THE KATAVASIA OF THE ANUNCIATION – TONE IV

Note: The Katavasia are from the feast, except for those odes which conclude with Triodion hymns, wherein the Katavasia are prescribed by the Triodion.

Katavasia I: I shall open my mouth, * and be filled with the Spirit, * and utter discourse to the Queen and Mother; * and be seen radiantly keeping festival, * joyfully praising her wonders.

Katavasia III: O Theotokos, thou living and plentiful fount, * establish in spiritual fellowship those who sing hymns to thee, * and in thy divine glory * grant them crowns of glory.

Katavasia IV: He who sitteth in glory upon the throne of the Godhead, * Jesus the true God, * is come in a swift cloud * and with His sinless hands he hath saved those who cry: * Glory to Thy power, O Christ.

Katavasia V: All creation stands in awe of thy divine glory; * for thou, O Virgin who hast not known wedlock, * didst contain within thy womb the God of all, * and gave birth to the timeless Son, * bestowing peace, upon all who hymn thee.

Katavasia VI: Prefiguring Thy three-day burial * Prophet Jonah praying in the belly of the sea-monster cried aloud: * Deliver me from corruption * O Jesus Thou King of hosts.

Katavasia VII: Refusing to worship created things * in place of the Creator, * the divinely wise youths bravely trampled down the threatening fire * and rejoicing they sang aloud: * O supremely hymned Lord and God of our Fathers, Blessed art Thou.

Katavasia VIII: Hearken, O pure Virgin Maiden, * that Gabriel may tell thee the true counsel of the Most High of old. * Make ready to receive the Godhead; * for through thee the Infinite One hath come to dwell among mankind. * Wherefore, rejoicing, I cry aloud: * Bless the Lord, all ye works of the Lord!

Katavasia IX: In nowise may the hand of the defiled * touch the animate ark of God; * and let the lips of the faithful * never-silently cry out with joy to the Theotokos, * chanting the words of the angel: * Rejoice, O thou who art full of grace! * The Lord is with thee!

THE KATAVASIA OF THE CROSS – TONE I

Katavasia I: Moses the servant of God * prefigured Thy Cross in the days of old, * when he divided the Red Sea with his rod * and led Israel across on dry land; * and he sang a song of deliverance unto Thee, O Christ our God.

Katavasia III: By Thy Cross, O Christ Master, * set me firmly on the rock of the faith: * Let not my mind be shaken by the assaults * of the malicious enemy; * for Thou alone art holy.

Katavasia IV: Seeing Thee, O mighty Lord, upon the Cross, * the sun was seized with fear and hid its rays, * with dread the whole creation glorified Thy longsuffering, * and the earth was filled with Thy praise.

Katavasia V: Rising early in the morning * we sing Thy praises, O Savior of the world, * for we have found peace through Thy Cross. * By it Thou hast renewed mankind, * and led us to the never-waning light.

Katavasia VI: Jonah in the belly of the whale * foreshadowed with his outstretched hands * the figure of the Cross; * and he leapt out from the seamonster, * saved by Thy power, O Word.

Katavasia VII: The Lord Who delivered the Children from the flames * took flesh and came upon the earth; * nailed to the Cross, He hath granted us salvation, * He Who alone is blessed and supremely glorified, * the God of our fathers.

Katavasia VIII: Daniel, great among the prophets, * was cast into the lions' den; * but, stretching out his hands in the form of the Cross, * he was delivered from their mouths and kept unharmed, * blessing Christ our God throughout the ages.

Katavasia IX: O Virgin Mother and true Theotokos, * who without seed didst bear Christ our God, * Who wast lifted in the flesh upon the Cross. * We and all the faithful, as is meet, * magnify thee with thy Son.

THE KATAVASIA OF THE DORMITION OF THE THEOTOKOS

Katavasia I: I shall open my mouth, * and be filled with the Spirit, * and utter discourse to the Queen and Mother; * and be seen radiantly keeping festival, * joyfully praising her dormition.

Katavasia III: O Theotokos, thou living and plentiful fount, * establish in spiritual fellowship those who sing hymns to thee, * and in thy divine glory * grant them crowns of glory.

Katavasia IV: Perceiving the profound counsel of God, * that the incarnation of Thee the Most High, * will be from a Virgin, * the Prophet Habbakuk cried aloud: * Glory to Thy power, O Lord!

Katavasia V: All creation stands in awe of thine honored dormition; * for thou, O Virgin who hast not known wedlock, * hast passed from earth to the everlasting mansions; * and to never-ending life, * bestowing salvation unto all who hymn thee.

Katavasia VI: Celebrating the divine and solemn feast * of the Mother of God * O ye divinely wise, * let us come, clapping our hands, * and glorify God who was born of her.

Katavasia VII: Refusing to worship created things * in place of the Creator, * the divinely wise youths bravely trampled down the threatening fire * and rejoicing they sang aloud: * O supremely hymned Lord and God of our Fathers, Blessed art Thou.

Katavasia VIII: The Offspring of the Theotokos * saved the holy children in the furnace. * He who was then prefigured hath now been born on earth, * and He gathereth all creation to hymn thee: * all ye works praise ye the Lord * and supremely exalt Him throughout all ages.

Katavasia IX: Let every mortal born on earth, * radiant with light, in spirit leap for joy; * and let the host of the angelic powers * celebrate and honor the repose of the Mother of God, * and let them cry aloud: * Rejoice! O all-blessed Theotokos, * thou pure Ever-Virgin.

THE IRMOI OF THE ENTRY OF THE THEOTOKOS – TONE IV

Katavasia I: I shall open my mouth, * and be filled with the Spirit, * and utter discourse to the Queen and Mother; * and be seen radiantly keeping festival, * joyfully praising her entry.

Katavasia III: O Theotokos, thou living and plentiful fount, * establish in spiritual fellowship those who sing hymns to thee, * that by thine entry, * they be granted crowns of glory.

Katavasia IV: Perceiving the profound counsel of God, * that the incarnation of Thee the Most High, * will be from a Virgin, * the Prophet Habbakuk cried aloud: * Glory to Thy power, O Lord!

Katavasia V: All creation stands in awe of thy divine glory; * for thou, O Virgin who hast not known wedlock, * didst enter into the temple of the Lord; * thyself being a most pure temple, * bestowing peace, upon all who hymn thee.

Katavasia VI: Celebrating the divine and solemn feast * of the Mother of God * O ye divinely wise, * let us come, clapping our hands, * and glorify God who was born of her.

Katavasia VII: Refusing to worship created things * in place of the Creator, * the divinely wise youths bravely trampled down the threatening fire * and rejoicing they sang aloud: * O supremely hymned Lord and God of our Fathers, Blessed art Thou.

Katavasia VIII: Hearken, O pure Virgin Maiden, * that Gabriel may tell thee the true counsel of the Most High of old. * Make ready to receive the Godhead; * for through thee the Infinite One hath come to dwell among mankind. * Wherefore, rejoicing, I cry aloud: * Bless the Lord, all ye works of the Lord!

Katavasia IX: In nowise may the hand of the defiled * touch the animate ark of God; * and let the lips of the faithful * never-silently cry out with joy to the Theotokos, * chanting the words of the angel: * Rejoice, O thou who art full of grace! * The Lord is with thee!

THE KATAVASIA OF THE EXULTATION OF THE CROSS - TONE VIII

Katavasia I: Inscribing the invincible weapon of the Cross upon the waters, * Moses marked a straight line before him with his staff * and divided the Red Sea, * opening a path for Israel who went over dry-shod. * Then he marked a second line across the waters * and united them in one, * overwhelming the chariots of Pharaoh. * Therefore let us sing to Christ our God, * for He hath been glorified.

Katavasia III: The rod of Aaron is an image of this mystery, * for when it budded it showed who should be priest. * So in the Church, that once was barren, * the wood of the Cross hath now budded forth, * filling her with strength and steadfastness.

Katavasia IV: O Lord, I have heard the mystery of Thy dispensation; * I have considered Thy works, * and I have glorified Thy Divinity.

Katavasia V: O thrice-blessed Tree, on which Christ the king and Lord was stretched! * Through thee the beguiler fell, * who tempted mankind with the tree. * He was caught in the trap set by God, * who was crucified upon thee in the flesh, * granting peace unto our souls.

Katavasia VI: Jonah stretched out his hands in the form of a cross * within the belly of the sea monster, * plainly prefiguring the redeeming Passion. * Cast out from thence after three days, * he foreshadowed the marvelous Resurrection of Christ our God, * who was crucified in the flesh and enlightened the world * by His Rising on the third day.

Katavasia VII: The senseless decree of the wicked tyrant, * breathing forth threats and blasphemy hateful to God, * confused the people. * Yet neither the fury of the wild beast nor the roaring of the fire * could frighten the three Children: * but standing together in the flame, * fanned by the wind that brought refreshment as the dew, they sang: * 'Blessed and supremely praised art Thou, * O our God and the God of our fathers.'

Katavasia VIII: O children equal in number to the Trinity: * bless ye God, the Father and Creator; * hymn ye the Word Who came down * and transformed the fire into dew; * and supremely exalt ye Him Who giveth life unto all, * the most holy Spirit, * throughout the ages!

Katavasia IX: O Theotokos, thou art a mystical Paradise, * who untilled brought forth Christ. * by Whom the life-giving Tree of the Cross hath been planted upon the earth: * Therefore celebrating its exaltation on this day, * Him do we worship * and thee do we magnify.

THE KATAVASIA OF THE MEETING OF THE LORD – TONE III

Katavasia I: The Sun once passed over dry land * in the midst of the deep. * For the water on both sides became firm as a wall * while the people traversed the sea on foot, * chanting in a manner pleasing to God: * Let us sing unto the Lord; * for gloriously hath he been glorified.

Katavasia III: O Lord, the firm foundation of those who put their trust in Thee, * do Thou establish the Church, * which Thou hast purchased * with thy precious blood.

Katavasia IV: Thy virtue, hath covered the heavens, O Christ, * for having come forth from the Ark of Thy sanctification, * from Thine undefiled Mother, * Thou hast appeared in the temple of Thy glory * as an infant borne in arms, * filling all with Thy praise.

Katavasia V: In a vision Isaiah saw upon a throne, * God lifted up on high * borne aloft by angels of glory; * and he cried: 'Woe is me! * For I have foreseen God made flesh, * the Lord of the never-setting light * and the King of peace.'

Katavasia VI: The Elder, having seen with his eyes the salvation * that was to come unto the peoples from God, * cried aloud unto Thee: * 'O Christ, Thou art my God.'

Katavasia VII: O Thou who in the midst of the fire * bedewed the children as they discoursed on things divine, * and Who didst take up Thy dwelling in the pure Virgin: * O Word of God Thee do we reverently praise chanting: * O God of our fathers, Blessed art Thou.

Katavasia VIII: United together in the unbearable fire, * yet not harmed by the flame, * the children, champions of godliness, sang a divine hymn: * O all ye works of the Lord, * bless ye the Lord and supremely exalt Him throughout all ages.

Katavasia IX: In the shadow and the letter of the Law, * let us, the faithful, discern a figure: * every male child that openeth the womb * shall be sanctified to God. * Therefore we magnify the firstborn Word * and Son of the beginningless Father, * the firstborn Child of a Mother who hath not known a man.

THE KATAVASIA OF THE NATIVITY

Katavasia I: Christ is born, render ye glory. * Christ cometh from heaven, meet ye Him. * Christ is on earth, be ye exalted. * O all the earth, sing unto the Lord, * and sing praises in gladness, O ye people, * for He hath been glorified.

Katavasia III: To the Son who was begotten of the Father * without change before all ages, * and in the last times, without seed, was made flesh of the Virgin, * to Christ our God let us cry aloud: * Thou hast raised up our horn, holy art Thou, O Lord.

Katavasia IV: Rod of the root of Jesse, * and flower that blossomed from his stem, * O Christ, Thou hast sprung from the Virgin. * From the Mountain overshadowed by the forest * Thou hast come, made flesh from her that knew not wedlock, * O God who art not formed from matter. * Glory to Thy power, O Lord.

Katavasia V: As Thou art the God of peace and Father of compassions, * Thou hast sent unto us Thine Angel of great counsel, * granting us peace. * Wherefore guided towards the light of the knowledge of God, * and watching by night we glorify Thee, * O Lover of mankind.

Katavasia VI: The sea monster spat forth Jonah as it had received him, * like a babe from the womb: * while the Word, having dwelt in the Virgin and taken flesh, * came forth from her yet kept her incorrupt. * For being Himself not subject to decay. * He preserved His Mother free from all harm.

Katavasia VII: Scorning the impious decree of the godless one, * the Children brought up together in godliness * feared not the threat of fire, * but standing in the midst of the flames, they sang: * O God of our fathers, blessed art Thou.

Katavasia VIII: The furnace moist with dew showed forth an image * of a wonder past nature, * for it burned not the youths whom it had received; * neither did the fire of the Godhead consume the Virgin * when it descended into her womb. * Wherefore, chanting, we sing: * Let all creation bless the Lord and supremely exalt Him throughout all ages!

Katavasia IX: A strange and most wondrous mystery do I see: * the cave is heaven; * the Virgin the throne of the cherubim; * the manger a room, in which Christ God, * whom nothing can contain, is laid. * Whom we praise and magnify.

THE KATAVASIA OF PASCHA – TONE I

Katavasia I: It is the Day of Resurrection, * let us be radiant, O ye people; * Pascha, the Lord's Pascha: * for from death to life, * and from earth to heaven, * Christ God hath brought us, * as we sing the song of victory.

Katavasia III: Come, let us drink a new drink, * not one miraculously brought forth from a barren rock * but the Fountain of Incorruption, * springing forth from the tomb of Christ, * in Whom we are strengthened.

Katavasia IV: On divine watch let the God-inspired Habakkuk stand with us, * and show forth the light-bearing angel clearly saying: * Today salvation is come to the world, * for Christ is risen * as Almighty.

Katavasia V: Let us awake in the deep dawn, * and instead of myrrh, offer a hymn to the Master, * and we shall see Christ, * the Sun of Righteousness, * Who causeth life to dawn for all.

Katavasia VI: Thou didst descend into the nethermost parts of the earth, * and didst shatter the eternal bars that held the fettered, O Christ, * and on the third day, * like Jonah from the whale, * Thou didst arise from the tomb.

Katavasia VII: He Who delivered the Children from the furnace, * became man, suffereth as a mortal, * and through His Passion * doth clothe mortality with the beauty of incorruption, * He is the only blessed and most glorious * God of our fathers.

Katavasia VIII: The type of the Godhead prefigured in the resplendent three * loosed the bonds and moistened the flames with dew. * The Children praise, and all creation that was made doth bless, * the only Savior and Creator of all, * as their Benefactor.

Refrain: The angel cried unto her that is full of grace: * Rejoice, O pure Virgin! And again I say, rejoice! * For thy Son hath arisen from the grave on the third day, * and the dead having been raised, be jubilant O ye people!

Katavasia IX: Shine, shine, O new Jerusalem, * for the glory of the Lord hath arisen upon thee; * dance now and be glad, O Zion, * and do thou exult, O pure Theotokos, * in the arising of Him Whom thou didst bear.

THE KATAVASIA OF PENTECOST – TONE IV

Katavasia I: Covered by the divine cloud, * he that was slow of tongue proclaimed the Law written by God; * for having shaken off the impurity from the eye of his mind, * He beholdeth Him That is, and he is initiated into the knowledge of the Spirit, * While giving praise with God-inspired songs.

Katavasia III: Only the prayer of the Prophetess Anna, * who of old brought a broken spirit * unto the Mighty One and God of knowledge, * loosed the fetters of a childless womb * and the unruly rebuke of her with children.

Katavasia IV: O King of kings, even Thou Who art from the Only One, * O Word, Who comest forth from the only uncaused Father, * Thou, as our Benefactor, didst unfailingly send * Thy Spirit, Equal in might, unto the Apostles, who sing: * Glory to Thy power, O Lord.

Katavasia V: O ye children of the Church, * whose likeness is like unto light, * receive ye the fire-breathing dew of the Spirit, * which is a redeeming purification of offenses; * for now hath the Law gone forth from Zion, * even the Spirit's grace, in the form of tongues of fire.

Katavasia VI: Thou hast shone forth from the Virgin * as forgiveness and salvation for us, O Christ Master; * that, like as Jonah was rift from the belly of the sea monster, * Thou mightest snatch from corruption * all the fallen race of Adam.

Katavasia VII: The harmonious music of the flutes sounded forth * to honor the lifeless idol made of gold; * but the light bearing grace of the Comforter * doth inspire us to cry out in reverence: * Trinity in Unity, * equal in might and beginningless, * Blessed art Thou!

Katavasia VIII: The type of the Godhead prefigured in the resplendent three * loosed the bonds and moistened the flames with dew. * The Children praise, and all creation that was made doth bless, * the only Savior and Creator of all, * as their Benefactor.

Katavasia IX: Rejoice, O Queen boast of virgins and of mothers; * for every eloquent and capable mouth is unable to extol thee worthily, * and every mind is confounded in seeking to comprehend thy childbirth. * Wherefore, with one accord thee do we glorify.

THE KATAVASIA OF THEOPHANY – TONE II

Note: According to the Great Horologion, these Katavasia may be chanted as follows: On January 1, 6, and 14, both sets of Katavasia are chanted; from January 2 to the 5, only the first set is used; from January 7-13, only the second set is used. (the second set may be chanted in TONE II or TONE VI)

Katavasia I-A: The Lord mighty in battle * uncovered the foundation of the deep * and led His servants on dry ground; * but He covered their adversaries with the waters, * for He hath been glorified.

Katavasia I-B: Israel traversed the stormy depths of the sea, * which had straightway become as dry land; * but the dark waters engulfed the chief captains of Egypt * in a watery grave, * by the mighty power of the right hand of the Master.

Katavasia III-A: The Lord who granteth strength unto our kings, * and exalteth the horn of His anointed, * is born of a Virgin and cometh unto baptism. * Therefore let us, the faithful, cry aloud: * None is as holy as our God.

Katavasia III-B: From the ancient snares have we all been set loose, * and the teeth of the lions have been smashed asunder. * Let us then rejoice with great joy * and open wide our mouths, * weaving with words a sweet hymn to the Word, * Who delighteth in bestowing gifts upon us.

Katavasia IV-A: I heard, O Lord, Thy voice, * which Thou didst call the voice of one crying in the wilderness, * for Thou didst thunder over the multitude of waters, * bearing witness to Thy Son. * And, wholly filled with the Spirit which had descended, * He cried aloud: * Thou art Christ, the Wisdom and Power of God!

Katavasia IV-B: Purified by the fire of a mystical vision, * the prophet praiseth the restoration of mankind; * and, filled with the inspiration of the Spirit, * he lifteth up his voice to reveal the incarnation of the ineffable Word, * by Whom the dominion of the mighty hath been abolished.

Katavasia V-A: Jesus, the Prince of Life, * hath come to set loose from condemnation * Adam the first-formed man; * and though as God He needeth no cleansing, * yet for the sake of fallen man He is cleansed in the Jordan. * In its streams He slew the enmity * and bestoweth the peace that passeth all understanding.

Katavasia V-B: Washed clean of the poison of the dark and defiled enemy * by the cleansing of the Spirit, * we have set out upon a new path * which leadeth to unapproachable joy, * to which only they whom God hath reconciled with himself * can draw near.

Katavasia VI-A: The Voice of the Word, the Candlestick of the Light, the Morning Star and Forerunner of the Sun, * cried in the wilderness to all the peoples: * 'Repent and be cleansed beforehand. * For lo, Christ is at hand, * Who delivereth the world from corruption.

Katavasia VI-B: With a supremely blessed voice * the Father revealed His Beloved One, * Whom He had begotten from the womb. * Verily, saith He, this is the splendid Son, * of the same nature as Myself, * and He hath come forth from the human race. * He is My living Word, * Who by My providence hath become a man.

Katavasia VII-A: The breath of the wind heavy with dew * and the descent of the angel of God * preserved the Holy Children from all harm, * as they walked in the fiery furnace. * Refreshed with dew in the flames, * they sang in thanksgiving: * 'Blessed and supremely praised art Thou, * O Lord God of our fathers.'

Katavasia VII-B: He Who burnt the heads of the dragons in the waters, * cooled the lofty flame * that encircled the pious youths in the furnace; * He it is that doth wash away all the unbearable gloom of sin * by the dew of the Spirit.

Katavasia VIII-A: The Babylonian furnace, as it poured forth dew, * foreshadowed a marvelous mystery: * how the Jordan should receive in its streams the immaterial fire, * and should encompass the Creator, * when He was baptized in the flesh. * Him do ye peoples bless and supremely exalt throughout all ages.

Katavasia VIII-A: Creation hath found itself set free, * and those who previously sat in darkness are now sons of light; * alone the prince of darkness moaneth, * wherefore let His inheritance * which was formerly in misery * now bless Him Who hath accomplished this.

Katavasia IX-A: Every tongue is at a loss to praise thee as is due: * even a spirit from the world above is filled with dizziness, * when it seeketh to sing thy praises, O Theotokos. * But since thou art good, accept our faith: * Thou knowest well our love inspired by God, * for thou art the Protector of Christians and we magnify thee.

Katavasia IX-A: The wonders of thy birthgiving pass all understanding, * O allpure Bride, blessed Mother! * Through thee we have received the most perfect salvation, * wherefore we praise our Benefactor as is meet and right, * bearing a hymn of thanksgiving unto Him as a gift.

THE GENERAL KATAVASIA OF THE THEOTOKOS

Katavasia I: I shall open my mouth, * and be filled with the Spirit, * and utter discourse to the Queen and Mother; * and be seen radiantly keeping festival, * joyfully praising her wonders.

Katavasia III: O Theotokos, thou living and plentiful fount, * establish in spiritual fellowship those who sing hymns to thee, * and in thy divine glory * grant them crowns of glory.

Katavasia IV: He who sitteth in glory upon the throne of the Godhead, * Jesus the true God, * is come in a swift cloud * and with His sinless hands he hath saved those who cry: * Glory to Thy power, O Christ.

Katavasia V: All creation stands in awe of thy divine glory; * for thou, O Virgin who hast not known wedlock, * didst contain within thy womb the God of all, * and gave birth to the timeless Son, * bestowing peace, upon all who hymn thee.

Katavasia VI: Celebrating the divine and solemn feast * of the Mother of God * O ye divinely wise, * let us come, clapping our hands, * and glorify God who was born of her.

Katavasia VII: Refusing to worship created things * in place of the Creator, * the divinely wise youths bravely trampled down the threatening fire * and rejoicing they sang aloud: * O supremely hymned Lord and God of our Fathers, Blessed art Thou.

Katavasia VIII: The Offspring of the Theotokos * saved the holy children in the furnace. * He who was then prefigured hath now been born on earth, * and He gathereth all creation to hymn thee: * all ye works praise ye the Lord * and supremely exalt Him throughout all ages.

Katavasia IX: Let every mortal born on earth, * radiant with light, in spirit leap for joy; * and let the host of the angelic powers * celebrate and honor the holy feast of the Mother of God, * and let them cry aloud: * Rejoice! O all-blessed Theotokos, * thou pure Ever-Virgin.

THE IRMOI OF THE TRANSFIGURATION – TONE IV

Irmos I: The people of Israel passed dry-shod across the watery deep of the Red Sea * and beholding the riders and captains of the enemy * swallowed by the waters, they cried out for joy: * 'Let us chant unto our God, for He hath been glorified.'

Irmos III: The bow of the mighty hath waxed feeble * and the weak have girded themselves with strength: * therefore is my heart established * in the Lord.

Irmos IV: I have heard of Thy glorious Dispensation, * O Christ our God: * how Thou wast born of the Virgin, * that Thou mightest deliver from error * those who cry aloud to Thee: * Glory to Thy power, O Lord.

Irmos V: Thou hast parted light from the primal chaos, * that Thy works might hymn Thee in light, O Christ, * as their Creator: * do Thou direct our paths in Thy light.

Irmos VI: In mine affliction I cried unto the Lord, * the God of my salvation, * and He hearkened unto me.

Irmos VII: Of old the Children of Abraham in Babylon * trampled down the flame of the furnace, * crying aloud with hymns: * O God of our Fathers, blessed art Thou.

Irmos VIII: In Babylon the godly Children, * burning with a fiery zeal for God * bravely trampled upon the threat of the tyrant and the fire; * and thrown into the midst of the flames * they were refreshed with dew and sang: * Bless the Lord, all ye works of the Lord!

Irmos IX: Thy birthgiving was revealed to be incorrupt, * God came forth from thy womb, * and He appeared upon earth in mortal flesh * and dwelt among mankind; * Wherefore we all magnify thee, O Theotokos.