Akathist to Saint Nektarios of Aegina, Metropolitan of Pentapolis

November 9

Kontakion 1. Chosen by God in our own age to shine as a lamp of humility, gentleness and prayer, O holy Nektarios, you became a living icon of Christ the meek. Accept our song of praise, and pray to the Lord for us, that we may learn from your patience and cry to you:

Rejoice, holy Hierarch Nektarios, wonderworker of Aegina!

Ikos 1. You were born in 1846 in Selymbria of Thrace, to poor and pious parents, and at holy baptism you were named Anastasios. Your grandmother taught you the psalms, and as a child you loved to repeat, "My soul magnifies the Lord." Seeing the seed of holiness in a humble home, we sing:

Rejoice, blessed child of Selymbria;
Rejoice, fruit of a poor and pious family;
Rejoice, for you loved the house of God from childhood;
Rejoice, for your grandmother taught you to pray;
Rejoice, for you learned the psalms by heart;
Rejoice, for your name foretold the Resurrection;
Rejoice, for God prepared you in humility;
Rejoice, flower of Thrace;

Rejoice, holy Hierarch Nektarios, wonderworker of Aegina!

Kontakion 2. At fourteen, you went to Constantinople to work and to study, and you labored in a tobacco shop. You wrote sayings of the Fathers on the wrappers of the tobacco, so that those who bought it might find a word of life, and you sang to God: Alleluia!

Ikos 2. In your poverty, when your clothes were worn and you had no shoes, you wrote a letter to Christ asking for help, and the Lord sent it to the hands of a merchant who supplied your need. Marveling at the simplicity of your faith, we cry out:

Rejoice, for you labored and studied without complaint;
Rejoice, for you sowed the words of the Fathers on paper;
Rejoice, for you wrote a letter to Christ in your need;
Rejoice, for the Lord answered your childlike faith;
Rejoice, for poverty did not quench your hope;
Rejoice, for you trusted in the providence of God;
Rejoice, example for the young who struggle;
Rejoice, patient worker;

Rejoice, holy Hierarch Nektarios, wonderworker of Aegina!

Kontakion 3. On the island of Chios, you taught children in the village of Lithi and spoke to them of God. Desiring the monastic life, you were tonsured at the Nea Moni monastery in 1876 with the name Lazarus, and then ordained deacon with the name Nektarios, singing: Alleluia!

Ikos 3. Your thirst for knowledge led you to study theology in Athens, with the help of benefactors who saw your gifts. You learned not for your own glory, but to serve the Church and to bring the light of Christ to others, and so we sing:

Rejoice, teacher of the children of Lithi;

Rejoice, monk of the Nea Moni of Chios;
Rejoice, for you were named Lazarus and then Nektarios;
Rejoice, student of theology in Athens;
Rejoice, for you sought wisdom for the service of God;
Rejoice, for your learning was joined to humility;
Rejoice, for your name means the nectar of immortality;
Rejoice, lover of divine wisdom;

Rejoice, holy Hierarch Nektarios, wonderworker of Aegina!

Kontakion 4. Patriarch Sophronius of Alexandria received you with love, ordained you priest and then, in 1889, consecrated you Metropolitan of Pentapolis in Libya. Though raised to great honor, you remained poor and gentle, singing to the Lord: Alleluia!

Ikos 4. Your humility and your love for the people awakened the envy of some in Alexandria, who slandered you before the patriarch. Without a trial, you were removed from your office and sent away with nothing, yet you did not defend yourself. Wondering at your silence, we cry to you:

Rejoice, metropolitan of Pentapolis;
Rejoice, for you remained poor in high office;
Rejoice, for you endured slander without bitterness;
Rejoice, for you did not defend yourself;
Rejoice, for you imitated Christ before His accusers;
Rejoice, for you forgave those who wronged you;
Rejoice, for the Lord saw your innocence;
Rejoice, meek hierarch;

Rejoice, holy Hierarch Nektarios, wonderworker of Aegina!

Kontakion 5. You came to Greece as a stranger, with no home and no income, and for a time you suffered hunger. Yet you did not complain, but gave thanks to God in all things, singing: Alleluia!

Ikos 5. You served as a humble preacher in Euboea and in Lamia, a bishop content to preach as a simple priest. The people were moved by your words and your holiness, and they asked who this gentle preacher could be. Learning the truth, we sing:

Rejoice, for you accepted poverty with thanksgiving;
Rejoice, bishop who served as a simple preacher;
Rejoice, for you preached in Euboea and Lamia;
Rejoice, for your words touched the hearts of the people;
Rejoice, for your holiness could not be hidden;
Rejoice, for you bore your cross in silence;
Rejoice, for the Lord raised the humble one;
Rejoice, wandering preacher of Christ;

Rejoice, holy Hierarch Nektarios, wonderworker of Aegina!

Kontakion 6. In 1894, you were appointed director of the Rizarios Ecclesiastical School in Athens, and there you formed many priests for the Church. You taught them more by your life than by your words, and they sang with you: Alleluia!

Ikos 6. When the cleaner of the school fell ill, you secretly took his place and cleaned the lavatories at night, so that he would not lose his wages. When this was discovered, all marveled at the humility of their director, and we cry out:

Rejoice, director of the Rizarios School;

Rejoice, father of future priests;
Rejoice, for you taught by the example of your life;
Rejoice, for you secretly did the work of a servant;
Rejoice, for you washed the feet of the least;
Rejoice, for your humility astonished all;
Rejoice, for you wrote books for the instruction of the faithful;
Rejoice, servant of servants;

Rejoice, holy Hierarch Nektarios, wonderworker of Aegina!

Kontakion 7. You composed many hymns and books, among them the hymn "O Pure Virgin," which the Churches still sing to the Theotokos. In your love for her, you sang to her Son: Alleluia!

Ikos 7. In 1904, you founded the monastery of the Holy Trinity on the island of Aegina, and you gathered there a community of nuns. You restored the ruined buildings with your own hands and taught the sisters the way of prayer, and so we cry to you:

Rejoice, founder of the Holy Trinity on Aegina;
Rejoice, father of the nuns of your monastery;
Rejoice, for you rebuilt the ruins with your own hands;
Rejoice, for you taught the sisters to pray;
Rejoice, for you wrote "O Pure Virgin" to the Theotokos;
Rejoice, for you loved the services of the Church;
Rejoice, for Aegina became a haven of prayer;
Rejoice, spiritual father;

Rejoice, holy Hierarch Nektarios, wonderworker of Aegina!

Kontakion 8. In your monastery, you lived as the least of all, working in the garden, receiving visitors and praying through the night. Even there, slander followed you, yet you bore it with patience and sang to God: Alleluia!

Ikos 8. The Lord worked wonders through your prayers even during your life: rain fell on the parched island at your prayer, and the sick who came to you found healing. Giving glory to God, who works through His saints, we sing:

Rejoice, for rain fell on Aegina at your prayer;
Rejoice, for the sick found healing through your intercession;
Rejoice, for you prayed through the night;
Rejoice, for you labored in the garden like a servant;
Rejoice, for you received all with love;
Rejoice, for you bore new slanders with patience;
Rejoice, for God revealed His power in your weakness;
Rejoice, man of prayer;

Rejoice, holy Hierarch Nektarios, wonderworker of Aegina!

Kontakion 9. In your last illness, you were taken to the Aretaieion hospital in Athens and placed in the ward for the poor. On November 9, 1920, you gave your soul to God, saying, "Lord, have mercy." The angels received you with joy, singing: Alleluia!

Ikos 9. As soon as you had reposed, the nurses placed your undershirt on the bed of a paralyzed man nearby, and he rose up healed. Seeing God's power at your death, we cry out:

Rejoice, for you died among the poor;
Rejoice, for you suffered your illness with patience;

Rejoice, for your last words were a prayer for mercy;
Rejoice, for a paralytic was healed at your death;
Rejoice, for the Lord glorified you at once;
Rejoice, for you went to Christ in poverty;
Rejoice, for the angels received your soul;
Rejoice, joy of the sick;

Rejoice, holy Hierarch Nektarios, wonderworker of Aegina!

Kontakion 10. Your body was taken to Aegina and buried in your monastery, and for many years it remained incorrupt and fragrant. The faithful came from every place to venerate you, and they sang to God: Alleluia!

Ikos 10. In 1961, the Ecumenical Patriarchate glorified you among the saints, and your relics became a source of healing for countless people suffering from cancer and every illness. Thanking God for His mercy, we sing:

Rejoice, for your body remained incorrupt;
Rejoice, for your tomb gave off a sweet fragrance;
Rejoice, for you were glorified among the saints;
Rejoice, for the sick find comfort at your relics;
Rejoice, for those suffering from cancer ask your prayers;
Rejoice, for Aegina is a place of pilgrimage;
Rejoice, for your love reaches every land;
Rejoice, consolation of the suffering;

Rejoice, holy Hierarch Nektarios, wonderworker of Aegina!

Kontakion 11. Every hymn fails to praise your humility, O holy Nektarios, for you sought no praise in your life. Accept our song, and pray that we may become humble like you, singing: Alleluia!

Ikos 11. You were a light in the darkness of envy and slander, showing us that the way of Christ is the way of the Cross, and that the meek will inherit the earth. Learning from you, we cry out:

Rejoice, for you endured injustice without hatred;
Rejoice, for your meekness conquered envy;
Rejoice, for you teach us to bear slander;
Rejoice, for you show us the beauty of humility;
Rejoice, for you prayed for your enemies;
Rejoice, for you trusted in God's justice;
Rejoice, for your patience is a lesson for us;
Rejoice, image of Christ the meek;

Rejoice, holy Hierarch Nektarios, wonderworker of Aegina!

Kontakion 12. The grace of God flows abundantly through your prayers, for many in our own days have been healed and comforted. They tell of you appearing as a kind old bishop, bringing consolation, and they glorify God, singing: Alleluia!

Ikos 12. Singing of your miracles, we praise Christ, who glorifies those who glorify Him. We honor your life, your writings and your love, and we cry to you with joy:

Rejoice, saint of our own age;
Rejoice, wonderworker of Aegina;
Rejoice, metropolitan of Pentapolis;
Rejoice, for you are near to all who call on you;
Rejoice, for your prayers bring comfort to the sick;
Rejoice, for your humility shines throughout the world;

Rejoice, for you lead us to Christ;
Rejoice, joy of the Orthodox;

Rejoice, holy Hierarch Nektarios, wonderworker of Aegina!

Kontakion 13. O holy and wonderworking hierarch Nektarios, receive this our hymn of praise. Pray to Christ our God that He may heal our souls and bodies, comfort us in our trials, give us patience under injustice and humility in all things, so that we may sing with you forever: Alleluia!

This kontakion is said three times.

Ikos 1 (repeated). You were born in 1846 in Selymbria of Thrace, to poor and pious parents, and at holy baptism you were named Anastasios. Your grandmother taught you the psalms, and as a child you loved to repeat, "My soul magnifies the Lord." Seeing the seed of holiness in a humble home, we sing:

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Rejoice, flower of Thrace;

Rejoice, holy Hierarch Nektarios, wonderworker of Aegina!

Kontakion 1 (repeated). Chosen by God in our own age to shine as a lamp of humility, gentleness and prayer, O holy Nektarios, you became a living icon of Christ the meek. Accept our song of praise, and pray to the Lord for us, that we may learn from your patience and cry to you:

Rejoice, holy Hierarch Nektarios, wonderworker of Aegina!

Prayer

O holy hierarch Nektarios, you who endured poverty, slander and injustice with the meekness of Christ, and whom the Lord glorified with the gift of healing, we sinners come to you in our weakness and ask your prayers.

Pray to Christ our God for the sick and the suffering, especially for those who suffer from cancer and from incurable illness, that the Lord may heal them according to His will and give them patience and hope. Pray for the falsely accused, that God may vindicate them and keep them from bitterness. Help us, by your example, to bear wrongs without hatred, to serve others in secret, and to find our joy in prayer and in the services of the Church.

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