

## **Profound Akathist Hymn recited today in Orthodox cathedrals**



Today, the fifth Friday of Great Lent, witnesses the chanting of the Akathist Hymn, a profound, devotional poem, which sings the praises of the Theotokos, the Holy Mother and Ever-Virgin Mary.

This melodious hymn is one of the most beloved services of the Orthodox Church. It was composed in the imperial city of Constantinople by St. Romanos the Melodist in the sixth century.

Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew I officiated at the Akathist Hymn service at the patriarchal church in the Phanar district.

Today's service of the Akathist Hymn will be held throughout cathedrals in the country, but with all public health measures and restrictions in place to prevent exposure to the Covid-19 virus. The most prominent restriction for places of worship is a ratio of worshipers allowed indoors based on the size of the churches' interior.

The Church today also venerates the memory of Elder Amphilochios of Patmos, a priest-monk from the eastern Aegean island of Patmos who lived in 20th century.

