

AKATHIST OF THANKSGIVING

"Glory to God for All Things!"

- A hymn of praise amidst great suffering -



Text by Metropolitan Tryphon of Turkestan,
found among the effects of Hieromartyr Grigori Petrov (+1942)

First set to music by Fr. Patrick Kinder in 1995
and dedicated to the Holy New Martyrs of Russia

The Akathist of Thanksgiving, 'Glory to God for All Things', was long attributed to Hieromartyr Gregory Petrov (+ 1942). The attribution has now been authoritatively made to Metropolitan Tryphon (Turkestanov) (+ 1934) and it is one of the most popular texts of contemporary Orthodox piety in Russia.

This setting was originally transcribed to Tone 6 (Kievan Chant) in English by Fr. Patrick Kinder in 1995, while he was still a lay person working as a Youth Director in Akron, Ohio. He was introduced to the Akathist, first by his good friend, Rick Michaels (later to become an Archimandrite and now a bishop-elect in the Antiochian Archdiocese), and then later by Vanessa Murray, who was later to become his wife.

In the introduction to his musical setting of the text, Fr. Patrick stated:

"I set out to make a hard copy of these beautiful hymns for my own celebration, and for anyone else who might be moved to find within them the inspired and thankful words of God's true blessings: the sense of peace in an anxious world, the sense of joy in this world of sorrow, absolute faithfulness in a world betrayed by its own, the Kingdom of Life in this world of death, and 'for the depth of God's wisdom reflected in the whole world!' (Ikos 3)"

"Although those of us raised in American may never know the physical sufferings of Fr. Gregory and the Holy New Martyrs of Russia, we appreciate and celebrate their 'contemporary' sacrifice, and praise the Church received in their blood. Orthodox Christians in the new world have their own suffering and call to witness, however, and those who genuinely desire to choose this *Way* know the direct and Godless opposition present in the secular, commercial, and apostate society in which we live."

"...The martyrdom of today is to stare the prestige, power, possession, self-centered and self-determined world right in the face and declare: "You are an affront to my Lord Jesus. Get thee behind me Satan!" "...This Akathist is a reminder to God's holiness and glory, and to His complete and transcendent care for our lives; and a support in the certain struggle that evil and fallenness incite in the hearts of all people. May the prayers and the joy of the Saints be with us."

I was first introduced to this Akathist in November of 2010, on my first Thanksgiving Eve as Music Director at St. Athanasius Antiochian Orthodox Church in Goleta, California, and I was profoundly moved. Afterwards, I asked our sub-deacon, Stephen Butler (a composer in his own right and professor of Music Theory and Composition at Westmont College) to rework the harmonization so that it was consistent with the Ledkovsky harmonization model for Tone 6 Kievan Chant with which our choir was familiar. I have taken the liberty to add brackets for easier and more fluid grouping of notes.

I pray that this Akathist will continue to bless all who sing and hear it.

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November, 2011

Kontakion 1 Akathist of Thanksgiving

Harmonized Kievan Chant, Tone 6
Arranged from Boris Ledkovsky by Fr. Patrick Kinder
Ed. by Stephen Butler for St. Athanasius Orthodox Church
January, 2011

Incorruptible King of all a - ges, holding in Your hand every path of hu-man life

through the power of Your saving Pro - vi-dence. 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 King - dom to come. Hold us in Your mer - cy now and ev - er we who sing:

Glo - ry to You, O God, un - to a - ges of a - ges.

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:

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.

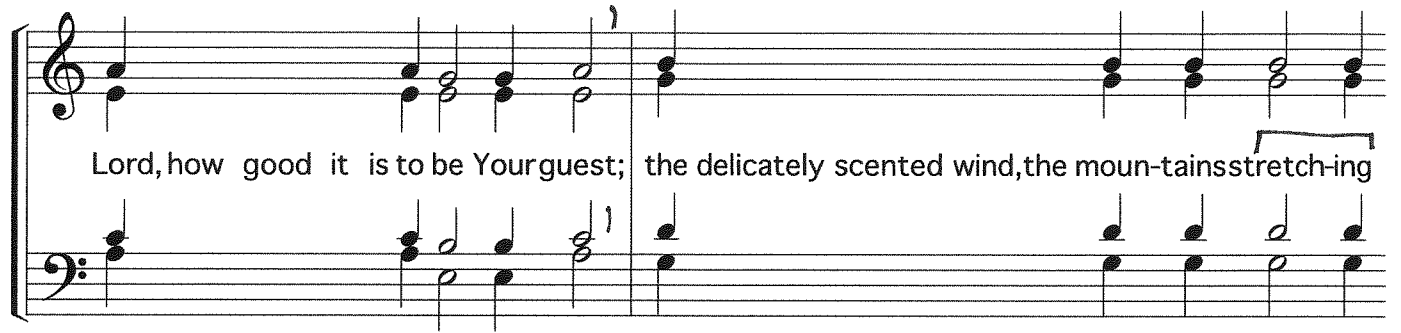
Refrain:



The musical notation for the refrain is presented on a grand staff with two staves. The upper staff uses a treble clef and the lower staff uses a bass clef. The melody is written in a simple, homophonic style. The lyrics are: "Glo - ry to You, O God, un - to a - ges of a ges." The word "a" is written below a long note in the upper staff, which is part of a phrase that spans across the two staves. The music concludes with a double bar line.

Kontakion 2

Akathist of Thanksgiving



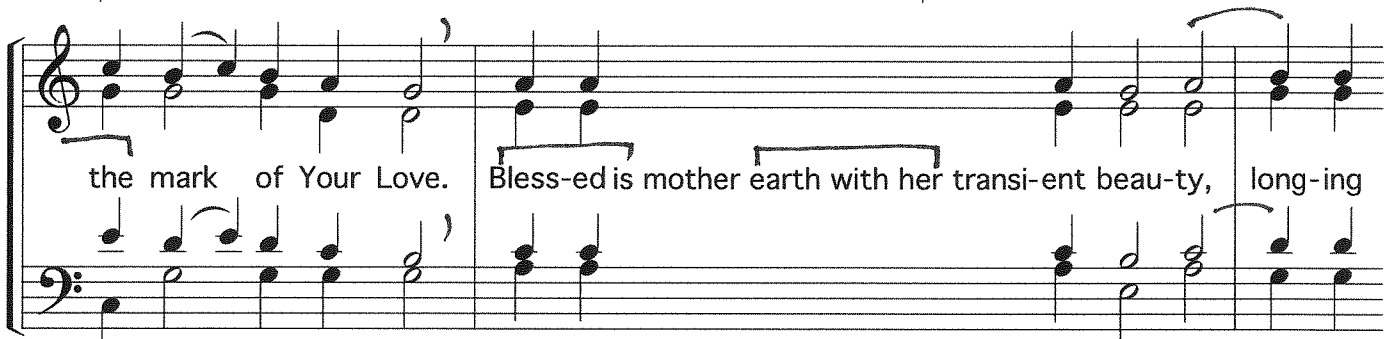
Lord, how good it is to be Your guest; the delicately scented wind, the mountains stretching



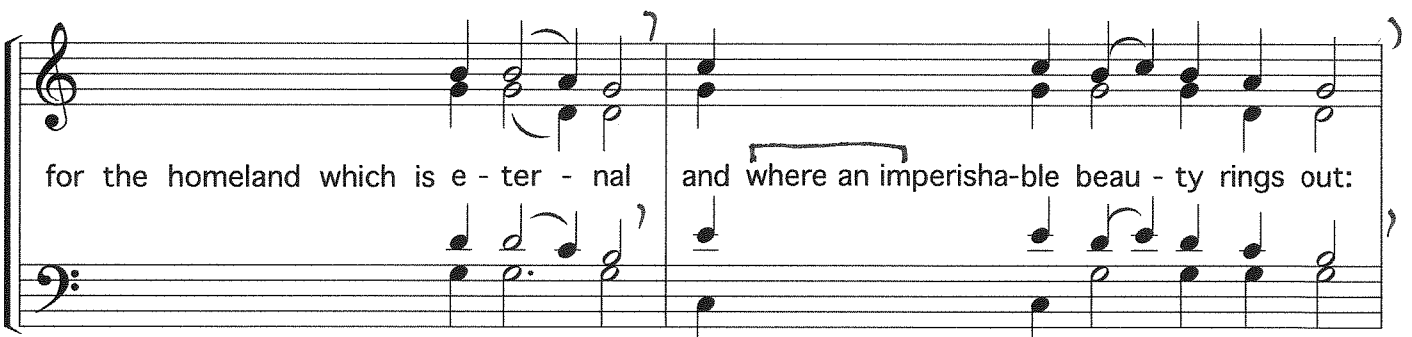
to the sky, the waters reflecting like infinite mirrors the golden rays of sun, the airiness



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:

Al - le - lu - ia.

Ikos 2

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:

Glory to You, for the festival of life,
 Glory to You, for the fragrant lilies of the valley and the roses,
 Glory to You, for the delectable variety of berries and 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.

Refrain:

Glo - ry to You, O God, un-to a - ges of a - ges.

Kontakion 3

Akathist of Thanksgiving

Every flower is fragrant through the power of the Ho-ly Spir-it, in a delicate flow of

a-ro-ma and tenderness of col-or; 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

car-pet, Who crowns the fields with golden ears of wheat and az-ure bas-i-lisks,

and the soul with the joy of con-tem-pla-tion. Let us re-joice and sing to Him:

Al - le - lu - ia.

Ikos 3

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:

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.

Refrain:

Glo - ry to You, O God, un-to a - ges of a - ges.

Kontakion 4

Akathist of Thanksgiving

How You bring sweetness to those who think of You, how Life-giving is Your Word, it

is soft-er 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 wis - dom there is in nature and all of life. Where You are not there is

emp - ti - ness. Where You are there is richness of soul, a tor - rent of life:



Ikos 4

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!"

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.

Refrain:



Kontakion 5

Akathist of Thanksgiving

The storms of life are not fright-en-ing to one in whose heart shines the

light of Your fire. All a-round the wea-ther is bad; there is darkness,

horror, and the howl-ing wind. But in the soul of such a one there is peace and light.

rit.
Christ is there! And the heart sings: Al-le-lu-ia.

Ikos 5

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:

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.

Refrain:



Glo - ry to You, O God, un - to a - ges of a ges.

Kontakion 6

Akathist of Thanksgiving

How great and near You are in the power of thund-er-storms, how visible is Your mighty

hand in the blinding curves of light - ning, amazing in Your great - ness. The voice of

the Lord is o-ver the fields and in the sound of the for - ests; the voice of the

Lord is in the birth of the thun - der and rain; the voice of the Lord is over

ma-ny wa-ters. Praise be to You in the thundering of vol-ca-noes spit - ting fire.

You shake the earth about like a gar - ment. You lift up the waves of the sea in-to the sky.

Praise be to You Who hum - ble hu - man pride, draw - ing out the re - pen - tant cry:

Al - le - lu - ia.

Ikos 6

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:

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, and
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.

Refrain:

The musical score for the refrain is presented on two staves, Treble and Bass clef. The lyrics are: "Glo - ry to You, O God, un-to a - ges of a - ges." The melody is written in a simple, homophonic style with a clear harmonic accompaniment. The key signature has one sharp (F#), and the time signature is 4/4. The piece concludes with a double bar line.

One hears Your call in a wonderful com-po-si-tion of sounds. You open for us the

envir'nment of our fu-ture par-a - dise in mel-od-ious singing and har-mo - ni - ous tones,

in the height of mus-i - cal col - or, in the brilliance of artistic cre-a - tiv - i - ty.

All that is tru - ly beau - ti - ful car - ries the soul to You

in a migh - ty call, and forces it to sing rap - tur - ous - ly:

Al - le - lu - ia.

The image shows a musical score for the hymn 'Alleluia'. It consists of two staves: a treble clef staff on top and a bass clef staff on the bottom. The melody is written in a simple, homophonic style. The lyrics 'Al - le - lu - ia.' are written below the treble staff. The music is in a key with one sharp (F#) and a 4/4 time signature. The piece concludes with a double bar line.

Ikos 7

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:

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.

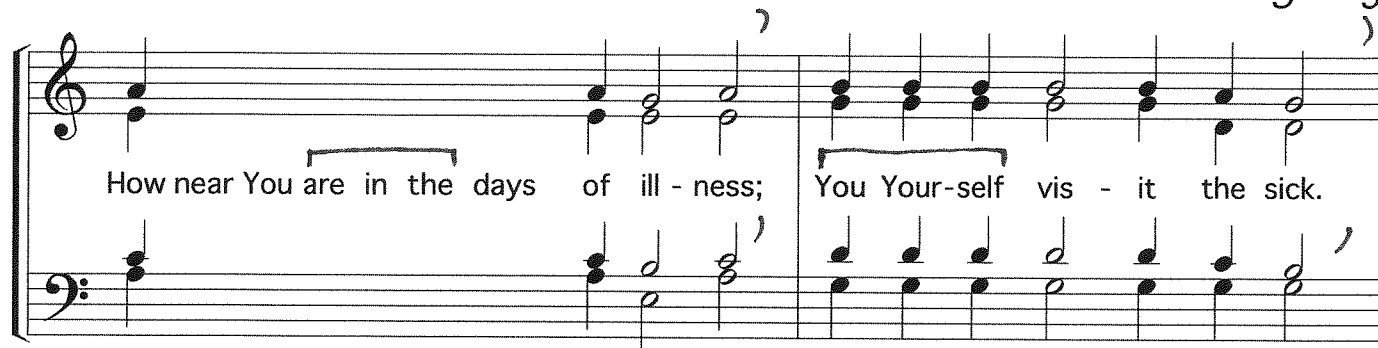
Refrain:

Glo - ry to You, O God, un-to a - ges of a - ges.

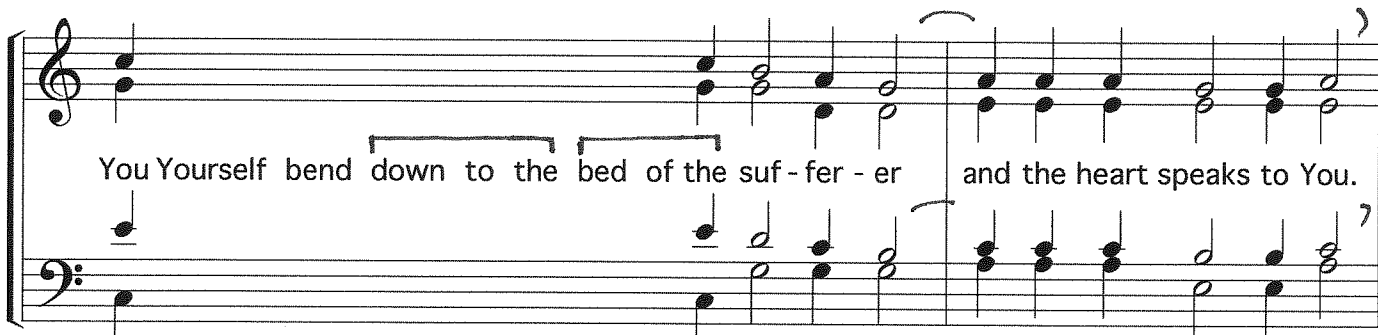
The image shows a musical score for the refrain. It consists of two staves: a treble clef staff on top and a bass clef staff on the bottom. The melody is written in a simple, homophonic style. The lyrics 'Glo - ry to You, O God, un-to a - ges of a - ges.' are written below the treble staff. The music is in a key with one sharp (F#) and a 4/4 time signature. The piece concludes with a double bar line.

Kontakion 8

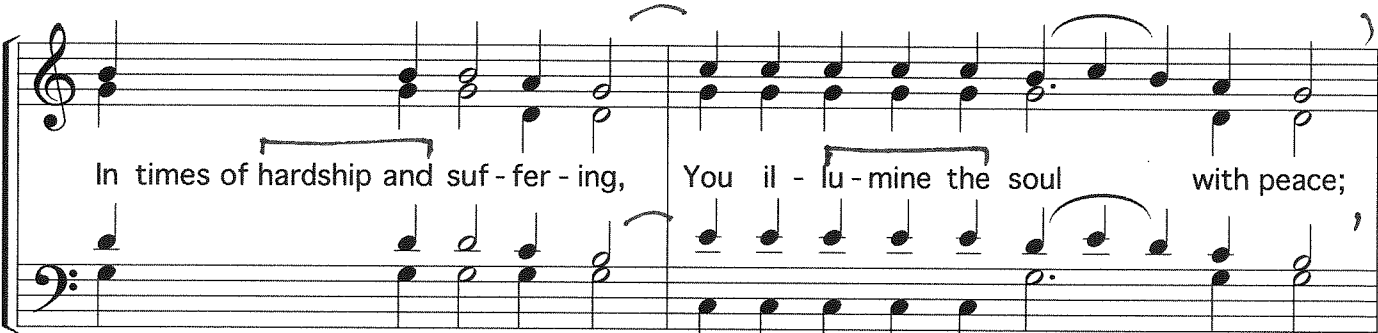
Akathist of Thanksgiving



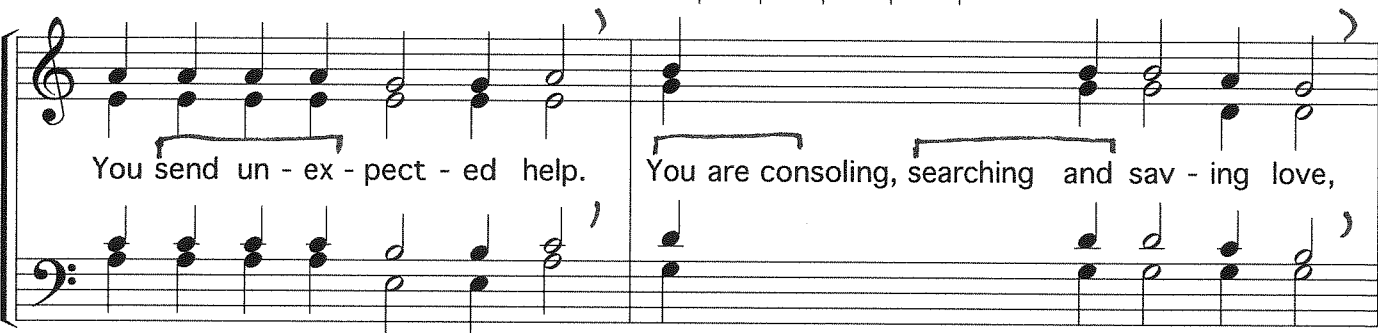
How near You are in the days of ill - ness; You Your-self vis - it the sick.



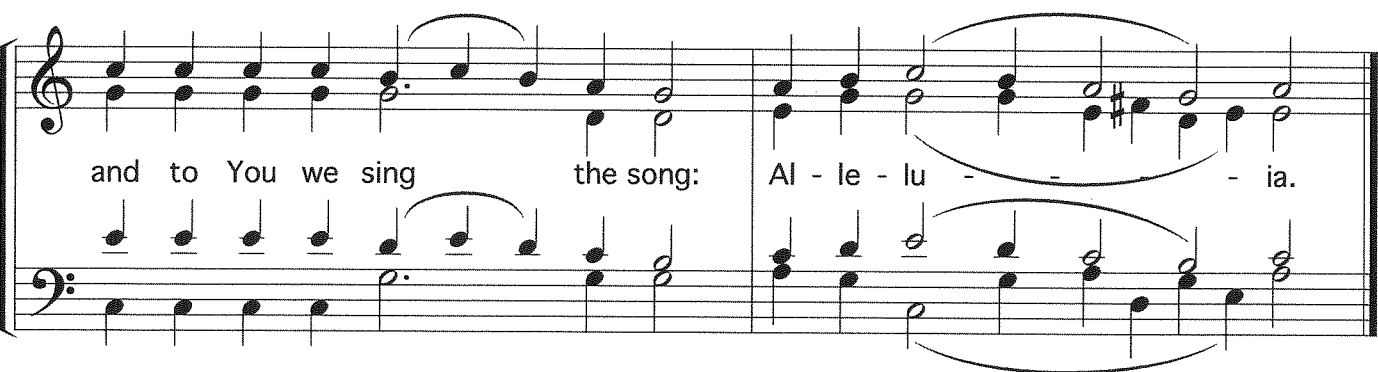
You Yourself bend down to the bed of the suf - fer - er and the heart speaks to You.



In times of hardship and suf - fer - ing, You il - lu - mine the soul with peace;



You send un - ex - pect - ed help. You are consoling, searching and sav - ing love,



and to You we sing the song: Al - le - lu - ia.

Ikos 8

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:

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.

Refrain:



Glo - ry to You, O God, un - to a - ges of a - ges.

The musical notation consists of two staves. The upper staff is in treble clef and contains a vocal line with lyrics. The lower staff is in bass clef and contains a piano accompaniment. The key signature has one sharp (F#), and the time signature is 4/4. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with a final cadence on the word 'ges'.

Why does all nature smile mysteriously on feast days? Why is the heart filled at these times

with a wonderful light-ness 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.

Ikos 9

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:

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.

Refrain:



The musical notation for the refrain is presented on a grand staff consisting of a treble clef and a bass clef. The melody is written in the treble clef, and the bass line is in the bass clef. The lyrics are: "Glo - ry to You, O God, un - to a - ges of a - ges." The music is in a 4/4 time signature. The key signature has one sharp (F#). The melody consists of quarter and eighth notes, with some phrases being slurred together. The bass line provides a simple harmonic accompaniment with quarter notes.

Kontakion 10

Akathist of Thanksgiving

That which is broken can-not be re-stored, but You can set a-right those whose

conscience has be-come de-cayed; You restore the soul to its for-mer beau-ty

in those who have lost it be-yond all hope. With You there is nothing that cannot

be put a-right. You are all Love. You are the Creator and the Re-stor - er.

To You we sing praise: Al - le - lu - ia.

Ikos 10

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:

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.

Refrain:



The image shows a musical score for the refrain of Ikos 10. It consists of two staves: a treble clef staff on top and a bass clef staff on the bottom. The melody is written in the treble staff, and the bass line is in the bass staff. The lyrics are written below the treble staff. The music is in a simple, homophonic style with a steady rhythm. The lyrics are: "Glo - ry to You, O God, un-to a - ges of a - ges." The word "a" is elongated with a horizontal line underneath it, and there is a fermata over the final "ges".

Kontakion 11

Akathist of Thanksgiving

Through the icy link of the a-ges, I feel the warmth of Your Di-vine breath;

I hear the flow of blood. You are al-read-y near; time has part-ly van-ished.

rit.
I see Your Cross; it is for my sake. My spirit is in ashes be-fore the Cross,

where there is a triumph of love and sal-va-tion, and un-ceasing praise unto

all a-ges: Al-le-lu-ia.

Ikos 11

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:

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.

Refrain:



Glo - ry to You, O God, un-to a - ges of a - ges.

Kontakion 12

Akathist of Thanksgiving

Ma-ny times I have seen the reflection of Your glo - ry on the fa - ces

of the dead. What unearthly beauty and joy shown from them; how ethereal and

immaterial were their fea - tures. This is the tri - umph of happiness and peace

re-ceived grace-ful - ly, as they silent-ly call up - on You. At the hour of my


death also il - lu - mine my soul as I call: Al - le - lu - ia.

Ikos 12

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:

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.

Refrain:



The image shows a musical score for the refrain of Ikos 12. It consists of two staves: a treble staff and a bass staff. The treble staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The melody is written in a simple, homophonic style. The lyrics are: "Glo - ry to You, O God, un - to a - ges of a - ges." The bass staff provides a simple harmonic accompaniment. The music is enclosed in a double bar line at the end.

Kontakion 13

Akathist of Thanksgiving

O all bountiful and life-giving Tri-ni-ty, accept this gratitude for all of Your

mer-cies and make us worthy of Your Di-vine gifts so that having multiplied

the tal-ents giv-en us, we may en-ter in-to the eternal joy of our Lord

with vic-tor-ious praise: Al-le-lu-ia, Al-le-lu-ia,

Al-le-lu-ia.