

Akathist to Saint Sava
First Archbishop of Serbia

Kontakion 1

Chosen by the King of All Power, Lord Jesus Christ, and called by grace from royal lineage into monasticism and archbishoprics, first saint of the Serbian Church, God bearing Father Savo, allow us to praise you with love, God given shepherd and teacher. And you, who has freedom before the Lord, ceaselessly pray with your Father and Brother according to the flesh, Simeon the Myhrrgusher and Venerable Simon, for the salvation of your descendants, the Serbian Orthodox people, and for us sinners, redeeming us from all evil, troubles and sorrows. We exclaim to you: Rejoice St Savo First Serbian teacher and wonderful miracle worker!

Ikos 1

Falling in love from your youth in angelic purity, blessed Savo, you showed yourself as a great ascetic of piety, thus that all wondered to the honesty and piety of your soul, but you as a lad and prince by birth tamed your flesh with fasting, vigil, and prayers. For this, hear our praising songs:

Rejoice you, who is loved by God, son of a pious father and a good-hearted mother.
Rejoice you, who with all your heart fell in love with God.
Rejoice you, who with your birth consoled your parents and solved their barrenness.
Rejoice you, blessed fruit obtained by many prayers.
Rejoice you, offspring of the royal lineage of Nemanja.
Rejoice spiritual beauty of Serbian land.
Rejoice comfort and joy of your parents in their old age.
Rejoice you, whom they loved more than other children.
Rejoice you, who rejected pleasures of the flesh even in your youth.
Rejoice you, who thought more of heavenly treasures than earthly treasures.
Rejoice you, lover of purity of soul and flesh.
Rejoice St Savo, first Serbian shepherd and teacher, wonderful miracle worker.

Kontakion 2

Seeing the vanity and transience of earthly glory, O Savo, God-wise, you strived toward heaven. And the Lord, seeing your divine desire, sent to you, from the Holy Mount Athos, a venerable monk by whose instruction you were taught. You left your parents and motherland and came to the earthly garden of the All Holy Theotokos and Ever Virgin Mary, Holy Mount Athos and there settled in the Russian monastic household. Ceaselessly exclaiming, with those who serve the Lord, the angelic song, Alleluia!

Ikos 2

Learning of your departure, your parents bitterly wept, mourning their loss, O Venerable Savo. Then, after contemplation, immediately sent their faithful servants to Athos to find and convince you to return to them. But you, O Saint, learning about the servants coming, wisely conversed with them, then withdrew yourself from them and climbed the high tower. There you took your monastic vows and cast down your princely attire to those sent after you, commanding them to tell your parents that their son Rastko already is monk Sava. Remembering such zeal for your salvation we exclaim to you:

Rejoice you, who despised earthly glory and power.
Rejoice you, who for Christ's sake left your parents
and your motherland. Rejoice o you, who came to
the Holy Mt. Athos to serve the Lord. Rejoice o you,
who found refuge in the Russian monastic
brotherhood. Rejoice you, who became the tonsured
one of this family.

Rejoice o you, who with your ascetics glorified the Russian brotherhood.
Rejoice for your name is prayerfully glorified still.
Rejoice for this family is always adored and boastful with you.
Rejoice you, who with your ascetics with fast and prayer amazed the Fathers of Mt. Athos.
Rejoice you, who visited all families of Mt. Athos only clothed in a monastic robe and
barefooted.
Rejoice you, who multiplied your given talent
Rejoice o you, who surrendered to the obedience of the God-wise elder in the family of
Vatoped.
Rejoice o you, who perfected yourself in humbleness and patience.
Rejoice St Savo, first Serbian shepherd and teacher, wonderful miracle worker.

Kontakion 3

Strengthened by the power of All High, O saint of God, you performed great fetes in the monastic family of Vatoped on Mt. Athos. Numbing your body with fast, vigil and every exhaustion, you endured cold and heat as if bodiless. You remained uninjured walking barefoot over sharp stones, submitting your body to the spirit. Always burning with love toward the Lord, you ceaselessly sing to Him the song: Alleluia!

Ikos 3

Caring about the spiritual salvation of your parents, O Father Savo, you always prayed to God for that. A good God lover, who fulfills the will of those who fear Him. He incited your parents, by your very touching letter to them, to leave earthly power and receive monastic vows. As a result, your father Simeon came from Serbia to Mt. Athos and settled together with you in Vatoped. With whom we glorify you and exclaim:

Rejoice o you, who sincerely desired spiritual salvation of your parents.

Rejoice o you, who wisely impelled them to leave earthly glory.

Rejoice o you, who was very consoled by the coming of your father to Athos.

Rejoice you, who fasted and prayed together with him.

Rejoice you, who helped him to bear his monastic fate.

Rejoice you, who patiently endured his infirmities of old age.

Rejoice you, who full of love, served him in his infirmities.

Rejoice you, who eased his difficulties and hardships in the desert scarcity.

Rejoice you, who with your own deeds complemented deeds of your father.

Rejoice you, who made him a true God pleasing man.

Rejoice you, who is shaded by His Holy blessing.

Rejoice you, whom faithful people prayerfully honor together with him.

Rejoice St Savo, first Serbian shepherd and teacher, wonderful miracle worker.

Kontakion 4

To those who were pursued by tempests on the sea of life, you tried, O Holy Father Savo, to establish a tranquil harbor for the Serbian people on Athos, the monastic brotherhood called Hilandar, which you dedicated to the All Holy Mother Theotokos. You decorated it with God's church and many other edifices. Supplying it with enough property and intensifying it with Emperors Gramatas. You yourself with your parent settled in to live there. Because of that, this brotherhood honors both of you as their founders and celebrates remembrance of you. Prayerfully directing the praising song to God. Alleluia!

Ikos 4

When Venerable Simeon heard God's calling into his eternal family, he had in you, O God bearing Savo, a prayerful assistant at the time of his death. On your hands he gave up the spirit to the Lord. His holy body, you with dignified honor, and laid in the marble tomb in the Cathedral Church of the Hilandar brotherhood. With your prayer you successfully begged God's grace to the relics of your father from which flows myrrh. With that, moving faithful people to exclaim,

Rejoice o you, all-powerful in God, pleasing prayerful one.

Rejoice you, equal to angels, man.

Rejoice for after your prayer to God, the holy relics and the tomb of your father released fragrant and healing myrrh.

Rejoice o you, for you were made happy with that and you constantly celebrated God.

Rejoice for your venerable father, showed you wonderfull obedience after death.

Rejoice for by your prayer, myrrh, which already had dried out, flows again from his tomb.

Rejoice you who mystically looked at your father in Saintly glory.

Rejoice you, who in a bright vision heard good promises from him.

Rejoice you, who by the directive of your father, brought his relics from Athos to Serbia.

Rejoice because you laid them with festivity in the brotherhood of Studenica.

Rejoice you, for you are the reason your father is being glorified in the person of the saint.

Rejoice devoted respecter of his holy remembrance.

Rejoice St. Savo, first Serbian shepherd and teacher, wonderful miracle worker.

Kontakion 5

From God's enlightened light you were appointed, God wise Savo, by the will of the high priest you were above the shepherds of Jesus. As the torchbearer of the Serbian Church, you were consecrated by the ecumenical patriarch to be the Serbian Archbishop. You appeared as enlightener of Serbian People, who diligently, everywhere, every time and always instructed that they firmly and strongly remain in the Holy Orthodox faith. In a God pleasing way, exulting the song of praise to the All Holy Mother Theotokos. Alleluia!

Ikos 5

When you saw that you were parting with your beloved Athos desert, Holy Father Savo, you regretted with your spirit, but the Holy Mother Theotokos appeared to you in a Bright Vision. With the promise of help and her protection, she comforted and strengthened your sorrowful soul. To you, so rejoiced by the vision and the word of the heavenly queen, we joyfully exclaim:

Rejoice chosen vessel of the Holy Spirit.
Rejoice at the time of your consecration enlightened by the light from above.
Rejoice o knowledgeable one of the mystery of the Holy Trinity.
Rejoice o you, communicator with the All Holy Mother Theotokos.
Rejoice o you, who from her mouth listened to merciful words.
Rejoice o you, who received promised help and protection from her.
Rejoice o you, who are equal with the Apostles, first Hierarch of the Serbian land.
Rejoice o you, establisher of the God blessed hierarchy, appointing Bishops in the Serbian land.
Rejoice o you, who with your wonderful feat spread the Gospel.
Rejoice o you, who enlightened Serbia perfectly with the light of Christ.
Rejoice you, who established many of God's churches and monastic families in her.
Rejoice o you, merciful giver of mercy and alms.
Rejoice o you, good-hearted nurturer of the poor.
Rejoice St. Savo, first Serbian shepherd and teacher, wonderful miracle worker.

Kontakion 6

As the preacher of the Orthodox faith you appeared in Serbia, priestly Savo. In your cathedral church of Zicha, symbol of the Holy Orthodox faith, you loudly confessed and taught your flock to confess so that all wholeheartedly would remain with you. And that they all can with one voice and one heart sing together with you the song of praise and gratitude to Trion God. Alleluia!

Ikos 6

You shined O Saint of Christ, as the All Shining Star in your earthly fatherland. You strengthened your man in the Holy Orthodox faith and piety with your eloquent sermons. You uprooted, with the sword of the word of God, heresies and rascals. Serbian people honored you as the angel of God because of that, exclaiming with a loud voice saying:

Rejoice o you, Hierarch who are worthily receiving the authority to bind and loosen.
Rejoice o you, Hierarch vested in Christ's full arsenal.
Rejoice o you, good shepherd who are ready to lay down your soul for your God given man and your flock.
Rejoice o you, ardent worker in the Lord's vineyard.
Rejoice o you, enlightener who are shining and enlightening man's hearts.
Rejoice o you, all shining ray of Sun of Righteousness - Christ.
Rejoice you, glorified by the Lord with the gift of miracle working.
Rejoice o you, who with your holy hands cured many.
Rejoice o you, who made the infirmed healthy with your prayer.

Rejoice o you, who reconciled the animosity of those of the same blood.
Rejoice o you, who entered bravely and alone adversary's dwelling.
Rejoice o you, who reconciled the estranged.
Rejoice o you, who your dead brother, King Stefan, resurrected and whose wish was fulfilled to be vested in the monastic life, calling him Simon.
Rejoice St Savo, first Serbian shepherd and teacher, wonderful miracle worker.

Kontakion 7

You had only one desire, O Saint of God, to please God and to serve and save the souls of your fellow man. Because of that you didn't allow your eyes to sleep or your eyebrows to nap. Tirelessly you prayed for the good of the Holy Serbian Orthodox Church and the salvation and benefit entrusted to you by God of the right believing people. In truth, you became the pillar of Orthodoxy and unwavering protector of Serbian people who honestly praise you and exclaim to you "Organizer of the Church for Christ who gave you strength! Alleluia!

Ikos 7

As new Nikolai of Myra and Chrysostom of Constantinople, you acquired your Serbian land. For your miracles you were similar to the first and for your golden instructions you emulated the second. In truth, o our St. Father Savo you are worthy of these good praises:

Rejoice tireless preacher of the Gospel of Christ.
Rejoice o you, faithful owner of the apostolic tradition.
Rejoice o you, who embraced the spirit of the Holy God bearing fathers.
Rejoice o you, warm praying one for our souls.
Rejoice o you, who ordered constant prayers be maintained in the chapel of Kareia on Mt Athos.
Rejoice o you, who in good time and bad instructed your flock in piety.
Rejoice you, o sword who chopped down heresy and schism.
Rejoice you, o thunder who frightens those who scandalize.
Rejoice o you, protector of those offended.
Rejoice you, o benefactor of widows and impoverished.
Rejoice o you, comforter of those sorrowful.
Rejoice o you, reconciler of repenters with God.
Rejoice o you, God wise instructor of the young.
Rejoice o you, full of love protector and God wise teacher of the newlyweds.
Rejoice St Savo, first Serbian shepherd and teacher, wonderful miracle worker.

Kontakion 8

You wanted to be a stranger and newcomer for Christ's sake O Saint Sava. Emulating the Savior of our souls who did not have a place to shelter, for whose sake you left your homeland and in different regions you hurried to pilgrim to the Holy places with a faith and love, in them worshiping and distributing alms to the churches, monasteries and the poor, always singing to God Alleluia!

Ikos 8

All in God O venerable Saint you left as a traveler and worshiper of God. In the Holy city of Jerusalem, prayerfully visited holy places. With the life and suffering of Christ the Savior marked honoring them with warm tears falling from your eyes. As the sacrifice of your love toward the Lord who suffered for our sake. Who incites us to exclaim to you:

Rejoice o you, wise traveler - pilgrim who seeks the heavenly homeland.
Rejoice o you, Christ's chosen one who despised all treasures of the earth.
Rejoice o you, pious pilgrim of the Holy earthly city of Jerusalem.
Rejoice o you, wise seeker of the bright heavenly city of Jerusalem.
Rejoice o you, who visited Constantinople, Palestine, Egypt, Sinai and Athos.
Rejoice o you, who visited Libya, Tivaida, Antiochia, Syria and Armenia.
Rejoice o you, who with great effort, journeyed on sea and ground.
Rejoice o you, who on your journey gathered many great holy places.
Rejoice o you, whom shepherds of the Orthodox Church received with love and honor.
Rejoice o you, whom poor and impoverished blessed for your good deeds.
Rejoice o you, liberator of the imprisoned.
Rejoice o you, comforter of the desert dwellers.
Rejoice St Savo, first Serbian shepherd and teacher, wonderful miracle worker.

Kontakion 9

All monks of the great Lavra of Venerable Savo Consecrated, came out to meet you with joy, God wise Savo. When you came to them for pilgrimage, they recognized you as the wonderful guest promised to them from Ancient time, therefore as the worthy one, they gave you, as a blessing, the staff of Venerable Sava Consecrated and two miracle working icons of the all Holy Mother of God Theotokos: Three Hands of the Holy Virgin and Icon of the All Holy Nursing Mother. Singing with the holy voices to God the Creator of All. Alleluia!

Ikos 9

Man's eloquence is not worthy to glorify your many miracles O Saint, Hierarch worthy of Eternal remembrance. You calmed the turbulent sea by prayer and in a wonderful way you received a fish in your boat from the depths of the sea. You cured sick people with laying of your hands and gloriously raised the dead as faithful disciples of Christ God. For that we praise you and exclaim glorifying you in this way:

Rejoice you, who received fulfillment of the evangelical promise.

Rejoice you, who with calmness acquired exaltation.

Rejoice o you, unbribable physician who cured disease of the soul and flesh.

Rejoice o you, graceful physician of those who in sickness come to you with faith.

Rejoice o you, for your honorable hands showed as tool of healing.

Rejoice o you, for with your prayerful laying of hands you restored health to the diseased.

Rejoice o you, for being in foreign regions you with your miracles glorified the name of Christ

Rejoice o you, for going from city to city you strengthened faithful in piety.

Rejoice o you, for your name became glorified from the east to the west.

Rejoice o you, for you ardently brought to Christ those close to you and distant from you.

Rejoice o you, who as all shining sun traveled the earth.

Rejoice o you, who like a full moon fulfilled your journey in God pleasing way.

Rejoice St Savo, first Serbian shepherd and teacher, wonderful miracle worker.

Kontakion 10

Having unwavering hope for salvation, O God pleasing saint, you came to the city of Trnovo and here you ended your earthly journey falling asleep in the Lord. With your holy death you caused much weeping to the Serbian Land We believe, O our Father Hierarch, that if you, by providence of the Lord, fell asleep outside of your motherland that with your spirit you remain within and that you always pray to God for those who sing to Him the song Alleluia!

Ikos 10

You were a faithful slave and servant of the king of heaven, the Christ, God bearing Father Savo and even after falling asleep in the Lord you do not cease performing miracles. Your Consecrated and Honorable tomb showed itself as a healing place for human infirmities and even ashes from your tomb became dust healing so that all exclaimed to you:

Rejoice O all holy First Hierarch who with the saints of Serbian land is resting.
Rejoice Christ pleasing who even following death are all gloriously performing miracles
Rejoice o you, who the City of Trnovo with your holy death consecrated.
Rejoice o you, who gracefully enlightened Bulgarian land with miracles.
Rejoice o you, who by your desire in feat of journey finished your life.
Rejoice o you, who outside of your fatherland you fell asleep in the Lord.
Rejoice o you, for your death is honorable before the Lord.
Rejoice o you, for your death celebrates the Holy Orthodox Church.
Rejoice o you, who as an Archistratic of Serbian land fights along side her soldiers.
Rejoice o you, who with the protection of your prayer, ceaselessly protect your flock.
Rejoice o you, of spiritual enlightening disseminator.
Rejoice o you, teacher, full of love of children and youth, protector and enlightener of the Orthodox School
Rejoice St Savo, first Serbian shepherd and teacher, wonderful miracle worker.

Kontakion 11

With prayerful song we honor and exalt you O God pleasing one and truthfully glorify your remembrance. For even though you glistened in Serbia, the universal church considers you as defender, ambassador, and intercessor before the Lord. Therefore remembering your God pleasing life and many of your feats and miracles we glorify Lord Jesus who glorified you and humbly we sing Alleluia!

Ikos 11

Shining with the light of miracles you manifested your life for Serbia equal to the Apostles, O Saint Savo. When you allowed your holy relics be transferred to your earthly fatherland, for you loved your fatherland during your life and so also after death. And you insisted that your relics be returned among your flock which loves you. That you rejoice, your children who call upon you.

Rejoice you, first Serbian Shepherd who prayerfully oversees your flock.
Rejoice o you, good intercessor of those who call upon you with faith.
Rejoice o you, for you asked that your holy relics be transferred to Serbia.
Rejoice o you, for your will that you revealed to the Bulgarian Czar Asan in the vision.
Rejoice o you, brought glory and honor from Trnovo to Serbia.
Rejoice o you, in the Cathedral church of Mileseva with love received and honorably placed.
Rejoice o you, by your nephew the Serbian King Vladislav piously honored.
Rejoice o you, by your successor St. Arsenije prayerfully glorified.
Rejoice o you, by all Serbs joyfully welcomed.
Rejoice o you, who with your coming alleviated sorrow of your flock.

Rejoice o you, who to many, by miracles from your tomb, your holiness was confirmed.
Rejoice o you, who fields, forests and valleys you consecrated by your coming.
Rejoice you, who with your God pleasing life, wisdom and great zeal, strengthened
Orthodoxy in your people.

Rejoice o you, who with your graceful intercession even after your departure, continue to
protect them.

Rejoice o you, the angel according to your lifestyle, prophet by the grace of the Holy Spirit,
apostle by preaching, martyr by confession.!

Rejoice St. Savo, first Serbian shepherd and teacher, wonderful miracle worker.

Kontakion 12

The treasury of God's grace, your holy and incorruptible relics, O Saint father Savo, because
of our sins, pagans, agarians, and enemies of Orthodoxy turned over to fire. However, we
believe you are with us now as before. You wished to visibly comfort your people with your
relics and to protect us with your prayers from every evil. Therefore, we bow to your holy
place where evil people turned your relics over to fire, we kiss the dust consecrated by them
and pray to God, Alleluia!

Ikos 12

Singing about your holy and God pleasing life and your many all glorious miracles, O Saint
Savo our father, we humbly pray to you. Do not loathe our inadequate praise by which we
dare to, in our zeal, celebrate you. But mercifully look upon us who ardently sing to you such
praises:

Rejoice o you, tireless protector of the Serbian land with which in love together you co suffer.
Rejoice for together with her, your relics endured fiery temptation from evil agarians.
Rejoice o you, who as a shining pillar to heaven above with your burned relics, their holiness
you uttered

Rejoice o you, who horribly punished the agarian duke who burned your relics.

Rejoice o you, who did not cease to do miracles even after the burning of your relics.

Rejoice o you, where the place on which your relics were burned was made a participant of
the grace.

Rejoice o you, who in your visions and dreams visit the faithful.

Rejoice o you, who extends your help to those close and distant

Rejoice you, hierarch, glory and praise.

Rejoice o you, the star whose features of venerable are shining

Rejoice o you, by God and the Holy Mother are firm hope.

Rejoice St Savo, first Serbian shepherd and teacher, wonderful miracle worker.

Kontakion 13

O all holy and wonderful miracle worker, our Father Saint Sava, protector of Serbian land and intercessor of all Orthodox Christians, mercifully receive our small prayer which we offer to you in praise, and with your prayers to the Lord, redeem us from our difficulties, temporary and eternal, and make us worthy, so together with you in the Heavenly Kingdom we sing to our God the Savior, Alleluia!

(This kontakion is read 3 times and after that Ikos 1 and Kontakion 1)

First Prayer to Saint Sava

O priestly head, all glorious miracle worker, Christ's St. Savo, First Hierarch of Serbian Land, protector and enlightener, and of all Orthodox Christians before God, good hoping intercessor, to you we belong and pray:

Grant us to be participants of your love toward God and our fellow man, by which your soul was filled during your lifetime. Enlighten us with the truth, enlighten our mind and hearts with the light of your divine teaching. Teach us, according to your example, to love God and our fellow man and to correctly fulfill the commandments of the Lord, so that we may be your children not only by name but also by our whole life. Pray, all holy Hierarch, for the holy Orthodox Church and your earthly fatherland, which always respects you with love. Look mercifully on every soul of your faithful admirers who seek your mercy and your help. Be a physician to all in sickness, a visitor in our sorrow, helper in our miseries and difficulties. In the moment of death, mercifully patron and protector that with the help of your holy prayers, even we sinful can be worthy to acquire eternal salvation and inherit the Kingdom of Heaven. Yes, the Saint of God, do not shame our hope, which we strongly place on you but show us your much powerful protection so that we glorify and sing wonderful among our Holy Father and Son and Holy Spirit always, now and forever, of all ages and ages, Amen.

Second Prayer to Saint Sava

Great jewel among the saints, God wise Father Savo, we pray to you, your servants. Bowing down we call upon thee do not abandon us, your children, O Father but always be with us as you promised, so that we also by our duty, sing that we glorify you, that we glorify greatness, and your power. We offer to you a worthy song calling upon you and saying: We glorify you O Saint, we sing to you, Enlightener, we bow before you Father Savo. Pray - we pray to you that those who glorify remembrance of you be saved Amen.

Troparion Tone 3

O Saint Sava, the first-enthroned Hierarch, you were the instructor and teacher of the way that leads to life; for having come, you first enlightened your fatherland. Then giving it birth by the Holy Spirit, you planted your holy sanctified children as olive trees in spiritual paradise. Therefore, honoring you as one co-enthroned with the Apostles and the Saints, we implore you: "Pray to Christ our God to grant us His great mercy."

Kontakion Tone 8

The church of thine own people glorifies you as a great Saint, who is in assembly with the Apostles, O Venerable One! Therefore, as you have boldness before Christ God, save us from all afflictions by your prayers so that we may cry to you: "Rejoice, O Divinely-inspired Father Sava!"