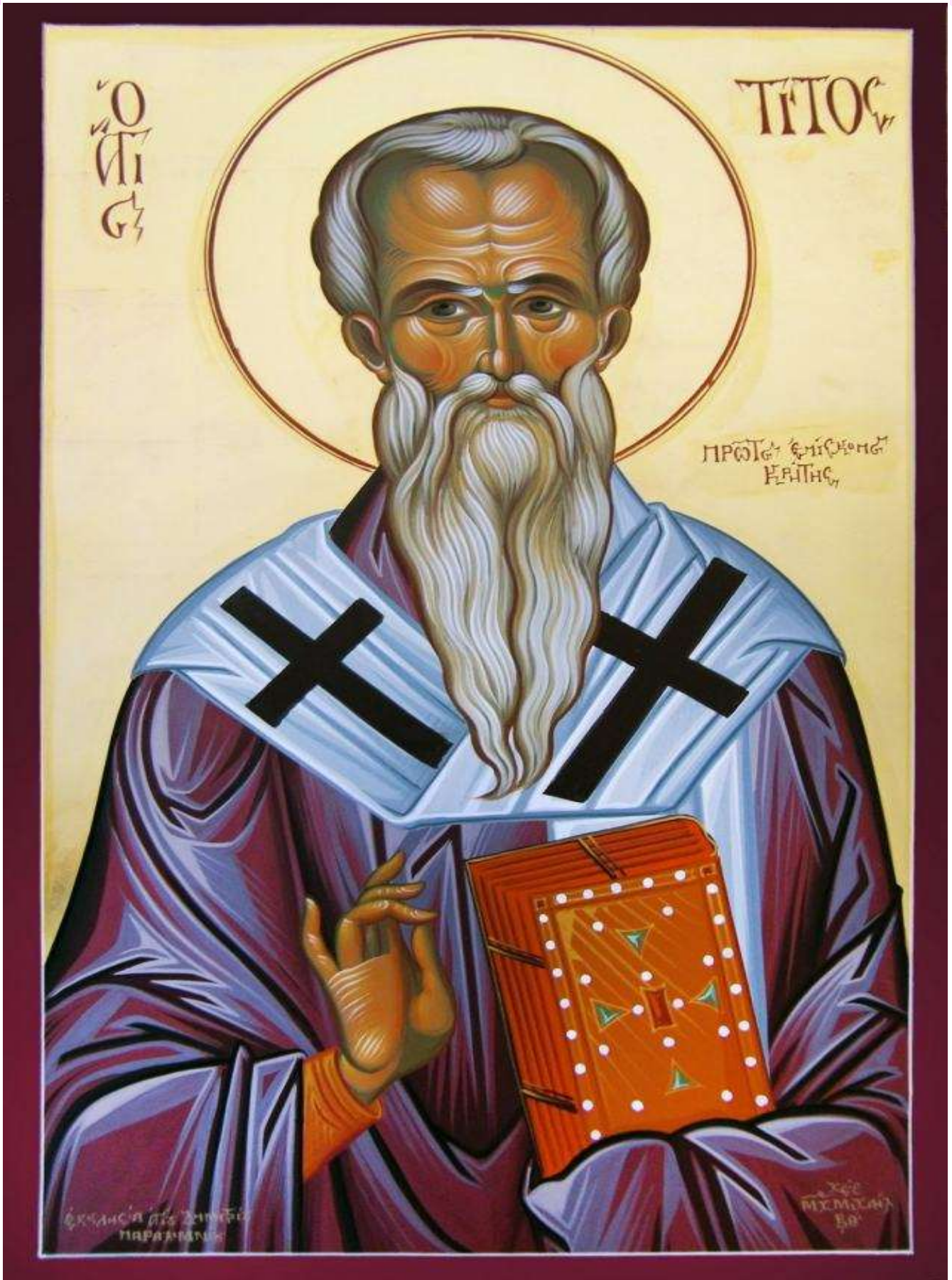


**25 AUGUST
NATALIA GARLAND**

**ACATISTUL
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Akathist Hymn to the Apostle Titus

Kontakion 1

We gather before You, Father Almighty, and we give thanks for the holy apostles of long ago, the very Twelve and then the Seventy, all of whom preserved the Faith for generations to come. Included in the Seventy was the Apostle Titus, and therefore we gladly say:

Rejoice, Saint Titus, servant of God and apostle of Christ.

Ikos 1

Saint Titus, you were called to preach the message of Christ and to sustain the churches, and this you did with excellence of mind and purity of heart. You shone as a guiding star above a land of paganism and within various difficulties, always praising God and fulfilling your pastoral duties:

Rejoice, height of obedience and integrity, praying unceasingly.

Rejoice, support of unity and hospitality, relating compassionately.

Rejoice, champion of true knowledge, spreading the good news.

Rejoice, advocate of holy tradition, upholding the sacred ways.

Rejoice, spiritual son of the Apostle Paul, walking in worthy footsteps.

Rejoice, blessed light of the early Church, continuing in pure teachings.

Rejoice, grateful successor of the Twelve, thriving in right worship.

Rejoice, humble member of the Seventy, living in true apostleship.

Rejoice, preacher of glorious words, nourishing the hopeful.

Rejoice, minister of wondrous works, increasing the faithful.

Rejoice, embodiment of goodwill and charity, giving generously.

Rejoice, receptacle of grace and mercy, loving wholeheartedly.

Rejoice, Saint Titus, servant of God and apostle of Christ.

Kontakion 2

Saint Titus, you were born on the Island of Crete and your parents were well-known pagans. Yet, you were endowed with clear-thinking, as you probed the viewpoints of man but eventually learned the truths of God. The day would come when you would teach everyone to say: Alleluia.

Ikos 2

You studied philosophy and literature, and also absorbed yourself in science. However, unlike many of the young men of Crete, you did not indulge in pagan depravity but were drawn to purity of body and soul. God saw fit to claim you as His own, and therefore we bring praises to you:

Rejoice, for God knew you before you became aware of His mercy.

Rejoice, for He ushered you to the foundation of the Church.

Rejoice, for God noticed you even among the multitudes.

Rejoice, for He led you to the Holy Cross of His only Son.

Rejoice, for your days of preparation were to be completed.

Rejoice, for your life in Crete was to be centered in Christ.

Rejoice, for your hours of study were to be transformed.

Rejoice, for your being on earth was to be illumined with Godliness.

Rejoice, for you were not abandoned to falsehood and deception.

Rejoice, for you were chosen for a divine purpose by the Father.

Rejoice, for you were not barricaded from truth and wisdom.

Rejoice, for you were gathered into the Seventy Apostles.

Rejoice, Saint Titus, servant of God and apostle of Christ.

Kontakion 3

You were still a young man, Saint Titus, only twenty years of age, when you had a dream in which you were told to seek your salvation. You were encouraged to climb higher than philosophy and literature, and to pursue that which emanates from Heaven, and you said: Alleluia.

Ikos 3

Saint Titus, you became aware of the prophets of God and the Hebrew people. First, you read the Book of the Prophet Isaiah in which you learned about a Redeemer, and that nobody else could save your soul. Hence, we honor your holy quest with praises such as these:

Rejoice, for you contemplated the narrow path to God.

Rejoice, for you trusted in the holy account from Isaiah.

Rejoice, for you realized the futility of miscellaneous directions.

Rejoice, for you accepted that you were in need of redemption.

Rejoice, for God is involved in the daily lives of His people.

Rejoice, for He works wonders and bestows gifts.

Rejoice, for God is active in His divine plan of salvation.

Rejoice, for He provides restoration and delivers abundance.

Rejoice, for you were ready for this moment of understanding.

Rejoice, for you began a process of conversion and development.

Rejoice, for you were grateful for this opening of sacredness.

Rejoice, for you entered a new realm of thought and meditation.

Rejoice, Saint Titus, servant of God and apostle of Christ.

Kontakion 4

At this time, in the region of the Holy Land, people were flocking to hear the preaching of the Greatest Prophet, Jesus Christ, Who came to redeem Israel and save souls. Christ had gathered His disciples to learn of Him and establish the Church, and these men faithfully said: Alleluia.

Ikos 4

The news of the ministry of Christ reached Crete, and you were naturally curious to hear and see the goings-on. Your uncle, who was the governor of Crete, sent you to the Holy Land to explore the situation. Saint Titus, you set sail to be with the Christians, and for this cause we offer praises:

Rejoice, seeker of the followers of Christ.

Rejoice, investigator of His mighty miracles.

Rejoice, inquirer of the teachings of Christ.

Rejoice, discerner of His merciful message.

Rejoice, scholar who journeyed into the unfamiliar.

Rejoice, for you went beyond the limitations of your native land.

Rejoice, hearer who perceived the Word of God.

Rejoice, for you went forward into the blessedness of eternity.

Rejoice, beneficiary of everything life-affirming.

Rejoice, debtor of everyone God-believing.

Rejoice, recipient of all words soul-saving.

Rejoice, adherent of all deeds God-glorifying.

Rejoice, Saint Titus, servant of God and apostle of Christ.

Kontakion 5

Saint Titus, you arrived in Jerusalem, and you were brimming with hope and enthusiasm as well as objectivity and surveillance. For, you wanted truth and not deviation, reality and not delusion, and you sought an understanding of salvation from sin, and to this we all say: Alleluia.

Ikos 5

Your endeavor was honored beyond all anticipation and resourcefulness. Saint Titus, you heard and

saw Jesus Christ in the flesh. You were there when He was crucified, and you witnessed the Savior of mankind hanging on the Life-Giving Cross. We reverently bow our heads with these praises:

Rejoice, for you heard the voice of the incarnate Son of God.

Rejoice, for you saw Him Who was born of the Virgin Mary.

Rejoice, for you walked among the followers of the Messiah of Israel.

Rejoice, for you saw His compassion upon His persecutors.

Rejoice, for you witnessed the suffering of the innocent God-Man.

Rejoice, for you saw Him Who was brutalized and nailed to the Cross.

Rejoice, for you believed in the Very God of Very God.

Rejoice, for you saw His love which no greater has any man.

Rejoice, for you longed to become one with the Lord and Master.

Rejoice, for you saw the Way of all holiness and righteousness.

Rejoice, for you asked forgiveness of the King and Shepherd.

Rejoice, for you saw the Life and Light of the world.

Rejoice, Saint Titus, servant of God and apostle of Christ.

Kontakion 6

On the Day of Pentecost, the Twelve Apostles gathered in Jerusalem and the Holy Spirit came upon them and filled them. Behold, they began speaking in different languages, yes, the languages of other lands and peoples, including the Cretans, and everyone said: Alleluia.

Ikos 6

Saint Titus, when you became aware that these Apostles spoke in your native tongue, without having studied, without having traveled to the Island of Crete, but only because of the Holy Spirit in them, you thanked God for the inclusion of your homeland. Hence, we joyfully sing praises:

Rejoice, for there are no language exclusions in true religion.

Rejoice, for Christ came to unite and not rupture.

Rejoice, for all languages are equal and all people are sinful.

Rejoice, for Christ came to gather and not scatter.

Rejoice, for people cannot be judged by the language they speak.

Rejoice, for Christ came to uplift and not oppress.

Rejoice, for prayers are expressed by the heart and soul.

Rejoice, for Christ came to love and not forsake.

Rejoice, for the virtues are demonstrated by actions and deeds.

Rejoice, for Christ came to abide and not sever.

Rejoice, for repentance is open to all people and all nations.

Rejoice, for Christ came to redeem and not alienate.

Rejoice, Saint Titus, servant of God and apostle of Christ.

Kontakion 7

Afterwards, as you remained in the Holy Land, you met the Apostle Paul who was neither of the Twelve nor of the Seventy, but set apart by Christ to expound the good news and to build and sustain churches. Saint Titus, you and Saint Paul were like-minded, and you both said: Alleluia.

Ikos 7

Having heard and seen Christ in the flesh, and having conversed with the holy Saint Paul, you decided to be baptized into the Church. It was Saint Paul himself who baptized you and became your spiritual guide in the difficulties that were to come. For this reason, we give forth our praises:

Rejoice, visitor from another land, seeking and finding.

Rejoice, sojourner from a different culture, asking and receiving.

Rejoice, native of the Island of Crete, leaving and remembering.

Rejoice, Christian in the Holy Land, following and believing.

Rejoice, Godly-minded assistant of Saint Paul, prayerful and humble.

Rejoice, Churchly-minded pupil of that Apostle, faithful and diligent.

Rejoice, committed helper of the congregations, true and pure.

Rejoice, dedicated missionary of the people, gracious and vital.

Rejoice, member of the only Church, worshipping and venerating.

Rejoice, part of the whole body, working and producing.

Rejoice, perpetuation of the Gospel, living and speaking.

Rejoice, furtherance of the Kingdom, building and forming.

Rejoice, Saint Titus, servant of God and apostle of Christ.

Kontakion 8

Saint Titus, your love of God and Church was so steadfast that Saint Paul gladly made you a bishop. You became the Bishop of Crete, and you are counted among the Seventy Apostles of the early Church. Thanking God that He found you worthy of service, you said: Alleluia.

Ikos 8

You had put off the old self, Saint Titus, leaving behind the old pursuits, renouncing anything that did not contain food for the soul, and you put on Christ Who was your only and your all. You dedicated your life to pastoring the people of Crete, and hence today we lovingly praise you:

Rejoice, for you attained ultimate purpose in the will of God.

Rejoice, for you felt no yearning for your former way of life.

Rejoice, for you loved God and His people.

Rejoice, for you felt no animosity toward anyone.

Rejoice, for you returned to Crete as a new man.

Rejoice, for you were illumined with true doctrine.

Rejoice, for you conducted yourself as a temple of God.

Rejoice, for you were immersed in constant prayer.

Rejoice, for you gathered souls for Heaven.

Rejoice, for you never withheld your encouragement.

Rejoice, for you called the wayward back to the Church.

Rejoice, for you never avoided your responsibilities.

Rejoice, Saint Titus, servant of God and apostle of Christ.

Kontakion 9

Meanwhile, Saint Paul was working and suffering for the churches which were under his care, having been imprisoned in the process. Nonetheless, Saint Paul wrote to you, in what is now a part of the New Testament and known as the Epistle of Paul to Titus, and he devotedly said: Alleluia.

Ikos 9

Saint Paul emphasized that you clarify true doctrine, as there were false teachers who were causing disturbances in Crete. He also stressed

that you maintain order, and that you instruct the Cretans on how to live virtuously and do good works. Thus, we arise with fervent praises:

Rejoice, for you loved whether or not you were loved in return.

Rejoice, for you persevered even if your loved ones looked elsewhere.

Rejoice, for you prayed whether or not others joined with you.

Rejoice, for you endured for the sake of the salvation of the lost.

Rejoice, for you were qualified to preach the Crucifixion.

Rejoice, for you were competent to explain the Resurrection.

Rejoice, for you were made a shepherd of souls.

Rejoice, for you were entrusted to bring forth fruit.

Rejoice, for you connected to those who came before you.

Rejoice, for you labored so others could continue after you.

Rejoice, for you respected the righteous ones of olden days.

Rejoice, for you nourished the potential of each newcomer.

Rejoice, Saint Titus, servant of God and apostle of Christ.

Kontakion 10

When Saint Paul suffered in Rome, for he was treated like a criminal by the authorities because he believed in Jesus Christ, you felt drawn to be of comfort and assistance to him. You departed for Rome, at risk to your own safety, to see your spiritual father and say: Alleluia.

Ikos 10

Saint Titus, you witnessed Saint Paul's sufferings and untimely death, for he was killed for the Faith, and yet in vigilance of prayer he was ready to leave this world. It was you, Saint Titus, who tended to the proper burial of this holy man. Therefore in sobriety and gratitude, we pour out praises:

Rejoice, for you lived in a way pleasing to the Father Almighty.

Rejoice, for you became the spiritual son of His holy Apostle.

Rejoice, for you lived in complete service to the churches.

Rejoice, for you assisted your spiritual father until the very end.

Rejoice, for all Christians must prepare for the hour of death.

Rejoice, for both the young and the old must be watchful in prayer.

Rejoice, for all people shall account for their days in this world.

Rejoice, for both men and women shall complete their time on earth.

Rejoice, for you show us that service involves sacrifice.

Rejoice, for you teach us that holiness means humility.

Rejoice, for you encourage us to trust in the mercy of our Creator.

Rejoice, for you inspire us to ask for forgiveness and daily bread.

Rejoice, Saint Titus, servant of God and apostle of Christ.

Kontakion 11

Saint Titus, you returned to Crete and resumed your pastoral duties, for God had approved you, and Saint Paul had appointed you, to preach the Gospel and sustain the churches as Bishop of Crete. You went forth in the apostolic continuity of the Church, and you confidently said: Alleluia.

Ikos 11

You focused on the many pagans in Crete, but sometimes they ignored the truth of your words. However, through your wondrous prayers, the statue of an idol toppled and crumbled, prompting the pagans to believe in the God of the Christians. We also believe, and thus we praise you:

Rejoice, sustainer of the churches.

Rejoice, demolisher of the idols.

Rejoice, boast of the Christians of Crete.

Rejoice, expositor of the false gods of the pagans.

Rejoice, bishop who understood salvation and practiced the virtues.

Rejoice, apostle who was gifted in speech and addressed the crowds.

Rejoice, spiritual son who recognized his indebtedness to the forbearers.

Rejoice, spiritual shepherd who was entrusted to attend to the flock.

Rejoice, son who learned how to be a father.

Rejoice, man who became a predecessor of thousands.

Rejoice, student who advanced to be a teacher.

Rejoice, hierarch who became a saint of the Church.

Rejoice, Saint Titus, servant of God and apostle of Christ.

Kontakion 12

You lived into old age, Saint Titus, departing this life in your native Crete which you loved so much, and rising to the True God Whom you sought, loved, and served in total fidelity. You were everything that a good bishop should be, making it possible for everyone to say: Alleluia.

Ikos 12

Saint Titus, from your study of ideas to your eyewitness of the Crucifixion, from your youth in a pagan family to your friendship with Saint Paul, from your days as a bishop to our appreciation of your sainthood, you have blessed us with your vitality and dedication, and we continue with praises:

Rejoice, for you loved God foremost and with all your soul.

Rejoice, for you kept His Commandments.

Rejoice, for you abided in Christ as your very life and being.

Rejoice, for you crucified the old self.

Rejoice, for you brought redemption to your countrymen.

Rejoice, for you never altered the Gospel.

Rejoice, for you ministered to the needs of the least.

Rejoice, for you never blocked the Church.

Rejoice, for you continue to help those who seek.

Rejoice, for you are present in the New Testament.

Rejoice, for you remain an essential servant.

Rejoice, for you are vigilant from Heaven.

Rejoice, Saint Titus, servant of God and apostle of Christ.

Kontakion 13

Saint Titus, you are an example of lifelong endurance and faithfulness, always building the Kingdom and glorifying God. You did not covet glory for yourself, for this would be a pit of delusion, but you gave glory to God and therefore found blessedness. Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia.

(Repeat Kontakion 13 three times.)

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