

Akathist to the Port Arthur Icon Of the Triumph of the Theotokos

Troparion, Fourth Tone

Today, O Mother of God, the city of Vladivostok rejoices, and with it all the reaches of the earth in beholding Thine Icon, which bears the historic name of Port Arthur. For blessed and glorious provision was offered to the devout forces of the far Russian realm and is offered to us today as we gaze on Thy holy image and cry: O Orthodox Christians of North America preserve the Orthodox Faith for this Faith is your firm foundation.

Kontakion 1

Our Lady, we Thy servants in North America raise a hymn of thanksgiving to Thee, our Intercessor and Queen, chosen from all generations, Who dost defend us by the veil of Thy grace. We beseech Thee, O most Merciful Lady, to deliver us from all calamity and torment, as we bring Thee this glad song: Rejoice, Most Glorified Queen, Whose prayers cover our land with mercy!

Ikos 1

The Creator of angels hath chosen Thee, Our Lady, for the gracious salvation of the nations, and to us hath granted Thee, the Mediatress for Orthodox people, Who dost deliver us from invasions, famine and all misfortune, and Who dost bestow all piety and devotion upon our lives. Therefore, in remembrance of Thy loving-kindness, we chant to Thee with joyful hearts:

Rejoice, abode of the unapproachable Divinity!

Rejoice, constant wonder for the people!

Rejoice, help and intercession for Thine inheritance!

Rejoice, Thou Who art solicitous for our salvation!

Rejoice, gracious deliverance from troubles!

Rejoice, indestructible shield of our warriors!

Rejoice, their sword and invulnerable armor!

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Rejoice, defeat and terror of enemies!

Rejoice, Most Glorified Queen, Whose prayers cover our land with mercy!

Kontakion 2

Having seen the heartache, torment of soul, and sincere repentance of Thy people, O Theotokos, Thou wast well-pleased to give Thine Icon as a blessing and a sign of triumph of the Christ-loving warriors of the far reaches of Russia and those in present need. Venerating Thine Icon with faith and contrite hearts, we cry out to God from the depths of our souls and sing to the Lord: Alleluia!

Ikos 2

The wisdom of heaven touched the believing ones of the city of Kiev, requesting that an icon of the Most Holy Theotokos be prepared, and that it should be called the “Port Arthur Mother of God” and be the Protectress and Defender of the devout warriors of the Russian Far East, and a comfort and help to Orthodox people. Therefore, with tenderness of heart, we chant these praises to Thee:

Rejoice, Thou Who didst come from the city of Kiev as our Intercessor!

Rejoice, confirmation of the Orthodox Faith!

Rejoice, Thou Who dost bless the veneration of holy icons!

Rejoice, Thou Who dost expose every heresy!

Rejoice, Thou Who dost cast down pride!

Rejoice, Thou Who dost transform our sorrow into joy!

Rejoice, Thou Who dost gladden us with manifest hope!

Rejoice, Thou Who didst also gladden the people of North America by
Thy coming!

Rejoice, Most Glorified Queen, Whose prayers cover our land with mercy!

Kontakion 3

The power of God and the grace of Our Lady strengthened an aged sailor’s belief in a marvelous vision and inspired him to gather all that was needed for the painting of Thy pure Image. With faith bestowed upon him

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by the Lord, he undertook the work and at the request of the Holy Theotokos he commissioned the Icon and prayed to the Lord: Alleluia!

Ikos 3

Having a blessed concern for the wellbeing of those who love Thy Son, O Our Lady, and having revealed in a vision Thy will, “Let my Holy Image go before the Christ-loving armies of Port Arthur and Its assistance will scatter the wicked hordes,” the triumphal message comes forth to us as well, and upon hearing it we chant to Thee:

Rejoice, constant intercessor to Christ the Lord, Who inclinest Him to grant to us His mercy!

Rejoice, Thou Who dost manifest the glory of Thy miracles to the sinful through pious men!

Rejoice, Thou Who dost remove the wrath of God by Thine intercession!

Rejoice, Thou Who art powerful and quick to help in time of tribulation!

Rejoice, Thou Who dost protect us from disasters by Thy motherly veil!

Rejoice, O Merciful One, Who sparest the hopeless from the chasm of death!

Rejoice, Thou Who dost cover Thy faithful children with the veil of Thy goodness!

Rejoice, Thou most merciful listener to our prayers in sorrows and temptations!

Rejoice, Most Glorified Queen, Whose prayers cover our land with mercy!

Kontakion 4

The devout men of the city of Kiev, attempting to halt the tempest of rebellion in Russia and the War in the Far East, fulfilled the will of the Theotokos and sent the Icon to the besieged province of Canton as a shield and a sign of triumph over its enemies, and they prayed to the Lord: Alleluia!

Ikos 4

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The Orthodox people learned that the Icon of the Heavenly Queen was passing by their cities and provinces and they met It with heartfelt veneration. A great multitude of believers and pilgrims prayed with tears in their eyes and asked for victory over their enemies, deliverance from famine and ruin, and peace for the world. In a similar manner, we turn to Thee Who art the Most Blessed One and sing:

Rejoice, adornment of Heaven!

Rejoice, intercession for the earth!

Rejoice, blessed daughter of the Heavenly Father!

Rejoice, virginal bearer of the Pre-eternal Son!

Rejoice, giver of the Divine Grace!

Rejoice, healer of our bodies!

Rejoice, guide for our souls to the Heavenly Kingdom!

Rejoice, our deliverance from everlasting death!

Rejoice, Most Glorified Queen, Whose prayers cover our land with mercy!

Kontakion 5

A star radiant in God is Thine Icon, O Theotokos. For It illumineth all the earth, from the east to the west, from Russia to America, and enlighteneth all those lost in the darkness of unbelief and leadeth them to repentance, driving away a multitude of deep sorrows, and guiding to the way of salvation those who turn to Thee and cry out to God: Alleluia!

Ikos 5

In the day of swirling tribulation and temptation the Theotokos hath granted us great mercy, having manifested Her Icon of Port Arthur, so that those who turn to It with veneration and faith would receive healing and salvation for their souls. Now in great joy we praise Thine inexpressible loving-kindness, and chant to Thee with fervent devotion:

Rejoice, unfading luminary Who dost enlighten us by the light of the true knowledge of God!

Rejoice, defense that opens the gates of paradise to the faithful!

Rejoice, inexhaustible spring of holiness!

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Rejoice, flowing river of the grace of God!

Rejoice, cleansing of our sins!

Rejoice, reconciliation of repentant people with God!

Rejoice, Thou Who acceptest good vows!

Rejoice, Thou Who aidest our good beginnings!

Rejoice, Most Glorified Queen, Whose prayers cover our land with mercy!

Kontakion 6

The Holy Church of Thy Son speaks of Thy wonders, O Lady, and the ends of the earth cannot fathom the depth of the strength of God, in the deliverance, salvation, enlightenment and healing of His people. For from Thy holy icons have come wonders, reflecting the unending mercy and generosity of the Lord to the impoverished human race. Therefore, we glorify Thine Icon and sing to Thy Son and our Lord: Alleluia!

Ikos 6

Shining forth as a radiant star from the true Sun of Righteousness, O Holy Virgin, Thy holy Icon of Port Arthur was brought forth. It reached the shores of the Pacific Ocean enlightening hearts and allowed the Orthodox people to perceive the great mysteries of God. And passing over that great ocean, Thine Icon was brought to North America, where we stand before It today seeking mercy, and we raise this song to Thee:

Rejoice, for the angelic host doth rejoice in Thee!

Rejoice, for mankind doth triumph in Thee!

Rejoice, for Thy glory surpasseth all earthly and heavenly praises!

Rejoice, our Joy Who dost comfort hearts open to Thee!

Rejoice, good intercessor swift to help us!

Rejoice, Thou Who, through Thine Icon, hast given us a pledge of salvation!

Rejoice, Thou Who by Thine appearing didst defend the Far Eastern lands from the enemy!

Rejoice, Thou Who didst promise victory if Thine Icon were brought to Port Arthur!

Rejoice, Most Glorified Queen, Whose prayers cover our land with mercy!

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Kontakion 7

OTheotokos, a certain Russian officer desiring to fulfill the will of God bore the Icon of Port Arthur to the fortress besieged by the enemy. But when he arrived at the city of Dalian he found that the military leaders had not faith in the help of the Theotokos, and he cried out to the Lord with tears: Alleluia!

Ikos 7

A new expression of loving-kindness came to us in the form of the Port Arthur Icon. After the Lord, Who allows mankind to experience fire, the sword, famine or disaster, allowed the defeat of the Russian warriors, the godless people held captive the Icon of Port Arthur. Yet He did not allow His people to fall completely but caught them with His merciful hand. With this example in mind, we fall down before Thee, O Lady, and we beseech Thee: help us in North America to learn from this. Let us not perish completely but open the doors of mercy to those who chant to Thee:

Rejoice, Thou Who hast borne the Savior of the world!

Rejoice, beginning of our salvation!

Rejoice, O Mother of God Who barest much suffering!

Rejoice, O Mother of charity Who dost wipe away every tear of suffering
people!

Rejoice, Thou Who dost give us the tears of tender feeling!

Rejoice, Thou Who dost deliver us from passions!

Rejoice, Thou Who dost save perishing sinners!

Rejoice, Lady of Heaven and Earth Who dost hearken to the prayers of
Thy servants!

Rejoice, Most Glorified Queen, Whose prayers cover our land with mercy!

Kontakion 8

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Pilgrims and sojourners are we on the face of the earth, our life is vain and brief. We think not of our end, nor of the awesome Judgment Seat of Christ, where we will stand before the Righteous Judge and give answer for our every deed and word. We call upon Thee, O Lady, raise us from the sleep of sin, and by Thine intercessions grant that we might find forgiveness of our transgressions, as we joyfully cry to Christ our God: Alleluia!

Ikos 8

All previous grief and sorrows depart from us by Thy prayers, O Holy Virgin, Who wast taken up into Heaven but Whose prayers remain for those on earth. Strengthen within the world Orthodox understanding and give all that is useful to Thy servants, establishing our lives in profound peace. In gratitude and magnifying Thee we cry:

Rejoice, Thou Who dost hold before our spiritual eyes the vision of the terrible hour of our death!

Rejoice, Thou Who dost teach us to treat each day as the last!

Rejoice, Thou Who dost forbid us to love the godless world!

Rejoice, Thou Who dost cleanse our hearts of every partiality for temporary riches!

Rejoice, Thou Who dost forbid us to seek the passing shadow of earthly glory!

Rejoice, Thou Who dost inspire us to unceasingly utter and keep in our mind the sweetest Name of Our Lord Jesus Christ!

Rejoice, Thou Who dost keep us from vain speaking and hypocrisy!

Rejoice, Thou Whose intercession for us is strong before God lest we be cast into utter darkness!

Rejoice, Most Glorified Queen, Whose prayers cover our land with mercy!

Kontakion 9

The ranks of angels marveled at the great mercy of God that alloweth not His people to perish completely, neither in the worldly conflict when Thine Icon was revealed nor today in our age of strife, for to us He hath given Thee as our Intercessor. O Lord, Thou art inconceivably close to us and dost hearken to those who chant to Thee: Alleluia!

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Ikos 9

The sages of this temporal world, not enlightened by the light of the true knowledge of God, worshipped the golden calf. The wrath of God came down upon the world for such an act. Seeing this, we the sinful humbly pray Thee, O Our Lady, petition the Creator to exchange His righteous wrath for mercy, and enlighten our hearts that we might worship none but the Lord in Holy Trinity. O Lady, have mercy upon us who chant to Thee:

Rejoice, Thou Who dost never deprive us of Thy help and intercession!

Rejoice, Thou Who dost enlighten our minds with Thy luminous protecting veil!

Rejoice, Thou Who dost anoint the wounds of our souls with healing chrism!

Rejoice, Thou Who dost lift us from the depths of our iniquities by Thy helping hand!

Rejoice, Thou Who dost dispel the sinful dreams of the laziness of our souls!

Rejoice, Thou Who dost give birth to the tender emotion of our souls and contrition of our hearts!

Rejoice, Thou Who dost provoke us to repentance and self-correction!

Rejoice, Thou Who dost grant salvation to all the people who seek refuge under Thy protecting veil!

Rejoice, Most Glorified Queen, Whose prayers cover our land with mercy!

Kontakion 10

Desiring to save the people of the Far East perishing in the darkness of unbelief and apostasy, O Theotokos, Thou didst send pilgrims from Vladivostok to venerate the holy places in Jerusalem. And there on the path Our Savior trod on the way to the Cross, close to the place where Christ was judged, Thou didst manifest Thy mercy when they found Thy holy Icon of Port Arthur. And therefore we chant with them to God: Alleluia!

Ikos 10

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Thou, Our Lady, didst not immediately return Thine Icon to the Far East, but first didst comfort the nuns at the Monastery of the Hill Country by paying a three month visit there— much as Thou didst remain in the house of Thy relative Elizabeth. And now, O Theotokos, Thou hast manifested the fortress wall of Thy mercy and generosity for Christians by the restoration of Thine Icon. Thou hast promised us Thy veil of grace for establishing the Orthodox Christian faith throughout the earth. Therefore we venerate the newly-found holy Icon of Port Arthur, calling on Thee for the firm planting of the Holy Faith across the expanse of our land and chant to Thee with joy:

Rejoice, intercessor and protector of Christian nations, Who forgettest not our land!

Rejoice, bestower of grace on Orthodox Christians of North America!

Rejoice, pillar and foundation of the Holy Orthodox Church!

Rejoice, protection of holy objects across the land!

Rejoice, deliverance for those who are held captive!

Rejoice, courage of those who are persecuted for the truth!

Rejoice, patience of those who suffer for their faith!

Rejoice, salvation from famine and infirmities!

Rejoice, Most Glorified Queen, Whose prayers cover our land with mercy!

Kontakion 11

Nations of the Far East welcome Thine Icon again, O Theotokos, as a lovely dawn and our essential hope, by chanting praises and hymns of thanksgiving, and telling of Thy mercy to all the nations of the world. And having placed all our trust in God by Thy prayers, we in North America chant joyfully to Him: Alleluia!

Ikos 11

Thou, Our Lady, dost stretch Thy Son's holy Image, Not Made By Hands, over all the earth as a luminous protection that drives away multitudes of demons. Therefore we sing to Thee with joy:

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Rejoice, Thou Who art truly arrayed in sunlight!
Rejoice, Thou Who art a crown adorned with stars!
Rejoice, Thou Who art arrayed in gold and a robe of many hues!
Rejoice, Thou Who art wondrous in beauty!
Rejoice, Thou Who art the most kind warmth of the sun!
Rejoice, Thou Who art the light of angels and of godly men!
Rejoice, Thou Who dost drive away legions of demons!
Rejoice, Thou Who dost disperse the darkness of unbelief!
Rejoice, Most Glorified Queen, Whose prayers cover our land with mercy!

Kontakion 12

Thine Icon, O Theotokos, revealeth Thy grace as a precious treasure of the Christian Church. For Thou hast promised to be with us to the very end of the age, having said regarding Thy first Icon: “My grace and power will be with this Icon!” And receiving Thine Icon in North America, we believe that Thou art also with us here, where Thy people chant the song of prayer to Thy Son: Alleluia!

Ikos 12

We praise Thy miracles, O Our Lady, both ones that were and the ones that will be. We praise Thee and lovingly venerate Thine Icon of Port Arthur. For, through It, we know that Thou art always with us. Look upon us with Thine eyes of mercy, O Mother of God, and as we behold Thee on Thine Icon, permit us at the awesome hour of our passing also to behold Thee being present with us and guiding us to the Heavenly Kingdom by Thy loving, protective hand. In gratitude for all of Thy loving kindness to us now and in the future, we sing:

Rejoice, adornment of the heavenly and earthly Church!
Rejoice, Thou Who, after God, art our first refuge and consolation!
Rejoice, holy defense and intercession for virgins!
Rejoice, foundation of holy life for the faithful!
Rejoice, passage to the Heavenly Kingdom for those who love Thee!

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Rejoice, deliverance from the power of the prince of this world for those who put their trust in Thee!

Rejoice, deliverance of sinners from the suffering after death for those who praise Thee!

Rejoice, opening of the gates of paradise to us!

Rejoice, Most Glorified Queen, Whose prayers cover our land with mercy!

Kontakion 13

O All-praised Mother Who didst bear the Word, praised by the angels in heaven and by all the peoples of the earth, turn Thine attention to our humble prayers before Thy most holy Icon and grant everything that is good and beneficial to our souls, so that we, Thy servants being saved by Thy prayers, may chant to God: Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

This kontakion we say thrice. Then:

Ikos 1

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Rejoice, abode of the unapproachable Divinity!

Rejoice, constant wonder for the people!

Rejoice, help and intercession for Thine inheritance!

Rejoice, Thou Who art solicitous for our salvation!

Rejoice, gracious deliverance from troubles!

Rejoice, indestructible shield of our warriors!

Rejoice, their sword and invulnerable armor!

Rejoice, defeat and terror of enemies!

Rejoice, Most Glorified Queen, Whose prayers cover our land with mercy!

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Our Lady, we Thy servants in North America raise a hymn of thanksgiving to Thee, our Intercessor and Queen, chosen from all generations, Who dost defend us by the veil of Thy grace. We beseech Thee, O most Merciful Lady, to deliver us from all calamity and torment, as we bring Thee this glad song: Rejoice, Most Glorified Queen, Whose prayers cover our land with mercy!

Prayer to the Most Holy Theotokos

O Most Holy Virgin Theotokos, Who art higher than the Cherubim and the Seraphim and art the holiest of all the saints, venerating Thine Icon we pray Thee humbly: hearken to our prayers, Thou Who dost see our sorrows and woes, and as our deeply loving Mother be swift to assist us who are helpless. Entreat Thy Son and Our Lord lest He give the land of North America over to our enemies and deal with us according to all of our iniquities, but rather may He grant us His abundant mercy as we turn from our sins. O Our Lady, ask Him in His goodness for health for our bodies and for the salvation of our souls, for a peaceful life and a bountiful prosperity, for fair and seasonable weather, and a blessing upon our every good intention and undertaking. Thou didst mercifully give Thine Icon of Port Arthur in days past for the protection of Orthodox people, but the Icon was held captive by the godless world because of renunciation, unbelief, and rejection of that which is dear in Christ. And now we venerate Thy recovered Image, which is precious to us, and we offer Thee our zealous hymns and to Thy Son, our sincere repentance. O All-praised Queen, stretch forth Thy God-bearing hands, with which Thou didst carry the Christ Child, and pray that He deliver us from unbelief and every evil. Show us, O Our Lady, the triumph of Thy mercy: strengthen the faithful, enlighten those who have gone astray, heal the sick, comfort the afflicted and help the poor. Protect the North American lands beneath Thy veil, gladden the people of North America, fill the holy churches with those hungry to draw from the

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Lord's goodness, enlighten the nations of all the world by the light of Thy Son and our God, grant us to complete our earthly life in all piety and devotion, to have a good Christian end, and to inherit the Heavenly Kingdom by Thy Motherly intercession to Christ Our Lord begotten of Thee. To Him, with His eternal Father and Holy Spirit, be all glory, honour, and worship, now and ever and unto the ages of ages. *Amen.*