

The Akathist of Thanksgiving

By Metropolitan Tryphon of Turkestan

Found in effects of
Hieromartyr Grigori Petroff (+1942)

Translation 1

*Divided into 40 daily readings for the Nativity Fast
By the Antiochian Women of The East*

THE AKATHIST OF THANKSGIVING

“Glory to God for all things!”

The Very Reverend Father Gregory Petroff +1942

Translation 2

*Divided into 40 daily readings for the Nativity Fast
By the Antiochian Women of The East*

November 15 read through the complete Akathist
November 16 *Kontakion 1*

O King of ages, Who, by the power of Thy salvific providence, holdeth in Thy right hand all the ways of man's life: I thank Thee for all Thy visible and secret goods, for earthly life and for the heavenly joy of Thy future Kingdom. Pour forth richly Thy grace, in the future as well, on us who sing to Thee: Glory to Thee, O God, in ages!

November 17 *Ikos 1*

I was born on earth as a feeble and helpless child, but Thy angel, spreading his shiny wings, has sheltered my cradle. From that moment Thy love shines in all my ways and miraculously guides me into the light of eternity. For that my soul lauds Thee and hails Thee with all who know Thee:

November 18

Glory to Thee Who hast called me into life.
Glory to Thee Who art revealing to us the beauty of the universe.
Glory to Thee Who art opening to us heaven and earth as an eternal book of wisdom.
Glory to Thy eternity in the passing world.
Glory to Thee for Thy covert and overt mercies.
Glory to Thee for every sigh of my heart.
Glory to Thee for every step of life, every moment of joy.
Glory to Thee, O God, in ages!

December 25: Nativity of Christ in the Flesh
Kontakion 1

O King of ages, Who, by the power of Thy salvific providence, holdeth in Thy right hand all the ways of man's life: I thank Thee for all Thy visible and secret goods, for earthly life and for the heavenly joy of Thy future Kingdom. Pour forth richly Thy grace, in the future as well, on us who sing to Thee: Glory to Thee, O God, in ages!

Glory to God for everything!

November 15 read through the complete Akathist

November 16 *Kontakion 1*

Incorruptible King of all ages, holding in your hand every path of human life through the power of Your saving Providence. We thank you for all the good things You do, those we know and those we don't know, for earthly life and for the heavenly joy of Your Kingdom to come. Hold us in Your mercy now and ever we who sing: Glory to You, O God, unto ages of ages.

November 17 *Ikos*

Into the world I was born as a weak, helpless child, but Your Angel spread wings of light over me, guarding my crib. Ever since then Your love lights all my paths, wonderfully guiding me towards the light of eternity. Gloriously, the generous gifts of Your Providence have been manifest from the very first day. I am thankful to You and with all who have come to know You, call out:

November 18

Glory to You, Who called me to life,
Glory to You, Who have shown me the beauty of the universe
Glory to You, Who have opened before me the sky and the earth as an eternal book of wisdom,
Glory to the eternity of You, in the midst of the world of time
Glory to You, for Your hidden and evident goodness,
Glory to You, for every sigh of my sadness,
Glory to You, for every step of my life, for every moment of joy,
Glory to You, O God, unto ages of ages.

December 25 *Kontakion 1*

Incorruptible King of all ages, holding in your hand every path of human life through the power of Your saving Providence. We thank you for all the good things You do, those we know and those we don't know, for earthly life and for the heavenly joy of Your Kingdom to come. Hold us in Your mercy now and ever we who sing: Glory to You, O God, unto ages of ages.

Glory to God for all things!

December 22

Kontakion 13

O all-good and life-giving Trinity, receive our gratefulness for all thy goods and show us worthy of Thine eternal treasures, so that we may multiply the talent entrusted to us, reach Thy kingdom and enter into the joy of our Lord, singing to Him victorious song: *Alleluia!* (thrice)

December 23

Ikos 1

I was born on earth as a feeble and helpless child, but Thy angel, spreading his shiny wings, has sheltered my cradle. From that moment Thy love shines in all my ways and miraculously guides me into the light of eternity. For that my soul lauds Thee and hails Thee with all who know Thee:

December 24

Glory to Thee Who hast called me into life.
Glory to Thee Who art revealing to us the beauty of the universe.
Glory to Thee Who art opening to us heaven and earth as an eternal book of wisdom.
Glory to Thy eternity in the passing world.
Glory to Thee for Thy covert and overt mercies.
Glory to Thee for every sigh of my heart.
Glory to Thee for every step of life, / every moment of joy.
Glory to Thee, O God, in ages!

November 19

Kontakion 2

O Lord, how good it is for us to be Thy guests! How fine it is for us in Thy world. The fields are fragrant, the mountains rise high up into the sky, and the golden rays of sun and the light clouds are reflected in the water. All nature mysteriously speaks about Thee, all is filled with Thy mercy and all carries the seal of Thy love. Blessed be the earth which, with her short-lasting beauty, awakens the yearning for the eternal homeland in Thy kingdom, where in everlasting beauty resounds the song: *Alleluia!*

November 20

Ikos 2

Thou broughtest me into this life as if into a wonderful garden. I see the sky deep and blue, the birds as they chirp in flight; I listen to the soothing rustle of trees and the sonorous sound of waters; my mouth is enjoying fragrant and succulent fruits. How wonderful it is in Thy world and how joyous it is to be Thy guest!

November 21

Glory to Thee for the feast of life!
Glory to Thee for the scents of lilies of the valley & roses.
Glory to Thee for the abundance & multiplicity of earthly fruits.
Glory to Thee for the glistening of morning dew.
Glory to Thee for the joyous smile of dawn with which Thou dost waken me.
Glory to Thee for eternal life and the kingdom of heaven.
Glory to Thee, O God, in ages!

December 22

Kontakion 13

O all bountiful and life-giving Trinity, accept this gratitude for all of Your mercies and make us worthy of your Divine gifts so that having multiplied the talents given us, we may enter into the eternal joy of our Lord with victorious praise: *Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.*

December 23

Ikos 1

Into the world I was born as a weak, helpless child, but Your Angel spread wings of light over me, guarding my crib. Ever since then Your love lights all my paths, wonderfully guiding me towards the light of eternity. Gloriously, the generous gifts of Your Providence have been manifest from the very first day. I am thankful to You and with all who have come to know You, call out:

December 24

Glory to You, Who called me to life,
Glory to You, Who have shown me the beauty of the universe
Glory to You, Who have opened before me the sky and the earth as an eternal book of wisdom,
Glory to the eternity of You, in the midst of the world of time
Glory to You, for Your hidden and evident goodness,
Glory to You, for every sigh of my sadness,
Glory to You, for every step of my life, for every moment of joy,
Glory to You, O God, unto ages of ages.

November 19

Kontakion 2

Lord, how good it is to be Your guest; the delicately scented wind, the mountains stretching to the sky, the waters reflecting like infinite mirrors, the golden rays of sun, the airiness of clouds. All nature secretly whispers, full of tenderness, and even the birds and beasts bear the mark of Your Love. Blessed is mother earth with her transient beauty, longing for the homeland which is eternal and where an imperishable beauty rings out: *Alleluia.*

November 20

Ikos

You brought me into this life as into an enchanting paradise. The sky is a deep blue vessel of azure out of which rings the sound of birds; there is the rustling sound of the forest and the sweet sounding music of the waters; the fragrant and sweet fruit and honey which we eat. It is good to be with You on earth, joyous to be Your guest:

November 21

Glory to You, for the festival of life,
Glory to You, for the fragrant lilies of the valley & roses,
Glory to You, for the delectable variety of berries & fruits,
Glory to You, for the morning dew, shining like diamonds
Glory to You, for the smile of awakening enlightenment,
Glory to You, for all that is heavenly, foreshadowing eternal life,
Glory to You, O God, unto ages of ages.

November 22

Kontakion 3

By the power of the Holy Spirit every flower breathes. Thy breath I feel in the quiet movement of the fragrant fields. Observing the harmony of colors I admire Thee. Wherever I look, I see all around me the beauty of the Great One in the little. Glory and thanks to the life-creating God Who covers the earth with flowery meadows, crowns the fields with golden ears of grain and embellishes them with blue cornflowers, and my soul with the joy of contemplation. Be glad and sing to Him: Alleluia!

November 23

Ikos 3

How wonderful Thou art in the beauty of spring when all earth is being rejuvenated and thousands of sounds sing about Thee: Thou art the spring of life, Thou art the conqueror of death! In the pale moonlight with the song of the nightingale, the valleys and forests rest under a snowy white veil. The whole earth, Thy bride, is awaiting Thee, the Eternal Bridegroom. When Thou so clothest the grass of the field, how art Thou to adorn Thy chosen ones when they resurrect in the future age! How will then our bodies shine forth and our souls glitter!

November 24

Glory to Thee Who from the dark depths of the earth / bringeth forth so many colors and scents.

Glory to Thee for the beauty of nature.

Glory to Thee Who hast surrounded us with thousands of Thy creatures.

Glory to Thee for the depth of thy wisdom whose seal is borne by all creation.

Glory to Thee for the tender feeling / with which I kiss the trace of Thine invisible foot.

Glory to Thee Who hast from the beginning / lit the glowing light of eternal life.

Glory to Thee for the hope in perfect and eternal beauty.

Glory to Thee, O God, in ages!

December 19

Kontakion 12

Many a time I saw the reflection of Thy glory on the faces of the deceased! With what unearthly beauty and joy their faces shine! How transparent and immaterial become their features! With their silence they sing of Thee. When the time of my death cometh, enlighten, O God, my soul as well, to sing to Thee: Alleluia!

December 20

Ikos 12

What is my praise before Thee! My ears did not hear the song of cherubims; it is heard only by the souls of the righteous. I know only how nature lauds Thee. I saw in winter, how, lightened by the moonlight and beneath the cover of snow which sparkles with silvery light, all the earth is quietly praying to Thee. I saw how the crimson rays of the rising sun rejoice in Thee and how choirs of birds hum praises to Thee. I listen how mysteriously forests speak of Thee, how winds wing, and brooks murmur Thy name; how, with their fixed movements through limitless space, the myriads of stars preach about Thee. What is my praise before Thee, O Lord! Nature is obedient, and I never cease to sadden Thee. While I live and see Thy love I want to glorify Thee, to pray to Thee and to call upon Thee:

December 21

Glory to Thee Who hast shown us the light.

Glory to Thee Who hast loved us with deep, immeasurable, divine love.

Glory to Thee Who protects us / with bright armies of angels and saints.

Glory to Thee, all-holy Father, who art giving us Thy kingdom.

Glory to Thee, O Holy Spirit, the life-giving sun of future ages.

Glory to Thee for all, / Holy Trinity, divine and all good.

Glory to Thee, O God, in ages.

November 22

Kontakion 3

Every flower is fragrant through the power of the Holy Spirit, in a delicate flow of aroma and tenderness of color; the beauty of the Great contained in what is small. Praise and honor to God Who gives life, Who spreads forth the meadows like a flowering carpet, Who crowns the fields with golden ears of wheat and azure basilisks, and the soul with the joy of contemplation. Let us rejoice and sing to Him: Alleluia.

November 23

Ikos

How beautiful You are in the triumphant festival of spring, when all creatures come to life again and in a thousand ways joyfully call out to You: You are the source of life; You are the victor over death. To the song of the nightingale, the valleys and forests stand in snow white bridal array by the light of the season. All the earth is Your bride, waiting for the immortal bridegroom. If You clothe even the grass in such a splendid way, how will You transfigure us in the future age of resurrection, how will our bodies be made light and our souls be made luminous:

November 24

Glory to You, Who brought out of the earth's darkness diversity of color, taste, and fragrance,

Glory to You, for the warmth and caress of all nature,

Glory to You, for surrounding us with thousands of Your creatures,

Glory to You, for the depth of Your wisdom reflected in the whole world,

Glory to You, I kiss reverently the footprint of Your invisible tread,

Glory to You, Who kindled before us the bright light of eternal life,

Glory to You, for the hope of immortal, ideal, incorruptible beauty,

Glory to You, O God, unto ages of ages.

December 19

Kontakion 12

Many times I have seen the reflection of Your glory on the faces of the dead. What unearthly beauty and joy shone from them; how ethereal and immaterial were their features. This is the triumph of happiness and peace received gracefully, as they silently call upon You. At the hour of my death also illumine my soul as I call: Alleluia!

December 20

Ikos

How can I give praise to You? I have not heard the songs of the cherubim. That is the gift of the highest of souls. But I know how nature gives praise to You: in winter I have beheld the moonlight stillness when the whole earth quietly prays to You, clothed in white and sparkling with diamonds of snow; I have seen how the rising sun rejoices in You and the choirs of birds resound in praise; I have heard the forest speak mysteriously of You, the waters murmur and the choirs of stars preach of You with their harmonious movement in infinite space. But what is my praise? Nature responds to Your laws, but I do not! Yet while I am alive I see Your love; I want to thank You, to pray to You, and call out:

December 21

Glory to You, Who have shown us light,

Glory to You, Who have loved us with love immeasurable, deep, Divine,

Glory to You, Who have surrounded us with light, and with hosts of angels and saints,

Glory to You, all Holy Father, Who have willed us Your Kingdom,

Glory to You, all Holy Son, the Way, the Truth, and the Life,

Glory to You, all Holy Spirit and life-giving sun of the future age,

Glory to You for everything, O Divine Trinity, all bountiful,

Glory to You, O God, unto ages of ages.

December 16

kontakion 11

Through all the passed chain of ages I feel the warmth of Thy Holy Spirit and the surging of Divine Life. Thou art near, Time is nonexistent. I see Thy Cross – it is for my sake. My spirit is humbled into dust before Thy love, limitless and incomprehensible. Wherefore, beneath Thy Cross I will unto ages glorify Thee, my Savior, with song: Alleluia!

December 17

Ikos 11

Blessed art those who sup with Thee in Thy kingdom. However, blessed art those whom Thou hast already here on earth accepted as partakers of Thy Mystic Supper. How many times, with Thy divine hand, Thou hast allowed me, a sinner, to receive in Holy Communion Thy Body and Blood. And I have received the Holy and felt Thy love, ineffable and wonderful.

December 18

Glory to Thee for the incomprehensible and life creating power of grace.
Glory to Thee Who hast founded Thy Church to be for us a quiet harbor.
Glory to Thee Who givest us rebirth through the life-giving water of baptism.
Glory to Thee Who forgivest a sinner who repents / and restorest in him the viceless purity of lilies.
Glory to Thee for a perpetual spring of forgiveness.
Glory to Thee for bread from heaven and the cup of life.
Glory to Thee Who art guiding us into the kingdom of eternal joy.
Glory to Thee, O God, in ages!

November 25

Kontakion 4

How Thou delightest the hearts of those who meditate upon Thee, O God! Thou feedest their souls with Thy Holy Word. Talking with Thee is better than oil and sweeter than honey. Prayer to God refreshes and invigorates; it fills my heart with joy. How majestic then appears this world and all life. Where Thou art not – all is empty. Where Thou art – there is the richness of the soul. There, as living water, is the everlasting song: Alleluia

November 26

Ikos 4

When night falls upon the earth, the stillness of sleep reigns and sounds of the past day become silent; I see the splendor of Thy heavenly mansions. Flame and purple, gold and azure presage the indescribable beauty of Thy home and solemnly call forth: Let us go to the Father!

November 27

Glory to Thee in the quiet hours of the evening.
Glory to Thee for pouring forth deep peace on earth.
Glory to Thee for the rays of the setting sun.
Glory to Thee for the rest of a graceful sleep.
Glory to Thee for consolation in the darkness / when the whole world appears far from me.
Glory to Thee for the warm prayer of my tortured soul.
Glory to Thee for the promise that we shall awake in the joy of Thy everlasting day.
Glory to Thee, O God, in ages!

December 16

Kontakion 11

Through the icy link of the ages, I feel the warmth of Your Divine breath; I hear the flow of blood. You are already near; time has partly vanished. I see Your Cross; it is for my sake. My spirit is in ashes before the Cross, where there is a triumph of love and salvation, and unceasing praise unto all ages: Alleluia!

December 17

Ikos

Blessed is he who will have supper in Your Kingdom, but You have already admitted me to this bliss. How many times have You extended to me with Your Divine Hand, Your body and blood; and I, such a sinner, have taken this sacred gift and felt Your love - unutterable and beyond all being:

December 18

Glory to You, for the unfathomable, life-giving power of grace,
Glory to You, Who have raised up Your Church as a refuge of peace for an exhausted world,
Glory to You, Who breathe new life into us with the life-giving water of Baptism,
Glory to You, Who restore the purity of immaculate lilies to those who repent,
Glory to You, inexhaustible abyss of forgiveness,
Glory to You, for the cup of life, for the bread of eternal joy,
Glory to You, Who led us to heaven,
Glory to You, O God, unto ages of ages.

November 25

Kontakion 4

How you bring sweetness to those who think of You, how life-giving is Your Word, it is softer than oil, it is sweeter than honey to talk with You. Praying to You brings Life into us and gives us wings. What trembling then fills the heart. What dignity and greatness and wisdom there are in nature and all of life. Where You are not there is emptiness. Where You are there is richness of soul, a torrent of life: Alleluia!

November 26

Ikos

When sunset descends over the earth and the peace of eternal sleep and the stillness of the fading day come to reign, I see Your abode in the guise of glistening palaces and clouds hovering in the evening light. Fiery red, gold and azure speak prophetically of the unutterable beauty of Your world and cry out triumphantly: "Let us go to the Father!"

November 27

Glory to You, in the stillness of the evening,
Glory to You, Who have bestowed great peace to the world,
Glory to You, for the last rays of sunlight,
Glory to You, for rest and the gift of sleep,
Glory to You, for Your presence in darkness, when the world is so remote,
Glory to You, for prayer from the depth of a heart touched by You,
Glory to You, for the promise of awakening to the joy of the eternal, unending day,
Glory to You, O God, unto ages of ages.

November 28

Kontakion 5

The tempest of life does not frighten one in whose heart shines the light of Thy divine Fire. Around me are whirling storms and roaring winds; terror and darkness surround me; but in my soul is peace and light. Christ is in her. And my heart sings: Alleluia!

November 29

Ikos 5

I look into Thy sky filled with stars. O how rich Thou art! How much light there is in Thee! Through the light of the distant stars Thou lookest at me from eternity. I am tiny and destitute, but the Lord is with me. His hand is always near me and He leads me with love in all my ways.

November 30

Glory to Thee Who continually watcheth over us.
Glory to Thee Who considereth mine every meeting with people.
Glory to Thee for the love of relatives / and the fidelity of friends.
Glory to Thee for the meekness / of the domestic animals who serve me.
Glory to Thee for the bright moments of life.
Glory to Thee for the happiness of living, seeing and feeling.
Glory to Thee, O God, in ages.

December 13

Kontakion 10

Whatever is destroyed cannot be restored. But Thou revivest those whose conscience is dead and returnest pristine beauty to the souls who lost it. Through Thy mercifulness all is possible. Thou art Love, Thou art the Creator and Restorer. Thee I praise with song: Alleluia!

December 14

Ikos 10

O my God, Thou who knowest that the angel of pride, the Morning Star, hast fallen from Thee, do not let me doubt nor depart from Thee. Sharpen my hearing so that I will always listen to Thy mysterious voice and call upon Thee, Who art everywhere present.

December 15

Glory to Thee Who all-wisely governest my life.
Glory to Thee for inspired premonition.
Glory to Thee for warnings in a mysterious voice.
Glory to Thee for revelations in dreams and in reality.
Glory to Thee for thwarting my useless intentions.
Glory to Thee because through sufferings Thou liberatest me from passions.
Glory to Thee because Thou humblest my heart / and savest me from pride.
Glory to Thee, O God, in ages!

November 28

Kontakion 5

The storms of life are not frightening to one in whose heart shines the light of Your Fire. All around the weather is bad; there is darkness, horror, and the howling wind. But in the soul of such a one there is peace and light. Christ is there! And the heart sings: Alleluia!

November 29

Ikos

I see Your heavens glittering with stars. O how rich You are, how much light You have! Eternity looks at me through the rays of distant worlds; I am so small and inconsequential, but the Lord is with me, His loving hand is everywhere protecting me:

November 30

Glory to You, for Your constant care of me,
Glory to You, for providential encounters with people,
Glory to You, for the love of relatives, the devotion of friends,
Glory to You, for the gentleness of animals who serve me
Glory to You, for the luminous moments of my life,
Glory to You, for the bright joys of my heart,
Glory to You, for the happiness of living, of moving and contemplating,
Glory to You, O God, unto ages of ages.

December 13

Kontakion 10

That which is broken cannot be restored, but You can set aright those whose conscience has become decayed; You restore the soul to its former beauty in those who have lost it beyond all hope. With You there is nothing that cannot be put aright. You are all love. You are the Creator and the Restorer. To You we sing praise: Alleluia!

December 14

Ikos

My God, You Who know the fall of the proud angel, save me through the power of Your grace, do not let me fall away from You, do not allow me to doubt You. Sharpen my hearing so that every minute of my life I can hear Your mysterious voice, and call to You Who are everywhere present:

December 15

Glory to You, for providential coincidences,
Glory to You, for the gift of premonitions,
Glory to You, for the guidance of a secret inner voice,
Glory to You, for revelations in dreams and when awake,
Glory to You, Who destroy our useless plans,
Glory to You, Who sober us from the heat of passions with suffering,
Glory to You, Who humble pride of heart to save us,
Glory to You, O God, unto ages of ages.

December 10

Kontakion 9

Why is all nature so mysteriously smiling in the days of the feasts? Why then is our soul so light and joyous? Why does the air in the temple seem so bright? It is all because of the flow of Thy grace, because of the reflection of the light of Tabor. Heaven and earth are then singing together a laudable song: Alleluia!

December 11

Ikos 9

When Thou inspirest me to serve my neighbors and enlightenest my soul with humbleness, then the rays of Thy light fall on my heart and it begins to radiate and shine. As the sun in the waters, so in those moments in my soul is reflected Thy infinite meekness, full of love and the unspeakable peace of Thy radiant countenance.

December 12

Glory to Thee Who through good deeds transformeth our lives.

Glory to Thee Who hast sealed with unspeakable sweetness / every commandment of Thine.

Glory to Thee Who art invisibly present in the works of mercy.

Glory to Thee Who sendest upon us troubles and sorrows / in order to teach us to commiserate in the suffering of others.

Glory to Thee for the love / which Thou hast raised above everything on earth and in heaven.

Glory to Thee, O God, in ages!

December 1

Kontakion 6

How great Thou art in the whirlwind and the storm! How majestic is Thy hand in the swiftness of the lightning! The voice of the Lord rises above the fields. It rustles through the woods, it roars in the thunder. The voice of the Lord resounds over the waters. Thy might is proclaimed by the fire of the volcano. Thou quakest the earth and liftest the waves of the sea into the sky. Glory to Thee to whom we repentantly cry: Alleluia!

December 2

Ikos 6

When swift lightning illumines the night, how pitiful and miserable our earthly candles seem. So also, deceitful earthly joys become colorless and dark when Thy light shines forth in the soul. Wherefore my soul struggles toward Thee and my heart yearns for Thee.

December 3

Glory to Thee Who hast planted into man's heart / an unquenchable thirst for God.

Glory to Thee because nothing earthly / can completely satisfy us.

Glory to Thee Who clothest us in light.

Glory to Thee, the conqueror of the spirits of evil & darkness.

Glory to Thee for Thy revelation, / for the blessedness of feeling Thee and living Thee.

Glory to Thee, O God, in ages!

December 10

Kontakion 9

Why does all nature smile mysteriously on feast days? Why is the heart filled at these times with a wonderful lightness that is incomparable to anything on earth; how is it that the very air at the altar and in the Church become light bearing? This is the breath of Your grace, the glow of the light of Tabor; the sky and the earth are singing at these times in praise: Alleluia!

December 11

Ikos

When You have inspired me to serve those around me and illumined my heart with humility, one of Your innumerable rays falls on my heart making it light bearing, as iron in fire; and I saw Your mysterious, imperceptible Face:

December 12

Glory to You, Who have transfigured our life with the good things that we do,

Glory to You, Who have imprinted an unutterable sweetness on every precept of Yours,

Glory to You, Who clearly abide where there is kindness and generosity of heart,

Glory to You, Who send failures and sorrows to us so that we might be sensitive to the sufferings of others,

Glory to You, Who have placed a great reward on the value of goodness in itself,

Glory to You, Who accept our moments of soaring,

Glory to You, Who have raised love higher than anything on earth or in heaven,

Glory to You, O God, unto ages of ages.

December 1

Kontakion 6

How great and near You are in the power of thunderstorms, how visible is Your mighty hand in the blinding curves of lightning, amazing in Your greatness. The voice of the Lord is over the fields and in the sound of the forests; the voice of the Lord is in the birth of the thunder and rain; the voice of the Lord is over many waters. Praise be to You in the thundering of volcanoes spitting fire. You shake the earth about like a garment. You lift up the waves of the sea into the sky. Praise be to You Who humble human pride, drawing out the repentant cry: Alleluia!

December 2

Ikos

When the palaces of earth are suddenly lit up by lightning bursting forth, how paltry seem our ordinary lights afterward. In just such a way You suddenly light up my soul during the times of deepest joy in my life. And after the brilliance of Your light, like lightning, how colorless, dark and unreal these moments seem. And my soul rushes in pursuit of You:

December 3

Glory to You, beyond the limit of the highest human dream!

Glory to You, for our tireless thirst for You,

Glory to You, Who have inspired in us dissatisfaction with earthly things,

Glory to You, Who have enveloped us in the delicate rays of Your light, Glory to You, Who have broken the power of the spirits of darkness, & Who have doomed to annihilation every kind of evil,

Glory to You, for Your revelations, and for the happiness of feeling Your presence and living with You,

Glory to You, O God, unto ages of ages.

December 4

Kontakion 7

In the harmony of sounds I hear Thy call. In the lofty beauty of music, in the magnificence of artistic works Thou art allowing us to foresee Paradise. Whatever is truly beautiful soars toward Thee and teaches the soul to sing to Thee a victorious song: Alleluia!

December 5

Ikos 7

By Thy Holy Spirit Thou inspirest the thought of the artist, the poet and the scientist. By the power of Thy wisdom they prophetically enter into the mysteries of Thy laws and reveal the depth of Thy wisdom. Even their works involuntarily speak about Thee. O how wonderful Thou art in Thy works! O how great Thou art in man!

December 6

Glory to Thee Who showest us / Thy might through the laws of the cosmos.
Glory to Thou Who fillest everything.
Glory to Thee Who revealest to us according to Thy mercy.
Glory to Thee Who hidest from us according to Thy wisdom.
Glory to Thee for the depth of the human mind.
Glory to Thee for the creative ability in man.
Glory to Thee for the outpouring of Thy grace.
Glory to Thee, O God, in ages!

December 7

Kontakion 8

How close to us Thou art in our days of illness. Thou visitest the patient, Thou descendest to the bed of the sufferer and his heart communeth with Thee. Thou kindest the soul with peace at the time of sorrow and suffering. Thou sendest unexpected help. Thou art the comforter. Thou art all-knowing love. To Thee I sing: Alleluia!

December 8

Ikos 8

When I as a child for the first time appealed to Thee, Thou fulfilled my prayer and lightened my soul with great peace. I understood then that Thou art good and that they are blessed who seek refuge in Thee. Therefore I do not cease to pray to Thee and to call upon Thee.

December 9

Glory to Thee Who fulfilllest and to good purpose completes my wishes.
Glory to Thee Who watchest over me day and night.
Glory to Thee for the time that is passing / and taking away our sorrows and sadness.
Glory to Thee in whom nothing is lost, / for Thou grantest to all life eternal.
Glory to Thee Who promised us / desired meetings with our deceased ones.
Glory to Thee, O God, in ages!

December 4

Kontakion 7

One hears Your call in a wonderful composition of sounds. You open for us the environment of our future paradise in melodious singing and harmonious tones, in the height of musical color, in the brilliance of artistic creativity. All that is truly beautiful carries the soul to You in a mighty call, and forces it to sing rapturously: Alleluia!

December 5

Ikos

Through the descent of the Holy Spirit You enlighten the thought of artists, poets and scientific geniuses. Through the power of the inmost mind, they are prophetically able to perceive Your laws, opening for us the abyss of Your creative wisdom. Their works involuntarily speak of You; of how great You are in Your creations, of how great You are in man:

December 6

Glory to You, Who have manifested the unfathomable force of the laws of the universe,
Glory to You, all of nature is full of the laws of Your being,
Glory to You, for all that has been revealed to us through Your goodness,
Glory to You, for all You have kept hidden in Your wisdom,
Glory to You, for the genius of the human mind,
Glory to You, for the life-giving strength of work,
Glory to You, for the fiery tongues of inspiration,
Glory to You, O God, unto ages of ages.

December 7

Kontakion 8

How near You are in the days of illness; You Yourself visit the sick. You Yourself bend down to the bed of the sufferer and the heart speaks to You. In times of hardship and suffering, You illumine the soul with peace; You send unexpected help. You are consoling, searching and saving love, and to You we sing the song: Alleluia!

December 8

Ikos

When as a child I consciously called to You for the first time, You answered my prayer and my soul knew a wonderful peace. Then I understood that You are goodness; blessed are those who seek You. I began to call to You again and again, and call to You even now:

December 9

Glory to You, Who grant my wishes when they are good,
Glory to You, Who watch over me day and night,
Glory to You, curing hardships and losses with the healing course of time,
Glory to You, for Whom there is no such thing as a hopeless loss; You give eternal life to all,
Glory to You, Who have made immortal all that is good and lofty, Who have promised our desired reunion with those who have died,
Glory to You, O God, unto ages of ages.