



**Гавріилъ**  
**Архієпископъ Монреальскій и Канадскій**  
The Most Reverend Archbishop Gabriel  
of Montreal and Canada

**РОЖДЕСТВЕНСКОЕ ПОСЛАНИЕ**  
**Священству, клиру и всей богоспасаемой паствѣ**  
**Чикагской и Средне-Американской Епархіи**  
**Возлюбленные братія и сестры!**

Святая Православная Церковь въ своихъ пѣснопѣніяхъ на Праздникъ Рождества по плоти Господа Бога и Спаса Нашего Иисуса Христа часто повторяетъ столь милые намъ, людямъ, слова: «радость» и «веселіе». Уже въ самомъ началѣ навечерія мы слышимъ возгласъ: «Приидите, возрадуемся Господеви...». И далѣе, на литіи: «Небо и земля днесь пророчески да возвеселятся...». Пришелъ къ намъ Господь отъ Непорочной Дѣвы Маріи, «на земли явися и съ чловѣки поживе» какъ предрекъ пророкъ Божій Варухъ (3; 38) еще за пять вѣковъ до Рождественскихъ событій. Но вѣдь и само это событіе свершилось болѣе двадцати вѣковъ тому назадъ. И с тѣхъ поръ ежегодно, въ священные эти дни въ нашихъ сердцахъ, по мѣрѣ, отпущенной намъ отъ Господа, повторяется отзвукъ той особой радости, которую почувствовали въ сердцахъ своихъ свидѣтели Рождества: Сама Пресвятая Богородица, смиренный Иосифъ-Обручникъ, и пастухи, и ученые волхвы, пришедшіе ко Христу-Младенцу. Какъ сказала Господь устами своихъ пророковъ о явленіи Христа-Спасителя по плоти, такъ и сбылось каждое Его слово, и никто въ мірѣ не смогъ не только помѣшать этому, но хотя бы на краткій мигъ отодвинуть исполненіе Божіей воли.

Могущественный царь Иродъ хитро вывѣдалъ отъ пришедшихъ въ Іерусалимъ волхвовъ возрастъ, въ которомъ могъ находиться Младенецъ Иисусъ – Царь Іудейскій (Матѣ., 2:16); еще прежде онъ созвалъ на совѣтъ знатоковъ Писаній, и они вновь подтвердили, что согласно словамъ, реченнымъ черезъ пророка Михея, Христу надлежитъ родиться въ Виѣлеемѣ Іудейскомъ (Матѣ., 2: 5-6). Въ Виѣлеемѣ былъ посланъ отборный отрядъ, которому было поручено «избить всѣхъ младенцевъ» не только въ самомъ городѣ, но и «во всѣхъ предѣлахъ его отъ двухъ лѣтъ и ниже» (Матѣ., 2:16). Но это злодѣяніе не принесло Ироду желаемаго. Въ тѣ страшные часы, когда на улицахъ древняго града Давидова раздавались «плачь, и рыданіе, и вопль великій» (Матѣ., 2: 18), никѣмъ не узанный Младенецъ и Матерь Его, и Иосифъ-Обручникъ, ведомыя словомъ Ангела Господня, явившагося во снѣ Иосифу (Матѣ., 2: 13), отправились въ Храмъ Іерусалимскій, гдѣ принесли положенныя жертвы Богу (Лук., 2: 22-23), а затѣмъ, какъ повелѣлъ Господь, удалились въ Египетъ (Матѣ., 2: 13, 19-20). Свершилась Воля Божія, - и явилось виѣлеемскимъ пастухамъ, «которые содержали ночную стражу у стада своего» (Лук., 2; 8), «многочисленное воинство небесное, зывающее: слава въ вышнихъ Богу, и на землѣ миръ, въ чловѣкахъ благоволеніе» (Лук., 2; 13-14). Но гдѣ же онъ, этотъ испрошенный миръ? Какъ трудно помнитъ о неложности и неотменимости Господнихъ обѣтованій въ наши дни, когда повсюду на землѣ господствуетъ вражда, когда мы съ болью душевной видимъ, что на земляхъ нашего историческаго Отечества братья по единой Крещенской купели, данной намъ Господомъ черезъ Святаго Равноапостольнаго Великаго Князя Владиміра, воюютъ другъ съ другомъ. Потому-то намъ слѣдуетъ неустанно молиться, чтобы Господь указалъ намъ Свой путь ко скорѣйшему воцаренію мира и благоволенія, о которыхъ повѣдано намъ во Святомъ Евангеліи въ разсказѣ о Рождествѣ Христовомъ.

*Христось раждается, славите, Христось раждается, срящите!*

*+ Архієпископъ Гавріилъ*

ГАВРИИЛЬ

Архієпископъ Монреальскій и Канадскій

Рождество Христово, 2024/2025 г.



**Гаврилъ**  
**Архиепископъ Монреальскій и Канадскій**  
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**NATIVITY EPISTLE**

**To the clergy and all God-saved flock of the Diocese of Chicago and Mid-America**

Beloved brothers and sisters in Christ!

In her hymns for the Feast of the Nativity in the flesh of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, the Holy Orthodox Church often repeats the words that are so close to our hearts – “joy” and “gladness”. Already at the beginning of the service of the Forefeast of the Nativity we hear “O come, let us rejoice in the Lord.” And later, at the Lity: “Let heaven and earth today prophetically make glad.” The Lord came to us from the Most Pure Virgin Mary, He “appeared on earth and dwelt among men”, as the prophet of the Lord Baruch said (Bar. 3:38) five centuries before Christmas. And Christmas itself took place over twenty centuries ago. Yet since then, every year on these holy days, according to the measure of the Lord’s gift, the echo of that distinct joy resounds in our hearts, the joy that the witnesses of the Nativity of Christ – the Mother of God Herself, the humble Joseph the Betrothed, the shepherds and the wise Magi who came to the Infant Christ – felt in their hearts. As the Lord has spoken through His prophets of the coming of Christ the Savior in the flesh, so His every word came to pass, and no one in the world could, for even a brief moment, defer the fulfillment of God’s will, much less hinder it.

The mighty King Herod cunningly found out from the wise men who had come to Jerusalem how old the Infant Jesus, the King of the Jews, could be (Mt. 2:16); even before that he had consulted the scribes versed in the Scriptures, and they also confirmed that, according to the words of the prophet Micah, Christ was to be born in Bethlehem of Judea (Mt. 2:5-6). A select band of soldiers was sent to Bethlehem with orders to “slay all the children” not only in the city itself, but “in all that region, from two years old and under” (Mt. 2:16). Yet by this atrocity Herod did not obtain what he was after. In those terrible hours, when “lamentation, and weeping, and great mourning” filled the streets of the ancient city of David (Mt. 2:18), the Infant, His Mother and Joseph the Betrothed, unnoticed, led by the word of the Angel of the Lord who had appeared to Joseph in a dream (Mt. 2:13), went to the Temple of Jerusalem, where they offered their sacrifices to the Lord according to the Law (Lk. 2:22-23), and then, as the Lord had commanded, departed to Egypt (Mt. 2:13, 19-20). God’s Will was accomplished, and “a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, ‘Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men’” (Lk. 2:13-14), appeared to the shepherds of Bethlehem, who were “keeping watch over their flock by night” (Lk. 2:8). But where is it, this peace, for which these supplications were made? It is so hard to remember that the promises of our Lord are true and irrevocable in these days, when enmity reigns throughout the earth, when with pain in our hearts we see that brothers in that same Baptismal font that our Lord gave us through the holy Grand Prince Vladimir, Equal-to-the-Apostles, are fighting each other in the historic lands of our Motherland. That is why we should pray without ceasing that the Lord will show us His way to the speedy coming of the reign of peace and goodwill that the Gospel story of the Nativity of Christ tells us about.

*Christ is born – glorify Him, Christ is come from Heaven – go to meet Him!*

+ Archbishop Gabriel

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