

AKATHIST HYMN TO THE THEOTOKOS, THE INEXHAUSTIBLE CUP

Kontakion 1

A wonderful healing has been given to us through your holy icon, O Sovereign Lady Theotokos. By its appearance we have been delivered from spiritual and physical ills, and from sorrowful circumstances. We therefore offer our thankful praise to you, O merciful Protectress whom we call "The Inexhaustible Cup." Bend down your ear and kindly hear our lamentation. Cast down your eye and graciously see our tears. Give your healing to those that suffer from drunkenness, so that we may call to you with faith:

Rejoice, Theotokos, the Inexhaustible Cup who quenches our spiritual thirst.

Ikos 1

Angelic powers and multitudes of saints continually glorify you, the Theotokos, the Queen of all, the intercessor for us sinful Christians wallowing in lawlessness and remaining in sin. It is for our consolation and salvation that you in your mercy gave to us your miraculous icon. Looking at it, as at the one and only star among a multitude of stars on a starlit night, we fall down before you and cry from the very depth of our heart:

Rejoice, dwelling-place of the unapproachable God.

Rejoice, our constant wonder in goodness.

Rejoice, for you make our sorrow wipe away our sins.

Rejoice, for you make our grief heal our afflictions.

Rejoice, through your miraculous icon, you give us your heavenly mercy.

Rejoice, through your intercession, you give peace to our troubled heart.

Rejoice, our wonderful reconciliation with God

Rejoice, Queen who opens the gates of Paradise.

Rejoice, Theotokos, the Inexhaustible Cup who quenches our spiritual thirst.

Kontakion 2

Upon seeing the profound sorrow and grief of people possessed by the destructive ailment of drunkenness, and also seeing their true repentance, you have willed, most holy Lady, to show your mercy to the blessed city of Serpoukhov by the appearance of

your miraculous icon, "The Inexhaustible Cup." All that fall down before it with faith and a contrite heart will receive healing from this grievous illness, and thus may cry to God with adoration: Alleluia.

Ikos 2

Having understood the meaning of the threefold apparition of Saint Varlaam, and his order to go to the city of Serpoukhov, the man possessed by the illness of alcoholism obeyed. There, in a monastery, he found your holy icon called "The Inexhaustible Cup." Beholding such mercy bestowed upon us sinners, we cry out to you with veneration:

Rejoice, through pious people, you show us sinners the glory of your marvelous work.

Rejoice, by your wise guidance, you show us the way of salvation.

Rejoice, by your goodness, you attract us to yourself and teach us purity.

Rejoice, by bestowing upon us your rich blessings, you teach us gratitude.

Rejoice, by making us see hope beyond doubt, you give us gladness of heart.

Rejoice, by healing our infirmities, you renew our zeal for the Kingdom.

Rejoice, for you destroy our destructive passions.

Rejoice, for you help us in our good intentions.

Rejoice, Theotokos, the Inexhaustible Cup who quenches our spiritual thirst.

Kontakion 3

The power of the Almighty and the grace of the Sovereign Mother of God strengthened a man suffering from alcoholism. In obedience to an order of the Theotokos, given to him by Saint Varlaam, he set out for the city of Serpoukhov, and this despite his paralyzed legs. Upon his arrival, he found the icon of the most pure Theotokos, and was healed from illness of the soul and of the body. Therefore, he fervently cried to God in thanksgiving: Alleluia.

Ikos 3

You are an inexhaustible fountain, O Theotokos, a cup of heavenly gifts who always remains full. The people of the city of Serpoukhov, as well as all the Orthodox from every city and village that come to your most wonderful icon, "The Inexhaustible Cup," are thereby healed. For this cause, with grateful lips we call to you:

Rejoice, vessel of holy water who dissolves our sorrow.
Rejoice, cup by whom we receive the joy of our salvation.
Rejoice, for you attend to our spiritual and physical ills.
Rejoice, for your prayers tame our passions.
Rejoice, for you give to each according to his needs.
Rejoice, for you give generously to all who repent.
Rejoice, for you have opened for us the treasury of your compassion.
Rejoice, for you show tender mercy to the fallen ones.

Rejoice, Theotokos, the Inexhaustible Cup who quenches our spiritual thirst.

Kontakion 4

People laden with passions and addictions, doubting of ever finding deliverance, come with repentance to your inexpressible mercy. Thus having been healed, with all their mind and soul they cry out in reverence to our Savior born of you: Alleluia.

Ikos 4

Upon seeing the sorrow and tears of parents, spouses and children whose family member is possessed by the passion of addiction, the Lord gave us your icon, O Theotokos. All that come to it receive consolation and spiritual joy. We therefore cry out to you with tears of gratitude:

Rejoice, lamb, for you gave birth to the Lamb of God.
Rejoice, ladle who draws up joy from the source of immortality.
Rejoice, alleviation of the grief of sorrowing mothers.
Rejoice, abundant hope of the hopeless.
Rejoice, for you compassionately bestow joy upon those in grief.
Rejoice, for you graciously protect those that show you reverence.
Rejoice, for your helping hand is there for those that seek it.
Rejoice, for your heavenly protection shelters mortals in distress.

Rejoice, Theotokos, the Inexhaustible Cup who quenches our spiritual thirst.

Kontakion 5

Most gracious Lady, you have shown your holy icon to be the star that leads to God. Beholding the icon and praying to you, we cry: O Theotokos, give healing to those that

are suffering from drunkenness and any other illness of mind and body. Teach us all to praise your Son and our God, singing: Alleluia.

Ikos 5

Mother of God, upon seeing the wonders granted to those that humbly venerate you, and the healings that pour forth from your icon that miraculously appeared in Serpoukhov, and also from those that were but copies of it, we rightfully cry out to you:

Rejoice, for you protect the destitute that bow to you in supplication.

Rejoice, for you hear our simple prayers.

Rejoice, for you have blessed the city of Serpoukhov.

Rejoice, for you have revealed the glory of your miracles among the people of Moscow.

Rejoice, strength and refuge of those that strive for sobriety.

Rejoice, almighty help to those that fight against the world, the flesh, Satan and addictions.

Rejoice, defender of those that lead a virtuous life in this world.

Rejoice, support of those that resist the lures of the devil.

Rejoice, Theotokos, the Inexhaustible Cup who quenches our spiritual thirst.

Kontakion 6

Lady Theotokos, we proclaim your wonders that pour forth from your icon, "The Inexhaustible Cup." With tears we pray to you: Save us all from the passion of drunkenness and from other addictions and sins. Teach us, O pure one, to abstain from all impurity, so that we may sing to God: Alleluia.

Ikos 6

In the light of the divine glory, you look at your Son, the Eternal God and Lord Jesus Christ, standing in the chalice as shown on your icon mysteriously called "The Inexhaustible Cup." Hence, you graciously pour forth deliverance from drunkenness to those that run to you and bring this unceasing praise:

Rejoice, for the angelic powers and the human race rejoice together because of you.

Rejoice, for your glory surpasses both human and heavenly praise.

Rejoice, for you have revealed to us the mystery of the Divine Eucharist by showing the image of your Son in the chalice.

Rejoice, for you show us the Lamb born of you, Who is always eaten but never consumed.

Rejoice, for you fill our thirsty souls with water from the Fountain of Immortality.

Rejoice, through your maternal love, you receive the forlorn and deserted.

Rejoice, for you do not withhold your blessings even from the most rejected and despised.

Rejoice, by your compassion, you pull us all out of the pit of perdition.

Rejoice, Theotokos, the Inexhaustible Cup who quenches our spiritual thirst.

Kontakion 7

A man wanted to thank you, O Theotokos, for healing him from alcoholism, and so he adorned your miraculous icon that is in Serpoukhov, singing to God from the depth of his heart: Alleluia.

Ikos 7

We see a new miracle from your holy icon, O Theotokos. The servant of God, Stephen, a victim of the disease of alcoholism, implored your maternal intercession and he has been granted a cure. In gratitude, he adorned your icon with rich gifts, falling down before it and calling to you with tears:

Rejoice, life-giving fountain of healing.

Rejoice, heavenly cup of divine gifts.

Rejoice, river who carries miracles.

Rejoice, the sea into whom all our passions sink.

Rejoice, for you raise up those that fall under the weight of drunkenness.

Rejoice, for you do not turn down gifts of gratitude.

Rejoice, for you hear the prayers of pious people.

Rejoice, for you grant us those of our petitions that are good for us.

Rejoice, Theotokos, the Inexhaustible Cup who quenches our spiritual thirst.

Kontakion 8

It must be strange and incredible for unbelievers to hear that your icon, "The Inexhaustible Cup," procures miracles. For those of us that believe in your words proclaimed about your first icon, "The grace of the One Who is born of me and my

own blessings will always be with this icon," this present icon also exudes your mercy. We therefore humbly venerate it, crying to God: Alleluia.

Ikos 8

People suffering from alcoholism and addictions put all their hope in you, our Sovereign Lady. Mercifully bend down to our ills and our passions. Who but you, O Theotokos, can pull us out of the pit of perdition and of physical and spiritual misery? We bend our knees before you in prayer, and we cry out to you:

Rejoice, for you do not reject the prayers of those that have sinned.

Rejoice, for you give your help to those that truly ask for it.

Rejoice, for you show the depth of your compassion for the sinner.

Rejoice, for you give courage to those that have lost all hope.

Rejoice, by your helping hand, you lift up those that suffer from drunkenness.

Rejoice, by your gift of grace, you console those that endure suffering.

Rejoice, by your motherly persistence, you nurse our physical and emotional ills.

Rejoice, by your merciful intercessions, you prepare our path to salvation.

Rejoice, Theotokos, the Inexhaustible Cup who quenches our spiritual thirst.

Kontakion 9

All the angels are amazed at your mercy, O Lord, for You have given sinful mankind a strong Protectress and helper. She tenderly looks down upon our weakness, heals those suffering from the bitter disease of drunkenness, and teaches the faithful to sing: Alleluia.

Ikos 9

The most exalted human mind cannot praise enough the appearance of your glorious icon, O Sovereign Lady. Nor can we sinners bring from our sinful lips a glorification worthy of our Protectress. Having seen countless miracles coming from your icon, we rejoice in our heart and spirit, and as is proper we proclaim:

Rejoice, for you pour forth miracles from your holy image.

Rejoice, for you graciously deliver us from painful conditions.

Rejoice, for you put to shame those that deny you.

Rejoice, for you protect from every evil those that run to you.

Rejoice, for you fill our heart with love for your Son and for yourself.

Rejoice, for you show us the narrow path of repentance.
Rejoice, for you help us to bring forth fruits from our renewal.
Rejoice, our only Mediatrix before the Just Judge.

Rejoice, Theotokos, the Inexhaustible Cup who quenches our spiritual thirst.

Kontakion 10

Wishing to save all those that suffer from the disease of alcoholism and other addictions, you have shown us your wonderful icon, O Theotokos, so that all the suffering ones may come to your miraculous image. Then, after having obtained healing, they may gratefully cry out to God: Alleluia.

Ikos 10

You are the wall and the shield, Lady Theotokos, for those that suffer from drunkenness, and also for all those that approach you with devotion and that piously venerate your holy icon. The Lord God gave us your icon to help us, and to heal us from destructive addictions. He thereby inspires us to sing to you:

Rejoice, for you alleviate our sufferings and give hope to those that despair.

Rejoice, for you are the healing of our ills.

Rejoice, with your purity, you wipe away our corruption.

Rejoice, by your holiness, you illumine our gloom.

Rejoice, with your cloak of compassion, you clothe our mortal body.

Rejoice, by your wonders, you fortify our prayers.

Rejoice, for you make us strong whereas sin made us weak.

Rejoice, for your radiance disperses the dark clouds of passion and desolation that surround us.

Rejoice, Theotokos, the Inexhaustible Cup who quenches our spiritual thirst.

Kontakion 11

Our pure Mother, do not despise our humble singing that we bring to you from the fullness of love and zeal, and do not turn away your face from those that suffer from drunkenness and desperation. Rather, help us, so that we also may be cleansed from every impurity and may rightly and justly sing to God: Alleluia.

Ikos 11

Most holy Lady, on your icon you are seen like a burning candle in rays of grace, surrounded by the assembly of saints and holy martyrs. Since you indicate to us the path of righteousness, we call on you and say:

Rejoice, by the prayers of Saint Domnica, you save us from this world of troubles and desires.

Rejoice, by her pleading, you help us to overcome the passions of the flesh.

Rejoice, by the prayers of the holy martyr Varlaam, you fill our hearts with pious thoughts.

Rejoice, by his petitions, you illumine our conscience.

Rejoice, by the prayers of the holy martyr Paraskeva, you deliver those that suffer from drunkenness.

Rejoice, by her supplication, you call us to repentance and watchfulness.

Rejoice, by the prayers of the holy martyr Antipas, you mellow the bitter heart.

Rejoice, by his righteous appeals, you save those that call on your name.

Rejoice, Theotokos, the Inexhaustible Cup who quenches our spiritual thirst.

Kontakion 12

The grace that shines through your icon, "The Inexhaustible Cup," calls to it all those that suffer. All the unfortunate, the widows and orphans, and especially those that are ill with the disease of alcoholism come to you. No one goes away empty-handed from your Inexhaustible Cup, O merciful Mother, but all are filled with divine gifts. After having received healing and help, they dutifully sing to you: Alleluia.

Ikos 12

Praising your wondrous work and great mercy that you bestow upon those that suffer from addictions, O compassionate Lady, we beg you: Save us sinners, have mercy upon us, show us the right path, and do not reject us for we seek your protection and call out to you:

Rejoice, by the light of your wisdom, you direct us to your Son.

Rejoice, by your intercessions, you sustain us on the way to sobriety.

Rejoice, by the dew of your mercy, you deliver us from the passions of alcohol and drugs.

Rejoice, by your unceasing care, you heal us from all addictions.

Rejoice, for you are a speedy help to those that suffer from all kinds of dependency.
Rejoice, for you support those that are even-tempered.
Rejoice, for you humble the prideful.
Rejoice, for you exalt the lowly and wish salvation to all.

Rejoice, Theotokos, the Inexhaustible Cup who quenches our spiritual thirst.

Kontakion 13

All-merciful Mother of our Lord and God, Jesus Christ, hear our prayer and deliver us from all ills, physical and emotional. Especially attend to your servants who suffer from this disease, so that they may not perish, but might be saved and thus sing to God: Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia.

Repeat Kontakion 13 three times

Kontakion 1 (Repeated)

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Ikos 1 (Repeated)

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Rejoice, our constant wonder in goodness.

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Rejoice, our wonderful reconciliation with God

Rejoice, Queen who opens the gates to Paradise.

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Rejoice, Theotokos, the Inexhaustible Cup who quenches our spiritual thirst.

Final Prayer

Hear our prayer, most holy Protectress, for you are patient with our impurities and charitable with your Cup of healing and hope, which you pour forth upon those that venerate you. Those who struggle with addictions are acquainted with the false promises therein, and therefore with weeping beseech your compassion on this miserable state of being. Those who have husbands or wives, brothers or sisters, children or friends burdened with emotional problems, run to you for personal courage as well as to ask your intervention into the lives of loved ones. Have pity upon our twisted paths and heal us, O Theotokos, according to our need and faith and, most of all, according to your wonderful mercy. Let us find uncorrupted and unspoiled joy in your kindness, that we may worship your Son and our God with pure hearts, sober minds, and eternal gratitude. Amen.