

## Akathist Hymn to Saints Peter and Paul

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

**People:** Amen.

O Heavenly King,  
the Comforter, the Spirit of Truth  
Who art everywhere and fillest all things.  
Treasury of Blessings,  
and Giver of Life.  
Come and abide in us,  
and cleanse us from every impurity,  
and save our souls, O Good One!

**Reader:** Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal, have mercy on us. (3x)

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

O Most Holy Trinity, have mercy on us. Lord, cleanse us from our sins. Master, pardon our transgressions. Holy One, visit and heal our infirmities, for Thy name's sake.

Lord, have mercy. (3x)

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

Our Father, Who art in heaven, 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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from the evil One.

**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 ages of ages.

**Reader:** Amen.

Lord, have mercy. (12x)

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

Come, let us worship God our King.

Come, let us worship and fall down before Christ our King and our God.

Come, let us worship and fall down before Christ himself, our King and our God.

### Psalm 145

**Reader:** I will extol you, my God and King, and bless your name forever and ever. Every day I will bless you, and praise your name forever and ever. Great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised; his greatness is unsearchable. One generation shall laud your works to another, and shall declare your mighty acts. On the glorious splendor of your majesty, and on your wondrous works, I will meditate. The might of your awesome deeds shall be proclaimed, and I will declare your greatness. They shall celebrate the fame of your abundant goodness, and shall sing aloud of your righteousness. The Lord is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. The Lord is good to all, and his compassion is over all that he has made. All your works shall give thanks to you, O Lord, and all your faithful shall bless you. They shall speak of the glory of your kingdom, and tell of your power, to make known to all people your mighty deeds, and the glorious splendor of your kingdom. Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and your dominion endures throughout all generations. The Lord is faithful in all his words, and gracious in all his deeds. The Lord upholds all who are falling, and raises up all who are bowed down. The eyes of all look to you, and you give them their food in due season. You open your hand, satisfying the desire of every living thing. The Lord is just in all his ways, and kind in all his doings. The Lord is near to all who call on him, to all who call on him in truth. He fulfills the desire of all who fear him; he also hears their cry, and saves them. The Lord watches over all who love him, but all the wicked he will destroy. My mouth will speak the praise of the Lord, and all flesh will bless his holy name forever and ever.

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

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia. Glory to you, O God. (3x)

### God Is the Lord

**Deacon:** In the 4<sup>th</sup> tone: God is the Lord and has revealed Himself to us: Blessed is He that comes in the name of the Lord. O give thanks to the Lord for He is good; His mercy endures forever.

**Choir:** God is the Lord and has revealed Himself to us: Blessed is He that comes in the name of the Lord.

**Deacon:** All nations surrounded me, but in the Name of the Lord I destroyed them.

**Choir:** God is the Lord and has revealed Himself to us: Blessed is He that comes in the name of the Lord.

**Deacon:** I shall not die but live and recount the works of the Lord.

**Choir:** God is the Lord and has revealed Himself to us: Blessed is He that comes in the name of the Lord.

**Deacon:** The stone which the builders rejected has become the cornerstone; this is the Lord's doing, and it is wonderful in our eyes.

**Choir:** God is the Lord and has revealed Himself to us: Blessed is He that comes in the name of the Lord.

O first-enthroned of the Apostles,  
and teachers of the universe,  
entreat the Master of all  
to grant peace to the world, //  
and to our souls great mercy.

### **Kontakion 1**

Our Lord said of Himself: I am the Good Shepherd. To you the Chief Apostle Peter, He said: If you love Me, feed My sheep. And Peter said: Yes, Lord, You know that I love You. I am Jesus, He said to you, O Paul the Chief Apostle, and of you, our Lord said: This is My chosen instrument to carry My Name before the Gentiles. Jesus instructed those who were your fellow disciples as well as His apostles: As My Father sent Me, so have I sent you, go and make disciples of all nations. Since you have the same grace from your Master, as after our Lord the Great Pastor of all, shepherd us to salvation that we may call to you:

Rejoice, Saints Peter and Paul together with all the holy apostles.

### **Ikos 1**

Blessed are you Simon, son of Jonah, for Christ the Son of the Living God said to you, O Apostle Peter: You are worthy of glory. How may we be worthy of your blessedness, O blessed one of God? Truly, because of our loving duty, we may come to you in faith and now we sing to you:

Rejoice, Apostle Peter, first among the apostles and foundation of the Holy Church.

Rejoice, powerful pillar of the Orthodox Faith and Its confirmation.

Rejoice, zealous lover of the teachings of Christ.

Rejoice, first-seated among the council of the Apostles.

Rejoice, good gatekeeper of the Kingdom of Heaven.

Rejoice, renowned physician of those who repent of their sins.

Rejoice, rejecter of worldly vanity and lover of the spiritual life.  
Rejoice, renouncer of material nets and fisherman of the universe with imperishable nets.  
Rejoice, Peter and Paul, who shone forth like two great beacons.  
Rejoice, twins yoked together by God for his chariot of noetic light.  
Rejoice, all you holy apostles, seers of God, for you are lights of the world.  
Rejoice, for through you, the Faith that saves us shines forth from Christ in every place.  
Rejoice, Saints Peter and Paul together with all the holy apostles.

### **Kontakion 2**

You believed, having accepted the miraculous call from above, O teacher of nations, when Jesus said to you: Saul, why do you persecute Me Who cannot be comprehended by doubt? But from now on, you will believe because the boldness of the adversary is overcome. You have been chosen as witness of My destiny before kings and nations and before the sons of Israel. Hereafter, you understood, Apostle Paul chosen by God, for you cried out: Alleluia.

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia

### **Ikos 2**

Saul heard the voice from Heaven and after that he could not see for he had persecuted the incomprehensible One, and for zeal of the Law he exchanged his sight. However, he was led to the font and received Baptism by faith, and in immersion he gained sight in both his physical and spiritual eyes. Awed by your wondrous calling, we gratefully cry out to you:

Rejoice, Apostle Paul, called by God, you were sent to preach to all nations.  
Rejoice, chosen vessel that flows with sweet faith in Christ toward all men.  
Rejoice, eyewitness illumined by the Divine Light from above.  
Rejoice, for you were enlightened above others by grace after the shadow of the Law.  
Rejoice, converser with the Lord Jesus who appeared to you on earth.  
Rejoice, for you were strengthened by Him Whom you denounced with daring faithlessness.  
Rejoice, enlightener of the entire world by your divinely inspired writings.  
Rejoice, laborer above others, after Christ, for the salvation of mankind.  
Rejoice, Peter and Paul, for you are like two cherubim covering the ark of the Holy Church.  
Rejoice, for you are like two seraphim standing before the Throne of the Most Holy.  
Rejoice, stars who crown the Church, the Bride of Christ.  
Rejoice, all you holy apostles, for you are proclaimers of the glory of God in Heaven.  
Rejoice, Saints Peter and Paul together with all the holy apostles.

### **Kontakion 3**

You were filled with wondrous fear, holy Apostle Peter, when you saw the sheet being lowered from above and in it was a parable of God's love of mankind. All the animals, even the unclean,

symbolized that it is not right to turn away those of other nations who desire to believe in Christ Jesus. Peter, having understood this mystery, cried out: Alleluia.

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia

### **Ikos 3**

The defiled nurture of the evil and impious generation has never entered my mouth, you said, most blessed Apostle Peter. Notwithstanding, the Divine Wisdom answered you with a voice from Heaven: What God has cleansed, you must not call common. By this was signified that the Savior did not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance. This which was revealed to you, we have understood and now we may sing:

Rejoice, Apostle Peter, for you mercifully reveal the Kingdom of Heaven.

Rejoice, for you regard not the exterior but the deeds of all nations.

Rejoice, for you cover with your love our many sins.

Rejoice, for you fulfill with your mercy our meager repentance.

Rejoice, quick helper of those who call to you in time of spiritual trouble.

Rejoice, honorable uplifter of the dead in spirit and body by your prayers.

Rejoice, by the Holy Spirit you strengthen the faithful who hear your words.

Rejoice, for your words are like darts which strike the faithless.

Rejoice, Peter and Paul, two eyes of the Church who see divine things.

Rejoice, righteous protectors of the New Israel.

Rejoice, all you holy apostles who stand as vigilant guards on the walls of Jerusalem.

Rejoice, our instructors who are concerned for all Christian souls.

Rejoice, Saints Peter and Paul together with all the holy apostles.

### **Kontakion 4**

You began your preaching to the Jews dwelling in Damascus, O divinely inspired Apostle Paul, calling them to believe in Christ Jesus the Son of God. You wondrously led them into belief, for you yourself came to believe in the Name of Jesus Christ whose followers you had persecuted. When others conspired to kill you, and you saw their plan and the hardness of their hearts, you handed them over to their own blindness and faithlessness. Then, by the faithful, you were lowered to safety over the wall in a basket and you cried out to God: Alleluia.

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia

### **Ikos 4**

Apostle Paul, you preached with mighty zeal the renunciation of past services to the ancient Law and circumcision. You called all to approach the font of divine Baptism. You preached not

only to the Hebrews, but also to the Gentiles of whom you became a most beloved teacher. For this cause we truly call to you:

Rejoice, Apostle Paul, preacher sent by God to proclaim repentance to sinners.  
Rejoice, evangelizer of virtue and denouncer of evil.  
Rejoice, merciful greeter to faith in Christ of those lost Gentiles who have found the Way.  
Rejoice, true instructor of the Tru<sup>e</sup> Way.  
Rejoice, saving-vessel of those drowning in their sins.  
Rejoice, helmsman who guides us into the harbor of pleasing God.  
Rejoice, comforter who comes quickly to the aid of those who suffer.  
Rejoice, unmercenary healer of those who suffer physical and spiritual weaknesses.  
Rejoice, Peter and Paul, two wings of the Church given by Christ the Great Eagle.  
Rejoice, two wings of the dove given by the Holy Spirit.  
Rejoice, all you holy apostles, pure like doves and soaring on wings like eagles.  
Rejoice, those who were assembled together when Christ was in the flesh.  
Rejoice, Saints Peter and Paul together with all the holy apostles.

#### **Kontakion 5**

Holy Apostle Peter, you were a fisherman laboring by the sweat of your brow when you were called to be an apostle. You believed in Christ who nourishes wholly and who fed five thousand from five loaves of bread. Following Him in search of the imperishable food which is for eternal life, you cried to God: Alleluia.

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia

#### **Ikos 5**

You were barred by the high priests and elders of Judea to teach in the Name of the Lord Jesus, O blessed Apostle Peter. You then armored yourself with the assurance of the Faith saying that, above all, one must submit to God rather than to men. For this you suffered imprisonment and wounds. Yet, you left rejoicing after you appeared before the Council, and for the Name of the Lord you were counted worthy to bear persecution. We now come to you rejoicing and say:

Rejoice, Apostle Peter, victor over the gathering of Jews, with the writings of the prophets concerning Christ.  
Rejoice, for you destroyed the arguments of the Pharisees and Sadducees like a spider's web.  
Rejoice, worker of many miracles by the grace of the Holy Spirit.  
Rejoice, for you give mobility to the crippled and sight to the blind.  
Rejoice, for you raised those from their bed of illness by your shadow.  
Rejoice, healer of many who suffered from evil spirits.

Rejoice, fisherman who calls us to miraculous fishing.  
Rejoice, for you attract unbelievers to true belief by your evangelical eloquence.  
Rejoice, Peter and Paul, two sources of nourishment of the Church our Mother  
and the Bride of Christ.  
Rejoice, two vines of grapes who nourish us and make us rejoice.  
Rejoice, all you holy apostles, for you are true branches of the True Vine.  
Rejoice, for you are good laborers in the vineyard of Christ.  
Rejoice, Saints Peter and Paul together with all the holy apostles.

### **Kontakion 6**

Saint Paul, you were an Israelite from the tribe of Benjamin according to the Law of the Pharisees — who in zeal persecuted the Church of God when you were called to be an apostle. This you did conceal, but then revealed your former zeal when you punished the unfaithful of Jesus Christ. Even as you greatly persecuted the Church of God, so now is She gloriously adorned by you, and by your wondrous writings She is firmly established and cries out to God: Alleluia.

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia

### **Ikos 6**

What shall separate us from the love of God — sorrow, or anguish, or persecution or any other thing? O God-loving preacher Apostle Paul, you spoke this and brought together all those who believed in Christ through your sincerity in His love. For the sake of God you suffered courageously, and with thanksgiving we lovingly call to you thus:

Rejoice, Apostle Paul, for zealous in the Law you were called Saul.  
Rejoice, for as perfect lover of Christ you were named Paul.  
Rejoice, for in the light of Divine Wisdom you enlightened those in the shadow of ignorance.  
Rejoice, guiding-star who guides those lost in the depths of lawlessness.  
Rejoice, for you betrothed the souls of the faithful to Christ, calling them to the  
heavenly mansions.  
Rejoice, for having yourself suffered many sorrows, you encouraged others to be patient  
in their suffering.  
Rejoice, by your hands the power of God was made manifest.  
Rejoice, by your handkerchief the infirm were healed.  
Rejoice, Peter and Paul, two lofty pillars of the Church, asserted by the heavenly Solomon.  
Rejoice, two pure lilies on the pillars of the Church who beautify the Holy Place of God.  
Rejoice, all you holy apostles who are like flowers exuding perfume for all the world.  
Rejoice, by your sweet-smelling fragrance you dispel the stench of iniquity.  
Rejoice, Saints Peter and Paul together with all the holy apostles.

### **Kontakion 7**

Saint Peter, you arrived in Lydda where Aeneas had been bedridden for eight years with paralysis, and all the people marveled when you raised him up to walk in the Name of Jesus Christ. By prayer you restored the dead Tabitha to life in Joppa. When you were called to Caesarea, you enlightened the centurion Cornelius — baptizing him together with those of his household, and for his sake we all now call out in one spirit: Alleluia.

### **Ikos 7**

Simon the Magician thought that he could acquire the grace of the Holy Spirit with silver, and the blessed Apostle Peter denounced him as the inheritor of damnation along with his silver. This avaricious attitude of simony is like stealing holy things and this you strictly prohibited, and so we rightfully call to you in this manner:

Rejoice, Apostle Peter, enricher of the Church of Christ with spiritual grace.

Rejoice, forbiddener of the acceptance of payment for the sacred in the Church.

Rejoice, you by whom the love of silver as the root of all evil was severed, through the grace of the Spirit.

Rejoice, you by whom evil bribery, even as idolatry, was rejected from the Holy Church.

Rejoice, for you led a hard life for the sake of Christ.

Rejoice, good fulfiller of Christ's commandment that one cannot serve God and mammon.

Rejoice, punisher with harsh death the robbery of the sacred by Ananias.

Rejoice, punisher also of Sapphira who conspired with her husband.

Rejoice, Peter and Paul, two olive trees who bear mercy.

Rejoice, two candles who illuminate wisdom.

Rejoice, all you holy apostles who are like fruitful olive trees.

Rejoice, for you are all brightly burning candles in the House of God.

Rejoice, Saints Peter and Paul together with all the holy apostles.

### **Kontakion 8**

Holy Apostle Paul, blessed by God, you attained to the third heaven because of your physical and spiritual holiness, and God enriched you with ineffable gifts when you descended from the third heaven. You revealed wise and divinely inspired teachings to all. You amazed all people, both Jews and Gentiles, who were believers in Christ. Now, together with them and with all the faithful, we are learners of heavenly teachings and we cry out: Alleluia.

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia

### **Ikos 8**

You were an example of faith, O Apostle Paul, bearing many wounds from the sword and on your flesh the marks of stoning which you bore joyously for the sake of the Sweet Jesus. You heard the call of God and were delivered over to punishment for your belief in Christ Jesus — as it is right indeed to bear all sorrows with thankfulness. We therefore come to you in lowliness and cry to you:

Rejoice, Apostle Paul, for you bore joyously in your body the wounds of the Lord.  
Rejoice, precious stone, strong in soul and body, who deeply suffered all sorrows.  
Rejoice, worshipper of the True God, for you heeded the call to follow Christ  
and serve the Church.

Rejoice, incomparable witness of Christ before peoples and kings.

Rejoice, unconquerable teacher before the teachers of the Law of Israel.

Rejoice, light-giving ray which shone forth on the earth below from the third heaven above.

Rejoice, fruitful branch which springs forth from Paradise with ripe spiritual food.

Rejoice, for the benefits of your labors, like the sweetest fruit in all the earth,  
nourished the faithful.

Rejoice, for your teachings, like a never-waning light, illumined all the earth under the heavens.

Rejoice, Peter and Paul, two fig trees planted in the midst of Paradise — the Church.

Rejoice, for you brought forth the fruit of life and good understanding.

Rejoice, all you holy apostles who are like bountiful fig trees and cedars of contemplation.

Rejoice, Saints Peter and Paul together with all the holy apostles.

### **Kontakion 9**

You were concerned about all, O blessed Apostle Peter, including those coming into the Christian Faith — in which the heart and mind must act in harmony. Therefore, to meet their needs you presented them with virtuous Stephen as a servant together with six deacons. You and the other apostles then diligently applied yourselves by prayer and the words of teaching, instructing all believers who call in one spirit to God: Alleluia.

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia

### **Ikos 9**

You were inflamed with zeal for your Lord when you cut off the ear of Malchus who was unwilling to listen to the testimony of the prophets about Jesus Christ. However, you were restrained by your Master, O holy Apostle Peter, and you were grateful for His reprimand and for all the hostile actions which you suffered with patience. Remembering your zeal, we call to you in unity:

Rejoice, Apostle Peter, for you surpassed in your zeal the other disciples.

Rejoice, for you were a courageous warrior of Christ in the garden.

Rejoice, for you followed Jesus in His Passion to the house of Caiaphas.  
Rejoice, for you were ready to suffer imprisonment and even death for your Lord.  
Rejoice, for your bitter tears healed your weakness which had led to denial of Christ.  
Rejoice, for you were called to the first rank after the Resurrection of our Lord.  
Rejoice, for you have given an image of repentance for others who have likewise sinned.  
Rejoice, for you counseled repeated forgiveness of the weaknesses of repentant sinners.  
Rejoice, Peter and Paul, two tablets of the Commandments of the Lord.  
Rejoice, teachers of the love of God and of our neighbor.  
Rejoice, all you holy apostles, for you preserved in totality all the Commandments of our Lord.  
Rejoice, for you left all and walked in the footsteps of Christ and found Him to be all in all.  
Rejoice, Saints Peter and Paul together with all the holy apostles.

### **Kontakion 10**

Apostle Paul, called by God, you were a powerful witness who proclaimed from the writings of the prophets concerning Christ before the leaders of Judea — at the trial before Festus and before King Agrippa. Before both, you were falsely charged, as many books have also written, and in fury you were sentenced to be sent to Rome. All this you suffered in thanksgiving and you cried out together with the faithful people of God: Alleluia.

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia

### **Ikos 10**

Apostle Paul, you proclaimed the life-giving Trinity as you had been taught in the third heaven. O pre-ordained vessel of the wondrous divine mysteries, you evangelized nations, judges and kings —promising salvation to all who willed to believe in Jesus Christ and who accepted holy Baptism in the Name of the Trinity. For that reason, all who believe in divine hope of salvation sing to you thus:

Rejoice, Apostle Paul, most wise interpreter of the mysteries of revelation of our Lord.  
Rejoice, confessor of One God in Three Persons.  
Rejoice, preacher of Christ — the only foundation of the faithful.  
Rejoice, establisher of that confession of all righteous believers.  
Rejoice, sufferer of unjust accusations and uncommon abuse from the unbelieving Festus.  
Rejoice, witness before Festus of the Word of truth and virtue.  
Rejoice, vivid narrator of the heavenly vision before King Agrippa.  
Rejoice, open-denouncer of King Agrippa's evil cunning turned against the faith in Christ.  
Rejoice, Peter and Paul, for you are like two silver trumpets of Moses.  
Rejoice, for you assembled in the battle against evil under earth and Heaven.  
Rejoice, all you holy apostles who suffered wickedness as Christ's warriors.  
Rejoice, by faith you conquered the kingdoms of the earth and received the heavenly.

Rejoice, Saints Peter and Paul together with all the holy apostles.

### **Kontakion 11**

Herod, having put to death James the son of Zebedee, contrived to seize you, Apostle Peter, blessed by God, and he threw you into prison. He placed you under heavy guard for execution, while the sincere prayer of the Church was made for you. Then the angel of the Lord, having freed you from your chains, led you through the gates which opened of themselves. You thought you were dreaming, but the angel departed and you revived and realized that indeed you had been freed by the power of God. Hence, in gratitude you cried out to Him: Alleluia.

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia

### **Ikos 11**

Philip asked, "O Lord, show us the Father," and the blessed Apostle Peter saw on Mount Tabor the Lord Who was transfigured, and saw His face gloriously shining. And you, Apostle Paul, heard the voice of God the Father from Heaven say of Him, "This is my beloved Son with whom I am well pleased; listen to him." Accordingly, to you who were worthy of such an appearance, we reverently cry out:

Rejoice, Apostle Peter, faithful witness of Christ's Transfiguration.

Rejoice, well-known hearer of the voice of the Divine Father from Heaven.

Rejoice, for you saw the face of the Son of God which was like the light of the shining sun.

Rejoice, receiver of the over-shadowing of the Holy Spirit in a bright cloud of light.

Rejoice, you to whom was opened the most holy mystery on the holy mountain.

Rejoice, you to whom the glory of the Holy Trinity appeared.

Rejoice, for you heard that the exodus of Christ was to take place in Jerusalem.

Rejoice, for your own exodus came to its end, after Christ, on a cross in Rome.

Rejoice, Peter and Paul, like the two mountains Tabor and Hebron, mounts of reason.

Rejoice, from the East and the West, the Promised Land appears in Heaven.

Rejoice, all you holy apostles who are mountains of Zion.

Rejoice, for you bring forth the sweetness of salvation for us.

Rejoice, Saints Peter and Paul together with all the holy apostles.

### **Kontakion 12**

You are of equal standing to the cherubim and we praise you, blessed Apostle Paul, enlightened by the Divine Wisdom in the third heaven. You heard words there which cannot be told, which man may not utter, and with these you covered the world by teaching others to believe in the Crucified Christ, the Son of God, and to Him as True God we unceasingly sing: Alleluia.

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia

### **Ikos 12**

Chosen vessel of Christ, most wise Apostle Paul, you were filled with many revelations of the divine mysteries. In a manner well known, you bore the Name of God who appeared in the flesh, and you believed in Him as Savior, converting to Him people of many nations. You labored well in the spiritual effort, and you fulfilled your most glorious journey in the Name of the Lord in the city of Rome. Finally, you received there the crown of truth, and we sing to you thus:

Rejoice, Apostle Paul, great lover of the Name of Christ for which you suffered much.  
Rejoice, for you witnessed to His Name, and of worship in His Name in Heaven and on earth and below the earth.

Rejoice, for you witnessed well of the Lord in Jerusalem.

Rejoice, for you also witnessed of Him willingly in Rome.

Rejoice, for you rebuked Emperor Nero and coveted his wife for the Christian Faith.

Rejoice, for in the same Rome where Peter was crucified head down, you bowed your own head under the sword.

Rejoice, from your severed head flowed forth pure milk.

Rejoice, with this wondrous miracle were brought many warriors who witnessed it to the Faith.

Rejoice, Peter and Paul, two rivers of living water gushing forth from the wellspring of the Holy Spirit;

Rejoice, for you were shone forth by the confluence of the two rivers Jor and Dan.

Rejoice, all you holy apostles who are rivers flowing with joy to the City of the Church of God.

Rejoice, rivers of sweetness which satisfy the faithful with the Cup of Salvation.

Rejoice, Saints Peter and Paul together with all the holy apostles.

### **Kontakion 13**

Most glorious and praiseworthy disciples of the Lord, Chief Apostles Peter and Paul and all the apostles who reign as equals, you enlightened all the world with the Holy Faith, and with Christ you are destined to judge the entire universe. Glory and praise are due to you most properly not on earth but in Heaven, and though we are unworthy we pray that you accept the prayers we offer to you here and now. From all our troubles we ask you to save us by your worthy intercessions. Intercede before the righteous Judge Christ to be merciful to us at the Judgment Seat — that we may be saved, and thankfully praise our Savior God: Alleluia.

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia

*(Repeat Kontakion 13 three times.)*

**Kontakion 1 (repeated)**

Our Lord said of Himself: I am the Good Shepherd. To you the Chief Apostle Peter, He said: If you love Me, feed My sheep. And Peter said: Yes, Lord, You know that I love You. I am Jesus, He said to you, O Paul the Chief Apostle, and of you, our Lord said: This is My chosen instrument to carry My Name before the Gentiles. Jesus instructed those who were your fellow disciples as well as His apostles: As My Father sent Me, so have I sent you, go and make disciples of all nations. Since you have the same grace from your Master, as after our Lord the Great Pastor of all, shepherd us to salvation that we may call to you:

Rejoice, Saints Peter and Paul together with all the holy apostles.

**Ikos 1 (repeated)**

Blessed are you Simon, son of Jonah, for Christ the Son of the Living God said to you, O Apostle Peter: You are worthy of glory. How may we be worthy of your blessedness, O blessed one of God? Truly, because of our loving duty, we may come to you in faith and now we sing to you:

Rejoice, Apostle Peter, first among the apostles and foundation of the Holy Church.

Rejoice, powerful pillar of the Orthodox Faith and Its confirmation.

Rejoice, zealous lover of the teachings of Christ.

Rejoice, first-seated among the council of the Apostles.

Rejoice, good gatekeeper of the Kingdom of Heaven.

Rejoice, renowned physician of those who repent of their sins.

Rejoice, rejecter of worldly vanity and lover of the spiritual life.

Rejoice, renouncer of material nets and fisherman of the universe with imperishable nets.

Rejoice, Peter and Paul, who shone forth like two great beacons.

Rejoice, twins yoked together by God for his chariot of noetic light.

Rejoice, all you holy apostles, seers of God, for you are lights of the world.

Rejoice, for through you, the Faith that saves us shines forth from Christ in every place.

Rejoice, Saints Peter and Paul together with all the holy apostles.

**Priest:** Let us pray to the Lord.

**Choir:** O Holy Apostles Peter and Paul, pray to God for us!

**Priest:** O most glorious Apostles Peter and Paul, who laid down your lives for Christ and beautified His pasture with your blood! Hearken unto the prayers and sighs of your children which are now offered up with contrite heart. For, lo! we have darkened ourselves with iniquities, and for this cause have we been covered with misfortunes as with showers; and we have become exceeding poor in the oil of a good life, and we cannot fend off the ravening wolves, which boldly strive to lay hands on the

inheritance of God. O mighty ones! bear our infirmities and do not separate yourselves from us in spirit, that we not depart utterly from the love of God; but with your mighty assistance defend us, that the Lord have mercy on us all for the sake of your prayers, that He rend asunder the handwriting of our countless sins, and that He vouchsafe us with all the saints the blessed kingdom and the wedding feast of His Lamb, to Whom be honor and glory, thanksgiving and worship, unto the ages of ages.

**Choir:** Amen.

### **Dismissal**

**Deacon:** Wisdom!

**Priest:** Most Holy Theotokos, save us.

**Choir:** More honorable than the Cherubim, and more glorious beyond compare than the Seraphim, without defilement you gave birth to God the Word, true Theotokos we magnify you!

**Priest:** Glory to Thee, O Christ our God and our hope, glory to Thee!

**Choir:** Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages, Amen. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Father Bless.

**Priest:** May Christ our true God, through the prayers of his most pure Mother; of the Holy Glorious and all-laudable Apostles; of the holy and righteous Ancestors of God, Joachim and Anna; and of all the saints, have mercy on us and save us, for He is good and loves mankind.

**Choir:** Amen.