

To thee, the champion leader, we thy flock dedicate a feast of victory and of 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!

A

A leader of the angels was sent from heaven to cry “Rejoice!” to the Theotokos, but seeing Thee, O Lord, taking bodily form he stood in awe, and with his bodiless voice he cried aloud to her such things as these:

Rejoice, thou through whom joy shall shine clear!
Rejoice, thou through whom the curse shall disappear!
Rejoice, thou fallen Adam’s restoration!
Rejoice, thou Eve’s tears’ redemption!
Rejoice, height, for human thoughts, hard to climb!
Rejoice, depth, even for the eyes of angels, sublime!
Rejoice, for thou art the throne of the King!
Rejoice, for thou holdest Him Who holdeth everything!
Rejoice, star revealing the Sun!
Rejoice, womb of divine incarnation!
Rejoice, thou through whom creation is reborn!
Rejoice, thou through whom the Creator is born!
Rejoice, thou bride unwedded!

B

Beholding herself in chastity, the holy one said boldly unto Gabriel, “The strangeness of thy words is hard for my soul to receive, for how speakest thou of a seedless conception?” crying aloud: Alleluia!

C

Curious to know unknowable knowledge, the virgin cried to him who ministered unto her, “From a chaste womb, how can a son be born? Tell thou me.” Then said he to her in fear, yet crying aloud thus:

Rejoice, initiate of ineffable guidance!
Rejoice, faith in that which demandeth silence!
Rejoice, of Christ’s miracles, introduction!
Rejoice, of His doctrines, the culmination!
Rejoice, heavenly ladder whereby God hath descended!
Rejoice, bridge leading the earthly to the abode of the
blesséd!
Rejoice, wonder of angels, much commended!
Rejoice, wounding of demons, much lamented!
Rejoice, thou who gavest birth to the Light ineffable!
Rejoice, thou having taught none as to how it were
possible!
Rejoice, knowledge surpassing that of philosophers!
Rejoice, illumination of the minds of believers!
Rejoice, thou bride unwedded!

D

Did not then the power of the Most High overshadow her who knew not wedlock that she might conceive, and show forth her fruitful womb as a sweet meadow to all who desire to reap salvation whilst chanting: Alleluia?

E

Elizabeth received the virgin hastening to her with God in her womb, and her unborn babe straightway, perceiving her salutation, rejoiced, and with leaps as if with songs, he cried out to the Theotokos:

Rejoice, vine bearing the Tendril unwithering!

Rejoice, orchard-grove of Fruit unspoiling!

Rejoice, thou who dost garden the Gardener-Friend of man!

Rejoice, thou who dost cultivate our life's Husbandman!

Rejoice, field producing a bounty of mercy!

Rejoice, table laden with an abundance of leniency!

Rejoice, thou who makest green the Garden of delight!

Rejoice, thou who preparest the Haven of our souls' respite!

Rejoice, acceptable incense of intercession!

Rejoice, for all the world, propitiation!

Rejoice, unto mortals, God's beneficence!

Rejoice, before God, mortals' confidence!

Rejoice, thou bride unwedded!

F

Finding a tempest of doubting thoughts within, the chaste Joseph was troubled, for he suspected a secret union as he beheld thee unwed, O immaculate one, but when he learned of thy conceiving through the Holy Spirit, he cried: Alleluia!

G

Greeted by the angels praising the incarnate presence of Christ, the shepherds hastened as to a Shepherd, and beholding Him as a spotless Lamb, Which had been pastured in Mary's womb, they hymned her, and said:

Rejoice, Mother of the Lamb and the Pastor!
Rejoice, thou, the rational sheeps' Pasture!
Rejoice, defense against foes hidden from our eyes!
Rejoice, opening of the gates of paradise!
Rejoice, for the heavenly now rejoice with the earthly!
Rejoice, for the earthly join chorus with the heavenly!
Rejoice, mouth of the apostles, unsilenceable!
Rejoice, boldness of the martyrs, unconquerable!
Rejoice, faith's immovable base!
Rejoice, shining Token of grace!
Rejoice, thou by whom Hades naked was made!
Rejoice, thou by whom with glory we are arrayed!
Rejoice, thou bride unwedded!

H

Having the Godward-pointing Star as a lantern, the Magi followed in its splendor, and they sought thereby the mighty King. And as they approached the Unapproachable, they rejoiced and cried to Him: Alleluia!

I

In the hands of the virgin did the children of the Chaldeans behold Him Who by His hand fashioned man; and perceiving Him as Master, though He had taken the form of a servant, they hastened with gifts to do homage, and they cried out to her who is blessed:

Rejoice, Mother of the Star ever ablaze!
Rejoice, dawn of the mystic Day's!
Rejoice, thou who didst extinguish the furnace of
trickery!
Rejoice, thou who didst enlighten the initiates of the
Trinity!
Rejoice, for by thee the tyrant and enemy of man is
deposed!
Rejoice, for by thee Christ, the Friend of man, is
disclosed!
Rejoice, redemption from barbaric observances!
Rejoice, deliverance from filthy practices!
Rejoice, quenching of fire's adoration!
Rejoice, dousing of the flames of passion!
Rejoice, guide of the faithful to chastity!
Rejoice, every generation's felicity!
Rejoice, thou bride unwedded!

J

Joyful heralds did the Godbearing wise men become, when they returned to Babylon, and fulfilling Thy prophecy, they preached Thee to all as the Christ, and they left Herod as a fool, who knew not how to chant:
Alleluia!

K

Knowledge all-radiant of the truth didst Thou shine in Egypt, and didst dispel the darkness of falsehood; and unable to bear Thy strength, O Savior, her idols fell, and they that were set free therefrom cried to the Theotokos:

Rejoice, man's elevation!

Rejoice, demon's desolation!

Rejoice, thou who didst trample down the delusion of falseness!

Rejoice, thou who didst censure the idols' deceitfulness!

Rejoice, sea which did drown the noetic Pharaoh's strife!

Rejoice, rock which gave drink to those athirst for Life!

Rejoice, pillar of fire, direction of those in darkness!

Rejoice, broader than a cloud, protection of the universe!

Rejoice, sustenance, successor to manna in the wilderness!

Rejoice, of holy delicacies, deaconess!

Rejoice, land which was promised long ago!

Rejoice, thou from whom milk and honey flow!

Rejoice, thou bride unwedded!

L

Loathing this age of deception, and desiring to depart from it, Symeon received Thee as a new-born Babe, nevertheless, he recognized Thee as perfect God. Wherefore, he marveled at Thine ineffable wisdom, and cried out: Alleluia!

M

Made new was the Creation Which the Creator showed to us His creatures, when He sprang forth from the seedless womb, and He preserved it incorrupt, even as it was, that we, seeing this marvel, may praise her as we cry out:

Rejoice, flower forever without taint!

Rejoice, crown of self-restraint!

Rejoice, fulminator of the type of the resurrection!

Rejoice, of the angelic life, depiction!

Rejoice, tree of goodly Fruit whereby the faithful are nurtured!

Rejoice, wood of leafy branches whereby many are sheltered!

Rejoice, thou who didst bear the Guide of the bewildered!

Rejoice, thou by whom the Redeemer of captives was engendered!

Rejoice, before the righteous Judge, our intercessor!

Rejoice, thou forgiveness for many a transgressor!

Rejoice, for the naked, garment of boldness!

Rejoice, tender love which overthroweth all covetousness!

Rejoice, thou bride unwedded!

N

Noting a strange childbirth, let us estrange ourselves from the world by transporting our minds to heaven. To this end the most high God appeared on earth a lowly man, that He might draw to the heights those who cry to Him: Alleluia!

O

Of a truth, was the infinite Word wholly present with those below, yet in no way absent from those above, for this was a divine condescension and not a mere change of place, and His birth was from a virgin chosen of God, who heard such words as these:

Rejoice, enclosure of God unenclosable!
Rejoice, of the solemn mystery, portal!
Rejoice, doubtful rumor of unbelievers!
Rejoice, undoubted boast of believers!
Rejoice, all-holy chariot of Him Who rideth upon the
cherubim!
Rejoice, choicest dwelling-place of Him Who is
enthroned upon the seraphim!
Rejoice, thou who makest things that differ to agree!
Rejoice, thou who dost bind together motherhood and
virginity!
Rejoice, thou by whom transgression is loosened!
Rejoice, thou by whom paradise is opened!
Rejoice, Christ's kingdom's key!
Rejoice, hope of blessings unto eternity!
Rejoice, thou bride unwedded!

P

Principalities, powers, and all angelkind were amazed by the great deed of Thine incarnation, for they saw the inaccessible God as a man accessible to all, dwelling among us and hearing from all: Alleluia!

Q

Quiet as fish do we behold most eloquent orators before thee, O Theotokos, for they are at a loss to explain how thou couldst remain a virgin and yet give birth. But as for us, marveling at this mystery, we cry with faith:

Rejoice, of the wisdom of God, decanter!
Rejoice, of His providence, treasure chamber!
Rejoice, thou who showest forth philosophers as simpletons!
Rejoice, thou who provest illogical logicians!
Rejoice, for clever debaters are led astray!
Rejoice, for the authors of myths do fade away!
Rejoice, thou who breakest the entanglements of the Athenian!
Rejoice, thou who fillest the nets of the fishermen!
Rejoice, thou who drawest us from the depths of ignorance!
Rejoice, thou who enlightenest many with intelligence!
Rejoice, lifeboat for those desiring salvation!
Rejoice, for sailors on the sea of life, safe haven!
Rejoice, thou bride unwedded!

R

Resolving to save the world, the Ruler of all came of His own will, and, though as God He is Shepherd, for us He appeared as a man like unto us, for by this likeness He called those of like kind, yet as God He doth hear: Alleluia!

S

Sure rampart art thou for virgins and for all who have recourse to thee, O Virgin Theotokos, for the Maker of heaven and earth prepared thee, O most pure one, and dwelt in thy womb, and taught all to cry out to thee:

Rejoice, pillar of virginity!

Rejoice, gate of salvation's entry!

Rejoice, spiritual restoration's foundress!

Rejoice, of divine goodness, the patroness!

Rejoice, for thou didst regenerate those in shame
conceived!

Rejoice, for thou didst chastise those of mind bereaved!

Rejoice, for thou hast abolished the corrupter of
mentality!

Rejoice, for thou gavest birth to the Sower of chastity!

Rejoice, bridal chamber of a seedless espousal!

Rejoice, thou who dost join to the Lord the faithful!

Rejoice, governess of virgins, most kindly!

Rejoice, bridal escort of the souls of the saintly!

Rejoice, thou bride unwedded!

T

Though we strive to pay homage to the multitude of Thy many compassions, our every hymn is defeated. For even should we offer Thee, holy King, hymns of praise numberless as the sands, we should still have done nothing worthy of what Thou hast given unto us who cry to Thee: Alleluia!

U

Unto those in darkness shining as a brilliant beacon light, do we behold the holy virgin, for she kindleth the immaterial Light and leadeth all to divine knowledge. She illumineth our minds with radiance, and is honored by these our cries:

Rejoice, ray of the noetic Sunlight!

Rejoice, radiance of the innermost Daylight!

Rejoice, lightening, our souls brightening!

Rejoice, thunder, our enemies frightening!

Rejoice, for thou dost cause the many-starred Light to dawn!

Rejoice, for thou dost cause the much-flowing River to spawn!

Rejoice, thou who dost the image of the font portray!

Rejoice, thou who dost wash the filth of sin away!

Rejoice, bath, cleansing the conscience!

Rejoice, ladle, drawing up gladness!

Rejoice, of Christ, the sweet-smelling scent!

Rejoice, life of mystic merriment!

Rejoice, thou bride unwedded!

V

Voluntarily having come to dwell amongst those who had departed from His favor, and desiring to bestow His grace upon them, was He Who forgiveth the ancient debts of all men, and having rent asunder the handwriting against them, He heareth from all: Alleluia!

W

Whilst hymning thine Offspring, we all praise thee, O Theotokos, as a living temple. For the Lord, Who holdeth all things in His hand, dwelt in thy womb. And He hallowed and glorified thee, and taught all to cry to thee:

Rejoice, of God the Word, tabernacle!
Rejoice, than the Holy of Holies, more ample!
Rejoice, ark, made golden by the Spirit!
Rejoice, treasury of Life, without limit!
Rejoice, diadem of pious kings, all-honorable!
Rejoice, boast of reverent priests, most venerable!
Rejoice, of the Church unshakable Tower!
Rejoice, of the Kingdom impregnable barrier!
Rejoice, thou through whom trophies are elevated!
Rejoice, thou through whom our enemies are
 humiliated!
Rejoice, thou who makest my body whole!
Rejoice, thou the salvation of my soul!
Rejoice, thou bride unwedded!

X

O eXceedingly hymned Mother, who didst bear the Word Who is more holy than all the saints, as thou receivest this our offering, rescue us all from every calamity, and deliver from future torment those who cry with one voice: Alleluia! *Thrice.*

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