



# **Akathist to St. Nikiforos the Leper and Wonderworker**



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**Priest:** Blessed is our God, always, now and ever and unto ages of ages.

**Reader:** Amen. Glory to Thee O God. Glory to Thee.

O Heavenly King, the Comforter, the Spirit of Truth, Who art everywhere and fills all things. Treasury of blessings and giver of life, come and abide in us, and cleanse us from every impurity. And, save our souls, O Good One.

Holy God, Holy Mighty , Holy Immortal, have mercy on us **(3)**.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

O Most Holy Trinity, have mercy on us. Lord, cleanse us from our sins. Master, pardon our transgressions. Holy One visit and heal our infirmities for Thy name's sake.

Lord, have mercy **(3)**.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Our Father, Who art in heaven. Hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done, on earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And, lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.

**Priest:** For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages.

**Reader:** Amen.

### **KONTAKION I**

**Choir/Faithful:** The valiant athlete of endurance and of fortitude, / the steadfast diamond of great patience and longsuffering, / who was tried by the affliction and pains of illness, / and who in this way did glorify the **Most** High God, / let us praise and laud the leper Nikiforos, / **saying** unto him: // Rejoice, Nikiforos, true namesake of **victory**.

### **IKOS I**

**Priest:** Rendering special honor let us chant joyful praises to Saint Nikiforos the Leper for his blameless way of life here on earth and his diligent zeal worthy of heaven's kingdom, and singing the angelic hymn, "Rejoice," let us extol him thus:

**Choir/Faithful:** Rejoice, O vessel of God's **blessing**;  
Rejoice, O myrrh of wondrous **fragrance**.  
Rejoice, O thriving offshoot of the **Church's** vine;  
Rejoice, O fully ripened fruit of the **Gospel** of Christ.  
Rejoice, for you heeded the voice of the Lord's **calling**;  
Rejoice, for you shouldered your cross from **childhood**.  
Rejoice, for through harsh leprosy you were **refined** like gold;  
Rejoice, for thereby purified, you shine **whiter** than snow.  
Rejoice, O unquenchable vigil lamp beaming **divine** light;  
Rejoice, O inexhaustible vessel bearing **divine** gifts.  
Rejoice, O man who greeted all most **amiably**;

Rejoice, O father who freely imparted **sympathy**.  
Rejoice, O Nikiforos, true namesake of **victory**.

## KONTAKION II

**Priest:** Casting off the oppression of sloth and the darkness of passions, O Saint Nikiforos, you acquired the light of dispassion and were borne on the wings of the Spirit heavenward; thus reaching the habitations there, you sang to God with vigilant mind: Alleluia.

**Choir/Faithful:** Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

## IKOS II

**Priest:** Of your own free will you drew nigh to Christ from childhood, O Saint Nikiforos; thus with eagerness and boundless zeal you bore on your shoulders the cross, following Him until the very end unhindered, so now we cry out to you readily:

**Choir/Faithful:** Rejoice, the Lord's good faithful **servant**;  
Rejoice, the demons' **overthrower**.  
Rejoice, diligent student of God's holy **righteousness**;  
Rejoice, ardent lover of His sacred **commandments**.  
Rejoice, for you described to us the grandeur of **Paradise**;  
Rejoice, for you inherited the **heavenly** rewards.  
Rejoice, indelible seal of **temperance**;  
Rejoice, support of those who **struggle** for God.  
Rejoice, O lantern on a golden lampstand, **shining** light;  
Rejoice, O harp sounding a sweet, harmonious **melody**.  
Rejoice, O Father Nikiforos, every leper's **boast** and pride;  
Rejoice, O holy God-seer, staff of **guidance** for the blind.  
Rejoice, O Nikiforos, true namesake of **victory**.

## KONTAKION III

**Priest:** Gaining intimacy with the Lord God of all by your vigils and tears, prayers and fasting, you conversed with Him at all times as a man speaks to his closest friend, O blessed one, and chanted to Him with sweet voice the most befitting hymn of angels: Alleluia.

**Choir/Faithful:** Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

## IKOS III

**Priest:** “For Your love, O my Savior and sweet Benefactor, I bear every harsh pain of my body, in return for Your great sacrifice on the Cross,” thus you cried out, O Saint Nikiforos. And we, offering likewise our devotion to you, cry out thankfully:

**Choir/Faithful:** Rejoice, O pillar of endurance;

Rejoice, O bedrock of true **courage**.

Rejoice, unerring guide leading monastics by the hand;

Rejoice, shining example of the true monastic life.

Rejoice, for by ascetic toils you killed the soul-corrupting  
**passions**;

Rejoice, for by humility you brought to life the strength of your  
**spirit**.

Rejoice, for you did imitate the angelic **way** of life;

Rejoice, for you did walk the straight and narrow **path** of Christ.

Rejoice, O book surely inscribed with ardent **love** for God;

Rejoice, O whip repelling repulsive demons **and** their guile.

Rejoice, for you consorted with the spiritual dew of **Hermon**;

Rejoice, for you collected boundless wealth in the spiritual **Zion**.

Rejoice, O Nikiforos, true namesake of **victory**.

## KONTAKION IV

**Priest:** By noetically girding your loins with the belt of austere temperance, O Saint Nikiforos, you put fleshly passions to death, and lived as one fleshless while still in the body; thus imitating the angelic life, you glorified God with the angels, chanting: Alleluia.

**Choir/Faithful:** Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

## IKOS IV

**Priest:** Bright and splendid as lightning, full of heavenly glory, you adorn Christ's Church, O Saint Nikiforos; thus, adorned with a radiant crown of exceptional honor, you lead everyone to marvel at your comeliness, O Leper, and to shout with fervor:

**Choir/Faithful:** Rejoice, O joy and gladness of **Cretans**;  
Rejoice, O adornment of the people of **Chios**,  
Rejoice, for you despised the wearisome **encumbrance** of the  
world;  
Rejoice, for you put on the heavenly schema of **angels**.  
Rejoice, for the words of your mouth brought consolation to the  
**faithful**;  
Rejoice, for the opening of your lips set forth excellent **teaching**.  
Rejoice, O faithful worker in the **vineyard** of the Lord;  
Rejoice, O good cultivator of the **soil** in His field.  
Rejoice, you who philosophized on the soul's pre-**eminence**;  
Rejoice, you who theologized on the grandeur of **heaven**.  
Rejoice, for day and night you offered **prayers** unto God;  
Rejoice, for in all things did you **render** Him thanks.  
Rejoice, O Nikiforos, true namesake of **victory**.

## KONTAKION V

**Priest:** You worked strange signs and wonders through God's wondrous power, O laudable leper Nikiforos; for indeed, you were seen during prayer lifted up off the ground, standing high in the air, from whence you sang praises to God in the heavens, crying out without ceasing from the depths of your heart. Alleluia.

**Choir/Faithful:** Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

## IKOS V

**Priest:** Come and let us behold the incredible courage of saint Nikiforos the Leper, who endured the many long years in confinement at Chios' leper community; and marveling at his great patience, let us cry out to him with fervor:

**Choir/Faithful:** Rejoice, O Nikiforos, lauded victory-**bearer**;  
Rejoice, O steadfast athlete and trophy-**bearer**.  
Rejoice, for you imitated the **contests** of Job;  
Rejoice, for you persevered in the arena of **leprosy**.  
Rejoice, adornment of the choir of the Church's new **ascetics**;  
Rejoice, O treader of the path walked by saintly **monastics**.  
Rejoice, for you came to know the treasure of God's **abundant**  
gifts;  
Rejoice, for you became rich with the wealth of His heavenly  
 **blessings**.  
Rejoice, for you received the full reward of your **good** hope;  
Rejoice, for you communicate the love of **God** to all.  
Rejoice, for out of Crete you have shone forth **throughout** the  
world;  
Rejoice, for now you bring to all creation **light** and joy.  
Rejoice, O **Nikiforos**, true namesake of **victory**.



## KONTAKION VI

**Priest:** Considering as gain the pains of your flesh, O most blessed leper Nikiforos, like Job you gave thanks unto God from your heart, glorifying His great mercy and incomparable love for all mankind, chanting ever the hymn of thanksgiving: Alleluia.

**Choir/Faithful:** Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

## IKOS VI

**Priest:** Idle words never came from your lips, holy Father, divinely wise Saint Nikiforos, for you treasured godly silence, only contemplating words of prayer; yet you strengthened the faithful with your good counsel, and now, following heedfully your teachings, we all cry out to you:

**Choir/Faithful:** Rejoice, O springtime of **godliness**;  
Rejoice, O blossom of **truthfulness**.  
Rejoice, for you made yourself into a holy **house** of God;  
Rejoice, for you received the grace of His **heavenly dew**.  
Rejoice, you who attended fervently to God's holy **commandments**;  
Rejoice, you who spoke the mystical language of the Scriptures' **wisdom**.  
Rejoice, for you worthily received **imperishable** rewards;  
Rejoice, for you gloriously dwell in the abodes of the **righteous**.  
Rejoice, for as a guiding staff you took up the **Cross** of Christ;  
Rejoice, for you have finished well the journey of **ascetic** life,  
Rejoice, O friend of Christ and faithful **student** of the Church;  
Rejoice, O prudent disciple of the wise Saint **Anthimos**.  
Rejoice, O Nikiforos, true namesake of **victory**.

## KONTAKION VII

**Priest:** On your lips you bore always the words of the Gospel which are truly far sweeter than honey, O divinely wise Father Nikiforos; and as a diligent reader of the Psalter of David, together with him you offered the Lord a joyful ode of thanksgiving, chanting: Alleluia.

**Choir/Faithful:** Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

## IKOS VII

**Priest:** For choice fragrance you offered to Christ precious spikenard: the gift of your heart's deep compunction. As one wealthy in virtuous tears, your constant companion was joyful mourning and remembrance of death your consolation; so console us now who remember you and daily cry to you with fervor:

**Choir/Faithful:** Rejoice, O friend of **solitude**;  
Rejoice, O master of **temperance**.  
Rejoice, O river flooding with the wondrous **gifts** of grace;  
Rejoice, O ocean of great depth, brimming with **miracles**.  
Rejoice, for you support those who are shaken by **life's** storms;  
Rejoice, for you bring joy to those distressed by **dreadful** trials.  
Rejoice, O icon of compassion, inscribed by **God's** hand;  
Rejoice, O measure most exact of a proper, **moral** life.  
Rejoice, for you conversed with God, as friend **speaks** unto  
friend;  
Rejoice, for you drew near to His love most **intimately**.  
Rejoice, O model of genuine, precise **obedience**;  
Rejoice, O expert in the blameless conduct of **life's** course.  
Rejoice, O Nikiforos, true namesake of **victory**.

## KONTAKION VIII

**Priest:** Of your own accord, Father, becoming a stranger to the world and to all worldly matters, you left to dwell in the House of your Lord, whose fatherly sympathy you long experienced; and as a son you brought to Him your soul's great fervor, crying in gladness: Alleluia.

**Choir/Faithful:** Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

## IKOS VIII

**Priest:** Leprosy devastated your physical vision, until finally, O Saint Nikiforos, you reached the horrible pain of complete blindness in your earthly eyes; but you saw the surpassing beauty of God, whose likeness you reveal to those who cry out unto you in faith:

**Choir/Faithful:** Rejoice, O sacred trophy of **dignity**;  
Rejoice, O torch of **celebration**.  
Rejoice, for you strengthen the hearts of the **faithful**;  
Rejoice, for you dispel the darkness of the **passions**.  
Rejoice, for you show us how to walk the straight and **narrow**  
path;  
Rejoice, for you learned how to ascend and **encounter** the  
divine.  
Rejoice, O trumpet majestically sounding abroad godly  
**teaching**;  
Rejoice, O harp melodiously intoning the odes of **angels**.  
Rejoice, O lustrous pearl resplendent in the **holy** Church;  
Rejoice, O wondrous citizen of God's heavenly **Kingdom**.  
Rejoice, for you sowed bountifully in the **house** of the Lord;  
Rejoice, for you reaped plentifully the spiritual **harvest**.  
Rejoice, O **Nikiforos**, true namesake of **victory**.

## KONTAKION IX

**Priest:** As one rich in mercy and compassion, you strengthened those suffering greatly, O Father, with affection and true sympathy, imparting the treasure of your love to everyone, as a lover of God who loves mankind to whom in psalms of praise you chanted the ode of your tender love towards Him, crying: Alleluia.

**Choir/Faithful:** Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

## IKOS IX

**Priest:** As a rose bright and beautiful, O saint Nikiforos, you budded on the island of Crete, and exuded fragrance throughout all creation with the myrrh of your divine way of life; thus you fill with fragrance the spiritual senses of those who in faith cry to you the following:

**Choir/Faithful:** Rejoice, O lily of the Church;

Rejoice, O gift of spiritual **feasting**.

Rejoice, O man adorned with the beauty of the **love** of Christ;  
Rejoice, O monk incorruptibly clothed with the gladness of  
divine **virtues**.

Rejoice, for as the psalmist you have drenched your **couch** with  
tears;

Rejoice, for you found within yourself the wellspring of  
**rejoicing**.

Rejoice, for you kept vigil like a sparrow in the **desert**;

Rejoice, for you patiently endured struggles in your  
**confinement**.

Rejoice, for your life was marked by true detachment from  
**possessions**;

Rejoice, for humble-mindedness gave you strength in all situations.

Rejoice, O many-stringed lyre of the Holy Spirit;  
Rejoice, O instrument sweetly sounding sacred melodies.  
Rejoice, O Nikiforos, true namesake of victory.

### KONTAKION X

**Priest:** Leap for joy, isle of Crete, and rejoice as a mother over Saint Nikiforos the Leper, for you offered him to the Lord God as a rational flower of divine aroma, and delighting in his fragrance now, in churches we sing the hymn, rejoicing: Alleluia.

**Choir/Faithful:** Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

### IKOS X

**Priest:** With what words shall we tell of your steadfast endurance, O leper, Saint Nikiforos? For bearing the cross of your illness without bending under the weight of severe pains, you attained to the joy of the righteous, and with them we cry out to you, rejoicing:

**Choir/Faithful:** Rejoice, O distinguished among the righteous;  
Rejoice, O renowned among ascetics.  
Rejoice, O lampstand set on the hilltop, shining light to all;  
Rejoice, O holy vigil lamp, well-kept and full of oil.  
Rejoice, for wisely you escaped the violent storms of passions;  
Rejoice, for readily you reached the calm and peaceful harbor.  
Rejoice, O mirror reflecting beams of new and divine light.  
Rejoice, O instrument that plays a heavenly harmony.  
Rejoice, for you made white the hideous garment of corruption;  
Rejoice, for you put on the garment of true exaltation.

Rejoice, for your life was blameless and your **manners** were sincere;

Rejoice, for your conduct was virtuous and your words **benefit** all.

Rejoice, O **Nikiforos**, true namesake of **victory**.

## KONTAKION XI

**Priest:** Neither sleep to your eyes nor slumber to your eyelids did you give, blessed Saint Nikiforos; but conversing with God day and night in deep intimacy, you sang hymns unceasingly, persevering in prayers and supplications and crying from the depths of your heart: Alleluia.

**Choir/Faithful:** Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

## IKOS XI

**Priest:** Keeping most conscientiously all God's commandments as a good, faithful servant, O Father, and having increased the talent He gave you, you heard from the Master, "Enter into Paradise." And now you hear praises from us also ever extolling as befits you:

**Choir/Faithful:** Rejoice, O worthy of **all** praise;

Rejoice, O deserving of **great** crowns.

Rejoice, O wondrous man among the righteous and holy **fathers**;

Rejoice, O elect among those who inherit the Lord's  **blessings**.

Rejoice, for you have guarded well the good **inheritance**;

Rejoice, for you secured in Eden a lasting **residence**.

Rejoice, O godly-minded Saint, imitator of the **angels**;

Rejoice, O pillar of the Church, shining like the stars in **heaven**.

Rejoice, for you received your fame from the glory which is **genuine**;

Rejoice, loving communicant of the precious **M**ysteries of Christ.

Rejoice, for you served God as a son works for his own **f**ather;  
Rejoice, for you showed obedience to Saint Anthimos, your **e**lder.

Rejoice, O **N**ikiforos. true namesake of **v**ictory.

## **KONTAKION XII**

**Priest:** God granted you grace for grace to work miracles abundantly, Saint Nikiforos, and now your prayers heal the sick, and you help with greatest sympathy all those suffering; always granting assistance to everyone who calls upon you, chanting the hymn: Alleluia.

**Choir/Faithful:** Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

## **IKOS XII**

**Priest:** Lies did not pass your lips, not even for your neighbors' sake, O wise and meek Saint Nikiforos; but in truth you loved all as true brothers, receiving in turn their respect and affection and most reverent admiration, in which spirit we, too, call out duly:

**Choir/Faithful:** Rejoice, O vessel of **G**od's grace;

Rejoice, O treasury of His **S**pirit.

Rejoice, for you were glorified by a wealth of divine **g**rac<sup>e</sup>s;

Rejoice, for in turn you gave glory to God and His great **m**ercy,

Rejoice, for leprous was your flesh, but deified through **a**scetic life;

Rejoice, for unblemished was your soul, achieving **s**anctity.

Rejoice, you whom choirs of saints received in heaven

**g**loriously

Rejoice, you whom angelic hosts presented unto **God** the King,  
Rejoice, fervent protector of the islands Crete and **Chios**;  
Rejoice, supporter of the city of **Alexandria**.  
Rejoice, O guardian of the Leprosy Treatment Center in **Athens**;  
Rejoice, wise counselor and father of the Elder **Evmenios**.  
Rejoice, O **Nikiforos**, true namesake of **victory**.

### **KONTAKION XIII**

Holy Father, equal to the early ascetics, O Saint Nikiforos the Leper, by your prayers cleanse our souls from the sores and the blemishes of our passions' leprosy, we pray you, that embracing the fragrant treasure of your holy relics, we might find blessing in your merciful good providence chanting to you a hymn of thanksgiving: Alleluia.

**Choir/Faithful:** Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

*This kontakion is recited thrice; whereupon Ikos I and  
Kontakion I are repeated.*

### **IKOS I**

**Priest:** Rendering special honor let us chant joyful praises to Saint Nikiforos the Leper for his blameless way of life here on earth and his diligent zeal worthy of heaven's kingdom, and singing the angelic hymn, "Rejoice," let us extol him thus:

**Choir/Faithful:** Rejoice, O vessel of God's  **blessing**;  
Rejoice, O myrrh of wondrous  **fragrance**.  
Rejoice, O thriving offshoot of the  **Church**'s vine;  
Rejoice, O fully ripened fruit of the  **Gospel** of Christ.  
Rejoice, for you heeded the voice of the Lord's  **calling**;  
Rejoice, for you shouldered your cross from  **childhood**.



Rejoice, for through harsh leprosy you were **refined** like gold;  
Rejoice, for thereby purified, you shine **whiter** than snow.  
Rejoice, O unquenchable vigil lamp beaming **divine** light;  
Rejoice, O inexhaustible vessel bearing **divine** gifts.  
Rejoice, O man who greeted all most **amiably**;  
Rejoice, O father who freely imparted **sympathy**.  
Rejoice, O **Nikiforos**, true namesake of **victory**.

## **KONTAKION I**

**Choir/Faithful:** The valiant athlete of endurance and of fortitude, / the steadfast diamond of great patience and longsuffering, / who was tried by the affliction and pains of illness, / and who in this way did glorify the **Most High God**, / let us praise and laud the leper **Nikiforos**, / **saying** unto him: // Rejoice, **Nikiforos**, true namesake of **victory**.

**Priest:** Again and again on bended knees let us pray to the Holy Father **Nikiforos**.

**Choir/Faithful:** Holy Father **Nikiforos** pray to **God** for us.

## **Prayer to the Holy Father Nikiforos**

**Priest:** Bearing your body's wounds with wondrous fortitude, you proved yourself to be another Job in truth, shining as gold tried in the fire, O leper, Saint **Nikiforos**. Let us all embrace with love the divine relics of the Saint: from them flow the sweetest streams and the grace of great miracles; for now as a close friend of the Lord God he intercedes for us with boldness.

**Choir/Faithful:** Amen.

## The Litany

**Priest:** Have mercy on us, O God, according to Thy great goodness, we pray Thee, hearken and have mercy.

**Choir/Faithful:** Lord have mercy (3)

**Priest:** Again we pray for His Beatitude, Metropolitan \_\_\_\_\_, His (*Grace /Eminence*), (*Arch*) Bishop \_\_\_\_\_, for priests, deacons, and all other clergy; and for all our brethren in Christ.

**Choir/Faithful:** Lord have mercy (3)

**Priest:** Again we pray for the president of our country, for all civil authorities and for our armed forces everywhere.

**Choir/Faithful:** Lord have mercy (3)

**Priest:** Again we pray for mercy, life peace, health, salvation and visitation for the servants of God \_\_\_\_\_, and for the pardon and remission of their sins.

**Choir/Faithful:** Lord have mercy (3)

**Priest:** Furthermore, we pray for the people here present, awaiting from Thee great and bountiful mercies for all the brethren and for all Christians.

**Choir/Faithful:** Lord have mercy (3)

**Priest:** For Thou art a merciful God, and loves mankind, and unto Thee we ascribe glory: to the Father, and to the Son, and to

the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages.

**Choir/Faithful:** Amen.

**Priest:** Wisdom! Most Holy Theotokos, save us!

**Choir/Faithful:** More honorable than the Cherubim and more glorious beyond compare than the Seraphim! Without defilement you gave birth to God the Word; true Theotokos we magnify you.

**Priest:** Glory to Thee, O Christ our God and our hope, glory to Thee !

**Choir/Faithful:** Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.  
Lord have mercy (3). Father bless.

**Priest:** [pronounces the dismissal and faithful venerate the Cross]

*Holy and God-Bearing Father Nikiforos pray to God for us!*

*Glory Be To God For All Things!*