

AKATHIST HYMN

TO

THE HOLY APOSTLES

KONTAKION 1

The Lord Who said of Himself: I am the good Shepherd, said unto thee, O first-enthroned Peter: If thou lovest Me, feed My sheep. And He Who said: I am Jesus, said of thee, O preeminent Apostle Paul: He is a chosen vessel unto Me, to bear My name before the gentiles. And likewise to all your colleagues, His Apostles, He said: As My Father hath sent me even so send I you; go ye, and teach all nations. And ye, receiving such grace from your good Chief Shepherd, as the foremost shepherds and teachers of all the world, from all misfortunes preserve ye us on the pasture of salvation, that we may cry out to you: *Rejoice, Peter and Paul with all the holy Apostles.*

IKOS 1

Blessed art thou, Simon, son of Jonas! said Christ, the Son of the Living God, unto thee, O right glorious Apostle Peter. How then can we worthily call thee blessed who hast been called blessed by God Himself? Yet drawn faithfully by a debt of love alone, we cry out to thee thus:

Rejoice, first among the Apostles, foundation of the holy Church;

Rejoice, mighty pillar and ground of the Orthodox faith!

Rejoice, ardent lover of the teaching of Christ;

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

Rejoice, good gate keeper of the kingdom of heaven;

Rejoice, renowned physician for those who repent of their sins!



Rejoice, all ye holy Apostles, beholders of God, for ye are the light of all the world;

Rejoice, for through you hath the Faith which saveth us shone forth from Christ in every place!

Rejoice, Peter and Paul with all the holy Apostles.

KONTAKION 2

O teacher of the Gentiles, who received thy title wondrously from on high, thou didst believe when Jesus said unto thee: Saul, why persecutest thou Me Who cannot be touched by unbelief? Yet believe thou henceforth; for, lo! Contrary audacity darkeneth thee, but I have chosen thee to be a witness to My judgments before the rulers, the nations and the children of Israel. And thou, O Apostle Paul, called such things by God, didst cry out: *Alleluia!*

IKOS 2

Hearing a voice from heaven, O Saul, thou wast thereafter unable to see; for thou hadst adversely persecuted the Inaccessible One and didst receive blindness of thine eyes in return for thy zeal for the law; but, guided to the font, thou didst attain unto divine baptism, where, having been immersed with faith, the sight of thy bodily and spiritual eyes wast restored. Wherefore, mindful of thy miraculous calling, we cry out to thee:

Rejoice, O Apostle called by God, sent forth to preach to the nations;

Rejoice, chosen vessel which pourest forth the sweetness of the Faith of Christ upon all men!

Rejoice, beholder of the Divine Light which illumineth from on high;

Rejoice, thou who more than others wast enlightened by grace after the shadow of the Old Covenant!

Rejoice, thou who on earth didst converse with the Lord Jesus Who appeared to thee;

Rejoice, thou who, following Christ, didst labor more

than others for the salvation of man!

Rejoice, all ye holy Apostles, for ye are like the heavens which proclaim the glory of God;

Rejoice, for ye are the stars which crown the Church, the Bride of Christ!

Rejoice, Peter and Paul with all the holy Apostles.

KONTAKION 3

Chosen from fisher nets for the preaching of the Gospel, and from catching fish to catching men into the light of the true knowledge of God, O great Apostle John, disciple, friend and devoted companion of Christ, thou didst love the one true Lover of mankind with thy whole heart, soul and mind, ever crying unto Him: *Alleluia!*

IKOS 3

When the Sovereign Creator of the angelic hosts and of the whole universe took our flesh and appeared on earth for our salvation, on seeing thee, O blessed John, as He wast walking by the sea of Galilee, He called thee with thy brother to apostolic labor; and thou didst leave thy fisher nets and thy father in the boat, and from then on thou didst follow unswervingly in the Savior's footsteps. Therefore we cry to thee:

Rejoice, thou who for the love of Christ didst leave thine earthly father;

Rejoice, thou who found in Christ the heavenly Father!

Rejoice, thou who didst despise the world and its delusive pleasures;

Rejoice, thou who didst receive in exchange heavenly blessings!

Rejoice, thou who didst completely subdue thy flesh to thy spirit;

Rejoice, thou who didst subject thy spirit to thy sweetest Lord Jesus!

Rejoice, all ye holy Apostles, for ye are as a guard upon

the walls of Jerusalem;
Rejoice, O our instructors, who keep watch over the souls
of Christians!
Rejoice, Peter and Paul with all the holy Apostles.

KONTAKION 4

As a disciple of the Baptist and Forerunner John,
O first-called Andrew, thou didst hearken unto his
prophetic words: Behold, the Lamb of God! And leav-
ing thy first teacher, thou wast the first to follow Christ, ask-
ing: Master, where dwellest thou? Hearing His call, Come and
see, thou didst leave all to abide with Him, learning how to
sing: *Alleluia!*

IKOS 4

Seeing the God thou didst love walking in the flesh on the
earth, O first called of His eyewitnesses, thou didst cry out to
thy brother, full of joy: Simon, we have found the Messiah, the
One whom the prophets announced in the Spirit. Wherefore,
we honor thee, as the first-called of the disciples, the brother
of Peter, crying out to thee with these words:

Rejoice, first-called of Christ's disciples;
Rejoice, thou who didst first call others to follow Him!
Rejoice, thou who wast instructed by the Forerunner;
Rejoice, thou who didst heed his call to follow Christ!
Rejoice, thou who didst take up thy cross and deny
thyself daily;
Rejoice, who through the Cross wast joined completely to
Christ!
Rejoice, all ye holy Apostles, who are whole as doves and
through hope have been furnished with wings like
unto eagles;
Rejoice, for where Christ wast in the body, there were ye
gathered together!
Rejoice, Peter and Paul with all the holy Apostles.

KONTAKION 5

Elder brother of John the Theologian, O Apostle James,
thou wast called to follow after Christ. And, leaving
thy father and thy nets, thou didst join thyself com-
pletely unto Him, ever crying: *Alleluia!*

IKOS 5

As one of the three Apostles chosen by Christ to be the recipi-
ent of the greatest revelations, thou didst see Him in glory on
the holy Mountain and in agony of spirit in the Garden of
Gethsemane. Thou also wast granted the great privilege of
being the first Apostle to suffer for thy Master. Wherefore, O
proto-martyr among the Apostles, we faithful cry unto thee
thus:

Rejoice, thou who didst leave all to follow Christ;
Rejoice, thou who wast granted by Him the knowledge
of heavenly Mysteries!
Rejoice, thou who spurned the vanity of the world and
loved the spiritual life;
Rejoice, thou who didst forsake corruptible nets and
didst fish the whole world with incorruptible ones!
Rejoice, quickly interceding comforter of the sorrowful;
Rejoice, healer who acceptest no recompense for curing
ailments of body and soul!
Rejoice, all ye holy Apostles, for ye are branches of
Christ, the true Vine;
Rejoice, for ye are husbandmen of the vineyard of Christ!
Rejoice, Peter and Paul with all the holy Apostles.

KONTAKION 6

Instructed in the Holy Scriptures from thy youth, O
holy Apostle Philip, thou didst immediately respond
to the call of Christ and follow him. Finding Nathaniel,
thou didst proclaim to him: We have found Him of whom
Moses spoke in the law and the prophets did write, even Jesus
of Nazareth, to Whom we must ever sing: *Alleluia!*

IKOS 6

Illumined by the radiance of the great Light, O Philip, thou didst shine as a lamp for the whole world. Preaching the Gospel with great zeal, thou didst enlighten the nations which lay in darkness and the shadow of death. Together with thy sister and fellow Apostle Nathaniel, thou wast counted worthy to suffer for His sake, crucified upside down on a tree. Mindful of thy great love for Christ and thy great boldness now before Him, we ever cry out unto thee:

Rejoice, O holy Apostle, who found in Christ the fulfillment of Moses and the Prophets;

Rejoice, thou who didst proclaim Him to be the coming Messiah.

Rejoice, thou who didst bear witness of Him, Come and see;

Rejoice, thou who wast counted worthy to die for His sake.

Rejoice, thou who betrothest the souls of the faithful to Christ and summonest them to the heavenly bridal chamber;

Rejoice, thou who didst endure many tribulations and hast made others also steadfast to endure them!

Rejoice, all ye holy Apostles, for like flowers do ye impart fragrance to all the world;

Rejoice, ye who through your fragrance dispel the stench of iniquity.

Rejoice, Peter and Paul with all the holy Apostles.

KONTAKION 7

Sitting under a fig tree, O Apostle Nathaniel, thou wast seen of Christ before Philip called thee. And coming unto Him, thou didst receive from Him the word: Behold, an Israelite in whom there is no guile. Thus amazed at His omniscience, thou didst cry unto Him as to the Incarnate Son of God: *Alleluia!*

IKOS 7

O Apostle Nathaniel, also known as Bartholomew, thou didst preach the Gospel to those in foreign lands. Performing miracles, through them thou didst call the heathen to abandon their idols and follow after Christ. Wherefore, as to a faithful teacher and wondrous healer, we the faithful cry unto thee:

Rejoice, thou who didst inquire: Can anything good come out of Nazareth;

Rejoice, thou who didst find in Christ the answer to thy question!

Rejoice, thou who wast amazed by Christ's omniscience; Rejoice, thou who didst receive from Him the promise to behold greater things than these!

Rejoice, greatly fruitful branch which buddest forth from Paradise, full of spiritual food;

Rejoice, thou who by thy teaching hast illumined all the earth as with an unwaning light!

Rejoice, all ye holy Apostles, as tender olive shoots;

Rejoice, for because of you is all like a fruitful olive tree

in the house of God!

Rejoice, Peter and Paul with all the holy Apostles.

KONTAKION 8

As a servant of the Word and His divine Incarnation, O Apostle Thomas, thou didst deeply drink from the sea of wisdom. A fisher of men, thou didst pull them from the depths of error by the rod of the Cross. Through the net of thy teachings, thou hast enlightened the whole world, teaching all to sing: *Alleluia!*

IKOS 8

Not present with the other Apostles on the eve of the day of Christ's Resurrection, thou didst proclaim: Except I see in His hands the print of the nails and thrust my hand into His side, I will not believe. Through this lack of faith, thou hast strength-

ened the faith of believers, for putting thy hands into His side, thou didst proclaim: My Lord and my God. Wherefore, as to one initiated by the two natures of Christ into His two energies, we the faithful cry unto thee:

Rejoice, thou who with faithless voice didst proclaim thine unbelief;

Rejoice, thou who with boldness didst proclaim the Lord's Resurrection!

Rejoice, thou who didst thrust thy hand into His side;

Rejoice, thou who thereby wast initiated into the divine Mysteries!

Rejoice, thou who wast brought on a cloud to Jerusalem for the repose of the Theotokos;

Rejoice, thou who wast granted the knowledge of her bodily assumption!

Rejoice, all ye holy Apostles, who are like noetic palm trees and cedars;

Rejoice, ye who have been transplanted to heaven as the garden of the heavenly Father!

Rejoice, Peter and Paul with all the holy Apostles.

KONTAKION 9

Called from the ranks of tax collectors and sinners to be His disciple, O Apostle Matthew, thou didst leave all things, renouncing trouble and confusion, and didst follow Christ. Cleaving unto Him with thy whole heart, thou didst cry to Him as one delivered from iniquity: *Alleluia!*

IKOS 9

Putting the wisdom of the wise to shame, O initiate of heavenly Mysteries, Apostle Matthew, thou wast made of Christ a lamp to enlighten the ends of the earth, and at His command thou didst shine forth heavenly knowledge. Thus, thou wast counted worthy to write His divine Gospel, recording for us the words and deeds of Christ, and the Mystery of His divine

Passion. Wherefore, as to a faithful evangelist and beloved Apostle, we faithfully cry to thee:

Rejoice, thou who didst leave thy tax-collectors' booth to follow Christ;

Rejoice, thou who didst hear the words: I am not come to call the righteous but sinners to repentance!

Rejoice, eye-witness to the Passion of Christ;

Rejoice, thou who didst record faithfully for us His holy Resurrection!

Rejoice, container of mysteries uncontainable for the human mind;

Rejoice, thou who revealest them to the faithful!

Rejoice, all ye holy Apostles, who perfectly kept all the commandments of the Lord;

Rejoice, ye who left all and followed after Christ and found all in Him!

Rejoice, Peter and Paul with all the holy Apostles.

KONTAKION 10

Submitting thyself, O holy Apostle James the son of Alphaeus, to the orders of the Master, thy soul wast enlightened in abundance, O blessed one. He called thee to be His Apostle, and didst send thee into all the world to make disciples of the nations, teaching them how to sing: *Alleluia!*

IKOS 10

The radiance of the Spirit descended upon thee in the form of a tongue of fire, and the power of the Most High didst overshadow thee and thou didst become a holy witness to Christ in Jerusalem, Judea and unto the uttermost parts of the earth. With great power both in word and in deed, thou didst spread abroad the saving news of the incarnate Word of God, rooting out idol worship, driving demons out of men and healing all manner of sickness and disease in the name of the Lord Jesus.

Wherefore, as to a faithful disciple of Christ and worthy Apostle, we cry out unto thee:

Rejoice, thou who didst proclaim Christ to be the one Foundation of the faithful;

Rejoice, thou who hast made all the pious steadfast in that confession!

Rejoice, mystagogue of great understanding of the revelation of the Lord;

Rejoice, confessor of the one God in three Persons!

Rejoice, fervent uprooter of idols;

Rejoice, compassionate healer of the passions.

Rejoice, all ye holy Apostles, who have suffered cruelly as valiant warriors of Christ;

Rejoice, ye who have vanquished the kingdoms of the earth by faith and have received heavenly things!

Rejoice, Peter and Paul with all the holy Apostles.

KONTAKION 11

Son of Joseph the betrothed and of thy mother Salome, O Apostle Jude, thou didst not believe in Christ in thy youth, jealously refusing to grant unto Him an equal portion of thy father's estate. But coming to faith, thou didst repent of thy former delusion, crying aloud unto Him: *Alleluia!*

IKOS 11

We the faithful praise thee, O Apostle Jude, as the brother of the Word Who shone forth from the Father before all ages, and Who took flesh from the Virgin in a wondrous manner in these latter days. Thou wast His relative in the flesh and His true disciple. Thus, venerating thee, we celebrate thy memory, O herald of God, and we sing to thee with faith:

Rejoice, mountain flowing with the sweetness of God;

Rejoice, peaceful river refreshing the hearts of believers!

Rejoice, stern rebuke of those who would turn the grace of our God into licentiousness;

Rejoice, firm opposition of those who would deny the

Lord Jesus!

Rejoice, proclaimer of the Faith once delivered to the saints;

Rejoice, thou who didst commend thy brethren to Him who is able to keep them from falling!

Rejoice, all ye holy Apostles, like the mountains of Sion;

Rejoice, ye who let the sweetness of salvation fall upon us!

Rejoice, Peter and Paul with all the holy Apostles.

KONTAKION 12

Having beheld the miracles of Christ, O most glorious Simon, thou didst faithfully follow God revealed in the flesh, of Whom thou wast beloved; and thou wast joined to the company of His twelve chosen Apostles, and didst receive the name Zealot, for thou wast zealous for His glory, continuously singing to Him: *Alleluia!*

IKOS 12

At thy holy wedding, O Apostle Simon, Christ didst reveal the power of His divinity by changing the water into wine, also revealing to us the power of the prayers of His holy Mother. Wherefore, to thee, as to an eyewitness of His miracles and His great love for the Theotokos, we the faithful cry out in great joy to thee:

Rejoice, bridegroom most fair, wondrously called forth from an earthly wedding feast to the wedding feast of the Lamb;

Rejoice, thou who didst leave an earthly bride and didst follow in His footsteps!

Rejoice, thou who wast glorified in Heaven and on earth;

Rejoice, thou who didst faithfully serve God, the Word

Incarnate!

Rejoice, thou who didst show great zeal in preaching the

Gospel of righteousness;

Rejoice, thou who didst love Jesus, the Sweetest Lord,
with all thy heart!

Rejoice, all ye holy Apostles, like torrents of rivers which
gladden the city of the Church of God;

Rejoice, for ye are like streams of sweetness which give
all the faithful to drink from the cup of salvation!

Rejoice, Peter and Paul with all the holy Apostles.

KONTAKION 13

O most glorious and laudable disciples of Christ, Peter and Paul, first enthroned and equally enthroned, together with all the holy Apostles, who have enlightened all the universe with the holy Faith and will come with Christ to judge the whole world! Your proper dignity is not on earth, but is the glory and praise rendered in heaven. Accepting now our unworthy entreaty, by your worthy supplications preserve us from all misfortunes, and beseech Christ, the just Judge, to be merciful to us at the last judgment, that, saved by your mediation, we may chant unto God our Savior: *Alleluia!*

This Kontakion is chanted thrice, whereupon Ikos 1 and Kontakion 1 are repeated.

PRAYER TO THE HOLY PREEMINENT APOSTLES PETER AND PAUL AND ALL THE HOLY APOSTLES

O most glorious Apostles 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 hearts. 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 exceedingly 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 ye mighty ones! Bear ye our infirmities and separate yourselves not 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 wedding feast of His Lamb, to Whom be honor and glory, thanksgiving and worship, unto the ages of ages. Amen.