

Akathistos

1. Alleluia, Mother of God

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia
Chaire numphè anumpheute!

Χαίρε νύμφη ανύμφευτε.
Hail unbedded bride

Mother of God and our protector
The very stones sing out your glory
Against past and present dangers
As we pace out your story
Around the city walls

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!
Chaire numphè anumpheute!

Χαίρε νύμφη ανύμφευτε.
Hail unbedded bride

2. Mary praises God

Mary praised God that she was with child
Hail, unwedded bride!
Loyal Joseph suspects the worst
“How can this be?
How can this be?”
“The angel Gabriel
Gave me this gift
To bring light to the world
To bring light to the world.”

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!
Chaire numphè anumpheute!

Χαίρε νύμφη ανύμφευτε.
Hail unbedded bride

3. Elizabeth – Hail to the vine

Mary, blinded by the light of heaven
And fanned by angels' wings
Was unafraid.
How else can God come to man
But to seed a seedless womb
With heavenly fire?
Pregnant with the news
She ran to her cousin Elizabeth.

Elizabeth, herself heavy with child,
Holds her close while she feels her own son
Leap like a song in her womb.
As if dancing already and shouting for joy:

Hail vine that will not wither
Chaire, blastou amarantou klèma
Rejoice field of the undying crop
Chaire, karpou akèratou ktìma

Χαῖρε, βλαστοῦ ἀμάραντου κλήμα,

Χαῖρε, καρποῦ ἀκήρατου κτήμα.

Hail friend of man who will harvest man
Chaire, geôrgon geôrgousa philanthrôpon
Rejoice, you who plant the planter of seeds
Chaire, futourgon tès zoès hêmôn pheousa
Hail to you the very sower of mankind
Chaire, aroura blastanousa euphorian oiktirmôn
Rejoice for the rich table of your mercy
Chaire trapedza bastadzousa euthènian hilasmôn
You whose delight makes the meadows bloom
You whose arms shelter souls

Χαῖρε, γεωργὸν γεωργοῦσα φιλάνθρωπον,
Χαῖρε, φυτουργὸν τῆς ζωῆς ἡμῶν φεουσα,
Χαῖρε, ἄρουρα βλαστάνουσα εὐφορίαν
οἰκτιρμῶν,
Χαῖρε, τράπεζα βαστάζουσα εὐθηνίαν
ἰλασμῶν.

Hail you who atone for the world
Chaire, pantos tou kosmou exilasma
Hail goodwill of god to mortal man
Chaire, theou prosthnètos eudokia
Rejoice for she who speaks frankly to God
Chaire, thnètôn pros thèon parrèsia
Hail, unbedded bride!
Chaire numphè anumpheute!

Χαῖρε, ἀντὸς τοῦ κόσμου ἐξίλασμα.
Χαῖρε, Θεοῦ πρὸς θνητοῦς εὐδοκία,
Χαῖρε, θνητῶν πρὸς Θεὸν παρρησία.
Χαίρε νύμφη ἀνύμφευτε.

4. The Shepherds hear the Angels sing

The shepherds heard the angels sing
And ran to see this lamb of lambs
Join heaven and earth
Hail, protection against unseen foes!
Rejoice, for the Earth chants chorus with the
heavens!
Hail saviour of the poor!

Chaire, aoratôn echthrôn amuntèrion,
Chaire, Paradeisou thurôn anoiktèrion.
Hail, for the skies rejoice for the birth
Hail, for the Earth sings in chorus with Heaven

Χαῖρε, ἀοράτων ἐχθρῶν ἀμυντήριον,
Χαῖρε, Παραδείσου θυρῶν ἀνοικτήριον.

Chaire, hoti ta ourania sunagalletai tè gè,
Chiare, hoti ta epigeia sunchoreuei ouranois.
Hail, for the skies rejoice for the birth
Hail, for the Earth sings in chorus with Heaven

Χαῖρε, ὅτι τὰ οὐράνια συναγάλλεται τῇ γῆ,
Χαῖρε, ὅτι τὰ ἐπίγεια συγχορεύει οὐρανοῖς.

Hail, saviour of the poor
Leading them from Hell
To their salvation
Shepherd of shepherds!

5. The Wise Men see the star

The Wise Men saw the star
They followed and fell to their knees
Before Mary and the babe
When Joseph saw this he understood at last

His wife still innocent of man
Was yet the mother of the world
Who will cast the tyrant down.
Joseph heard them call her son
The star of all the stars.

Chaire, ateros adutou mètèr!
Mother of a star that does not set!
Chaire, augé mustikès hēmeras
Dawn of a mystic day!

Χαῖρε, ἀστέρος ἀδύτου Μήτηρ,

Χαῖρε, αὐγή μυστικῆς ἡμέρας.

6. All spread the message

And the Wise Men spread the message to the wise
And the shepherds spread the message to the rest
And the choir of angels sang to shake the city
“This is the saviour of the world.
This innocent child, this simple girl
Made wordy orators voiceless as fish
Made scholars and philosophers fools
O Mother of God,
You gave your glory to the naked,
You gave your voice to the voiceless,
And plead the case of those who had nothing.

You are the tree of brilliant fruit
Chaire, dendron aglaokarpon
From which the faithful are fed
Exhou trephontai pistoi

Χαῖρε, δένδρον ἀγλαόκαρπον,

ἐξ οὗ τρέφονται πιστοί,

Hail, branch of fair-shading leaves
Chaire, xūlon eūskiophullon
Where wanderers shelter.
Huph' ou skepontai polloi.

Χαῖρε, ξύλον εὐσκιόφυλλον,

ὑφ' οὗ σκέπονται πολλοί.

7. She is our defence

For she is our defence against their armies
And she is our defence against their fleet
With her we do not fear barbarians
Barbarians!

For she sends thunder and lightning on the
Persian ships
With her we do not fear barbarians
Barbarians!

8. Hail, bright rays of the sun

Chaire, aktis noètou hēliou!
Hail, bright rays of the sun of the Spirit!

Χαῖρε, ἀκτὶς νοητοῦ ἡλίου,

Chaire, astrapè tas psuchas katalampousa
Hail, lightning that lays bare the soul

Χαῖρε, ἀστραπή τὰς ψυχὰς καταλάμπουσα,

Chaire, hôs brontè tous echthrous kataplèttousa

Χαῖρε, ὡς βροντὴ τοὺς ἐχθροὺς
καταπλήττουσα.

Hail, thunder that smashes our foes

Chairé! Chairé! Chairé!

Chaire numphè anumpheute!

Χαίρε νύμφη ἀνύμφευτε
Hail unbedded bride

9. Finale

Chaire, asteros adutou mètèr!

Hail vine that will not wither

Rejoice field of the undying crop

Hail friend of man who will harvest man

Rejoice, you who plant the planter of seeds

Hail to you the very sower of mankind

Rejoice for the rich table of your mercy

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Χαῖρε, Θεοῦ πρὸς θνητοὺς εὐδοκία,

Χαῖρε, θνητῶν πρὸς Θεὸν παρρησία.

Χαίρε νύμφη ἀνύμφευτε.

Khaire, Maria

For you will always hear our call

We sing our praise to the defender of our city

Mother of the Saviour of us all

Rejoice for she who speaks frankly to God

Hail, unbedded bride!

Chaire!

Χαῖρε

Χαῖρε