Akathist to the Holy and All-Praised Apostle Philip

November 14

Kontakion 1. Chosen by Christ with the words "Follow Me," you followed Him at once and brought others to Him, O holy Apostle Philip. We who have received the faith through the preaching of the Apostles offer you a song of praise. Pray to the Lord for us, that we may follow Him faithfully and cry to you:

Rejoice, holy Apostle Philip, who brought many to come and see the Lord!

Ikos 1. You were born in Bethsaida of Galilee, the city of Andrew and Peter, and you grew up among the fishermen of the lake, studying the Law and the Prophets and waiting for the Messiah. Seeing how God prepared you, we sing:

Rejoice, son of Bethsaida;
Rejoice, neighbor of Andrew and Peter;
Rejoice, for you knew the Law and the Prophets;
Rejoice, for you waited for the Messiah;
Rejoice, for your heart was ready for the call;
Rejoice, for Galilee was your homeland;
Rejoice, for God prepared you in the hidden years;
Rejoice, flower of Galilee;

Rejoice, holy Apostle Philip, who brought many to come and see the Lord!

Kontakion 2. The day after Andrew met the Lord, Jesus found you and said, "Follow Me." You did not hesitate, but left all and followed Him, singing in your heart: Alleluia!

Ikos 2. You were the first among the Apostles to be called by the Lord's own word, "Follow Me," for He Himself sought you out. Marveling at this calling, we cry out:

Rejoice, for the Lord Himself found you;
Rejoice, for you heard the words, "Follow Me";
Rejoice, for you followed without delay;
Rejoice, for you left all for Christ;
Rejoice, for you recognized the Messiah;
Rejoice, for you rejoiced at His call;
Rejoice, for you became His disciple;
Rejoice, first called by the word "Follow Me";

Rejoice, holy Apostle Philip, who brought many to come and see the Lord!

Kontakion 3. You found Nathanael and said to him, "We have found Him of whom Moses in the Law, and also the Prophets, wrote: Jesus of Nazareth." When he doubted, you answered simply, "Come and see," and he came and believed, singing: Alleluia!

Ikos 3. You did not argue with Nathanael, but invited him to meet the Lord, knowing that Christ Himself would convince him. Learning from you how to bring others to the faith, we sing:

Rejoice, for you brought Nathanael to Christ;
Rejoice, for you said, "Come and see";
Rejoice, for you knew the Law spoke of Him;
Rejoice, for you did not argue but invited;
Rejoice, for Christ Himself convinced your friend;

Rejoice, for Nathanael confessed Him as Son of God;
Rejoice, for you teach us to bring others to Christ;
Rejoice, first missionary to a friend;

Rejoice, holy Apostle Philip, who brought many to come and see the Lord!

Kontakion 4. Before feeding the five thousand, the Lord tested you, asking, "Where shall we buy bread, that these may eat?" You answered that two hundred denarii would not be enough. Then you saw Him feed the multitude with five loaves, and you sang: Alleluia!

Ikos 4. You learned that what is impossible for men is possible for God, and that the Lord who fed the crowds in the wilderness would feed the whole world with the Bread of Life. Seeing this mystery, we cry out:

Rejoice, for the Lord tested your faith;
Rejoice, for you reckoned with human measures;
Rejoice, for you saw the five loaves multiplied;
Rejoice, for you learned that all is possible with God;
Rejoice, for you served the bread to the multitude;
Rejoice, for you gathered the fragments that remained;
Rejoice, for the miracle pointed to the Eucharist;
Rejoice, witness of the Bread of Life;

Rejoice, holy Apostle Philip, who brought many to come and see the Lord!

Kontakion 5. Certain Greeks who had come up to worship at the feast came to you and said, "Sir, we wish to see Jesus." You told Andrew, and together you brought them to the Lord, singing: Alleluia!

Ikos 5. The Greeks came to you, perhaps because of your Greek name, and you became the door through which the nations first approached Christ. Seeing in this the call of the Gentiles, we sing:

Rejoice, for the Greeks came to you;
Rejoice, for they said, "We wish to see Jesus";
Rejoice, for you brought them to the Lord with Andrew;
Rejoice, for you opened the way to the nations;
Rejoice, for your Greek name welcomed the Greeks;
Rejoice, for the Lord spoke then of His glorification;
Rejoice, for the grain of wheat was to bear fruit;
Rejoice, door of the Gentiles to Christ;

Rejoice, holy Apostle Philip, who brought many to come and see the Lord!

Kontakion 6. At the Mystical Supper, you said to the Lord, "Show us the Father, and it is enough for us." He answered, "He who has seen Me has seen the Father." Hearing this revelation of the Holy Trinity, you sang: Alleluia!

Ikos 6. Your question became a gift to the whole Church, for through it the Lord revealed that He and the Father are one, and that whoever sees the Son sees the Father. Thanking God for this teaching, we cry out:

Rejoice, for you asked to see the Father;
Rejoice, for you longed for the vision of God;
Rejoice, for He said, "Who has seen Me has seen the Father";
Rejoice, for you learned that the Son and the Father are one;
Rejoice, for your question became our teaching;
Rejoice, for you were present at the Mystical Supper;
Rejoice, for you heard the promise of the Comforter;
Rejoice, theologian by your question;

Rejoice, holy Apostle Philip, who brought many to come and see the Lord!

Kontakion 7. You saw the risen Lord, you witnessed His Ascension, and on the day of Pentecost you received the Holy Spirit in tongues of fire with the other Apostles. Filled with power from on high, you sang: Alleluia!

Ikos 7. After Pentecost, you went out to preach the Gospel in Asia Minor, and tradition says you labored in many lands with your sister Mariamne and with the Apostle Bartholomew. Rejoicing in your apostolic labors, we sing:

Rejoice, witness of the Resurrection;
Rejoice, witness of the Ascension;
Rejoice, for you received the Holy Spirit at Pentecost;
Rejoice, for you went out to preach the Gospel;
Rejoice, for you labored in Asia Minor;
Rejoice, for your sister Mariamne served with you;
Rejoice, companion of Bartholomew;
Rejoice, herald of Christ to the nations;
Rejoice, holy Apostle Philip, who brought many to come and see the Lord!

Kontakion 8. In Hierapolis of Phrygia, the people worshiped a great serpent, and you prayed to the Lord, and the serpent died. Many of the people believed in Christ, and they sang: Alleluia!

Ikos 8. You healed the sick and cast out demons by the power of Christ, and you converted the wife of the governor of Hierapolis. Many turned from their idols to the living God, and so we cry out:

Rejoice, for the serpent of Hierapolis died at your prayer;
Rejoice, for the people turned from their idols;
Rejoice, for the Lord healed the sick through you;
Rejoice, for demons fled at the name of Jesus;
Rejoice, for the governor's wife believed;
Rejoice, for Hierapolis received the light;
Rejoice, for many were baptized at your word;
Rejoice, enlightener of Phrygia;
Rejoice, holy Apostle Philip, who brought many to come and see the Lord!

Kontakion 9. The pagan priests, enraged, persuaded the governor to seize you and Bartholomew, and they crucified you upside down at Hierapolis. Even on the cross, you prayed for your persecutors, singing: Alleluia!

Ikos 9. As you hung on the cross, the earth shook and many of the pagans were swallowed up, and the people cried out to release you. Bartholomew was taken down, but you asked to finish your course, and you gave your soul to God. Marveling at your love, we sing:

Rejoice, for you were crucified upside down;
Rejoice, for you shared the Cross of your Master;
Rejoice, for you prayed for your persecutors;
Rejoice, for the earth shook at your passion;
Rejoice, for you asked to finish your course;
Rejoice, for Bartholomew was released at your prayer;
Rejoice, for you received the crown of martyrdom;
Rejoice, faithful unto death;
Rejoice, holy Apostle Philip, who brought many to come and see the Lord!

Kontakion 10. Your sister Mariamne and Bartholomew buried your holy body in Hierapolis, and a great church was later built there in your honor. The faithful came to venerate you, singing: Alleluia!

Ikos 10. In our own days, archaeologists have uncovered your church and your tomb at Hierapolis, a witness that the memory of the Apostles endures. Rejoicing in this sign, we cry to you:

Rejoice, for your body rested in Hierapolis;
Rejoice, for a great church was built over your tomb;
Rejoice, for pilgrims came to venerate you;
Rejoice, for your tomb has been found in our days;
Rejoice, for the memory of the Apostles endures;
Rejoice, for the stones cry out your glory;
Rejoice, for Phrygia was made holy by your blood;
Rejoice, glory of Hierapolis;

Rejoice, holy Apostle Philip, who brought many to come and see the Lord!

Kontakion 11. Every hymn falls short of your glory, O holy Apostle Philip, for you are one of the twelve foundations of the heavenly city. Receive our song, offered with love, as we sing to God: Alleluia!

Ikos 11. After your feast, the Churches begin the fast of the Nativity of Christ, and in many lands it is called Philip's Fast. Through your memory, we prepare to meet the Lord who comes in the flesh, and so we sing:

Rejoice, for the Nativity Fast follows your feast;
Rejoice, for it is called Philip's Fast;
Rejoice, for you lead us toward Bethlehem;
Rejoice, for you prepare us to meet the Lord;
Rejoice, for you call us to fasting and prayer;
Rejoice, for you teach us to come and see;
Rejoice, for you open the season of waiting;
Rejoice, herald of the Nativity;

Rejoice, holy Apostle Philip, who brought many to come and see the Lord!

Kontakion 12. The grace of God works through your prayers, and all who seek the Lord find in you a guide who says, "Come and see." Glorifying the Lord who sent you, we sing: Alleluia!

Ikos 12. Singing of your apostleship, we praise Christ, who called you, taught you and sent you into the world. We honor your memory and cry to you:

Rejoice, apostle of Christ;
Rejoice, son of Bethsaida;
Rejoice, friend of Nathanael;
Rejoice, guide of the Greeks;
Rejoice, questioner who saw the Father in the Son;
Rejoice, enlightener of Phrygia;
Rejoice, martyr of Hierapolis;
Rejoice, foundation of the Church;

Rejoice, holy Apostle Philip, who brought many to come and see the Lord!

Kontakion 13. O holy and all-praised Apostle Philip, receive this our offering of praise. Pray to Christ our God that He may strengthen our faith, make us witnesses to our friends and neighbors, and grant us to see the Father in the Son, singing with you forever: Alleluia!

This kontakion is said three times.

Ikos 1 (repeated). You were born in Bethsaida of Galilee, the city of Andrew and Peter, and you grew up among the fishermen of the lake, studying the Law and the Prophets and waiting for the Messiah. Seeing how God prepared you, we sing:

Rejoice, son of Bethsaida;
Rejoice, neighbor of Andrew and Peter;
Rejoice, for you knew the Law and the Prophets;
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Kontakion 1 (repeated). Chosen by Christ with the words "Follow Me," you followed Him at once and brought others to Him, O holy Apostle Philip. We who have received the faith through the preaching of the Apostles offer you a song of praise. Pray to the Lord for us, that we may follow Him faithfully and cry to you:

Rejoice, holy Apostle Philip, who brought many to come and see the Lord!

Prayer

O holy Apostle Philip, you who followed Christ at His first word, who said to your friend, "Come and see," and who asked the Lord to show you the Father, we come to you with faith and ask your prayers.

Pray to Christ our God for all who seek Him, that they may come and see; for missionaries and catechists, that they may bring others to the Lord with simplicity and love; and for all who are entering the Nativity Fast, that He may prepare their hearts to receive Him. Help us, by your example, to follow Christ without delay, to bring our friends to Him, and to trust that what is impossible for men is possible for God.

Through your prayers, may the Lord grant us to behold the Father in the Son and to receive the Holy Spirit, so that with you we may glorify the one God in Trinity, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.