

AKATHIST TO THE HOLY APOSTLE AND EVANGELIST LUKE



For the defense of orphans, strength when
weak, and those who travel

Kontakion 1

O chosen Apostle, holy Evangelist Luke, who with the net of your preaching drew forth the souls of many men to salvation and led them to Christ! Accept these hymns which are offered to you with love; and as you have boldness before the Lord, free us from all manner of misfortunes that we may cry to you:

Rejoice, O holy Apostle and Evangelist Luke, twofold adornment of the Church of Christ!

Ikos 1

Likening yourself to a winged angel, you soared aloft in the virtues and attained to the depths of the mystery of Heaven; wherefore, we praise you with hymns, crying out to you such things as these:

Rejoice, you traveled from Antioch to Jerusalem and came to know the Messiah!

Rejoice, you converted many to Christ!

Rejoice, divinely inscribed book of mystic treasures!

Rejoice, godly tablet and heavenly mirror!

Rejoice, you showed great zeal in the proclamation of the Gospel of Christ!

Rejoice, you loved the Lord Jesus, most sweet, with all your heart!

Rejoice, O holy Apostle and Evangelist Luke, twofold adornment of the Church of Christ!

Kontakion 2

Beholding the miracles of Christ, O all-glorious Luke, with faith you followed Him Who had revealed Himself in the flesh, and as a lover of His glory you were beloved of Him and was reckoned among the choir of the seventy elect Apostles. Ask that such zeal for the glory of God also be given to us, that with you we may cry out to Christ God:

Alleluia! (People sing Alleluia!)

Ikos 2

Illumining your soul with the understanding of the true knowledge of God, O divinely wise Luke, you followed after our good Teacher and laid up in your heart the wisdom which issued forth from His mouth. Wherefore, bringing forth fruit a hundredfold like good soil, you enlightened the whole world with the preaching of the Gospel, that you might hear from us such things as these:

Rejoice, heaven declaring to us the glory of God!

Rejoice, daystar announcing to us the Sun of righteousness!

Rejoice, cloud bewildering arid hearts with the water of grace!

Rejoice, well-spring giving drink to thirsty souls with a stream of life!

Rejoice, wondrous guide for those seeking salvation!

Rejoice, you divinely move the penitent to understanding!

Rejoice, O holy Apostle and Evangelist Luke, twofold adornment of the Church of Christ!

Kontakion 3

The power of God overshadowed you, O holy Apostle Luke, when you followed after Christ the Lord, traveling with Him through Judaea and Galilee, listening to His divine teachings and pondering on His all-glorious miracles. Wherefore, Christ gave to you, as to His faithful disciple, the power to heal diseases and to expel unclean spirits that glorifying His power, all may chant to Him the hymn of praise: **Alleluia! (People sing Alleluia!)**

Ikos 3

Having grace on your lips, O blessed Luke, with a tongue of fire you proclaimed the honored Gospel to us; and we, receiving it with a compunctionate heart, cry out to you:

Rejoice, you alone recorded for us the Angel's announcement to the All-Pure One!

Rejoice, you made known to us the mystery of the nativity of John the Baptist!

Rejoice, you glorified the tears of the harlot for all the ages!

Rejoice, you revealed to us the loving-kindness of the heavenly Father in the forgiving of the Prodigal Son!

Rejoice, you by the parable of the Publican and the Pharisee magnified humility and denounced pride!

Rejoice, you opened paradise to us through the repentance of the noble thief!

Rejoice, O holy Apostle and Evangelist Luke, twofold adornment of the Church of Christ!

Kontakion 4

The storm of Jewish rage nailed Christ God to the Cross and smote you with great grief. But after His Resurrection the Lord appeared to you when you were traveling to Emmaus with Cleopas; and straightway you recognized your Savior in the breaking of the bread and with heart afire chanted to Him: **Alleluia! (People sing Alleluia!)**

Ikos 4

Having heard of you, the disciple of grace and faithful companion of the Apostle Paul, we praise you as the most excellent recorder and most wise narrator of the Acts of the Apostles of the Savior. Blessing you, we sing:

Rejoice, you beheld the Ascension of the Lord!
Rejoice, you shared in the Holy Spirit's dread descent
in tongues of fire!
Rejoice, you left the Church of Christ an account of
the sufferings of the Protomartyr!
Rejoice, you described God's overtaking of the
persecutor Saul on the road to Damascus!
Rejoice, you related the Apostle Paul's fiery preaching
of love for the Lord to all nations!
Rejoice, you with Paul bore the labors and tribulations
of the apostolic struggles!

**Rejoice, O holy Apostle and Evangelist Luke, twofold
adornment of the Church of Christ!**

Kontakion 5

Chosen as a companion by the divinely traveling Paul, O most blessed Luke, you journeyed through the East and

the West and reached Rome, teaching all nations, tribes and peoples to cry out to Christ God: **Alleluia! (People sing Alleluia!)**

Ikos 5

Seeing the first icon you wrote of the Mother of God and the pre-eternal Infant and mindful of the words of the All-Pure One—"May the grace of Him Who was born of Me, and Mine own grace, be with these icons!"—We kiss them with love and cry out to you:

Rejoice, you confirmed the veneration of icons by the lips of the All-Pure One!

Rejoice, you by this, set iconoclasm to nothing!

Rejoice, you adorned the Orthodox Church with holy icons!

Rejoice, you taught us the art of iconography!

Rejoice, you left us the image of the All-Pure One!

Rejoice, you thereby glorified the Mother of God!

Rejoice, O holy Apostle and Evangelist Luke, twofold adornment of the Church of Christ!

Kontakion 6

You were shown to be a divinely eloquent preacher, O Luke, apostle of Christ; and casting for reason-endowed fish in the deep of ignorance with the net of your glad tidings, you pulled them into the knowledge of God; and offering them to Christ God like goodly food, you taught them to chant to Him: **Alleluia! (People sing Alleluia!)**

Ikos 6

O disciple of the Savior, like a brilliant beacon, you shone forth in heathen lands where having abolished the falsehood of idolatry, you brought those sitting in darkness into the light of life and taught them to believe in the Trinity. And praising your labors, we cry out to you:

Rejoice, you draw the souls of the faithful forth from the abyss of death!

Rejoice, you with showers of divine knowledge water a world dried up by the burning heat of godlessness!

Rejoice, you with divine salt dispel the foul stench of unbelief!

Rejoice, you having drained the cup of wisdom teach us to recognize Christ the Savior!

Rejoice, you in the font of Christ healed the sickness of ungodliness!

Rejoice, for with the brilliant rays of your words you dispelled the darkness of delusion!

Rejoice, O holy Apostle and Evangelist Luke, twofold adornment of the Church of Christ!

Kontakion 7

Desiring to reveal the great mystery of our salvation, which the Holy Spirit revealed to you because of your fiery love for your divine Teacher, you made the precious Gospel like a well-spring of grace for the whole world, so that reading it, men might find salvation for their souls until the end of the world, chanting to the all-wondrous Lord the hymn: **Alleluia! (People sing Alleluia!)**

Ikos 7

Giving yourself over to a new struggle as an Apostle of Christ, you spurned all the joys of this world that you might obtain Christ, O most wondrous Luke. For filled with the Holy Spirit, you worked great wonders: healing the diseases of men, expelling demons, and illumining the whole world with the light of divine dogmas. Wherefore, honoring your labors, with the angels we cry out to you:

Rejoice, you loved Christ more than all else!

Rejoice, you throughout the whole world glorified His name!

Rejoice, you were a witness to the wondrous miracles of Christ!

Rejoice, you lovingly related them to us!

Rejoice, you endured reproach for the sake of the Lord!

Rejoice, you received from Him the power to heal!

Rejoice, O holy Apostle and Evangelist Luke, twofold adornment of the Church of Christ!

Kontakion 8

Looking upon your tireless journeys, we see that traversing Thebes, Libya, Egypt and the Upper Thebaid, you preached Christ everywhere, causing the Christian Church to grow and teaching repentance to all. And having recognized Christ, those enlightened by you chant to Him: **Alleluia! (People sing Alleluia!)**

Ikos 8

All the tribes of the earth praise you, O Apostle Luke, for you were one of the four pillars of the Gospel, whereon Christ founded His Church and established it so that the gates of Hades would not prevail against it. And now all the children of the Christian Church glorify you together crying out:

Rejoice, by your Holy Gospel, you taught us to love the Lord!

Rejoice, you adorned the Christian Church with your words!

Rejoice, you planted the seed of Orthodoxy among us!

Rejoice, you gladdened the Lord with these fruits!

Rejoice, you strengthened us in virtue!

Rejoice, you taught us to endure for Christ!

Rejoice, O holy Apostle and Evangelist Luke, twofold adornment of the Church of Christ!

Kontakion 9

All mortals wait with trembling the dread Second Coming of Christ. And when you also shall sit with the Master on a high throne to judge the whole world, O saint, entreat His goodness that He have mercy on us and not condemn us to everlasting damnation, but that we be vouchsafed to chant to Him with all the saints: **Alleluia!**
(People sing Alleluia!)

Ikos 9

Human orators are at a loss how to hymn your struggles and miracles, O most praised Luke; yet mercifully accept our meager and crudely crafted hymns which are offered as praise to you, that with faith and love we may cry out to you such things as these:

Rejoice, you are praised and glorified from the East even to the West!

Rejoice, you were greatly beloved of the Apostle Paul!

Rejoice, you shared in the labors of Paul!

Rejoice, wondrous receptacle of the mysteries of Christ!

Rejoice, companion of the choirs of the Angels!

Rejoice, you healed the infirmities of men!

Rejoice, O holy Apostle and Evangelist Luke, twofold adornment of the Church of Christ!

Kontakion 10

We have inherited from you the pledge of salvation, the Orthodox Faith, O Luke the Apostle of Christ; wherefore, we beseech you: preserve us your children from all heresies and ecclesial divisions by your prayerful intercession before God and help us to abide unshaken in Orthodoxy to the end of our days, that we may chant to God with faith: **Alleluia! (People sing Alleluia!)**

Ikos 10

You have been set in the habitation of paradise by the King of Heaven, O blessed Luke, that your zeal for the keeping of the law of God might be imparted also to us, His unworthy servants, that we may ready ourselves for the struggles of doing good Christian works and for the confession of our Orthodox Faith. For this we entreat you and cry:

Rejoice, all-radiant star pointing all to the Sun of righteousness!

Rejoice, inextinguishable lamp unceasingly burning in prayer before the throne of the Lord of glory!

Rejoice, beauty of the Church of Christ!

Rejoice, fragrant myrrh pouring forth streams of healing upon us!

Rejoice, you received from Christ the gift of grace of the Holy Spirit!

Rejoice, you received from Him the authority to loose and to bind!

Rejoice, O holy Apostle and Evangelist Luke, twofold adornment of the Church of Christ!

Kontakion 11

Offering hymnody to the All-Holy Trinity on high with all the saints, O all-praised Luke, you bend down to earth to look upon the place of your struggles and journeys and by your supplications, help all who honor your holy memory with faith and who for your sake chant to God the hymn: **Alleluia! (People sing Alleluia!)**

Ikos 11

You have been revealed to the faithful as a light-giving beacon of the three-Sunned Light, O holy Apostle Luke, invisibly illumining us all on the path of our earthly sojourn, that we not fall into the snares of our enemy the devil, but may remain unharmed by all his wiles and that we may with a pure heart be vouchsafed to cry out to you:

Rejoice, good shepherd of the reason-endowed flock of Christ!

Rejoice, you do not permit the soul-destroying wolf to ravage your rational flock!

Rejoice, you in the net of your preaching caught all the ends of the earth!

Rejoice, you by your supplications further our salvation!

Rejoice, fire breathing mouth of the Holy Spirit!

Rejoice, dove of the ark of Noah who brought us the glad tidings of Christ as a branch!

Rejoice, O holy Apostle and Evangelist Luke, twofold adornment of the Church of Christ!

Kontakion 12

Great grace and healing poured forth from your tomb and it imparted cures to the faithful who had recourse to it. And the Emperor Constantius, son of Constantine the Great, learning of your healing relics, transferred your beloved remains to the Imperial City, where a eunuch of the imperial chamber, having received healing, together with others chanted to God: **Alleluia! (People sing Alleluia!)**

Ikos 12

Hymning your pangs and labors, O Apostle of the Savior, we honor your holy and ever-glorious memory which, perfuming us spiritually, delights and gladdens our souls; for the sweat and toils wherein you labored in spreading the glad tidings of Christ were truly shown to be fragrant myrrh in the sight of God. And crafting our praises, we cry out to you with joy:

Rejoice, inexhaustible fountain of the wisdom of God!
Rejoice, all-wise fisher and husbandman of the Savior!

Rejoice, sword cutting down the blasphemies of the heretics!

Rejoice, you plumbed the depths of the mysteries of God!

Rejoice, you will be informed of the Second Coming by the Angels of God!

Rejoice, unashamed mediator before our All-Pure Mistress!

Rejoice, O holy Apostle and Evangelist Luke, twofold adornment of the Church of Christ!

Kontakion 13

(To be read three times)

O holy and most lauded Luke, Apostle and Evangelist of Christ! Accept this, our meager hymn of supplication offered in praise of you, and entreat our Savior the Lord Jesus Christ, that He deliver us from everlasting torment and vouchsafe us the ineffable joy of the saints, that with them we may unceasingly chant to God in three

hypostates: **Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! (People sing Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!)**

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Rejoice, O holy Apostle and Evangelist Luke, twofold adornment of the Church of Christ!

Prayer to the Holy Apostle and Evangelist Luke

O all-holy and most lauded Apostle and Evangelist Luke, earthly angel and heavenly man! With faith and love we fall down before your holy icon and your precious relics and we beseech you with tears: Do not forget us, your children who you have gathered together, and O divinely wise one. Depart from us never, but with your tireless intercessions protect us from the evil wiles of the enemy. Put down the uprising of our passions, and strengthen our weakness amid spiritual warfare and struggles. Dispel from our hearts all despondency and sinful grief, and beseech the Lord to grant us consolation amid our sorrows. Preserve, O divinely wise one, this holy city from all want, from fire and the sword, from deadly contagions and from all evil. Hearken, O merciful Apostle, to everyone who approaches you with faith and implores your gracious aid. Be a defender for orphans, consolation for the sorrowful, a healer for the sick, strengthening for the weak, a guardian for travelers, a pilot for those at sea; and at the dread hour of our death stand before us as one who fends off the dark visages of the demons and strengthens our hope of salvation: that having finished our earthly course in peace and repentance, we may attain to the havens of everlasting joy, that with you we may glorify the most holy name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto the ages of ages. **Amen.**

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