

Akathist to the Pochaev Icon of the Theotokos



Kontakion 1

Having gathered together on her holy mountain of Pochaev, O believers, let us offer up songs of praise to the chosen battle leader of Christians. O Mistress Theotokos, do not disdain our supplications addressed before thy miraculous image, as dost possess ineffable kindheartedness. Therefore, in compunction of heart, we call out to thee: Rejoice, O great pleasure of Pochaev, the hope and comfort of the whole world!"

Oikos I The Archangel Gabriel has offered thee the first "Rejoice", a Mistress, when he proclaimed the good news of the conception of the Son of God. In consequence of thine all-glorious Dormition, all the powers of heaven forever offer the same praise to thee in heaven. How, then, can we sinners dare to blend our voices with those of the incorporeals? Nonetheless, being mindful that thy kindheartedness is for all those who are penitent, we open our mouths with awe and love and say:

Rejoice, O gulf of mercies!

Rejoice, O inexhaustible sea of love!

Rejoice, O Gracious Champion of the Christian people!

Rejoice, O unassailable wall of the cloister at Pochaev!

Rejoice, for thou hast drawn together the people of Rus' on the mountain at Pochaev as members in thy love!

Rejoice, for thou hast driven off every grief from their souls!

Rejoice, O thou whose miraculous image leads us onward like a star from the mountain at Pochaev!

Rejoice, for those who offer up prayers to thee are swiftly rescued from attacks of passions!

Rejoice, for thou hast comforted the people by thine appearance on the mountain!

Rejoice, for thou hast left the imprint of thy footstep upon it!

Rejoice, O everlasting daring for the faithful!

Rejoice, O foundation for good to those who are confused!

Rejoice, O Great Pleasure of Pochaev, the hope and comfort of the whole world!

Kontakion II: The wilderness-dwellers at Pochaev and the barefoot John the Simple beheld the most holy Mother of God appear as a fiery column on the rock. They kissed the imprint of her foot on the stone and they sprinkled themselves with the water, which flows at that place as they cried to God: Alleluia!

People: Alleluia! (x 3)

Oikos II: Although we do not understand the reason for thine appearance, O Mistress, we are, nevertheless, made steadfast in our hopefulness through such things. Thou hast been benevolent to preserve the stronghold of Orthodox upon the mountain at Pochaev, first against the Hagarenes and then against the heretics. Therefore, as we enter into the holy temple with hearts filled with the fervor of faith, we declare:

Rejoice, O confirmation of the True Faith!

Rejoice, O clear unmasking of impiety!

Rejoice, O thou who of old hast heralded thyself in the
Unburning Bush at Sinai!

Rejoice, O thou who hast appeared to the Christians here in a
pillar of fire!

Rejoice, for the sons of Abraham in the fiery furnace have
proclaimed thee beforehand as the dove of salvation!

Rejoice, for through the water, which flows from the imprint of
thy foot, the Grace of healings has been preached forth!

Rejoice, for thou didn't comfort the land of Rus' by appearing
against the destructive Hagarenes!

Rejoice, for now thou dost invigorate those who pray here with
many signs!

Rejoice, O speedy audience for the penitent!

Rejoice, O help and refuge for those who struggle!

Rejoice, O understanding even for the ignorant!

Rejoice, O fortification for those who are "small in spirit"!

Rejoice, O Great Pleasure of Pochaev, the hope and comfort of
the whole world!

Kontakion III: Thou didst reveal the intense power of thy Grace upon
the mountain at Pochaev, O Mistress. After three hundred years thou
didst enrich the place of thine appearance with thy miraculous Icon
which came from Moscow by the hands of the hierarch Neophytus the
Greek. At first it had been given to the noblewoman Anna, and then
the cloister at Pochaev accepted it from her. Therefore, the people are
gladdened and cry out: Alleluia!

People: Alleluia! (x 3)

Oikos III: The Icon was at the home of the noblewoman Anna when it's healing was discovered through Anna's brother Philip who had been blind from birth. They were both kindled with a spirit of zeal for thy glory and built a cloister of stone for the wilderness dwellers at Pochaev in the name of thy most precious Dormition. Thus, we bow in worship before your holy and miraculous image and exclaim:

Rejoice, O thou who hast endowed us with a rich treasure in thy holy Icon!

Rejoice, for through thine image, given by the hand of the hierarch, thou hast sanctified the land of Rus'!

Rejoice, for thou hast converted our souls from the riches of the world!

Rejoice, for thou hast taught us to sing to the glory of God!

Rejoice, for beholding thy miracles, our hearts are enraptured to the heavens!

Rejoice, for in thy cloister we feel like we are in Paradise!

Rejoice, for thou dost summon peoples from all countries to prayer at the monastery at Pochaev!

Rejoice, for in this manner Faith has been increased!

Rejoice, for through this despondency has been driven off!

Rejoice, everlasting jubilation of the monks at Pochaev!

Rejoice, never-faltering hope, even for those in the world!

Rejoice, Great Pleasure of Pochaev, the hope and comfort of the whole world!

Kontakion IV: The tempest of the heretics' fury was directed against thy holy monastery, O Mistress. Thy holy Icon was seized by the wicked Iconoclasts who had been urged on by their evil slanders. While the defamers were shamelessly reveling, the wrath of God swiftly overcame them as an invisible power. Just as were Artaxerxes and Herod, so they became twisted into immobility, for they had slandered against thy holiness, and did not know how to sing: Alleluia!

People: Alleluia! (x 3)

Oikos IV: After the slanderers had been shamed and the monks and all the Orthodox people at Pochaev had heard that thy holy Icon had been returned to the monastery after seventy years, they came forth to meet it and, exchanging their lament for joy, they cried out to thee:

Rejoice, O refuge of Christians!

Rejoice, O unmasking of the heretics!

Rejoice, for thine Icon has not abandoned the monastery at Pochaev forever!

Rejoice, for thou hast shamed the evil slander of the iconoclasts!

Rejoice, for thou hast taught us not to be despondent in misfortunes!

Rejoice, for thou hast commanded us to have faith in the Righteous Judgment of God!

Rejoice, for Orthodoxy has been confirmed in the land of Rus' through thee!

Rejoice, for thou hast taught all the universe to receive the Incarnate Truth!

Rejoice, for thou hast imitated the long-suffering of God!

Rejoice, for thou hast made thy people steadfast in patience!

Rejoice, for the humble receive consolation through thee!

Rejoice, for the proud are made humble through thee!

Rejoice, O great Pleasure of Pochaev, the hope and comfort of the whole world!

Kontakion V: O Mistress, thou hast been revealed as a star that flows from God for those who seek salvation, for thou dost lead them to the Sun of Righteousness. Just as in thine earthly life thou wast shown to be a champion before thy Son for the people at Cana of Galilee, likewise, following thy most glorious departure to heaven, thou dost offer supplications on behalf of believers from the ends of the earth as thou dost bear them before thy Son. On the mountain at Pochaev, thou dost grant manifold healings from Him to the people as they cry out to God: Alleluia!

People: Alleluia! (x 3)

Oikos V: The people have seen that on the mountain at Pochaev, multitudes of healings have continued to occur through thee. Having had their souls confirmed in the desire for salvation and having offered fervent repentance for their sins, they cry out to thee:

Rejoice, O sight of the blind and caring of the lame!

Rejoice, O deliverance of those bedeviled by the demons!

Rejoice, for thou hast restored a captive people to thy monastery miraculously through the air!

Rejoice, for through the prayer of the eldress thou didst raise up the infant Simeon, who was near death!

Rejoice, for in these signs thou hast revealed the might of thine ancient wonders to the people!

Rejoice, for the healings from thy holy Icon have not diminished even to this day!

Rejoice, for thou hast granted a source of healings from thy holy icons to the whole world!

Rejoice, for beyond these things, thou hast enriched us through thy supplications for spiritual gifts!

Rejoice, through whom Orthodox people are praised!

Rejoice, when those of little faith also approach for help!

Rejoice, O aspiration of those born on earth!

Rejoice, O jubilation of celestial ranks!

Rejoice, O Great Pleasure of Pochaev, the hope and comfort of the whole world!

Kontakion VI: As the Hagarenes approached the monastery at Pochaev, the preachers of the glory of the most pure Virgin were made manifest. At first they did not understand the vision of the Most Holy Theotokos with venerable Father Job. But when the arrows which had been shot were redirected against those who had shot them, they understood the power of the Theotokos and offered up penance for their mindlessness and cried out in faith: Alleluia!

People: Alleluia! (x 3)

Oikos VI: As thy vision was shone out upon the mountain at Pochaev, O Mistress, the brethren of the monastery who were besieged by the Hagarenes, offered up prayer before thy holy Icon and before the shrine of venerable Job. The Hagarenes were so confused by this vision that they fled. Beholding these events with rejoicing, the brethren sang out to thee:

Rejoice, our deliverer and salvation!

Rejoice, everlasting assistance for the Christian people!

Rejoice, for thy holiness hast driven off the impious foe!

Rejoice, for thou hast conducted them to repentance!

Rejoice, for the invisible enemies of our salvation tremble before thee!

Rejoice, for the holy Angels and the foremost of the righteous in heaven bow down in worship before thee!

Rejoice, for the venerable Father Job was accepted to pray with thee!

Rejoice, for through thine appearance sons of the Hagarenes were led to Holy Communion!

Rejoice, for through thee the faithful have laid aside the fear of death!

Rejoice, since for thy sake certain Hagarenes have become Godfearing monks!

Rejoice, everlasting demonstration of Truth!

Rejoice, recognition of the God for those who are prodigal!

Rejoice, Great Pleasure of Pochaev, the hope and comfort of the whole world!

Kontakion VII: Wanting to kindle the desire for eternal life in the hearts of Christians, the most holy Mother of God has healed the ill through miracles. She has driven out demons, she has liberated captives and has raised the dead so that we may all recognize the power of God. Having placed our concerns upon our souls and coming to hate the things of earth, we cry out to God ceaselessly: Alleluia!

People: Alleluia! (x 3)

Oikos VII: The monastery at Pochaev had to endure new and heavier misfortunes for, along with the whole region, it was taken from the Orthodox through deceit and given over to the rule of heretics. After one hundred and ten years, it was given back to the Orthodox by the right-believing Tsar Nicholas. Monks who brought out the relics of the venerable Father Job from hiding were called to it. Approaching the miraculous Icon of the Theotokos, they said:

Rejoice, Zealot of Orthodoxy!

Rejoice, un-masker of heretics!

Rejoice, for in the end thou hast not abandoned thy cloister!

Rejoice, for thou hast taught us the fear of God!

Rejoice, for through thine assistance the land of Volyn' has been returned to Orthodoxy!

Rejoice, for-through the ages many heretics have been corrected by thee!

Rejoice, for the faithful are again summoned to prayer in thy holy Lavra!

Rejoice, for in this place unbelievers are taught to worship in the holiness of Orthodoxy!

Rejoice, for the righteous and the venerable sing out to thee forever!

Rejoice, for thou art the one to whom the fallen approach in repentance!

Rejoice, return of apostates to the Faith!

Rejoice, conduction of those who have been deceived to the Light of Truth!

Rejoice, Great Pleasure of Pochaev, the hope and comfort of the whole world!

Kontakion VIII: We see a strange wonder regarding thee, O Mother of God, for just as bodily infirmities are healed at the kissing of thine Icon and the sprinkling of the water at Pochaev, so, too, are the passions of the soul removed at the sight of thy holiness. Faith is confirmed and our hearts are filled with compunction as we cry out to God: Alleluia!

People: Alleluia! (x 3)

Oikos VIII: I am unworthy. I am entirely filled with sin, for I have gone to the extremes of worldly dissipation and I have been careless regarding my soul. However, by gazing at thy holy Icon, O Mistress, and seeing innumerable people being enlightened as they approach it, I am once again directed to the path of salvation. With joy in my heart I sing to thee:

Rejoice, treasury of purity!

Rejoice, gulf of mercies!

Rejoice, thou who dost constantly offer up supplications for the faithful before thy Son!

Rejoice, for thou dost not refuse the prayers of sinners!

Rejoice, for many desperate sinners have taken refuge in thee!

Rejoice, for those who call upon thy name are raised up from the pitfalls of the passions!

Rejoice, thou through whom the heresy of Iconoclasm has been shamed throughout the universe!

Rejoice, for the True Faith has been restored to the land of Volyn' through thee!

Rejoice, thou who dost lead souls in the struggle for chastity!

Rejoice, for thou hast taught us to pardon those who are offensive!

Rejoice, compunction of our hearts!

Rejoice, hope of our souls!

Rejoice, Great Pleasure of Pochaev, the hope and comfort of the whole world!

Kontakion IX: Thou hast forgiven the penitent people of Volyn' every one of their apostasies and prodigalities, O Theotokos. Once again thou hast opened wide the fountain of healings from thy miraculous Icon and from the imprint of thy foot for the people at Pochaev as they offer penance for their sins and cry out to God: Alleluia!

People: Alleluia! (x 3)

Oikos IX: The blind and the lame have been revealed as the witnesses of thy glory, O Theotokos, as they have received healing from thine Icon, which has been returned to the Orthodox people. Also, a certain heretical woman who was ill called upon thee for help and in being healed confessed the True Faith and was converted. Therefore, we cry out to thee:

Rejoice, O supplication of the King of Heaven!

Rejoice, O everlasting champion for those on earth!

Rejoice, for through the healing of her infirmity a certain woman was converted from the Lutheran prodigality!

Rejoice, for thou hast instilled people with faith in the truth of Orthodoxy!

Rejoice, for thy sake the people of Rus' have vanquished the vexations of the Hagarenes a hundred times over!

Rejoice, O thou upon whom the eyes of the faithful are raised up in prayer!

Rejoice, for those who pray for the reposed call upon thee for help!

Rejoice, for thou dost rescue those who take refuge before thee from life's needs!

Rejoice, for thou dost grant strength in every need for those who have long patience!

Rejoice, assistance of Orthodox forces in battle!

Rejoice, gracious direction of those who war against the demons!

Rejoice, Great Pleasure of Pochaev, the hope and comfort of the whole world!

Kontakion X: The Holy Theotokos wished to save a very simple old woman who had resided in the Latin sightlessness and who had a small grandson. She came to be enlightened in Orthodoxy, but the eyes of her body remained sightless. Grandmother and grandson bowed down in worship before the miraculous Icon at Pochaev and laid down their wish for Grace before it. The blind handmaiden was wondrously healed and she was taught how to confess the True Faith, crying to God: Alleluia!

People: Alleluia! (x 3)

Oikos X: Thou hast been revealed as an unassailable wall of the True Faith, O Theotokos. Therefore, just as the impious heretics have turned away from glorifying thee as the True Theotokos, so the Orthodox have remained firm in loyalty to thee. Not one of them wishes to be turned aside from offering up supplications to thee. The words of the heretics do not dare reach their ears. With thankfulness of heart they never cease in praising thee while declaring:

Rejoice, delight and comfort of Christians!

Rejoice, glory and worship of the ranks of Angels!

Rejoice, for thou dost turn the deceptive sayings of the heretics away from us!

Rejoice, for thou dost uplift our minds before God through the remembrance of thy mercies!

Rejoice, for thou hast summoned the holy Apostles to your Dormition upon the clouds of the atmosphere!

Rejoice, for thousands of sinners also gather together at Pochaev on that day!

Rejoice, for whose sake Christians take up the narrow way as if it were sweet repose!

Rejoice, for whose sake the slothful endeavor to imitate them!

Rejoice, thou who dost assist the monks in forgetting the sweet things of the world!

Rejoice, thou who dost put dread into those monks who take regard for worldly things!

Rejoice, diadem excelsior of the Church of Christ!

Rejoice, impenetrable shield of the land of Rus'!

Rejoice, Great Pleasure of Pochaev, the hope and comfort of the whole world!

Kontakion XI: A song of thanksgiving for thy benefactions is offered up by the Christians in the world, O Theotokos. It advances like incense to the heavens as they think of thee. We ask thee to turn not away our pitiful praises, for we ask thee to grant us the Grace of repentance and with compunction we cry to God: Alleluia!

People: Alleluia! (x 3)

Oikos XI: Thou hast been revealed as the light of temporal living and the hope for eternal life O Mother of God. A certain man from Bessarabia was about to die when upon tasting the water of Pochaev he became healthy. When his relatives saw him, with fear and penitence they called to thee:

Rejoice, O healing of those in pain!

Rejoice, O audience for those in tribulations!

Rejoice, for through thee the advance of death can be driven off!

Rejoice, for unconfused faith has been given to us through thee!

Rejoice, for the fore-heralding of Gabriel remains before our eyes!

Rejoice, for now and ever, in accordance with thy word, thou art beatified by all generations!

Rejoice, for thou hast consecrated the mountain at Pochaev as a place of thy residence!

Rejoice, for thou hast revealed it as a second Nazareth!

Rejoice, for thou dost turn the petitions of no one away!

Rejoice, for thou dost accept all fervent prayer!

Rejoice, for thou hast endowed us with health!

Rejoice, for thou hast conducted us to salvation!

Rejoice, O Great Pleasure of Pochaev, the hope and comfort of the whole world!

Kontakion XII: The Grace of cures and the compunction of prayers stream forth from thine Icon, O Theotokos. Let it not be of no avail to our souls. For even if we should fall into stone-like insensitivity through sin, awaken our souls and illumine our hearts with better thinking, for thou dost possess the power to raise even the dead. Having come to hate the delusion of sin, we sing out to God: Alleluia!

People: Alleluia! (x 3)

Oikos XII: In singing of thy miracles which have been manifested at the monastery at Pochaev, we pray thee to turn not thy face from our country, O Mother of God. Fulfill the entreaties of all who approach thee seeking thy mercy so that all can say these things to thee:

Rejoice, O thou who dost urge the All-Righteous God to take pity!

Rejoice, O boldness of Christians before Christ!

Rejoice, for thou hast manifested the solemnity of the Faith in thy Lavra!

Rejoice, for thou dost enkindle the hearts of mankind with love!

Rejoice, for thou hast enabled the people here to behold wonders like those of old!

Rejoice, for this mountain, like a second Sinai, has been highly glorified in the countries of Christians!

Rejoice, for thou hast carried in thy womb, God who has appeared on earth!

Rejoice, for through thy prayers thou dost place mankind before God!

Rejoice, for thou hast left us thine Icon as a proclaimer of salvation!

Rejoice, for thou hast glorified the imprint of thy footstep, as it is filled with curative water and miracles!

Rejoice, for thou dost take regard for thy servants from the heights of heaven!

Rejoice, for thou dost direct the faithful toward good deeds!

Rejoice, O Great Pleasure of Pochaev, the hope and comfort of the whole world!

Kontakion XIII (3 times) O all-praised Mother of Christ God, who in thine own love have adopted all the generations of Christians! We sinners do not understand how to sing in praises worthy of thee. However, having been vanquished by thy love, and having lifted up our eyes before thy wonder-working image, we pray thee: Do not abandon thy progeny in our fights and needs, as we trust ardently in thine advocacy, and we cry out to thy Son: Alleluia!

People: Alleluia I (x 3)

Oikos I The Archangel Gabriel has offered thee the first "Rejoice", a Mistress, when he proclaimed the good news of the conception of the Son of God. In consequence of thine all-glorious Dormition, all the powers of heaven forever offer the same praise to thee in heaven. How, then, can we sinners dare to blend our voices with those of the incorporeals? Nonetheless, being mindful that thy kindheartedness is for all those who are penitent, we open our mouths with awe and love and say:

Rejoice, O gulf of mercies!

Rejoice, O inexhaustible sea of love!

Rejoice, O Gracious Champion of the Christian people!

Rejoice, O unassailable wall of the cloister at Pochaev!

Rejoice, for thou hast drawn together the people of Rus' on the mountain at Pochaev as members in thy love!

Rejoice, for thou hast driven off every grief from their souls!

Rejoice, O thou whose miraculous image leads us onward like a star from the mountain at Pochaev!

Rejoice, for those who offer up prayers to thee are swiftly rescued from attacks of passions!

Rejoice, for thou hast comforted the people by thine appearance on the mountain!

Rejoice, for thou hast left the imprint of thy footstep upon it!

Rejoice, O everlasting daring for the faithful!

Rejoice, O foundation for good to those who are confused!

Rejoice, O Great Pleasure of Pochaev, the hope and comfort of the whole world!

Kontakion 1

Having gathered together on her holy mountain of Pochaev, O believers, let us offer up songs of praise to the chosen battle leader of Christians. O Mistress Theotokos, do not disdain our supplications addressed before thy miraculous image, as dost possess ineffable kindheartedness. Therefore, in compunction of heart, we call out to thee: Rejoice, O great pleasure of Pochaev, the hope and comfort of the whole world!"

A Prayer to the Most Holy Theotokos

Priest: Being mindful of thy miracles, which thou hast revealed in the holy Lavra at Pochaev, and being contrite for the sake of our transgressions, we sinners approach in prayer, O Mother of God. We know, O Mistress, that it is not fitting for us sinners to ask for anything but that our iniquities be pardoned by the Righteous Judge. For all the things, which we have endured in life; the tribulations, the needs and the pains have served to lead us on a better path of life. As the Lord has, in His Truth, allowed all these things to occur in our lives, we approach thee in our troubles, O most pure One. Be not mindful of our

sins and iniquities, O Gracious One. Rather, stretch forth thy most precious hand as thou dost stand before thy Son and God, that He might pardon us our cruel deeds and that He not turn His face away from His servants because of our most numerous failures in fulfilling our promises. Let Him not remove His assistance from the salvation of our souls. Yea, O Theotokos, be the intercessor for our salvation, and as thou art not moved to disgust by Our small-spiritedness, take regard of our sorrows which we offer up before thy miraculous Icon. Enlighten our minds with thoughts of repentance. Strengthen our faith, confirm our hopes, enable us to accept the sweetest gift of love, so that through these endowments our lives may be led to salvation. Defend our souls from despondency and desperation. Deliver us who are not able to do much from the perils and needs that come upon us, and from the slanders of men. Grant peace and good order to the Christian community, O Theotokos, and strengthen the government of our country. Preserve the Orthodox Faith in Our country and in all the world through thy prayers. Do not allow the Apostolic Orthodox Church to be diminished. Preserve the teachings of the Holy Fathers as unailing unto the ages and save all of those who come to thee from the pit of perdition. Conduct our brethren who have been seduced by heresies or have fallen from the faith of salvation to the True Faith, so that they can once again bow before thy miraculous image as they confess thy glory. O most holy Lady Theotokos, allow us to see the victory of the Truth. Allow us to receive the joy of Grace before our end just as thou hast shown the dwellers at Pochaev to be victors and enlighteners of the Hagarenes through thine appearance. Account us all worthy that, with thankful hearts, together with the angels, prophets, apostles and all the saints, we can highly glorify thy kindheartedness. We offer up glory, honor and worship to God, Who is hymned in Trinity; the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, unto ages of ages. Amen.