



GREETINGS FROM THE BISHOPS OF THE  
UKRAINIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH OF CANADA ON THE  
OCCASION OF UKRAINE'S INDEPENDENCE DAY



Reverend fathers, beloved brothers and sisters in Christ!  
Glory to Jesus Christ!

On this festive day, we commemorate a historic moment—the proclamation of Ukraine's Independence on 24 August 1991—when the tireless efforts of generations, both in our homeland and in the diaspora, became a testament to God's justice and devotion to the idea of freedom. This day will forever remain a sign that the Ukrainian people's desire for freedom was not in vain.

In today's celebration of Ukraine's Independence, we once again feel both joy and pain. Therefore, our celebration should not only be solemn, but also deeply conscious, called to stand guard over freedom with a spirit rooted in God's truth, which no one can destroy.

The Ukrainian Orthodox Church of Canada is the spiritual home for many generations of Ukrainians in Canada. Here we have preserved our faith, language, and love for Ukraine. We have been a source of support in the struggle for liberty, a living bridge between the efforts of the diaspora and their realization in our native land. And today, we are also called to preserve our identity and support the Church, our communities and cultural centres.

Our communities are the spiritual support where we find peace, faith and spiritual strength. Thus, let us pray on this day from the bottom of our hearts and with deep faith:

- for victory and a just peace in Ukraine;
- for the soldiers who sacrificially defend Ukraine;
- for all those who gave their lives for independence;
- for parents who lost their children, and for children who lost their parents; and
- for all those who do not give up and are fighting for the right to build their future in an independent Ukraine.

The Holy Scriptures, through the example of David and Goliath, remind us that even when evil seems powerful, with God, the power of truth and prayer overcomes evil.

We greet everyone on Ukraine's Independence Day! May the Lord strengthen us spiritually on this day and open our hearts to the truth that freedom begins with God's righteousness. We pray that the All-Merciful Lord blesses us and all the Ukrainian people with peace and spiritual resilience, so that we may grow in faith, in love for God and for one another—building a future for the glory of God and for the good of Ukraine and Ukrainians throughout the world.

Glory to Ukraine!

With the archpastoral blessing,  
+ Ilarion, Metropolitan of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of Canada  
+ Andriy, Bishop of Toronto and the Eastern Eparchy

