

# **SAINT ANDREW SERVICE BOOK**

The Administration of the Sacraments  
and Other Rites and Ceremonies  
According to the Western Rite Usage  
of the Antiochian Orthodox Christian  
Archdiocese of North America



Second Print Edition, 1996

Electronic On-line, 1999

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AUXILIARY  
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The First Edition of the St. Andrew Service Book was approved for use by the Western Rite Congregations of the Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America in 1989. This, the Second Edition, improved in format and expanded in content, will be welcomed by the clergy and laity of our archdiocese who worship in a tradition as ancient as the Eastern.

We take this opportunity to commend and sincerely thank Archpriest Michael Keiser, the original compiler of the service book, as well as the Board of the Orthodox Christian Press, Archimandrite Michael Trigg, Fr. John Downing, and especially Mr. Karl Steinhoff, for their many hours of dedicated labor in preparing the revised edition.

We pray that the attentive use of these authorized liturgies and other rites and ceremonies by the Western rite clergy and laity of our beloved Archdiocese will be the cause of a spiritual and liturgical renewal within our church in North America.

+ Metropolitan PHILIP  
Primate  
Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese  
of North America

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\*... the Disciples were called Christians first in Antioch\* ACTS 11:26

# *Thanksgiving After Childbirth*

*Commonly Called the Churching of Women*

- *The priest shall meet the woman at the doors of the Church.*

P. Our help is in the Name of the Lord.

R. Who hath made heaven and earth.

*Antiphon:* She shall receive the blessing from the Lord, and righteousness from the God of her salvation: for this is the generation of them that seek the Lord.

Psalm 24. *Domini est terra.*

The earth is the Lord's, and all that therein is: \* the compass of the world, and they that dwell therein.

For he hath founded it upon the seas: \* and stablished it upon the floods.

Who shall ascend into the hill of the Lord? \* or who shall rise up in his holy place?

Even he that hath clean hands, and a pure heart; \* and that hath not lift up his mind unto vanity, nor sworn to deceive his neighbor.

He shall receive the blessing from the Lord, \* and righteousness from the God of his salvation.

This is the generation of them that seek him; \* even of them that seek thy face, O God of Jacob.

Lift up your heads, O ye gates; and be ye lift up, ye everlasting doors; \* and the King of glory shall come in.

Who is this King of glory? It is the Lord strong and mighty, even the Lord mighty in battle.

Lift up your hands, O ye gates; and be ye lift up, ye everlasting doors; \* and the King of glory shall come in.

Who is this King of glory? \* It is the Lord strong and mighty, even the Lord mighty in battle.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. *Amen.*

*Antiphon:* She shall receive the blessing from the Lord, and righteousness from the God of her salvation; for this is the generation of them that seek the Lord.

- *Then, placing in the hand of the woman the end of his stole, the priest leads her into the church, saying:*

Enter into the temple of God, adore the Son of the blessed Virgin Mary, who hath given thee fruitfulness of offspring.

- *With the woman kneeling before the altar, the priest says:*

Lord, have mercy upon us.  
Christ, have mercy upon us.  
Lord, have mercy upon us.

**O**UR Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy Name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. *Amen.*

P. O Lord, save Thy handmaid.  
R. Who putteth her trust in Thee.  
P. Send her help from the sanctuary.  
R. And strengthen her out of Sion.  
P. Let the enemy have no advantage over her.  
R. Nor the son of wickedness approach to hurt her.  
P. O Lord, hear my prayer.  
R. And let my cry come unto Thee.  
P. The Lord be with you.  
R. And with thy spirit.  
P. Let us pray.

**A**LMIGHTY and everlasting God, who through the childbearing of the blessed Virgin Mary hast turned the pains of the faithful who are with child into joy: look mercifully upon this Thy handmaid, who cometh with gladness to Thy holy temple to render thanks, and grant that after this life, by the intercession of the same blessed Mary, she may be worthy to attain with her child unto the joys of everlasting blessedness. Through Christ, our Lord. *Amen.*

The peace and blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the (+) Son, and the Holy Spirit, descend upon thee, and remain with thee always. *Amen.*