



A JOURNAL OF ORTHODOX FAITH AND CULTURE

ROAD TO EMMAUS

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ALL MANNER OF THINGS BEAUTIFUL

Met. Hilarion of Kiev's Sermon on Law and Grace

An 11th-century accolade from Metropolitan Hilarion of Kiev, written as a memorial to St. Vladimir Equal-to-the-Apostles and in praise of the church built by the Great Prince and his son Yaroslav-George.

All lands, cities and men honour and glorify their teacher who brought them the Orthodox Faith. Thus let us, through our own strength, humbly praise our teacher and mentor, Vladimir, the great Kagan of our land, the grandson of Igor of yore and son of glorious Sviatoslav, who ruled in their day with courage and valour, and were famed in many lands for their victories and fortitude. And they did not reign in a poor and unknown land, but in Russia, which is known by all and celebrated to the ends of the earth.

A testament to your devotion, blessed one, is the Holy Church of the Blessed Virgin, the Mother of God, which you built on the foundation of Orthodoxy and where your valorous body now lies at rest awaiting the archangel's trumpet. A good and certain pledge is your son, George, whom God has made the heir to your throne,

who does not destroy your laws, but confirms them,
who does not diminish works of piety, but extends them,
who does not undo, but strengthens,
who finishes that which you have left unfinished
even as Solomon finished the works begun by David;
who has built a great and holy temple to God's omniscience
that it may hallow your city;
who has embellished with all manner of things beautiful,
with gold and silver and precious stones
and with sacred vessels;
so that the church is a wonder to all surrounding lands
and so that the like cannot be found in all the northern lands,
nor in the east nor the west;
who has given your famous city of Kiev the crown of glory,
who has turned your city and its people
to the all-glorious Mother of God,
who is always ready to succour Christians
and for whom he has built a church with doors of gold
in the name of the Annunciation, the first holy day of the Lord,
that the veneration the archangel offers to the Virgin,
may also be upon this city.
To her he speaks, saying:
"Rejoice, Blessed One, the Lord is with you!"

And to the city he speaks, saying:

“Rejoice, faithful city, the Lord is with you!” ✦