

Akathist to Saints Peter and Paul



For the enlightenment of our Faith

Kontakion 1

The Lord Who said of Him: “I am the Good Shepherd,” said to you, O First-Enthroned Peter: “If you love Me, feed My sheep.” And He Who said: “I am Jesus,” said of you, O Pre-Eminent Apostle Paul: “He is a chosen vessel to Me, to bear My name before the Gentiles.” And likewise, to all your colleagues, His apostles, He said: “As My Father has sent Me, even so send I you; go and teach all nations.” And you, receiving such grace from your good Chief Shepherd, as the foremost shepherds and teachers of all the world, from all misfortunes preserve us on the pasture of salvation that we may cry out to you:

Rejoice, O Holy First-Enthroned Peter and Paul, with all the Holy Apostles!

Ikos 1

“Blessed are you, Simon, son of Jonas!” said Christ, the Son of the living God, to you, O right glorious Apostle Peter. How then can we worthily call you blessed who have been called blessed by God Himself? Yet drawn faithfully, by a debt of love alone, we cry out to you:

Rejoice, first among the Apostles, foundation of the Holy Church;

Rejoice, mighty pillar and ground of the Orthodox Faith!

Rejoice, ardent lover of the teaching of Christ;

Rejoice, first-seated among the Council of the Apostles!

Rejoice, good gate-keeper of the Kingdom of Heaven;

Rejoice, renowned physician for them that repent of their sins!

Rejoice, you spurned the vanity of the world and loved the spiritual life;

Rejoice, you forsook corruptible nets and fished the whole world with incorruptible ones!

Rejoice with Peter, O Paul, for you both shone forth like two great beacons;

Rejoice, O you like a pair of steeds were harnessed by God to His chariot of noetic light!

Rejoice, all you Holy Apostles, beholders of God, you are the light of the entire world;

Rejoice, through you the faith which saved us has shown forth from Christ in every place!

Rejoice, O Holy First-Enthroned Peter and Paul, with all the Holy Apostles!

Kontakion 2

O teacher of the Gentiles, who received your title wondrously from on High, you believed when Jesus said to you: “Saul, why persecute Me who cannot be touched by unbelief?” Yet you believe from now on; for, lo, contrary and audacity had darkened you, but I have chosen you to be a witness to My judgments before the rulers, the nations and the children of Israel. And you, O Apostle Paul, called such things by God, cried out: **Alleluia! (People sing Alleluia!)**

Ikos 2

Hearing a voice from heaven, O Saul, you were thereafter unable to see; for you had adversely persecuted the Inaccessible One and

received blindness of your eyes in return for your zeal for the law; but, guided to the font, you attained to divine baptism, where having been immersed with faith, the sight of your bodily and spiritual eyes was restored. Wherefore, mindful of your miraculous calling, we cry out to you:

Rejoice, O Apostles called by God, sent
forth to preach to all the nations;
Rejoice, chosen vessel which pours forth the
sweetness of the faith of Christ upon all men!
Rejoice, beholder of the Divine Light which
illuminates from on High;
Rejoice, you more than others were enlightened by
grace after the shadow of the Old Covenant!
Rejoice, you on earth conversed with the Lord
Jesus Who appeared to you;
Rejoice, you with His strength dared to denounce
them that were adamant in their unbelief!
Rejoice, you have enlightened the whole world
with your divinely wise writings;
Rejoice, you following Christ, labored more than
others for the salvation of man!
Rejoice with Paul, O Peter, for you overshadow the
Holy Church as the two Cherubim did the Ark;
Rejoice, you stand before the Throne of the Most
High like two Seraphim!
Rejoice, all you Holy Apostles, for you are like the
Heavens which proclaim the Glory of God;
Rejoice, you are the stars which crown the Church!

Rejoice, O Holy First-Enthroned Peter and Paul, with all the Holy Apostles!

Kontakion 3

You were struck with horror, O Holy Apostle Peter, beholding the sheet descending from on High, filled with all manner of living creatures, moreover with unclean beasts, wherein was set forth a parable of God's love for man, signifying it is not fitting to reject those from all the nations who desire to believe in Christ Jesus. And understanding this mystery, you cried out to God: **Alleluia! (People sing Alleluia!)**

Ikos 3

“Nothing that is vile or unclean has ever passed my lips!” you said, O most Blessed Apostle Peter. But divine providence answered you with a voice from heaven, saying: “What God has cleansed, that do you not revile, calling it unclean; for the Savior came not to call the righteous, but sinners, to repentance!” And we, knowing what was revealed to you, cry out:

Rejoice, O Apostle, who mercifully opened the Kingdom of Heaven;

Rejoice, you not only watch over men, but over the affairs of all the nations!

Rejoice, you with your love cover the multitude of our sins;

Rejoice, you perfected our meager repentance with your mercy!

Rejoice, speedy helper for them that call upon you amid

spiritual tribulations;

Rejoice, you by your supplication raise up those dead of body and soul!

Rejoice, you strengthen with the Holy Spirit the faithful who hearken to your word;

Rejoice, you wound the unbelieving with your words, as with darts!

Rejoice with Peter, O Paul, in that you are as the two eyes of the Church, endued with divine sight;

Rejoice, ever-vigilant guides watching over the New Israel!

Rejoice, all you Holy Apostles, for you are as a guard upon the walls of Jerusalem;

Rejoice, O our instructors, who keep watch over the souls of Christians!

Rejoice, O Holy First-Enthroned Peter and Paul, with all the Holy Apostles!

Kontakion 4

To the Jews living in Damascus you began to preach, O Apostle Paul, enlightened of God, that they might believe in Christ Jesus the Son of God; and they were astonished at how one who before had persecuted them that believed in the name of Christ had - O, the wonder! - himself been transformed into a believer! Wherefore, they took counsel together to slay you; but knowing their intent and the hardness of their hearts, you left them in the blindness of their unbelief and let down over the wall in a basket by the faithful, you cried out to God: **Alleluia! (People sing Alleluia!)**

Ikos 4

With great zeal, O Holy Paul, you preached to turn away from the prescriptions of the old law and circumcision and to make haste to the font of divine baptism, proclaiming this not only to the Jews, but also to the Gentiles, who's most loving teacher you were. Wherefore, we exclaim to you:

Rejoice, preacher sent by God to announce
repentance to sinners;

Rejoice, teacher of piety with a thunderous voice,
denouncer of ungodliness!

Rejoice, merciful inviter of them among the
Gentiles that are astray, yet hasten to the faith of
Christ;

Rejoice, true guide to the straight path!

Rejoice, ship which keeps the faithful from
drowning in sin;

Rejoice, helmsman who guides us to the haven of
the pleasing of God!

Rejoice, quickly interceding comforter of the
sorrowful;

Rejoice, healer who accepts no recompense for
curing ailments of body and soul!

Rejoice with Paul, O Peter, for you are like two
wings furnished to the Church by Christ, the
great eagle;

Rejoice, you are like two wings given to her, the
dove, by the Holy Spirit!

Rejoice, all you Holy Apostles, who are doves and through hope have been furnished with wings like eagles;

Rejoice, where Christ was in the body, there were you gathered together!

Rejoice, O Holy First-Enthroned Peter and Paul, with all the Holy Apostles!

Kontakion 5

Sweating from your earthly labors and providing for yourself by fishing, O Holy Apostle Peter, you were called to be an apostle and believed in Christ Who nurtured abundantly, Who fed a thousand people with five loaves; and you followed Him, laboring for food which perished not, but abides to everlasting life; and you cried out to Him as God: **Alleluia! (People sing Alleluia!)**

Ikos 5

Forbidden by the chief priests and elders of the Jews to teach the name of the Lord Jesus, O Blessed Apostle Peter, arming yourself with steadfast faith, you answered: We ought to obey God rather than man! And having endured imprisonment and stripes for this, you departed from the presence of the council, rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer shame for the name of the Lord. Wherefore, we also offer to you exclamations of joy, saying:

Rejoice, you put the council of the Jews to shame by the writings of the prophets concerning Christ;
Rejoice, you rendered asunder the false

threats of the Pharisees and Sadducees like a spider's web!
Rejoice, you worked many miracles through
the grace of the Holy Spirit;
Rejoice, you grant sight to the blind and the
ability to walk to the lame!
Rejoice, you by your shadow raised the sick
from their beds of pain;
Rejoice, you healed them that suffered from
many unclean spirits!
Rejoice, you summon fishermen to a
wondrous catch;
Rejoice, you draw the unbelieving to faith as
if they were voiceless fish!
Rejoice with Peter, O Paul, for you are like two
breasts of the Church, the Bride of Christ, our
Mother;
Rejoice, you are like two grapes of the vine,
which nourish us and make us glad!
Rejoice, all you Holy Apostles, for you are
branches of Christ, the True Vine;
Rejoice, you are good husbandmen of the
vineyard of Christ!

**Rejoice, O Holy First-Enthroned Peter and Paul, with all the
Holy Apostles!**

Kontakion 6

An Israelite of the tribe of Benjamin, a Pharisee according to the law, a persecutor of the Church of God in your zeal, you called yourself, O Holy Apostle Paul, not hiding your former hot temper against them that believed in Christ Jesus; but as you greatly persecuted the Church

of God and strove to destroy it, so now, gloriously adorned by you, and made steadfast in might by your mellifluous teachings, it cried to God: **Alleluia! (People sing Alleluia!)**

Ikos 6

Who shall separate us from the love of God? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or like things? You said, O Apostle Paul, preacher of the Word beloved of God, bringing all to the love of Christ who sincerely believe in Him, that with boldness and thanksgiving we may endure tribulation for God's sake. Wherefore, we lovingly exclaim to you these things:

Rejoice, you were a zealot for the law named Saul;
Rejoice, lover of Christ, named Paul, perfected in
grace!
Rejoice, light of divine knowledge, illumining them
that are in the darkness of unbelief;
Rejoice, star guiding them that languish in the depths
of iniquity!
Rejoice, you betroth the souls of the faithful to Christ
and summons them to the Heavenly Bridal Chamber;
Rejoice, you endured many tribulations and have
made others also steadfast to endure them!
Rejoice, you into whose hands God placed mighty
powers;
Rejoice, your sweat-soaked kerchief healed the sick!
Rejoice with Paul, O Peter, for you are like the two
pillars which uphold the Church of the Heavenly
Solomon;

Rejoice, you like two lilies on its pillars, adorn the sanctuary of God!

Rejoice, all you Holy Apostles, for like flowers do you impart fragrance to the entire world;

Rejoice, you through your fragrance dispel the stench of all iniquity!

Rejoice, O Holy First-Enthroned Peter and Paul, with all the Holy Apostles!

Kontakion 7

On your arrival in Lydda, O Blessed Apostle Peter, you amazed the people living there when by the name of Jesus Christ you raised up Aeneas, who was sick of the palsy, for eight years, and caused him to walk; in Joppa you likewise, by your supplication, returned to life the dead Tabitha; and summoned to Caesarea, you enlightened with divine baptism Cornelius the Centurion with all in his household. Wherefore, we all straightway cry aloud to God in unity of soul: **Alleluia!** (People sing Alleluia!)

Ikos 7

Simon Magus thought to acquire the grace of the Holy Spirit with silver; but you, O Blessed Apostle Peter, condemned him to inherit damnation with his silver and sternly forbade both the avaricious practice of selling for profit holy and sacred things by first stealing these sacred things. Wherefore, we exclaim to you:

Rejoice, you enriched the Church of Christ with the grace of the Spirit;
Rejoice, you forbade the reception of recompense for holy things in the Church!

Rejoice, you cut off avarice as the root of all evils
through the grace of the Spirit;
Rejoice, you cast away covetousness by sanctity as a
type of idolatry!
Rejoice, you lead a hard life for the sake of Christ;
Rejoice, you fulfilled well the Commandment of
Christ: that you cannot serve God and mammon!
Rejoice, you sternly punished the sacrilege of
Ananias with death;
Rejoice, you likewise committed Sapphira, who
was guilty of that sin, to the same punishment!
Rejoice with Peter, O Paul, for you are like two
olive trees which pour forth mercy;
Rejoice, for you are like two lamps radiating
wisdom!
Rejoice, all you Holy Apostles, as tender olive
shoots;
Rejoice, because of you, all are like a fruitful olive
tree in the House of God!

**Rejoice, O Holy First-Enthroned Peter and Paul, with all the
Holy Apostles!**

Kontakion 8

Having attained to the third Heaven because of your sanctity of body
and soul and been enriched with ineffable benefactions, you
descended from there, O Divinely Blessed Apostle Paul, and
astonished all, filling those of the Jews and of the Gentiles who
believed in Christ with your teachings of the knowledge of God. And
together with them, we the faithful, who have a share of your heavenly
teaching, cry out to God: **Alleluia! (People sing Alleluia!)**

Ikos 8

A model for the faithful, you joyfully endured many stripes, beatings and stonings of your body for the sake of sweet Jesus, O Apostle Paul, called by God, manifestly indicating that it is the part of them that believe in Christ Jesus to undergo all manner of tribulations thankfully, for His sake. Wherefore, we also cry out to you, using such exclamations as these:

Rejoice, you joyfully bore the wounds of the
Lord on your body;
Rejoice, adamant firm of body and soul, who
mightily endured all manner of tribulation!
Rejoice, insuperable confessor of Christ before the
nations and their rulers;
Rejoice, teacher invincible in the face of the
Israelite teachers of the law!
Rejoice, luminous star which shone forth from the
third Heaven;
Rejoice, greatly fruitful branch which buds forth
from paradise, full of spiritual food!
Rejoice, you by your teaching have illumined
all the earth as with an unwaning light;
Rejoice, you have fed the faithful throughout
the world with the produce of your works as with
most comely fruits!
Rejoice with Paul, O Peter, for you are as two trees
in the midst of the garden of the Church;
Rejoice, you who put forth the fruit of life and good
understanding!

Rejoice, all you Holy Apostles, who are like noetic
palm trees and cedars;
Rejoice, you have been transplanted to Heaven as
the garden of the Heavenly Father!

**Rejoice, O Holy First-Enthroned Peter and Paul, with all the
Holy Apostles!**

Kontakion 9

You were possessed of an all-embracing concern for those who came to the faith of Christ, O Blessed Apostle Peter, that their heart and soul become one. Wherefore, you appointed for their needs a minister, the chaste Stephen, and six other deacons; and you yourself, together with the rest of the Apostles, dedicated yourself to prayer and the preaching of the Word, instructing all the faithful who cried out with oneness of mind to God: **Alleluia! (People sing Alleluia!)**

Ikos 9

Aflame with zeal for your Lord, you cut off the ear of Malchus, for he seemed to you as one disinclined to heed the writings of the Prophets concerning Jesus Christ. But, reprov'd for such audacity by your Teacher, O Blessed Apostle Peter, you thankfully bore His reproach and all its contrary results. Wherefore, mindful of your zeal, we cry aloud to you:

Rejoice, you surpassed the rest of the disciples in
your zeal for Christ;
Rejoice, manful sword-bearer of Christ in the garden!
Rejoice, you followed Christ, Who was being led to
His suffering, even to the house of Caiaphas;

Rejoice, you were prepared for prison and death
for the sake of your Lord!
Rejoice, you with bitter lamentation healed your
weakness in denying your Master;
Rejoice, you after the Lord's Resurrection were
summoned to your former dignity!
Rejoice, you have provided a model of
repentance for the rest of us sinners;
Rejoice, you vowed to forgive the weakness of
the penitent many times over!
Rejoice with Peter, O Paul, for you are like the tables
of the law of the Lord;
Rejoice, teachers of love for God and neighbor!
Rejoice, all you Holy Apostles, who perfectly kept
all the Commandments of the Lord;
Rejoice, you left all and followed after Christ
and found all in Him!

**Rejoice, O Holy First-Enthroned Peter and Paul, with all the
Holy Apostles!**

Kontakion 10

Great testimony you produced from the sayings of the Prophets concerning Christ in the face of the leaders of the Jews, and before the Procurator Festus and King Agrippa, O Apostle Paul, who was called of God, and all were utterly brought to nothing; for many of the Jews quoted books to you in their frenzy, and you were answered by both Festus and Agrippa falsely, and were condemned to be sent to Rome. But, enduring everything with thanksgiving, you cried out with the faithful to God: **Alleluia! (People sing Alleluia!)**

Ikos 10

O Apostle Paul, who were led to proclaim the Life-Creating Trinity in Heaven, most elect vessel of the great mysteries of God: declaring the Good News before the Gentiles, the judges and rulers, you promised salvation to them that desire to believe in Christ Jesus and receive holy baptism in the name of the Trinity. Wherefore, all we the faithful, being of good hope concerning that salvation, cry out to you:

Rejoice, Apostle Paul who spread the mystical doctrine with great understanding of the revelation of the Lord;
Rejoice, confessor of the One God in Three Persons!

Rejoice, you proclaimed Christ to be the One Foundation of the faithful;

Rejoice, you have made all the pious steadfast in that confession!

Rejoice, you endured raging reproaches from the unbelieving Festus;

Rejoice, you uttered words of truth and chastity in his presence!

Rejoice, you most clearly recounted your Heavenly vision to King Agrippa;

Rejoice, you manifestly denounced his error which is not consonant with the faith of Christ!

Rejoice with Peter, O Paul, for you are like two silver trumpets of Moses;

Rejoice, you call those of earth and beneath the earth to battle against evil!

Rejoice, all you Holy Apostles, who have suffered cruelly as valiant warriors of Christ;

Rejoice, you have vanquished the kingdoms
of the earth by faith and have received heavenly
things!

**Rejoice, O Holy First-Enthroned Peter and Paul, with all the
Holy Apostles!**

Kontakion 11

Having slain Iakovos, the brother of John, Herod went on to seize you as well, O Divinely Blessed Apostle Peter; and he placed you under heavy guard in prison to await execution. Yet while fervent prayer was being offered up by the Church for your deliverance, the Angel of the Lord loosed your bonds and led you through the gates, which opened of themselves, and you thought that you were beholding a dream. But when the Angel departed, you came to your senses and truly realized that you had been freed; and you cried out to God in thanksgiving: **Alleluia! (People sing Alleluia!)**

Ikos 11

That which had been asked by Philip: Lord, show us the Father! You came to know, O Blessed Apostle Peter, on Mount Tabor, whereon, beholding the all-glorious transformation of the countenance of the Transfigured Lord, you heard the voice of God the Father say of Him from Heaven: “This is My Beloved Son, in Whom I Am well pleased; hear Him!” And we cry out to you who were counted worthy of such a revelation:

Rejoice, reliable witness of the Transfiguration of Christ;
Rejoice, renowned one who heard the divine voice of the Father from Heaven!
Rejoice, you beheld the countenance of the Son of God illumined like the sun;
Rejoice, you most splendidly received the overshadowing of the Holy Spirit in the cloud!
Rejoice, the most exalted Mystery was disclosed to you upon the mountain;
Rejoice, the majestic glory of the All-Holy Trinity was made manifest to you!
Rejoice, you heard the departure of Christ was to take place in Jerusalem;
Rejoice, you, following Christ, accomplished your departure on a cross in Rome!
Rejoice with Peter, O Paul, for you are two noetic mountains like Tabor and Hermon;
Rejoice, you from the east and the west to whom was revealed the promised land in Heaven!
Rejoice, all you Holy Apostles, like the mountains of Zion;
Rejoice, you let the sweetness of salvation fall upon us!

Rejoice, O Holy First-Enthroned Peter and Paul, with all the Holy Apostles!

Kontakion 12

We hymn you who stand on equal footing with the Cherubim, O most Blessed Apostle Paul, who were enlightened by divine wisdom in Heaven; for hearing ineffable words that which is not lawful for a man to utter, you traveled the whole world therewith, teaching all to

believe in the crucified Christ, the Son of God, and to chant unceasingly to Him as the True God: **Alleluia! (People sing Alleluia!)**

Ikos 12

Full of the great revelation of divine Mysteries, O chosen vessel of Jesus, all-wise Apostle Paul, you diligently bore forth the name of God Who has appeared in the flesh and saved them that believe in Him; and having converted many of the Gentiles and fought the good fight, in the city of Rome you finished your course most gloriously for the name of your Lord, and then received therein a crown of righteousness. Wherefore, we cry out to you:

Rejoice, great lover of the name of Jesus, who suffered greatly for Him;

Rejoice, you bore witness before those of Heaven, of earth and beneath the earth, concerning His name!

Rejoice, you bore witness well concerning the Lord in Jerusalem;

Rejoice, you were commanded by Him to bear witness also in Rome!

Rejoice, you denounced the Emperor Nero and converted his consort to the Christian Faith;

Rejoice, you in the same Rome bowed your

head beneath the sword, executed with Peter, who was crucified head downward!

Rejoice, at the severing of your honored head, milk flowed forth;

Rejoice, this great wonder drew many soldiers to the faith!

Rejoice with Paul, O Peter, for you are like two rivers of living water gushing forth from the wellspring of the Holy Spirit;

Rejoice, you were shown forth by the confluence of the two rivers named Jordan and Dan!

Rejoice, all you Holy Apostles, like torrents of rivers which gladden the city of the Church of God;

Rejoice, you are like streams of sweetness which give all the faithful a drink from the cup of salvation!

Rejoice, O Holy First-Enthroned Peter and Paul, with all the Holy Apostles!

Kontakion 13

(To be read three times)

O most glorious and laudable Disciples of Christ, Peter and Paul, First-Enthroned and Equally Enthroned Holy Apostles, who have enlightened the entire universe with the holy faith and will come with Christ to judge the whole world! Your proper dignity is not on earth, but is the glory and praise rendered in Heaven. Accepting now our unworthy entreaty, by your worthy supplications preserve us from all misfortunes, and beseech Christ, the Just Judge, to be merciful to us at the last judgment, that, saved by your mediation, we may chant to God our Savior: **Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! (People sing Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!)**

Ikos 1

Blessed are you, Simon, son of Jonas! said Christ, the Son of the living God, to you, O Right Glorious Apostle Peter. How then can we worthily call you blessed who have been called blessed by God Himself? Yet drawn faithfully, by a debt of love alone, we cry out to you:

Rejoice, first among the Apostles, foundation of the Holy Church;

Rejoice, mighty pillar and ground of the Orthodox Faith!

Rejoice, ardent lover of the teaching of Christ;

Rejoice, first-seated among the Council of the Apostles!

Rejoice, good gate-keeper of the Kingdom of Heaven;

Rejoice, renowned physician for them that repent of their sins!

Rejoice, you spurned the vanity of the world and loved the spiritual life;

Rejoice, you forsook corruptible nets and fished the whole world with incorruptible ones!

Rejoice with Peter, O Paul, for you both shone forth like two great beacons;

Rejoice, O you like a pair of steeds were harnessed by God to His chariot of noetic light!

Rejoice, all you Holy Apostles, beholders of God, you are the light of the entire world;

Rejoice, through you the faith which saved us has shone forth from Christ in every place!

Rejoice, O Holy First-Enthroned Peter and Paul, with all the Holy Apostles!

Kontakion 1

The Lord Who said of Him: I am the Good Shepherd, said to you, O First-Enthroned Peter: If you love Me, feed My sheep. And He Who said: I am Jesus, said of you, O Pre-Eminent Apostle Paul: He is a chosen vessel to Me, to bear My name before the Gentiles. And likewise, to all your colleagues, His Apostles, He said: As My Father has sent Me, even so send I you; go and teach all nations. And you, receiving such grace from your good Chief Shepherd, as the foremost shepherds and teachers of all the world, from all misfortunes preserve us on the pasture of salvation, that we may cry out to you:

Rejoice, O Holy First-Enthroned Peter and Paul, with all the Holy Apostles!

***PRAYERS TO THE HOLY PRE-EMINENT APOSTLES
PETER & PAUL***

I

O most Glorious Apostles Peter and Paul, who laid down your lives for Christ and beautified His pasture with your blood! Hearken to the prayers and sighs of your children

which are now offered up with contrite heart. For, we have darkened ourselves with iniquities, and for this cause we have been covered with misfortunes as with showers; and we have become exceedingly poor in the oil of a good life, and we cannot fend off the ravening wolves which boldly strive to lay hands on the inheritance of God. O you mighty ones! Bear our infirmities and separate yourselves not from us in spirit, that we not depart utterly from the love of God; but with your mighty assistance defend us, that the Lord have mercy on us all for the sake of your prayers, that He rend asunder the handwriting of our countless sins, and that He vouchsafe us with all the saints the blessed kingdom and the wedding feast of His Lamb, to Whom be honor and glory, thanksgiving and worship, to the ages of ages. **Amen.**

II

O Holy Peter, Chief of the Apostles, rock of faith fixed firmly upon Christ, the Chief Cornerstone, through your confession, pray that, unmoved by the imaginations of my mind and carnal lusts, I too, may through faith be fixed firmly upon Christ, the Rock, living, chosen and precious; that through love I may be made perfect as a temple of the spirit, wherein I may offer up spiritual sacrifices to Jesus Christ our God. O Holy Paul, Chief of the Apostles, chosen vessel of Christ, overflowing with grace and the glory of

God! Entreat the Creator, Who has authority over creation that He make of me, who am now a vessel of perdition, a vessel of honor for Himself, sanctified and fitting, ready for every good work, to the ages of ages. **Amen.**

III

Foremost of the Apostles: Peter, steadfast exponent of the faith of Christ, and Paul, melodious swallow of the teaching of the Lord! We perceive you to be a flowing river recounting the words of Christ, gushing forth from the breast of the Lord, disclosing to us the depths of the well of divinely revealed truths. We see you to be lamps which make things clear for us with streams of the fervor of divine love from Heaven. We bless you, for you endured tribulation and pain to sow the seed of divine teaching, and with your footsteps went around all the ends of the earth. With compunction we entreat you, O Holy Apostles: cause us, in our sinful foolishness, to fall prostrate before the Lord, our Teacher; cause that the head of our pride be cut off, and hasten to raise us up by your unceasing supplications, that there, with the choir of the Angels and the Apostles, we may glorify the Father of all, Who is wondrous in His saints, and Who sent our Lord Jesus Christ into the world, as well as the Holy Spirit, Who is One in Essence with Them, to the ages of ages. **Amen.**

IV

O Holy Peter, Chief of the Apostles, rock of faith steadfast in your confession, foundation of the Church, immovable in Christ, pastor of the rational flock of Christ, keeper of the keys to the Kingdom of Heaven, fisherman most wise, who from the depths of unbelief draws forth men! You I humbly entreat, that the net of your divine draught encompass me and draw me forth from the abyss of perdition. I know that you have received from God the authority to loose and to bind; release me who am bound fast with bonds of sin, show forth your mercy on me, wretch that I am, and give life to my soul which has been slain by sins, as before you rose up Tabitha from the dead; restore me to the good path, as before you restored the lame man at the Beautiful Gates, who had been lame from his mother's womb; and as you healed all the infirmed by your shadow, may the grace given to you by God overshadow me, healing my ailments of body and soul. For you can do all things, O Holy One, through the power of Christ, for whose sake you forsook all to follow in His steps. Wherefore, pray to Him on my behalf, wretch that I am, that by your supplications He may deliver me from all evil and teach me with a pure heart to send up glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and to the ages of ages. **Amen.**

V

O Holy Paul, eminent among the Apostles, chosen vessel of Christ, recounter of Heavenly Mysteries, teacher of all the nations, clarion of the Church, renowned orator, who endured many misfortunes for the name of Christ, who traversed the sea and went about the land, and converted us from the deception of idolatry! You do I entreat and to you do I cry: disdain me not, defiled as I am, but raise me up who have fallen through sinful sloth, as in Lystra you rose up the man who had been lame from his mother's womb; and as you gave life to Euthyches who lay dead, so also raise me up from my dead works; and as at your entreaty the foundation of the prison once quaked and you loosed the bonds of the prisoners, so draw me out of the snare of the enemy, and strengthen me to do the will of God. For you can do all things by the authority given to you by God, to Whom is due all glory, honor and worship, with His Unoriginate Father and His all Holy, Good and Life-Creating Spirit, now and ever, and to ages of ages. **Amen.**

Glorifying God Through His Light
50 Hour Prayer Vigil

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