

Akathist Hymn to the Venerable Mary of Egypt



For chastity
For help in carnal warfare

Kontakion 1

Unto you who were chosen by God from our fallen race and through your onerous struggle has acquired great glory in heaven, we cry out, O holy Mary: Entreat the Lord God in our behalf, that He rescue from the pit of the passions us who chant hymns of praise to you:

Rejoice, O venerable mother Mary, who by your struggles amazed the angels!

Ikos 1

The angels were astonished by the sudden change in you, O venerable mother: how within the space of a single hour you forsook the broad path which leads to destruction and began to tread the narrow path of salvation. O favorite of Christ, accept from us this hymnody:

Rejoice, you beseeched the pure Virgin to entreat forgiveness of Christ!

Rejoice, you promised the holy Virgin not to turn back to the path of destruction;

Rejoice, O venerable one, you shed bitter tears upon your pain-wracked breast!

Rejoice, for your helper quickly hearkened to your supplication;

Rejoice, for that very hour you were able to approach the Cross without hindrance!

Rejoice, for with compunction you kissed the Tree upon which Christ was crucified;

Rejoice, you whose whole being was shaken, so that you poured forth torrents of tears!

Rejoice, you prayed to the Mother of God, that you might be deemed worthy to venerate the Cross;

Rejoice, you resolved not to turn back;

Rejoice, you choose to shoulder the yoke of Christ and His burden!

Rejoice, you with this steadfast decision smote the head of satan; Rejoice, for over this one decision there was great joy in heaven!

Rejoice, O venerable mother Mary, who by your struggles amazed the angels!

Kontakion 2

Seeing the ineffable love of the Mother of God for you, O venerable one, in that at the very hour of your tearful prayer She gave you unimpeded access to the all-pure tree of the Cross on the feast of its honorable exaltation; and vouchsafed to kiss it, joyfully moved to tremble by the power of God you did cry out to Him: **Alleluia!**
(People sing Alleluia!)

Ikos 2

With your whole heart and reason, O holy Mary, you resolved firmly never again to return to the way of the passions; and in compunction of heart, you asked the All-Holy Virgin Theotokos to show you a place where you could work out your salvation. And suddenly you heard a mysterious voice naming the wilderness of the Jordan as just such a place. Wherefore, O venerable One, accept from us such laudations as these:

Rejoice, you were given unhindered access to the Cross thanked Her who helps the world;

Rejoice, you choose the Virgin as a witness that you would from that time on serve Christ alone!

Rejoice, you entreated the pure Virgin to show you the path of salvation;
Rejoice, you through Her icon received the counsel to choose the wilderness as the site of your struggle!

Rejoice, you at that very hour renounced the vanity of this world;

Rejoice, in a boat you sailed over to the far bank of the Jordan!

Rejoice, you were sealed by the Mother of God in a desert land;

Rejoice, unseen by this sinful world, you escaped the vainglory of this world!

Rejoice, by the Cross you shook off the assaults of the devil;

Rejoice, O chosen One who rejoiced with Christ amid your onerous struggle!

Rejoice, you endured fear and hunger for His sake;

Rejoice, you spurned the allurements of the world for the sake of Christ alone!

Rejoice, O venerable mother Mary, who by your struggles amazed the angels!

Kontakion 3

Strengthened by power from on High, you made your abode in the wilderness, O venerable mother; and preserved by the help of the Lord, you continually chant unto Him: **Alleluia! (People sing Alleluia!)**

Ikos 3

The venerable Zosimas, having a truly great desire to see the chosen One who in the divine sublimity of her life surpassed his own, withdrew into the wilderness beyond the Jordan when the holy days of the Great Fast arrived; and, as God willed, he encountered you there, O venerable One. Yet, in your humility desiring not to be seen by men, you first fled from him; but later, persuaded by the saint, you counted him worthy to converse with you. Do not disdain our lowly discourse, O favored One of God, but accept from us such praises as these:

Rejoice, you offered up repentance in the desert;
Rejoice, you wept therein day and night!
Rejoice, you made all the ground wet with your tears;
Rejoice, you attain unto the heights of heaven!
Rejoice, you fled the stench of the life of sin;
Rejoice, you hastened to the tranquility of the wilderness!
Rejoice, you suffered, bearing your cross;
Rejoice, for the Lord is ever with you!
Rejoice, you have been magnified by Christ for your ascetic feats;
Rejoice, you were glorified while yet on the earth!
Rejoice, you were made excellent by the Lord in clairvoyance;
Rejoice, for you called Zosimas by name!

Rejoice, O venerable mother Mary, who by your struggles amazed the angels!

Kontakion 4

A tempest of sacred awe smote the venerable Zosimas, for you, who had never known him by name, did prevail upon him to listen to the tale of your wondrous life. And you, O humble saint, did not hide from him your former sinful ways of life, that the Lord, Who abundantly rewards the penitents, might be glorified in you. Wherefore, we give thanks to the Creator, entreating Him not to spurn the repentance even of us, that in joyful hope we may chant unto Him: **Alleluia! (People sing Alleluia!)**

Ikos 4

The venerable Zosimas heard how you bravely endured all the difficulties of the desert life, waging war against temptations and the devil; and he was amazed, and cried out to you with compunction:

Rejoice, in the wilderness you nourished your body only with roots;
Rejoice, you laid upon the Lord all your fear that He might forsake His creature!
Rejoice, you in your onerous struggle surpassed many;
Rejoice, you therefore ascended into paradise and were crowned with a diadem of light!
Rejoice, you were taught the Scriptures in the wilderness by the spirit of God;
Rejoice, for the All-Good One bestowed gifts of holy beauty upon you!
Rejoice, O Mary, for you were vouchsafed to become a vessel of the Holy Spirit,
Rejoice, for on your difficult path you strove to live your life for the Lord!
Rejoice, you set your hand to the plough without turning back;
Rejoice, you love Christ with all you being, and received His grace!
Rejoice, you caused your whole life to blossom like a most beautiful lily in the desert;
Rejoice, for you were humble, emitting your sweet fragrance for the Lord God!

Rejoice, O venerable mother Mary, who by your struggles amazed the angels!

Kontakion 5

O Lord, Who by your Blood divinely shed redeem us, You have not called the righteous, but sinners to repentance. Vouchsafe that we also may imitate the life of Mary, Your favored one, and with thankful heart may forever glorify You with the hymn of paradise: **Alleluia! (People sing Alleluia!)**

Ikos 5

Seeing you standing in the air and praying, O venerable one, Zosimas was seized with trembling, at a loss how a woman who before had reveled in her fall was now

vouchsafed so much grace; and giving thanks to the Lord with compunction, he chanted:

Rejoice, by the holiness of your life you attained the gift of foresight;
Rejoice, with your own mouth you related to Zosimas things known only within his monastery!
Rejoice, for you were like the angels in the radiance of your purity;
Rejoice, O blessed One, for you were vouchsafed to stand in the air!
Rejoice, for you hid your ascetic feats from Zosimas;
Rejoice, for you concealed the many revelations you received from heaven!
Rejoice, for you preserved them solely in your heart for the sake of holy salvation;
Rejoice, you commanded Zosimas to keep silent concerning you until your end!
Rejoice, you did not wish to be glorified by men on earth;
Rejoice, for, unknown to all, you spent forty-seven years of your life in the desert!
Rejoice, you desired to depart, known by none, from the path of your cross;
Rejoice, for by the ways of God's providence you have become known to the pious!

Rejoice, O venerable mother Mary, who by your struggles amazed the angels!

Kontakion 6

In heaven, the angels proclaim your wondrous life, O blessed desert dweller, for in your feeble body you acquired great power of spirit and destroyed the snares of satan. And with the angels we glorify the Lord Who by His grace gave you might, and we chant unto Him: **Alleluia! (People sing Alleluia!)**

Ikos 6

Experiencing a great hunger for the taste of the all-pure Mysteries of Christ, O favorite of God, you asked Zosimas to come the following year, on the holy feast of Great Thursday, bearing the Holy Gifts to the bank of the River Jordan that you

might be vouchsafed to partake of them. And, glorifying in you your zeal for the closest unity with our Lord Jesus Christ, we utter these words of praise unto you:

Rejoice, you were tormented by a holy thirst for the Communion of the Holy Gifts;
Rejoice, for in your heart was love for the Lord God preserved!
Rejoice, O venerable one, for you did wed yourself wholly to Christ the Savior;
Rejoice, you acquired meekness, humility and angelic purity!
Rejoice, for you soon bid farewell to Zosimas, O woman of holy beauty;
Rejoice, O Mary, for you straight away concealed yourself from his gaze in the depths of the wilderness!
Rejoice, for in the heart of Zosimas you left behind the ecstasy of compunction;
Rejoice, for you guided the mind of that elder to a torrent of reasoning!
Rejoice, for he carried away the thought of you like a precious pearl;
Rejoice, for all the way back to his monastery he was overwhelmed with tears of joy!
Rejoice, for your wondrous image remained in the elder's eyes;
Rejoice, for only after a year was the elder consoled over your parting!

Rejoice, O venerable mother Mary, who by your struggles amazed the angels!

Kontakion 7

Desiring to keep the rule of the holy monastery, the abbot sent the monks forth to struggle in stillness and greater prayer in the remote deserts. But the venerable Zosimas was unable to leave because of the illness you had foretold unto him, O holy Mary; and having awaited Great Thursday with joyful trepidation, on which day you had promised to receive Communion, surrendering to the incomprehensible judgments of God, he chanted unto Him: **Alleluia! (People sing Alleluia!)**

Ikos 7

A new and sacred trembling seized the soul of the venerable elder when the great day of our Lord's institution of the Mystical supper arrived;

and taking with him the most Holy Gifts, he set out for the riverbank, O holy and blessed mother, to give you Communion. And with the elder we make obeisance before the Lord Who came to you in His All-Pure Mysteries; and unto you, the worthy bride of the Bridegroom most sweet, who goes with love to the wedding of the Lamb, do we cry out with compunction:

Rejoice, for your request was fulfilled by the holy priest;
Rejoice, for, trembling, he arrived at the riverside with the Holy Gifts!
Rejoice, for you desired to receive Communion of the night of Christ's suffering;
Rejoice, for having shared in those sufferings you dwell with Him in heaven!
Rejoice, for you caused the venerable one anxiety by your long delay;
Rejoice, for you traversing of the river was likewise a source of perplexity to him!
Rejoice, for in the light of the moon you did show yourself afar off;
Rejoice, you approached the far bank of the river on foot!
Rejoice, for you made the saving sign of the Cross over the Jordan;
Rejoice, for you easily walked upon the river as upon dry land!
Rejoice, for the priest was filled with awe when he beheld this sight;
Rejoice, for you calmed him with your holy discourse!

Rejoice, O venerable mother Mary, who by your struggles amazed the angels!

Kontakion 8

We are all strangers, sojourners upon the earth, as the Apostle said; and you lived as a sojourner in the wilderness until the day of your repose, O Mary, ewe-lamb of Christ, that having passed from the earthly Jerusalem to the Jerusalem on high, you may glorify the Creator with the song of paradise: **Alleluia!**
(People sing Alleluia!)

Ikos 8

Jesus Christ was all your delight, all your desire, and it was Him Whom you received with trembling in the All-Pure Mysteries at the hands of the blessed elder. And, gazing upon you, as upon a truly worthy partaker of these most Holy Gifts, we cry out to you with love:

Rejoice, in the Holy Mysteries you were betrothed to your immortal
Bridegroom;
Rejoice, for this you were adorned by Him with the imperishable crown of
paradise!
Rejoice, after receiving the divine Gifts you were surrounded by a wondrous
light;
Rejoice, for Zosimas was unable to gaze upon you unafraid!
Rejoice, you recited the prayer of Simeon with serene gladness;
Rejoice, straightway you lifted up your compunctionate eyes and hands to
heaven!
Rejoice, having spurned earthly food, you tasted of the food of heaven;
Rejoice, you deigned to accept three grains of wheat from Zosimas as a gift
of love!
Rejoice, for after receiving Communion you did not tarry long by the
riverside;
Rejoice, in partaking of the Holy Gifts you were united to your Master!
Rejoice, as His good and faithful handmaid you entered into the joy of your
Lord;
Rejoice, you whose sins were burned away in His supernal light!

Rejoice, O venerable mother Mary, who by your struggles amazed the angels!

Kontakion 9

Men and every angelic rank bless the Lord for perfecting His power in the weak.
Thus, He also strengthened you, His greatly victorious favorite; for in your
struggle in the wilderness you did in your naked body endure cold and unbearable
burning heat, fear, hunger and the manifold wickedly devised temptations of the
devil. Yet, for the help you received from the Lord you chanted unto Him
continually: **Alleluia! (People sing Alleluia!)**

Ikos 9

The orator's tongue is unable to describe what took place in the soul of the
righteous Zosimas after your departure, O secret desert dweller, for by your image,
full of the grace of the most Holy Spirit, you raise the spiritual and gave the elder
to the heavenly contemplation that God in His omnipotence has raised up man,

who is made of dust, to the heights of the angels. With Zosimas accept our humble laudation:

Rejoice, you mortified your flesh in the wilderness;
Rejoice, you cleared your mind of the temptations sown by the passions!
Rejoice, for you were downcast at the thought of encountering worldly people;
Rejoice, for you hastened quickly to the desert to converse with the angels!
Rejoice, for there, day and night, you prayed in stillness, unseen by the world;
Rejoice, for you withdrew from all into the depths of the wilderness for the sake of your salvation!
Rejoice, for only the stars of the sky witnessed your tears;
Rejoice, for in those wondrous moments Christ Himself gazed upon you with love!
Rejoice, for you gladdened yourself by choosing the Theotokos as a wondrous surety;
Rejoice, for by her mighty aid you attained unto everlasting rest!
Rejoice, you asked Zosimas to come again to the desert in a years' time;
Rejoice, you with hope did await him again!

Rejoice, O venerable other Mary, who by your struggles amazed the angels!

Kontakion 10

For us who desire to be saved be an advocate before the throne of the Most High, O venerable mother, that having eluded all manner of temptations, with you we also may be vouchsafed to glorify the Lord continually, and to chant unto Him:
Alleluia! (People sing Alleluia!)

Ikos 10

For all ascetics you are a bulwark against the malicious wiles of the devil, O All Holy Theotokos, and saved Her who chose you as her surety before your Son most sweet. Nor did you put her hope to shame, O All Pure one, but lead her to the desired gates of paradise. Vouchsafe also that we sinners may worthily praise your holy favorite, Mary, with these hymns:

Rejoice, Zosimas waited with joyful trembling for you;
Rejoice, for he comforted himself with thoughts all full of joy!

Rejoice, for during the days of the Great Fast he departed with love into the wilderness;
Rejoice, for he traveled twenty days in all to reach the place where he was to meet you!
Rejoice, for the elder sought you in bitter anxiety;
Rejoice, for full of turmoil the elder was beside himself!
Rejoice, for he discovered you lying on the sands radiant with the light of heaven;
Rejoice, for having parted from him in peace you had passed into everlasting rest!
Rejoice, for with bitter lamentation the elder fell upon your body;
Rejoice, for Zosimas did not believe his aged eyes!
Rejoice, for you had long since passed over to the wondrous bridal chamber of heaven;
Rejoice, for now you rejoice eternally, having left sorrows and vexations behind!

Rejoice, O venerable mother Mary, who by your struggles amazed the angels!

Kontakion 11

Praised with the hymnody of the angles, and surrounded by their company, your righteous soul ascended to the throne of the Most High, to hymn the Lord with divinely beautiful melody, chanting amid the sound of rejoicing: **Alleluia!**
(People sing Alleluia!)

Ikos 11

Your venerable countenance was illumined by the Holy Spirit of God; but the elder Zosimas was in great turmoil, for he did not know your name, O blessed one. Then he beheld the inscription graven in the ground by your head. Wherefore, we say with joy:

Rejoice, for to Zosimas was revealed the day on your passing;
Rejoice, for you were named “the humble Mary” in those miraculous words!
Rejoice, for you had departed to the Lord a year before;

Rejoice, for you had been counted worthy to depart on the very day of your Holy Communion!

Rejoice, for suddenly a fearsome lion emerged from that burning desert; Rejoice, for having scraped out a grave with his mighty paws, he then departed!

Rejoice, for with ardent prayer the elder committed your remains to the earth;

Rejoice, for he stood long over the grave, shedding tears of compunction!

Rejoice, for the priest monk uttered his prayers quietly, with trembling lips;

Rejoice, for with love he glorified Him Who is incomprehensible in His judgments!

Rejoice, for he magnified the Lord Who is wondrous in His saints;

Rejoice, for he gave thanks to the Savior for the ineffable ways of His dispensation!

Rejoice, O venerable mother Mary, who by your struggles amazed the angels!

Kontakion 12

Ask God to grant us grace, O pure Mary, bride of Christ, that He have mercy on us on the day of His dread judgment, and number us among His chosen flock; and vouchsafe that we continually chant unto Him: **Alleluia! (People sing Alleluia!)**

Ikos 12

Hymning your repentance, at which the angels in heaven marveled, and all your sufferings, which no human tongue can describe, we cry out to you with love and joy:

Rejoice, for though your flesh was naked, yet now you are covered with wondrous vesture in paradise;

Rejoice, for though scorched by the burning heat of the desert, in heaven you drink from a torrent of coolness!

Rejoice, for though you constantly endure hunger, in heaven you now share in Christ our Bread;

Rejoice, for though you bore all manner of tribulations, your mouth now utters a cry of joy!

Rejoice, for you spent seventeen years in heavy battle against the devil;

Rejoice, for you were glorious in victory and a wondrous light surrounded you!

Rejoice, for like an all-wise virgin you did not permit your lamp to flicker out;
Rejoice, for your struggle led straight from the Tree of the Cross to salvation!
Rejoice, for having made your vow to the Holy Virgin, with her help you never strayed from the path;
Rejoice, for though you suffered much in the wilderness, you did not permit yourself to go astray!
Rejoice, for by the sign of the Cross you destroyed the wiles of the enemy;
Rejoice, for you now taste of the compassions and gifts of God!

Rejoice, O venerable mother Mary, who by your struggles amazed the angels!

Kontakion 13

(To be read three times)

O holy, much lauded and all victorious Mary, favorite of Christ, most excellent model of repentance, we entreat you: Beseech the Lord God that He grant us His grace, that we also may rid ourselves of the darkness of our sins through tears of contrition, and that we may be vouchsafed to receive everlasting consolation in the abode of the penitent according to God's true promise, and with the choirs of the angels may chant to the All-Holy Trinity the angelic hymn: **Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! (People sing Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!)**

Ikos 1

The angels were astonished by the sudden change in you, O venerable mother: how within the space of a single hour you forsook the broad path which leads to destruction and began to tread the narrow path of salvation. O favorite of Christ, accept from us this hymnodly:

Rejoice, you who did pray to the Mother of God, that you might be deemed worthy to venerate the Cross;
Rejoice, you who did beseech the pure Virgin to entreat forgiveness of Christ!
Rejoice, you who did promise the holy Virgin not to turn back to the path of destruction;
Rejoice, O venerable one, who shed bitter tears upon your pain wracked breast!

Rejoice, for your helper quickly hearkened to your supplication;
Rejoice, for that very hour you were able to approach the Cross without hindrance!
Rejoice, for with compunction you kissed the Tree upon which Christ was crucified;
Rejoice, you whose whole being was shaken, so that you poured forth torrents of tears!
Rejoice, for then you resolved not to turn back;
Rejoice, you choose to shoulder the yoke of Christ and His burden!
Rejoice, you with this steadfast decision smote the head of satan;
Rejoice, for over this one decision there was great joy in heaven!

Rejoice, O venerable mother Mary, who by your struggles amazed the angels!

Kontakion 1

You who were chosen by God from our fallen race and through your onerous struggle have acquired great glory in heaven, we cry out, O holy Mary: Entreat the Lord God on our behalf, that He rescue from the pit of the passions us who chant hymns of praise to you:

Rejoice, O venerable mother Mary, who by your struggles amazed the angels!

Prayer to Our Venerable Mother Mary of Egypt

O holy Mary, great favorite of Christ, who astonished the angels with your incomparable struggle! We pray you, O blessed one: As you stand now before the throne of the most Holy Trinity, entreat the Lord, since you have acquired great boldness before Him, that He vouchsafe us, as He did you, to repent of our myriad offenses, and that having in His love for mankind chastised us here, He not destroy us in the age to come. O holy Mary, beseech your all holy surety, who strengthened you amid your onerous struggle, that She fortify us also with Her omnipotent aid for this earthly path full of thorns; and as you did kiss the most precious Cross of Christ with faith and love, did receive His almighty grace to do battle with the devil, the world and the flesh, and bravely destroyed all the snare of

satan, so may we also, with the aid of the life-creating Tree of the Cross of the Lord, be vouchsafed to destroy all the ramparts of sin, that we may gain access to the heavenly kingdom ,and having been counted worthy of life everlasting, may with you continually hymn the All Holy Trinity in a single Essence, the Father, the Son and the Holy spirit-unto the ages of ages. **Amen.**

Glorifying God Through His Light
50 Hour Prayer Vigil

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