

Akathist Hymn to St Brendan

Tone 8

Kontakion I

O **WISE BRENDAN**, who sailed for seven years at the command of the Lord, taking no thought for life, food, drink or clothing, but were guided by His wisdom, pray for us, that, guided by the same Spirit you followed, we might receive the same mercy and wisdom, and show us to be worthy to praise the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, God and to sing to you,

Rejoice O Holy Abbot Brendan, Navigator of the Lord's sea!

Oikos I

The holy Abbot Brendan wandered the Lord's sea for seven years, seeing many strange and wonderful sights. God's providential care was upon him always, and he grew in wisdom and holiness. As we voyage in discovery of God, let us sing to him;

Rejoice, O voyager of the Lord's ocean!

Rejoice, O wanderer at the Lord's will!

Rejoice, O discoverer of many lands!

Rejoice, O seer of visions!

Rejoice, O laborer for souls in distant lands!

Rejoice, O wise explorer!

Rejoice O Holy Abbot Brendan, Navigator of the Lord's sea!

Kontakion II

The Holy Abbot Brendan, the father of three thousand monks at Clonfert, received the Holy Monk Barrind, who after having been on pilgrimage, was returning to his home. Barrind spoke a tale of God's glory so marvelous to hear that all were touched to their hearts and sang:

Alleluia!

Oikos II

The Holy Abbot Brendan, hearing the tale of the monk Barrind, was moved in his heart to search for this land. Immediately, he began to pray, and to seek wisdom from the Lord, whether it should be the will of the Father to set out on a journey. Based on his resolve, we sing to him, crying out;

Rejoice, O seeker after God's wisdom!

Rejoice, O discerner of God's will!

Rejoice, O discoverer of His plan!

Rejoice, O mirror of discernment!

Rejoice, O servant of God

Rejoice, O diligent and obedient one!

Rejoice O Holy Abbot Brendan, Navigator of the Lord's sea!

Kontakion III

After taking wise counsel, The Holy Abbot Brendan began in his labor of building a boat. Light he built it, to ride high upon the waves. Strong he built it, covered with ox-hides and sealed against the water. Provisions for but forty days we placed within, so that the brothers could learn to trust God's providence as they sang:

Alleluia!

Oikos III

You trusted in God's mercy when you took your departure. Great was your courage to set out on the unknown ocean, O Holy Abbot Brendan. Marveling at your bravery and obedience we sing:

Rejoice, O courageous sailor!

Rejoice, O brave and obedient servant!

Rejoice, O marvelous example of trust in God!

Rejoice, O brother to the brethren!

Rejoice, O gracious receiver of those who tarried!

Rejoice, O father to your spiritual sons!

Rejoice, O Holy Abbot Brendan, Navigator of the Lord's sea!

Kontakion IV

Caring not where they were going, save that it was God's direction, the Holy Abbot Brendan and the brothers spread the sail and voyaged for forty days, until their provisions were consumed. So great was their wonder and joy when they spied an island that they cried out:

Alleluia!

Oikos IV

O Holy Abbot Brendan, your care for your brothers was well known, as you warned them of the dangers of the isle they had found. And your warnings proved to be truth, and with the brothers we sing:

Rejoice, O tender servant of your brothers!

Rejoice, O perceptive fount of knowledge!

Rejoice, O seat of wisdom!

Rejoice, O storehouse of prophecy!

Rejoice, O intercessor for mercy!

Rejoice, O truth speaking abbot!

Rejoice, O Holy Abbot Brendan, Navigator of the Lord's sea!

Kontakion V

Landing upon the island, the Holy Abbot and his brothers we guided to a place of rest and refreshment. While there St Brendan did battle with the evil ones that came to tempt a brother, and when he was done the brothers cried:

Alleluia!

Oikos V

O Holy Abbot Brendan, you fought with the demons to keep your brothers safe from harm. Fight for us, O Father, so that at the end we may stand and sing to you:

Rejoice, O strong warrior for the Lord!

Rejoice, O intercessor for souls!

Rejoice, O fighter for righteousness!

Rejoice, O strong branch!

Rejoice, O upright tree!

Rejoice, O stalwart protector!

Rejoice, O Holy Abbot Brendan, Navigator of the Lord's sea!

Kontakion VI

Sailing from the island, one of the brothers was lost to greed. The brothers were dismayed, but the holy Abbot Brendan consoled and exhorted them, and they were encouraged, and continued in their voyage, as they sang:

Alleluia!

Oikos VI

O Holy Abbot Brendan, you mourned the loss of your brother. Teach us to mourn for our sins, so that we may not be lost to enemy at our last hour, and that we may stand and sing to you:

Rejoice, O blessed counselor!

Rejoice, O comforter of souls!

Rejoice, O caring father!

Rejoice, O loving brother!

Rejoice, O courageous one!

Rejoice, O wise exhorter!

Rejoice, O Holy Abbot Brendan, Navigator of the Lord's sea!

Kontakion VII

With many more adventures, the Holy Abbot Brendan came to an island inhabited by what he thought were birds. As he read the Divine Office, he realized that the voices of angels surrounded him, joining him as he sang to God:

Alleluia!

Oikos VII

O Holy Abbot Brendan, God gave you the gift of hearing the praise of angels. Pray for us, so that in time of need we can hear not only the praise of angels, but the still small voice of God in our hearts, and we can rejoice and sing to you:

Rejoice, O singer with the angels!

Rejoice, O one who praises God!

Rejoice, O choirmaster of the heavenly choir!

Rejoice, O one visited by angels!

Rejoice, O gifted visionary!

Rejoice, O priest of the Most High God!

Rejoice, O Holy Abbot Brendan, Navigator of the Lord's sea!

Kontakion VIII

As the wanderers voyaged, they came upon what they thought was an island where they could be refreshed on the Lord's Day and celebrate Liturgy and the Office in peace. To their surprise and wonder, their loving Father and Abbot Brendan rushed them off the island, which showed itself to be a great fish which sank beneath the waves! Marvelling at his foresight, we cry out in wonder as did the brothers:

Alleluia!

Oikos VIII

O Holy Abbot Brendan, God gifted you with wisdom and discernment to hear the heart of the great fish, beating out the love of God. Pray for us that we too may hear God's heart beating for us as we rejoice and sing to you:

Rejoice, O fisher of men!

Rejoice, O wielder of the net of the Gospel!

Rejoice, O discerner of deep things!

Rejoice, O hearer of wisdom!

Rejoice, O doer of the Word!

Rejoice, O servant of God!

Rejoice, O Holy Abbot Brendan, Navigator of the Lord's sea!

Kontakion IX

The Holy Abbot Brendan sailed with his brothers to another island, where they celebrated Pascha with all solemnity and joy. Conversing with another monk already there, the Holy Abbot was told that he would

return again for Pascha still another year! As the brothers had neither map nor compass, they were astounded at the prophecy, and cried out:

Alleluia!

Oikos IX

O Holy Abbot Brendan, God made you the worker of prophecy when you came to the island the first time, and one who fulfills prophecy when you and the brothers found this island again without map or compass, showing it was truly God's design and direction that you were following. Pray for us that we may always be able to walk in faith along the path God sets for us, though the way be dark before us, that we may rejoice and sing to you:

Rejoice, O prophet of the Most High!

Rejoice, O follower after the Lord!

Rejoice, O compass set on the Lord!

Rejoice, O finder of paths in the deep!

Rejoice, O fulfillment of prophecy!

Rejoice, O humble ark of the Holy Spirit

Rejoice, O Holy Abbot Brendan, Navigator of the Lord's sea!

Kontakion X

The Holy Abbot Brendan finally came to a great land, so large that the brothers could not see the ends of it. Shown by the Lord that this was the land he had quested after, he dedicated it to the Lord, and set about the work of bringing the Gospel to the people living there. The brothers had great joy in their labor, and they cried out:

Alleluia!

Oikos X

O Holy Abbot Brendan, you celebrated the first Liturgy in this land promised to you and dedicated to the Lord. You labored in this vineyard that had been cleared and planted by the Lord, and it bore fruit. Pray for us that we too may labor in this vineyard, and see a bountiful harvest by it, so that all can sing:

Rejoice, O discoverer of the promise!

Rejoice, O dedicator of this land!

Rejoice, O laborer in the fields!

Rejoice, O wise shepherd!

Rejoice, O instructor in wisdom!

Rejoice, O flower in God's garden

Rejoice, O Holy Abbot Brendan, Navigator of the Lord's sea!

Kontakion XI

The Holy Abbot Brendan again heard God's call, and filling his boat with provisions, the brothers again set out on the pathless deep, trusting in God to see them safely home. How great was their wonder and joy when they returned still a third time to the same island of prophecy, where they again celebrated Pascha and cried out:

Alleluia!

Oikos XI

O Holy Abbot Brendan, you who were shown by God the paths in the pathless deep, and who were given spiritual charts to follow the uncharted waves, pray for us that we who pray to you may be shown the paths for our lives, and the charts to the unknown waves of our futures, so that we may rejoice and sing:

Rejoice, O blessed Abbot!

Rejoice, O wise shepherd!

Rejoice, O fruit bearer!

Rejoice, O courageous one!

Rejoice, O blessed counselor!

Rejoice, O servant of God!

Rejoice, O Holy Abbot Brendan, Navigator of the Lord's sea!

Kontakion XII

Seven years he voyaged with his crew, beholding marvelous sights, seeing the fulfillment of his vision, and hallowing land that would bear much fruit for ages to come. It was with great joy that he returned to his homeland, and recounted his travels, so that all who heard saw God's grace upon him, and cried: Alleluia!

Oikos XII

O Holy Abbot Brendan, you overcame much during your voyage. You saw great and mighty works of the Lord. Intercede for us, so that we too may overcome, and see in our own lives the mighty hand of God working in us, so that we can stand and sing:

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Rejoice, O laborer for souls in distant lands!

Rejoice, O wise explorer!

Rejoice O Holy Abbot Brendan, Navigator of the Lord's sea!

Kontakion XIII

O Holy Abbot Brendan, Navigator of the Lord's sea, you trusted in God's providence, and so came to the land He promised, over uncharted and pathless depths. Accept this humble offering, and add your intercession to our prayers, so that at the last great Judgement, we may not be found stranded on the nether shore, but having built a spiritual coracle of your design, we may stand with you and worship and praise our Lord, God and Savior Jesus Christ, with His Unoriginate Father, and the Holy Spirit, One God, and we may all sing:

Alleluia!

This Kontakion is chanted 3 times

Oikos I

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