

AKATHIST TO
THE HOLY AND VENERABLE NEW
MARTYR ELIZABETH
GRAND DUCHESS OF RUSSIA



For deliverance from evil in our lives

Kontakion 1

O daughter of Russia, chosen from among the reigning dynasty, who served God and neighbor well with abundant love and kindness, who laid down your life for your faith in Christ our Lord, and has been adorned with a crown of Christ's glory: Praising your struggles and sufferings, we lovingly chant this to you:

Rejoice, O holy and venerable martyr Elizabeth, adornment of the Church of Russia, who was counted worthy to be the bride of Christ!

Ikos 1

O you who loved Christ with angelic love and desired to serve Him alone: taught by your mother, from childhood you were a model of the virtues in labors, prayers and the giving of alms. In the repose of your mother and close kin you perceived a way of the cross ordained by the Lord. Wherefore, marveling that you were chosen from your youth, we cry out to you with compunction:

Rejoice, you loved Christ from your youth!

Rejoice, chosen ewe lamb of Christ!

Rejoice, you received the seed of faith from our parents!

Rejoice, you were reared by them in the fear of God!

Rejoice, you inherited the virtues of your mother!

Rejoice, you were taught by her to be industrious and kind!

Rejoice, you were made steadfast in God by your heart!

Rejoice, you bore your cross with faith and hope, and followed after Christ!

Rejoice, fragrant blossom of your native land!

Rejoice, for you have gladdened the heavens by the purity of your soul!

Rejoice, you were chosen by God to minister to the suffering!

Rejoice, O our advocate before God!

Rejoice, O holy and venerable martyr Elizabeth, adornment of the Church of Russia, who was counted worthy to be the bride of Christ!

Kontakion 2

The Lord saw the good disposition of your heart, how from your youth you desired to lead your life in piety and purity, uplifting the eyes of your heart to the beauty of heaven and kindling within yourself the fire of love for God. By your

supplications enlighten our hearts with love for God, that with you we may chant unto Him: **Alleluia! (People sing Alleluia!)**

Ikos 2

Enlightened by understanding from on high, O holy Elizabeth, you were not afraid to leave your homeland, kin and the house of your father, and to make your abode in a new land, when you were united in matrimony with the Grand Duke Sergius of Russia, that, serving God with your spouse, you might live with him in chastity, showing true love for the people of Russia. And we cry out with love to you thus:

Rejoice, glorious sojourner who came from the West!
Rejoice, you found a new home in the land of Russia!
Rejoice, right believing princess who faithfully served our land!
Rejoice, instructor for us in good works!
Rejoice, you dwelt in the wedded state in love and chastity!
Rejoice, you were a wise helper for your spouse in the charitable deeds!
Rejoice, protectress of pious married couples!
Rejoice, you warm us with maternal love!
Rejoice, you desired to fulfill the commandments of God!
Rejoice, you kindled zeal for God in our hearts!
Rejoice, you by the beauty of your soul and body moved all to rejoice!
Rejoice, adornment of the whole Christian world!

Rejoice, O holy and venerable martyr Elizabeth, adornment of the Church of Russia, who was counted worthy to be the bride of Christ!

Kontakion 3

Made wise to salvation by the power of divine grace, with understanding you recognized the true Faith, O merciful Princess Elizabeth; and while sojourning in the Holy Land, you were confirmed in your desire to embrace Orthodoxy, chanting to God Who enlightened you: **Alleluia! (People sing Alleluia!)**

Ikos 3

Possessed of a heart like good earth, you readily received the Orthodox Faith; wherefore, you were vouchsafed Holy Chrismation and the communion of the Holy Mysteries of Christ on the Sunday of the resurrection of the righteous

Lazarus. And we, glorifying your enlightenment by the grace of the Holy Spirit, magnify you, saying:

Rejoice, you who received the Orthodox Faith on the day of the resurrection of the righteous Lazarus!

Rejoice, blessed fruit of the Russian land!

Rejoice, you received the seal of the Holy Spirit through Chrismation!

Rejoice, you, who in Orthodoxy, retained the name given you at birth!

Rejoice, namesake of the holy and righteous Elizabeth!

Rejoice, you assiduously emulated her life in your struggles!

Rejoice, for to the children of the West you showed the way to the True Faith!

Rejoice, for the pious people of Russia honor your memory with love!

Rejoice, merciful mother who found mercy with the Master and Lord!

Rejoice, you prayed earnestly that we find mercy!

Rejoice, you bore the divine Light in your heart!

Rejoice, you, with the light of the commandments of Christ illumines the darkness of our life!

Rejoice, O holy and venerable martyr Elizabeth, adornment of the Church of Russia, who was counted worthy to be the bride of Christ!

Kontakion 4

The tempest of the evil of the enemy of the human race did not shake you, O holy one, when your right-believing spouse endured a martyr's death; and suffering with him, you showed great courage and Christian love. And bearing aloft the soul of your husband, the angels chanted: **Alleluia! (People sing Alleluia!)**

Ikos 4

When the Russian people heard of the assassination of the right-believing Grand Duke Sergius, they prayed that God would give you the strength, O holy Elizabeth, to bear this sorrow. And fortified by sacrificial love, you visited the murderer of your husband in prison urging him to repent and offering up prayers to the Lord for his forgiveness. Wherefore, accept from us, the unworthy, these praises:

Rejoice, you fulfilled the commandment of Christ to love one's enemies!

Rejoice, you, following the Gospel, forgave the murderer of your husband!

Rejoice, you endured many sorrows and tribulations!

Rejoice, you help us to bear the burden of sorrows and grief!
Rejoice, you guide the lost toward the path of truth and repentance!
Rejoice, fervent mediatrix for the salvation of sinners!
Rejoice, you, with the light of hope, illumine us amid the darkness of grief!
Rejoice, guiding star of all who hope for salvation!
Rejoice, you lead our hardened hearts toward compunction!
Rejoice, fervent advocate for us before Christ amid our every sorrow!
Rejoice, you overcame the evil of the world by good!
Rejoice, you showed true love for the Russian people!

**Rejoice, O holy and venerable martyr Elizabeth, adornment of the Church of
Russia, who was counted worthy to be the bride of Christ!**

Kontakion 5

You shone forth in the land of Russia like a divinely guided star, O holy Elizabeth, when considering riches and glory to be as dust, you committed your life into the hands of God, that you might serve Him in fasting and prayer; and you showed forth great love and loving kindness to the suffering. You light the way of our life with the light of your virtues that we may joyously cry out to God: **Alleluia!**
(People sing Alleluia!)

Ikos 5

Beholding you as the wondrous foundress of the Convent of Saints Martha and Mary, the people of the divinely saved city of Moscow rejoiced, for many women and maidens of Russia found there a calm haven of salvation, emulating the holy myrrh bearers in ministering to God and neighbor. Wherefore, glorifying you, we say thus:

Rejoice, you understood the vanity of worldly life in earthly glory!
Rejoice, you distributed your property and loved the poverty of Christ!
Rejoice, you adorned the city of Moscow with a wondrous convent!
Rejoice, you took up the easy yoke of Christ!
Rejoice, you brought many women and maidens into your convent!
Rejoice, wise guide to salvation for your sisters!
Rejoice, you emulated the ministry of the holy myrrh bearers Martha and Mary!
Rejoice, ever vigilant protector of your community!
Rejoice, you make us steadfast in the struggle of the spiritual life!

Rejoice, you show us the way from earth to heaven!
Rejoice, beacon of loving kindness shining over the city of Moscow!
Rejoice, protector of all who have given their lives to serve their neighbors!

**Rejoice, O holy and venerable martyr Elizabeth, adornment of the Church of
Russia, who was counted worthy to be the bride of Christ!**

Kontakion 6

In our land you were a preacher of the love of God and his loving kindness and a zealot for piety, O holy Elizabeth, enkindling in the hearts of the Russian people love for God and loving kindness toward our brothers and sisters and all the unfortunate that following your precepts, we may chant unto God: **Alleluia!**
(People sing Alleluia!)

Ikos 6

You shone forth with the light of your virtuous life in the land of Russia, O our venerable mother Elizabeth; and in the monastic habit, in fasting and abstinence, you lived your life in the keeping of all-night vigils and hymns of supplication, teaching the nuns of your convent piety and humility. Wherefore, guided by you to the straight path of spiritual struggle, we bless you:

Rejoice, you chose the path of the monastic life equal to that of the angels!
Rejoice, you, by the vow of chastity, showed forth the purity of your heart!
Rejoice, you, by the vow of poverty, showed forth the eminence of your spirit!
Rejoice, you, by the vow of obedience, served God and your neighbor!
Rejoice, wise princess and all-honorable nun!
Rejoice, you were appointed from on high to be a model for Christian women!
Rejoice, you, by fasting, vigil and unceasing prayer pleased God!
Rejoice, you have roused our souls from the sleep of sin!
Rejoice, you guide all to the fulfillment of the commandment to love God and neighbor!
Rejoice, you teach us heartfelt prayer!
Rejoice, instructress of nuns and converser with the angels!
Rejoice, in heaven you are glorious among the company of venerable women!

Rejoice, O holy and venerable martyr Elizabeth, adornment of the Church of Russia, who was counted worthy to be the bride of Christ!

Kontakion 7

Desiring to understand the will of the Lord, O holy Elizabeth, in obedience you wholly entrusted yourself to the elders of Gabriel of the Holy Savior, Saint Eleazar Monastery and Alexis of the Saint Zosima Monastery, and also questioned other divinely wise elders, doing nothing without their blessing and cutting off your own will; wherefore, you arranged all things in your convent for the better, unceasingly crying out to God: **Alleluia! (People sing Alleluia!)**

Ikos 7

A new wonder the Lord revealed, O holy Elizabeth, when He gave you the grace and power to heal sicknesses, strengthen the paralyzed, help those in trouble, and defend the oppressed. And giving ease and comfort to the suffering, with humility and love you ministered to the poor who were abandoned by all, and the maimed. Wherefore, by your supplication heal also us sinners, and be for us a guide to salvation, that we may sing to you in thanksgiving:

Rejoice, you lived in obedience to your spiritual fathers, the great elders!
Rejoice, the Russian people call you their great mother!
Rejoice, you acquired from God the gift to heal ailing souls!
Rejoice, you rose up the hopelessly sick from the bed of illness!
Rejoice, you, with kind heart, cared for widows and orphans!
Rejoice, feeder of the hungry and speedy helper of the unfortunate!
Rejoice, you did not reject those who were spurned and rejected by all!
Rejoice, you saved many souls from the darkness of sin and destruction!
Rejoice, wise comforter of those despondent amid sorrows and evil circumstances!
Rejoice, you strengthen us also who are overcome by sicknesses and tribulations!
Rejoice, intercessor before God for repentant sinners!
Rejoice, merciful helper given by God to the Russian people!

Rejoice, O holy and venerable martyr Elizabeth, adornment of the Church of Russia, who was counted worthy to be the bride of Christ!

Kontakion 8

A strange and awesome vision the Lord revealed to Father Metrophanes, the confessor of the convent. And you, O holy mother, interpreting this vision prophesied that a great and threatening trial would come upon the Church of Russia and our realm: the profanation of the holy places, fratricidal strife, great tribulation, and the martyrdom of the Royal Family. Yet God had mercy upon Russia through the supplications of its saints, with whom you now chant unto God: **Alleluia! (People sing Alleluia!)**

Ikos 8

Wholly illumined by divine grace, O holy Elizabeth, with noetic eyes you beheld the visitation of God's wrath upon our land, and as a prophet you proclaimed that many martyrs and confessors would shine forth in the land of Russia. Wherefore, you called upon the Russian people to place all their hope in the Mother of God, that through her supplications our land might be put in order and blessed. And knowing the fulfillment of your prophecy concerning the fate of our homeland, we bless you:

Rejoice, you rose up the Church of the Protection of the All-holy Theotokos in your convent!

Rejoice, you committed your convent into the hands of the All-pure Mother of the Lord!

Rejoice, you built temples of God!

Rejoice, our tireless supplicant before the Theotokos!

Rejoice, you benefited the churches of God!

Rejoice, you labored without rest for the sake of life eternal!

Rejoice, you by your life faithfully served God and the All-Holy Virgin Theotokos!

Rejoice, you teach us to set all our hope on God!

Rejoice, you impart meekness, tranquility and peace to our hearts!

Rejoice, you were adorned with the gracious gifts of the Holy Spirit!

Rejoice, for you with clear foresight predicted the great tribulations of our land!

Rejoice, for the Lord had mercy upon it!

Rejoice, O holy and venerable martyr Elizabeth, adornment of the Church of Russia, who was counted worthy to be the bride of Christ!

Kontakion 9

Wholly afire with love for God, O holy Elizabeth, you were not afraid when to the convent you had founded came mindless men, who desired to execute an unjust judgment upon you. But preserved by the Lord, you then eluded death, praying for the correction and enlightenment of the foolish and errant, and chanting to God in thanksgiving: **Alleluia! (People sing Alleluia!)**

Ikos 9

The mouths of human rhetors are unable worthily to praise the strength of your love during those days of tribulations and the great perils which beset our native land, when you did not desire to leave Russia and the convent you founded, urging its nuns to stand fast for the Orthodox Faith even unto death. And we praise you with love:

Rejoice, you love our land!

Rejoice, you with love are glorified by the Russian people!

Rejoice, you teach us to protect ourselves in battle with the shield of faith!

Rejoice, you strengthen in us the resolve to follow the Lord by the way of the cross!

Rejoice, you made the nuns of your convent steadfast in faith and hope!

Rejoice, you instructed them to undertake the feat of martyrdom for Christ!

Rejoice, you were counted worthy to acquire the sufferings of Christ!

Rejoice, you confirmed the Russian people in the struggle of confession!

Rejoice, you saved man from the pit of destruction!

Rejoice, helper, protection and defender of your convent and the city of Moscow!

Rejoice, you teach us sacrificial, eternal love!

Rejoice, you have entered into the joy of your Lord!

Rejoice, O holy and venerable martyr Elizabeth, adornment of the Church of Russia, who was counted worthy to be the bride of Christ!

Kontakion 10

Seeking the struggle of salvation, O holy Elizabeth, with joy you gave thanks to God, for he vouchsafed you to bear His Cross. Wherefore, your faith shone forth in victory when ascending your own Golgotha, you proclaimed unceasingly: "Glory to God for all things!" Pray, O mother that the Lord may

grant that we may acquire the wisdom and power to stand firm for the right faith even unto death, and to chant to Him with one mouth and one heart: **Alleluia!**
(People sing Alleluia!)

Ikos 10

An unassailable bulwark and help was given to the Russian land in the holy Reigning Icon of the Mother of God, which the saintly Elizabeth, received in her convent as a sign of victory over the princes of darkness of this world. Wherefore, having placed all our hope in the reigning Mistress of our land, we praise you as a true and obedient servant of the All-Pure Mother of our Lord, saying:

Rejoice, you were full of the grace and power of God!
Rejoice, you chose the good part, which shall not be taken from you!
Rejoice, you emulated the Mother of God in meekness!
Rejoice, wise virgin of the Gospel, who obtained the oil of grace!
Rejoice, you reverently honored the All-Holy Virgin Theotokos!
Rejoice, you pray for us unceasingly at Her throne!
Rejoice, you have provided us with a model of self-denial!
Rejoice, you teaches us to bear one another's burdens!
Rejoice, you through earthly sorrows and sufferings have entered the kingdom of heaven!
Rejoice, you teach all to have love and patience amid suffering endured for the Lord's sake!
Rejoice, you lived on earth like an angel!
Rejoice, you have inherited a crown of glory in heaven!

Rejoice, O holy and venerable martyr Elizabeth, adornment of the Church of Russia, who was counted worthy to be the bride of Christ!

Kontakion 11

Hymnody of supplication to the Mother of God you offered upon on the feast day of Her Iveron Icon, O holy Elizabeth, when the ungodly arrested you and cast you into prison. But you gave thanks to Christ our God, Who had not only granted you to believe in Him, but also to suffer for Him, chanting to Him in your prison bonds: **Alleluia! (People sing Alleluia!)**

Ikos 11

Divine light illumined you, O holy passion-bearer Princess Elizabeth, with the venerable martyr Barbara, your sister in Christ, and the other noble passion-bearers, when cast down a deep mine shaft, you bound up the wounds of the Grand Duke John, easing the sufferings of the dying by chanting sacred hymns and prayed for your murderers, saying: “Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do!” Treat also the wounds of our souls, O our mother that we may chant to you with love:

Rejoice, you had foreknowledge of your martyred end!
Rejoice, royal passion bearer!
Rejoice, you acquired the sufferings of Christ on the day of the commemoration of the venerable Sergius!
Rejoice, you were strengthened by divine power amid your sufferings!
Rejoice, you emulating Christ, praying for your tormentors!
Rejoice, you chanted hymnody to God until your very end!
Rejoice, you bedewed our land with your blood!
Rejoice, you have been numbered among the legion of the new martyrs of Russia!
Rejoice, for you have joined the choir of venerable and righteous women!
Rejoice, you are a worthy co-heir of the holy and right-believing princesses of the Russian land!
Rejoice, you were offered to God as a spotless and right-pleasing sacrifice!
Rejoice, you with all the saints of our land are triumphant!

Rejoice, O holy and venerable martyr Elizabeth, adornment of the Church of Russia, who was counted worthy to be the bride of Christ!

Kontakion 12

Your holy relics were shown to be vessels full of grace, O holy and venerable martyrs Elizabeth and Barbara, and desiring to save them from profanation and mockery, pious men carried them from Russia to the Holy City of Jerusalem and buried them in the Garden of Gethsemane on the Mount of Olives; and those who come to venerate them call you blessed, chanting to God Who is wondrous in His saints: **Alleluia! (People sing Alleluia!)**

Ikos 12

The Church of the Holy Myrrh bearer Mary Magdalene was filled with heavenly light and a wondrous sweet fragrance when they opened the coffin which held the body of the Grand Duchess Elizabeth. Wherefore, all the children of the Orthodox Church rejoice and join chorus in the Lord, hastening to the shrine of your relics, O venerable martyr Elizabeth, which pours forth miracles upon all the faithful; and giving thanks to the Lord Who has glorified you, they chant thus:

Rejoice, for your relics borne to the Holy City of Jerusalem, blossomed forth with incorruption!

Rejoice, you by your relics have spiritually joined the Holy Land to the Land of Russia!

Rejoice, you by the appearance of your relics have gladdened the Russian Church!

Rejoice, you spiritually strengthened the Russian people of the diaspora!

Rejoice, you were buried near the Tomb of the Lord!

Rejoice, you were laid to rest in the Church of the Holy Myrrh bearer Mary Magdalene!

Rejoice, for your relics heal all sorrows and sicknesses!

Rejoice, witness to eternity in this transitory life!

Rejoice, you united the crown of the virtues within yourself!

Rejoice, you were glorified by the inscrutable judgments of God!

Rejoice, blessed inhabitant of the Jerusalem on high!

Rejoice, guide to the heavenly Jerusalem for us all!

Rejoice, O holy and venerable martyr Elizabeth, adornment of the Church of Russia, who was counted worthy to be the bride of Christ!

Kontakion 13

(To be read three times)

O great passion-bearer, adornment of the women of Russia, our joy, merciful Princess Elizabeth: Accept the sighing of our hearts, which is offered to you with love, and by your intercession before the Lord strengthen within us the spirit of right faith and piety, establish us in virtue and loving kindness, help us to bear the cross of sorrows with patience and hope, and preserve our people in love and concord, that we may be vouchsafed to enter into the joy of the Lord, chanting to Him with the angels and all the saints: **Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

(People sing Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!)

Kontakion 1

O daughter of Russia, chosen from among the reigning dynasty, who served God and neighbor well with abundant love and kindness, who laid down your life for your faith in Christ our Lord, and has been adorned with a crown of Christ's glory. Praising your struggles and sufferings, we lovingly chant thus to you:

Rejoice, O holy and venerable martyr Elizabeth, adornment of the Church of Russia, who was counted worthy to be the bride of Christ!

Ikos 1

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Rejoice, you loved Christ from your youth!

Rejoice, chosen ewe lamb of Christ!

Rejoice, you received the seed of faith from our parents!

Rejoice, you were reared by them in the fear of God!

Rejoice, you inherited the virtues of your mother!

Rejoice, you were taught by her to be industrious and kind!

Rejoice, you were made steadfast in God by your heart!

Rejoice, you bore your cross with faith and hope, and followed after Christ!

Rejoice, fragrant blossom of your native land!

Rejoice, for you have gladdened the heavens by the purity of your soul!

Rejoice, you were chosen by God to minister to the suffering!

Rejoice, O our advocate before God!

Rejoice, O holy and venerable martyr Elizabeth, adornment of the Church of Russia, who was counted worthy to be the bride of Christ!

Prayer to the Holy and Venerable Martyrs, Grand Duchess Elizabeth and the Nun Barbara

O holy new martyrs of Russia, Grand Duchess Elizabeth, and O most honored nun Barbara, her sister in Christ: you finished your path amid many torments, who observed the commandments in deed at your convent, who struggled for the Orthodox Faith even unto death in these latter times, and in the endurance of suffering offered goodly fruit to Christ! Entreat Him, as the Conqueror of Death, that He establish in our homeland the Russian Orthodox Church, which has been redeemed by the blood and suffering of the new martyrs, and that He not give our inheritance over to be plundered by the enemies of Russia. For lo, the evil foe has armed himself against us, desiring to destroy us amid civil strife, tribulation, unbearable grief, sickness, want and cruel misfortunes. Beseech the Lord that He set at naught all their feeble audacity. Make faith strong in the hearts of the Russian people, that when the hour of trial shall find us, we may receive the gift of courage through your supplications, and may deny ourselves and take up our cross, and follow Christ, crucifying our flesh with the passions and lusts. Preserve us from all evil; sanctify the ways of our life; grant unfeigned repentance, tranquility and peace to our souls; beg the Lord to deliver us all from the bitter toll-houses and from everlasting torment, and to make us heirs to the heavenly kingdom with all the saints who have pleased God from ages past: that rejoicing we may give praise, honor and worship to the Father, and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, unto the ages of ages. **Amen.**

Glorifying God Through His Light
50 Hour Prayer Vigil

Orthodox Mission Church
Serving Coolidge and Florence, AZ
Prayer from Holy Trinity Monastery
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