Akathist for the Nativity of Christ



Kontakion 1

Christ our God, who chose the pure Virgin from among all generations and was born of her in the flesh, we, your servants, offer hymns of thanksgiving to you. Since you are filled with indescribable love and kindness, O Master, free us from every misfortune as we cry out:

Jesus, Son of God, who became incarnate for our sake: glory to You.

Ikos 1

A glorious assembly of angels gathered in Bethlehem to witness the unapproachable Nativity. Seeing their Creator lying as a newborn in a manger, they were filled with awe. With reverence, they honoured the divinity of the One born and of the mother who bore him, singing praises such as these:

Glory to You, Son of God, who was begotten of the Father before time began.
Glory to You, who, with the Father and the Spirit, created all things.
Glory to You, who became flesh to save the human race.
Glory to You, who took on the form of a servant.
Glory to You, who seek the lost.
Glory to You, who save those gone astray.
Glory to You, who broke down the wall of separation.
Glory to You, who reopened Paradise, which was closed by disobedience.
Glory to You, who were born of the Virgin.
Glory to You, who tenderly love all humanity.
Glory to You, who made the cave Heaven on earth.
Glory to You, who revealed the Virgin who gave birth to you as the throne of the cherubim.
Jesus, Son of God, who became incarnate for our sake: glory to You.

Kontakion 2

Seeing that their Master had taken on flesh from the pure Virgin, the heavenly angels were filled with awe and spoke among themselves, “This is an all-glorious mystery beyond understanding.” Marveling at His incomprehensible humility, they sang with reverence: Alleluia.

Ikos 2

All spiritual creation is amazed, Lord Jesus, and with thanksgiving praises the mystery of your Nativity. The heavenly hosts rejoice, singing, “Glory to God in the highest.” Earth and humanity are filled with joy, and we continuously cry out:
Glory to You, O God, who are glorified in the highest.
Glory to You, who caused the angels to rejoice.
Glory to You, who revealed yourself to us on earth.
Glory to You, who reconciled yourself with sinners.
Glory to You, who came down from the heavens.
Glory to You, who made the star shine forth.
Glory to You, who led the Magi to worship you.
Glory to You, who mercifully accepted their gifts.
Glory to You, who taught all creation to serve you.
Glory to You, who gave us understanding to praise you.
Glory to You, who united yourself with us.
Glory to You, who saved us.
Jesus, Son of God, who became incarnate for our sake: glory to You.

Kontakion 3
The God of peace and Father of compassion, mighty in strength, came to earth to save a perishing world. In Bethlehem, He was born as a child of the Virgin, making her the Mother and Mediator of salvation for all who glorify His Incarnation and sing: Alleluia.

Ikos 3
With her who gave birth to you in purity praying continually for us, we rejoice and honor the mystery of your becoming human, Lord Jesus. We glorify your birth from the God-pleasing Virgin as we sing:
Glory to You, Son of God.
Glory to You, Son of the Virgin.
Glory to You, who revealed the depths of your love for humanity.
Glory to You, who loved us beyond measure.
Glory to You, who sought out the lost sheep.
Glory to You, who told the angels to rejoice over its return.
Glory to You, who carried it on your shoulders.
Glory to You, who led it to the Father.
Glory to You, who united men and angels as one flock.
Glory to You, who freed the world from delusion.
Glory to You, who showed us great mercy beyond understanding.
Glory to You, who love us more than all other creatures.
Jesus, Son of God, who became incarnate for our sake: glory to You.

Kontakion 4

The chaste-minded Joseph, who was filled with doubts, saw glorious things in the holy cave. Though he saw the newborn child born of the Virgin, he understood through revelation that He is the true God. Bowing in reverence, he chanted with joy: Alleluia.

Ikos 4

The shepherds heard the angel proclaim that the Savior of the world was born in the city of David. Running to the cave, they found Him lying in a manger, like an unblemished lamb nurtured in the Virgin's womb. She who gave birth to Him served Him, and Joseph stood by in awe. The shepherds shared what they had been told and, bowing down before the newborn, they said:
Glory to You, Lamb of God, Savior of the world.
Glory to You, Son of God, who revealed an indescribable miracle to humanity.
Glory to You, who made us hear the song of angels.
Glory to You, who taught us to glorify you with them.
Glory to You, who moved angels and humans to praise you.
Glory to You, who brought joy to both earth and Heaven.
Glory to You, in whom those in Heaven rejoice with those on earth.
Glory to You, who united earth with Heaven.
Glory to You, who showed the devil’s power to be powerless.
Glory to You, who freed us from his tyranny.
Glory to You, unspeakable joy for those who believe in you.
Glory to You, indescribable delight for those who love you.
Jesus, Son of God, who became incarnate for our sake: glory to You.

Kontakion 5
Seeing the star that pointed to Christ's Nativity, the Magi followed it and were led to the One beyond all reach. When they saw Him, who is invisible, they rejoiced and cried out: Alleluia.

Ikos 5
The Persian kings, seeing the King of kings seated on the arm of the Virgin like a throne of the cherubim, understood that He is the Master, even though He had taken the form of a servant. They brought Him gifts: gold, as King of all; frankincense, as God; and myrrh, as immortal. Bowing before Him, they chanted:
Glory to You, who brought light to all.
Glory to You, who guided us with a star to worship you.
Glory to You, who defeated the malice of cruel Herod.
Glory to You, who revealed his schemes as worthless.
Glory to You, who freed us from his deception.
Glory to You, who taught us to worship you, the Sun of Righteousness.
Glory to You, who enlightened all with the light of understanding.
Glory to You, who by your Nativity ended the delusion of polytheism.
Glory to You, who destroyed the dominion of the enemy.
Glory to You, who taught us to worship you with the Father and the Spirit.
Glory to You, who crushed the head of the serpent who deceived us.
Glory to You, who delivered us from everlasting death.
Jesus, Son of God, who became incarnate for our sake: glory to You.

Kontakion 6

Fulfilling the prophecies spoken by the God-bearing prophets, you revealed yourself on earth, Savior, born of the pure Virgin in a humble cave. Though rich, you willingly became poor for our sake, so that you might enrich all who sing to you with faith: Alleluia.

Ikos 6

You shone forth from the Virgin, Lord Jesus, like the sun, dispelling the darkness of falsehood. The demons trembled, unable to withstand your power. Hades also, witnessing this miracle, was filled with terror. And so we rightfully cry out to you with gratitude:

Glory to You, Savior of humanity.
Glory to You, destroyer of demons.
Glory to You, who struck fear in the prince of lies by your birth.
Glory to You, who blessed the prophets with eternal joy.
Glory to You, who illuminated all with the knowledge of God.
Glory to You, who drove away the darkness of ignorance.
Glory to You, who poured forth the water of salvation on us all.
Glory to You, who quenched the thirst of Adam and David.
Glory to You, who like the sun enlightened all by your Nativity.
Glory to You, who made the world radiant with your grace.
Glory to You, who revealed the Promised Land to us.
Glory to You, who delivered us from the curse of our ancestors.
Jesus, Son of God, who became incarnate for our sake: glory to You.

Kontakion 7
Desiring to reveal the mystery hidden from the beginning of time, you showed it to your servants from all creation, O Savior — to Gabriel among the angels, to the Virgin among humanity, to the star among the heavens, and to the cave where it pleased you to be born. In awe of your wisdom, we cry to you: Alleluia.

Ikos 7
The Creator of all brought forth a new creation, revealing Himself in the flesh, born from a womb He kept pure. He offered this as the bridge of salvation for those who sing:
Glory to You, Son of God, who showed her who bore you to be the Mother of compassion.
Glory to You, who kept her virginity even after birth.
Glory to You, who came to save Adam.
Glory to You, who comforted Eve's tears.
Glory to You, who appeared as an innocent Lamb.
Glory to You, who showed us an image of the Resurrection.
Glory to You, who erased the record of our sins.
Glory to You, who gave us an example of humility.
Glory to You, who became poor for our sake.
Glory to You, who enriched us with your poverty.
Glory to You, who clothed us in the garments of salvation.
Glory to You, who delighted us with your love.
Jesus, Son of God, who became incarnate for our sake: glory to You.

Kontakion 8
Seeing the miraculous Nativity that took place in the cave, let us leave behind the vanities of the world. Now we know that the Divine Mind appeared on earth as a humble man and leads to heaven all those who sing with gratitude: Alleluia.

Ikos 8
Christ our God, you are all we desire and all the joy for those who love you and glorify your divine humility. Born on earth of the pure Virgin, you lead all who sing to you to heaven:
Glory to You, Son of God, who was born in a manger on earth.
Glory to You, who revealed the pure Virgin to be a worthy Mother.
Glory to You, who made yourself known to the meek and the poor.
Glory to You, who called those from afar into your marvelous light.
Glory to You, our indescribable joy.
Glory to You, the delight of our hearts.
Glory to You, who, in your Nativity, shone forth the light of salvation.
Glory to You, who shed tears for our redemption.
Glory to You, who extinguished the flames of our passions.
Glory to You, who cleansed us from the defilement of sin.
Glory to You, who erased our transgressions.
Glory to You, who delivered us from corruption.
Jesus, Son of God, who became incarnate for our sake: glory to You.

Kontakion 9
No mind or understanding of angels or humans can comprehend the mystery of your unapproachable Nativity, O Savior. Yet, accept our love and faith, Good Master, and save us who sing with reverence: Alleluia.

Ikos 9
Lord Jesus, the most eloquent of speakers are silent when faced with your Incarnation. They cannot understand how you, perfect God, appeared as a perfect man and were born of a Virgin who knew no man. So, refusing to question these mysteries, we glorify you by faith alone, singing:
Glory to You, wisdom of God.
Glory to You, indescribable joy of the meek.
Glory to You, who made those without wisdom into lovers of wisdom.
Glory to You, who gave understanding even to the simple.
Glory to You, who confounded those who tested you.
Glory to You, who broke the schemes of all who spread falsehoods.
Glory to You, who united true knowledge with right worship.
Glory to You, who poured wisdom into your works.
Glory to You, who enlightened many minds.
Glory to You, who showed us the path to salvation.
Glory to You, unfathomable source of kindness.
Glory to You, depth of compassion and love for humanity.
Jesus, Son of God, who became incarnate for our sake: glory to You.

Kontakion 10
Desiring to save a perishing world, the Creator of all was born of the Virgin as a child. The One who frees us from our sins was wrapped in swaddling clothes and laid in a manger. Though the Son of God, He became the Son of the Virgin, arranging all things wisely to save those who sing to Him: Alleluia.

Ikos 10
Herod, the enemy of God, showed himself as a wall of malice, trying to kill the One who gives life to all. By his command, innocent children were killed like unripe grain. Let us, however, remove all malice from our hearts as we glorify Him who came to save us, saying:
Glory to You, who revealed Herod's plans to be in vain.
Glory to You, who welcomed the souls of the children he slew.
Glory to You, vanquisher of wickedness.
Glory to You, teacher of humility and love for humanity.
Glory to You, who broke the power of pride.
Glory to You, who shone the light of righteousness upon all.
Glory to You, who taught us to be meek and humble.
Glory to You, who brought all to acknowledge you.
Glory to You, who sanctified the womb of your mother by your birth.
Glory to You, who accepted the shepherds' wonder and the gifts of the Magi.
Glory to You, who taught even animals to serve you.
Glory to You, who blessed all creation.
Jesus, Son of God, who became incarnate for our sake: glory to You.

Kontakion 11
All praise for your Incarnation is inadequate, and for those who wish to offer fitting honor, silence is better. Even if we were to praise you with words as countless as the sands, we would accomplish nothing worthy. So, with fervent hearts, we sing to you: Alleluia.

Ikos 11
Those who sat in darkness and in the shadow of death saw you, the eternal Light, shining from the Virgin. They were enlightened by your divinity and praised you, the giver of wisdom and understanding, saying:
Glory to You, who have shone forth as radiant light.
Glory to You, Sun of Righteousness, illuminating all with your Nativity.
Glory to You, who poured out upon us a mighty river of grace.
Glory to You, who generously gave us the water of salvation.
Glory to You, who showed those who love you that your yoke is easy and your burden is light.
Glory to You, who lifted from us the weight of sin.
Glory to You, who freed us from the enemy's bondage.
Glory to You, who conquered human malice by becoming human.
Glory to You, who brought joy to all by your appearance on earth.
Glory to You, who gave us comfort through rebirth.
Glory to You, our deepest desire.
Glory to You, who reconciled us with the Father.
Jesus, Son of God, who became incarnate for our sake: glory to You.

Kontakion 12
Our Savior, who came to give grace to all and release us from sin, forgive our debts and destroy the record of our wrongs, so that we may glorify your wondrous Nativity and sing without ceasing: Alleluia.

Ikos 12
As we celebrate your Incarnation, we praise, bless, and worship you, our Savior. We believe that you are the Lord and God who saves all who hope in you, who glorify your birth from the Virgin, and who sing:
Glory to You, Son of God, worshiped in the highest with the Father and the Spirit.
Glory to You, honoured by all in Heaven and on earth.
Glory to You, who revealed the mystery hidden since before time began.
Glory to You, who showed your powerful love for us.
Glory to You, who know the hearts of all.
Glory to You, who have mercy on sinners.
Glory to You, who establish the thrones of faithful rulers on earth.
Glory to You, who bless faithful hierarchs and priests with wisdom.
Glory to You, foundation and strength of the Church.
Glory to You, deliverance and beauty of all the faithful.
Glory to You, healer of our bodies.
Glory to You, Lover and Savior of our souls.
Jesus, Son of God, who became incarnate for our sake: glory to You.

Kontakion 13
To Jesus, all-good and compassionate Savior, Creator and Lord, accept this, our humble praise, thanksgiving, and worship, as you accepted the gifts and adoration of the Magi. Protect us, your servants, from all dangers. Grant us forgiveness of sins, and save those who glorify your birth from the pure Virgin with faith, as we sing: Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.