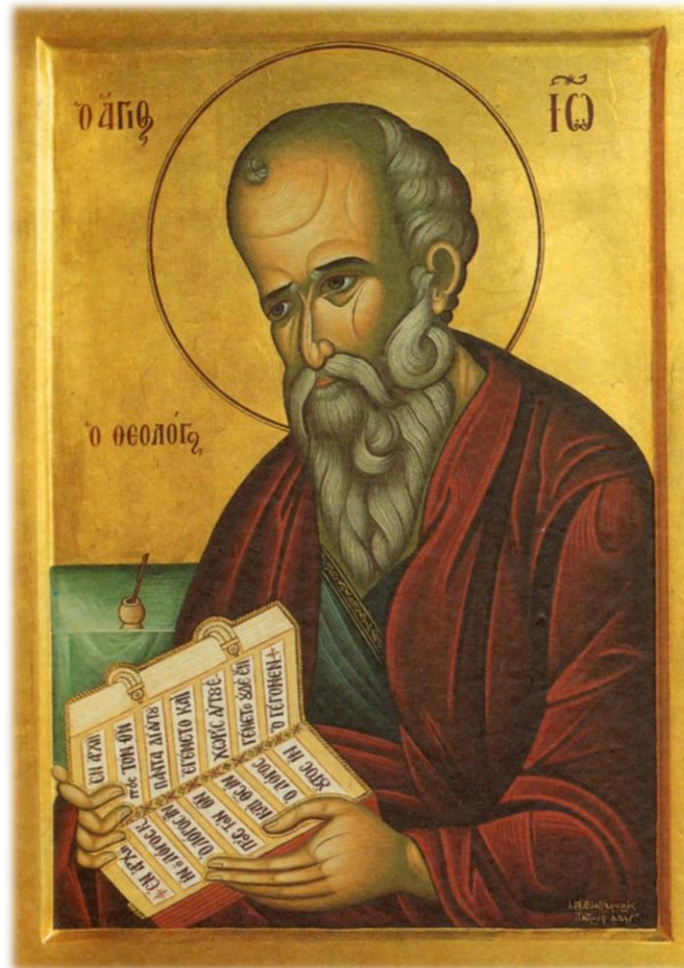


Akathist to St. John the Theologian



**For healing of illnesses
For Patience, Courage and Perseverance
For Understanding the Truth of the Faith**

Kontakion 1

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, Disciple, Friend, and Devoted Companion of Christ, implore the one true lover of mankind whom you loved with seraphic love to have mercy on us who seek your intercession with Him and cry to you:

Rejoice, Apostle John, devoted friend of Christ and Theologian!

Ikos 1

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 you, O Blessed John, as He was walking by the Sea of Galilee, He called you with your brother to apostolic labor; and you left your fisher nets and your father in the boat, and from then on you followed unswervingly in the Savior's footsteps. Therefore, we cry to you:

Rejoice, you for the love of Christ left your earthly father!

Rejoice, you found in Christ the Heavenly Father!

Rejoice, you despised the world and its delusive pleasures!

Rejoice, you received in exchange heavenly blessings!

Rejoice, you completely subdued your flesh to your spirit!

Rejoice, you subjected your spirit to your sweetest Lord Jesus!

Rejoice, Apostle John, devoted friend of Christ and Theologian!

Kontakion 2

Seeing the spotless purity of your heart, undarkened by carnal pleasures, Christ the Lord judged you to be worthy of the vision of mystic revelations, by which you were able to fathom the depths of theology and the knowledge of God and could preach it for all the world to hear. Therefore, He called you a Son of Thunder when you called to Him: **Alleluia! (People sing Alleluia!)**

Ikos 2

Enlightening your soul with an understanding of the true knowledge of God, you followed your good and gracious Master, learning the wisdom that flowed from His lips. On account of your perfect innocence and virginal chastity, you were beloved of Christ your Lord. So, hearken to us who cry to you:

Rejoice, zealot of guilelessness!

Rejoice, guardian of virginity and purity!

Rejoice, teacher of love for God and neighbor!

Rejoice, instructor of good morals!

Rejoice, mirror of humility!

Rejoice, light of divine grace!

Rejoice, Apostle John, devoted friend of Christ and Theologian!

Kontakion 3

You clearly realized the power of Christ's divinity hidden under the cloud of weak human nature when He raised to life the daughter of Jarius and then was transfigured on Tabor and chose you with only two other disciples to be witness of such glorious wonders. Then,

knowing that Christ was the true God, from the depths of your heart you cried to Him: **Alleluia! (People sing Alleluia!)**

Ikos 3

Having great boldness towards Christ, the Son of God, Who loved you, you leaned upon His breast at the celebration of the Mystical Supper. When the Lord foretold who His betrayer would be, it was only you who had the courage to ask for his name. Therefore, we cry to you:

Rejoice, beloved disciple of Christ!

Rejoice, true friend of His!

Rejoice, you were chosen by heaven to lean on the Lord's breast!

Rejoice, you boldly inquired about the secret of the betrayal!

Rejoice, you were nearest to Christ of all of the disciples!

Rejoice, Christ revealed to you far more of the divine mysteries than to the other disciples!

Rejoice, Apostle John, devoted friend of Christ and Theologian!

Kontakion 4

When in a storm of rage and bestial fury the hard-hearted and ungrateful Jews rose up against Christ, the Son of God, then all His disciples were seized with fear, forsook Him, and fled. But you loved Him so much more than the others, witnessed all of His tortures, and remained with Him constantly even to the Cross, and you suffered in heart with the Virgin Mother of God as she wept and mourned. Amazed at the extreme compassion and long-suffering patience of

God, you cried to Him who suffered for mankind: **Alleluia!** (People sing Alleluia!)

Ikos 4

Hanging on the Cross to which He was nailed to for our sins and seeing you and His Mother standing before Him, the Savior of the world gave you to the Most Blessed Virgin Mother of God as Her son, saying, behold your Mother. And we rightly venerate such honor shown to you as we sing praises such as these:

Rejoice, you were granted to be the son of the Mother of God!

Rejoice, you were thereby made in a special way a kind of spiritual relative of Christ!

Rejoice, you worthily served and took care of the Mother of God!

Rejoice, you sustained and maintained Her throughout Her life on earth!

Rejoice, you at Her Dormition, or Falling Asleep, accompanied Her precious and Holy body to the Tomb!

Rejoice, you walked before Her bier with the shining branch brought by the Archangel Gabriel!

Rejoice, Apostle John, devoted friend of Christ and Theologian!

Kontakion 5

You appeared as a divinely moving star in Asia, where you went to preach the Word of God, as the land indicated to you by lot. But first the Lord allowed you to be plunged in the sea. God's grace that always remained with you kept you alive in the deep, and after fourteen days He commanded a foaming sea wave to cast you ashore. And then your disciple Prochorus, who was already bewailing your

death, cried out with a loud voice to the wonderworking God:
Alleluia! (People sing Alleluia!)

Ikos 5

When the inhabitants of Ephesus saw the glorious miracles you worked in raising Domnus who had been killed by a demon while bathing, they loudly praised the power of the God Whom you were preaching to them and Who delivered them from their abominable idolatry, and they cried to you:

Rejoice, servant of the true God!

Rejoice, expeller of demons!

Rejoice, you raised the dead by the power of Christ!

Rejoice, you restored them to life and health!

Rejoice, you called those in mental and spiritual darkness to the Light of Truth!

Rejoice, you by the enlightenment of the right faith guided men to virtue!

Rejoice, Apostle John, devoted friend of Christ and Theologian!

Kontakion 6

As a God-bearing preacher of the Word of God in Ephesus, zealous to spread the grace of the glorious Gospel, you confirmed your teaching with awe-inspiring signs and wonders that staggered human comprehension. By prayer alone you overthrew the shrine of Diana, so that seeing this, the idolaters might know and discern the true God, to Whom we cry: **Alleluia! (People sing Alleluia!)**

Ikos 6

When the full radiance of the Light of Christ Whom you were preaching was already shining in Ephesus, godless Domatian raised a persecution against the Christians. Then the provincial prefect sent you bound with chains to Rome as an ardent preacher of the name of Christ, where you underwent terrible tortures on account of which we piously exclaim to you:

Rejoice, you were flogged for confessing Christ!

Rejoice, you drank unharmed a cup of poison!

Rejoice, you survived unburned in a cauldron of burning oil!

Rejoice, you were preserved whole by the power of Christ during cruel tortures!

Rejoice, you by your supernatural immunity terrified Caesar who was torturing you!

Rejoice, you convinced the people there of the greatness of the God worshipped by Christians!

Rejoice, Apostle John, devoted friend of Christ and Theologian!

Kontakion 7

When the torturer saw that even the cruelest tortures he could invent were powerless to kill you, he took you to be immortal and condemned you to exile on the Island of Patmos. But you surrendered yourself to the providence of God Whose will it was to so order things, and you thankfully sang to God Who makes all things work together for good: **Alleluia! (People sing Alleluia!)**

Ikos 7

You showed new wonders to the worshippers of idols, seeking to convert them to the faith of Christ when, sailing to your exile, by your command the sea cast up alive on the ship's deck a young lad who had

fallen overboard and had been drowned, a storm was lulled to a calm, sea-water was turned into fresh drinking water, a soldier was healed of a stomach ulcer and after your arrival in Patmos, you casted a divining spirit out of Appolonides. All who saw such wondrous signs accomplished through you, came to an understanding of the One God in Three Persons and were baptized. We, however, honor you:

Rejoice, you command sea and storm!

Rejoice, you expel satanic spirits from men!

Rejoice, you heal diseases by word alone!

Rejoice, you give help to all in need!

Rejoice, you were saved from being drowned in the sea!

Rejoice, you win unbelievers to the true faith!

Rejoice, Apostle John, devoted friend of Christ and Theologian!

Kontakion 8

Amazing it was for the priests of Apollo to see that you, by a single word, reduced to a heap of rubble the temple of their god and the idol in it. Astounded and enraged by your audacity, they went to a magician who had the great power of Satan in himself, and requested him to avenge the dishonor of their god. In his spiritual blindness, not knowing the power that dwelt in you, he tried to terrify you by various phantoms, and to turn the people against you. Afterwards, however, the wretched man himself sank into the sea and perished, the demons being powerless to save him; for you put them under ban by the name of Jesus Christ, the Son of God, Whom the people glorified, having witnessed the miracle, chanting: **Alleluia! (People sing Alleluia!)**

Ikos 8

Completely filled to overflowing with divine love, you were a repository of the gift of the Holy Spirit. You foretold future events, speaking of distant things as if they were close at hand, you healed the sick and gave relief to the wife of the governor of Patmos, the moment you entered the house, while she was suffering, unable to give birth to her child. So, accept from us sinners these praises:

Rejoice, repository of the grace of God!

Rejoice, habitation of the Holy Spirit!

Rejoice, river flowing with miraculous powers bringing healing to the sick!

Rejoice, fountain of instruction that lead to understanding of the right faith!

Rejoice, you expose the cunning ways of satan!

Rejoice, you defend the faithful from his snares!

Rejoice, Apostle John, devoted friend of Christ and Theologian!

Kontakion 9

Zealously rooting out every sin from among the people to whom you were sent, you convicted by your word alone the deception of the idol worshippers who honored the demon which appeared to the people in the form of a large wolf, and you lead many of them to believe in Christ. Also, you destroyed the temple of Bacchus by your prayers and you turned the magician and his household to repentance by your miracle. And having turned from sin to salvation, they cried out to God: **Alleluia! (People sing Alleluia!)**

Ikos 9

No eloquence of human wisdom can express, nor can the mind of carnal man comprehend what you have told us about the eternal being

of the One God in Three Persons without beginning. For like Moses on the mountain amid thunder and flashes of lightning, you received from God the mystery and secret of theology, and you proclaimed it to the world: He Who in the beginning was the Word, ever inseparably united to the Father, having the Light of Life as the cause of all existing creation, and the darkness can never swallow Him. Illumined with the radiance of the divine Life of Truth, we honor you as an intimate friend of the Unoriginate Trinity, and we sing praises to you as the most perfect theologian:

Rejoice, eagle that flew to God's fiery throne!

Rejoice, trumpet that proclaimed to the world the pre-eternal and Unoriginate God!

Rejoice, you revealed to us God's heavenly Mysteries!

Rejoice, you declared to us Christ's humanity and divinity!

Rejoice, you taught us love for God and our neighbor!

Rejoice, you promised in return for this love, God's indwelling presence!

Rejoice, Apostle John, devoted friend of Christ and Theologian!

Kontakion 10

Wishing to save men's souls, you taught people by all possible means to believe in Christ as the Son of God, to keep a clear conscience, and to love one another, so as not only here but also in the abodes of the righteous and to sing majestically to Almighty God: **Alleluia! (People sing Alleluia!)**

Ikos 10

Beholding the walls of the Heavenly Jerusalem in Revelation, you revealed to us what you saw and what is to be, until the end of the world, telling us this in metaphorical and figurative language, so that only those that have wisdom can understand it. Marveling at such supernatural wisdom given you by God, we sing to you:

Rejoice, you transcended human nature by your knowledge!
Rejoice, container of Mysteries uncontainable by the human mind!
Rejoice, you saw ineffable revelations of God that cannot be told!
Rejoice, you give revelations to the faithful!
Rejoice, you experienced the joys of the saints while still in this life!
Rejoice, you now enjoy them to a supreme degree!

Rejoice, Apostle John, devoted friend of Christ and Theologian!

Kontakion 11

A song of thanksgiving and a heartfelt sacrifice of praise was offered to you, O Apostle John, by that Christian who reduced to poverty and not having the means to pay debts which he owed his creditors, fell into despair and was looking for a way of putting an end to his life by a violent death. But you, in your love and compassion for mankind, wishing to save him from temporal and eternal death, by the sign of the Cross turned hay into gold and handed it to the poor man, so that he might pay his debts with that gold and maintain his household, and through you who had shown him this kindness we sing to God:
Alleluia! (People sing Alleluia!)

Ikos 11

Your radiant soul, on reaching maturity and the stature of the perfect man, knew that the time had come for your appointed transition, for the corruptible nature to inherit the promised incorruption and what is

mortal to be clothed with the promised immortality. Thus, you ordered your disciples to bury you alive, but when they came to your grave in the morning and dug it out, they found it empty. Only then they realized that you had accomplished your transition by an unusual human death or falling asleep, and they sang to you:

Rejoice, eagle who renewed your youth, by drawing near to the Sun of the divine glory!

Rejoice, you transcended all the laws of human nature by such a transition!

Rejoice, you took your seat on one of the twelve thrones as your gracious Master promised!

Rejoice, you seated judge and the New Israel of God's people!

Rejoice, you enjoy the vision of the sweetest Jesus on Whose breast you leaned upon before His Passion and Resurrection!

Rejoice, your intercessions obtain all blessings for us from His gracious compassion!

Rejoice, Apostle John, devoted friend of Christ and Theologian!

Kontakion 12

Grace is given by God to the place where your body was committed to the earth, so that on the day of your burial it emitted a fine dust for the healing of the sick, showing by this miracle how God glorified those who love Him, that all who see it may unceasingly cry day and night to Him with heart and soul: **Alleluia! (People sing Alleluia!)**

Ikos 12

While singing of your apostolic labors and the miracles and healings which you have showered upon us and which you continue to lavish upon us by the grace of the Holy Spirit, we praise God Who dwells in you and Who has given us such a leader to guide us on the way of salvation, and Who showed mercy to us in our infirmities. So, accept from us, O Holy Apostle, these praises:

Rejoice, most fervent proclaimer of faith in Christ!

Rejoice, outstanding teacher of Christ's Church!

Rejoice, beginning and foundation of theologians!

Rejoice, revealer of divine Mysteries!

Rejoice, model of virgins and rule of chastity!

Rejoice, speedy helper and protector of the faithful who have recourse to your intercessions!

Rejoice, Apostle John, devoted friend of Christ and Theologian!

Kontakion 13

(To be read three times)

O most glorious and all-praised Apostle and Evangelist, devoted Friend of Christ, beloved John! By your all-powerful intercession with your most gracious Teacher and our Master and Lord, implore for us all temporal and eternal blessings and a Christian end to our life, that with you in the tabernacles of the righteous and with the Angelic choirs, we may chant to the One God in Three Persons: **Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! (People sing Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!)**

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