

**THE AKATHIST TO
THE HOLY ELIJAH,
THE GREAT PROPHET OF GOD**



**For Holy zeal for God
For our judges to show impartiality**

Kontakion 1

O Elijah, prophet of God, chosen by Him to turn Israel from the falsehood of Baal, dread denouncer of iniquitous kings, O you who shone forth with flaming zeal for God Almighty with holiness of life and miracles, who in the flesh was caught up to the heavens and will come again before the Second Coming of Christ: to you we send up hymns of praise. As you have boldness before the Lord, by your supplications free us from all evil and adverse circumstances, we who piously cry out to you:

Rejoice, O Elijah, great prophet, glorious forerunner of the Second Coming of Christ!

Ikos 1

An angel in the flesh you were in your zeal for God and in your pure life, O prophet, for while you were yet an infant, your father, Sobah, beheld radiant angels conversing with you, swaddling you in fire, and nourishing you with flames, which was a portent of your flaming zeal for God, the power of your words and your blameless life which was like light. Wherefore, with amazement we cry to you such things as these:

Rejoice, you were chosen from everlasting for the ministry of saving the children of Israel!

Rejoice, you from your mother's womb were prepared as a herald of divine truth and piety!

Rejoice, you amazed your father with the most glorious vision which concerned you!

Rejoice, you from your youth loved virginal purity and silence!

Rejoice, you spurned the vanity of this world and all the good things thereof, and consecrated your soul wholly to the Lord!

Rejoice, you were illumined by God with the light of wisdom and from childhood drank your fill of the teachings of piety!

Rejoice, O Elijah, great prophet, glorious forerunner of the Second Coming of Christ!

Kontakion 2

Beholding ungodliness and depravity in Israel, O most glorious prophet, you were greatly vexed in spirit and inflamed with zeal for the glory of God; for the children of Israel were bowing down before the abominable idols and had departed from the true God,

to Whom all the armies of heaven cry out with fear:
Alleluia! (People sing Alleluia!)

Ikos 2

Ahab, the iniquitous king of Israel, blinding his reason with evil intent, forsook God Almighty and worshipped the abominable idol Baal, and in his kingdom he spread idolatry and impiety. But you, O prophet, filled with great zeal for God, boldly denounced the king, proclaiming to him that, as punishment for him and his kingdom, there would be neither rain nor dew for three years and six months, and that a great famine would prevail throughout all the land. Marveling, therefore, at such zeal for God and great boldness, with love we cry to you:

Rejoice, fearless preacher of the Truth and mighty champion of piety!

Rejoice, zealous denouncer of impiety!

Rejoice, you moved our longsuffering God to punish unrepentant sinners!

Rejoice, you shut up the heavens by your word and made barren the fruitful earth!

Rejoice, you asked of the Lord a three-year famine on account of the people's iniquity!

Rejoice, for the Lord Most High made you a god to Ahab, as of old He made Moses to Pharaoh!

Rejoice, O Elijah, great prophet, glorious forerunner of the Second Coming of Christ!

Kontakion 3

Truly by the power of your prayer, O most wondrous prophet, was the sky closed, and it did not rain for three years and six months, and a great famine was there throughout all the land, that tormented by burning heat and hunger, the ungodly people might repent and turn to the Lord, crying out to Him in compunction: **Alleluia! (People sing Alleluia!)**

Ikos 3

Having great goodwill towards you, O prophet, the Lord desired to set you apart from the iniquitous children of Israel, that you might not endure hunger and thirst with them; and He commanded you to go to the brook of Cherith, where ravens fed you, brought you bread and meat. Wherefore, we offer you these praises:

Rejoice, you by fasting and vigilance blotted out all earthly and vain imaginings!

Rejoice, you by prayer and divine contemplation gave wings to your mind that it might soar aloft to the heights!

Rejoice, exultation of patriarchs and adornment of prophets!

Rejoice, boast of virgins and glory of the venerable!

Rejoice, instructor of holy hierarchs and strength of martyrs!

Rejoice, for you turned the children of Israel, blinded by impiety and unbelief, back to the path of truth!

Rejoice, O Elijah, great prophet, glorious forerunner of the Second Coming of Christ!

Kontakion 4

A great tempest, which rent the mountains apart, came before, when the Lord approached you on Horeb, O prophet; then was there an earthquake, but the Lord was not in the earthquake; and after the earthquake, a fire, but the Lord was not in the fire; and after the fire, there was the voice of a gentle breeze, and as such did the Lord make Himself manifest to you. And perceiving His presence, you

covered your face with your mantle, crying out to Him in fear and joy: **Alleluia! (People sing Alleluia!)**

Ikos 4

On hearing your command, that he gather together all the tribes of Israel on Mount Carmel and invite thereto all the shameful prophets of Baal, Ahab straightway sent word and assembled all and him there. And you, O zealot of the glory of God, desiring to put the abominable idols utterly to shame and to glorify the true God, commanded that two sacrifices be prepared, but that they not be set on fire, saying: “The God Who shall answer by fire, He is God.” And, on hearing this, all the people said: “Good is the word of Elijah. Let it be so!” Wherefore, magnifying you, we cry out:

Rejoice, great emissary of the heavenly King and herald of His holy commands!

Rejoice, adamant unsurpassed in zeal, unshakable pillar of piety!

Rejoice, mighty protector of Truth and steadfast opponent of the enemies of God!

Rejoice, uprooter of impiety and instiller of piety!

Rejoice, flaming zealot of the glory of God!
Rejoice, for even in the last days of the world you
shall preach the true God and denounce the accursed
Antichrist!

**Rejoice, O Elijah, great prophet, glorious
forerunner of the Second Coming of Christ!**

Kontakion 5

Jezebel, the iniquitous queen, thought to extinguish
you, the divinely guided star; for, full of wrath
against you because of the destruction of her
shameful prophets, she desired to slay you, for her
heart was hardened, and she would not believe in
your wonders, O prophet, or acknowledge the true
God, chanting to Him: **Alleluia! (People sing
Alleluia!)**

Ikos 5

All the people of Israel, beholding the fire from the
Lord which at your entreaty fell from the heavens
upon your sacrifice, O all-praised prophet, and which
wholly consumed it, devouring even the wood and
the stone, earth and water, fell upon their faces,
crying out: “Truly the Lord is God! He is God!”

And the people believed in God; but you slain the shameful prophets. Wherefore, glorifying Almighty God, Who works wonders, thus we say to His favored one:

Rejoice, you acquired exceeding great boldness before the Master of all!

Rejoice, you confirmed divine truth with signs and wonders!

Rejoice, you put the deception of the demons to shame and glorified the true Faith!

Rejoice, you enlightened the unbelieving with true knowledge of God!

Rejoice, you, in pouring water thrice upon the sacrifice, revealed the mystery of the All-Holy Trinity!

Rejoice, for the whole nature of things that exist was subject to you, and fire and water obeyed you!

Rejoice, O Elijah, great prophet, glorious forerunner of the Second Coming of Christ!

Kontakion 6

You showed yourself to be a preacher of true knowledge of God and piety, not only in Israel, but in

a heathen land as well, O prophet, having been sent by the Lord to Zarephath of the Sidonian land, to be maintained by a widow, or rather that you might maintain her during the famine; for, possessed of the great grace of working wonders, you abundantly increased the meal and oil in her house until the time of the famine had passed, and by breathing thrice you, by your supplication, raised up her son from the dead, chanting to God Who works wonders:

Alleluia! (People sing Alleluia!)

Ikos 6

Shining forth with great zeal for God Almighty, O prophet, you were exceedingly grieved that the children of Israel had forsaken His covenant, had cast down His altars and slain His prophets. But the Lord, for your consolation, told you that not all of Israel had departed from Him, but that there would be seven thousand of His hidden servants, who had not bent their knees to Baal. Wherefore, mindful of your zeal for God, with reverence we sing to you such things as these.

Rejoice, faithful servant and close friend of the Lord!
Rejoice, model and boast of pious pastors!
Rejoice, teacher of salvation and enlightenment for
those who sit in darkness!
Rejoice, you are attentive to the courage of defenders
of Truth and strengthens them in their struggles and
sufferings for righteousness!
Rejoice, for you burned with seraphic love for God!
Rejoice, for the Lord acceded to you in all and
wrought all according to his request!

**Rejoice, O Elijah, great prophet, glorious
forerunner of the Second Coming of Christ!**

Kontakion 7

When the time of famine that had been foretold had
passed, the Lord Who loves mankind, desiring to
show His loving-kindness upon repentant sinners at
your supplication and through the word of your lips,
O prophet, sent down upon the parched land a gentle
and abundant rain. And, vouchsafed such great
mercy, in compunction of heart, the children of Israel
thankfully cried out to God: **Alleluia! (People sing
Alleluia!)**

Ikos 7

The ungodly King Ahab added a new crime to his iniquities when he commanded that the innocent Naboth be slain and his vineyard seized. Wherefore, denouncing the lawless king, you foretold to him, O prophet, that swine and dogs would lick his blood where Naboth was put to death, that the dogs would devour Jezebel, his wife, and that his whole house would be utterly destroyed. Therefore, mindful of this dread prophecy, which was fulfilled with terror crying:

Rejoice, dread one who wreaks retribution upon oppressors and the cruel of heart!

Rejoice, mighty helper of orphans and those who are tried!

Rejoice, punisher of those who do not honor the feasts of the saints of the Orthodox Church!

Rejoice, you cast down shameless blasphemers of the name of God!

Rejoice, you with a word of reproof, as with thunder, strike down iniquity!

Rejoice, you know things of the future as though they were present, and sees things afar off as though they were near!

**Rejoice, O Elijah, great prophet, glorious
forerunner of the Second Coming of Christ!**

Kontakion 8

Strange and supernatural foresight did the Lord make manifest concerning you, O prophet, when He commanded the hungry and child-hating ravens to feed you during the famine by the brook of Cherith, where, ever abiding in prayer and thought of God, you sang to God: **Alleluia! (People sing Alleluia!)**

Ikos 8

Wholly adorned were you with great humility, O prophet of God. Wherefore, with fire you consumed the two captains of fifty with their warriors who arrogantly arrived to conduct you to the iniquitous king Ahaziah; but you had mercy upon Obadiah, who had fed the disciples of the prophet. Wherefore, we offer to you these hymns of praise:

Rejoice, humbler and punisher of the prideful, and protection and helper of the lowly!
Rejoice, rebuker of corrupt judges, and helper of those who judge righteously!

Rejoice, champion of pious soldiers amid battle, and subduer of the ungodly adversary!

Rejoice, you clad in wisdom as with a breastplate and protected by righteousness as with a shield!

Rejoice, you were armed with zeal for God as with a sword, and were winged with fasting as with pinions!

Rejoice, you were covered with faith as with a helmet of salvation, and were crowned with love as with a diadem most radiant!

Rejoice, O Elijah, great prophet, glorious forerunner of the Second Coming of Christ!

Kontakion 9

All of human nature marveled exceedingly at how you, O most wondrous prophet, walked for forty days, neither eating, nor drinking, until you reached Mount Horeb, where you were vouchsafed the most glorious vision and the sweetest discourse of the Lord Almighty, chanting to Him: **Alleluia! (People sing Alleluia!)**

Ikos 9

The most eloquent of orators are at a loss how to understand and explain sufficiently how you, O Elijah of great renown, being of human flesh and subject to

such passions as we are, was caught up in your body to heaven in the fiery chariot which appeared to you, drawn by fiery steeds. Wherefore, glorifying the Lord Who has magnified you, and marveling at your ascension, we reverently cry to you:

Rejoice, you with most wondrous abstinence slain within yourself the old man!

Rejoice, you with the fire of divine zeal consumed within yourself every material imagining!

Rejoice, you made glad the human race by your passing over to heaven, and confirmed that life is indeed eternal!

Rejoice, you were honored by God with surpassing honor and glory, and were glorified more than all the prophets of old!

Rejoice, you were greeted joyously by the angelic choirs in the heavenly mansions!

Rejoice, for your name is honored throughout all the world, and your zeal for God is exceeding glorious!

Rejoice, O Elijah, great prophet, glorious forerunner of the Second Coming of Christ!

Kontakion 10

Desiring to save the people of Israel from the falsehood of Baal, God most good chose you, O great prophet, as the instrument of His will, and robed you with divine authority, that you might convert the unbelieving, correct transgressors, enlighten the benighted and teach all to chant to God: **Alleluia!**
(People sing Alleluia!)

Ikos 10

Be a rampart and an aid to us, O most holy prophet, allaying by your mighty mediation the righteous wrath of God, which strikes us, the sinful and unprofitable, with drought and famine, as also with destructive winds and plagues; that, delivered from misfortunes, we may thankfully chant to you:

Rejoice, you shut and open the sky with your entreaties, and sends down from God fruitfulness and barrenness upon the earth!

Rejoice, you by your intercession before God send down gentle rains and life-giving dew upon the plants of the earth!

Rejoice, you calm the dreadful tempests and raging waves of the sea, and directs the thunder and lightning in accordance with God's will!

Rejoice, you still destructive winds and pestilence which attack both man and beast!

Rejoice, nourisher of orphans and widows, and protector of compassionate people!

Rejoice, for you strike down impious blasphemers and persecutors of the right Faith, and drive away spirits of malice from the servants of god!

Rejoice, O Elijah, great prophet, glorious forerunner of the Second Coming of Christ!

Kontakion 11

Accept from us this compunctionate hymnody, O Elijah, prophet of God, as you accepted the request of Elisha when he asked you for a double portion of the Spirit that was in you; and when, caught up to heaven, you let fall your mantle upon him, which he took up, he parted the waters of the Jordan, as you had before, and became the heir to the grace of God which worked within you. Thus with the mantle of your mercy protect us also from every misfortune and

evil circumstance, that with thanksgiving we may cry out to God: **Alleluia! (People sing Alleluia!)**

Ikos 11

A radiant lamp were you in Israel, O all-praised prophet, shining forth in your wisdom and your manner of life, which equaled that of the angels, and yet more with your extraordinary zeal for God and with most glorious miracles, illumining the people with true knowledge of God and driving away the gloom of idolatry. Wherefore, we send up to you hymns of praise, singing:

Rejoice, radiant star illumining the whole universe with your brilliance!

Rejoice, radiant lamp, ever-burning and shedding light upon those who sit in darkness!

Rejoice, you were enlightened with the spirit of wisdom and understanding, and were full of the spirit of counsel and might!

Rejoice, you were illumined with the spirit of knowledge and piety and were watered with the spirit of the fear of God!

Rejoice, you were wholly adorned with exalted virtues and most glorious miracles!

Rejoice, you fulfilled the judgments of God on earth,
and anointed prophets and kings!

**Rejoice, O Elijah, great prophet, glorious
forerunner of the Second Coming of Christ!**

Kontakion 12

Great grace was given you by God, O all-praised prophet, for in your earthly life you prophesied and worked wondrous miracles, whereupon you were in your flesh caught up to heaven. And after you had been caught up, you wondrously stood on Tabor before the transfigured Lord and conversed with Him; and even until this day you do not cease to work wonders and to pour forth mercy and healing upon those who earnestly honor you, faithfully chanting to God: **Alleluia! (People sing Alleluia!)**

Ikos 12

Hymning your flaming zeal for God, your manner of life, which equaled that of the angels, your marvelous and most glorious wonders, and the Lord's exceeding good will toward you, we praise you, O Elijah, prophet of great renown. Yet, unable to fittingly to

describe your greatness and glory, with compunction we cry to you such things as these:

Rejoice, ark of glory divine and most honored temple of the All-holy Trinity!

Rejoice, ever-burning lamp of the Church, and fragrant blossom of the paradise of God!

Rejoice, guide of pious desert-dwellers and instructor and strengthener of virgins!

Rejoice, for you move sinners to repentance, and by your intercession obtain everlasting life for the whole human race!

Rejoice, for you take delight in the holy splendors of ineffable glory, and ever glorify the Lord!

Rejoice, for at the end of time you shall work great signs and wonders for the confirmation of the people in the true Faith, and for the renunciation of Antichrist!

Rejoice, O Elijah, great prophet, glorious forerunner of the Second Coming of Christ!

Kontakion 13

(To be read three times)

O most wondrous and most glorious Elijah, prophet of God, great zealot of God, who from God sends down both fruitfulness and barrenness upon the earth! Hearken to this meager entreaty which we reverently offer you, and by your fervent intercession before the Lord preserve us from drought, famine, and deadly pestilence; and grant us seasonable weather and an abundance of fruit, a spirit of right Faith and piety, that, delivered from eternal torment, we may be vouchsafed the blessedness of paradise, chanting to God: **Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! (People sing Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!)**

Ikos 1

An angel in the flesh you were in your zeal for God and in your pure life, O prophet, for while you were yet an infant, your father, Sobah, beheld radiant angels conversing with you, swaddling you in fire, and nourishing you with flames, which was a portent of your flaming zeal for God, the power of your words and your blameless life which was like light. Wherefore, with amazement we cry to you such things as these:

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Rejoice, you from your mother's womb was prepared as a herald of divine truth and piety!

Rejoice, you amazed your father with the most glorious vision which concerned you!

Rejoice, you from your youth loved virginal purity and silence!

Rejoice, you spurned the vanity of this world and all the good things thereof, and consecrated your soul wholly to the Lord!

Rejoice, you were illumined by God with the light of wisdom and from childhood drank your fill of the teachings of piety!

Rejoice, O Elijah, great prophet, glorious forerunner of the Second Coming of Christ!

Kontakion 1

O Elijah, prophet of God, chosen by Him to turn Israel from the falsehood of Baal, dread denouncer of iniquitous kings, O you who shone forth with flaming zeal for God Almighty with holiness of life and miracles, who in the flesh was caught up to the

heavens and will come again before the Second Coming of Christ: to you do we send up hymns of praise. As you have boldness before the Lord, by your supplications free us from all evil and adverse circumstances, we who piously cry out to you:

Rejoice, O Elijah, great prophet, glorious forerunner of the Second Coming of Christ!

Prayer to the Holy Elijah, The Glorious Prophet of God

O all-laudable and most wondrous Elijah, prophet of God, who in your manner of life, which equaled that of the angels, shone forth upon the earth with flaming zeal for the Lord God Almighty, and yet more with most glorious signs and wonders; and then, in accordance with God's exceeding good will toward you, was supernaturally caught up to heaven in your flesh on a fiery chariot, was vouchsafed to converse on Tabor with the transfigured Savior of the world, and now ever abides in the mansions of paradise, and stands before the throne of the heavenly King! Hear us, who are sinful and unprofitable, who at this hour stand before your holy icon and earnestly have recourse to your mediation. Entreat God, who loves mankind, in our behalf, that He grant us the spirit of repentance and contrition for our sins and help us with His all-powerful grace to depart from ungodly ways and to prosper in every good work; that He strengthen us in the battle against our passions and lusts; that He plant in our hearts the spirit of humility and meekness, the spirit of brotherly love and innocence, the spirit of patience and chastity, the spirit of zeal for the glory of God and for the salvation of our neighbor. By your supplications, O prophet, set against the evil ways of the world and,

moreover, the pernicious and destructive spirit of this age, which afflicts the Christian race with irreverence for the divine Orthodox Faith, for the goodly order of the Holy Church and for the commandments of the Lord, with disrespect for parents and the ruling authorities, and cast the people down into the abyss of ungodliness, subversion and perdition. By your intercession, O most wondrous prophet, turn the righteous wrath of God from us, and deliver all the cities and villages of our land from drought and famine, from fearsome tempests and earthquakes, from deadly plagues and pestilence, from the incursion of enemies and from evil strife. By your supplications, O most glorious one, strengthen our civil authorities in the great and onerous task of governing the nation, and cause them to abound in every good work and undertaking that leads to the establishment of peace and justice in our land. Aid our military forces in battle against the foe. O prophet of God, beseech the Lord that He grant: to our pastors, holy zeal for God, heartfelt concern for the salvation of their flock, wisdom in teaching and correction, piety and strength amid temptations; to our judges, impartiality and detachment; to the oppressed, justice and sympathy; to all in authority, concern for the governed, and mercy and justice; to the governed, obedience to the authorities and ready fulfillment of their obligations: that living in this age in peace and piety, we may be vouchsafed to partake of the eternal blessings in the kingdom of the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, to Whom is due honor and worship, with His unoriginate Father and the all-Holy Sprit, unto the ages of ages. **Amen.**

Prayer to the Holy Prophet Elijah in Time of Drought

O most glorious Elijah, great prophet of God, who, in your great zeal for the glory of God, could not bear to look upon the idolatry and ungodliness of the children of Israel, who denounced the iniquitous king Ahab, and entreated the Lord by your supplications to send down three years of famine upon the land of Israel for their chastisement, that, having cast aside their abominable idols and forsaken unrighteousness and iniquity, they might return to the one, true God and the fulfillment of His holy

commandments; who, during the famine, most wondrously fed the widow of Zarephath and raised up her dead son through your supplication; and after the appointed time of the famine had passed assembled on Mount Carmel the people of Israel who had fallen into apostasy and impiety, and who then by your entreaty called down fire from heaven upon the sacrifice and by this wonder turned Israel again to the Lord, and put to shame and slain the shameful prophets of Baal, where after, by your supplication, you again opened the heavens, asked that abundant rain fall upon the earth, and made glad the people of Israel. To you, O most wondrous favorite of God, do we, the sinful and lowly, earnestly flee, tormented by drought and burning heat. We confess that we are unworthy of the mercy and beneficence of God, and truly deserve the fearsome threat of His wrath, tribulation and want, and every evil and disease. For we have not walked in fear of God and in the ways of His commandments, but after the lusts of our depraved hearts, and have committed all manner of sins without number; our iniquities have gone over our heads, and we are not worthy to appear before the face of God or to look upon heaven. We confess that we too, like Israel of old, have forsaken the Lord our God, if not in faith, then in our transgressions; and though we do not worship Baal and other abominable idols, we serve our passions and lusts, ministering to the idol of gluttony and love of pleasure, the idol of avarice and of love of honor, the idol of pride and of vainglory, and we follow after alien practices and the pernicious spirit of this age which is opposed to God. We confess that for this cause the sky has been shut up and has become like brass, just as our hearts have been closed to mercy and true love for our neighbor; for which cause the ground has become hard and been rendered barren, for we do not offer our Lord the fruit of good works; wherefore, there is neither rain nor dew, for we have neither tears of compunction nor the life-creating dew of the knowledge of God, and for this every herb and grass of the field has withered, for within us every good feeling has wasted away, for our mind has been darkened with shameful thoughts and our hearts have been defiled by iniquitous lusts. We confess that we are unworthy to entreat even you, O prophet of God. For you, a man of passions like ours became like an angel in your manner of life and like one of the bodiless ones, you were

caught up into heaven; and we, by our shameful thoughts and deeds, have made ourselves like dumb beasts and have rendered our souls carnal. You, by fasting and vigil, astonished angels and men; but we, giving ourselves over to incontinence and love of pleasure, have become like dumb animals. You, with surpassing zeal, were ever aflame with the glory of God; but we are ashamed to confess His right worshipful name. You uprooted impiety and evil customs; but we serve the spirit of this world, setting the ways of this world, which are opposed to God, above the commandments of God and the precepts of the holy Church. What sin and unrighteousness have we not committed wretches that we are? We have exhausted the longsuffering of God with our iniquities. Wherefore, the Lord, the righteous Judge, has been angered against us, and in His wrath has punished us. Yet, knowing your great boldness before the Lord, and trusting in your love for the human race, we dare to beseech you, O all-praised prophet: be merciful to us, the unworthy and unprofitable; entreat the munificent and all-compassionate God, that He not be utterly angered with us, nor destroy us in our iniquities, but that He send down an abundant and gentle rain upon the dry and thirsty earth, that He grant it fertility and seasonable weather. Incline the King of heaven to mercy by your active mediation, if not for the sake of us who are sinful and defiled, then for the sake of His chosen servants who have not bent the knee before the Baal of this world, for the sake of the innocent and foolish babes, for the sake of the dumb cattle and the birds of the sky that are suffering because of our transgressions and are wasting away through hunger, heat and thirst. By your acceptable supplications in our behalf, ask of the Lord the spirit of repentance and heartfelt compunction, the spirit of meekness and abstinence, the spirit of the fear of God and piety, that thus turning from the ways of ungodliness to the straight path of virtue, we may walk in the light of the commandments of God and attain the blessings promised us, through the goodwill of God, the unoriginate Father, through the love for mankind of His only-begotten Son, and through the grace of the all-holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto the ages of ages. **Amen.**

Glorifying God Through His Light
50 Hour Prayer Vigil

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