



**The Life & Akathist Hymn to
our Father among the Saints
Luke, Archbishop of Simferopol**

The Life the Holy Hierarch & Confessor Luke

Born with the name Valentine Felixovitch Voino-Yassentsky on April 27, 1877 in Kerch (east Crimea), his family members were civil servants to Lithuanian and Polish Kings. The family was impoverished over time but Saint Luke remembers that he received his religious inheritance from his pious father. His first true understanding of the Christian faith came from the New Testament given to him at his high school graduation by his principal.

Education

He had an outstanding secular training. Having exceptional drawing abilities, he graduated the Kiev Academy of Fine Arts.[note 1] He decided however against pursuing art in favor of a career where he could help people who suffer, and chose to be a physician.

In 1903 at the age of 26, he graduated from Great Prince St. Vladimir Medical School at the University of Kiev, and for a long time worked as a local district physician. An extraordinary medical student, he excelled at anatomy. His superior knowledge of anatomy served him throughout his surgical career.

Out of compassion to the blindness that beggars were

experiencing due to trachoma, Saint Luke studied ophthalmology at the Kiev ophthalmologic clinic. In a very short time he acquired a significant amount of ophthalmologic training. His knowledge of this subspecialty helped him treat not only his trachoma patients, but many other serious eye conditions as well.

Marriage

Another important event in Valentine's life was the marriage to his wife Anna, a nurse. They had four children. The family was transferred frequently to various regional health care facilities and from the very beginning Valentine never requested funds from his patients, nor would he turn anyone away because of his ethnic background or personal beliefs. When his wife died, God in setting the path for Valentine's Sainthood provided the family with Sofia Sergeevna who would be the joyful surrogate mother of his children during the harsh times ahead. Valentine never remarried.

Career

During his early career he published many scientific treatises and eventually became the head surgeon and professor of surgery at the hospital in Tashkent in March 1917. In October, Lenin took over the government and civil war erupted in Tashkent in January 1919. Lenin's

government disfavored any religious witness. Valentine was under constant threat, especially when treating party members but he refused to operate under any circumstances without the Icon of the Mother of God. His results were outstanding.

“I ought to tell you that what God did to me as amazing and incomprehensible...My pursuing surgery completely satisfied the goal I always had to serve the poor and the suffering, to dispose all my strength for the comfort of their pains, and to help them in their needs.”

These are some of the introductory comments from the memoirs of Saint Luke, that were kept by his secretary, E.P. Leikfeld. His words are not vainglorious, but a commentary on how God's plan was fulfilled through the life and example of Saint Luke. Living in the Ukraine during the oppressive period of communism, St. Luke stood out among his fellow physicians both as a surgeon and as a Christian. Even the communists coveted his talents for healing the body.

Ordination and Persecution

Despite the dangers from the Lenin regime he fearlessly attended theological discussions arranged by Archpriest Mikhail Andeev. During this period when

clergymen and pious people would prove their faith in blood, providence led the Archpriest to invite Valentine to the priesthood. Thus in 1921 at the age of 44 Valentine was ordained a priest. For two years, this exceptional individual was active not only in his pastoral work but in public and scientific activity.

Eventually Fr. Valentine was arrested and put on trial, falsely accused of giving inappropriate surgical care to injured Red Army soldiers. At his trial in his characteristic fearless way he denounced the prosecutors claims by explaining:

“I cut people to save them. You, Mr. Public Prosecutor, why do you cut their heads off?”

Certainly the charges were never proven but since the Party had to be infallible Fr. Valentine was convicted to sixteen years imprisonment.

Doctor, Scientist, Bishop, Imprisonments

Noting Fr. Valentine’s spiritual gifts, prior to his departure from Tashkent (arrest and exile to Siberia), in 1923 Bishop of Ufa Andrew (Ukhtomsky) administered monastic tonsure and facilitated his consecration as Bishop. Almost immediately Saint Luke was sent to the

first of his three imprisonments.

Due to his talent as a surgeon there would always be placement at a remote medical facility where the attending colleagues would be astounded that a professor with such impeccable academic credentials would be subservient to the whims of the local civil authorities. Despite the criticisms of lesser surgeons Saint Luke would practice his medical skills. With the grace of God he amazed his colleagues with excellent medical outcomes in ophthalmologic and surgical cases that others deemed incurable.

In 1926, Bishop Luke returned to Tashkent, but in 1930 was again arrested and sentenced to three years of exile.

Upon his release, he once again returned to Tashkent, and spent his time in medical practice. As a physician and professor he trained many students and colleagues in the art of surgery, and as a scientist he found the time to publish many articles. A fruit of this work was the appearance in 1934 of his book "Notes on Purulent Surgery",^[note 3] which laid the foundation for an entire medical specialty. For that work, Bishop Luke was awarded the degree of Doctor of Medical Science in

1936, and his work continues to be used in medicine to this day. This monograph and the subsequent revisions was the “gold standard” reference for his colleagues at the time.

As a capable hierarch he strengthened the parishes and supported priests and church councils. As Saint Luke’s surgical and pastoral popularity would increase, the communist authorities would transfer him. When blatant injustices would be committed against Christians and fellow political prisoners he would initiate hunger strikes.

In 1937, Vladyka was arrested, and spent more than two difficult years undergoing tortuous interrogation and humiliation.[note 4] Nonetheless, resting his hope in the Lord, he courageously endured those trials, not only refusing to agree to false accusations against him, but engaging in active protests – refusing to eat, and sending complaints to the highest authorities against the prosecutors’ illegal actions. He would say to his fellow prisoners,

“They demand that I remove my ryassa. I will never do so. It, my ryassa, will be with me to my very death... I help people as a physician, and I help them as a servant

of the Church....”

The people who met him during his ordeals bore witness to his true character. As a physician he was Unmercenary and never asked for money treating all his patients with immense love. He shared his patients’ pain and anguish for he saw each person as an image of God, unique and unrepeatable.

In 1940, Bishop Luke was sentenced to five years of exile in the Krasnoyarsk area. At the beginning of the Great Patriotic War (World War II), Bishop Luke offered the authorities his services as a doctor, and in 1941 was appointed consultant to the hospitals of Krasnoyarsk.

In 1942, Vladyka was elevated to the rank of Archbishop and appointed to the Krasnoyarsk kathedra, which at the time did not have a single church. Through Archbishop Luke’s efforts, in 1943 a church was opened in a suburb of Krasnoyarsk. He wrote to Patriarch Sergius:

“All of Eastern Siberia, from Krasnoyarsk to the Pacific Ocean, gave no sign of church life...If churches in various parts of the Krasnoyarsk area are not opened in the near future, there is a risk that the people will lapse

into religious savagery....”

In 1944, the archbishop was appointed to the kathedra in Tambov.

In 1946, for outstanding scientific work in the area of medicine, he was awarded the “Stalin Award” for all his scientific publications. He donated almost all of the money to help children who had suffered as the result of the War.

Also in 1946 Vladyka was appointed to the kathedra of Crimea, where at first he combined archpastoral service with medical assistance to the people, but later dedicated himself to Church service, zealously working to build up Christ’s vineyard, something that, under the conditions of life under Communist authorities, then demanded great courage and faith.

As a Bishop he preached incessantly not only about the need to live Orthodoxy but against the perils of the “Living Church”. The latter was a defiled heretical sect propagated by the communist regime. He is credited with 1250 sermons over 38 years of priesthood and episcopal service, of which 750 are preserved in twelve volumes. When he practiced surgery from this point on, he wore his

bishop's cassock in the operating room, and refused to perform surgery without an icon.

As the regimes of Lenin, Stalin, and Khrushchev came and went, Saint Luke's persecutions and frequent transfers only increased his popularity. Despite public slander, he was known as an unselfish, loving, physician and spiritual father. This posed a great propaganda threat to each regime and towards the end of his life Saint Luke was restricted in his travels and his medical responsibilities to remedial services. This also was in God's plan, as towards the end of his life Saint Luke lost his vision to glaucoma. He could now devote his time exclusively to matters of faith. He performed many healing miracles and had many spiritual children.

Death and Funeral

Towards the end of his life he was worried if it would be permitted to chant "Holy God" at his funeral. He last celebrated the Divine Liturgy on the feast of the Nativity of Christ in 1960, and his last sermon was on Forgiveness Sunday. His repose was June 11, 1961, the day of commemoration for "All Saints who shone forth in the Land of Russia".

The government made every effort to make Saint

Luke's funeral as inconspicuous as possible. Buses were provided to hurry the funeral procession along the side-streets to the gravesite so there would be little fanfare and recognition. God had different plans for Saint Luke and a popular uprising occurred at the funeral. The faithful refused to be hurried. They boldly ignored, at peril to life and limb, the roadblocks to the central corridors. The mayor was angered because of the roses spread on the roads, and flung a basket away claiming that the roses were litter and trash on the streets.[note 5] To the dismay of the government and to avoid an uprising, they conceded to allow the funeral to proceed for three and a half hours without interference. The roads were full and cars stopped everywhere. People had climbed on balconies, onto rooftops of houses. Such a funeral was a tribute of honor. The authorities wanted a silent event. It was witness to God's Glory that throughout the walk there was a constant chant of "Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal have mercy on us".

Saint Luke's prayers to have "Holy God" chanted at his funeral during the atheistic times were answered!

Glorification

On March 17, 1996, St. Luke's remains were disinterred, with an estimated 40,000 people taking part.

It is said that an indescribable aroma arose from his relics, while his heart was discovered incorrupt, a testament to the great love he bore towards Christ and his fellow men. Three days later on March 20, 1996, his relics were transferred to the Church of the Holy Trinity.

His relics continue to work countless miracles, in the Church of the Holy Trinity in Simferopol, at Sagmata Monastery in Greece, and throughout the world.

The Akathist Hymn to our Father among the Saints Luke, Archbishop of Simferopol

Priest: Blessed is our God, always, now and ever and unto ages of ages.

Reader: Amen. Glory to Thee O God. Glory to Thee.

O Heavenly King, the Comforter, the Spirit of Truth, Who art everywhere and fills all things. Treasury of blessings and giver of life, come and abide in us, and cleanse us from every impurity. And, save our souls, O Good One.

Holy God, Holy Mighty , Holy Immortal, have mercy on us **(3)**.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

O Most Holy Trinity, have mercy on us. Lord, cleanse us from our sins. Master, pardon our transgressions. Holy One visit and heal our infirmities for Thy name's sake.

Lord, have mercy **(3)**.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Our Father, Who art in heaven. Hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done, on earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And, lead us not

into temptation but deliver us from evil.

Priest: For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages.

Reader: Amen.

KONTAKION I

Choir/Faithful: Holy Hierarch and Confessor of the **Orthodox** Church, / thou didst shine in Crimea like a **brilliant** star. / Enduring hard labor and persecution for **Christ's** sake, / thou didst glorify the Lord who **glorified** thee. / We offer thee songs of praise for thy great boldness before the Lord of **heaven** and earth. / Deliver us from all ailments of soul and **body** / and give us strength that we may stand firm in **Orthodoxy**, /so that we may raise our heartfelt **cry** to thee: // Rejoice, O holy hierarch and confessor Luke, good and merciful **physician**.

IKOS I

Priest: Conversor with angels and instructor of men, O all-glorious Luke, like thy namesake, the Apostle and Evangelist Luke, thou didst receive from God the gift of healing human ailments, didst undertake many labors in treating the diseases of thy neighbors, and though in the flesh, thou didst neglect the things of the flesh, glorifying thy heavenly Father. We therefore cry to thee with thanks:

Choir/Faithful: Rejoice, for from youth thou didst submit thy

mind to the **yoke** of Christ.

Rejoice, for thou wast a dwelling of the all-Holy **Trinity**.

Rejoice, for according to the Word of God thou didst inherit the blessing of the **merciful**.

Rejoice, for by faith in Christ and God-given knowledge thou didst heal many who were **ailing**.

Rejoice, merciful doctor of those who suffered from bodily **ailments**.

Rejoice, healer of officers and soldiers in the days of **battle**.

Rejoice, instructor of **physicians**

Rejoice, swift helper of the needy and **sorrowing**.

Rejoice, upholder of the **Orthodox Church**.

Rejoice, beacon **of** our land.

Rejoice, thou pride of the **Crimean** flock.

Rejoice, adornment of the city of **Simferopol**.

Rejoice, O holy hierarch and **confessor** Luke, good and merciful **physician**

KONTAKION II

Priest: In thy medical practice, thou sawest in thy patients as if in a mirror the wisdom and glory of the Creator and God of all, and so wast always lifted up to Him in the Spirit, O wise Luke. Illumine us also with the light of the knowledge of God, so that with thee we may sing: Alleluia.

Choir/Faithful: Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

IKOS II

Priest: Thou didst enlighten thy mind with the commandments of God, O all-glorious Luke, and having rejected every fleshly

desire, thou didst submit thy mind and will to the Lord. Like the Apostles who abandoned everything and went after Him Who said, "Follow me and I will make you fishers of men:" so thou, O saint, hearing the Lord Jesus calling thee to service through his servant Archbishop Innocent of Tashkent, without delay didst accept priesthood in the Orthodox Church. We therefore praise thee as an instructor wise in God, singing:

Choir/Faithful: Rejoice, joy of thy guardian **angel**.

Rejoice, for he was never **grieved** by thee.

Rejoice, for thy knowledge astounded the **wise** men of this world.

Rejoice, for thou didst turn away from the workers of **iniquity**.

Rejoice, contemplator and preacher of divine **wisdom**.

Rejoice, golden-tongued teacher of true **theology**.

Rejoice, guardian of the apostolic **tradition**.

Rejoice, God-lit candle, dispersing the darkness of **wickedness**.

Rejoice, star showing the way to **salvation**.

Rejoice, thou zealot of **Orthodoxy**.

Rejoice, expositor of schismatics.

Rejoice, for thou didst hunger and thirst for the lord's commandments and **statutes**.

Rejoice, O holy hierarch and **confessor** Luke, good and merciful **physician**.

KONTAKION III

Priest: While still in this life, O holy Luke, thou didst receive by the power of God's grace the gift of healing infirmities; thus all who approach thee with heartfelt sincerity receive healing from bodily and spiritual sickness, crying to God: Alleluia.

Choir/Faithful: Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

IKOS III

Priest: Caring sleeplessly for the salvation of the souls entrusted to thee by God, O blessed Luke, like a shepherd thou didst never cease to instruct by word and deed in the ways of salvation. Therefore receive our fitting and heartfelt praise:

Choir/Faithful: Rejoice, vessel full of the **wisdom** of God.
Rejoice, overflowing with the grace of the Holy **Spirit**.
Rejoice, imitator of the **poverty** of Christ.
Rejoice, good shepherd, bringing back those who had strayed from Orthodoxy on the mountains of **vanity**.
Rejoice, tender shoot of the vine of Christ, strengthening the sons of God in the **Orthodox Faith**.
Rejoice, shield and protector of **righteousness**.
Rejoice, unshakeable bulwark of **Orthodoxy**.
Rejoice, firm **rock** of faith.
Rejoice, for thou didst expose and uproot pernicious unbelief and destructive **renovationism**.
Rejoice, for thou didst wisely encourage those undertaking **feats** of faith.
Rejoice, for thou brought to quiet refuge those driven **out** of the world.
Rejoice, for thou didst take up thy cross and **follow** Christ.
Rejoice, O holy hierarch and **confessor** Luke, good and merciful **physician**.

KONTAKION IV

Priest: Tossed about by a storm of doubts, God's servant could not grasp what the Lord was saying when the flock in Tashkent

deemed him worthy to be their bishop. But he entrusted his whole self to Christ our God, and giving thanks for all things, he called out to Him, "Blessed be God who has lavished His grace upon His bishops;" and sang to Him: Alleluia.

Choir/Faithful: Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

IKOS IV

Priest: Persecuted Orthodox people hear of the abundant virtues of thy soul, O God-bearing Luke, and recognizing in the office of bishop a worthy vessel for the divine grace that heals the weak and strengthens the infirm, they wonder at the miraculous providence of God in thee and raise to thee these words of highest praise:

Choir/Faithful: Rejoice, bishop forechosen by **God** Himself. Rejoice, for thou didst foresee thine episcopate in the authorship **of** thy book.

Rejoice, adornment of **hierarchs**.

Rejoice, good shepherd, ready to lay down thy life for thy **spiritual** sheep.

Rejoice, thou bright **lamp** of the Church.

Rejoice, communicant with the **Apostles**.

Rejoice, boast of **confessors**.

Rejoice, for thou didst abandon all **care** for thyself

Rejoice, comforter of the **grieving**.

Rejoice, for thou didst mourn the people's **ignorance**.

Rejoice, for thou didst give right doctrine to those seeking **salvation**.

Rejoice, for thou didst not disgrace this teaching **by** thy life.

Rejoice, O holy hierarch and **confessor** Luke, good and

merciful physician

KONTAKION V

Priest: Watching over those ransomed with God's blood from eternal death, with the blessing of the holy patriarch Tikhon thou didst receive the episcopal office at the hands of Orthodox bishops in a time of fearful persecution, O holy Luke; well didst thou fulfill thy task of proclaiming good news: reproving, correcting and instructing with all long-suffering and every kind of teaching, and singing to God: Alleluia.

Choir/Faithful: Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

IKOS V

Priest: "Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven;" the Lord taught. And following his words, thou didst amaze the angelic hosts when they saw thy great feats. For with strong heart and much patience thou didst bear without complaint imprisonment and exile to Siberia for the sake of the Lord and his holy Church, thus working out thy salvation and instructing the faithful by thine example. Thus in love we honor thee with these praises:

Choir/Faithful: Rejoice, thou lamp placed on the **lampstand** of the Church.

Rejoice, for in thee was fulfilled the scripture, "Love is **patient:**"

Rejoice, for thou didst forbid the faithful to **protect** thee.

Rejoice, for obeying worldly authorities thou didst give thyself

into the hands of **soldiers** in the night.

Rejoice, for thou didst detest the companions of unrighteous **judges**.

Rejoice, for thou didst humbly go to imprisonment **without** complaint.

Rejoice, for thou wast driven out of Tashkent for **righteousness'** sake.

Rejoice, for thou wast mourned by the **faithful**.

Rejoice, for thou wast beaten and wounded for the sake of the **crucified** Lord.

Rejoice, for thou didst shut the mouths of lying un**believers**.

Rejoice, for with righteous lips even in exile thou didst proclaim **heavenly** truths.

Rejoice, for the martyrs in heaven rejoiced at thy **forbearance**.

Rejoice, O holy hierarch and **confessor** Luke, good and merciful **physician**.

KONTAKION VI

Priest: Neither prison nor Siberian exile, neither hunger nor cold nor the cruelty of men could silence thy preaching of the all-holy, consubstantial, and indivisible Trinity. For even in exile thou didst receive the gift of healing ailments of soul and body, so that with one heart and one voice we may sing praises to God: Alleluia.

Choir/Faithful: Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

IKOS VI

Priest: Like a brilliant star thou didst shine on the flocks of sheep in Krasno-yarsk and Tambov, illumining the souls of the faithful and dispersing the darkness of iniquity and

ungodliness. And the words of Christ were fulfilled in thee: "Blessed are you when men shall revile you and persecute you and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely for my sake:' For being driven from town to town and suffering insults, thou didst fulfill thine episcopal ministry with all thy heart and with the sweetness of thy writing didst satisfy all who hungered and thirsted for righteousness. Thus they gratefully cry out to thee:

Choir/Faithful: Rejoice, instructor setting the feet of all on the path to **heaven**.

Rejoice, zealot of the **glory** of God.

Rejoice, invincible **warrior** of Christ.

Rejoice, for thou didst suffer imprisonment and beatings for **Christ** our Lord.

Rejoice, true imitator of his **humility**.

Rejoice, dwelling of the Holy **Spirit**.

Rejoice, for thou hast entered with the wise into the **joy** of thy Lord.

Rejoice, for thou dost expose the **avaricious**.

Rejoice, for thou didst reveal the pernicious affects of **vainglory**.

Rejoice, for thou didst call lawless men to **repentance**.

Rejoice, for by thee **Satan** was disgraced.

Rejoice, for by thee Christ was **glorified**.

Rejoice, O holy hierarch and **confessor** Luke, good and merciful **physician**.

KONTAKION VII

Priest: Wishing to accomplish in a worthy manner the feat which was laid upon thee by God, O confessor Luke, thou didst

put on the full armor of God and took up the fight against the rulers of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places. Having thy loins girt about with truth and having put on the breastplate of righteousness, thou didst quench the fiery darts of the wicked, singing to the God of creation: Alleluia.

Choir/Faithful: Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

IKOS VII

Priest: From wicked and ungodly men there arose new persecution of the Orthodox Church, and thou wast driven into the distant taiga, O holy hierarch Luke. Close to death, thou wast preserved by the hand of God and didst call out with the Apostle Paul, "Even unto this present hour we both hunger and thirst, and are naked, and are buffeted, and have no certain dwelling place; being persecuted, we suffer it; we are made as the filth of the world, and are the offscouring of all things unto this day:' Therefore, knowing all of this, we praise thee with these words:

Choir/Faithful: Rejoice, blessed confessor of Christ.
Rejoice, for thou didst endure the severe cold of **Siberia**.
Rejoice, for, close to death, thou wast **preserved** by the Lord.
Rejoice, for thou didst fully turn **away** from thyself.
Rejoice, for thou didst pledge thy soul to Christ the **Bridegroom**.
Rejoice, for thou didst always have before thine eyes the **crucified Lord**.
Rejoice, for thou didst remain in untiring **vigil** and prayer.
Rejoice, true zealot of the consubstantial **Trinity**.
Rejoice, for thou didst swiftly treat every disease without

asking **payment**.

Rejoice, for thou didst cure the broken and **swollen** in flesh.
Rejoice, for thou didst restore to health those who suffered
from abscesses of **bone** and flesh.

Rejoice, for by thy faith and labors as a doctor thou didst heal
the **paralyzed**.

Rejoice, O holy hierarch and **confessor** Luke, good and
merciful **physician**.

KONTAKION VIII

Priest: A stranger in this earthly valley, thy life was an
example of patience, abstinence, and purity, O confessor Luke.
When thy fatherland was suffering under enemy invasion, thou
didst reveal Christ's love, day and night laboring as a doctor,
healing the ailments of the soldiers and officers of thine earthly
homeland, amazing all those who wished thee harm and
turning many of them to Christ, to whom we sing: Alleluia.

Choir/Faithful: Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

IKOS VIII

Priest: Filled with the love of Christ, O compassionate Luke,
thou didst lay down thy life for thy friends, and, like a guardian
angel, thou wast always with those near and far, comforting the
distressed, reconciling enemies, and leading all to salvation.
Remembering thy labors for the benefit of thy countrymen, we
call out to thee:

Choir/Faithful: Rejoice, for thou didst show wondrous love
for thine **earthly** home.

Rejoice, teacher of humility and forbearance.

Rejoice, for courageously
didst thou endure exile and cruel torture.

Rejoice, for thou didst suffer torment for Christ.

Rejoice, for thou didst defeat the fickleness of thine enemies
with the love of Christ.

Rejoice, compassionate father, turning many to salvation.

Rejoice, for thou wast tried by great sorrows.

Rejoice, for thou didst show wondrous endurance in
persecution.

Rejoice, for thou didst intercede for thine enemies.

Rejoice, for thy love defeated all enmity.

Rejoice, for thy forbearance conquered callous hearts.

Rejoice, O holy hierarch and confessor Luke, good and
merciful physician.

KONTAKION IX

Priest: Like Saint Paul, thou wast all things to all men, so that all might be saved, O holy hierarch Luke, bearing the load of an archpastor in the Tambov region. By thy many labors for the renewal and construction of churches, strictly observing the statutes of the holy Fathers, thou didst not cease to work for the salvation of thy flock, singing to God with pure lips: Alleluia.

Choir/Faithful: Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

IKOS IX

Priest: Human eloquence can never worthily tell of the multitude of thy good deeds. When thou camest to the Crimea, like a father who loves his children, O holy father Luke, thy bountiful right hand reached out to all. So we, wishing to

imitate thy goodness of heart, call out to thee with wonder:

Choir/Faithful: Rejoice, ray of **God's** love.

Rejoice, treasury of the Savior's unfailing **mercy**.

Rejoice, for thou gavest all that thou hadst to the **needy**.

Rejoice, for thou didst grow to love thy neighbor **more** than thyself.

Rejoice, feeder and nourisher of motherless **orphans**.

Rejoice, guardian of the old and **helpless**.

Rejoice, for thou didst visit the sick and those in **prison**.

Rejoice, for thou foresaw the needs of the poor in different parts of thy **country**.

Rejoice, for, never forgetting the poor, thou didst **provide** them with food.

Rejoice, for, like a guardian angel thou didst appear to **all** in grief.

Rejoice, earthly angel and **heavenly** man.

Rejoice, for the Mother of God rejoices at the depth of thy **mercy**.

Rejoice, O holy hierarch and **confessor** Luke, good and merciful **physician**.

KONTAKION X

Priest: For many years thou didst work ceaselessly for the salvation of thy Crimean flock, in the image of Christ the chief shepherd, who took upon His shoulders fallen human nature and raised it up to God the Father. Comforting thy neighbor by God's mercy, with the words of thy teaching thou leddest all to correct their lives, so that they might sing to God with a pure heart: Alleluia.

Choir/Faithful: Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

IKOS X

Priest: O holy Luke, as a faithful servant of the heavenly King, thou didst tirelessly proclaim the word of truth in all the churches of the Tauride land; thou feddest thy faithful children with the soul-saving precepts of the Gospel, commanding them strictly to observe the Church's statutes. Therefore, as a good shepherd we praise thee thus:

Choir/Faithful: Rejoice, thou tireless preacher of the Truth of the **Gospels**.

Rejoice, for thou wast a good shepherd of the flock entrusted to **thee** by God.

Rejoice, for thou didst protect thy sheep from **pernicious** wolves.

Rejoice, strict observer of the Church's **canons**.

Rejoice, guardian of the purity of **Orthodoxy**.

Rejoice, for through thee the Holy Spirit wrote words of **salvation**.

Rejoice, for thou didst reveal theological mysteries concerning spirit, soul, and **body**.

Rejoice, for thy word was clothed in the mystery of faith as with a golden **mantle**.

Rejoice, lightning laying **pride** low.

Rejoice, thunder striking fear into the hearts of those living in **iniquity**.

Rejoice, planter of **piety** in the Church.

Rejoice, archpastor, teacher, and constant instructor of spiritual **pastors**.

Rejoice, O holy hierarch and confessor Luke, good and merciful physician.

KONTAKION XI

Priest: At the time of thy falling-asleep, the singing around thy coffin did not cease, O faithful servant of God. For many, knowing thee to be God-bearing and equal to angels, assembled from all corners of thine earthly fatherland, gathering to pray for thy soul in its ascent to the exalted dwellings of thy heavenly fatherland, praising God and singing to Him: Alleluia.

Choir/Faithful: Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

IKOS XI

Priest: Thou wast a candle in Christ's Church, burning with the uncreated light of the grace of God, O holy Luke, illumining all the ends of our land. At the time of thy departure, divine angels received thy holy soul and bore it up to the heavenly dwellings. Therefore, remembering thy blessed dormition and thy great glory in heaven and on earth, with joy we bring to thee these praises:

Choir/Faithful: Rejoice, unfading lamp of the never-setting Light.

Rejoice, for thy light shone **before** men.

Rejoice, for thou wast the **salt** of the earth.

Rejoice, for many saw thy good works and glorified the Father in **heaven**.

Rejoice, faithful servant of God, who ran the **good** race.

Rejoice, for thou didst receive faith, hope, and **love** from God.

Rejoice, for thou art for ever united with the Christ whom **thou**

didst love.

Rejoice, inheritor of the kingdom of heaven and eternal **glory**.

Rejoice, high priest, filled with gifts of grace by the eternal
High Priest.

Rejoice, swift helper of those who **call** unto thee.

Rejoice, new star and strength of the **Crimea**.

Rejoice, blessed protector of Christian **people**.

Rejoice, O holy hierarch and confessor Luke, good and merciful physician.

KONTAKION XII

Priest: Recognizing the grace given thee from above, we reverently kiss the image of thine honorable visage, O Luke, hoping through thine intercessions to receive what we ask of God. Therefore, falling down before thy holy relics with tenderness of heart we pray to thee: strengthen us to stand firmly in the Orthodox Faith and to please God with good deeds, forever singing to Him: Alleluia.

Choir/Faithful: Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

IKOS XII

Priest: Singing to God who is wonderful in His saints, we praise thee, Christ's confessor, O holy intercessor before the Lord. Though thou art now in the heights of heaven, yet thou hast not deserted the lower realms of earth, O holy father Luke; thou reignest forever with Christ and intercedest for us sinners before the throne of God. Therefore with tenderness of heart we call to thee:

Choir/Faithful: Rejoice, for thou beholdest un**approachable**

light.

Rejoice, for thou rejoicest with angels, and men take **joy** in thee.

Rejoice, for thou taught Christ's commandments and didst **keep** them.

Rejoice, for thou wast found worthy of the kingdom of **heaven**.

Rejoice, for thou didst enter the heavenly dwellings by the **confessor's** path.

Rejoice, for thou didst receive eternal **glory** with Christ.

Rejoice, for thou guidest our souls to the kingdom of **heaven**.

Rejoice, intercessor for us sinners before the **throne** of God.

Rejoice, communicant with the company of all **Crimean** saints.

Rejoice, for thou didst die on the feast of All Saints of **Russia**.

Rejoice, praise of Orthodoxy and **rejoicing** of our land.

Rejoice, for thou wast found worthy to join the **host** of the saints.

Rejoice, O holy hierarch and **confessor** Luke, good and merciful **physician**.

KONTAKION XIII

O glorious and faithful servant of God, holy father Luke, receive from us this song of praise raised to thee with filial love. By thine intercessions before the throne of God strengthen us all in the Orthodox faith and in good deeds. Protect us from all sorrow and disease of this life and deliver us from all torments of the age to come, so that with thee and all the saints we may be made worthy to sing to our Creator: Alleluia.

Choir/Faithful: Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

*This kontakion is recited thrice; whereupon Ikos I and
Kontakion I are repeated.*

IKOS I

Priest: Conversor with angels and instructor of men, O all-glorious Luke, like thy namesake, the Apostle and Evangelist Luke, thou didst receive from God the gift of healing human ailments, didst undertake many labors in treating the diseases of thy neighbors, and though in the flesh, thou didst neglect the things of the flesh, glorifying thy heavenly Father. We therefore cry to thee with thanks:

Choir/Faithful: Rejoice, for from youth thou didst submit thy mind to the **yoke** of Christ.

Rejoice, for thou wast a dwelling of the all-Holy **Trinity**.

Rejoice, for according to the Word of God thou didst inherit the blessing of the **merciful**.

Rejoice, for by faith in Christ and God-given knowledge thou didst heal many who were **ailing**.

Rejoice, merciful doctor of those who suffered from bodily **ailments**.

Rejoice, healer of officers and soldiers in the days of **battle**.

Rejoice, instructor of **physicians**

Rejoice, swift helper of the needy and **sorrowing**.

Rejoice, upholder of the **Orthodox Church**.

Rejoice, beacon **of** our land.

Rejoice, thou pride of the **Crimean** flock.

Rejoice, adornment of the city of **Simferopol**.

Rejoice, O holy hierarch and **confessor** Luke, good and merciful **physician**

KONTAKION I

Choir/Faithful: Holy Hierarch and Confessor of the **Orthodox** Church, / thou didst shine in Crimea like a **brilliant** star. / Enduring hard labor and persecution for **Christ's** sake, / thou didst glorify the Lord who **glorified** thee. / We offer thee songs of praise for thy great boldness before the Lord of **heaven** and earth. / Deliver us from all ailments of soul and **body** / and give us strength that we may stand firm in **Orthodoxy**, /so that we may raise our heartfelt **cry** to thee: // Rejoice, O holy hierarch and confessor Luke, good and merciful **physician**.

Priest: Again and again on bended knees let us pray to the Holy Hierarch and Confessor Luke

Choir/Faithful: Holy Hierarch and Confessor Luke pray to **God** for us.

Prayer to the Holy Hierarch and Confessor Luke

Priest: O ALL-BLESSED CONFESSOR AND HIERARCH, our father Luke, who didst greatly please Christ: kneeling with our hearts and bowing before the casket of thy precious and abundantly healing relics, as children to their father we pray thee: hear us sinners and bring our prayer to the all-merciful God who loves mankind. For now thou abidest in the joy of the saints among the ranks of angels. We believe that thou lovest us with the same love with which thou didst love all thy neighbors living on earth. Entreat Christ our Lord to strengthen in His Holy Orthodox Church the spirit of true faith and piety; endow pastors with holy zeal and care for the salvation of their flocks; guide believers in the right way, strengthening the weak

in faith, instructing the ignorant, and unmasking the unrighteous. Endow each of us with all that is beneficial for this temporary life and for our eternal salvation. Strengthen our towns; bring fruitfulness to our land; grant deliverance from famine and plague; comfort those in grief, give healing to the ill; return to the way of the truth those who have gone astray; grant blessings to parents good upbringing and instruction in the fear of God to children, help and intercession to the poor and needy. Give us thine archpastoral blessing, so that under thy protection we may be delivered from the snares of the evil one and avoid discords, heresies, and schisms. Help us pass through this temporal life in a God-pleasing manner, guiding us on the way that leads to the dwellings of the righteous. Deliver us from the tollhouses and pray for us to God Almighty so that in life eternal we, along with thee, may unceasingly glorify the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, to Whom is due all glory, honor and worship, now and ever and unto ages of ages.

Choir/Faithful: Amen.

The Litany

Priest: Have mercy on us, O God, according to Thy great goodness, we pray Thee, hearken and have mercy.

Choir/Faithful: Lord have mercy (3)

Priest: Again we pray for His Beatitude, Metropolitan _____, His (*Grace /Eminence*), (*Arch*) Bishop _____, for priests, deacons, and all other clergy; and for all our brethren in Christ.

Choir/Faithful: Lord have mercy (3)

Priest: Again we pray for the president of our country, for all civil authorities and for our armed forces everywhere.

Choir/Faithful: Lord have mercy (3)

Priest: Again we pray for mercy, life peace, health, salvation and visitation for the servants of God _____, and for the pardon and remission of their sins.

Choir/Faithful: Lord have mercy (3)

Priest: Furthermore, we pray for the people here present, awaiting from Thee great and bountiful mercies for all the brethren and for all Christians.

Choir/Faithful: Lord have mercy (3)

Priest: For Thou art a merciful God, and loves mankind, and unto Thee we ascribe glory: to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages.

Choir/Faithful: Amen.

Priest: Wisdom! Most Holy Theotokos, save us!

Choir/Faithful: More honorable than the Cherubim and more glorious beyond compare than the Seraphim! Without defilement you gave birth to God the Word; true Theotokos we magnify you.

Priest: Glory to Thee, O Christ our God and our hope, glory to Thee !

Choir/Faithful: Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.
Lord have mercy (3). Father bless.

Priest: [pronounces the dismissal and faithful venerate the Cross]

Holy Hierarch and Confessor Luke pray to God for us!

Glory Be To God For All Things!