Akathist to Saint Gregory the Decapolite

November 20

Kontakion 1. O chosen ascetic of Christ and confessor of the holy icons, venerable Gregory, you walked through many lands as a pilgrim of God, and the Lord glorified you as a new wonderworker. With love we offer you this hymn of praise; since you have boldness before Christ our God, pray for us who cry to you:

Rejoice, venerable Gregory, new wonderworker and confessor of the holy icons!

Ikos 1. The Lord, who knows His saints before they are born, raised you up in Eirenopolis, a city of the Decapolis in Isauria, at the end of the eighth century. Your parents, Sergius and Maria, gave you to God in their hearts, and your family was rich in monks who loved Christ. Marveling at His Providence, we say to you:

Rejoice, chosen one of God from the Decapolis;
Rejoice, blessed fruit of Sergius and Maria;
Rejoice, for you grew up among lovers of Christ;
Rejoice, for from childhood you loved learning;
Rejoice, for the Lord prepared you for great things;
Rejoice, flower of the land of Isauria;
Rejoice, light of the Decapolis;
Rejoice, beloved of God;

Rejoice, venerable Gregory, new wonderworker and confessor of the holy icons!

Kontakion 2. Seeing that your parents wished to bind you to the cares of this world by marriage, you fled to the mountains, seeking Christ alone. Counseled by a holy bishop who had left his see rather than deny the icons, you embraced the monastic life and sang to God: Alleluia!

Ikos 2. Understanding that the faith of the Fathers was under attack, you would not obey an abbot who favored the enemies of the icons. You rebuked him openly and were beaten for the truth, then went to the community of your uncle Symeon. Honoring your courage, we sing to you:

Rejoice, for you fled the world for the love of Christ;
Rejoice, for you received the monastic habit in your youth;
Rejoice, for you rebuked the error of the iconoclasts;
Rejoice, for you were beaten for the truth;
Rejoice, for you did not fear the powerful;
Rejoice, disciple of your holy uncle Symeon;
Rejoice, for you chose obedience to the faith;
Rejoice, young confessor;

Rejoice, venerable Gregory, new wonderworker and confessor of the holy icons!

Kontakion 3. The power of the Most High strengthened you during fourteen years in the monastery of the Decapolis, and then, with the blessing of your elder, you withdrew to a cave to live in silence. Conversing with God alone, you sang to Him: Alleluia!

Ikos 3. Having found the treasure of stillness, you gave yourself to prayer, to fasting and to the reading of the Scriptures. In your cave, the Lord purified your heart and prepared you for the labors that awaited you. Rejoicing in your solitude, we cry to you:

Rejoice, for you dwelt in a cave in silence;

Rejoice, for you conversed with God alone;
Rejoice, for you purified your heart by prayer;
Rejoice, for you fed your soul on the Scriptures;
Rejoice, for you subdued the flesh by fasting;
Rejoice, for God prepared you in hiddenness;
Rejoice, treasure hidden in the field;
Rejoice, lover of stillness;

Rejoice, venerable Gregory, new wonderworker and confessor of the holy icons!

Kontakion 4. A storm of trials awaited you when a vision called you out of your seclusion to walk among men. Obeying the will of God, you set out as a pilgrim, not knowing where He would lead you, and you sang to Him in faith: Alleluia!

Ikos 4. Hearing the call of God, you went to Ephesus, to the island of Proconnesus and across the Hellespont to Ainos, where you were beaten until you confessed that you venerated the holy icons. In every trial you kept the faith. Admiring your steadfastness, we say to you:

Rejoice, pilgrim of God through many lands;
Rejoice, for you obeyed the call to leave your cave;
Rejoice, for you walked to Ephesus and Proconnesus;
Rejoice, for at Ainos you were beaten for the icons;
Rejoice, for you confessed the truth without fear;
Rejoice, for you bore wounds with joy;
Rejoice, wanderer for the Kingdom;
Rejoice, confessor of Christ;

Rejoice, venerable Gregory, new wonderworker and confessor of the holy icons!

Kontakion 5. Like a star moving across the heavens, you passed through Christoupolis and Thessalonica, to Corinth, and across the sea to Italy. You spent three months in Rome and lived for a time in a tower at Syracuse, and everywhere you sang to God: Alleluia!

Ikos 5. Seeing your poverty, the people of Hydruntum took you for a spy and beat you, yet you endured the injustice in silence until you were set free. Like the Apostles, you knew hunger, danger and blows for the sake of Christ. Learning from your patience, we cry to you:

Rejoice, for you crossed the sea to Italy;
Rejoice, for you prayed in Rome for three months;
Rejoice, for you dwelt in a tower at Syracuse;
Rejoice, for at Hydruntum you bore false accusation;
Rejoice, for you endured blows in silence;
Rejoice, imitator of the labors of Paul;
Rejoice, for no hardship separated you from Christ;
Rejoice, patient one of God;

Rejoice, venerable Gregory, new wonderworker and confessor of the holy icons!

Kontakion 6. The heralds of your holiness spread when you returned to Thessalonica and settled near the church of the holy Martyr Menas. Living in deep poverty, you taught those who came to you, and with them you sang to God: Alleluia!

Ikos 6. A new light shone upon Thessalonica, for disciples gathered around you, among them the young Joseph, later the hymnographer of the Church. You formed him in the life of prayer, and through him your spirit still sings in the services of the Church. Rejoicing in your spiritual children, we sing to you:

Rejoice, for you dwelt near the church of Saint Menas;
Rejoice, for you lived in holy poverty;
Rejoice, teacher of many disciples;
Rejoice, spiritual father of Joseph the Hymnographer;
Rejoice, for through him your spirit sings in the Church;
Rejoice, for you taught by word and by example;
Rejoice, adornment of Thessalonica;
Rejoice, father of saints;

Rejoice, venerable Gregory, new wonderworker and confessor of the holy icons!

Kontakion 7. Wishing that all might come to the knowledge of the truth, you also spoke of the conversion of a Muslim to Christ, and your sermon on this wonder has come down to us. Glorifying the Lord, who draws all people to Himself, you sang: Alleluia!

Ikos 7. As a firm defender of Orthodoxy during the last persecution of the icons under the Emperor Theophilus, you did not bend, and you sent your disciple Joseph with a letter to Rome. Though Joseph was taken captive by pirates, the Lord guarded him. Praising your faithfulness, we cry to you:

Rejoice, for you recorded the wonder of a Muslim's conversion;
Rejoice, for you showed that Christ draws all to Himself;
Rejoice, defender of the holy icons under Theophilus;
Rejoice, for you did not bend before the persecutors;
Rejoice, for you sought the communion of the Churches;
Rejoice, for you entrusted your disciple to God;
Rejoice, pillar of Orthodoxy;
Rejoice, unshaken confessor;

Rejoice, venerable Gregory, new wonderworker and confessor of the holy icons!

Kontakion 8. A strange and wonderful sight it was to see you in your last year, worn by grievous illnesses, yet giving thanks to God in all things. In Constantinople, you visited your uncle Symeon, imprisoned for the icons, and together you sang: Alleluia!

Ikos 8. The whole of your life was a confession of Christ, and in your sickness you showed the same patience you had shown in your wanderings. Your body grew weak, but your spirit was strong in the Lord. Glorifying the God who strengthened you, we say to you:

Rejoice, for you bore grievous illness with patience;
Rejoice, for you gave thanks to God in all things;
Rejoice, for you visited your uncle in prison;
Rejoice, for you comforted the confessors of the faith;
Rejoice, for your spirit was strong in weakness;
Rejoice, for you visited the monks of Mount Olympus;
Rejoice, model for the sick and the suffering;
Rejoice, joy of the confessors;

Rejoice, venerable Gregory, new wonderworker and confessor of the holy icons!

Kontakion 9. All the angelic powers rejoiced when, on the twentieth of November, most probably in the year 842, you reposed in the Lord in Constantinople, in the very year when the holy icons were restored. Your disciples wept, yet you passed to the joy of heaven, singing with the saints: Alleluia!

Ikos 9. The most eloquent orators cannot tell the glory with which Christ received you. You did not see the triumph of Orthodoxy with the eyes of the body, yet you rejoiced in it with the saints. Your disciple Joseph laid your body to rest with honor. Honoring your blessed repose, we cry:

Rejoice, for you finished your course in faith;
Rejoice, for you reposed in the year of the icons' triumph;
Rejoice, for the angels received your soul;
Rejoice, for you rejoice with the saints in heaven;
Rejoice, for your disciple laid you to rest with honor;
Rejoice, for your body rested near Saint John Chrysostom;
Rejoice, for you behold the face of Christ;
Rejoice, heir of the Kingdom;

Rejoice, venerable Gregory, new wonderworker and confessor of the holy icons!

Kontakion 10. Wishing to glorify His servant, the Lord made your relics a source of wonders, so that the Church honors you as a new wonderworker. Seeing the grace that flows from your holy body, the faithful sang: Alleluia!

Ikos 10. You are a wall of prayer for the people of Wallachia, for after many wanderings your relics were placed in the Bistrița Monastery in the year 1498, where they remain to this day. Pilgrims come there with faith and receive help from God. Rejoicing in His mercy, we say to you:

Rejoice, new wonderworker of the Church;
Rejoice, for your relics are a source of wonders;
Rejoice, for your body found rest at Bistrița;
Rejoice, treasure of the land of Wallachia;
Rejoice, for pilgrims come to your relics with faith;
Rejoice, for through your prayers the sick are healed;
Rejoice, joy of the Romanian faithful;
Rejoice, wonderworker of Christ;

Rejoice, venerable Gregory, new wonderworker and confessor of the holy icons!

Kontakion 11. A hymn of thanksgiving rises from all who have received God's mercy through your prayers, from the Danube to the ends of the earth. Glorifying the Lord, who is wondrous in His saints, they sing to Him with joy: Alleluia!

Ikos 11. A light shining in darkness, you remain for us a witness that the truth of Christ is worth every suffering. You wandered, you were beaten and accused, yet you kept the faith and the holy icons. Seeing your faithfulness, we cry to you:

Rejoice, witness that the truth is worth all suffering;
Rejoice, for you kept the faith in every land;
Rejoice, for you honored the image of Christ;
Rejoice, for you saw Christ in every person;
Rejoice, friend of pilgrims and of strangers;
Rejoice, for you pray for those who wander;
Rejoice, for you pray for those falsely accused;
Rejoice, consolation of the persecuted;

Rejoice, venerable Gregory, new wonderworker and confessor of the holy icons!

Kontakion 12. Grace was given to you by God to be an intercessor for all who ask your prayers with faith: pilgrims and travelers, the sick and the persecuted. Through your prayers, the Lord works wonders even now, and we, receiving His mercy, sing to Him: Alleluia!

Ikos 12. Singing of your labors and your wonders, we praise God who is wondrous in His saints. You were a monk, a pilgrim, a confessor, a teacher and a wonderworker, and now you stand before the throne of Christ. Asking your prayers, we cry to you with love:

Rejoice, for you pray for pilgrims and travelers;
Rejoice, for you pray for the sick and the suffering;
Rejoice, model for monks and confessors;
Rejoice, for you teach us to honor the holy icons;
Rejoice, for you pray for the Church in every land;
Rejoice, for you stand before the throne of Christ;
Rejoice, glory of the venerable fathers;
Rejoice, our intercessor;

Rejoice, venerable Gregory, new wonderworker and confessor of the holy icons!

Kontakion 13. O venerable and wonderworking father Gregory, confessor of the holy icons and pilgrim of Christ, accept this small hymn which we offer you with love. Pray to Christ our God, that He may grant us steadfast faith, patience in trials and love for the image of God in every person, and that He may save our souls, so that with you we may sing to Him forever: Alleluia!

This kontakion is said three times.

Ikos 1 (repeated). The Lord, who knows His saints before they are born, raised you up in Eirenopolis, a city of the Decapolis in Isauria, at the end of the eighth century. Your parents, Sergius and Maria, gave you to God in their hearts, and your family was rich in monks who loved Christ. Marveling at His Providence, we say to you:

Rejoice, chosen one of God from the Decapolis;
Rejoice, blessed fruit of Sergius and Maria;
Rejoice, for you grew up among lovers of Christ;
Rejoice, for from childhood you loved learning;
Rejoice, for the Lord prepared you for great things;
Rejoice, flower of the land of Isauria;
Rejoice, light of the Decapolis;
Rejoice, beloved of God;

Rejoice, venerable Gregory, new wonderworker and confessor of the holy icons!

Kontakion 1 (repeated). O chosen ascetic of Christ and confessor of the holy icons, venerable Gregory, you walked through many lands as a pilgrim of God, and the Lord glorified you as a new wonderworker. With love we offer you this hymn of praise; since you have boldness before Christ our God, pray for us who cry to you:

Rejoice, venerable Gregory, new wonderworker and confessor of the holy icons!

Prayer

O venerable father Gregory, faithful servant of Christ, you left your home and family for the love of God, you confessed the holy icons under persecution, you wandered through many lands in poverty, and you

bore blows, false accusations and grievous illness with patience. Look with love upon us who honor your memory, and pray to Christ our God for us.

Pray that the Lord may grant us firmness in the Orthodox faith, patience in suffering and trust in His Providence on every road of life. Pray for pilgrims and travelers, for those falsely accused, for the sick, and for all who suffer for the truth. Pray for the faithful of Romania who honor your relics, and for all the Churches.

Help us, by your example, to honor the image of God in every person, to keep the faith when it is costly, and to give thanks in every circumstance. By your prayers, may we be found worthy to stand with you before the throne of Christ, glorifying the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.