

## Russian Orthodox Three-Panel Folding Icon of Deisus (Prayer), circa XIX C.

Bronze, enamel; measures 13.5" x 5" overall; individual panels are 4.5" x 5" each; weighs 1lb 10 oz. The icon comprises images of Christ, Theotokos (Mother of God), and John the Baptist. On the outer side of one of the panels, there is an icon of the Golgotha Cross with staff and spear, and the inscription "Tsar Slavy" (King of Glory) at the top of the cross. The background features the walls of Jerusalem.

The central triptych icon, which is actually the main icon of the iconostasis in any Eastern Orthodox Church, depicts Jesus Vsederzhitel (Ruler of All), with this inscription on the horizontal beam. Jesus' two-fingered blessing is indicative of the ancient Old Believers' style of iconography, and the halo symbolizes uncreated celestial light, embossed with four Greek letters that stand for "Existing One."

On the right-hand panel, there is an icon of John the Baptist, presented as a prophet in the desert, wearing coarse camel's hair (vlyanitsa) and having a small braided beard. He holds the bowl in which baby Jesus lies, and his pointing to Jesus signifies that Jesus is the Way as predicted by John, who is known as the Forerunner (Predtecha). The wings behind his back emphasize his association with angels. To the left is the Virgin Mary, Mother of God (Theotokos), with the title abbreviation in Greek letters on either side of her halo. As the famous Mediatrix (Zastupnitsa) for humankind, she inclines her head and raises her hands in prayer for forgiveness.

The icon is in excellent condition. The facial features are well-defined; the enamel is in good shape. The additional icon on the outside of one of the panels is an uncommon feature, making it a remarkable example of a Russian metal icon.

Please note, pen in our photo is for size reference.

Item# 39902

**\$340.00**

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