Apolitikion of St. Romanos the Melodist

Allegretto \( \text{F} \) = 120

Plagal Fourth Mode

arr. A. Gallos

In you O Father the image of God was

ve-ri-ly main-tained, for by tak-ing up the Cross you did

fol-low Christ, and by your deeds taught us to

look be-yond the tran-si-to-ry flesh, and to care for our im-

mor-tal soul. Therefore, your spi-rit with the

An-gels re-joice-s, O Ho-ly Ro-

ma-no-s.

English Translation by Rev. George P. Gallos

St. Romanos the Melodist

One of the best known hymnologists of our Church was St. Romanos the Melodist. Born in Syria in the 5th Century and a convert to Orthodoxy from Judaism, he was ordained a deacon and served as a deacon in the Church of Beirut. He was later assigned to the Church of the Blessed Virgin in Constantinople.

Romanos soon became recognized for his wonderful talent of composing church hymns, although he was not originally blessed with a melodious voice. The hymns he wrote were in simple language, expressed the great truths and dogmas of Orthodoxy, and they appealed to the hearts of the people. However, he longed to be able to praise God with his own voice.

Tradition tells us that on the eve of the Nativity of our Lord, Romanos had a vision of the Theotokos who blessed him and handed him a scroll. The next day, to the amazement of all, Romanos sang for the first time with a voice of unbridled sweetness. The faithful rejoiced, not only for this miracle, but for the words of the new hymn he had written: “Today the Virgin gives birth to the Highest Being, and the earth provides the Inaccessible One with a Cave. The angels with the shepherds glorify Him. The wise men journey with a star, because for our sake is born a little Child, the pre-eternal God” (I Parthenos Simeron).

Romanos died on October 1st in 510 AD. He was a productive genius and artist, writing thousands of kontakia celebrating the mystery of the Incarnation, the Crucifixion, the Resurrection, and the living of a Christian life. He has been called "Sweet Singer" (Glykophonos), "Melodist" (Melodhos), and "Righteous Chanter" (Psalitis Dhikeostinis). He also has been called the patron saint of all who sing for the Church.

Dedicated to the National Forum of Greek Orthodox Church Musicians
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ΑΠΟΛΥΤΙΚΙΟΝ
ΑΓΙΟΥ ΡΩΜΑΝΟΥ ΤΟΥ ΜΕΛΟΔΟΥ

Allegretto  \( \text{\textsc{\`{H}ocos πλ. 5'}} \) arr. A. Gallos

\[
\begin{align*}
\text{Εν σοι Πάτερ α-κρι-βως,} & \quad \text{κοτέλ κόνια;} \\
\text{δι-ε-σώ-θη τό} & \quad \text{λαβίων γάρ τόν σταυρόν,} \\
\text{κατ' έκόνια} & \quad \text{η-κολού-θη-σας} \\
\text{δι-ε-σώ-θη τό} & \quad \text{τό Χριστό, καί} \\
\text{κόσ, παρέρχεται ηα} & \quad \text{πράγματος α-θα-να} \\
\text{κόσ, παρέρχεται ηα} & \quad \text{νότου, διό καὶ με-τώ 'Αγ-γέ-λων} \\
\text{λεισθαί δὲ νυ-χής,} & \quad \text{συν-αγάλ-λε-τα, 'ο-σι-ε 'Ρω-μα-νε,} \\
\text{πράγματος α-θα-} & \quad \text{σι-ε Ρω-μα-νε,} \\
\text{νό-του; διό καὶ με-} & \quad \text{τῷ πνεύ-μα σου,} \\
\text{τό-πνευ-μα σου.} & \quad \text{τό πνεύ-μα σου.}
\end{align*}
\]

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