

AKATHIST HYMN
FOR
THE THEOTOKOS
"JOY OF CANADA"



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MONASTERY OF ALL SAINTS
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FOREWORD

Orthodoxy has been present in Canada for more than a century since the Romanian and Russian Orthodox people brought it with them as a blessing to their new country. Until recently, it has been shrouded in ethnic pockets and has not been proclaimed and preached to the Canadian people. First, the faith had to take root as younger members of ethnic communities became thoroughly Canadian and converts began to enter the Church. Equally important has been the establishment of a genuine Canadian Orthodox monastery, publishing house and educational resource centre.

Above all, the organic development of Canadian Orthodox spiritual traditions, a Canadian Orthodox "presence" and ethos, has taken place, all based in the Romanian and Russian Orthodox experience. The ikon of the *Theotokos, "Joy of Canada,"* and the annual pilgrimage and divine services associated with it, is at the forefront in this development. The church of our Canadian Orthodox Monastery is named in honour of "The Theotokos, Joy of Canada," and the akathist to the "Joy of Canada" is chanted every Wednesday night with Small Compline, as a special prayer for the growth and strengthening of Canadian Orthodoxy.

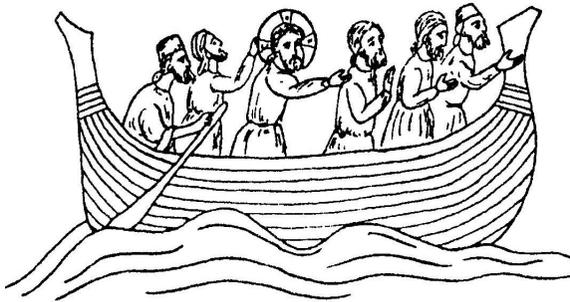
This present akathist hymn is basically a Scriptural exposition of the place of the Holy Virgin in Biblical prophecy, and in the unfolding of God's plan for the redemption of mankind. Indeed, the Theotokos was, and is, **living Scripture**: a living summary of the Old Testament and a living preview of the New Testament. The prophetic presence of the Holy Virgin is indelibly evident through the entire Old Testament, and this akathist hymn is an attempt

to demonstrate this fact, to show the firm Scriptural basis of the Orthodox traditions about her and veneration of her.

This akathist is also a hymn of praise, and a heartfelt prayer for the advance of Orthodox Christianity in our beloved Canada.

Small Compline may be read by lay people in their ikon corner at home, and this akathist is written to be chanted at the designated place in Small Compline. However, the rule for serving the akathist hymn alone (without Compline) is given at the end of this booklet.

Archbishop Lazar Puhalo



KONTAKION ONE

O thornless rose of ineffable beauty, thou didst bud forth on the border of paradise. For through thine unopened gate, the gate was opened, and through thy sacred ikon thou dost call the Canadian people to enter in, proclaiming thyself to be their protectress and defence against the enemy. Wherefore we cry unto thee: Rejoice joy of Canada.

IKOS ONE

A fiery angel appeared before the gate of Eden and drove Adam forth into the outer darkness. But an angel appeared before Thee, O Theotokos, and proclaimed thee to be the key to the lock that was securely fastened, for through thee the New Adam came forth to redeem those who cry to thee:

Rejoice, fragrant blossom of Paradise,
Rejoice, vine that bore the fruit of life,
Rejoice, garden in which God united with man,
Rejoice, gate of Paradise,
Rejoice, ladder from heaven to earth,
Rejoice, restoration of Eve,
Rejoice, mother of the New Adam,
Rejoice, mother of Him Who bruised Satan's head,
Rejoice, Joy of Canada



KONTAKION TWO

From the garden of old a river divided into four streams
and gushed forth to water the earth, and through thee,
O Theotokos, thou mystical garden, a mighty font of
Divine Grace has poured forth upon all mankind, bestow-
ing life and salvation on those who cry out to Christ our
God: Alleluia.

IKOS TWO

Thou, O Theotokos, wast chosen out of all ages and
generations to be the mother of God in the saving Incar-
nation. Wherefore, we thy servants magnify thee with
hymns crying out:

Rejoice, font from which the water of regeneration
streams forth,
Rejoice, stream of heavenly waters,
Rejoice, river unnavigable by the human mind,
Rejoice, flood that drowns the enemy,
Rejoice, water that cleanses us of our passions,
Rejoice, untainted river of purity,
Rejoice, life-bearing spring,
Rejoice, mother of Him Who givest living water,
Rejoice, Joy of Canada.



KONTAKION THREE

When Eve departed from paradise by transgression, she bore the Church down in great travail and sorrow, but thou didst bear the redemption of the fallen Church without labour, and didst wipe away the tears and sorrow of the children of Eve. Wherefore we cry to thy Son and our God Who has saved us: Alleluia.

IKOS THREE

Of old the serpent did wound the offspring of Eve, for having deceived her, he led her children into captivity; but thou, O Theotokos, in thy purity, didst bear Him Who mortally bruised the head of the evil-one and, by His Cross and Resurrection, liberates from bondage those who reverence thine ineffable Child-bearing, crying out:

Rejoice, restoration from the errors of Eve,
Rejoice, defeat of the serpent's wiles,
Rejoice, bearer of his vanquisher,
Rejoice, healing from the forbidden fruit,
Rejoice, bearer of the fruit of the Tree of Life,
Rejoice, fulfilment of God's promise to Eve,
Rejoice, wounding of Satan's head,
Rejoice, fore-image of the tomb and Resurrection,
Rejoice, Joy of Canada.



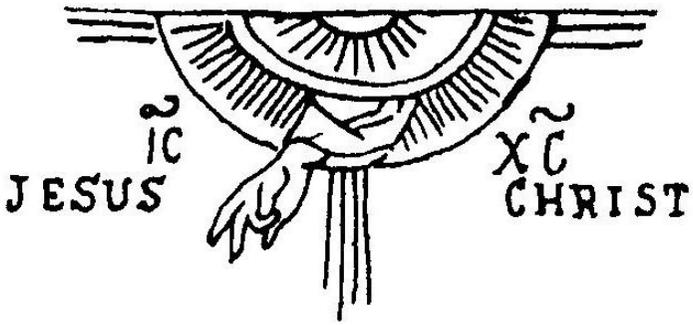
KONTAKION FOUR

Our forefathers built an altar of stone in the wilderness and offered up lambs as a fore-image of Redemption, but thou, O Theotokos, as an altar of virginity didst bear the Lamb of God, the salvation of the fallen children of Eve, who cry to Him: Alleluia.

IKOS FOUR

Thou art the bearer of the expectation of the ages; thou art the dawn of the great and holy day, O ever-virgin Mother of our God, for in thy womb, as a most Divine and Sacred altar, the Lamb descended to offer Himself for the Redemption of those who cry to thee:

Rejoice, mystic altar which bore the Lamb of God,
Rejoice, chamber of the Lord of Hosts,
Rejoice, palace of the Great King,
Rejoice, throne of the Prince of Peace,
Rejoice, chariot of the Lord of Lords,
Rejoice, chalice of the Wine of joy,
Rejoice, table of the Bread of Life,
Rejoice, womb greater than the Heavens,
Rejoice, Joy of Canada.



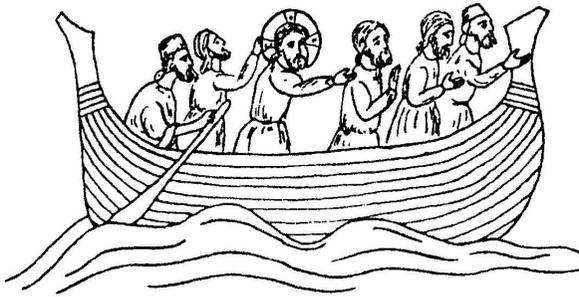
KONTAKION FIVE

Moses beheld the bush which burned without being consumed, and from it he perceived the voice of the Living God coming forth, proclaiming deliverance for His people, and thou, O Theotokos, the living bush, held in thy womb the fire of the Divinity and wast not consumed by it, but the Word of God came forth from thee as a Child for the liberation of those who piously exclaim to Him: Alleluia.

IKOS FIVE

"He maketh His angels ministers and His servants a flame of fire," for as the bush burned fiercely without being consumed, so thou also held in thy womb the ineffable flame of Divine Fire, not being corrupted or burnt by it. Wherefore, in awe and reverence we cry to thee:

Rejoice, mystical bush of Divine Fire,
Rejoice, flame of the love of God,
Rejoice, source of the saving Incarnation,
Rejoice, fire of virginity,
Rejoice, bearer of the Word of God,
Rejoice, flame that purifies our souls,
Rejoice, furnace that burns up our passions,
Rejoice, Mother of the Eternal Son,
Rejoice, Joy of Canada.



KONTAKION SIX

God commanded the Hebrews to fashion the ark of the promise and the Old Covenant, in the wilderness. But He made thee, O Theotokos, the fulfilment of the promise and the Ark of the New Covenant. For He Who is the heavenly manna budded forth from thee, and He Who bestowed the law came forth from thee to fulfil it for those who, in faith, cry to Him: Alleluia.

IKOS SIX

The Hebrew children prefigured thee, O Theotokos, when they made the Ark of the Covenant in the desert, for they placed in it the rod that budded like a living tree, the tables of the law and the vessel of manna, foretelling thy wondrous childbearing and causing us to hymn and praise thee crying out:

Rejoice, womb that bore "The Existence,"
Rejoice, thou through whom the Word became manifest,
Rejoice, ark in which the mystical rod budded forth,
Rejoice, bearer of the Lawgiver,
Rejoice, thou through Whom He came to fulfil the law,
Rejoice, vessel of the Divine manna of Life,
Rejoice, fulfilment of the promise,
Rejoice, ark of the New Covenant,
Rejoice, Joy of Canada.



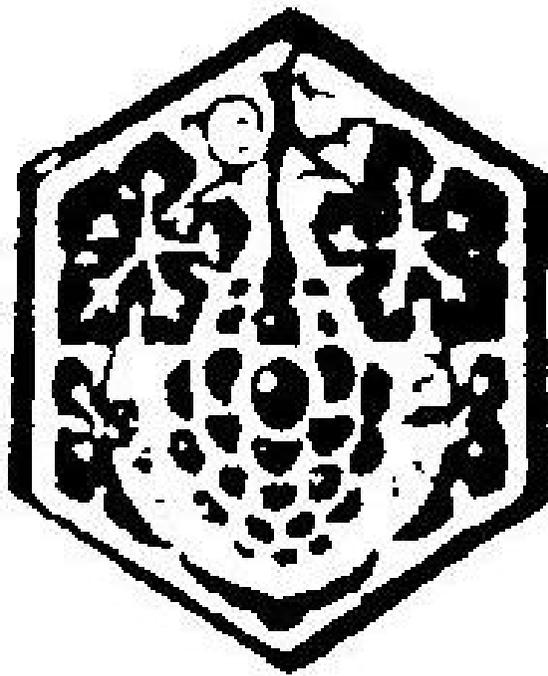
KONTAKION SEVEN

When man lost paradise, where he walked with his Creator as Father and Friend, he received the tabernacle as a prophetic temple for communion with God. But thou, O all-pure one, wast seen to be the true temple through which God once more walked among men as Redeemer and Friend of those who joyously cry to Him: Alleluia.

IKOS SEVEN

Though man once walked with the Creator in Eden, the people could not go into the tabernacle, but stood outside while the priests entered, with great fear, to the Holy of Holies. But thou, O Theotokos, entered the Holy Place and became thyself the tabernacle of the Most High, for He came forth from thee to walk once more among His people. Wherefore we cry to thee:

Rejoice, restoration of Paradise,
Rejoice, tabernacle of God the Word,
Rejoice, temple of the Creator of all,
Rejoice, house of the Most High God,
Rejoice, sanctuary in which God is joined to man,
Rejoice, altar venerated by the Cherubim,
Rejoice, mercy seat honoured by the Seraphim,
Rejoice, holiest of holies,
Rejoice, Joy of Canada.



KONTAKION EIGHT

When our forebears lost paradise and brought the Church to barrenness, God proclaimed His promises prophetically through the holy women and filled it with hope. Thou, O Theotokos, art the seal of the promises, the fulfilment of the hope of the fallen Church, wherefore we cry out to Him Who came forth from thee: Alleluia.

IKOS EIGHT

In thee, O Theotokos, are the promises made manifest and all prophecy is fulfilled in Him Whom thou didst bear. The expectation of the ages has come to pass and the hope of the holy women prophets is made complete. Wherefore we cry to thee:

Rejoice, with Eve, for the serpent is bruised,
Rejoice, with Sarah, for the Holy Nation is redeemed,
Rejoice, with the righteous daughters, for the inheritance
is secured,
Rejoice, with Esther, for the spiritual Haman is slain,
Rejoice, with Ruth, for the gentiles are delivered,
Rejoice, with Hannah, for the priesthood is perfected,
Rejoice, with Elizabeth, for her son's prophecy is fulfilled,
Rejoice, with Anna, for the barrenness of the Church is
healed,
Rejoice, Joy of Canada.



KONTAKION NINE

A Virgin shall conceive and bear a child," the prophet Isaiah did proclaim of old. In thee, O Theotokos, has this great wonder been fulfilled, and He, Whom Job longed to see in the flesh, has been manifest in the flesh for the redemption of those who sing: Alleluia.

IKOS NINE

Verily the prophet Isaiah foretold thee to be in truth the ever-virgin Mother of our God, proclaiming the glory of thy purity, and we the generations who call thee blessed, cry out with one voice to thee:

Rejoice, vision of the prophets,
Rejoice, exaltation of the apostles,
Rejoice, one chosen of all generations,
Rejoice, awe of the angelic host,
Rejoice, terror of the demonic horde,
Rejoice, reward of obedience,
Rejoice, radiance of purity,
Rejoice, crown of virginity,
Rejoice, Joy of Canada



KONTAKION TEN

The prophet David foretold both thy joy and thy great sorrow and thine ineffable glory when he proclaimed in vision, "The queen stood at Thy right hand arrayed in gold and many coloured vesture," for thou didst stand in joy by the manger of thy Royal Child, and in great agony beside His Cross. But on the great and holy day, thou shalt be seen at the right hand of the King of Glory as the Church cries out to Him: Alleluia.

IKOS TEN

Thy spiritual vesture was seen by the prophet who stood in amazement, seeing thee beside the throne of God as a humble servant and beloved mother, for seeing such glory bestowed upon a mortal woman left him in awe, as he cried to thee such things as these:

Rejoice, golden raiment of virginity,
Rejoice, many coloured robe of the virtues,
Rejoice, precious diadem of a pure heart,
Rejoice, royal crown of obedience,
Rejoice, hope of humanity beside the manger,
Rejoice, grief of mankind by the Cross,
Rejoice, intercessor at the right hand of the Judge,
Rejoice, queen of heaven and earth,
Rejoice, Joy of Canada.



KONTAKION ELEVEN

Thy childbearing was foretold to comfort Eve. The law revealed thee, the prophets foretold thy calling, and the psalmist hymned thy majesty in prophetic odes. All the promises and prophecies are fulfilled in Him Who was born of thee, O Theotokos, and we who have received these blessings cry to Him: Alleluia.

IKOS ELEVEN

Thou art the seal of the Old Testament, O all pure one, for thou wast made its last prophet, the fulfilment of its law, the restoration of the Church, the dawn of the new age. In thee, the fulness of time is come to pass, for in thy womb is realized the expectation of ages for us who cry out in awe:

Rejoice, restoration of Eve,
Rejoice, ark of the faithful,
Rejoice, expectation of the patriarchs,
Rejoice, fulfilment of the holy women of old,
Rejoice, hope of the prophets,
Rejoice, sacred hymn of the psalmist,
Rejoice, fulfilment of the prophetic law,
Rejoice, twilight of the Old Covenant,
Rejoice, Joy of Canada.



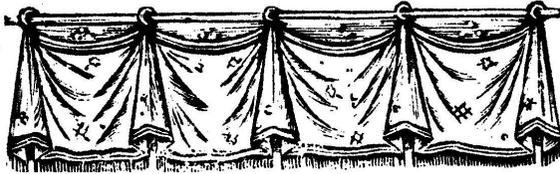
KONTAKION TWELVE

Thou art the dawn of the New Testament for the Sun of Righteousness arose from thee, O Theotokos, and through thee the Creator has become a babe to make all things new and restore the fallen human nature, granting mercy and salvation to those who in faith cry out to Him: Alleluia.

IKOS TWELVE

The Daystar springs forth from an unbroken virgin, fulfilling the righteousness of the Old Covenant, and by His own precious blood confirming the New Testament. For He fulfilled the true Sabbath, and arose the Dayspring of the eighth and eternal day, destroying the power of death and granting life and resurrection to those who hymn His most holy mother with such words as these:

Rejoice, horizon of the new dawn,
Rejoice, bridal chamber of the union of God and man,
Rejoice, heaven in which the Daystar appeared,
Rejoice, ewe who bore the unblemished Lamb,
Rejoice, bearer of the true sacrifice,
Rejoice, mother of Him who sealed the eternal covenant,
Rejoice, first of the apostles,
Rejoice, door of the New Testament,
Rejoice, Joy of Canada.



KONTAKION THIRTEEN

Thy sacred ikon has blessed the land of Canada, showing Thee to be our protectress and intercessor before the Lord of all. O all-praised and most pure Mother of our God, intercede for the conversion of our land to the Orthodox Faith, that the great mercy of thy Son and our Redeemer may pour forth on us who in faith cry to Him: Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

IKOS ONE

A fiery angel appeared before the gate of Eden and drove Adam forth into the outer darkness. But an angel appeared before thee, O Theotokos, and proclaimed thee to be the key to the lock that was securely fastened, for through thee the New Adam came forth to redeem those who cry to thee:

Rejoice, fragrant blossom of Paradise,
Rejoice, vine that bore the fruit of life,
Rejoice, garden in which God united with man,
Rejoice, gate of Paradise,
Rejoice, ladder from heaven to earth,
Rejoice, restoration of Eve,
Rejoice, mother of the New Adam,
Rejoice, mother of Him Who bruised Satan's head,
Rejoice, Joy of Canada.



KONTAKION FOR THE “JOY OF CANADA”

O thornless rose of ineffable beauty, thou didst bud forth on the border of paradise. For through thine unopened gate, the gate was opened, and through thy sacred ikon thou dost call the Canadian people to enter in, proclaiming thyself to be their protectress and defence against the enemy. Wherefore, we cry unto thee: Rejoice joy of Canada.

PRAYER

Most pure and ever-blessed Theotokos, we beseech thee to intercede for our Canadian land, that it may be converted to the true faith of Christ; that the Orthodox Church may increase and bear fruit mightily among our people; that we may continue in peace and godly struggle for the salvation of our souls. Be our protectress against the enemy, our defence against the delusions of this present age, a refuge from the passions, a haven for our souls in the storms and tempests of the world. Be our hope and comfort on the narrow path which leads to the Kingdom of thy Son and our God, Jesus Christ, to Whom be all honour, glory, and adoration, together with the Eternal Father and the Life-giving Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

Amen.

SPECIAL HYMNS

{1}

FOR THE "JOY OF CANADA"

MEGALYNARION FOR THE "JOY OF CANADA"

We magnify thee,/ We magnify thee,/ holy mother of Christ our God,/ and we honour thy most sacred ikon,/ O protectress of Canada,/ pray for us to Christ our God.

Verse: O clap your hands, all you nations; shout to God with cries of joy.

TROPARION, TONE 6

O royal portal through whom the Eternal King came forth./ O unbroken seal of the promise,/ we thy people rejoice in thy sacred ikon / which has blessed thy sacred monastery / and doth shine forth the light of Grace / to all the land of Canada./ Wherefore we beseech thee,/ open to us the gate of paradise,/ for thou art the hope of all / who take refuge in thee.

KONTAKION, TONE 8

O thornless rose of ineffable beauty,/ thou didst bud forth on the border of paradise./ For through thine unopened gate, the gate was opened, / and through thy sacred ikon, thou dost call the Canadian people to enter in,/ proclaiming

thysself to be their protectress and defence against the enemy./ Wherefore we cry unto thee, rejoice joy of Canada.

{2}
**FOR ALL SAINTS
OF NORTH AMERICA**

TROPARION, TONE 4

Like a constellation of angelic stars / you have shone brightly in the western sky./ Dawning forth the ancient light of Orthodoxy,/ you dispelled the darkness of the new world./ Wherefore we glorify you holy martyrs,/ wonderworkers and illuminators,/ for you have proclaimed salvation to North America.

KONTAKION, TONE 8

O holy martyrs, righteous fathers,/ God-bearing hierarchs and enlighteners,/ you company of angelic men,/ we who have been illumined by your lives and deeds / exalt your memory crying out: Glory to Christ Who has glorified you / glory to Him Who has made you wondrous,/ glory to Him Who has proclaimed His Gospel to all through you.

{3}
FOR THE
HOLY MARTYR TIKHON

TROPARION, TONE 5

Thou, O Tikhon, didst bear thy cross with patience / and witness boldly before the godless power./ Wherefore, thou art seen as a leader of the choir of New Martyrs,/ and we the faithful magnify thy glorious suffering.

KONTAKION, Tone 1

As the first teacher of the Canadian land and guide to missionaries,/ thou was seen as a lamp in the wilderness./ Having sealed thy life with the crown of martyrdom,/ thou dost ever intercede for those who in faith do honour thee.

ORDER FOR READING
AN AKATHIST ALONE

Read the following seven prayers, with a bow after each one (if it is Tuesday or Thursday evening, then make a prostration after each one and sign yourself with the cross each time):

1. O God, be merciful to me, a sinner. +
2. O God, cleanse me, a sinner, and have mercy on me. +
3. As Thou art my Creator, O Lord, have mercy on me. +
4. I have sinned beyond measure, O Lord, forgive me. +

5. Most holy Theotokos, pray for the salvation of me, a sinner. +
6. O angel, my holy guardian, protect me from the evil-one. +
7. {Call upon the name of your patron saint, the Slava saint of your family if you have one, or if you are serving the akathist with your family or another group, the name of each person's patron saint is said}: Holy _____, pray to God for me (us).

Then:

Through the prayers of our holy fathers, Lord Jesus Christ, our God, have mercy on us and save us. Amen.

And:

Glory to thee, O our God, Glory to Thee.

Followed by:

"Heavenly King, Comforter...." through "Our Father" (during the Paschal season, "Christ is Risen is chanted in place of the 'Heavenly King') Lord have mercy (12 times); Glory - now and ever; O come let us worship....; Psalm 50; The Symbol of Faith.

Then, the Akathist is read or chanted, and after it is finished, we read the following dismissal sequence:

- * "It is truly meet to call thee blessed...."
- * The "Thrice Holy" through "Our Father."

- * Lord have mercy (3 times).
- * Glory - now and ever.
- * "More honourable than the Cherubim...."
- * "Through the prayers of our holy fathers, Lord Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and save us. Amen."