

Akathist to  
St John Chrysostom



For the strength to labor for Christ in Word and Deed  
For mortifying the carnal passions by fasting

## **Kontakion I**

O John, chosen leader of the Church of Christ and teacher of golden eloquence, having adorned yourself from your youth with the virtues, you labored well, and having endured persecution for the name of Christ, you reached the end of your life in exile. For which cause you have received twofold glorification in the heavens, O you who wisely established the rites of the Church. Wherefore, with compunction we honor you, crying aloud:

**Rejoice, O John Chrysostom, you great and holy hierarch!**

## **Ikos I**

Angelic in image, in the flesh you lived like one of the incorporeal ones, O John; undertaking many labors for the salvation of your brethren, you glorify the heavenly Father with good works. Wherefore, we say to you:

Rejoice, adornment of the Orthodox Church;

Rejoice, blessed child of eminent parents!

Rejoice, you from childhood were filled by your mother with love for the word of God;

Rejoice, you from your youth made your mind subject to the yoke of Christ!

Rejoice, you diligently serve God;

Rejoice, teacher of the whole world!

Rejoice, instructor in prayer for Christians of all times;

Rejoice, you restored the monastic life in the Imperial City!

Rejoice, you enlightened the Goths and the Scythians;

Rejoice, lover of righteousness strengthened by God!

Rejoice, you have entered into the joy of your Lord;

Rejoice, ardent intercessor for us!

**Rejoice, O John Chrysostom, you great and holy hierarch!**

**Kontakion II**

Seeing the pure life of your parents Secundus and Anthusa, Christ was pleased to glorify you, O John, and gave you to them for a consolation, that the faithful, mindful of your virtues, may exalt supremely the righteous couple who brought you forth, and, emulating them, may chant unto God: **Alleluia! (People sing Alleluia!)**

**Ikos II**

Having made your mind wise in learning, and having been raised from infancy in heartfelt piety, O John, you were a joy and comfort to your mother when she was left bereft of husband and daughter. Wherefore, we offer you such praises as these:

Rejoice, star of morality for the young;  
Rejoice, joy to your guardian angel!  
Rejoice, for you never caused him grief;  
Rejoice, you loved your friends!  
Rejoice, you excelled in learning and thereby astonish the wise of this world;  
Rejoice, for, while yet a student, you did admonish Anthimius, the blasphemer of God, and put him to shame!  
Rejoice, you behold the bitter tears of those who thronged the courts;  
Rejoice, you avoid those who committed iniquities!  
Rejoice, you sought the path of saving innocence;  
Rejoice, you retired to the wilderness after your mother's repose!  
Rejoice, you fervently pray to God for your departed parents;  
Rejoice, for they, joining the chorus with our heavenly Mistress and the saints today, are glorified and praised by mortals!

**Rejoice, O John Chrysostom, you great and holy hierarch!**

### **Kontakion III**

Like your namesake, the Forerunner, in the wilderness you acquired the strength to labor for Christ in word and deed, O John; for there, having mortified your carnal passions by fasting, you furnished your spirit with wings through prayer, and like a warrior you arrayed yourself in the full armor of God to do battle against the prince of the aerial powers, chanting with hope to our mighty God: **Alleluia! (People sing Alleluia!)**

### **Ikos III**

Wearing a hair-shirt and leather belt about your loins, O emulator of the Baptizer of Christ, you ate herbs in the wilderness, O John; from whence, full of power, you issued forth as a man. Wherefore, we cry out to you:

Rejoice, you were like unto the Prophet Elijah in abstinence;

Rejoice, emulator of the poverty of Christ!

Rejoice, you who fortified the weakness of your body with chastity;

Rejoice, you dispelled despondency with the contemplation of God!

Rejoice, you kept your heart undefiled by recalling the omniscience of God;

Rejoice, you put the wiles of the demons to shame by your vigils of prayer!

Rejoice, you yourself overcame temptations and later taught others to do so;

Rejoice, wise strengthener of those who struggle in spiritual activity!

Rejoice, you restrained your friend Theodore from falling into sin;

Rejoice, you made your friend, Bishop Basil, firm in his ministry!

Rejoice, you showed yourself to be a calm haven for those driven from the world;

Rejoice, defender of the monastic life!

**Rejoice, O John Chrysostom, you great and holy hierarch!**

### **Kontakion IV**

You weathered a new storm of temptations, O John, when you lived alone in a cave; and, having departed from the desert for Antioch because of illness, you were ordained deacon by the holy Meletius and committed yourself zealously to care for the poor. Seeing this, the faithful joyously chanted to God: **Alleluia! (People sing Alleluia!)**

### **Ikos IV**

Hearing words of praise from the faithful concerning you, the holy Flavian called down the grace of the priesthood upon you as one worthy, O John. Wherefore, the people of Antioch rejoiced and, justly honoring your labors, they magnified you thus:

Rejoice, you declined all care for yourself;

Rejoice, protection of the poor!

Rejoice, loving haven for the orphaned;

Rejoice, assuager of sorrows!

Rejoice, you grieved over the people's ignorance;

Rejoice, you with melodious voice did bless the virginal life!

Rejoice, you enlightened many of the Jews;

Rejoice, you with Orthodox doctrine did catechize those who sought salvation!

Rejoice, you did not disgrace this teaching by your manner of life;

Rejoice, beacon of piety!

Rejoice, you shared the ways of the apostles;

Rejoice, for the lot of the pastoral care of souls was rightly given to you!

**Rejoice, O John Chrysostom, You great and holy hierarch!**

### **Kontakion V**

Cherishing the divinely shed Blood of the eternal redemptive death when you received the priestly rank, with vigilance you performed well the work of an evangelist, reproving, forbidding, entreating with all long-suffering, teaching, and chanting unto God: **Alleluia! (People sing Alleluia!)**

### **Ikos V**

Seeing the disorders in the city and grieving over them, you permitted yourself no rest, O John. Catechizing the unbelieving with the Gospel, sanctifying the faithful with the sacraments of the Church and teaching them the mysteries of the Faith, as is meet you acquired the name "Golden Mouth," hearing from all such things as these:

Rejoice, good shepherd;

Rejoice, you beget many children for the Church of Christ through Holy Baptism!

Rejoice, you gave them the seal of the gift of the Holy Spirit through anointing with chrism;

Rejoice, you stood with compunction before the most holy table!

Rejoice, you nurture your children with the food of incorruption;

Rejoice, you cleanse men's hearts with repentance!

Rejoice, you unite spouses together in the Lord;

Rejoice, you heal by anointing with oil!

Rejoice, true interpreter of the word of God;

Rejoice, mighty denouncer of the heresies!

Rejoice, deep well of true theology;

Rejoice, for you won the hearts of your flock, which was full of love for you!

**Rejoice, O John Chrysostom, you great and holy hierarch!**

### **Kontakion VI**

You showed yourself to be above all a preacher of repentance, O John, when the people of Antioch, having cast down the statue of the emperor,

deservedly incurred his wrath. Assuring them of the loving-kindness of God, by your discourse you did induce everyone to amend their lives that they might chant unto God with a pure heart: **Alleluia! (People sing Alleluia!)**

### **Ikos VI**

Antioch shone with joy when, having wept over its iniquities, it received the emperor's forgiveness. Yet it was soon cast into the darkness of sorrow, being forced to part with you; for you were called to become archbishop of the Imperial City, O John. Wherefore, we cry to you:

Rejoice, you, like Isaiah, were afflicted with pain by the tribulations of your native city;

Rejoice, you, like Jeremiah, lamented the evil ways of the people!

Rejoice, you, like Ezekiel, called the iniquitous to change their ways;

Rejoice, lightning-flash who brought pridefulness low!

Rejoice, thunder-clap who struck with terror those who lived iniquitously;

Rejoice, denouncer of avarice!

Rejoice, you showed the perniciousness of vainglory;

Rejoice, you put to shame the vile polytheism of the Greeks!

Rejoice, you calmed troubled hearts;

Rejoice, assistant of Bishop Flavian, the righteous elder!

Rejoice, you with the desert-dwellers moved the emperor's stewards to mercy;

Rejoice, peer of Jonah who saved Nineveh!

**Rejoice, O John Chrysostom, you great and holy hierarch!**

### **Kontakion VII**

Desiring to adorn fittingly the Church of Constantinople as a bride of Christ, O John, you endue everything with splendor. With all-night vigils you lured the faithful away from the assemblies of the Arians and wisely

established the rite of the Divine Liturgy, pouring forth prayers like sweet-smelling myrrh; and edified thereby, we chant to God concerning you:  
**Alleluia! (People sing Alleluia!)**

### **Ikos VII**

A new sign of the mercy of God has been manifest in you, O holy hierarch; for through your supplications the faithful of all times, conversing with God, are made wise unto salvation. Accept, therefore, from us such praises as these:

Rejoice, you, like David, have enriched the Church of God with the words of your prayers;

Rejoice, you, like James the Brother of God, established the rite of the Divine Liturgy!

Rejoice, you emulate the great Basil therein;

Rejoice, receptacle of the Holy Spirit!

Rejoice, for through you the Holy Spirit wrote words of salvation;

Rejoice, for, rising from sleep, we give thanks to the Father with your prayers!

Rejoice, for, going to sleep, we ask of the Holy Spirit remission of offenses with your words;

Rejoice, for we entreat the Son of God through your mouth, that we may receive communion of the divine Mysteries without condemnation!

Rejoice, O servant of God, you invite the down-trodden to the banquet of Christ;

Rejoice, preacher of Him Who was crucified on the Cross for the life and salvation of the world!

Rejoice, for in your words were the mysteries of the Faith arrayed, as with raiment of gold;

Rejoice, composer of hymns and wondrous orator!



## **Rejoice, O John Chrysostom, you great and holy hierarch!**

### **Kontakion VIII**

As a sojourner in this earthly vale, you showed yourself to be a model of humility, abstinence and purity, O John, by your life in the Imperial City; for you restored and erected monasteries in that place, and provided blameless virgins with rules for the monastic life. And perfumed thereby like incense of sweet savor, the great hymn has been borne up unto God: **Alleluia! (People sing Alleluia!)**

### **Ikos VIII**

Laboring for Christ with all your soul, you did not wish to please men, O John; forbidding the practice of setting forth banquets for the prominent, you increased in number the meals served to the poor, and founding hostels and free hospitals for the infirm, you moved them to chant to you:

Rejoice, emulator of Nicholas, the holy hierarch of Myra in Lycia;  
Rejoice, you have won the heights through humility!  
Rejoice, you have acquired riches through poverty;  
Rejoice, you in those virtues were a model for monks!  
Rejoice, feeder of the hungry;  
Rejoice, you like Abraham showed hospitality to strangers!  
Rejoice, shelter of homeless orphans;  
Rejoice, you care for the helpless elderly!  
Rejoice, you distributed your own funds to the poor;  
Rejoice, for you showed yourself as a comforting angel for everyone in tribulation!  
Rejoice, you turn the hands of the rich to works of charity;  
Rejoice, for the Mother of God rejoiced at the depth of your loving-kindness!

**Rejoice, O John Chrysostom, you great and holy hierarch!**

### **Kontakion IX**

Desiring to save every nation, O John, you did send from Constantinople preachers of the Gospel to the Scythians, the ancestors of the Slavs; and in your city you did erect a church dedicated to the Apostle Paul for the Goths, that, having repudiated the heresy of Arius, they too might chant unto God with Orthodox lips: **Alleluia! (People sing Alleluia!)**

### **Ikos IX**

Having sent Orthodox preachers to the unbelievers, O John, you yourself visited the Churches in Asia; and reproving the negligent and praising the diligent, you set them in order with pastoral care. Wherefore, we glorify you:

Rejoice, beacon of Orthodoxy;

Rejoice, good shepherd take care over the lost sheep!

Rejoice, for today your name is glorified in the land of the Scythians;

Rejoice, for there are churches of God that are raised up in your name!

Rejoice, you shared the ministry of the apostles;

Rejoice, you tend the flock of God according to the words of the Apostle Peter!

Rejoice, you visit the flock, not under compulsion, but willingly and mindful of God;

Rejoice, steadfast uprooter of bribery!

Rejoice, impartial observer of the canons of the Church;

Rejoice, you justly drive out slothful servants!

Rejoice, for those laboring for the good were praised and strengthened by you;

Rejoice, skillful helmsman of the Church!

## **Rejoice, O John Chrysostom, you great and holy hierarch!**

### **Kontakion X**

You did not cease to minister to the salvation of your flock, O John, when you returned from Asia to the Imperial City. And when you did fearlessly begin to denounce the immoral life of the empress and the nobles, you accepted many tribulations; for those who were reproved by you, unable to close your righteous mouth, laid secret plans to destroy you, who cry out to God in purity: **Alleluia! (People sing Alleluia!)**

### **Ikos X**

You were shown to be a bulwark for monks who are persecuted unjustly, O John; for which cause the great malice harbored by your enemies was laid bare. For the deceitful Theophilus and the empress impiously slandered you at the council and had you deposed, putting out of mind the works you had wrought for the good of the realm. But we recall them with gratitude, saying:

Rejoice, you showed wondrous love for your earthly homeland;  
Rejoice, you delivered the Imperial City from the invasion of barbarians!

Rejoice, you subdued Ga'nas, the dread leader of the Goths;  
Rejoice, you preserve the alms given to the Church by emperors of old!

Rejoice, you did not permit the mighty Eutropius to violate the Church's sanctuary;

Rejoice, you, in the same sanctuary afterwards save Eutropius himself when he fled arrest!

Rejoice, you meekly endure the injustice of the council for harboring the monks of Nitria;

Rejoice, for the words of the Scriptures, "Love is long-suffering", were justified in you!

Rejoice, you forbid your friends to take up arms in your defense;

Rejoice, you did not raise the sword against your enemies!

Rejoice, you who submitted to the authorities and therefore placed yourself in the hands of the soldiers at night;

Rejoice, you were banished from your native land for righteousness' sake!

**Rejoice, O John Chrysostom, you great and holy hierarch!**

### **Kontakion XI**

The lamentation of your flock was quickly turned into joyous hymnody, O valiant athlete; for when you were being led away into exile, claps of thunder suddenly smote the air, lightning flashed forth, the winds shrieked and the earth quaked. And seeing these things and trembling, the empress repented and had you brought back with honor, humbly crying out to God: **Alleluia! (People sing Alleluia!)**

### **Ikos XI**

The hatred of the empress for you, the radiant beacon of Orthodoxy, was soon redoubled when you reprov'd her for setting up a statue of herself near the church; wherefore, deposed a second time, you were exiled to Cucusus, a remote and tiny village, O John. Wherefore, accept from us such praises as these:

Rejoice, you shouldered the yoke of God from your youth, in accordance with the words of Jeremiah;

Rejoice, you applied the spiritual plough to work the land, as Christ has said!

Rejoice, you did not turn back before the end;

Rejoice, you thunder forth against the immoral empress!

Rejoice, you were hated by her, as the Baptist was hated by Herodias;  
Rejoice, you were saved from murderers by an invisible angel!  
Rejoice, you were preserved in your residence by the love of your flock;  
Rejoice, you were taken into custody by the henchmen of your unjust judges!  
Rejoice, you who did go into exile with humility and without complaint;  
Rejoice, you whose loss was lamented by the faithful!  
Rejoice, you who were wounded and afflicted for the sake of the crucified Lord;  
Rejoice, for the martyrs and the forerunner joined chorus in the heavens because of your patience!

**Rejoice, O John Chrysostom, you great and holy hierarch!**

### **Kontakion XII**

The grace of God preserved you in exile, O John; for there, like the holy Paul in chains, you proclaimed the Gospel to the Phœnicians and the Persians, and comforted the faithful with letters. And thus you shepherd the Church even unto the day whereon your golden mouth uttered its final words: "Glory to God for all things!" and your soul was borne aloft by holy angels, who cried out as is meet: **Alleluia! (People sing Alleluia!)**

### **Ikos XII**

Chanting with joy, the faithful bore your holy relics into the Imperial City, O John, from where your glory has gone forth unto the uttermost ends of the earth and has gone out to the whole world, teaching all to sing to you:

Rejoice, O sojourner, you have entered the heavenly homeland;  
Rejoice, you were provided for in your journey with the prayers of all the Churches!

Rejoice, you finished your race in Comana, on the way to far-off Pityus;

Rejoice, for the hieromartyr Basiliscus foretold your end to you!

Rejoice, you heard from him: "Brother, tomorrow we shall be together!"

Rejoice, you fortify yourself for the ascent into paradise by partaking of the Holy Mysteries!

Rejoice, for your soul peacefully departed your exhausted body;

Rejoice, for corruption did not touch your bones!

Rejoice, for in these churches is the unbloody sacrifice offered up today;

Rejoice, dweller in the heights of heaven who are illumined with the never-fading light!

Rejoice, for, appearing with Saints Basil the Great and Gregory the Theologian, with them you have taught all to praise you;

Rejoice, glory of the Church Universal!

**Rejoice, O John Chrysostom, you great and holy hierarch!**

### **Kontakion XIII**

*(To be read three times)*

O great and holy hierarch John Chrysostom: look down from the heights of heaven upon us who are downcast, and, accepting this praise which is offered to you with our love, entreat the Lord God, that He pour out upon us His grace which heals the afflicted, that He strengthen the Orthodox, and lead back to the bosom of the Church those who have fallen away from it, fulfilling that which is lacking by His own compassion; and that He vouchsafe all, with you and all the saints, to chant to Him forever: **Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia! (People sing Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!)**

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***PRAYER TO OUR FATHER AMONG THE SAINTS***  
***JOHN CHRYSOSTOM,***  
***ARCHBISHOP OF CONSTANTINOPLE***

O great and holy hierarch John Chrysostom, you received many and diverse gifts from the Lord, and like a good and faithful servant you have increased well the talents given you; wherefore, you were truly a teacher of the whole world, for people of every age and every calling were taught by you. You are a model of obedience for children, a beacon of chastity for the youth, an instructor in industrious labor for men, a teacher of guilelessness for the old, a rule of abstinence for monks, a guide inspired by God for those who pray, an enlightener of the mind for those seeking wisdom, an inexhaustible well-spring of the words of Life for right eloquent orators, a star of loving-kindness for the charitable, an image of wise rule for those who govern, an inspiration to boldness for lovers of justice, an instructor in patience for those persecuted for righteousness' sake: You were made all things to all men, that you might by all means save some. For all of them you acquired the love which is the bond of perfection, and thereby, as with divine power, you joined together all spiritual gifts in your one person; and the same love, which reconciles those things which are separated, you preached to all the faithful in your interpretation of the words of the apostles. But we sinners, each possessed of his own gift, do not possess oneness of spirit in the bond of peace, for we have become vainglorious, provoking one another, envying one another. For this cause, the gifts distributed among us are not unto peace and salvation, but unto enmity and our condemnation. Wherefore, though buffeted by disunity, we fall down before you, O holy hierarch of God, and in contrition of heart we ask: through your supplications drive from our hearts all the pride and jealousy which divide us, that the body of the Church may consist of many members, that, as you have said in your prayer, we may love one another and with oneness of mind may confess the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, the Trinity consubstantial and indivisible, now and ever, and unto the ages of ages. **Amen.**



Glorifying God Through His Light  
50 Hour Prayer Vigil

Orthodox Mission Church  
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