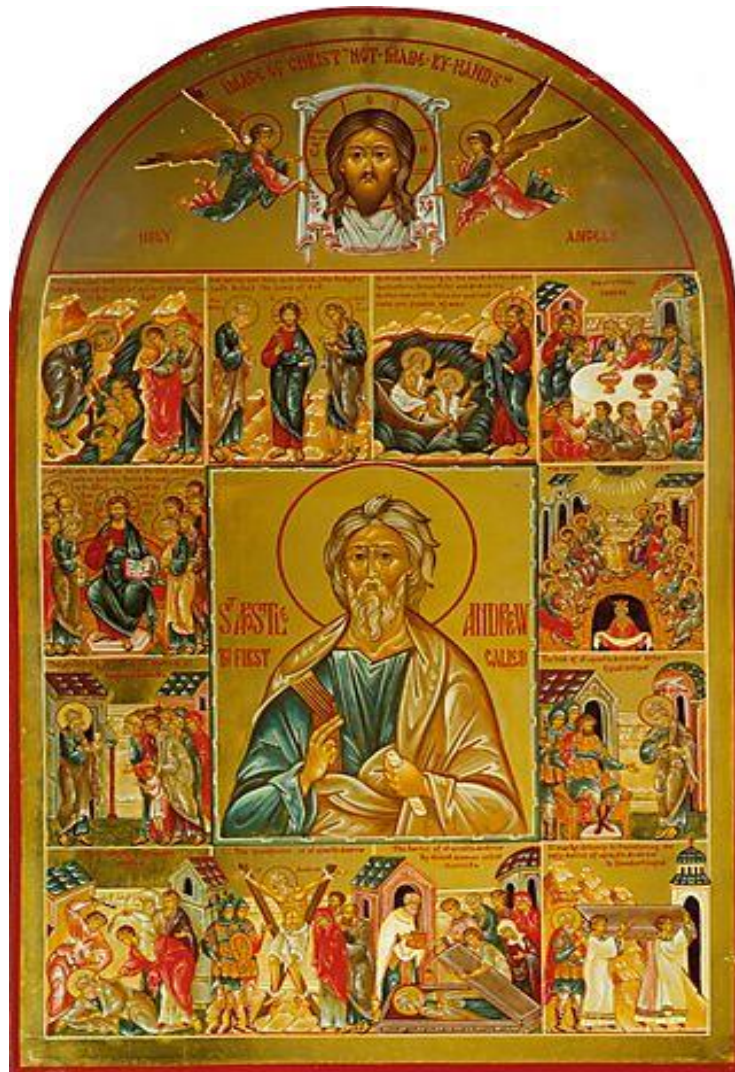


AKATHIST TO  
THE HOLY APOSTLE ANDREW THE  
FIRST-CALLED



For all we need for our salvation and  
for the knowledge of our heavenly calling

## **Kontakion 1**

Standing in spirit upon the summit of the hill where his right hand raised up a cross, with hymns let us praise the most glorious Andrew, the first-called Apostle of Christ, the preacher of the Holy Gospel, the divinely inspired enlightener of the Russian land; and to him, as the first of the followers of the Church, the first of all to follow after Christ, let us cry out in compunction:

**Rejoice, O Andrew, first-called Apostle of Christ!**

## **Ikos 1**

An angelic herald of Christ, the Lamb Who takes away the sins of the world, were you, O Apostle Andrew, and you abide with Him forever in Heaven. Wherefore, look upon the hymns offered to you here, and in that you are rich in the grace of God, grant us goodly discourse, that we may cry out to you:

Rejoice, morning star which has shown forth upon us from the city of Bethsaida!

Rejoice, brother of the preeminent Peter and equal to him in honor!

Rejoice, disciple of the great Forerunner of Christ!

Rejoice, first among the Apostles, you were called to the apostolic ministry by the Lord Himself!

Rejoice, you cried out to the others with joy: Come, we have found the longed-for Messiah!

Rejoice, you lead us also to Him!

Rejoice, you zealously spread the glad tidings of Christ among the nations!

Rejoice, you willingly gave yourself over to torments and crucifixion for His sake!

## **Rejoice, O Andrew, first-called Apostle of Christ!**

### **Kontakion 2**

“Master, where do You dwell?” you asked the Savior of our souls, O Andrew; all the days of your life you loved the Messiah Whom you had found, and brought your eldest brother to Him. Wherefore, never cease to draw us, your younger brethren, to Him also, that following in your steps, we may cry out with you to God: **Alleluia! (People sing Alleluia!)**

### **Ikos 2**

Perceiving in you the flame of faith and love, O holy Andrew, the Lord found you with your brother on the Lake of Gennesaret as a fisherman, casting your net into the deep; and He said to you: “Come after Me, and I will make you fishers of men.” And straightway you followed Him and with the divinely inspired Word of Christ, as with a net, you fished for men; and we who have been ensnared by you to salvation, cry out to you:

Rejoice, you were taught the skill of spiritual fishing by the Lord Himself!

Rejoice, you were tempest-tossed with the other disciples on the same lake and saved by faith in the Lord who rebuked the wind and the sea!

Rejoice, you acquired great faith when you saw the most wondrous feeding of the five thousand with five loaves of bread!

Rejoice, you received as a gift from the Lord the ability to heal every infirmity and every sickness!

Rejoice, a voice from Heaven was heard because of the Greeks who were brought by you to see Christ!

Rejoice, on the Mount of Olives, things to come at the end of the world were revealed to you!

Rejoice, like a star in the constellation of the Apostles, you shine celestial effulgence upon us!

Rejoice, you were like a comet traversing the Heavens, shedding rays of grace divine!

**Rejoice, O Andrew, first-called Apostle of Christ!**

### **Kontakion 3**

As a faithful friend of Christ and having enjoyed the Master's hospitality and the table of immortality in the upper room on Zion, with the rest of the Apostles you beheld your Lord and God, and from Him you received the Holy Spirit, that you might bind and loose the sins of men. And again, in that same upper room on Zion, the abundant grace of the promised Spirit was poured forth upon you in tongues of fire. Wherefore, all the tribes of Israel marveled at how you spoke of the mighty works of God in their own language, chanting: **Alleluia! (People sing Alleluia!)**

### **Ikos 3**

Having received from the Lord the commandment to preach the Gospel to all creation, you went about many cities and lands, O Apostle Andrew, calling the people to the knowledge of the true God and baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. And with them, we also have been vouchsafed the grace of baptism. Wherefore, we address hymns of thanksgiving to you:

Rejoice, faithful proclaimer of the wonders of Christ!

Rejoice, clarion-voiced herald of the Holy Gospel!

Rejoice, abolisher of the worship of idols!

Rejoice, instiller of true piety!

Rejoice, through your discourse, men are brought to regeneration by water and the Spirit!

Rejoice, through you the faithful partake of the banquet of immortality!

Rejoice, husbandman who tended well the vineyard of your Master!

Rejoice, your bloodshed for your Lord was like wine for the faithful to gladden their hearts!

**Rejoice, O Andrew, first-called Apostle of Christ!**

#### **Kontakion 4**

The power of God overshadowed you, O first-called Apostle that you might proclaim the power and glory of the Son of God and make steadfast those whom you called to believe in the Holy Trinity. Wherefore, on the verdant meadow of the faith of Christ, you pasture us who worship the one God in three Hypostases, that ever sanctified by the grace of the Holy Spirit, we may cry aloud to Him: **Alleluia! (People sing Alleluia!)**

#### **Ikos 4**

Having brought your brother Simon Peter to Christ, O you who was first called, with him went forth to your apostolic ministry, first to Antioch and Sinope; and there, having vanquished legions of demons, you freed your companion, the Apostle Matthias, from the bonds of prison and with him baptized his fellow prisoners. And following the preeminent Peter to the lands of the West, you gave him a fraternal kiss and labored well in the East. Wherefore, we children of the Eastern Church bless you, saying:

Rejoice, O power of God who drives away legions of demons and breaks the bonds of prison!

Rejoice, receptacle of apostolic grace which miraculously frees us from the bonds of hell!

Rejoice, you with your divinely wise brother divided the East and West by lot for the preaching of the Word of God!

Rejoice, you by the power of your wonders denounced the impiety of the Jews of Sinope!

Rejoice, you were beaten by the godless for the sake of Christ!

Rejoice, healing of your wounds was given you by the Lord Himself who appeared to you!

Rejoice, by the power given you by God, you heal all manner of bodily infirmities!

Rejoice, the grace instilled in you dispels from us all despondency!

**Rejoice, O Andrew, first-called Apostle of Christ!**

### **Kontakion 5**

Having twice returned to the Holy City that there you might celebrate the day of Pentecost with the Apostles, twice you did so with the Apostles, and twice you departed again from the holy Zion to preach Christ to the whole world. First with John, who had leaned his head upon the breast of the Lord, and afterwards with Simon of Cana and with Matthias, who was named an Apostle by lot. You went about all parts of Asia and Pontus, teaching all with the word of salvation that they might chant to God:

**Alleluia! (People sing Alleluia!)**

### **Ikos 5**

Having spread your nets from the Sea of Galilee to the Black Sea and having taught the Faith all around the seacoast with your proclamation,

you took yourself to the land of Scythia, O first-called one, planting the Cross of Christ everywhere as a token of our salvation. Wherefore, we also though the last of peoples, heeding your proclamation and commemorating your struggles, cry out to you:

Rejoice, you in Nicaea subdued wicked lawbreakers and slayed a most evil dragon!

Rejoice, you planted the Cross of Christ in the midst of that city as a forerunner of the God-bearing fathers twice assembled there!

Rejoice, through you the light of Christ shone forth in Asia and Pontus!

Rejoice, your apostolic staff opened the foothills of the Caucasus to the light of Christ!

Rejoice, the darkness of Cimmeria was enlightened!

Rejoice, with streams of living water has the whole world been watered!

Rejoice, the breath of the all-holy Spirit blew forth from your apostolic mouth!

Rejoice, multitudes were drawn to the Christian Faith!

**Rejoice, O Andrew, first-called Apostle of Christ!**

### **Kontakion 6**

The tribes of men ignorant of the true God who were caught in the storm of the passions and buffeted by the waters of the ocean, you guided to the calm harbor of Christ, O Apostle, and their hearts, tempest-tossed like a leaking vessel, you moored fast to the Orthodox Faith. Wherefore, as children of the Orthodox Faith with thankful hearts and grateful mouths, we cry out to God: **Alleluia! (People sing Alleluia!)**

## **Ikos 6**

On the Mount of Olives with the other disciples, O Andrew, you once asked your Master: “Tell us, what shall be the sign of Your coming?” And on the hills of Kiev, as an instrument of the grace of the Holy Spirit, you foretold the future glory of that place. And having been vouchsafed the mercies foretold us, we cry out to you with compunction:

Rejoice, from Mount Zion you brought the law of the Gospel to us!

Rejoice, as an Apostle of God, you hastened to us on the waters of Voristhena!

Rejoice, you bestowed upon that river the grace of the Jordan for our baptism!

Rejoice, you set the cross of our salvation upon the hills of Kiev!

Rejoice, you foretold an abundant outpouring of the grace of God through it!

Rejoice, you prophesied that a great city and many churches would one day stand in that place!

Rejoice, the mercy of God has descended upon the site of your prophecy!

Rejoice, He let fall His loving-kindness upon the city you foretold!

**Rejoice, O Andrew, first-called Apostle of Christ!**

## **Kontakion 7**

Today in fulfillment of the word of your prophecy, a most glorious temple has been erected by the gift of the Holy Spirit; you foresaw that which was not as though it already existed. And round about it a great city with golden-domed churches bear witness to the truth of your words; and as from a heavenly throne, you have proclaimed peace upon it.



Wherefore, beholding the fulfillment of your divinely inspired words, we cry out with a loud voice to God: **Alleluia! (People sing Alleluia!)**

### **Ikos 7**

The holy Olga, having received the light of divine knowledge from the radiant splendor of the first-called Apostle, shone forth upon the Russian land as the day-star of our salvation, leading after herself like a radiant beacon her grandson Vladimir, the enlightener of all the northern lands. Wherefore, lifting our eyes to you, O divinely wise Andrew, as to the chief herald of our salvation, we address to you these praises:

Rejoice, you gave the knowledge of divine light to Olga, the day-star of our salvation!

Rejoice, the kingdom of Christ was opened by her piety!

Rejoice, with your blessing a most glorious beacon has shown forth from that day-star upon us!

Rejoice, in accordance with your apostolic prophecy, a prince, equal to the Apostles, appeared to us!

Rejoice, through you the earthly kingdom of the holy Vladimir has a share in heaven!

Rejoice, the rivers of Kiev, the Dnieper and the Pochaina became for us a font of salvation!

Rejoice, the gloom of idolatry has been driven from us by your instruction!

Rejoice, the assaults of the demonic hordes are repelled by your authority!

**Rejoice, O Andrew, first-called Apostle of Christ!**

## **Kontakion 8**

The pastors and flock of the most glorious city of Kiev and of all the lands of Russia proclaim the memory of your acts, O divinely wise Apostle Andrew; and the saints of God, who rest incorrupt with Anthony and Theodosius within the Caves, declare your glory unceasingly to all ages and generations as though alive. For the cross planted by you in that place has grown to be a tree of right goodly shade wherein we have picked the fruits of piety and sanctity. And as spiritual sparrows of your celestial garden, we are taught by you to chant to God: **Alleluia!**

**(People sing Alleluia!)**

## **Ikos 8**

Not to Russia alone were you the proclaimer of salvation, O first-called Apostle of Christ, but gathering all the Slavic lands, like a hen gathers her chicks beneath her wings, you led them to Christ. Descrying the darkness of the northern lands from Cherson and by you preaching many years before, you prepared the wisest teachers Cyril and Methodius, that the people of those parts might be taught the Word of God. And we, as with the mouths of these our enlighteners, cry aloud to you:

Rejoice, you blessed the Slavic tribes of old!

Rejoice, you rendered their learned discourse wise with the Word of God!

Rejoice, they have become noetic children of the Church of Christ, obedient to the Word of God!

Rejoice, in Cherson where you preached, the holy Cyril discovered the first Russian letters and took them up!

Rejoice, you proclaimed to them Christ, the Wisdom of God, the Alpha and Omega, the Beginning and the End!

Rejoice, those teachers translated all the divinely inspired Scriptures into the Slavonic tongue for us!

Rejoice, in the sacred writings and the divine Mysteries we have found salvation through you!

Rejoice, by your instruction was the foundation of our conversion well laid!

**Rejoice, O Andrew, first-called Apostle of Christ!**

### **Kontakion 9**

Undaunted by the Scythians of the wilderness, you extended your apostolic journeys into the depths of the northern lands, O first-called one, from where

you traveled to Old Rome, which was then the capital of the pagan world.

But departing from there because of its many idols, in the city of Byzantium, which was to become the new apostolic see, that thereby all the East and the North might be illumined with the light of the Faith and that the faithful children of the Church of Christ might cry out to God in oneness of mind: **Alleluia! (People sing Alleluia!)**

### **Ikos 9**

Man was spiritually born in Mother Zion and Kiev became for us a new Zion, for therein the light and grace of God was made manifest to all the children of Russia through the see which you established in Byzantium, O first-called Apostle. Wherefore, illumined with never-waning light, we cry out to you in thanksgiving:

Rejoice, you descended Mount Zion and have illumined many-hilled Kiev with heavenly light!

Rejoice, you by your blessing sent down upon it an abundance of spiritual fruit!

Rejoice, in the midst of the world you established your apostolic see!

Rejoice, under its protection, in New Rome, you gathered all the nations you had enlightened!

Rejoice, thereby Orthodoxy is confirmed within their hearts!

Rejoice, by the East the darkness of the West is driven back!

Rejoice, you protect the faithful from all heresies!

Rejoice, you heal divisions among believers!

**Rejoice, O Andrew, first-called Apostle of Christ!**

### **Kontakion 10**

When the time of your departure arrived, O blessed Andrew, you went to the ancient Patras of Achaia that you might there be put to death; for you fought the good fight, you finished your course, preaching Christ crucified to all. To the Jews a stumbling block, and to the Greeks foolishness, but to us who are called and saved—Christ, the Power and Wisdom of God, whereby we have been taught to chant to God: **Alleluia!**

**(People sing Alleluia!)**

### **Ikos 10**

Having healed the sick everywhere, raised the dead and expelled demons by the name of the Lord Jesus, you also confirmed your immortal preaching with miracles in Patras, O Apostle of Christ, and converted Anthypatus Lesbios to the knowledge of the Truth. Stricken with the plague because of his narrow-mindedness, he was raised from his bed of sickness by you and seeing the power of God in you, all the people destroyed their idols. Wherefore, the Lord appeared to you as He once had to Paul in Corinth and commanded you to take up your cross, thereby

betokening your suffering for His sake in Patras. Wherefore, marveling at the great grace within you, we reverently cry out:

Rejoice, great power of Almighty God!

Rejoice, precious treasury of wonders!

Rejoice, enlightenment and adornment of ancient Patras!

Rejoice, you transformed the unbelief of Anthypatus into faith!

Rejoice, there the Lord appeared to you again, calling you to the struggles of the cross!

Rejoice, a crown of righteousness was prepared for you!

Rejoice, as your name denotes courage, so was your spirit undaunted by tortures!

Rejoice, the thought of torments which awaited you did not shake your firm resolve!

**Rejoice, O Andrew, first-called Apostle of Christ!**

### **Kontakion 11**

The Emperor Nero who, as Herod once had, raised a persecution against all the faithful, beheaded Paul in Rome, and crucified Peter upon a cross; and the hand of that tyrant reached you also, in Patras, when in the place of the meek Lesbius he appointed as proconsul the cruel Aegeates, who, neither able to endure the baptism of his brother, nor mollified by the healing of his wife, cast you into prison and condemned you to the cross, as the preeminent Peter had been. And while a prisoner in the dark dungeon, you did, as in a splendid temple, consecrate Stratocles, the brother of Anthypatus, as bishop of Patras, chanting to God with all the faithful in the midst of the prison: **Alleluia! (People sing Alleluia!)**

## **Ikos 11**

Looking on as they raised up at the place of execution the cross whereon you were to be crucified, O Apostle, you were not afraid to bear witness, even to death, to Christ Who loved you and was beloved of you; and, stretching forth your hands toward this emblem of our salvation, you cried out with compunction:

Rejoice, O most precious Cross, before which I stand in gladness, knowing you to be my hope!

Rejoice, O life-creating Cross, whose summit has reached to the heavens and whose base has broken down the gates of hell!

Rejoice, O right worshipful Cross, which received my Master as the sweetest cluster of grapes which has poured forth salvation upon us!

Rejoice, O blessed Cross, which saved the thief and produced for him the fruits of confession!

Rejoice, you have been the fullness of my joy!

Rejoice, in the memory of you I am filled with gladness! Rejoice, in you all the martyrs glory!

Rejoice, you also, O passion-bearer, who sealed your faith in Christ on a cross!

**Rejoice, O Andrew, first-called Apostle of Christ!**

## **Kontakion 12**

“Come you witnesses of my joy”, you cried out to those who carried out the will of Aegeates, O Apostle. “Do the will of us both! Crucify me and offer me up like a lamb in sacrifice to the Creator Who fashioned me!”

And having spoken these words, you ascended the cross as though it were a lofty throne, and for three days and three nights preached the Word of God from it to the people who stood round about, that they might not fear

death when confessing the Lord Jesus. And when your countenance was suffused with a heavenly light, the tormentor was terrified and ordered you taken down from the cross. Yet you, O passion-bearer, did not desire to be parted from the tortures of the cross, crying out unceasingly to God until your repose: **Alleluia! (People sing Alleluia!)**

### **Ikos 12**

Glorifying your apostolic struggles, O first-called Andrew, we bless your holy repose where you glorified the life-bearing sufferings of the Son of God and in compunction of heart we cry out to you:

Rejoice, you friend of Christ, who joyously endured the sufferings of the cross for Him!

Rejoice, faithful Apostle, who from your cross preached words of eternal life to the people!

Rejoice, at the moment when you were taken down from the cross, a light covered you like lightning from heaven!

Rejoice, you have promised grace to those who in Orthodox manner confess Christ the Son of God, Whom you preached!

Rejoice, apostolic foundation of the heavenly Jerusalem!

Rejoice, boast of Bethsaida and adornment of all Galilee!

Rejoice, you sit with the Apostles on one of the twelve thrones to judge all the tribes of Israel!

Rejoice, you shall present to the merciful Judge all the peoples you have brought to the Faith!

**Rejoice, O Andrew, first-called Apostle of Christ!**

## **Kontakion 13**

**(To be read three times)**

O Andrew, first-called Apostle of Christ, look down upon these praises of all who honor your holy memory, and as you planted a wooden cross upon the hills of the city of Kiev, ever protect us with its saving sign, that preserved by the Cross of our Lord God and Savior, we may attain full stature in Christ and may be vouchsafed, with you and all the saints, to chant for endless ages to God our Savior with a sound of rejoicing:

**Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! (People sing Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!)**

### **Ikos 1**

An angelic herald of Christ, the Lamb Who takes away the sins of the world, were you, O Apostle Andrew, and you abide with Him forever in Heaven. Wherefore, look upon the hymns offered to you here, and in that you are rich in the grace of God, grant us goodly discourse, that we may cry out to you:

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Rejoice, you willingly gave yourself over to torments and crucifixion for His sake!

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### **Kontakion 1**

Standing in spirit upon the summit of the hill where his right hand raised up a cross, with hymns let us praise the most glorious Andrew, the first-called Apostle of Christ, the preacher of the Holy Gospel, the divinely inspired enlightener of the Russian land; and to him, as the first of the followers of the Church, the first of all to follow after Christ, let us cry out in compunction:

**Rejoice, O Andrew, first-called Apostle of Christ!**

### **Prayer to the Holy Apostle Andrew, the First-Called**

O first-called Apostle of Jesus Christ our God and Savior eminent founder of the Church, all-praised Andrew! We glorify and magnify your apostolic labors, with great gladness we remember your blessed visitation of the Russian lands, we venerate the honorable sufferings you endured for Christ, we kiss your sacred relics, we cherish your holy memory, and we believe that, as the Lord lives, so your soul lives also and you abide with Him forever in Heaven. Not only do you love us, you also entreat God on our behalf, beholding all our needs in His light. We believe and also confess our faith, O holy Andrew; and believing, we ask and beg our Lord God and Savior, Jesus Christ, that by the prayers which you receive and send up, He may grant us all that is necessary for the salvation of us sinners; that as you left your nets at the sound of the Lord's voice and followed after Him without hesitation, so each of us may seek not his own, but that which is for the edification of

his neighbor, and may be mindful of his own heavenly calling. And having you as our intercessor and advocate, we trust that your prayers may accomplish much before our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, to Whom is due all glory, honor and worship, with the Father and the Holy Spirit, unto the ages of ages. **Amen.**



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