

THE OFFICE OF HOLY BAPTISM
THE PRAYERS AT THE RECEPTION OF
CATECHUMENS

The Priest looseth the girdle of the Person who desireth Illumination, and removeth it, and putteth it off from him; and placeth him with his face towards the east, clothed in one garment only, unshod, and with head uncovered, and with his arms hanging by his sides; and he breatheth thrice in his face; and signeth his brow and his breast thrice with the sign of the cross; and layeth his hand upon his head, saying:

The deacon or priest: Let us pray to the Lord.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

In Thy Name, O Lord God of truth, and in the Name of Thine Only-begotten Son, and of Thy Holy Spirit, I lay my hand upon Thy servant, N., who hath been found worthy to flee unto Thy holy Name, and to take refuge under the shelter of Thy wings. Remove far from him (her) his (her) former delusion, and fill him (her) with the faith, hope and love which are in Thee; that he (she) may know that Thou art the only true God, with Thine Only-begotten Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, and Thy Holy Spirit. Enable him (her) to walk in all Thy commandments, and to fulfil those things, which are well pleasing unto Thee; for if a man do those things, he shall find life in them. Inscribe him (her) in Thy Book of Life, and unite him (her) to the flock of Thine inheritance. And may Thy holy Name be glorified in him (her), together with that of Thy beloved Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, and of Thy life-giving Spirit. Let Thine eyes ever regard him (her) with mercy, and let Thine ears attend unto the voice of his hands, and in all his (her) generation; that he (she) may render praise unto Thee, may sing, worship and glorify Thy great and exalted Name always, all the days of his (her) life.

Exclamation: For all the Powers of Heaven sing praises unto Thee, and Thine is the glory, of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, now, and ever, and unto ages of ages.

Choir: Amen.

The First Exorcism

The deacon or priest: Let us pray to the Lord.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

The Lord layeth thee under ban, O Devil: He Who came into the world, and made His abode among men, that He might overthrow thy tyranny and deliver men; Who also upon the Tree did triumph over the adverse powers, when the sun was darkened, and the earth did quake, and the graves were opened, and the bodies of the Saints arose; Who also by death annihilated Death, and overthrew him who exercised the dominion of Death, that is thee, the Devil. I adjure thee by God, Who hath revealed the Tree of Life, and hath arrayed in ranks the Cherubim and the flaming sword, which turneth all ways to guard it: Be thou under ban. For I adjure thee by Him Who walketh upon the surface of the sea as it were dry land, and layeth under His ban the tempests of the winds; Whose glance drieth up the deep, and Whose interdict maketh the mountains to melt away. The Same now, through us, doth lay thee under ban. Fear, begone, and depart from this creature, and return not again, neither hide in him (her), either by night or by day; either in the morning, or at noonday: but depart hence to thine own Tartarus, until the great Day of Judgment, which is ordained. Fear thou God Who sitteth upon the Cherubim and looketh upon the deeps; before Whom tremble Angels and Archangels, Thrones, Dominions, Principalities, Authorities, Powers, the many-eyed Cherubim and the six-winged Seraphim; before Whom, likewise, heaven and earth do quake, the sea and all that is therein. Begone, and depart from this sealed, newly enlisted warrior of Christ our God. For I adjure thee by Him Who rideth upon the wings of the wind, and maketh His Angels spirits, and his ministers a flaming fire: Begone, and depart from this creature, with all thy powers and thine angels.

***Exclamation:* For glorified is the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, now, and ever, and unto ages of ages.**

Choir: Amen.

The Second Exorcism.

The deacon or priest: Let us pray to the Lord.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

God, holy, terrible and glorious, Who is unsearchable and inscrutable in all His works and might, hath foreordained for thee the penalty of eternal punishment, O Devil: The Same, through us, His unworthy servant, doth command thee, with all thy confederate hosts, to depart hence,

from him (her) who hath been newly sealed in the Name of our Lord Jesus Christ, our true God. Wherefore, I adjure thee, O most crafty, impure, vile, loathsome and alien spirit, by the might of Jesus Christ, Who hath all power, both in heaven and on earth, and Who said unto the deaf and dumb demon, "Come out of the man, and in nowise enter thou a second time into him:" Depart! Acknowledge the vainness of thy might, which hath not power even over swine. Call to mind Him Who, at thy request, commanded thee to enter into the herd of swine. Fear God, by Whose decree the earth is established upon the waters; Who hath made the heavens, and hath set the mountains with a line, and the valleys with a measure; and hath fixed bounds to the sands of the sea, and a firm path upon the stormy waters; Who toucheth the mountains and they smoke; Who clotheth himself with light as with a garment; Who spreadeth out the heavens as it were a curtain; Who covereth His exceeding high places with the waters; Who hath made fast the earth upon its foundations, so that it shall not be removed unto ages of ages; Who collecteth the water of the sea and poureth it out upon the face of the whole earth: Begone, and depart from him (her) who hath made himself (herself) ready for holy Illumination. I adjure thee by the redeeming Passion of our Lord Jesus Christ, and by His precious Body and Blood, and by His terrible Coming-again; for He shall come, and shall not tarry, to judge the whole earth; and He shall chastise thee and thy confederate host with burning Gehenna, committing thee to outer darkness, where the worm ceaseth not, and the fire is not quenched. For of Christ our God is the dominion, with the Father and the Holy Spirit, now, and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

The Third Exorcism.

The deacon or priest: Let us pray to the Lord.

O, Lord of Sabaoth, the God of Israel, Who healest every malady and every infirmity: Look upon Thy servant; prove him (her) and search him (her), and root out of him (her) every operation of the Devil. Rebuke the unclean spirits and expel them, and purify the works of Thy hands; and exerting Thy trenchant might, speedily crush down Satan under his (her) feet; and give him (her) victory over the same, and over his foul spirits; that, having obtained mercy from Thee, he (she) may be made worthy to partake of Thy heavenly Mysteries; and may ascribe glory unto Thee, to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now, and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

A Fourth Prayer.

The deacon or priest: Let us pray to the Lord.

Thou Who in verity existest, O Lord our Master; Who hast created man in Thine own likeness, and hast bestowed upon him the power of life eternal; Who also despisest not those who have fallen away through sin, but hast provided salvation for the world through the incarnation of Thy Christ: Do thou, The Same Lord, delivering also this Thy creature from the bondage of the enemy, receive him (her) into Thy heavenly kingdom. Open the eyes of his (her) understanding, that the light of Thy Gospel may shine brightly in him (her). Yoke unto his (her) life a radiant Angel, who shall deliver him (her) from every snare of the adversary, from encounter with evil, from the demon of the noonday, and from evil visions.

Then the Priest breatheth upon his mouth, his brow, and his breast saying:

Expel from him (her) every evil and impure spirit, which hideth and maketh its lair in his (her) heart. *(And this he saith thrice.)*

The spirit of error, the spirit of guile, the spirit of idolatry and of every concupiscence; the spirit of deceit and of every uncleanness, which operateth through the prompting of the Devil. And make him (her) a reason-endowed sheep in the holy flock of Thy Christ, an honourable member of Thy Church, a consecrated vessel, a child of the light, and an heir of Thy kingdom; that having lived in accordance with Thy commandments, and preserved inviolate the seal, and kept his (her) garment undefiled, he (she) may receive the blessedness of the Saints in Thy kingdom.

*In a loud voice: **Through the grace, and bounties, and love towards mankind of Thine Only-begotten Son, with Whom Thou are blessed, together with Thy most holy, and good, and life-giving Spirit, now, and ever, and unto ages of ages.***

Choir: Amen.

Then the Priest turneth the person who is come to Baptism to face the west, unclad, unshod, and having his hands uplifted. And he saith:

Dost thou renounce Satan, and all his Angels, and all his works, and all his service, and all his pride?

And the Catechumen maketh answer, or his Sponsor for him and saith:

I do renounce them.

Again the Priest saith, a second time:

Dost thou renounce Satan, and all his Angels, and all his works, and all his service, and all his pride?

And the Catechumen maketh answer, or his Sponsor for him and saith:

I do renounce them.

Again the Priest saith, a third time:

Dost thou renounce Satan, and all his Angels, and all his works, and all his service, and all his pride?

And the Catechumen maketh answer, or his Sponsor for him and saith:

I do renounce them.

Again the Priest questioneth him who is to be baptized:

Hast thou renounced Satan?

And the Catechumen, or his Sponsor for him, maketh answer:

I have renounced him.

Again the Priest questioneth:

Hast thou renounced Satan?

And he answereth:

I have renounced him.

Again the Priest questioneth the third time:

Hast thou renounced Satan?

And he answereth:

I have renounced him.

Then saith the Priest:

Breathe and spit upon him.

And when he hath done this, the Priest turneth him to the east, with his hands lowered, and saith:

Dost thou unite thyself unto Christ?

And the Catechumen, or his Sponsor for him, maketh answer:

I do unite myself unto Christ.

Again the Priest saith, a second time:

Dost thou unite thyself unto Christ?

And he answereth a second time:

I do unite myself unto Christ.

Again the Priest saith, a third time:

Dost thou unite thyself unto Christ?

And he answereth a third time:

I do unite myself unto Christ.

Then the Priest saith to him:

Hast thou united thyself unto Christ?

And he replieth:

I have united myself unto Christ.

Then the Priest saith to him:

And dost thou believe in Him?

And he replieth:

I believe in Him as King and as God.

And he reciteth The Holy Symbol Of the Faith.

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible; and in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the Son of God, the Only-begotten, begotten of the Father before all ages; Light of Light, true God of true God; begotten, not made; being of one essence with the Father; through Whom all things were made; Who for us men, and for our salvation, came down from the heavens, and was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary, and became man; and was crucified for us under Pontius Pilate, suffered and was buried; and arose on the third day according to the scriptures; and ascended into the heavens, and sitteth at the right hand of the Father; and shall come again, with glory, to judge both the living and the dead; Whose kingdom shall have no end; and in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the Giver of Life, Who proceedeth from the Father; Who with the Father and the Son together is worshipped and glorified; Who spake through the Prophets; in one, holy, catholic, and apostolic Church. I confess one baptism for the remission of sins. I look to the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the age to come. Amen.

And when he hath finished the Holy Symbol of the Faith, the Priest again inquireth of him:

Hast thou united thyself unto Christ?

And he replieth:

I have united myself unto Christ.

Then the Priest saith to him again:

And dost thou believe in Him?

And he replieth:

I believe in Him as King and as God.

And he reciteth The Holy Symbol Of the Faith again, a second time.

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible; and in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the Son of God, the Only-begotten, begotten of the Father before all ages; Light of Light, true God of true God; begotten, not made; being of one essence with the Father; through Whom all things were made; Who for us men, and for our salvation, came down from the heavens, and was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary, and became man; and was crucified for us under Pontius Pilate, suffered and was buried; and arose on the third day according to the scriptures; and ascended into the heavens, and sitteth at the right hand of the Father; and shall come again, with glory, to judge both the living and the dead; Whose kingdom shall have no end; and in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the Giver of Life, Who proceedeth from the Father; Who with the Father and the Son together is worshipped and glorified; Who spake through the Prophets; in one, holy, catholic, and apostolic Church. I confess one baptism for the remission of sins. I look to the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the age to come. Amen.

And when he hath finished the Holy Symbol of the Faith, the second time, the Priest again inquireth of him:

Hast thou united thyself unto Christ?

And he replieth:

I have united myself unto Christ.

Then the Priest saith to him again, the third time:

And dost thou believe in Him?

And he replieth:

I believe in Him as King and as God.

And he reciteth The Holy Symbol Of the Faith again, the third time.

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible; and in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the Son of God, the Only-begotten, begotten of the Father before all ages; Light of Light, true God of true God; begotten, not made; being of one essence with the Father; through Whom all things were made; Who for us men, and for our salvation, came down from the heavens, and was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary, and became man; and was crucified for us under Pontius Pilate, suffered and was buried; and arose on the third day according to the scriptures; and ascended into the heavens, and sitteth at the right hand of the Father; and shall come again, with glory, to judge both the living and the dead; Whose kingdom shall have no end; and in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the Giver of Life, Who proceedeth from the Father; Who with the Father and the Son together is worshipped and glorified; Who spake through the Prophets; in one, holy, catholic, and apostolic Church. I confess one baptism for the remission of sins. I look to the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the age to come. Amen.

And when he hath finished the Holy Symbol of the Faith, the third time, the Priest again inquireth of him:

Hast thou united thyself unto Christ?

And he replieth:

I have united myself unto Christ.

And the Priest again inquireth of him a second time:

Hast thou united thyself unto Christ?

And he replieth a second time:

I have united myself unto Christ.

And the Priest again inquireth of him a third time:

Hast thou united thyself unto Christ?

And he replieth a third time:

I have united myself unto Christ.

Then the Priest saith to him:

Bow down also before Him.

And the Catechumen boweth himself, saying:

I bow down before the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit, the Trinity, one in Essence and undivided.

Then, the Priest saith:

Blessed is God, Who willeth that all men should be saved, and should come to knowledge of the truth, now, and ever, and unto ages of ages.

Choir: Amen.

Then he reciteth this Prayer.

Let us pray to the Lord.

O, Master, Lord our God, call Thy servant, N., to Thy holy Illumination, and grant unto him (her) that great grace of Thy holy Baptism. Put off from him (her) the old man, and renew him (her) unto life everlasting; and fill him (her) with the power of Thy Holy Spirit, in the unity of Thy Christ: that he (she) may be no more a child of the body, but a child of Thy kingdom. Through the good will and grace of Thine Only-begotten

Son, With Whom Thou art blessed, together with Thy most holy, and good, and life-creating Spirit, now, and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

THE OFFICE OF HOLY BAPTISM

The Priest entereth the Sanctuary and putteth on white vestments, and his gauntlets. And when he hath lighted all the tapers, he taketh the censer, and goeth to the Font, and censeth round about it; and having given the censer to be held, he maketh a reverence.

Then the Deacon saith: Bless, Master.

And the Priest saith, aloud:

Blessed is the Kingdom of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, now, and ever, and unto ages of ages.

Choir: Amen.

And straightway the Deacon saith the Litany:

In peace let us pray to the Lord.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

For peace from on high, and for the salvation of our souls, let us pray to the Lord.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

For peace for the whole world, for the good estate of the holy churches of God, and for the unification of all, let us pray to the Lord.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

For this holy temple, and for those entering it with faith, reverence, and the fear of God, let us pray to the Lord.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

For our lord, His Eminence Valentine, Metropolitan of Suzdal and of Vladimir, First Hierarch of the Russian Orthodox Church, for the venerable priesthood, for the diaconate in Christ, for all our clergy and people, let us pray to the Lord.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

For the suffering land of Russia and for its Orthodox people, both in the homeland and spread abroad, and for their salvation, for this country, for its authorities, and for its armed forces, let us pray to the Lord.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

That He may deliver His people from the bitter torment of godlessness, and confirm in us oneness of mind, brotherly love and piety, let us pray to the Lord.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

For this city, *or town, or holy monastery*, for every city and country, and for those living by faith therein, let us pray to the Lord.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

For seasonable weather, for the abundance of the fruits of the earth, and for peaceful times, let us pray to the Lord.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

For those traveling by sea, by land, or by air, for the infirm, for those suffering, or in captivity, and for their salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

That this water may be sanctified with the power, and effectual operation, and descent of the Holy Spirit, let us pray to the Lord.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

That there may be sent down into it the grace of redemption, and the blessing of the Jordan, let us pray to the Lord.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

That there may come upon this water the purifying operation of the substantial Trinity, let us pray to the Lord.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

That we may be illumined by the light of understanding and piety, and by the descent of the Holy Spirit, let us pray to the Lord.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

That this water may prove to be effectual unto the averting of every snare of enemies, both visible and invisible, let us pray to the Lord.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

That he (*she*) who is baptized therein may be made worthy of the kingdom incorruptible, let us pray to the Lord.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

For him (*her*) who is now come unto holy Baptism, and for his (*her*) salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

That he (*she*) may prove himself (*herself*) to be a child of the light, and an heir of eternal good things, let us pray to the Lord.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

That he (*she*) may be a member and partaker of the death and resurrection of Christ our God, let us pray to the Lord.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

That he (*she*) may preserve his baptismal garment and the earnest of the Spirit pure and undefiled unto the fearsome Day of Christ our God, let us pray to the Lord.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

That this water may be to him (*her*) a laver of regeneration, unto remission of sins, and a garment of incorruption, let us pray to the Lord.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

That the Lord God hearken unto the voice of our petition, let us pray to the Lord.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

That He deliver him (*her*) and us from all sorrow, wrath, and need, let us pray to the Lord.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

Help us, save us, have mercy on us, and keep us, O God, by Thy grace.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

Having called to remembrance our most holy, most pure, most blessed, and glorious Lady Theotokos, and evervirgin Mary, with all the saints, let us commend ourselves, and one another, and all our life unto Christ our God.

Choir: To Thee, O Lord.

And the Priest prayeth, secretly:

O compassionate and merciful God, Who triest the heart and the reins, and Who alone knowest the secret thoughts of men (for no deeds are hidden before Thee, but all things are naked and manifest before Thine eyes); Thou Who knowest all things concerning me, regard me not with loathing, neither turn Thou Thy face from me; and consider not mine iniquities at this present hour, O Thou who disregardest man's sins unto his repentance. And wash away the vileness of my body, and the pollution of my soul. And sanctify me wholly by Thine all perfect, invisible might, and by Thy spiritual right hand; lest, while I proclaim liberty unto others, and administer this rite with perfect faith in Thine unutterable love toward mankind, I myself may become the base slave of sin. Yea, O Master, Who alone art good and the Friend of man, let not Thy humble servant be led astray; but send down upon me power from on high, and strengthen me in the administration of Thine impending Mystery, which is both great and most heavenly: and create the image of Thy Christ in him (*her*) who now desireth to be born again through mine unworthy ministry. And build him (*her*) up upon the foundation of Thine Apostles and Prophets, that he (*she*) may not be overthrown; but implant him (*her*) firmly as a plant of truth, in Thy Holy Catholic and Apostolic Church, that he (*she*) be not plucked out. That, as he (*she*) increaseth in godliness, through him (*her*) may be glorified Thine all holy Name, of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, now, and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

The Priest saith also the following Prayer, but aloud:

Great art thou, O Lord, and marvellous are Thy works, and there is no word, which sufficeth to hymn Thy wonders. (*Thrice.*) For Thou, of Thine own good will, hast brought into being all things, which before were not, and by Thy might Thou upholdest creation, and by

Thy providence Thou orderest the world. When Thou hadst joined together the universe out of four elements, Thou didst crown the circle of the year with four seasons. Before Thee tremble all the Powers endowed with intelligence. The sun singeth unto Thee. The moon glorifieth Thee. The stars meet together before Thy presence. The light obeyeth Thee. The deeps tremble before Thee. The water-springs are subject unto Thee. Thou hast spread out the heavens as it were a curtain. Thou hast established the earth upon the waters. Thou hast set round about the sea barriers of sand. Thou hast shed abroad the air for breathing. The Angelic Powers serve Thee. The Choirs of the Archangels fall down in adoration before Thee. The many-eyed Cherubim and the six-winged Seraphim, as they stand round about and fly, veil their faces in awe before Thine ineffable glory. For Thou, Who art God inexpressible, existing uncreated before the ages, and ineffable, didst descend upon earth, and didst take on the semblance of a servant, and wast made in the likeness of man: for, because of the kindheartedness of Thy mercy, O Master, Thou couldest not endure to behold mankind oppressed by the Devil; but Thou didst come, and didst save us. We confess thy grace. We proclaim Thy mercy. We conceal not Thy gracious acts. Thou hast delivered the generation of our mortal nature. By Thy birth Thou didst sanctify the Virgin's womb. All creation magnifieth Thee, Who hast manifested Thyself, amongst men. Thou didst hallow the streams of the Jordan, sending down upon them from heaven Thy Holy Spirit, and didst crush the heads of the dragons who lurked there. **Wherefore, O King and Friend of man, come now and sanctify this water, by the indwelling of Thy Holy Spirit.** (*Thrice.*) And grant unto it the grace of redemption, the blessing of the Jordan. Make it the fountain of incorruption, the gift of sanctification, the remission of sins, the remedy of infirmities; the final destruction of demons, unassailable by hostile powers, filled with angelic might. Let those who would ensnare Thy creature flee far from it. For we have called upon thy Name, O Lord, and it is wonderful, and glorious, and terrible unto adversaries.

Then he signeth the water thrice with the sign of the cross, dipping his fingers therein. And breathing upon it, he saith:

Let all adverse powers be crushed beneath the sign of the image of Thy cross. (*Thrice.*) We pray thee, O God, that every aerial and obscure phantom may withdraw itself from us; and that no demon of darkness may conceal himself in this water; and that no evil spirit which instilleth darkening of intentions and rebelliousness of thought may descend into it with him (*her*) who is about to be baptized. But do Thou, O Master of all, show this water

to be the water of redemption, the water of sanctification, the purification of flesh and of spirit, the loosing of bonds, the remission of sins, the illumination of the soul, the laver of regeneration, the renewal of the Spirit, the gift of adoption unto sonship, the garment of incorruption, the fountain of life. For Thou hast said, O Lord: Wash ye, be ye clean; put away evil things from your souls. Thou hast bestowed upon us from on high a new birth through water, and grant that he (*she*) who is baptized therein may be transformed; that he (*she*) may put away from him (*her*) the old man, which is corrupt through the lusts of the flesh, and that he (*she*) may be clothed upon with the new man, and renewed after the image of him who created him (*her*): that being buried, after the pattern of Thy death, in baptism, he (*she*) may, in like manner, be a partaker of Thy Resurrection; and having preserved the gift of Thy Holy Spirit, and increased the measure of grace committed unto him (*her*), he (*she*) may receive the prize of his (*her*) high calling, and be numbered with the first-born whose names are written in heaven, in Thee, our God and Lord, Jesus Christ. For unto Thee are due glory, dominion, honour and worship, together with Thy Father, Who is from everlasting, and with Thine all-holy, and good, and life-creating Spirit, now, and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Peace be with you all.

Bow your heads unto the Lord.

And he breatheth thrice upon the vessel containing the oil, and maketh thrice over it the sign of the cross, as it is held, by the Deacon. And when the Deacon hath said:

Let us pray to the Lord.

The Priest saith the following Prayer:

O Lord and Master, the God of our Fathers, Who didst send unto them that were in the ark of Noah Thy dove, bearing in its beak a twig of olive, the token of reconciliation and of salvation from the flood, the foreshadowing of the mystery of grace; and didst provide the fruit of the olive for the fulfilling of Thy Holy Mysteries; Who thereby fillest them that were under the Law with Thy Holy Spirit, and perfectest them that are under grace: Bless also this holy oil with the power, and operation and indwelling of Thy Holy Spirit, that it may be an anointing unto incorruption, an armour of righteousness, to the renewing of soul and of body, to the averting of

every assault of the devil, to deliverance from all evil of those who shall be anointed therewith in faith, or who are partakers thereof; unto Thy glory and unto the glory of Thine Only-begotten Son, and of Thine all-holy, and good, and life-creating Spirit, now, and ever, and unto ages of ages.

Choir: Amen.

Deacon: Let us attend!

Then the Priest, singing Alleluia (thrice), with the People, maketh three signs of the cross in the water with the oil. And he saith:

Blessed is God, Who illumineth and sanctifieth every man that cometh into the world, now, and ever, and unto ages of ages.

Choir: Amen.

Then the Person who is to be baptized is presented. The Priest taketh of the oil with two fingers, and maketh the sign of the cross upon his brow, his breast, and between his shoulders, saying:

The servant of God, N., is anointed with the oil of gladness, in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

And he anointeth his breast and shoulders. On the breasts, saying:

Unto the healing of soul and body.

On the ears:

Unto the hearing of faith.

On the hands:

Thy hands have made me and fashioned me.

On the feet:

That he may walk in the way of thy commandments.

And when his whole body is thus anointed, the Priest baptizeth him, holding him upright, and looking toward the east, as he saith:

The servant of God, N., is baptized in the name of the Father, Amen. And of the Son, Amen. And of the Holy Spirit, Amen.

At each invocation he immerseth him, and raiseth him again. And after the Baptism the Priest washeth his hands, singing with the People Psalm 31.

Blessed are they whose iniquities are forgiven, and whose sins are covered. Blessed is the man unto whom the Lord imputeth not sin, and in whose mouth there is no guile. Because I kept silence, my bones are waxed old through my crying all the day long. For day and night Thy hand was heavy upon me, I was reduced to misery whilst the thorn stuck fast in me. Mine iniquity have I acknowledged, and my sin have I not hid. I said: I will confess mine iniquities before the Lord against myself. And Thou forgavest the ungodliness of my heart. For this shall every one that is holy pray unto Thee in a seasonable time; moreover, in a flood of many waters shall they not come nigh unto him. Thou art my refuge from the affliction which surroundeth me; O my Rejoicing, deliver me from them which have encircled me. I will instruct thee and teach thee in this way which thou shalt go; I will fix Mine eyes upon thee. Be ye not as the horse or

as the mule which have no understanding; whose jaws thou must hold with bit and bridle, lest they come nigh unto thee. Many are the scourges of the sinner, but mercy shall encircle him that hopeth in the Lord. Be glad in the Lord, and rejoice, ye righteous; and glory, all ye that are upright of heart.

Then, as he putteth his garment upon him the Priest saith:

The servant of God, *N.*, is clothed with the robe of righteousness; in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Then shall be sung the following Troparion, in Tone 8:

Vouchsafe unto me the robe of light, * O Thou Who clothest Thyself with light as with a garment, * O Christ our God, plenteous in mercy.

And when he hath put the garment on him the Priest prayeth thus:

Blessed art Thou, O Lord God Almighty, Source of all good things, Sun of Righteousness, Who sheddest forth upon them that were in darkness the light of salvation, through the manifestation of Thine Only-begotten Son and our God; and Who hast given unto us, unworthy though we be, blessed purification through hallowed water, and divine sanctification through life-creating Chrismation; Who now, also, hast been graciously pleased to regenerate Thy servant that hath newly received Illumination, by water and the Spirit, and grantest unto him (*her*) remission of sins, whether voluntary or involuntary. Do Thou, the same Master, compassionate King of kings, grant also unto him (*her*) the seal of the gift of Thy holy, and almighty, and adorable Spirit, and participation in the holy body and the precious Blood of Thy Christ. Keep him (*her*) in Thy sanctification; confirm him (*her*), in the Orthodox Faith; deliver him (*her*) from the Evil One, and from all the machinations of the same. And preserve his (*her*) soul in purity and uprightness, through the saving fear of Thee; that he (*she*) may please Thee in every deed and word, and may be a child and heir of Thy heavenly kingdom.

Exclamation:

For Thou art our God, the God Who showeth mercy and saveth; and unto Thee do we ascribe glory, to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now, and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

And after this Prayer he anointeth with holy Chrism the person who hath been baptized, making the sign of the cross: On the brow, and on the eyes, and the nostrils, and the lips, and on both ears, and the breast, and the hands, and the feet, saying each time:

The seal of the gift of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Then the Priest, accompanied by the Sponsors, bearing the Infant, maketh the circuit of the Font. And all sing:

As many as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ. Alleluia.
(Thrice)

Deacon: Let us attend.

Priest: Peace be with you all.

Reader: And with thy spirit.

Deacon: Wisdom!

Reader: *The Prokimen, in the Third Tone:*

The Lord is my light and my salvation: whom then shall I fear?

Verse: The Lord is the strength of my life: of whom then shall I be afraid?

Deacon: Wisdom!

Reader:

The Lesson from the Epistle of the holy Apostle Paul to the Romans.

Deacon: Let us attend.

Reader: *(Rom. 6:3-11.)*

Brethren: Know ye not that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ, were baptized into His death? Therefore we are buried with Him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also in the likeness of His death, we shall be also in the likeness of His resurrection: knowing this, that our old man is crucified with Him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin. For he that is dead is freed from sin. Now, if we be dead with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with Him: knowing that Christ, being raised from the dead, dieth no more; death hath no more dominion over Him. For in that He died, He died unto sin once: but in that He liveth, He liveth unto God. Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Priest: Peace be unto thee.

Reader: And to thy spirit.

Deacon: Wisdom, let us attend!

Reader: Alleluia.

Deacon: Wisdom, Let us hear the Holy Gospel.

Priest: Peace be with you all.

Choir: And with thy spirit.

Priest: The reading is from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Choir: Glory to thee, O Lord; glory to thee.

Deacon: Let us attend.

Priest: (*Matt. 28:16-20.*)

Then the eleven disciples went away into Galilee, into a mountain where Jesus had appointed them. And when they saw Him, they worshipped Him: but some doubted. And Jesus came, and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto Me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit; teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.

Choir: Glory to thee, O Lord; glory to thee.

Then shall be said the following Litany:

Have mercy on us, O God, according to Thy great mercy, we pray Thee, hearken and have mercy.

Choir: Lord, have mercy. (*Thrice*)

Again we pray for the Orthodox episcopate of the persecuted Russian Church, for our lord, His Eminence the Most Reverend Valentine, Metropolitan of Suzdal and Vladimir, First Hierarch of the Russian Orthodox Church, and for all our brethren in Christ.

Choir: Lord, have mercy. (*Thrice*)

Again we pray for the suffering land of Russia and for its Orthodox people, both in the homeland and spread abroad, and for their salvation, for this country, for its authorities, and for its armed forces.

Choir: Lord, have mercy. (Thrice)

Again we pray that He may deliver His people from the bitter torment of godlessness, and confirm in us oneness of mind, brotherly love and piety, let us pray to the Lord.

Choir: Lord, have mercy. (Thrice)

Again we pray for mercy, life, peace, health, salvation, and remission of sins, for the servant of God, *N.*, the Sponsor.

Choir: Lord, have mercy. (Thrice)

Again we pray for the newly-illuminated servant of God, *N.*, and that he (*she*) may be kept in the faith of a pure confession, in all godliness, and in the fulfilling of the commandments of Christ all the days of his (*her*) life.

Choir: Lord, have mercy. (Thrice)

For a merciful and manbefriending God art Thou, and unto thee do we send up glory, to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

Choir: Amen.

Priest: Glory to thee, O Christ-God our hope; glory to thee.

Choir: Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now, and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen. Lord, have mercy. (Thrice) Bless!

And the Priest bestoweth the Benediction (usually omitted).

May Christ, our true God, through the prayers of his most pure Mother; of the holy, glorious and all-praiseworthy Apostles; of Saint *N.* (*the Patron Saint of the Temple*); of Saint *N.* (*the Saint of the day*); of the holy and righteous Ancestors of God, Joachim and Anna; and of all the Saints, have mercy on us and save us, for He is good and the Friend of man.

And on the eighth day the Baptized Person is brought again to the church for Ablution. And the Priest looseth his girdle and his garment, saying this Prayer which followeth:

Let us pray to the Lord.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

O Thou Who through holy Baptism, hast given unto Thy servant remission of sins, and hast bestowed upon him (*her*) a life of regeneration: Do Thou, the Same Lord and Master, ever graciously illumine his (*her*) heart with the light of Thy countenance. Maintain the shield of his (*her*) faith unassailed by the enemy. Preserve pure and unpolluted the garment of incorruption wherewith Thou hast endued him (*her*), upholding inviolate in him (*her*), by Thy grace, the seal of the Spirit, and showing mercy unto him (*her*) and unto us, through the multitude of Thy mercies.

For blessed and glorified is Thine all-honourable and majestic Name, of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, now, and ever, and unto ages of ages.

Choir: Amen.

A Second Prayer.

Let us pray to the Lord.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

O Master, Lord Our God Who through the Font bestowest heavenly Illumination upon them that are baptized; Who hast regenerated Thy newly-baptized servant by water and by the Spirit, and hast granted unto him (*her*) remission of his (*her*) sins, whether voluntary or involuntary: Lay Thine almighty hand upon him (*her*) and preserve him (*her*) by the power of Thy goodness. Maintain unassailed the earnest of Thy Spirit and make him (*her*) worthy of life everlasting, and of Thy favour.

For Thou art our sanctification, and unto Thee do we send up glory, to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now, and ever, and unto ages of ages.

Choir: Amen.

Priest: Peace be with you all.

Choir: And with thy spirit.

Priest: Bow your heads unto the Lord.

Choir: To thee, O Lord.

Priest:

He (*she*) who hath put on Thee, O Christ, our God, boweth also his (*her*) head with us, unto Thee. Keep him (*her*) ever a warrior invincible in every attack of those who assail him (*her*) and us; and make us all victors, even unto the end, through Thy crown incorruptible.

For Thine it is to show mercy and to save us, and unto Thee do we send up glory together with Thine everlasting Father, and with Thine all-holy, and good, and life-creating Spirit, now, and ever, and unto ages of ages.

Choir: Amen.

Then the Priest dippeth the sponge in pure water, and sprinkleth the child, saying:

Thou art justified. Thou art illumined. Thou art sanctified. Thou art washed: in the Name of our Lord Jesus Christ, and by the Spirit of our God.

And with the sponge he washeth the face and head of the child, and his breast, and the rest saying:

Thou art baptized. Thou art illumined. Thou hast received anointing with the holy Chrism. Thou art sanctified. Thou art washed: in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Prayer at the cutting of the hair.

Deacon: Let us pray to the Lord.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

O Master, Lord our God, Who hast honoured man with Thine own image, Thou hast fashioned him from a speech-endowed soul and a comely body (inasmuch as the body serveth the speech-endowed soul): for Thou didst set the head on high, and endow it with the chiefest portion of the senses, which, nevertheless, impede not one another: and Thou hast covered the head with hair, that it be not injured with the changes of the weather, and hast fitly joined together all his members, that with them

all he may give thanks unto Thee, the Great Artificer. Thou, the same Master, through Thy chosen vessel, the Apostle Paul, hast given us a commandment that we should do all things to Thy glory: Bless, now, Thy servant, *N.*, who is come to make a first offering shorn from the hair of his head, and likewise his Sponsor; and grant that they may all exercise themselves in Thy law, and do those things which are well pleasing in Thy sight.

For a merciful and manbefriending God art Thou, and unto Thee do we send up glory, to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now, and ever, and unto ages of ages.

Choir: Amen.

Priest: Peace be unto all.

Choir: And to thy spirit.

Deacon: Bow your heads unto the Lord.

Choir: To thee, O Lord.

Then the Priest shall recite this Prayer.

O Lord our God, Who, through the fulfilling of the baptismal font, by Thy goodness dost sanctify them that believe in Thee: Bless this child here present, and let Thy blessing descend upon his (*her*) head. And as Thou didst bless David the King by the hand of Thy Prophet Samuel, bless also the head of Thy servant, *N.*, by the hand of me, a sinner, inspiring him (*her*) with Thy Holy Spirit; that as he (*she*) increaseth in stature, and even unto hoary old age, he (*she*) may send up glory unto Thee, and behold the good things of Jerusalem all the days of his (*her*) life.

For unto Thee are due all glory, honour and worship, to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now, and ever, and unto ages of ages.

Choir: Amen.

Then he sheareth the hair in the form of a cross, saying:

The servant of God, *N.*, is shorn, in the Name of the Father, and of the Son,

and of the Holy Spirit.

Choir: Amen.

Then shall be said the following Litany:

Have mercy on us, O God, according to Thy great mercy, we pray Thee, hearken and have mercy.

Choir: Lord, have mercy. (Thrice)

Again we pray for the Orthodox episcopate of the persecuted Russian Church, for our lord, His Eminence the Most Reverend Valentine, Metropolitan of Suzdal and Vladimir, First Hierarch of the Russian Orthodox Church, and for all our brethren in Christ.

Choir: Lord, have mercy. (Thrice)

Again we pray for the suffering land of Russia and for its Orthodox people, both in the homeland and spread abroad, and for their salvation, for this country, for its authorities, and for its armed forces.

Choir: Lord, have mercy. (Thrice)

Again we pray that He may deliver His people from the bitter torment of godlessness, and confirm in us oneness of mind, brotherly love and piety, let us pray to the Lord.

Choir: Lord, have mercy. (Thrice)

Again we pray for mercy, life, peace, health, salvation, and remission of sins, for the servant of God, *N.*, the Sponsor.

Choir: Lord, have mercy. (Thrice)

Again we pray for the newly-illuminated servant of God, *N.*, and that he (*she*) may be kept in the faith of a pure confession, in all godliness, and in the fulfilling of the commandments of Christ all the days of his (*her*) life.

Choir: Lord, have mercy. (Thrice)

For a merciful and manbefriending God art Thou, and unto thee do we send up glory, to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

Choir: Amen.

Priest: Glory to thee, O Christ-God our hope; glory to thee.

Choir: Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now, and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen. Lord, have mercy. (Thrice) Bless!

And the Priest bestoweth the Benediction (usually omitted).

May Christ, our true God, through the prayers of his most pure Mother; of the holy, glorious and all-praiseworthy Apostles; of Saint *N.* (*the Patron Saint of the Temple*); of Saint *N.* (*the Saint of the day*); of the holy and righteous Ancestors of God, Joachim and Anna; and of all the Saints, have mercy on us and save us, for He is good and the Friend of man.

Choir: Amen.