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ΑΓΙΟΥ ΦΙΛΑΡΕΤΟΥ ΜΑΡΤΥΡΟΥ
2012

Akathist

to St. Philaret the Merciful

Kontakion 1

To thee, O camel who passed through the eye of the needle, we offer thanks and praise: for thou gavest of thy to the poor, as an offering to Christ. Christ God received thy gift as a loan, repaying thee exorbitantly, in this transient life and in Heaven. Rejoice, O flowing fountain of Heaven's treasures!

Oikos 1

Thou hadst earthly yet knewest true treasure: thou madest use of thy possessions but trustedst them never, for in thee was the Kingdom of God and thy treasurehouse was Heaven. Wherefore thou hearest these praises which we offer to thee:

Rejoice, illustrious and wealthy noble who knew true !

Rejoice, O thou who were ever mindful of the poor!
Rejoice, who knew thy deeds to the poor are deeds done to Christ!

Rejoice, O thou who knew true from false!

Rejoice, O thou who knew that we can take nothing from the world!

Rejoice, O thou who knew that the righteous would

never be forsaken!

Rejoice, O thou who gave ever more than was asked!

Rejoice, O thou who withheld not thy last ounce of wheat!

Rejoice, O thou who gave all six bushels to one who asked for a little!

Rejoice, O thou whose friend gave thee forty bushels thereafter!

Rejoice, O thou who trusted in the Lord with all his heart!

Rejoice, O flowing fountain of Heaven's treasures!

Kontakion 2

Thou knewest treasure enough to feed thy household for a hundred years without work: And thou wert true to thy name, Philaret or "Lover of Virtue", even when thine own wife saw not the horses on the mountain and chariots of fire which surround the true lover of virtue. But with eyes raised to fiery Heaven, we cry out with thee:
Alleluia!

Oikos 2

Thou invitedst thine own to join thy love of virtue, and thine own received not thine invitation. But thine invitation remaineth open, and we who

receive thine invitation and hearken to the open door cry out to thee in praise:

Rejoice, O diadem of married life in the world!

Rejoice, O thou who knewest virtue as treasure!

Rejoice, O thou who fed a household out of the treasurehouse of thy virtue!

Rejoice, O thou who knew not the greed of Midas's curse!

Rejoice, O thou whose gifts would yet multiply and enrich the recipient!

Rejoice, O thou who was generous when he was rich!

Rejoice, O thou who was raided by marauders yet became no less generous!

Rejoice, O thou who trusted God when he had much and when he had little!

Rejoice, O thou who knewest that riches not in the day of wrath!

Rejoice, O thou whose virtue profited in easy times and hard times alike!

Rejoice, O flowing fountain of Heaven's treasures!

Kontakion 3

Many a generous beggar will give his last penny, whilst few a rich man will give to thee from his hedge of protection. Yet we behold a wonder in thee, who was rich, illustrious, and of noble lineage, and esteemed these not. Thy hedge of

protection was the Lord God, and virtue and treasure in Heaven, and thou wert generous unto thine uttermost farthing. To thee, a rich man more generous than a beggar, we cry: Alleluia!

Oikos 3

Thou transcendedst the virtues of pagan philosophy: fortitude, justice, prudence, and temperance, the virtues of a well lived earthly life. But thou knewest the Christian, deiform virtues: faith, hope, and love, the virtues of a Heavenly life already present in an egg in life on earth. Wherefore we cry out to thee:

Rejoice, O thou whose fortitude sought no protection from earthly treasures!

Rejoice, O thou whose justice transcended human reckoning!

Rejoice, O thou whose prudence was the Wisdom who is Christ!

Rejoice, O thou whose temperance sought from earthly things nothing in excess of what they could give!

Rejoice, O thou whose faith trusted that Christ would faithfully provide!

Rejoice, O thou whose hope in God was never disappointed!

Rejoice, O thou whose love refrained from sharing neither virtue nor earthly possessions!

Rejoice, O thou whose joy flowed in easy times and hard!

Rejoice, O thou whose peace flowed from the silence of Heaven!

Rejoice, O thou whose generosity was perfect!

Rejoice, O flowing fountain of Heaven's treasures!

Kontakion 4

We will forever underestimate thy generosity if we merely count what thou gavest against what much or little property thou possessesd, for thine open hand was a shadow and an icon of the vast thou heldest in the generous treasure in Heaven, and this vast treasure thou laid hold to as Philaret, lover of virtue, which is to say lover of treasures in Heaven, eclipseth thy generosity with mere earthly property as the sun eclipseth the moon—nay, as the sun eclipseth a candle! Wherefore, with thee who hoarded true treasure, we cry: Alleluia!

Oikos 4

Beseech the Lord God that we also might seek true treasure in Heaven, where neither moth nor rust corrodes and thieves do not break in and steal. Wherefore we cry out in wonder to thee:

Rejoice, O thou who drunk from the wellspring of Truth!

Rejoice, O thou who were fed by the Tree of Life!

Rejoice, O thou who knew from dross!
Rejoice, O thou who never grasped at dross
because thou clungst to the Treasure for whom
every treasure is named!
Rejoice, O thou who esteemed men of humble birth
because thou questedst after the royal priesthood!
Rejoice, O thou who grasped treasure next to
which every earthly endowment is but dust and
ashes!
Rejoice, O thou who counted the poor and needy
as more precious than!
Rejoice, O thou who cast away shadows to behold
the Sun of Righteousness!
Rejoice, O thou who never forsook the Lord!
Rejoice, O thou whom the Lord never abandoned!
Rejoice, O thou who found that not one of His good
promises has failed!
Rejoice, O flowing fountain of Heaven's treasures!

Kontakion 5

Ever seeking Christ, thou becamest thyself like
Christ, the source and the summit of all virtue.
Wishing to imitate thee as thou imitatedst Christ,
we cry unto thee: Alleluia!

Oikos 5

Every virtue is an icon of Christ, an icon not before us, but in us. Seeking after the virtues as we seek Christ, we cry out to thee:

Rejoice, O thou divine lover of virtue!

Rejoice, O thou who knew the Source of virtue!

Rejoice, O thou whose virtue was an imprint of Christ!

Rejoice, O thou who perfected the divine image with voluntary likeness!

Rejoice, O thou who teaches us virtue in the Christian walk!

Rejoice, O thou ever willing to share not only possessions but virtue!

Rejoice, O thou in whom Christ sat enthroned on virtue!

Rejoice, O thou who in virtue loved and served God!

Rejoice, O volume wherein the Word was inscribed in the ink of the virtues!

Rejoice, O thou who ever banishest passions!

Rejoice, O polished mirror refulgent with the uncreated Light!

Rejoice, O flowing fountain of Heaven's treasures!

Kontakion 6

Eating from the Tree of Life, thou becamest thyself a tree of life, to the nourishment of many.

Hungering for lifegiving food, we cry with thee:
Alleluia!

Oikos 6

Sown in good soil, thou baredst fruit thirty, sixty, a hundredfold. Wherefore we cry unto thee:

Rejoice, O thou who were food to the hungry!

Rejoice, O thou who were wealth to the destitute!

Rejoice, O thou who were a robe of boldness to the naked!

Rejoice, O thou who gave abundantly out of thine abundance!

Rejoice, O thou who gave abundantly out of lack and want!

Rejoice, O thou who were God's abundance to thy neighbour!

Rejoice, O thou who never merely gave money or property!

Rejoice, O thou who always gave with a blessing!

Rejoice, O thou who loved Christ in thy neighbour!

Rejoice, O thou tree whose shade sheltered many!

Rejoice, O thou river who irrigated vast lands!

Rejoice, O flowing fountain of Heaven's treasures!

Kontakion 7

Blessed art thou, O holy Father Philaret the Merciful! Merciful wert thou, and thou receivedst mercy, wherefore we cry with thee: Alleluia!

Oikos 7

Feeding the hungry is greater work than raising the dead! Wherefore we ask of thee no miracle, O merciful Father Philaret, for thou shewedst the continual miracle of mercy, and we cry unto thee:

Rejoice, O thou who gave the very last thou hadst!

Rejoice, O thou who received recompense from Christ thereafter!

Rejoice, O thou who withheld nothing from him who asked of thee!

Rejoice, O thou who wherewith withheld nothing from Christ!

Rejoice, O thou who clung not to gold!

Rejoice, O thou who clung to the Light next to which gold is as dust!

Rejoice, O wise one who made blessings as abundant as dust!

Rejoice, O thou who were ever full of mercy!

Rejoice, O thou whose mercy was as a lamp!

Rejoice, O thou who firmly beheld the invisible!

Rejoice, O thou whose faith worked mercy through

love!

Rejoice, O flowing fountain of Heaven's treasures!

Kontakion 8

Rejoice, thou who wilt stand before Christ's dread judgment throne numbered among those who hear: Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the Kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world: for I was an hungred, and ye gave me meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me drink: I was a stranger, and ye took me in: naked, and ye clothed me: I was sick, and ye visited me: I was in prison, and ye came to me. And thou wilt cry with the blessed saints: Alleluia!

Oikos 8

Knowing that no man can love God whom he cannot see except that he love his neighbor whom he has seen, thou wert ever merciful, wherefore we cry unto thee:

Rejoice, O thou who fed Christ when He was an hungred!

Rejoice, O thou who gave Christ to drink when He was athirst!

Rejoice, O thou who showed Christ hospitality when He came a stranger!

Rejoice, O thou who clothed Christ when He was naked!

Rejoice, O thou who visited Christ when He was sick!

Rejoice, O thou who came to Christ when He was in prison!

Rejoice, O thou who met the least of these and saw Christ!

Rejoice, O thou who called every man thy brother!

Rejoice, O thou who saw no man as outside of God's love!

Rejoice, O thou perfect in mercy as thy Heavenly Father is perfect in mercy!

Rejoice, O lamp ever scintillating with the Light of Heaven!

Rejoice, O flowing fountain of Heaven's treasures!

Kontakion 9

All the angels were amazed at the excellence of thy virtue, for thy name "Philaret" is not only "Lover of Virtue" but "Lover of Excellence", for in thee excellence, virtue, and power are one and the same. Wherefore thou joinest the angels in crying: Alleluia!

Oikos 9

Even the most eloquent of orators cannot explain how thy virtue excelleth, for they cannot explain how in every circumstance thou soughtest out and

lovedst virtue. But we marvel and cry out faithfully:

Rejoice, O rich man who cared for the poor!

Rejoice, O illustrious man who cared for men of no account!

Rejoice, O excellent in virtue in times of advantage!

Rejoice, O excellent in virtue in times of suffering as well!

Rejoice, O man who held great treasure and yet ever fixed his eyes upon true Treasure!

Rejoice, O thou who in every circumstance found an arena for excellent virtue!

Rejoice, O thou who were ever an excellent worshipper of God!

Rejoice, O thou who in the world escaped the Devil's snares!

Rejoice, O thou who unmasked hollow Mammon!

Rejoice, O thou who found harbor on the sea of life!

Rejoice, O thou who by loving virtue loved Christ!

Rejoice, O flowing fountain of Heaven's treasures!

Kontakion 10

Thy life wast a living manuscript of the Sermon on the Mount, for even Solomon in his splendor had not raiment like unto thy faith. Beholding thy splendor we cry with thee: Alleluia!

Oikos 10

Thou storedst up possessions wherewith not to worry: not fickle and corruptible treasure on earth, but constant and incorruptible treasure in Heaven. Wherefore we cry unto thee:

Rejoice, O thou who however rich wert poor in spirit!

Rejoice, O thou who mourned thy neighbor's unhappiness!

Rejoice, O thou meek before thy neighbor's suffering!

Rejoice, O thou who hungered and thirsted for justice and all virtue!

Rejoice, O thou mirror of mercy!

Rejoice, O thou who remained pure in heart!

Rejoice, O thou who made deepest peace!

Rejoice, O living mirror of the Beatitudes!

Rejoice, O thou soaring as the birds of the air!

Rejoice, O thou who wert devoted to one Master, and despised all others!

Rejoice, O living exposition of the Sermon on the Mount!

Rejoice, O flowing fountain of Heaven's treasures!

Kontakion 11

Thou wert as the widow who bereaved herself even of her last two farthings: not only gave she more

than all the others, but she who gave up her creaturely life received the uncreated, immortal, and eternal life. Like her, thou wert a vessel empty enough to fill, wherefore we cry with thee: Alleluia!

Oikos 11

Thou wert a second Job, steadfast whilst Satan tore off layer after layer of thy belongings to show that there was nothing inside. Wherefore, we cry to thee who ever persevered:

Rejoice, O thou worshiper of God in plenty and in need!

Rejoice, O thou icon of perseverance and faith!

Rejoice, O thou generous with thy coin and generous with thy virtue!

Rejoice, O thou phoenix ever arisen from thy very ashes!

Rejoice, O thou saint immobile in thy dispassion!

Rejoice, O thou who in want showed the truth of thy generosity in easy times!

Rejoice, O thou who ever blessed the name of the Lord!

Rejoice, O thou who with many possessions loved them not!

Rejoice, O thou who with few possessions loved them no more!

Rejoice, O thou who remained stalwart whilst Satan tore away what was thine, to show there was

nothing inside!

Rejoice, O thou who were vindicated when God peeled off the nothing and showed there was everything inside!

Rejoice, O thou who vindicated God as did Job!
Rejoice, O flowing fountain of Heaven's treasures!

Kontakion 12

Thou hadst no food in the house, when imperial emissaries came looking for a bride for the Emperor: thou rich in Heaven, in trust thou beganst preparations to honourably meet the imperial emissaries. And thy neighbours came and brought food, a fitting feast, and the imperial emissaries found thy granddaughter finest in virtue and modesty, choosing her for her excellence to become Empress. Wherefore we cry with thee: Alleluia!

Oikos 12

When all this had come to pass, in thy virtue, in thine excellence, thou knewest what is real treasure. In thy virtue and humility, thou refusedst all imperial rank and office, saying that it sufficed thee to be known as grandfather to the Empress. Wherefore, amazed, we cry to thee:

Rejoice, O thou who knew true Treasure!

Rejoice, O thou who were lover of virtue and

excellence!

Rejoice, O thou who were rich and cared for the poor!

Rejoice, O thou who lost almost all and still opened thy hand!

Rejoice, O thou who became grandfather to the Empress whilst remaining ever humble!

Rejoice, O thou who were illustrious and noble yet cherished those of low estate!

Rejoice, O thou who were razed nigh unto the earth, and ever remained excellent as a lover of virtue!

Rejoice, O thou who were raised nigh unto Heaven, and ever remained humble as a lover of virtue!

Rejoice, O thou who sought first the Kingdom of Heaven!

Rejoice, O thou who were given all other things as well!

Rejoice, O thou who even then fixed his virtuous gaze on Christ!

Rejoice, O flowing fountain of Heaven's treasures!

Kontakion 13

O holy Father Philaret whose excellence was virtue and whose virtue was excellence, whose power was virtue and whose virtue was power, who was ever merciful and generous out of thine overflowing virtue, ever protected by the Kingdom of God, pray

for us as we cry unto thee: Alleluia! Alleluia!
Alleluia! (*Repeated thrice.*)