Akathist to Saint Gregory the Wonderworker, Bishop of Neocaesarea

November 17

Kontakion 1. Chosen by God to bring the light of the Gospel to the land of Pontus, O holy Gregory, you received the Creed of the true faith from heaven and confirmed it with mighty signs. Accept our song of praise, and pray to Christ for us, that we may hold fast to the true faith and cry to you:

Rejoice, holy Hierarch Gregory, wonderworker of Neocaesarea!

Ikos 1. You were born around 213 in Neocaesarea of Pontus, to a noble pagan family, and you were named Theodore. Your father died when you were fourteen, and you began to seek the truth, sensing that the gods of your fathers were empty. Seeing grace at work in a seeker, we sing:

Rejoice, child of Neocaesarea;
Rejoice, son of a noble family;
Rejoice, for you were born among pagans;
Rejoice, for you lost your father in youth;
Rejoice, for you sought the truth;
Rejoice, for you sensed the emptiness of idols;
Rejoice, for God was drawing you to Himself;
Rejoice, flower of Pontus;

Rejoice, holy Hierarch Gregory, wonderworker of Neocaesarea!

Kontakion 2. You traveled with your brother Athenodorus to study law at Berytus, but the providence of God led you instead to Caesarea of Palestine, where the great teacher Origen was teaching. Meeting him, you sang to God: Alleluia!

Ikos 2. For five years, you studied philosophy and the Scriptures with Origen, who led you step by step from the wisdom of the Greeks to the knowledge of Christ. You were baptized, and in gratitude you wrote a panegyric in honor of your teacher. Rejoicing in your conversion, we cry out:

Rejoice, for God led you to Caesarea;
Rejoice, disciple of Origen;
Rejoice, for you studied philosophy and the Scriptures;
Rejoice, for you passed from the Greeks to Christ;
Rejoice, for you were baptized into the faith;
Rejoice, for you thanked your teacher with a panegyric;
Rejoice, for you loved the truth above all;
Rejoice, seeker who found Christ;

Rejoice, holy Hierarch Gregory, wonderworker of Neocaesarea!

Kontakion 3. Returning to your homeland, you withdrew to the wilderness to live in prayer and fasting. When Bishop Phaedimus of Amasea wished to consecrate you bishop of Neocaesarea, you hid from him, but he consecrated you in your absence, and you accepted, singing: Alleluia!

Ikos 3. When you came to Neocaesarea, you found only seventeen Christians in the whole city, and you set out to bring the rest to Christ. Seeing your apostolic zeal, we sing:

Rejoice, for you loved the solitude of the wilderness;
Rejoice, for you fled the honor of the episcopate;

Rejoice, for you were consecrated bishop of your city;
Rejoice, for you accepted the burden with humility;
Rejoice, for you found seventeen Christians;
Rejoice, for you set out to win the rest;
Rejoice, for your zeal was the zeal of an apostle;
Rejoice, shepherd of Neocaesarea;

Rejoice, holy Hierarch Gregory, wonderworker of Neocaesarea!

Kontakion 4. Before you began to preach, you prayed that God would reveal to you the true faith. In the night, the Theotokos appeared with the Apostle John the Theologian, who at her word gave you the Creed of the Holy Trinity. You wrote it down and sang to God: Alleluia!

Ikos 4. Your Creed confessed one God, Father of the living Word, one Lord from the Father, one Holy Spirit, a perfect Trinity, undivided in glory and eternity. St Gregory of Nyssa tells that the original was kept in the church of Neocaesarea. Marveling at this gift, we cry out:

Rejoice, for you prayed to know the truth;
Rejoice, for the Theotokos appeared to you;
Rejoice, for John the Theologian gave you the Creed;
Rejoice, for you confessed the perfect Trinity;
Rejoice, for your Creed preceded Nicaea;
Rejoice, for it was kept in your church;
Rejoice, for Gregory of Nyssa wrote your life;
Rejoice, confessor of the Holy Trinity;

Rejoice, holy Hierarch Gregory, wonderworker of Neocaesarea!

Kontakion 5. On your way to Neocaesarea, you stayed in a pagan temple where demons gave oracles, and by your prayer and the sign of the Cross the demons fled. The priest of the temple, seeing the power of Christ, believed and sang: Alleluia!

Ikos 5. The temple priest asked you for a sign, and at your word a great stone moved from its place, and he left his idols and followed you, becoming a deacon of the Church. Glorifying God, we sing:

Rejoice, for demons fled at your prayer;
Rejoice, for the oracle of the temple fell silent;
Rejoice, for the sign of the Cross drove out the darkness;
Rejoice, for a great stone moved at your word;
Rejoice, for the pagan priest believed;
Rejoice, for he became a deacon;
Rejoice, for Christ conquered the idols;
Rejoice, wonderworker by the power of God;

Rejoice, holy Hierarch Gregory, wonderworker of Neocaesarea!

Kontakion 6. Two brothers quarreled over a lake that they had inherited, and they were about to go to war. You prayed through the night beside the lake, and in the morning it was dried up, so that there was nothing left to fight for. Peace returned, and they sang: Alleluia!

Ikos 6. The river Lycus often flooded the land and destroyed the fields of the poor. You planted your staff on the bank and prayed, and the river never passed that place again, and the staff grew into a great tree. Marveling at God's power, we cry out:

Rejoice, for you made peace between brothers;
Rejoice, for the lake was dried up at your prayer;

Rejoice, for war was turned into peace;
Rejoice, for the river Lycus was stopped;
Rejoice, for your staff became a tree;
Rejoice, for the fields of the poor were saved;
Rejoice, for creation obeyed the word of God;
Rejoice, new Moses of Pontus;

Rejoice, holy Hierarch Gregory, wonderworker of Neocaesarea!

Kontakion 7. During the persecution of Decius in 250, you counseled your flock to flee rather than deny Christ, and you yourself withdrew to the mountains with a deacon. When soldiers searched for you, they saw only two trees, and you were hidden by God, singing: Alleluia!

Ikos 7. After the persecution, you returned and established feasts in honor of the martyrs, so that the people might rejoice in the victory of those who had died for Christ. Rejoicing in your pastoral wisdom, we sing:

Rejoice, for you counseled your flock in persecution;
Rejoice, for you withdrew to the mountains;
Rejoice, for God hid you from the soldiers;
Rejoice, for you appeared to them as a tree;
Rejoice, for you returned to your flock;
Rejoice, for you established feasts for the martyrs;
Rejoice, for you turned grief into joy;
Rejoice, wise shepherd;

Rejoice, holy Hierarch Gregory, wonderworker of Neocaesarea!

Kontakion 8. When the Goths invaded Pontus, some Christians fell into sin in the confusion. You wrote a Canonical Epistle, setting out the penances for each sin with justice and mercy, and the Church received it among her holy canons, singing: Alleluia!

Ikos 8. You took part in the council at Antioch against the heresy of Paul of Samosata, who denied the divinity of Christ. Seeing your zeal for the truth, we cry out:

Rejoice, for you wrote the Canonical Epistle;
Rejoice, for you joined justice to mercy;
Rejoice, for your canons guide the Church;
Rejoice, for you healed the fallen with penance;
Rejoice, for you opposed Paul of Samosata;
Rejoice, for you defended the divinity of Christ;
Rejoice, for you stood with the bishops in council;
Rejoice, pillar of the faith;

Rejoice, holy Hierarch Gregory, wonderworker of Neocaesarea!

Kontakion 9. When you were near death, around 270, you asked how many pagans remained in the city. They told you seventeen, and you thanked God, for you had found seventeen Christians and left seventeen pagans. You gave your soul to God singing: Alleluia!

Ikos 9. You asked to be buried not in a tomb of your own, but in the common burial ground, for you had owned nothing in life and wished to own nothing in death. Marveling at your humility, we sing:

Rejoice, for you found seventeen Christians;
Rejoice, for you left seventeen pagans;
Rejoice, for you gave thanks at the end;
Rejoice, for you reposed in peace;

Rejoice, for you owned nothing in life;
Rejoice, for you asked for a common grave;
Rejoice, for your humility was complete;
Rejoice, blessed end of a holy life;

Rejoice, holy Hierarch Gregory, wonderworker of Neocaesarea!

Kontakion 10. The holy Cappadocian Fathers honored you as a father of their faith, for St Macrina the Elder, the grandmother of Basil and Gregory of Nyssa, had learned the faith from your teaching. With them, the faithful sang: Alleluia!

Ikos 10. Through Macrina, your teaching passed to Basil the Great and Gregory of Nyssa, and so the faith of the Cappadocians was nourished by your Creed. Rejoicing in this inheritance, we cry to you:

Rejoice, father of the Cappadocian faith;
Rejoice, for Macrina the Elder learned from you;
Rejoice, for your teaching reached Basil the Great;
Rejoice, for Gregory of Nyssa wrote your praise;
Rejoice, for your Creed nourished the Fathers;
Rejoice, for you prepared the way for Nicaea;
Rejoice, for your faith is our faith;
Rejoice, root of a holy tree;

Rejoice, holy Hierarch Gregory, wonderworker of Neocaesarea!

Kontakion 11. Every hymn falls short of your wonders, O holy Gregory, for you are called the Wonderworker above all others. Receive our song, offered with love, as we sing to God: Alleluia!

Ikos 11. You are a light for all who seek the truth, for all who teach the faith, and for all who make peace, for you showed that wonders serve the Gospel and lead to Christ. Calling on your prayers, we sing:

Rejoice, guide of those who seek the truth;
Rejoice, model of catechists;
Rejoice, patron of peacemakers;
Rejoice, for wonders served the Gospel;
Rejoice, for you led many to Christ;
Rejoice, for you were humble in great gifts;
Rejoice, for you comfort those in danger;
Rejoice, joy of the faithful;

Rejoice, holy Hierarch Gregory, wonderworker of Neocaesarea!

Kontakion 12. The grace of God works through your prayers, and those who call on you in their needs find help from the Lord. Glorifying God, who is wondrous in His saints, we sing: Alleluia!

Ikos 12. Singing of your wonders, we praise Christ, who made you a teacher, a shepherd and a wonderworker. We honor your memory and cry to you:

Rejoice, disciple of Origen;
Rejoice, receiver of the Creed;
Rejoice, bishop of Neocaesarea;
Rejoice, wonderworker of Pontus;
Rejoice, maker of peace;
Rejoice, writer of the canons;
Rejoice, father of the Cappadocians;
Rejoice, light of the Church;

Rejoice, holy Hierarch Gregory, wonderworker of Neocaesarea!

Kontakion 13. O holy hierarch Gregory, wonderworker of Neocaesarea, receive this our hymn of praise. Pray to Christ our God that He may establish us in the true faith, give peace to our families and our lands, and grant us to stand with you in His Kingdom, singing: Alleluia!

This kontakion is said three times.

Ikos 1 (repeated). You were born around 213 in Neocaesarea of Pontus, to a noble pagan family, and you were named Theodore. Your father died when you were fourteen, and you began to seek the truth, sensing that the gods of your fathers were empty. Seeing grace at work in a seeker, we sing:

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Rejoice, flower of Pontus;

Rejoice, holy Hierarch Gregory, wonderworker of Neocaesarea!

Kontakion 1 (repeated). Chosen by God to bring the light of the Gospel to the land of Pontus, O holy Gregory, you received the Creed of the true faith from heaven and confirmed it with mighty signs. Accept our song of praise, and pray to Christ for us, that we may hold fast to the true faith and cry to you:

Rejoice, holy Hierarch Gregory, wonderworker of Neocaesarea!

Prayer

O holy hierarch Gregory, you who sought the truth and found Christ, who received the Creed of the Holy Trinity from heaven, and who brought a whole city to the faith, we come to you with faith and ask your prayers.

Pray to Christ our God for all who seek the truth, that He may lead them to Himself; for catechists and teachers, that He may give them clarity and love; and for families and peoples divided by quarrels, that He may give them peace. Help us, by your example, to hold fast to the faith of the Holy Trinity, to bear persecution with wisdom, and to own nothing that keeps us from God.

Through your prayers, may the Lord grant us a peaceful end and a good defense at His judgment, so that with you we may glorify the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.