help me. Let them be shamed and confounded that seek after my soul. Let them be turned back and brought to shame that desire evils against me. Let them be turned back straightway in shame that say unto me: Well done! Well done! Let them be glad and rejoice in Thee all that seek after Thee, O God, and let them that love Thy salvation say continually: The Lord be magnified. But as for me, I am poor and needy; O God, come unto mine aid. My helper and my deliverer art Thou, O Lord; make no long tarrying.

***Psalm 142.***

O Lord, hear my prayer, give ear unto my supplication in Thy truth; hearken unto me in Thy righteousness. And enter not into judgement with Thy servant, for in Thy sight shall no man living be justified. For the enemy hath persecuted my soul; he hath humbled my life down to the earth. He hath sat me in darkness as those that have been long dead, and my spirit within me is become despondent; within me my heart is troubled. I remembered days of old, I meditated on all Thy works, I pondered on the creations of Thy hands. I stretched forth my hands unto Thee; my soul thirsteth after Thee like a waterless land.

Quickly hear me, O Lord; my spirit hath fainted away. Turn not Thy face away from me, lest I be like unto them that go down into the pit. Cause me to hear Thy mercy in the morning; for in Thee have I put my hope. Cause me to know, O Lord, the way wherein I should walk; for unto Thee have I lifted up my soul. Rescue me from mine enemies, O Lord; unto Thee have I fled for refuge. Teach me to do Thy will, for Thou art my God. Thy good Spirit shall lead me in the land of uprightness; for Thy name's sake, O Lord, shalt Thou quicken me. In Thy righteousness shalt Thou bring my soul out of affliction, and in Thy mercy shalt Thou utterly destroy mine enemies. And Thou shalt cut off all them that afflict my soul, for I am Thy servant.

# 5th Saturday of Lent: Laudation of the Theotokos

## Troparion, Tone 8

Kiev Caves Lavra

S  
A

When the bod - i - less one learned the se - cret com - mand,

T  
B

in haste he came and stood be - fore Jo - seph's dwel - - ling

and spake un - to the Maid - en who knew not wed - lock:

The One Who hath bowed the hea - vens by His de - scent

is held and con-tained, un-chang-ing, whol - ly in thee. See - ing Him

re - ceiv - ing the form of a ser - vant in thy womb, I stand in awe

and cry to thee: Re - joice, thou Bride Un - wed - ded!

English text: "The Divine Liturgy for Choir and Laity", R-monk Laurence,  
Holy Trinity Monastery, Jordanville, NY, 1992.

# To Thee the Champion Leader (Kontakion 1)

Greek Melody



To thee the Cham - pion Lead - - er,



we, thy ser - - vants, ded - i - cate a feast\_\_\_\_\_



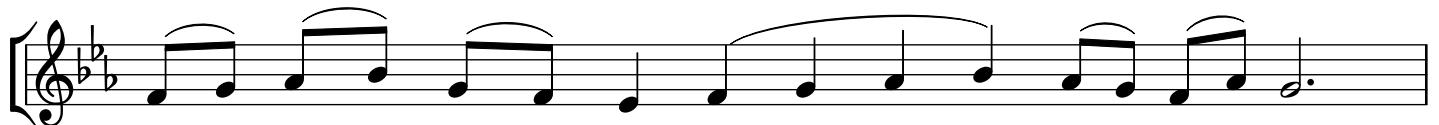
of vic - to - ry and thanks - giv - ing



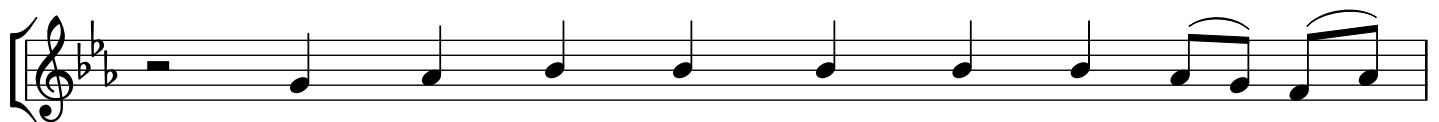
as ones res - cued out of suf - fer - ings,



O The - o - to - kos: but as thou art one



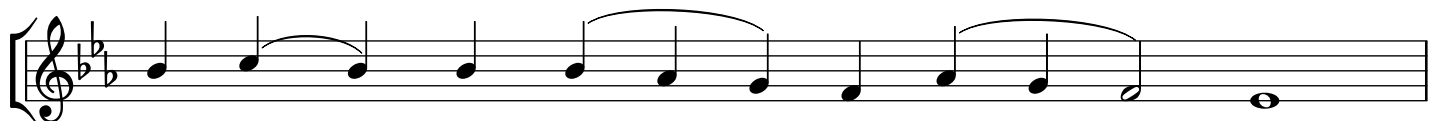
with might which is in - - vin - ci - ble,



from all dan - gers that can be do thou



de - li - ver us, that we may cry to thee:



Re - jice thou Bride un - wed - - ded!

## Ikos 1

**Priest:** An archangel was sent from Heaven to say to the Theotokos: Rejoice! And beholding Thee, O Lord, taking bodily form, he was amazed and with his bodiless voice he stood crying to Her such things as these:

Re-joyce, Thou through whom joy will shine forth: Re-joyce, Thou through whom  
the curse will cease! Re-joyce, re-call of fal-len A - dam:  
Re-joyce, re-demp-tion of the tears of Eve! Re-joyce, height  
in-ac-ces-si-ble to hu-man thoughts: Re-joyce, depth un-dis-cern-i-ble  
e-ven for the eyes of an-gels! Re-joyce, for Thou art the throne  
of the King: Re-joyce, for Thou bear-est Him Who bear-eth all!

Re-joyce, star that caus-est the Sun to ap-pear: Re-joyce, womb of the Di-vine  
 In-car-na - tion! Re-joyce, Thou through whom cre-a - tion is re-newed:  
 Re-joyce, Thou through whom we wor-ship the Cre-a - tor!  
 Re - joyce, O Bride Un - wed - - ded!

## Kontakion 2

**Priest:** Seeing herself to be chaste, the holy one said boldly to Gabriel: The marvel of thy speech is difficult for my soul to accept. How canst thou speak of a birth from a seedless conception? And She cried: Alleluia!

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

## Ikos 2

**Priest:** Seeking to know knowledge that cannot be known, the Virgin cried to the ministering one: Tell me, how can a son be born from a chaste womb? Then he spake to Her in fear, only crying aloud thus:



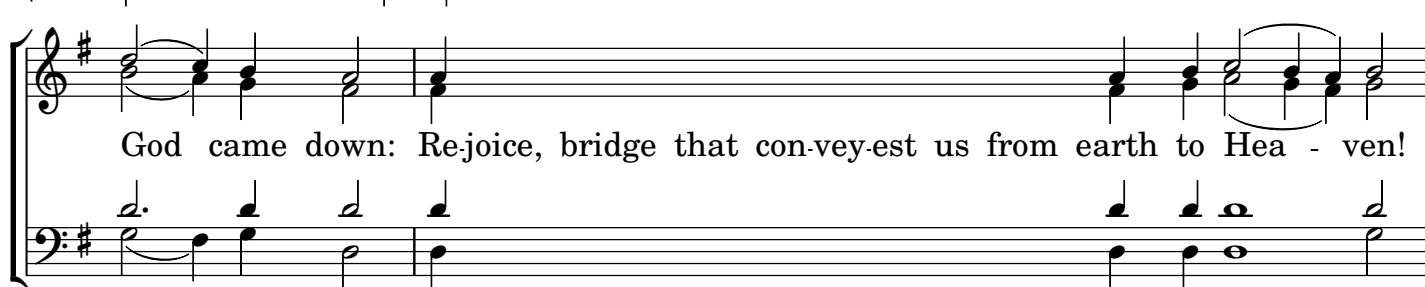
Re-joyce, in - i - ti - ate of God's in - ef - fa - ble will: Re-joyce, as - sur - ance of



those who pray in si - lence! Re-joyce, be - gin - ning of Christ's mi - ra - cles:



Re-joyce, crown of His dog - mas! Re-joyce hea - ven - ly lad - der by which



God came down: Re-joyce, bridge that con - vey - est us from earth to Hea - ven!



Re - joyce, won - der of an - gels sound - ed ab - road: Re - joyce, wound of



de - mons be - wailed a - far! Re - joyce, Thou Who in - ef - fa - bly



gav-est birth to the Light: Re-joyce, Thou Who didst re-veal Thy se-cret  
to none! Re-joyce, Thou Who sur-pass-est the know-ledge of the wise:  
Re-joyce, Thou Who giv-est light to the minds of the faith-ful!  
Re-joyce, O Bride Un-wed-ded!

### Kontakion 3

**Priest:** The power of the Most High then overshadowed the Virgin for conception, and showed Her fruitful womb as a sweet meadow to all who wish to reap salvation, as they sing: Alleluia!

Al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia.

### Ikos 3

**Priest:** Having received God into Her womb, the Virgin hastened to Elizabeth whose unborn babe at once recognized Her embrace, rejoiced, and with leaps of joy as songs, cried to the Theotokos:

Re-joyce, branch of an Un-fad - ing Sprout: Re-joyce, ac-qui-si-tion  
of Im-mor - tal Fruit! Re-joyce, la-bor-er that la-bor-est for the Lov - er  
of man-kind: Re-joyce, Thou Who giv-est birth to the Plant-er of our life!  
Re-joyce, corn-land yield-ing a rich crop of mer - cies: Re-joyce, ta-ble  
bear-ing a wealth of for-give - ness! Re-joyce, Thou Who mak-est to bloom  
the gar-den of de-light: Re-joyce, Thou Who pre-par-est a ha-ven for souls!

Re - joyce, ac - cep - ta - ble in - cense of in - ter - ces - sion:

Re-joyce, pro-pi-ti-a-tion of all the world! Re-joyce, good will of God to

mor - tals: Re-joyce, bold-ness of mor-tals be - fore God!

Re - joyce, O Bride Un - wed - - ded!

### Kontakion 4

**Priest:** Having within a tempest of doubting thoughts, the chaste Joseph was troubled. For knowing Thee to have no husband, he suspected a secret union, O blameless one. But having learned that Thy conception was of the Holy Spirit, he said: Alleluia!

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

## Ikos 4

**Priest:** While the angels were chanting, the shepherds heard of Christ's coming in the flesh, and having run to the Shepherd, they beheld Him as a blameless Lamb that had been pastured in Mary's womb, and singing to Her, they cried:

Re-joyce, Moth-er of the Lamb and the Shep - herd: Re-joyce, fold of  
ra - tion - al sheep! Re-joyce, tor - ment of in - vi - si - ble en - em - ies:  
Re-joyce, op - en - ing of the gates of Par - a - dise! Re-joyce, for the  
things of Hea - ven re - joyce with the earth: Re - joyce, for  
the things of earth join chor - us with the hea - vens! Re-joyce, nev - er  
silent mouth of the Ap - os - tles: Rejoyce, in - vin - ci - ble cour - age of the passion

bear - ers! Re-joice, firm sup-port of faith: Re-joice, rad-iant  
 to - ken of Grace! Re-joice, Thou through whom had-es was stripped bare:  
 Re-joice, Thou through whom we are clothed with glo - ry!  
 Re - joice, O Bride Un - wed - - ded!

### Kontakion 5

**Priest:** Having sighted the divinely-moving star, the Magi followed its radiance; and holding it as a lamp, by it they sought a powerful King; and having reached the Unreachable One, they rejoiced, shouting to Him: Alleluia!

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

## Ikos 5

**Priest:** The sons of the Chaldees saw in the hands of the Virgin Him Who with His hand made man. And knowing Him to be the Master, even though He had taken the form of a servant, they hastened to serve Him with gifts, and to cry to Her Who is blessed:

Re-joyce, Moth-er of the Un-set - ting Star: Re-joyce, dawn of the mys - tic  
day! Rejoyce, Thou Who didst extinguish the furnace of er - ror: Rejoyce, Thou  
Who didst en-light-en the in-i-tiates of the Tri - ni-ty! Rejoyce, Thou Who  
didst ban-ish from power the in-hu-man ty - rant: Rejoyce, Thou Who didst show  
us Christ the Lord, the Lo-ver of man-kind! Rejoyce, Thou Who re-deem-est from  
pa-gan wor - ship: Rejoyce, Thou Who dost drag us from the works of mire!

The musical score is written for a two-staff system (treble and bass clefs) in the key of G major (one sharp). The melody is primarily composed of chords and block chords, with some melodic lines in the bass clef. The text is printed below the treble staff of each system. The piece concludes with a double bar line.

Rejoice, Thou Who didst quench the worship of fire: Rejoice, Thou Who rescuest  
 from the flame of the pas - sions! Re-joice, guide of the faith-ful  
 to chas - ti - ty: Re-joice, glad-ness of all gen-er - a - tions!  
 Re - joice, O Bride Un - wed - - ded!

### Kontakion 6

**Priest:** Having become God-bearing heralds, the Magi returned to Babylon, having fulfilled Thy prophecy; and having preached Thee to all as the Christ, they left Herod as a babblers who knew not how to sing:  
 Alleluia!

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

## Ikos 6

**Priest:** By shining in Egypt the light of truth, Thou didst dispel the darkness of falsehood; for its idols fell, O Saviour, unable to endure Thy strength; and those who were delivered from them cried to the Theotokos:

Re-joyce, up-lift - ing of men: Re-joyce, down-fall of de - mons!

Re-joyce, Thou who didst tram-ple down the do-min-ion of de-lu - sion:

Re-joyce, Thou who didst un-mask the fraud of i - dols! Re-joyce, sea

that didst drown the Phar-aoh of the mind: Re-joyce, rock that doth re-fresh

those thirst - ing for life! Re-joyce, pil-lar of fire that guid-eth those in

dark - ness: Re-joyce, shel-ter of the world broad-er than a cloud!



Re-joyce, sus-ten-ance rep-lac-ing man - na: Re-joyce, mi-ni-ster  
of ho - ly de - light! Re - joyce, land of pro - - mise:  
Re - joyce, Thou from whom flow - eth milk and hon - ey!  
Re - joyce, O Bride Un - wed - - ded!

### Kontakion 7

**Priest:** When Symeon was about to depart this age of delusion, Thou wast brought as a Babe to him, but Thou was recognized by him as perfect God also; wherefore, marveling at Thine ineffable wisdom, he cried: Alleluia!

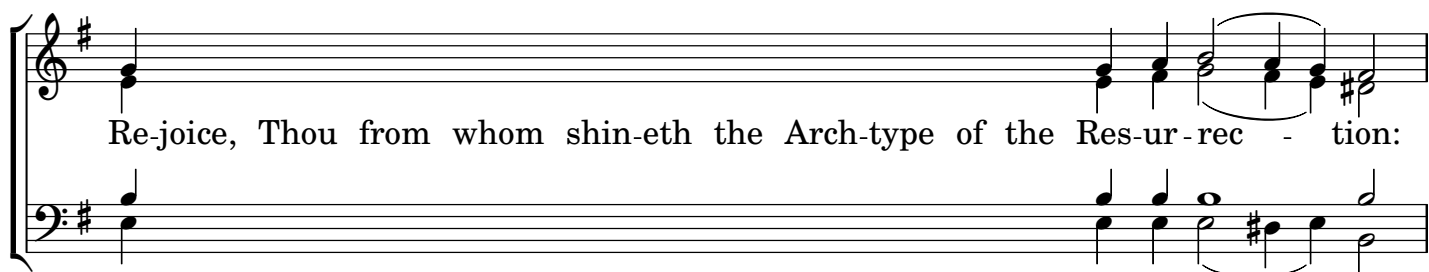
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

## Ikos 7

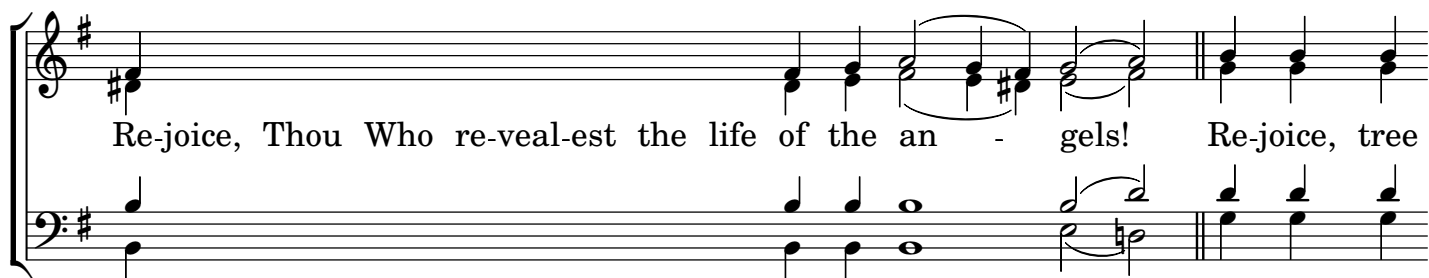
**Priest:** The Creator showed us a new creation when He appeared to us who came from Him. For He sprang from a seedless womb, and kept it incorrupt as it was, that seeing the miracle we might sing to Her, crying out:



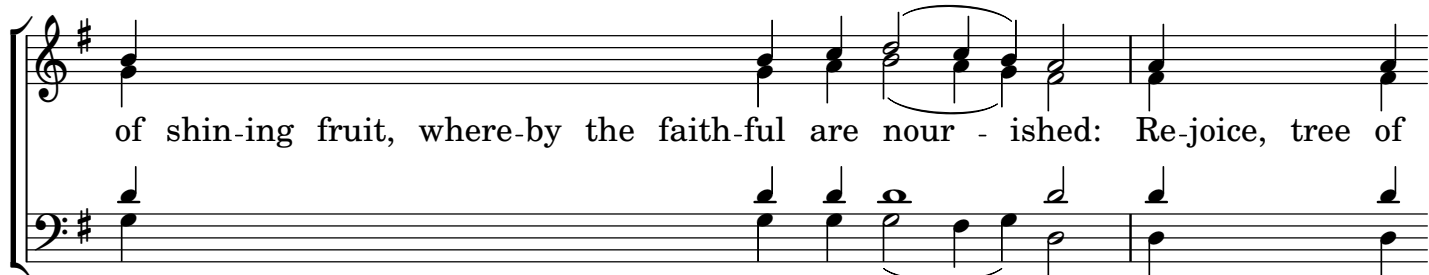
Re-joyce, flo-wer of in-cor-rup-ti - bi - li-ty: Re-joyce, crown of con - tin-ence!



Re-joyce, Thou from whom shin-eth the Arch-type of the Res-ur-rec - tion:



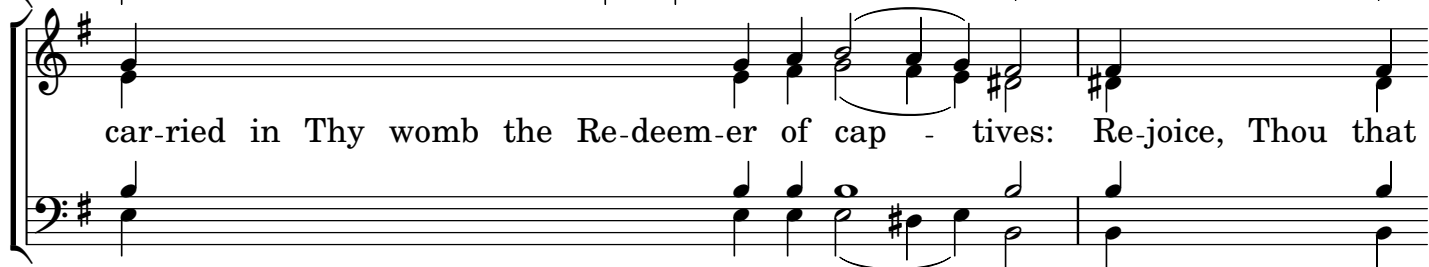
Re-joyce, Thou Who re-veal-est the life of the an - gels! Re-joyce, tree



of shin-ing fruit, where-by the faith-ful are nour - ished: Re-joyce, tree of



good-ly shade by which ma-ny are shel - tered! Re-joyce, Thou that has



car-ried in Thy womb the Re-deem-er of cap - tives: Re-joyce, Thou that

gav-est birth to the Guide of those a - stray! Re-joyce, sup-pli-ca-tion  
 be-fore the Right - eous Judge: Re-joyce, for-give-ness of ma - ny sins!  
 Re-joyce, robe of bold-ness for the na - ked: Re-joyce, love that doth  
 van-quisth all de - sire! Re-joyce, O Bride Un - wed - ded!

### Kontakion 8

**Priest:** Having beheld a strange nativity, let us estrange ourselves from the world and transport our minds to Heaven; for the Most High God appeared on earth as a lowly man, because He wished to draw to the heights them that cry to Him: Alleluia!

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

## Ikos 8

**Priest:** Wholly present was the Inexpressible Word among those here below, yet in no way absent from those on high; for this was a divine condescension and not a change of place, and His birth was from a God-receiving Virgin Who heard these things:

Re-joyce, con-tain-er of the Un-con-tain - a-ble God: Re-joyce, door of  
sol-ern mys - te-ry! Re-joyce, re-port doubt-ful to un-be-liev - ers:  
Re-joyce, un-doubt-ed boast of the faith - ful! Re-joyce, all ho-ly cha-ri-ot of  
Him Who sit-teth up-on the Che - ru-bim: Re-joyce, all glo-ri-ous tem-ple of  
Him Who is a-bove the Se - ra-phim! Re-joyce, Thou Who hast un-it-ed  
op - po-sites: Re-joyce, Thou Who hast joined vir-gi-ni-ty and moth-er-hood!

Re-joyce, Thou through whom trans-gres-sion hath been ab-solved: Re-joyce,  
 Thou through whom Par-a-dise is o - pened! Re-joyce, key to the  
 king - dom of Christ: Re - joice, hope of e - ter - nal good things!  
 Re - joice, O Bride Un - wed - - ded!

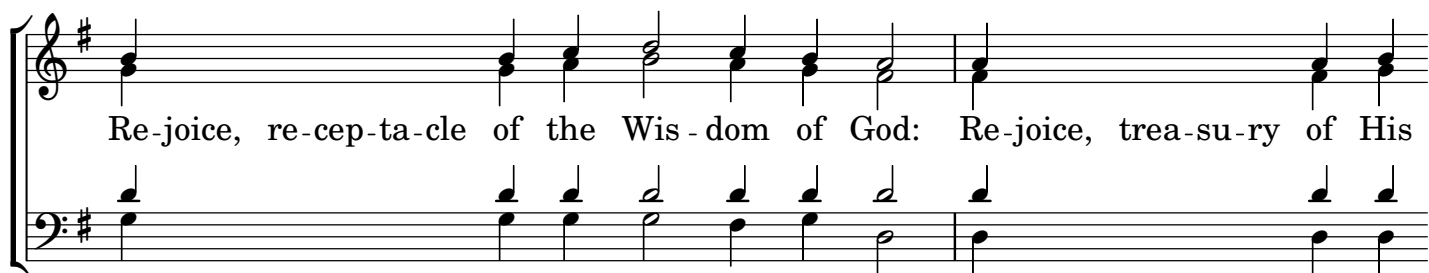
### Kontakion 9

**Priest:** All the angels were amazed at the great act of Thine incarnation; for they saw the Unapproachable God as a man approachable to all, abiding with us, and hearing from all: Alleluia!

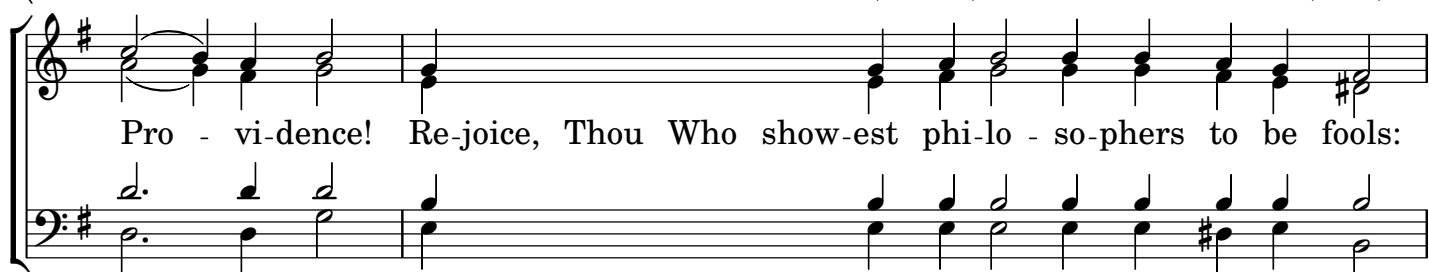
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

## Ikos 9

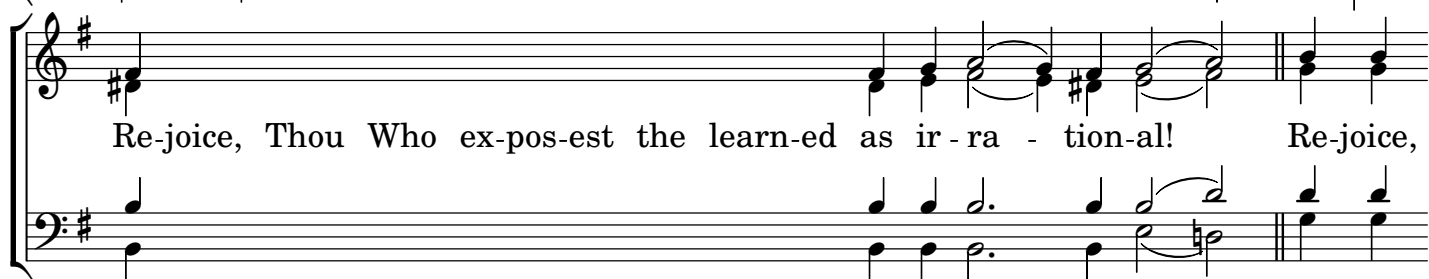
**Priest:** We see most eloquent orators mute as fish before Thee, O Theotokos; for they are at a loss to tell how Thou remainest a Virgin and could bear a child. But we, marveling at this mystery, cry out faithfully:



Re-joyce, re-cep-ta-cle of the Wis-dom of God: Re-joyce, trea-su-ry of His



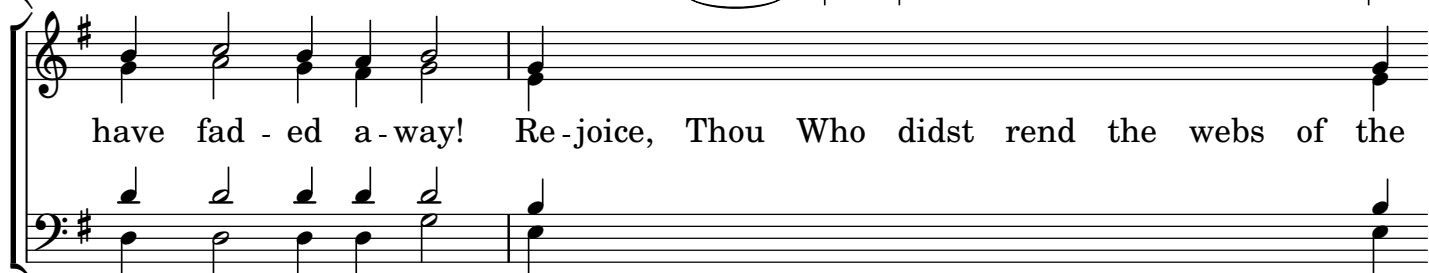
Pro - vi-dence! Re-joyce, Thou Who show-est phi-lo - so-phers to be fools:



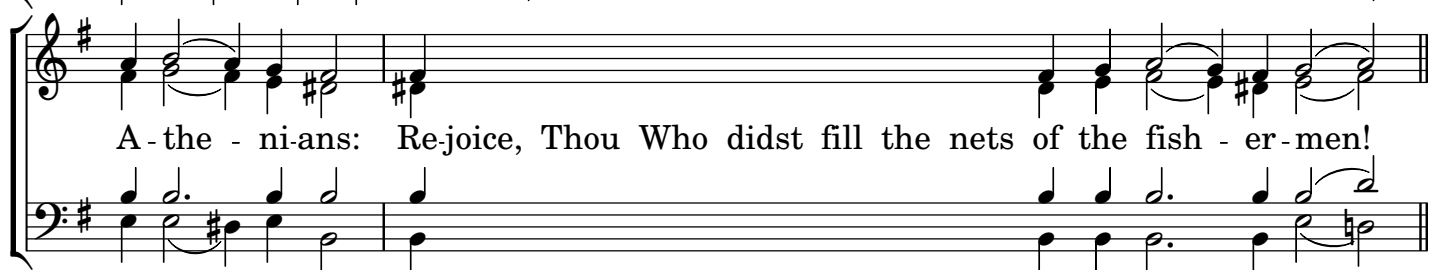
Re-joyce, Thou Who ex-pos-est the learn-ed as ir-ra - tion-al! Re-joyce,



for the clever critics have be-come fool - ish: Re-joyce, for the writers of myths



have fad - ed a-way! Re-joyce, Thou Who didst rend the webs of the



A-the - ni-ans: Re-joyce, Thou Who didst fill the nets of the fish - er-men!

Re-joyce, Thou Who draw-est us from the depths of ig - nor-ance: Re-joyce,  
 Thou Who en-light-en-est ma-ny with know - ledge! Re-joyce, ship for those who  
 wish to be saved: Re-joyce, har-bor for sail-ors on the sea of life!  
 Re - joyce, O Bride Un - wed - - ded!

### Kontakion 10

**Priest:** Desiring to save the world, He that is the Creator of all came to it according to His Own promise, and He that, as God, is the Shepherd, for our sake appeared unto us as a man; for like calling unto like, as God He heareth: Alleluia!

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

## Ikos 10

**Priest:** A bulwark art Thou to virgins, and to all that flee unto Thee, O Virgin Theotokos; for the Maker of Heaven and earth prepared Thee, O Most-pure one, dwelt in Thy womb, and taught all to call to Thee:

Re - joyce, pil - lar of vir - gi - ni - ty: Re - joyce, gate of  
sal - va - tion! Re - joyce, lead - er of men - tal for - ma - tion:  
Re - joyce, be - stow - er of div - ine good! Re - joyce, for Thou didst re - new  
those con - ceived in shame: Re - joyce, for Thou gav - est wis - dom to those  
robbed of their minds! Re - joyce, Thou Who didst foil the cor - rupt - er of minds:  
Re - joyce, Thou Who gav - est birth to the Sow - er of pur - i - ty!



Re-joyce, bride-cham-ber of a seed-less mar - riage: Re-joyce, Thou  
 Who dost wed the faith - ful to the Lord! Re-joyce, good nour-ish-er  
 of vir - gins: Re-joyce, a-dorn-er of ho-ly souls as for mar - riage!  
 Re - joyce, O Bride Un - wed - - ded!

### Kontakion 11

**Priest:** Every hymn is defeated that trieth to encompass the multitude of Thy many compassions; for if we offer to Thee, O Holy King, songs equal in number to the sand, nothing have we done worthy of that which Thou hast given us who shout to Thee: Alleluia!

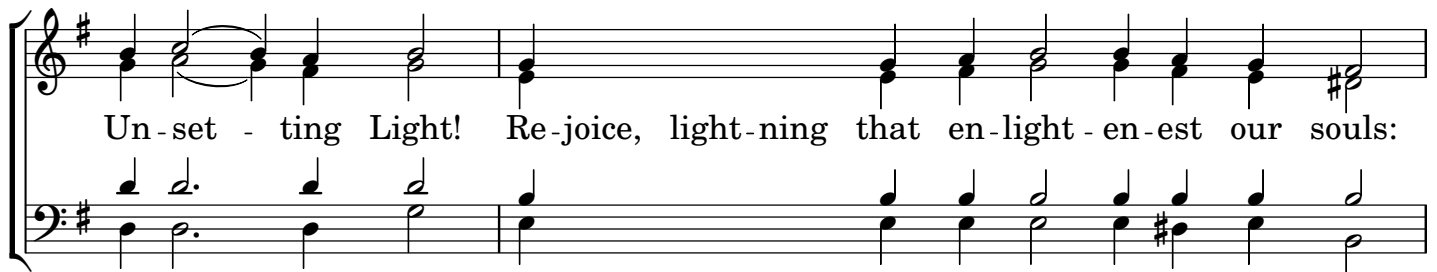
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

## Ikos 11

**Priest:** We behold the holy Virgin, a shining lamp appearing to those in darkness; for, kindling the Immaterial Light, She guideth all to divine knowledge, She illumineth minds with radiance, and is honored by our shouting these things:



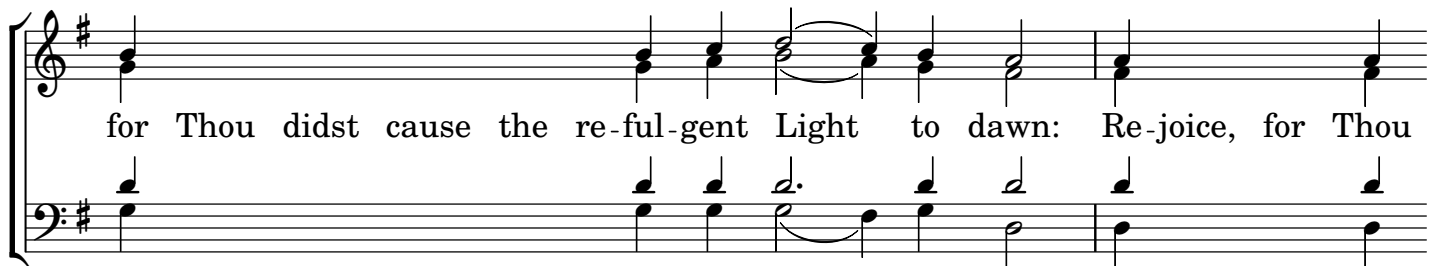
Re-joyce, ray of the no-et-ic Sun: Re-joyce, ra-di-ance of the



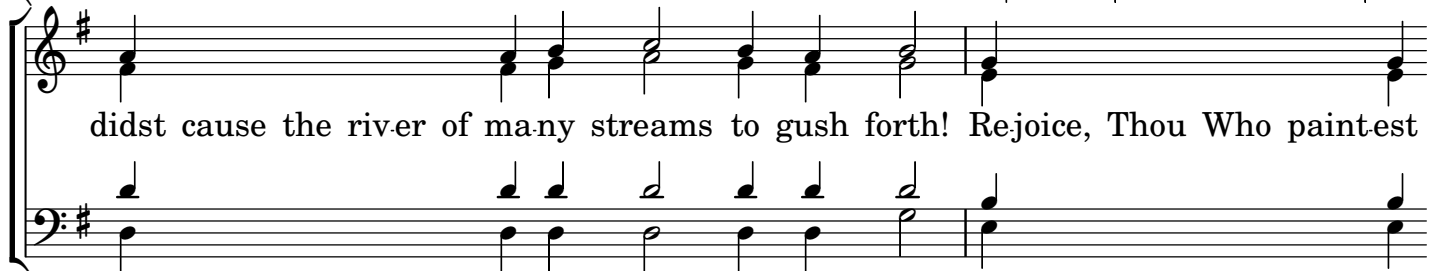
Un-set-ting Light! Re-joyce, light-ning that en-light-en-est our souls:



Re-joyce, thun-der that ter-ri-fi-est our en-e-mies! Re-joyce,



for Thou didst cause the re-ful-gent Light to dawn: Re-joyce, for Thou



didst cause the riv-er of many streams to gush forth! Re-joyce, Thou Who paintest



the im-age of the font: Re-joyce, Thou Who blot-test out the

stain of sin! Re-joyce, lav-er that wash-est the con - science clean:

Re-joyce, cup that draw - est up joy! Re-joyce, a - ro - ma of the sweet

frag - rance of Christ: Re-joyce, life of mys - ti - cal glad - ness!

Re - joyce, O Bride Un - wed - - ded!

### Kontakion 12

**Priest:** When the Absolver of all mankind desired to blot out ancient debts, of His Own will He came to dwell among those who had fallen from His Grace; and having torn up the handwriting of their sins, He heareth this from all: Alleluia!

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

## Ikos 12

**Priest:** While singing to Thine Offspring, we all praise Thee as a living temple, O Theotokos; for the Lord Who holdeth all things in His hand dwelt in Thy womb, and He sanctified and glorified Thee, and taught all to cry to Thee:

Re-joyce, tab-er-na-cle of God the Word: Re-joyce, saint great-er  
than the saints! Re-joyce, ark gild-ed by the Spi-rit:  
Re-joyce, in-ex-haust-i-ble treas-ur-y of life!  
Re-joyce, prec-ious di-a-dem of pi-ous kings: Re-joyce,  
ven-'ra-ble boast of rev-'rent priests! Re-joyce, un-sha-ka-ble  
fort-ress of the Church: Re-joyce, in-vio-la-ble wall of the

king - dom! Re-joyce, Thou through whom vict-'ries are ob-tained:  
 Re-joyce, Thou through whom foes fall pros - trate! Re-joyce, heal-ing  
 of my flesh: Re - joyce, sal - va - tion of my soul!  
 Re - joyce, O Bride Un - wed - - ded!

### Kontakion 13

**Priest:** O all-praised Mother Who didst bear the Word, holiest of all the saints, accept now our offering, and deliver us from all misfortune, and rescue from the torment to come those that cry to Thee: Alleluia! Alleluia!

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - - ia, al - le - lu - - ia.

**Reader:** Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal, have mercy on us. (x3)

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. (x3)

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 the heavens, 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 debts as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.

---

*[If a priest is serving]*

**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.

*[If there is no priest]*

**Deacon or Senior Reader:** Through the prayers of our holy Fathers, Lord Jesus Christ our God, have mercy on us.

---

**Reader:** Amen.

*[Kontakion of the Akathist]*

To thee, the Champion Leader, we thy servants dedicate a feast of victory and thanksgiving as ones rescued out of sufferings, O Theotokos: but as thou art one with might which is invincible, from all dangers that can be do thou deliver us, that we may cry to thee: Rejoice, thou Bride unwedded!

Lord, have mercy. (x40)

Thou Who at all times and at every hour, in heaven and on earth, art worshipped and glorified, O Christ God, Who art long-suffering, plenteous in mercy, most compassionate, Who lovest the righteous and hast mercy on sinners; Who callest all men to salvation through the promise of good things to come: Receive, O Lord, our prayers at this hour, and guide our life toward Thy commandments. Sanctify our souls, make chaste our bodies, correct our thoughts, purify our intentions, and deliver us from every sorrow, evil, and pain. Compass us about with Thy holy angels, that, guarded and guided by their array, we may attain to the unity of the faith and to the knowledge of Thine unapproachable glory: For blessed art Thou unto the ages of ages. Amen.

Lord, have mercy. (x3)

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

More honorable than the Cherubim, and more glorious beyond compare than the Seraphim; without corruption thou gavest birth to God the Word, true Theotokos, we magnify thee.

---

*[If a priest is serving]*

In the name of the Lord, Father bless.

---

**Priest, Deacon, or Senior Reader:** Through the prayers of our holy Fathers, Lord Jesus Christ our God, have mercy on us.

**Reader:** Amen.

***[Prayer to the Most Holy Theotokos, by the monk Paul]***

O spotless, undefiled, incorrupt, immaculate, pure Virgin, Lady Bride of God, who by thy wondrous conceiving hast united God the Word to man, and joined the outcast nature of our race to heavenly things, O only hope of the hopeless, and succour of the embattled, the ready help of them that have recourse to thee, and refuge of all Christians: abhor me not, the sinner, the accursed one, who have altogether made myself unprofitable by shameful thoughts, words, and deeds, and with the heartsease of life's pleasures am become a thrall in mind.

But as the Mother of the man-befriending God, do thou, in man-befriending wise, take pity upon me a sinner and prodigal, and receive my supplication, offered thee on unclean lips. And using thy boldness as a mother, entreat thy Son, our Master and Lord, that He may open even unto me the loving compassions of His goodness, and that, overlooking mine innumerable trespasses, He would turn me to repentance, and make me the approved doer of His commandments.

And be thou ever with me, as thou art merciful, and compassionate, and the lover of good, being in this life a fervent protectress and help, to defend me from the assaults of adversaries, and guide me unto salvation; and in the hour of my departure, to care for my wretched soul, and drive far from it the dark countenances of evil demons; and in the terrible day of judgment, to deliver me from eternal torment, and show me forth as an heir of the unspeakable glory of thy Son and our God.

This be my lot, O my Lady, most holy Theotokos, by thy mediation and help, through the grace and love for man of thine Only-begotten Son, our Lord and God and Savior Jesus Christ, to Whom is due all glory, honour, and worship, with His Father which is without beginning, and His All-holy and good and life creating Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

**Priest, Deacon, or Senior Reader:** Glory to Thee, O Christ, our God and our hope, glory to Thee.